



# 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program Evaluation: 2020 Geographic Operations

**NCSL Redistricting Seminar: Salt Lake City, Utah July 14, 2021**

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## Introduction

- Feedback is the basis for ‘The View From the States’ which is the evaluation of the 2020 Redistricting Data Program
- Today’s session begins the conversation and will focus on the 2020 geographic updates
  - Phase 1- Block Boundary Suggestion Program
  - Phase 2- Voting District Project
- We will present on five topic areas (and a parking lot) and ask that you use the post it notes at your table to annotate comments that we can collect
- Please take the presentation packet and share with others who you may have worked with
- We plan on compiling the lessons learned from this session into a  
report that will be shared with attendees and non-attendees

## How This Works

### Looking Back at the 2020 RDP Geographic Operations

- What worked well?
- What should be maintained for 2030?
- What can be improved upon for 2030?
- What are new requirements for 2030?

### Topics for future discussion- NCSL Tampa 2021

- Public Law 94-171 Data Delivery
- Public Law 94-171 Data Content
- Communication Plans with States

## In the Past....

### The View From the States for the 2000 Census

- *Continue to provide 100% counts for **blocks and voting districts***
- *Ensuring that there are one set of numbers for the states*
- **Computer tape, paper printouts, and CD-ROM data deliveries**
- *Use NSCL to maintain close working relationship between Census and data users*
- **Retaining Block Boundary Suggestion and Voting District Projects**
- *Training for state officials*

## In the Past....

### The View From the States for the 2010 Census

- *Continue to provide 100% counts for **blocks and VTDs***
- *Ensuring that there are one set of numbers for the states*
- **Retain geographic products and include state legislative and school district level data**
- **Retain Block Boundary Suggestion Project and Voting District Project**
- *Discussion on enumeration of Americans' residing overseas*
- *Work with states 5-years out on communication plans*

## In the Past....

### The View From the States for the 2020 Census

- *Inform states on any changes to the race and ethnicity tabulation categories or residency rules and share data on impact of a race and ethnicity single questions*
- *Supply a prototype summary file to share with states that meet their needs*
- **Geographic products should include shapefiles, formatted maps, and block equivalency and block relationship files**
- **Coordinate Boundary and Annexation Survey timing with redistricting updates**
- **Separate the Block Boundary Suggestion Project and Voting District Project**
- *Research the feasibility of reallocating prison populations*

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2020

## In the Past....

### The View From the States for the 2030 Census

- Begins now

# Topics to Explore Today

Geographic  
Updates

Schedule

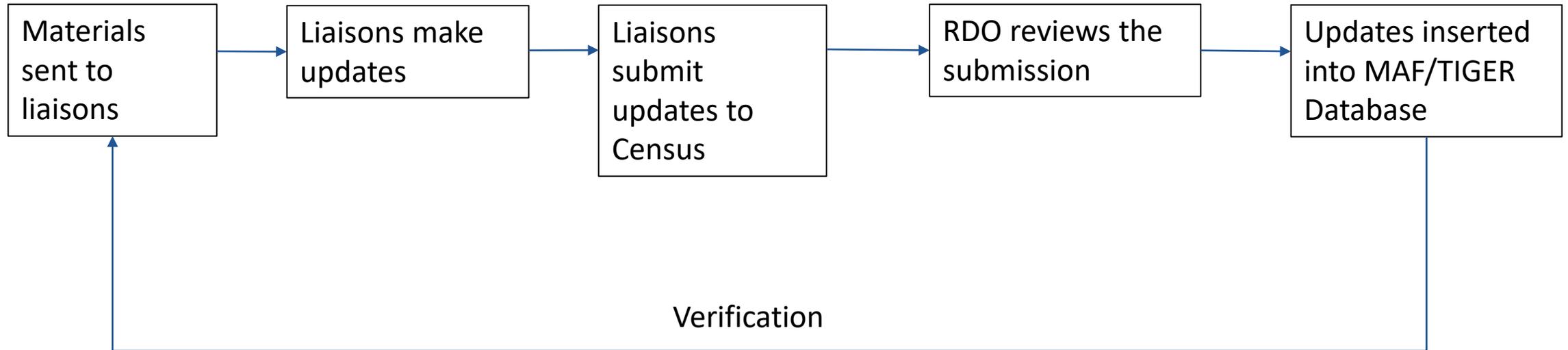
Tools

Trainings/Meetings

Support

Parking  
Lot

# Geographic Data Exchange



## Geographic Updates

### For 2020, we allowed liaisons to:

Create and flag block boundaries

Insert and edit voting districts, precincts, wards

Suggest edits to legal and administrative boundaries

Make edits to roads, rivers, and other linear features

Make edits to parks, correctional facilities, campuses and other area features

### Moving towards 2030

Will block level data still be required for redistricting in 2030?

What geographies will be needed for redistricting?

What updates do you need to make to the MAF/TIGER Database?

How can we maintain relationships between voting districts and other boundaries?

What feedback can we provide on updates that were not accepted?

## Schedule of Geographic Updates

2016: Block  
Boundary  
Suggestion  
Project (BBSP)

January- May

2017: BBSP  
Verification

January- May

2018: Voting  
District  
Project (VTD)

January- May

2019: VTD  
Verification  
(VTDV)

January- May

2020: VTD  
Verification 2  
(VTDV2)

January- March

- Was there enough time to accurately capture your updates?
- Does the update cycle between January and May work?
- Did the five-year timeframe work?
- Should the order of the update cycles be altered (VTDs then blocks)?
- Should all the geographic edits be available during all update phases?
- Should there be a new or replacement update phase?
- Should we enforce that all VTDs are from the same year (vintage, i.e. 2028)?

# Geographic Tools

## Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS)

- Open-source software provided by Census to make updates
- Automatically downloaded source files and creates submissions
- Users could import their shapefiles and tabular equivalency files into the project
- Allowed use of imagery and addition of shapefiles

## Prototype Block Shapefiles

- Shapefile that allowed the user to see what the tabulation blocks would look like if they were created at that time

## Support Materials

- Data Disks
- Online and Printed Manuals for GUPS and Non-GUPS Users
- Other support materials
  - Quickstart Guides
  - Cheat sheets

- Did you use the prototype block shapefile? If so, how did you use it?
- How was your GUPS or non-GUPS experience?
- Were the provided tools helpful?
- Is it possible to move to an all-digital program in 2030?
- What additional tools would be helpful in 2030?

# Meetings and Trainings

## State Kickoff Meeting

- Conducted by Chief or Assistant Chief either before the start of the 2020 RDP or in the early phases
- Presentation to the State Legislature or interested parties
- Usually included additional Census staff from the Geography Division

## National Training Webinar

- Conducted on an annual basis for Phase 1 and Phase 2
- WebEx based and available live or on YouTube
- Audience could ask questions

## Personalized Webinar

- Conducted on demand for participants via WebEx
- Either general or specific to the users' needs

## Onsite Training Visit

- CRVRDO staff (2-3) would travel on site for two days
- Conduct training with both presentations and time to use the software

- Be honest, did you guys see us too much or not enough?
- Were your training needs met?
- Were in person visits helpful?
- For 2030, what meetings and trainings would be beneficial?

# CRVRDO Support

## Project Communication

- Webpage
- Periodic emails from the CRVRDO project status
- Reminders on start, mid-point, and end dates
- Confirmation of participation

- Were your needs met?
- Was communication from CRVRDO clear?
- Is the webpage a useful tool when you have questions?
- Has CRVRDO been responsive when you need support?
- How can we improve our support?
- What tools can we create to improve our support?

## Phone/Email Support

- CRVRDO staff were available via a common phone number and email address
- Answers were generally provided within 48 hours

## Troubleshooting

- For issues with Phase 1 and Phase 2, participants could reach out to CRVRDO for support
- Included relevant staff from other areas of the Census if needed
  - Programmers for GUPS
  - GEO staff

# Topics to Explore Today

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Updates

Schedule

Tools

Trainings/Meetings

Support

Parking  
Lot

## Thank You.....and how to continue the conversation

### While in Salt Lake City:

CRVRDO Team (James, Tom, Jennie, and Mike) are in attendance and happy to discuss these topics and continue collecting post it notes

James and Tom will be participating in the Census for Experts and Census for Beginners Sessions from 9-10:15 on Thursday

### After the Conference:

Emails: [rdo@census.gov](mailto:rdo@census.gov)      Office Phone: 301-763-4039      Virtual Meetings: TBA

Let's chat more at NCSL Legislative Summit in Tampa in November!