

City of Troy Independent Redistricting Commission

Preliminary Report

To: Troy City Council

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cc: Maria DeBonis, Troy City Clerk

From: Troy Independent Redistricting Commission

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Summary

The analysis by the Troy Independent Redistricting Commission indicate that one or more of the current Troy City Council districts are out of compliance with Section C-2 of the Troy City Charter. Consequently, the Troy Independent Redistricting Commission should, as a next step, recommend revised City Council Districts for consideration by the Troy City Council.

Background

Pursuant to Section C-2 of the Troy City Charter, the Troy Independent Redistricting Committee was charged with two tasks: (1) to determine whether the present City Council districts comply with the requirements of Section C-2 of the Troy City Charter, and (2) if they do not comply, to recommend a new districting scheme. The Troy Independent Redistricting Committee has completed the first task.

This charter provision requires that each council district contain no less than 13 % of the population and no more than 18 %, and that city council districts "...to the greatest extent possible, shall be compact, contiguous, convenient and preserve neighborhood characteristics."

Methodology

2020 Troy Census

According to the 2020 decennial census, Troy's total population is 51,401.¹ Thirteen percent of that number is 6,682; 18 % is 9,252. Census data is available at various geographic levels, including blocks, block groups, census tracts, places (townships and cities), county, and state. For purposes of this analysis, data at the block level is necessary. Larger geographic levels within the City of Troy, including block groups or census tracts, would reduce the flexibility needed for creating or redistricting city council districts.

Mapping Software

Various mapping software applications are available for this work. To be useful for this analysis, the software must be publicly available, the software must include the 2020 census

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

data, and the data must be available at the block level. After reviewing available software applications, two were used to ensure accuracy in both recreating the current city council districts and in counting the population citywide and within each council district. These two software applications are:

- DistrictBuilder²
- DRA2020³

Neighborhood Characteristics

In addition to the population requirements, Section C-2 of the Troy City Charter requires the council districts "... to the greatest extent possible, shall be compact, contiguous, convenient and preserve neighborhood characteristics." In reviewing the current city council districts, the Troy Independent Redistricting Commission also considered factors as outlined in the Troy City Charter as well as other factors. The location of parks, cemeteries, other non-populated areas of the city, travel patterns (including major travel routes), were initially reviewed in understanding neighborhood characteristics. Finally, the Troy Independent Redistricting Commission also considered differences in population size of the six council districts in understanding neighborhood characteristics.

Findings of the Troy Independent Redistricting Commission

Population

Based on the 2020 decennial census, the population in District 6 is more than 18% of the City of Troy population and is, thus, out of compliance with Section C-2 of the Troy City

² <https://www.districtbuilder.org/>

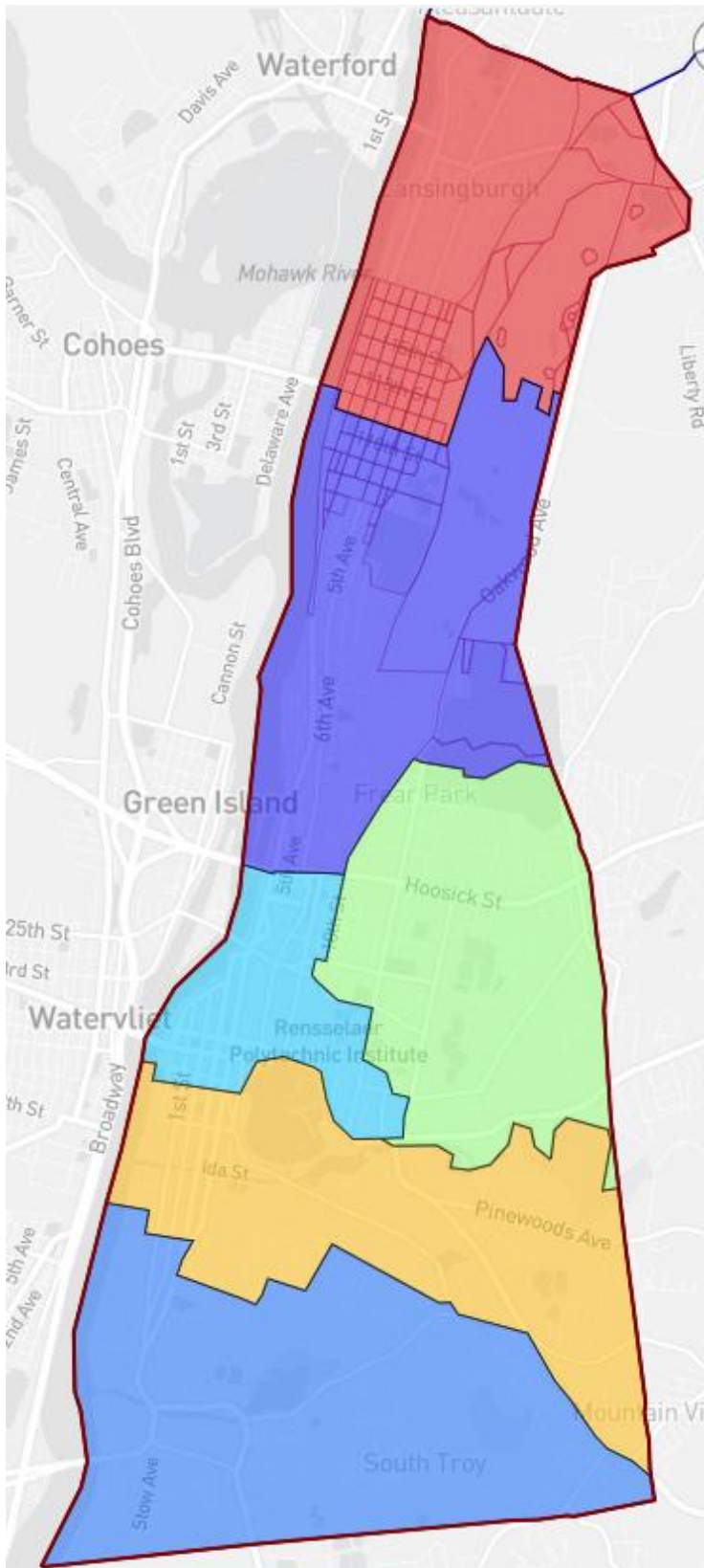
³ <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#login>

Charter (Figures 1 and 2). Districts 3 and 4 are barely in compliance, and it is the opinion of the Troy Independent Redistricting Commission that consideration should be given to changing those boundaries to accommodate future population changes. Additionally, even if District 6 was within the 18% (9,252), a vote in District 4 counts 36% more than a vote in District 6.

Figure 1: City Council District Population Using 2020 Population Census Data

<u>District Number</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
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

Figure 2: Map of Troy City Council Districts



District Selector		
District	Population	
Un	0	<input type="radio"/>
1	8,351	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
2	9,034	<input type="radio"/>
3	9,188	<input type="radio"/>
4	6,793	<input type="radio"/>
5	8,422	<input type="radio"/>
6	9,613	<input type="radio"/>

District Details

Neighborhood Characteristics

It is also the Troy Independent Redistricting Commission's opinion that the configuration of the current Troy City Council Districts does not preserve neighborhood characteristics. Additionally, it is the opinion of the Troy Independent Redistricting Commission that several of the current city council districts are not compact. For example, both Districts 5 and 6 are sprawling and not compact, going from the East Side to downtown bordering on the Hudson River. Splitting the East Side between Districts 5 and 6 ultimately does not preserve neighborhood characteristics. Additionally, it is not clear that the current configuration of the Troy City Council Districts follows and accounts for the city's major east-west thoroughfares (Routes 142, 7, and 2) as each cut through a district, as does Route 4, the major north-south thoroughfare.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis by the Troy Independent Redistricting Commission, one or more of the current Troy City Council districts are out of compliance with Section C-2 of the Troy City Charter. Consequently, the Troy Independent Redistricting Commission should develop and recommend revised City Council Districts for consideration by the Troy City Council.

Respectfully Submitted

Jill Nagy

Jill Nagy, Chairperson
Troy Independent Redistricting Commission