



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Final Presentation

Summary of Commission Work



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

How We Started

- On January 12, 2021, Governor Hogan issued an **Executive Order** forming the Maryland Citizens Redistricting Commission (Citizens Commission). The Citizens Commission was charged with revising the congressional and legislative district lines in a fair and impartial manner.
- **As a mix of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents**, our members embraced our mission to create new district boundaries that are free from political influence and offer the opportunity for fair elections in Maryland.
 - The Governor appointed the three co-chairs
 - The three co-chairs chose the additional six members, two from each party, from over 400 citizen applications
- To accomplish our mission, the Citizens Commission **developed a transparent process**, allowing Marylanders not only to observe our group's work, but also to engage in the process.



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Public Meetings

- **Public meetings began on May 5**
 - Numerous working sessions among Commission members to discuss and draft maps.
 - Most meetings included testimony from the public.
- **Round One (Virtual Public Meetings held from June 9 – July 28)**
 - Included **eight regional meetings** during which members of the public could share their thoughts and concerns regarding redistricting in advance of the release of 2020 Census data.
 - Despite challenging time constraints arising from late arrival of Census data.



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Public Meetings

- **Round Two (Virtual Public Meetings held from September 9 – 20)**
 - Included **four statewide virtual meetings** during which Marylanders were able to submit their own maps and present them to the Commission with live testimony; written testimony was also accepted.
 - The **public was able to submit their own map submissions** through a portal on our website.
 - During Round 2 the Commission **received 70 citizen map submissions**.
 - Each was reviewed by the Commission, and each was posted to our website.
 - The Commission also held **six public working sessions** during the month of September to draft maps for public review and comment. This was done along with our Voting Rights Act (VRA) and American election law expert, Professor Nathaniel Persily of Stanford Law School.



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

- **Round Three (October 6 – 27)**

- Included **four public meetings** at which Marylanders could present testimony regarding the maps drawn by the Commission, maps submitted by citizens or their own map submissions.
- In total, the Citizens Commission received **86 public map submissions** via the portal and email.
- Commissioners held **public working sessions** at the completion of public testimony in order to suggest and address modifications to maps, including discussions regarding the VRA, Communities of Interest and other matters of importance to district boundaries.
 - **Responsive to public reaction.** Revamped maps on Southeast Baltimore County, St. Mary's County, Towson area, southern Montgomery County and others in response to public requests.
 - **Addressed issues for “communities of interest,”** including modifying the boundary lines impacting a Jewish community (Eruv) in Baltimore County.
- As the Citizen Commission voted upon “final proposed draft maps,” **each map was posted to the website.**
 - The website also included a map viewer to allow residents to enter an address and determine in which district it was located.
- The Citizen Commission also held an additional working session upon completion of Round Three to address additional modification suggestions and ensure VRA compliance.



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Information on the Citizens Commission Meetings

- The Commission had over **4,127 attendees** at our public meetings.
- We heard **231 separate testimony accounts** from members of the public, organizational leaders and elected officials.
- Social media posts have resulted in more than **100,061** impressions on Twitter and a reach of more than **92,607** on Facebook.
- For each meeting, notifications were sent out via press release to more than **46,000 contacts**.
 - These include the media, local, county, and state officials, and many other organizations and individuals.
- Our promotional materials have been **translated in Spanish** and distributed to the Latino community by our Hispanic advisor, Gloria Aparicio Blackwell, Founder & Director of the University of Maryland Office of Community Engagement.
- Our public virtual meetings have offered **live Spanish translation** and closed-captioning for the hearing impaired - this was done in partnership with the University of Maryland Spanish Department.



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

The Citizens Commission's Methodology in Drafting Maps

- **The amount of people in each congressional, state senate, and legislative district is not random.**
 - Based on Census data, which dictates how many people should be in each district.
 - While the senate and legislative districts may have a small percentage difference, the congressional districts are to be drawn with the same amount of people.
- **Single vs. multi-member legislative districts.**
 - The Executive Order creating the Citizens Commission calls for various considerations, including single member districts to the extent possible that are as nearly equal in population as is feasible given due regard for natural boundaries and the boundaries of political subdivisions.
 - In drawing these districts, the Commission must also take into consideration the VRA.
 - VRA protects racial and language minority groups from vote dilution.



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

The Citizens Commission's Methodology in Drafting Maps

This came into play with regard to single vs. multi-member districts and our considerations on drawing those lines to meet the needs of the VRA. Within the 47 Senate districts there are 141 House of Delegates seats. Drafting these boundary lines with proper consideration of the VRA and its impact on communities, and all Marylanders in them, was of utmost importance to us. That is why we spent the extra time necessary to make certain the legislative lines we drew offer districts with the best possible outcomes.



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

What's Next – The Legislative Process

- **The maps for which we held the final Commission vote tonight will be the maps we present to Governor Hogan.**
 - These maps will also be posted to our website at Redistricting.Maryland.gov.
- **Once this is done, legislation will be drafted in the form of a bill to be presented to the Maryland General Assembly.**
 - The congressional bill will be introduced during the anticipated special session in December 2021.
 - The legislative bill will be introduced on the first day of the regular session, January 12, 2022.
 - The bills will then go through the legislative process.
 - A vote on the congressional bill will occur before the end of the special session in December 2021, while a vote on the legislative bill must occur by the 45th day of regular session, otherwise the Governor's bill becomes law.
- **It is important for us to remind you that a second commission was formed by members of the Maryland General Assembly.**
 - That commission will likely introduce their own maps through separate pieces of legislation.
 - That bill will go through the same process as this Commission's maps.



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

What's Next – The Legislative Process

- **Once the legislature has held their final vote on maps, that legislation will be sent to the Governor for his signature.**
 - This must occur by February 25, 2022.
 - If the Governor vetoes that legislation then it is returned to the General Assembly.
 - The General Assembly has the ability to override the Governor's veto.

Two separate processes

- **Congressional**
 - Traditional bill - Emergency Measure, will be introduced at a special session in December 2021. The Maryland General Assembly can act on Governor's plan or enact their own. This plan is subject to gubernatorial veto.
 - Neither practice is set in stone (law or Maryland Constitution) - practice is, generally speaking, by custom.



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

What's Next – The Legislative Process

- **Legislative**

- Joint resolution, and NOT subject to gubernatorial veto.
- Per Maryland Constitution, the Governor is required to prepare a plan.
- Under Maryland Constitution, the Governor is required to introduce his legislative plan on or before the first day of the regular session for a year ending in 2 (that will be January 12, 2022).
- Maryland General Assembly can ignore and act on their own plan, under the Constitution, but they cannot act on a plan of their own until after the Governor submits his plan.
- Maryland General Assembly has 45 days to act on the Governor's plan or their own plan.
- If the General Assembly does not act on a legislative plan by the 45th day, the Governor's plan automatically becomes the new districts.



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Remarks and Final Acknowledgments

We are extremely proud of the work of our Commission and the maps we've accomplished!

- **Minimal splits of counties** and municipalities compared with alternatives and existing maps.
- **Highly understandable layout** of congressional districts.
- In the pursuit of best practices, the commission achieved a significantly **lower population variance** between legislative districts, and thus better upheld the principle of **one person, one vote**. In particular, it achieved a variance of below plus or minus 2% for senate districts and plus or minus 3% for delegate districts, down from plus or minus 5% in earlier maps.
- **Responsive to public comment, feedback and reaction.** As mentioned earlier, we revamped maps for southeast Baltimore County, St. Mary's County, the Towson area and Pikesville (both Baltimore County) in response to public requests for change.
- We're proud of our **ratings of "A" for partisan fairness** from the Princeton Gerrymandering Project for draft proposed congressional and senate maps.
 - The project has not yet reviewed the delegate map or latest revision of senate map.
- We will write a final report and welcome all Commission members to participate in the process.

email: redistricting.commission@maryland.gov • web: Redistricting.Maryland.gov



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Final Acknowledgments

We extend our deepest gratitude to several individuals and organizations in assisting this Citizens Commission:

- **Professor Nate Persily** whose expertise in American election law and the Voter Rights Act allowed us to complete our mission.
- **Gloria Aparicio Blackwell** who provided us invaluable information on the interests of the Hispanic community across the state and spread the word about our meetings to countless Marylanders.
- The **Spanish Department at the University of Maryland, College Park** for partnering with us to provide live Spanish translation during our public testimony meetings.
 - Specifically, we'd like to thank **Manel Lecorte** who serves as an Associate Professor and is the director of the Spanish Applied Linguistics Program, and **Jackson Monzon**, a graduate student at the university who provided the bulk of the live translation.
- Our **Commission members** who each gave countless hours of hard work, commitment and dedication to this important process, and their families.



MARYLAND CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Commission Members

Dr. Kathleen Hetherington

Walter Olson

Judge Alexander Williams, Jr.

Jay V. Amin

Cheryl Brooks

Mary G. Clawson

Kimberly Rose Cummings

Jonathan Fusfield

William Tipper Thomas