

Supplementary Precinct Data Documentation

The U.S. Census Bureau does not keep track of precincts in between Census years, and only begins to work with states on getting the updated precincts as it begins ramping up the Redistricting Data Program in preparation for the next decennial Census. Ohio also does not keep a statewide archive of precinct boundaries as they change from year to year. As such, there is no existing archive or database of precincts to be drawn upon when trying to link election results from 2018, 2016, 2014, and 2012 to precinct boundaries from those years.

The Voting and Election Science team at University of Florida and Wichita State University have made publicly available precinct shapefiles for the years 2018 and 2016, which were created using the precinct shapefile from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Redistricting Data Program final release. There is no Ohio statewide precinct data available for the years 2014 or 2012.

The precincts for 2018 and 2016 were not created by the Ohio University Redistricting Project team nor guaranteed for accuracy by the Ohio University Redistricting Project team. They were created by the Voting and Election Science Team as noted in their documentation by starting with the 2020 precincts: "Precinct shapefile from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2020 Redistricting Data Program final release. Note that some VTDs were relabeled to match precinct names and/or precinct codes in the November 2016 general election returns."

These files are not official precinct boundaries and may or may not be an accurate representation of precincts for those years. The Voting and Election Science Team released the data with the following warranty, which can also be found in the documentation: "THE DATA ARE PROVIDED "AS IS" WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND. WE MAKE NO AND DISCLAIM ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND NONINFRINGEMENT, WITH RESPECT TO THESE DATA. WE MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES AS TO THE QUALITY, SUITABILITY OR ADEQUACY OF THESE DATA FOR ANY PURPOSE OR USE."

The files have been checked by the Ohio University Redistricting Project team to make sure that the same precincts from the Ohio Secretary of State election results files are present in the precinct geographies, and that all precincts are within their appropriate county, but we have no way to verify the accuracy of the precinct boundaries.

The precincts for 2018 and 2016 were downloaded on 08/19/21 from the Voting and Election Science Team Dataverse website at <https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/electionscience>

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The following modifications have been made to the files:

oh_2018_edit_081921: VTDST18 for NEWTONSVILLE VILLAGE was changed from 013AGW to 013AGT, the fields with election result data have been removed and replaced with the election result data from the table SoS_Precinct_Results_2018.xlsx, file was renamed to reflect edit date.

documentation_2018_edit_081921: The documentation file was edited to only show the entry for Ohio and renamed to reflect the edit date.

oh_2016_edit_081921: VTDST18 for NEWTONSVILLE VILLAGE was changed from 013AGW to 013AGT, the fields with election result data have been removed and replaced with the election result data from the table SoS_Precinct_Results_2016.xlsx, file was renamed to reflect edit date.

Documentation_2016_edit_081921: The documentation file was edited to only show the entry for Ohio and renamed to reflect the edit date.