

Introduction

In conformity with Section 204 of the Providence Home Rule Charter, the Providence City Council hosted a public hearing on March 28, 2022 in order to receive testimony regarding the proposed Ward Boundary Map that was submitted to the Council by the Ward Boundary Committee. Following the public hearing, and in response to testimony received during the meeting as well as over the following days via written submissions, the City Council worked with Election Data Services (EDS) to attempt to address concerns raised by local residents.

The Council Proposal, reproduced in full at the start of this report, is the culmination of a several months of effort by the Ward Boundary Committee, the City Council, and the feedback of Providence residents. The vast majority of the map is a result of the diligent work of the Ward Boundary Committee and the full breakdown of the Committee's process can be found through their final report. The deviations from the committee map that have been made by the City Council all fall under the same rationale which was a desire to maintain community amenities in their respective Wards if possible. In an effort to outline the purpose for the changes made from committee that are contained in the Council Proposal, a detailed explanation for each change is outlined below.

Alterations from Committee Map

Wards 2 and 3

In the Ward Boundary Committee report, the Committee recognized that there was an issue with the line that was drawn between Wards 2 and 3. Specifically, the Committee's proposal inadvertently resulted in Nathan Bishop Middle School being removed from Ward 3 and placed into Ward 2. At the City Council Public Hearing there was testimony from the community asking for this to be rectified as Nathan Bishop Middle School is an integral part of the fabric of Ward 3. The Council Proposal results in the school being moved back into Ward 3, however it is important to note that moving the school did result in a sizeable population shift that needed to be rebalanced in order to maintain both Ward 2 and Ward 3 within the acceptable population deviation limits, while keeping communities of interest whole.

Wards 8 and 9

The City Council received significant oral and written testimony around the significance of maintaining Roger Williams Park within Ward 9. The placement of Roger Williams Park back into Ward 9, while not a huge population shift, did necessitate a minor alteration of the boundary line between Wards 8 and 9 in order to maintain the wards within the acceptable population deviation limits. The resulting outcome shown in the Council Proposal has the majority of the boundary line between Wards 8 and 9 respecting the boundary that has existed for the past ten years. This change did not result in any impacts to the Committee Map for the remaining Wards in South Providence.

Wards 7 and 15

The next alteration made in the Council Proposal was to make minor alterations to the boundary between Wards 7 and 15 in order to retain the Scalabrini Dukceovich Center within Ward 15. The Scalabrini Dukceovich Center is a local community center that has been in Ward 15 for many years and was a priority to maintain in the Ward if possible. The Council Proposal modifies the boundary line between the two Wards by using Laurel Hill Avenue as the predominant boundary below Plainfield Street. In order to rebalance the population shift that results from the change south of Plainfield Street, the boundary between Wards 7 and 15 north of Plainfield Street was moved from Ralph Street to Webster Avenue which has been used in the past as a boundary for the two Wards.

Wards 12, 5, 14, and 6

The final changes made in the Council Proposal are all centered around the boundary lines of Wards 12, 5, 14, and 6. The Committee Map expanded Ward 5 beyond the Roger Williams Medical Center, its existing boundary, and had Nathanael Greene Middle School being moved out of Ward 12. The Council Proposal shifts Ward 5 back to its existing boundary along Roger Williams Medical Center while maintaining the Ward within the acceptable population deviation limits.

The Council Proposal also shifts Ward 14 by bringing the Ward down Tyndall Avenue and Pembroke Avenue, rather than Pinehurst Avenue and Oakland Avenue. This alteration allows Ward 12 to retain Oakland Avenue within Ward 12 without impacting the population for Ward 14. The outcome for Ward 12 as a result of the two changes just described pushed its population to the upper limits of acceptable deviation. However, by making these changes it enables the Council Proposal to also expand Ward 6 from Andem Street down to Regent Avenue, thereby retaining Blessed Sacrament Church and Blessed Sacrament Catholic School within Ward 6.

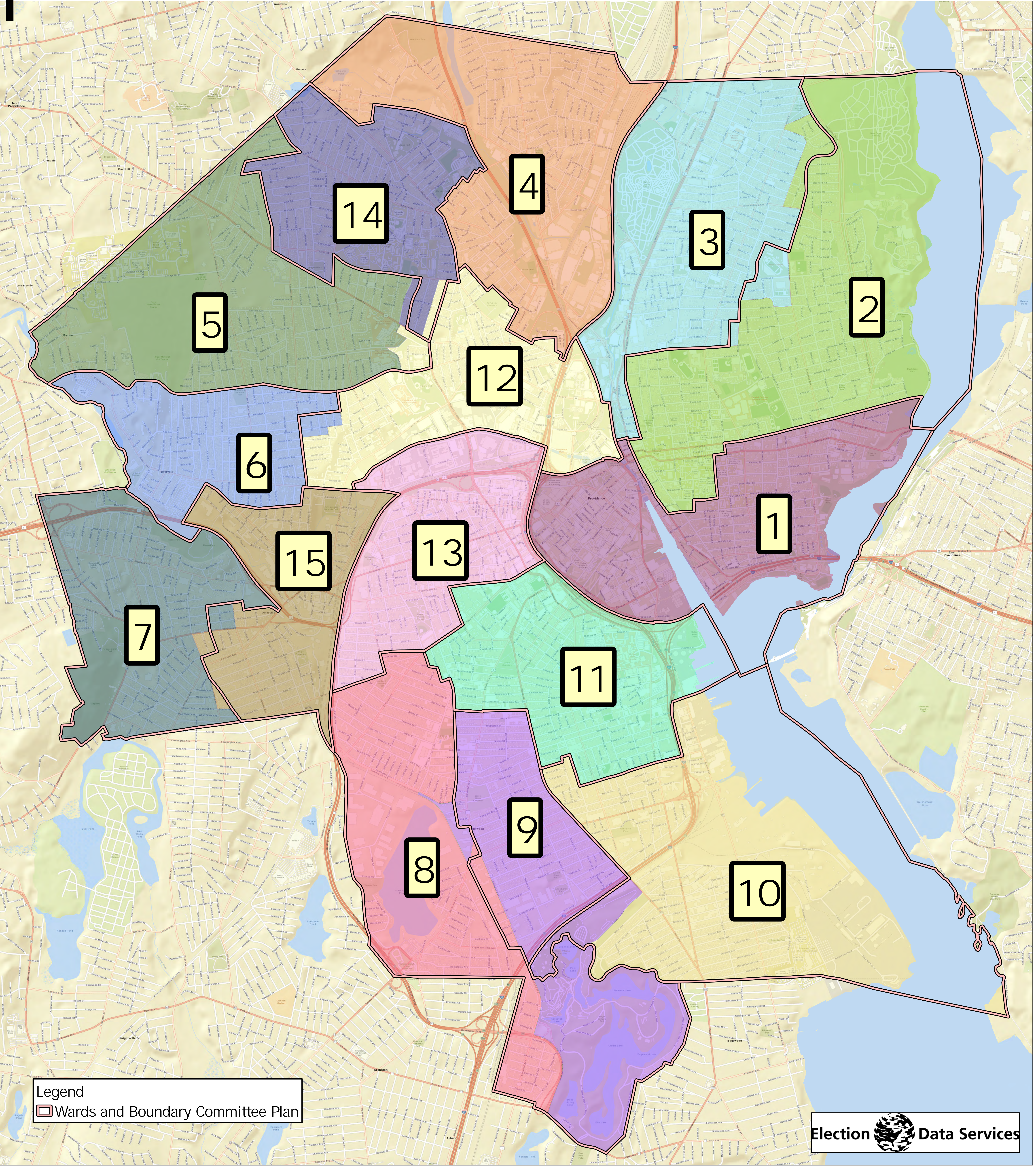
The resulting Wards are still fully within the acceptable population deviation limits while retaining several key community amenities within their original Wards.

Conclusion

The Council Proposal is an effort to respect the exceptional work of the Ward Boundary Committee while retaining several key community amenities within their existing Wards. The changes are based off feedback received by the City Council from the local community members and in the case of Wards 2 and 3, at the request of the Ward Boundary Committee. The full history of the Ward Boundary process, including all maps reviewed by the Ward Boundary Committee, can be found by visiting the City Council's website at:

<https://council.providenceri.gov/ward-boundaries/>

Providence Ward Redistricting Council Proposal



DISTRICT	Adjusted Population Tabulation				Original Population Tabulation				Racial Demographics as Percent of Adjusted Total Population					Racial Demographics as Percent of Adjusted Voting Population				
	All Persons	Target	Dev.	Difference	Prior Persons	Target	Dev.	Difference	NH White	NH Black	NH Asian	Hispanic	Non-White	NH White	NH Black	NH Asian	Hispanic	Non-White
1	13,369	12,754	4.82%	615	13,363	12,729	4.98%	634	58.56%	5.83%	17.21%	11.44%	41.44%	58.99%	5.42%	18.26%	11.02%	41.01%
2	13,361	12,754	4.76%	607	13,361	12,729	4.97%	632	68.91%	3.67%	12.70%	8.27%	31.09%	68.55%	3.88%	13.63%	8.40%	31.45%
3	13,373	12,754	4.85%	619	13,357	12,729	4.93%	628	64.86%	8.56%	6.45%	10.87%	35.14%	66.94%	8.62%	6.80%	9.44%	33.06%
4	12,273	12,754	-3.77%	-481	12,235	12,729	-3.88%	-494	27.96%	17.76%	2.62%	43.04%	72.04%	33.87%	17.00%	2.56%	38.63%	66.13%
5	12,126	12,754	-4.92%	-628	12,112	12,729	-4.85%	-617	48.80%	11.77%	2.40%	30.36%	51.20%	53.94%	11.49%	2.40%	26.52%	46.06%
6	12,720	12,754	-0.27%	-34	12,691	12,729	-0.30%	-38	14.42%	14.55%	3.57%	62.56%	85.58%	17.45%	14.67%	3.96%	59.24%	82.56%
7	13,204	12,754	3.53%	450	13,175	12,729	3.50%	446	14.11%	8.85%	3.41%	69.69%	85.89%	16.94%	8.70%	3.69%	66.98%	83.06%
8	12,819	12,754	0.51%	65	12,784	12,729	0.43%	55	11.03%	10.99%	10.34%	63.69%	88.97%	12.70%	11.20%	10.99%	61.27%	87.30%
9	12,202	12,754	-4.33%	-552	12,178	12,729	-4.33%	-551	11.20%	12.90%	4.54%	66.96%	88.80%	12.89%	12.78%	4.55%	65.72%	87.11%
10	12,303	12,754	-3.54%	-451	12,271	12,729	-3.60%	-458	16.41%	15.29%	3.02%	59.07%	83.59%	18.90%	16.18%	3.11%	56.07%	81.10%
11	12,229	12,754	-4.12%	-525	12,184	12,729	-4.28%	-545	12.18%	20.08%	3.41%	58.30%	87.82%	14.51%	20.50%	3.71%	55.45%	85.49%
12	13,358	12,754	4.74%	604	13,328	12,729	4.71%	599	27.33%	14.76%	7.49%	44.51%	72.67%	31.55%	14.14%	8.30%	41.05%	68.45%
13	12,430	12,754	-2.54%	-324	12,416	12,729	-2.46%	-313	47.38%	8.34%	5.68%	32.86%	52.62%	51.60%	8.22%	5.91%	29.33%	48.40%
14	13,100	12,754	2.71%	346	13,074	12,729	2.71%	345	46.04%	15.53%	2.18%	29.63%	53.96%	52.65%	13.88%	2.24%	25.44%	47.35%
15	12,442	12,754	-2.45%	-312	12,405	12,729	-2.54%	-324	10.99%	9.44%	2.65%	73.16%	89.01%	13.07%	9.22%	2.66%	71.54%	86.93%

0 0.13 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

Total Deviation - 9.78%
Hispanic VAP Majority Wards - 7
Hispanic VAP Plurality Wards - 2
Largest NH Black Ward - 11 (20.5%)

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