

# Testimony Guidance

## Why testify?

- Testifying provides you the opportunity to be DIRECTLY heard by your Legislator, and ensures that policymakers will receive information that is important to your community
- Showing up in person will also send a message to the committee and press that Granite Staters are watching and concerned about this corrupt process.

## What should I include in my testimony?

- **Step 1:** Thank the committee, tell them your name, where you live, and if you represent yourself or a group.
- **Step 2:** Describe your district and community and give feedback on current maps if relevant to your community.
  - Examples:
    - The new proposal continues to reduce the number of competitive districts, decreasing the number of tossup districts by 2 from the current maps.
    - In Manchester, they have splintered off a single ward from neighbors, combining it with farther away towns.
    - Executive Council District 2, while no longer stretching from Vermont to Maine, now stretches from Massachusetts to the northern bend in the Connecticut River, continuing to contain as many Democratic votes as possible.
    - Senate District 9 now stretches from the Vermont border all the way to the edge of Manchester.
    - Many communities across the state, like Plymouth, Exeter, Bow, and Peterborough, have moved from competitive districts to safely Democratic seats.
- **Step 3:** Describe why fair maps are important to you and why gerrymandering is harmful
  - Examples:
    - Gerrymandered districts like those in the proposed Senate and Executive Council maps create “safe seats” which means a politician can be in office for a whole lifetime without being worried about losing their seat. Competition helps to ensure voters' voices are heard.
    - Competitive districts result in elected officials being responsive to their constituents. Uncompetitive districts worsen the partisan divide and make it harder for more reasonable candidates to get elected.



- Every voice should be heard, and every vote should carry the same weight. By drawing maps to favor one political party, politicians are rigging the process of representation and denying voters their fair say.

**CAN'T ATTEND? [Submit online testimony here!](#)**

- To submit online testimony, [use this link](#) and complete the following the steps:
  - Enter your name, town, and email address
  - Select the date of the hearing
  - Select the committee you are submitting testimony to (Special Committee on Redistricting)
  - Choose the bill you would like to submit testimony on (SB241 for Executive Council, SB240 for state Senate)
  - Indicate that you are a member of the public representing yourself
  - Indicate that you oppose the bill
- IF you would like to submit written testimony beyond your opposition
  - Upload your written testimony as a PDF or
  - Write your testimony directly into the text box provided