

New Mexico Citizen Redistricting Committee Outreach Kit

Purpose of this Document

The materials in this kit are provided for use by advocates and stakeholders in their own communication materials including newsletters, websites, emailing lists, and social media platforms.

Questions about this kit, the CRC, or the redistricting process, can be directed to Cliff W. Gilmore of the CRC Public Communication Team by phone at 360.335.5246 or email at cliff.gilmore@voxoptima.com.

About the Citizen Redistricting Committee

The CRC is an official New Mexico state committee established in keeping with the Redistricting Act of 2021. Redistricting is completed once every ten years to account for change in population size and distribution throughout the state. In the past, this process was completed by our state legislature. This year is different. A cross-partisan committee of seven members is responsible for gathering input and perspective from citizens across the state to aid in preparation of voting district maps to be submitted to the legislature.

The committee completed an initial round of public meetings across the state to gather input from communities. Nearly 1,200 people attended either in person or remotely via Zoom and many shared their views either during a meeting or through written input submitted through the CRC's website.

Maps are being drawn now and a second round of public meetings will be held from September 16 through October 15. Public review of the draft maps and input on how to improve them will be essential to a successful redistricting process.

Website & Social Media Links

Information about the redistricting process, meeting schedules, videos of past meetings, and tools to submit public comments and even draw your own maps are available on the CRC website at www.nmredistricting.org

You can also learn more about redistricting and encourage public participation in the process by visiting the CRC on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/nmredistricting> and on Twitter @NMRedistricting.

Meeting Schedule

All CRC public meetings can be attended in person or virtually through the Zoom video conferencing platform. The most current meeting schedule, including times, locations, and Zoom dial-in information, is available on the CRC website at <https://www.nmredistricting.org/meetings-transparency/>.

Submitting Comments and Maps Online

Any member of the public who would prefer to submit comments about redistricting – or even proposed district maps – can do so online at <https://portal.newmexico-mapping.org>.

Graphics

- Step by Step District Map: A “how to” guide to drawing district maps using the Districtr tool available through the CRC’s online portal. In both pdf and png formats.
- Submitting Public Comments: A “how to” guide to submitting public comments through CRC’s online portal.
- The following png graphics may be useful as button links to CRC resources or simple art to supplement text in other information products:
 - Visit CRC on YouTube
 - Visit CRC Portal to Draw Maps

- Visit the CRC Website

Attributable Quotes

The following quotations are drawn directly from comments from the CRC during public meetings and can be used in whole or in part for direct attribution:

“It’s up to us to demonstrate to you that we will in fact do our best, not for ourselves, but for you, the members of the public.”

-- The Honorable Edward L. Chavez, CRC Chairperson

“These meetings are about public input, it’s about public input about the most precious right that we people have in a free society. That’s the right to have a fair and equal opportunity to elect a representative of our choice.”

-- The Honorable Edward L. Chavez, CRC Chairperson

“...drawing these districts is not just about numbers. More importantly, it’s about people and it’s about their communities. It’s about peoples’ challenges in their communities, their expectations, their beliefs, their values, and what a representative government can do to help them meet the challenges in the communities.”

-- The Honorable Edward L. Chavez, CRC Chairperson

“I know there are people here that don’t have a voice. My point is to make sure that we’re actually representing the citizens of this state and we are no longer going to be telling people what to do, we’re going to listen to them so that they can tell us what needs to be done.”

-- The Honorable Lisa Curtis, CRC member

Opinion-Editorial (Op-Ed)



The following op-ed has been distributed to media organizations throughout New Mexico and can be relayed by stakeholder and advocacy groups as well:

New Mexico Citizen Redistricting Committee Op-Ed (296 words)

Headline: New Mexico's Citizen Redistricting Committee Wants to Hear from YOU!

Sub-Headline: Democracy Starts at Home

By-Line: Honorable Edward L. Chavez, CRC Chairperson

Participation is key to the success of our democracy.

Usually that means voting, but who you get to vote for could change this year because new district maps are being drawn to account for population changes.

You have a say in how these maps are drawn. Drawing election maps is not just about numbers. It is about people being able to organize and speak with a unified voice to solve problems in their communities.

State legislators established a cross-partisan committee of seven citizens to gather input from communities across the state and use that input to propose district maps for Congress, the state legislature, and the Public Education Commission. The committee's proposed maps must be submitted to the legislature by October 30.

The committee intends to propose district lines drawn fairly through a transparent, open, and participatory process.

The key word is participatory! Your Citizen Redistricting Committee already completed a round of public meetings attended in person or virtually by nearly 1,200 people.

That wasn't enough. We want these maps to represent your interests and concerns – we need to hear from *you*!

Based on US Census Bureau data and public comments from citizens, we are creating maps for public consideration. Those maps will be available on or before September 17 so every New Mexican can review, consider, and comment.

We will hold eight public meetings throughout New Mexico and by Zoom from September 28 until October 8 to gather public input about the proposed maps. You can attend public meetings in person or remotely by Zoom.



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You can also submit comments at nmredistricting.org. The website shows you how to draw your own maps to show us how you would like your district to look.

For a complete list of meetings dates, times and venues visit nmredistricting.org.

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