



# Public Comment to El Paso County Redistricting Commission

Katherine Czukas July 27

## Criteria for Plan Development

- Mathematical population equality within 5% deviation
- Compliance with “Voting Rights Act of 1965”, 52 U.S.C. sec, 10301, as amended
- As much as possible, preserve whole communities of interest and political subdivisions
- Thereafter, to the extent possible, maximize the number of politically competitive districts
- Recommended sensitivity related to the number of voters switched between County Commissioner election cycles

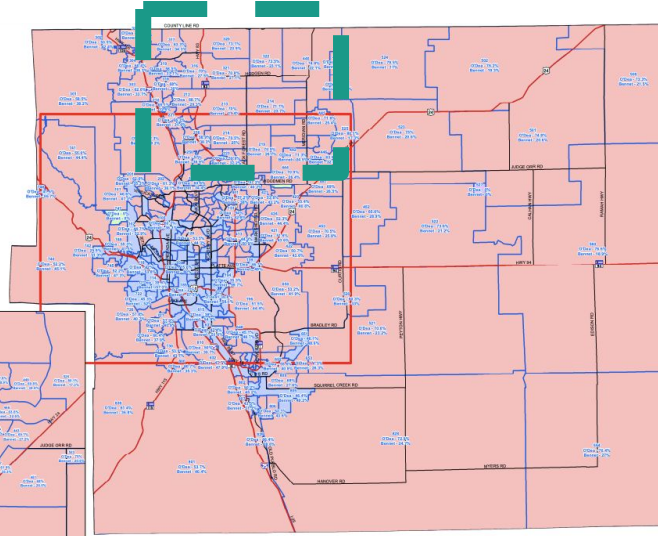
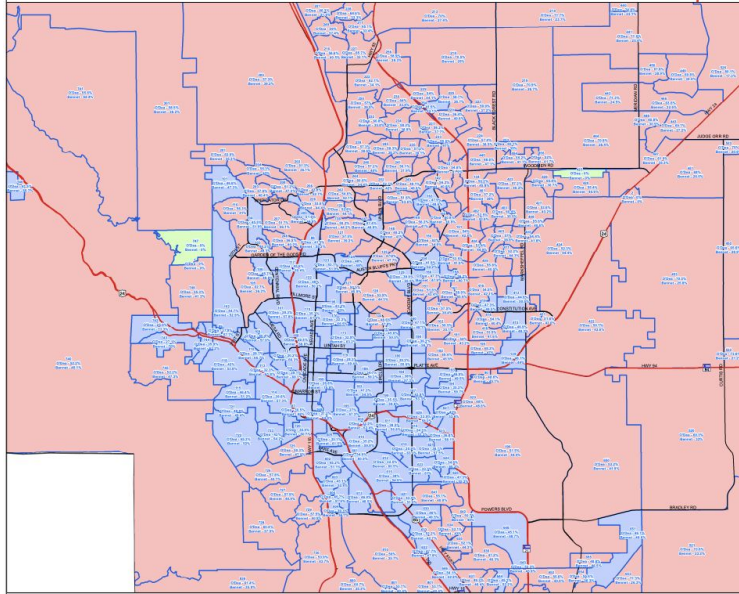
*How will this be defined?*

Source: <https://www.elpasoco.com/redistricting/>

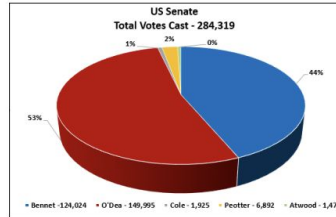


### US Senate

General Election  
November 8, 2022



The northern El Paso County precincts in the **Green Dotted Line Box** show O'Dea (Republican) as winning candidate for US Senate in 2022



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## Map Option (2) Political Competitiveness:

District:	DEM:	DEM %:	REP:	REP %:	Total:	Deviation:	Deviation from Current:
<b>US SENATE:</b>							
1	26,655	35.69%	45,683	61.16%	74,694	25.47%	-0.13%
2	21,790	37.25%	34,398	58.80%	58,504		0.97%
3	34,346	52.13%	29,619	44.96%	65,882	-7.17%	-0.98%
4	15,263	45.08%	17,041	50.34%	33,854	5.25%	0.84%
5	25,970	50.54%	23,254	45.25%	51,385	-5.29%	0.96%



## Map Option (Ms. Czukas) Political Competitiveness:

District:	DEM:	DEM %:	REP:	REP %:	Total:	Deviation:	Deviation from Current:
<b>US SENATE:</b>							
1	27,908	37.85%	43,440	58.91%	73,739	21.06%	-4.54%
2	22,647	34.83%	39,907	61.38%	65,015		5.97%
3	35,985	52.12%	31,055	44.98%	69,043	-7.14%	-0.94%
4	16,257	44.17%	18,921	51.41%	36,802	7.24%	2.82%
5	21,227	53.44%	16,672	41.97%	39,720	-11.47%	-5.22%



- In either map option above, for District 1 (a northish El Paso County district) the “Deviation” favors a Republican Senate candidate by at least 20% (red font)
- O’Dea is winning US Senate in both map options (Refer to green boxes)
- For many who assess “competitiveness” these 21 or 25 deviation percentage points would suggest District 1 is NOT COMPETITIVE for US Senate

Source: El Paso County 2023 Redistricting Commission June 21 [Folder](#), June 21 Clerk and Recorder Redistricting.pptx slides 37 and 77

REDISTRICTING SUMMARY MAP INFORMATION .XLSX

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Help

100% View only

F10 fx

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
36	<b>CRITERIA #3 (POLITICAL COMPETITIVENESS):</b>												
37	<b>US PRESIDENT:</b>												
38	DISTRICT 1	=											
39	DISTRICT 2	=											
40	DISTRICT 3	=											
41	DISTRICT 4	=											
42	DISTRICT 5	=											
43	<b>US SENATE:</b>												
44	DISTRICT 1	=											
45	DISTRICT 2	=											
46	DISTRICT 3	=											
47	DISTRICT 4	=											
48	DISTRICT 5	=											
49	<b>GOVERNOR:</b>												
50	DISTRICT 1	=											
51	DISTRICT 2	=											
52	DISTRICT 3	=											
53	DISTRICT 4	=											
54	DISTRICT 5	=											
55	<b>SECRETARY OF STATE:</b>												
56	DISTRICT 1	=											

MAP 1 MAP 2 MAP 3 MAP 4 MAP 5 MAP 6 MAP 7 MAP 8 CZUKAS MAP

REDISTRICTING SUMMARY MAP INFORMATION .XLSX

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A37:E37 fx US PRESIDENT:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
36	<b>CRITERIA #3 (POLITICAL COMPETITIVENESS):</b>												
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54	DISTRICT 5	=											
55	<b>SECRETARY OF STATE:</b>												
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MAP 1 MAP 2 MAP 3 MAP 4 MAP 5 MAP 6 MAP 7 MAP 8 CZUKAS MAP

- This is how “Criteria #3 (Political Competitiveness)” is being summarized for Map 2 and Czukas Map
- Neither green box is showing the over 20% gap of O’Dea winning US Senate in District 1
- Does this Summary Information indicate if District 1 is competitive or not competitive for US Senate?

Source: El Paso County 2023 Redistricting Commission July 17 [Folder](#), Redistricting Summary Map Information.xlsx



## My comments on politically competitive districts

1. Please publish in writing the minutes of discussion of the May 8 Agenda Item 6 reflecting how the commissioners have directed staff to calculate competitiveness measures (May 9)
2. Please share how the redistricting commission is planning on interpreting terms like Deviation, Deviation from Current, and Variance when making decisions regarding the number of politically competitive districts criteria (July 5)
3. “Deviation from Current” may be a part of [the redistricting commission’s] competitiveness definition. To me, if CC3 shows a Deviation from Current that favors a Republican, that sounds to me like the map’s author is gerrymandering to make a CC3 less competitive (July 10)
4. The Colorado State Legislative Redistricting Commission gave very specific written guidance about maximizing political competitiveness to staff. It is written as Policy 6 at <https://redistricting.colorado.gov/content/policies-and-guidelines>, please do the same (July 27)