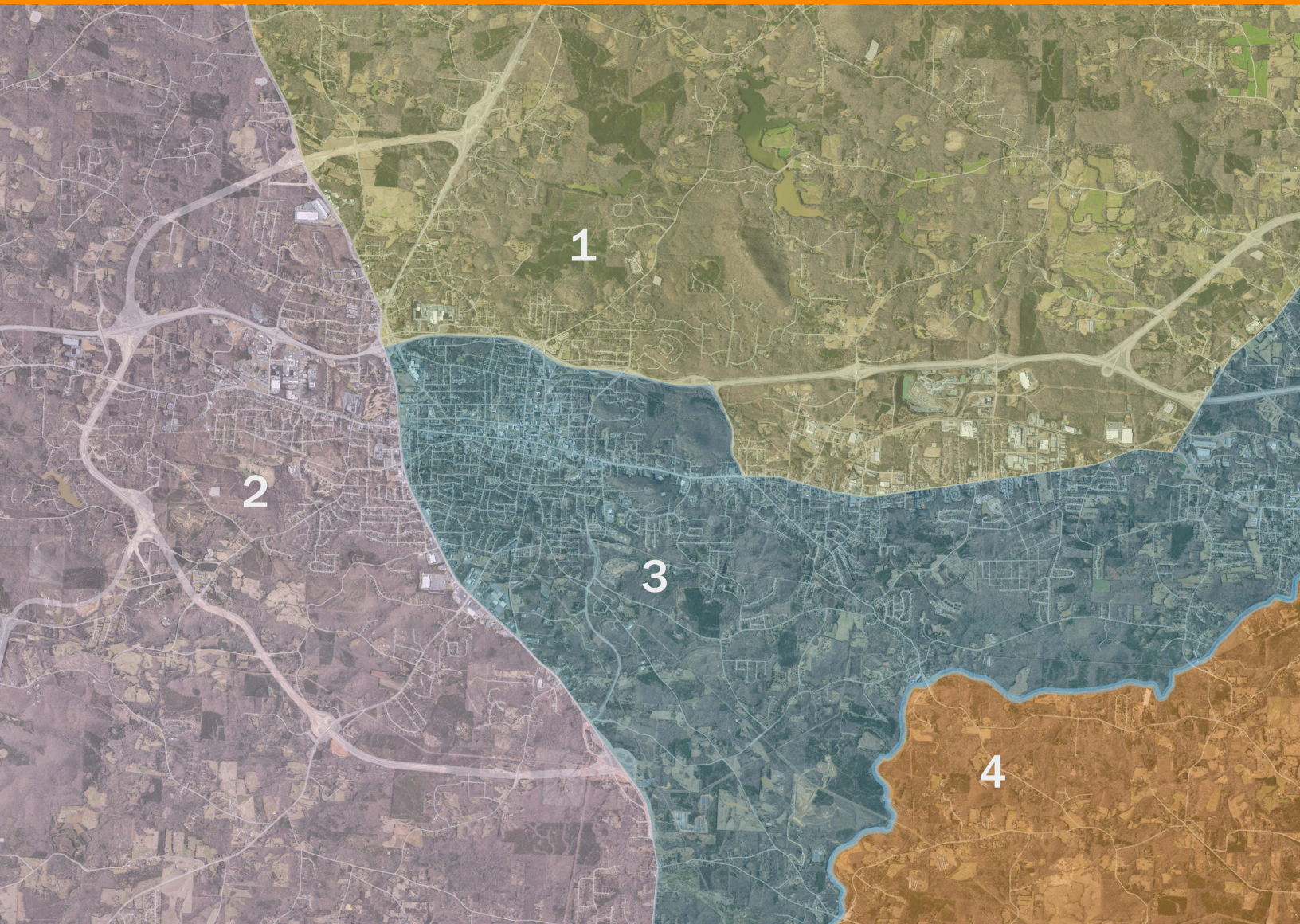


LOCAL REDISTRICTING SERVICE

A Project of North Carolinians for Redistricting Reform





LOCAL REDISTRICTING SERVICE PROJECT



The Local Redistricting Service is a project of North Carolinians for Redistricting Reform (NC4RR). The service provides nonpartisan redistricting expertise for those boards of county commissioners, city councils, and school boards that use districts to elect some or all of their members.

The Local Redistricting Service connects local governments with experienced lawyers and demographers who are dedicated to an efficient, open, nonpartisan approach to redistricting. The redistricting team can explain the requirements of one-person/one-vote and the Voting Rights Act; outline the procedures required by state law; assist local officials in setting redistricting objectives;

and prepare maps for local approval. By agreeing to an open, public, nonpartisan process, the local government will receive experienced, professional service for a set fee. The service assures counties, cities, and school boards access to reliable nonpartisan redistricting at a reasonable cost.

North Carolinians for Redistricting Reform

NC4RR, co-chaired by former Rep. Chuck McGrady (R-117) and former UNC System President and current Volker Alliance President Tom Ross, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving North Carolina’s representative democracy through redistricting reform. It is led by a bipartisan board of directors consisting of current and former state legislators, Supreme Court justices, business leaders, and policy advocates. The organization’s principal goal has been a constitutional amendment for nonpartisan drawing of congressional and state legislative districts, and it is supported by all living North Carolina governors and a majority of former chief justices.

The Basics of Redistricting

Over 100 boards of county commissioners, city councils, and school boards in North Carolina use districts to elect some or all their members. Those local governments, just like Congress and the General Assembly, are subject to the one-person/one-vote mandate to review the districts’ population after every census to see that they remain relatively equal in population.

Although local governments will want to learn the legal requirements and plan their redistricting process beforehand, the actual drawing of lines cannot begin until the Census Bureau reports its block data. The data is supposed to be released in March 2021 but may be delayed because of the coronavirus pandemic. As soon as the numbers are received, local governments can review their existing districts and determine whether they need to be redrawn. New districts, if needed, have to be in place for the next election for that local government.





State law makes boards of county commissioners, city councils, and school boards responsible for drawing their own districts but says little else about the process. Meetings about redistricting are subject to the Open Meetings Law the same as other local business. Although public hearings are not required by law, the Local Redistricting Service believes they are needed because of the significant public interest in elections.

Elections districts were introduced in many parts of the state in the 1980s and 1990s because of federal voting rights litigation or concerns. Thus, in addition to population equality, local governments must be sure new districts continue to avoid any discriminatory effect on racial minorities.

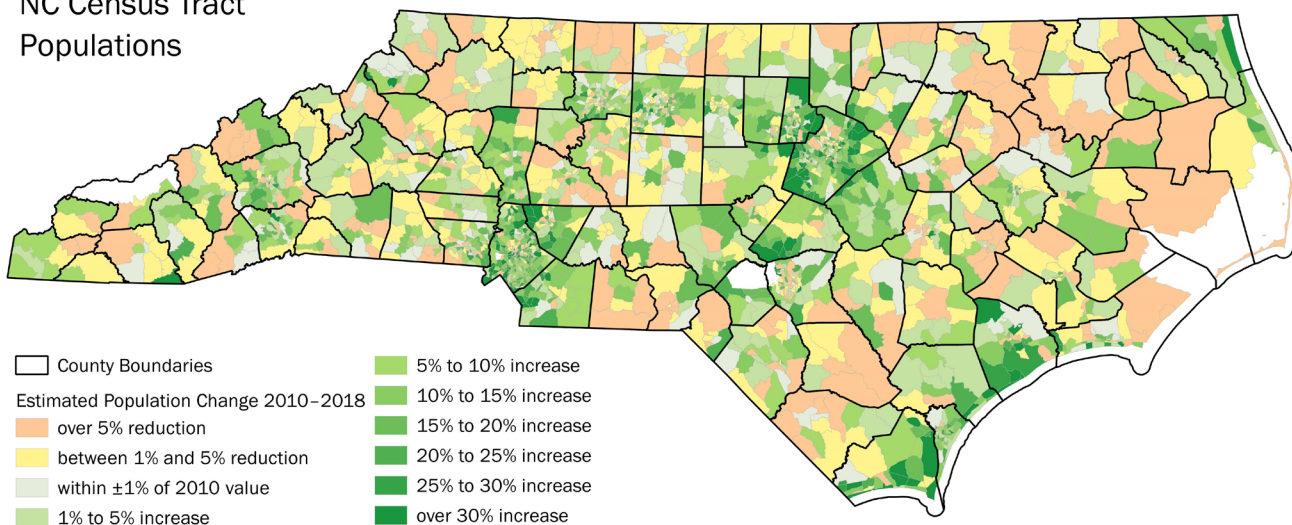
North Carolina's Changing Population

North Carolina's demographics have changed dramatically since the 2010 census. Recently released estimates show a statewide population increase of 10%—almost a million new inhabitants—yet the same estimates show that 43 of the 100 counties have experienced a decrease in population. The change for individual counties ranges from a gain of 33% (Brunswick) to a loss of 15% (Hyde).

Just as the state has counties with population growth as well as counties showing reduction, estimates for individual census tracts show that most counties have a mix of increase and decrease as well. Even in counties where the tracts all show growth or all show reduction, the amount of change is not evenly distributed across the county.

Looking beyond the basic headcount, North Carolina has also experienced significant change in the distribution of racial and ethnic population groups since 2010. For many local governments using district elections, compliance with the Voting Rights Act will require tabulation of the 2020 census race and ethnicity numbers, sometimes down to the level of individual census blocks.

NC Census Tract Populations



The Redistricting Team



Blake Esselstyn | Mapfigure Consulting

Blake, AICP, GISP, is the principal demographer with Mapfigure Consulting of Asheville. He first began studying geographic information systems (GIS) more than 25 years ago. His undergraduate degree is from Yale and his masters in computer and information technology is from Penn. Blake's professional experience includes over a decade as the GIS specialist for the Asheville planning department, where he served as the city's liaison to the US Census Bureau. He often has spoken on redistricting at North Carolina universities and at conferences in other states, and has served as an expert witness and consulting expert for multiple court cases.



Deborah Stagner | Tharrington Smith, LLP

Deborah is a graduate of the University of Kansas and UNC Law School. She served as a law clerk to Chief Justice Henry Frye of the North Carolina Supreme Court. Her principal focus is school law, and she currently chairs the North Carolina Council of School Attorneys. Deborah has advised local governments on voting rights issues and has extensive experience redistricting school boards, boards of county commissioners, and city councils after the 2000 and 2010 censuses.



Adam Mitchell | Tharrington Smith, LLP

Adam is a graduate of Duke and of Boalt Law School at the University of California at Berkeley. Between undergraduate and law school he was a teacher in East Palo Alto and then a member of the school board. With Deborah, he specializes in school law, but he also has extensive election law experience, including voting rights issues, residency challenges, election protests, and ballot access. He represented a number of local governments in redistricting after the 2010 census.



Caroline Mackie | Poyner Spruill LLP

Caroline graduated from UNC and from Wake Forest Law School. Her practice has involved extensive litigation in commercial and governmental matters, including governmental immunity. In recent years she has litigated legislative and congressional redistricting issues in both state and federal court, including challenges based on claims of partisan gerrymandering.



Tara Bright | Poyner Spruill LLP

Tara is an associate with Poyner Spruill, specializing in governmental and commercial litigation. Tara brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the group, having previously worked for the New York City Law Department, Office of the Corporation Counsel, where she defended the City of New York, the Department of Education, and the New York City Police Department against civil lawsuits, including constitutional claims.



Marshall Hurley | Greensboro, NC

Marshall is a graduate of UNC and Wake Forest Law School and has been involved in election and voting rights issues since the 1980s. He is former counsel to the North Carolina Republican Party and the State Senate, and also served as staff to former Congressman Howard Coble. His practice has included numerous state and federal appeals.



Bill Gilkeson

Bill retired in 2010 after 25 years working on the NC General Assembly's nonpartisan staff. His work there included redistricting. After retiring, he practiced law and did redistricting work at the local and state level. He has an undergraduate degree in political science from what is now called Rhodes College and a law degree from UNC.



Shelia Bailey | Poyner Spruill LLP

Shelia serves as the Facilitator of LRS. She is available to assist local governments in the coordination, scheduling, and administrative aspects of LRS. She will be the first point of contact for local governments.



Absent other written agreement, your legal representation will be by a single, independent, law firm.

**Looking for more information?
Contact us at: LRS@ncredistrict.com or 919-783-2892**

Pricing Exhibit

Standard Package - \$17,500 (Fees to Firm of \$7,500.00, fees to Demographer of \$10,000.00)

The following Services will be provided by Poyner Spruill and the Demographer as part of this engagement:

- Unlimited phone and email consultations with a Firm lawyer during plan development
- Up to three visits by a Firm lawyer and two visits by the Demographer to the jurisdiction²

Suggested meeting schedule:

- (1) an initial meeting with a Firm lawyer and Demographer to discuss the redistricting process, analyze demographic data, and solicit input from board members;
 - (2) a second meeting with the Firm lawyer and Demographer to discuss proposed redistricting plans; and
 - (3) a third meeting with the Firm lawyer to conduct a public hearing and/or adopt final resolution approving plan
- Development of redistricting plan by Demographer, with a legal review by the Firm, using redistricting software, of up to three alternative plans. Additional redistricting plans beyond three will be provided for an additional charge of \$1,500.00 by the Demographer and \$1,000.00 by the Firm per plan.
 - The Firm will prepare any resolutions, ordinances, or other documents needed to accomplish the redistricting
 - The Demographer will export of final plan electronically to County GIS system, County Board of Elections, or other relevant entity, if requested

Additional Features

Additional features will be billed as follows:

- Out-of-pocket expenses for mileage at the IRS standard rate, special postage, third-party delivery charges, photocopying charges, or other similar charges
- Creation of alternative plans beyond three: \$2,500 per additional plan

Additional visits or services provided by the Firm will be billed at an hourly rate of \$275/hour plus mileage

² Visits may occur via remote meeting technology if necessary