

## **NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS REDISTRICTING PROJECT TALKING POINTS**

- **States that have done redistricting projects**
  - Recently NCSC has completed two redistricting projects in Virginia and Kentucky. Working with the College of William and Mary we developed some GIS mapping techniques for these projects.
  - The issue of redistricting judicial districts came up in North Carolina this year. The NC AOC provided workload/weighted caseload only; the legislature/legislators provided population districting maps from source/sources unknown.
  - NCSC is currently engaged in a project in Missouri to develop case weights for judges and develop re-districting options for the judicial districts.
- **Lessons learned.** It is important not to use raw filings since these don't distinguish between the workload required of different casetypes. For example, a felony case requires significant more time than a traffic case; in another example, drug court cases usually require significant more judicial time than felony cases. Below are a couple of quotes from the Virginia and Kentucky reports relating to the use of weighted caseload data versus raw filings.
  - [Virginia](#): “The state-of-the-art technique for assessing judicial need is a weighted caseload study because population or raw, unadjusted filings offer only minimal guidance regarding the amount of judicial work generated by those case filings.”
  - [Kentucky](#): “Methods of resource allocation that are based on population or raw, unweighted caseloads ignore the impact of geographic and social factors—such as the presence of a major medical center, university, or interstate highway, differences in policing, and variations in crime rates—on court workloads.”
- **Weighted Caseload:** for explanatory purposes a weighted caseload workload model uses a time study to determine how much time judges and other court staff need to complete tasks involved with disposing the various types of cases: felony, misdemeanor, civil, domestic relations, juvenile, traffic, etc. These case weights are expressed in the number of minutes. For example, over the life of an average felony case a judge may spend 150 minutes on this case. These weights are used to calculate the number of FTE required by the workload. Tennessee has a weighted caseload system.
- **Missouri project—another software package**
  - In the Missouri project we are using a mapping tool called MapBusinessOnline.com. This software allows the evaluation of geographic considerations; court access issues (e.g. distances needed to travel to court); population based on census data; filing data; and most importantly the software allows incorporation of weighted caseload data into the model; this is expressed

as the number of FTE judges/court staff required which can be compared to the actual. The software has the flexibility to allow the analyst to download data from an excel spreadsheet into the map for analysis.

- The project not only involves significant analysis it also incorporates numerous regional meetings to go over the results with affected stakeholders.
  - The project is also looking at the cost of any proposed redistricting proposals.
  - This is an 18 month project.
  - I would check to make sure ESRI software program allows for similar flexibility to include other variables.
- **Estimated cost and time**
    - The cost of a re-districting project runs between \$100,000 and \$150,000. We wouldn't know the precise cost until a proposal is developed with the specific scope of work. A redistricting project takes between 8 months and a year.
    - The Tennessee Judicial Workload model was completed in 2013. It is recommended that workload models be updated every 5 to 7 years. If the weighted caseload workload model needs to be updated that would likely cost an additional \$100,000 to \$125,000. A workload project takes approximately 9 months.