

Redistricting Expertise and Experience

Haystaq is one of the nation's most accomplished and experienced redistricting firms. With decades of experience working in all types of settings, we have collectively drawn thousands of maps for every level of government. From small cities to entire states, we have a proven track record of producing great and legally defensible maps.

Haystaq's Founder and CEO, Ken Strasma, has been doing redistricting since 1991. In 2000 and 2001, Mr. Strasma served as the liaison between the National Committee for an Effective Congress, and the Democratic National Committee's congressional and state legislative redistricting offices. In 2011, he was the project lead for our work for the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission (AIRC). In 2020-2022, Ken was the lead for our work with the Virginia Independent Redistricting Commission and oversaw the firm's work FL, OH, MT, AZ, PA, MO, and CA.

Our technical background for redistricting includes:

- Tens of thousands of maps and redistricting reports created using technologies such as: Maptitude, Esri, ArcGIS, Maptitude Online Redistricting, Google Maps, Google Earth, Mapbox, QGIS (.shp, .map, .kmz, .kml, .doj, block equivalency files, etc.)
- Congressional, state senate, state assembly/house, county, precinct, school district maps
- Expertise in plan evaluation methodology: measures of compactness (Reock, Polsby-Popper, Convex Hull, Perimeter, etc.), county and community splits, Communities of Interest, competitiveness (partisan voter makeup), racial and ethnic demographic makeup (Voting Age Population (VAP), CVAP, etc.)
- Extensive Experience obtaining, organizing and utilizing Census PL 94-171 data, Tiger data, Census ACS data, Precinct level election results, and state voter file data (census block, census tract, census block group, etc.)
- Racial bloc voting analysis
- Census Reapportionment and Redistricting

Samples of recent redistricting work:

In 2020 and 2021, the Haystaq team served as the technical redistricting consultants for the California Citizens Redistricting Commission. As part of this work Haystaq worked on Congressional, State Senate, State Assembly and Board of equalization maps. This work also included cataloging and considering thousands of Communities of Interest (COIs). Additionally, Haystaq was selected as the map drawer and technical consultant for the City of San Diego where they drew maps live during over a dozen public meetings at the direction of the commission.

Other projects during the cycle included VRA analysis for the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission, where data from ten previous elections was used to find evidence of racial bloc voting. Moreover, Haystaq created maps for over 40 municipalities including cities, water districts and community colleges. Amongst the many municipalities were the cities of Corona, Hemet, San Marcos and Palm Springs CA. During this work Haystaq also ran analysis on hundreds of publicly submitted maps and often incorporated changes from these maps at client direction. A handful of these clients also required VRA analysis to determine whether their at-large districts complied with California law.

Finally, Haystaq has done map analysis on the adopted Congressional and State Legislative maps in all 50 states. Since 2019, Haystaq has helped with the creation of the Redistricting Data Hub ([RDH](#)). The RDH's goal is to provide individuals, civic organizations, and good government groups the data, tools, and knowledge to participate effectively in redistricting. Haystaq serves as advisors to the Stakeholders and the Advisory Data Council for the Redistricting Data Hub, which have informed the direction of the data available on the Redistricting Data Hub's website.