The Public Mapping Project

Supported by
The Sloan Foundation
Joyce Foundation
Judy Ford Wason Center for Public Policy at Christopher Newport Univ.

Michael McDonald
George Mason University
Brookings Institution

Micah Altman
Harvard University
Brookings Institution

Robert Cheetham
Azavea
Public Mapping Project Goals

- Identify principles for transparency in redistricting
- Identify barriers to participation in redistricting
- Enable the public to draw maps of the communities and redistricting plans for their states
- Provide public input for accepting redistricting authorities
- Inform the public debate about redistricting criteria
- Provide maps for courts where litigation occurs
Four Pillars to Public Mapping

**Software Development**
Public Mapping Project
[publicmapping.org](http://publicmapping.org)

**Data Collection**
The Election Data Archive
[dvn.iq.harvard.edu/dvn/dv/eda](http://dvn.iq.harvard.edu/dvn/dv/eda)

**Public Education**
Gerrymandering: Documentary Film
[gerrymanderingmovie.com/](http://gerrymanderingmovie.com/)
Brennan Center for Justice
[www.brennancenter.org](http://www.brennancenter.org)

**Dissemination**
Ongoing through state partners like the Midwest Democracy Network, Brookings Institution, and other organizations
## Advisory Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mike Fortner</td>
<td>Illinois state Representative, 95th District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carling Dinkler</td>
<td>John Tanner's office, Tennessee 8th Congressional District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Wilson</td>
<td>Past President, League of Women Voters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derek Cressman</td>
<td>Western Regional Director of State Operations, Common Cause</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Fairfax</td>
<td>President, Census Channel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimball Brace</td>
<td>President, Election Data Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gerry Hebert</td>
<td>Executive Director, Campaign Legal Center and Americans for Redistricting Reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leah Rush</td>
<td>Executive Director, Midwest Democracy Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Bekavac</td>
<td>Director, Scientists and Engineers for America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karin Mac Donald</td>
<td>Director, Statewide Database, Institute for Government Studies, UC Berkeley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas E. Mann</td>
<td>Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norman J. Ornstein</td>
<td>Senior Fellow, The American Enterprise Institute</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Transparency Principles

- All redistricting plans should include sufficient information such that the public can verify, reproduce, and evaluate a plan.
- The criteria used to evaluate plans and districts should be documented.
Transparency Principles

Endorsements

• Americans for Redistricting Reform
• Brennan Center for Justice
• Campaign Legal Center
• Center for Governmental Studies
• Center for Voting and Democracy
• Common Cause
• Demos
• League of Women Voters of the United States

Dissemination

• Principles posted on Brookings website
Public Mapping Project

The drawing of electoral districts is among the least transparent processes in democratic governance. All too often, redistricting authorities maintain their power by obstructing public participation. The resulting districts embody the goals of politicians to the detriment of the representational interests of communities and the public at large.

We seek to change this power balance by making it possible for the public to draw the boundaries of their communities and to generate redistricting plans for their state and localities -- through their web-browsers. The Public Mapping Project is developing DistrictBuilder, an open source software redistricting application designed to give the public transparent, accessible, and easy-to-use on-line mapping tools.

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Now...Public Access Redistricting

DistrictBuilder

Pulling Back the Curtain on Redistricting

About the Public Mapping Project
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Quick Start Guide
- Redistricting Resources

NEW TO REDISTRICTING?
Take a Tour

Log In
Admin
Password
Login

Don't have an account?
Sign Up

To Draw Your Own Maps...
Enter as a guest

To View Other Users' Maps...

Privacy Policy

◆ Open Data  ◆ Open Access  ◆ Open Source
Choose Your Legislative Body

District Builder

Step 1: Plan
Step 2: Draw
Step 3: Evaluate
Step 4: Share

Choose a Plan. Start Drawing.

1. Select Legislative Body
   - Congressional
   - State House of Representatives
   - State Senate

2. Select Plan Type
3. Select Plan

Template

Shared
My Plans
Upload Plan

Plan Details
Name
Description
Owner:
Edited:
Shared:
# of Districts:

4. Name your new plan:

Start Drawing
Look Around – Get the Picture
Delaware / Census Tract 116 / Block 4041
Black: 0
Hispanic: 1
Tot. Pop.: 125
## Ohio Sample Plan

**Demographics**

- **Black**: 1,125,832
- **Hispanic**: 132,504
- **Total Population**: 9,112,769

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dist.</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
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<td>614,876</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8,692</td>
<td>23,528</td>
<td>617,397</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Ohio Sample Plan

**Geography**

**Black**: 1,125,832  
**Hispanic**: 132,504  
**Total Population**: 9,112,769

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dist.</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Contiguity</th>
<th>Compactness</th>
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<td>57.97%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>608,306</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>598,554</td>
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<td>52.10%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>600,518</td>
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<td>46.70%</td>
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<td>617,397</td>
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</table>

**Stats Legend**
- **Over target**: Red
- **Under target**: Blue
- **Contiguous**: Green
- **Non-contiguous**: Orange
- **Meets target**: Gray
Investigate the Results

Introduction to the reporting tool
Select the plan statistics you’d like included in a comprehensive report on your redistricting plan. After you’ve made your selections click “Create and Preview Report” to view the final report.

- Population
  - Voting Age Population
  - Voting Age Population - White
  - Voting Age Population - Black
  - Voting Age Population - Hispanic
- Racial Composition
  - Majority Black
  - Majority Hispanic
- Party Control
  - Democratic Votes
  - Republican Votes
- Compactness
  - Compactness - Length/Width
  - Compactness - Bounding Circle
- Spatial Analysis
  - Contiguity
  - Unassigned Blocks
- Split Geographies
  - County Splits
  - Tract Splits

District Splits

<table>
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<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>County Splits</th>
<th>Tract Splits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>District 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>District 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
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<td>3</td>
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Congressional Plan Name: This is It
Plan saved 11/22 at 1:38
Create and Preview Report
Open report in a new window
Go to Share Plan options
Spread the Word

› Share your plans with others
› Have a contest
› Mash up and plug in
Map a State -- Change the Nation

- Identify communities of interest
- Explore the alternatives
- Understand political consequences
- Create alternatives to politics-as-usual
Public Mapping Software – Features

- **Create**
  - Create districts and plans
  - Identify communities*

- **Evaluate**
  - Visualize
  - Summarize
  - Population balance
  - Geographic compactness
  - Completeness and contiguity

- **Report in depth**

- **Share**
  - Import & export plans
  - Publish a plan
  - Run a contest*

*Coming soon*
More Information at www.publicmapping.org

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Redistricting Blogs
Americans for Redistricting Reform
Gerrymandering Movie Blog
Open Democrats
Open Geography
The Ross Institute
Washington Post's Moonlighting the Future

Partners
Virginia Redistricting Competition

News
Gerrymandering Documentary on DVD
Want to learn more about redistricting? The Gerrymandering documentary now available on DVD provides an entertaining overview.

DistrictBuilder