

This year, Tennesseans have a **once-in-a-decade opportunity** to understand and participate in redistricting, and legislative leaders have expressed their commitment to making our state's process an open one.

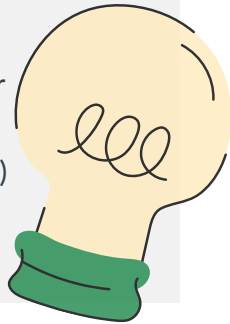
This overview details how peer states are **seeking community input** and actively **sharing redistricting information** with the public -- ideas that may hold lessons about how to increase community engagement in our own state.

Specifically, many states in the South host **legislative hearings** and **community meetings** that include options for **virtual participation**, and they share **draft maps** before they are finalized to allow residents time to meaningfully weigh in.

### **EXAMPLE ONE: Legislatures in peer states hold meetings to solicit community input.**

Legislatures in many neighboring states hold hearings and community meetings to gather public input and to better understand the needs of communities of interest.

- **Alabama's** state legislature hosted 28 meetings at community colleges across the state in September 2021.(i)
- **Mississippi's** joint legislative committee held nine public hearings across the state in August 2021.(ii)
- **South Carolina's** House and Senate legislative committees hosted 20 public hearings between July and September 2021.(iii)



### **EXAMPLE TWO: Peer states' legislative hearings and community meetings prioritize accessibility.**

Particularly during the pandemic, legislatures in many peer states have live-streamed redistricting events and allowed the public to participate virtually.

- **Texas, Arkansas, Georgia,** and **Alabama** provided opportunities for virtual testimony during public hearings.(iv)



### **EXAMPLE THREE: Peer-state legislatures allow the public to review and comment on draft maps before they are finalized.**

Legislatures in peer states share draft maps with the public and solicit their feedback with enough time to incorporate it into the final product.

- **Texas** lawmakers post map proposals on state websites for the public to review in real time. (v)
- Legislative committees in **Louisiana** and **Arkansas** will host hearings and meetings throughout the fall to gather feedback on map proposals. (vi)
- Public input is welcomed at **Florida** redistricting committee meetings, some of which will include workshops to analyze submitted redistricting maps. (vii)
- In **Alabama**, residents are encouraged to give input at legislative hearings once maps are drawn.(viii)



### Notes and References

- (i) Carson, Mike. (August 30, 2021). Alabama lawmakers begin task of drawing new political districts. See <https://www.al.com/news/2021/08/alabama-lawmakers-begin-task-of-drawing-new-political-districts.html>.
- (ii) Mississippi House of Representatives. (July 12, 2021). Redistricting hearings schedule. See <https://www.maris.state.ms.us/HTML/Redistricting/PUBHEARINGS2021.pdf>.
- (iii) Associated Press. (September 5, 2021). House Committee Joins SC Redistricting Debate with Meetings. See <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/south-carolina/articles/2021-09-05/house-committee-joins-sc-redistricting-debate-with-meetings>.
- (iv) House of Representatives Notice of Public Hearings. (September 18, 2021). See <https://capitol.texas.gov/tlodocs/87R/schedules/html/C0802021091811001.HTM>; Arkansas Citizen Access Network. See <https://www.myarkansaspbs.org/arcan/home>; Georgia General Assembly Office of Legislative & Congressional Reapportionment Public Hearings- Frequently Asked Questions. See [https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/document/docs/default-source/house-media-services-document-library/public-hearing-faqs.pdf?sfvrsn=24ea383e\\_2](https://www.legis.ga.gov/api/document/docs/default-source/house-media-services-document-library/public-hearing-faqs.pdf?sfvrsn=24ea383e_2); Alabama.com. (August 2021). Alabama lawmakers begin task of drawing new political districts; See <https://www.al.com/news/2021/08/alabama-lawmakers-begin-task-of-drawing-new-political-districts.html>.
- (v) Texas Legislative Council. (September 2021). Guide to 2021 Redistricting. See [https://redistricting.capitol.texas.gov/docs/guide\\_to\\_2021\\_redistricting.pdf](https://redistricting.capitol.texas.gov/docs/guide_to_2021_redistricting.pdf); Mower, Lawrence. (August 12, 2021)
- (vi) Joint Governmental Affairs Committee. (September 17, 2021). Redistricting in Louisiana. See [https://redist.legis.la.gov/2020\\_Files/MtgFiles/PowerPoint.pdf](https://redist.legis.la.gov/2020_Files/MtgFiles/PowerPoint.pdf); State of Arkansas House of Representatives (August 13, 2021). State Agencies Committee Discusses Redistricting. See <https://www.arkansashouse.org/news/post/15068/state-agencies-committee-discusses-redistricting>.
- (vii) Florida Lawmakers announce redistricting process. See <https://www.tampabay.com/news/florida-politics/2021/08/12/florida-lawmakers-announce-redistricting-process-but-no-public-hearings-yet/>.
- (viii) Alabama State Legislature. (May 5, 2021). Reapportionment Committee Redistricting Guidelines. See <http://www.legislature.state.al.us/aliswww/reapportionment/Reapportionment%20Guidelines%20for%20Redistricting.pdf>.