

FIPS PUB 9-1  
Supersedes FIPS PUB 9  
1969 November 14

Federal Information  
Processing Standards Publication 9-1

1990 November 30  
**Announcing the Standard for**

# **Congressional Districts of the United States**

[\(The Foreword, Abstract, and Key Words](#)  
can be found at the end of this document.)

**Federal Information Processing Standards Publications (FIPS PUBS) are issued by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) after approval by the Secretary of Commerce pursuant to Section 111 (d) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 as amended by the Computer Security Act of 1987, Public Law 100-235.**

- 1. Name of Standard.** Congressional Districts of the United States.
- 2. Category of Standard.** Federal General Data Standard, Representations and Codes.
- 3. Explanation.**
  - a. Congressional districts are legislatively defined subdivisions of a State for the purpose of electing representatives or delegates to the House of Representatives of the United States Congress. A State or equivalent entity may comprise a single congressional district or similar representational area. This standard provides the structure of numeric codes for representing congressional districts and similar areas defined for the various Congresses of the United States.
  - b. FIPS 9-1 contains editorial changes from the text of FIPS 9. It also incorporates technical changes that the NIST issued as a Change Notice to FIPS 9.
  - c. The number of the congresses has increased to three digits. Accordingly, the code representing this number has been expanded from two to three digits. Codes representing previous congresses, when used in conjunction with this three digit code, must have leading zero(s) where appropriate. All single digit congressional districts must have a leading zero.
- 4. Approving Authority.** The Secretary of Commerce.

**5. Maintenance Agency.** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Geography Division.

Questions concerning specific numeric codes for congressional districts, or the composition and boundaries of the districts are to be addressed to the Maintenance Agency: of the Geography Bureau of the Washington, DC 20233. Users of this standard who need to be notified of changes that occur prior to the next publication of the standard must complete the Change Request Form provided in this publication and send it to: Standards Processing Coordinator (ADP), National Computer Systems Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899. The NIST will issue Change Notices on an as needed basis.

**6. Cross Index.**

a. FIPS PUB 5. Codes for the Identification of the States, the District of Columbia and the Outlying Areas of the United States, and Associated Areas.

b. ANSI X3.38-1988, Information Systems - Codes -Identification of the States, the District of Columbia, and the Outlying and Associated Areas of the United States for Information Interchange.

**7. Objectives.** The objectives of this standard are to improve the utilization of data resources of the Federal Government and to avoid unnecessary duplication and incompatibilities in the collection, processing, and dissemination of data.

**8. Applicability.** This standard is prescribed for the collection, processing, and interchange of coded data by Federal agencies, and whenever requirements for such data are imposed by a Federal agency on industry, State or local governments, or the public. Use within agency data systems is encouraged when such use contributes to operational benefits, efficiency, and/or economy.

**9. Specifications.** Federal Information Processing Standard 9-1 (FIPS9-1), Congressional Districts of the United States, 1990 November 30 (affixed).

**10. Implementation Schedule.** This standard became effective 1990 November 30. Federal agencies, based on their specific operational requirements, are to develop procedures for implementing this standard by their operating units and personnel.

**11. Where to Obtain Copies of the Standard.**

a. Copies of this publication are for sale by the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161; write to or call the NTIS Computer Products Office (703/487-4650) for cost and ordering information. When ordering, refer to Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 9-1 (FIPSPUB9-1) and its title. Payment may be made by check, money order, credit card, or deposit account.

b. Change information may be obtained by submitting the Change Request Form

c. A list of all published Federal Information Processing Standards and current prices is available from: Standards Processing Coordinator (ADP), National Computer Systems Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899 (301/975-2816).

d. Copies of ANSI standards may be obtained from the American National Standards Institute, 1430 Broadway, New York, NY 10018 (212/354-3300).

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1990 November 30  
**Specifications for**

# Congressional Districts of the United States

**1. Name of Standard.** Congressional Districts of the United States.

**2. Category of Standard.** Federal General Data Standard, Representations and Codes.

**3. Explanation.** Congressional districts are legislatively defined subdivisions of a State for the purpose of electing representatives or delegates to the House of Representatives of the United States Congress. A State or equivalent entity may comprise a single congressional district or similar representational area. This standard provides the structure of numeric codes for representing congressional districts and similar areas defined for the various Congresses of the United States. The specific numeric codes for congressional districts and the composition and boundaries of the districts are available in publications identified in part 6. Special Information.

**4. Specifications.** Two-digit numeric codes are used to represent the congressional districts of each multi-district State of the United States; e.g., the First Congressional District is identified as "01", the Second Congressional District as "02" etc.

For a State whose representative is designated "at large"-- for the 98th-102nd Congresses, this applies to the States of Alaska, Delaware, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming-- for the 103rd Congress, this applies to the State of Montana -- the Congressional District is designated as "00".

For an entity with a nonvoting delegate--the District of Columbia, American

Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico (whose delegate is referred to as a "resident commissioner"), and the Virgin Islands of the United States--the representational area is designated as "98".

For those entities with no representation in the Congress--the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, and the several U.S. minor outlying islands--the area is designated as "99".

**5. Qualifications.** Congressional district codes are unique within each State and equivalent entity, and for each Congress.

**5.1.** The congressional districts in different States have the same code; e.g., the First Congressional District of Alabama and of Arizona are both coded "01". Accordingly, in data systems requiring the identification of congressional districts in more than one State, the congressional district code must be preceded by the State numeric code, as prescribed by Federal Information Processing Standard 5; e.g., the First Congressional District of Arizona would be coded "0401", with the first two digits (04) representing the FIPS State numeric code. Data systems concerned with only one State may use only the congressional district code. All single digit congressional districts must have a leading zero.

**5.2.** The number of representatives allocated to a State, and therefore the number of congressional districts in a State, may change as a result of reapportionment following each Federal decennial census of population. Even without such change, the boundaries of districts may be altered through legislative action by the States or legal action in the courts. Accordingly, where data systems relate to the districts of more than one State and/or Congress, the State and congressional district codes should be followed by a three-digit code to identify each Congress; e.g., the First Congressional District of Arizona for the 95th Congress and the 101st Congress would be coded "0401095" and "0401101," respectively, where the first two digits represent the State, the third and fourth digits identify the congressional district, and the fifth, sixth, and seventh digits designate the number of the Congress. When single and/or two digit codes representing the number of the congress are used in conjunction with this three digit representation, leading zero(s) is required where appropriate.

**6. Special Information.** Lists and outline maps that identify the composition and boundaries of each district are included in a Department of Commerce/Bureau of the Census publication entitled *Congressional District Atlas*. This publication, which usually is issued after each redistricting of the Congress, is particularly useful for those who need to identify the components and/or boundaries of the districts. (This information is not needed if a user's only interest is that of the code structure.) Congressional districts also are identified and mapped in the *Congressional Directory*, but not with the detail contained in the *Congressional District Atlas*; the directory is published for each congress. Both the atlas and the directory are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Information about previous

congressional districts appears in The *Historical Atlas of the United States Congressional Districts, 1789 - 1983*, by Kenneth C. Martis, 1982, The Free Press, A Division of Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., New York, NY 10022.

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**The Foreword, Abstract, and Key Word follow:**

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1990 November 30  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/National Institute of Standards and  
Technology

# Congressional Districts of the United States

U.S. Department of Commerce, Robert A. Mosbacher, *Secretary*  
National Institute of Standards and Technology, John W. Lyons, *Director*

## Foreword

The Federal Information Processing Standards Publication Series of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is the official publication relating to standards and guidelines adopted and promulgated under the provisions of Section 111(d) of the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 as amended by the Computer Security Act of 1987, Public Law 100-235. These mandates have given the Secretary of Commerce and NIST important responsibilities for improving the utilization and management of computers and related telecommunications systems in the Federal Government. The NIST, through its Computer Systems Laboratory, provides leadership, technical guidance, and coordination of Government efforts in the development of standards and guidelines in these areas.

Comments concerning Federal Information Processing Standards Publications are welcomed and should be addressed to the Director, Computer Systems Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD 20899.

James H. Burrows, *Director*  
Computer Systems Laboratory

## Abstract

This standard provides the structure of numeric codes for representing congressional districts and similar areas defined for the various congresses of the United States. Congressional districts are legislatively defined subdivisions of a State for the purpose of electing representatives or delegates to the House of Representatives of the United States Congress. A State or equivalent entity may comprise a single congressional district or similar representational area.

**Key words:** ADP standard; codes; congressional districts; data element; data processing; Federal Information Processing Standard; geography; representations and codes; statistical data.