

## WAKE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD REDISTRICTING IN A NUTSHELL

**Q: Why is there redistricting in the first place?**

**A:** The US and NC Constitutions **mandate** it!

The **true** purpose of redistricting is to make adjustments for imbalances in population so *each school district is roughly of equal size* in order to comply with the one-person, one-vote requirement of the US and North Carolina Constitutions. So, every 10 years after the US Census is conducted, lines are redrawn.

**Q: Are there other reasons why we redistrict?**

**A:** Redistricting must also uphold a key provision of the Voting Rights Act, Section 2, that protects minority voters from practices and procedures that deprive them of an effective vote because of their race, color, or membership in a particular language minority group.

Other factors that go into redrawing district lines include: (1) making reasonable efforts to keep districts compact, (2) keeping precincts in the district contiguous, (3) avoiding splitting municipalities into more than one precinct and, (4) making every effort to keep incumbent board members in their current districts so they are able to run again, if they choose.

**Q: Who redraws the lines for our School Board districts?**

**A:** Wake County School Board members have the authority to redraw their own districts. No state or federal review is needed.

**Q: What is the timing for redistricting?**

**A:** The new redistricting plan needs only to be in place before the opening day for candidates filing for these elected seats (July 25). Local Boards of Elections typically ask for at least a 30-day notice to receive new district lines before the first day of filing for office opens for candidates. This allows the Board of Elections to make the necessary changes to their computer systems and databases (May 30).

Allowing adequate lead-time to implement changes in the voter database saves money and reduces error at the Wake County Board of Elections office and is considered good practice. And, to encourage citizens to participate in local government elections, the Board of Education should work diligently to (1) ensure citizens have adequate time to review proposed redistricting and offer their opinions in a public forum, and (2) give potential candidates as much time as possible to determine which district they reside in and plan whether to run for office, once redistricting is completed.

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**Q: Are there any other benefits to having lines redrawn sooner rather than later?**

**A:** When a voting precinct gets too large, it creates issues for the Board of Elections. If there are too many voters, one polling place simply cannot accommodate all voters efficiently on Election Day. In order to redraw lines accurately, one needs to see how precincts are going to be divided to comply with all redistricting laws and guidelines.

Understanding which precincts will be divided also gives the Board of Elections time to secure the funds needed to establish new polling places and secure the necessary equipment for these additional sites.

**Q: Based on the 2010 Census, what do we need to do to balance the population?**

**A:** Wake County's 2010 population was 900,990. Therefore, each of the nine school districts needs to reflect a population of roughly 100,110. By law, this can vary by +/- five percent. So, a district can range in population from 95,105 to 105,105.

**Q: What if I have questions not answered in this document?**

**A:** If you have additional questions, suggestions, or comments about the maps we have drawn, please email us at: [infor@greatschoolsinline.org](mailto:infor@greatschoolsinline.org). Any suggestions received will be shared with the Wake County Board of Education.