

It's about justice. It's about democracy. It's about time.

## SC Redistricting Talking Points

While numerous organizations have been mobilized in response to the redistricting hearings, and we support their efforts to get the best deal out of a rigged system, the SC Progressive Network cautions that the process itself is flawed. **South Carolina is the only state with no laws or constitutional provisions that set redistricting criteria.**

History has shown that information gathered at these legislative hearings will not mitigate the extreme racial and partisan gerrymandering designed to maintain safe seats for incumbent legislators of both parties.

### Points to make at the legislative redistricting hearings

- The redistricting process should not start until there are clear laws governing the process that the House and Senate must follow.
- The Senate and House have different redistricting guidelines, neither of which they are required to follow. This lack of accountability allows incumbents to pick their voters to insure they win.
- **To preserve a legal right to contest political boundaries after bad maps are drawn, testimony needs to address how your community's interests are harmed by past and potential district lines.**
- South Carolina's elections are among the nation's least competitive.
- Non-competitive elections breed corruption. Legislators indicted for corruption since the last redistricting raised lots of campaign cash while having no opposition.
- The majority of the 170 legislative elections are won in party primaries with no general election opposition.
- Challenge the legislators to apply their redistricting guidelines in a fair, equitable, and **mandatory** manner to ensure that all votes have equal weight. Due to packing Black citizens into districts, Black votes do not carry equal weight.
- **District maps will not be pre-cleared of racial bias** by the US Department of Justice, a provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that ended in 2013.
- **Ask legislators whether they would support making their redistricting guidelines the same for the House and Senate, and make them statutory.** The FAIR ACT legislation ([H-4229](#) and [S-750](#)) developed by the SC Progressive Network Education Fund would change current guidelines into laws.

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See [FairMapsSC.com](https://FairMapsSC.com) for details on creation of a Citizens Redistricting Commission that would empower South Carolina citizens to draw the district maps.

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# Did you know South Carolina

... is the *only state* with no state law or constitutional provision to set redistricting criteria.

... House and Senate have different “guidelines” for redistricting, neither of them binding.

... allows politicians to use extreme racial and partisan gerrymandering to maintain safe seats for incumbents of both parties.

... is no longer be required to have its maps pre-cleared of racial bias by the US Department of Justice, a provision of the 1965 Voting Rights Act that ended in 2013. This redistricting cycle is the first since 1900 that district lines will be approved *before* citizens can protest racially discriminatory maps. (Because Blacks were shut out of voting, there were no Black SC legislators between 1900 and 1970, when pre-clearance resulted in the election of three Black members to the House.)

... has pending legislation and a constitutional amendment to create a Citizens Redistricting Commission.

... has a grassroots campaign to end extreme partisan gerrymandering. See [FairMapsSC.com](http://FairMapsSC.com) for details.

Year	'92	'94	'96	'98	'00	'02	'04	'06	'08	'10	'12	'14	'16	'18	'20
Democrats	73	58	53	59	54	51	50	51	53	48	46	47	44	44	43
Republicans	50	62	70	64	70	73	74	73	71	75	78	77	80	80	81

South Carolina House of Representatives Party Control: 1992-2020