

November 6, 2024

Paul Mitchell - Redistricting Partners

[5:00 pm] Dr. Pam Luster (@DrPamLuster)

INTRO: Welcome to #EquityChat with [@paulmitche11](#) of @udrawthelines, an expert in redistricting and voting rights. Tonight, we'll explore the future of higher ed and the implications of this election on equity-focused work.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil · 1m](#)

Replying to [@DrPamLuster @equityavengers and 3 others](#)

Looking forward to this chat!

[5:05 pm] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q1: [@paulmitche11](#) What is your 'walk-up' song or anthem that drives your work in redistricting and equity? @DrPamLuster @lamkeithcurry @CollegeFutures #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Paul Mitchell @paulmitche11 · 1m](#)

I'll go with "Fight for Your Rights" by Beastie Boys. Redistricting is an awesome process but needs public engagement to make sure it works effectively. And districts should be drawn in a way that expands voting rights.

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil · 7m](#)

Alright, an 80's throwback! Redistricting is Awesome! Join the Party!

[5:11 pm] Dr. Keith Curry (@lamkeithcurry)

Q2: [@paulmitche11](#) With Donald Trump now set to return to the presidency, what shifts or challenges do you anticipate for redistricting and the protection of racially marginalized communities in voting? #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Paul Mitchell @paulmitche11 · 6s](#)

Well, the big one is the census. The last Trump administration sought to defund census programs. Also they wanted to put a citizenship question in the census for two reasons: to reduce participation by noncitizens and their families, and to harm redistricting.

[5:18] Dr. Pam Luster (@DrPamLuster)

Q3: [@paulmitche11](#) Redistricting is at the heart of equitable representation. In your work, how do you see changes in federal administration affecting local-level protections under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA)? #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Paul Mitchell @paulmitche11 · 2m](#)

Fortunately the CVRA is under the state, and its protections have most recently been upheld by the state Supreme Court. Like many things in the coming years, the CVRA is an example of CA having to go do it on our own!

[Dr. Keith Curry #EquityAvengers #RealCollegePrez @lamkeithcurry · 4m](#)

For out-of-state administrators, what do you recommend?

[Paul Mitchell @paulmitche11](#)

Watch the laws in their states. In Washington and Oregon they have versions of the law. But they can also work on redistricting reform locally. Talk to your local Common Cause or other government reform advocates.

[5:25] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q4: [@paulmitche11](#) As we work toward fair representation, what gives you hope amidst political challenges that could impact redistricting? #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Paul Mitchell @paulmitche11](#)

In California we have made huge strides in redistricting reforms - starting with the independent redistricting commission to the CVRA and FAIRMAPS act. This next redistricting more of the state reforms move to locals with more commissions and public engagement.

[5:32] Dr. Keith Curry (@lamkeithcurry)

Q5: [@paulmitche11](#) What has been your biggest disappointment or setback in your work with @udrawthelines, and how have you or your team persevered? #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Paul Mitchell @paulmitche11](#)

We have been incredibly lucky to not have a lot. We have challenges sometimes - often with boards who don't want to redistrict or fight public engagement or only want to protect their political futures... but I have seen it so many times I just breathe. This too will pass!

[Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson @DrTammeil](#) · 2m

A great reminder, especially today. We've seen it too many times before. Just breathe.

[5:39] Dr. Pam Luster (@DrPamLuster)

Q6: [@paulmitche11](#) As redistricting work continues to evolve, what do you see as the biggest challenge for achieving fair representation in the next four years? #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Paul Mitchell @paulmitche11](#) · 6m

The focus should be on the 2031 redistricting - making sure that local governments (and states) are setup to do redistricting commissions and have processes that focus on communities of interest and public engagement.

[5:46] Dr. Tammeil Gilkerson (@DrTammeil)

Q7 [@paulmitche11](#) In your work with community organizations and local agencies, what strategies have proven most effective in ensuring fair representation and lasting impact for marginalized communities? #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Paul Mitchell @paulmitche11](#) · 3m

Reaching out to local community based organizations and thinking about projects years in advance. So, as an example, census outreach organizing leads into commissioner applicants leads into public redistricting leaders.

[5:53 pm] Dr. Keith Curry (@lamkeithcurry)

Q8 [@paulmitche11](#) The road to equity is long. How are you sustaining yourself, and what practice would you recommend for others in this space? #EquityChat #EquityAvengers

[Paul Mitchell @paulmitche11](#)

Well, personally I have to have outside goals and interest and friends who are separate from my work life. And I'm lucky that my wife [@jodihicks](#) is engaged in even more important work, and I get inspired by her every day.

[6:00 pm] Dr. Pam Luster (@DrPamLuster)

CLOSE: Thank you to [@paulmitche11](#) of [@udrawthelines](#) for sharing your insights. Next week we are featuring an incredible team from [@UmichNCID](#) and [CASCaDE](#) to discuss their recent report *Thriving Staff of Color: Imagining Higher Education Institutional Transformation.* Read it and join us on 11/13!