Redistricting: Drawing Electoral Maps

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Kent Redfield, Professor Emeritus of Political Science
University of Illinois Springfield

Kredf1@uis.edu  217-971-8691
Redistricting: Definitions, processes, and criteria

- Reapportionment vs. redistricting
- Redistricting processes
- Redistricting Criteria

First principals: representation and equity

- The historical roots of redistricting: The apportionment clause of the US Constitution
- Redistricting in theory and practice prior to 1963
- The Warren Court and the Redistricting Revolution
The current Federal constitutional framework

• One man, One vote: Equal protection under the US Constitution

• Minority Voting Rights
  • Protecting minority voting rights and addressing historical patterns of discrimination – Voting Rights Act of 1965
  • Limiting the affirmative use of race as a criteria for redistricting

• Contiguity, compactness, political and geographic boundaries, communities of interest

• Political outcomes: the constitutionality of political gerrymanders and the Roberts Court
States and Redistricting: Drawing congressional districts and state legislative districts

- State constitutions: A multitude of criteria and processes
- The role of Federal and state courts
- The Illinois process as a case study of congressional and state legislative map making

Process

Criteria

Timeframe
Redistricting at the local government level

• State constitutions, state statutes, and home rule

• No redistricting: At large elections to select members on a legislative body

• No redistricting: Residency districts – Illinois judicial districts

• Reapportionment: Changes in the number of electoral districts due to changes in total population for the unit of local government

• Redistricting: redrawing the boundaries of the electoral districts of a local government unit
Redistricting Goals

- Protect incumbents
- Creating partisan advantage
- Creating regional advantage
- Preserve communities of interest or geographical or political subdivision boundaries
- Protect the interest of racial, ethnic, or cultural minorities
- Promote electoral competition

Redistrict Tactics

- Packing
- Cracking
- Tracking
Reference
