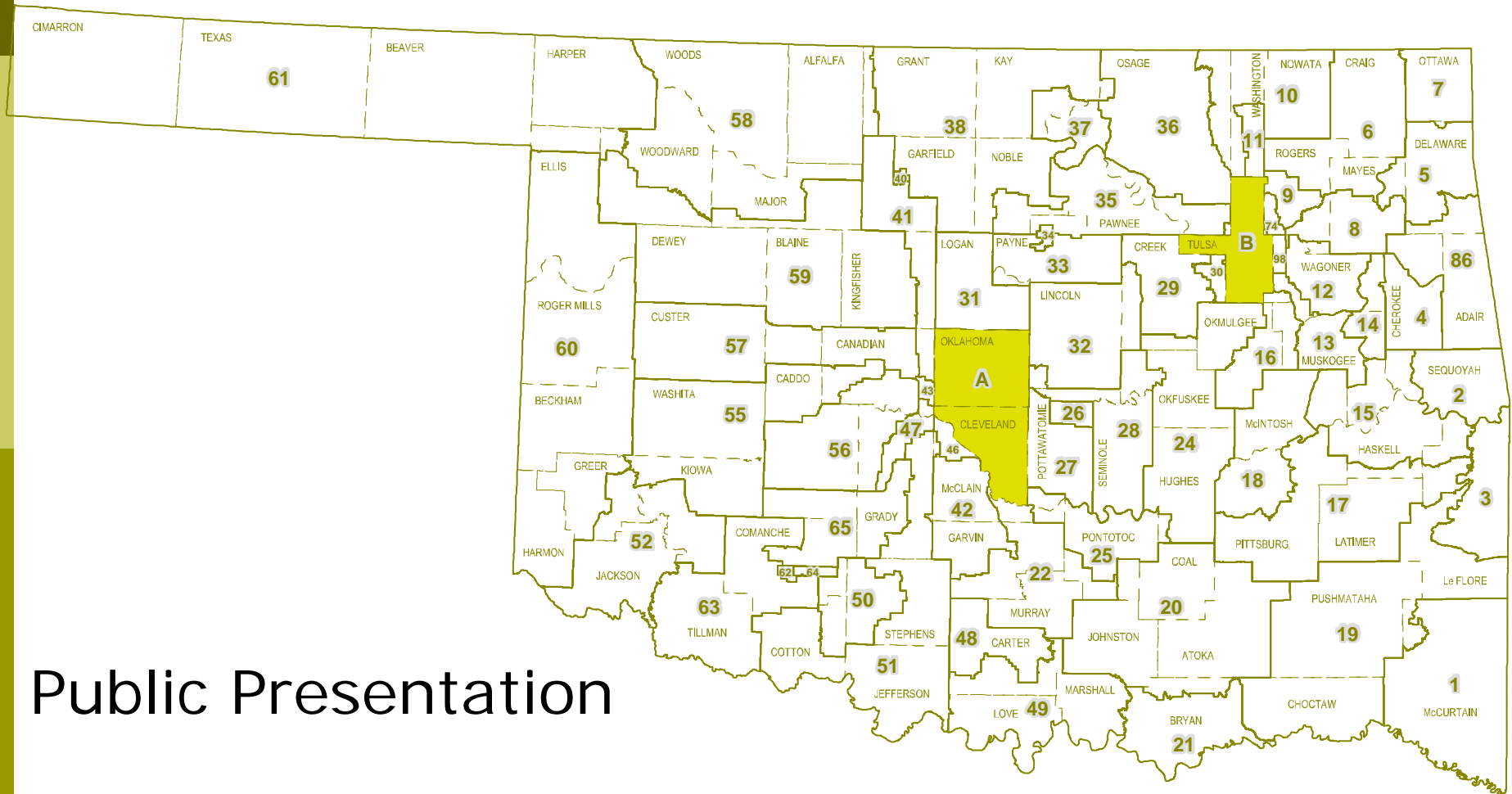


Oklahoma House of Representatives 2011 Redistricting Process



Public Presentation

Overview

- ❑ The Oklahoma Legislature is required to redraw state legislative lines every 10 years, following the federal decennial census.
- ❑ The Legislature is also charged with redrawing Oklahoma's congressional districts.
- ❑ The House and Senate work to redraw their respective house's districts.

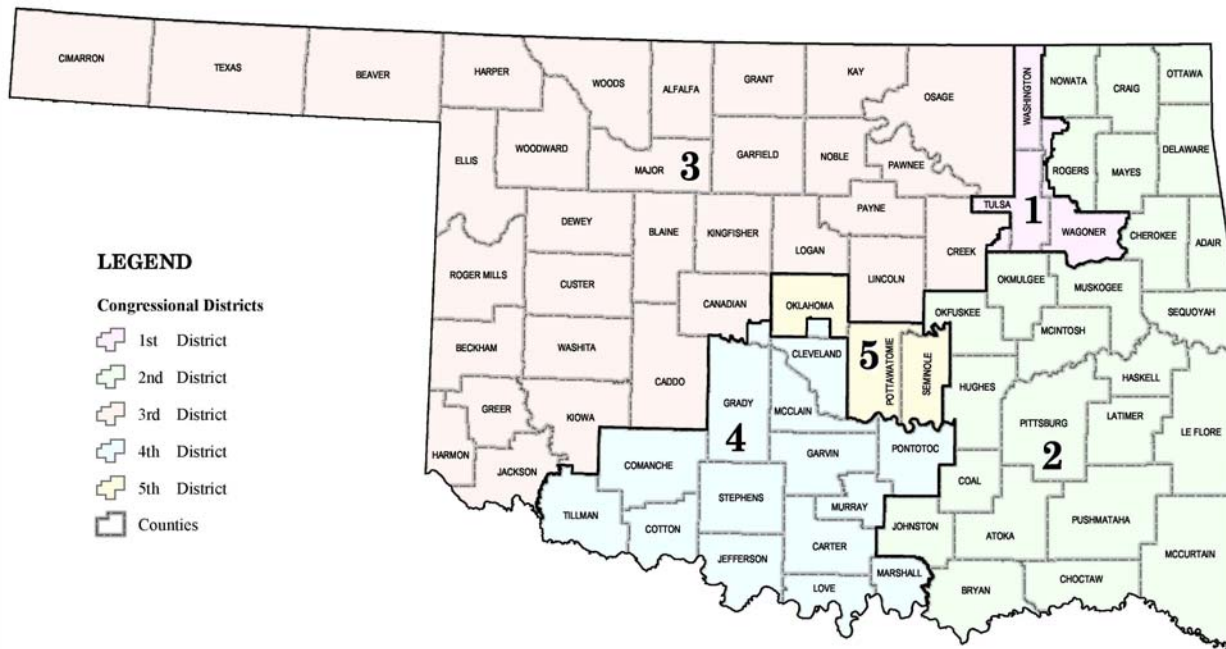
Why the need to Redistrict?

- ❑ Due to population shifts within the state, the need to redistrict is necessary to preserve “one person, one vote.”
- ❑ “One person, one vote” is a Constitutional standard established by the U.S. Supreme Court that all legislative districts should be approximately equal in population.
- ❑ Generally, the U.S. Supreme Court accedes to the principle that “absolute population equality [is] the paramount objective”.

Terms

- Reapportionment – the allocation of seats in a legislative body among established districts, where boundaries do not change but number of members per district does. →
- Redistricting – the drawing of new political district lines. ↓

OKLAHOMA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS 2002 - 2010 ELECTIONS



Winners and Losers

Re-apportionment of congressional seats every 10 years shows the shifting population of the U.S. These are changes in congressional delegations based on the 2010 Census.

Winners

Texas = 4
 Florida = 2
 Arizona = 1
 Georgia = 1
 Nevada = 1
 South Carolina = 1
 Utah = 1
 Washington = 1

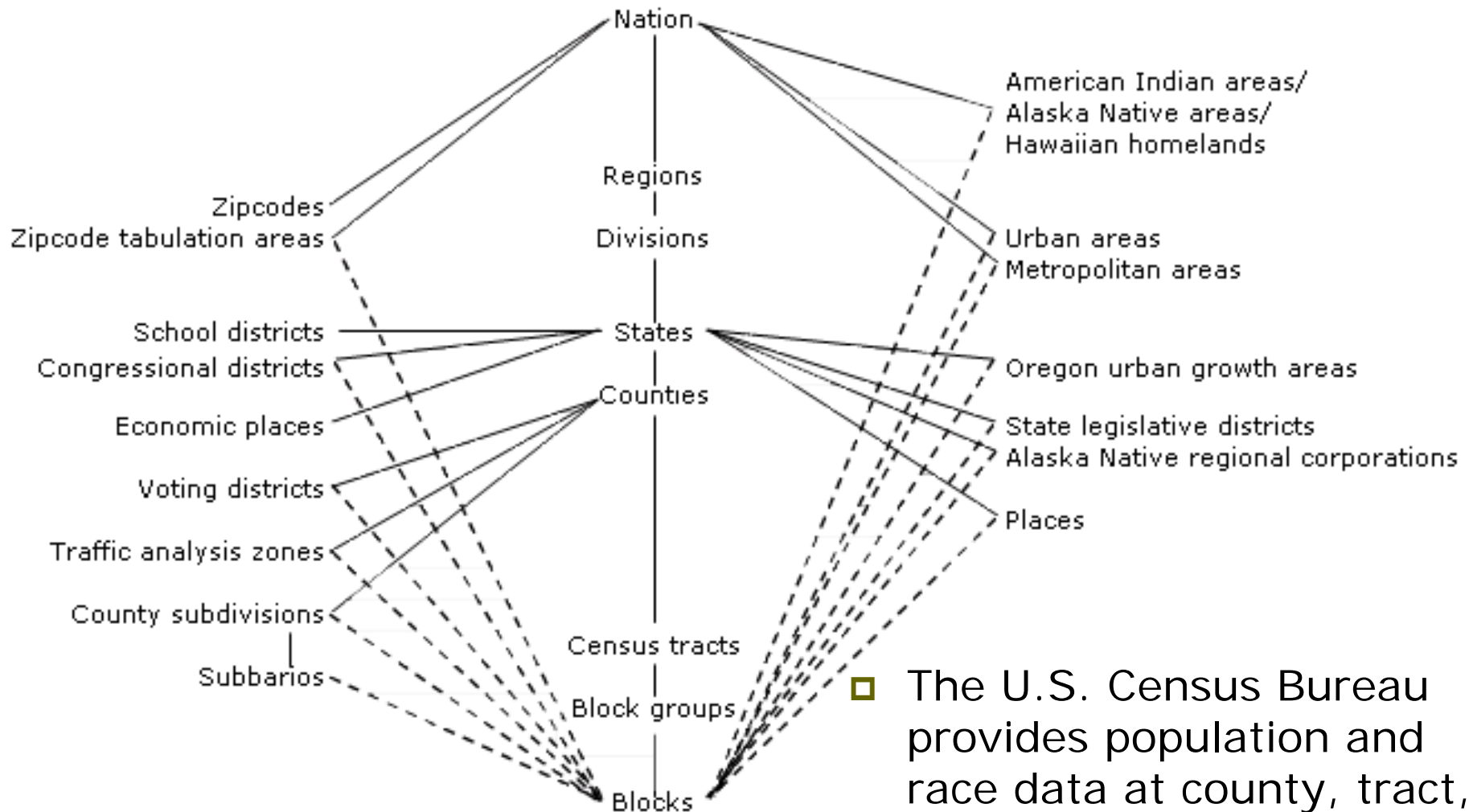
Losers

New York = -2
 Ohio = -2
 Illinois = -1
 Iowa = -1
 Louisiana = -1
 Massachusetts = -1
 Michigan = -1
 Missouri = -1
 New Jersey = -1
 Pennsylvania = -1

About the Census

- The U.S. Census Bureau counts **every** person living in the United States at their place of residence on April 1, 2010 – including citizens and non-citizens.
- Census data directly ensures that each community receives its fair share of political representation through:
 - Congressional apportionment, and
 - Legislative redistricting.

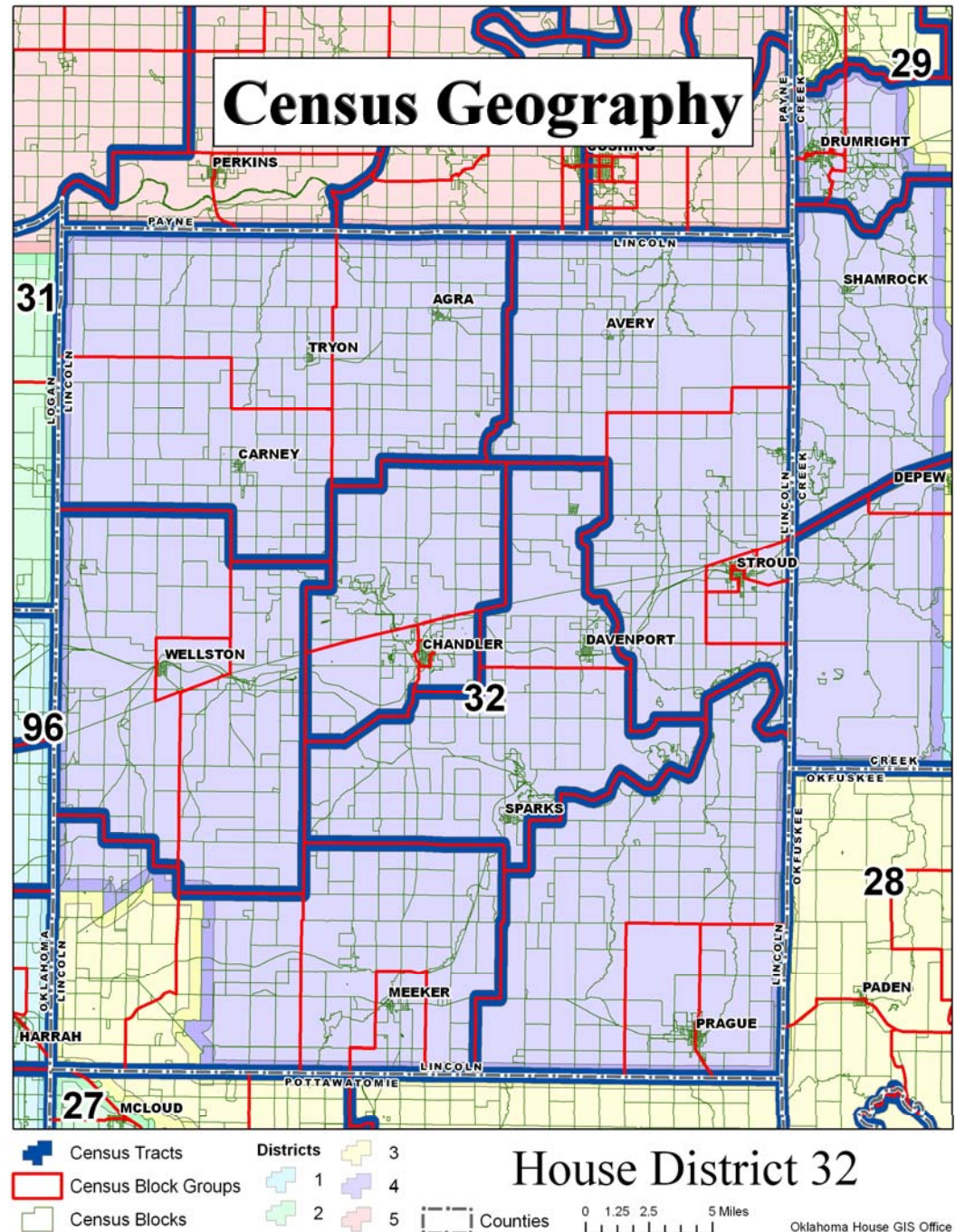
Understanding Census Geography



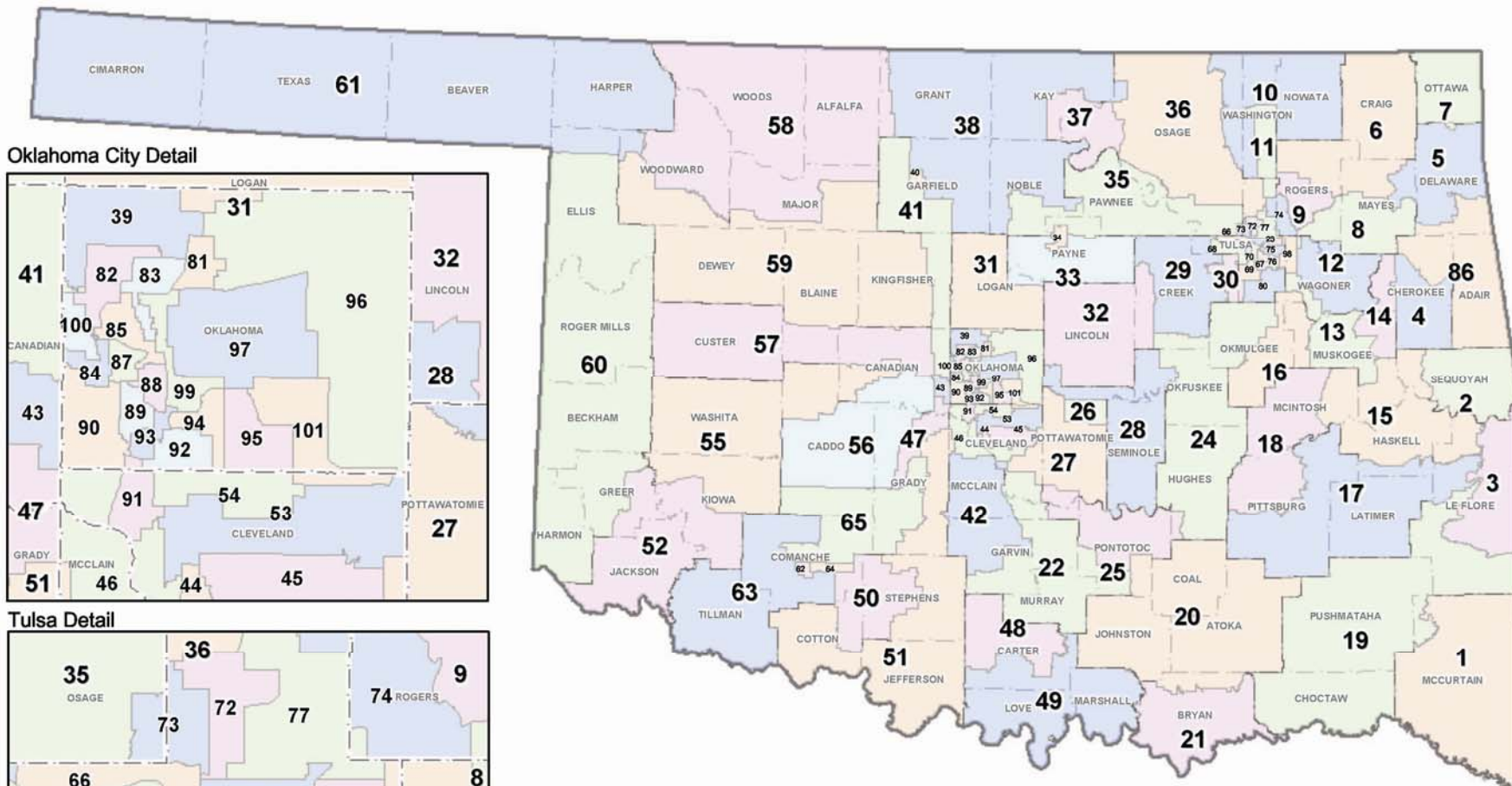
- The U.S. Census Bureau provides population and race data at county, tract, precinct and block levels.

Census Geography on a map

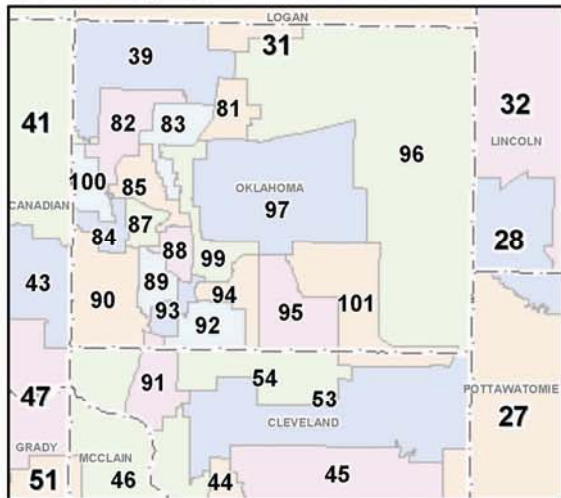
- HD 32
 - Purple shaded area
- Counties
 - Dashed outlines
- Tracts
 - Dark blue outlines
- Block Groups
 - Red outlines
- Blocks
 - Green outlines



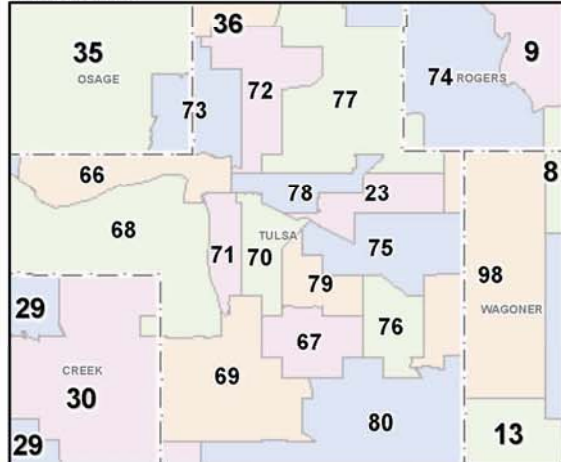
OKLAHOMA HOUSE DISTRICTS 2002 - 2010 ELECTIONS



Oklahoma City Detail



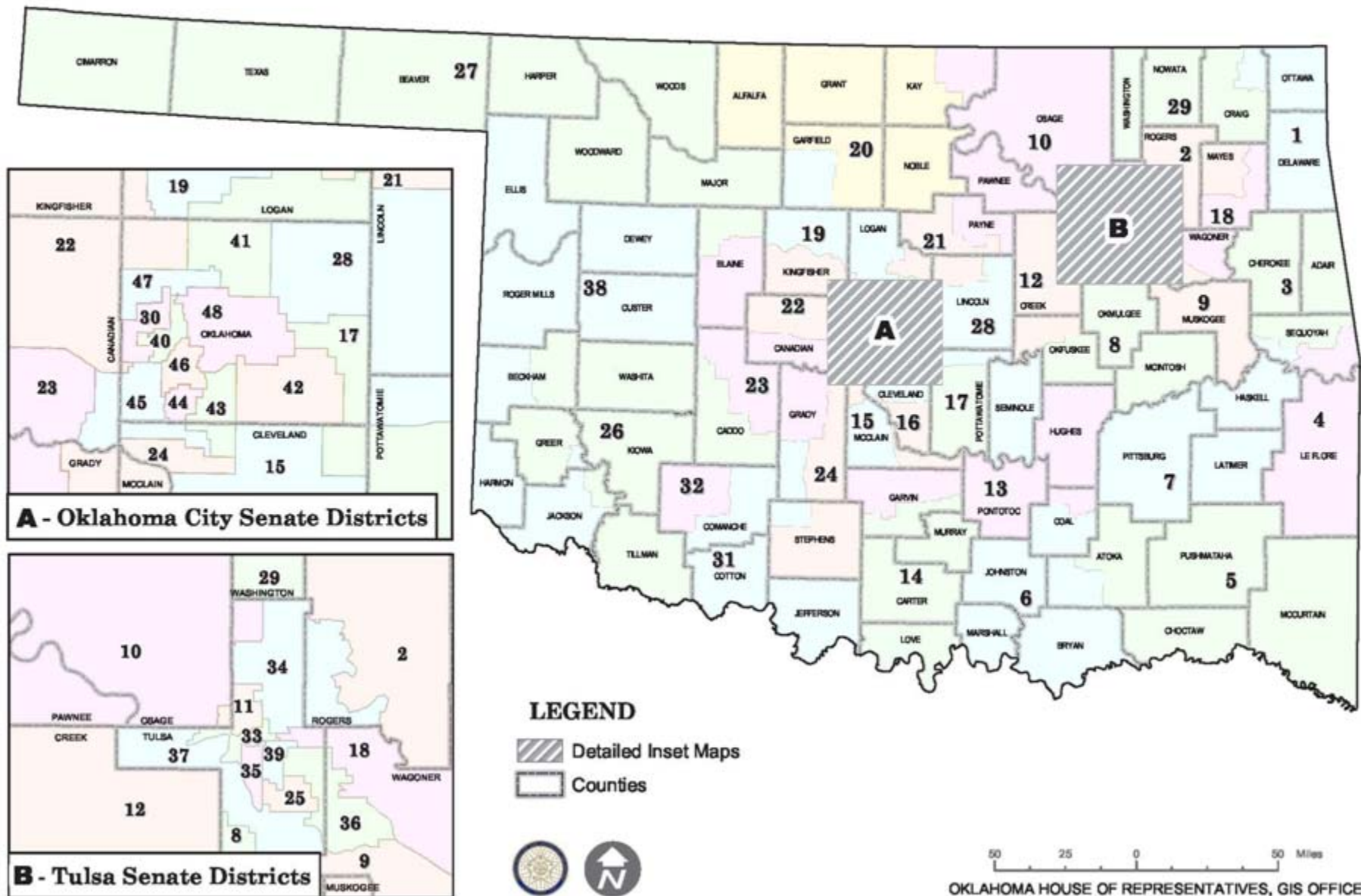
Tulsa Detail



LEGEND
 Counties



OKLAHOMA SENATE DISTRICTS 2002 - 2010 ELECTIONS



Redistricting Principles

- ❑ **Equal Population** – All districts should be equal in population. An ideal redistricting plan will have all 101 House districts with the same number of people in each district.
- ❑ **Compactness** – having minimum distance between all the parts of a constituency (a circle, square or hexagon is the most compact district).
- ❑ **Contiguity** – all parts of a district being connected at some point with the rest of the district.

Redistricting Principles, cont.

- ❑ **Preservation of Political Subdivisions**
 - Districts should conform to natural and political boundaries when possible.
- ❑ **Communities of interest** – Geographical areas, such as neighborhoods of a city or regions of a state, where the residents have common political interests that do not necessarily coincide with the boundaries of a political subdivision, such as a city or county. Districts should be created with sensitivity to existing communities of shared interests.

Redistricting Principles, cont.

- **Preservation of Cores of Prior Districts** – Balance and unity are desirable qualities in a redistricting plan. An entirely new map every decade is likely to displease incumbents and constituents alike.
- **Compliance with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act** – A district can not be drawn to intentionally exclude minority candidates from election.

Review of Traditional Redistricting Principles

- Equal population;
- Compactness;
- Contiguity;
- Preservation of political subdivisions;
- Preservation of communities of interest;
- Preservation of cores of prior districts; and
- Compliance with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

Primary Principle: Equal Population

- Ideal Population: Total State Population / Number of Districts
 - Oklahoma HDs in 2000 = 34,165
 - 2010 Census = 37,142
- But not every district will be that population!
 - Deviation: $|34,165 - \text{District Population}|$
 - Example: House District 32 had 33,977 people in 2000.
 - Deviation of 188 people, or -0.55%

2000 and 2010 Population Comparisons

Resident Population Change for Oklahoma: April 1, 2000 to April 1, 2010				
Geographic Area	Population Change		Change, 2000 to 2010	
	April 1, 2010	April 1, 2000	Difference	% Change
Oklahoma	3,751,351	3,450,654	300,697	8.7%
Oklahoma District	Size based upon 2010 Census	Size based upon 2000 Census	Difference	% Change
House	37,142	34,165	2,977	8.7%
Senate	78,153	71,889	6,265	8.7%
Congressional	750,270	690,131	60,139	8.7%

Redistricting Principles for the State Senate (5 O.C. 9A)

- Population;
- Compactness;
- Area;
- Preservation of political subdivisions;
- Historical precedents;
- Economic and political interests;
- Contiguous territory; and
- Other major factors, to the extent feasible.

1991 and 2001 Oklahoma House Redistricting Guidelines

- ❑ Fairness to minority, ethnic and political groups;
- ❑ Population – standard deviation of no more than 10% per district;
- ❑ Preservation of political subdivisions;
- ❑ Contiguous territory;
- ❑ Compactness; and
- ❑ Prohibition of incumbency protection or defeat.

Deadlines

- ❑ U.S. Census Bureau must deliver population information at the state level to the President by December 31, 2010.
- ❑ Under Public Law 94-171, the U.S. Census Bureau must provide the states with 2010 Redistricting Data by April 1, 2011.
- ❑ Oklahoma's constitutional deadline for legislative redistricting is within 90 legislative days after the start of the regular session, following the decennial Census.
- ❑ If the Legislature does not meet the deadline, the plan is drawn by the Bipartisan Commission on Legislative Apportionment, composed of 3 Democrats and 3 Republicans, 1 each appointed by the Governor, the President Pro Tempore and the Speaker, and the Lt. Governor as a non-voting Chair.
- ❑ Congressional plan needs to be in place for candidate filing in 2012.

Conclusion

- ❑ Redistricting is not an easy task.
- ❑ Legislators must navigate a maze of legal provisions and conflicting case law when drawing district lines.
- ❑ Consistent application of sound redistricting principles can and should be used across any redistricting plan.

The Redistricting Process

- “Redistricting can have a significant impact on all Oklahomans for a decade, so I am committed to a process worthy of the people of Oklahoma. We must protect against a divisive and self serving approach and promote a sound and effective plan to secure the most accurate representation within our state.”

- [Speaker Kris Steele,](#)

Oklahoma House of Representatives