

# Redistricting Overview

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CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MD  
SEPTEMBER 22, 2021



# About FLO

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- FLO is a wholly owned subsidiary of Maul Foster & Alongi, Inc. (MFA), a multidisciplinary consulting firm based in Vancouver, Washington.
- We are a GIS and data analytics firm serving local governments and school districts throughout the country.
- We take an impartial, data-driven approach to redistricting. We have never worked for a political party.

## REDISTRICTING EXPERIENCE

Over 90 redistricting and demographic analysis projects in the past five years.

Assisted both small rural communities and large urban areas.

### 2021 Redistricting Clients (and more!)

- Harford County Public Schools, Harford County MD
- Camden City School District, Camden, NJ
- The School District of Philadelphia, PA
- City of Brookhaven, GA
- City of Griffin, GA
- City of Lincoln, CA
- Spokane County, WA
- San Diego County, CA
- San Joaquin County, CA





# About Bloom

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- Bloom is a Philadelphia-based strategic planning and engagement design firm specializing in preK-12, nonprofit, and municipal projects.
- We believe in building authentic relationships with entities that commit to transforming themselves and the world around them.
- Our methods emphasize thoughtful, engaged partnership, clarity, equity, and inclusivity.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

### Recent Community Engagement Projects:

- Boundary Revision • Harford County Public Schools • MD
- State Health Assessment • PA Department of Health • PA
- Enrollment Planning • School District of Philadelphia • PA
- Enrollment Planning • Camden City Public Schools • NJ
- School Renaming • Lusher Charter School • LA
- Healthy Kids, Healthy Schools Initiative • Delaware County DA's Office • PA



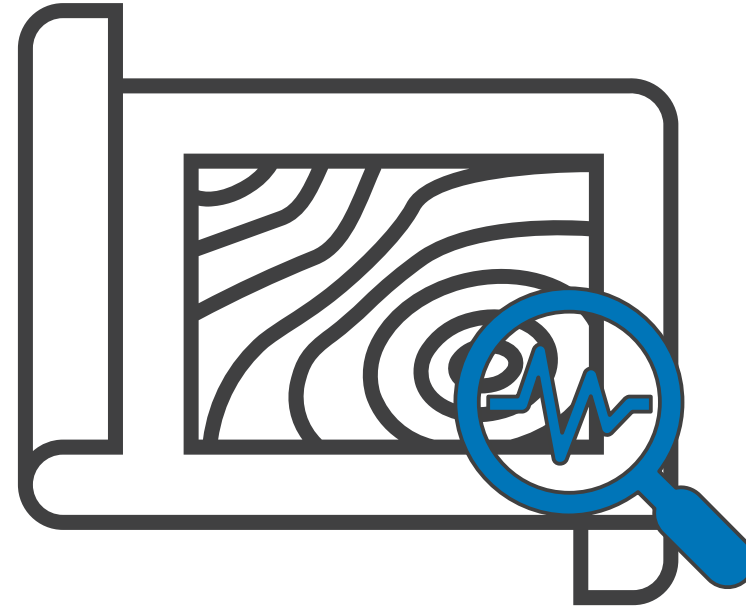
# The Redistricting Process

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## Outreach & Engagement



## Analysis



# Outreach & Engagement

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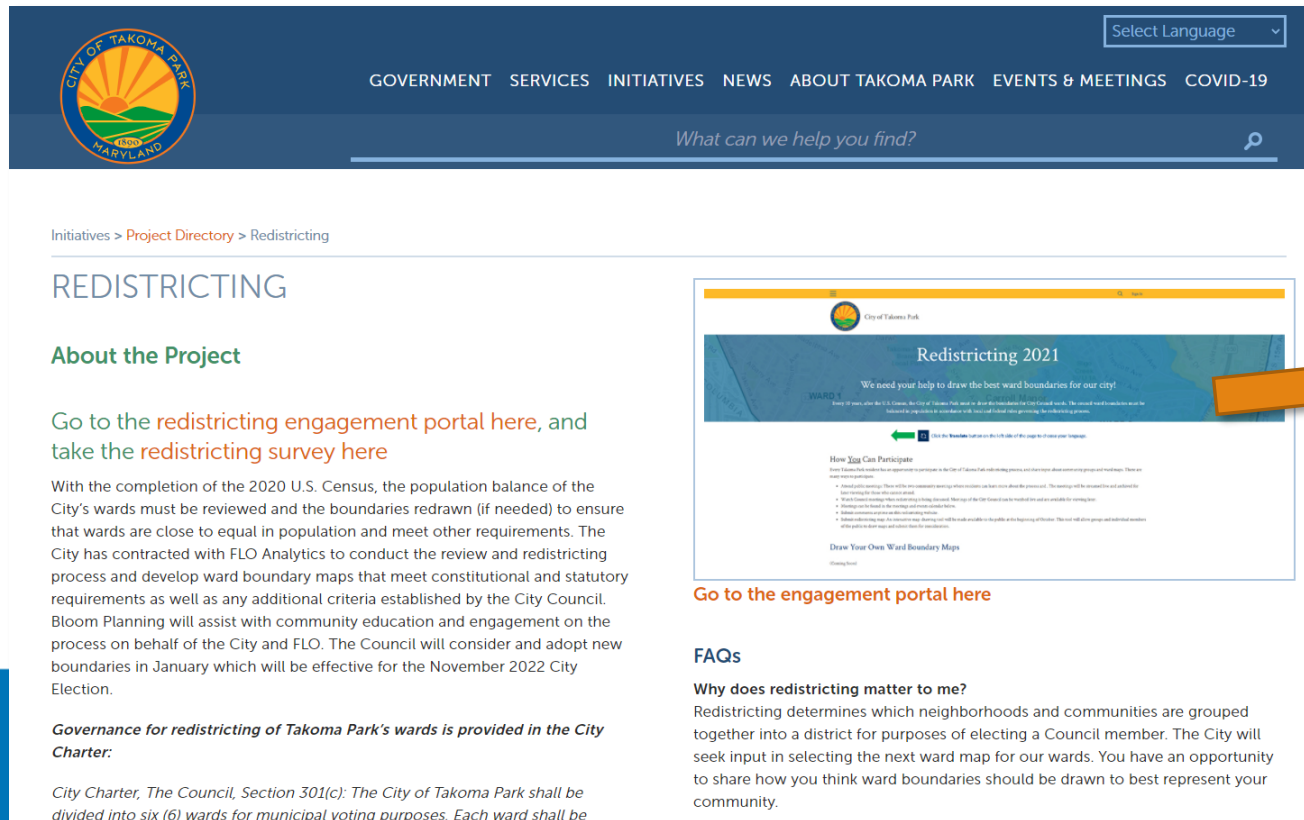
## WHAT IS NEEDED FOR A FAIR & TRANSPARENT PROCESS THAT EARNS THE TRUST OF **YOUR** COMMUNITY?

- ✓ Community engagement strategy
  - How you will engage your community during the process.
  - How will this process be fair and equitable for all residents.
- ✓ Pre-map meetings
  - Before drawing maps hold one or more meetings to explain how the process works and how your community can inform the process.
- ✓ Online mapping tools
  - Use current technology to show your community the options and let them explore the data.
- ✓ Collect feedback and public comments, incorporate that information into the analysis, and explain to your community how their input is being used to inform the process.

# Outreach & Engagement

## REDISTRICTING ENGAGEMENT WEBSITE

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/redistricting/>



The screenshot shows the City of Takoma Park website with a dark blue header. The header includes the City of Takoma Park logo on the left, a navigation menu with links for GOVERNMENT, SERVICES, INITIATIVES, NEWS, ABOUT TAKOMA PARK, EVENTS & MEETINGS, and COVID-19, and a search bar on the right. Below the header, the page title "REDISTRICTING" is displayed. The main content area is titled "About the Project" and contains a paragraph about the redistricting process. A link "Go to the redistricting engagement portal here, and take the redistricting survey here" is provided. Below this, a section titled "How You Can Participate" lists several ways to get involved. A link "Go to the engagement portal here" is also present. The page is titled "REDISTRICTING 2021" and includes a map of the city showing ward boundaries.

Initiatives > Project Directory > Redistricting

## REDISTRICTING

### About the Project

Go to the [redistricting engagement portal here](#), and take the [redistricting survey here](#)

With the completion of the 2020 U.S. Census, the population balance of the City's wards must be reviewed and the boundaries redrawn (if needed) to ensure that wards are close to equal in population and meet other requirements. The City has contracted with FLO Analytics to conduct the review and redistricting process and develop ward boundary maps that meet constitutional and statutory requirements as well as any additional criteria established by the City Council. Bloom Planning will assist with community education and engagement on the process on behalf of the City and FLO. The Council will consider and adopt new boundaries in January which will be effective for the November 2022 City Election.

**Governance for redistricting of Takoma Park's wards is provided in the City Charter:**

*City Charter, The Council, Section 301(c): The City of Takoma Park shall be divided into six (6) wards for municipal voting purposes. Each ward shall be*

### How You Can Participate

Every Takoma Park resident has an opportunity to participate in the City of Takoma Park redistricting process, and share input about community groups and ward maps. There are many ways to participate:

- Attend public meetings: There will be two community meetings where residents can learn more about the process and the meetings will be streamed live and archived for later viewing for those who cannot attend. Meetings can be found in the meetings and events calendar below.



The banner features a map of Takoma Park with ward boundaries. The text "Redistricting 2021" is prominently displayed. Below it, a message states: "We need your help to draw the best ward boundaries for our city! Every 10 years, after the U.S. Census, the City of Takoma Park must re-draw the boundaries for City Council wards. The council ward boundaries must be balanced in population in accordance with local and federal rules governing the redistricting process." A green arrow points to a "Translate" button on the left side of the page. Below the banner, a section titled "How You Can Participate" provides more details about the process.

## Redistricting 2021

We need your help to draw the best ward boundaries for our city!

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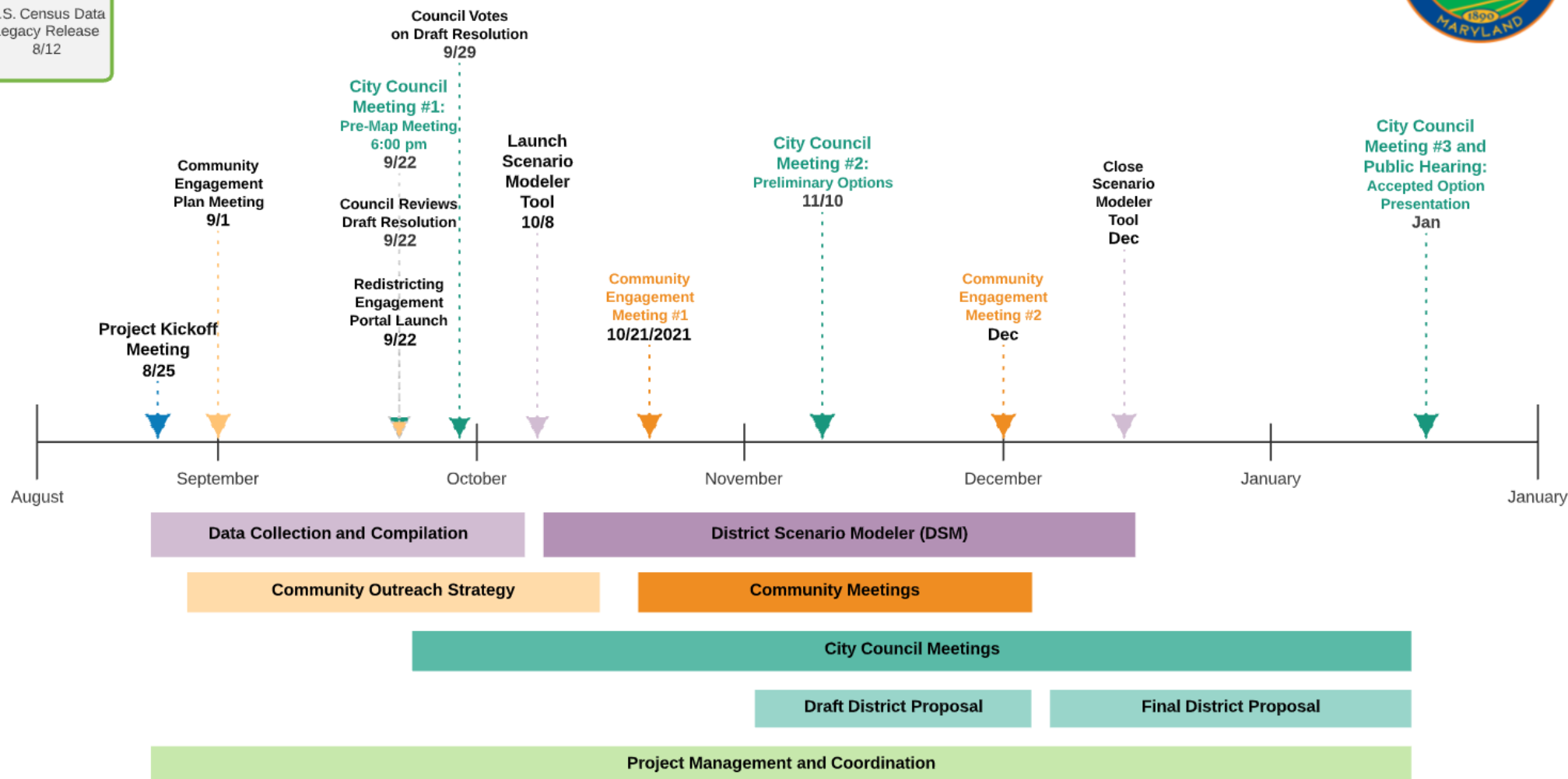
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U.S. Census Data  
Legacy Release  
8/12

# Takoma Park Redistricting Project Timeline

## September 22, 2021



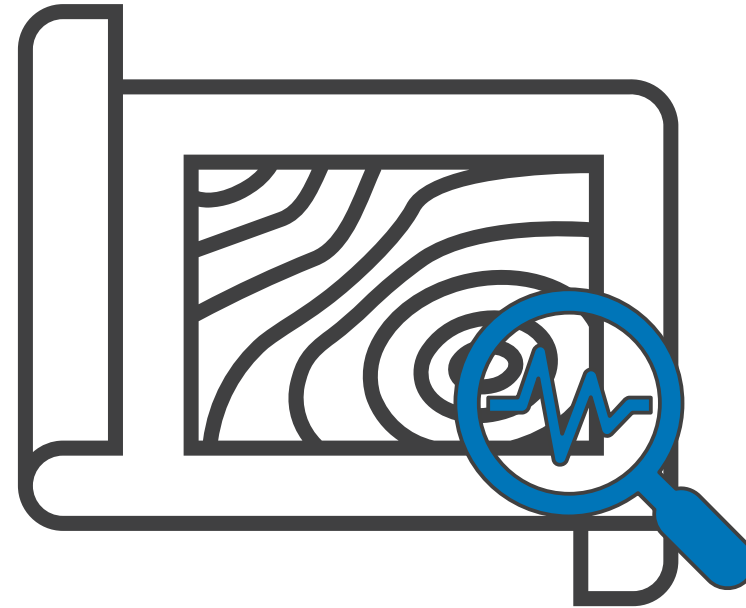
# The Redistricting Process

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Outreach & Engagement



Analysis





# The Redistricting Process

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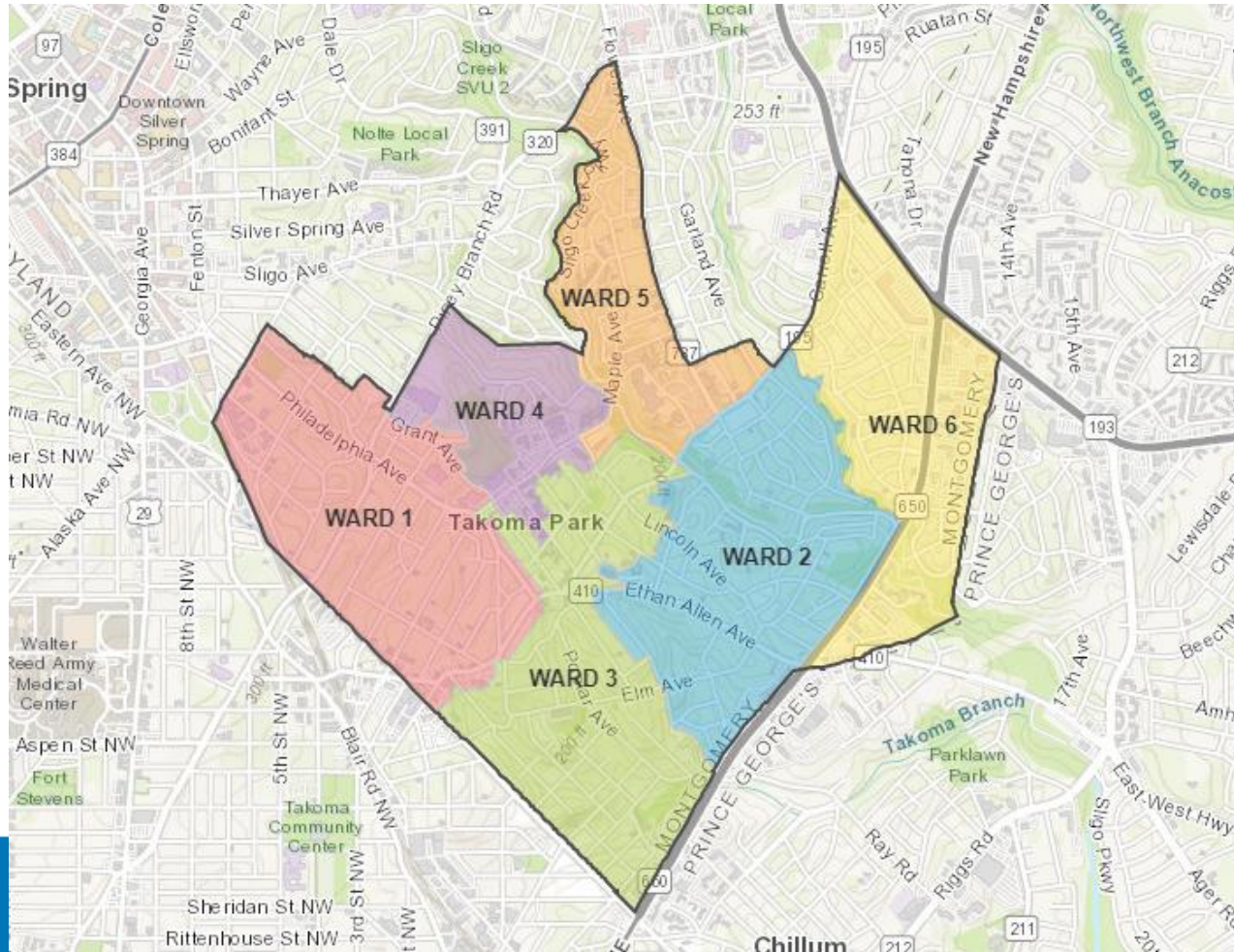
- Districts **must** be “population balanced”
- Districts **must** be contiguous
- Redistricting **must** be done in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws including the federal Voting Rights Act (1965)
- Districts may not favor or disfavor a protected class or political party
- Districts should be as compact as possible
- Districts should preserve communities of interest (COIs) where possible
- Districts should preserve, to the extent possible, the use of existing administrative and natural boundaries



# The Redistricting Process

## REDISTRICTING – CURRENT DISTRICT MAP

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/ward-map-street-directory/>

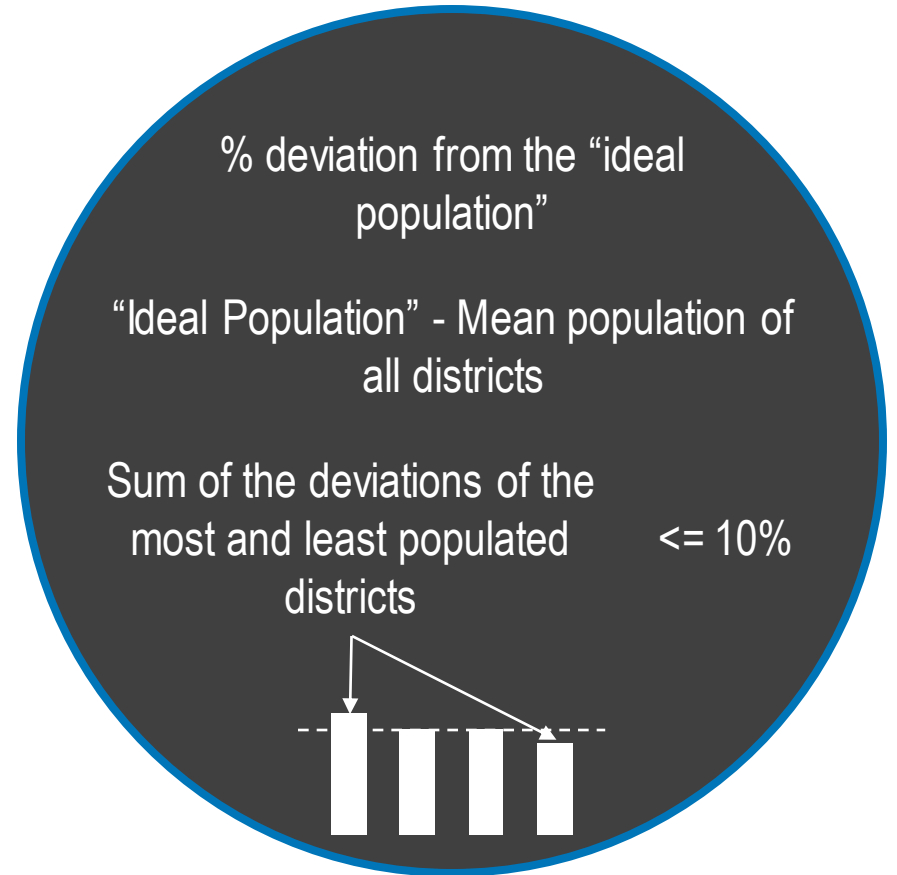


# Redistricting Analysis

## BALANCING POPULATION

The appropriate measure of population is total population, **not** alternative measures like the number of voters or the citizen voting-age population (CVAP).

This reflects the principle that city councilmembers represent all residents, not only those who are eligible to vote.



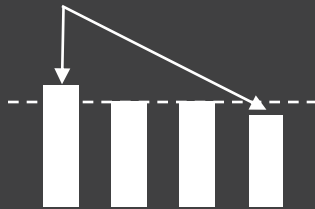
\*The Supreme Court decided in *Evenwel v. Abbott*, 578 US, 136 S. Ct. 1120 (2016), that the “one person, one vote” principle of the Equal Protection Clause allows a state or locality to design its districts based on total population.

# Redistricting Analysis

% deviation from the “ideal population”

“Ideal Population” - Mean population of all districts

Sum of the deviations of the most and least populated districts  $\leq 10\%$



## 2010 POPULATION (2013 REDISTRICTING PROCESS)

City Population	Ideal Ward Population	Overall Range	District	Ward Population	Deviation From Ideal	Population Over / Under Ideal
17,015	2,836	8.24%	1	2,748	-3.1%	-88
			2	2,907	2.5%	71
			3	2,974	4.9%	138
			4	2,853	0.6%	17
			5	2,793	-1.5%	-43
			6	2,740	-3.4%	-96

# Redistricting Analysis

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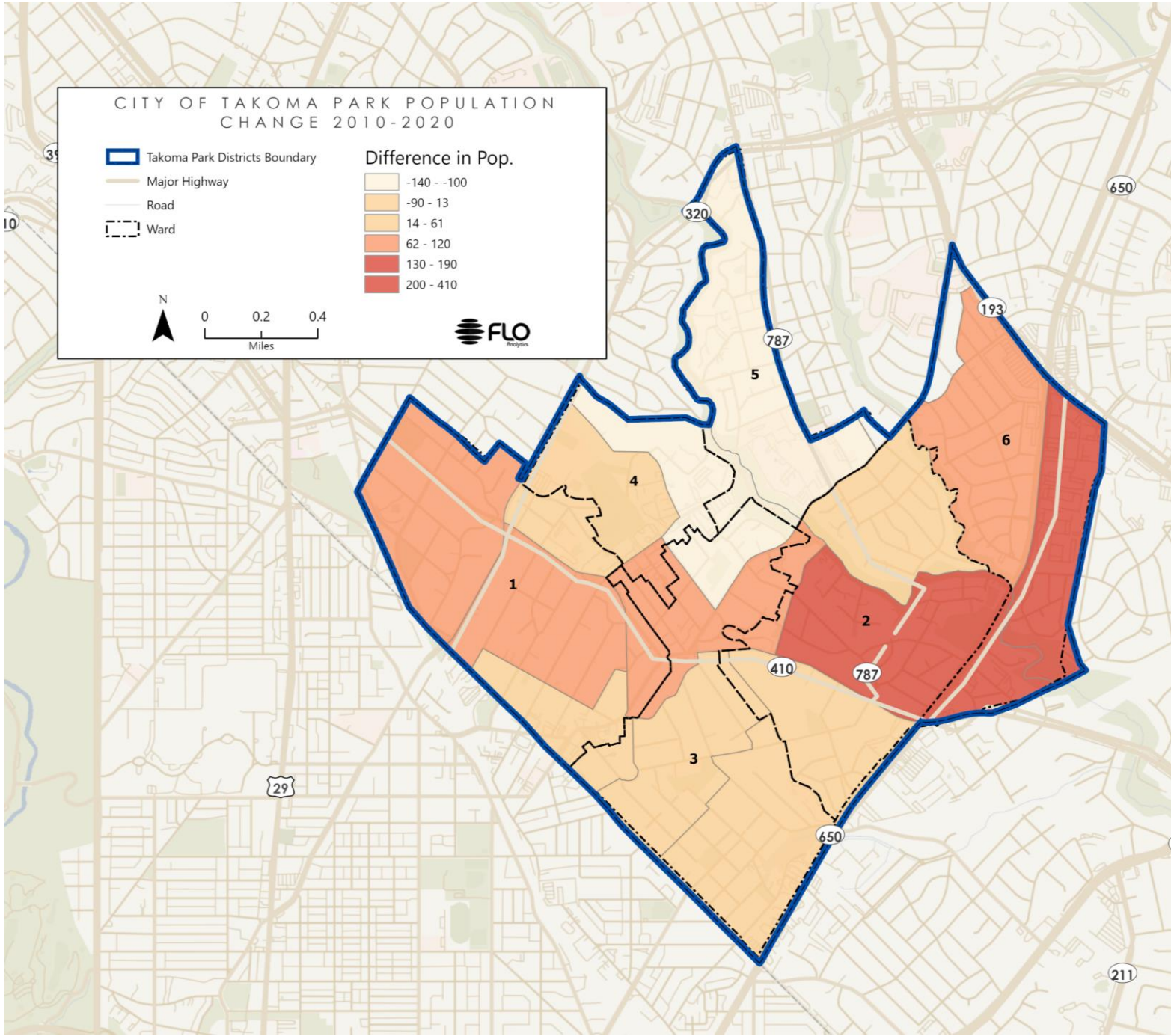
## 2020 POPULATION – NEAREST BLOCKS

City Population	Ideal Ward Population	Overall Range	Ward	Ward Population	Deviation From Ideal	Population Over / Under Ideal
17,619	2,937	77.4%	1	2,581	-12.1%	-356
			2	3,103	5.7%	167
			3	4,390	49.5%	1,454
			4	2,116	-27.9%	-821
			5	2,309	-21.4%	-628
			6	3,120	6.2%	184



REDISTRICTING –  
CENSUS BLOCKS

2010 TO 2020  
POPULATION CHANGES



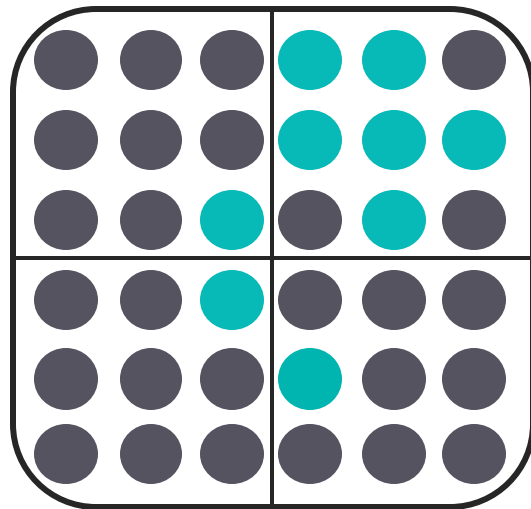
# Redistricting Analysis

## VOTING RIGHTS ACT AND DEMOGRAPHICS

● Majority group

● Minority group

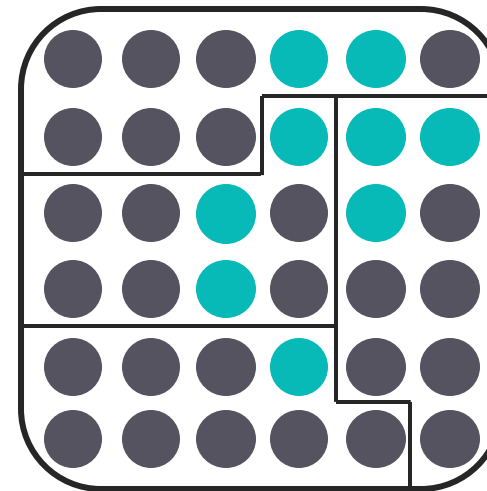
Don't set out to hurt voters  
based on their race or ethnicity



**Majority group:** 75% of population, make up the majority in **75%** of districts

**Minority group:** 25% of population, make up the majority in **25%** of the districts

### Vote dilution



**Majority group:** 75% of population, make up the majority in **100%** of districts

**Minority group:** 25% of population, make up the majority in **0%** of the districts

# Redistricting Analysis

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## COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

“A community of interest is a population that shares common social and economic interests that should be included within a single district for purposes of its effective and fair representation”

“populations or communities that have common needs and interests reflected in patterns of geography, social interaction, trade, and common interests”

School districts

Military  
installations

Unincorporated Census-  
designated place

Defined  
neighborhoods

Homeowners  
associations

Special districts



# Redistricting Analysis

## CONTIGUITY

NO



YES



- ✓ No islands
- ✓ Except for real islands which should be connected by bridges, tunnels, or ferries

## COMPACTNESS

NO



YES



- ✓ Districts should not be unnecessarily thin or serpentine
- ✓ There are many different methods to measure compactness

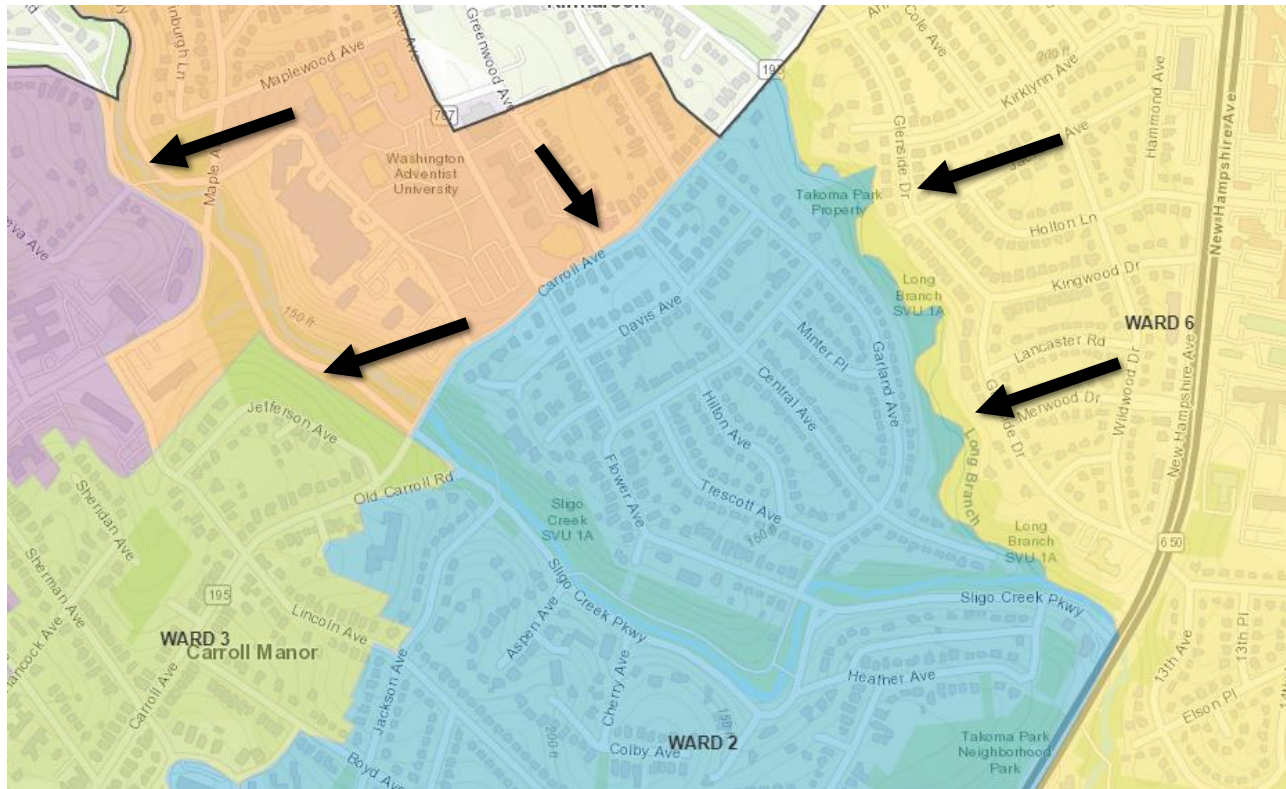
## EXISTING OR NATURAL BOUNDARIES

YES



- ✓ Major streets and roads
- ✓ Rivers, lakes, mountains
- ✓ Lines that are already being used as boundaries

# Redistricting Analysis



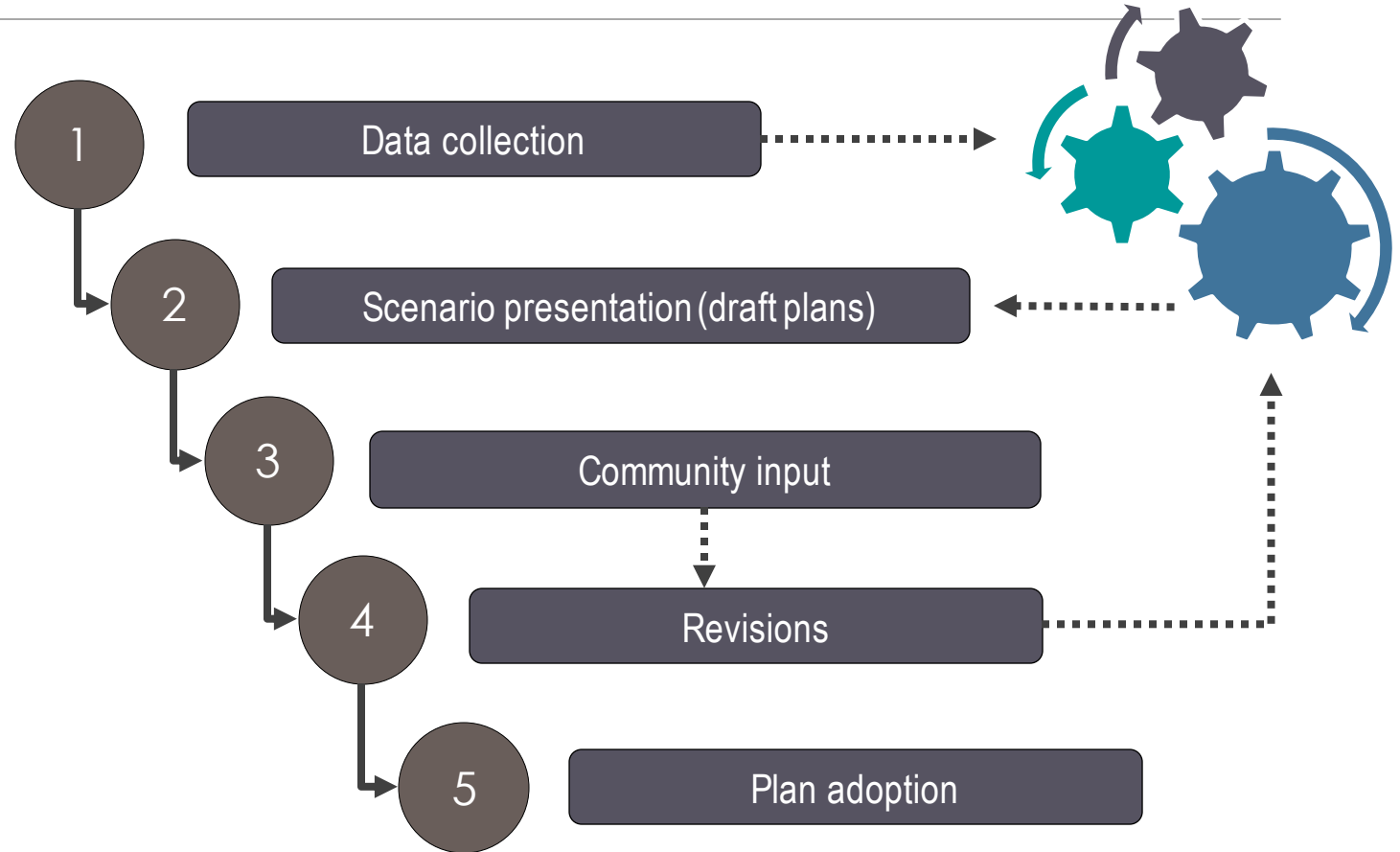
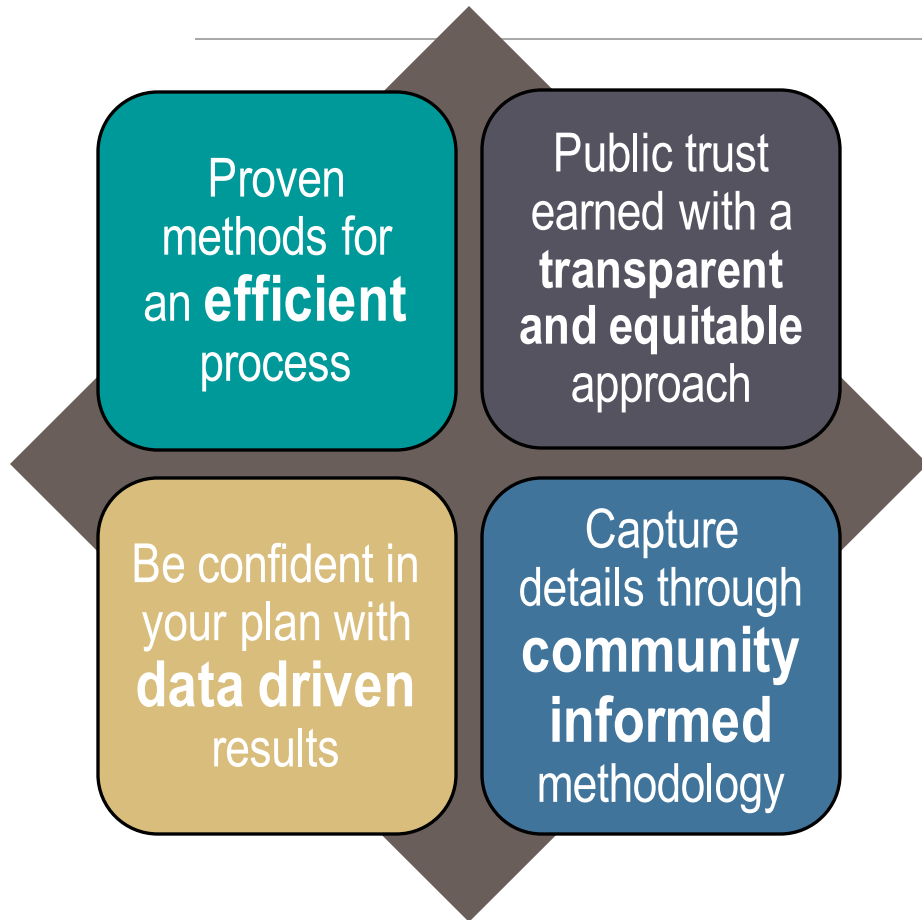
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# The Process



# Next Steps

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- Web Portal and Redistricting Survey – **Live today!**
- District Scenario Modeler Launch – **October 8, 2021**
  - Tool available for the public on the Redistricting Engagement Web Portal
- Community Engagement Session – **October 21, 2021**

# Thank You

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[www.flo-analytics.com](http://www.flo-analytics.com) | [@FLO\\_Analytics](https://twitter.com/FLO_Analytics)