

Please support funding for task force to study county redistricting

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE TO CONVENE A
COUNTY REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE .226533.1

Representative Kathleen Cates

League of Women Voters Presentation to the Interim Indian Affairs Committee
November 28, 2023

The Secretary of State has agreed to convene a task force to study county redistricting in New Mexico, if the Legislature appropriates the money. Representative Cates has submitted that legislation to your committee to ask for an endorsement.

Unlike Congressional and state offices redistricting, county redistricting is not in the New Mexico Constitution. That means that county redistricting could be standardized through legislation.

The League of Women Voters of New Mexico believes there is an inherent conflict of interest with elected officials drawing their own districts. Just in the last redistricting cycle county redistricting generated lawsuits in San Juan and Sandoval Counties. That is only the tip of the iceberg.

In 2021, the Legislature passed the Redistricting Act that suggested standards for Congressional and state offices redistricting. Some of those same standards could be established for county redistricting. Unfair county redistricting triggered many complaints from voters across the state.

Please support the appropriation legislation that would fund the Secretary of State to convene a task force to study county redistricting. That task force could make recommendations to the counties and to the Legislature for improving county redistricting.

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