

City of Takoma Park  
**Redistricting 2021**

# **Redistricting 2021**

## **Community Engagement Session #1**

**Presented by:**



The City of Takoma Park  
Joe Moorman – Bloom Planning  
Ben Maloney – FLO Analytics

Thursday, October 21, 2021



Please click on the “Interpretation” icon at the bottom of the Zoom screen and select the language you want to hear for tonight’s meeting:

- English
- Spanish
- Amharic

**NOTE:** all participants **must** select one of the three languages in order to fully engage in the session.

Haga clic en el icono “Interpretation” en la parte inferior de la pantalla Zoom y seleccione el idioma que desea escuchar para la reunión de esta noche:

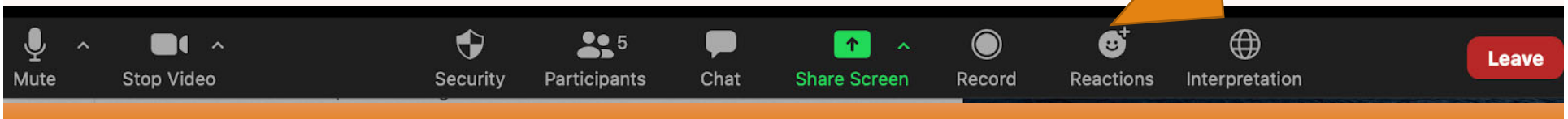
- English
- Spanish
- Amharic

**NOTA:** Todos los participantes **deben** seleccionar uno de los tres idiomas para participar en la sesión.

እባኩትን “Interpretation” የሚለውን ምልክት የንኩ ከታች ባለው የዙም ማያ ገጽ ላይ። ቀጥለው መስማት የሚፈልጉትን ቋንቋ ይምረጡ።

- እንግሊዝኛ
- ስፓንኛ
- አማርኛ

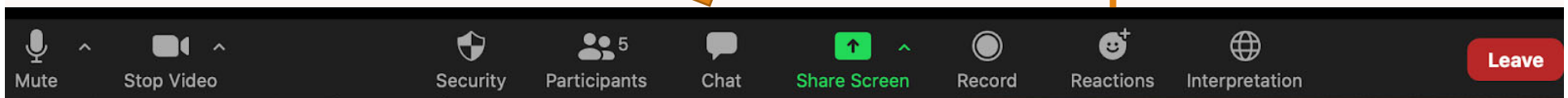
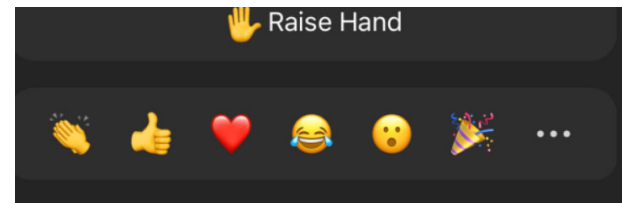
ማስታወሻ፡ በክፍለ ጊዜው ውስጥ ሙሉ በሙሉ ለመሳተፍ ሁሉም ተሳታፊዎች ከሶስቱ ቋንቋዎች አንዱን መምረጥ አለባቸው።



• **Please use the “raise hand” feature** to participate in the question and answer and group discussion portions of tonight’s meeting.

You can find this feature by clicking on the **“reactions” button** at the bottom of your Zoom screen.

- You are also encouraged to use the **chat function** to ask questions or participate in the discussion!



# Welcome to the 2021 Redistricting Community Engagement Session #1!



Redistricting 2021

## Before we get started:



**Add your name and the name of your council ward** to your Zoom profile (click on the three dots in the upper right-hand corner of your video box and select “rename”).



**In the chat**, type in a brief response to the following question: *What do you love most about your neighborhood in Takoma Park?*

# Introductions



**Joe Moorman**  
Bloom Planning  
Session Facilitator



**Ben Maloney**  
FLO Analytics  
Demographer/Data  
Analyst

## City of Takoma Park

Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk  
[jessic@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:jessic@takomaparkmd.gov)

Rosalind Grigsby, Community Development  
Manager | Planning and Development Services  
[rosalindg@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:rosalindg@takomaparkmd.gov)

Dan Powers, Public Administration Specialist  
[danp@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:danp@takomaparkmd.gov)

Donna Wright, Communications Manager  
[donnaw@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:donnaw@takomaparkmd.gov)



# Session Goals – Participants Will:

## 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.



# Norms for Session Engagement

- Respect one another, our time frames, and our shared airspace.
- Stay in a learning and solution mindset and remember that we are all in this together.
- Don't be afraid to say "Sorry, I missed that..." or "Could someone clarify what we're doing..."
- Allow for humanity (family, roommates, furry co-workers).
- Remember that this is a PROCESS: sometimes we will have more questions than answers and no decisions have yet been made.



# Agenda

Time	Topic
7:00 - 7:10	Opening and Introductions
7:10 - 7:45	Redistricting Overview
7:45 - 8:25	Your Input - Communities of Interest & Drawing Ward Maps
8:25 - 8:45	Q & A with City Officials and FLO Analytics
8:45 - 9:00	Closing and Important Next Steps





A map of Tacoma, Washington, showing the boundaries of six city wards. Ward 1 is in the northwest, Ward 2 is in the center, Ward 3 is in the south, Ward 4 is in the west, Ward 5 is in the north, and Ward 6 is in the east. Major roads like I-5, I-90, and I-190 are visible. The map is color-coded by ward: Ward 1 is pink, Ward 2 is blue, Ward 3 is green, Ward 4 is purple, Ward 5 is orange, and Ward 6 is yellow. The title 'Redistricting Overview' is overlaid on the map in a large, bold, blue font.

# Redistricting Overview

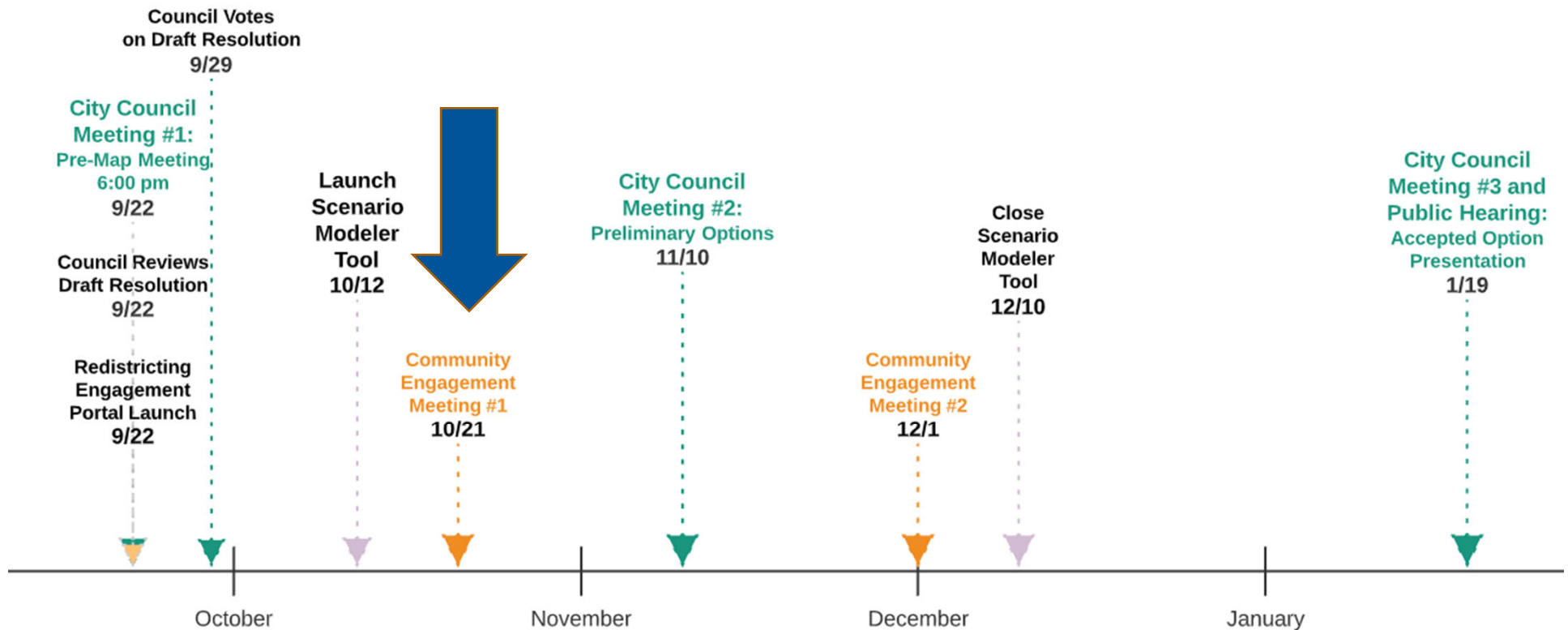
## What is it?

Every 10 years, after the U.S. Census, the City of Tacoma must re-draw the boundaries for City Council wards. These boundaries must be balanced in population in accordance with local and federal rules.

## Why Is It Important?

The location of ward boundaries determines which voters vote for which council member. Changing the lines can change the identity, allegiance, and political priorities of a ward's council member.

# Takoma Park's Redistricting Timeline



# Redistricting Guidelines

1. Districts **must** be “population balanced”
2. Districts **must** be contiguous
3. Redistricting **must** be done in compliance with all local, state, and federal laws including the federal Voting Rights Act (1965)
4. Districts should not favor or disfavor a protected class or political party
5. Districts should be as compact as possible
6. Districts should preserve the use of existing administrative and natural boundaries
7. Districts should preserve communities of interest (COIs) **if possible**



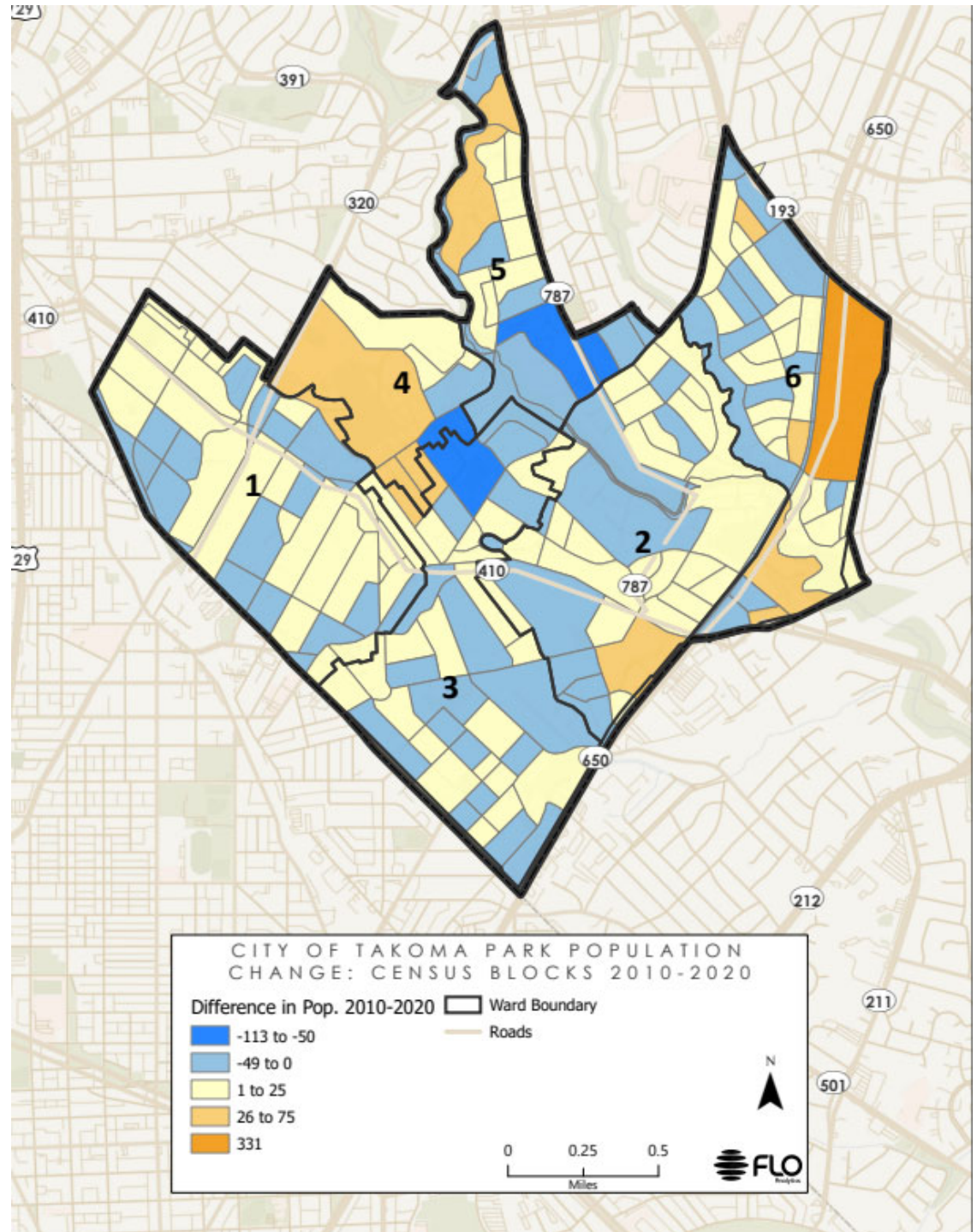
## **Additional Redistricting Criteria Approved by the Takoma Park City Council:**

- In no case shall the difference between the largest and smallest ward populations be **more than 10 percent**.
- 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**.
- **No ward shall be gerrymandered** (changed to favor one party or class) to ensure the election or defeat of any incumbent candidate or potential candidate.





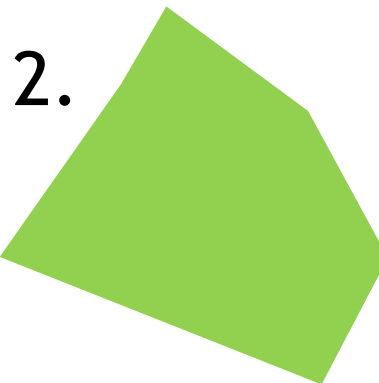
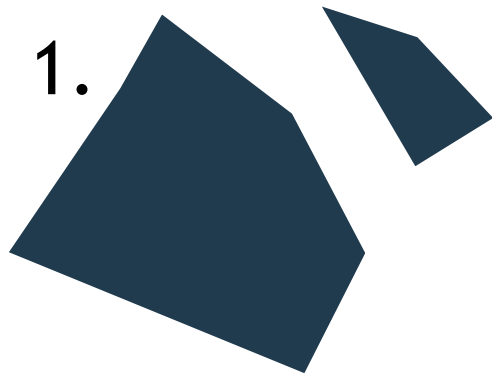
# 1. Districts Must be “Population Balanced”



## 2. Districts Must Be Contiguous (sharing a common border)

Which of these districts is **contiguous**?

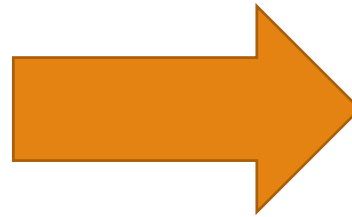
Chat in your answer.



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



**3. Redistricting must  
be done in  
compliance with all  
local, state, and  
federal laws  
including the federal  
Voting Rights Act  
(1965)**



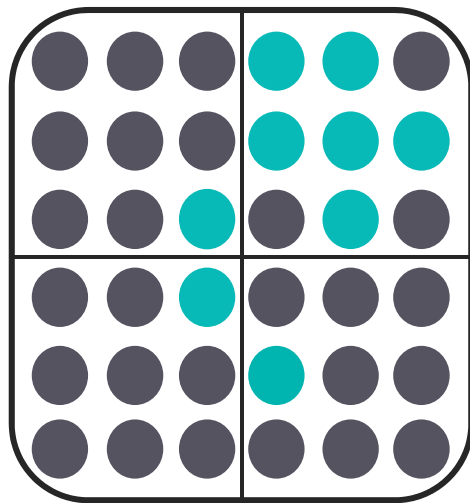
**4. Districts  
should not  
favor or  
disfavor a  
protected  
class or  
political party**



# Voting Rights Act and Demographics

Which scenario is fair to all voters – A. or B.? **Chat in your answer.**

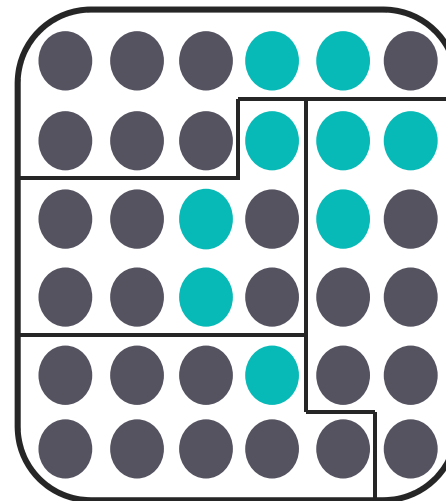
**A.**



**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

**B.**



**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



Majority group

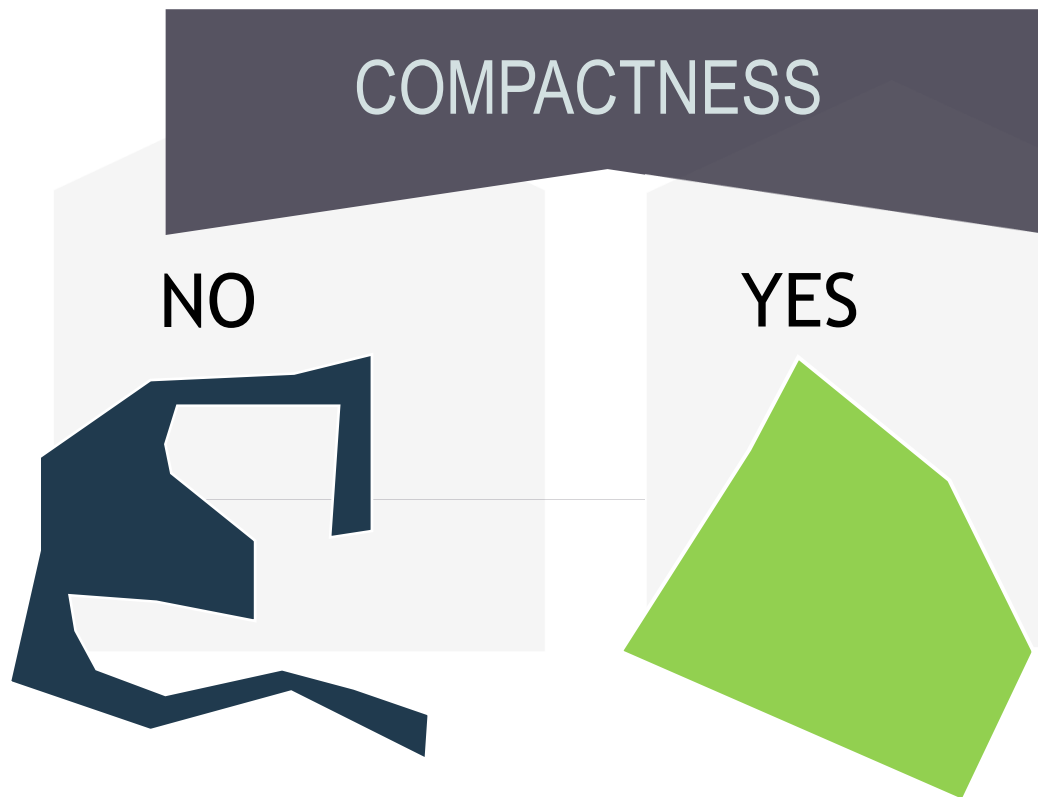


Minority group

**The bottom line:** don't set out to hurt voters based on their race or ethnicity.



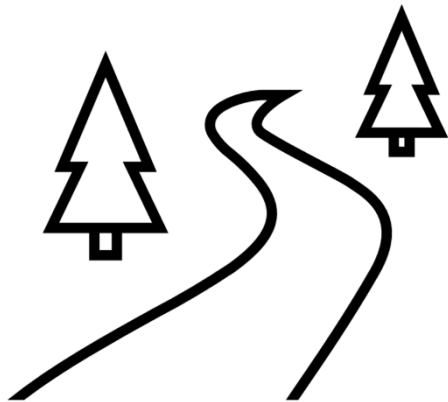
## 5. Districts Should Be as Compact as Possible



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



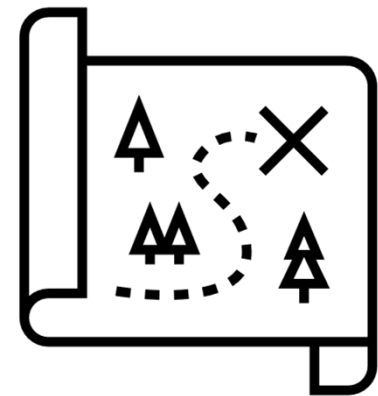
## 6. Districts Should Preserve the Use of Existing Administrative and Natural Boundaries



Major streets  
and roads



Rivers, lakes,  
mountains



Lines that are  
already used as  
boundaries



## **7. Districts Should Preserve Communities of Interest (COIs)**

“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.
- Has common needs and interests reflected in patterns of geography, social interaction, trade, and common interests.”\*

# Community of Interest Examples



Homeowners Associations



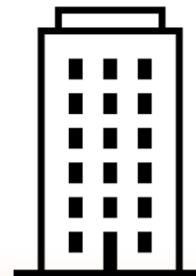
Defined Neighborhoods or Special Districts



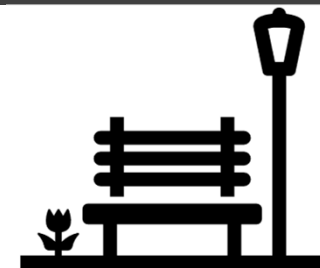
Schools or School Districts



Places of Worship



Local Businesses



Parks and Other Community Spaces



What questions  
do you have  
about the  
Takoma Park  
redistricting  
guidelines or  
the definition of  
“communities  
of interest?”



# Agenda

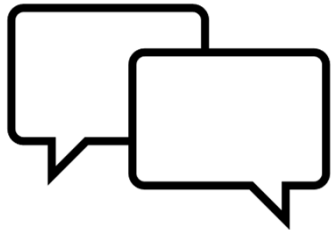
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## Discussion – Your Community



Take a moment to imagine the parts of your community in Takoma Park that make it what it is – the “communities of interest” that you feel should be included in the same council ward.



Now, take the opportunity to share those communities of interest with your neighbors and with City officials.





What can we help you find?



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

The screenshot shows the 'Redistricting 2021' page for the City of Takoma Park. The header includes the city logo and name. The main heading is 'Redistricting 2021' with a sub-header 'We need your help to draw the best ward boundaries for our city!'. Below this, a paragraph explains that every 10 years, after the U.S. Census, the city must redraw ward boundaries to be balanced in population and follow local and federal rules. A language selection button is visible. The 'How You Can Participate' section lists several ways to get involved: attending public meetings, filling out a survey, submitting comments, creating ward maps, and watching council meetings. A link to 'Draw Your Own Ward Boundary Maps' is also present.

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

Or

Google “Takoma Park Redistricting” and select the first option





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What  
additional  
questions do  
you have  
about the  
Takoma Park  
redistricting  
process?



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# Upcoming Meetings



## City Council Public Meeting

- Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.
- Held virtually via Zoom
- Reviewing preliminary map options; opportunity for public comment



## Community Engagement Session #2

- Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Held virtually via Zoom
- Review and share feedback on sample maps prior to final council decision



## How Was Your Experience?



Please take a moment to complete the exit survey for tonight's session. The link is in the chat.

We deeply value your feedback –  
**thank you so much for your time!**

