

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Census Data: Statistical information on the population of the United States or a given area therein gathered and released by the Census Bureau.

Compactness: A description of a district's geographic shape formed by its boundaries. This term frequently focuses on regularity or asymmetry of the boundaries of a district, as well as the disbursement of the district as a whole from its center. There are multiple means by which compactness can be measured.

Contiguity: A description of a district wherein all of its geographic contents are connected. It's generally held that one should be able to walk or drive to every location within a district while never having to lead the district to arrive there. Definitional limits on contiguity by point or by water vary across different jurisdictions.

Cracking / Fracturing: The division of a geographically compact, politically cohesive group into two or more districts for the purposes of vote dilution.

Demographics: The statistical characteristics of a human population such as, but not limited to, age, race, and income.

Deviation: A measurement of the variance of a district's population from the ideal population sought when drawing or redrawing a district's boundaries.

Gerrymander: Used to describe the intentional drawing of districts to advantage or disadvantage at least one group or party over another. Gerrymandering is often identified by and associated with districts that are unnecessarily odd in shape.

Ideal Population: The number of individuals who are, subject to the relevant legal requirements of the process of drawing or redrawing districts, to be included in each district in order to obtain or maintain equal population among all districts. Generally, some variance is permitted, allowing districts to have populations that are close to, but not exactly, ideal.

Legislative Body: A public entity that performs governmental legislative duties, the members of which are elected by the people who are then represented by said elected legislator. Pittsburgh City Council is the legislative body of the City of Pittsburgh.

Majority-Minority District: A district in which a racial minority group comprises at least 50% +1 of the voting age population.

Natural Boundaries: Natural geographic features such as, but not limited to, rivers, mountains, or woods that may serve as district boundaries.

One Person, One Vote: The principle that one individual's voting power should be approximately equivalent to that of another person's in the same district. The Supreme Court has established this constitutional standard to mean that the populations of districts for representational bodies should be approximately equal in population.

Overall Range: The population difference between the smallest and largest districts in a redistricting plan.

Packing: The placement of a politically cohesive group into districts at higher rates than necessary when drawing or redrawing districts for the purposes of the election of preferred candidates and / or to dilute votes.

Plurality: Refers to the largest group in a population in which there isn't a majority.

Preservation of Cores: The Supreme Court has recognized that the preservation of cores of existing districts when boundaries are redrawn is a legitimate concern during the redistricting process.

Protection of Incumbents: The Supreme Court has recognized that the protection of incumbents — such that they aren't intentionally drawn out of the district that they represent — is a legitimate concern during the redistricting process. Further, avoiding drawing two incumbents into the same district without an overall change in the number of members of a represented body is also held as a legitimate concern.

Reapportionment Advisory Committee: The nine-member panel appointed by Pittsburgh City Council to provide a recommendation plan for the reapportionment of the City of Pittsburgh's nine Council Districts.

Redistricting: The process by which the boundaries of administrative, legislative, or election districts are revised, or the drawing of new district boundaries.

Standard Deviation: The mathematical calculation to determine and measure the variance from the average for a set of data.

Voting Age Population: The number of people who are age 18 or older in a district.

Voting Precinct: The smallest possible electoral subdivision that's used to create the City of Pittsburgh and its Council District boundary lines.

Ward: An electoral subdivision comprised of the smaller electoral subdivisions of voting precincts that's created for the purpose of local elections.