



GEORGIA
REDISTRICTING
ALLIANCE

Redistricting Activist Handbook

Fair Voting Districts: How YOU can help

Gerrymandering has long been a part of our nation's redistricting history. Georgia has an opportunity to adopt legislation creating a Citizen's Redistricting Review Board and standards related to the process of redistricting.

Issue: Fair districts and competitive elections

We believe fair districts AND increased competition in the election process helps improve voter turnout and engagement. Voters should be able to choose who represents them and not the other way around. Gerrymandering by either political Party is unacceptable because it undermines democracy by removing choice from the voter.

Solution: Grassroots Pressure

The most effective way to create change in the redistricting process is to let the legislators who are able to bring this legislation forward for a statewide vote know that this issue is important to the citizens of Georgia . We do this using three main methods: 1) In-person lobbying; 2) Phone calls; and 3) Letter writing. In our conversations with legislators, we ask them to support democracy and transparency by supporting our legislation SR 6 & 7 and HR 2 & 3.

IN-PERSON LOBBYING

In-person lobbying is perhaps the most effective type of grassroots effort since very few people go to the Capitol to speak with legislators. It's important to understand that you do not have to be an expert on the legislation or issue you are lobbying. What is crucial is the personal reason or story of why this issue is important to you. Make sure to leave the legislator with some information so they can remember you came by and what you spoke about.

PHONE CALLS

Phone calls to legislators' offices are the second most effective way of lobbying on an issue. Whether you are able to speak to the legislator or leave them a message, make sure to say your first and last name, where you live, and one to two sentences about why that particular issue is important to you. Legislators need to know you are a real person so adding your location helps them to know you are a resident of

Georgia voicing your concerns to your lawmakers. Phone calls are most effective when you continue to call until you receive a call back or are able to speak directly to the legislator.

LETTER WRITING

Letter writing is a third way in which citizens can effectively lobby legislators. Personal hand-written or typed letters are excellent tools because they convey how you are feeling about an issue and letters show you have taken the time to be thoughtful about the current business of the legislature. Make sure to include your name and address in the letter so the legislator knows you are a constituent in Georgia.

Call to support SR 6 & 7:

Ben Watson (Chair)

- ben.watson@senate.ga.gov; (404) 656-7880

William Ligon (Vice Chair)

- william.ligon@senate.ga.gov; (404) 463-1383

Horacena Tate (Secretary)

- horacena.tate@senate.ga.gov; (404) 463-8053

Matt Brass - matt.brass@senate.ga.gov; (404)

[656-6446](tel:4046566446)

Bill Cowsert - bill.cowsert@senate.ga.gov; (404)

[463-1366](tel:4044631366)

Vincent Fort

- vincent.fort@senate.ga.gov; (404) 656-5091

Marty Harbin

- marty.harbin@senate.ga.gov; (404) 656-0078

Ed Harbison

- ed.harbison@senate.ga.gov; (404) 656-0074

Steve Henson

- steve.henson@senate.ga.gov; (404) 656-0085

Hunter Hill - hunter.hill@senate.ga.gov; (404)

[463-2518](tel:4044632518)

David Shafer

- david.shafer@senate.ga.gov; (404) 656-0048

Call to support HR 2 & 3:

Caldwell, Jr., Johnnie Chairman

johnnie.caldwell@house.ga.gov

404.656.5087

Efstration, Chuck Vice Chair

chuck.efstration@house.ga.gov

404.651.7737

Holmes, Susan sdholmes@bellsouth.net

404.656.0178

Dollar, Matt matt.dollar@house.ga.gov

404.656.5138

Ehrhart, Earl earl.ehrhart@house.ga.gov

404.463.2247

Example Phone Script:

Golick, Rich rich.golick@house.ga.gov

404.656.5943

Jackson, Mack mack.jackson@house.ga.gov

404.656.0314

Jones, Jan jan.jones@house.ga.gov

404.656.5072

Nix, Randy randy.nix@house.ga.gov

404.656.5146

Rynders, Ed erynders@bellsouth.net

404.656.6801

Scott, Sandra sandra.scott@house.ga.gov

404.656.0314

“Hello, I would like to speak to Chairman Caldwell about HR 2 & 3. I am calling today to ask for a hearing and a vote on HR 2 & 3 because I believe it’s important to have transparency in the redistricting process. May I leave my name and address?”