

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

A citizen's guide



In November 2018, Michigan voters approved a constitutional amendment to “establish a commission of citizens with exclusive authority to adopt district boundaries for the Michigan Senate, Michigan House of Representatives and U.S. Congress every 10 years.” Under the new law, an independent commission of citizens will draw district lines for the Michigan Legislature and Michigan’s members of Congress.

Applying to serve on the commission

The constitutional amendment establishes a commission of 13 registered Michigan voters randomly selected through an application process.

- Michigan registered voters are eligible to serve on the commission, however, the constitutional amendment makes note of a few key exceptions for certain individuals, including partisan elected officials, candidates, registered lobbyists and their employees and close relatives.
- Applications to serve on the commission will be available in late 2019 at RedistrictingMichigan.org.
- Applications also will be mailed to thousands of randomly selected registered Michigan voters in late 2019.
- The application period runs from late 2019 to June 1, 2020.
- The commission must include four people who self-identify with the Democratic Party, four people who self-identify with the Republican Party and five people who self-identify as unaffiliated with either of those political parties.

Selection of the commissioners

- Following the closure of the application period, the Secretary of State’s Office must randomly select 200 semi-finalist applicants whose applications will be sent to the Michigan legislature for review.
- In July 2020, once a pool of 200 potential commissioners is randomly selected, the minority and majority leaders in the Michigan Senate and the Speaker of the House and minority leader in the Michigan House will have the opportunity to remove up to 20 applicants from the applicant pool.
 - Of the 200 randomly selected applicants, 60 people self-identify with the Democratic Party, 60 people self-identify with the Republican Party and 80 self-identify as unaffiliated with either of those political parties. The Secretary of State’s Office must also use statistical weighting methods to ensure the pool of 200 semi-finalists mirrors the geographic and demographic makeup of the state, as specified by the state constitution.
- In August 2020, from the remaining pool received from the Legislature, the Secretary of State’s Office must randomly select four Democrats, four Republicans and five independents to serve on commission.
- Commissioners will be selected no later than Sept. 1, 2020.

Serving on the commission

- The commission will begin meeting in the early fall of 2020, no later than Oct. 15.
- The Commission must hold town halls (at least 15 total) and solicit public input from communities across the state.
- Each of the 13 commissioners will receive compensation equal to at least 25% of the governor’s salary. (For reference, the governor’s salary was \$159,300 in 2018.)
- The deadline for the commission to adopt a redistricting plan for Michigan’s House and Senate and U.S. Congressional districts is Nov. 1, 2021.

