



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – March 9, 2022 Agenda Item 2

Voting Session

First Reading Ordinance Adopting a New Voting District Map

Recommended Council Action

Adopt the ordinance.

Context with Key Issues

The City contracted with FLO Analytics ([Ordinance 2021-33](#)) to conduct a redistricting process using data from the 2020 Decennial Census. Work on the project began in August 2021. A summary of the work to date follows:

- September 22, 2021 – City Council Meeting with FLO Analytics: Presentation and Discussion of Redistricting Criteria
- September 29, 2021 – Council Adopted [Resolution 2021-32](#) Confirming Redistricting Criteria
- October 21, 2021 – Public Community Engagement Session 1
- November 2021 – Five Draft Maps Published for Public Review
- December 2, 2021 – Public Community Engagement Session 2
- January 10 and 11, 2022 – Staff-led Community Listening Sessions
- January 19, 2022 – Council Review of Maps A and B, Map A Revised to Map A-1
 - *In both maps, the Ward 4 block containing Darwin Avenue and a portion of Grant Avenue was split to move those areas from Ward 4 and add them to Ward 1 (where they are currently). The change has minimal impact on deviation between smallest and largest wards.*
 - *Map A-1 moved the block bounded by Eastern, Walnut, Westmoreland, and Carroll/Laurel from Ward 1 to Ward 3 (where it is currently).*
- February 9, 2022 – Council discussion of Maps A-1 and B
 - *Option A-1, move the Conway, Belford, Prince George's portion of the census block to Ward 2 (where it is currently).*
 - *The above split, in combination with adding both sides of Woodland Avenue to Ward 3, somewhat balance.*
 - *Hillwood Manor, above Sligo Creek, moves from Ward 2 to Ward 6 (where it is currently).*
 - *With the move of a portion of Hillwood manor to Ward 6, the two blocks of the Long Branch Sligo neighborhood move back into Ward 2, where they are currently.*
 - *For Option B, Hillwood Manor, above Sligo Creek, moves from Ward 2 to Ward 6 (where it is currently).*
 - *Moving the above option to Ward 6, enables the two blocks of the Long Branch Sligo neighborhood to be moved back into Ward 2, where they are currently.*
 - *Options were discussed to move Jefferson, Lincoln, Carroll into Ward 4.*
 - *The Council directed that two maps prepared for residents to comment on at the public hearing on February 16 (Maps Y and Z).*
- February 16, 2022 – Public Hearing and Work Session
 - *At the work session, the Council selected Map Y to work with going forward.*
 - *The Jefferson, Lincoln, Carroll blocks were moved from Ward 5 into Ward 4.*

- *Sherman Avenue was moved entirely into Ward 4 (instead of being split between Ward 1 and Ward 4)*
- *Grant Avenue was moved entirely into Ward 1 (instead of being split between Ward 1 and Ward 4)*
- February 23, 2022 – Work Session
 - *At the work session on February 23, the City Council heard the staff recommendation to add 90 residential students to the Washington Adventist University census blocks to account for the students who were likely missing at the time of the census due to COVID-19 closures.*
 - *The consultant provided written analysis of the configuration of Map Y as devised on February 16, which showed an estimated deviation of 9.6% with the move of the Jefferson, Lincoln, Carroll block into Ward 4 and the addition of 90 residents into Ward 5.*
- March 2, 2022 – Work Session
 - *Map Option Y-1 was presented (in this option, the Jefferson, Lincoln, Carroll block is moved back into Ward 5.*
 - *Confirmation of final map selection as Map Y*

Census Population and Population Adjusted for Purposes of Redistricting.

The Total Population reported by the 2020 Census was 17,629. For purposes of redistricting, this population was adjusted as follows:

- The census count included a population of 10 that was from a census block outside the boundary of the City along Eastern Avenue. (-10)
- Addition of 14 residents by reassigning Maryland residents in correctional institutions to their last known address in Takoma Park (as required by the Maryland 2010 “No Representation Without Population Act.” (+14)
- Addition of 90 residents to Washington Adventist University census blocks to account for residential students not on campus at the time of the census. (+90)

The adjusted population for purposes of redistricting is 17,723 resulting in an ideal ward population of 2,954.

Council Priority

Engaged and responsive government.

Environmental Considerations

N/A

Fiscal Considerations

The contract with FLO Analytics authorized up to \$50,000 for the project.

Racial Equity Considerations

The redistricting will not greatly change the overall demographic makeup of the wards. Currently, and with the adoption of Map Y, Wards 1, 2, and 3 are majority white. Wards 4, 5, and 6 are majority non-white. The Ward 4 voting age population is majority African American. Because of the number of split census blocks, the demographic information will continue to be estimated and it will be more challenging to track changes in ward demographics over time.

Attachments and Links

- Staff Recommendation Regarding the Washington Adventist University Student Population and the 2020 Census (February 23, 2022)
- [Resolution 2021-32 Establishing Redistricting Criteria](#)
- [Redistricting Project Page](#)
- Draft Ordinance
- Map Y