CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Data following this standard should conform to the following:

DATA TYPE	Character*
SYNTAX	NN, where N represents a number from 0 through 9. Allow leading zeros in this data field when required.
RANGE	The values and structure of the numeric codes to be used for this data element are described in Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 9-1, Congressional Districts of the United States. **Important Notice:** Effective February 8, 2005, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) announced the withdrawal of 17 FIPS Publications in Federal Register, Volume 70, No. 25 (70FR 6623) , including FIPS 9-1, Congressional Districts of the United States. These FIPS were withdrawn because they are obsolete or have not been updated to adopt current voluntary industry standards, federal specifications, federal data standards, or current good practices for information security. **Transition from FIPS to ANSI:** The U.S. Census Bureau is the maintenance agency for Congressional District codes. While there will be no changes in the codes or code structure described in FIPS 9-1, the bureau is transforming FIPS 9-1 into a new national standard that meets the requirements for accreditation by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).
RECOMMENDED FIELD NAME	CONGDIST

* The character data type is used to allow leading zeros in these fields when required.[1]

INSTRUCTIONS

As of the approval date, this data element will be used in any new automated system, data set, database, or information application, including new Geographic Information System (GIS) data and applications. This data element will also be used in any major modifications to existing systems or versions of these data-related items that use numeric codes to identify congressional districts or similar areas defined for the various Congresses of the United States.

Service staff are strongly encouraged to utilize this data element in existing systems, data sets, databases, and information applications. Where existing systems and data-related items are not in compliance, they should be modified to achieve compatibility and implement this data standard.

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[1] For some technologies (e.g. SQL) a format may be used to accommodate leading zeroes. This is preferable to using a character field for numeric values.

Two-digit numeric codes are used to represent the congressional districts of each multi-district State (e.g., the First Congressional District is identified as "01", the Second Congressional District is identified as "02", etc.). For a State whose representative is designated "at large", the Congressional District is designated as "00". For an entity with a nonvoting delegate, such as the District of Columbia, the representational area is designated as "98". For entities with no representation in the Congress, such as the Northern Mariana Islands, the area is designated as "99".

Congressional district codes are unique within each State and equivalent entity, and for each Congress; however, congressional districts in different states can have the same code (e.g., the First Congressional District of Alabama and Arizona are both coded "01"). Therefore, in data systems concerned with the identification of districts in more than one State, the congressional code must be preceded by the two-digit State numeric code, as prescribed by the Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 5-2, 1987 May 28, "Codes for the Identification of the States, the District of Columbia and the Outlying Areas of the United States, and Associated Areas." For example, the numeric code for the First Congressional District of Alabama is 0101, while the numeric code for the First Congressional District of Arizona is 0401. Data systems concerned with only one State may use only the single congressional district code. All single-digit congressional districts must have a leading zero.

When automated systems use the congressional districts of more than one State and more than one Congress, the four-digit State and congressional district codes will be followed by a three-digit code to identify the number of the Congress. For example, the seven-digit numeric code for the First Congressional District of Arizona for the 95th Congress is 0401095, while the code for the 101st Congress is 0401101. When single and/or two-digit codes representing the number of the Congress are used in conjunction with the four-digit State and congressional district codes, leading zeros are required.

The Service data standard for State Numeric Code can be viewed at this site. It references the unique two-digit FIPS numeric codes for representing the 50 States, the District of Columbia and the outlying areas of the United States, and associated areas.

Congressional district and State numeric codes will be handled as separate data fields in any new or modified automated system and will not be combined in a single data field.

A related Service data standard for the Congressional District Data Layer can also be viewed at this site. It references the spatial component of the congressional district information, using the same coding scheme as this data element. The various data layers for the current and previous Congresses can be downloaded from the Census Bureau as TIGER/Line Shapefiles with all the congressional district codes.

SAMPLE DATA FOLLOWING THIS STANDARD

Examples of data and/or lookups for data following this standard: N/A

RELATED REFERENCE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Applicable policies:

Part 274, FW 2, Establishing Service Data Standards
115th Congressional Districts Geographic Products, U.S. Census Bureau Geographic Relationship Tables and Code Files.
Visit http://www.house.gov to search all Representatives House web sites by Member Name or State.