

REDISTRICTING REFORM ACT (RRA) OF 2016

- **An independent redistricting commission would be formed by a nonpartisan agency established or designated by a state**
- **Certain requirements for the makeup of the commission must be met** to safeguard the independence and impartiality of the commission, ensure that it reflects the diversity of the state and works transparently
- **Specific eligibility requirements for members of the commissions ensure that they cannot have certain conflicts of interests** (e.g., lobbyist, big donor, or political party operative)
- **The non-partisan agency established or designated by a state must develop and submit a selection pool to a Select Committee on Redistricting** which is composed of 36 individuals who are eligible to serve as members of the independent redistricting commission from the majority and minority as well as individuals non-affiliated with either major party
- **The selection pool must reflect diversity** such as: representative demographic groups (races, ethnicities, and genders) and geographic regions of the state; analytical skills of the individuals (mapping, data management, law, community outreach, demography, and the state's geography); and a person's ability to work impartially
- **The final pool must represent the diversity criteria above and can be accepted or rejected by a Select Committee of the legislature** (the legislative committee)
- **The legislative committee would be made up of members appointed by the majority and minority leader** in both houses, or in the case of a unicameral legislature, by two individuals appointed by the minority and two by the majority
- **If the legislature rejects the pool:** the nonpartisan agency established or designated by a state has two more chances to submit a diverse pool to the legislative committee for approval
- **The legislative committee cannot reject individual candidates**, but only the pool, and must give a report as to why a pool is rejected (This approval process is to ensure fair representation and guard against a skewed selection pool)
- **The criteria for a redistricting plan developed by the independent commission provides that districts must:** have equal population per representative, in accordance with US Constitution; comply with Voting Rights Act of 1965; be geographically contiguous; have boundaries that minimize the division of any community of interest, municipality, county, or neighborhood; and be geographically compact
- **In developing the redistricting plan, the independent redistricting commission may not take into consideration any of the following, except to the extent necessary to comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965:** the political party affiliation; voting history of the population of a district; and residence of any Member of the House of Representatives or candidate
- **The independent redistricting commission must provide notice and an opportunity to the public to engage in the process** (must hold each of its meetings in public; solicit and consider comments from the public throughout the process of developing the redistricting plan; and carry out its duties in an open and transparent manner (to provide for the widest public dissemination reasonably possible of its proposed and final redistricting plans)
- **Maps automatically take effect if a majority of the commission** (including at least one commissioner from each group) **approves**; if the commission fails to approve after multiple attempts, a D.C. District court will create the maps
- **The commission gets several attempts to reach a majority for an agreement on a redistricting map before a court can intervene**