

NCSL Redistricting Update – March 3, 2021

Census Bureau DAS Newsletter

The Disclosure Avoidance System (Differential Privacy) team plans to release the next Privacy Protected Microdata Files (PPMF) and Detailed Summary Metrics no later than April 30, 2021. These files, generated by the Disclosure Avoidance System, apply statistical noise to produce differential privacy-protected tables. This will allow data users who have the capability of processing files with 350 million records to reproduce the P.L. 94-171 redistricting tables to perform their data analyses and measure the impact of differential privacy. The April release will be like the demonstration data sets released in 2020 ([May](#), [September](#), and [November](#)). Data users will have four weeks to submit feedback and recommendations prior to the Bureau. The latest disclosure avoidance newsletter can be found under my signature line below.

First redistricting lawsuit

In the [first lawsuit](#) of this decade, a group of voters have filed a lawsuit against the Minnesota Secretary of State and the 87 Minnesota county auditors to prohibit election officials from using the current congressional and legislative district maps in the 2022 state primary and state general election. Many of you know the lead plaintiff, Peter Wattson. The complaint alleges that the Minnesota Legislature will fail to enact new redistricting plans by the February 15, 2022 statutory deadline and the population shifts during the past ten years make the current congressional and legislative districts violate the U.S. Constitution's Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and Article IV, Section 2 of the Minnesota Constitution. The voters seek for the [Minnesota Supreme Court](#) to take jurisdiction over all suits challenging the current congressional or legislative districts if the legislature is unable to pass new maps. If you would like more information, please contact Peter at peterwattson@gmail.com.

Ohio sues Census Bureau

Ohio's attorney general has filed a [lawsuit](#) challenging the Census Bureau's decision to push back the release of 2020 census data. The complaint alleges that the release of redistricting data by September 30, rather than its [statutory](#) deadline, will irreparably harm the state, and asks that the Census Bureau comply with its statutory deadline of March 31. Under its constitution, Ohio's redistricting commission must finalize its state legislative districts by September 1, 2021—clearly not possible if the data comes later.

For the People Act (H.R.1)

This week, the U.S. House of Representatives plans to vote on [H.R. 1](#), also known as the For the People Act. This Act makes sweeping reforms in the areas of voting, campaign finance, ethics and would require states to establish independent redistricting commissions to draw congressional districts. NCSL is analyzing the bill, and sees significant impacts on virtually all states.