



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MAINE

League of Women Voters Urges Public to Testify Before Reapportionment Commission on August 23

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The League of Women Voters of Maine urges members of the public to testify concerning Democratic and Republican proposals to redraw the state's two congressional districts in time for the 2012 elections. The hearing before the 15-member Maine Reapportionment Commission is scheduled to take place in State House Room 228 in Augusta on Tuesday, August 23, at 9:00 a.m.

Democrats propose to move Vassalboro in Kennebec County from the 1st to the 2nd District, affecting approximately 4,300 voters. Republicans propose to move Knox, Lincoln and Sagadahoc Counties and part of Kennebec County from the 1st to the 2nd District and Androscoggin and Oxford Counties and part of Franklin County from the 2nd to the 1st District, affecting approximately one-quarter of Maine's voters.

The Democratic proposal would leave a differential of 11 voters between the districts; the Republican proposal would leave a differential of one. The Republican proposal would move 1st District Congresswoman Chellie Pingree's hometown of North Haven into the 2nd District while the Democratic proposal would leave both incumbents in their current districts.

The League of Women Voters has been monitoring the proceedings of the Reapportionment Commission since its appointment. A member of the Board will be testifying about redistricting principles at the hearing on August 23.

Governor Paul LePage has called a Special Session of the Legislature on September 27 for a vote on reapportionment. The Legislature must vote for a plan by a two-thirds majority by September 30, or reapportionment will fall to the courts.

Redistricting is an issue that goes to the heart of a democratic system of government. Representative democracy depends on voters freely choosing their elected officials. The League of Women Voters has worked for many decades to promote transparent and accountable redistricting processes and has fought to put an end to the hyper-partisan practices that too often directly benefit those charged with drawing the lines.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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