

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Compiled by the MD19 Strategic Planning Committee

Q: Why are we Redistricting MD19?

A: While the ideal size for a district has been debated, there is little doubt that a district should be large enough to have a sufficient pool of trained, qualified district leaders, a well-attended and meaningful district convention and ample resources to support club development.

While membership growth should always be a part of the plan, redistricting can infuse the district with a mix of new leaders who can look at district activities in a new way and combine resources to more effectively meet the needs of the clubs. Redistricting, when done well, can strengthen the district and stimulate membership growth, enhancing the districts' ability to provide needed humanitarian service.

Q: How many Districts do we have now, and how many will we have at completion?

A: Redistricting will reduce the number of Districts from nine to five. These new larger districts will have a larger pool of potential leaders from which to draw.

The council of Governors at the Spring Council meeting in June, 2021, passed a resolution by unanimous vote to begin the process of redrawing the lines of the Multiple District. This past Lions year, we saw a dramatic drop of 808 members from our Multiple District rolls. This places our Multiple District below 10,000 members. Just 25 years ago the MD had nearly 20,000 Lions! Redistricting, coupled with new membership plans and programs can have a very positive effect on membership and leadership!

Q: What is the Timeline for Redistricting?

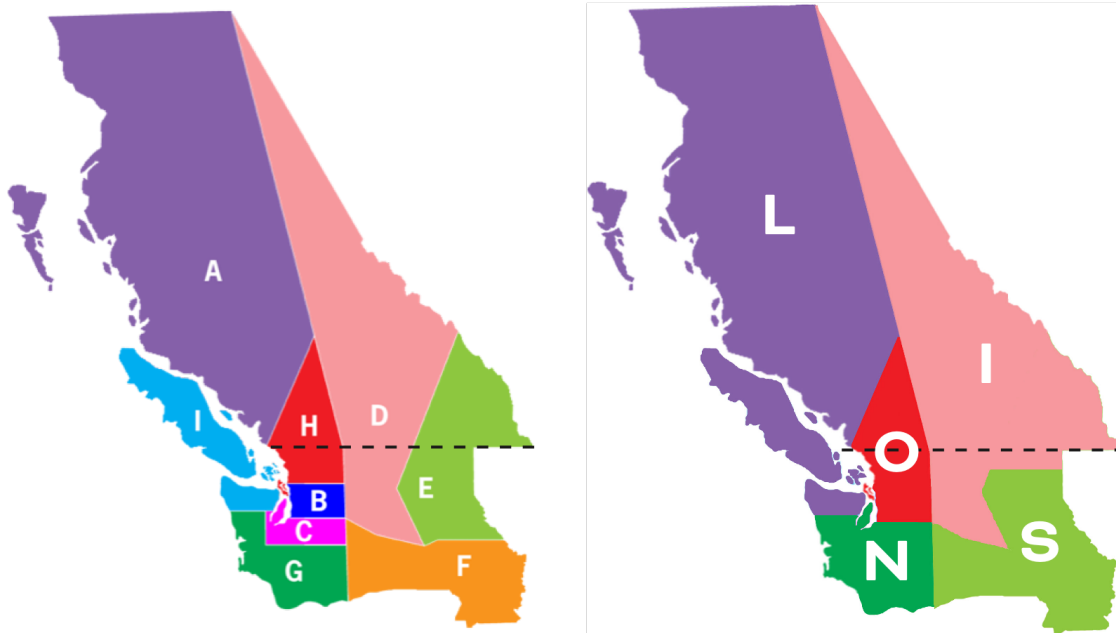
A: The Lions International Board must approve Redistricting at their October, 2022 Board meeting. If desired, each District may conduct a redistricting advisory vote at their next spring convention in 2022. The Multiple District will follow with a Special Convention approval vote soon thereafter. The effective date of the consolidation will be July 1, 2023. Specifically:

1. Districts must send the plan to their clubs 60 days before their Spring Convention. An advisory vote will be on the ballot.
2. The MD must approve the plan at their annual convention or by special convention, expected to be May, 2022. The Plan must be sent to clubs no later than 60 days before the Multiple District Special Convention.

3. The LCI Board must receive the District/Multiple District approved plan 60 days before their annual October Meeting. This means a plan could not be voted on by the LCI board until its regular meeting in October 2022.
4. Once LCI approval is granted, a redistricting plan would be effective at the close of that meeting. The effective date of Redistricting would then be July 1, 2023.

Q: What will the new districts look like?

A: Districts A and I will merge. Districts C and G will Merge. Districts H and B will merge. District D will merge with the Northern portion of District E. District F will Merge with the Southern portion of District E. Here is the Map: (Updated 30 Nov, 2021)



As currently envisioned here is the approximate breakdown of Districts and their Membership:

Merged Districts I and A:	2071/97 Clubs
Merged Districts B and H:	1959/76
Merged Districts C and G:	2345/82

Merged Districts D and E
Merged Districts E and F

1499/67
1751/69

Q: How will we manage these changes?

District and Multiple District leadership involvement is a must! As the LCI Guide for Consolidating Districts notes: *“Change can be scary if you are not part of it. Involve the past and future leaders in a positive way to gain their support. Involve the members in the new area to engage and empower them. Make sure the issues that are important to them are part of the plan.”*

Q: How will we get this information to the Districts?

A: The Strategic Planning committee, DG’s and ZC’s must “be on the same page” and take this message to the clubs in MD19. The MD19 Website will be the key source of information. The Strategic Planning Committee stands ready to do a Zoom presentation with each District. District officers, Cabinet Members and members of the

Q: How will Districts coordinate between one another to make redistricting happen?

A: Each District Governor will appoint a **Redistricting Merger Committee**. These committee members must be dedicated to making redistricting work, and will meet with their counterparts in the other district(s) to merge the elections or appointments for DG, 1VDG and 2VDG as well as issues such finance, Constitution and Bylaws, foundation representation and other import merger topics that apply to the new district. Other issues having to do with the merger can also be the responsibility of these committees. More information on the Merger Committees are in the Road Map document as well as in a separate publication entitled The Role of the District Merger Committee. Both these documents are posted on the MD19 website.

Q: How will the Districts Get this Information to the Clubs?

A: As soon as possible through club meetings, Zone meeting, social media, websites, and even special meetings of your district. Clubs need as much information as we can give them as soon as possible. Beginning now, clubs should be focused on this information and can work with the District Merger Team to start the process.

Q: Will my club be in the same Zone as now?

A: Yes. This redistricting will not change any zone boundaries. The current clubs will stay in the Zone they are already in. When redistricting is complete and districts assume new letters or numbers, your zone number may change. But only the number. For example, when Districts C and G complete their merger there may be 14 combined

Zones. Depending on the new district letter of designation, let's call it District "N," there would be 14 zones, renumbered as Zones N-1 through N-14.

Q: Which District Constitution and Bylaws will we use?

A: Standard District Constitution and By-Laws will be the governing document until the amended District Constitution and By-Laws is approved by the delegates of the new district. The respective Merger Committees will make changes and amendments and you will vote on those changes. You will find the Standard District Constitution and By-Laws in the Board Policy Manual in Chapter VII: Constitution and By.

Q: What other benefits are there by doing re-districting besides Leadership and Membership?

A: The most exciting aspect of merging or consolidating districts is "the new mix of leaders" in each of the districts who will revitalize leadership, membership and service programs to the benefit of all Lions in the new district. Larger districts will have a larger pool of leaders to add new energy and enthusiasm.

Q: I am currently a 2VDG and am slated to be the DG in my district starting on July 1, 2023. With this consolidation, will I be the DG, or will the current 2VDG from the other District be the new DG?

A: This can be decided by negotiation, contested elections or even a coin flip if it is an agreeable form of compromise. It is suggested that districts' merger committees find a cooperative way to combine existing leadership to the satisfaction of all.

Q: My new combined district will have over 80 clubs. As a new DG, how in the world am I going to travel to them all?

A: LCI has recommended for years that club visitations be divided into thirds and have the DG, 1VDG and 2VDG take an equal share and rotate through the clubs. In addition, since Zoom has been such an integral part of our Covid meeting schedules, It is HIGHLY recommended that DG's consider Zoom meetings to their clubs so as to minimize individual travel. DG's traveling to Zone meetings are another way to ensure that all clubs get a chance to meet with District leadership and learn about the DG's

Q: What is the process for suggestions to change the proposed areas?

A: The initial boundary lines were created by the Strategic Planning committee in draft form. It is our hope that affected districts who wish to alter boundary lines or club inclusions, work together with their opposite district and the Strategic Planning Committee to create territories that are acceptable to both districts.

Q: Why aren't areas cut off at the US border for all districts?

A: The Strategic Planning Committee initially considered Covid 19 border restrictions as a main driver of district lines. Some districts have voiced a preference to continue to share relationships with their USA and/or Canada neighbors. As Covid restrictions lessen, there is great new potential for the creation of international Districts where applicable.

Q: *What happens if we don't want to redistrict or the delegates to our spring 2022 convention do not vote in favor of redistricting? Do the current nine districts each have to hold an election in a regular or special convention to approve/disapprove the plan?*

A: Subdistricts (Current Districts A through I) do not need to vote on the proposal if it is a redistricting that reduces the number of transitional districts.

Q: *Does each district have to approve (by simple majority) the merger of its neighboring district before we can submit the plan to the Board?*

A: No, the only approval needed is from the delegates at the MD level.

Q: *According to the LCI policy manual, there will be no fee to any of the nine current districts nor the planned five districts. Is this a correct statement?*

A: Correct, there is no fee as long as the number of districts is reducing.

Q: *Reference to the above questions: the only binding vote required of this plan is at the Multiple District regular or special convention. The current nine Districts may hold an advisory vote. Is that a correct statement?*

A: The LCI Board only needs the MD approval. The district approval is optional and provided to the board if it is provided to the District and Club Committee.

Q: *We have been losing members in MD19 for years, what's the "rush" to implement this now?*

A: This is not a "rush" by any standard. We have lost over 20,000 Lions in the last 25 years and no full reorganization has been done. LCI considers redistricting to take at least three years, which we are on track to do. The Strategic Planning committee has been working on redistricting steadily since June, 2020. Many district merger committees have been engaged in this process in calendar year 2021. If the plan is approved by vote of our MD in May or June of 2022, and approval is granted by LCI in October, 2022 the earliest date we could implement redistricting is July 1, 2023. So, adding planning and implementation time, this process will have taken the LCI prescribed three years.

Q: *Why not immerse our MD in the new LCI Global Membership Approach for a couple of years before consolidating districts?*

A: It has been the Committee's hope that membership initiatives like the North American Membership Initiative and the Global Membership Approach would reverse current trends, but the results of those programs have yielded little success in MD19 in the past five years. It is clear, however, that we can no longer continue "business as usual." As LCI states in its "Guide for Consolidating" booklet. "While membership growth should always be a part of the plan, redistricting can infuse the district with a mix of new leaders who can look at district activities in a new way, and combine resources to more effectively meet the needs of the clubs..."

Q: This plan appears to make travel requirements much greater for the District Governor. Won't this consolidation have an impact on future leaders stepping up because of the new distances involved?

A: Consolidation will bring larger districts. But the entire travel paradigm needs to be reconsidered. For example, in actuality there is no requirement for a DG to visit every club in his /her district every year. LCI simply mandates that there be contact between the District Governor and the clubs. Historically our DG's have made every effort to visit each club in their District, but while it may be desired, it is simply not required. In this committee's estimation, there is ample room for us to consider new ways for the DG to keep in contact. For example, A DG can send their VDG's to visit in their stead. That would effectively spread the load out so that each DG/VDG would take a third of the clubs per year. Another way is for the DG to contact clubs via Zoom. And still another way is to have the DG attend or Zoom with Zone Meetings where more than one club is present.

Q: *Where can I get more Information about Redistricting?*

A: Our MD19 Website has a dedicated page containing merger redistricting information. As we get new information, it will be posted there. A summary of Redistricting, larger maps, a Power Point showing highlights and a direct link to the LCI "Guide to Consolidating Districts" is available from that page. In the alternate, here is a link to the LCI Guide:

<https://lionsmd19.org/downloads/lci-district-consolidation-guide.pdf>