



Midwest Mapping Project

By Michael P. McDonald

ILLINOIS
MICHIGAN
MINNESOTA
OHIO
WISCONSIN



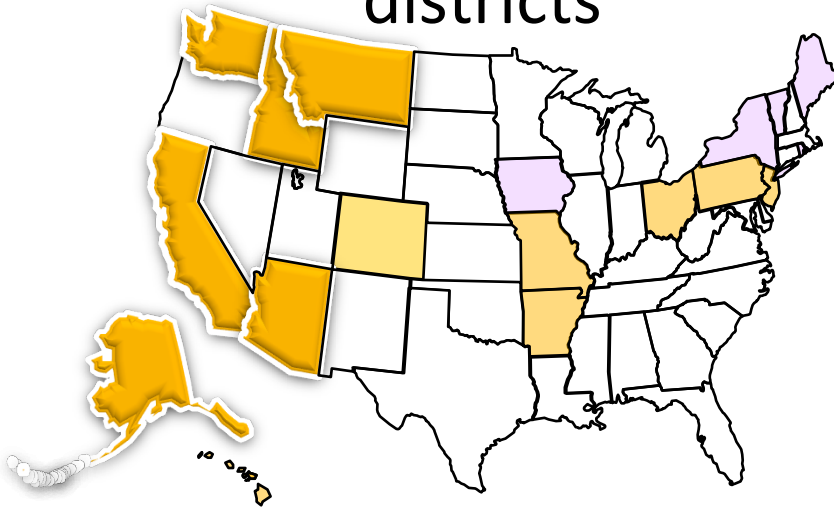
Midwest Mapping Project: Ohio

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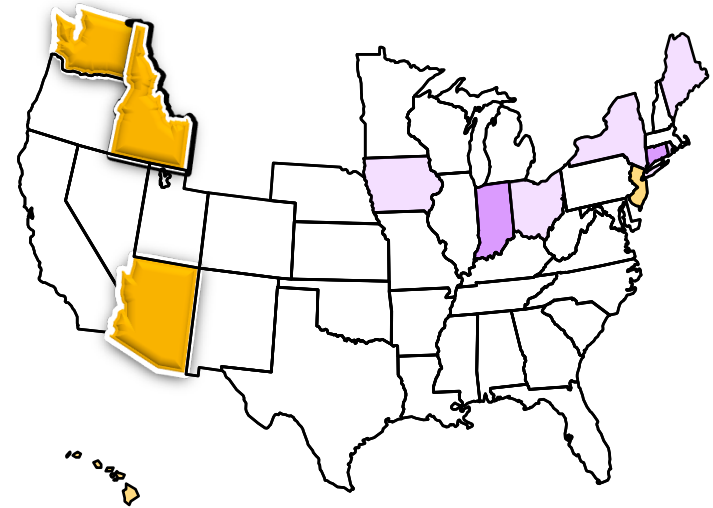
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Redistricting Institutions

State
legislative
districts



Congressional
districts



Primary control in the legislature **Advisory**

Backup

Primary control outside legislature **Politician**

Independent

Legislators usually draw their own lines

In most states, the legislature has primary control

- State legislative districts: 37 states
- Congressional districts: 38 states
(and 7 states with 1 Congressional district)

All Commissions are not the same – or independent

- Commissions may have an unequal number of partisan commissioners (like Ohio's state legislative commission)
- Commissions may have an equal number of partisan commissioners...
 - ...a super-majority rule may be required for adoption
 - ...the commission may vote for a tie-breaker
 - ...a tie-breaker may be imposed by an outside body, such as the state Supreme Court.
- Only Arizona and California use a vetting process to prevent potential conflict of interest.

... and if that should fail

In the last cycle,

- Courts drew state legislative districts in 7 states
- Courts drew congressional districts in 9 states



Redistricting Criteria

States impose various criteria, among them

- Equal Population (less than Federal requirements)
- Compactness
- Respect Political Boundaries
- Respect Existing Political Features
- Respect Communities of Interest
- Political Fairness
- Competition
- May Not Favor...

States may not use the same criteria for congressional and state legislative districts

“Unduly Favor” Criteria

Hawaii State Constitution, Article IV §6

No district shall be so drawn as to unduly favor a person or faction.

Idaho Statutes 71.1506(8)

Counties shall not be divided to protect a particular political party or a particular incumbent.

Iowa Code Title II 42.4(5)

No district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, incumbent legislator or member of Congress, or other person or group...

Washington RCW 44.05.090 (5)

The commission's plan shall not be drawn purposely to favor or discriminate against any political party or group.

For More Information...

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[Http://elections.gmu.edu/Redistricting.html](http://elections.gmu.edu/Redistricting.html)

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