

PENNSYLVANIA REDISTRICTING: COMPARISON OF CURRENT AND PROPOSED PROCESS

Current PA redistricting involves two separate processes. House Bill 31 & Senate Bill 131 would combine these into one process

	CURRENT LEGISLATIVE (PA STATE HOUSE & SENATE) Specified in Article II of the PA Constitution	CURRENT CONGRESSIONAL (US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES) No mention in PA law	HOUSE BILL 31 & SENATE BILL 131: A PA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TO DRAW BOTH CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS
WHO DRAWS AND APPROVES THE DISTRICTS?	LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION (LRC) 5 MEMBERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PA House and Senate majority & minority leaders (or their designees). An LRC chair chosen by the four party leaders. If they can't agree, the chair is chosen by a majority of the PA Supreme Court. 	MAJORITY PARTY LEGISLATIVE LEADERS AND STATE GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRS; PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The congressional map is introduced as a bill. It must pass in both the PA House and Senate and be signed by the governor like any other bill. 	INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION (IRC) 11 MEMBERS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 registered with the largest political party based on registration. 4 registered with the second largest political party based on registration. 3 registered voters not affiliated with either of the two largest parties. Opportunity is advertised broadly. Applicants are screened by a nonpartisan state entity, then selected in a way that provides geographic and demographic diversity and safeguards independence from partisan officials.
WHAT RULES GOVERN THE PROCESS?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maps are approved by majority vote of the LRC. There is no vote by the legislature and no veto by the governor. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maps are enacted through the normal legislative process, requiring majority votes in committees and in both chambers. The governor may veto. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All actions of IRC take place in widely publicized public meetings. The IRC must share statistical data and data showing compliance with constitutionally prescribed requirements. Explanatory data, reports and rationales for decisions must accompany proposed maps. Required time for public review and comment. The IRC approves a final redistricting plan for each category by a vote of at least 7, including 2 from each pool. A failsafe vote mechanism is provided for selecting a final map if commissioners can't agree.

Fair Districts PA is a nonpartisan, volunteer-led grassroots organization working to make our redistricting process transparent, impartial and fair.

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<p>ARE THERE REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSPARENCY OR PUBLIC INPUT?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no rules that require transparency in the process or mandate public input. • Aggrieved citizens may appeal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal legislative rules apply. • Committee chairs <i>can</i> hold hearings or invite public comment, but no rules require that they do so. • Aggrieved citizens may appeal. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All agendas, data and other information must be shared on a public platform. • The public must be allowed to submit comments, maps and parts of maps on the public platform. • Public meetings are required both before and after preliminary maps are released.
<p>WHAT CRITERIA MUST BE FOLLOWED?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts shall comply with federal laws, e.g., the Voting Rights Act. • Districts should be compact and contiguous and as nearly equal in population as practicable. • Unless absolutely necessary no county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming a PA House or Senate district. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts shall comply with federal laws, e.g., the Voting Rights Act. • Population equivalence to achieve the goal of one person, one vote. This has been interpreted as zero deviation, meaning that all districts have exactly the same number of residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districts shall comply with federal laws, e.g., the Voting Rights Act. • Districts must provide racial minorities opportunities to meaningfully participate. • Districts shall not provide a disproportionate advantage to any political party, as determined by accepted measures of partisan fairness. • Districts shall not purposefully or unduly favor or disfavor any incumbent, elected official or candidate. • Districts shall respect communities of interest to the extent practicable. • Districts must be contiguous as defined in the bill to address non-contiguous fragments. • Counties and municipalities shall be divided as little as possible, with specific limits on how many times counties may be divided. • Population deviations are defined for each type of district. • Precincts cannot be split in the drawing of district lines. • Districts shall be compact and conform to natural boundaries to the extent possible without violating preceding criteria.