

West Virginia State Senate Redistricting Task Force
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Congressional, Senatorial and Delegate Redistricting

Constitutional

- U.S. House of Representatives
 - Every 10 years following census
 - Has always been at least 1 per state, and proportionate to population
- WV Legislature
 - Proportional only since 1964 “One Person, One Vote” decision in *Reynolds v. Sims*

When

- In special session later this year

Redistricting Reform Advocates

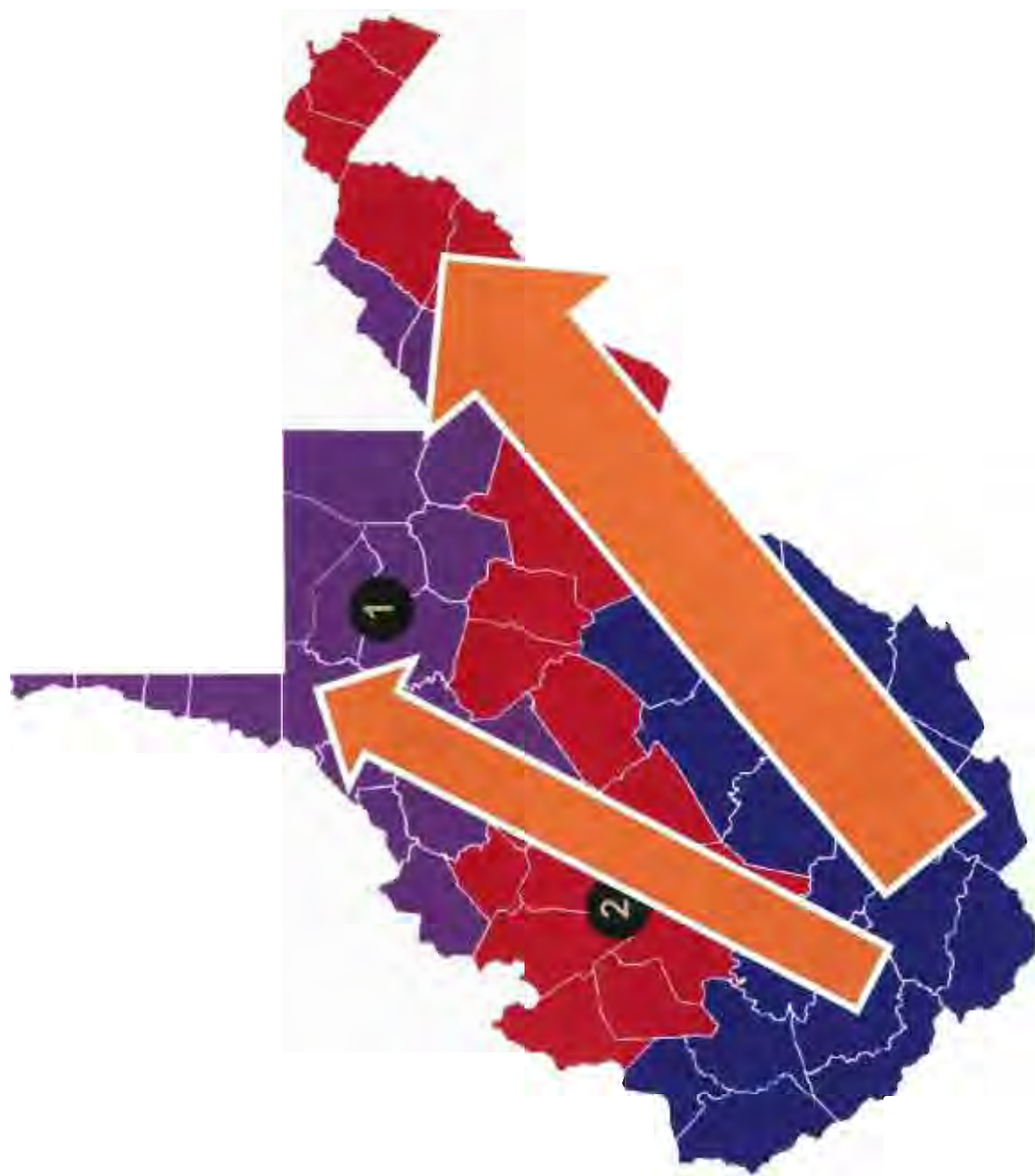
- Greater transparency
 - Publish proposed maps in advance
 - Internet
- More public participation
 - Allow public to comment
 - Conduct public hearings—House Should Follow Senate's Lead

Redistricting Ideals

- Community of Interest
- Geographic compactness
- Respect political boundaries
- Racial fairness
- Equal population: vary NMT 5-10%
- N.B. Continuity and political advantage are generally not factors

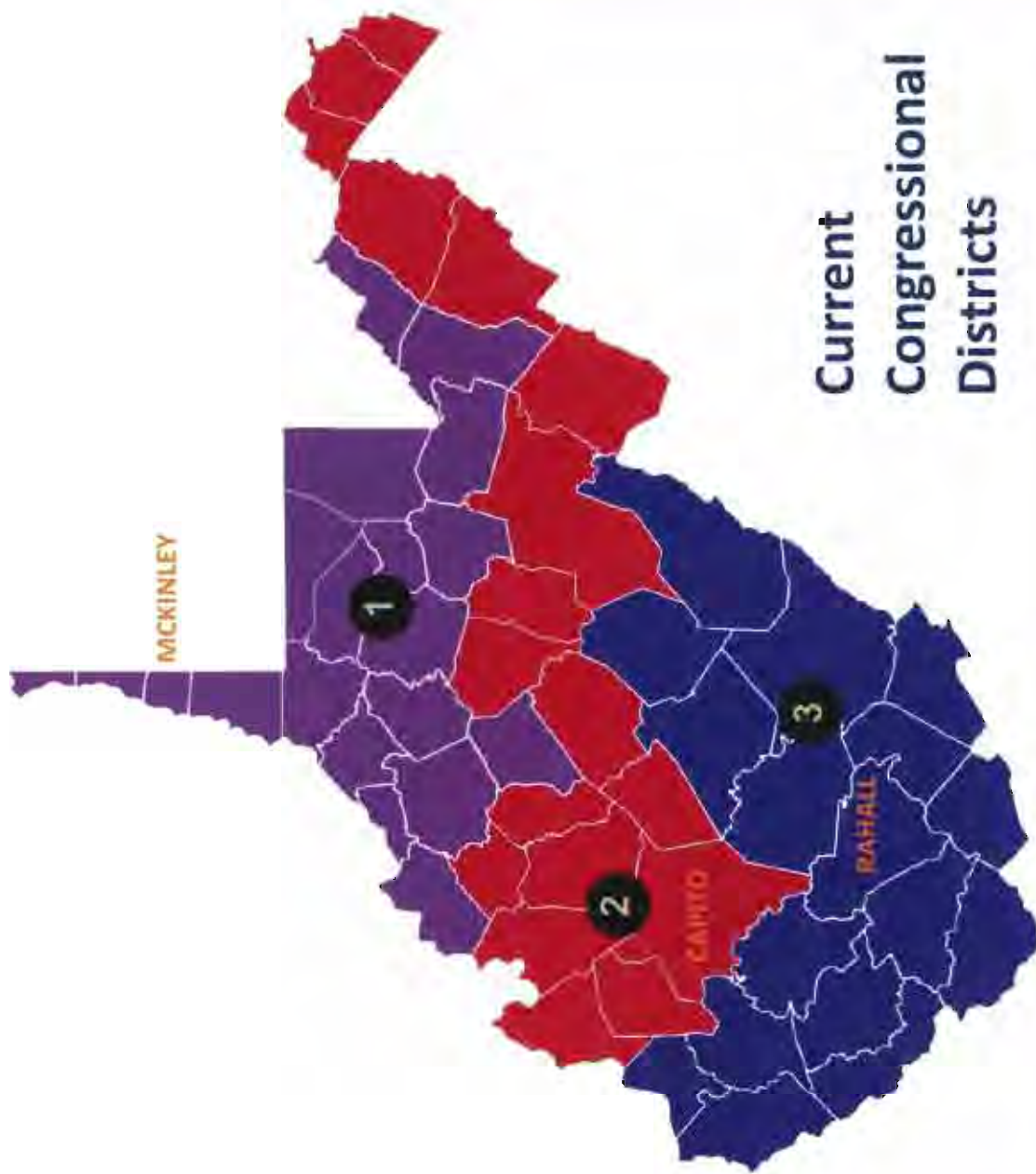
County Census Info

- Greatest growth in Eastern Panhandle
- Greatest loss in southern WV

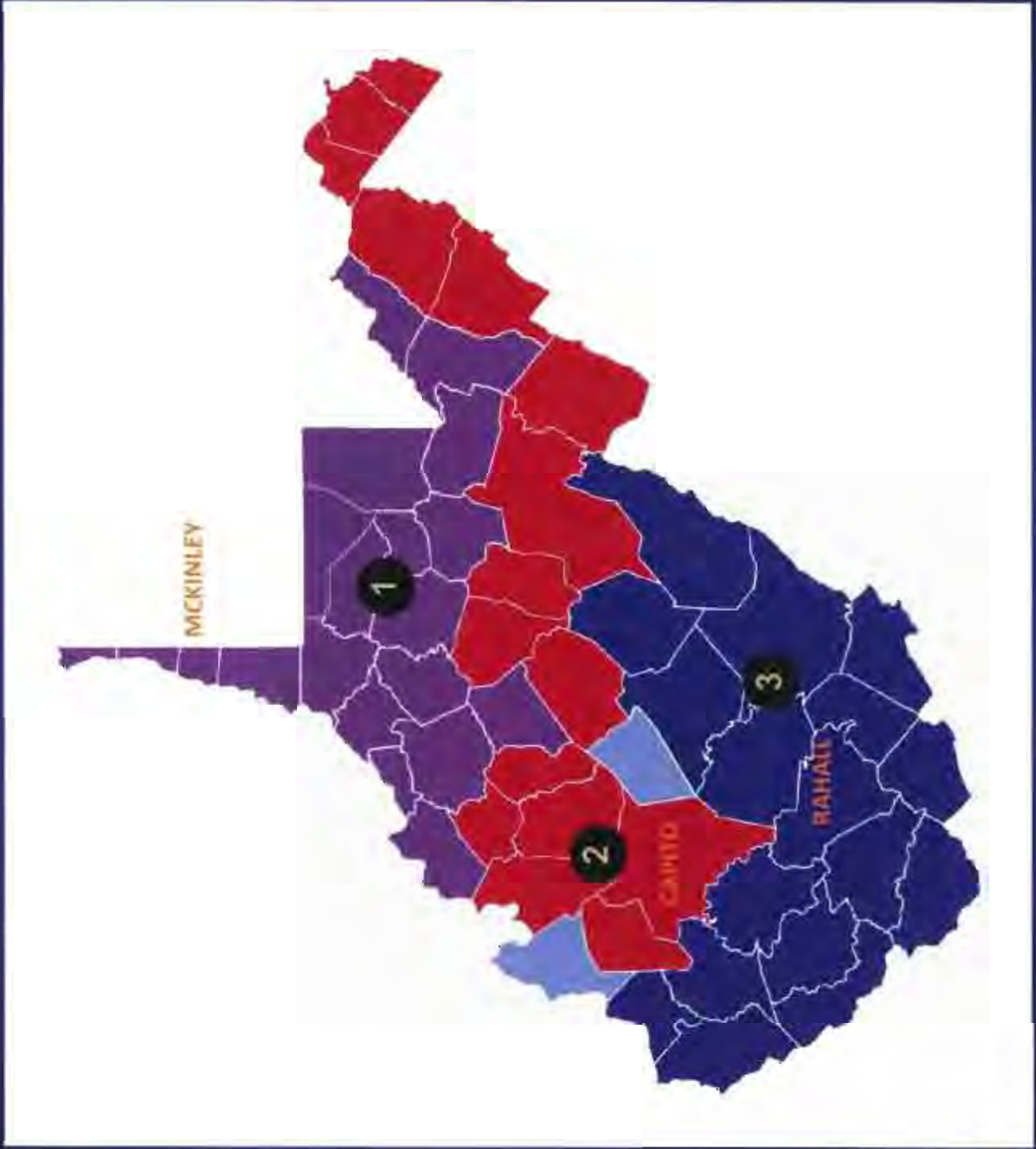


U.S. House

- Retain 3 districts
- Each should contain c. 618,000 people
- Estimates:
 - 1st (McKinley) should be **increased** by c. **10,000+**
 - 2nd (Capito) should be **reduced** by c. **33,000+**
 - 3rd (Rahall) should be **increased** by c. **23,000+**



Current Congressional Districts



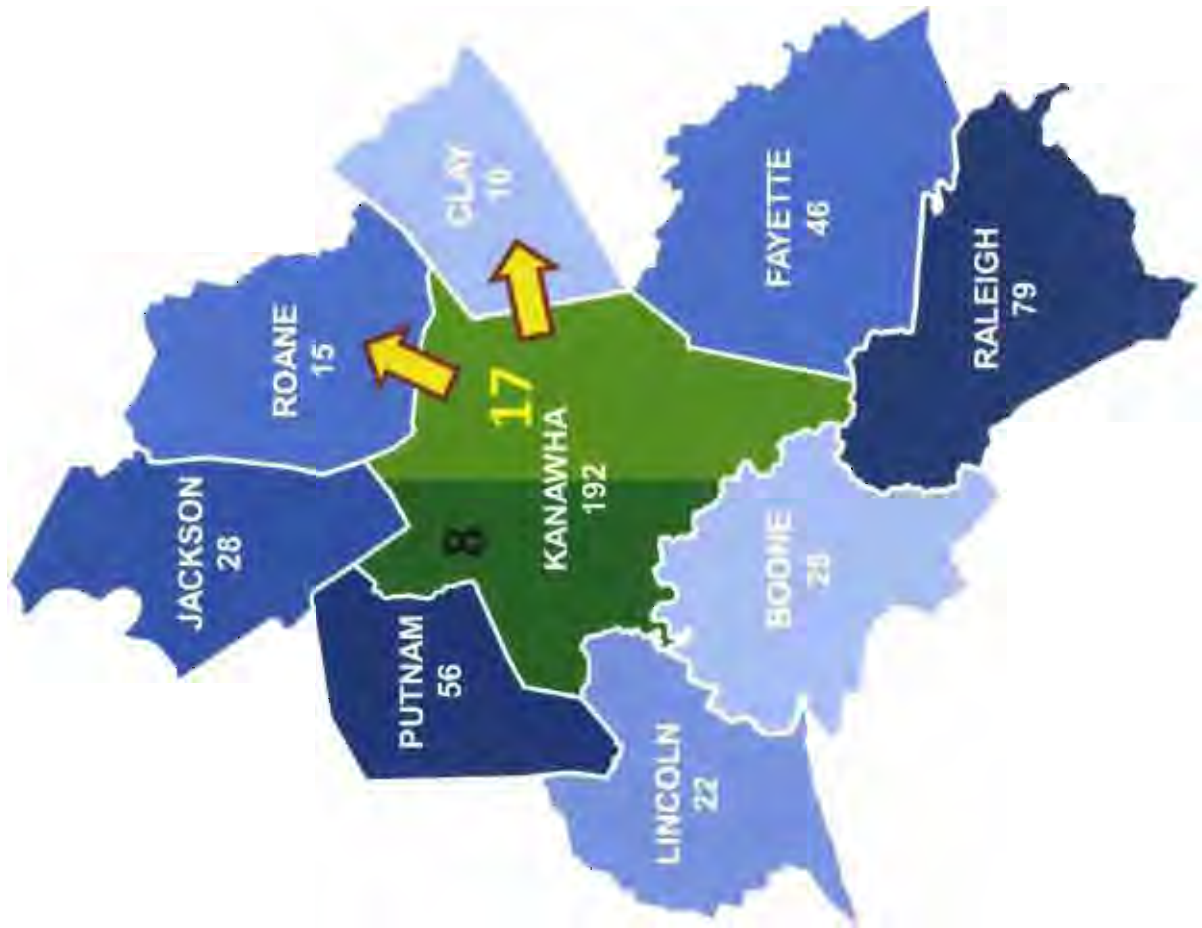
WV Senate Pre 1964

- 16 Districts
- 2 members each with staggered terms
- No equal representation, e.g. 1962:
 - 2nd District (3 counties): 74,384 people
 - 8th District (Kanawha county): 252,925 people

WV Senate Districts

- 17 Districts
- 2 Members each
- 34 Members Total
- Elected for staggered 4-year terms
- Each District should contain c. 106,000 people
- Each District under new census should contain c. 109,000 people





U.S. Senator Joe Manchin

- “I believe the time has come for single-member districts. That delegate would be more attentive and know that area much better than they would in a multi-member district. So, is it better service to the citizens and the taxpayers? Absolutely.” (Daily Mail, January 3, 2011)

Acting Sen. President Jeff Kessler

- “It’s something that I feel pretty strong about, that you should have equal representation throughout the state. You should have access to a representative who lives among you and truly represents you.” (Daily Mail, January 3, 2011)

Acting Sen. President Jeff Kessler

- “It smells of backroom deals to try to line up districts so that people stay in, and that’s just wrong.” (Daily Mail, January 3, 2011)

Newspaper Support

- The Beckley Register-Herald
- The Martinsburg Journal
- The Charleston Daily Mail

House of Delegates Pre 1964

- 100 Members
- 55 Districts – Each county a District
- At least 1 delegate from each county
- Additional delegates for some counties
- Genesis of our current hodgepodge system
- No equal representation, e.g, 1962:
 - Hancock county (1 delegate): 39,615 people
 - Wirt county (1 delegate): 4,391 people
- Kanawha county (11 delegates) 252,925 people

House of Delegates

- 100 Members
- All elected every 2 years
- Each delegate should represent c. 18,500

Current House of Delegates

100 Members from 58 Districts

• 1 Member	36 Districts	36 Members
• 2 Members	11 Districts	22 Members
• 3 Members	6 Districts	18 Members
• 4 Members	3 Districts	12 Members
• 5 Members	1 District	5 Members
• 7 Members	1 District	7 Members
TOTAL	58 Districts	100 Members



Only 10 states have more than 1 member in a district



Only 3 states have more than 2 members in a district



Only 2 states have more than 3 members in a district



Kanawha County, WV

30th Delegates (7)

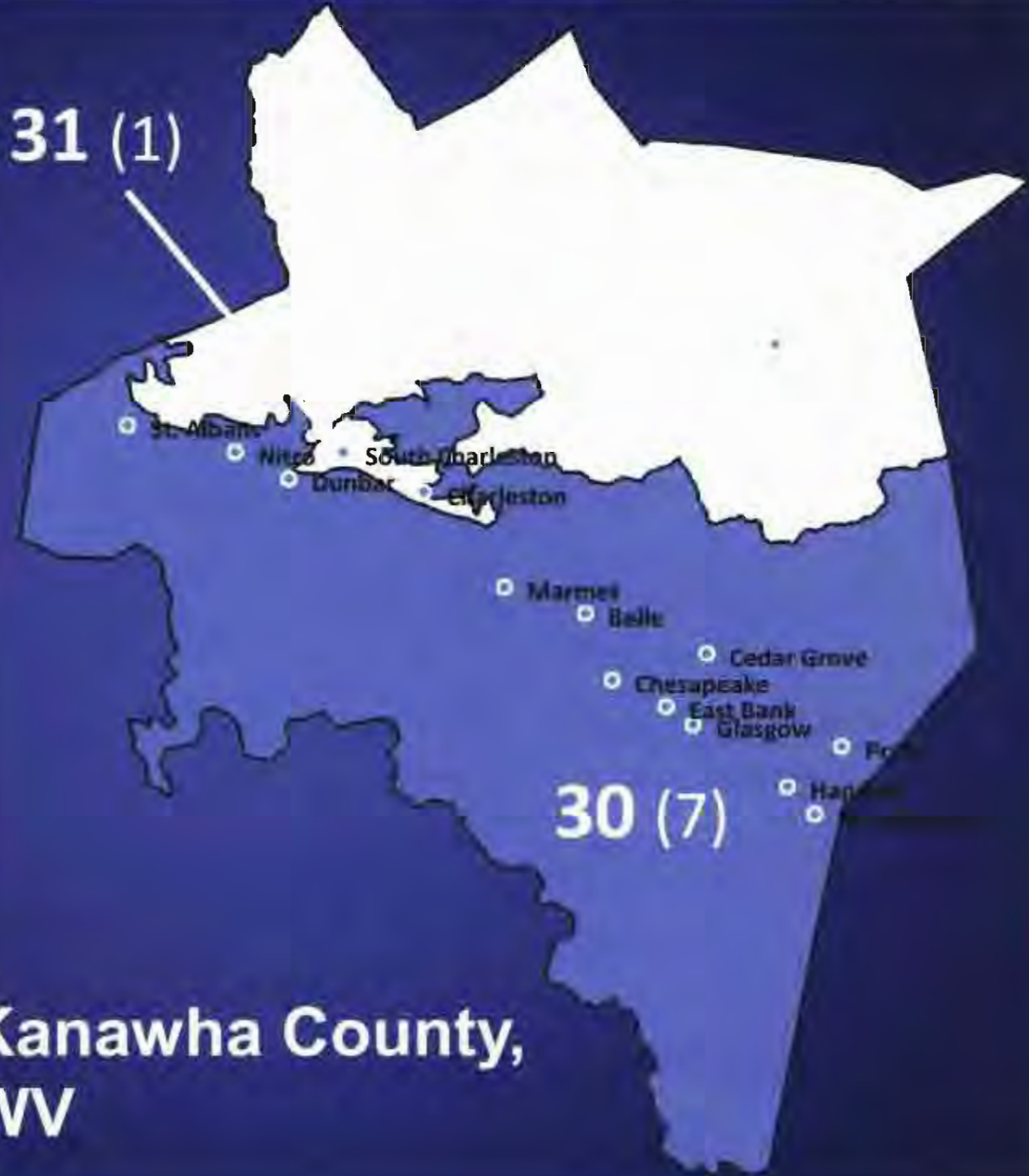
INSIDE Charleston &
South Charleston limits:
48,000 people.

OUTSIDE city limits:
80,000 people

ALL 7 DELEGATES LIVE
WITHIN THE CITY
LIMITS OF CHARLESTON
& SOUTH CHARLESTON,
LEAVING THE
MAJORITY OF PERSONS
IN THE DISTRICT
UNREPRESENTED.

30th District is
largest in U.S. as %
of House

31 (1)



30 (7)

Kanawha County,
WV

41ST Delegates (4)

INSIDE Clarksburg &
Bridgeport limits:
24,300 people.

OUTSIDE city limits:
45,410 people

ALL 4 DELEGATES LIVE
WITHIN THE CITY
LIMITS OF CLARKSBURG
& BRIDGEPORT,
LEAVING ALMOST
2/3^{RDS} OF THE PERSONS
IN THE DISTRICT
UNREPRESENTED.

41ST District is larger
than any district in
any other state
except New
Hampshire



Harrison County, 41 (4)
WV

Why Single Member Districts?

- Equal treatment throughout state
- Cheaper campaign costs – less entry barrier
 - \$4500 or \$31,500
- Eliminate party squabbles in general election
- Eliminate “political anachronism” – Federal law has required single member CDs since 1842
- Closer to the people
- Accountability (division as alternative/adjunct)
- Gaining support