



Frequently Asked Questions

About *COI Sampling*

What if my neighbor and I both draw the same COI with different boundaries?

This is **fine and expected**. When feasible, it can be helpful to **develop consensus** on the boundaries and submit a single map.

How do COI collection and COI meetings work?

This varies by state. Many states with official or unofficial independent redistricting commissions will have **online public hearings** where people can submit maps and/or testimony, along with a **submission portal** where you can send maps and narratives. You or your group can also **organize your own** COI collection event and then submit a map or maps.

How can you make sure you're asking enough people?

There's a concept in the social sciences called "**saturation**," which is when you stop seeing new things in your data. This, combined with working with community groups and using official data as a check can help make sure a state or region has enough submissions. More populous states can also subdivide the state into regions so each area has enough attention.

How do you make sure you're reaching underserved communities?

Existing **demographic data**, combined with **local knowledge** through working with **community partners**, can be used to identify and do **targeted outreach** to underserved communities.

Districtr is all online. What about people with limited internet access?

Official data, combined with local knowledge, can be used to identify places with limited internet access. Those areas should receive targeted outreach. This is also why it is important to accept submissions in **multiple formats** (narrative, scans of hand-drawn maps, etc.).

What about bad actors -- people who submit deliberately false COIs?

It is impossible to guarantee that these can be found and removed. However, through **good sampling and analysis** practices -- aiming for saturation, community partnerships, targeted outreach, and using existing data as a check -- it is possible to **minimize their impact**.

