

Redistricting Principles Comparison

Topic	Hippert v. Ritchie, A11-152, 2011 Court Order	HF 1884, as introduced Torkelson	HF 2520, as introduced Greenman	HF 2594, as introduced Klevorn
Nesting	No state house district shall be divided in the formation of a state senate district.	3. A representative district may not be divided in the formation of a senate district.	6. A representative district must not be divided in the formation of a senate district.	7. A state legislative representative district must not be divided in the formation of a state legislative senate district.
Numbering Sequence – Legislative	The legislative districts shall be numbered in a regular series, beginning with house district 1A in the northwest corner of the state and proceeding across the state from west to east, north to south, but bypassing the 11-county metropolitan area until the southeast corner has been reached; then to the 11-county metropolitan area outside the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul; then to Minneapolis and Saint Paul.	4. (a) Legislative districts must be numbered in a regular series, beginning with house district 1A in the northwest corner of the state and proceeding across the state from west to east, north to south, but bypassing the 11-county metropolitan area until the southeast corner has been reached; then to the 11-county metropolitan area outside the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul; then in Minneapolis and St. Paul.	Legislative districts must be numbered in a regular series, beginning with house district 1A in the northwest corner of the state and proceeding across the state from west to east, north to south. In a county that includes more than one whole senate district, the districts must be numbered consecutively.	Legislative districts must be numbered in a regular series, beginning with house district 1A in the northwest corner of the state and proceeding across the state from west to east, north to south. In a county that includes more than one whole senate district, the districts must be numbered consecutively.
Numbering Sequence - Congressional	The district numbers shall begin with Congressional District 1 in the southeast corner of the state and end with Congressional District 8 in the northeast corner of the state.	4. (b) Congressional district numbers must begin with district one in the southeast corner of the state and end with district eight in the northeast corner of the state.	Congressional district numbers must begin with district one in the southeast corner of the state and end with the district with the highest number in the northeast corner of the state.	Congressional district numbers must begin with district one in the southeast corner of the state and end with the district with the highest number in the northeast corner of the state.
Population Equality - Legislative	Redistricting plans for state legislatures shall faithfully adhere to the concept of population-based representation. Because a court-ordered redistricting plan must conform to a higher standard of population equality than a plan created by a legislature, de minimis deviation from the ideal district population shall be the goal. The population of a legislative district shall not deviate by more than two percent from the population of the ideal district.	5. Legislative districts must be as nearly equal in population as practicable. The population of a legislative district must not deviate from the ideal by more than one percent , plus or minus.	4. Each legislative district must be substantially equal in population. The population of a legislative district must not deviate by more than two percent , plus or minus, from the population of the ideal district.	4. Each legislative district must be substantially equal in population. The population of a legislative district must not deviate by more than plus or minus five percent from the population of the ideal district.

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Population Equality - Congressional	The congressional districts shall be as nearly equal in population as is practicable. Because a court-ordered redistricting plan must conform to a higher standard of population equality than a redistricting plan created by a legislature, absolute population equality shall be the goal.	5. Congressional districts must be as nearly equal in population as practicable.	4. Each congressional district must be as nearly equal in population as practicable.	4. Each congressional district must be as nearly equal in population as practicable.
Racial, Ethnic, and Language Minority Group Protections	Districts shall not be drawn with either the purpose or effect of denying or abridging the voting rights of any United States citizen on account of race, ethnicity, or membership in a language minority group and must otherwise comply with the 14th and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.	8. (a) The dilution of racial or ethnic minority voting strength is contrary to the laws of the United States and Minnesota. These principles must not be construed to supersede any provision of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. (b) A redistricting plan must not have the intent or effect of dispersing or concentrating minority population in a manner that prevents minority communities from electing their candidates of choice.	7. Districts must comply with the 14th and 15th Amendments to the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. Consistent with those laws, districts must provide racial, ethnic, and language minorities an equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect the candidate of their choice. Racial, ethnic, and language minorities who constitute less than a voting-age majority of a district must have an opportunity to substantially influence the outcome of an election.	5. (a) Districts must comply with the 14th and 15th Amendments of the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 as amended. (b) Districts must not dilute or diminish the equal opportunity of racial, ethnic, and language minorities to participate in the political process and to elect candidates of their choice, whether alone or in coalition with others. (c) Districts must provide all voters, including racial minorities and language minorities who constitute less than a voting-age majority of a district, with equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

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Contiguity, Compactness, and Convenience	Districts shall consist of convenient, contiguous territory structured into compact units. Contiguity by water is sufficient if the body of water does not pose a serious obstacle to travel within the district. Districts with areas that connect only at a single point shall not be considered contiguous.	2. The districts must be composed of convenient, contiguous, and compact territory. Contiguity by water is sufficient if the water is not a serious obstacle to travel within the district. Point contiguity is not sufficient.	5. Each district must be convenient and contiguous. A district is convenient if it allows reasonable ease of travel within the district. Contiguity by water is sufficient if the water is not a serious obstacle to travel within the district. A district with areas that touch only at a point is not contiguous.	6. Each district must be convenient and contiguous. A district is convenient if it allows reasonable ease of travel within the district. Contiguity by water is sufficient if the water is not a serious obstacle to travel within the district. A district with areas that touch only at a point is not contiguous. 10. Districts must be reasonably compact. More than one measure must be used to evaluate compactness of districts.
Preserving Political Subdivisions	Political subdivisions shall not be divided more than necessary to meet constitutional requirements.	6. (a) A county, city, or town must not be unduly divided unless required to meet equal population requirements or to form districts composed of convenient, contiguous territory. (b) A county, city, or town is not unduly divided in the formation of a legislative or congressional district if: (1) the division occurs because a portion of a city or town is noncontiguous with another portion of the same city or town; or (2) despite the division, the known population of any affected county, city, or town remains wholly located within a single district.	9. Districts must minimize the division of counties, cities, towns, and federally recognized American Indian reservations, except when: (1) the division occurs because a portion of a city, town, or reservation is not contiguous with another portion of the same city, town, or reservation; or (2) despite the division, the known population of any affected county, city, town, or reservation remains wholly located within a single district.	9. Districts must minimize the division of counties, cities, towns, and federally recognized American Indian reservations, except when (1) the division occurs because a portion of a city or town is not contiguous with another portion of the same city or town, or (2) despite the division, the known population of any affected county, city, town, or federally recognized American Indian reservation remains wholly located within a single district.

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Preserving Communities of Interest	Where possible in compliance with the preceding principles, communities of interest shall be preserved. For purposes of this principle, "communities of interest" include, but are not limited to, groups of Minnesota citizens with clearly recognizable similarities of social, geographic, political, cultural, ethnic, economic, or other interests. Additional communities of interest will be considered if persuasively established and if consideration thereof would not violate applicable law.	9. (a) Districts should attempt to preserve identifiable communities of interest where that can be done in compliance with the principles under this section. (b) For purposes of this subdivision, "communities of interest" means recognizable areas with similarities of interests including but not limited to racial, ethnic, geographic, social, or cultural interests.	8. Districts must minimize the division of identifiable communities of interest. A community of interest may include a racial, ethnic, or linguistic group or any group with shared experiences or concerns, including but not limited to geographic, governmental, regional, social, cultural, historic, socioeconomic, occupational, trade, or transportation interests. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or candidates.	8. Districts must minimize the division of identifiable communities of interest. A community of interest may include any group with shared experiences and concerns, including but not limited to geographic, governmental, regional, social, cultural, historic, socioeconomic, occupational, trade, or transportation interests. Communities of interest must not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or candidates.
American Indian Reservations			See "Preserving Political Subdivisions"	See "Preserving Political Subdivisions"
Partisan Effect			10. Applicable judicial standards and the best available scientific and statistical methods must be used to assess whether a plan unduly favors or disfavors a political party, candidate, or incumbent.	11. Districts must not be drawn with the effect of unduly favoring or disfavoring any political party. Districts must be drawn using judicial standards and the best available scientific and statistical methods to assess whether a plan complies with this subdivision. More than one measure of partisan effect must be used. A districting plan violates this principle if it produces likely partisan effects that represent a significant outlier compared to computer-simulated districts using nonpartisan criteria.

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Incumbents; Political Parties	Districts shall not be drawn for the purpose of protecting or defeating incumbents. But the impact of redistricting on incumbent officeholders is a factor subordinate to all redistricting criteria that the panel may consider to determine whether proposed plans result in either undue incumbent protection or excessive incumbent conflicts.	7. A district must not be drawn purposely to favor or disfavor any political party or political group.	2. Districts must not be drawn purposely to favor or disfavor a political party, candidate, or incumbent.	<p>2. (a) Districts must not be drawn to purposefully favor or disfavor a political party, candidate, or incumbent.</p> <p>(b) Districts must not be drawn using voter registration; voter turnout; voting history; party preference, including participation in the presidential nominating primary; general election voting patterns; or primary voting patterns, except for the purposes of drawing districts in compliance with this section and of issuing the reports required by section 2.036, subdivision 3.</p> <p>(c) Districts must not be drawn using the location of incumbents' or candidates' residences.</p> <p>(d) Districts must not be drawn using data subject to reporting or regulation under chapter 10A; section 201.091, subdivision 4a; United States Code, title 52, subtitle III; or United States Code, title 26, subtitle H.</p>
Natural Geographic Boundaries			11. Districts must respect natural geographic boundaries, including bodies of water and other significant geological and topographic features.	12. Districts must be drawn to respect natural geographic boundaries, including bodies of water, mountain ranges, and other significant geological and topographic features.

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Additional Principles				<p>13. (a) A legislative committee with jurisdiction over redistricting may use additional principles if the principles are adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the committee members, but the additional principles must not be prioritized above the principles in this section.</p> <p>(b) Nothing in this subdivision prohibits the use of additional data.</p> <p>(c) If additional data is used, the GIS Office must make the data available to the public on the GIS Office website.</p>
Priority¹	None specified, except the incumbent principle is subordinate to other principles.	Where it is not possible to fully comply with the principles contained in subdivisions 2 to 9, a redistricting plan must comply with the principles contained in subdivisions 2 to 7 and then give priority to those principles in subdivisions 7 and 8 in the order in which they are listed in this section, except to the extent that doing so would violate federal or state law.	3. Districts must be drawn in accordance with the principles listed in subdivisions 4 to 11. If districts cannot be drawn fully in accordance with all principles, priority must be given to the principles in the order in which they are listed, except when doing so would violate federal or state law.	3. Districts must be drawn in accordance with the principles in subdivisions 4 to 14. If districts cannot be drawn fully in accordance with the principles in subdivisions 4 to 14, a districting plan must give priority to the principles in the order in which they are listed, except when doing so would violate federal or state law.



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¹ For bills that include a prioritization provision, the principles in the preceding rows are numbered according to their priority order given in the bill.