



The State of Maryland

Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER

01.01.2017.28

(Amends and Restates Executive Orders 01.01.2015.21 and 01.01.2016.14)

Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission

- WHEREAS, The integrity of elections is essential to the success of our democracy;
- WHEREAS, Fairness in process and good governance are what the citizens of Maryland expect and deserve;
- WHEREAS, The process of redistricting should be fully transparent and subject to input and scrutiny from the public;
- WHEREAS, An overwhelming majority of Marylanders favor an independent, non-partisan commission for redistricting over the existing process for drawing district lines;
- WHEREAS, It could be considered a conflict of interest for politicians to redraw the districts in which they run for re-election;
- WHEREAS, National publications have listed Maryland as having some of the most “gerrymandered” congressional districts in the United States;
- WHEREAS, Maryland’s redistricting can negatively impact the creation of majority-minority districts causing underrepresentation of racial minorities;
- WHEREAS, Every effort should be made to keep communities, counties, and municipalities within a single election district to help ensure all Marylanders have effective representation;
- WHEREAS, Independent commissions in other states have greatly reduced politics and partisanship in redistricting and have established more election districts based on population, compactness, and natural boundaries;

WHEREAS, Maryland should lead on this issue and should not wait for the federal government or other states to act on the issue of redistricting reform;

WHEREAS, On August 6, 2015, the Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission was established by Executive Order, which benefited the State by gathering citizens, experts and interested parties to conduct a comprehensive examination of Maryland's redistricting process and making recommendations on ways to reform our system;

WHEREAS, The Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission issued a report on November 3, 2015 that recommended the establishment of an independent commission with the duty of drawing congressional and state legislative districts;

WHEREAS, The General Assembly has yet to establish the independent commission recommended by the Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission;

WHEREAS, The Governor wishes the Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission to continue to meet in order to make additional recommendations and further develop the recommendations set forth in its November 3, 2015 report; and

WHEREAS, The Governor declares that the Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission shall remain in operation until November 7, 2018 in order to issue additional reports as directed by the Governor.

NOW THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

- A. There is a Maryland Redistricting Reform Commission (Commission).
- B. Membership. The Commission consists of the following voting members:
 - (1) Two members of the Maryland Senate, one appointed by the President of the Senate and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate;

(2) Two members of the Maryland House of Delegates, one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one appointed by the Minority Leader of the House of Delegates;

(3) Two representatives from policy research organizations;

(4) One representative from a non-profit voter advocacy organization;

(5) One representative from a government reform advocacy organization; and

(6) Up to five additional members appointed by the Governor.

C. The members identified in Sections B(3) through B(6) shall be appointed by the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

D. The Governor shall designate the Chair or Co-Chairs from among the members.

E. In the event of a vacancy, the Governor shall appoint a successor to fill the remainder of the term.

F. To the extent practicable, the members of the Commission shall reflect the diversity of the population of the State.

G. Procedures.

(1) The majority of voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business.

(2) The Commission shall hold meetings at such times and such places as it deems necessary. The meetings shall be accessible to the general public in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act or other applicable law.

(3) The Commission may adopt such other procedures as may be necessary to ensure the orderly transaction of business, including the creation of committees.

(4) The Chair or Co-Chairs may, with the consent of the Commission, designate additional individuals, including interested citizens, elected officials, educators, or specialists with relevant expertise, to serve on any committee.

(5) The Commission may consult with the principal departments of State government to obtain such technical assistance and advice as it deems necessary to complete its duties. All Executive Branch departments shall cooperate with and assist the Commission in carrying out its responsibilities.

H. Duties. The Commission may continue:

(1) Comprehensively examining ideas that could enhance the integrity of Maryland's congressional and legislative redistricting process;

(2) Reviewing approaches of other states that have established independent, non-partisan redistricting commissions;

(3) Conducting regional summits in various parts of the State, including the Eastern Shore, Southern Maryland, Western Maryland, and Central Maryland to allow citizens to offer their ideas and input on redistricting reform;

(4) Providing an electronic portal for citizens to submit their comments to the Commission;

(5) Developing its recommendation for a constitutional amendment on congressional and legislative redistricting; and

(6) Promoting redistricting reform publicly across the State as an essential component of ensuring fair elected representation and election integrity in Maryland.

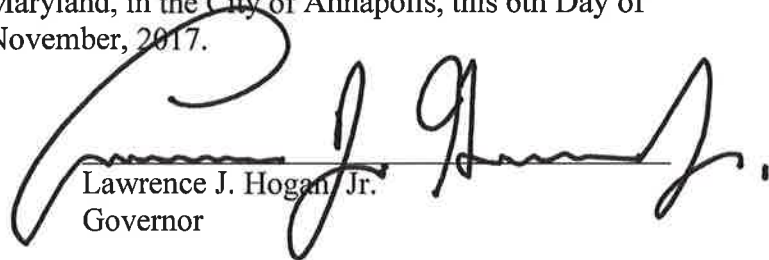
I. Reports and Recommendations.

(1) The Commission shall issue reports and make recommendations addressing the duties listed in Section H, as directed by the Governor.

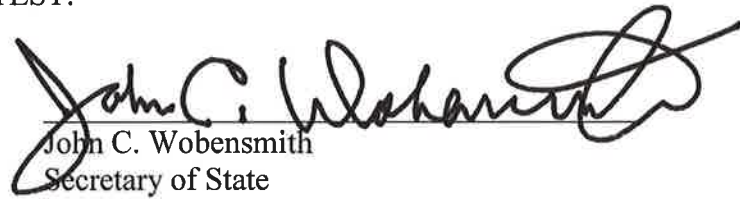
J. Termination of the Commission. The Commission shall terminate on November 7, 2018, unless the Governor declares before that date that the Commission shall remain in operation.

Given Under my Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland, in the City of Annapolis, this 6th Day of November, 2017.




Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:


John C. Wobensmith
Secretary of State