Legislative Redistricting

Legislative Technology Services Bureau
Tony J. Van Der Wielen
GIS Manager

Applied Population Laboratory
University of Wisconsin - Madison
James Beaudoin
GIS Program Developer
Wisconsin performs local, legislative and congressional redistricting following the decennial U.S. Census.

- **Components of Legislative Redistricting**
  - U.S. Census Bureau Redistricting Data Program (RDP)
  - Local Redistricting
  - Legislative Redistricting
# The Legislative Redistricting Project

## The U.S. Census Bureau's Redistricting Data Program

- **5 Phase Program**
  - Phase 1: State Legislative District Project (2005 - 2006)
  - **Phase 2: Voting District/ Block Boundary Suggestions (2007 - 2009)**
  - Phase 3: Data Delivery (2010-2011)
  - Phase 4: Collection of Post Redistricting Plans (2012 - 2013)
  - Phase 5: Evaluation and Recommendations for Census 2020
The Legislative Redistricting Project

The U.S. Census Bureau’s Redistricting Data Program

• Phase 1: State Legislative District Project (2005 - 2006)
  
      – This program allowed states to submit current legislative district boundaries to the U.S. Census Bureau to be enumerated.

      • http://factfinder.census.gov
      • Census 2000 Tabulation of current Wisconsin Legislative Districts.
      • These district lines will also be enumerated for Census 2010.
The Legislative Redistricting Project

The U.S. Census Bureau’s Redistricting Data Program

• Phase 2: Voting District/Block boundary Suggestion Project (2007 - 2009)
  – This program allowed states to submit current or historic Voting Districts (Wards) to the U.S. Census Bureau.
    • The voting district lines will be held for Census 2010.
    • The voting districts submitted will be enumerated for Census 2010.
      – Historical Perspective
      – Historic Election Data can be used with Census 2010 data.
  – Phase 2: Verification is scheduled for March 2010
The Legislative Redistricting Project

The U.S. Census Bureau’s Redistricting Data Program

• Phase 2 : Project NOTES

  – TIGER Modernization

  • The Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER)
    – System was developed in the late 1980’s (1990 and 2000 Census)
    – All Geographic features used for the Decimal Census.
      » Blocks, Block Groups, Tracts
      » Streets, Streams, Railroads, Political Boundaries (Cities, Towns and Villages)
    – Positional Accuracy could be as far off as +/- 50 meters (+/-167 feet) before modernization.
    – Post modernization accuracy goal was set at +/- 7.6 meters (+/- 25 feet).
    – ESRI Shapefile format.
The Legislative Redistricting Project

The U.S. Census Bureau’s Redistricting Data Program

• Phase 2: Project NOTES
  
  – TIGER Modernization
    • Although positional accuracy has been enhanced there are some problems with the new TIGER dataset.
    • All 72 of the State of Wisconsin’s Counties were not modernized.
      – Local dataset licensing
    • Line and boundary problems.
      – Reprocessing of 1159 counties.
      – Boundary Repair program
        » Legislative district line problems
        » Population Density problems
The Legislative Redistricting Project

The U.S. Census Bureau’s Redistricting Data Program

• Phase 3: Delivery of Public Law 94-171 – Redistricting Data to State Liaisons
  – Tabulation Block Geography from TIGER 2010.
  – Tabulation Block Counts
  – Data will be received on or before April 1, 2011.
    • Data will be made available on our website (http://legis.wisconsin.gov/ltsb/redistricting/districts.htm)
    • And through the WISE-LR website. (http://legis.wisconsin.gov/wisler)
  – Delivery of this data to the Legislature (and then to the counties) starts the process of local redistricting in Wisconsin.
State of Wisconsin - Local Redistricting

- **180 Day Period For Local Officials Begins**
  - Start Date: April 1\textsuperscript{st} 2011
    - First 60 days – Tentative County Supervisory Plans Created
    - Second 60 days – Municipal Wards Created
      - (Based on Tentative Supervisory Plan)
    - Final 60 days Final Supervisory and Ward Plans approved and submitted to Legislature.

- **Statewide Dataset Produced**
  - November 2011
    - Data distributed to both houses of the Legislature for creation of Legislative Redistricting Plans.

- **Public Access to Redistricting Data**
  - January 2012
The Legislative Redistricting Project

State of Wisconsin - Local Redistricting

• **Phase 4 of the Redistricting Data program - PL 94-171 Data**
  – Data will be received before April 1, 2011.
• **180 Day Period For Local Officials Begins**
  – Start Date: April 1st 2011
    • First 60 days – Tentative County Supervisory Plans Created
    • Second 60 days – Municipal Wards Created
      – (Based on Tentative Supervisory Plan)
    • Final 60 days Final Supervisory and Ward Plans approved and submitted to Legislature.
• **Statewide Dataset Produced**
  – November 2011
    • Data distributed to both houses of the Legislature for creation of Legislative Redistricting Plans.
• **Public Access to Redistricting Data**
  – January 2012
Legislative Redistricting

Legislative Technology Services Bureau

Tony J. Van Der Wielen
GIS Manager

Applied Population Laboratory
University of Wisconsin - Madison

James Beaudoin
GIS Program Developer