

The Independent District Commission

A sample map shared with the Independent District Commission. It can be found at portland.gov/transition/districtcommission/documents.

What is the Independent District Commission?

The IDC was created by the voter-approved amendments to the City Charter. The IDC is an independent community body tasked with preparing and adopting the district plan to divide Portland into four geographic districts for the election of our city councilors.

It consists of 13 community members, three alternate members and three reserve alternate members. All members were selected and appointed by the mayor and confirmed by council in January 2023.

What is the IDC's Authority?

The District Commission has a unique authority. If nine out of the 13 voting Commissioners approve the plan, then it's adopted and final. However, if after two votes, the District Commission can't reach the 9 vote super-majority, then the most recent version of the plan is referred to Council for its consideration and adoption.

In November 2022, Portland voters approved Ballot Measure 26-228 that directs the City of Portland to implement these three connected changes by Jan. 1, 2025:

- Allow voters to rank candidates in order of preference, using ranked-choice voting.
- Establish four geographic districts, with three city council members elected to represent each district – expanding city council to a total of 12 members.
- Establish a city council that focuses on setting policy and engaging with community, transitioning day-to-day oversight of bureaus to a mayor elected citywide and a professional city administrator.

Nine commissioners must approve the district plan in order for it to be adopted. This vote will happen in August 2023.



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How will district boundaries be determined?

The Independent District Commission will use the voter-approved district criteria which requires that each district:

- be contiguous and compact;
- use existing geographic or political boundaries;
- not divide communities of common interest;
- be connected by transportation links; and
- be of equal population.

No district will be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent elected official or other person, or drawn for the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any language or ethnic minority group.



How can I get involved?

1. Submit public comments!

- Call 3-1-1 and share your comments.
- Email DistrictCommission@portlandoregon.gov
- Mail comments to the Office of Management and Finance, Independent District Commission, 1120 SW 5th Ave., Room 901, Portland, OR 97204
- Sign-up to [provide testimony](#) at an upcoming IDC meeting.

2. Submit a district map! The IDC seeks community input to help determine the boundaries of all four districts. Draw a map at: districtr.org/event/Portland2023

3. Attend a meeting! All IDC meetings are public. Join in person at the Portland Building or via Zoom! Visit the [IDC's website](#) for meeting details.

Commission timeline

The IDC has roughly eight months to complete research, public input, discussions, map development and review, and hold the nine required public hearings. The District Commission must have its work done by Sept. 1, 2023.

April 2023: Deliberate on input received and vote on draft district plan criteria

June 2023: Release draft district plan for community input and notice public hearings

August 2023: Deliberate and vote on district plan

MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

March 2023: Release draft district criteria for community input and hold public hearing

May 2023: Deliberate and vote on district plan

July 2023: Hold eight public hearings, two in each proposed district

September 2023: District Commissioners' terms end

For more information visit: Portland.gov/Transition/IndependentDistrictCommission.