



COUNCIL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION MINUTES

August 17, 2011

The Council Redistricting Commission of the City of Mesa met at the Dobson Ranch Library, 2425 South Dobson Road, Mesa, Arizona on August 17, 2011 at 6:05 p.m.

COMMISSION PRESENT	COMMISSION ABSENT	COUNCIL PRESENT	STAFF PRESENT
Scott Higginson Terry Hines Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo	Brian Allen Nancy Aposhian	Dennis Kavanaugh	Carla Wagner Melissa Jones

1. Welcome – Councilmember Dennis Kavanaugh.

Councilmember Kavanaugh welcomed everyone to the Council Redistricting Commission public hearing. He stated that due to changes in population in west Mesa over the last ten years, it would be necessary for District 3 to grow by approximately 10,000 voters through the redistricting process. Councilmember Kavanaugh also acknowledged the Commission Members, the consultants and staff for their efforts and hard work throughout this process thus far.

2. Remarks by Redistricting Commission Chairman Scott Higginson and other Redistricting Commission Members.

Chairman Scott Higginson thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stated that this was the fourth of six public hearings on redistricting being conducted by the City of Mesa. He introduced Commission Members Terry Hines and Deanna Villanueva-Saucedo who were present in the audience.

Chairman Higginson advised that green comment cards were available in the back of the room so that citizens could offer their feedback and suggestions with respect to the Preliminary Plans. He explained that staff would compile all of the public input to assist the Commission Members in their deliberations regarding a Final Recommended Plan. Chairman Higginson added that the four Plans were drawn very differently in an effort to solicit public input and comments.

Chairman Higginson displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) and highlighted a chart (See Page 2 of Attachment 1) illustrating the current population in each of Mesa's six Council districts, which totals 439,041 (per Mesa's 2010 Census). He reported that the goal of

the redistricting process was to have 73,174 people in each district (i.e. ideal population equals total population divided by the number of districts), while complying with various criteria. Chairman Higginson also stated that the Department of Justice (DOJ) would allow a small deviation (1% to 2%), but only if there was a justifiable reason for doing so.

Chairman Higginson commented that District 3 currently has a population of 63,303 which, as mentioned by Councilmember Kavanaugh, requires that it grow by approximately 10,000 people. He noted that by way of contrast, District 6 has experienced significant growth between 2000 and 2010 and said it would lose approximately 31% of its population to other districts.

Chairman Higginson, in addition, stated that in an effort to comply with DOJ requirements, the Commission began its redistricting process by first expanding the boundaries of District 4 in order to maintain as high a ratio of Hispanic population as possible in order to avoid retrogression. He explained that the Commission selected areas surrounding District 4's current boundaries that had high Hispanic populations and moved them into District 4. Chairman Higginson indicated that this resulted in the surrounding districts, including District 3, which were already lagging in population balance, to lag even further behind. He briefly discussed Plans A, B, C, and D (See Pages 8, 9 10 and 11 respectively of Attachment 1) to illustrate District 3's possible boundary line options.

Chairman Higginson further remarked that the Mesa City Charter requires that the redrawing of district boundary lines shall not remove the residence of an incumbent Councilmember from the district he/she was elected to represent during his/her term in that office. He said that several Councilmembers reside near their current district boundaries, which prevented the Commission from expanding into certain areas. Chairman Higginson added that as the citizens view the Preliminary Plans, which are located at the back of the room, the blue stars on the maps illustrate the location of the incumbent Councilmembers' residences.

Responding to a question from a citizen, Chairman Higginson clarified that the white areas on the maps are County islands and stated that the Commission did not consider the population in those areas in drawing the boundaries of the four Preliminary Plans.

3. Presentation and discussion on process and schedule, including review of Citizen Kits and online mapping tool.

Sara Larsen, National Demographics Corporation (NDC) Senior Analyst, referred to the PowerPoint presentation and briefly discussed the criteria approved by the Council Redistricting Commission to be used to guide the line-drawing process. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1) She advised that State law requires that all Council districts be contiguous and said that even if a district contained County islands, it would still be considered contiguous.

Ms. Larsen also reported that Arizona is a Section 5 Voting Rights Act jurisdiction and explained that the DOJ reviews every proposed map that is drawn in the State to determine whether the minority voting population is over-concentrated or broken apart in order to redistrict. She urged the citizens to offer feedback regarding what they consider communities of interest (i.e., neighborhoods, homeowners associations) so that NDC and the Commission can ensure that those areas are preserved in the redistricting process.

Ms. Larsen briefly referenced the Council Redistricting Commission's schedule of meetings. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1) She explained that at the August 25th Commission meeting, the members would consider citizen input garnered during the public hearings, make recommendations on changes to the Preliminary Plans, and also make recommendations to the City Council with regard to a Final Redistricting Plan.

Ms. Larsen highlighted a map illustrating the Current Population Deviation by District (See Page 5 of Attachment 1) and stated that District 3 is 13.99% underpopulated, while District 6 is overpopulated by nearly 45%. She noted that the redistricting process would shift population from Districts 5 and 6 into the other districts.

Ms. Larsen also reviewed the Voting Rights Act Benchmarks (See Page 6 of Attachment 1) and remarked that in District 4, it was important that the Hispanic Voting Age Population (HVAP) be maintained at 54.4% and the Hispanic Citizen Voting Age Population (HCVAP) be maintained at 25.4% through the redistricting process. She also highlighted the Current District Percentages (See Page 7 of Attachment 1) and said that each Preliminary Plan includes a spreadsheet that can be compared to the current numbers.

4. Presentation and discussion on four draft plans for Mesa.

Ms. Larsen highlighted the boundary adjustments in Plan A (See Page 8 of Attachment 1) as follows: District 4 moves west and northeast to avoid retrogression; District 3 population is balanced by moving north; and Districts 1 and 2 shift to the east. She stated that on all of the Plans, the red dotted lines illustrate the current district boundaries.

Ms. Larsen discussed the boundary adjustments in Plan B (See Page 9 of Attachment 1) which includes: District 4 moves to the west and northeast; District 3 shifts to the east along the almost zero-population corridor south of US 60; and District 2 remains at its current northern point in the northeast and moves east of Val Vista Drive.

Ms. Larsen also reviewed the boundary adjustments in Plan C (See Page 10 of Attachment 1) and reported that there was no retrogression in District 4 by Total Population, Voting Age Population or Citizen Voting Age Population; that District 3 wraps around the north side of District 4; District 2 picks up most of the excess population in District 6; and Val Vista Drive becomes the border for Districts 1 and 5.

Ms. Larsen further spoke regarding the boundary adjustments in Plan D (See Page 11 of Attachment 1) and explained that there was no retrogression in District 4 by Total Population, Voting Age Population or Citizen Voting Age Population; District 3 wraps around the west side of District 4; District 2 picks up most of the excess population in District 6; and Val Vista Drive becomes the border for Districts 1 and 5.

Ms. Larsen invited the citizens to draw their own maps either by obtaining a paper Citizen Kit or utilizing the Online Redistricting System. (See Page 12 of Attachment 1) She provided a brief demonstration of the website and said that computers were available at the back of the room for citizen use. Ms. Larsen added that she would be happy to respond to any questions or concerns citizens might have and also to assist individuals regarding how to use the Citizen Kit or the Online Redistricting System. She said that the maps can be submitted to the City Manager's Office or online and explained that NDC would analyze and provide feedback on each map.

Ms. Larsen added that all of the maps and public input would be forwarded on to the Commission for consideration.

5. Questions and Answers.

Chairman Higginson responded to questions and concerns from the public pertaining to the fact that redistricting would not impact property values or property taxes; that in the opinion of a citizen, District 3 was dramatically compromised in each of the maps in order to benefit District 4; that per Federal law, the Hispanic population in District 4 is considered a protected class and cannot be split among several Council districts, which would make it more difficult or impossible for minority voters to elect candidates of their choice; and the importance of the largest communities of interest (i.e., Lehi, Dobson Ranch, Red Mountain Ranch) being maintained within the same district, as opposed to an entire district being a community of interest.

A citizen voiced concern that the part of District 4 on all four maps that is between Alma School, Broadway and Pueblo seems to split a community of interest and suggested that the area be added to District 3.

Commission Member Villanueva-Saucedo commented that even if citizens did not wish to draw maps, she encouraged everyone to fill out comment cards to offer their input and feedback with respect to their own communities of interest.

Frank Mizner, a District 3 resident and former City of Mesa Planning Director, offered a brief historical overview of the efforts by various residents to ensure greater geographic representation across the community, which resulted in the creation of Mesa's six Council districts. He stated that he preferred Plans A or D for District 3 which, in his opinion, would have more geographic and social contiguities with the existing District 3.

Chairman Higginson further highlighted a document titled "Hispanic Voting Age Percentage by Census Block" (**See Attachment 2**) in order to illustrate the manner in which the Commission selected areas surrounding District 4's current boundaries that had high Hispanic populations and moved them into District 4.

Ms. Larsen stated that it was important to note that even though some of the Census Blocks appear quite small, they hold large amounts of population (i.e., apartment complexes), while some of the larger Census Blocks contain less population.

Chairman Higginson thanked everyone for their participation in the redistricting process. He said that he, his fellow Commission Members, Ms. Larsen and staff would be available to answer any questions that the citizens might have.

6. Adjournment.

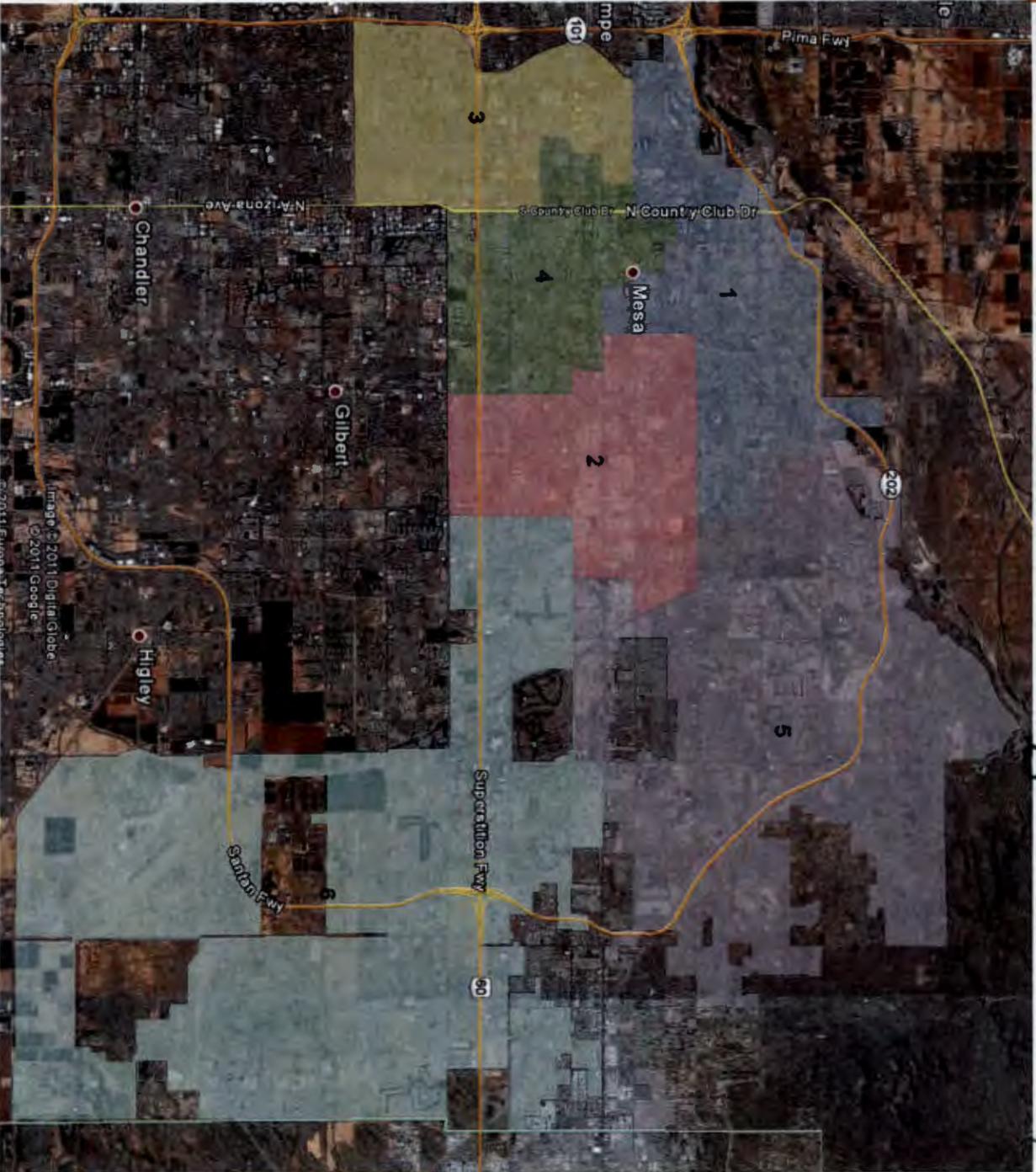
Without objection, the Council Redistricting Commission adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Council Redistricting Commission of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 17th day of August, 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

pag
(attachments – 2)

Mesa 2011 Redistricting Preliminary Plans



Public Hearing on
Redistricting

Current District Populations

- Total Population: 439,041
- Ideal Pop. per District: 73,174
- District 1: 64,638
- District 2: 67,650
- District 3: 63,303
- District 4: 58,817
- District 5: 78,566
- District 6: 106,067

Line-drawing criteria

City, State & Federal Legal Requirements:

- Equal Population
- Voting Rights Act
- Contiguous territory in as compact form as possible *
- Incumbents must remain in their districts

Traditional Redistricting Goals:

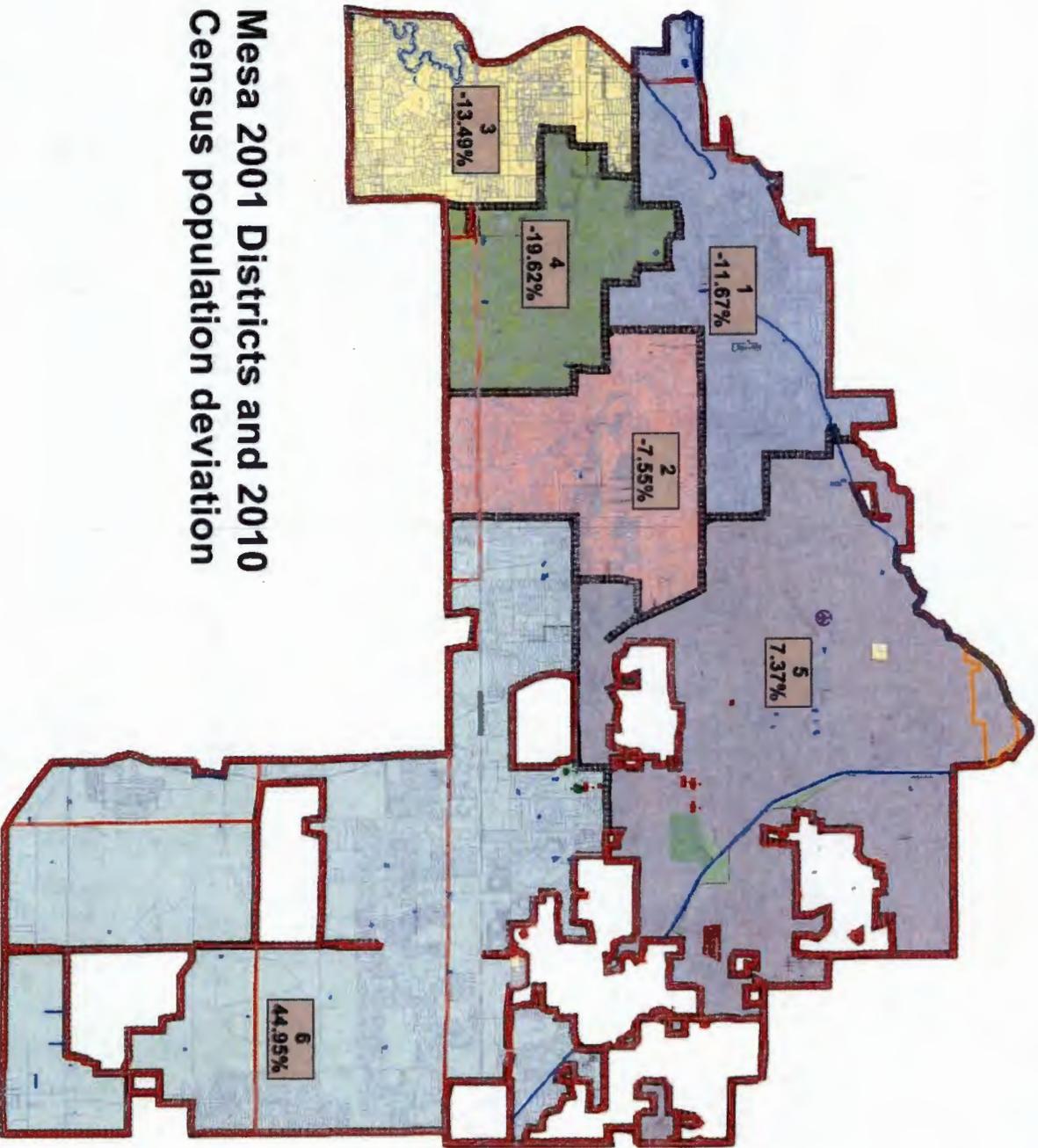
- Communities of interest
- Visible (Natural & man-made) boundaries
- Compactness & contiguity
- Continuity in office
- Population growth
- Preserve Core of existing districts

* The degree to which this general law provision applies to charter cities such as Mesa is unclear.

Schedule

- April Appoint Commission
- May 2 Receive census data
- June 16, 23, 30 Commission Meetings
- July 7 Council Study Session: Review of draft plans
- August 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 20 Public Hearings (one in each district)
- August 25 Commission Meeting: Considers plans and public input
- September 1 Commission Meeting: Plan Selection
- September 8 Council Study Session: Hear/discuss final recommendations
- September 15 Commission Meeting (if needed)
- September 26 Regular Council Meeting: Adopt Resolution
- October Submittal to Department of Justice

Current Population Deviation by District



**Mesa 2001 Districts and 2010
Census population deviation**

Voting Rights Act Benchmarks

- **Hispanic Voting Age Population (HVAP): 54.4%**
 - HVAP = %H18+ Pop
- **Hispanic Citizen Voting Age Population (HCVAP): 25.4%**
- **Retrogression:** The reduction of minority population percentage of a district to a level that will make it more difficult or impossible for minority voters to elect candidates of their choice.

Current District Percentages

Dist	% NI1		% NI1		% NI1		% NI1		% NI1		% NI1	
	% Hisp	Wht	DOJ	Blk								
1	26.2%	62.9%	4.0%	3.9%	2.0%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
2	26.4%	65.8%	3.6%	1.7%	1.5%	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
3	20.7%	54.3%	6.5%	4.5%	3.6%	0.6%	0.2%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
4	61.0%	31.3%	3.3%	2.3%	0.9%	0.9%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
5	11.7%	82.3%	2.2%	1.0%	2.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
6	16.1%	75.3%	3.4%	1.2%	3.1%	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Total	26.4%	64.3%	3.8%	2.3%	2.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%

Abbreviations:
 Dev. = Deviation
 Hisp = Hispanic
 NH = "Non-Hispanic"
 Wht = White
 Blk = Black / African American
 Ind = Native American
 Asn = Asian American
 Haw or Hwn = Hawaiian and Pacific Islander
 Oth = Other
 OthMR or MR = Multi-Race
 Fil = Filipino
 "DOJ" = Aggregated according to U.S. Department of Justice guidance
 CVAP = Citizen Voting Age Population

Dist	% NI118+		% NI118+		% NI118+		% NI118+		% NI118+		% NI118+	
	% Pop	Wht	DOJ	Blk								
1	21.8%	68.2%	3.6%	3.5%	2.0%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
2	21.6%	71.3%	3.2%	1.5%	1.6%	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
3	25.0%	59.5%	6.2%	4.1%	3.8%	0.5%	0.2%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
4	54.4%	37.9%	3.2%	2.3%	1.0%	0.8%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
5	9.2%	85.6%	1.8%	0.9%	2.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
6	13.1%	79.4%	3.0%	1.0%	2.9%	0.3%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Total	21.8%	69.7%	3.4%	2.1%	2.3%	0.4%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%

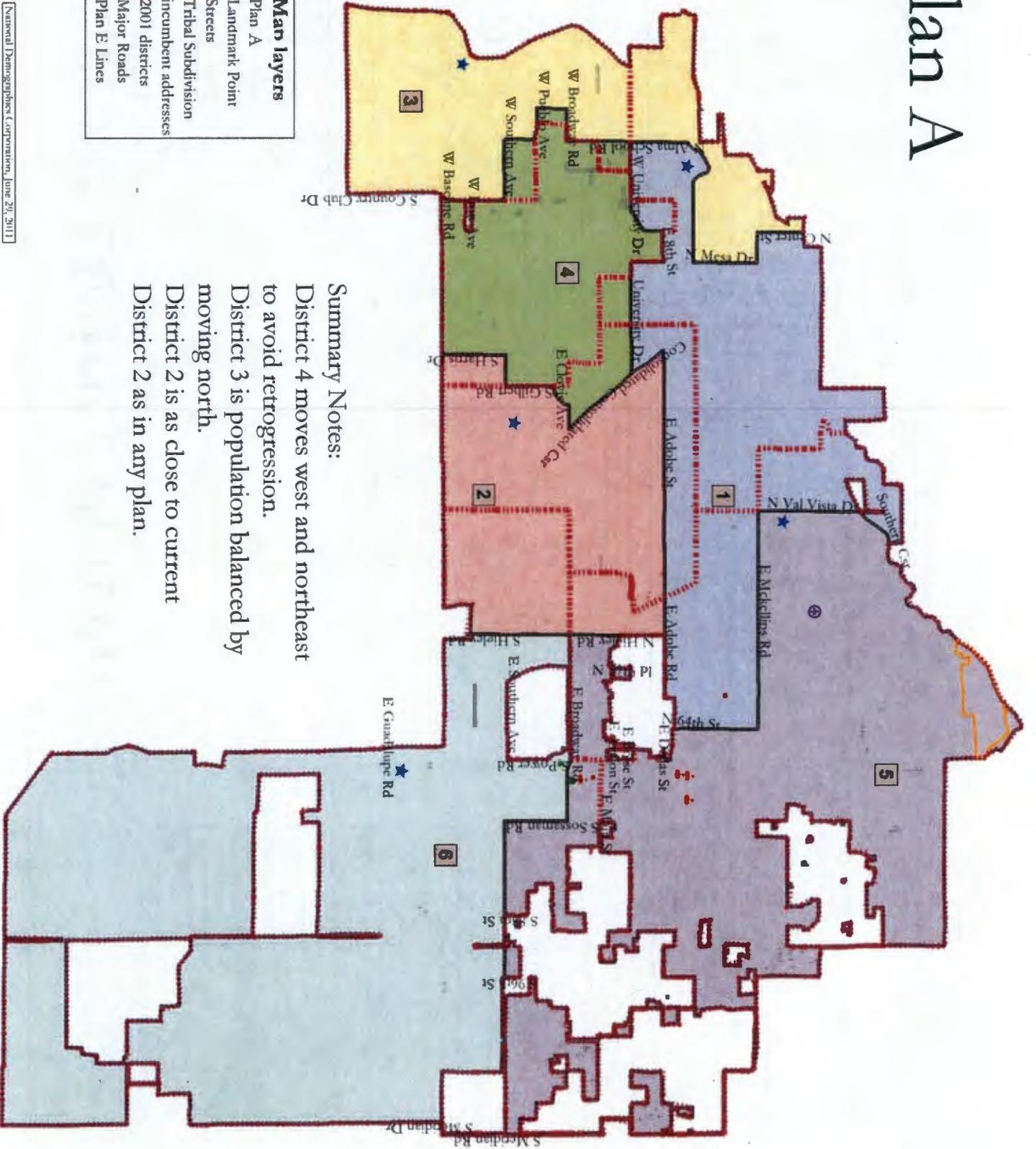
Red circles indicate key Voting Rights "retrogression" benchmarks.

Dist	Special Tabulation												American Community Survey (ACS)											
	% Total CVAP	% Hisp CVAP	% NI1 Wht CVAP	% NI1 Blk CVAP	% NI1 Asn CVAP	% NI1 Ind CVAP	% NI1 Hwn CVAP	% NI1 Oth CVAP	% NI1 MR CVAP	% Total CVAP	% Hisp CVAP	% NI1 Wht CVAP	% NI1 Blk CVAP	% NI1 Asn CVAP	% NI1 Ind CVAP	% NI1 Hwn CVAP	% NI1 MR CVAP	% NI1 Oth CVAP						
1	88.5%	11.9%	80.4%	2.1%	1.2%	3.2%	0.0%	1.1%	1.1%	87.8%	11.9%	80.3%	2.2%	1.1%	3.2%	0.0%	1.4%	4.0%						
2	92.4%	11.0%	84.0%	1.4%	1.0%	1.2%	0.0%	1.1%	1.1%	92.2%	11.2%	83.8%	1.6%	1.1%	1.2%	0.1%	2.1%	4.3%						
3	85.0%	17.0%	70.0%	5.2%	2.2%	4.6%	0.1%	0.8%	0.8%	85.0%	17.4%	69.7%	5.1%	2.3%	4.9%	0.2%	1.4%	4.5%						
4	66.6%	25.4%	65.0%	3.9%	0.8%	3.8%	0.0%	0.9%	0.9%	66.8%	24.2%	65.9%	4.1%	0.8%	4.3%	0.2%	2.7%	8.5%						
5	97.8%	8.1%	87.1%	1.6%	1.3%	0.4%	0.1%	1.3%	1.3%	95.9%	8.4%	86.5%	1.7%	1.4%	0.5%	0.1%	1.6%	3.5%						
6	94.7%	9.7%	83.9%	2.2%	1.8%	1.0%	0.1%	1.1%	1.1%	94.1%	9.7%	84.1%	2.1%	1.6%	1.2%	0.3%	1.6%	4.2%						
Total	89.1%	12.4%	80.4%	2.5%	1.4%	2.0%	0.1%	1.1%	1.1%	88.6%	12.4%	80.3%	2.6%	1.4%	2.1%	0.2%	1.7%	4.5%						

Plan A

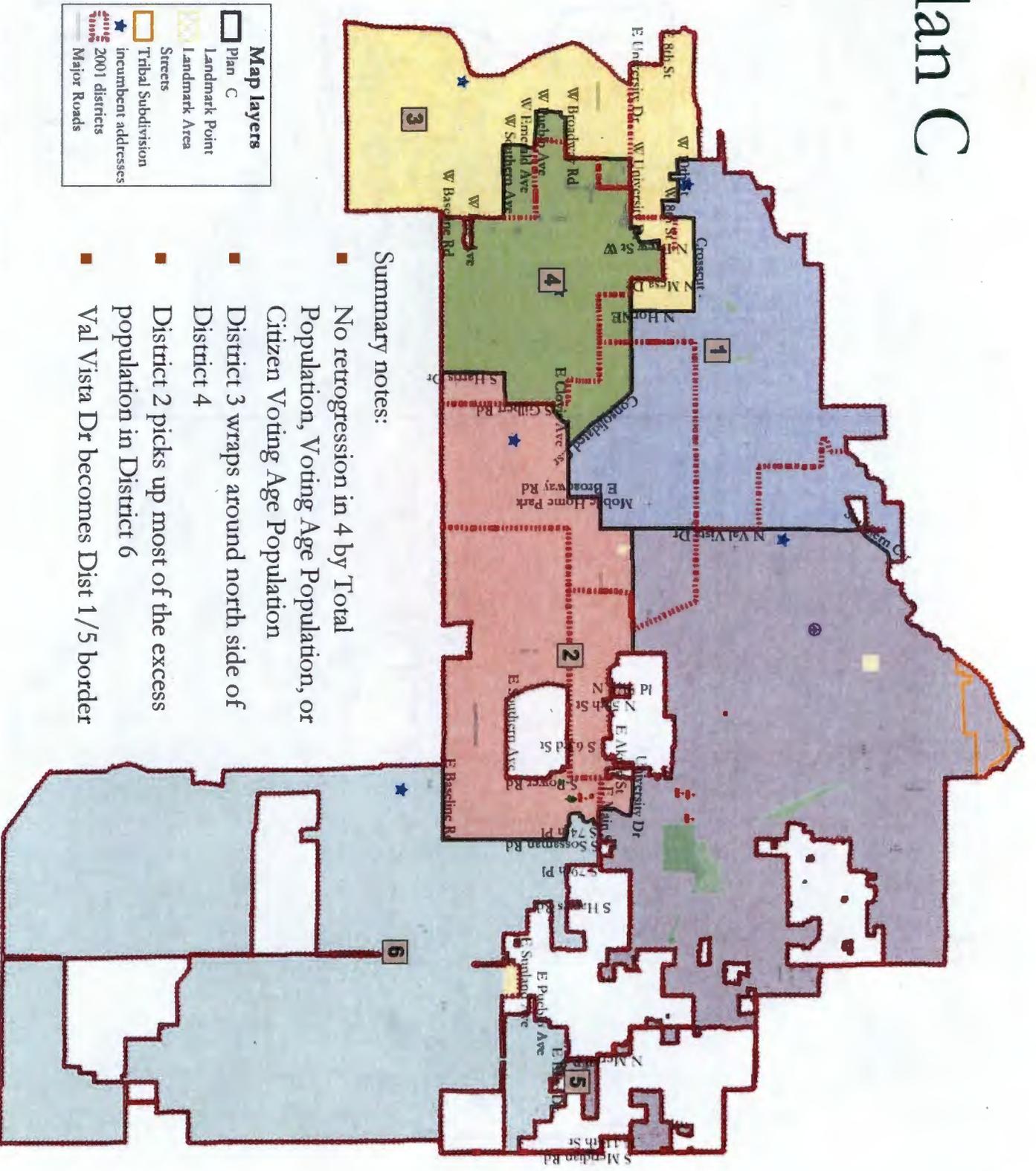
Map layers

- Plan A
- Landmark Point
- Streets
- Tribal Subdivision
- ★ incumbent addresses
- ★ 2001 districts
- Major Roads
- Plan E Lines

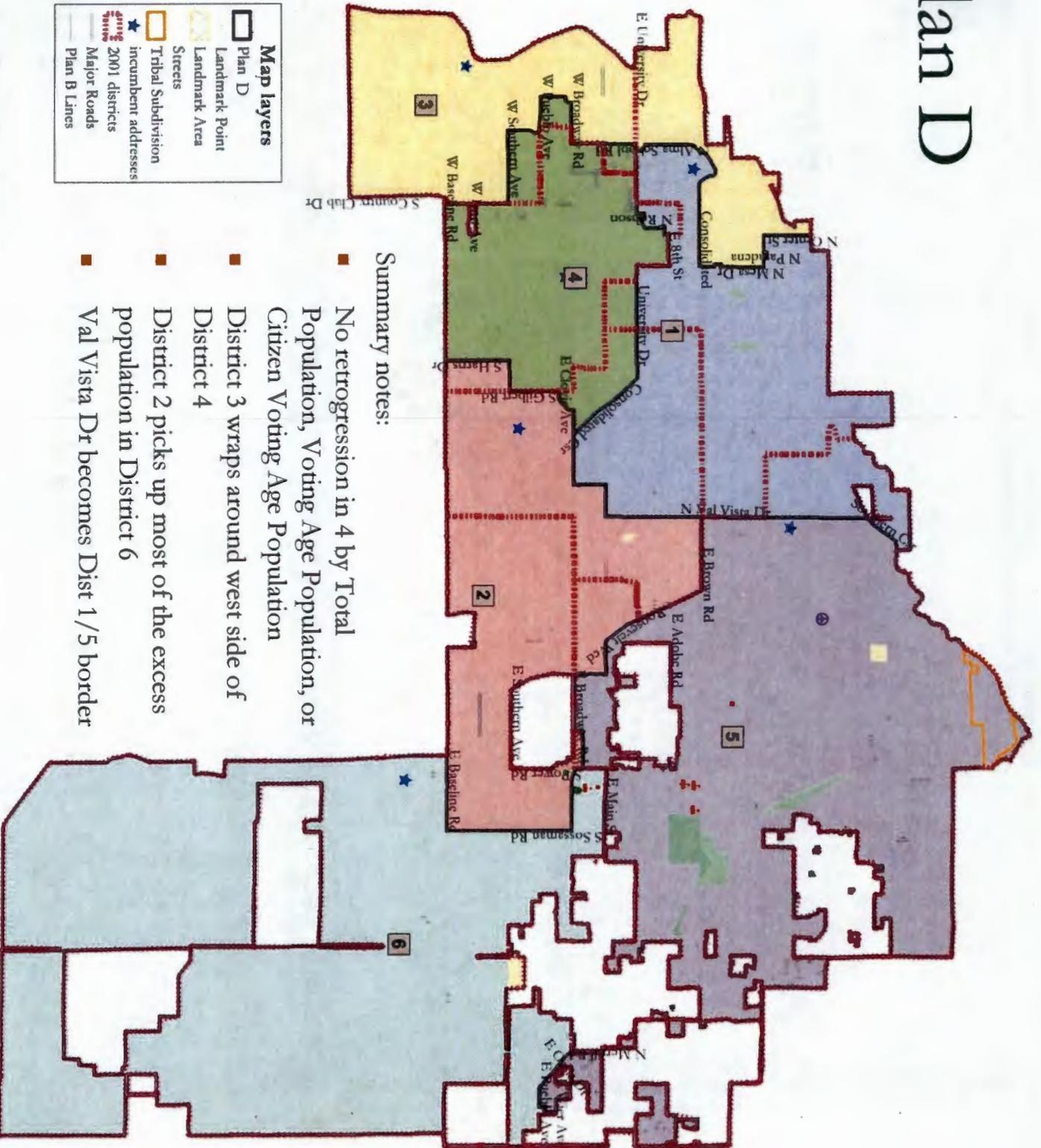


Summary Notes:
 District 4 moves west and northeast to avoid retrogression.
 District 3 is population balanced by moving north.
 District 2 is as close to current District 2 as in any plan.

Plan C



Plan D



Summary notes:

- No retrogression in 4 by Total Population, Voting Age Population, or Citizen Voting Age Population
- District 3 wraps around west side of District 4
- District 2 picks up most of the excess population in District 6
- Val Vista Dr becomes Dist 1/5 border

Online Redistricting System

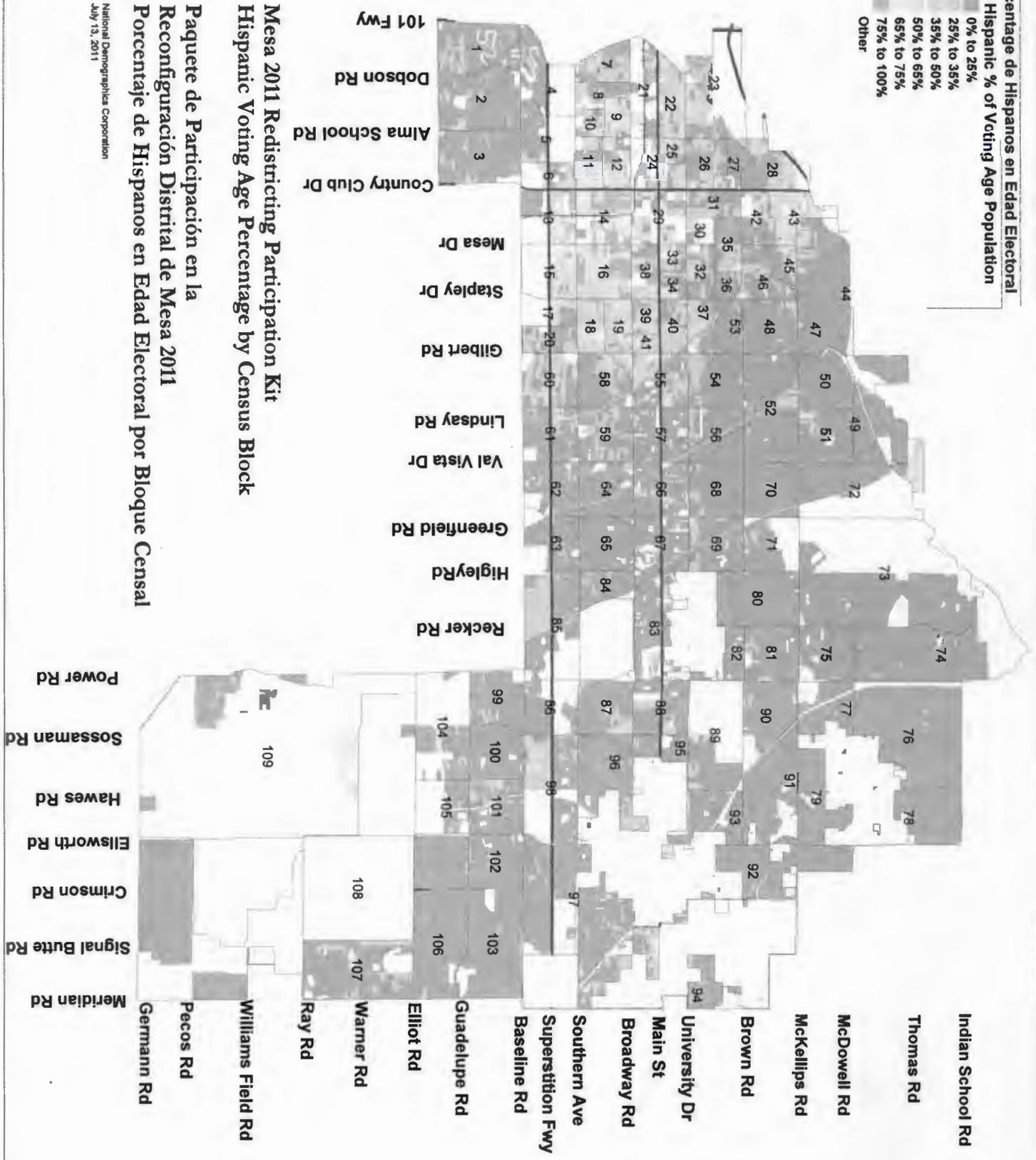
■ <http://www.onlineredistricting.com/Mesa/Redist/>

The screenshot displays the online redistricting system interface. The main map shows six districts with the following data:

District	Population	Deviation	% Deviation
1	64,536	-8,524	-11.7%
2	67,850	-5,524	-7.5%
3	63,303	-9,871	-13.5%
4	58,817	-14,357	-19.6%
5	78,566	5,382	7.4%
6	106,067	32,093	45.0%

The interface also includes a 'Pending Changes (None)' table, a 'Map Legend' with 'Layers' and 'Themes' options, and a 'Redistricting Toolbox' with various tools like 'New District', 'Source All', and 'Census Block'.

Porcentaje de Hispanos en Edad Electoral
Hispanic % of Voting Age Population



Mesa 2011 Redistricting Participation Kit
Hispanic Voting Age Percentage by Census Block
Paquete de Participación en la
Reconfiguración Distrital de Mesa 2011
Porcentaje de Hispanos en Edad Electoral por Bloque Censal

National Demographics Corporation
 July 13, 2011