

County Cluster Districting Plan for Oklahoma State Senate*



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*Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation or Oklahoma State University.

State Senate Districting Rules

Hard Constraints:

- Need to create 48 districts*
- Each district should be contiguous on the map*
- Each district population should be +/- 2.5% of ideal population*
- Ideal population is 81,935 giving bounds of 79,887 and 83,983*

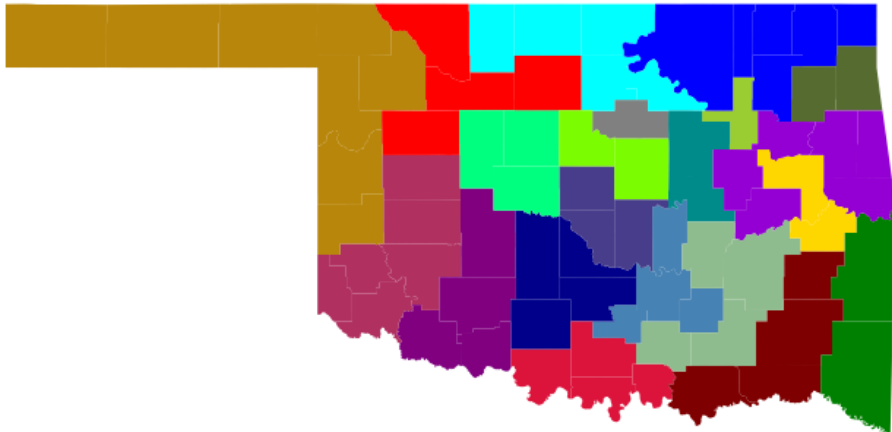
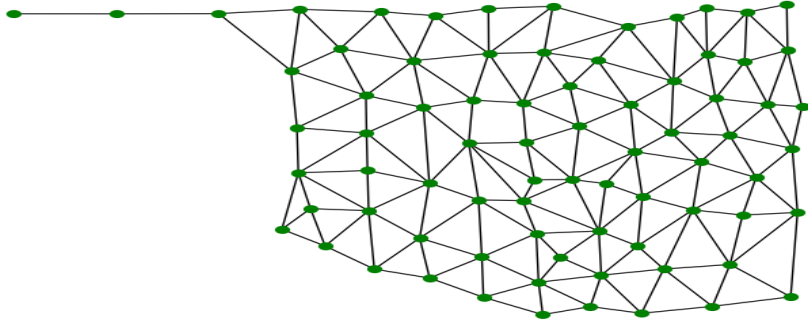
Soft Constraints:

- Compactness
- Preserve subdivisions (e.g., counties*)
- Preserve communities of interest
- ...

This is very hard to do well! Computational difficulty... Local knowledge...Tradeoffs...

*My approach will emphasize these aspects

Step 1: Group Counties into Clusters



Example clusters:

- {Payne} -> 1 district
- {Logan, Lincoln} -> 1 district
- {Tulsa} -> 8 districts
- {Blaine, Kingfisher, Canadian} -> 2 districts

Use optimization software to find 21 clusters (see map)

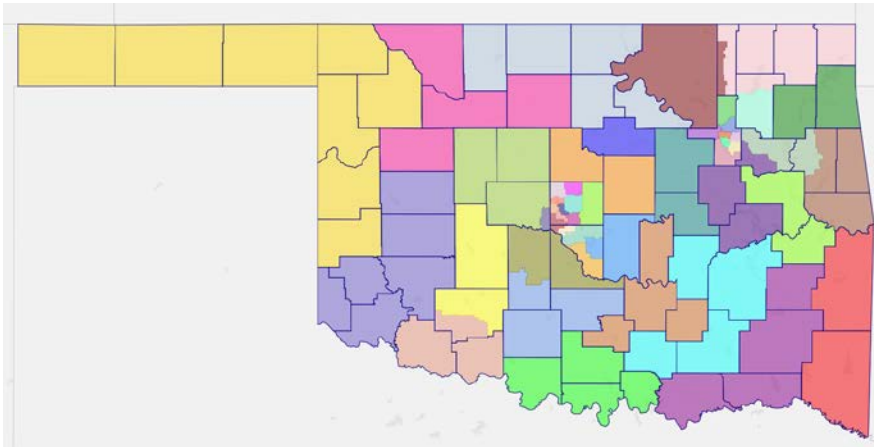
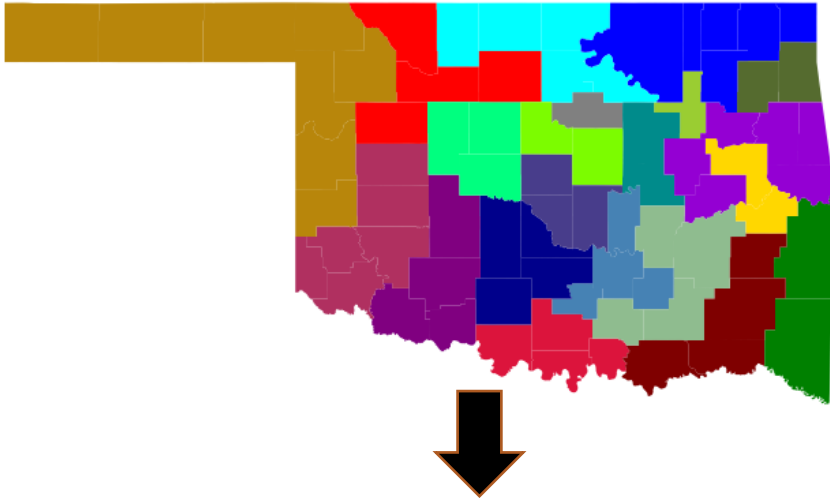
Software requires each cluster to:

- Be contiguous on the map
- Be made of whole counties
- Have population between 79,887 and 83,983, or a multiple thereof
 - Example: Tulsa County's population of 646,419 is between $8 \times 79,887$ and $8 \times 83,983$

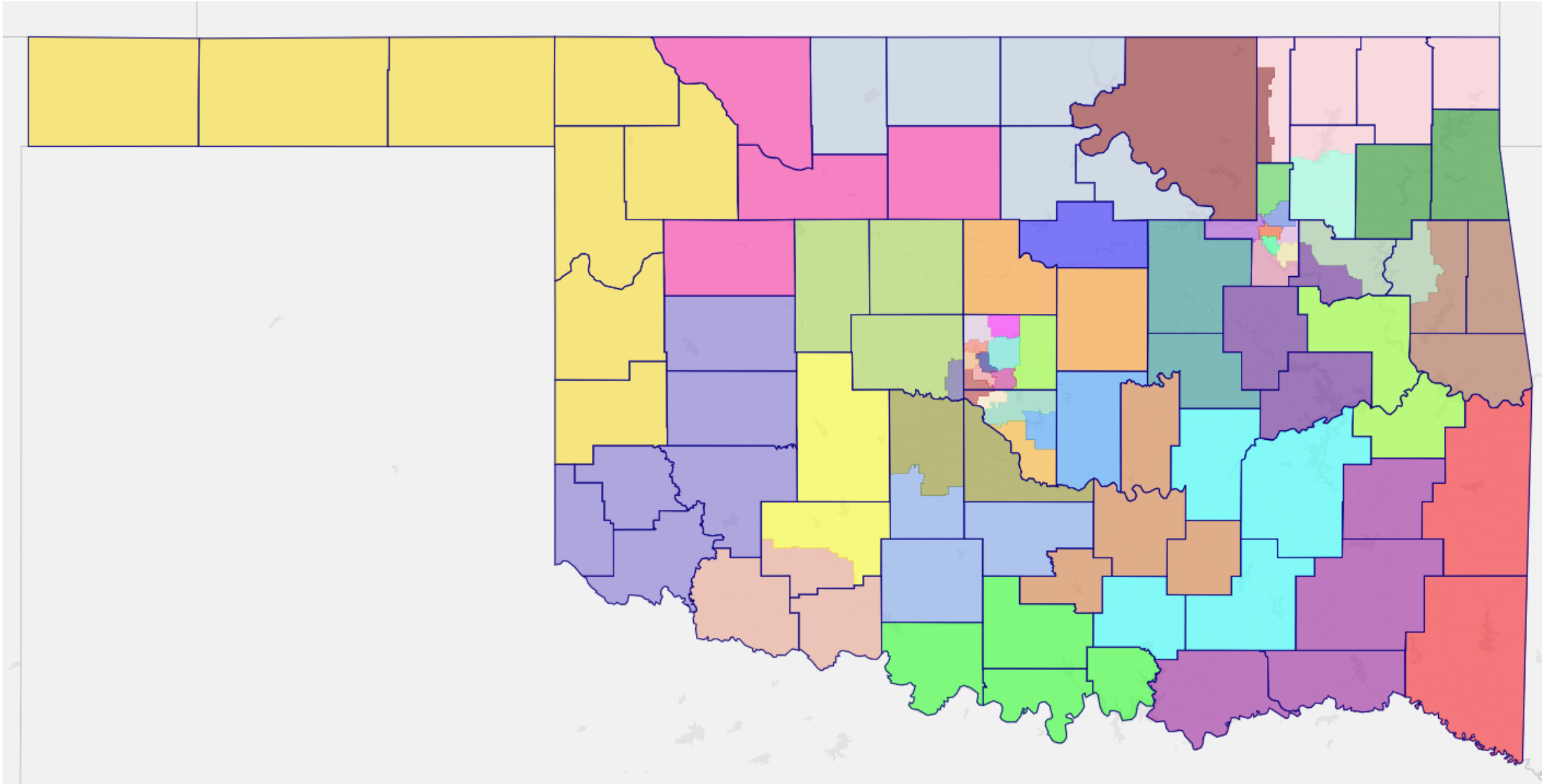
Code here:

<https://github.com/AustinLBuchanan/OK-County-Clustering>

Step 2: Draw Detailed Plan for Each Cluster



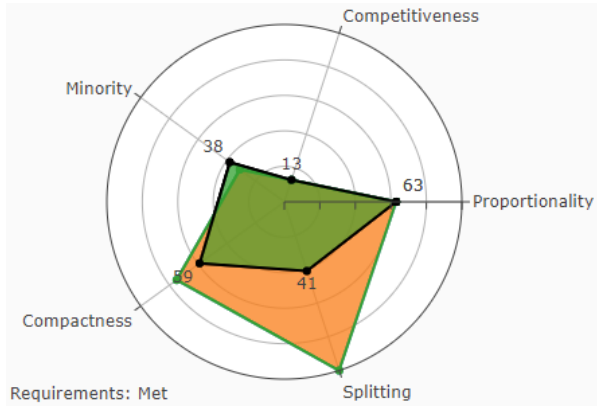
- Now, solve 21 “mini” districting instances
- Easier than solving one big instance
- I drew detailed plans for each cluster “by hand” with Dave’s Redistricting App
- I tried to keep districts compact
- My knowledge of communities of interest is limited!
- Better approach: work with public on step 2



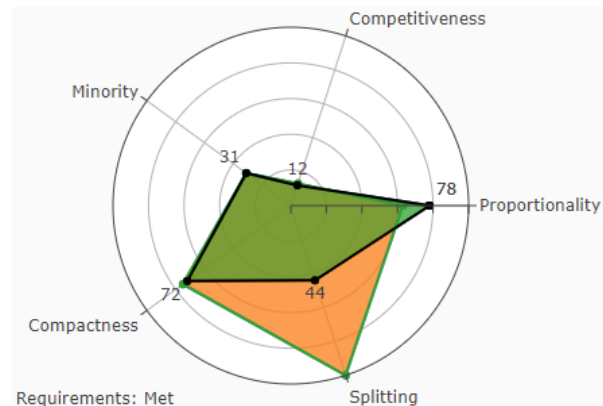
<https://davesredistricting.org/join/9ff06581-03d0-40b3-9fad-1650c9ed0b6c>

Comparisons – Strong showing w.r.t. Splitting

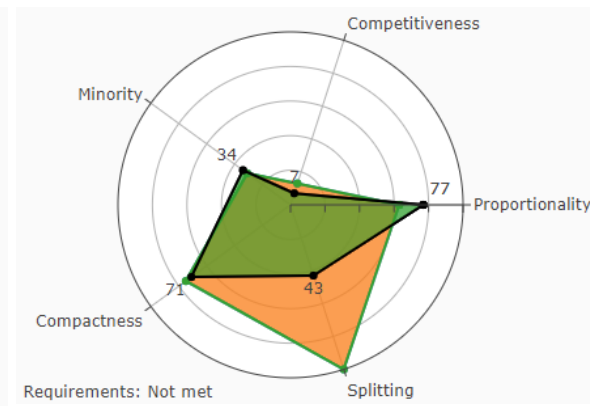
Public Map 1



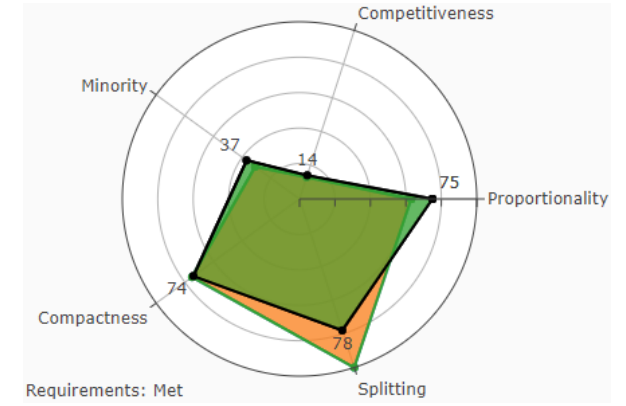
Public Map 2



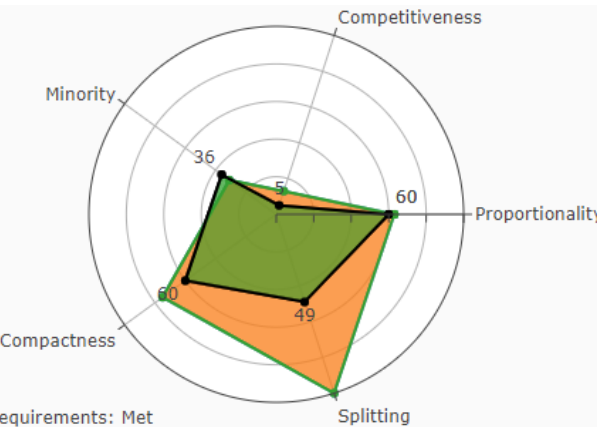
Public Map 3



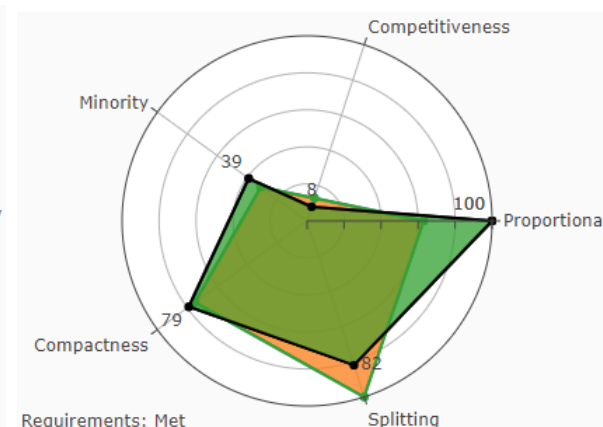
Public Map 4



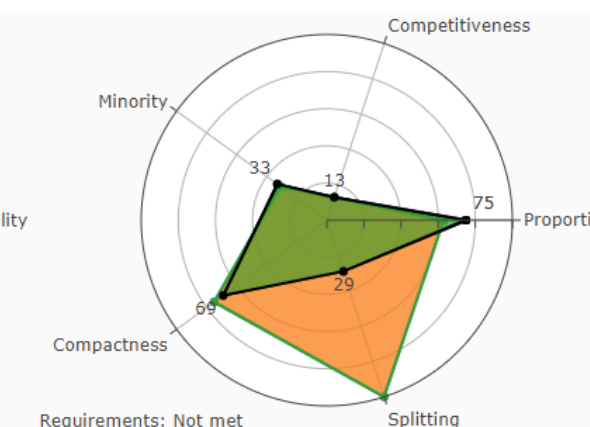
Public Map 6



Public Map 7



Public Map 8



Public Map 9

