HJRCA 32

Senate Redistricting Committee Hearing – Sept. 22, 2009

HJRCA 32 Features

- HJRCA 32 addresses two key questions about redistricting.

▶ Who draws the map?
  - Open source competition

▶ What are the criteria?
  - Predefined scoring system

Open Source

► Technology allows many groups the ability to draw maps.
  - Large web servers
  - Common database access
  - Shared mapping software

► Competition between groups drawing maps can produce a better outcome.

Specific Criteria

► The amendment specifies criteria.
- Compact, contiguous
- Substantially equal in population
- Reflect minority voting strengths
- Promote competition
- Consider political boundaries

► HJRCA 32 requires a statutory scoring system.

Ohio Redistricting Competition

► Open redistricting was tested in Ohio.
  - Hosted by Ohio Sec. of State Brunner
  - Secure server at state university
  - Common tools and database
  - Online tutorial
  - Open to the public

► Competition ran from April 10 to May 11.

Ohio Criteria

► Maps were judged on four criteria.
  - Compactness
  - County fragments
  - Competitiveness
  - Partisan balance

► Scoring criteria were supplied in advance.
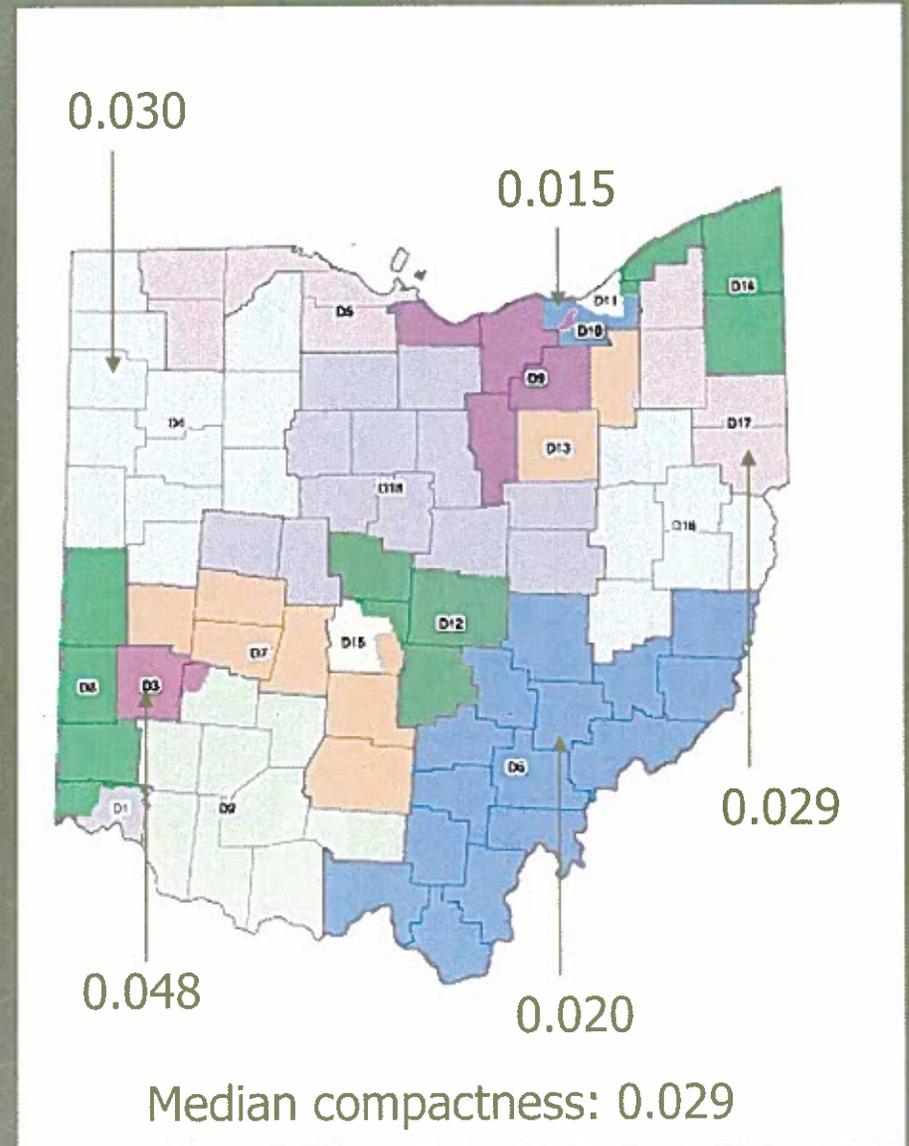 - Computer tool for checking scores

Rerun 2000

► The competition goal was to redraw 18 Ohio congressional districts.
- Redo 2001 redistricting
- 2000 Census data
- 2000 presidential vote

► All competition submissions improved on the actual map.

JENNIFER BRUNNER
OHIO SECRETARY OF STATE

Ohio Congressional Districts
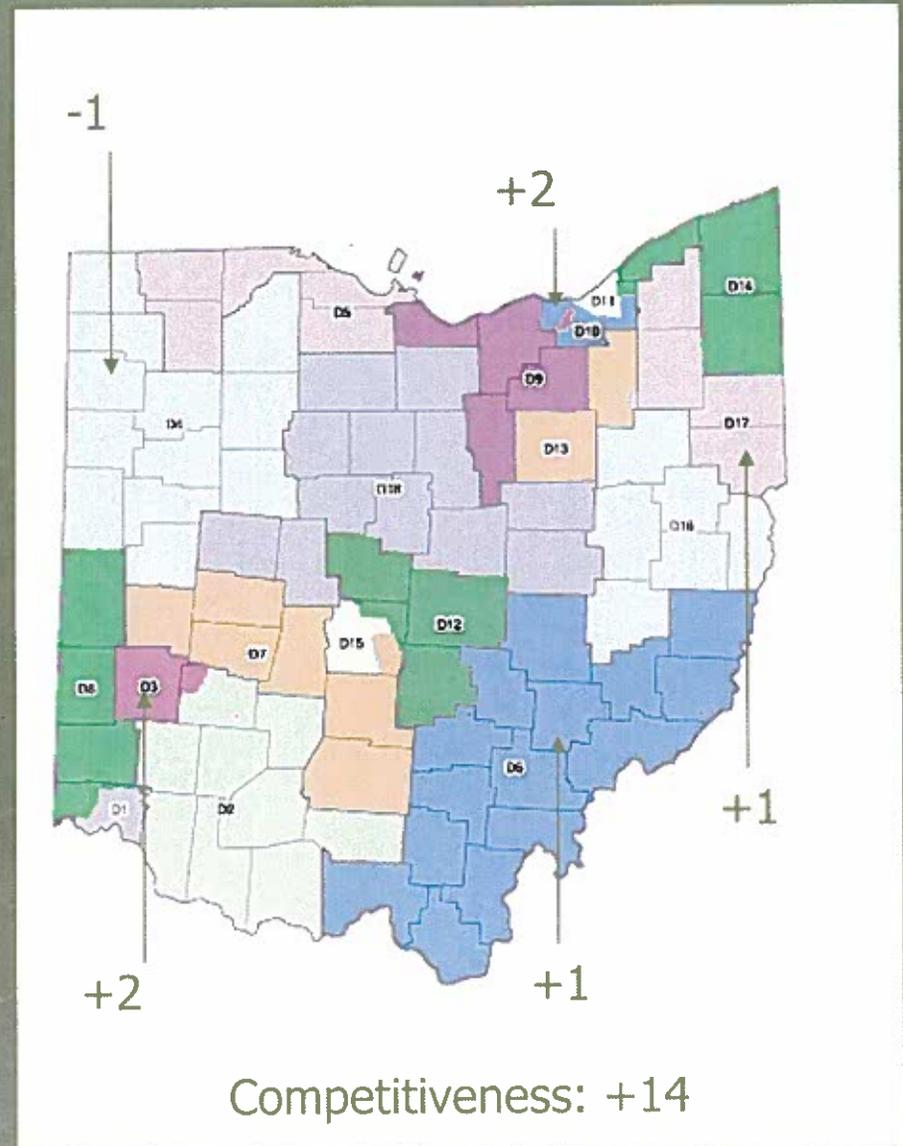
Median compactness: 0.018
Competitiveness: +2

Compactness

▶ Compare the area to perimeter for a district.

▶ Mathematically calculate the area divided by perimeter squared.

- Circle is 0.079
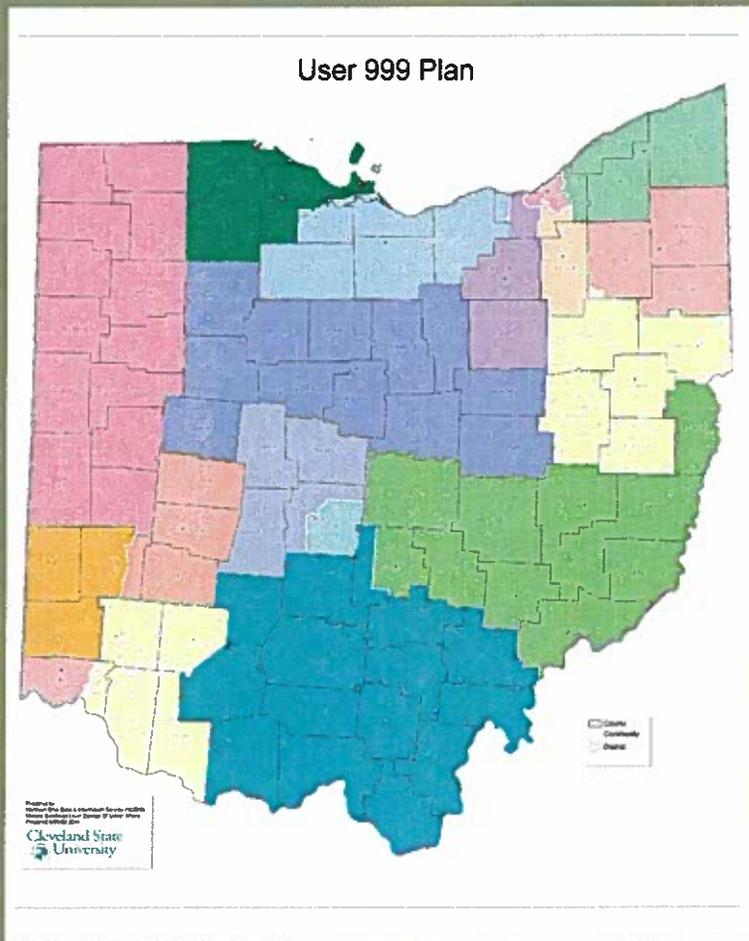- Square is 0.063
- Typical districts are 0.010 to 0.050

0.030

0.015

0.029

0.048

0.020

Median compactness: 0.029

Competitiveness

▶ Measure the difference in two-party vote in a district.

▶ The score is based on percent difference.

- 0 to 5% score +2
- 5% to 10% score +1
- 10% to 15% score 0
- Over 15% score -1

Competitiveness: +14

Geography Alone

User 999 Plan

Cleveland State University

Median compactness: 0.037

Competitiveness: +3

► One map was developed using only population and geographic data.
- No political data
- Not very competitive

► Competitiveness must be an explicit criteria to be effective.

HJRCA 32 Implementation

► House and Senate districts are denested.
- Improves ability to meet criteria

► The three best maps for each chamber are sent for consideration.

► Each chamber acts separately on maps.
- Requires 3/5 vote

- Best 3 maps sent to respective chambers

Commission Roles

► A Legislative Redistricting Commission is used to oversee the competition.
  - 2 persons representing each caucus

► Commission Roles:
  - Oversee competition setup and execution
  - Prescreen submissions for compliance with state and federal law
  - Prevent spamming by identical maps

Redistricting Timeline

- **HJRCA sets a timeline.**
  - Consistent with Census data release
  - Constrained by current primary schedule

- March 1, 2011: Senate and House leaders appoint members to the Legislative Redistricting Commission (LRC).

- March 31, 2011: Census Bureau provides redistricting data to the states.

- April 7, 2011: LRC provides census data and tools to the public.

- May 7, 2011: Last day for the public to submit redistricting maps to the LRC.

- May 22, 2011: LRC completes scoring of maps and provides top three maps to redistrict each chamber to the respective chamber.

- June 30, 2011: Last day for legislative house to adopt a redistricting resolution from top LRC plans by 3/5 majority. Secretary of State certifies redistricting map, using top map from the LRC if no resolution is adopted.