

GUIDELINES FOR REDISTRICTING

Below are some brief guidelines with respect to creating Redistricting Scenarios. These points are based on the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution, past precedent, and rulings by the Nation's Tribal Court:

- Article V, Section 4 of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution states:

“The Legislature shall have the power to redistrict or reapportion including changing, establishing, or discontinuing Districts. The Legislature shall maintain an accurate census for the purposes of redistricting or reapportionment. The Legislature shall redistrict and reapportion at least once every ten (10) years beginning in 1995, in pursuit of one-person/one-vote representation. The Legislature shall exercise this power only by submitting a final proposal to the vote of the People by Special Election which shall be binding and which shall not be reversible by the General Council. Any redistricting or reapportionment shall be completed at least six (6) months prior to the next election, and notice shall be provided to the voters.”
- The last Special Election for Redistricting took place in October 2018. At that time, the voters of the Nation approved the Legislative Districts that are in place now. Since Redistricting must take place at least every ten years, the Legislature would have had until the year 2028 at the latest to complete the next redistricting. But the Legislature has determined to start the process now, with the aim of conducting a Redistricting Special Election in late 2024 (in order to have the process complete in time for the General Election in June of 2025).
- The Legislature may submit more than one redistricting scenario for a vote by the electorate, but it must be part of a final proposal. The Legislature seeks to make the process inclusive of all eligible voter tribal members, to provide input and submit proposals, before the Legislature selects a final proposal to put up for a vote.
- Redistricting may not be gradually phased in over multiple general elections.
- The Legislature may change, establish, or discontinue districts.
- A scenario may not be proposed that keeps things the same.
- Any redistricting plan must have more than one district.
- A redistricting scenario may decrease or increase the number of current districts.
- Remember, the goal of redistricting is to pursue one-person/one-vote representation of tribal members. In crafting scenarios, you do not have to use the very best plan to achieve the goal. Rather, any plan that moves the Nation closer to that goal is sufficient. A Redistricting Scenario is constitutional if it moves the Nation closer to the goal of one-person/one-vote. For further explanation and guidance on how to craft any new scenarios, see the handout entitled ***“FORMULA FOR REDISTRICTING.”***

Watch for more information coming soon on the Ho-Chunk Nation website, the Tribal Newspaper, from your District Legislators, and the Office of Legislative Counsel.

Thank you.