

Preparing for Redistricting- Local Governments



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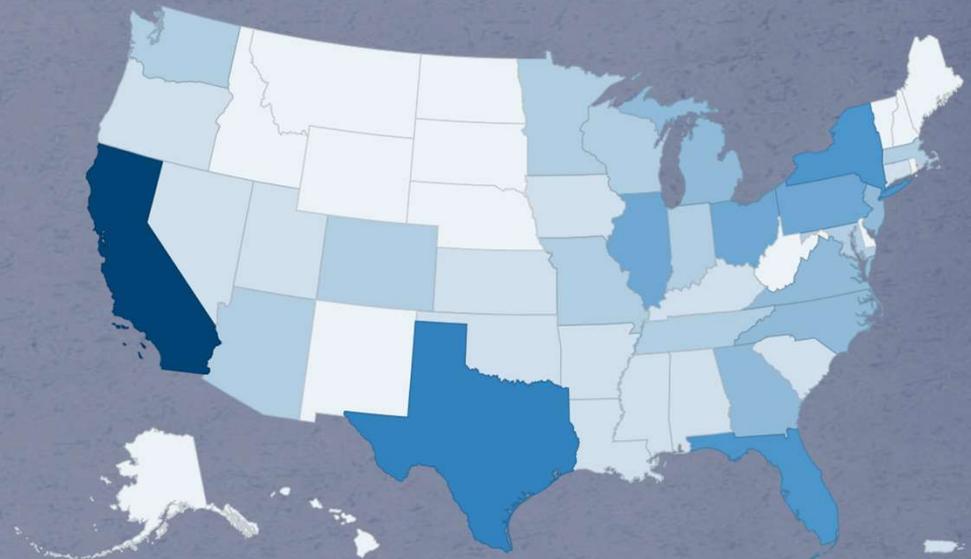
The Census

- A Census of all residents is taken every 10 years
 - Residence as of April 1 of the year ending in zero
- Mandated by the U. S. Constitution
 - Article I, Section 2
- First taken in 1790



Census Information

- Population of Georgia in 2010 was 9,687,653
- Estimated to be over 10.7 million people in 2020
 - 8th largest state in population



What happens next?

- *New Census* → *New Maps*
 - Districts boundaries change so that each district will have as close to equal population as practicable
- *All districts* are affected by the changes!

What's the difference?

Reapportionment

- Reallocation of United States Congressional districts following a decennial Census
- Uses formula to redistribute the 435 House seats among the states
- Established in U. S. Constitution Art. 2, Sec. 3

Redistricting

- Redistricting is the redrawing of district boundary lines
- Occurs at all levels of election districts

Redistricting Principles

- Legal requirements
 - Compliance with U.S. and State Constitution
 - Compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965
 - Equal Protection Clause (14th Amendment)
 - “One Person, One Vote”

Redistricting Principles

- Traditional Redistricting Principles
 - Compactness
 - Contiguity
 - Respecting political boundaries
 - Communities of interest
 - Incumbent protection

Redistricting Timeline Overview

- New 2020 Census data delayed
 - Apportionment data to be released by April 30, 2021
 - Redistricting data will arrive between July 31 and September 30, 2021
- Public Hearings across the state
 - Spring/Summer 2021
- Analysis of new data with current maps
 - Fall 2021- after data arrives
- Special Session for Redistricting
 - Fall 2021

Redistricting Process

- GGA passes legislation to redistrict:
 - Statewide Districts
 - U.S. House, State Senate, State House, PSC
 - Local Maps
 - County Commissions
 - Boards of Education
 - Independent City School Boards
 - *City Councils can redistrict under Home Rule*

Process for Local Governments

Local Redistricting Process

- Redistricting in 2011-2012 revealed new ways that local governments were drawing their maps
 - New technology
 - New interest
- Senate Bill 177 (2019)
 - Changes and organizes the steps in the process
 - Prevents delays in legislation

Local Redistricting Process

- Senate Bill 177 (2019)
 - Request a legislator to sponsor you
 - State Senator or Representative
 - County delegations may have requirements
 - Legislator needs to notify my office
 - Determine who you will work with to create a draft map
 - Reapportionment Office
 - GIS Department
 - Other consultants or groups

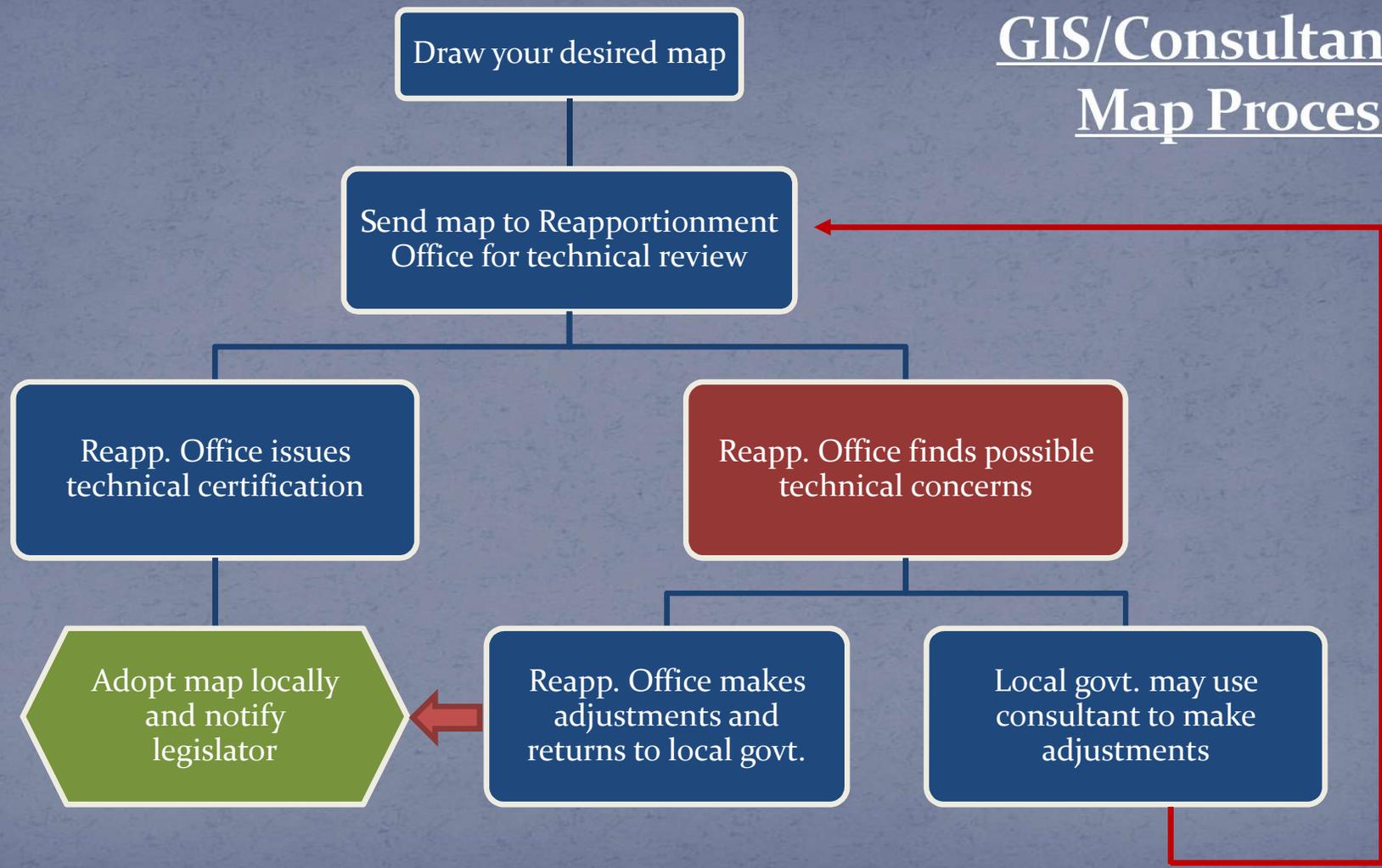
Local Redistricting Process

- Reapportionment Office
 - Staff trained and experienced in this specific area
 - Services are at no charge to local government
 - Makes the process of drafting legislation easier

Local Redistricting Process

- GIS staff or other consultants
 - Draw your desired map
 - Submit your map to Reapportionment Office for technical review
 - This should be BEFORE any action is taken to adopt the map
 - A certification form will be provided following the review
 - If there are concerns, adjustments can be made by the Reapportionment Office or the creator of the map
 - If the adjustments are made outside of the Reapportionment Office, another review must occur before a certification is provided

GIS/Consultant Map Process



Local Redistricting Process

- After certification, local body adopts new map
- Notification should be sent to your legislators of your desire for legislation to enact the map
 - *Notification can be sent to the Reapportionment Office also*
- Legislation will not be drafted until it is requested by a legislator

Local Redistricting Process

- Conversations to consider:
 - Legislators (State Senators and Representatives)
 - County Attorneys or School Board Attorneys
 - County Election Supervisors
 - County/City residents

Implementation of Maps

- Maps become official upon passage by the General Assembly and signature by the Governor
- Should Congress reinstate a formula and preclearance is required, maps would not be final until that is received
- Maps, data, and any assistance we can offer will be given to your local elections office at their request

Questions?



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