

# Maryland Redistricting Frequently Asked Questions

## **Does State law require a redistricting Advisory Committee?**

- The state constitution does not explicitly require an advisory committee but Article III Sec. 5 does require that public hearings are held. In the past, the Governor has formed an advisory committee to satisfy this requirement.

## **When is the Governor's Redistricting Advisory Committee formed?**

- There is no legal deadline for the committee's formation although in past years, the committee was formed soon after adjournment of the General Assembly's legislative session.

## **Who can serve on the Advisory Committee?**

- The Governor selects the committee. Historically, the panel is comprised of the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and three additional members from the community. The Governor appoints the chair from the additional members.

## **Can I submit my own plan to the committee?**

- Yes, the committee's public hearings are intended for gathering input from the public. Members of the public may testify, ask questions, or submit proposed ideas, plans, or maps.

## **Why is Maryland's Census data adjusted?**

- In 2010, the General Assembly passed the "No Representation Without Population Act" (Chapter 67 of 2010). It requires that population counts used to create legislative districts for the U.S. Congress, General Assembly, and county and municipal governing bodies exclude incarcerated individuals who were not State residents prior to their incarceration in either State or federal correctional facilities and that incarcerated individuals who were State residents prior to their incarceration be counted as residents at their last known address.

## **Where can I get the adjusted data to use for my own proposed map?**

- Data tables are available for download from the [Maryland Department of Planning's website](#).

## **Why is there a special session for congressional redistricting this year?**

- This year redistricting precedes a presidential election year. A special session to complete a congressional map is necessary in order to have readjusted districts in time for the early federal (presidential and U.S. Congress) primary election in 2012.

## **Will redistricting change my election precinct?**

- Possibly. Redrawing of congressional and legislative does not *directly* affect voting precinct boundaries, county election boards generally alter these boundaries based on various considerations unrelated to legislative redistricting. However, in some cases precinct lines are modified where it is necessary to coincide with an altered legislative or congressional border.

## **Where can I get census data for Maryland online?**

- Visit the U.S. Census Bureau's [American Factfinder](#) or the Maryland Department of Planning's [State Data Center](#). Adjusted Data is not available from the Census Bureau.

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## **Who can I contact about redistricting in Maryland?**

- Contact the Maryland Department of Legislative Services:

- Phone: 301-946-5200 / 410-946-5200
- Email: [redistricting@dls.state.md.us](mailto:redistricting@dls.state.md.us)