

NEW JERSEY

STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

80

HOUSE
SEATS



40

SENATE
SEATS



WHO DRAWS THE DISTRICTS?

POLITICAL APPOINTEE COMMISSION

- Ten members: The state chairs of the two largest parties each appoint five members; tiebreaker chosen if necessary by chief justice
- Geographical diversity must be given “due consideration”
- If the commission is unable to establish an apportionment plan, then the chief justice of the state Supreme Court shall appoint an 11th member to the commission

HOW ARE DISTRICTS DRAWN?

Process

- Political appointee commission draws the lines
- A simple majority is required to approve a final map

State-Level Criteria

Ranked: No

- Compactness for Assembly
- Contiguity
- Follow political boundaries
- Nest Assembly districts within Senate districts
- Two-member districts for Assembly

Public Hearings

- No redistricting-specific provisions

Timing

- Final plan must be completed within one month of official census data reporting or by Feb. 1, in the year following the census, whichever is later
- If the commission is unable to adopt a plan by the deadline, a final plan must be completed one month after the chief justice’s appointment of a tiebreaking member



CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

12
SEATS



through 2020.
Projected after
reapportionment: No
change

WHO DRAWS THE DISTRICTS?

POLITICAL APPOINTEE COMMISSION

- House and Senate majority and minority leaders and the state chairs of the two largest parties each select two commissioners; those 12 commissioners select a chairperson by majority vote
- If the 12 commissioners are unable to select the 13th independent member, then the commissioners must certify the two potential members with the highest number of votes to the state Supreme Court, which will then appoint the “more qualified” of the two
- Commissioners must be selected with “due consideration to geographic, ethnic and racial diversity” and may not be a member or employee of the U.S. Congress
- The chairperson must have resided in the state for at least the last five years and may not have held public or party office during those five years

HOW ARE DISTRICTS DRAWN?

Process

- Political appointee commission draws the lines
- A simple majority is required to approve a final map
- If the commission is unable to pass a single plan, then the two plans receiving the most votes (at least five each) are submitted to the state Supreme Court, which will choose the plan that best conforms to the state constitution and federal laws
- State Supreme Court has exclusive jurisdiction over lawsuits regarding congressional redistricting

State-Level Criteria

- None

Public Hearing

- Must hold at least three public hearings in different parts of the state
- Final vote on the plan must be done by roll call in an open public meeting held with at least 24 hours’ notice

Timing

- Commission must adopt a plan by the third Tuesday of years ending in 2, or within three months after official census data reporting, whichever is later
- Districts can’t be changed before the next census

[Click here](#) for a version with citations