

## City of Concord

### Redistricting Committee Minutes of November 04, 2021

The Redistricting Committee met at 5:40 P.M., on November 04, 2021.

Members Present: Mayor Jim Bouley, Chair  
Councilor Byron Champlin  
Councilor Nathan Fennessy  
Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton  
Jim Richards  
Stephen Shurtleff, state Representative in the N.H. House of Representatives  
Jae Whitelaw  
Michael Vlacich

Members Absent: Councilor Fred Keach  
Kathy Rogers  
Drew Biemer

City Staff Members: Sam Durfee, Senior Planner  
Jim Kennedy, City Solicitor  
Janice Bonenfant, City Clerk  
Ashley Hamilton, Deputy City Clerk

Public Guest: Tony Schinella

#### 1. Call to Order

Mayor Bouley called the meeting to order at 5:40 P.M.

#### 2. Approval of Minutes

- October 20, 2021 Redistricting Committee Draft Meeting Minutes
- October 26, 2021 Redistricting Committee Draft Meeting Minutes

Councilor Champlin proposed editing the October 26<sup>th</sup> minutes, on page two, to clarify that the proposed Ward line changes reflected a difference of “negative” people as listed, for Wards Four, Five, Six, Seven, and Eight.

**Action:** Councilor Fennessy moved to approve both sets of meeting minutes, including Councilor Champlin’s proposed edits for the October 26<sup>th</sup> minutes. This motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

#### 3. Introduction

Mayor Bouley welcomed members and thanked them for their participation on the Committee. He noted that this was the last Redistricting meeting, as recommendations were due to Council for the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. He turned the meeting over to Senior Planner Durfee.

Senior Planner Durfee presented a revised Ward map draft showing the modified changes previously discussed and a few other proposed changes to fix the concerns previously discussed about the “bridge” connection in Ward Three. He noted that the Prison census block would be split between the Men’s and Women’s facilities.

City Solicitor Kennedy clarified that the prison census block would not be split between the Men’s and Women’s prison. He stated that he confirmed with that State of New Hampshire that the 408-person census block was separate from the Men’s and Women’s census block population of 2,246.

Senior Planner Durfee noted that the newly proposed changes would force a need to relocate the current Ward Four and Five polling locations to accommodate the Ward line shifts. He also stated that in making the proposed changes, the Ward Five Councilor elect would be displaced, as her domicile would not remain in the newly proposed Ward Five boundary. City Solicitor Kennedy confirmed that a review of the State law would be needed, as he believed RSA 652 stated that in order to be eligible, the Councilor would need to live in the Ward being represented.

After lengthy discussions, the Committee unanimously agreed to avoid any proposed changes that would displace the Ward Five Councilor elect. All Committee members agreed that it was prudent to respect the choice made by Ward Five voters and didn’t want to disenfranchise anyone. It was also determined that no newly elected Concord School Board members would be impacted by these changes.

In order to avoid displacing any Council members or Ward Officials, Senior Planner Durfee offered the option of moving the Jennings Road population into Ward Four, which included the Bishop Brady High School, in order to keep Centre Street in Ward Five, which would satisfy the census block population counts allowed per Ward. He confirmed that by moving Dillon Field into Ward Four, like communities would be kept together, as White Park was also in Ward Four. He also noted that the new proposed changes would shift the Ward Four polling location to the Green Street Community Center, and the new Ward Five polling location would move to the Christa McAuliffe School’s gymnasium. It was also agreed that the Concord High School was not a viable Ward Five polling location due to geographical challenges and an increased walking distance to the space, which would inconvenience voters with mobility issues.

City Clerk Bonenfant confirmed that she was ok with the proposed polling location changes in Wards Four and Five as long as the Concord School District agreed to allow the School locations to be used for all future elections. Jim Richards confirmed that other Concord School Board members were on board with this plan as the political schedule didn’t affect school days, and they wanted to remain in a cooperative collaboration with the City. He emphasized that the Concord School Board valued the partnership with the City and intended to continue to share its facilities as Memorial Field was shared by the City. He also noted that all school drop off and emergency lanes could be used for handicap parking to further accommodate handicap parking and accessibility at the Christa McAuliffe School.

Mayor Bouley, City Clerk Bonenfant, and Jae Whitelaw extended their appreciation for the Concord school’s accommodations, fantastic staff, and continued partnerships at Wards Seven and Ten. Jim Richards acknowledge the compliments and agreed to pass them on to each Facility’s staff.

Mayor Bouley asked how the revised changes affected the overall deviations and population numbers per Ward. Senior Planner Durfee stated the following:

- Ward One – deviation of 1.23% or 54 population
- Ward Two – deviation of 3.84% or 169 population
- Ward Three – deviation of 2.59% or 114 population
- Ward Four – No deviation from target, exactly 4398 population
- Ward Five – deviation of -0.82% or -88 population
- Ward Six – deviation of -3.80% or -194 population
- Ward Seven – deviation of -2% or -88 population
- Ward Eight – deviation of -4.41% or -194 population
- Ward Nine – deviation of 3.30% or 145 population
- Ward Ten – deviation of 0.52% or 23 population

The Committee members unanimously agreed with the discussed deviations and revised Ward line changes. It was noted that the Committee recommendations would be sent to Council for their November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, and if approved, would be sent to the State for further review and consideration. It was discussed that once approved, letters would be sent to notify all impacted voters, and social media and online campaigns would be ongoing to aid in communication efforts.

#### **4. Public Comment**

Tony Schinella, a Concord Patch reporter, spoke adamantly that voter parking Citywide was a big issue. He noted that Ward Five was a very busy Ward and sometimes voter parking was difficult to find. He voiced his concerns over moving the Ward Five polling location to the Christa McAuliffe School as he felt it was a more difficult parking area to accommodate voters.

Mayor Bouley tasked the Clerk's office with increasing and or improving Citywide signage to better identify and mark polling locations as well as to accommodate voter parking. Councilor Champlin also suggested that signage improvements be made to accommodate walking voters too as some locations were challenging for walkers. City Clerk Bonenfant agreed to take that into consideration for the next elections.

With no additional public comments, Mayor Bouley asked if everyone agreed of accepting the proposed Ward map changes to comply with the 2020 census data.

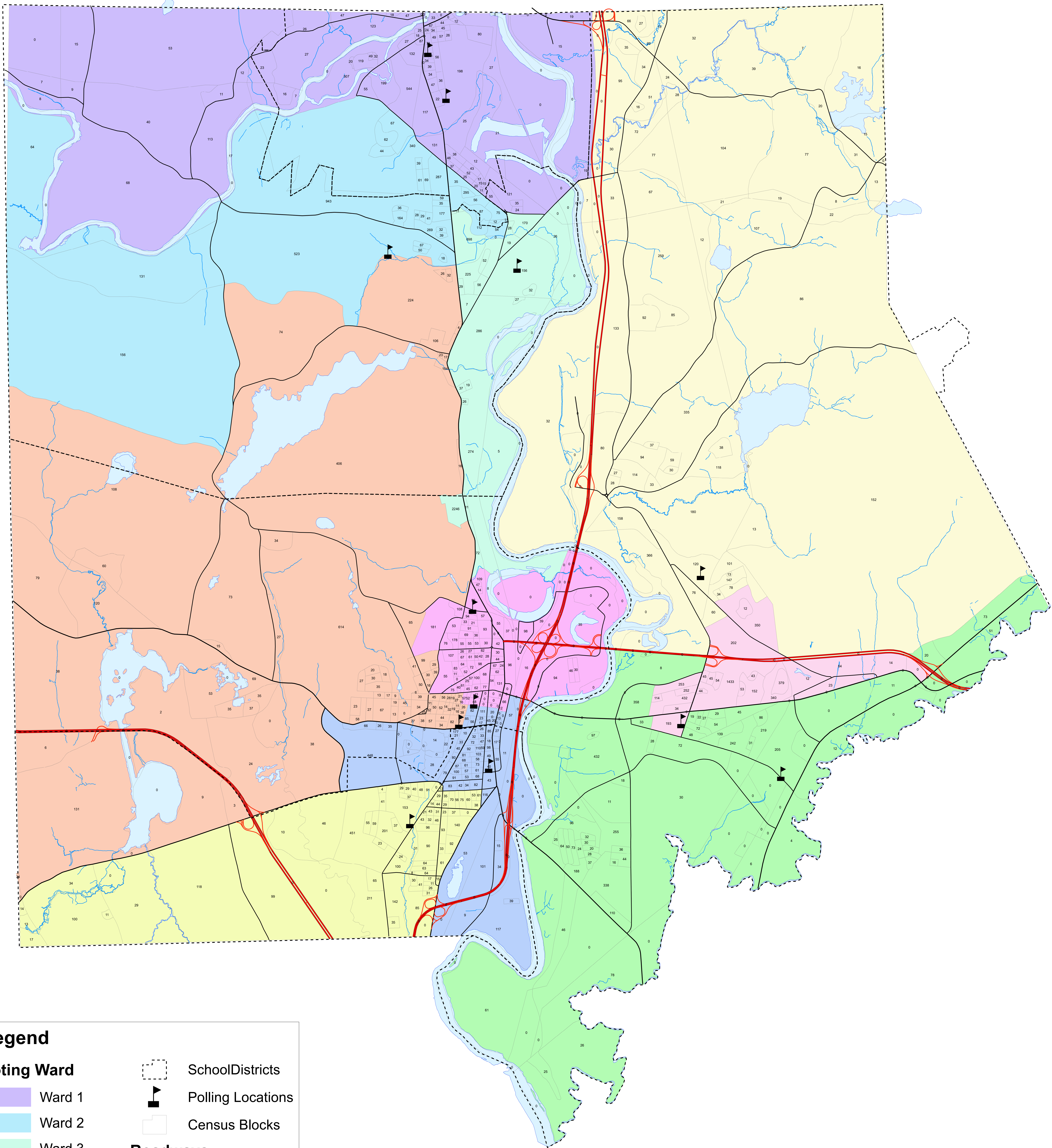
Action: Councilor Champlin motioned to accept the revised Ward line changes and to proceed with submitting the recommendations to City Council for acceptance. This motion was duly seconded and passed with no dissenting votes.

#### **5. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at approximately 6:15 P.M.

# City of Concord 2020 Voting Ward Redistricting

Draft Date: 11/04/2021

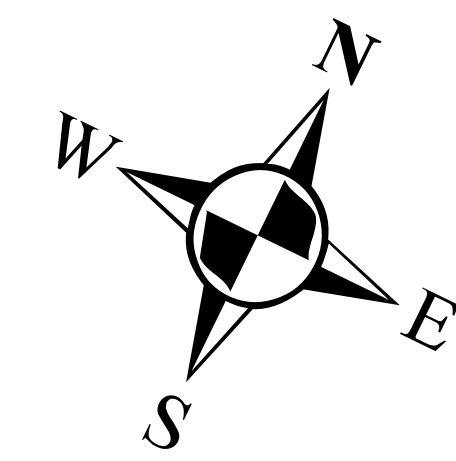


## Legend

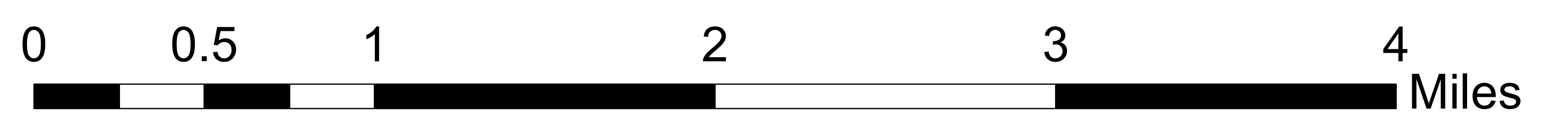
### Voting Ward

- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4
- Ward 5
- Ward 6
- Ward 7
- Ward 8
- Ward 9
- Ward 10

- School Districts
- Polling Locations
- Census Blocks
- Roadways**
- Highway
- Ramp
- Arterial
- Collector
- Water Bodies**
- Lakes & Ponds
- Streams



2020 population data source: 2020 US Census

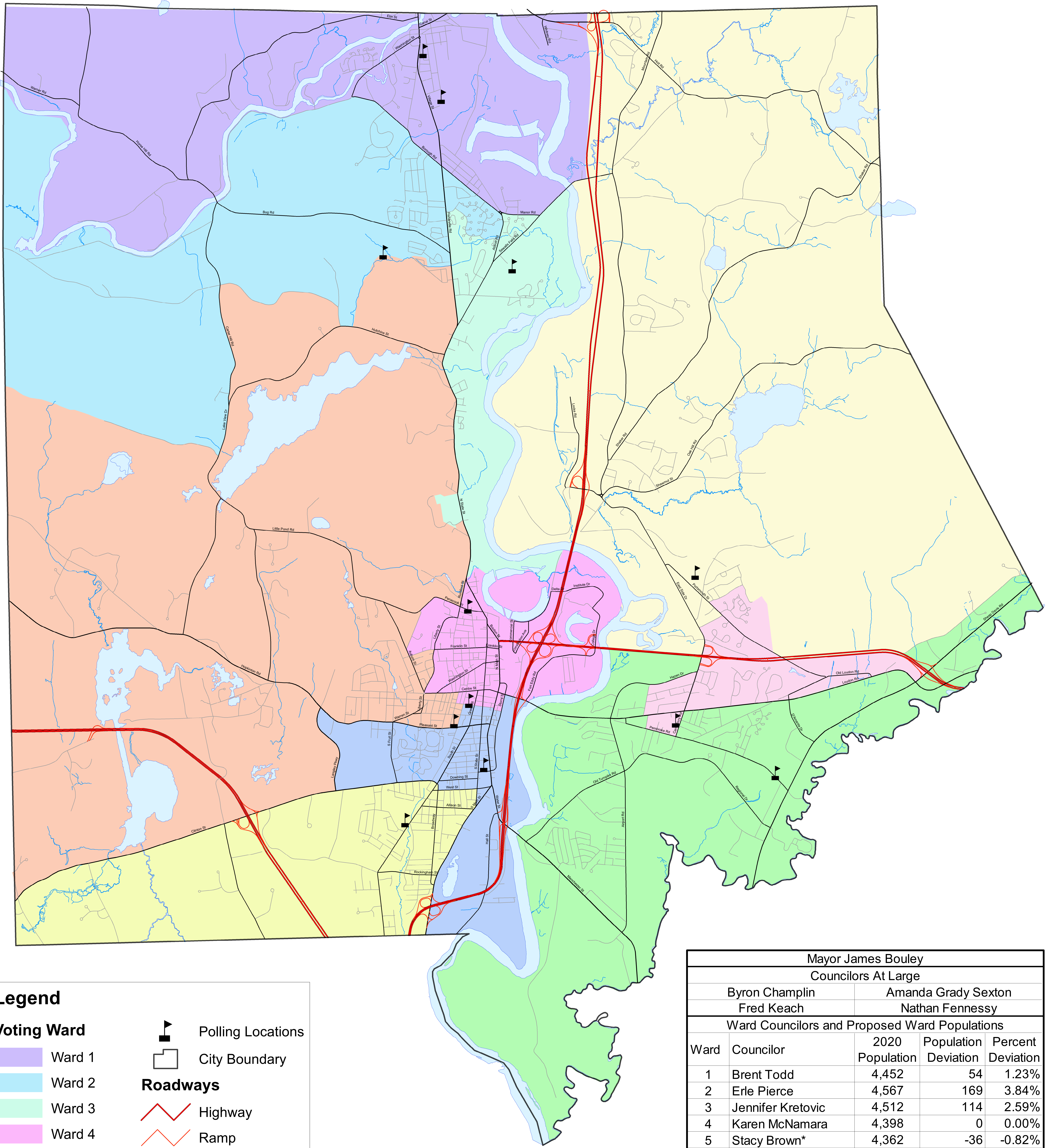
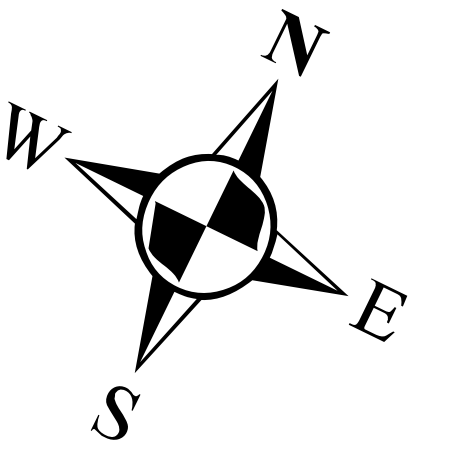


# City of Concord

## Decennial Voting Ward Redistricting

### Proposed 2021 Voting Wards

Draft Date: 11/05/2021



**Legend**

**Voting Ward**

- Ward 1
- Ward 2
- Ward 3
- Ward 4
- Ward 5
- Ward 6
- Ward 7
- Ward 8
- Ward 9
- Ward 10

**Other Symbols:**

- Polling Locations
- City Boundary

**Roadways**

- Highway
- Ramp
- Arterial
- Collector
- Local & Private

**Water Bodies**

- Lakes & Ponds
- Streams



Mayor James Bouley				
Councilors At Large				
Byron Champlin		Amanda Grady Sexton		
Fred Keach		Nathan Fennessy		
Ward Councilors and Proposed Ward Populations				
Ward	Councilor	2020 Population	Population Deviation	Percent Deviation
1	Brent Todd	4,452	54	1.23%
2	Erle Pierce	4,567	169	3.84%
3	Jennifer Kretovic	4,512	114	2.59%
4	Karen McNamara	4,398	0	0.00%
5	Stacy Brown*	4,362	-36	-0.82%
6	Paula McLaughlin*	4,231	-167	-3.80%
7	Keith Nyhan	4,310	-88	-2.00%
8	Gail Matson	4,204	-194	-4.41%
9	Candace Bouchard	4,543	145	3.30%
10	Zandra Rice Hawkins	4,421	23	0.52%

\* Denotes Councilor Elect

Data Sources:  
 US Census Bureau: 2020 population and census blocks  
 City of Concord: Proposed voting wards, polling locations, and City Boundary  
 NH GRANIT: Roads and water bodies