

## Initiative Summary

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It is the intent of the People to enact legislation that provides for uniform procedures and standards in redrawing the boundaries of legislative districts. In previous decades of redistricting, boundary lines were manipulated for political advantage by incumbents, effectively undermining the ideals of a republic and thwarting the true purpose of redistricting--to provide equal representation to each voter.

In lieu of divisions made by the state legislature with its inherent conflict of interest, this politically independent commission will be required to draw political maps with accountability and transparency, thereby creating election district boundaries that comply with the Voting Rights Act, the United States Constitution, and the Utah State Constitution.

Statutory provisions are enacted to produce better maps of election districts which are reasonably equal in population, reasonably compact, contiguous, and respectful of existing city and county boundaries. The commission must consider communities of common interest and make use of natural and geographic boundaries. Additionally, the projected outcome of the commission's work will be improved voter participation and increased competitiveness in elections.

### **Highlighted Provisions:**

1. Defines anti-gerrymandering standards to keep communities with similar economic, geographic, and social factors intact, with respect to existing city and county lines.
2. Establishes an eleven member independent redistricting commission composed of Utah citizens, with respect to geographic and partisan diversity.
3. Limits conflicts of interest. Elected officials, lobbyists and candidates for office are not allowed to serve on the commission.
4. Suggests a uniform scoring matrix for preparing a redistricting plan.
5. Technical staff for the commission will be provided by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, and permits the commission to hire its own legal counsel.
6. Accepts alternative plans submitted by citizens for consideration by the commission.
7. Requires public hearings on the draft plan adopted by the commission.
8. Requires the final map to be submitted to the legislature for and up or down vote.
9. If the commission's map is rejected, requires the legislature to prepare a redistricting plan in compliance with mandatory anti-gerrymandering standards.