Census Redistricting Data: Building Small Area Geography States Need
...for legislative redistricting

James Whitehorne
Chief - Census Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office
U.S. Census Bureau
Agenda

• U.S. Census Bureau Redistricting Data Program
  – History
  – 2020 Redistricting Data Program Phases
    • Phase 1 – The Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP)
    • Phase 2 – The Voting District Project (VTD)
    • Phase 3 – Data Delivery
    • Phase 4 – Congressional and State Legislative Districts
    • Phase 5 – Review, Evaluation, and Planning for the 2030 Census
Redistricting Data Program

1975
• Passage of Public Law 94-171
  – Requires the program is conducted in a non-partisan manner
    • Establishment of non-partisan liaisons
    • Notification of Governor and Legislative Leadership of each Phase
  – Requires data be delivered to:
    • Governor
    • Officers and public bodies of the State having responsibility for legislative redistricting
  – Requires data be delivered by 1 year from Census day
    • April 1st, 2021
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1980
- Blocks created for all incorporated places of 10,000 or more population
- 5 States (GA, MS, NY, RI, VA) contracted for statewide block coverage resulting in 78% of population and 7% of land area

1990
- Nationwide Block Coverage
- Block Boundary Suggestion Project

2000
- Paper submissions and equivalency files for digitizing into Census’s “TIGER” geographic database

2010
- Digital submission using required Census supplied software

2020
- Digital with no software restrictions but with a supplied software option
- Centralized program and processing
Redistricting
Data Program
Redistricting Data Program

Phase 1 Schedule – Block Boundary Suggestion Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Delineation</td>
<td>December 2015 – May 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verification</td>
<td>December 2016 – May 2017</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities

- States can review linear features
  - Must Hold/ Do Not Hold
  - Add/Delete features
  - Correct misaligned features

- Update Area Landmark (state parks, prisons, etc.) boundaries
- Block size review - NEW for 2020
- Suggest updates to legal boundaries – NEW for 2020
# Redistricting Data Program

## Phase 1 Participation – Block Boundary Suggestion Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BBSP Initial</th>
<th>BBSP Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>States Participating</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States with changes for all counties</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States with BAS Updates</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>BBSP Initial</th>
<th>BBSP Verification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participated – Submitted Updates</td>
<td>1150 (36% of nation)</td>
<td>966 (30% of nation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participated – No Updates</td>
<td>882 (27% of nation)</td>
<td>903 (28% of nation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did Not Participate</td>
<td>1188 (37% of nation)</td>
<td>1351 (42% of nation)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New States</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States with no additional changes after BBSP Initial</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Phase 2 Schedule – Voting District Project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial Delineation</td>
<td>December 2017 – May 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verification I</td>
<td>December 2018 – May 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verification II (only open to states participating in the first two rounds of updates)</td>
<td>December 2019 – March 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities

States provide their Election Districts/Precincts/Wards

States can review linear features

• Add/Delete features
• Correct misaligned features

Update Area Landmark (state parks, prisons, etc.) boundaries

Suggest updates to legal boundaries
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Phase 4 Schedule – Congressional and State Legislative Districts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>115th Congress and 2016 State Legislative Districts</td>
<td>November 2015 – April 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116th Congress and 2018 State Legislative Districts</td>
<td>November 2017 – April 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>117th Congress and 2020 State Legislative Districts</td>
<td>No Collection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>118th Congress and 2022 State Legislative Districts</td>
<td>November 2021 – April 2022</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Continuous collection of Congressional plans on a 2-year cycle
- Continuous collection of State Legislative District Plans on a 2-year cycle
- Two versions collected - official and tabulation
Census Tabulation Blocks

The Process

• Generate the base block layer of physical features
• Generate the base block layer of political and administrative features
• Merge the two base block layers
• Evaluate the blocks for size criteria
  – Merge blocks through edges based on priority codes
  – Re-evaluate blocks for size criteria
  – Repeat
• Evaluate the blocks for block numbering
  – Merge blocks through edges based on priority codes
  – Re-evaluate blocks for numbering criteria
  – Repeat
Contact

Thank you!

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1-301-763-4039
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Back Up Slides
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Phase 3 Schedule – Data Delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prototype Geographic support products</td>
<td>January 2019 – February 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prototype P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data</td>
<td>NLT March 31, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographic support products</td>
<td>November 2020 – February 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data</td>
<td>February 2021 – March 31, 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Geographic Support Products

- Shapefiles
- Maps (PDF only)
- Block Assignment Files
- Block to Block Relationship Files (New timing for 2020 and not in prototype)

P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File

- Race and Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by Race
- Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- Occupancy Status (Housing)
- Group Quarters – NEW for 2020
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Phase 5 Schedule – Review, Evaluation, and Plan

Generate, from the States’ point of view, a report detailing:

• Successes of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program

• Areas for improvement from the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program

• Recommendations for the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program

• Publication date in 2025