

1046-00-796

Nathaniel Alfred Persily* (npersi@law.columbia.edu), Jerome Greene Hall, 435 West 116th Street, New York, NY 10027. *Lessons from a Court-Appointed Nonpartisan Redistricter*.

Those who have been involved in redistricting fights and resolutions have a unique perspective on the role of math, CAD and various algorithms in the redistricting process. In short, although such methods can place various constraints on the process, the ultimate decisions about which line goes where must be done by humans attempting to balance the conflicting influences of law, politics, and geography. Case studies from court-ordered plans in New York, Georgia and Maryland illustrate the difficulties in any automated form of redistricting. (Received September 11, 2008)