

RECOMMENDED DISTRICTING PLAN

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This memo documents how the **Recommended Districting Plan** for the City of Boise balances traditional districting criteria and preserves the voting strength of protected minorities in accordance with applicable legal standards.

1. **Equipopulous districts.** The plan's six City Councilmember districts are equalized based upon 2010 Census counts (2010 Census PL94-171 Summary data, Table QT-PL). Our goal is to distribute the City's total 2010 population equally, seeking to balance each district's total population as closely as possible to the ideal number of 34,804 persons per district.

These districts need not be exactly equal in total population. Courts have allowed districting plans with up to a 10-percent total deviation from this ideal. A plan's *deviation from ideal* is measured as the absolute difference between the most populous district's population count and least populous district's count, divided by the ideal number (here, 34,804). For the City of Boise, this 10-percent maximum threshold sets the 10-percent maximum deviation at 3,480 persons (i.e., 10 percent of each district's "ideal" population). The Recommended Districting Plan registers a deviation from ideal of only 1,304 (calculated as 35,269 minus 33,965). Thus, this Plan is well within range as an equipopulous plan for the 2021 cycle, based upon the latest (2010) official census. In the very near future, however, the 2020 census will supersede the 2010 census as the latest official one.

Accordingly, we must be mindful of the necessity to recalibrate the Recommended Districting Plan so that it remains an equipopulous plan for use in the 2023 cycle. With that in mind, we used our best judgment to account for population growth since 2010, as indicated by two current sources: (1) the American Community Survey's 2019 5-year sample estimate of total population by block group; and (2) the latest annual COMPASS estimate of the citywide population. Based upon these indicators, the Recommended Districting Plan could register a slight 11.7% deviation from ideal (calculated as 39,811 minus 35,380). We could easily reduce that minor excess to under 10.0% by slightly adjusting the boundaries between Districts 1 and 2 and between Districts 3 and 5.

In short, the Recommended Districting Plan will likely require modest recalibration for use in the 2023 cycle to meet the 10-percent maximum threshold based upon the new 2020 census count. Specifically, District 3 will likely prove to be underpopulated, and District 1 may be overpopulated. Once 2020 Census counts are available, we will be available to realign the boundaries of these two districts in order to restore population balance in advance of the plan's use in a forthcoming election.

2. **Balancing Traditional Districting Criteria.** In drawing and refining the Recommended Districting Plan, we have emphasized three traditional districting principles: (1) respecting established neighborhood communities of interest within the City; (2) forming districts to be geographically compact insofar as possible; and (3) situating three Council seats in separate single-member districts insofar as possible.

- *Respecting established neighborhood communities of interest.* We aligned the boundaries of each election district with boundaries of Boise's 34 registered Neighborhood Associations where possible. We grouped certain neighborhood associations together within the same election district, adhering to

the boundaries of existing election precincts where possible. These refinements align the City's broad communities of interest within these six election districts.

(See: <https://www.cityofboise.org/programs/energize/neighborhood-associations/>).

- *Forming districts to be geographically compact.* This added refinement further aligned broad communities of interest with election districts, while still respecting the specific boundaries of registered neighborhood associations and minimizing the need to alter the boundaries of the City's existing election precincts.
- *Situating each Council seat scheduled for election in 2021 in a separate single-member district.* It proved impossible to fully separate all incumbents.

3. *Preserving the voting strength of protected minorities in accordance with applicable legal standards.*

The Recommended Districting Plan does not dilute the voting strength of any protected group.

ACCOMPANYING FIGURES

The figures below furnish detailed information on the Recommended Districting Plan: Its demographic parameters, alignment with established neighborhood and precinct boundaries, and the actual street boundaries of each district.

Figure 1 furnishes a simple overview of this Plan and its six districts, indicating the general location of each incumbent.

Figure 2 displays additional geographic boundaries referred to above and key demographic parameters.

Figure 3 shows variations in population density across the six election districts within the City of Boise.

Figures 4 through 8 show the precise street boundaries of each individual election district.

Figure 1. Recommended Districting Plan

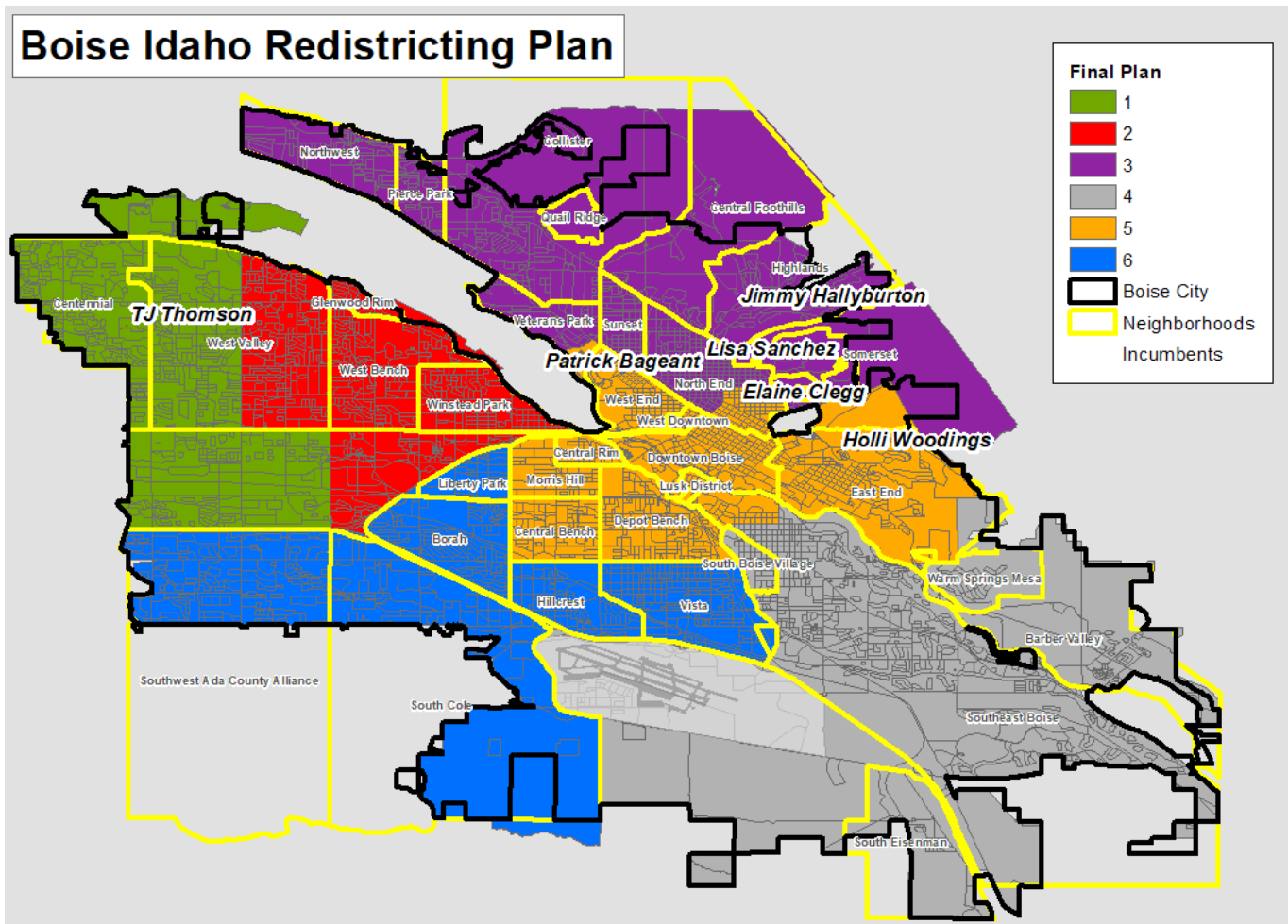
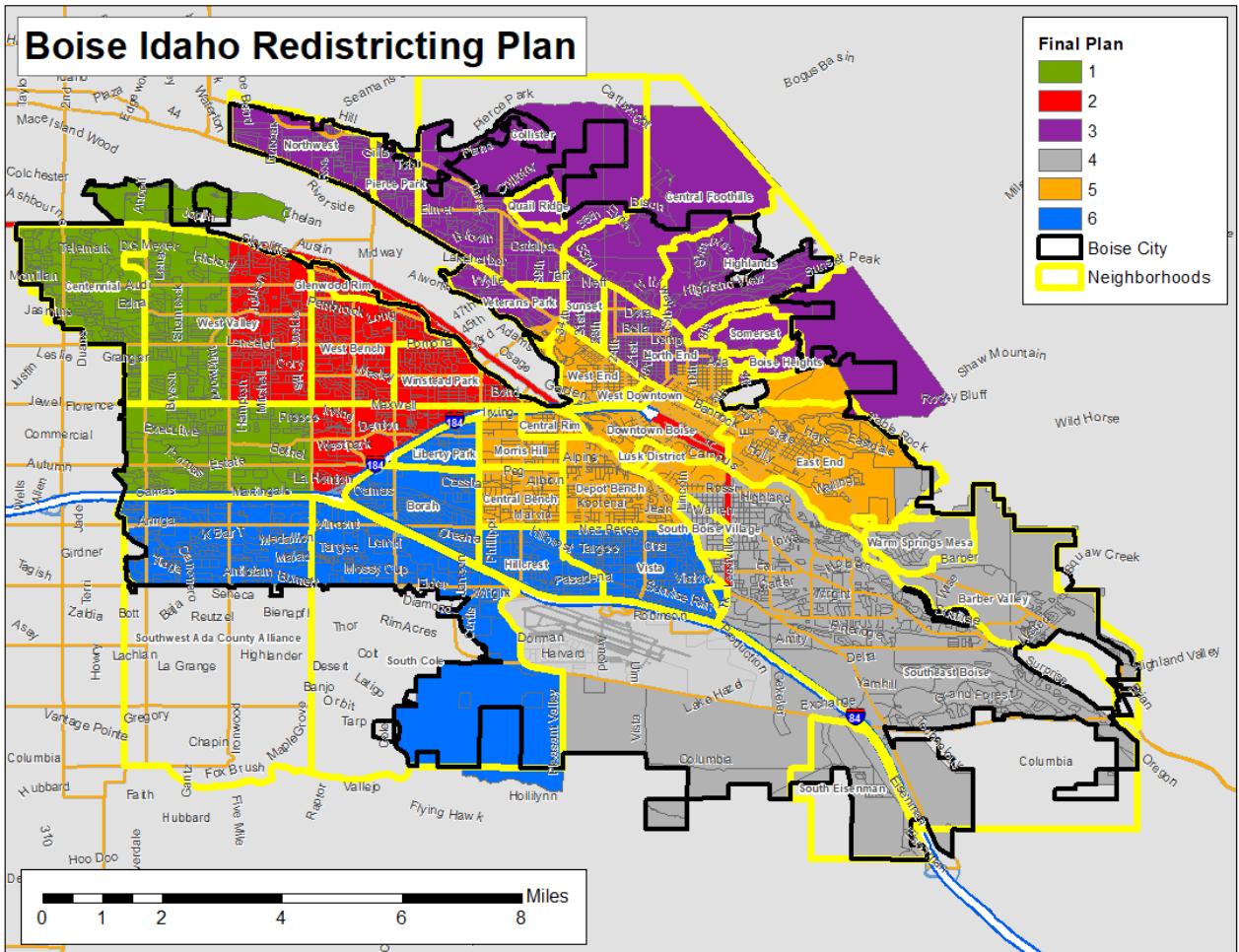


Figure 2. Recommended Districting Plan and Demographic Parameters



Demographic Parameters

KEY PARAMETERS OF PLAN		
District	2010 Total Pop. (2010 Census)	2015-19 Total Pop. (ACS-based)
1	34,875	39,811
2	35,105	36,968
3	33,965	35,380
4	34,693	39,123
5	34,917	38,697
6	35,269	37,626
Total	208,824	227,605

Guardrails		
	2010 Census	2015-19 ACS
95%	33,064	36,037
100%	34,804	37,934
105%	36,544	39,831

Figure 3. Variations in Population Density Across Election Districts

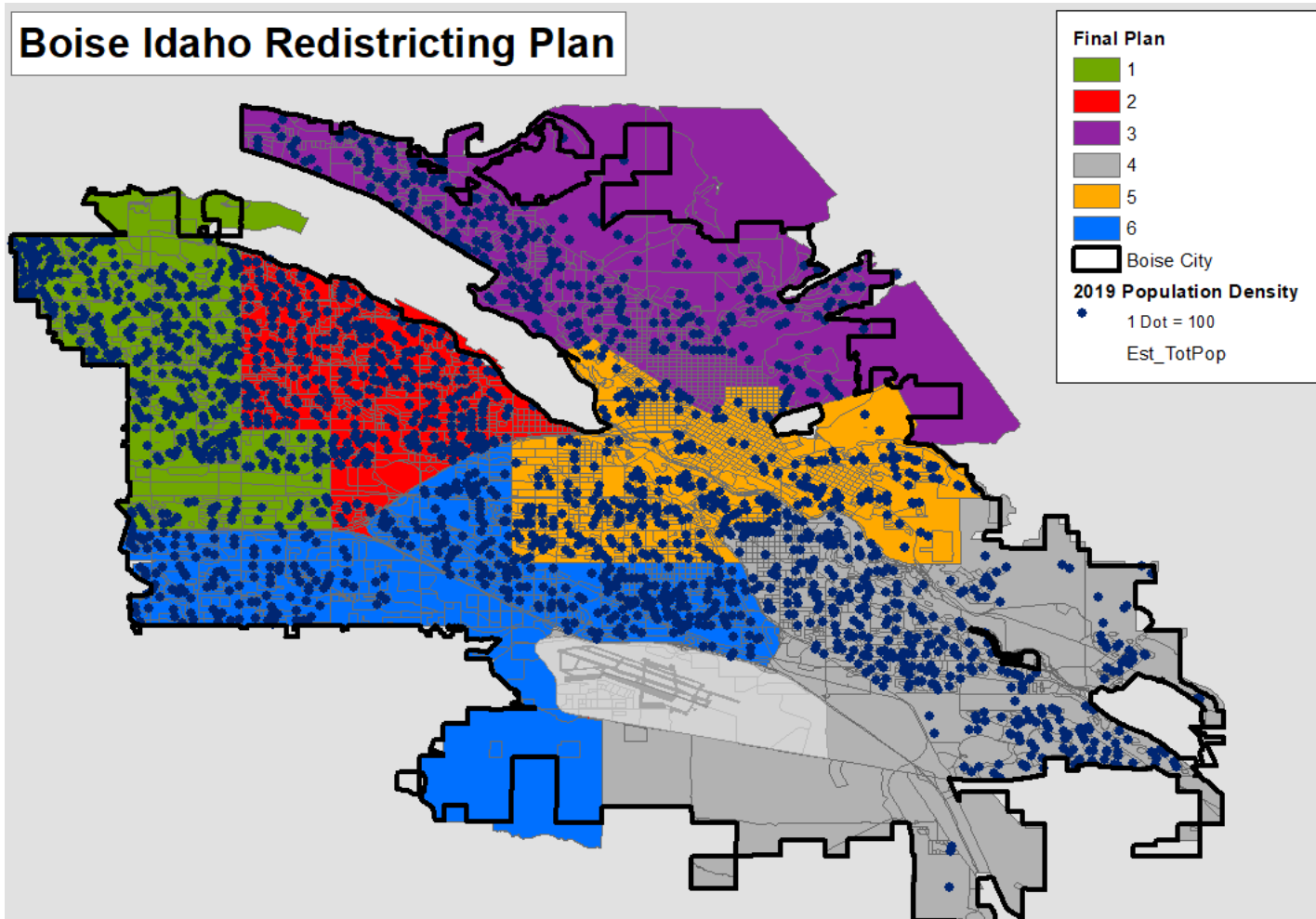


Figure 4. Districts 1 and 2

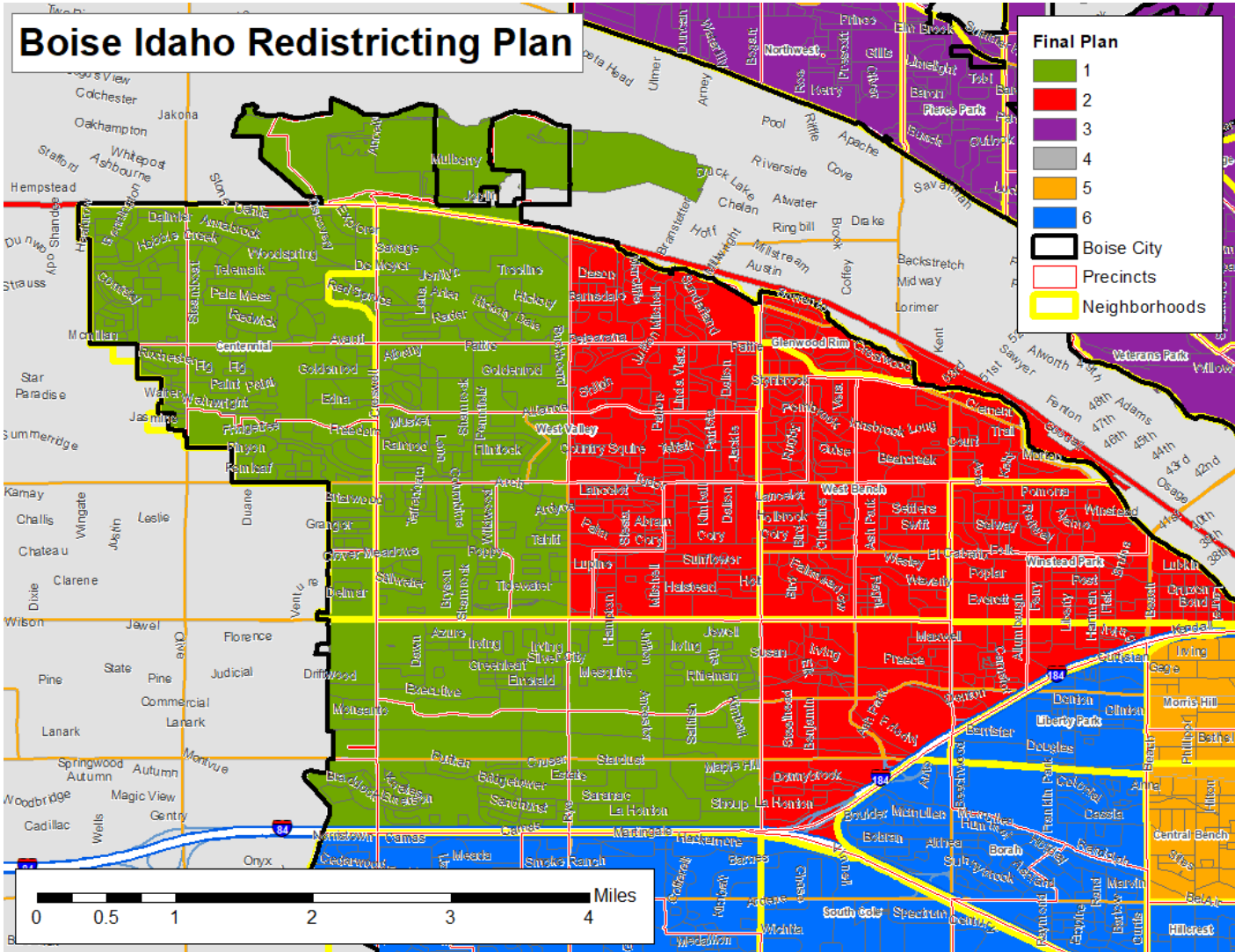


Figure 5. Districts 2, 3 and 5

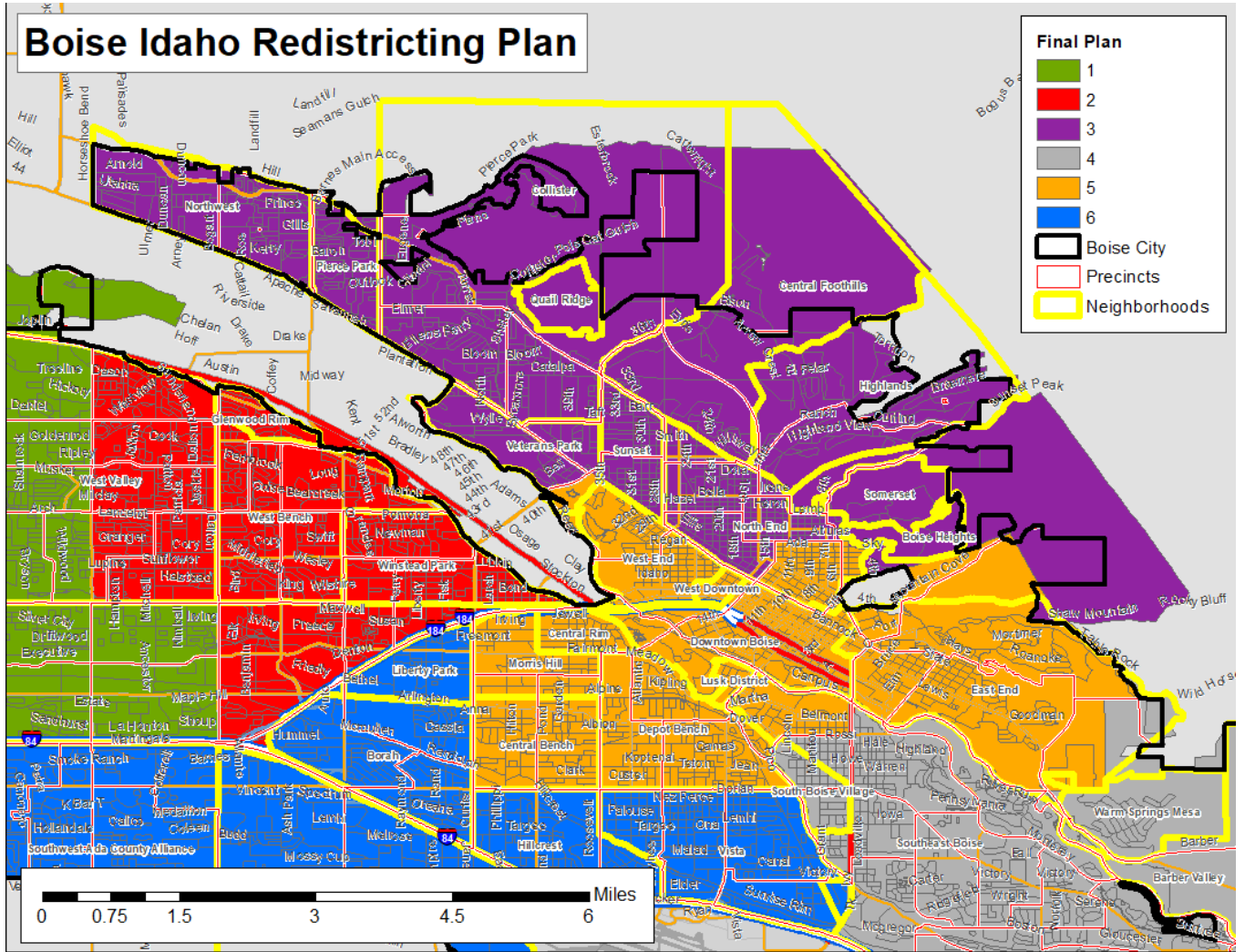


Figure 6. District 4

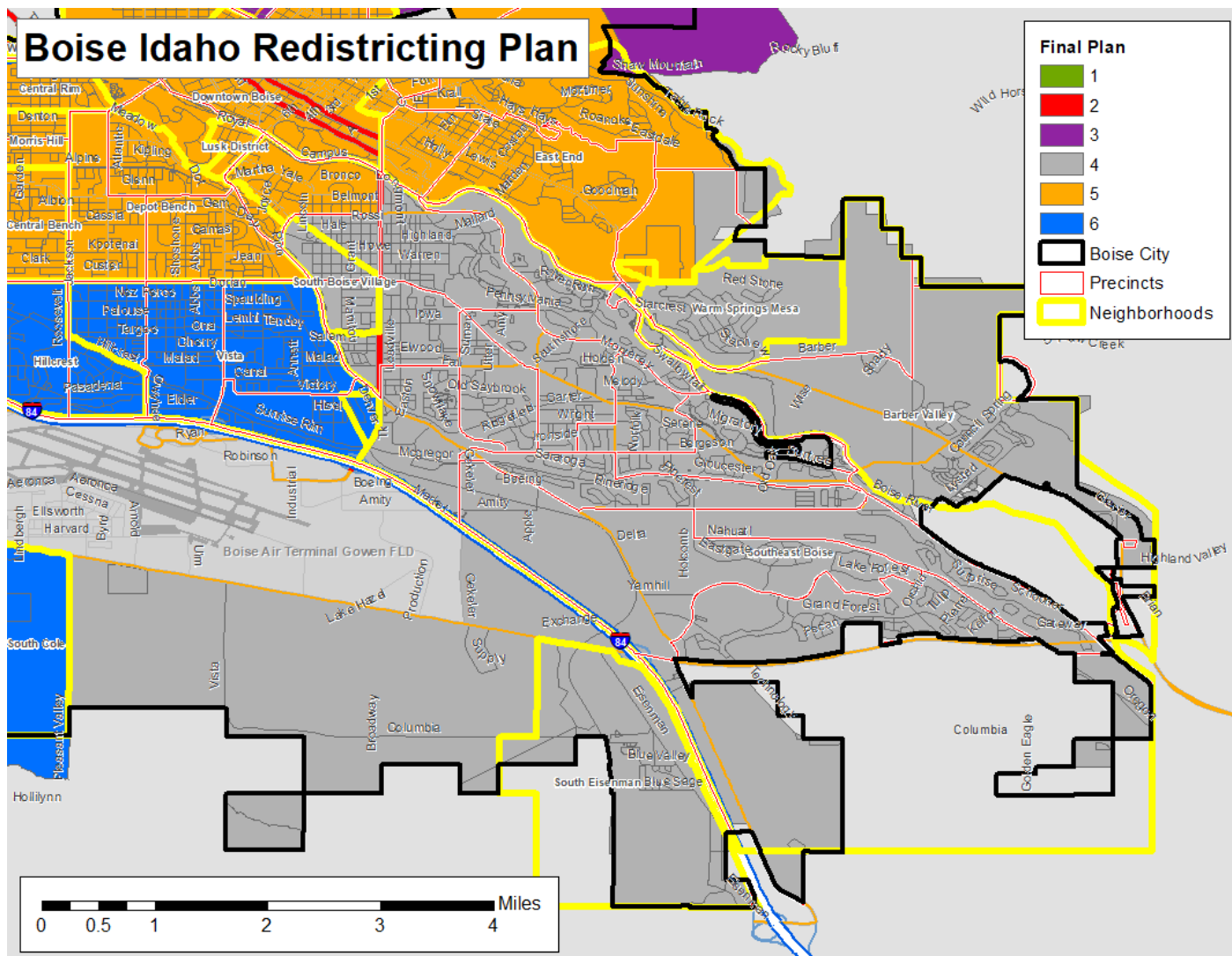


Figure 7. District 5

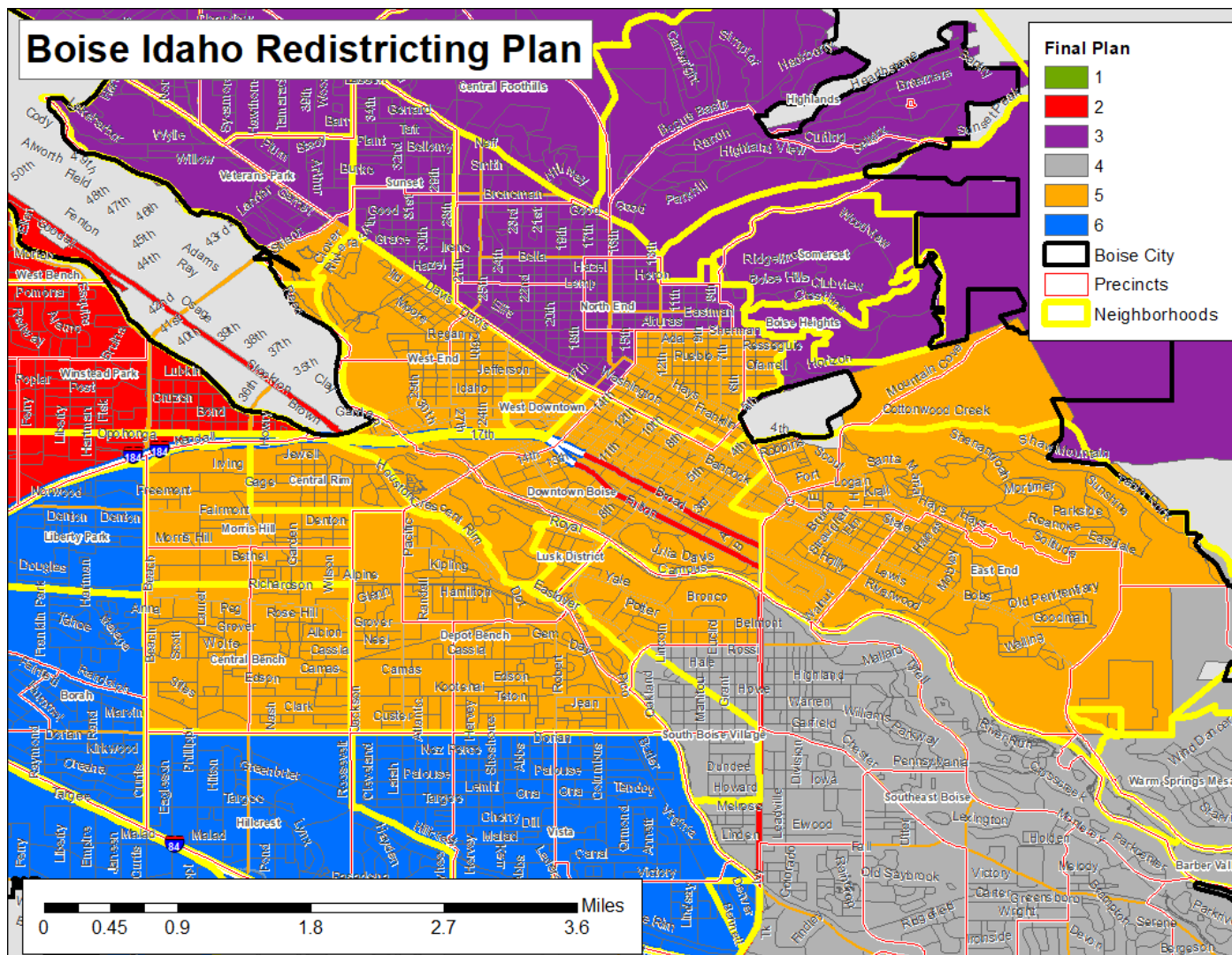


Figure 8. District 6

