

City of Somerville

Census 2020

Reprecincting Process

October 14, 2021 Update for City Council

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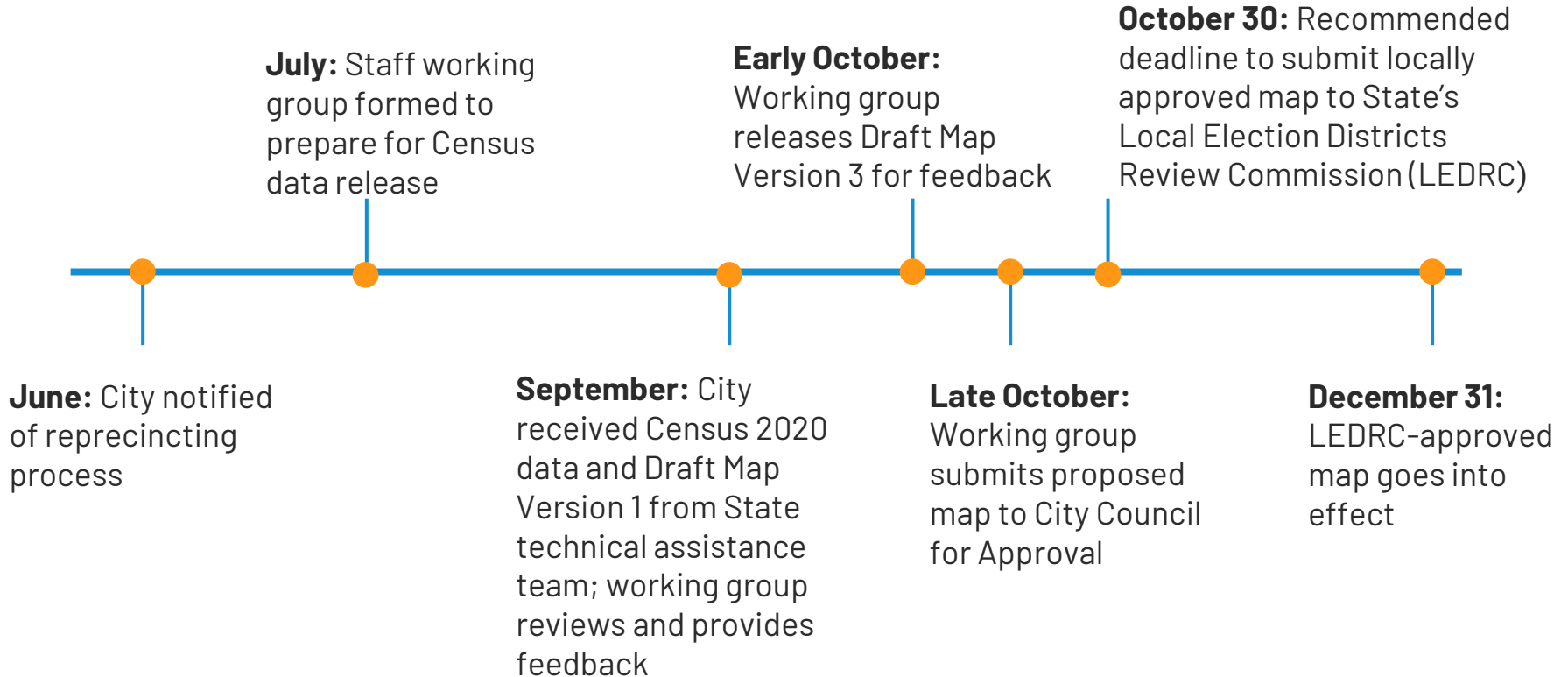


Why reprecincting?

Every 10 years, Massachusetts cities and towns are required by law to review their population data from the most recent decennial U.S. Census. Then, using that data, they must submit a locally approved ward and precinct map for approval by the State.



Process

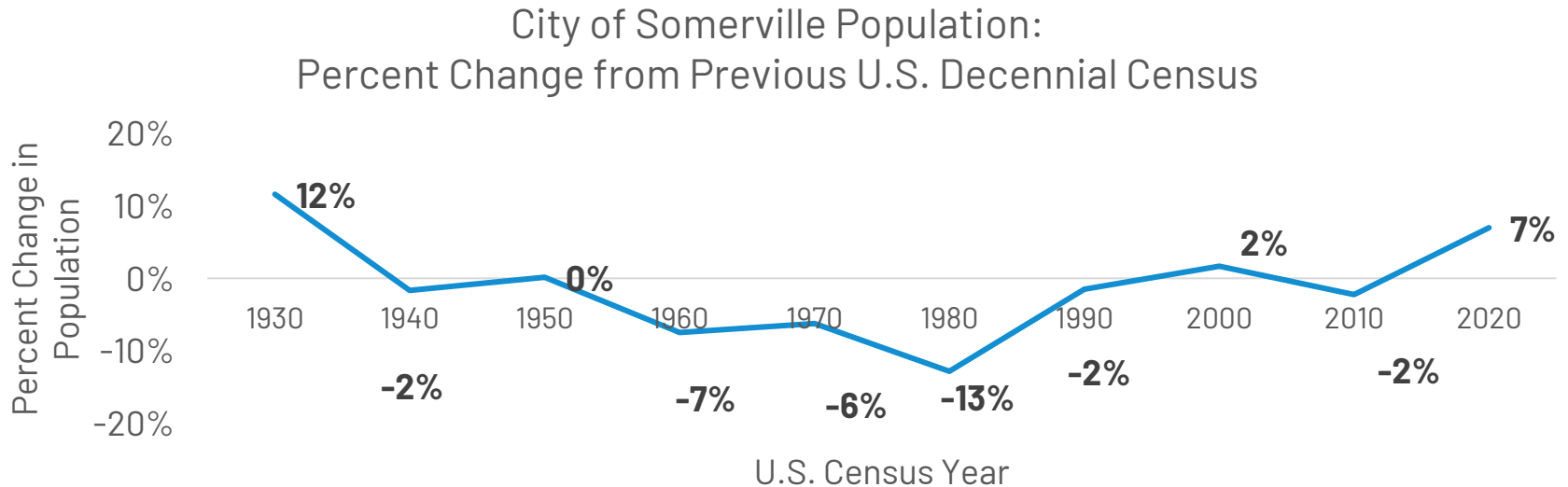


Reprecincting standards

- Each new precinct must be “composed of compact and contiguous territory” without protruding fingers or long tails.
- Precincts must be bounded by boundaries of Census blocks.
- No precinct may contain more than **4,000 residents**.
- Every precinct’s population must be **within five percent (5%) of the average** precinct population for that ward or town. Ward populations must be within five percent (5%) of the average ward population for the city.
- Redrawn precinct and ward boundaries must not result in the dilution of minority group members’ votes.

Somerville's population grew **7%** between 2010 and 2020

An increase of 5,291 people from 2010 to 2020 (75,754 vs 81,045)



Population increased in all wards, but growth was not even

Ward*	2010 Population	2020 Population	Change in Population	% of Total Population Growth
1	10,894	12,361	1,467	28%
2	11,130	11,952	822	16%
3	10,428	10,829	401	8%
4	10,811	11,079	268	5%
5	10,669	11,829	1,160	22%
6	11,021	11,599	578	11%
7	10,801	11,396	595	11%

* 2010 boundaries

Current ward boundaries aren't within 5% of average as required

Ward*	2020 Population	Variance (2020 Population)
1	12,361	6.8%
2	11,952	3.2%
3	10,829	-6.5%
4	11,079	-4.3%
5	11,829	2.2%
6	11,599	0.2%
7	11,396	-1.6%

* 2010 boundaries

At 21 precincts, the target population per precinct is too close to maximum

Number of Precincts	Minimum Population per Precinct	Target Population Per Precinct	Maximum Population Per Precinct
21	3,666	3,859	4,000

Given projected housing development in the next few years, several precincts would likely exceed the maximum population as new housing is completed and occupied.

Proposed map adds precincts and allows room for growth

Proposed Ward (Version 3)	2020 Population	Variance
1	11,335	-2.1%
2	11,121	-3.9%
3	11,565	-0.1%
4	11,819	2.1%
5	11,922	3.0%
6	11,887	2.7%
7	11,396	-1.6%

Highest volume of housing production expected in:

- Union Square (Wards 2 and 3)
- Assembly (Ward 1)
- Hillside (Ward 7)
- East Somerville (Ward 1)
- Spring Hill (Ward 3)

Impacts of changes

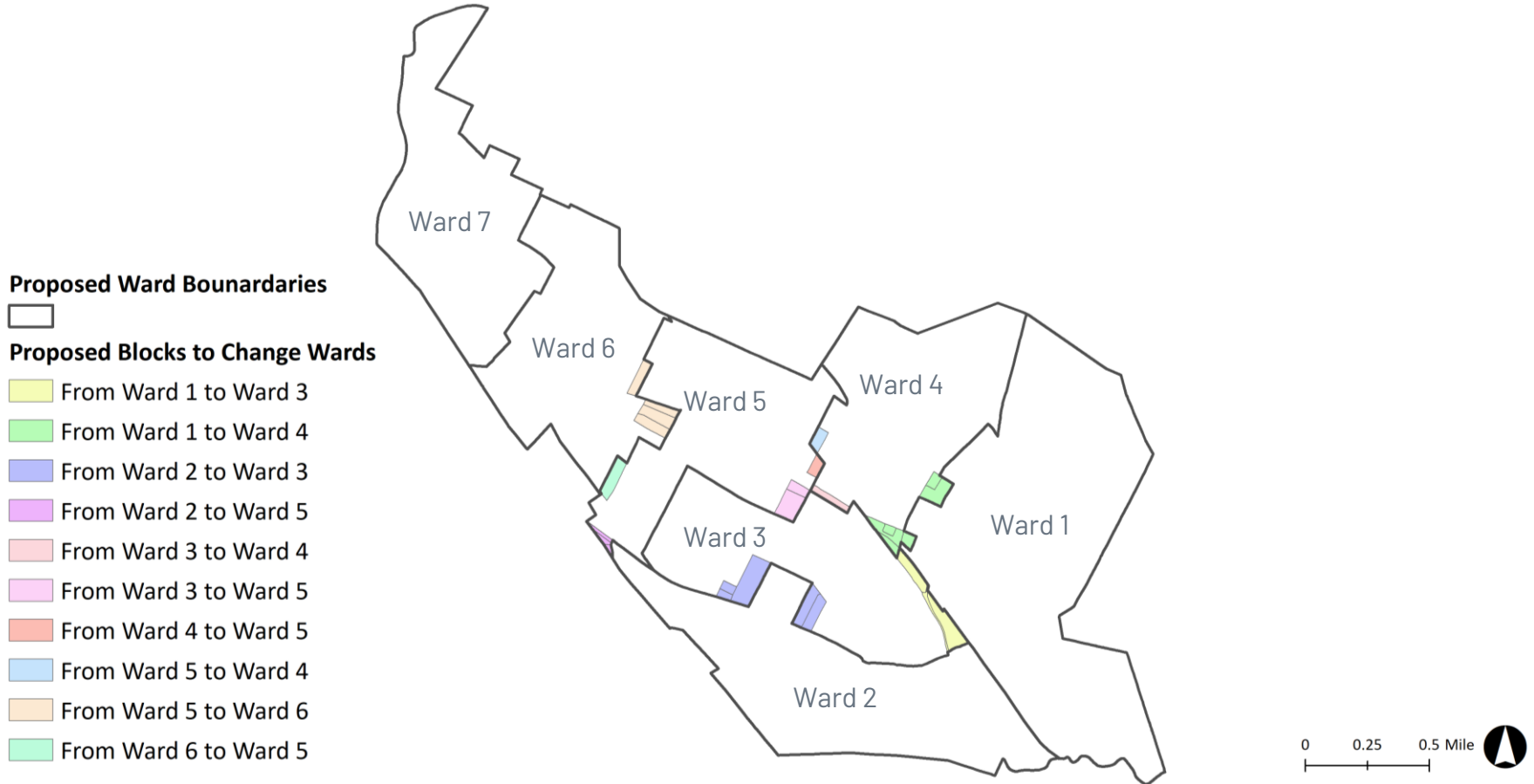
Ward changes

With the proposed map, approximately **4%** of the population will have a new ward effective December 31.

New polling locations

City will evaluate precinct polling locations and add locations for future elections

Blocks impacted by ward changes



City of Somerville



DRAFT

Map Prepared for the City of Somerville
 Courtesy of William F. Galvin, Census Liaison
 Secretary of the Commonwealth

2020 Population - - 81,045

Minimum 5%	Target Population	Maximum 5%
2,749	2,894	3,039

Precinct Boundaries Somerville

Ward / Precinct	2020 Population	Variance
1-1	2,875	-0.66
1-2	2,768	-4.35
1-3	2,870	-0.83
1-4	2,822	-2.49
2-1	2,755	-4.80
2-2	2,790	-3.59
2-3	2,821	-2.52
2-4	2,755	-4.80
3-1	2,778	-4.01
3-2	2,940	1.59
3-3	2,974	2.76
3-4	2,873	-0.73
4-1	2,908	0.48
4-2	2,977	2.87
4-3	2,997	3.56
4-4	2,937	1.49
5-1	3,027	4.60
5-2	2,941	1.62
5-3	2,990	3.32
5-4	2,964	2.42
6-1	2,913	0.66
6-2	3,007	3.90
6-3	3,008	3.94
6-4	2,959	2.25
7-1	3,006	3.87
7-2	2,799	-3.28
7-3	2,786	-3.73
7-4	2,805	-3.08

Population is based on the official U.S. 2020 Census block-level data.

Boundaries effective December 31, 2021

Legend

- Municipal Boundary
- Geographical Features**
- Major Road
- Local Road
- Railroad
- Other Municipal Features
- Streams, Rivers
- Coastal Water, Lakes, Ponds, Major Rivers

