

Good evening.

Redistricting is constitutionally mandated every ten years after the Census is completed.

It directly affects who wins elections and creates the policies that govern our lives.

Regardless of where one stands on the now highly politicized public education spectrum, **every** Wake County voter should be interested in knowing how the school board redistricting process might personally affect them. And every voter deserves the right to actively participate in an open, transparent, thoughtful, and expeditious process.

The good news is that you received Census data used for redistricting **three weeks earlier than expected**. You had the Shanahan Law Firm draw up your guidelines for the process. The easy-to-use software program allows even an amateur to create new district maps that show the demographic impact of every move. Many public advocacy groups, including the League of Women Voters and Great Schools in Wake, have already redrawn the districts while adhering to your guidelines.

So what are we waiting for?

There's a single barrier that can be easily overcome—if the School Board wants to do the right thing for the citizens it serves. It requires a discussion with Wake County Commissioners.

Apparently, we have 10 very large voting precincts that need to be divided in order to balance the population among the school board districts, which is the key objective of redistricting.

You need to make an **urgent** request for the approval of funding for additional voting sites so those precincts can be divided **immediately**. Right now, the Commissioners have not made this commitment, and won't until early July. If funding is approved **NOW**, the redistricting process could be completed by mid-to-late May.

Voters have the right to know if their school board district will change. They need to understand if they will be able to vote in the October elections—or not. And prospective candidates deserve to know whether they will remain in a district where they intend to run—or not.

If you want to regain some of the public trust you've lost, you have an opportunity to follow both the spirit and the letter of the law by talking with the Commissioners and engaging the public immediately in a fair redistricting process.

If you don't want to lead by setting a good example for the public, your inaction will become readily apparent to all. Please accept my challenge to do the right thing.

