



# SESSION 1

## From Census to Redistricting

### What is the Decennial Census?

The Decennial Census is a federal program that counts every resident, regardless of age, national origin or citizenship, every 10 years. It is mandated by Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution. All responses to the Census are confidential.

### Why is the Census important?

Congressional representation apportionment, US House of Representatives

Apportionment is the process of dividing the 435 memberships, or seats, in the U.S. House of Representatives among the 50 states. At the conclusion of each decennial census, the results are used to calculate the number of seats to which each state is entitled. Each of the 50 states is entitled to a minimum of one seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

#### It also has implications for:

- population count,
- the size of district voting maps,
- allocations of federal funding
- community planning (where road, schools, hospitals, etc. will be built),
- and economic (location of businesses, corporations, headquarters, factors, and workplaces).

#### North Carolina 2020 Census results so far:

- Total US population: 334,735,155
- Total North Carolina population: 10,435,948 2020 Census
- Number of Apportioned Representatives: 14. This is a gain of 1 seat from 2010 Census

### Redistricting data timeline

States, as well as the public, will receive the data they need to begin redistricting by August 16, 2021. The Census Bureau will also deliver the final redistricting data toolkit to all states and the public by

September 30. COVID-19-related delays and prioritizing the delivery of these apportionment results delayed original plans.

## What is redistricting?

**Redistricting** is the redrawing of boundaries for the areas that are used to determine where people elect their representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislature, county or city council, school board, and so forth.

**Gerrymandering** is the practice of setting boundaries of electoral districts to favor specific political interests within legislative bodies, often resulting in districts with convoluted, winding boundaries rather than compact areas.

## Who is responsible for redistricting?

In North Carolina, the state legislature is responsible for drawing both congressional and state legislative district lines. District maps cannot be vetoed by the governor. State legislative redistricting must take place in the first regular legislative session following the United States Census.

State law establishes the following requirements for state legislative districts:

- Districts must be contiguous and compact.
- Districts "must cross county lines as little as possible." If counties are grouped together, the group should include as few counties as possible.
- Communities of interest should be considered.

North Carolina currently comprises 13 United States congressional districts, along with 50 state senate districts and 120 state house districts. State senators are elected every two years in partisan elections. State representatives are elected every two years in partisan elections.

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