



# Redistricting Calcasieu Parish

The Laws Governing Reapportionment  
and the Effects of Census 2020

By: Cade R. Cole

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# OVERVIEW

- Introduction to Redistricting
  - What is Redistricting?
  - Who must Redistrict?
  - Why Redistrict?
- Legal Issues of Redistricting
  - State Laws
  - Federal Laws
  - Timeline
- Census 2020 & Police Jury Malapportionment

# What is Redistricting?

- Reapportionment - allocation/determination of the number of seats for a legislative body
- **Redistricting - process of redrawing lines for election districts**
- Malapportioned - when the existing districts are outside of acceptable population ranges

# Who Is Redistricted?

- By Act of the Legislature:
  - State Senate and State House of Representatives
  - Congress
  - BESE
  - Public Service Commission
  - Courts\*
- By its own membership:
  - Parish Governing Authorities (Police Jury)
  - City and Town Councils
  - School Boards

# Why Redistrict?

## ■ Decennial Census

- The Census must occur every ten (10) years, and is required for the reapportionment of Congress  
(U.S. Const. art. I, § 2)
- The Census shows the population shifts in an area
  - Local government can use the data to provide fair and equitable representation for its citizens

## ■ Redistricting is mandatory

- The U.S. Constitution requires the equal treatment of all persons (14<sup>th</sup> Amendment)
- State Law specifically requires redistricting after each Federal Census (La. R.S. 33:1371 and 18:1922)

# LEGAL ISSUES OF REDISTRICTING



# State Laws on Redistricting

- A Police Jury must:

- Consist of between five (5) and fifteen (15) single member districts (R.S. 33:1221(A))
- Commence Redistricting within six (6) months of the Census release, if there is "any substantial variation" in its districts (R.S. 33:1411)

# State Laws on Redistricting

- Precinct Freeze

- Effective Jan. 1, 2009-Dec. 31, 2013 (R.S. 18:532.1(D)(1))

- No Precinct Splits

- Precinct may be split during the freeze **only** if otherwise **unable** to comply with redistricting law
- Any split must:
  - Follow visible boundaries (streets, waterways, etc.)
  - Follow U.S. Census block boundaries; and
  - Keep 300+ registered voters in each new precinct
- Not for Convenience: No split if the Police Jury is able to legally redistrict itself using whole precincts  
(R.S. 18:532.1(D)(2)(d))



# Federal Laws on Redistricting

- One Person, One Vote (Population Equality)
  - The 14<sup>th</sup> amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires districts to be "substantially equal in population"
  - **Ten Percent Rule**
    - Generally, a plan's overall population deviation must be within a 10% range (+5% to -5%)

# Federal Laws on Redistricting

- How to Measure Population Equality
  - Ideal Population
    - The total population divided by the number of districts
    - *The 2020 Census provides an Ideal Population for Police Jury Districts of 14,452*
  - Deviation
    - The numerical amount that any single district differs from the Ideal Population
  - Deviation Percentage
    - The percentage that any district deviates from the Ideal Population

# Federal Laws on Redistricting

- Traditional Districting Principles
  - Compact
  - Contiguous
  - Preservation of municipal boundaries (not splitting smaller towns)
  - Preservation of the cores of existing districts
  - Stability of Representation (not redistricting 2 incumbents into 1 district)
  - Compliance with the Voting Rights Act

# Federal Laws on Redistricting

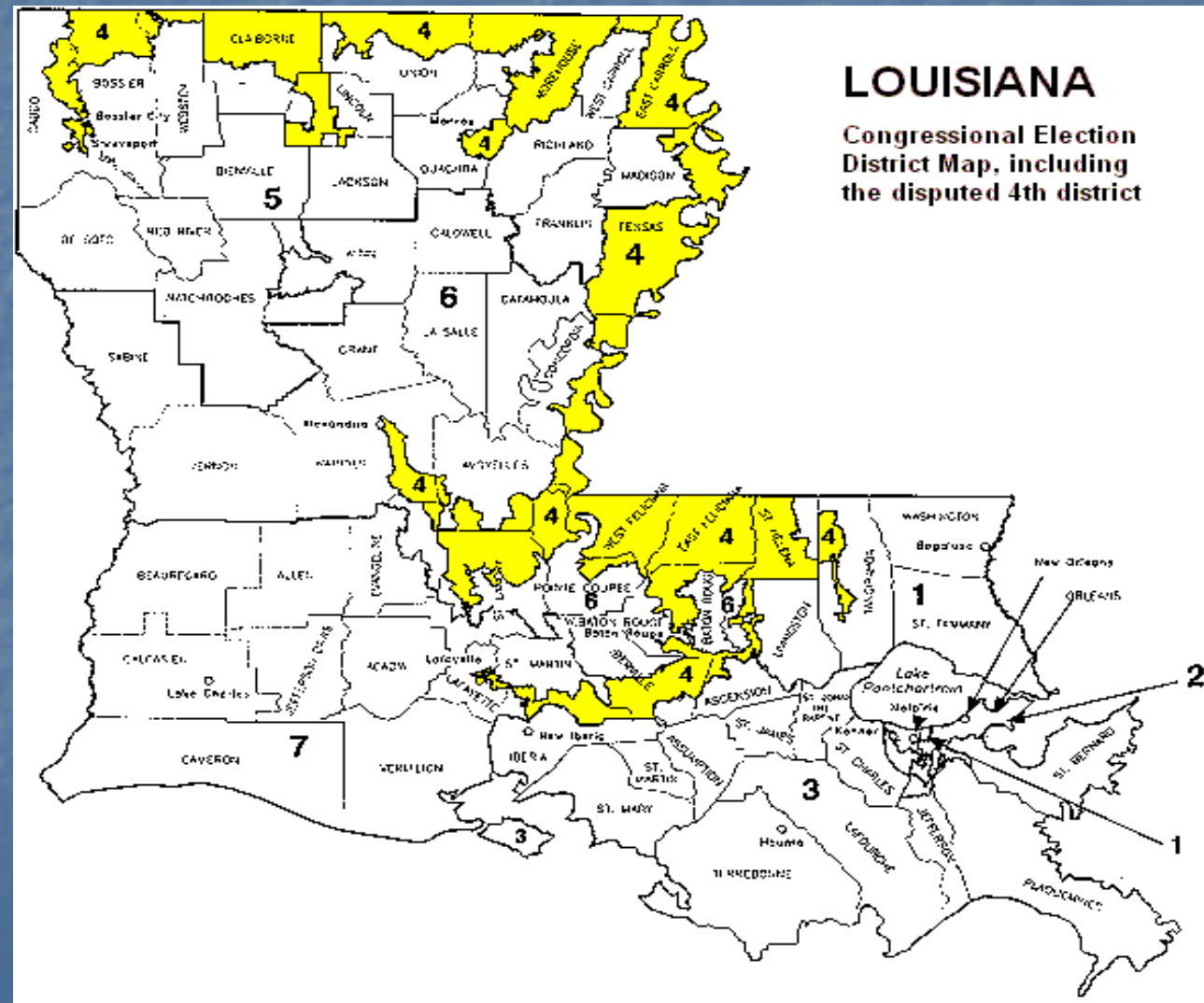
- The Voting Rights Act (Section 2)
  - Nationwide rule for no discriminatory effect
  - A plan cannot circumvent a fair chance for minority voters to elect the candidate of their choice
    - **Voter Dilution**: A plan may not dilute minority voting strength through either fracturing minority communities or packing minority voters into fewer districts

# Federal Laws on Redistricting

- Prohibited Racial Gerrymandering
  - Race cannot be the predominant or overriding factor behind drawing a district
  - An unconstitutional racial gerrymander occurs when a district cannot be explained by “race neutral traditional redistricting principles”

# Federal Laws on Redistricting

- Prohibited Racial Gerrymandering



# Federal Laws on Redistricting

- Traditional Districting Principles
  - Compact
  - Contiguous
  - Preservation of internal subdivision boundaries (not splitting smaller towns)
  - Preservation of the cores of existing districts
  - Stability of Representation (not putting two incumbents in one district)
  - Compliance with the Voting Rights Act

# Federal Laws on Redistricting

- In Conclusion, a valid plan must not :
  - Violate One Person, One Vote (+ or - 5%)
  - Retrogress (4 effective minority districts)
  - Constitute a Racial Gerrymander



# Timeline

<b>May 19, 2022 (PH #1) (Regular PJ Meeting at 5:30 pm)</b>	<b>Presentation on 1) legal rules for redistricting, 2) mal-apportionment data, 3) adoption of resolution declaring district population variance, and 4) presentation of proposed redistricting plan and map, and 5) introduction of redistricting ordinance (Reference: La. R.S. 33:1411(A))</b>
<b>May 19 – June 23, 2022</b>	Public comment period on proposed plan
<b>May 24 and May 27, 2022</b>	Run Public Notice in LCAP for Public Hearing
<b>May 27, 2022</b>	Send Meeting Notice for Public Hearing at Regular Meeting of the full PJ on June 2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>June 2, 2022 at 6 pm (PH #2) (Regular PJ Meeting)</b>	Public hearing and comment session on proposed plan and ordinance
<b>June 23, 2022 (PH #3) (Regular PJ Meeting at 5:30 pm)</b>	Police Jury consideration of redistricting plan, with discussion and consideration of proposed plan amendments, if any; and final adoption of redistricting ordinance

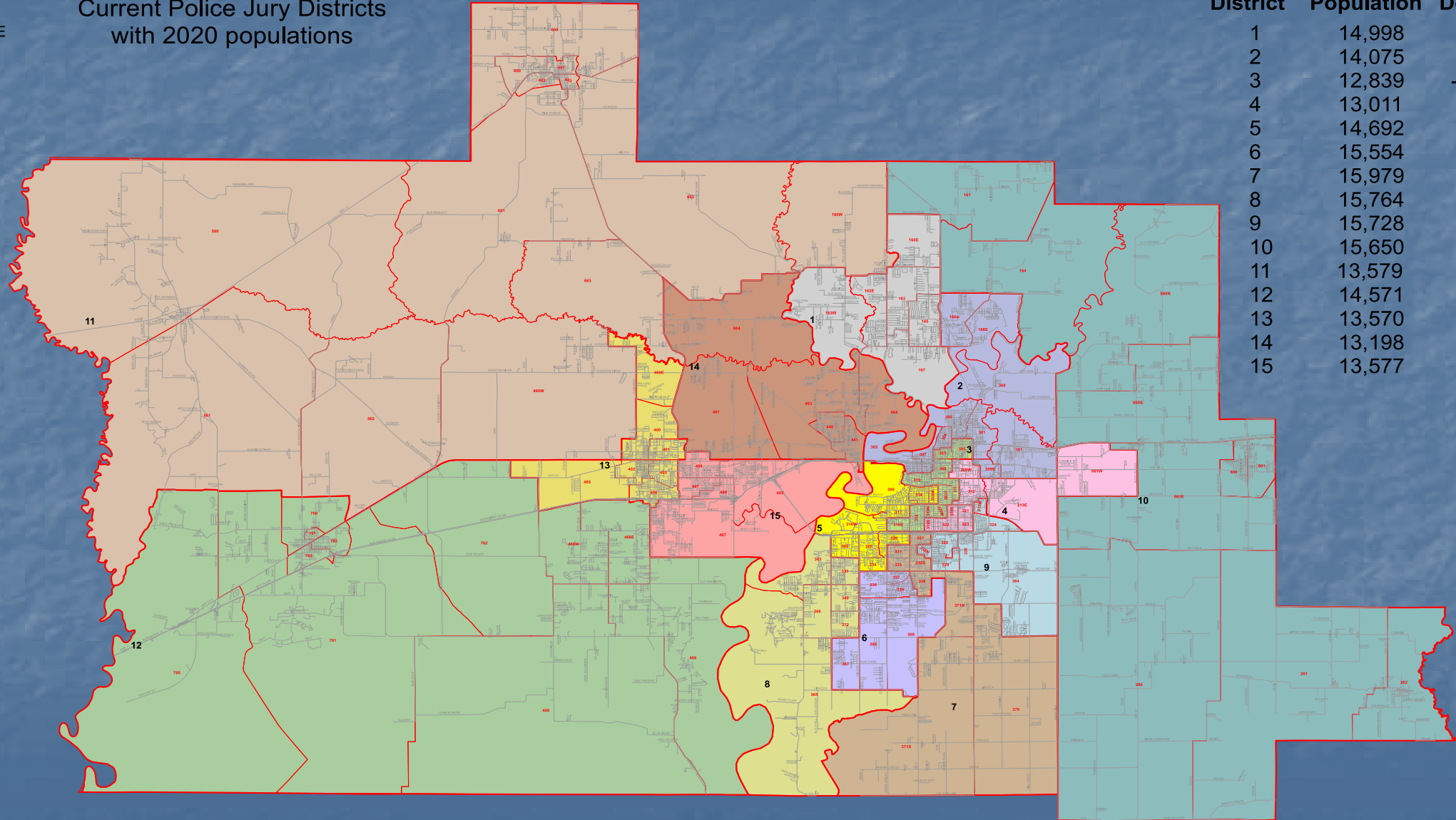
# Census 2020 & Police Jury Malapportionment

- Calcasieu Parish Population
  - 216,780 people (+12.45%)
- Ideal District Population
  - 14,452 people
- Maximum Overall Range
  - 13,730 – 15,174 people

# Malapportionment Map



Current Police Jury Districts  
with 2020 populations

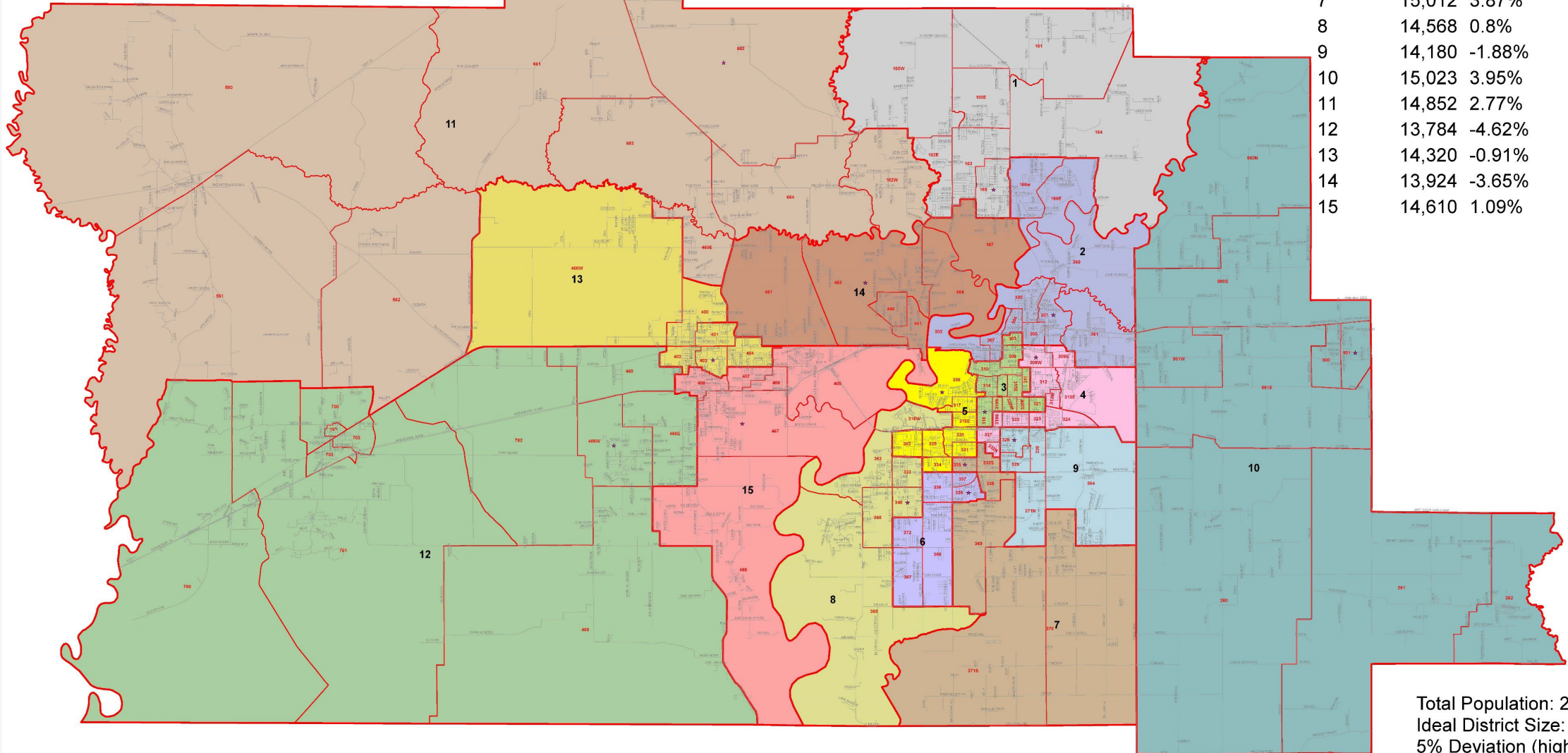


District	Population	Deviation
1	14,998	3.78%
2	14,075	-2.61%
3	12,839	-11.16%
4	13,011	-9.97%
5	14,692	1.66%
6	15,554	7.63%
7	15,979	10.57%
8	15,764	9.08%
9	15,728	8.83%
10	15,650	8.29%
11	13,579	-6.04%
12	14,571	0.82%
13	13,570	-6.10%
14	13,198	-8.68%
15	13,577	-6.05%



# Calcasieu Parish Police Jury Proposed Police Jury District Plan A

District	Total	Deviation%	Black%
1	14,255	-1.36%	6.97%
2	15,061	4.21%	60.09%
3	14,028	-2.93%	61.95%
4	14,370	-0.57%	66.49%
5	14,264	-1.3%	20.49%
6	14,534	0.57%	10.56%
7	15,012	3.87%	22.73%
8	14,568	0.8%	13.35%
9	14,180	-1.88%	59.87%
10	15,023	3.95%	18.99%
11	14,852	2.77%	7.69%
12	13,784	-4.62%	6.81%
13	14,320	-0.91%	7.93%
14	13,924	-3.65%	11.38%
15	14,610	1.09%	6.97%



**LEGEND**

- ★ Incumbent Precinct
- Streets
- Voting Precincts

Total Population: 216,785  
Ideal District Size: 14,452  
5% Deviation (high): 15,175  
5% Deviation (low): 13,729

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METRO



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