



April 4, 2011

Redistricting 101

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Topics for today

1. Redistricting overview
2. Proposition 11 criteria including amendments by Prop 20

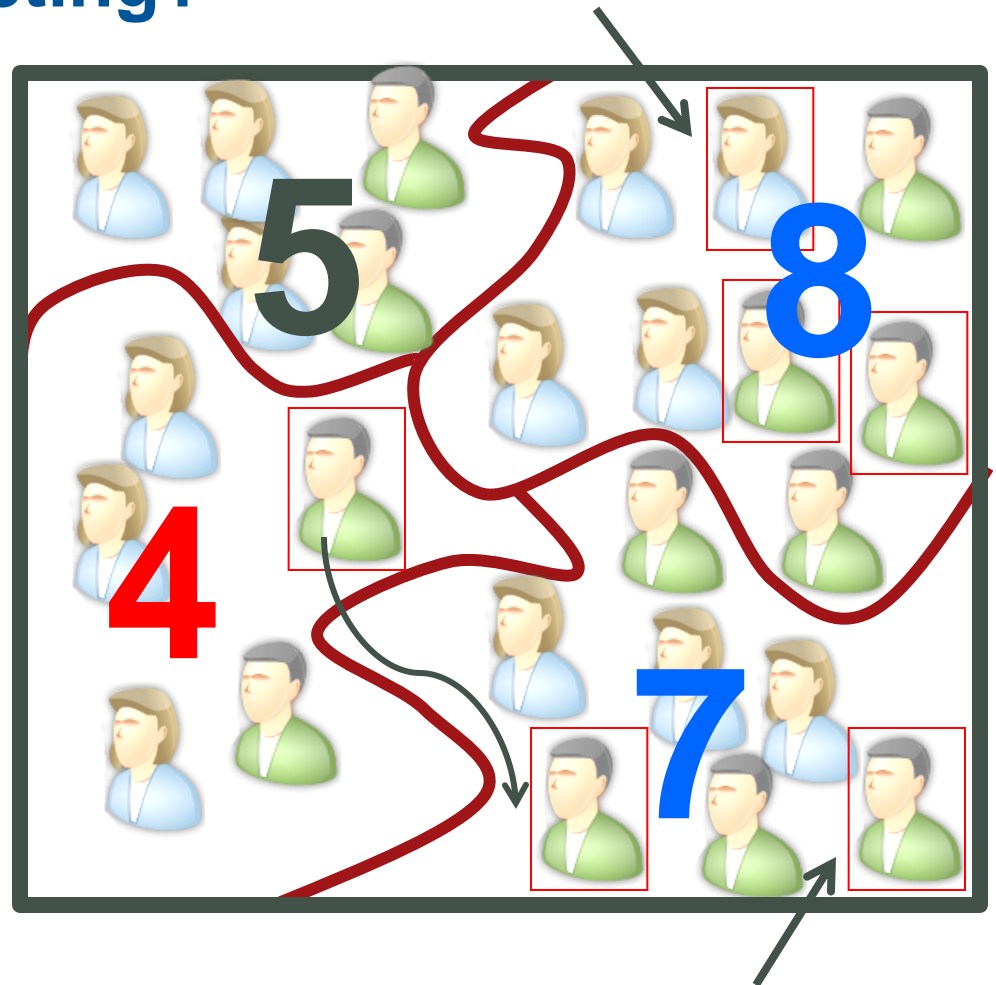
What is redistricting?

Each district must have the same number of residents.



What is redistricting?

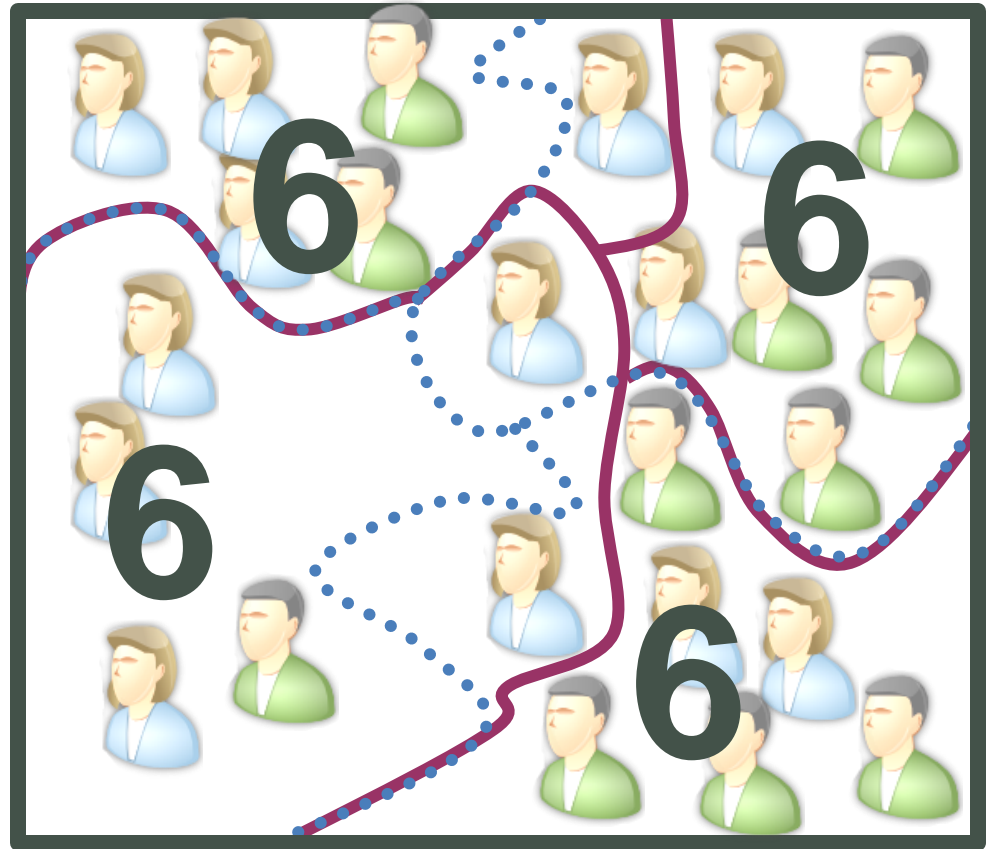
Over time, districts become uneven in size.



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





Prop 11 in a nutshell





Prop 11 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



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Population Equality – How Equal is Equal?

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% population deviation permitted

Required by
CA Constitution

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



Voting Rights Act – Minority Vote Dilution

Minority vote dilution typically happens when there is:

Packing

Cracking



Voting Rights Act – 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



Voting Rights Act – 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



Voting Rights Act

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

→ Where line-drawers intentionally discriminate against a minority population

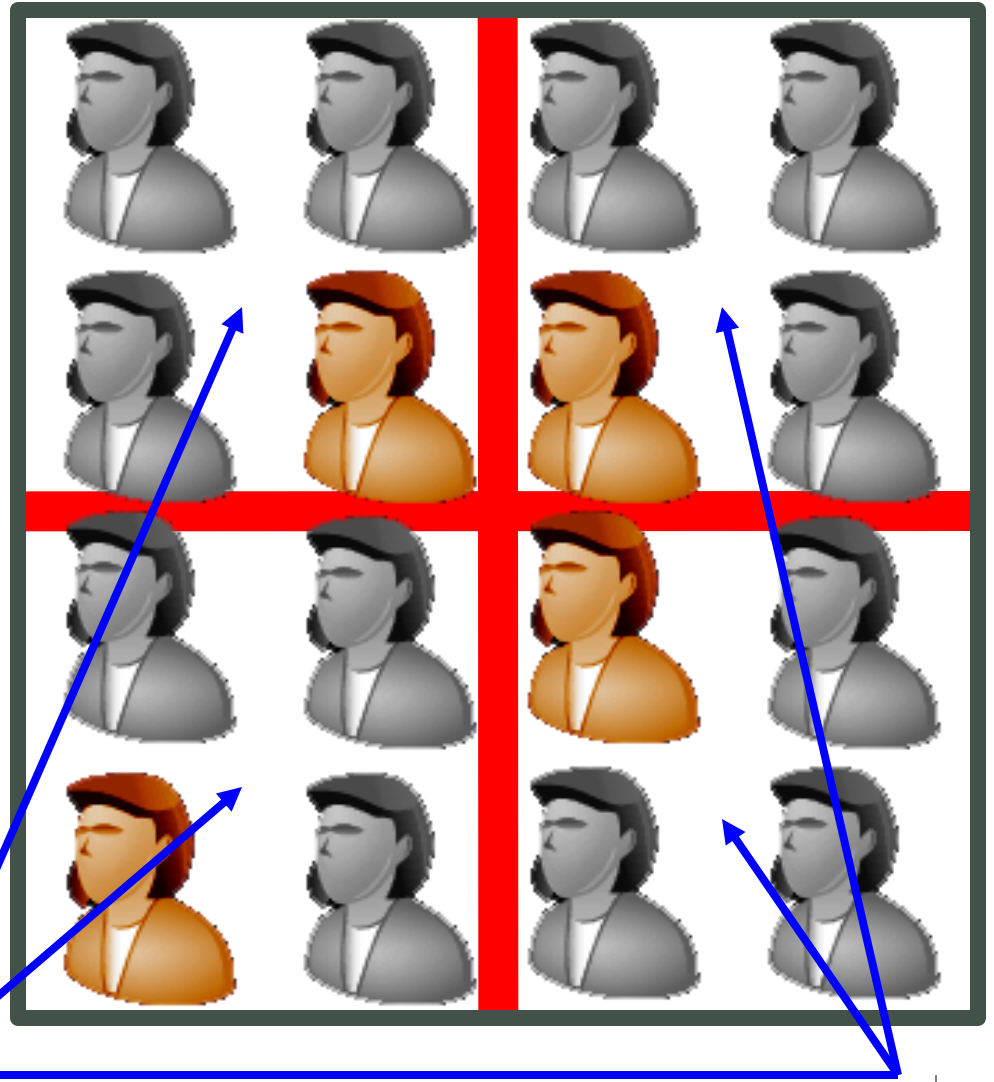
→ Where a redistricting plan has the effect of diluting a minority population's electoral strength

Voting Rights Act

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

Example #1 →

Minorities make up only 1/4 in all four districts

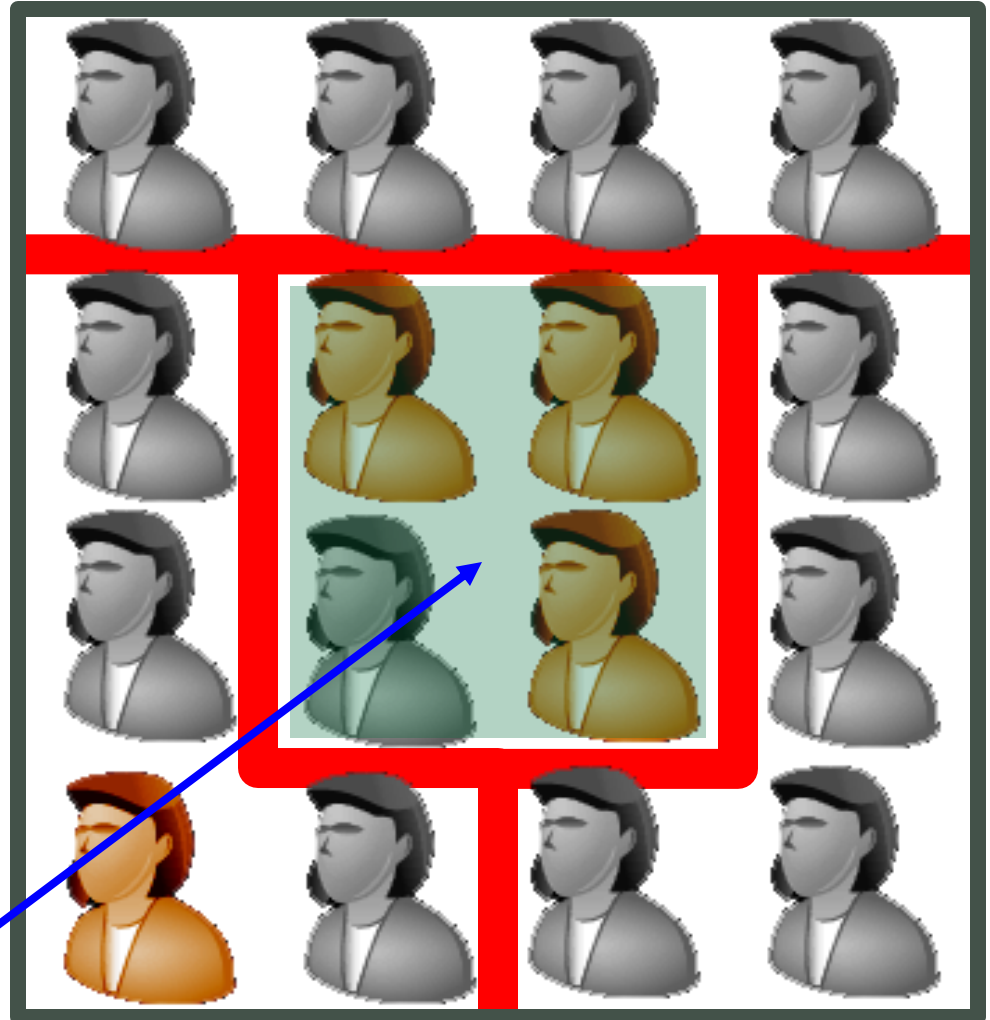


Voting Rights Act

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

Example #2 →

Minorities make up $\frac{3}{4}$ in one district





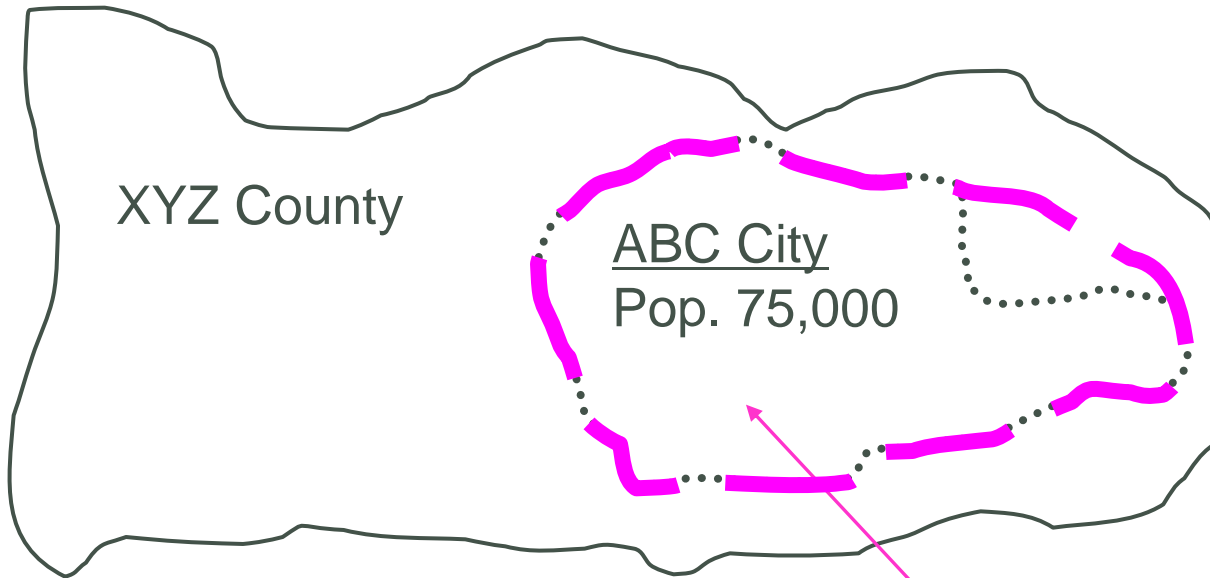
Community of Interest

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**

Community of Interest

City and county boundaries:



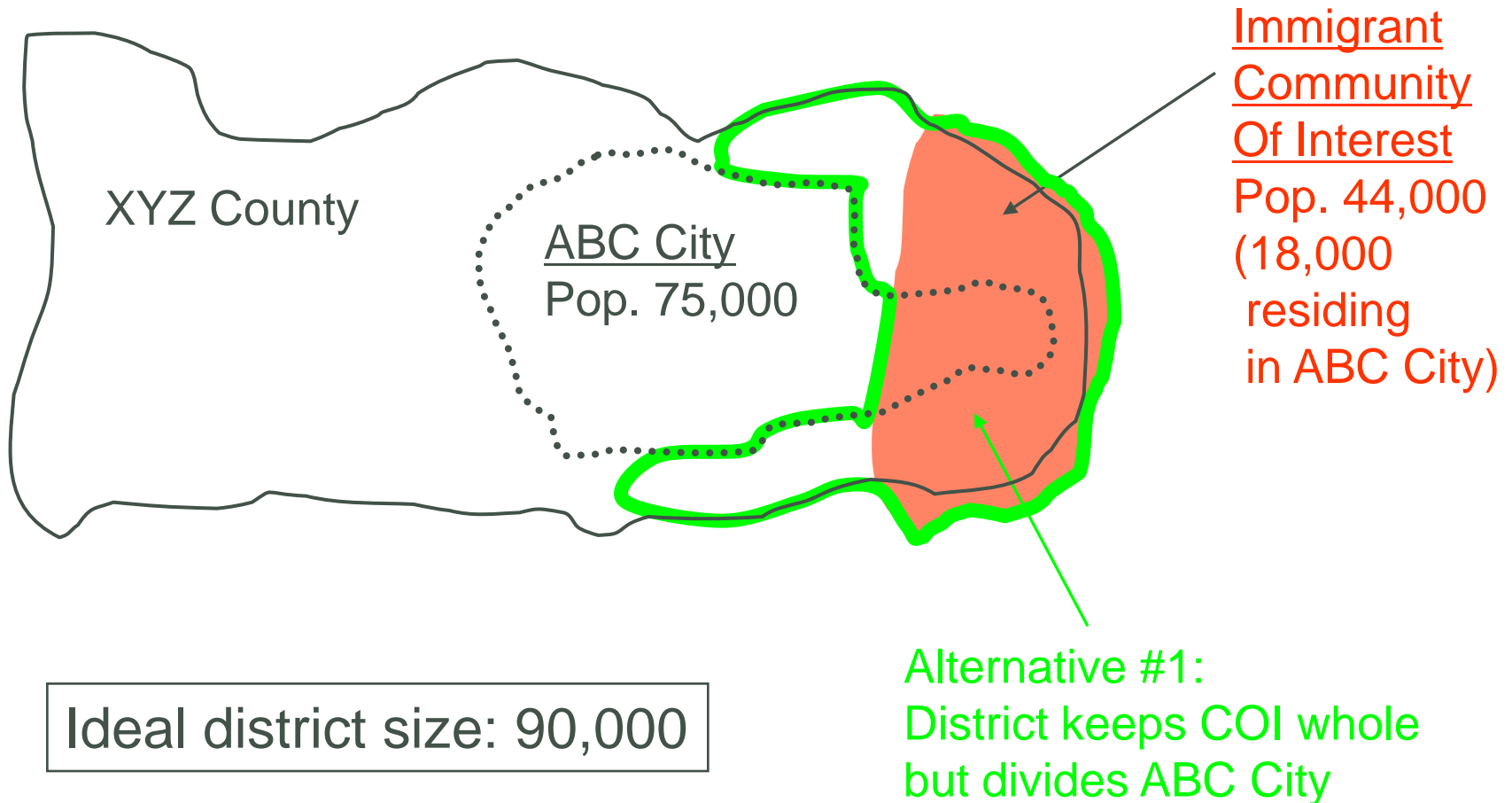
Ideal district size: 90,000

District keeps entirety of ABC City whole



Community of Interest – It's Complicated

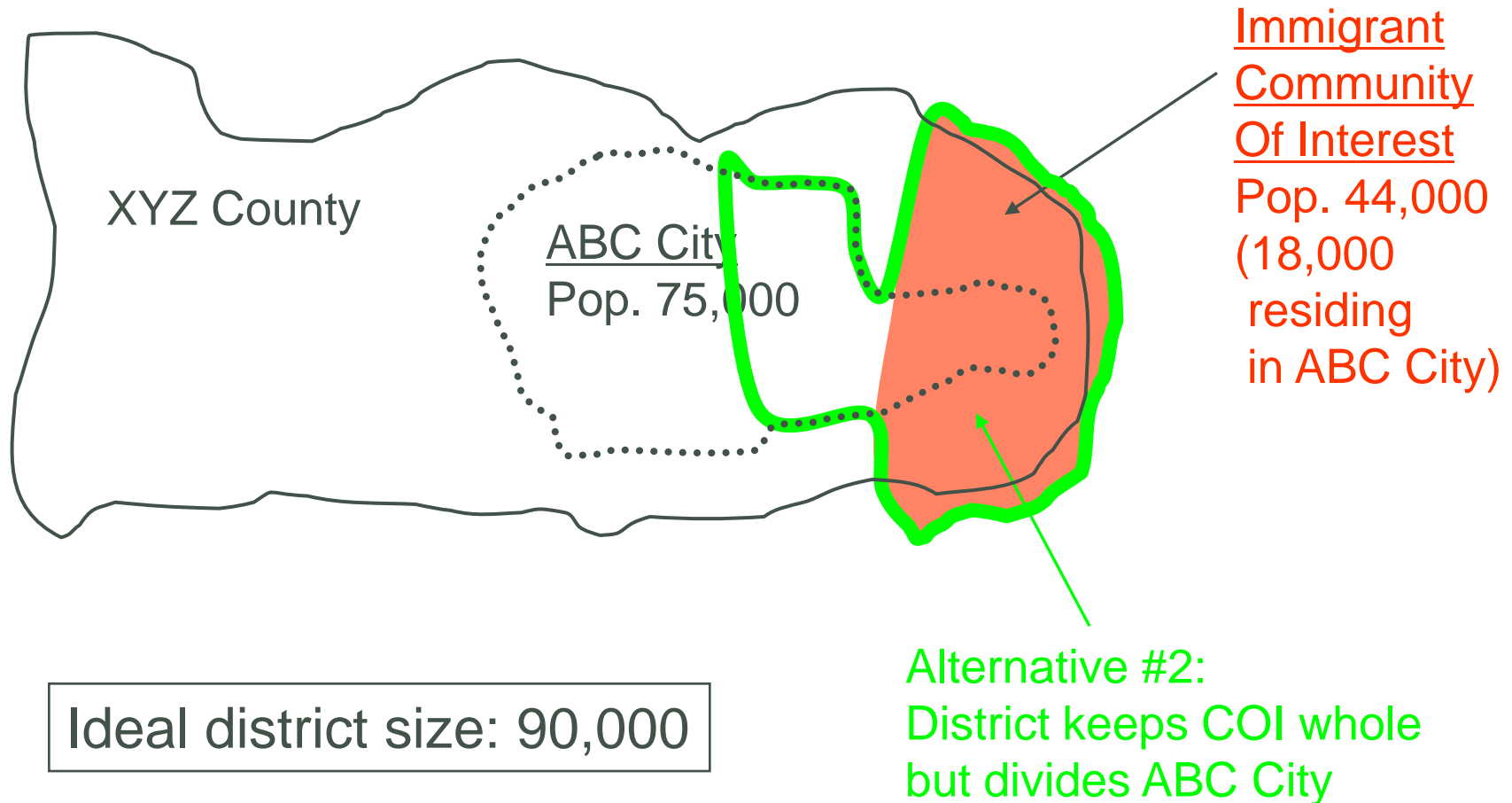
City and county boundaries:





Community of Interest – It's Complicated

Communities of interest:





Community of Interest – How will the Commission know?

You
testify!