Preparing your Redistricting Database

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California Statewide Database

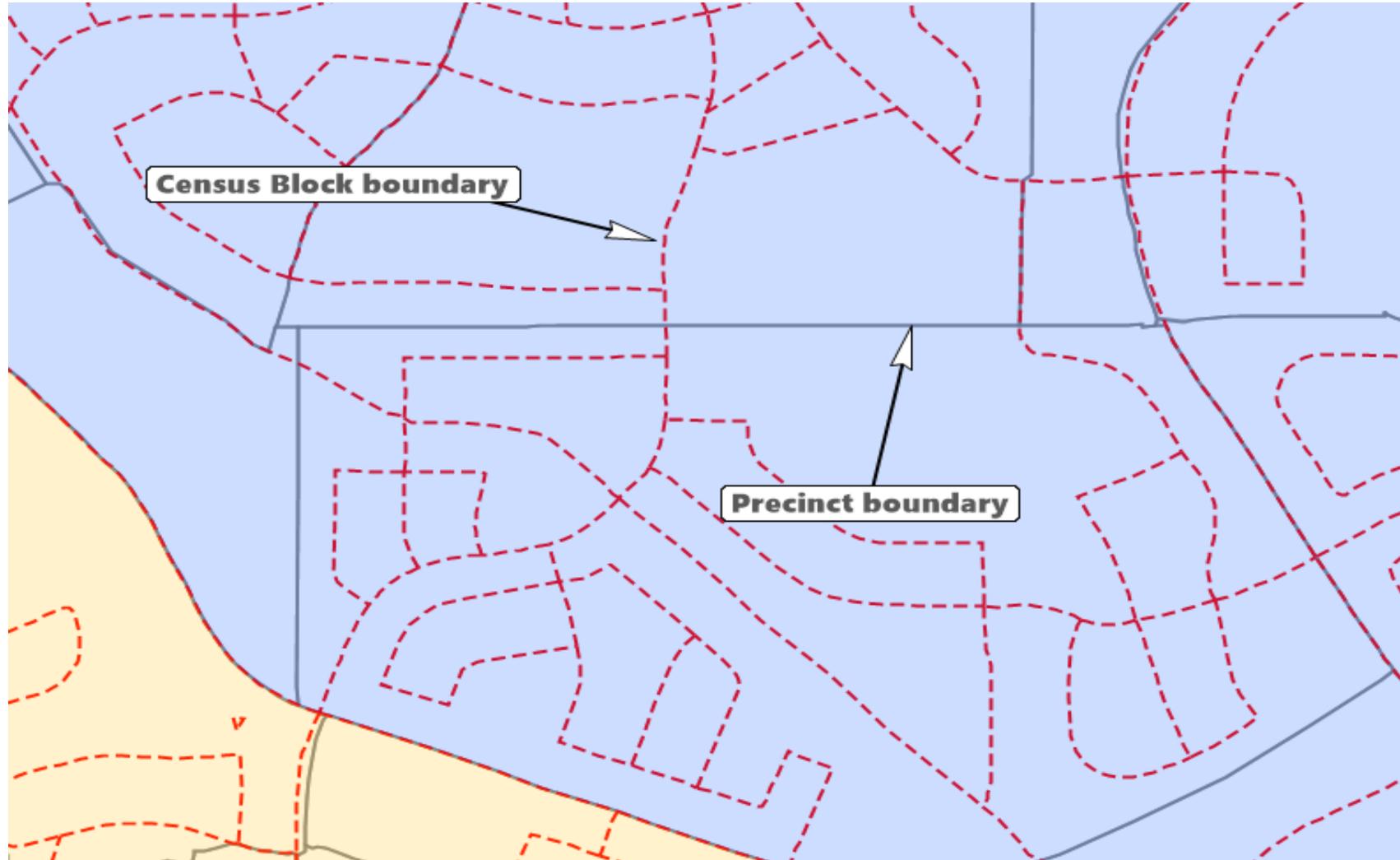# How to start thinking about redistricting data

CA Redistricting Criteria and Data used:

- Equal Population – Decennial Census; PL94-171 file
- Compliance with the Federal Voting Rights Act; PL94-171, Statement of Registration, Statement of Vote, Citizen Voting Age Population from American Community Survey (ACS)
- Contiguity – Census Geography
- Respect for City and County boundaries – Census Geography
- Respect for Neighborhoods – Public Testimony, Data/Geography submitted by Public, Cities/Counties, etc.
- Respect for Communities of Interest – Public Testimony, Data/Geography submitted by Public
- Compactness – Census Geography
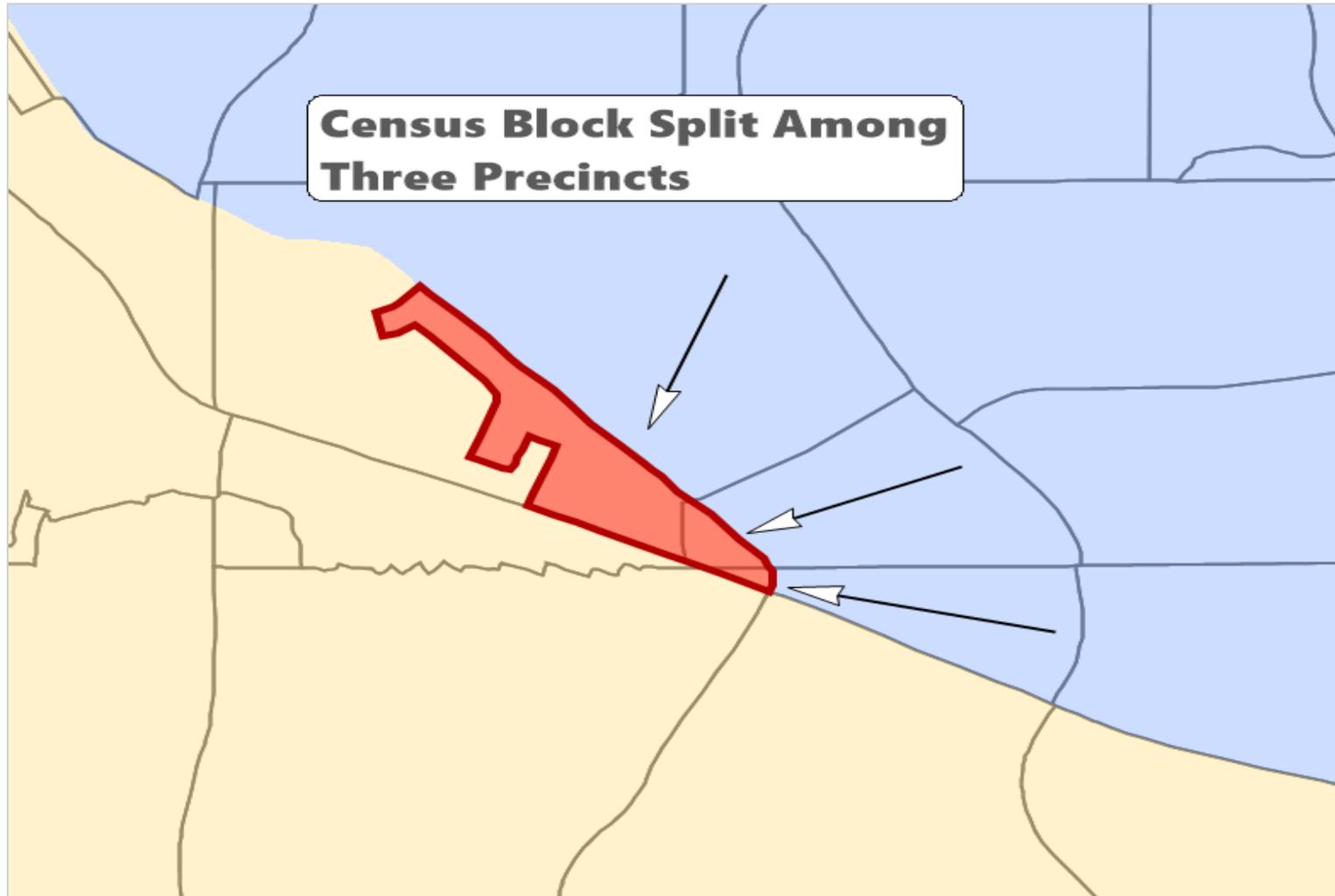- Nesting – Newly created districts

A note about geographies

- The datasets we have discussed are released on different geographies:
  - Census blocks (smallest)
  - Census block groups and tracts
  - Election precincts
- Census geography:
  - maintained by Census bureau
  - stays constant for 10 years
- Precinct geography:
  - In CA: maintained by 58 Registrars of Voters
  - Organizing units to conduct elections and release results
  - Change frequently - often with each election

Election Precincts versus Census Blocks

Census Blocks versus Election Precincts

Census Block Split Among Three Precincts

What is a Redistricting Database?

- A Redistricting Database solves the problem of conflicting, frequently changing geographies

- It contains various datasets, merges them and releases them on the census block level

- It typically contains:

- Census Data

- American Community Survey Data (CVAP)

- Statement of Vote Data

- Statement of Registration Data

➢It does *not* contain Community of Interest data!

Redistricting Data for California

- Government Code Section 8253:

➢(b) The Legislature shall take all steps necessary to ensure that a complete and accurate computerized database is available for redistricting, and that procedures are in place to provide the public ready access to redistricting data

➢That function is provided by the Statewide Database

The Statewide Database

- The Redistricting Database for the State of California
- Part of Berkeley Law on the UC Berkeley campus
- Longitudinal dataset (back to 1992)
- Public, non-partisan, free-of-charge
- Available in different formats
- Continuously available
- Provides data and geography for the entire State of California

https://statewidedatabase.org - Our Data:

- Census – Pl94-171
- Statement of Vote from statewide elections
- Statement of Registration from statewide elections
- American Community Survey: Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP)
- Precinct data and geography
- Each year ending with 1: A redistricting dataset containing new census data and multiple elections on the census block level

Reallocation of Inmate Data for Census 2020

- New legislation requires:

➢The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to provide a dataset to the Citizen Redistricting Commission (CRC) and the Legislature between April 1, 2020, and July 1, 2020 regarding the last known place of residence of each inmate in a facility under the control of the CDCR on April 1, 2020.

➢CDCR to provide information about the ethnicity, as identified by the inmate, and any information about the race of the inmate to the extent such information is maintained by CDCR.

Reallocation Data project cont.

➢Requires the Legislature, in coordination with the CRC, to ensure that the information provided by CDCR is included in the computerized database that is used for redistricting.

➢Requests the CRC to deem each incarcerated person as residing at his or her most recent residential address, rather than at the institution of his or her incarceration

What does this mean?

- 1. California will be adjusting the data it receives from the Census
    - i.e. the PL94-171 Total Population, Race and Ethnicity Counts will be adjusted such that Inmates under the control of the CDRC on Census Day (in group quarters) are reallocated to their last known residential address
- 2. The Citizen Redistricting Commission must consider whether to use the adjusted dataset for redistricting
- 3. The adjusted census data will become part of the Redistricting Dataset

Enhanced Redistricting Data Access Program

Michigan

Mike Vatter Information Service Director

Background

- A Committee formed to update and maintain data required by the US Census Bureau for the decennial census as well as the information used for the redistricting of the legislative districts.

- The Committee is made up of a representative from the four Caucuses of the Michigan Senate and House, a representative from the Governors office and the Secretary of State.

- The committee was formed for the 2000 census cycle and continued for the 2010 and 2020 cycles.

- Memorandum of Agreement signed by all parties to have the 'Center for Shared Solutions' function as the data broker for this effort.
  - A new agreement was signed after each legislative election, or if caucus leadership changed.

Benefits of an Ongoing Program

- 20+ years of experience understanding the importance of the process of the redistricting cycle

- Transfer institutional knowledge to the next generation of key staff roles of Project Manager, Data Developers and System Developers

- Continued engagement with the four State Caucuses, Governor's office, and Secretary of State's office

- Negative past process – Compressed timeframe for data creation increase the number of staff resources required and the associated costs of managing multiple resources, equipment, software licensing and space, and organizing work load and distribution
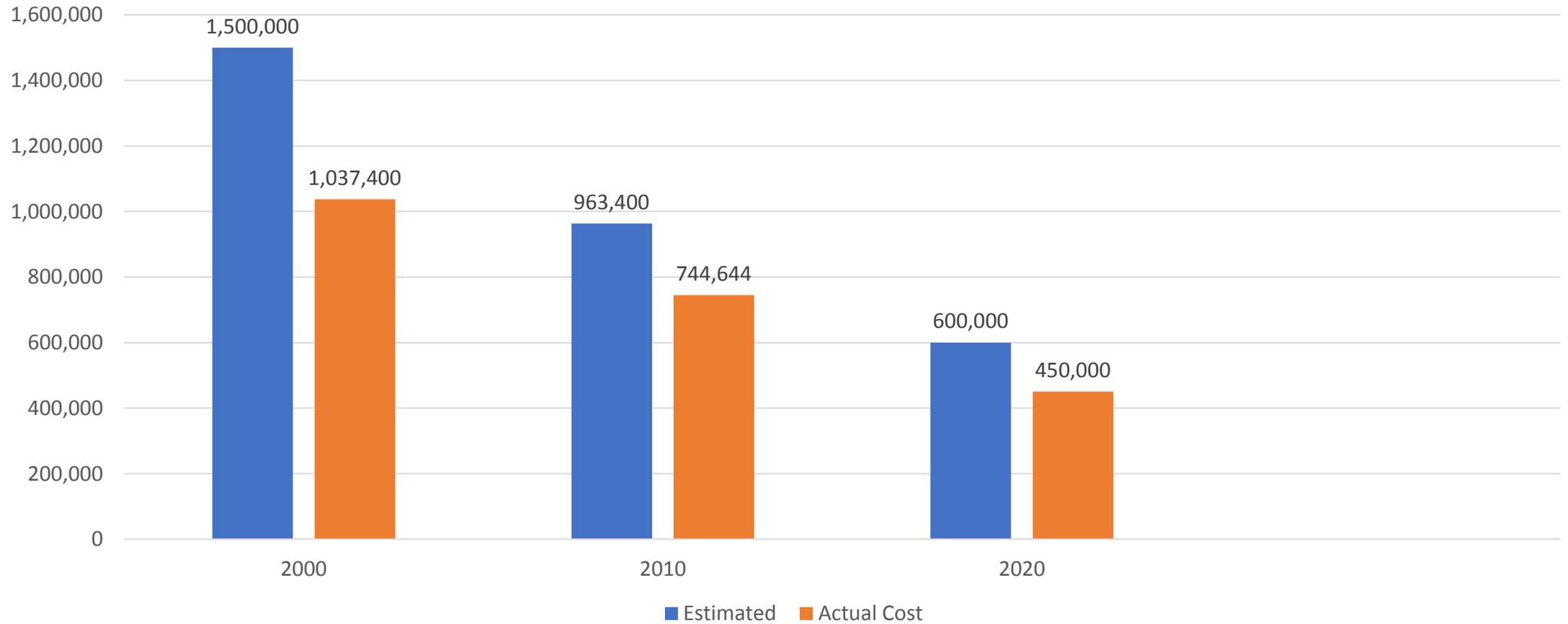
Benefits of an Ongoing Program

- *Leveraging existing knowledge at the local level*
  - Clerk turnover make it extremely difficult to collect information after the election cycle closes. There is an average of 15 to 20% clerk turnover rate each election cycle.
- *Ensuring consistent and standard products through the development of tools and automated processes*
- *Improving accuracy and quality through timely data creation*
- *Improves data quality of the U.S. Census Bureau TIGER which is required to be used for redistricting*
- Product deliveries after each general election

Product deliveries after each general election

- Access to current elections data to review and identify trends between decades.
  - Information is being collected and data is being developed as elections occur, including precinct geography creation and election result.

Cost Savings

Geographic Data

- District Boundaries
  - Counties
  - Minor Civil Divisions
  - Voting Tabulation Districts – Precincts
  - Census Tracts
  - Census Block Groups
  - Census Blocks
  - Villages
- Reference Layers
  - Current District Boundaries
  - Road and Water
  - School Districts
  - Local Geography – example Detroit Neighborhoods

Types of Data: Population and Race

- Census Data – PL94-171

- Know your state laws
  - Where do prisoners count
  - Over seas Military
  - Students

- Most state require the use of the census data but some allow the use of other data

Types of Data: Election Results

- Does your state allow you to use election results
- At least ten years.
  - Gets you at least three presidential and three non-presidential elections
- Disaggregate your election results to the block level
- Give your self time to process the 2020 election results.
- Primary election data for communities whose result is likely to be determined by the primary election.

Types of Data: Demographics

- American Community Survey

Types of Data: Communities of Interest

- Census Data
  - PL94-171
  - American Community Survey
- Contact Non-profit and local organizations for information on where communities of interest are.
- Public Hearings
- Can I get a big enough group to effectively give the group a voice.

Incumbents/Persons of Interest

- Know your state laws
- Address information on incumbents and persons of interest or identified by block.

Work with your software vendor

- Don't assume your data will just import into your vendors software
- They can be very helpful in helping you prepare the data
- They can supply data for you, already packaged with the software

Common Redistricting Data Issues

- Precinct (VTD) Geography
  - Precinct Boundary conflicts with MCD Layer
  - Precinct boundary conflicts with ballot geography
    - Wrong districts
    - No voting age population for Precincts with votes
- Election Data
  - Incorrect vote tallies
  - Wrong precinct assignments
- Master Geographic Layers
  - Missing annexations or errors in MCD Geography