

# Congressional Redistricting

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Legislative Service Commission



# Process for adopting districts

- ◉ U.S. Constitution does not specify the process for adopting Congressional districts
- ◉ In Ohio, districts adopted by the General Assembly
- ◉ Enacted by bill, subject to Governor's veto
- ◉ Codified in R.C. 3521.01 using Census geography

# Ohio's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

(4) The fourth district contains the following territory:

Whole counties: Allen, Auglaize, Champaign, Hancock, Hardin, Logan, Marion, Morrow, Richland, and Shelby.

Wyandot county (part):

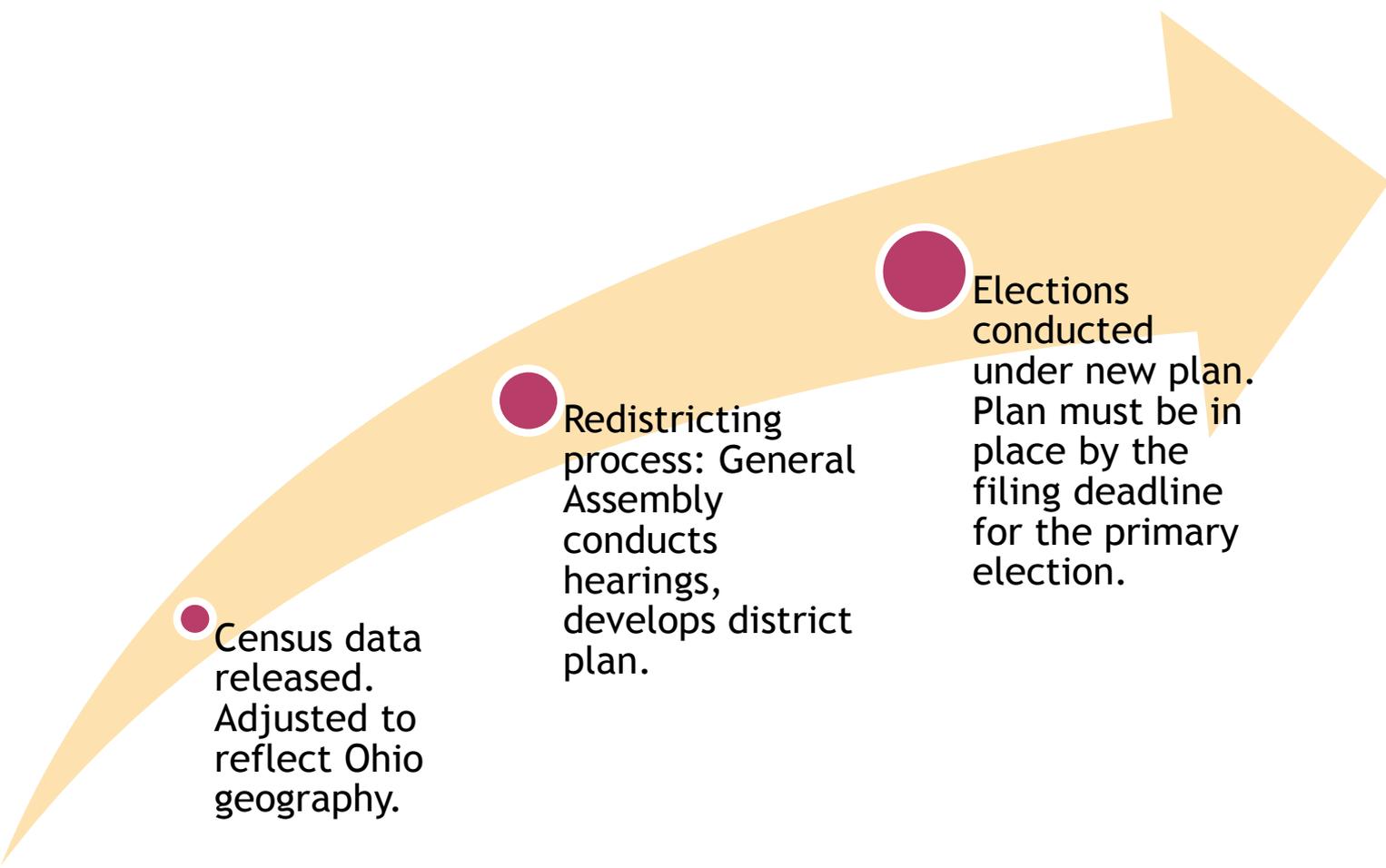
Whole census tracts: 9881.00 and 9882.00.

Census block group: group 2 of census tract 9884.00.

Census blocks: blocks 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1093, 1094, 1095, 1096, 1097, 1098, 1099, 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1108, 1109, 1110, 1111, 1112, 1113, and 1114 of census tract 9880.00 ; blocks 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1014, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 3003, 3004, 3005, 3006, 3007, 3008, 3009, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3013, 3014, 3015, 3016, and 4011 of census tract 9883.00 ; blocks 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1039, 1040, 1041, 1042, 1043, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1047, 1048, 1049, 1050, 1051, 1052, 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1063, 1064, 1065, 1997, 1998, 3002, 3003, 3004, 3005, 3009, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3018, 3019, 3020, 3021, 3022, 3023, 4000, 4001, 4002, 4003, 4004, 4005, 4006, 4007, 4008, 4009, 4010, 4011, 4012, 4013, 4014, 4015, 4016, 4017, and 4019 of census tract 9884.00 ; and blocks 3029, 3030, 3031, 3032, 3033, 3047, 3048, 3090, 3091, 3093, and 3094 of census tract 9885.00.



# Timeline



Census data released. Adjusted to reflect Ohio geography.

Redistricting process: General Assembly conducts hearings, develops district plan.

Elections conducted under new plan. Plan must be in place by the filing deadline for the primary election.

# District Criteria

# Gerry-Mander



# Population

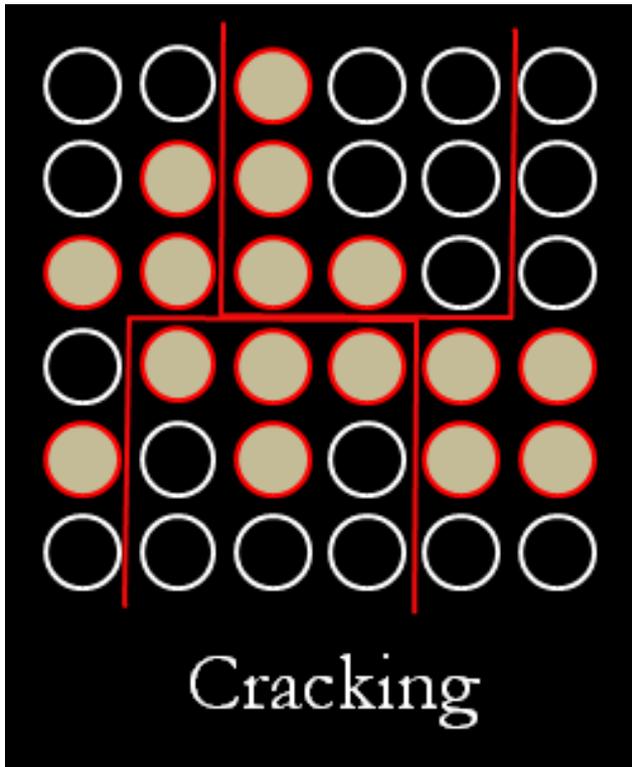
- ◉ Article I, Section 2, U.S. Constitution
  - “Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers”
  
- ◉ Population equality between districts
  - “we have required that absolute population equality be the paramount objective of apportionment. . .in the case of congressional districts”

*Karcher v. Daggett*, 462 U.S. 725 (1983)

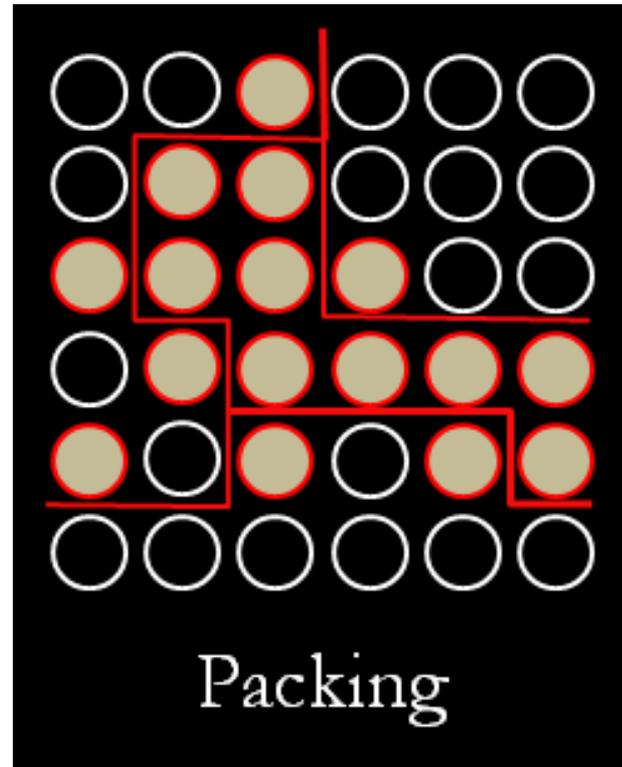
# Voting Rights Act of 1965

- Section 2 - applicable to all states
  - “No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting, or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision to deny or abridge the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color.”
- Section 5 - not applicable to Ohio
  - Requires states or political subdivisions with a **significant history of discrimination** to have changes to their election process precleared by the federal courts or the U.S. Department of Justice before the changes may take effect

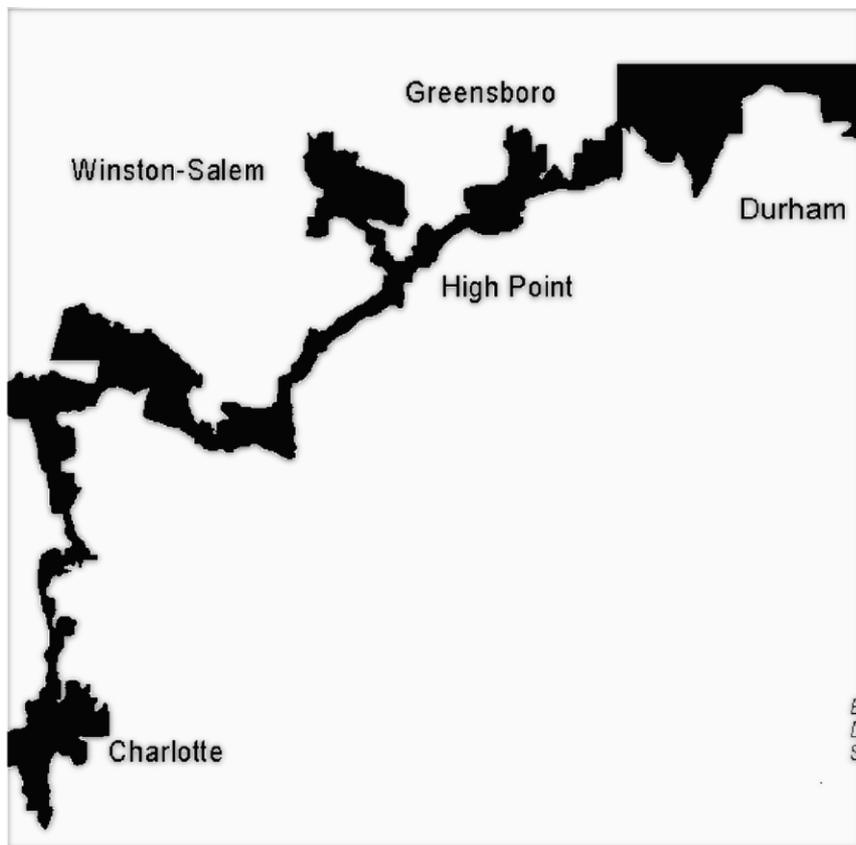
# Illegal treatment of minority populations



Divides minorities into multiple districts. Prevents any minority-majority district.



Packs minorities into one district. Eliminates possible minority influence in other districts.



## North Carolina

12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District - 1992

Referred to as the I-85 District, since it was the width of the freeway in several locations.

Unconstitutional gerrymander. Connected African-American populations from different cities with little in common other than race.

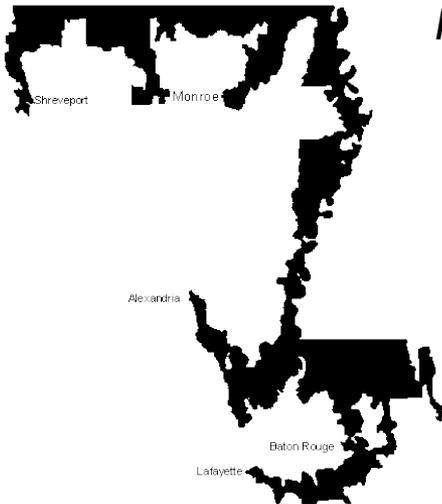
# Traditional Redistricting Principles

- ◉ Compactness
- ◉ Contiguity
- ◉ Preservation of political subdivisions
- ◉ Preservation of communities of interest
- ◉ Preservation of cores of prior districts
- ◉ Protection of incumbents

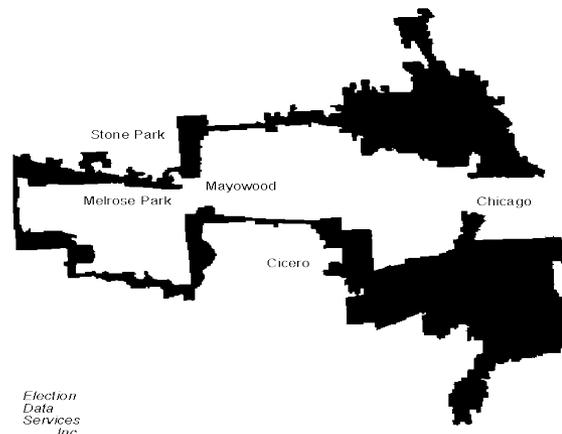


# Compactness

- No mathematical measurement required
- No requirement to create the most compact district possible
- Appearances do matter.
  - “Drastic departures from compactness are a signal that something may be amiss.”



*Karcher v. Daggett*, 462 U.S. 725 (1983)



# Contiguity

- All territory in the district must connect (except islands)



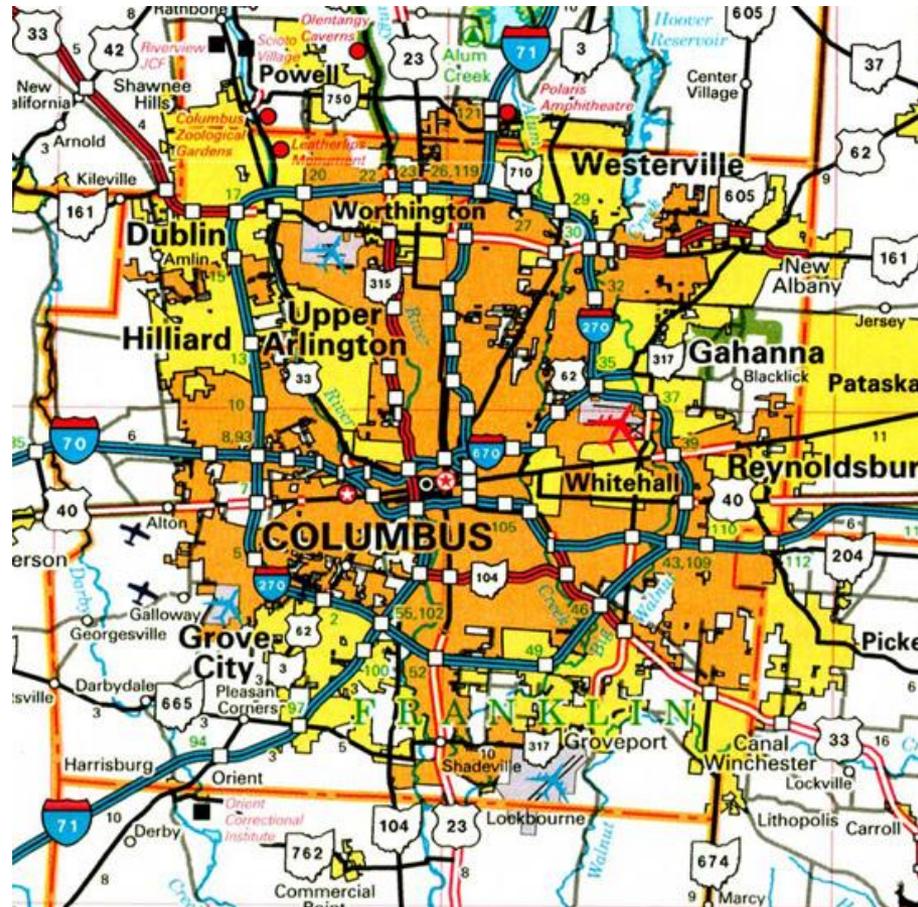
*Congressional District 10*



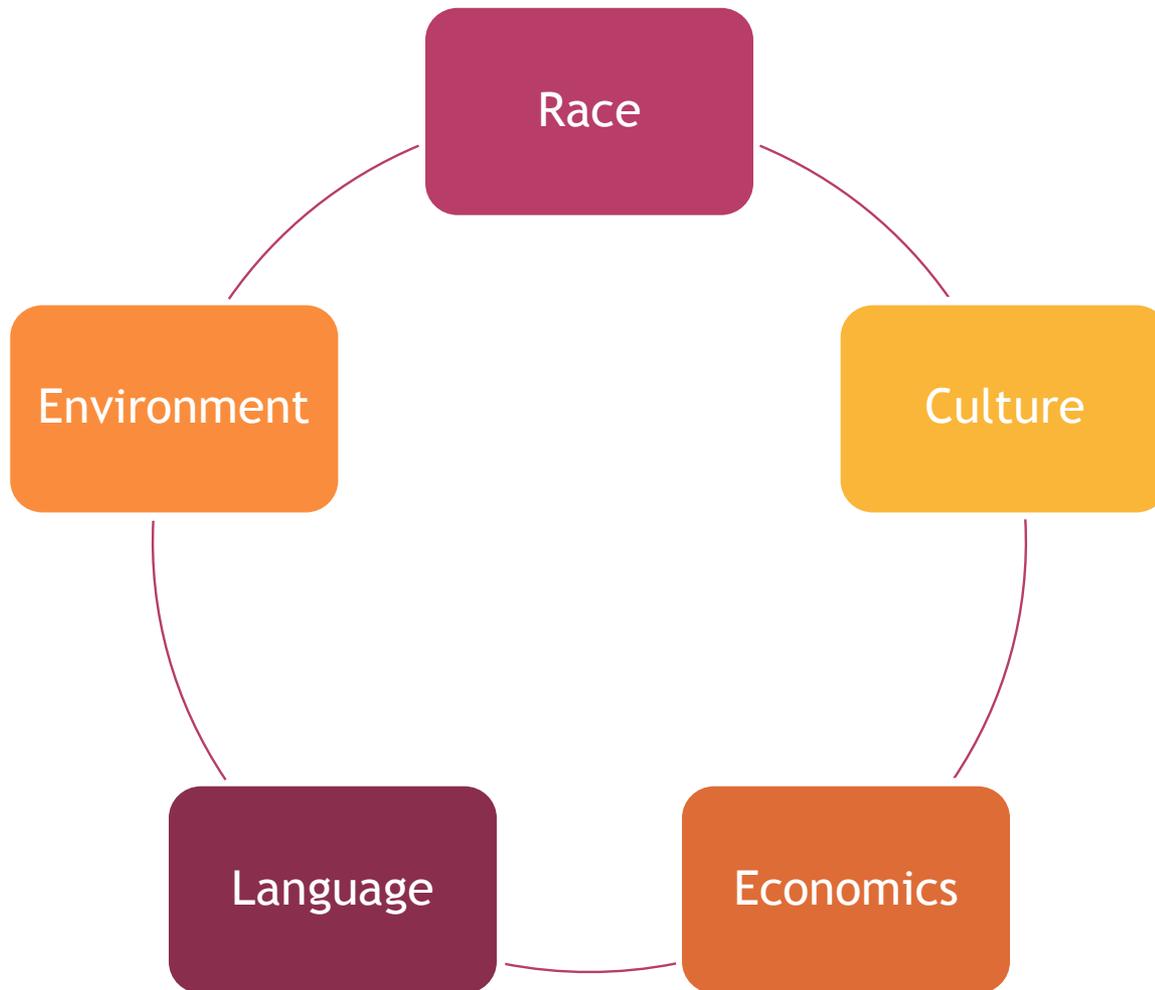
Point contiguity may be more questionable

# Preserve political subdivisions

- Recognized redistricting principle
- Overlapping subdivisions
- Choice of which political subdivisions to divide—county, municipal corporation, township, and city wards



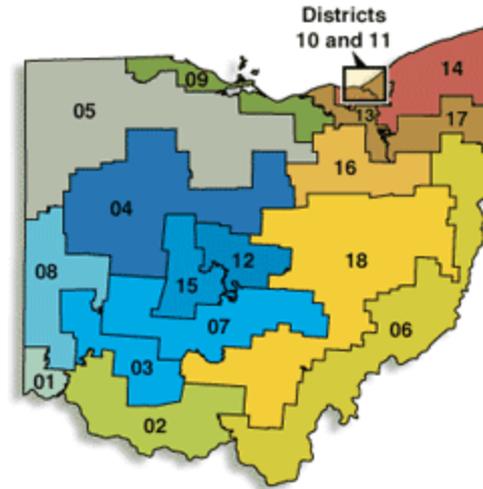
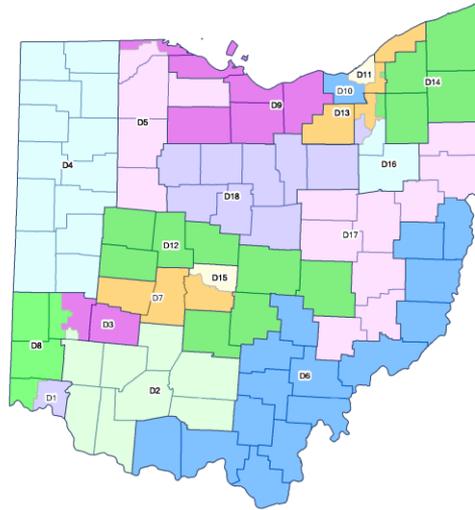
# Preservation of communities of interest



# Preserve cores of prior districts & Protection of incumbents

- ◉ Recognized as legitimate redistricting principle
- ◉ Subordinated to other redistricting principles, since inherently more political and difficult to measure

# No single perfect solution



THE TIMES - PLEASURE

SKILL

RORSCHACH  
TEST?

NO...IT'S  
MY NEW  
DISTRICT...

