

Workshop agenda

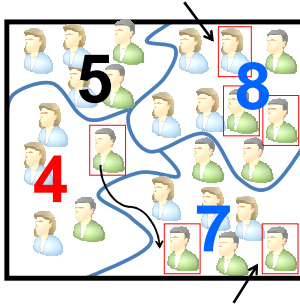
1. Redistricting example
2. Proposition 11 criteria
3. Q & A

What is redistricting?

Each district must have the same number of residents.

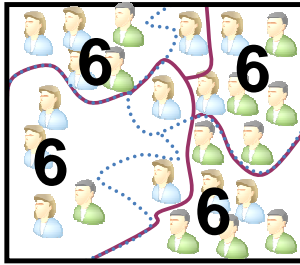
What is redistricting?

Over time, districts become uneven in size.



What is redistricting?

Every ten years, the district lines have to be redrawn to make each district even in size again.



Based on Census data

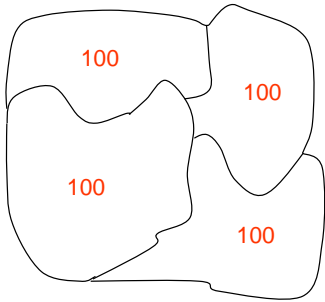
Proposition 11's redistricting criteria

1. Population equality
2. Compliance with federal Voting Rights Act
3. Contiguity
4. Geographic integrity of cities, counties, cities & counties, neighborhoods, and communities of interest
5. Compactness
6. Nesting
7. No consideration of incumbents' or candidates' residences

How is population equality measured?

Calculate average or "ideal" population size:

With a population of 400 and four districts, the ideal size is 100



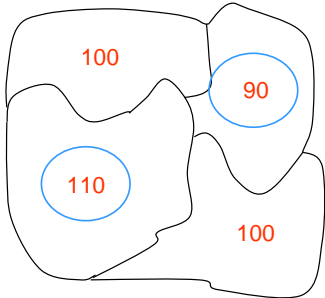
How is population equality measured?

Then measure "total population deviation":

Assume districts are slightly smaller and larger than the ideal district

Calculate difference between most overpopulated and underpopulated districts
→ $110 - 90 = 20$

Express as percentage of ideal district size → $20 / 100 = 20\%$



How equal do districts have to be?

Congressional districts:

As nearly equal as possible (courts have rejected some plans with less than 1% deviation)

Required by U.S. Constitution

California legislative districts:

1% total population deviation permitted

Required by CA Constitution

Ideal size of 2001 California Assembly districts was 423,000 – 1% deviation means 4,230 people

What is minority vote dilution?

Minority vote dilution typically happens when there is:

Packing

Cracking

What is minority vote dilution?

Packing:

Where there is overconcentration of a minority population into a suboptimal number of districts

Example: Drawing one district where a minority population makes up 90% of the district, instead of two districts where the minority population makes up 50% of each district

What is minority vote dilution?

Cracking:

Where a minority community is split into two or more districts so that the minority community does not constitute a significant portion of any district

What is the Voting Rights Act?

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act protects against minority vote dilution:

- Where line-drawers intentionally discriminate against a minority population
- Where a redistricting plan has the effect of diluting a minority population's electoral strength

What is the Voting Rights Act?

Three preconditions for stating an effects claim under Section 2 (Thornburg v. Gingles):

1. The minority group is sufficiently large and geographically compact to form a majority in a single-member district
2. The minority group is politically cohesive
3. The majority votes as a bloc to consistently defeat the minority group's preferred candidate

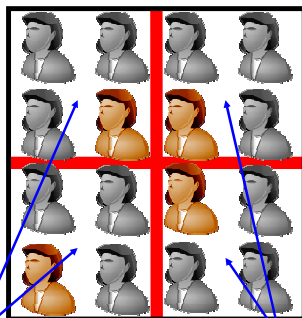
Racially Polarized Voting

How does the Voting Rights Act work?

Redistricting affects whether minorities have a say in the outcome of elections.

Example #1 →

Minorities make up only 1/4 in all four districts

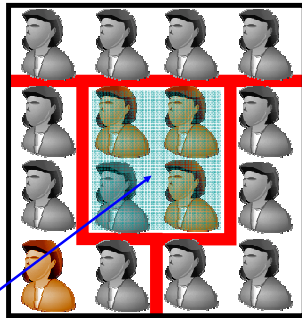


How does the Voting Rights Act work?

Redistricting affects whether minorities have a say in the outcome of elections.

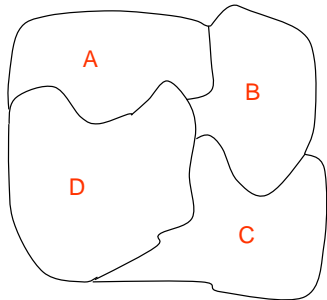
Example #2 →

Minorities make up $\frac{1}{4}$ in one district



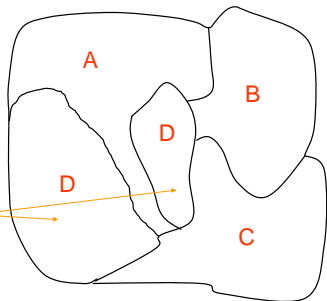
What is contiguity?

All districts are contiguous



What is contiguity?

District D is non-contiguous



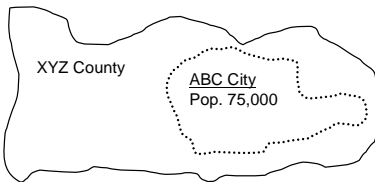
What is a community of interest?

Defined in Proposition 20 (Nov. 2010 election)

- Contiguous population
- Shares common social and economic interests
- Examples:
 - interests common to an urban/rural/ industrial/agricultural area
 - interests common to areas in which people share similar living standards
- Does not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates

What is the role of political & geographic boundaries?

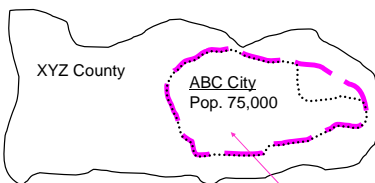
City and county boundaries:



Ideal district size: 90,000

What is the role of political & geographic boundaries?

City and county boundaries:

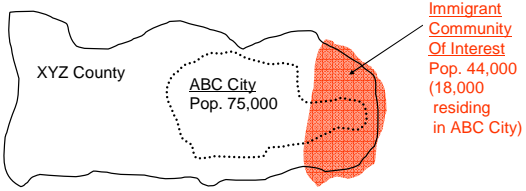


Ideal district size: 90,000

District keeps entirety of ABC City whole

What is the role of political & geographic boundaries?

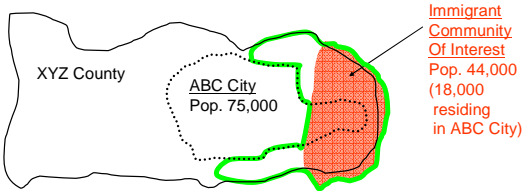
Communities of interest:



Ideal district size: 90,000

What is the role of political & geographic boundaries?

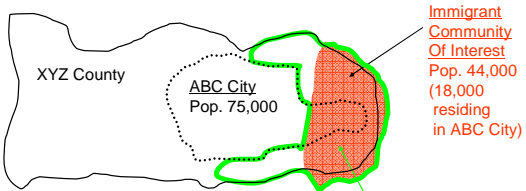
Communities of interest:



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What is the role of political & geographic boundaries?

Communities of interest:

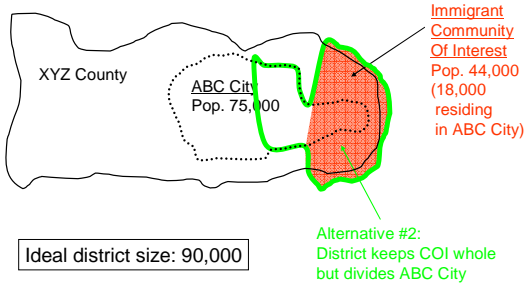


Ideal district size: 90,000

Alternative #1:
District keeps COI whole
but divides ABC City

What is the role of political & geographic boundaries?

Communities of interest:



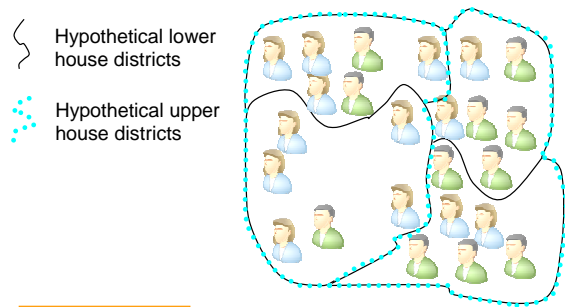
What is compactness?

No uniform measure of compactness

Methods of measuring compactness:

- Eyeball approach
- Dispersion approach (measures how spread out or packed the district is)
- Perimeter approach (measures how jagged or smooth the district's borders are)
- Many other methods

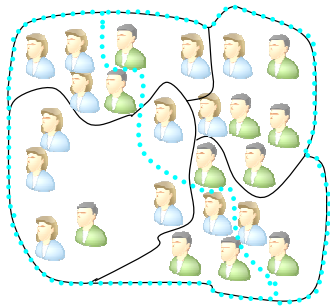
What is nesting?



Nested districts

What is nesting?

- Hypothetical lower house districts
- Hypothetical upper house districts



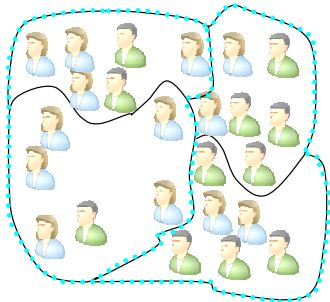
Non-nested districts

What is nesting?

1st way to draw nested districts:

First draw lower house districts

Then draw upper house districts

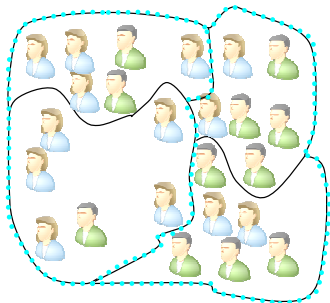


What is nesting?

2nd way to draw nested districts:

First draw upper house districts

Then draw lower house districts



Questions?

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