

## DRAFT STANDARDS FOR REDISTRICTING

The Ad Hoc Committee on Redistricting will rely on the following standards:

1. The plan shall provide substantially equal weight for all of the voters. Courts have recognized that variation of +/- 5% from the ideal is a minor deviation and thus permissible.
2. The plan shall provide for newly designed districts, to the extent possible, to be compact and contiguous.
  - a. Compact shall mean the inclusion of consideration of existing subdivision lines, topography, and lines of transportation (highway, road and river).
  - b. Compactness is further defined but not limited to maintaining common social and economic interests, the ability of the residents of a municipality to relate to each other, and the existence of shared interests.
  - c. Contiguous shall mean that a legislative district shall not be segmented. That is the district shall not be separated into parts that are not touching. A district whose parts are separated by water can still be considered contiguous.
3. The plan shall provide, to the extent possible, the preservation of political subdivisions.
  - a. New districts, to the extent possible, shall include an entire existing municipality because it represents a community of common interest such as social/cultural/economic.
4. New districts, to the extent possible, shall not discriminate for or against incumbents.
5. The plan shall provide, to the extent possible, minimal packing or fracturing of recognized minority groups.
  - a. Packing is the practice of deliberately combining a minority population into a single district for the purpose of concentrating their vote.
  - b. Fracturing is the practice of deliberately dividing a minority population among several districts for the purpose of minimizing their vote.