



# Redistricting Providence

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Providence Ward Boundaries  
Committee



# What is Redistricting

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- Redistricting is the process used by governments to redraw political district boundaries.
  - Examples of political boundaries are city Wards, State Senate or House districts, Federal districts
- We just participated in the 2020 Census. The population numbers collected by the census determines the population in a community.
  - Every ten years we redraw the political lines based on the new population numbers.
- Redistricting applies to all levels of government where district elections are held, including the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislatures, city councils and more.

# Providence Ward Boundary Committee Basics

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- Home Charter [Rule Part 1, Article II, Section 204](#) outlines Redistricting in Providence
  - 15 Wards are specified
  - To be redrawn using the most recent decennial Census Data
  - Led by a 5-member committee of Providence residents appointed by the Providence City Council
- Requirements
  - At least 4 public meetings prior to submitting the maps to the City Council
  - Committee must submit a report that includes notation of criteria employed and analysis of decisions made by the committee
  - Committee must abide by Open Meeting Act

# Criteria for redrawing Ward Boundaries

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The City Charter also outlines the criteria that should be implemented when redrawing the Ward Boundaries:

- **Equality of Population**
  - Population is mostly the same in each Ward
- **Contiguous**
  - A district is considered contiguous if all parts of the district are in physical contact with some other part of the district.
- **Comply with the Voting Rights Act**
- **Communities of Interest**
  - Geographic integrity respected so as to minimize division of neighborhoods or other areas of interest
  - Next slide goes into detail of communities of interest
- **Geographical Compactness**
  - A district is generally considered compact if it has a fairly regular shape, with constituents all living relatively near to each other
- **Place of residence of any incumbent or political candidate shall not be considered**

# What is a Community of Interest?

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- A community of interest is a neighborhood, community, or group of people in a geographic area who have common policy concerns and would benefit from being maintained in a single ward
  - Communities of interest are defined by local community members.
- Why is a community of interest important?
  - Keeping communities of interest together is an important principle in redistricting. It can be especially helpful to communities that have been traditionally left out of the political process
  - Community members can define their communities by telling their own stories and describe their concerns to policy makers. Without this, those who may not have their best interest in mind will define the communities for them.
- What are examples of a community of interest? *Geographically based*
  - Residents who have been working together to advocate for important projects in their community
  - A neighborhood organizing to have a high school built closer to their area
  - A group of business owners in a business district or business street



# What do we know so far about Providence?

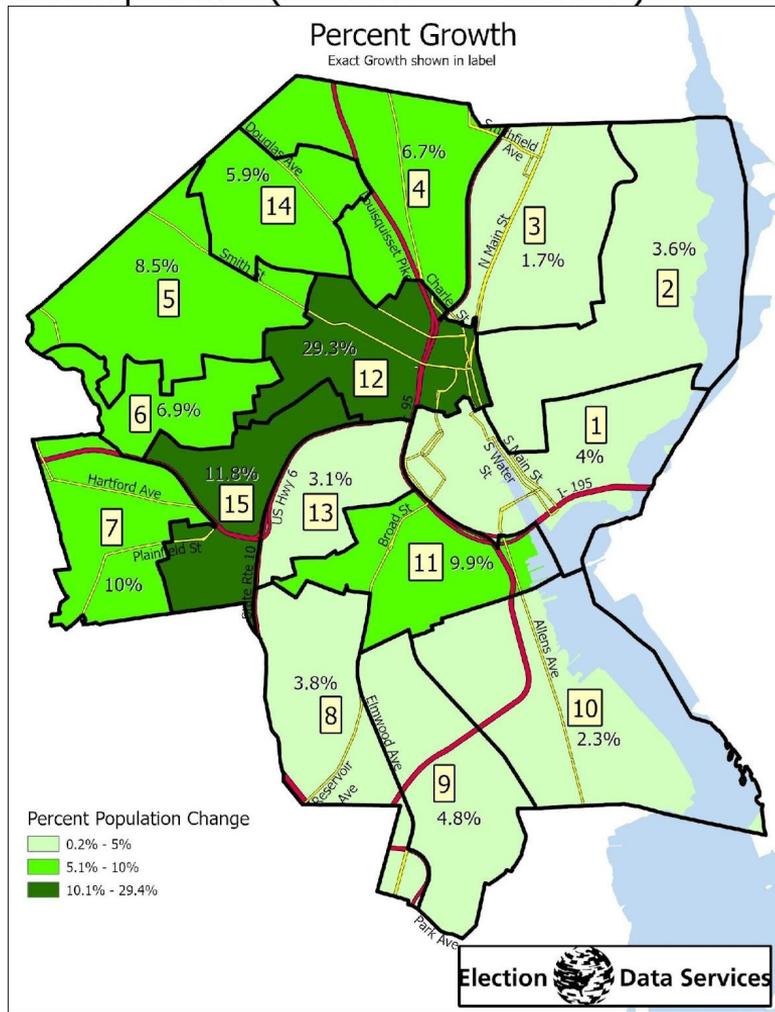
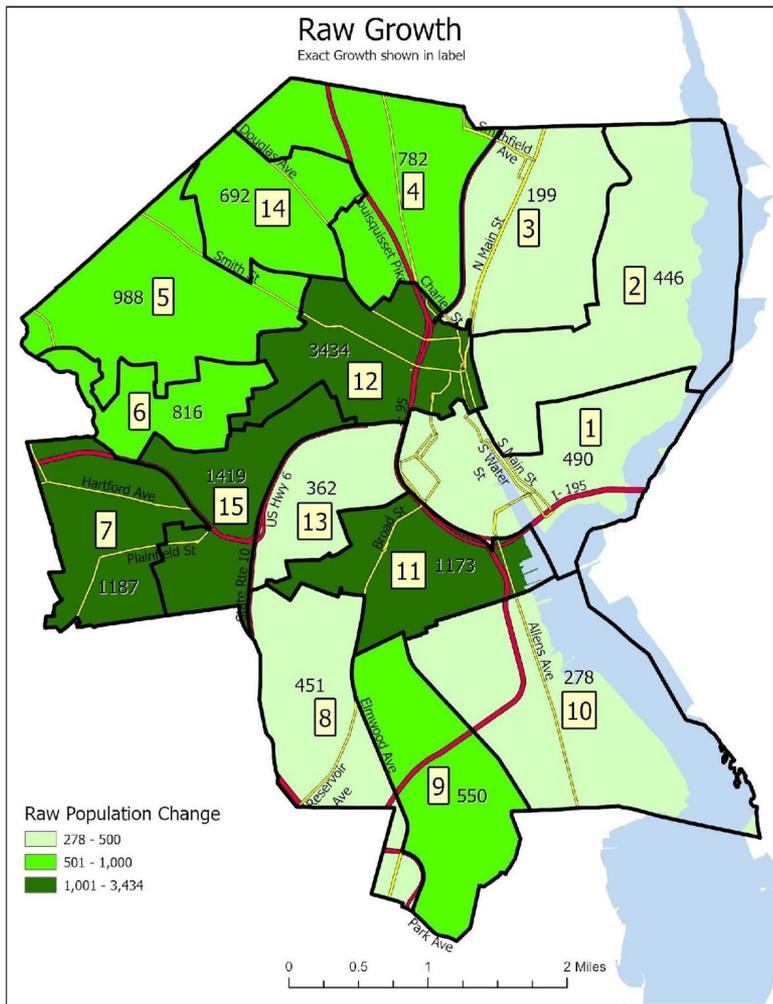
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- Population grew by 12,892 people to 190,934 people counted by the Census on April 1, 2020, a 7.24% population growth.
  - Population is everyone, all people regardless of age, citizenship status, or voting status. Everyone Counts toward representation in the place that they lived as of April 1, 2020.
- For 2020 the equal population would be 12,729 in each Ward based on that population. However, equal population is going to be slightly higher for Providence. We will use 12,754
  - This is because the Rhode Island Statewide Redistricting committee agreed to “move back” to their last known address people who were counted at the ACI on Census Day, April 1 2020 and who would have been at the ACI for two years or less.
  - This means Providence gains back approximately 375 people who would have otherwise been counted in Cranston and not in the Providence community in which they lived
    - Research shows that many people return to their last known address

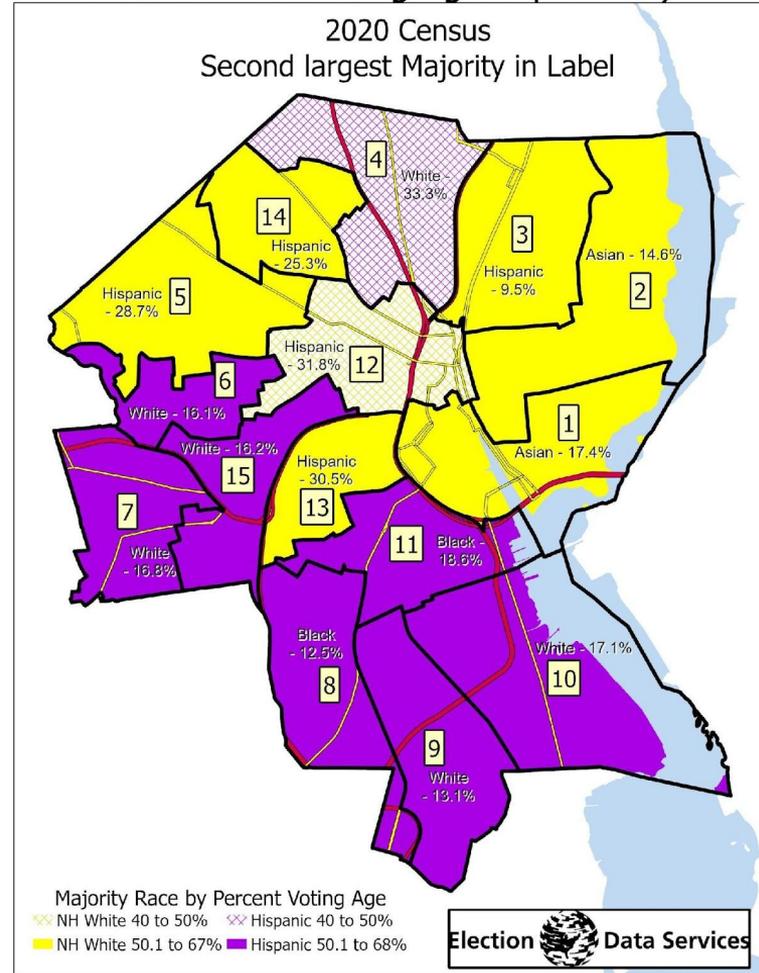
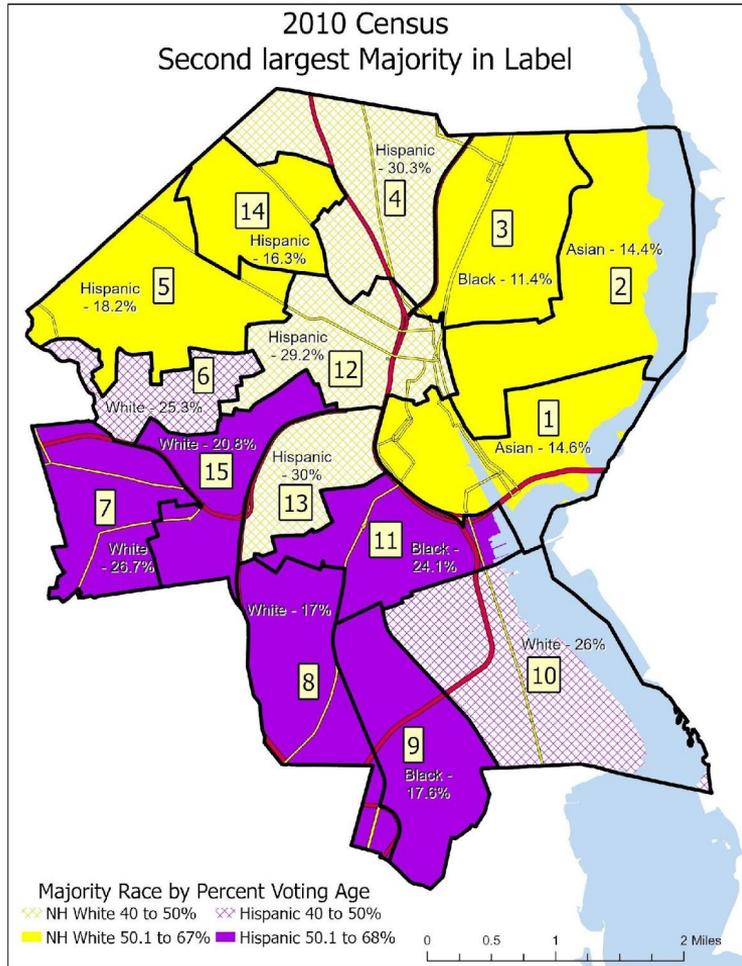
# Where did Providence's population change?

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# Providence - Growth in City Ward Total Population (2010 to 2020 Census)



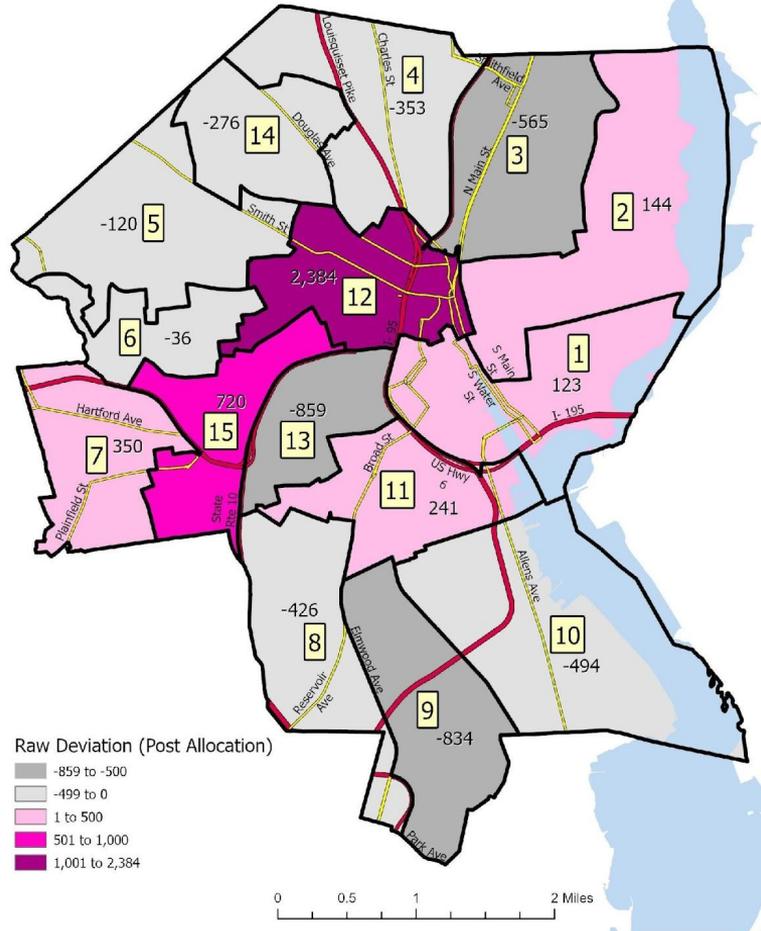
# Providence - Majority Race per Ward (2010 and 2020 Census Voting Age Population)



# Providence - City Ward Deviation from Ideal Pop of 12,754 (post inmate allocation)

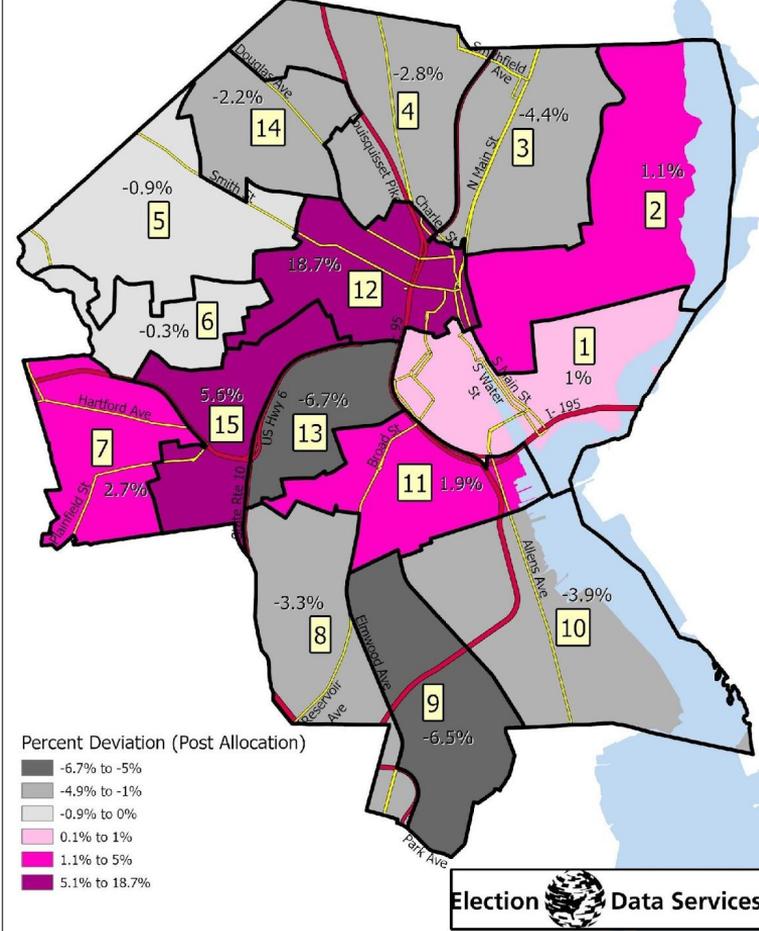
## Raw Deviation

Exact Deviations shown in label



## Percent Deviation

Exact Deviations shown in label



# Providence Ward Boundaries Committee's work to date

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- Appointed in early January 2021
  - Chair Cigna, Vice-Chair Narducci, Councilors Harris and Miller, and member Freeman
- Met several times to educate ourselves
  - Principles and best practices of redistricting
  - Census Geography and Data
  - Tools that the public can use to learn more about their neighborhoods and share their communities of interest
- RFP to hire a consultant who will redraw ward boundaries
- Created Guiding Principles which determines the ways in which we will work together and with the consultant
- We are very interested in and excited for the public's feedback in
  - Please share your communities of interest with us
  - Please attend our meetings
  - Provide feedback at our meetings, by email to your elected officials, even if you only own a business, property, or work in the city, we want to hear from you.

# Next steps for the Ward Boundaries Committee

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- RFP went public on 12/6; Bids opened 1/3/22, 2 respondents, committee voted for Election Data Services.
- State-level districts should be voted on by February 2022. We can start once the state-level districts are codified.
- Work with consultant, city councilors, and public feedback about their communities of interest to redraw boundaries.
- Host at least 4 public hearing to explain the process and get feedback on proposed new Ward Boundaries
- Once Committee settles on Boundaries, the Boundaries are forwarded to full City Council which must hold a public meeting and vote twice on the boundaries in order to finalize them.

# Dates and Locations of Public Hearings

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All hearings begin at 6:00 pm. Both oral and/or written testimony is welcomed from members of the public at any or all of the hearings. Hearings will follow COVID Protocols.

1. **Monday February 7** at Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA) Auditorium at 41 Fricker St
2. **Monday February 14** at Silver Lake Community Center at 529 Plainfield St
3. **Tuesday February 22** at Nathan Bishop Middle School Auditorium at 101 Sessions St
4. **Monday February 28** at DaVinci Center Community Room at 470 Charles St
5. **Wednesday March 2** Remote Zoom Meeting with link and signup available when agenda is posted

# How to get involved?

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- Talk to your neighbors, family, and friends about why it is important to learn about the changes to legislative boundaries across the state.
  - Let everyone know that this affects EVERYONE, not just voters, not just citizens, not just adults!
- Work with Committee to host a neighborhood map-drawing, potentially hosted at a library or other community center.
- Collect hand drawn maps and share with Committee.
- Get school students/classrooms involved.
- Talk or write to your city councilperson and state representatives about what your community of interest is and why your community is important to you.
- If you have access to a cell phone, tablet or computer consider drawing your community of interest and sending it to your elected official and/or redistricting committee.
- You can also hand-draw a map and send it to your elected official or a redistricting committee.
- Work with your neighborhood association to educate Providence residents on the process.

# Tools to learn more and get involved

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- Committee Website
  - <https://council.providenceri.gov/ward-boundaries/>
- City Council YouTube Channel with all meetings/hearings recorded
  - <https://www.youtube.com/c/ProvidenceCityCouncil/videos>
- Map your community of interest using one of these tools
  - <https://districtr.org/>
  - <https://www.representable.org/>
    - Spanish, Hmong, Arabic as well as English
- Statewide process and a way to map communities of interest at a state level
  - <https://www.riredistricting.org/#participate>
  - See what other communities of interest have been proposed in Providence and across the state.
- See more data with the Census Data Tools:
  - <https://ridos-legislativedistrictcomparisons-ristate.hub.arcgis.com/>
  - <https://ridos-neighborhoodblock-ristate.hub.arcgis.com/>