



JOINT CORPORATIONS, ELECTIONS & POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS COMMITTEE

Population Equality: One person – One Vote

Principle: Legislative districts should be approximately equal in population.

Question: How close is close enough?

The 10% Deviation Standard

Generally: If the population deviation accommodates traditional districting principles and absent evidence of invidious discrimination, an over-all deviation range of less than 10% between the largest and smallest districts presumptively complies with the one-person, one-vote rule.

Note: 10% deviation is not an absolute guarantee of plan validity.

Deviation Calculation

Step 1. Calculate the ideal district size.

Formula: Total State population divided by the number of districts. **Example:**

Senate: $576,851$ (2020 Pop) \div $30 = 19,228$ [Yr 2010 = 18,788]

House: $576,851$ (2020 Pop) \div $60 = 9,614$ [Yr 2010 = 9,394]

Deviation Calculation

Step 2. Calculate the relative deviation of each district from the ideal size.

Formula: The difference between the actual district population and the "ideal district" population divided by the ideal district population = the relative deviation of the district expressed as a percentage.

Example: Campbell County Senate District 24, 2010 population: 19,659

Calculation: $19,659 - 18,788 = 871 \div 18,788 = + 4.64\%$

The Practical Standard: + or – 5%

Practical Working Goal: Ensure that each district in the plan deviates from the ideal district size by not more than +5% or -5%.

Senate:

Ideal: 19,228

+5%: 20,189

-5%: 18,267

House:

Ideal: 9,614

+5%: 10,095

-5%: 9,133