

# Webinar Resources & Session Summary

## [Municipal-Led, Community-Engaged Local Redistricting](#)

On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the National League of Cities hosted a webinar to kick-off our webinar series on municipal-led, community-engaged local redistricting. With the launch of this work, Cities Count aims to continue to support the efforts of cities, towns and villages to deepen engagement with historically undercounted and underrepresented communities in their civic participation efforts – from census to redistricting to voting & elections.

This webinar session included an introduction to the various concepts that municipalities should be aware of as they plan their own community-engaged redistricting processes, including:

- Broad introduction to the fundamentals of municipal redistricting, such as: Voting Rights Act compliance; traditional and new redistricting criteria; and timelines;
- Data and mapping software/platforms;
- City perspective on community-engaged redistricting; and
- Community perspective on community-engaged redistricting.

Thank you to our speakers, Dr. Rebecca Theobald, Jerry Vattamala, and Emily Lapel.

We've collected supporting materials plus additional resources to inform cities as they consider their city redistricting process, how to best engage their community and neighborhoods, and other introductory materials. Make sure to sign up for our following webinars for information on additional mapping & data practices as well as topics such as differential privacy.

### **From the Webinar:**

#### **[2020 Census Operational Adjustments Due to COVID-19](#)**

- This timeline provides information on how and when the Census Bureau adjusted their operations, and when expected apportionment and redistricting data will be available

#### **[GeoCivics](#)**

- GeoCivics, of the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, provides educational toolkits to engage the community on redistricting, and has information on how Census delays are affecting redistricting

#### **[Redistricting Data Hub](#)**

- Connects you to online mapping tools that were shared in the session, as well as others

## **National Conference of State Legislatures [Redistricting Webpage](#)**

- While focused on state-level redistricting, this provides scalable information and key points that can be applied to your city-level redistricting

## **[How will Census 2020 Differential Privacy Impact You?](#)**

- A blog explaining differential privacy and what it could mean for local governments

## **Q&A and Shared Ideas**

### **What are best practices for making public hearings more useful?**

From the city side, Denver found success by going out into the community prior to introducing maps, and when appropriate offering draft versions and allowing for time to redraw them.

### **Are organizations doing the community outreach described for the 2021 process? If so, how is it affected by pandemic health/gathering restrictions?**

Yes, groups are doing outreach now, and are not too badly affected by COVID, because we have all mostly adapted to COVID by now. The community-based organizations mostly all have adapted too, because they had to during census outreach. So most/all outreach has been over Zoom.

### **Is anyone considering trying to use ACS or other data, even preliminarily to redistrict?**

This was proposed, but municipal GIS professionals did not feel the ACS data would be accurate or helpful enough at that granular of a level.

### **How do you identify who to talk to about neighborhood boundaries?**

In the 2000-2001 cycle, AALDEF met with community organizers, and it was very resource intensive. During the 2010-2011 cycle and during this cycle, they have focused their attention on community-based organizations serving neighborhoods.

### **What is some advice for cities that are just now starting for their redistricting process?**

Speak with your tech services and GIS departments (if available at the city or county level). Make sure to review what materials are available from the last cycle, such as meeting minutes and newspaper clippings, as well as members of your elected bodies or staff that may have been present. You can also start thinking about how to incorporate interactive maps to facilitate community engagement.