

# NM Legislative Redistricting Committee

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## *Introduction to 2011 State and Congressional Redistricting*

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# Principles of Redistricting

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- Equal population
- Minority Voting Rights
- Compactness
- Contiguity
- Communities of interest

# Who Gets Counted?

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Everyone, including, but not limited to:

- ❑ Adults
- ❑ Children
- ❑ College students in dorms
- ❑ Prisoners
- ❑ Non-citizens
  - Undocumented immigrants
  - Foreign students
  - Foreign workers (e.g. German Air Force personnel at Holloman AFB)

# Constitutional Mandate to Redistrict

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Gray v. Sanders, 1963

“One person, one vote”

Equal population = equal representation



We the People

- Congress: as equal as possible
- State legislature, other entities: 10% total spread ( $\pm 5\%$ )

# Equal Population

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- Ideal district population = total state population / # of districts
  - NM Congressional Districts
    - NM's population = 2,059,179
    - # of Congressional Districts = 3
    - Ideal population of a CD = 686,393 (= 2,059,179 / 3)

# Equal Population (continued)

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- NM State House and Senate Districts
  
- Districts must be “substantially equal”
  - No more than 10% total deviation
  - Within  $\pm 5\%$  of the ideal population
  
  - NM State House, 2010 Census data
  - Population of each district (ideal  $\pm 5\%$ )
    - $29,417 \pm 1,471$       range: 27,946 – 30,888
  
  - NM State Senate, 2010 Census data
  - Population of each district (ideal  $\pm 5\%$ )
    - $49,028 \pm 2,451$       range: 46,577 – 51,479

# Ideal Population

## Change in Ideal Population from 2000 to 2010

	2000 Census	2010 Census	Change	% Change
New Mexico	1,819,046	2,059,179	240,133	13.2%

District (#)	2000 Census Ideal Population	2010 Census Ideal Population	Change
CD (3)	606,349	686,393	80,044
HD (70)	25,986	29,417	3,430
SD (42)	43,311	49,028	5,717
PRC (5)	363,809	411,836	48,027

# Minority Voting Strength

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- ❑ Do not dilute voting strength of ethnic/language minority groups (Voting Rights Act, Section 2):
  - Native Americans
  - African Americans
  - Hispanics
  
- ❑ Give the minority population an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice
  
- ❑ Do not create districts in which race is the predominant criterion in subordination of traditional districting principles (Shaw v. Reno, 509 U.S. 630 (1993))

# Compactness

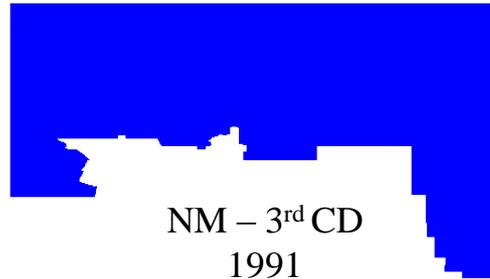
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- Different ways to measure compactness
  - None are perfect
- Refers to shape, not geographic size
  - Could have a very large district in area that is compact in shape

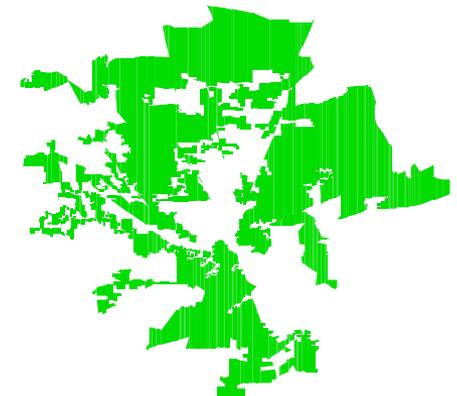
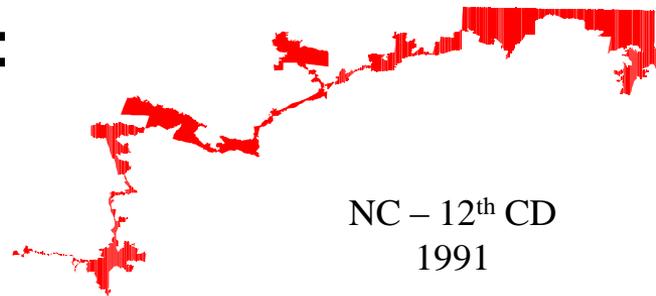
# Compactness

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## □ Compact:



## □ Not Compact:



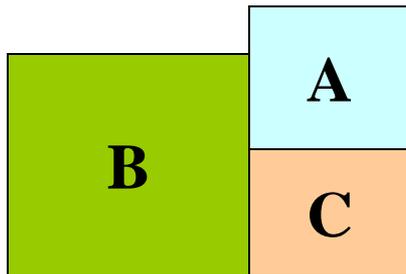
TX – 18<sup>th</sup> CD  
1991

# Contiguity

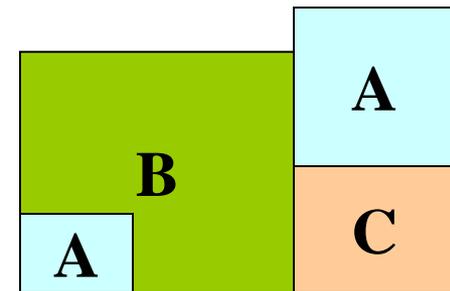
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- ❑ No islands of territory
- ❑ One distinct part, not two or more

❑ Contiguous:



Not Contiguous:

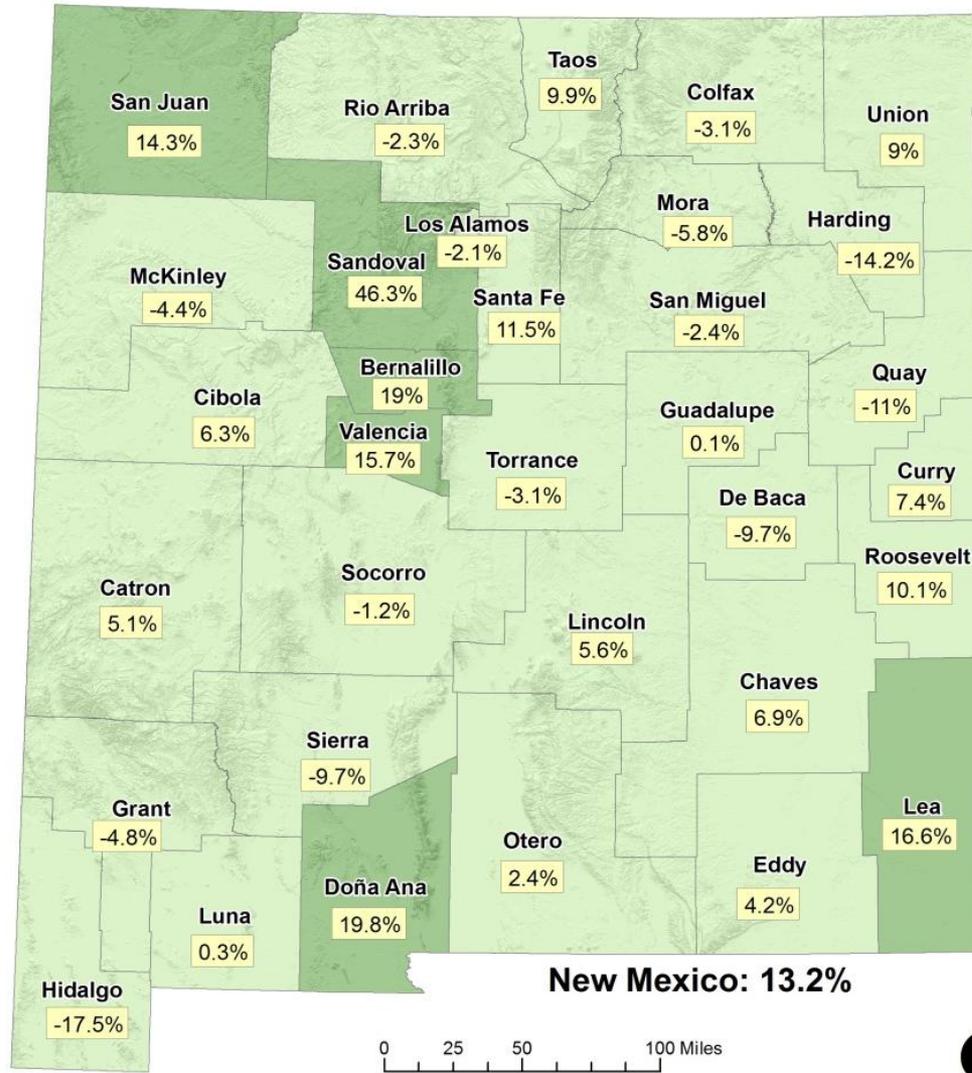


# Communities of Interest

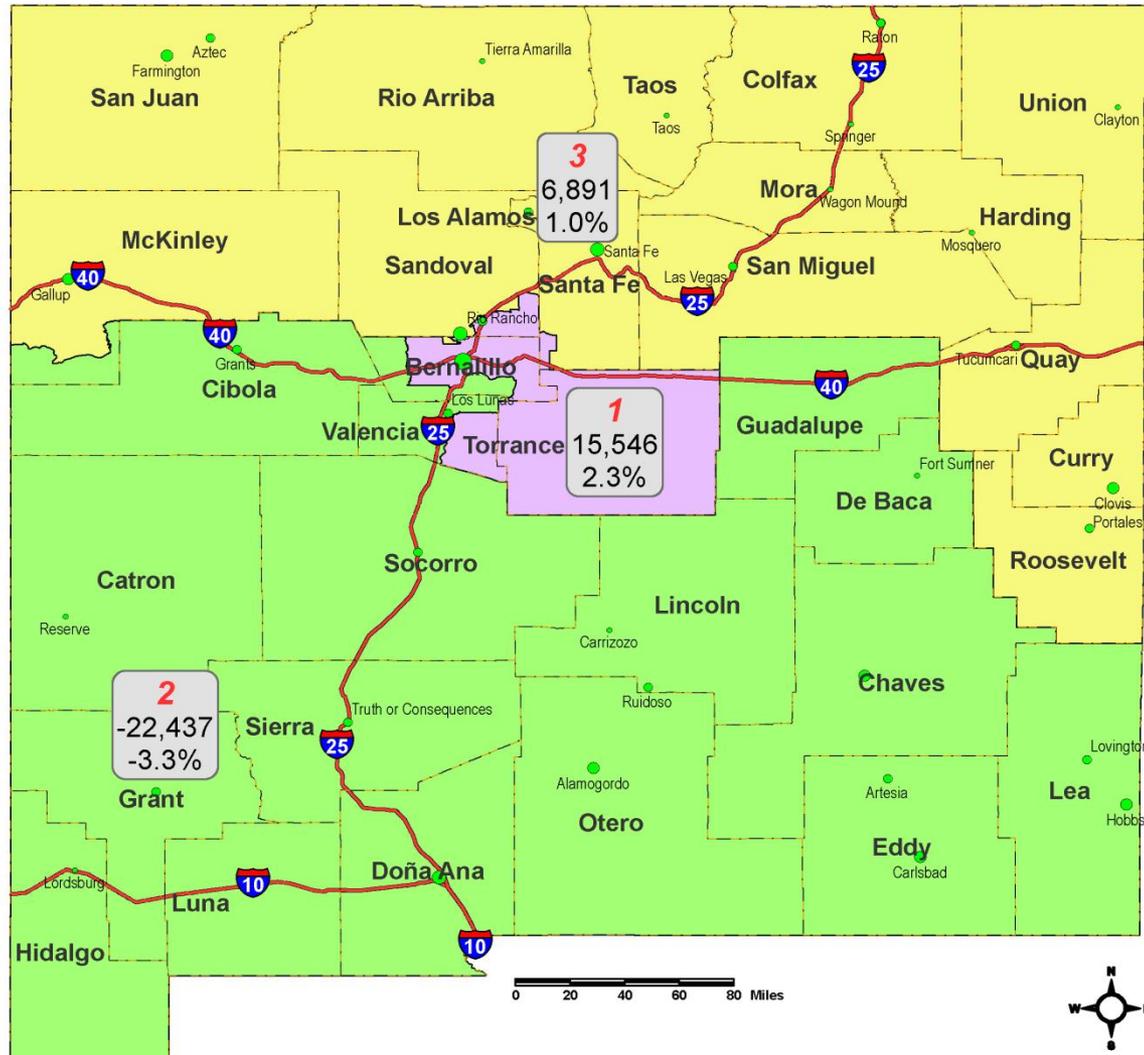
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- All other factors which determine where and how a district boundary could be drawn
  - Maintaining core of existing districts
    - Not required
  - Protection of incumbents
    - Not required
  - Respecting political subdivisions (e.g. avoid precinct splits)
  
  - Also includes, but not limited to:
    - Neighborhoods
    - Cultural / historical traditions
    - Geographic boundaries
  
- Can be considered as long as previous districting principles are not violated

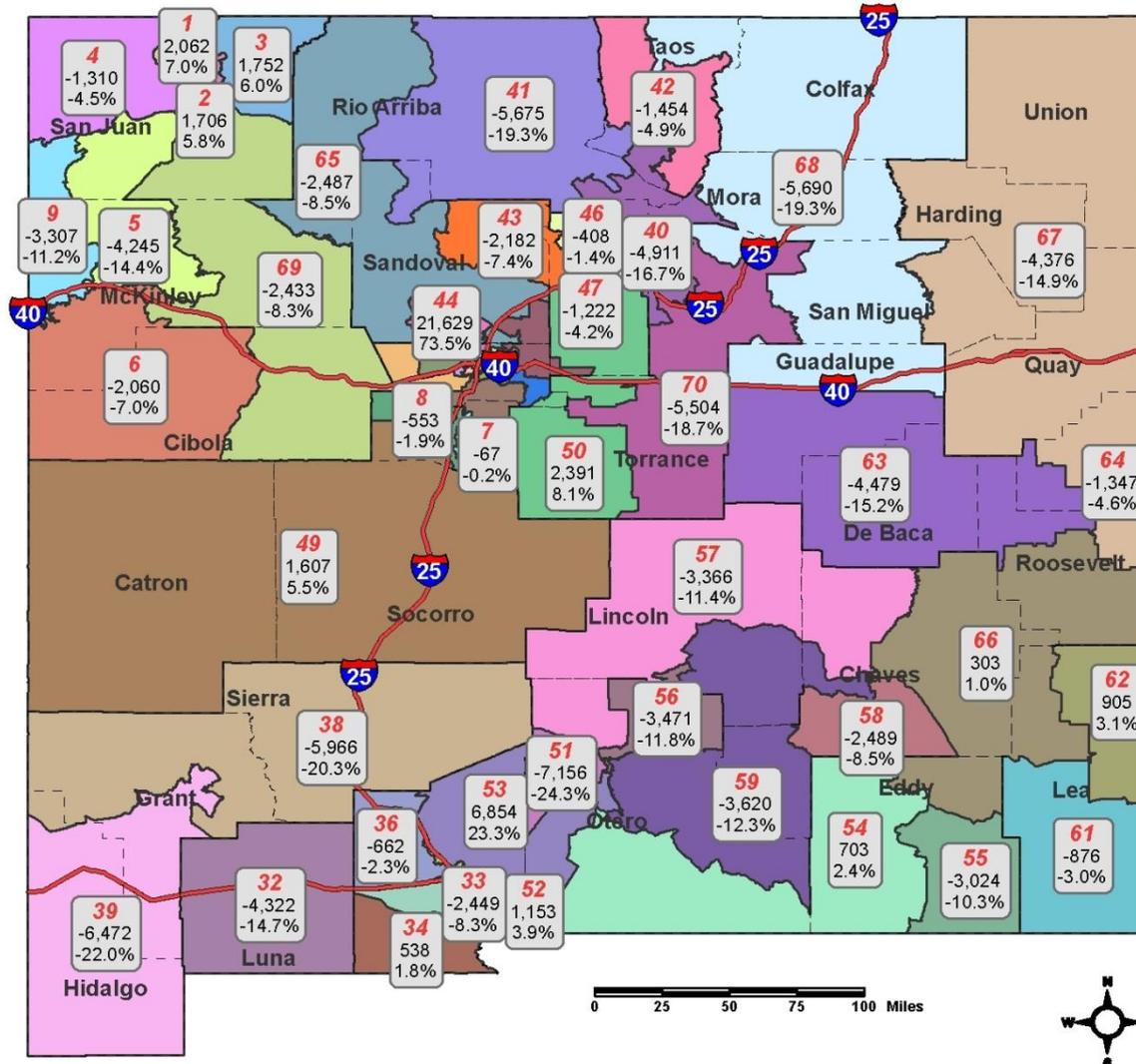
# Growth by County – 2000 to 2010



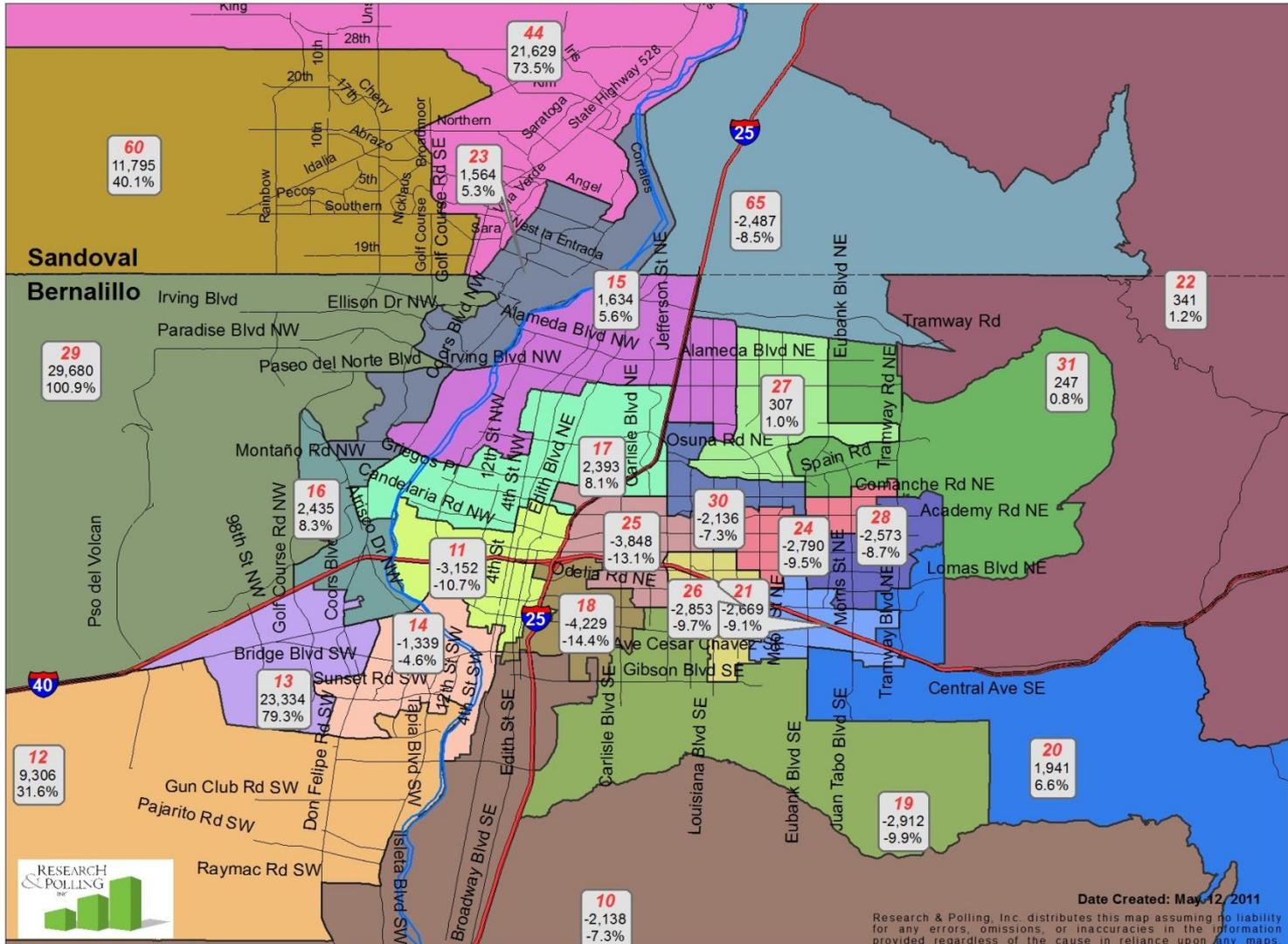
# CD Deviations



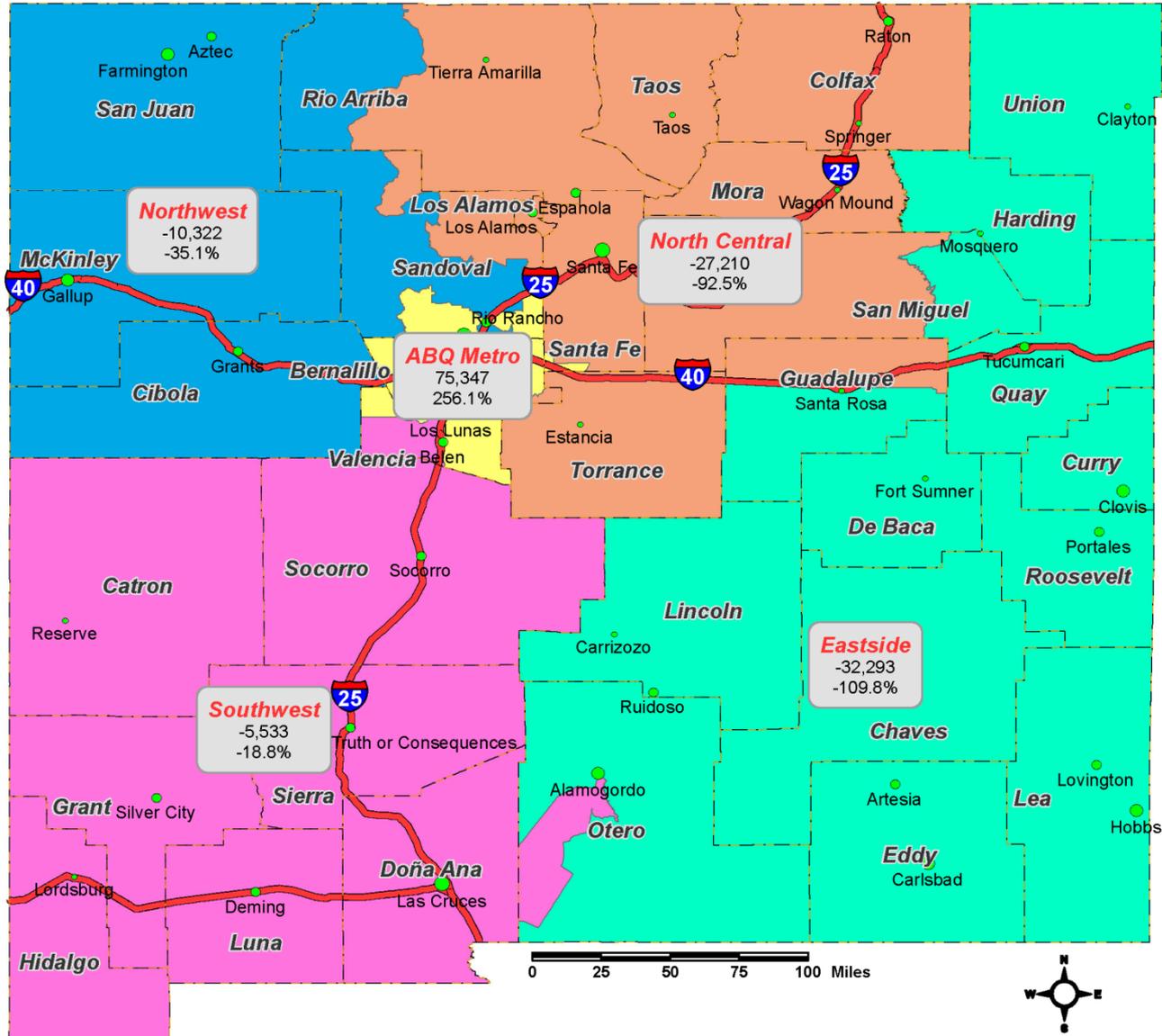
# NM State House Deviations



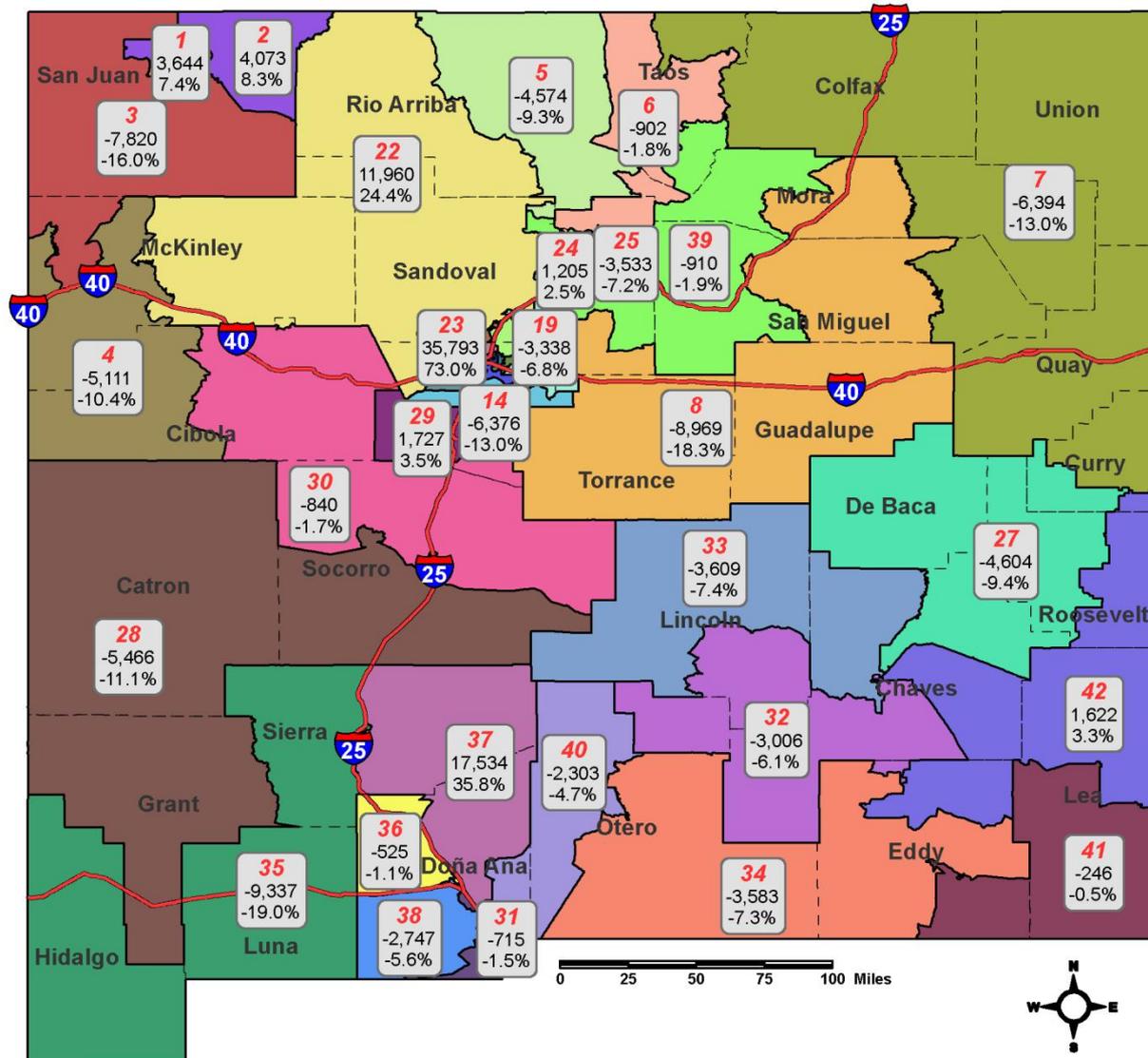
# NM State House Deviations - ABQ



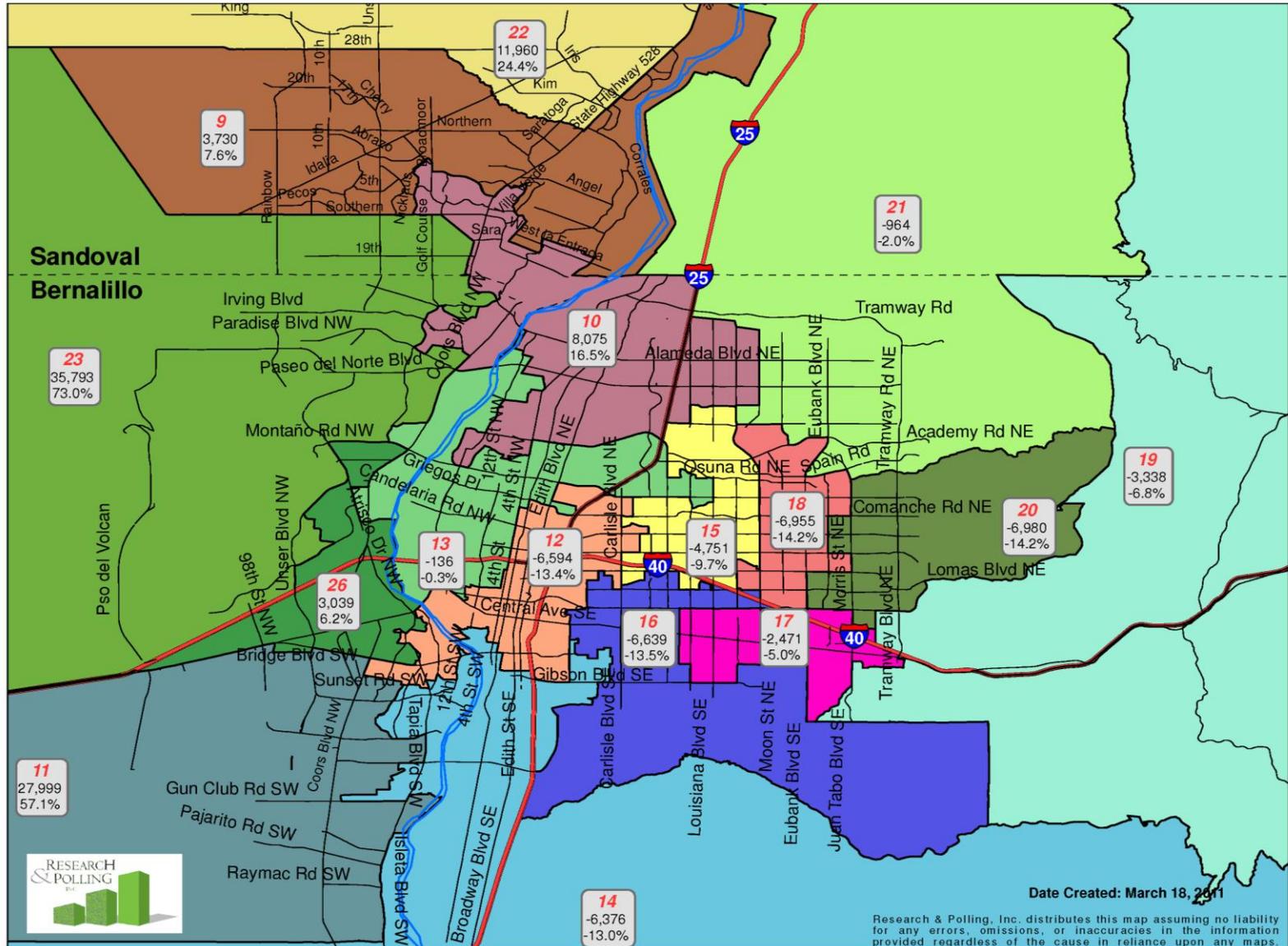
# House District Regional Cumulative Deviation - NM



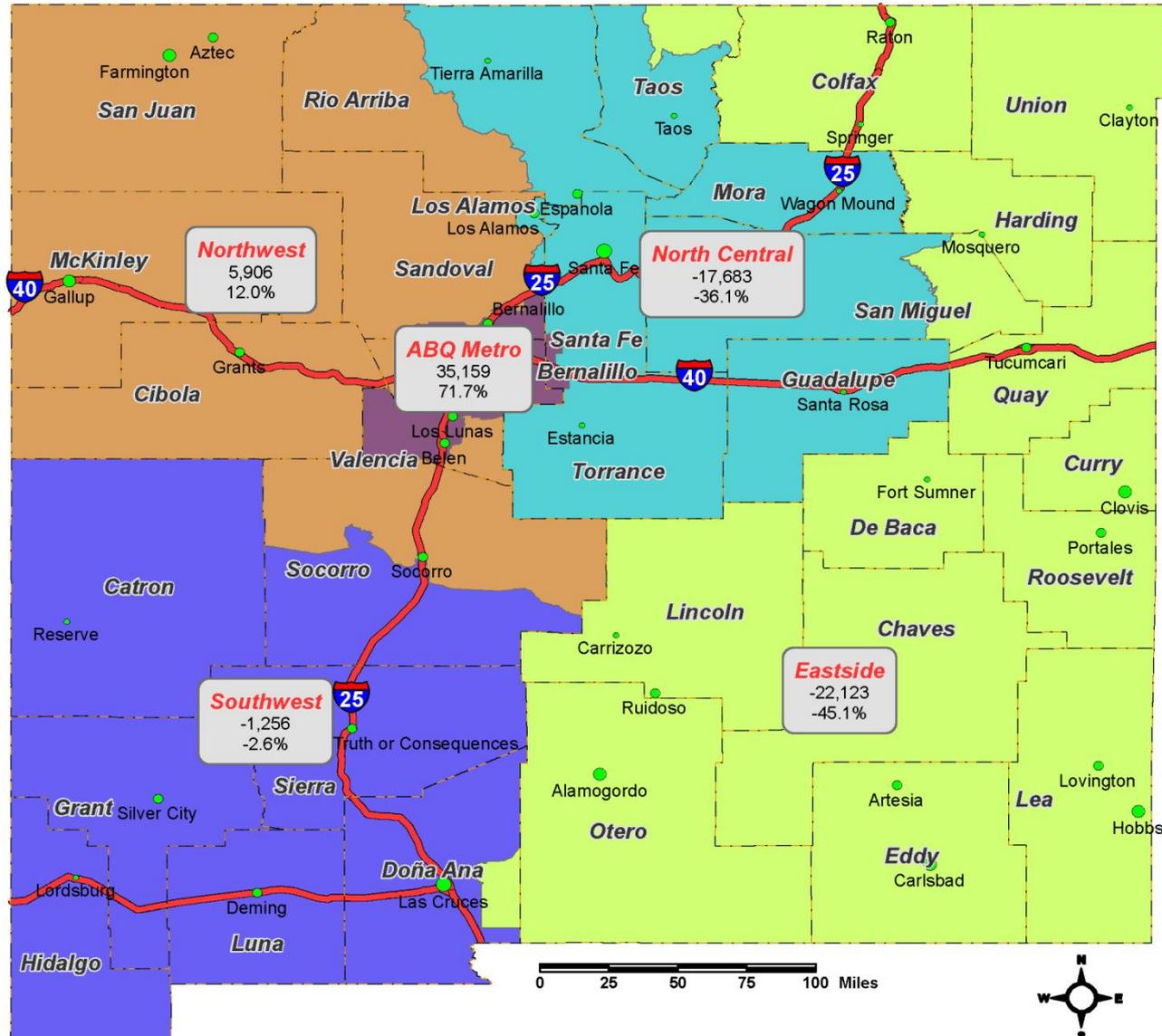
# NM Senate Deviation



# NM Senate Deviation - ABQ



# Senate District Regional Cumulative Deviation - NM



# Political Performance Measurement

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- ❑ Measures average Democrat/Republican election performance at precinct and district level.
- ❑ Includes only statewide races.
- ❑ Includes ALL General Election statewide races (except outliers) from 2004 to 2010.
  - Outliers = any race in which a candidate's margin of victory exceeded 20%
  - Excludes 2002 election returns since complete precinct level data not available

# Political Performance Measurement (cont.)

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- Application:
  - To get an indication of how statewide Democrat and Republican candidates perform, on average, in legislative and congressional districts.
    - Popular incumbent legislators tend to outperform their party's statewide candidates
  - To serve as a benchmark to compare the relative partisan strength of current districts versus prospective districts.

# Redistricting Realities

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- Redistricting plans are rarely perfect
  - Any single district cannot be looked at in a vacuum
    - Changing one district may impact many others
  - Many factors are considered
    - Principles may work against each other
  - It is impossible to please everyone