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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cuyahoga County Districting Commission Launches Website and Seeks Input at Three Public Forums for Next Week

Districting Commission Reviewed Initial Population and Demographic Data from 2020 Census and Discussed Criteria for Setting District Boundaries

CLEVELAND—Thursday, August 19, 2021, the Cuyahoga County Districting Commission, which Cuyahoga County Council appointed to reapportion Cuyahoga County's Council districts, held its third meeting at the Cuyahoga County Administration Building. Links to the agenda, materials, and video recording of this meeting are included below:

- [Video of August 19, 2021, Cuyahoga County Districting Commission Meeting](#)
- [Agenda](#)
- [Slide Presentation](#)

Website and Public Forums

Representatives from R Strategy Group, one of the firms assisting the Districting Commission in its work, presented the Districting Commission's new website and announced three public forums soliciting public input and comments about redistricting.

The Districting Commission's website is a repository for all redistricting materials and information and a hub for residents to communicate with the Commission. It may be accessed at: <http://council.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/2021-Council-Districting-Commission.aspx>

The three upcoming public meetings of the Districting Commission will be held at the dates and times listed below in the County Council Chambers, Cuyahoga County Administration Building 4th Floor, 2079 E. 9th Street, Cleveland.

Monday, August 23, 2021

Time: 3:00-5:00pm

Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Time: 5:30-7:30pm

Thursday, August 26, 2021

Time: 3:00-5:00pm

All Districting Committee meetings will be streamed live at:

<http://council.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/Streaming-Video.aspx> and instructions for joining the meeting via Zoom and sharing comments or questions will be provided during each meeting.

Requirements and Aspirations

Representatives from the two other firms from the Districting Commission's consulting team, Target Smart and Muller Public Strategies, reviewed the statutory requirements the Districting Commission must follow when drawing boundary lines, as well as the aspirational criteria the Commission may set as goals for the 11 Council districts.

The three statutory requirements the Districting Commission must adhere to are:

- Districts must be contiguous; they may not be divided into geographically separated parts.
- Districts must neither pack nor dilute African-American or Hispanic residents.
- Districts must not split precincts.

The Cuyahoga County Charter establishes two additional aspirational criteria:

- Districts must have "substantially equal populations," which in the past has meant each district's population must be within a percentage deviation from the ideal district population size.
- If possible, communities should not be divided among Council districts, except for the City of Cleveland, where the population is greater than that of a single Council district.

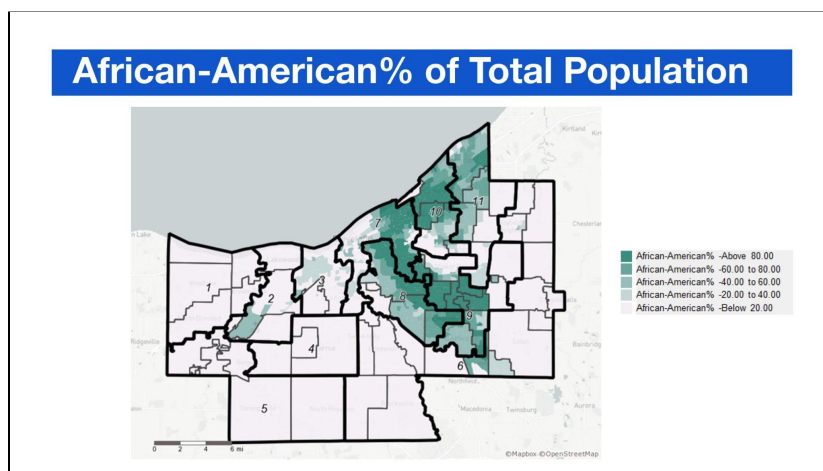
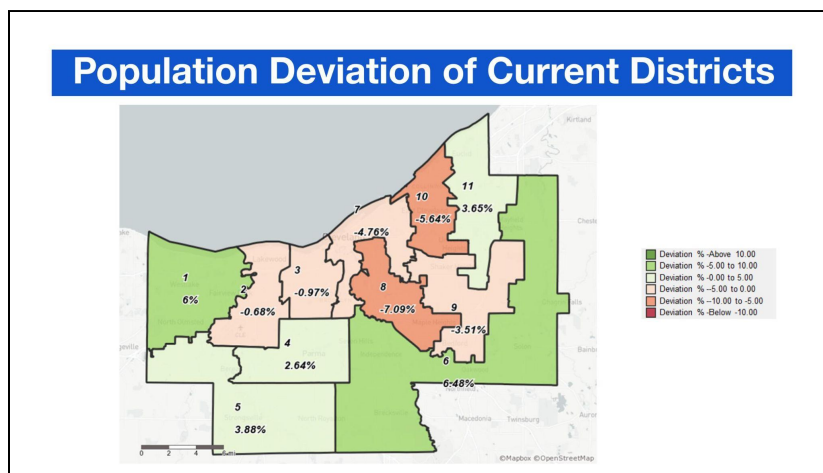
In 2011, the Districting Commission established two additional aspirational criteria that the County Charter did not require:

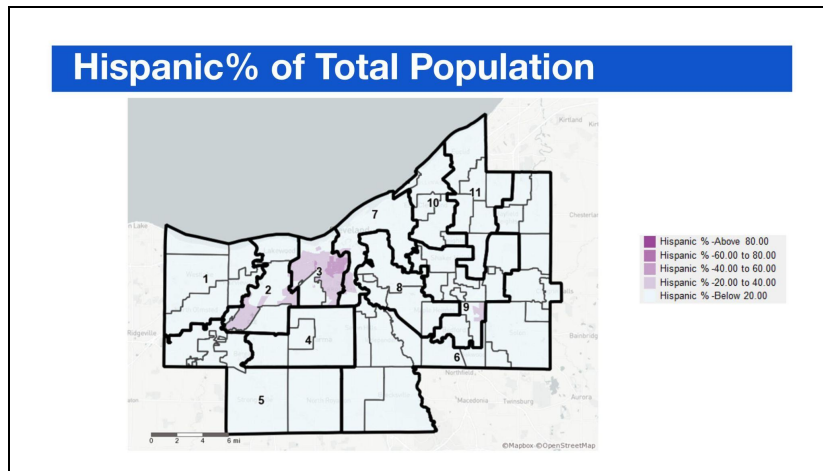
- Boundaries should be drawn to minimize the number of residents assigned to new districts.
- If possible, Councilmembers should continue to represent their current districts.

Population and Demographics

Representatives of Target Smart and Muller Public Strategies also presented the Districting Commission maps of the current County Council districts overlaid with information about:

- The percentage deviation of the population of each district from the ideal/average population size.
- The percentage of black/African-American residents of each district.
- The percentage of Hispanic/Latino residents of each district.





The Districting Commission’s consultant team announced that they would share the first iterations of potential district maps at the Districting Commission’s Monday, August 23, 2021 meeting, which will be held from 3:00-5:00 pm in the Cuyahoga County Council Chambers, Cuyahoga County Administration Building 4th Floor, 2079 E. 9th Street, Cleveland.

Background

Section 3.04 (2) of the Cuyahoga County Charter requires the County Council to appoint a five-member Districting Commission every ten years, immediately following each decennial Federal Census, to draw the boundaries of the County’s Council districts. Once established, the Commission shall prepare and certify to the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections a detailed apportionment of Council districts that reflect the criteria outlined in the Charter.

Cuyahoga County’s Charter requires that the Districting Commission complete its apportionment of Council Districts “...the same date as the apportionment for the Ohio General Assembly,” which is September 1, 2021. Federal statute required the U.S. Census Bureau to release the data needed for reapportionment by March 31, 2021, five months before the Districting Commission’s deadline. The Census Bureau did not release the necessary data, however, until August 12, 2021, less than three weeks before the Districting Commission’s deadline.

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