

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.

Last year we saw a dramatic drop of 808 members from our Multiple District rolls. This places our Multiple District at about 9500 members. In June 2021, the Council of Governors unanimously passed a resolution to move ahead with a redistricting plan for Multiple District 19, and they reaffirmed that vote again in February 2022. Redistricting, coupled with new membership plans and programs can have a very positive effect on membership and leadership!

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. Each of our current districts will be merging with one or two adjacent districts within the current boundaries of MD19. This will present some challenges as many of our districts with 40-50 clubs will be expanded to 80 or more clubs. See more about how to manage these challenges in other FAQ's.

Q: What is the Timeline for Redistricting?

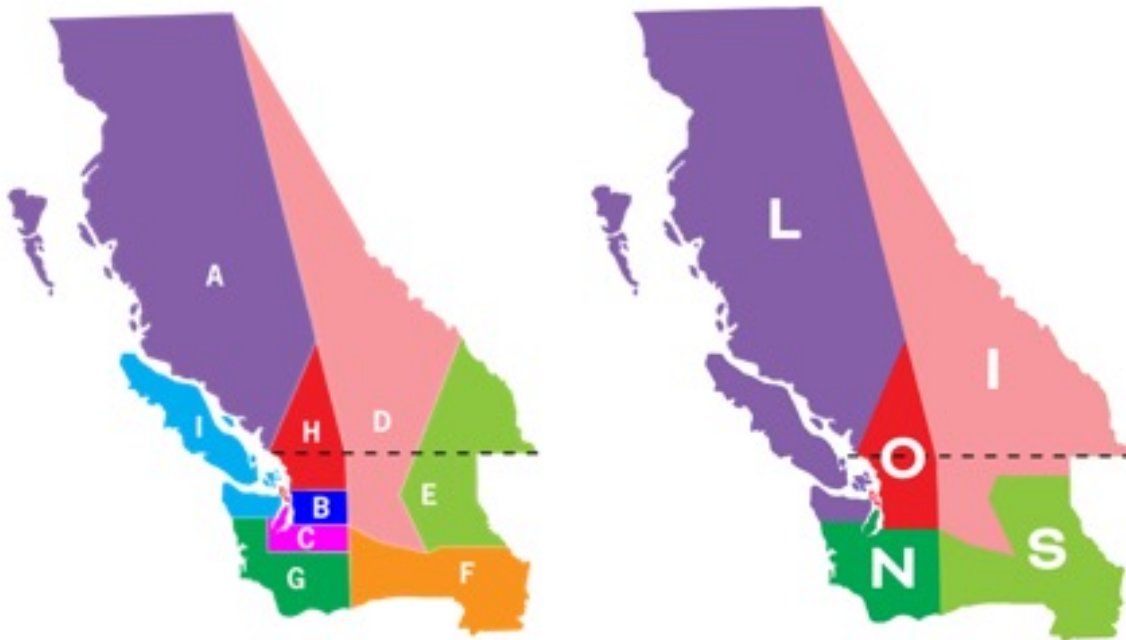
A: The process as defined by Lions International takes approximately three years. The Strategic Planning Committee began redistricting deliberations in July 2020. The first year was spent consulting with District leaders, planning the district boundaries, getting approvals from the Council of Governors, working on details with the districts and putting the plan on our website for all MD19 Lions to see.

The voting delegates from each club must then approve the plan at a special MD19 virtual convention to be held on **June 4, 2022**.

1. Assuming the special convention delegates approve the plan, it will be forwarded to Lions Clubs International to be considered for approval by the full LCI Board at their annual meeting in October, 2022.
2. Once LCI approval is granted, the redistricting plan would be effective on/about July 1, 2022.

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 March 24, 2022)



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	1499/67
Merged Districts E and F	1751/69

Q: How will we manage these changes?

District and Multiple District leadership involvement is important! 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 focal point of that information, as the entire plan is posted there. The Strategic Planning Committee stands ready to do a Zoom presentation with each District. District officers, Cabinet Members and members of the District Merger Team can see the full presentation and ask questions.

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 as 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 here 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. District Merger teams can help spread the word.

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. For example, when Districts C and G complete their merger there may be 14 Zones. Depending on the new district letter of designation, let’s call it District “N,” these zones will be renumbered as Zones N-1 through N-14.

Q: Which District Constitution and Bylaws will we use?

A: The Lions International 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 after July 1, 2023. You will find the Standard District Constitution and By-Laws in the Board Policy Manual in Chapter VII: Constitution and By-Laws.

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. In our present situation, eight of our nine Districts are considered “Transitional Districts” (below 1250 members and/or 35 clubs) All newly proposed districts will have at least 1250 members and 35 clubs as required by LCI.

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 can I possibly to travel to them all?

A: A big boundary change like this will require new thinking as to how the District Governors interface with their clubs. The Lions Clubs International Constitution and Bylaws gives DG’s a wide latitude in how to manage these visits. In part, the C&BL simply states the clubs must be visited by “The DG or other district officer.”

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 plans and programs for the year.

Q: Can Districts use Regional Chairpersons to help divide the visitation duties?

A: Yes. LCI has successfully used Regional Chairpersons to overcome the many geographic challenges to DG travel. If a District decides to use them, Region chairs are typically appointed by the DG. Region chairs are a District management function, so the districts can adopt their own rules (formal or informal) for the selection of Region Chairs. Additionally, Region Chair travel expenses are reimbursed from the DG annual budget.

Under Article II Section 7 of the LCI Standard Constitution and Bylaws the qualifications to be a Region Chair are the same as the Qualifications to be a Zone Chair (past club president, 2 years on the club board etc.)

Please Note RECENT CHANGES by LCI Policy: Once a person is a Past District Governor, they cannot fill the role of Region Chair, Zone Chair, VDG, or DG.

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 anticipation that cross-border cooperation will resume.

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. The Multiple District will conduct a special election to approve/disapprove the redistricting plan on June 4, 2022.

Q: Does each district have to approve the merger of its neighboring district before we can submit the plan to the Board?

A: No, the only approval needed is from the Multiple District 19 special election on June 4, 2022

Q: Reference to the above question: the only binding vote required of this plan is at the Multiple District regular or special convention election. 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: According to the LCI policy manual, there will be no cost to any of the nine current districts nor the planned five districts. Is this a correct statement?

A: Correct, there is no cost as long as the number of districts is reducing. There may be some ancillary costs to the new District, such as banners for newly renumbered Districts and Zones.

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 10,000 Lions in the last 25 years and no full MD19 reorganization has been done. LCI considers redistricting to take at least three years, which we are on track to accomplish. The Strategic Planning committee has been working on redistricting steadily since June, 2020, and many district merger committees have become engaged in this process already. If the plan is approved by vote of our MD on June 4, 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?

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: What will happen if my District has not filled the DG position by July 1, 2023?

A: Per the Lions Clubs International Standard Constitution and Bylaws:

“DISTRICT GOVERNOR VACANCY. In the event of a vacancy in the office of district governor, the same shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of the International Constitution and By-Laws. The immediate past district governor, first and second vice district governors, past district governors, past international directors and past international presidents in the district shall convene at a date, time and place called and determined by the immediate past district governor to select a replacement for recommendation to the International Board of Directors.”

Q: Where can I get more Information about Redistricting?

A: The Strategic Planning Committee will conduct bi-monthly Zoom meetings to answer all questions and address concerns of district merger participants. Phone numbers of Strategic Planning Committee members are listed in another document on these redistricting pages. All are welcome to click on other merger redistricting information on these pages, and that information will be updated as it is received. A summary of the redistricting plan, including 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>