NM Legislative Redistricting Committee

Introduction to 2011 State and Congressional Redistricting

June 20, 2011

Presented by:
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Principles of Redistricting

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

Who Gets Counted?

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

Gray v. Sanders, 1963

"One person, one vote"

Equal population = equal representation

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

Equal Population

- 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)

- NM State House and Senate Districts

- Districts must be "substantially equal"
  - No more than 10% total deviation
  - Within ±5% of the ideal population

  - NM State House, 2010 Census data
  - Population of each district (ideal ± 5%)
    - 29,417 ± 1,471 range: 27,946 – 30,888

  - NM State Senate, 2010 Census data
  - Population of each district (ideal ± 5%)
    - 49,028 ± 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

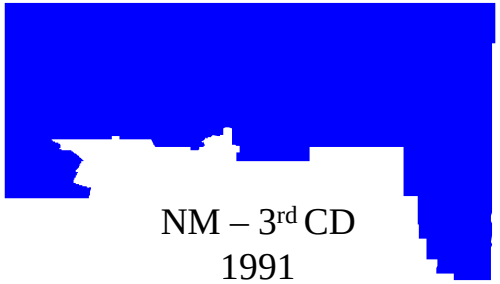
- Do not dilute voting strength of ethnic/language minority groups (Voting Rights Act, Section 2):
  - Native Americans
  - African Americans
  - Hispanics
- Give the minority population an opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice
- Do not create districts in which race is the predominant criterion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

Compactness

- 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

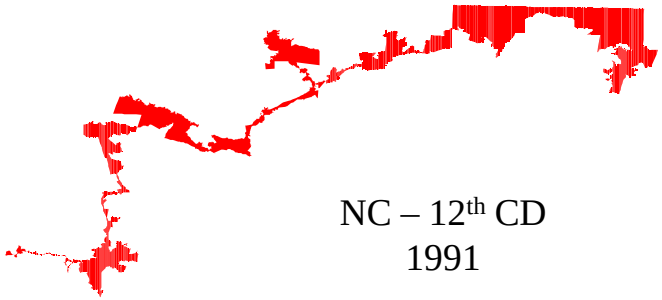
Compactness

- Compact:



NM – 3rd CD
1991

- Not Compact:

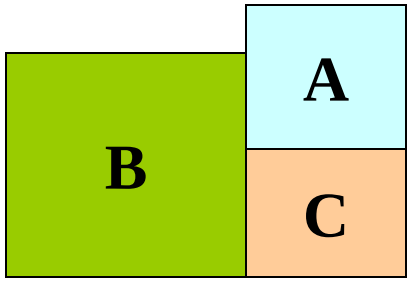


NC – 12th CD
1991

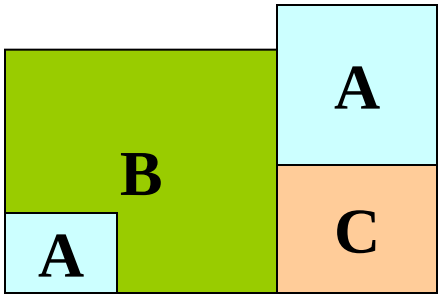
TX – 18th CD
1991

Contiguity

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



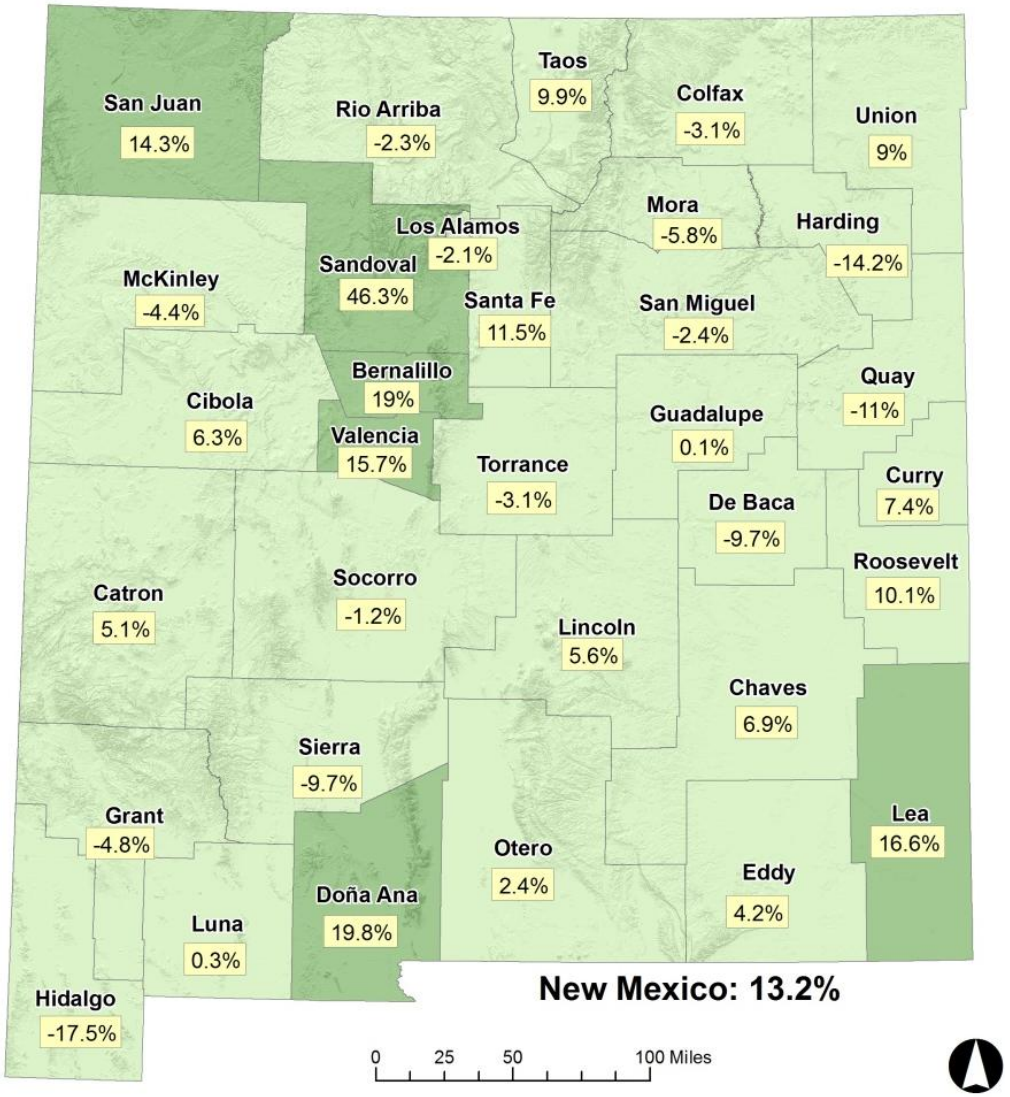
Not Contiguous:



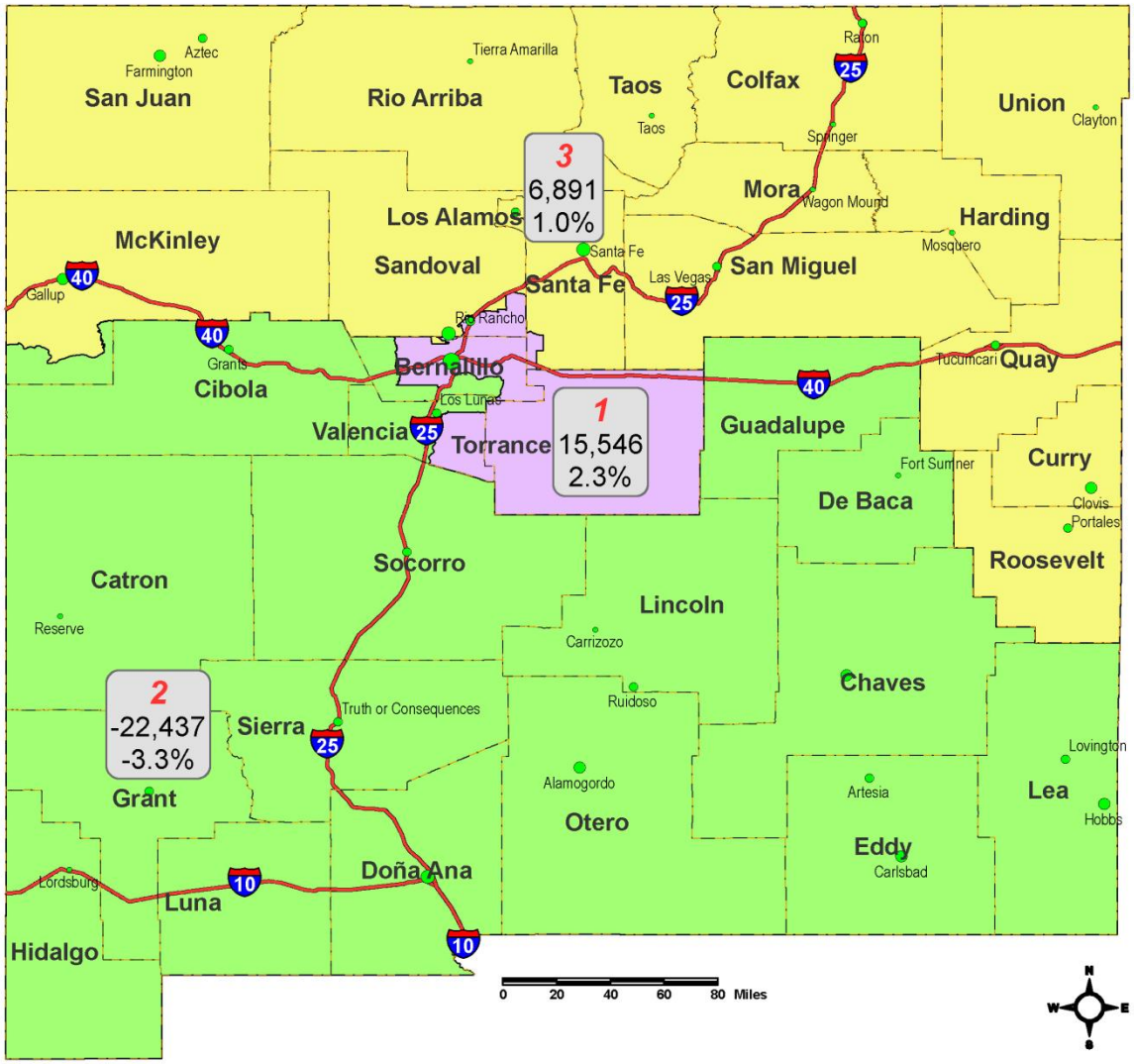
Communities of Interest

- 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

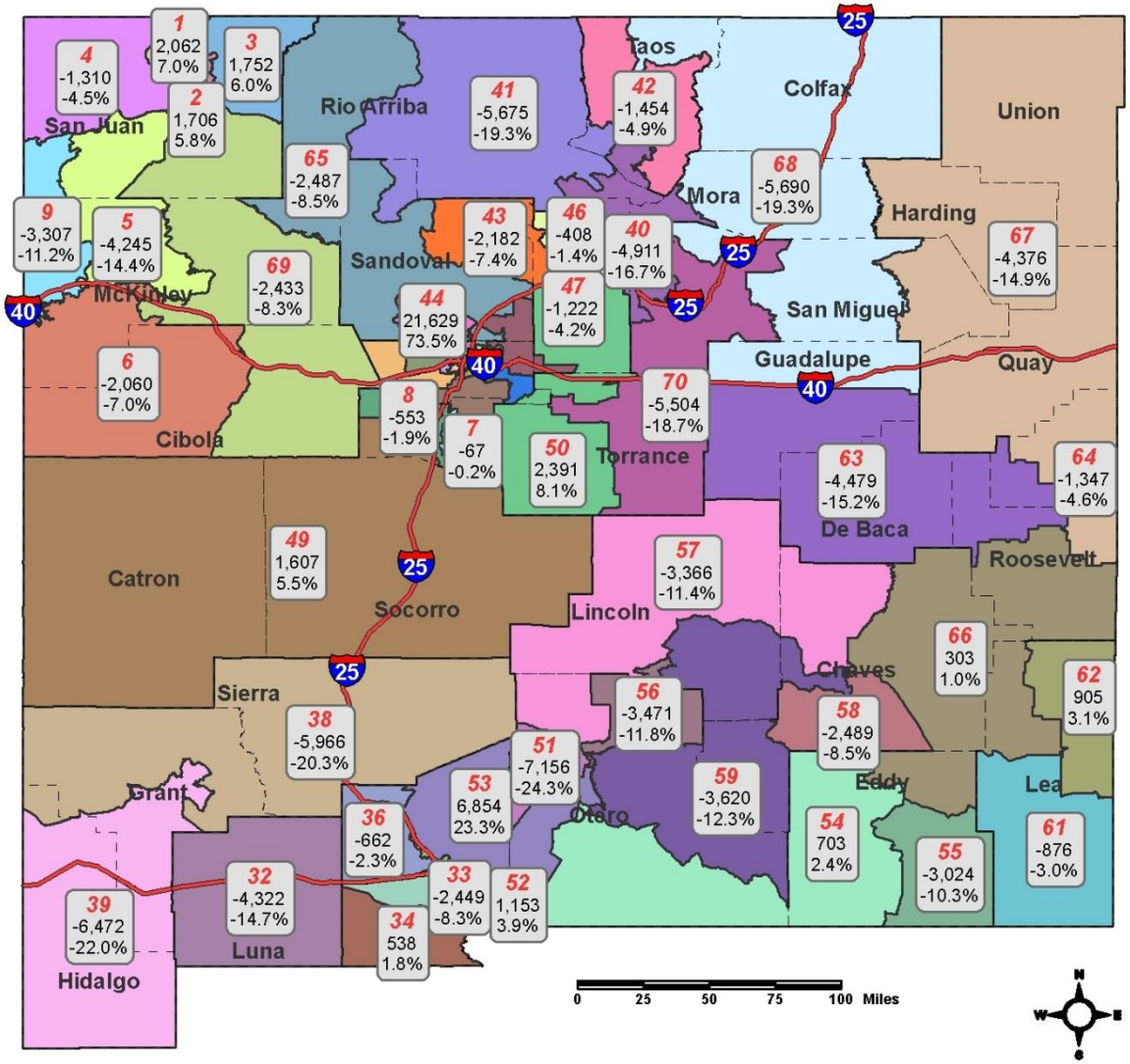
Growth by County – 2000 to 2010



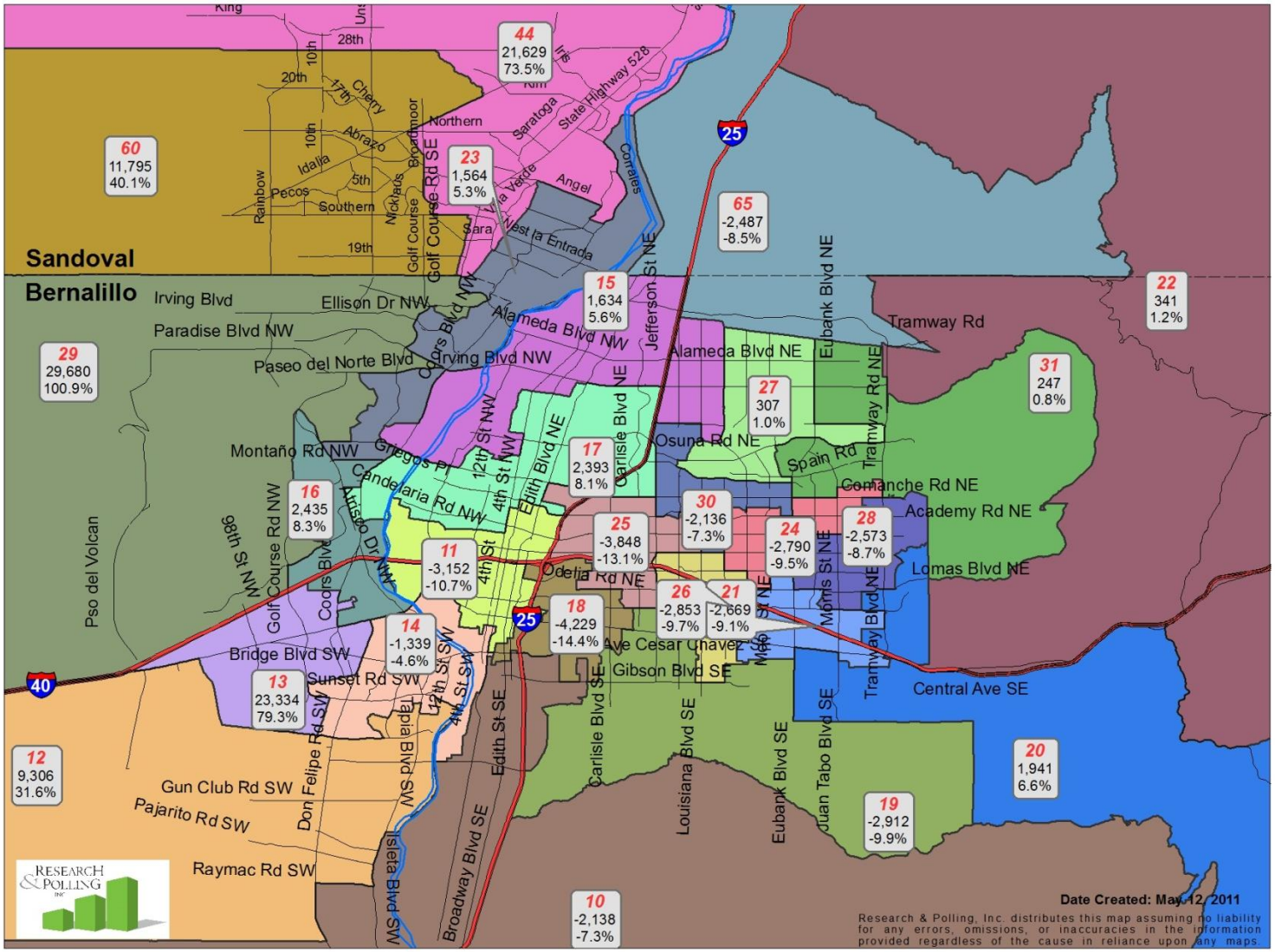
CD Deviations



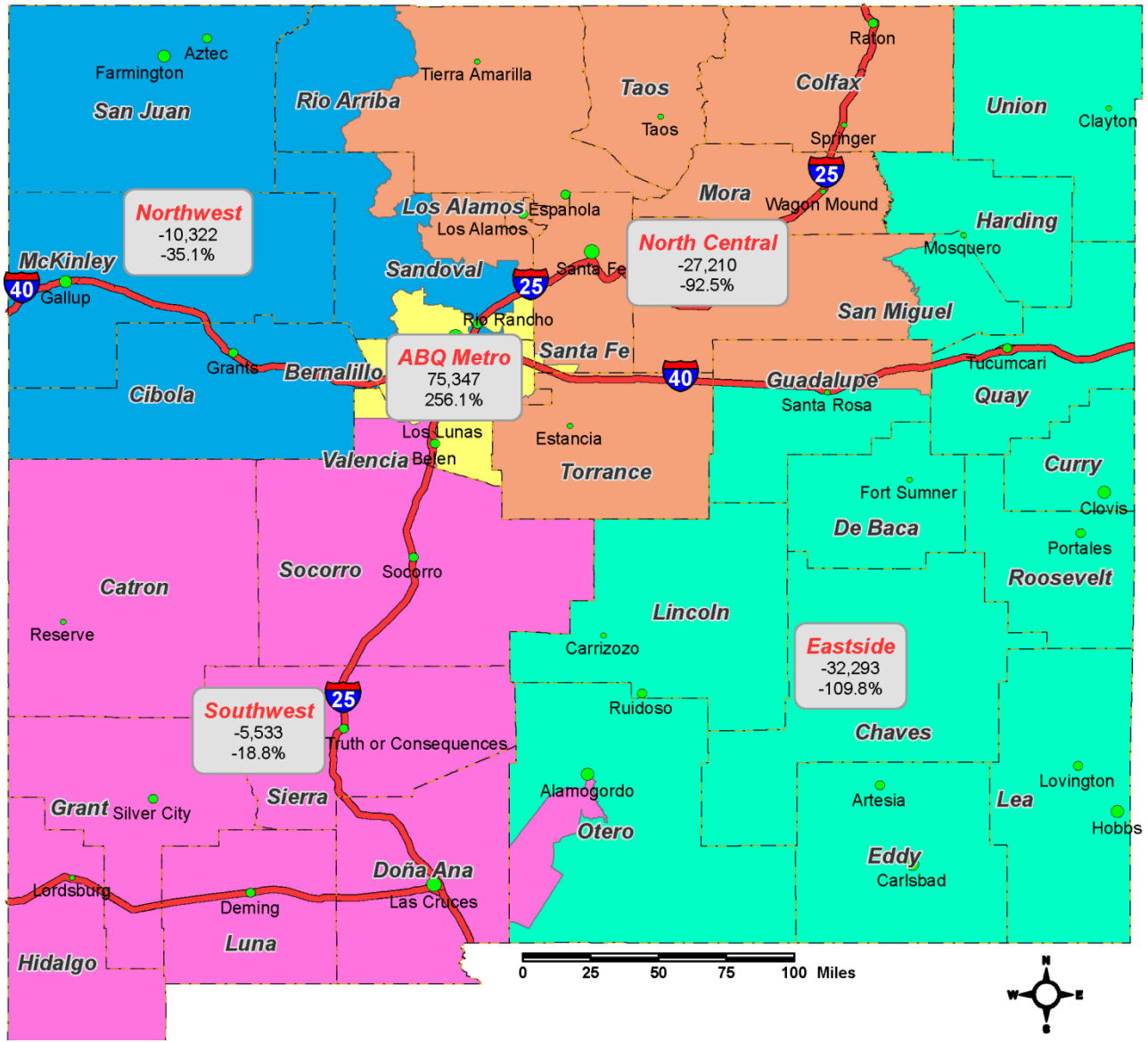
NM State House Deviations



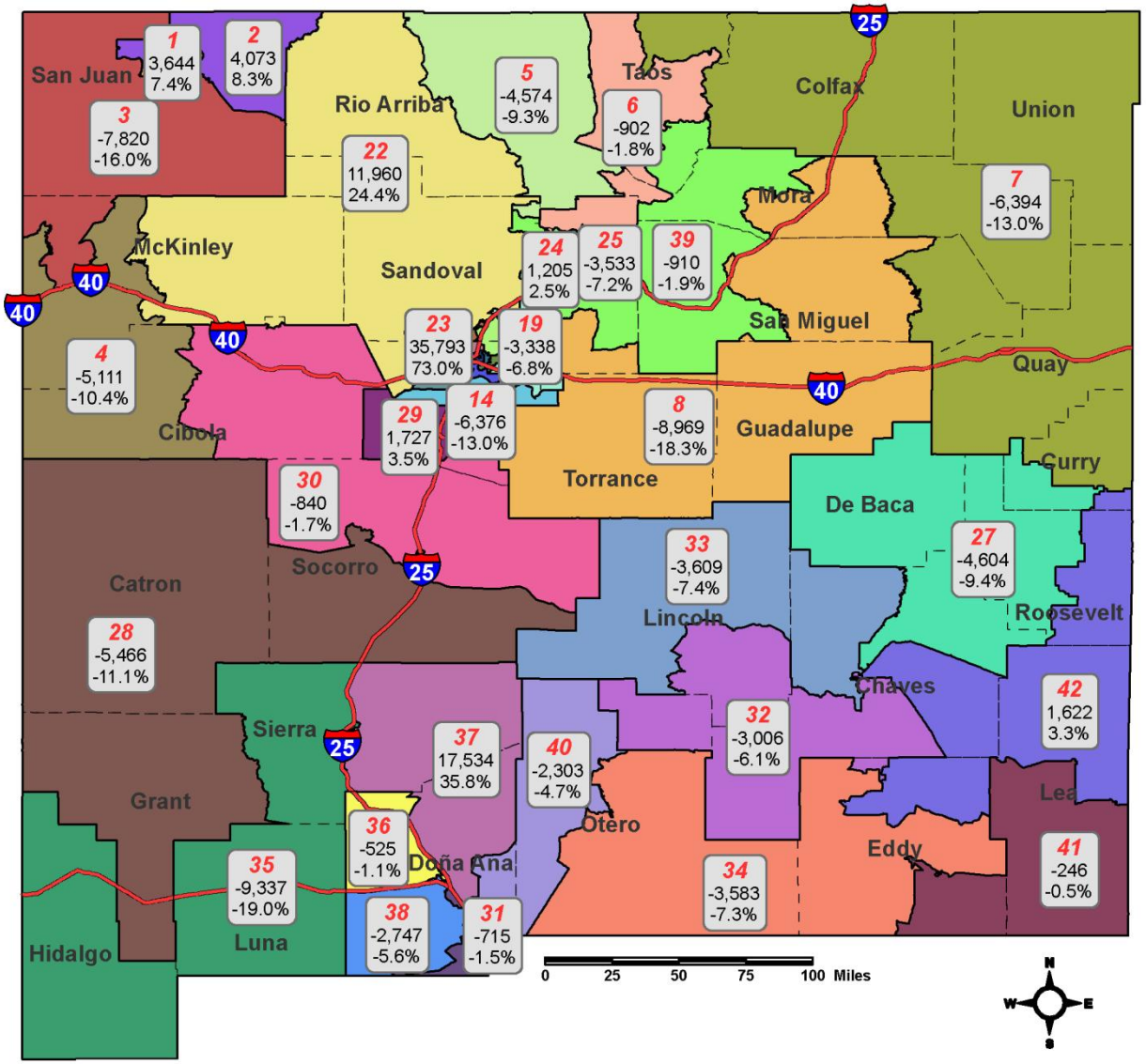
NM State House Deviations - ABQ



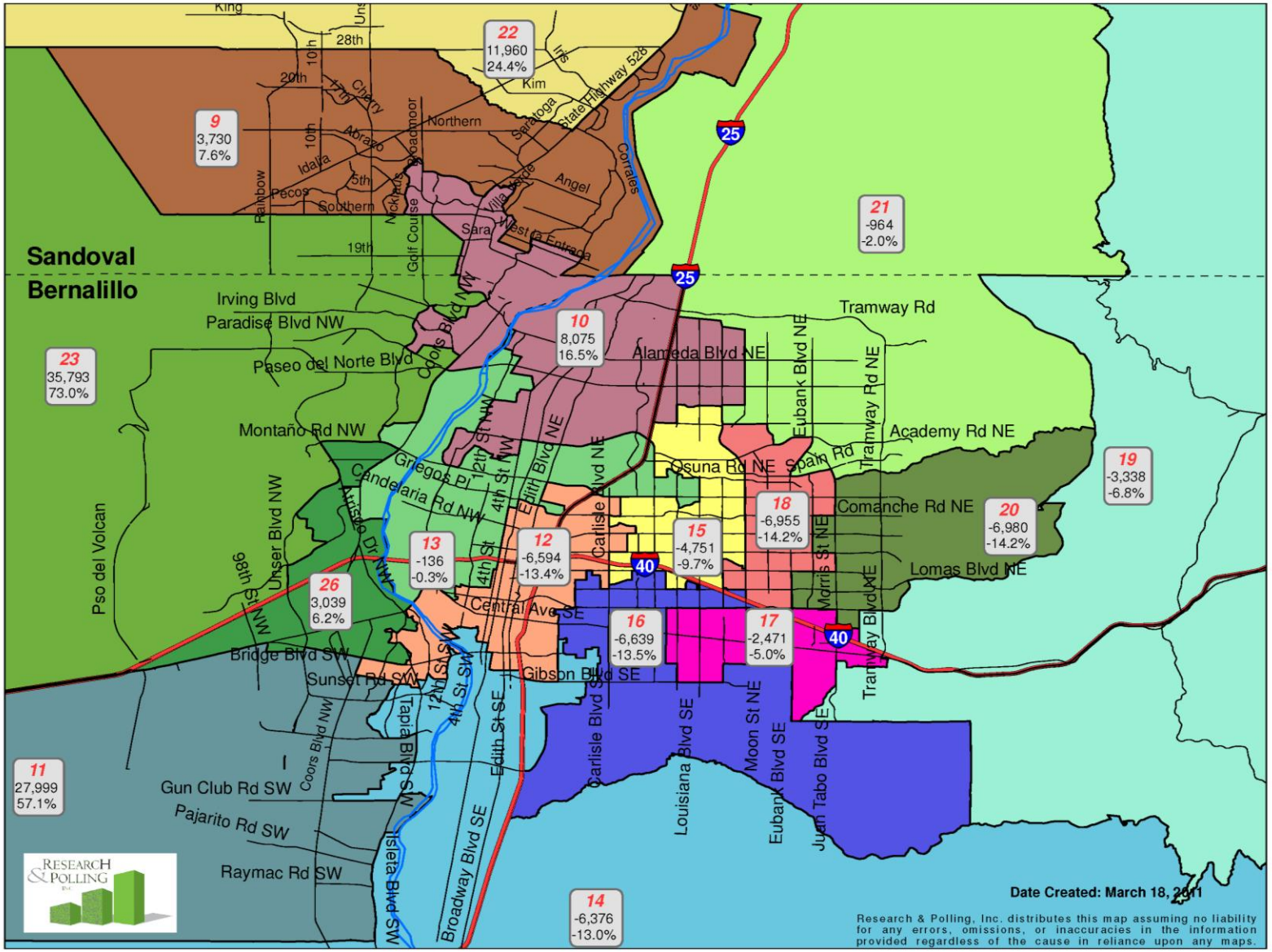
House District Regional Cumulative Deviation - NM



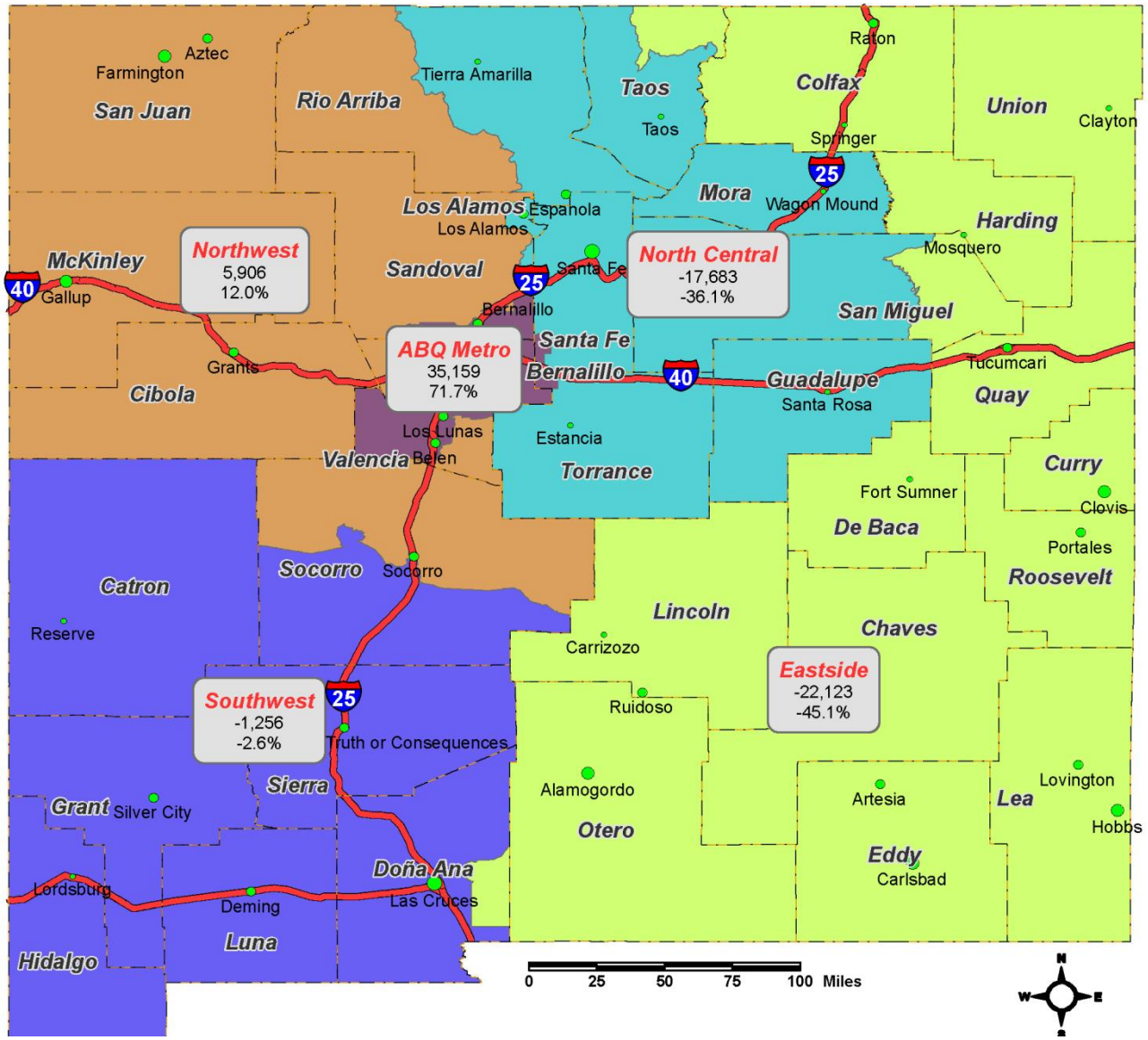
NM Senate Deviation



NM Senate Deviation - ABQ



Senate District Regional Cumulative Deviation - NM



Political Performance Measurement

- 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.)

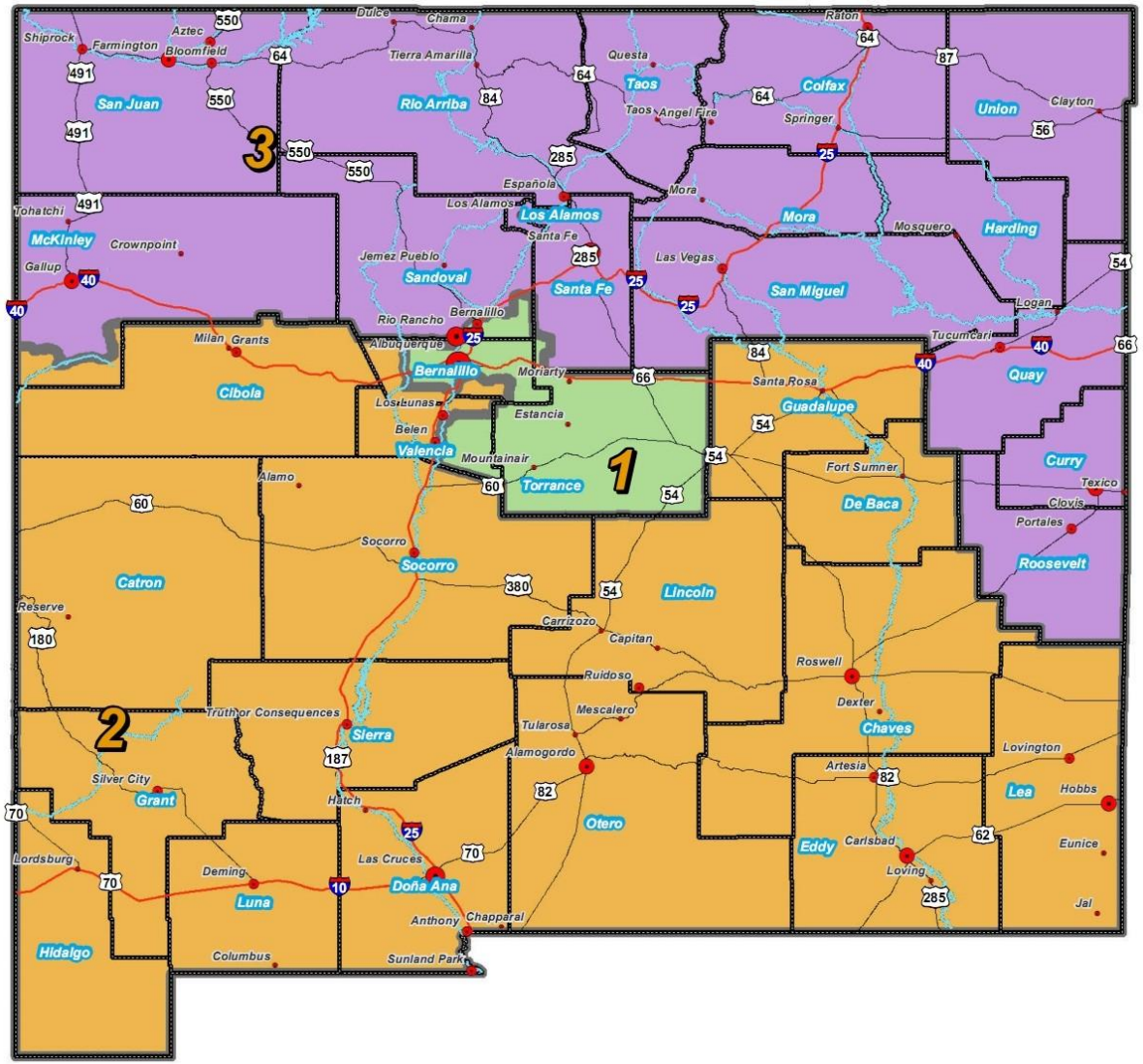
- Application:
  - To get an indication of how statewide Democrat and Republican candidates perform, on average, in legislative and congressional districts.
    - Popular incumbent legislators tend to outperform their party's statewide candidates
  - To serve as a benchmark to compare the relative partisan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

Redistricting Realities

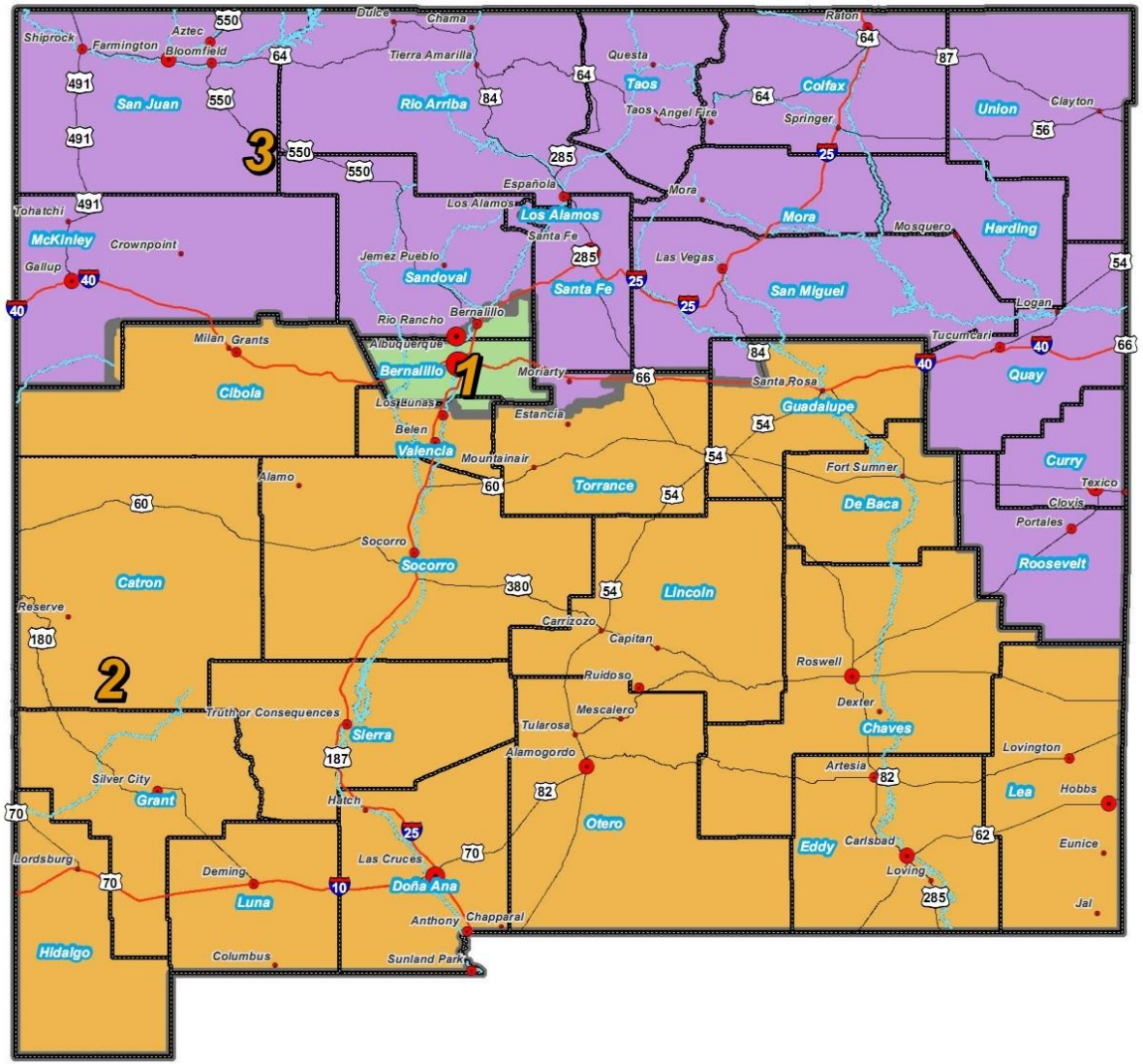
- Redistricting plans are rarely perfect
  - Any single district cannot be looked at in a vacuum
    - Changing one district may impact many others
  - Many factors are considered
    - Principles may work against each other
  - It is impossible to please everyone

Congressional Plans

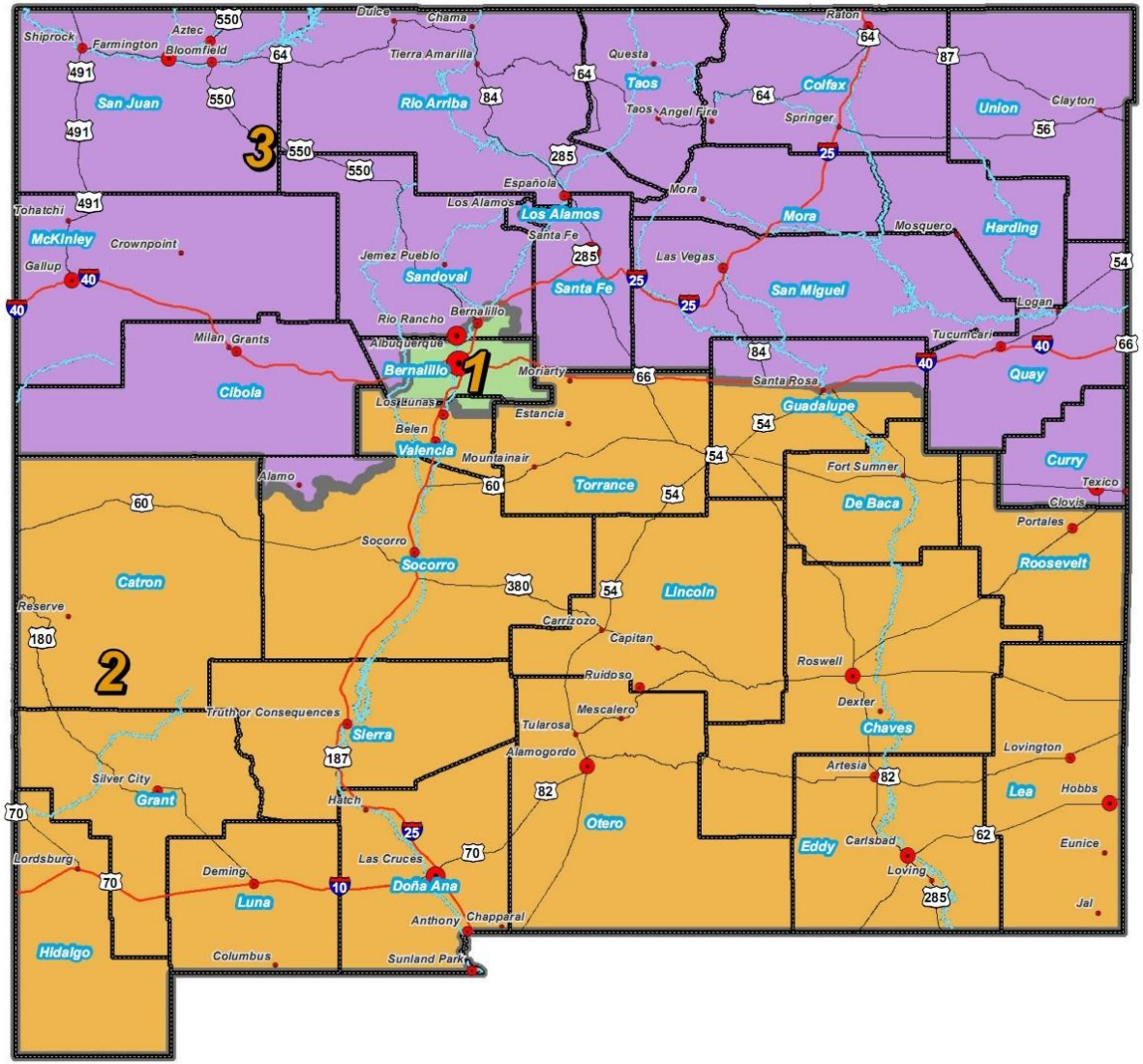
NM Congress – Current Districts



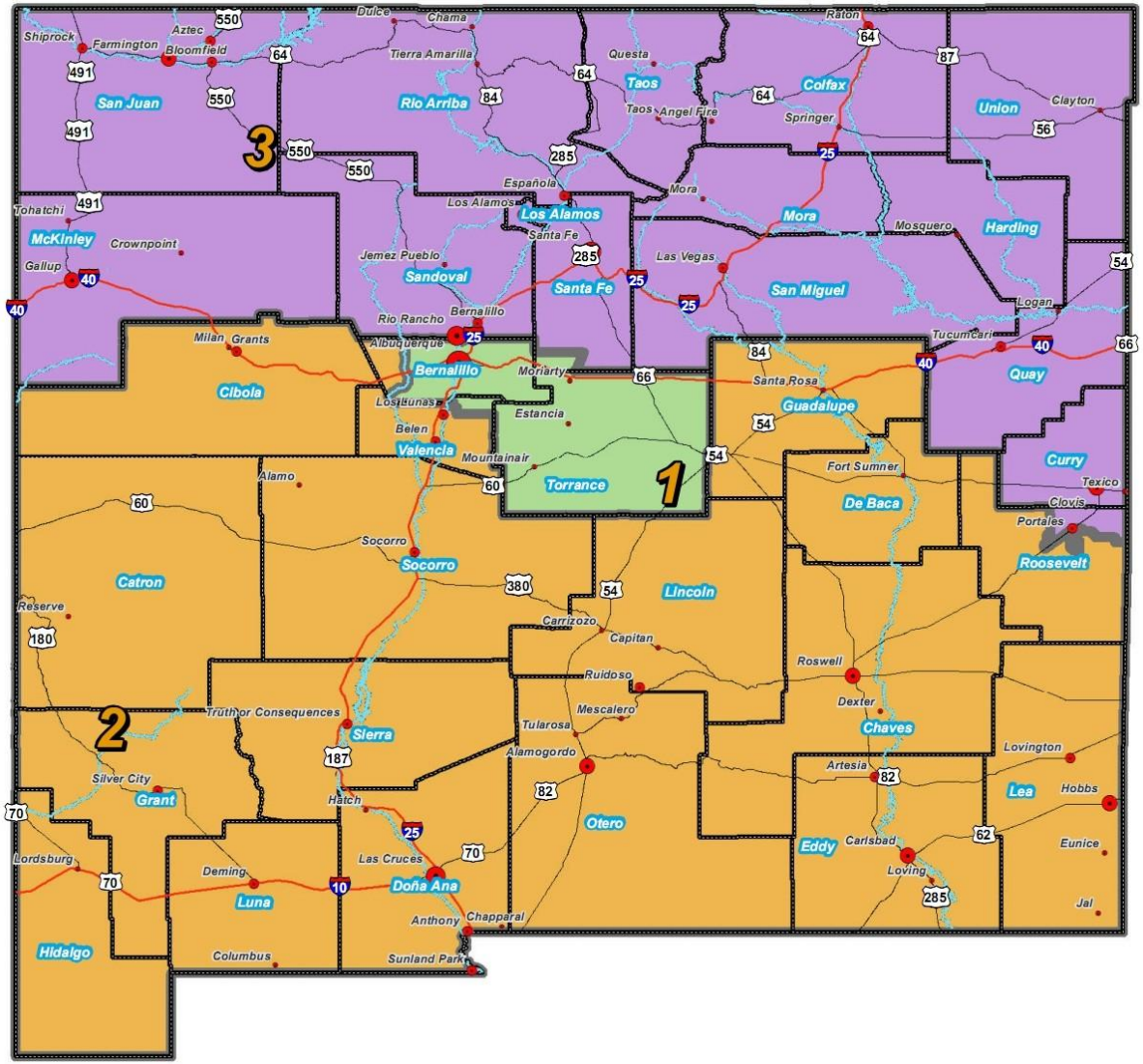
NM Congress – Concept A



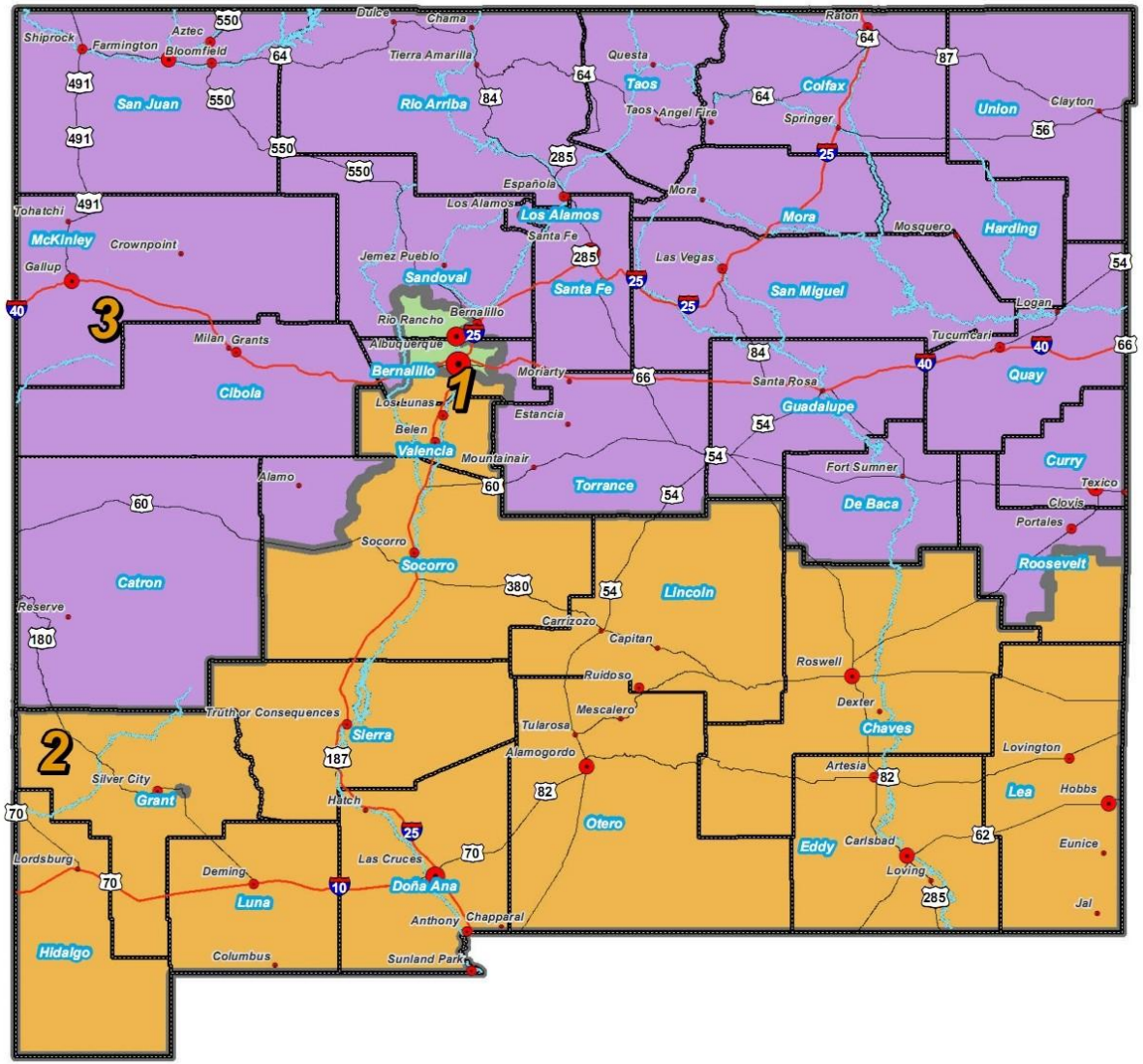
NM Congress – Concept B



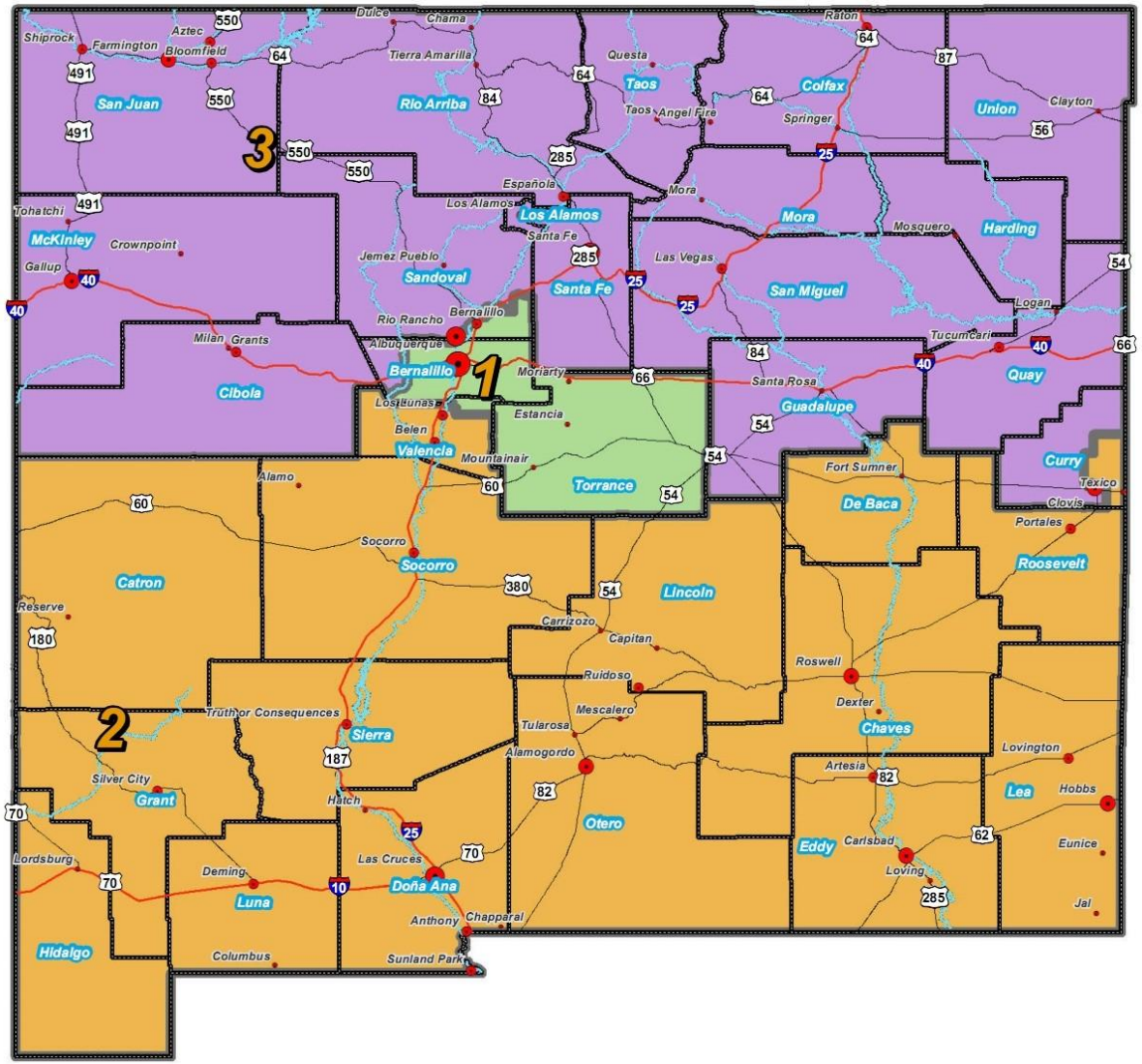
NM Congress – Concept C



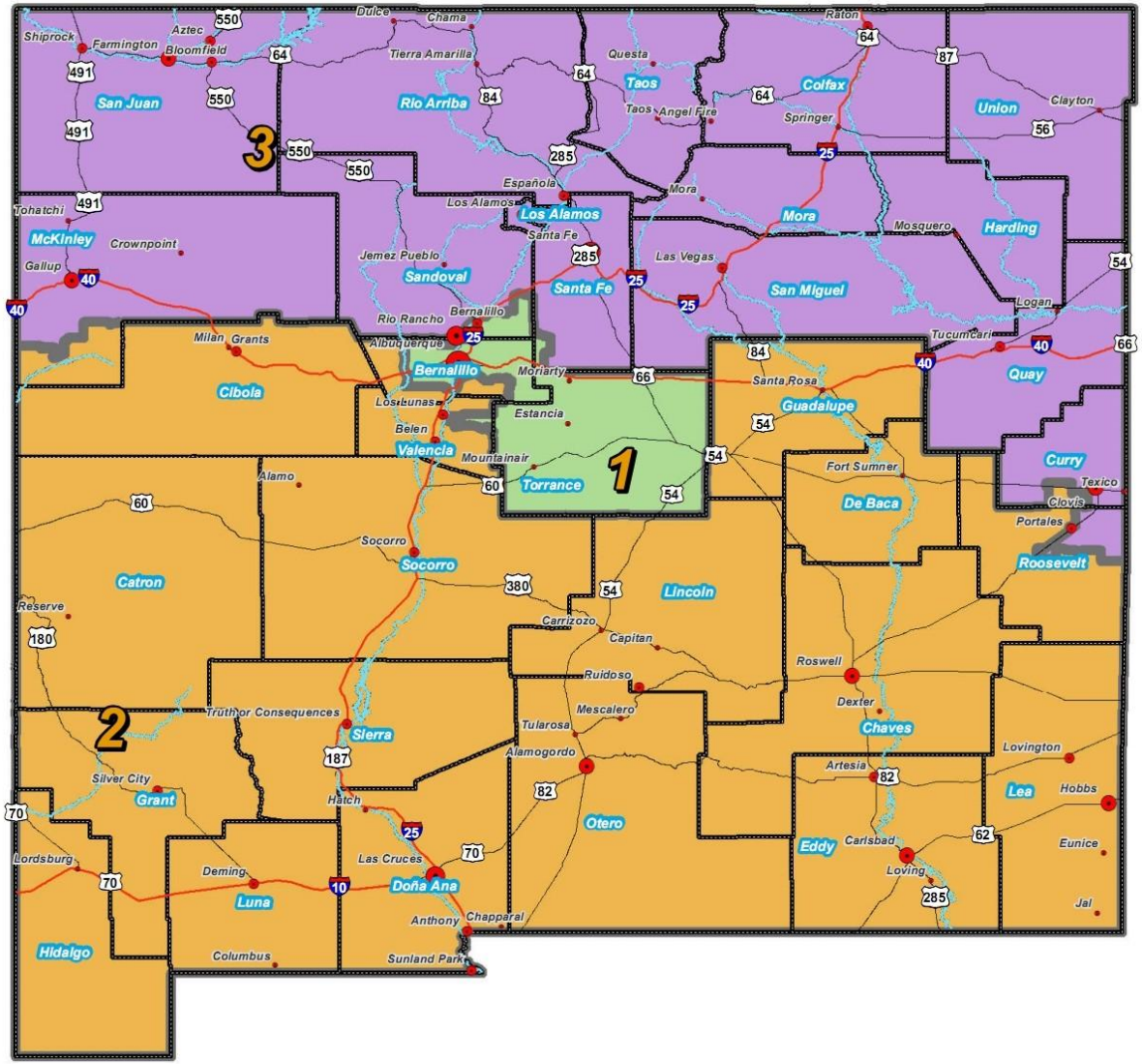
NM Congress – Concept D



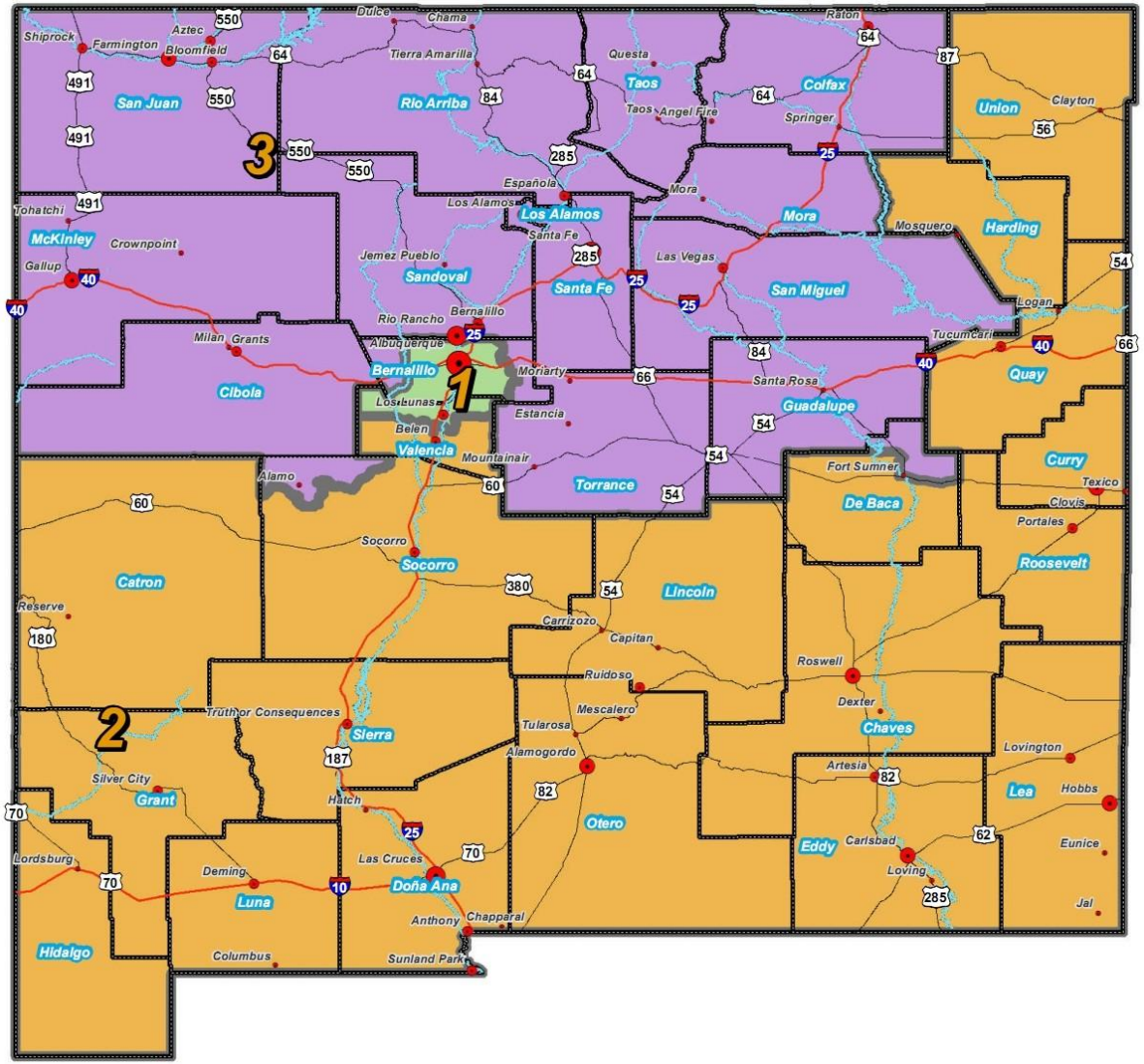
NM Congress – Concept E



NM Congress – Concept F



NM Congress – Concept G



Thank you

Questions?

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