

What is the Reapportionment Commission's Timeline?

The Colorado Constitution specifies deadlines for the Reapportionment Commission to finish its work. The following are some of the key dates in the commission's timeline:

- ⇒ May 12, 2011—Initial meeting;
- ⇒ May 31, 2011 through July 25, 2011—Public testimony in Denver and consideration of House and Senate plans for each region of the state;
- ⇒ August 1, 2011—Publish preliminary House and Senate plans
- ⇒ August 1 through September 3, 2011 Hearings around the state on preliminary plans;
- ⇒ September 5, 2011 through September 30, 2011—Consideration and adoption of final House and Senate plans;
- ⇒ October 7, 2011—Submit final plan to the Colorado Supreme Court;
- ⇒ December 14, 2011—Final day to submit approved plans to the Secretary of State; and
- ⇒ February 7, 2012 or March 20, 2012 Precinct caucuses, as determined by the state central committee of each political party.

All dates are tentative and subject to change

How Can I Get Involved?

Meetings of the Colorado Reapportionment Commission are open to the public. The committee generally meets each Monday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Hearing Room A, on the first floor of the Legislative Service Building, located at 200 E. 14th Avenue, Denver, Colorado, 80203. The public testimony portion of each meeting will begin at approximately 2:00 p.m. Agendas for each meeting are posted on the commission's web site

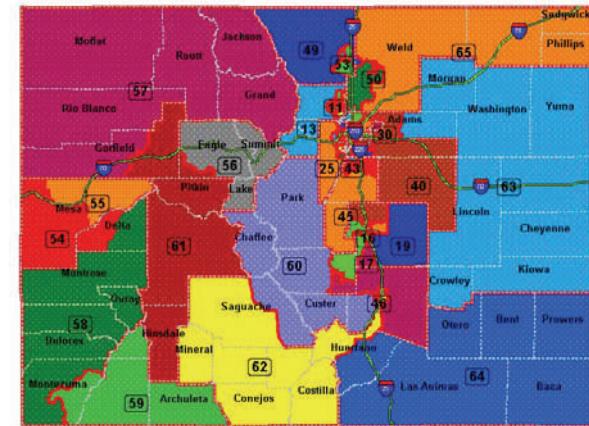
The commission will also be traveling around the state to gather public testimony from each region. Information about the regions and the travel schedule will be published on the commission's website as it becomes available.

Where Can I Get More Information?

For more information about state House and Senate redistricting, contact the Colorado Reapportionment Commission, 1313 Sherman Street, Suite 122, Denver CO, 80203, (303) 866-3950. Information is also available on the Internet at www.colorado.gov/reapportionment. The Colorado Reapportionment Commission staff can be contacted via e-mail at reapp2011@state.co.us.

This brochure is also available on the committee's website at:
[www.colorado.gov/
reapportionment](http://www.colorado.gov/reapportionment)

A Citizen's Guide to State House and Senate Redistricting



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What is Redistricting?

The state is divided into legislative districts for the election of members to the Colorado General Assembly or to the United States Congress. Redistricting is the process of redrawing these legislative district boundaries to reflect growth patterns and population shifts within the state. This process occurs once every ten years after new census information is available and uses the same population data to redraw both state legislative and congressional districts.

Colorado General Assembly.

Redistricting affects the 100 members (65 representatives and 35 senators) of the Colorado General Assembly. The total number of representatives and senators does not change. However, depending on the population change, the geographical areas of the state that legislators represent may change. The Colorado Constitution charges the Colorado Reapportionment Commission with redrawing the state House and Senate districts.

Congressional redistricting. Based on the 2010 census, Colorado will continue to have seven elected representatives in the U.S. House of Representatives. However, the boundaries of the congressional districts need to be redrawn to reflect population changes. The Colorado Constitution charges the Colorado General Assembly, not the Colorado Reapportionment Commission, with redrawing the seven Congressional districts

How are the Boundaries for the Colorado General Assembly Drawn?

Colorado Reapportionment Commission. The Colorado Reapportionment Commission convenes once every 10 years after the decennial federal census. The job of the commission is to redraw the boundaries of legislative districts for the state Senate and House of Representatives in compliance with the “one person, one vote” principle. The commission’s composition, schedule, and legal criteria that must be applied are found in article V, sections 46 through 48 of the Colorado Constitution.

Commission Members

Mario Carrera, Chair	Wellington Webb, Vice Chair
Dolores Atencio	Mario Nicolais
Gayle Berry	Arnold Salazar
Morgan Carroll	Steve Tool
Matt Jones	Rob Witwer
Robert Loevy	

Creation of a plan. The commission will meet throughout the summer and, with public input, develop a preliminary plan depicting the proposed legislative districts. The commission will then hold public hearings around the state before finalizing the plan. The plan is then submitted to the Colorado Supreme Court to determine if all federal and state laws have been followed. The court may either approve the plan or require the commission to change part or all of the plan.

Criteria used. When creating the plan, the commission must follow federal and state laws. These laws include the following:

- ⇒ the variation in population between the largest and the smallest district cannot be more than 5 percent—an ideal Senate district will have 143,691 citizens and an ideal House district will have 77,372 citizens;
- ⇒ cities and counties are not to be divided except to balance the population within each district;
- ⇒ districts are to be drawn such that minority groups are able to elect representatives of their choice;
- ⇒ the area within a district must be contiguous and as compact as possible; and
- ⇒ communities of interest, such as economic, ethnic, or geographic areas, are to be preserved whenever possible.