

REDISTRICTING – ALBEMARLE COUNTY – PROPOSED MAPS – 2022

For Albemarle County, the local decennial redistricting process for 2022 will require changes to the county magisterial district boundary lines, and changes to some of the county voting precinct boundary lines.

For the county magisterial districts, the legal requirements are to aim for equal total population in each of the 6 magisterial districts, but, as perfection is not possible, the permitted deviation from ideal district size (approximately 18,733 people, based on the 2020 census), is plus or minus 5%.

With the magisterial district lines as they are at present:

- both the Rio District and the White Hall District need to lose population in order to meet the acceptable $\pm 5\%$ deviation;
- both the Samuel Miller District and the Scottsville District need to gain population in order to meet the acceptable $\pm 5\%$ deviation; and
- both the Jack Jouett District and the Rivanna District can either lose some population or gain some population and still meet the acceptable $\pm 5\%$ deviation.

Working within these constraints, and aiming to relocate as few voters as possible to new magisterial districts and polling places, the redistricting staff has developed 3 alternative proposed redistricting maps – Option 1, Option 2, and Option 3. Each of the 3 Options moves the magisterial district lines so that all 6 of the magisterial districts will be within the acceptable $\pm 5\%$ deviation from ideal equal population.

Differences between the 3 Options:

Option 1:

Pros: maintains most current voting precinct boundaries, except where necessary to achieve population parity among magisterial districts, or to prevent a voting precinct being split between two House of Delegates districts. Readjusts the precinct boundary

line between the Agnor-Hurt precinct and the Georgetown precinct to be more consistent with communities of interest.

Cons: some voters would see their voting precincts change, and for some the commute to their new polling place would be a bit longer than the commute to their present polling place, although staying within the 20 minute recommended commute under the redistricting guidelines.

Option 2:

Pros: will affect the fewest number of voters of the 3 proposed Options. Maintains most current voting precinct boundaries, except where necessary to achieve population parity among magisterial districts, or to prevent a voting precinct being split between two House of Delegates districts.

Cons: moves a portion of the southern boundary line of the Free Bridge precinct from the Rivanna River and I-64 to to U.S. 250. Voters who currently vote at the Elks Lodge would be reassigned to the Monticello precinct and vote at Monticello High School; longer commute.

Option 3:

Pros: will reduce the number of registered voters voting in the Mechums River precinct and the Ivy precinct. Otherwise maintains most other current voting precinct boundaries, except where necessary to achieve population parity among magisterial districts, or to prevent a voting precinct being split between two House of Delegates districts.

Cons: would require creation of a new voting precinct and securing a new voting location/polling place. Voters assigned to this new precinct would in some cases have a longer commute than to their current polling place.

Factors common to all options:

The final redistricting maps adopted by the Virginia Supreme Court have 99% of Albemarle County placed in the 5th U.S. House of Representatives district. However, a tiny sliver of land in the northwest corner of Albemarle County is placed in the 7th U.S. House of Representatives district. This tiny sliver has only approximately 100 inhabitants, not all of whom are registered voters. The elections code prohibits the creation of a county voting precinct with less than 100 registered voters. At the same

time, the elections code prohibits the creation of a voting precinct that is split between two election districts – *unless* it is simply not possible to avoid this, in which case the local governing body can apply to the State Board of Elections for a waiver of the prohibition against creation of split precincts. Because the “tiny sliver” is so small and sparsely inhabited that a separate voting precinct cannot be created for this spot, the sliver will be a part of the current Free Union voting precinct, under all 3 of the Options presented, and will require a request from the Board of Supervisors to the State Board of Elections for a split precinct waiver.