

Week 6: Redistricting Requirements

Redistricting Requirements

- Washington

- Encompass, as nearly as can be done (or is “practicable”) equal numbers of people.
- Comply with the Voting Rights Act to ensure that minorities have an equal opportunity to elect representatives of their choice.
- Make sure that parts of a district are not physically separated.
- Make sure that, to the extent possible, boundaries of cities, counties, neighborhoods and communities that have common interests are respected, and their division minimized.
- Make sure they do not favor or discriminate against any incumbent, candidate, or political party.

- Source: <http://www.redistricting.wa.gov/faq.asp>

- Iowa

- Districts must be "convenient and contiguous."
- Districts must "preserve the integrity of political subdivisions like counties and cities."
- Districts must "to the extent consistent with other requirements, [be] reasonably compact—defined in terms of regular polygons, comparisons of length and width, and overall boundary perimeter."
- In addition, state House districts are required to be contained within state Senate districts "where possible, and where not in conflict with the criteria above." It is explicit in state law that district lines cannot be drawn "to favor a political party, incumbent, or other person or group." [33]

- Source: https://ballotpedia.org/Redistricting_in_Iowa

Election results

- **Washington**

- <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=hdl:1902.1/17212>
 - Smallest unit is measured by district

- **Iowa**

- <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataset.xhtml?persistentId=hdl:1902.1/16697>

How are we Coding Requirements?

- when it comes to coding these requirements look at what the people at Duke did