

# **District 221**

## **District 18 and District 38 Merger**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

Supporting a smooth and transparent transition

April 2026

**Presented by District 221 Transition Leadership**

Transition Committee Chairs – Tony Whitten, DTM/Rhonda Young, DTM

District Alignment Chairs – Mervin Bierman, DTM/Eileen Grodziak, DTM

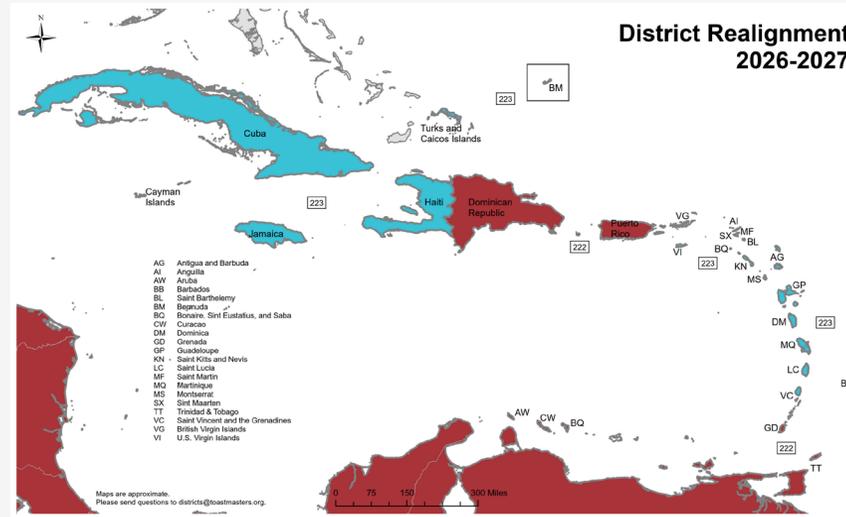
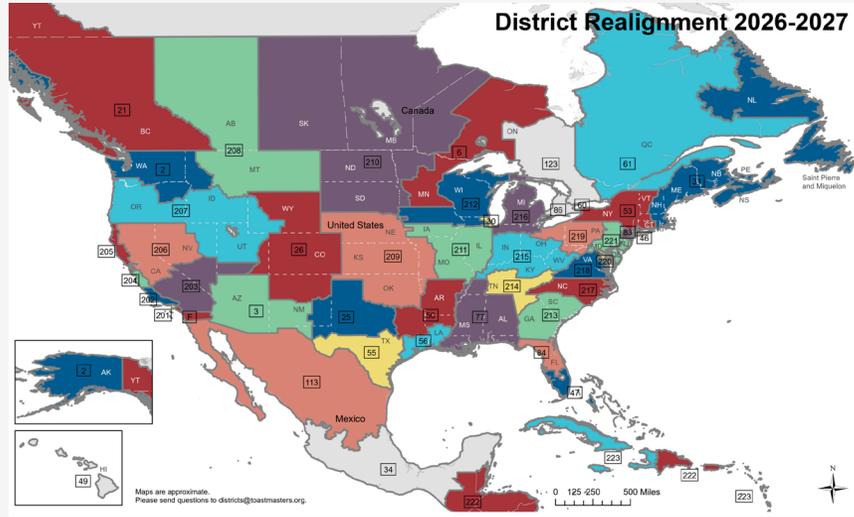
District Leadership Chairs – Dr. Elizabeth Carter, DTM/Christopher Hulse, DTM

# What Is Happening?

- Toastmasters International has approved a boundary realignment resulting in the merger of District 18 and District 38 into a new district: District 221.
- This change becomes effective July 1, 2026.

# District Realignment – A Multi-Region Initiative

District 221 is part of a broader regional effort to strengthen Toastmasters across the Americas



# Why Is This Merger Happening?

- District boundary adjustments are periodically made by Toastmasters International to:
  - Maintain balanced membership distribution
  - Support sustainable district leadership structures
  - Align geographic regions more effectively
- This is a structural realignment – not a reflection of performance or leadership quality in either district.

# Will My Club Be Affected?

- Your club will continue operating as normal.
  - Club meetings remain the same.
  - Club officers remain in place.
  - Club numbers do not change.
  - Club dues and Toastmasters International membership processes remain unchanged.
- The primary change is at the district leadership and administrative level.

# Will There Still Be Contests?

- Yes.
- Speech contests will continue under District 221.
- Members will still compete through the standard Toastmasters structure (Area → Division → District).

# What Happens To Current District Leadership?

- District 18 and District 38 will both participate in the transition process.
- District 221 will elect its own officers in accordance with Toastmasters International procedures.
- All governance will follow Toastmasters International bylaws.

# District Council Overview

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## Definition

### District Council

The governing and voting body responsible for decisions on:

- Leadership
- Budget
- District structure

## Who Participates

### • District Executive Committee (DEC):

- District Director
- Program Quality Director
- Club Growth Director
- Division Directors
- Area Directors

### • Club Representatives:

- Club Presidents
- Vice Presidents Education (VPEs)
  - 👉 2 votes per club

## Key Responsibilities

- Elect District Leaders
- Approve District Budget
- Approve Club Alignment (Areas & Divisions)
- Conduct official district business

## Why It Matters

- Ensures fair representation across all clubs
- Promotes transparency & accountability
- Gives every club a direct voice in decisions

# District Quorum

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- D221 District Council (Combined D18 & 38)

- 217 Clubs      434 (Presidents & VPEs)
- 77 DEC      77 DEC
- 294 Total      511 Total

- District 221 Quorum

- 217 Clubs in good standing
- $1/3$  votes per club =  $(217 \times 2)/3 = 145$

# District 221 – Key Events & Forums

All sessions are virtual

Important Dates to Engage, Learn, and Vote

## District 221 Forums (Q&A)

Learn about the transition and ask questions

-  Monday, March 30 | 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
-  Wednesday, April 1 | 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
-  Thursday, April 9 | 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
-  Tuesday, April 14 | 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM
-  Tuesday, April 21 | 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Access details will be shared via the district newsletter.

## Candidate Showcase

-  Tuesday, April 7 | 7:00 – 9:00 PM
-  Registration required

## Business Meeting

-  Wednesday, April 29 | 7:00 – 8:30 PM
-  Registration coming soon

Engage in Forums → Meet Candidates → Vote at the Business Meeting

# What Happens To District Assets, Finances, and Website?

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- Assets, finances, and digital properties will be responsibly transitioned into District 221 governance.
- This includes:
  - Financial accounts
  - Domain names and websites
  - Historical records
  - Trophies and materials
- A structured transition plan is in place to ensure continuity and transparency.

# Will Both Districts Continue to Operate Separately?

- No.
- Once the merger becomes effective on July 1, 2026, District 18 and District 38 will cease operating independently and will function as District 221.

# What Are The Benefits of This Merger?

- Potential benefits include:
  - Expanded leadership opportunities
  - Broader networking across a larger geographic footprint
  - Stronger collaboration across clubs
  - Increased resource sharing
  - Greater diversity of experience and mentorship

# Where Can I Get Updates?

- Updates will be shared through:
  - District communications
  - Division and Area Directors
  - District 221 transition updates
  - Official Toastmasters International announcements
- Members are encouraged to stay informed and participate in transition discussions when invited.

# Who Is Overseeing The Transition?

- A structured Transition Committee is working collaboratively across both districts to ensure:
  - Clear communication
  - Responsible asset management
  - Governance alignment
  - Member transparency
- The goal is a smooth, professional, and unified launch of District 221.

# What Should Members Do Right Now?

- For now:
  - Continue supporting your club
  - Participate in contests and district events
  - Stay engaged
  - Watch for official updates
- No immediate action is required from individual members.

# Final Note

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- This merger represents a new chapter – not a disruption.
- The mission of Toastmasters remains the same:
  - Helping people become more effective communicators and leaders.
- District 221 will build on the legacy of both Districts 18 and District 38 while creating new opportunities for growth and collaboration.

# Questions

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