



NEWS FROM
Congressman John Tanner
TENNESSEE'S 8TH DISTRICT | WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Summary
REDISTRICTING TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2010
H.R. 4918 (Tanner/Castle)

Section 1: Findings

- Citing Article I, section 4 of the Constitution and section 5 of the 14th Amendment, Congress finds it has the authority to require states to follow certain redistricting requirements.

Section 2: Requirements

- The entity responsible for developing the Congressional redistricting plan must:
 - operate an Internet site.
 - allow members of the community to participate in the development of a redistricting plan and respond to the proposed final plan.
 - notify members of the public regarding the final plan as adopted.
- Each state would be free to use its own procedures for drafting a Congressional redistricting plan as long as that process is consistent with the requirements of the bill.
- The bill has no impact on redistricting processes for state and local offices.

Section 3: Internet Site

- The redistricting entity will establish and maintain a public Internet site which:
 - provides advance notice of meetings and other activities.
 - contains most recent information available from the Census Bureau of voting-age population, voter registration, and voting results in the state, along with a detailed map reflecting such information.
 - allows individuals to submit comments on any plan proposed by the entity, and to submit comments, questions and any other information with respect to the entity's activities.
- Any information submitted to the site must be posted within 72 hours.

- The site must be established as soon as practicable after the completion of the census but before the state receives reapportionment numbers.

Section 4: Public Participation

- Within 60 days of receiving reapportionment numbers, the state must:
 - post online the criteria that will be used to develop the redistricting plan.
 - hold at least 1 hearing about the development of the redistricting plan, with transcripts or video recordings to be posted within 7 days.

Section 5: Public Response to the Plan

- At least 10 days before moving to adopt the final plan, the redistricting entity will post information online and, if practicable, in general-circulation newspapers, including:
 - a detailed version of the final plan, including a map showing each Congressional district with the voting-age population by race of each district and the number of registered voters by party.
 - a statement explaining the reason for adopting the final plan and how the final plan will best serve the public interest.
 - any dissenting statements of a member of the entity who did not approve the final plan.
 - comments from members of the public regarding the final plan and how to submit comments.
- Within 7 days of adopting the final plan, the entity must hold at least one hearing where members of the public can comment about the plan, and members of the entity must explain why the proposed plan is in the public's best interest. A transcript or video of the hearing must be posted on the website within 72 hours.
- A new or amended plan must be posted with the same requirements.

Section 6: Actions after Redistricting Plan Adopted

- Within 7 days of the new redistricting plan being adopted, the state redistricting entity shall post:
 - a detailed version of the plan, including a map of each Congressional district with a statement of the total population, voting-age population by race and membership in language minority group.
 - Statements for each district with registered voters identified by race, membership in a language minority and, where possible, party affiliation.
 - any dissenting statements from members of the entity who did not approve the plan.

Section 7: Effective Date

- This Act will apply to any Congressional redistricting occurring after the 2010 census is conducted.