



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

Wednesday, October 29, 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 22, 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 22, 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, Drew Kaza, Matt Cyrus, Melanie Kebler, Ned Dempsey, and Phil Henderson.

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

II. Background on DMAC

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 to achieve approximately equal-sized districts within a 5% range. 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 15 and 16, 2025, Minutes

A motion to approve the October 15, 2025 minutes was made by Phil Henderson and seconded by Matt Cyrus. The motion carried by voice vote, and the minutes were approved.

A motion to approve the October 16, 2025 minutes was made by Phil Henderson and seconded by Ned Dempsey. The motion carried by voice vote, and the minutes were approved.

IV. Public Comments

John Blackfort, from Bend, referenced a 4–3 committee vote at the prior meeting to use voter registration as the primary data for drawing districts and asked that the minutes reflect individual votes for accountability. He suggested that all motions be formally voted on and memorialized in the minutes unless unanimous.

V. Staff Updates

Jen Patterson opened the staff updates by clarifying the committee's use of a five percent range. She explained that staff calculated a mean for each of the two data sets in use—the 2020 Census population and the August 2025 voter registration counts—and then applied a five percent range above and below each mean. She noted that the effect is could be a span of up to ten percent between the smallest and largest districts on any given map and stated that this framing was conveyed during the August 27 orientation as a goal of plus or minus five percent around the mean. Patterson said she was restating this to avoid confusion arising from varied references to "five percent" in prior discussions. A committee member asked for confirmation that this plus-or-minus approach had been presented at orientation despite the guideline language referencing five percent, which Patterson confirmed.

A committee member then asked why staff proceeded with an approach that appeared different from the direction contained in the Board of County Commissioners' document and whether staff had discussed any change with the Board. Patterson responded that any discrepancy was inadvertent and that staff had drafted the guidelines as a recommendation to the Board. She added that the variance framing was caught after the October 16 community listening session and brought back to the committee as soon as staff recognized it. She stated that this is a new process for staff, acknowledged the technical nature of the variance calculations, and reiterated the intent to be transparent once the issue was identified. Another member indicated they would reserve additional comments for the map discussion later in the meeting.

Patterson also corrected the record regarding data previously displayed for two comparison maps. Staff stated that "Map 2B" and "PS3" (Greg Bryant's map) had been correctly shown at the October 8 meeting, and that, at DMAC's direction, staff produced variations seeking closer alignment to the variance range for both census population and voter registration. During the October 15 DMAC meeting, staff displayed Greg Bryant's map known as "PS3" however the data displayed and included in the meeting packet was incorrect for "PS3". Staff would like to correct the record and on the screen is the correct data associated with map "PS3". Staff noted that PS3 was not included in the current packet because the committee had voted not to consider it further, but the side-by-side display was presented for clarity.

VI. DMAC Group Discussion and Map Work

The committee revisited its working base maps and the acceptable variance target. One view supported using a 10% deviation rather than 5% to avoid splitting precincts during an interim

districting period that may last only one or two election cycles; another view raised concern that, without a charter-based redistricting schedule, disparities could grow over time and argued for pursuing more equal districts now. The group discussed tradeoffs between precision and administrative complexity, acknowledging prior agreement to use voter registration rather than population for this exercise.

Members discussed focusing on the limited set of precincts that differ between the working maps to expedite convergence. Staff confirmed the practicality of iterating during the meeting and suggested labeling any favored variation that emerges from Map B as "Map C" for the next meeting, while noting resource constraints in producing numerous intermediate versions. Staff also indicated they could calculate and report the variance box values during the meeting, though not toggle every variation in real time. The committee agreed to continue with Map B adjustments in the session, defer any Map A tweaks to a subsequent step, and return next meeting with consolidated variations including a labeled Map C.

The committee then reviewed specific precinct-level changes on Map B. Discussion included moving Precincts 5 and 47 to West Bend (District D) and shifting Precinct 2 to South County (District C) to balance changes, with an additional note that Precinct 12 had earlier been associated with Map A rather than B. Staff and the committee worked through these adjustments with an eye toward staying within the variance parameters and preserving communities of interest.

In parallel with these mapping edits, the committee discussed how to integrate recently compiled growth information into its work. Members referenced the map of new dwelling permits issued between January 1, 2022 and October 20, 2025, which had been provided as a supplemental to the packet and posted to the DMAC webpage for this meeting. The presentation clarified that the display represented permits issued rather than completed construction and showed purple overlays associated with tax lots carrying permits. Several questions were asked about how to interpret the relative size and apparent density of the purple shapes, and staff explained that the visualization was based on tax lots, not point locations, which accounts for some parcels appearing larger due to subdivisions or larger underlying lots.

The committee then discussed whether to request a tabular dataset to accompany the growth map for use in evaluating potential district adjustments. The requested table would list, for all 50 precincts, the count of new dwelling permits and the total number of dwelling units represented by those permits, so that members could consider near-term growth signals alongside voter registration figures when comparing districts. Staff outlined a realistic turnaround time for producing such a table given the volume and coordination required and thanked the county and city community development departments for their rapid assistance in providing the source data that supported the current map. Members discussed the extent to which such a table would factor into decision-making, noting that growth indicators are a consideration rather than a primary criterion, and weighed the value of having the data against the staff effort required to prepare it.

The committee also discussed how and when districts would be numbered relative to the May 2026 ballot and the practical implications for candidate filing deadlines. Bryant noted that numbering would be required at some point if maps are adopted, and that timing could affect candidates' decisions before the March filing deadline. Staff suggested consulting the County Clerk at a subsequent meeting regarding the necessity and timing of numbering on the ballot.

Motions:

Kebler made a motion to request new dwelling permit data by precinct that includes the number of permits issued and the number of units per permit. Kaza seconded the motion. The motion carried in a 5-1 vote. Kebler, Kaza, Henderson, Dempsey, and Cyrus approved the motion. Brader voted against the motion.

Kaza made a motion to ask staff to go to the BOCC and request clarification on what mapping criteria the DMAC should prioritize: keep existing precinct lines or expand the equal population range outside the recommended 5% of the mean data set. The motion was not formally taken up but there was agreement among the DMAC members to seek this clarification.

VII.Wrap Up and Adjourn

Bryant adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

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



DISTRICT MAPPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

October 27, 2025

Background

Ballot Measure #9-173, approved by voters in November 2024, expands the County Commissioners to a five-seat Board. The two new positions will be elected at-large in 2026 for an initial two-year term which will begin in January 2027. The Deschutes Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met several times between November 2024 and May 2025 to discuss BOCC interest in creating Commissioner Districts in place of having five at-large Commissioner Positions.

On March 31, 2025, the BOCC voted to move forward to develop a process to draft Commissioner Districts for voter consideration as a ballot measure in 2026. On May 5, the majority of the BOCC voted to establish a committee by BOCC nominations.

The committee will be made up of seven community members, appointed individually by Commissioners. The appointments will be as follows:

Commissioner	Number of Nominations
Commissioner DeBone	2
Commissioner Adair	2
Commissioner Chang	3

Mission and Purpose

The District Mapping Advisory Committee (DMAC) is a non-partisan committee comprised of citizen volunteers residing throughout Deschutes County. The mission of the DMAC is to take a non-partisan approach to drafting a five commissioner district map, consisting of proportional districts, for the BOCC consideration. If a draft map is approved by the BOCC, it will then be put before the voters as a ballot measure during the 2026 election cycle.

Structure and Membership

The DMAC consists of seven voting members selected via BOCC appointment.



Facilitator Neil Bryant will chair and guide the committee meetings, and a project management team consisting of county staff will support the committee in the following areas:

- Meeting logistics, facilitation, and communications
- Meeting minutes
- GIS Mapping Support
- Update the BOCC of committee activities and actions
- Provide an overview of public meeting laws and ethics, education (i.e., applicable laws and rules), technical information and memorandums, and options for decision making
- Maintain a project website
- Other necessary actions not identified above

Record Keeping and Transparency

As an official public body, Oregon's open meeting laws apply to the DMAC. All meetings will be publicly noticed, livestreamed, and will provide an opportunity for public input. Meeting minutes will be taken and posted on a designated website. Meeting minutes will be shared via email with all members prior to the meeting for review and will be approved as drafted or modified by the committee at a subsequent meeting. All opinions, perspectives, and views will be captured in meeting minutes. This guideline will be posted to the project website and remain a publicly available document.

DMAC members will be assigned a Deschutes County email address that must be used for any and all email communications related to the work of the DMAC.

Meeting Schedule and Logistics

The DMAC will have an orientation meeting in August 2025. The orientation meeting will provide information on public meeting laws, DMAC guidelines, and structure of DMAC meetings.

The DMAC will meet every Wednesday from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Sept. 10 – Nov. 19. If the DMAC completes their work early then meetings may end before Nov. 19. If the DMAC needs more time to complete their work then additional meetings may be scheduled to meet the Nov. 98 deadline.



Meetings will take place in different locations throughout the County which could include, but is not limited to, Bend, La Pine, Redmond, and Sisters.

Membership

The DMAC is comprised of members listed in the table below. If a committee member has to vacate their appointment for any reason, then an alternate will be appointed by the Commissioner that assigned the committee member to the vacated seat.

Name	Appointed By
Bernie Brader	Commissioner DeBone
Ned Dempsey	Commissioner DeBone
Matt Cyrus	Commissioner Adair
Phil Henderson	Commissioner Adair
Andrew Kaza	Commissioner Chang
Carol Loesche	Commissioner Chang
Melanie Kebler	Commissioner Chang

Ground Rules and Expectations

1. Attendance: The Committee strives for full in-person attendance at every meeting.
2. Inclusivity and Civility: Committee members are expected to create space for diverse or contradictory opinions, and support collaboration in all meetings.
3. A majority of DMAC members (4 or more) constitutes a quorum, and a quorum shall be required to approve any motions and/or recommendations.
4. The Robert's Rules of Order will be used by the facilitator to guide the meetings.

Map Drawing Criteria

1. Each district, as nearly as practicable, shall:
 - a. Be contiguous
 - b. Utilize existing precinct lines
 - c. Not unreasonably divide communities of common interest and geographic boundaries
 - d. Consider current growth patterns



- i. i.e. building permits and UGB expansions
- 2. No district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent elected official 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. Population
 - a. The DMAC will be provided with the following three data points in a table by precinct for consideration. Staff and the GIS support team will work with the DMAC to support additional data requests as available.
 - i. Census Population
 - 1. Census population data is from 2020, and an updated count will not be available until 2031.
 - ii. Voter Registration data from February 2022 (the date of the newly configured precincts based on state-wide re-districting).
 - iii. Current Voter Registration data will be provided as requested by the DMAC.
 - b. Maps should be drawn to approximately equal population size, to be within a 10% range between the largest and smallest district.
- 5. Draft map will have five districts.

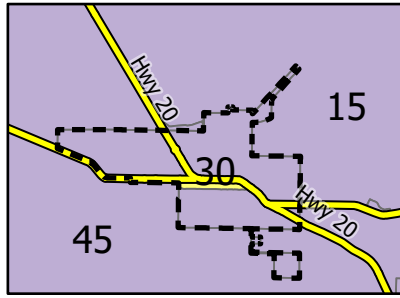
Public Input

Each DMAC meeting will allocate 15 minutes, as needed, for public input. A sign-up sheet will be available at each meeting for members of the public attending in person who would like to give their input. Online participants can indicate their desire to comment by using the "raise hand" feature on Zoom.

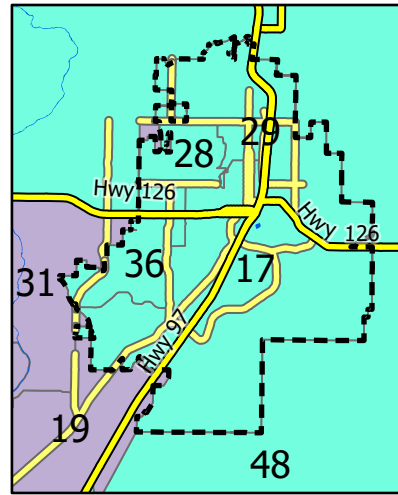
Each person will be allowed up to three minutes for their comments. If more than five people sign up to speak, the facilitator will adjust time limits to ensure the public comment period does not exceed 15 minutes.

Map A

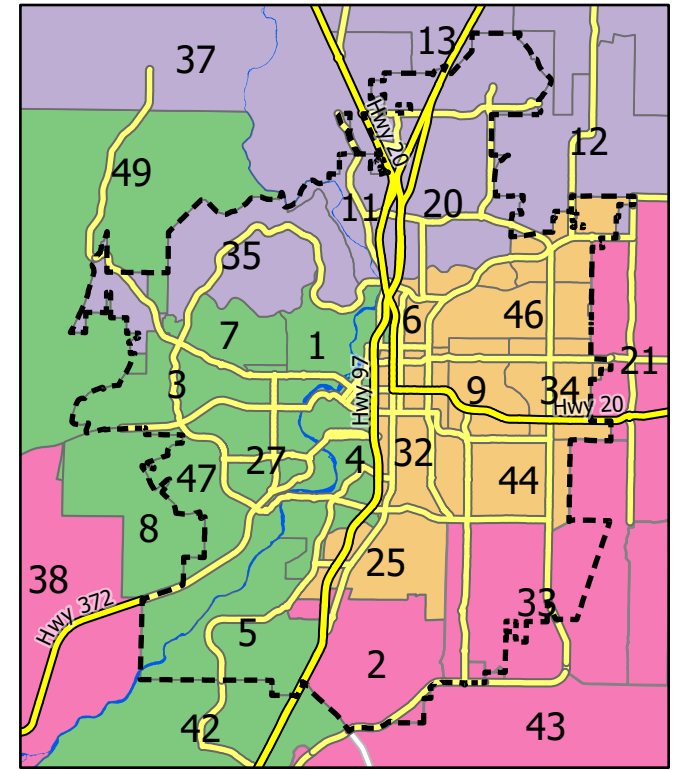
- A
- B
- C
- D
- E



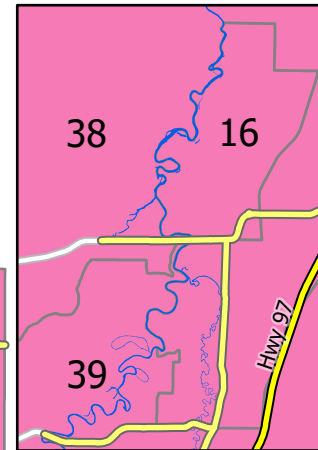
Sisters



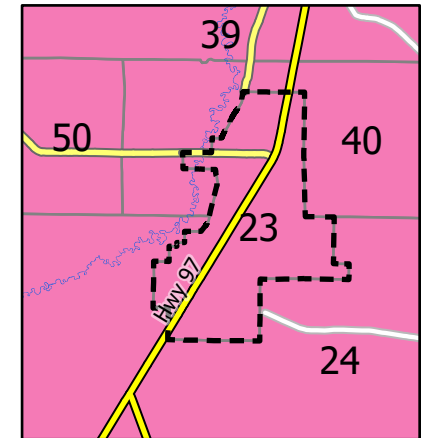
Redmond



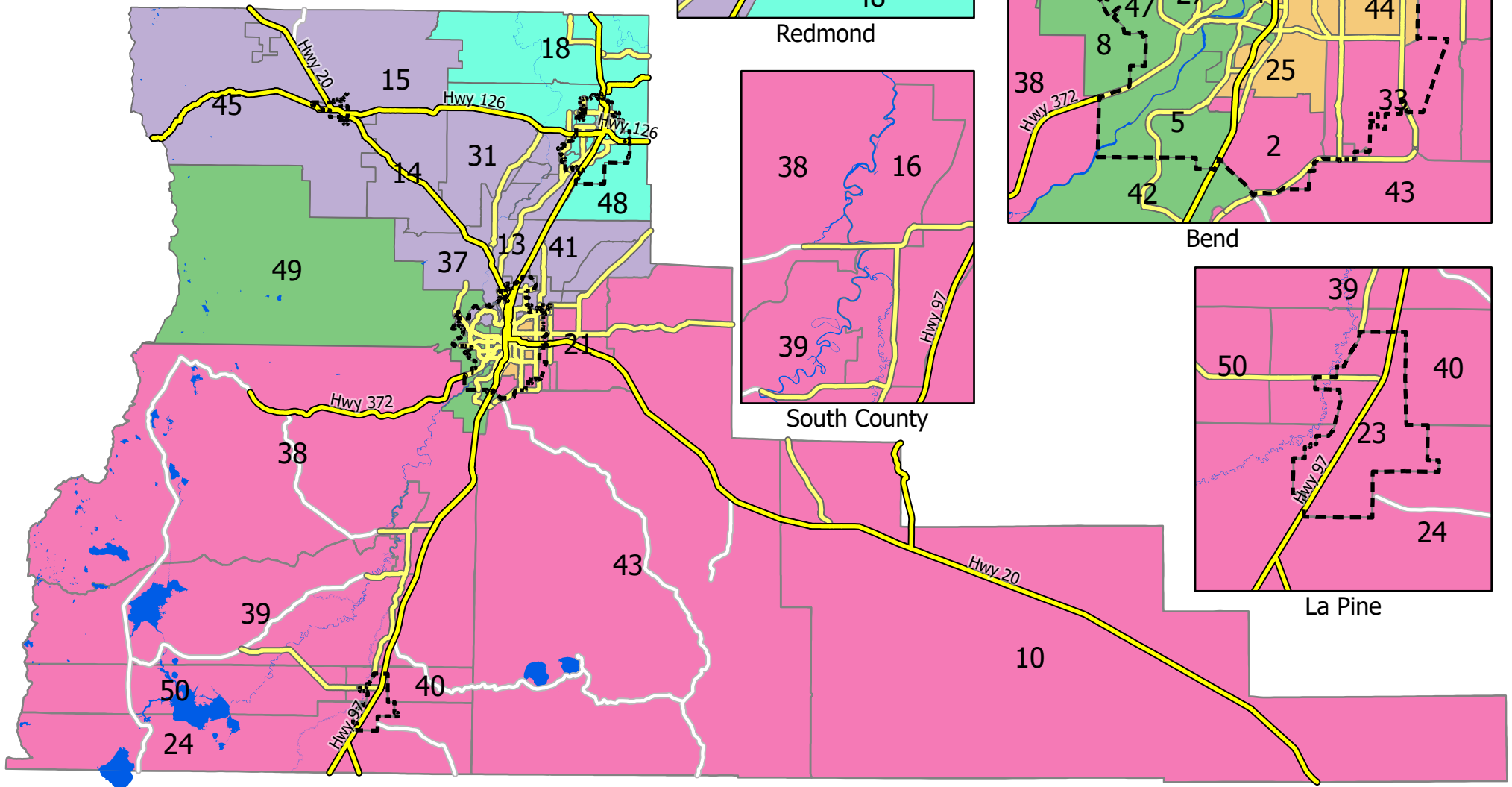
Bend



South County



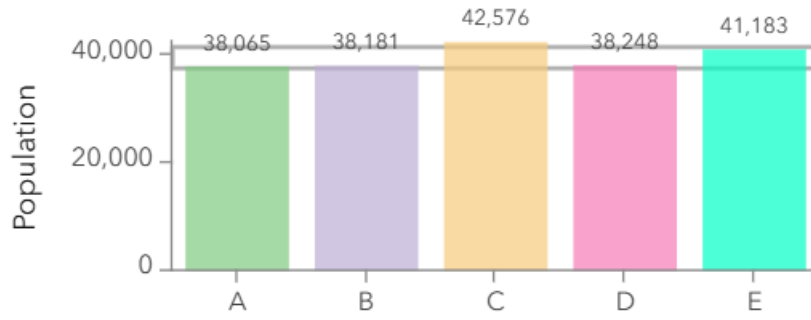
La Pine



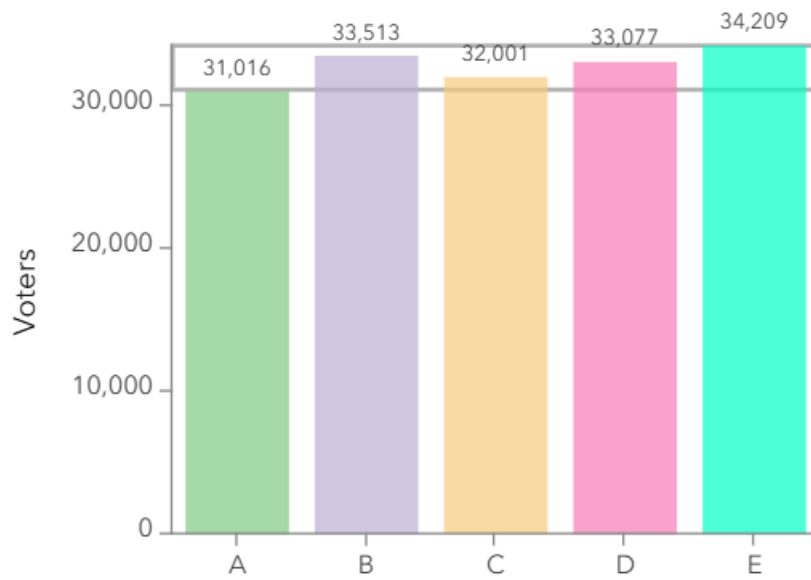
MAP A



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

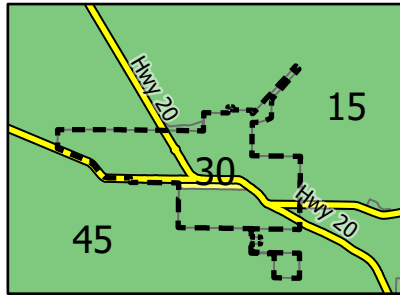


Target 32,763 , Range 31,125 - 34,401

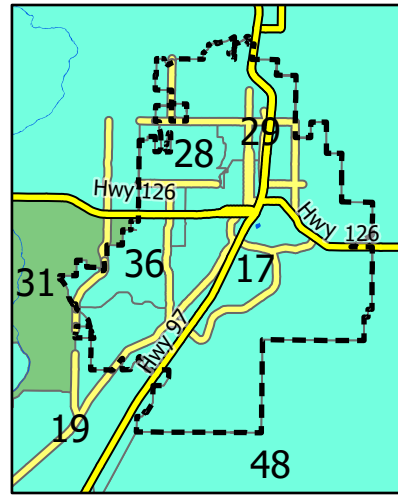


Map B

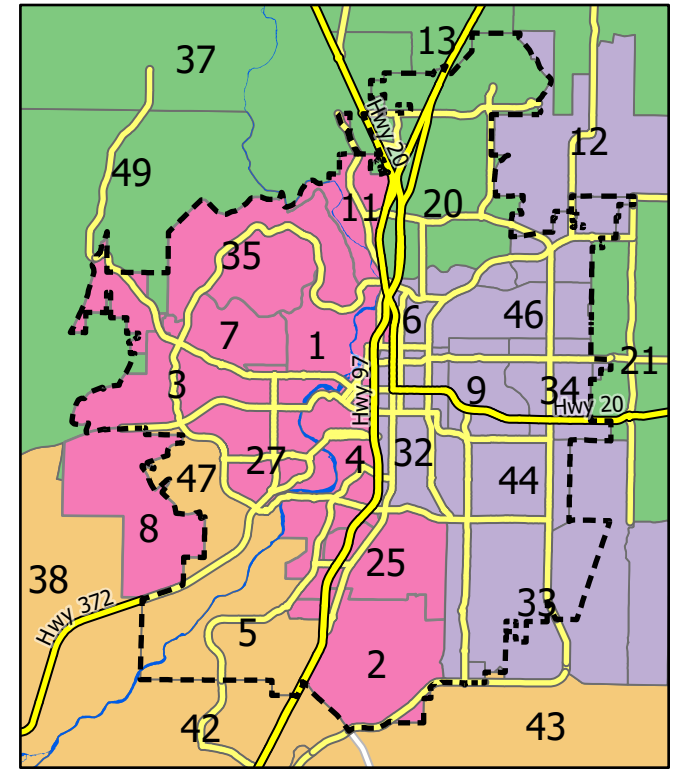
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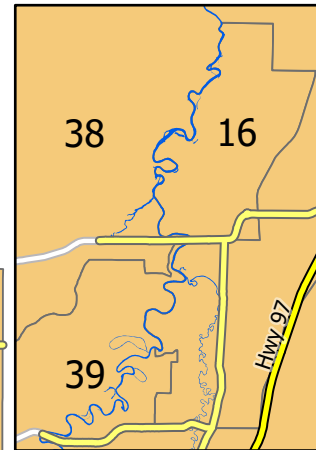
Sisters



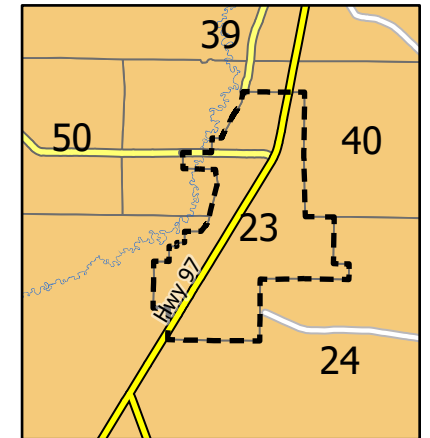
Redmond



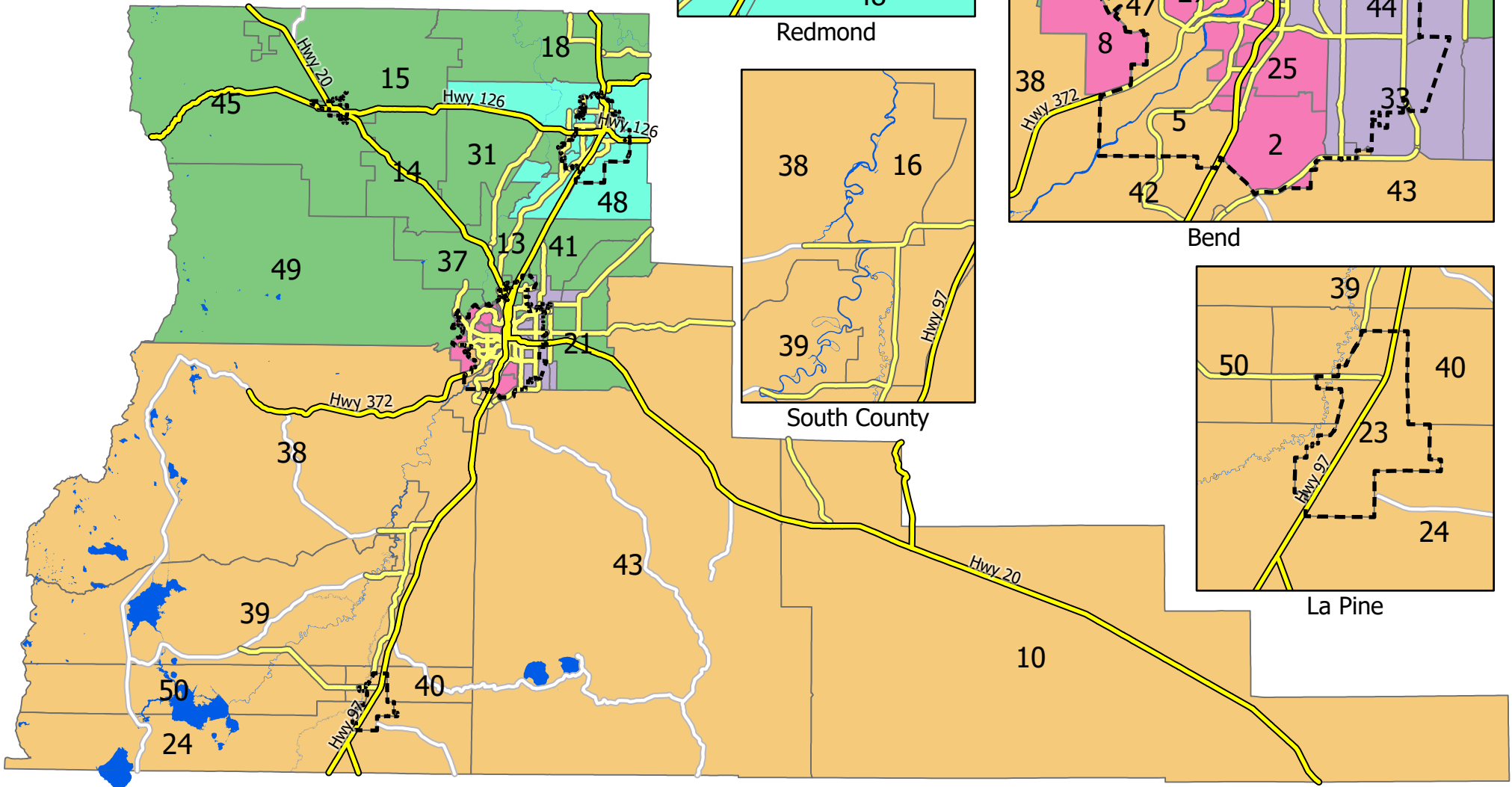
Bend



South County



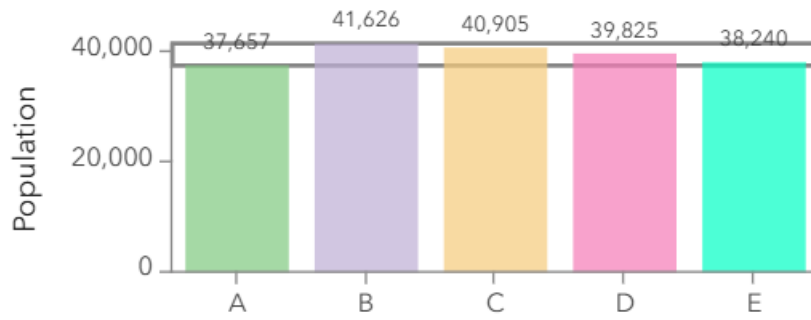
La Pine



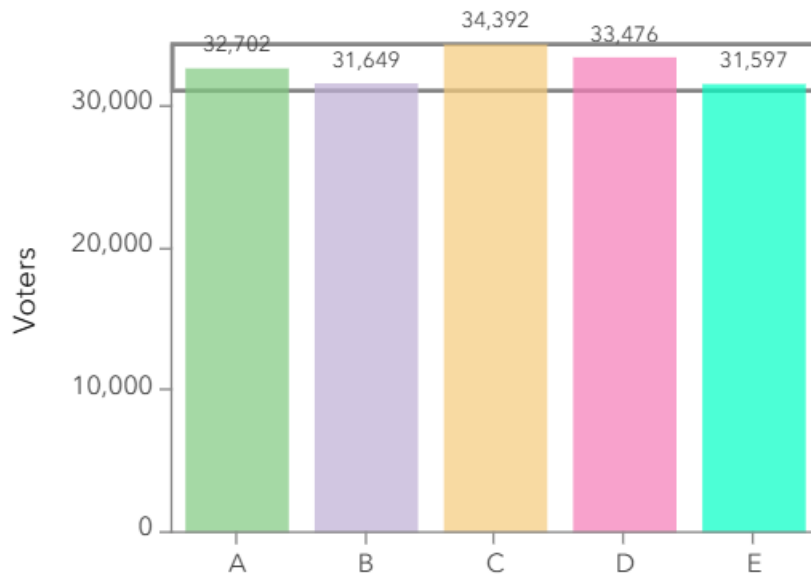
MAP B



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

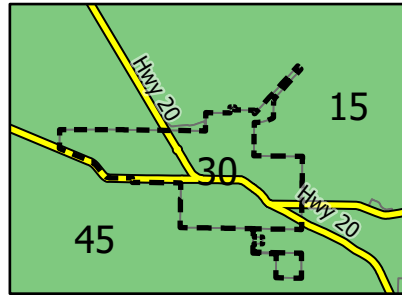


Target 32,763 , Range 31,125 - 34,401

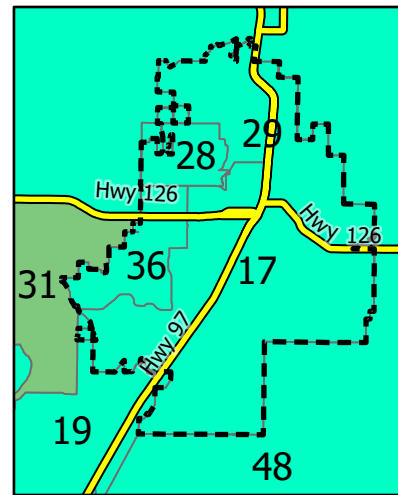


Map C

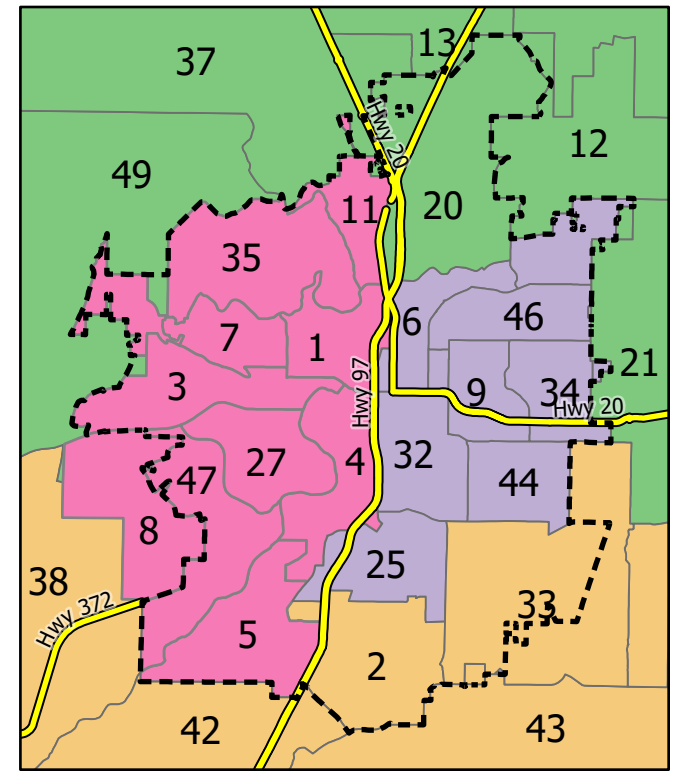
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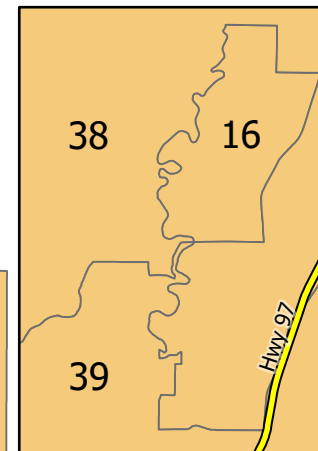
Sisters



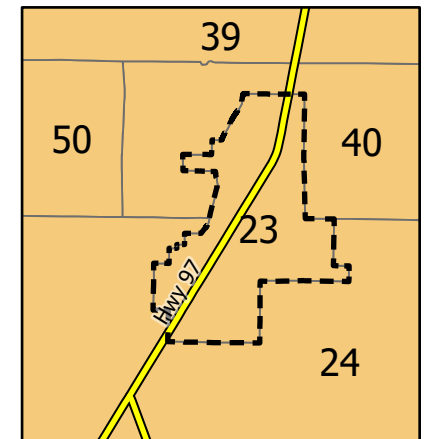
Redmond



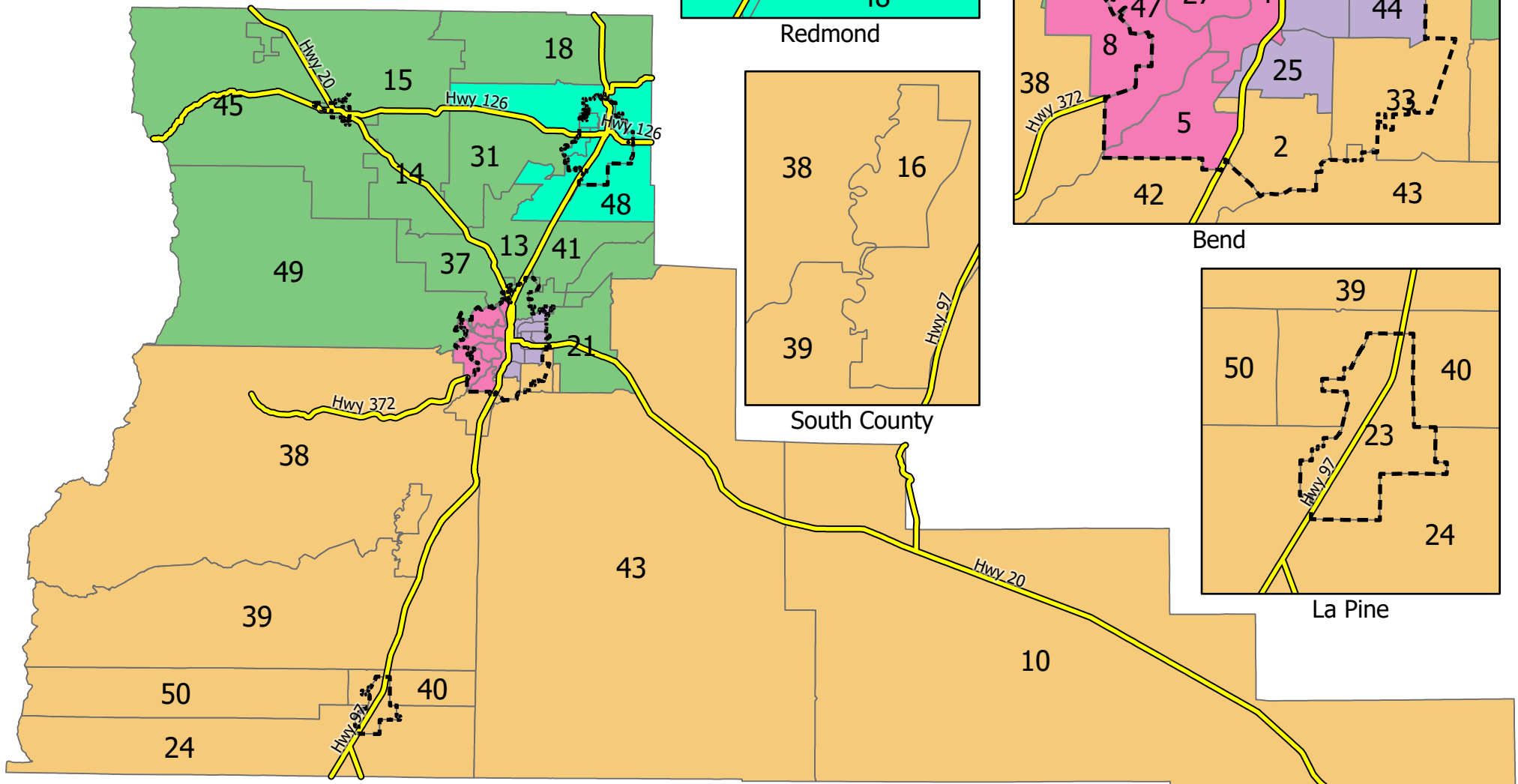
Bend



South County



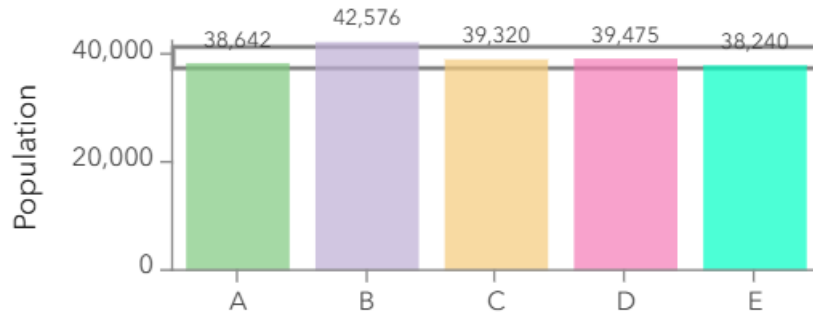
La Pine



MAP C



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



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

