

The Forum for America's Ideas

Redistricting Commissions Overview

NCSL's Capitol Forum

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by Wendy Underhill



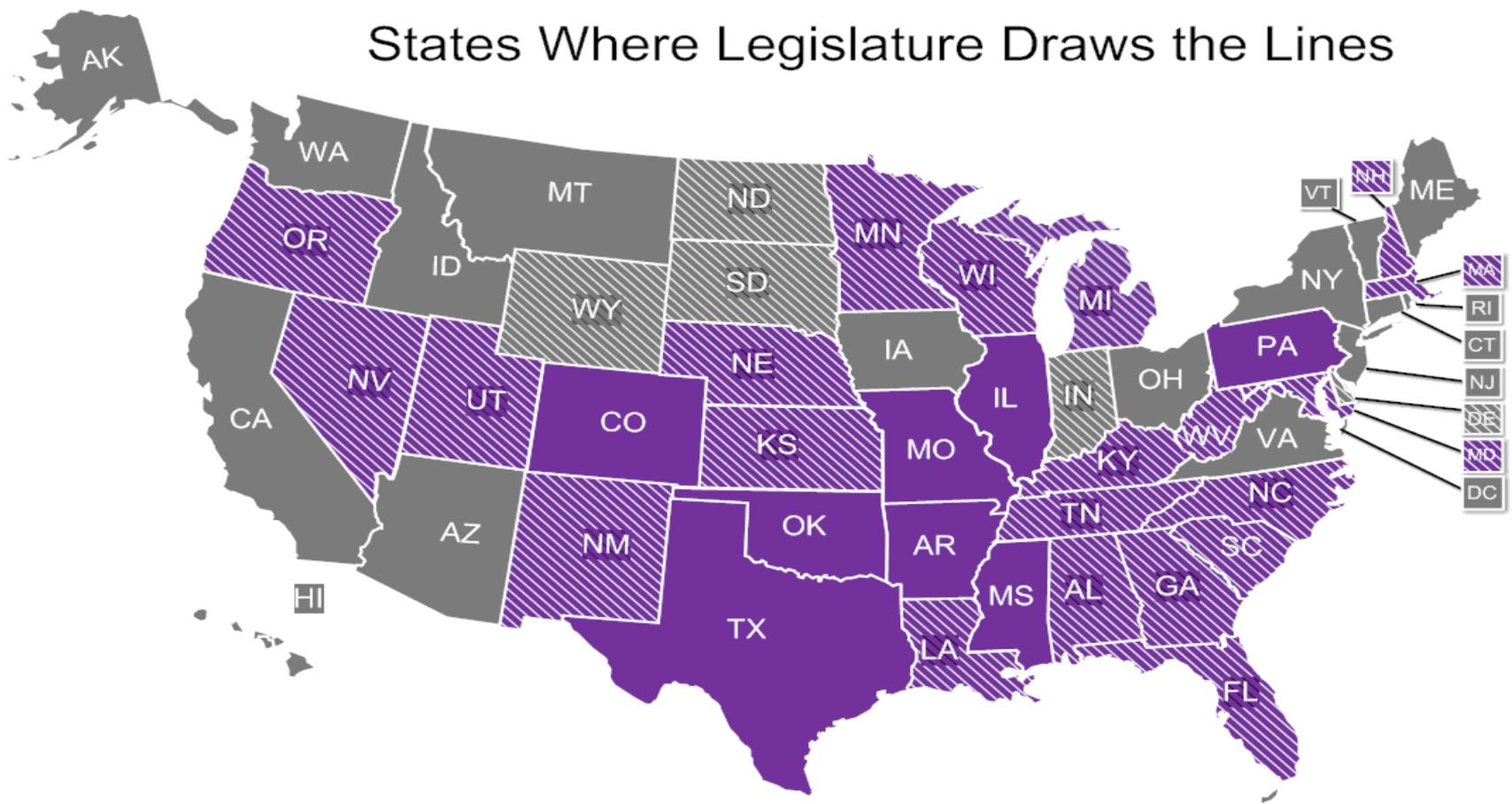
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Four Key Facts

- ❑ Traditionally, state legislatures draw the maps
- ❑ In some states a commission has a role
- ❑ Commissions are not all the same
- ❑ Legislative districts and congressional districts aren't always drawn by the same process



States Where Legislature Draws the Lines



LEGEND



State Legislative Districts



Congressional Districts

Note: Alaska, Delaware, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming have single congressional districts.



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Three Types of Commissions

- ▣ Commissions with Primary Responsibility
- ▣ Advisory Commissions
- ▣ Back-up Commissions

Plus: Iowa (which isn't really a commission)



Advisory Commissions

Legislative Plans

- Maine
- New York
- Rhode Island
- Virginia
- Vermont

Congressional Plans

- Maine
- New York
- Rhode Island
- Virginia
- Ohio



Backup Commissions

State Legislative Plans

- Connecticut
- Illinois
- Mississippi
- Oklahoma
- Texas

Congressional Plans

- Connecticut
- Indiana

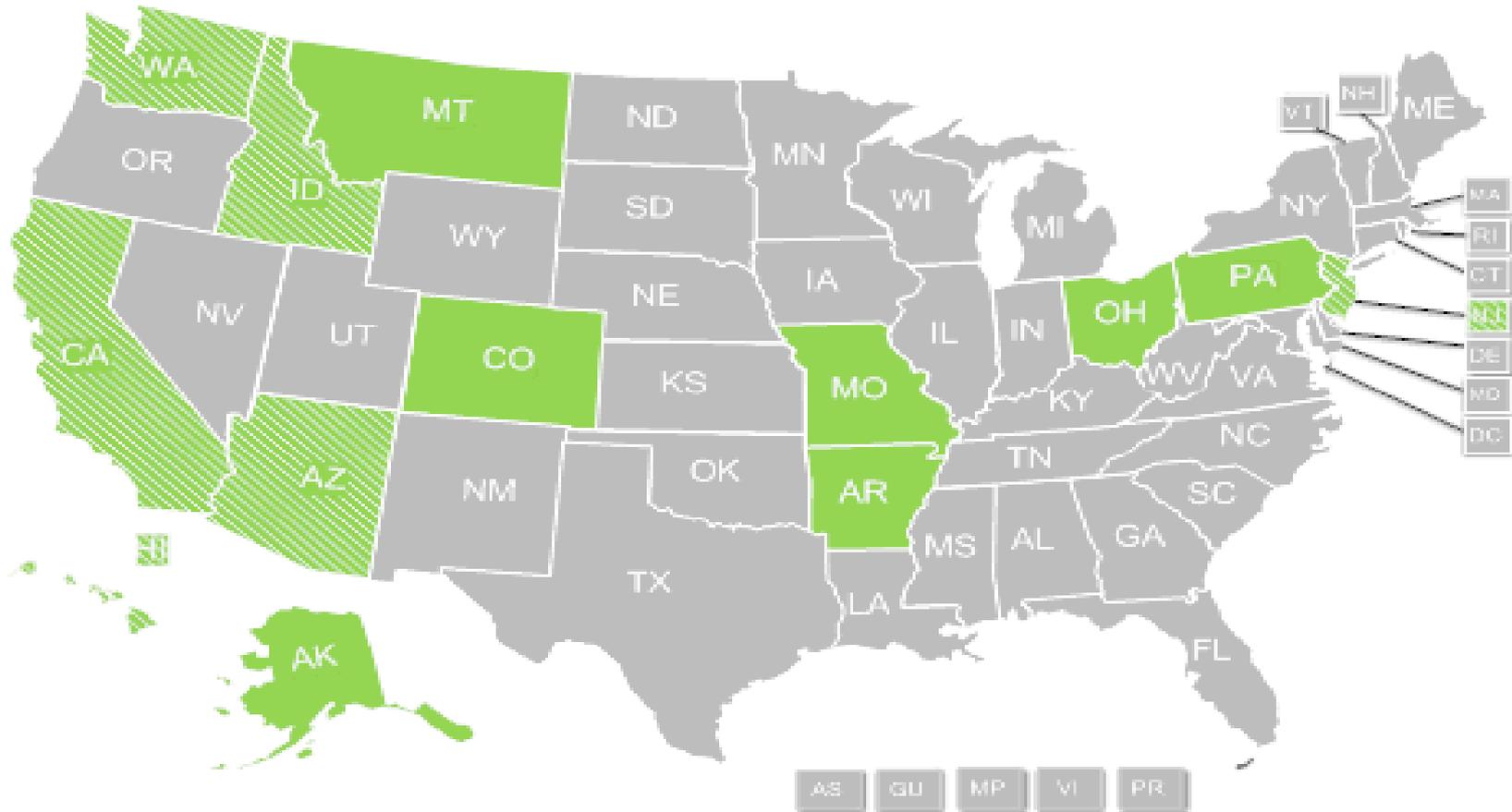


Iowa

- Nonpartisan legislative staff develop the maps.
- Staff does not access any political data, including the addresses of incumbents.
- The legislature does vote on the plan.



States Where Commission has Primary Responsibility



LEGEND

- State Legislative Districts
- ▨ Congressional Districts



Commission Characteristics: **Size**

□ Smallest

- ▣ Legislative: Arkansas with 3 member commission

- ▣ Congressional: Arizona and Washington are tied with 5 member commissions

□ Largest

- ▣ State Legislative: Missouri House with 18

- ▣ Congressional: California with 14 members



Commission Characteristics: **Appointments**

- Generally, legislative leaders often make appointments (and they always have at least some role)
- Sometimes the governor and other interested parties may also have the power to appoint



Arizona Details

- Appellate court appointees creates a pool of 25 nominees, 10 Rs, 10 Ds and 5 independents
- House and Senate majority and minority each pick 1
- These 4 appoint a fifth from the pool
- If the 4 deadlock, the appellate court appoints the fifth



History of Adoption

- Before 1970: AR, HI, MO, NJ, OH and PA
- Before 1980: add CO and MT
- Before 1990: add WA
- Before 2000: add AK, AZ and ID
- Before 2010: add CA
- Before 2020: add NY, OH (a big change) and???



Legislative Action on Redistricting

- 153 bills were introduced in 2015
- 2/3 were about commissions or the process for drawing the lines
- Other topics: technical adjustments, prisoners



Questions?

Contact

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Legislative Control

State Legislative Plan

- Alabama
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Indiana
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Oregon
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Utah
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

Congressional Plans

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arkansas
- Colorado
- Delaware
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Louisiana
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Mexico
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming



Commissions with Primary Responsibility

State Legislative Plans

- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- Missouri
- Montana
- New Jersey
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Washington

Congressional Plans

- Arizona
- California
- Hawaii
- Idaho
- New Jersey
- Washington



Commission Characteristics: **Creation**

- Generally creating a commission requires an amendments to state constitutions
- AZ, CA and CO did so through by citizens putting the issue on the ballot
- Others have been by legislative referendum

