



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

Wednesday, October 22, 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 October 15 and 16, 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. Staff Updates Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager	Information and discussion <i>5 minutes</i>
6. DMAC Group Discussion and Map Work Neil Bryant, DMAC Facilitator and Chair	Information and discussion <i>75 minutes</i>
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, October 15, 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](#)

I. Introduction

This meeting was called to order at 1:03 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 Patterso, Strategic Initiatives Manager; and Lee Klemp, IT/GIS.

Bryant opened the meeting, described the DMAC process, and noted that this meeting was approximately the seventh convening of the committee. He announced a public listening session scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 16, 2025, to allow community members who cannot attend daytime meetings to provide testimony.

II. Background on DMAC

Bryant reviewed the mapping criteria appearing with the agenda: maintain contiguous borders and use existing precinct lines where possible, avoid unreasonable division of communities of interest, and consider growth patterns. He reiterated prohibitions on drawing maps to favor a political party or dilute the voting strength of any ethnic minority and confirmed that the board structure under consideration involves five non-at-large districts. Bryant also summarized that the DMAC was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and consists of seven volunteer members, with the facilitator serving in a non-voting capacity.

III. Approval of October 8, 2025, Minutes

In response to the chair's request for corrections or additions to the draft minutes, a request was made to edit the dates under "Next Meeting Schedule" section to October 15 and 16 (it was incorrectly noted for October 22 and 23). A motion to approve the October 8, 2025 minutes was made by Carol Loesche and seconded by Matt Cyrus. The motion carried by voice vote, and the

minutes were approved.

IV. Public Comments

Charlie Babb identified himself as a long-time local resident and stated opposition to moving to district-based representation. He expressed a preference for five at-large commissioner seats, described the mapping process and its underlying rationale as flawed, and suggested that shifting to districts could be undemocratic. He referenced prior voting dynamics on the Board of County Commissioners as part of his concern and stated that, based on attending meetings, he did not see a clear way to meet geographic requirements while honoring communities of interest. He concluded by stating his view that Deschutes County as a whole functions as a single community of interest.

Mark Stockcamp, from Bend, advocated in favor of having five Commissioner districts with each Commissioner representing the district they were elected in. He believes this will bring broader representation for the whole County whereas at-large districts could potentially have clustered representation.

Jared Black, from Bend, asked that any district boundaries avoid the urbanization of rural parts of the county. He stated support for rural living preferences, noted that urban and rural areas can have differing interests that may track with party affiliation, and requested that the committee select boundaries that preserve rural character.

V. Overview of Staff Report and Staff Drafted Maps

Jen Patterson provided an overview of the map materials included in the meeting packet and on the county website. She recapped the October 8 direction for staff to focus on two maps—"2B" (a staff-originated map refined by DMAC) and "PS3" (a publicly submitted map)—and to attempt to bring each within a 5% population variance using two datasets: 2020 Census population and August 2025 voter registration. She explained that DMAC's guidelines provided multiple data points (including February 2022 voter registration, included because precincts were updated at that time) for the committee's consideration, acknowledging the benefits and limitations of each dataset. Staff reported that "2BV2" came close but did not meet the 5% variance in one district within the City of Bend, whereas "PS3B" met the 5% variance for both datasets. Staff also noted a discovered inconsistency in the PS3 precinct data table—specifically, the table listed Precinct 8 in the wrong district—and stated that the table would be corrected, clarifying that the map itself was correct.

VI. DMAC Group Discussion and Map Work

Committee discussion focused on how to proceed with the two working maps and what materials to prepare for the October 16 listening session. Members discussed the relative merits of the datasets, with several remarks emphasizing that voter registration figures are more current while recognizing that they do not represent total population; other remarks urged keeping multiple criteria in view, including communities of interest and growth. One member stated that no other county in Oregon uses voter registration data and that census data is the standard, adding that public input would

help guide which dataset to prioritize. The committee also discussed the value of public trust and suggested taking options to the public rather than attempting to settle on a single “perfect” map at this stage.

Matt Cyrus made a motion use the August 2025 voter registration data as the primary data set to get a district map within the 5% variance. Ned Dempsey seconded the motion. After extensive committee discussion the motion carried in a 4-3 vote.

Melanie Kebler made a motion to forward maps “2BV2” and PS3B” to be presented and available during the public listening session taking place on October 16. Bernie Brader seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There was agreement to reduce confusion by renaming “2BV2” and “PS3B” as “Map A” and “Map B,” respectively, for public-facing materials. Members asked for clear handouts and visuals to aid public comprehension, including bar charts showing variance for each district under the selected datasets and map labeling that helps viewers orient themselves. The consensus for the listening session was to present both Map A and Map B, accompanied by a race and ethnicity overlay used previously, and to draw the proposed district lines on that overlay so the public could assess whether communities are divided. Members cautioned against adding too many layers to avoid cluttering the maps.

The committee then considered whether and how to incorporate growth information, such as building permits, into its analysis when districts are near the upper or lower bounds of the 5% variance. Staff indicated the county could readily obtain permit data for the unincorporated county and for the cities where the county has building jurisdiction (Sisters and La Pine), and would explore obtaining comparable data for Bend and Redmond. The committee requested that staff compile building permit information for consideration at a future substantive discussion of maps, not for the October 16 listening session.

Near the conclusion of discussion, a point of clarification was made that both the 2020 Census and the voter registration data used by staff are accurate datasets; staff’s exercise to meet the 5% variance relied solely on numerical balancing without overlaying demographics.

Action Items and Next Steps:

Staff will prepare public-facing materials for the October 16 listening session, including Map A (formerly 2BV2) and Map B (formerly PS3B), district-by-district bar charts displaying variance figures, and the previously shown race and ethnicity overlay with the proposed district lines drawn. For the October 22 DMAC meeting staff will provide information on new dwellings by location for Deschutes County, City of Bend and City of Redmond from January 1, 2022, to present.

VII.Wrap Up and Adjourn

Bryant stated he would prepare updated remarks summarizing the committee’s current work and materials for the October 16 listening session, reflecting the committee’s direction during this

meeting. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m., and members were reminded of the 5:30 p.m. listening session on Thursday, October 16, 2025.

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

DRAFT



Minutes
Deschutes County
District Mapping Advisory Committee (DMAC)

Thursday, October 16, 2025, 5:30 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](#)

I. Introduction

This meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Facilitator and Chair Neil Bryant.

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

Staff: Nick Lelack, County Administrator and Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager.

Bryant convened the listening session, outlined the order for public testimony beginning with in-person participants and then Zoom, and noted that committee member Carol Loesche was absent for a previously planned family birthday out of town. He noted Loesche would listen to the recording and review written testimony and described her as a long-term Bend resident and chair of the League of Women Voters. He reminded attendees of materials available in the room and indicated this was the committee's eighth meeting.

II. Background on DMAC and Format for Listening Session

Bryant outlined the three-step process under which the District Mapping Advisory Committee was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to develop a recommended five-district map, after which the Board would decide whether to place a measure before voters. He stated the committee expected to complete its work in November and that the Board would likely make its decision in December to meet ballot filing deadlines for a potential May 2026 election. He clarified that if a ballot measure did not pass, county commissioner elections would remain at-large. Bryant emphasized that the session was for listening rather than debate, that DMAC could not change the number of districts or the makeup of the commission, and that speakers would have three minutes; he referenced sign-up sheets and indicated he would gently keep speakers to time.

Bryant had each committee member provide a brief background and biography before beginning the public comment section starting with himself.

Bryant previously served as a state senator for eight years and as a member of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission for eight years, chairing it for the last four. He noted roles as a member and president of the Chamber of Commerce and referenced service with the High Desert Museum and OMSI. Bryant expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work with the group on the districting task.

Phil Henderson introduced himself as Oregon-born, with residence in the Columbia Gorge during his youth. He arrived in Bend in 1989 to practice law, operating a solo law practice for 14 years before moving into construction leadership, including serving as president of a large construction company and subsequently operating his own firm for six years. He served as a Deschutes County Commissioner from 2017 to 2021 and currently practices some law and is semi-retired, residing in Bend.

Melanie Kebler is the Mayor of Bend, grew up in Bend, lives in Southeast Bend, and is a Bend High graduate. She emphasized that she is happy to serve and assist with the problem at hand.

Andrew "Drew" Kaza introduced himself as a native Oregonian who spent approximately twenty-five years overseas before returning to Oregon. He and his wife took over the Sisters Movie House and Cafe in 2016, which he has operated for roughly nine years. He resides in Redmond and is a father of six and co-chair of the Oregon Independent Party.

Bernie Brader, veteran of the United States Air Force, learned a trade in the Air Force which developed into his career for the next 40 years in industrial water treatment. For the past 20 years he has served on the board for the La Pine Frontier Days. Brader is a member of the Ponderosa Mountain Men and the President of the La Pine RC Flyers. His son and daughter-in-law live in La Pine and he has five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Matt Cyrus is a sixth-generation Oregonian whose family homesteaded Central Oregon prior to the formation of Deschutes County. He noted his involvement in agriculture, identified himself as the Deschutes County Farm Bureau President, and he has served forty-five years as a volunteer firefighter. He currently serves on the Planning Commission and works as a wildland firefighting contractor.

Ned Dempsey is an engineer who moved to Oregon in 1974 and founded Century West Engineering in Bend. He recounted the firm's role in the 1980s Bend sewer project installing eighty-five miles of pipe and stated the firm has since grown to a regional firm with ten offices in the Northwest. Dempsey has served in statewide roles including chairing the Oregon's Futures Commission, chairing the Climate Change Commission, serving as chair of the Oregon Business Council's Sustainability Board, and serving two terms on the State Sustainability Board.

III. Public Comments

Bryant opened public comment, reiterating the expectation that speakers state their name and

address for the record, with in-person comments taken first and Zoom participants next.

Jared Black, from Bend, commended the committee for selecting two maps under challenging and somewhat ill-defined direction. Black expressed a preference for Map B (also referenced as Map 3B). He supported using more recent data such as registered voter information rather than relying on decennial census counts that were conducted during the COVID-19 period, which he characterized as flawed. He added from his experience on a citizen committee that citizen committees work best without elected officials serving as members.

Greg Bryant resides in Bend and has attended previous DMAC meetings. Bryant submitted a map referenced by the DMAC as PS 3. He noted that during the October 15 DMAC meeting he believes the data associated with his map are incorrect and that staff have been informed of his information.

Eliza Davis, from Tumalo, explained that she and her family are Tumalo farmers living in an unincorporated area. She supported creating districts so rural issues are represented and stated a preference for Map B, explaining that Map A includes more suburban precincts (35, 20, and 11) whereas Map B replaces some of those with Precinct 49, which she believes better aligns with communities of common interest for her area.

John Blackfort, from an unincorporated area outside of Bend, stated that the commissioners gave the DMAC an impossible task, creating equal districts using obsolete data. On Wednesday, by a 4-3 vote, the DMAC agreed to make voter registration the primary data to use. No other county in Oregon does it this way, and congressional districts are not done that way and by using voter registration date the county could open itself up to litigation. Using voter registration data disenfranchises the residents of the county. He believes it's just wrong, every person matters, not just voters. He is also in favor of having at-large districts.

Lynn Connelley, from Southeast Bend in an unincorporated area, objected to proceeding with districting at this time. She attributed initiation of the process to a May 5, 2025, Board majority, asserted that the majority influenced committee selection, and argued voters approved expansion to five commissioners but did not necessarily endorse districting. She questioned criteria such as contiguity and the requirement for five districts, suggested alternatives (e.g., at-large structures), and urged pausing so a five-member board after 2026 could consider bipartisan, non-gerrymandered maps.

Chris Piper, a Bend resident for twenty years, said he convened a neighborhood discussion on the topic and offered three points from the neighborhood conversation. First, balance one-person-one-vote with avoiding concentrated voting power in the largest city, even considering flexibility beyond a five-percent variance if needed. Second, be transparent about supplementary data (e.g., building permits, current voter rolls) and show how choices minimize variance while respecting communities of common interest (natural resources, agriculture, transportation). Third, fully document criteria application to demonstrate a fair map consistent with prohibitions on

favoring any party or person.

Casey Roscoe, from Tumalo, described becoming engaged in community politics through the “mule deer overlay” proposal, citing examples of proposed rules she viewed as impractical for rural life (fence clearances, permits for outdoor gatherings, limits on dogs outside). She said those rules felt driven by city perspectives and that her community did not feel represented. Turning to the maps, she indicated the first option would not leave Tumalo feeling represented, said the second one’s better,” and suggested the committee visit communities like Tumalo to hear their specific issues before finalizing lines.

Gwen Baker-Yuill, from Bend, asked for a pause so that all five county commissioners can participate in the process once seated, expressing concern that proceeding now could appear to weaken the influence of incoming commissioners.

Kerie Raymond, from Bend, stated she supported expanding the commission to five members but had not anticipated districting would follow. She favored at-large elections and, citing experience with ranked-choice voting in Australia, questioned running for fixed “positions” rather than simply selecting the best five people. Her comments concluded with thanks to the committee.

Tony Oliver, from Redmond, said she prefers Map A. From her rural perspective living between Sisters and Redmond, she felt Map A would serve rural areas well and did not believe Bend would “take over,” because commissioners would defend the interests of their respective districts. She concluded that Map A could be most effective for the county.

Keith Rockow, from Remond, supported using current precinct lines, noted significant growth expected before the next census and data release (2031–2032 after the 2030 census), and framed core service concerns residents will raise with commissioners (roads, traffic, housing, solid waste). He emphasized that neighborhood access to a commissioner would matter as growth adds strain, and he urged keeping that in mind when choosing a final map.

Lee Lucas, from rural Deschutes County, said that representation should reflect the Board of County Commissioners’ responsibilities and therefore suggested it is not useful to rely on fire, road, or school district lines to define communities of interest. He recommended continuing without pausing, using voter data rather than census data, and proceeding with creating five districts. He also stated having compiled precinct data into a spreadsheet and observed that six precincts appeared to have more voters than people, attributing this to an anomaly between old census data and precinct growth.

Lena Berry, from Redmond, thanked the committee for an evening and virtual option, asked for additional opportunities outside work hours, and advocated countywide at-large elections for all five seats using ranked-choice voting so all commissioners are accountable countywide and communities are not competing for resources. She viewed the timing as problematic amid rapid growth and said

that when DMAC forwards a map to the Board it should note the volume of public input; she closed by saying she looks forward to voting down the district map in lieu of at-large seats.

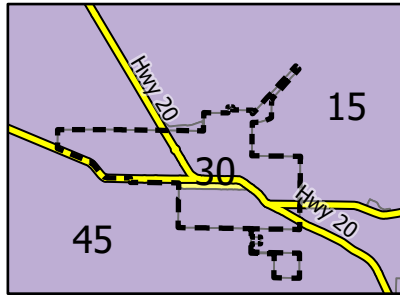
IV. Wrap Up and Adjourn

Bryant adjourned the meeting at 6:21 p.m.

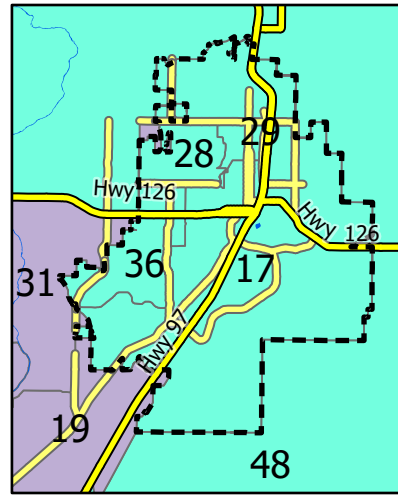
Minutes respectfully submitted by
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager,
Deschutes County Administrative Services

Map A

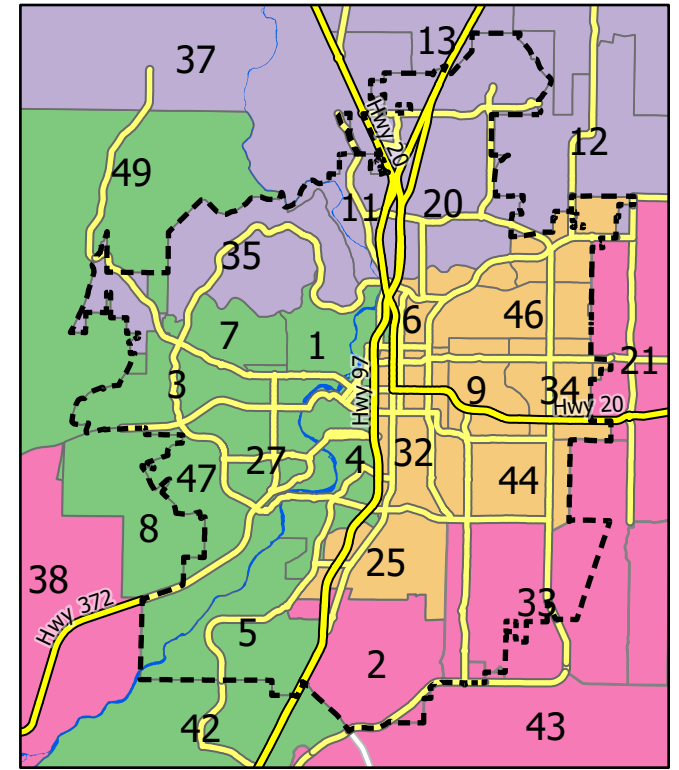
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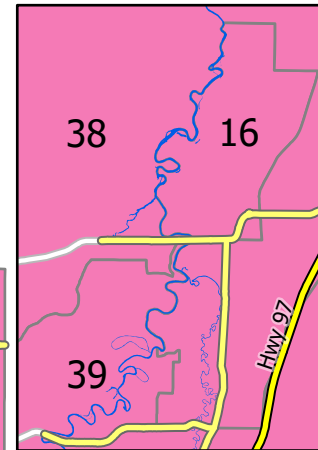
Sisters



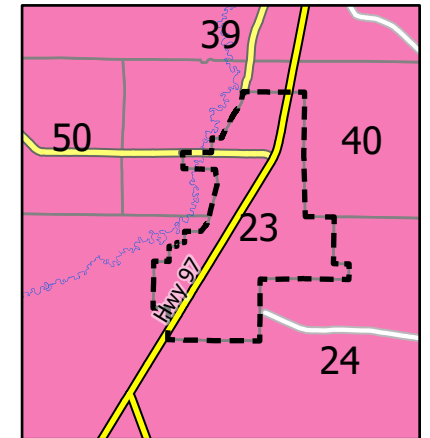
Redmond



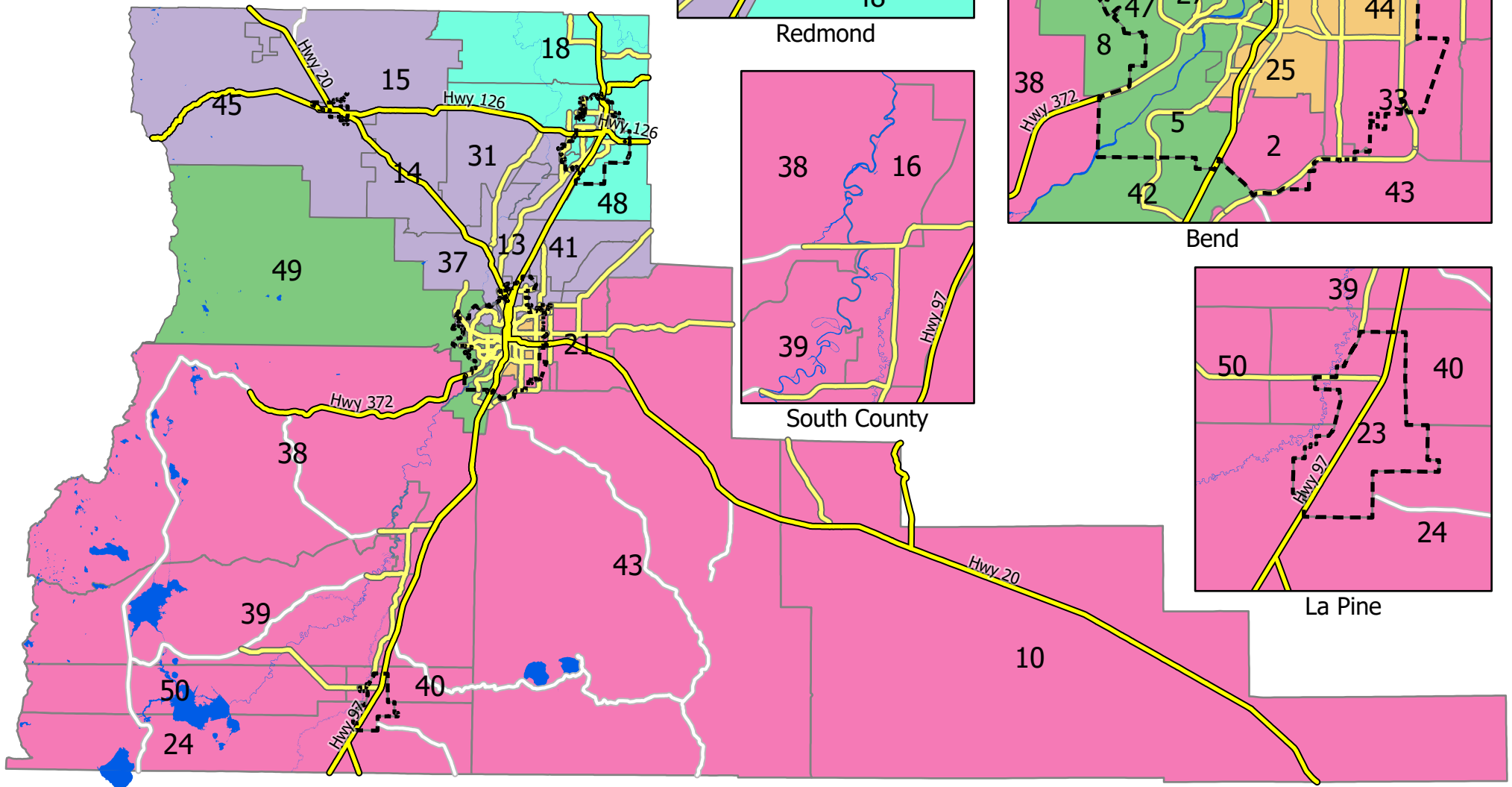
Bend



South County

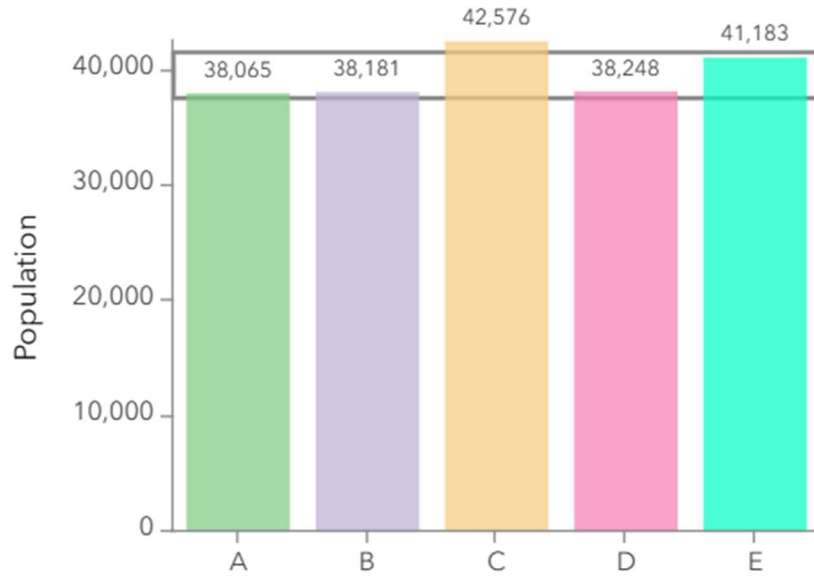


La Pine



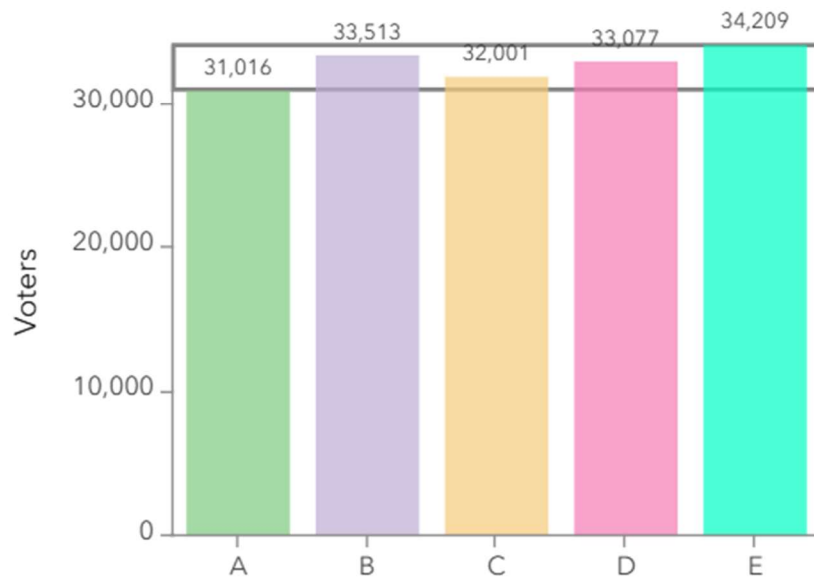
MAP A Summary

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



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Target 32,763 , Range 31,125 - 34,401

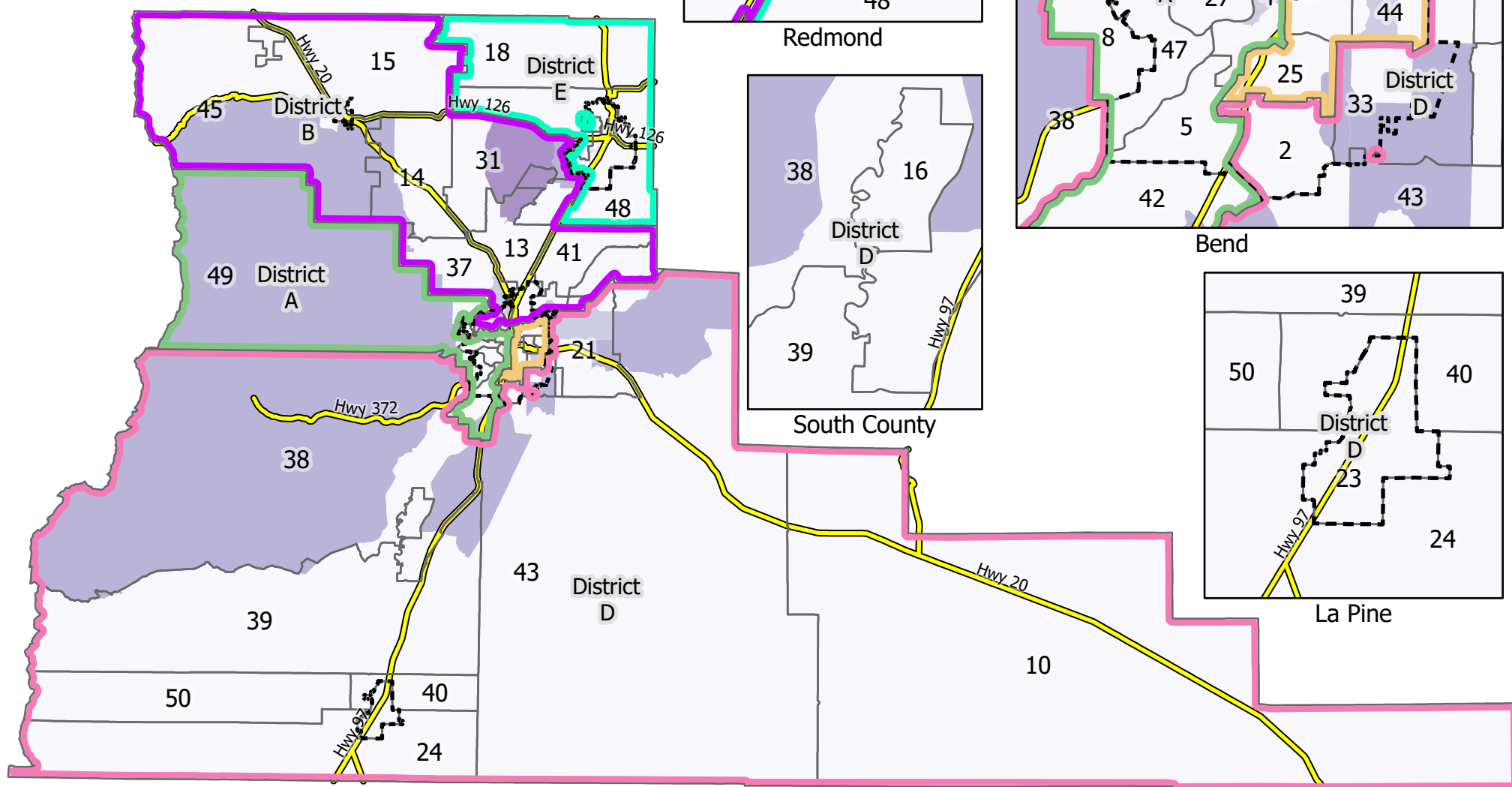
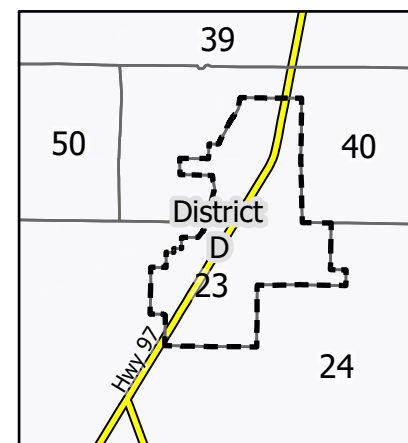
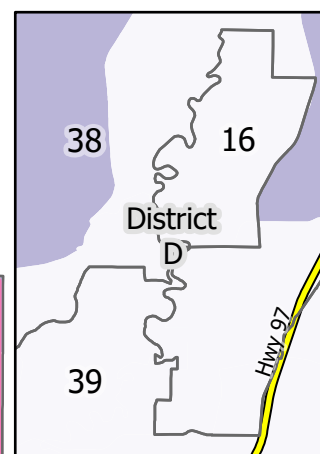
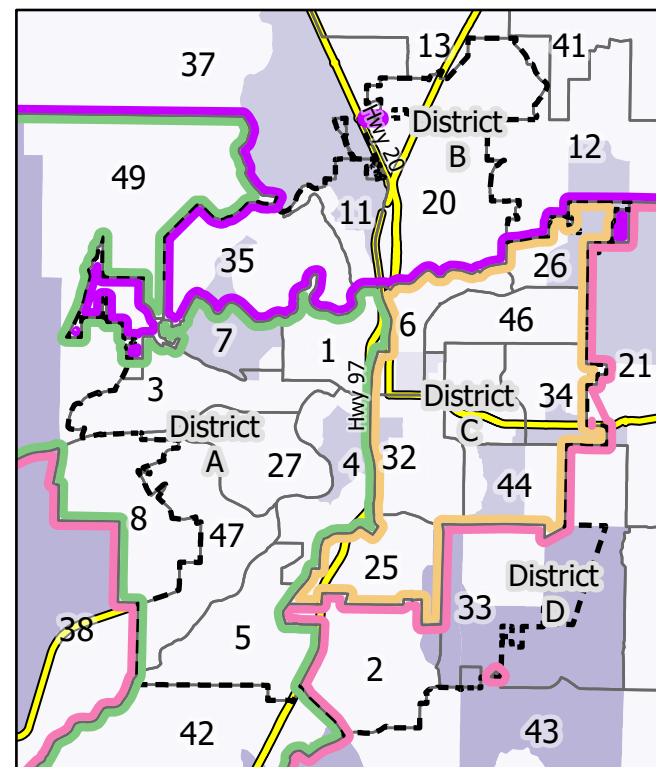
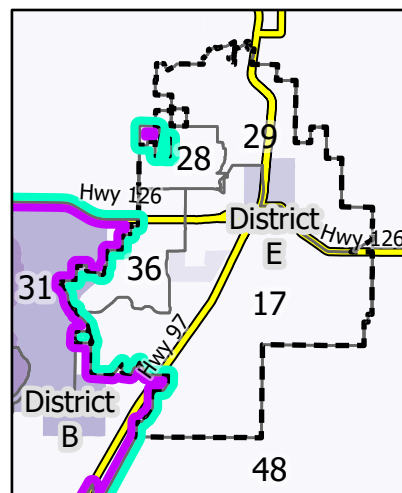
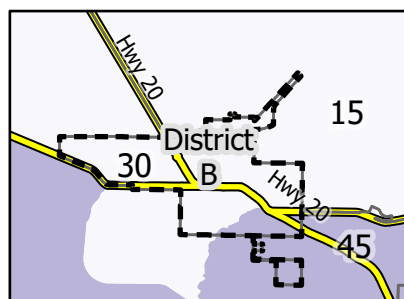
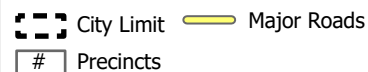
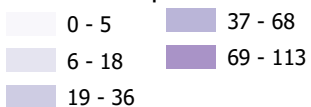


Map A (ACS African American Population)

Proposed Districts



Total Black or African American Population

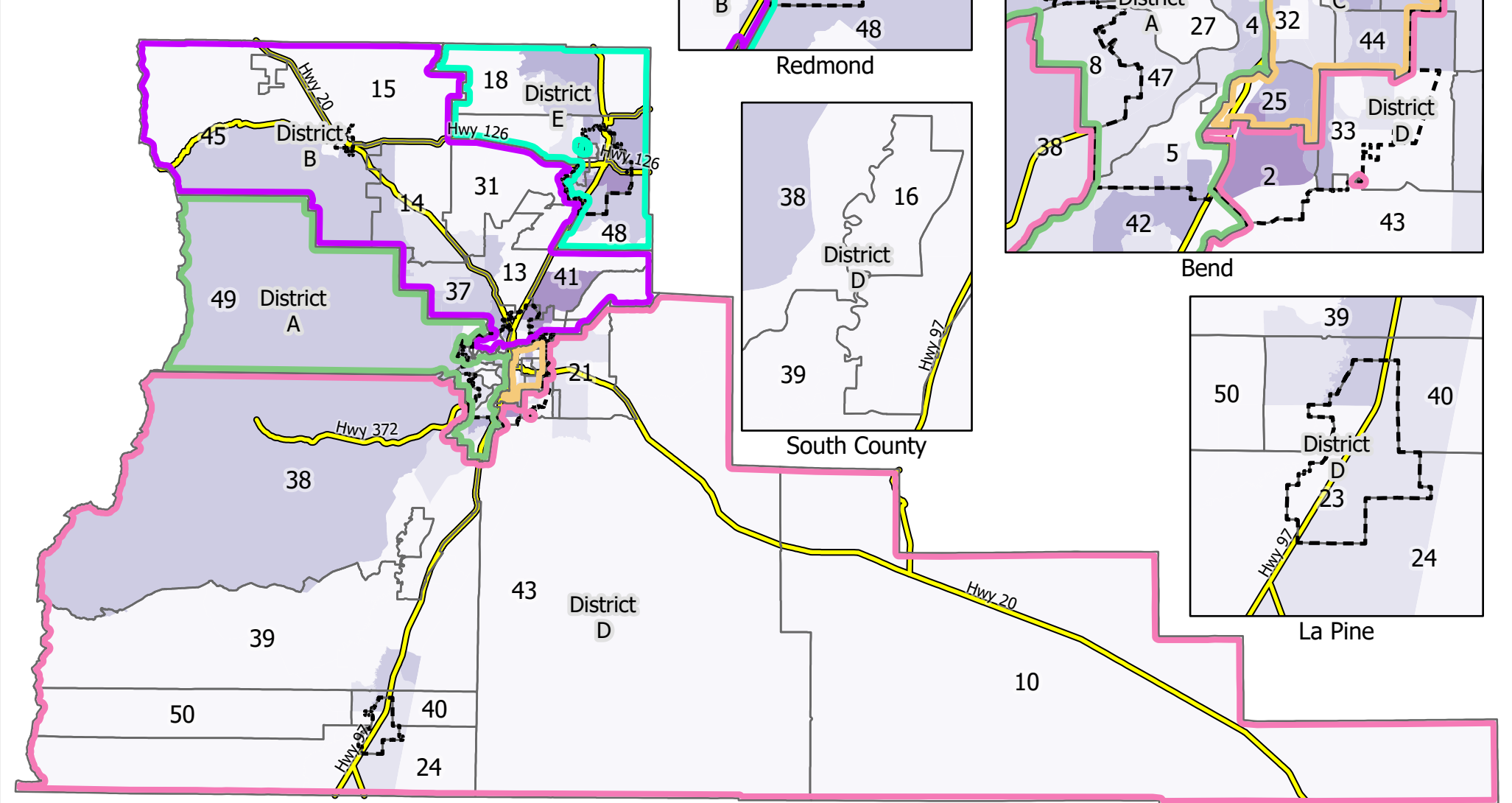
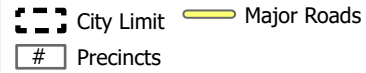
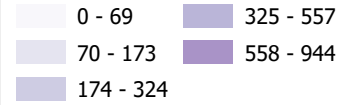


Map A (ACS Hispanic/Latino Population)

Proposed Districts



Total Hispanic or Latino by Block Group

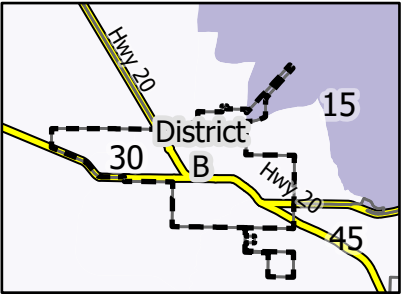
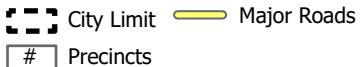
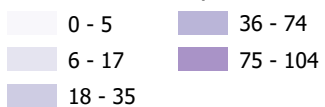


Map A (ACS Native American Population)

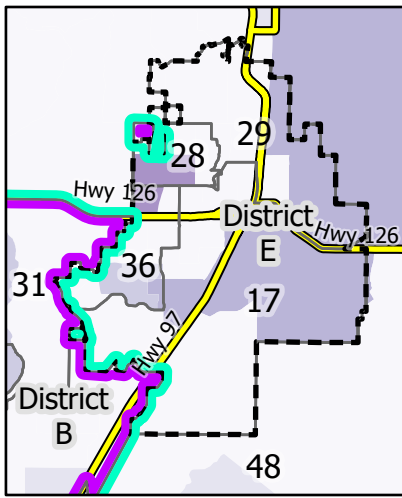
Proposed Districts



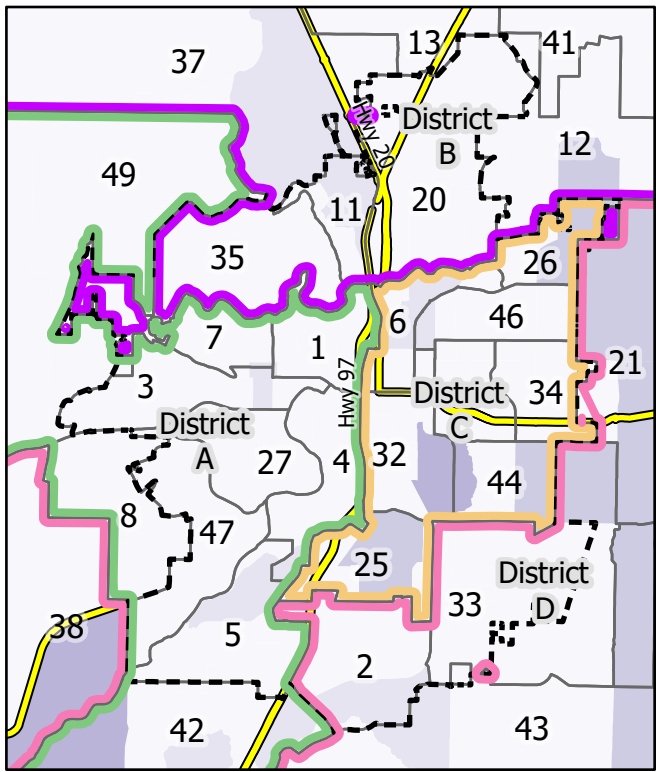
Total American Indian & Alaska Native Population



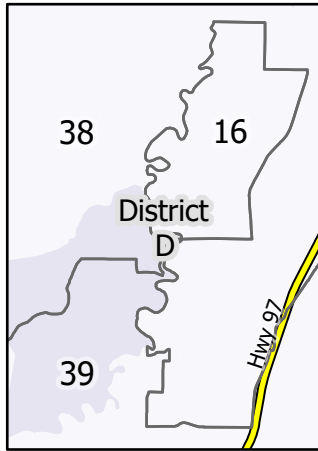
Sisters



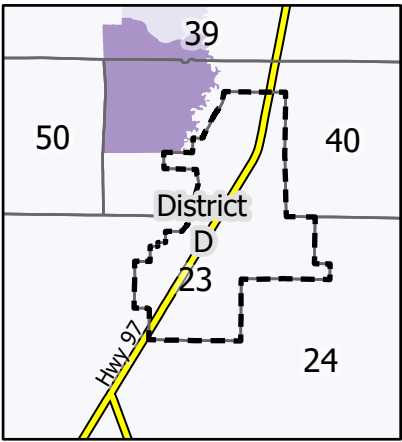
Redmond



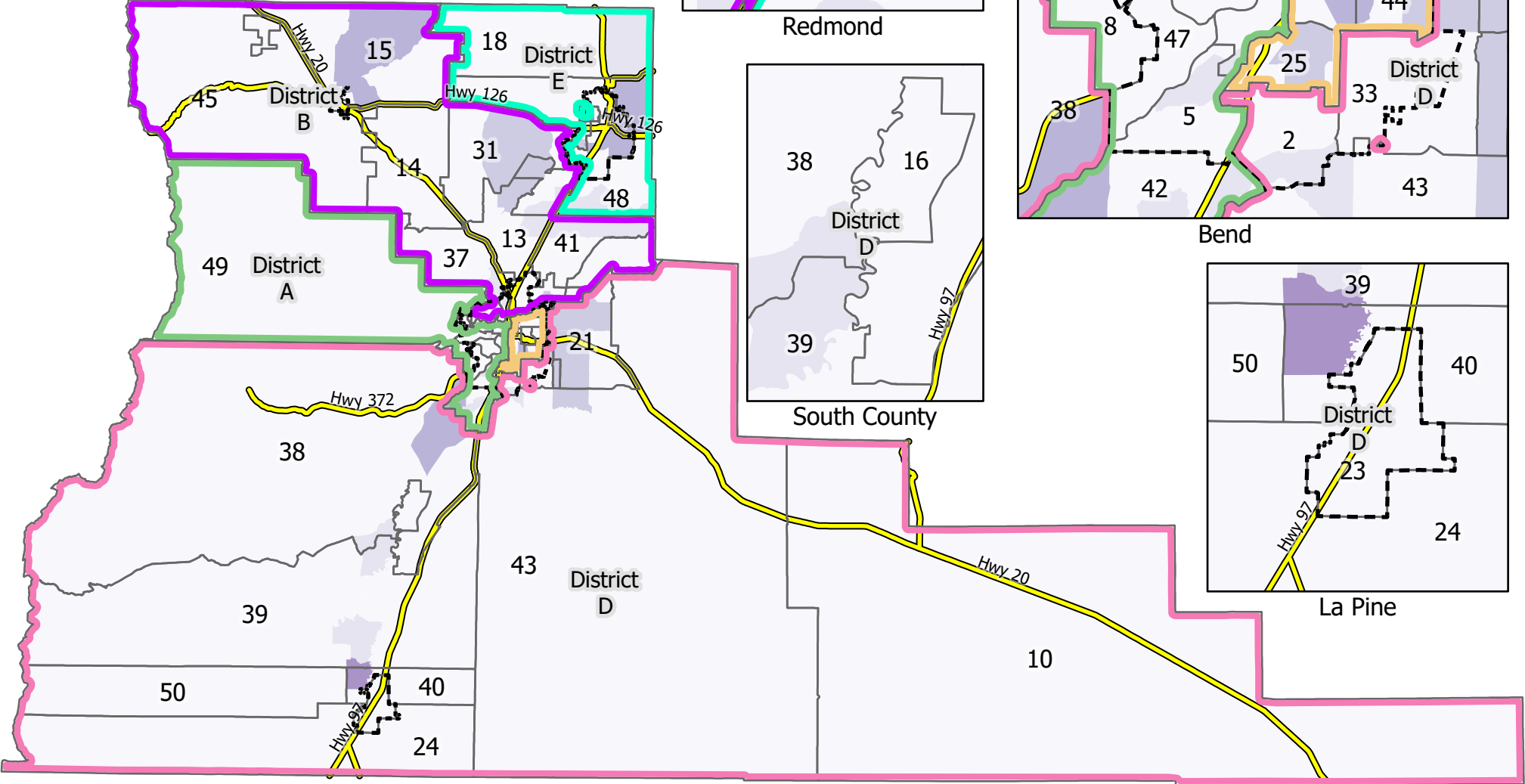
Bend



South County

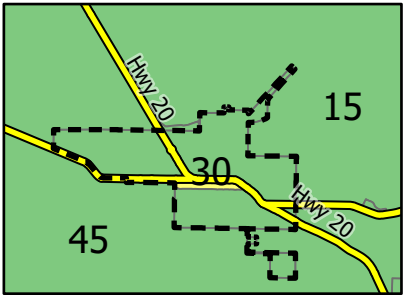


La Pine

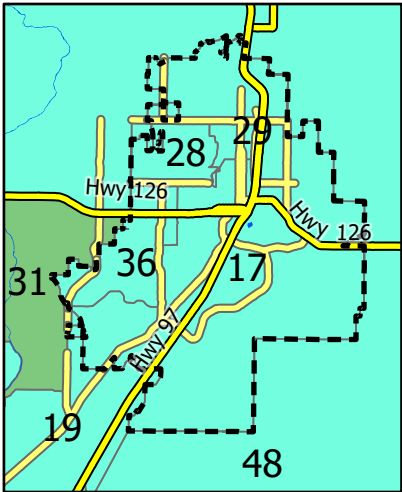


Map B

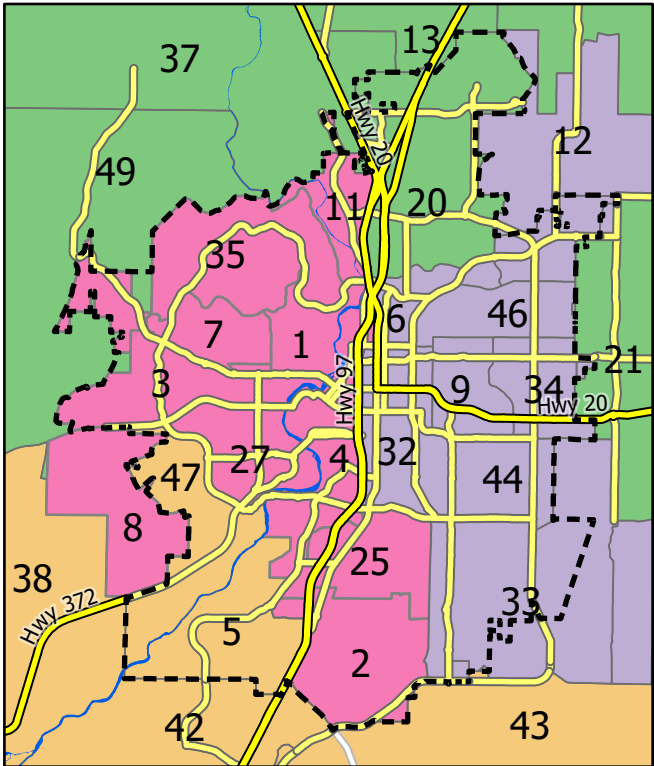
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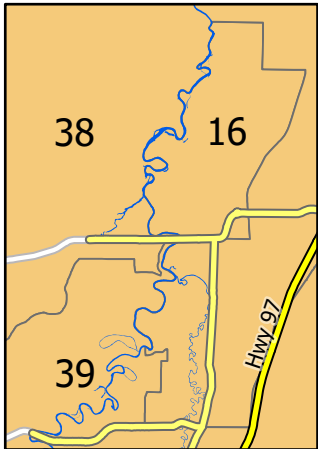
Sisters



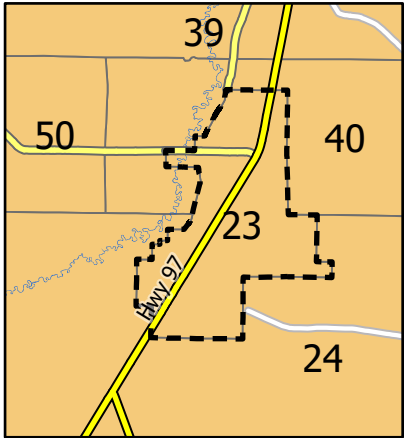
Redmond



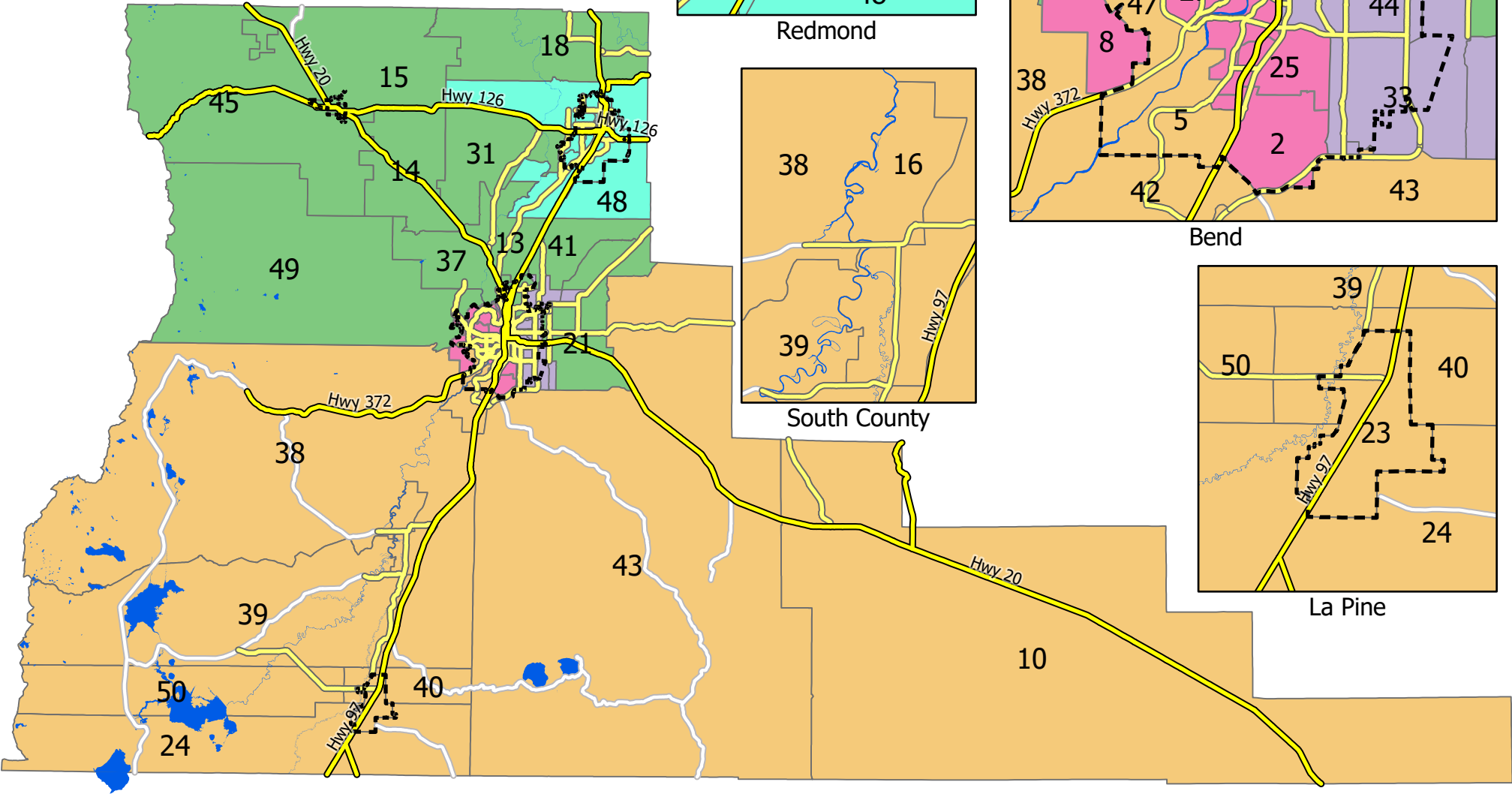
Bend



South County

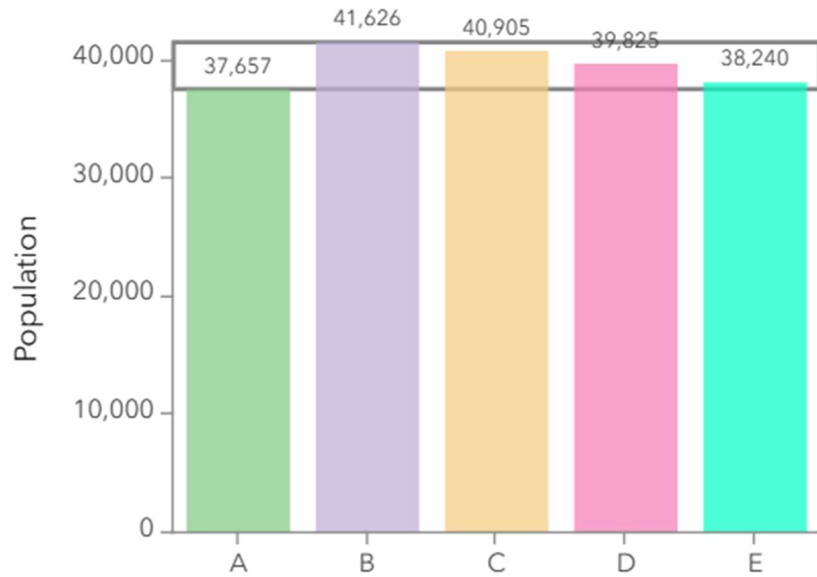


La Pine

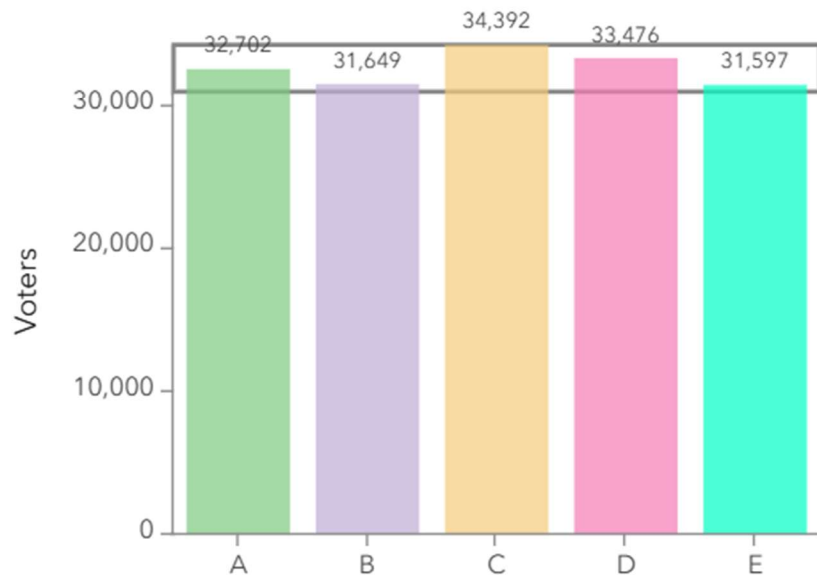


MAP B Summary

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



Target 32,763 , Range 31,125 - 34,401

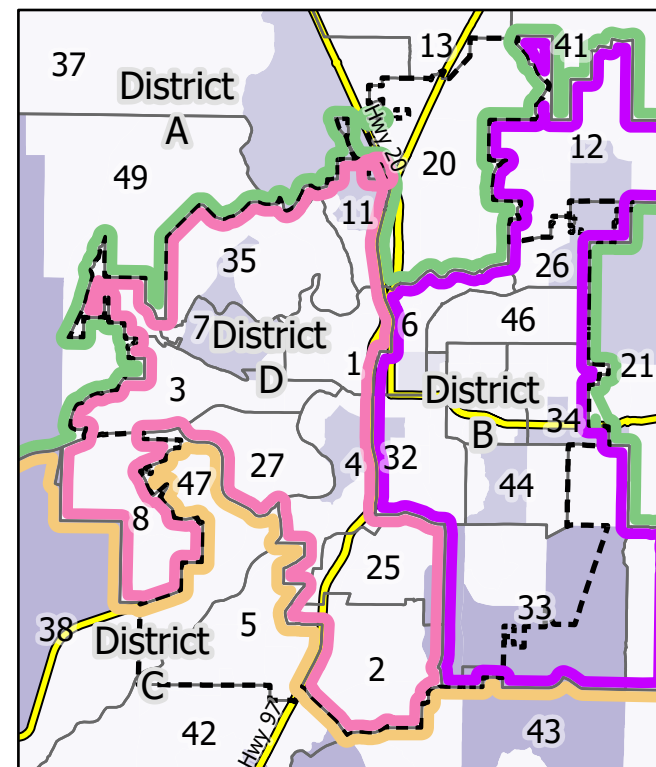
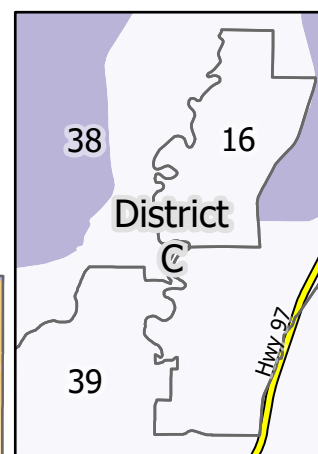
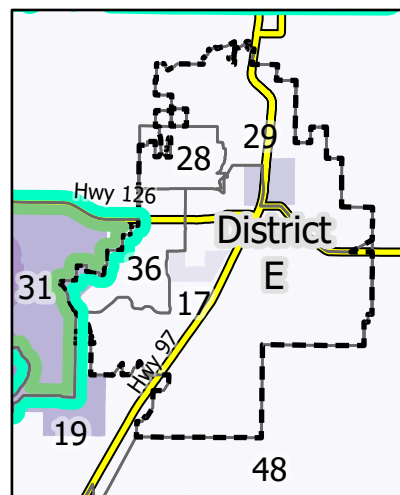
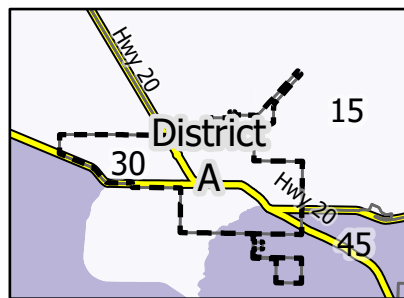
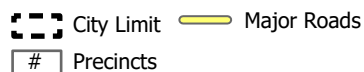
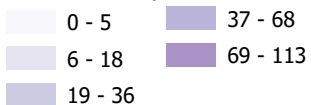


Map B (ACS African American Population)

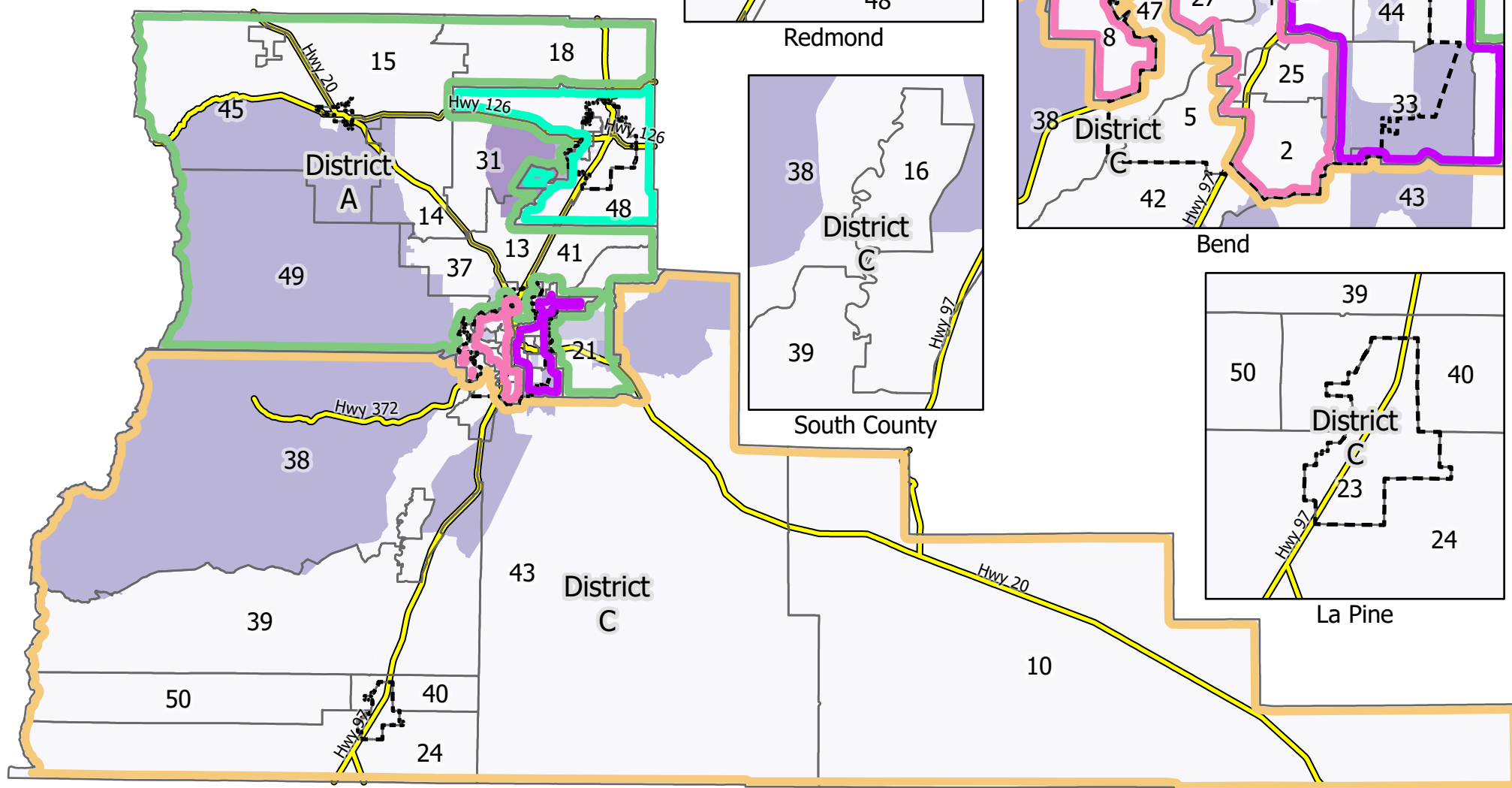
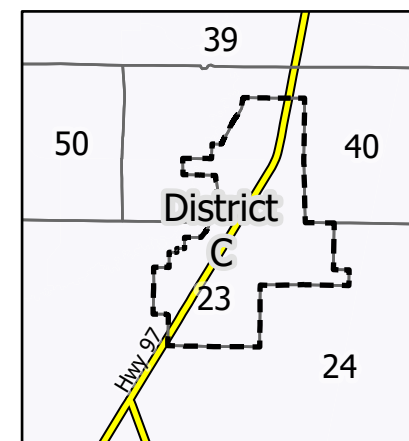
Proposed Districts



Total Black or African American Population



Bend

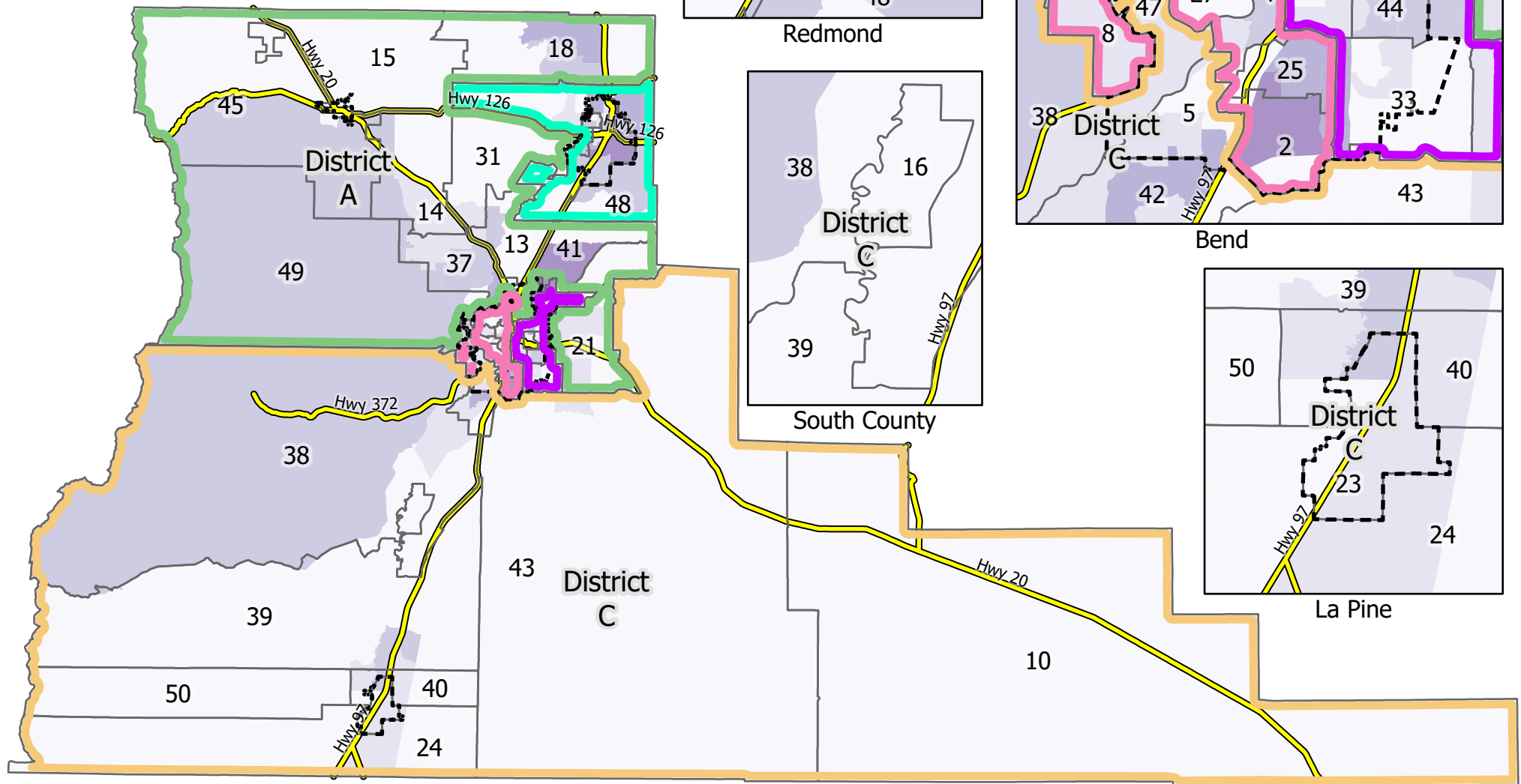
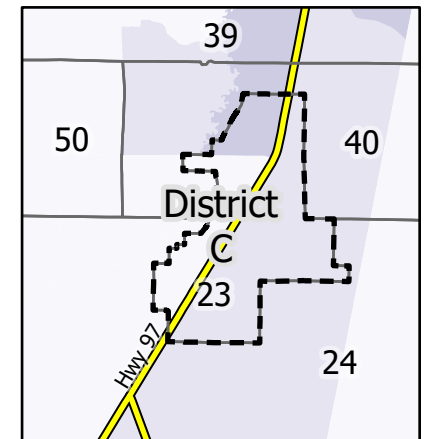
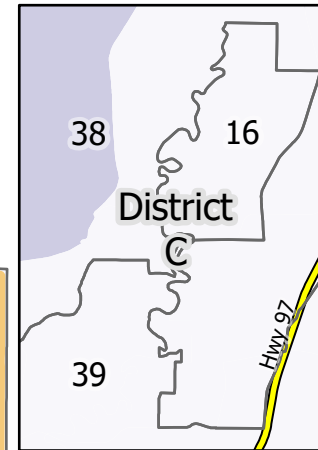
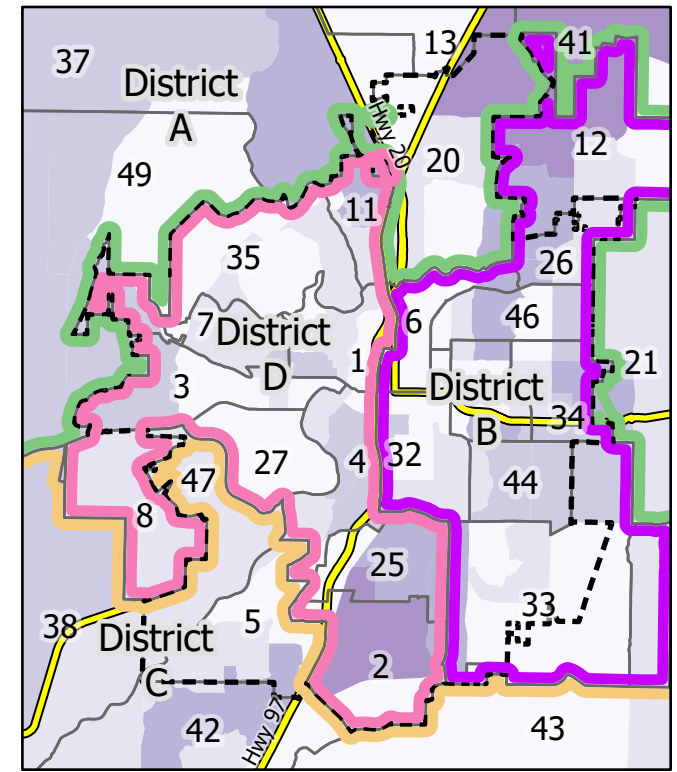
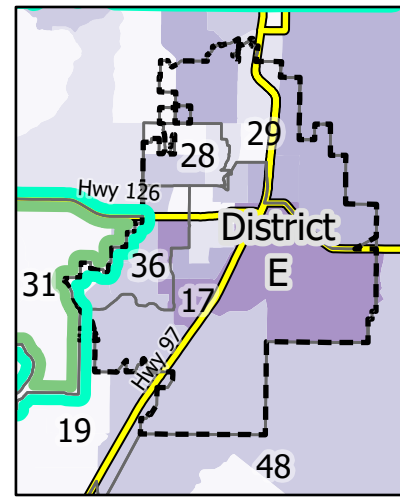
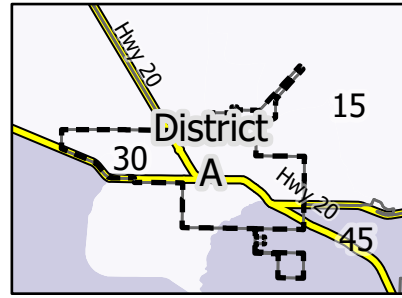
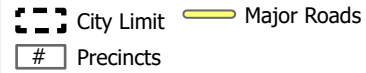
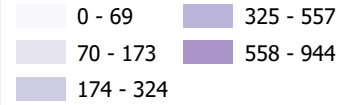


Map B (ACS Hispanic/Latino Population)

Proposed Districts



Total Hispanic or Latino by Block Group



Map B (ACS Native American Population)

