

Indiana Coalition for Independent Redistricting Recommendation to the Special Interim Committee on Redistricting

Citizens Redistricting Commission

Indiana should establish, every ten years after the decennial census, a citizens redistricting commission with the duty of drawing congressional and state legislative districts.

The commission should consist of 9 members. Three of the members will be affiliated with the Republican Party, 3 will be affiliated with the Democratic Party and 3 will not be affiliated with either of the two major political parties in the state.

All registered voters of Indiana not otherwise disqualified may apply to serve on the commission.

The Legislative Services Agency will establish and maintain an on-line process for Indiana voters to apply for commission service. All materials and applications submitted to the LSA for this process will be public records and easily accessible via the website established by LSA.

The Legislative Council shall review all of the applications that are submitted and in a public meeting choose the thirty applicants who they believe are the most qualified to serve. Ten of those chosen must be affiliated with the Republican Party, ten must be affiliated with the Democrat Party and ten must not be affiliated with either of the two major political parties in the state. The pool of thirty should reasonably reflect the racial, ethnic, gender and geographic diversity of the state.

A random or lottery selection should be used to select nine members from the thirty, three from each pool, to create an overall commission of nine.

The full commission should then select one of its members as chair, who must be one of the members not affiliated with either of the two major political parties.

Limitations on Service

Certain individuals are not eligible to serve on the redistricting commission. This limitation would apply to:

- Anyone who is currently an office holder in the state of Indiana or who has held public office within the past ten years.
- Anyone who has been a candidate for public office within the past ten years

- Anyone who is a staff member for a public official or has been a staff member for a public official within the past ten years.
- Anyone who is currently an official with any political party or has been an official with a political party within the past ten years. (This would not include people serving as precinct committee persons)
- Anyone who has contributed more than \$2000 to any political candidate within the past five years
- Registered lobbyists
- Immediate family members of any excluded person

Commission Process

All Commission meetings and materials will be subject to the Indiana Open Door Law and the Access to Public Records Act.

The Commission will establish a website that the public can use to draw their own maps and submit to the Commission for consideration. The website will also be used for the public to submit comments on proposed maps.

The Commission must hold at least three public hearings in different geographic regions of the state both before and after draft maps are drawn.

For each Congressional and state legislative district drawn, a narrative description will be provided that provides the rationale used for drawing the district.

Approval of a redistricting plan requires an affirmative vote from at least 6 of the 9 Commission members.

Redistricting Criteria

Districts must be substantially equal in population

Districts must comply with the U.S. Voting Rights Act and other applicable federal law.

Districts must be contiguous

The home addresses of incumbent elected officials or anyone else shall not be considered.

Whenever possible, communities of interest should not be split into multiple districts. Communities of interest include but are not limited to political subdivisions, school districts, neighborhoods, historic districts and other areas where residents share common traits and concerns

Where it does not negatively impact the above criteria, districts shall be drawn to encourage political competition.

Where it does not negatively impact the above criteria, districts shall be drawn to be geographically compact.

Legislative Approval

The General Assembly will be given the option of making slight adjustments to the maps submitted to them by the Commission. Changes are limited to moving no more than 2% of the population of any district and must include a narrative description of why such changes are in the public interest.

Adoption of the maps by the General Assembly will require a two-thirds majority

If the General Assembly rejects the maps submitted by the Commission, they go back to the Commission with recommendations by the legislature.

If the General Assembly rejects a second round of maps from the Commission the responsibility for redistricting will fall to the Indiana Supreme Court.