End of Session Updates

On Wednesday, June 16, the Senate and House Redistricting Committees held their final meetings of the 2021 regular legislative session. The committee chairs and staff discussed the work of the committees during session as well as plans for the committees once the final U.S. Census data arrives in August. To watch a recording of the hearing follow this link.

Tentative Public Hearing Schedule

Once the needed redistricting data arrives in August, the committees will spend several weeks developing draft congressional and legislative maps. Starting in September, the committees plan to embark on a statewide tour to gather feedback and learn about communities of interest. The following meetings have been tentatively scheduled, though are subject to change.

- September 8 – Bend at 5:30 PM
- September 9 – Eugene at 5:30 PM
- September 10 – Salem at 9:00 AM
- September 10 – Oregon City/North Clackamas County at 3:00 PM
- September 11 – Central Portland at 9:00 AM
- September 11 – Hillsboro/Beaverton at 3:00 PM
- September 13 – Oregon Capitol at 9:00 AM and 1:00 and 5:30 PM

These meeting dates and times have been added to the redistricting website. Please be sure to check the website frequently for additional updates.

NCSL Redistricting Update – June 14, 2021

NCSL’s June 4 Census Update Meeting
On June 4, NCSL held its latest census update meeting. We were joined by James Whitehorne, Census Bureau Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office; Jerry D. Howe, Utah Legislative Research and General Counsel Office; and Samuel S. Wang, Princeton University. If you were unable to join us, you’re in luck because the meeting was recorded. The recording and other resources are available on the webpage.

Colorado Supreme Court Limits Legislature’s Role in Redistricting
A new blog by Ben Williams looks at the Colorado Supreme Court’s recent decision on the scope of the Colorado Legislature’s power over the state’s congressional and legislative independent redistricting commissions.

Census Bureau’s Study of Top Down Algorithm
A paper by the Census Bureau has been posted regarding an empirical study of two aspects of the top down algorithm output for redistricting: reliability and variability. Also, the bureau has provided this webinar (May 21) that examines the results of the bureau’s
empirical evaluation of the reliability and fitness-for-use of the April 2021 demonstration data for redistricting and enforcement of the Voting Rights Act.

Census Bureau’s Webinar on Alternatives to Differential Privacy
On June 4, the Census Bureau held another webinar, this one with Michael Hawes and Rolando Rodriguez on research into alternatives to differential privacy. This event discussed preliminary findings from experiments designed to illustrate how techniques used to protect privacy in earlier censuses would impact census results if applied today on 2010 Census results. Here are the links to the presentation slides and transcript.

Connecticut is Reallocating Prison Inmates
The Connecticut governor signed SB 753 that adjusts the census population data and counts most prison inmates at their address before incarceration, instead of at their prison address. This bill requires that the adjusted data, as well as the unadjusted data, serve as the basis for determining state legislative districts and municipal voting districts. Connecticut is the eleventh state to have passed laws modifying how incarcerated persons are counted and allocated during the redistricting process. For more information, see NCSL's webpage on reallocating incarcerated persons for redistricting.

NCSL’s July 14-16 redistricting seminar
The last redistricting seminar is coming up soon! We hope you will join us for NCSL’s final redistricting seminar in Salt Lake City. This event will be a fast and furious in-person meeting to help tackle this once-a-decade task. We hope to see you in Utah.