
LWVUS Policy and Action: Redistricting 202

*Advocacy and Litigation Department
LWVUS*

August 27, 2019

Goal for Today

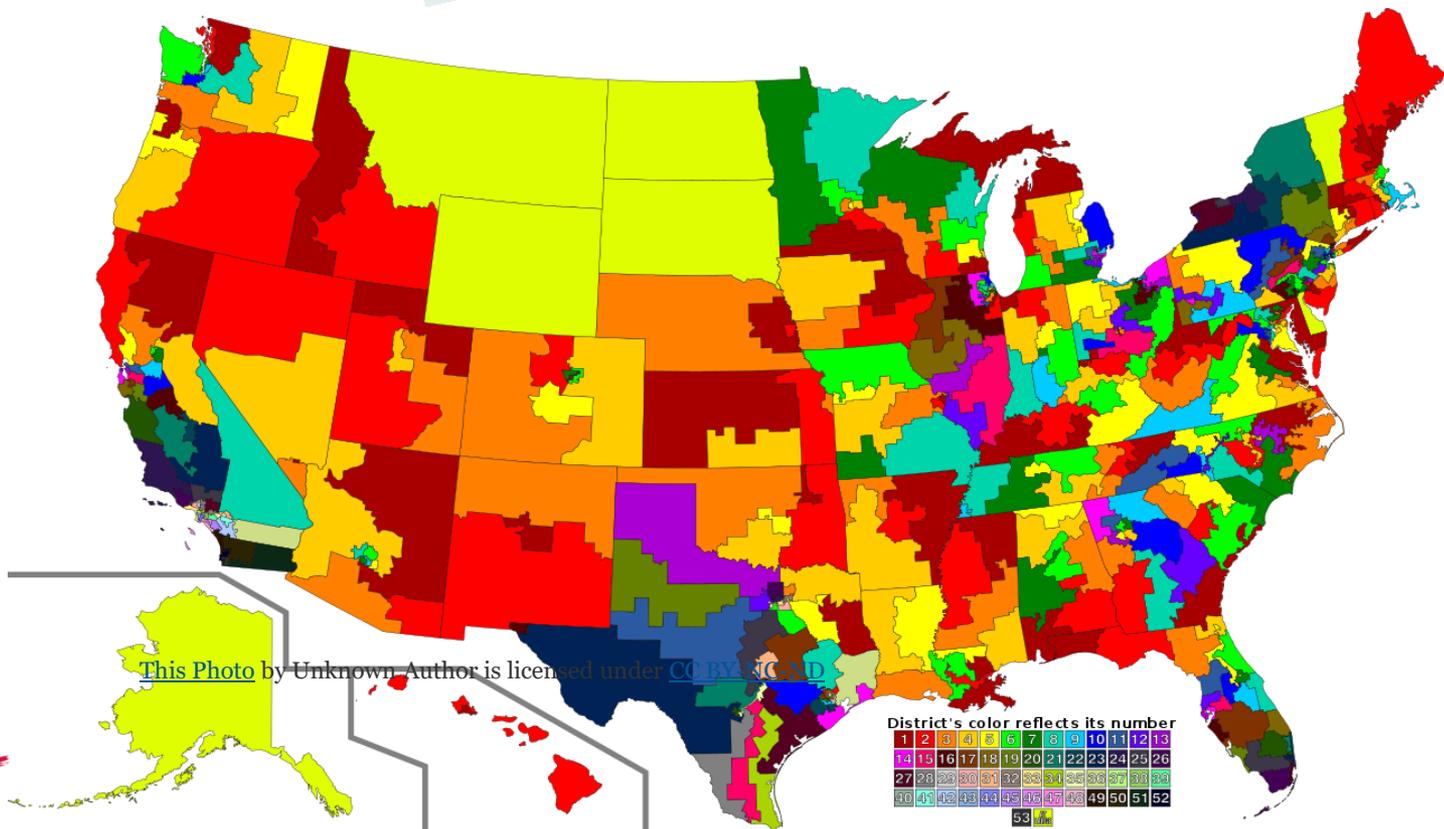
Take an advanced look at redistricting and specifically talk about:

- Criteria and Requirements
- Implementation of the Process
- Transparency and Public Participation

Reminder!

Redistricting is..

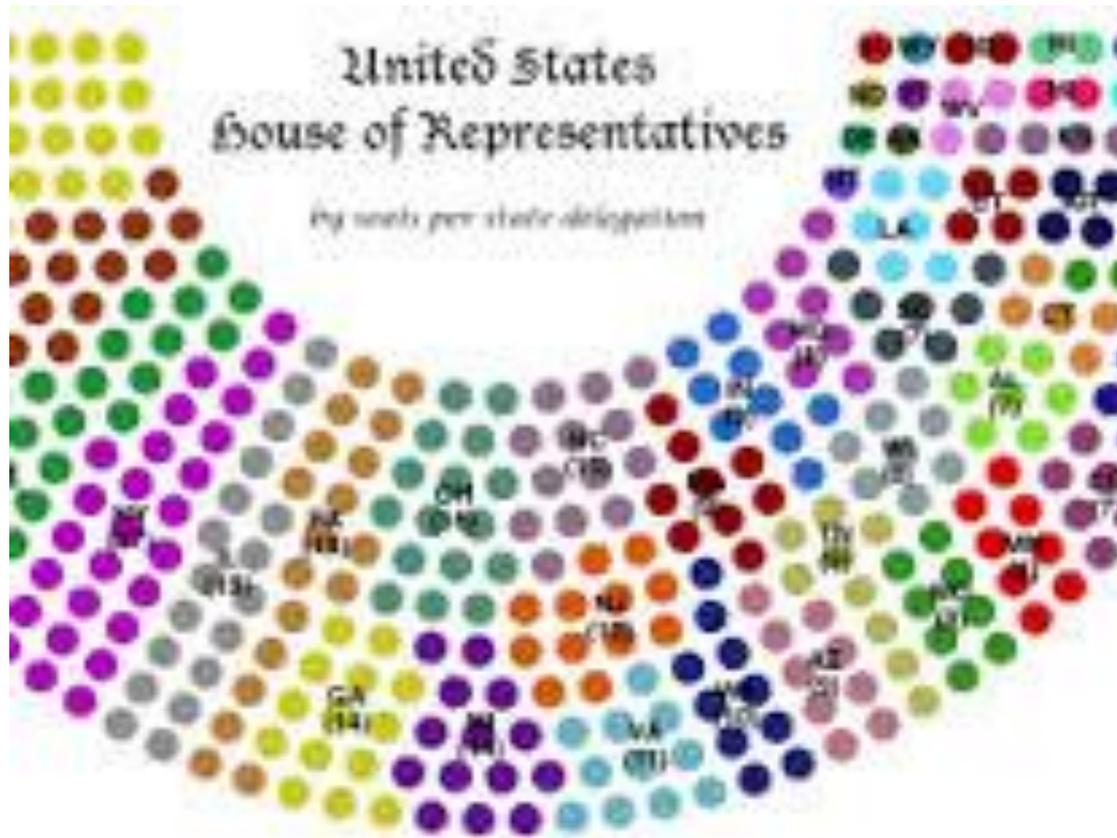
Apportionment is...



A History Lesson on Redistricting

- Gerrymandering defined
- Redistricting in states with just one Representative
- Impact of the Reapportionment Act of 1929





A History Lesson on Redistricting:

The Act of 1842

- Whigs v. Jacksonian Democrats
- Enlargement of Congressional seats
- Baker v. Carr

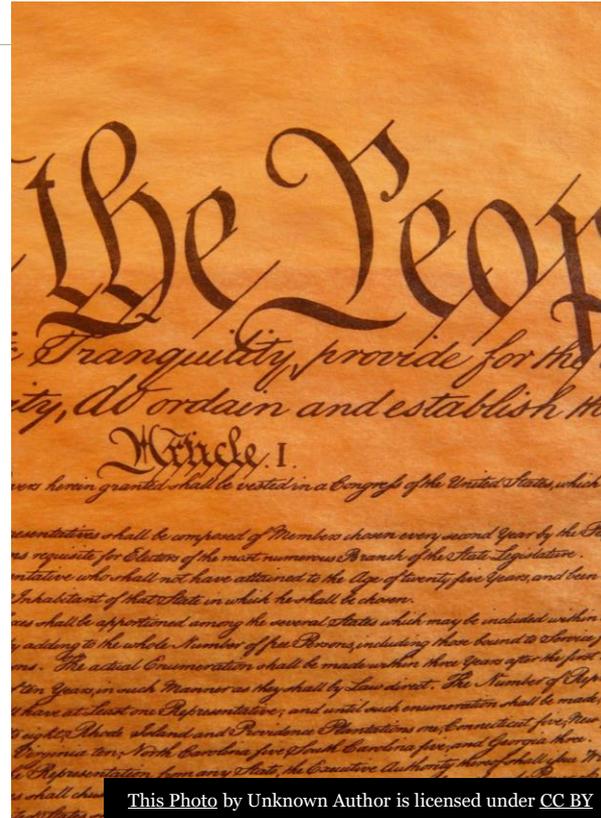


**A History Lesson on
Redistricting:
The Reapportionment Act of 1929**

- *Representation Inequality*
- *Capping Congressional Seats to 435*
- *Changes in Size and Shape of Districts*



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Redistricting Criteria

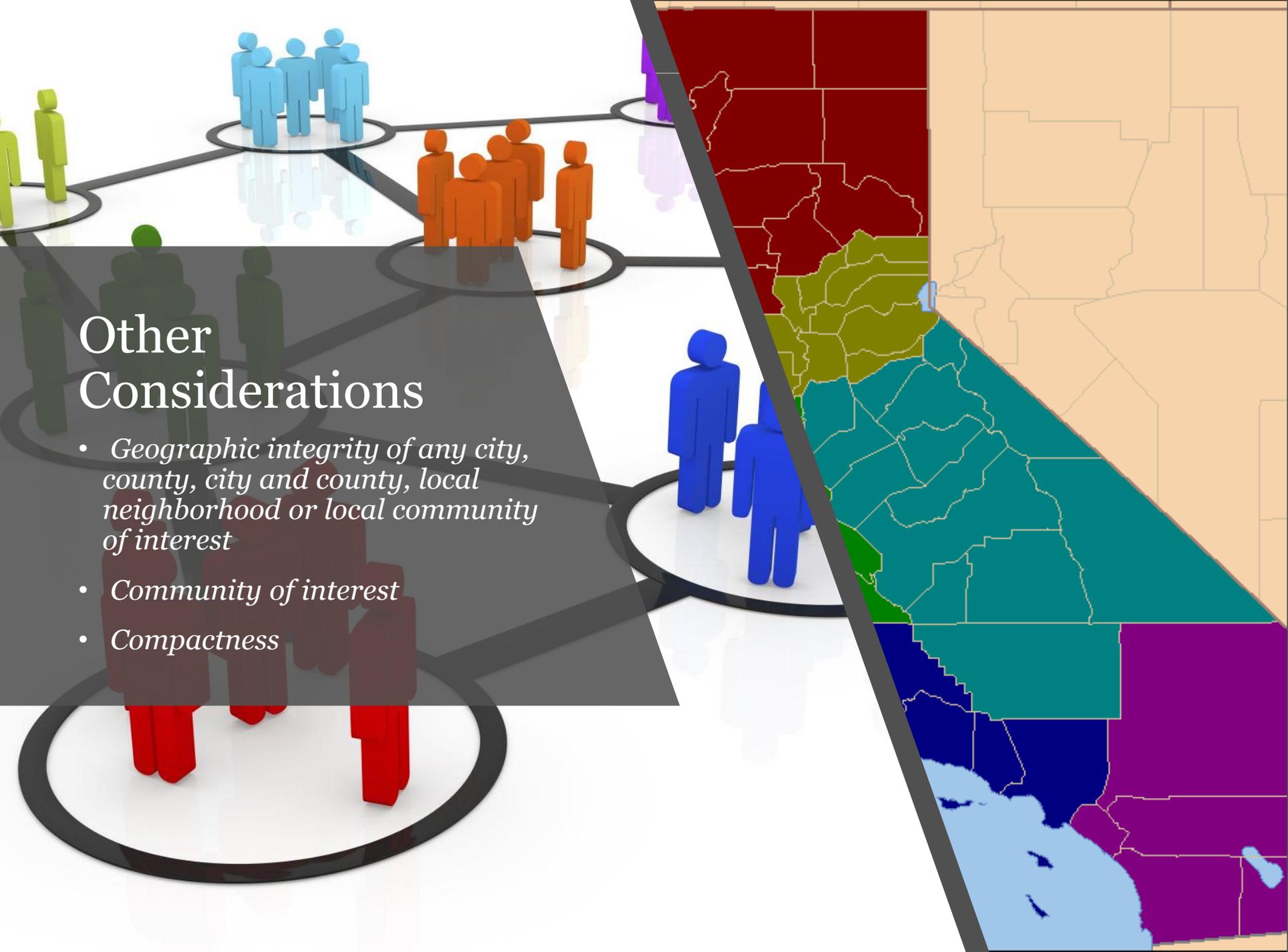
Criteria are the “rules” for creating new districts





Fundamental Criteria

- *Contiguity*
- *Equal Population*
- *Partisan Fairness*
- *Racial Fairness*



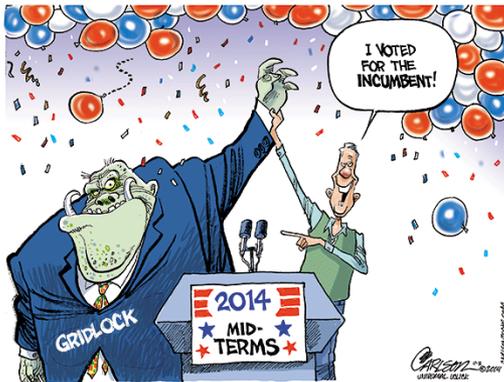
Other Considerations

- *Geographic integrity of any city, county, city and county, local neighborhood or local community of interest*
- *Community of interest*
- *Compactness*



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- *Nesting:*
- *No consideration of incumbent or candidate residences:*
- *Competitiveness:*



Other Considerations
cont'd.



LWV Mandated Criteria

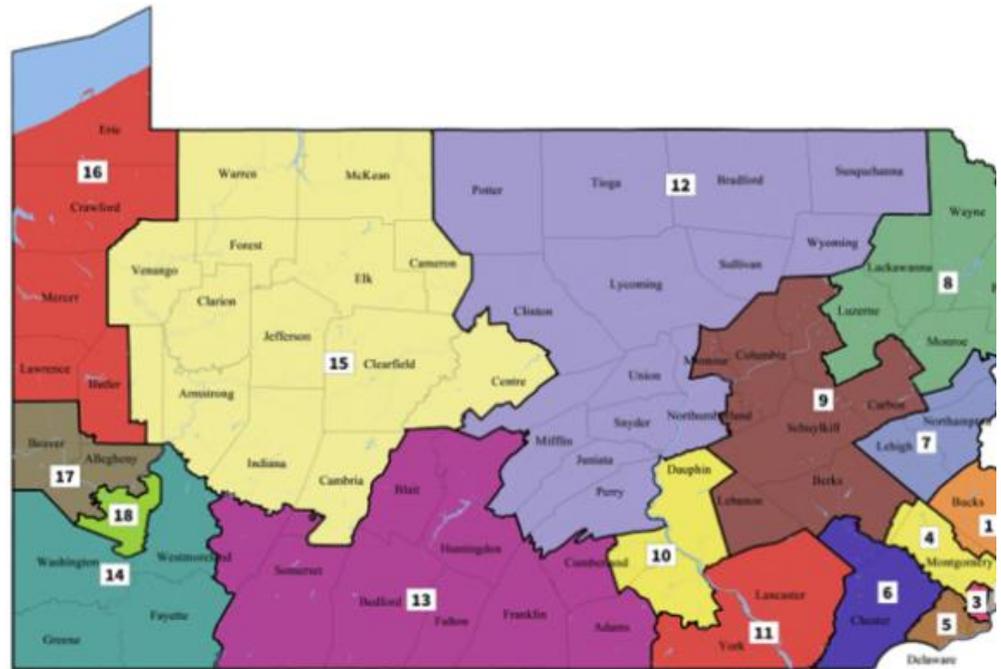
- Substantially equal populations
- Geographic contiguity
- Racial and linguistic minority representation
- Transparency

Provide for (to the extent necessary):

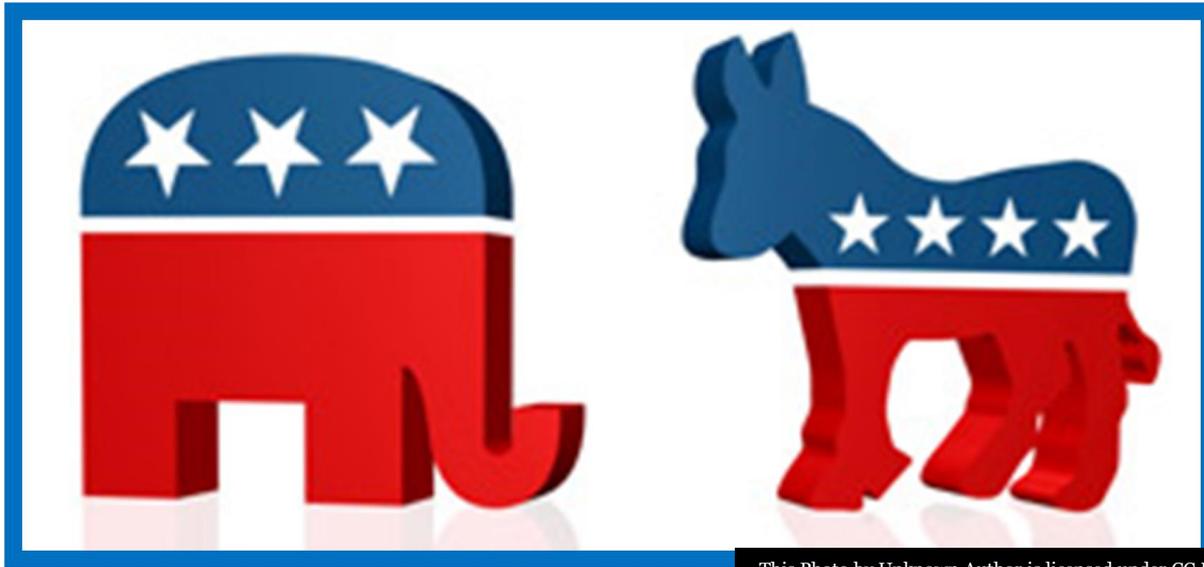
- Preservation and protection of communities
- Respect for boundaries of municipalities and counties

Additional LWV Criteria Considerations

Compactness
and
competitiveness
may also be
considered as
criteria so long
as they do not
conflict with the
previous criteria



medial map adopted by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on February 19, 2018.
he image to enlarge.

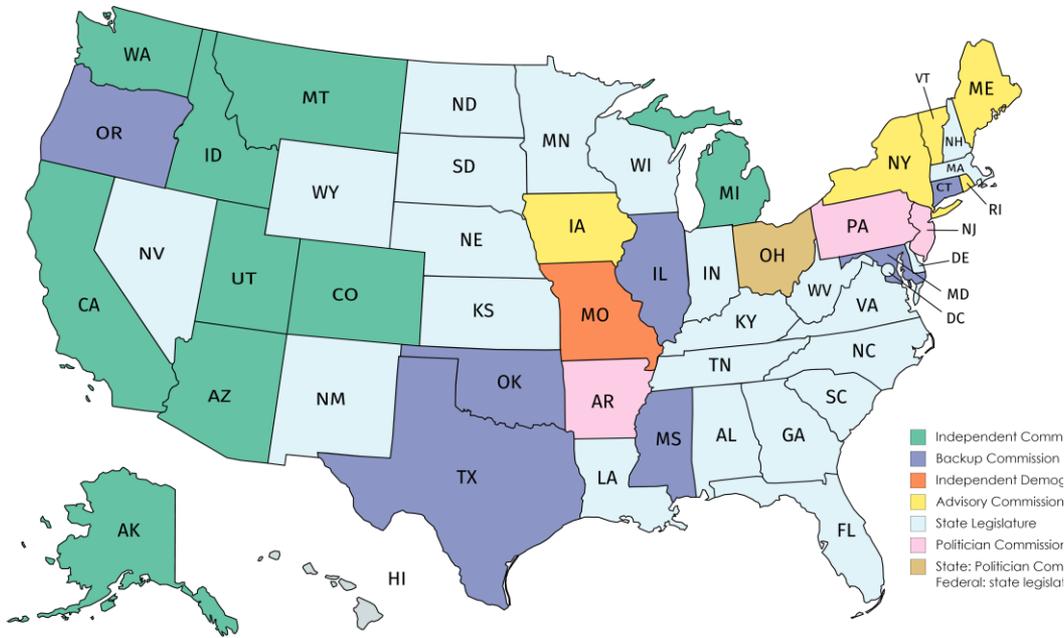


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LWV Criteria Rejections

Explicitly reject:

- Protection of incumbents, through such devices as considering an incumbent's address;
- Preferential treatment for a political party, through such devices as considering party affiliation, voting history and candidate residence.



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Redistricting is different in every state, but usually the process is run by state legislatures

Some states have a commission process but not all states have the same commission make-up

Implementation



Implementation Case Study: California



- Independent commission
- Open, transparent process
- Fair, ranked criteria

California Case Study: The Big Three



- Reasonably equal population
- Voting Rights Act – compliance with the spirit as well as just the letter
- Geographic contiguity
- Respect for neighborhoods, city and county boundaries, and communities of interest
- Geographic compactness, as much as possible given higher criteria
- Nesting, as much as possible given higher criteria
- No consideration of place of residence of incumbent or candidate
- Nothing that would favor or discriminate against an incumbent or candidate or party

California Case Study: Our Criteria

California Case Study:

How we use
competitiveness

Competitiveness





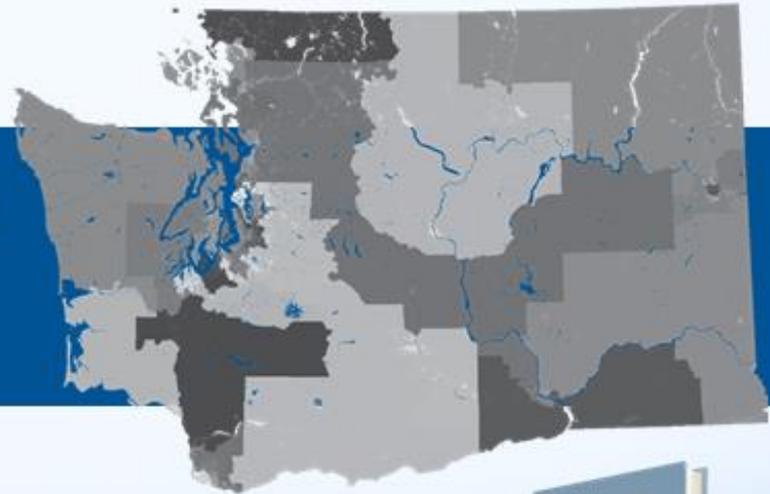
California Case Study: Key Takeaways

- Commissioner training
- Implementation – monitoring, advocating
- Public outreach

Implementation Case Study: Washington



Districts We Can Believe In



Presented By:

Alison McCaffree

League of Women Voters of Washington

Politics of the Possible in Action

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Implementation Case Study: Washington

many maps *One* voice

- LWV Tribute
- Marketing
- Education
- Civic Engagement
- Today's Issues



Implementation Case Study: Washington

2011 WA Redistricting Commission

Established by constitutional amendment in 1983.

Members of the 2011 Redistricting Commission



Non-voting Chair

Senate



Democrat



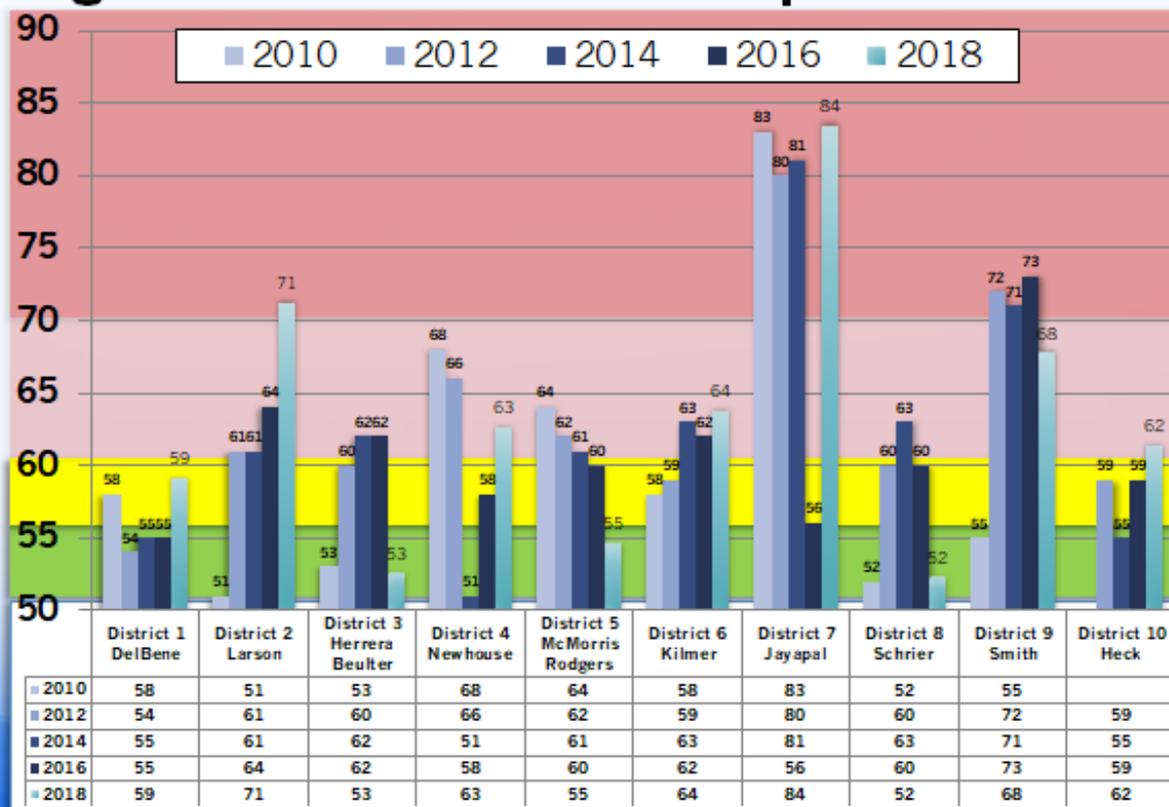
Republican

House



Implementation Case Study: Washington

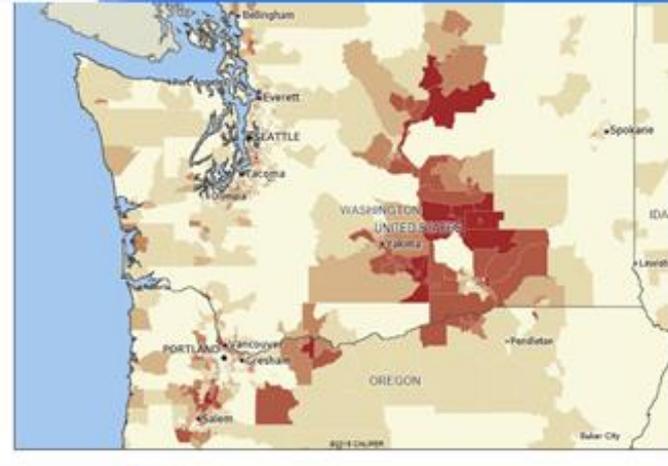
Congressional District Competitiveness

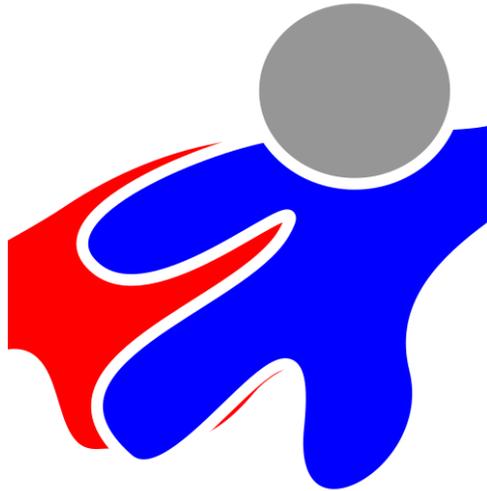


Implementation Case Study: Washington

Data Lenses

1. Race / ethnicity
2. Socio- Economic / Education
3. Environmental Factors
4. Religion and Tribal Affiliation
5. Business interest / Industry





Transparency and Public Participation

No matter what the process is in your state, the participation and input of the public is vital to the redistricting process

Transparency and Public Participation



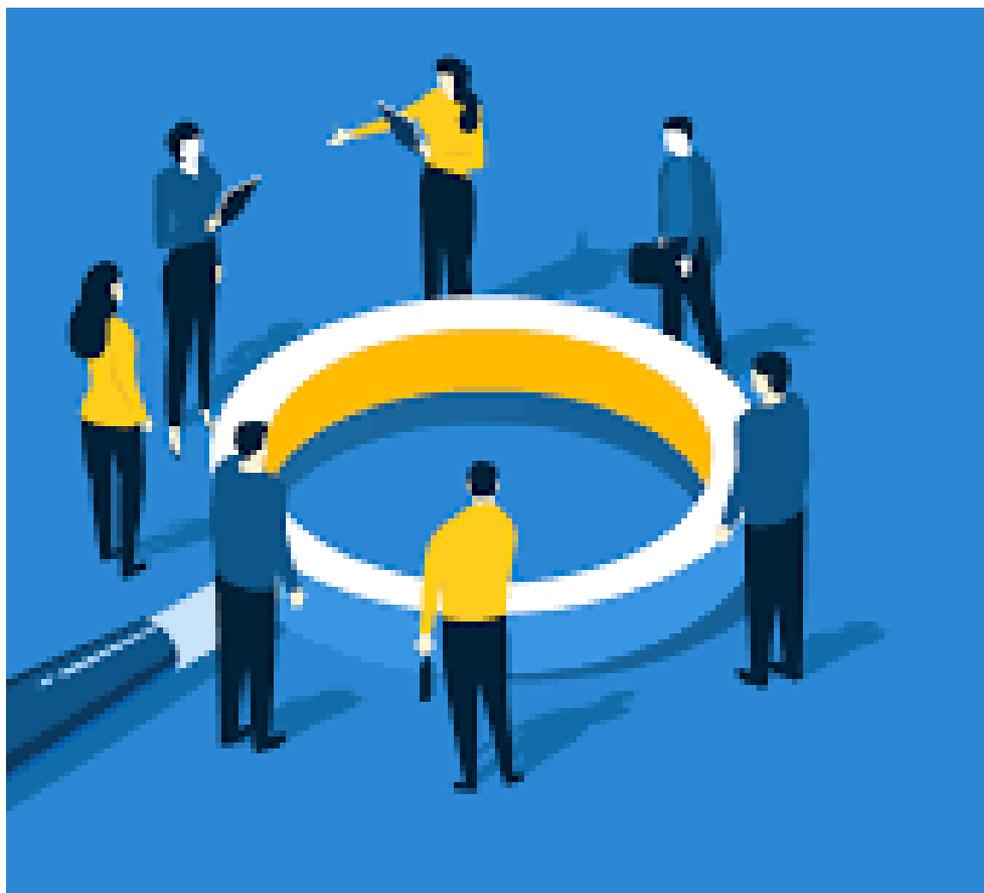
- The case in Georgia
2011

Transparency and Public Participation

What does this Look like?

- Clear guidelines and procedures
- Public hearings in at least 5 different locations, preferably the largest political subdivisions
- Open and accessible website available to public with demographic and political data used available
- Adequate public notice for all hearings
- Enough time to modify the final plan in response to public feedback.

• *Brennan Center for Justice*





How to Encourage Public Participation

- Mapping Contests
- Testimony
- Shadow commissions
- Legislation (for 2020)
- Ballot initiatives (for 2020)

Questions?





**Special thanks to our guest
presenters:**

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