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Redistricting Commissions – A Growing Trend

With passage of the Voters FIRST Act, California joined a growing number of states that create commissions to play a role in the once-a-decade process of drawing of legislative districts. California’s commission will include 14 members – five Republicans, five Democrats and four from neither party – will be chosen by application/random selection process.

Twelve other states give a commission primary responsibility for approving redistricting plans.* Two states use commissions in an advisory role, submitting their plans to the Legislature for approval. Five states have commissions that act only if Legislatures fail to agree on a redistricting plan.

States with Commissions Primarily Responsible for Redistricting

State	Size of Commission	Member Selection
Alaska	5 members	Appointed by Governor, Legislative leaders
Arizona	5 members	Appointed by Legislative leaders
Arkansas	3 members	Top state officials serve as members
Colorado	11 members	Appointed by Governor, Legislative, Judiciary
Hawaii	9 members	Appointed by Legislative leaders
Idaho	6 members	Appointed by Legislative and party leaders
Missouri	18 and 10 members	Governor selects from lists of party nominees
Montana	5 members	Appointed by Legislative leaders
New Jersey	10 members	Selected by party leaders
Ohio	5 members	Top state officials serve
Pennsylvania	5 members	Appointed by Legislative leaders
Washington	5 members	Appointed by Legislative leaders

States with Advisory Commissions – Plans Require Legislative Approval

State	Size of Commission	Member Selection
Maine	15 members	Appointed by Legislative and party leaders
Vermont	5 members	Appointed by Governor and Chief Justice

(more)



States with “Backup Commissions” – in Case of Redistricting Stalemates

State	Size of Commission	Member Selection
Connecticut	9 members	Appointed by Legislative leaders
Illinois	8 members	Appointed by Legislative leaders
Mississippi	5 members	Top state officials serve as members
Oklahoma	3 members	Top state officials serve as members
Texas	5 members	Top state officials serve as members

*Source: National Conference of State Legislatures, www.ncsl.org

For more information on California’s Citizens Redistricting Commission, visit www.WeDrawtheLines.ca.gov.

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