

Ohio's State Legislative Map-Drawing Process

A seven-member Redistricting Commission is responsible for drawing Ohio's state legislative maps. The Commission has the following members: The Ohio Governor, Auditor, Secretary of State, and nominees from the following legislative leaders: The Speaker of the House, House Minority Leader, Senate President, and Senate Minority Leader. The nominees of the legislative leaders are not required to be legislators themselves.

Step 1



Adoption Deadline: September 1, 2021

Required Support: At least four or more members, including both Democrats

Map Duration: 10 years

Public Hearings Required: At least three or more hearings (AFTER introduction, BEFORE adoption)

If no plan is adopted by September 1, a proposed plan must be introduced on that same day via a simple majority vote of the Commission and a final map must be adopted by September 15 (see Step 2)

Step 2



Adoption Deadline: September 15, 2021

Required Support: At least four or more members, including both Democrats

Map Duration: 10 years (if passed with bipartisan support)

Public Hearings Required: One (with public testimony and Commission amendments)

Step 3 & 3A



Step 3: Applies to ANY adopted map that does not have the requisite bipartisan support (that is, without *both* Democrats' support)

Required Support: Four members (a simple majority, no bipartisan benchmark)

Map Duration: Four years

For rules on drawing the gap map (that is, the map that lasts the remaining six years of the decade), go to Step 3A

Step 3A: This option applies ONLY to four-year maps approved by a simple majority, without bipartisan support

Required Support: At least four or more members (whether bipartisan or not)

Map Duration: Six years

If the Commission adopts a four-year map (as detailed in Step 3 above), the Commission must reconvene no earlier than July 1, 2025 to draw a gap six-year map. The same rules as in Step 1 or 2 will apply here as appropriate.

Criteria for State Legislative Maps

The following are some of the top-level criteria which state legislative maps must meet; if they are not met, there are grounds for a legal challenge at the Ohio Supreme Court.

- Contiguity and compactness
- District boundaries should be created using county, municipal, and township boundaries
- Where possible, House districts should NOT split counties more than once
- District population cannot vary greater than 5% from its representation ratio
- No maps that (dis)favor one party over the other
- State legislative maps must have representational fairness based on the preferences of Ohio's voters from the preceding decade – that is, the overall percentage of favorable seats for each party should match the percentage of votes they've received over the last 10 years
- Nest three contiguous House seats into each Senate district

Ohio's State Congressional Map-Drawing Process

The Ohio legislature is *primarily* responsible for drawing the congressional maps, though the Redistricting Commission is also involved in drawing the map in certain circumstances.

Step 1

Adoption Deadline:
September 30, 2021

Authority: Ohio Legislature
- Ohio governor can veto

Required Support: At least 60% in each chamber with at least 50% support of Democrats

Map Duration: 10 years

Public Hearings Required:
At least two before map adoption, public submissions allowed

Step 2

Adoption Deadline:
October 31, 2021

Authority: Redistricting Commission

Required Support: At least four or more members, including both Democrats

Map Duration: 10 years

Public Hearings Required:
At least two before map adoption, public submissions allowed

Step 3

Adoption Deadline:
November 30, 2021

Authority: Ohio Legislature
- Ohio governor can veto

Required Support: At least 60% in each chamber and with at least 1/3 of Democrats

Map Duration: 10 years

Public Hearings Required:
At least two before adoption, public submissions allowed

Step 4 & 4A

Adoption Deadline: November 30, 2021

Authority: Ohio Legislature - Ohio governor can veto

Required Support: At least 50% of legislature (simple majority required, no bipartisan benchmark)

Map Duration: 4 years

Public Hearings Required: At least two before adoption, public submissions allowed

Special rules: A statement with an explanation of how the proposed map meets the following criteria: no undue partisan favor, no undue community splitting, and must attempt compactness

—

Step 4A: This option applies ONLY to four-year maps passed with a simple majority without bipartisan support

Authority: Ohio Legislature (with governor veto possible); Ohio Redistricting Commission (if necessary)

Required Support: Same as above

Map Duration: 6 years

Public Hearings Required: At least two before adoption, public submissions allowed. If the Ohio Legislature adopts a four-year map (as detailed in Option 4), in 2025, the Ohio Legislature (and Redistricting Commission as needed) will reconvene to engage in the districting process through Steps 1 - 4. All the same date deadlines apply (September 30, October 31, and November 30, respectively) and the map, once passed, will remain effective for the remainder of the decade.

Criteria for Congressional Maps

The following are some of the top-level criteria which Ohio's congressional maps must meet; if they are not met, there are grounds for a legal challenge at the Ohio Supreme Court.

- Contiguity and compactness
- The following are new rules about how and whether communities can be split apart:
 - How many counties can be split?
 - 65 counties must be kept whole
 - 18 counties may be split once
 - 5 counties may be split twice
 - What cities **can/cannot** be split?
 - Columbus must be split because its population too big to fit into one congressional district (CD)
 - Cleveland and Cincinnati **cannot** be split apart
 - Akron, Dayton, and Toledo will likely not be split apart
 - If a congressional district (CD) includes only part of a county, that part of the CD that lies within the county **MUST** be contiguous within the bounds of the county

Criteria for Congressional Maps, cont.

- No two CDs can share portions of more than one county UNLESS one of those county's population is greater than 400,000
- Map drawing authority shall attempt to include AT LEAST one whole county in each CD
 - This requirement does NOT apply to a CD that is entirely contained within one county OR to a CD that cannot meet this criterion while also complying with federal law (e.g. the Voting Rights Act)
- For maps drawn under Step 4 (with a legislative simple majority), the following apply:
 - No map can “unduly” (dis)favor either one political party or incumbents
 - No undue splitting of political subdivisions with a preference to keeping counties, townships, and municipal corporations (in that order) whole
 - An attempt to draw compact congressional districts
 - The legislature must include in its congressional district plan an explanation about how it complied with all of the preceding rules