

**2010 Census Redistricting Data Program: Phase 1-State Legislative District Project
Preliminary Guidelines for Participation**

During Phase 1 of the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program, the U.S. Census Bureau will collect state legislative district (SLD) boundaries in order to tabulate 2010 Census data for them. These boundaries will be held as 2010 Census block boundaries. This project will include a verification phase and a subsequent Census 2000 data tabulation.

Timing

- States accept Phase 1 invitation: No later than August 1, 2005
- States' submission of SLDs: Beginning in March 2005

Materials required for state submission of SLD boundaries

- A block equivalency file representing SLDs by whole Census 2000 blocks. These files must cover the entire state, including all water blocks. Be sure to include blocks in large bodies of water or out to your state boundary if that is in water.

Optional information requested

- SLD names
- SLD to legal entity relationships
- SLD population totals
- State legislation documenting your post Census 2000 boundaries
- State web site with information about your SLDs

Block equivalency file format:

<u>Field Name</u>	<u>Length</u>
State FIPS code	2
County FIPS code	3
Census Tract	6
Census Block	4
Senate District (upper chamber) code (SLDU)	3
House District (lower chamber) code (SLDL)	3

All Census 2000 blocks in your state must be included in your file. All files should be comma delimited ASCII format and zero filled.

Examples:

<i>If you submit:</i>	<i>A record will look like this:</i>
Both senate and house districts	09,013,020102,3005,011,003
Just senate districts	09,013,020102,3005,011,
Just house districts	09,013,020102,3005,,003

If your state SLD boundaries DO NOT follow Census 2000 blocks, we require more information. Please submit:

- A listing of all Census 2000 blocks (“split blocks”) that include more than a single SLD.
- A map, shape file, jpeg, tiff, or PDF depicting the SLD boundary where it divides a Census 2000 block.
- A list of each split block indicating the single SLD that the state wishes to assign to that block for Census 2000 data tabulation purposes. The state may direct us to use the block equivalency file for this purpose.

SLD Names

The state also may submit state legislative district names at this time. We request two separate files for this purpose, one for house names and one for senate names. The format of these files is as follows:

Senate (Upper chamber) District Names	
<u>Field name</u>	<u>Length</u>
State code	2
Senate District code (SLDU)	3
Senate District name	60 (maximum)
Example: 50,001,Senate District 1	

House (Lower chamber) District Names	
<u>Field name</u>	<u>Length</u>
State FIPS code	2
House District code (SLDL)	3
House District name	60 (maximum)
Example: 50,001,House District 1A	

All files should be in comma delimited ASCII format. Include in the name of the file the state name or abbreviation and either “house” or “senate”. For example: “VA.house.names”.

Relationships between SLD boundaries and other geographic boundaries

As we update our databases with your state’s senate and house districts, we will discover many situations where other boundaries have changed since Census 2000. These changes will not be reflected in the Census 2000 data we tabulate for the SLDs you submit under this project, but as we move to the Phase 2 products and the 2010 Census, we will need to know how to manage any permanent relationships that the SLD has to other governmental unit boundaries. *If you can provide information to us about permanent relationships that your districts have with other entities such as counties and county subdivisions, please contact the Census Redistricting Data Office at RDO@census.gov or 301-763-4039.*

Submissions

To submit the SLD boundary information, SLD population totals, state legislation, and identify a relevant state web site, we ask that you send an email with the information and appropriate listings and files enclosed (and zipped as needed) to this email address: RDO@census.gov