

A low-angle, black and white photograph of the Utah State Capitol building at dusk. The building's grand dome and classical columns are illuminated from below, creating a strong contrast against the dark sky. An American flag flies on a tall pole to the right of the building. The text 'PUBLIC PARTICIPATION' is overlaid in large, bold, black letters on the left side of the image.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Prepared by Jerry Howe, Strategic Initiatives Manager,
Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel — NCSL
Redistricting Webinar Series



ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1

**“...the Legislature
shall divide the state
into congressional,
legislative, and other
districts...”**

Utah Constitution

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Placed binding redistricting standards on the Legislature's authority to draw legislative districts

Required the Legislature to either "enact [the commission's redistricting plan] without change or amendment" or reject it outright





INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

The Legislature may not adopt a redistricting plan until the Commission has had adequate time to present and explain its recommended plans at a public meeting of the Legislature's Redistricting Committee

REDISTRICT UTAH

Redistricting Committee

- 20 legislators appointed by President and Speaker
- Adopted principles and guidelines
- 28 meetings; including 17 public hearings across state



PRINCIPLES ADOPTED BY 2011 REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

Districts to be:

**Single Member;
Contiguous; and
Compact**

Acceptable Deviations:

Congressional $\pm 0.1\%$

Legislative $\pm 3.5\%$

School Board $\pm 3.5\%$

2011 ACTUAL DEVIATIONS

Acceptable Deviations:

Congressional	$\pm 0.1\%$
Senate	$\pm 3.5\%$
House	$\pm 3.5\%$
School Board	$\pm 3.5\%$

Actual Deviations:

Congressional	0.0001%
Senate	0.0063%
House	0.12%
School Board	0.0239%

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED: ONLINE TOOL DEVELOPED



Contracted with ESRI to Create Online Tool



Any Registered User May Submit a Plan



Public Plans Required to Comply
with Redistricting Principles

- Single Member Districts
- Compact and Contiguous
- Meet Deviation Standards
- Complete



REDISTRICT UTAH

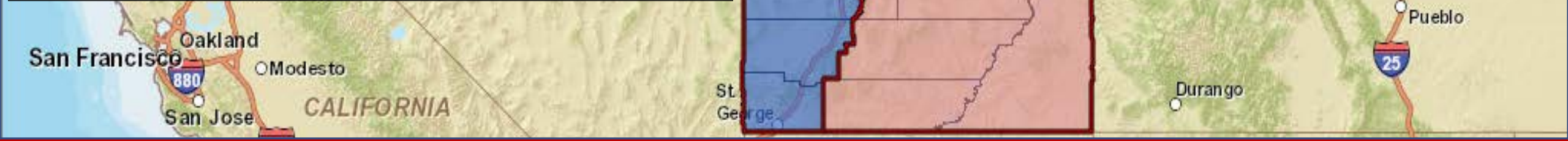
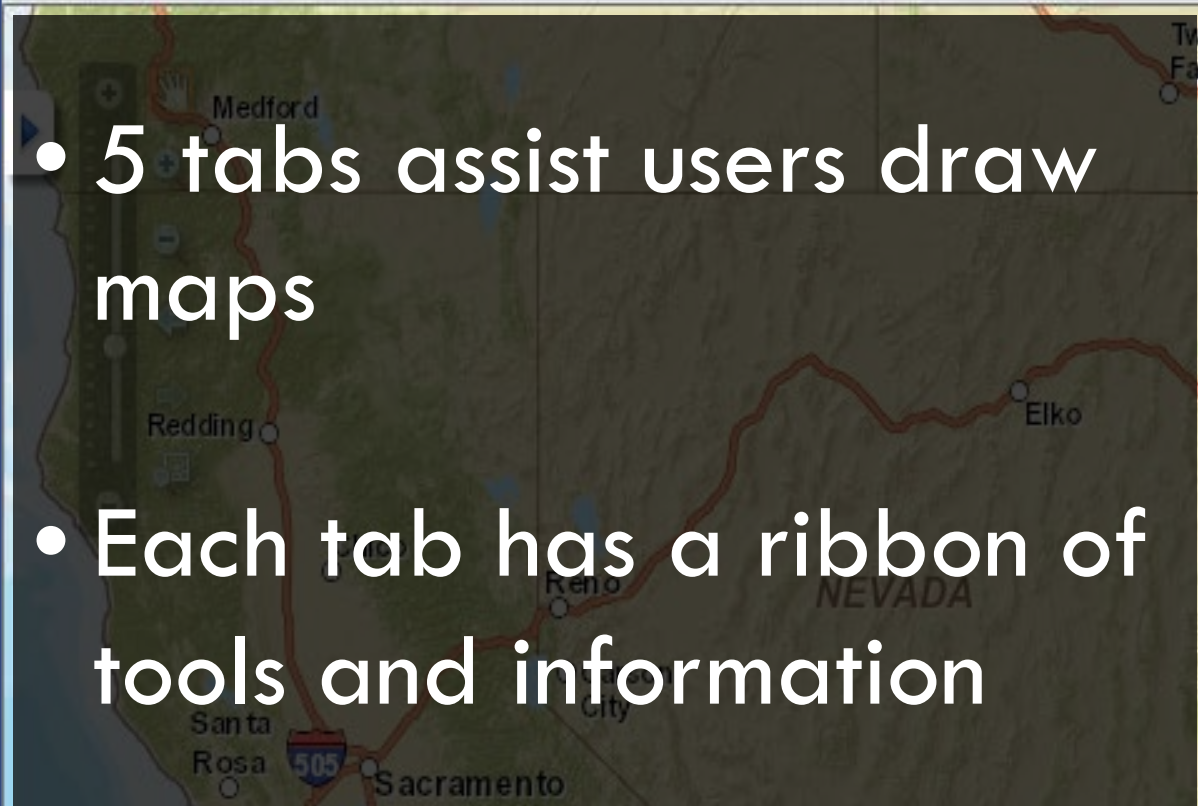
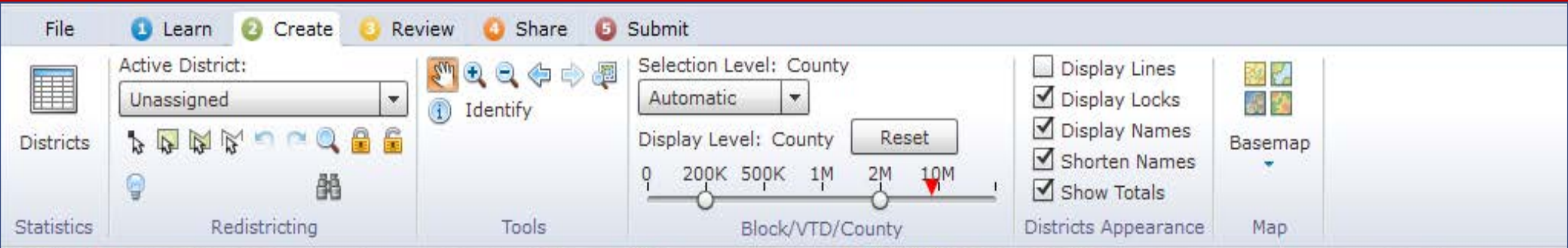
Staff used
ArcGIS and
autoBound

Public used an
ESRI web-based
redistricting tool

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ENCOURAGED: ONLINE TOOL DEVELOPED

ESRI Tool Permitted the Public to:

- Create Groups, Share, and Modify Plans prior to Submission; and
- Submit Public Plans to the Redistricting Committee for Discussion at Public Meetings



PUBLIC USE OF ESRI TOOL

323
Plans
Submitted

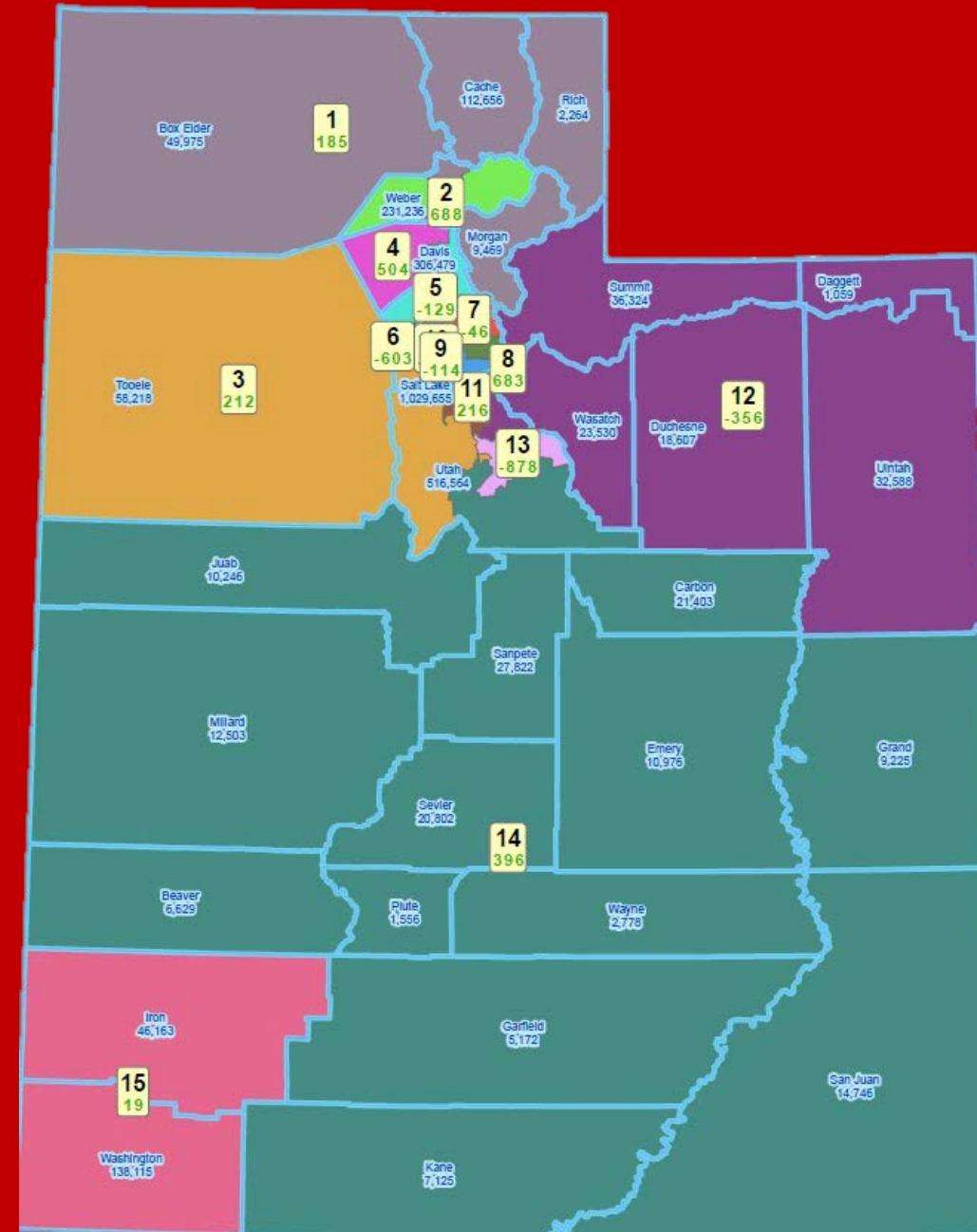
271
Met
Criteria

198
Congress
Plans

1,000
Registered
Users

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION WAS SUCCESSFUL

- **Citizen Plan Adopted!**
- **Headlines:**
 - “Lawmakers endorse citizen map for new school board boundaries”
 - “Lawmakers endorse Logan resident's map for school board boundaries”



ACCOMMODATE PUBLIC COMMENT

In 2010, legislative leaders created a blog

- Posted all redistricting plans (public and legislative) on web
- Public comment and analysis was encouraged on all plans

In 2020, Utah Will Improve Online Public Comment Options

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION BENEFICIAL



Allowed Public to Improve Plans



Improved Public Relations



Public Participation Reduced Criticism



Public Participants Were Thoughtful and Knowledgeable



A Universal Truth: A Single District Drawn in Isolation is Easy, A Complete Statewide plan is Not



OLRGC
Office of Legislative Research
and General Counsel