

I am a resident of District 2 and offer the following comments about redistricting:

Every redistricting process should include:

- Specific timelines for the steps leading to a redistricting plan
- Full disclosure throughout the process and public hearings on the plan proposed for adoption
 - Redistricting at all levels of government must be accomplished in an open, unbiased manner with citizen participation and access at all levels and steps of the process, and
 - Should be subject to open meeting laws.
- A provision that any redistricting plan should be adopted by the redistricting authority with more than a simple majority vote.
 - Remedial provisions established in the event that the redistricting authority fails to enact a plan. Specific provisions should be made for court review of redistricting measures and for courts to require the redistricting authority to act on a specific schedule.
 - Time limits should be set for initiating court action for review.
 - The courts should promptly review and rule on any challenge to a redistricting plan and require adjustments if the standards have not been met.

The standards on which a redistricting plan is based, and on which any plan should be judged, must:

- Be enforceable in court
- Require:
 - Substantially equal population
 - Geographic contiguity
 - Effective representation of racial and linguistic minorities
- Provide for (to the extent possible)
 - Promotion of partisan fairness
- Preservation and protection of “communities of interest”
- Respect for boundaries of municipalities and counties
 - Compactness and competitiveness may also be considered as criteria so long as they do not conflict with the above criteria
 - Explicitly reject
 - Protection of incumbents, through such devices as considering an incumbent’s address
 - Preferential treatment for a political party, through such devices as considering party affiliation, voting history and candidate residence.

Jean Buck