



North Carolina Redistricting Community of Interest

When politicians draw voting districts they do so according to certain criteria. Some of that criteria, like contiguity, compactness and equal population, are required by the North Carolina constitution. Other criteria, like protecting incumbents, prioritizing partisan advantage, or respecting communities of interest, are optional and depend on the choices of the map drawers. For too long in North Carolina, a handful of politicians have divided us into districts that serve their political interests instead of our communities' needs. When we identify and respect communities of interest we will draw voting maps that are representative and responsive to the people of our state - that is the goal of the Independent Redistricting Commission.

What is a Community of Interest?

A Community of Interest is a geographic area that shares cultural, historical, or economic interests. Mapping communities of interest encourages the drawing of fairer voting districts. You can be a part of multiple communities of interest. It's helpful to think about it ([Representable](#)) [Common Cause toolkit Community of Interest doc is here](#)

Examples of Communities of Interest include:

- Municipalities - in North Carolina, the General Assembly makes laws that directly affect municipalities' ability to self-govern. They may also receive state and national funding related to infrastructure, education and cultural activities.
- A neighborhood affected by historic redlining and/or ongoing gentrification.
- A military base and surrounding area where active duty and retired military reside.
- Neighbors dealing with the environmental impacts of nearby farming, industry (ex: PFAS in Wilmington) or natural disaster (ex: mudslides, hurricanes).
- Tribal areas or areas with high concentration of indigenous or other cultural groups.
- Census-designated places (ex: unincorporated towns like Mcleansville in Guilford County). Often these are longstanding communities that share a common history and may function as a town or village and should be kept together for purposes of representation.

How to advocate for your community of interest

- Define the geographic area included in the community of interest - draw it on a map if possible, or provide a detailed description
- Identify the cultural, environmental, historic or economic interests that the community shares
- Find community members to share their stories about how their community would be best served by having cohesive representation.

