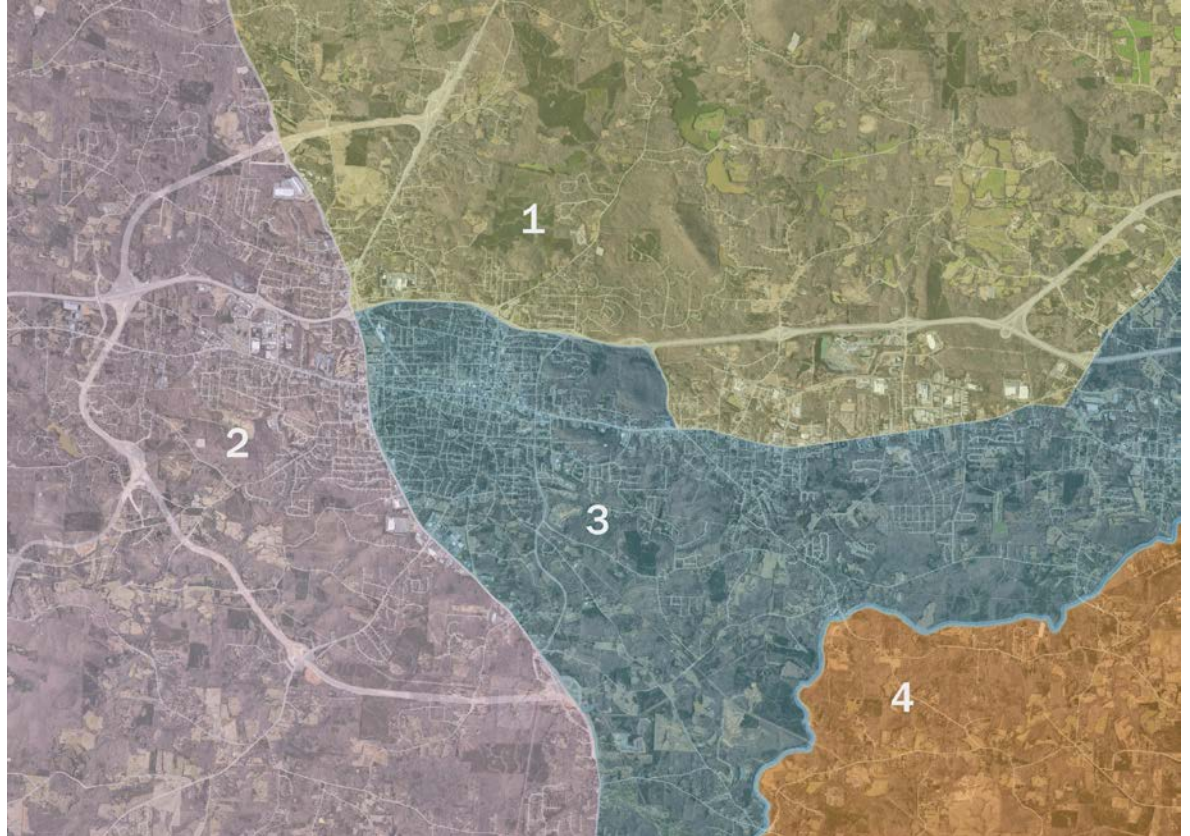


Pamlico County Board of Commissioners Redistricting 2021

Caroline Mackie
Poyner Spruill LLP

Tara Bright
Poyner Spruill LLP

Bill Gilkeson
Demographer



Local Redistricting Service
September 20, 2021



Local Redistricting Service

A Project of North Carolinians for Redistricting Reform

- Non-partisan redistricting expertise for local governments that use districts to elect members
- An open, public, and non-partisan process
 - No election data
 - Open meetings
- NC4RR
 - Co-chaired by former Rep. Chuck McGrady (R-117) and former UNC System President and current Volker Alliance President Tom Ross
 - Led by a bipartisan board of directors



The Basics

- Why do we need to redistrict?
- Demographic changes
- Legal considerations
- An overview of the process
- Timeline



Redistricting

Do you need to redistrict?

- Do you use true election districts? (Yes – 5 townships)
- Are you outside of the permissible deviation range? (Yes)

Counties by Percent Population Change
2010 to 2019 (est.)

- Reduction of more than 5%
- Reduction between 1% and 5%
- Within 1% of 2010 population
- Increase between 1% and 5%
- Increase between 5% and 15%
- Increase of more than 15%

Block Groups by % Population Change
2010 to 2019 (est.)

- Reduction of more than 5%
- Reduction between 1% and 5%
- Within 1% of 2010 population
- Increase between 1% and 5%
- Increase between 5% and 15%
- Increase of more than 15%



Redistricting

Determining whether there is substantial equality

- +/- 5% rule: Using total population from the 2020 Census, are the current districts within +/- 5% of the ideal district population?



Redistricting

Determining whether there is substantial equality

Total County

Population: **12,276**

Ideal Township

Population: **2,455**

Range: **2,322-2,578**

Redistricting

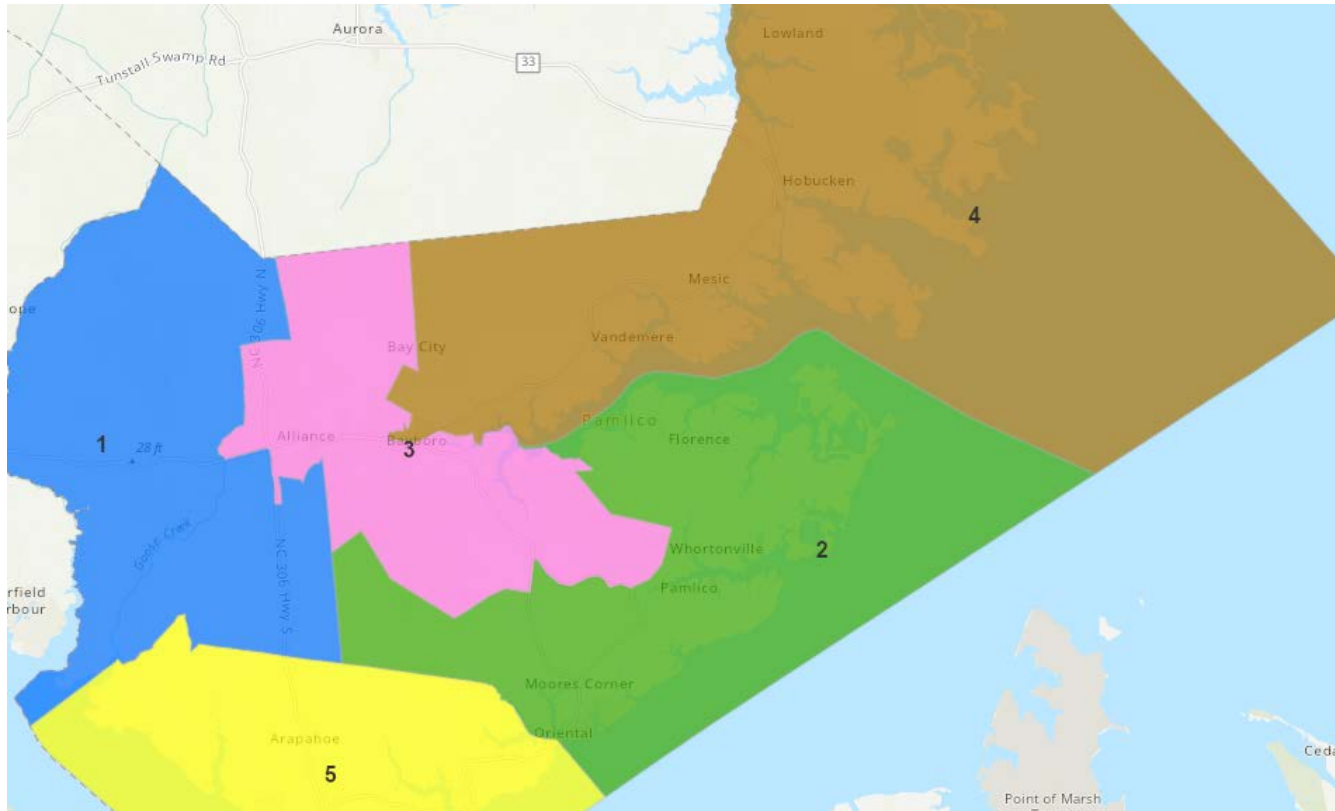
Determining whether there is substantial equality

Township Number	2020 Population	Ideal Township Population	Raw Number Deviation from Ideal	Percent Deviation from Ideal
1	2,666	2,455	211	8.59%
2	2,519	2,455	64	2.61%
3	2,370	2,455	-85	-3.46%
4	2,155	2,455	-300	-12.22%
5	2,566	2,455	111	4.52%



Redistricting

Pamlico County Current Commissioner Districts





Redistricting

Who draws the new districts?

Board + staff + consultants.

The governing body for the local government is responsible for enacting new districting plans every 10 years. N.C.G.S. § 153A-22

One caveat: The General Assembly retains the power to redistrict for the board by local act



Redistricting

N.C.G.S. § 153A-22

(a) If a county is divided into electoral districts for the purpose of nominating or electing persons to the board of commissioners, the board of commissioners **may find as a fact whether there is substantial inequality of population among the districts.**

(b) If the board finds that there is substantial inequality of population among the districts, **it may by resolution redefine the electoral districts.**

(c) Redefined electoral districts shall be so drawn that the quotients obtained by dividing the population of each district by the number of commissioners apportioned to the district are as **nearly equal as practicable, and each district shall be composed of territory within a continuous boundary.**



Redistricting

Race and Redistricting

- Racial gerrymandering/Equal protection clause of the 14th amendment:

Race cannot be the predominant factor in redistricting unless the use of race is narrowly tailored to a compelling governmental interest

- What does predominant mean?
 - The race of voters better explains the boundary of a district than traditional criteria
 - Example: precincts are split based on race
- What is a compelling governmental interest?
 - Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, if the preconditions are met



Redistricting

Race and Redistricting

- Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act
 - The VRA was enacted in 1965 to protect minority citizens from voting methods that dilute their votes
 - 3 preconditions under *Gingles* (1983):
 - Is the minority group sufficiently large and geographically compact to form a majority in a district?
 - Is the minority group politically cohesive?
 - Does the majority vote sufficiently as a bloc so that it usually defeats the minority-preferred candidate?



Redistricting

Guiding Criteria

- Some examples:
 - Equal population (required)
 - Total population, not voting age population or registered voters
 - Contiguity (required)
 - Consideration of certain administrative boundaries (keeping municipalities whole when possible, using whole precincts as building blocks, e.g.)
 - Keeping neighborhoods whole
 - Recognizing communities of interest (historical, cultural, or economic communities, e.g.)
 - Seeking to have boundaries follow visible physical features like roads and water bodies



Redistricting

Guiding Criteria (cont.)

- Some examples:
 - Preserving the core of existing districts AND/OR ignoring existing districts (i.e., clean slate)
 - Compactness
 - Avoiding pairing incumbents (also known as “double bunking”)
 - Plan for population growth
 - No political considerations



Redistricting

Senate Bill 722

SB 722 provides that counties with electoral districts shall adopt a resolution revising districts on or before November 17, 2021



Redistricting

Process

1. Determine necessity of redistricting based on population disparities
2. Reach consensus on guiding principles
3. LRS consultants to draw 2-3 alternative plans
4. Public hearing
 - Can include receipt of plans from members of the public
5. Review/revision of plans
 - All meetings to review plans should be open
6. Adoption of resolution
7. Export of plans to Board of Elections, GIS department, etc.



Redistricting Timeline

- September 20:
 - Introductory overview
 - Find as a fact population imbalance
- October 4:
 - Discuss and reach consensus on guiding principles
- October 18:
 - LRS consultants to present 2-3 alternative redistricting plans based on adopted principles
- November 1:
 - Public hearing on proposed maps
- November 15:
 - Adoption of resolution to redefine the electoral districts



Questions?

- Caroline Mackie, cmackie@poynerspruill.com
 - Tara Bright, tbright@poynerspruill.com
 - Bill Gilkeson, bill.gilkeson@gmail.com

 - Local Redistricting Service, LRS@ncredistrict.com
 - www.ncredistrict.org/lrs
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