PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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“...the Legislature shall divide the state into congressional, legislative, and other districts...”

Utah Constitution
INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Places binding redistricting standards on the Legislature's authority to draw legislative districts

Requires the Legislature to either "enact [the commission's redistricting plan] without change or amendment" or reject it outright
Redistricting Committee

- 20 legislators appointed by President and Speaker
- Adopted principles and guidelines
- 28 meetings; including 17 public hearings across state
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Districts to be:</th>
<th>Acceptable Deviations:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Member;</td>
<td>Congressional ± 0.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contiguous; and</td>
<td>Legislative ± 3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compact</td>
<td>School Board ± 3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acceptable Deviations:</td>
<td>Actual Deviations:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressional</td>
<td>0.0001%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
<td>0.0063%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>School Board</td>
<td>0.0239%</td>
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<tr>
<td>± 0.1%</td>
<td>± 3.5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>± 3.5%</td>
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</table>
Contracted with ESRI to Create Online Tool
Any Registered User May Submit a Plan
Public Plans Required to Comply with Redistricting Principles
- Single Member Districts
- Compact and Contiguous
- Meet Deviation Standards
- Complete
• Staff used ArcGIS and autoBound

• Public used an ESRI web-based redistricting tool
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED: ONLINE TOOL DEVELOPED

ESRI Tool Permitted the Public to:

• Create Groups, Share, and Modify Plans prior to Submission; and

• Submit Public Plans to the Redistricting Committee for Discussion at Public Meetings
• 5 tabs assist users draw maps
• Each tab has a ribbon of tools and information
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WAS SUCCESSFUL

- Citizen Plan Adopted!
- Headlines:
  - “Lawmakers endorse citizen map for new school board boundaries”
  - “Lawmakers endorse Logan resident’s map for school board boundaries”
In 2010, legislative leaders created a blog
- Posted all redistricting plans (public and legislative) on web
- Public comment and analysis was encouraged on all plans

In 2020, Utah Will Improve Online Public Comment Options
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BENEFICIAL

- Allowed Public to Improve Plans
- Improved Public Relations
- Public Participation Reduced Criticism
- Public Participants Were Thoughtful and Knowledgeable
- A *Universal Truth*: A Single District Drawn in Isolation is Easy, A Complete Statewide plan is Not