

My name is Lisa Mowat and I am speaking on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Wake County. We would like to address the coming school redistricting process which is required to balance the school districts in accordance with the 2010 census.

The League of Women Voters has had, for decades, policy positions in representative government pertaining to the redistricting process. In essence, these positions call for an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive. In order to achieve representative democracy, redistricting plans must be drawn in a manner that allows elected bodies to reflect the diversity of the populace, especially racial and ethnic diversity.

We support protecting the citizen's right to know. This requires that the process used for redistricting should be transparent to the public. It should also facilitate citizen participation in government decision making. The redistricting process, at all levels of government, must provide data, tools and opportunities for the public to have direct input into the specific plans under consideration by the redistricting body.

We ask that the process this board adopts for redistricting be open, transparent, and fully inclusive of citizen participation. You have reached out to citizen participation many times in the past year. You should do no less with redistricting.