

Constitutional Amendments

Sub. S.J.R. 5

Sens. Huffman and Sykes, Uecker, LaRose, Balderson, Beagle, Dolan, Eklund, Gardner, Hackett, Hoagland, Hottinger, Kunze, Lehner, Manning, Obhof, Oelslager, Peterson, Terhar, Wilson

Reps. Rosenberger, Schuring, Blessing, Brenner, Carfagna, Lipps, Manning, Pelanda, Reineke, Ryan, Scherer, Anielski, Antani, Faber, Gavarone, Green, Hambley, Henne, Perales, Rezabek, R. Smith

Adopted: February 6, 2018; approved by the voters on May 8, 2018, and effective January 1, 2021

Procedure for adopting a district plan

- Requires the General Assembly, not later than September 30 of a year ending in the numeral one, to pass a congressional district plan in the form of a bill by a specified bipartisan vote, and provides procedural requirements for that action.
- Requires a plan passed by the General Assembly that becomes law to remain in effect until the next year ending in the numeral one.
- Specifies that, if the General Assembly does not pass a plan by that deadline, or if the Governor vetoes the plan and the General Assembly does not override the veto, the Ohio Redistricting Commission must adopt a plan not later than October 31 of that year by a specified bipartisan vote, and provides procedural requirements for that action.
- Specifies that a plan adopted by the Commission remains effective until the next year ending in the numeral one.
- Prohibits any appointed member of the Commission from being a current member of Congress.
- Requires the General Assembly, if the Commission does not adopt a plan by that deadline, to pass a plan not later than November 30 of that year, and provides procedural requirements for that action.
- Specifies that if the General Assembly passes a plan by a specified bipartisan vote, it remains effective until the next year ending in the numeral one.
- Specifies that if the General Assembly passes a plan by a simple majority vote, certain additional district requirements apply, and if the plan becomes law, it remains effective until two general elections for the U.S. House of Representatives have occurred under it.

- Requires, after a plan expires after two general elections, that it be replaced using the same process and census data as applied previously, and specifies that the plan remains effective until the next year ending in the numeral one.
- Requires the General Assembly and the Commission to facilitate and allow members of the public to submit proposed plans, and requires the General Assembly to provide by law the manner in which the public may do so.

District standards

- Requires each congressional district to have a single representative in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Requires a congressional district plan to comply with all applicable provisions of the Ohio Constitution, the U.S. Constitution, and federal law.
- Specifies that every district must be compact and composed of contiguous territory, and the boundary of each district must be a single nonintersecting continuous line.
- Provides several district drawing rules that limit the extent to which counties, municipal corporations, and townships may be split between districts.

Legal challenges

- States that the Ohio Supreme Court has exclusive, original jurisdiction in all cases arising under this article of the Constitution.
- Requires that, if a court invalidates any section of the Ohio Constitution relating to congressional redistricting, any congressional district plan, or any congressional district or group of districts, the General Assembly must pass a plan in conformity with the provisions of the Constitution that remain valid.
- Specifies that if the General Assembly does not pass a new plan by the specified deadline, or if the Governor vetoes the plan and the General Assembly does not override the veto, the Ohio Redistricting Commission must adopt a plan by a particular deadline.
- Requires a plan passed or adopted under those circumstances to remedy any legal defects in the previous plan identified by the court, but to include no changes to the previous plan other than those made to remedy those defects.