

Howard County Councilmanic Redistricting Commission

George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Larry Walker, Chair
Joan Becker
Irfan Malik
David A. Marker
Cheryl M. Miller
David Myers
Kevin Rodkey



October 15, 2011

The Honorable Calvin Ball
County Council Chairman
Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

Dear Dr. Ball:

On behalf of the 2011 Howard County Redistricting Commission, I respectfully submit the Commission's 2011 Redistricting Plan. From our initial meeting, which was held on April 11, 2011, to our final work session on October 5, 2011, every Commission member worked diligently to accomplish our mission of providing the County Council with a Redistricting Plan that meets County Charter requirements.

Throughout the entire process, the group worked to achieve its goal of shifting council district boundaries so that districts were compact, contiguous, and substantially equal in population. The major theme that was continually heard from the citizens throughout the County was the preservation of existing neighborhoods. We believe that the recommended plan preserves most communities, while achieving the aforementioned goals.

The Commission appreciates the leadership and support that the County Council has provided in this endeavor. On behalf of the Redistricting Commission, I thank you for the privilege of serving the citizens of Howard County in such a vital undertaking.

Commission members are available in the event you have questions or concerns regarding the Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Larry Walker".

Larry Walker
Chair, 2011 Redistricting Commission

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page No.</u>
Executive Summary	1
Members	3
Charter Requirements	4
Meeting Schedule	5
Redistricting Proposal	7
District 1	8
District 2	9
District 3	10
District 4	11
District 5	12
Appendices	13
Appendix A: Proposed Maps	
Appendix B: Minutes of Meetings	
Appendix C: Open Meetings Background, Office of Law, etc.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose:

Following the 2010 Census release of Population and Housing data, Howard County must redraw council district boundaries to reflect population changes and shifts which have been identified as the result of the Year 2010 Census data findings. Article II, Section 202(f) of the Howard County Charter requires that the Council appoint a Councilmanic Redistricting Commission by April 1st of the year after each decennial census date. The Commission is charged with the responsibility of submitting a report to the County Council recommending the establishment of new councilmanic boundaries.

Howard County Population:

The 2010 Census has Howard County's population at approximately 286,669, up 15.8% from the 2000 Census figures. Howard County's percentage of population growth for the 2010 Census was the 7th largest in the State of Maryland. In fact, of the top five largest counties in Maryland (not including Baltimore City), Howard County had the largest percentage of population growth.

The average or "ideal" population for each council district in the County is approximately 57,334 people per district, resulting in an even distribution of the total population. Countywide, Population growth has been fairly even, with District 5 having the largest percent change at +22.3% and District 2 having the smallest percent change at +5%. It is typically acceptable for the population to be +/- 5% above or below the ideal population. The chart below shows the population percentage above/below the ideal district population. There are three districts (1, 3, and 5) that are outside of the acceptable +/- 5% standard. Therefore, council district boundary lines must be adjusted countywide to even out the population growth.

BEFORE REDISTRICTING

District	2010 Population	Percentage +/- 57,334
1	62,435	+8.9
2	54,349	-5.2
3	52,086	-9.2
4	56,391	-1.6
5	61,408	+7.1

Process:

In a seven month period of time, the Commission met a total of five times (April 11th, June 20th, September 8th, September 26th, and October 5th), held three public hearings (May 24th, June 13th, and September 21st), heard testimony from many citizens (Appendix B), and deliberated over a

total of 15 different proposals (Appendix A) before forwarding the enclosed plan to the County Council.

Goals:

Council districts should be compact, contiguous, substantially equal in population, and have common interest as a result of geography, occupation, history, or existing boundaries.

Recommendation:

On October 5, 2011, the 2011 Howard County Redistricting Commission approved, by a 4-3 vote the 2011 Howard County Redistricting Commission Redistricting Plan. Below you will find the post redistricting numbers. The distribution of population range has been reduced to less than 5% plus or minus, while taking into consideration the preservation of communities.

AFTER REDISTRICTING

District	Population	Percentage +/- 57,334
1	60,054	+4.7
2	59,787	+4.3
3	56,396	-1.6
4	54,913	-4.2
5	55,519	-3.2

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CHARTER REQUIREMENTS

Following each decennial census release of population and housing data, Howard County must draw new Council Districts to reflect population changes. Article II, Section 202(f) of the Howard County Code requires that the Council appoint by April 1st of the year after each decennial census date, a Councilmanic Redistricting Commission.

The Commission includes seven members: three members named by the Central Committees of each political party that polled at least 25 of the total vote for the Office of the County Executive in the last preceding general election and a Chairperson, all appointed by the County Council.

By October 15th of the year in which the Commission is appointed, the Commission is to present a councilmanic redistricting plan to the County Council. Within 30 days of receiving the redistricting plan, the Council will hold a public hearing on the plan. If by March 15th of the year after submission of the plan, no redistricting ordinance has been enacted, then the Redistricting Commission's plan becomes law.

Council districts should be compact, contiguous, substantially equal in population, and have common interest as a result of geography, occupation, history, or existing boundaries. The Board of Supervisors of Elections is to take any necessary steps to implement any such revisions of the Council District Boundaries that are adopted.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Redistricting Commission Schedule of Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Purpose</i>
Monday, April 11, 2011	7:00pm	Columbia/ Ellicott City Room	Introductory Meeting/ Work Session#1
Tuesday, May 24, 2011	7:00pm	Clarksville Fire Station	Public Hearing #1 (Solicit Comments, Suggestions, and Proposals from the General Public)
Monday, June 13, 2011	7:00pm	Elkridge Library	Public Hearing #2 (Solicit Comments, Suggestions, and Proposals from the General Public)
Monday, June 20, 2011	7:00pm	Columbia Room	Work Session#2 (State Presentation/Begin Drafting New Map)
Thursday, September 8, 2011	7:00pm	Columbia Room	Work Session#3 (Proposal Presentations and Selection of 3 maps to take to the Public Hearing)
Wednesday, September 21, 2011	7:00pm	Banneker Room	Public Hearing #3 (Present Proposed Maps to Public, Solicit Comments and Suggestions)
Monday, September 26, 2011	7:00pm	Banneker Room	Work Session #4 (Proposal Deliberations)
Wednesday, October 5, 2011	7:00pm	Columbia Room	Work Session#5 (Finalize and Adopt New Map)

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

12:30pm

Grey Room

Presentation to County
Council

Saturday, October 15, 2011

Final Proposal Due to County
Council

2011 REDISTRICTING COMMISSION PLAN

RECOMMENDED COUNCIL DISTRICTS 2010

Legend

2000 Council District

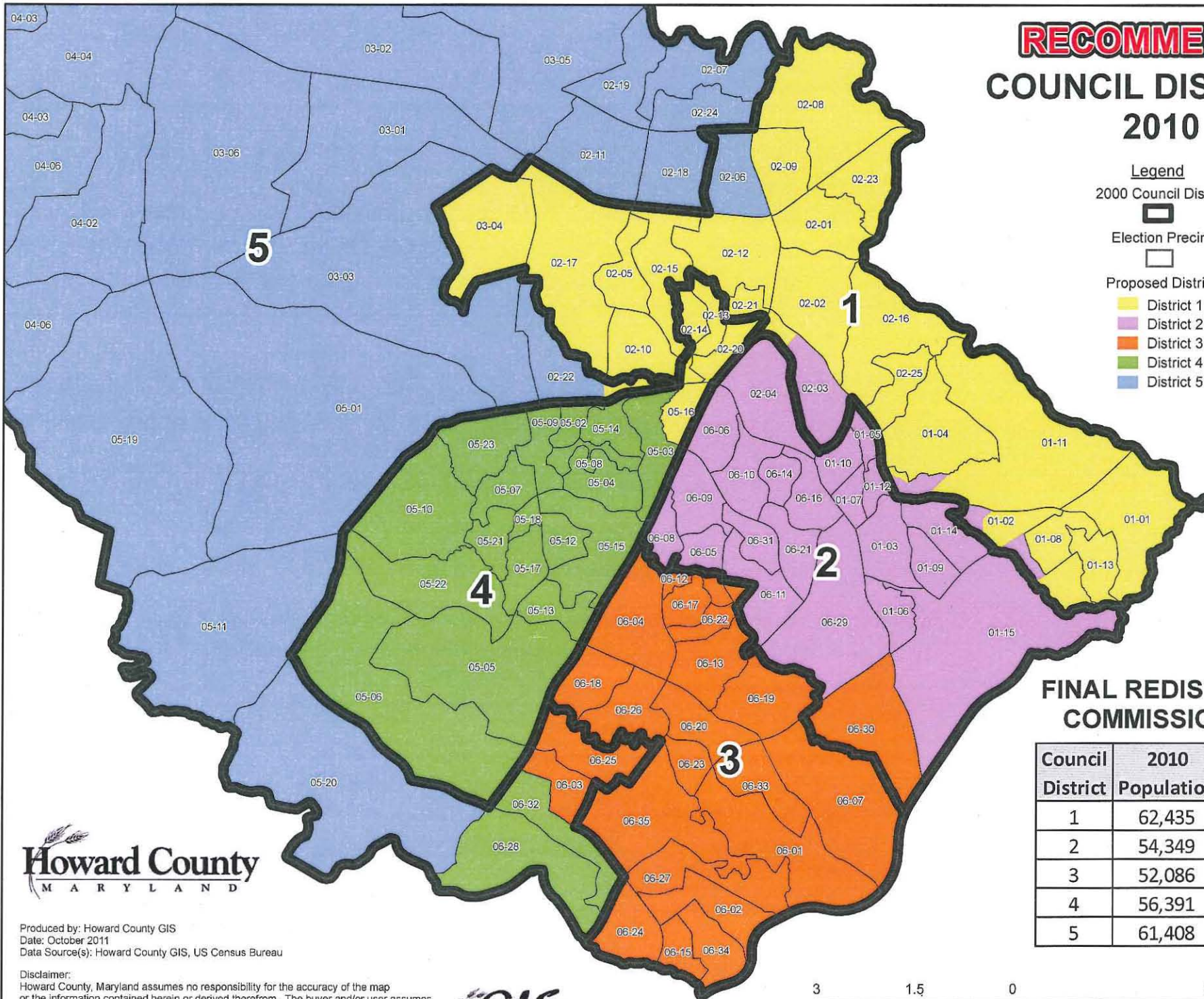


Election Precinct



Proposed Districts

- District 1
- District 2
- District 3
- District 4
- District 5



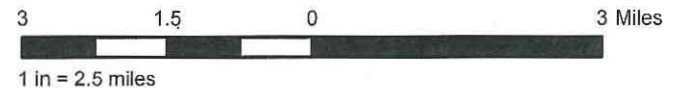
FINAL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION PLAN

Council District	2010 Population	Proposed Population
1	62,435	60,054
2	54,349	59,787
3	52,086	56,396
4	56,391	54,913
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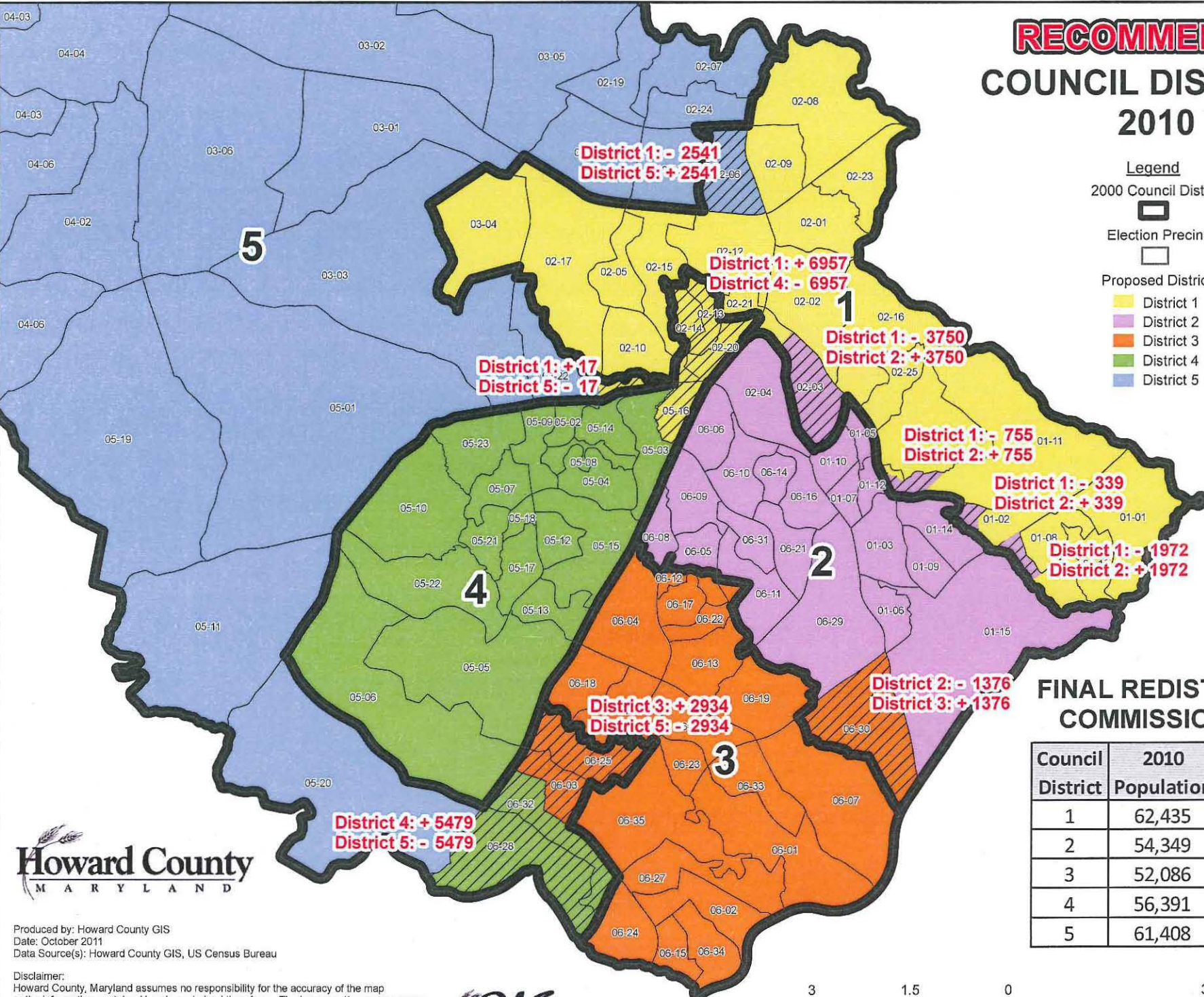
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RECOMMENDED COUNCIL DISTRICTS 2010

- Legend**
- 2000 Council District
 - Election Precinct
 - Proposed Districts
 - District 1
 - District 2
 - District 3
 - District 4
 - District 5



FINAL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION PLAN

Council District	2010 Population	Proposed Population
1	62,435	60,054
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