



NATIONAL CONFERENCE of STATE LEGISLATURES

Redistricting Commissions: State Legislative Plans

The information on this webpage refers only to commissions used to draw state legislative 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 legislative districts through state legislative authority.

Thirteen states have a commission with primary responsibility for drawing a plan for state legislative districts. Five states have an advisory commission that may assist the legislature with drawing the district lines and five 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 State Legislative Districts		
State	Number of Members	Selection Requirements
Alaska Alaska Const. art. 6	5	Governor appoints two; then president of the Senate appoints one; then speaker of the House appoints one; then chief justice of the Supreme Court appoints one. At least one member must be a resident of each judicial district. No member may be a public employee or official.
Arizona Ariz. Const. art. 4, pt. 2, § 1	5	The commission on appellate court appointees creates a pool of 25 nominees, ten from each of the two largest parties and five not from either of the two largest parties. The highest ranking officer of the house appoints one from the pool, then the minority leader of the house appoints one, then the highest ranking officer of the senate appoints one, then the minority leader of the senate appoints one. These four appoint a fifth from the pool, not a member of any party already represented on the commission, as chair. If the four deadlock, the commission on appellate court appointments appoints the chair.

Arkansas Ark. Const. 1874, art. 8	3	Commission consists of the governor, secretary of state, and the attorney general
California Cal. Const. Article XXI	14	With the Passage of Proposition 11 in 2008, the process of redrawing California's state legislative districts was removed from state legislative authority and given to a newly established 14 member commission. The commission must include 5 Democrats, 5 Republicans, and 4 members from neither party. Government auditors are to select 60 registered voters from an applicant pool. Legislative leaders can reduce the pool; the auditors then are to pick eight commission members by lottery, and those commissioners pick six additional members for 14 total. For approval district boundaries need votes from three Democratic commissioners, three Republican commissioners, and three commissioners from neither party.
Colorado Colo. Const. art. V, § 48	11	Legislature selects four: (speaker of the House; House minority leader; Senate majority and minority leaders; or their delegates). Governor selects three. Judiciary selects four. Maximum of four from the legislature. Each congressional district must have at least one person, but no more than four people representing it on the commission. At least one member must live west of the Continental Divide.
Hawaii Hawaii Const. art. IV	9	President of the Senate selects two. Speaker of the House selects two. The minority leader in both the house and senate party select two each. These eight select the ninth member, who is the chair. No commission member may run for the legislature in the two elections following redistricting.
Idaho Idaho Const. art. III, § 2	6	Leaders of two largest political parties in each house of the legislature each designate one member; chairs of the two parties whose candidates for governor received the most votes in the last election each designate one member. No member may be an elected or appointed official in the state at the time of designation.
Missouri Mo. Const. art. III, § 2	House: 18 Senate: 10	There are two separate redistricting committees. Governor picks one person from each list of two submitted by the two main political parties in each congressional district to form the house committee. Governor picks five people from two lists of 10 submitted by the two major political parties in the state to form the senate committee. No commission

		member may hold office in the legislature for four years after redistricting.
Montana Mont. Const. art. V, § 14	5	Majority and minority leaders of both houses of the Legislature each select one member. Those four select a fifth, who is the chair. Members cannot be public officials. Members cannot run for public office in the two years after the completion of redistricting.
New Jersey N.J. Const. art. IV, § 3	13	The majority and minority leaders of both legislative chambers each choose two. Those twelve then appoint the thirteenth who has not held any public or party office in the state within the last five years. If they cannot agree, they will present two names to the Supreme Court, which will choose the final member.
Ohio Ohio Const. art. XI NOTE: this commission was established to begin in the 2020 cycle, by a 2015 Constitutional Amendment	7	Board consists of the governor, auditor, secretary of state, and four people appointed by the majority and minority leaders of the General Assembly.
Pennsylvania Pa. Const. art. II, § 17	5	Majority and minority leaders of the legislative houses each select one member. These four select a fifth to chair. If they fail to do so within 45 days, a majority of the state Supreme Court will select the fifth member. The chair cannot be a public official.
Washington Wash. Const. art. II, § 43	5	Majority and minority leaders of the House and Senate each select one. These four select a non-voting fifth to chair the commission. If they fail to do so by January 1, 2001, the state Supreme Court will select the fifth by February 5, 2001. No commission member may be a public official.

Advisory Commissions		
State	Number of Members	Selection Requirements
Maine Me. Const. art. IV, pt. 3, § 1-A	15	Speaker of the House appoints three. House minority leader appoints three. President of the Senate appoints two. Senate minority leader appoints two. Chairs of two major political parties each choose one. The members from the two parties represented on the commission each appoint a public member, and

		the two public members choose a third public 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.
Rhode Island 2011 R.I. Laws ch. 106, § 1 ; 2011 R.I. Laws ch. 100, § 1	18	The majority leader of both the house and the senate chose 4 members of the legislatures and 3 who are not. The senate and house minority leaders each choose 2 who are not members of the legislature.
Vermont Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 34A	7	Chief justice appoints the chair; governor appoints one member from each political party with at least 3 state legislators for six of the previous ten years; those parties each select one. Secretary of state is secretary of the board but does not vote. No commissioner may be a member or employee of the legislature.
Virginia Exec. Order No. 31 (2011)	11	Governor created an advisory commission in 2011 by executive order. The commission is designed to get public input and to recommend district lines to the legislature, which may adopt, modify, or ignore the commission's proposals. Governor chooses 5 citizens of each majority party who have not held elected office in last 5 years, are not employees of Congress or the state legislature. Governor will also select the chair who is not identifiable with any political party.

Backup Commissions		
State	Number of Members	Selection Requirements
Connecticut Conn. Const. art. III, § 6	9	President pro tem of the Senate, Senate minority leader, speaker of the House, and House minority leader each select two; these eight must select the ninth within 30 days.
Illinois Ill. Const. art. IV, § 3	8	President of the Senate, Senate minority leader, speaker of the House, and House minority leader each select two, one of whom is a legislator and the other is not. No more than four from the same party. If the commission fails to develop a plan by August 10, 2001, the state Supreme Court selects two persons not of the same political party, one of whom is chosen by lot to be the ninth member.

Mississippi Miss. Const. art. 13, § 254	5	Chief justice of Supreme Court is chair; attorney general, secretary of state, speaker of the House, president pro tem of the Senate
Oklahoma Okla. Const. § V-11A	7	The Lieutenant Governor is the nonvoting chair; the governor, senate majority leader, and house majority leader each choose 2, one republican and one democrat.
Texas Tex. Const. art. 3, § 28	5	Lieutenant governor, speaker of the House, attorney general, comptroller of public accounts, and commissioner of the general land office

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 .