

Legislative Redistricting Guidelines

1. Draw thirty-five districts that are substantially equal in population. Ensure that there is no more than a 10% population variance between the least and most populated districts.
2. Identify the district including the northernmost portion of the state as District One.
3. To the extent possible, avoid dividing a county so that one part of the county is in one district and the other part of the county is in another district. You may divide a county into different legislative districts as long as each district is wholly contained within the county.
4. If you must divide counties between districts to satisfy equal population requirements, then keep the number of divisions per county to a minimum.
5. If you draw a district containing more than one county, ensure that the counties are contiguous.
6. Never divide a county to protect a particular political party or a particular incumbent.
7. To the extent possible:
 - a. If you draw a district containing more than one county or a portion of a county, ensure that the counties or the portion are connected by an interstate or by federal or state highways;
 - b. Avoid dividing traditional neighborhoods and local communities of interest so that part of the neighborhood or community is in one district and the other part is in another district;
 - c. Avoid drawing oddly shaped districts; and
 - d. Ensure that each voting precinct is wholly contained within a district.