



THE INDEPENDENT MAP AMENDMENT EXPLAINED

The **Independent Map Amendment** would establish a non-partisan, independent commission responsible for drawing state legislative districts in a way that is transparent and open to the public. It would end the current redistricting process controlled by legislators with little public involvement.

The 11 members of the Independent Redistricting Commission would be selected in the year of each federal decennial census. The first commission would be appointed in 2021.

STEPS TO SELECTION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

- ✓ Anyone interested in serving on the Commission could submit an application to the Illinois Auditor General.
- ✓ Applications to serve on the Commission would be reviewed by the Applicant Review Panel.
- ✓ Anyone interested in serving on the Applicant Review Panel could submit an application to the Illinois Auditor General. The three-member panel would be chosen at random from a pool of registered voters who have a “demonstrated understanding of and adherence to standards of ethical conduct.”
- ✓ The Applicant Review Panel would select a pool of 100 potential Commissioners, who would be diverse and free from conflicts of interest. Each potential Commissioner would be reviewed to determine prior political experience, relevant analytical skills, ability to contribute to a fair redistricting process and ability to represent the demographic and geographic diversity of Illinois.
- ✓ The names of the 100 potential Commissioners and information about their backgrounds would be made available to the public.

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A copy of our report filed with the State Board of elections is (or will be) available on the Board's official website (www.elections.il.gov) or for purchase from the Illinois State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois.

- ✓ The four leaders of the Illinois House and Senate – two Democrats and two Republicans – each would be allowed to remove up to five of the potential Commissioners in the pool of 100.
- ✓ The Applicant Review Panel would select seven Commissioners in a public and random drawing. No more than two of the seven Commissioners could be affiliated with the same political party. The four legislative leaders would select the final four Commissioners from the remaining pool and make the selections based on the appointee's contribution to the demographic and geographic diversity of the Commission.

COMMISSION TRANSPARENCY AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public would be notified of Commission meetings at least seven days in advance. All meetings and records, including communications between members about Commission work, would be public. The only exception would be meetings and records that qualify under attorney-client privilege.

The Commission would hold public hearings throughout Illinois before and after releasing the initial proposed redistricting plan.

THE COMMISSION'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR DRAWING LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

The Commission would be required to draw legislative district maps that comply with federal law and are contiguous and equal in population.

In drawing the maps, the Commission must use the following criteria:

1. The redistricting plan shall not dilute or diminish the ability of a racial or language minority community to elect the candidates of its choice, including when voting in concert with other persons;
2. The redistricting plan shall respect the geographic integrity of units of local government; and
3. The redistricting plan shall respect the geographic integrity of communities sharing common social and economic interests, which do not include relationships with political parties or candidates for office.

The redistricting plan shall not either intentionally or unduly discriminate against or intentionally or unduly favor any political party, political group or particular person.

In designing the redistricting plan, the Commission shall consider party registration and voting history data only to assess compliance with the above requirements.

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HOW A MAP BECOMES LAW

Approval of a redistricting plan would require seven affirmative votes and would have to include the affirmative vote of at least two Democrats, two Republicans, and three not affiliated with either of those parties.

If the Commission failed to adopt a redistricting plan by June 30, a Special Commissioner for Redistricting would be appointed by the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court and the most senior Supreme Court justice from the other major party. The Special Commissioner for Redistricting would be required to hold public hearings and create a redistricting plan following the same criteria and public transparency requirements established for the Commission.

The redistricting plan adopted by the Special Commissioner for Redistricting would be filed with the Secretary of State no later than Aug. 31, and those district maps would become law and in effect for the next election of General Assembly members.

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