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
TEXAS LIKELY THE BIG WINNER IN REAPPORTIONMENT

State Legislative Plans:
- 36 states
Congressional Plans:
- 41 states

Commissions or Boards
- State Legislative Plans: 14 states
- Congressional Plans: 9 states

WHO DOES REDISTRICTING?
**TIMING**

- **January, 2020**: Census count starts in remote Alaska
- **April 1, 2020**: Official Census Day
- **Summer, 2020**: Census count ends
- **Dec 31, 2020**: Apportionment data delivered to President
- **Jan - March, 2021**: Data delivered to the states
- **December, 2022**: Texas Elections

**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

Source of data

- Census
- Political

Type of Data

- TIGER/Line ® Files
- Redistricting Summary (PL 94-171) & ACS Files
- Precinct and Electoral District Boundaries
- Election Returns and Voting Statistics

© 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?

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