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

- **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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census
Apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives Based on the 2010 Census

Change from 2000 to 2010:
- State gaining 4 seats in the House
- State gaining 2 seats in the House
- State gaining 1 seat in the House
- No change
- State losing 1 seat in the House
- State losing 2 seats in the House

Total U.S. Representatives: 435
Numbers represent reapportioned totals of U.S. Representatives.
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.
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 SENATE DISTRICTS
2002 - 2010 ELECTIONS

A - Oklahoma City Senate Districts

B - Tulsa Senate Districts

LEGEND
- Detailed Inset Maps
- Counties

OKLAHOMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, GIS OFFICE
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.
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 – 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Geographic Area</th>
<th>Population Change</th>
<th>Change, 2000 to 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 1, 2010</td>
<td>April 1, 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oklahoma</td>
<td>3,751,351</td>
<td>3,450,654</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Oklahoma District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oklahoma District</th>
<th>Size based upon 2010 Census</th>
<th>Size based upon 2000 Census</th>
<th>Difference</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>House</td>
<td>37,142</td>
<td>34,165</td>
<td>2,977</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate</td>
<td>78,153</td>
<td>71,889</td>
<td>6,265</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congressional</td>
<td>750,270</td>
<td>690,131</td>
<td>60,139</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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