

Tips for Contacting Your Representative About Redistricting

When calling your representative, keep these things in mind:

- *Let them know you are a constituent.* This may mean sharing your address or zip code. Representatives rightly prioritize the people they represent.
- *Be kind and respectful.* The person answering the phone and passing along the message isn't a decision-maker.
- *Be clear and concise.* Jot down a few notes before you call so your content is understandable and you say all you want to say.
- *Add a personal touch.* Use the script below, but it is always more effective to add specifics, like your street, community, family circumstances, your particular expertise etc.
- *Create a sense of urgency.* The way the district maps are drawn in the next few weeks affects every facet of the political landscape for the next 10 years--who can and can't run in your district, what district you vote in, etc. This *is* an urgent issue!

Social Media Tips

Not all representatives have social media accounts, and some are managed by their staff. It is still a good way to amplify your message by asking questions publicly on social media.

- Tag your representative with specific questions.
- You can take a screenshot of your district's [current or proposed maps](#) and ask a question.
- Share articles relating to redistricting
- Post about your experience in contacting your representatives. Did you hear back from them if you ask for a response to a specific question? Do you feel your concerns or support was heard?

Sample Scripts

General Concern

Hi, I am _____ calling from _____ (your address or district number) concerning the upcoming vote on the new district maps.

- The redistricting process has revealed that it is a conflict of interest to have the politicians in office make decisions about their own district lines.
- The new maps presented demonstrate that the committee's self-interest won out over the interest in the people of South Carolina.
- Based on data from the League of Women Voters, the new proposed House map is an example of an extreme outlier. There are only 12 out of 124 competitive districts.

General Support

Hi, I am _____ calling from _____ (your address or district number) to offer support for the way the new district lines are drawn in the maps up for vote soon.

- The redistricting committee kept the process transparent and fair and took public testimony into account in these new maps.
- The new maps keep more cities and counties together and keep whole other communities of interest.
- I realize the process has been difficult and that there is no way to please everyone, but the new maps do a fine job keeping all of the factors in mind.

Specific Concern

Hi, I am _____ calling from _____ (your address or district number) concerning the upcoming vote on the new district maps. The proposed maps are unfair because they [*specific concern-examples below*] rather than represent our community. Vote NO on the proposed maps and insist the committee consider [*specific consideration- examples below*] instead. If you care about the concerns of your constituents, you will demand a fair playing field for the next 10 years. We are all watching to see how you vote on December 6. Thank you for your time, and I trust you will pass along my message.

Examples of specific concerns:

Protecting the politicians in office
Splitting my community
Diluting minority votes
Breaking up too many counties and municipalities
Present clearly skewed lines

Examples of specific considerations

A specific community of interest (ex. Keep Pelion in a Lexington County district)
Keep a specific county or municipality whole (ex. Give Anderson County its own representative)
Another map (ex. League of Women Voters or NAACP proposed map)
Turning over the process to an independent commission