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## **Georgia Redistricting Alliance Announces “Redistricting: The Community Event” in Athens**

Atlanta, Georgia (May 10, 2011) - The Georgia Redistricting Alliance announced today that it will host “Redistricting: The Community Event” in Augusta on Wednesday May 11, 2011 to help Augusta-area citizens learn about the process of redrawing districts and how they can provide input to legislators at redistricting committee hearings.

“Our community event is being held before the formal Georgia House and Senate Joint Redistricting Hearing in Augusta on May 17,” Tracey-Ann Nelson, President, League of Women Voters of Georgia, a Georgia Redistricting Alliance member said. “The better prepared each citizen is, the better the quality of input to the legislators making decisions about political districts.”

The meeting will take place at the Athens-Clarke County Library, 2025 Baxter Street, at 7 pm. The event is free of charge. A State House and Senate Joint Redistricting Committee hearing will be held in Augusta on May 17 from 5 to 7 p.m. at Augusta State University.

“Every ten years, the census count gives us a snapshot of how many people there are in the United States and where they live,” William Perry of Common Cause Georgia, a member of the alliance said. “Once we know how many people live in Georgia, the legislature draws new district lines that put the same number of people into each electoral district.”

The Georgia Redistricting Alliance is a coalition of non-profit, non-partisan organizations with the shared goal of ensuring transparency and fairness of the redistricting process in Georgia. The coalition strives to engage and educate citizens, work in partnership with elected officials and submit a fair, balanced map to the Georgia General Assembly.

“Speaking up about your community is critical to ensuring district lines are drawn to keep your community whole and grouped with nearby communities with similar interests,” adds Krista Brewer, Georgia WAND former board president and current advisory board member. “This ensures that your voice is heard by your elected leaders in such decisions as the quality of your child’s school or how high your taxes are.”

Every person in Georgia will be impacted by redistricting and we think it is important that they have voice in the process. The Georgia Redistricting Alliance encourages participation from the citizenry and transparency from our elected officials tasked to do this very important work.

*The Georgia Redistricting Alliance is a coalition of non-partisan, open-government organizations interested in seeing that the redistricting process in Georgia is open, fair and equitable. We believe that all citizens should have a voice in defining their communities.*

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