

**RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**Supporting the Proposal to Amend the New Mexico Constitution in order for New Mexico
Citizens to vote on establishing the Independent Redistricting Commission**

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to 2 N.N.C. §920 and §921, the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission (“Commission”) is established within the Legislative Branch as an entity of the Navajo Nation government to operate as a clearinghouse to address discriminatory actions against citizens of the Navajo Nation; and to interface with the local, state, federal governments and with national and international human rights organizations in accordance with the Commission’s plan of operation and applicable laws and regulations of the Navajo Nation; and
2. By Resolution NNHRCJAN-02-24, the Commission supported the amendment to the New Mexico constitution to establish the New Mexico independent redistricting commission. Citizens of New Mexico cannot propose propositions to make laws. The New Mexico legislature can recommend a referendum for the citizens to vote on; and
3. The Commission participated in organizations that advocate for voting rights. In 2020, the Commission was a member of the New Mexico Redistricting Task Force. Moreover, the Commission held membership to the Fair Districts in New Mexico and is an advisor to the Observe New Mexico Elections. These organizations advocate for fair elections and fair redistricting in New Mexico. They also know that only the New Mexico legislature can adopt redistricting plans. In 2021, the New Mexico legislature established the New Mexico Citizen Redistricting Committee (“Committee”); this Committee recommended redistricting plans to the New Mexico legislature; and
4. The Commission continues to believe that allowing the citizens of New Mexico to draw and adopt the redistricting plans for the state of New Mexico is appropriate. Attached Exhibit “A” is the draft bill to be introduced during the 2025 New Mexico regular legislative session; however, the proposal must include authorizing the independent redistricting commission to adopt the congressional, senate, house of representatives and education commission redistricting plans.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission hereby continues to support the proposal to allow New Mexico citizens to vote on amending the New Mexico constitution to establish the independent redistricting commission with the authority to adopt redistricting plans for congressional, senate, house of representative and education commission.

2. The Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission further hereby directs the Office of Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission to communicate the intent of this resolution to the Navajo Nation Council, President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation and Chief Justice of the Navajo Judicial Branch.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission as a duly called meeting at St. Michaels Navajo Nation (AZ), at which a quorum was present and the same was passed by a vote of 2 in favor and 0 opposed, this 8th day of November 2024.



Dr. Wendy Greeyes, Ph.D, *Chairperson*
Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission

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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION
57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

A JOINT RESOLUTION

PROPOSING TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO TO PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION TO DEVELOP AND ADOPT REDISTRICTING PLANS FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND THE DISTRICTS OF OTHER STATE OFFICES REQUIRING REDISTRICTING.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. It is proposed to amend Article 4, Section 3 of the constitution of New Mexico to read:

"A. Senators shall not be less than twenty-five years of age and representatives not less than twenty-one years of age at the time of their election. If any senator or representative permanently removes ~~his~~ the senator's or representative's residence from or maintains no residence in the district from which ~~he~~ the senator or representative was

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 elected, then [~~he~~] the senator or representative shall be
2 deemed to have resigned and [~~his~~] a successor shall be selected
3 as provided in Article 4, Section 4 of this [~~article~~]
4 constitution. No person shall be eligible to serve in the
5 legislature who, at the time of qualifying, holds any office of
6 trust or profit with the state, county or national governments,
7 except notaries public and officers of the militia who receive
8 no salary.

9 B. The senate shall be composed of no more than
10 forty-two members elected from single-member districts.

11 C. The house of representatives shall be composed
12 of no more than seventy members elected from single-member
13 districts.

14 ~~[D. Once following publication of the official~~
15 ~~report of each federal decennial census hereafter conducted,~~
16 ~~the legislature may by statute reapportion its membership.]"~~

17 SECTION 2. It is proposed to amend Article 20 of the
18 constitution of New Mexico by adding a new section to read:

19 "A. By September 1 of the year of the federal
20 decennial census, an independent redistricting commission shall
21 be established to develop and adopt plans for the redistricting
22 of state legislative districts and the districts of other state
23 offices requiring redistricting. The commission shall file its
24 adopted plans with the secretary of state within six months of
25 the release of redistricting data by the United States census

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material]~~ = delete

1 bureau. Plans adopted by the commission shall determine the
2 districts for use in the succeeding elections for each
3 respective office.

4 B. The redistricting commission shall consist of
5 nine members who are registered qualified electors of New
6 Mexico, three of whom are members of the largest political
7 party, three of whom are members of the second largest
8 political party and three of whom are not members of either of
9 the two largest political parties and that, as closely as
10 possible, reflects the demographic makeup and geographic
11 distribution of the population of the state. From applications
12 received, the secretary of state shall administer the process
13 to randomly select two-thirds of the members of the commission
14 using a statistically accepted weighting methodology as
15 provided by law. The final third shall be selected from among
16 the remaining applicant pool by majority vote of the commission
17 members. The legislature shall provide by law a procedure for
18 meetings and operations of the redistricting commission.

19 C. Districts shall be drawn using traditional
20 redistricting principles and shall not result in minority vote
21 dilution when a minority group is sufficiently large and
22 geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single-
23 member district and is politically cohesive and the non-
24 minority group votes sufficiently as a block to usually enable
25 it to defeat the minority group's preferred candidate. The

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1 commission shall not consider the voting address of incumbents.
2 The commission shall not use party membership or voting history
3 to develop redistricting plans but may use such information to
4 assess compliance with federal law and this section.

5 D. The redistricting commission has procurement and
6 contracting authority and may employ or contract with staff,
7 consultants and legal counsel as necessary to carry out its
8 duties. The redistricting commission has standing in legal
9 actions challenging the redistricting plans or process or the
10 adequacy of resources provided for the operation of the
11 redistricting commission. The redistricting commission has
12 sole authority to determine whether the attorney general or the
13 commission's counsel shall represent the state in the legal
14 defense of a redistricting plan."

15 SECTION 3. The amendment proposed by this resolution
16 shall be submitted to the people for their approval or
17 rejection at the next general election or at any special
18 election prior to that date that may be called for that
19 purpose.

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