

Stay Informed

- > Office of Governor Larry
- > Commission Members
- > Meeting Schedule
- > Press Release
- > Contact the Commission

Emergency Commission on Sixth Congressional District Gerrymandering



Upcoming Meetings

Organizational Meeting

Friday, January 4, at 11:00 a.m. Wineland Building, 4th Floor Conference Room 16 Francis St. Annapolis, MD 21401 Agenda

Public Hearing

Monday, January 14, at 7:00 pm Location TBD



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EMERGENCY COMMISSION ON REDISTRICTING

Enter search term

a

HOME

BACKGROUND

PROPOSE A PLAN

Stay Informed

- Office of Governor Larry Hogan
- Commission Members
- > Meeting Schedule
- > Press Releases/News
- > Contact the Commission

Emergency Commission on Sixth Congressional District Gerrymandering

Meet Maryland's Emergency Commission on Sixth Congressional District Gerrymandering members:

Alexander Williams, Jr., (co-chair) is a retired United States District Judge, a former elected State's Attorney for Prince George's County, and has been widely recognized as a leading civic leader in Maryland and beyond.

Walter Olson (co-chair), a Frederick County resident, is a senior fellow with the Cato institute, a Washington, D.C. nonprofit research institution and the author of four books and many other writings on law, government, and public policy.

Ashley Oleson is Administrator for the League of Women Voters of MD. The League of Women Voters has been a leading voice calling for redistricting reform and educating voters about the issue.

Maury 8. Epner, Esq., a registered Republican, lived in the 6th Congressional District for more than 30 years, and has served as a federal prosecutor, private practice attorney, and former adjunct professor of law at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. He currently resides in Montgomery County.

Deborah Lundahl, a registered Republican, currently resides in Frederick County where she serves on the County Ethics Commission, and works as an accounting manager for Redeemer Lutheran Church and program administrator for Building Veterans. She is a former public information officer for the Carroll County Government and nursing home program coordinator for the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

Christopher Howard, a registered Democrat living in Anne Arundel County, is a software engineer with Clarity Business Solutions in Severna Park, Md. and an adjunct professor of Computer Science and Technology at University of Maryland University College, His career focus is supporting technology development in defense and aerospace industries, and he is a member of local chapter of National Society of Black Engineers.

Luis T. Gutierrez, Jr., a registered Democrat, has over 20 years of experience in biopharmaceutical and medical technology industries, and is currently a self-employed consultant to medical product developers. He is also the former president, CEO and board member of Theranostics Health, Inc. (now Avant Diagnostics). He resides in Montgomery County.

Matthew Douglas, Esq. is registered as an unaffiliated voter and currently resides in Montgomery County. He works as a senior policy analyst for the Federal Housing Finance Agency, has experience as a civics teacher, and has worked in the Kentucky Attorney General's Office.

Kathleen Jo Parsons Tabor, Esq. is registered as an unaffiliated voter and works as a solo practitioner attorney in Elkridge, Md. She serves as a gubernatorial appointee on the Maryland Horse industry Board and is founder and chair of the Agriculture Law Section of the Maryland Bar Association. She currently resides in Howard County.

Contact the Commission

Enter search term

Q

HOME

BACKGROUND

PROPOSE A PLAN

Stay Informed

- Office of Governor Larry Hogan
- > Commission Members
- > Meeting Schedule
- > Press Releases/News
- > Contact the Commission

Upcoming Meetings

Friday, January 4, 2019

Organizational Meeting

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16 Francis St.

Annapolis, MD 21401

Agenda

Monday, January 14, 2019

Public Hearing

Monday, January 14, at 7:00 pm Location TBD

100 State Circle, Annapolis, MD 21401

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Enter search ferm

Q

HOME

BACKGROUND

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News

Press Releases

2019

2018

Governor Larry Hogan Announces Appointments to Emergency Commission on Stxth Congressional District Gerrymandering (December 20, 2018)

Governor Larry Hogan Announces Emergency Nonpartisan Redistricting Commission, Resubmits Redistricting Reform Legislation (November 26, 2018)

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Enter search term

Q

HOME

BACKGROUND

Contact the Commission

PROPOSE A PLAN

Stay Informed

- Office of Governor Larry Hogan
- > Commission Members
- > Meeting Schedule
 > Press Releases/News

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>	Contact the	Commission

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Enter search term

a

HOME

BACKGROUND

PROPOSE A PLAN

- > Executive Order 01.01.2018.29
- Congressional District Products and Services
- Current Interactive Congressional District Map

Background

Redistricting Reform

in 2015, Governor Hogan established the Redistricting Reform Commission by Executive Order 01.01.2015.21. This 11-member commission brought together a knowledgeable bipartisan panel of citizens who studied the issue of gerrymandering and issued a final report of recommendations for establishing fair election districts.

Emergency Redistricting

In November 2018, a three-judge panel of the U.S. District Court ruled unanimously in the case of Benisek v. Lamone that Maryland's 6th Congressional District is unconstitutional and must be redrawn prior to the 2020 election, giving a deadline of March 7, 2019. The U.S. District Court ordered the state of Maryland to redraw the Sixth Congressional District boundaries on the basis of compactness and geographic continuity, and with regard for natural boundaries, boundaries of political subdivisions, and geographic and other communities of interest, and without considering how citizens are registered to vote or have voted in the past or to what political party they belong.

On November 26, 2018, Governor Larry Hogan signed Executive Order 01.01.2018.29 creating the Emergency Commission on Sixth Congressional District Gerrymandering, a nonpartisan commission to comply with a federal court order requiring Maryland to draw new boundaries for the 6th Congressional District.

The nine-member Emergency Commission on Stath Congressional District Gerrymandering will be charged with developing new 6th Congressional District boundaries in an open and transparent manner to address all constitutional violations. It will be comprised of nine members, including three registered Democrats, three registered Republicans, and three registered voters not affiliated with either party, and the commission's meetings are required to be open to the public and live-streamed.

By March 4, 2019, the Commission will approve and certify a proposed redistricting plan and proposed map with adjusted district boundary lines for the Sixth Congressional District. They will also publicize the proposed plan and map at this time. The Commission will accept and review public comments about the proposed plan and map until March 26, 2019.

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a

HOME

BACKGROUND

PROPOSE A PLAN

Adjusted 2010 Census Data

- > Data download Instructions
- ESRI Geodatabase (version 10.4)
- > Shapefile
- > Text file
- > Excel file
- 2011 Congressional District equivalency file

Guidelines for Third-Party Plan Proposals

The Emergency Commission on Sixth Congressional District Gerrymandering will review congressional district boundary plans proposed by the public (referred to as third-party plans). Third-party plans may be prepared and submitted in one of three ways:

- Efectronically, via web portal with this method, the user engages the software application used by the commission. This is an all-inclusive method that packages data, district creation software, geoprocessing tools, and statistical tests used to assure district contiguity and compactness.
 Third-party plans are automatically uploaded to the Emergency Commission Plan Library.
- Electronically, via user software with this method, the user assembles the specified database and uses owned or purchased software to create a third-party plan. Electronic files containing the proposed plan and accompanying documents and materials (as per guidelines) are transmitted electronically or delivered to the commission for Plan Library Upload.
- 3. Hardcopy with this method, the user assembles the specified database, and creates a third-party plan. Hardcopies containing the proposed plan and other accompanying documents and materials (as per guidelines) are delivered to the emergency commission for electronic conversion and Plan Library Upload. Users intending to submit hardcopy third-party plan proposals may contact the Maryland Department of Planning for technical assistance.

To facilitate the review of these plans, the commission has established guidelines and procedures for their preparation and submission. The guidelines are intended to promote uniform plan preparation and enhance public participation in the redistricting process.

The procedures for submitting third-party plans will facilitate the timely transmission and review of proposed plans and are based on accessing publicly available redistricting data and map products from the Maryland Department of Planning. These procedures also enable third-party plans to be submitted either electronically or in hardcopy.

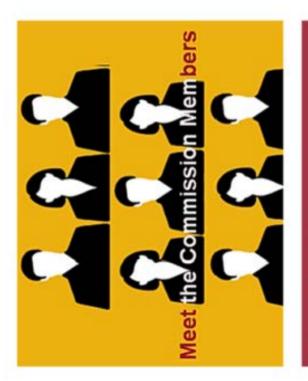
The optimum method for submitting a third-party plan proposal is to use an electronic format. However, the commission will review timely submitted third-party plans in hardcopy.

Prior to submitting a non-electronic third-party plan, persons or groups may contact Jesse Ash, Acting Director of Planning Data and Research, at (410) 767-4453 or by e-mail at DLMDP-Redistricting-proposedplan@maryland.gov for technical assistance with submitting the plan as a hardcopy.

Third-party plan proposals submitted in formats not adhering to guidelines will not be considered.

Malling address:

Emergency Commission on Redistricting Third-Party Plan Submission, Attention: Jesse Ash Maryland Department of Planning 301 West Preston Street, Suite 1101 Baltimore, Maryland 21201-2392



"Free and fair elections are the very foundation of American democracy and the most basic promise that those in power can pledge to citizens."

Governor

Larry Hogan

Next Meeting Public Hearing

Monday, January 14

7:00 pm

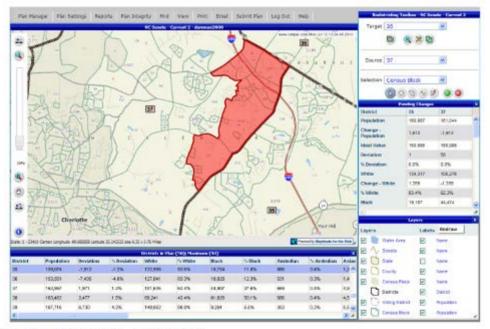
Location To Be Announced



Maptitude Online Redistricting

Maptitude Online Redistricting is web-based redistricting software designed for governments or organizations that want to provide their members or the general public with a means to draw and report redistricting plans. Because the Windows and online versions share common file formats, plans developed online can be electronically submitted to the central redistricting office, opened in the Windows-based software, and analyzed to the full extent as if they had been created using the Windows-based software.

The Maptitude Online Redistricting screen contains the plan map, a dataview listing the existing districts and their statistics, and a dataview of pending changes based upon the user's current actions. The redistricting toolbox is similar to the toolbox in the desktop version, and the user can zoom, pan, and query the map using the mapping tools.



Maptitude Online Redistricting - Public Edition

The Public Edition is intended for states that are legally required to, or simply wish to, open the redistricting process up to the general public. Anyone can logon, establish a user name and password, and create one or more redistricting plans. The system administrator can limit the number of plans, restrict the number of districts, and specify the level of geographic detail (e.g., to the block or VTD). The user can transmit the finished plan to the system administrator for further analysis. Either the state or Caliper Corporation can host the Public Edition.

