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

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