

- c. An officer or employee of a political party or political committee;
  - d. A member of staff of the Governor, Maryland General Assembly, or U.S. Congress; or
  - e. A current registered lobbyist.
4. The selection of members shall be intended to produce a Commission that is independent from legislative influence, impartial, and reasonably representative of the State's diversity and geographical, racial, and gender makeup.
  5. The Governor shall appoint one or more members to chair the Commission.
  6. A vacancy may be filled in the same manner that the initial appointments are made.

C. Duties.

1. The Commission shall prepare one plan for Maryland's state legislative districts and one plan for Maryland's congressional districts, in conformance with the following:
  - a. The plans shall:
    - i. Comply with all State and federal constitutional and legal requirements, including the Voting Rights Act;
    - ii. Comply with all applicable judicial direction, rulings, judgments, or orders;
    - iii. Respect natural boundaries and the geographic integrity and continuity of any municipal corporation, county, or other political subdivision to the extent practicable; and
    - iv. Be geographically compact and include nearby areas of population to the extent practicable;
  - b. The plans shall not account for:

- i. How individuals are registered to vote, how individuals voted in the past, or the political party to which individuals belong; or
      - ii. The domicile or residence of any individual, including an incumbent officeholder or a potential candidate for office;
    - c. Congressional districts shall:
      - i. Equal the number of representatives in the U.S. Congress that have been apportioned to the state; and
      - ii. Be equal in population to the extent practicable; and
    - d. Legislative districts shall be:
      - i. As nearly equal in population as is feasible given due regard for natural boundaries and the boundaries of political subdivisions;
      - ii. To the extent possible and consistent with the Commission's other duties and responsibilities, subdivided into single-member delegate districts; and
      - iii. Numbered consecutively commencing at the northwestern boundary of the state and ending at the southeastern boundary of the state.
  - 2. The Commission shall conduct its business with integrity and fairness.
  - 3. The Commission shall exercise judgment that is impartial and that reinforces public confidence in the integrity of the redistricting process.

D. Procedures.

- 1. A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.
- 2. The Commission shall:
  - a. Conduct open and transparent proceedings that:

- i. Enable full public consideration of and input as to the establishment of legislative and congressional districts; and
    - ii. Encourage citizen outreach and broad public participation in the redistricting process;
  - b. Hold meetings at such times and such places as it deems necessary, provided that the meetings are accessible to the general public in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act or other applicable law;
  - c. Conduct regional summits to allow citizens to offer comment on the boundaries of the congressional and legislative districts;
  - d. Provide an electronic portal for citizens to review redistricting data and submit their comments about redistricting; and
  - e. Undertake any other activities it deems appropriate to further increase opportunities for the public to observe and participate in the redistricting process.
3. The Commission may adopt such other procedures as may be necessary to ensure the orderly transaction of business, including the creation of committees.
4. The Commission may designate additional individuals, including interested citizens, educators, or specialists with relevant expertise, but excluding individuals identified in Section B(3), to serve on any committee.
5. The Commission may consult with units of State government and outside experts to obtain such technical assistance and advice as it deems necessary to complete its duties.
6. After receiving sufficient comment, input, assistance, and advice from the public, experts, units of State government, committees, and other interested persons, the Commission shall:
  - a. With at least seven affirmative votes of the members, approve and certify proposed redistricting plans that separately set forth district boundary lines for state congressional and legislative districts;