

Redistricting Guidelines and Criteria

1. All districts shall have equal representation Districts should be drawn to provide representation in proportion to the population of the district. The “one person-one vote” approach is of paramount consideration, a deviation of plus or minus five percent from the mathematical average as an acceptable level of representation.
2. The plan shall comply with the Voting Rights Act
According to the Voting Rights Act, districts should be drawn in such a way that assures that minority voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice.
3. All districts must be compact and contiguous
Each district should be a single geographic unit, not composed of separated parts.
4. The Census shall be the source of data figures provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census as the sole basis for determining population and representation. It is expected that the U.S. Census Bureaus will release the official figures in early February, 2011.
5. Preserve communities of interest to the maximum extent possible, areas that have readily identifiable communities of interest should not be split. Residential sub-divisions or small villages are examples of communities of interest that should remain intact. Communities of interest will trump precinct lines.
6. Maintain existing boundaries where possible, existing election district boundaries should be maintained. Traditional lines should not be redrawn if their existing locations can be reasonably accommodated, though this can be difficult to achieve with a fast-growing population.
7. Protect incumbents/maintain incumbency and avoid pairing of
Incumbents to the extent possible, districts should be drawn so that existing incumbent office holders remain in separate districts.

8. Do not create a substantial, long-term negative effect on a specific political party redistricting should not represent an opportunity for the majority party to unfairly restrict competitiveness of the minority party in the future.
9. Consider voter convenience and effective election administration
Each precinct must have polling place within or immediately adjacent to it.
10. Use geographical or physical features, especially arterial roadways, for district and precinct boundaries It is essential that the district and precinct boundaries be easily identifiable. Such features as arterial roadways, stream beds, and river beds provide distinctive, identifiable boundaries.
11. Consider all alternative plans presented by interested groups and Individuals all individual citizens and interest groups will be given an opportunity to use the official data and to present alternative plans for redistricting. The U.S. Department of Justice will review the County's preclearance submission to determine if the County considered alternative plans submitted by minority and special interest groups.
12. Do not split incorporated towns (when possible) It should be possible to maintain all towns intact,
13. Precinct lines will be used to guide the work of drawing district lines.