
REDISTRICTING BASICS

ALEXIS STANGL, SENATE COUNSEL, MN LEGISLATURE

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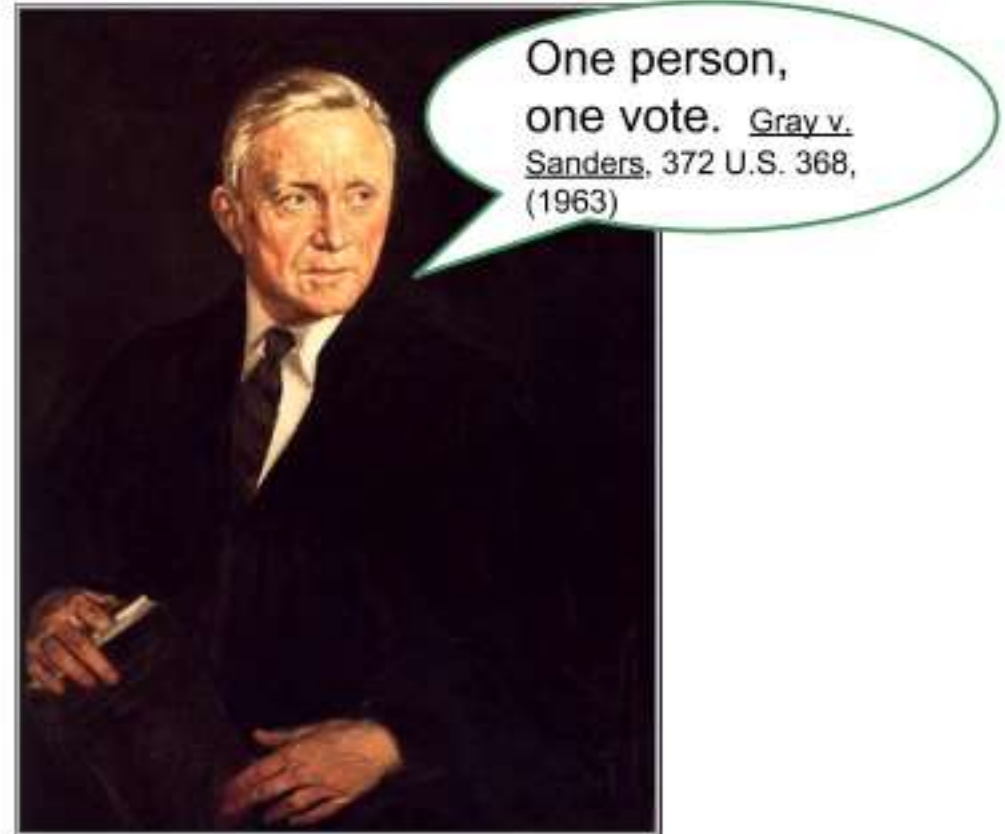
**Senate Counsel,
Research, and
Fiscal Analysis**



<http://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/the-redistricting-lexicon-glossary.aspx>

WHAT IS REDISTRICTING? WHY DO WE REDISTRICT?

- **Reapportionment:** The process of assigning seats in a legislative body among pre-existing political subdivisions such as states or counties.
- **Redistricting:** The redrawing or revision of boundaries for representational districts.



Justice William O. Douglas

Photo credit: The Supreme Court Historical Society

https://supremecourthistory.org/timeline_odouglas.html

WHAT'S THE TIMELINE FOR REDISTRICTING?

April 1,
2020:
Census
Day

December 31,
2020:
Population
counts
released;
congressional
seats

March 31,
2021:
Complete
delivery of
redistricting
summary files

November 2,
2021:
Election Day

November 8,
2022:
Election Day

NJ LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING DEADLINES

November 15, 2020: appointments to commission must be completed

December 1, 2020: appointments certified to Secretary of State

February 1, 2021(?): deadline for commission to certify districts to the Secretary of State; could be later depending on when census numbers were received

Late winter/spring 2021: if commission does not certify districts by deadline, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of NJ appoints an 11th member. Commission has 1 month after appointment to certify

MN REDISTRICTING DEADLINES

February 15, 2022: Legislative and congressional redistricting complete

May 8, 2022: Candidates must establish residence in district

May 31, 2022: Candidate filing deadline

August 9, 2022: State primary

WHO CONDUCTS REDISTRICTING?

Legislature

Commission

Nonpartisan Staff

Courts

Executive branch

Commissions

	Legislative	Congressional
Primary responsibility for legislative redistricting	Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington	Arizona, Colorado, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Jersey, Washington
Advisory commission to assist the legislature	Maine, New York, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Virginia	Maine, New York, Rhode Island, Utah, Virginia
Backup commission	Connecticut, Illinois, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas	Connecticut, Indiana, Ohio

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/creation-of-redistricting-commissions.aspx>

HOW DO YOU DRAW MAPS?



GIS: Geographic Information System. Computer software used for creating or revising plans and analyzing geographically oriented data.

METES AND BOUNDS & STREET FILES

Metes and bounds: A detailed and very specialized description of district boundaries using specific geographic features and street directions as are usually found in describing real property for legal purposes.

Example: District 1 consists of the portion of City lying east of a line described as follows: commencing at the intersection of the northern boundary of City and Main Street, southerly and southeasterly along Oak Street and Maple Street to Lake Avenue, southerly along 1st Street to 13th Street, northeasterly along 13th Street to Erie Ave, southeasterly along Huron East to State Highway 100 ...

Street files: street files are tabular in nature, with additions being added as a spreadsheet of some kind is edited.

Example

300 – 500 Main St., even numbers	Senate District 1, House District 1A
301 – 501 Main St., odd numbers	Senate District 1, House District 1B
502-750 Main St., even numbers	Senate District 2, House District 2A

SHAPEFILES AND BLOCK EQUIVALENCY FILES

Shapefile: a data format used in geographic information systems (GIS) software. A shapefile is a combination of several files and data sets.

Example: Sec. 1. PLAN ADOPTED. Legislative redistricting plan 123, on file with the GIS office and published on its Web site on May 1, 2021, is adopted as the legislative redistricting plan for this state. Each senate district is composed of the two house districts, A and B, of the same number.

Block equivalency file: a table that provides a one-to-one correspondence between census blocks and districts.

Example:

Census block 1	Senate District 1	House District 1A
Census block 2	Senate District 1	House District 1A
Census block 3	Senate District 1	House District 1B
Census block 4	Senate District 1	House District 1B

WHAT ABOUT LOGISTICS?

- ⌋ Staff
- ⌋ Space
- ⌋ Software and hardware
- ⌋ Committees
- ⌋ Training
- ⌋ Public input/outreach
- ⌋ Budget

WHAT ARE SOME RESOURCES?

- Who is in your state? GIS, legislative staff, leadership, commission
- What happened last time? Look at past redistricting cycles from your state
- Who do you know in other states? Talk with them about their experiences
- NCSL: so many resources!
 - NCSL Redistricting Seminars
 - NCSL's "Into the Thicket: A Redistricting Starter Kit for Legislative Staff"
 - NCSL Red Book
 - NCSL website: <http://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting.aspx>

NCSL Redistricting and Election Contacts

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THANK YOU!

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