

STANDARDS FOR REDISTRICTING

Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee

As adopted April 7, 2011

To accomplish the mission of this committee to define the new boundaries for 15 legislative districts, the Committee will rely on the following standards in the order presented.

1. The plan shall provide substantially equal weight for all of the voters (1 man – 1 vote). 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.
 - b. New districts, to the extent possible, shall not discriminate for or against incumbents.
4. 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.