



**Deschutes County
District Mapping Advisory Committee (DMAC)**

Wednesday, November 12, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Deschutes Services Building, Barnes Sawyer Room (1st Floor), 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

MEETING FORMAT

In accordance with Oregon state law, this meeting is open to the public and can be accessed and attended in person or remotely.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81707913521?pwd=KQh55MAkiEBZT4obaHsT5S5Dmgeo9a.1>

Meeting ID: 817 0791 3521

Passcode: 611864

TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
1. Introduction Neil Bryant, DMAC Facilitator and Chair	Welcome committee members <i>2 minutes</i>
2. Background on DMAC Neil Bryant, DMAC Facilitator and Chair	Information <i>5 minutes</i>
3. Approval of November 5, 2025, Minutes Neil Bryant, DMAC Facilitator and Chair <i>See Draft Minutes in packet. Please note staff is using a summary format for meeting minutes. All DMAC meetings are recorded and posted on the website within 24 hours of each meeting. To find a link to previous meetings please visit: Deschutes.org/DMAC</i>	Approve minutes <i>1 minutes</i>
4. Public Comments Neil Bryant, DMAC Facilitator and Chair	<i>30 minutes</i>
5. Deschutes County Legal Counsel • Discussion on partisan voter data • <i>See meeting packet for legal memo</i>	Information and discussion <i>10 minutes</i>
6. DMAC Group Discussion and Map Work Neil Bryant, DMAC Facilitator and Chair • <i>See meeting packet for Building Permits issued by year and precincts</i>	Information and discussion <i>70 minutes</i>

TOPIC	DESIRED OUTCOME
7. Wrap Up and Adjourn Neil Bryant, DMAC Facilitator and Chair	Information and Discussion <i>2 minutes</i>



Deschutes County encourages persons with disabilities to participate in all programs and activities. This meeting/event is accessible. Accommodations including sign and other language interpreter services, assistive listening devices, materials in alternate formats such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, or language translations are available upon advance request at no cost. Please make a request at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting/event by calling Administrative Services at (541) 388-6570 or send an email to DMAC@deschutes.org.



El condado de Deschutes anima a las personas con discapacidad a participar en todos los programas y actividades. Esta reunión/evento es accesible. Hay disponibles servicios de intérprete de lengua de señas y de otros idiomas, dispositivos de escucha asistida, materiales en formatos alternativos como braille, letra grande, formatos electrónicos, traducciones o cualquier otra adaptación, con solicitud previa y sin ningún costo. Haga su solicitud al menos 24 horas antes de la reunión/el evento llamando a Administrative Services al (541) 388-6570 o envíe un correo electrónico a DMAC@deschutes.org.



Minutes
Deschutes County
District Mapping Advisory Committee (DMAC)

Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Deschutes Services Building, Barnes Sawyer Room (1st Floor), 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

This meeting was conducted in person and by video. It was video recorded and can be accessed on the committee website: [District Mapping Advisory Committee \(DMAC\) | Deschutes County Oregon](https://deschutes.org/DMAC) (Deschutes.org/DMAC)

I. Introduction

This meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. by Facilitator and Chair Neil Bryant.

Attendees: Chair/Facilitator: Neil Bryant. Committee Members: Bernie Brader, Carol Loesche, Drew Kaza, Matt Cyrus, Melanie Kebler, Ned Dempsey, and Phil Henderson.

Staff: Nick Lelack, County Administrator; Steve Dennison, County Clerk; Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager; and Lee Klemp, IT/GIS.

II. Background on DMAC

Neil Bryant provided background on DMAC's role in a three-step process initiated by the Board of County Commissioners and outlined that DMAC will produce initial mapping recommendations to be forwarded to the Board in late November or early December. He stated that the Board may accept, modify, or refer the proposal to the May 2026 ballot, and that the proposed districts would not affect the 2026 election, which will be conducted at large. He reiterated committee guidance to use existing 2022 precinct lines where practicable, keep districts contiguous, avoid unreasonable divisions of communities of interest, and consider growth patterns. He noted the committee is working with current voter registration data to draw the districts. He further explained that if voters approve districting, changes would affect commissioner elections beginning January 2028; if the measure fails, all five commission seats remain at large.

III. Approval of October 29, 2025, Minutes

A motion to approve the October 29, 2025 minutes was made by Matt Cyrus and seconded by Phil Henderson. The motion carried by voice vote, and the minutes were approved.

IV. Public Comments

No public comments.

V. Staff Updates

Steve Dennison reported that updated voter registration statistics dated November 1, 2025, had been provided and that the map in use incorporated these new totals. He noted that countywide registration totaled approximately 164,000 voters.

DMAC members requested an excel copy of the Voter Registration numbers by precinct. Staff will include the excel version in the next meeting packet email.

During discussion of building permits as growth indicators, a committee member noted that the topic is complex and referenced that Redmond alone had over a thousand permits not including apartment units, which, if confirmed, could indicate notable increases in that area.

VI. DMAC Group Discussion and Map Work

The discussion centered on comparing two draft district maps identified as Maps B and C and evaluating how each configuration balanced five commissioner districts while remaining contiguous, following precinct boundaries where feasible, and grouping nearby neighborhoods in ways that reflected community relationships. The DMAC acknowledged that splitting Bend was unavoidable under a five-district structure and described trade-offs involved in combining dense west-side Bend neighborhoods with areas outside the city. Examples from the south side of Bend were used to illustrate adjacency and neighborhood cohesion, including references to precincts on Bend's west side and nearby areas; concerns were noted about configurations that appeared to reach into the city without a clear neighborhood or road-network rationale, and that certain precincts connecting to South County did not align well with local neighborhood patterns. The discussion repeatedly returned to the principle that the focus was on voters rather than land area, and that some splits within Bend were necessary to achieve workable districts.

The committee reviewed "communities of interest" using previously provided demographic map layers, with particular attention to American Community Survey data showing concentrations of Hispanic/Latino residents. Two areas of concentration were identified in the record: one largely within Precinct 2 (spilling slightly into Precinct 25) and another in the vicinity of Precincts 12 and 41. The discussion noted that keeping Precinct 2 intact would avoid splitting that community regardless of whether it was grouped with Bend or with South County, and that pairing 12 and 41 made sense given observed patterns. Within the same segment, it was stated that map-drawing criteria include a provision that districts must not be drawn for the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any language or ethnic minority group; participants noted that the highest concentrations of Hispanic residents appeared in city areas, especially Bend, and cautioned that moving such concentrations into a South County district could risk dilution. Additional reference was made to data suggesting a stronger African American linkage between Precincts 33 and 43, and there was a view that while the percentages in question were comparatively small, they still informed how precincts might be grouped to respect communities of interest. □

When evaluating “current growth patterns,” the group considered a building-permit map that included new dwellings from 2022 to the present. It was noted that the dataset did not include Redmond multifamily unit counts because unit totals were unavailable, although approximately 306 Redmond multifamily permits without unit data were known, and about 944 single-family permits in Redmond had been verified as one permit equaling one unit. The discussion suggested this omission could slightly understate growth in Redmond, but there was also caution about relying on anticipated construction, with comments that permits may not translate into completed units on a predictable timeline. The group expressed a preference to rely on current, available data to draw districts, with the understanding that the 2030 Census will trigger a future review and potential adjustments.

The role of political party registration data was debated at length. A motion was made to have staff provide a high-level graphic for each of the five districts under Maps B and C showing counts of registered Democrats, Republicans, and non-affiliated voters. Discussion explored whether such information would merely confirm that no district was drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, or whether using it to select between two otherwise compliant maps would itself risk running afoul of the directive against favoring a party. During the debate, the map-drawing criteria were read aloud, including provisions that no district shall be drawn for the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any language or ethnic minority group and that no district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent, elected official, or other person. Some statements questioned what thresholds, if any, would justify changing a map based on party distributions, while others argued that reviewing party data would be analogous to reviewing demographic concentration maps to confirm compliance with the criteria.

Following a motion to terminate debate, the committee voted on the main motion to direct staff to prepare party-affiliation graphics for the districts under Maps B and C. The motion failed, 4–3, and the group confirmed that future votes would be conducted by show of hands so that individual votes could be recorded consistently in the minutes.

Throughout the discussion, it was reiterated that the two draft maps under consideration had been developed based on the committee’s established criteria—contiguity, use of precinct lines, recognition of communities of interest, and consideration of current growth patterns—and that any comparison between Maps B and C needed to remain within those parameters.

The DMAC requested to have County Legal Counsel attend the November 12 meeting to clarify if there are requirements to review partisan data to ensure districts are not favoring one or more political parties. Staff will coordinate with Legal Counsel to attend the DMAC meeting on November 12.

Motions:

Melanie Kebler moved to request partisan voter registration data (Non-affiliated/Independent,

Democrat, and Republican) shown in a bar graph for each district for both maps B and C. Carol Loesche seconded the motion. The motion failed by a 4-3 committee vote. Andrew Kaza, Carol Loesche, and Melanie Kebler voted in favor of the motion. Bernie Brader, Matt Cyrus, Ned Dempsey, and Phil Henderson voted against the motion.

VII. Wrap Up and Adjourn

Bryant adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager,
Deschutes County Administrative Services



COUNTY LEGAL

Christopher Bell, Sr. Assistant Legal Counsel
John E. Laherty, Sr. Assistant Legal Counsel
Stephanie Marshall, Assistant Legal Counsel
Kimberly Riley, Assistant Legal Counsel

David Doyle, Legal Counsel

TO: DMAC
FROM: County Legal
DATE: November 6, 2025

QUESTIONS PRESENTED:

- (1) Is the DMAC *mandated* to review/consider political party registrations when drawing district lines?
- (2) *May* the DMAC review/consider political party registrations when drawing district lines?

ANSWERS:

- (1) No.
- (2) In theory, the DMAC *may* review/consider political party registrations. There is no legal prohibition on possession or awareness of political party registration data. However, any such review/consideration will be subject to strict scrutiny to ensure that it does not violate ORS 188.010 and related case law¹ that expressly prohibits the use or consideration of any such data to favor any political party or person.

¹ *Hartung v. Bradbury*, 332 Or 570 (2001)
Ater v. Keisling, 312 Or 207 (1991)
McCall v. Legislative Assembly, 291 Or 663 (1981)

GENERAL PROVISIONS

188.010 Criteria for apportionment of state into congressional and legislative districts. The Legislative Assembly or the Secretary of State, whichever is applicable, shall consider the following criteria when apportioning the state into congressional and legislative districts:

(1) Each district, as nearly as practicable, shall:

- (a) Be contiguous;
- (b) Be of equal population;
- (c) Utilize existing geographic or political boundaries;
- (d) Not divide communities of common interest; and
- (e) Be connected by transportation links.

(2) No district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent legislator or other person.

(3) No district shall be drawn for the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any language or ethnic minority group.

(4) Two state House of Representative districts shall be wholly included within a single state senatorial district. [1979 c.667 §1; 1981 c.864 §2]

188.015 [1989 c.114 §1; 1997 c.249 §55; renumbered 188.025 in 2015]

188.016 Required hearings for apportionment of state into congressional and legislative districts; conduct of hearings.

(1) When apportioning the state into congressional or legislative districts, the Legislative Assembly shall hold at least 10 public hearings at locations throughout the state prior to proposing a reapportionment plan.

(2) In addition to the hearings required under subsection (1) of this section, the Legislative Assembly or the Secretary of State, whichever is applicable, shall:

(a) To the extent practicable, hold six public hearings after a reapportionment plan is proposed, but before the plan is adopted. The adoption of a reapportionment plan may not be delayed by the impracticability of holding one or more of the hearings required under this subsection.

(b) Conduct the hearings required under this subsection either in six different congressional districts of this state or with the use of videoconferencing technologies that permit active citizen participation throughout the state.

(3) In holding the hearings required under subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the Legislative Assembly or the Secretary of State, whichever is applicable, must:

(a) Provide appropriate public notice of the time and location of each hearing;

(b) Hold at least one hearing required under subsection (1) of this section in each congressional district of this state;

(c) Hold at least one hearing required under subsection (1) of this section and one hearing required under subsection (2) of this section in areas that have experienced the largest shifts in population since the previous reapportionment, and prioritize holding additional public hearings in these areas; and

(d) Permit and make provision for individuals at remote sites throughout the state to provide public testimony at the hearings through the use of video equipment. [2015 c.257 §2; 2023 c.604 §3]

188.025 Secretary of State rules. The Secretary of State shall adopt rules the secretary considers necessary in carrying out the secretary's reapportionment duties under ORS 188.010 to 188.305 and section 6, Article IV of the Oregon Constitution. [Formerly 188.015]

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

188.110 Election of United States Representative in Congress. One Representative to the Congress of the United States shall be elected in each congressional district at the general election every two years. [Formerly 250.300]

188.120 Filling vacancy in election or office of United States Representative or Senator. (1) If a vacancy in election or office of Representative in Congress or United States Senator occurs before the 61st day before the general election, the Governor shall call a special election to fill that vacancy. If a vacancy in election or office of United States Senator occurs after the 62nd day before the general election but on or before the general election, and if the term of that office is not regularly filled at that election, the Governor shall call a special election to fill the vacancy as soon as practicable after the general election.

(2) If a special election to fill the vacancy in election or office of Representative in Congress or United States Senator is called before the 80th day after the vacancy occurs, each major political party shall select its nominee for the office and certify the name of the nominee to the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State shall place the name of the nominee on the ballot.

(3) If a special election to fill the vacancy in election or office of Representative in Congress or United States Senator is called after the 79th day after the vacancy occurs, a special primary election shall be conducted by the Secretary of State for the purpose of nominating a candidate of each major political party. A declaration of candidacy or

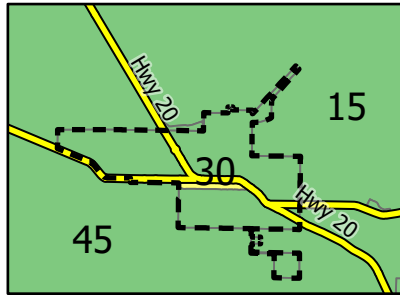
Building Permits Issued											
2022			2023			2024			2025		
Precinct	Permits	Units	Precinct	Permits	Units	Precinct	Permits	Units	Precinct	Permits	Units
1	11	13	1	14	15	1	5	8	1	21	24
2	41	42	2	41	42	2	38	41	2	45	45
3	62	100	3	89	104	3	49	54	3	49	51
4	27	27	4	37	52	4	32	34	4	14	14
5	11	11	5	24	25	5	11	12	5	10	102
6	7	8	6	13	77	6	3	3	6	14	21
7	3	3	7	12	21	7	21	190	7		
8	32	32	8	16	16	8	15	15	8	20	20
9	2	2	9	7	7	9			9	7	181
10			10			10			10		
11	42	153	11	26	27	11	17	20	11	5	180
12	2	2	12	1	1	12	1	1	12	7	7
13	13	13	13	5	5	13	2	2	13	12	12
14	5	5	14	2	2	14	3	3	14	5	5
15	21	21	15	8	8	15	10	10	15	7	7
16	4	4	16	5	5	16	8	8	16	2	2
17	52	135	17	67	117	17	102	284	17	32	32
18	11	11	18	13	13	18	7	7	18	11	11
19	4	4	19	3	3	19	2	2	19	1	1
20	20	20	20	35	35	20	38	38	20	43	43
21	9	9	21	18	18	21	10	10	21	28	28
22	2	2	22	3	3	22	1	1	22	1	1
23	81	155	23	62	62	23	90	90	23	46	84
24	9	9	24	9	9	24	5	5	24	6	6
25	151	202	25	50	55	25	23	63	25	26	26
26	79	79	26	95	96	26	80	80	26	64	64
27	28	331	27	21	178	27	15	73	27	47	48
28	13	13	28	31	31	28	27	27	28	10	58
29	142	216	29	157	157	29	143	203	29	85	150
30	78	110	30	60	60	30	72	152	30	26	31
31	17	17	31	8	8	31	5	5	31	7	7
32	18	18	32	16	122	32	12	17	32	22	34
33	57	59	33	61	61	33	100	100	33	104	300
34	1	1	34	7	256	34	3	11	34	3	3
35	98	99	35	102	104	35	36	37	35	30	30
36	21	22	36	55	88	36	27	27	36	36	36
37	6	6	37	2	2	37	1	1	37	1	1
38	42	42	38	53	53	38	50	50	38	37	37
39	69	69	39	37	37	39	44	44	39	24	24
40	6	6	40	4	4	40	7	7	40	5	5
41			41			41			41	1	1
42	10	10	42	11	11	42	9	9	42	9	9
43	4	4	43	1	1	43	6	6	43	6	6
44	4	8	44	48	62	44	35	55	44	22	217
45	2	2	45	1	1	45	2	2	45	3	3
46	20	48	46	16	130	46	42	43	46	29	73
47	8	8	47	5	6	47	2	2	47	6	7
48	16	16	48	18	18	48	14	14	48	10	10
49	20	20	49	59	60	49	11	11	49	61	64
50	16	16	50	13	13	50	10	10	50	2	2

Deschutes County Voting Precinct List
With City Associations, 2020 Census Population and Voter Registration Counts

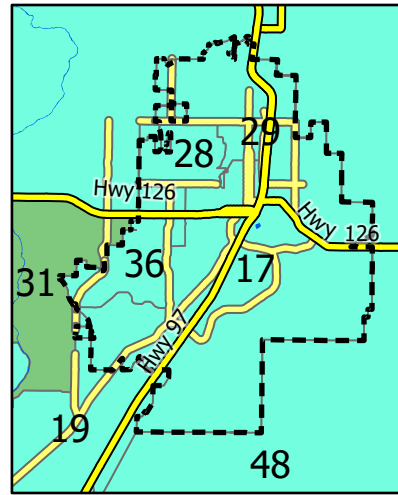
Voting Precinct	City	2020 Census Population Counts	Registered Voter Counts (As of 03/01/2022)	Registered Voter Counts (As of 08/26/2025)	Registered Voter Counts (As of 11/01/2025)
1	Bend	3,594	2,895	2,891	2,909
2	Bend	4,897	3,724	3,985	4,016
3	Bend	5,993	4,346	4,715	4,717
4	Bend	4,691	4,018	3,937	3,954
5	Bend	8,546	5,151	5,480	5,523
6	Bend	5,534	3,869	3,856	3,882
7	Bend	2,120	1,605	1,747	1,778
8	Unincorporated	811	746	966	961
9	Bend	3,780	2,790	2,729	2,739
10	Unincorporated	82	45	53	55
11	Bend	1,651	1,522	1,757	1,771
12	Unincorporated	985	899	878	888
13	Unincorporated	4,620	3,690	3,770	3,784
14	Unincorporated	2,091	1,838	1,865	1,885
15	Unincorporated	2,810	2,642	2,653	2,653
16	Unincorporated	1,712	1,597	1,532	1,529
17	Redmond	10,363	5,363	8,589	8,705
18	Unincorporated	4,588	4,036	4,068	4,076
19	Unincorporated	1,645	1,462	1,456	1,452
20	Bend	8,195	5,648	5,938	5,949
21	Bend & Unincorporated	4,163	3,435	3,571	3,589
22	Unincorporated	186	370	367	358
23	La Pine	2,512	1,826	2,328	2,363
24	Unincorporated	1,779	1,313	1,318	1,324
25	Bend	7,221	5,134	5,546	5,575
26	Bend	3,755	2,607	3,290	3,335
27	Bend	3,215	2,575	2,922	2,994
28	Redmond	5,706	4,033	4,263	4,281
29	Redmond	7,207	5,589	6,598	6,681
30	Sisters	3,064	2,783	3,217	3,229
31	Unincorporated	3,427	3,237	3,374	3,397
32	Bend	4,617	3,229	3,462	3,475
33	Bend & Unincorporated	5,286	3,952	4,316	4,367
34	Bend	6,102	4,470	4,484	4,539
35	Bend	5,632	4,425	5,010	5,057
36	Redmond	10,019	9,704	7,584	7,605
37	Unincorporated	1,543	1,337	1,378	1,388
38	Unincorporated	2,580	1,816	1,807	1,816
39	Unincorporated	8,025	7,066	7,176	7,204
40	Unincorporated	1,484	1,587	1,636	1,638
41	Unincorporated	1,004	791	773	776
42	Unincorporated	5,235	4,451	4,494	4,487
43	Unincorporated	3,641	3,201	3,330	3,334
44	Bend	5,160	3,890	3,987	4,050
45	Unincorporated	1,328	1,112	1,077	1,066
46	Bend	6,407	4,471	4,647	4,703
47	Bend	3,222	3,107	3,213	3,215
48	Unincorporated	3,300	2,968	3,107	3,101
49	Unincorporated	638	525	651	660
50	Unincorporated	2,087	1,949	2,025	2,025
	Totals	198,253	154,839	163,816	164,858

Map B

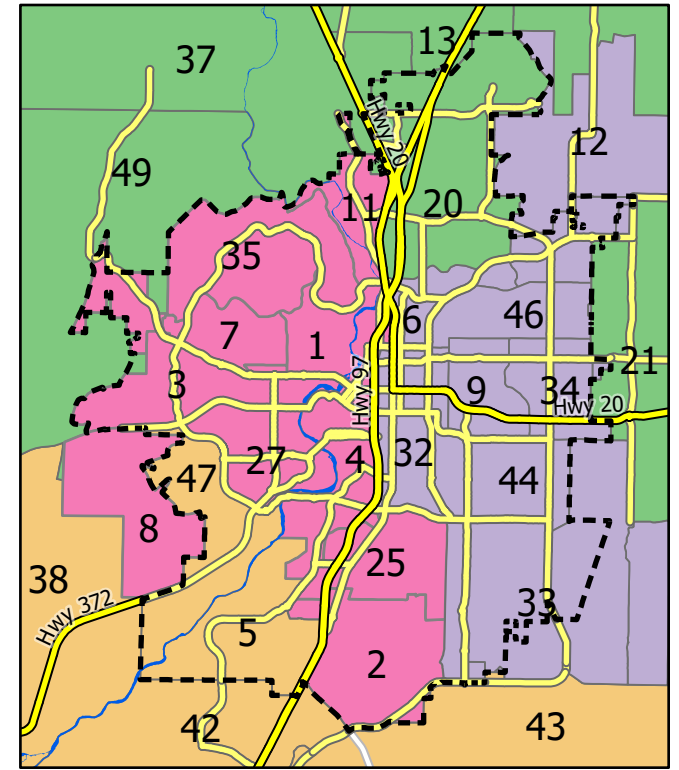
- A
- B
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- D
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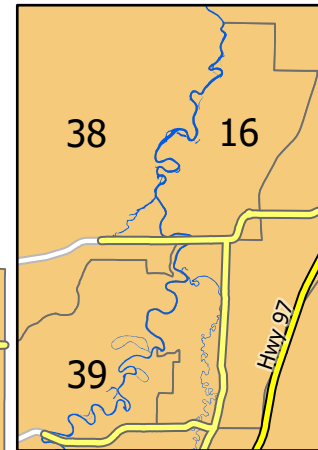
Sisters



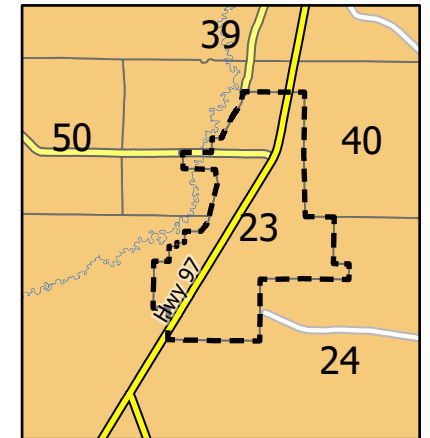
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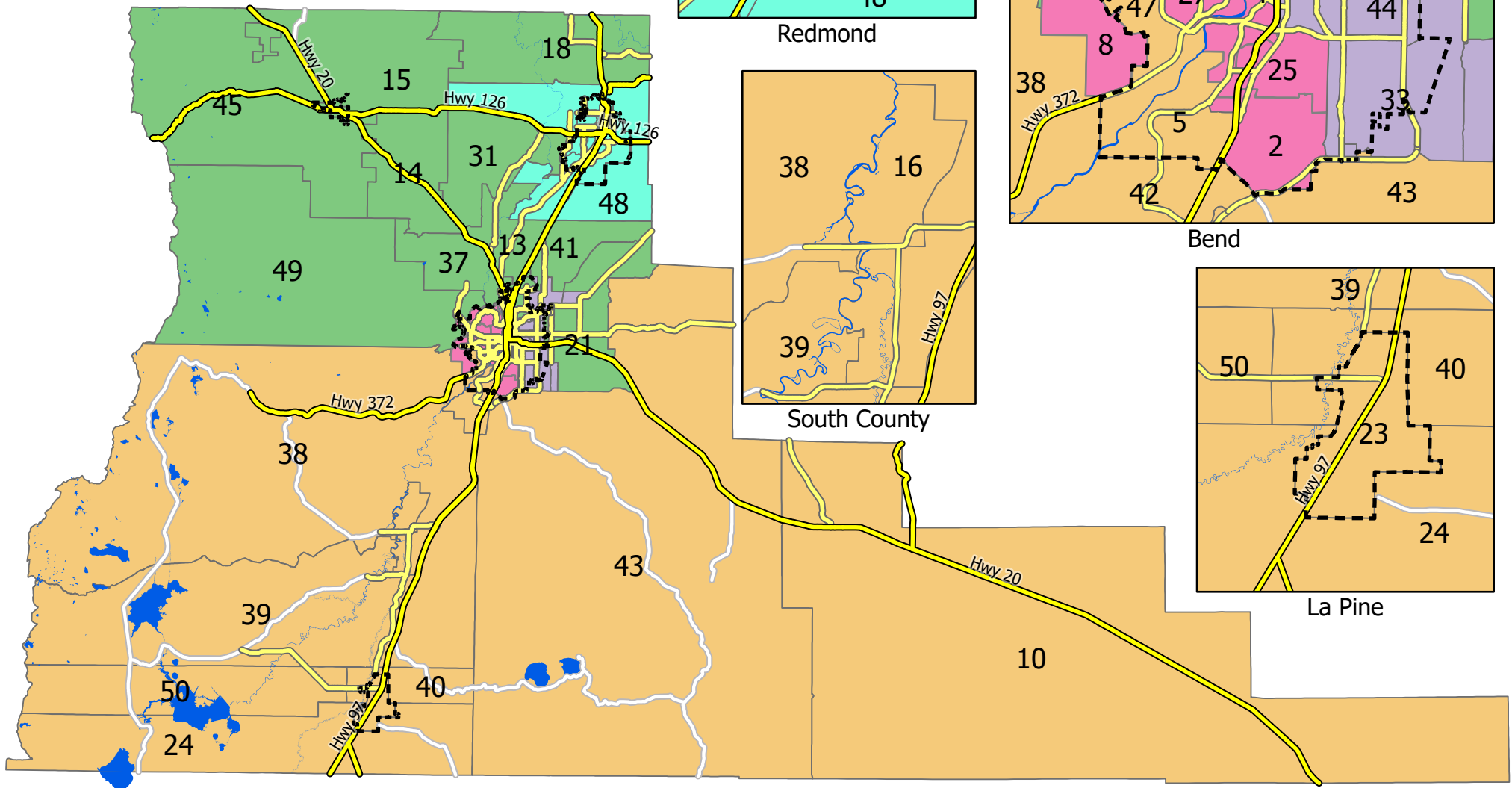
Bend



South County



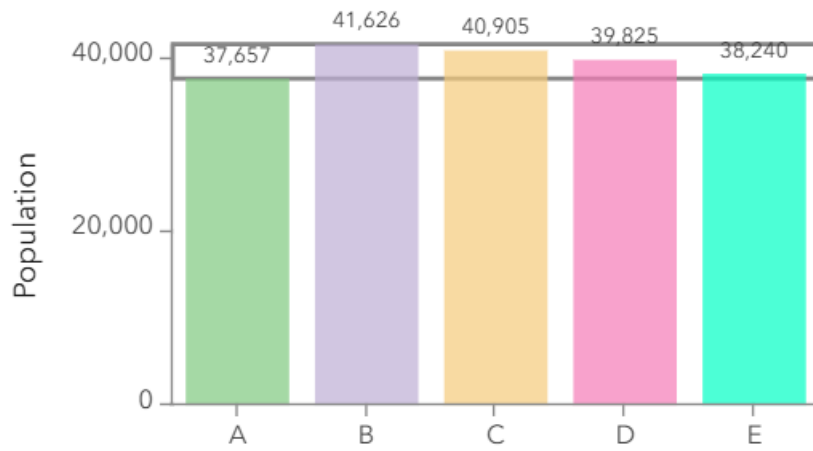
La Pine



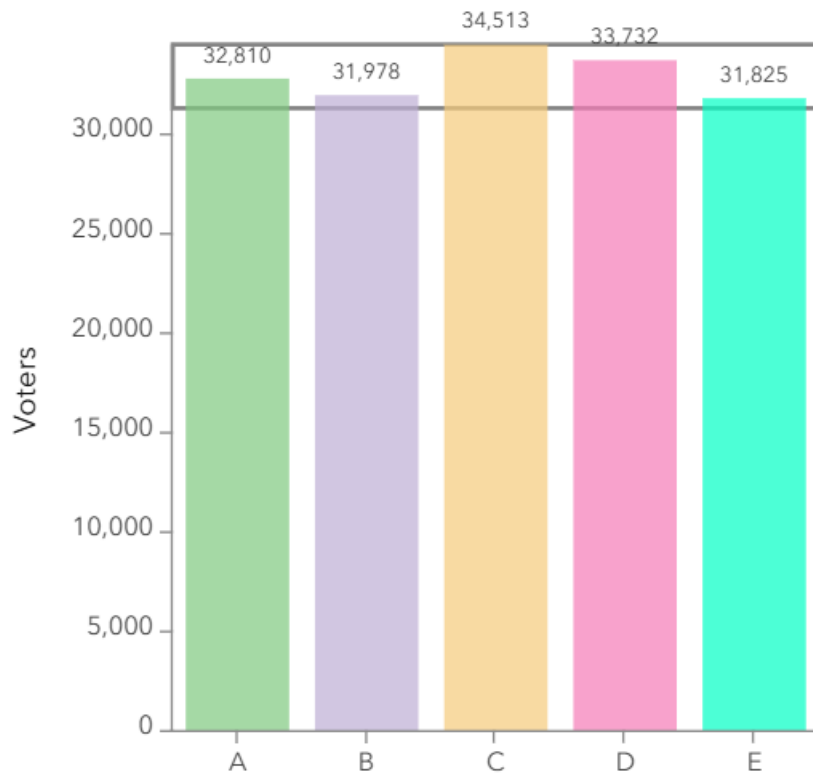
MAP B



Target 39,651 , Range 37,668 - 41,633

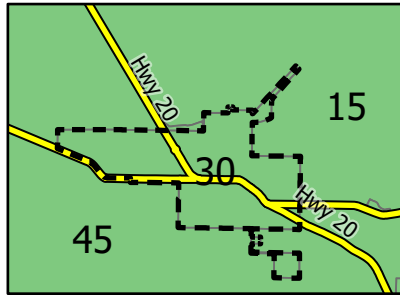


Target 32,972 , Range 31,323 - 34,620

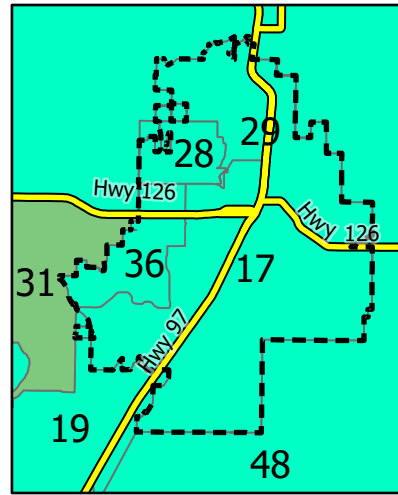


Map C

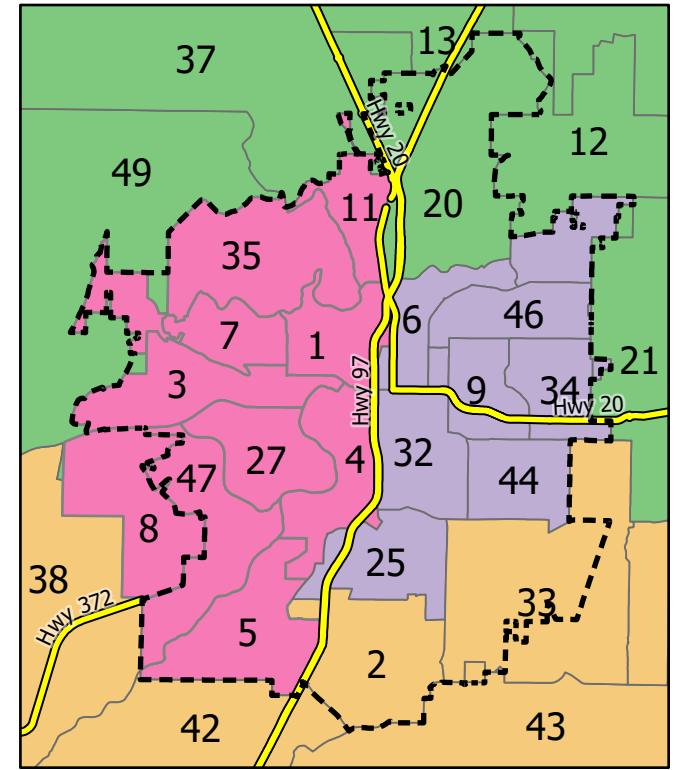
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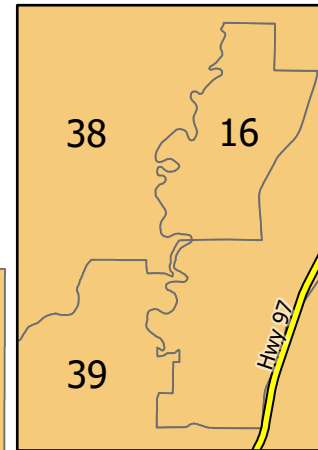
Sisters



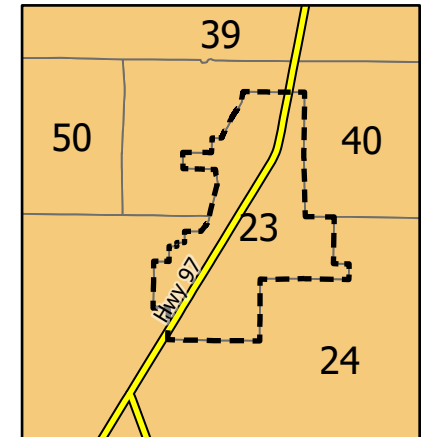
Redmond



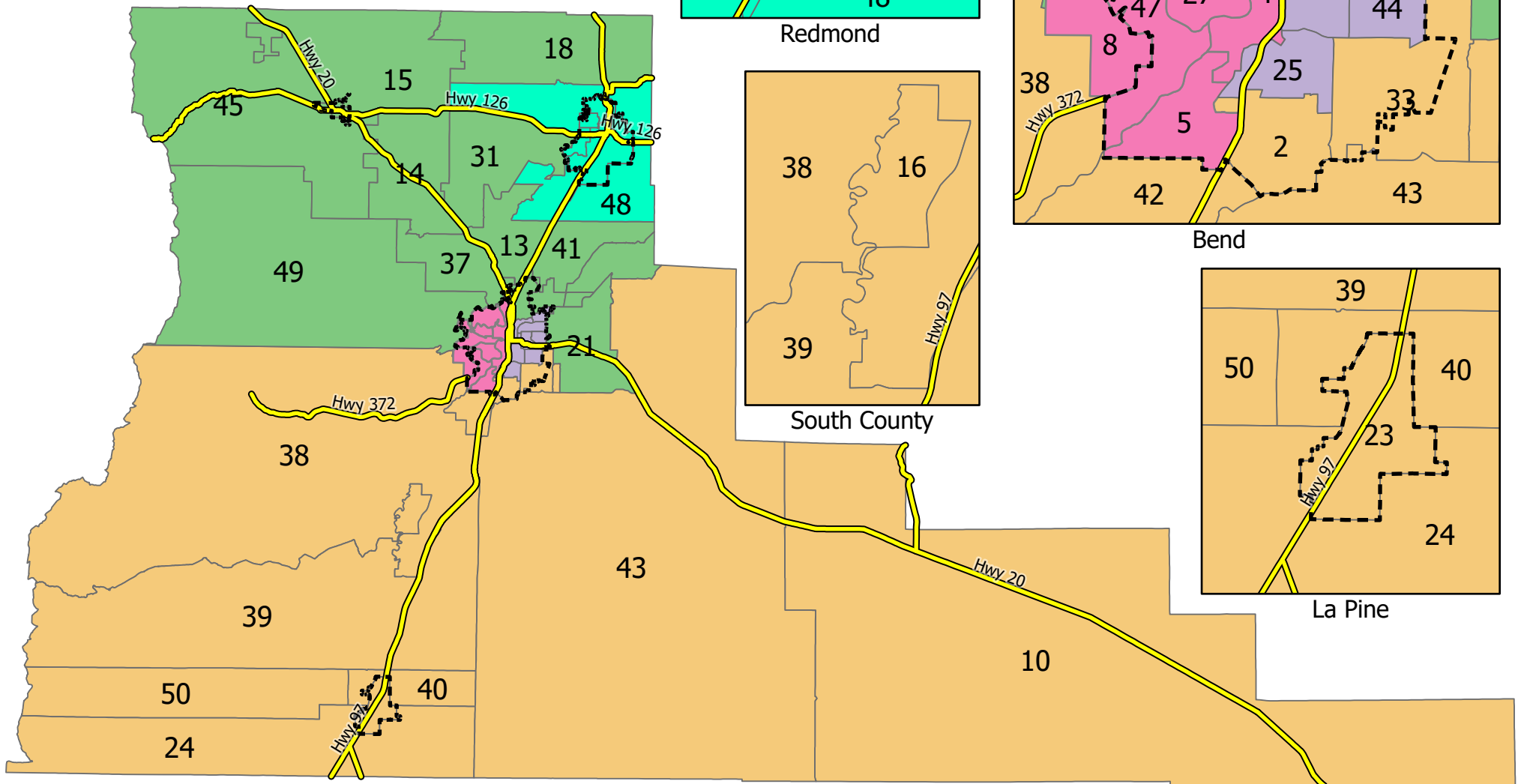
Bend



South County



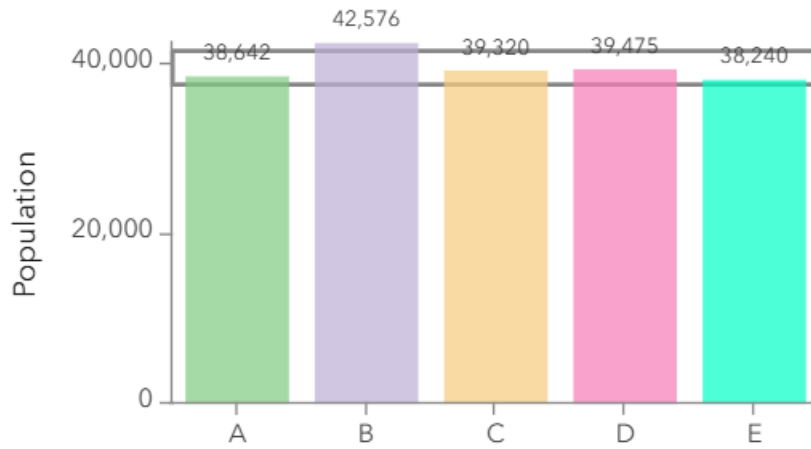
La Pine



MAP C



Target 39,651 , Range 37,668 - 41,633



Target 32,972 , Range 31,323 - 34,620

