OUR SECIALTY
Our firm's specialty is drawing or redrawing election districts for cities and counties. We are very good at this.

OUR RECORD
Since 1991, we have drawn new election district maps for 32 city council, county supervisor, and community college jurisdictions in Arizona and California. All of our maps, except one, have been pre-cleared on first submission by the U. S. Department of Justice for compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act. The exception – the 2017 City of Peoria, Arizona, Council District map – was prepared after the U. S. Supreme Court invalidated the pre-clearance requirement.

None of our maps have ever been challenged in court, and over 90 percent of our maps were adopted unanimously by their elected officials.

OUR NO-LONGER-SECRET STRENGTH
Starting in 2010, we gave our client jurisdictions the option of giving their residents free access to an on-line resident redistricting application. Federal and state courts have declared that cities and counties must demonstrate a commitment to public participation in the process of drawing districts; that simply giving lip-service to public involvement is not enough.

What better way of demonstrating that commitment than encouraging residents to submit maps, and then adopting a resident-drawn map!

So far, three cities, four counties, and three education districts have made the application available to their residents. And in total, five jurisdictions, including the City of Phoenix, adopted plans submitted by residents.

THE ON-LINE RESIDENT REDISTRICTING APPLICATION
In 2010, Research Advisory Services' president Tony Sissons asked Phil Ponce, of Engineering Mapping Solutions, Inc., to help in the creation of an on-line mapping application that the general public could use to draw and submit election district maps. Tony and Phil examined several on-line mapping systems – mostly Internet versions of existing redistricting software, and a couple of university applications – and found them to be difficult for residents to learn, and even more difficult to adapt to local government geography.

Instead, combining Tony's thirty years' experience with the legal principles and procedural practices of redistricting, and Phil's extensive resume of designing mapping solutions for public and private organizations, the two firms built an application that found the 'sweet spot' of ease of learning and use, with just the necessary features and measurements for creating adoptable maps. No bloated software here!

After reviewing more than 300 maps from residents, we are confident that the application works for everyone – residents and jurisdictions alike!