



Question: Who is able to apply to serve on the commissions?

Answer: Colorado voters who have been registered with the same party – or no party at all – for five consecutive years at the time of the application and who have voted in the two most recent general elections can apply to serve on the commission. The exceptions are listed below:

1. Anyone who has been a candidate for federal office in the previous five years cannot serve on the Congressional Redistricting Commission. Anyone who has been a candidate for state legislature in the previous five years cannot serve on the Legislative Redistricting Commission.
2. Individuals who have been compensated by a campaign committee advocating for the election of a candidate to U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representatives in the previous three years cannot serve on the Congressional Redistricting Commission. Individuals who have been compensated by a campaign committee advocating for the election of a candidate to state legislature in the previous three years cannot serve on the Legislative Redistricting Commission.
3. Any individual who has been an elected public official at the federal, state, county or municipal level in the previous three years cannot serve on either commission.
4. Any individual who has served as an elected political party official above the precinct level or an employee of a political party in the previous three years cannot serve on either commission.
5. Any individual who has been a professional lobbyist -- registered to lobby with the state of Colorado, any municipality in Colorado, or at the federal level -- in the three previous years cannot serve on either commission.

Question: Can I apply for both commissions?

Answer: An individual can apply to serve on the Congressional Redistricting Commission or the Legislative Redistricting Commission but can't serve on both. However, there is no prohibition against applying for both commissions.

Question: When and how do I apply for the commissions?

Answer: The Colorado Legislative Council will start accepting applications on August 10, 2020 and the applications must be returned by November 10, 2020. The Colorado GOP will send you a link to the application once it is published, provided that you have signed up via our online portal. The application will afford applicants an opportunity to state why they want to serve on the commission, describe how they will promote consensus on the commission, and include up to four letters of recommendation.

Question: Who are the retired judges who oversee the selection of the commission members?

Answer: The judicial panel consists of the three most recent retirees from the Colorado Supreme Court and the Colorado Court of Appeals, except that no more than one can be a member of any given political party. The panel's decisions require unanimity.

Question: What qualities will the panel look for in choosing commissioners?

Answer: The panel will ensure that the commission consists of four Democrats, four Republicans and four unaffiliated voters. It must ensure that each of the state's seven congressional districts have at least one and no more than two representatives on each commission. The panel will work to ensure that each commission reflects the state's geographic, racial and ethnic diversity. And in selecting finalists, the panel must look for individuals who (1) have experience organizing, representing, advocating for, adjudicating the interests of, or actively participating in groups, organizations or associations in Colorado, and (2) relevant analytical skills, the ability to be impartial, and the ability to promote consensus on the commissions.

Question: What criteria is used when drawing the new maps?

Answer: The commissions are required to comply with the following criteria in drawing maps:

- Equal population
- Contiguity
- Compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Keep counties, cities and communities of interest whole
- To the extent possible, without violating the above criteria, draw politically competitive districts

Question: Who actually draws the maps?

Answer: Each of the commissions is composed of 12 members: 4 Democrats, 4 Republicans and 4 Unaffiliated voters. The commission's maps are drawn by professional, nonpartisan Legislative Council staff. Any Colorado citizen is allowed to submit a map for the commission's consideration.

Question: If I'm selected, what are the commitments of time and resources from me?

Answer: The time commitment for serving on the commission is substantial. The commission sets its own meeting schedule. In the past, the commission met once every week or two for a period of several months. Most such meetings take place in Denver. However, once the preliminary plan is published, likely in May and June 2021 (subject to alteration, if Census data delivery is delayed) the commission must hold hearings throughout the state. Additionally,

commissioners will want to spend time reviewing public comment and perhaps developing and negotiating maps.

Question: If I'm not selected for the commissions, what opportunities exist for public input?

Answer: Several opportunities exist for public input. The commission will have a website where citizens can comment on proposed maps and even submit their own proposed maps. The commission will also hold public hearings throughout the process.

Question: Will COVID-19 delay the redistricting process?

Answer: The U.S. Census Bureau projects that COVID-19 will delay the delivery of Census data to the states by as much as 90 days. A process that normally would kick off in March 2021 could therefore be delayed.