

General Assembly  
Legislative Hall  
411 Legislative Avenue  
Dover, DE 19901

September 28, 2021

Good evening, Members of the General Assembly:

Thank you for this first opportunity for public input regarding the General Assembly's redistricting process. When this public hearing was announced, Speaker Schwartzkopf explained his commitment "to a process that involves the public and solicits their input" and Pro Temp Sokola explained that the "primary goal is to make the redistricting process as open and transparent as [you] can." To that end, the ACLU of Delaware, along with the People Powered Fair Maps Coalition, is committed to ensuring that the public has the information necessary to understand this General Assembly's redistricting process and to provide meaningful input.

While tonight's public hearing has provided some information, we hope that at future public hearings, yet to be announced but before the General Assembly votes to approve the final maps, the following important questions will be answered with specificity:

- What information, other than population, have the individuals tasked with using the Maptitude software been asked to use or consider? For example, have map drafters been asked to consider:
  - the demographic information of any specific census block or precinct, such as race or party registration?
  - the individual address of any person for any reason?
  - the current district boundaries?
- Will any draft maps that have already been internally circulated among the General Assembly be shared with the public? Will any changes made to those draft maps be explained?
- How are communities of interest being identified? Have any community groups been consulted to determine the boundaries of communities of interest? Have communities of interest submitted through Representable.org been considered? Have individual legislators been asked to submit information about communities of interest within their current districts?
- How will the General Assembly show that it has appropriately counted people incarcerated at their last known Delaware address? Will data



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show how many incarcerated people are counted at their last known address in each proposed district?

- Will the General Assembly have the maps evaluated and scored by any independent nonpartisan organizations? Will any metrics, such as competitiveness, proportionality, splitting, compactness, or minority representation be shared? Has the General Assembly set any goals for any of these metrics?
- Will the General Assembly provide an explanation for why any municipality or other identified community of interest is split between two or more representative districts? Will the General Assembly provide an explanation for any draft districts not bounded by major roads, streams, or other natural boundaries?
- How long will the public have to review draft proposals? Will the General Assembly endeavor to specifically address any public comment it receives?

We hope these questions will help guide the General Assembly as it endeavors to keep its promise of transparency throughout this process.



Delaware

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