

# What values do citizens want to see expressed in their new legislative maps?

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**Draw the Lines**

# Lessons from the work of the PA Redistricting Reform Commission

- Bipartisan advisory commission created by the Gov. Wolf in 2018 to study and recommend improvements for PA's legislative and congressional redistricting processes.
- Considered input from 9 public meetings, a public survey, and practices from other states.
- Addressed both the congressional and legislative processes.



# What the commission learned

- Focusing on the ‘What?’ and ‘How?’
- **What:** Criteria used to draw the maps should be clear, concise, and accountable.
- **How:** The process should be straightforward and transparent, using modern technology to increase opportunities for engagement.
- Mappers should present the “Story of the Map”



# Public survey results

- Designed and conducted by Dr. Lee Ann Banaszak, Chair of the PSU Political Science department and Commission member
- Constitutional requirements were prioritized among the general sample.
- Additional sample of Republican, Black, and Latinx voters.
  - Black and Latinx ranked minority representation third.
  - Republicans ranked incumbent protection third.

Approximate rankings
Equal population
Contiguity
Compactness
Minimizing splits
Competitive elections
Minority representation
Communities of interest
Incumbent protection
Party advantage

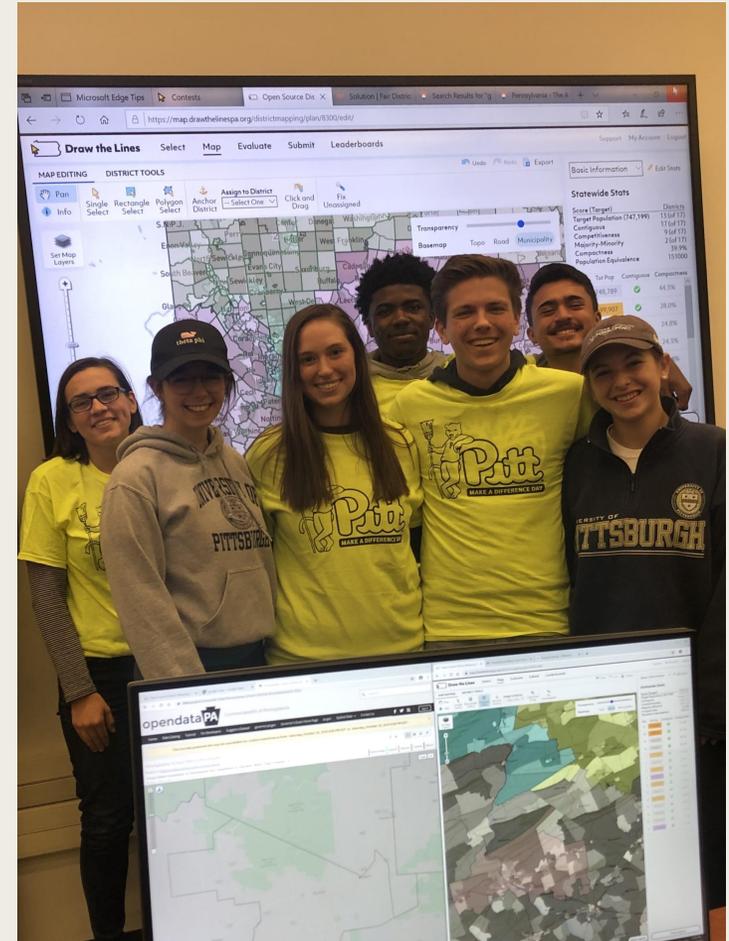
# Commission public meetings

- Nine three-hour public meetings across the commonwealth, attended by 600 citizens
- Moderated discussion format
- Additional insights re: criteria:
  - Desire to avoid splitting school districts
  - Testimony on communities of interest was divided



# Lessons from Draw the Lines PA (DTL)

- DTL is a statewide, nonpartisan, exercise in citizen engagement around redistricting
- Steering Committee chaired by former Gov. Mark Schweiker and Dr. Dana Brown, Center for Women and Politics, Chatham University
- Starting in 2018, DTL sponsored twice-yearly map drawing competitions around congressional and legislative districts
- By the numbers:
  - 12,000+ participants
  - 7,200 mappers
  - 1,500 completed maps ( > 90% congressional)



# Lessons from DTL

- DTL citizen mappers
  - Came from 40 counties, representing 89% of PA's population
  - Represented 150+ schools and colleges
  - Ages 13 to 70 (majority being those who will vote for this first time using the next maps)
- Critical point: participants drew their map **using their own values and priorities.**
- Maps were judged by community leaders based on how well the maps achieved the individual mapper's goals.



# For the first time ever, powerful mapping tools are widely available--and free

The screenshot displays the DRA2020 web application interface. The main map shows Pennsylvania with various districts highlighted in different colors. The selected district is Allegheny Twp Dist 04 [109]. The interface includes a sidebar with a District Selector, District Details, and various overlays. The District Details panel provides demographic and voting data for the selected district.

**District Details**

**Total Population 2010**

Pop	%
Total	62,988 100.0%
White	53,633 85.1%
Hispanic	2,587 4.1%
Black	6,140 9.7%
Asian	690 1.1%
Native	332 0.5%
Pacific	48 0.1%

**Voting Age Pop 2010**

Pop	%
Total	47,845 100.0%
White	42,412 88.6%
Hispanic	1,388 2.9%
Black	3,479 7.3%
Asian	480 1.0%
Native	226 0.5%
Pacific	31 0.1%

**President 2016**

Votes	%
Democratic	13,114 47.0%
Republican	13,622 48.8%
Other	1,185 4.2%

**Precinct Details**

**ALLEGHENY TWP DIST 04 [109]**

**Total Population 2010**

Pop	%
Total	1,106 100.0%
White	1,072 96.9%
Hispanic	8 0.7%
Black	21 1.9%
Asian	7 0.6%
Native	1 0.1%
Pacific	0 0.0%

**Voting Age Pop 2010**

Pop	%
Total	913 100.0%
White	891 97.6%
Hispanic	5 0.5%
Black	12 1.3%
Asian	5 0.5%
Native	1 0.1%
Pacific	0 0.0%

**President 2016**

Votes	%
Democratic	116 22.5%
Republican	392 75.9%
Other	8 1.6%

# Common metrics for evaluating maps

- **Competitiveness:** a district is considered competitive if previous election results were less than a 10% margin.
- **Proportionality:** If one party receives xx% of the statewide vote, they are expected to win xx% of the seats.
- **Compactness:** A statistical measurement that flags odd shapes, elongated districts
- **Jurisdictional splits:** If a political subdivision is split between two or more districts, it counts as a split.
- **Majority-Minority districts:** A district in which the majority of its residents are racial minorities.
- **Population deviation:** The difference between the largest and smallest districts by population totals.

# What we learn from DTL legislative maps

- Mappers completed 58 legislative maps (35 Senate, 23 House).
- The median DTL metrics are more compact, competitive, and proportional than the 2012 LRC maps.
- Median population deviation and majority-minority district totals are equal to the 2012 LRC maps.
- DTL maps split more counties, but likely b/c of previous software limitations.

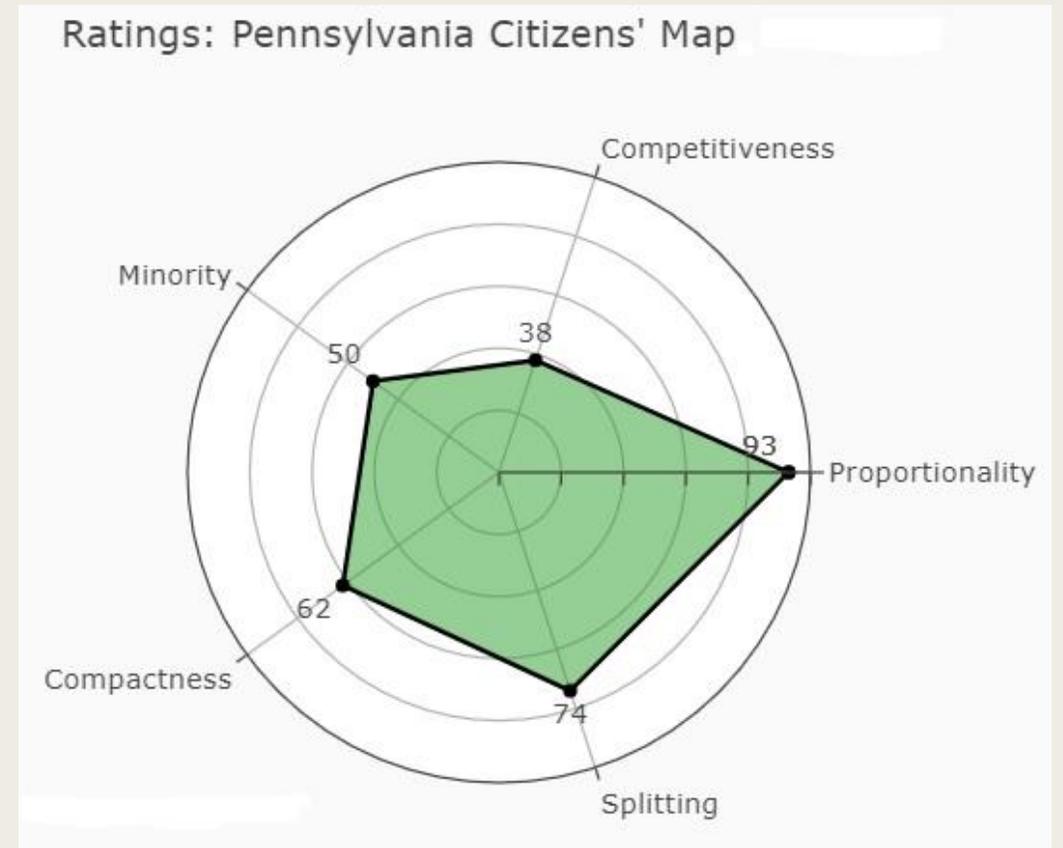
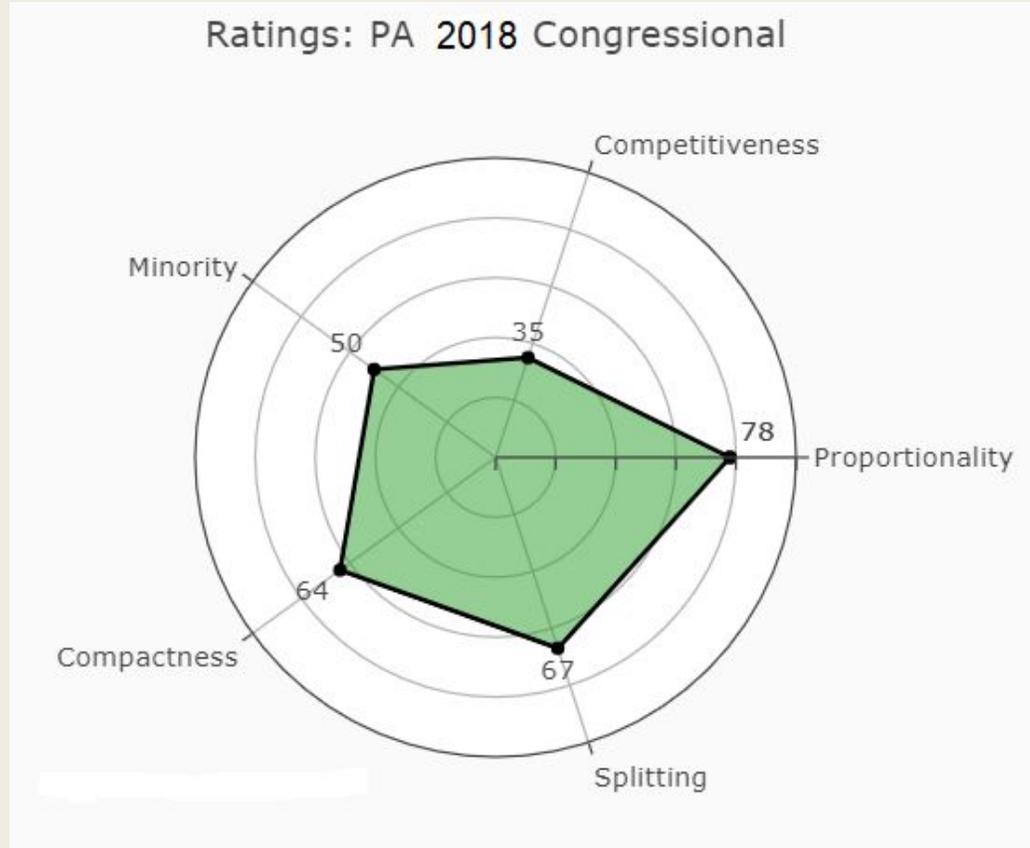


# Comparing the maps

	Compactness	Counties split	Proportionality	Maj-Minority districts	Competitive districts
2012 State House	27%	50	+ 5.5% R	22	Average = 20
Median DTL House map	34%	53	+ 4.0% R	21.8	45
2012 State Senate	27%	25	+ 2.9% R	5	Average = 4
Median DTL Senate map	39%	33	+ 2.3% R	4.3	15

	Compactness	Counties split	Proportionality	Maj-Minority districts	Competitive districts
2018 Congress	33%	14	+ 4.5 R	2	Average = 4
Median DTL Congress map	33%	24 (software limitations)	Not calculated on old software	2	5

# What we can learn from DTL congressional maps



Bigger is better, and 100 is the theoretical upper limit drawn from a large sample of randomly-generated maps.

# Key takeaways

- Mapping technology is widely accessible to average citizens and is already being used to draw and score maps.
- Citizen priorities are consistent and support the constitutional requirements.
- DTL demonstrates that, given the opportunity, citizens can draw maps comparable to, if not better than, those drawn in the past.



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