

## DC REDISTRICTING 2021: GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND PROCESS

### WHY WE REDISTRICIT

By law, every 10 years the District of Columbia needs to rebalance its population among the city's eight wards so all are roughly equal in size, within a plus or minus five percent range. The District's official Census count was 689,545, which means every ward must be between 81,883 and 90,503 residents. Currently, three wards fall outside of that population range: Wards 6, 7, and 8. Therefore, these three wards must be redrawn, but other wards may also see boundary changes too.

2020 Census Data		
	2020 Population	Equal Representation Status
City-wide	698,545	-
Ward 1	85,285	Within Range
Ward 2	81,904	Within Range
Ward 3	85,301	Within Range
Ward 4	84,660	Within Range
Ward 5	89,425	Within Range
Ward 6	108,202	Above Range by 17,699
Ward 7	76,255	Below Range by 5,628
Ward 8	78,513	Below Range by 3,370

D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson appointed a Subcommittee on Redistricting, chaired by Elissa Silverman (I-At-Large) and joined by fellow at-large members Anita Bonds (D) and Christina Henderson (I). The subcommittee has created a transparent and accessible redistricting process centered on community input and guided in its work by five fundamental redistricting principles detailed below.

### A TRANSPARENT PROCESS CENTERED ON COMMUNITY INPUT

Three innovations make this subcommittee's process distinct from the past. First, the subcommittee has put an emphasis on community input, with 11 public hearings including 8 roundtables that are ward-specific. **So far, the subcommittee has held nine hearings; the Ward 6-focused hearing will take place this Wednesday, Nov. 3, and a final, citywide hearing will be held this Friday, Nov. 5.** Next, thanks to funding from Chairman Mendelson, the subcommittee has also contracted with two community organizations to deliver informational fliers to more than 15,000 households in neighborhoods likely to see ward boundary changes and placed ads in community newspapers. And, finally, in collaboration with the D.C. Office of Planning, the subcommittee released an online mapping tool ([dcredistricting.esriemcs.com](https://dcredistricting.esriemcs.com)) so residents could submit their own redistricting maps to the subcommittee for consideration. As of Nov. 1, more than 130 proposed maps (available [here](#)) have been submitted.

## RELEASE OF THREE “DISCUSSION” MAPS TO FOCUS DECISION-MAKING

In order to foster productive dialogue on redistricting choices and tradeoffs, the subcommittee is releasing three map proposals for community discussion. The three maps were chosen from among the 130 submitted to the subcommittee by D.C. residents. Each map contains multiple options for rebalancing wards; the subcommittee is looking for input on the multiple decisions made within each map. **In other words, the subcommittee’s final proposal will likely include elements from each of the three maps. Each map should not be considered as a whole, but as a combination of options.**

## PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE REDISTRICTING DECISIONS

To guide its decision-making, the subcommittee used principles of redistricting set out in both federal and local D.C. law. In addition, the committee made an intentional decision to factor in ward continuity and stability, given the incredible instability brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ❖ **Equal Representation:** The North Star of redistricting comes from the Constitutional principle of one person, one vote. Legislative districts must be roughly equal in size; District law gives a plus or minus five percent margin.
- ❖ **Racially Equitable:** According to D.C. law, redrawn legislative boundaries cannot dilute “the voting strength of minority citizens.”
- ❖ **Compact and Contiguous:** Boundaries need to be geographically sensible.
- ❖ **Communities of Interest Kept Together:** Identifiable neighborhoods should stay intact and not divided among legislative districts.
- ❖ **Whole Census Tracts:** As much as possible, Census tracts should remain whole to make data collection more accurate and understandable.
- ❖ **Ward Continuity and Stability:** Given the volatility of the pandemic, make boundary changes guided by federal and local law but avoid radical change.

## HOW TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

D.C. residents and businesses have several ways to give input. First, there are two upcoming virtual hearings on redistricting: a Ward 6-specific hearing on Wednesday, Nov. 3, starting at 10 a.m., and a final, citywide hearing on Friday, Nov. 5 starting at noon. Witnesses can sign up to testify by emailing [redistricting@dccouncil.us](mailto:redistricting@dccouncil.us).

Written testimony can be submitted by Friday, Nov. 12 at 5 p.m. to [redistricting@dccouncil.us](mailto:redistricting@dccouncil.us). Testimony can also be transcribed by calling (202) 350-1521. Map proposals can also be submitted to the subcommittee through [dcredistricting.esriemcs.com](http://dcredistricting.esriemcs.com).

## Discussion Map 1

**Map 1 was created by Ward 7 resident Keith Hasan-Towery and submitted to the subcommittee for consideration.**

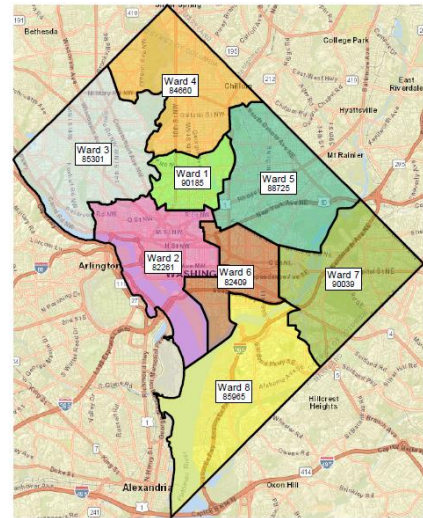
Map 1 extends Ward 8 across the Anacostia River to include all of Navy Yard, grows Ward 7 into bordering Hill East currently in Ward 6 and Fairlawn currently in Ward 8, transfers a portion of the Shaw neighborhood from Ward 6 to Ward 2, and unifies the southern part of the U Street corridor into Ward 1.

### **MAP RATIONALE**

The most significant feature of this map is the growth of Ward 8 across the Anacostia River to contain the entire Navy Yard community, which is currently in Ward 6. This extension adds approximately 11,000 residents to Ward 8, which is enough population to create a stand-alone Advisory Neighborhood Commission in the new section of Ward 8 west of the river. South Capitol Street and Pennsylvania Ave SE give the neighborhood distinct borders. Though the Anacostia River is a natural barrier, there is great connectivity with the newly reopened Frederick Douglass bridge, the 11<sup>th</sup> Street bridge, the Southeast Freeway, and Pennsylvania Ave SE.

The addition of Navy Yard provides such a population boost to Ward 8 that it allows Ward 7 to extend south. This map extends Ward 7 into the Fairlawn neighborhood currently in Ward 8, but keeps historic Anacostia in Ward 8. Ward 7 adds more residents by extending its border on the western side of the river to 15<sup>th</sup> Street SE and NE. This expansion allows for the new section of Ward 7 west of the Anacostia River to have a stand-alone Advisory Neighborhood Commission, which it does not have currently with two single-member districts. It eliminates the current western Ward 7 “island.” There is no obvious border for the area known as Hill East, but drawing the boundary at 15<sup>th</sup> Street helps delineate a clear border between Wards 6 and 7, splitting one Census tract.

In addition to the border shift around Navy Yard, Ward 6 rebalances by transferring a portion of the Shaw area north of New York Ave NW mostly to Ward 2. To keep Ward 2 within population range, the two U Street census tracts west of 14<sup>th</sup> Street NW shift to Ward 1. Unifying U Street in a single ward allows for a more cohesive U Street neighborhood and eliminates split Census tracts in this area. Part of the Census tract containing the Armed Forces Retirement Home is transferred from Ward 5 to Ward 1. Much of the development that will occur there impacts Ward 1’s Park View neighborhood, and placing it in Ward 1 gives the neighboring Ward 1 ANC more input opportunities.



## **SPECIFIC BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS BY WARD**

**Ward 1:** Absorb the Armed Forces Retirement Home and medical center from Ward 5; unify U Street in Ward 1 by extending the southern Ward 1 border south to S Street NW and west to 18<sup>th</sup> Street NW

**Ward 2:** Transfer most of Ward 6 portion of Shaw; transfer the Ward 2 portion of U Street to Ward 1

**Ward 3:** No change

**Ward 4:** No change

**Ward 5:** Transfer Armed Forces Retirement Home to Ward 1

**Ward 6:** Transfer the Shaw portion into Ward 2; transfer Navy Yard to Ward 8; shift eastern border to 15<sup>th</sup> Street

**Ward 7:** Accept a portion of Fairlawn from Ward 8; extend the western border of Ward 7 to 15<sup>th</sup> Street

**Ward 8:** Transfer a portion of Fairlawn to Ward 7; accept Navy Yard from Ward 6

### **Discussion Draft 1 Demographics**

	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic white</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic black</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic Asian</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic some other race</b>
<b>Ward 1</b>	90,185	43,604	17,693	19,614	6,842	1,018
<b>Ward 2</b>	82,261	51,689	9,100	8,569	10,827	1,075
<b>Ward 3</b>	85,301	59,008	8,293	6,744	8,863	1,414
<b>Ward 4</b>	84,660	22,737	18,646	37,647	3,092	967
<b>Ward 5</b>	88,725	20,648	10,358	51,460	3,472	861
<b>Ward 6</b>	82,409	46,234	6,057	21,252	6,385	1,049
<b>Ward 7</b>	90,039	7,208	4,234	75,324	845	597
<b>Ward 8</b>	85,965	10,643	3,271	68,555	1,280	474

## Discussion Map 2

**Map 2 was created by Commissioner Corey Holman, ANC 6B06, and submitted to the subcommittee for consideration.**

Map 2 transfers the majority but not all of Navy Yard to Ward 8, extends the Ward 7 boundary west of the Anacostia River to 15<sup>th</sup> Street SE and NE, transfers the Shaw neighborhood from Ward 6 to Ward 2, and shifts the Ward 6 western border to 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW.

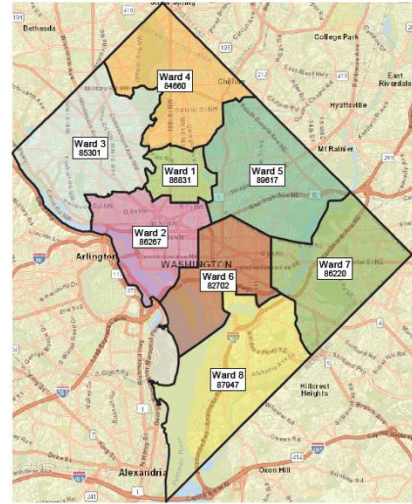
### **MAP RATIONALE**

This proposal grows both Wards 7 and 8 across the Anacostia River, by shifting part but not all of Navy Yard to Ward 8 and extending the Ward 7 boundary further westward into Hill East. It leaves the northeast part of Navy Yard in Ward 6, as this area was designed to mimic the Capitol Hill row house neighborhoods. The large multiunit apartment and condo buildings in the rest of Navy Yard could be considered a separate community of interest. The new Ward 8 section west of the Anacostia River would still be large enough to support a stand-alone Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

Ward 7 adds residents by extending its border on the western side of the Anacostia River to 15<sup>th</sup> Street SE and NE. The added population allows for the new section of Ward 7 west of the Anacostia River to have a stand-alone Advisory Neighborhood Commission, which it does not have currently with only two single-member districts. It would no longer be a small “island.” There is no clearly defined border for the area known as Hill East, but drawing the boundary at 15<sup>th</sup> Street helps delineate a clear border between Wards 6 and 7, splitting one Census tract.

The proposal cedes the Ward 6 section of Shaw north of New York Ave NW to Ward 2, while Ward 6 absorbs the section of Ward 2 east of 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW. This provides a clearer, more compact western border for Ward 6, bounded by New York Ave and 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW. The National Mall is split at 7<sup>th</sup> Street, allowing for the entire U.S. Capitol complex to be joined with the Capitol Hill historic district in Ward 6.

More but not all of the U Street corridor is added to Ward 1, uniting one of the split Census tracts in the corridor. This map acknowledges that the area south of U Street between 16<sup>th</sup> Street and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets NW may identify more with Dupont Circle, so it remains in Ward 2. This map also adds East Potomac Park to Ward 6 so the Southwest ANC may leverage its voice on management of East Potomac Park.



## **SPECIFIC BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS BY WARD**

**Ward 1:** Extend southern Ward 1 border south to S Street NW and west to 16<sup>th</sup> Street NW

**Ward 2:** Transfer Ward 6 portion of Shaw into Ward 2; transfer a portion of U Street to Ward 1; move the Ward 2 border to 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW

**Ward 3:** No change

**Ward 4:** No change

**Ward 5:** Absorb block bordered by N Street NW, Kirby Street NW, New York Ave NW, and New Jersey Ave NW currently in Ward 6

**Ward 6:** Transfer the Shaw portion into Ward 2, and a portion into Ward 5; expand out to 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW south of Massachusetts; transfer most of Navy Yard to Ward 8; add East Potomac Park to Ward 6

**Ward 7:** Transfer a small portion bordered by Pennsylvania Ave SE, Minnesota Ave SE, Nicholson Street SE, and Fairlawn Ave SE from Ward 7 to Ward 8; extend the western border of Ward 7 to 15<sup>th</sup> Street

**Ward 8:** Absorb tract of Ward 7 along Pennsylvania Ave SE; accept most of Navy Yard from Ward 6

### **Discussion Map 2 Demographics**

	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic white</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic black</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic Asian</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic some other race</b>
<b>Ward 1</b>	86,831	41,137	17,414	19,335	6,585	988
<b>Ward 2</b>	86,267	53,347	9,483	10,454	10,831	1,109
<b>Ward 3</b>	85,301	59,008	8,293	6,744	8,863	1,414
<b>Ward 4</b>	84,660	22,737	18,646	37,647	3,092	967
<b>Ward 5</b>	89,617	21,217	10,419	51,676	3,489	871
<b>Ward 6</b>	82,702	47,269	6,025	20,121	6,754	1,056
<b>Ward 7</b>	86,220	7,033	4,115	71,904	821	584
<b>Ward 8</b>	87,947	10,023	3,257	71,284	1,171	466



## Discussion Map 3

**Map 3 was created by Ward 5 resident Geoffrey Hatchard and submitted to the subcommittee for consideration.**

Map 3 incorporates the entire Southwest quadrant into Ward 8, grows Ward 7 south into bordering northeastern Ward 8, transfers the Shaw neighborhood from Ward 6 to Ward 2, and shifts the Ward 6 western border to 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW.

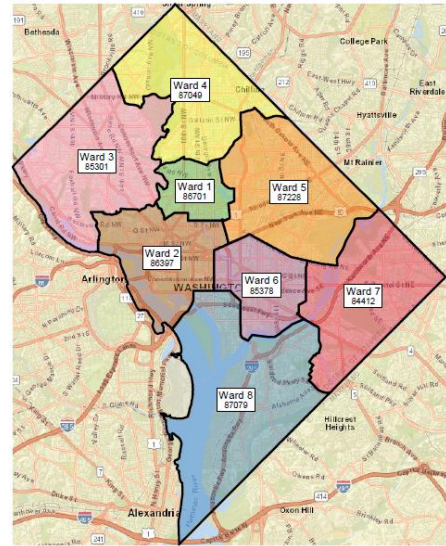
### **MAP RATIONALE**

The defining feature of this map is the transfer of the Southwest quadrant of the city to Ward 8. Southwest is a clearly defined community of interest in this map, and it adds more than 16,000 residents to Ward 8. Adding East Potomac Park and Hains Point to Ward 8 does not increase residential population but allows the Advisory Neighborhood Commission which represents Southwest across the channel to leverage its voice with the National Park Service on park management, which impacts the value of it as an amenity.

Ward 7 would grow in a southeasterly direction into Ward 8, by extending the southeast border of Ward 7 to Suitland Parkway. The parkway and neighboring parks create strong natural boundaries between Wards 7 and 8. This map does not split the Fairlawn or Anacostia neighborhoods, viewing them as communities of interest to be kept in Ward 8.

The border of Ward 7 across the Anacostia River also extends slightly further, providing a clearer dividing line down 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Potomac Ave. The proposal cedes the Ward 6 section of Shaw north of New York Ave to Ward 2, while absorbing the section of Ward 2 east of 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW. This provides a clearer, more compact western border for Ward 6, of New York Ave and 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW. The National Mall is split at 7<sup>th</sup> Street, allowing Ward 6 to absorb the U.S. Capitol complex, joining it to residential parts of Capitol Hill.

Part of the U Street corridor is added to Ward 1, partially uniting one of the split Census tracts in the corridor. This map presents a differing view of communities of interest along the U Street corridor. The map keeps areas south of U Street between 15<sup>th</sup> street and 18<sup>th</sup> Streets NW in Ward 2, given that this area is known by neighbors as “Dupont North” and therefore may identify more with Ward 2 and Dupont Circle to the south.



## **SPECIFIC BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS BY WARD**

**Ward 1:** Absorb a portion of U Street by extending the southern Ward 1 border south to S Street NW and west to 15<sup>th</sup> Street NW; accept a portion of Shaw from Ward 6

**Ward 2:** Transfer the Ward 6 portion of Shaw into Ward 2; transfer a portion of U Street to Ward 1; move East Potomac Park to Ward 8

**Ward 3:** No change

**Ward 4:** Absorb the neighborhood between Kennedy Street NE and Galloway NE from Ward 5

**Ward 5:** Absorb the block bordered by N Street NW, Kirby Street NW, New York Ave NW, and New Jersey Ave NW, previously in Ward 6; transfer the neighborhood between Kennedy Street NE and Galloway NE to Ward 4

**Ward 6:** Transfer the Shaw portion into Wards 1, 2, and 5; expand out to 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW south of Massachusetts; transfer Southwest to Ward 8

**Ward 7:** Transfer a small portion bordered by Pennsylvania Ave SE, Minnesota Ave SE, Nicholson Street SE, and Fairlawn Ave SE from Ward 7 to Ward 8; extend the eastern border of Ward 7 south to Suitland Parkway SE

**Ward 8:** Absorb the small tract of Ward 7 along Pennsylvania Ave SE; transfer Skyland, Garfield Heights, and Buena Vista to Ward 7; accept Southwest from Ward 6 along with East Potomac Park from Ward 2

### **Discussion Map 3 Demographics**

	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic white</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic black</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic Asian</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic some other race</b>
<b>Ward 1</b>	86,701	40,918	17,404	19,424	6,602	981
<b>Ward 2</b>	86,397	53,566	9,493	10,365	10,814	1,116
<b>Ward 3</b>	85,301	59,008	8,293	6,744	8,863	1,414
<b>Ward 4</b>	87,049	22,943	18,969	39,354	3,171	986
<b>Ward 5</b>	87,228	21,011	10,096	49,969	3,410	852
<b>Ward 6</b>	85,378	50,565	5,977	19,766	6,625	1,025
<b>Ward 7</b>	84,412	2,954	3,695	75,159	433	485
<b>Ward 8</b>	87,079	10,806	3,725	68,384	1,688	596