

BRENNAN
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YEARS

at New York University School of Law

Addendum to:

A 50 STATE GUIDE TO
REDISTRICTING

This addendum incorporates major changes in states since the publication of *A 50 State Guide to Redistricting* in 2011.

March 2017

In 2014, New York adopted a constitutional amendment that will change the way it draws both its state assembly and congressional lines by creating an advisory commission.

NEW YORK	
STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS	
Who draws the districts?	
Advisory Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 members: legislative majority and minority leaders of each house each select 2 legislators; the first eight members select the final two commissioners who cannot have been affiliated with either major party in the last 5 years • Commissioners must not have been a member of the state legislature, U.S. Congress, state official or legislative employee, a lobbyist or political chairman within 3 years prior to appointment • Commissioners cannot be the spouse of a statewide elected official 	
How are districts drawn?	
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Commission draws the lines • State Legislature approves the plan in an up or down vote • Governor can veto the plan
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compactness (<i>source: Constitution</i>) • Contiguity (<i>source: Constitution</i>) • No undue favoritism towards incumbent or party (<i>source: Constitution</i>) • Follow political boundaries (<i>source: Constitution</i>) • Preserve communities of interest including cores of existing districts (<i>source: Constitution</i>)
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS	
Same as for state legislative districts	

In 2015, Ohio adopted a constitutional amendment that will create a redistricting commission to draw its legislative districts. The amendment did not change the way congressional districts are drawn.

OHIO	
STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS	
Who draws the districts?	
Politician Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 members: governor, state auditor, secretary of state, legislative majority and minority leaders each select one member, who may be (but is not required to be) a member of the public 	
How are districts drawn?	
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Politician Commission draws the lines • Governor cannot veto plan
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compactness (<i>source: Constitution</i>) • Contiguity (<i>source: Constitution</i>) • Follow county, township, municipality and city ward boundaries when practicable (<i>source: Constitution</i>) • Nest Senate and House districts (<i>source: Constitution</i>) • No undue favoritism towards a political party (<i>source: Constitution</i>) • Attempt to have seat share of political parties match statewide election results (<i>source: Constitution</i>)
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS	
Who draws the districts?	
Advisory Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislative majority leaders each appoint 2 legislators and 1 non-legislator • No more than 2 commissioners appointed by each legislative majority leader may be members of the same party 	
How are districts drawn?	
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Legislature draws the lines with assistance from Advisory Commission • Governor can veto the plan
Criteria	None

In 2011, Rhode Island adopted a constitutional amendment establishing an eighteen-member commission. Six members each are selected from both the house and senate. The remaining six commissioners are members of the general public appointed by legislative leaders.

RHODE ISLAND	
STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS	
Who draws the districts?	
Advisory Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 members: legislative majority leaders each select 4 legislators and 3 non-legislators; legislative minority leaders each select 2 legislators 	
How are districts drawn?	
Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advisory Commission draws the lines • Governor can veto the plan
Criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compactness (<i>source: Constitution</i>) • Contiguity (<i>source: Constitution</i>) • Follow political boundaries (<i>source: Constitution</i>)
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS	
Same as for state legislative districts	