2030 Census Redistricting Data Program

What We Do, Why We Do It, and What's Happening Now

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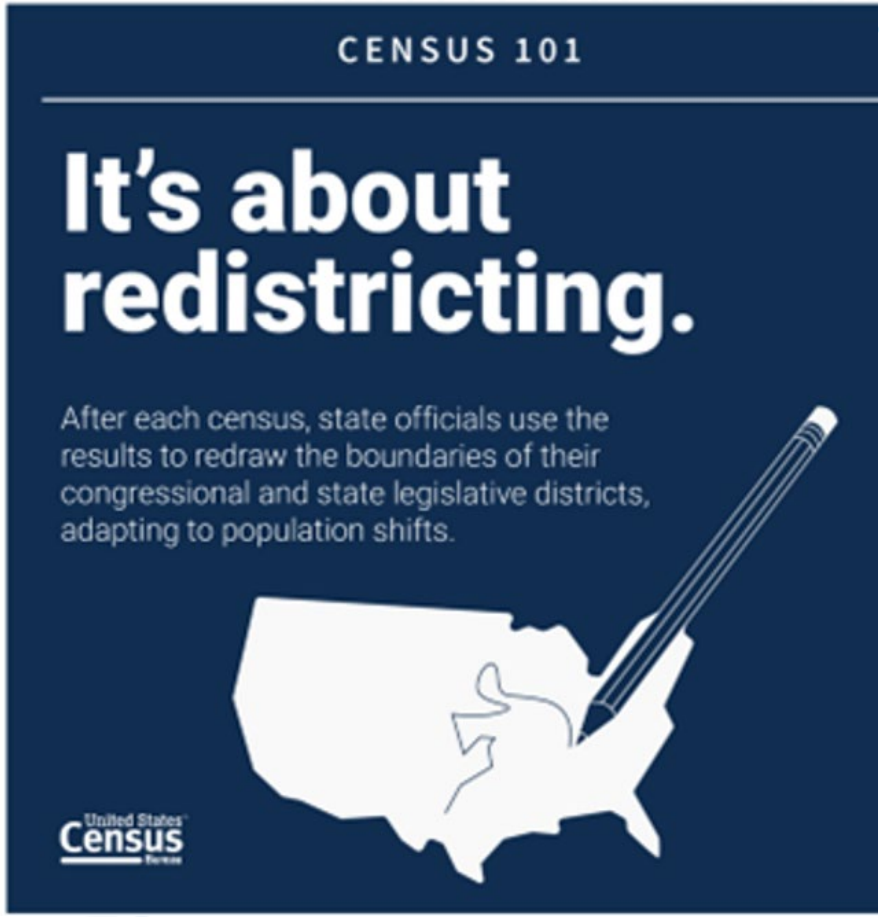
What is Redistricting?

Redistricting is the process of revising any geographic area that elects representatives, typically based on census population counts.

Redistricting generally occurs so districts can continue to meet set criteria after demographic and population data are released from the decennial census.



How is Redistricting Conducted?

When conducting redistricting considerations include:

- Equal population of districts
- Minority representation – Redistricting plans cannot discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group.
  - 14th Amendment – Equal Protection Clause
  - Voting Rights Act
- Other redistricting principles
  - Contiguity
  - Respect for other political boundaries
  - Compactness
  - Keep communities of interest together
  - And more

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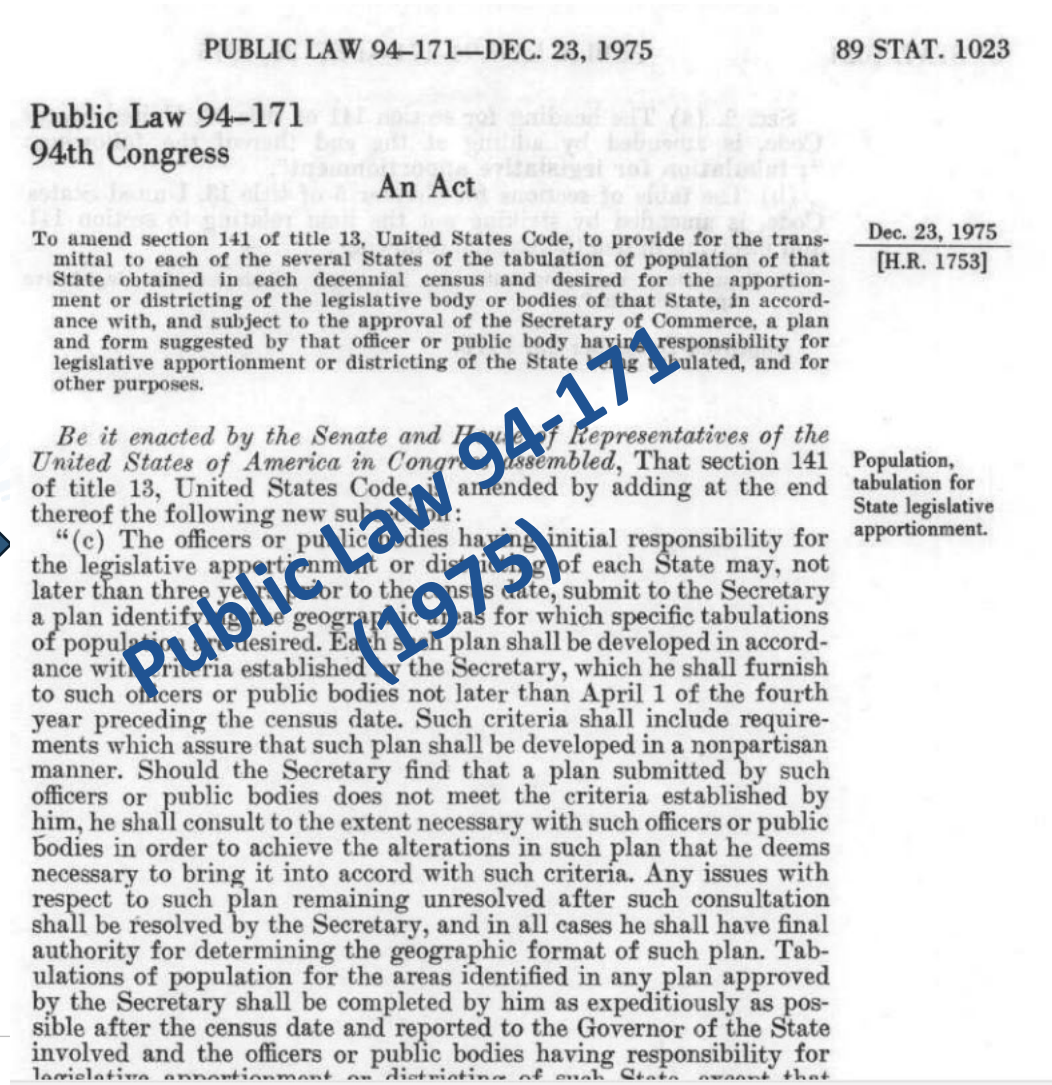
How Would the States Meet These Requirements?

Geography and Data

- Total Population Counts
- Race and Ethnicity Data
- Small-Area Geography



PUBLIC LAW 94–171—DEC. 23, 1975 89 STAT. 1023

Public Law 94–171
94th Congress

An Act

Dec. 23, 1975
[H.R. 1753]

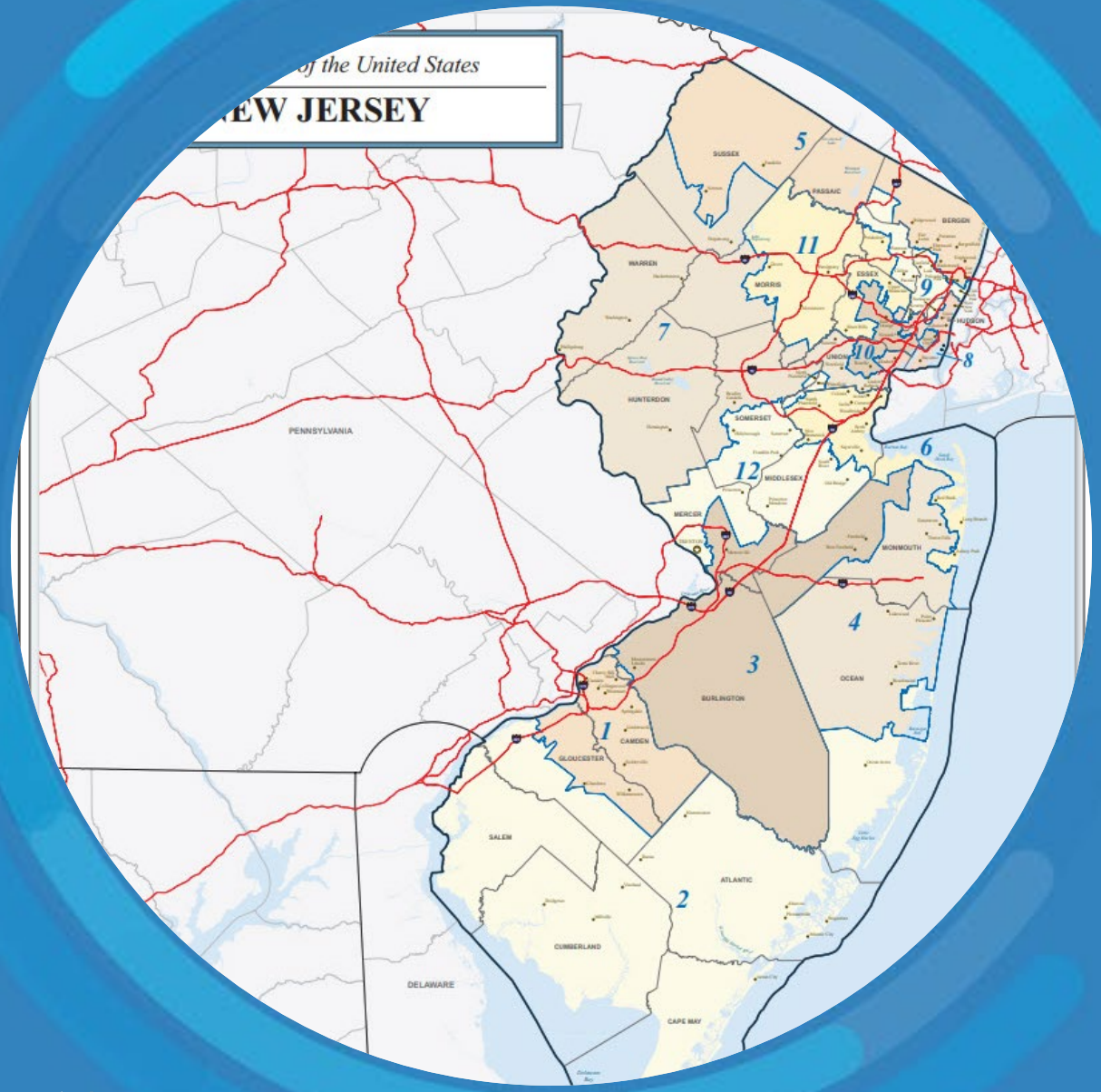
To amend section 141 of title 13, United States Code, to provide for the transmittal to each of the several States of the tabulation of population of that State obtained in each decennial census and desired for the apportionment or districting of the legislative body or bodies of that State, in accordance with, and subject to the approval of the Secretary of Commerce, a plan and form suggested by that officer or public body having responsibility for legislative apportionment or districting of the State being tabulated, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 141 of title 13, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

Population, tabulation for State legislative apportionment.

"(c) The officers or public bodies having initial responsibility for the legislative apportionment or districting of each State may, not later than three years prior to the census date, submit to the Secretary a plan identifying the geographic areas for which specific tabulations of population are desired. Each such plan shall be developed in accordance with criteria established by the Secretary, which he shall furnish to such officers or public bodies not later than April 1 of the fourth year preceding the census date. Such criteria shall include requirements which assure that such plan shall be developed in a nonpartisan manner. Should the Secretary find that a plan submitted by such officers or public bodies does not meet the criteria established by him, he shall consult to the extent necessary with such officers or public bodies in order to achieve the alterations in such plan that he deems necessary to bring it into accord with such criteria. Any issues with respect to such plan remaining unresolved after such consultation shall be resolved by the Secretary, and in all cases he shall have final authority for determining the geographic format of such plan. Tabulations of population for the areas identified in any plan approved by the Secretary shall be completed by him as expeditiously as possible after the census date and reported to the Governor of the State involved and the officers or public bodies having responsibility for

Public Law 94-171 (1975)



Redistricting Data Program Overview

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Redistricting Data Program Mission

Program Mission: Provide states an opportunity to identify the geographic areas for which specific tabulations of population are needed for legislative redistricting and to deliver high quality data for those areas in a timely manner.

Primary Program Requirements:

- Conduct the program in a non-partisan manner.
- Establish program criteria.
- Identify required tabulations and geographic areas.
- Deliver basic tabulations of population in the state identified geographies to the governor, and the officers or public bodies having initial responsibility for the legislative apportionment or districting of each state no later than 1 year from Census Day.

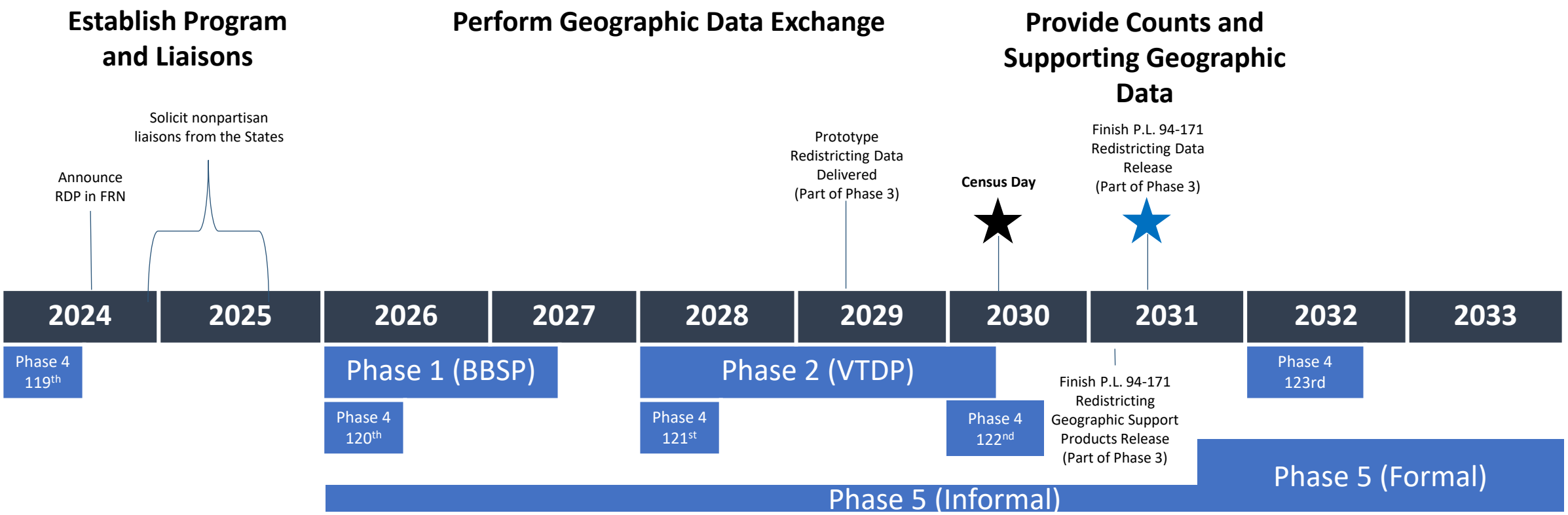
Evaluation of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program and Recommendations for the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program

- The final phase of the 2020 RDP culminated in a publication titled *Designing P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data for the Year 2030 Census—The View From the States.*

- The publication summarizes feedback from official program nonpartisan liaisons to identify successes and shortcomings of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program (RDP).

- We used this feedback to identify and catalog state supplied recommendations to plan the 2030 RDP.

2030 Census Redistricting Data Program
Program Activities Timeline



Five Phases of the 2030 Redistricting Data Program (RDP)

- Phase 1 – The Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP)
- Phase 2 – The Voting District Project (VTDP)
- Phase 3 – Delivery of the P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data and Geographic Support Products
- Phase 4 – The Collection of Congressional and State Legislative Districts (CD/SLD)
- Phase 5 – The Review of the 2030 RDP and the Look-ahead to the 2040 RDP (The View from the States)

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Phase 1: Block Boundary Suggestion Project

Liaisons flag edges (lines or linear features) to be held or not held as 2030 Census block boundaries, allowing states to shape their small area geographies for use in redistricting. Liaisons can:

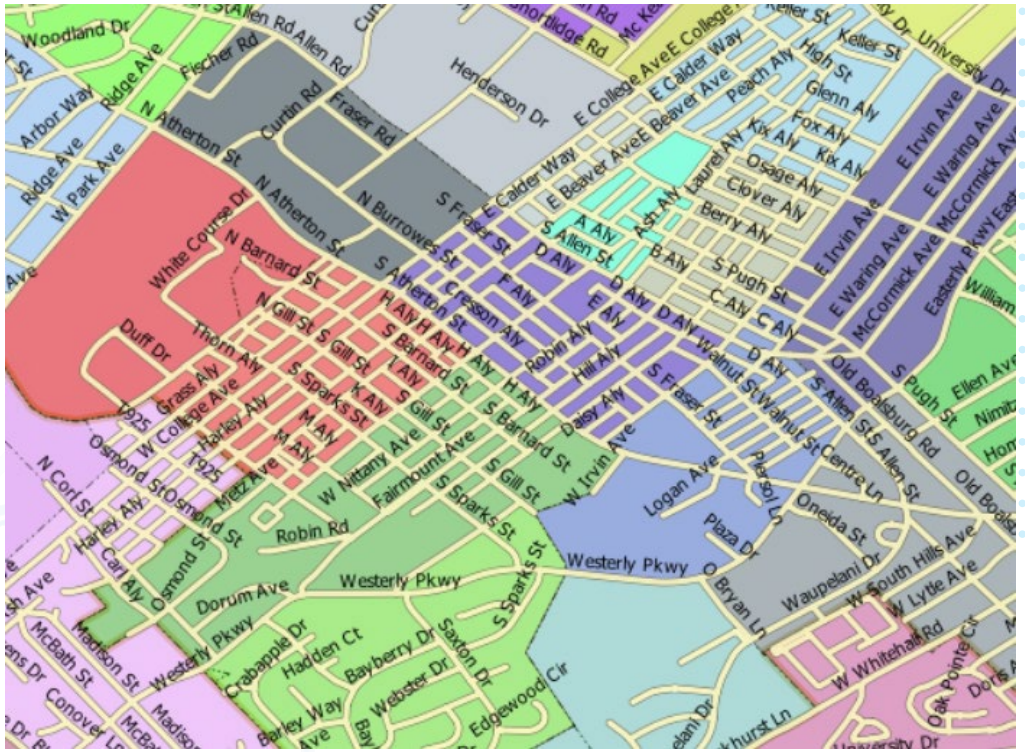
- Report boundary changes to legal geography (e.g., cities, towns, county subdivisions).
- Add, delete, or modify linear features (e.g., roads).
- Add nonvisible lines to be held as block boundaries.
- Add, delete, or modify area landmarks (e.g., college campuses, jails).

- **Initial delineation: February - May 2026**
- **Verification: January - May 2027**

Phase 2: Voting District Project

Liaisons insert and make edits to their voting districts, precincts, or wards. Liaisons also make updates to other geographic features.

- Flag edges to be held or not held as 2030 Census block boundaries.
- Report boundary changes to legal geography (e.g., cities, towns, county subdivisions).
- Add, delete, or modify linear features (e.g., roads).
- Add nonvisible lines to be held as block boundaries.
- Add, delete, or modify area landmarks (e.g., college campuses, jails).



- **Initial delineation: January - May 2028**
- **Verification 1: January - May 2029**
- **Verification 2: January – March 2030**

Phase 3: Delivery of the Census Redistricting Data

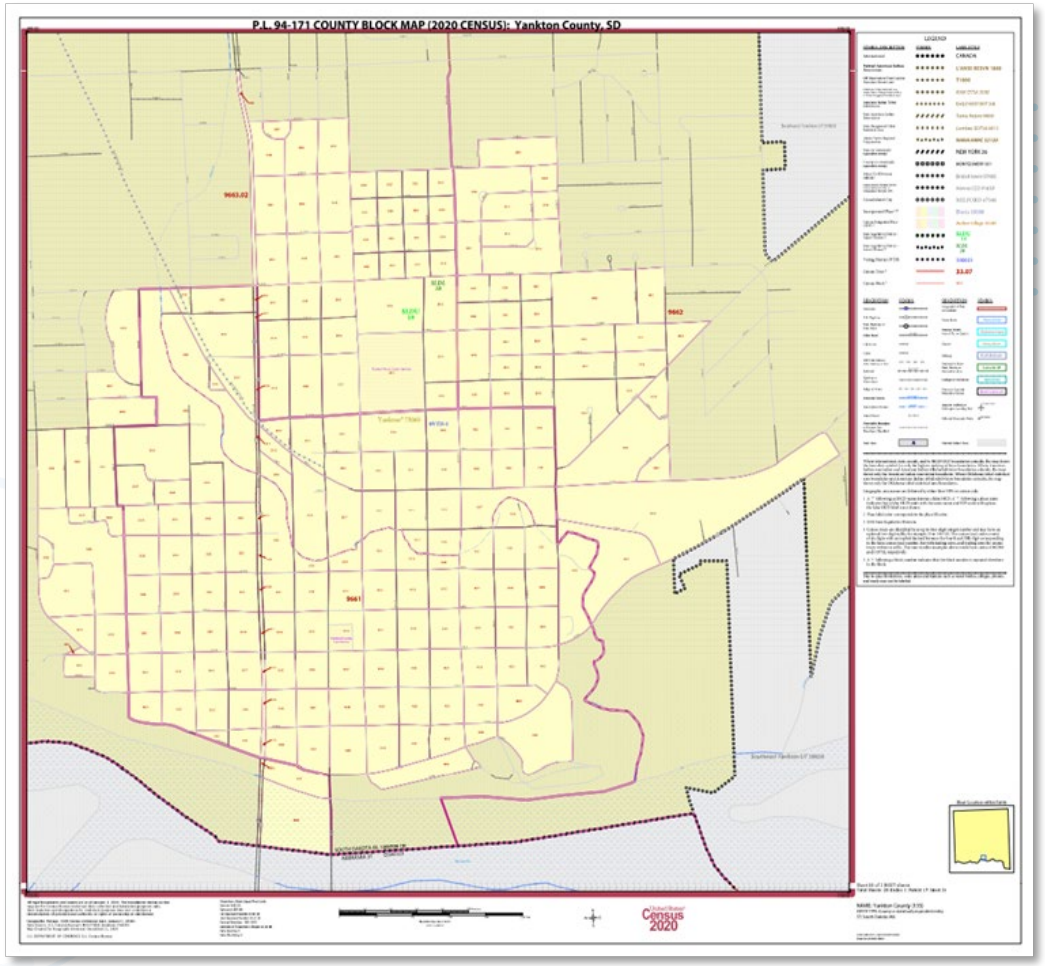
2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Tabulations
Table P1 – Race
Table P2 – Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by Race
Table P3 – Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
Table P4 – Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
Table H1 – Occupancy Status (Housing)
Table P5 – Group Quarters Population by Group Quarters Type

- All tables produced at multiple geographies including census block.
- Group quarter types included: Correctional institutions for adults, juvenile facilities, nursing facilities/skilled nursing, other institutional, college/university student housing, military quarters, and other noninstitutional.

Phase 3: Geographic Support Products

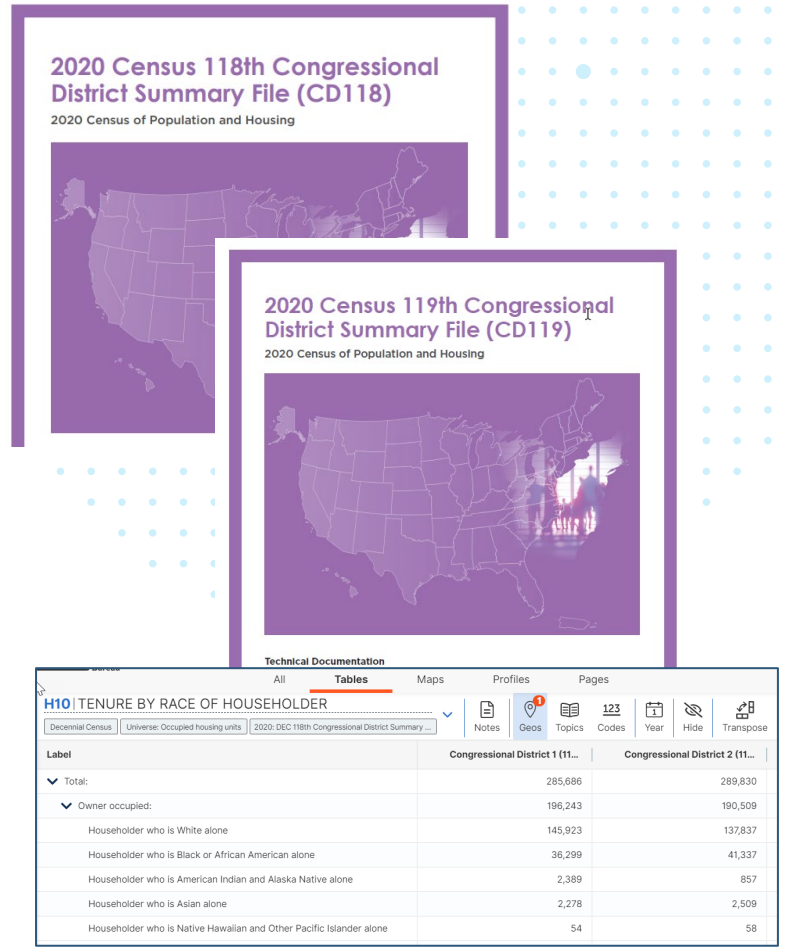
A series of geographic support products are provided to assist states in their use of the provided redistricting data.

- Shapefiles – Digital boundary and feature files for use in computerized mapping and analysis.
- Maps (PDF only) – County Block, State Legislative and Voting District, Census Tract, School District.
- Block Assignment Files – Tables identifying the blocks used to build different geographic entities.
- Name Lookup Tables – Tables showing geographic entity names associated with their geographic codes.
- Block to Block Relationship Files – Crosswalk of current census blocks to the previous census blocks.



Phase 4: Collection of Congressional and State Legislative Redistricting Plans

- Following the Before the 2030 Census, changes to congressional or state legislative districts are collected every two years.
- 2030 Census, a national collection of the post-decennial congressional and state legislative districts occurs.
- Geographic products are created from the new plans and made available to the states and the public.
- A Congressional District Summary File tabulation product (which includes state legislative districts) is created from the collected plans.
- Other surveys (e.g., the American Community Survey) incorporate newly redistricted plans into future data products.



Phase 4: Collection of the Post-Census Congressional and State Legislative District Plans

Post-2020 Census (ongoing)

CD Session	SLD Session	Collection Period
118th	2022	January 2022- July 2022
119th	2024	November 2023-April 2024
120th	2026	December 2025-April 2026
121st	2028	November 2027-April 2028
122nd	2030	November 2029-April 2030

Post-2030 Census Plan

CD Session	SLD Session	Collection Period
123rd	2032	November 2031- July 2032
124th	2034	November 2033-April 2034
125th	2036	November 2035-April 2036
126th	2038	November 2037-April 2038
127th	2040	November 2039-April 2040

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Phase 4: Congressional and State Legislative District Data Product Schedule through 2030

CD Session	Congressional District Summary File Release Date*	ACS 1-Year Estimates Product	ACS 1-Year Estimates Release Date	ACS 5-Year Estimates Product	ACS 5-Year Estimates Release Date
118th	August 2023	2022 ACS 1-year estimates	September 2023	2018-2022 ACS 5-year estimates	December 2023
		2023 ACS 1-year estimates	September 2024	2019-2023 ACS 5-year estimates	December 2024
119th	December 2024	2024 ACS 1-year estimates	September 2025	2020-2024 ACS 5-year estimates	January 2026
		2025 ACS 1-year estimates	September 2026	2021-2025 ACS 5-year estimates	December 2026
120th	December 2026	2026 ACS 1-year estimates	September 2027	2022-2026 ACS 5-year estimates	December 2027
		2027 ACS 1-year estimates	September 2028	2023-2027 ACS 5-year estimates	December 2028
121st	December 2028	2028 ACS 1-year estimates	September 2029	2024-2028 ACS 5-year estimates	December 2029
		2029 ACS 1-year estimates	September 2030	2025-2029 ACS 5-year estimates	December 2030
122nd	N/A	2030 ACS 1-year estimates	September 2031	2026-2030 ACS 5-year estimates	December 2031
		2031 ACS 1-year estimates	September 2032	2027-2031 ACS 5-year estimates	December 2032

*This product will only be created if there is a change in the congressional district boundaries from the previous session.

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Phase 5: Evaluation of the Census Redistricting Data Program and Recommendations for the Next Census

- Each decade we consult with stakeholders and official program non-partisan liaisons to identify successes and shortcomings of the previous Census's Redistricting Data Program (RDP).

- We use that feedback to identify and catalog state supplied recommendations for the next Census's RDP.

- The final phase of the 2030 RDP will culminate in a publication titled *Designing P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data for the Year 2040 Census—The View From the States.*

Focus on Phase 3 Plans for the 2030 RDP

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2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File

Table P1 – Race

- **Universe**: Total Population

Table P3 – Race for the Population 18 Years and Over

- **Universe**: Total population 18 years and over

RACE [71]
Universe: Total population
Total:
Population of one race:
White alone
Black or African American alone
American Indian and Alaska Native alone
Asian alone
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone
Some Other Race alone
Two or More Races:
Population of two races:
White; Black or African American
White; American Indian and Alaska Native
White; Asian
White; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
White; Some Other Race
Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native
Black or African American; Asian
Black or African American; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
Black or African American; Some Other Race
American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian
American Indian and Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
American Indian and Alaska Native; Some Other Race
Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
Asian; Some Other Race
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some Other Race
Population of six races:
White; Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some Other Race

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2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File

Table P2 – Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race

- **Universe**: Total population

Table P4 – Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race for the Population 18 Years and Over

- **Universe**: Total population 18 years and over

HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO BY RACE [73]
Universe: *Total population*
Total:
Hispanic or Latino
Not Hispanic or Latino:
Population of one race:
White alone
Black or African American alone
American Indian and Alaska Native alone
Asian alone
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone
Some Other Race alone
Two or More Races:
Population of two races:
White; Black or African American
White; American Indian and Alaska Native
White; Asian
White; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
White; Some Other Race
Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native
Black or African American; Asian
Black or African American; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
Black or African American; Some Other Race
American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian
American Indian and Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
American Indian and Alaska Native; Some Other Race
Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
Asian; Some Other Race
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some Other Race
Population of six races:
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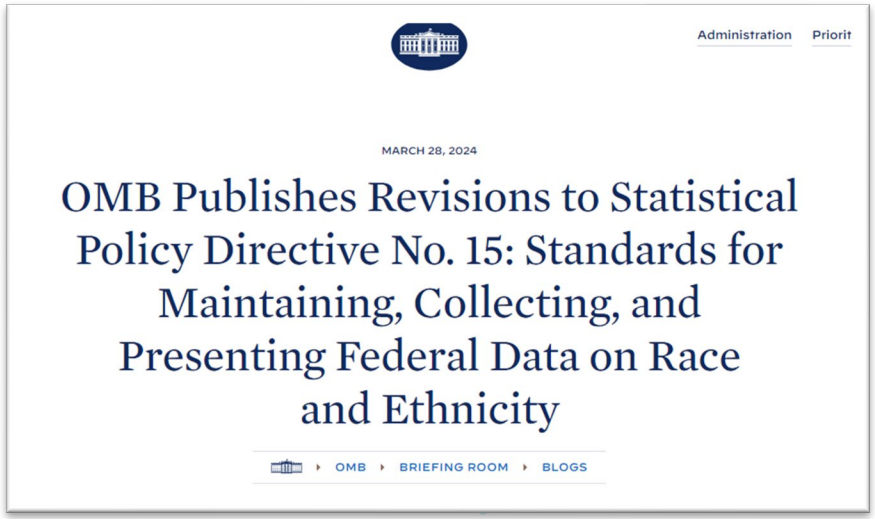
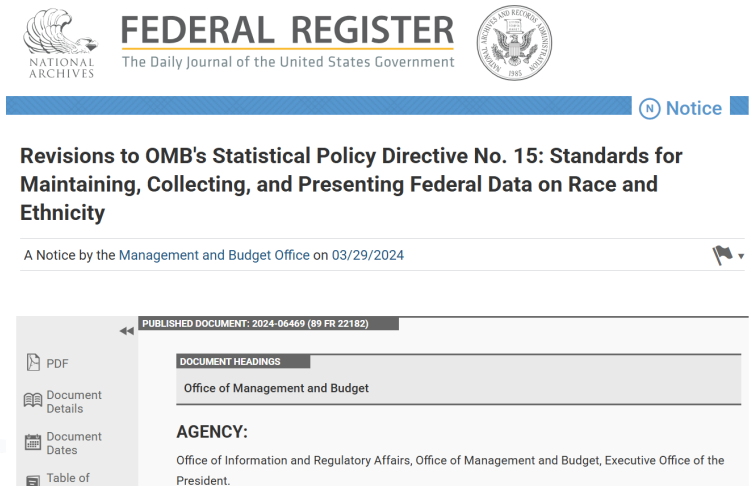
U.S. Office of Management and Budget Releases Updated Race and Ethnicity Statistical Standards

On March 28, 2024 the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published the results of their Statistical Policy Directive No. 15 (SPD 15) review and issued updated standards for maintaining, collecting and presenting race and ethnicity data.





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For more information visit: spd15revision.gov

Phase 3: Delivery of the Census Redistricting Data

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2030 Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171) Summary File Proposal

2030 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Tabulations (Proposed)
Table P1 – Race / Ethnicity
Table P2 – Race / Ethnicity for the Population 18 Years and Over
Table H1 – Occupancy Status (Housing)
Table P3 – Group Quarters Population by Group Quarters Type

- All tables continue to be produced at multiple geographies including census block.
- Group quarter types continuing to be included: Correctional institutions for adults, juvenile facilities, nursing facilities/skilled nursing, other institutional, college/university student housing, military quarters, and other noninstitutional.

2030 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File Proposal

Table P1 – Race/Ethnicity

- **Universe**: Total Population

Table P2 – Race/Ethnicity for the Population 18 Years and Over

- **Universe**: Total population 18 years and over

P1. RACE / ETHNICITY
Universe: Total population
Total:
Population of one race or ethnicity:
White alone
Hispanic or Latino alone
Black or African American alone
Asian alone
American Indian and Alaska Native alone
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone
Middle Eastern North African alone
Some other race or ethnicity alone
Population of two or more races or ethnicities:
Population of two races or ethnicities:
White; Hispanic
White; Black or African American
White; Asian
White; American Indian and Alaska Native
White; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
White; Middle Eastern North African
White; Some other race or ethnicity
Hispanic; Black or African American
Hispanic; Asian
Hispanic; American Indian and Alaska Native
Hispanic; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
Hispanic; Middle Eastern North African
Hispanic; Some other race or ethnicity
Black or African American; Asian
Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native

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Focus on Phase 1: A Refresher on Census Blocks

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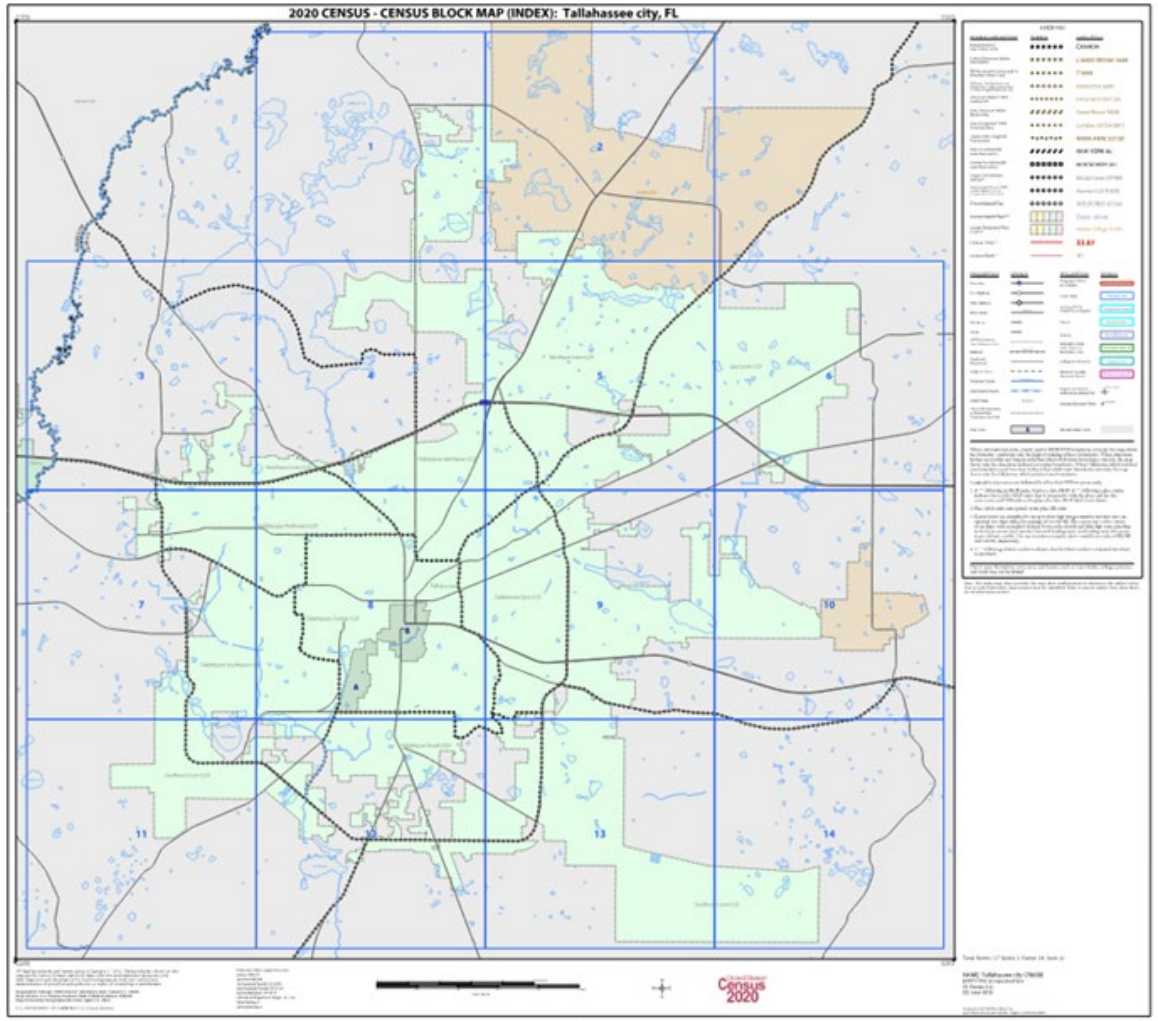
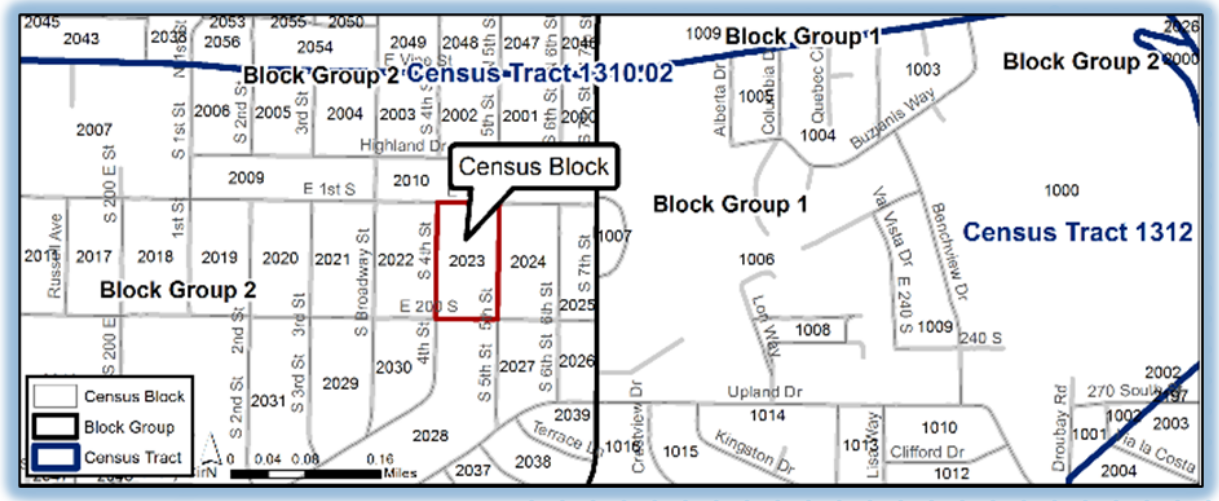
Census Blocks

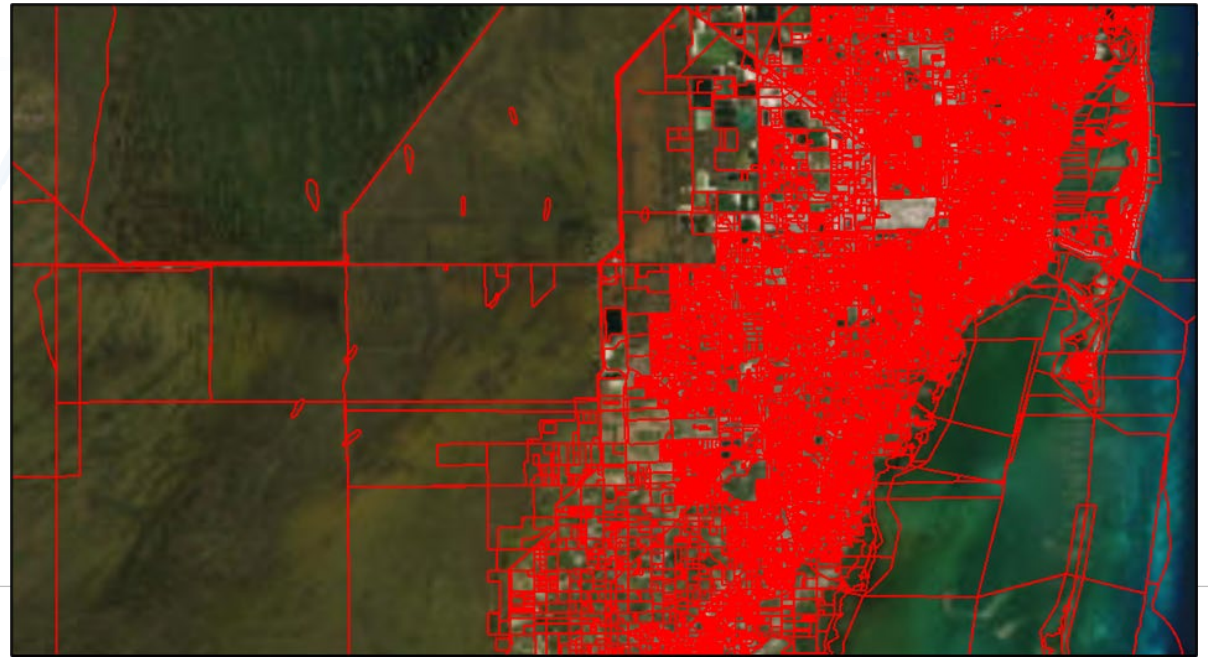
- Introduced nationwide as a part of the 1990 Census.
- Nest within all decennial census geographic areas.
- Delineated every ten years for the decennial census data (survey data are not tabulated for blocks).
- The smallest level of geography for which you can get decennial census data, such as total population by voting age, race, and ethnicity.



Census Blocks

- In a city, a census block generally looks like a city block bounded on all sides by streets.
- In suburban and rural areas, census blocks may be large, irregular, and bounded by a variety of features, such as roads, streams, railroads, and transmission lines.
- In remote areas, census blocks may encompass hundreds of square miles.





Census Block Creation

Tabulation blocks are built from an algorithm which assigns edges priority values.

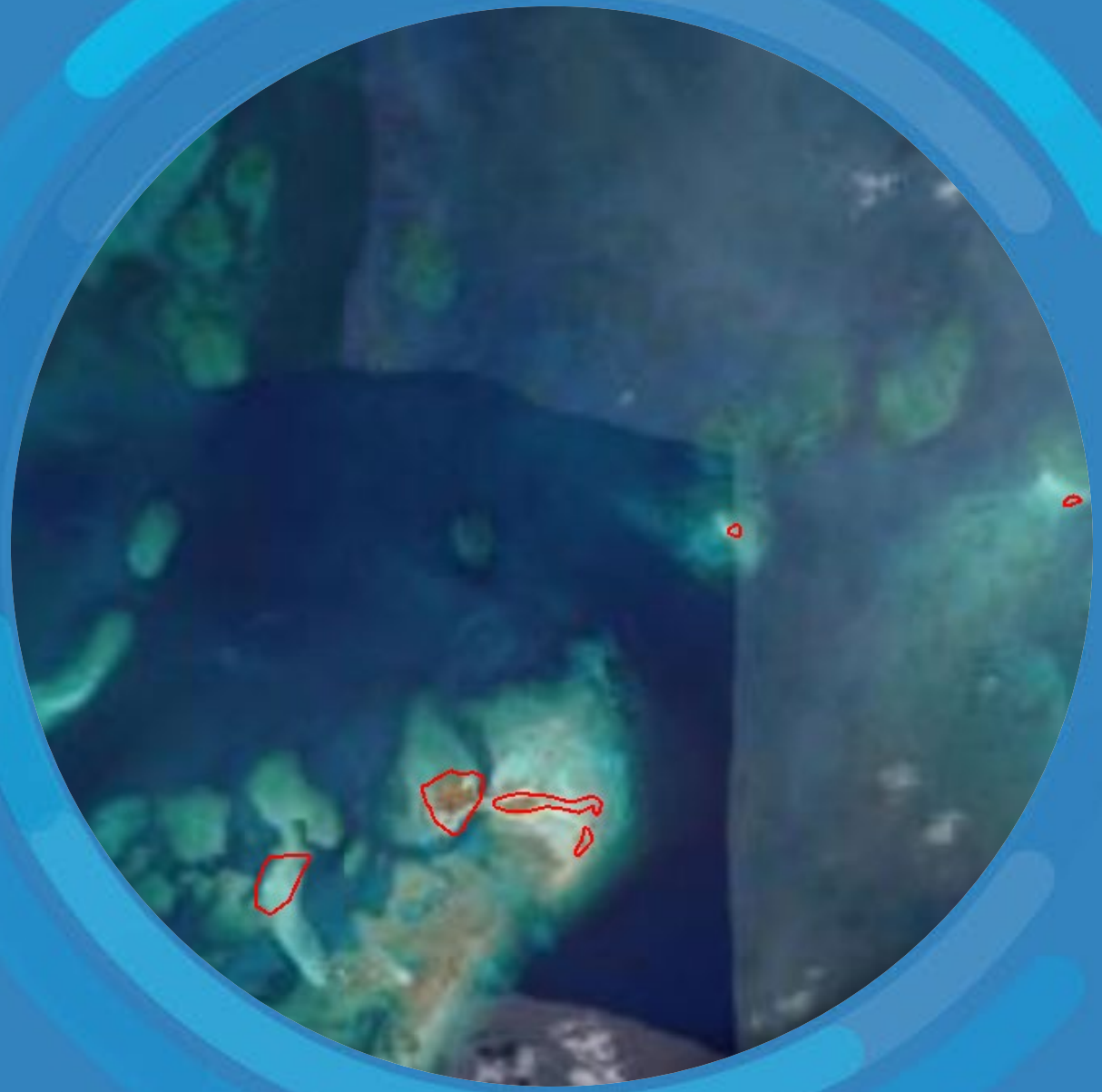
Boundaries for geographic entities and edges flagged as must holds have the highest value.

Primary roads (e.g., state highways) generally have a higher value than neighborhood roads.

Named neighborhood roads generally have a higher value than unnamed neighborhood roads.

Neighborhood roads generally have a higher value than service roads or ramps.

Roads generally have a higher value than power lines.



Focus on Phase 1: The Block Boundary Suggestion Project

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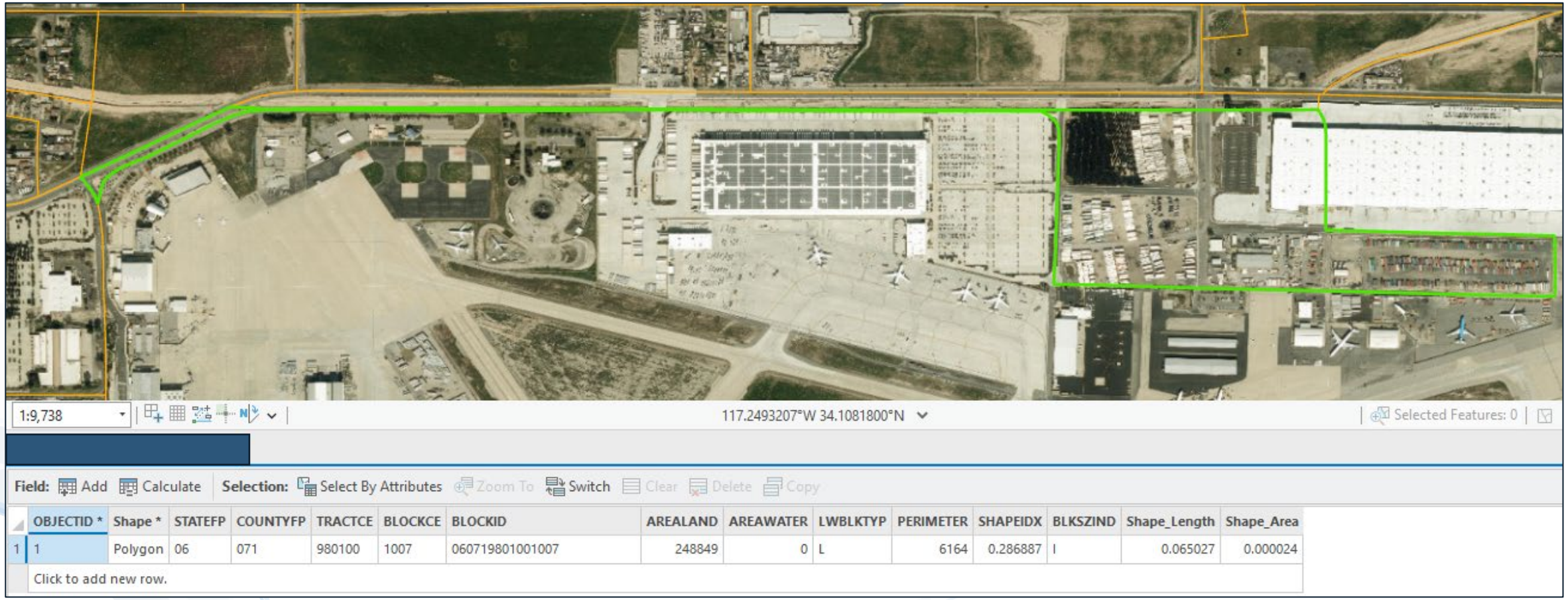
Prototype Block Shapefiles

- The prototype block shapefile shows what the planned 2030 blocks would look like if the blocks were created using the geography as it exists at this time.
- These blocks are generated using the block algorithm on current data.
- Prototype blocks were created on an annual basis for the 2020 RDP, and this will continue for the 2030 RDP.
- This shapefile can be used to identify potential block issues including:
  - Small population or small area blocks to merge.
    → “Do Not Hold” flags can be used to merge blocks.
  - Large population blocks or large area blocks to split.
    → “Must Hold” flags can be used to split blocks.
  - Less compact blocks (e.g., long sinuous water bodies).
    → “Must Hold” and “Do Not Hold” flags can be used to adjust block shape.

Example 1: Using the Prototype Block Shapefile to Identify a Potentially Undesirable Block



	OBJECTID *	Shape *	STATEFP	COUNTYFP	TRACTCE	BLOCKCE	BLOCKID	AREALAND	AREAWATER	LWBLKTYP	PERIMETER	SHAPEIDX	BLKSZIND	Shape_Length	Shape_Area
1	1	Polygon	06	071	980100	1007	060719801001007	248849	0	L	6164	0.286887	I	0.065027	0.000024
	Click to add new row.														

Example 2: Using the Prototype Block Shapefile to Identify a Potentially Undesirable Block

117.2510972°W 34.0553367°N

bbsp_2026_block_06071_Zs

Field: Add Calculate | Selection: Select By Attributes Zoom To Switch Clear Delete Copy

	OBJECTID *	Shape *	STATEFP	COUNTYFP	TRACTCE	BLOCKCE	BLOCKID	AREALAND	AREAWATER	LWBLKTYP	PERIMETER	SHAPEIDX	BLKSZIND	Shape_Length	Shape_Area
1	1	Polygon	06	071	007306	1006	060710073061006	2018	0	L	172	0.925842	Z	0.001717	0
2	2	Polygon	06	071	007306	1007	060710073061007	1892	0	L	176	0.876098	Z	0.001784	0
3	3	Polygon	06	071	007306	1008	060710073061008	2795	0	L	201	0.932395	Z	0.002024	0
4	4	Polygon	06	071	007306	1009	060710073061009	2428	0	L	191	0.914526	Z	0.0019	0

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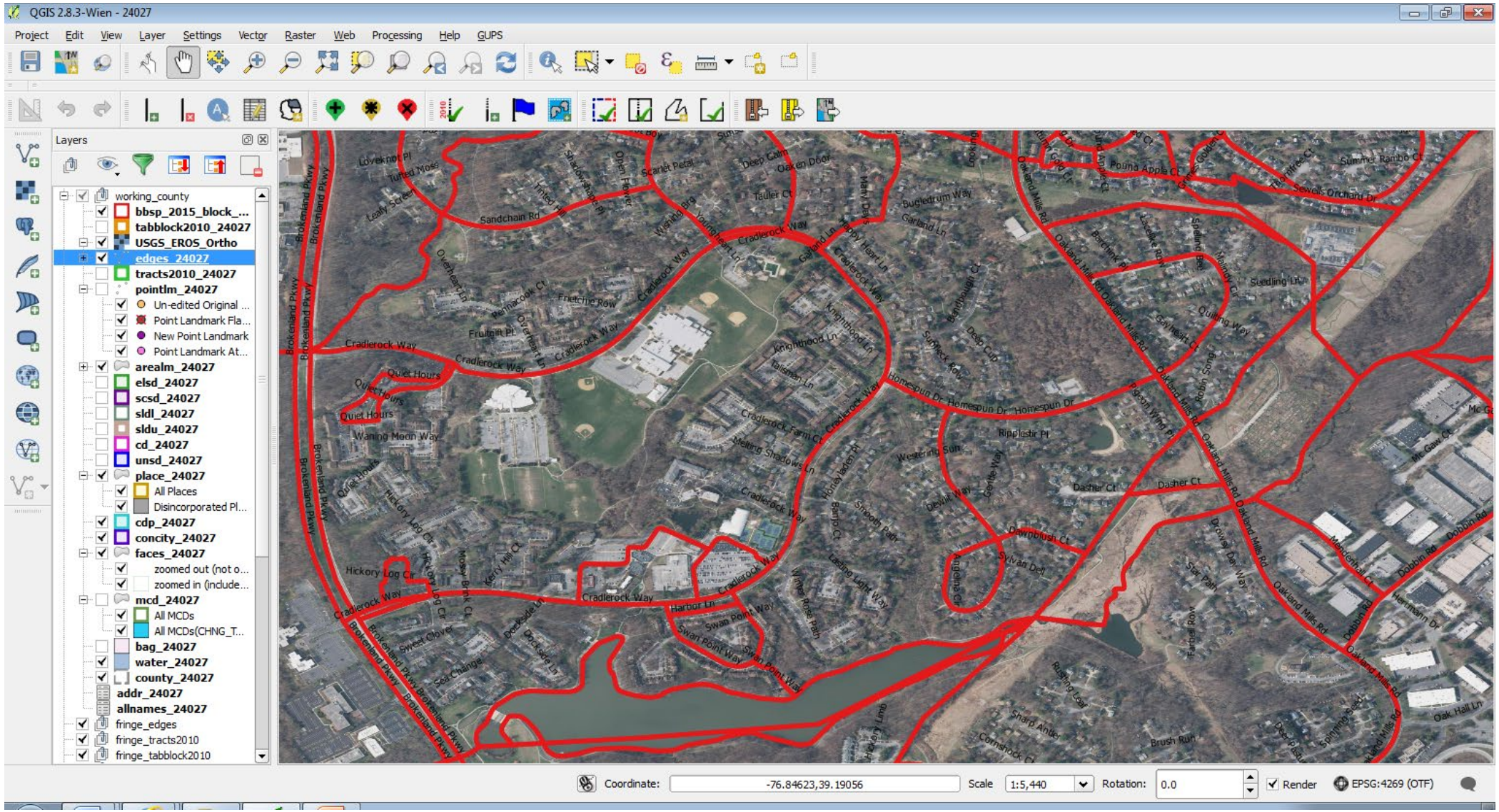
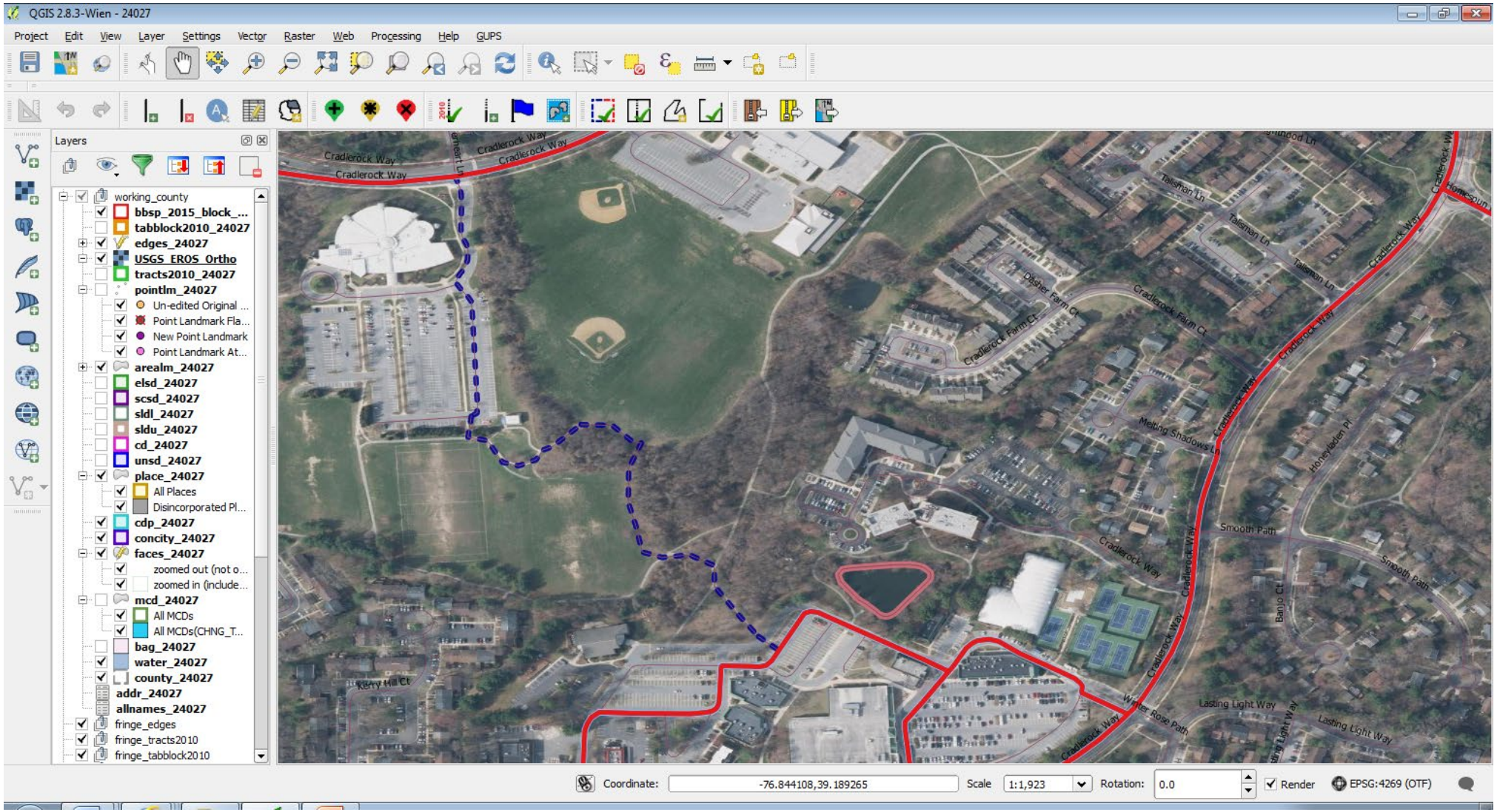
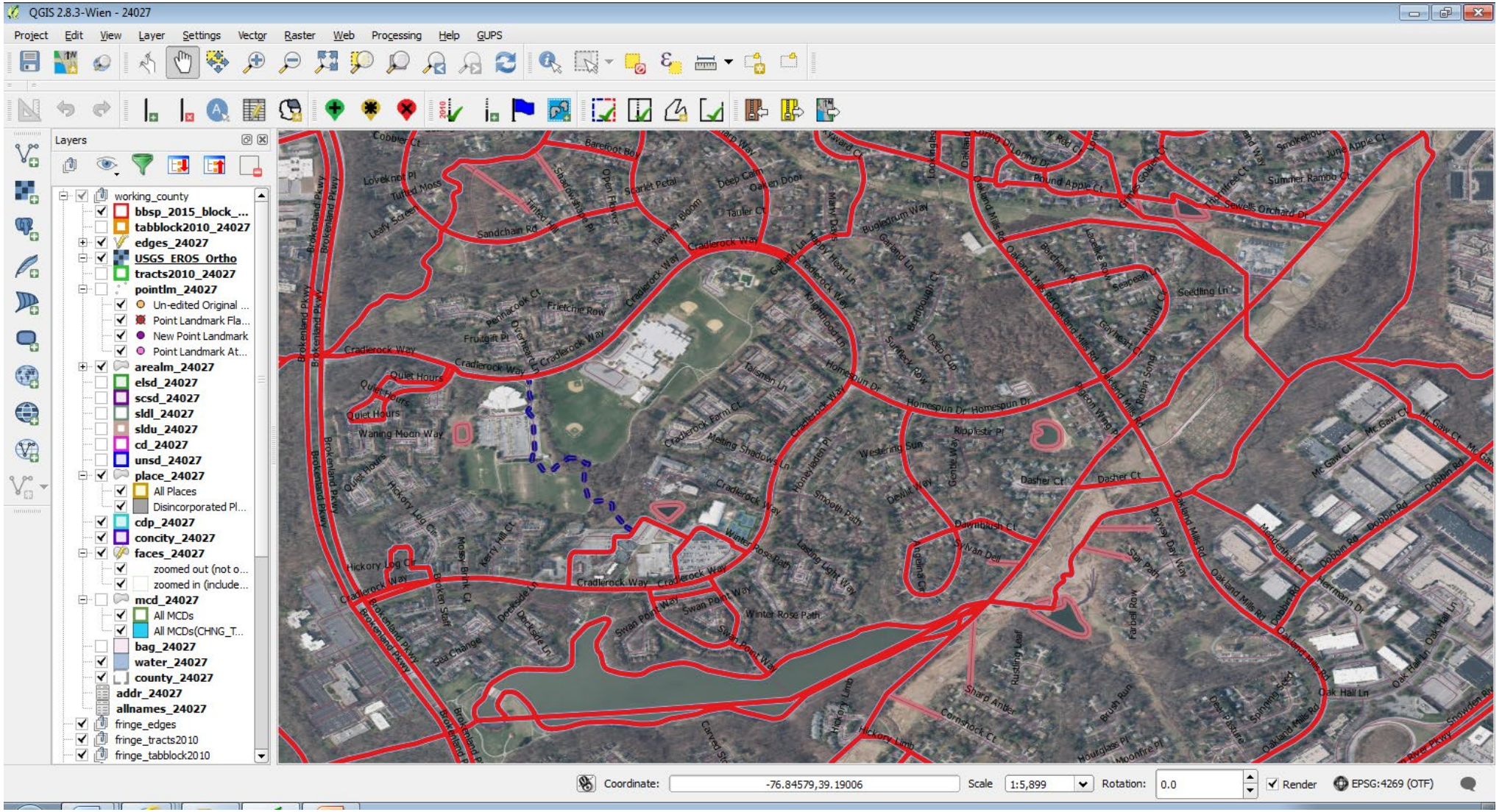
Example 3: Using the Prototype Block Shapefile to Suggest Splitting a Large Block Example in BBSP



Example 3: Using the Prototype Block Shapefile to Suggest Splitting a Large Block Example in BBSP, cont.



Example 3: Using the Prototype Block Shapefile to Suggest Splitting a Large Block Example in BBSP, cont.



Other Data from the Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office

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Voting Rights Data - Citizen Voting Age Population by Race and Ethnicity (CVAP)

- CVAP was initially created from the Census 2000 long form data and published in 2002.
- After the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau started publishing annual CVAP estimates at the request of the Department of Justice.
- The first post-2010 Census CVAP estimates were tabulated using the American Community Survey 5-year estimates in February 2011.
- Added Congressional and State Legislative Districts for 2018 and future releases.
- Typically released by the 1st week of February each year (2019-2023 CVAP estimates were released on 1/30/2025).
- The current CVAP design aggregates data (summarized racial and ethnic categories) based on Office of Management & Budget (OMB) guidance in place at the time of its design.
  - This design will have to be revisited to ensure compliance with the revised SPD15 guidance from OMB.

Voting Rights Data - Citizen Voting Age Population by Race and Ethnicity (CVAP)

Content
Total:
Hispanic or Latino
Not Hispanic or Latino:
White alone
Black or African American alone
American Indian and Alaska Native alone
Asian alone
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone
Black or African American and White
American Indian and Alaska Native and White
Asian and White
American Indian and Alaska Native and Black or African American
Remainder of Two or More Race Responses

Geography
Nation
State
Congressional District
State Legislative District, Upper Chamber
State Legislative District, Lower Chamber
County
Place
Minor Civil Division (for CT, MA, ME, MI, MN, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VT, and WI)
Tract
Block Group

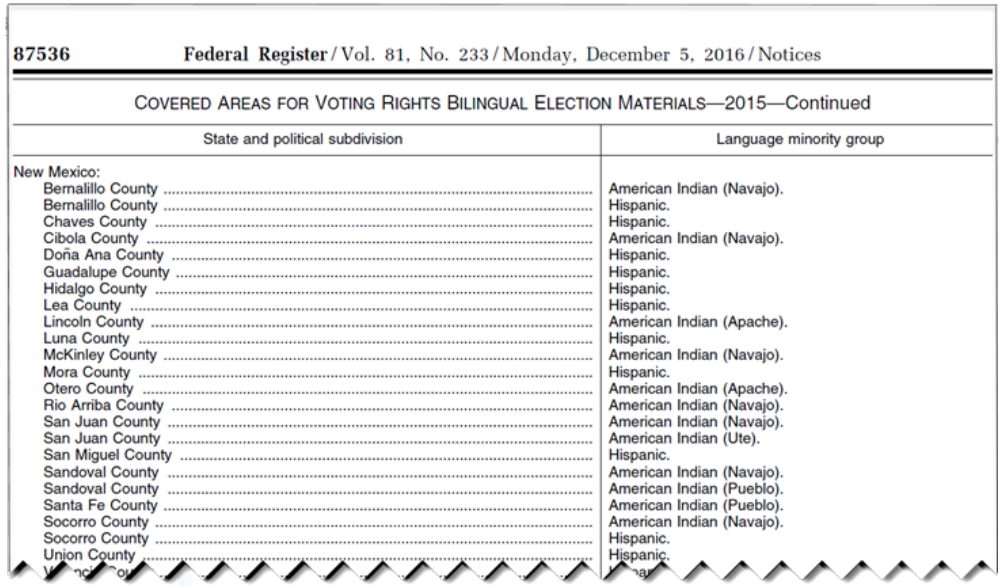
Voting Rights Data - Section 203 Language Determinations

- The language minority provisions of the Voting Rights Act (Section 203) require that when a covered state or political subdivision provides registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, assistance, or other materials or information relating to the electoral process, including ballots, it shall provide them in the language of the applicable minority group as well as in the English language.

- The requirements of the law include that: all election information that is available in English must also be available in the minority language so that all citizens will have an effective opportunity to register, learn the details of the elections, and cast a free and effective ballot.

Voting Rights Data - Section 203 Language Determinations

- Language groups covered by Section 203
  - Alaska Native
  - American Indian
  - Asian
  - Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- New language determinations are published every 5 years.
- Determines counties or townships where language assistance is needed for voting.
- Calculated using the American Community Survey 5-year estimates and other census data.
- Last published in the Federal Register 12/8/2021.
- Next publication estimated 12/2026.



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COVERED AREAS FOR VOTING RIGHTS BILINGUAL ELECTION MATERIALS—2015—Continued

State and political subdivision	Language minority group
New Mexico:	
Bernalillo County	American Indian (Navajo).
Bernalillo County	Hispanic.
Chaves County	Hispanic.
Cibola County	American Indian (Navajo).
Doña Ana County	Hispanic.
Guadalupe County	Hispanic.
Hidalgo County	Hispanic.
Lea County	Hispanic.
Lincoln County	American Indian (Apache).
Luna County	Hispanic.
McKinley County	American Indian (Navajo).
Mora County	Hispanic.
Otero County	American Indian (Apache).
Rio Arriba County	American Indian (Navajo).
San Juan County	American Indian (Navajo).
San Juan County	American Indian (Ute).
San Miguel County	Hispanic.
Sandoval County	American Indian (Navajo).
Sandoval County	American Indian (Pueblo).
Santa Fe County	American Indian (Pueblo).
Socorro County	American Indian (Navajo).
Socorro County	Hispanic.
Union County	Hispanic.

Redistricting Data Program Resources

Redistricting Data Program Main Page

https://www.census.gov/rdo

Voting Rights Data Main Page

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/voting-rights.html

Redistricting Data Program Management

https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/rdo/program-management.html

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