Welcome to Math/Pols 128!

Who is Kyle?
Why did I create this class?

Who are you?
Major? Year? Hometown?

Why did you want to take this class?
What do you want to learn about?
Week 1: What is redistricting / gerrymandering?
The only introduction you need...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A-4dIImaodQ
Your turn!

For all groups: Create 5 (connected) districts with 9 voters each

Each group will have a different objective for their map:

1) Maximize number of districts won by ★
2) Maximize number of districts won by ♦
3) Proportional representation
4) Competitive districts
5) Compactness ("nice" shapes)
Create 5 connected districts with 9 voters each

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Redistricting Principles

Redistricting – the required process of redrawing maps every 10 years

*(1) to ensure the “one person, one vote” principle, all congressional and state legislature districts must contain roughly the same number of people

*(2) all districts must be contiguous, meaning that they are one connected shape

*(3) districts must abide by racial fairness (Voting Rights Act of 1965)

(4) districts should be compact, meaning that they have “nice and tidy” shapes

(5) districts should be fair to each party, with representation being roughly proportional to each party’s voters

(6) districts should preserve existing political communities rather than separate them into different districts
Gerrymandering – the practice of political parties in power redrawing the district lines to maximize the representation of their party

Racial Gerrymandering – the (illegal) practice of drawing district lines to reduce the impact of minority voters by limiting their ability to elect candidates of their choice

Partisan Gerrymandering – the practice of drawing district lines to maximize a political party’s advantage in elected representatives

Packing – the practice of map drawers placing as many voters of the opposing party into as few districts as possible to maximize their number of districts won

Cracking – the practice of map drawers splitting up voters of the opposing party into many districts to obtain a (slight) majority in as many districts as possible
Gerrymandering (Types and Strategies)

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Partisan Gerrymandering

Wisconsin – (2012) 48.6% of people voted Republican → 60% of legislators
(2014) 52% of people voted Republican → 63% of legislators

Maryland – twice as many registered Democrats → 7/8 Congressional districts
~50% Black population → ~25% of Black representatives

North Carolina – 2011 map determined illegal (racial gerrymandering)
new 2016 map drawn to give 10–3 partisan advantage to Republicans

Pennsylvania – 2011 map determined illegal → 13 Republicans: 5 Democrats
new 2018 map → 9 Republicans: 9 Democrats
"partisan gerrymandering claims present political questions beyond the reach of the federal courts"
“The free elections clause of the North Carolina constitution guarantees that all elections must be conducted freely and honestly to ascertain, fairly and truthfully, the will of the people,” the judges wrote. But “it is not the free will of the people that is fairly ascertained through extreme partisan gerrymandering. Rather, it is the carefully crafted will of the map drawer that predominates.”
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North Carolina

- Current districts cannot be used in 2020
- State government has 2 weeks (9/18/19) to create a new district map completely in public with visible computer screens
- Not allowed to use election (partisan) data
- Not allowed to use existing districts as a starting point for new districts
- A referee will be appointed to assess the maps or create one if the state government is unable to produce one in 2 weeks
North Carolina (2016) – Partisan Gerrymander
Redistricting Timeline

April 2020 – U.S. Census
November 2020 – Election Day
December 2020 – Apportionment
Early to mid-2022 – Redistricting deadlines
November 2022 – Election Day
November 2024 – Presidential election
November 2028 – Presidential election
April 2030 – U.S. Census
What Maps are Redrawn?

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census data forces *redistricting* or the redrawing of three different statewide maps:

- **Congressional districts**
  - Number determined by an apportionment method (Huntington–Hill Method)

- **State House districts**
  - Number varies by state (151 in Connecticut)

- **State Senate districts**
  - Number varies by state (36 in Connecticut)
Congressional Districts
State House Districts
Who draws the maps?

The processes and policies differ by state and type of map:
In Connecticut, a 2/3 majority is needed in both chambers to pass any new district maps.

- **Congressional districts (5)**
  - Bipartisan committee (8 members) → CT Supreme Court → “Special Master”

- **State House districts (151)**
  - Party in control takes lead in drawing boundaries

- **State Senate districts (36)**
  - Party in control takes lead in drawing boundaries
Who draws the maps?

Your assignment:
Detail the processes for the various maps in 2–3 states.

For each map:
• How many districts?
• Who draws the maps?
• What is needed for maps to pass?
• Is the process changing for 2021? How?

Due by next Thursday (9/12)
Grid Activity Round 2

Each person will choose a role that is unknown to everyone else.

Your goal is to work as a group to propose a district map that everyone agrees on while trying to live up to your role.

If your role has negative intentions, you don’t want that to be obvious because a map won’t pass or it will go to court, so how will you negotiate?
Grid Activity Round 2

- 6 districts
- 8 voters each

? = a voter who may support ★ or ♦

Keep your roles hidden and try to determine the roles of others in your group at the end.