

Regarding HF 550.

An independent redistricting commission should be INDEPENDENT. That means, it should not be appointed by partisan politicians. As much as humanly possible, politics should be removed from the process. Obviously, that is not completely possible but it should be the underlying principle of the process.

The members of the commission should be selected in a screening and random selection process by nonpartisan staff of the legislature, or other designated entity. The individuals screened should have been out of partisan positions for a minimum of 6 – 10 years.

The individuals on the commission should not be allowed to discuss issues related to the work of the commission except in public meetings. Public meetings should be held in locations and times when citizens are available to attend.

I am very much in favor of a constitutional amendment for an independent commission, using these principles.

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