



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

SC0008

Introduced 1/13/2026, by Sen. John F. Curran

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 3

ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 3.5 new

Proposes to amend the Legislature Article of the Illinois Constitution. Requires the Chief Justice and the most senior Supreme Court Justice who is not elected from the same political party as the Chief Justice to select 16 commissioners no later than March 1 of the year that follows a federal decennial census to form the Independent Redistricting Commission. Provides that the Independent Redistricting Commission shall adopt and submit to the Legislative Redistricting Commission a redistricting plan for the Legislative Districts, Representative Districts, and Congressional Districts within 30 days after receiving redistricting data from the Census Bureau for the State of Illinois. Allows the Independent Redistricting Commission to adopt and submit separate redistricting plans for the Legislative Districts and Representative Districts and a separate plan for the Congressional Districts. Provides that any redistricting plan enacted by the General Assembly and not vetoed by the Governor shall immediately be filed with the Secretary of State, which shall be presumed valid and shall be published promptly by the Secretary of State. Provides the priorities, in order of importance, for establishing Legislative Districts, Representative Districts, and Congressional Districts. Provides for the eligibility of commissioners, public interaction and public hearings, financing and agency support for the Commission, and compensation and reimbursement for commissioners. Effective upon being declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois Constitutional Amendment Act.

LRB104 14625 SPS 27767 e

1 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION
2 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

3 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL
4 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that there shall be
6 submitted to the electors of the State for adoption or
7 rejection at the general election next occurring at least 6
8 months after the adoption of this resolution a proposition to
9 amend Section 3 of Article IV and add Section 3.5 to Article IV
10 of the Illinois Constitution as follows:

11 ARTICLE IV
12 THE LEGISLATURE

13 (ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 3)

14 SECTION 3. LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING

15 (a) Legislative Districts shall be compact, contiguous and
16 substantially equal in population. Representative Districts
17 shall be compact, contiguous, and substantially equal in
18 population.

19 (b) In the year following each Federal decennial census
20 year, the General Assembly by law shall redistrict the
21 Legislative Districts and the Representative Districts.

22 If no redistricting plan becomes effective by June 30 of
23 that year, a Legislative Redistricting Commission shall be

1 constituted not later than July 10. The Commission shall
2 consist of eight members, no more than four of whom shall be
3 members of the same political party.

4 The Speaker and Minority Leader of the House of
5 Representatives shall each appoint to the Commission one
6 Representative and one person who is not a member of the
7 General Assembly. The President and Minority Leader of the
8 Senate shall each appoint to the Commission one Senator and
9 one person who is not a member of the General Assembly.

10 The members shall be certified to the Secretary of State
11 by the appointing authorities. A vacancy on the Commission
12 shall be filled within five days by the authority that made the
13 original appointment. A Chairman and Vice Chairman shall be
14 chosen by a majority of all members of the Commission.

15 Not later than August 10, the Commission shall file with
16 the Secretary of State a redistricting plan approved by at
17 least five members.

18 If the Commission fails to file an approved redistricting
19 plan, the Supreme Court shall submit the names of two persons,
20 not of the same political party, to the Secretary of State not
21 later than September 1.

22 Not later than September 5, the Secretary of State
23 publicly shall draw by random selection the name of one of the
24 two persons to serve as the ninth member of the Commission.

25 Not later than October 5, the Commission shall file with
26 the Secretary of State a redistricting plan approved by at

1 least five members.

2 An approved redistricting plan filed with the Secretary of
3 State shall be presumed valid, shall have the force and effect
4 of law and shall be published promptly by the Secretary of
5 State.

6 The Supreme Court shall have original and exclusive
7 jurisdiction over actions concerning redistricting the House
8 and Senate, which shall be initiated in the name of the People
9 of the State by the Attorney General.

10 (c) To the extent that any provision of this Section
11 conflicts with any provision of Section 3.5 of this Article,
12 Section 3.5 shall control.

13 (Source: Amendment adopted at general election November 4,
14 1980.)

15 (ILCON Art. IV, Sec. 3.5 new)

16 SECTION 3.5. PEOPLE'S INDEPENDENT MAPS

17 (a) No later than March 1 of the year that follows a
18 federal decennial census, the Chief Justice and the most
19 senior Supreme Court Justice who is not elected from the same
20 political party as the Chief Justice shall select 16
21 commissioners to form the Independent Redistricting
22 Commission. The commissioners shall reflect the ethnic,
23 gender, and racial demographics of Illinois. Fourteen of the
24 commissioners shall represent, in equal number, the 2
25 political parties whose gubernatorial candidates received the

1 greatest number of votes in the last gubernatorial election
2 and 2 of the commissioners shall represent neither of those
3 parties. The 2 Supreme Court Justices responsible for
4 selecting the 16 commissioners shall consider party
5 identification and all campaign contributions in determining a
6 potential commissioner's eligibility. There shall be at least
7 2 commissioners from each Judicial District.

8 (b) A person is ineligible to serve on the Independent
9 Redistricting Commission if within the previous 4 calendar
10 years the person or his or her spouse or immediate family
11 member was appointed or elected to a position with the State,
12 federal, or local government; is a State employee; is a
13 lobbyist as defined by law; has an ownership interest in an
14 entity with a State or federal contract; or is appointed or
15 elected to serve a political party. A commissioner is
16 ineligible for a period of 10 years after serving on the
17 Independent Redistricting Commission to be appointed to a
18 position subject to Senate confirmation. Commissioners must
19 file financial disclosure statements and abide by any ethics
20 requirements established by law.

21 (c) The Independent Redistricting Commission shall act in
22 public meetings by the affirmative votes of 10 commissioners.
23 The Independent Redistricting Commission shall elect its
24 chairperson and vice chairperson, who shall not be affiliated
25 with the same political party. Each meeting of the Independent
26 Redistricting Commission shall be open to the public, and

1 there must be public notice at least 7 days before a meeting.
2 All records of the Independent Redistricting Commission,
3 including all communications to or from the Independent
4 Redistricting Commission regarding the work of the Independent
5 Redistricting Commission, shall be available for public
6 inspection. The Independent Redistricting Commission shall
7 adopt rules governing its procedures. The Independent
8 Redistricting Commission shall be considered a public body
9 subject to the Freedom of Information Act or a successor Act
10 and the Open Meetings Act or a successor Act. Commissioners
11 and staff may not communicate with or receive communications
12 about redistricting matters from anyone outside of a public
13 hearing.

14 (d) The Independent Redistricting Commission shall hold at
15 least 10 public hearings throughout the State before adopting
16 a redistricting plan, with a majority occurring before the
17 Independent Redistricting Commission releases any proposed
18 redistricting plan and at least 4 public hearings must occur
19 throughout the State after the release of any proposed
20 redistricting plan.

21 The Independent Redistricting Commission must provide a
22 meaningful opportunity for racial minorities and language
23 minorities to participate in the public hearings, including,
24 but not limited to, issuing notices in multiple languages and
25 ensuring that translation services are available at all
26 hearings at the Independent Redistricting Commission's expense

1 or through partnership with outside organizations. These
2 public hearings must be open to all members of the public and
3 must be planned to encourage attendance and participation
4 across the State, including the use of technology that allows
5 for real-time, virtual participation and feedback during the
6 hearings. When releasing a proposed redistricting plan, the
7 Independent Redistricting Commission must also release
8 population data, geographic data, election data, and any other
9 data used to create the plan, when the Independent
10 Redistricting Commission receives this information. The
11 Independent Redistricting Commission must also provide
12 terminals for members of the public to access the data and
13 associated software. During the map drawing process, any
14 member of the public may submit maps for consideration to the
15 Independent Redistricting Commission. Those submissions are
16 public records that are open to comment.

17 The Independent Redistricting Commission may not adopt a
18 redistricting plan until the Independent Redistricting
19 Commission adopts and publishes a report explaining the plan's
20 compliance with the United States Constitution and Illinois
21 Constitution. Before the adoption of a redistricting plan, the
22 Independent Redistricting Commission shall release to the
23 public the final plan and its associated compliance report.
24 The meeting to vote on adoption of a redistricting plan shall
25 occur no sooner than six days after the release of the final
26 plan and its associated compliance report. All proposed and

1 adopted maps and any data used to develop these maps are public
2 records. The Independent Redistricting Commission shall
3 maintain a website or other similar electronic platform to
4 disseminate information about the Independent Redistricting
5 Commission, including records of its meetings and hearings,
6 proposed redistricting plans, assessments and reports on
7 plans, and to allow the public to view its meetings and
8 hearings in both live and archived form. The website or
9 electronic platform must allow the public to submit
10 redistricting plans and comments on redistricting plans to the
11 Independent Redistricting Commission for its consideration.

12 (e) Each Legislative District, Representative District,
13 and Congressional District shall, in the following order of
14 priority:

15 (1) fully comply with the United States Constitution
16 and federal law, such as the federal Voting Rights Act;

17 (2) be substantially equal in population;

18 (3) provide racial minorities and language minorities
19 with the equal opportunity to participate in the political
20 process and elect candidates of their choice;

21 (4) provide racial minorities and language minorities
22 who constitute less than a voting-age majority of a
23 Legislative District, Representative District, or
24 Congressional District with an opportunity to
25 substantially influence the outcome of an election;

26 (5) be contiguous;

- 1 (6) be compact;
2 (7) respect, to the extent practical, geographic
3 integrity of units of local government;
4 (8) respect, to the extent practical, communities
5 sharing common social or economic interests; and
6 (9) not discriminate against or in favor of any
7 political party or individual.

8 (f) The Independent Redistricting Commission shall adopt
9 and submit to the Legislative Redistricting Commission,
10 established by Section 3 of Article IV, a redistricting plan
11 for the Legislative Districts and Representative Districts
12 within 30 days after the Census Bureau's release of the Legacy
13 Format Summary Redistricting Data File for the State of
14 Illinois. The Independent Redistricting Commission shall adopt
15 and submit to the General Assembly a redistricting plan for
16 the Congressional Districts within 30 days after the Census
17 Bureau's release of the Legacy Format Summary Redistricting
18 Data File for the State of Illinois. The Independent
19 Redistricting Commission may adopt and submit separate
20 redistricting plans for the Legislative Districts and
21 Representative Districts, and a separate plan for the
22 Congressional Districts.

23 (g) If the Independent Redistricting Commission fails to
24 adopt and submit to the Legislative Redistricting Commission a
25 redistricting plan for the Legislative and Representative
26 Districts within 30 days from the Census Bureau's release of

1 the Legacy Format Summary Redistricting Data File, the Chief
2 Justice of the Supreme Court and the most senior Supreme Court
3 Justice who is not elected from the same political party as the
4 Chief Justice shall appoint within 3 days a seventeenth member
5 to the Independent Redistricting Commission. The seventeenth
6 member of the Independent Redistricting Commission must not be
7 affiliated with either major political party. The
8 seventeen-member Independent Redistricting Commission shall
9 adopt and submit to the Legislative Redistricting Commission a
10 redistricting plan for the Legislative Districts and
11 Representative Districts within 10 days after the appointment
12 of the seventeenth member of the Independent Redistricting
13 Commission.

14 (h) Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission
15 shall be compensated at the rate of \$37.50 for each hour the
16 member is engaged in Independent Redistricting Commission
17 business. Members of the Independent Redistricting Commission
18 are eligible for reimbursement of personal expenses incurred
19 in connection with the duties performed pursuant to this
20 Section. A member's residence is deemed to be the member's
21 post of duty for purposes of reimbursement of expenses.

22 (i) Within the first 30 days after the selection of the
23 Independent Redistricting Commission, the Governor shall
24 include in the budget sufficient funding for the Independent
25 Redistricting Commission, the Legislative Redistricting
26 Commission and the Secretary of State to meet the estimated

1 expenses of each of those officers or entities in implementing
2 the redistricting process required by this Section, including,
3 but not limited to, adequate funding for a statewide outreach
4 program to solicit broad public participation in the
5 redistricting process. The Governor shall also make adequate
6 office space available for the operation of the Commission.
7 The Legislature shall make the necessary appropriation. The
8 Legislature may make additional appropriations in any year
9 that it determines that the Commission requires additional
10 funding in order to fulfill its duties. The Independent
11 Redistricting Commission and Legislative Redistricting
12 Commission, with fiscal oversight from the Comptroller or its
13 successor, shall be exempt from the Illinois Procurement Code
14 but will have procurement and contracting authority and may
15 hire staff and consultants, for the purposes of this Section.

16 (j) Any redistricting plan enacted by the Legislative
17 Redistricting Commission shall immediately be filed with the
18 Secretary of State. A redistricting plan filed with the
19 Secretary of State shall be presumed valid and shall be
20 published promptly by the Secretary of State.

21 (k) Each Independent Redistricting Commission shall be
22 dissolved on the first day of the sixth month to occur after
23 the final redistricting plan is filed with the Secretary of
24 State as provided in subsection (j) of this Section.

1 This Constitutional Amendment takes effect upon being
2 declared adopted in accordance with Section 7 of the Illinois
3 Constitutional Amendment Act.