Redistricting: A Distinctly Legislative Power

Peter S. Wattson
National Conference of State Legislatures
Legislative Summit
Chicago, Illinois
August 8, 2016

Introduction

- Timelines
- Court Challenges
- Legislative Process
- Districting Principles
- Citizen Engagement

Timelines

2020
- April 1, 2020 - Census Day
- December 31, 2020 - Congressional apportionment
- April 1, 2021 - Block population counts
- November 8, 2022 - Election Day

2010
- Plans enacted
  - July 1, 2011
  - July 1, 2012
  - After Election Day 2012
- Lawsuits filed
  - April 1, 2011
  - July 1, 2011
  - July 1, 2012
  - After Election Day 2012

Legislative Process

2011-2012
- Hire & train staff
- Acquire technology
- Appoint committees
- Receive & process census data
- Draw plans
- Hold hearings
- Enact plans

Districting Principles

2010 Plans
- Populations equal - 50 states
- Territory contiguous - 50 states
- Political subdivisions preserved - 46 states
- Territory compact - 38 states
- Minorities fairly represented - 28 states
- Communities of interest preserved - 23
### Districting Principles

**2010 Plans**
- House districts nested in Senate - 17 states
- Cores of prior districts preserved - 12 states
- Not favor incumbent - 12 states
- Not favor party - 12 states
- Avoid contests between incumbents - 8
- Politically competitive - 3 states

### Citizen Engagement

**2010 Plans**
- Public hearings
  - Before plans drawn
  - After drawn, but before adopted
- Public computers
  - Workstations or a web application
  - Allow public to draw and submit plans
- Web page for comments and plans

### State Examples

- Iowa - Senator Pam Jochum
- Illinois - Tim Mapes
- Texas - Clare Dyer
- Wisconsin - Joe Kreye