



NEW MEXICO REDISTRICTING

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Chair, Citizen Redistricting Committee



Decennial Census

- Snapshot of population shifts and changes 20.1% 13.2% 2.8%
 - *Must balance legal, geographic, and demographic data to redraw districts when necessary to comply with federal and state law*
- Equal population
 - Congress 3 districts so $2,117,522/3 = 705,841$
 - State House 70 districts so 30,250
 - State Senate 42 districts so 50,417
- BUT minority voting rights, compactness, contiguity, communities of interest requirements make it more than mathematical
 - State House can range from 28,738 - 31,762
 - State Senate can range from 47,897 - 52,937

Legislature Created Advisory Committee

SB304 Section 2

- 7 members
 - *Due regard for cultural and geographic diversity*
 - *Qualified voter who votes, not a public official, candidate, lobbyist, political party office holder, employee of branches, or related to public officials*
- Effective July 1, 2021
- Established lawful criteria the CRC must, may and cannot consider
- Requires a minimum number of public meetings
- Requires the CRC to compile, index, maintain and provide public access to all testimony, documents, and info before proposing maps
- Beginning July 1 could contract

Advisory Committee cont.,

- 6 meetings to gather public input re communities of interest
 - *Across regions of the state, including central and at least one meeting on tribal lands*
 - *30 days notice required for these meetings*
 - *Contiguous population that shares economic, social and cultural interests*
 - Farming, manufacturing, environmental concerns, infrastructure, educational, medical
- CRC must base its proposed plans in part on public input from these meetings

Legal Requirements

- Congress must be equal as practicable
- State districts can have a total deviation of not more than 10%
- Must use most recent federal decennial data
 - *Won't be available until September 30*
 - *But legacy data will be available August 12*
 - **CAN CONSIDER OTHER RELIABLE SOURCES OF DATA if a majority of the CRC agree**
- Cannot split precincts
- Must comply with the Voting Rights Act– no dilution of votes of minority groups

Legal Requirements, cont.

- Single member districts
- Contiguous precincts and reasonably compact
- May consider political and geographic boundaries, including boundaries on tribal lands
- May preserve the core of existing districts

Prohibitions

- use, rely upon or reference partisan data, such as voting history or party registration data;
 - Goal is to avoid favoring a political party, incumbent or candidate
- BUT voting history in elections may be considered to ensure that the district plan complies with applicable federal law
- consider the voting address of candidates or incumbents
 - except to avoid the pairing of incumbents
 - unless necessary to conform to other traditional districting principles

Maps and evaluations

- At least 3 maps per district
- With evaluations
 - Comply with State law
 - Comply with federal law
 - Ability of racial and language minorities to elect candidates of their choice
 - A measure of partisan fairness
 - Preservation of communities of interest
- LEGISLATURE CHOOSES, REVISES, DRAWS ITS OWN MAPS

Complying with the Law

- Adopted rules
- Approved a NM Redistricting Public Comment Portal
- Scheduled first round of meetings
 - *Santa Fe, Las Vegas, West Mesa HS in Alb, Roswell ENMU, Las Cruces NMSU, All Indian Pueblo Council, Santa Clara, Farmington*
 - Satellite facilities-Gallup, Portales, Silver City
 - Second round Crownpoint at Navajo Technical University and National Hispanic Cultural Center
- Contracted to use Research and Polling, developing a website, have an office at the State Bar Center, Contracting with a Professor from U of Georgia to help with the partisan fairness evaluation, LCS is the fiscal agent, contracted with advertising agency and community liaison, and contracted with lawyers

Contact Information

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