Redistricting is the regular process of adjusting the lines of voting districts in accordance with population shifts. For many states, this means redrawing congressional and state legislative district lines every ten years following the decennial census.

Fundamental process that strives for ideal representation

- Attempts fair distribution of political power
- Representative – one person, one vote
- Check and Balances – balance States rights and Federal responsibility

AND it all starts with the Census!
History of Census

- Article 1, Sections 2 and 9 of the United States Constitution mandates the “actual Enumeration” of each US resident every 10 years, otherwise known as the Decennial Census

- Beginning in 1980 Congress delegated in Title 13 of the US Code the official date to take the decennial census of population on April 1

- Census data is used for apportionment among the states of the 435 seats in the US House of Representatives; redrawing congressional, state and local election districts; and for other purposes like distributing federal funds for population

What is Gerrymandering?

Gerrymandering is the act of redrawing district lines to influence elections to favor a particular party, candidate, ethnic group. While the Voting Rights Act strongly protects against racial gerrymanders, manipulating the lines to favor a political party is common. Named after Elbridge Gerry, the 5th US Vice President.
But what about Counties?

Idaho Code References

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS - 31-704
SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE ZONES – 33-313
HIGHWAY DISTRICT SUBDISTRICTS – 41-1404 (county wide districts)
41-1304 (all others)
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS – 31-1410
PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT TRUSTEE ZONES– 33-2718
CITIES WITH POPULATIONS GREATER THAN 100,000 – 50-707A
31-704. COMMISSIONERS’ DISTRICTS. At the regular meeting in January, preceding any general election, the board of commissioners must district their county into three (3) districts, as nearly equal in population as may be, to be known as county commissioners’ districts, numbers one (1), two (2) and three (3) respectively; provided, that when a new county shall have been created, or the boundary lines of a county shall have been changed, then the board of commissioners of such county may district their county at any general or special meeting of such board.

So, it’s time to redistrict, but what if…???

Some things to consider as we look toward getting the 2020 census data and review our district boundaries:

Population, land area, community character, precinct boundaries, city limit boundaries, waterways, highways, and other natural boundaries.
Some counties are lucky enough to be able to divide population and land mass relatively equally…

What if my population is not evenly distributed?
Common scenario – one district with dense population center and others with huge land mass.

Some examples of what other counties have done…
Current Commissioner Districts VS. what new districts could look like to better divide population AND land mass.
What’s best for YOUR county?

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