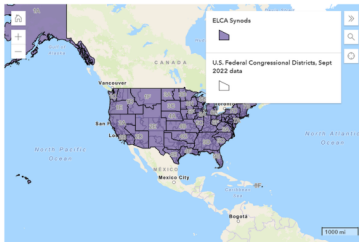


Use of Synod and District Map



Check out the interactive "Synod and District Map" application!



<https://elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy/synod-and-district-map>

WHAT AM I SEEING?

This map overlays two basic things: the boundaries of ELCA synods and the boundaries of U.S. Federal Congressional Districts as identified by Sept. 2022 data.

- ELCA synods are filled in with **purple**.
- U.S. Federal Congressional Districts are outlined in **black**.

HOW DO I USE THE MAP?

Some of us may jump right in to explore map features. For example, use the zooming features "+" and "-" on the left to explore federal districts in your vicinity.

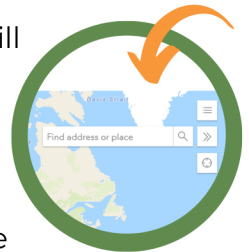
For more pointed exploration, use the zip code or street address of your congregation, home or ministry to identify the district of a federal lawmaker who represents you and that constituency.



LOCATION SEARCH

Select the Q magnifying glass symbol on the top right of the map. A box will appear that reads: "Find address of place".

- **ZIP CODE** – Pause briefly after you enter a zip code while the tool pinpoints that location. Select from a dropdown menu confirming your choice if it pops up.
- **ADDRESS** – Alternatively, you may enter the full address you want more information about. Select from a dropdown menu confirming your choice if it pops up.



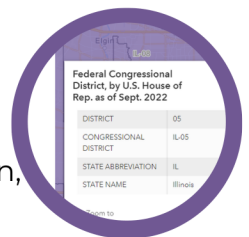
FROM THE LOCATION ON THE MAP

Here are some things you may note from the location you selected in your search.

- Use the zooming features "+" and "-" on the left for perspectives on the location.
- Tap/select what you see. What you select will turn **blue**.

"Federal Congressional District" is the first piece of data listed.

In that box on the lower left is your District Number. A link is not available from here, but use the data to complete a later search for more information, like who fills the district's elected office and contact information.



Getting to "ELCA Synod" screen is next.

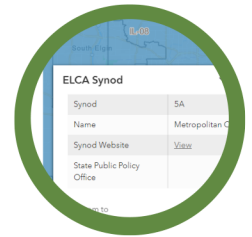
Toggle <> using symbols in the lower right of the data box to get to the next screen - the "ELCA Synod" name in this location. When in the "ELCA Synod" screen, the synod will be highlighted **blue**.





Several data points are available in the "ELCA Synod" screen.

- Use link in the box to visit the synod Website.
- If an ELCA-affiliated state public policy office (sppo) is active in that synod, find its name in the info box. A link is not available from here, but use the name to complete a later search for info about the sppo. Your experiences and priorities are their concerns too!



Need a do-over? You can always use the  home symbol on the top left of the screen to refresh.

HOW MIGHT THIS HELP ME?

As you think through actions open to you to respond to concerns that surface through your prayer life, accompaniment in your community, and experiences with coalitions and partners in ministry activity, knowing who is elected to represent your area and who you are connected with in ELCA ministry can be key. It is part of learning about how policy is decided in your locality and alerts you to other faithful Christian neighbors.

Consider:

- Asking for a meeting with your lawmaker
- Reaching out to an ELCA-affiliated state public policy office and/or synod leader to collaborate
- Inviting your lawmaker to a forum or event in your congregation or with partners, listening to their perspectives and sharing your experiences
- Writing an opinion editorial (op-ed) expressing your call to action and naming the role your lawmaker can play

Thank you for your advocacy.



“ELCA social teaching holds that all residents of the United States have a responsibility to make government function well – not to abandon our democracy but to engage it in a spirit of robust civic duty. For Lutherans, this responsibility is lived out as a calling from God, expressed in the discipleship described in our baptismal promises. It is based on our understanding of how God governs human society.”

- ELCA social message “Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy” (p. 4)