



**STATEMENT OF LWVKY PRESIDENT FRAN WAGNER TO THE
SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
REGARDING PROPOSED REDISTRICTING MAPS**

January 5, 2022

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky received copies of the proposed Senate and Congressional Districts yesterday afternoon after the bills for these changes had been filed. This late release, given the Senate leadership's plan to have these maps voted on by Saturday, January 8th, starkly limits legislators and the public from reviewing, analyzing and commenting on them. The maps could have been released at least more than a month ago. The League released ours the first of December, 2021, and shared them with all legislators and the public.

The League of Women Voters has long argued that maps should not be drawn with incumbent-protection as a goal, but the Congressional map clearly prioritizes current officeholders. Even a cursory review of the Congressional map shows it deliberately protects the 1st District Congressman who lives in Franklin County. Anderson County had to be divided to make this map reach into Franklin County. And Boyle County, a short distance from Fayette County, now finds itself in the 1st Congressional District which, under the Senate map, goes all the way to the Mississippi River.

Accordingly, we respectfully urge:

1. Quick action to reset the filing deadline for those who want to run for office in the 2022 elections: the current January 7 deadline will clearly come and go before the maps are finalized.
2. A responsible timetable for action to establish new districts, giving Kentucky citizens time to study them, identify concerns, and propose improvements. This process should take weeks, not hours, and include many participants, not just a few drafters behind closed doors.

The League understands that the Kentucky Constitution gives the power of redistricting to the Legislature. However, the people of Kentucky elect legislators and legislators should use this power wisely and consult timely with all their constituents before passing legislation that affects the voting rights of all Kentuckians and lasts for 10 years.

The League of Women Voters of Kentucky, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Since 2017, LWVKY has studied redistricting, provided multiple public presentations, advocated for an advisory commission approach to redistricting, published three versions of ways legislative seats could be districted, and conducted a statewide series of forums and online input opportunities to gather thoughts on the LWVKY Draft Maps. As a nonpartisan body, the League takes action on issues but does not support or oppose candidates or parties. The League supports diversity, equity and inclusion in membership and programming. Learn more at lwvky.org.

For more information on this statement, please contact President Wagner at (502) 875-6481 or at info@lwvky.org.