

New York State Independent Redistricting Commission Facts

The New York State Constitution was amended in 2014 to replace the legislature-controlled New York State Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment (LATFOR) as the entity responsible for drawing new state legislative and congressional lines. The constitution now designates an Independent Redistricting Commission to conduct redistricting and reapportionment after the completion of the census count.

The state constitution includes the following mandates regarding the Independent Redistricting Commission:

The 10-member commission must be appointed on or before February 2020

2 members	Appointed by the temporary president of the senate
2 members	Appointed by the speaker of assembly
2 members	Appointed by minority leader of the senate
2 members	Appointed by minority leader of assembly
2 members	Appointed by the 8 members who were appointed by a vote of no less than 4 members**.

**These members must not be enrolled in either of the two political major parties.

Members shall represent the diversity of residents of this state with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, language, and geographic reference.

Members cannot within the last 3 years:

1. Be or have been a member of the NYS legislature or US Congress, or a state-wide official
2. Be or have been a state officer or employee or legislative employee
3. Be or have been a registered lobbyist in NYS
4. Be or have been a political party chairman
5. Be the spouse of a statewide elected official or of any member of the US Congress or state legislature

The legislature shall provide by law for the compensation of the members, including compensation for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

The commission shall appoint two co-executive directors by the majority vote of the commission. The co-executive directors must represent the republic and democratic parties (one of each). The co-executive directors shall appoint staff to perform assigned duties. The directors must also create a staffing plan.

No fewer than 12 public hearings shall be held in the following areas:

Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, White Plains, Bronx County, Kings County, New York County, Richmond County, Queens County, Nassau County, and Suffolk County.

The commission is required to consider the following when drafting district lines:

1. “Whether such lines would result in the denial or abridgement of racial or language minority voting rights, and districts shall not be drawn to have the purpose of, nor shall they result in, the denial or abridgement of such rights.
2. Districts shall be drawn so that, based on the totality of the circumstances, racial or minority language groups do not have less opportunity to participate in the political process than other members of the electorate and to elect representatives of their choice.
3. To the extent practicable, districts shall contain as nearly as may be an equal number of inhabitants. For each district that deviates from this requirement, the commission shall provide a specific public explanation as to why such deviation exists.
4. Each district shall consist of contiguous territory.
5. Each district shall be as compact in form as practicable.
6. Districts shall not be drawn to discourage competition or for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents or other particular candidates or political parties. The commission shall consider the maintenance of cores of existing districts, of pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, and towns, and of communities of interest.
7. In drawing senate districts, towns or blocks which, from their location may be included in either of two districts, shall be so placed as to make said districts most nearly equal in number of inhabitants. The requirements that senate districts not divide counties or towns, as well as the 'block-on-border' and 'town-on-border' rules, shall remain in effect.”

Calendar of Legislative and Commission Actions

YEAR	MONTH	GOVERNMENT ACTIONS
2020	January	2020-2021 NYS budget proposals
	February	Commission Appointed
	March - June	Census
	December	Population Count to President
2021	January	2021-2022 NYS Budget Proposals
	March	Apportionment Data to States
	April	NYS Independent Redistricting Commission; Mapping
	May	Maps must be available 30+ days before first public hearings
	June	Commission Public Hearings: Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, White Plains
	July	Commission Public Hearings: Bronx, King, New York, Richmond, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties (these are estimated times)
	September	Maps available no later than Sept 1-15
2022	January	Must submit plan to legislature by January 1 st