

About the P.L. 94-171 Reference Maps (2010 Census)

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INTRODUCTION

Public Law (P.L.) 94-171, enacted in 1975, directs the U.S. Census Bureau to make special preparations to provide redistricting data needed by the 50 states. It specifies that within a year following Census Day (by April 1, 2011), the Census Bureau must send the governor and legislature in each state the data they need to redraw districts for the United States Congress and state legislature. The Census 2010 Redistricting Data Program was set up to afford state officials an opportunity to define the small areas for which they wish to receive census population totals for redistricting purposes. Officials then could receive data for voting districts (e.g., election precincts, wards, state house and senate districts) in addition to standard census geographic areas, such as counties, cities, census tracts, and blocks. State participation in defining areas is voluntary and nonpartisan.

There are four map types that support the 2010 Census Redistricting Data (Public Law [P.L.] 94-171) program. Each of these large format map types is produced in Adobe's portable document format (PDF). These georeferenced PDF files were created in compliance with the OGC PDF Geo-registration Encoding Best Practice Version 2.2 (OGC project document reference number OGC 08-139r2). They will also be available through the U.S. Census Bureau Map Products web site. In addition to the maps, other geographic products include the State Redistricting Data (P.L.94-171) Shapefiles and the 2010 Census Block Assignment Files, which provide census block relationships to voting districts, state legislative districts, school districts, and congressional districts.

All four map types are produced in a set for each county or statistically equivalent entity (school district maps for the District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Nevada, and West Virginia are state-based). Each map set consists of one or more numbered parent sheets which cover the entire county. If necessary, separate inset sheets show areas of dense features at a larger scale. Inset areas are identified with letters. If the set has more than one parent sheet, an index sheet is also included which depicts the arrangement of the parent sheets and inset areas in relation to the county boundary and selected major features. All of the parent sheets within a county are produced at the same scale, while maps for adjacent counties may be at different scales. The objective of each map type is to use the smallest number of sheets while preserving legibility of geographic entity names and feature identifiers. The physical size of the county and the density of features also affect the number of parent sheets and insets.

MAP DESCRIPTIONS

P.L. 94-171 County Block Map (2010 Census)

These large-scale maps show the boundaries and numbers for all census blocks within a county. In addition to state and county, these maps show the boundaries, names, and codes for American Indian areas, Alaska Native areas, Hawaiian home lands, county subdivisions, places, and census tracts. These maps also show and label state legislative districts and voting districts (the geographic entities that the states submitted during their participation in the early phases of the Census Redistricting Data Program). The P.L. 94-171 county block maps also show and label base features, such as roads, railroads, and hydrography. The intent of this series is to map each county on the fewest number of map sheets possible and at the maximum practical scale, depending on the size and shape of the county and the density of the tabulation census blocks. Census block density affects the display of census block numbers and feature identifiers. Each county will be covered by one or more parent map sheets at a single scale. Inset map sheets at larger scales are created as required to show the map content described above. An index map showing the sheet configuration is created for all counties requiring more than one parent map sheet. The map sheet size is 36 by 32 inches.

Each set of county block maps is accompanied by a Census Block to Map Sheet relationship file. These semi-colon delimited text files include a record for each census block within the county, consisting of the corresponding state, county, tract, and block codes for the block and a list of all map sheet numbers that the block appears on.

P.L. 94-171 Voting District/State Legislative District (VTD/SLD) Reference Map (2010 Census)

These county-based reference maps show and label the state legislative districts and/or voting districts (the geographic entities that the states submitted during their participation in the early phases of the Census Redistricting Data Program). The maps also show the boundaries and names of American Indian areas, Alaska Native areas, Hawaiian home lands, counties, county subdivisions, and places. Additionally, these maps display a base feature network including roads, railroads, and water bodies. These features are labeled as map scale permits. The map sheet configuration is optimized to keep the number of map sheets for each county to a minimum. Each county will be covered by one or more parent map sheets at a single scale. Inset map sheets at larger scales are created where there are clusters of voting districts and/or state legislative districts that cannot be identified at the parent map scale. An index map showing the sheet configuration is created for all counties requiring more than one parent map sheet. The map sheet size is 36 by 32 inches.

Each set of VTD/SLD reference maps is accompanied by a VTD to Map Sheet relationship file and an SLD to Map Sheet relationship file. These semi-colon delimited text files include a record for each VTD or SLD within the county, consisting of the code and name of the district and a list of all map sheet numbers that the district appears on.

MAP DESCRIPTIONS (continued)

2010 Census—Census Tract Reference Map

These county-based reference maps show and label the census tracts as delineated to support 2010 Census data dissemination. These maps also show the boundaries and names of American Indian areas, Alaska Native areas, Hawaiian home lands, counties, county subdivisions, and places. Additionally, these maps display a base feature network including roads, railroads, and water bodies. These features are labeled as map scale permits. The map sheet configuration is optimized to keep the number of map sheets for each county to a minimum. Each county will be covered by one or more parent map sheets at a single scale. Inset map sheets at larger scales are created where there are clusters of census tracts that cannot be identified at the parent map scale. An index map showing the sheet configuration is created for all counties requiring more than one parent map sheet. The map sheet size is 36 by 32 inches.

Each set of census tract reference maps is accompanied by a Census Tract to Map Sheet relationship file. These semi-colon delimited text files include a record for each census tract within the county, consisting of the code and name of the tract, and a list of all map sheet numbers that the tract appears on.

School District Reference Map

These reference maps show and label the unified, secondary, and elementary school districts as delineated by the state participants of the School District Review Program. These county-based maps also show and label states, counties, and places. Additionally, these maps display a base feature network including roads and water bodies. Major highways and selected water bodies are labeled. Each county will be covered by one or more parent map sheets at a single scale. Inset map sheets at larger scales are created where there are clusters of school districts that cannot be identified at the parent map scale. An index map showing the sheet configuration is created for all counties requiring more than one parent map sheet. For the District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Maryland, Nevada, and West Virginia, where school districts are coextensive with counties, a state-based map identifying the counties and corresponding school districts is produced. The map sheet size is 36 by 32 inches.

Each set of school district reference maps is accompanied by a School District to Map Sheet relationship file. These semi-colon delimited text files include a record for each school district within the county or state, consisting of the type, code, and name of the district, and a list of all map sheet numbers that the district appears on.

FILE NAMING CONVENTIONS

The file names for the maps on this disc are composed as follows:

PL10<MT>_C<SS><CCC>.pdf (for block and VTD maps)

DC10<MT>_C<SS><CCC>.pdf (for school district and tract maps)

PL = Public Law

DC = Decennial Census

<MT> = map type abbreviation. Possible values are "BLK" (County Block Map), "CT" (Census Tract Map), "SD" (School District Map), and "VTD" (Voting District/State Legislative District Map)

<SS> = 2 digit state FIPS code

<CCC> = 3 digit county FIPS code

Example file names:

PL10BLK_C06077.pdf

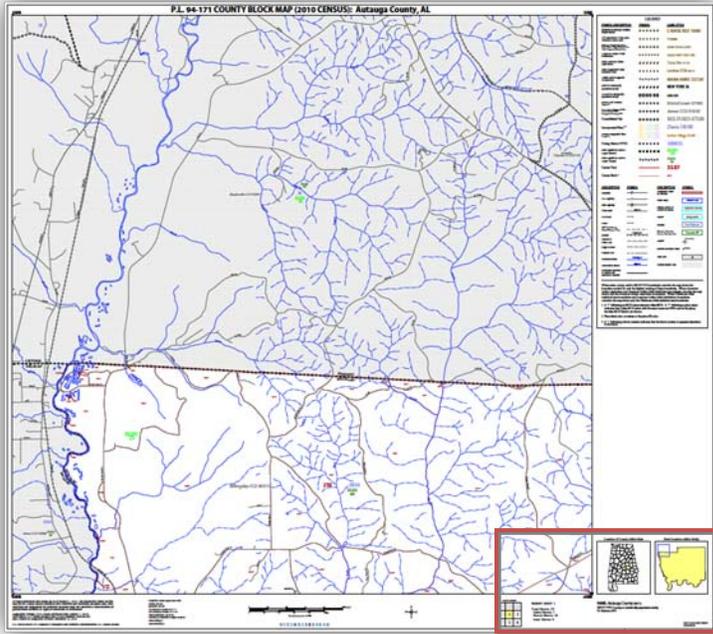
DC10CT_C06077.pdf

PL10VTD_C06077.pdf

DC10SD_C06077.pdf

FIPS codes and county names can be found in the list of maps files for each map type on the Additional Resource Information page of this disc.

EXPLANATION OF MARGIN ELEMENTS



- 1 This box shows the location of the subject county within the state.
- 2 This box shows the location of the map sheet within the county.
- 3 The Key to Sheets grid shows the map sheet highlighted in yellow in the center of the grid along with the numbers of any adjacent map sheets.
- 4 This area identifies the map type (INDEX, PARENT, or INSET) of the map sheet and lists the total number of sheets for the entity by map type.
- 5 State name, county name, and entity type are listed here. State and county FIPS codes are listed in parentheses.

