

Dear New Jersey Legislator,

We, the undersigned organizations, share many concerns about SCR43/SCR152 and ACR60/ACR205. We urge you to stand up for democracy and for the people of New Jersey and vote "no" on these proposals that would lay the foundation for the extreme gerrymandering of New Jersey's 40 legislative districts. The manipulation of district boundary lines to favor one political party over another has no place in our State Constitution. New Jersey voters deserve a fair process and fair maps.

Gerrymandering dilutes the voices of voters, harms communities of color, breaks up communities of interest, and undermines confidence in the political process. At a time when most states are moving forward and making their redistricting processes more transparent and representative, please don't allow New Jersey to move backwards.

Redistricting is how political power is redistributed in our state. When legislative districts are re-drawn after the Census, new maps should reflect New Jersey's demographic shifts and diversity, and ensure everyone is equally and fairly represented. They should not reflect past voter preferences or speculate on future election outcomes. The process dictated by the proposed Constitutional amendment - namely requiring redistricting commissioners to consider partisan data, past election results and complicated calculations when drawing new maps - is nothing more than an attempt by one party to more effectively distribute its votes across the state so as to solidify its power base. This is undemocratic, and it's not how we achieve "fair" new maps.

Improvements to the legislative redistricting process in New Jersey are needed. Increasing public input, transparency, and participation in redistricting would encourage civic engagement and strengthen our democracy. Voters in other states have approved ballot measures to improve redistricting by prioritizing public input and introducing ranked-order line-drawing criteria to ensure final maps are fair, responsive and reflective of their states' populations. Some states are also taking the line-drawing power away from politicians. New Jersey's SCR43/SCR152 and ACR60/ACR205 would do none of the above.

When voters go to the polls, they should have trust and confidence in the electoral system. They should not feel as though their votes are wasted because their district lines have been manipulated by party politics. Redistricting is one of the fundamental components of our democracy, and we ask that you protect it by voting "no" on SCR43/SCR152 and ACR60/ACR205.

Signatories:

Action Together New Jersey
Allied for the American Promise
American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey
American Promise
Better Angels – Summit Chapter
BlueWaveNJ
Clean Water Action
Democracy for America, Essex County
Environment New Jersey
Faith in New Jersey
Food & Water Watch
Good Government Coalition of New Jersey (GGCNJ)
Housing and Community Development Network of NJ
Indivisible Cranbury
Indivisible Lambertville/New Hope
JOLT Ridgewood
League of Women Voters of New Jersey
Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry NJ
MomsRising
National Association of Social Workers - NJ Chapter
National Council of Jewish Women, Essex County Section
National Organization for Women of New Jersey
National Organization for Women – Northern New Jersey
Network for Responsible Public Policy

New Jersey Citizen Action
New Jersey Highlands American Promise Association
New Jersey Institute for Social Justice
New Jersey State Industrial Union Council
New Jersey Policy Perspective
New Jersey Work Environment Council
New Jersey Working Families Alliance
NJ Badass Teachers Association
NJ7 Forward
Our Revolution Essex County NJ
Our United Revolution New Jersey
Pinelands Preservation Alliance
Planned Parenthood Action Fund of New Jersey
Reform Jewish Voice of New Jersey
RepresentUs/Central New Jersey
Salvation and Social Justice
Seniors for a Democratic Society
South Jersey Women for Progressive Change
STAND Central New Jersey
TriCounty NJ Chapter of American Promise
Unitarian Universalist FaithAction NJ
Westfield 20/20
Women for Progress