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**New Mexico Senate Districts
Redistricting Concepts Summary**

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For the New Mexico Legislative Council Service

Summary of Senate Concepts

Ten years ago the New Mexico Legislature adopted a status quo oriented State Senate districting plan in which no districts were consolidated despite significant population shifts that had occurred in the prior decade. This was accomplished in two primary ways: 1) expanding the boundaries of numerous districts on the Eastside of New Mexico to areas beyond the region and 2) utilizing some of the population growth on the Westside of the river in the Albuquerque Metro Area to accommodate senate districts in Downtown Albuquerque, the North Valley and Native American tribal lands that lacked sufficient population.

The population dynamics that existed 10 years ago, in the 2000 census, are the same today. Namely, areas in eastern and north central New Mexico and central Albuquerque have not kept pace with statewide population growth, while the Westside of the Albuquerque Metro Area has experienced explosive population growth. These trends will likely necessitate the consolidation of some senate districts and the emergence of new districts in high growth areas.

There is enough new population on the Albuquerque Metro Westside (Southwest Mesa, Albuquerque Westside and Rio Rancho) to create nearly two new senate districts. Conversely, 21 of the 42 senate districts have a 2010 deviation of more than 5 percent below the ideal population. These districts, below the 5% threshold, tend to be in either urban core areas or in rural and small town areas. The urban core districts included 7 districts in the Albuquerque Metro Area east of the river along with districts containing the cores of Santa Fe, Las Cruces, and Roswell. The rural and small town districts lacking population were located throughout the State but were especially concentrated on the Eastside and in southwest New Mexico. Among this latter group were the two Native American majority districts; both of which were more than 10 percent below the ideal population.

Overall, the Albuquerque Metro Area needs to add approximately one seat. Population growth in the Metro Area has not been even. The Metro Westside has gained sufficient population for up to two seats; however, growth in Albuquerque east of the river was not as rapid. Consequently, Albuquerque east of the Rio Grande has approximately one more seat than is justified by its current population.

Outside the Metro Area, the Eastside and North Central Regions have the largest cumulative negative population deviation because population growth has not kept up with statewide growth. The total population for these two regions combined is 646,586; approximately the amount for 13 senate seats with an ideal population of 49,028. Currently, there are 14 seats in these two regions.

Districts in north central and eastern New Mexico could be redrawn to expand the districts toward the Albuquerque Metro while keeping the incumbents in the redrawn districts. In many cases, however, the redrawn seat would be changed to such an extent that the incumbent would not recognize the revised district. In short, any plan that seeks to redraw all existing districts without pairing any incumbents results in some oddly shaped districts and districts with changed demographics. Consequently, it seems more reasonable to address the Westside population growth by moving seats to the Albuquerque Metro area west of the Rio Grande. There are two scenarios for selecting one or two seats to be moved to the Westside while maintaining all other incumbents in their home districts.

1. Two seats emerge on the Albuquerque Metro Westside; one seat is consolidated east of the river in Albuquerque and one elsewhere in the State. The seat that is consolidated in Albuquerque may emerge as a district that straddles the river.
2. One seat emerges on the Albuquerque Metro Westside. This is accomplished by consolidating a seat east of the river in Albuquerque. The additional seat required for the entire Metro Area is provided by redrawing districts outside the Albuquerque Metro

Area so that districts not in the Metro Area pick up Metro Area precincts. No districts are consolidated outside of the Albuquerque Metro Area under this scenario.

Alternative concepts were developed to demonstrate the effect of each of the two scenarios. There were two criteria for selecting a seat to be consolidated: 1) the seat needed to be located in an area of concentration of districts below the acceptable population deviation level. 2) the seat needed to be located such that its precincts could reasonably be added to neighboring districts. Several districts were identified to be examined in the various plans. The consolidated districts needed to come from east of the river in Albuquerque and the eastern half of the State. Southwestern New Mexico districts were not considered for consolidation as there was a surplus of population in the Las Cruces area; instead the southwest districts expanded into areas served by seats in Doña Ana County. Various concepts for the southwest were produced that are largely independent of the scenarios to address the Albuquerque Metro Westside need. The various southwestern district configurations could with minimal change be switched among the concepts presented in this paper.

A number of districts were considered for consolidation; however, not all of the districts considered for consolidation were actually consolidated in any of the concept plans presented in this paper. In some cases, a district that was considered could not reasonably be consolidated without violating some criteria for districting, such as maintaining communities of interest or district compactness. In other cases, one of several neighboring seats was selected for consolidation in a concept as an example of consolidation in a particular part of the State. By no means are the concepts described in this paper an exhaustive list of reasonable concepts that consolidate districts. Following are the seats that were considered for consolidation:

- Albuquerque seats east of the river that could be selected for consolidation: SD 12 (Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino), SD 14 (Senator Eric Griego), SD 15 (Senator Tim Eichenberg), SD 16 (Senator Cisco McSorley), SD 17 (Senator Tim Keller), SD 18 (Senator Mark Boitano), and SD 20 (Senator William Payne). These are adjacent seats that include most of the area in Bernalillo County from the Rio Grande to the Sandia Mountains south of Montgomery Boulevard. Each of the identified seats is more than 5 percent below the ideal population. Combined, these seats have a cumulative negative deviation of 34,390.
- Eastside New Mexico seats: SD 7 (Senator Clinton Harden), SD 27 (Senator Stuart Ingle), SD 32 (Senator Timothy Jennings), SD 33 (Senator Rod Adair), SD 34 (Senator Vernon Asbill), SD 41 (Senator Carroll Leavell), and SD 42 (Senator Gay Kernan). Two of these districts have sufficient population but are located in an area that is population deficient by approximately one-half seat.
- North Central New Mexico was deficient by more than one-third of a seat. Two seats were identified. SD 8 (Senator Pete Campos) was selected as it has one of the largest negative population deviations in the State despite being a large sprawling district. SD 39 (Senator Phil Griego) was also selected even though it has sufficient population but it has this population because it is currently a sprawling district and it is adjacent to SD 8.

Where possible, concepts were designed with consideration to the residence of the current incumbent. There was one concept that sought to create compact districts respecting communities of interest with less concern for preserving the core of incumbents' current districts. This concept, referred to as the Community Concept, sought to the extent possible to keep communities intact and provide for compact districts. Communities can be defined based on political boundaries such as municipal limits or county boundaries. But, communities can also be collections of neighborhoods or small towns with similar socioeconomic characteristics. In the discussion, the Community Concept is included with Scenario 1 since it adds two seats to the Metro Westside.

Scenario 1: Two new Westside seats emerge by consolidating one seat east of the river in Albuquerque and one seat outside the Metro Area. There are two variations for consolidating an Albuquerque seat, one is the consolidation of a mid-heights seat; the other is a consolidation of a seat that already straddles the river. The concepts using this approach consolidate SD 14 (Senator Eric Griego) in what amounts to shifting this district south and west to become a predominantly Metro Westside district. The advantage of consolidating a seat that is already partly on the Metro Westside is that it causes less disruption to districts east of the river in Albuquerque. When SD 14 shifts south and west to take much of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County southwest mesa and also more Valencia County precincts, it opens the way for districts east of the river to pick up needed population while generally remaining in their core constituency areas. Specifically, SD 12 (Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino) expands south to pick up the upper South Valley and retreats from the Heights. This allows Albuquerque Heights districts to expand.

The various concepts considered different parts of the State in which to consolidate a seat outside the Metro Area. This allowed an assessment of the effect on the configuration of districts depending on the location of the consolidation of a district. In all cases, the consolidated seat was in the eastern half of the State.

Concept A - SD 17 and SD 42 Emerge on Westside: Two new Westside seats emerge by consolidating one seat east of the river in Albuquerque and one seat outside the Metro Area. All Albuquerque seats that straddle the river, except for SD 14, are pushed east so they no longer cross the river. Senator Tim Keller (SD 17) is paired with Senator Mark Boitano (SD 18). SD 17 emerges in the Paradise Hills/Ventana Ranch area. Senator Gay Kernan (SD 42) is paired with Senator Carroll Leavell (SD 41). SD 42 emerges in Rio Rancho.

- SD 17 is consolidated with SD 15 (Senator Tim Eichenberg), SD 16 (Senator Cisco McSorley), SD 18 (Senator Boitano), and SD 19 (Senator Sue Wilson Beffort)
- SD 42 is consolidated with SD 7 (Senator Clinton Harden), SD 27 (Senator Stuart Ingle), SD 32 (Senator Timothy Jennings), SD 33 (Senator Rod Adair), SD 34 (Senator Vernon Asbill), and SD 41 (Senator Leavell)
- SD 41 is a compact southern Lea County district that includes nearly all of Hobbs
- Eddy County except for two precincts makes up SD 34
- Most of Otero is in SD 40
- SD 7 becomes a reasonably compact Eastside district from Clovis to Union County
- The removal of a southeast seat allows the splits of Lincoln and Roosevelt Counties to be eliminated
- Two new seats on the Metro Westside keeps Albuquerque seats east of the river from crossing the Rio Grande
- SD 29 becomes a compact district in northern Valencia County
- There is very little pull into the Metro Area which has a positive effect on districts that had previously been pulled toward the Metro Area; SD 8, SD 39, and SD 22 can return to more characteristic areas
- SD 39 no longer extends into Los Alamos but becomes a compact district in western San Miguel, southern Santa Fe, and Torrance Counties.
- SD 5 (Senator Richard Martinez) picks up needed population by taking the rest of Los Alamos County. SD 6 (Senator Carlos Cisneros) takes most of Taos County along with some additional precincts in Rio Arriba County. SD 5 and SD 6 share a long boundary so there is opportunity for exchanging precincts along this boundary
- SD 8 becomes a north-south district from Colfax County to Guadalupe County including the Las Vegas area
- In southeastern New Mexico, it is possible to unify several communities that are currently split by district boundaries: Alamogordo, Carlsbad, Hobbs, Lovington, and Portales

- SD 35 takes southern Grant and western Doña Ana County but gives up most of Sierra County to HD 39

Concept B - SD 14 Shifts and SD 42 Emerges on Westside: SD14 is shifted south and west and becomes an open seat. Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino (SD 12) and Senator Eric Griego (SD 14) are paired. In southeastern New Mexico Senator Carroll Leavell (SD 41) and Senator Gay Kernan (SD 42) are paired; SD 42 emerges in Rio Rancho.

- SD 14 is consolidated with SD 11 (Senator Linda Lopez), SD 12 (Senator Ortiz y Pino), SD 16 (Senator McSorley), and SD 19 (Senator Wilson Beffort)
- SD 42 is consolidated with SD 7 (Senator Harden), SD 27 (Senator Ingle), SD 32 (Senator Jennings), SD 33 (Senator Adair), SD 34 (Senator Asbill), and SD 41 (Senator Leavell)
- Eddy and Otero Counties each have an exclusive district
- Colfax County is in SD 8
- Boundaries splitting the communities of Alamogordo, Carlsbad, Hobbs, Las Vegas, Los Alamos, Lovington, and Portales have been removed
- Overall, districts are compact and communities, to the extent possible, are respected

Concept C - SD 14 and SD 41 Emerges on Westside: SD 14 emerges in the Paradise Hills/Ventana Ranch area while SD 12 takes most of the current SD 14. Like Concept A, the Albuquerque seats east of the river are kept from crossing the Rio Grande. Senator Ortiz y Pino (SD 12) and Senator Griego (SD 14) are paired. Senator Vernon Asbill (SD 34) and Senator Leavell (SD 41) are paired. SD 41 emerges in Rio Rancho.

- SD 14 is consolidated with SD 11 (Linda Lopez), SD 12 (Ortiz y Pino), SD 16 (McSorley), and SD 19 (Wilson Beffort)
- SD 41 is consolidated with SD 34 (Asbill) and SD 42 (Kernan)
- SD 34 takes the southern part of Lea County including Jalisco
- SD 27 retains De Baca County
- SD 33 includes only Lincoln County and northern Chaves County with part of Roswell
- Boundaries splitting the communities of Alamogordo, Carlsbad, Hobbs, Las Vegas, and Portales have been removed
- Los Alamos County is split but the splits of the communities of Los Alamos and White Rock are eliminated
- Overall the districts are compact

Concept D - SD 14 Shifts and SD 7 Emerges on Westside: The large northeast SD 14 is consolidated with other districts. Senator Clinton Harden (SD 7) and Senator Stuart Ingle (SD 27) are paired. SD 7 emerges in Rio Rancho. Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino (SD 12) and Senator Eric Griego (SD 14) are paired. SD 14 emerges in southern Bernalillo and northern Valencia Counties.

- SD 7 is consolidated with SD 6 (Senator Cisneros), SD 8 (Senator Pete Campos), SD 27 (Senator Ingle), and SD 42 (Senator Kernan)
- SD 14 is consolidated with SD 11 (Senator Lopez), SD 12 (Senator Ortiz y Pino), SD 16 (Senator McSorley), and SD 19 (Senator Wilson Beffort)
- SD 12 expands south as far as the Tijeras Arroyo
- The new SD 27 is in the Clovis-Portales area, but both communities are still split
- SD 8 shifts north and east to take much of the rural portion of current SD 7
- SD 39 shifts south to take precincts from current SD 8 to accommodate the shift of SD 8.
- SD 33 shifts north to take most of Guadalupe County and much of Torrance County from SD 8 as well as De Baca County from SD 27
- SD 33 loses precincts in Roswell to SD 32
- SD 42 expands in the Clovis area and SD 41 pushes north allowing SD 34 to pick up precincts in Carlsbad

- The Grants/Milan area is unified in SD 30
- Los Alamos County is similar to Concept C
- This plan also leaves most of the southeastern communities split by district boundaries

Concept E - SD 14 Shifts and SD 33 Emerges on Westside: This concept focused on consolidating the two Roswell based districts. Both existing districts are below the 5 percent allowable deviation. The removal of a Roswell based district opens the way for SD 7 and SD 27 to expand south and east to pick up population from SD 33. SD 34 expands north taking precincts from SD 32. Senator Rod Adair (SD 33) and Senator Gay Kernan (SD 42) are paired. SD 33 emerges in Rio Rancho. Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino (SD 12) and Senator Eric Griego (SD 14) are paired. SD 14 emerges in southern Bernalillo and northern Valencia Counties.

- SD 14 is consolidated with SD 11 (Senator Lopez), SD 12 (Senator Ortiz y Pino), SD 16 (Senator McSorley), and SD 19 (Senator Wilson Beffort)
- SD 33 is consolidated with SD 27 (Senator Ingle), SD 32 (Senator Jennings), and SD 40 (Senator Burt), and SD 42 (Senator Kernan)
- SD 3 (Senator John Pinto) picks up precincts west of Gallup and near Farmington but gives up precincts in eastern San Juan County to SD 22 (Senator Lynda Lovejoy). The configuration of the precincts in Gallup between SD 3 and SD 4 (Senator George Munoz) is revised
- SD 4 picks up needed population by expanding east and picking up a larger portion of Gallup
- SD 27 expands west to Ruidoso but except for one precinct stays out of Roswell
- SD 27 keeps most of its Curry County precincts, instead SD 42 gives up its Curry County precincts to SD 7
- SD 42 takes most of the Roswell precincts that are currently in SD 33
- SD 34 takes all of Artesia and other northern Eddy County precincts from SD 32 and SD 42
- SD 28 expands farther north in Socorro County which pushes SD 30 farther north in Valencia County
- SD 35 takes the rest of Sierra County and the Hatch area in Doña Ana County
- Other than Artesia, this concept leaves most of the southeastern communities split by district boundaries

Concept I - SD 14 Shifts and SD 8 Emerges on Westside: This concept consolidates two sprawling north central districts, SD 8 and SD 39. SD 14 shifts south and west becoming an open seat. Senator Pete Campos (SD 8) and Senator Phil Griego (SD 39) are paired. SD 8 emerges in Rio Rancho. Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino (SD 12) and Senator Eric Griego (SD 14) are paired. SD 14 emerges in southern Bernalillo and northern Valencia Counties.

- SD 8 is consolidated with SD 6 (Senator Cisneros), SD 7 (Senator Harden), SD 19 (Senator Wilson Beffort), SD 27 (Senator Ingle), SD 33 (Senator Adair), and SD 39 (Senator Griego)
- SD 14 is consolidated with SD 11 (Senator Lopez), SD 12 (Senator Ortiz y Pino), SD 16 (Senator McSorley), and SD 19 (Senator Wilson Beffort)
- The southeastern New Mexico districts are pulled north and the eastern New Mexico districts expand west to acquire needed population
- SD 12 becomes a downtown Albuquerque and upper South Valley district
- SD 27 expands west to take most of Guadalupe County
- SD 7 expands west in both Mora and San Miguel Counties
- SD 33 expands north to take most of Torrance County
- SD 28 takes Sierra County
- SD 35 takes southern Grant County and most of northwest Doña Ana County

- SD 39 becomes a compact district centered in the west half of San Miguel County including Las Vegas and picking up precincts in Mora, Guadalupe, and Santa Fe Counties.
- The Grants/Milan area is unified in SD 30
- Unlike several of the other plans, this plan left most of the southeastern communities split by district boundaries

Concept F - Community Concept: A concept was developed that emphasized compactness and communities. This concept was initiated on the Metro Westside and considered neighborhood continuity. A seat emerges in Rio Rancho and SD 14 shifts west to be a predominantly Metro Westside district. When an emphasis on community and compactness is the primary guidance, it is expected that there will be an increase in the number of paired incumbents. The residential location of incumbents was considered, but as a secondary consideration.

Five sets of incumbents are paired in this concept.

- Senator John Pinto (SD 3) and Senator George Munoz (SD 4)
- Senator John Sapien (SD 9) and Senator John Ryan (SD 10)
- Senator Ortiz y Pino (SD 12) and Senator Dede Feldman (SD 13)
- Senator William Payne (SD 20) and Senator Kent Cravens (SD 21)
- Senator Carroll Leavell (SD 41) and Senator Gay Kernan (SD 42)
- In the Albuquerque Metro Area, the following community based districts were created: two mostly Rio Rancho districts, a northwest mesa/Paradise Hills district, a west mesa district generally north of I-40, an Atrisco area district, a Westgate area district, three valley districts (north valley/Corrales/Town of Bernalillo, central valley including downtown, and South Valley/Isleta/Bosque Farms), two mid-heights districts, two east heights districts, a far northeast heights district, a foothills districts, and an east mountain/Edgewood district
- Gallup is entirely in SD 4
- SD 3 expands south but gives up precincts in eastern San Juan County to SD 22
- In southwest New Mexico, SD 28 takes all of Sierra County. SD 35 takes the southern part of Grant County and northwest Doña Ana County
- SD 8 expands north and east to consolidate northeast New Mexico into a district
- SD 39 expands east to consolidate Tarrant, Guadalupe and De Baca Counties with southwest San Miguel and southeast Santa Fe Counties
- SD 7 becomes a Clovis to Tucumcari district
- SD 27 becomes a Portales to Hobbs district
- SD 34, SD 40, and SD 41 are consolidated within their respective counties
- Roswell is split between SD 32 and SD 33; the Ruidoso area is in SD 33 and the Mescalero Reservation is in SD 32
- In Doña Ana County, the valley south of Las Cruces including Anthony and Sunland Park are consolidated into SD 31
- Splits are eliminated in Alamogordo, Carlsbad, Gallup, Las Vegas, Portales, and Socorro
- In addition, essentially all of the Taos area is unified as is the Ruidoso area

Scenario 2: One new Metro Westside seat emerges as a result of consolidating one seat east of the river in Albuquerque. No Eastside New Mexico seats are consolidated under Scenario 2. Districts outside the Metro Area are expanded to absorb additional precincts in the Metro Area. This produces shifting of districts as districts adjacent to the Metro Area shift into the Metro Area while vacating portions of their current districts. Other districts must shift to pick up the vacated areas. Districts that need population are also expanded. The result is considerable change for some districts that either need population or are located in an area where shifting is necessary.

To accommodate the need on the Metro Westside when only one seat is consolidated requires two processes. First, population in Bernalillo County can be absorbed by expanding districts across the river or from outside the Metro Area. Rio Rancho, however, cannot as easily be served by expanding districts. One problem in the Rio Rancho area is that the seat (Senator Lovejoy, SD 22) that currently serves part of Rio Rancho is 24% over the ideal population so it needs to give up precincts. In addition, SD 22 is primarily intended to serve the Native American population in McKinley, Rio Arriba, and Sandoval Counties so it should recede from Rio Rancho. The most practical solution is for a new seat to emerge in Rio Rancho. Two concepts of this scenario have been developed.

Concept G - SD 20 Emerges on Westside: One seat is consolidated, an Albuquerque mid-heights seat to allow one seat to emerge on the Metro Westside. Senator Mark Boitano (SD 18) is paired with Senator William Payne (SD 20). SD 20 emerges in Rio Rancho.

- Overall, this concept demonstrated that merely consolidating one seat in the Metro Area without consolidating a second seat in eastern New Mexico still had a major impact on the character of a number of districts outside the Metro Area
- SD 20 is consolidated with SD 17 (Senator Keller), SD 18 (Senator Boitano), and SD 19 (Senator Sue Wilson Beffort)
- SD 29 (Senator Michael Sanchez) takes Isleta Pueblo and moves into Bernalillo County
- SD 30 gives up all precincts in Socorro County but takes most of southern and eastern Valencia County including most of Belen
- SD 39 (Senator Phil Griego) picks up Placitas and precincts in the Bernalillo County East Mountains
- In southwest New Mexico, SD 35 (Senator John Arthur Smith) picks up the remainder of Sierra County and precincts in southern and eastern Grant County. SD 28 (Senator Howie Morales) expands north taking the rest of Socorro County and 3 southern Valencia County precincts. No Doña Ana precincts go to the southwestern districts in this concept.
- SD 40 (Senator William Burt) expands west into Doña Ana County
- SD 34 (Senator Asbill) expands to take most of Chaparral
- SD 32 (Senator Jennings) expands west to take the Tularosa area
- SD 33 picks up precincts in Roswell and consolidates Lincoln County

Concept H - SD 14 Emerges on Westside: One seat is consolidated in Albuquerque and emerges in Rio Rancho. Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino (SD 12) is paired with Senator Eric Griego (SD 14).

- Similar to Concept G, consolidating only one seat still has a major impact on districts throughout the State
- SD 14 is consolidated with SD 8 (Senator Campos), SD 11 (Senator Lopez), SD 12 (Senator Ortiz y Pino), SD 16 (Senator McSorley), SD 26 (Senator Bernadette Sanchez), SD 29 (Senator Michael Sanchez)
- SD 12 expands south to take most of the South Valley
- SD 29 moves north to take Isleta Pueblo and the lower South Valley
- Albuquerque districts (other than SD 12) east of the river, migrate slightly westward but retain their core areas. The balance of the State, however, remains problematic due to the pull to the Metro Area to provide another seat.
- SD 29 (Senator Michael Sanchez), SD 30 (Senator David Ulibarri), and SD 39 (Senator Phil Griego) are all pulled into the Metro Area
- SD 30 takes southern Valencia County which allows SD 29 to move farther north
- In addition, SD 33 (Rod Adair) is pulled into Valencia County as a result of rearranging SD 30 to take precincts in Bernalillo County.
- SD 35 (Senator Smith) takes all of Sierra County and several Grant County precincts

- SD 28 (Senator Morales) takes all of Socorro County and some Valencia County precincts.
- Overall, this concept, as above, demonstrated that merely consolidating one seat in the Metro Area still had a major impact on the character of a number of districts outside the Metro Area.

Statistical Summary: The following tables provide statistical data for minority composition for each of the concepts. All statements in this document regarding Hispanic or Native American majority districts refer to voting age population. **Table 1** presents statewide data. **Table 2** displays the number of Hispanic majority, Native American majority, and majority minority districts for each scenario. For comparison, data for the existing districts is included although most of these districts exceed the 5% allowable deviation from the ideal population. Majority refers to 50 percent or more. In Table 2, “majority minority” refers to districts in which no single minority group makes up 50% of the district; however, the sum of the minority groups is greater than 50%.

In New Mexico, Hispanic Origin and Native Americans are the only minority groups with sufficient population and geographic concentration to allow for a majority in a senate district. Therefore, only those two groups are listed separately in the tables but the category of Minority in Table 1 includes all non-White and Hispanic Origin persons.

The data is drawn from the 2010 U.S. Census so the data is based on self-identification. There are no definitions as to what constitutes Hispanic Origin or any particular race. In addition, a person can respond as both Hispanic Origin and as Native American so there is some overlap of these two groups. To prevent overlap, the count of Native Americans includes only those that responded as only Native American and not Hispanic Origin.

Table 2 also displays data for the existing districts, although 21 of the 42 existing senate districts have negative deviations greater than the allowable deviation. Seven of the concept plans increase the number of Majority minority districts. There are three Native American voting age majority districts in all concepts, one more than exists today. Considering Hispanic majority districts, one concept plan increases the number of Hispanic majority districts.

The number of Hispanic majority districts range between 14 and 17. There are multiple factors that cause this range, but a major reason is that several districts are either just below or above 50% Hispanic so that a different concept can swing these districts one way or the other. In all plans there are additional districts among the majority minority districts that have a Hispanic plurality.

Table 1
2010 Minority Voting Age Population – New Mexico

Group	Voting Age Population	Percent
Hispanic Origin	651,326	42.3%
Non-Hispanic Native American (alone)	121,962	7.9%
Total Minority Population	842,659	54.7%
Total New Mexico Population	1,540,507	

Table 2
Number of Majority Minority Senate Districts

Scenario	Concept	Number of Hispanic Majority Districts	Number of Native American Majority Districts	Number of Majority Minority Districts
Existing Districts	n/a	16	2	4
1	A	14	3	7
	B	16	3	6
	C	14	3	6
	D	17	3	3
	E	16	3	6
	I	16	3	4
	F	15	3	5
2	G	15	3	2
	H	14	3	4

Conclusions: After producing several alternative plans, some conclusions can reasonably be drawn. The Albuquerque Metro Westside has sufficient population for nearly two additional seats. At the same time, there is pressure on the eastern half of the State where most districts are below the ideal district population. Two scenarios were used to move districts into the Metro Westside. These shifts can be accomplished by consolidating and moving seats or by expanding boundaries.

Scenario 1 is based on the premise that it is beneficial for the State as a whole as well as the Metro Westside for two seats to be consolidated, one from outside the Metro Area, and another from east of the Rio Grande in Albuquerque. Under this scenario, two seats emerge on the Metro Westside. One advantage of consolidating a district in the eastern half of the State is that the other districts can retain their core areas. Several concepts were developed to examine the effect of consolidating seats in various parts of the State. In these concepts, a seat emerges in Rio Rancho and a seat emerges in Bernalillo County west of the river. This latter seat emerges in either northwest Albuquerque, or the southwest Albuquerque area.

In general, concepts in which two seats emerged on the Metro Westside produced relatively compact districts throughout the State. The Community concept, however, paired more incumbents.

Under Scenario 2, one seat east of the river in Albuquerque is consolidated and districts outside the Albuquerque Metro Area are expanded to absorb the remainder of the Metro Westside population. The expansion of districts outside the Metro Area causes several districts to expand beyond their traditional regional boundaries. The consolidated seat emerges in Rio Rancho.

All of the plans increased the number of Native American majority districts from the current 2 to 3 districts; this was a result of removing Rio Rancho from SD 22. In all cases, SD 22 becomes the third Native American majority district. The number of Hispanic majority districts in the various concepts depends on the changes made to both existing Hispanic majority districts below the ideal population and neighboring districts that need population. The districts most affected were SD 35, SD 37, SD 39, and SD 41. Southwestern district configurations where SD 35 expanded into Doña Ana County rather than adding more Sierra County precincts usually made SD 35 a Hispanic majority district; currently, it is not. Currently, both SD 8 and SD 39 are Hispanic majority districts, but these two adjacent districts combined need almost 10,000 more people to reach the ideal population. On the other hand, SD 41 in southeastern New Mexico is

currently a Hispanic majority district with a population very close to the ideal. If SD 41 loses its Eddy County population and is moved entirely into Lea County, it is no longer a Hispanic majority district. Existing SD 37 is 36% above the ideal population and is not Hispanic majority; some configurations of the new SD 37 produce a Hispanic majority district.

There are obviously many criteria that can be used for assessing a concept but in general the concepts that consolidate a far southeastern district appear to result in more compact and more community sensitive districts than the concepts that consolidate north central districts or eastern New Mexico districts.

The total population of the eight southeastern counties is 338,793; almost enough for 7 senate districts (ideal population = 49,028). There are, however, eight senators residing in this eight county area. Currently, the districts for these senators extend into Doña Ana County and all the way to Taos County, even with the added population from outside the southeast, there is still insufficient population to support eight seats.

The southeast is a challenge because there is nowhere within the region to find surplus population. Though no single seat is more than 10% below the ideal population, if a district is not consolidated, those that need population must expand to areas outside of the region. Because of their location in the southeast corner of the state, these districts must push west and north. However, the districts north of the southeast districts are deficient in population as well. The only areas to find excess population are the Albuquerque and Las Cruces areas. In the case of the Albuquerque area, that is a long way to expand a district from Clovis or Roswell. In the case of Las Cruces, the southeastern senators are competing with senators from Silver City (SD 28) and Deming (SD 35) who also need population. There is approximately enough surplus population in Doña Ana County to provide for SD 28 and SD 35.

The Scenario 1 concepts that consolidate one of the three far southeast districts allows the other Eastside districts to pick up needed population in their “home” areas and even withdraw from some distant areas like Taos and Colfax Counties. The resulting districts stay within the southeast region as pressure is relieved from districts throughout the eastern half of New Mexico.

It should be noted that the concepts presented are not mutually exclusive; many parts of the various concepts are interchangeable.