

What is The Law for Drawing Maps?

Utah law (Proposition 4) sets clear rules for how maps must be drawn. These rules must be followed in order of priority. That means you start with Standard 1 and work your way down. If a map fails at a higher-priority standard, that failure matters more than meeting a lower-priority standard. Not every map will meet 100% of every rule since some standards can conflict.

1

FOLLOW THE U.S. CONSTITUTION & FEDERAL LAW

Maintain equal population in districts and comply with the Voting Rights Act

2

KEEP CITIES WHOLE

Don't split municipalities unless absolutely necessary

3

KEEP COUNTIES WHOLE

Don't split counties unless absolutely necessary

4

COMPACT DISTRICTS

Avoid sprawling or irregularly shaped districts

5

CONTIGUOUS DISTRICTS

All areas must connect and allow ease of travel within the district

6

PRESERVE NEIGHBORHOODS & COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

Keep people with shared ties together

7

USE NATURAL BOUNDARIES

Where possible, use mountains, rivers, and other boundaries as guides

8

ALIGN BOUNDARIES

Where possible, line up Congressional, State Senate, and State House districts

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

A map can meet the eight rules listed above, but if it does not also follow these requirements, it still violates the law.



No Gerrymandering

Maps cannot favor a party, candidate, or incumbent



Independent Checks

Use neutral measures like symmetry tests to confirm fairness



No Political Data

Don't use partisan voting history or incumbent addresses



Transparency

Maps, data, and tools must be open for public review

Map Review Guide

Use these yes-or-no questions to check whether the Legislature's maps follow the law. All of them matter, but they are listed in order of importance. If two rules conflict, the one listed first takes priority.

1	Does the map reflect Utah's political balance without tilting toward one party?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
2	Does the map make it easier for the same politicians to keep their seats?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Does each district have about the same number of people?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Is my city kept whole instead of divided across multiple districts?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
5	Do the districts look compact, without sprawling or snaking shapes?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
6	Can you travel through each district without leaving it?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
7	Does every part of the district connect to the rest of the district?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
8	Are neighborhoods or communities I identify with kept together in the same district?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
9	Can I go to daily places like my child's school, grocery store, park, or library without crossing district lines?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
10	Do district lines follow mountains, rivers, or other natural features?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
11	Do Congressional, State Senate, and State House districts generally line up with each other?	YES <input type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>