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APR 08 2016

S. WARD

1:07 P.M.

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Colorado: Colorado Secretary of State

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, amend section 44 to article V as follows:

Congressional and Legislative Appointments

SECTION 44. POLITICAL GERRYMANDERING PROHIBITED. Representatives in congress. ~~The general assembly shall divide the state into as many congressional districts as there are representatives in congress apportioned to this state by the congress of the United States for the election of one representative to congress from each district. When a new apportionment shall be made by congress, the general assembly shall divide the state into congressional districts accordingly~~

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF COLORADO FIND AND DECLARE THAT FAIR REPRESENTATION REQUIRES THAT THE PRACTICE OF POLITICAL GERRYMANDERING, WHEREBY STATE SENATE AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS ARE PURPOSEFULLY DRAWN TO FAVOR ONE POLITICAL PARTY OR INCUMBENT POLITICIAN OVER ANOTHER, OR TO ACCOMPLISH POLITICAL GOALS, MUST END. THE PUBLIC'S INTEREST IN PROHIBITING POLITICAL GERRYMANDERING AND IN CREATING FAIR AND COMPETITIVE PLANS FOR STATE SENATORIAL AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS IS BEST ACCOMPLISHED BY A NEW AND INDEPENDENT COMMISSION OF BALANCED APPOINTMENTS THAT IS FREE FROM POLITICAL INFLUENCE AND RELIES ON NONPARTISAN LEGISLATIVE STAFF TO DIVIDE THE STATE INTO THESE DISTRICTS WITHOUT REGARD TO POLITICAL PRESSURES OR POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

SECTION 2. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, amend section 45 of article V as follows:

SECTION 45. INDEPENDENT COLORADO LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION. ~~General Assembly. The general assembly shall consist of not more than thirty five members of the senate and of not more than sixty five members of the house of representatives, one to be elected from each senatorial and each representative district, respectively.~~

(1) AFTER EACH FEDERAL CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES, THE INDEPENDENT COLORADO LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SHALL MEET, IN OPEN MEETINGS AND SUBJECT TO OPEN MEETINGS AND PUBLIC DISCLOSURE LAWS, TO ADOPT COMPETITIVE PLANS FOR STATE SENATE DISTRICTS AND STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS AS IDENTIFIED BY SECTION 46 OF THIS ARTICLE V. THE COMMISSION MUST HOLD MEETINGS THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND CONDUCT ALL OF ITS ACTIVITIES IN PLACES WHERE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND. THE COMMISSION OR ITS STAFF SHALL NOT DRAW OR ADOPT ANY PLAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF FAVORING A POLITICAL

PARTY, INCUMBENT MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, MEMBER OF CONGRESS, OR OTHER PERSON.

(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONSIST OF TWELVE MEMBERS WHO HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

(a) FOUR MEMBERS WHO ARE UNAFFILIATED, NOT HAVING BEEN REGISTERED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST TWO CALENDAR YEARS PRIOR TO THE MEMBER'S APPOINTMENT, OR ARE REGISTERED WITH A MINOR POLITICAL PARTY, HAVING BEEN REGISTERED WITH THAT PARTY FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST TWO CALENDAR YEARS PRIOR TO THE MEMBER'S APPOINTMENT.

(b) FOUR MEMBERS REGISTERED WITH ONE OF THE STATE'S TWO LARGEST POLITICAL PARTIES.

(c) FOUR MEMBERS REGISTERED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, OR WHO ARE UNAFFILIATED, SO LONG AS NO POLITICAL PARTY HAS A MAJORITY OF MEMBERS ON THE COMMISSION.

(3) NO MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY BE A REGISTERED LOBBYIST, INCUMBENT MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR CONGRESS, OR A CURRENT CANDIDATE FOR ONE OF THESE OFFICES. ALL COMMISSION MEMBERS MUST BE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE STATE OF COLORADO.

(4) AT LEAST ONE MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, SO LONG AS COLORADO IS NOT APPORTIONED MORE THAN TWELVE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS. NO MORE THAN THREE MEMBERS MAY COME FROM ANY SINGLE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. AT LEAST ONE MEMBER SHALL RESIDE WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE, AND AT LEAST ONE MEMBER SHALL RESIDE SOUTH OF EL PASO COUNTY'S SOUTHERN BOUNDARY AND EAST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE.

(5) ANY MOTION ADOPTED BY THE COMMISSION, INCLUDING THE ELECTION OF ITS OFFICERS AND APPROVAL OF ANY PLAN, REQUIRES THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF AT LEAST EIGHT COMMISSION MEMBERS.

(6) EXCEPT AS TO MATTERS OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR IN THIS SECTION AND SECTIONS 46, 47 AND 48, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT RULES TO GOVERN ITS ADMINISTRATION AND OPERATION INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

(a) MAINTENANCE OF A RECORD OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES AND PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING A RECORD OF WRITTEN AND ORAL TESTIMONY RECEIVED, AND OF THE COMMISSION'S DIRECTION TO NONPARTISAN STAFF ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO ANY PLAN AND THE COMMISSION'S RATIONALE FOR SUCH CHANGES;

(b) THE PROCESS FOR REMOVAL OF MEMBERS FOR VIOLATING PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OR OPEN MEETINGS PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE OR CONDUCTING PROHIBITED COMMUNICATIONS UNDER THIS ARTICLE;

(c) THE PROCESS FOR RECOMMENDING CHANGES TO PLANS SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION BY NONPARTISAN STAFF;

(d) PROVIDING FOR ANY VACANCY CREATED BY THE DEATH, RESIGNATION OR REMOVAL OF A MEMBER, OR OTHERWISE, WHICH MUST BE FILLED BY THE RESPECTIVE APPOINTING AUTHORITY. MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL HOLD OFFICE UNTIL A REDISTRICTING PLAN IS IMPLEMENTED, OR OTHERWISE REMOVED;

(e) THE PROCESS BY WHICH EACH COMMISSIONER SHALL REPORT COMMUNICATIONS RELATED TO THE MAPPING OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS MADE OUTSIDE OF A PROPERLY NOTICED MEETING OR HEARING OF THE COMMISSION; AND,

(f) THE ADOPTION OF A STATEWIDE MEETING AND HEARING SCHEDULE.

(7) (a) THE COMMISSION IS SUBJECT TO COLORADO STATUTORY PROVISIONS CONCERNING OPEN MEETINGS, OPEN RECORDS AND DISCLOSURE BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS, GENERALLY REFERRED TO AS COLORADO SUNSHINE LAWS, AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND THE COMMISSIONERS ARE CONSIDERED PUBLIC OFFICIALS FOR THESE PURPOSES. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS COMMISSION, PROPER NOTICE FOR A MEETING OR HEARING, INCLUDING TIME, PLACE, AND AGENDA, MUST BE POSTED AT LEAST THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE MEETING ON A WEB SITE DEDICATED FOR THE COMMISSION AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDISTRICTING.

(b) A COMMISSIONER WHO ENGAGES IN COMMUNICATIONS, IF THE COMMUNICATIONS ARE MADE OUTSIDE OF A PROPERLY NOTICED MEETING OR HEARING OF THE COMMISSION AND ARE RELATED TO THE MAPPING OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS, SHALL DISCLOSE, AT EACH MEETING, THE NAMES OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH WHOM THE COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATED AND THE PURPOSE AND SUBJECT OF THE COMMUNICATION.

(c) COMMISSIONERS MAY COMMUNICATE WITH ONE ANOTHER ABOUT THE MAPPING OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS, PROVIDED THAT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MORE THAN THREE COMMISSIONERS AT ONE TIME MUST BE PROPERLY NOTICED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (7). EXCEPT FOR TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS, AND PREPARING AMENDMENTS DEVELOPED BY A COMMISSIONER FOR THE COMMISSION'S CONSIDERATION, COMMISSIONERS MAY NOT COMMUNICATE WITH STAFF ON THE MAPPING OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS UNLESS THE COMMUNICATION IS DURING A PROPERLY NOTICED MEETING OR HEARING OF THE COMMISSION.

(d) STAFF ARE NOT PERMITTED TO HAVE EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OR DEVELOPMENT OF ANY PLAN. COMMUNICATIONS TO AND FROM STAFF RELATED TO ADMINISTRATIVE, TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL MATTERS ON THE MAPPING OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND GENERAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE REDISTRICTING PROCESS ARE NOT PROHIBITED. WORK PRODUCT AND COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN STAFF SHALL BE SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE UNDER COLORADO OPEN RECORDS LAWS ONCE A PLAN TO WHICH THE WORK PRODUCT OR COMMUNICATION PERTAINS IS PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION DURING A PROPERLY NOTICED MEETING OR HEARING OF THE COMMISSION. AT THE DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION, STAFF MAY CONSULT WITH EXPERTS RETAINED BY THE COMMISSION.

(e) ANY COMMISSIONER WHO PARTICIPATES IN A COMMUNICATION PROHIBITED IN SUBSECTION (7) WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE COMMISSION AND REPLACED WITHIN SEVEN DAYS ACCORDING TO COMMISSION RULES.

(f) ANYONE WHO CONTRACTS OR RECEIVES COMPENSATION FOR ADVOCATING TO THE COMMISSION, ONE OR MORE COMMISSIONERS, OR THE STAFF CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF ANY PLAN, AMENDMENT TO A PLAN, PLAN APPROACH, OR MANNER OF COMPLIANCE WITH ANY OF THE PLAN CRITERIA SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION AND SECTIONS 46, 47 AND 48 OF THIS ARTICLE ARE LOBBYISTS WHO MUST REGISTER WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AS LOBBYISTS AND ADHERE TO LOBBYIST DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS IN STATUTE AND BY RULE SET BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

(g) STAFF SHALL REPORT TO THE COMMISSION ANY ATTEMPTS BY ANYONE TO EXERT UNDUE INFLUENCE OVER THE DRAFTING OF PLANS.

(8) (a) THE GOVERNOR SHALL CONVENE THE COMMISSION NO LATER THAN MAY 15 OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING THAT IN WHICH THE FEDERAL CENSUS IS TAKEN, APPOINTING A TEMPORARY CHAIRPERSON FROM THE COMMISSION'S MEMBERS, WHO ARE APPOINTED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

(I) NO LATER THAN MARCH 17 OF THAT SAME YEAR, THE SPEAKER OF THE COLORADO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SAME SHALL EACH APPOINT TWO MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (2) (b) OF THIS SECTION.

(II) NO LATER THAN MARCH 24 OF THAT SAME YEAR, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COLORADO SENATE AND THE MINORITY LEADER OF THE SAME SHALL EACH APPOINT TWO MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (2) (c) OF THIS SECTION.

(III) (A) THE COLORADO SUPREME COURT NOMINATING COMMISSION, OR ITS SUCCESSOR, SHALL ESTABLISH AND ANNOUNCE A PROCESS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS IDENTIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2) (a) OF THIS SECTION. THE PROCESS SHALL INCLUDE AN INVITATION TO APPLY FOR THOSE COLORADANS WHO MEET THE IDENTIFIED CRITERIA AND A TIMELINE FOR RECEIVING AND REVIEWING THESE APPLICATIONS.

(B) ON OR BEFORE APRIL 2 OF THAT SAME YEAR, THE SUPREME COURT NOMINATING COMMISSION SHALL FORWARD A LIST OF 10 RECOMMENDED APPLICANTS TO THE EIGHT APPOINTED MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION. THE RECOMMENDED LIST SHALL, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICAL, REPRESENT COLORADO'S RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY. NO LATER THAN APRIL 25 OF THAT SAME YEAR, THE COMMISSIONERS SHALL UNANIMOUSLY APPOINT FOUR MEMBERS FROM THE LIST OF RECOMMENDED APPLICANTS SO THAT THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF TWELVE MEMBERS.

(C) IF THE COMMISSIONERS FAIL IN THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE ANY OF THESE APPOINTMENTS, THE DIRECTOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S NONPARTISAN RESEARCH STAFF, ON APRIL 26 OF THAT SAME YEAR OR THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY THAT FOLLOWS AND IN A PUBLIC

SETTING, SHALL RANDOMLY SELECT AS MANY NAMES AS NECESSARY UP TO FOUR NAMES FROM THE LIST OF TEN NAMES RECOMMENDED BY THE SUPREME COURT NOMINATING COMMISSION TO SERVE ON THE COMMISSION SO THAT THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF TWELVE MEMBERS. IF ANY OF THE GEOGRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN MET, THE DIRECTOR WILL DISCARD THE MOST RECENT NAME DRAWN AND CONTINUE TO DRAW NAMES AT RANDOM UNTIL A NAME IS DRAWN THAT FULFILLS A REMAINING GEOGRAPHIC REQUIREMENT. THE NAME OF THE PERSON WHO FULFILLS THE NEEDED GEOGRAPHIC REQUIREMENT WILL THEN SERVE ON THE COMMISSION.

(9) IN DRAFTING COMPETITIVE PLANS, THE COMMISSION MEMBERS MUST RELY ON NONPARTISAN STAFF IDENTIFIED FOR SUCH PURPOSE BY THE DIRECTORS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S NONPARTISAN RESEARCH AND LEGAL SERVICES, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AND SECTIONS 44, 47 AND 48 OF THIS ARTICLE V AS STAFF OR NONPARTISAN STAFF. IN DRAFTING COMPETITIVE PLANS, THE COMMISSION AND ITS STAFF MAY CONSIDER GENERAL ELECTION PERFORMANCE DATA.

SECTION 3. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 46 of article V as follows:

Section 46. CONGRESSIONAL, Ssenatorial and representative districts.

(1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL CONSIST OF NOT MORE THAN THIRTY-FIVE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND OF NOT MORE THAN SIXTY-FIVE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ONE TO BE ELECTED FROM EACH SENATORIAL AND EACH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT, RESPECTIVELY. The state shall be divided into as many senatorial and representative districts as there are members of the senate and house of representatives respectively, each district in each house having a population as nearly equal as may be, as required by the constitution of the United States, but in no event shall there be more than five percent deviation between the most populous and the least populous district in each house.

(2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL DIVIDE THE STATE INTO AS MANY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS AS THERE ARE REPRESENTATIVES IN CONGRESS APPORTIONED TO THIS STATE BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE ELECTION OF ONE REPRESENTATIVE TO CONGRESS FROM EACH DISTRICT. WHEN A NEW APPORTIONMENT SHALL BE MADE BY CONGRESS, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL DIVIDE THE STATE INTO CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS ACCORDINGLY.

SECTION 4. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 47 of article V as follows:

Section 47. CRITERIA – STATE SENATORIAL AND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS.

~~Composition of districts.~~ (1) Each district shall be as compact in area as possible and the

aggregate linear distance of all district boundaries shall be as short as possible. ~~Each district shall consist of contiguous whole general election precincts.~~ Districts of the same house shall BE CONTIGUOUS AND SHALL not overlap.

(2) Except when necessary to meet the equal population requirements of section 46-46, no part of one county shall be added to all or part of another county in forming districts. Within counties whose territory is contained in more than one district of the same house, the number of cities and towns whose territory is contained in more than one district of the same house shall be as small as possible. When county, city, or town boundaries are changed, adjustments, if any, in legislative districts shall be as prescribed by law.

(3) Consistent with the provisions of this section and section 46 of this article, communities of interest, including ethnic, cultural, economic, trade area, geographic, and demographic factors, shall be preserved within a single district wherever possible.

(4) AFTER FOLLOWING SUBSECTIONS 1, 2, AND 3 OF THIS SECTION, AND SECTION 46 OF THIS ARTICLE, THE COMMISSION AND NONPARTISAN STAFF SHALL MAXIMIZE THE NUMBER OF COMPETITIVE SENATORIAL AND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS.

SECTION 5. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, **amend** section 48 of article V as follows:

Section 48. Revisions TO ~~and alteration of~~ SENATORIAL AND REPRESENTATIVE districts—

reapportionment commission. ~~(1) (a) After each federal census of the United States, the senatorial districts and representative districts shall be established, revised, or altered, and the members of the senate and the house of representatives apportioned among them, by a Colorado reapportionment commission consisting of eleven members, to be appointed and having the qualifications as prescribed in this section. Of such members, four shall be appointed by the legislative department, three by the executive department, and four by the judicial department of the state.~~

~~—— (b) The four legislative members shall be the speaker of the house of representatives, the minority leader of the house of representatives, and the majority and minority leaders of the senate, or the designee of any such officer to serve in his or her stead, which acceptance of service or designation shall be made no later than April 15 of the year following that in which the federal census is taken. The three executive members shall be appointed by the governor between April 15 and April 25 of such year, and the four judicial members shall be appointed by the chief justice of the Colorado supreme court between April 25 and May 5 of such year.~~

~~—— (c) Commission members shall be qualified electors of the state of Colorado. No more than four commission members shall be members of the general assembly. No more than six commission members shall be affiliated with the same political party. No more than four commission members shall be residents of the same congressional district, and each congressional district shall have at least one resident as a commission member. At least one commission member shall reside west of the continental divide.~~

~~—— (d) Any vacancy created by the death or resignation of a member, or otherwise, shall be filled by the respective appointing authority. Members of the commission shall hold office until their reapportionment and redistricting plan is implemented. No later than May 15 of the year of their appointment, the governor shall convene the commission and appoint a temporary chairman who shall preside until the commission elects its own officers.~~

~~—— (e) Within one hundred thirteen days after the commission has been convened or the necessary census data are available, whichever is later, the commission shall publish a preliminary plan for reapportionment of the members of the general assembly and shall hold public hearings thereon in several places throughout the state within forty five days after the date of such publication. No later than one hundred twenty three days prior to the date established in statute for precinct caucuses in the second year following the year in which the census was taken or, if the election laws do not provide for precinct caucuses, no later than one hundred twenty three days prior to the date established in statute for the event commencing the candidate selection process in such year, the commission shall finalize its plan and submit the same to the Colorado supreme court for review and determination as to compliance with sections 46 and 47 of this article. Such review and determination shall take precedence over other matters before the court. The supreme court shall adopt rules for such proceedings and for the production and presentation of supportive evidence for such plan. Any legal arguments or evidence concerning such plan shall be submitted to the supreme court pursuant to the schedule established by the court; except that the final submission must be made no later than ninety days prior to the date established in statute for precinct caucuses in the second year following the year in which the census was taken or, if the election laws do not provide for precinct caucuses, no later than ninety days prior to the date established in statute for the event commencing the candidate selection process in such year. The supreme court shall either approve the plan or return the plan and the court's reasons for disapproval to the commission. If the plan is returned, the commission shall revise and modify it to~~

~~conform to the court's requirements and resubmit the plan to the court within the time period specified by the court. The supreme court shall approve a plan for the redrawing of the districts of the members of the general assembly by a date that will allow sufficient time for such plan to be filed with the secretary of state no later than fifty five days prior to the date established in statute for precinct caucuses in the second year following the year in which the census was taken or, if the election laws do not provide for precinct caucuses, no later than fifty five days prior to the date established in statute for the event commencing the candidate selection process in such year. The court shall order that such plan be filed with the secretary of state no later than such date. The commission shall keep a public record of all the proceedings of the commission and shall be responsible for the publication and distribution of copies of each plan.~~

(1) (a) (I) WITHIN FORTY DAYS AFTER THE INDEPENDENT COLORADO LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION HAS BEEN CONVENED, OR THE NECESSARY CENSUS DATA ARE AVAILABLE, WHICHEVER IS LATER, STAFF SHALL PUBLISH A PRELIMINARY REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR SENATORIAL AND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, REFERRED TO AS LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION. STAFF SHALL KEEP EACH PLAN PREPARED CONFIDENTIAL UNTIL IT HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE COMMISSION AT A PROPERLY NOTICED MEETING OR HEARING OF THE COMMISSION.

(II) WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE PRELIMINARY PLANS, THE COMMISSION MUST COMPLETE PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE PRELIMINARY PLANS IN SEVERAL PLACES THROUGHOUT THE STATE, INCLUDING AT LEAST THREE HEARINGS IN EACH OF COLORADO'S CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS. INCLUDED IN THESE HEARINGS MUST BE AT LEAST TWO HEARINGS WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE AND AT LEAST TWO HEARINGS SOUTH OF EL PASO COUNTY'S SOUTHERN BOUNDARY AND EAST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE.

(III) IF, FOR ANY REASON, STAFF IS UNABLE TO PRESENT PRELIMINARY PLANS TO THE COMMISSION, THE STAFF SHALL PUBLISH THE PRELIMINARY PLANS AND ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE PLANS PRIOR TO SUBMITTING THE PRELIMINARY PLANS DIRECTLY TO THE SUPREME COURT ON THE LAST BUSINESS DAY PRIOR TO OCTOBER 7 OF THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE YEAR IN WHICH THE FEDERAL CENSUS IS TAKEN. THE COURT'S CONSIDERATION SHALL BE AS TO WHETHER THE PLANS ADHERE TO THE CRITERIA OUTLINED IN THIS SECTION AND SECTIONS 45, 46 AND 47 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(IV) THE COMMISSION SHALL NOT AMEND OR VOTE UPON ANY PRELIMINARY PLAN, BUT MAY INSTRUCT STAFF ON HOW THE PRELIMINARY PLANS CAN BE ADJUSTED DURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INITIAL PLANS.

(b) (I) NO LATER THAN TWENTY DAYS AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE LAST PUBLIC HEARING, THE STAFF SHALL SUBMIT INITIAL PLANS TO THE COMMISSION FOR ITS CONSIDERATION. THE

COMMISSION MUST VOTE ON THE PLANS NOT LESS THAN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THEIR SUBMISSION. IF THE COMMISSION VOTES ON AN INITIAL PLAN AND DOES NOT APPROVE THE PLAN, THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMPTLY PUBLISH AND PROVIDE THE STAFF WRITTEN REASONS WHY THE PLAN WAS NOT APPROVED.

(II) IF THE COMMISSION REJECTS A PLAN PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (1), THE STAFF MUST PREPARE A SECOND PLAN, ADJUSTING THE PLAN ACCORDING TO THE REASONS CITED BY THE COMMISSION FOR DISAPPROVAL OF THE INITIAL PLAN. IF A SECOND PLAN IS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (II), THE PLAN MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION WITHIN TEN DAYS OF THE COMMISSION'S VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS PLAN. THE COMMISSION MUST VOTE ON THE PLAN NOT LESS THAN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE PLAN'S SUBMISSION. IF THE COMMISSION VOTES ON A PLAN PURSUANT TO THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (II) AND DOES NOT APPROVE THE PLAN, THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMPTLY PUBLISH AND PROVIDE THE STAFF WRITTEN REASONS WHY THE PLAN WAS NOT APPROVED.

(III) IF THE COMMISSION REJECTS A PLAN PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF PARAGRAPH (b) OF THIS SUBSECTION (1), THE STAFF MUST PREPARE A THIRD PLAN, ADJUSTING THE PLAN ACCORDING TO THE REASONS CITED BY THE COMMISSION FOR DISAPPROVAL OF THE SECOND PLAN. IF A THIRD PLAN IS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (III), THE PLAN MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMISSION WITHIN TEN DAYS OF THE COMMISSION'S VOTE ON THE PREVIOUS PLAN. THE COMMISSION MUST VOTE ON THE PLAN NOT LESS THAN SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE PLAN'S SUBMISSION. IF THE COMMISSION VOTES ON A PLAN PURSUANT TO THIS SUBPARAGRAPH (III) AND DOES NOT APPROVE THE PLAN, THE COMMISSION SHALL PROMPTLY PUBLISH AND PROVIDE THE STAFF WRITTEN REASONS WHY THE PLAN WAS NOT APPROVED.

(IV) IF THE COMMISSION DOES NOT APPROVE A PLAN PURSUANT TO SUBPARAGRAPHS (I), (II) OR (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH (b), THE COMMISSION MUST SUBMIT THE UNAMENDED SECOND PLAN TO THE SUPREME COURT AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION. IF A SECOND PLAN IS NOT DRAFTED PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH (b), THE COMMISSION MUST SUBMIT THE UNAMENDED INITIAL PLAN TO THE SUPREME COURT AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

(2) (a) (I) NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 6 OF THAT SAME YEAR, THE COMMISSION MUST FINALIZE EACH PLAN. THE COMMISSION MAY ADJUST THE DEADLINES SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION IF CONDITIONS OUTSIDE OF THE COMMISSION'S CONTROL REQUIRE SUCH AN ADJUSTMENT TO ENSURE FINALIZING EACH PLAN AS REQUIRED BY THIS SUBSECTION.

(II) THE COMMISSION MAY GRANT STAFF THE ABILITY TO MAKE TECHNICAL, DE MINIMUS ADJUSTMENTS TO ANY PLAN PRIOR TO ITS SUBMISSION TO THE SUPREME COURT.

(b) (I) THE COMMISSION MUST PROMPTLY SUBMIT THE PLANS TO THE SUPREME COURT FOR REVIEW AND DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER THE PLANS COMPLY WITH SECTIONS 45, 46 AND 47 AND THIS SECTION OF ARTICLE V. SUCH REVIEW AND DETERMINATION TAKES PRECEDENCE OVER THE OTHER MATTERS BEFORE THE COURT.

(II) THE SUPREME COURT MUST ADOPT RULES FOR SUCH PROCEEDINGS AND FOR THE PRODUCTION AND PRESENTATION OF SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE FOR THE PLANS. LEGAL ARGUMENTS OR EVIDENCE CONCERNING THE PLANS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COURT PURSUANT TO THE SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED BY THE COURT, EXCEPT THAT THE FINAL SUBMISSION MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 20 OF THAT SAME YEAR.

(c) (I) THE SUPREME COURT MUST EITHER APPROVE THE PLANS OR RETURN ONE OR MORE PLANS AND THE COURT'S REASONS FOR DISAPPROVAL TO THE COMMISSION. IF A PLAN IS RETURNED, STAFF SHALL PREPARE FOR THE COMMISSION'S CONSIDERATION A PLAN TO CONFORM TO THE COURT'S REQUIREMENTS. THE COMMISSION MAY REQUEST THAT STAFF MAKE ADJUSTMENTS TO THE CONFORMING PLAN. AN APPROVED, CONFORMING PLAN MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COURT WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SPECIFIED BY THE COURT. ADOPTION OF A PLAN PURSUANT TO THIS PARAGRAPH REQUIRES THE AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF AT LEAST EIGHT COMMISSIONERS.

(II) IF THE COMMISSION HAS NOT ADOPTED A PLAN WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SPECIFIED BY THE COURT FOR THE COMMISSION TO ACT, THE STAFF SHALL PREPARE AND SUBMIT THE UNAMENDED CONFORMING PLAN TO THE COURT WITHIN THE TIME PERIOD SPECIFIED BY THE COURT FOR THE COMMISSION TO ACT.

(III) THE SUPREME COURT MUST APPROVE EACH REDISTRICTING PLAN BY A DATE THAT WILL ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR THE PLANS TO BE FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15 OF THAT SAME YEAR. THE COURT MUST ORDER THAT EACH PLAN BE FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE NO LATER THAN SUCH DATE.

~~(F)~~(3) The general assembly shall appropriate sufficient funds for the compensation and payment of the expenses of the commission members and any staff employed by it. The commission shall have access to statistical information compiled by the state or its political subdivisions and necessary for its reapportionment duties.