

REDISTRICTING IN PA

COMPARING CURRENT & PROPOSED METHODS

CURRENT LEGISLATIVE redistricting
as specified in Article II of PA Constitution

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE & CONGRESSIONAL redistricting
as specified in Senate Bill No. 22 and House Bill No. 722



WHO DRAWS THE DISTRICTS?

POLITICIAN COMMISSION

INDEPENDENT COMMISSION

Criteria for members:

- Same voting registration affiliation for at least 3 years.
- Voted in 2 of the last 3 statewide general elections.
- Has not/family member has not held public office in the last five years; has not/spouse has not served as staff member or consultant.
- Has not/spouse has not been a lobbyist in the last 5 years.
- Has not/spouse has not been a candidate for office or paid staff or officer of a political party, committee or action committee in last 5 years.



WHAT IS THE COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION?

5 MEMBERS

- Legislative majority & minority leaders from House and Senate (or someone appointed by them to serve in their place)
- 1 non-office holding PA citizen

11 MEMBERS

- 4 registered with largest political party based on registration numbers
- 4 registered with second largest political party based on registration numbers
- 3 registered voters not registered with either of the above parties



HOW ARE MEMBERS SELECTED?

- 4 members are mandated by the PA Constitution (or appointed by them)
- 5th member, who shall chair the commission, selected by the other 4 members or by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court if the 4 members cannot agree on that member

- Those who meet the criteria & want to serve file a form with the Sec. of Commonwealth.
- Secretary sorts applications into three pools by the three categories above.
- Secretary randomly selects 40 qualified applicants from each pool.
- Majority & minority leaders of each chamber may each strike 2 applicants from each pool.
- Secretary randomly selects members from remaining applicants, provided that those selected reasonably reflect racial, geographic and gender diversity.



WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR DRAWING DISTRICTS?

- Politician Commission draws the lines
- Legislature as a whole does not vote on the plan
- Governor can't veto the plan
- PA Supreme Court will review plan if an aggrieved person asks

- One member is selected as chair by vote of at least 6 members.
- A quorum of the commission is 7 members. Official actions require 7 affirmative votes.
- Commission meetings shall be open to the public.
- Commission acquires population data.
- Commission may not use address of any individual, political affiliation of voters, or previous election results (unless required by federal or state law).
- Commission draws preliminary maps and makes them available to the public.
- Commission holds 4 public meetings in 4 locations to gather public reaction.
- Commission draws final maps, makes them available to the public, holds 4 hearings.
- Commission approves final plan; must have at least one yes vote from each of the three groups; no legislative or governor approval is necessary.
- PA Supreme Court will review plan if aggrieved registered voter requests.



Working to Ensure Fair Districts & Fair Elections

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