

**City Council Redistricting
Research & Polling, Inc.**

City of Las Cruces

Redistricting

Redistricting Principles

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Presented by:

Michael Sharp, Vice President
Research & Polling, Inc.



Redistricting

- What is “redistricting”?
 - Draw (and re-draw) lines that determine which voters are represented by each district
- Why redistrict?
 - Decennial Census
 - Most current population data
 - Population shifts within an area
 - District growth slower than the area as a whole
 - District might gain population
 - District growth faster than the area as a whole
 - District might lose population
 - District matches city growth rate
 - Might remain unchanged, depending on neighboring districts

Who Districts?

<i>Elected Body</i>	<i>Districts</i>	<i>Authority to Redistrict</i>
U.S. House of Representatives	3	State Legislature / Governor
New Mexico Legislature State House State Senate	70 42	State Legislature / Governor
Public Regulation Commission	5	State Legislature / Governor
County Commission	3/5	County Commission
City Council/Commission	4 to 10	City Council/Commission
Local School Board	5/7	Local School Board

Key Districting Dates

April 1, 2010	Census Day
January 10, 2011	Apportionment of U.S. House
April 1, 2011	Census Bureau delivers redistricting data to the states by April 1, 2011
April 2011 to June 2011	Redistricting process
November 2011	Municipal election

Districting Process

- ❑ Census data released
- ❑ Public meetings
 - First public meeting is dedicated to the process and explaining the ABCs of redistricting
 - Show initial plans during second meeting
 - ❑ Gather input about plans
 - Revise plan(s), if necessary, and adopt a plan during subsequent meetings
- ❑ Typical time to plan adoption: 3 months
 - 2001: plan adopted on June 25
- ❑ Assign voters to correct districts
- ❑ Election resolution
- ❑ Filing date
- ❑ Election

Principles of Districting

- Equal population
- Minority Voting Rights
- Compactness
- Contiguity
- Communities of interest

Equal Population

- ❑ Based on most recent Decennial Census

- ❑ Includes everyone, including, but not limited to:
 - Adults
 - Children
 - Citizens
 - College students in dorms
 - Prisoners
 - Non-citizens
 - ❑ Undocumented immigrants
 - ❑ Foreign students
 - ❑ Foreign workers (e.g. German Air Force personnel at Holloman AFB)

Constitutional Mandate to Redistrict

Gray v. Sanders, 1963

“One person, one vote”

Equal population = equal representation



We the People

- Congress: as equal as possible
- State legislature, other entities: 10% spread, if there's a good reason

Ideal Population

- Ideal population = total population / # of districts
 - Example using 2000 Census
 - City of Las Cruces: $74,267 / 6 = 12,378$

- Districts must be “substantially equal”
 - No more than 10% total deviation
 - Within $\pm 5\%$ of the ideal population
 - City of Las Cruces example, 2000 Census
 - Population of each district (ideal pop $\pm 5\%$)
 - $12,378 \pm 619$ range: 11,759 – 12,997

- Based on population, not registered voters

Minority Voting Strength

- ❑ Give the minority population an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice

- ❑ Do not dilute voting strength of ethnic/language minority groups (Voting Rights Act, Section 2):
 - Native Americans
 - African Americans
 - Hispanics

- ❑ Do not create districts in which race is the predominant criterion in subordination of traditional districting principles (Shaw v. Reno, 509 U.S. 630 (1993))

Minority Voting Strength – cont.

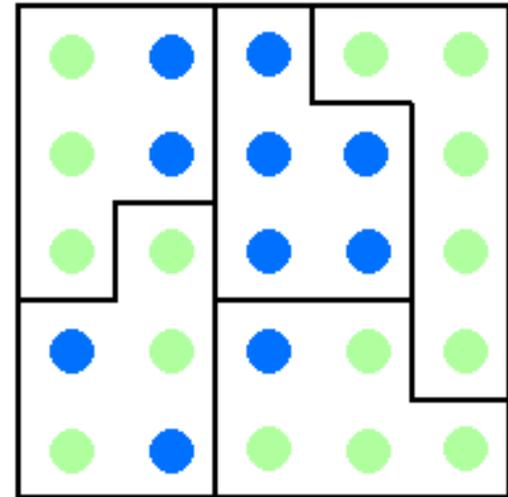
- Three criteria that need to meet to require single-member districts under federal case law (Thornburg v. Gingles, 478 U.S. 30 (1986))
 - Minority population is compact and large enough to constitute a majority in a single-member district
 - Minority population is politically cohesive
 - Bloc voting

Minority Voting Strength Dilution

- Packing
- Cracking

Dilute through Packing

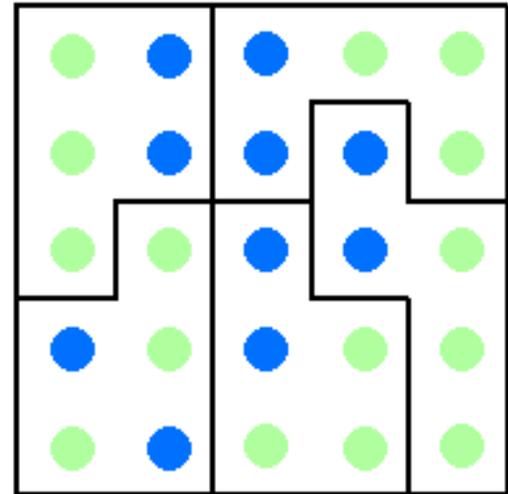
- ❑ Concentrate as much of a minority group into as few districts as possible to minimize the number of districts in which the minority could elect a candidate of their choice
- ❑ Avoid packing



- Blue – minority areas

Dilute Through Cracking

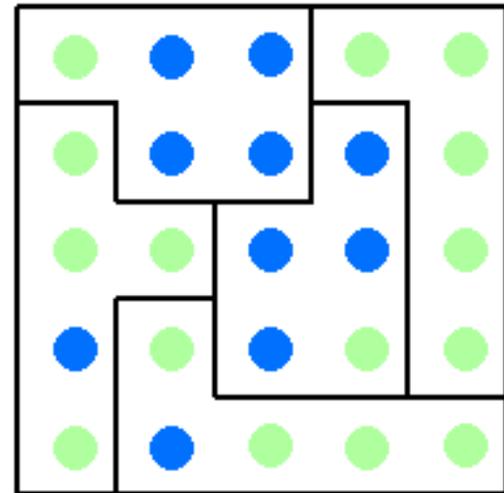
- ❑ Split up a minority into as many districts as possible to minimize influence in any given district
- ❑ Avoid cracking



- Blue – minority areas

Neither Packed nor Cracked

- In the example, provides two minority districts whereby the minority group has a chance to elect a candidate of their choice



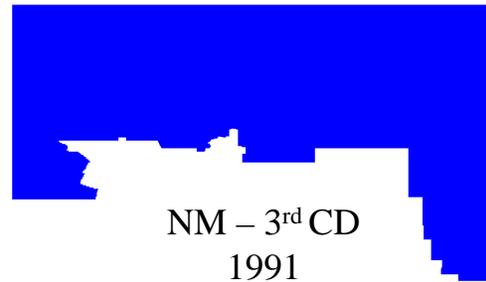
- Blue – minority areas

Compactness

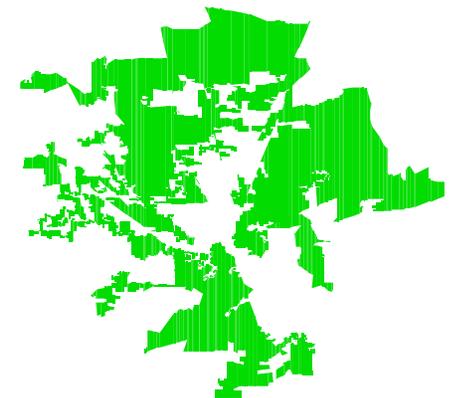
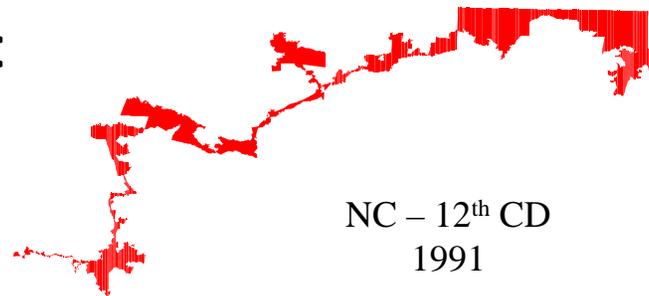
- Different ways to measure compactness
 - None are perfect
- Refers to shape, not geographic size
 - Could have a very large district in area that is compact in shape
- A jurisdiction's irregular outer boundary can affect the compactness measures of a district

Compactness

□ Compact:



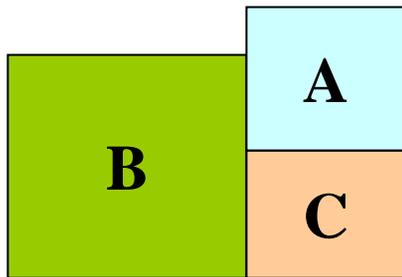
□ Not Compact:



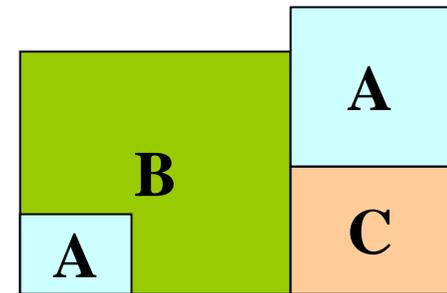
Contiguity

- ❑ No islands of territory
- ❑ One distinct part, not two or more

❑ Contiguous:



Not Contiguous:



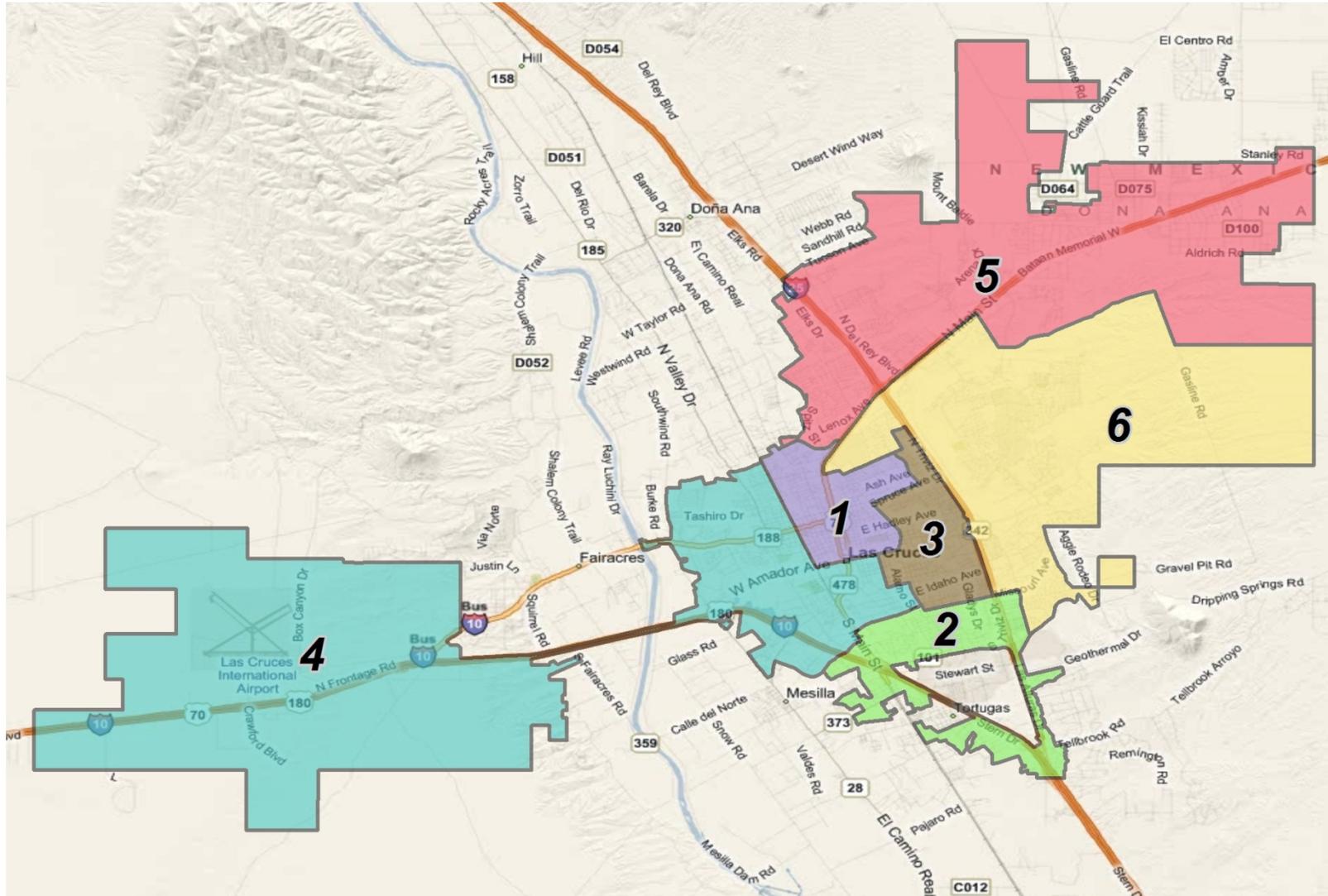
Communities of Interest

- ❑ All other factors which determine where a district boundary could be drawn
 - Maintaining core of existing districts
 - Protection of incumbents
 - Respecting political subdivisions (e.g. avoid precinct splits)

 - Also includes, but not limited to:
 - ❑ Neighborhoods
 - ❑ Cultural / historical traditions
 - ❑ Geographic boundaries

- ❑ Can be considered as long as previous districting principles are not violated

City Council – Current Districts



Thank you

Questions?

Michael Sharp
Research & Polling, Inc.
505-821-5454
msharp@rpinc.com
www.rpinc.com

