



Spokane County Independent Redistricting Committee Demographic Services Contractor

Communities of Interest Based on Existing Geographic Information System Data

While there is no formal definition of Communities of Interest (COIs), they are often described as a group of people in a specific geographic area who share social and economic interests and would benefit from being maintained in a single district. Examples of such shared interests are "those common to an urban area, a rural area, an industrial area, or an agricultural area, and those common to areas in which the people share similar living standards, use the same transportation facilities, have similar work opportunities, or have access to the same media of communication relevant to the election process¹." Another way of understanding a COI is a means for members of a community to tell their story about what they share in common and what makes the geographic area they inhabit unique when compared to surrounding communities.

The Spokane County Geographic Information System (GIS) Data Catalog and City of Spokane Open GIS Data contain spatial data sets of boundaries that correspond to potential COIs to be considered during the redistricting process. A list of all the individual data sets retrieved by FLO Analytics is included below. These data sets have been included in the Redistricting Committee's District Scenario Modeler tool for consideration as the Committee draws potential county commissioner districts.

I. Spokane County GIS Data Catalog ([link](#))

- a. Municipal Boundaries
- b. School Districts
- c. School Boundary (i.e., attendance areas)
- d. School Director Districts
- e. Fire Districts
- f. Voting Precincts

II. City of Spokane Open GIS Data ([link](#))

- a. Historic District
- b. Neighborhood
- c. City Council District

1. California Citizens Redistricting Commission. 2021. "FAQ - What is a community of interest?". <https://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/faq/#:-:text=community%20of%20interest%3F-A.its%20effective%20and%20fair%20representation>.