



REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS: STATE LEGISLATIVE PLANS

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Traditionally, state legislatures have been responsible for redistricting for state legislative and congressional districts. Since the landmark Supreme Court decisions of the 1960s that established the one-person, one-vote principle, a number of states have shifted redistricting of state legislative district lines from the legislature to a board or commission. There are pros and cons to removing the process from the traditional legislative process to a commission. Reformers often mistakenly assume that commissions will be less partisan than legislatures when

conducting redistricting but that depends largely on the design of the board or commission.

NCSL has categorized the commissions as either having primary responsibility for redistricting, serving in an advisory capacity, or operating as a back-up commission in cases where the legislature does not meet its deadline. All states not represented in the tables below draw legislative districts through state legislative authority.

Thirteen states have a commission with [primary responsibility](#) for drawing a plan for state legislative districts. Five states have an [advisory commission](#) that may assist the legislature with drawing the district lines and five states have a [backup commission](#) that will make the decision if the legislature is unable to agree. See below for [Iowa's redistricting plan](#), which is distinct from the other categories.

Also, check out NCSL's [Redistricting Commissions: Congressional Plans](#) page for more on how commissions states use commissions to draw congressional district lines and NCSL's [Redistricting Commission Bills](#) for 2017 legislation..

State	Number of Members	Details
Alaska Alaska Const. art. 6, § 8	5	Name: Redistricting Board Selection Requirements: Governor appoints two; then president of the Senate appoints one; then speaker of the House appoints one; then chief justice of the Supreme Court appoints one. At least one member must be a resident of

State	Number of Members	Details
		each judicial district. No member may be a public employee or official.
Arizona Ariz. Const. art. 4, pt. 2, § 1	5	Name: Independent Redistricting Commission Selection Requirements: The commission on appellate court appointees creates a pool of 25 nominees, ten from each of the two largest parties and five not from either of the two largest parties. The highest ranking officer of the house appoints one from the pool, then the minority leader of the house appoints one, then the highest ranking officer of the senate appoints one, then the minority leader of the senate appoints one. These four appoint a fifth from the pool, not a member of any party already represented on the commission, as chair. If the four deadlock, the commission on appellate court appointments appoints the chair.
Arkansas Ark. Const. 1874, art. 8	3	Name: Board of Apportionment Selection Requirements: Commission consists of the governor, secretary of state, and the attorney general
California Cal. Const. Article XXI	14	Name: Citizen's Redistricting Commission Selection Requirements: With the Passage of Proposition 11 in 2008, the process of redrawing California's state legislative districts was removed from state legislative authority and given to a newly established 14 member commission. The commission must include 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 4 members from neither party. Government auditors are to select 60 registered voters from an applicant pool. Legislative leaders can reduce the pool; the auditors then are to pick eight commission members by lottery, and those commissioners pick six additional members for 14 total. For approval district boundaries need votes from three Democratic commissioners, three

State	Number of Members	Details
		Republican commissioners, and three commissioners from neither party.
Colorado Colo. Const. art. V, § 48	11	<p>Name: Reapportionment Commission</p> <p>Selection Requirements: Legislature selects four: (speaker of the House; House minority leader; Senate majority and minority leaders; or their delegates). Governor selects three. Chief Justice of Colorado Supreme Court selects four. Maximum of four from the legislature. Each congressional district must have at least one person, but no more than four people representing it on the commission. At least one member must live west of the Continental Divide.</p>
Hawaii Hawaii Const. art. IV	9	<p>Name: Reapportionment Commission</p> <p>Selection Requirements: President of the Senate selects two. Speaker of the House selects two. The minority leader in both the house and senate party each select one of their number. Those two each select one. These eight select the ninth member, who is the chair. No commission member may run for the legislature in the two elections following redistricting.</p>
Idaho Idaho Const. art. III, § 2	6	<p>Name: Commission for Reapportionment</p> <p>Selection Requirements: Leaders of two largest political parties in each house of the legislature each designate one member; chairs of the two parties whose candidates for governor received the most votes in the last election each designate one member. No member may be an elected or appointed official in the state at the time of designation.</p>
Missouri Mo. Const. art. III, § 2	House: 18 Senate: 10	<p>Name: Apportionment Commission</p> <p>Selection Requirements: There are two separate redistricting committees. Governor picks one person from each list of two submitted by the two main political parties in</p>

State	Number of Members	Details
		each congressional district to form the house committee. Governor picks five people from two lists of 10 submitted by the two major political parties in the state to form the senate committee. No commission member may hold office in the legislature for four years after redistricting.
Montana <u>Mont. Const. art. V, § 14</u>	5	<p>Name: Commission</p> <p>Selection Requirements: Majority and minority leaders of both houses of the Legislature each select one member. Those four select a fifth, who is the chair. Members cannot be public officials. Members cannot run for public office in the two years after the completion of redistricting.</p>
New Jersey <u>N.J. Const. art. IV, § 3</u>	13	<p>Name: Apportionment Commission</p> <p>Selection Requirements: The majority and minority leaders of both legislative chambers and the chairs of the two major political parties each choose two. Those twelve then appoint the thirteenth who has not held any public or party office in the state within the last five years. If they cannot agree, they will present two names to the Supreme Court, which will choose the final member.</p>
Ohio <u>Ohio Const. art. XI, § 1</u> NOTE: this commission was established to begin in the 2020 cycle, by a <u>2015 Constitutional Amendment</u>	7	<p>Name: Ohio Redistricting Commission</p> <p>Selection Requirements: Board consists of the governor, auditor, secretary of state, and four people appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the General Assembly.</p>
Pennsylvania <u>Pa. Const. art. II, § 17</u>	5	<p>Name: Reapportionment Commission</p> <p>Selection Requirements: Majority and minority leaders of the legislative houses each select one member. These four select a fifth to chair. If they fail to do so within 45 days, a majority of</p>

State	Number of Members	Details
		the state Supreme Court will select the fifth member. The chair cannot be a public official.
Washington <u>Wash. Const. art. II, § 43</u>	5	Name: Commission Selection Requirements: The majority and minority party leaders in each legislative chamber each select one registered voter to serve as commissioner, and those four commissioners choose a nonvoting fifth commissioner to serve as chair.

COMMISSIONS WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR DRAWING A PLAN FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

State	Number of Members	Details
Maine <u>Me. Const. art. IV, pt. 3, § 1-A</u>	15	Name: Apportionment Commission Selection Requirements: Speaker of the House appoints three. House minority leader appoints three. President of the Senate appoints two. Senate minority leader appoints two. Chairs of two major political parties each choose one. The members from the two parties represented on the commission each appoint a public member, and the two public members choose a third public member.
New York NOTE: this commission was established to begin in the 2020 cycle, by a <u>2014 referendum, Proposal 1</u>	10	Name: Independent Redistricting Commission Selection Requirements: Each of the four legislative leaders appoints two members; the original eight members select two additional members. Legislators and other elected officials are prohibited from serving. If plans submitted by the commission are rejected by the legislature twice, the legislature will amend it as necessary.
Rhode Island <u>2011 R.I. Laws ch. 106, § 1; 2011 R.I. Laws ch. 100, § 1</u>	18	Name: Reapportionment Commission Selection Requirements: The majority leader of both the house and the senate chose 4 members of the legislature and 3 who are not. The senate and

State	Number of Members	Details
		house minority leaders each choose 2 who are not members of the legislature.
Vermont <u>Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 34A, § 1904</u>	7	<p>Name: Legislative Apportionment Board</p> <p>Selection Requirements: Chief justice appoints the chair; governor appoints one member from each political party with at least 3 state legislators for six of the previous ten years; those parties each select one. Secretary of state is secretary of the board but does not vote. No commissioner may be a member or employee of the legislature.</p>
Virginia <u>Exec. Order No. 31 (2011)</u>	11	<p>Name: Independent Bipartisan Advisory Commission on Redistricting</p> <p>Selection Requirements: Governor created an advisory commission in 2011 by executive order. The commission is designed to get public input and to recommend district lines to the legislature, which may adopt, modify, or ignore the commission's proposals. Governor chooses 5 citizens of each majority party who have not held elected office in last 5 years, are not employees of Congress or the state legislature. Governor will also select the chair who is not identifiable with any political party.</p>

ADVISORY COMMISSIONS

State	Number of Members	Details
Connecticut <u>Conn. Const. art. III, § 6</u>	9	<p>Name: Commission</p> <p>Selection Requirements: President pro tem of the Senate, Senate minority leader, speaker of the House, and House minority leader each select two; these eight must select the ninth within 30 days.</p>
Illinois <u>Ill. Const. art. IV, § 3</u>	8	<p>Name: Legislative Redistricting Commission</p> <p>Selection Requirements: President of the Senate, Senate minority leader, speaker of the House, and House minority leader each select two, one of whom is a legislator and the other is not. No more</p>

		than four from the same party. If the commission fails to develop a plan by August 10, 2001, the state Supreme Court selects two persons not of the same political party, one of whom is chosen by lot to be the ninth member.
Mississippi Miss. Const. art. 13, § 254	5	Name: Commission Selection Requirements: Chief justice of Supreme Court is chair; attorney general, secretary of state, speaker of the House, president pro tem of the Senate
Oklahoma Okla. Const. § V-11A	7	Name: Bipartisan Commission on Legislative Apportionment Selection Requirements: The Lieutenant Governor is the nonvoting chair; the governor, senate majority leader, and house majority leader each choose 2, one republican and one democrat.
Texas Tex. Const. art. 3, § 28	5	Name: Legislative Redistricting Board of Texas Selection Requirements: Lieutenant governor, speaker of the House, attorney general, comptroller of public accounts, and commissioner of the general land office

BACKUP COMMISSIONS

Iowa	Iowa conducts redistricting unlike any other state. The Iowa system does not put the task in the hands of a commission, but rather the legislature does vote on the plans. Nonpartisan legislative staff develop maps for the Iowa House and Senate as well as U.S. House districts without any political or election data including the addresses of incumbents. This is different from all other states. For a detailed description of the Iowa system click here .
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OTHER

About This NCSL Project

Redistricting is the process of redrawing state legislative and congressional district boundaries every 10 years by state legislatures following the decennial U.S. Census. NCSL helps prepare legislatures and others for the redistricting cycle with comprehensive information on redistricting law, technology and process. NCSL collects data and information on new legislative and congressional districts.

For more information, contact [Wendy Underhill](#), NCSL Staff Liaison.

Additional Resources

- [Redistricting Commissions: Congressional Plans](#)
- [All About Redistricting](#)
- [NCSL's Redistricting Homepage](#)