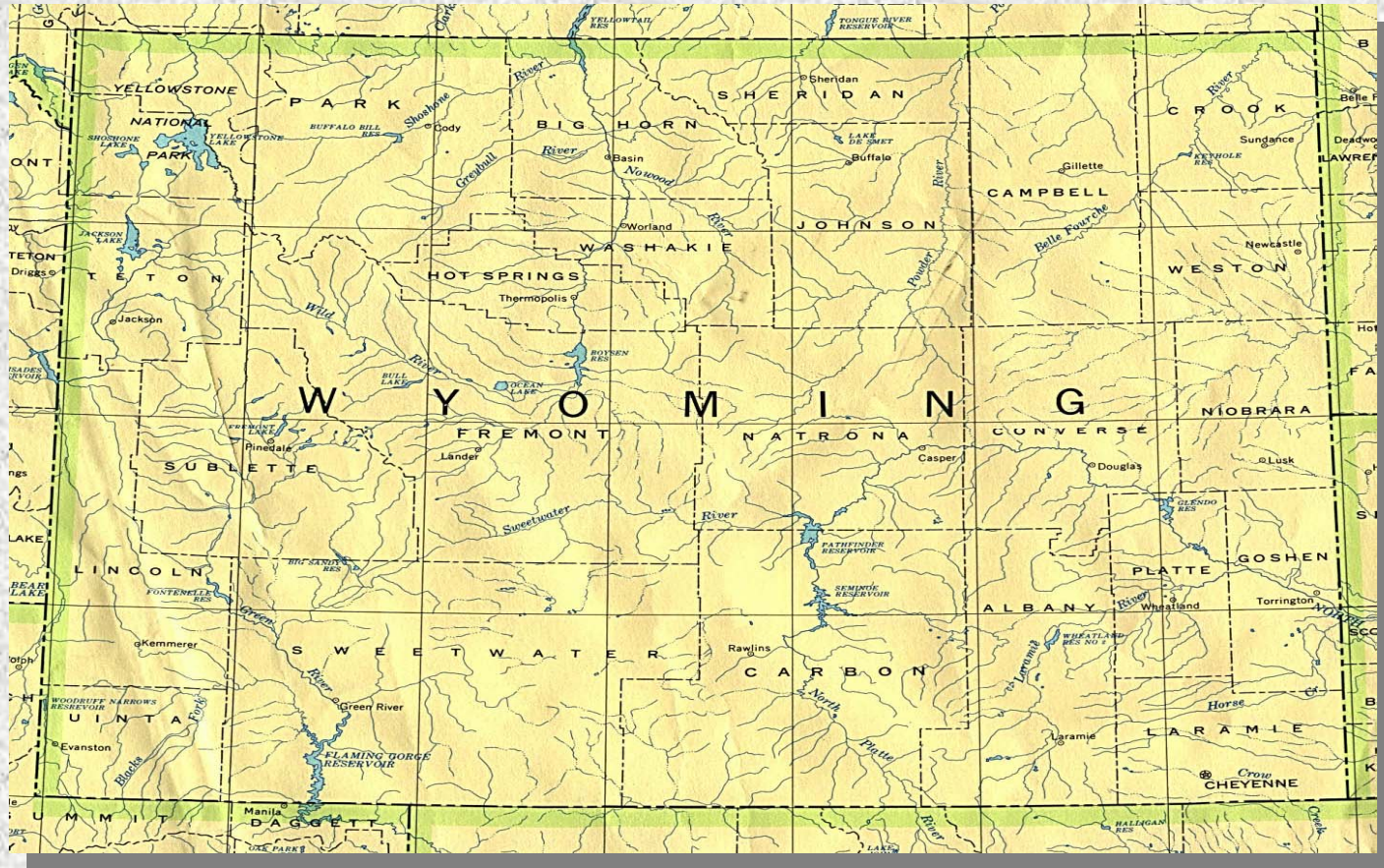


# WYOMING REDISTRICTING 2011-2012



Presented by: The Joint Corporations  
Interim Committee of the 61<sup>th</sup> Legislature

# Purpose of this Meeting.

- To provide you with some basic information about redistricting in Wyoming.
- To hear your comments about redistricting in your area and the state.



# What is Redistricting?

- The process of redrawing the geographic boundaries of an area from which people are elected as representatives to the state legislature or the U. S. Congress.
- Because Wyoming will continue to have only one representative in the United States House of Representatives, there is no need to redraw any boundaries for Wyoming's congressional delegation.

# **Who is responsible for redistricting and when will it occur?**

- Under the state constitution, the legislature is required to redraw state legislative districts at the first budget session following the federal census. (Wyo. Constitution, Art.3, § 48)
- The most recent U.S. census was taken in April 2010.
- The first budget session following the census will convene in February of 2012.

# How does the Legislature accomplish redistricting?

- The leadership of the Wyoming legislature charged the Joint Corporations Interim Committee with developing redistricting plans prior to the 2012 Session.
- Redistricting plans will be introduced as bills at the 2012 session, and they will follow the same steps as any other legislation.
- The house and senate, by majority vote, will enact a single bill containing a plan.
- New district boundaries will be used in the November 2012 elections.

# Issues to Keep in Mind

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- In the 1963 case of *Gray v. Sanders*, the United States Supreme Court announced the “one person, one vote” principle.
- Essentially, the one person, one vote principle is achieved when each legislative district has a substantially equal population.



In interpreting the one person, one vote principle, the U.S. Supreme Court has said:

- A Plan with 10% or less maximum population deviation from the ideal is “considered to be of prima facie constitutional validity.”
- A Plan with maximum population deviation greater than 10% from the ideal “creates a prima facie case of discrimination and therefore must be justified by the State.”

# Redistricting Terminology: “Ideal District Population” and “Maximum Population Deviation”.

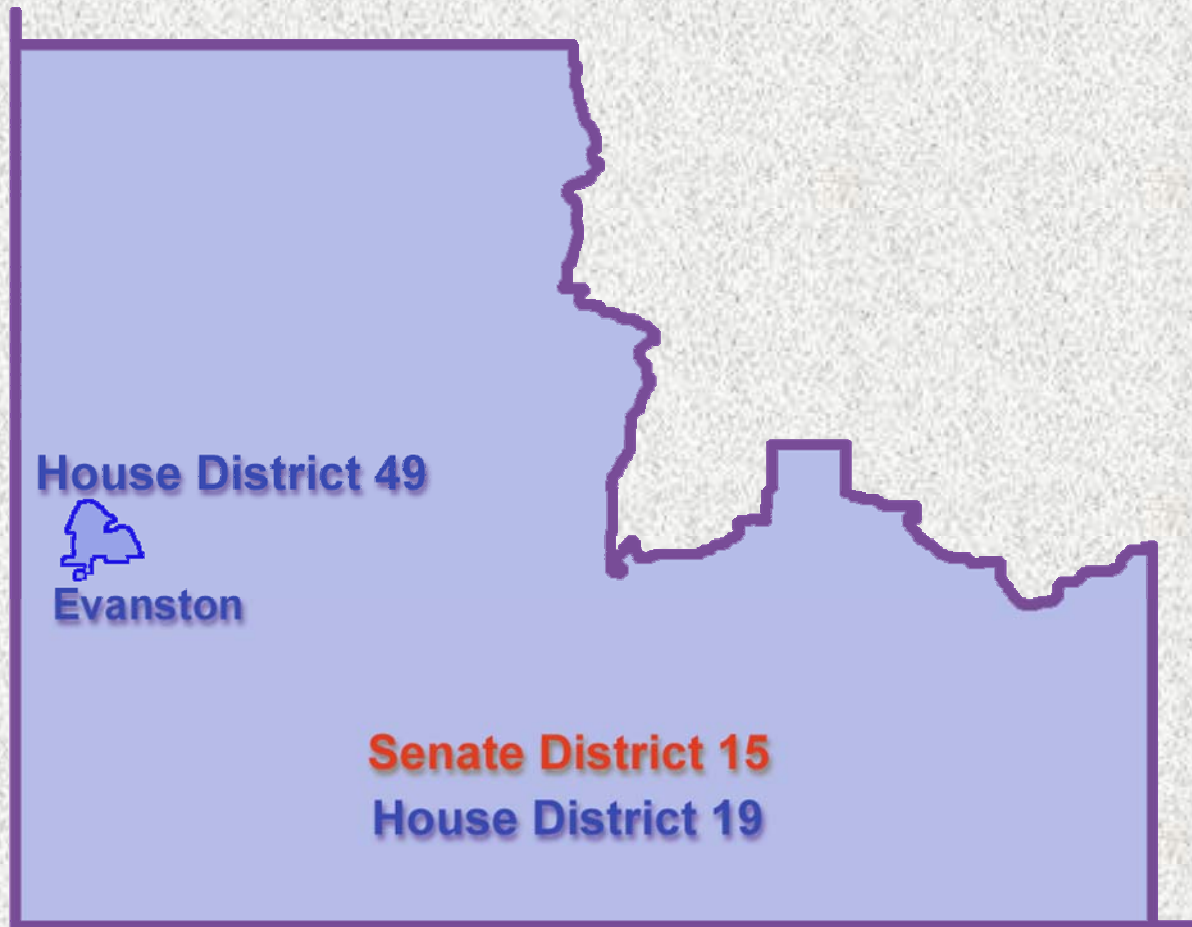
- ***Ideal district population*** is found by dividing the total state population by the number of districts.
- ***Maximum population deviation*** from the ideal district population can be described as the absolute range between the district with the greatest positive deviation and the district with the greatest negative deviation from the ideal.



# Wyoming's Current Legislative Districts

- Adopted in 2002.
- 30 single member Senate Districts
- 60 single member House Districts
- Two (2) contiguous House Districts “nested” into each Senate District.

# What's nesting?



# Wyoming's Current Legislative Districts

- Maximum population deviation is less than 10%.
- The 2002 redistricting plan was not challenged in court.
- The Wyoming redistricting plan of 1992 was upheld by federal district court for Wyoming. Deviations fell below the minimum threshold. The court concluded the redistricting plans met overriding objective of substantial equality of population among legislative districts.



# A Growing and Shifting State Population

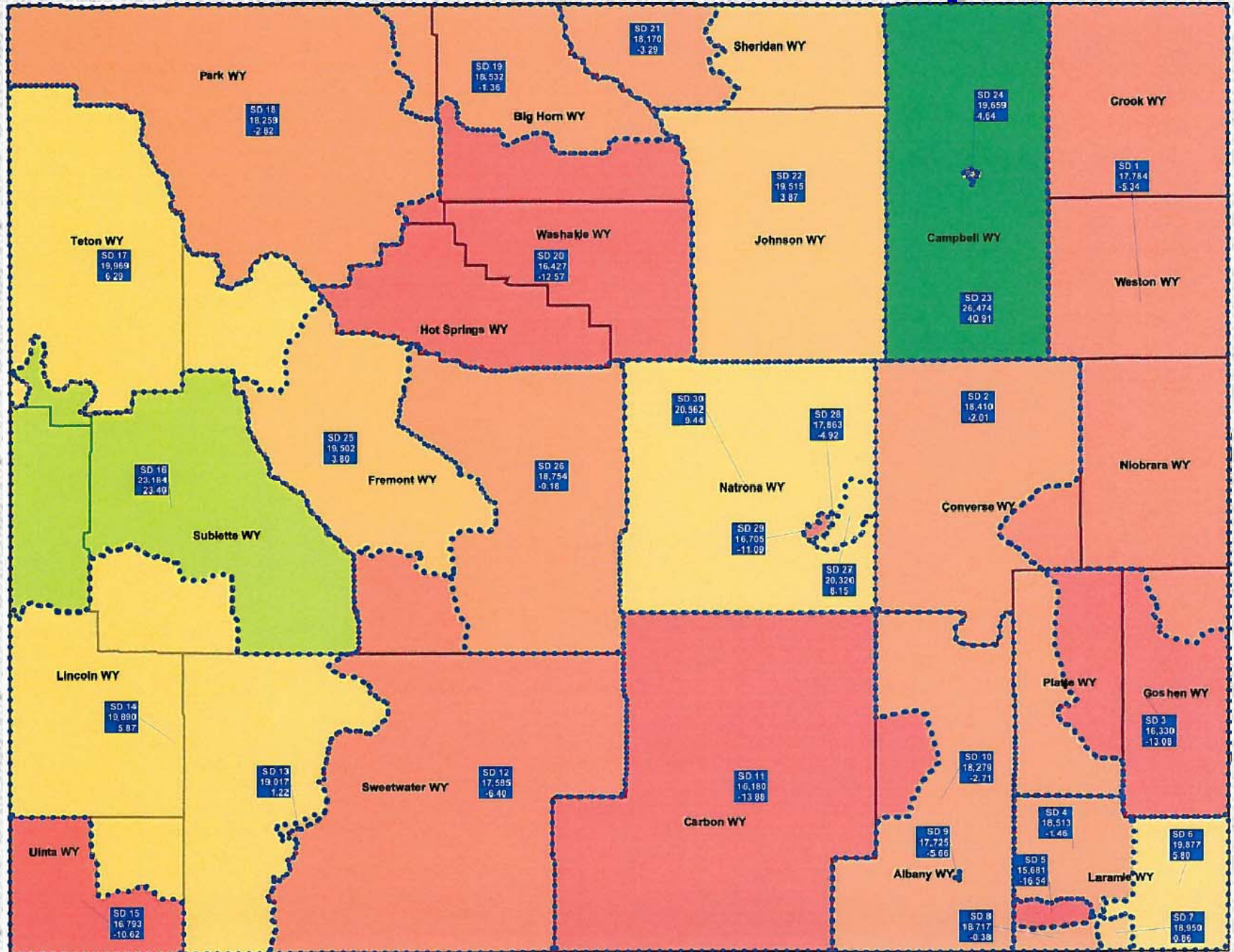
Why can't Wyoming's legislative districts remain as they are?

# WYOMING HISTORICAL U.S. CENSUS POPULATION NUMBERS

County	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	Percent Change 1960-2010
Albany	21,290	26,431	29,062	30,797	32,014	36,299	70.5%
Big Horn	11,898	10,202	11,896	10,525	11,461	11,668	-1.9%
Campbell	5,861	12,957	24,367	29,370	33,698	46,133	687.1%
Carbon	14,937	13,354	21,896	16,659	15,639	15,885	6.3%
Converse	6,366	5,938	14,069	11,128	12,052	13,833	117.3%
Crook	4,691	4,535	5,308	5,294	5,887	7,083	51.0%
Fremont	26,168	28,352	38,992	33,662	35,804	40,123	53.3%
Goshen	11,941	10,885	12,040	12,373	12,538	13,249	11.0%
Hot Springs	6,365	4,952	5,710	4,809	4,882	4,812	-24.4%
Johnson	5,475	5,587	6,700	6,145	7,075	8,569	56.5%
Laramie	60,149	56,360	68,649	73,142	81,607	91,738	52.5%
Lincoln	9,018	8,640	12,177	12,625	14,573	18,106	100.8%
Natrona	49,623	51,264	71,856	61,226	66,533	75,450	52.0%
Niobrara	3,750	2,924	2,924	2,499	2,407	2,484	-33.8%
Park	17,294	17,752	21,639	23,178	25,786	28,205	63.1%
Platte	7,195	6,486	11,975	8,145	8,807	8,667	20.5%
Sheridan	18,989	17,852	25,048	23,562	26,560	29,116	53.3%
Sublette	3,778	3,755	4,548	4,843	5,920	10,247	171.2%
Sweetwater	17,920	18,391	41,723	38,823	37,613	43,806	144.5%
Teton	3,062	4,823	9,355	11,173	18,251	21,294	595.4%
Uinta	7,484	7,100	13,021	18,705	19,742	21,118	182.2%
Washakie	8,883	7,569	9,496	8,388	8,289	8,533	-3.9%
Weston	7,929	6,307	7,106	6,518	6,644	7,208	-9.1%
WY Total	330,066	332,416	469,557	453,589	493,782	563,626	70.8%

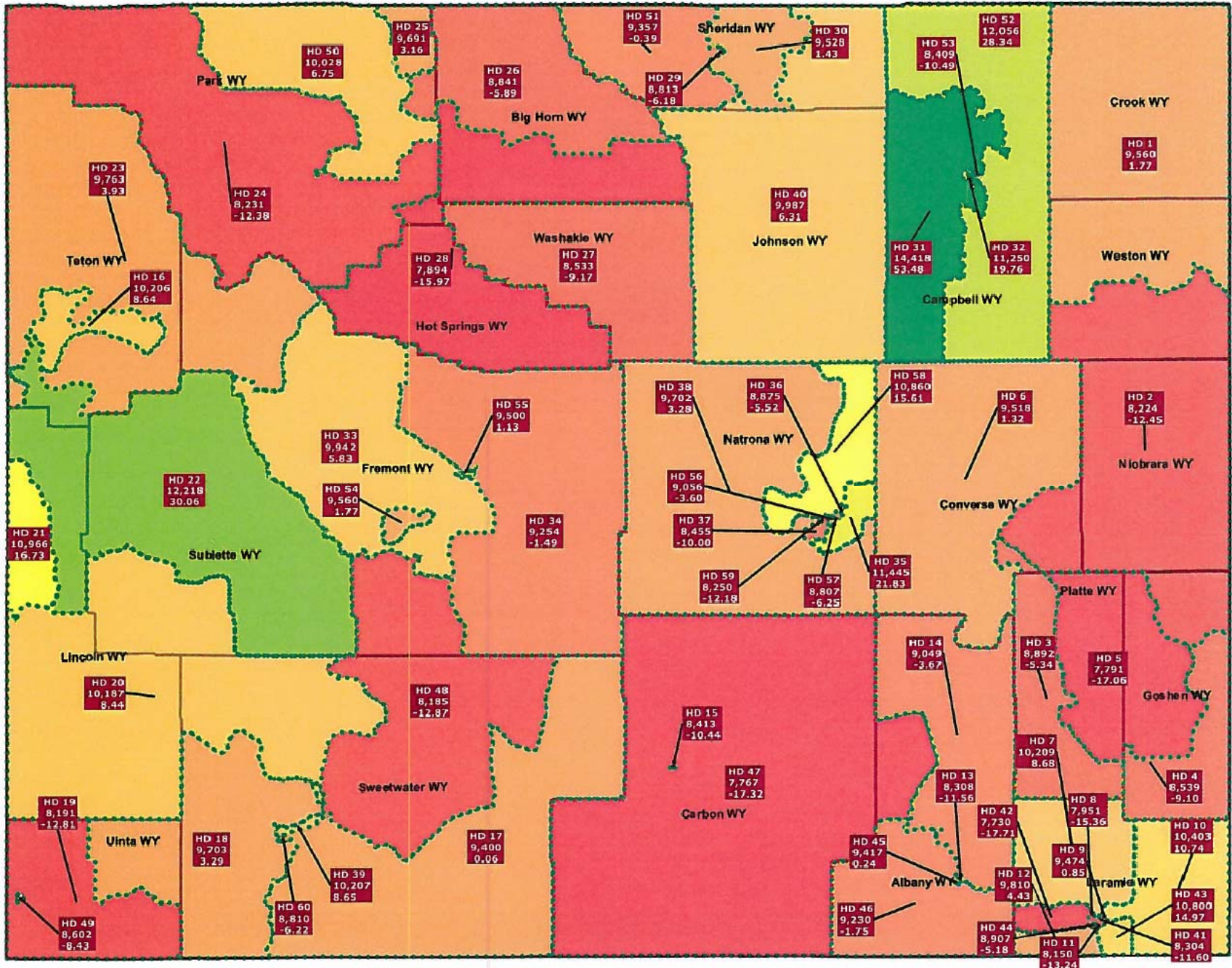


# Senate Percent from Ideal Population





# House Percent from Ideal Population



# **The Committee's Redistricting Work in the Coming Months**

The committee will begin building possible redistricting plans based on the following Redistricting Principles:



# **2011 WYOMING REDISTRICTING PRINCIPLES**

**ADOPTED BY JOINT  
CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE**

**April 12, 2011**



# **Draft Redistricting Principles**

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- 1. Election districts should be contiguous, compact, and reflect a community of interest;**
- 2. Population of election districts should be substantially equal, with the range of deviation not to exceed 10%;**

3. To the greatest extent possible, in establishing election districts:
  - a. County boundaries should be followed;
  - b. The majority of the population of each county should be in one district;
  - c. Census blocks should be followed.
  
4. Plan should avoid diluting voting power of minorities in violation of [federal] Voting Rights Act;

5. The house shall have 60 seats and the senate shall have 30 seats;
6. Consideration should be given to two (2) contiguous house districts in each senate district; and
7. Significant geographical features should be considered in establishing districts.



# Tentative Redistricting Calendar 2011-12

- May -August : Public education/hearings:
  - May 25: Rock Springs and Pinedale
  - June 14: Casper and Wright
  - June 28: Laramie and Cheyenne
  - July 12: Powell and Worland
  - July 13: Lander and Rawlins
  - August 15: Torrington
- August 15-16: Full Corporations Committee Meeting (Cheyenne)
- September-December: Narrowing number of likely plans; Additional Public Hearings and Full Committee Meetings Possible
- December 2011- January 2012: Education of public and full legislature; Full Committee Meeting
- Session 2012: Enact new redistricting plan
- November 2012: Elections use new district boundaries

# How can you share your thoughts?

- **Express your comments right now or at any future meeting of the committee;**
- **Contact your local representative or senator;**
- **Express your comments through the “2011 Legislative Redistricting” page on the Legislature’s website:  
<http://legisweb.state.wy.us>**