

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

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As you may know, the Ohio General Assembly will begin the second year of the current assembly. 2022 is an election year where all 99 members and 17 of the 33 senators must run for election to the next assembly which begins (hopefully) January 1, 2023. The process to be elected begins by taking out petitions with the corresponding board of elections with the intent to run, and have your name placed on the ballot. This is a process which has taken place for decades.

But wait.

In its January 12th opinion, the Ohio Supreme Court just nullified the proposed districts for which Ohioans may declare to be a candidate. So, a few weeks before the filing deadline there are essentially no districts to be a candidate in. The court, in its ruling, gave the apportionment committee 10 days within which to submit a new map. Never mind, the apportionment committee took months to approve the maps tossed by the court.

So, where does that leave us?

Not to be too concerned, but no one really knows. The constitution was rewritten on the subject a few years ago, so there is little, if any, law on the subject. It appears the old 'seat of the pants' standard applies. Joking aside, the relations between the parties and the court are not amicable at this point. If the apportionment committee makes changes to the map and sends it back, the Court could send it back again, as not to their liking.

We believe the best and brightest are expending their brain cells as to how their party can benefit the most and gain approval by the court. Exactly how the commission will accomplish that aim in such a tight timeframe, or even who is on the commission, remain questions with which attorneys are now wrestling.

Both the House and Senate, previously scheduled to return January 19th, have canceled their sessions for next week. Stay tuned.