

Colorado Independent
Redistricting Commissions

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Working With Your Commission
Making the Maps
NCSL Seminars on Redistricting
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Section 44. Representatives in congress - congressional districts - commission created.

(1) Declaration of the people. The people of the state of Colorado find and declare that:

(a) The practice of political gerrymandering, whereby congressional districts are purposefully drawn to favor one political party or incumbent politician over another, must end;

(b) The public's interest in prohibiting political gerrymandering is best achieved by creating a new and independent commission that is politically balanced, provides representation to voters not affiliated with either of the state's two largest parties, and utilizes nonpartisan legislative staff to draw maps;

...

(e) For years certain political interests opposed competitive districts in Colorado because they are primarily concerned about maintaining their own political power at the expense of fair and effective representation; and

(f) Citizens want and deserve an inclusive and meaningful congressional redistricting process that provides the public with the ability to be heard as redistricting maps are drawn, to be able to watch the witnesses who deliver testimony and the redistricting commission's deliberations, and to have their written comments considered before any proposed map is voted upon by the commission as the final map.



Redistricting Commissioner Selection Process

Congressional Deadlines

Legislative Deadlines

1/11/2021

1/11/2021

1/18/2021

1/25/2021

2/1/2021

2/15/2021

2/1/2021

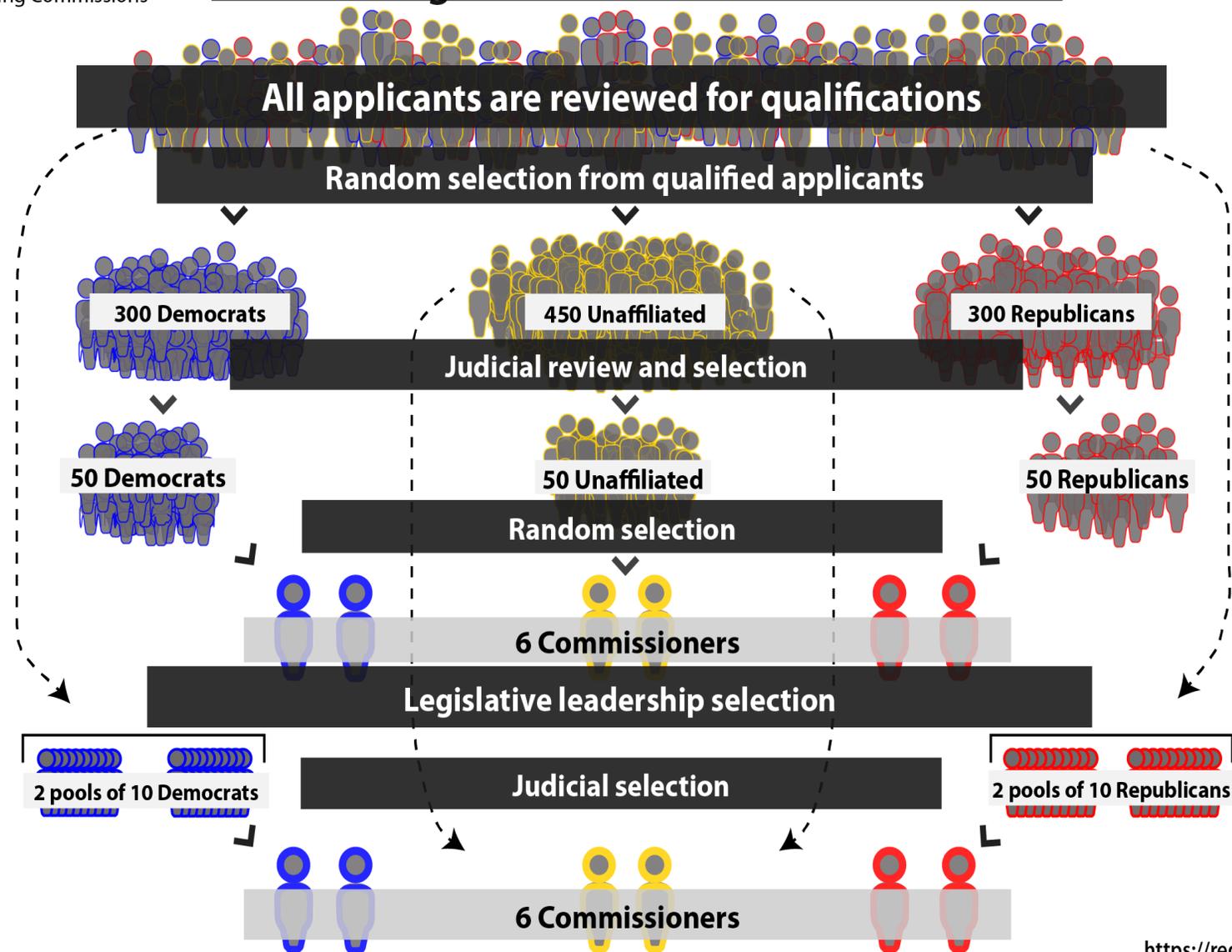
2/15/2021

2/16/2021

2/16/2021

3/1/2021

3/16/2021



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However, the General Assembly does not have the power to compel the independent commissions or their nonpartisan staff to consider a particular source of population data or take any action beyond what Amendments Y and Z already require. The Amendments were expressly intended to remove the General Assembly from the redistricting process, instead vesting all authority to draw district maps with independent commissions.

*In re Interrogatories on Senate Bill 21-247 Submitted
by the Colorado General Assembly, No. 21SA146*

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Under this new scheme, the General Assembly has a discrete and limited role in appropriating funds for the commissions and nominating a limited number of applicants for consideration as commission members. See Colo. Const. art. V, §§44.1, 44.2, 47, 48. But nothing in the Amendments authorizes the General Assembly to enact implementing legislation or take actions that would otherwise curtail the commissions' constitutionally mandated independence.

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Lessons to be learned from Colorado to date:

First, keep lines of communication open between leadership and the Commission

Second, be prepared to appropriate more money

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Questions