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NEWS RELEASE: League of Women Voters NM urges public participation in redistricting process

With the release of the US Census data today the League of Women Voters of New Mexico is urging citizens to get involved in the process of redrawing state electoral maps. "How maps are drawn varies from state to state, but one thing remains the same – when maps are drawn with the public input, citizens protect the interests of their communities, not politicians. The maps must reflect all groups and follow federal rules order to protect state interests", said LWVNM President Hannah Burling of Santa Fe.

"These are the maps that determine how we are represented in the congress, the state legislature, and in city and county offices. These maps also impact education, resource distribution, and emergency services in our communities. Now is the time for the public to get involved in creating these maps. Participating in public hearings and offering testimonies about your community helps ensure that maps drawn are truly representative," said LWV Action Chair Dick Mason.

This data is also key to the allocation of government resources - \$800 million to New Mexico alone. The maps drawn in the next several weeks will soon be cemented for the next ten years. This will impact our communities and our daily lives, said Burling.

The Census was fair and honest, and today's release is preliminary data. On August 19, the census blocks will be consolidated into table format and the shapefiles for mapping will be available, Burling added.

DistrictR, which the NM Citizens Redistricting Committee will use, and which is available for the public to use as well, will have all the census data incorporated in a week. The fully tabulated data will be released on September 30. The data elements include the total population and census blocks, which are the most granular measures the census data creates. This ensures personal privacy. It will also include race/ethnicity, residences that are occupied or vacant, and group quarters such as prisons and other institutions.

How maps are drawn: People can create the maps they would like using this link for details: <https://www.nmredistricting.org/submit-a-public-comment-or-map/>
And this one for the direct link to the mapping: <https://portal.newmexico-mapping.org/>



League of Women Voters of New Mexico

LWVNM.org