

2021 PROPOSED REDISTRICTING GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA

1. Constitutional Population Equality

- a. Each legislative district should be drawn to achieve a total population that is substantially equal as practicable, considering the other principles listed below, with a total population variance (deviation) consistent with U.S. Supreme Court precedent.
- b. Each congressional district shall be drawn with a total population of plus or minus one person from the ideal district size.

2. Compliance with Law – All plans proposed by the Commission will comply with federal law, including the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; the Virginia Constitution; and other Commonwealth law on minority voting rights.

3. Communities of Interest – To maintain the communities of interest in the Commonwealth, the Commission shall consider the following requirements, in order of priority:

- a. Every electoral district shall be composed of contiguous and compact territory and shall be so constituted as to give, as nearly as is practicable, representation in proportion to the population of the district.
- b. The integrity and priority of existing political subdivisions should be preserved to the extent possible by avoiding unnecessary divisions of those subdivisions.
- c. Districts shall have clearly defined and clearly discernable boundaries.
- d. Neighborhoods or any geographically defined group of people living in an area who share similar social, cultural, and economic interests shall be maintained to the extent possible.

4. Maps shall not favor or disfavor any political party, [but in no case will the Commission consider the residences of incumbents as part of its consideration of this factor].

5. The identifying of these criteria is not intended to limit the consideration of any other principles or factors that the Commission deems appropriate.

Note on Communities of Interest: Communities of interest are extremely important to the Commission and the interest in preserving these communities is reflected in these guidelines.

Timeline for Submission and Approval of Redistricting Maps (§§ 30-397 and 30-398 of the Code of Virginia)

CENSUS DATA RECEIVED

45 DAYS for House of Delegates and Senate maps and **60 DAYS** for Congressional maps
DEADLINE FOR COMMISSION TO SUBMIT MAPS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY AFTER RECEIPT OF CENSUS DATA

Commission meets deadline and submits maps to the General Assembly

15 DAYS
DEADLINE FOR GA APPROVAL

GA approves maps by deadline

MAPS ADOPTED

Commission fails to meet initial deadline for submission of maps to General Assembly

14 DAYS
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION TO GA AFTER INITIAL FAILURE

GA fails to adopt maps by deadline

14 DAYS
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF NEW MAPS

Commission submits new maps

7 DAYS
DEADLINE FOR GA APPROVAL

GA approves maps by deadline

MAPS ADOPTED

GA fails to adopt maps by deadline

COURT

Commission meets deadline and submits maps

7 DAYS
DEADLINE FOR GA APPROVAL

GA approves maps by deadline

MAPS ADOPTED

GA fails to adopt maps by deadline

COURT

Commission fails to meet second deadline

COURT

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**



July 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Commission meeting, 10:00am	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Public hearing - Farmville (Longwood)	14	15 Virtual hearing	16	17
18	19 Commission meeting, 10:00am	20 Public hearing - Norfolk (ODU)	21	22 Virtual hearing	23	24
25	26	27 Public hearing - Fairfax (George Mason)	28	29 Virtual hearing	30	31

August 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Special Session II convenes	3 Commission meeting, 4:00pm Public hearing, 6:00pm	4	5 Virtual hearing	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Census data delivery ¹	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 <i>Keep schedule clear (10:00am-12noon)</i>	31				

¹ This date is all but set in stone at this point. Once the data is received, the 45 day/60 day clocks start to run. However, the data will first need to be adjusted to reflect the prison population reallocation required by law. The time spent doing this does count towards the 45/60 days.

September 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
5	6 LABOR DAY	7 <i>Keep schedule clear (10:00am-12noon)</i>	8	9	10	11
12	13 <i>Keep schedule clear (10:00am-12noon)</i>	14	15	16	17	18
19	<p>A series of public hearings are scheduled for this week. These are the hearings constitutionally required to be held "prior to voting on redistricting plans." In theory, maps should be substantially complete before these hearings and only minor tweaks would be made to the maps after.</p>					
26 <i>Keep schedule clear post 1:00pm</i>	27 <i>Keep schedule clear</i>	28	29 <i>Keep schedule clear</i>	30 Deadline to submit HOD/Senate maps to General Assembly ²		

² If the Commission cannot meet this deadline, the Constitution does allow for an additional fourteen days to submit a plan to the General Assembly.

October 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 <i>Keep schedule clear (10:00am-12noon)</i>	5	6	7	8	9
10	11 <i>Keep schedule clear (10:00am-12noon)</i>	12	13	14 Deadline to submit maps if failing to meet Sept 30 deadline	15 Deadline to submit congressional maps to General Assembly ³	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Deadline to submit maps if failing to meet Oct 15 deadline	30
31						

³ If the Commission cannot meet this deadline, the Constitution does allow for an additional fourteen days to submit a plan to the General Assembly