

**Position Description (recommended)
Chair, Legislative Reapportionment Commission
April 2021**

Pennsylvania's Legislative Reapportionment Commission (LRC), the group responsible for drawing PA's 203 state House and 50 state Senate voting districts, is seeking its 5th and final member. This person will also serve as the commission's chair. It is an extremely important position that will help determine the boundaries of PA's state voting maps for the next decade.

Draw the Lines PA (DTL), an initiative of the nonpartisan good government group the Committee of Seventy, is encouraging broad public participation in this process to ensure that the LRC's chair in 2021 is an independent, respected Pennsylvanian who will ensure the Commonwealth's legislative maps are drawn transparently and fairly.

Instructions to apply to serve on the LRC are available on the LRC's website (<http://www.redistricting.state.pa.us/>). You have until April 9th to submit your credentials.

This job description is not an official posting. Rather, this is suggested guidance for the public and the LRC to consider as it selects who will fill this vital role.

Background

Every ten years, the LRC must redraw state House and Senate districts to reflect population changes over the past decade as measured by the U.S. Census. The state constitution names the four current caucus leaders as members of the Commission. They are to choose a fifth member, who serves as chair of the LRC. If they cannot agree, the State Supreme Court will make the appointment.

As a Pennsylvania voter, you are eligible to serve in this role.

Qualifications

The PA Constitution requires that the chair of the LRC be a citizen of Pennsylvania who does not hold an elected office to which compensation is attached. DTL suggests these additional criteria to ensure the person appointed can serve faithfully to Pennsylvania's citizens.

- The chair should be a registered voter in Pennsylvania, who has voted in two of the last three statewide general elections (2018, 2019, 2020).
- The chair should have a publicly demonstrated reputation for credibility and political independence.
- Within the previous five years (2016 onward), the chair nor an immediate family member shall not have:
 - Held or ran for elective public or judicial office at the federal or state level.
 - Served as a paid staff member or consultant to a federal or statewide elected official, political party, campaign, or political committee.

- Served as an officer or committee member of a political party, political body, political committee or political action committee in PA.
- Registered as a federal or state lobbyist in PA.
- The chair shall plan not to run for political office on the state or federal level for the next five years upon completion of the mapping process.
- The chair shall be ready to lead a team of commission members and staff.
- The chair shall be able to build consensus, managing different political motivations from their fellow commissioners of the LRC. **The chair must, above all else, be able to put the interests of Pennsylvania’s voters ahead of the interests of elected officials and parties.**
- The chair must be comfortable with leading public meetings, either in-person or virtually.
- The chair should be aware of the requirements set forth in the United States Constitution (such as [equal population](#)), PA State Constitution ([here](#) and [here](#)), the [Voting Rights Act](#), and applicable case-law guiding how maps are drawn in the Commonwealth (including the [State Supreme Court’s ruling](#) on challenges to the 2011 legislative maps).

Responsibilities

The chair shall perform their duties in an impartial manner that reinforces public confidence in PA’s redistricting process. Other responsibilities include:

- Adhere to the process articulated in the PA State Constitution for legislative redistricting.
- Direct LRC staff to schedule, promote, and execute multiple public meetings for Pennsylvanians to share their testimony, both before and after the preliminary map-drawing process.
- Work with fellow commissioners to build consensus around legislative maps that best represent the interests of Pennsylvanians.
- Be willing to serve, uninterrupted, for the entire time frame required for the Commission to complete its work. (The exact timing is heavily dependent on the release of 2020 Census data.) Although serving as chair of the LRC is not necessarily a full-time commitment, it does require a significant investment of time. Historically, the chair of the LRC has been provided with a small staff for the duration of the Commission’s work.
- Be prepared to follow the Pennsylvania Sunshine and Ethics Acts regarding the LRC’s work and proceedings.
- Be prepared to testify as a witness in any judicial challenges to the adopted maps.

Compensation

Subject to the General Assembly’s discretion under Article II, Section 17(g) of the Pennsylvania Constitution, the Chairperson shall be compensated. Compensation shall not be paid to the Chairman until a preliminary plan is filed, in accordance with Article II, Section 17(g). In 2011, the chair, Stephen J. McEwen, Jr., was paid \$9,450 per month, as equates to his compensation as a Senior Judge of the Superior Court, plus expenses, during the existence of the Commission.

How to apply

Applicants should send a resume or C.V., along with a letter explaining their qualifications to serve as chair of the Commission and their reasons for being interested in the position, to:

Legislative Reapportionment Commission
c/o Brent McClintock, Executive Director
Legislative Data Processing Center
Senate Box 64, Main Capitol Building,
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Submissions can also be sent via email to lrc@redistricting.state.pa.us Applications must be received no later than Friday, April 9, 2021. More details can be found on the state's redistricting website: www.redistricting.state.pa.us.

Timing

Public applications are due by Friday, April 9th. If the four existing members can agree on their choice, the fifth member and chair will be selected by April 30, 2021. If the four members cannot agree, then the selection will be made the justices of the PA Supreme Court before May 30th.

About Draw the Lines

Draw the Lines PA is a project of the longstanding nonpartisan PA-based good government group the Committee of Seventy. Since its launch in 2018, DTL has engaged more than 10,000 citizens of Pennsylvanians, many of them young adults, in our outreach and map-drawing contests. Learn more at www.drawthelinespa.org.