
PREPARING FOR REDISTRICTING

Wendy Underhill, Oct. 29, 2019

Prepared for the Texas Senate Select Committee on Redistricting



WHAT DOES NCSL DO?

We work for you. We:

- Serve 7,383 legislators and 30,000 legislative staff
- Provide non-partisan research & analysis
- Link legislators with each other and experts
- Speak on behalf of legislatures in D.C.



TOPICS FOR TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- Who Redistricts
- Budgeting
- Technology
- Staff
- Data
- Maps
- Public Input
- Criteria and Standards



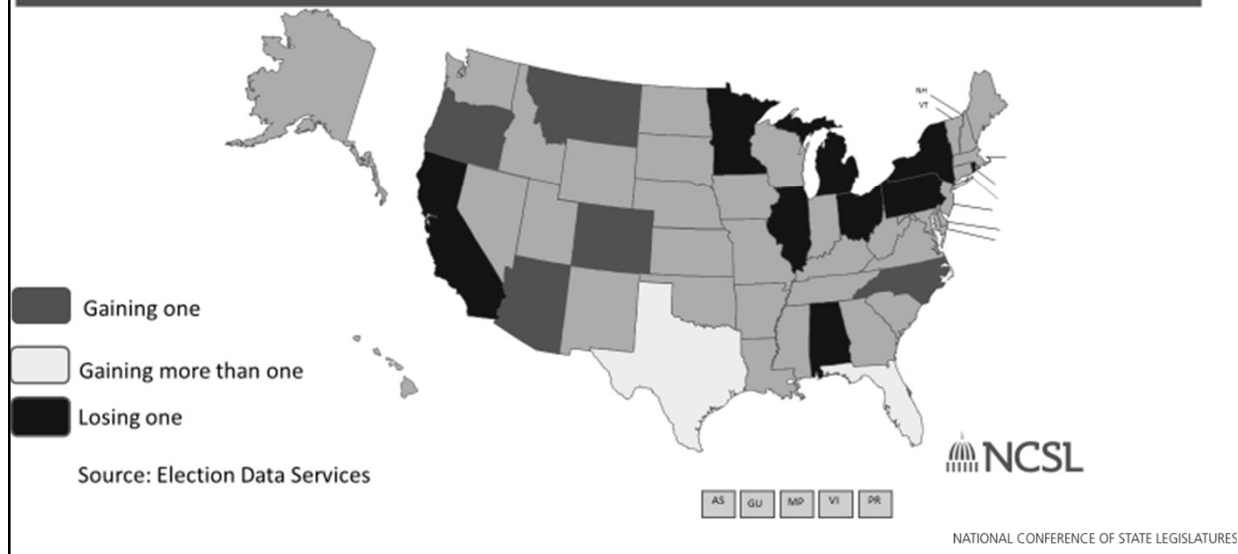
WHAT IS REDISTRICTING?

...the redrawing or revision of boundaries for representational districts.

--Redistricting Law 2020



REAPPORTIONMENT GAINERS & LOSERS (ESTIMATED)



WHO DOES REDISTRICTING?

■ The legislature

State Legislative Plans:

36 states

Congressional Plans:

41 states

■ Commissions or Boards

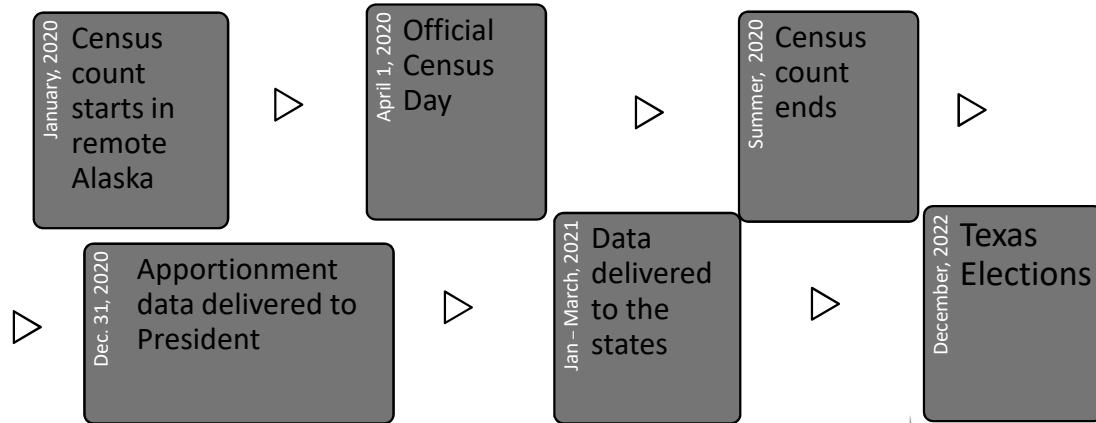
State Legislative Plans:

14 states

Congressional Plans:

9 states

TIMING



STATE-SPECIFIC TIMELINE

- When are Texas's...
 - Session dates
 - Deadlines for enactment of new districts
 - Candidate filing dates
 - And election dates?

Note: local governments need to redraw precinct boundaries between enactment of new districts and the candidate filing date

BUDGETING

- Technology
- Staff and consultants
- Setting up an office
- Travel around the state
- Lawsuits?



TECHNOLOGY

- Vendors
- Increased data storage capacity
- New computers
- Peripherals (large-scale printers, etc.)
- Increased cybersecurity measures?

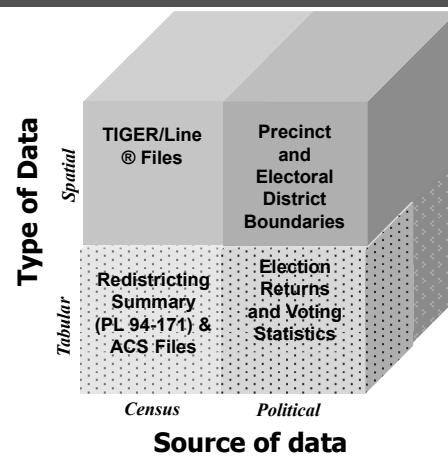


STAFF AND CONSULTANTS

- Permanent staff or temporary staff
 - Tech, legal and administrative
- Consultants for both caucuses?
- Training



REDISTRICTING DATA CUBE



© Election Data Services, Inc.



LEGISLATIVE PRIVILEGE AND CONFIDENTIALITY

- National experts are in Texas:
 - Jon Heining (TLC)
 - Steve Ogle (XXX)
- How maps are stored—who has access, where are they displayed



PUBLIC INPUT OPTIONS

- Hold public hearings before and after maps are drawn?
- Offer a public map-making option?
- Require a time period between introducing a plan and voting on it?



FEDERAL (NON-NEGOTIABLE) REQUIREMENTS

- Equal Population (Art. 1, sec. 2 U.S. Constitution)
- Comply with the 14th Amendment
- Comply with Voting Rights Act of 1965, as renewed by Congress in 2006



TRADITIONAL DISTRICTING PRINCIPLES

- Contiguity (50 states)
- Compactness (40)
- Preservation of Political Subdivisions (44)
- Preservation of Communities of Interest (25)
- Preservation of Cores of Prior Districts (10)
- Avoid Pairing Incumbents (11)



EMERGING CRITERIA

- Prohibit favoring/disfavoring parties, incumbents and/or candidates (14 states)
- Prohibit use of political data (5)
- Competitiveness (3)
- Proportionality/symmetry between statewide vote share and a party's seats in a legislative chamber (2)



RESOURCES

- [Into the Thicket: A Redistricting Starter Kit](#)



- Redistricting Law 2020 (coming soon)

[Getting Ready to Redistrict: Seminars](#)

NCSL will hold three more seminars leading up to the next round of redistricting.



QUESTIONS?

Wendy Underhill

303-856-1379

Wendy.Underhill@ncsl.org

