CCI

Colorado Counties, Inc.

County Commissioner Redistricting

Statutory Requirements

CRS 30-10-306(4): "…after each federal census of the United States, each district shall be established, revised, or altered to assure that such districts shall be as nearly equal in population as possible based on such census minus the number of persons serving a sentence of detention or confinement in any correctional facility in the county as indicated in the statistical report of the department of corrections for the most recent fiscal year. The establishment, revision, or alteration of districts required by this subsection (4) shall be completed by **September 30** of the odd-numbered year following such census."

CRS 30-10-306(5): "No less than thirty days before adopting any resolution to change the boundaries of commissioner districts or create new commissioner districts, the board of county commissioners shall hold a public hearing on the proposed district boundaries."

Who should be involved?

Timely and equitable redistricting requires a wide array of skill sets and institutional knowledge. While approaches to redistricting will vary from county to county, it is advisable to at least consider including the following individuals on your redistricting team/project:

- County Commissioners
- County Manager/Administrator
- County Clerk & Recorder
- County GIS Professional*
- County Attorney

* Not all counties have in-house GIS capacity. For those counties that wish to do computer mapping of commissioner districts but lack GIS resources, it may be worthwhile to inquire with your planning and management region office to see if assistance is available. Other organizations, such as the San Luis Valley GIS/GPS Authority, are also available to assist counties around the state on redistricting efforts. Local colleges or neighboring counties are another possible resource.

Resources

The Demography Office in the Colorado Department of Local Affairs has processed and formatted data from the 2010 Census and has posted shape files organized by Planning and Management Regions for use with GIS software on the department website at: www.colorado.gov/demography. Look for "County Commissioner Redistricting" under the "Subjects A to Z" heading or in the box titled "New."

Incarcerated Populations Issue

Pursuant to CRS 30-10-306(4), a county must subtract from its census population "the number of persons serving a sentence of detention or confinement in **any** correctional facility as indicated in the statistical report of the department of corrections for the most recent fiscal year." The annual *Department of Corrections Statistical Report* can be found at: http://exdoc1.state.co.us/sites/default/files/opa/StatRprt_FY10.pdf.

This report does **not** list the populations for the four private prisons currently operating in Bent, Crowley, El Paso and Kit Carson counties. It appears that while the statute is silent on the issue of private prisons, the legislative intent was that all incarcerated persons should be removed from the county population figures for purposes of creating/revising commissioner districts with nearly equal populations. Population information for these private prisons for the same timeframe as the *2010 DOC Statistical Report* is available at: http://www.doc.state.co.us/sites/default/files/opa/MnthyPOP_10June_0.pdf.

To assist counties in the redistricting process, the Demography Office has incorporated the population information for **both** state and private prisons into an Excel spreadsheet that can be downloaded at the "County Commissioner Redistricting" page of the Demography Office website (listed above). This spreadsheet has geographic identifiers that will allow GIS staff to incorporate this prison population information into the modeling as part of the district boundary mapping process.