

## **Make N.C.Redistricting Transparent**

*Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 08.19.21*

The last time redistricting occurred, in 2011, the districts were drawn in private, by politicians and consultants, behind closed doors.

Politicians in Raleigh have shown contempt for transparency and public engagement on issues that affect residents of North Carolina. Now they are tasked with drawing our congressional and state legislative maps.

We cannot allow them to shut us out of the redistricting process, which will impact our elections and the important issues that the legislature addresses for the next decade.

Sen. Bill Rabon, a member of the redistricting committee and the legislature, must immediately set out a full schedule of public hearings on redistricting that allows all North Carolinians the opportunity to participate both virtually and in person.

To ensure a fair and transparent process, public hearings should be held across the state, both before and after redistricting maps are proposed, in enough locations that all North Carolinians have a reasonable opportunity to participate.

In-person hearings should be held outside of standard working hours, and notices should be provided for all in-person public comment opportunities at least one week in advance. Opportunities for virtual and online comment should also be widely available throughout the process, especially in light of the ongoing dangers of COVID-19.

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