

The Public Law 94-171 Redistricting Data File: What Does it Contain and How is it Used?

**Big Sky GeoCom 2018
Helena, Montana
April 18, 2018**

Agenda

- Overview of the Census Bureau's Redistricting Data Program and Why it Exists
- Who “does” Redistricting?
- How are Census Data Used in Redistricting?

Redistricting Data Program

Public Law 94-171 (1975)

- Requires the Census Bureau, through the Secretary of Commerce, to allow states specify the geographic area tabulations needed
- Tabulation Blocks
- Voting Districts (wards, precincts, etc.)
 - Requires the tabulations be delivered by April 1 of the year following the Census to state governors and “officers or public bodies have responsibility for legislative apportionment or districting”
 - Requires the program to be conducted in a non-partisan manner

Redistricting Data Program

Phase 1 – Block Boundary Suggestion Project

Activity	Date
Initial Delineation	December 2015 – May 2016
Verification	December 2016 – May 2017

Activities

States can influence the 2020 tabulation blocks

- Must Hold/ Do Not Hold
- Missing Features
- Misaligned Features

Update Area Landmark (state parks, prisons, etc.) boundaries

Suggest updates to legal boundaries

Redistricting Data Program

Phase 2 – Voting District Project

Activity	Date
Initial Delineation	December 2017 – May 2018
Verification I	December 2018 – May 2019
Verification II	December 2019 – March 2020

Activities

States provide their Election Districts/Precincts/Wards

States can influence the 2020 tabulation blocks

- Missing Features
- Misaligned Features

Update Area Landmark (state parks, prisons, etc.) boundaries

Suggest updates to legal boundaries

Redistricting Data Program

5

Phase 3 – Data Delivery

Activity	Date
Geographic support products	November 2020 – February 2021
P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data	February 2021 – March 31, 2021

Content

Geographic Support Products

- Shapefiles
- Maps (PDF only)
- Block Assignment Files
- Block to Block Relationship Files

Redistricting Data Program

6

Phase 3 – Data Delivery

Activity	Date
Geographic support products	November 2020 – February 2021
P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data	February 2021 – March 31, 2021

Tentative Content

P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File

- Race and Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by Race and Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- Occupancy Status (Housing)
 - Group Quarters – NEW for 2020

Redistricting Data Program

7

Redistricting Data Program

Prototype 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File

Activity	Date
Geographic support products	February 2019 – March 2019
P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data	March 2019

Content

Geographic Support Products

- Shapefiles
- Maps (PDF only)
- Block Assignment Files
- ~~Block to Block Relationship Files~~

Prototype P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File

2010 Census File Design

- List of 2010 Tables
 - Table P1 – Race
 - Table P2 – Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race
 - Table P3 – Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
 - Table P4 – Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
 - Table H1 – Occupancy Status

RACE [71]
Universe: Total population
Total:
Population of one race:
White alone
Black or African American alone
American Indian and Alaska Native alone
Asian alone
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone
Some Other Race alone
Two or More Races:
Population of two races:
White; Black or African American
White; American Indian and Alaska Native
White; Asian
White; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
White; Some Other Race
Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native
Black or African American; Asian
Black or African American; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
Black or African American; Some Other Race
American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian
American Indian and Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
American Indian and Alaska Native; Some Other Race
Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
Asian; Some Other Race
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some Other Race
↓
Population of six races:
White; Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some Other Race

Redistricting Data File

Table P1 – Race

Redistricting Data File

Table P2 – Hispanic or Latino, and Not
Hispanic or Latino by Race

Prototype P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File

- Table P3 – Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
 - Universe: Total population 18 years and over
 - Otherwise identical to P1
- Table P4 – Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
 - Universe: Total population 18 years and over
 - Otherwise identical to P2
- Table H1
 - Universe: Housing Units
- Total

– Occupied

– Vacant

Prototype P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File

Group Quarters

- Proposed Group Quarters Table
 - Timing – with P.L. 94-171 Redistricting File
 - Content (Advanced Group Quarters Table from 2010) • Data - Total Population
- Types:
 - Institutionalized population
 - » Correctional facilities for adults
 - » Juvenile facilities
 - » Nursing facilities/Skilled-nursing facilities
 - » Other institutional facilities
 - Noninstitutionalized population

- » College/University student housing
- » Military quarters
- » Other non-institutional facilities

Prototype P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File

2010 Census File Design

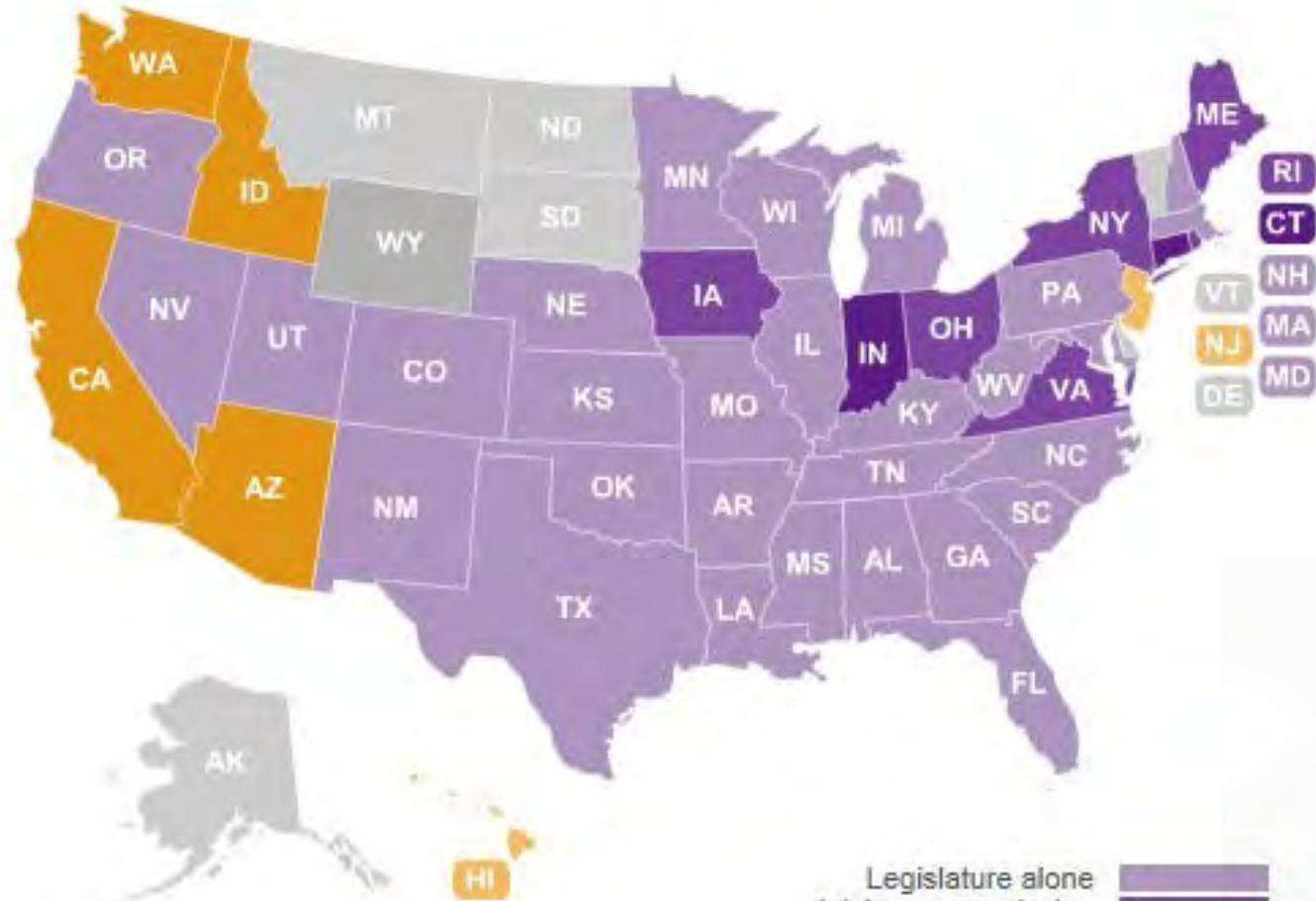
- Geography
 - State
 - Congressional District
 - State Legislative District
 - American Indian Area
 - County
 - City
 - Town

- Census Block Group
- School District (Elementary, Secondary, Unified)
- Census Block
- Voting District (if provided during Phase 2 by the state)
- And more

Agenda

- Overview of the Census Bureau's Redistricting Data Program and Why it Exists
- Who “does” Redistricting?
- How are Census Data Used in Redistricting?

Districts?



- Legislature alone
- Advisory commission
- Backup commission
- Politician commission
- Independent commission

cting

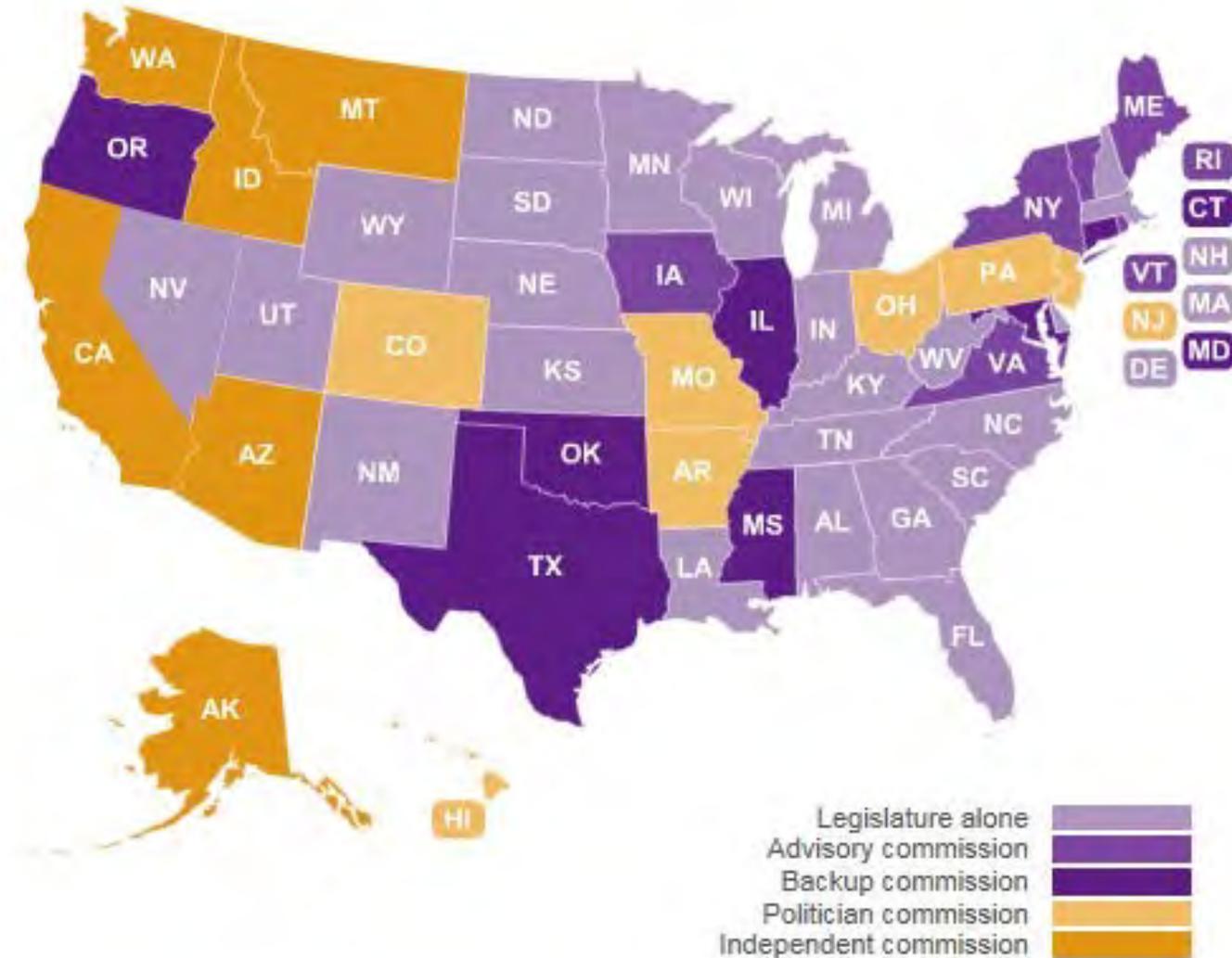
Congressional

Who is Responsible for Redistricting State Legislative

Source:
About
from

Districts?

Levitt, Justin. (2018). All
Redistricting. Retrieved



Agenda

- Overview of the Census Bureau's Redistricting Data Program and Why it Exists
- Who "does" Redistricting?
- How are Census Data Used in Redistricting?

How are Census Data Used in Redistricting?

- Ensure Districts to have roughly equal population (Baker v. Carr, 1962) – CDs should be as equal in population as practicable
 - SLDs up to roughly 10% (+/- 5%) population deviation (varies by state)
- Voting Rights Act (1965) – Designed to protect minorities’ right to an effective vote
- Do minority voters have an opportunity “to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice”?

How are Census Data Used in Redistricting?

- Prohibits “vote denial” and “vote dilution”
- Vote Dilution claims usually involve use of at-large elections or drawing district lines to “pack” or “crack” protected populations
- Thornburg v. Gingles (1986) - The Gingles Conditions –
The minority group is sufficiently numerous and compact enough to form a majority in a single-member district
- Can a majority-minority district be created?

How are Census Data Used in Redistricting?

- The minority group is “politically cohesive” (tends to vote as a bloc) – The “majority votes sufficiently as a bloc to enable it...usually to defeat the minority’s preferred candidate.”
- If above conditions are met, courts look at other factors •
 - “totality of the circumstances”
 - State constitutions and statutes may also influence where lines are drawn by encouraging

How are Census Data Used in Redistricting?

- Contiguity
- Compactness
- Respect for other political boundaries or communities of interest
- Nesting with other geography
- Other

Thank you!

Colleen Joyce

Assistant Chief

Census Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office

U.S. Census Bureau

Website:

www.census.gov/rdo

Contact:

rdo@census.gov

1-301-763-4039