

North Carolina Public Testimony Worksheet

How to use this document:

This is meant to be a guide to help you draft an effective public comment on the proposed Congressional and Legislative maps in North Carolina. Effective comments will look different for everyone - feel free to customize depending on what works for you - but the most effective comments will be geographically specific and include a directive that you would like the committee to implement. The goal is to draft a comment in your own voice that provides **actionable input** for the redistricting committee.

Elements of an effective public comment:

- **Names the draft map:** Include the name of the draft map if possible, or which group of maps you're commenting on (eg: my comment is in reference to the Congressional maps drawn by committee chairs)
- **Feasibly Mappable:** geographically specific - talk about your specific concerns related to where you live. Focus on what does or does not make sense in the proposed maps, and why.
- **Clear Directive:** says **what** you want them to do and **why** you want them to do it.
- **Authentic:** Written from the heart by a community member. Talk about how the maps would impact your community.

Public Testimony Template:

- Introduce yourself: Include your name, where you live (include your current district, neighborhood or precinct if possible), your organization (if applicable) and/or what community you're a part of.
- Name which map you are commenting on: Congressional maps, NC Senate or NC House map.
- Briefly describe your community: Include the specific geographic area that your community encompasses. What defines your community? What traits, interests, or challenges does your community share?
Ex: My city and the surrounding areas share interests related to affordable housing and transportation. People who live here work in X city and should be grouped with that area in a congressional district.

ALL ON THE LINE

- Clearly state how the proposed maps would impact you or your community, and what changes you want to see.

Ex: My neighborhood is divided in the NC House map. We should be kept together within a district so our elected leaders will be accountable to us as voters.

Ex: My city is divided into 3 congressional districts. This is unnecessary and will confuse voters. Please keep my city whole and group it with areas that share our interests.

- Thank the committee for their attention.

Resources:

Register to Comment In Person or Virtually: Look for the hearing you want to attend and find the “Speaker Registration” link for that hearing

<https://www.ncleg.gov/>

Public Comment Online Portal: This is where you can submit written redistricting comments.

<https://www.ncleg.gov/requestforcomments/38>

AOTL NC Guide to Proposed Congressional Maps:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1BafW0ICYPiNypYlaDIyeEQzEq_RRLCuLr6rA569-KHI/edit

AOTL NC Draft Congressional Maps Talking Points:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OH_SFm_NZIY552Oe13GL22hnxBPAXsauyHiApt7s6w/edit

Find my Representatives: See where district lines are currently drawn in your community.

<https://www.ncleg.gov/FindYourLegislators>

Representable: Define your community of interest and create a map that you can print or link to accompany your testimony.

<https://representable.org/drive/aotl-nc-community-mapping-project/>

ALL ON THE LINE

Headwaters Economics: Explore your community's climate change risk assessment.

<https://headwaterseconomics.org/apps/neighborhoods-at-risk/>

NC Center for Demography: Census results and analysis for North Carolina

<https://www.ncdemography.org/2021/08/12/first-look-at-2020-census-for-north-carolina/>