

HANOVER COUNTY - ELECTION DISTRICT REDISTRICTING

WHAT IS REDISTRICTING?

Hanover County is required every 10 years to use the decennial Census data to change the County's election districts. Changes – referred to as “redistricting” – can affect election districts for representatives on the County Board of Supervisors (**not** Federal or State representatives), precinct boundaries, and polling place locations. *School zones are not affected.*

The 2020 U.S. Census data shows that the County's population has grown by nearly 10,000 people, to 109,991, in the past decade. Given this increase, the County will have to “redistrict” so that each electoral district contains, as nearly as possible, an equal portion of the County's population.

These proposed district changes are **DRAFT**. We are here to listen and learn. We will take your comments, make any needed changes, and offer a final proposal to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on **November 10, 2021**. The Board will hold a public hearing on **December 8, 2021**, at 6:00 P.M., to take more comments. After Board approval, the proposal goes to the Virginia Attorney General for approval.

HOW DO WE SET THE BOUNDARIES?

The County has to follow federal and state law in setting boundaries. Districts must:

- Be contiguous (each district must touch another; there can be no gaps between districts)
- Be compact.
- Contain nearly equal populations – differences are limited to +/-2.5 percent.
- Follow physical boundaries, like a road or a stream (not property boundaries).
- Follow Census block boundaries – Census blocks cannot be split by district lines.
- Preserve “communities of interest.” These can be neighborhoods, or groups of people living in a given area, who share social, cultural, or economic interests.
- Consider racial and ethnic minorities. Districts must provide, where practicable, opportunities for racial and ethnic minorities to elect candidates of their choice.

We have tried to make the changes as minimal as possible to avoid disrupting polling places (where you vote), electoral precincts (the area served by a polling place), and voters' representatives on the Board of Supervisors.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please share comments using the comment card (attached), by speaking with staff, or by submitting comments online at redistricting2021@hanovercounty.gov. **Of particular importance:** the changed boundaries should not affect the ability of organized communities of interest to express their concerns by voting. *If we have accidentally divided your community, we need to hear from you.*

QUESTIONS?

Copies of the maps and other redistricting information are available for review at the Hanover County Administration Office, 7516 County Complex Road, Hanover, VA 23069, and on the County's redistricting web page at <https://www.hanovercounty.gov/1144/Redistricting-2021>. For more information, please contact Kevin Nelson, Director of Information Technology at (804) 365-6168 or via email at redistricting2021@hanovercounty.gov.