

## 4.6 How do US states spatially organize the government?

## Objective and Essential Learning

4.6 Explain the nature and function of international and internal boundaries.

- Voting districts, redistricting, and gerrymandering affect election results at various scales.



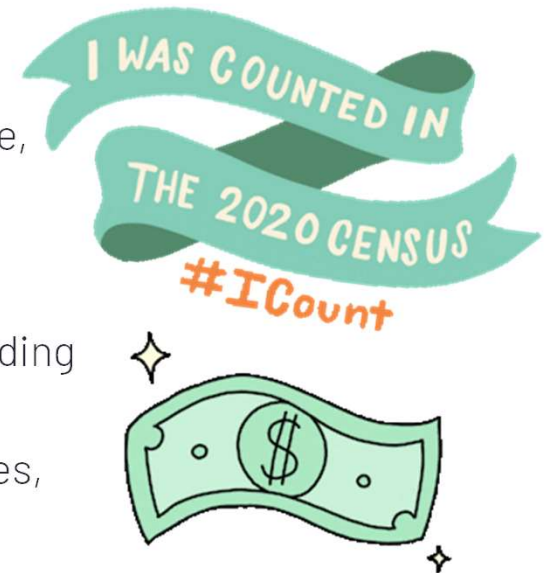
# The Census

## What is it?

- Done every 10 years, mandated by the Constitution.
- Official population count but also includes data on age, race, sex.

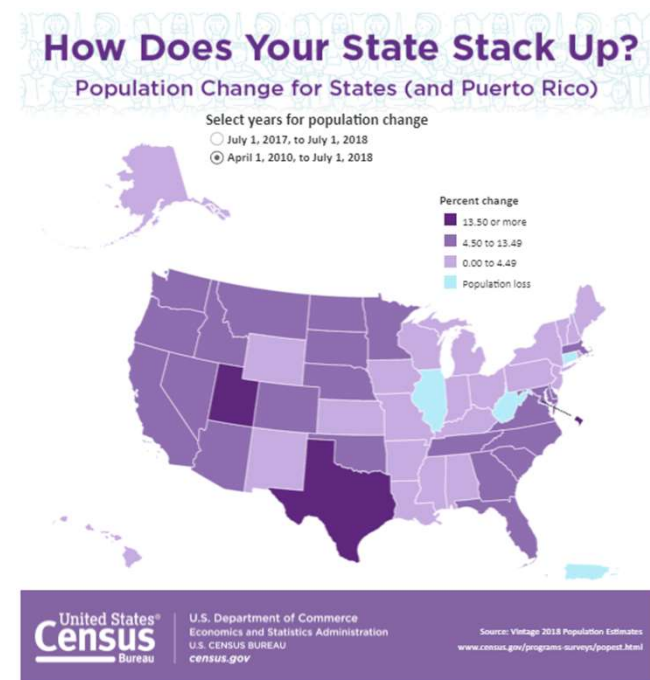
## What is it used for?

1. Determine federal and state funding for planning and providing services and building/maintaining infrastructure.
  - a. Schools, roads, waste management, hospitals, libraries, public transportation.



# The Census

2. Reapportioning the Congressional Map
  - a. Process of reapportionment and redistricting in order to assure that each congressional district is roughly the same total population.
  - b. If population in a specific congressional district **DECREASES**, they could **LOSE** their congressional seat. Conversely, if population **INCREASES**, the location could **GAIN** a congressional seat.



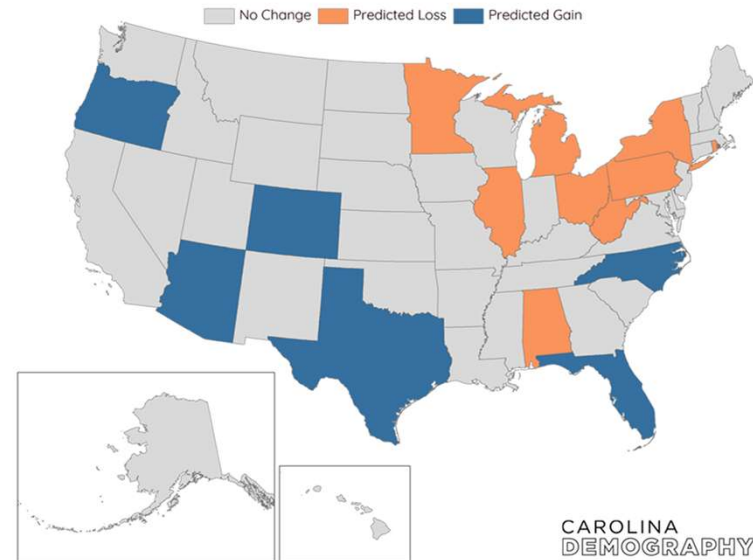
# Electoral Geography

**Reapportionment:** Process in which U.S. House of Representative seats are re-allocated to different states, based off of population change.

435

Congressional Districts  
US Representatives

**Projected Change in the Number of U.S. Representatives by State: 2010 to 2020**  
Based on linear extrapolation of U.S. Census Bureau July 1, 2017 Population Estimates



CAROLINA  
DEMOGRAPHY

# Electoral Geography

**Electoral College:** Organization that utilizes the popular vote to then vote for President. Loss of congressional seat = loss of Electoral College seat.

# 538

435 US Representatives

100 Senators

3 Representing Washington, D.C.



# Electoral Geography

**Redistricting:** State's internal political boundaries that determine voting districts for the US House of Representatives and the state legislature. Redrawn to accurately reflect the new census data.

- **Voting District:** A geographic term used by state and local governments to organize elections.
- Drawn by state legislatures.

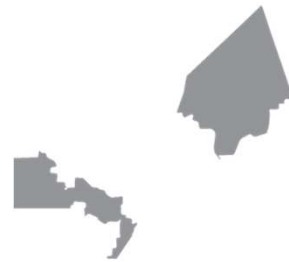


# Electoral Geography

- **Requirements for Voting Districts**

- Similar population size
- Contiguous- a single, unbroken shape
- Compact- smooth rather than contorted boundaries and should cluster around a central core, rather than dispersing outwards.

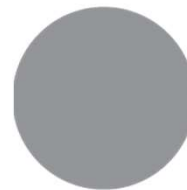
**NON-CONTIGUOUS**



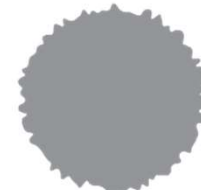
**CONTIGUOUS**



**COMPACT**



**CONTORTED**



**DISPERSED**







# Gerrymandering

<https://youtu.be/YcUDBgYodIE>

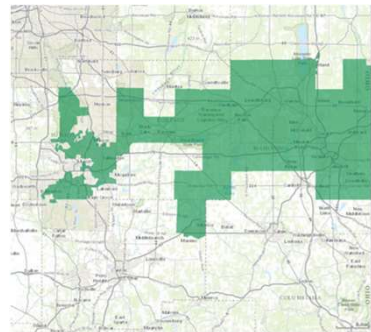


# Electoral Geography

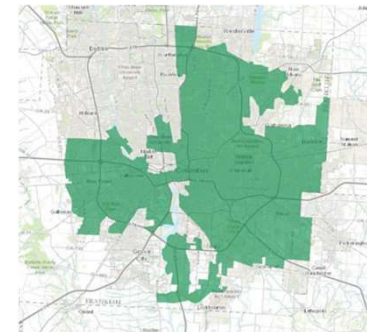
**Gerrymandering:** Redistricting for a political advantage, when the political party that controls a majority of seats in the state legislature draws political district boundaries to maintain or extend their political power.



Ohio District 1  
Gerrymander score - 85%



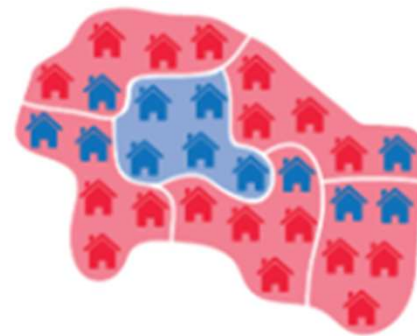
Ohio District 13  
Gerrymander score - 92%







Ohio District 3  
Gerrymander score - 94%

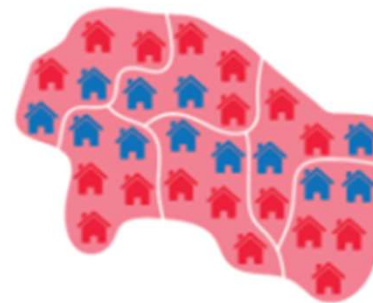
# Electoral Geography

- **Packing:** Clustering like-minded voters in a single district, thereby allowing the other party to win the remaining districts
- **Cracking:** Dispersing like-minded voters among multiple districts in order to minimize their impact and prevent them from gaining a majority.







## PACKED DISTRICTS

 12 40%	Democratic households
 18 60%	Republican households
 1 17%	Democratic district
 5 83%	Republican districts

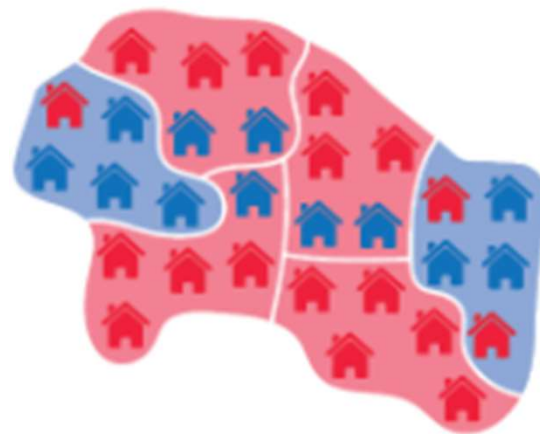


## CRACKED DISTRICTS





 12 40%	Democratic households
 18 60%	Republican households
 0 0%	Democratic districts
 6 100%	Republican districts

# Electoral Geography

- **Representative Districts:** The ideal, in which the voting districts are equal in population, contiguous, and compact. They are truly representative of the people living in the district.

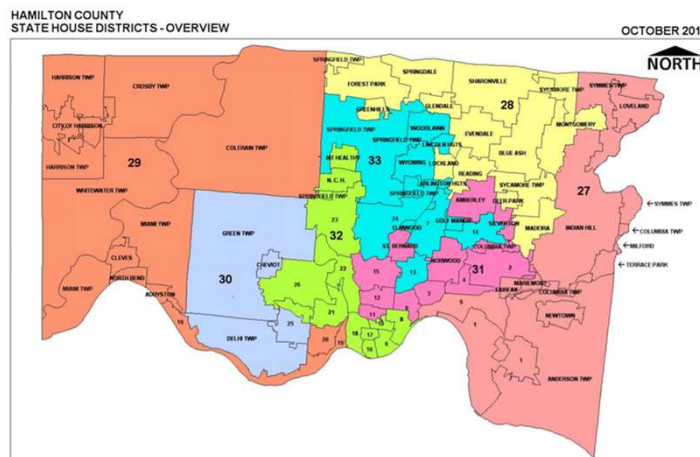


## REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS

	$\frac{12}{40\%}$	Democratic households
	$\frac{18}{60\%}$	Republican households
	$\frac{2}{33\%}$	Democratic districts
	$\frac{4}{67\%}$	Republican districts

# Electoral Geography

**Results of Gerrymandering:** Impacts election results at various scales -> National, state, local. Are our elections truly representative?



State House Districts - Local Scale



Congressional Districts - National Scale