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Redistricting



Maps

► [Current Legislative District Maps](#)

Every 10 years the congressional and legislative districts within states are redrawn. By law, the districts must be of roughly equal population. When the Census Bureau releases the official redistricting data (known as the [P.L. 94-171 data file](#)) sometime during February or March 2011, we'll make those data available here.

How Congressional Apportionment Works in Indiana

- **What:** Redistricting is the process of dividing the state into a given number of districts based on its population. The U.S. House of Representatives has 435 seats, which are divided among the 50 states based on population after each decennial census. This also affects the number of delegates a state has in the Electoral College (number of House seats + Senate seats). Indiana currently has 9 Congressional seats.
- **Why:** By law, the districts must be of roughly equal population.
- **Who:** The legislature is in charge of all redistricting. The Senate Committee on Elections and the House Committee on Elections and Reapportionment have jurisdiction over the redistricting process. The Governor has veto power over both congressional and legislative plans. In 2001, the Redistricting Commission sought advice from the Legislative Services Agency on the best way to split the districts.
- **When:** Redistricting is done every 10 years after each decennial census. Below is the timeline for the legislators to redraw the district boundaries.
 - Early February - Census data must be delivered to the states.
 - Late March - Legislature must draw the district maps
 - If the March deadline is not met, a five-member Redistricting Commission (1. the speaker, 2. the president of the senate, 3. the chairperson of the committee responsible for redistricting in the house, 4. the chairperson of the committee responsible for redistricting in the senate, 5. a gubernatorial appointee) provides oversight of the process and can adopt an interim congressional redistricting plan for Indiana. For more on how the Redistricting Commission is created, view the [Legislative Council Resolution](#) or the [Indiana Code for a Census Data Advisory Committee](#).

In 2001, the new district boundaries were approved in May using the Redistricting Commission. [Watch the process](#) on video, [view the final map](#) or the [final executive order](#) spelling out the districts.

- **Where:** Ideally, the redistricting process occurs throughout all of Indiana. Senators and House Representatives speak to and for their constituents to determine which issues should be considered for the redistricting process. Most agree that it is important not to split communities of interest (an area or group of areas with similar goals and ambitions). However, defining a community of interest is difficult and ambiguous.

Which States Are Expected to Gain/Lose Seats?

Indiana lost a seat after Census 2000, but it is expected to keep its 9 seats when the Census 2010 state-level population counts are released in December 2010. The Midwest is expected to lose several seats with gains in the South and West.

- [New Population Estimates Show Additional Changes for 2009 Congressional Apportionment, with Many States Sitting Close to the Edge for 2010](#) (Election Data Services)

Related Links

- [U.S. Census Bureau redistricting data site](#)
- [Redistricting information from the Brennan Center for Justice](#)
- [Historical district maps for Indiana](#)
- [Government redistricting websites](#)



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