SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 18-005

SUBMITTING TO THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF COLORADO AN AMENDMENT TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION CONCERNING A CHANGE TO THE MANNER IN WHICH STATE SENATE AND STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICTS ARE DRAWN, AND, IN CONNECTION THERewith, REFORMING THE EXISTING LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION BY EXPANDING THE COMMISSION TO TWELVE MEMBERS AND AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS 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

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.
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;
REQUIREING THE COMMISSION TO DRAW STATE LEGISLATIVE
DISTRICTS USING COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST AS WELL AS
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS, SUCH AS CITIES AND COUNTIES, AND
THEN TO MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF COMPETITIVE STATE
LEGISLATIVE 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 legislative redistricting commission (commission) to
divide the state into state senate and state representative legislative
districts. 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 state legislative office 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.

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 46 of article V as follows:

Section 46. Senatorial and representative 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 legislative 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 general assembly provide voters with a meaningful choice among candidates, promote a healthy democracy, 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
LEGISLATIVE 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) Legislative districts - commission created. THERE IS HEREBY
CREATED THE INDEPENDENT LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION.
The state COMMISSION shall be divided divide the state into as many
senatorial and representative districts as there are members of the senate
and house of representatives respectively. each district in each house
having a population as nearly equal as may be, as required by the
constitution of the United States, but in no event shall there be more than
five percent deviation between the most populous and the least populous
district in each house:

(3) Definitions. AS USED IN THIS SECTION AND IN SECTIONS 47
THROUGH 48.4 OF THIS ARTICLE V, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE
REQUIRES:

(a) "COMMISSION" MEANS THE INDEPENDENT LEGISLATIVE
(b) (I) "Community of interest" means any group in Colorado that shares one or more substantial interests that may be the subject of state 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 48.1 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 48 OF THIS ARTICLE V.

(4) Adjustment of dates. If any date prescribed in sections 47 through 48.3 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, repeal and reenact, with amendments, section 47 of article V as follows:

Section 47. 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 the general assembly
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 GENERAL ASSEMBLY;

(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 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS; 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 THE SAME POLITICAL
PARTY AS ANY JUSTICE OR JUDGE 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 CONGRESSIONAL 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 25 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 15 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 IDENTIFIED 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 15 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 16 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 48.3 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 48.3 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.

In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **repeal and reenact, with amendments**, section 48 of article V as follows:


(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 47 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 47 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 COMPILLED 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 LEGISLATIVE 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 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 48.1 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
THE COURT OF APPEALS.

In the constitution of the state of Colorado, add sections 48.1, 48.2, 48.3, and 48.4 to article V as follows:

Section 48.1. Criteria for determination of legislative districts - definition. (1) In adopting a legislative redistricting plan, the commission shall:

(a) make a good-faith effort to achieve mathematical population equality between districts, as required by the constitution of the United States, but in no event shall there be more than five percent deviation between the most populous and the least populous district in each house. 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. To facilitate the efficient and effective provision of governmental services, with regard to any county, city, city and county, or town whose population is less than a district's permitted population, the commission shall presume that such county, city, city and county, or town should be wholly contained within a district; except that a division of such county, city, city and county, or town is permitted where, based on a preponderance of the evidence in the record, a community of interest's legislative issues are more essential to the fair and effective representation of residents of the district. When the commission
DIVIDES A COUNTY, CITY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR TOWN, IT SHALL MINIMIZE
THE NUMBER OF DIVISIONS OF THAT COUNTY, CITY, CITY AND COUNTY, OR
TOWN.

(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 48.2 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 Senate or 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 48.2. Preparation, amendment, and approval of plans - public hearings and participation. (1) The Commission shall begin by considering a plan for the state Senate and a plan for the state House of Representatives, created by its nonpartisan staff alone, to be known as the "Preliminary Senate Plan" and the "Preliminary House Plan". Such plans 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, whichever 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 plans 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 PLANS, AND SUCH COMMENTS SHALL BE PART OF THE
RECORD OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES AND PROCEEDINGS. AT THE
FIRST PUBLIC HEARING AT WHICH THE PRELIMINARY PLANS ARE
PRESENTED, NONPARTISAN STAFF SHALL EXPLAIN HOW THE PLANS WERE
CREATED, HOW THE PLANS ADDRESS THE CATEGORIES OF PUBLIC
COMMENTS RECEIVED, AND HOW THE PLANS COMPLY WITH THE CRITERIA
PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 48.1 OF THIS ARTICLE V.

(2) BY JULY 21 OF THE REDISTRICTING YEAR, THE COMMISSION
SHALL COMPLETE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE PRELIMINARY SENATE PLAN
AND THE PRELIMINARY HOUSE PLAN IN SEVERAL PLACES THROUGHOUT THE
STATE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 48 OF THIS ARTICLE V.

(3) SUBSEQUENT TO HEARINGS ON THE PRELIMINARY SENATE PLAN
AND THE PRELIMINARY HOUSE PLAN, NONPARTISAN STAFF SHALL PREPARE,
PUBLISH ONLINE, AND PRESENT TO THE COMMISSION NO FEWER THAN
THREE PLANS FOR THE STATE SENATE AND THREE PLANS FOR THE STATE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 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 subsection (3)(d) of section 48.1 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 48.1 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 senate or house plan at any time after presentation of the first staff plans, in which case nonpartisan staff does not need to prepare or present additional staff plans for the house for which a map has been adopted.
(b) No later than September 15 of the redistricting year, the commission shall adopt final senate and house plans, which must then be submitted to the supreme court for its review and determination in accordance with section 48.3 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 its nonpartisan staff the authority to make technical de minimis adjustments to the adopted senate and house plans prior to their submission to the supreme court.

(6) If, for any reason, the commission does not adopt a final plan for both houses of the general assembly by the date specified in subsection (5) of this section, then nonpartisan staff shall submit the unamended third staff plan to the supreme court for review pursuant to section 48.3 of this article V. If the commission approves a plan for one house of the general assembly but not the other house, then the plan for the approved house shall be submitted to the supreme court as the final plan for that house, and the unamended third staff plan shall be submitted to the supreme court as the final plan for the house for which the commission did not approve a plan.

Section 48.3. Supreme court review. (1) The supreme court shall review the submitted plans and determine whether the plans comply with the criteria listed in section 48.1 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 plans. Any legal arguments concerning such plans shall be submitted to the supreme court pursuant to the schedule established by the court.

(2) The supreme court shall approve the plans 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 48.1 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 state senate plan or the submitted state house of representatives plan constitutes an abuse of discretion in applying or failing to apply the criteria listed in section 48.1 of this article V, in light of the record before the commission, the supreme court shall return the respective plan to the commission with the court's reasons for disapproval.

(4) (a) By November 15 of the redistricting year, the supreme court shall approve or return to the commission the submitted state senate plan and the submitted state house of representatives plan.
(b) If the Court returns a 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 plans for the redrawing of State Senate districts and State House of Representative districts no later than December 29 of the redistricting year. The Court shall order that such plans be filed with the secretary of State no later than such date.

Section 48.4. Severability. If any provision of sections 46 through 48.3 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 46 through 48.3 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 manner in which state senate and state house of representatives
districts are drawn, and, in connection therewith, reforming the existing
legislative reapportionment commission by expanding the commission to
twelve members and authorizing the appointment of members 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 state legislative districts using
communities of interest as well as political subdivisions, such as cities
and counties, and then to maximize the number of competitive state
legislative 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.