

The Data Challenge

Ruth Buck

What are our data needs?

It depends.

Racial Gerrymandering



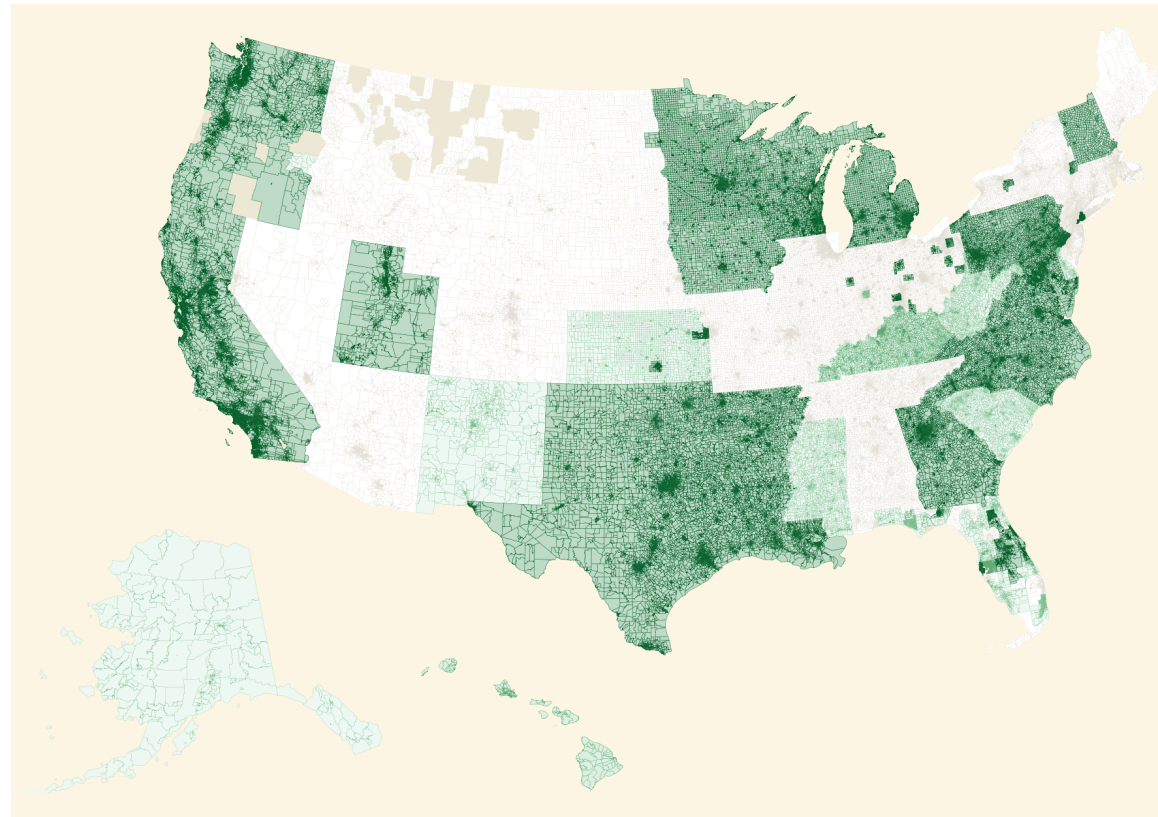
US Census
(blocks, block groups, etc.)

Anything partisan



Precincts
Things get tricky...

Most states don't store shapefiles of their
precinct boundaries



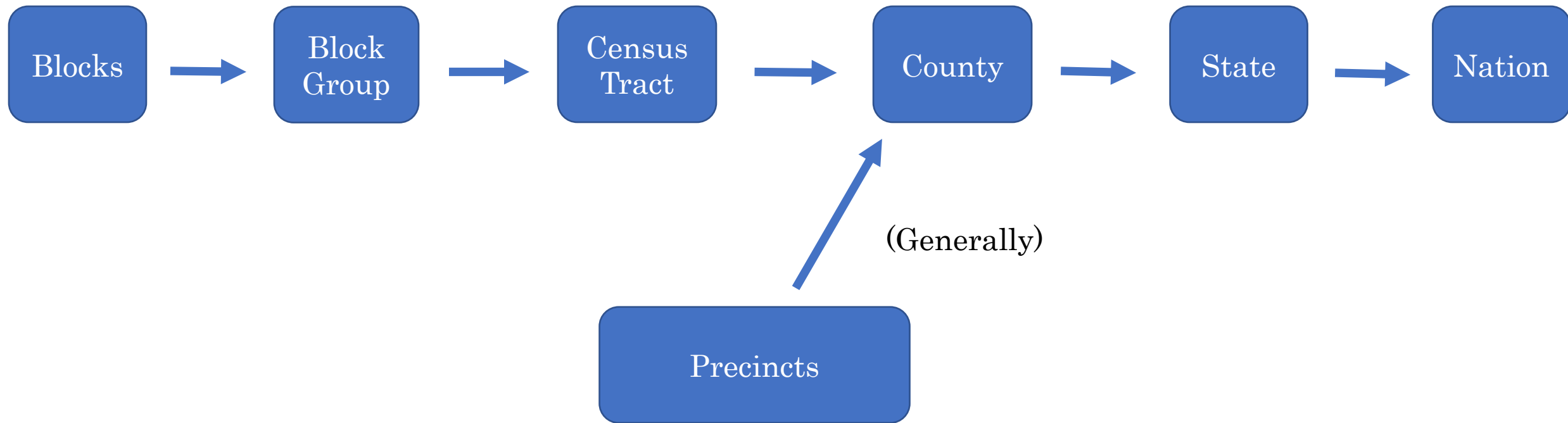
Source: N. V. Kelso

But what about Census VTDs?

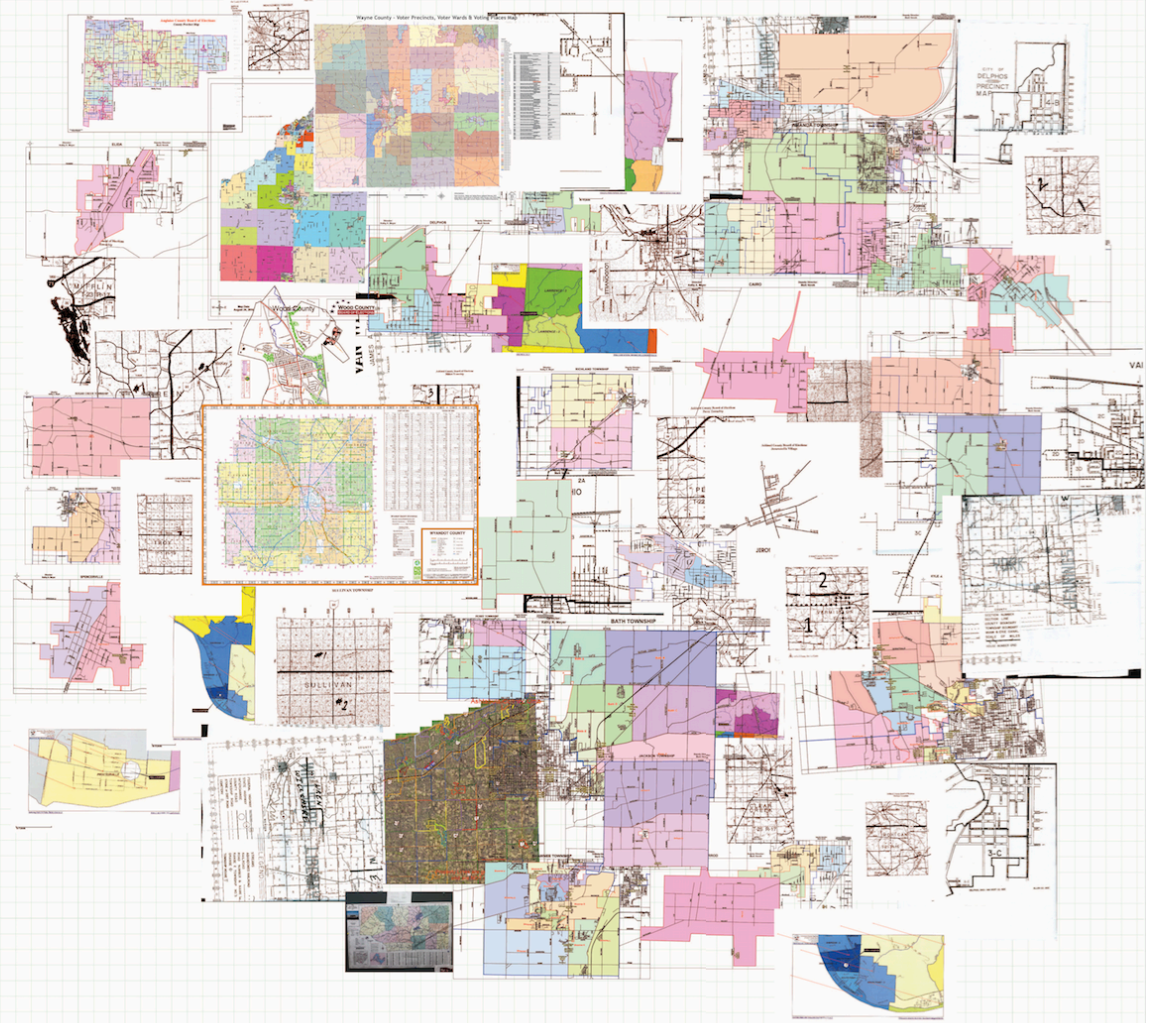
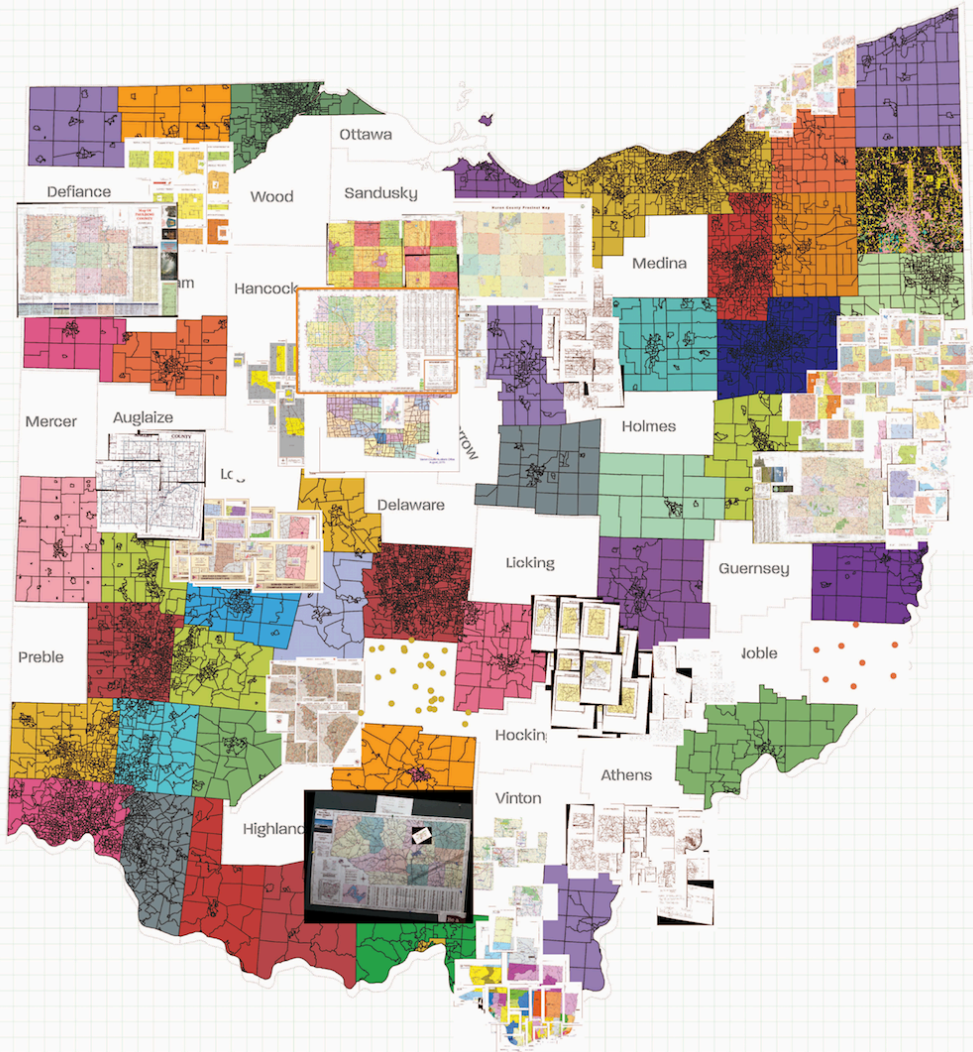


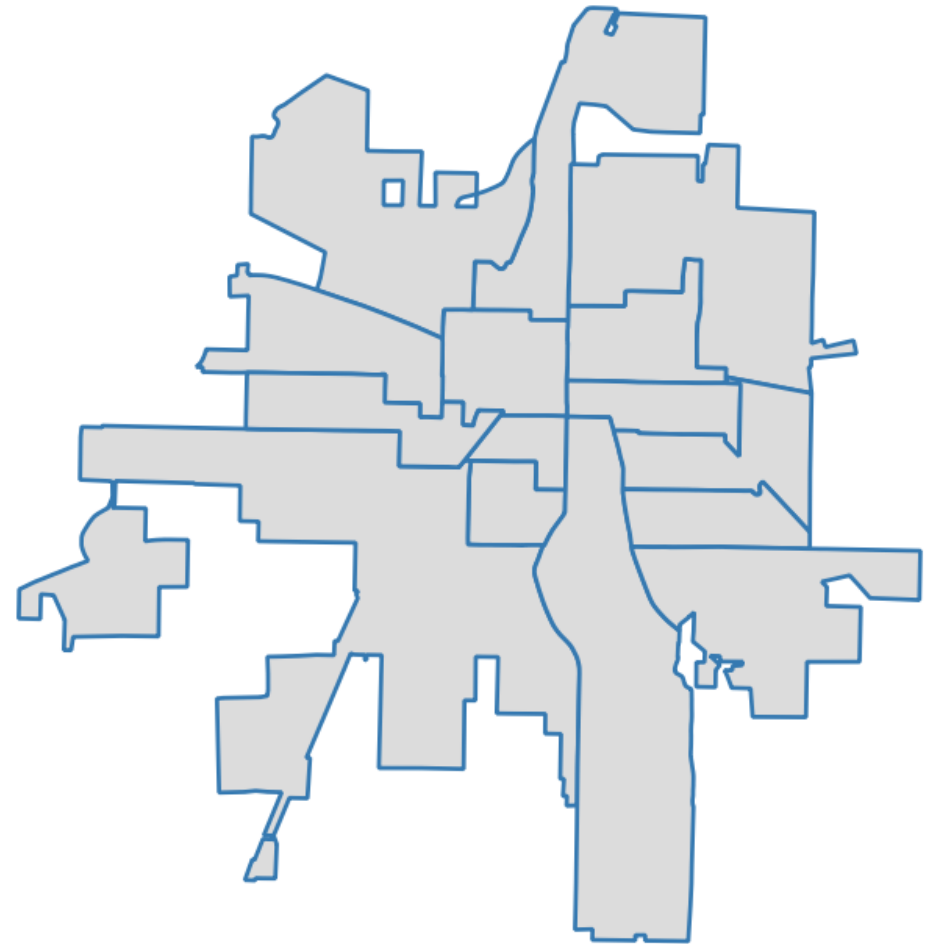
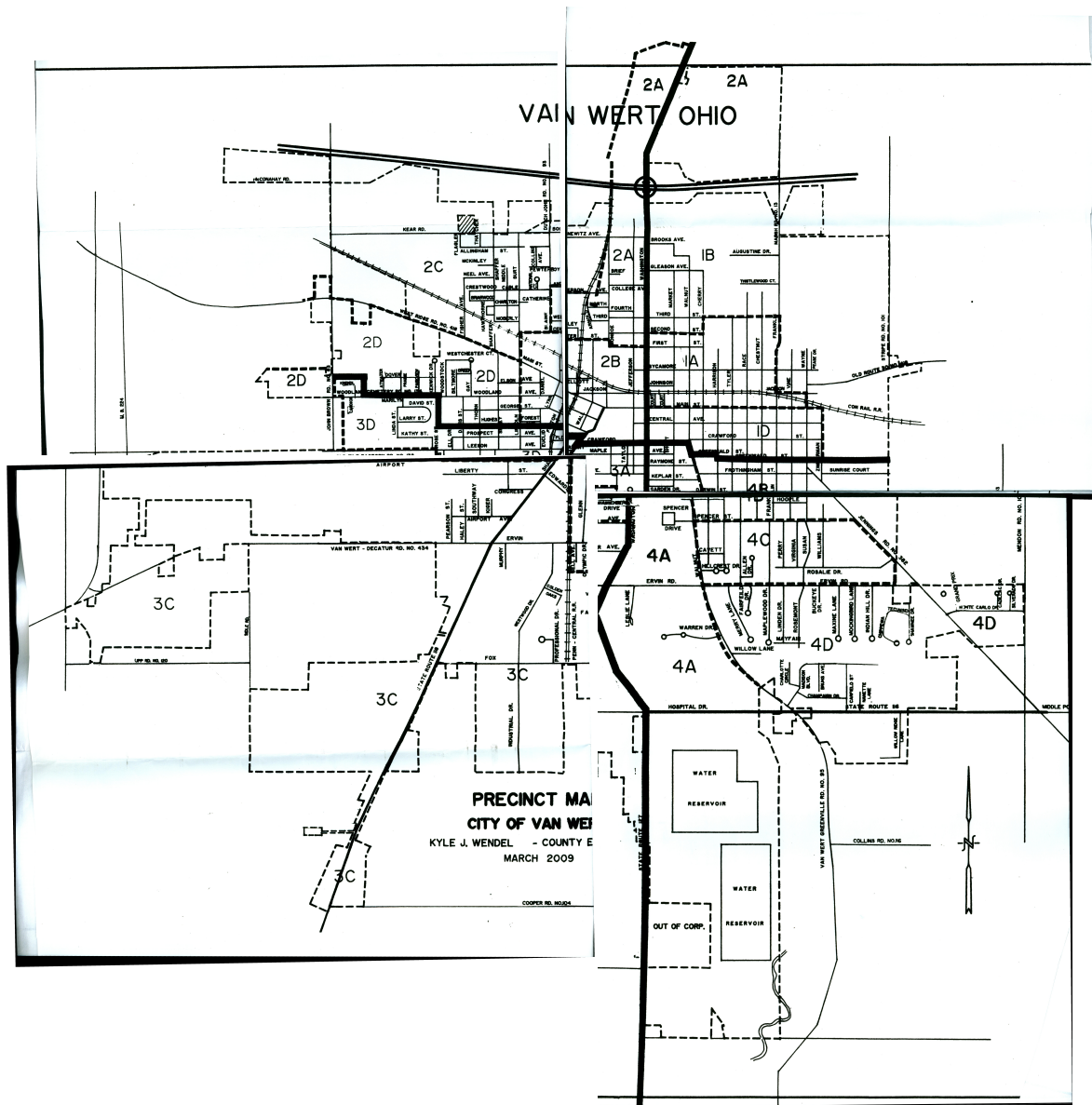
The Census releases something called voting tabulation districts for *most* states once every 10 years. In practice, it's not clear that states use them for election administration, especially 9 years out from the last census.

Census Geographic Hierarchy



Ohio





Work for VRDI

- Automating digitization process
- Audit of preprocessing tools
- How to handle unprecincted votes?
- Improve our handling of shapefile topology
- Add to mggg-states!