

Resolution on Redistricting

WHEREAS, accurate representation of beliefs, values, experiences, and demographics of the population of a jurisdiction should be the primary directive of any electoral system,

WHEREAS, electoral competition engages voter interest, draws attention to issues, and increases voter participation,¹

WHEREAS, legislative districts should be reasonably compact,

WHEREAS, the current legislative district map allows Republicans to achieve a legislative majority with only 48% of the statewide vote, which runs counter to the principle of majority rule,²

WHEREAS, half of legislative districts fall outside a 20% margin between parties, effectively disenfranchising 3.7 million Washington state residents by failing to present a choice in which they have any meaningful impact,³

WHEREAS, bipartisan redistricting commissions tend to create uncompetitive districts which ensure that incumbents face the least amount of competition,⁴

THEREFORE, we call on the Washington State Redistricting Commission to create a map which minimizes the number of uncompetitive districts while maximizing the statewide proportionality of the map, and ensuring proportional representation of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in statewide policy making,

THEREFORE, should the Redistricting Commission fail to create a map which satisfies the aforementioned criteria, we call on the Legislature to amend the map to satisfy said criteria,

THEREFORE, prior to the next census cycle, we call on the Legislature to propose a constitutional amendment to replace the bipartisan redistricting commission with a professional nonpartisan redistricting commission,

THEREFORE, we call on the Legislature to evaluate whether or not it is possible and under what conditions any single-seat plurality governing system can achieve proportional representation, as well as potential alternatives to the current system,

THEREFORE, should the preceding study reveal it is effectively impossible to achieve proportional representation in a single-seat plurality system, we call on the Washington State Legislature to explore replacing the current electoral system with mixed-member proportional representation.

Approved unanimously at the July 24, 2021 General Membership Meeting.

¹ Jordan, Joel. *Western CEDAR*. "The Effect of Electoral Competitiveness on Voter Turnout." 2017.

² Bradley, et al. *Dave's Redistricting*. "Washington State." 2020.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Levitt, Justin. *A Citizen's Guide to Redistricting*. P. 7. 2010.