
New Mexico
League of Women Voters
2010 Census and Redistricting

December 10, 2009

Presented By:
Brian Sanderoff
President, Research & Polling, Inc.

2010 Census Timeline

- **Spring 2009 – Census staff updated address list (door-to-door)**
- **March 2010 – Census forms mailed out or delivered**
 - Deadline: 3rd week of April to return the form
- **April 2010 – Census Day (month)**
- **May to July 2010 – Census takers visit households that did not return a form by mail**
 - Visit the non-respondent households up to 6 times
 - Leave a door hanger with contact info if no one answers
 - Must be at least 15 years old to answer the questions
 - If the Census taker can't contact a household, they will seek information in any way possible to estimate the number of people in the household.
- **December 2010 – Census Bureau delivers population data to the President for apportionment of the U.S. House of Representatives**

Key Redistricting Dates

April 1, 2010	Census Day
January 10, 2011	Apportionment of U.S. House
March 2011	Redistricting data to states
2011 or early 2012	Redistricting completed by governmental entities

Who Gets Counted

Everyone, including, but not limited to:

- Adults
- Children
- Citizens
- College students in dorms
- Prisoners
- Non-citizens
 - Undocumented immigrants
 - Foreign students
 - Foreign workers (e.g. German Air Force at Holloman AFB)

Participation in the 2010 Census is required by law (Section 221, of Title 13 of the U.S. Code)

2010 Census Form

- Short form only
 - 10 questions
 - Household size
 - Own/rent dwelling unit
 - Age and ethnicity/race of each household member

- Long form discontinued
 - Replaced by American Community Survey
 - Socio-economic data

Apportionment

Distribute the 435 U.S. House of Representative seats to the 50 states based on each state's population

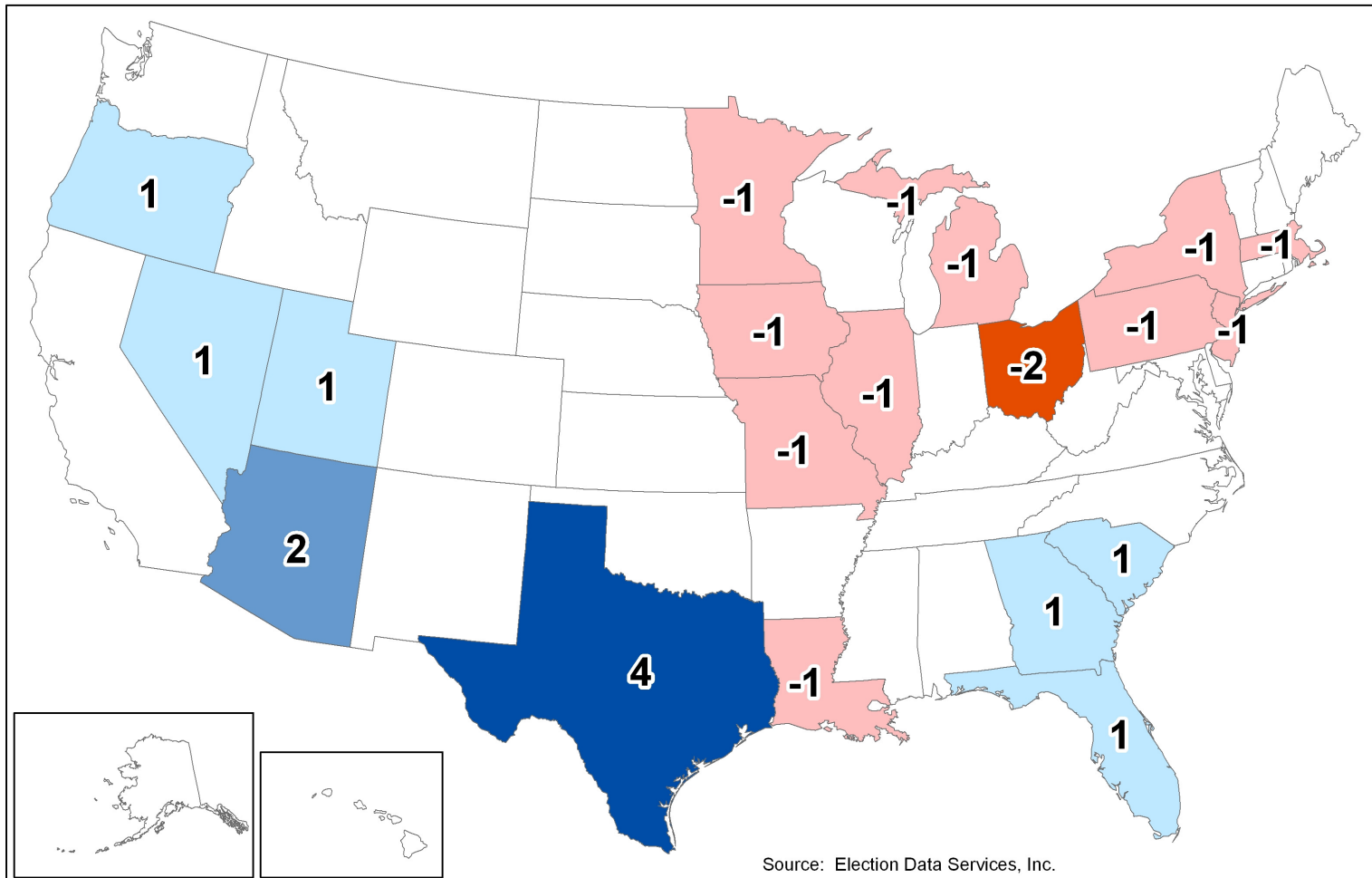
Based on 2010 projections

NM: 442,333 people away from gaining seat

NM: 281,380 people away from losing a seat

Projected 2010 Apportionment Change in U.S. House Seats

(Based on 2008 Population Estimates Projected to 2010)



Source: Election Data Services, Inc.

Financial Impact of Census Count

\$400 billion in federal funds per year allocated based on census information.

Almost \$6 billion a year in the state of New Mexico.

Census Undercount

1990

NM – 3.1% - largest undercount (%) in the nation

US – 1.61%

2000

NM – 1.94% - 4th largest undercount (%) in the nation (after AK, DC, HI)

US – 1.18%

Most undercounted groups include:

- Minority groups
- Immigrants
- Low-income
- Children

Lost Federal Funds in New Mexico Due to Undercount

(2002-2012)

\$110 million

Based on September 2001 report to Congress

Source: PricewaterhouseCoopers

Redistricting

What is “redistricting”?

Draw (and re-draw) lines that determine which voters are represented by each district

Why redistrict?

- Population shifts within state
- Growth slower than average
 - District will grow
- Growth faster than average
 - District will shrink

Who Districts?

<i>Elected Body</i>	<i>Districts</i>	<i>Authority to Redistrict</i>
U.S. House of Representatives	3	State Legislature / Governor
New Mexico Legislature State House State Senate	70 42	State Legislature / Governor
State School Board	10	State Legislature / Governor
Public Regulation Commission	5	State Legislature / Governor
County Commission	3/5	County Commission
City Council/Commission	4 to 10	City Council/Commission
Local School Board	5/7	Local School Board

Requirements for Local Government Entities

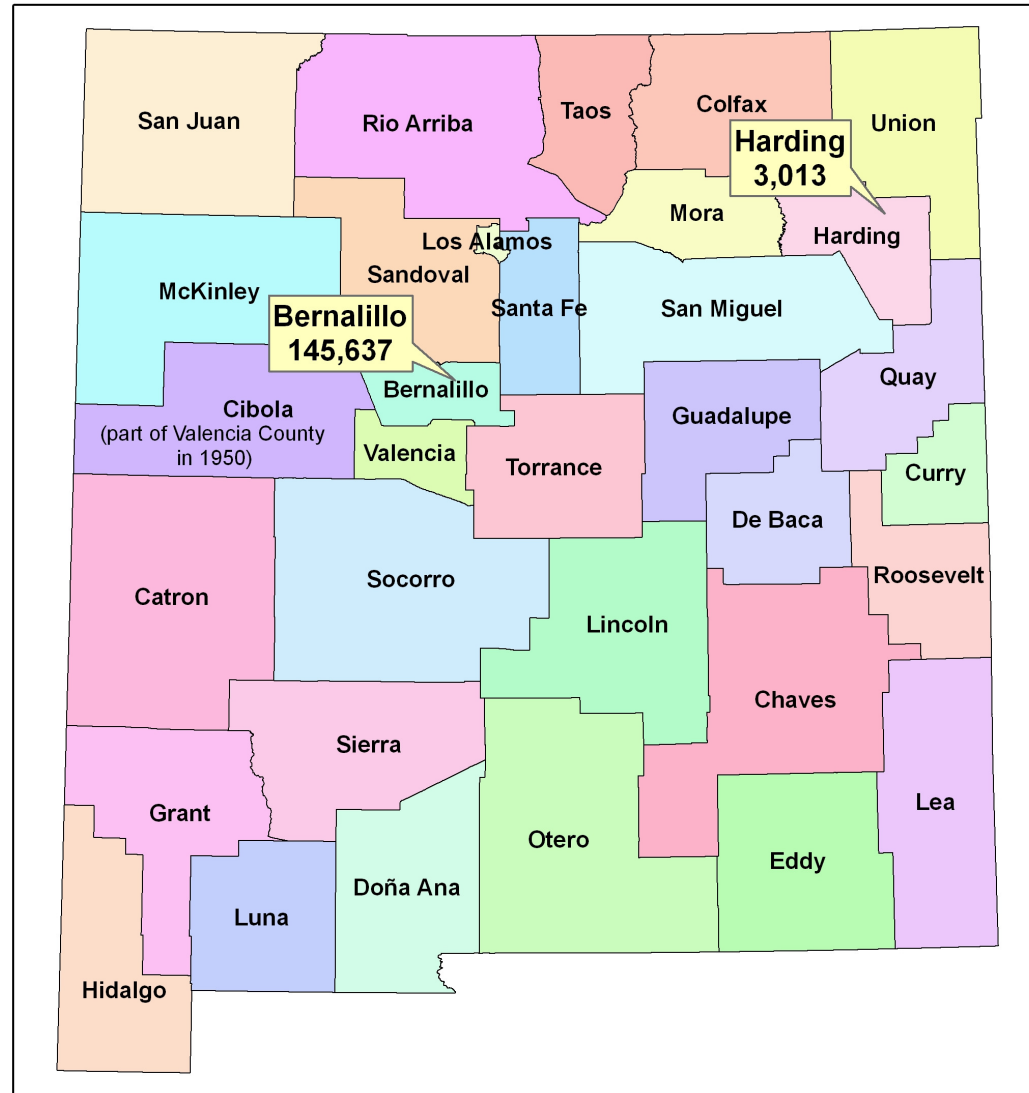
- State Statutes:
 - Counties must district if population >13,000
 - Cities must district if population >10,000
 - Local school board must district if population >16,000
- After each decennial census
 - Adjust districts such that populations are equal
- Elected members must reside in and be elected from single member districts.
- Federal Law
 - Equal population
 - Minority voting rights

Guidelines of Districting

- Equal population
- Avoid diluting minority voting strength
- Compactness
- Contiguity
- Communities of interest

1950

One State Senator per County



Constitutional Mandate to Redraw Lines

Baker v. Carr, 1962
“One person, one vote”



We the People

- Congress: as equal as possible
- State legislature: 10% spread, if there's a good reason

Equal Population

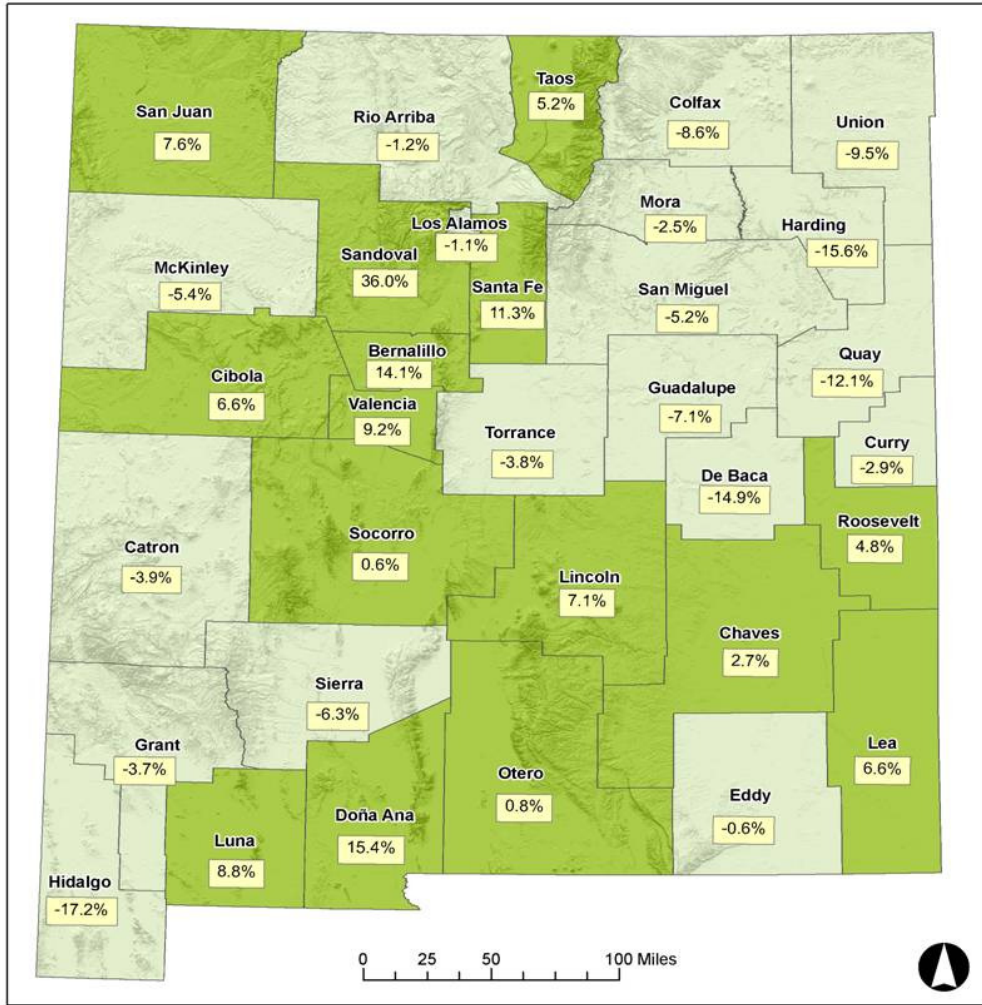
- Equal population = equal representation
 - One person, one-vote principle
 - Ideal population = total population / # of districts
 - Congressional Districts: $1,819,046 / 3 = 606,349$
 - State Senate: $1,819,046 / 42 = 43,311$
 - State House: $1,819,046 / 70 = 25,986$

Based on 2000 Census population

Equal Population (continued)

- Districts must be “substantially equal”
 - No more than 10% total deviation for State House and Senate
 - With $\pm 5\%$ of the ideal population
 - $\pm 2,166$ Senate District Range: 41,145 - 45,477
 - $\pm 1,299$ House District Range: 24,687 - 27,278
- Population based on Census geography
 - Precincts, building blocks for districting
 - Can't split precincts for U.S. Congress or Legislature

New Mexico Counties Percent Population Change: 2000 to 2008



0 25 50 100 Miles



Source: U.S. Census Bureau



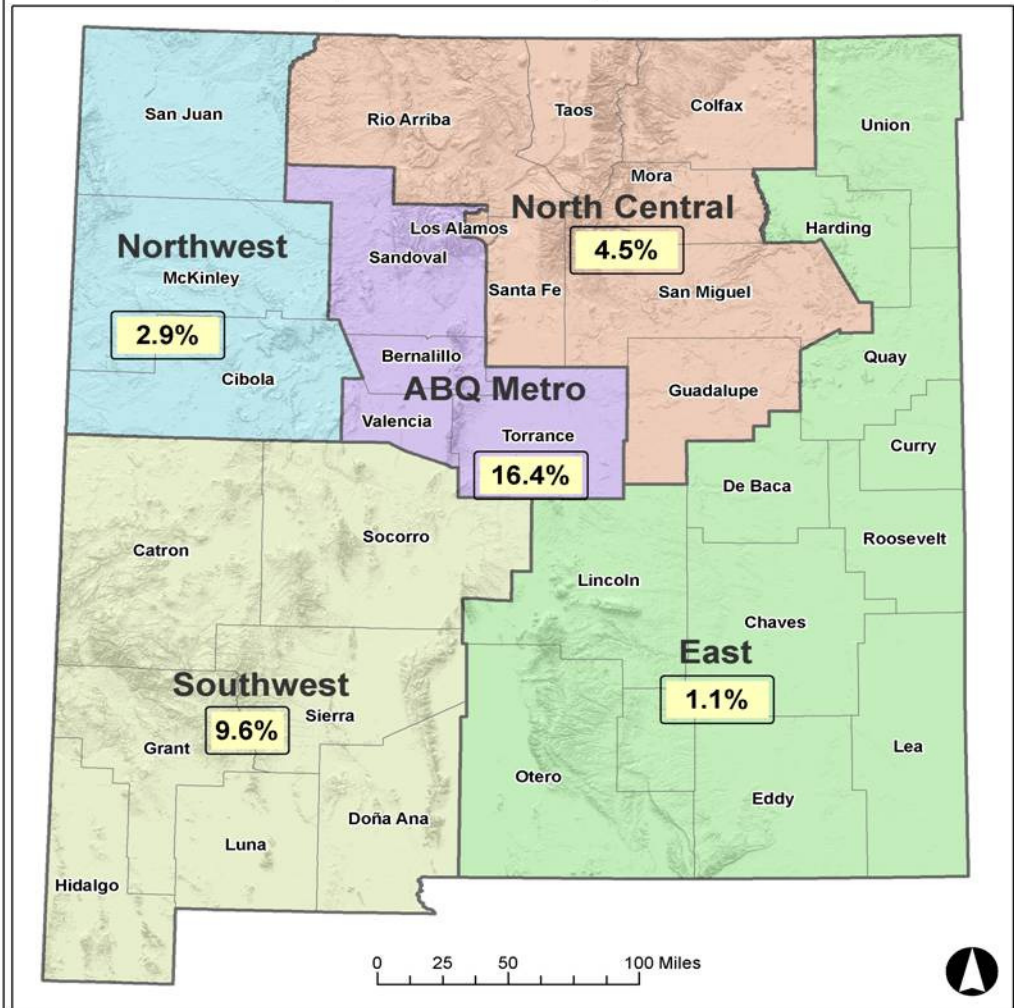
Legend

% Change 2000 to 2008

- 17.2% to 0.0%
- 0.0% to 36.0%

August 26, 2009

New Mexico Regions Percent Population Change: 2000 to 2008



0 25 50 100 Miles



Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Legend
□ Counties

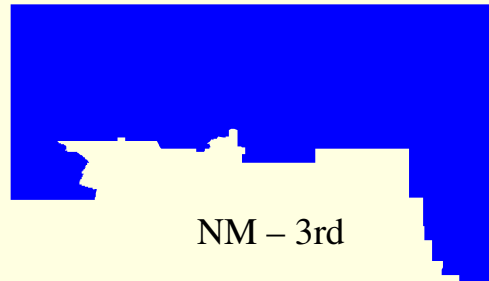
August 26, 2009

Minority Voting Strength

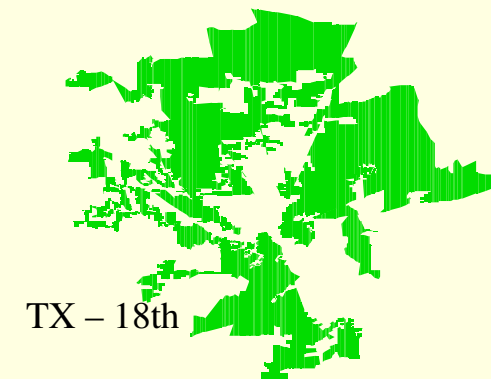
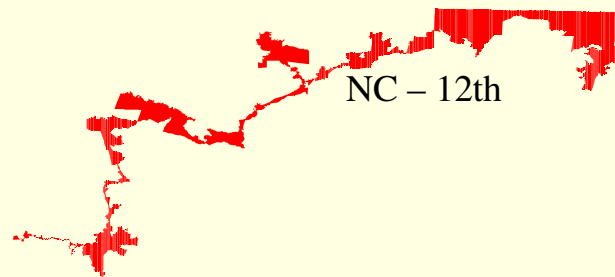
- Do not dilute voting strength of ethnic/language minority groups (Voting Rights Act, Section 2):
 - Native Americans
 - African Americans
 - Hispanics
- Do not create districts in which race is the predominant criterion in subordination of traditional districting principles (U.S. Supreme Court – Shaw v. Reno)

Compactness

- Compact:



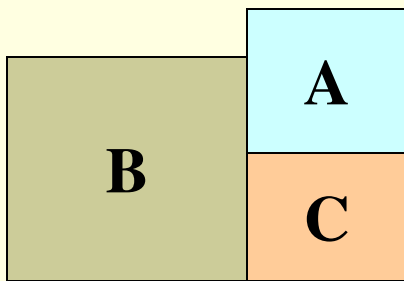
- Not Compact:



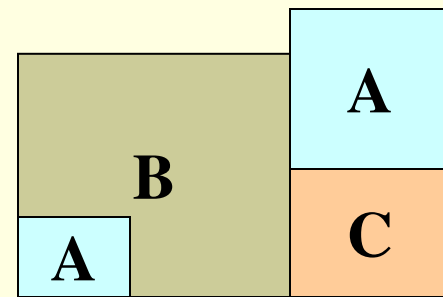
- Many measures, but:
 - “you know it when you see it”

Contiguity

- No islands of territory
- One distinct part, not two or more
- Contiguous:



Not Contiguous:



Communities of Interest

- All other factors which determine where and how a district boundary could be drawn
- Includes, but not limited to:
 - Neighborhoods
 - Cultural / historical traditions
 - Avoid precinct splits
 - Maintaining core of existing districts / incumbent residency
 - Geographic boundaries
 - Economic / trade interests
 - Communication and transportation network
 - Media markets
 - Urban and rural interests
 - Occupations and lifestyles
- Can be considered as long as previous districting guidelines are not violated

Partisanship and Competition

Two primary models:

- Prohibition on undue favoritism
- Affirmatively encourage competition

...and if that should fail

In the last cycle,

- Courts drew state legislative districts in 7 states
- Courts drew congressional districts in 9 states