

REDISTRICTING IN PA:

COMPARING CURRENT & PROPOSED METHODS

CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL redistricting

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE & CONGRESSIONAL redistricting

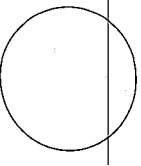
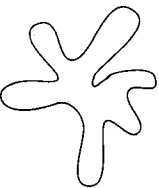
as specified in Senate Bill No. 22 and House Bill No. 722

WHAT ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS?

THERE IS NOTHING IN THE PA CONSTITUTION OR PA LAW THAT SPECIFIES HOW CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS SHOULD BE REDRAWN OR WHAT CRITERIA SHOULD BE USED. Currently, redistricting done through regular legislative process (i.e., handled like a regular bill that goes through both PA House and Senate, and signed by governor). The current districts are described in Act 131 of 2011.

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING IS INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED PLAN.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS:

<p>REAPPORTIONMENT: Refers to the reallocation every 10 years of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives, based on the relative population of each state to the total population of the country as determined by the decennial census</p>	<p>REDISTRICTING: Refers to redrawing the boundaries of legislative districts</p>	<p>LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING: Refers to the redrawing of state legislative districts</p>	<p>CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING: Refers to the redrawing of congressional legislative districts</p>	<p>GERRYMANDERING: Drawing the boundaries of a district to achieve an unfair political outcome (e.g., to favor a party or an incumbent)</p>	<p>CONTIGUITY: All parts of a district connected (i.e., no "islands" floating in another district)</p>	<p>COMPACTNESS: The extent to which a district's geography is dispersed around its center</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Compact</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Non-compact</p> </div> </div>
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This document was developed in 2016 by Dr. Gwendolyn Torges, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Indiana University of Pennsylvania. It was updated by Suzanne Broughton to reflect the provisions of Senate Bill 22 and House Bill No. 722 as introduced in the 2017-18 legislative session.



Working to Ensure Fair Districts & Fair Elections

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