

Peter A. Morrison · Thomas M. Bryan

Redistricting: A Manual for Analysts, Practitioners, and Citizens

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 Springer

Peter A. Morrison
Peter A. Morrison & Associates
Nantucket, MA, USA

Thomas M. Bryan
Bryan GeoDemographics
Midlothian, VA, USA

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Advance praise for . . .

***Redistricting: A Manual for Analysts,
Practitioners, and Citizens***

by

Peter A. Morrison and Thomas M. Bryan

(Revised: August 23, 2019)

“As a litigator who advises local governments on redistricting matters, this book is an essential resource.”

John A. Safarli, Partner, Floyd, Pflueger & Ringer, P.S., Seattle, WA

* * *

“A valuable primer for those who will participate in redistricting. Provides those new to the highly-charged work of drawing districts an understanding of what is at stake, what options exist and the pitfalls to avoid.”

Professor Charles S. Bullock, III, University of Georgia (author of *Redistricting: The Most Political Activity in America*)

* * *

“A meticulously researched, well-structured and informative foray into the nuts and bolts of the redistricting process. . . Will aid the bench and bar, public officials, and those elected and appointed citizens who are entrusted with the heavy responsibilities of redistricting from start to finish.

Lives up to its name as a pragmatic guide for those involved in the redistricting process, be they demographic experts, statistical analysts, election law attorneys, litigants, or citizens involved in redistricting commissions.

A resource for teaching election law and for defending governmental entities ensnared in the redistricting process.

A must for anyone engaged in political redistricting based on the 2020 U.S. Census data.”

Benjamin E. Griffith, Adjunct Professor of Election Law, University of Mississippi, Robert C. Khayat School of Law, and Principal in Griffith Law Firm, Oxford, Mississippi. (Editor and Author of *America Votes! Challenges to Modern Election Law and Voting Rights*, ABA Section of State & Local Government Law, 4th Ed., December 2019)

*Dedicated to Mary
my soulmate,
who put up with all this
and to
David A. Swanson
our mentor, colleague,
and champion*

Preface

The 2020 Census ushers in a decennial cycle of redistricting. Across the nation, states, counties, and local municipalities establish or adjust electoral districts, equalizing their populations as mandated by law. In drawing districts, citizen groups and political adversaries will negotiate conflicting aims. Thereafter, plaintiffs will challenge governmental bodies that have enacted new plans; courts must resolve those disputes.

This manual addresses the varied needs faced by the analysts, practitioners, citizens, lawyers, and judges who may be involved.

Redistricting uses versatile GIS mapping technologies that manipulate highly detailed data to group and separate voter populations geographically. Since 2000, the authors have encountered and addressed the varied technical, legal, and political concerns associated with drawing electoral districts in accordance with legal standards. Numerous engagements to establish or defend a new plan, or to challenge an established one, have afforded us a range of experiences with local jurisdictions and their local demographic settings. Such settings vary in racial and ethnic makeup, population structure, and neighborhood residential patterns. They reveal how such contextual differences may shape the voting strength of one or another group.

The challenges that we confronted in these varied local contexts advanced our uses of census data and demographic methods in drawing and evaluating redistricting plans. The particulars differed from place to place, but the advances themselves prompted us to organize and integrate what we have learned to guide many others who will be drawn into the 2020 decennial redistricting cycle. The knowledge base and approaches detailed herein can inform fellow applied demographers and others as they go about crafting lawful election districts and plans, favor or find fault in competing plans, and offer testimony to inform the court.

Nantucket, MA, USA
Midlothian, VA, USA

Peter A. Morrison
Thomas M. Bryan

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