

Denmer Wells

Regarding all 5 proposed maps:

In all 5 of the proposed reapportionment maps, my neighborhood along the north shore of Campbell Lake is included in District 6 with south Anchorage and the hillside rather than being included in District 3 with Sand Lake. This is irrational. The area South of Dimond, West of Arlene and North of Campbell Lake should be included in the same district with Sand Lake, as it is now. This area is zoned for Kincaid Elementary school, with our neighbors in Sand Lake. This area is in legislative districts (both current and pending with the new redistricting) with our neighbors in Sand Lake. In order to go from this area to South Anchorage and the rest of the district, we would literally have to transit the Sand Lake district. I understand that someone may draft a proposal with the Sand Lake/South Anchorage boundary at Dimond instead of at Campbell Lake, but that ALL FIVE of the current proposals make this change is irrational and speaks to an underlying problem in the process used to draft these maps. My neighborhood, bounded by Campbell Lake to the south and Dimond Blvd to the north should be included with Sand Lake for our Anchorage Municipal Assembly district.

Map 1:

Matching Eagle River/Chugiak and upper Hillside with Girdwood/Indian is problematic because those areas are not only discontinuous, but they are significantly culturally different with significantly different issues.

Map 2:

This map, with almost surgical precision, increases the voting power of Eagle River at the expense of Muldoon by putting disparate population sizes in each district.

Map 3:

As with Map 2, this map surgically increases the voting power of Eagle River at the expense of Muldoon. But it takes that disparity a step further by including lower Hillside with Muldoon. District 5 in this map is both discontinuous and merges significantly different populations.

Map 4:

This map seems specifically targeted at fracturing the voting power of Muldoon. It splits the current Muldoon district into 3 sections – giving one section each to the Downtown and Eagle River districts, and then adding the significantly un-diverse U-Med area and lower hillside to the remaining skeleton of the diverse Muldoon district.

Map 5:

This takes the problems of Map #4 and amps them up significantly. It is again specifically targeted at splitting the Muldoon district. This time, it gives even more of the district to Eagle River, and adds JBER to the remaining (even smaller) skeleton of Muldoon.

All 5 of these maps are gravely problematic, all in very similar ways. They ALL include the north shore of Campbell Lake with South Anchorage, they ALL advantage Eagle River or pair Eagle River with another dis-similar community in the municipality, and all but Map 1 explicitly disadvantage Muldoon. There is a pattern here. These plans should not be adopted.

For your consideration, I propose the following map (made using the state redistricting board's tool). Let's call it Denny's Map A

<https://districtr.org/plan/101570>

My proposed map has the following characteristics:

- Smaller population deviation from the target than all but the original Map 1 proposal.
- It follows major roadways and/or bodies of water for boundaries. No wonky carve-outs. Very compact.
- Eagle River is in a district with JBER and Stuckagain Heights. JBER is rational, as it is currently in the Eagle River district, and Eagle River is a bedroom community for JBER. Stuckagain Heights is discontinuous, which is unfortunate, but the demographics and issues there are very similar to the demographics and issues in the neighborhood around the upper reaches of the South Fork of Eagle River.

After reviewing my Map A and thinking about the shortcomings of some of the other maps, I made a second map:

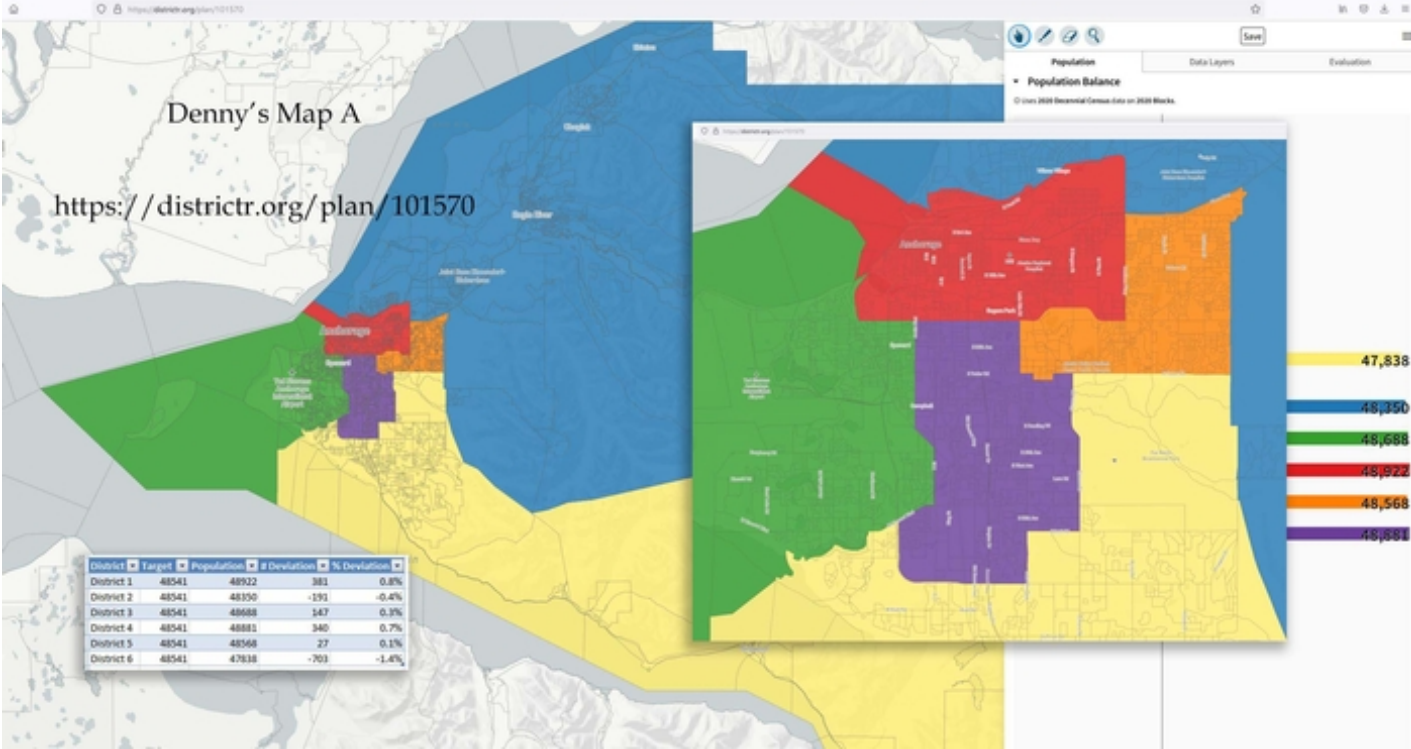
Denny's Map B:

<https://districtr.org/plan/103441>

- Even smaller population deviation than Denny's Map A
- Compact, mostly following major roads and other natural boundaries, except at the 3-way intersection of Districts 1, 4, and 5, where the boundary follows 36th to Elmore, then across 40th, and finally follows the South Fork of Chester Creek to Boniface.
- District 5 includes Russian Jack, as in the current districts.
- District 4 is more mid-town and less SW Anchorage.
- The District 1/ District 3 boundary is at West Chester rather than the railroad.

As a real estate photographer, I have spent time in the homes of families all over Anchorage. I have shot more than 2000 homes in the municipality, in all parts of town, from the tiniest run down single-wide trailer to the most amazing million dollar homes, from places in the densest parts of South Addition to the furthest reaches of the Eagle River valley, from homes so new the paint was not yet dry to homes so old they are on historic building registers. I was mindful of that experience as I crafted my maps. I encourage you to be mindful of the whole community as you draft your final official maps.

I urge you to adopt a map that is fair and compact. None of your initial 5 drafts fit those criteria. I believe my proposed maps are a step in the right direction. They are certainly more fair than the current 5 drafts, and much more compact than the 2012 district boundaries.



Denny's Map B

<https://districtr.org/plan/103441>

