

Redistricting Reform Comparison

Senate Joint Resolution 5	House Joint Resolution 15
<i>Sponsored by Senator Jon Husted</i>	<i>Sponsored by Rep. Tom Letson</i>
<p>SJR 5 would expand Ohio's present redistricting body by adding the minority and majority party legislative leadership to the current members of the Apportionment Board. This new Ohio Redistricting Commission would be responsible for both Congressional and state legislative districts.</p>	<p>HJR 15 would create a public competition to draw state legislative district lines according to a predetermined formula, emphasizing statewide partisan balance, competition, and a lesser role for preservation of municipal boundaries. Compactness would also be measured.</p>
<p>The Commission would emphasize preservation of whole political units and, to a lesser extent, competition between the major political parties.</p>	<p>Though Ohio's present Apportionment Board would continue to exist, it would select the winning map, with the new district lines, based on the criteria only. The Apportionment Boards would have no real discretion.</p>
<p>Any final plan must be approved by five votes, including two votes from members from the party with the minority of the commission's members.</p>	<p>Congressional districts would continue to be drawn by the Ohio General Assembly.</p>
<p>The proposal requires that meetings of the Ohio Redistricting Commission be open to the public.</p>	<p>Any resident of Ohio may submit a plan to the state legislative district competition for consideration.</p>
<p>The Ohio Supreme Court, or appropriate federal court, may review adopted plans, but may not issue a plan of its own. In the event that a plan is declared invalid, a commission must be constituted anew and make another attempt.</p>	<p>If plans are challenged, they would be reviewed either by an appropriate federal court or a special Ohio tribunal, comprised of retired judges. Either court could review plans, but may not issue a plan of its own unless the plan in question would win the redistricting competition.</p>

For articles and editorials on redistricting reform in Ohio, visit <http://www.ohiocitizen.org/money/redistrict/articles.html>.