



HO-CHUNK NATION REDISTRICTING

Frequently Asked Questions

The Legislature is going through the process of redistricting under Article V, Section 4 of the Ho-Chunk Nation Constitution. Redistricting is the way the Nation changes the districts that decide who will represent tribal members in the Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature. Every elected Representative of the Nation's Legislature is elected from districts. These districts create different geographic Districts. The Legislature has developed a process to decide where and how the lines will be drawn, which is based on legal criteria. The Legislature initially selects a final proposal for new Redistricting, which will then be decided on by the eligible voters of the Ho-Chunk Nation at a Special Election in October of 2024.

In an effort to update and inform the Nation, the Legislature provides responses to the following Frequently Asked Questions about redistricting:

1. **Question:** *Why is the Legislature going through Redistricting?*

Answer: First, ever since the last redistricting was completed in 2018, some Ho-Chunk communities have felt that they are separated from other districts that have common interests. Second, the population of tribal members has increased in different Districts, which has led to wider gaps in the percentage of representation. The redistricting effort is a way to address these issues. Besides, the Legislature is required to redistrict at least once every 10 years under Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution. There is no requirement to wait until the tenth year.

2. **Question:** *Can't the current Legislative Districts remain the same?*

Answer: No. Since the language in Article V, Section 4 of the Constitution states that "[t]he Legislature shall redistrict ...", it has been interpreted to mean that the Legislature shall make a change and cannot select a final proposal that amounts to no action-no change to the current Districts.

3. **Question:** *Why are only Ho-Chunk Members age 18 and older considered for purposes of the census population which is used for Redistricting?*

Answer: The Nation's Election Code, at Section 20.c(1)(b), states that "[f]or purposes of determining the numbers for Redistricting, the census shall only include Tribal Members who are age eighteen (18) or older and eligible to vote." The Nation has the sovereign authority to make its own decision as to who will be considered and it has done so in tribal law.

4. **Question:** *What are the next steps in Redistricting?*

Answer: Now that tribal members submitted proposed updated maps, the Legislature will review the different scenarios, and analyze them, in an attempt to determine which ones could be included in a final proposal.

5. **Question:** *When will the Legislature select a final redistricting proposal?*

Answer: By the end of July 2024.

HO-CHUNK NATION REDISTRICTING - FAQs

6. **Question:** *Will the Legislature select a final proposal in an Open meeting?*

Answer: Yes. At one of its Legislative meetings in July 2024, the Legislature will discuss the various redistricting scenarios in Open Session and approve a final proposal.

7. **Question:** *Will the final redistricting proposal be one map?*

Answer: No, it will include at least 2 new redistricting maps, but maybe more.

8. **Question:** *After the Legislature selects a final proposal, what happens next?*

Answer: The different Redistricting scenarios, which are part of the final proposal, will go to the Ho-Chunk Nation Election Board. They will then schedule and run a Special Redistricting Election, where tribal members will vote on a new scenario of their choice. The Redistricting Scenario that receives a majority of the votes will be the winner. The goal is to hold the Election by October 26, 2024, so that new Districts will be in place for the General Election of 2025.

9. **Question:** *What is my role, as a Tribal Member, in Redistricting?*

Answer: Since new District maps will be put to the eligible voters in a Special Election, you can express your choice by voting. Also, review the proposed Redistricting scenarios and watch for ongoing information updates.

10. **Question:** *Where can I get more information about Ho-Chunk Nation Redistricting?*

Answer: The currently proposed Redistricting scenarios, along with other information, can be found on the Ho-Chunk Nation website. Please visit <https://ho-chunknation.com> to view the Nation's website, and on the front page, tap or click on "Click here for Ho-Chunk Nation Redistricting Information."

Thank you

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