



Redistricting Commissions: Congressional Plans

The information on this webpage refers only to commissions used to draw congressional maps.

Traditionally, state legislatures have been responsible for redistricting for state legislative and congressional districts. 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 congressional districts through state legislative authority.

Six states have a commission with primary responsibility for drawing a plan for congressional districts. Five states have an advisory commission that may assist the legislature with drawing the district lines and two states have a backup commission that will make the decision if the legislature is unable to agree. Also see below for Iowa's redistricting plan, which is distinct from the other categories.

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Commissions with Primary Responsibility for Drawing a Plan for Congressional Districts		
State	Number of Members	Selection Requirements
Arizona Ariz. Const. art. IV, pt. 2, § 1(3)-(8)	5	The state's commission on appellate court appointments nominates 10 Republicans, 10 Democrats, and 5 individuals not registered with either major party; the house and senate majority and minority leaders each choose one commissioner from this pool of 25 nominees. Those four commissioners then select a fifth tiebreaker who is not registered in the same party as any other commissioner.
California Cal. Gov't Code § 8252(b)-(g)	14	A panel of three state auditors choose 20 Democrats, 20 Republicans, and 20 who are neither; the majority and minority leaders of both legislative chambers may each cut two people from each pool. Eight commissioners (3 Democrats, 3 Republicans, 2 neither) are chosen randomly from the remaining nominees; those eight choose six colleagues (2 Democrats, 2 Republicans, 2 neither), to reflect the diversity of the state. The final commission thus has 14 members (5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, 4 neither).

Hawaii Haw. Const. art. IV, § 2	9	The majority and minority leader of both chambers each choose two commissioners, and those eight normally choose a ninth; if they cannot, the Supreme Court appoints a tiebreaking member.
Idaho Idaho Const. art. III, § 2(2)	6	The majority and minority leaders of both legislative chambers each select one commissioner, and the chairs of the two largest political parties each select one commissioner, with an eye to geographic diversity.
New Jersey N.J. Const. art. II, § II	13	The majority and minority leaders in each legislative chamber and the chairs of the state's two major political parties each choose two commissioners, none of whom may be a congressional member or employee. Those twelve commissioners then choose a thirteenth who has not held any public or party office in New Jersey within the last five years. If the twelve commissioners are not able to select a thirteenth member to serve as chair, they will present two names to the state Supreme Court, which will choose the chair.
Washington Wash. Const. art. II, § 43(2)	5	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.

Advisory Commissions		
State	Number of Members	Selection Requirements
Maine Me. Const. art. IV, pt. 3, § 1-A Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 21-A, § 1206	15	The state Senate majority and minority leaders each choose 2; state House majority and minority leaders each choose 3; and the chair of the state's two major parties each choose 1. Those 12 commissioners then choose two more from the public, with each party's representatives coordinating to choose 1 commissioner, and those 2 commissioners select a fifteenth and final member.
New York NOTE: this commission was established to begin in the 2020 cycle, by a 2014 referendum, Proposal 1	10	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.
Ohio Ohio Const. art. XI, § 1	6	The majority leaders from both legislative chambers each appoint three members, at least one of whom must be from a different party, and at least one of who is not a legislator.

Ohio Rev. Code § 103.51		
Rhode Island 2011 R.I. Laws ch. 106, § 1 2011 R.I. Laws ch. 100, § 1	18	The majority leaders from both legislative chambers each choose seven, four who are members of the legislature and three who are not; the state minority leaders from both legislative chambers each choose two additional commissioners who are members of the legislature.
Virginia Exec. Order No. 31 (2011)	11	Per the 2011 executive order establishing the commission, the Governor selects five citizens of each major party who have not held elected office within the last five years, and are not now employees of Congress or the state legislature, and will select one chair who has not held public or party office and is not "identifiable with" any party.

Backup Commissions		
State	Number of Members	Selection Requirements
Connecticut Conn. Const. art. XXVI(b)	9	The majority and minority leaders in each legislative chamber each choose two, and those eight choose a ninth, who must be an elector of the state.
Indiana Ind. Code § 3-3-2-2	5	The commission is made up of the majority leader from each legislative chamber, the chair of the redistricting committee from each legislative chamber, and a state legislator nominated by the governor.

Other	
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