

Fair Districts for New Mexico

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League of Women Voters of New Mexico
Zoom

April 29, 2021

Introduction

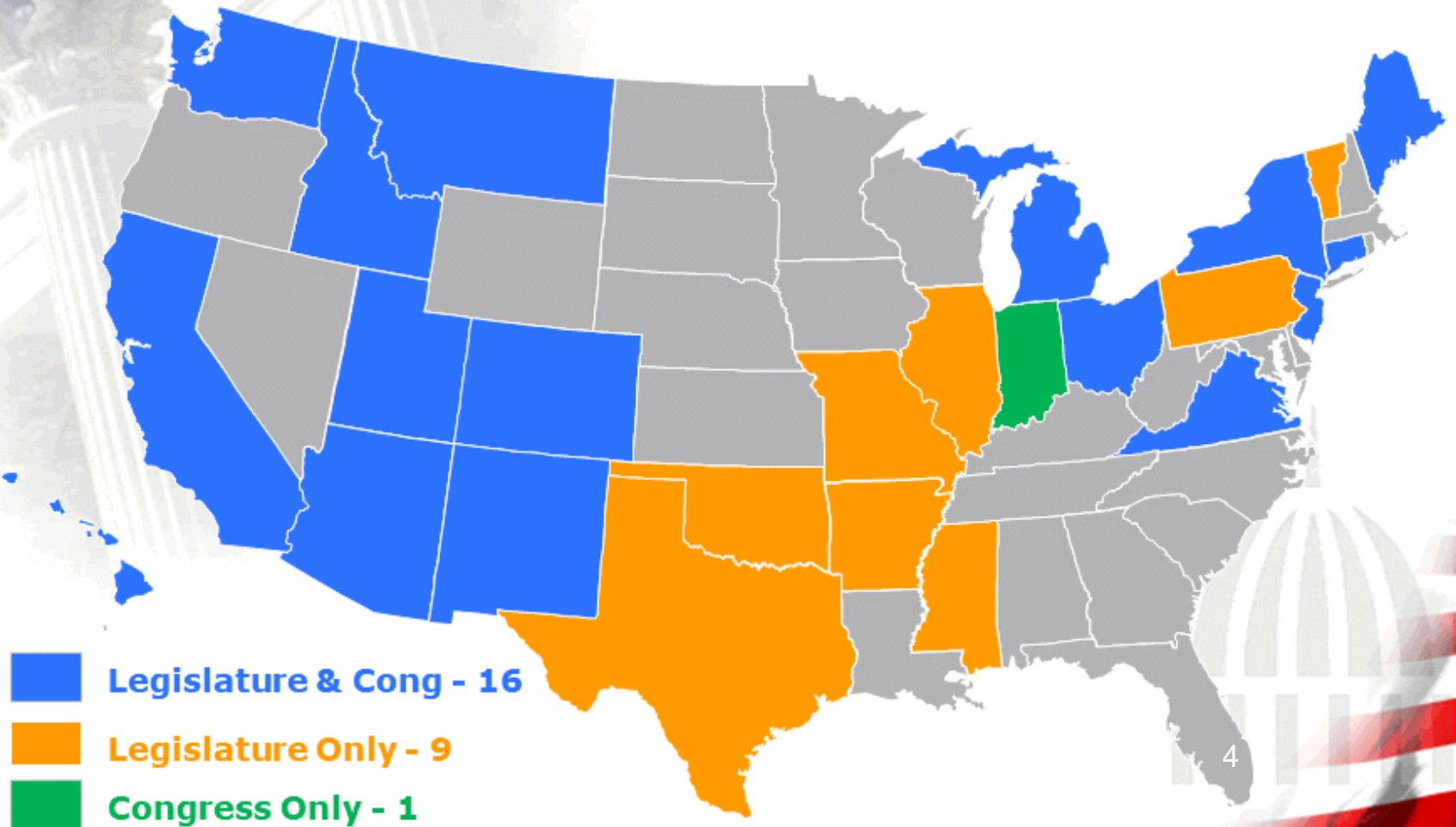
- How does the Citizens Redistricting Committee compare to redistricting commissions in other states?
- What can the League of Women Voters do to prepare even before the committee starts?

Online Resources

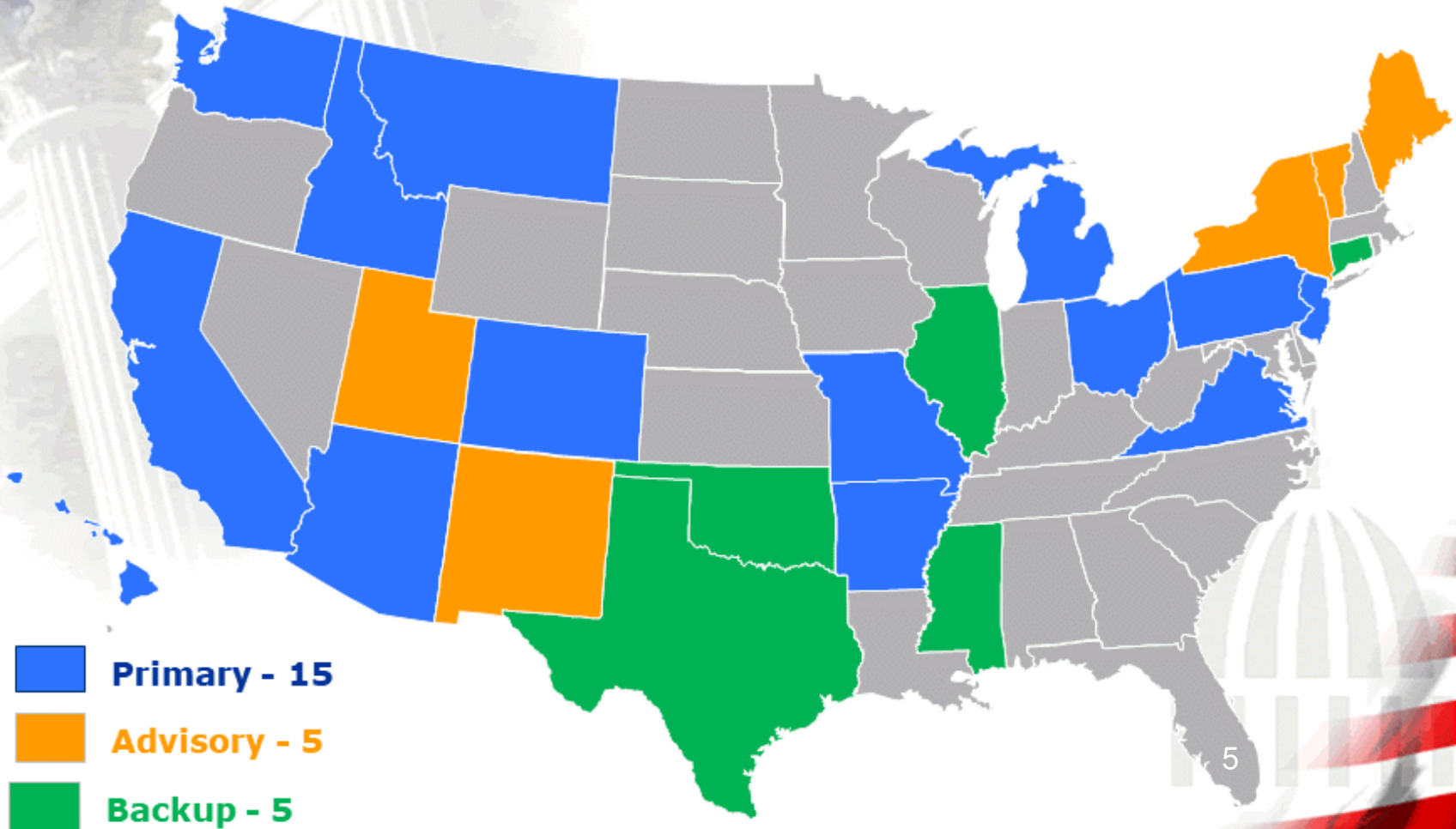
<http://www.fairdistrictsnm.org/>

- Redistricting Commissions for Congressional and Legislative Plans
- Comparison of CRC to Other States
- Sample Maps & Reports
- Slideshow PDF

Redistricting Commissions 2021



Legislative Redistricting Commissions 2021



- Primary - 15**
- Advisory - 5**
- Backup - 5**

New Mexico

Citizens Redistricting Committee

- 7 members
 - ▶ 4 by caucus leaders
 - ▶ 2 by Ethics Commission - not major party
 - ▶ 1 by Ethics Commission - retired appellate judge
- Not deeply engaged in partisan politics
- Plans by October 30, 2021
- Simple majority

Utah

Utah Independent Redistricting Commission

- 7 members, one each by
 - ▶ Governor appoints chair
 - ▶ 4 caucus leaders
 - ▶ President of Senate & Speaker jointly
 - ▶ Minority leaders jointly
- Not deeply engaged in partisan politics
- Plans by November 15, 2021
- Simple majority

New York

Independent Redistricting Commission

- 10 members, appointed by
 - ▶ 2 by each of 4 caucus leaders
 - ▶ 2 by the first 8
- Not deeply engaged in partisan politics
- Plans by January 1, 2022
- Supermajority - 7 votes
 - ▶ At least one by appointee of each caucus leader

Vermont

Legislative Apportionment Board

- 7 members
 - ▶ Chief justice appoints chair
 - ▶ Governor appoints one member from each of three political parties
 - ▶ Three political parties each appoint one
- Not a member or employee of the legislature
- 90 days after release of census data
- Simple majority

Maine

Apportionment Commission

- **15 members**
 - ▶ Speaker & minority leader each appoint 3
 - ▶ President & minority leader each appoint 2
 - ▶ Chairs of 2 major parties each appoint 1
 - ▶ Commissioners from each party appoint a public member
 - ▶ 2 public members appoint a third
- **Appointees of legislators must be legislators**

Maine

Apportionment Commission

- Plans by June 1, 2021
- Simple majority

Preparing Before the Committee Starts

The Big Picture

- Drawing a map is not hard
 - One person can draw a map in a few hours or days
- Agreeing on a map is hard
 - The more people drawing maps, and the more maps they draw, the harder it is
- First priority: A strategy for reaching agreement

Preparing Before the Committee Starts

Specific Tasks

- Clarify relationship with legislature
- Learn about population shifts
- Propose schedule for public meetings
- Build redistricting database
- Select redistricting software
- Draw plans

Clarify Relationship with Legislature

- Will the CRC have access to legislative redistricting staff and technology?
 - ▶ What additional staff will committee need?
- What role should incumbents play in drawing the new districts?
 - ▶ Will you seek their input before any lines are drawn?
 - ▶ Will you seek their comments on preliminary plans?

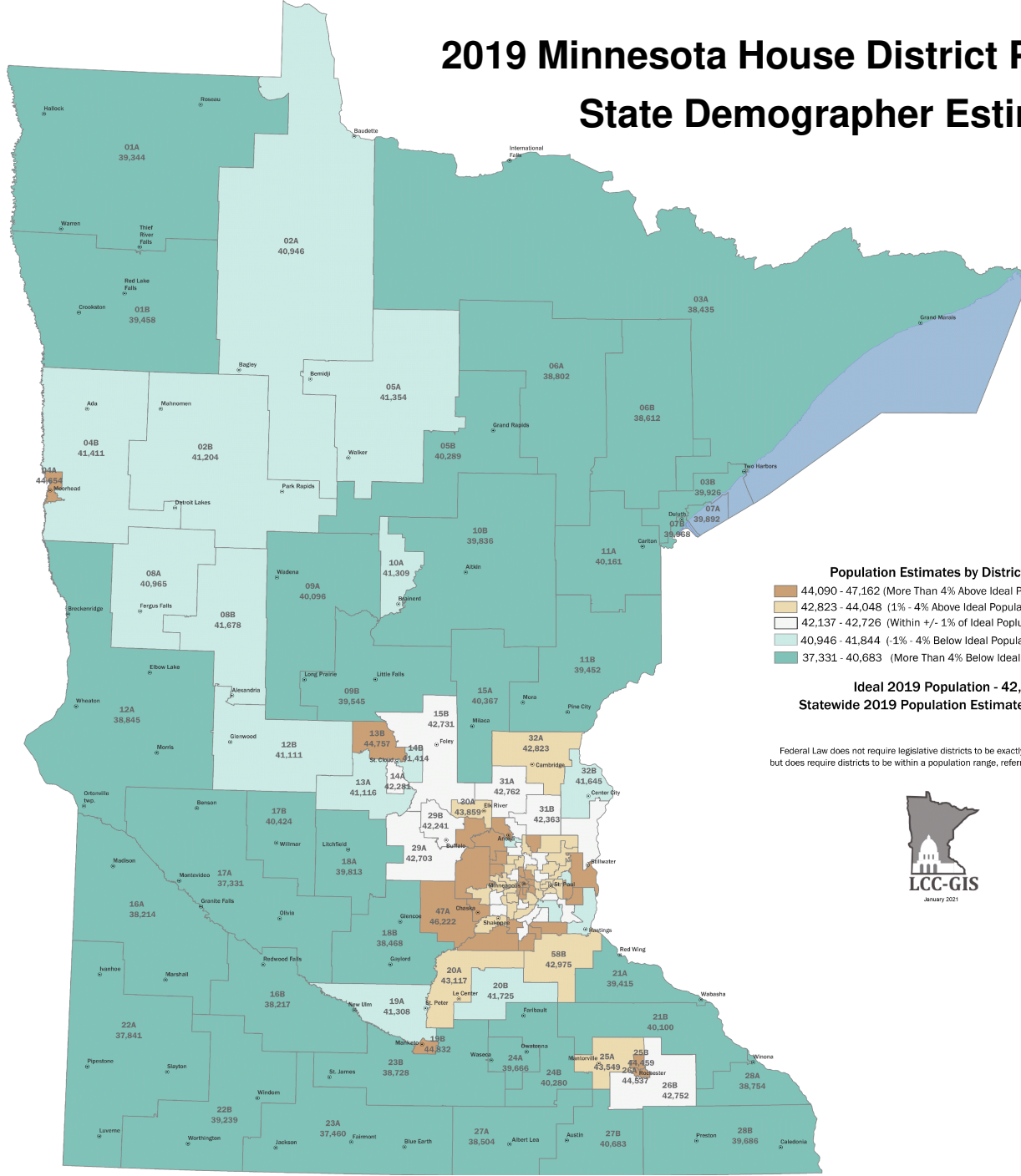
Learn About Population Shifts

Where Will the Pressure Points Be?

- Which districts will have to grow in area because they have become underpopulated?
- Which districts will have to shrink in area because they have become overpopulated?
- Who has that information and will provide it to you?

2019 Minnesota House District Populations

State Demographer Estimates



Population Estimates by District

- 44,090 - 47,162 (More Than 4% Above Ideal Population) (31)
- 42,823 - 44,048 (1% - 4% Above Ideal Population) (30)
- 42,137 - 42,726 (Within +/- 1% of Ideal Population) (22)
- 40,946 - 41,844 (-1% - 4% Below Ideal Population) (17)
- 37,331 - 40,683 (More Than 4% Below Ideal Population) (34)

Ideal 2019 Population - 42,391
Statewide 2019 Population Estimate - 5,680,337

Federal Law does not require legislative districts to be exactly equal in population but does require districts to be within a population range, referred to as the deviation.



Propose Schedule for Public Meetings

- Locations and dates of public meetings
 - ▶ 6 to gather input on communities of interest
 - ▶ 6 for public comment on preliminary plans
- 6 Regions
 - ▶ Central New Mexico
 - ▶ Four geographic quadrants
 - ▶ Tribal lands
- 30-day notice for each meeting

Build Redistricting Database

- Geography
 - ▶ 2020 precincts, cities and towns, counties
 - 2020 TIGER/LINE from Census Bureau
 - Secretary of State
- Population
 - ▶ 2019 total pop, voting-age pop
- Election results
 - ▶ Top of the ballot partisan, statewide
 - ▶ 2012-20 general elections

Select Redistricting Software

- Districtr
 - ▶ <https://districtr.org/nm>
- Dave's Redistricting
 - ▶ <https://davesredistricting.org>
- Maptitude for Redistricting

Draw Plans

- Equalize populations
- Equalize opportunity for minority voters to elect candidates of their choice

Compile Recommendations to Present to Committee

July 1, 2021

- Relationship with legislature
- Population shifts
- Public meeting locations and dates
- Database
- Software
- Proposed plans

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