Redistricting Group Project

Prompt: You are part of a Redistricting Commission tasked with drawing and reporting on a new congressional (or state house / senate) district map **based on the 2020 Census projections**. which satisfies 3 main criteria (in order of importance):

(1) The **representation** of districts by party should be **proportional** to the state's voters.

(2) To abide by the **Voting Rights Act**, the votes of minorities cannot be diluted.

(3) The shapes of the districts and overall plan should be **compact**.

In addition, each district must be **contiguous** (one connected shape) and must have **populations within 1% of the average**. (For example, if the average district population is 500,000 then each of your districts should be within 1% of this, meaning off by no more than 5,000.)

Online Mapping Tool: To draw the maps, you will be using [Dave's Redistricting App (DRA 2020)](), an online tool created by a software engineer with the sole purpose of creating districting maps. A tutorial will be provided in class on how to set up and create your maps. Each group must have a map which is shared with each other and with me.

Written Report: Each group's final product will be their map and the corresponding written report / proposal. The main features of the report will be a history and background of redistricting in your state, including any legal cases or controversies involving gerrymandering (either partisan or racial), and the proposal for your new map. The detailed components of the report are in the Rubric below.

Timeline: Friday, April 5th – Begin working on map
Monday, April 8th – Friday, April 12th – Work on map / research
Monday, April 15th – **Maps due**
Wednesday, April 17th – **Reports due**, mini-presentations in class

Citations: Include any citations as *links in footnotes* in the written report. A formal citations / references page or style (MLA/APA/etc.) is *not* necessary.

Rubric: This project is worth 110 points of the 220 in the Redistricting topic (15% of total course grade).

Map – 25 points

Pts	Criteria
5	Districts contiguous and equal populations
5	Achieves proportional representation
5	Abides by the Voting Rights Act
5	Districts more compact than current plan
5	Map shared with me and clearly colored and labeled

Written Report – 75 points

Pts	Criteria
	Title Page – name of your Commission which has the state name in it, names of group members, date, image of state and/or state flag, clean look and formatting)
5	**Executive Summary** (similar to an abstract) – overall description of why the state has a map that requires your Commission to provide a new one (*background*) and what your group's proposal will accomplish (*preview*); on its own page (the first page)
20	**History of Redistricting / Gerrymandering** in your state – a researched write-up of the state's experiences through redistricting cycles, with an emphasis on legal cases and controversies surrounding gerrymandering (any forms including partisan, racial, prison, etc.) and any other related issues that has impacted the state's maps over time
10	**Process of Redistricting** – a researched write-up of how your state currently redistricts their maps every 10 years, including who draws them, the approval process, and (if applicable) the new process for the upcoming redistricting cycle in 2021
10	**Group's Process / Strategy** – a written description of your group's process and strategy in creating your proposed map, including how you addressed the required objectives of the map
10	**District Profiles** – for each district in your proposed map, write a description of the geographic and demographic features of the district, including information related to race and which political party is more likely to win that district (use data from DRA 2020); images of each proposed district can support descriptions
10	**Efficiency Gap** – calculate the efficiency gap of your districting plan (using data in DRA 2020), include a table showing your calculations, and interpret your result (this should prove that your map is fair)
5	**Compactness** – Include a write-up on the compactness scores of your proposed districts (use data from DRA 2020)
5	**Final Product** – formatting, spelling / grammar, physical and digital copies of written report, citations included (links as footnotes)

Presentation – 10 points

Pts	Criteria
10	Presentation on 4/17 – each group summarizes the main issues in their state (why the new map was needed), shows proposed map and points out important components of their proposal (why it is better than current); each group member (meaningfully) speaks