## Redistricting:

The Basics
Bagels and Briefings
October 20, 2010


## The Census and Congressional Apportionment



Thomas Jefferson, as Secretary of State, directed the first Constitutionally prescribed decennial census in 1790. Since then the census has been taken in each year ending in zero.

## What is Reapportionment?

The process of dividing 435 Congressional seats among 50 states

- Total resident population
- Selected residents living outside the United States
- U.S. Armed Forces
- Federal civilian employees
- House seats divided as follows:
- Each state has a minimum of 1 seat
- The remaining 385 seats divided based on population


## Reapportionment Gains and Losses



## Number of U.S. House Seats

Northeastern States


Southern States


Midwestern States


Western States



## What is Redistricting?

## Readjust representation to ensure <br> - One person, one vote <br> - Congressional <br> - Legislative <br> - State school board

## What is Redistricting?

Cont.

- Draw lines that determine which voters are represented by each legislative seat
- Congress, State Legislature, State School Board, Local Governments

EOLRGC



## Key Redistricting Dates

- April 1, 2010 - Census Day
- December 31, 2010 - Census Count to President
- April 1, 2011 - Redistricting Data to States
- Summer/Fall 2011 - Redistrict - Special Session


## Why Redistrict?

## Population Shifts Within the State

- Absolute Numbers are Less Important than Relative Numbers
- Growth Slower than Average - Area Will Grow
- Growth Faster than Average - Area Will Shrink


## Percent Change in County Growth 1990-2000




## Who Is Responsible for Redistricting?

## Utah Constitution Article IX, Section 1

"...the Legislature shall divide the state into congressional, legislative, and other districts...."

## Traditional Redistricting Principles

## Equal Population

- Congressional
- Equal as practicable
- Legislative Districts
- Minor deviations in population between districts


## Traditional Redistricting Principles

## Contiguity and Compactness

Districts shall be contiguous and reasonably compact

- Contiguity - adjacency
- Compactness - minimum distance between all parts of a constituency


## North Carolina

## Congressional District 12-1992

## Traditional Redistricting Principles

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS FIGURES

Official population enumeration of the U.S. Bureau of the Census

Single Member Districts

## How Large Can the Utah House and Senate Be?

## Utah Constitution <br> Article IX, Section 2

"The Senate shall consist of a membership not to exceed twenty-nine...."
"...the number of representatives shall never be less than twice nor greater than three times the number of senators."

House 58-87 members

## Questions?

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