City of Fayetteville
Redistricting 2021

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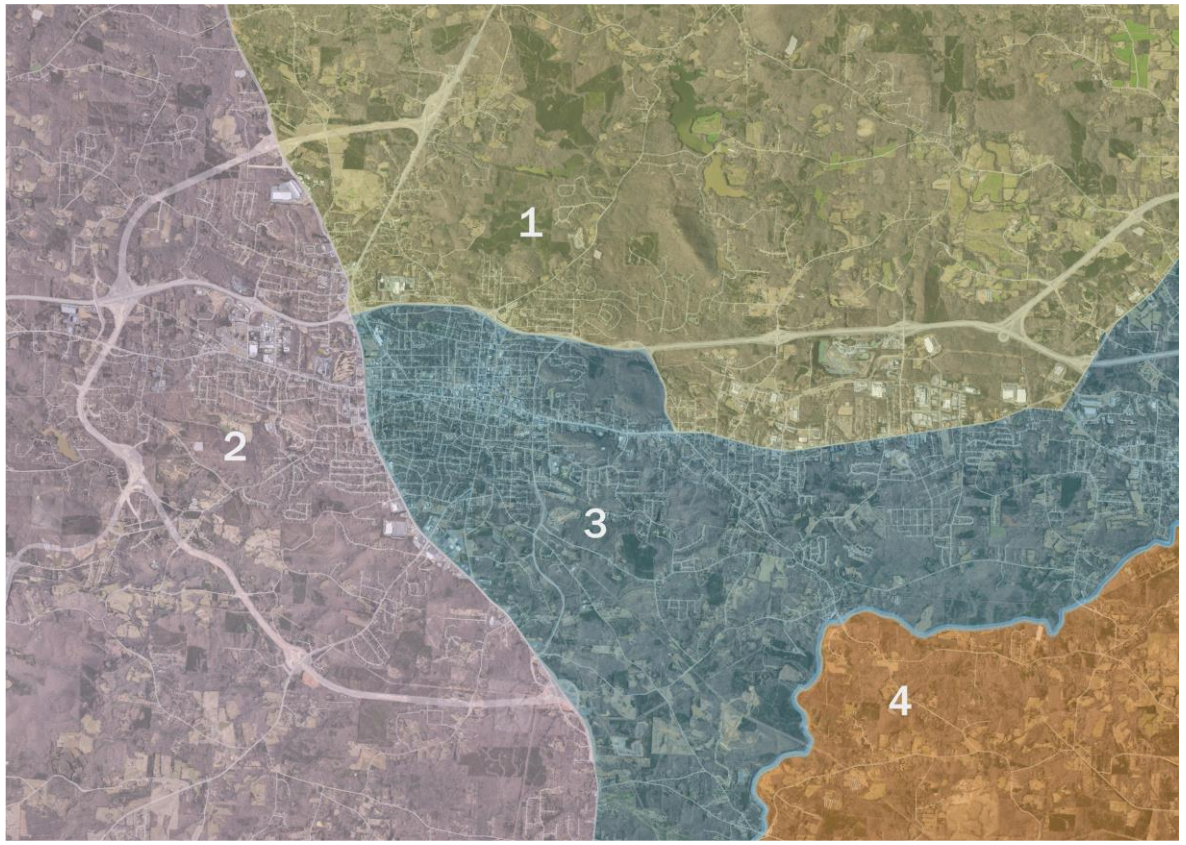


Local Redistricting Service
August 18, 2021

Local Redistricting Service

A Project of North Carolinians for Redistricting Reform

- Non-partisan redistricting expertise for local governments that use districts to elect members
- An open, public, and non-partisan process
  - No election data
  - Open meetings
- NC4RR
  - Co-chaired by former Rep. Chuck McGrady (R-117) and former UNC System President and current Volker Alliance President Tom Ross
  - Led by a bipartisan board of directors

Redistricting

The Basics

- Why do you need to redistrict?
- Demographic changes
- Legal considerations
- An overview of the process
- Timeline

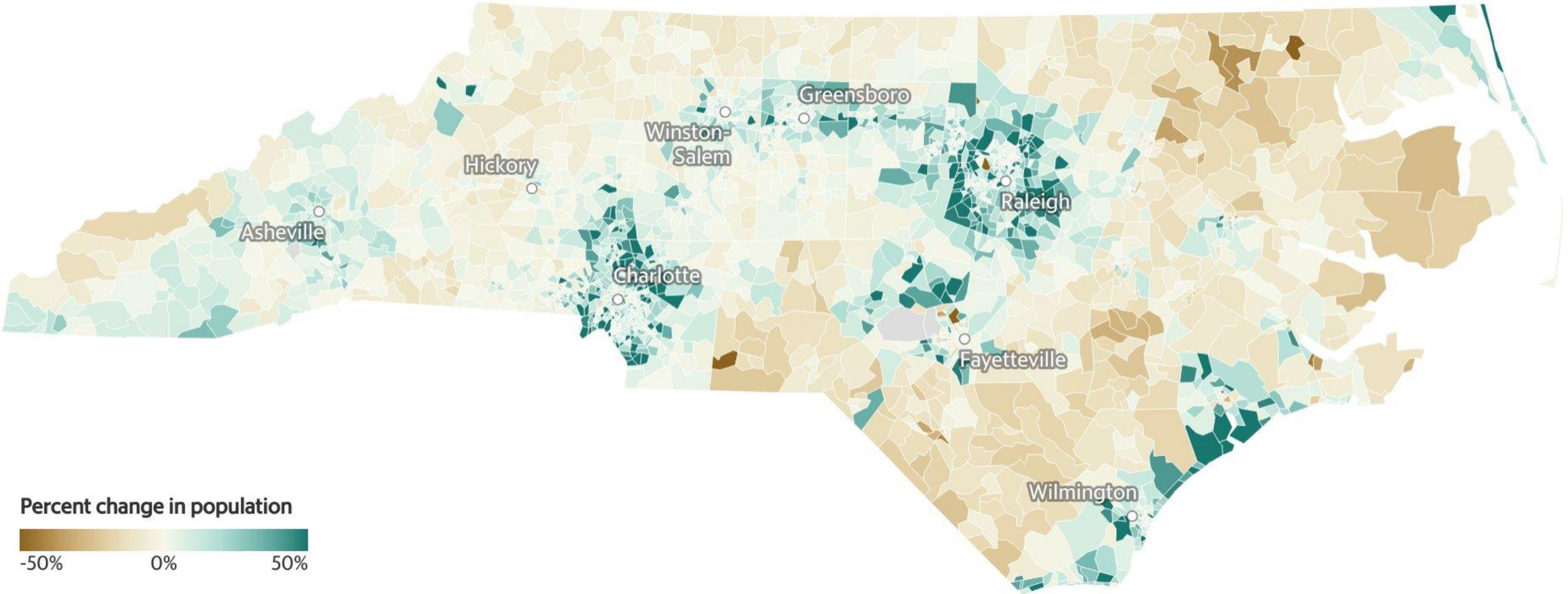
Redistricting

Do you need to redistrict?

- Do you use true election districts? (Yes – 9 districts)
- Are districts outside the permissible deviation range? (Yes)

NC POPULATION CHANGE SINCE 2010 BY TRACT

Data released by the U.S. Census Bureau Thursday gives us the most detailed picture yet of population and demographic changes since the last decennial census count in 2010 – even down to the neighborhood level.



NOTE: 2010 population figures used here are adjusted for the changes in tract shape from 2010 to 2020, so some population totals may appear as fractions to indicate the uncertainty in the estimates. Tracts with zero population in 2010 are excluded from this data.

Map: Tyler Dukes, The News & Observer • Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Source: https://twitter.com/mtdukes/status/1425892751183339525

Redistricting

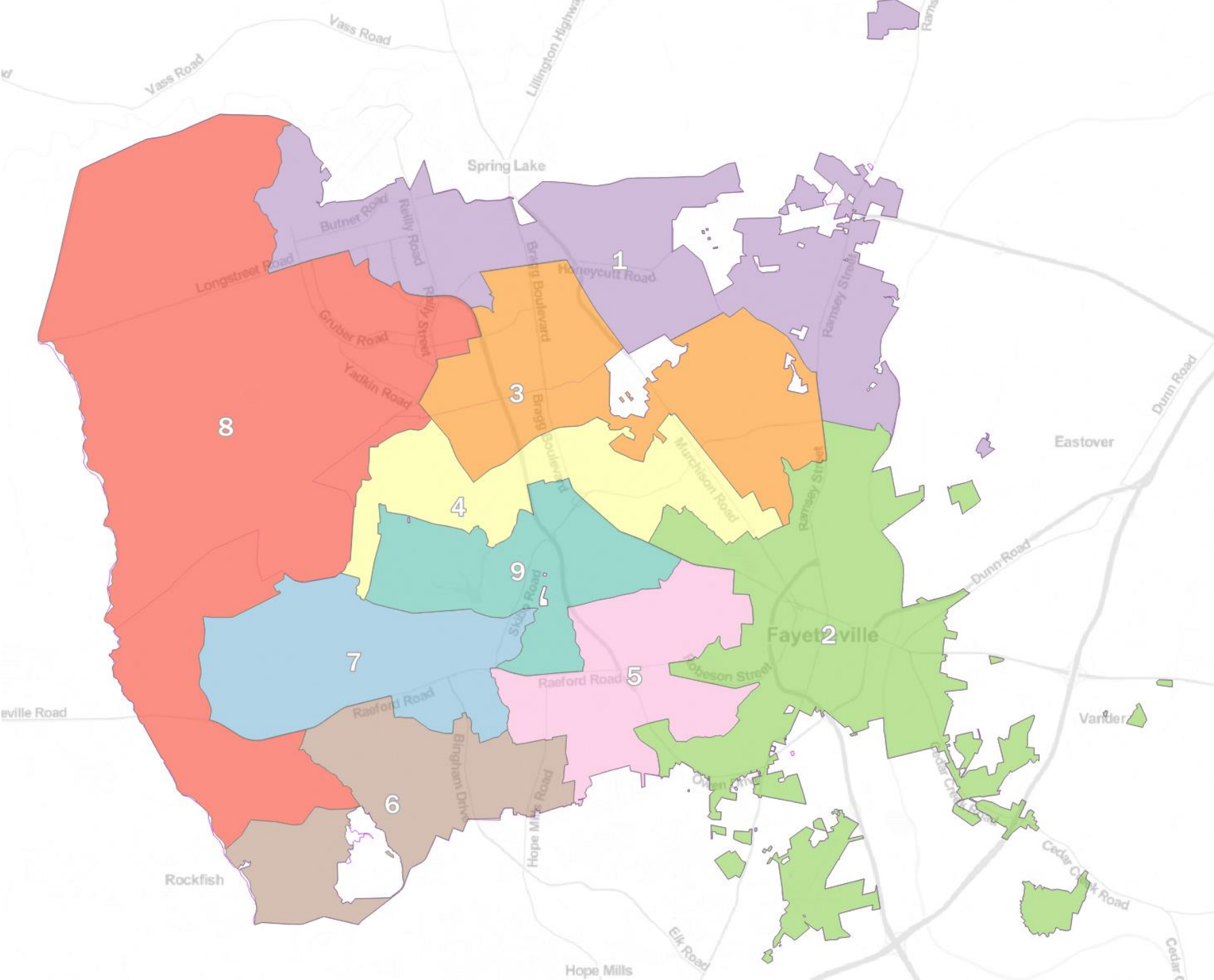
Determining whether there is substantial equality

- +/- 5% rule: Using total population from the 2020 Census, are the current districts within +/- 5% of the ideal district population?

Redistricting

City of Fayetteville

- (2010 population: **200,564)**
- 2020 population: **208,501**
- Ideal district population: **23,167**
- Range: **22,009-24,326**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Reilly Street
Bragg Boulevard
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Ramsey Street
Dunn Road
Eastover
Murchison Road
Ramsey Street
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Skibo Road
Fayetteville
Robeson Street
Raeford Road
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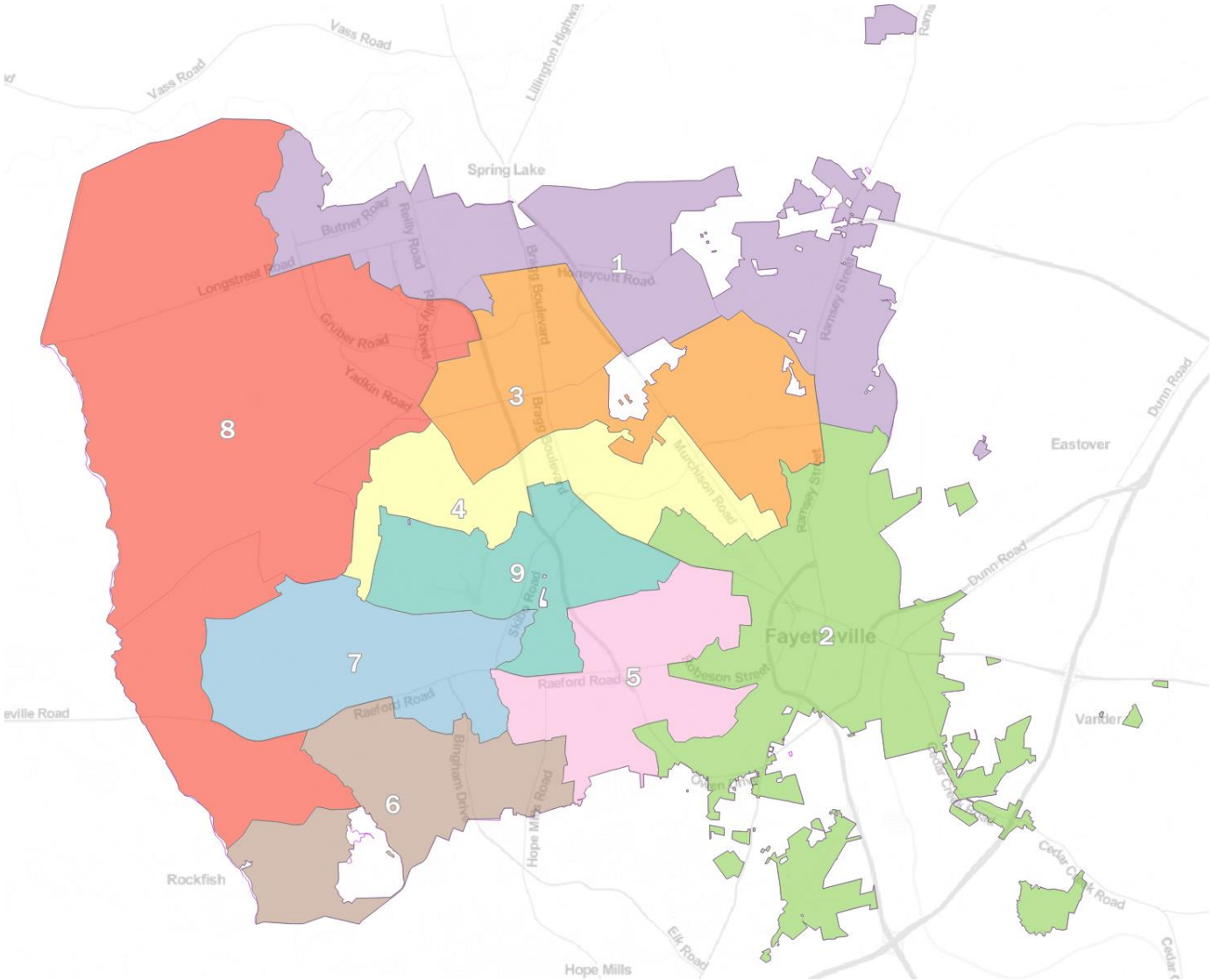
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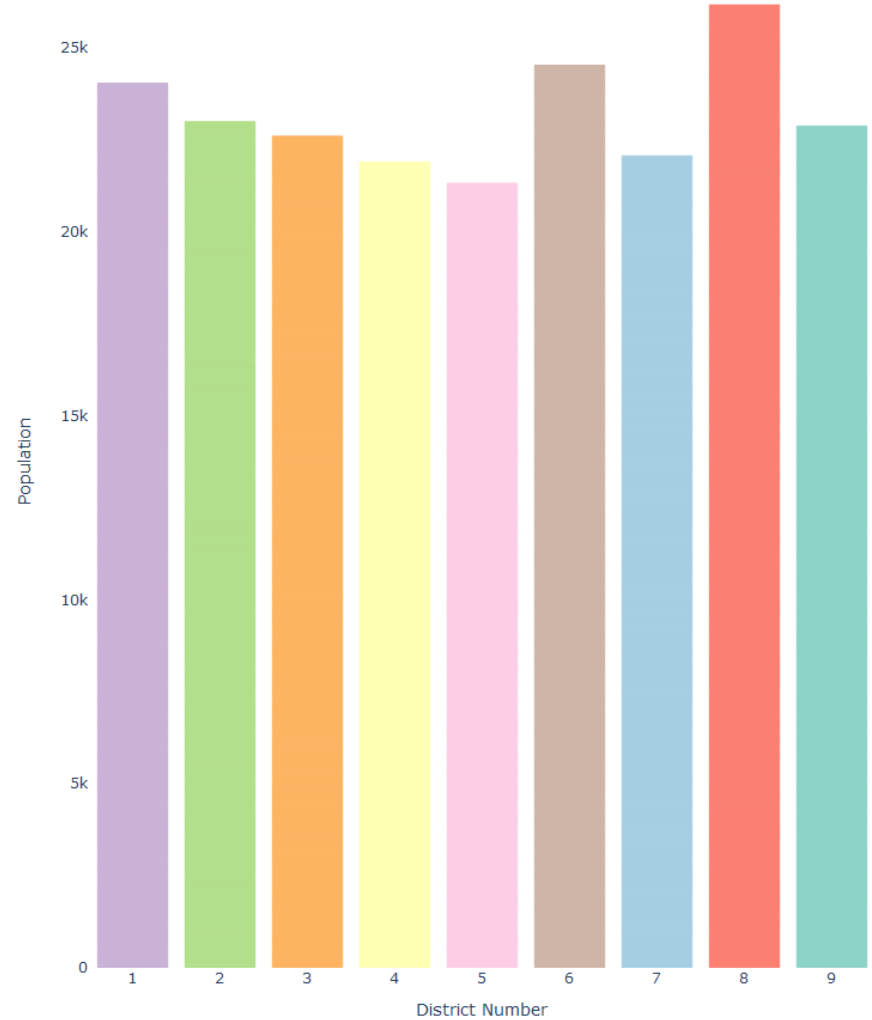
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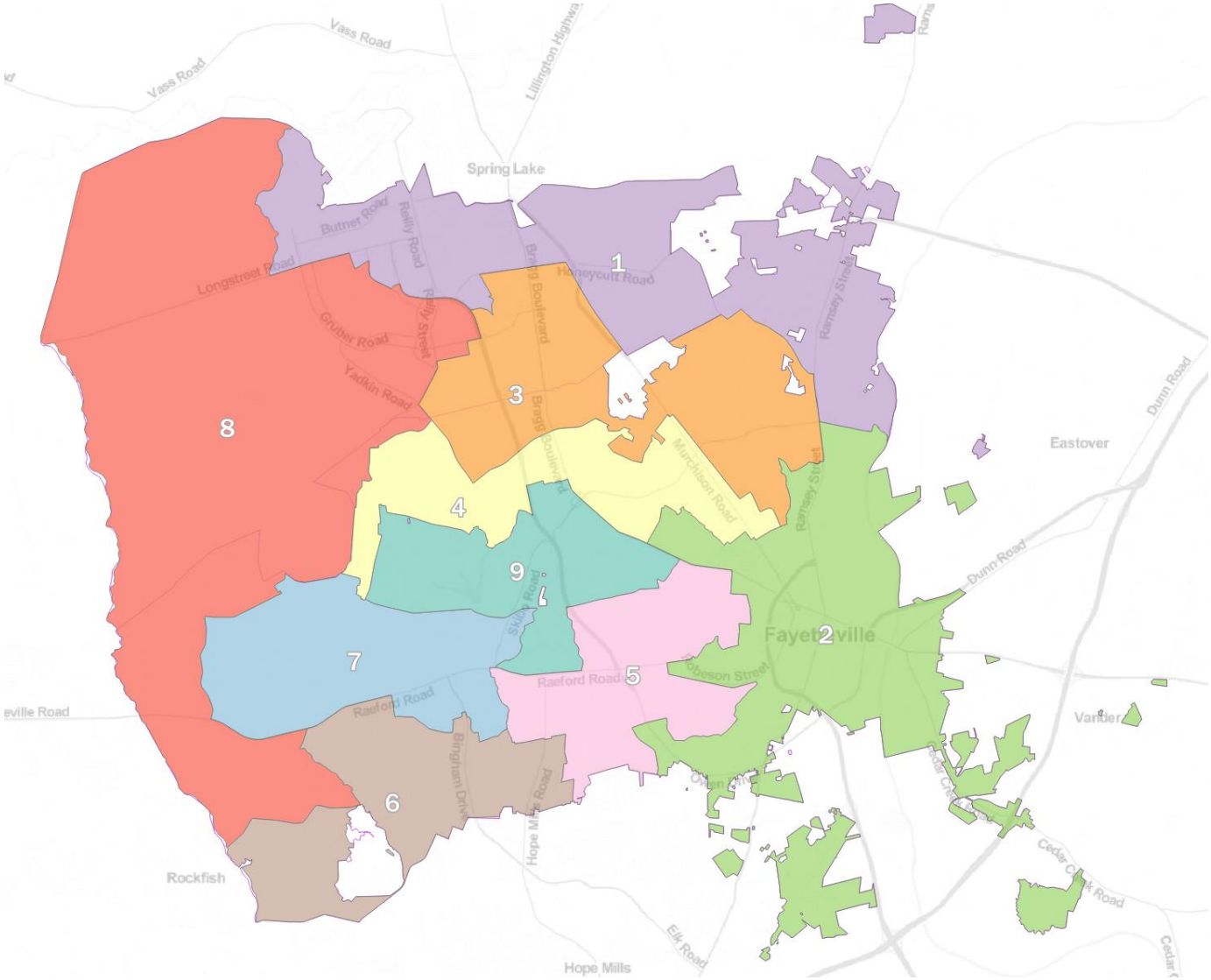
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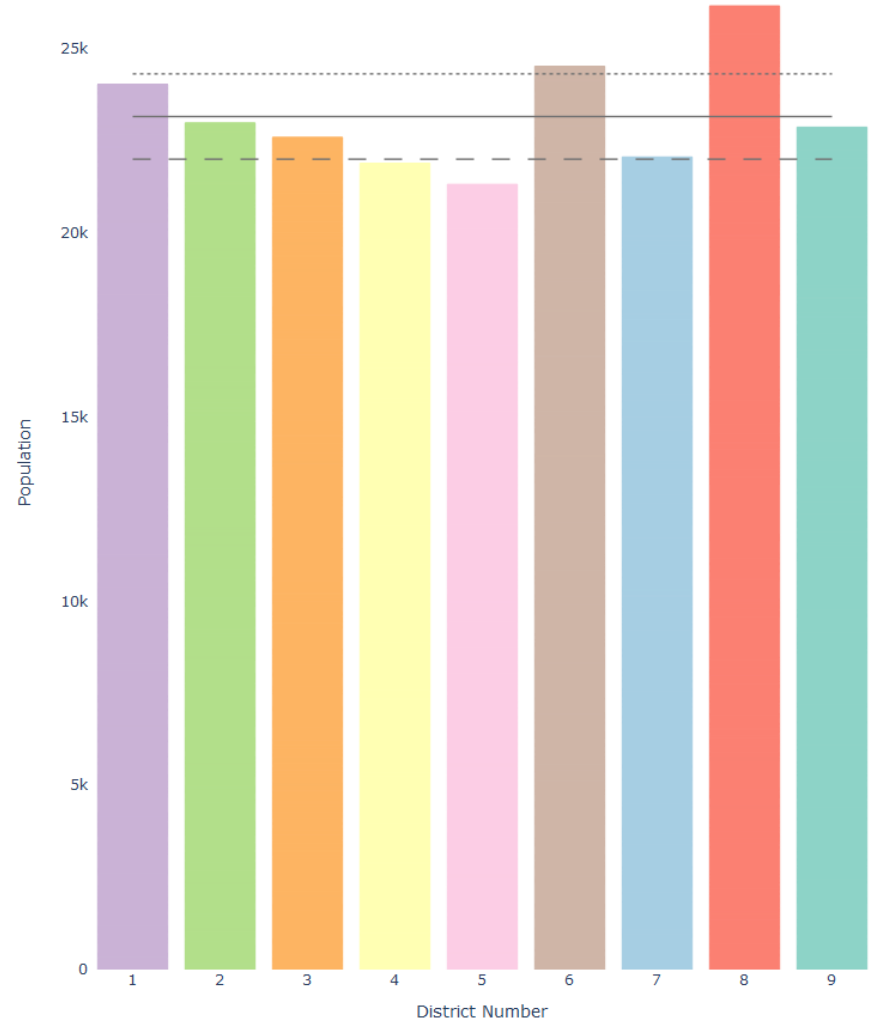
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Redistricting

Who draws the new districts?

Council + staff + consultants.

The governing body for the local government is responsible for enacting new districting plans every 10 years. N.C.G.S. § 160A-23

One caveat: The General Assembly retains the power to redistrict for the board by local act

Redistricting

N.C.G.S. § 160A-23(b)

The council shall have authority to revise electoral district boundaries from time to time. If district boundaries are set out in the city charter and the charter does not provide a method for revising them, the council may revise them only for the purpose of (i) accounting for territory annexed to or excluded from the city, and (ii) correcting population imbalances among the districts shown by a new federal census or caused by exclusions or annexations. When district boundaries have been established in conformity with the federal Constitution, the **council shall not be required to revise them again until a new federal census of population is taken or territory is annexed to or excluded from the city, whichever event first occurs. In establishing district boundaries, the council may use data derived from the most recent federal census and shall not be required to use any other population estimates.** (1969, c. 629; 1971, c. 698, s. 1.)

Redistricting

Race and Redistricting

- Racial gerrymandering/Equal protection clause of the 14th amendment:

  Race cannot be the predominant factor in redistricting unless the use of race is narrowly tailored to a compelling governmental interest
  - What does predominant mean?
    - The race of voters better explains the boundary of a district than traditional criteria
    - Example: precincts are split based on race
  - What is a compelling governmental interest?
    - Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, if the preconditions are met

Race and Redistricting

- Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act
  - The VRA was enacted in 1965 to protect minority citizens from voting methods that dilute their votes
  - 3 preconditions under *Gingles* (1983):
    - Is the minority group sufficiently large and geographically compact to form a majority in a district?
    - Is the minority group politically cohesive?
    - Does the majority vote sufficiently as a bloc so that it usually defeats the minority-preferred candidate?

Redistricting

Guiding Principles

- Some examples:
  - Equal population (required)
    - Total population, not voting age population or registered voters
  - Contiguity
  - Consideration of certain administrative boundaries (using whole precincts as building blocks, e.g.)
  - Recognizing communities of interest (prioritizing the intactness of neighborhoods, or other historical, cultural, or economic communities)
    - To be defined by the council with public input
  - Seeking to have boundaries follow visible physical features like roads, waterways, and other geographic features

Redistricting

Guiding Principles (cont.)

- Some examples:
  - Preserving the core of existing districts AND/OR ignoring existing districts (i.e., clean slate)
  - Compactness
  - Avoiding pairing incumbents (also known as “double bunking”)
  - Plan for population growth
  - No political considerations

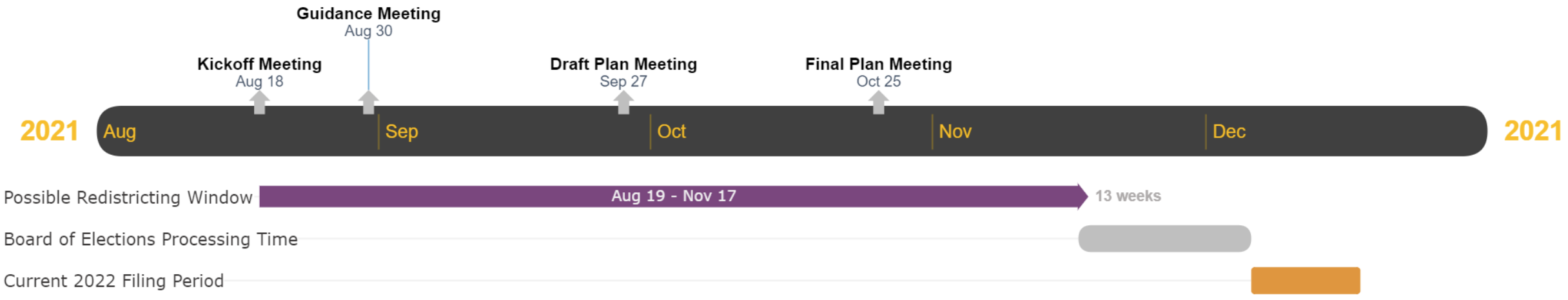
Redistricting

Process

1. Determine necessity of redistricting based on population disparities
2. Reach consensus on criteria/guiding principles
   - Note: the first 2 steps can be taken in any order
   - Possible public hearing on criteria
3. LRS consultants to draw 2-3 alternative plans
4. Public hearing
   - Can include receipt of plans from members of the public
5. Review/revision of plans
   - All meetings to review plans should be open
6. Adoption of resolution
7. Export of plans to Board of Elections, GIS department, etc.

Redistricting

City of Fayetteville Redistricting Timeline



Mapfigure consulting

Questions?

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  - www.ncredistrict.org/lrs