2024 Redistricting Preliminary Report

Districting Process Advisory Committee

October 3, 2024

Introduction

Every four years the City of Colorado Springs realigns the six City Council districts to account for changes in population and annexations to the municipal boundaries. This realignment process is called redistricting. The updated City Council districts are set in advance of the non-partisan municipal elections that will be held on April 1, 2025.

Per §5.1.302 of the City Code, the Colorado Springs City Council appoints a volunteer District Process Advisory Committee comprised of seven (7) representatives from each of the six (6) City Council districts and one (1) at-large. Two (2) alternate members were appointed and could serve in the place of any member who could not participate. The Committee's role is to be the voice of citizens in the redistricting process. The Committee advises the City Clerk, engages in public outreach, and assists the Clerk with collecting and summarizing public input.

This preliminary report fulfills §5.1.304(C) for the Committee to "summarize the public input and make a preliminary recommendation of election district boundaries." It should be noted that this preliminary report is separate from the report prepared by the City Clerk per §5.1.305.

Legal Requirements

The Committee's primary role is to ensure compliance with the legal requirements of the redistricting process.

- §5.1.303(A)
 - Contiguous districts
 - Substantially equal populations
 - To the extent possible, do not divide election precincts
- §5.1.303(B) Comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and to the extent possible:
 - Follow obvious geographic boundaries
 - Do not divide recognized neighborhoods
 - Do not divide identified communities of interest

Timeline Requirements

This report fulfills the requirement for the Advisory Committee to prepare a preliminary report summarizing the public input and making a preliminary recommendation of election district boundaries, as per §5.1.304(C).

The City Clerk will release a preliminary district report by October 1, 2024 and hold a public hearing requesting public comment on the preliminary district boundaries in October per §5.1.305.

The final district report, setting the revised district boundaries, will be released by the City Clerk by at least 120 days (December 2, 2024) but no more than 150 days (November 2, 2024) prior to the municipal elections. [§5.1.307]

The Advisory Committee will prepare a final report after the release of the City Clerk's report. Per §5.1.308, the final report will include a summary of the public education efforts, details of public meetings, a copy of the preliminary report, a summary of any protests (per §5.1.306), and an evaluation of the process and compliance with the city Charter.

Advisory Committee Process

The Advisory Committee process specified in §5.1.304(A) of the City Code includes:

- Engaging in outreach efforts, including, but not limited to "public meetings, e-town hall gatherings, electronic and print media, and City website posts",
- Working with the City Clerk on schedules and dissemination of maps with population data,
- · Conducting public meetings in each of the Council Districts,
- Reporting its findings to the City Council and the City Clerk.

The District Process Advisory Committee was appointed by City Council on May 14, 2024. The Advisory Committee met regularly through September 2024. Public notice of meetings and agenda were provided on the City of Colorado Springs website.

Summary of Public Education Efforts

The Committee worked with the City Clerk and City staff to set up an informational web page on the City website. The page was posted on 8/10/2020 and a page link was prominently displayed on the City website home page.

https://coloradosprings.gov/2024Redistricting

The page included:

A summary of the process:



2024 City Council Redistricting

In Progress

Seeking Input

The City of Colorado Springs and District Process Advisory Committee is inviting the community to take part in a series of public meetings to discuss potential options for redrawing the Colorado Springs City Council districts. More information in the "public engagement tab". Residents can also view the proposed maps and fill out the survey here:





Contact

Overview

The City Clerk sets the Council District boundaries every four years (per City Charter) to ensure districts remain comparable in population as the city grows. The districts were last re-aligned in 2020 and the City Clerk is now reviewing the districts ahead of the 2025 General Municipal Election. Districts must be substantially equal in population, contiguous, and comply with Voting Rights Act and other pertinent laws. The plan is not approved by the Mayor or City Council.

City Council has appointed 9 members to the District Process Advisory Committee. The committee will serve as an advisory body to educate the public, assist the City Clerk, and advise City Council on the districting process. The committee will hold at least one public meeting in each council district to solicit public input.

The City Clerk will release a preliminary City Council district report and map in October after the committee gathers citizen comments. After further opportunity for public input, the City Clerk will prepare the final City Council district report on setting the district boundaries no earlier than November 4 and no later than December 2.

This project page will be updated with additional information as the process moves forward.

Tools for residents to find their city council district and review the option maps:



City Clerk, City Council and Legislative Services

2 City Clerk's Office 719-385-5901, option 4

Elections@ColoradoSprings.g

Key Dates

April - June 2024 Advisory Committee Appointed

· City Council appoints Advisory Committee. The Committee gathers citizen input and gives it to the City Clerk. The City Clerk sets the City Council district boundaries per City Charter.

July - August 2024 Committee and Citizen Input

· City Clerk will post several option maps to start the conversation on possible changes to the districts. Meetings will be held in



according to City Code 5.1.3-Election Districts and City Charter 2-10(b). This review must occur in the even-year prior to the odd-year election. The districts were last re-aligned in 2020 and it is now time to review the districts prior to the April 1, 2025 General Municipal Election for a four-year term of all six City Council District seats.

FIND YOUR COUNCIL DISTRICT

FIND YOUR COUNCIL MEMBER

Document Library

- Project Timeline
- District Process Advisory Committee Training Presentation
- Statistical Terminology for Redistricting
- Current City Council District Map
- UCCS GeoCivics Redistricting Resources
- UCCS GeoCivics Activities to Understand Redistricting

2024 Redistricting Option Maps

- Option A map
 - o Option A pros and cons
- · Option B map
 - Option B pros and cons
- Option C map
- Option C pros and cons

Committee



A schedule of the public meetings:



July - August 2024 Committee and Citizen Input

City Charter.

· City Clerk will post several option maps to start the conversation on possible changes to the districts. Meetings will be held in

ABOUT PUBLIC MEETINGS INTERACTIVE PUBLIC VIEWER TOOL

The City of Colorado Springs and District Process Advisory Committee is inviting the community to take part in a series of public meetings to discuss potential options for redrawing the Colorado Springs City Council districts.

The public will have the opportunity to provide feedback on three different possible City Council district maps, along with sharing what their biggest priorities for a redistrict map should be. There will be seven different public meetings held across Colorado Springs, including a virtual option. Community members may attend any of the scheduled meetings, not only the meeting hosted by a representative of their district.

City of Colorado Springs may view the potential options maps and provide comments by completing the online survey, emailing, calling or postal mailing them to the City Clerk.

SURVEY

Meeting Information

Council District 1: Wednesday, September 11 at 5:30 - 6:30 pm; Fire Station 18 (6830 Hadler View)

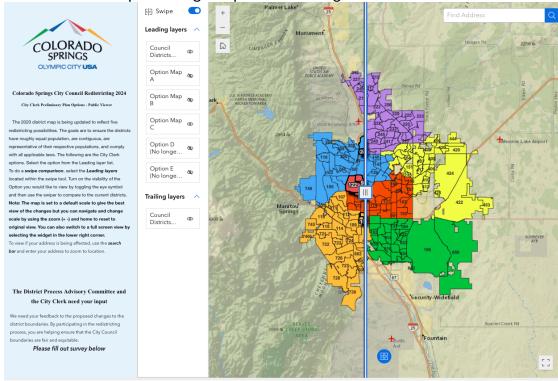
- Council District 1 Representative: Hank Scarangella
- Virtual option
- · View agenda

Council District 2: Monday, September 9 at 6:30 - 7:30 pm; The Village High School (1355 Kelly Johnson Blvd)

• Council District 2 Representative: Devin Camacho

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An interactive map showing the possible changes:



A survey focused on the process and possible options:

Color	ado Springs City Council Redistricting Survey
districts	of Colorado Springs is seeking feedback on proposed updates to City Council Redistricting takes place every four years to ensure Colorado Springs City Council are balanced based on population.
What	is your current ZIP code?*
	is the name of your neighborhood? If you're unsure, please type "I know" in the box.*
	someone asks you where in town you live, what are the MOST on ways you describe your area, or neighborhood? (Check all that ** Geographic Location (North, South, Central, etc.)
comm	on ways you describe your area, or neighborhood? (Check all that
comm	on ways you describe your area, or neighborhood? (Check all that * Geographic Location (North, South, Central, etc.)
comm	on ways you describe your area, or neighborhood? (Check all that * Geographic Location (North, South, Central, etc.) Neighborhood Name
comm	on ways you describe your area, or neighborhood? (Check all that Geographic Location (North, South, Central, etc.) Neighborhood Name Familiar Cross Streets A familiar point of interest people may know (e.g. Garden of the Gods, Memorial

Additional outreach efforts included postings on social media, emails, printed infographic flyers in public places (libraries, neighborhood shops) and coverage in local media. See Appendix A for examples of these forms of outreach.

Public Meetings

Per §5.1.304(A) of the City Code, seven (7) public meetings were held to provide information about the redistricting process and solicit feedback from the community.

Council District 1: Wednesday, September 11 at 5:30 - 6:30 pm; Fire Station 18 (6830 Hadler View)

Council District 2: Monday, September 9 at 6:30 - 7:30 pm; The Village High School (1355 Kelly Johnson Blvd)

Council District 3: Wednesday, September 18 at 6-7 pm; Westside Community Center (1628 W Bijou St.)

Council District 4: Thursday, September 12 at 5:30 - 6:30 pm; Carmel Community School (1740 Pepperwood Dr., Carmel Community Room)

Council District 5: Wednesday, September 11 at 2 - 3 pm; Ruth Holley Library (685 N Murray Blvd)

Council District 6: Friday, September 6 at 5:30-6:30 pm; Fire Station 20 (6755 Rangewood Dr)

At-Large Meeting: Monday, September 23 at 5:30 - 6:30 pm; City Administration Building (30 S Nevada, Room 102) and virtually

The meetings included a virtual option via MS-Teams. Each meeting location was set up to include a presentation screen with the virtual attendees and the PowerPoint slides, a set of large maps of the current and potential district boundaries, and a map of the neighborhoods in the city. Each attendee was provided a printed copy of the PowerPoint slides, a copy of the 2024 redistricting flyer, and the option to write comments on sticky notes and post them on a map.

The meetings followed a similar agenda:

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. Districting Process and Timeline
- 3. Legal Requirements for Districting
- 4. Districting Data and Maps
- 5. Public Comment and Questions

Attendance varied among the meetings:

District	Representative	Participants
1	Hank Scarangella	6*
2	Devin Camacho	2
3	Shelly Roehrs	13*
4	Jeannie Lira	13*
5	Jennifer DeWoody	9*
6	Jerde Quattlebaum	13
At Large	Steven Radil	13

^{*}Includes online participants via MS-Teams

Preliminary Recommendations

The City Clerk provided the Committee with a set of five (5) districting map options. The maps were conversation starters and allowed the committee members to explore options and constraints of the redistricting process. The overall goal of redistricting is to redraw the district boundaries so that the city's population is evenly distributed amongst them.

After discussion about the initial five option maps (Options 1 thru 5), the Committe decided to include three of the maps in the public meetings as examples of what redistricting may produce. These three options (A, B, and C) were similar in some respects (moving precincts at the boundary of districts 1 and 2) but varied in how those changes were rebalance across the rest of the city.

The three options redistributed the population in this manner:

District	2020 Pop	2024 Pop ¹	Option A	Option B	Option C
1	81,707	79,546	83,432	83,234	82,834
2	79,904	91,767	85,704	83,327	80,614
3	80,788	80,031	80,031	85,738	84,646
4	79,847	81,138	81,138	81,138	83,783
5	80,254	79,195	87,192	83,866	83,508
6	79,314	88,668	82,848	83,042	84,960
TOTAL	481,814	500,435	500,435	500,435	500,435
Ideal	80,302	83,406	83,406	83,406	83,406

¹ Population estimates based on census data provided by ESRI

After the public meetings were held, the committee members reviewed all public comments (appendices B and C) and discussed the Pros and Cons of each option. Each member then submitted recommendations for the preliminary map to be created by the City Clerk. Committee members were asked to identify a preferred option with rational for the selection, along with potential changes to the preferred option if any. The group agreed a majority vote of the preferred option would be included in the preliminary report.

At least one committee member preferred each of the three maps (options A, B, and C), but option C received the most support, with qualifications. Most of the discussion focused on how to keep neighborhoods (e.g. Mountain Shadows, Middle Shooks Run) and communities of interest (e.g. UCCS, school district 49) together. The qualifications and recommendations, some of which were made by the public, include:

- Account for projected growth in districts 2 and 6 in order to reduce the deviation between district sizes in coming years by allowing those districts to be drawn below the ideal population size.
- Unify all school district 49 precincts into one city council district by moving precincts 253 and 455 (currently in district 2) into district 6.
- Move precinct 139 into district 4 in order to unify industry related to the airport.
- If the opportunity presents itself, unify the Cottonwood Creek neighborhood by moving precinct 142 from district 6 into district 1. This will also further reduce the population size of district 6 to allow for future growth.
- Unite the Kitty Hawk/Bonneville and Wasson neighborhoods by moving precincts 94, 95, and 96 into district 5.

Appendix A: Public Outreach Efforts

Members of the committee augmented the citywide public outreach effort with their own engagement efforts. The following table summarizes what individual members did to contact people and increase participation.

District	Outreach Efforts		
1	The project was discussed at a D1 Town Hall meeting on June 20 and will be again on October 3. An informational flyer was sent to the Peregrine Master Association, the Sanctuary at Peregrine HOA, and the Kissing Camels HOA. Information about the process was posted on NextDoor on two occasions.		
2	Communication was sent through Academy School District #20 internal and external emails to families, letting them know about upcoming public meetings – with special emphasis on District #2 and District #1 meeting times and locations.		
	Students and Families in the Village High School 11th grade Civics class were also contacted separately with an offer to attend as an evening engagement opportunity for students to learn about local government processes.		
3	Promoted all District & At-Large meetings via the League of Women Voters of the Pikes Peak Region (social media and monthly newsletter). Share Facebook events with 7+ groups (ie Elevate COS: Volunteerism, Charity & Positive Impact, etc		
	- Next Door - all District & At-Large meetings were created on this social media platform		
	- Shared District 3 on my personal social media groups - Pleasant Valley, Mesa, Shelly Roehrs, Realtor		
	- Emailed Mesa & Pleasant Valley neighbors regarding District 3 & At-Large meetings		
	- Pikes Peak Bulletin attended District 3 meeting		
4			
5	Emailed a summary of the districting process, the DPAC flyer, and public meeting schedule to 22 homeowner associations and property management agencies doing business in the district; distributed flyers to local business across the district, focusing on precincts that were proposed to change districts in the option maps.		

6	Had a variety of conversations with people from personal networks within the district.
At Large	

Appendix B: Online Survey Results

The following summary of surveys responses was provided to the Committee:



9/20/2024

RESPONSES BY ZIP CODE



18 Unique Zip Codes represented

80919	9
80909	9
80904	9
80903	9
80907	7
80923	4
80906	4
80922	3
80920	3
80924	2
80921	2
80918	2
80917	2
80938	1
80927	1
80926	1
80914	1
80910	1

2

NEIGHBORHOODS REPRESENTED



49 Unique Neighborhoods Self Reported (5 "I don't knows" reported)

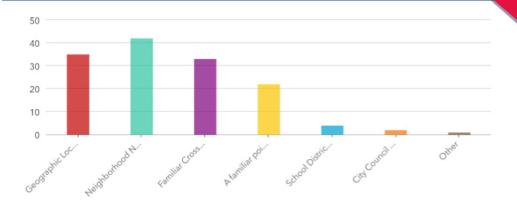
Top Neighborhoods

Old North End	5
Kissing Camels	5
Knob Hill	3
Springs Ranch	2
Rockrimmon	2

3

HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE YOUR AREA?

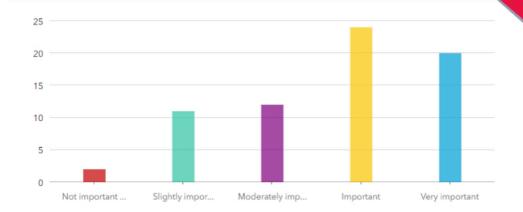




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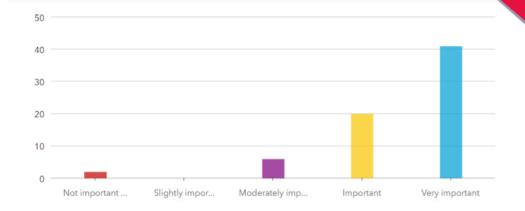




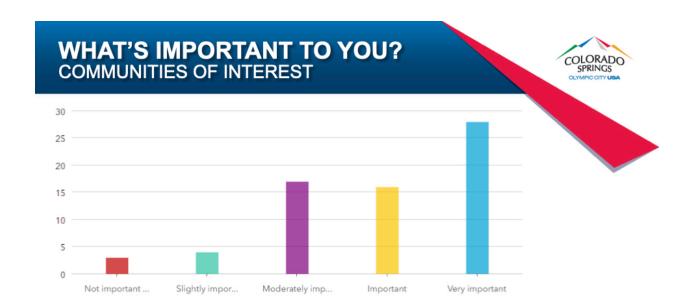
5

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU? RECOGNIZED NEIGHBORHOODS





6





Appendix C: Comments from Public Meetings

Those who attended public meetings (either in person or virtually) were invited to leave written comments either by writing on a sticky note and placing it on the associated map, leaving a larger comment on an index card, or typing into the Teams chat. The following comments were received on each option (listed in no particular order).

Option A

- 240, 239, 245 -> District 1
- Map A seems much less disruptive to neighborhoods than the others
- Pro: CD5 + CD1 seem more "solid" in Map A. More "pros" listed here. Con: 4% deviation for CD3, 4.6 for CD5
- this map has fewest disrruptions to neighborhoods
- Joining 94-96 makes sense as this option joins them on the same side of Filmore
- #125 & 152, 91 is closer to the south part of district to form a contiguous district

Option B

- Pro Continues "west side" to the north (D3 growing north). But yes, divides mnt shadows
- 239 into district 1
- #151 #153 are coherent neighborhoods with nothing in commmon with Uintah
- Pct 151 & 153 were redistricted into County Comm D2. If those precincts were moved into District 5 for council, they would be incompatible with the county boundarie
- This choice is very divisive. Not a proponent

Option C

- I prefer Option C the best. Option A second best. Option B is worst.
- Please don't split Divine Redeemer neighborhood! We have far more in common with neighborhoods that border downtown than with the current D3 neighborhoods
- Nice list of Pros. Reuniting older neighborhoods, natural (roads) boundaries.
 "Solid" districts
- This choice keeps #141, 135, 149 together with its neighboors on the same side of Rangewood

Appendix D: Other Public Communications

Email #1

Hi, Sarah -

I took a bit of time to look at our City Charter and the City Code to better understand redistricting. I have a few questions, if I may please:

Where does it say the City Clerk has the option to redistrict or not?

From what I see below in the city charter, we can divide precincts, although we are not to do that to the extent possible. Is that correct? I had understood from the .ppt that this was not flexible, that we do not divide election precinct boundary lines.

Also from what I see below in the city code, we are NOT to divide recognized neighborhoods or communities of interest. Is that correct? I had understood from the .ppt that there was flexibility here, yet the code leads one to think otherwise. The .ppt portrays: Do not divide neighborhoods to the extent possible. Do not divide identified communities of interests to the extent possible.

When you get a chance, would you be so kind as to help with understanding here?

Thank you so much.

Where does it say the City Clerk has the option to redistrict or not? **There is no option to not redistrict as it clearly states in the City Charter and the City Code.**

From what I see below in the city charter, we can divide precincts, although we are not to do that to the extent possible. Is that correct? I had understood from the .ppt that this was not flexible, that we do not divide election precinct boundary lines. **We do not divide election precincts.**

Also from what I see below in the city code, we are NOT to divide recognized neighborhoods or communities of interest. Is that correct? I had understood from the .ppt that there was flexibility here, yet the code leads one to think otherwise. The .ppt portrays: Do not divide neighborhoods to the extent possible. Do not divide identified communities of interests to the extent possible. To the extent possible allows for the flexibility as it states in City Code and City charter.

Sarah B Johnson, MMC, MPA

Thank you, Sarah.

Appreciate the answers. Looks like I misunderstood from conversation the other night that the Clerk (you) have the option of redistricting or not.

Also, appreciate answer to #3 below. I reread the code, and you are correct it does say "to the extent possible" in the lead in paragraph. I missed that initially. Sorry.

And, regarding #2...what I am hearing is that even though the city charter states we can divide precincts, we do not.

Thanks again

Email #2:

First let me acknowledge that although I am the current President of the Old North End Neighborhood, I am writing an opinion as an individual, NOT the President because there has not been sufficient time to adequately staff and vote on a position for such a complex subject. There are also so some vital bits of information that require further clarification as this deadline for comments is closed.

A general observation is that the City Clerk Office was given the sole responsibility to make the final decision on District boundaries without review to avoid the process becoming political, as it is with all of the other redistricting efforts at all levels of our representative government.

Having stated that observation, it is above all of the other considerations, that the final decision must be above even the slightest hint of an influence of political considerations, whether intentional or not.

Therefore, any boundary changes which would shift District lines in a manner that would place two existing council members into the same District, whether they intend to run for office again or not, is UNACCETABLE. The reason that this is not acceptable at all, is the universally acknowledged advantage that any candidate can have is incumbency. Except in the rare case where the candidates behavior is so egregious that it is a liability. One Council member would be the incumbent in their District and to a much lesser extent the other newly included Council member would not be.

As I understand the current recommended boundary changes, this political reality eliminates Option A, from consideration.

In general, way too much consideration is given to balancing population totals among the Districts. There are not hard and fast limits not to be exceeded but there would have to be a compelling logic of discrimination shown for the population to be shifted greatly. A 10% difference in each District would allow a much more coherent compliance with the other guidelines for District boundaries.

Without a detailed map of the new district boundaries, it is very hard to follow the changes being proposed.

I find none of the current proposals acceptable.

Appendix E: Recommendations from Individual Committee Members

District	Committee Member	Recommendations
1	Hank Scarangella	My preference is for Option C. It produces the best Deviations from the Deal numbers and keeps most neighborhoods intact. One new suggestion is to move 142 into D1. This moves virtually all of Cottonwood Creek into D1, reduces D6 population by another 2,912 and does not make D1's population too high. The overall movement of neighborhoods seems to make sense. Moving 243 and 141 into D1 puts the Cottonwood Creek Park and much of the neighborhood into D1. In Option A, moving 152 from D1 to D5 breaks up Vista Grande. If Option A is adopted, 152 should remain in D1. In Option B, splitting Mountain Shadows would be a mistake. Moving 748/102/105 creates an extremely large geographic area for D3 and would also split Kissing Camels between D1 and D3.
2	Devin Camacho	My recommendation is for option A. Reasonings below. Brings whole the Old North End by moving precincts 94,95, and 96 into District 5. Maintains that the precincts North of Filmore along the N. Nevada corridor remain in the same District as UCCS. I'd consider this area a community of interest as UCCS is making major investments along the entire N. Nevada Corridor. o This map also keeps the precincts and neighborhoods directly south of UCCS in the same district as the school.

3	Shelly Roehrs	In my opinion, if the population allows: - Keep D49 intact by moving the 2 precincts into District 6 Referencing Option B Move Precincts 740a, 748, 109, and 102 into District 3 - Keep Precinct 105 in District 1 - Move Precincts 242, 251, 252, and 244 into District 1 - Move Precincts 151 and 153 into District 5 - Move Precinct 92 and 93 into District 3 - Move Precinct 139 into District 4
4	Jeannie Lira	 My preference and the community members I spoke with, is map C. Thank you to all the committee members for taking time to gather input and give input. Map A- This map does not affect district 4, my only criticism is the north move in district 5 beyond Austin Bluffs, I do not think this is a good move as far as the College is concerned and does not draw clean lines. Map B- This map is a hard no for me as it breaks up known communities and we are trying to put people first. Map C- Having all of Knob Hill in one city council district to allow clear representation at city council- Clear lines drawn in council district 5 that follow demographic lines along Austin Bluffs Prkwy and Pikes Peak ave.

5 Jennifer DeWoody

I recommend option C. Public comments favored option A, often with the rationale that the map was "least disruptive" to current boundaries. But I think the additional changes in option C are valid and positive.

- Reunites established neighborhoods in the core of the city (MSR, Knob Hill)
- Moves the piece of school district 49 into D6
- Divides Cottonwood Creek into two districts, not three (option A)
- Results in District 2 population below the average, allowing for additional growth in that area

I considered possible modifications of option C to address raised in comments and pros/cons, but no simple solutions are obvious. (Issues include moving precinct 240 into District 1 to unit the new apartments at Chapel Hill with the North Academy district, and reuniting USSC with precinct 123, 99, 127, but no public comments seem to have raised a concern with that change.)

One change that may be helpful with minimal disruption to the population balance is to move precinct 109 on the west side (300 people) into District 3 (which is probably a better neighborhood fit). I believe one comment suggested this (though they called it precinct 300 by mistake, and I could not find precinct 300).

I think, in balance, option C solves more problems than it creates.

6	Jerde Quattlebaum	I was the District 6 representative and was able to attend one meeting in person and dialed in to one other. I had a variety of conversations with people from my personal network within my district and the most common question or concern revolved around preserving the school districts. In fact a large majority of people were not overly concerned with redistricting efforts or the election in general. The redistricting process was very open and all members were very communicative. The staff that worked with us was incredibly knowledgeable and helpful throughout the process. I do not have a preference for the maps but there is a concern that the proposed changes do not account for the increasing growth on the eastern side of District 6 (east of Marksheffel) and there is a concern that the proposed changes may quickly become irrelevant as a result of that growth.
At-large	Steve Radil	As the at-large member, I reviewed comments from the online survey and entire series of public meetings rather than focusing on the feedback related to a specific council district. Based on that citywide set of input, my interpretation is that Option C had the plurality, though not the majority, of supporting comments. The feedback noted that the Option C map did a few things quite well, including unifying several neighborhoods that are currently split across multiple districts and uniting all of School District 49 into one council district. While the population imbalances were higher in this option than in Option B, it still performed better in this metric than did Option A. Noting that the plurality of public support went to Option C, I take no issue with this as a potential recommendation from the committee.

Alternate	Sarah Brittain Jack	The re-distracting process was an open, transparent process from beginning to end. Sarah was knowledgeable about the process, the law that drives the process and very clear and concise in her presentation at each meeting. She was open to opinion and suggestions. There were seven public meetings conducted - one for each District and one for at-Large. These were all held in a location in the District and they were held in the evenings. I attended 4 of the 7 meetings. Not unlike most public meetings they were not packed but, there was attendance and interest. My preference for the maps is - first place "A" second place "B"
Alternate	Matthew Stewart	