

Redistricting Rules: Montana Timeline



At least 5 months:

Public hearings to take communities of interest testimony

Approx. 4 months:

Process census data, display draft maps, hold hearings, complete maps Court & County
Prep

Montana's districting deadline for Congress will only be necessary if the state gains a congressional seat. There are no state legislative elections in 2022.





Redistricting Rules: Montana Rules

Who draws the lines?

- Congressional and state legislature lines are drawn by a five-member independent commission.
- ► The majority and minority leaders of both legislative houses each pick one commissioners. The four commissioners pick the final commissioner, who serves as the chair. If the four commissioners cannot agree on a final member, the Montana Supreme Court will pick the final commissioner (Mont. Const. art. V, § 14, Mont. Code Ann. §§ 5-1-101-102)
- The State Constitution prohibits any commissioner from being a public official (Mont. Const. art. V § 14)
- ► Commissioners cannot run for legislative office for two years after serving on the commission (Mont. Code Ann. § 5-1-105)





Redistricting Rules: Montana Rules

What are the mapping rules?

- ► Federal **equal population** requirements and adherence to the **Voting Rights Act** and constitutional rules on race
- State legislative districts be nearly equal in population as is practicable (Mont. Const. Art. V, §14)
- State legislative districts be compact and contiguous (Mont. Const. Art. V, §14)
- State legislative districts are nested: each Senate district is composed of two adjoining state House districts (Mont. Const. Art. V, § 14)





Redistricting Rules: Montana Public Access

Where can I find out more about my state's redistricting process?

▶ leg.mt.gov/districting/2020-commission

