

# Redistricting Tools and RFP Considerations

Presentation to the

## Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission

Rob Surber

Department of Technology, Management and Budget

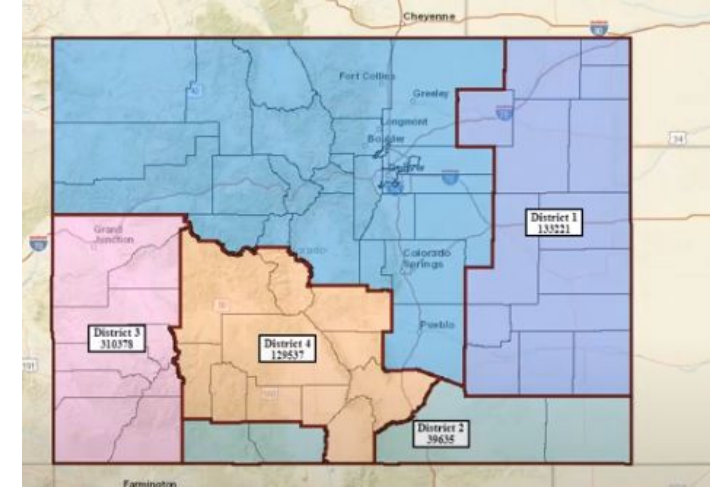
January 21, 2021

- Give ICRC perspective on important considerations in evaluating RFPs
- Familiarize ICRC in redistricting tool terms and capabilities
- Give general guidance around software costs
- Cover key RFP requirements for ICRC to consider
- Give ICRC perspective on vendor capabilities to evaluate in an RFP

- 1990 – More prevalent use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) for congressional boundaries
- 2000 – Common use of GIS desktop software for congressional boundaries
- 2010 – Continued evolution of GIS desktop tools and introduction of more web-based tools
- 2020 – GIS desktop and well-developed web-based software as a service (SaaS) solutions for creating plans, sharing plans, review of plans, public dissemination of data and information

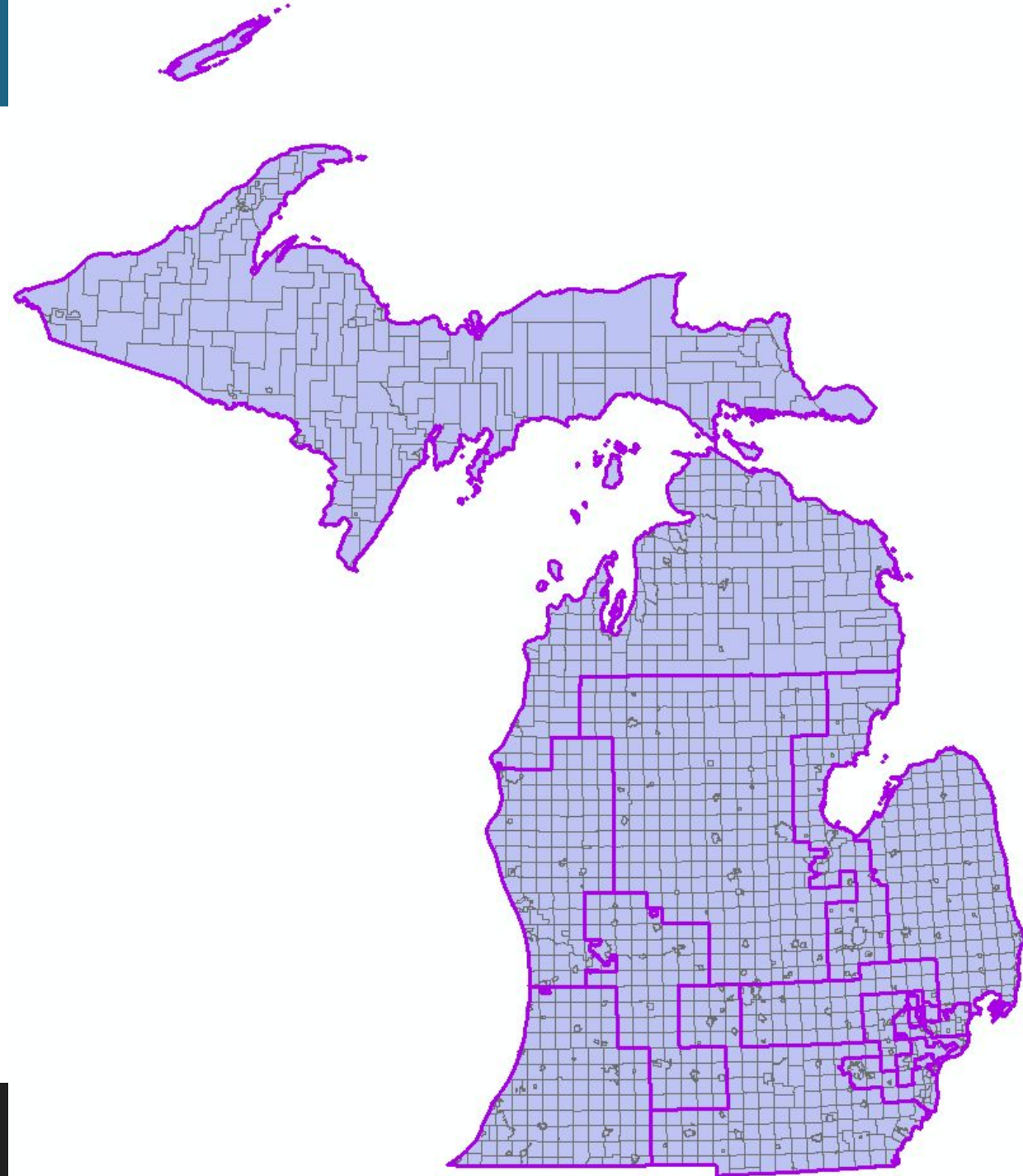
# Redistricting Software – Common Features

- Create and report redistricting plans
- Develop redistricting plan templates
- Add additional data
  - US Census Data PL 94-171
  - Demographic data
  - Historical voting statistics
  - Census block/block group/tract/county
  - Block/voter tabulation districts/county
- Disaggregation and aggregation tools to disaggregate data down and aggregate it up.
- Use of demographics and district statistics to balance district population

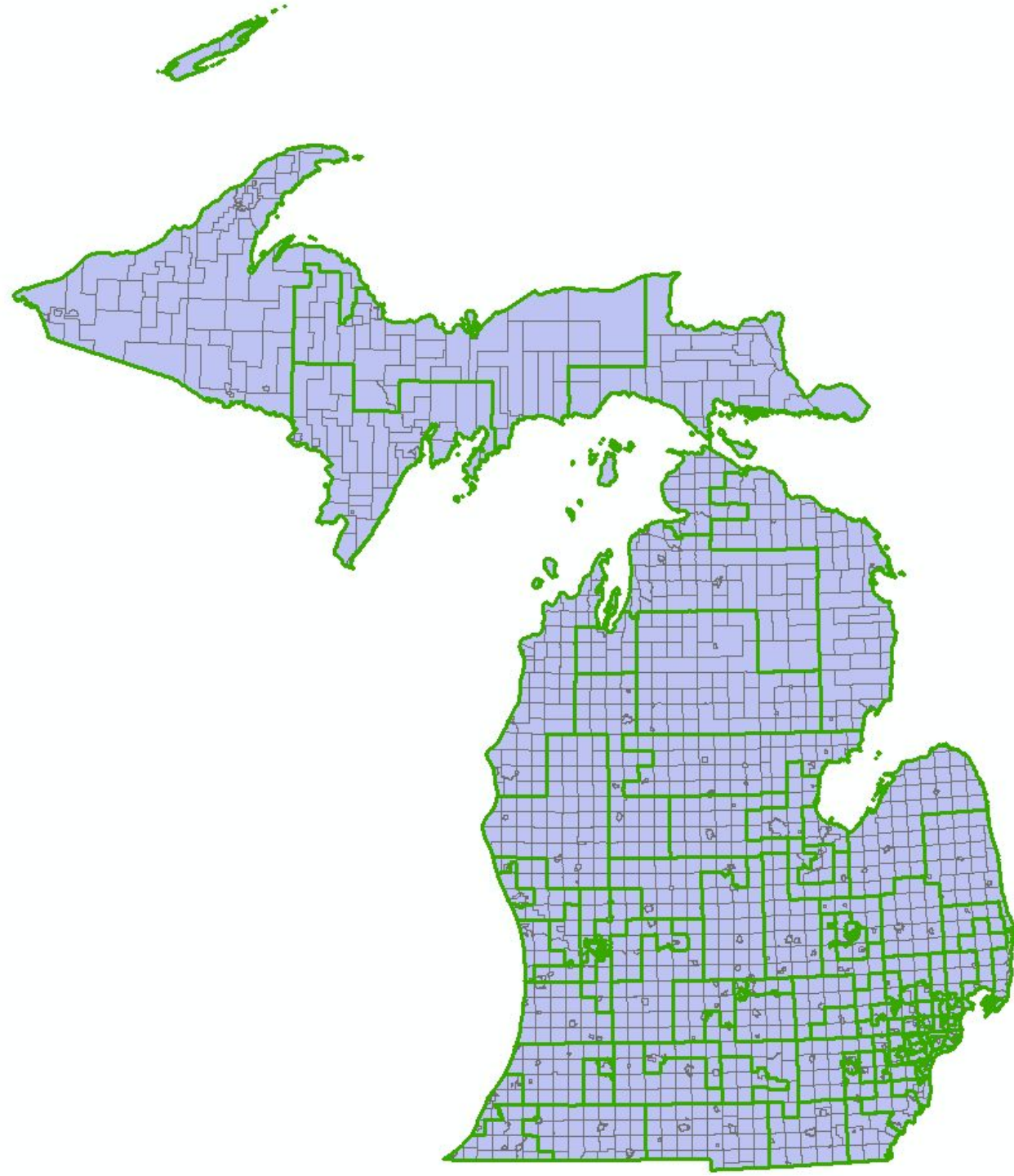


- Incorporate Communities of Interest
- Ability to add other GIS layers
  - Use authoritative data provided by Center for Shared Solution (e.g. counties, townships, cities, etc.)
  - Election data
- Export maps
- Ability to merge multiple plans into a statewide plan
- Ability to get immediate feedback through tables and statistics to review impact of making changes to the district areas
- Ability to overlay plans to compare

## 2010 U.S. Congressional Districts

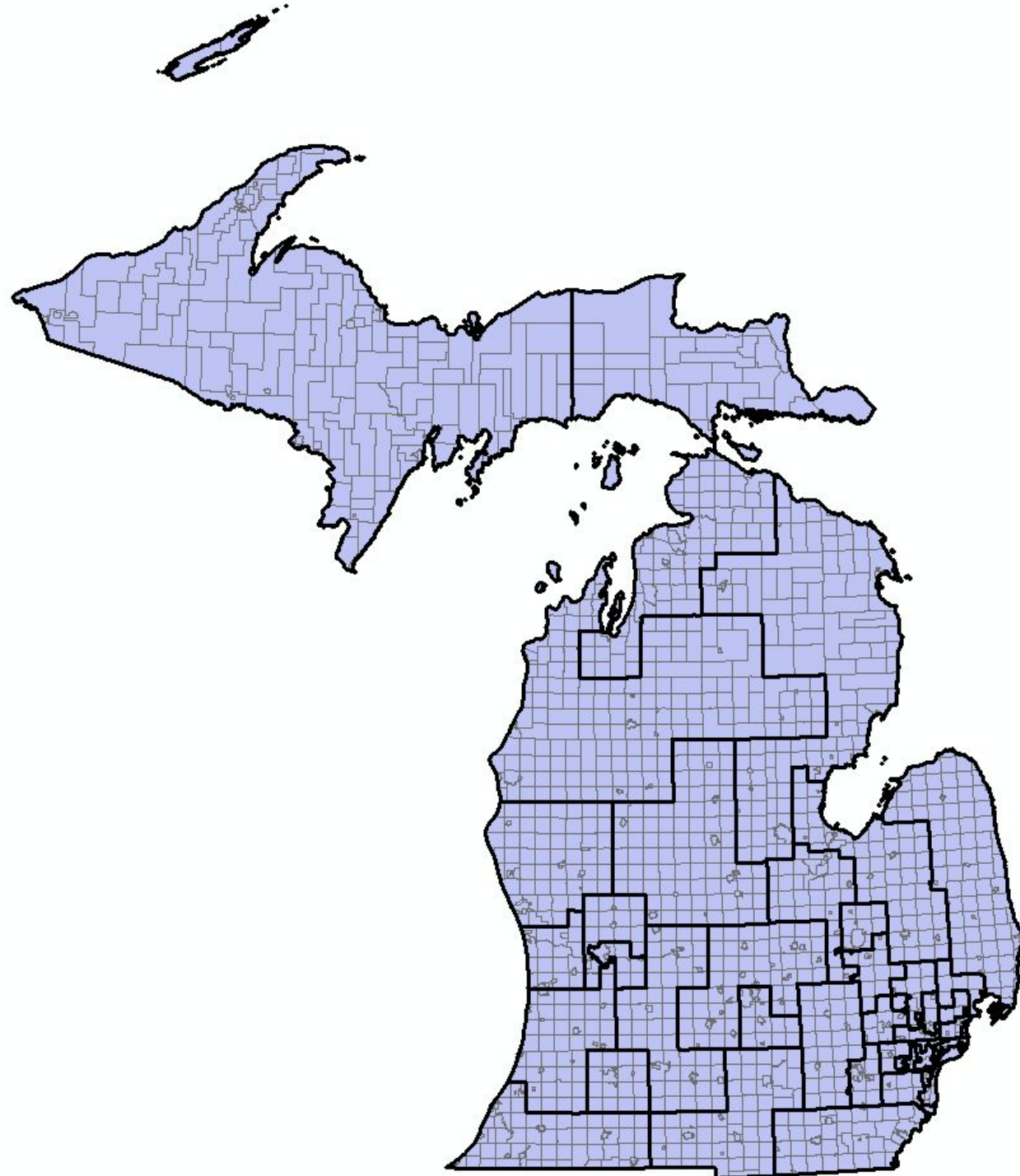


## 2010 State House Districts



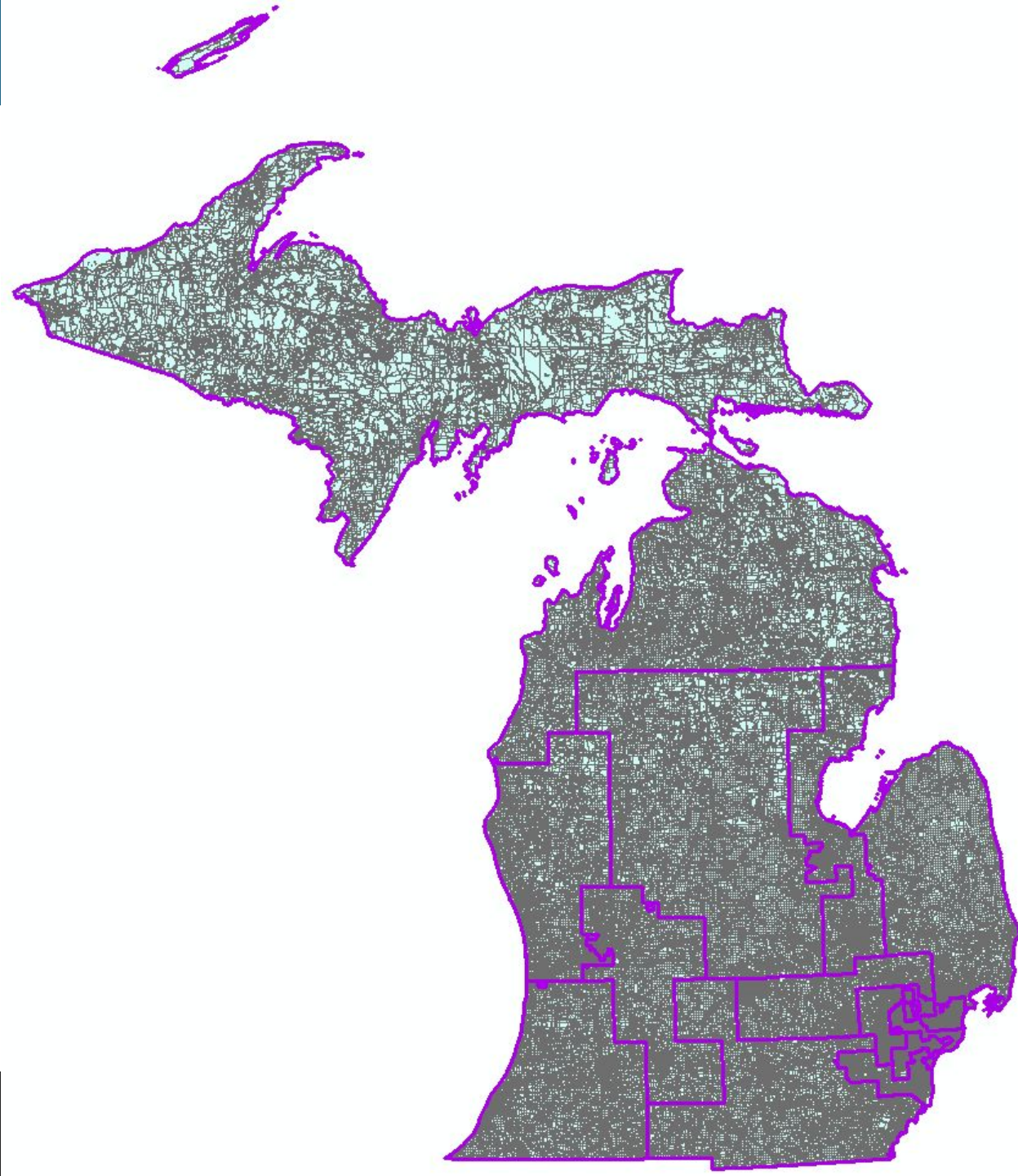


2010 State Senate Districts

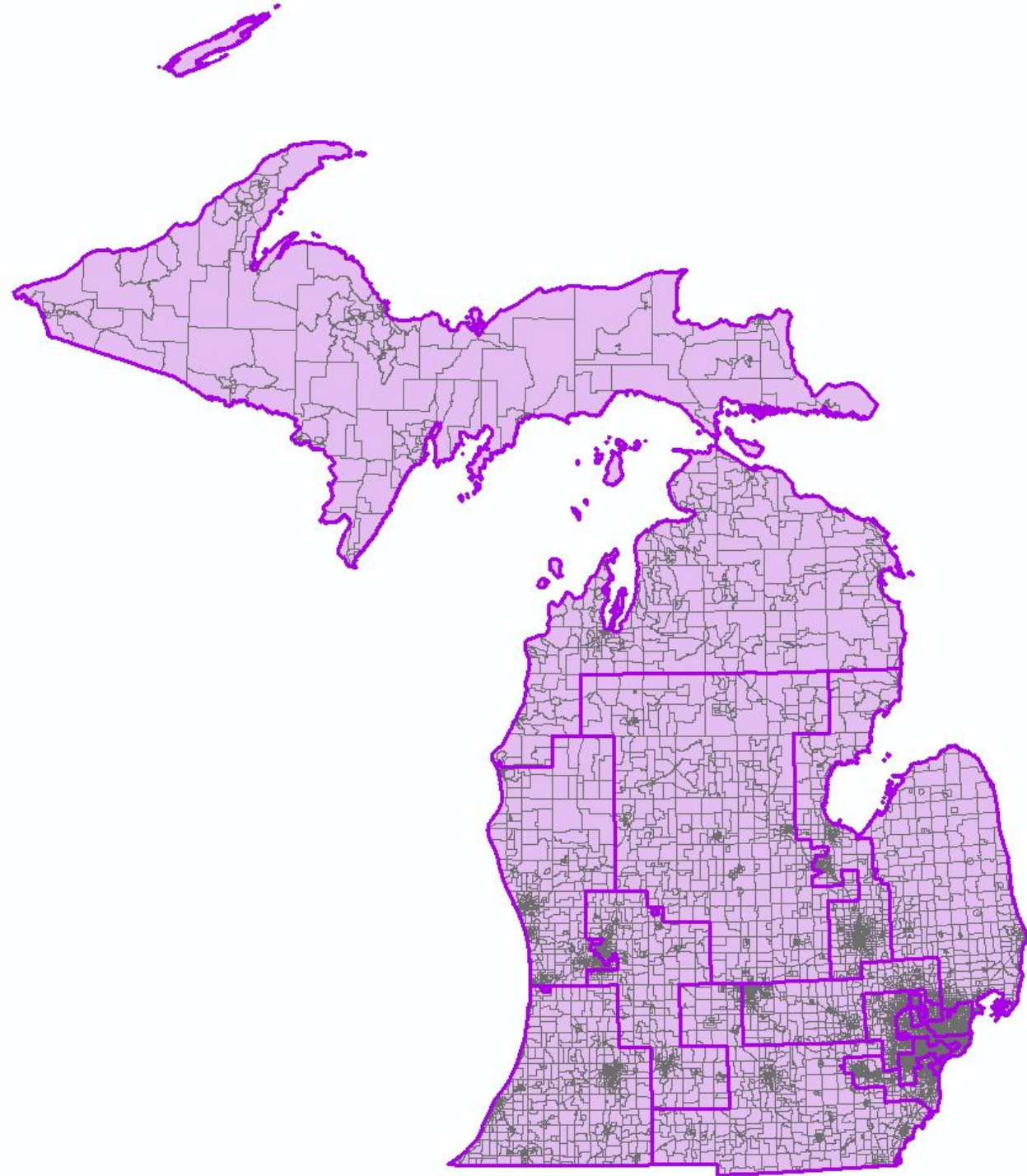




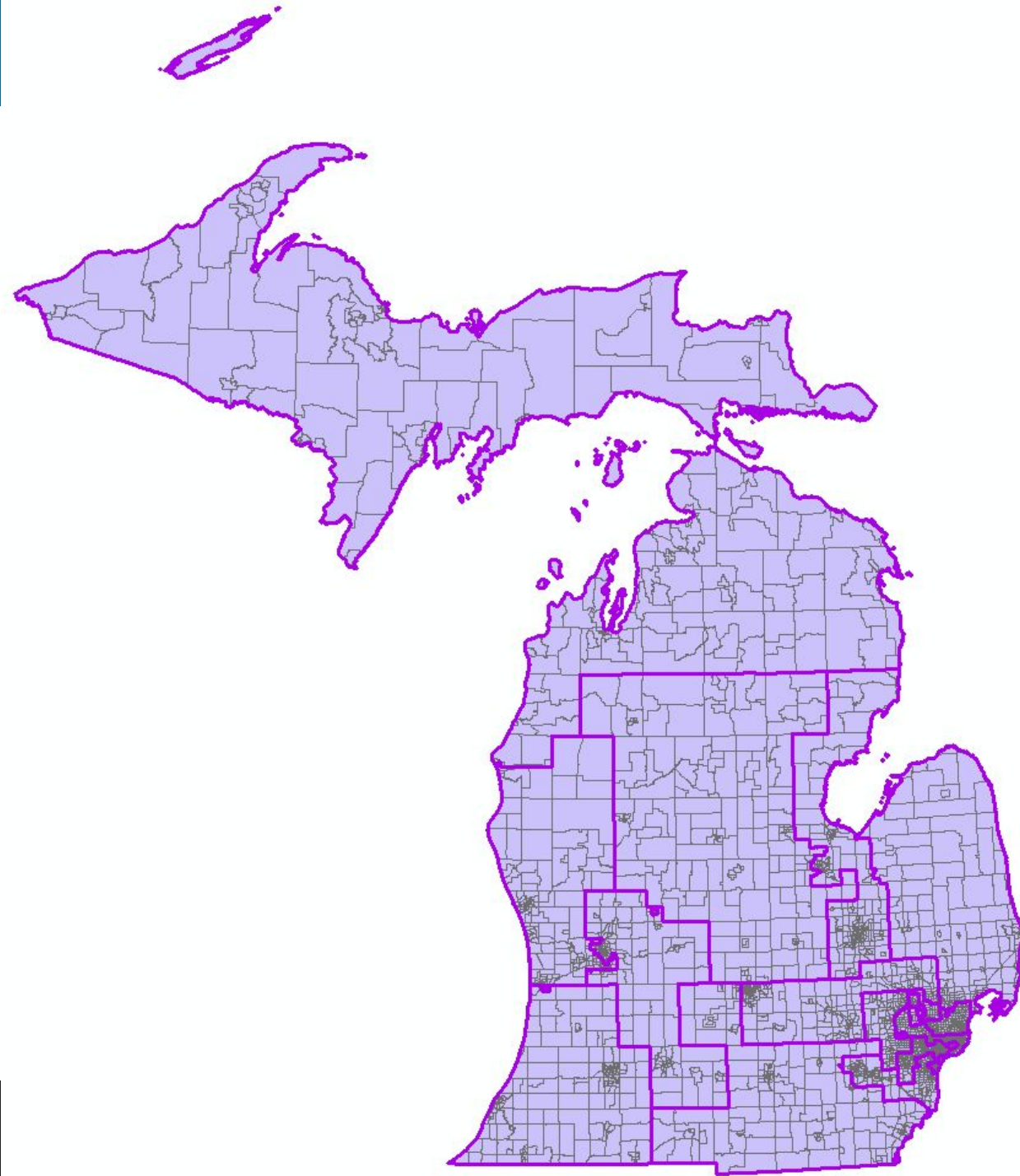
US Census Blocks



## US Census Block Groups

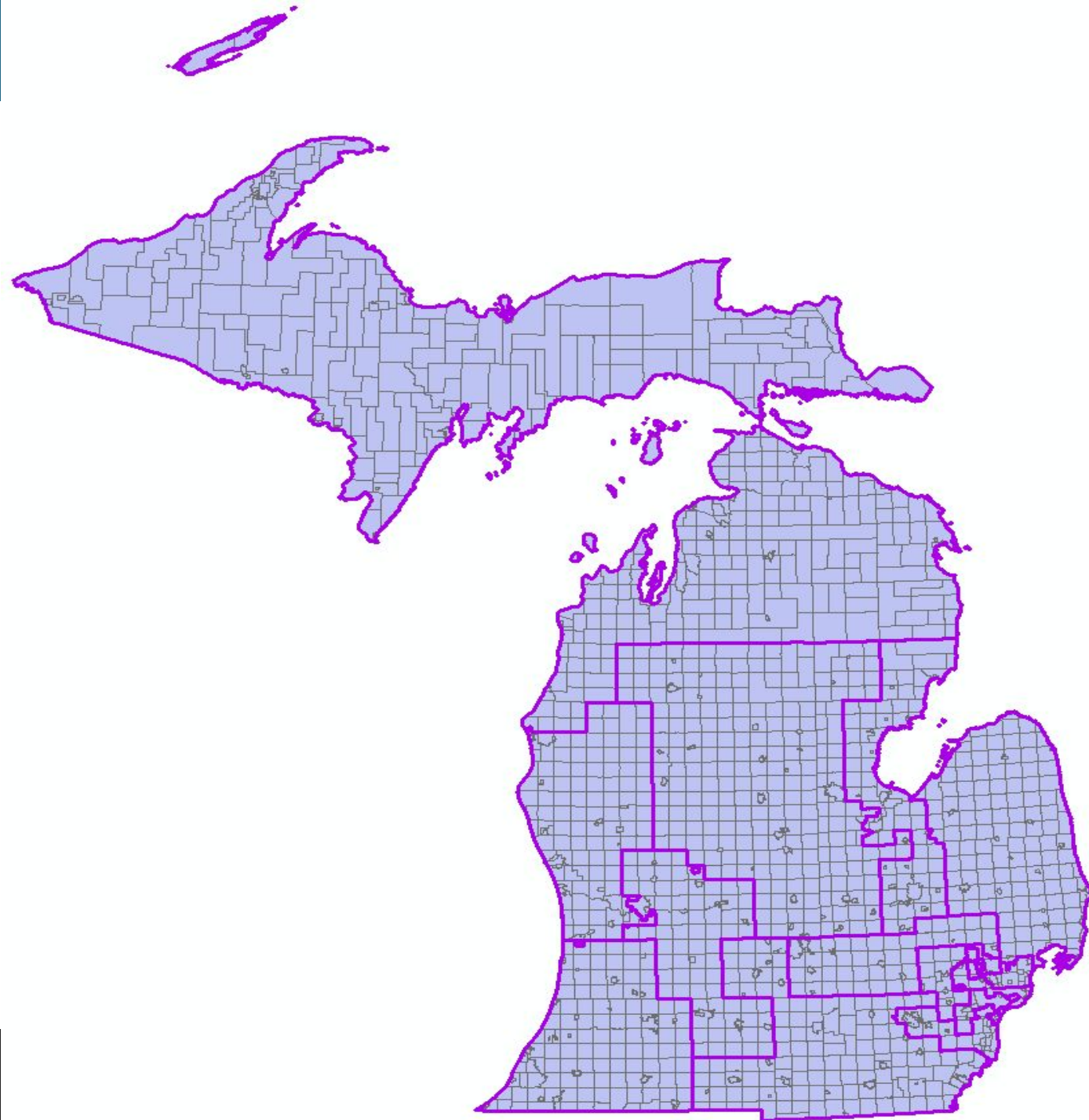


US Census Tracts

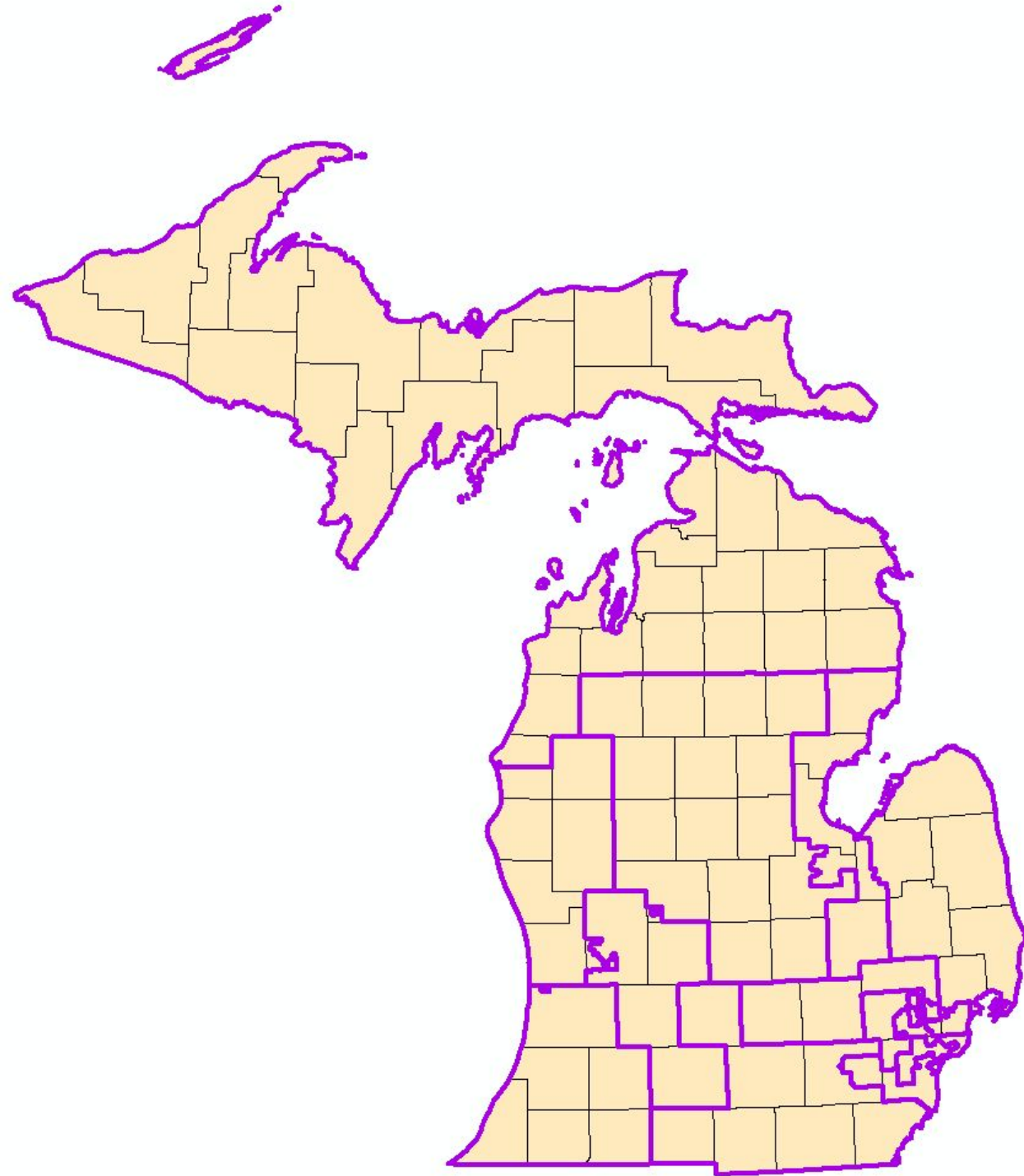




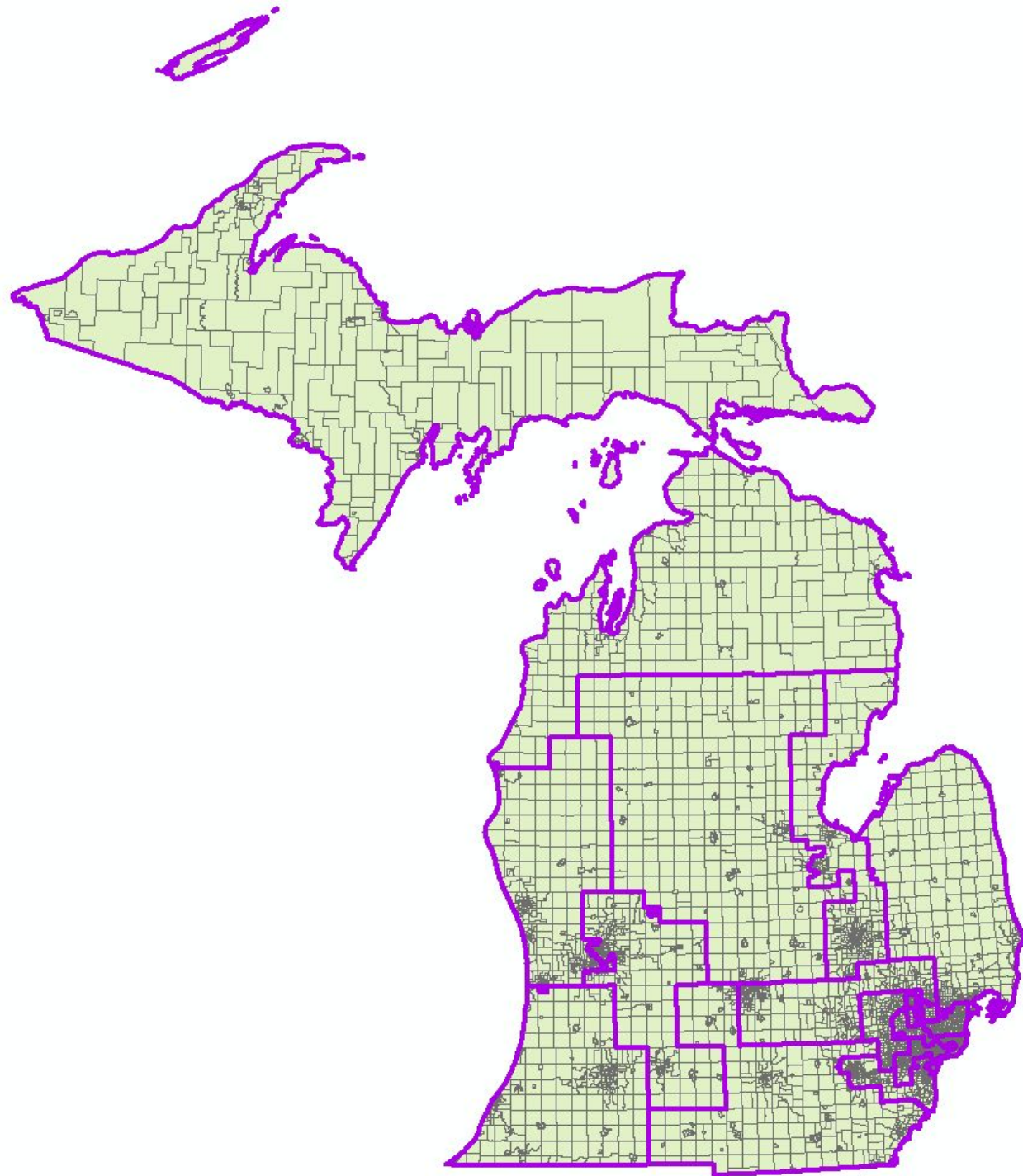
## Minor Civil Divisions (Townships and Cities)



Counties



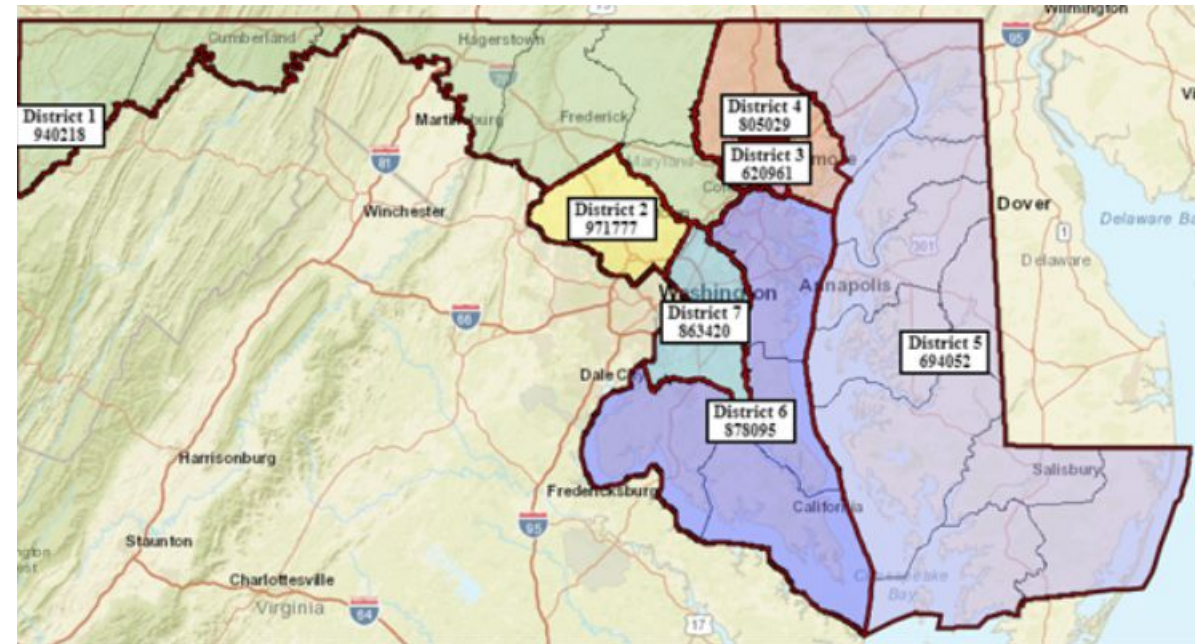
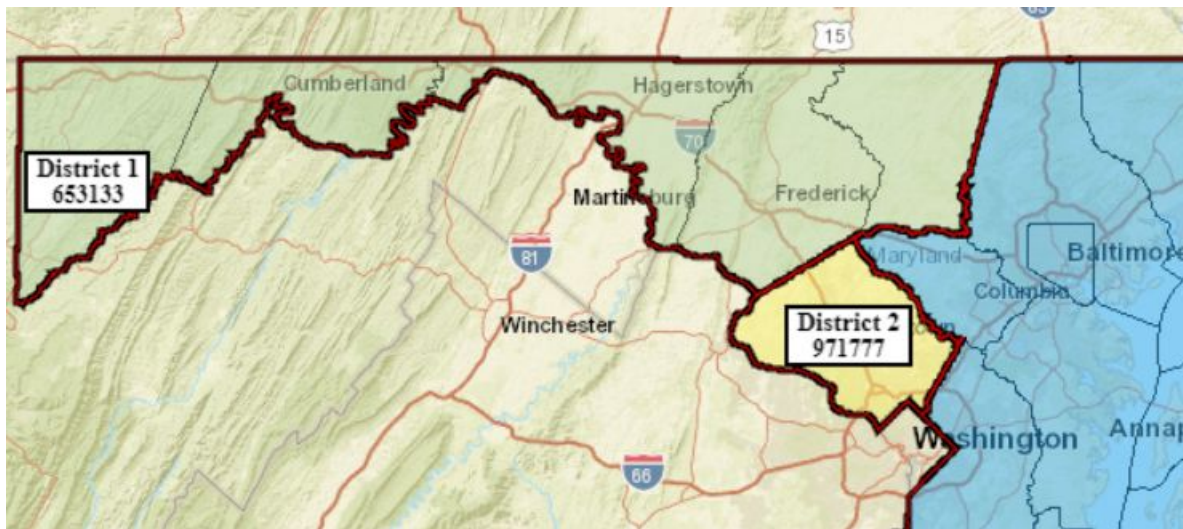
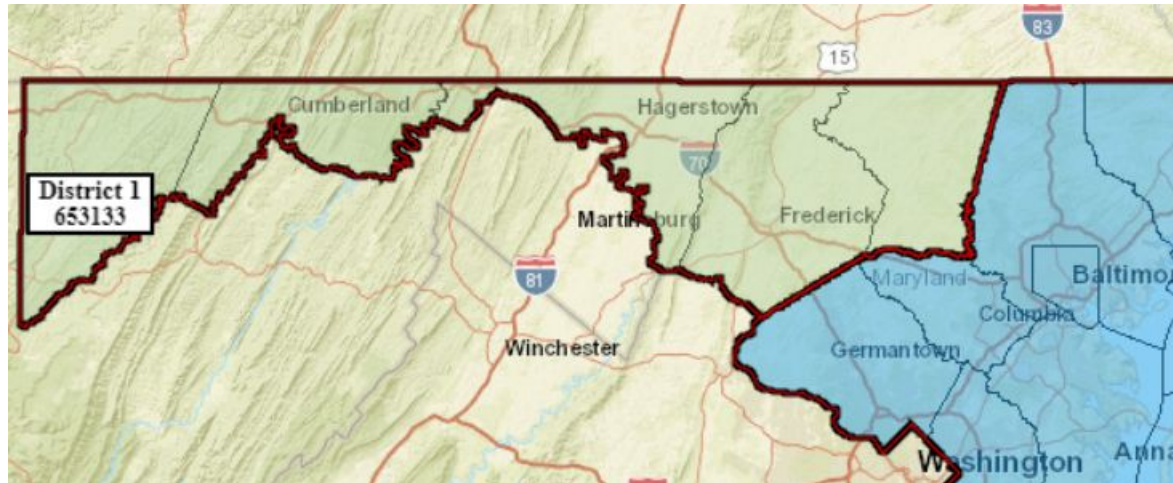
Voting Precincts





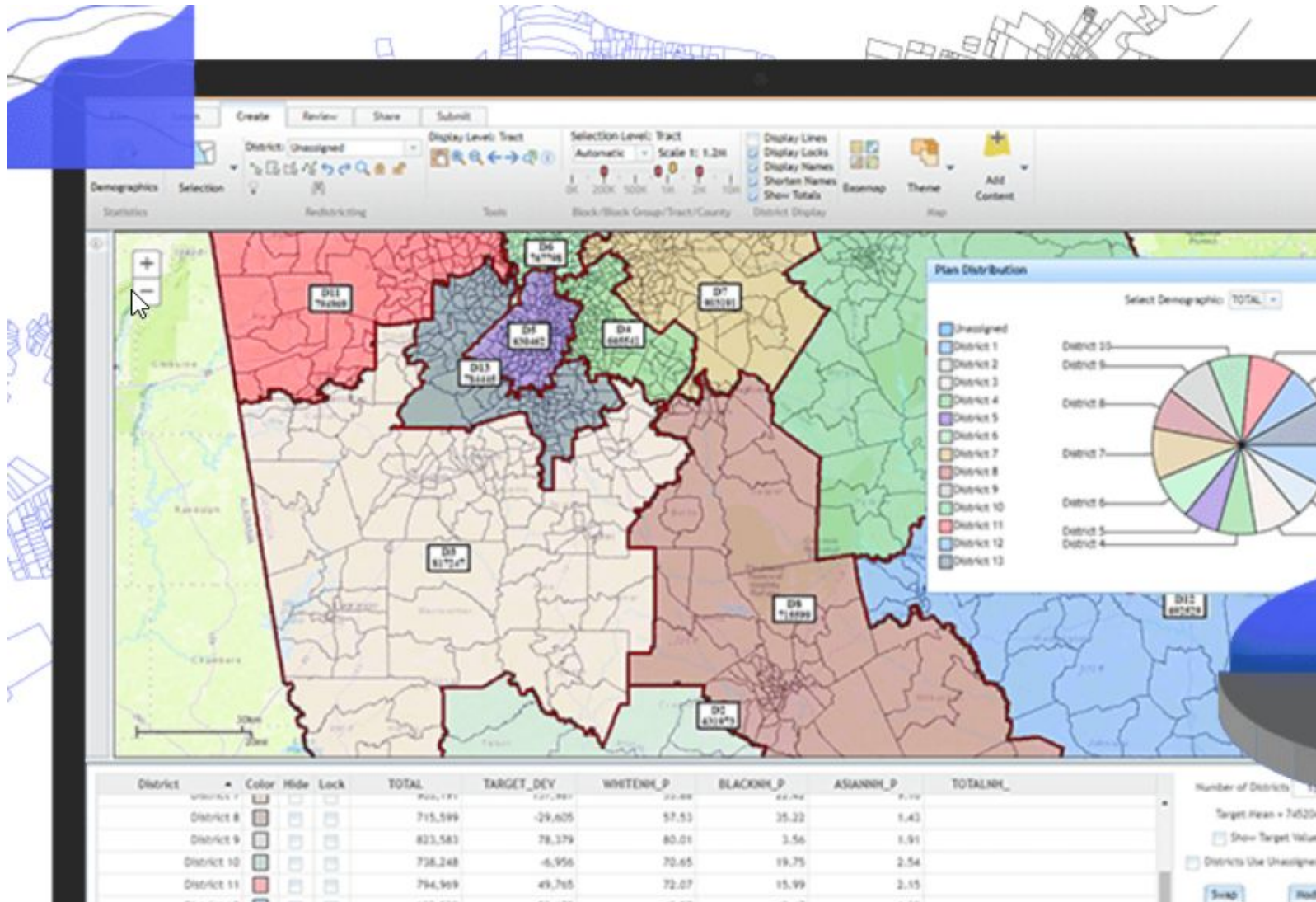
- Find unassigned areas
- List non-contiguous portions
- Compute measures of compactness
  - Compactness defined as having the minimum distance between all the parts of a constituency
- Find areas assigned to more than one territory
- Check population calculations
- Deviation checks
- Ability to link population and election data to the corresponding geographic areas

# Redistricting Software – Creating plans/districts

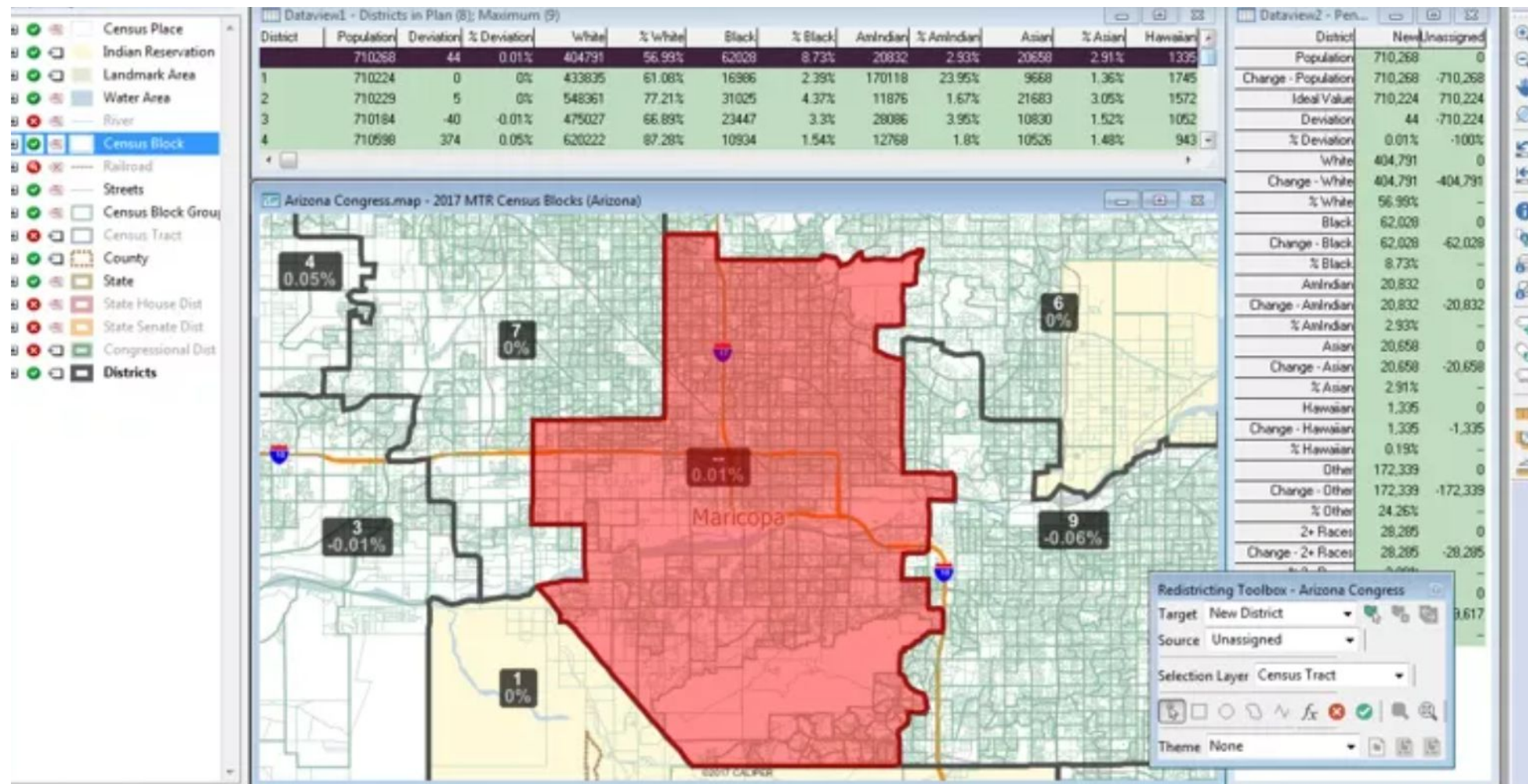




# Redistricting Software – Validations, Analysis, Reports



# Redistricting Software – Update Statistics As Plan Updated



- Population summary reports
- Demographic reports
- Print plans and reports
- Summaries of compactness and deviations for each district

- New technology/features
  - Online software as a service (Saas)
  - Share plans/maps
  - Public review and input
  - Mark up tools/comments
  - Centralized portal to receive and review plans and comments
- Other key considerations
  - Data and system security
  - Ability to bring plans/data in from other software



- Costs can depend on number of users and platform
- Platforms can be desktop licensing or SaaS, or both
- Desktop licensing can range from \$6,000 to \$10,000 per license depending on functionality needed
- SaaS products can be flat fee for unlimited to per user or block of users cost models. Possible hosting fees
- Security and terms for SaaS solutions would need to meet requirements
- Possible costs for data integration and configuration within solution
- Training costs
- On-going support and maintenance costs

- Scope defined with details of role of vendor and requirements
- Request detailed vendor experience information
  - Company background
  - Past projects including reference contact information
  - Staff resumes that highlight staff knowledge and past project of similar work
  - Experience working with the technology, committees, and public
- Proposal reviews
  - Vendor responses should clearly indicate their understanding of the scope
  - Vendor response should clearly indicate their understanding of their role in the project
  - Thorough review of company and staff experience and checking references
  - Short list presentations and software demonstrations

- If there are subcontractors, roles should be explained, and outline if they have worked together in the past
- Timeline – vendors should clearly outline how they will meet the timelines outlined in the RFP
- Strong project management and meeting facilitation experience is important
- Project team knowledge of the redistricting process
- Project team knowledge of the project data and statistics

- Additional Vendor Capabilities to Consider
  - Demonstrate an Ability to:
    - **Listen, Listen** and when all is said and done----**Listen!**
    - Ask the right questions at the right time
    - Translate technical details into common language
    - Ensure that no one is left behind in the discussion
    - Educate on important topics that will contribute to ICRC success
    - Know when to ask for help
    - Effectively present reports and analysis
- Oral Presentations - Helpful for Identifying Communication Skills

# Questions