



Takeaways from NCSL Redistricting Seminar

Providence, RI


June 2019

Presented by Commissioner Sheila Stearns

Redistricting Seminar Homepage

- To view the complete presentations from each speaker and additional materials, visit the homepage for the NCSL Redistricting Seminar held in Providence:

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/redistricting-seminar-providence.aspx>



Speaker: Terri Ann Lowenthal

To see all of the Lowenthal presentation slides visit:

http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/Redistricting/Terri_Ann_Lowenthal.pdf

THE 2020 CENSUS: Ready to launch?

§ **Goal:** a census that counts all communities (geographic; demographic) equally well.

§ **Unprecedented challenges:**

- Insufficient and delayed annual funding
- First high-tech census
- Climate of fear
- Natural disasters = disruption
- Uncertainty right before census launches

§ **Eyes on the prize:** a fair and accurate census!



Speaker: James Whitehorne

To see all of the Whitehorne presentation slides visit:

<http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/Redistricting/James-Whitehorne-powerpoint.pdf>

Public Law 94-171

Mission: Provide the officers or public bodies having initial responsibility for the legislative apportionment or districting of each State an opportunity to identify the geographic areas for which specific tabulations of population are desired and to deliver those tabulations in a timely manner.

Identified “geographic areas desired”:

- Census Tabulation Blocks
- Voting Districts (e.g. precincts, wards, etc.)
- Legislative and Congressional Districts

Requirements:

- Establish program criteria
- Identify required tabulations
- Conduct the program in a non-partisan manner
- Deliver the tabulations to the governor and the officers or public bodies having initial responsibility for the legislative apportionment or districting of each State no later than 1 year from Census Day (April 1, 2021)



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[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

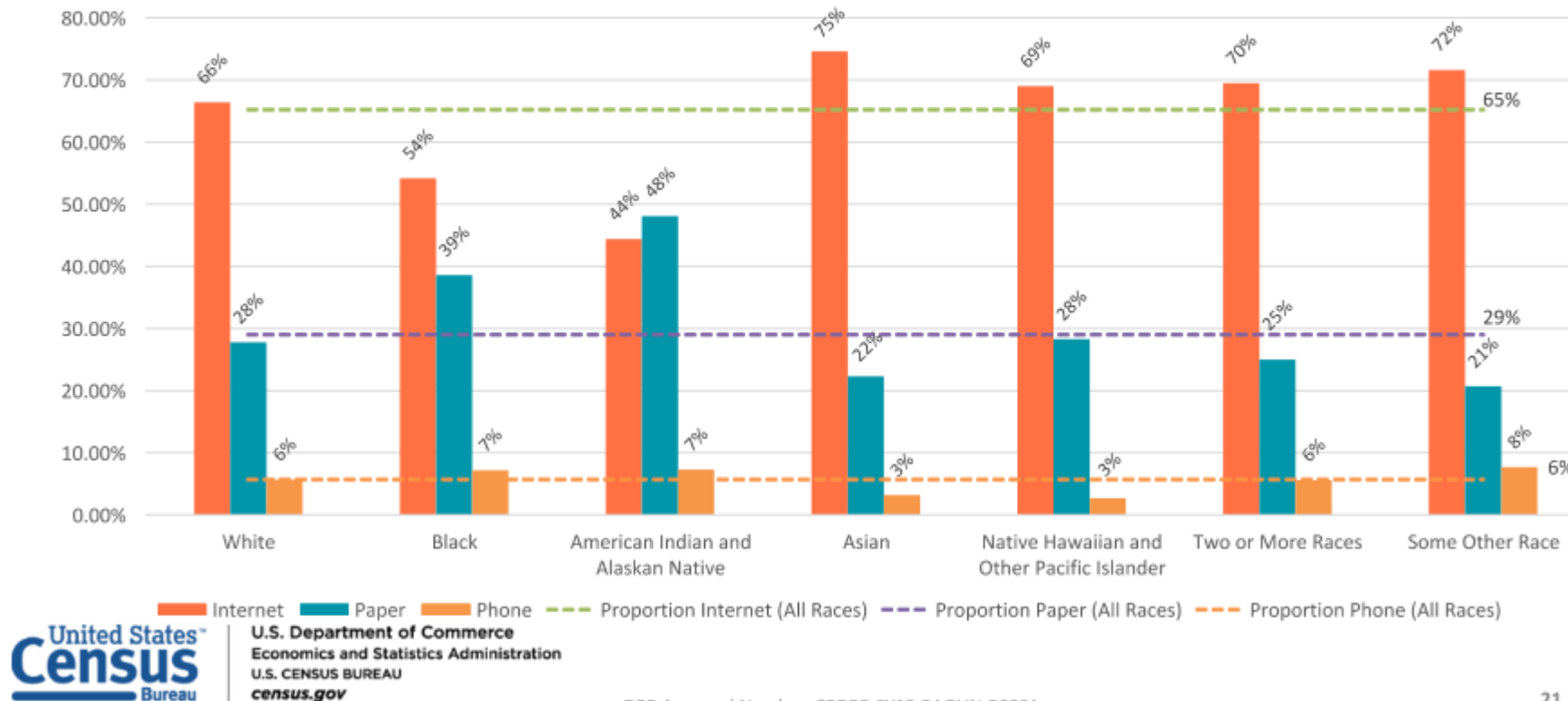
Group Quarters Assistance

- On February 8, 2018, the Census Bureau published a Federal Register Notice on the Final 2020 Census Residence Criteria and Residence Situations. In that Notice, the Census Bureau stated our intention to continue counting prisoners at the correctional facility as we determined that is most consistent with the concept of usual residence, as established by the Census Act of 1790. However, the notice also stated:
 - *Therefore, following the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau plans to offer a product that states can request, in order to assist them in their goals of reallocating their own prisoner population counts.*

2018 End-to-End Census Test

Proportion of Self-Response Modes for each Race – Internet, Paper, and Phone

Total Household Population: 571,000

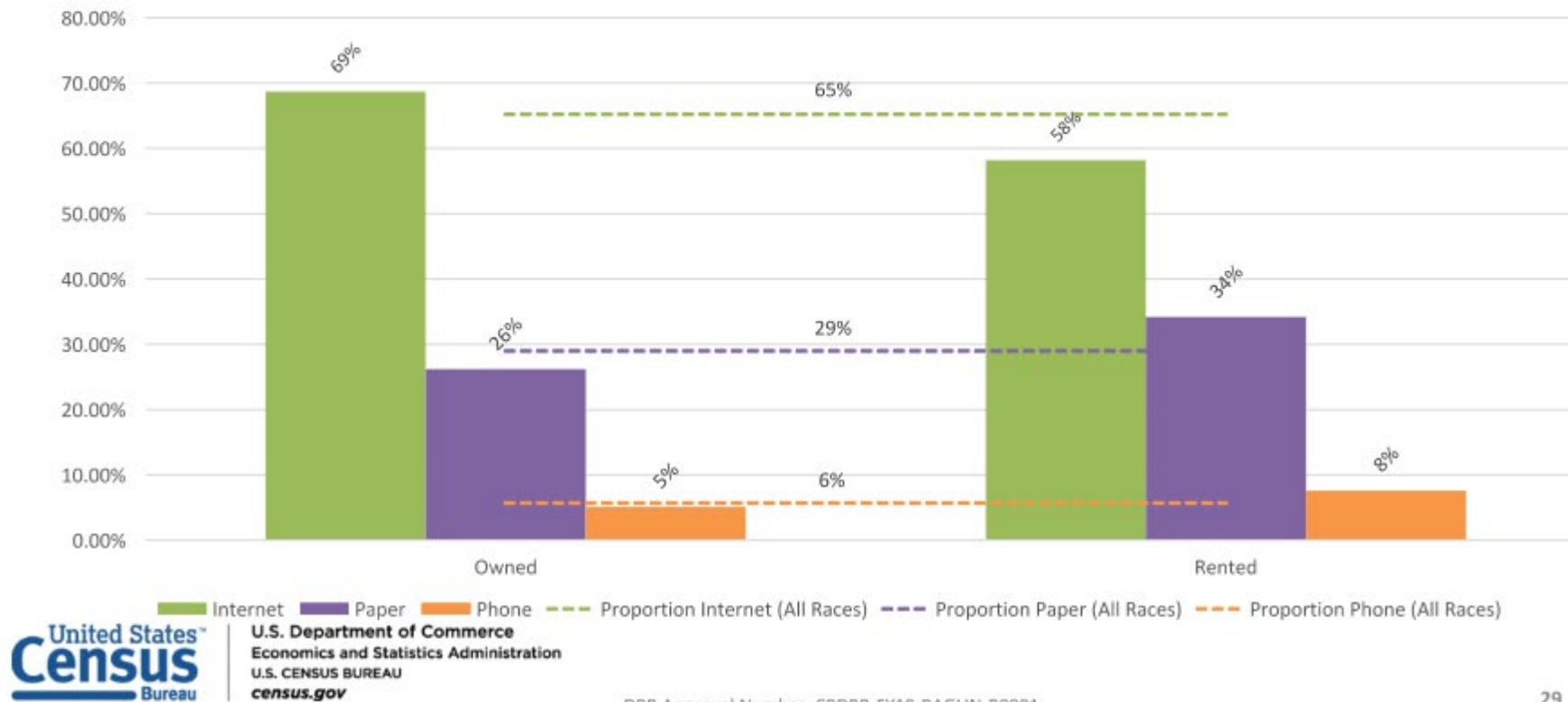


DRB Approval Number: CBDRB-FY19-RAGLIN-B0001

2018 End-to-End Census Test

Proportion of Self-Response Modes for Tenure – Internet, Paper, and Phone

Total Household Population: 571,000



2020 Census

Key Milestones

Milestone	Date	
Begin 2020 Census Program	November 18, 2011	<input type="checkbox"/>
Begin Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program	January 2017	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver 2020 Census Topics to Congress	March 28, 2017	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deliver 2020 Census Questions to Congress	By March 31, 2018	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open Regional Census Centers	April 2018	<input type="checkbox"/>
Conduct 2018 End-to-End Census Test	August 28, 2017 – August 31, 2018*	<input type="checkbox"/>
Begin Opening Area Census Offices	January 7, 2019	<input type="checkbox"/>
Begin In-Field Address Canvassing	August 18, 2019	
Launch Advertising Campaign	January 2020	
Begin Remote Alaska	January 21, 2020	
Begin Group Quarters – Advance Contact	February 3, 2020	
Begin Self-Response	March 12, 2020	
Begin Update Leave	March 16, 2020	
Begin Update Enumerate	March 16, 2020	
Begin Group Quarters – Service Based Enumeration	March 30, 2020	
2020 Census Day	April 1, 2020	
Begin Group Quarters Enumeration	April 2, 2020	
Begin Coverage Improvement	April 7, 2020	
Begin Early Nonresponse Followup	April 9, 2020	
Begin Nonresponse Followup	May 13, 2020	
Deliver Apportionment Counts to the President	By December 31, 2020	
Complete Delivery of Redistricting Counts to the States	By March 31, 2021	
Complete 2020 Census Program	September 29, 2023	

*Duration represents the time frame for data collection.



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2020 Census

Upcoming Milestones

In-Field Address
Canvassing begins
in **57** days



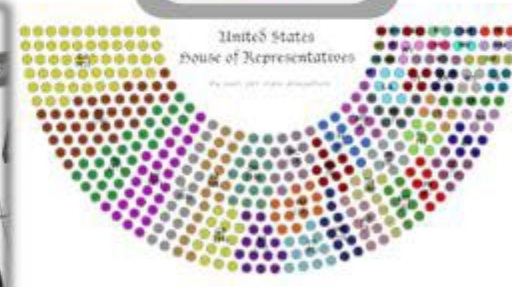
First enumeration in
Toksook Bay, Alaska
begins in **213** days



Census Day 2020 is
in **284** days



Apportionment counts
are given to the
President in **558** days

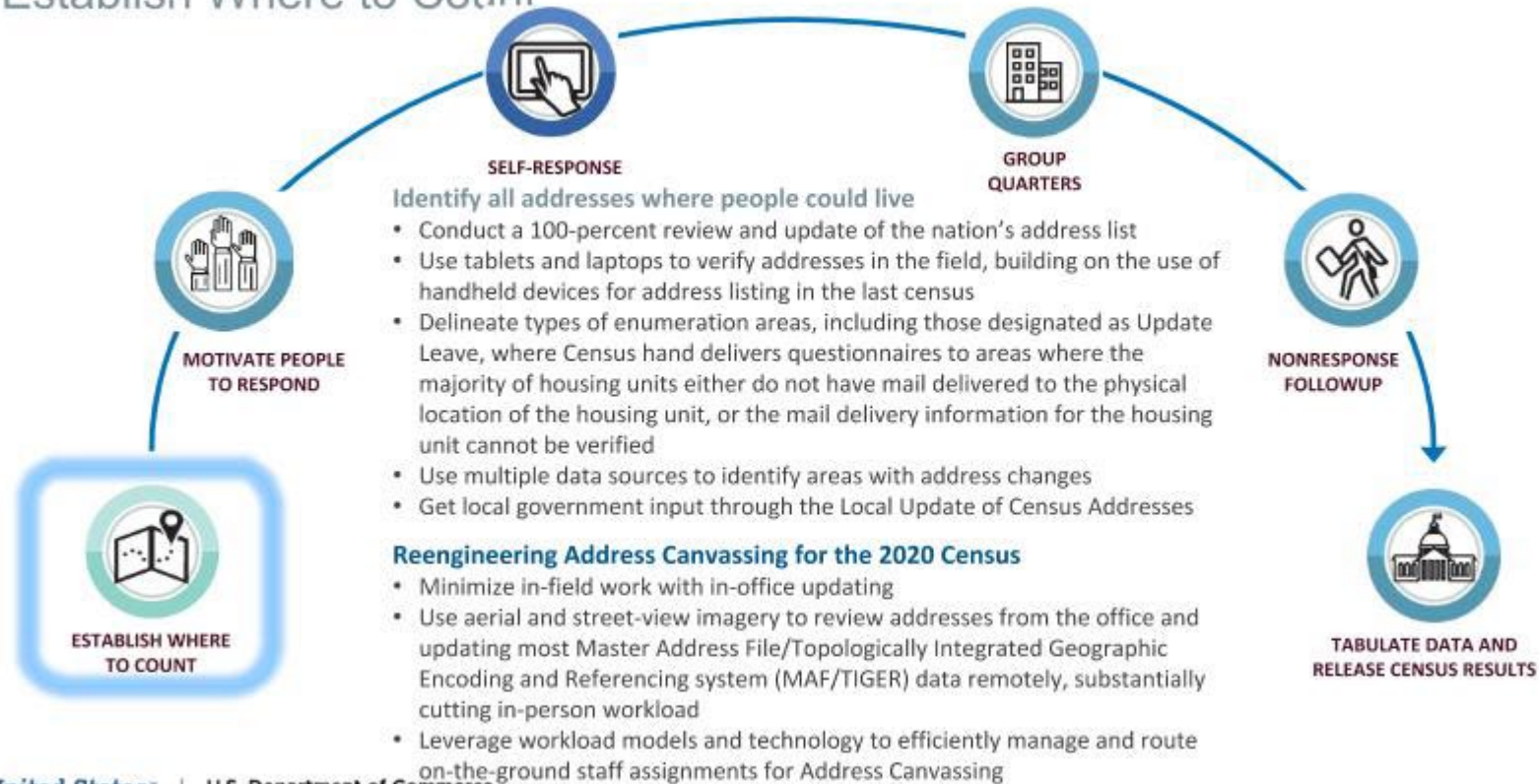


United States
Census
Bureau

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2020 Census

Establish Where to Count

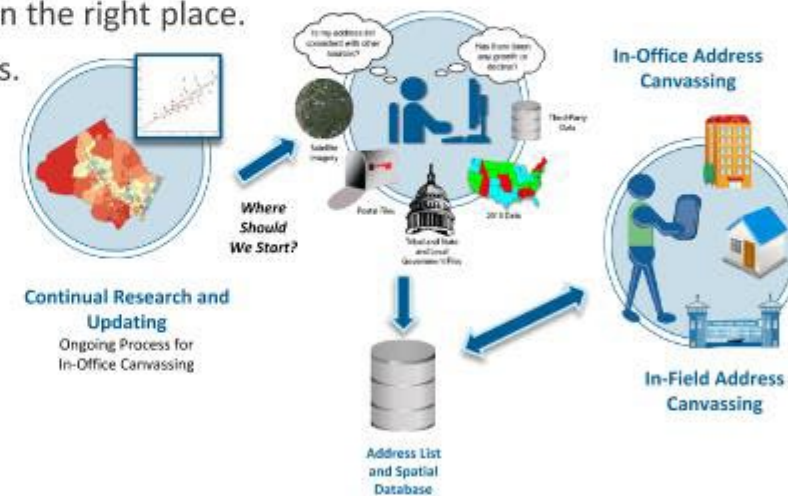


Know Where to Count: Geographic Programs

Address list and spatial database determines the address list for the 2020 Census

The goal: Count everyone once, only once, and in the right place.

- Geographic Support System Partnership Programs.
- In-Office Address Canvassing.
- Local Update of Census Addresses.
- Boundary and Annexation Survey.
- Participant Statistical Areas Program.
- Geographic Products.



2020 Census

Motivate People to Respond



2020 Census Integrated Partnership and Communications Operation

The Integrated Partnership and Communications operation communicates the importance of participating in the 2020 Census to the entire population of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas to:

- Engage and motivate people to self-respond, preferably via the internet
- Raise and keep awareness high throughout the entire 2020 Census to encourage response

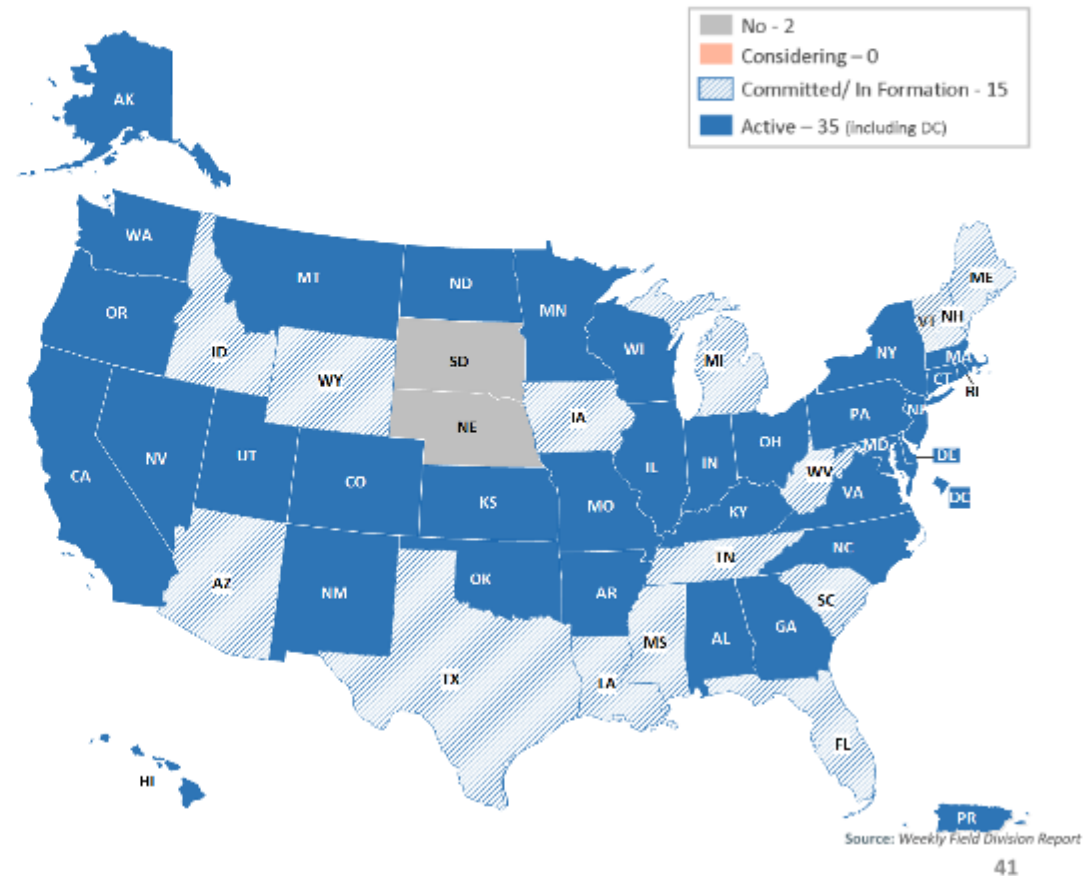


2020 Census: State Complete Count Commissions

Data current as of:
June 19, 2019

Notes:

Those states in the “Yes” category indicate that the Census Bureau has received a firm commitment at the highest state-level to form a complete count commission (CCC). However, this designation does not mean that the State CCC is fully formed yet or that legislation will be passed; only that a commitment has received by the Census Bureau.



2020 Census

Responding is easier than ever – internet, paper, telephone

- Maximize self-response through a robust contact strategy and multiple response options
- Using the internet as the primary mode of response is a major milestone for counting the population, however, by design, the 2020 Census will be easier to respond to than any previous decennial census in our nation's history.
- You will be able to respond anytime, from anywhere. Regardless of how households receive their invitation to respond they will be able to do so online, by mail, or over the phone.



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2020 Census Nonresponse Followup



Collect data from all households, including group and unique living arrangements

- Leverage automation to efficiently manage and route on-the-ground field staff, as well as manage case assignment and the number of contact attempts
- Field workers will use handheld devices for collecting the data
- Operations such as recruiting, training, and payroll will be automated, reducing the time and staff required for these activities
- Phased approach will ensure accurate and complete count

Data Release Schedule

Legally required products

- Apportionment
 - NLT 12/31/2020
 - Federally Affiliated Count Overseas + Resident Population
- P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data
 - Geography – 12/1/2020 through 2/1/2021
 - Tabulation Data – 2/18/2021 through 3/31/2021
 - Resident Population only




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2020 Census

A Complete and Accurate Count of the Population and Housing





Speaker: Michael McDonald

To see all of the McDonald presentation slides visit:

<http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/Redistricting/Michael-mcdonald.pdf>

Equal Population

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- **In a series of 1960's court cases, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that districts must be of substantially equal population**
 - For Congressional Districts +/- 1% population deviation from smallest to largest district (*Wesberry v Sanders* 1964)
 - For state legislative districts a +/- 10% deviation (*Reynolds v Sims* 1964)



8/25/2019

Why Not Let Computers Do It?

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Computers	Humans
Can be programmed with measurable goals only	Can interpret concepts like communities of interest
Balance measures according to a fixed formula	Can judge trade-offs between goals
Because of complexity, only known to work “well” on precincts	Can draw to census block level
Tend to get stuck when trying to optimize	Pattern recognition allows humans to see solutions computers can’t
Can have hidden biases	Can have hidden biases



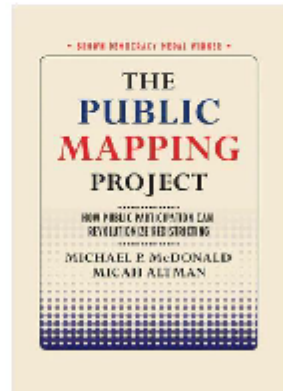
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The Public Mapping Project

How Public Participation Can Revolutionize
Redistricting

Micah Altman, Michael P. McDonald

176 Pages
Paperback
ISBN: 9781501738848
Cornell University Press

Download ▼



Print

The Laurence and Lynn Brown Democracy Model is an initiative of the



Speaker: Peter Wattson

To see all of the Wattson presentation slides visit:

<http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/Redistricting/Peter-Wattson.pdf>

The Facts of Life

Equal Population

- Absolute Numbers are Less Important than Relative Numbers
- Growth Slower than Average
 - Area Will Grow
- Growth Faster than Average
 - Area Will Shrink

The Facts of Life

Gerrymandering

- Packing
- Cracking
- Pairing
- Kidnapping

The Facts of Life

Creating a Gerrymander

- Minority party not evenly distributed
- Get packed & cracked
- Districts look like monsters

Legislative Districts

- An Overall Range of Less than 10 Percent
 - Unless Proof of Intentional Discrimination
- Unless Necessary to Achieve Some “Rational State Policy”
 - Affording Representation to Political Subdivisions
 - Other State Policies

Traditional Districting Principles

- Contiguous Territory
- Compact
- Preserve Political Subdivisions
- Preserve Communities of Interest
- Protect Incumbents
 - Preserve Cores of Prior Districts
 - Avoid Contests Between Incumbents
- Nest House Districts within Senate Districts

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Speaker: Tammy Patrick

To see all of the Patrick presentation slides visit:

<http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/Redistricting/Tammy-Patrick.pdf>

Recently published, this report documents the multitude of election administrative functions—including district line maintenance and placement of voters.

America's Election Model: The Architecture of Elections

NIST-EAC Interoperability Election Modeling Working Group
Revision: 0.1



<https://pages.nist.gov/ElectionModeling/ElectionProcessThe Model.pdf>

Other Takeaways? Questions?

