

Citizen Action Against Gerrymandering — A Forum

Saturday, **March 24**, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Sweeney Hall, NH Technical Institute
31 College Drive, Concord, NH 03301
(Take exit 1 from Rte 393, follow signs to NHTI)

The right to vote is among the most fundamental of our constitutional rights. However, partisan gerrymandering has created an electoral system that allows politicians to choose their voters, rather than voters choosing their politicians. Both Republican and Democratic legislators have engaged in gerrymandering, drawing lines that effectively give more weight to the voters of one party than the other. As a result, our system no longer operates according to the principle of “one person, one vote,” and our state legislatures and Congress do not fairly and honestly represent the electorate.

It is time to restore one person, one vote in our state. The New Hampshire legislature will once again draw district lines in 2021. New Hampshire’s voters must demand that candidates running for the legislature in 2018 and 2020 commit to support fair, non-partisan redistricting.

The sponsors are pleased to announce **a forum for New Hampshire citizens to learn about action they can take to restore honest districting in this state.** The afternoon begins with a keynote speech by Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Or.), an advocate for independent, citizen-led redistricting. The program includes panels addressing national and state redistricting issues, featuring political, legal, and historical perspectives. The program will conclude with a panel focused on political organization and action as we head into the 2018 election season.

Sponsors: Capital Coalition, Open Democracy, New Hampshire Progress Alliance, America Votes New Hampshire, Granite State Progress.

The Program:

1:00 - 1:05 — Welcome.

1:05 - 1:25 — Keynote Address, Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Or.)

1:25 - 2:25 — National Landscape, with Ruth Greenwood and John Bisognano. Moderated by Amy Vorenberg.

2:25 - 2:40 — Break.

2:40 - 3:40 — New Hampshire Challenge, with Paul Twomey, Andru Volinsky, Dan Feltes. Moderated by Liz Tentarelli.

3:50 - 4:50 — Call to Action, with Olivia Zink, Michael O’Brien, Jerry Knirk, Louise P. Spencer. Moderated by Ruth Greenwood.

4:50 - 5:00 — Closing Remarks.

RSVP: <https://march24citizenaction.eventbrite.com/>

Speakers and Moderators:

Senator Jeff Merkley (D. Oregon). Merkley has been a leader in trying to reform the rules of the Senate itself, including those concerning the filibuster. He is also a staunch advocate of districting reform.

Ruth Greenwood, Senior Legal Counsel, Voting and Redistricting, Campaign Legal Center. Ruth litigates a wide variety of redistricting cases, most recently *Whitford v. Gill* (Wisconsin) before the U.S. Supreme Court.

John Bisognano, Director of Campaigns and Outreach, National Democratic Redistricting Committee, a newly formed organization chaired by former Attorney General Eric Holder. John is a veteran of the Obama White House and was New Hampshire 2016 Coordinated Campaign Director.

Paul Twomey, Election law attorney and former New Hampshire House Legal Counsel. Paul is currently representing the League of Women Voters in the Senate Bill 3 case.

Andru Volinsky, Executive Councilor, District 15.

Dan Feltes, New Hampshire State Senator, District 15.

Liz Tentarelli (Moderator), President, League of Women Voters New Hampshire .

Olivia Zink, Executive Director, Open Democracy.

Michael O'Brien, Political Director, America Votes New Hampshire.

Jerry Knirk, New Hampshire State Representative, District 3-Carroll.

Louise P. Spencer, Co-Founder, Kent Street Coalition.

Amy Vorenberg (Moderator), Professor of Law, University of NH School of Law.