

Redistricting Committee Guidelines

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NCSL National Redistricting Seminar
Providence, Rhode Island
September 27, 2010

Introduction

- Who wants guidelines?
- Disadvantages?
- Advantages?
- Who has used what guidelines before?
- How do they work?

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Who Wants Guidelines?

- People not drawing plans
 - Outsiders
 - The minority
 - Majority rank and file
- People drawing plans who need another's approval to adopt them
 - Other members
 - The other body
 - The governor
 - A court

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Disadvantages

- They tie your hands
- If you don't follow them, you look bad
 - Politically embarrassing
 - May provoke legal attack

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Advantages

- Make drafters aware of legal limits
- Narrow range of disputes
- Help survive legal challenges
- Help tell when you've gotten to "yes"

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Past Guidelines

- Limits on Gerrymanders
- Districting Principles for 2000s Plans
- Procedural Guidelines

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Limits on Gerrymanders

- Who draws the plans
- Data that may be used
- Procedures to follow
- Districts that result

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Limits on Data

- No party registration
 - Iowa, Montana, Nebraska
- No election results
 - Iowa, Montana, Nebraska
- No socio-economic data
 - Iowa, Nebraska
- No incumbent residences
 - Arizona, California, Iowa, Montana, Wyoming

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Limits on Procedures

- Public hearings
 - Commission states
 - Iowa
- Preliminary plan
 - Commission states
 - Iowa
- Judicial review
 - Colorado
 - Florida
 - Kansas

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Limits on Districts that Result

Table 8 - Districting Principles for 2000s Plans

- Populations equal
- Territory compact - 36 states
- Territory contiguous - 48 states
- Political subdivisions preserved - 44 states
- Communities of interest preserved - 21 states

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Limits on Districts that Result

Table 8 - Districting Principles for 2000s Plans

- Cores of prior districts preserved - 13
- Incumbents protected - 20
- Minorities fairly represented - 27
- Politically competitive - 2
- House districts nested in Senate - 17

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How Do Guidelines Work?

Minnesota Example

- Districting Principles for the Plans
- Procedural Guidelines

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Districting Principles

SF 182 (2009)

- Number of districts
 - Set by statute
- Nesting
 - Minn. Const. Art. 4, § 3
 - Plan Comparison Report
- Population equality
 - Legislative - 2% deviation
 - Congressional - no deviation
 - Population Summary Report

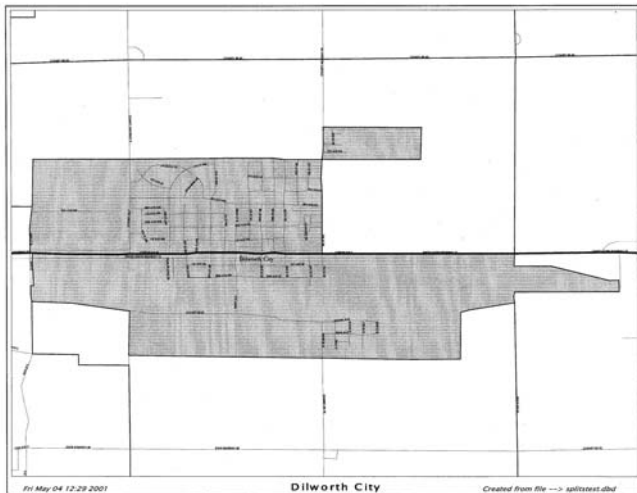
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Districting Principles, cont'd

SF 182 (2009)

- Contiguity, compactness
 - Convenient contiguous territory - Minn. Const. Art. 4 § 3
 - Structured into compact units
 - Contiguity by water sufficient
 - Point contiguity not permitted, unless within same municipality
 - Compactness Report
 - Contiguity Report

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Districting Principles, cont'd

SF 182 (2009)

- Numbering
 - A regular series - Minn. Const. Art. 4, § 3
- Minority representation
 - Not dilute voting strength - VRA § 2
 - Increase probability minorities elected
 - Minority Report - Voting Age Population

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Districting Principles, cont'd

SF 182 (2009)

- Preserving political subdivisions
 - Counties, cities, towns
 - As few districts as possible
 - Political Subdivision Splits Report
- Communities of interest
 - Social, political, cultural, ethnic, or economic
 - Linked by transportation or communication
 - Communities of Interest Report

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Districting Principles, cont'd

SF 182 (2009)

- Political competitiveness
 - Partisan index
 - Difference between Democrat and Republican index no more than 8%
 - Competitiveness Report
- Incumbents
 - Not drawn either to protect or defeat
 - Incumbents Report

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Districting Principles, cont'd

SF 182 (2009)

- Priority
 - Numerical order in this section
 - Not violate federal or state law

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Procedural Guidelines

SF 1326 (2001)

- Public hearings
 - No requirements
- Preliminary plan
 - No requirements
- Judicial review
 - No requirements

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Procedural Guidelines

SF 1326 (2001)

- Data to be used
 - PL 94-171 census data
 - As modified by GIS Office, if necessary
- Plan Submission
 - Database verified ready for use
 - Block equivalency file to GIS Office
 - Maps and reports posted on Web

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Districting Principles on Web

2000s Plans

- Map of the 50 States with link to each
 - Table of the 50 States
 - Text of each State's principles
 - Searchable
- <http://geo.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/RedPrinc2010/>

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