

A coalition of activist groups has announced a new proposal to change the way political district boundaries are redrawn in Arkansas. The group People Not Politicians announced Tuesday they've filed a proposed amendment to the state constitution that would create a Citizens' Redistricting Commission, composed of three Republicans, three Democrats and three members not affiliated with either party. Group spokesperson Loriee Evans says the goal is to limit political influence in the redistricting process.

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"...to voters themselves."

Potential commissioners would apply for the position, with a three-person panel made up of retired Supreme Court justices and Appeals Court judges choosing members. Evans says people who have been lobbyists, elected officials or political operatives in the past five years would be barred from serving on the commission.

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"...redistricting process."

Organizers must collect just under 90-thousand signatures from at least 15 Arkansas counties by a July deadline in order for the proposal to go before voters on the November 2022 ballot.

Redistricting Initiative 2  
12/28/21(WedAM)

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A new proposal would shift the process of redistricting away from Arkansas elected officials to an independent, voter-led commission. The proposed constitutional amendment was filed Tuesday by the group People Not Politicians. Currently, the state's U-S House districts are drawn by the legislature, while state House and Senate maps are drawn by the Board of Apportionment, composed of the governor, attorney general and secretary of state. Group spokesperson Lorice Evans says the most recent district maps drawn by the board do not fairly represent all Arkansans.

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“...across the state.”

The commission would include three Republicans, three Democrats and three members not affiliated with either party. The group must collect just under 90-thousand signatures by a July deadline for the proposal to go before voters on the November 2022 ballot.