

REFERENCE TITLE: legislature; ninety house districts

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SCR 1022

Introduced by
Senator Mesnard

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF ARIZONA; AMENDING ARTICLE IV, PART 2, SECTION 1, CONSTITUTION OF ARIZONA; RELATING TO LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS' DISTRICTS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Arizona, the House of
2 Representatives concurring:

3 1. Article IV, part 2, section 1, Constitution of Arizona, is
4 proposed to be amended as follows if approved by the voters and on
5 proclamation of the Governor:

6 1. Senate; house of representatives; members; special
7 session on petition of members; congressional and
8 legislative boundaries; citizen commissions

9 Section 1. ~~(1)~~ A. The senate shall be composed of one
10 member elected from each of the thirty ~~legislative~~ SENATE
11 districts established pursuant to this section. EACH SENATE
12 DISTRICT SHALL CONSIST OF EXACTLY AND ONLY THREE
13 GEOGRAPHICALLY SEPARATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICTS.

14 B. The house of representatives shall be composed of
15 ~~two~~ NINETY members, ONE OF WHOM IS elected from each of the
16 ~~thirty legislative~~ NINETY HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES districts
17 established pursuant to this section.

18 ~~(2)~~ C. ~~Upon~~ ON the presentation to the governor of a
19 petition bearing the signatures of not less than two-thirds of
20 the members of each house, requesting a special session of the
21 legislature and designating the date of convening, the
22 governor shall promptly call a special session to assemble on
23 the date specified. At a special session so called the
24 subjects which may be considered by the legislature shall not
25 be limited.

26 ~~(3)~~ D. By February 28 of each year that ends in one,
27 an independent redistricting commission shall be established
28 to provide for the redistricting of congressional and state
29 legislative districts. The independent redistricting
30 commission shall consist of five members. ~~No~~ NOT more than
31 two members of the independent redistricting commission shall
32 be members of the same political party. Of the first four
33 members appointed, ~~no~~ NOT more than two shall reside in the
34 same county. Each member shall be a registered Arizona voter
35 who has been continuously registered with the same political
36 party or registered as unaffiliated with a political party for
37 three or more years immediately preceding appointment, ~~AND~~
38 who is committed to applying ~~the provisions of~~ this section in
39 an honest, independent and impartial fashion and to upholding
40 public confidence in the integrity of the redistricting
41 process. Within the three years previous to appointment,
42 members shall not have been appointed to, elected to, or a
43 candidate for any other public office, including precinct
44 committeeman or committeewoman but not including school board

1 member or officer, and shall not have served as an officer of
2 a political party, or served as a registered paid lobbyist or
3 as an officer of a candidate's campaign committee.

4 ~~(4)~~ E. The commission on appellate court appointments
5 shall nominate candidates for appointment to the independent
6 redistricting commission, except that, if a politically
7 balanced commission exists whose members are nominated by the
8 commission on appellate court appointments and whose regular
9 duties relate to the elective process, the commission on
10 appellate court appointments may delegate to such existing
11 commission (hereinafter called the commission on appellate
12 court appointments' designee) the duty of nominating members
13 for the independent redistricting commission, and all other
14 duties assigned to the commission on appellate court
15 appointments in this section.

16 ~~(5)~~ F. By January 8 of years ending in one, the
17 commission on appellate court appointments or its designee
18 shall establish a pool of persons who are willing to serve on
19 and are qualified for appointment to the independent
20 redistricting commission. The pool of candidates shall
21 consist of twenty-five nominees, with ten nominees from each
22 of the two largest political parties in Arizona based on party
23 registration, and five who are not registered with either of
24 the two largest political parties in Arizona.

25 ~~(6)~~ G. Appointments to the independent redistricting
26 commission shall be made in the order set forth below. No
27 later than January 31 of years ending in one, the highest
28 ranking officer elected by the Arizona house of
29 representatives shall make one appointment to the independent
30 redistricting commission from the pool of nominees, followed
31 by one appointment from the pool made in turn by each of the
32 following: the minority party leader of the Arizona house of
33 representatives, the highest ranking officer elected by the
34 Arizona senate, and the minority party leader of the Arizona
35 senate. Each such official shall have a seven-day period in
36 which to make an appointment. Any official who fails to make
37 an appointment within the specified time period will forfeit
38 the appointment privilege. ~~in the event that~~ IF there are two
39 or more minority parties within the house or the senate, the
40 leader of the largest minority party by statewide party
41 registration shall make the appointment.

42 ~~(7)~~ H. Any vacancy in the above four independent
43 redistricting commission positions remaining as of March 1 of
44 a year ending in one shall be filled from the pool of nominees

1 by the commission on appellate court appointments or its
2 designee. The appointing body shall strive for political
3 balance and fairness.

4 ~~(8)~~ I. At a meeting called by the secretary of state,
5 the four independent redistricting commission members shall
6 select by majority vote from the nomination pool a fifth
7 member who shall not be registered with any party already
8 represented on the independent redistricting commission and
9 who shall serve as chair. If the four commissioners fail to
10 appoint a fifth member within fifteen days, the commission on
11 appellate court appointments or its designee, striving for
12 political balance and fairness, shall appoint a fifth member
13 from the nomination pool, who shall serve as chair.

14 ~~(9)~~ J. The five commissioners shall then select by
15 majority vote one of their members to serve as vice-chair.

16 ~~(10)~~ K. After having been served written notice and
17 provided with an opportunity for a response, a member of the
18 independent redistricting commission may be removed by the
19 governor, with the concurrence of two-thirds of the senate,
20 for substantial neglect of duty, gross misconduct in office,
21 or inability to discharge the duties of office.

22 ~~(11)~~ L. If a commissioner or chair does not complete
23 the term of office for any reason, the commission on appellate
24 court appointments or its designee shall nominate a pool of
25 three candidates within the first thirty days after the
26 vacancy occurs. The nominees shall be of the same political
27 party or status as was the member who vacated the office at
28 the time of ~~his or her~~ appointment, and the appointment other
29 than the chair shall be made by the current holder of the
30 office designated to make the original appointment. The
31 appointment of a new chair shall be made by the remaining
32 commissioners. If the appointment of a replacement
33 commissioner or chair is not made within fourteen days
34 following the presentation of the nominees, the commission on
35 appellate court appointments or its designee shall make the
36 appointment, striving for political balance and fairness. The
37 newly appointed commissioner shall serve out the remainder of
38 the original term.

39 ~~(12)~~ M. Three commissioners, including the chair or
40 vice-chair, constitute a quorum. Three or more affirmative
41 votes are required for any official action. Where a quorum is
42 present, the independent redistricting commission shall
43 conduct business in meetings open to the public, with ~~48~~
44 FORTY-EIGHT or more hours public notice provided.

1 ~~(13)~~ N. A commissioner, during the commissioner's term
2 of office and for three years thereafter, shall be ineligible
3 for Arizona public office or for registration as a paid
4 lobbyist.

5 ~~(14)~~ O. The independent redistricting commission shall
6 establish congressional and legislative districts. The
7 commencement of the mapping process for both the congressional
8 and legislative districts shall be the creation of districts
9 of equal population in a grid-like pattern across the state.
10 Adjustments to the grid shall then be made as necessary to
11 accommodate the goals as set forth below:

12 ~~A.~~ 1. Districts shall comply with the United States
13 Constitution and the United States voting rights act. ~~;~~

14 ~~B.~~ 2. Congressional districts shall have equal
15 population to the extent practicable, and state legislative
16 districts shall have equal population to the extent
17 practicable. ~~;~~

18 ~~C.~~ 3. Districts shall be geographically compact and
19 contiguous to the extent practicable. ~~;~~

20 ~~D.~~ 4. District boundaries shall respect communities of
21 interest to the extent practicable. ~~;~~

22 ~~E.~~ 5. To the extent practicable, district lines shall
23 use visible geographic features, city, town and county
24 boundaries, and undivided census tracts. ~~;~~

25 ~~F.~~ 6. To the extent practicable, competitive districts
26 should be favored where to do so would create no significant
27 detriment to the other goals.

28 ~~(15)~~ P. Party registration and voting history data
29 shall be excluded from the initial phase of the mapping
30 process but may be used to test maps for compliance with the
31 above goals. The places of residence of incumbents or
32 candidates shall not be identified or considered.

33 ~~(16)~~ Q. The independent redistricting commission shall
34 advertise a draft map of congressional districts and a draft
35 map of legislative districts to the public for comment, which
36 comment shall be taken for at least thirty days. Either or
37 both bodies of the legislature may act within this period to
38 make recommendations to the independent redistricting
39 commission by memorial or by minority report, which
40 recommendations shall be considered by the independent
41 redistricting commission. The independent redistricting
42 commission shall then establish final district boundaries.

43 ~~(17)~~ R. The provisions regarding this section are
44 self-executing. The independent redistricting commission shall

1 certify to the secretary of state the establishment of
2 congressional and legislative districts.

3 ~~(18)~~ S. ~~upon~~ ON approval of this amendment, the
4 department of administration or its successor shall make
5 adequate office space available for the independent
6 redistricting commission. The STATE treasurer ~~of the state~~
7 shall make \$6,000,000 available for the work of the
8 independent redistricting commission pursuant to the year 2000
9 census. Unused monies shall be returned to the ~~state's~~ STATE
10 general fund. In years ending in eight or nine after the year
11 2001, the department of administration or its successor shall
12 submit to the legislature a recommendation for an
13 appropriation for adequate redistricting expenses and shall
14 make available adequate office space for the operation of the
15 independent redistricting commission. The legislature shall
16 make the necessary appropriations by a majority vote.

17 ~~(19)~~ T. The independent redistricting commission, with
18 fiscal oversight from the department of administration or its
19 successor, shall have procurement and contracting authority
20 and may hire staff and consultants for the purposes of this
21 section, including legal representation.

22 ~~(20)~~ U. The independent redistricting commission shall
23 have standing in legal actions regarding the redistricting
24 plan and the adequacy of resources provided for the operation
25 of the independent redistricting commission. The independent
26 redistricting commission shall have sole authority to
27 determine whether the Arizona attorney general or counsel
28 hired or selected by the independent redistricting commission
29 shall represent the people of Arizona in the legal defense of
30 a redistricting plan.

31 ~~(21)~~ V. Members of the independent redistricting
32 commission are eligible for reimbursement of expenses pursuant
33 to law, and a member's residence is deemed to be the member's
34 post of duty for purposes of reimbursement of expenses.

35 ~~(22)~~ W. Employees of the department of administration
36 or its successor shall not influence or attempt to influence
37 the district-mapping decisions of the independent
38 redistricting commission.

39 ~~(23)~~ X. Each commissioner's duties established by this
40 section expire ~~upon~~ ON the appointment of the first member of
41 the next redistricting commission. The independent
42 redistricting commission shall not meet or incur expenses
43 after the redistricting plan is completed, except if
44 litigation or any government approval of the plan is pending,

1 or to revise districts if required by court decisions or if
2 the number of congressional or legislative districts is
3 changed.

4 2. Applicability; 2032 election

5 This act applies to legislative terms of office that
6 begin in 2033 and later.

7 2. The Secretary of State shall submit this proposition to the
8 voters at the next general election as provided by article XXI,
9 Constitution of Arizona.