

REDISTRICTING IN GEORGIA

REAPPORTIONMENT

Reapportionment is the process of allocating the number of members each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Redistricting is the process of drawing or changing the boundaries of the districts that make up the state.

VS REDISTRICTING

GENERALLY, THE STATES ARE REAPPORTIONED AND REDISTRICTED EVERY 10 YEARS FOLLOWING THE U.S. CENSUS.

FEDERAL

100

SENATORS

2 FROM EACH STATE



435

REPRESENTATIVES

1 FROM EACH STATE, THE REST ALLOCATED BASED ON POPULATION



GEORGIA

56

SENATORS

172,994 IDEAL POPULATION IN EACH DISTRICT*



180

REPRESENTATIVES

53,820 IDEAL POPULATION IN EACH DISTRICT*

PROCESS & TIMELINE IN GEORGIA:

CENSUS

The 2020 Census began on **April 1, 2020**. The population numbers will be delivered to the states by **July 31, 2021**. Once that data is received by Georgia's Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office, they will begin updating Georgia's maps.

MEETINGS

Both the House and Senate Reapportionment Committees will begin **meeting** to discuss new maps. **Public hearings** will also be held throughout the state to get input from citizens all over Georgia.

SPECIAL SESSION

The governor will call a **special session**. The maps will be produced and voted on by each chamber. If passed by the House and Senate, the governor will sign or veto the completed maps. The final maps must make it through the entire process in sufficient time before the qualifying period for the **2022 elections**.

FEDERAL Requirements

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS MUST BE AS NEARLY EQUAL IN POPULATION AS IS "PRACTICABLE."

STATE DISTRICTS MUST BE "SUBSTANTIALLY" EQUAL.

FEDERAL VOTING RIGHTS ACT AIMS TO PREVENT DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES IN REDISTRICTING.

GEORGIA Guidelines

CONTIGUOUS DISTRICTS ARE CONSTITUTIONALLY-REQUIRED.

WHILE CONTIGUITY IS THE ONLY LEGAL REQUIREMENT, SEVERAL OTHER FACTORS WERE CONSIDERED IN THE 2011 REDISTRICTING CYCLE:

COMPACTNESS
EXISTING POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS
COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST
AVOID PAIRING INCUMBENTS

Georgia and Preclearance

The Voting Rights Act (VRA) requires any "covered jurisdictions," including Georgia, to present any changes to its election laws to the U.S. Department of Justice for approval. This process, called "preclearance," applies to several states and counties--predominately in the South--because of specific historical discriminatory practices. The covered jurisdictions are determined by a formula in Section 4(b) of the VRA. In 2013, the formula in Section 4(b) was found to be unconstitutional. Consequently, Georgia and the other covered jurisdictions are no longer required to attain preclearance for changes to election laws.

The redistricting in 2021 will be the first redistricting cycle* since the implementation of the VRA that Georgia will not be required to submit redistricting maps to the U.S. Department of Justice for approval.

*There have been redistricting changes since 2013, but this will be the first full redistricting cycle.

JUNE 2019 ● The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that federal courts cannot intervene in cases regarding the constitutionality of state legislative and congressional maps. This means that maps challenged on the basis of partisan gerrymandering can no longer be appealed to the federal level.