

Amendment to CACR 9

1 Amend the resolution by replacing paragraphs I-IV with the following:

2
3 I. That the second part of the constitution be amended by inserting after article 8 the
4 following new article:

5 [Art.] 8-a. [Independent Redistricting Commission.] An Independent Redistricting Commission
6 whose function is to draw election district boundaries for all state, county, and federal elections in
7 New Hampshire is essential to ensure a robust democratic process.

8 II. That article 9 of the second part of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

9 [Art.] 9. [Representatives Elected Every Second Year; Apportionment of Representatives.]
10 There shall be in the Legislature of this State a House of Representatives, biennially elected and
11 founded on principles of equality, and representation therein shall be as equal as circumstances will
12 admit. The whole number of representatives to be chosen from the towns, wards, places, and
13 representative districts thereof established hereunder, shall be not less than three hundred seventy-
14 five or more than four hundred. As soon as possible after the convening of the next regular session
15 of the Legislature, ~~[and at the session in 1971,]~~ and every ten years thereafter, the ~~[legislature]~~
16 **Independent Redistricting Commission** shall make an apportionment of representatives
17 according to the last general census of the inhabitants of the State taken by authority of the United
18 States or of this State **for submission to and approval by the Legislature**. In making such
19 apportionment, no town, ward or place shall be divided nor the boundaries thereof altered.

20 III. That article 11 of the second part of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

21 [Art.] 11. [Small Towns; Representation by Districts.] When the population of any town or
22 ward, according to the last federal census, is within a reasonable deviation from the ideal population
23 for one or more representative seats, the town or ward shall have its own district of one or more
24 representative seats. The apportionment shall not deny any other town or ward membership in one
25 non-floterial representative district. When any town, ward, or unincorporated place has fewer than
26 the number of inhabitants necessary to entitle it to one representative, the ~~[legislature]~~
27 **Independent Redistricting Commission plan submitted to and approved by the Legislature**
28 shall form those towns, wards, or unincorporated places into representative districts which contain a
29 sufficient number of inhabitants to entitle each district so formed to one or more representatives for
30 the entire district. In forming the districts, the boundaries of towns, wards, and unincorporated
31 places shall be preserved and contiguous. The excess number of inhabitants of a district may be
32 added to the excess number of inhabitants of other districts to form at-large or floterial districts

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conforming to acceptable deviations. The ~~[legislature shall form the]~~ representative districts ***shall be formed*** at the regular session following every decennial federal census.

IV. That article 26 of the second part of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

[Art.] 26. [Senatorial Districts, How Constituted.] And that the State may be equally represented in the Senate, the ***Independent Redistricting plan submitted to and approved by the*** Legislature shall divide the State into single member districts, as nearly equal as may be in population, each consisting of contiguous towns, city wards and unincorporated places, without dividing any town, city ward or unincorporated place. The legislature shall form the single member districts at its next session after approval of this article by the voters of the state and thereafter at the regular session following each decennial federal census.

Amend the resolution by inserting after paragraph IV the following and renumbering the original paragraph V through X to read as VI through XI, respectively:

V. That article 65 of the second part of the constitution be amended to read as follows:

[Art.] 65. [Councilor Districts Provided for.] The ***Independent Redistricting Commission shall submit to the*** legislature, ~~[may, if the public good shall hereafter require it, divide]~~ ***for approval, a plan dividing*** the state into five districts, as nearly equal as may be, governing themselves by the number of population, each district to elect a councilor: And, in case of such division, the manner of the choice shall be conformable to the present mode of election in counties.

Amend the resolution by replacing paragraph VIII with the following:

VIII. That the wording of the question put to the qualified voters shall be:

“Are you in favor of amending the second part of the Constitution by inserting after article 8 a new article 8-a, and by amending articles 9, 11, 26, and 65 to read as follows:

[Art.] 8-a. [Independent Redistricting Commission.] An Independent Redistricting Commission whose function is to draw election district boundaries for all state, county, and federal elections in New Hampshire is essential to ensure a robust democratic process.

[Art.] 9. [Representatives Elected Every Second Year; Apportionment of Representatives.] There shall be in the Legislature of this State a House of Representatives, biennially elected and founded on principles of equality, and representation therein shall be as equal as circumstances will admit. The whole number of representatives to be chosen from the towns, wards, places, and representative districts thereof established hereunder, shall be not less than three hundred seventy-five or more than four hundred. As soon as possible after the convening of the next regular session of the Legislature, and every ten years thereafter, the Independent Redistricting Commission shall make an apportionment of representatives according to the last general census of the inhabitants of

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1 the State taken by authority of the United States or of this State for submission to and approval by
2 the Legislature. In making such apportionment, no town, ward or place shall be divided nor the
3 boundaries thereof altered.

4 [Art.] 11. [Small Towns; Representation by Districts.] When the population of any town or
5 ward, according to the last federal census, is within a reasonable deviation from the ideal population
6 for one or more representative seats, the town or ward shall have its own district of one or more
7 representative seats. The apportionment shall not deny any other town or ward membership in one
8 non-floterial representative district. When any town, ward, or unincorporated place has fewer than
9 the number of inhabitants necessary to entitle it to one representative, the Independent
10 Redistricting Commission plan submitted to and approved by the Legislature shall form those towns,
11 wards, or unincorporated places into representative districts which contain a sufficient number of
12 inhabitants to entitle each district so formed to one or more representatives for the entire district.
13 In forming the districts, the boundaries of towns, wards, and unincorporated places shall be
14 preserved and contiguous. The excess number of inhabitants of a district may be added to the excess
15 number of inhabitants of other districts to form at-large or floterial districts conforming to
16 acceptable deviations. The representative districts shall be formed at the regular session following
17 every decennial federal census.

18 [Art.] 26. [Senatorial Districts, How Constituted.] And that the State may be equally
19 represented in the Senate, the Independent Redistricting plan submitted to and approved by the
20 Legislature shall divide the State into single member districts, as nearly equal as may be in
21 population, each consisting of contiguous towns, city wards and unincorporated places, without
22 dividing any town, city ward or unincorporated place. The legislature shall form the single member
23 districts at its next session after approval of this article by the voters of the state and thereafter at
24 the regular session following each decennial federal census.

25 [Art.] 65. [Councilor Districts Provided for.] The Independent Redistricting Commission shall
26 submit to the legislature, for approval, a plan dividing the state into five districts, as nearly equal as
27 may be, governing themselves by the number of population, each district to elect a councilor: And, in
28 case of such division, the manner of the choice shall be conformable to the present mode of election in
29 counties."

30
31 Amend the resolution by replacing paragraph XI with the following:
32

33 XI. Voters' Guide.

34 AT THE PRESENT TIME, the state legislature revises the district boundaries for
35 state representatives, state senators, executive councilors, county commissioners, and members of
36 the United States Congress from New Hampshire every ten years according to the last United States
37 census or state census.

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1 IF THE AMENDMENT IS ADOPTED, election district boundaries for all state,
2 county, and federal elections in the state shall be established by an independent redistricting
3 commission with the approval of the legislature.

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AMENDED ANALYSIS

This constitutional amendment concurrent resolution establishes an independent redistricting commission to draw the boundaries for state, county, and federal elections.