The NCSL Post-Conference on Critical Redistricting Decisions

Phoenix, AZ • J.W. Marriott Desert Ridge Resort • December 12, 2019

Post-Con Description: For as long as there have been states, there has been redistricting. As 2021 draws near, spend a day learning about the myriad of decisions necessary to create a complete redistricting process. From compactness and contiguity to commissions and the Census, learn from redistricting experts and NCSL staff all that you and your team need to know before tackling this once-a-decade task. The post-conference is open to any and all who wish to attend—no registration necessary.

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December 12, 2019 | Thursday
11:00 am – 12:00 p.m.  
Grand Sonoran E-F

The State of Redistricting: An Overview
Redistricting is arguably the most talked about, but least understood, part of American democracy. Learn the essential elements in a 15-minute overview of why redistricting matters, followed by an entertaining discussion of the current state of redistricting from Kelly Ward Burton, representing Democrats, and Chris Jankowski from the GOP team. This session will be good preparation for 2020 and beyond.

Speakers:

- Moderator: Wendy Underhill, Director of Elections and Redistricting Program, NCSL
- Kelly Ward Burton, Executive Director, National Democratic Redistricting Committee (NDRC)
- Chris Jankowski, former Executive Director, Redistricting Majority Project (REDMAP)

*NOTE: This session is both the conclusion of the Forum and the beginning of the post-conference.*

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:00 – 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Wildflower Terrace</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Introductions and welcoming remarks.</td>
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| 1:00 – 1:50 p.m. | Grand Sonoran E-F | **Decision #1: Data**         | Fancy software and lawyers are useless in redistricting if there’s no data on the people being redistricted. Learn about the sources of data available to redistricters, as well as critical choices that must be made, including:  
  - How are election results are incorporated into datasets in a way that is compatible with your GIS software?  
  - Whether, for purposes of compliance with one-person, one-vote, the state will use total population? Citizen population? Something else?  
  - Whether the state will “re-allocate” prisoners from their census-designated home at their prison to their last known address?  
  Speakers:  
  - Moderator: Senator Ivey-Soto (N.M.)  
  - Aleks Kajstura, Prison Policy Initiative  
  - Bob Heath, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP |
| 1:50 – 2:45 p.m. | Grand Sonoran E-F | **Decision #2: Criteria**     | Both the federal government and all 50 states have rules governing how districts must be drawn. From the Voting Rights Act to traditional state-level criteria, learn about where your state fits into this constantly evolving field and the emerging trends that will define the future.  
  Speakers:  
  - Moderator: Jonathan Cervas, University of California at Irvine  
  - Rep. Tyler Vorpagel (Wis.)  
  - Kathay Feng, National Redistricting Director, Common Cause |
| 2:45 – 3:00 p.m. |                   | Break                        |        |
| 3:00 – 3:50 p.m. | Grand Sonoran E-F | **Decision #3: Commissions**  | Traditionally, states have approached redistricting as they would any other task: by passing a bill à la Schoolhouse Rock. But in recent decades, a growing number of states have given the task of redistricting to a commission. Each commission is different in structure and rules. Learn about these differences and how they’ve worked in practice.  
  Speakers:  
  - Moderator: Jeff Wice, New York General Assembly |
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<td>3:50 – 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Grand Sonoran E-F</strong></td>
<td><strong>Decision #4: Processes/Public Input</strong>&lt;br&gt;Public discourse might lead you to believe the only process option for policymakers is whether redistricting is done by the legislature or by a commission. In reality, the diversity of options is far greater. Learn about the ways in which states differ on a wide variety of procedures, including:&lt;br&gt;• Processes for receiving input from the public, including submission of proposed maps&lt;br&gt;• Supermajority or bipartisan vote requirements for adopting maps&lt;br&gt;• Timing rules on when maps introduced in legislative chambers may receive a vote.&lt;br&gt;Speakers:&lt;br&gt;• Rachel Weiss, Montana Legislative Services Division&lt;br&gt;• Gary Bilotta, GIS Director, Maricopa County Recorder and Elections Department&lt;br&gt;• Ben Williams, Elections and Redistricting Program, NCSL</td>
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<td>4:30 – 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Grand Sonoran E-F</strong></td>
<td><strong>Questions/Ask Me Anything</strong>&lt;br&gt;Pose your burning questions to NCSL staff and post-conference faculty.</td>
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<td>5:00 – 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Meritage Tavern Terrace</strong></td>
<td><strong>Reception</strong>&lt;br&gt;Discuss the day’s sessions with fellow attendees.</td>
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*Our sincere thanks to the Thornburg Foundation for sponsoring this important post-conference, and to Speaker Pro Tempore Shope and the Arizona Legislature for hosting the reception.*