About Districts

What are districts?

Districts are the basic units of representation in a democratic system. They are geographic areas within a state that are designed to ensure that each person’s vote is equal. Districts are used to elect members of Congress, state legislators, and local officials.

What is redistricting?

Redistricting is the process by which districts are redrawn. It is done every 10 years, following the national census, to account for population changes that have occurred since the last time districts were drawn. The goal of redistricting is to ensure that each person’s vote is equally weighted.

A fifth, non-voting, non-partisan chairperson.

The bipartisan Washington state redistricting commission is responsible for redrawing the boundaries of our districts. A commission made up of two appointed, non-partisan members is responsible for redrawing the boundaries of our districts. These districts are the basis for the elections of our state and federal representatives.

What are the requirements?

The voters approved a constitutional amendment giving the Redistricting Commission the authority to draw the lines in the state. The commission must ensure that the new districts are drawn in a way that is constitutional, fair, and impartial.

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