



Ohio Redistricting Competition 2021 Ohio House and Senate Maps Rules and Scoring

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General Information

Who: Anyone who cares about democracy and is interested in Ohio redistricting

What: Try your hand at drawing Ohio House and Senate District maps! Using the mapping software of your choice ([free options and tutorials here](#)), create maps that follow the criteria in the Ohio Constitution, avoid cracking or packing, and create representative districts for the people of Ohio.

When:

Official Launch: Friday, August 20, 2021

Deadline: Midnight on September 6, 2021
Maps must be submitted through [this form](#).

How: All information and software necessary to prepare redistricting maps are available online at fairdistrictsohio.org/mapcompetition.

***** Enter the competition! Sign up [HERE](#). *****

Competition Rules

1. Maps may be the work of an individual or team, but each person who works on the map must be identified.
2. Mappers may submit state legislative district maps (Ohio House and Ohio Senate) map and/or a congressional district map Only maps of the entire state will be accepted.
3. Maps must use 2020 Census data as a basis for determining equal population. No resident may be excluded from population counts on the basis of the ability to vote.
4. Maps must comply with the criteria in the Ohio Constitution (see below for more information).
5. Maps may be submitted using any of the following free online mapping software programs: [Districtr](#), [DistrictBuilder](#), or [Dave's Redistricting App](#). Maps created in other software programs or submitted in hand drawn or pdf format must also include shapefiles to be considered.
6. Mappers are strongly encouraged to refer to [submitted community maps](#) in crafting their submissions.
7. Mappers are required to submit a narrative along with their map that explains the decisions that they made in creating their map.

Mapping Criteria

All maps must comply with the following constitutional criteria. Mappers should include a narrative report with their map that explains their thought process and the choices that they made.

1. Map must include **99 Ohio House Districts and 33 Senate Districts**
2. **Districts must have substantially Equal Population as determined by the 2020 Census.**

House

Rule A: The "Ratio of Representation" (ideal population number) of each House District is 119,281.

Rule B: The population of each House District must be substantially equal to the ratio of representation and in no event should any district contain a population of less than ninety-five per cent no more than one hundred five per cent of the ratio of representation. (District populations should fall between 113,317 and 125,245)

Senate

Rule A: Combine three contiguous house districts to make each senate district. The “Ratio of Representation” (ideal population number) of each Senate District is 357,844.

The population of each Senate District must be substantially equal to the ratio of representation. No district may have a population of less than 95% or more than 105% of the ratio of representation. (District populations should fall between 339,952 and 375,736).

- 3. Districts must comply with the Federal Voting Rights Act and they must be drawn in a manner to ensure that voters of color can elect representatives of their choosing.**

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act applies to areas where (1) the affected minority group is sufficiently large to elect a representative of its choice and (2) the minority group is politically cohesive. For the purposes of the competition, competitors can attempt to comply with Section 2 by avoiding any decrease in minority representation in the Ohio General Assembly and also determining whether any districts are packed such that additional districts could be created where minority voters would have an opportunity to elect representatives of their choosing. Compliance with the Voting Rights Act is complicated -- we are willing to provide assistance and further information.

- 4. Districts must be contiguous**

Each part of a district must be connected to the rest of the district. All districts within a map must be contiguous, meaning that every part of a district must be reachable from every other part without crossing the district’s borders. “Point contiguity” where two sections of a district are connected at a single point is not permitted. Water contiguity is permitted for districts containing Lake Erie islands.

- 5. Districts must be compact.**

Compactness is a measure of how closely the outline of a district is contained within a circle. Generally, districts are more compact if they avoid strange shapes or straggling lines.

- 6. Map must comply with Ohio county and municipal splits requirements**

OHIO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ohio House Rule C: splitting restrictions on counties

1. Limits on splits of counties with more than 105% of the ratio of representation
 - a. First form as many whole districts as the county has whole ratios of representation.
 - b. Excess population of the county must be made part of only one adjoining district.
2. Every county within 95% to 105% of the ratio of representation must be designated as a district, i.e., shall not be split.
3. Limits on how often a county can be split when county combinations are necessary:
 - a. If feasible, no county in a county combination should be split more than once.

Ohio House Rule D: splitting restrictions on municipalities

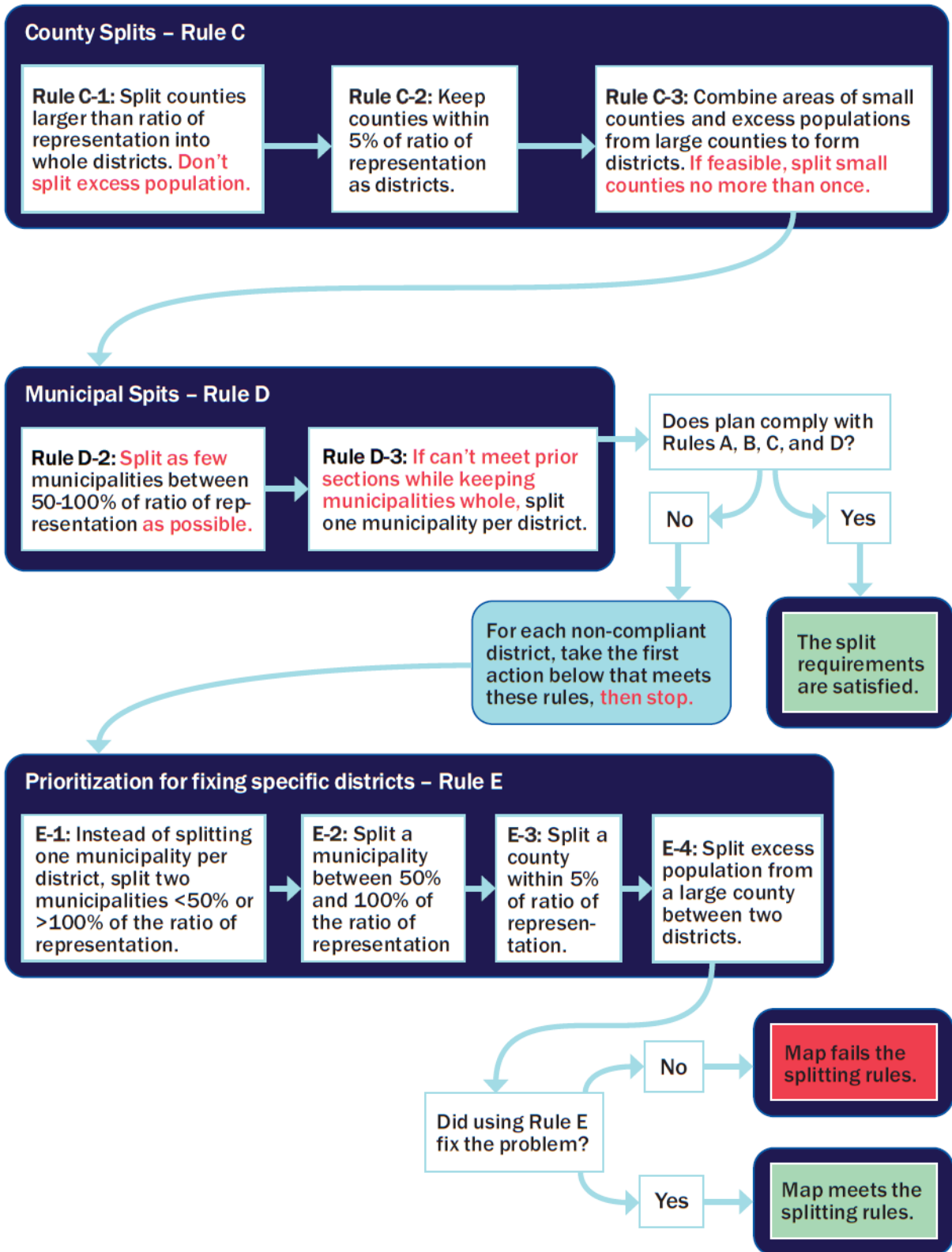
1. Splits defined and definitions of distinct municipalities
 - a. A county, municipal corporation, or township “is considered to be split if any contiguous portion of its territory is not contained entirely within one district” with two exceptions:
 - i. If a municipal corporation or township lies in more than one county, dividing the contiguous portions that lie in each county shall not be considered a split.
 - ii. If, for the purpose of complying with the provisions in Rule E below, you split a municipal corporation or township that is located in a county that contains a municipal corporation or township that has a population larger than the ratio of representation, each portion of that municipal corporation or township shall be considered to be a separate municipal corporation or township.
2. House districts must be drawn so as to split the smallest possible number of municipalities which are more than 50% and less than 100% of the ratio of representation.
3. If you cannot feasibly use whole municipalities and townships to form a House District, you may split not more than one municipal corporation or township per house district.

Ohio House Rule E: Steps to take if the requirements of Rules B, C and/or D cannot be met with respect to a particular House District.

If you cannot comply with all of the requirements of Rules C and D in creating a particular House District, you must take the first action listed below that makes it possible for you to draw a compliant district:

1. Notwithstanding the requirement of Rule D that there can be only one split municipality per district, you may split one other municipality whose contiguous portions do not contain a population of more than 50% or less than 100% of the ratio of representation.
2. Notwithstanding the requirement of Rule D to minimize the splitting of municipalities between 50% and 100% of the ratio of representation, you may split a municipality whose contiguous portions contain a population of this size.
3. Notwithstanding the requirement of Rule C that you may not split counties between 95% and 105% of the ratio of representation, you may split (but only once) a single county that has a population of this size.
4. Notwithstanding the requirement of Rule C that excess population in a county with more than 105% of the ratio of representation must be contained in one district, you may divide the excess population into two districts.

Below is a flow chart showing how these House District splitting rules (Rules C, D, and E) work together:

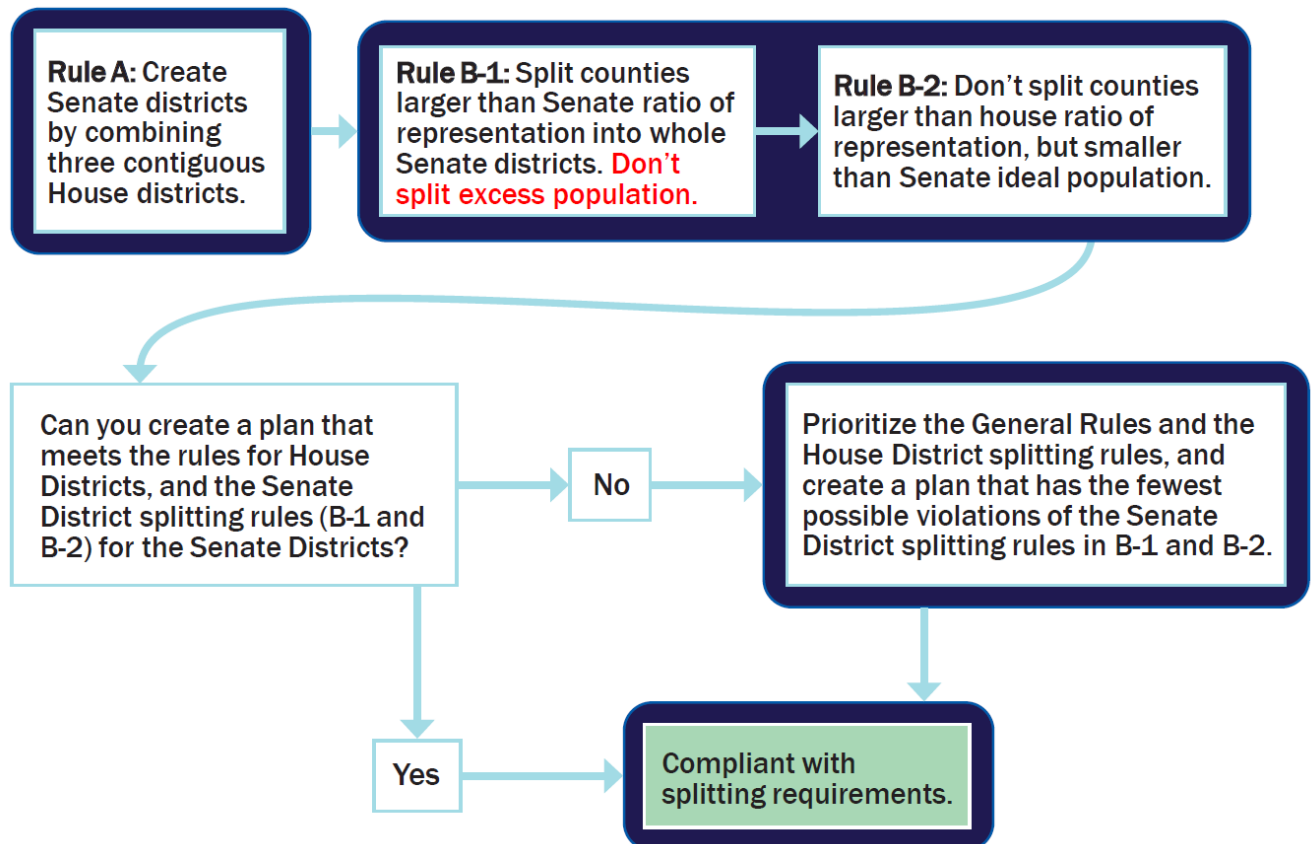


OHIO SENATE

Ohio Senate Rule B: Restrictions on County Splitting

1. For counties with a population greater than a Senate District ratio of representation:
 - a. Counties that have at least one whole Senate ratio of representation must have as many Senate Districts wholly within the boundaries of the county as it has whole ratios of representations.
 - b. Any fraction of the population in excess of a whole ratio of representation must be a part of only one adjoining Senate District.
2. Do not split counties with a population of less than one Senate ratio of representation, but more than one House District ratio of representation.
3. Requirement of minimizing violations:
 - a. If it's not possible to create House Districts that meet the requirements described in the House-District drawing rules, and that also can be combined into Senate districts that meet the requirements of Senate District drawing Rule B directly above, then you can violate Rule B, but in doing so, you must make the fewest possible Rule B violations.

Here is a flow chart showing how these Senate District splitting rules work:



7. Other Requirements for Both House and Senate Districts: Proportional Seats/Votes Requirement, Partisan Bias Requirement, and Compactness Requirement

The statewide proportion of districts whose voters favor each political party shall correspond closely to the statewide preferences of the voters of Ohio. This must be determined using statewide state and federal partisan general election results during the last ten years.

The map cannot be drawn primarily to favor or disfavor a political party.

Districts must be compact.

Scoring

This competition will test the use of the below factors as demonstrated in the submitted Congressional map. Please see above for a detailed description of each scoring criteria.

- (1) Equal Population**
- (2) Voting Rights Act Compliance**
- (3) Preservation of County and Municipal Boundaries**
- (4) Contiguity and Compactness**
- (5) Representational Fairness**
- (6) Map Responsiveness**
- (7) Protection of communities of interest.**
- (8) Narrative Quality**

| Scoring Criteria | Description |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Equal Population | <input type="checkbox"/> Is the population deviation of each district within 95% - 105% of the ratio of representation of each district? |
| Voting Rights Act | <input type="checkbox"/> Does the map comply with the Voting Rights Act? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the map provide BIPOC voters with opportunity districts? |
| Limiting County and Municipal splits | <input type="checkbox"/> Does the map follow constitutional requirements about splitting counties and municipal boundaries? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the map minimize county and municipality splits? |

| | |
|---|---|
| | <input type="checkbox"/> To the extent counties and municipalities are split, do the splits preserve communities of interest where possible? |
| Contiguity | <input type="checkbox"/> Are all districts contiguous and within a single, non-intersecting boundary? |
| Compactness | <input type="checkbox"/> How compact are the districts? <input type="checkbox"/> Do the districts avoid oddly shaped or sprawling lines? |
| Representational Fairness/Partisan gerrymandering prohibition | <input type="checkbox"/> How closely does the map as a whole mirror the partisan political makeup of Ohio's voters? <input type="checkbox"/> How does the map appropriately account for political geography while providing for some reasonably competitive districts? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the map unduly favor or disfavor a party or incumbent? |
| Responsiveness | <input type="checkbox"/> How likely are the individual districts to change partisan control, given shifting political preferences over the coming decade? |
| Protection of Communities | <input type="checkbox"/> How has the mapper prioritized protecting communities of interest? <input type="checkbox"/> Did the mapper review submitted community maps and incorporate relevant information? |
| Narrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Did the mapper include a narrative? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the narrative explain the mapper's reasoning, including how the mapper has complied with the other criteria and prioritized communities of interest? |

Prizes

First Prize: \$1,000

Second prize: \$500

Third prize: \$250

In addition, all who submit complete and compliant House and Senate maps will be entered into a drawing for cash gift cards.

Additional Resources

- ☐ [Ohio Constitution](#)
- ☐ Fair Districts website fairdistrictsohio.org
- ☐ [DistrictR](#) mapping software
- ☐ [DistrictBuilder](#) mapping software
- ☐ [Dave's Redistricting App](#) mapping software
- ☐ National Conference of State Legislatures' [Redistricting & the Supreme Court: The Most Significant Cases](#)

Glossary

Ratio of representation: an approximation of the ideal population of a voting district, determined by the results of the decennial census. For the purposes of this competition, each Ohio House and Senate district should be between 95-105% of the ideal population. For the Ohio House districts should ideally be composed of 119,281 people. District populations should fall between 113,317 and 125,245.

Municipal corporation: Ohio cities or townships.