Electoral Geography
Levels of Government

• Federal Republic: powers of a country held by a federal and local govts

• Local govts (city, county, state)
  Austin, Travis, TX

• Federal Govt
  Washington, D.C.
Electoral Maps

- Electoral Maps are redrawn after census data is collected. The following slides explain the process.
  - Step One: collect/analyze Census data
  - Step Two: reapportionment
  - Step Three: redistricting
Census

• How often?
  Every 10 years

• What does it measure?
  Population and other demographic data

• What does it determine?
  Seats in the House/Electoral votes
Reapportionment

- The redistributing of House seats/electoral districts every 10 years according to data provided by the Census
# of Electoral Votes in 2008
Notice the difference in electoral votes in the years 2008 and 2012. The 2012 electoral voting map reflects changes brought by the 2010 census results. Texas went from 34 to 38 electoral votes. The changes in electoral votes helps show changing population trends in the US. The number of electoral votes in “swing states” makes those states hot zones for democratic and republican political strategists as they try to find ways to win that state for their party. Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania are historic swing states as they have significant numbers of electoral votes AND populations that could vote either Democrat or Republican.
Redistricting

• after Reapportionment states must redraw electoral district boundaries accordingly

• redistricting is the creation of these new electoral district boundaries
US Congressional District Map
State level Congressional Districts

How can the density of districts show the most populated areas of a state?
State Level Congressional Districts
How is a state’s number of electoral votes calculated?

- One vote per House member
- One vote per Senator
Congressional Districts:

The areas in a state that will be represented by a member in the House of Representatives
Congressional Districts & Electoral Votes

- There are 435 seats in the House of Representatives, each of which is assigned to an electoral districts.
- The number of electoral districts remains at 435, the number of districts w/ in each state is determined by the state’s population.
- The more populated, the more seats in the House and Electoral Votes a state has.
**Gerrymandering:**
the practice of drawing the boundaries of voting districts in a way that favors one group over another.
Each “state” has the same number of red and blue dots. Each section outlined in black represents a voting district.

1. In the “state” on the left, how many voting districts are dominated by blue dots? How many are dominated by the red dots?

2. In the “state” on the right, how many voting districts are dominated by blue dots? How many are dominated by the red dots?

3. Why are the boundaries of the voting districts so important?
The Earmuffs (Illinois 4th) Hispanic majority