



Navajo County, Arizona Redistricting to Equalize Populations

An Updated Overview of the
Process

May 24, 2011

Why does Navajo County have to redistrict?

- ★ U. S. Constitution, under the principle of “one person, one vote” requires that the districts from which we elect representatives be equal in population
- ★ We must redistrict after every decennial census and whenever there is a change in the number of districts.

Population Issues

- Official 2010 Census population of Navajo County: 107,449
- Official 2000 Census population of Navajo County: 97,470
- Increase of 10.24% since 2000
- Ideal district size:
 - Supervisor and Community College Districts -- 21,490 persons
- Population measurement includes all persons, regardless of age, eligibility to vote, or citizenship

Population Issues

★ Navajo County's Population Growth
Was Uneven:

<u>District</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>% Change</u>
I	18,734	17,566	-6.23
II	18,871	18,906	+0.19
III	19,467	22,010	+13.06
IV	20,413	26,855	+31.56
V	19,985	22,112	+10.64

Population Variance

- ★ In the past, district populations could vary as much as 10% without explanation

- ★ A.R.S. 11-212. Supervisorial districts

The board of supervisors shall meet at the county seat on or before December 1 following the release of the United States decennial census data and divide the county into three or five supervisorial districts as provided in this article, which shall be numbered, respectively, districts one, two and three or districts one, two, three, four and five. The board shall define the boundaries and limits of each district and make the division equal or with not more than ten per cent difference in population. The county may redistrict as often as deemed necessary between each United States decennial census.

Population Variance

- ★ Federal court decision in a 2004 Georgia case, affirmed by the U. S. Supreme Court, may have reduced the allowable variance (*Larios v. Cox*)
- ★ Block-level redistricting allows flexibility to achieve small variance

Existing Variance in Navajo County

☀️ “Ideal” Population: 21,490

District	Actual Population	Deviation
I	17,566	-18.26%
II	18,906	-12.02%
III	22,010	+2.42%
IV	26,855	+24.97%
V	22,112	+2.90%

Total Deviation Between Largest and Smallest

District: 9,289, or 43.23%

Race and Ethnicity Issues

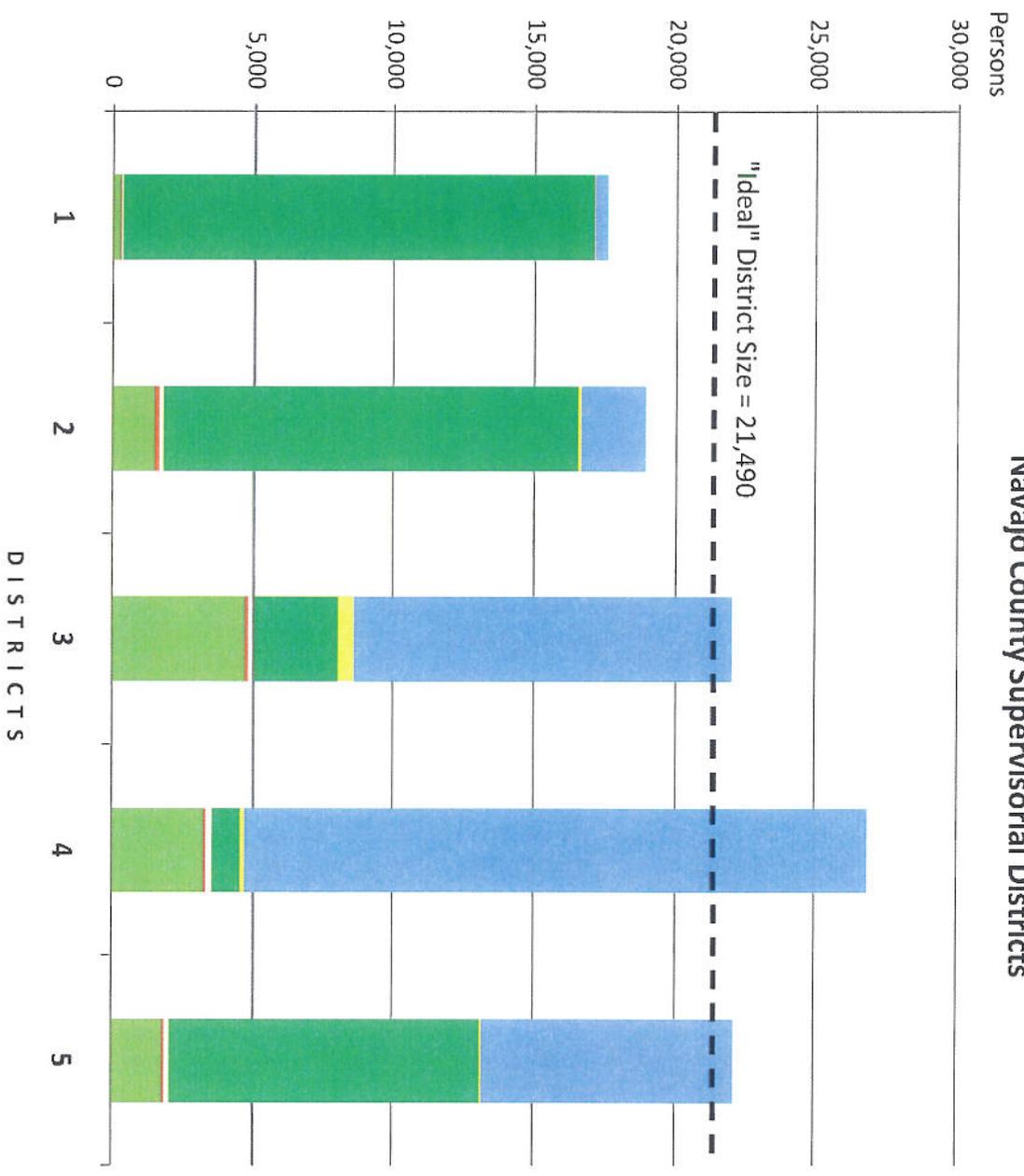
- ★ To comply with the federal Voting Rights Act, Navajo County must draw new districts that have “neither the purpose, nor the effect, of diluting the voting strength of racial, origin, or language minority populations”
- ★ The County is required to avoid “retrogression” as to minority voters. In simple terms, this means the new districts cannot impair the ability of minority voters to elect candidates of their choice.

Race and Ethnicity Issues

- ★ Comparing 2000 and 2010 voting-age minority proportions:
 - District I – 95.9% then, 96.8% now; up 0.9 %-pts.
 - District II – 84.4% then, 86.2% now; up 1.8 %-pts.
 - District III – 36.7% then, 37.3% now; up 0.6 %-pts.
 - District IV – 13.3% then, 14.5% now; up 1.2 %-pts.
 - District V – 55.7% then, 53.3% now; down 2.4 %-pts.
- ★ Three of the districts were “minority-majority”.
- ★ Small population shifts during the decade have increased those majorities in Districts 1 and 2 but lowered the percentage in District 5.

Race and Ethnicity Issues

Race and Origin Composition of Current Navajo County Supervisorial Districts



Source: Census 2010 Redistricting Data (Public Law 94-171) Summary File, Arizona

- Non-Hispanic White
- Non-Hispanic Black
- Non-Hispanic Indian
- Non-Hispanic Asian/Hawaiian
- Non-Hispanic Other/Multiracial
- Hispanic

Redistricting Principles

- ★ As a result of laws and court cases, certain common “district design” rules have evolved
- ★ In some circumstances, these rules can conflict with each other
- ★ That prioritization has taken place in the form of the Resolution the Board of Supervisors adopted to establish and guide the Redistricting Advisory Committee
- ★ Resolution 09-11

The Public Involvement Process

- ★ The courts and DOJ want this to be an assertively public process
- ★ The public record should clearly demonstrate that Navajo County paid attention to its residents and did not just “give lip-service” to public input

Now that the Census data is here

- ★ Determine the population, race and ethnicity values in the current districts
- ★ Determine the size of population shifts necessary to equalize districts
- ★ Determine the minority race proportions in each current district
- ★ Determine the permissible population movements necessary to equalize district populations without diminishing minority voting strength
- ★ Examine the magnitude and extent of any racially-polarized voting

Public Information Materials

- Information handouts or booklets describing various aspects of the redistricting process
- Citizen Redistricting Kits
 - Maps, Demographic Information of Districts/Precincts, Board Resolution
 - Interactive redistricting map on the Internet

First Round Resident Workshops

- ★ Public meetings, two in each current district
 - ★ 30 minutes to view exhibits, socialize
 - ★ Short presentation on scope, purpose, process, timelines, legal issues
 - ★ Stress that no maps have been drawn yet
 - that the request for input is genuine
 - ★ Invite citizens to draw their perceptions of “communities of interest” important to them on tracing paper laid over County maps

Draw and Publish Alternate Plans

- ★ Analyze plans and community-of-interest maps submitted by citizens
- ★ Prepare 3 or 4 alternate plans, based on:
 - ★ Themes or suggestions from elected officials
 - ★ Recurrent themes heard from public meeting participants
 - ★ Maps of districts or communities of interest submitted by citizens
- ★ Publish proposed alternate plans

Second Round Resident Workshops

- Public meetings, two in each current district
 - 30 minutes to view exhibits, socialize
 - Short formal presentation
 - Describe features of each plan
 - Stress the extent to which plans incorporate ideas gathered in various public-input settings
 - Describe ways for citizens to register their views, or choices of plans or plan features
- Redistricting Committee and staff answer questions

Prepare and Publish Final Plan

- Consultants will prepare final versions of plans requested by the Redistricting Committee for consideration by the Board of Supervisors
- Plans displayed on County's website and in newspaper ads
- Public invited to send in comments and to attend the plan adoption meeting

Adoption of Plan

- Consultants, Redistricting Committee and staff present plans to Board of Supervisors at a meeting held specifically for that purpose
- Consultant team's preclearance expert examines the adopted plan for compliance with new DOJ Section 5 regulations
- Consultants prepare files and exhibits needed for the preclearance application.

Overview of Participant Roles

- ★ Navajo County Board of Supervisors
 - ★ Sharing their views and preferences in individual meetings with the consultants
 - ★ Giving instructions to the Redistricting Committee
 - ★ Receiving plan recommendations from the Redistricting Committee
 - ★ Adopting final plans

Overview of Participant Roles

- ★ Navajo County Redistricting Committee
 - ★ Hosting both rounds of public meetings
 - ★ Serving as the eyes and ears of the Board of Supervisors
 - ★ Instructing the consultants on district design issues reflecting the Committee's interpretation of public input
 - ★ Reviewing plans prepared at their request
 - ★ Recommending plans to the Board of Supervisors



Overview of Participant Roles

★ Navajo County Staff

- ★ The role of “stage manager” throughout
- ★ Administrative support for the process
- ★ Preparing necessary resolutions and official process documents

The consultants

- Two firms will serve as legal and process consultants to Navajo County and its Redistricting Committee
- Federal Compliance Consulting LLC, Potomac, Maryland
 - Bruce L. Adelson, Esq., CEO
- Research Advisory Services, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona
 - Tony Sissons, President