

Revisions to HJR 17 and HB 2686

These bills provide an excellent framework for improving the redistricting process in Oregon and accurately reflect the efforts and recommendations of the City Club of Portland. However, there are a few areas where we were unclear, or which Legislative Counsel interpreted differently than our intent. In the interest of producing the best possible redistricting system for current and future Oregonians, we submit the following modifications for your review.

Requested changes to HJR 17

- Limit redistricting to not more than once every ten years.
- Timeline changes (see next page for full timeline)
 - Give the first four commissioners a month to select the next five (push date back to March 1).
 - Individual legislators should submit plans by June 1 in order to be properly considered for the draft maps.
 - Change Supreme Court decision to 12/1 and bring both tracks (plan created or not) into alignment.
- Funding concerns. Our intent is to insulate the commission's funding from the currently seated legislature in the year that the redistricting is occurring. Our suggestion to achieve this is to have the commission's budget allocated in the Regular Session two years prior to the commission's operation. Additionally, assign the Attorney General's office to be responsible for defending the final maps should they face legal challenge.
- Remove references to the Secretary of State and replace with "the individual charged with auditing state government." We did not intend the Secretary of State to be one and the same as the State Auditor.
- Clarify that a number of the hearings need to be held *after* the release of the draft maps.
- Make sure it's clear that other applicable statutes regarding eligibility for office are updated to prohibit commissioners within 5 years of their service.

Requested changes to HB 2686

- Modify the list of nominating groups to be illustrative, but not exclusive. (Wording: "including, but not limited to.")
- Include the Oregon Commission of Indian Services among the list of groups that can nominate potential commissioners.

Timeline

2021

- 1/31 - Legislative leaders appoint four commission members from pool of nominees
- 2/1 - The four appoint the next 5 members from pool of applicants (3/1)

3/20 - Approximate date for receiving census data.

5/15 - Each chamber of the legislature submits their recommendations

6/15 - Individual legislators may submit plans (6/1)

- 7/1 - Final Plan due (We had July 15)

If Commission fails to agree on a plan by 7/1

7/15 - Commission files 2 plans with court.

- 8/1 - Deadline for filing legal challenges

- 9/1 - Supreme Court decides whether to dismiss petitions and uphold the plan.

9/1 - Supreme Court returns plan to commission
For correction if deemed unconstitutional

9/15 - If not upheld the Supreme Court must send directions to the commission to modify the plan.

- 11/1 - Commission files a corrected plan

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11/15 - Supreme Court rules on the corrected plan and may correct it if necessary (12/1)

12/15 - SC rules on corrected plan and may correct it if necessary

2022

1/1 - Plan goes into effect

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