



# Common Rules

Redistricting laws (IC 36-4-6, cities other than Indianapolis; IC 36-5-2, towns) generally require that city or town council districts:

- Be contiguous, except when impossible
- Be reasonably compact
- Contain, as nearly as possible, equal population
- Usually not cross county precinct boundaries or US census block lines



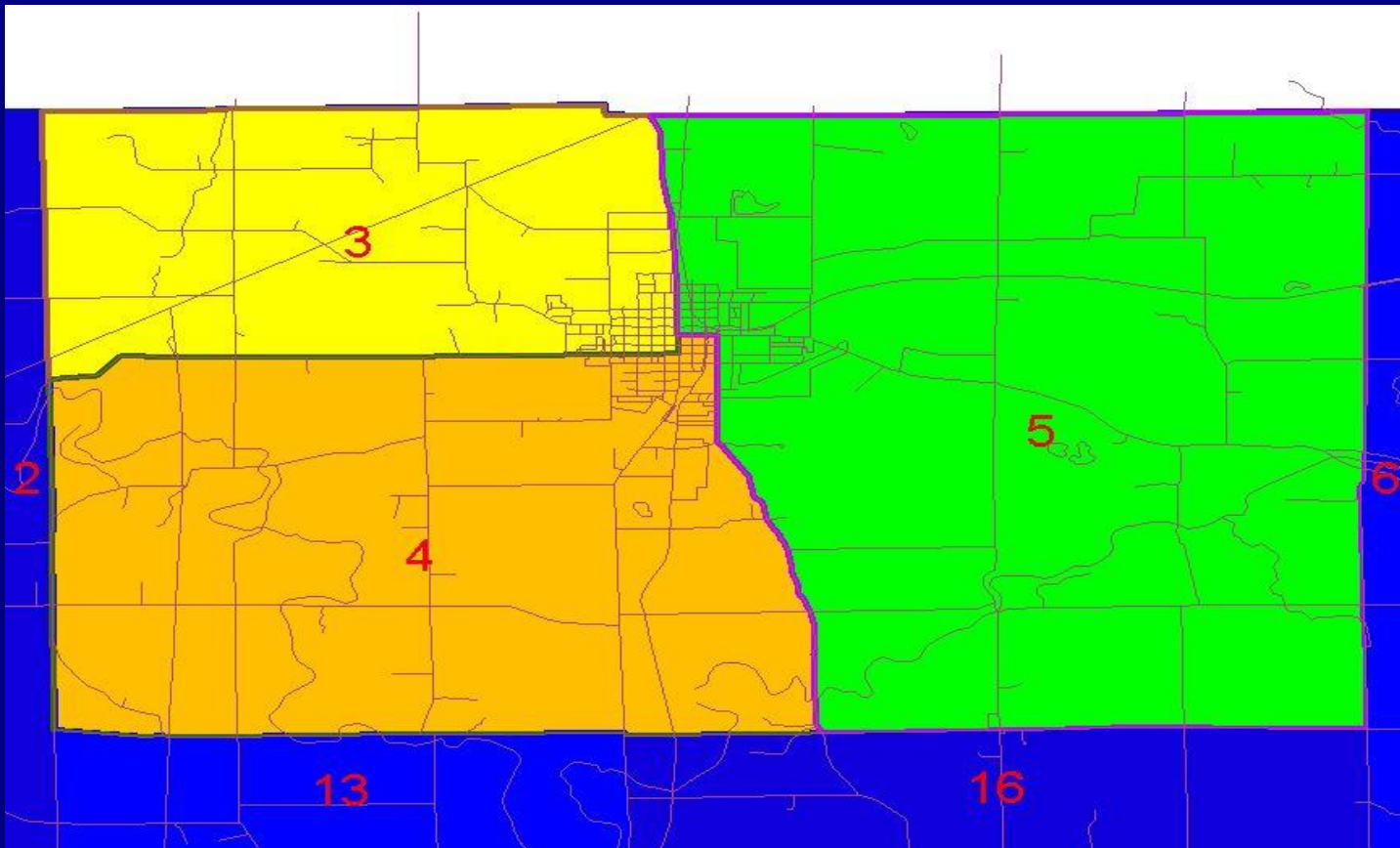
# Contiguous: Definition

***Contiguous:*** A district not be divided into two or more pieces by another district.



# Contiguous: Example 1

*Contiguous: A district not be divided into two or more pieces by another district.*

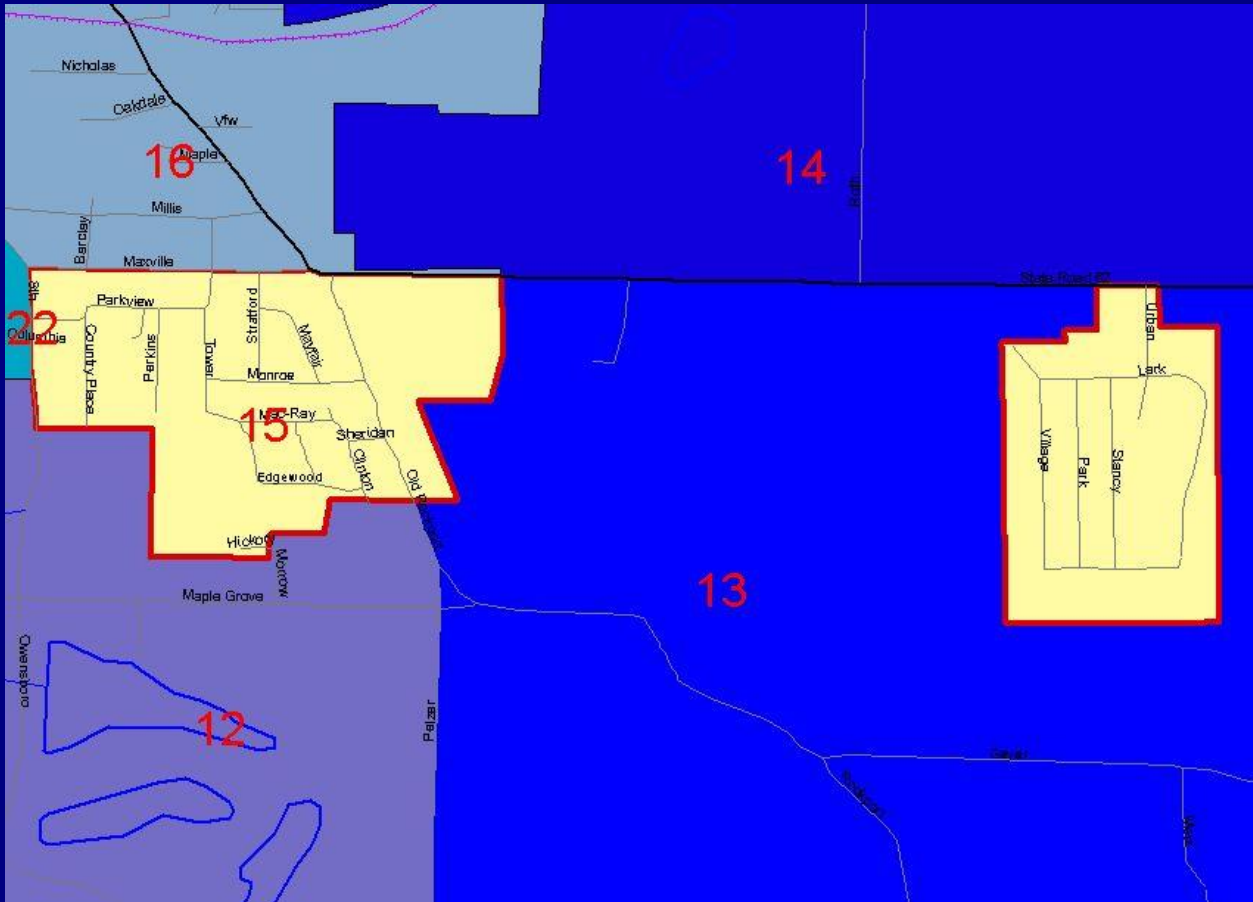


Each of these districts is contiguous.



# Contiguous: Example 2

*Contiguous: A district not be divided into two or more pieces by another district.*



This district is not contiguous.



# The “Island” Exception to Contiguity

- May be impossible for all council districts to be completely contiguous. If city or town has non-contiguous territory, then “island” will result in a non-contiguous council district.
- Some “islands” are non-residential (airports, industrial parks). But “island” could have population (such as former industrial area converted to residential use, or resident caretakers).
- Some council districts may have several “islands” of noncontiguous territory.



# Compact: Definition

## *“Compact”?*

*Not defined by statute; several measures:*

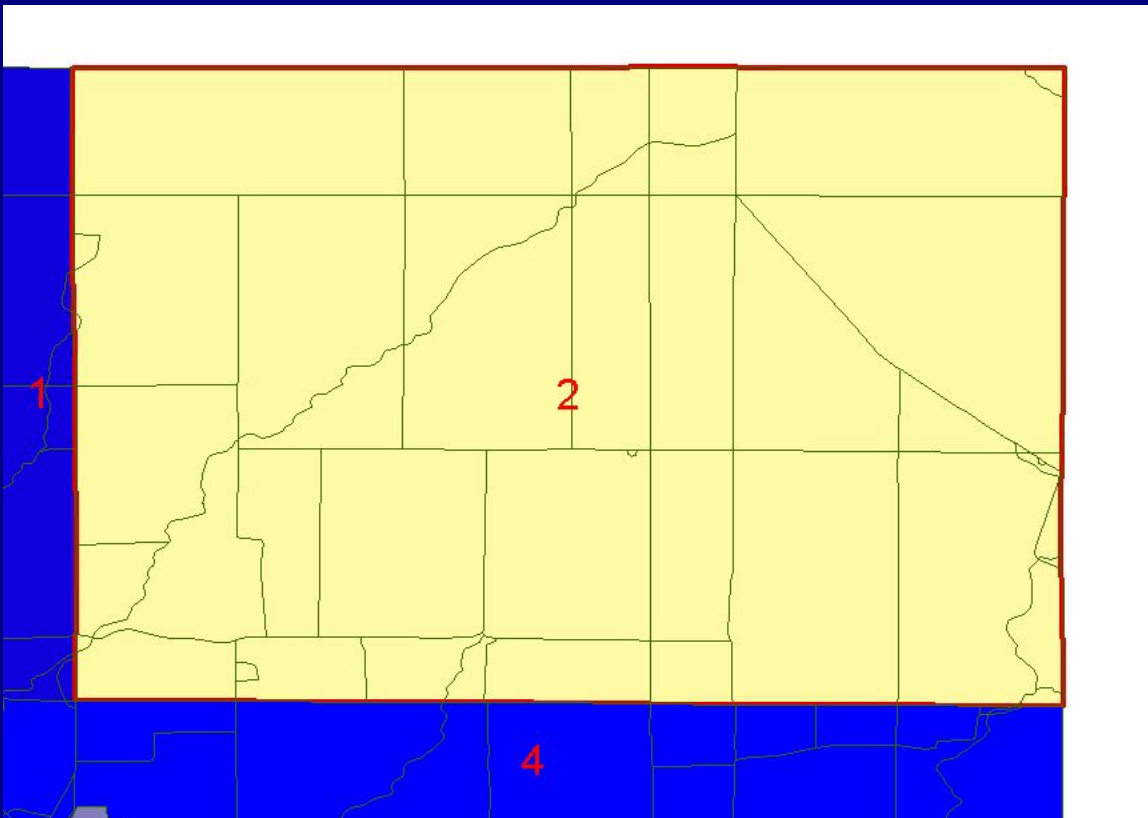
*1) Dispersion: How tightly packed or spread out is the district?*

*2) Perimeter: Does the district have jagged borders?*



# Compact: Example 1

*Compact: How tightly packed or spread out is the district? Does the district have jagged borders?*

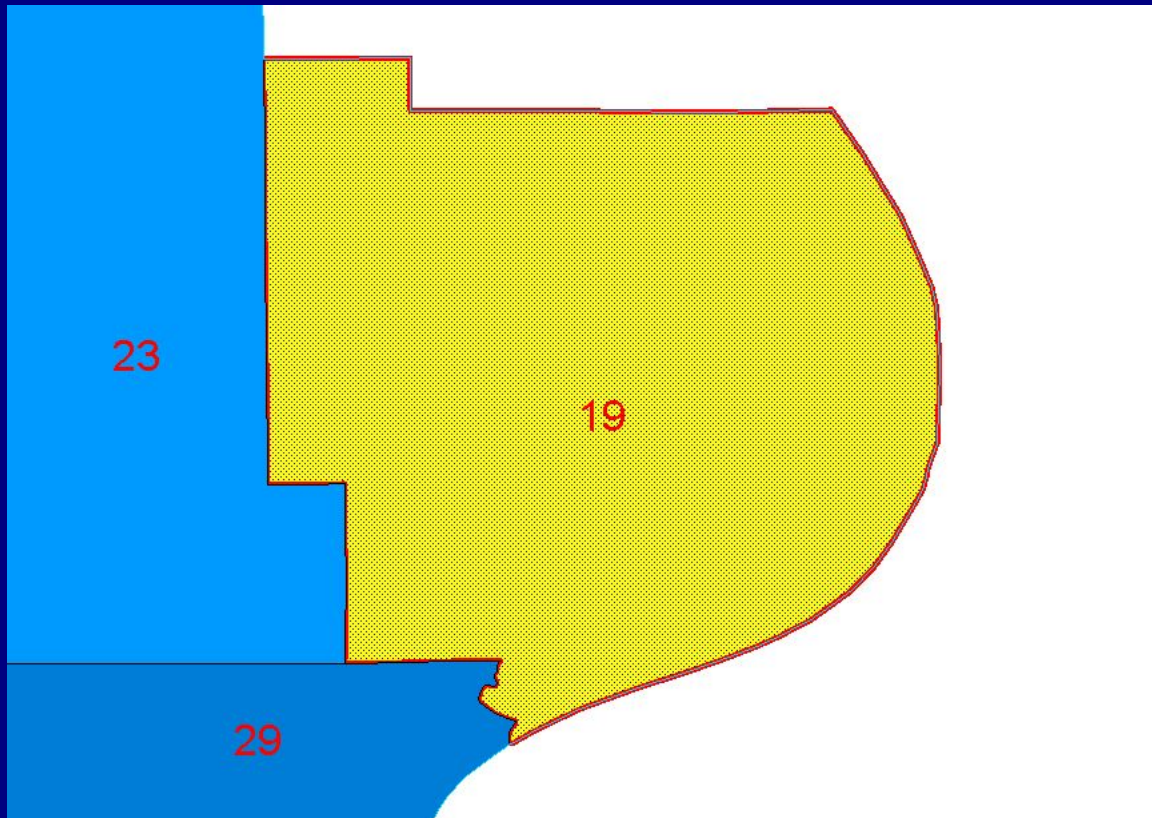


**This district is a good example of compactness.**



# Compact: Example 2

*Compact: How tightly packed or spread out is the district? Does the district have jagged borders?*



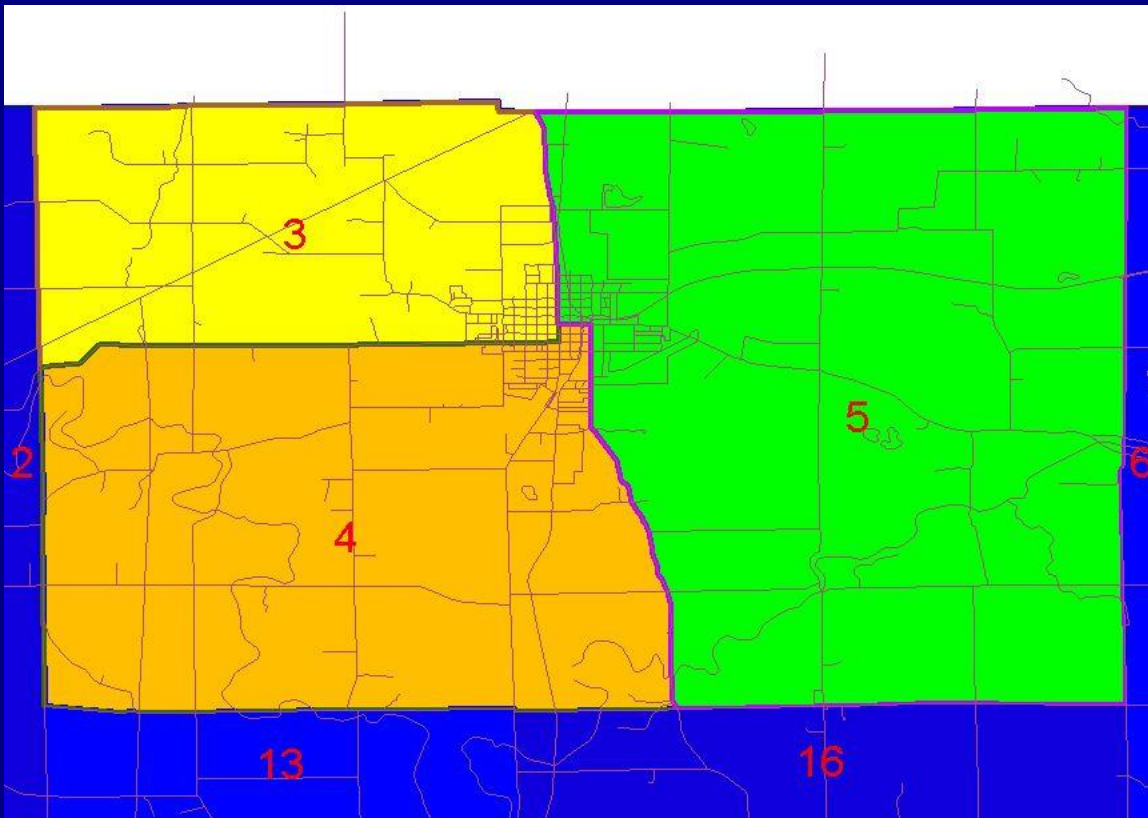
This district is also a good example of compactness.





# Compact: Example 3

*Compact: How tightly packed or spread out is the district? Does the district have jagged borders?*

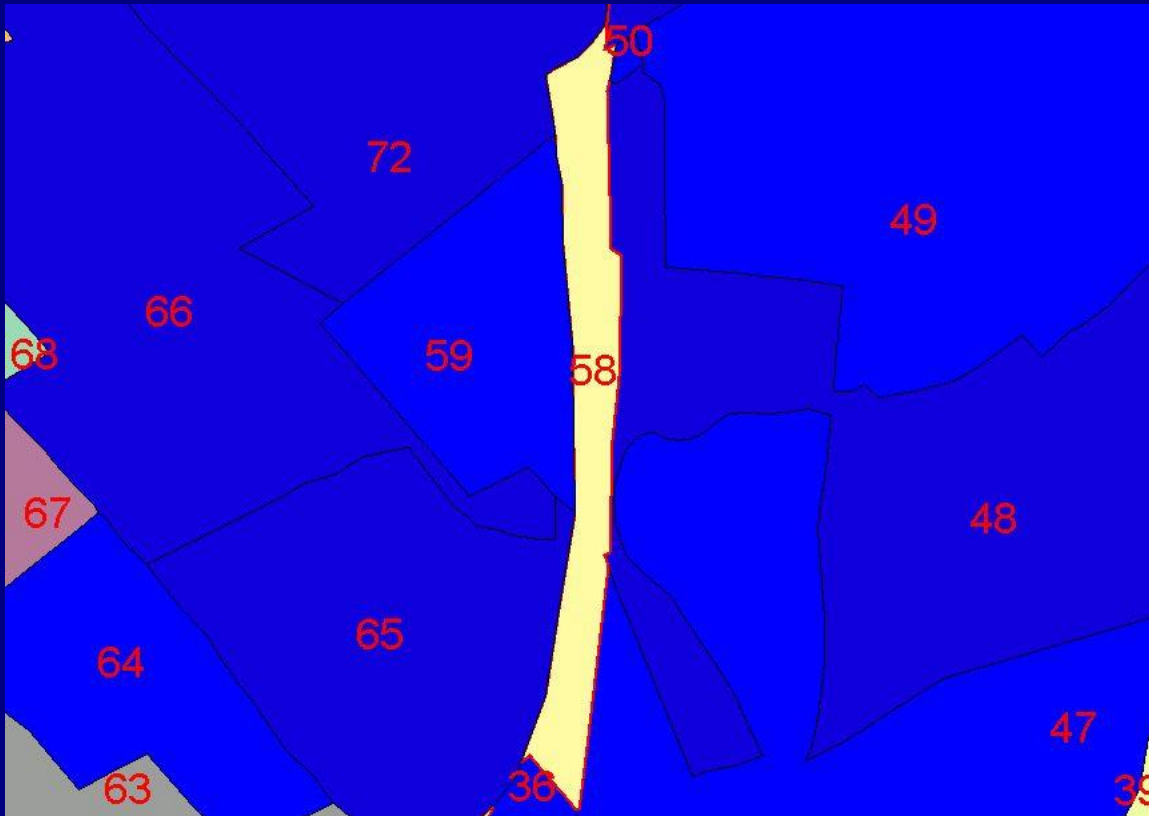


These districts are all fairly compact.



# Compact: Example 4

*Compact: How tightly packed or spread out is the district? Does the district have jagged borders?*



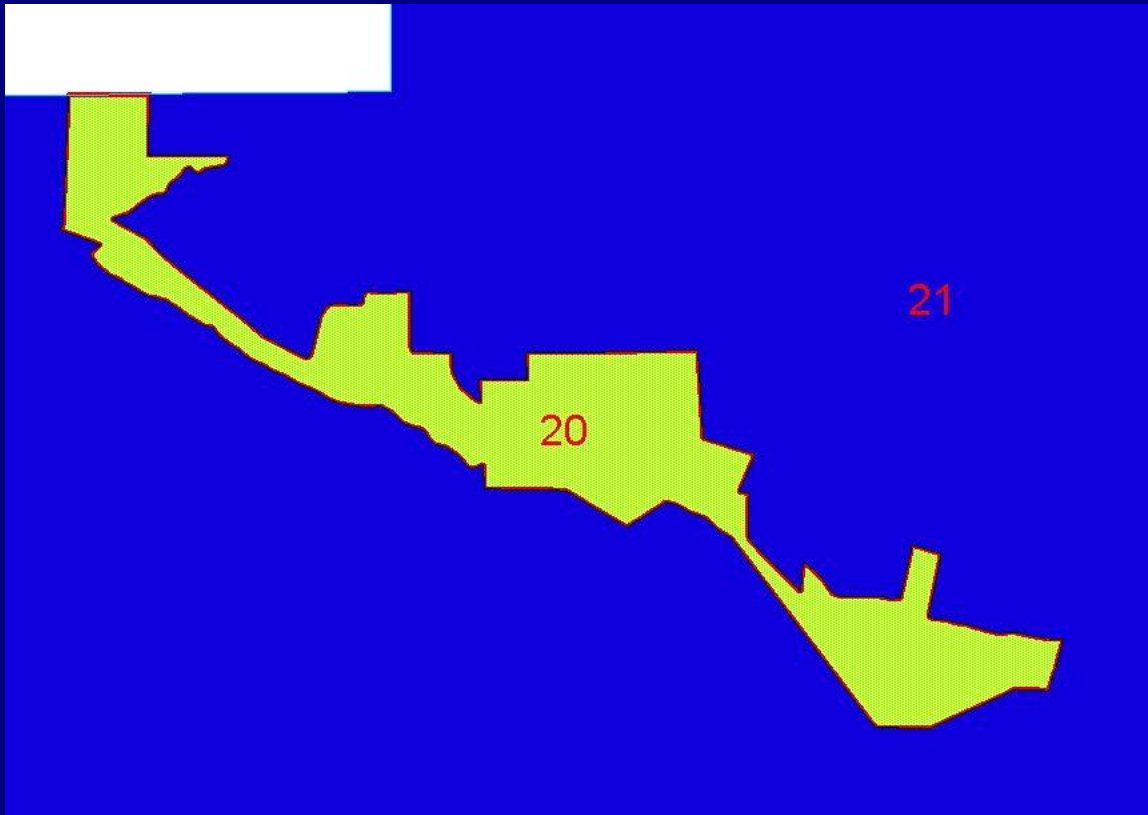
This district is long and jagged.

It is not as compact.



# Compact: Example 5

*Compact: How tightly packed or spread out is the district? Does the district have jagged borders?*



This district is long and spread out and has many jagged edges.

It is not as compact.



# Equal Population

- **Equal Population: “One person, one vote” (not just voters)**
- **Measured by “*Percent of Total Population Deviation*”.**

*How do you calculate this percentage?*

- **Step 1: Determine “Ideal Population”.** Divide total population by number of districts. Result is exact equality (if possible).
- **Step 2: Identify the “Extreme Population” Districts.** Which district has the highest? Which has the lowest population?
- **Step 3: Determine “Total Population Deviation.”** Subtract Population of Lowest Population District from Highest Population District. Your result will be a number (“42”).



# Equal Population (II)

- **Step 4: Determine “Percentage of Total Population Deviation”.** Divide the result from Step 3 by the result from Step 1 (Ideal population).
- **Your final result is a percentage, such as 4.75%.**



# Equal Population “Story Problem”

According to 2020 census, the Town of Hoosierville has 1000 people and town has 5 council districts

The ideal district population is  $1000 \div 5 = 200$

The proposed plan has 5 districts with 180, 190, 200, 210 and 220 people

The “extreme” lowest and highest population districts are 180 and 220.

The population deviation is  $220 - 180 = 40$ .



# Equal Population “Story Problem” (II)

- Total Population Deviation is  $40 \div 200 = 20\%$
- What does Hoosierville Town Attorney’s advise? “Back to the Drawing Board.”

**Why?**



# Equal Population Standards

- **20% exceeds the “10% Rule of Thumb”**
- **Exceptions:**
  - ◆ **Towns with all council members elected by all voters of town. “Residential districts” for candidates (like County Commissioners in most counties).**
  - ◆ **Well-documented exceptional circumstances.**





# Equal Population Standards

- **Tools for “well-documented” plans:**
  - ◆ **Minutes of council meetings**
  - ◆ **Findings of Fact and recitals in redistricting ordinance**
  - ◆ **Incorporation of materials by reference**



# Precinct lines

- **What are “precincts”?**
  - ◆ **Districts which organize voters for voting at specific polling place and to elect political party officials (precinct committeemen, and sometimes state convention delegates)**
  - ◆ **Established by *county commissioners***
  - ◆ **Can have the same boundaries as city or town council districts, but not automatic.**



# Why are precincts important?

- **County clerk and election board use precincts to administer the election, such as printing ballots. Sometimes county changes precinct lines to follow new city/ town council districts.**
- **Avoiding “ballot variations” within a precinct whenever possible. More than one ballot style distributed in same precinct can lead to voter receiving wrong type of ballot.**



# Exceptions to Precinct Crossing Rule

- Two incumbents currently in same precinct, but would reside in different council districts after council redistricting.
- Necessary to equalize population as nearly as possible. *Stricter than 10% deviation?*
- Required 10 days prior written notice to county clerk before adoption if new districts will cross precinct lines.



# Census Blocks

- **What are “census blocks”?**
  - ◆ **Smallest pieces of geography used by US Census Bureau to gather population data.**
  - ◆ **Groups of census blocks make census tracts.**
  - ◆ **Could have large population or none at all.**
  - ◆ **Small geographic territory with “visible features”.**



# Exceptions to Census Block Rule

- **When following a county's precinct boundary line**
- **When census block has no population**
  - **NOTE: Municipal boundary may split census block in some cases.**