

Racially Polarized Voting: Data Sets

Redistricting Data Hub

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Upcoming Trainings

1. Analyzing Proposed Maps on DRA (December 2nd)
2. Section 3: From RPV Data to RPV Analysis (December 7th)

Gingles Criteria

Gingles I

Is the minority group sufficiently numerous and geographically compact to constitute a majority in a single-member district?

Gingles II

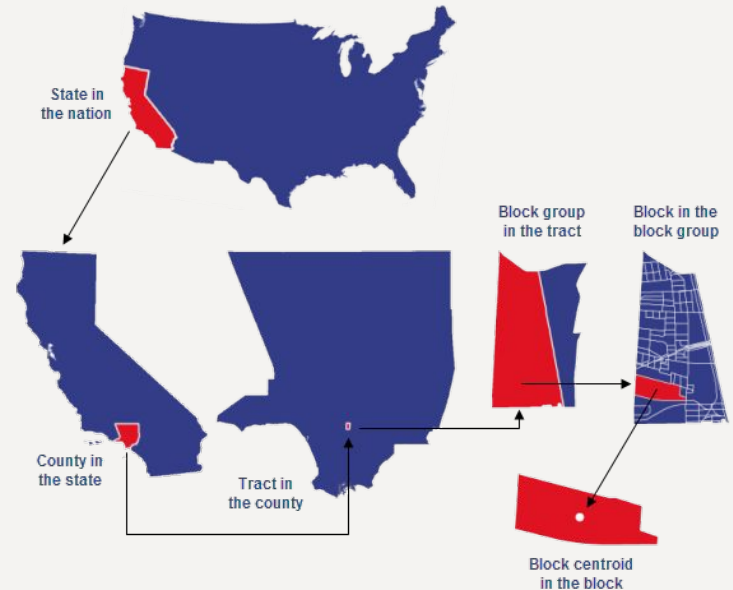
Is the minority group politically cohesive (i.e., do minority voters usually support the same candidates)?

Gingles III

Does the majority group consistently vote as a bloc to usually defeat the candidates supported by minority voters?

Gingles I

- Data needed to demonstrate minority group satisfies the 1st prong – census population data by race/ethnicity



Complexities: Benchmark

- 50% Voting Age Population (VAP) (*Bartlett v. Strickland*, 2009)
- 50% Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) (9th: *Romero v. City of Pomona*; 5th: *Campos v. City of Houston*, 1997, *Reyes v. City of Farmers Branch*, 2009; 11th: *Negron v. City of Miami Beach*, 1997)

Complexities: Source of Data

- PL 94-171 census redistricting data reports voting age population by race/ethnicity at the census block level but does not include citizenship data
- American Community Survey (ACS) data - citizenship rates by race/ethnicity but only at the census block group level and only for rolling 5 year period

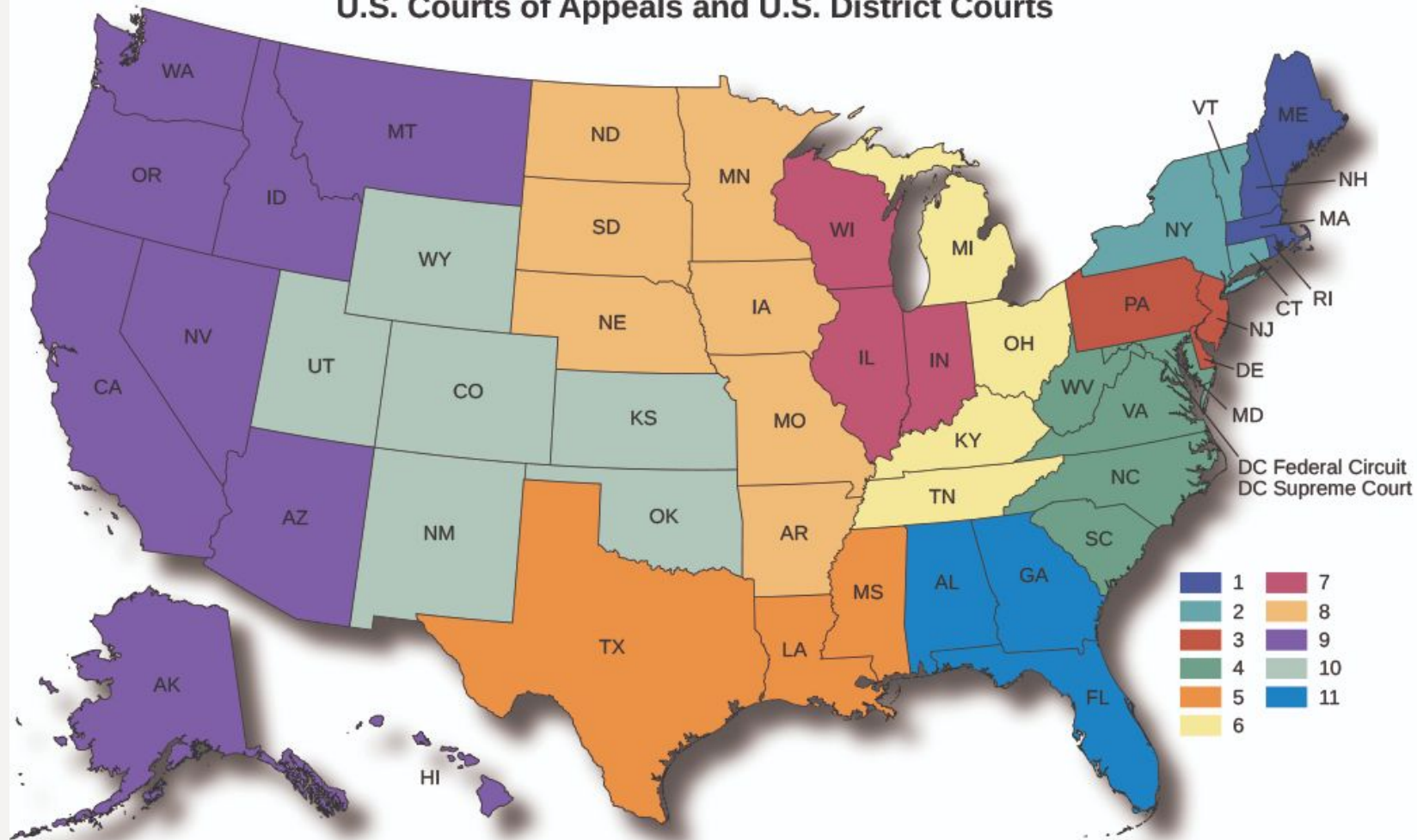


*<https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/due-tomorrow-redistricting-data-magazine2021.aspx>

Complexities: Coalition Claims

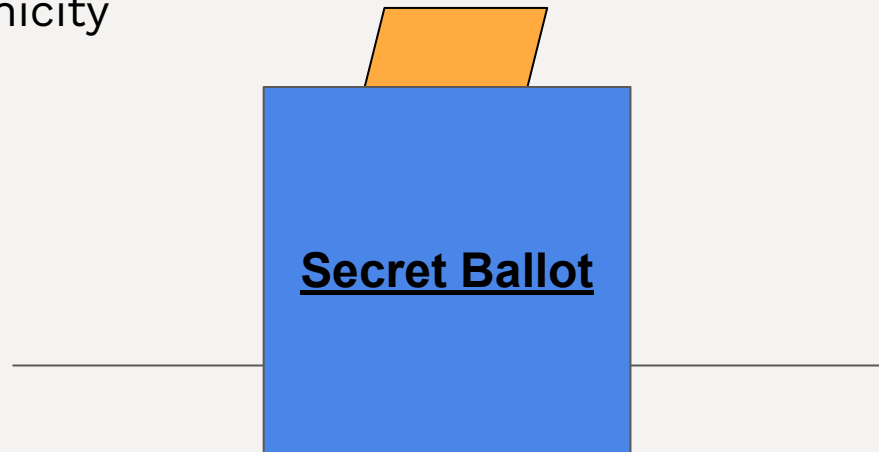
- 5th Circuit expressly permits coalition claims (*LULAC v. Midland Independent School District*, 1987; *Campos v. Baytown*, 1988)
- 6th circuit expressly denied permissibility of coalition claims (*Nixon v. Kent County*, 1996)
- Some circuits have at least tacitly recognized permissibility of coalition claims:
 - 9th: *Badillo v. City of Stockton*, 1992
 - 11th: *Concerned Citizens of Hardee County v. Hardee County Board of Commissioners*, 1990
 - 2nd: *Pope v. County of Albany*, 2012

U.S. Courts of Appeals and U.S. District Courts



Gingles II and III

- 2nd and 3rd prongs – requires an analysis of voting patterns by race/ethnicity
- secret ballot means we need to estimate voting patterns by race/ethnicity



Data Needed for Analyzing Voting Patterns

- Data needed to conduct statistical analysis:
aggregate level analysis with election precincts usually serving as the unit of analysis
- Information needed for each precinct
 - Election results
 - Demographic composition
- Analysis designed to uncover patterns relating these two variables (demographic composition and voting behavior) across precincts

Sources of election returns

Source of election returns may vary depending on whether

- State, county, or local district boundaries are being challenged
- General or primary election returns are being sought



Relevant elections

- Election contests that include minority candidates v. contests with only white candidates
- Endogenous v. exogenous elections
- Recent v. more dated elections




*https://wacotrib.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/early-voting-in-waco-midway-city-school-elections-off-to-sluggish-start/article_f2c515cc-a15e-11eb-880b-c3eaf4a70df1.html

Complexities: Election results

- Elections in which voters can vote for more than one candidate
- Alternative voting schemes (e.g., ranked choice voting)

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CANDIDATE B	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE C	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
CANDIDATE D	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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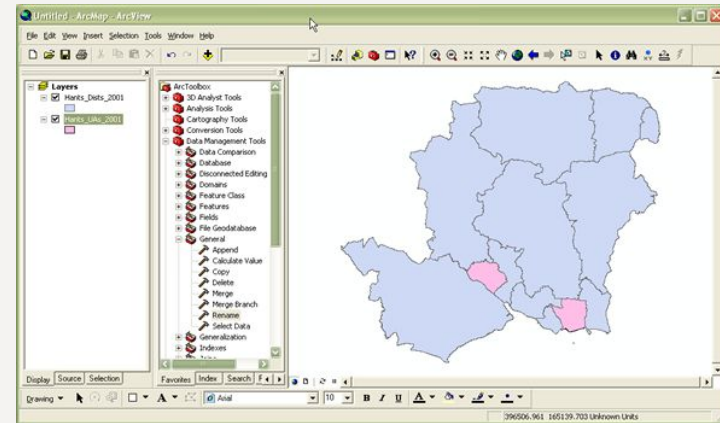


Sources of precinct demographic data

- VAP – PL 94-171 redistricting data (block boundary program and VTDs)
- CVAP – ACS citizenship data used in conjunction with PL data to estimate citizens of voting age by race at block level
- Voter registration data by race – reported at the precinct level in some jurisdictions
- Voter turnout data by race – voter file with race of voter may indicate whether voter turned out in given election
- Spanish surname may be used in conjunction with voter file to indicate Hispanic turnout
- Bayesian Improved Surname and Geocoding Method (BISG)

Complexities: Shifting levels of geography

- Changing precinct boundaries over time - need shapefiles to align census geography with precincts
- Disaggregation of precinct election results down to census blocks
 - VAP
 - Geocoded voters



Questions?