

ALABAMA DEMOCRATS

Redistricting, or the redrawing of boundary lines for elected official districts, takes place every ten years after the completion of the national census to ensure that Congressional, legislative, school board, and other county and municipal districts have roughly equal populations.

Over the next two weeks, the Alabama State Legislature will host public hearings on the State House and State Senate redistricting process. Here are some key facts to keep in mind when you attend your local hearing.

Redistricting should be about people, not politics.

Though Democrats wanted a nonpartisan, citizen commission to draw district lines, Republicans will let politicians draw their own districts. Their redistricting plan is more concerned with protecting incumbents than looking out for the interests of Alabama voters.

The Democratic plan protected city and county boundaries by attempting to place them within the same district, when possible. The Republican plan seeks to redraw district lines to protect incumbent Republican elected officials.

Democrats suggested drawing district lines based on “communities of interest,” taking into consideration social and economic status, living standards, as well as urban/rural and industrial/agricultural areas to promote the needs and well-being of the district over protecting politicians.

The Republican plan takes no steps to protect against gerrymandering districts along racial lines by prohibiting “packing,” or moving a disproportionate number of minority voters into one district, or “cracking,” spreading minority voters so thinly across districts that they have no opportunity for representation.

This type of gerrymandering would limit minority communities’ voice and influence in our government and our laws.

The process should be as open and transparent as possible.

Scott Beason’s remarks about African-Americans and Latinos earlier this year make it clear that racially polarized voting and politics are still a difficult reality in Alabama.

Currently there are no plans drawn for the State House or State Senate, but it is vitally important that we attend these meetings to make it clear we expect an open and transparent process.

Be sure to attend and, if possible, record your local redistricting hearing to let our legislators know we won’t let them play political games with our votes.

Check out the public hearing schedule on the back of this sheet to know when and where your local redistricting hearing will be held.

KEY QUESTIONS TO ASK

- Will you be returning for another hearing once the plans have been designed? How can we as citizens have effective input unless we can view and discuss proposed plans?
- Isn’t it a conflict of interest if legislators draw their own district lines? Why doesn’t the Republican plan make an effort to protect city and county boundaries?
- Why doesn’t the Republican plan require redistricting information be made available on-line?
- How does the Republican plan protect African-American representation in the legislature?
- Can you guarantee these proposals won’t make it harder for more minority candidates to be elected?

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PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR STATE HOUSE AND SENATE REDISTRICTING

DATE	TIME	ADDRESS	CITY, STATE, ZIP
Monday, Oct. 3	12:00PM-2:00PM	City Auditorium, 100 Alabama Drive (The Auditorium)	Ft. Payne, AL 35967
	3:00PM-5:00PM	Guntersville Rec Center, 1500 Sunset Drive (Multi-purpose Room)	Guntersville, AL 35976
	6:30PM-9:00 PM	Von Braun Center, 700 Monroe Street (Salon 3)	Huntsville, AL 35801
Tuesday, Oct. 4	12:00PM-1:30PM	Fayette Civic Center, 530 North Temple Avenue (North Dining Hall)	Fayette, AL 3555
	4:00 PM-6:00PM	Conference Center, 800 Cox Creek Parkway South	Florence, AL 35630
	6:45PM-8:00PM	Holiday Inn, 1101 6th Avenue N.E.	Decatur, AL
Thursday, Oct. 6	12:00PM-2:00PM	Holiday Inn, 815 Bradberry Lane	Clanton, AL 35046
	2:45PM-4:30PM	Pelham Civic Center, 500 Amphitheatre Road (Banquet Hall)	Pelham, AL 35124
	6:30PM-8:00PM	Sheraton Birmingham Hotel, 2101 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd. N.	Birmingham, AL 35203
Tuesday, Oct. 11	3:30PM-5:00PM	Hampton Inn, 103 Troy Plaza Loop	Troy, AL
	6:30PM-8:00PM	Dothan Convention Center, 4106 Ross Clark Circle (Crimson Room)	Dothan, AL 36303
Wed., Oct, 12	12:00PM-2:00PM	Holiday Inn Express, 100 Paul Stabler Drive	Greenville, AL 36037
	3:00PM-5:00PM	Brewton Inn, 115 Douglas Avenue	Brewton, AL 36426
	6:30PM-8:30PM	Mobile Convention Center, 1 S. Water Street (201D)	Mobile, AL 36602
Thursday, Oct. 13	12:00PM-1:30PM	Thomasville Civic Center, 559 West Front Street (Auditorium)	Thomasville, AL 36784
	3:00PM-5:00PM	Demopolis City Civic Center, 501 N. Commissioner Ave. Bryant Conference Ctr., 240 Paul Bryant Dr. (Birmingham Central Room)	Demopolis, AL 36732- 1911
	6:30PM-8:30PM		Tuscaloosa, AL 35487
Monday, Oct. 17	2:30PM-4:30PM	Anniston City Meeting Center, 1615 Noble St. (Meeting Room C)	Anniston, AL 36201
	6:30PM-8:30PM	Hilton Garden Inn, 2555 Hilton Garden Drive	Auburn, AL 36803
Tuesday, Oct. 18	12:00PM-2:00PM	St. James Hotel, 1200 Water Avenue	Selma, AL 36703
	3:30PM	State Capitol , 600 Dexter (Capitol Auditorium--enter from Union Street)	Montgomery, AL 36130