



**CITY OF YPSILANTI
ELECTION COMMISSION MEETING
December 13, 2021 @ 5:00 PM
[Zoom Meeting](#)
One South Huron, Ypsilanti, MI 48197**

Page

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

City Attorney John Barr
City Assessor Courtney Borden
City Clerk Andrew Hellenga

III. AGENDA APPROVAL

IV. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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- A. Approving the minutes of December 10, 2021
[ELECTION COMMISSION - 10 Dec 2021 - Minutes](#)

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS

4 - 14

- A. Presentation of the 2021 Redistricting Plan
[2021 Redistricting](#)
- B. Public Hearing

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- C. Resolution No. 2021-001, recommending City Council Approval of the proposed 2021 Redistricting Plan
[Memo and Resolution No. 2021-001](#)

VII. ADJOURNMENT



MINUTES ELECTION COMMISSION Meeting

1:00 PM - Friday, December 10, 2021
Council Chambers

The ELECTION COMMISSION of the City of Ypsilanti was called to order on Friday, December 10, 2021, at 1:00 PM, on the Zoom Platform with the following members present:

I CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm

II ROLL CALL

PRESENT:

City Attorney John Barr (City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County), City Assessor Courtney Borden (City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County), City Clerk Andrew Hellenga (City of Ypsilanti, Washtenaw County)

III AGENDA APPROVAL

City Attorney Barr moved, seconded by City Assessor Borden to approve the agenda

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the agenda was approved.

IV AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

V APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Approval of the October 5, 2020 Minutes

City Attorney Barr moved, seconded by City Assessor Borden to approve the minutes.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the October 5, 2020 Minutes were approved.

b) Approval of the December 1, 2021 Minutes

City Assessor Borden moved, seconded by City Attorney Barr to approve the minutes.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the December 1, 2021 Minutes were approved.

VI PUBLIC HEARING

- a) Presentation of the 2021 Redistricting Plan

City Clerk Hellenga offered to present the 2021 Redistricting Plan. However, with no members of the public present and the video of the previous meeting online for public consumption the Commission forego presenting the plan at this meeting.

- b) Public Hearing

None

- c) Discussion

VII NEXT MEETING DATE

- a) Monday, December 13, 2021 at 5:00 pm

VIII ADJOURNMENT

City Assessor Borden moved, seconded by City Attorney Barr to adjourn the meeting.

On a voice vote, the motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm

2021 Redistricting

November 13, 2021

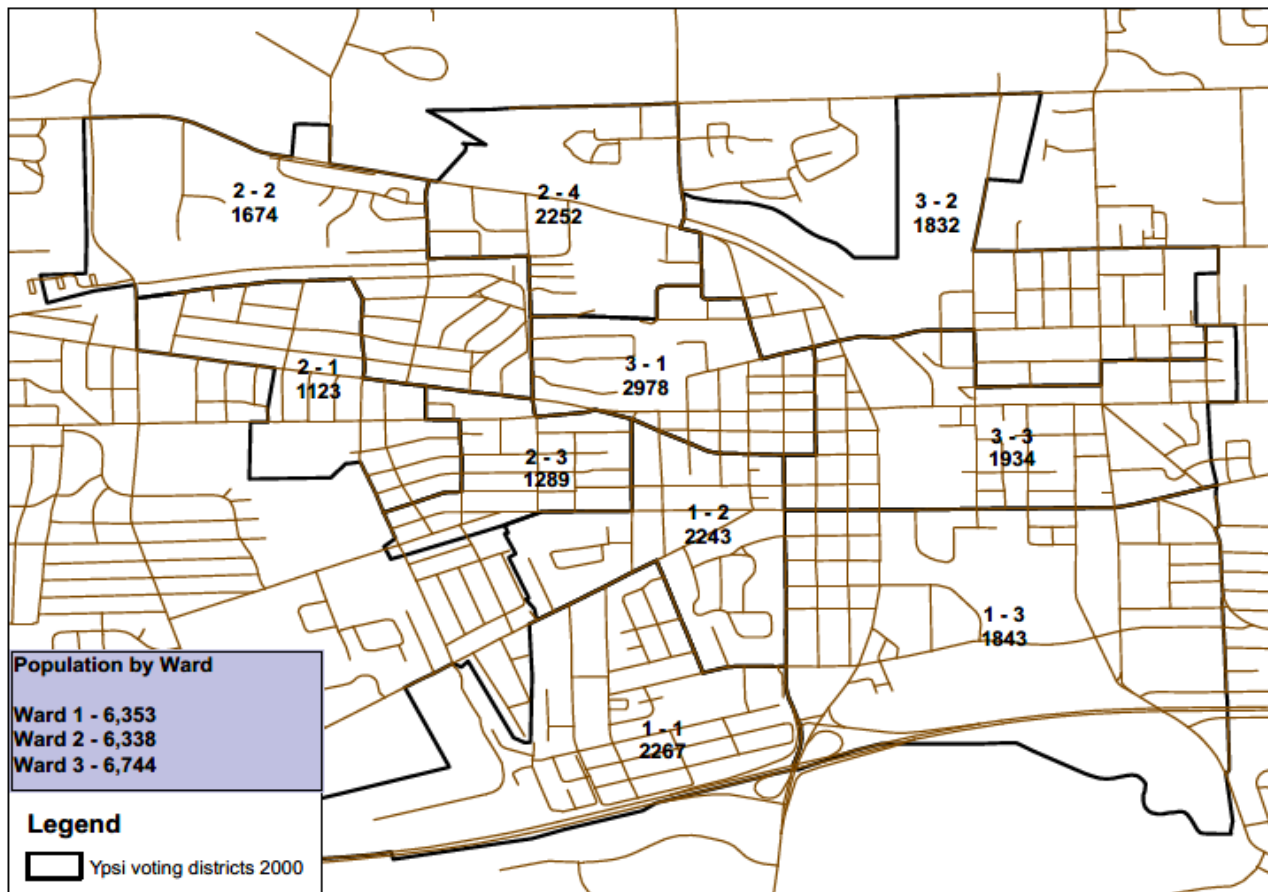
State Statute

- There is not a state statute on how counties or cities are supposed to balance, only that they must balance.
- Historically, the city has followed the state statute on how seats in the state legislature are balanced. MCL 4.261(1)(d)
- The statute requires that each district balance with a 5% deviation in population.

2010 Census Data by Census Tract



Ypsilanti 2010 Population by 2000 Voting Precincts



Census Data & Plan Goal

The 2020 Census Data

- The City of Ypsilanti Population 20,648
 - Mean = 6,883
 - 5% deviation = 345
 - Range of Balance = 6,538-7,228

Goal of 2020 Redistricting

- To Ensure that any changes will not cause disruption in the voting process.

Population

Ward 1 – 7,002

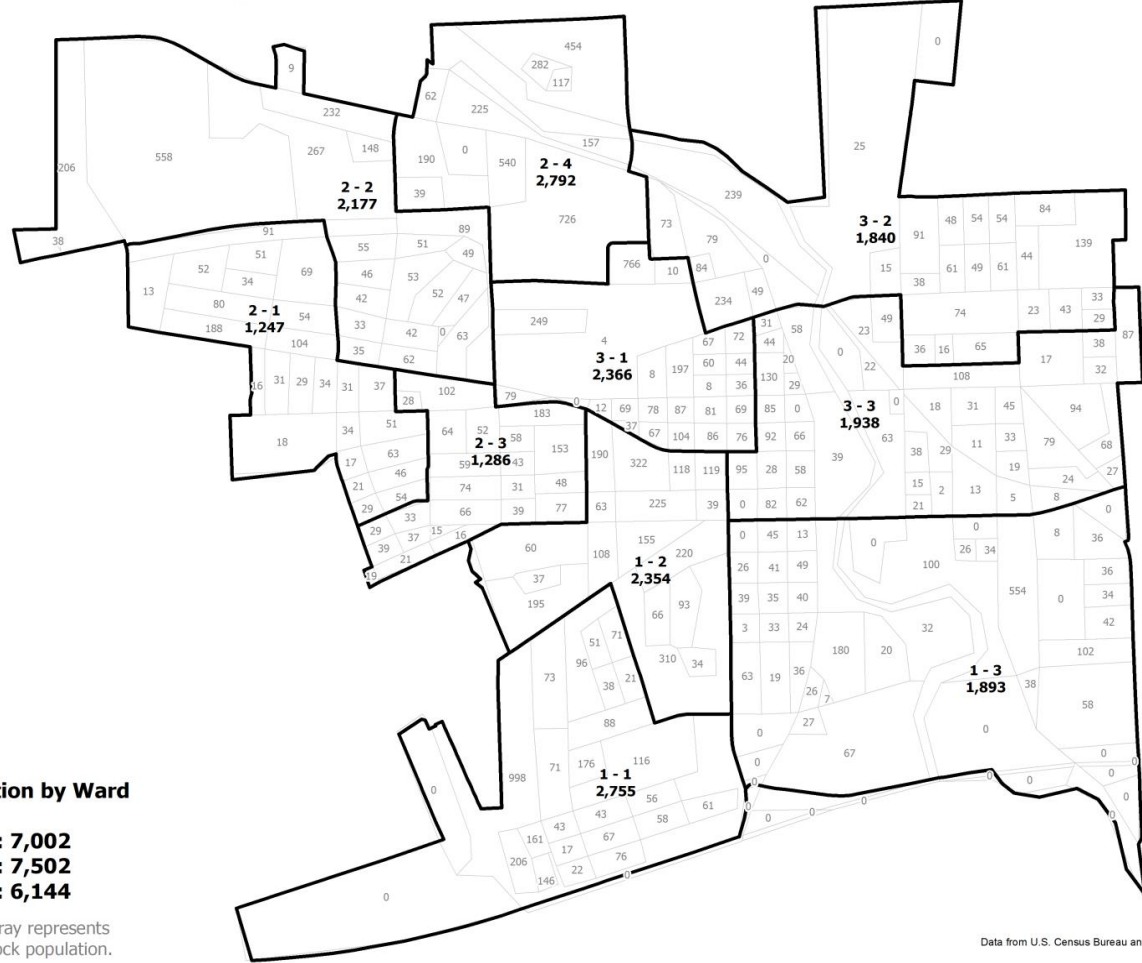
Ward 2 – 7,502

Ward 3 – 6,144

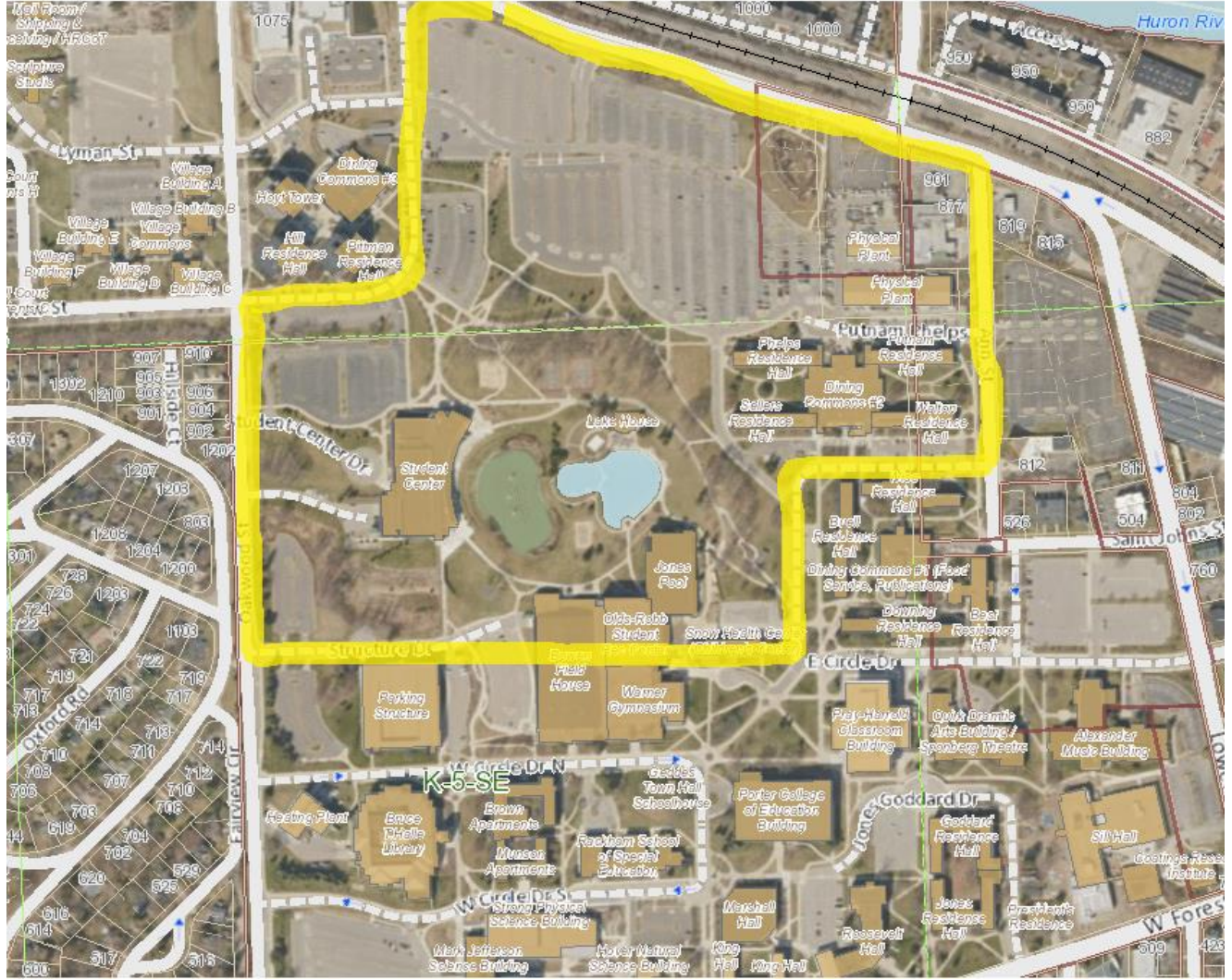
2020 Census Data by Census Tract



Ypsilanti Population by Voting Precincts (2020 Census)



Proposed Change



Effected Area

- The proposed plan would shift four student housing halls from Ward 2 to Ward 3. Total population shift 726
 - Phelps Hall
 - Sellers Hall
 - Walton Hall
 - Putnam Hall

Effected Area



- Active Voter Threshold
 - State Statute prescribes that no precinct may have more than 2,999 active voters. (MCL 168.658/168.661)
 - Currently Ward 3 Precinct 1 has 1,610 active voters.
 - Shift two census tracts from 3-1 to 3-3.
 - Maintain the same Ward, however, it would switch the polling location.

Proposed Change Area



Comments and Questions



Thank you!

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ypsilanti Election Commission

FROM: Andrew Hellenga, City Clerk

SUBJECT: Proposed 2021 Redistricting Plan

Summary

The population following the 2020 Federal Census of the City of Ypsilanti is 20,648. While there is no state statute governing how cities and counties must balance populations of voting districts, they are required to balance. Historically, the City of Ypsilanti has applied MCL 4.261(1)(D), which governs how the state legislature must balance.

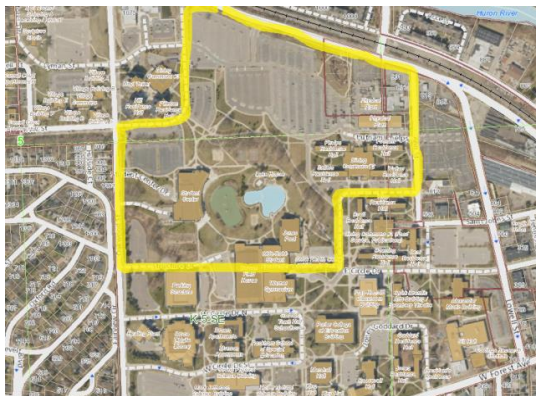
MCL 4.261(a)(d) requires that districts be balanced within a 5% deviation between voting districts. The population following the 2020 per Ward was as follows:

- Ward 1 – 7,002
- Ward 2 – 7,502
- Ward 3 – 6,144

The population as it stands does not meet the 5% deviation and now must balance. It is the intent of the Election Commission to balance the Wards without creating confusion among the electorate.

The following proposed change will shift the southernmost census tract in Ward 2 Precinct 4 (Figure 1) to Ward 3 Precinct 1. This census tract contains student housing, specifically Phelps, Sellers, Walton, and Putnam Halls. This shift would increase Ward 3 to a population of 6,870 and decrease Ward 2 to a population of 6,776. By shifting this one census tract all three Wards would become balanced by a 5% deviation.

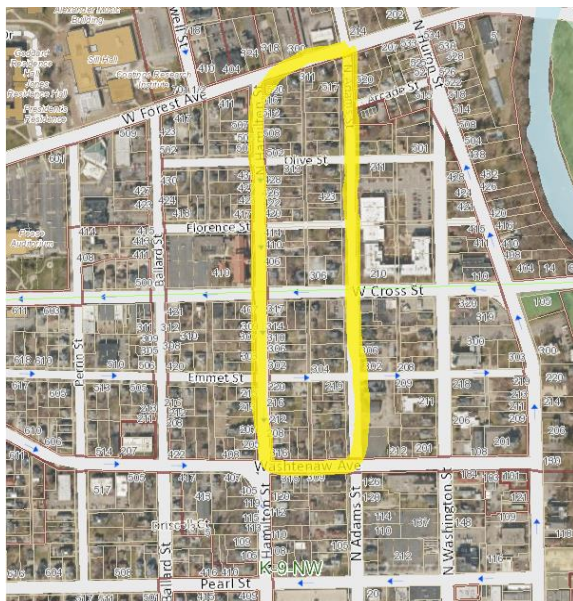
Figure 1



Voting Precincts

State law requires that all voting precincts maintain no more than 2,999 active voters (MCL 168.658/168.661). While Ward 3 Precinct 1 only currently has 1,610 active voters, shifting a population of 726 to that precinct could create a scenario that increases the active voters in that precinct higher than that threshold. In order to avoid that possibility, it is proposed to shift the two most southwest census tracts from Ward 3 Precinct 1 to Ward 3 Precinct 3 (Figure 2). This will remove the possibility of that precinct from increasing its active voter population above 2,999.

Figure 2



Other Attachments

2020 Voting Precinct Map as currently drawn and 2021 Voting Precinct Map as Proposed.



City of Ypsilanti

Election Commission

Resolution No. 2021-001
December 13, 2021

RESOLVED BY THE ELECTION COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF YPSILANTI:

WHEREAS, the Election Commission has reviewed 2020 U.S. Census data describing the current population of the City of Ypsilanti and its wards as last established by Ypsilanti City Council in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds the Census 2020 data shows that the populations of Ypsilanti City Wards 1, 2, and 3 are not within the standard of 95% to 105% of the optimal ward population in accordance MCL 4.261 (1) (d) and the population distribution between Wards 2 and 3 must be realigned as is practicable in accordance with Section 117.27a of the Michigan Home Rule City Act.

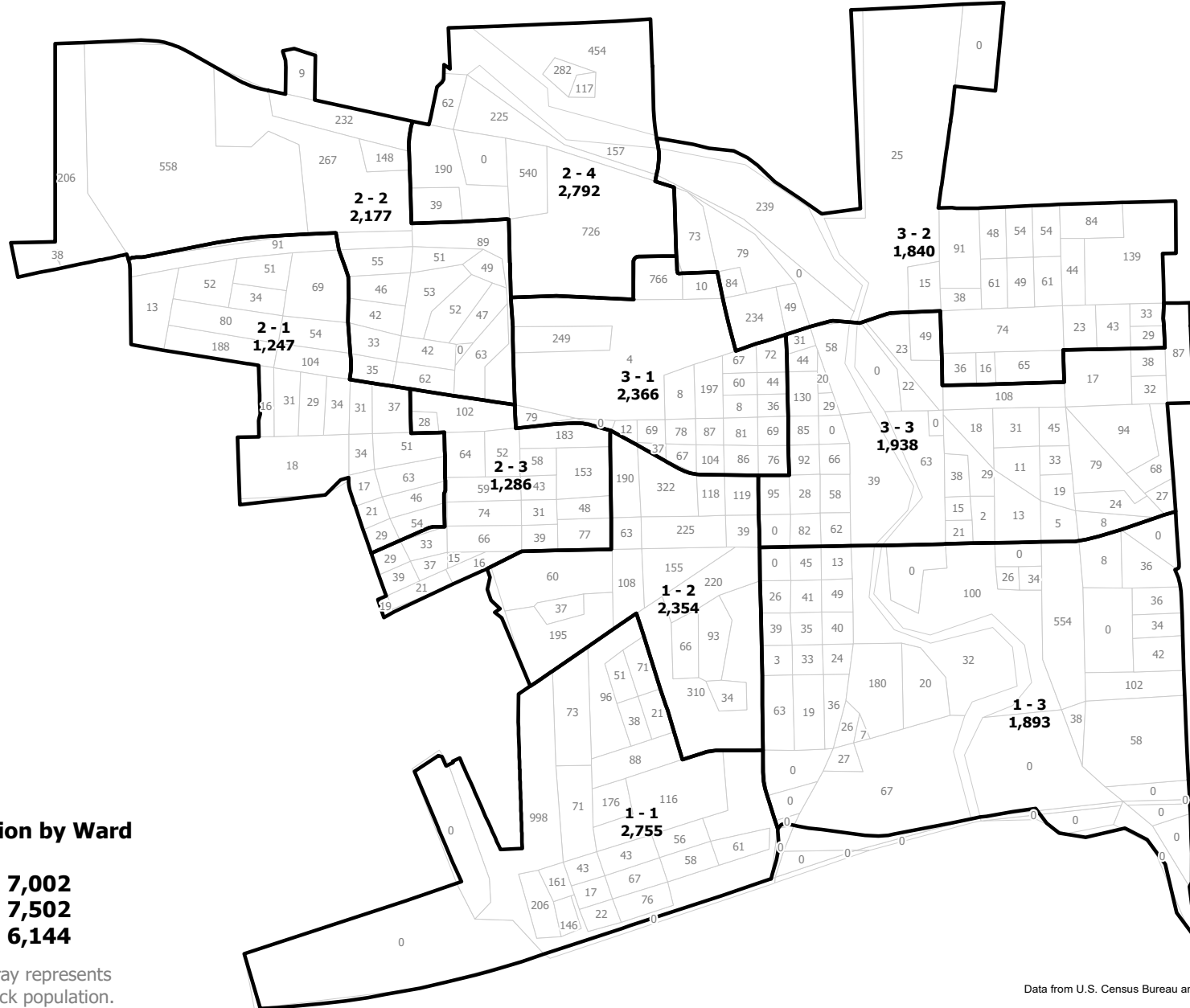
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Election Commission hereby recommends Ypsilanti City Council act approve the attached plan for redistricting.

OFFERED BY: _____

SUPPORTED BY: _____

Yes: No: Absent: Vote:

Ypsilanti Population by Voting Precincts (2020 Census)



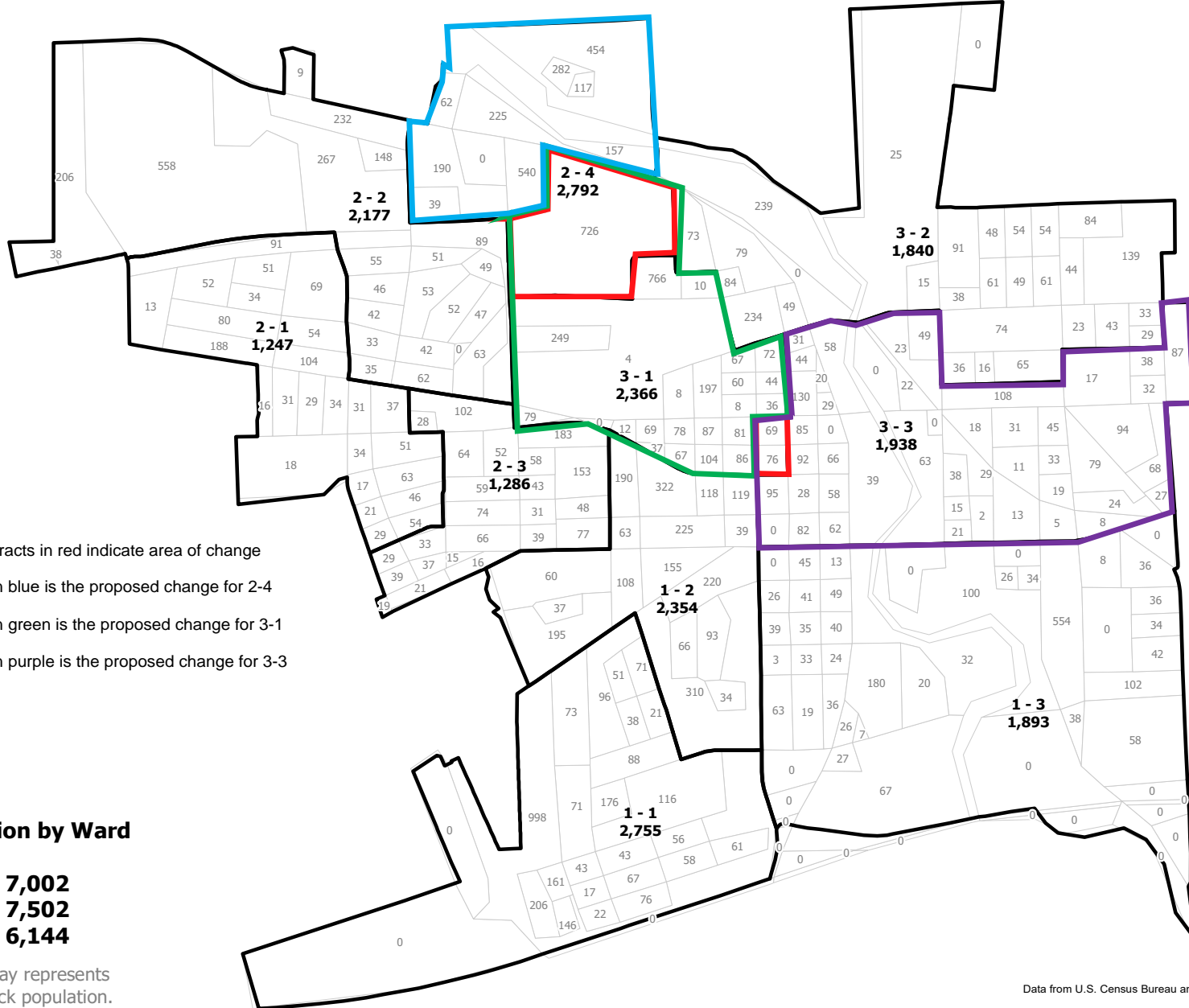
Population by Ward

Ward 1: 7,002
Ward 2: 7,502
Ward 3: 6,144

Value in gray represents census block population.

Data from U.S. Census Bureau and Washtenaw County GIS
October 26, 2021

Ypsilanti Population by Voting Precincts (2020 Census)



Census tracts in red indicate area of change
 Outline in blue is the proposed change for 2-4
 Outline in green is the proposed change for 3-1
 Outline in purple is the proposed change for 3-3

Population by Ward

Ward 1: 7,002
Ward 2: 7,502
Ward 3: 6,144

Value in gray represents census block population.

Data from U.S. Census Bureau and Washtenaw County GIS
 October 26, 2021