

Mandatory Criteria for Congressional Districts

1. Congressional Districts must be as equal in population as is practicable. (Art I, Sec 2. US Const.)
2. Congressional Districts must comply with Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Race cannot be the predominant factor to which other criteria are subordinated. (Voting Rights Act, Equal Protection Clause)
3. Congressional Districts must be compact. Compactness is greatest when a district's length and its width are equal, as is a circle.
4. Congressional Districts must be contiguous, meaning that a district must be in one piece. Areas that meet only at points of adjoining corners or areas separated by natural geographical or artificial barriers that prevent transportation within a district by vehicle on a maintained road shall not be considered to be contiguous.
5. Congressional District boundaries shall coincide with political subdivisions of the state and federal reservations to the greatest extent possible. The number of cities, towns, counties and federal reservations divided among more than one district must be as small as possible. When there is a choice between dividing any of these entities the more populous of same must be divided before the less populous, unless the boundary is drawn along a county line or reservation boundary that passes through a city.
6. Criteria shall be prioritized and uniformly applied in the order listed above.

Discretionary Criteria for Congressional Districts

1. No districting plan shall be drawn with the intent to favor or disfavor a political party or an incumbent. (Florida Constitution)
2. Congressional Districts should keep communities of interest intact. Communities of interest are based upon economic, geographic, school district, social and community commonalities.
3. Criteria shall be prioritized and uniformly applied in the order listed above.