

How To

Submit a Statewide Map

LEGISLATIVE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Submitting a Statewide Map

The Legislative Reapportionment Commission invites all citizens of Pennsylvania to provide their input and feedback. Our website gives the public the opportunity to submit complete, statewide map proposals for state legislative districts for the House of Representatives or State Senate, using population data from the 2020 census.

To submit a map to the Commission, you will need to follow three steps. More details on each step are provided within this document.

Overview

Step 1: Create a Map..... Page 2

Use a free, third-party redistricting website like Dave’s Redistricting ([DRA 2020 \(davesredistricting.org\)](https://davesredistricting.org)) DistrictR (<https://districtr.org/pennsylvania>), or DistrictBuilder (<https://app.districtbuilder.org/o/pa-lrc>) to create your map.

Step 2: Copy the Sharable URL to Your Map..... Page 14

Copy the shareable URL to the map you created.

Step 3: Submit the Map to the Commission..... Page 16

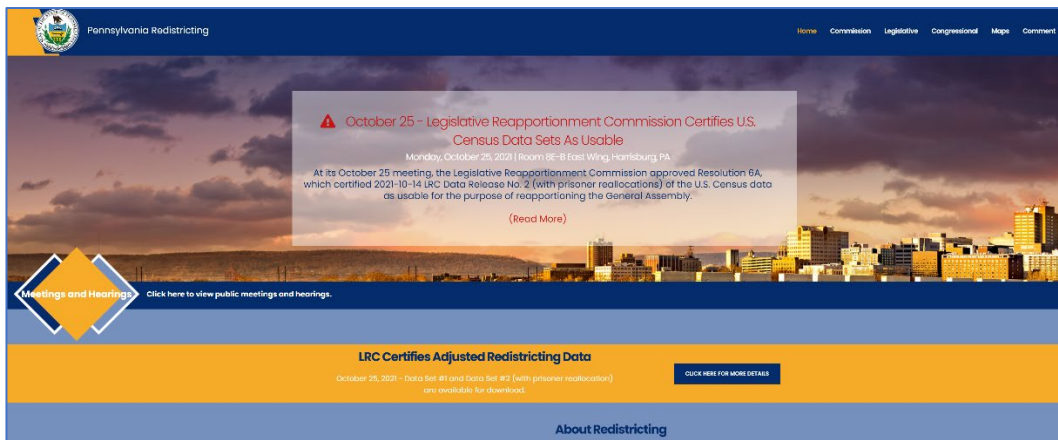
Use the form on the Commission’s website to submit your map, including the shareable URL, to the Commission.

Step 1: Create a Map

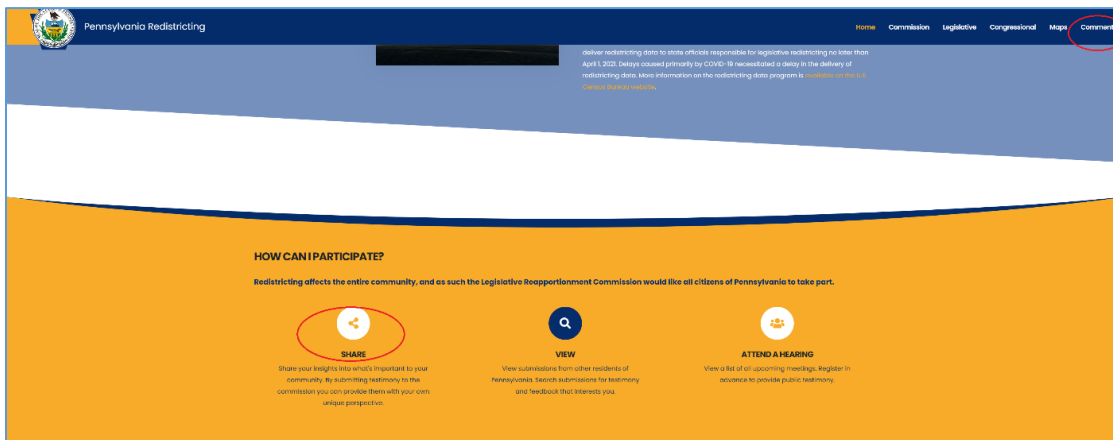
Many free, third-party websites are available that provide the ability to create maps. The Commission does not endorse any specific website but has provided instructions for the options below.

NOTE: These sites contain links to several other websites. The links provided on this site are solely intended to provide additional information. It is the responsibility of the user to evaluate the content and usefulness of information obtained from other linked sites.

1. Start on Pennsylvania Legislative Redistricting Home Page <https://www.redistricting.state.pa.us/>



2. Click "Comment" in the top toolbar, or click "Share" on the Home Page. This will redirect you to the "Comment" page.



The Legislative Reapportionment Commission does not handle Congressional Redistricting. Rather, the boundaries of Congressional seats in Pennsylvania are redrawn after every Federal decennial census by legislative action – in other words, a bill that proceeds through both chambers of the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor.

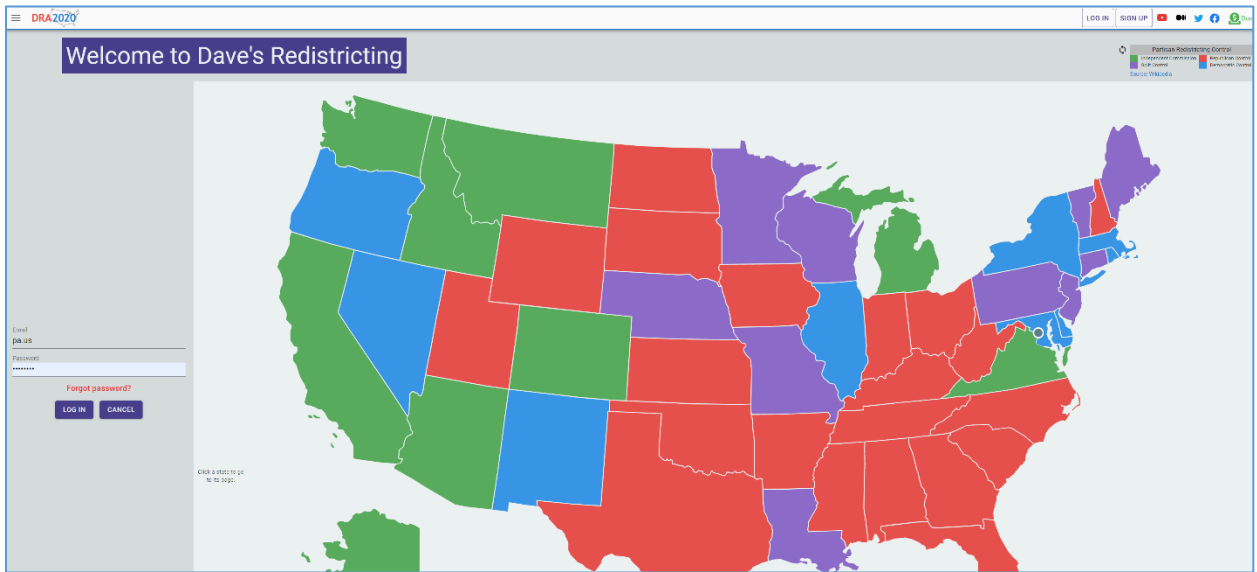
3. Create your map

You are now ready to create your statewide map. Follow the directions below to draft a map using one of these free, third-party tools.

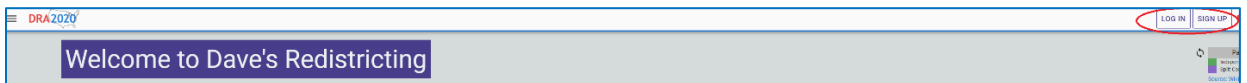
- Click here for instructions on how to create a Map using “Dave’s Redistricting”.
<https://medium.com/dra-2020/building-your-district-map-c4368670648e>
- Click here for instructions on how to create a Map using “DistrictBuilder”.
<https://github.com/PublicMapping/districtbuilder/wiki/Getting-Started-with-DistrictBuilder>
- Click here for instructions on how to create a Map using “DistrictR”.
<https://districtr.org/guide#startDistricts>
***PLEASE NOTE: Maps must be drawn using the 2021 Adjusted Data. DistrictR has not posted this data yet, so maps created on this site cannot be submitted at this time.

Create a Map using “Dave’s Redistricting”

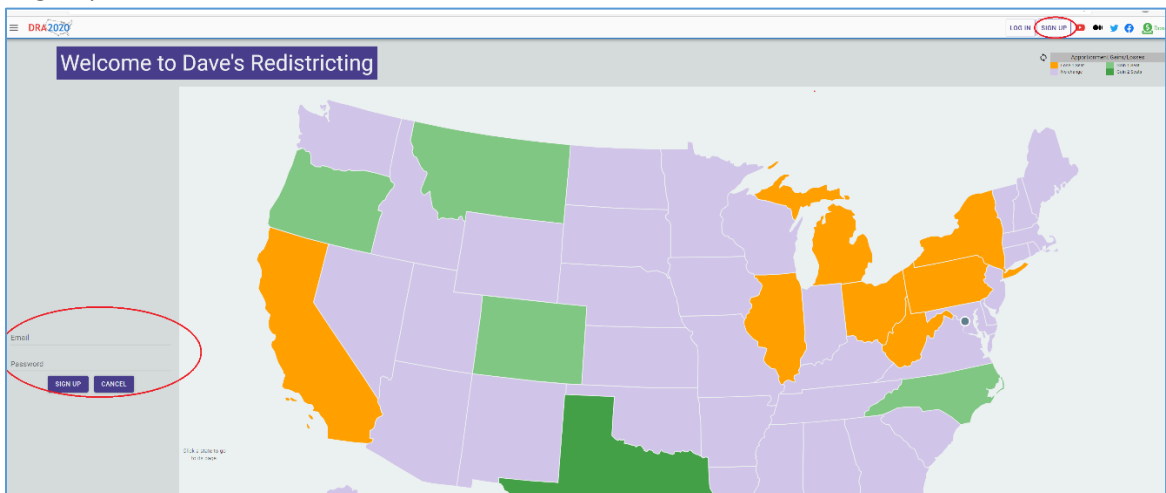
1. Open a new web browser to <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#login>



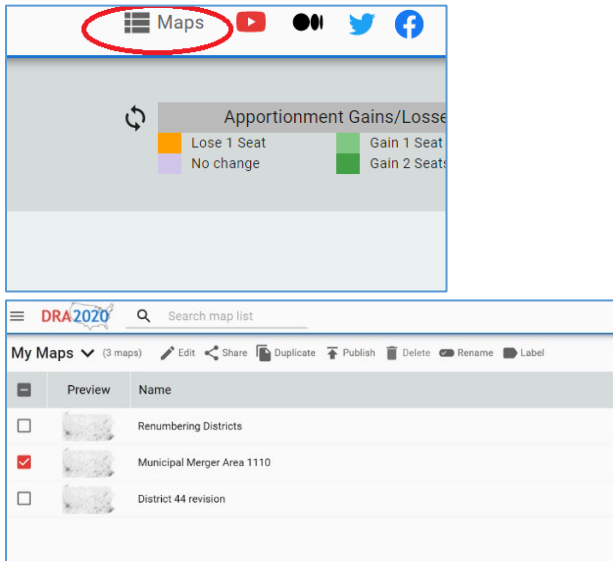
2. You will first need to register to have access to draw a map. In the top right corner, click “Sign Up” or “Log In”.



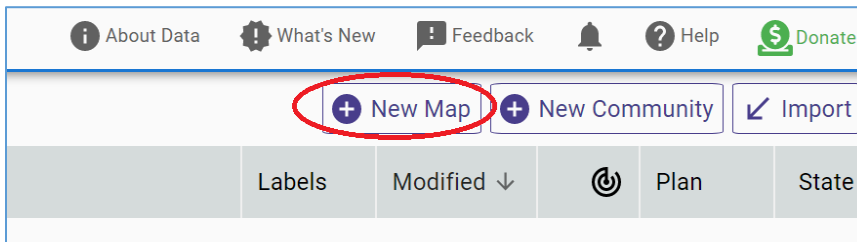
3. Next, on the left side of the screen, provide your email address, create a password, and then click “Sign Up”.



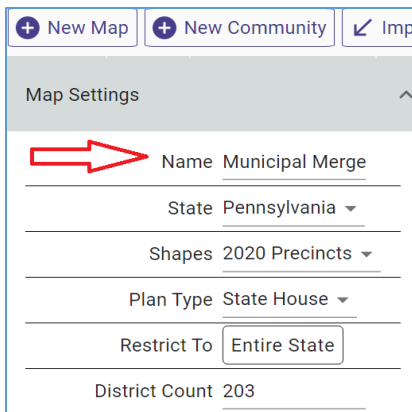
After submitting your registration, you can create new maps or display a list of your saved maps by clicking “Maps” in the top right corner.



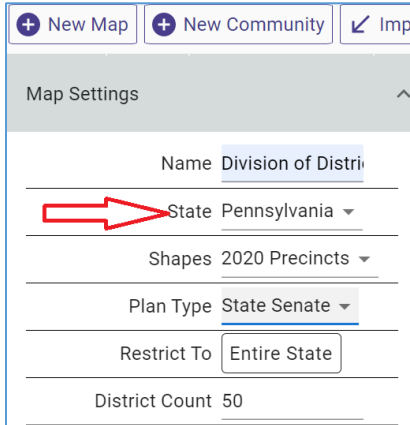
4. To create a new blank map, click “New Map” in the top right corner of the page, which displays a drop-down menu of Map Settings.



5. You will be prompted to name your map with a title or summary explanation. Naming your map will allow you to share, make changes, or revisit.

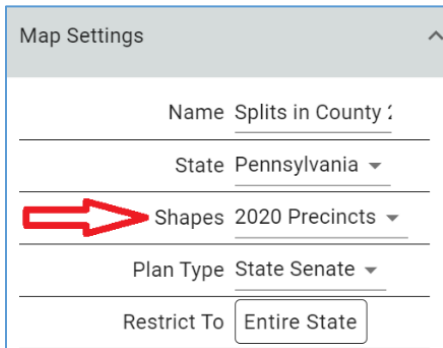


6. Select "Pennsylvania" from the drop-down menu. As soon as you select a state, you will be able to choose several datasets from those available to work with.



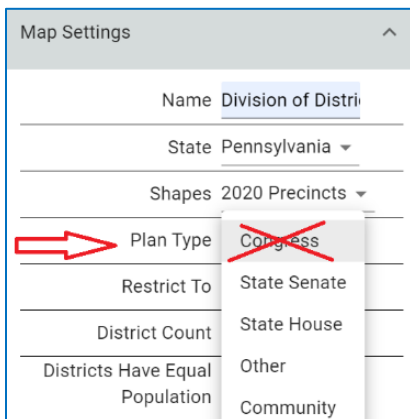
A screenshot of the 'Map Settings' form. At the top, there are three buttons: '+ New Map', '+ New Community', and 'Imp'. Below the buttons, the form has a title 'Map Settings' with an upward arrow. The form contains several fields: 'Name' with the value 'Division of Distri', 'State' with a dropdown menu showing 'Pennsylvania' (highlighted with a red arrow), 'Shapes' with a dropdown menu showing '2020 Precincts', 'Plan Type' with a dropdown menu showing 'State Senate', 'Restrict To' with a button labeled 'Entire State', and 'District Count' with the value '50'.

7. In the Shapes option, click the drop-down menu and select "2020 Precincts".



A screenshot of the 'Map Settings' form. The 'State' dropdown is now set to 'Pennsylvania'. The 'Shapes' dropdown menu is open, and '2020 Precincts' is highlighted with a red arrow. Other fields remain the same: 'Name' is 'Splits in County', 'Plan Type' is 'State Senate', and 'Restrict To' is 'Entire State'.

8. Choose a "Plan Type" from the drop-down menu. You must choose either "State Senate" or "State House". DO NOT SELECT "Congress" as the Commission does not handle Congressional Districts.



A screenshot of the 'Map Settings' form. The 'Plan Type' dropdown menu is open, showing options: 'Congress' (crossed out with a red X), 'State Senate', 'State House', 'Other', and 'Community'. A red arrow points to the 'Plan Type' label. The 'Restrict To' button is now 'State Senate' and 'District Count' is 'State House'.

9. For the “Restrict To” option, you must choose “Restrict to Entire State” to complete the map.

The screenshot shows the 'Map Settings' panel with the following configuration:

- Name: Municipal Merge
- State: Pennsylvania
- Shapes: 2020 Precincts
- Plan Type: State House
- Restrict To: Entire State (indicated by a red arrow)
- District Count: 203
- Districts Have Equal Population:

10. For the “Data Selector” field, in the drop down menu, choose “Total Pop (Adj) 2020”.

*** NOTE: Maps must be drawn using the 2021 Adjusted Data.

The screenshot shows the 'Data Selector' panel with the following configuration:

- Primary Datasets: Select primary datasets, one from each group, which will be used by District Statistics, Demographics Colors and Partisan Lean Colors.
- Shapes: 2020 Precincts
- Census: Total Pop (Adj) 2020 (circled in red)
- Voting Age: Latest Voting Age Pop
- Election: Composite 2012-2018

11. Finally, click “Apply” to save changes to your dataset.

The screenshot shows a district map with 24 numbered districts, each with a unique color and the number 64053. Below the map is the 'Data Selector' panel with the 'APPLY' button circled in red.

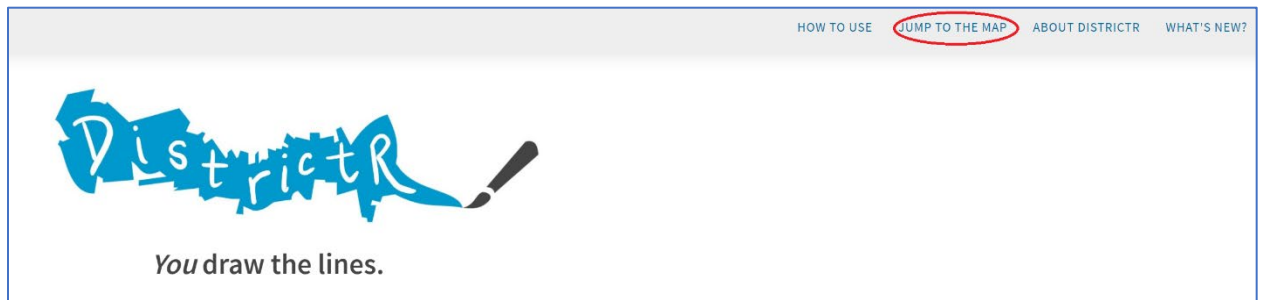
District	Color	Value
15	Orange	64053
16	Green	64053
17	Blue	64053
18	Yellow	64053
19	Light Green	64053
20	Pink	64053
21	Dark Red	64053
22	Brown	64053
23	Cyan	64053
24	Purple	64053

For detailed instructions on how to use the Dave’s Redistricting Tool, visit their Help Guide at <https://medium.com/dra-2020/building-your-district-map-c4368670648e>

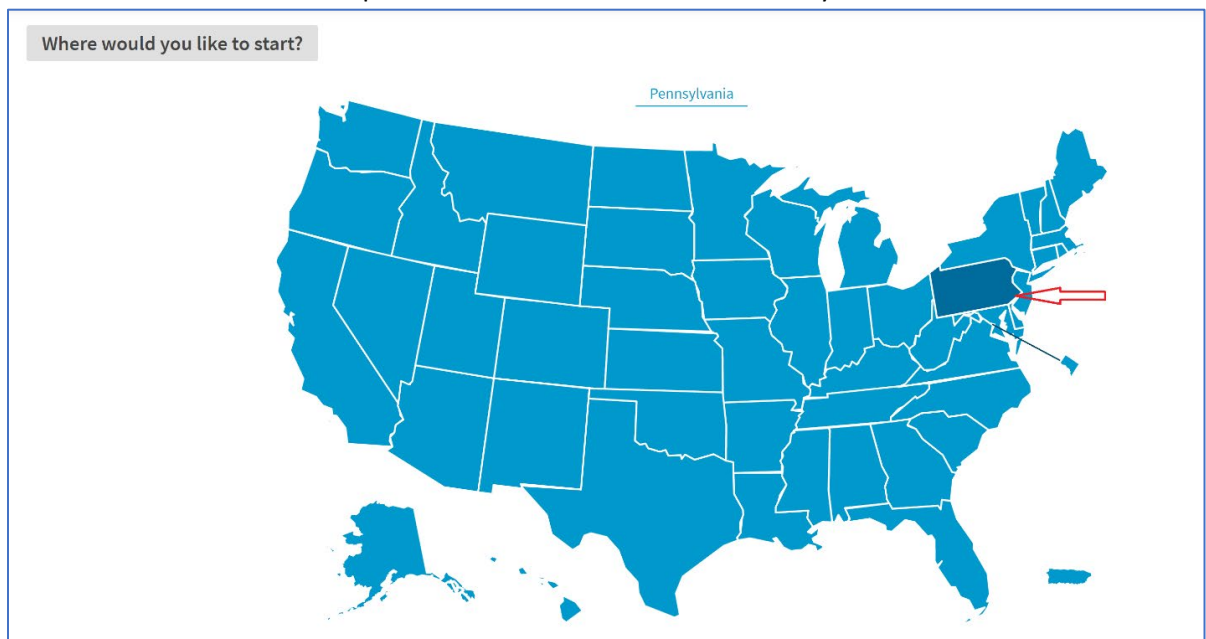
Create a Map using “DistrictR”

*****PLEASE NOTE: Maps must be drawn using the 2021 Adjusted Data. DistrictR has not posted this data yet, so maps created on this site cannot be submitted at this time.**

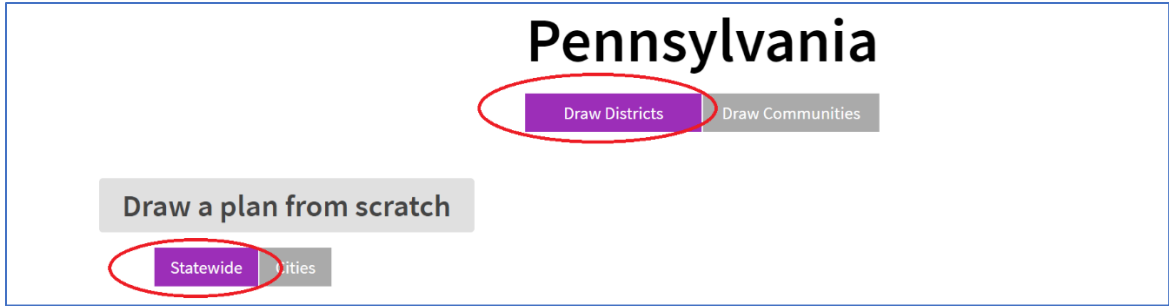
1. Open a new web browser to <https://districtr.org>
2. On the Home Page, in the top right corner, click “Jump to the Map”.



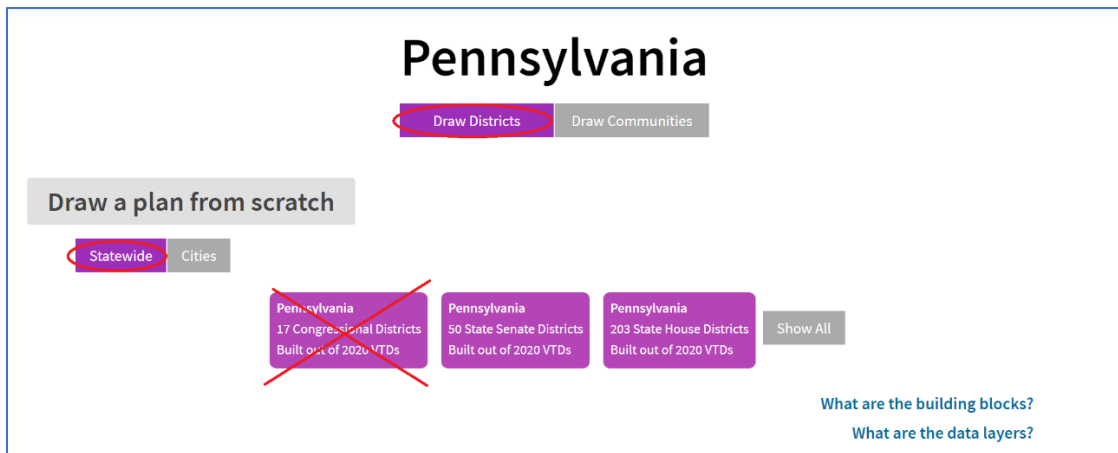
3. You will be redirected to a map of the United States. Click on “Pennsylvania”



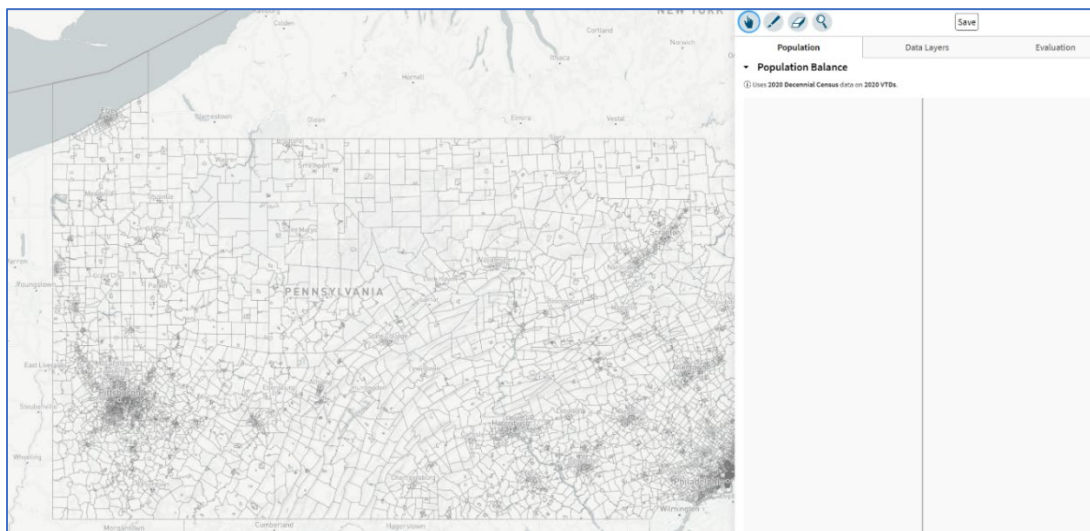
4. This brings you to Pennsylvania’s landing page, which contains all mapping options along with background information. On this page, click “Draw Districts” and then click “Statewide”.



- Next, you must choose either “Pennsylvania 50 State Senate Districts” or Pennsylvania 203 State House Districts”. **DO NOT SELECT** “Pennsylvania 17 Congressional Districts” as the Commission does not handle Congressional Districts. *****PLEASE NOTE: Maps must be drawn using the 2021 Adjusted Data. DistrictR has not posted this data yet, so maps created on this site cannot be submitted at this time.**



- Finally, you redirect to your selected districting page where you can begin creating a map.



For detailed instructions on how to use DistrictR, visit their Help Guide at [Districtr User Guide | Districtr](#)

Districtr User Guide | Districtr

Getting Started with Communities. On the Districtr homepage, click "Jump to the Map" in the top right corner. You will be redirected to an interactive map of the United States.

districtr.org

Create a Map using “DistrictBuilder”

Custom templates, specifically for the Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission, are available for creating your map.

***Resolution 6A 2021 Data Set #2, which is Federal Decennial Census 2020 Data Set #1 with adjusted geography and population along with the population adjusted for prisoner reallocation for individuals incarcerated in State correctional facilities, as determined by the census.

1. Open a new web browser to <https://app.districtbuilder.org/o/pa-lrc>
2. You can start a new map using the templates provided by DistrictBuilder. These templates include the adjusted 2020 census data sets that are required to submit a map to the Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

The screenshot shows the DistrictBuilder web application interface. At the top left is the "DistrictBuilder" logo. On the right side of the header, there are navigation links: "My maps", "My Organizations", "Community maps", and "Resources", followed by a user profile icon with the number "15".

The main content area features the "Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission" header with a state seal icon. Below the header, there is a "Leave organization" button. A paragraph of text explains the commission's role: "Article 2, Section 17 of the Pennsylvania Constitution provides for a Legislative Reapportionment Commission to redistrict both chambers (the state Senate and the state House) in the year following the Federal decennial census. The Commission consists of five members: the four caucus floor leaders, or deputies appointed by each of them, and a chairman to be selected by those members or, if they cannot reach agreement, by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. Use the links below to draw a state Senate or state House map using the adjusted data, pursuant to Resolution 5A."

Below this text is a "Templates" section with the subtext "Start a new map using the official settings from Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission". It contains two template cards:

- House of Representatives (blank)**: Pennsylvania (Adjusted) - 203. Create a map of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives districts using blocks, precincts, municipalities, and counties. Includes a "Use this template" button.
- State Senate (blank)**: Pennsylvania (Adjusted) - 50. Create a map of the Pennsylvania Senate districts using blocks, precincts, municipalities, and counties. Includes a "Use this template" button.

At the bottom, there is a "Featured maps" section with the subtext "A collection of highlighted maps built by members of Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission".

- You must first click “Join organization” at the top of the page, giving you access to the Commission’s template options.



- Click “Join now” and you are prompted to “Create a free account” or “Log in”. Select the option that applies to you.



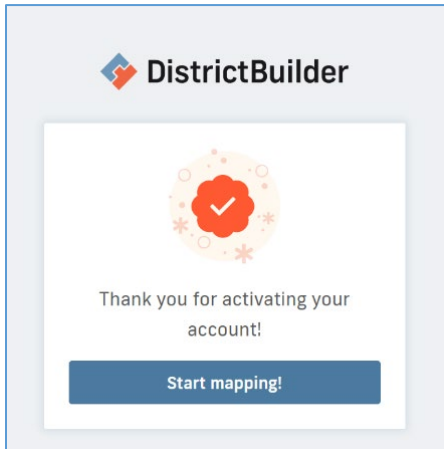
- To create an account, provide your name, email, and password, then click “Let’s go!”

The screenshot shows the "Create an account!" form. It has three input fields for "NAME", "EMAIL", and "PASSWORD". A "Let's go!" button is circled in red. At the bottom, there is a "Log in" link for existing users.

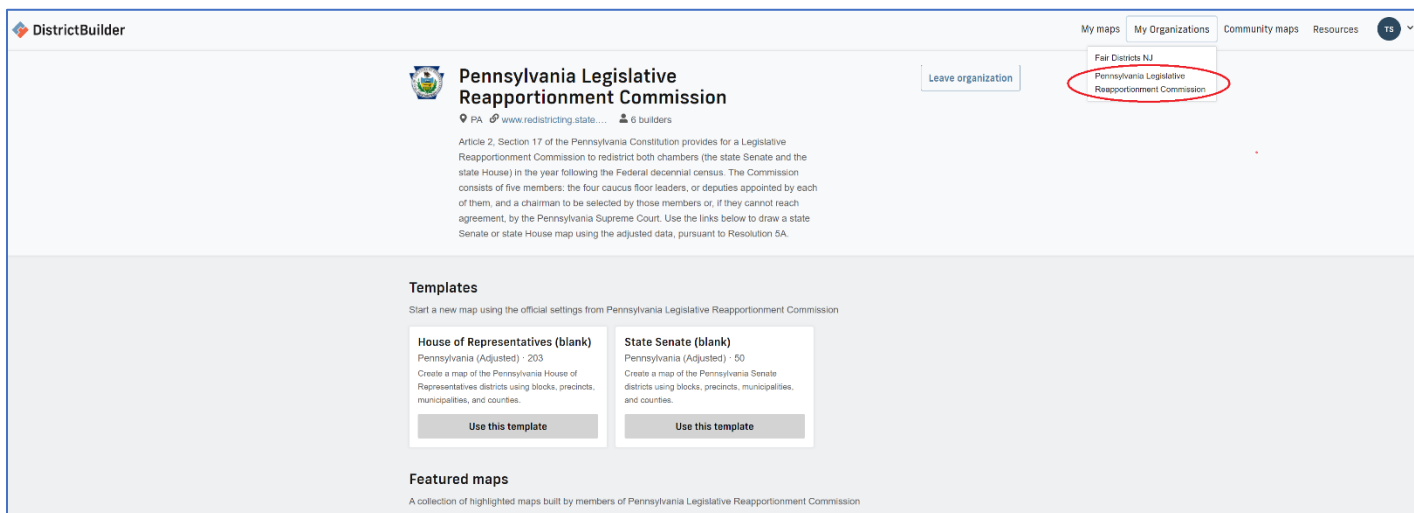
6. Next, check your email, and click the link from DistrictBuilder to activate your account.



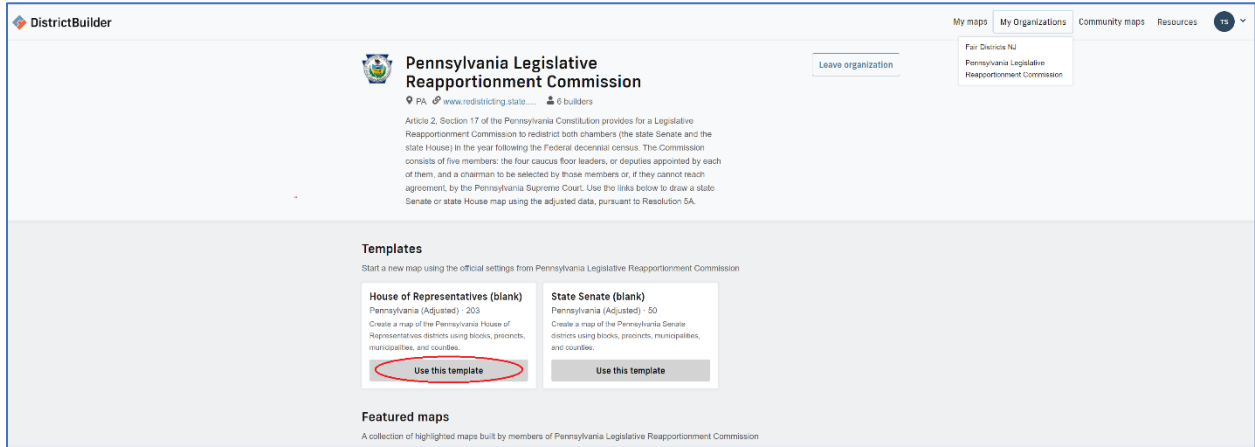
7. You will receive notice that your account is active, and you now have access to draw your map. Begin creating your map by clicking “Start mapping!”



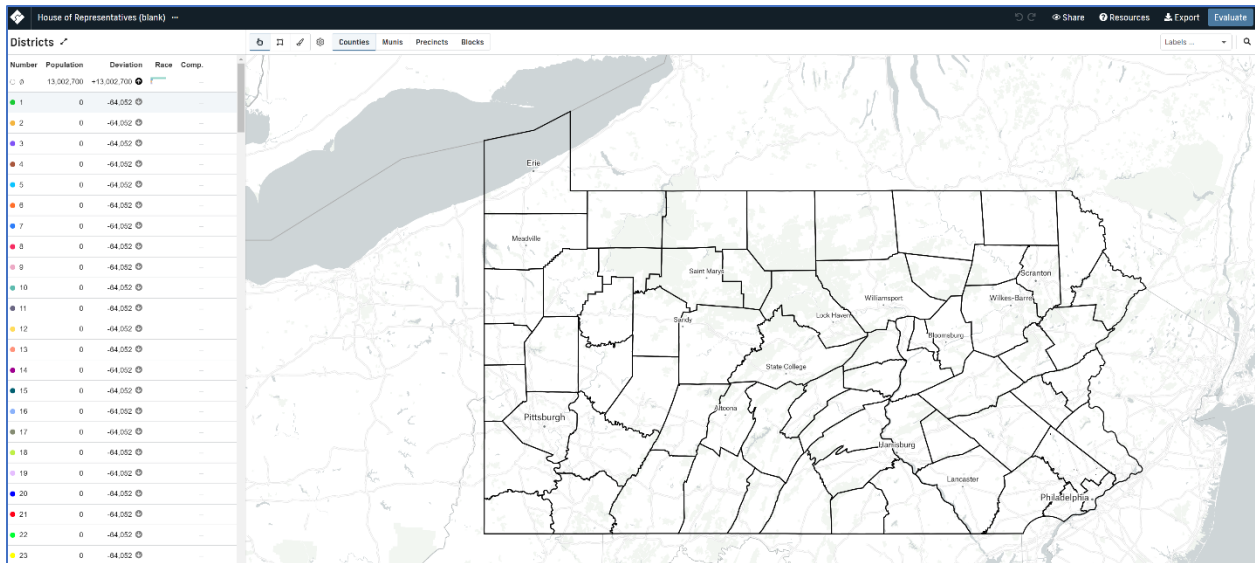
8. When you have joined the Commission’s organization, a link will appear in the “My Organizations” tab at the top of the page. Click “My Organizations” and then select the “Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission”.



- 4 Start a new map using the official settings from Pennsylvania Legislative Reapportionment Commission for the House of Representatives or State Senate, then click “Use this template”.



- 5 A map with the specific data you have selected will display. You can begin to draw your map.



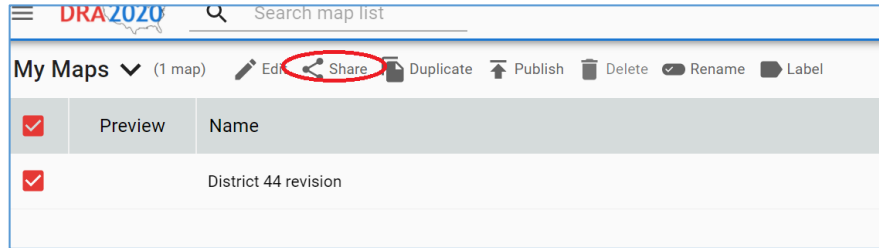
For detailed instructions on how to use DistrictBuilder, visit their Help Guide at [Getting Started with DistrictBuilder](#) · [PublicMapping/districtbuilder Wiki](#) · [GitHub](#)

Step 2: Copy the Sharable URL to Your Map

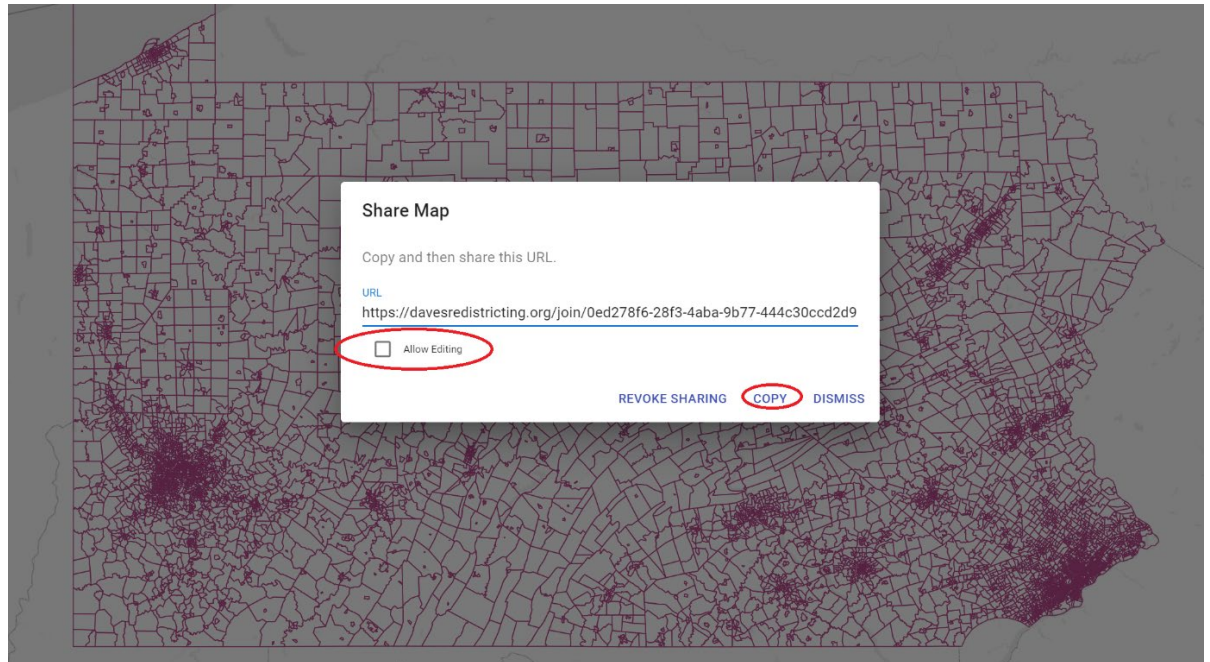
Now that your map is complete, you need to share your map and copy the URL.

On Dave's Redistricting:

1. When your map is complete and ready to share with the Commission, check the box in front of the map you would like to share, and then click "Share" located at the top left in the toolbar.

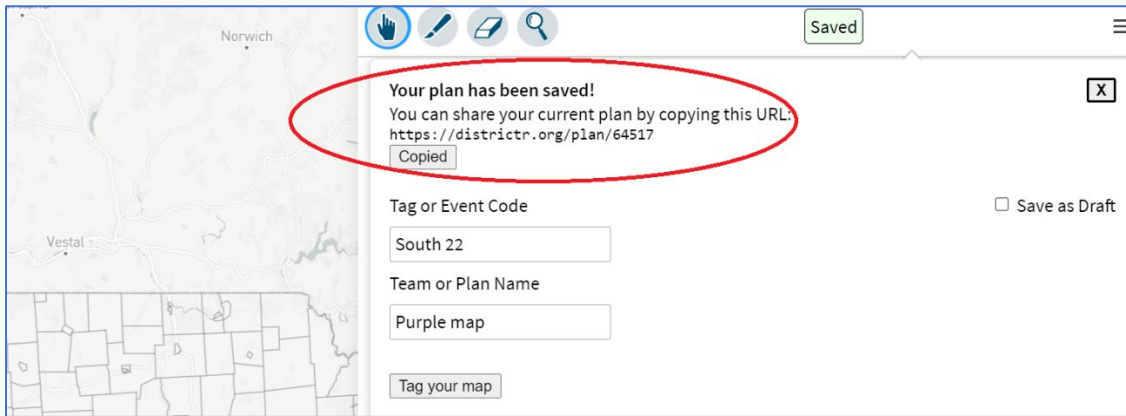


2. Next, click "Copy" and the map URL will copy to your clipboard. ***NOTE: "Allow Editing" must be UN-checked before sharing your map.



On DistrictR:

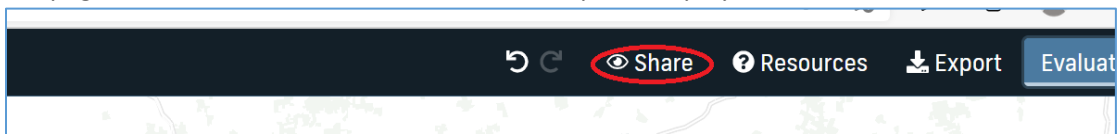
1. When your map is complete and ready to share with the Commission, click “Save” located in the top right corner. The site will display the map URL for you to copy and share.



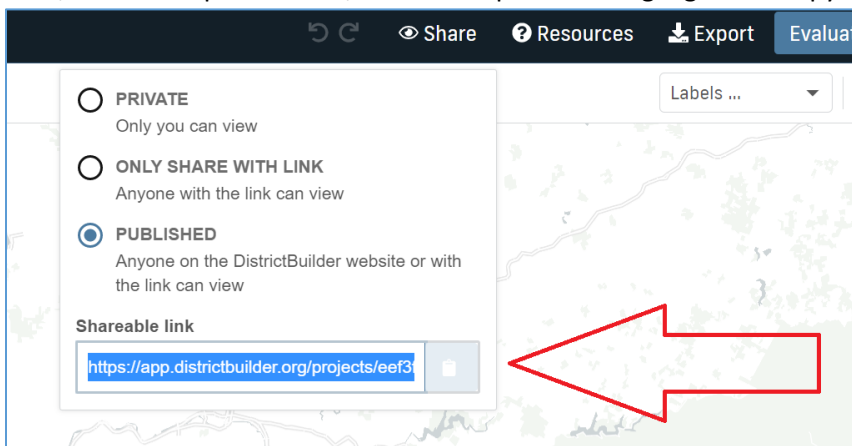
2. You will be prompted to add tags and name your map. Naming your map will allow you to share, make changes, or revisit.

On DistrictBuilder:

1. When your map is complete and ready to share with the Commission, click “Share” at the top of the page in the toolbar, and a URL link of the map will display.



2. Next, click the clipboard icon, and the map URL will highlight and copy for you to share.



The Legislative Reapportionment Commission and technical staff are unable to assist with any mapping instruction, map link, or any other technical issues you may experience using third-party websites.

Please visit the resource tab at [DistrictBuilder | The Free and Open Source Redistricting Tool](#), [DRA 2020 \(davesredistricting.org\)](#) or, [Districtr User Guide | Districtr](#)

Step 3: Submit the Map to the Commission

Now that you have completed our statewide legislative map and copied the URL, you are ready to submit your map to the Commission.

1. Start on the Home Page <https://www.redistricting.state.pa.us/> Click “Share”, and you will redirect to the Comment page.



***Optionally, you can link to the submission form, on the Comment page, in the Drawing Districts field, by clicking the text “the URL field of our district plan form”.

Drawing Districts

Use one of these free mapping tools to create your own statewide map of Pennsylvania's 203 House and 50 Senate districts.

- [Dave's Redistricting](#)
- [DistrictBuilder](#)
- [Districtr](#)

Once you have completed your map, click the "Share" button, to copy a shareable link for your map that anyone can view. You can then paste that link into the URL field of our district plan form, and submit it to the Legislative Reapportionment Commission.

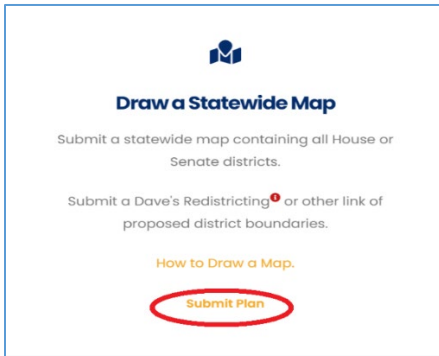
NEED MORE HELP?

For directions on how to use the comment form to submit your map, please review [this document](#) outlining the steps.

Drawing a plan can be difficult. The teams behind many popular district building tools have resources for you to use:

- [Dave's Redistricting](#)
- [District Builder](#)
- [Districtr](#)

2. On the Comment page, in the “Draw a Statewide Map” option, click “Submit Plan”.



A submission form will display. Fill out the form completely and make sure your name, address, and email are correct. Fields marked with an *asterisk are required and must be completed for submission.

3. Name your map with a title or summary explanation.

A screenshot of the "Draw a Statewide Map" submission form. The form includes a title "Draw a Statewide Map" and introductory text. Below the text is a dropdown menu and a text input field labeled "Title*" with the placeholder text "Please enter a title for this submission." A red arrow points to the input field.

4. Use the URL link created and copied from your saved map and paste it to the “URL” field of the Submission form

A screenshot of the "URL*" field in the submission form. The input field contains the placeholder text "Please enter the URL for your plan / community of interest." A red arrow points to the input area.

5. In the “Applies To” field, select the option from the drop-down menu that matches your completed map.


A screenshot of the "Applies To*" dropdown menu. The menu is open, showing three options: "Please Select One", "PA State House Districts", and "PA State Senate Districts".

6. For “Tags”, add any pertinent information or tags to your map file that will help others to search for it.

Tags

Add tags to your submission here to help people search for it. These can be regions or cities, communities, identities, organizations, etc


Add tags to help people find your submission. Begin typing for suggestions.



7. In the “Comment” field, include information about your map or provide additional comments that describe your map.

Comment

Write your public comments here.



8. Tell us about yourself by providing your first and last name, address, and email. Only your first name and the initial of the last name will display publicly. Your email and street address will not be made available on the website.

Tell us about yourself

Your first name and the first letter of your last name will be displayed publicly.
Your email address and street address will not be made available on the website.

Salutation First Name* Last Name*

Ms/Mr/Mx/Dr

Email* City/County* State* Zip Code*

PA - Pennsylvania

9. Read over guidelines for submission and check each box before clicking “Submit”.

I understand that my public comment submission will be made available to the Commission and other members of the public.

I understand that while this public comment submission is a public document, my email address will be kept confidential to the extent authorized by law

I understand that my submission must comply with [guidelines for appropriate content](#).

Submit