

The Commission: Composition & Appointment

- Bipartisan appointment of one person each by the Speaker, House Minority Leader, Senate President Pro Tempore, Senate Minority Leader, and the Chairs of the major political parties.
- Commission members choose a 7th commissioner to serve as the Chair.
- If the Commission can't decide on a Chair, the Supreme Court chooses from the two top candidates on the basis of qualifications.

Standards for Redistricting

- Compactness, contiguity, and equality of population.
- Compliance with the State and US Constitutions and the Voting Rights Act.
- Respect for existing political subdivisions and communities of interest.
- Preference for competitive districts, though no district may be artificially so.
- Allowed respect for the geographic core of existing districts.
- No consideration of impact on incumbents, candidates, or political parties.

Commission Staff, Experts, and the Advisory Board

- Staffed by the Division of Legislative Services.
- Commission can have outside experts and counsel. Experts must be certified as nonpartisan and pledge they won't run for office in the districts they help draw.
- 12 member citizen advisory board, half of which are former elected officials.

Map Creation Process.

- Deadlines. The commission can delay deadlines as long as it takes for the Federal government to get census data to Virginia, provided a map is presented by June 15.
- Rulemaking. There is an open rulemaking and schedule setting process.
- Initial map drawing. Initial maps are drawn without any partisan or incumbent data.
- Map testing. Maps are tested against SBE data to ensure standards compliance.
- Public comment period. A map is released to the public and the Commission holds meetings across the state to get public input on it.
- Map Submission. Once the public comments have been considered and changes made, the Commission gives the maps to the Assembly for consideration as a normal bill.

Legislative Process

- Whenever the Assembly or the Governor attempts to change the maps, or someone introduces a new map, the Commission has 7 days to make public recommendations in favor or against.
- The Assembly has final say over the maps.
- The Commission helps the Attorney General or other authority complete submission to the Department of Justice. The Commission dissolves when the maps have been accepted by the DOJ.