


Legislative Redistricting Rules for 2017

1. Race will not be the predominant factor used to redraw the boundary of any House or Senate district unless that decision is supported by legislative findings based on substantial evidence that the district's boundaries are necessary to avoid a violation of the Voting Rights Act, properly interpreted.
2. Each district will be redrawn so that its population as measured by the 2010 Census does not vary more than five percent from the ideal population for a House district and a Senate district.
3. All districts will be redrawn to maximize compliance with the Whole County Provision of the State Constitution as explained by the State Supreme Court in *Stephenson v Bartlett* and subsequent cases.
4. Voters may be assigned to districts based on the policy preferences expressed by the votes they have cast in past elections in order to produce partisan balance in the House and Senate, but voters may not be assigned to districts to produce a partisan political advantage unrelated to the statewide electoral strength of the political parties.
5. All redrawn districts located within a single county will be reviewed by a panel composed of all legislators who reside within the county to ensure that the boundaries of districts within the county reasonably conform to communities of interest and municipal boundaries. All redrawn districts that contain part of a county will be reviewed by a panel composed of legislators who reside within or currently represent that county to ensure that the line dividing the county reasonably conforms to communities of interest and municipal boundaries within the county.
6. Incumbency may not be considered in redrawing districts for the purpose of maintaining, in whole or in part, the partisan advantage gained by the illegal 2011 House and Senate plans.

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