

Redistricting: Don't distort the truth

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The Difference between Redistricting and Reapportionment

Many individuals use the terms "reapportionment" and "redistricting" interchangeably even though the two terms have very different policy implications, particularly with respect to the current debate over the decennial census.

Very simply, "reapportionment" is the division of congressional districts among the states whereas "redistricting" refers to the actual division (or drawing) of districts within a state.

Reapportionment- According to Federal statute, there are 435 congressional districts that comprise the U.S. House of Representatives. Following each decennial census, the total population of the United States (ascertained through the decennial census) is divided to determine the approximate number of people to be included in each congressional district. The 435 congressional districts of the U.S. House of Representatives are "apportioned" among the states under the U.S. Constitution and subsequent federal statutes.

Each state is guaranteed at least one congressional district regardless of population and the remaining districts are allocated according to a complicated mathematical population formula that distributes the representation as evenly as possible among the states

Redistricting- Redistricting refers to the actual division of congressional districts or the drawing of congressional district lines within a state into new districts after each state has been apportioned its number of districts following each decennial census. The laws governing redistricting include state constitutions and/or statutes as well as Federal and State court decisions. Changes in boundaries therefore, are correctly described as "redistricting" rather than "reapportionment."

Gerrymandering -- drawing political boundaries to give your party a numeric advantage over an opposing party.

Voters Rights Act 1965- On June 25, 2013, the United States Supreme Court held that it is unconstitutional to use the coverage formula in Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act to determine which jurisdictions are subject to the preclearance requirement of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. ___, 133 S. Ct. 2612 (2013). The Supreme Court did not rule on the constitutionality of Section 5 itself. The effect of the *Shelby County* decision is that the jurisdictions identified by the coverage formula in Section 4(b) no longer need to seek preclearance for the new voting changes, unless they are covered by a separate court order entered under Section 3(c) of the Voting Rights Act.

Georgia

We currently have 14 U.S. Congressional districts. (We gained 1 after the 2010 Census and gained 2 after the 2000 Census!) Each district was drawn to the exact same population size plus or minus 1 person. (Yes, all districts had a zero or 1 person deviation.)

We have 56 State Senate districts and 180 State House districts. Senate districts currently have about 173,000 people in them and House districts have approximately 54,000. You can get copies of the statewide maps and stat sheets on our page: www.legis.ga.gov/joint/reapportionment

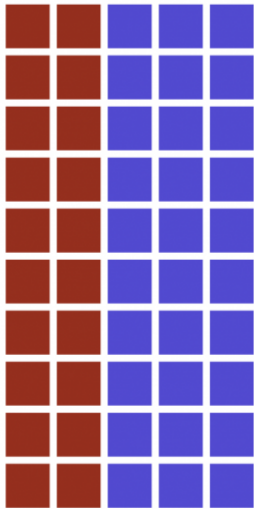
By law, we have to redraw the statewide districts following a decennial Census, the next one being in 2020. We receive that data in Spring of 2021, and will begin the process sometime after that.

Georgia's population is predicted to be around 10.3 million from 2010 Census.

Gerrymandering, explained

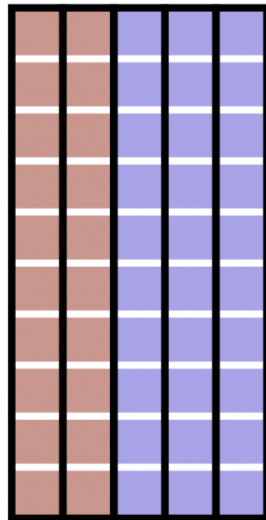
Three different ways to divide 50 people into five districts

50
people



**60% blue,
40% red**

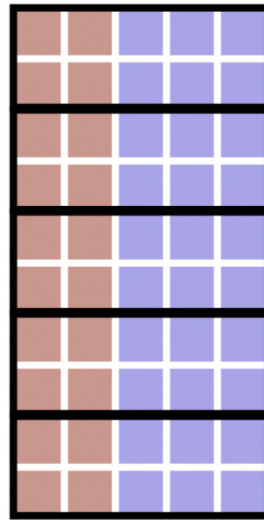
1. Perfect
representation



**3 blue districts,
2 red districts**

BLUE WINS

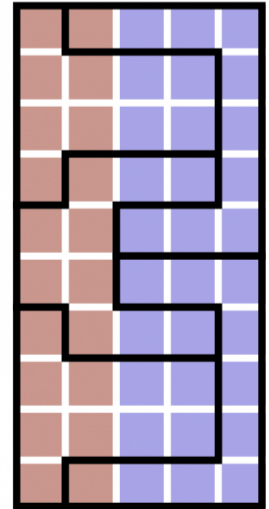
2. Compact,
but unfair



**5 blue districts,
0 red districts**

BLUE WINS

3. Neither compact
nor fair



**2 blue districts,
3 red districts**

RED WINS