

## How Can I Get Involved?

Meetings of the Joint Select Committee on Redistricting are open to the public. The committee will be meeting periodically throughout the 2011 legislative session on Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m. in Senate Committee Room 356.

The committee will also be traveling around the state to gather public testimony from each congressional district as follows:

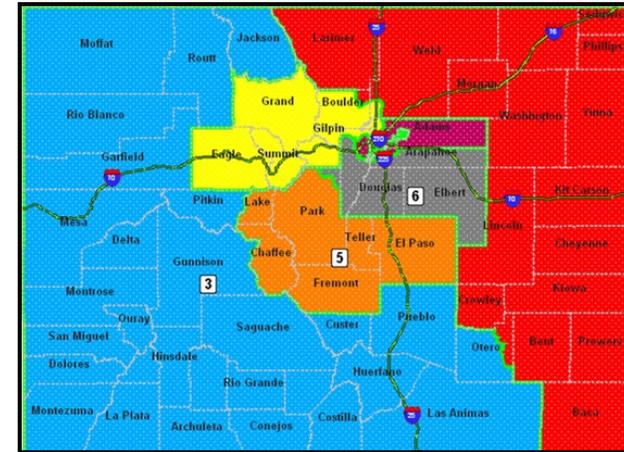
District	Meeting Location	Date	Time
CD 1	Denver <i>Old Supreme Court Chambers</i>	2/28/2011	6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
CD 2	Boulder <i>CU Boulder, University Memorial Center (UMC), Room 235</i>	3/15/2011	6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
CD 3	Alamosa <i>Inn of the Rio Grande</i>	3/12/2011	8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
	Pueblo <i>Pueblo County Conference Room</i>	3/12/2011	2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
	Grand Junction <i>Mesa State, College Center, Ballroom South</i>	3/19/2011	9 a.m. - noon
CD 4	Loveland <i>Loveland City Council Chambers</i>	2/26/2011	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
	Fort Morgan <i>Fort Morgan High School</i>	2/26/2011	1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
CD 5	Colorado Springs <i>University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, University Center, UC 116</i>	3/9/2011	6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
CD 6	Castle Rock <i>Douglas County Fairgrounds and Events Center</i>	3/14/2011	6 p.m. - 9 p.m.
CD 7	Golden <i>Jefferson County Administration Facility, Hearing Room 1</i>	3/3/2011	6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Additionally, legislative committee hearings for bills creating congressional districts are also open to the public. Locations, times, and agendas for meeting are available on the Internet.

## Where Can I Get More Information?

For more information about congressional redistricting, contact the Colorado Legislative Council, Room 029, State Capitol Building, Denver CO, 80203, (303) 866-3521. Information is also available on the Internet at [www.colorado.gov/redistricting](http://www.colorado.gov/redistricting). The Select Committee on Redistricting staff can be contacted via e-mail at [CongRedist2011@State.co.us](mailto:CongRedist2011@State.co.us).

# A Citizen's Guide to Congressional Redistricting



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This brochure is also available on the committee's website at:  
[www.colorado.gov/redistricting](http://www.colorado.gov/redistricting)

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## What is Congressional Redistricting?

The state is divided into seven legislative districts for the election of members to the United States Congress. Redistricting is the process of redrawing these legislative district boundaries to reflect growth patterns and population shifts within the state. This process occurs once every ten years after new census information is available.

Every ten years the 435 seats of the United States House of Representatives are reallocated among the 50 states based upon each state's population as determined by the most recent census. Based on the 2010 census, Colorado will continue to have seven elected representatives. However, the boundaries of the congressional districts will be redrawn to reflect population changes.

## How Are Congressional Boundaries Drawn?

The Colorado General Assembly is responsible for redrawing Colorado congressional district boundaries. The House and Senate must pass a bill to be signed by the governor describing the new congressional boundaries. The governor has historically called a special legislative session to accomplish this task. However, at the beginning of the 2011 legislative session a Joint Select Committee on Redistricting was created to complete the task during the legislative session.

While the court is not required to review the plan, the legality of past congressional plans has been challenged.

**Joint Select Committee on Redistricting.** The Joint Select Committee on Redistricting consists of 10 members of General Assembly, 3 House members appointed by the Speaker, 2 House members appointed by the House Minority Leader, 3 Senate members appointed by the President of the Senate, and 2 members appointed by the Senate Minority Leader.

The committee is tasked with evaluating proposed maps for redistricting, soliciting public feedback on the redistricting process, and making recommendations to the General Assembly on redistricting.

### Committee Members

Senator Heath, Co-Chair	Representative Balmer, Co-Chair
Senator Brophy	Representative Coram
Senator Carroll	Representative Nikkel
Senator Scheffel	Representative Pabon
Senator Schwartz	Representative Vigil

## What Criteria are Used to Draw Congressional Boundaries?

Federal law requires that there be nearly equal population in each of the seven districts. With 5,029,196 people in Colorado (based on 2010 census data), the population of each congressional district must be as close as practicable to 718,457 citizens.

District	Difference in Population from Ideal District Size of 718,457
CD 1	Under by 56,418
CD 2	Over by 15,348
CD 3	Under by 12,271
CD 4	Over by 6,584
CD 5	Over by 7,445
CD 6	Over by 79,356
CD 7	Under by 40,047

Additionally, the federal Voting Rights Act prohibits a state from enacting a redistricting plan that results in the denial or abridgment of a citizen's right to vote on account of race, color, or status as a member of a language minority. Therefore, the plan must not unlawfully dilute the votes of minorities. Although not legal requirements, the General Assembly may also consider other factors such as:

- ⇒ compactness and contiguity;
- ⇒ preservation of local boundaries; and
- ⇒ preservation of communities of interest.

## What is the Congressional Redistricting Timeline?

There are no legal deadlines for this process; however, potential candidates, county clerks, and voters will want the plan completed before February, 2012, in time for precinct caucuses. The Joint Select Committee on Redistricting is expected to conclude its work and report to the General Assembly by April 14, 2011.