

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATE AND CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING PLANS**

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on the New Mexico legislative council to issue redistricting guidelines that articulate principles based on federal and state law and the prior experience of this legislature; and

WHEREAS, such guidelines are necessary to assist the appropriate legislative committees involved in redistricting in the development and evaluation of redistricting plans following the 2010 decennial census; and

WHEREAS, such guidelines are also intended to help facilitate the completion of the redistricting process before the nominating petitions are first made available in October 2011 for the 2012 primary election;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the New Mexico legislative council adopt the following redistricting guidelines with the intent that the appropriate legislative committees involved in redistricting use them to develop and evaluate redistricting plans.

1. Congressional districts shall be as equal in population as practicable.
2. State districts shall be substantially equal in population; no plans for state office will be considered that include any district with a total population that deviates more than plus or minus five percent from the ideal.
3. The legislature shall use 2010 federal decennial census data generated by the United States bureau of the census.
4. Since the precinct is the basic building block of a voting district in New Mexico, proposed redistricting plans to be considered by the legislature shall not be comprised of districts that split precincts.
5. Plans must comport with the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, and federal constitutional standards. Plans that dilute a protected minority's voting strength are unacceptable. Race may be considered in developing redistricting plans but shall not be the predominant consideration. Traditional race-neutral districting principles (as reflected in paragraph seven) must not be subordinated to racial considerations.
6. All redistricting plans shall use only single-member districts.
7. Districts shall be drawn consistent with traditional districting principles. Districts shall be composed of contiguous precincts, and shall be reasonably compact. To the extent feasible, districts shall be drawn in an attempt to preserve communities of interest and shall take into consideration political and geographic boundaries. In addition, and to the extent feasible, the legislature may seek to preserve the core of existing districts, and may consider the residence of incumbents.

Adopted by the New Mexico legislative council  
January 17, 2011