Redistricting

Tract
Census
GIS
Population
District

Minority
Gerrymandering
Compactness
Legislature

At-large
Packing
Apportionment
Plan
Commission
Commissioner

Criteria
Continuity
Contiguity
Contiguity

Majority
Group
Geography

Deviation
Principles
Principal

Redistricting

WHAT IS REDISTRICTING? WHY DO WE REDISTRICT?

- **Reapportionment**: The process of assigning seats in a legislative body among pre-existing political subdivisions such as states or counties.

- **Redistricting**: The redrawing or revision of boundaries for representational districts.


Justice William O. Douglas
Photo credit: The Supreme Court Historical Society
[https://supremecourthistory.org/timeline_odouglas.html](https://supremecourthistory.org/timeline_odouglas.html)
WHAT'S THE TIMELINE FOR REDISTRICTING?

NJ LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING DEADLINES
November 15, 2020: appointments to commission must be completed
December 1, 2020: appointments certified to Secretary of State
February 1, 2021(?): deadline for commission to certify districts to the Secretary of State; could be later depending on when census numbers were received
Late winter/spring 2021: if commission does not certify districts by deadline, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of NJ appoints an 11th member. Commission has 1 month after appointment to certify districts

MN REDISTRICTING DEADLINES
February 15, 2022: Legislative and congressional redistricting complete
May 8, 2022: Candidates must establish residence in district
May 31, 2022: Candidate filing deadline
August 9, 2022: State primary
WHO CONDUCTS REDISTRICTING?

Legislature

Commission

Nonpartisan Staff

Courts

Executive branch
# Redistricting Commissions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Legislative</th>
<th>Congressional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary responsibility for</td>
<td>Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado,</td>
<td>Arizona, Colorado, California, Hawaii,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>legislative redistricting</td>
<td>Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New</td>
<td>Idaho, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory commission to</td>
<td>Maine, New York, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont,</td>
<td>Maine, New York, Rhode Island, Utah,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>assist the legislature</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Virginia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Backup commission</td>
<td>Connecticut, Illinois, Mississippi, Oklahoma,</td>
<td>Connecticut, Indiana, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Texas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOW DO YOU DRAW MAPS?

GIS: Geographic Information System. Computer software used for creating or revising plans and analyzing geographically oriented data.
**METES AND BOUNDS & STREET FILES**

**Metes and bounds:** A detailed and very specialized description of district boundaries using specific geographic features and street directions as are usually found in describing real property for legal purposes.

**Example:** District 1 consists of the portion of City lying east of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northern boundary of City and Main Street, southerly and southeasterly along Oak Street and Maple Street to Lake Avenue, southerly along 1st Street to 13th Street, northeasterly along 13th Street to Erie Ave, southeasterly along Huron East to State Highway 100 …

**Street files:** street files are tabular in nature, with additions being added as a spreadsheet of some kind is edited.

**Example**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street addresses</th>
<th>Districts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300 – 500 Main St., even numbers</td>
<td>Senate District 1, House District 1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>301 – 501 Main St., odd numbers</td>
<td>Senate District 1, House District 1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>502-750 Main St., even numbers</td>
<td>Senate District 2, House District 2A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SHAPEFILES AND BLOCK EQUIVALENCY FILES

Shapefile: A data format used in geographic information systems (GIS) software. A shapefile is a combination of several files and data sets.

Example: Sec. 1. PLAN ADOPTED. Legislative redistricting plan 123, on file with the GIS office and published on its Web site on May 1, 2021, is adopted as the legislative redistricting plan for this state. Each senate district is composed of the two house districts, A and B, of the same number.

Block equivalency file: A table that provides a one-to-one correspondence between census blocks and districts.

Example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census block 1</th>
<th>Senate District I</th>
<th>House District 1A</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Census block 2</td>
<td>Senate District I</td>
<td>House District 1A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census block 3</td>
<td>Senate District I</td>
<td>House District 1B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census block 4</td>
<td>Senate District I</td>
<td>House District 1B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT ABOUT LOGISTICS?

- Staff
- Space
- Software and hardware
- Committees
- Training
- Public input/outreach
- Budget
WHAT ARE SOME RESOURCES?

- Who is in your state? GIS, legislative staff, leadership, commission
- What happened last time? Look at past redistricting cycles from your state
- Who do you know in other states? Talk with them about their experiences
- NCSL: so many resources!
  - NCSL Redistricting Seminars
  - NCSL’s “Into the Thicket: A Redistricting Starter Kit for Legislative Staff”
  - NCSL Red Book

NCSL Redistricting and Election Contacts

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THANK YOU!

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