



UTAH REDISTRICTING
Legislative Committee

REDISTRICTING OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND ON REDISTRICTING

Every ten years, the Legislature is constitutionally required to redraw district boundaries to reflect population changes based on the most recent population data from the U.S. Census Bureau. This data determines the size of Utah's congressional, state Senate, state House of Representatives and state board of education districts.

Since different regions of the state grow at significantly different rates, redistricting is required to ensure there are an equal number of constituents in each type of district.

Public input is essential for redistricting. While the redistricting process is delayed because of COVID-19, the Legislative Redistricting Committee is committed to maintaining an open and transparent process and gathering as much public input as possible. The committee will hold at least 17 public hearings across Utah, with all meetings available to view online. Additionally, the public will be able to submit maps to the committee for consideration.



OVERVIEW OF THE LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Article IX, Section 1 of the Utah Constitution requires the Utah Legislature to divide the state into new congressional and legislative districts no later than the next general session after receiving the official resident population data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The 20-member, bipartisan committee represents diverse areas of the state and is entrusted to listen to input from the public and craft new district boundaries. As elected officials, lawmakers are accountable to the people who elected them to office and have a vested interest in the concerns and feedback of their constituents.



The Utah Legislative Redistricting Committee adopted procedural guidelines to prohibit the committee from using partisan data when drawing maps to ensure the Utah redistricting process is fair and equitable.

Utah Redistricting

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Sen. Scott Sandall
Co-Chair



Rep. Paul Ray
Co-Chair



Sen. Kirk Cullimore



Sen. Gene Davis



Sen. Lincoln
Fillmore



Sen. Don Ipson



Sen. Karen Mayne



Sen. Michael
McKell



Rep. Carl Albrecht



Rep. Jefferson
Burton



Rep. Joel Ferry



Rep. Sandra
Hollins



Rep. Brad Last



Rep. Steve Lund



Rep. Ashlee
Matthews



Rep. Merrill
Nelson



Rep. Val Peterson



Rep. Candice
Pierucci



Rep. Robert
Spendlove



Rep. Andrew
Stoddard

OVERVIEW OF THE INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

In 2018, Utah voters approved a ballot initiative, Proposition 4, with 50.3 percent voting in favor and 49.7 percent voting against, creating an independent redistricting commission. Legislators from both political parties met with proponents of the initiative to address constitutional concerns.

Following these discussions, the Utah Legislature passed *S.B. 200 Redistricting Amendments*. The bill allowed for political boundary recommendations to be drawn by an independent redistricting commission based on 2020 census data.

This independent redistricting advisory commission, appointed by Governor Spencer Cox, President Stuart Adams, Speaker Brad Wilson, Senate Minority Leader Karen Mayne and House Minority Leader Brian King, will provide recommendations to the Legislative Redistricting Committee regarding congressional, legislative and state school board district boundaries.

The Independent Redistricting Commission will recommend maps to the Legislative Redistricting Committee in November at the Utah State Capitol.

After the Independent Redistricting Commission makes its recommendation, the Legislative Redistricting Committee will hold additional public hearings before making a final recommendation to the Utah Legislature. The Legislature may accept, modify or reject any recommendations.

THE LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING PROCESS

Once the U.S. Census data is available, the Legislative Redistricting Committee will travel to various locations across the state to hold public hearings. In addition to participating in public hearings, all Utahns are encouraged to use the map drawing tool to create and submit maps for the committee to review.

After gathering public input and reviewing map recommendations, the Legislative Redistricting Committee will craft boundaries to present to the full Legislature. The Legislature will then convene in a special session to consider the new boundaries. Once the maps are approved by the entire Legislature, the maps will be sent to the governor, where he will either approve or veto the adopted maps.

COVID-19 DELAYS

Data from the U.S. Census Bureau is necessary to complete the redistricting process. Usually, states receive the census data by April 1, but due to delays from the COVID-19 pandemic, data is expected to be released by mid-August. Software for drawing maps is expected to be available for the public by early September.

After the Census Bureau announced delays to the release of census data, it was necessary to modify the schedule of both the Legislative Redistricting Committee and Independent Redistricting Commission. Under the new schedule, the commission will report its recommendation to the committee at a public hearing in November, and the Utah Legislature plans to hold a special session to adopt redistricting plans before Thanksgiving.

Utah Redistricting

HISTORY & ANTICIPATED TIMELINE



HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Public Hearings

The Legislative Redistricting Committee will travel across Utah to hold public hearings. The committee wants to hear from Utahns and invites all to attend these hearings.

Submit a Map

Every Utahn is encouraged to draw their own map to recommend to the committee using a state-of-the-art map drawing tool. The public will also have opportunities to comment on maps submitted for public review.



LINKS



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