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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

June 3, 2021

Notice: Organization and Access to the Apportionment Commission

From: Donald Alexander, Chair
Apportionment Commission

As directed by Article 4, Part 3, section 1-A of the Maine Constitution, the Speaker of the House, Ryan Fecteau, has organized and convened the Apportionment Commission. The Apportionment Commission is charged by the Constitution with developing redistricting plans for Congressional, Senate, House, and County Commissioner Districts based on the latest Decennial Census population data from the United States Bureau of the Census. Those redistricting plans shall be provided to the Legislature.

In the past, the data from the Census Bureau necessary for reapportionment has usually been available to the states by late March or early April of the year following the Decennial Census. This year, due to population count difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau has advised that its population data will not be available before mid-August. Because of that delay, the deadlines in the Maine Constitution indicating that (i) the Apportionment Commission should report its redistricting plans by June 1; (ii) the Legislature should act to approve or disapprove each redistricting plan by June 11 [or by February 15, 2022 for County Commissioner Districts]; and (iii) if the Legislature does not approve a redistricting plan, the Maine Supreme Judicial Court shall make the reapportionment within 60 days thereafter; cannot be met.

Legislative Leadership, represented by the Attorney General, has petitioned the Maine Supreme Judicial Court seeking an order to extend the deadlines because of the impossibility of meeting the deadlines without the Census Bureau data. The Apportionment Commission is seeking to join that petition to the Court.

The Apportionment Commission website will be used to provide information to the public about the Commission's activities and updates regarding new developments. It can be found at <http://legislature.maine.gov/apportionment>. Additionally, any member of the public who wishes to receive email updates regarding the Commission's activities and new developments may add their email address to the interested parties list by emailing: apcom@legislature.maine.gov.

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