



CLALLAM COUNTY DISTRICTING COMMISSION MINUTES of January 25, 2021

MEETING OF THE DISTRICTING COMMISSION (DC)

Clerk Gores called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m., January 25, 2021. Also present were Commissioners Livingston, Teichert, Collins, Hetrick-Oosterveld and McEntire. All Commissioners appeared by either video or audio. Due to Governor's Proclamation (COVID-19) in person attendance was prohibited.

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, ROLL CALL

- Selection of Chair and Vice Chair for 2021 Districting Commission

ACTION TAKEN: Collins moved to elect Teichert as Chair, Livingston second, motion carried

ACTION TAKEN: Hetrick-Oosterveld moved to elect Hetrick-Oosterveld as Vice Chair, Livingston second, motion failed

ACTION TAKEN: Collins moved to elect Livingston as Vice Chair, McEntire second, motion carried

OATHS OF OFFICE

- Oaths of Office – Loni Gores, Clerk of the Board, Notary

Gores administered the oaths of office. Each Commissioner read the oath of office back to Gores. Gores noted she would file the signed oaths with the Clallam County Auditor.

REQUEST FOR MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION TAKEN: Hetrick-Oosterveld moved to adopt the agenda as presented, Collins second, motion carried

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **Presentation regarding Open Public Meetings Act and Public Records Act – Elizabeth Stanley, Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney's Office**

Stanley briefed the Commission on the Open Public Meetings Act and the Public Records Act. DC Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

- **Presentation regarding Home Rule Charter's provision for the Commission, State Laws regarding redistricting – Elizabeth Stanley, Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney's Office**

Stanley briefed the Commission on the Home Rule Charter and State Laws. She provided a presentation from the Secretary of State regarding Redistricting 2021(see attached). DC Commissioners discussed and asked questions.

- **Presentation from the 2011 Districting Commission Chair John Marrs and Districting Masters Gene Unger and Don Corson**

Marrs, Unger and Corson briefed the Commission on the 2011 DC process. DC Commissioners discussed and asked questions. Clerk noted that there is a 2011 Districting Commission folder that is available for review. Commissioners will set-up individual times with Gores to come review file.

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BUSINESS ITEMS

• **Discussion on staff support – Clerk duties**

McEntire commented that it would be beneficial to appoint Gores as the Districting Commission Clerk. He noted she can help with posting notices, meeting agendas and additional duties.

ACTION TAKEN: Collins moved to appoint Gores as the Clerk of the Districting Commission, Livingston second, motion carried

• **Districting Commission Budget**

Gores noted that Mark Lane, Chief Financial Officer stated they have \$10,000 budgeted for the DC. McEntire commented the budget is for Commissioner expenses and the Districting Master contract.

• **Discussion on Bylaws**

Gores commented that it's the DC decision if they would like bylaws. Gores stated if the Commission wants bylaws she can direct the Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO) to draft a set. Once those are received back Gores would forward to the Commissioners for review and discuss at the next meeting. Gores commented that she has spoken to Stanley regarding this process. Gores noted that she did not see any bylaws in the records from 2011. DC Commissioners held discussion on having the PAO draft bylaws. Teichert requested that Gores ask the PAO to draft bylaws and place back on the agenda for the next meeting for discussion.

• **Districting Master job description and request for proposals**

Gores commented that she placed a copy of the 2011 press release, 2011 request for proposals and a current Districting Master job description in the agenda packet. Gores noted that the County is on a new application system and the Human Resources Department will assist in posting the job notice to the paper. In addition to the job notice the DC can also issue a press release that directs interested candidates to the website to complete the application. Collins requested the Commissioners review and give Gores any additions to the job description in one week. Teichert questioned the timeline for selecting a Districting Master. Gores noted when looking through old records and the County Code the Districting Master should be selected in March. DC Commissioners discussed the requirements to appoint a Districting Master. The Commission set a deadline of February 1, 2021 at 12 p.m. to get any feedback to Gores on the Districting Master job description. Once the information is received back Gores will work with Human Resources to update the description job description

• **State Redistricting Commission's timeline for Census data**

Collins commented that Stanley noted the Census Department (Federal Government) requested an extension from April 1 to July 31, but no action has been taken at this time. He stated supposedly they'll have it ready on April 1. He feels things may change due to COVID. Teichert questioned State deadlines. McEntire commented that he thinks State deadline is no later than May 15. Hetrick-Oosterveld noted that Stanley commented May 16 and January 16, 2022 is the deadline to have final adoption.

• **Discussion on meeting schedule**

Teichert commented that if we meet the same time next month we might not have information back on the Districting Master. McEntire commented we should look into having a special meeting in 2 weeks. He noted the special meeting would be to consider and potentially approve a request for procurement for the Districting Master. He recommended the Commissioners could have 1 week to review the request for Districting Master and give feedback to Gores. He noted that a minimum of 2 weeks to run the announcement allows candidates time to prepare a bid. He added that the DC needs to decide on a set of criteria to evaluate the bids. Hetrick-Oosterveld commented on developing a simple matrix for evaluating. She questioned if the request for proposals would include costs from the candidates.

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Collins requested that Commissioners email Gores to provide scheduling conflicts. Gores explained to the Commission that we need to make sure we have availability in the board room for meetings. She noted that the best dates for meetings are Mondays. DC Commission agreed the next meeting would be on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 1 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting concluded at 2:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Loni Gores, CMC

Clerk to the Districting Commission

Approved: February 9, 2021

DISTRICTING COMMISSION
PRESENTATION PROVIDED BY
ATTORNEY STANLEY



Redistricting 2021

What You Need to Know

Why Redistrict?

- Congressional reapportionment
- One person, one vote
- Population grows at different rates in different places

Who Needs to Redistrict?

- Congressional districts
- Legislative districts
- County commissions and councils
- Cities with internal wards/council districts

Who Needs to Redistrict?

- Other types of districts:
 - School directors
 - Port district commissioners
 - Public utility district commissioners
 - Hospital district commissioners
 - Fire district and RFA commissioners
 - Water-sewer districts *can* have commissioner districts (RCW 57.12.039), but none currently do

Who Draws the Lines?

- Congressional and legislative districts: **Washington State Redistricting Commission**
- Counties: **commissioners** or **council**
 - Some larger counties (charter, Spokane) have their own redistricting commissions
- Other districts: **governing board**

Redistricting Timeline

- January 1, 2020
 - Cutoff date for Census geographic boundary updates
- April 1, 2020
 - Official Census Day

Redistricting Timeline

- January 1, 2021
 - Secretary of Commerce reports apportionment counts to President
- January 10, 2021
 - Deadline for President to transmit apportionment counts to House of Representatives

Redistricting Timeline

- January 15, 2021
 - Deadline for legislative leadership to appoint four voting members to Redistricting Commission
- January 31, 2021
 - Deadline for partisan-appointed members of Redistricting Commission to appoint a non-voting Chair

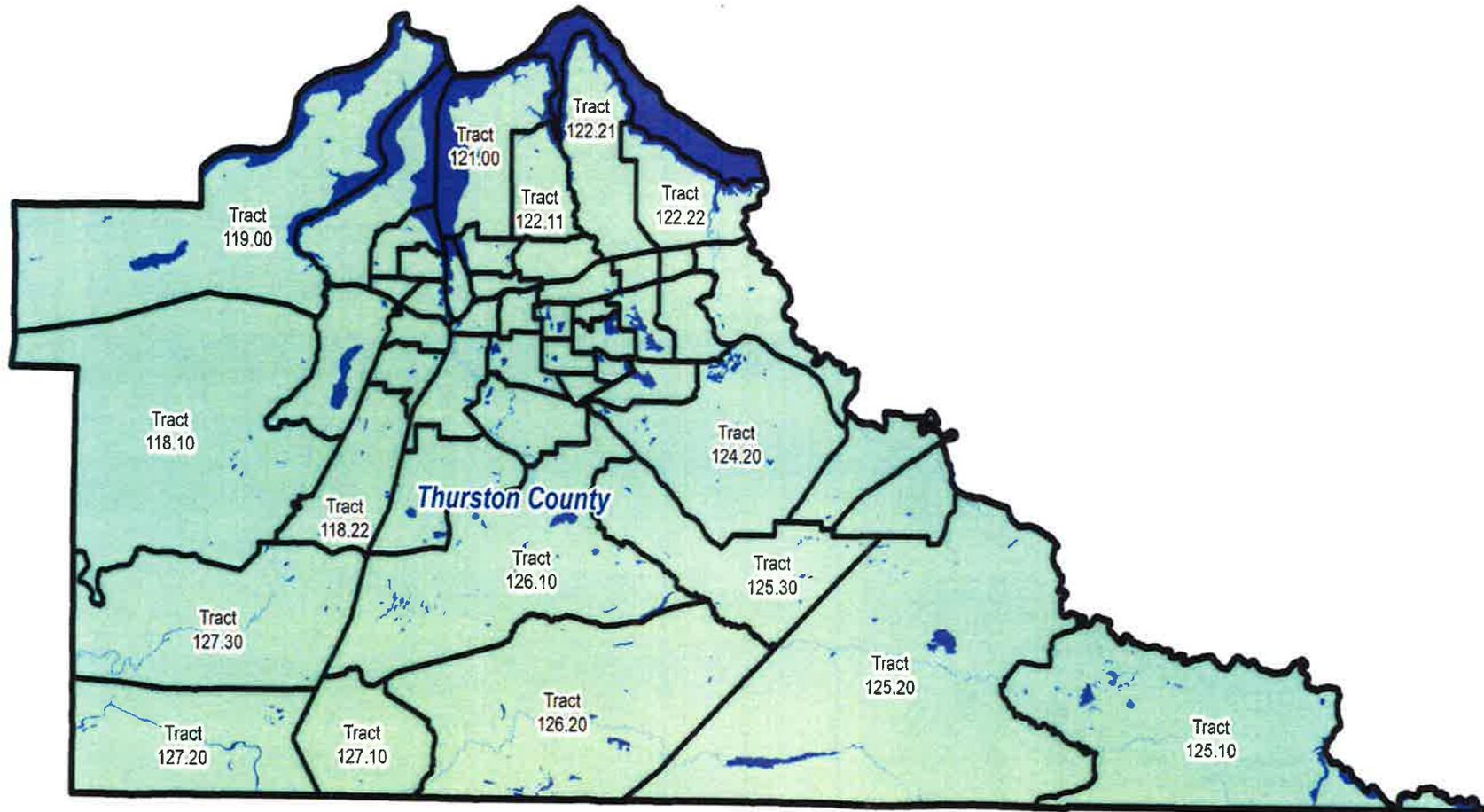
Redistricting Timeline

- April 1, 2021
 - Deadline for Census Bureau to distribute PL 94-171 redistricting population counts to states (13 USC § 141(c))
- May 16, 2021 (45 days later)
 - Latest possible deadline for Redistricting Commission to forward population counts to local jurisdictions for local redistricting (RCW 29A.76.010 (2))

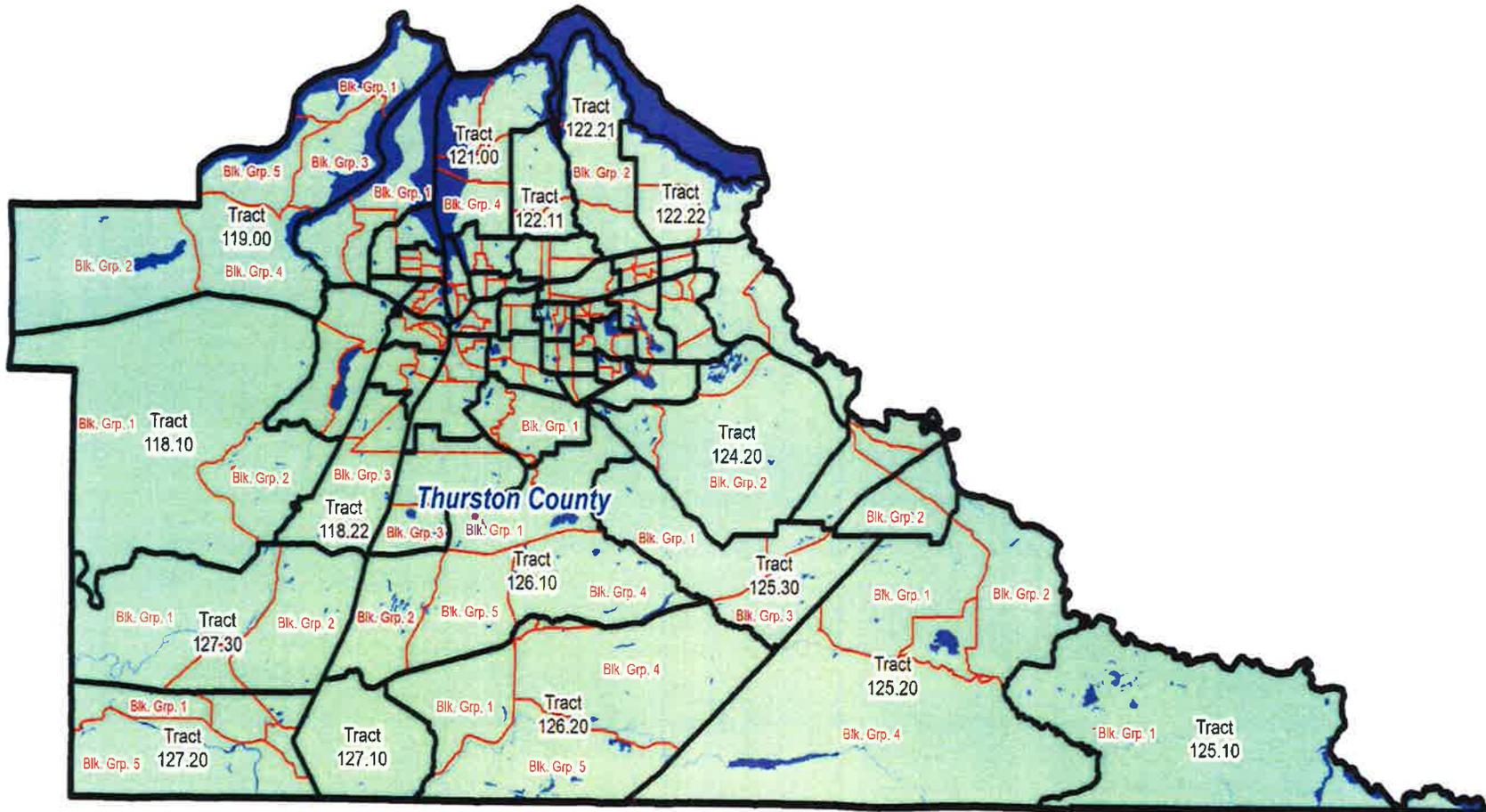
Redistricting Data

- Population counts down to Census block level
- Broken out by race and ethnicity (Hispanic or Latino/a)
- Same counts for population 18 and older

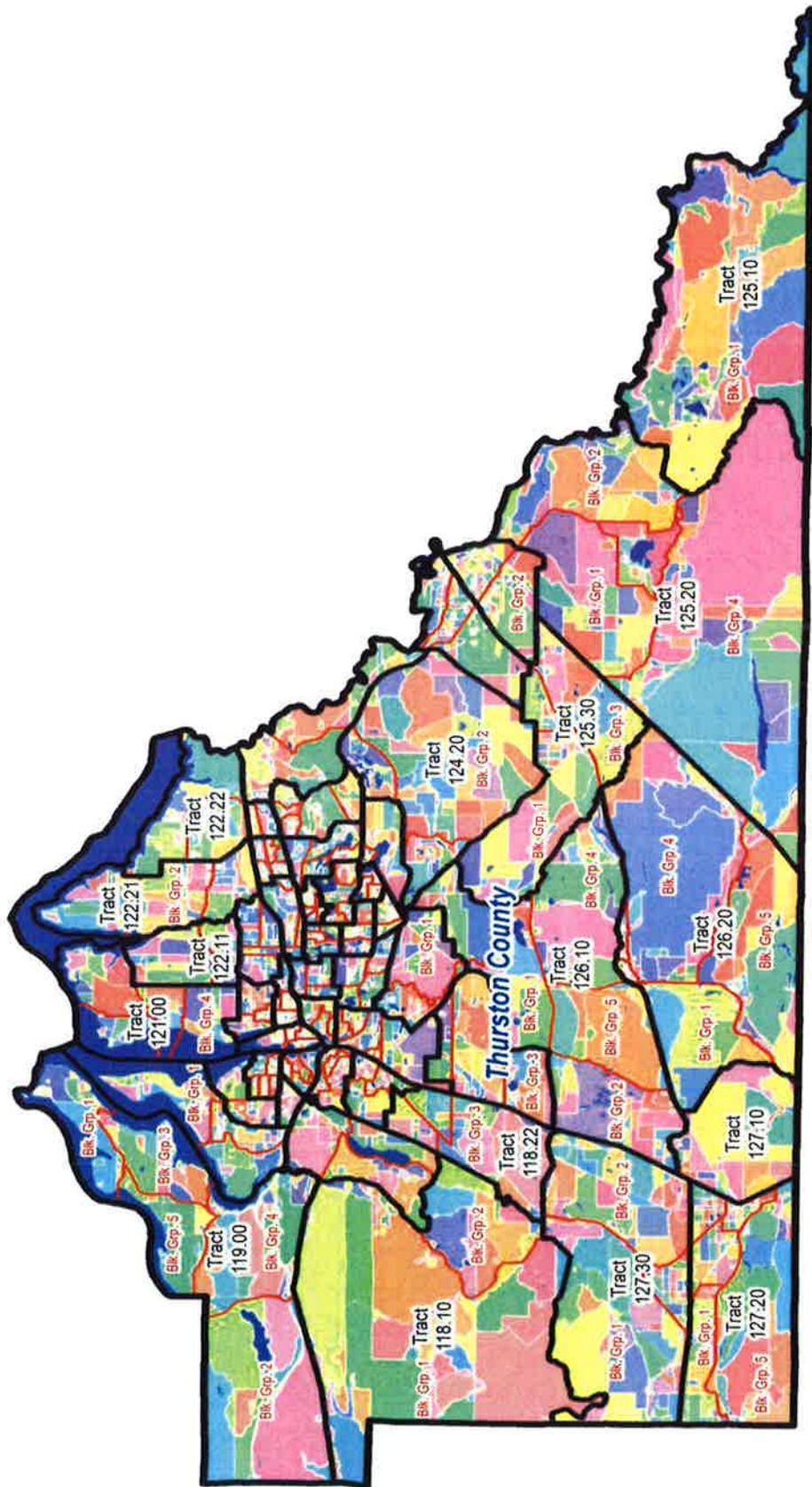
Census Geography: Tracts



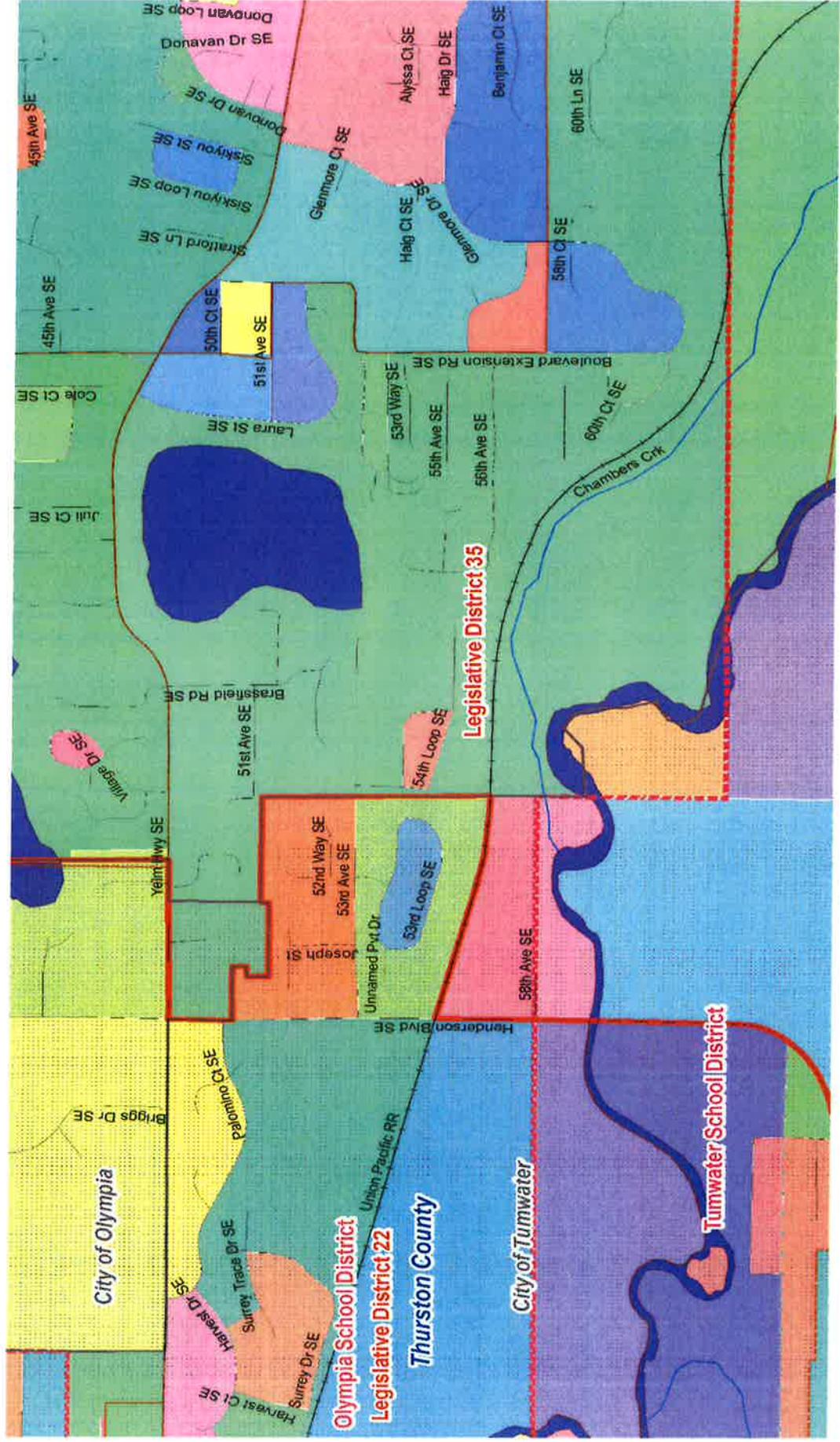
Census Geography: Block Groups



Census Geography: Blocks



Census Geography: Blocks



New Requirement

- 2SSB 5287 (2019), now RCW 44.05.140, requires Redistricting Commission to:
 - Collect address data for all incarcerated inmates, persons committed for involuntary behavioral health treatment, and persons in juvenile justice facilities
 - Deem those individuals to reside at their last known place of residence
 - Adjust race and ethnicity data to reflect those reassignments

Redistricting Timeline

- November 15, 2021
 - Deadline for Redistricting Commission to adopt new congressional and legislative district lines (Washington State Constitution, Art. II Sec. 43 (6); RCW 44.05.100 (1))

Redistricting Timeline

- January 10, 2022
 - Regular legislative session begins (RCW 44.04.010)
- January 16, 2022 (8 months after receipt of redistricting data)
 - Latest possible deadline for local jurisdictions to adopt redistricting plans (RCW 29A.76.010 (3))

Redistricting Timeline

- February 8, 2022
 - Latest possible deadline for legislature to amend the Redistricting Commission's adopted congressional and legislative district boundaries (State Const. Art. II Sec. 43 (7))

Redistricting Timeline

- May 2, 2022
 - Deadline for county legislative authorities to adopt precinct boundary changes, including changes to accommodate new district lines, for the 2022 election cycle (RCW 29A.16.040)
 - First day for filing officer to accept mailed declarations of candidacy for the 2022 election cycle (RCW 29A.24.081)

Redistricting Timeline

- May 16-20, 2022
 - Regular candidate filing period (RCW 29A.24.050)
- June 18, 2022
 - Deadline for counties to send Primary ballots to service and overseas voters (RCW 29A.40.070 (2); WAC 434-235-030)

Redistricting Timeline

- August 2, 2022
 - First Primary using new district lines (RCW 29A.04.311)
- November 8, 2022
 - First General Election using new district lines (Washington State Constitution, Art. II, Sec. 5; Art. VI, Sec. 8; RCW 29A.04.321)

COVID-Related Delays?

- On April 13, 2020, the Census Bureau requested a delayed deadline of July 31, 2021 (120 days), to release redistricting data.
- This would have pushed back all redistricting deadlines except the Redistricting Commission's constitutional November 15, 2021, deadline to complete legislative and congressional redistricting.

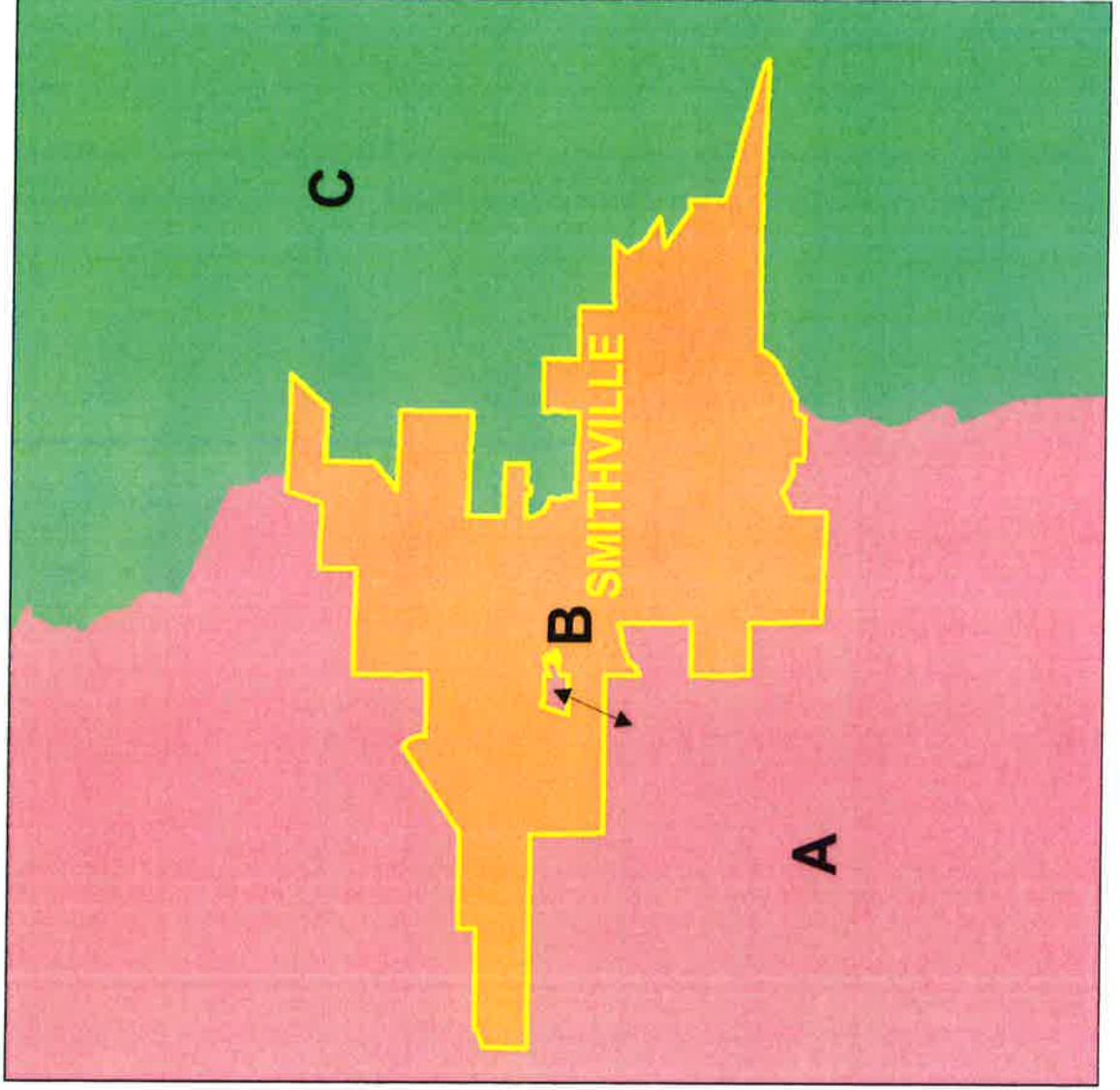
COVID-Related Delays?

- Congress has not acted on the requested delays.
- The Census Bureau is now working to re-establish the original scheduled release date of April 1, 2021 (Wendy Underhill, National Conference of State Legislatures).

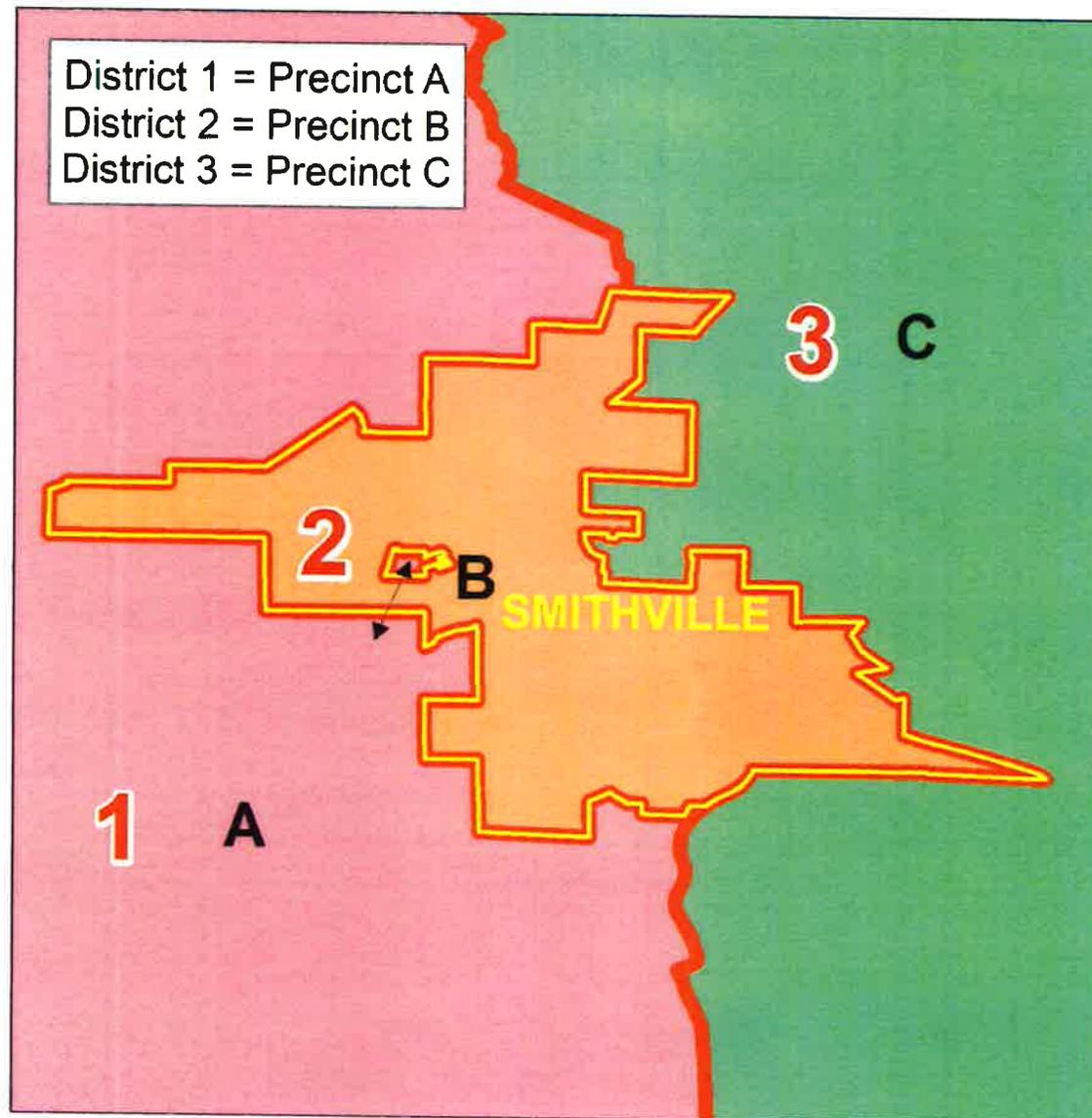
Local Redistricting Plans

- Local districts must:
 - Be equal in population, according to the last federal census
 - Be as compact as possible
 - Be contiguous (no holes or disconnected pieces)
 - Not favor or disfavor any racial group or political party
 - Respect natural boundaries and communities of interest, as far as feasible (RCW 29A.76.010)

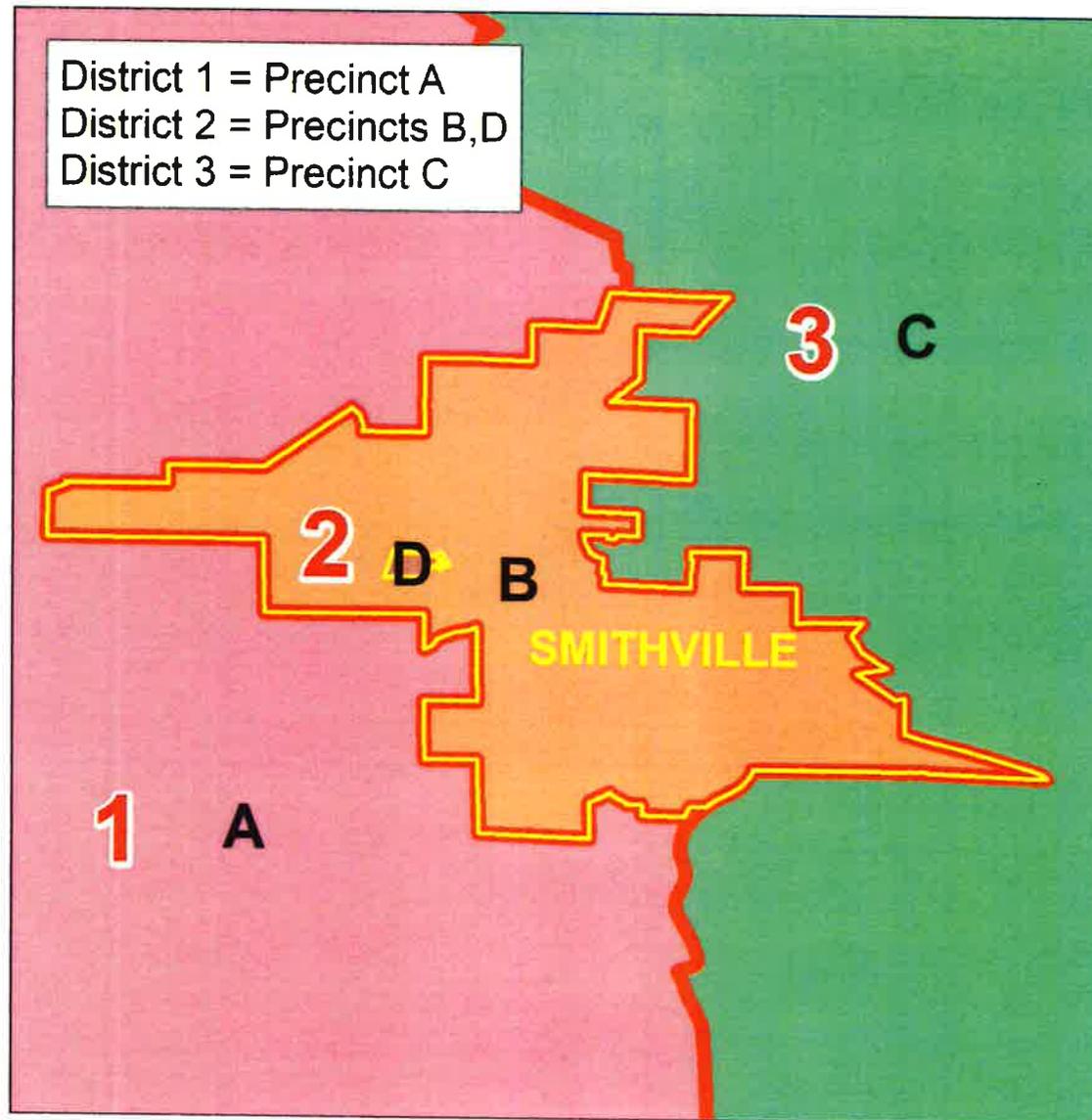
Be Careful!



Be Careful!



Districts must be contiguous



Re-drawing Precincts

- A precinct cannot straddle:
 - A congressional district line
 - A legislative district line
 - A county commissioner or council district line
 - A city or town boundary
- Many counties keep precincts entirely within school districts and city wards

Re-drawing Precincts

- By state law, a precinct may not contain more than 1,500 active voters
 - Some counties have lower caps
- Look closely at areas that are split by new district lines—and at areas that *used* to be split but can now be consolidated!

Looking Forward

- Precincts need ongoing revision:
 - To keep them under the active voter cap
 - To accommodate boundary changes (especially city and town annexations)

Looking Forward

Be aware

- Even if your district lines were originally defined using city limits or precincts, the district lines stay put even if the city limits or precinct lines later move!

Redistricting 101

- Questions?