

2024 House Joint Resolution (HJR) for an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC) What it would do

The proposed HJR, if passed, would put the question of creation of an independent redistricting commission on the 2024 ballot. If passed by a simple majority of the voters it would assign the responsibility for redistricting to an independent redistricting commission. Further details would be provided by enabling legislation.

Then what happens?

In August of each year ending in zero, the Secretary of State (SOS) shall mail out applications, to 5 percent of a random selection of qualified electors. The SOS shall also accept applications from others who may be interested. From those applications the SOS, in a public venue, will randomly select at least 120 nominees reflecting the racial and geographic diversity of New Mexico. The nominees will represent the diversity of party affiliation as indicated in the voter registration of the nominees. There are limitations placed upon applications from past elected officials, candidates for elected office, paid lobbyists and those involved in other political activity.

Those 120, or greater, nominees shall be submitted to the president pro tempore of the senate, the senate minority floor leader, the speaker of the house and house minority floor leader who may each strike up to three applicants from the pool.

The SOS, in a public venue, shall randomly select 6 commissioners from the remaining pool of applicants, striving to achieve geographic, racial and gender balance among the appointees. The appointees shall include two members each from the two political parties with the largest number of registered voters affiliated with the party in the state and two members who are affiliated with other political parties or who are unaffiliated voters. Those six commissioners then select the final three commissioners. There will be a tie breaker if the six cannot reach a majority.

The independent redistricting commission (IRC) shall develop district plans for congressional districts, state legislative districts and other districted state offices following each federal decennial census. The commission shall develop district plans in accordance with the traditional redistricting guidelines – these are detailed. The commission may not consider incumbent addresses.

The redistricting commission will hold public meetings and may incorporate suggested changes to its proposed district plans in accordance with public comments and testimonies it receives, but shall not subordinate those to the requirements of traditional redistricting principles.

The commission shall file with the secretary of state the commission's approved plans for senate, house of representatives and congressional districts and other districted state offices by October 1 of each year ending in the number one. The approved plans shall determine the districts for use in the succeeding primary and general elections for the respective bodies.

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