



NEWS FROM
Congressman John Tanner
 TENNESSEE'S 8TH DISTRICT | WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Congressional Redistricting Reform:
 Current Tanner Bill vs. 1989 Sensenbrenner Bill

	“The Fairness and Independence in Redistricting Act”	“The Congressional Districting Reform Act of 1989”
The Bill	H.R. 2642, 109 th Congress	H.R. 1711, 101 st Congress
	Introduced by Rep. John Tanner , May 25, 2005	Introduced by Rep. James Sensenbrenner , April 5, 1989
Independent Commission	Congressional map is drawn by a five-member commission. One member is appointed by each the majority and minority floor leaders in each legislative body. The final member is elected by those members and serves as chair. Provisions are established for unicameral legislature.	
	Commissioners must be registered voters in the state. They cannot have held elected or appointed office or worked for a political campaign or party for the two previous election cycles. No commissioner could run for Congress for 10 years.	Commissioners cannot be officers of federal, state or local government.
Redistricting Process	Maps based on: compactness and contiguity; equal population; maintenance of traditional boundaries such as counties or parishes, cities and voting precincts.	Maps based on: compactness and contiguity; equal population; “boundaries of local political subdivisions.”
	Map adheres to the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. Commissioners cannot consider voting history, party affiliation or effects on incumbents.	Commissioners cannot draw districts for the purpose of minimizing the voting strength of racial, ethnic or economic group, or to favor any political party.
Map Implementation	Commission sends map to legislature for approval or disapproval without amendment. It must then be signed by the governor.	Commission sends map to Federal Election Commission for implementation.
	The State Supreme Court completes the task if the legislature and governor cannot agree on a map. If the Supreme Court cannot produce a map, the federal court produces a map.	Any registered voter in the state can challenge the map in federal court. If any part is found invalid, the commission is reinstated to fix the court-determined problems. If the new plan doesn't comply, the federal court produces a map.