

Redistricting: Ward Boundary Map Options

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MD

FEBRUARY 9, 2021

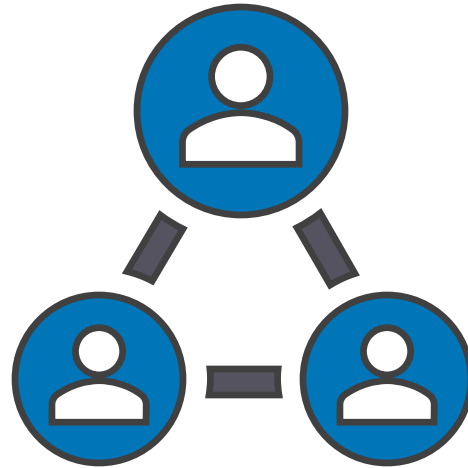


The Redistricting Process

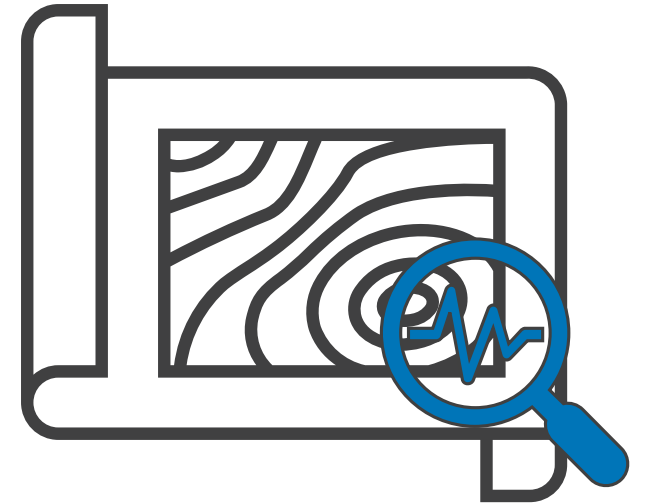
Criteria



Outreach & Engagement



Map Options



The Redistricting Process

September 29, 2021:

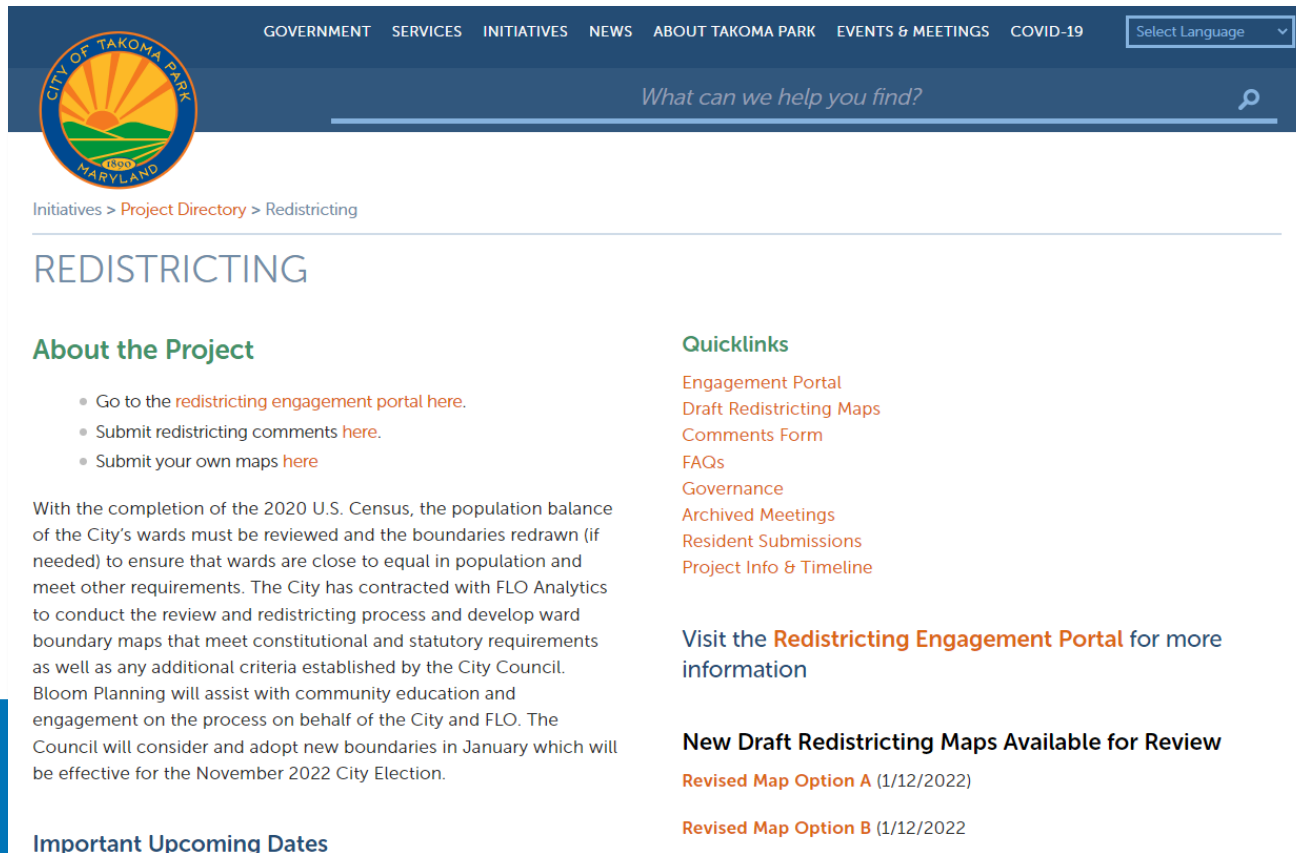
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK establishes the following criteria for its evaluation and selection of a redistricting plan to be adopted in 2022:

1. Each ward shall have substantially equal populations, but in no case shall the difference between the largest and smallest ward populations be more than **10 percent**.
2. If practicable considering other criteria, the Council has a goal of reducing the difference between the largest and smallest wards to **five percent or less**.
3. Wards shall be **compact**.
4. Wards shall be composed of adjoining territory that is **geographically contiguous**.
5. Wards shall **recognize natural boundaries** where practical.
6. No ward shall be gerrymandered to ensure the election or defeat of any incumbent candidate or potential candidate.
7. Using information gathered from residents during the community meetings and other engagement opportunities, ward boundaries may be drawn so as to keep a particular neighborhood or community within one ward as opposed to dividing the neighborhood or community among multiple wards, but only if possible in light of the applicable legal criteria.

Outreach & Engagement

REDISTRICTING ENGAGEMENT WEBSITE

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



The screenshot shows the City of Takoma Park website's Redistricting page. The header includes the city logo, navigation links (GOVERNMENT, SERVICES, INITIATIVES, NEWS, ABOUT TAKOMA PARK, EVENTS & MEETINGS, COVID-19), a language selector, and a search bar. The breadcrumb trail reads: Initiatives > Project Directory > Redistricting. The main heading is "REDISTRICTING". Under "About the Project", there are three bullet points: "Go to the redistricting engagement portal here.", "Submit redistricting comments here.", and "Submit your own maps here". A paragraph explains the 2020 U.S. Census population balance review and the role of FLO Analytics and Bloom Planning. The "Quicklinks" section lists: Engagement Portal, Draft Redistricting Maps, Comments Form, FAQs, Governance, Archived Meetings, Resident Submissions, and Project Info & Timeline. A call to action says "Visit the Redistricting Engagement Portal for more information". The "New Draft Redistricting Maps Available for Review" section lists "Revised Map Option A (1/12/2022)" and "Revised Map Option B (1/12/2022)". The "Important Upcoming Dates" section is at the bottom.

REDISTRICTING

About the Project

- Go to the [redistricting engagement portal here](#).
- Submit redistricting comments [here](#).
- Submit your own maps [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.

Quicklinks

- Engagement Portal
- Draft Redistricting Maps
- Comments Form
- FAQs
- Governance
- Archived Meetings
- Resident Submissions
- Project Info & Timeline

Visit the **Redistricting Engagement Portal** for more information

New Draft Redistricting Maps Available for Review

- Revised Map Option A** (1/12/2022)
- Revised Map Option B** (1/12/2022)

Important Upcoming Dates



The banner features a map of Takoma Park with ward boundaries. The text reads: "Redistricting 2021", "We need your help to draw the best ward boundaries for our city!", and "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." Below the banner is a green arrow pointing left and a "Translate" button with the text "Click the Translate button on the left side of the page to choose your language." The "How You Can Participate" section follows, stating that every resident has an opportunity to participate and share input. It lists "Attend public meetings" as the first way to participate.

Redistricting 2021

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.

Click the **Translate** button on the left side of the page to choose your language.

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.

Outreach & Engagement

OCTOBER 21, 2021 – COMMUNITY SESSION

1. Build Knowledge



What is redistricting?
Why does it matter and how does it work?

2. Inform the Process



What are the most important groups, spaces, and places to consider in the process?

3. Share Input



Submit a redistricting survey and/or a sample map after the session.

DECEMBER 2, 2021 – COMMUNITY SESSION

1. Build Knowledge



What is the Takoma Park redistricting process, criteria and timeline?

2. Review Options



What are the pros and cons of each of the sample map options?

3. Share Feedback



Which of the maps do you prefer and why? What other input do you have?

Outreach & Engagement

ONLINE SURVEYS AND MAP TOOL

- Number of proposed ward maps submitted since January 19 hearing: **5**
- Number of comments submitted since January 19 hearing: **32**
- Number of comments for entire process: **189+**
- 20 of the 22 map-specific comments submitted about the new options support **Option B**

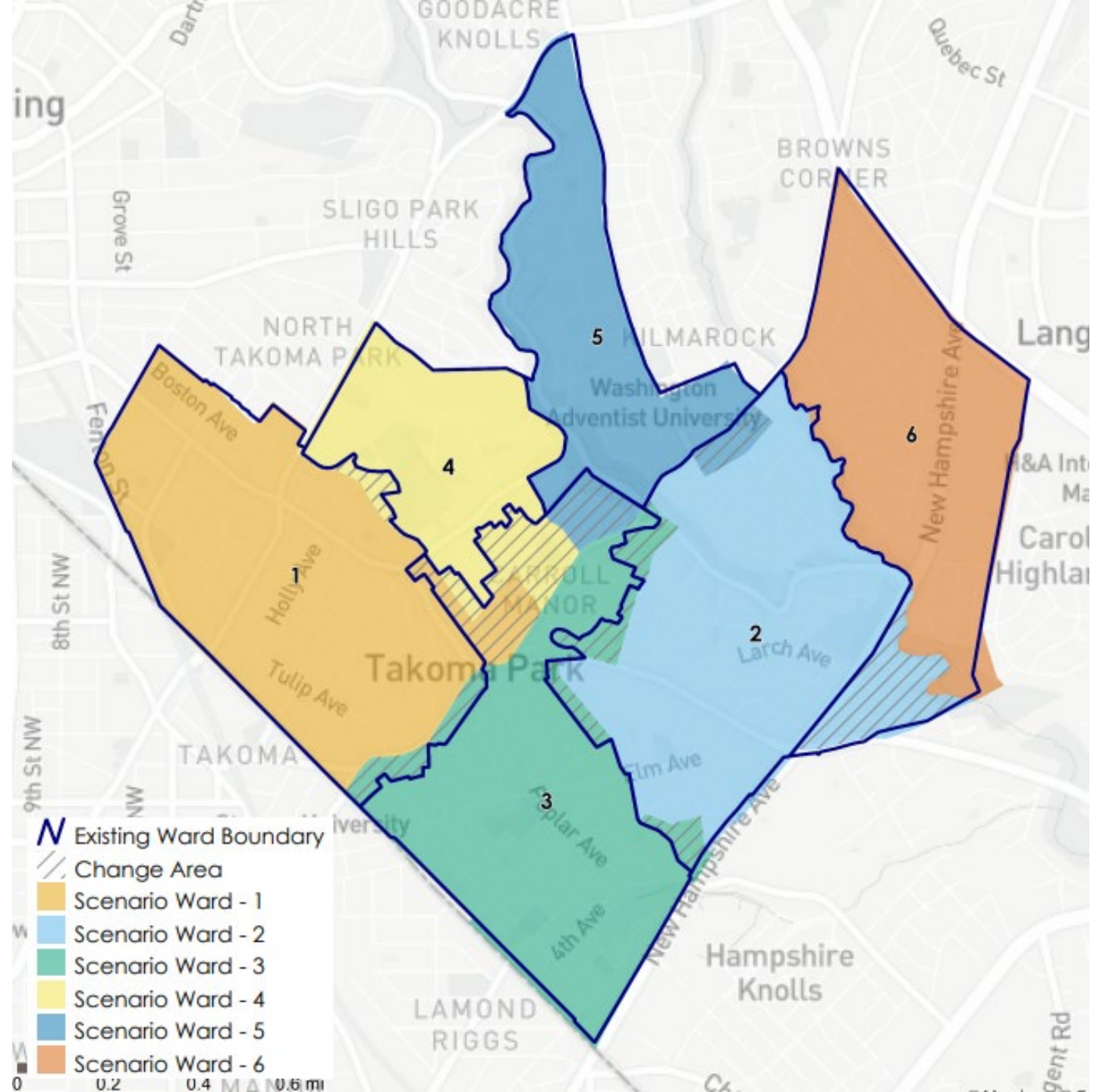
Revised Ward Map Options

1. **Revised Option A-1:** Balances population while keeping many residents within their current wards.
2. **Revised Option B:** Balances population while taking many submitted communities of interest into account.

Ward 1, Ward 4, and Ward 6 boundaries are the same in both options.

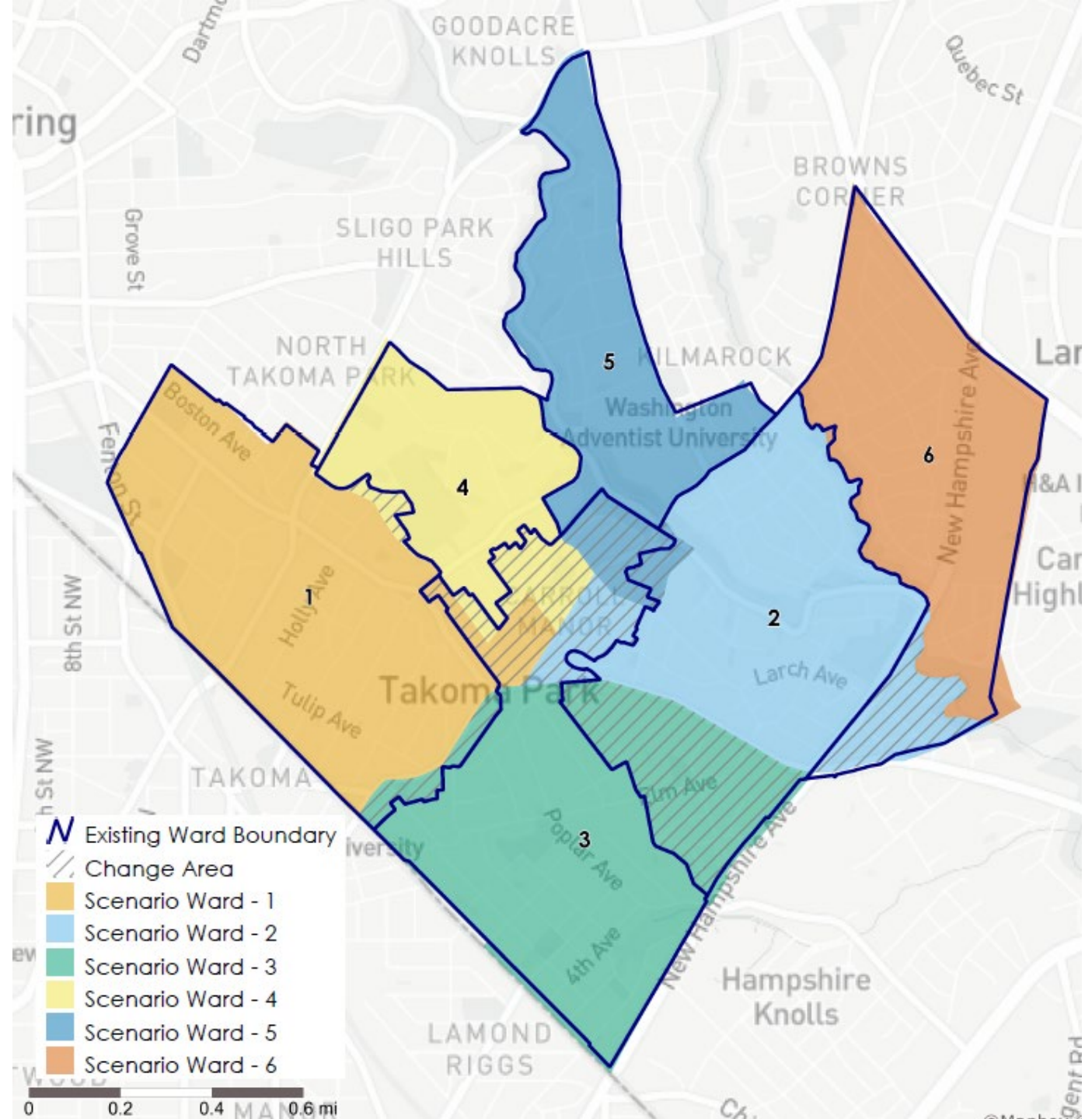
Revised Map A-1
Close to existing

6.2% Deviation



Revised Map B
Communities of interest

6.2% Deviation



Responses to Requests for Neighborhood Block Analyses

Darwin Avenue Neighborhood – Split*

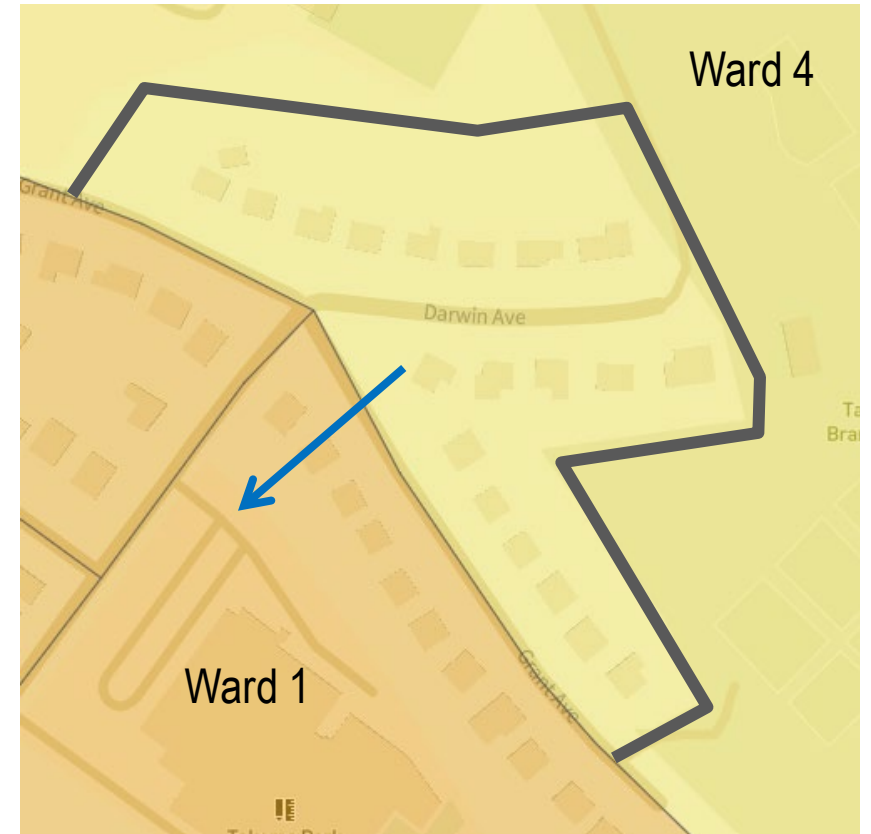
Move from: Ward 4 to Ward 1 in both map options

Number of Buildings: 19 Single Family

Affect Overall Deviation in Option A-1 or B? No (all are closer to zero than highest or lowest population wards)

Affect demographic makeup Ward 4? Minimal

Ward	Deviation in Options A-1 and B	Lower End of Range (15 people)	Takoma Park Average** (50 people)	Higher End of Range (100 people)
1	-0.6% (-17 residents)	0.0% (-2 residents)	1.1% (33 residents)	2.8% (83 residents)
4	2.4% (72 residents)	1.9% (57 residents)	0.7% (22 residents)	-1.0% (-28 residents)



*FLO Analytics does not recommend splitting Census blocks for the purposes of redistricting because of the inherent uncertainty of the population data within split areas. FLO can provide information on the effects on deviation and demographics for a range of possible populations within a split area.

**2.63 persons per household Census 2015-2019 average in Takoma Park

Conway Circle/Prince Georges Neighborhood – Split*

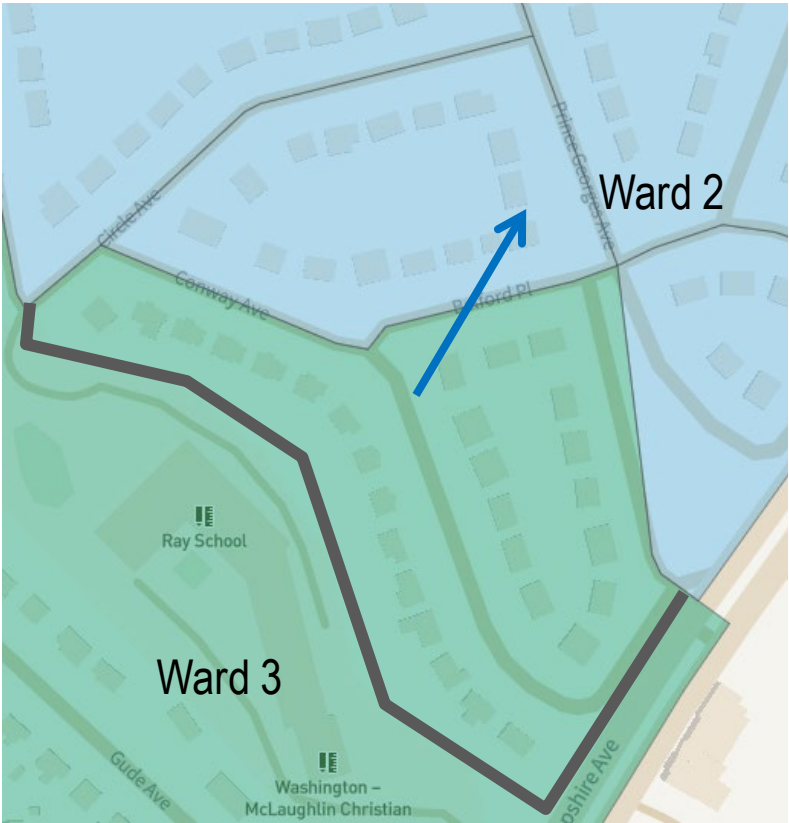
Move from: Ward 3 to Ward 2 in Option A-1

Number of Buildings: 29 Single Family

Affect Overall Deviation in Option A-1? Yes, overall 6.6% with the average and 8.2% at the highest end

Affect demographic makeup in Ward 2/3? Minimal

Ward	Deviation in Options A-1	Lower End of Range (23 people)	Takoma Park Average** (76 people)	Higher End of Range (145 people)
2	0.7% (20 residents)	1.5% (43 residents)	3.3% (96 residents)	4.9% (165 residents)
3	2.9% (84 residents)	2.1% (61 residents)	0.3% (8 residents)	-2.1% (-61 residents)



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**2.63 persons per household Census 2015-2019 average in Takoma Park

Woodland Ave. Neighborhood - Split

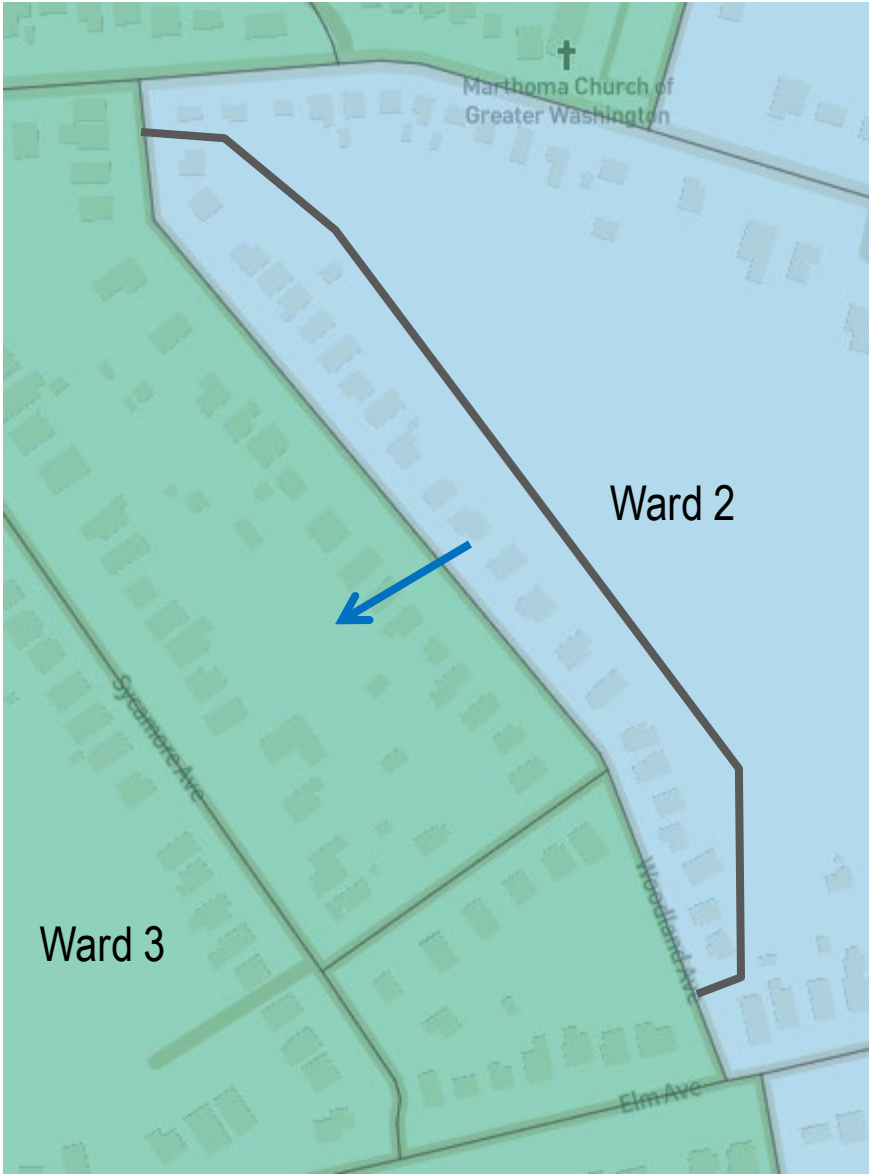
Move from: Ward 2 to Ward 3 in Option A-1

Number of Buildings: 23 Single Family

Affect Overall Deviation in Option A-1? Yes, overall 8.2% with the average and over 10% at the highest end

Affect demographic makeup in Ward 2/3? Minimal

Ward	Deviation in Options A-1	Lower End of Range (20 people)	Takoma Park Average** (60 people)	Higher End of Range (120 people)
2	0.7% (20 residents)	0% (0 residents)	-1.4% (-40 residents)	-3.4% (-100 residents)
3	2.9% (84 residents)	3.5% (104 residents)	4.9% (144 residents)	6.9% (204 residents)



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**2.63 persons per household Census 2015-2019 average in Takoma Park

Combined: Woodland Ave. Neighborhood AND Conway Circle/Prince Georges

Conway Circle/Prince Georges to Ward 2

Ward	Deviation in Options A-1	Lower End of Range (23 people)	Takoma Park Average* (76 people)	Higher End of Range (145 people)
2	0.7% (20 residents)	1.5% (43 residents)	3.3% (96 residents)	4.9% (165 residents)
3	2.9% (84 residents)	2.1% (61 residents)	0.3% (8 residents)	-2.1% (-61 residents)

Woodland Ave to Ward 3

Ward	Deviation in Options A-1	Lower End of Range (20 people)	Takoma Park Average* (60 people)	Higher End of Range (120 people)
2	0.7% (20 residents)	0% (0 residents)	1.4% (-40 residents)	3.4% (-100 residents)
3	2.9% (84 residents)	3.5% (104 residents)	4.9% (144 residents)	6.9% (204 residents)

Combined

Ward	Deviation in Options A-1	Lower End of Range	Takoma Park Average*	Higher End of Range
2	0.7% (20 residents)	0.8% (23 residents)	1.2% (36 residents)	1.5% (45 residents)
3	2.9% (84 residents)	2.8% (81 residents)	2.3% (68 residents)	2.0% (59 residents)

*FLO Analytics does not recommend splitting Census blocks for the purposes of redistricting because of the inherent uncertainty of the population data within split areas. FLO can provide information on the effects on deviation and demographics for a range of possible populations within a split area.

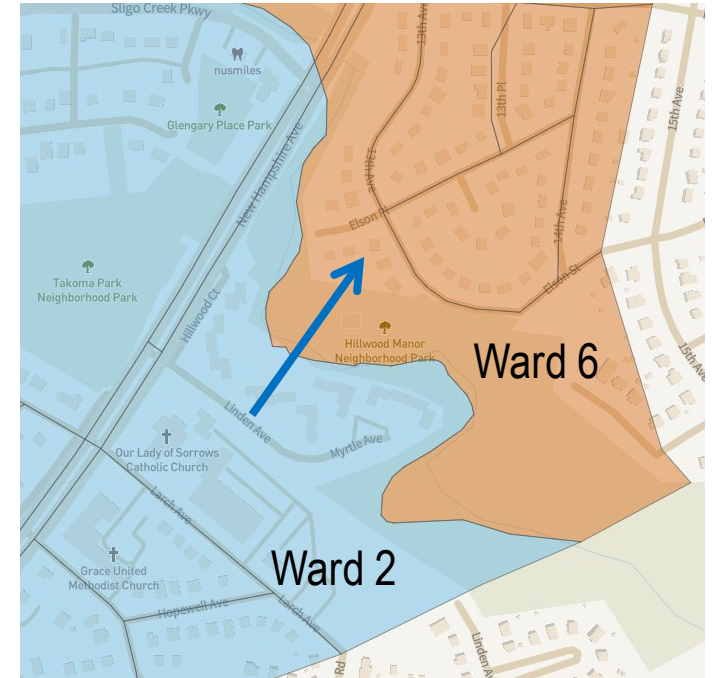
**2.63 persons per household Census 2015-2019 average in Takoma Park

Hillwood Manor

Move from: Ward 2 to Ward 6 in both options

Affect Overall Deviation? Yes, increase for both options (8.4% Option A-1, 10.3% for Option B). Changes Ward 6 from 3.3% under to 2.9% over. However, can be used in other configurations to help balance Ward 2.

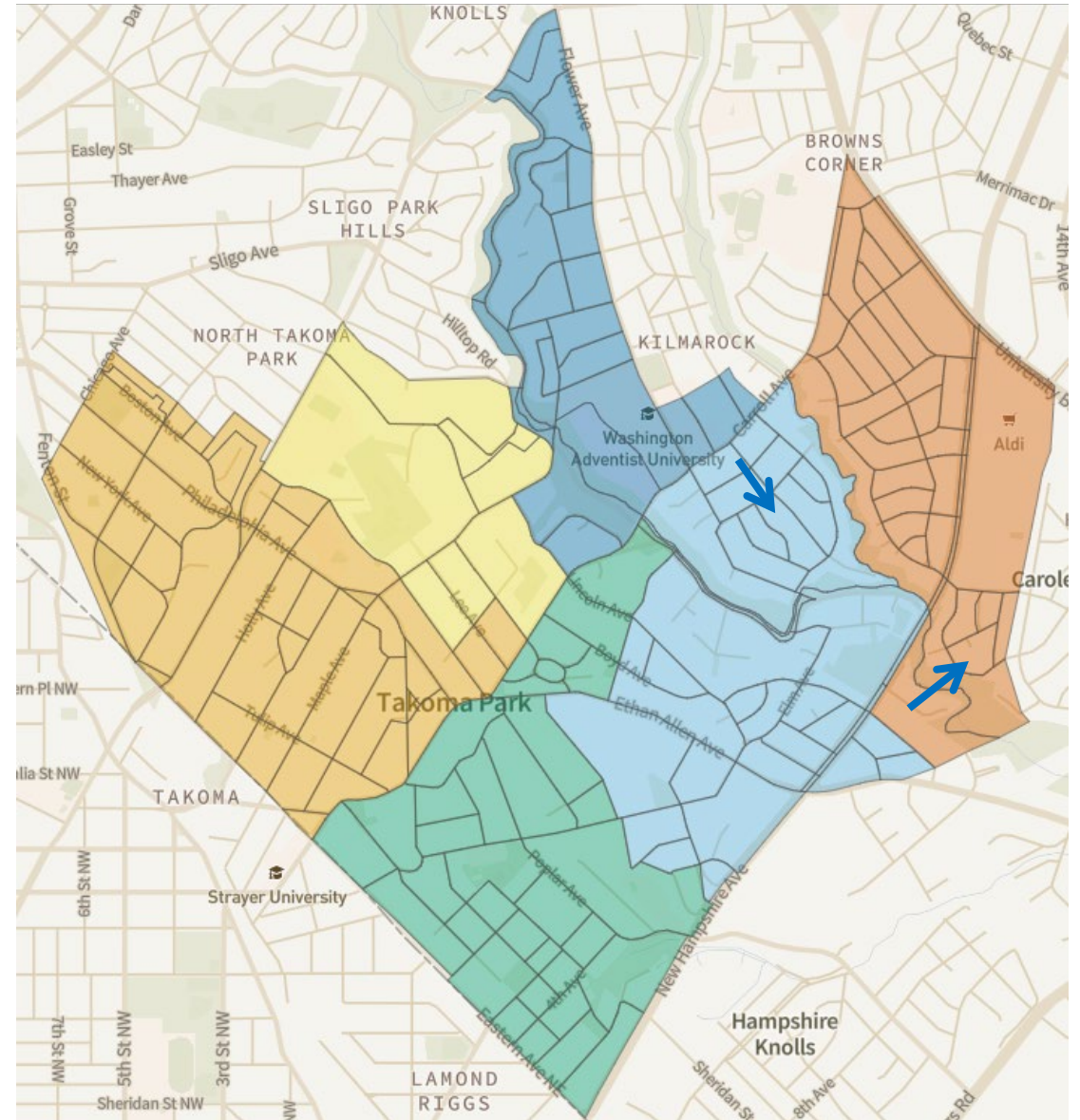
Affect demographic makeup in Ward 2/6? Minimal



Long Branch Sligo Neighborhood

Option A-1 - LBS Neighborhood: Moving the 2 blocks along Carroll Ave. in Option A-1 back to Ward 2 (121 residents).

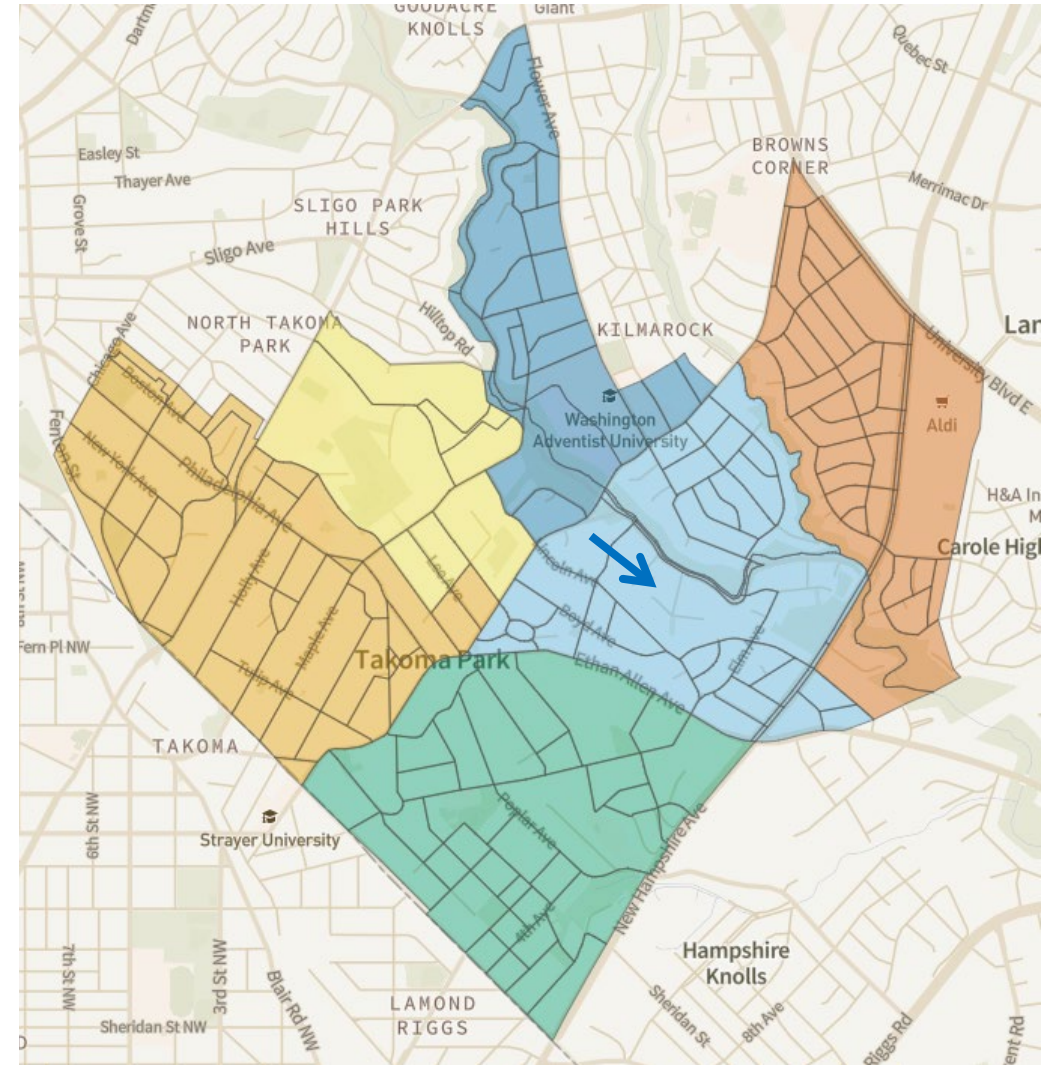
Result: 9.1% overall deviation (combined with Hillwood Manor block moving to Ward 6)



Lincoln Ave.

Option B currently divides Lincoln Ave (between Carroll and Jackson) on each side of the street between Ward 2 and Ward 5. This block strongly prefers for people living on both sides to remain in the same ward and to be in Ward 2 or 3.

Result: 9.1% overall deviation (combined with Hillwood Manor block moving to Ward 6).



Jefferson-Lincoln-Carroll

Map Option B:

- Neighborhood consisting of Jefferson-Lincoln-Carroll.
- Strongly prefer to be together and strongly associate more with Ward 2, 3, or 4 than with Ward 5.
- This neighborhood is interested in being moved into Ward 4 along with Sherman Ave, as they consider themselves an extension of that neighborhood.

If we remove that block from Ward 5, then Ward 5 alone would be 8.4% below the ideal population. Adding to Ward 4 results in a 10.1% deviation. We would have to add that block to Ward 2 *and* balance with other blocks from the Long Branch Sligo neighborhood to bring the deviation below 10%.

Map Link:

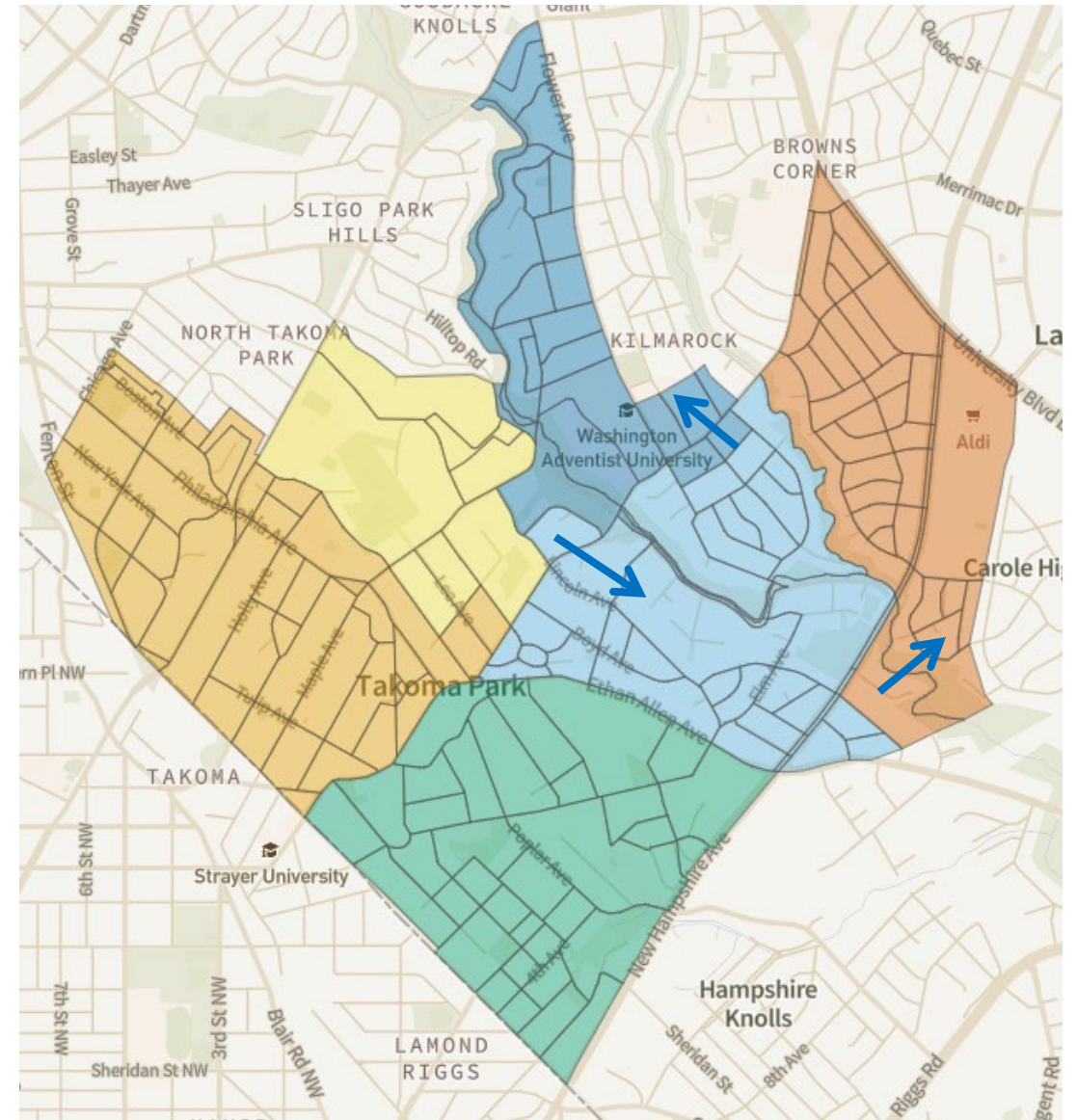
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/takoma.park.md.redistricting.2021/viz/shared/Y96KXBFJ5>

[Option B adjustments to move Jefferson-Lincoln-Carroll to Ward 4: **10.1%**

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/takoma.park.md.redistricting.2021/viz/shared/JH9ZPTD4W>

We could move this area into Ward 4 from **Option A-1** but Long Branch Sligo area is affected in this option as well, and the Sherman Ave block could not move into Ward 4 in this case: **8.8%**

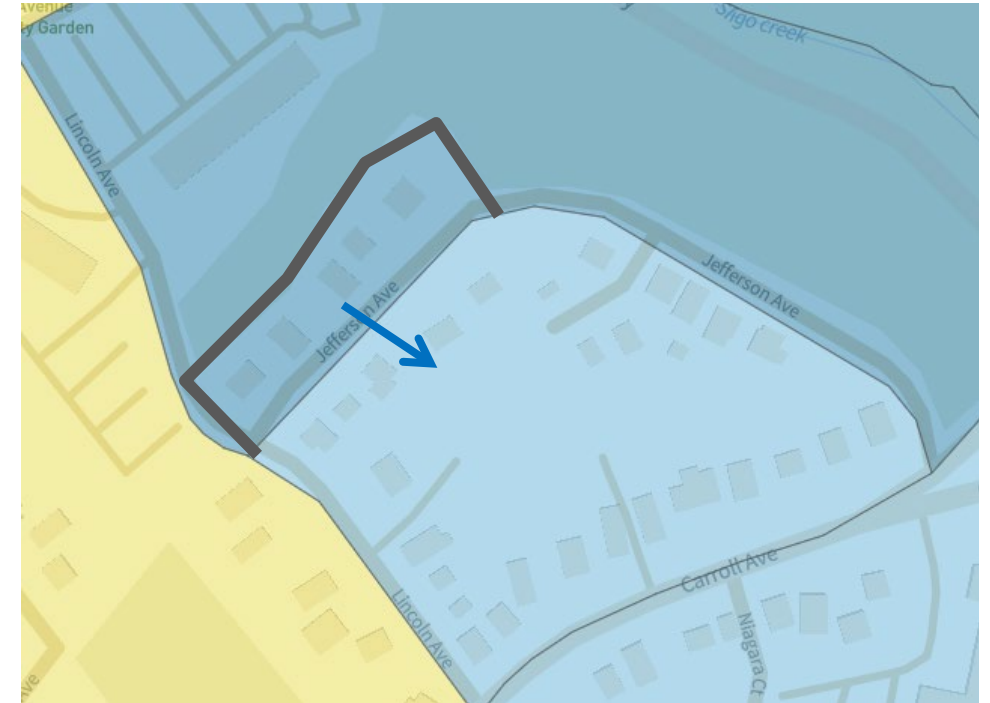
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/takoma.park.md.redistricting.2021/viz/shared/KMG67GP2Y>



Jefferson-Lincoln-Carroll, continued – Split*

Relatedly, this neighborhood wants to be kept together. There are 6 houses on the north side of Jefferson that are part of the Census block with Essex House. This may be an exception we need to look at if the above section is moved into Ward 4.

If these houses were moved out of Ward 5, they would likely want to join the houses across the street, which would have to be in Ward 2, minimal effects to deviation for five houses.



Jefferson-Lincoln-Carroll, continued – Split*

Another option could be to keep Jefferson-Lincoln-Carroll and the 6 houses with Essex House in Ward 5, but then the houses on the south side of Lincoln are not in the same ward. An option there might be to split that Census block and move those 5 houses into Ward 5.

There would be minimal (positive) effects to deviation for five houses moved into Ward 5.



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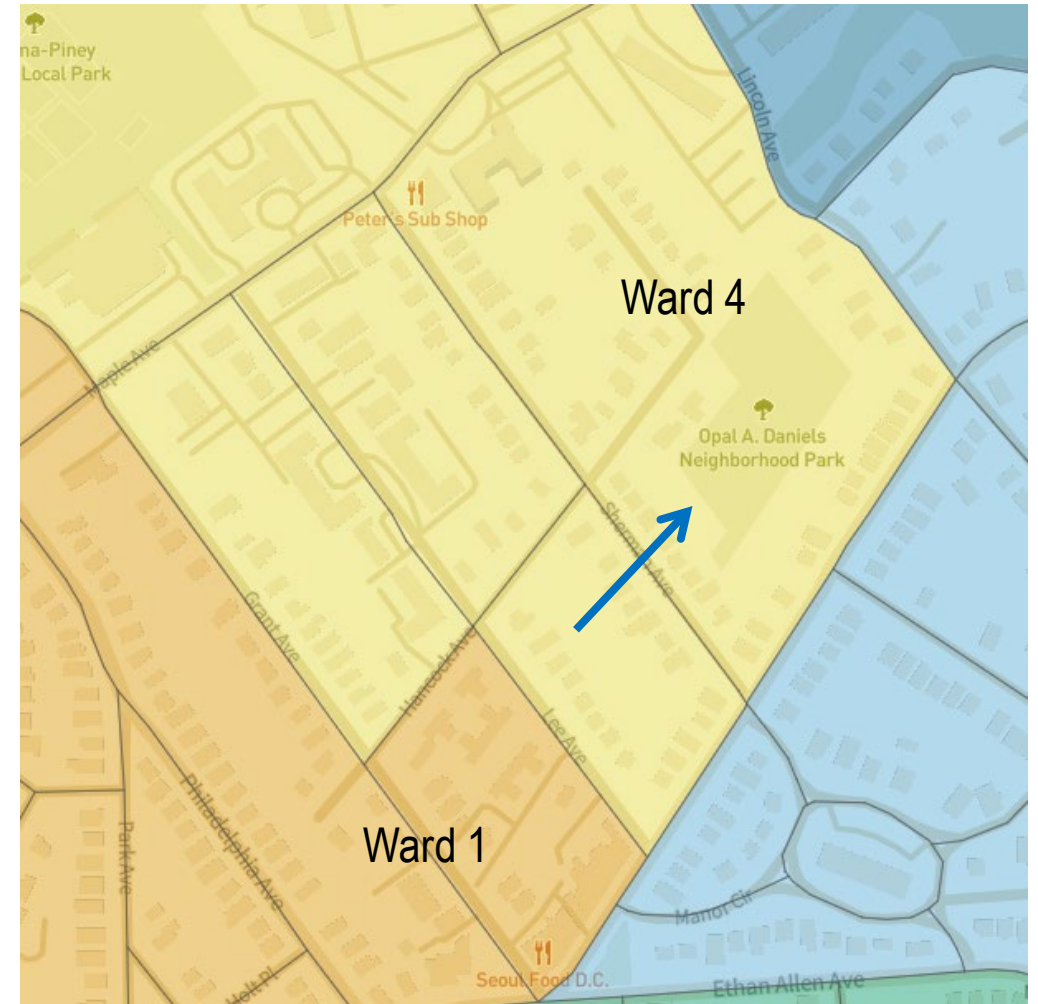
Sherman Ave. Neighborhood

Sherman Ave would prefer to maintain all residents on the street in the same ward. They would prefer to move that block into Ward 4. Sherman Ave feels less strongly about this change than Lincoln Ave does, so if one needs to move and not the other, Sherman should be moved together as a last option.

Sherman Ave. block was included in Ward 1 to try to bring the overall deviation closer to 5%. It can certainly be moved to Ward 4 with higher overall deviations.

For both options this increases the overall deviation to 7.9%.

[NOTE: This move cannot be combined with a Ward 5 deviation that is -6.2% i.e. Ward 5 would have to include block(s) from the south side of Carroll Ave.]



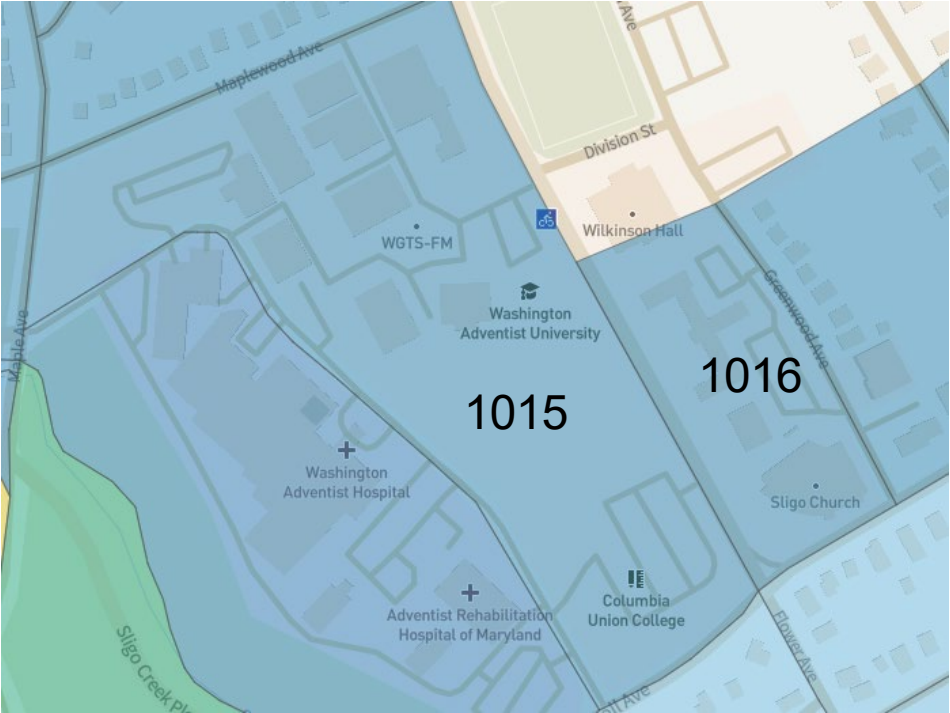
Ward 5 – Blocks with Students

Census Blocks 1015 and 1016 have an apparent undercount in the 2020 data. If there are currently 130 students in dorms on campus and 40 are accounted for, then there may be a gap of 90 residents in Ward 5.

Year	1015	1016
2020	40	0
2010	130	113

If the 90 residents were added to the overall population, the ideal population for each ward would increase by 15 from 2939 to 2954. Adding the 90 residents to Ward 5 and increasing the ideal population would have this effect on deviations in the map options:

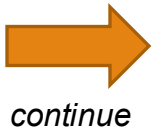
Ward	Option A-1 (Total 6.1%)	Option B (Total 6.1%)
1	-1.1%	-1.1%
2	0.2%	-1.7%
3	2.3%	2.3%
4	1.9%	1.9%
5	0.4%	2.3%
6	-3.8%	-3.8%



← +90 residents

Combinations of Blocks and Neighborhood Requests

		Census Block Moves							
Combination	Starting Map Option	Long Branch Sligo Blocks to Ward 2	Long Branch Sligo Blocks to Ward 5	Sherman Ave. to Ward 4	Lincoln/Jackson to Ward 2	Jefferson/Lincoln/Carroll to Ward 2	Jefferson/Lincoln/Carroll to Ward 4	Hillwood Manor to Ward 6	DSM Deviation with only Census Block Moves
#1	A-1		N/A		N/A	N/A			9.1%
#2	A-1		N/A		N/A	N/A			10.8%
#3	A-1		N/A		N/A	N/A			10.9%
#4	B	N/A	Needed for balance - not necessary with more residents in Ward 5						8.8%
#5	B	N/A							9.1%
#6	B	N/A							10.8%



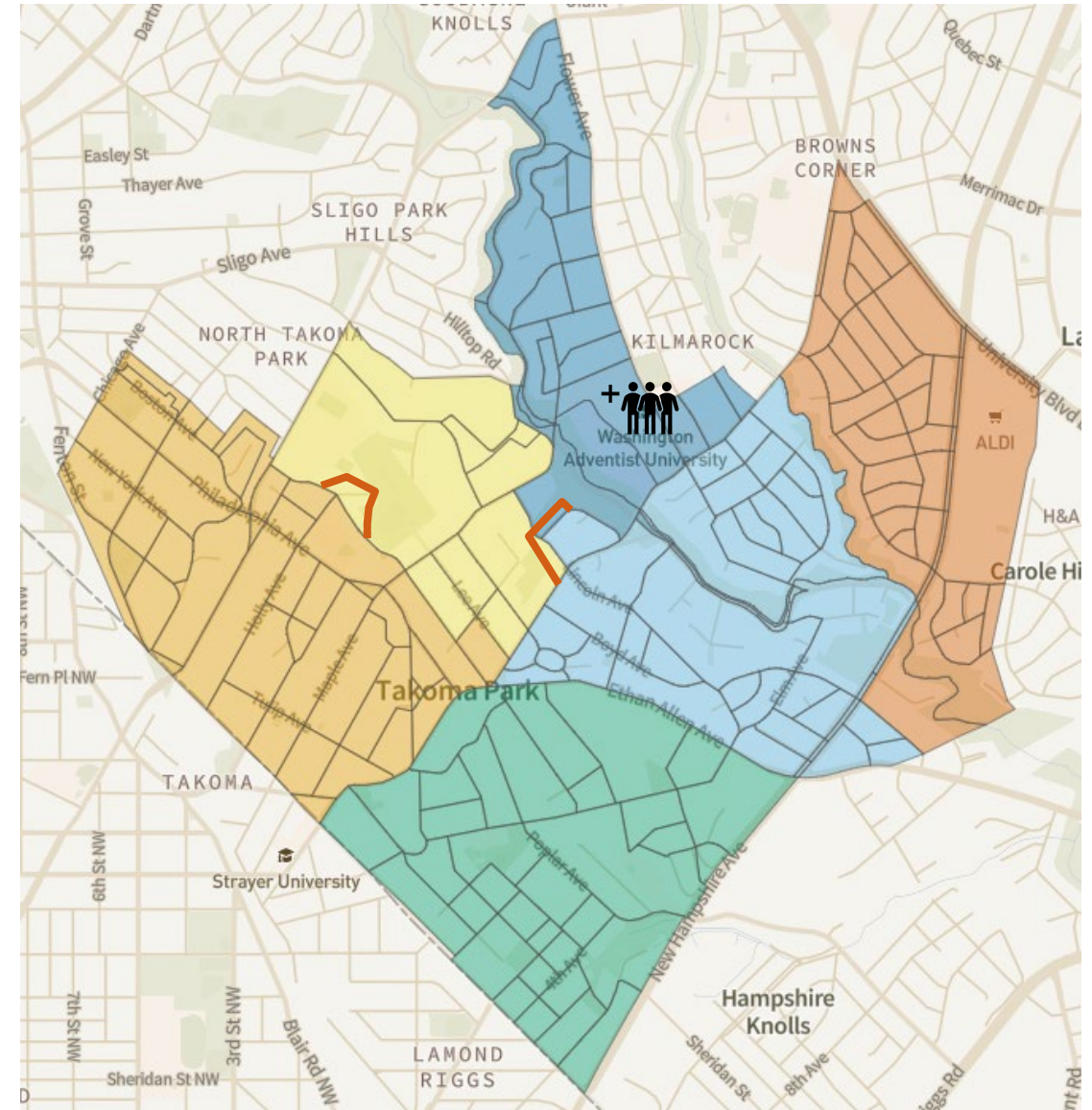
Combinations of Requests

	Neighborhood Splits							Ward 5
Combination	Darwin Ave. to Ward 1	Woodland Ave. to Ward 3	Conway Ave/Prince Georges to Ward 2	Jefferson Five Homes to Ward 2	Jefferson Five Homes to Ward 4	Lincoln Five Homes to Ward 2	Approximate Mid-Range Deviation with Block Moves and Splits	Would adding population to Ward 5 blocks lower the overall deviation?
#1				N/A		N/A	9.1%	Yes - would bring Ward 5 up from -6.2%
#2	<i>Necessary to balance Sherman Ave. move</i>			N/A		N/A	9.1%	Yes - would bring Ward 5 up from -6.2%
#3	<i>Necessary to balance Sherman Ave./ Jefferson area move</i>			N/A		N/A	9.3%	No
#4		N/A	N/A				7.2%	LBS could go back to Ward 2, overall deviation would likely decrease as well
#5		N/A	N/A				9.1%	Yes - would bring Ward 5 up from -6.2%
#6	<i>Necessary to balance Sherman Ave. move</i>	N/A	N/A				9.1%	Yes - would bring Ward 5 up from -6.2%

Combinations of Requests

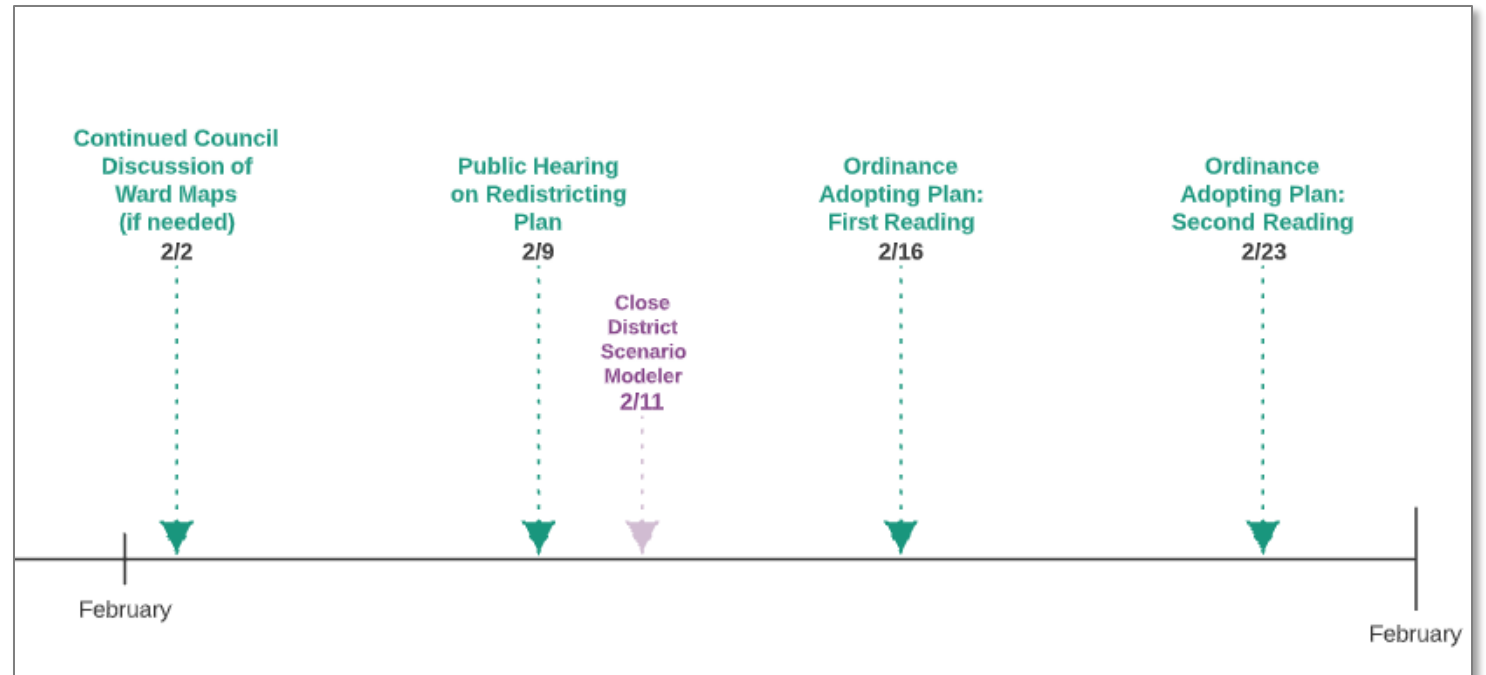
Combination #4

1. Uses Map Option B as a starting place.
2. Hillwood Manor moves to in Ward 6 (where it is currently).
3. Sherman Ave. block moves to Ward 4.
4. Lincoln/Jackson and Lincoln/Jefferson/Carrol blocks move to Ward 2.
5. Keeps associated Jefferson and Lincoln homes with the above blocks in Ward 2.
6. Darwin Ave. area to Ward 1 (where it is currently).
7. Woodland Ave. and Prince Georges/Conway areas stay together in Ward 3.
8. If residents are added to Ward 5 blocks in the university area, Long Branch Sligo area can also stay together.
9. Fewer areas that are split, more confidence in overall population and demographic information.



Next Steps

- First Reading for Ordinance Adopting Plan: February 16



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

Thank You



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