

Pennsylvania

State website: [Pennsylvania Redistricting](#)
 2010-cycle districts: [Congress, State Senate, State House](#) « **NEW**
 2000-cycle districts: [Congress, State Senate, State House](#)
 Primary governing law: [Pa. Const. art. II, §§ 16-17](#)

The Latest

Congress: On December 20, the state legislature passed [SB 1249](#), which was [signed](#) on December 22.

State leg.: On October 31, the [political commission](#) responsible for state legislative redistricting released draft lines for [state Senate](#) and [House](#); on December 12, the commission [voted 4-1](#) to approve [final lines](#). On January 25, the state Supreme Court [rejected the plan](#). The Court held that the 2001 plan should govern 2012 elections, and [federal court challenges](#) to that holding were rejected.

On June 8, 2012, the politician commission issued [final plans](#) for new districts, effective in 2014. Those districts were challenged; on May 8, 2013, the state Supreme Court [rejected](#) those challenges.

Institution

Redistricting political control:

	Governor	State Senate	State House
Congressional lines	R	20 D, 30 R	91 D, 112 R
State legislative lines	Politician commission with balanced partisan composition		
2000 cong. lines	R	21 D, 29 R	98 D, 104 R
2000 state lines	Politician commission with balanced partisan composition		

Pennsylvania's congressional lines are drawn by the state legislature, as a regular statute, subject to gubernatorial veto. The members of the state House committee responsible for redistricting are listed [here](#); the members of the state Senate committee are listed [here](#).

Pennsylvania's state legislative lines are drawn by a five-member [political commission](#), in place since 1968. Each of the four legislative leaders (majority and minority leader in each legislative house) may choose one commissioner, and those four commissioners choose a fifth to serve as chair, who may not hold paid public office. If the first four commissioners cannot agree on a chair within 45 days, the state Supreme Court will appoint a fifth commissioner to serve as chair. The current members of the commission -- including a chair [appointed](#) by the state Supreme Court -- are listed [here](#). [[Pa. Const. art. II, § 17\(b\)](#)]

The Pennsylvania constitution vests original jurisdiction in the state Supreme Court for review of state legislative lines in state court. There is no similar provision for congressional lines. [[Pa. Const. art. II, § 17\(d\), \(g\)](#)]

Timing

Census data were delivered to Pennsylvania on [March 9, 2011](#).

Pennsylvania state law does not impose a particular deadline for drawing congressional lines, though candidates must file for congressional primary elections by February 14, 2012. [[25 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 2873\(d\)](#)] The regular legislative session began on January 4, 2011, and ends [January 4, 2012](#).

Pennsylvania state law requires that its commission draw initial proposals for state legislative lines within 90 days of the commissioners' appointment or the approval of Census data, whichever is later. In 2011, that deadline will be November 15. In the thirty days after draft maps are produced, any person can file objections to the plan, and the commission has 30 days from the date of the last objection to approve a final plan. [Pa. Const. art. II, § 17(c)]

Pennsylvania prohibits redrawing state legislative district lines mid-decade, before the next Census; there is no similar provision pertaining to congressional lines. [Pa. Const. art. II, § 17(e)]

Public input

Scheduled hearings for the congressional redistricting process are listed [here](#) and [here](#). Hearings by the commission responsible for state legislative redistricting are listed [here](#).

Criteria

Like all states, Pennsylvania must comply with constitutional [equal population requirements](#); for its state legislative lines, Pennsylvania further asks that districts be drawn that are as "nearly equal in population as practicable." [Pa. Const. art. II, § 16]

Pennsylvania must also, like all states, abide by [section 2 of the Voting Rights Act](#).

For its state legislative lines, the Pennsylvania constitution further requires that districts be contiguous and compact, and that they respect county, city, incorporated town, borough, township, and ward boundaries "unless absolutely necessary." [Pa. Const. art. II, § 16]

2010-cycle cases

On January 10, 2012, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court consolidated all litigation challenging the state legislative lines.

Due to the volume of filings, information on the Pennsylvania cases is located on a [separate litigation page](#), [here](#).

2000 cycle

In the 2000 redistricting cycle, Pennsylvania's legislature passed a [congressional](#) plan, which was signed on January 7, 2002. The plan, with a deviation of 19 persons from largest to smallest district, was challenged in state and federal court; it was upheld in state court (on partisan gerrymandering grounds), but struck down in federal court on April 8, 2002, on equal population grounds. [*Erfer v. Pennsylvania*, 794 A.2d 325 (Pa. 2002); *Vieth v. Pennsylvania*, 195 F. Supp. 2d 672 (M.D. Pa. 2002)]

The legislature then passed a new [congressional](#) plan, which was signed on April 18, 2002. That plan was challenged in federal court, and upheld. [*Vieth v. Pennsylvania*, 241 F. Supp. 2d 478 (M.D. Pa. 2003), *aff'd sub nom. Vieth v. Jubelirer*, 541 U.S. 267 (2004)]

For state legislative districts, the state's commission passed a [state legislative](#) plan on November 19, 2001, which became final on December 28, 2001 after a few technical adjustments. The state legislative plan was challenged in state court, and upheld. [*Albert v. 2001 Legis. Reapportionment Comm'n*, 790 A.2d 989 (Pa. 2002)]

Other state links

PoliticsPA, [The Ins & Outs of the New \(2014\) House and Senate Lines](#)

Congress	State legislature	Maps & Data	States						
Current status	Current status	Litigation	Alabama	Indiana	Nebraska	South Carolina			
Timing	Timing		Alaska	Iowa	Nevada	South Dakota			
Authority	Authority		Arizona	Kansas	New Hampshire	Tennessee			
Institution	Institution		Arkansas	Kentucky	New Jersey	Texas			
Party control	Party control		California	Louisiana	New Mexico	Utah			
Criteria	Criteria	Reform	Colorado	Maine	New York	Vermont			
Overview of redistricting	Further resources		Connecticut	Maryland	North Carolina	Virginia			
			Delaware	Massachusetts	North Dakota	Washington			
			Florida	Michigan	Ohio	West Virginia			
			Georgia	Minnesota	Oklahoma	Wisconsin			
			Hawaii	Mississippi	Oregon	Wyoming			
			Why it matters	Redistricting criteria	My work	Idaho	Missouri	Pennsylvania	
			Public engagement	Preclearance	Tools	Illinois	Montana	Rhode Island	