

LWVW REDISTRICTING TESTIMONY FOR BOL PUBLIC HEARING

APRIL 27, 2022

The League of Women Voters of Westchester (LWVW) appreciates this opportunity to comment on the redistricting efforts that will soon take place for all of the seventeen Westchester County legislative districts. As we know from Census 2020 reporting, Westchester County has experienced overall growth of 5.9% with some communities' populations increasing and others decreasing.

Westchester County is a diverse county that offers much variety with many communities of interest that cross municipalities. The League of Women Voters of Westchester asks that the Board of Legislators focus upon the needs of community citizens by actively listening to them, and not hold a political lens upon mapping.

The people want their voices heard. We expect nothing less from those whom we elect to represent us than to actively listen, to accurately represent our voices, and to take actions to meet our needs. To that end, we look toward the day when all legislative maps are fairly drawn and each district enables each person one meaningful vote.

While the LWVW recognizes the legal constraints involved in shaping legislative districts, we oppose partisan gerrymandering, because it strips rights away from voters and splits communities. The LWVW on all levels is laser focused with the goal to combat gerrymandered districts which benefit politicians and political parties rather than citizens.

We hold that it is the voters who select their representatives, not the politicians who select their voters. To this end, please refrain from mapping through a political lens. Give communities of interest and populations priority so that all seventeen Legislators will, in actuality, represent and work for their constituencies.

The LWVW respectfully submits this testimony today, and asks the Board of Legislators to consider our recommendations.

Kathy Meany, President
League of Women Voters of Westchester

LWVW Redistricting Committee
April 27, 2022