

# REDISTRICTING IN COLORADO

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AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN, LITTLETON SOUTH METRO BRANCH  
9 OCTOBER 2021

# OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

- Components of Redistricting
- 2020 Census
- Redistricting Criteria
- Geospatial Technology Tools
- Colorado Independent Redistricting Commission
- Colorado in Context
- Discussion

# COMPONENTS OF REDISTRICTING

POPULATION

CRITERIA

COMMUNITIES AND GEOGRAPHY

MAPS

## 2020 CENSUS ENUMERATION

Responsibility of the United  
States Census Bureau

Multiple controversies  
surrounded the 2020 Census

- Who should be counted
- COVID-19 interruptions
- Questions about accuracy

Redistricting data delivered  
in August 2021

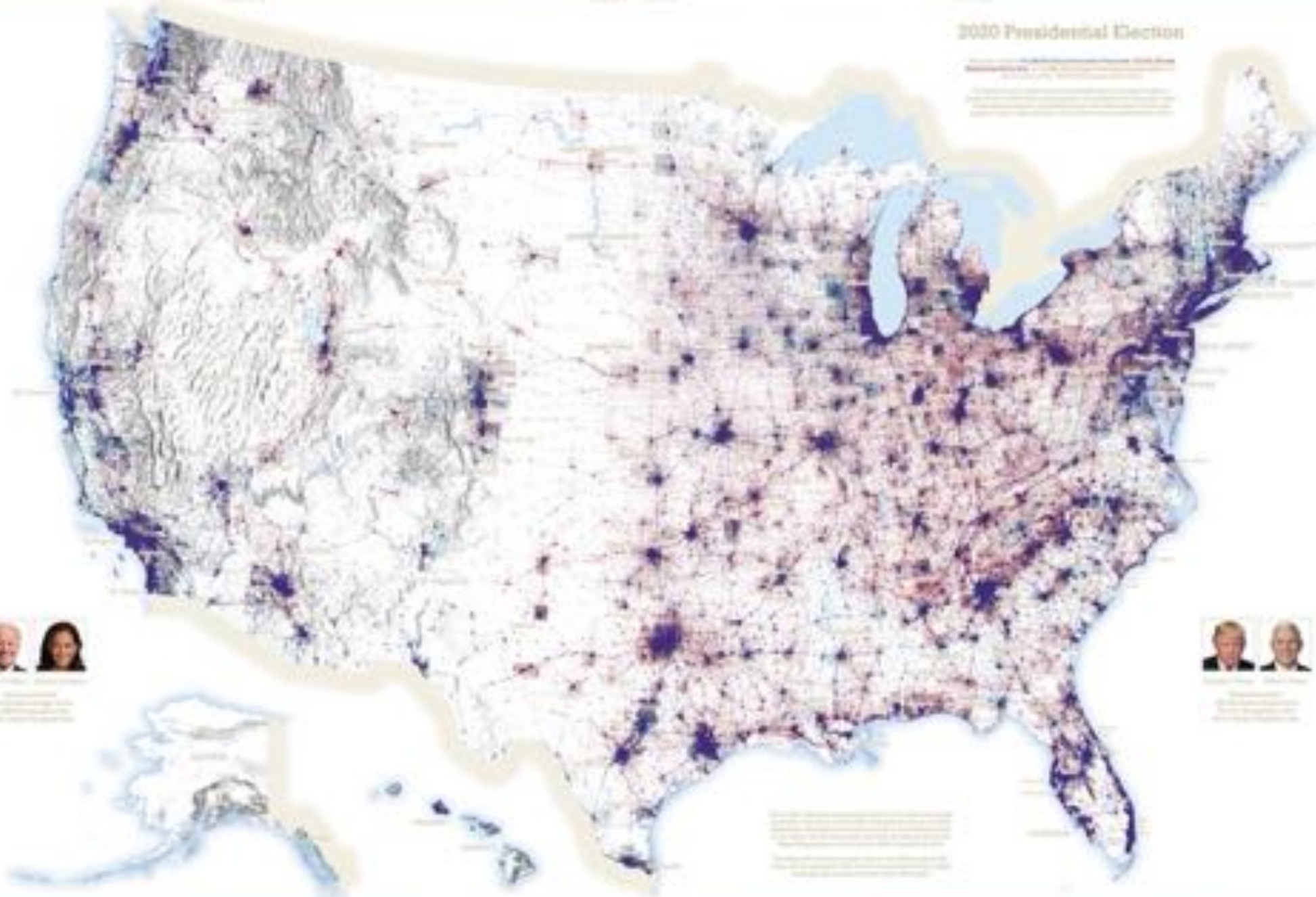
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS  
STATISTICAL CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES  
POPULATION SCHEDULE



# WHO LIVES WHERE?



# 2020 Presidential Election



Electoral College  
270 votes needed to win  
538 total votes available



Joe Biden  
Kamala Harris



Donald Trump  
Mike Pence

Swing States  
These states are crucial to the outcome of the election.



# Population Change by County 2010 to 2020



# Population Percent Change by County 2010 to 2020

## Percent Change

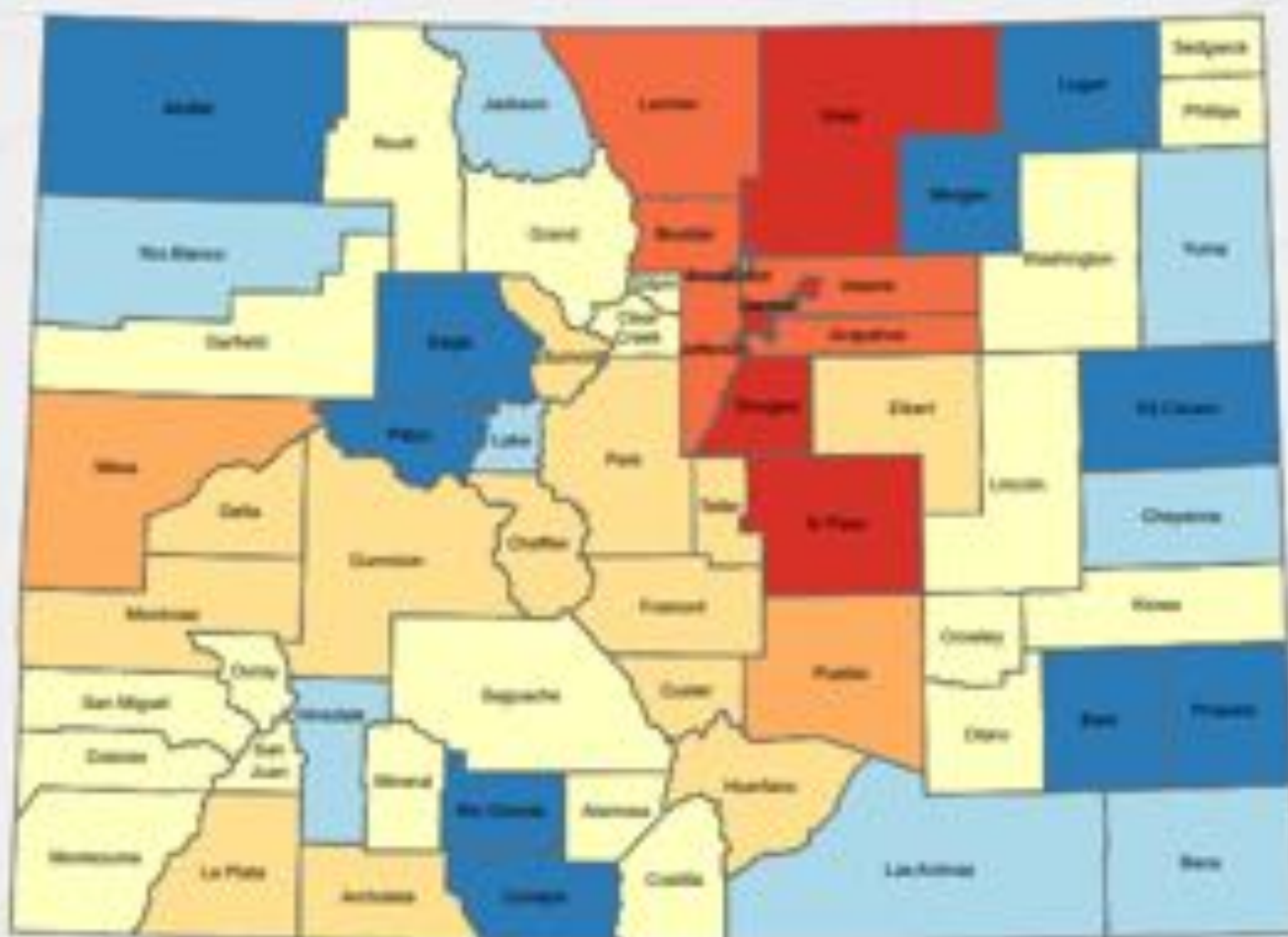
- > 10% Loss
- 5% to 10% Loss
- 0% to 5% Loss
- 0% to 5% Gain
- 5% to 10% Gain
- 10% to 15% Gain
- > 15% Gain





## Net Migration by County 2010 to 2020

### Net Migration



# Percent Hispanic by Census Tract

Percent of Population



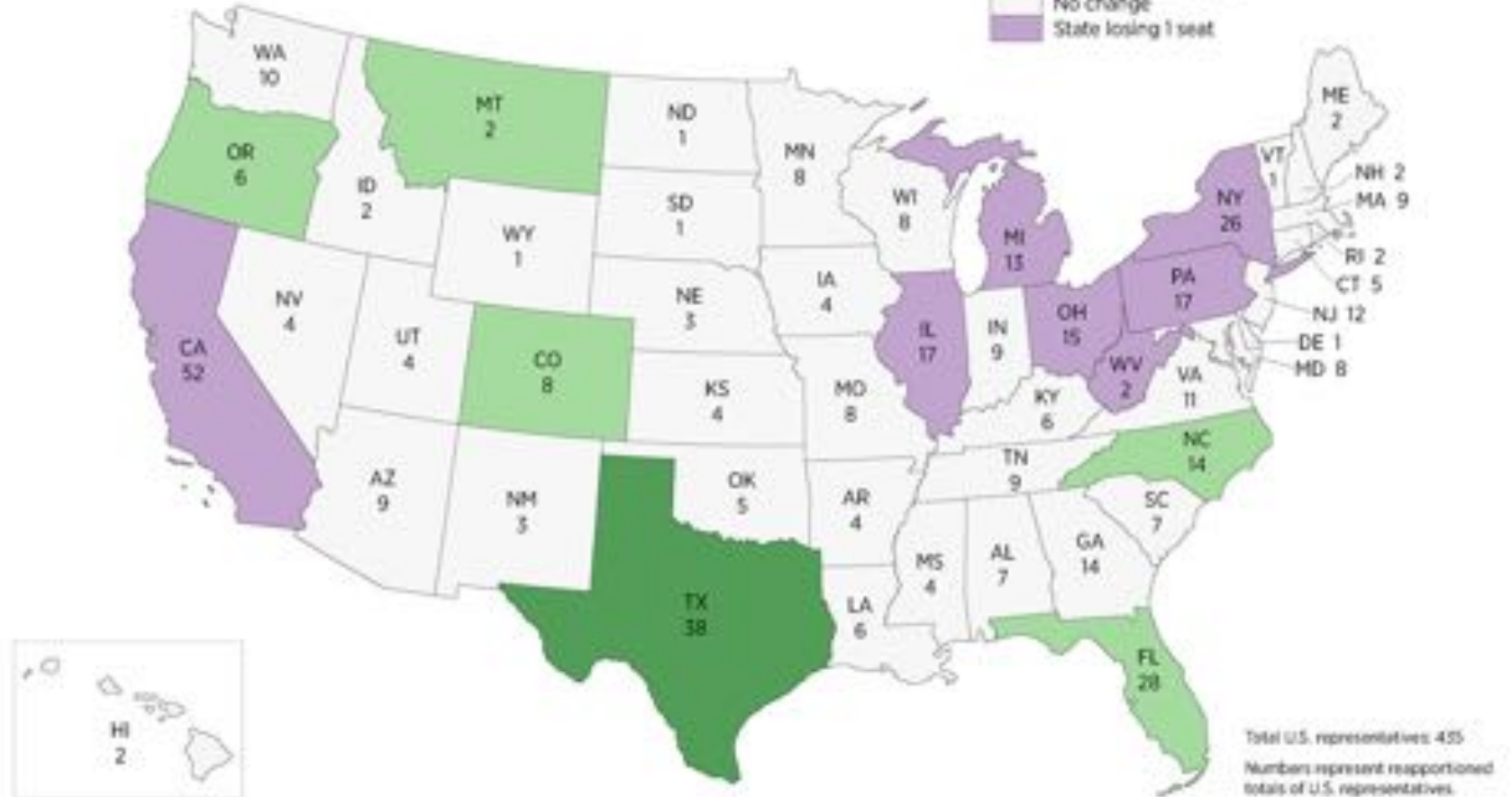
# APPORTIONMENT

## Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives Based on the 2020 Census



### Change from 2010 to 2020

- State gaining 2 seats
- State gaining 1 seat
- No change
- State losing 1 seat





# IMPORTANCE OF TRADITIONAL REDISTRICTING PRINCIPLES AND STATE CRITERIA

[HTTPS://DRAWTHELINESPA.ORG/ABOUT-US/FLASHES-OF-INSIGHT-EXERCISE](https://drawthelinespa.org/about-us/FLASHES-OF-INSIGHT-EXERCISE)

[HTTPS://GEOCIVICS.ITCH.IO/PRIORITIZING-DISTRICTS](https://geocivics.itch.io/prioritizing-districts)

# Flashes of Insight



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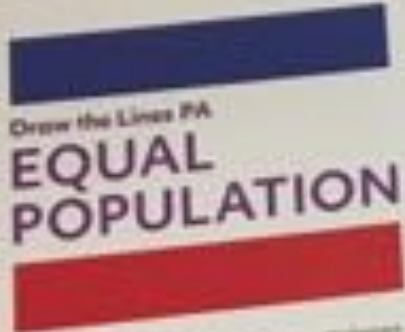
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**COMPETITIVE ELECTIONS**

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**PARTY ADVANTAGE**

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**CONTIGUITY**

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**COMPACTNESS**

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**COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST**

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**INCUMBENT PROTECTION**



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<https://drawthelinepa.org/about-us/ashes-of-insight-exercise>

Explore the many values that can be prioritized when

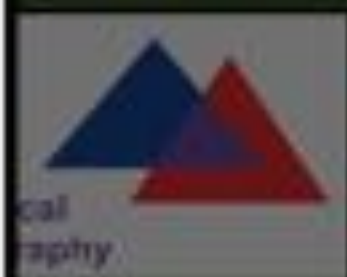
## Contiguity



Districts should be contiguous, no one part should be disconnected from the rest, and no connections strike you as minimal or absurd.



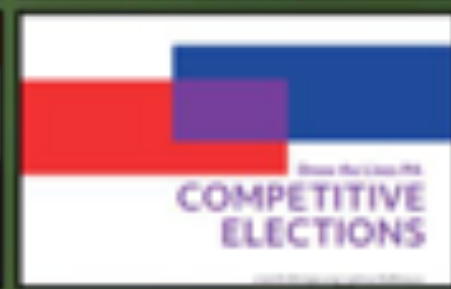
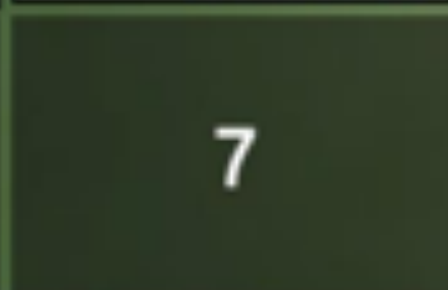
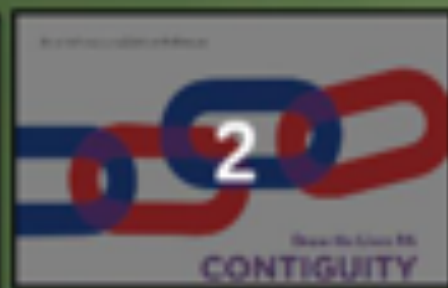
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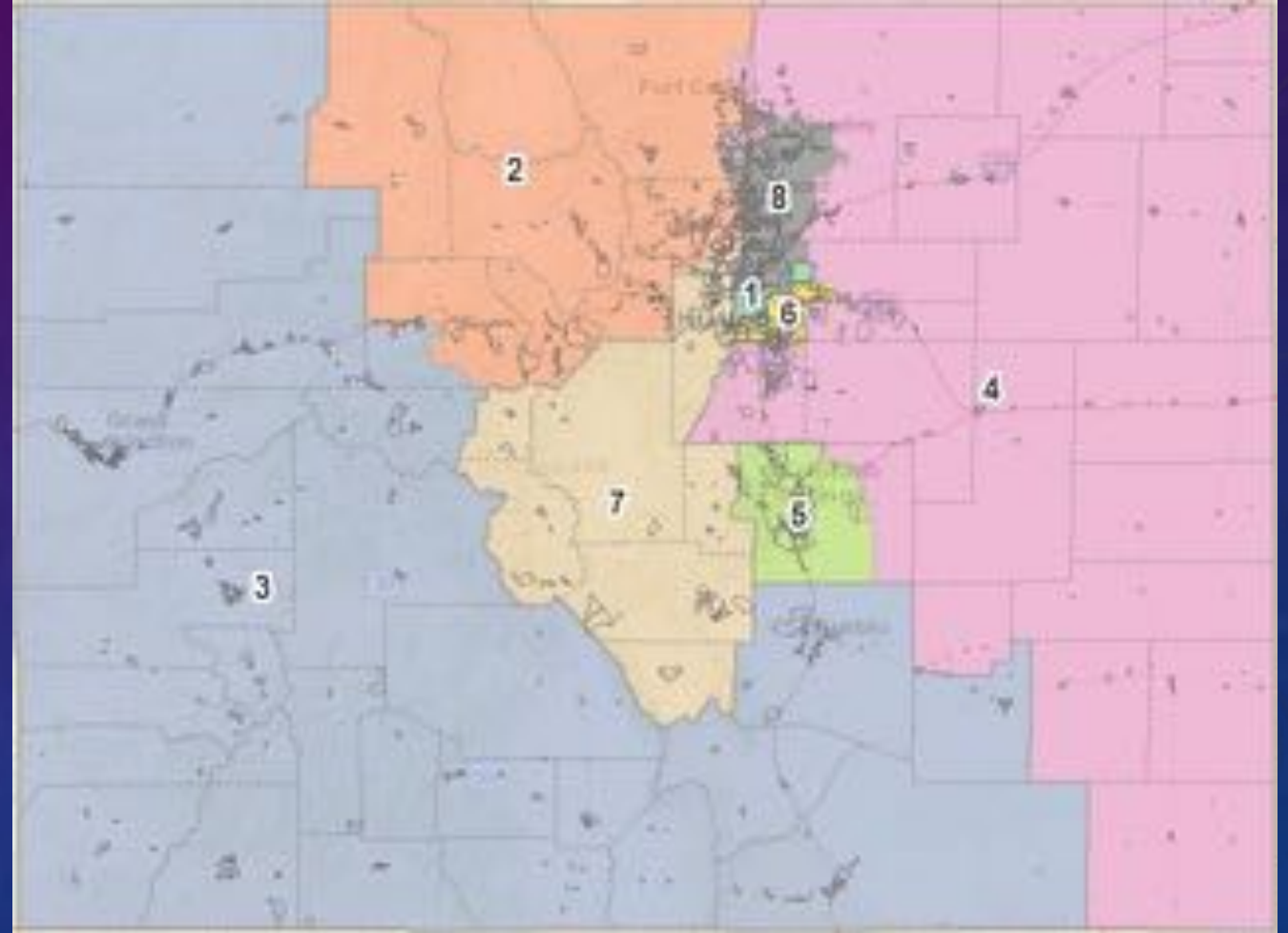
# Prioritize what you think is important when creating a voting map!

(Click and drag the cards around the screen)



## REDISTRICTING

- Redrawing of the boundaries of the districts within each state based on census results
- Follows the process of reapportionment
- States gaining or losing significant population in comparison to other states will have more changes than those that are stable
- District boundaries may also change due to population migration within a state
- Congressional district lines are also used to define other political and economic regions, such as state university regents and state school board members



# COLORADO'S REDISTRICTING CRITERIA

- Achieve population equality
- Be contiguous
- Comply with Voting Rights Act
- Preserve communities of interest
- Preserve political subdivisions
- Be compact
- Maximize number of politically competitive districts
- NO: Protecting incumbents / Promoting political parties



# DRAW AND DESCRIBE YOUR COMMUNITY

## REPRESENTABLE.ORG

[HTTPS://WWW.REPRESENTABLE.ORG/](https://www.representable.org/)

Our mission is to give communities a voice in drawing voting districts.

Representable allows people to draw communities of interest and share information about the interests and needs in those communities.

Making this information available encourages mapmakers to take these communities into account during redistricting, in order to avoid gerrymandering and the "packing and cracking" of marginalized groups.

### Gerrymandering is threatening democracy.

Politicians have been splitting up and packing together communities into districts that silence the voices of community members. This prevents communities from electing representatives that listen to their needs. Gathering communities of interest maps helps fight gerrymandering. We can provide map drawers with the information they need to draw districts that empower communities.

We're fighting to make democracy more...

1 Transparent

2 Inclusive

3 Accessible

REPRESENTABLE.ORG


Providing a tool for  
written and visual  
communication about  
your community.

### Sign Up

Email

Password

Repeat Password

 Making an account helps us protect legitimate submissions.

[Log In](#)

Already have an account?

### Log In

Email

Password

Don't remember?

[Log In](#)



## Gerrymandering is silencing communities.

Make your voice heard with Representable and put your community on the map.

GET STARTED

### Are you the leader of an organization?

Many organizations have partnered with Representable.org to collect community of interest data.

[LEARN MORE](#)





## Add your community to the map.

Mapping your community and identifying its shared interests allows public officials to take your community's concerns into account.

**Gerrymandering** is silencing communities across the country.

Politicians have been splitting up or packing together communities into districts that silence their voices. Gathering communities of interest helps fight gerrymandering.



[ADD MY COMMUNITY](#)



Step 1

Tell us about yourself.

Why do we need your information?

Your Name \*

Street \*

City \*

State \*

Zipcode \*

NEXT >



## Step 2



## Tell us about what unites your community.

Next, you will share information about what brings your community together. What do you think is important for politicians to know about your community?

### What is a Community of Interest?

A Community of Interest is a geographic area that shares cultural, historical, or economic interests. Communities of Interest encourage the drawing of fairer voting districts.

Communities of Interest can include...



Your neighborhood, or an area you live in.



The people you would like to choose representatives with.



A local group that is brought together by a common interest.

[← BACK](#)[START →](#)

## Step 2

### What unites your Community of Interest?

#### Community of Interest Definition in Colorado

In the redistricting process, your state requires the consideration of communities of interest (COIs). Under the state constitution, a community of interest is any proximate population that shares substantial interests, such as common public policy concerns or racial, ethnic, and language minority identities. Communities do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates. Add your community to contribute your voice to the redistricting process.

Respond to **at least one** of the sections below. There are no wrong answers.  
Click on each category to see helpful questions and examples.

#### Community Activities and Services

Use these questions to think more about how you would describe your community...

- Where do people in your community gather or socialize?
- How and where does your community access services (healthcare, transportation, educational services, etc.)?

Examples of activities and services: Shopping areas, schools and universities, libraries, parks, lakes, rivers, places of worship, healthcare services, public transport, local nonprofit organizations, etc.

Type your ideas here

#### Cultural or Historical Interests

ex. My community is made of the Latino community in east Brooklyn. The community has been in the neighborhood for 20 years and is affected by gentrification.

## Step 2



Community Name:

### Name your community.

Give your community of interest a name. This does not have to be the official name of your community.

Examples: Cherry Parkway Community, St. Peter's Church Community, Riverside Fishing Community

Test Colorado Community

 BACK

NEXT 

**BLACK FOREST IMPACTS**

Local Group | 1400 Members | Colorado Springs, CO 80904

[View This](#) 100%

**NECS COMMUNITY**

Local Group | 6000 Members | Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904

[View This](#) 100%

**HOYT\_SAMPSON\_GWPC\_COMMUNITY**

Local Group | 100 Members | Colorado Springs, Colorado 80907

[View This](#) 100%

**THE PEOPLE OF LITTLE ROCK**

Local Group | 100 Members | Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

[View This](#) 100%

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS STUDENTS**

Local Group | 100 Members | Colorado Springs, CO 80904

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**UCCS COMMUNITY**

Local Group | 100 Members | Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904

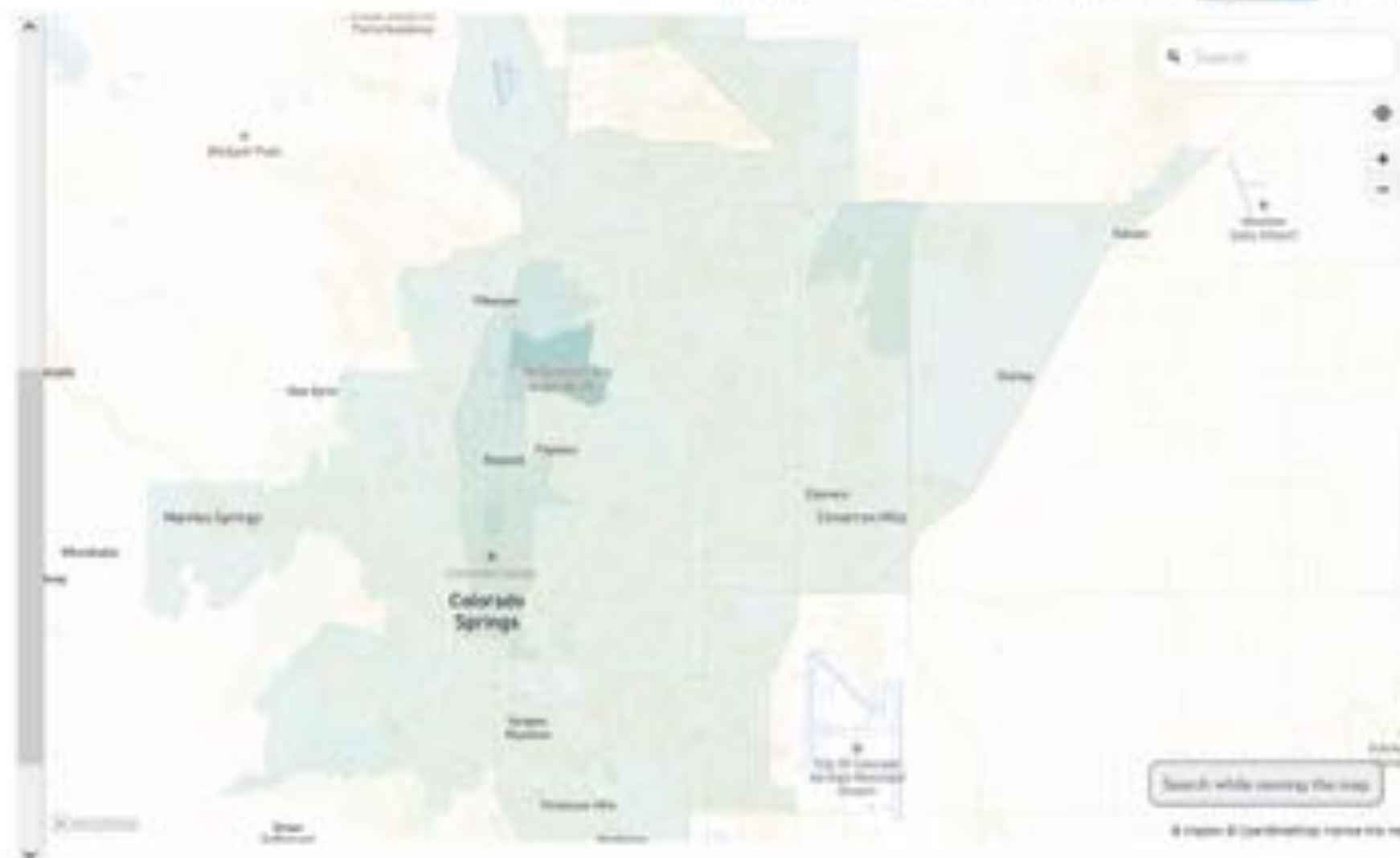
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**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO COLORADO SPRINGS**

Local Group | 100 Members | Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904

[View This](#) 100%

**YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS IN CENTRAL COLORADO SPRINGS**



Search while viewing the map

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## Central Colorado Springs

### Download this map

The downloads include the community information below.



Or visit the full website page to view

### Community Information

- Community Activities and Services
- Cultural or Historical Interests
- Economic or Environmental Interests
- Community Needs and Concerns
 

sustainability and environmental protection. The people who live in Colorado Springs have shared interests and concerns, even if those issues are not always demonstrated by elected officials.

### Data Layers

- CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS
- STATE HOUSE DISTRICTS
- LONG RIVER COUNCIL
- SCHOOL DISTRICTS
- STATE SENATE DISTRICTS
- COUNTIES
- 2000 CENSUS BLOCK GROUPS
- 2000 CENSUS TRACT BOUNDARIES

Showing 14 district plan (Election) layers and 8 data layers

Election Data

Demographics



# GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

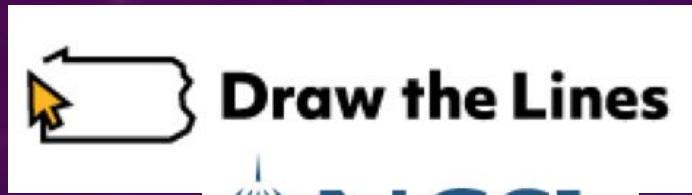
[HTTPS://GEOCIVICS.UCCS.EDU/GEOGRAPHY/GEOSPATIALTECHNOLOGY](https://geocivics.uccs.edu/geography/geospatialtechnology)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.....	vii
TABLE OF ERRATA.....	viii
REAPPORTMENT OF THE COLONIAL SENATE, SENATE.....	1
Reapportionment Provisions Prior to 1901.....	1
Legislation -- 1842 SENATE.....	1
Revised legislative plan for reapportionment.....	2
Drawing of districts -- actual senate districts.....	2
ESTABLISHMENT OF COLONIAL REAPPORTMENT COMMISSION.....	3
Issues of Main Issues -- Proposed	
Constitutional Issues.....	3
Tactical Considerations -- Article V.....	4
Implementation of the Amendment.....	7
Ad Hoc Committee on Reapportionment.....	7
Appointment of Committee.....	8
Executive Privileges -- Constitutional Matters.....	8
Challenges to Committee's Plan.....	11
Decision of the Colorado Supreme Court.....	12
Withdrawal of preliminary plan.....	12
Splitting counties.....	12
Splitting cities.....	12
Exemption and composition of members.....	13
Impeachment of members.....	14
Colorado Supreme Court's Ruling on Colorado	
Supreme Court.....	14
Supreme Court's Ruling on Revised Plan.....	15
COLONIAL SENATE.....	16
The Supremacy of Article V, Section 5.....	16
Possible Implications of Court's Decision on	
Drawing.....	18





Princeton Gerrymandering Project



Public Mapping Project

**REDISTRICTING & YOU**  
Current Districts & Implications for Post-2020 Maps



**FAIR LINES AMERICA**  
FOUNDATION



**BALLOT PEDIA**  
SEARCH THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AMERICAN POLITICS

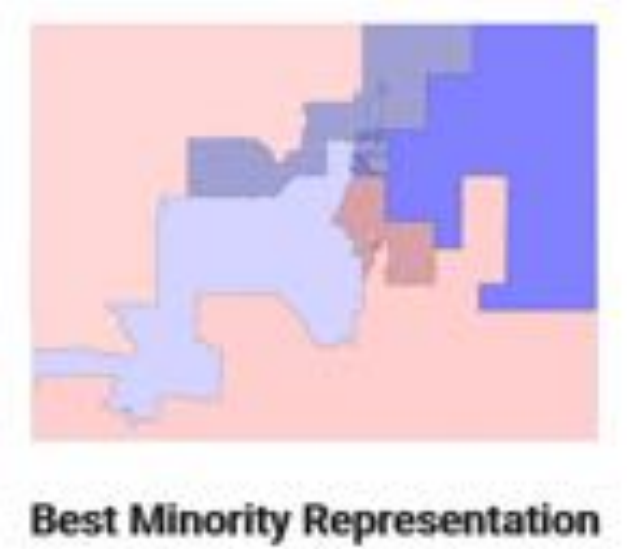
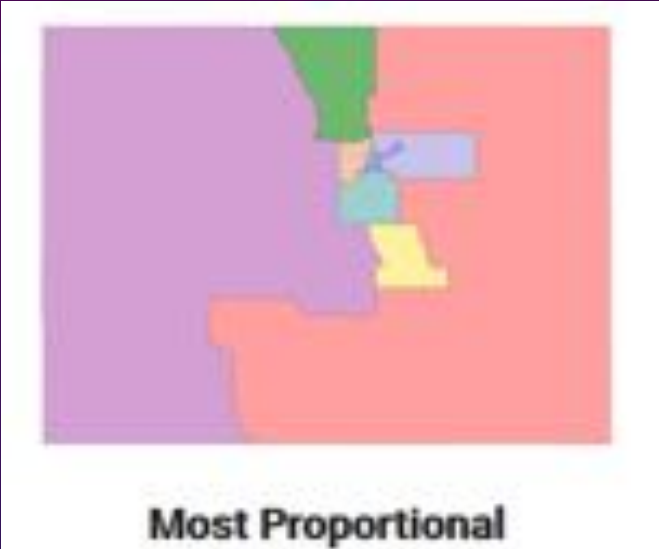


redistricting  
... data hub

ALL ABOUT  
REDISTRICTING

THE ReDISTRICTING GAME

# SAMPLE MAPS PRIORITIZING DIFFERENT CRITERIA



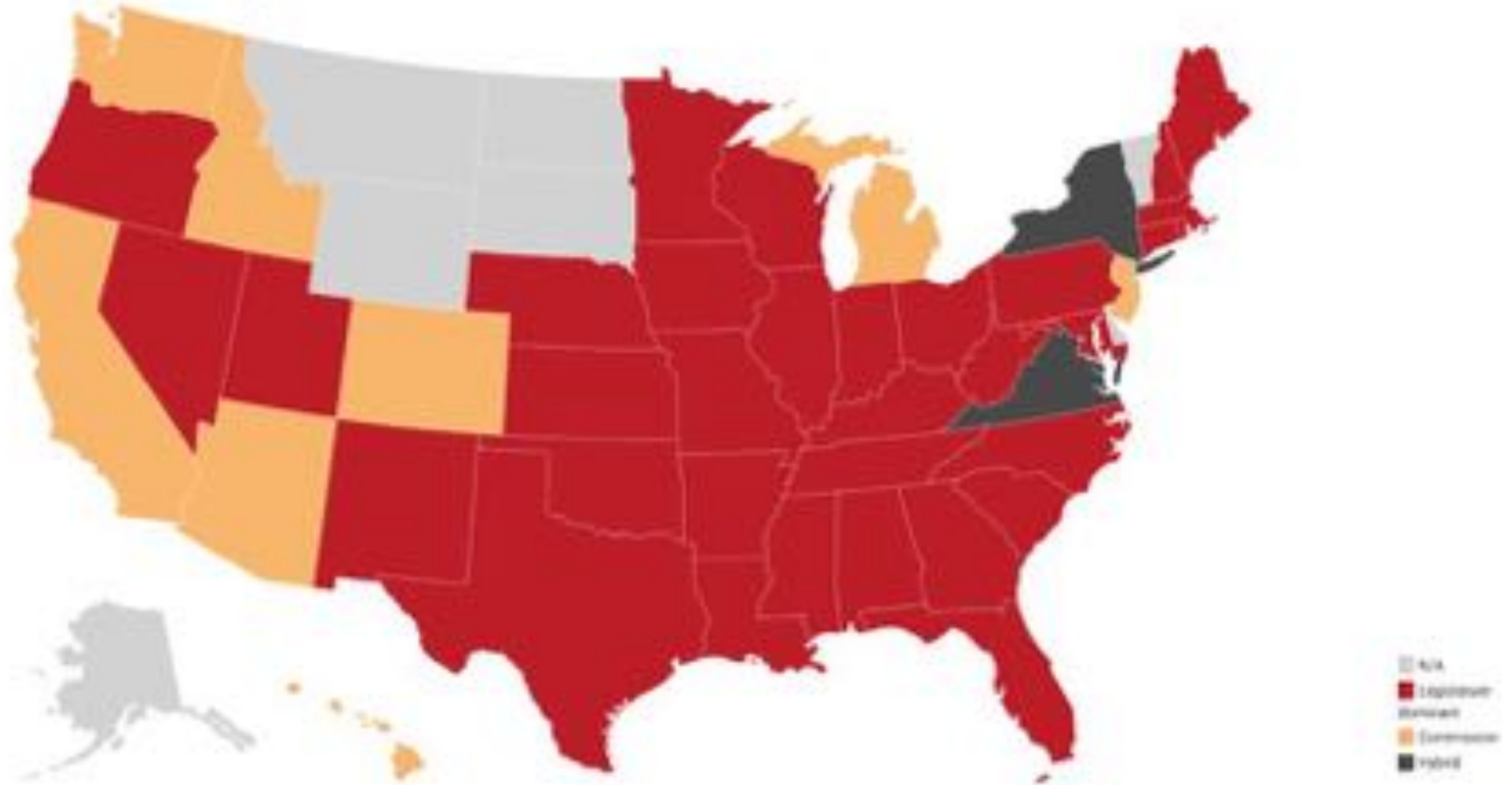
# COLORADO INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

AMENDMENTS Y AND Z, 2018

# STATE-BY-STATE PROCEDURES

## Congressional redistricting methods in the United States

Hover over a state in the map below to learn more about congressional redistricting in that state.





## INDEPENDENT AND TRANSPARENT

- Applications for 24 positions
- Choosing of commissioners
- Identifiable criteria
- Open and accessible meetings
- Over 5200 online comments
- At least 100 submitted maps
- Multiple staff plans
- Open voting on maps
- Maps to Supreme Court

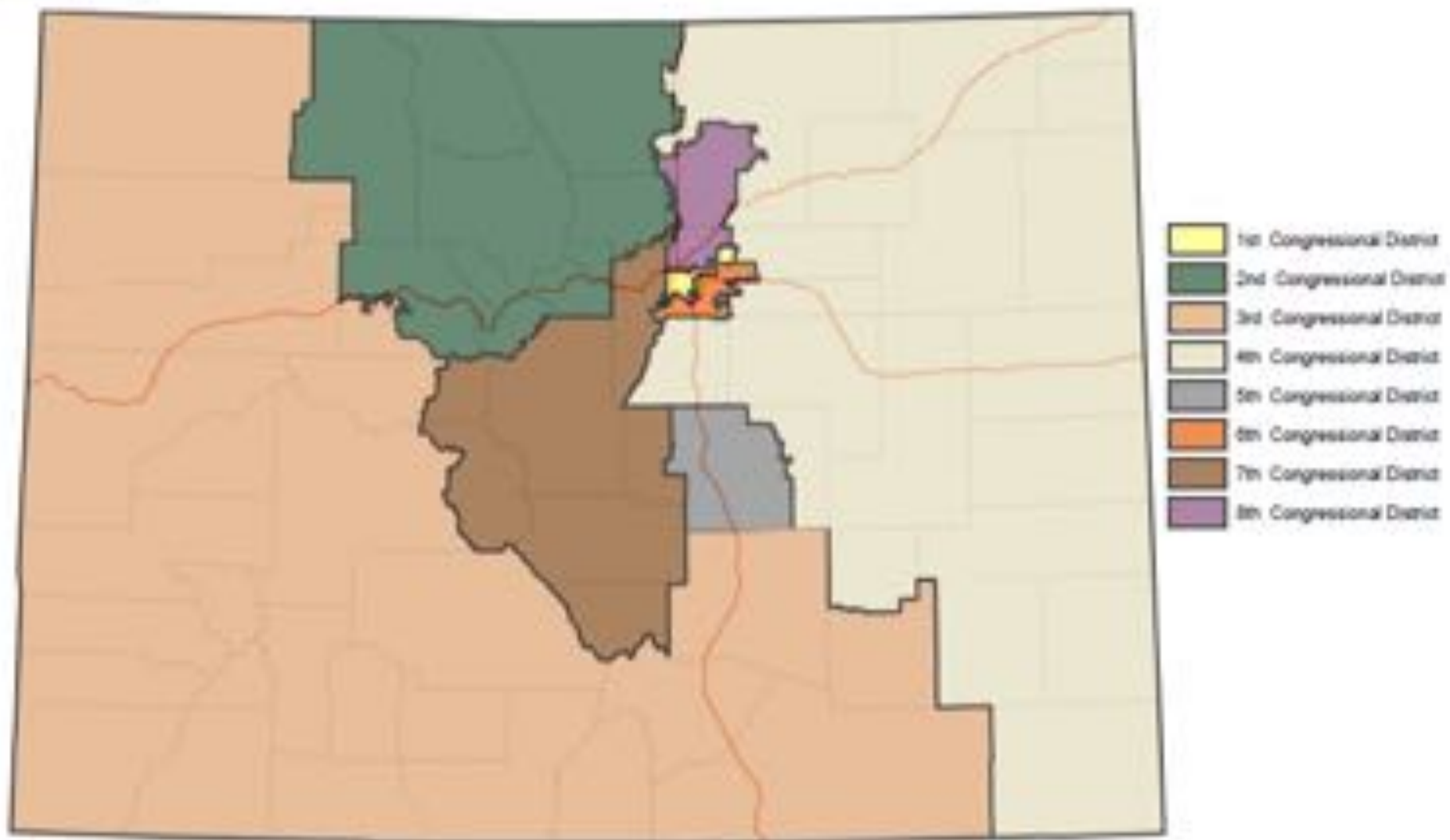


# GEOGRAPHIC TERMS FROM PUBLIC COMMENTS TO THE COLORADO INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

- mountains
- foothills
- flood mitigation
- water and natural resources
- Continental Divide
- climate change
- environmental issues
- wildfire mitigation and preparedness
- agricultural uses
- transportation corridors
- bike / pedestrian trails
- conservation easements
- rivers
- public lands
- open space
- natural features
- dairy farms
- cattle ranches
- drought
- homeowners association boundaries
- watershed
- wilderness tourism
- mountain peaks
- plains
- forest management
- DIA
- extractive industries

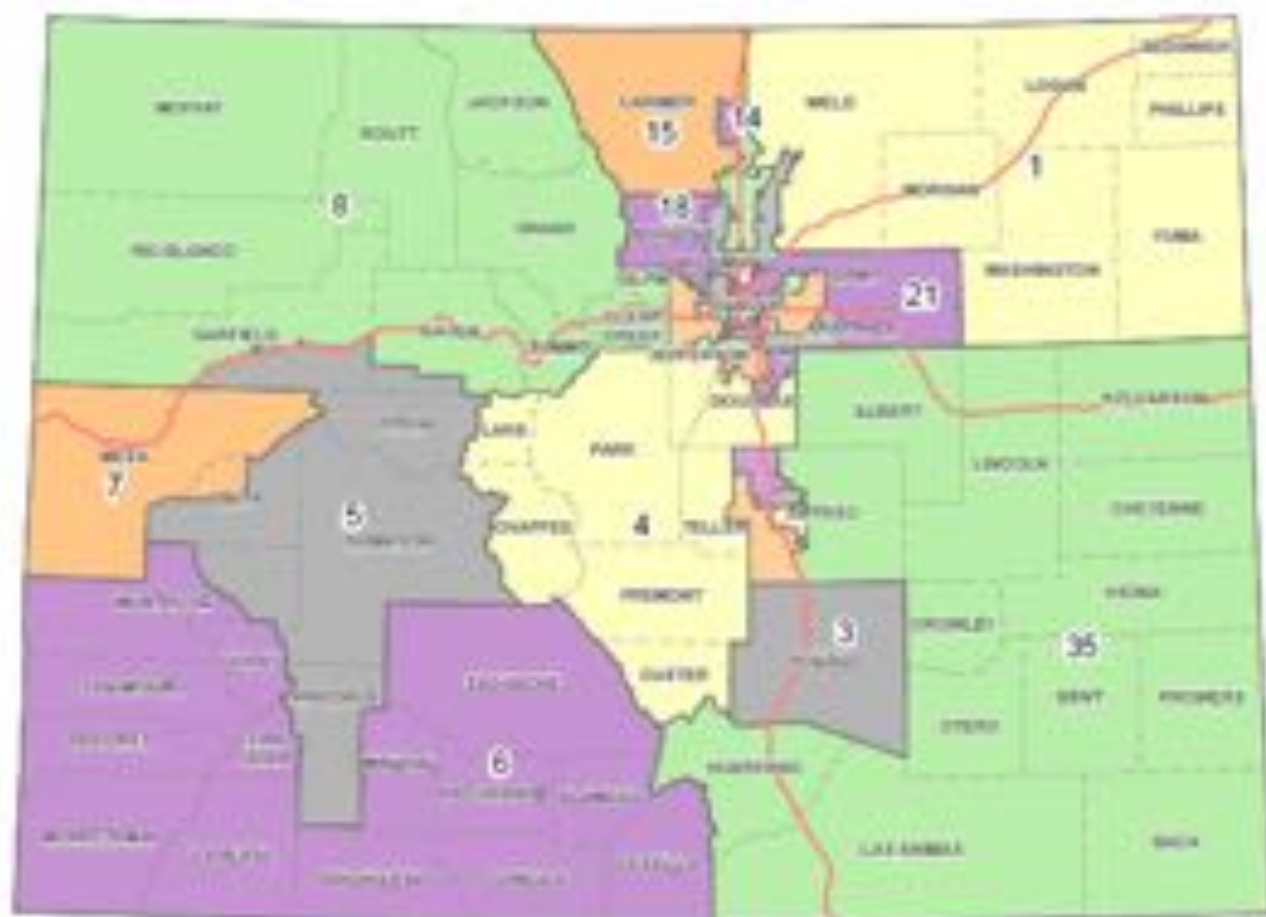


## Colorado Congressional Districts (Final Approved Plan)





## Colorado Senate Districts Statewide - Third Staff Plan



Denver Metro Area



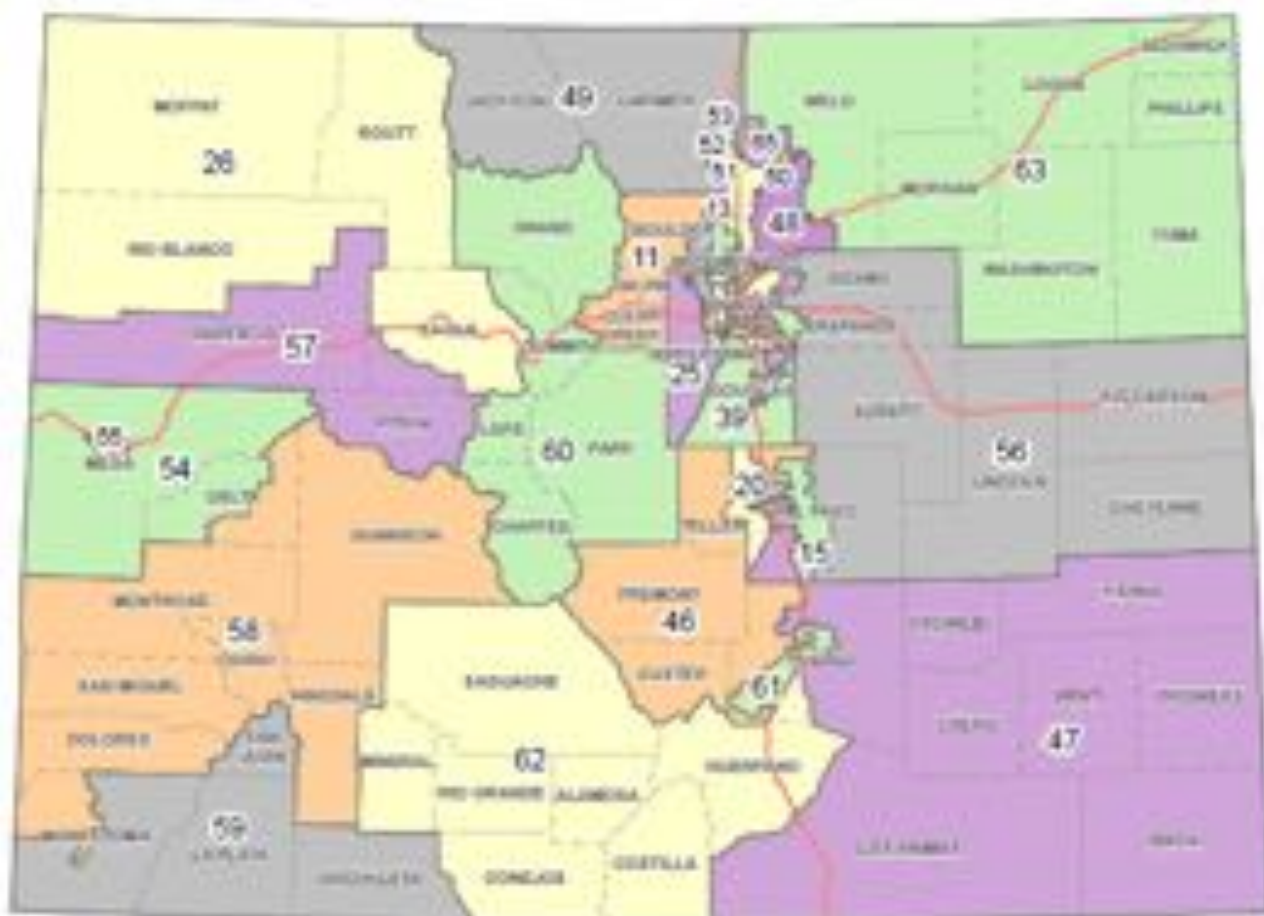
Colorado Springs Metro Area







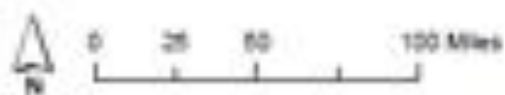
## Colorado House Districts Statewide - Third Staff Plan



Denver Metro Area



Colorado Springs Metro Area



# WHAT IS HAPPENING IN OTHER STATES?

FOCUS ON POLITICAL DIVISIONS

# SELECTED OBSERVATIONS

## The Next Big Political Battle In Georgia: Redistricting

Redistricting commission will give mapping consultants time to respond to comments, criticism

OPINION | REVIEW & OUTLOOK

## *The Blue State Gerrymander Walk-Back*

Illinois and New York Democrats may prefer partisan maps after all.

## Ohio's Redistricting Reforms To Avoid Gerrymandering Take Shape In 2021

## POLITICS

# Which states are gaining House seats in 2022 – and which are losing out

Texas netted two new seats thanks to big population growth, while California and New York were among the seven states losing one seat apiece.

## What to watch as Pennsylvania loses a congressional seat: 'The stakes are really high'

Pennsylvania's looming loss of a congressional seat will ripple across state politics and shape the balance of power in Washington.

## Groups Call Out for Transparency Heading into 2022 Redistricting in Florida



# Gov. Mike DeWine skips redistricting hearing to attend Bengals training camp

Jessie Balmert Cincinnati Enquirer

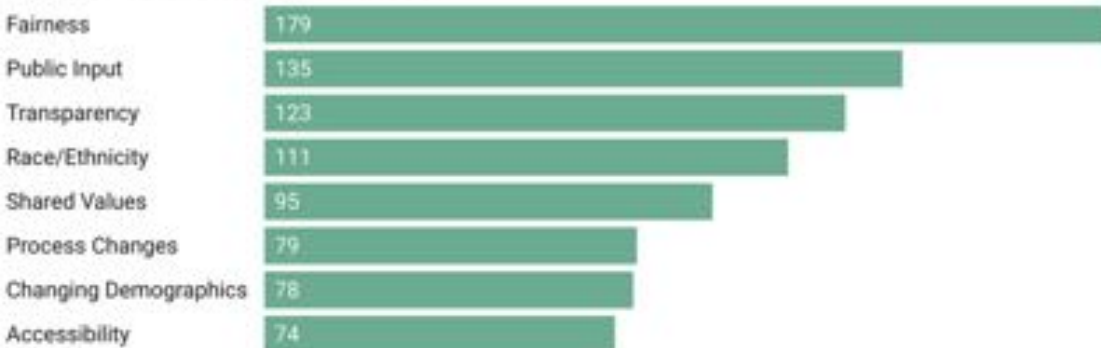
Published 5:00 p.m. ET Aug. 23, 2021 | Updated 5:24 p.m. ET Aug. 23, 2021

View Comments



Negotiations broke down Friday between members of Virginia's bipartisan redistricting commission after Democrats and Republicans failed to agree on which proposed maps they should use as a starting point.

## Public Comment Themes



Created with Datawrapper

Fairness in the mapmaking process was the most common request during 18 hours of public comment during legislative town halls in recent weeks.



The map approved by the Arkansas Legislature this week. Screen shot: Arkansas Legislature

Arkansas lawmakers have redrawn the state's congressional districts. Critics say will result in less voting power for Black people living in Little Rock.

- The new map splits Pulaski County, the state's largest by population, into three districts. It's been in the 2nd congressional district since the 1960s.



## CONSTITUTE

- to compose; form.
- to appoint to an office or function; make or create.
- to establish (laws, an institution, etc.).
- to give legal form to (an assembly, court, etc.).
- to create or be tantamount to.

## FAIR

- free from bias, dishonesty, or injustice.
- legitimately sought, pursued, done, given, etc.; proper under the rules.

## MAP

- a representation, usually on a flat surface, as of the features of an area of the earth or a portion of the heavens, showing them in their respective forms, sizes, and relationships according to some convention of representation.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
MAP  
UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES

BY BIRTH MONTH OF  
REPRESENTATIVE 2011



# Questions?

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