

Colorado Measures Y & Z

OVERVIEW

- Power: Independent
- Size: 12 members (4 Unaffiliated voters, 4 Democrats, 4 Republicans)
- One commission for congressional districts (Amendment Y) and one for state legislative districts (Amendment Z)
- Selection Method: Open application process
 - Chief Justice of the CO Supreme Court designates two panels of retired judges (one for each commission) to identify qualified applicants.
 - Non-partisan staff eliminates ineligible applicants and randomly selects 300 Ds, 300 Rs, and 450 Us from qualified group.
 - Judges narrow pools to 50/50/50 based on Community Criteria:
 - Active in community organizations in Colorado
 - Relevant analytical skills, impartiality, consensus-building ability
 - 2 Ds, 2 Rs, and 2 Us chosen randomly from pools of 50.
 - Each legislative leader selects (from all qualified applicants, not just from the above pools) 10 names from their party's applicants.
 - Judges pick 2 Ds and 2Rs from the legislative leaders' lists and 2 Us from the remaining applicants in the pool of 450.

WHO CAN SERVE

- Qualifications:
 - Registered CO voters who voted in the two previous CO general elections
 - Unaffiliated with ANY political party or affiliated with the same political party for at least five years
 - Community Criteria:
- Ineligible: Someone who is or has been
 - a candidate for the state legislature (Amendment Z) or a candidate for federal office (Amendment Y) within the previous five years
 - an elected public official in CO within the previous three years
 - a lobbyist within the previous three years
 - within a CO political party: an elected official above the precinct level or an employee within the previous three years
 - a current member of the other redistricting commission

CRITERIA

- Required: Comply with the US Constitution and Voting Rights Act, achieve equal population
- Priority:
 1. Keep communities of interest and political subdivisions whole.¹
 2. Compactness
 3. Maximize the number of politically competitive districts to the extent possible.
- Prohibited: Drawing a map...
 - To protect one or more incumbents, declared candidates, or political party.
 - With intent or effect of denial/abridgement of voting rights or vote dilution because of race or membership in language minority group.

APPROVING A MAP

- Hearings:
 - Minimum 3 hearings in each congressional district. At least one west of the continental divide, one east of the continental divide, and one either south of EL Paso County or east of Arapahoe County.
 - All hearings must be attended either in person or electronically by at least 10 commissioners
- Map Approval: Supermajority of 8 commissioners required, including at least two Us.

¹ Only in Amendment Z: *Political subdivisions should be wholly contained, except when the division of a political subdivision is less essential than a community of interest's issues are to fair and effective representation of residents of the districts.*