

City of Troy Independent Redistricting Commission

Final Report

To: Troy City Council

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cc: Maria DeBonis, Troy City Clerk

From: Troy Independent Redistricting Commission

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Date: September 8, 2022

Introduction

The Troy Independent Redistricting Commission (Commission) was charged with preparing proposed City Council districts that meet the requirements of Section C-2 of the Troy City Charter, including that each proposed council district: contains at least 13% but no more than 18% of the city's population; is compact, contiguous, and convenient; and preserves neighborhood characteristics.

2020 Troy Census

According to the 2020 decennial census, Troy's total population is 51,401.¹ Census data is available at various geographic levels, including blocks, block groups, census tracts, places (townships and cities), county, and state. For purposes of redistricting, data at the block level were used to analyze the current council districts and develop recommendations for the proposed council districts.

Preliminary Findings

As we noted in our preliminary report (available on the Commission's webpage)², the population of District 6 exceeds 18% of the city's population and thus violates the Troy City Charter (Table 1). In addition, District 3 is just below the maximum legal threshold and District 4 is just above the minimum legal threshold. There are also significant differences in population sizes within the council districts, with Council District 4 having less than 7,000 population, while Council Districts 2, 3, and 6 each have more than 9,000 population. Several council districts,

¹ <https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2020/dec/2020-census-redistricting-summary-file-dataset.html>

² <https://www.troyny.gov/troy-independent-redistricting-commission/>

particularly current council districts 5 and 6 are not compact and do not preserve neighborhood characteristics. Finally, the Commission believes that natural or man-made barriers such as parks, other green space, and major thoroughfares should have been better considered when developing the current council districts.

Table 1: Current City Council District Population Using 2020 Population Census Data

Current Council District	Population	Percent of Total Population
1	8,351	16.2%
2	9,034	17.6%
3	9,188	17.9%
4	6,793	13.2%
5	8,422	16.4%
6	9,613	18.7%

Mapping Software

Various open-source mapping software applications were available for this work. To be useful for this analysis, the software must be publicly available; the software must include the 2020 census data; and the data must be available at the block level. After reviewing available software applications, we used two applications in order to ensure accuracy in both recreating the current city council districts and in developing the proposed council districts. These two software applications are:

- DistrictBuilder³
- DRA2020⁴

³ <https://www.districtbuilder.org/>

⁴ <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#login>

Methods

Wherever possible, major streets and thoroughfares, parks, and other green spaces were considered when designing the proposed council districts. As required in redistricting, only the total population was used in creating the proposed city council districts. Finally, the Commission believes that the proposed city council districts should be as similar in population size as possible.

Proposed Council Districts

The proposed new council districts result in far more uniform district sizes, with the population within each of the proposed council districts between 16.3% and 16.9% of Troy's total population (Table 2),

Table 2: Proposed City Council District Population Using 2020 Population Census Data

Proposed Council District	Population	Percent of Total Population
1	8,580	16.7%
2	8,687	16.9%
3	8,538	16.6%
4	8,358	16.3%
5	8,674	16.9%
6	8,564	16.7%

The proposed council districts are compact and contiguous and preserve neighborhood characteristics (Figures 1 through 9). The proposed council districts do, however, have a few awkward borders resulting from the need to map according to census blocks.

The census tract along the east side of Troy with a population of 229 between proposed council district 1 council district 2 spans from the Oakwood Cemetery to the Stoneledge Terrace Apartments. The vast majority of that population is at the northern edge of the block around the Stoneledge Terrace Apartments. We propose that that census tract be included in proposed council district 1, with the split between proposed council district 1 and proposed council district 2 to follow an extension of 111th Street going east to the Troy City border.

Additionally, there is a census tract with a population of 19 that abuts both proposed council district 4 and proposed council district 6 along First Street. We propose splitting the census tract, and thus placing the border between proposed council district 4 and proposed council district 6, along the Poestenkill Creek and Canal Avenue. Few people live in either of those awkward pieces, and they could easily be cut off without significant effect on the populations of the relevant districts.

The Numbers

While voting and race and ethnicity were not considered when developing the proposed council districts, the census data show tremendous ethnic diversity throughout the city. Fifty-nine percent of Troy's population are people who are White, 25% are people who are Black, 6% are people who are Asian/Pacific Islander, 3% are people who are Native American, and 11% are people who are Hispanic/Latinx.^{5,6} Additionally, 65% of those who voted in the 2020

⁵ <https://www.districtbuilder.org/>

⁶ Those with mixed races are included under one race, and those who are Hispanic/Latinx may include individuals who are of specific race.

presidential election voted Democratic compared to 32% who voted Republican and 3% who voted other.⁷

There is a cluster of people of color in proposed council districts 2 and 6, and a high percentage of people who voted Democratic in proposed council districts 2, 3, and 4. Please note that those who voted do not necessarily represent party affiliation. Many voters in Troy are unaffiliated or affiliated with minor third parties.

Table 3: Proposed City Council District Population Using 2020 Population Census Data, Broken Down by Race and Ethnicity and 2020 President Voting

Proposed Council District	Percent of Total Population					
	White	Black	Asian/PI	Hispanic/ Latinx	Voted Dem.	Voted Rep.
All Districts	59%	25%	6%	11%	65%	32%
1	66%	22%	2%	9%	56%	42%
2	45%	40%	2%	14%	69%	29%
3	63%	13%	17%	8%	70%	28%
4	57%	24%	8%	11%	79%	18%
5	75%	12%	5%	7%	61%	37%
6	47%	36%	4%	15%	63%	34%

Conclusion

The City of Troy Independent Redistricting Commission is pleased to present these proposed city council districts. We believe that the revision meets the requirements of City Charter Section C-2 and will serve the city well.

We thank the City Council and members of the city administration for their support, particularly the City's IT experts who helped develop the commission's webpage and email communication.

⁷ These numbers represent how people voted, rather than party affiliation.

Thanks also to Tech Valley Center of Gravity for allowing us to meet in their SEFCU Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jill Nagy

Troy Independent Redistricting Commission.
Jill Nagy, Chair

Figure 1

Proposed City Council District 1

- 111th Street north to the city limits
- Hudson River East to the city limits

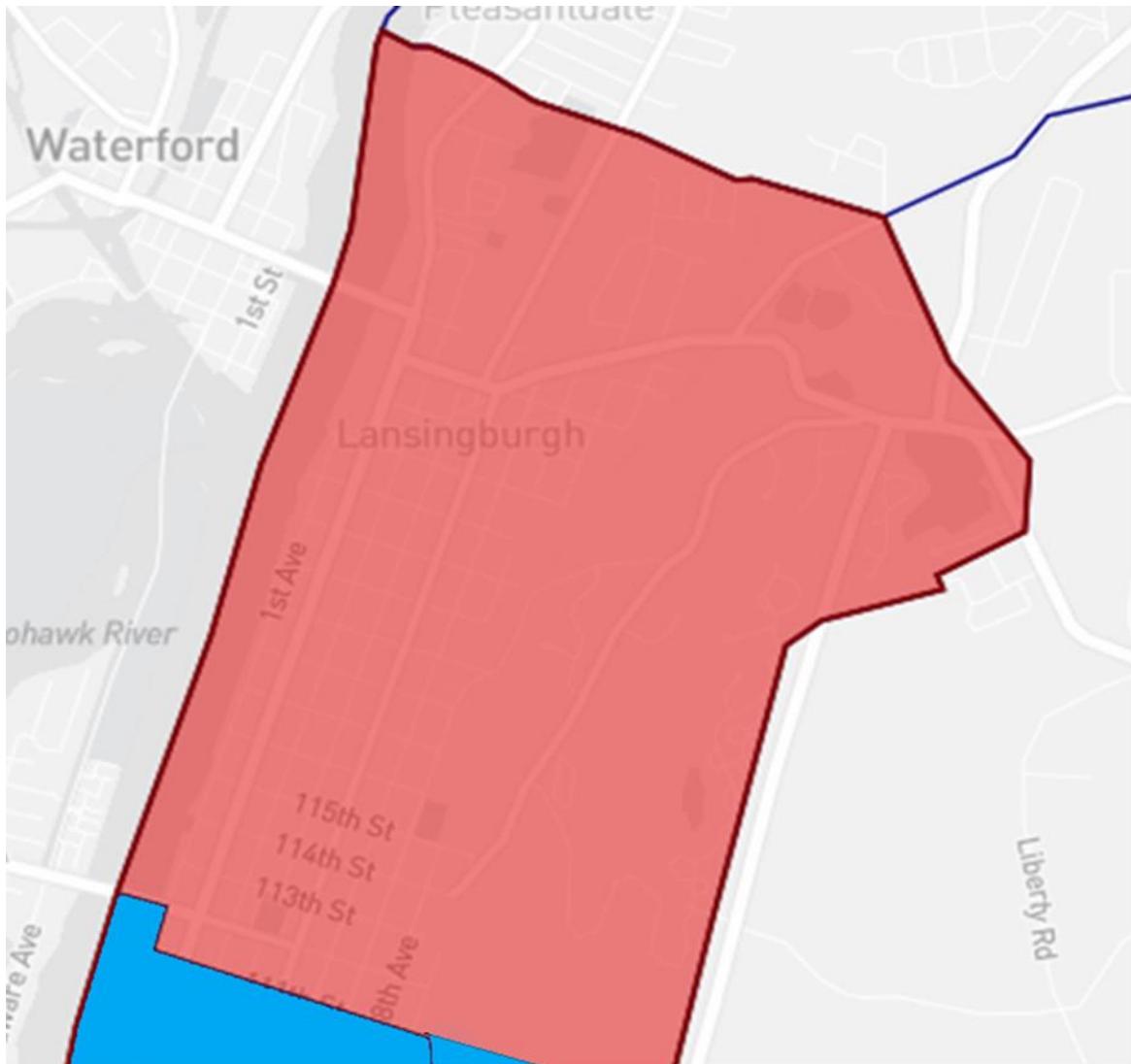


Figure 2

Proposed City Council District 2

- 111th Street south to Hoosick Street
- Hudson River to Oakwood Avenue

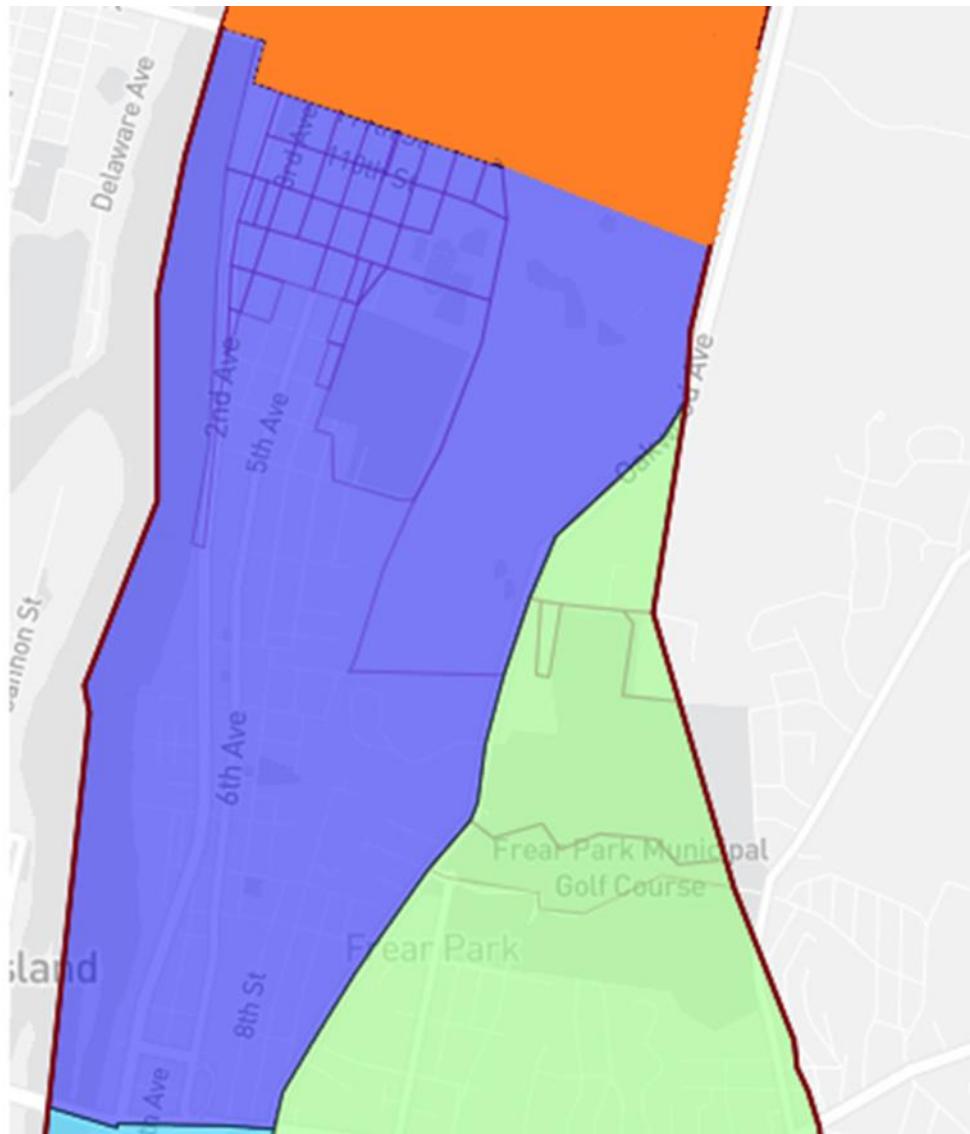


Figure 3

Proposed City Council District 3

- Oakwood Avenue, 10th Street (between Sage Ave and Hoosick Street), and 15th Street (between Sage Ave and Tibbits Ave) to the West
- The city limits to the East
- Sage Ave (between 10th Street and 15th Street) , Tibbits, and St. Mary's Cemetery to the South

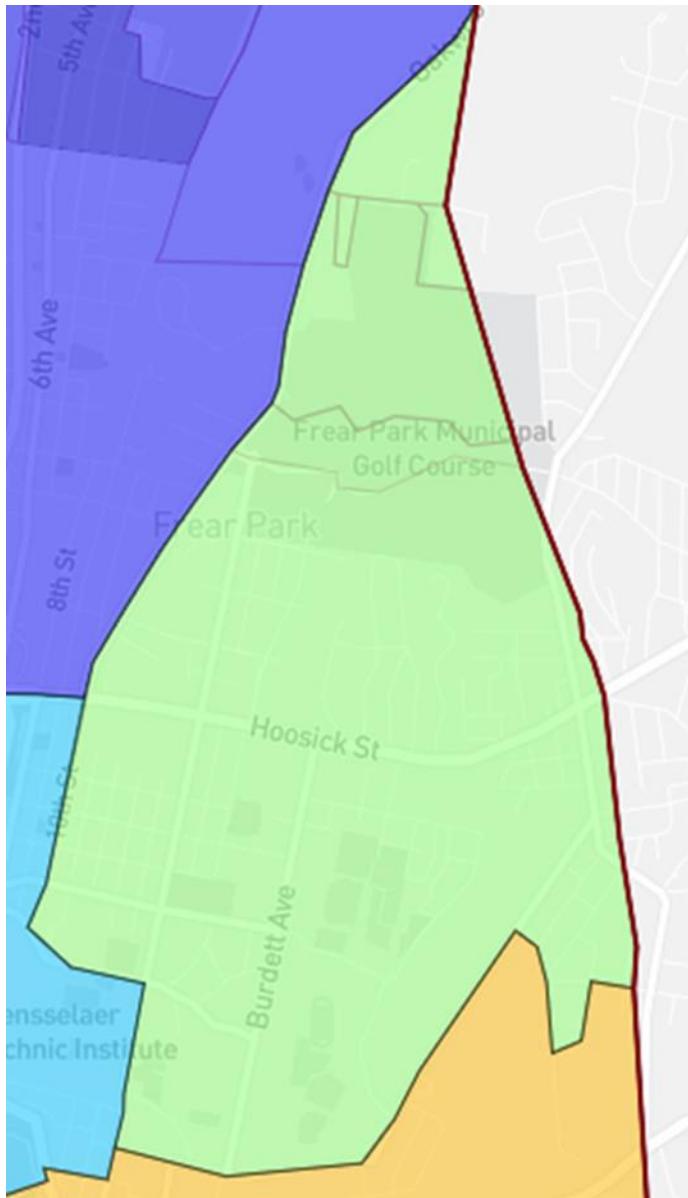


Figure 4

Proposed City Council District 4

- Hoosick Street to the North
- Hudson River to the West
- Canal Avenue to the South
- 10th Street (between Sage Ave and Hoosick Street), 15th Street (between Sage Ave and Tibbits Ave), and Prospect Park to the East

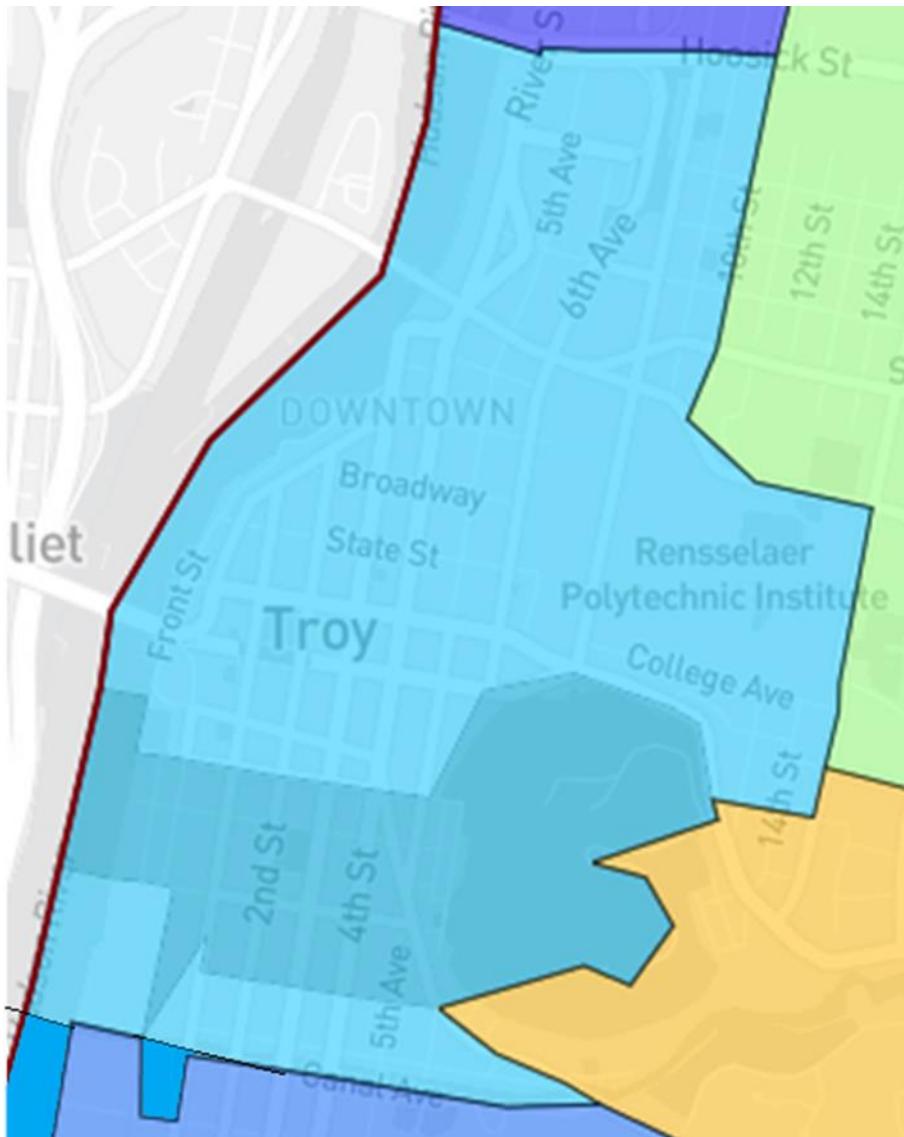


Figure 5

Proposed City Council District 5

- Tibbits Ave and St. Mary's Cemetery to the North
- City limits to the East and South
- Prospect Park, Hill Street (between Jefferson St and Canal Ave, Spring Ave (between Canal Ave and Campbell Ave), Campbell (between Spring Ave and Vandenburg Ave), and Vandenburg Ave to the West

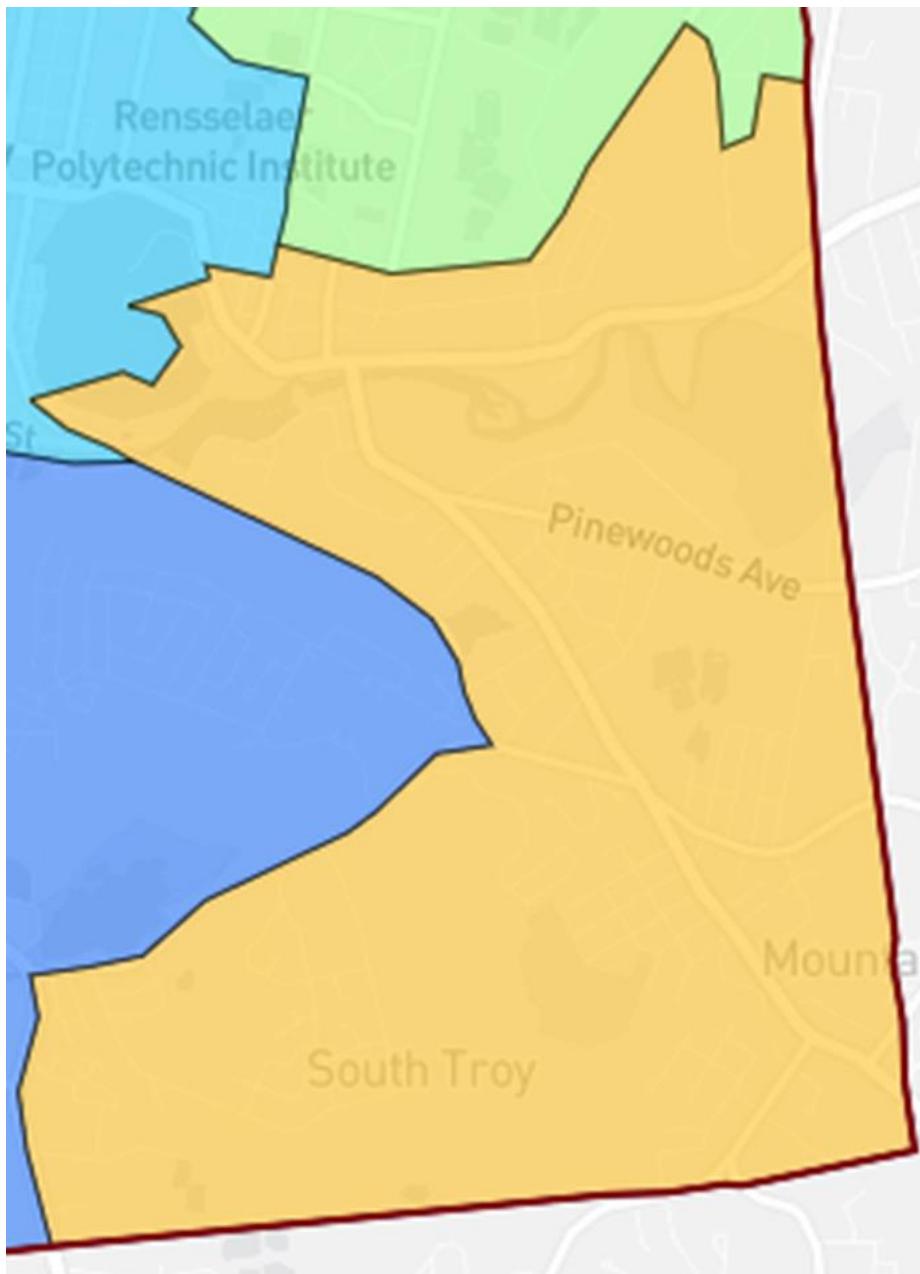


Figure 6

Proposed City Council District 6

- Canal Ave to the North
- Hudson River to the West
- City limits to the South
- Canal Ave, Spring Ave (between Canal Ave and Campbell Ave), Campbell (between Spring Ave and Vandenburg Ave), and Vandenburg Ave to the East

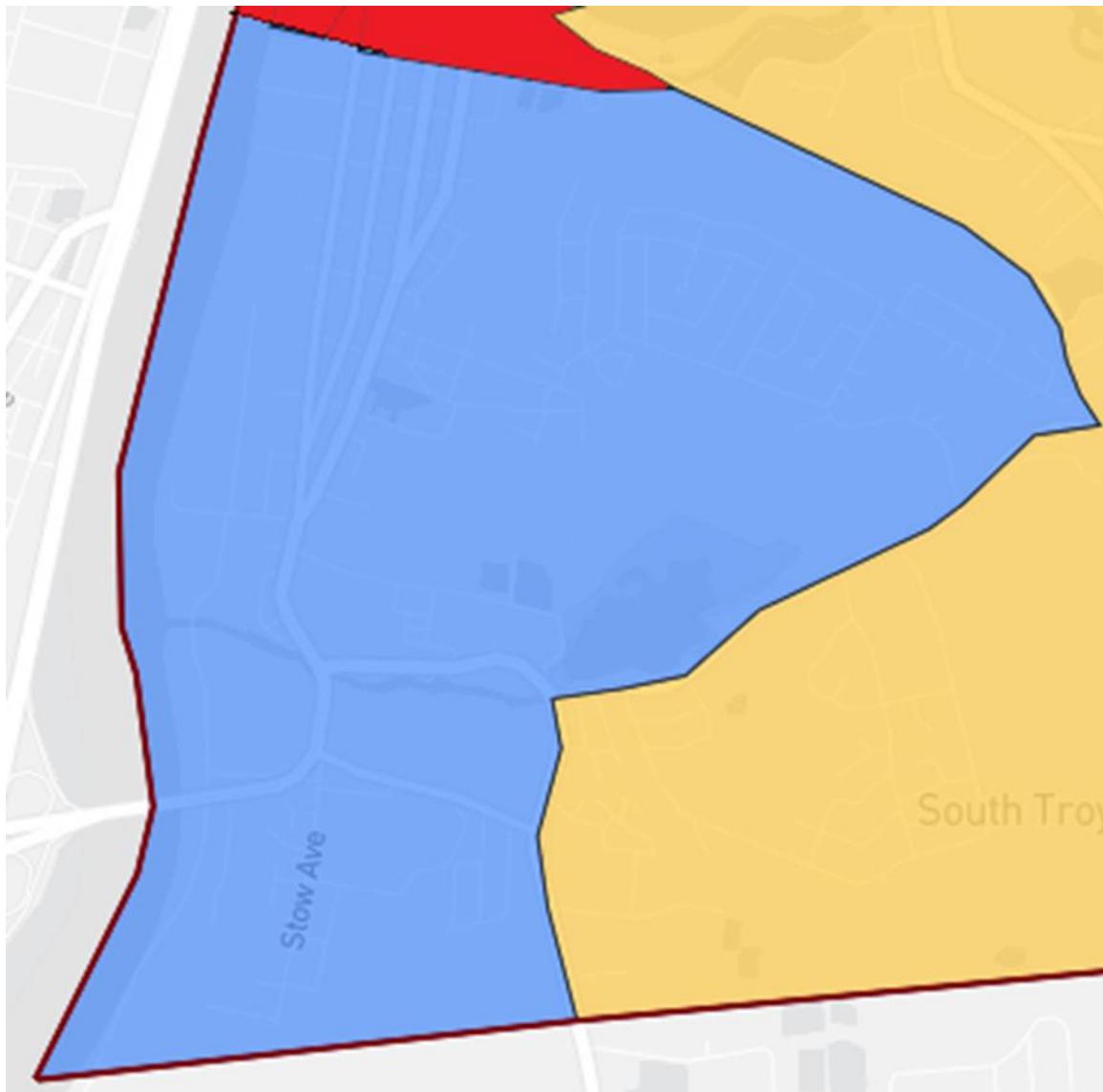


Figure 7

Current vs Proposed City Council Districts

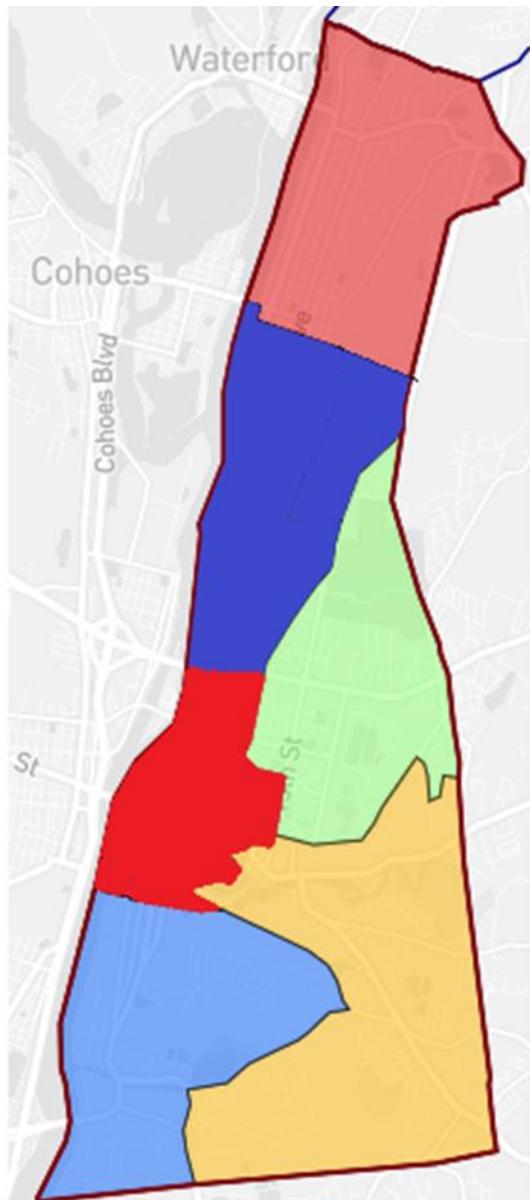
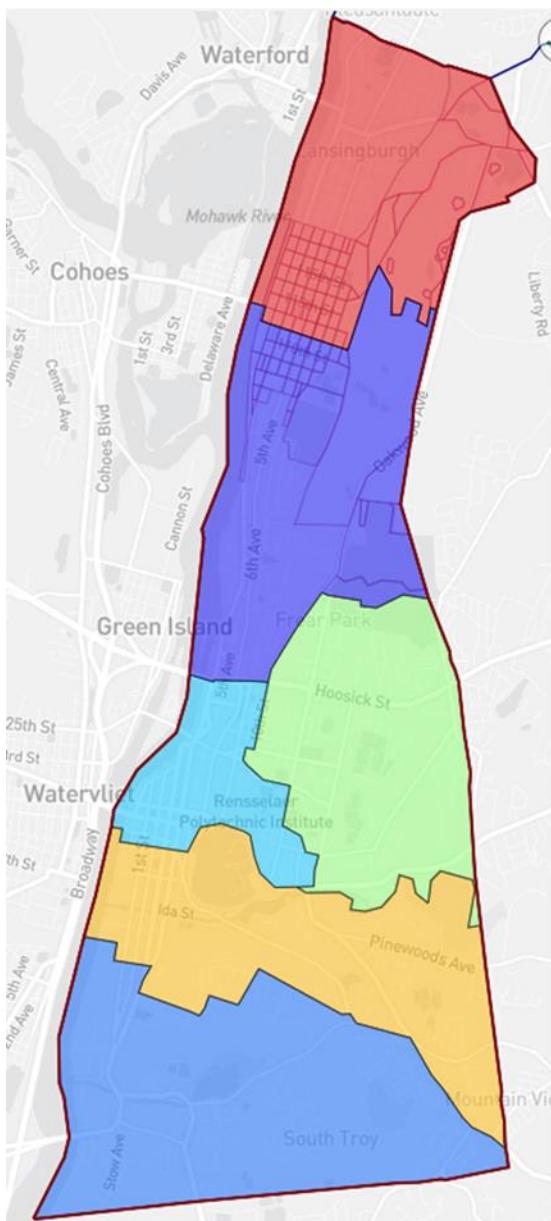


Figure 8

Comparison of Current vs Proposed City Council Districts

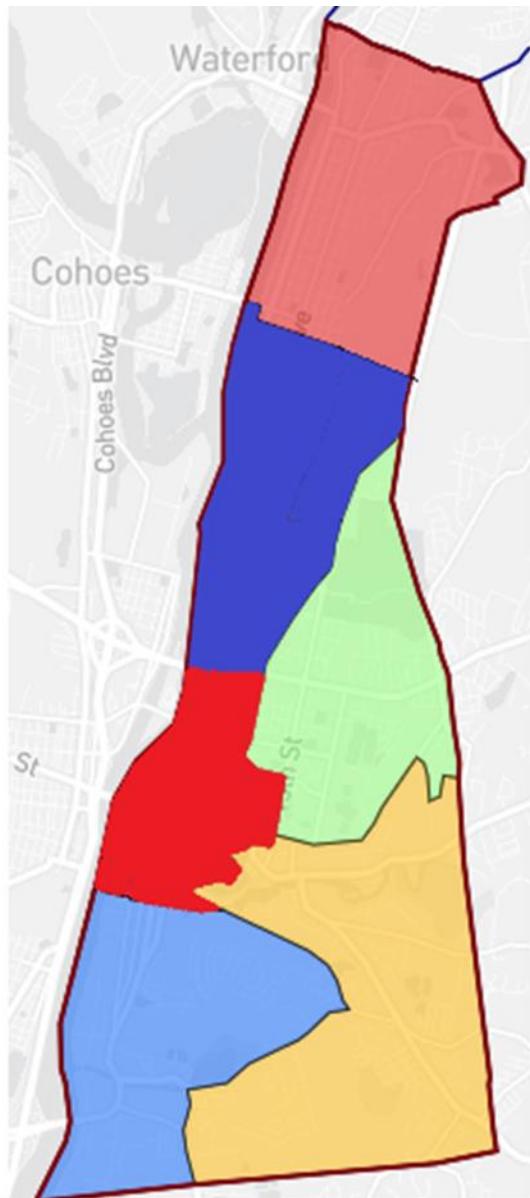
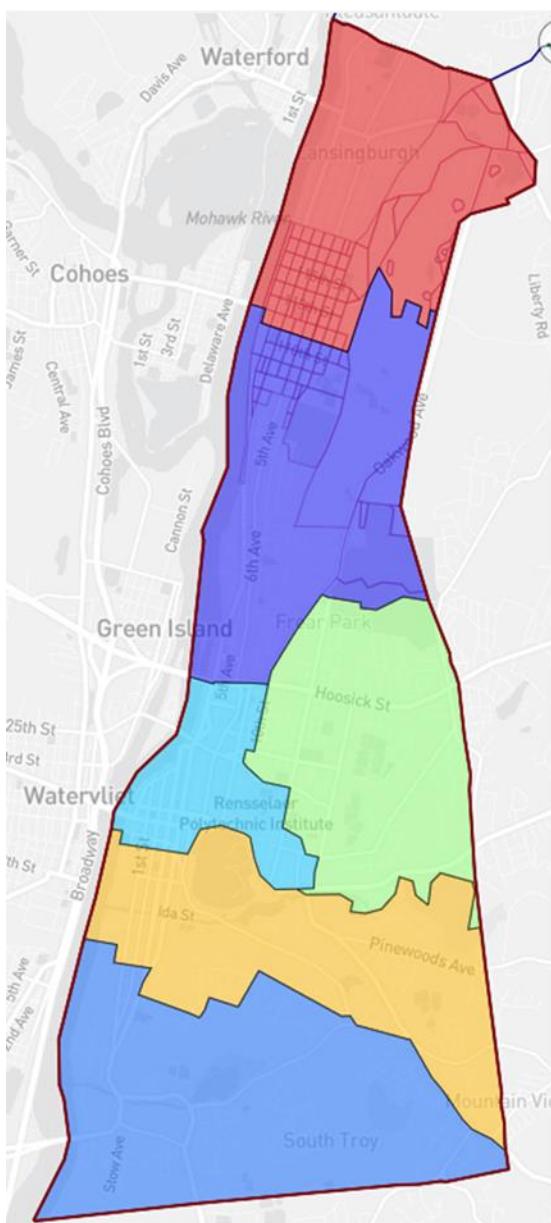


Figure 9

Overlay of Current and Proposed City Council Districts

