

REDISTRICTING GLOSSARY

Apportionment: The process of assigning seats in a legislative body among pre-existing political subdivisions such as states or counties. ^[1]
Census: A complete count or enumeration of the United States population; the federal census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution in Article 1, section 2. The census is conducted every 10 years. A current census count is underway in 2020. ^[1]
Communities of interest: Communities of interest refer to the principle that it is desirable to group like-minded or similar people so that they may elect a representative that reflects their common values. ^[2]
Compact: Compactness is a traditional redistricting principle requiring that districts be as compact as possible. ^[2]
Contiguous: Contiguity is a traditional redistricting principle whereby every part of a district is connected to every other part, and all parts can be reached without crossing district lines. ^[2]
Cracking: A term used when the electoral strength of a particular group is divided by a redistricting plan. ^[1]
Equal population: The “one person, one vote” idea—the concept that each citizen’s vote should have equal weight with every other—overrides all other concerns. ^[2]
Gerrymander: A term of art to describe a plan or a district intentionally drawn to advantage one group or party over another, sometimes identified by bizarre shapes. ^[1]
Minority protection: Stemming from the Voting Rights Act of 1965, this principle is intended to prevent state or local governments from hindering minorities from voting either directly or subtly through manipulation of the voting process. ^[2]
Packing: A term used when one group is consolidated as a super-majority in a smaller number of districts, thus reducing its electoral influence in nearby districts. ^[1]
Partisan gerrymandering: Drawing districts intentionally to include or exclude people or groups of people with certain political affiliations in an attempt to secure one party’s success over another party. The legality of partisan gerrymandering in Wisconsin is at the heart of Gill v. Whitford .
Racial gerrymandering: Drawing districts intentionally to include or exclude people or groups of people of a particular race.
Redistricting: The process of redrawing or revising boundaries for representational districts. ^[1]
Unity of political subdivisions: The idea of drawing district lines along, rather than across, existing political boundaries. In Wisconsin, these principally include county and town lines, city and village limits, and ward limits within cities, towns, and villages. ^[2]

Sources:

[1] National Conference of State Legislatures, *The Redistricting Glossary*, August 23, 2018 (available at <https://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/the-redistricting-lexicon-glossary.aspx>).

[2] Keane, Michal, Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau, *Redistricting in Wisconsin*, April 1, 2016 (available at <https://cdm16831.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p16831coll2/id/1822>).