



# FACT SHEET

**DRAFT - 11/09/2021**

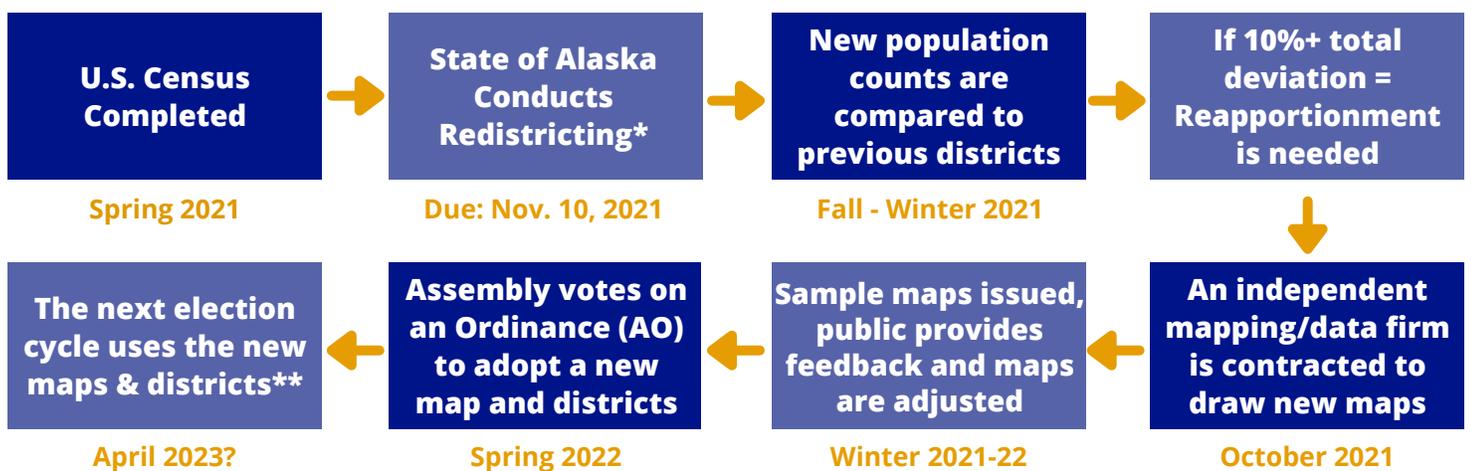
## REAPPORTIONMENT

Every ten years after the U.S. Census is complete, governments across the country update their election boundaries to match the new population data. For the Municipality of Anchorage, that process is called Reapportionment and it is led by the Reapportionment Committee, which is charged with reviewing the State final redistricting plan, taking public input, and developing proposed maps which the Assembly will use in realigning district boundaries to ensure fair representation.

### When is Reapportionment needed?

According to the Anchorage Charter, the Assembly must conduct Reapportionment whenever it becomes malapportioned (Section 4.01). After the State of Alaska adopts its redistricting plan, which happens every ten years with the completion of the U.S. Census (art. VI, sec. 10, Constitution of the State of Alaska), within two months, the Assembly must declare by resolution (AR) whether or not it is malapportioned. If the Assembly determines that it is malapportioned, it has six months to reapportion itself. This year, the deadline for the State redistricting plan is November 10, 2021, so the Assembly must declare malapportionment by January 10, 2021. This year's Reapportionment will include a new 12th Assembly seat that was approved by Municipality of Anchorage voters in 2020.

### What does the process look like?



\*Note: the State uses U.S. Census districts for boundaries, some of which cross parcels and split properties into different districts, so the Anchorage maps will have some tweaks to the state boundaries to avoid this problem.

\*\*Some possible consequences of new boundaries:

- If the new boundaries are significantly different, (what is the threshold?) the seat will be put up for election in the following election, even if that seat is not yet due for re-election
- Some Assembly Members may no longer live in the district they were elected to represent (and now two existing Members may live in the same district)
- If more than the usual amount of seats require new races, some seats may be for shortened terms to maintain the staggered terms of the Assembly races

## What determines Malapportionment?

The size of each Assembly district is determined by a population calculation:

- Total population/ # of elected representatives (previously 11, now 12) = Target population per representative
- From there, the population within each district is compared to the Target and the difference is the % deviation from the Target population
- If the TOTAL deviation from the Target population is more than 10% = malapportioned

MOA	2002 boundaries	2010 Census data		
Section	tapersons	target	Dev	Diff
1	25861	26530	-2.5%	-669
2	54974	53059	3.6%	1915
3	51066	53059	-3.8%	-1993
4	53676	53059	1.2%	617
5	50303	53059	-5.2%	-2756
6	55946	53059	5.4%	2887
	-291791	291826	-0.01	0

For example, in the 2012 Reapportionment table above, when the population from the previous (2002) boundaries was compared to the 2010 census data, there was a 10.6% total deviation (District 5 was 5.2% under target and District 6 was 5.4% over target)

## How is the new map determined?

The Municipality's Reapportionment contractor designs several sample maps using GIS software to meet the requirements of federal, state and local laws. It might not be possible to get it exactly perfect, so multiple maps are drawn to present different options for the public and the Assembly to review.

Here are some factors that are considered:

- Districts must be compact, contiguous and a relatively integrated socioeconomic area (Anchorage Charter 4.01)
- The principle of "one person, one vote" equal protection must be maintained
- The total deviation in actual voters to target voters must be less than 10% (federal law)
- A single district with an over 5% deviation must have a compelling reason
- The new boundaries can't be racially discriminatory, such as spreading out a majority Indigenous population over several white-majority districts (federal law)

## How does the federal Voting Rights Act fit into this process?

I need help with this part – I don't understand. Also, people will ask – isn't the Voting Rights Act dead?

## Additional Resources

Learn more and get involved! Democracy works best when everyone is informed and participates.

- Anchorage Assembly Reapportionment Committee: [www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/Municipality-and-Assembly-Reapportionmant-Committee.aspx](http://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/Municipality-and-Assembly-Reapportionmant-Committee.aspx)
- State of Alaska Redistricting website: [www.akredistrict.org](http://www.akredistrict.org)
- Tina's GIS storymaps on the parcel issue