

COMMON TERMS & DEFINITIONS IN REDISTRICTING

Apportionment: Apportionment of Congressional seats is in the US Constitution. The Census Bureau will first determine the total population of the United States and then apportion or determine how many seats in the US House of Representatives each state will receive for the following decade (2021-2031).

Census: The counting and survey of every person in a population. In the U.S., a census is taken every ten years. The census is required by the Constitution for reapportionment and is used in the redistricting process.

Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP): Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) is the total population age 18 and over and a citizen.

Communities of Interest: Counties, municipalities, and other government boundaries give Ohioans a sense of place and shared interests.

Community Maps: Electronically drawn maps that determine what makes a community. Defined differently for each person, but can contain important points of interest or gathering places in a community.

Compactness: Minimal distance between all parts of a map's district lines. Sometimes referred to as the "look" of a district, compactness assures that bizarrely-shaped legislative districts are minimized. No "snake on the lake" allowed.

Contiguity: A single, unbroken shape, with no "islands" of territory that do not touch the rest of the district. Also a single, non-intersecting continuous line (no donuts).

Cracking: One of two primary ways districts are gerrymandered (packing is the other). Cracking focuses on diluting the voting power of the opposing party's supporters across many districts.

Equal Population (in drawing districts): Districts don't have to be absolutely the same population size but fairly close. The legal concept of "one person, one vote" was established in the 1960s. Prior to these decisions, some districts remained unchanged for many years despite population changes, leading to voters in rural areas having more voting power than those urban voters living in more populous cities.

Gerrymandering: The practice of drawing legislative districts to intentionally favor one political party over the other. Elected officials of both political parties have gerrymandered when in power. Gerrymandered districts are often "safe" for one party or the other. Districts shouldn't be drawn so that we already know the winner. This gives an unfair advantage and doesn't represent actual voters.

- Gerrymandering is not the same as redistricting, but gerrymandering can occur during redistricting.
- Drawing majority-minority districts to comply with the Voting Rights Act is not gerrymandering.

GIS (Geographic Information System) – Computer software used to create redistricting maps

Ideal Population – The total population goal for districts in a redistricting plan. It is computed by taking the total population of the jurisdiction and dividing it by the total number of districts in the redistricting plan.

Incumbency (in mapping criteria) – Making sure the current elected official's house remains in a district.

Keeping Districts "Whole": Keeping counties, cities, villages, and townships together within one district as much as possible,

Majority-Minority District: A district where one racial minority equals 50% or more of the citizen voting-age population. In combination with a few other factors, a majority-minority district may be required by the VRA.

Malapportionment: Districts that are poorly apportioned, especially divided, organized, or structured in a manner that prevents large sections of a population from having equitable representation in a legislative body. This term normally arises in the context of one person, one vote violations where the districts for a governing body do not have equal populations.

One Person, One Vote: The Equal Population rule. A phrase that describes the constitutional requirement that each district be substantially equal in total population. Typically, this means that every district in a redistricting plan should contain the same number of people, regardless of age or citizenship.

Packing: One of two primary ways districts are gerrymandered (cracking is the other). Packing involves concentrating the opposing party's voting power in one district to reduce their voting power in other districts

Packing and Cracking: The two primary ways that map-makers gerrymander: Packing involves concentrating the opposing party's voting power in one district to reduce their voting power in other districts. Cracking focuses on diluting the voting power of the opposing party's supporters across many districts..

Redistricting: The process for drawing these new district maps for congress and the state legislature. Every decade, after the census takes place, states draw these new district maps.

Representational fairness: The statewide proportion of districts whose voters, based on statewide state and federal partisan general election results during the last ten years, favor each political party must correspond closely to the statewide preferences of the voters of Ohio. There is no representational fairness with the current maps.

Vote Dilution: The process of drawing election districts in ways that improperly dilute minorities' voting power. Two typical forms of vote dilution involve "cracking" and/or "packing." This also describes the failure of a redistricting body to draw a majority-minority or coalition district when it is required by Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

Voting Rights Act (VRA): The federal legislation passed in 1965 to ensure state and local governments do not pass laws or policies that deny American citizens the equal right to vote based on race.

- **Section 2 of the VRA** protects voters from discrimination based on race, color, or membership in a language minority group in all election procedures.