

Redistricting community meetings

About Organizing for Action

Organizing for Action (OFA) is a movement of millions of Americans, coming together to fight for real, lasting change. We are proud community organizers who are building this organization from the ground up, community by community, one conversation at a time—whether that’s on a front porch or on Facebook.

The 5 million Americans who’ve taken action with OFA are part of a long line of people who stand up and take on the big fights for social justice, basic fairness, equal rights, and expanding opportunity. That kind of progress is never easy. But we’re not here for the easy fights and we’re glad to have you join us.

About the National Democratic Redistricting Committee

The National Democratic Redistricting Committee (NDRC) is an organization of leaders enacting a comprehensive, multi-cycle redistricting strategy over the next five years and beyond to create better representation through more fair congressional and state legislative districts.

The most important turning point for the future of our democracy will take place in 2021: when states redraw their Congressional and state legislative lines. We must be ready. Chaired by former Attorney General Eric Holder, the NDRC was created in 2016 to build a comprehensive redistricting plan with a targeted, state-by-state strategy that produces fairer maps in the 2021 redistricting process. This comprehensive strategy will level the playing field to avoid political parties creating structural advantages for themselves at the expense of voters—like happened in 2010.

OFA + NDRC partnership goals

By combining the strategic know-how of the NDRC and the grassroots army of OFA, this partnership will work to educate communities and build a political and volunteer infrastructure across the country that will be necessary to achieve a fairer redistricting process in 2021.

Over the next few months, OFA and NDRC will work to cultivate volunteers who can become leaders on redistricting in their community. OFA will provide volunteers and supporters with information on how redistricting works in their state, the power we have to affect redistricting in the lead up to 2021, and ensure we are helping to connect to others in our community to build the grassroots and political infrastructure needed to be successful.

Why bringing family and friends together matters

The foundation of community change is to connect, educate and build trust within communities by the people who live and work in those communities. You are the entry point for your network of friends, community groups, and all those who are ready to take action.

The goal of bringing people together on November 20 is to provide information about redistricting efforts and provide opportunities for collective action that participants can take after the online training. Bringing people together, learning about our shared vision for community, and having people we can take action with is how we make our communities, and our country stronger. This is an opportunity to be the model for what we want our communities to look like—to show people that we are stronger together and that we respect, empower and include everyone.

Community meeting goals

Your event should have the following goals in mind:

- Bring together a group of family and friends who are ready to take action
- Provide an outlet for people to channel their energy in a positive way
- Identify the priority issues around redistricting that need to be addressed in your community

Who to invite?

At OFA, we respect, empower and include everyone. We want to become the model for what we want our communities to be, so what does that look like for your area?

Make a list of people you know:

- Friends and neighbors—people who may now be ready to take action
- Faith or school groups and community organizations are also great resources

Invite them to join you on November 20:

- If you want to open your gathering to OFA supporters in your neighborhood, post your event on [OFA's Action Network page](#) by Friday, November 10. If you do not want to include your event in an email send, simply check the box marked “private” when creating your event.

Instructions for creating an event on OFA's Action Network site:

- 1) To create your event, go to the [OFA + NDRC Redistricting Online Training campaign page](#)
- 2) If you don't have an account, click on the “Sign In” tab in the top right corner.
- 3) Click on the “Host an Event” event button on the right hand side of the screen
- 4) Enter the title, date/time, and location of your event
- 5) Under the event description, you should add any specific details for your event that attendees need to know.
- 6) Leave the default “Event by [Your Name]” The fields on the right-hand side are the fields your attendees will fill out, so for example, to add an additional field to collect phone numbers, just click “Add or edit additional form questions”
- 7) Click on the button to allow attendees to bring guests
- 8) Save and go to the next step
- 9) On the next page, add in any additional information for your attendees.
- 10) Feel free to share your event on Facebook or Twitter or send an email to your list, all from one place!

Sample agenda

Welcome and Introduction (10 min)

Introduce yourself and ask your guests to sign in. Thank everyone for coming! Have your guests introduce themselves.

Share Your Story (5 min)

Take a couple minutes to share your own story and why you decided to host this meeting. Sharing personal stories is a great way to build relationships with guests and to identify shared values.

Hear From Your Guests (15 min)

Have guests introduce themselves and share a little bit about why they decided to come out today.

8 p.m. ET/ 7 p.m. CT—Join the OFA/NDRC Online Training (45 min)

Open Up for Discussion (15 min)

Use this time to get feedback from participants and collect any additional questions they may have that did not get answered during the online training.

A few questions to get started:

- What is something new you learned about gerrymandering?
- What were key takeaways from tonight's training?

Next Steps and Close (15 min)

These meetings are about personal interactions and developing relationships with people within your community.

As a leader, you are in the best position of anyone to ask your friends and neighbors to get involved.

- Ask them what action step are they going to take after the meeting?
- Commit to writing a letter to the editor
- Commit to attending the next redistricting meeting
- Commit to identifying two family/friends/neighbors to join

Meeting checklist

Pre-event

- Choose a location
 - Determine if this will be at your house or at a public space (local restaurant, coffee shop, library or community center)
 - Make sure your location has a strong internet connection so you can join the online webinar
- Create your event online at [OFA + NDRC Redistricting Online Training campaign](#)
 - See instructions from page two
 - You can use the RSVP link to send to family and friends, or post on Facebook and Twitter to invite others
 - All events must be posted by Friday, November 10 in order to receive an email send.
 - If you do not want to include your event in an email send, simply check the box marked "private" when creating your event.

- Confirm your guests
 - Provide any special directions or instructions
 - As a best practice, follow up in an email with the address and other details, so it is in writing

- Print materials (if applicable)
 - Agenda, sign in sheets and name tags
 - Anything else you need to make your event a success

- Inventory (pull together all of the applicable materials ahead of your event)
 - Printed materials (from above)
 - Power cable and chargers for all devices
 - Be sure to test internet connection before your event

During the event

- Make sure everyone signs in and has an agenda
- Establish group norms and expectations

Post event

- Thank your attendees
- Share the feedback from your meeting by completing [the report back form](#)
- Follow up with those who committed to take action
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