KS&A
Governmental
Consultants

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Honorable Mayor and Commissioners
City of Pompano Beach

FROM: Kurt Spitzer

DATE: November 24, 2021

RE: Redistricting Commission Districts

The purpose of this Memorandum is to update the City Commission on the status of our work to update the Commission districts based on 2020 Census data.

Redistricting is the process by which differences in the population of Commission districts are equalized by adjusting district boundaries, and furthers the principle of "one person, one vote." Commission districts are required to be "as nearly equal in population" as practicable or possible.

The overall objective of a redistricting process should be to adjust the district boundaries so that district populations are roughly equal to one-another, the plans not dilute minority voting strength, and result in district shapes that are relatively compact and are easily understood by the electorate.

Redistricting Criteria

We have previously provided the City with a list of common Frequently Asked Questions regarding the redistricting process. They are restated in summary fashion below.

There are several criteria commonly used in the redistricting process. They are considered in total and balanced with each other. The dominant criterion is population.

1. Equal in population. The goal is to have the population of individual districts be as nearly equal to one another as is possible or practicable. "Population" refers to residents, not registered voters. "Nearly equal" means that the population of individual districts should be as close to the average or "ideal" size as is possible.

2. Avoid diluting minority voting strength. If there is a location where a significant number of minority residents reside, their ability to vote as a block should not be diluted by either dividing that population into two or more districts (termed "cracking") or, if there is a significant minority population in two districts, moving that population into a single district (termed "packing").

3. Use census blocks. Data from the US Bureau of the Census is updated every 10 years by surveying the population of the United States. Census data is presumed to be correct. The smallest unit within which that information is tabulated and made available are census "blocks."

4. Compact and contiguous. Districts should be relatively compact and contiguous. Unusual, "bizarre" or serpentine district shapes that are created without furthering a valid underlying public policy purpose must be avoided. Contiguity may be achieved by crossing a waterbody.

5. Significant natural and man-made boundaries. Where possible, district boundaries should follow easily recognized or understood boundaries, like major roads, waterbodies or parklands.

6. Recognize existing district boundaries. The boundaries of the updated districts may seek to retain their existing boundaries to the extent possible.

7. Avoid splitting communities of interest. District boundaries should seek to avoid splitting communities that have similar interests (e.g., neighborhoods) where possible.

Census Data

The Bureau of the Census counts the population of the United States every 10 years. Data from the Census is presumed to be correct. The 2020 Census reflects the population of the country on "census day" which was April 1, 2020. Census data is required to be released to the states one year after census day; however, the Bureau of the Census failed to meet that deadline in 2021, primarily due to the effects of the COVID pandemic, which had caused field operations to be shut down for more than two months in 2020.

Thereafter, the Bureau had stated that the data would be released on or before September 30, 2021. However, "legacy" data was released on August 12, 2021, and is what was used in the City of Pompano Beach redistricting process. Legacy data is "final" data but required some reformatting of the electronic file base before it was usable in a redistricting process.

Existing Districts Maps

The first step in the redistricting process is to determine if there is a need to adjust district boundaries because of a significant imbalance between district populations. This is accomplished by "layering" or applying the 2020 data to the (current) district boundaries that were approved in 2011.

A copy of the Existing Districts Maps with 2020 data is attached, as is a table of statistical information for the existing district boundaries. Using the existing district boundaries and 2020 Census block data indicates that adjustments to district boundaries is not necessary based on population deviations alone.

In general, if the spread between the largest and smallest districts is greater than 10 percentage points, the city or county should seek to reduce that discrepancy by adjusting district boundaries. In the case of the City of Pompano Beach, the different between the largest and smallest district is 8.48 percentage points and within acceptable tolerances.
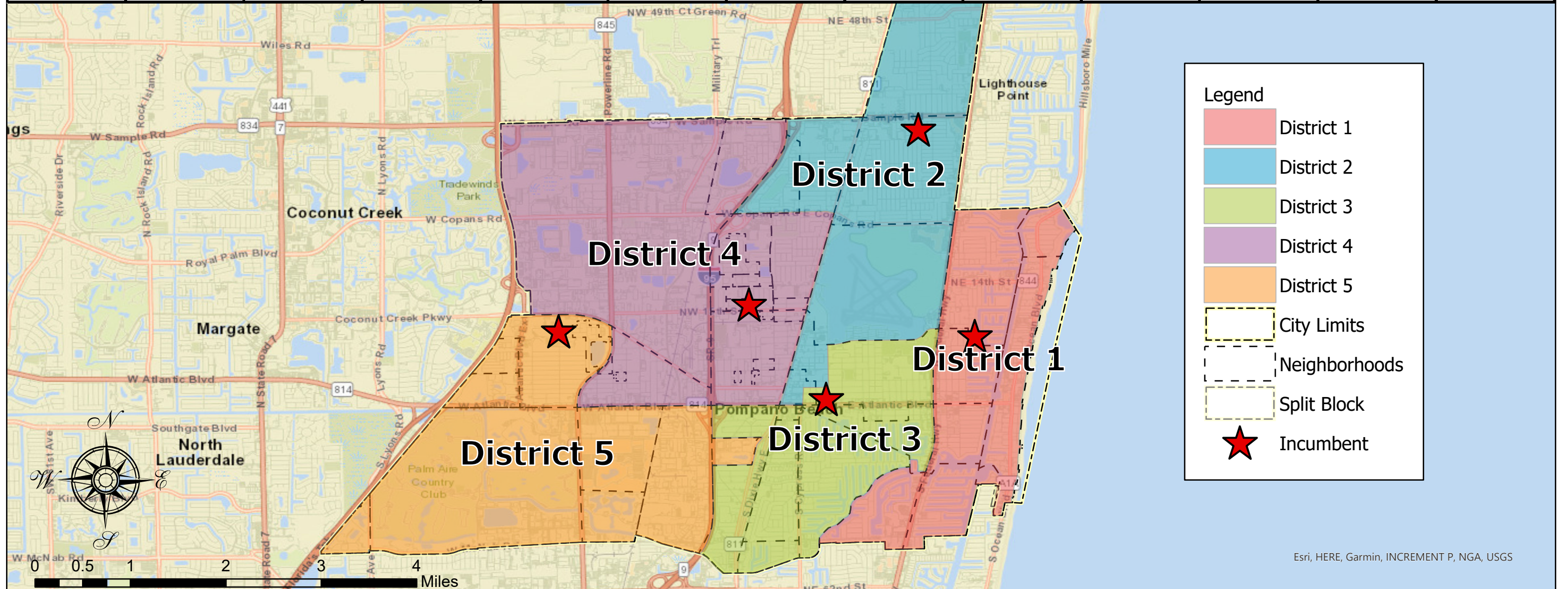
The district boundaries as adopted in 2011 are relatively compact and contiguous, they follow significant and easily understood boundaries and generally avoid splitting communities of interest. Recognizing and retaining those district boundaries maintains those characteristics and minimizes confusion in terms of which district electors reside and lessens the workload on the Supervisor of Elections in terms of changing voter precincts

We appreciate the opportunity to have worked with the City once again and look forward to speaking with you next week.

Attachments

Exhibit 1
Voting District Plan

DISTRICT	2020 Population IDEAL	2020 Population ACTUAL	Population Deviation	Percent Deviation	Population White	Percent White	Population Black	Percent Black	Population Other	Precent Other	Population Hispanic	Percent Hispanic
District 1	22423	21844	-578.8	-2.6%	17910	82%	708	3%	3226	15%	2672	12%
District 2	22423	22121	-301.8	-1.3%	8699	39%	6124	28%	7298	33%	6580	30%
District 3	22423	22242	-180.8	-0.8%	11516	52%	4750	21%	5976	27%	5928	27%
District 4	22423	22161	-261.8	-1.2%	2117	10%	13554	61%	6490	29%	6060	27%
District 5	22423	23746	1323.2	5.9%	10659	45%	6859	29%	6228	26%	5404	23%
Totals	112114	112114	0.00	0.00	50901	-	31995	-	29218	-	26644	-

Legend
- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4
- District 5
- City Limits
- Neighborhoods
- Split Block
- ★ Incumbent

Esri, HERE, Garmin, INCREMENT P, NGA, USGS

City of Pompano Beach
Commission District Populations

Current District Boundaries with 2020 Census Data

CURRENT DISTRICTS												
District	2020 Population IDEAL	2020 Population ACTUAL	Pop. Deviation	Percent Deviation	Pop. White	Percent White	Pop. Black	Percent Black	Pop. Other	Precent Other	Pop. Hispanic	Percent Hispanic
District 1	22,423	21,844	(579)	-2.58%	17,910	81.99%	708	3.24%	3,226	14.77%	2,672	12.23%
District 2	22,423	22,121	(302)	-1.35%	8,699	39.32%	6,124	27.68%	7,298	32.99%	6,580	29.75%
District 3	22,423	22,242	(181)	-0.81%	11,516	51.78%	4,750	21.36%	5,976	26.87%	5,928	26.65%
District 4	22,423	22,161	(262)	-1.17%	2,117	9.55%	13,554	61.16%	6,490	29.29%	6,060	27.35%
District 5	22,423	23,746	1,323	5.90%	10,659	44.89%	6,859	28.88%	6,228	26.23%	5,404	22.76%
Totals	112,114	112,114			50,901		31,995		29,218		26,644	