

City of Santa Fe

Redistricting

Redistricting Plans

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Presented by:

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Research & Polling, Inc.



About Us

- Research & Polling, Inc. has 26 years of redistricting experience
 - Staff has 45 years combined redistricting experience
- Over 100 redistricting projects for state and local governments
 - NM State Legislature (4 cycles)
 - City of Santa Fe (2001)
 - Santa Fe Public School districts (2002)
- Market research and opinion polls
 - Consumer research
 - Citizen satisfaction surveys

Redistricting

- What is “redistricting”?
 - Draw (and re-draw) lines that determine which voters are represented by each district
- Why redistrict?
 - Decennial Census
 - Most current population data
 - Population shifts within an area
 - District growth slower than the area as a whole
 - District will gain population
 - District growth faster than the area as a whole
 - District will lose population

Who Districts?

<i>Elected Body</i>	<i>Districts</i>	<i>Authority to Redistrict</i>
U.S. House of Representatives	3	State Legislature / Governor
New Mexico Legislature State House State Senate	70 42	State Legislature / Governor
Public Regulation Commission	5	State Legislature / Governor
County Commission	3/5	County Commission
City Council/Commission	4 to 10	City Council/Commission
Local School Board	5/7	Local School Board

Key Districting Dates

April 1, 2010	Census Day
January 10, 2011	Apportionment of U.S. House
March 15, 2011	Census Bureau delivered redistricting data
June 2011 to November 2011	Redistricting completed no later than 84 to 112 days prior to election
March 2012	Municipal election

Redistricting Process

- Public meetings
 - First public meeting
 - ABCs of redistricting
 - Show initial plans
 - Public input
 - Show plans during second meeting
 - Gather input about plans
 - Revise plan(s) and adopt a plan during subsequent meetings
- Following plan adoption
 - Assign voters to correct districts
 - Election resolution
 - Filing date
 - Election

Principles of Districting

- Equal population
- Minority Voting Rights
- Compactness
- Contiguity
- Communities of interest

Equal Population

- ❑ Based on most recent Decennial Census
- ❑ Includes everyone, including, but limited to:
 - Adults
 - Children
 - College students in dorms
 - Prisoners
 - Non-citizens
 - ❑ Undocumented immigrants
 - ❑ Foreign students
 - ❑ Foreign workers (e.g. German Air Force personnel at Holloman AFB)
- ❑ Not limited to registered voters

Constitutional Mandate to Redistrict

Gray v. Sanders, 1963

"One person, one vote"

Equal population = equal representation



We the People

- Congress: as equal as possible
- State legislature, other entities: 10% spread, if there's a good reason

Ideal Population

- Ideal population = total population / # of districts

- City of Santa Fe: $67,748 / 4 = 16,937$

- Change from 2000 to 2010

	2000 Census	2010 Census	Change	% Change
Santa Fe	62,203	67,748	5,745	9.2%

	2000 Census Ideal Population	2010 Census Ideal Population	Change	% Change
District Ideal	15,551	16,937	1,386	9.2%

Equal Population

- Districts must be “substantially equal”
 - No more than 10% total deviation
 - Within $\pm 5\%$ of the ideal population
 - City of Santa Fe, 2010 Census
 - Population of each district (ideal pop $\pm 5\%$)
 - $16,937 \pm 846$ range: 16,091 – 17,783
- Based on total population, not registered voters

Minority Voting Strength

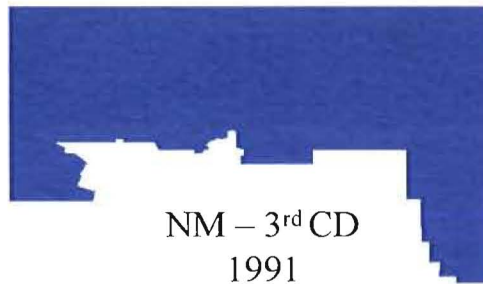
- Give the minority population an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice
- Do not dilute voting strength of ethnic/language minority groups (Voting Rights Act, Section 2):
 - Native Americans
 - African Americans
 - Hispanics
- Do not create districts in which race is the predominant criterion in subordination of traditional districting principles (Shaw v. Reno, 509 U.S. 630 (1993))

Compactness

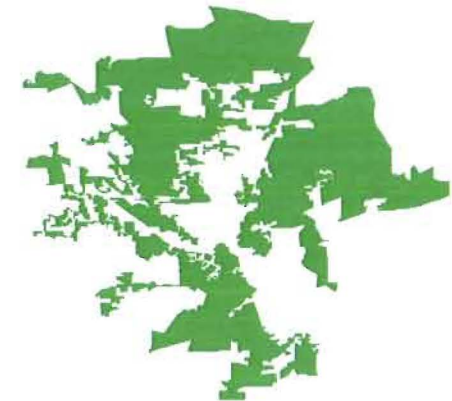
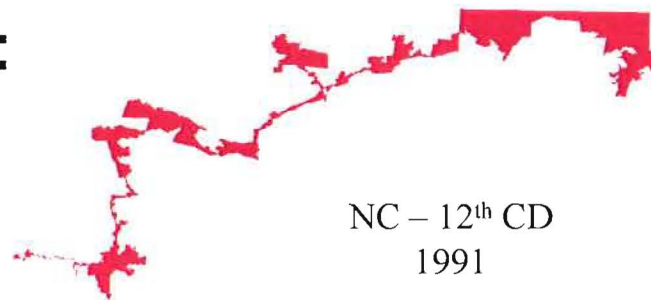
- Different ways to measure compactness
 - None are perfect
- Refers to shape, not geographic size
 - Could have a very large district in area that is compact in shape
- A jurisdiction's irregular outer boundary can affect the compactness measures of a district

Compactness

□ Compact:

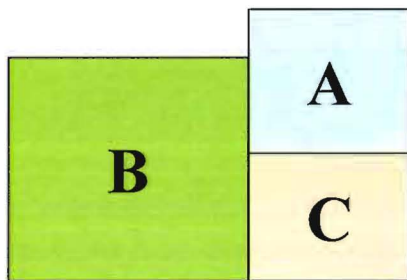


□ Not Compact:

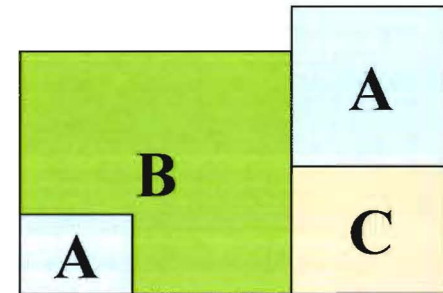


Contiguity

- ❑ No islands of territory
- ❑ One distinct part, not two or more
- ❑ Contiguous:



Not Contiguous:



Communities of Interest

- All other factors which determine where a district boundary could be drawn
 - Maintaining core of existing districts
 - Not required
 - Protection of incumbents
 - Not required
 - Respecting political subdivisions (e.g. avoid precinct splits)

 - Also includes, but not limited to:
 - Neighborhoods
 - Cultural / historical traditions
 - Geographic boundaries
- Can be considered as long as previous districting principles are not violated

Plans



Remember...

- ❑ Redistricting plans are rarely perfect
 - Any single district cannot be looked at in a vacuum
 - ❑ Changing one district may impact others
 - Many factors are considered
 - ❑ Factors may work against each other
 - Not set in stone
 - Intended to initiate discussion
 - Changes can be made
 - It is impossible to please everyone