

**Item Title:** Update on Census-Related Residential District Adjustments

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners receives an update on Census-Related Residential District Adjustments of the Wake County Board of Commissioners; and reviews the Criteria to Guide the Process.**

**Item Summary:**

On August 12, 2021, Wake County received data from the U.S. Census Bureau regarding updated population figures. In accordance with state law, the Board of Commissioners may use the new census data to revise the geographies of the Board's seven residence districts to achieve population balance. The districts were last adjusted in 2011, after the 2010 census. Given the new population figures, and resulting disparity, staff is advising that the districts be adjusted again. Prior to drafting changes to the existing districts, staff is asking the Board to review the following criteria that will be used to guide the process. Staff will take reasonable efforts to incorporate each one into the proposed map.

The following criteria was established by the using the NC Legislature's Joint Redistricting Committee's proposed criteria.

1. *Equal Population* – Data from the 2020 Census Voter Tabulation Districts will be used to balance the population in drawing the amended districts. The population in each district will comply with a +/-5% deviation.
2. *Incumbency Protection* – The pairing of incumbent commissioners with other incumbent commissioners in the adjusted districts will be avoided.
3. *Contiguity* – The adjusted districts will be comprised of contiguous territory.
4. *Split Precincts* – Reasonable efforts will be made to avoid or minimize splitting Wake County Board of Elections voting precincts.
5. *No Consideration of Demographic Data* – Data identifying the race, ethnicity or age of individuals or voters shall not be used.
6. *No Consideration of Electoral Data* – Reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that the process is not guided by electoral data and partisan political influences.
7. *Compactness* – Reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that adjusted districts will have the minimum distance between all the parts of the population.
8. *Communities of Interest* – Consideration will be given to preserving geographical areas, such as neighborhoods, where residents have a common social or cultural connection.

Staff will present the adjusted district map to the Board at their next regular meeting on October 18, 2021. Then, at the November 1, 2021 Board meeting, staff will present the final map for consideration of adoption. Pursuant to state law, any district adjustments must be completed by November 17, 2021.

**Attachments:**

1. Presentation