

# STATE OF COLORADO

## Colorado General Assembly

Mike Mauer, Director  
Legislative Council Staff

Colorado Legislative Council  
029 State Capitol Building  
Denver, Colorado 80203-1784  
Telephone (303) 866-3521  
Facsimile (303) 866-3855  
TDD (303) 866-3472  
E-Mail: lcs.ga@state.co.us



Charles W. Pike, Director  
Office of Legislative Legal Services

Office Of Legislative Legal Services  
091 State Capitol Building  
Denver, Colorado 80203-1782  
Telephone (303) 866-2045  
Facsimile (303) 866-4157  
E-Mail: olls.ga@state.co.us

### MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 13, 2009

**TO:** Executive Committee of the Legislative Council

**FROM:** Legislative Council Staff and Office of Legislative Legal Services

**SUBJECT:** Update on Reapportionment and Redistricting for 2011

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#### Timeline for Census

- April 1, 2010, Census Day
- On or before December 31, 2010, Census Bureau reports reapportionment of Congressional seats to the President
- On or before April 1, 2011, Census Bureau distributes population figures to the states

#### Congressional Redistricting

- General Assembly redistricts Congressional seats through a bill. Unlikely to have election data ready to act during 2011 regular session.
- Because 2012 is a Presidential election year, if one of the major parties wants to participate in "Super Tuesday", precinct caucuses moved from April to February. An act during the 2012 regular session would not give candidates or county clerks enough time to prepare for the caucuses. Special session could be during the 2011 interim.
- Public participation
  - Regular committee hearings
  - Interim committee

## **State Legislative Redistricting**

- Independent reapportionment commission consist of eleven members, four legislators, three appointed by the Governor, and four appointed by the Chief Justice.
- Again, because 2012 is a presidential election year, the work of the Reapportionment Commission must be condensed, so the first meetings may actually be during the last week of the 2011 regular session.

## **Preparation for 2011 Redistricting and Reapportionment**

- State Demographer and LCS staff are working together to develop the Colorado voting precinct map that will become a part of the census map and data. The voting precinct map will be used to incorporate Colorado voter registration and election data from the 2008 and 2010 elections into the US Census data and maps.
- After receiving census data and maps in April 2011, voter registration and election data from 2008 and 2010 will be added to the census maps and data. Incorporating the data and verifying its accuracy will likely take a month (April 2011). Thus, acting on congressional redistricting during the 2011 session would have to be done without election data.

## **Selection of Software for 2011**

What computer software should the commission and the General Assembly use in 2011?

According to NCSL, there are 3 options:

- Maptitude by Caliper
- autoBound by Citygate
- Florida developed its own software in 2000 and will make it available to anyone, but it comes with no support.
- We hope to send out RFI this interim.

## **Making Software Available to Legislators and Political Parties**

In 2000, we purchased a license for every member of the GA so they could draw plans. Very few members actually used the software, instead the political parties did the drawing. Most of the plans considered originated from the political parties.

## **Making Software Available to the Public**

- Earlier this year a senator expressed interest in giving the public the ability to draw plans.
- Both vendors, Caliper and CityGate, offer web-based redistricting software that will allow the public to draw plans on the web. The software has limited abilities and is expensive and again most plans considered in 2001 came from the political parties.

## **Legislation to Set Up and Fund with Appropriation**

Ten years ago, Senate Bill 00-219 directed Legislative Council Staff to obtain the software and election data, to set up an office for the Reapportionment Commission and staff, and, to establish procedures for the commission. The bill also appropriated money for the software, staff training, and setting up the office.