



Redistricting + Maine



Hello!

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Agenda

1. MVN: About us
2. Redistricting context
3. Hear from a partner: Democracy Maine
4. Questions



Who we are

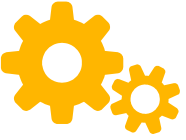
1. Maine Voices Network is a state-based collaboration affiliated with State Voices that was formed to improve coordination and communication among non-partisan civic engagement organizations in Maine.



What we do:

1. Leveraging resources (e.g. funding, as well as data/research/program support)
2. Coordinating state and national strategies around policy advocacy and civic engagement
3. Driving communication and coordination among partner organizations working towards shared goals (both short and long term)

Redistricting in Maine



The process:

- Maps that will be drawn for use through the 2030 election: Congressional, County Commissioner, State Senate (35), State House (151)
- Fifteen-member, bipartisan commission of citizens and legislators
 - Seven Democrats, seven Republicans, and a fifteenth member chosen by the other fourteen who serves as chair
 - Proposed maps go to the legislature, where they must be approved by a $\frac{2}{3}$ margin and then signed by the governor
- This year only, due to delays to the census, the commission will have just 45 days to draw the maps, and 10 days for the legislature to vote

Maine Reapportionment Guidelines



Required to consider

- One person, one vote (within size guidelines)
- Compactness & contiguity (defined as minimizing impediments to travel, incl. size)
- Whole district rule
- Political subdivision boundaries

May consider

- Interests of local communities
- Avoid pairing incumbents

Timeline



- **August 12**

Legacy format data released by census → begin work 3-5 days after 8/12, 45-day clock begins

- **Early September**

Public hearings

- **End of September**

Maps submitted to legislature for approval—if they do not pass with $\frac{2}{3}$ support they go to the Maine Supreme Judicial Court

- **January 1**

Candidates can start collecting signatures to run in new districts



Challenges

1

Condensed timeline for work and public engagement.

2

Complex inner-workings of the process.

3

Lack of resources to fund this work due to its technical nature.



Opportunities

1

Create a state legislature that more accurately reflects the state.

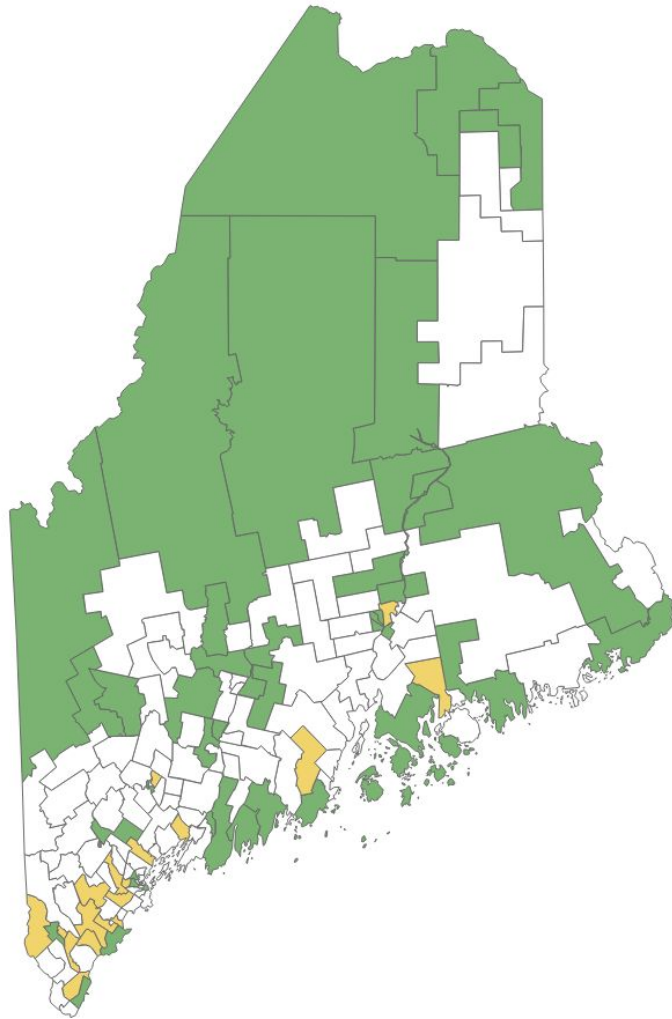
2

Engage stakeholders who have not participated in and/or been left out of the redistricting process in the past.

3

Increased public engagement with the democratic process

House Districts



**Interactive
version**

Category

□ Acceptable

■ Over

■ Under



Our approach

Identify priorities

(both value-based and district-specific)

Data support

to refine priorities into actionable recommendations

Support partners

in submitting public testimony or directly lobbying on shared and individual priorities

Advocate + communicate

between organizations and decision makers

Monitor + analyze

maps for potential comment/action.

MVN Partner:

Democracy Maine

Will Hayward

Democracy Maine

1. Public Input
2. Equal Representation
3. Communities of Interest
4. Competitiveness
5. Markers of Fairness
6. Attention to Prison Populations

Democracy Maine

1. Conducted statewide webinar on redistricting w/guest from Prison Policy Institute
2. Submitted public testimony and submitting followup requested by commission
3. Driving awareness of commission meetings and encouraging public comment to be submitted
4. Identifying and receiving feedback from COI leaders
5. Planning more webinars and possible area-specific events



Questions?



Thanks!

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