Maintain Election District Boundaries

Figure 16
Maintain Election District Boundaries

Districts can change for a variety of reasons, but if the district has associated elected offices or taxing authority, then the election office needs to track it.
1.1.2.3 Determine district boundary
District boundaries are just polygons on a map. They tend to follow physical features, such as rivers, power lines, roads, etc. Election offices interpret and implement the district documentation given to them.

1.1.2.4 Determine if other districts are affected
Sometimes one district will affect another. For example, if a city annexes a nearby township, the city will need to provide representation to its new voters. That could mean extending a particular district’s lines.

1.1.2.5 Maintain district boundaries
If other districts are affected, each one that is affected must be evaluated.

1.1.2.6 Modify or draw new lines
Lines are drawn, but they must follow other existing lines, usually coming from the census.

1.1.2.7 Validate spatial relationships
This is a “check your work” step. Election offices can use a geographic information system (GIS) or a thorough manual process of validation. This process is complete when all spatial relationships are valid.

1.1.2.8 Determine reprecincting requirement
Depending on the jurisdiction and the district boundaries in question, a precinct may need to be redrawn. For example, some counties have rules that precincts cannot cross congressional districts.

1.1.2.9 Maintain precinct boundaries
If reprecincting is required, the process for maintaining precinct boundaries (Process 1.1.3) is cued. This process involves determining the geographic extent of change, developing alternatives, and validating these changes.
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