

Local Redistricting Criteria: Processes and Practical Considerations

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Overview

- **Redistricting Process**
 - Developing Iterative Processes and Timelines
 - Using Public Input as Building Blocks for Multiple Criteria
- **Focus on Criteria: FVRA and Communities of Interest**
 - Federal Mandates and Ranked Criteria
 - Legal, Historical, and Demographic Analyses
 - Intersection of FVRA and Neighborhoods/Communities of Interest
- **Special Considerations for Commissions**

Redistricting Process

- **FAIR MAPS Act**
 - Baseline Requirements and Timelines for Public Inputs
 - Draft Maps and Iterative Processes
- **Securing Adequate Resources**
 - Line Drawing Consultant
 - Software Tools for Public Input
 - Legal Counsel
 - Specialized Expertise: FVRA Compliance/Racially Polarized Voting

Redistricting Criteria: General Considerations

- **Relationship Between Federal and State Criteria**
- **Importance of Rankings for Line-Drawers and General Public**
- **Using Public Input as Building Blocks**
 - Consider Developing Pre-Draft Maps of Neighborhoods and Communities of Interest
- **Tendencies to Reorder Criteria**
 - Elevating Community of Interests Above Federal Requirements
 - Elevating Compactness and District Aesthetics

Redistricting Criteria: Federal Voting Rights Act

- **Section 2 Litigation Framework: Regulatory vs. Risk Analysis**
- **Analyses:**
 - **Legal/Historical (Previous Section 5 Coverage, CVRA Litigation)**
 - **Demographic**
 - Potential Majority-Minority Districts
 - Risks of Packing
 - Multiple Minority Populations and Coalitional Voting
 - Additional Resources: State CRC, County-Level
 - **Electoral**
 - Racially Polarized Voting

Redistricting Criteria: Communities of Interest

- “A ‘community of interest’ is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single . . . district for purposes of its effective and fair representation. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.”
- **Communities of Interest can include:**
 - Racial and Ethnic Populations
 - Populations with Similar Living Standards
 - Urban, Suburban, Rural Concentrations
 - Economic Concentrations (e.g, industrial, agricultural)

Redistricting Criteria: FVRA and Communities of Interest

- **Racial and Ethnic Communities of Interest**
 - Smaller Populations
 - Limited Evidence of Racially Polarized Voting
 - Ethnic Populations Not Clearly Covered by VRA
- However, race or ethnicity should be considered **in tandem with other dimensions** (e.g., income levels, neighborhood characteristics) to prevent constitutional problems.
- **Potential Conflicts Between VRA Districts and Communities of Interest**
 - Multiple racial and ethnic communities of interest

Redistricting Commissions

- **Assess Commissioner Skill Sets and Expertise**
 - Complementarity Among Commissioners and Staff/Consultants
- **Balancing Tasks and Timelines**
 - Education/Outreach – Public Input -- Line Drawing
 - Input as an End vs. Input as Information for Mapping

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