SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 18-004

SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF COLORADO AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION CONCERNING A CHANGE TO THE WAY THAT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS ARE DRAWN, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, TAKING THE DUTY TO DRAW CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS AWAY FROM THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND GIVING IT TO AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION, COMPOSED OF TWELVE CITIZENS WHO POSSESS SPECIFIED QUALIFICATIONS; PROHIBITING ANY ONE POLITICAL PARTY’S CONTROL OF THE COMMISSION BY REQUIRING THAT ONE-THIRD OF COMMISSIONERS WILL NOT BE AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ONE-THIRD OF THE COMMISSIONERS WILL BE AFFILIATED WITH THE STATE’S LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY, AND ONE-THIRD OF THE

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment. Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing statute. Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.
COMMISSIONERS WILL BE AFFILIATED WITH THE STATE'S SECOND LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY; PROHIBITING CERTAIN PERSONS, INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL LOBBYISTS, FEDERAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE EMPLOYEES, AND FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS, FROM SERVING ON THE COMMISSION; LIMITING JUDICIAL REVIEW OF A MAP TO A DETERMINATION BY THE SUPREME COURT OF WHETHER THE COMMISSION OR ITS NONPARTISAN STAFF COMMITTED AN ABUSE OF DISCRETION; REQUIRING THE COMMISSION TO DRAW DISTRICTS WITH A FOCUS ON COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, SUCH AS CITIES AND COUNTIES, AND THEN TO MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF COMPETITIVE CONGRESSIONAL SEATS TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE; AND PROHIBITING MAPS FROM BEING DRAWN TO DILUTE THE ELECTORAL INFLUENCE OF ANY RACIAL OR ETHNIC GROUP OR TO PROTECT ANY INCUMBENT, ANY POLITICAL CANDIDATE, OR ANY POLITICAL PARTY.

Resolution Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this resolution as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this resolution passes third reading in the house of introduction, a resolution summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this resolution will be available at http://leg.colorado.gov.)

The concurrent resolution amends the state constitution to create the independent congressional redistricting commission (commission) and to transfer the general assembly's responsibility to divide the state into congressional districts to the commission. Specifically, the concurrent resolution:

! Specifies that the commission is appointed after each federal decennial census of the United States;
! Specifies that the commission consists of 12 members, 4 of whom must be registered with the state's largest political party, 4 of whom must be registered with the state's second largest political party, and 4 of whom must not be registered with any political party;
! Establishes the qualifications to serve on the commission
and the method by which commissioners are appointed;

! Authorizes the commission to adopt rules and specifies how the commission is staffed, how the commission is funded, how the commission is organized, and sets forth the ethical obligations of the commissioners;

! Requires the commission to provide the opportunity for public involvement, including multiple hearings, the ability to propose maps, and to testify at commission hearings, and requires hearings to comply with state statutes regarding open meetings;

! Mandates that paid lobbying of the commission be disclosed to the secretary of state by the lobbyist within 72 hours of when the lobbying occurred or when the payment for lobbying occurred, whichever is earlier;

! Establishes prioritized factors for the commission to use in drawing districts, including federal requirements, the preservation of communities of interest and political subdivisions, and maximizing the number of competitive districts;

! Prohibits the commission from approving a map if it has been drawn for the purpose of protecting one or more members of or candidates for congress or a political party, and codifies current federal law and related existing federal requirements prohibiting maps drawn for the purpose of or that results in the denial or abridgement of a person's right to vote or electoral influence on account of a person's race, ethnic origin, or membership in a protected language group;

! Requires at least 8 of the 12 commissioners, including at least 2 of the commissioners who are not registered with any political party, to approve a redistricting map and specifies the date by which a final map must be approved;

! Specifies that nonpartisan staff will draft a preliminary redistricting map and up to 3 additional maps, and, in the event of deadlock by the commission, creates a process by which nonpartisan staff submit a final map to the Supreme Court for review based on specified criteria; and

! Allows for judicial review of a commission approved or nonpartisan staff submitted redistricting map, and limits Supreme Court review to whether the commission or the staff committed an abuse of discretion.

---

1 Be It Resolved by the Senate of the Seventy-first General Assembly
of the State of Colorado, the House of Representatives concurring herein:

SECTION 1. At the election held on November 6, 2018, the secretary of state shall submit to the registered electors of the state the ballot title set forth in section 2 for the following amendment to the state constitution:

In the constitution of the state of Colorado, amend section 44 of article V as follows:

Section 44. Representatives in congress - congressional districts - commission created. (1) Declaration of the people. The people of the state of Colorado find and declare that:

(a) The practice of political gerrymandering, whereby congressional districts are purposefully drawn to favor one political party or incumbent politician over another, must end;

(b) The public’s interest in prohibiting political gerrymandering is best achieved by creating a new and independent commission that is politically balanced, provides representation to voters not affiliated with either of the state’s two largest parties, and utilizes nonpartisan legislative staff to draw maps;

(c) The redistricting commission should set district lines by ensuring constitutionally guaranteed voting rights, including the protection of minority group voting, as well as fair and effective representation of constituents using politically neutral criteria;

(d) Competitive elections for members of the United States house of representatives provide voters with a meaningful choice among candidates, promote a healthy
DEMONCRACY, HELP ENSURE THAT CONSTITUENTS RECEIVE FAIR AND
EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION, AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE POLITICAL
WELL-BEING OF KEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST AND POLITICAL
SUBDIVISIONS;

(e) FOR YEARS CERTAIN POLITICAL INTERESTS OPPOSED
COMPETITIVE DISTRICTS IN COLORADO BECAUSE THEY ARE PRIMARILY
CONCERNED ABOUT MAINTAINING THEIR OWN POLITICAL POWER AT THE
EXPENSE OF FAIR AND EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION; AND

(f) CITIZENS WANT AND DESERVE AN INCLUSIVE AND MEANINGFUL
CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PROCESS THAT PROVIDES THE PUBLIC
WITH THE ABILITY TO BE HEARD AS REDISTRICTING MAPS ARE DRAWN, TO
BE ABLE TO WATCH THE WITNESSES WHO DELIVER TESTIMONY AND THE
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION'S DELIBERATIONS, AND TO HAVE THEIR
WRITTEN COMMENTS CONSIDERED BEFORE ANY PROPOSED MAP IS VOTED
UPON BY THE COMMISSION AS THE FINAL MAP.

(2) **Congressional districts - commission created.** THERE IS
HEREBY CREATED THE INDEPENDENT CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION. The general assembly COMMISSION shall divide the state
into as many congressional districts as there are representatives in
congress apportioned to this state by the congress of the United States for
the election of one representative to congress from each district. When a
new apportionment shall be made by congress, the general assembly
COMMISSION shall divide the state into congressional districts accordingly.

(3) **Definitions.** AS USED IN THIS SECTION AND IN SECTIONS 44.1
THROUGH 44.6 OF THIS ARTICLE V, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
REQUIRES:

(a) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE INDEPENDENT CONGRESSIONAL
REDISTRICTING COMMISSION CREATED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

(b) (I) "COMMUNITY OF INTEREST" MEANS ANY GROUP IN COLORADO THAT SHARES ONE OR MORE SUBSTANTIAL INTERESTS THAT MAY BE THE SUBJECT OF FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE ACTION, IS COMPOSED OF A REASONABLY PROXIMATE POPULATION, AND THUS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION WITHIN A SINGLE DISTRICT FOR PURPOSES OF ENSURING ITS FAIR AND EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION.

(II) SUCH INTERESTS INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO MATTERS REFLECTING:

(A) SHARED PUBLIC POLICY CONCERNS OF URBAN, RURAL, AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL, OR TRADE AREAS; AND

(B) SHARED PUBLIC POLICY CONCERNS SUCH AS EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, ENVIRONMENT, PUBLIC HEALTH, TRANSPORTATION, WATER NEEDS AND SUPPLIES, AND ISSUES OF DEMONSTRABLE REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.

(III) GROUPS THAT MAY COMPRISE A COMMUNITY OF INTEREST INCLUDE RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUPS, SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE WITH SUBSECTIONS (1)(b) AND (4)(b) OF SECTION 44.3 OF THIS ARTICLE V, WHICH SUBSECTIONS PROTECT AGAINST THE DENIAL OR ABRIDGEMENT OF THE RIGHT TO VOTE DUE TO A PERSON'S RACE OR LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUP.

(IV) "COMMUNITY OF INTEREST" DOES NOT INCLUDE RELATIONSHIPS WITH POLITICAL PARTIES, INCUMBENTS, OR POLITICAL CANDIDATES.

(c) "RACE" OR "RACIAL" MEANS A CATEGORY OF RACE OR ETHNIC ORIGIN DOCUMENTED IN THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS.

(d) "REDISTRICTING YEAR" MEANS THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE
YEAR IN WHICH THE FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS IS TAKEN.

(e) "STAFF" OR "NONPARTISAN STAFF" MEANS THE STAFF OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AND OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES, OR THEIR SUCCESSOR OFFICES, WHO ARE ASSIGNED TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION BY THE DIRECTORS OF THOSE OFFICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 44.2 OF THIS ARTICLE V.

(4) Adjustment of dates. If any date prescribed in sections 44.1 through 44.5 of this article V falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the date is extended to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday.

In the constitution of the state of Colorado, add sections 44.1, 44.2, 44.3, 44.4, 44.5, and 44.6 to article V as follows:

Section 44.1. Commission composition and appointment - vacancies. (1) After each federal decennial census of the United States, the members of the commission shall be appointed and convened as prescribed in this section.

(2) The commission consists of twelve members who have the following qualifications:

(a) Commissioners must be registered electors who voted in both of the previous two general elections in Colorado;

(b) Commissioners must either have been unaffiliated with any political party or have been affiliated with the same political party for a consecutive period of no less than five years at the time of the application; and

(c) No person may be appointed to or serve on the commission if he or she:

(I) Is or has been a candidate for federal elective office
WITHIN THE LAST FIVE YEARS PRECEDING THE DATE ON WHICH
APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMISSION ARE DUE UNDER
SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION;

(II) IS OR HAS BEEN, WITHIN THE LAST THREE YEARS PRECEDING
THE DATE ON WHICH APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE
COMMISSION ARE DUE UNDER SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION,
COMPENSATED BY A MEMBER OF, OR A CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE
ADVOCATING THE ELECTION OF A CANDIDATE TO, THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR THE UNITED STATES SENATE;

(III) IS OR HAS BEEN, WITHIN THE LAST THREE YEARS PRECEDING
THE DATE ON WHICH APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE
COMMISSION ARE DUE UNDER SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION, AN
ELECTED PUBLIC OFFICIAL AT THE FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, OR
MUNICIPAL LEVEL IN COLORADO;

(IV) IS OR HAS BEEN, WITHIN THE LAST THREE YEARS PRECEDING
THE DATE ON WHICH APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE
COMMISSION ARE DUE UNDER SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION, AN
ELECTED POLITICAL PARTY OFFICIAL ABOVE THE PRECINCT LEVEL IN
COLORADO OR AN EMPLOYEE OF A POLITICAL PARTY;

(V) IS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE FOR DIVIDING
THE STATE INTO SENATORIAL AND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY; OR

(VI) IS OR HAS BEEN A PROFESSIONAL LOBBYIST REGISTERED TO
LOBBY WITH THE STATE OF COLORADO, WITH ANY MUNICIPALITY IN
COLORADO, OR AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL WITHIN THE LAST THREE YEARS
PRECEDING THE DATE ON WHICH APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE
COMMISSION ARE DUE UNDER SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION.
(3) (a) By August 10 of the year prior to the redistricting year, nonpartisan staff shall, after holding one or more public hearings, prepare an application form that will allow appointing authorities to evaluate a person's experience and qualifications and make such application available on the general assembly's website or comparable means of communicating with the public.

(b) The application form must clearly state the legal obligations and expectations of potential appointees. Information required of applicants must include, but is not necessarily limited to, professional background, party affiliation, a description of past political activity, a list of all political and civic organizations to which the applicant has belonged within the previous five years, and whether the applicant meets the qualifications stated in subsection (2) of this section. In addition, the application form must require the applicant to explain why they want to serve on the commission and afford the applicant an opportunity to make a statement about how they will promote consensus among commissioners if appointed to the commission. Applicants may also choose to include up to four letters of recommendation with their application.

(4) By November 10 of the year prior to the redistricting year, any person who seeks to serve on the commission must submit a completed application to nonpartisan staff. All applications are public records and must be posted promptly after receipt on the general assembly's website or comparable means of communicating with the public.
(5) (a) No later than January 5 of the redistricting year, the Chief Justice of the Colorado Supreme Court shall designate a panel to review the applications. The panel must consist of the three justices or judges who most recently retired from the Colorado Supreme Court or the Colorado Court of Appeals, appointed sequentially starting with the most recent justice or judge to retire who has been affiliated with the same political party or unaffiliated with any political party for the two years prior to appointment; except that no appointee, within two years prior to appointment, shall have been affiliated with the same political party as a justice or judge already appointed to the panel. If any of the three justices or judges who most recently retired from the Colorado Supreme Court or the Colorado Court of Appeals is unable or unwilling to serve on the panel or has been affiliated within two years prior to appointment with a political party already represented on the panel, then the Chief Justice shall appoint the next justice or judge who most recently retired from the Colorado Supreme Court or the Colorado Court of Appeals and who has not been affiliated within two years prior to appointment with any political party already appointed to the panel. If, after considering all justices and judges who have retired from the Colorado Supreme Court and the Colorado Court of Appeals, fewer than three eligible participants for the panel have been identified who are able and willing to serve, the Chief Justice shall appoint the most recently retired district court judge who has not been affiliated within two years prior to appointment...
WITH THE SAME POLITICAL PARTY AS ANY PREVIOUS APPOINTEE TO THE PANEL AND WHO ACCEPTS SUCH APPOINTMENT. NO JUSTICE OR JUDGE SHALL SERVE BOTH ON THIS PANEL AND THE PANEL ASSISTING IN THE PROCESS OF CHOOSING MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION RESPONSIBLE FOR DIVIDING THE STATE INTO STATE SENATE AND STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICTS.

(b) All decisions of the panel regarding the selection of applicants pursuant to this section require the affirmative approval of all three members of the panel.

(c) The General Assembly shall prescribe by law the compensation of members of the panel. Nonpartisan staff shall assist the panel in carrying out its duties.

(6) After applications are submitted, nonpartisan staff, with the cooperation and assistance of the Secretary of State, shall make an objective and factual finding based on, to the extent possible, publicly available information, including information contained in the application and information contained within the records maintained by the Secretary of State, whether each applicant meets the qualifications specified in subsection (2) of this section. No later than January 11 of the redistricting year, nonpartisan staff shall make its findings publicly available and notify the applicants of the staff’s finding. If the staff finds that an applicant is not eligible, then the staff shall include the reasons in its finding.

(7) By January 18 of the redistricting year, the panel, in a public meeting, shall randomly select by lot from all of the applicants who were found to meet the qualifications specified
IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION THE NAMES OF THREE HUNDRED
APPLICANTS WHO ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE STATE’S LARGEST POLITICAL
PARTY, THREE HUNDRED APPLICANTS WHO ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE
STATE’S SECOND LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY, AND FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY
APPLICANTS WHO ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, OR
SUCH LESSER NUMBER AS THERE ARE TOTAL APPLICANTS WHO MEET THE
QUALIFICATIONS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION FOR EACH
OF THOSE GROUPS.

(8) (a) IN ONE OR MORE PUBLIC HEARINGS CONDUCTED ON OR
BEFORE FEBRUARY 1 OF THE REDISTRICTING YEAR, AFTER REVIEWING THE
APPLICATIONS OF THE APPLICANTS SELECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SUBSECTION (7) OF THIS SECTION, THE PANEL SHALL IDENTIFY FIFTY
APPLICANTS WHO ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE STATE’S LARGEST POLITICAL
PARTY, FIFTY APPLICANTS WHO ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE STATE’S SECOND
LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY, AND FIFTY APPLICANTS WHO ARE
UNAFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY AND WHO BEST DEMONSTRATE:

(I) EXPERIENCE IN ORGANIZING, REPRESENTING, ADVOCATING FOR,
ADJUDICATING THE INTERESTS OF, OR ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING IN
GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS, OR ASSOCIATIONS IN COLORADO; AND

(II) RELEVANT ANALYTICAL SKILLS, THE ABILITY TO BE
IMPARTIAL, AND THE ABILITY TO PROMOTE CONSENSUS ON THE
COMMISSION.

(b) NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 1 OF THE REDISTRICTING YEAR,
FROM THE APPLICANTS IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (8)(a) OF THIS SECTION,
THE PANEL SHALL CHOOSE BY LOT SIX APPLICANTS TO SERVE ON THE
COMMISSION AS FOLLOWS:

(I) TWO COMMISSIONERS WHO ARE NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY
POLITICAL PARTY;

(II) TWO COMMISSIONERS WHO ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE STATE’S LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY; AND

(III) TWO COMMISSIONERS WHO ARE AFFILIATED WITH THE STATE’S SECOND LARGEST POLITICAL PARTY.

(c) IN THE PROCESS OF CHOOSING APPLICANTS BY LOT FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE COMMISSION, NO APPLICANT WHOSE NAME IS CHOSEN MAY BE APPOINTED IF HE OR SHE IS REGISTERED TO VOTE IN A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT THAT IS ALREADY REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION; EXCEPT THAT, WHEN ALL THEN-EXISTING CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS IN COLORADO ARE REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION, A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAY BE REPRESENTED BY A SECOND COMMISSIONER. NO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAY BE REPRESENTED BY MORE THAN TWO COMMISSIONERS. ANY PERSONS WHOSE NAMES ARE CHOSEN BUT DUPLICATE A CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT’S REPRESENTATION ON THE COMMISSION AND ARE NOT APPOINTED TO THE COMMISSION SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR APPOINTMENT PURSUANT TO SUBSECTIONS (9) AND (10) OF THIS SECTION.


(b) AS DETERMINED BY THE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS IN SELECTING
THEIR RESPECTIVE POOLS, THE APPLICANTS SELECTED FOR EACH POOL MUST MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION AND DEMONSTRATE THE QUALITIES LISTED IN SUBSECTION (8)(a) OF THIS SECTION.

(c) For each congressional district not represented by a commissioner appointed pursuant to subsections (8)(b) and (8)(c) of this section, each pool must consist of at least one applicant who is registered to vote in that congressional district.

(d) If there is an insufficient number of available applicants that meet the requirements of subsection (9)(b) of this section to select any complete pool, then the pool must consist of only those applicants who meet those requirements.

(10) By March 1 of the redistricting year, the panel of judges shall select, in such order as the panel determines, one commissioner from each legislative leader’s pool of applicants and two commissioners from those applicants who are not affiliated with any political party and whose names were randomly selected by lot pursuant to subsection (7) of this section. The panel of judges must ensure that the commission includes four commissioners who are not affiliated with any political party, four commissioners who are affiliated with the state’s largest political party, and four commissioners who are affiliated with the state’s second largest political party. The panel of judges may interview applicants before making the appointments. In selecting applicants, the panel shall, in addition to considering applicants’ other qualifications:

(a) To the extent possible, ensure that the commission
reflects Colorado's racial, ethnic, gender, and geographic
diversity;

(b) Ensure that at least one commissioner is registered to
vote in each congressional district but no more than two
commissioners are registered to vote in any single
congressional district;

(c) Ensure that at least one commissioner resides west of
the continental divide; and

(d) Ensure that all commissioners meet the qualifications
set forth in subsection (2) of this section and demonstrate the
qualities listed in subsection (8)(a) of this section.

(11) (a) A commissioner's position on the commission will be
deemed vacant if he or she, having been appointed as a registered
elector who is not affiliated with a political party, affiliates
with a political party before the supreme court has approved a
plan pursuant to section 44.5 of this article V. A commissioner's
position on the commission will also be deemed vacant if he or
she, having been affiliated with one of the state's two largest
political parties at the time of appointment, affiliates with a
different political party or becomes unaffiliated with any
political party before the supreme court has approved a plan
pursuant to section 44.5 of this article V.

(b) Any vacancy on the commission, including one that
occurs due to death, resignation, removal, failure to meet the
qualifications of appointment, refusal or inability to accept an
appointment, or otherwise, must be filled as soon as possible by
the designated appointing authority from the designated pool of
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS FOR THAT COMMISSIONER'S POSITION AND IN THE
SAME MANNER AS THE ORIGINALLY CHOSEN COMMISSIONER; EXCEPT THAT
NO COMMISSIONER CHOSEN TO FILL A VACANCY WILL BE BYPASSED FOR
APPOINTMENT IF ALL CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS ARE ALREADY
REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION.

(12) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE STATE'S TWO LARGEST
POLITICAL PARTIES SHALL BE DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER OF
REGISTERED ELECTORS AFFILIATED WITH EACH POLITICAL PARTY IN THE
STATE ACCORDING TO VOTER REGISTRATION DATA PUBLISHED BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE EARLIEST DAY IN JANUARY OF THE
REDISTRICTING YEAR FOR WHICH SUCH DATA IS PUBLISHED.

Section 44.2. Commission organization - procedures -
transparency - voting requirements. (1) Initial organization, officers,
procedures, rules, and transparency. (a) THE GOVERNOR SHALL
CONVENE THE COMMISSION NO LATER THAN MARCH 15 OF THE
REDISTRICTING YEAR AND APPOINT A TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON FROM THE
COMMISSION'S MEMBERS. UPON CONVENING, THE COMMISSION SHALL
ELECT A CHAIR AND A VICE-CHAIR, WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE SAME
POLITICAL PARTY, AND OTHER SUCH OFFICERS AS IT DETERMINES.

(b) THE DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE LEGAL SERVICES, OR
THE DIRECTORS OF SUCCESSOR NONPARTISAN OFFICES OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY, SHALL APPOINT NONPARTISAN STAFF FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE
OFFICES AS NEEDED TO ASSIST THE COMMISSION AND THE PANEL OF
JUDGES AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 44.1 OF THIS ARTICLE V. NONPARTISAN
STAFF SHALL ACQUIRE AND PREPARE ALL NECESSARY RESOURCES,
INCLUDING COMPUTER HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, AND DEMOGRAPHIC,
GEOGRAPHIC, AND POLITICAL DATABASES, AS FAR IN ADVANCE AS
NECESSARY TO ENABLE THE COMMISSION TO BEGIN ITS WORK
IMMEDIATELY UPON CONVENING.

(c) The Commission may retain legal counsel in all actions
and proceedings in connection with the performance of its
powers, duties, and functions, including representation of the
Commission before any court.

(d) The General Assembly shall appropriate sufficient
funds for the payment of the expenses of the Commission, the
compensation and expenses of nonpartisan staff, and the
compensation and expenses of the panel of judges as described in
section 44.1 of this article V. Members of the Commission shall
be reimbursed for their reasonable and necessary expenses and
may also receive such per diem allowance as may be established
by the General Assembly. Subject to available appropriations,
hardware and software necessary for the development of plans
may, at the request of any Commissioner, be provided to the
Commissioner. The Commission and its staff must have access to
statistical information compiled by the state and its political
subdivisions as necessary for its duties. State agencies and
political subdivisions shall comply with requests from the
Commission and its staff for such statistical information.

(e) The Commission shall adopt rules to govern its
administration and operation. The Commission must provide at
least seventy-two hours of advance public notice of all
proposed rules prior to consideration for adoption; except that
proposed rules may be amended during Commission deliberations.
WITHOUT SUCH ADVANCE NOTICE OF SPECIFIC, RELATED AMENDMENTS.

NEITHER THE COMMISSION'S PROCEDURAL RULES NOR ITS MAPPING
DECISIONS ARE SUBJECT TO THE "STATE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE
ACT", ARTICLE 4 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S., OR ANY SUCCESSOR STATUTE. RULES
MUST INCLUDE BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

(I) THE HEARING PROCESS AND REVIEW OF MAPS SUBMITTED FOR
ITS CONSIDERATION;

(II) MAINTENANCE OF A RECORD OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES
AND PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING A RECORD OF WRITTEN AND ORAL
TESTIMONY RECEIVED, AND OF THE COMMISSION'S DIRECTIONS TO
NONPARTISAN STAFF ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO ANY PLAN AND THE
COMMISSION'S RATIONALE FOR SUCH CHANGES;

(III) THE PROCESS FOR REMOVING COMMISSIONERS FOR
PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNICATIONS PROHIBITED UNDER THIS SECTION;

(IV) THE PROCESS FOR RECOMMENDING CHANGES TO PLANS
SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION BY NONPARTISAN STAFF; AND

(V) THE ADOPTION OF A STATEWIDE MEETING AND HEARING
SCHEDULE, INCLUDING THE NECESSARY ELEMENTS OF ELECTRONIC
ATTENDANCE AT A COMMISSION HEARING.

(2) Voting requirements. A SIMPLE MAJORITY OF THE APPOINTED
COMMISSIONERS MAY APPROVE RULES AND PROCEDURAL DECISIONS. THE
ELECTION OF THE COMMISSION'S CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR REQUIRES THE
AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF AT LEAST EIGHT COMMISSIONERS, INCLUDING THE
AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF AT LEAST ONE COMMISSIONER WHO IS
UNAFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY. REMOVAL OF ANY
COMMISSIONER AS PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION REQUIRES THE AFFIRMATIVE
VOTE OF AT LEAST EIGHT COMMISSIONERS, INCLUDING THE AFFIRMATIVE
VOTE OF AT LEAST TWO COMMISSIONERS WHO ARE UNAFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY. ADOPTION OF THE FINAL PLAN FOR SUBMISSION TO THE SUPREME COURT AND THE ADOPTION OF A REVISED PLAN AFTER A PLAN IS RETURNED TO THE COMMISSION FROM THE SUPREME COURT REQUIRES THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF AT LEAST EIGHT COMMISSIONERS, INCLUDING THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF AT LEAST TWO COMMISSIONERS WHO ARE UNAFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY. THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT VOTE UPON A FINAL PLAN UNTIL AT LEAST SEVENTY-TWO HOURS AFTER IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED TO THE COMMISSION IN A PUBLIC MEETING OR AT LEAST SEVENTY-TWO HOURS AFTER IT HAS BEEN AMENDED BY THE COMMISSION IN A PUBLIC MEETING, WHICHEVER OCCURS LATER; EXCEPT THAT COMMISSIONERS MAY UNANIMOUSLY WAIVE THE SEVENTY-TWO HOUR REQUIREMENT.

(3) **Public involvement - hearing process.** (a) ALL COLORADO RESIDENTS, INCLUDING INDIVIDUAL COMMISSIONERS, MAY PRESENT PROPOSED REDISTRICTING MAPS OR WRITTEN COMMENTS, OR BOTH, FOR THE COMMISSION'S CONSIDERATION.

(b) THE COMMISSION MUST, TO THE MAXIMUM EXTENT PRACTICABLE, PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLORADO RESIDENTS TO PRESENT TESTIMONY AT HEARINGS HELD THROUGHOUT THE STATE. THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT APPROVE A REDISTRICTING MAP UNTIL AT LEAST THREE HEARINGS HAVE BEEN HELD IN EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE HEARING THAT IS HELD IN A LOCATION WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE AND AT LEAST ONE HEARING THAT IS HELD IN A LOCATION EAST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE AND EITHER SOUTH OF EL PASO COUNTY'S SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OR EAST OF ARAPAHOE COUNTY'S EASTERN BOUNDARY. NO GATHERING OF COMMISSIONERS CAN BE
CONSIDERED A HEARING FOR THIS PURPOSE UNLESS IT IS ATTENDED, IN PERSON OR ELECTRONICALLY, BY AT LEAST TEN COMMISSIONERS. THE COMMISSION SHALL ESTABLISH BY RULE THE NECESSARY ELEMENTS OF ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE AT A COMMISSION HEARING.

(c) THE COMMISSION SHALL MAINTAIN A WEBSITE OR COMPARABLE MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC THROUGH WHICH ANY COLORADO RESIDENT MAY SUBMIT PROPOSED MAPS OR WRITTEN COMMENTS, OR BOTH, WITHOUT ATTENDING A HEARING OF THE COMMISSION.

(d) THE COMMISSION SHALL PUBLISH ALL WRITTEN COMMENTS PERTAINING TO REDISTRICTING ON ITS WEBSITE OR COMPARABLE MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC AS WELL AS THE NAME OF THE COLORADO RESIDENT SUBMITTING SUCH COMMENTS. IF THE COMMISSION OR NONPARTISAN STAFF HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL BASIS TO BELIEVE THAT THE PERSON SUBMITTING SUCH COMMENTS HAS NOT TRUTHFULLY OR ACCURATELY IDENTIFIED HIMSELF OR HERSelf, THE COMMISSION NEED NOT CONSIDER AND NEED NOT PUBLISH SUCH COMMENTS BUT MUST NOTIFY THE COMMENTER IN WRITING OF THIS FACT. THE COMMISSION MAY WITHHOLD COMMENTS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, FROM THE WEBSITE OR COMPARABLE MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC THAT DO NOT RELATE TO REDISTRICTING MAPS, POLICIES, OR COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST.

(e) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE SIMULTANEOUS ACCESS TO THE REGIONAL HEARINGS BY BROADCASTING THEM VIA ITS WEBSITE OR COMPARABLE MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC AND MAINTAIN AN ARCHIVE OF SUCH HEARINGS FOR ONLINE PUBLIC REVIEW.

(4) Ethical obligations - transparency - lobbyist reporting.

(a) COMMISSIONERS ARE GUARDIANS OF THE PUBLIC TRUST AND ARE
SUBJECT TO ANTIBRIBERY AND ABUSE OF PUBLIC OFFICE REQUIREMENTS
AS PROVIDED IN PARTS 3 AND 4 OF ARTICLE 8 OF TITLE 18, C.R.S., AS
AMENDED, OR ANY SUCCESSOR STATUTE.

(b) TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY IN THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS:

(I) (A) THE COMMISSION AND THE COMMISSIONERS ARE SUBJECT
TO OPEN MEETINGS REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN PART 4 OF ARTICLE 6
OF TITLE 24, C.R.S., AS AMENDED, OR ANY SUCCESSOR STATUTE.

(B) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (4)(b)(I)(D) OF THIS
SECTION, A COMMISSIONER SHALL NOT COMMUNICATE WITH NONPARTISAN
STAFF ON THE MAPPING OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS UNLESS THE
COMMUNICATION IS DURING A PUBLIC MEETING OR HEARING OF THE
COMMISSION.

(C) EXCEPT FOR PUBLIC INPUT AND COMMENT, NONPARTISAN
STAFF SHALL NOT HAVE ANY COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OR
DEVELOPMENT OF ANY PLAN OUTSIDE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS WITH ANYONE
EXCEPT OTHER STAFF MEMBERS. NONPARTISAN STAFF SHALL REPORT TO
THE COMMISSION ANY ATTEMPT BY ANYONE TO EXERT INFLUENCE OVER
THE STAFF’S ROLE IN THE DRAFTING OF PLANS.

(D) ONE OR MORE NONPARTISAN STAFF MAY BE DESIGNATED TO
COMMUNICATE WITH COMMISSIONERS REGARDING ADMINISTRATIVE
MATTERS, THE DEFINITION AND SCOPE OF WHICH SHALL BE DETERMINED
BY THE COMMISSION.

(E) ANY COMMISSIONER WHO PARTICIPATES IN A COMMUNICATION
PROHIBITED IN THIS SECTION MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE COMMISSION,
AND SUCH VACANCY MUST BE FILLED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS.

(II) THE COMMISSION, EACH COMMISSIONER, AND NONPARTISAN
STAFF ARE SUBJECT TO OPEN RECORDS REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN
PART 1 OF ARTICLE 72 OF TITLE 24, C.R.S., AS AMENDED, OR ANY
SUCCESSOR STATUTE; EXCEPT THAT MAPS IN DRAFT FORM AND NOT
SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION ARE NOT PUBLIC RECORDS SUBJECT TO
DISCLOSURE. WORK PRODUCT AND COMMUNICATIONS AMONG
NONPARTISAN STAFF ARE SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE ONCE A PLAN IS
SUBMITTED TO THE SUPREME COURT.

(III) PERSONS WHO CONTRACT FOR OR RECEIVE COMPENSATION
FOR ADVOCATING TO THE COMMISSION, TO ONE OR MORE COMMISSIONERS,
OR TO THE NONPARTISAN STAFF FOR THE ADOPTION OR REJECTION OF ANY
MAP, AMENDMENT TO A MAP, MAPPING APPROACH, OR MANNER OF
COMPLIANCE WITH ANY OF THE MAPPING CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SECTION
44.3 OF THIS ARTICLE V ARE LOBBYISTS WHO MUST DISCLOSE TO THE
SECRETARY OF STATE ANY COMPENSATION CONTRACTED FOR,
COMPENSATION RECEIVED, AND THE PERSON OR ENTITY CONTRACTING OR
PAYING FOR THEIR LOBBYING SERVICES. SUCH DISCLOSURE MUST BE MADE
NO LATER THAN SEVENTY-TWO HOURS AFTER THE EARLIER OF EACH
INSTANCE OF SUCH LOBBYING OR ANY PAYMENT OF SUCH COMPENSATION.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL PUBLISH ON THE SECRETARY OF STATE’S
WEBSITE OR COMPARABLE MEANS OF COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC
THE NAMES OF SUCH LOBBYISTS AS WELL AS THE COMPENSATION
RECEIVED AND THE PERSONS OR ENTITIES FOR WHOM THEY WORK WITHIN
TWENTY-FOUR HOURS OF RECEIVING SUCH INFORMATION. THE SECRETARY
OF STATE SHALL ADOPT RULES TO FACILITATE THE COMPLETE AND PROMPT
REPORTING REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION (4)(b)(III) AS WELL AS A
COMPLAINT PROCESS TO ADDRESS ANY LOBBYIST’S FAILURE TO REPORT A
FULL AND ACCURATE DISCLOSURE, WHICH COMPLAINT MUST BE HEARD BY
AN ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE, WHOSE DECISION MAY BE APPEALED TO
Section 44.3. Criteria for determinations of congressional
districts—definition. (1) In adopting a congressional redistricting
plan, the commission shall:

(a) Make a good-faith effort to achieve precise
mathematical population equality between districts, justifying
each variance, no matter how small, as required by the
constitution of the United States. Districts must be composed of
contiguous geographic areas;

(b) Comply with the federal "Voting Rights Act of 1965",
52 U.S.C. Sec. 50301, as amended.

(2) (a) As much as is reasonably possible, the commission's
plan must preserve whole communities of interest and whole
political subdivisions, such as counties, cities, and towns.

(b) Districts must be as compact as is reasonably possible.

(3) (a) Thereafter, the commission shall, to the extent
possible, maximize the number of politically competitive
districts.

(b) In its hearings in various locations in the state, the
commission shall solicit evidence relevant to competitiveness of
elections in Colorado and shall assess such evidence in
evaluating proposed maps.

(c) When the commission approves a plan, or when
nonpartisan staff submits a plan in the absence of the
commission's approval of a plan as provided in section 44.4 of this
article V, the nonpartisan staff shall, within seventy-two hours
of such action, make publicly available, and include in the
COMMISSION’S RECORD, A REPORT TO DEMONSTRATE HOW THE PLAN
REFLECTS THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED TO, AND THE FINDINGS CONCERNING,
THE EXTENT TO WHICH COMPETITIVENESS IN DISTRICT ELECTIONS IS
FOSTERED CONSISTENT WITH THE OTHER CRITERIA SET FORTH IN THIS
SECTION.

(d) FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBSECTION (3), "COMPETITIVE" MEANS
HAVING A REASONABLE POTENTIAL FOR THE PARTY AFFILIATION OF THE
DISTRICT’S REPRESENTATIVE TO CHANGE AT LEAST ONCE BETWEEN
FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUSES. COMPETITIVENESS MAY BE MEASURED BY
FACTORS SUCH AS A PROPOSED DISTRICT’S PAST ELECTION RESULTS, A
PROPOSED DISTRICT’S POLITICAL PARTY REGISTRATION DATA, AND
EVIDENCE-BASED ANALYSES OF PROPOSED DISTRICTS.

(4) NO MAP MAY BE APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION OR GIVEN
EFFECT BY THE SUPREME COURT IF:

(a) IT HAS BEEN DRAWN FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING ONE OR
MORE INCUMBENT MEMBERS, OR ONE OR MORE DECLARED CANDIDATES,
OF THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR ANY POLITICAL
PARTY; OR

(b) IT HAS BEEN DRAWN FOR THE PURPOSE OF OR RESULTS IN THE
DENIAL OR ABRIDGEMENT OF THE RIGHT OF ANY CITIZEN TO VOTE ON
ACCOUNT OF THAT PERSON’S RACE OR MEMBERSHIP IN A LANGUAGE
MINORITY GROUP, INCLUDING DILUTING THE IMPACT OF THAT RACIAL OR
LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUP’S ELECTORAL INFLUENCE.

Section 44.4. Preparation, amendment, and approval of plans
- public hearings and participation. (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL BEGIN
BY CONSIDERING A PLAN, CREATED BY NONPARTISAN STAFF ALONE, TO BE
KNOWN AS THE "PRELIMINARY PLAN". THE PRELIMINARY PLAN MUST BE
PRESENTED AND PUBLISHED NO EARLIER THAN THIRTY DAYS AND NO
LATER THAN FORTY-FIVE DAYS AFTER THE COMMISSION HAS CONVENED OR
THE NECESSARY CENSUS DATA ARE AVAILABLE, WHICHER IS LATER.
WITHIN THE FIRST TWENTY DAYS AFTER THE COMMISSION HAS CONVENED,
ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC AND ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY
SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS TO NONPARTISAN STAFF ON THE CREATION
OF THE PRELIMINARY PLAN AND ON COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST THAT
REQUIRE REPRESENTATION IN ONE OR MORE SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE STATE.
NONPARTISAN STAFF SHALL CONSIDER SUCH COMMENTS IN CREATING THE
PRELIMINARY PLAN AND SUCH COMMENTS MUST BE PART OF THE RECORD
OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES AND PROCEEDINGS. AT THE FIRST PUBLIC
HEARING AT WHICH THE PRELIMINARY PLAN IS PRESENTED, NONPARTISAN
STAFF SHALL EXPLAIN HOW THE PLAN WAS CREATED, HOW THE PLAN
ADDRESSES THE CATEGORIES OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED, AND HOW
THE PLAN COMPLIES WITH THE CRITERIA PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 44.3 OF
THIS ARTICLE V.

(2) BY JULY 7 OF THE REDISTRICTING YEAR, THE COMMISSION
SHALL COMPLETE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE PRELIMINARY PLAN IN
SEVERAL PLACES THROUGHOUT THE STATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION
44.2 OF THIS ARTICLE V.

(3) SUBSEQUENT TO HEARINGS ON THE PRELIMINARY PLAN,
NONPARTISAN STAFF SHALL PREPARE, PUBLISH ONLINE, AND PRESENT TO
THE COMMISSION NO FEWER THAN THREE PLANS, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN
SUBSECTION (5) OF THIS SECTION. THESE PLANS WILL BE KNOWN AS THE
"STAFF PLANS" AND MUST BE NAMED AND NUMBERED SEQUENTIALLY FOR
PURPOSES OF SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION. STAFF PLANS MUST BE
PREPARED, PUBLISHED ONLINE, AND PRESENTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A
TIMETABLE ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION; EXCEPT THAT EACH STAFF
PLAN MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION NO FEWER THAN TEN DAYS
AFTER THE PRESENTATION OF ANY PREVIOUS STAFF PLAN AND NO FEWER
THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AFTER IT HAS BEEN PUBLISHED ONLINE. IF THE
COMMISSION FAILS TO ESTABLISH A TIMETABLE FOR THE PRESENTATION OF
STAFF PLANS WITHIN TEN DAYS AFTER THE COMPLETION OF HEARINGS ON
THE PRELIMINARY PLAN, NONPARTISAN STAFF SHALL ESTABLISH SUCH
TIMETABLE. NONPARTISAN STAFF SHALL KEEP EACH PLAN CONFIDENTIAL
UNTIL IT IS PUBLISHED ONLINE OR BY A COMPARABLE MEANS OF
COMMUNICATING WITH THE PUBLIC USING GENERALLY AVAILABLE
TECHNOLOGIES. THE COMMISSION MAY PROVIDE DIRECTION, IF APPROVED
BY AT LEAST EIGHT COMMISSIONERS INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE
COMMISSIONER UNAFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF STAFF PLANS THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF STANDARDS,
GUIDELINES, OR METHODOLOGIES TO WHICH NONPARTISAN STAFF SHALL
ADHERE, INCLUDING STANDARDS, GUIDELINES, OR METHODOLOGIES TO BE
USED TO EVALUATE A PLAN’S COMPETITIVENESS, CONSISTENT WITH
SECTION 44.3 (3)(d) OF THIS ARTICLE V. IN PREPARING ALL STAFF PLANS,
NONPARTISAN STAFF SHALL ALSO CONSIDER PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND
PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED BY THE COMMISSION THAT ARE CONSISTENT
WITH THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN SECTION 44.3 OF THIS ARTICLE V.

(4) ANY COMMISSIONER OR GROUP OF COMMISSIONERS MAY
REQUEST NONPARTISAN STAFF TO PREPARE ADDITIONAL PLANS OR
AMENDMENTS TO PLANS. ANY SUCH REQUEST MUST BE MADE IN A PUBLIC
HEARING OF THE COMMISSION BUT DOES NOT REQUIRE COMMISSION
APPROVAL. PLANS OR AMENDMENTS DEVELOPED IN RESPONSE TO SUCH
REQUESTS ARE SEPARATE FROM STAFF PLANS FOR PURPOSES OF
SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS SECTION.

(5) (a) The Commission may adopt a final plan at any time after presentation of the first staff plan, in which case nonpartisan staff does not need to prepare or present additional staff plans.

(b) No later than September 1 of the redistricting year, the Commission shall adopt a final plan, which must then be submitted to the Supreme Court for its review and determination in accordance with section 44.5 of this Article V.

(c) The Commission may adjust the deadlines specified in this section if conditions outside of the Commission's control require such an adjustment to ensure adopting a final plan as required by this subsection (5).

(d) The Commission may grant nonpartisan staff the authority to make technical de minimis adjustments to the adopted plan prior to its submission to the Supreme Court.

(6) If for any reason the Commission does not adopt a final plan by the date specified in subsection (5) of this section, then nonpartisan staff shall submit the unamended third staff plan to the Supreme Court.

Section 44.5. Supreme court review. (1) The Supreme Court shall review the submitted plan and determine whether the plan complies with the criteria listed in section 44.3 of this Article V. The Court's review and determination shall take precedence over other matters before the Court. The Supreme Court shall adopt rules for such proceedings and for the production and presentation of supportive evidence for such plan. Any legal
ARGUMENTS CONCERNING SUCH PLAN MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE SUPREME COURT PURSUANT TO THE SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED BY THE COURT.

(2) THE SUPREME COURT SHALL APPROVE THE PLAN SUBMITTED UNLESS IT FINDS THAT THE COMMISSION OR NONPARTISAN STAFF, IN THE CASE OF A STAFF PLAN SUBMITTED IN THE ABSENCE OF A COMMISSION-APPROVED PLAN, ABUSED ITS DISCRETION IN APPLYING OR FAILING TO APPLY THE CRITERIA LISTED IN SECTION 44.3 OF THIS ARTICLE V, IN LIGHT OF THE RECORD BEFORE THE COMMISSION. THE SUPREME COURT MAY CONSIDER ANY MAPS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION IN ASSESSING WHETHER THE COMMISSION OR NONPARTISAN STAFF, IN THE CASE OF A STAFF PLAN SUBMITTED IN THE ABSENCE OF A COMMISSION-APPROVED PLAN, ABUSED ITS DISCRETION.

(3) IF THE SUPREME COURT DETERMINES THAT THE SUBMITTED PLAN CONSTITUTES AN ABUSE OF DISCRETION IN APPLYING OR FAILING TO APPLY THE CRITERIA LISTED IN SECTION 44.3 OF THIS ARTICLE V, IN LIGHT OF THE RECORD BEFORE THE COMMISSION, THE SUPREME COURT SHALL RETURN THE PLAN TO THE COMMISSION WITH THE COURT'S REASONS FOR DISAPPROVAL.

(4) (a) BY NOVEMBER 1 OF THE REDISTRICTING YEAR, THE SUPREME COURT SHALL APPROVE THE PLAN SUBMITTED OR RETURN THE PLAN TO THE COMMISSION.

(b) IF THE COURT RETURNS THE PLAN TO THE COMMISSION, THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE TWELVE DAYS TO HOLD A COMMISSION HEARING THAT INCLUDES PUBLIC TESTIMONY AND TO RETURN AN ADOPTED PLAN THAT RESOLVES THE COURT'S REASONS FOR DISAPPROVAL.

(c) IF THE COMMISSION FAILS TO ADOPT AND RETURN A PLAN TO
THE COURT WITHIN TWELVE DAYS, NONPARTISAN STAFF SHALL HAVE AN ADDITIONAL THREE DAYS TO PREPARE A PLAN THAT RESOLVES THE COURT'S REASONS FOR DISAPPROVAL AND RETURN IT TO THE COURT FOR APPROVAL.

(d) The Supreme Court shall review the revised plan in accordance with subsections (1), (2), and (3) of this section.

(5) The Supreme Court shall approve a plan for the redrawing of congressional districts no later than December 15 of the redistricting year. The court shall order that such plan be filed with the Secretary of State no later than such date.

Section 44.6. Severability. If any provision of sections 44.1 through 44.5 of this Article V is found by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional, or if any application of these sections is found by such a court to be unconstitutional, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the remaining provisions of these sections that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. The provisions of sections 44.1 through 44.5 of this Article V are deemed and declared severable.

SECTION 2. Each elector voting at the election may cast a vote either "Yes/For" or "No/Against" on the following ballot title: "Shall there be an amendment to the Colorado constitution concerning a change to the way that congressional districts are drawn, and, in connection therewith, taking the duty to draw congressional districts away from the state legislature and giving it to an independent commission, composed of twelve citizens who possess specified qualifications; prohibiting any one political party's control of the commission by requiring that one-third
of commissioners will not be affiliated with any political party, one-third
of the commissioners will be affiliated with the state's largest political
party, and one-third of the commissioners will be affiliated with the state's
second largest political party; prohibiting certain persons, including
professional lobbyists, federal campaign committee employees, and
federal, state, and local elected officials, from serving on the commission;
limiting judicial review of a map to a determination by the supreme court
of whether the commission or its nonpartisan staff committed an abuse of
discretion; requiring the commission to draw districts with a focus on
communities of interest and political subdivisions, such as cities and
counties, and then to maximize the number of competitive congressional
seats to the extent possible; and prohibiting maps from being drawn to
dilute the electoral influence of any racial or ethnic group or to protect
any incumbent, any political candidate, or any political party?"

SECTION 3. Except as otherwise provided in section 1-40-123,
Colorado Revised Statutes, if at least fifty-five percent of the electors
voting on the ballot title vote "Yes/For", then the amendment will become
part of the state constitution.