

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

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# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Palmer 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: October 31, 2021

Name: Steve Colligan

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Steve Colligan stated that there are several ways to draw the maps. They are represented by 5.85 full house districts and 3 senate seats. If you don't want to split the Knik Bridge, you either have to go all the way up to Nenana, which causes concerns in the Fairbanks districts, or you have to up to Glennallen, but there is no reason to go up to Valdez as many people do not favor this.

Steve Colligan implored the board to take an active role so the future redistricting board and the state take a leadership role in local communities, looks at their growth, new subdivisions, and where new populations are within the old census blocks, as preliminary steps prior to the start of redistricting.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Randy Ruedrich**

Affiliation: AFFER

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

There were 27 districts that had changed as a result of the 2001 litigation. In searching through all of his files, Randy found the data for the 2002 map when it was compared between the 2000 and 2010 census. This was given to the board. It came out that the largest district in 2010 was overpopulated by 46% and the smallest district was underpopulated by 22%. Therefore, redistricting was in order for the 2002 map. Part of this data was about the deviations in the 2002 map. There have been several discussions on these deviations for Anchorage, which had 16 districts, 2 of which were not modified. The deviations in the 14 modified districts turned out to be 1/4 of a percent. The mean was 93% overpopulated with numbers - the highest being 1.11% overpopulated and the lowest being .88% underpopulated. The 14 districts were closely pulled together based off this data. When Randy found this data, he shared it. Fairbanks was pulled together to having an average deviation of .39%, much smaller than Anchorage's deviation. Therefore, it was most closely compliant and now is 13 times less compliant than it was in 2002. The Mat-Su Borough had too many people in the base map. In the post-litigation, plaintiffs negotiated to produce a proper map and the excess turned out to be 3.3%. The 2001 board accomplished excellent use of technology to bring deviations down and he encouraged the board to follow along with what the 2011 map did to bring the deviations down. Randy is in agreement overall with Senator Begich.



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**From:** Randy Ruedrich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 1:38 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Cc:** Steve Colligan 7  
**Subject:** Calista & Doyon Compromise in 2021 AFFER v.2.7.4.1

My Comments refer to [AFFER Map v2.7.4.1](#)

The Calista Region's total population in Bethel Census Area and the Kusilvak Census Area is 27,034.

This Calista Region 2020 Census population equals 1.474 Alaska State House Districts in the 2021 map and .737 Alaska Senate Districts.

The Calista Region's population has been in 2 or 3 districts in recent Alaska State House Maps (District 37, 38 and 39). Two house districts with the largest Calista Region population have been assigned to separate Senate Districts. The Calista senate representation has been diluted for decades. Their 2013 representation has been slightly over 50% in Senate District S and less than 18% in Senate District T.

In 2011, the Alaska Supreme Court in Riley found City of Fairbanks senate representation must not be split into two Senate Districts. Since the Calista Region does not have the legal status of a City, Calista may not reach for similar protection.

The only Calista Region anti-dilution option is to increase its District 37 population which adds directly to the Calista representation in Senate District S. The Southern Villages of the Lower Kuskokwin School District are assigned to the AFFER District 37 to make D 37 more compact.

The combined population of Lake & Peninsula Borough, Bristol Bay Borough, Aleutians East Borough, Aleutians West Census Area and Dillingham Census Area from 2010 Census to 2020 Census decreased 348 people. Therefore, Alaska's southwestern District must add external population. The 2013 District 37 included eight Doyon villages. More Doyon villages are a likely 2021 answer.

A specific request from Hooper Bay for inclusion in the Bethel District creates this series for positive results:

- 1) The villages of Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay and Chevak are moved from D 39 to D 38.
- 2) To reduce this excess population in D 38, the southwestern Calista villages of Kwigillingok, Kongiganak, Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay and Platinum are assigned to D 37. Additional Calista Kuskokwin River villages form the northern boundary of D 37.

These five Calista villages push Doyon Yukon River and Upper Kuskokwin River villages out of AFFER District 37. The addition of Calista Villages reduces the D 37 length by more than a hundred twenty miles from the 2013 Proclamation Map. The width of district increases by seventy-five miles. The resulting AFFER D 37 becomes more compact.

The compactness of AFFER D 38 is not measurably changed. The AFFER District 37 deviation is -1.08% and AFFER District 38 deviation is -0.35%.

This Calista Village reassignment ensure that NO Doyon villages are required in AFFER District 37 or District 38. Furthermore, the Kenai Borough breach for Coalition District 37 population disappears.

Since AFFER District 40 does not require any Doyon villages, the 2021 AFFER Map has all the Doyon Villages in AFFER District 5 and AFFER District 39.

Both Calista and Doyon have villages in AFFER District 39. The 2021 AFFER Map Is the best compromise available for the 2020 Census Data.

I fully support the AFFER District 5, AFFER District 37, AFFER District 38, AFFER District 39 and AFFER District 40 Maps.

Randy Ruedrich

Alaskans For Fair & Equitable Redistricting

**From:** Randy Ruedrich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 10:27 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Cc:** Steve Colligan 7 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** MatSu Borough Districts

These comments refer to [AFFER Map v2.7.4.1](#)

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough requests the adoption of the MSB AFFER map. The MSB want a map that works for both the State and the MSB. The MSB has no partisan mapping issues.

MatSu Borough requests six house districts with full representation and three senate districts as shown in the AFFER v2.7.4.1. The MatSu Borough, Wasilla, Palmer and South Knik River community have testified in support of six house districts and three senate districts for the MatSu Borough, the Denali Borough, the Glennallen Precinct, and adjacent Richardson Hwy populations but not including Valdez.

MatSu Borough requests AFFER v2.7.4.1 District 11 for City of Houston, AFFER v2.7.4.1 District 13 for City of Wasilla and AFFER v2.7.4.1 District 15 for City of Palmer.

The Mayor of Wasilla, Glenda Ledford testified in support of a map that includes the greater Wasilla area with historical access that center around Wasilla's Main Street turning into Wasilla Fishhook to the North and KGB to the south. Wasilla's western boundary Church Road is the North – South divider between Tanaina north of Wasilla and the Meadow Lakes. The attached 2002 District 14 map incorporated these factors. The AFFER plan v2.7.4.1 maintains this historical layout. While other 2021 Wasilla maps may appear compact and contiguous, travel within those districts requires driving across an adjacent district to reach another part of Wasilla district. Wasilla east to west lies along the Parks Hwy through the business district to Wasilla's airport and its industrial district.

The South Knik River Community Council has testified that it supports the communities on the east side of the Matanuska River: Knik River, Butte, Lazy Mountain to Sutton and the North being in a district.

Palmer residents and community leaders have voiced strong opposition to splitting the city of Palmer or the "Greater Palmer Area." Palmer and its connected community councils view their utility district going out past its city boundaries to the west to Trunk Rd, and to the South to the MatSu Regional Hospital as major assets of the "Greater Palmer Area." The AFFER 2.4.7.1 map incorporates all the above community goals.

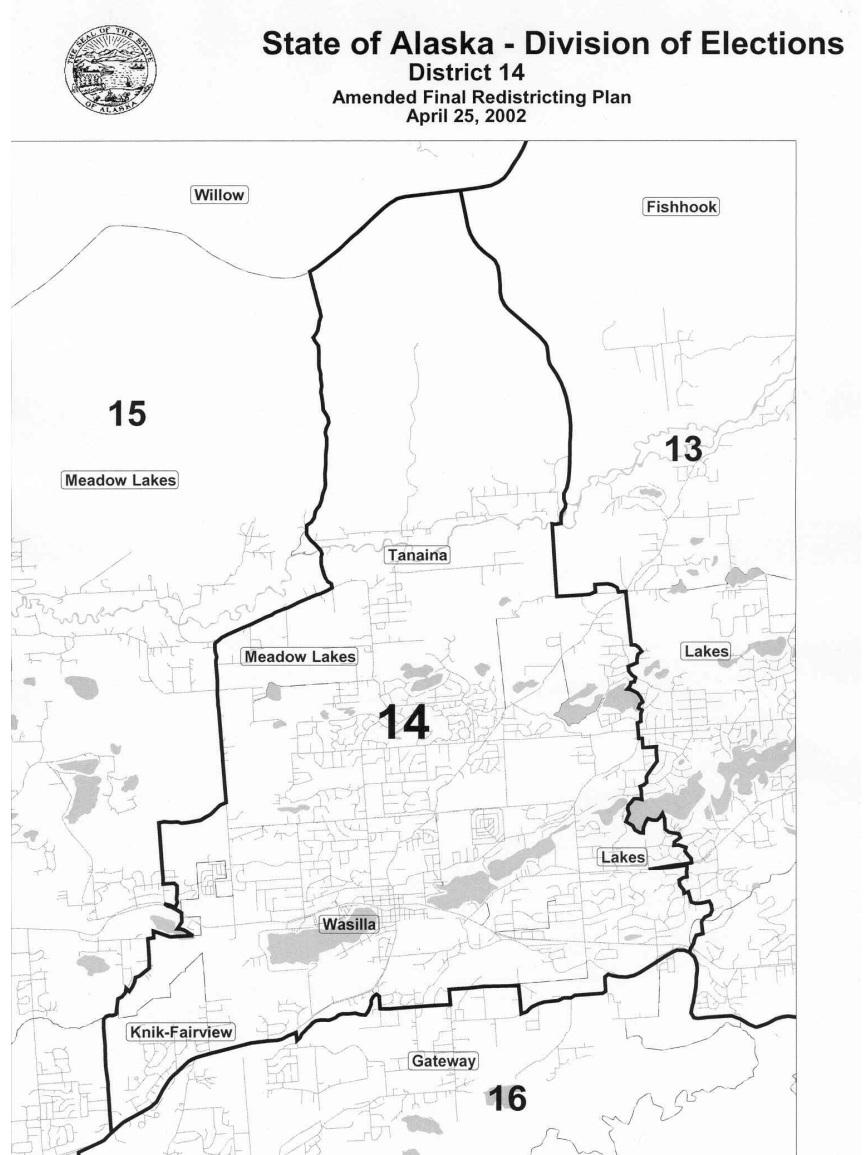
MatSu Borough requests the addition of the Denali Borough to AFFER v2.7.4.1 District 11. The Denali Borough provides required additional population the MSB needs for six house seats.

MatSu Borough requests AFFER v2.7.4.1 District 12 for the rapidly growing Big Lake and KGB areas. The Little Susitna River is the western District 12 boundary. Cottonwood Creek is the eastern District 12 boundary.

MatSu Borough requests AFFER v2.7.4.1 District 14 as the fourth MSB core area district separating City of Wasilla from City of Palmer.

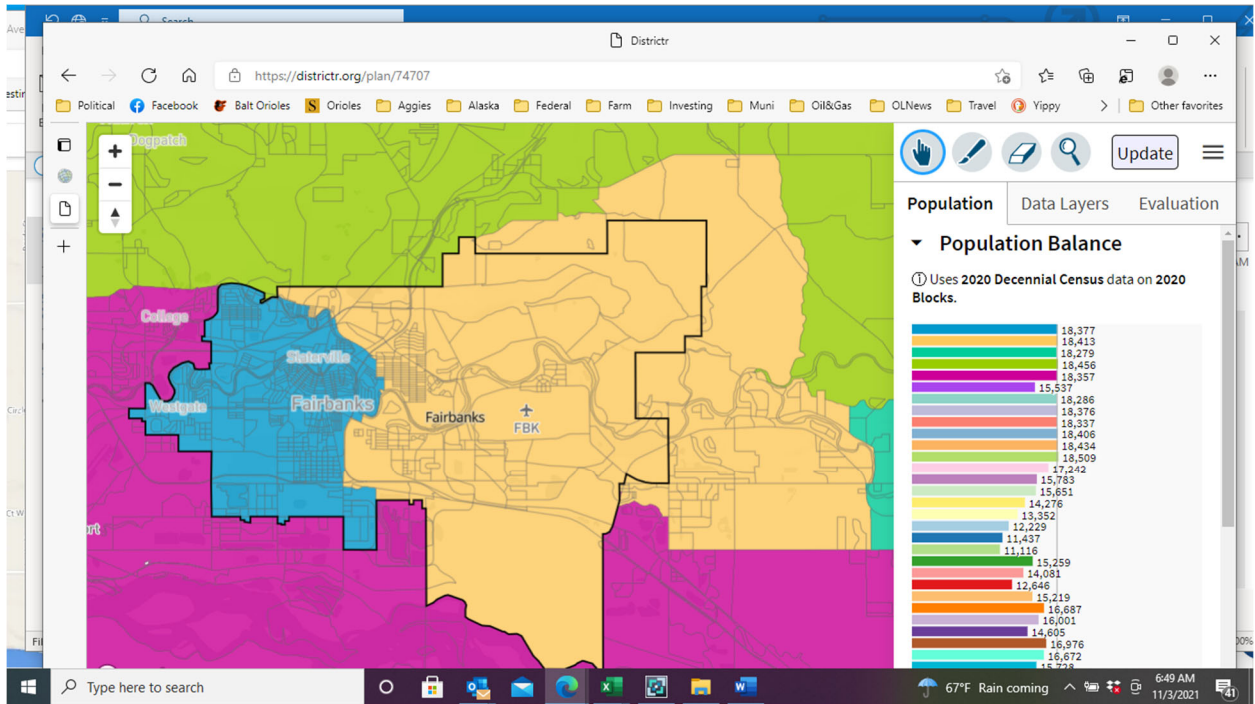
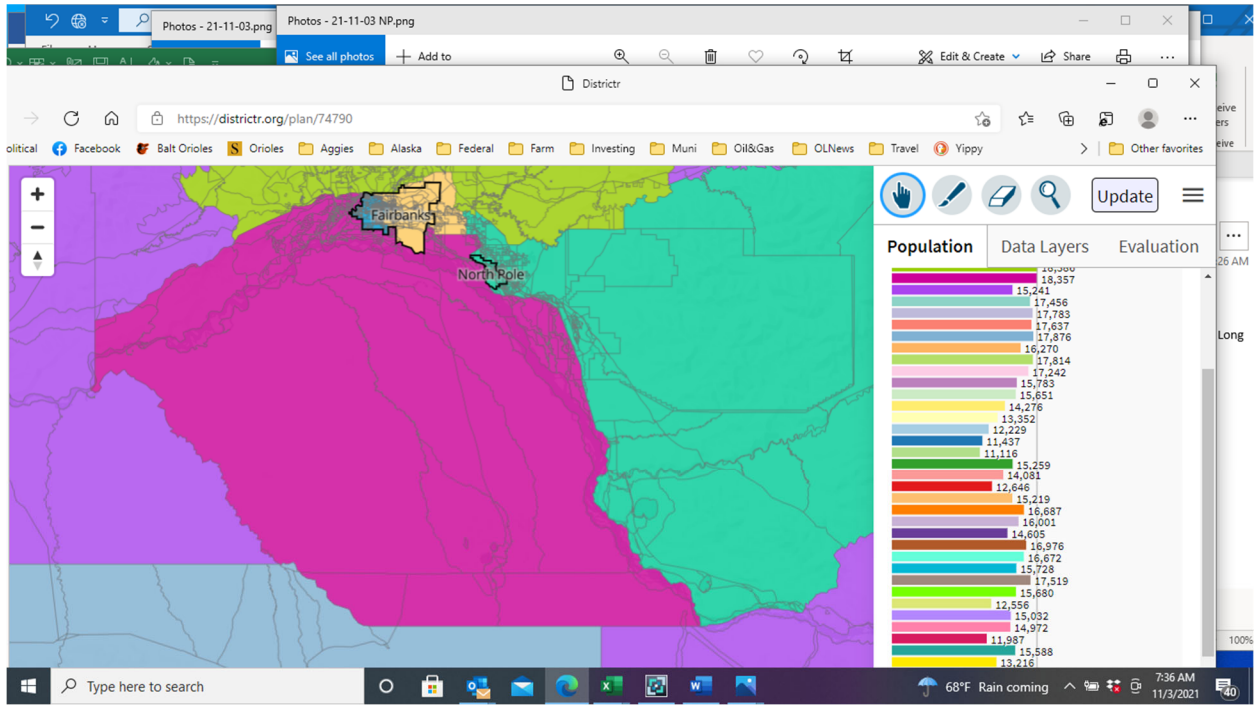
MatSu Borough requests AFFER v2.7.4.1 District 16 for the eastern MSB, Glennallen and its neighboring communities for the sixth MSB district. The Glennallen community is socio-economically integrated with the MSB core area via the Glenn Hwy.

MatSu Borough rejects the use of any MSB population in Coalition Map Districts diluting the MSB's political strength.



Alaskans For Fair & Equitable Redistricting  
Steven Colligan & Randy Ruedrich





# Final Recommendations to Alaska Redistricting Board



Submitted November 2, 2021 by

## **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting** **Joelle Hall, Chair**

**Contact:** Robin O'Donoghue - AFFR Coordinator

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**Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

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## Alaskans for Fair Redistricting

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## Executive Summary

Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) has been an active and attentive participant in the 2021 redistricting process. In addition to putting forward our own constitutional redistricting plan, we have attended the open house meetings across the state to listen to public comment and closely monitored the process carried out by the board. Compiled in this report you will find a summary of the constitutional issues we've identified in the six plans put forward by the Redistricting Board and 3rd party organizations, key items of public testimony, and our final recommendations as the board enters the Voting Rights Act review and final mapping phase of the process.

When viewed from any angle, whether constitutionality, Voting Right Act review, or public support, AFFR clearly meets each criteria and most closely fits the vision of Alaskans. As a broad, non-partisan coalition, we believe that we best represent the widest range of communities and will provide the most fair and equal representation for the next decade.

Sincerely,



Joelle Hall  
Alaskans For Fair Redistricting, Chair

## **Public Testimony Trends Summary**

### **Methodology**

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### **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

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AFFR staff and coalition members reviewed 1,379 public comments available online as of November 1st to quantify support and opposition to various maps. Many members of the public expressed support and opposition for multiple maps, and some did not specify support for any specific map but rather expressed redistricting preferences for their region. Given this, staff and coalition members tried to note where general opposition (e.g. Nikiski added to Anchorage) existed on specific maps (e.g. AFFER's map). In addition, some comments were more general in nature, which we added to 'state-wide' support. With each comment, we marked all support and opposition for all relevant maps, but only marked a proposed map once. For example, testimony in support of AFFR referring to both our Valdez and Southeast areas was only marked once in support of AFFR.

There were several letters from Tribal Councils and Villages in the Interior supporting the Doyon coalition maps--those we marked as statewide rather than Interior support, as the comments made extended beyond just the Interior.

For ease of reference, we have bolded the numbers and percentages for each region to compare which map received the highest supporting and oppositional testimonies.

### **Support**

Overall the AFFR plan received the most supportive public testimony statewide and about 57% support of all total supportive comments. Regionally, the AFFR plan received the highest amount of support from Kenai/Kodiak, Anchorage, Fairbanks, the Interior (including Valdez), as well as general support. AFFR also tied for the most support with other proposed maps in the Mat-su and Northwest Arctic & Arctic Slope boroughs. AFFR received the second highest level of support in the Southeast.

### **Opposition**

Overall, V.3 received the most opposition from public testimony statewide. Regionally, V.3 was also the most opposed in testimony from Southeast, Kenai/Kodiak, and Fairbanks. Generally, V.4 and AFFER's maps received the second highest opposition with the exception of the Mat-Su and Western Alaska & the Aleutians.

Doyon received the most opposition from the Mat-Su as well as Delta Junction.

AFFER received the most opposition from Anchorage and unanimous opposition from the Northwest Arctic Borough and the North Slope Borough.

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## **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

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	AFFR	v3	v4	Doyon	AFFER	Senate Minority
<b>State-wide</b>						
Support	59	22	21	31	13	32
% Support	33.15%	12.36%	11.80%	17.42%	7.30%	17.98%
Oppose	2	35	21	3	21	4
% Oppose	2.33%	40.70%	24.42%	3.49%	24.42%	4.65%
<b>Southeast</b>						
Support	40	13	7	25	3	43
% Support	30.53%	9.92%	5.34%	19.08%	2.29%	32.82%
Oppose	2	38	27	1	21	2
% Oppose	2.20%	41.76%	29.67%	1.10%	23.08%	2.20%
<b>Kenai/Kodiak</b>						
Support	40	7	14	12	16	11
% Support	40.00%	7.00%	14.00%	12.00%	16.00%	11.00%
Oppose	3	59	58	4	27	3
% Oppose	1.95%	38.31%	37.66%	2.60%	17.53%	1.95%
<b>Anchorage</b>						
Support	34	2	9	0	18	3
% Support	51.52%	3.03%	13.64%	0.00%	27.27%	4.55%
Oppose	1	7	4	1	14	1
% Oppose	3.57%	25.00%	14.29%	3.57%	50.00%	3.57%
<b>Mat-Su</b>						
Support	4	4	0	0	4	1
% Support	30.77%	30.77%	0.00%	0.00%	30.77%	7.69%
Oppose	1	1	3	14	0	1
% Oppose	5.00%	5.00%	15.00%	70.00%	0.00%	5.00%
<b>Fairbanks</b>						
Support	38	2	28	11	8	8
% Support	40.00%	2.11%	29.47%	11.58%	8.42%	8.42%
Oppose	2	53	3	2	5	4
% Oppose	2.90%	76.81%	4.35%	2.90%	7.25%	5.80%
<b>Interior Alaska</b>						
Support	14	9	3	5	3	3
% Support	37.84%	24.32%	8.11%	13.51%	8.11%	8.11%
Oppose	0	0	4	4	0	0
% Oppose	0.00%	0.00%	50.00%	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%
<b>North Slope</b>						
Support	1	1	1	1	0	1
% Support	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	0.00%	20.00%
Oppose	0	0	0	0	10	0
% Oppose	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%
<b>Western Alaska &amp; Aleutians</b>						
Support	3	6	8	0	3	0
% Support	15.00%	30.00%	40.00%	0.00%	15.00%	0.00%
Oppose	2	0	0	1	0	1
% Oppose	50.00%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	25.00%
<b>TOTAL</b>						
Support	233	66	91	85	68	102
% Support	36.12%	10.23%	14.11%	13.18%	10.54%	15.81%
Oppose	13	193	120	30	98	16
% Oppose	2.77%	41.06%	25.53%	6.38%	20.85%	3.40%

## Alaskans for Fair Redistricting

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## Borough Boundary Breakages

The Alaska Supreme Court has recognized that Borough Boundaries are part of the constitutional requirement of socio-economic integration. This is evident in legal precedents that have given great weight to respecting Borough boundaries such as *Hickel v. Southeast Conference (1993)* where the Alaska Court found that “where possible, all of a municipality’s excess population should go to **one other district** in order to maximize effective representation of the excess group.” The AFFR plan does the best job of respecting Borough boundaries while following other constitutional criteria. Under the AFFR plan, the only Borough boundary broken more than once is the Kenai Peninsula Borough, which has unique geography and socio-economic regions that make it impossible to create a constitutional map without breaking the borough twice.

### Borough Boundary Breaks

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Version 3</b>	<b>Version 4</b>	<b>AFFR</b>	<b>Doyon</b>	<b>AFFER</b>	<b>Senate Minority</b>
Anchorage	1 break	1 break	1 break	2 breaks	1 break	1 break
Mat-Su	1 break	2 breaks	1 break	3 breaks	2 breaks	1 break
Fairbanks Borough	No break	1 break	1 break	1 break	1 break	1 break
Kenai Peninsula	2 breaks	2 breaks	2 breaks	3 breaks	2 breaks	2 break
Kodiak Island	1 break	No break	No break	No break	No breaks	No break
Ketchikan Gateway	No break	No break	No break	No break	1 break	No break
Juneau	1 break	1 break	1 break	1 break	1 break	1 break
<b>Total</b>	<b>6*</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>

*\*Note: the only reason why Board V.3 has only 6 borough breaks is due to the unconstitutional treatment of the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the overpopulation issue in all five Fairbanks districts. The strict adherence to this rule in only one Borough when Boroughs in the rest of the plan are each broken is questionable.\**

It is worth drawing attention to the treatment of the City of Fairbanks Boundary, given court precedent that has ruled the city must be kept in two House Districts and one Senate District. The AFFR plan adheres to this precedent while also managing to respect the City of Northpole’s distinct identity. Board Map V.3 notably breaks the City of Fairbanks twice and is the only map to break the North Pole City Boundary.

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### **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

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<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Version 3</b>	<b>Version 4</b>	<b>AFFR</b>	<b>Doyon</b>	<b>AFFER</b>	<b>Senate Minority</b>
Fairbanks City	2 breaks	1 break	1 break	4 breaks	2 breaks	2 breaks
North Pole City	1 break	No break	No break	No break	No break	No break

*City Breaks - Fairbanks Northstar Borough*

## **VRA Compliance**

While AFFR followed the Hickel process which required AFFR to create a map focussing only on constitutional criteria, and we are following the Board’s direction not to provide racial data on districts in our plan, we wanted to highlight several issues the Board should consider when it moves into evaluating its map for compliance with the Voting Rights Act (VRA).

### **Alaska Native Majority Districts**

AFFR believes that an analysis of population demographics and voting behavior will show that the VRA requires the creation of 4 majority Alaska Native districts in Arctic and Western Alaska.

### **Minority Coalition Districts**

Because of the growing diversity in urban Alaska, especially in the Anchorage Bowl where there are 16 contiguous census tracts with a total population of 66,594 where the majority of people identify as a member of a minority racial group, AFFR commissioned well-respected local attorney Susan Orlansky to research whether the VRA requires the creation on minority coalition districts where multiple minority groups form a majority. AFFR has previously submitted a memo Ms. Orlansky prepared summarizing her research. While there is a divide among circuit courts about this issue, AFFR believes the Board should take the position that the VRA recognizes minority coalitions. If there is any state in which minority coalitions should be considered under the VRA, it is Alaska where unlike other states our diversity presents itself in urban areas primarily through diverse neighborhoods with residents from multiple ethnic and linguistic groups.

### **Avoiding Packing Rural Alaska Native Voters into Road System Districts**

Due to the distinct socio-economic character of rural Alaskan communities, and the VRA’s requirement to prevent the voting power of minority groups from being diluted through redistricting, the Board should take care to minimize the number of Alaska Native communities included in districts that are likely to be controlled by non-Native road system communities. Interior Alaska and the Kenai Peninsula Borough are two regions where the population geography puts Alaska Native communities at risk of being placed into districts where they would not have the ability to meaningfully influence the outcome of their elections. While the population mathematics makes it impossible to completely keep rural communities out of road system

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### **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

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controlled communities, during both the constitutional and VRA portions of the mapping process the Board should work to minimize this as much as possible

## **Constitutional Issues on Proposed Plans** **Organized by Region**

### **Southeast**

#### **Board Version 3**

District 1 has a deviation of 627 people (3.42%) below the ideal district size which is an unconstitutionally large deviation given that AFFR has demonstrated that it is possible to draw a compact, contiguous, and socio-economically integrated Southeast map with a significantly lower deviation. The smallest Southeast district in the AFFR map has a deviation of only 389 people (2.12%) below the ideal population.

District 2 includes the Petersburg Borough in a district where the largest population center is Sitka. As discussed elsewhere in this report, there is relatively little socio-economic integration between Petersburg and Sitka and Petersburg has strong socio-economic integration with Juneau.

District 4 puts the Haines Borough, Municipality of Skagway, City of Klukwan, and City of Gustavus in a district with the Auke Bay and Mendenhall Valley communities within the City and Borough of Juneau. While AFFR asserts that these communities are more socio-economically integrated with the other smaller coastal communities than with Juneau, if the board believes they belong in a Juneau district the Downtown/ Douglas Island district would be a more appropriate fit. Most of the testimony suggesting socio-economic integration between these communities has focused on their shared status as cruise ship ports. All of the cruise ship infrastructure is located within Downtown Juneau, so if there is socio-economic integration between these communities it is with Downtown and not the Mendenhall Valley.

#### **Board Version 4**

District 1 is identical to its counterpart in Version 3 and thus has the same unconstitutionally large deviation.

As with other maps, District 2 includes the Petersburg Borough in a district which has Sitka as the main population center. For the reasons discussed elsewhere, this district is not socio-economically integrated.

District 3 is not compact as it includes the communities of Auke Bay and Tee Harbor in a district with Downtown Juneau and Douglas Island. People who live in the Auke Bay/ Tee Harbor appendage would have to drive across District 4 to reach the population center of their district.

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### **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

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## **AFFER**

The Ketchikan Gateway Borough is unconstitutionally split between Districts 1 and 2. During their presentation to the board, AFFER admitted that Saxman was removed from a district with the City of Ketchikan because of its large Alaska Native population. Because communities within the KGB, and those like Hyder and Metlakatla that have strong ties to Ketchikan, are placed in a district that stretches up to Yakutat, District 2 is neither compact nor socio-economically integrated. Furthermore, the racial motivations for drawing these districts likely violate the state and federal constitutions.

Similarly to Board Version 3, District 4 puts communities outside the City and Borough of Juneau into a district with the Mendenhall Valley. This is problematic for the same reasons discussed above.

Admiralty Island is divided into 3 separate districts. With the portion within the City and Borough of Juneau included in District 3, Angoon included in District 2, and the northwest of the island included in District 4. This is likely unconstitutional, as other maps have shown it is practicable to include all of Admiralty Island outside of the CBJ in a single district.

## **Doyon Coalition**

While it has a smaller deviation than its counterpart in Board Options 3 and 4, District 1 has an unconstitutionally large deviation of 594 people (3.24%) below the ideal district population.

The Petersburg Borough is unconstitutionally split between Districts 1 and 2. The portions of the borough on Mitkof Island, which includes the community of Petersburg and City of Kupreanof are included in District 2 while the portion on the mainland is included in District 1. This appendage from District 1 places 35 Petersburg Borough residents in a separate district from the rest of their borough. Thus District 1 is not compact and Districts 1 and 2 are not socio-economically integrated.

## **Senate Minority**

As with other maps, District 35 includes the Petersburg Borough in a district which has Sitka as the main population center. For the reasons discussed elsewhere, this district is not socio-economically integrated.

## **Gulf Coast/ Kenai Peninsula**

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### **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

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### **Board Version 3**

The deviation range within the three districts entirely within the Kenai Peninsula Borough is likely unconstitutional. The range between the smallest KPB district and the largest is 129 people (0.7%), while AFFR has demonstrated it is practicable to draw compact, contiguous, and socio-economically integrated districts within the KPB with a 71 person (0.38%) deviation range.

District 5 is neither compact nor socio-economically integrated because it includes an appendage placing the Fritz Creek and Fox River areas in the Homer area into a district with the Kodiak Island Borough, Cordova, and other Gulf Coast communities. Voluminous public testimony has clearly established that there is no socio-economic integration between these areas. The justification given on the record for socio-economic integration between the East End Road communities and Kodiak Island is factually inaccurate. While it was stated that the Russian Orthodox Old Believer villages in the Fox River area are historically tied to Kodiak Island through the Russian colonial period, this is not correct and the Old Believers did not settle in Alaska until 1966 and have no historical connection to the original Russian colonists. Placing Fox River in a district with Kodiak separates the Old Believer villages of Kachemak Selo, Razdolna, and Voznecenka from Nikolaevsk which was the first Old Believer village. Further, this appendage includes the Fritz Creek community which is not an Old Believer community, so even if the Fox River villages were socio-economically integrated with Kodiak, there is no justification for including Fritz Creek.

In addition to the Fritz Creek/ Fox River appendage, District 5 also includes the Kachemak Bay communities of Seldovia and Halibut Cove, separating them from Homer. Homer is the hub community for Kachemak Bay and there are strong socio-economic ties between the communities of Kachemak Bay. AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to keep the entire Kachemak Bay area in a single district.

District 6 is not socio-economically integrated because it includes Kasilof and Kalifornsky, which are suburbs of Soldotna, as well as other communities along the south Sterling Highway in a district with Homer. Soldotna is the main commercial and economic hub for these communities. AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to include these communities in a district with the City of Soldotna.

District 8 is not compact or socio-economically integrated because it includes two distinct socio-economic regions into a single district. The Kenai Spur Highway communities have economies driven by the oil and gas which does not exist in the Seward area at all, while Seward's economy is centered on fishing and tourism on Resurrection Bay. The City of Kenai is the main commercial hub for the Kenai Spur Highway residents who would have to drive through Kenai to get to the rest of the district. Public testimony was clear that Seward residents felt strong ties to the Homer area because of a shared marine culture but no connection to Nikiski, while Nikiski residents expressed strong connections to the City of Kenai. AFFR has demonstrated it is practicable to include Seward in a district with Homer and Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Spur Highway communities in a district with Kenai.

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### **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

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The Kodiak Island Borough is divided into two districts, with the island portions in District 5 and the mainland portion in District 37.

While the board has not designated Senate pairings for this map, there is no possible way to pair the districts that does not create an absurd scenario where either Kasilof is in a separate Senate district from Soldotna or Nikiski is in a separate district from Kenai. AFFR's plan puts Kenai, Soldotna, and their surrounding communities all within a single Senate district.

#### **Board Version 4**

Version 4 is nearly identical to Version 3 in this region and therefore all the issues discussed above apply, except that Version 4 does not divide the Kodiak Island Borough.

#### **AFFER**

The deviation range within the three districts entirely within the Kenai Peninsula Borough is likely unconstitutional. The range between the smallest KPB district and the largest is 135 people (0.74%), while AFFR has demonstrated it is practicable to draw compact, contiguous, and socio-economically integrated districts within the KPB with a 71 person (0.38%) deviation range.

Districts 35 and 36 are not socio-economically integrated, because the community of Seldovia is divided between Districts 35 and 36 with the City of Seldovia placed in District 36 and the Seldovia Village Census Designated Place put in District 35. Despite being outside the city limits, Seldovia Village is an integral part of the Seldovia community and is connected by road to Seldovia and no other part of Alaska. AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to include the entire Kachemak Bay region, including all of Seldovia, in a single district.

District 35 is not compact because it includes an appendage to the northwest of Tustumena Lake that adds the Soldotna suburbs of Kasilof and Kalifornsky to a district with the Homer area. AFFR has demonstrated it is practicable to include Kasilof, Kalifornsky, and other communities along the south Sterling Highway in a district with the City of Soldotna.

As with similar districts in the Board Versions, District 33 is not compact or socio-economically integrated because it includes portions of two distinct socio-economic regions into a single district. The Kenai Spur Highway communities have economies driven by the oil and gas which does not exist in the Seward area at all, while Seward's economy is centered on fishing and tourism on Resurrection Bay. AFFER goes even further in dividing the Kenai Spur Highway communities by separating Salamatof from Nikiski. The City of Kenai is the main commercial hub for the Kenai Spur Highway residents who would have to drive through Kenai to get to the rest of the district. AFFR has demonstrated it is practicable to include Seward in a district with Homer and Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Spur Highway communities in a district with Kenai.

District 32 is not compact or socio-economically integrated because it includes Nikiski in a district with South Anchorage and the Turnagain Arm communities of the Municipality of Anchorage. While AFFER has submitted an updated version of this district after the AFFER plan was adopted

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for public comment, it still includes Nikiski in a South Anchorage district. While the population math necessitates placing portions of the Kenai Peninsula Borough in a district with parts of the Municipality of Anchorage, this district must still be socio-economically integrated. While AFFR stated that South Anchorage and Nikiski are socio-economically integrated because they both have a heavy oil and gas industry presence, this is not accurate as there is no oil and gas industry presence in the MOA portion of this district. While an argument could perhaps be made that Nikiski would be socio-economically integrated with Downtown or Midtown Anchorage, where most of Anchorage's oil and gas industry presence is located, no such argument can be made for South Anchorage, Girdwood, or Indian. AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to form a socio-economically integrated district that includes portions of South Anchorage, the Turnagain Arm region, and a portion of the north Kenai Peninsula that is socio-economically integrated with these communities without including Nikiski in the district.

District 36 is not socio-economically integrated because it includes the City of Valdez in a district with the Kodiak Island Borough and other Gulf Coast communities. Valdez is very socio-economically distinct from the rest of the district, as it is on the road system and its economy is focused on shipping from the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and the Richardson Highway. With the exception of Whittier, the rest of the district is completely off the road system and except for Valdez commercial fishing is the main industry throughout the district. AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to include Valdez in a socio-economically integrated district with communities along the Richardson Highway and Interior communities that are socio-economically linked to this corridor. Further, AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to create a socio-economically integrated Gulf Coast district that does not include Valdez.

The problems with how the House districts are drawn result in absurd Senate districts on the Kenai Peninsula, where the Soldotna suburbs of Kasilof and Kalifornsky are in a different Senate district from Soldotna and Nikiski is placed in a different Senate district from Kenai.

### **Doyon Coalition**

This plan is unconstitutional within this region, because it breaks the Kenai Peninsula Borough boundary three times and only has two districts completely within the KPB boundaries. AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to break the borough boundary only twice and to create three districts entirely within the KPB.

### **Senate Minority**

District 29 is not compact or socio-economically integrated because it includes two distinct socio-economic regions into a single district. The Kenai Spur Highway communities have economies driven by the oil and gas which does not exist in the Seward area at all, while Seward's economy is centered on fishing and tourism on Resurrection Bay. The City of Kenai is the main commercial hub for the Kenai Spur Highway residents who would have to drive through Kenai to get to the rest of the district. Public testimony was clear that Seward residents felt strong ties to the Homer area because of a shared marine culture but no connection to Nikiski, while Nikiski residents expressed strong connections to the City of Kenai. AFFR has demonstrated it is practicable to

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include Seward in a district with Homer and Kachemak Bay and the Kenai Spur Highway communities in a district with Kenai.

District 32 is not socio-economically integrated because it includes the City of Valdez in a district with the Kodiak Island Borough and other Gulf Coast communities. Valdez is very socio-economically distinct from the rest of the district, as it is on the road system and its economy is focused on shipping from the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System and the Richardson Highway. With the exception of Whittier, the rest of the district is completely off the road system and except for Valdez commercial fishing is the main industry throughout the district. AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to include Valdez in a socio-economically integrated district with communities along the Richardson Highway and Interior communities that are socio-economically linked to this corridor. Further, AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to create a socio-economically integrated Gulf Coast district that does not include Valdez.

District 31 is not compact because it includes an appendage to the north of Tustumena Lake that adds Kasilof and other Soldotna suburbs to a district within the Homer area. AFFR has demonstrated it is practicable to include Kasilof and other communities along the south Sterling Highway in a district with the City of Soldotna.

The community of Seldovia is placed into a separate district from the rest of Kachemak Bay. AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to put the entire Kachemak Bay region into one district.

Because of the issues with the House districts on the Kenai Peninsula, Kasilof and other Soldotna suburbs would be placed in a different Senate district for the City of Soldotna. AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to place these communities within a single district.

# Municipality of Anchorage

## **Board Version 3**

The 16 MOA districts are unconstitutionally underpopulated and overrepresented. The average deviation within these districts is 115 people (0.62%) below the ideal population. These 16 districts are 40% of the House districts in the entire state, and this proposal systematically underpopulates these districts giving the MOA greater voting strength than its population dictates. AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to create compact, contiguous, and socio-economically integrated Anchorage districts with close to zero net deviation. The average deviation in AFFR's Anchorage districts is 3 people (0.01%) more than ideal.

District 10 is not compact, as it contains an appendage adding a portion of the Chugach Foothills neighborhood in East Anchorage into a district with the Huffman/O'Malley neighborhoods of South Anchorage.

## **Board Version 4**

While the district lines within the MOA are different, the total population of these 16 districts are the same as in Board Version 4 and the MOA districts are unconstitutionally underpopulated as discussed above.

District 9 is not compact because it contains an appendage placing the East Anchorage neighborhood of Stuckagain Heights in a district with the southern parts of the Hillside. This district separates Stuckagain Heights from Basher Road, which is the only access to the neighborhood.

## **AFFER**

As discussed above, District 32 is not socio-economically integrated because it includes Nikiski in a district with South Anchorage.

District 19 is not compact, because it contains an appendage adding portions of the Muldoon neighborhood into a district with portions of Eagle River. This appendage means that the Chugiak/ Eagle River area would be unnecessarily split between two Senate districts.

## **Doyon Coalition**

This plan unconstitutionally breaks the boundaries of the MOA twice, once with District 8 including the Turnagain Arm communities of the MOA in a Kenai Peninsula district and District 24 includes portions of Chugiak/ Eagle River with portions of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

## **Senate Minority**

This plan is likely constitutional within the MOA, although AFFR believes our map better represents the established neighborhoods within the MOA.

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# Matanuska-Susitna Borough

## **Board Version 3**

The 6 MSB districts (Districts 25-30) are unconstitutionally underpopulated and overrepresented. The average deviation within these districts is 135 people (0.74%) less than ideal. AFFR's MSB districts have an average deviation of only 1.5 people (0.01%) more than ideal. Combined with the 16 underpopulated Municipality of Anchorage districts, this means the majority of the House districts are urban districts in Southcentral Alaska which are systematically overrepresented at the expense of the rest of the state.

District 29 is not socio-economically integrated, because it separates North Nenana from the City of Nenana. North Nenana is an integral part of the Nenana community.

## **Board Version 4**

The 6 MSB districts (Districts 25-30) are unconstitutionally overpopulated and underrepresented. The average deviation within these districts is 479 people (2.61%) more than ideal. AFFR's MSB districts have an average deviation of only 1.5 people (0.01%) more than ideal.

District 25 is not socio-economically integrated, because it includes the City of Valdez in a district with the outskirts of Palmer and a large portion of rural Mat-Su. Valdez's economy is a port community whose economy is centered on shipping from the port, the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, and along the Richardson Highway. AFFR has demonstrated it is practicable to draw 6 compact, contiguous, and socio-economic MSB districts without including Valdez.

## **AFFER**

This plan unconstitutionally breaks the MSB borough boundary twice, adding the Denali Borough into District 11 and portions to the west of the MSB into District 16. Since these districts are in different Senate districts, this also breaks the boundary twice at the Senate level. AFFR has demonstrated it is practicable to break the borough boundary only once.

The 6 MSB districts (11-16) have an unconstitutionally large deviation range. The largest district is 174 people (0.95%) more than ideal and the smallest is 260 people (1.42%) less than ideal. AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to 6 compact, contiguous, and socio-economically integrated districts with a dramatically smaller deviation range. AFFR's largest MSB district is 10 people (0.05%) above ideal and its smallest is 9 (0.05%) people less than ideal.

## **Doyon Coalition**

This plan unconstitutionally breaks the MSB borough boundary twice, adding the Denali Borough into District 28 and portions of Chugiak/ Eagle River into District 24. Since these districts are in different Senate districts, this also breaks the boundary twice at the Senate level. AFFR has demonstrated it is practicable to break the borough boundary only once.

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### Senate Minority

This plan is likely constitutional within this region, although AFFR believes our map better reflects the community ties within the MSB.

## Interior & Fairbanks

### Board Version 3

This plan systematically overpopulates and underrepresents the Fairbanks North Star Borough by containing the FNSB into only 5 districts (Districts 31-35) although the borough has the population for 5.22 districts. This results in districts that are an average of 796 people (4.43%) larger than ideal. AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to draw 5 compact, contiguous, and socio-economically integrated districts within the FNSB with zero net deviation, and one compact, contiguous, and socio-economically integrated district that includes the exact amount of excess FNSB population.

### V.3 Fairbanks Districts Population

District	31	32	33	34	35
Total Population	5=68;	5=659	5=65;	5=675	5=689
Ideal Population	18,335	18,335	18,335	18,335	18,335
Difference	<56	; <4	; <6	; =:	<54
Deviations	/827)	/826:)	/826;)	/8278)	\$/826)

This plan unconstitutionally breaks the boundary of the City of Fairbanks twice, including areas outside the city to both Districts 33 and 34. AFFR has demonstrated it is practicable to draw one district entirely within the city boundaries.

This City of North Pole is unconstitutionally split between districts 32 and 34. Further, because District 32 must pair with District 33 to form a City of Fairbanks Senate district, this divides the City of North Pole into two Senate districts.

This plan completely disregards the neighborhood, cultural, transportation, and economic regions within the FNSB. A large portion of North Pole is placed in District 32 with the City of Fairbanks, District 35 includes Chena Ridge and neighborhoods on the west of the borough with communities

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on the far east of the borough that would require residents to drive across three other districts to reach the other side of their district.

District 36 is neither compact nor socio-economically integrated, because it includes a large portion of Western Alaska in the same district as the City of Valdez. Valdez is the only coastal community in this district, and while it is socio-economically integrated with other communities along the Richardson Highway and communities in the eastern Interior that have strong transportation and commercial ties to these communities, Valdez has no socio-economic integration with the western portions of the district. Many of these communities have no transportation links with Fairbanks or any community along the Richardson Highway, and instead Bethel or Anchorage is their major commercial hub. While the Doyon ANCSA region can justify including these villages with other Doyon villages, it cannot justify including Valdez.

#### **Board Version 4**

This plan unconstitutionally divides the City of Fairbanks into three districts (Districts 31, 32, and 35), although relatively minor adjustments could bring the city into only two districts.

District 36 is not socio-economically integrated because it separates Nenana from the Denali Borough communities along the Nenana River and Parks Highway.

#### **AFFER**

This plan unconstitutionally divides the City of Fairbanks into three districts (Districts 6-8), although relatively minor adjustments could bring the city into only two districts.

This plan completely disregards the neighborhood, cultural, transportation, and economic regions within the FNSB. A large portion of North Pole is placed in District 8 with the City of Fairbanks, District 6 includes Chena Ridge and neighborhoods on the west of the borough with communities on the far east of the borough that would require residents to drive across three other districts to reach the other side of their district.

Eielson Air Force Base is divided between Districts 6 and 9.

District 6 is not compact because it adds two distinct appendages, one in North Pole and one with Salcha and parts of Eielson AFB, to a district with Chena Ridge and other western Fairbanks neighborhoods.

District 5 is not compact or socio-economically integrated because it places Cordova in a district with Interior highway communities, western portions of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and many Interior villages. Cordova is a coastal community that is not on the road system whose economy is dominated by commercial fishing. There is no socio-economic integration between Cordova and the rest of the district.

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#### **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

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The inclusion of western portions of the FNSB and Nenana also make District 5 not socio-economically integrated. While the eastern portions of the FNSB includes Richardson Highway communities, Nenana and the FNSB portions of District 5 are served by the Parks Highway not the Richardson. Nenana has strong socio-economic ties to the Denali Borough communities along the Nenana River and the Parks Highway.

### **Doyon Coalition**

This plan unconstitutionally divides the City of Fairbanks into four different House districts (Districts 31-33, 35). While a minor adjustment could reduce this to three districts, the plan would have to be completely restructured to place the city into the required two districts. Further, this plan includes the city in three different Senate districts.

District 36 unconstitutionally separates Cantwell from the rest of the Denali Borough.

The inclusion of Nenana also makes District 5 not socio-economically integrated. While the eastern portions of the FNSB includes Richardson Highway communities, Nenana is served by the Parks Highway not the Richardson and has strong socio-economic ties to the Denali Borough communities along the Nenana River and the Parks Highway.

Eielson Air Force Base is divided between Districts 34 and 36.

### **Senate Minority**

This plan unconstitutionally breaks the boundaries of the City of Fairbanks twice (Districts 1 and 2), although minor adjustments could reduce this to one break.

District 6 is not compact or socio-economically integrated because it places Cordova in a district with Interior highway communities, eastern portions of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and many Interior villages. Cordova is a coastal community that is not on the road system whose economy is dominated by commercial fishing. There is no socio-economic integration between Cordova and the rest of the district.

Eielson Air Force Base is divided between Districts 5 and 6.

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## **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

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## Western/ Arctic Alaska

### **Board Version 3**

Districts 37 and 38 have unconstitutionally large deviations of 836 (4.56%) and 699 (3.81%) people below ideal respectively. While the courts have allowed larger deviations within rural communities when necessary, AFFR has demonstrated that it is practicable to draw compact, contiguous, and socio-economically integrated districts in rural Alaska with no more than a 489 person (2.67%) deviation in any district

District 39 includes Hooper Bay, Chevak, and surrounding villages in a district (District 39) with the Nome Census Area. Testimony has clearly established that these communities have strong socio-economic ties to Bethel and belong in a district with Bethel. AFFR has demonstrated it is possible to draw compact, contiguous, and socio-economically integrated districts that include these communities in a district with Bethel.

District 37 separates the Alaska Peninsula portions of the Kodiak Island Borough from the rest of the KIB.

### **Board Version 4**

This plan is nearly identical to Version 3, so the issues above apply, except that it does not divide the Kodiak Island Borough.

### **AFFER**

District 39 is not socio-economically integrated as it unconstitutionally separates Buckland and Deering from the Northwest Arctic Borough. Testimony has clearly established that there is no justification for this split.

### **Doyon Coalition**

District 39 includes Hooper Bay, Chevak, and surrounding villages in a district (District 39) with the Nome Census Area. Testimony has clearly established that these communities have strong socio-economic ties to Bethel and belong in a district with Bethel. AFFR has demonstrated it is possible to draw compact, contiguous, and socio-economically integrated districts that include these communities in a district with Bethel.

District 37 is not compact or socio-economically integrated as it includes portions of the Kenai Peninsula in a district that stretches to the Aleutians.

### **Senate Minority**

Districts 37-40 are likely constitutional, although AFFR believes our plan better reflects the cultural and economic regions of Western Alaska.

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## **Modifications to AFFR Plan**

### **Technical Corrections**

In two places, unpopulated blocks were accidentally included in the wrong district in the map AFFR submitted to the board. AFFR have previously brought these issues to the attention of board members and staff. These technical corrections will not have any effect on the populations of any district.

### **Technical Correction 1**

The unpopulated portion of the City and Borough of Yakutat east of the Canadian border was inadvertently placed in District 5. AFFR's written report and presentation to the Board made it clear that the intent was for all of the CBY to be included in District 2. AFFR respectfully requests the board make this technical correction.

### **Technical Correction 2**

Unpopulated census block along the road bed of Elmore Road was inadvertently placed in District 14 instead of District 17. AFFR's clear intent was for this portion of Elmore Road to be in District 17, and we respectfully request the board make this correction

## **Amendments In Response to Public Input**

AFFR has monitored the public comment both submitted in writing and through testimony at in person events across the state. While we believe the record of testimony clearly shows that the AFFR plan, with the technical corrections identified above, is constitutional and provides fair representation for the Alaska diverse cultural and socio-economic regions, we have identified two potential amendments which we are submitting for the Board's consideration.

### **Amendment 1: Nunam Iqua**

This amendment is to move the City of Nunam Iqua from District 38 to District 39. AFFR included Nunam Iqua in District 38 in order to include as many villages in the Calista region in District 38 and Senate District S as possible. AFFR used the Yukon River as the northern boundary of District 38 which places Nunam Iqua into District 38. During the informal portion of the Bethel public hearing, Chair Binkley shared his knowledge that residents of Nunam Iqua have closer cultural and family ties to the nearby villages of Alakanuk and Emmonak on the other side of the river. In light of this, AFFR believes it would be reasonable for the board to consider moving Nunam Iqua into District 39.

AFFR District 38 population currently: 18,507 (0.94% deviation)

AFFR District 38 population with amendment: 18,289 (0.25% deviation)

AFFR District 39 population currently: 17,948 (-2.11% deviation)

AFFR District 39 population with amendment: 18,166 (0.92%%)

### **Amendment 2: Admiralty Island/ North Prince of Wales Island**

This amendment is to move the portions of Prince of Wales Island that are currently in District 4 into District 2, and to move the portions of Admiralty Island currently in District 2 into District 4. This would place all of Admiralty Island in District 4, and all of Prince of Wales Island into District 2 with the exception of Thorne Bay which would remain in District 1. Testimony from Southeast indicated that Angoon and the rest of Admiralty Island is socio-economically integrated with Juneau. This amendment would create more compact Southeast districts, but would slightly increase the deviation within these districts. AFFR believes it is reasonable for the Board to consider whether improving the compactness of these districts is more important than minimizing deviation.

AFFR District 2 population currently: 17,946 (-2.12% deviation)

AFFR District 2 population with amendment: 18,102 (-1.27% deviation)

AFFR District 4 population currently: 18,071 (-1.44% deviation)

AFFR District 4 population with amendment: 17,915 (-2.29% deviation)

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## **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

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## **Notable Public Testimony**

### **Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly**

On October 28th the Fairbanks North Star borough Assembly passed Resolution NO. 2021 – 36 “A RESOLUTION PROVIDING COMMENTS TO THE ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD REGARDING THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS IN THE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH.” The resolution explicitly states opposition to the overpopulation of Fairbanks Districts as under Board Map V.3 and notably recommends that excess Fairbanks population be placed into only one additional district.

### **The City of Valdez**

On October 14th, the City of Valdez passed a Resolution No. 21-41 “A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA REQUESTING THE REDISTRICTING BOARD ADOPT A REDISTRICTING PLAN THAT INCLUDES VALDEZ IN A SOCIOECONOMICALLY INTEGRATED DISTRICT INCLUDING RICHARDSON HIGHWAY COMMUNITIES.” The resolution urges the Alaska Redistricting Board to “adopt a Redistricting Plan that does not force the City of Valdez into a district with Mat-Su Borough Communities or... Kodiak, the Kenai Peninsula, the Municipality of Anchorage, or Southeast Alaska.” The Resolution additionally notes opposition to the plans put forward by the Doyon Coalition, AFFER, and the Senate Minority for “failure to satisfy the constitutional requirements” and for including Valdez into proposed districts that “are not socioeconomically integrated.” Lastly the resolution supports the concept of placing Valdez into a district that is socio-economically integrated along the Richardson Highway, a concept included in the AFFR map.

### **The City of Hooper Bay, Hooper Bay Native Village and Sea Lion Corporation**

On August 13th 2021 the City of Hooper Bay, Hooper Bay Native Village and Sea Lion Corporation submitted a joint letter Requesting to be placed into a district with Bethel citing close socioeconomic ties. The letter asserts that Bethel serves as a hub community for Hooper Bay. Additional follow up oral testimony and subsequent meetings affirmed this request several times. Board V.3, Board V.4, and the Doyon Coalition plan all fail to attend to this request. The AFFR plan, AFFER and Senate Minority plans all include Hooper Bay into a house district with Bethel.

### **Mat-Su Assembly**

On September 14th the Mat-Su Borough Manager on behalf of the Mat-Su Borough Assembly presented a plan on six proposed Mat-Su districts. The resolution stated “residents within the MSB should not be joined into a district which is principally within Anchorage” citing little evidence of close socio-economic ties between the Knik River area and the Chugach/Eagle River Area. The testimony additionally recommended that if determined necessary the board extend a Mat-Su district east towards Glen Allen opposed to down into Anchorage. The AFFR plan follows this advice and additionally does not group part of Mat-Su with Valdez like Board V.4.

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### **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

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### **Calista**

On September 21st Calista Corporation testified before the board in support of including the villages of Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay and Chevak into a Bethel District due to close socio-economic relation. The AFFR and AFFER plans are the only plans that accommodate this request.

### **City of Kotzebue**

On October 6th 2021 the City of Kotzebue submitted a letter to the Alaska Redistricting Board stating that the AFFER plan “violates section 6 of article VI of the Alaska Constitution,” and the “dictates of the Hickel ” proces citing numerous socio-economic, historical, and cultural factors. Additionally the letter explicitly states that Buckland and Deering belong in a district that includes the Northwest Arctic Borough and the City of Kotzebue. The AFFER plan is the only plan that isolates Deering and Buckland in this manner .

### **NAACP of Fairbanks**

On October 28th, 2021 the NAACP of Fairbanks submitted a letter opposing Board Map V.3 and supporting Board Map V.4. Additionally, the letter stated that Fairbanks and North Pole are distinct communities and that portions of Fairbanks and North Pole should not be lumped together. The AFFR plan recognizes the distinction between these communities and creates a greater North Pole district.

### **First Alaskans Institute / Native American Rights Fund**

The First Alaskans Institute and Native American Rights Fund submitted a joint letter on October 21st that included two requests to the board. First, the letter requested that the Board “provide a telephonic or virtual attendance option for all public hearings,” critiquing the board’s open house meeting style for being inaccessible due to COVID-19 concerns and other factors. Second, the letter urged the board to “complete its Voting Rights Act analysis and publish proposed Senate districts as soon as is practicable” in order for the public to have adequate time to comment on these aspects of the process.

### **NAACP of Anchorage**

On October 4, 2021 Kevin Mcgee, Anchorage NAACP president spoke in favor of the AFFR map for balancing the constitutional criteria and having “substantially lower” deviations than board options V.3 and V.4 - particularly within the Municipality of Anchorage. The testimony additionally supported the Senate Minorities’ proposal for Southeast Alaska.

### **League of Women Voters Tanana Valley**

On October 14th the Tanana Valley League of Women Voters submitted written testimony to the board opposing the overpopulation of Fairbanks districts under V.3 and specifying that “no other districts and certainly no other local government unit in Version 3 come close to this degree of overpopulation.”

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## **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

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**CIRI Inc.**

On October 29th 2021 Cook Inlet Regional Inc. (CIRI) wrote to urge the board to be cautious of the “displacement of minority votes, particularly in urban areas like Anchorage.” The letter additionally expressed concern for the “high deviations evident in Fairbanks in the Board version 3.” Lastly while CIRI expressed support for the Doyon Coalition’s “proposed interior rural house seat,” and the coalition's proposed Southeast map which includes an “all island house district,” CIRI expressed concern over the Doyon Coalition’s “Anchorage Bowl Area.”

**The Butte Community Council**

On October 26th a representative from the Butte Community Council testified on the desire for Butte residents to stay connected to “South Knik River Road” due to strong socio-economic ties. Additionally, the Butte Community Council expressed desire to be paired with a Mat-Su and not with the Municipality of Anchorage.

**J-BER Testimony**

On October 26th 2021 Major Felisa Wilson, USAF, MC (Retired) and LTC Patricia Wilson-Cone, USA, CH (Retired) submitted written testimony that opposed Board Maps 3 & 4 citing that both plans fail to “take into account the complexity of the JBER diaspora” and the socioeconomic integration between base neighborhoods and areas outside of base surrounding base access points. Both testimonies noted that the AFFR plan is the only plan to accurately reflect the distinct neighborhoods in east Anchorage and the differences in on-base housing.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Michelle Anderson**

Affiliation: **Ahtna, Inc.**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Michelle asked the board to include Cantwell in the interior map as it is one of the 8 Ahtna villages. The traditional chiefs always begin their messages with reminders of how they are related to the families that are living in Cantwell. Even though the road system separates the villages from Cantwell, the people connections do exist and are very strong today. Michelle discussed the economic benefits Ahtna provides to shareholders and Cantwell tribal members: 1. Dividends are distributed to shareholders based on performance. 2. Jobs are provided. 3. Village contributions are provided including to the church in Cantwell 4. Political advocacy is provided to Cantwell. This is taken seriously. 5. Owns vast private lands in and around Cantwell, considering looking at development up near the boundary There is no question that there is immense investment in the region with their land holdings, but they are most importantly, connected to the people of Cantwell. Allowing them to be separated by a political process is very unfair and causes Cantwell to feel abandoned. Cantwell has given permission for Ahtna to advocate and speak on behalf of their community to allow the Ahtna villages to remain as one people. Cantwell is served by Copper River Native Association and they have a health aide in the village for emergency situations who take people up to Healy. If there is something that is more critical, they refer people to Anchorage.**



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*Our Culture Unites Us; Our Land Sustains Us; Our People are Prosperous*

November 3, 2021

John Binkley, Chair  
Alaska Redistricting Board  
P.O. Box 240147  
Anchorage, AK 99524

*Via email: Testimony@akredistrict.org*

Dear Chairman Binkley,

At the request of Board member Nicole Borromeo, Ahtna, Incorporated would like to supplement its testimony to the Board to highlight the socioeconomic integration of Cantwell to the Ahtna Region.

The Cantwell people share many family connections with the other Ahtna villages. These connections stretch back to time immemorial. The Ahtna people have historically been nomadic, hunting along the Denali Highway corridor and into the Cantwell area. To this day, the people of Cantwell and the people in the other Ahtna villages share a common language, history, heritage, and way of life, including cultural and traditional values and practices such as hunting, fishing, berry picking, potlatch, dance, and storytelling.

In addition, through their commonly owned Regional corporation, Ahtna, Incorporated, the people of Cantwell and the other Ahtna villages share a common interest in land ownership and land management, including land use, resource development, and trespass control. In turn, Ahtna advocates for the Cantwell area on all of these issues. Reflecting this historical connection, the Cantwell area still uses Ahtna place names to this day, such as Hukngestc'oxi Na' (Bull River), Yidateni Na' (Cantwell Village), and Kantistaan Na' (Windy Creek).

While we understand the Board's concern with separating borough boundaries into different House districts, Cantwell is unique in the Denali Borough. It is one of the only areas in the Borough that is of predominantly Native character. This highlights the importance of including the Cantwell voters with the other Alaska Native villages in the Interior region.

**[www.ahtna.com](http://www.ahtna.com)**

John Binkley, Chair  
Alaska Redistricting Board  
November 3, 2021  
Page 2

We ask that you please strongly consider including Cantwell in the large Interior House district as shown in the Doyon coalition map.

Sincerely,



Michelle Anderson, President  
Ahtna, Incorporated

---

**From:** Denise Allen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 4:59 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Plan#73975

Redistricting Board,

Please support Map #73975 (<https://districtr.org/plan/73975>)

- Map# 73975 has smaller population deviations between each district than the AFFER Plan

Compactness (size and shape):

- Map# 73975 honors city limits boundaries and does not have districts with crazy shapes!

Contiguous (are the boundaries continuous on land especially)

- Unlike the AFFER Plan, Map# 73975 doesn't gerrymander the districts by grabbing Nikiski on the Kenai Peninsula and putting it into a district with Huffman Rd. in South Anchorage...how does that even make sense?

Socio-economic Integration (are similar communities placed within the same districts):

- Unlike the AFFER Plan, Map # 73975 continues to include the City of Valdez with the Mat-Su because Valdez is a developed community with a substantial tax base on the road system near the Mat-Su. The closest Wal-Mart to Valdez is in the Mat-Su. It should not be paired with other communities that are not on the road system, like it is in the AFFER Plan.

The Denali Borough should not be included in a Mat-Su district.

Fairbanks is the closest large city from any location within the Denali Borough. The closest Costco to the Denali Borough is in Fairbanks. The closest Wal-Mart is in Fairbanks.

The Denali Borough is more connected to Fairbanks than it is to either Palmer or Wasilla.

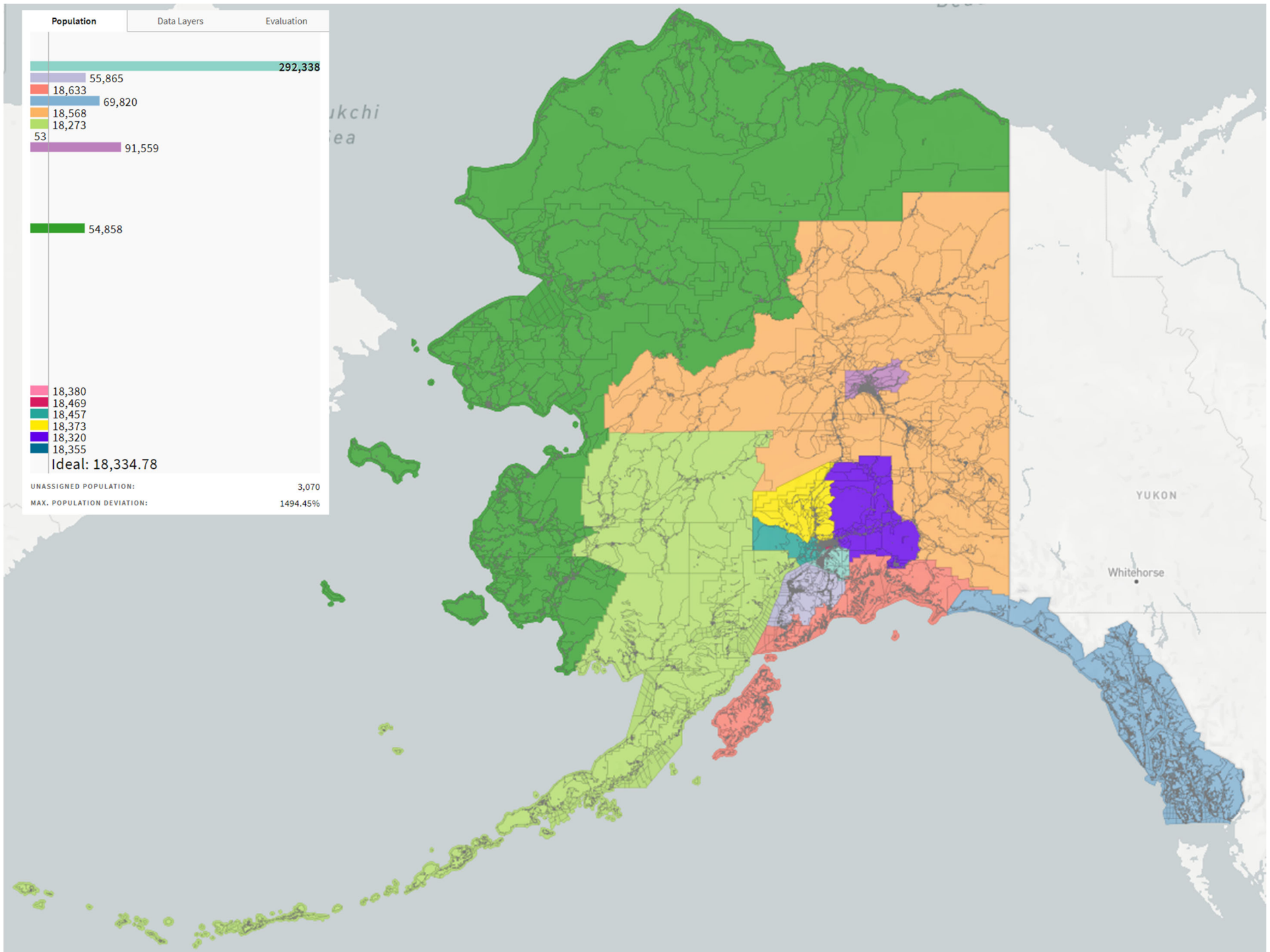
Natural landmarks (rivers, roads, mountains, etc.)

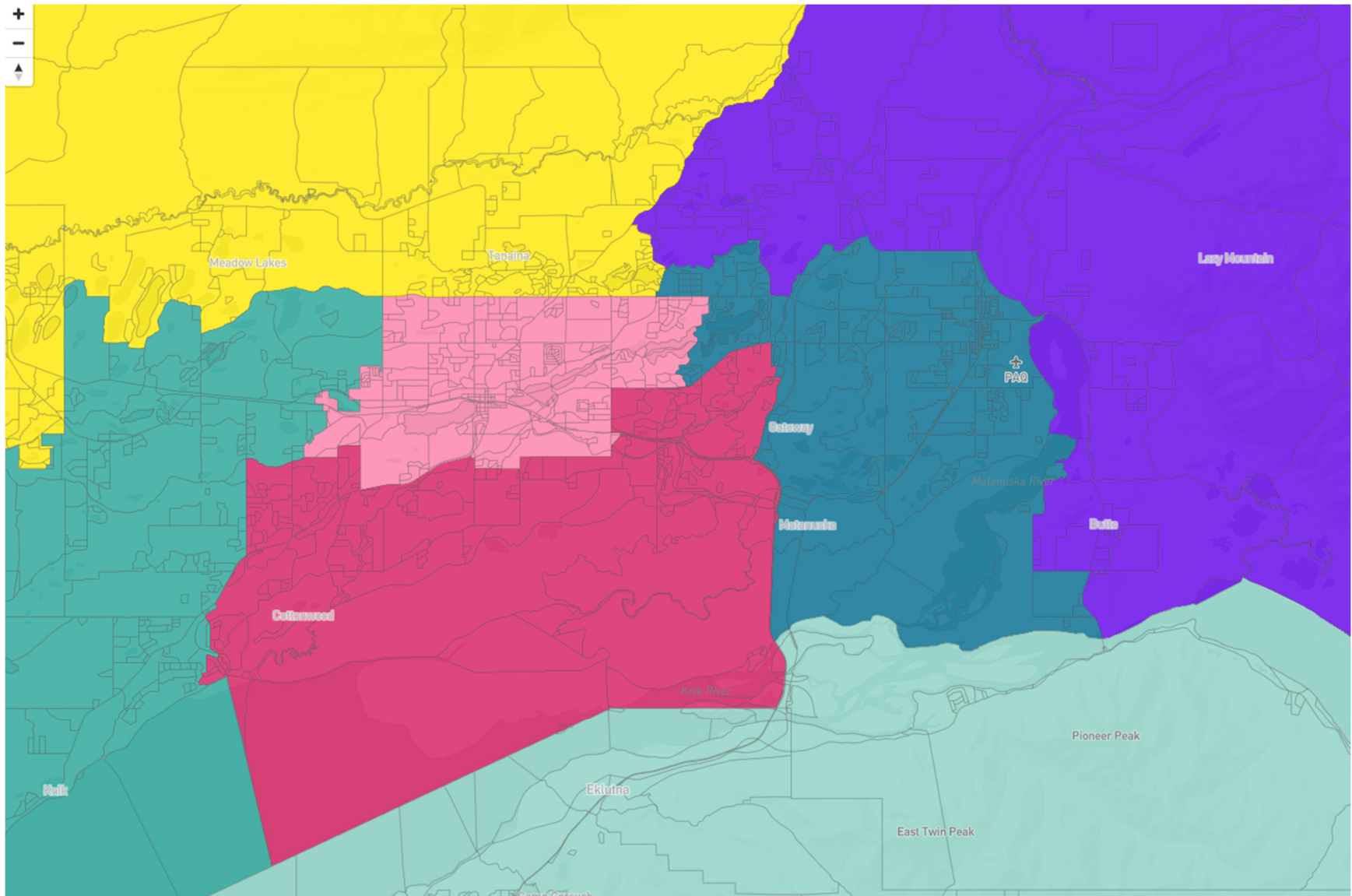
- Map #73975 divides the Mat-Su between Palmer and Wasilla and between the Wasilla City limits on the south and Seldon Road on the north. Seldon is a current boundary and a long and straight road that is well known in the community.

I do NOT support the AFFER plan!!

Thank you for your time on this issue,

Denise Allen







# Municipality of Anchorage

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4311 • Fax: (907) 343-4313 <http://www.muni.org/assembly>

## Anchorage Assembly Leadership

November 4, 2021

Alaska Redistricting Board  
P.O. Box 240147  
Anchorage, AK 99524

Dear Members of the Redistricting Board:

Given very recent proposals discussed before the Board today, we appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on plans that you will discuss tomorrow:

1. We were surprised to hear about a proposal to include Valdez and part of Anchorage in a House district. We have not seen what this conceptual district would look like, but it seems nearly impossible to produce a compact or socioeconomically integrated map given how different Valdez and Anchorage are, and how far they are from one another. We are also concerned about extreme last-minute changes that have had zero opportunity for public review and public comment. Given the late nature of these developments, the Anchorage Assembly has not had the opportunity to weigh them as a body.
2. We urge you to reject any proposals that could be perceived as placing partisan objectives ahead of Constitutional guidelines for districts, and are particularly concerned about the Marcum proposal to create an East Anchorage/Eagle River district. Gerrymanders produce legal uncertainty, confusion among voters, and undermine faith in our democracy. The Northeast Community Council has urged that East Anchorage neighborhoods not be gerrymandered into Eagle River districts, and we ask that you honor the request of local voters and their community council.

We appreciate the hard work of Board members to work collaboratively, consider the relative merits of third party map proposals, and carefully review public comments. We all have an interest in the most Constitutional map being adopted.

Sincerely,

Suzanne LaFrance, Assembly Chair

Christopher Constant, Assembly Vice Chair

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Kathy Anderson**

**Kathy spoke in opposition of a redistricting plan that removes Fritz Creek and other communities out of the same district as Homer. These residents work, go to school, and use the airport in Homer. Additionally, the board should consider the Russian villages that have much in common with another Russian village that is up north of Homer. There is much more in common with Seward.**

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**From:** Lauren Attanas <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 11:07 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 11:07 pm

First Name: **Lauren**

Last Name: **Attanas**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **A fair map for Fairbanks**

Public Comment: **I am writing in support of the AFFR map and Board Map V.4 and against Board Map V.3. Board Map V.3. violates the principle of one person one vote and is out of step with the overall east-west social and economic orientation of Fairbanks. Please keep Fairbanks/North Pole communities of interest intact and reject V.3. As a resident of Ester, I am interested in keeping my community together, and the AFFR map best accomplishes this by combining Ester, Chena Pump, and UAF into 1 district. District 33-Q in the AFFR map encompasses my home, workplace, my spouse's workplace, and the residences of fellow community members. District 35 on Board Map V.4 splits Ester from the University and lumps us with a vast unpopulated area that runs south to the little Delta River; this hardly seems to be in the spirit of keeping communities of interest together. The AFFR map is the fairest for Fairbanks, and I hope you will select it. Thank you for your time.**



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**From:** Steven Aufrecht <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:29 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

Name: **Steven Aufrecht**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Thursday Marcum Map**

Public Comment: **It's hard to tell for certain over Zoom, but the new Marcum Anchorage area map looks suspiciously similar to the "obsolete" v1 map that so many people had so much trouble with that the Board abandoned it and created v3 and v4 to replace it and v2.**

**There have been 3rd Party maps and weeks and weeks of public testimony. I understand the process is not easy, and that every change forces changes to other parts of the map. But why would you go back to a totally discredited map to redo Anchorage? There was lots of testimony favoring other maps - AFFR seemed to get the most approval, but v4 was also mentioned a lot. So were other maps. Why not start with one of them instead of going back to v1 to redo Anchorage. This truly appears to anyone paying attention like an attempt to gerrymander the maps. You heard the overwhelming response and distrust of the Board caused by v1. Please do not repeat that by approving the new Marcum Anchorage map. Start with v4 or AFFR Anchorage maps and then make the minor adjustments necessary to make it fit with the rest of Alaska. DO NOT connect East Anchorage to Eagle River. It's not necessary and you heard lots of testimony from East Anchorage and from Eagle River in opposition. Last redistricting cycle the Board paired an East Anchorage house district to an Eagle River house district to form a Senate district that got rid of Alaska's only African-American senator. This map appears to be trying to target another East Anchorage Senator among other things. Again, I couldn't see enough detail to know for sure. Thank you for considering these comments and I thank Nicole Borrromeo for challenging the map. I hope the other Board members see this map should not be adopted.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: Gary Ault

Gary lives just outside of Homer and spoke in opposition of redistricting the Kenai Peninsula with Kodiak. It is not an economically smart decision because the East End/Homer/Fritz Creek communities are "one big family" as they all work together, attend school together, etc. Gary does not believe that "political statures" are not a good reason to redistrict these communities.

The Kenai Peninsula is home to 1 million people every summer and home to 1/2 million people year round as others from outside of the peninsula also like to visit. The proposed redistricting plan will hurt the community and split the state "wide open" if political views are more important than the daily life of residents.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: Jim Ayers

Jim Ayers noted that the community functions very well. He has discussed how their community is naturally meeting the fair balance and non-partisan ways. It functions out the road (Auke Bay, Mendenhall Valley) in a way that flows together. Board Map v.3 brings divisiveness. The board has said they corrected concerns that were raised at the Centennial Hall meeting on the line being drawn that would pit elected representatives against each other. Jim wanted to ensure this error was corrected, and it was clarified by Board Member Borrromeo that this was corrected and the board does not have knowledge of where incumbents live and it was not their intention to gerrymander. Jim stated that the state suffers from the severe intrusion to plug divisiveness. The focus on socio-economic and deviation balance are both important and imperative that the board considers whether their actions make further strife and divisiveness in the state. Jim urged the board not to fall into this political behavior. If there is a reason or motivation of some to change the elected officials, then a candidate should be found and redistricting should not be used to pursue political goals. He urged the board to consider and support the Doyon Coalition map, AFFR map, and Senate Minority Caucus maps.

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**From:** glendawn Bailey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:50 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Good Afternoon and thank you for your time and consideration. I am...

Good Afternoon and thank you for your time and consideration. I am testifying today after looking at all the options that have been offered.

I believe putting Eagle River with East Anchorage makes the most sense.

East Anchorage is closest to ER and share many military families in their part of the city.

I also think it makes sense to put downtown with Mt View. They actually run right into each other in vicinity. As a business owner on the edge of both of Downtown and Mt. View I would ask you to please give this every consideration possible and I thank you for your time.

Regards

Dawn Bailey

Sent from my iPhone

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Cordova 11/1/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Jeff Bailey**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

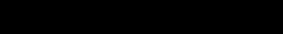
**Jeff Bailey is a 40+ year resident in Cordova and has seen Cordova being passed around to many districts that needed more population without fair representation. Jeff understands that the board is searching for populations to fill others. His contention is that there are two neighborhoods in Spenard that have had more representation than Cordova. Their connection with coastal communities is strong. Southeast Alaska is too far away. Native groups are culturally different. There may be fishery resources and ferry issues shared, but the Gulf of Alaska is a huge barrier in being able to share resources there. It is a good point to bring up that the commercial fishing has come up this year having the third highest amount the state has ever seen. When the fish are being delivered, some go to Cordova, Seward, Kodiak, Valdez, and Whittier. Valdez is a large seafood producer now. Silver Bay is well over a 2-million pound capacity and Peter Pan's production has also grown. Their connection with the PWS communities and the fisheries is where Cordova should stay. Whittier should be districted with Cordova as they travel through Whittier, their ferry system is through Whittier, and much of their seafood goes through Whittier. Cordova does dispatch for Whittier and Girdwood. His perfect map would be a Kodiak/PWS district where Seward, Whittier, Valdez, and Kodiak are one. The road to the interior is getting shorter, not longer. It used to go up to Mile 54, now it goes up to Mile 32.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Wasilla 10/26/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: Dixie Banner

Email or Phone Contact: 

**Dixie Banner mentioned her background in environmental management and asked the board to provide information from a technical standpoint and a summary that gives the general public an understanding of what the board is trying to achieve. The board is making decisions, but they are not being put in writing. There should also be a legend.**

**Deviations also should be explained. Dixie does not feel comfortable making a decision until all the information is provided. Also, people need to be involved, including students in high school, as they will be impacted by the process.**

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**From:** Timbi Barron <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 10:58 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 10:58 am

First Name: **Timbi**

Last Name: **Barron**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Support of Nicole Borromeo's map**

Public Comment: **The proposed map submitted by Bethany Marcum does a grave disservice to the residents of East Anchorage. Bethany's map is very similar to her hugely unpopular V1 map and ignores virtually all public input. It is unreasonable to combine East Anchorage with Eagle River: Eagle River has been trying to "exit" the MOA for years. Placing Muldoon into a South Anchorage district makes absolutely no sense either. East Anchorage is culturally and socio-economically diverse and has no commonality with South Anchorage or Eagle River. This mapping will only make it more difficult for East Anchorage residents to vote and will not provide adequate representation for this area. I wholeheartedly support Nicole Borromeo's map that is much more supportive of the needs of East Anchorage. I urge you to dismiss the map put forth by Bethany Marcum.**

---

**From:** Jennifer Barth <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 7:07 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 2, 2021, 7:07 am

First Name: **Jennifer**

Last Name: **Barth**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate Minority Map**

Public Comment: **I live on Huffman Circle in current district 26. As a citizen of district 26, I am concerned with the proposed Senate Minority map boundaries 28N. South Anchorage should not be combined with communities on the peninsula. These communities are very different and need separate representation. I want a representative who has time to dedicate to one area. A representative can not work on roads, schools, business issues, parks, etc with being spread so thin and representing different cities essentially. This proposed boundary will also spread the representative too thin and they will not be able to properly represent the Anchorage or communities on the peninsula properly. The proposed boundaries for 28N make no sense and should not be considered.**



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**From:** Matthew Barth <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 7:00 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 2, 2021, 6:59 am

First Name: **Matthew**

Last Name: **Barth**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate Minority Map**

Public Comment: **I live on Huffman Circle in current district 26. As a citizen of district 26, I have grave concerns with the proposed Senate Minority map boundaries, specifically 28N. South Anchorage should not be combined with communities on the peninsula. These communities are significantly different and face different geographical, economic, demographic, educational, and other substantial issues affected by representation. This proposed boundary will also spread the representative too thin and they will not be able to properly represent the Anchorage or communities on the peninsula properly. The proposed boundaries for 28N are not realistic or functional.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: **Domnica Basargin**

**Domnica Basargin is an East End Road resident and spoke in favor of her community being districted with Homer. Her community would also likely feel the same way as everything they do is in Homer.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Drasida Basargin**

**Drasida lives out East End Road, 25 miles from Homer. Drasida spoke against redistricting her community to Kodiak as she shops, attends school, and does business in Homer. Drasida asked the board to consider keeping her community in District 31.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: **Val Basargin**


**Val Basargin spoke in opposition of removing the East End Road community from the Homer district as Homer is the central location for her to shop, fish, vote, and go to school. She is confused why this plan is being proposed. There is no road access to Kodiak.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 1, 2021, 3:18 pm

Name: **Alan Batten**  
Your ZIP Code: **99712**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Public Comment: **Dear Redistricting Committee,**

**Thank you very much for your careful work on this complex problem of dividing our state up into districts. I live off 7-mile Chena Hot Springs Road northeast of Fairbanks, so will comment only on the proposed districts of Interior Alaska.**

**First, in order to avoid being under-represented in Juneau, I am in favor of having 6 districts completely or partially within the Fairbanks North Star Borough. One of those districts has to extend a great distance in some direction to pick up enough people.**

**I reject the Board Plan v. 3 because it only has 5 districts in the North Star Borough, all of them completely within the Borough. All five proposed districts are overpopulated by more than 4%. I also don't like Two Rivers and Pleasant Valley being lumped in with Goldstream Valley and Farmers Loop (District 31), or having Steele Creek lumped in with North Pole (District 32), or having Chena Ridge and Ester lumped in with the Richardson Highway beyond Moose Creek (District 35). All three of those lumpages put people of different lifestyles and political persuasions into the same district and are an unreasonable way to divide things up considering that there are much better ways to do it.**

**I don't like the AFFER Proposal either. I don't like putting Ester and the Goldstream Valley into a huge bush district extending all the way to Kaltag and Arctic Village (District 5-C). I also don't like the way District 6-C wraps around the south end of Fairbanks to lump Chena Ridge and the Airport area in with part of Badger Road and the Eielson Farm Road area and points south on the Richardson Highway. If one considers that no one lives south of the Tanana River, then District 5-C consists essentially of three islands that are barely if at all connected to each other.**

**The Doyon Plan also lumps Steele Creek in with Badger Road (District 33-Q) and appears to keep myself and the rest of eastern Chena Hot Springs Road in the same huge bush district (36-R) that we are in now, so I don't like it.**

**The Senate Minority Plan: I don't like it that myself, along with a small section of Chena Hot Springs Road, is being lumped into a northern extension of North Pole (District 5-C). I also don't like District 3-B wrapping all the way around Fairbanks with several conspicuous peninsulas. One of them (the central Badger Road area) is essentially an island.**

**Board Plan v.4 is definitely an improvement. The populations of all districts are within 1% of the target. It's a small detail, but I don't understand how District 31 is 136 people short and District 32 has 66 people too many. Couldn't that be fixed by just moving one block from one district to the other? I like that my house is included with my neighbors up and down Chena Hot Springs Road as well as the Steele Creek and Farmers Loop areas (District 34). Eielson AFB and points south on the Richardson Highway are part of a huge bush district (District 36) that includes Arctic Village, Tok, and McCarthy. This may be unavoidable. This district does not go all the way to the coast (e.g. Valdez) which is a**

good thing. I don't understand why (in District 35) what looks almost like an island in the Tanana River adjacent to the Richardson Highway about halfway to North Pole is included. Does anyone actually live there? If so, wouldn't they consider themselves part of North Pole? District 35 is short on people already, but how many people are there in District 35 east of Tanana River in the Salcha area. Again, is anybody really there? And if so, wouldn't they identify with their neighbors across the Richardson Highway (in District 36)? I realize that this isn't easy since District 35 is underpopulated and District 36 is overpopulated already.

The AFFR Plan is also pretty good. The populations of five of the proposed districts are within 0.15% of the target, and the 6th district (36-R) is near 0.5%. This is better than any other alternative as far as I can tell. I am quite happy with my own district (34-Q) which appears to be virtually identical to the v.4 plan. As in the v.4 plan the Richardson Highway from Moose Creek and beyond becomes part of a huge bush district. In the AFFR Plan it includes Delta Junction, Chicken, Chitina and Valdez. I rather doubt that Valdez will want to be included with Chicken, or vice versa. Other than that, this seems like a reasonable plan.

So overall I feel pretty good about the v.4 plan, though it would be nice if the details noted above could be fixed. Overall, v.4 seems like a pretty fair, equitable, and reasonable division of Interior people into districts.

I apologize for not getting all this to you yesterday, and hope that there is still time to have these comments considered. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Alan Batten

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK 99712

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Christopher Behnke <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 8:44 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream Valley Redistricting Testimony

Hello, I'm writing in as a third Gen Alaskan who has lived in Goldstream for over ten years. Ten years ago Goldstream was inexplicably redistricted out of Fairbanks, and became part of, what, Bethel, and parts of the Aleutians? Wasn't Lyman Hoffman from Bethel suddenly our senator? It seems unusual, since Goldstream is essentially where all the folks from the university live. If you think otherwise, you might be engaging in Gerrymandering.

I learned yesterday that the redistributing board is trying to draw a jigsaw around the university and goldstream and join Ivory Jacks, Murphy Dome, Moose mountain area— and join them into the same district as Tok and Delta Junction. For some weird reason, Salcha and Eilson are excluded from this convoluted redistricting effort.

This is clearly obvious effort to dilute the progressive trends of the goldstream area, hopefully reducing representation of the voters in that area by mixing them with other, far less progressive regions. This is Gerrymandering— this is Voter Fraud.

The Alaska Constitution is clear in its requirements, that “each house district shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively socio-economic area”

Chopping off goldstream and joining it to Tok makes as much sense as chopping out Juneau and joining it to Wasilla. Tok and Goldstream are 1) not relatively contiguous 2) not compact 3)are socio-economically entirely distinct and unlike each other.

However— Salcha, Eilson and other places have much in common with Delta Junction and Tok— And are geographically contiguous and relatively compact!

This smacks of Gerrymandering, and feels like the redistricting board is trying its damndest to gerrymander Alaskas “liberal” “university types” out of representation by blending them with more conservative rural areas in utter violation of the Alaska constitution and in defiance of common sense and moral decency.

Sincerely, Christopher Behnke, Goldstream Valley Resident.

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Nathan Belz <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:37 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** RE: Redistricting Plan Testimony for 11/5

To whom it may concern:

My name is Nathan Belz and I reside at [REDACTED], Fairbanks and self-identifying as a resident of the Goldstream Valley. Please let this email serve as public testimony in opposition of redistricting the Goldstream Valley area, to include those points north and west of the University (UAF) such as Jones Road, Spinach Creek Road, Photon Road, Keystone Road, Frenchman Road (among many others). Those of us in The Valley have strong connections to College and UAF and therefore speak on behalf of that area as well as the area in which we reside. We are part of the University and Fairbanks communities and are markedly different from the interior rural villages, like Tok and Delta. If you need to populate that (Tok and Delta) area for the purposes of redistricting, I encourage you to use Salcha, Eielson, and Harding Lake if for no other reason than spatial continuity (and decent common sense).

Regards,  
Nathan Belz  
Concerned Citizen  
Local Business Owner  
Teacher



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**From:** Teal Rogers <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:36 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting Plan Testimony for 11/5

To whom it may concern:

My name is Teal Belz and I reside at [REDACTED], Fairbanks and self-identifying as a resident of the Goldstream Valley. Please let this email serve as public testimony in opposition of redistricting the Goldstream Valley area, to include those points north and west of the University (UAF) such as Jones Road, Spinach Creek Road, Photon Road, Keystone Road, Frenchman Road (among many others). Several of us in the Goldstream Valley have strong connections or work for UAF and therefore speak on behalf of that area as well as the area in which we reside.

The Goldstream Valley is part of the University and Fairbanks communities. We are markedly different from the interior rural communities, like Tok and Delta.

Thank you for listening,  
Teal Belz (Rogers)  
Fairbanks, Alaska

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: **Laurie Benson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **District 31**

**Laurie spoke in opposition of the proposed plan(s) that remove Fritz Creek and Fox River out of the Homer district. These areas are economically and socially tied to Homer and are a part of the Homer community. These communities should have the same representation as the Homer community.**

**Laurie would like to see Seward added back into their district as it once was because Seward is very similar to Homer by being a waterfront community with fishing and tourism. It is more similar to Homer than Kasilof or the south end of Soldotna, which are not tied to Homer in any way and don't have similar industries or relationships with the water.**

**Laurie would like to see some of the northern part of Kasilof removed from the district as well.**

---

**From:** Jonnie Bernier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 11:55 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Support plan 73975.

I support plan 73975. It has a low population deviation, follows natural boundaries and, keeps socioeconomic populates together.

Thank you,  
Jonnie Bernier

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**From:** jpinc [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 11:49 PM  
**To:** Testimony

I support redistrict mapping 73975 because it has the most equal in population and follows good natural boundaries  
Thank Ron Bernier

Sent from my Galaxy

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**From:** Zom Biezley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:28 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Easy Anchorage/ Muldoon/ Eagle River districting

I'm writing under the pretense that there's a push to lot east Anchorage/ Muldoon in with eagle river. I, as a Muldoon area resident, see East Anchorage and Muldoon as connected to the actual city limits whereas Eagle River. Which is 15 miles from the end of the Muldoon/tikhatnu area that is the end of the greater Anchorage city area.

Is this a move to prevent Eagle River from exiting?

If so, I say let them exit. Let Eagle River figure its own budgets for their own police, their own fire departments, how to pay their own city employees, and how to plow their own roads.

I live in East Anchorage/ Muldoon. I don't live in Eagle River. Which can hardly be seen as a part of Anchorage as it is.

Do not lot East Anchorage/ Muldoon in with Eagle River.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Cordova 11/1/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Nancy Bird**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Nancy is in favor of Cordova remaining coastal. Being in the interior was "nightmare-ish" as there were no socio-economic ties with the Delta Junction and Tok. Even though the newly proposed maps do not propose this type of connection, Cordova would not share much in common with the villages. Nancy did like when Valdez has been excluded from Cordova. Nancy likes being with Kodiak as this has been a good fit. Nancy is concerned about the Anchorage districts where 3 democrats have been placed into the same district in both Board Maps v.3 and v.4. There are other seemingly gerrymandering issues in Fairbanks and Juneau. Nancy is concerned about the direction that is being taken. There are some growing ties with some in the Copper River area, but there are not many socio-economic connections overall.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

November 4, 2021

Name: **Doug Bishop**  
Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Email or Phone Contact: 

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Date: November 4, 2021, 9:37 pm

Issue of Concern: **AFFER Plan**

Public Comment: **It doesn't make sense to have Goldstream included into a rural district. I and most others who live in Goldstream work in Fairbanks and should be more closely aligned with that type of region. We wouldn't be represented well by a rural candidate. Different priorities exist between Tananarive and Goldstream.**

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Date: November 4, 2021, 9:52 pm

Public Comment: **The Fairbanks area redistricting in this plan appears to provide reasonably good representation.**

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**From:** Louise Bishop [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 10:29 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Public Comment

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to oppose several things, foremost the proposal to redistrict Goldstream to be included in District 36 along with Delta, Tok and other rural interior communities that was tweeted yesterday. Goldstream is a community of Fairbanks, almost all of us work in Fairbanks and we are a large part of the Fairbanks community, especially the university. Separating us and placing the community within a district that we do not have community ties to and that in most cases votes much differently is obvious gerrymandering. This violates Alaska's constitution, Article VI section 6. Second, North Pole is a distinct community from Fairbanks with it's own city center and should not stretch into Fairbanks. Again, this looks like a ploy to dilute distinct communities from voting for their values. Third, the lack of transparency for this meeting by not publishing maps a reasonable amount of time before the comment period is upsetting and makes it extremely difficult for citizens to participate. I hope that you all decide to do the right thing and create actually representative districts, rather than diluting people's values by separating them into communities they aren't a part of.

Thanks,  
Louise Bishop  
[REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 4:33 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to Combining East Anchorage with Eagle River

To Whom it May Concern:

I am an East Anchorage resident and small business owner. I object to combining East Anchorage with Eagle River into one House District. The communities have unique infrastructure needs and very different demographics.

Thank you,

Deborah Bonito

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99504

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: Laura Bonner

Laura spoke in favor of fair representation and the AFFR plan, especially for Anchorage, ensures that all neighborhoods are equally represented with a deviation of 0.35% with no district having more than 36 people from the ideal number. This map is the only map that takes into account the diverse communities of East Anchorage, Fairview, Mountain View, and Downtown Anchorage. These areas feed into the most diverse schools in Alaska and should not be grouped with JBER which would ineffectively dilute and silence the voices of the most diverse communities. Board Maps v.3 and v.4 groups the JBER populations together as a whole, but also includes parts of Mountain View and Downtown. In the AFFR plan, the community council lines are respected as much as possible which is important for the socio-economics and cultures of these districts. Senators, representatives, and staff attend the community council meetings to stay in touch with the communities that they represent. The AFFR map has Chugiak and Eagle River forming its own senate district. Board Maps v.3 and v.4 groups parts of Chugiak and Eagle River with Anchorage; these are distinctly different areas culturally and socio-economically. There is also a well-organized effort called "Eagle Exit" to leave the Municipality of Anchorage and form its own bureau. This is another reason Eagle River/Chugiak should have its own senate district, so the AFFR plan is the best plan for fair representation in Alaska.

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**From:** Cecilia Borries-Strigle <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:52 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for AFFR Redistricting Map

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in my support of the redistricting map proposed by AFFR.

I am a Kenai resident. Kenai is the economic hub for the communities along the Kenai Spur Highway like Salamatof and Nikiski. The AFFR map is the only one that keeps these communities in the same district. It does not make sense for these communities to be in the same district as communities like Moose Pass or Anchorage. Furthermore, as Soldotna is the economic hub for the communities along the Sterling Highway, Kenai and Soldotna should be in separate districts as well. Again, the AFFR map is the only map that does this.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Cecilia Borries-Strigle

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**From:** Anna Bosin <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:01 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Cc:** Rep. Zack Fields; sen.tom.begich@akleg.gov  
**Subject:** Testimony on proposed redistricting maps

I am providing my written testimony regarding redistricting for Anchorage. I support Nicole's map because it appears more compact, respects individual neighborhood boundaries, and does not split up East Anchorage between Eagle River and South Anchorage.

I strongly **object** to Bethany Marcum's proposed map for the following reasons:

This map would put East Anchorage/ Muldoon into Eagle River - overwhelming testimony from both East Anchorage and Eagle River opposed this concept. Eagle River is Socio-economically distinct from East Anchorage and is a bedroom community - in fact they have a current Eagle Exit movement to separate themselves from the Municipality! If Eagle River is joined with East Anchorage, then I expect the voting location to solely be located in East Anchorage and therefore force Eagle River residents drive to East Anchorage to vote!

Marcum's map also puts part of East Anchorage, around the Muldoon curve, into a South Anchorage district. You have to drive through four other districts to get to the rest of this proposed district! This is THE OPPOSITE OF COMPACT! East Anchorage is socio-economically distinct from South Anchorage. There is no bus route that would take residents directly from Muldoon to the center of the South Anchorage district and their votes would be disenfranchised.

The remainder of East Anchorage is placed with JBER in an odd, long, diagonally shaped district. This part of East Anchorage is one of the most racially diverse areas in the country and diluting minority voices in this manner may run afoul of the Voting Rights Act. The map does not respect the diverse communities in east Anchorage & mountain view.

The slicing and dicing of East Anchorage represents an egregious gerrymander and reduces the voice of East Anchorage residents to reduce their representation.

-Anna Bosin  
Anchorage resident  
99501

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

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**From:** Susan Bourgeois <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 11:51 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 1, 2021, 11:51 am

First Name: **Susan**

Last Name: **Bourgeois**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99574**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **comments on all proposals**

Public Comment: **I ask that the redistricting board adopt a plan that keeps Cordova in a district with Kodiak. Cordova has been well-represented with Kodiak because the two cities have common issues; mainly commercial fishing, and marine transportation. Board proposed plan v.3 and board proposed plan v.4 would both be preferred choices. AFFR's plan would also work well because it includes Cordova, Kodiak, and other coastal and commercial fishing communities. AFFR's plan would not work at all as Cordova would be the only commercial fishing and coastal city in a district with upriver and interior villages that are very socioeconomically dissimilar. Likewise, the Senate minority plan groups Cordova with upriver and interior communities that share very few interests which would make it very difficult to simultaneously represent the citizens who live across this vast area. Doyon's plan is not preferred because it rips apart a district whose communities have worked well together and groups together Glenn Highway communities with the very dissimilar coastal, Prince William Sound communities of Cordova, Valdez, Chenega and Tatitlek.**

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**From:** Aurora Bowers [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 6:57 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Hi there,

I'm writing to express my opposition to redistricting Goldstream out of Fairbanks. As a born and raised Goldstreamer, I can attest that Goldstream is part of the Fairbanks community. This should be obvious, and anyone who would legislate otherwise is obviously not familiar with Goldstream.

Thank you,  
Aurora Bowers

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**From:** Jackie B <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 12:03 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Public Testimony

Chair Binkley and Members of the Board -

I am writing in my capacity as a resident of Eagle River to request that we do not be combined with east Anchorage in this redistricting process. Eagle River is not socioeconomically integrated with east and doesn't pass the "Fred Meyer" test. It would be a disservice to both vastly different areas to combine them into one district. Again, please do not combine Eagle River with east Anchorage.

Thank you,  
Jacquelyn Boyer

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**From:** Jasmine Boyle <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 7:39 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting Written Testimony

AK Redistricting board:

Bethany Marcum's current map does not account for the significant public testimony against blending Anchorage's Muldoon area with Eagle River. As has been stated many times before, Eagle River and East Anchorage are socio-economically distinct and geographically separate. As a former Eagle River resident and a current Chugiak resident I adamantly oppose this decision. Based on the AK criteria of redistricting, this does not make sense and appears to be an attempt to ignore the strong feedback from the community. Additionally, it ignores the socioeconomic complexion of East Anchorage. We can and must do better to represent diverse communities and ensure votes are not drowned out for seemingly political purposes.

Jasmine Boyle

99567



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**From:** Anna Brawley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 5:34 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony, new HD 12: Maintain a cohesive district with East-West pairing with HD13

Dear Redistricting Board,

I am currently a resident in HD 21, which would become HD 12 in the newly-approved House maps - first, thank you, I supported the version of the maps that were ultimately approved, and appreciated the Board's commitment to upholding the required priorities of compactness, similar socioeconomic and cultural character, etc. for our area of West Anchorage.

I am writing to strongly urge the Board to follow an East-West method of pairing districts, and specifically to pair new HD 12 with new HD 13 to our east, including Spenard and Midtown. I believe this is the best combination of districts. Here are some of the reasons why this is the best possible choice:

- It keeps Spenard and Turnagain together, as historically we are closely linked communities.
- It keeps the Northern Lights / West Anchorage corridor linked, which is an important connection between the residential areas to the west and the businesses, shops, and other residential areas to our immediate east.
- It minimizes a split in representation, particularly in the Senate: it would mean that a single Senator represents both our neighborhoods, and will understand how closely we are connected via the Airport, Spenard Road, Northern Lights and Benson, and the areas surrounding these important economic centers.

If this pairing is not possible, the next most logical pairing would also be East-West, pairing HD 12 with HD 14, for the same reasons: all of these areas are mixed-use, with significant commercial activity and residential areas, and closely connected to the economic centers of Midtown, Taku-Campbell, and the C street commercial corridor. HD 13 is a much closer and better fit to our area, but HD 14 is also an acceptable choice.

I also oppose pairing HD 12 and HD 11: the area proposed to be HD 11 is primarily a residential area in South Anchorage, more closely connected to other areas thought of as South, from the O'Malley-Huffman commercial corridor to Oceanview and further east. Pairing that district with another South district would be much more logical, as they are closely connected and considered a distinct neighborhood or region to West.

And while I cannot comment in detail on other areas I am less familiar with, I am familiar with Anchorage as a whole, and have been closely involved in the community for several years. Looking at the maps of the rest of the city, I believe an East-West pairing would make the most sense for many of the adjacent districts - from the Downtown area (which stretches relatively far east, all the way to Merrill Field, as a commercial corridor) to East Anchorage to other parts of Midtown and the University. It seems that overall, pairing East-West House districts will result in Senate districts that best reflect how our community is actually situated, which areas of town are closely related or connected, and ensure fair representation across the board.

Thank you for taking on this important and difficult task, and ensuring fair and appropriate representation for all Alaska residents - including those of us West Anchorage residents in what will be District 12!

Thank you,  
Anna Brawley  
Turnagain resident  
(current HD21, future HD12)

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Allen Breittnam**

**Allen lives 14 miles out East End Road and spoke in opposition of removing Fritz Creek from District 31 and redistricting it with Kodiak. This area is socio-economically tied with Homer. Residents also go to school, work, use the harbor and airport in Homer. Russian villages are also tied to Homer. If anything should happen, it would make more sense to have Seward added to the district as they are also a waterfront community. Drop Kasilof north to gain Seward as the area is not socio-economically tied to Homer.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Skagway 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Jamie Bricker**

**Jamie echoed the testimonies of Mayor Cremata and Assemblymember Deborah Potter. The socio-economic connection between Skagway and Downtown Juneau is strong and important. Jamie would like to see Skagway remain connected to Downtown Juneau and other areas that are similar in size, location, and issues.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Kary Brinson**

**Kary Brinson spoke in opposition of Board Map v.3 and Board Map v.4 as it separates Fritz Creek from the Homer area; this makes no sense. She wants to ensure that her opposition was voiced as she knows that her community members also feel the same way. Kary does not understand the Doyon Coalition map. The Senate Minority Caucus and the AFFR's proposed Kenai Peninsula maps look logical. The AFFR map does not make logical sense.**

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**From:** Robert Brodie <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 11:26 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 11:25 am

First Name: **Robert**

Last Name: **Brodie**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **self, former 2010 redistricting board member**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99615**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Doyon district 5c**

Public Comment: **I want thank the board for coming to Kodiak and sharing the 6 plans. I appreciate the time they took to explain the process and resulting plans for consideration.**

**I realize the change in Alaska's population there must be some changes made to reflect a fair distribution of residents. Kodiak's current district stretches from Kodiak Island to Seldovia, Tatitlik, Cordova & Yakutat. All rural communities with fishing interests.**

**Of the 6 plans I lean towards the AFFR and Doyon plans.**

**AFFR has Kodiak paired with Lake & Peninsula Borough, Whittier & Seward, small communities with fishing interests.**

**Doyon has Kodiak paired with Seward**

**the other 4 plans have Kodiak encroaching in to the Homer east end urban area or being paired with Valdez an the oil industry. I don't think these urban & oil focused communities are a good match with Kodiak.**

**thank you for your time and efforts.**

**I well remember the hours, sweat and effort our board put in 10 years ago and commensurate with your position. I know you will do your best to present a fair and balanced plan for the next 10 years of Alaska's future.**

**Respectfully,**

**Bob Brodie**

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**From:** Janis Bronson <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 11:19 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 11:18 am

First Name: **Janis**

Last Name: **Bronson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **East Anchorage**

Public Comment: **I oppose the map proposed. by board member Ms Marcum because it would dilute the votes of minority people in East Anchorage. By lumping minority voters together with a larger number of conservative White voters in Eagle River, the perspective and concerns of many East Anchorage voters are likely to be lost. Please do not support Ms Marcus's map. Thank you.**


# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 4, 2021, 6:07 pm

Name: **Mike Bronson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **NAACP**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **No Gerrymandering to reduce the voting effect of browner and poorer voters of NE Anchorage**

Public Comment: **Don't gerrymander northeast Anchorage with Eagle River. President, Anchorage NAACP**

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**From:** Dylan Brooks <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 6:56 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 3, 2021, 6:56 am

First Name: **Dylan**

Last Name: **Brooks**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99712**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Fairbanks**

Public Comment: **I am writing in support of the Board Version 4 in regard to district boundaries for the Fairbanks area. In my opinion it provides for the most logical boundaries representing cohesive neighborhoods in the Fairbanks and North Pole areas. Some examples demonstrating this are the Hot Springs Road area represented as the contiguous neighborhood that it is, North Pole represented as the cohesive town that it is, Farmers Loop being treated the same, and the Goldstream maintaining its integrity. The AFFR option is similarly effective in this regard and is a good second option. To varying degrees, the other proposed maps break up neighborhoods and thus provide for less valid representation of the Fairbanks area.**



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Malcolm Brown**

**Malcolm is against redistricting District 31 to the Kodiak district. If the district needs more people, Malcom recommended adding Seward to the district due to similar economies through the waterfront activities and dropping Kasilof northern area. There are multiple reasons to maintain the social, cultural, and economic connectivity between District 31 and Fox River residents.**

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**From:** Mary Brown <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 8:58 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 8:58 am

First Name: **Mary**

Last Name: **Brown**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Support AFFR, oppose v3 and v4**

Public Comment: **I'm writing to ask that you do not split my Rogers Park neighborhood, as is done in both v. 3 and v. 4 of the board's maps. I'm speaking against v. 3 and v. 4 and in favor of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map.**

**The Rogers Park neighborhood, one of the oldest in Anchorage, encompasses homes on both sides of Northern Lights Blvd. I live on the north side of Northern Lights. Rather than being kept with our Rogers Park neighbors to the south of NL and being part of the U-Med area district, under v. 3 we would be put in a district with Fairview, and parts of East Anchorage. Board v. 4, similarly, divides and splits the Rogers Park neighborhood by using Northern Lights as a dividing line. Both v. 3 and v.4 would cause an unfortunate mis-alignment because our interests are closely associated with others in the Rogers Park neighborhood who live south of Northern Lights.**

**The AFFR map does a much better job of socio-economic alignment not only in the Rogers Park neighborhood but also in other Anchorage neighborhoods such as East Anchorage, Fairview and Mountain View.**


**Please adopt the AFFR map for Anchorage.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Palmer 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 1, 2021

Name: **Mike Brown**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Mat-Su Borough Manager**

**Mike Brown will not be speaking in favor or opposition of any maps. Mike noted that the Mat-Su Borough Assembly passed a resolution in September 2021 to articulate what the desires and needs were for the Mat-Su Borough:**

- 1. The Mat-Su Borough supports a plan that allocates the borough with 6 house and 3 senate districts while adhering as closely as possible to borough boundaries.**
- 2. The borough desires to be partnered with the Denali Borough and not cross into the Anchorage boundary.**
- 3. The borough prefers an eastern district, a Goose Bay/Big Lake district, a Houston northwest district (partnered with the Denali Borough to the north), a Wasilla district, a Palmer district, and a southern district in the core area between Palmer and Wasilla.**

**The borough would like to avoid partnering with Valdez. This is about the Mat-Su Borough's gains. The borough would like to avoid taking population from the Mat-Su Borough in order to make other district populations whole.**

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**From:** Barbara Brulotte [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 12:17 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** East Anchorage / Eagle River Redistricting

Hello,

I am an East Anchorage resident, and I would like to voice my opposition to the combining of East Anchorage and Eagle River.

I support Nicole's map as it is more compact and does not split East Anchorage up into Eagle River and South Anchorage. This map shows more respect for residential boundaries.

Thank you,

Barbara J. Brulotte  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99504  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Maida Buckley <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:42 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream Valley representation

To Whom It May Concern;

While unable to participate via audio, as a Fairbanks resident for more than fifty years, I appreciate the opportunity to enter testimony on redistricting.

I strongly object to a redistricting plan that couples my neighborhood, Goldstream Valley, with interior rural villages and Tok and Delta. Forty years ago, my husband and I built our home in the Goldstream Valley to be close to our work - UAF for nearly twenty years, and the Fairbanks North Borough School District for thirty years. Similarly, our children attended Fairbanks' elementary, middle, and high schools. Socioeconomically, the Goldstream Valley is not distinct from and is definitely part of the University and Fairbanks community. A more sensible plan and one that addresses geographical considerations as well is placing Salcha, Eielson and Harding Lake with Tok, Delta, and the Richardson Highway.

Any plan that does not represent the connection between Goldstream residents and the University community seems forced and suggests the possibility of political bias.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Maida Buckley  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/30/21 Verbal Testimony**

Date: November 4, 2021, 8:57 pm

Name: **Christina Buffington**

**Christina Buffington spoke in favor of the Doyon Coalition map and some aspects of Senate Minority Caucus map. She does not support Board Map v.3 in the Greater Fairbanks area, which in the Doyon Coalition map is shown in a donut shape. Christina appreciates the differences respected in Fairbanks, North Pole, Salcha, and Eielson. It also integrates tribal communities in the surrounding area. The Senate Minority map keeps communities together with consideration for socio-economic needs although she has not reviewed that map beyond the Greater Fairbanks area.**

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**From:** MONIKA <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:28 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** redistricting concerns

As a concerned MatSu borough resident I would strongly encourage you to consider the following with regard of redistricting.

**Wherever possible the final map should ensure that populations are fairly distributed.** This means that packing residents, as the Board's map version 3 does in Fairbanks, is not a good idea, leads to high deviations that are unnecessary, and is unfair.

1. **Wherever possible, MatSu should have at least five full house districts and then only break the Borough boundary to add population to get its sixth district.** That should be to the east of the Borough or the north of the borough. MatSu has been combined with Anchorage before, but now they each have enough population that they need to add persons. The most effective way to address that appears to not draw population from each other - robbing Peter to pay Paul - but rather to draw from the North and East for the MatSu, and south to Kenai for Anchorage (as Kenai has about 20% extra to give and these folks should have the full impact of their vote honored).
2. **Please keep deviations low.** We recognize a final map will likely have an overall deviation in the 7% range, but in the organized Boroughs that have multiple House seats these deviations can be kept to a minimum and should be. AFR and Senate Minority Caucus maps do this.
3. **Doyon map is not bad**, but breaks Anchorage and MatSu

Thank you for your consideration,  
Monika Bujotzek

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 5:09 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Re: Redistricting Maps

To the State of Alaska Redistricting Board:

My name is Greg Burger and I appreciate being given this opportunity to weigh in on the question of redistricting. My voting district is in the Mendenhall Valley. I am submitting my written comments concerning the six maps being considered for redistricting.

It is crucial that district maps adhere to the constitutional criteria ensuring equal representation in the legislature.

**I OPPOSE:** The following **FOUR** maps.

**AFFER, Board Maps 3 & 4 and DOYON Coalition Map** (which is “OK” except that the overall population deviation for the state is **NOT** well balanced).

**I AM IN FAVOR OF:** The **TWO** remaining maps: **AFFR** seems like it adheres to the constitutional criteria;

**Senate Minority Map** has the least population deviation and keeps lines drawn similarly to what they are now.

I believe it's vital to take into consideration population AND socio economic integration so that communities represented by a district are connected and related - taking into consideration things like schools and school districts, transportation links, recreation areas, shopping and retail, etc.

Thank you for this opportunity to weigh in on this very important issue.

Respectfully,  
Greg Burger

[REDACTED]  
Juneau, AK 99801



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**From:** Erika Burr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 6:04 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Fairbanks area districting

To the redistributing committee;

I am writing in opposition to combining the Goldstream Valley with Tok, Delta and the Richardson hwy.

Goldstream is part of the Fairbanks University community and the north and west. It does not belong in the same district as the interior rural villages or Tok and Delta. The board could more reasonably use Salcha, Eielson and Harding lake to populate with Tok.

Thank you for taking the time and energy to hear our concerns and work to make sensible and fair districting plans.

Erika Burr  
[REDACTED]  
West Fairbanks

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**From:** John Burr [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 5:18 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream belongs with University district

5:14 PM (1 minute)

**John Burr** [REDACTED]

to Testimony



Alaska Redistricting Board,

Goldstream should NOT be included with the interior rural villages and Tok and Delta. Goldstream is part of the University community and the north and west.

The board should use Salcha, Eielson, and Harding Lake to populate with Tok.

Thank You.

John Burr  
PO Box [REDACTED]  
Faairbanks  
[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: Frana Burtness-Adams

Frana spoke against Board Map v.3 because of the following reasons: 1) It is a gerrymandered map put forth by a former Republican legislator whose party will benefit at the expense of the community and its values. 2) It overpopulates each Fairbanks district resulting in votes to be counted less than the voters in Kenai, Anchorage, or Mat-Su. 3) It divides Fairbanks into north and south areas, which is the opposite of the natural, cultural, social, and political orientation that follows the Chena east to west. 4) It puts parts of North Pole and parts of Fairbanks together into the same district; this is an injustice to the community of North Pole that has its own distinctive community. Frana asked the board to not adopt Board Map v.3 as it does not serve the best interests of the community. Frana spoke in favor of Board Map v.4 and the AFFR map because they both keep Fairbanks and North Pole separate, does not overpopulate districts, adheres to the lines of Fairbanks, ensures that the community has appropriate representation for the next 10 years.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: **Barbara Buzzelli-Ault**

**Barbara is a Fritz Creek resident who spoke in opposition of Fritz Creek being redistricted with Kodiak. She has been self-employed on the Homer Spit for close to 40 years and actively uses the harbor. East End residents work, attend school, etc. in Homer. She does not feel that redistricting should happen with Kodiak where it is 125 miles away via water. They will not get accurate representation from Kodiak. Also, Kodiak does not receive snowfall like Fritz Creek residents do. Additionally, there are close ties of the Russian villages to Nikolaevich. If redistricting needs to happen, Seward should be added to the Homer district as it once was as they are a waterfront community with tourism and fishing. Kodiak is more based on hunting, not waterfront activities.**

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**From:** Mike Byerly <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 11:35 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 11:34 pm

First Name: **Mike**

Last Name: **Byerly**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Do not support maps 3 and 4 in general and have major concern with Kenai Peninsula districts**

Public Comment: **I live in Homer, AK 99603. I wish to express my dissatisfaction of Maps 3 and 4 and general support for the Alaskans For Fair Redistricting (AFFR) maps statewide. Specific to the Kenai Peninsula, I am completely opposed to the way District 6 in Maps 3 and 4 is drawn. District 6 in these maps fails to meet the redistricting requirements of Compactness and Socio-Economic Integration. The carve out of Fritz Creek specifically, but also the omission of the Kachemak Bay communities from Seldovia through Halibut Cove on the south side of the bay and the Russian villages at the head of the bay, are not explained. To meet the compactness criteria, if there are irregular shapes such as the Fritz Creek carve out, the board must justify this by showing that there is no practical alternative way to satisfy other requirements. The board has not done this.**

**Maps 3 and 4 fail miserably in satisfying the Socio-Economic Integration criteria for Districts 6, 7, and 8. This is an important criterion in the Alaska Constitution. The communities of Homer (including Kachemak Bay communities), Anchor Point, and Seward used to be in the same district prior to the 2010 redistricting. It was a mistake to break that district up and Maps 3 and 4 not only do not remedy the situation but they make it worse. Seward and Homer are port towns. Neither community would be what they are without a port. In the western Peninsula, Homer is distinct from other communities to the north in this respect. Commercial fishing is a large part of our economy. We have a diversified fleet that includes halibut, Pacific cod, and sablefish longline, pot fisheries, jig fisheries, crabbers, tenders, as well as a large salmon fleet of gillnetters and seiners. Boats that fish out of Homer go everywhere. The only fishery we share with community's north is upper Cook Inlet salmon and that is a minor component of our fleet. Like Homer, Seward has a large commercial fishing community that is made up of a diversified fleet fishing in the same or similar fisheries. There is a lot of fish processing capacity in Seward and like Homer a lot of groundfish come across the docks. Both communities have small and big boat fleets. Both communities have large marine services businesses. Seward has a large haul out facility in Seward Ship and Homer has one of the largest yards in Alaska. Homer's marine services industry is only expanding with a new large travel lift, haul outs on the beach on the Homer Spit and by all accounts a harbor expansion in the near future. Fishermen in both community's fish a multitude of fisheries statewide and land and sell fish in each other's ports. Like Homer, Seldovia is a port town. Halibut Cove literally is built in a port. All the communities on the south side of Kachemak Bay are on the water and rely on boats to get to and from Homer. We are one community, period.**

Both Homer and Seward have large marine sport fisheries. The sport charter businesses are an incredibly important part of our economies. Like the commercial fleet, they are diversified, and fish salmon and groundfish. The groundfish trips are diversified including halibut, rockfish, and lingcod. Both Homer and Seward have thriving marine based sight seeing and wildlife tour industries. Tourist seeking whale watching, seabird viewing, and kayaking trips visit both communities for the same reason. Both are located in a maritime environment and are in close proximity to the Gulf of Alaska.

Folks in Anchor Point, Homer, and Kackemak Bay shop in Homer and have services done in Homer. Folks in communities north of Anchor Point predominately shop and have services done in Soldotna and Kenai. This includes health care with those near Homer relying on South Peninsula Hospital and local clinics and those north relying on Central Peninsula Hospital. All the communities north of Anchor Point are primarily focused on upper Cook Inlet and share socio-economic ties to Kenai and Soldotna. The AFFR map draws a logical boundary for district 7-D using the Kenai River as much of the northern boundary.

Seward being in District 8 in Maps 3 and 4 is grouped with the whole northern peninsula over to Nikiski in the west. Nikiski and Seward could not be more different socio-economically. Nikiski's economy is predominantly oil and gas while Seward is marine based fisheries and tourism. Requiring one representative to equally represent these 2 different communities and a large ask. It would be difficult for a representative to intimately know and understand all the needs of both the communities. Seward is linked by the Seward Highway to the community of Moose Pass and both share similarities in their tourist economies, so it makes sense to keep them in the same district.

So, there you have it. Back to the future. Please correct the mistakes of the past (the 2010 map), make it easier on our representatives to serve their communities, and respect the socio-economic ties among communities.

Thank you, Mike Byerly

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**From:** Amanda Byrd <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 7:07 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** No to Goldstream gerrymander

Dear Redistricting Board,

I am opposed to the gerrymandering of political boundaries for the benefit of the current party.

Please keep Goldstream area in its current boundary as it is intimately tied socioeconomically to the university and Fairbanks. Please keep that boundary as it is so simple and smart.

Please use instead Harding Lake, Salcha and Richardson Highway. Those communities are more similar to the Tok socioeconomic area.

Thank you so much for the hard work you do.

Kind regards

Amanda Byrd.

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks 99709  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Alexis Bystedt <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:45 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream Redistrict Issues

Goldstream is part of the University community. Lumping our University community in with more rural areas does not make sense, do not do this.

Thank you for your time,

Alexis Bystedt



November 5, 2021

Dear Directors of the Alaska Redistricting Board,

Thank you for your public service and diligent, intense work in this compressed redistricting period. Calista supports the AFFER map 2.7.4.1. Its overall deviation of 3.08 is low to ensure one person one vote. District 37 deviation is -1.08% and AFFER District 38 deviation is -0.35% which are excellent numbers appropriately reflecting the improved technology available in this 2021 redistricting process; the first time the Alaska Redistricting Board provided public access to mapping software. In addition to protecting the voting rights of the Alaskans who live in the Yukon Kuskokwim Region, the AFFER map 2.7.4.1 also follows the *Hickel* process and appropriately balances the legal requirements.

This map is largely consistent with prior socioeconomic integration supported by Alaska legal precedent: 2013 Proclamation map approved by Alaska Superior Court had Calista Region in three districts: 37, 38, 39. 37, 38, and 39 also incorporated regions from Bering Straits Native Corporation, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and Doyon. This map adds Buckling and Deering from the NANA Region into 39. In the 2001 map the Seward Peninsula Village of Shishmaref was placed in D 40 to decrease D 40 excessive negative deviation. In the 2020 US Census, the Northwest Arctic and North Slope Boroughs are 2.7% above ideal district population. We propose Buckland and Deering shift to District 39; otherwise District 40's overpopulation would impermissibly dilute the voting power of District 40 residents. Since D 39 and D 40 share State Senator T, the Buckland and Deering voters will vote with all Northwest Arctic voters in the Senate T elections.

The Calista Region population grew. The Calista Region's population in the Bethel and Kusilvak Census Areas is 27,034, resulting in 1.474 Alaska State House Districts and .737 Alaska Senate Districts. To protect the voting strength of the Yukon Kuskokwim residents, the districts must shift. Alaska courts have affirmed having the Calista Region's population in 2 or 3 districts (District 37, 38 and 39). However, Calista Senate representation has been diluted for decades by splitting the House districts with the largest Calista Region population into separate Senate Districts. In 2011, the Alaska Supreme Court in *Riley* found City of Fairbanks Senate representation must not be split into two Senate Districts. This is analogous to Calista as ANCSA Regional Corporation boundaries are similar to a local-government boundary and also suggest socio-economic integration.

To ensure that Calista voters have their legal right to one person one vote, some Calista population appropriately shifted to District 37; this increases Calista representation in Senate District S. The Southern Villages of the Lower Kuskokwim School District are assigned to AFFER District 37. While the Calista Region grew, the combined populations of Lake & Peninsula Borough, Bristol Bay Borough, Aleutians East Borough, Aleutians West Census Area and Dillingham Census Area from 2010 Census to 2020 Census decreased by 348 people. Therefore, Alaska's Southwestern District must add population. The 2013 District 37 included eight Doyon villages and Doyon could be looked to for adding the necessary population.

Hooper Bay requested to be included in the Bethel District for socio-economic integration purposes. Accordingly, the Villages of Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay and Chevak---three linked coastal Villages--moved from D 39 to D 38. To reduce the 2020 Census excess population in D 38, the Southwestern Calista villages of Kwigillingok, Kongiganak, Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay, and Platinum are assigned to D 37. Calista Kuskokwim River villages form the northern boundary of D 37. These five Calista villages allow the Doyon Yukon River and Upper Kuskokwim River villages previously in District 37 to return to the Interior. The addition of Calista Villages reduces the D 37 length by more than a hundred twenty miles from the 2013 Proclamation Map. The width of the district increases by seventy-five miles. The resulting AFFER D 37 becomes more compact and more socioeconomically integrated.

The compactness of D 38 is not measurably changed. One person one vote is upheld with the low deviations: District 37 deviation is -1.08% and AFFER District 38 deviation is -0.35%. This Calista Village reassignment ensures that Doyon Villages remain in the Interior and does not pull them into AFFER Districts 37 or 38. Furthermore, the Kenai Borough breach for Coalition District 37 population disappears. Since AFFER District 40 does not require any Doyon Villages, the 2021 AFFER Map has all the Doyon Villages in Districts 5 and 39.

Both Calista and Doyon have Villages in AFFER District 39. The 2021 AFFER Map Is the best legally defensible compromise for the 2020 Census Data appropriately balancing one person one vote, compactness, contiguity, socioeconomic integration, and following geographical features as Districts 37-38 largely follow river drainages for example.

Thank you,

CALISTA CORPORATION



Andrew Guy  
President/CEO

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Palmer 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 1, 2021

Name: Carol Carman

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Carol Carman testified on behalf of herself today with experience as a Republican representative in District 9. Her district runs from Delta Junction, to Glennallen, to Valdez, across the mountains to Whittier, and then down the Glenn Highway to Palmer. Carol Carman has been District Chair since 2016 and has gotten to know the communities very well through their representatives who attend District Committee meetings.

Carol expressed concern for many maps including Glennallen and Carol has had "nothing but trouble with Glennallen". Glennallen has expressed concern for being apart of an unorganized borough that surrounds them and results in their voices being diluted. Carol stated that Glennallen should not be included with her district if they do not want to be.

Carol also expressed concerns on how senate districts are formed. Currently, different communities are "thrown together and they're not related". In Board Map v.3, Districts 26 and 27 are in the middle and densely populated. The way they are numbered results in them being grouped in different areas. Wasilla and KGB should be one senate district as they are alike, are centered around Wasilla, are very densely populated, and this leaves 2 districts on the east whose communities revolve around Palmer.

Carol lives up Palmer-Fishhook Road, almost halfway up to Hatcher's Pass, but her mailing address has Palmer on it, she shops in Palmer, goes to meetings in Palmer, and has friends on the eastside with similar socio-economic groups. Their lifestyles are different from the residents on the Wasilla side of the Mat-Su.

On the west side on the southern end, there is a Big Lake community that wants to be their own city and is very independent. There are road and off-road system homes. If you go north, you will see the same in Houston, Willow, and Talkeetna. These communities are similar in their lifestyles and socio-economic groupings, so they should have one senate district in the west, in the middle, and one on the east.

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**From:** Carey Carpenter <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 12:31 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 2, 2021, 12:30 pm

First Name: **Carey**

Last Name: **Carpenter**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99515**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Fair Maps**

Public Comment: **Hello and thank you for serving on the Redistricting Board to make sure that Alaskans are fairly represented. I'm writing to request that we use the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting Map in representation of our communities. I want to see fair representation as the number one consideration for redistricting and not political parties. Do the right thing and use the AFFR map for our communities.**

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**From:** Kristin Carpenter <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 4:55 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 1, 2021, 4:55 pm

First Name: **Kristin**

Last Name: **Carpenter**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99574**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **AFFR map**

Public Comment: **I would like to see PWS communities kept within the same legislative district, and the AFFR map achieves that. I don't understand the need to loop Fox River (just over 300 people, I think), north of Homer, into a district with PWS when the city of Whittier (pop. 297, I think), which is right on the Sound, could be included in a PWS district. Cordova definitely wants to continue being included in a district with other PWS communities and Kodiak because of our similar maritime economy (commercial fishing, mariculture, marine shipping, ferry service) needs.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Cordova 11/1/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Kristin Carpenter**

Affiliation: **PWS Economic Dev. District (Executive Director) but speaking on behalf of self**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Kristin is in favor of keeping Cordova in a district that includes as many Prince William Sound (PWS) communities as possible. Cordova has a maritime economy which is something they have in common with Kodiak. Although there is a connection by the Copper River up to the interior, regarding transportation, there will always have a tension between discussing the ferry system and surface road issues; these two do not align well. Harbor infrastructure is also a big issue for all coastal communities. PWS and Cordova also has the following in common: - Ferry system - Schools and teams play in the same leagues - Tourism, shares same tourist traffic Cordova prefers to be in a district with Kodiak, then southeast, then the interior. There is a map that has Fox River north of Homer (a few hundred people) that were looped into District 5-C, yet Whittier was lumped in with Anchorage with only 287 people. Why not include Whittier with other PWS communities?**

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**From:** Jackie Cason <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 2:29 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 2:28 pm

First Name: **Jackie**

Last Name: **Cason**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Community coherence vs gerrymandering**

Public Comment: **I would like to support the version 4 map.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: Alison Casort

Having grown up in Fairbanks and North Pole, Alison can testify confidently that both areas are two distinct communities that should not be districted as one. Board Map v.3 puts a large portion of North Pole, including urban Fairbanks into a district, and this does not feel representative of either place. It also overpopulates every Fairbanks district without following borough boundaries. She does not see a reason to draw the district along these lines at the expense of accurate Fairbanks representation particularly when borough boundaries are not followed in other areas of the state such as Anchorage and Kenai. Fairbanks has always been oriented along the Chena River from east to west. Board Map v.4 and AFFR map both follow this orientation, but Board Map v.3 divides the community in a north to south orientation. As a current UAF student, she hopes for the West University of Fairbanks communities (Goldstream, Fox, Ester, Chena Ridge) together which only the AFFR map does currently. This should be a guiding principal for how the West Fairbanks area is represented.



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: Kasey Casort

**Kasey Casort grew up in Fairbanks and North Pole and knows with confidence that they are fully distinct communities that should not be included in one district. Board Map v.3 puts a large part of North Pole in one district, including urban Fairbanks, but it does not feel representative of either place. Fairbanks has always been oriented along the Chena River on an east to west direction. Board Map v.4 and and AFFR maps both retain this orientation. Board Map v.3 divides the community against the grain along a north-south orientation and divides the community in an unnatural way. Board Map v.3 also overpopulates every Fairbanks district and there is no reason to redistrict along the district lines of the borough boundaries at the expense of unfair representation. Whatever map the board develops will hopefully have fair representation. Please keep the West Fairbanks University communities together, which only the AFFR map does currently. These communities consist of students, staff, and professors. UAF is an important part of Fairbanks and it should be a guiding principle for how West Fairbanks is represented altogether.**

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**From:** Kasey Casort <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:18 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Please do not separate Goldstream from Fairbanks

Hello,

I just provided the following testimony verbally, but I wanted to send it in writing for the record.

Hello, my name is Kasey Casort, and I am a lifelong resident of Fairbanks.

I want to say for the record that I am **extremely frustrated with this process** and how challenging it was to make public comment today. **There still isn't a map of Fairbanks available that we're supposed to be commenting on today--** I only know about the proposed changes because I've seen photos on social media. Plus, we still haven't heard anything about Senate pairings, which is something I would like to testify on. Today I was on the line from 8:55AM until I finally got to testify at 1:12PM. I know of at least a few other people who were on line to testify this morning but who have had to hang up since they simply couldn't be online for 4+ hours waiting to testify at some unknown time, on maps we haven't been able to see yet.

My actual reason for calling, though, is that I've testified twice before the Redistricting Board, and was maybe naively hopeful that my testimony, along with dozens of others who I heard sharing similar feelings about the value of keeping Goldstream with its neighbors in Ester, Chena Pump, Chena Ridge, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, would be reflected in the final map. I'm quite dismayed to see now that in order to make Fairbanks fairly represented and not overpopulated, the board is pulling Goldstream out of Fairbanks and into a district with rural Interior Alaska, which is really not representative of either area. I've read that in previous redistricting cycles another map tried to pull Goldstream into a district that went all the way to the coast, and this was ruled unconstitutional because it's not compact or keeping similar communities together.

I grew up mostly in the Chena Pump area, but my family moved to Goldstream for a few years while I was in middle and high school. When we lived in Goldstream, nothing functionally changed for us except that the drive to school was longer and I rode a different bus route home. My family still shopped at the west fred meyers, still used the Borough transfer sites, and still regularly attended events on the UAF campus. I can't think of a more cohesive part of Fairbanks than Goldstream, Ester, and Chena Pump and Chena Ridge, and it really doesn't make sense to me to split Goldstream as a way to stop overpopulating Fairbanks. Instead, I'd like to see population pulled from southeast rather than the northwest, since I think there's more similarities with the more rural area to the southeast than to the north, which I believe is already done in board map version 4.

I also want to mention again that Fairbanks and North Pole are distinct places and the North Pole district should not go all the way into Fairbanks.

Thanks for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,  
Kasey Casort  
Fairbanks, AK

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**From:** Matt Casort <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:18 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting Testimony 11/5

Hello there,

I would like to add my testimony to the record regarding the current redistricting process and it's affect on Interior Alaska. I have previously written a letter to the editor, published in the Daily News-Miner, in which I described the board's effort to change the current voting districts.

As a former resident of North Pole, I know that North Pole has a separate culture and identity from Fairbanks. While there are many similarities, each community deserves their own representation. The current plan combines much of North Pole with south Fairbanks, this is a mistake and the two communities need to have their own representatives.

I am a current resident of Two Rivers and the plan to combine Two Rivers with the Goldstream Valley doesn't seem to make much sense. Most of the Goldstream Valley has much more in common with west Fairbanks, Ester, and the University of Alaska than it does with the Two Rivers area. Please consider keeping Goldstream connected to west Fairbanks and keep Two Rivers united with the eastern part of the borough.

Thank you,

Matthew Casort  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99712  
[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Stuart Chapin**

**Stuart strongly prefers the AFFR map or Board Map v.4. Board Map v.3 divides Fairbanks up in ways that are not in the best interest of any of the communities involved and has inadequate representation of Fairbanks. Board Map v.3 does not represent the various communities that make up Fairbanks. The communities in Fairbanks differ in east/west directions in parallel to the Tenana River. It is only fair to these communities, who share the same values, service areas, and interests, to be grouped together. The AFFR map would do a better job of achieving these things instead of Board Map v.3.**

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**From:** Derrick Charles <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 10:00 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Get Involved Response

A website response from the Get Involved form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 1, 2021, 9:59 am

First Name: **Derrick**

Last Name: **Charles**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **I am in favor of new redistrict plan v.4**

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**From:** Jessie Chilstrom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 8:11 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Support map #73975

We do not support the AFFER plan, it does not make sense geographically or socio-economically. Please support map #73975 <https://districtr.org/plan/73975>

:)  
Jessie Chilstrom

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**From:** Su Chon <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:24 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting Maps Public Comment

Hello,

My name is Su Chon, and I'm a lifelong Alaskan who was born and raised in Anchorage. I am writing to express my concern with the V3 board proposed map because it does not follow the constitutional guidelines and they do not allow for fair representation of all voices. I support a map that more closely aligns with the AFFR map which meets the mapping criteria of contiguity, compactness, socio-economic integration, and equal population. It goes a step further to consider federal equal protection requirements as well. Between the considered V.3 and V.4 board maps, V4 more closely follows the constitutional guidelines but could still be improved with equal population and other aspects but it is still better than V3 especially in regards to compactness and socio-economic integration.

I am a part of Anchorage's multi-cultural communities and the board would be remiss to not acknowledge the growing diversity as one of Anchorage's defining socio-economic features. The maximum number of districts should be drawn to allow these diverse neighborhoods to elect their preferred candidate. The parts of Anchorage that are diverse should not be split up in ways that don't make sense socio-economically which takes away the voice and power of these communities. Please do not lump East Anchorage with Eagle River. Having lived in Anchorage my entire life and having worked in those areas, they are two very separate communities.

Finally, I request that the board enable commenting on the final version that the Board draws. This is an extremely complicated process yet a critical factor in shaping Alaska's democracy and it deserves more time and engagement from Alaskans as it will define the political landscape for the next ten years. Please extend the comment period and allow for more Alaskans to engage in this process.

Thank you,  
Su Chon

**From:** Sue Christiansen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 12:13 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Redistricting

**I support the AFFR map. It respects the natural socio-economic connections within the Kenai Peninsula**

- Homer and Seward belong in the same district, because unique in the region their economies are centered on fishing and tourism in Kachemak and Resurrection Bays
- Kenai and Nikiski belong in the same district, because Kenai is the economic hub for the Kenai Spur Highway communities
- Soldotna, Kasilof, Ninilchik, and Clam Gulch belong in the same district because Soldotna is the economic hub for the south Sterling Highway communities

**AFFR is the only map that keeps all the communities of Kachemak Bay in the same district**

- Seldovia and Halibut Cove have strong socio-economic ties to Homer with water taxi services allowing for daily commutes between these communities
- Both board options put Fritz Creek, the Russian Old Believer villages, Seldovia and Halibut Cove in a different district from Homer
- AFFR (the Republican sponsored map) slices and dices Seldovia by putting the portions of Seldovia outside of the city limits in a different district

**AFFR is the only map that keeps the whole Gulf Coast region in a single Senate district**

- Both board options put Whittier in an Anchorage district, separating it from other Gulf Coast communities
- AFFR is the only map that puts the entire Alaska Peninsula in the same district
- By pairing the greater Gulf Coast district with a Homer/Seward district, AFFR forms a united Gulf Coast Senate district

Do not separate Fritz Creek, the villages across the Bay, nor the Russian villages from Homer. Do not separate Kodiak.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

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**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 3:35 PM  
**Subject:** Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for taking redistricting testimony - such a critical element to get right, using ethics, for democracy.

- Homer and Seward belong in the same district, because they are in the same region and their economies are centered on fishing and tourism in Kachemak and Resurrection Bays.
- Kenai and Nikiski belong in the same district, because Kenai is the economic hub for the Kenai Spur Highway communities
- Soldotna, Kasilof, Ninilchik, and Clam Gulch belong in the same district because Soldotna is the economic hub for the south Sterling Highway communities

**The communities of Kachemak Bay need to be in the same district.**

- Seldovia and Halibut Cove have strong socio-economic ties to Homer with water taxi services allowing for daily commutes between these communities



- Both board options put Fritz Creek, the Russian Old Believer villages, Seldovia and Halibut Cove in a different district from Homer. That is unethical and clearly vrant corrupt political manipulation, please do not let this happen.
- AFFER (the Republican sponsored map) slices and dices Seldovia by putting the portions of Seldovia outside of the city limits in a different district. That does not in anyway help the folks who live just outside Seldovia City limits.

**Alaskans For Fair Representation is the only map that keeps the whole Gulf Coast region in a single Senate district, please honor this!**

- Both board options put Whittier in an Anchorage district, separating it from other Gulf Coast communities
- This map puts the entire Alaska Peninsula in the same district, as it should be.
- By pairing the greater Gulf Coast district with a Homer/Seward district, AFFR forms a united Gulf Coast Senate district

**Both board options place Nikiski and Seward in the same district even though these communities have no socio-economic or transportation links**

- Nikiski's economy is focused on the oil and gas industry which does not exist in Seward
- Seward's economy is focused on tourism and fishing, industries which do not significantly exist in Nikiski
- Travelling from Nikiski to Seward would require either flying through Anchorage or driving through two other districts under both board options

**Board options 3 and 4 unnecessarily place Fritz Creek, Voznecenka, Razdolna, and Kachemak Selo in a different district from Homer**

- Fritz Creek is a bedroom community for Homer which has no transportation links or socio-economic integration with Kodiak and Cordova
- Both board options separate the Old Believer villages of Nikolaevsk from the other three Old Believer villages, these villages represent a unique socio-economic region and belong in the same district
- The stated justification for including these communities with Kodiak is that historical ties exist from the Russian colonial period. This is not accurate, the Old Believers are not in any way connected to the original Russian colonists and did not arrive in Alaska until 1968. Fritz Creek is not a Russian community and has no ties to the colonial period.

**Board option 3 needlessly breaks the Kodiak Island Borough**

- This option puts the portion of the borough on the Alaska Peninsula in a district with Dillingham and the Aleutians

**AFFER's map is even worse than the board options**

- AFFER places Nikiski in a district with South Anchorage. The state justification is that there is a shared tie because of the oil industry. This is hogwash, (an attempted political manipulation). There are no oil industry facilities within the South Anchorage portion of the district
- AFFER places Valdez in a district with Kodiak and Cordova in a Richardson Highway district, creating an absurd situation where Valdez is in an off-road system district while Cordova is in a road system district. Please do not allow this to happen.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sue Christiansen, [REDACTED], Fritz Creek, AK, 99603

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*Serving District 21: Sand Lake, Spenard, and Turnagain*

November 1, 2021

Alaska Redistricting Board  
P.O. Box 240147  
Anchorage, Alaska 99524

Dear Chair Binkley and Members of the Redistricting Board:

I write today to express my concern with both the proposed plans and the process associated with your important work. Successful redistricting calls for an open, transparent, and public process because “the use of any secretive procedures suggest an illegitimate purpose.”<sup>1</sup> At least with respect to the plans proposed, the information readily available on the website does not reflect an open and transparent process for understanding and reviewing those plans. While I am concerned about the process and the resources available to the public—particularly on the website, I applaud the Board for hosting numerous meetings around the state.

The goal for a redistricting plan is to adopt one that does not lead to a lawsuit. While some might suggest that such a goal is not attainable, I suggest those cynics are wrong. A plan that satisfies all four Alaska constitutional requirements—especially keeping population deviation at approximately 1%—has real potential to receive broad-based support. High population deviation, especially in the most populous boroughs and municipalities, is more likely to result in lawsuits.

**I. Transparency of Process and Access to Resources**

The Board has published information about 6 proposed plans on its website, akredistrict.org, including interactive maps, but it’s difficult to find any information about the process used to create each plan. Why did the Board reject Board Versions 1 and 2? Why did the Board choose the other 4 plans for publication? The Senate Minority identifies itself and the Doyon Coalition identifies its members (Doyon Limited, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, Sealaska, and Ahtna), but there appears to be nothing more on the Board website about AFFER and AFFR other than their full name. Why should the public need to search other sources to identify these participants in our public redistricting process?

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<sup>1</sup> *Kenai Peninsula Borough v. State*, 743 P.2d 1352, 1372 (Alaska 1987).

The website should include a readily available narrative of how it created its various plans and how the others created their plans. The website should also include information on why the Board chose the 6 published plans.

The “Governing Law” page on the website includes Article VI of the Alaska Constitution and governing statutes, but it does not identify or provide links to the multiple Alaska Supreme Court cases that have addressed redistricting over the years. The “Draw Districts” page includes a pop-up reference to the four map-drawing criteria (“compactness, contiguity, socio-economic integration and equality of population”), but it does not provide any description of the court-required *Hickel* process for making a plan. And after accepting the four-criteria pop-up, which then disappears, I could not find another reference to the four criteria. The absence of this important information is unfortunate because members of the public who want to participate had little or no guidance from the Board on how to do so. Further, the public is left to guess why the drafters of each plan believe their plan is not gerrymandering and meets the constitutional requirements.

## II. *Hickel v Southeast Conference Redistricting Process*

The Alaska Supreme Court has established the *Hickel* process, a 2-step process for the Redistricting Board to conduct its work.<sup>2</sup> First, the Restricting Board must “design a reapportionment plan based on the requirements of the Alaska Constitution.” Second, the Redistricting Board must test the reapportionment plan against the federal Voting Rights Act, which protects minority representation.<sup>3</sup> If the plan does not meet the Alaska Constitutional requirements, the second analysis under the Voting Rights Act is unnecessary. If the plan raises voting rights concerns, it may require modification of some—but not all—of the plan.

### A. Alaska Constitutional Requirements

The redistricting process set forth in the Alaska Constitution is designed to prevent gerrymandering—where one party or another party attempts to draw election districts in an unnatural way to favor some and disadvantage others.<sup>4</sup> Article VI, Section 6 of the Alaska Constitution establishes constitutional standards to prevent gerrymandering. The second sentence states: “Each house district shall be formed of continuous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area.” The Alaska Supreme Court describes these requirements in the second sentence as “contiguity, compactness, and relative socioeconomic integration.”<sup>5</sup> The third sentence of Article VI, Section 6 speaks to equality of representation: “Each shall contain a population as near as practicable to the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the state by forty.”

The Alaska Supreme Court has sometimes focused more on the second sentence of Article VI, Section 6 (contiguity, compactness, and relative socioeconomic integration) and focused less on

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<sup>2</sup> *In re 2011 Redistricting Cases (II)*, 294 P.3d 1032, 1034 (Alaska 2012).

<sup>3</sup> *In re 2011 Redistricting Cases (II)*, 294 P.3d at 1034 (quoting *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, 846 p.2d 38, 51 n. 22 (Alaska 1992)).

<sup>4</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 45.

<sup>5</sup> *In re 2011 Redistricting Cases (II)*, 294 P.3d at 1035 (quoting *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 51 n. 22).

the third sentence of Article VI, Section 6 (equality of representation). Under the constitution at statehood, the governor approved a redistricting plan with advice from a reapportionment board, which the governor appointed.

In 1998, Alaska voters approved a constitutional amendment that established the current Redistricting Board.<sup>6</sup> The amendment also changed some of the other provisions. The 1998 amendment made minor grammatical changes to the second sentence of Section 6, but did not change the three factors in that sentence. The amendment made a significant change to the third sentence of Section 6, deleting “at least equal” and replacing it with “as near as practicable.”<sup>7</sup> The amendment also added a fourth sentence about establishing senate districts: “Each senate district shall be composed as near as practicable of two contiguous house districts.”

Even though the federal courts have approved apportionment plans with a population deviation under 10%,<sup>8</sup> in the first case after the 1998 amendment to Article VI, Section 6, the Alaska Supreme Court found a deviation of 9.5% for Anchorage districts was unconstitutional and required the Board to further reduce the deviations.<sup>9</sup> The Board then reduced the maximum deviation in Anchorage to 1.35%, which the court approved.<sup>10</sup> This history shows that in the most populous municipalities and boroughs—Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star, Juneau, Kenai, and Mat-Su—the Board should be able to reduce the maximum deviation to approximately 1%, which requires no more than 0.5% for a particular district. Greater deviations in the absence of a stated reason for the deviation raises the likelihood of gerrymandering.

With the court’s confirmation that it applies stricter equal protection analysis under the Alaska Constitution and its recent decisions approving a maximum variance for Anchorage of 1.35%, the third sentence of Art. VI, Sec. 6 effectively incorporates Alaska’s equal protection analysis. Thus, the first step in the *Hickel* process must involve all four factors identified in Article VI, Section 6: equality of representation, contiguity, compactness, and relative socioeconomic integration.

### 1. Equality of Representation

“[T]he interest asserted is the right to an equally powerful and geographically effective vote in the state legislature. In this connection we note that it is implicit in our constitutional structure that similarly situated communities be treated in a similar manner.”<sup>11</sup> The *Kenai Peninsula Borough* case was the first time the court considered an Alaska equal protection challenge.<sup>12</sup> Explaining that under the governor’s plan Anchorage would either “remain underrepresented by

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<sup>6</sup> SCS for CS for HJR 44 (JUD) (1998), Section 5.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.*, Section 5. The amendment also removed “total civilian” from the population base language, which appears to address the question of whether to exclude non-resident military personnel that the court addressed in *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 54-56.

<sup>8</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 48.

<sup>9</sup> *In re 2001 Redistricting Cases I*, 44 P.3d 141, 145-46 (Alaska 2002).

<sup>10</sup> *In re 2001 Redistricting Cases II*, 47 P.3d 1089, 1090 & n. 4 (Alaska 2002).

<sup>11</sup> *Kenai Peninsula Borough v State*, 743 P.2d 1352, 1371-72 (Alaska 1987).

<sup>12</sup> *Compare Groh v. Egan*, 526 P.2d 863, 865 (Alaska 1974).

2.6% or become overrepresented by 2.4%” in the senate, the court held that the senate district was unconstitutional under the state constitution.<sup>13</sup>

In the more populous boroughs and municipalities, the burden is on the Board show that it successfully minimized deviations from one district to the next. As discussed above, maximum deviation in urban areas of approximately 1% means each district should not differ from the target number by more than 0.5%. Review of the deviation spreadsheets for the six published plans show that four of the plans exceed this acceptable deviation in multiple districts and are likely unconstitutional on that basis alone: Board v.3, Board v.4, AFFER, and Doyon. In contrast, the AFFR and Senate Minority maps show that it is “practicable” to establish districts in the most populous boroughs and municipalities with a small variance.

The table below reflects the number of districts in the five largest municipalities and boroughs without adjustment and the adjustment needed to meet the Article VI, Section 6 population target:

Location	Total Population	District Population	Districts	Adjustment to 18,335
Statewide	733,391	18,335	40	0
Anchorage	291,247	18,335	15.88	+2,200
Fairbanks North Star	95,655	18,335	5.22	-4,034
Juneau	32,255	18,335	1.76	+4,400
Kenai Peninsula	58,799	18,335	3.20	-3,667
Matanuska-Susitna	107,081	18,335	5.84	+2,934

“[W]here possible, all of a municipality’s excess population should go to one other district in order to maximize effective representation of the excess group. This result is compelled not only by the Article VI, Section 6 requirements, but also by the state equal protection clause that guarantees the right to proportional geographic representation.”<sup>14</sup> Applying the same analysis to a municipality that needs population added to a district, the additional population should also go into only one district.

Applying the constitutional principle established in *Hickel*, the excess population from Fairbanks and Kenai should go into a single district and the additional population needed for Anchorage, Juneau, and Mat-Su should go into a single district. The first Juneau district should remain within the borough. Similar to the current district map in Southeast Alaska, there is sufficient population in Haines (2,080), Skagway (1,240), and communities in the Hoohah-Angoon Census Area (2,365) to bring Juneau within the target for the second district.

Because Anchorage and the Mat-Su both need additional population in a single district to meet the target, however, it would violate the principle established in *Hickel* to add population from Anchorage into the Mat-Su (thereby improperly diluting Anchorage voters’ rights) or from the Mat-Su into Anchorage (thereby improperly diluting Mat-Su voters’ rights). Moving a

<sup>13</sup> *Kenai Peninsula Borough*, 743 P.2d at 1373.

<sup>14</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 52.

population of approximately 2,200 from north Kenai Peninsula into a single district in south Anchorage would bring the 16<sup>th</sup> Anchorage district within the target. And moving a population of approximately 2,200 from the Kenai Peninsula makes it possible with additional minor adjustments similar to the current districts to bring the three Kenai districts within the target. Similarly, moving a population of approximately 2,934 from the interior region north (including the Denali Borough) or east of the Mat-Su into a single Mat-Su district would bring the 6<sup>th</sup> Mat-Su district within the target. These population adjustments are also consistent with the Article VI, Section 6 requirement to consider local government boundaries.

## 2. *Contiguity*

“Contiguous territory is territory that is bordering or touching,” recognizing that a continuous district may include open sea.<sup>15</sup> One should be able to reach “every part of the district ... from every other part without crossing the district boundary.”<sup>16</sup>

## 3. *Compactness*

Compact means “having a small perimeter in relation to the area encompassed” without creating odd-shaped districts or adding appendages to an otherwise compact district.<sup>17</sup>

## 4. *Socioeconomic Integration*

“[T]he requirement that districts be composed of relatively integrated socio-economic areas helps to ensure that a voter is not denied his or her right to an equally powerful vote.”<sup>18</sup> The delegates to the Alaska Constitutional Convention explained that “[w]here people live together and work together and earn their living together, .... they should be logically grouped that way.”<sup>19</sup> Boroughs and municipalities are considered socio-economically integrated.<sup>20</sup>

In 1983, the court found it error to include Cordova in a Southeast Alaska district because there is no significant “social and economic interaction between Cordova” and the remaining communities in northern Southeast Alaska, including Haines and Skagway.<sup>21</sup> With declining population in Southeast Alaska and other socio-economic changes, however, this analysis may not bind the Board. With a shared interest in maintaining ferry service in coastal communities—one of the most controversial socioeconomic issues in Alaska today—and its common socioeconomic interest with other commercial fishing communities, Cordova (population 2,609) may have as much shared socioeconomic interest with Juneau and Sitka as it has with Kodiak. All 6 proposed plans show Southeast Alaska under-represented: all the Southeast Census areas total 72,286, which is approximately 98.56% of four districts with the population target. Adding Cordova to a Southeast district would make Southeast Alaska over-represented with a total

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<sup>15</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 45.

<sup>16</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 45.

<sup>17</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 45-46.

<sup>18</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 46.

<sup>19</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 46, quoting 3PACC 1836 (Jan. 11, 1956).

<sup>20</sup> *In re 2001 Redistricting Cases I*, 44 P.3d at 146.

<sup>21</sup> *Carpenter v. Hammond*, 667 P.2d 1204, 1215 (Alaska 1983).

population of 74,895, which is 102.12% of the population target. Adding Cordova to a Southeast district is an option the Board may consider.

#### 5. *Local Government Boundaries and Geographic Features*

Many Anchorage constituents have asked why many of the redistricting plans seem to largely ignore the current districts even though the courts have approved the current districts as satisfying the constitutional requirements. Substantial changes to election districts can further limit the public's relationship with legislators and knowledge of the political issues in a given district. While the Alaska Constitution does not *require* the Board to consider the current districts, the Board *should* consider current election districts in adopting a new redistricting plan.

With respect to Anchorage districts in particular, the last two sentences of Article VI, Section 6 are important factors in drawing districts: "Consideration may be given to local government boundaries. Drainage and other geographic features shall be used in describing boundaries whenever possible." The 1998 constitutional amendment of Section 6 did not change these last two sentences. The "local government boundaries" factor supports consideration of community council boundaries within Anchorage. For example, the Spenard Community Council district is currently splintered into at least four house districts and three senate districts. While the community council boundaries are generally larger than house districts, the community council districts tend to be very reflective of socio-economic integration.

When including geographic features, past redistricting boards have tended to focus more on natural geographic features and less on man-made geographic features. It is a given that geographic features impact communities and influence socioeconomic relationships. Nenana's location on the Tanana River is related to the natural geography, just as the City of Kodiak's location is related to the natural geography. In Anchorage, however, many of the man-made geographic features have a greater impact on socioeconomic integration than the natural features. Road locations have a significant impact on neighborhoods and socio-economic groupings. For example, Minnesota Boulevard divides neighborhoods more than Fish Creek, and the businesses along the road further separate residential neighborhoods on either side of the road corridor. The same geographic phenomenon appears along the Seward Highway, the Northern Lights-Benson corridor, Tudor Road, and Dimond Boulevard. The Chester Creek drainage is sometimes close to the Northern Lights-Benson corridor and the Campbell Creek drainage is sometimes close to Dimond Boulevard. In the current districts, the use of Fish Creek in some places and Minnesota Blvd. in other places to define district boundaries between Districts 18, 21, and 23 has had the effect of dividing portions of the Anchorage community that are socioeconomically integrated and creating less compact districts. Similarly, current District 26 includes a sliver of homes west of the Seward Highway that are separated from the remainder of the district on the east side of the Seward Highway. Using the Seward Highway as the district boundary is more reasonable, as shown by the boundary between current Districts 23 and 25. The Board should make a greater effort to incorporate both man-made and natural geographic features, as these features reinforce contiguity, compactness, and socioeconomic integration.

## B. Federal Voting Rights Act

Voting Rights Act violations districts “create an inequality in the opportunities enjoyed by voters to elect their preferred representatives.”<sup>22</sup>

In *Hickel*, the court reviewed Southeast Alaska and found that the Sitka district violated the Voting Rights Act.<sup>23</sup> It further found error in combining the North Slope with a primarily Inupiaq population with a broad range of Interior Alaska with a primarily Athabaskan population.<sup>24</sup> And it found error to divide the Aleutian Islands into two separate districts.<sup>25</sup> Finally, the court ruled that “[d]ivisions of Ketchikan and Sitka are not permissible unless the resulting districts evidence a pattern of relative socioeconomic integration.”<sup>26</sup>

## III. **Review of Proposed Redistricting Plans**

First, in looking at the six plans, it appears that some of the drafters started with the outer limits of what prior decisions have allowed for equality of population and then drew a plan to meet that target—apparently on the theory that they need only do the absolute minimum in terms of equality of population. This approach fails to meet the constitutional requirement in Article VI, Section 6 that the plan must have equality of population “as near as practicable.” The 1998 constitutional amendment reflects the fact that the primary reason for redistricting is to address population changes and correct population variances. Setting the standard at 10% is like “filling” a gas tank to only 90%. Using a 10% deviation target also reflects a cynicism about redistricting that violates the letter and spirit of our constitution.

Second, it is apparent from the public meetings and comments of Board members at the public meetings that the Board will not be adopting any of the six published plans. Instead, the Board is likely to adopt a plan that reflects public concerns and addresses some of the criticism of the proposed plans. The first test for any plan is equality of population.

Third, it is my understanding that some of the groups have already updated their proposed plans, but the website does not include those updates. My comments are directed at the plans published on the website because, without access to any updated plans, I have no basis to comment. It is unfortunate that the updated plans are not available on the website.

### A. Board Plan v. 3

- 27 of the 32 districts in the most populous boroughs and municipalities (Anchorage, Mat-Su, Fairbanks, Kenai, and Juneau) have a deviation from the statewide population target (18,335 people) of more than the preferred 0.5% deviation and do not meet the one-person, one-vote requirements.

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<sup>22</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 50.

<sup>23</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 52.

<sup>24</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 53-54.

<sup>25</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 54.

<sup>26</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 51.



- Eagle River Districts 23 and 24 unnecessarily create a large “donut” district that surrounds a small “hole” district in the middle of the donut and are not contiguous or compact.
- Anchorage District 15 would require a person to cross District 14 to get from neighborhoods in the east part of District 15 to neighborhoods in the southwest corner of District 15 and is not contiguous or compact.
- The Fairbanks districts are all above the population target by more than 750 voters with deviations of over 4%. These deviations show that the plan is unconstitutional.
- Fairbanks District 35 would require a person on Eielson AFB base in the east side of the district to cross three districts (32, 34, and 33) to get to the Chena Ridge neighborhood in the west part of the district and is not contiguous or compact.

#### **B. Board Plan v. 4**

- 26 of the 34 districts in the most populous boroughs and municipalities have a deviation from the population target of more than the preferred 0.5% deviation and do not meet the one-person, one-vote requirements.
- Juneau Districts 3 and District 4 unnecessarily create a large “donut” district and a small “hole” district in the middle and are not contiguous or compact. In addition, the plan would require a person to cross District 4 (Mendenhall Valley and Lemon Creek) to get from the northwest part of District 3 (Auke Bay) to the southern part of District 3 (downtown Juneau and Douglas Island) and is not contiguous or compact.
- Downtown Anchorage Districts 20 and 21 improperly divide Downtown Anchorage and the associated community council in violation of the constitutional obligation to consider government boundaries and geographic features.
- By putting Eagle River into three different districts when the actual population of Eagle River supports two districts, the plan ignores the obligation to consider local government boundaries and geographic features.
- Fairbanks District 35 has an appendage jutting in between District 31 and 34, making District 35 not contiguous or compact.
- District 5 has an appendage extending north of Kachemak Bay to Fritz Creek that makes the district not contiguous or compact. Either the Kodiak District should include both Homer and Fritz Creek or it should exclude both.

#### **C. AFFER Plan**

- 18 of the 33 districts in the most populous boroughs and municipalities have a deviation from the population target of more than the preferred 0.5% deviation and do not meet the one-person, one-vote requirements.

- Southeast Districts 1 and 2 are drawn to split Ketchikan into two districts even though its population is (13,948) is approximately 76% of the 18,335 population target, showing that the resulting districts are not socioeconomically integrated.
- District 5 puts Cordova—a coastal community with ferry service and substantial commercial fishing opportunities—in the same district as numerous interior villages that are not on the ocean. Further, it separates Cordova from several similar coast communities. Thus, the district is not socioeconomically integrated.
- District 32 is not contiguous or compact because it requires a person to cross District 33 to get to the beach on the shore of Cook Inlet. Turnagain Arm also divides the district and is not consistent with the provisions requiring consideration of drainages and other geographic features.
- Eagle River District 18 has an appendage that juts between District 17 and District 19, making District 18 not contiguous and compact.
- By putting Eagle River into three different districts (17, 18, and 19) when the actual population of Eagle River supports two districts, the plan ignores the obligation to consider local government boundaries and geographic features.
- Anchorage District 26 contains an appendage that juts into District 32, making both Districts 26 and 32 not contiguous or compact.
- Fairbanks District 6 is not contiguous or compact. It would require a person on the east side of the district on Johnson Road to cross District 9, return to District 6, and then cross Districts 8 and 7 in order to get to China Ridge Road on the west side of the district. It also has an improper appendage that juts between Districts 8 and 9.

#### **D. AFFR Plan**

- Only 6 of the 33 districts in the most populous boroughs and municipalities have a deviation from the population target of more than the preferred 0.5% deviation, showing that it is practicable to satisfy the one-person, one-vote requirements.
- Anchorage District 19 has an appendage that juts into District 20 and both districts are not contiguous or compact.
- Anchorage District 15 has an appendage that juts into District 13 and both districts are not contiguous or compact.
- Anchorage District 14 has an appendage into District 10, and District 10 has an appendage into District 9 (there seems to be a ripple effect from the District 14 appendage) and all three districts are not contiguous and compact.
- Fairbanks District 33 has a long appendage to the east along the Tanana River and is not contiguous or compact.

### **E. Doyon Coalition Plan**

- 15 of the 33 districts in the most populous boroughs and municipalities have a deviation from the target population of more than the preferred 0.5% deviation and do not meet the one-person, one-vote requirements.
- By putting Eagle River into three different districts (22, 23, and 24) when the actual population of Eagle River supports two districts, the plan ignores the obligation to consider local government boundaries and geographic features.
- Anchorage District 12 effectively has appendages in the north part of the district around Lake Hood and is not consistent with the provisions requiring consideration of drainages and other geographic features.
- Interior District 6 creates a “donut” that surrounds all of the Fairbanks districts and is not contiguous or compact.
- Mat-Su District 25 has an appendage that juts between Districts 28 and 29 that makes the district not contiguous or compact.
- In the Anchorage senate districts, the plan joins House Districts 15 and 16 in Senate District H and joins House Districts 19 and 20 into Senate District J. These senate districts violate the express terms of Art. VI, Sec. 6 requiring that senate districts contain two contiguous house districts.
- Southwest District 37 (Dillingham, Lake and Peninsula Borough, and Aleutian Islands) includes Seldovia on the Kenai Peninsula and is not contiguous or compact. Getting by land from Tyonek to Seldovia would cross multiple districts in Anchorage and the Kenai Peninsula.

### **F. Senate Minority Caucus Plan**

- Only 5 of 33 districts in the most populous boroughs and municipalities have a deviation from the target population of more than the preferred 0.5% deviation, showing that it is practicable to satisfy the one-person, one-vote requirements.
- Anchorage District 16 has an appendage that juts between Districts 15 and 28 that makes the district not contiguous or compact.
- Anchorage District 26 has an appendage that juts between Districts 17 and 28 that makes the district not contiguous or compact.
- Fairbanks District 3 has an appendage that juts between Districts 2 and 5. It would also require a person in the east side of the district on Orion Drive to cross Districts 2 in order to get to the west side of the district on China Ridge Road.

#### IV. Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 6 proposed plans. I am optimistic that the Board will adopt a modified plan—none of the 6 proposed plans published on the website—that does not constitute gerrymandering because the plan satisfies each and every constitutional requirement.

Sincerely,



Matt Claman

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**From:** Rep. Matt Claman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 2:44 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Cc:** Lizzie Kubitz; Emma Potter  
**Subject:** Further Redistricting Comments  
**Attachments:** Ballot Measure 3 1998.pdf

Good afternoon,

Adding to my comments, attached, please find the 1998 Election Pamphlet for Ballot Measure 3, the constitutional amendment to that established the independent reapportionment board. The Legislative Affairs Agency Summary highlights the “as nearly as practicable” requirement and the one person, one vote requirement in drawing legislative districts. The statement in support, written by Representatives Porter and Mulder, also emphasize the emphasis on equality of representation as the first consideration, as directed by Alaska Supreme Court decisions.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Matt Claman

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**From:** Rep. Matt Claman  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 2:35 PM  
**To:** 'testimony@akredistrict.org' <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Redistricting Comments

Good afternoon,

Attached are my comments. I will also send a hard copy to P.O. Box 240147.

Sincerely,  
Matt Claman

# Ballot Measure 3

## Constitutional Amendment to Reorganize Reapportionment Board

### BALLOT LANGUAGE

This measure changes the name, power and membership of the reapportionment board. Under existing law, the governor selects the reapportionment board. With the advice of the board, the governor draws the boundaries of election districts after each federal census. This measure creates a redistricting board and gives it the power to draw boundaries for 40 House and 20 Senate districts. Two members of the board would be chosen by the governor, and one each by the House speaker, the Senate president, and the chief justice of the Supreme Court. The board would have 90 days to act after being appointed.

### SHOULD THIS AMENDMENT BE ADOPTED?

Yes   
No

Votes cast by the members of the Twentieth Alaska Legislature on final passage:

House: 27 yeas, 13 nays, all members present  
Senate: 15 yeas, 5 nays, all members present

### LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY SUMMARY

This measure amends the state constitution. It changes the process for setting boundaries used in electing the state legislature. A plan to set the boundaries is called a redistricting plan. A new plan is required after each ten-year official U.S. census.

Currently, the governor sets the boundaries of election districts and senate districts with the advice of a board selected by the governor. If this measure passes, instead of the governor, a board of five people would make the plan. The board would be selected as follows and in this order: two by the governor, one by the president of the state senate, one by the speaker of the state house of representatives, and one by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Alaska. The board would be selected in the year of the census. It would be selected before September of that year. The members would be residents of the state for at least one year. The members could not be public employees or officials when selected or while on the board. At least one board member would be a resident

of each judicial district that existed on January 1, 1999. The members would serve until a final plan had been adopted and all legal challenges to the plan resolved. The members of the board could not run for election to the legislature in the first general election after they set the boundaries. The board would employ or contract for a lawyer.

The board would propose at least one redistricting plan not later than 30 days after the official reporting of the ten-year U.S. census. The board would hold public hearings on the plan or plans. No later than 90 days after official reporting of the ten-year U.S. census, the board would adopt a final plan. At least three members of the board would have to vote for the plan for it to be adopted. A legal challenge to the plan would be given priority in the state courts. If a court finds the plan invalid, the court would return the plan to the board to have the board create a new plan. If the new plan is also invalid, the court could refer the plan to the board again.

The current structure of the legislature would not be changed. The number of house districts would be fixed at 40, with each house district to have one representative in the legislature. The number of senate districts would be fixed at 20, with each senate district to have one senator. As nearly as practicable, each house district would have an equal number of residents and each senate district would be composed of two contiguous house districts. Under the amendment all residents, not just civilian residents, would be counted for the plan. Language would be changed to reflect federal "one person one vote" law for both house and senate districts.

The amendment gets rid of the language that described the election districts as they were right after statehood.

The changes made by this amendment apply only to redistricting plans and proclamations adopted in or after 2001.

### FULL TEXT OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

[SENATE CS FOR CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 44(JUD)]

# Ballot Measure 3

\* **Section 1.** Article VI, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

**Section 1. House [ELECTION] Districts.** Members of the house of representatives shall be elected by the qualified voters of the respective house [ELECTION] districts. The boundaries of the house districts shall be set under this article following the official reporting of each decennial census of the United States [UNTIL REAPPORTIONMENT, ELECTION DISTRICTS AND THE NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES TO BE ELECTED FROM EACH DISTRICT SHALL BE AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 1 OF ARTICLE XIV].

\* **Sec. 2.** Article VI, sec. 2, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

**Section 2. Senate Districts.** Members of the senate shall be elected by the qualified voters of the respective senate districts. The boundaries of the senate districts shall be set under this article following the official reporting of each decennial census of the United States [SENATE DISTRICTS SHALL BE AS SET FORTH IN SECTION 2 OF ARTICLE XIV, SUBJECT TO CHANGES AUTHORIZED IN THIS ARTICLE].

\* **Sec. 3.** Article VI, sec. 3, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

**Section 3. Reapportionment of House and Senate.** The Redistricting Board [GOVERNOR] shall reapportion the house of representatives and the senate immediately following the official reporting of each decennial census of the United States. Reapportionment shall be based upon the [CIVILIAN] population within each house and senate [ELECTION] district as reported by the official decennial census of the United States.

\* **Sec. 4.** Article VI, sec. 4, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

**Section 4. Method of Redistricting.** The Redistricting Board shall establish forty house districts, with each house district to elect one member of the house of representatives. The board shall establish twenty senate districts, each composed of two house districts, with each senate district to elect one senator [REAPPORTIONMENT SHALL BE BY THE METHOD OF EQUAL PROPORTIONS, EXCEPT THAT EACH ELECTION DISTRICT HAVING THE MAJOR FRACTION OF THE QUOTIENT OBTAINED BY DIVIDING TOTAL CIVILIAN POPULATION BY FORTY SHALL HAVE ONE REPRESENTATIVE].

\* **Sec. 5.** Article VI, sec. 6, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

**Section 6. District Boundaries [REDISTRICTING].** The Redistricting Board shall establish [GOVERNOR MAY FURTHER REDISTRICT BY CHANGING] the size and area of house [ELECTION] districts, subject to the limitations of this article. Each house [NEW] district [SO CREATED] shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area. Each shall contain a population as near as practicable [AT LEAST EQUAL] to the quotient obtained by dividing the [TOTAL CIVILIAN] population of the state by forty. Each senate district shall be composed as near as practicable of two contiguous house districts. Consideration may be given to local government boundaries. Drainage and other geographic features shall be used in describing boundaries wherever possible.

\* **Sec. 6.** Article VI, sec. 8, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

**Section 8. Redistricting [REAPPORTIONMENT] Board.** (a) There [THE GOVERNOR] shall be a redistricting [APPOINT A REAPPORTIONMENT] board [TO ACT IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY TO HIM]. It shall consist of five members, all of whom shall be residents of the state for at least one year and none of whom may be public employees or officials at the time of or during the tenure of appointment [ AT LEAST ONE MEMBER EACH SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN, SOUTHCENTRAL, CENTRAL, AND NORTHWESTERN SENATE DISTRICTS]. Appointments shall be made without regard to political affiliation. Board members shall be compensated.

(b) Members of the Redistricting Board shall be appointed in the year in which an official decennial census of the United States is taken and by September 1 of that year. The governor shall appoint two members of the board. The presiding officer of the senate, the presiding officer of the house of representatives, and the chief justice of the supreme court shall each appoint one member of the board. The appointments to the board shall be made in the order listed in this subsection. At least one board member shall be a resident of each judicial district that existed on January 1, 1999. Board members serve until a final plan for redistricting and proclamation of redistricting has been adopted and all challenges to it brought under Section 11 of this article have been

# Ballot Measure 3

resolved after final remand or affirmation.

(c) A person who was a member of the Redistricting Board at any time during the process leading to final adoption of a redistricting plan under Section 10 of this article may not be a candidate for the legislature in the general election following the adoption of the final redistricting plan.

\* **Sec. 7.** Article VI, sec. 9, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

**Section 9. Board Actions [ORGANIZATION].** The board shall elect one of its members chairman and may employ temporary assistants. Concurrence of three members of the Redistricting Board is required for actions of the board [A RULING OR DETERMINATION], but a lesser number may conduct hearings [OR OTHERWISE ACT FOR THE BOARD]. The board shall employ or contract for services of independent legal counsel.

\* **Sec. 8.** Article VI, sec. 10, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

**Section 10. Redistricting [REAPPORTIONMENT] Plan and Proclamation. (a)** Within thirty days after the official reporting of the decennial census of the United States or thirty days after being duly appointed, whichever occurs last, the board shall adopt one or more proposed redistricting plans. The board shall hold public hearings on the proposed plan, or, if no single proposed plan is agreed on, on all plans proposed by the board. No later than ninety days after the board has been appointed and the official reporting of the decennial census of the United States, the board shall adopt a final redistricting plan and [WITHIN NINETY DAYS FOLLOWING THE OFFICIAL REPORTING OF EACH DECENNIAL CENSUS, THE BOARD SHALL SUBMIT TO THE GOVERNOR A PLAN FOR REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING AS PROVIDED IN THIS ARTICLE. WITHIN NINETY DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE PLAN, THE GOVERNOR SHALL] issue a proclamation of [REAPPORTIONMENT AND] redistricting. [AN ACCOMPANYING STATEMENT SHALL EXPLAIN ANY CHANGE FROM THE PLAN OF THE BOARD.] The final plan shall set out boundaries of house and senate districts and [REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING] shall be effective for the election of members of the legislature until after the official reporting of the next decennial census of the United States.

(b) Adoption of a final redistricting plan shall require the affirmative votes of three members of the Redistricting Board.

\* **Sec. 9.** Article VI, sec. 11, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

**Section 11. Enforcement.** Any qualified voter may apply to the superior court to compel the Redistricting Board [GOVERNOR], by mandamus or otherwise, to perform its [HIS REAPPORTIONMENT] duties under this article or to correct any error in redistricting [OR REAPPORTIONMENT]. Application to compel the board [THE GOVERNOR] to perform [HIS REAPPORTIONMENT DUTIES] must be filed not later than [WITHIN] thirty days following [OF] the expiration of the ninety-day period specified in [EXPIRATION OF EITHER OF THE TWO NINETY-DAY PERIODS SPECIFIED IN] this article. Application to compel correction of any error in redistricting [OR REAPPORTIONMENT] must be filed within thirty days following the adoption of the final redistricting plan and proclamation by the board [PROCLAMATION]. Original jurisdiction in these matters is [HEREBY] vested in the superior court. On appeal from the superior court, the cause shall be reviewed by the supreme court on [UPON] the law and the facts, Notwithstanding Section 15 of Article IV, all dispositions by the superior court and the supreme court under this section shall be expedited and shall have priority over all other matters pending before the respective court. Upon a final judicial decision that a plan is invalid, the matter shall be returned to the board for correction and development of a new plan. If that new plan is declared invalid, the matter may be referred again to the board.

\* **Sec. 10.** Article XI, sec. 3, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended to read:

**Section 3. Petition.** After certification of the application, a petition containing a summary of the subject matter shall be prepared by the lieutenant governor for circulation by the sponsors. If signed by qualified voters, equal in number to ten per cent of those who voted in the preceding general election and resident in at least two-thirds of the house [ELECTION] districts of the State, it may be filed with the lieutenant governor.

\* **Sec. 11.** Article XV, Constitution of the State of Alaska, is amended by adding a new section to read:

**Section 29. Applicability of Amendments Providing for Redistricting of the Legislature.** The 1998 amendments relating to redistricting of the legislature (art. VI and art. XIV) apply only to plans for redistricting and proclamations of redistricting adopted on or after January 1, 2001.

# Ballot Measure 3

\* **Sec. 12.** Article VI, secs. 5 and 7, and Article XIV, Constitution of the State of Alaska, are repealed.

\* **Sec. 13.** The amendments proposed by this resolution shall be placed before the voters of the state at the next general election in conformity with art. XIII, sec. 1, Constitution of the State of Alaska, and the election laws of the state.

## STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

Every ten years our state constitution appropriately requires that the boundaries of our election districts be adjusted based upon any significant population changes as reflected by the U.S. Census.

Some of the reapportionment and redistricting provisions of the Alaska Constitution have been outdated for more than 25 years. U.S. and Alaska Supreme Court decisions have struck down portions excluding military personnel from reapportionment population counts, and have extended the one-person, one-vote requirement of the equal protection clause of the XIVth amendment to state senate districts as well as house districts. The Alaska Supreme Court has been inviting the legislature to amend the Constitution since at least 1972 in these areas. This Constitutional Amendment does that.

Additionally, Alaska is the only state in the union which places the reapportionment and redistricting powers solely in the governor's office. Every other state has some form of legislative oversight or the legislature has the power itself to do reapportioning.

This proposal to amend our constitution keeps a five-member redistricting board, but only two members are appointed by the Governor and one member each by the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Chief Justice of the Alaska Supreme Court. This process of board appointment is intended to produce balanced, professionally-drawn districting plans.

The board would be required, as it is now, to issue its plan within 90 days. An additional 90 days allowing the governor to alter this plan has been eliminated. This will provide more time if necessary to deal with legal challenges and eliminate the opportunity for partisan alterations of the board's redistricting plan.

Our current procedure has produced redistricting plans which have been subject to criticism of being partisan and gerrymandered rather than creating redistricting plans based on bipartisan fairness and objectivity. The existing

system of constitutional provisions has spawned litigation after every decennial census since statehood, the most recent of which was exceptionally contentious and required the supreme court to cause the reapportionment plan to be drawn, without any input from the board, rather than risk delaying or missing the next election.

This amendment also clarifies that representatives and senators shall be elected from single-member districts as we currently do and eliminates over 13 pages of unnecessary constitutional language specifically delineating the exact boundary of each election district.

Representatives Brian S. Porter and Eldon Mulder  
Alaska State Legislature

## STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION

Framers of Alaska's constitution recognized the unique qualities of our state – vast geography, isolated and diverse populations – required an Alaskan approach to reapportionment, or the drawing of legislative election districts. Borrowing the experience of other states, they designed a system to produce fair representation, consistent with the basic principles of separation of powers.

As a result, the executive branch since Statehood has been responsible for drawing election districts because the governor is Alaska's only elected official without a direct interest in the shape of individual election districts. To minimize the partisanship of election lines, the framers kept the judiciary removed from creation of election districts. Only in that way could the judiciary remain a neutral arbitrator to evaluate the fairness of the reapportionment process.

The current system may not be perfect, but it has weathered the tests of time and court challenge. While it may be in need of fine-tuning, replacing the existing system with the proposed system would create more problems than it solves. A close look at how the proposed amendment changes this process reveals substantive and procedural flaws. These flaws make the amendment unworthy of passage. It doesn't fit Alaska's unique needs.

## SUBSTANTIVE FLAWS

1. Allows legislators to be directly involved in who determines the legislative lines they are subject to when seeking office.

2. Violates basic principles of separation of powers by

# Ballot Measure 3

mingling decision-making between all three branches of government, thereby removing appropriate checks and balances.

3. Makes the judiciary an active participant and, when different parties control the Governor's mansion and the State Legislature, a single voice from the judiciary controls the outcome of reapportionment.

4. Increases partisanship by adding power to the President and Speaker, which can cause or give the appearance that it is causing legislators to curry favor with the presiding officers.

5. There's no proof it will produce better representation for Alaskans.

## PROCEDURAL FLAWS

1. It is not the product of careful deliberation and crafting that should characterize a change to Alaska's constitution. In fact, the amendment was passed on the final day of the legislative session without undergoing public scrutiny.

2. It's a political compromise – not a well-considered change to our carefully crafted constitution. What prompted it was a political power grab attempt by certain legislators who didn't want to be subject to changes in their election boundaries.

The current system is the product of deliberation tempered with experience. Before modifying it, two questions should be asked: Will the new system produce better legislators, and is it consistent with principle of separation of powers? Since we cannot answer "yes" to both questions, we recommend a "no" vote.

Alaska Democratic Party  
Deborah Bonito, Chair  
(907) 258-3050



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**From:** Ron Clarke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:48 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Members of the Redistricting Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your task of redrawing Alaska's election districts. Briefly, my main concerns are as follows:

1. **Distribute populations fairly.** Generally, the Board should avoid high deviations, especially if they are unnecessary and unfair, as is the case with map version 3, which packs residents inappropriately.
2. **Give the Matanuska-Susitna region at least five full House districts, without breaking the MatSu Borough boundary, except to add population to create a sixth district.** Further, voters in such a district should come from areas to the east and/or the north of the Borough. For example, as a Chickaloon resident, I have far more in common with Alaskans outside my borough to my east and north than I do with people who live in Anchorage.
3. **Keep deviations low.** Deviations are unavoidable, but in the organized boroughs with multiple House seats, these can and should be kept to a minimum, as is accomplished by the AFFR and Senate Minority Caucus maps.

Sincerely,

Ron Clarke  
Chickaloon, AK

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**From:** Carolyn Clift <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 2:44 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 2:43 pm

First Name: **Carolyn**

Last Name: **Clift**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Best Version 4**

Public Comment: **My husband, Robert E. Clift, and I are both in favor of adopting the newest "best" version 4. We find that the boundaries of our district, currently labeled district 18 in east Anchorage, are very much in keeping with the guidelines. We also find that the neighboring districts are sensibly formed. As a former Senate candidate, I had to drive two hours, round trip, to get to the furthestmost population area in our partner Senate district. None of the neighboring districts have any point that would require that much driving. It will be easy to get around to all residences in our own district.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: Alyssa Clinton

**Board Map v.3 switches up Fairbanks orientation in an unnatural way and the AFFR map and Board Map v.4 does a better job in representing the natural orientation. Board Map v.3 is most opposed to for the following reasons: When looking at District 31, anyone that lives in Fairbanks knows that you have to go through 2 districts on the map to get to Two Rivers from Farmers Loop. When thinking of what the districts will turn into, they will turn into voting places and determine the representatives. There are completely two different communities in one district and a representative would not be able to accurately represent two distinct communities and this is unfair to Two Rivers. You are asking for people to compete for their needs.**

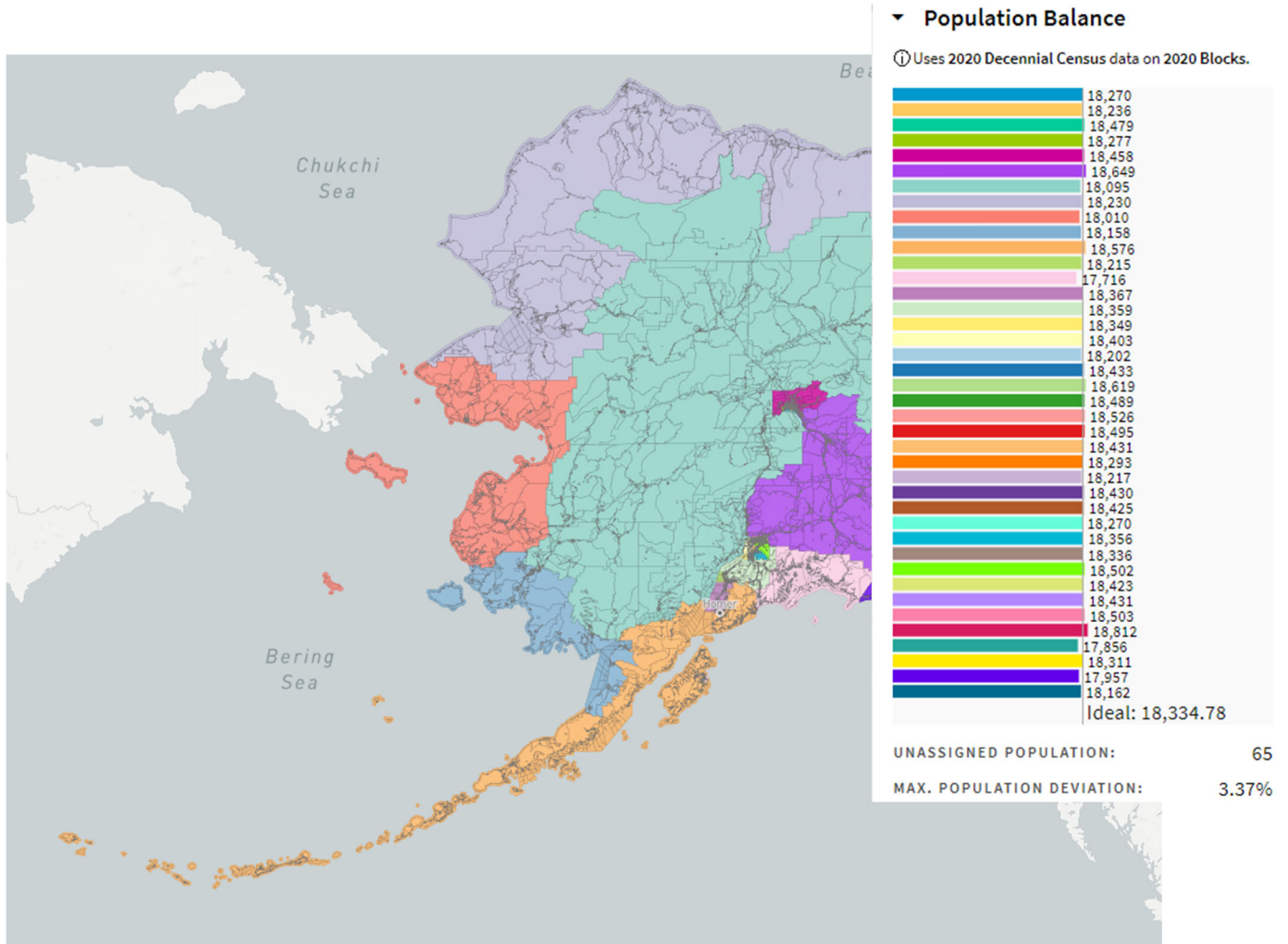
# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

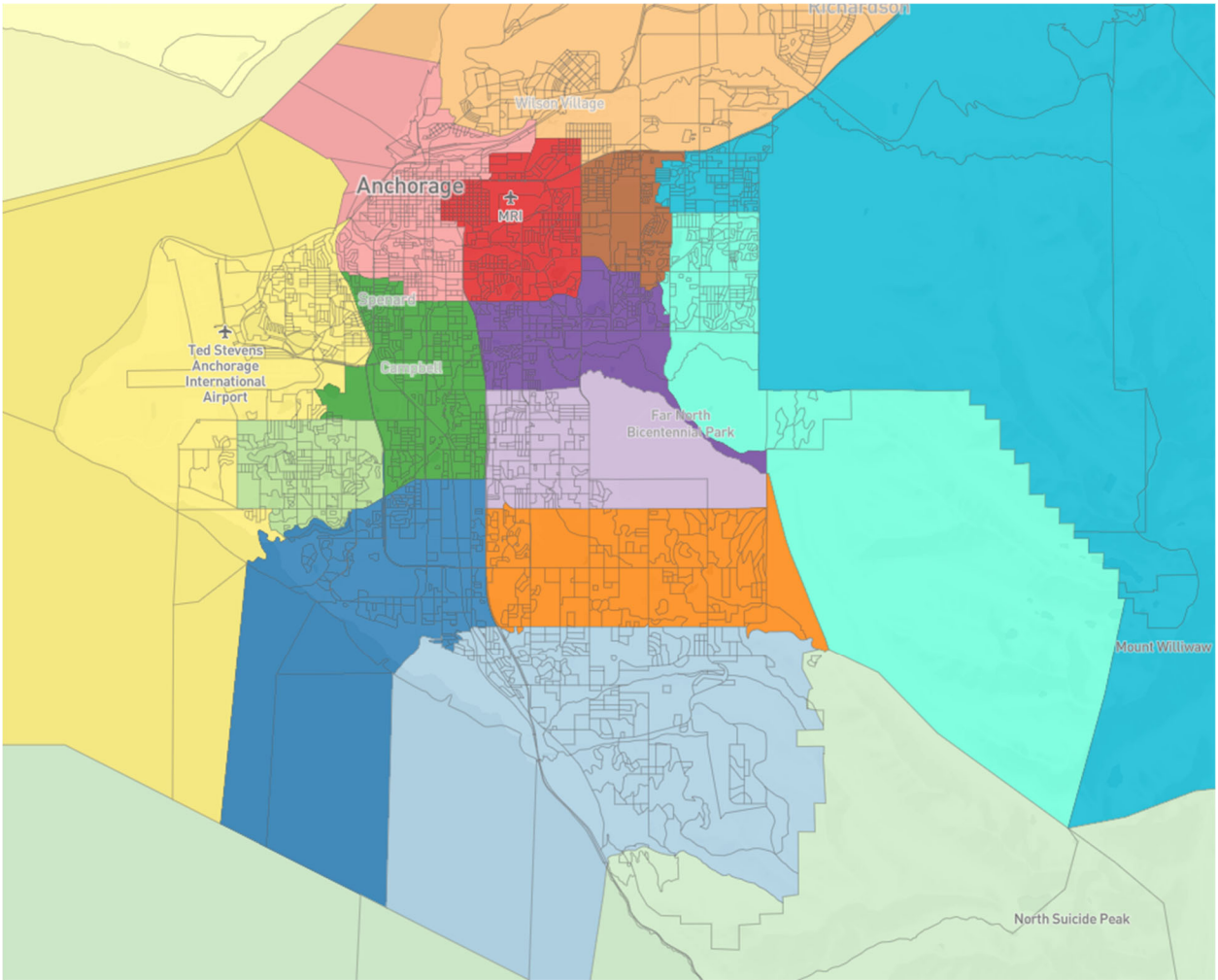
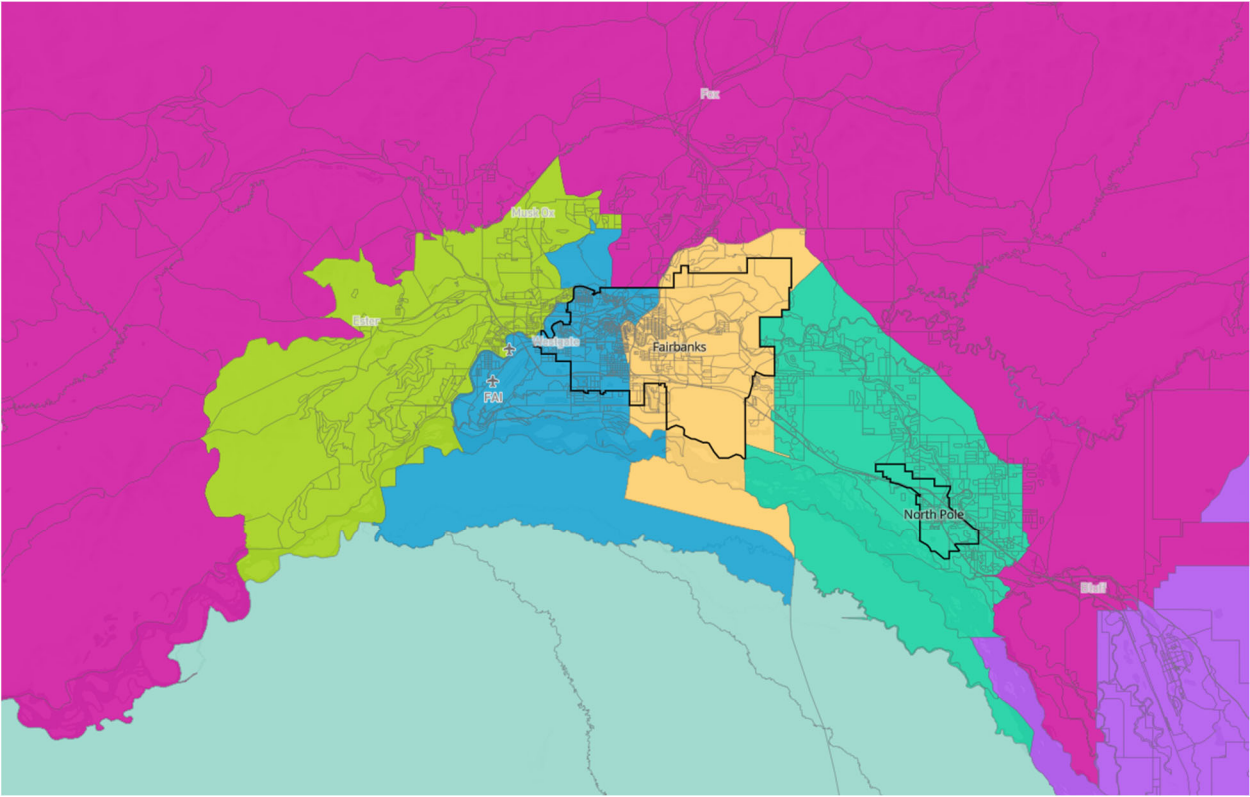
Date: November 3, 2021, 5:43 pm

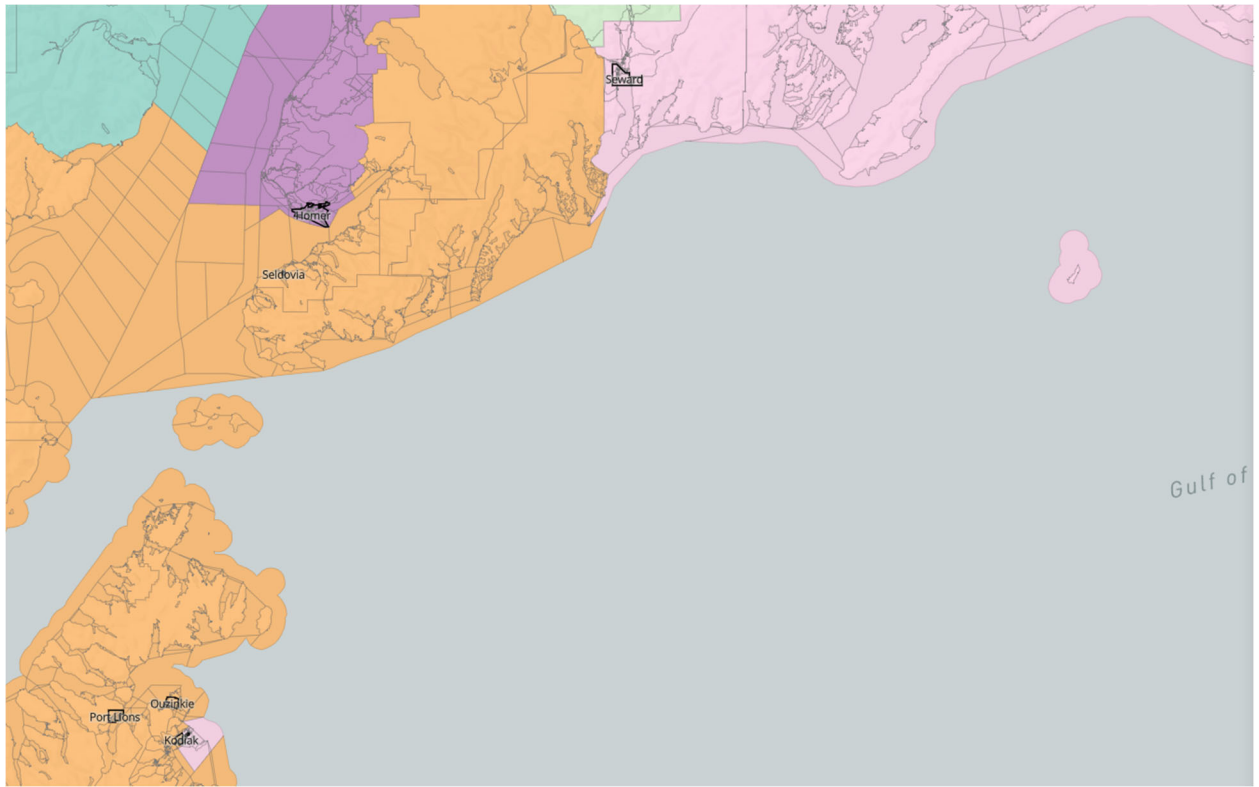
Name: **Henry Cole**  
Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Plan ID: <https://districtr.org/plan/75818>







**From:** [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 11:52 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>

Seldovia Village Tribe prefers the Seldovia Village to be associated with Homer where we serve the people of the lower Peninsula with 3 Community Health Centers and our management and administrative services are.

Thank you.


Crystal Collier  
President/CEO  
Seldovia Village Tribe

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 4, 2021, 3:19 pm

Name: **Danny Consenstein**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Public Comment: **I followed yesterday's discussion regarding Board Member Marcum's proposal to combine East Anchorage and Eagle River into a House district. This proposal would revert to lines that were widely-criticized earlier this year ([https://www.anchorapress.com/news/with-census-complete-gerrymandering-ready-to-rear-its-ugly-head-in-alaska/article\\_923d4f60-164a-11ec-ac93-47d0a8286340.html](https://www.anchorapress.com/news/with-census-complete-gerrymandering-ready-to-rear-its-ugly-head-in-alaska/article_923d4f60-164a-11ec-ac93-47d0a8286340.html)). I am strongly opposed to this effort at partisan gerrymandering in East Anchorage and Eagle River, and hope that you reject any attempt to allow partisanship to take precedence over the Constitution.**

**The Constitution clearly lists redistricting criteria: Low population deviation, compactness, socioeconomic integration, and contiguity. It is convenient for map-makers that the Eagle River/Chugiak neighborhoods naturally fit into two House districts, which pair to form a Senate district. This configuration precisely meets Constitutional guidance. I support 1) Board Map V3, 2) Alaskans for Fair Redistricting, and 3) the Senate Minority map. Each have a version of my preferred Eagle River map. While there are slight differences between these three, they are clearly driven by Constitutional criteria, without regard to partisanship, incumbent protection/elimination, or other factors that are not allowed to be considered in drawing the lines.**

**I agree with Ms. Marcum's proposal that we should strive for low deviation. Therefore, please first consider the Senate Minority map. It is more compact and has a population deviation of 0. By Constitutional criteria, it is perfect for Eagle River and its border with East Anchorage. Alaskans for Fair Redistricting also has population deviations in the single digits. Ms. Marcum's claim that deviations drive her maps is belied by other maps that have lower deviations, and are more compact.**

**Please reject Ms. Marcum's proposal to gerrymander Eagle River and East Anchorage. It is obviously unconstitutional and there is no reason to create months and perhaps years of uncertainty that would occur if courts have to toss out an unconstitutional map and figure out how to replace it with something that follows the clear language of our Constitution.**



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Christopher Constant**

Affiliation: **Self & Chair of Anchorage Redistricting Committee**

**Testimony on behalf of self: Please consider adopting the AFFR and Senate Minority Caucus maps. The issue that seems clear is that Eagle River should remain intact with 2 house districts and 1 senate district. Anchorage would be better served to take a small population to the south of its districts and Kenai has 3.2 districts and needs to lose a measure whereas the Mat-Su is growing. Eagle River has a distinct social, economic, and political perspective that is different than Anchorage. He would like to address his grave concern that the Gov't Hill neighborhood, where he resides, is drawn in several maps to be represented by Eagle River majority areas where there are no associations. There are strong associations with the joint military base (JBER) as they shop, recreate, and go through their neighborhood to exit and enter downtown. They strongly associate with Mountain View, Downtown, and South Addition residents. It would be a grave injustice to force these communities into a district with other neighborhoods that have opposite beliefs, values, and perspectives on how they live and organize their lives. For example, Eagle River prides themselves on having large bluffs, being in road service areas, and not in the road service district which is most of Anchorage. They are prideful in not being connected to the grid whereas his neighbors are on municipal services such as city water, sewers, and have small contiguous lots. If you look at the lot layout, you can see the rationale for why this part of town should not be gerrymandered in the Eagle River district. Testimony of behalf of Assembly Redistricting Committee: Eagle River is asking for the annexation of Eagle River. They have a unity of demographic and economics that is different from Downtown Anchorage. AFFR map keeps Anchorage intact and does not divide Downtown into Eagle River which makes absolutely no sense.**

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**From:** Tahnee Conte-Seccareccia <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:17 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

Name: **Tahnee Conte-Seccareccia**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Bethany Marcum's Map - Clear Partisan Gerrymandering and Ignores Community Testimony**

Public Comment: **I am writing to state my objection to Bethany Marcum's updated map which remains very similar to her V1 map, and which was largely objected to by citizens, including myself, during hours of public testimony, as well as hundreds of written comments. Her "updated map" continues to blatantly disregard the previous public testimony which objected to how Anchorage was being split up in a clear attempt to gerrymander Anchorage by drawing district lines to unfairly favor the republican and conservative party in future elections.**

**As someone who has lived in West Anchorage and the Spenard area for 23 years, I am appalled at how my wonderfully unique area and those neighborhoods around me (Turnagain, Midtown, Downtown, etc.) have been split up in a way that is so blatantly ignorant to the cultural, socio-economic and geographical distinctness of these long-standing Anchorage communities. Especially following aforementioned comments and testimony provided by community members, residents, and even by the Spenard Community Council and the Turnagain Community Council. The fact parts of Turnagain (which is as West Anchorage as you can get) is combined with the Midtown area says to me that Ms. Marcum is continuing to ignore those who will be most severely and unfairly impacted should the board choose to adopt her map.**

**Ms. Marcum's map would put parts of East Anchorage (the Muldoon area) with Eagle River - the testimony from both East Anchorage and Eagle River residents overwhelmingly objected to this. Eagle River is so geographically, culturally, and socio-economically distinct from East Anchorage (and the majority of Anchorage) that they are currently attempting to annex themselves from the Municipality of Anchorage in a movement called "Eagle Exit" .**

**Her map also puts other parts of Muldoon (i.e., the east Tudor neighborhood) with South Anchorage. This makes absolutely zero sense - that area is a part of the East Anchorage collective and have more in common with the rest of their Eastside neighbors than those who live in South Anchorage. The two area's are made geographically unique (and separate) by massive swath of uninhabited parkland (i.e., Bicentennial Park and the land owned managed by the United States Bureau of Land Management). East Anchorage is incredibly socio-economically and culturally distinct from South Anchorage - if you need any more proof, just go to a football game or other sporting event between East or Bartlett High School and South or Service High School.**

**Another significant problem with Ms. Marcum's map is combining Downtown and Mountain View together in a single district and completely disregards just how socio-economically, racially, and culturally distinct these two areas are.**

**By splitting up the districts as Ms. Marcum has, she is drawing opposition voters out of their districts to maximize the total number of districts that can be won by her political allies and those who align with the values of her organization - The Alaska Policy Forum. And as Ms. Marcum is a resident of Anchorage, Alaska and absolutely knows just how distinct these areas I have mentioned are from each other, ignorance of fact is an unacceptable excuse to the abhorrent attempts by her partisan Gerrymandering of Anchorage, and of Alaska. It is an attempt to dilute the voices of minorities and those whose politics do not align with Ms. Marcum and is contrary to our Alaska State Constitution and Laws, and will almost certainly run afoul of the Voting Rights Act. This gerrymandering will wipe out electoral competition and result in dramatically different political outcomes than if districts were fairly drawn, as they have been in Ms. Borromeo's updated map.**

**I support Nicole's Borromeo's updated map because it appears more compact, respects individual neighborhood boundaries, and does not split up East Anchorage into Eagle River and South Anchorage. It keeps West Anchorage, Midtown, and the Downtown areas in their own unique districts. Lastly, Ms. Borromeo's map redistricts the rest of Alaska in way that is respectful of each area's unique cultural, socio-economic and geographical distinctness.**

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**From:** Matt Cooper <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:48 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to new interior proposal

Dear Board:

The newest proposal to place Goldstream in a large rural district improperly combines areas with different socioeconomic backgrounds and interests. I think it violates constitutional redistricting principles. Please reconsider.

Sincerely,  
Matt Cooper

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99712


Sent from my iPhone

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Palmer 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: October 31, 2021

Name: Erick Cordero

Email or Phone Contact: 


**Erick Cordero is a Palmer resident who stated that he would like to keep the Palmer and the Palmer core area in the same district. Erick also asked for the Mat-Su districts to be kept within the Mat-Su borders.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Joan Corr**

Email or Phone Contact: 

**Joan Corr noted that Nikiski and Anchorage are not contiguous or contiguous and there are no socio-economic similarities. Joan would like the Kenai Peninsula Borough to kept intact and agreed with Mary Jackson's testimony regarding service areas.**

**Joan spoke in favor of Board Maps v.3 and v.4 where the borough is kept intact. Joan spoke in opposition of the AFFER map that splits up the borough.**

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**From:** Carolyn Covington <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 12:17 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** My opinion

Good Afternoon, Redistricting Board

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough requires equitable representation for its residents. It is imperative that we have at least five full house districts within Borough boundaries. Having a full six within the Borough seems reasonable; however, should it become necessary for one district to extend beyond our borders, it should not extend into Anchorage: but either north or east.

Thank you for the work you are doing!

Sincerely,

Carolyn and Garris R (Bob) Covington

[REDACTED]

Palmer, AK 99645

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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**From:** Leigh Cox <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:39 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 2, 2021, 9:38 am

First Name: **Leigh**

Last Name: **Cox**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Fairbanks representation**

Public Comment: **I am opposed to v3 map and AFFER map**



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**From:** Trista Crass [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:04 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream is Fairbanks

Is this a joke? I can't believe this is really happening-- to put gold stream with toke Delta and the Richardson highway corridor is a crystal clear case of trying to gerrymander progressive votes out of Fairbanks.

I drive 7 miles to get to Fairbanks from my cabin in Goldstream---there is no socioeconomic connection between Tok and Goldstream, Delta and Goldstream or the rest of the Richardson Highway Corridor.

Except through Fairbanks.

Because Goldstream is a neighborhood of Fairbanks, not part of the Richardson Highway.

**From:** Rebecca Crelley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 4:42 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** New Maps

Hi. Have you ever heard of "equitable" districting? That is what we want. You should try and use the maps that show natural lines drawn from major roads, highways and neighborhoods instead of messing up our political parties and bringing division between Legislators that are working together for good.

If YOU ARE TRYING TO SABOTAGE our Matsu Legislators, you have no right to be on this board! You will be sued in Court for it. You are supposed to follow some principles that are good. NO SAUL ALINSKY rules are allowed. You are not allowed to bring DIVISION between the Legislators who are bringing good to the MatSu DISTRICTS or the PALMER DISTRICTS.

VALDEZ is alone as a city and it should be alone in a DISTRICT. It should not be combined with the Matsu based on some arbitrary store location.

WE ARE ALASKAN and we want you represent a fair and just system for voting.

SINCERELY<  
Rebecca Crelley  
Anc

---

**From:** Rebecca Crelley [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 3:50 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Maps under the way you have the new

I know anything and everything Randy R does nonsense and horrible. So stop messing up the prior map with causing the best Matsu legislators to oppose each other. After all,, you are like rats in the sewer with your garbage redistricting. STOP IT. WE ALASKANS DESERVE COMPETENT MAPS. YOU ARE NOT AUTHORIZED TO USE WALMART IN WASILLA OR PALMER TO CONNECT VALDEZ.

NOR ARE YOU TO HOP, SKIP AND JUMP AND DIVIDE A NEIGHBORHOOD INTO 2 SECTIONS. STOP IT. NOR ARE YOU AUTHORIZED TO MESS UP TUDOR RD, ABBITT RD, O'MALLEY OR OTHER NATURAL BOUNDARY LINES FROM ANCHORAGE.

STOP DESTROYING OUR RIGHTS. STOP IN JESUS NAME.

REBECCA CRELLEY  
ANC

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Skagway 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Andrew Cremata**

Affiliation: **Mayor of Skagway**

**The opinion of the Assembly, the Mayor's opinion, and the opinion of the Borough Manager are the same: They believe it is in their best interest to remain in the same district as Downtown Juneau. Andrew's personal preference is the Senate Minority Caucus map. Collectively, Skagway prefers the maps that keep them with Downtown Juneau. Their economies are linked as they both deal with tourism directly through the cruise ships. There are also historical buildings with both communities in the districts that are important to their heritage and culture. The most important reason overall is because of the similarity in the economy.**

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**From:** Patricia and Richard Crisenbery <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 1:26 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 1:25 pm

First Name: **Patricia and Richard**

Last Name: **Crisenbery**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Proposed Plan v.3**

Public Comment: **We live on the north side of Fairbanks, in the western portion of Goldstream Valley. We have lived here for over 25 years and are quite concerned with some of the maps being proposed by the 2020 Redistricting Board. Specifically we object to Proposed Plan v.3. This plan splits our community away from closely associated communities in West Fairbanks, and also overpopulates our district by over 800 people, which diminishes the strength of our vote and is manifestly unfair. Proposed Plan v.3 appears to overpopulate all the districts in the Fairbanks area which is frankly unacceptable.**

**When reviewing the various maps being proposed, we would like to indicate our support for either Proposed Plan v.4 or the Doyon Coalition Proposed Plan. Both of these maps have a much more equitable distribution of voters, and also more closely keep geographic areas and communities together in the same district.**

Patricia Cue  
LTC (USA Retired)  
PO Box 745  
Homer, AK 99603

Alaska Redistricting Board  
PO Box 240147  
Anchorage, AK 99524

October 31, 2021

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

I am writing in support of plan AFFR for the Redistricting map of the State of Alaska. AFFR is in compliance with the requirements set forth by the Alaska Constitution.

1. Homer and Seward have similar economies which include fishing and tourism.
2. Kenai and Nikiski are similar in that they are economically tied to the oil and gas industry. Kenai is the economic hub for Nikiski.
3. Soldotna, Kasilof, Clam Gulch and Ninilchik have economies tied to Soldotna and should remain together.
4. Seldovia and Halibut Cove have strong socio-economic ties to Homer including tourism, the Alaska Ferry System (Seldovia) and water and air taxi service (Seldovia receives air service from Homer).
5. AFFR allows the communities of Fritz Creek, Russian Old Believer Communities, Seldovia and Halibut Cove to remain with Homer which is their socio-economic hub.
6. The Board maps have numerous flaws that are not in compliance with the Alaska Constitution. These include but are not limited to: separating communities close to Homer (Fritz Creek, Old Believer Villages) from the socio-economic hubs. Placing Nikiski with South Anchorage (nothing in common) and placing Valdez with Kodiak and Cordova.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Cue  
LTC (USA Retired)

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Rich Curtner**

Affiliation: **Alaska Black Caucus**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Rich stated that the Alaska Black Caucus has a mission to assert the constitutional rights of African Americans, but they also support the black, indigenous, and people of color communities in urban Alaska. Membership reflects the diversity of urban Alaska and they feel the Voting Rights Act ensures minority groups are not disenfranchised during redistricting. The Alaska Black Caucus supports the proposition that the Voting Rights Act protects multiple minority coalitions in redistricting of voting districts and encourages the board to respect the multiple minority coalition districts to protect the minority representation in a redistricting process. They've reviewed the map submitted by AFFR and this map best protects the rights of minorities.**

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**From:** Jude Czopek [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:35 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

I have lived in the Goldstream area for 39 years and we are a part of the University community and the North and West! Connecting Goldstream to an area that we have no ties to let alone not connected to is WRONG.

This is NOT socioeconomic for us to be a part of the interior rural villages, Tok, Delta and the Richardson Hwy. We would be driving through the University, through Fairbanks to the Richardson Hwy then past North Pole to Delta & Tok - more than a 3The hour trip - How does that connect us?

The board should use Salchs, Eielson & Harding Lake to populate with Tok which are all on the Richardson Hwy and a part of that area.

The Czopek Family

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**From:** Michael Czopek [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 10:07 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

I live in the Goldstream Valley. My address is Fairbanks, Alaska. My address is not North Pole, is not Tok, is not Delta Junction, is not Nenana, is not Manly. My address is Fairbanks, Alaska. I receive my mail in Fairbanks, Alaska. I vote in Fairbanks, Alaska. My children went to school in Fairbanks, Alaska. To include my household, which is in Fairbanks, Alaska, with the other communities and interior villages is a gross injustice as it is an obvious ploy to subvert my vote and control representation. Citing socioeconomic factors is a cover.

If you would like to discuss this in person, feel free to drop by. I live in FAIRBANKS, ALASKA!!!

Sent from my iPhone



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**From:** Robert Czopek <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:36 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream Community

The Goldstream area is part of the University community with the north and west, and it is wrong to lump us in with Tok, Delta, and the Richardson highway. Please do not do this to our community. Please find another way!

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** elizabeth dalton slane <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 12:37 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 12:36 pm

First Name: **elizabeth**

Last Name: **dalton slane**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99707**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Interior and Fairbanks area**

Public Comment: **My comments concern the Fairbanks/North Pole areas.**

**Senate Minority - NO. It breaks up the City of North Pole. It moves two districts whose boundaries go outside the Fairbanks North Star Borough. It moves me into a new house district and proposed senate district. Gerrymandering taking place here.**

**DOYON - No. It puts me in a proposed senate district that stretches thousands of miles through the Interior to the North Slope, Canadian border and to Western Alaska almost to the Bering Sea. And I live 12 minutes from downtown Fairbanks.**

**AFFR - No. It puts me in a new house district. And sets up two strong democratic hubs to take a senate seat. Political gerrymandering going on here.**

**Board 3 - No. Deviations are too high.**

**Board 4 - Yes. It works.**

**AFFER - Yes. It works.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 5, 2021, 7:17 am

Name: **E.J. David**  
Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **V.3**

Public Comment: **Dear Redistricting Board:**

**My name is E.J. David. I am part of the Filipino community. My wife and four children are part of the Alaska Native (Athabascan) community. We live on Muir Court, by the Tudor-Muldoon curve, east of Muldoon road. My children play basketball at Begich Middle School. Their teammates and friends are kids from Black, Samoan, Native Hawaiian, Filipino, Latinx, Alaska Native, or Multiracial families. Our grocery shopping is usually done at the Fred Meyers near Debarr and Muldoon or at Carrs on Muldoon and Northern Lights. Our family visit Baxter Bog, Chanshtnu park, and Mountain View Community Center regularly. We love the restaurants and movie theater in Tikahtnu, and we do most of our shopping (clothes, shoes, household stuff) over there. Kava's on Muldoon road is my and my kids' favorite restaurant. We consider these areas and businesses as important parts of our neighborhood.**

**I feel our neighborhood is very distinct from Chugiak and Eagle River. We do not shop at the same places, go to the same parks, visit the same restaurants. Chugiak and Eagle River have expressed a lot of interest in leaving the Municipality of Anchorage, so why would we include them with East Anchorage? Please do NOT include us in the same district. This is not a socioeconomically integrated pairing.**

**Not to mention these communities are very racially distinct from each other. East Anchorage, particularly my neighborhood, has extraordinary racial and linguistic diversity, whereas Chugiak and Eagle River are much less diverse. The diversity of East Anchorage should be respected and not grouped in a way that would erase minority representation. Do not crack our communities up into multiple districts.**

**I also do not feel it is appropriate to put East Anchorage in a district with communities south of Tudor or JBER.**

**Instead of pairing communities east of Muldoon with Eagle River and Chugiak, South Anchorage or JBER, I would rather be paired with neighborhoods along Turpin and Debarr, neighborhoods east of Boniface and Northern Lights, or near Patterson and Northern Lights.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

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**From:** John Davies [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:29 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Final map

I strongly object to the inclusion of the Goldstream area of west Fairbanks in with the Tok, Delta and rural villages areas. Pairing Salcha, Eielson and Harding lake with these south of Fairbanks areas would make much more sense from a socioeconomic point of view and from a compactness criterion. The proposed pairing of regions would dilute the representation of both areas by this socioeconomic mismatch. This apparently politically driven mapping is unconstitutional on its face.

John Davies  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks AK 99709  
[REDACTED]

Sent from John Davies' iPhone

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Cordova 11/1/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **William Deaton**

Email or Phone

**William loves that Cordova is coastal and expressed the importance of maintaining this when it comes to state representation. Cordova should be kept with Kodiak, this provides for good representation with the Alaska Marine High and commercial fisheries. Regarding the socio-economic ties, William mentioned how Valdez is on the road system where there is oil, not a high percentage of commercial fisherman, and on the opposite end, when you look at Cordova there is high commercial fishing, no road besides the marine highway, and no oil. William would like maintain this socio-economic compatibility when redistricting. Hopefully Cordova can stay with coastal Alaska as interior Alaska would not represent Cordova at all. Any effort to keep Cordova costal would be greatly appreciated. If Valdez is with Cordova, please include Whittier as well so they have the entire Prince William Sound.**

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**From:** Nancy DeCherney <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 7:04 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** District in Juneau

Hello,

Please choose the districting proposal that puts Juneau's Valley, Out the Road, and Auke Bay neighborhoods as one district and the Downtown, Douglas, Thane, and North Douglas together.

I believe this may be the map proposed by Doyon.

Thank you for your hard to work to provide fair and equitable voting districts for Alaskans,

Nancy DeCherney

[REDACTED]  
Juneau, AK 99801

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**From:** David DeLong [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:49 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** districts

Do not place Goldstream in the same district as Tok. This is gerrymandering, an attempt to dilute the votes o those living in ESTER AND GOLDSTREAM.

DAVID DELONG  
[REDACTED]  
FRBKS, AK 99709

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**From:** Robin Dern [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 2:20 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

My name is Robin Dern. I live in Eagle River, my zip code is 99577. I have lived in the Eagle River/Chugiak area since the mid 90's.

I love my neighborhood and the people in this area. While we all may have differing opinions they are kind and have supported my family, for which I am grateful.

With that said, and perhaps in contrast to how some of them might feel about the proposed plan, I support Nicole's mapping. I do not want anyone's needs unmet in our state. Socio economic boundaries absolutely must be considered when making these types of decisions.

Having lived in the Eagle River area for most of my 26 years in Alaska and having worked in the Muldoon vicinity for nearly just as long, I feel I am a good judge of community needs and I can tell you they are completely different and would be better served by candidates and public service officials who were not constantly put at opposite ends of the spectrum on issues.

When I served as a board member of the Anchorage Schools Foundation Advisory Committee, I can tell you the types of grant requests we received from Bartlett were often for feminine hygiene products, underwear, shampoo and deodorant. We received requests from Eagle River and Chugiak for digital cameras, books and musical instruments. All important needs, all worthy of funding. However, this should illustrate the different realities that face the folks living across Alaska.

I urge you to recognize this is an opportunity to ensure all Alaskans are fairly and equitably represented.

Many thanks for your service to our communities, especially now while we all navigate the challenges of Covid. Your work is very appreciated.



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**From:** Susan Derrera <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:38 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 9:37 am

First Name: **Susan**

Last Name: **Derrera**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99503**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **East Anchorage/Eagle River**

Public Comment: **Imposing lines around parts of East Anchorage to include as part of the large Eagle River district is a blatantly dishonest manipulation of boundaries designed to diminish the voices of East Anchorage residents. Any map with such configurations should be rejected by the board.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Andrea Dewees**

**Andrea spoke in support of the Senate Minority Caucus for Southeast Alaska as it serves the voters in Southeast Alaska best. Overall, as someone who grew up in Alaska and has had her professional career here, she supports redistricting a map that supports voters' best interests.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Veri di Suvero**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Veri is a South Addition resident near Westchester Lagoon and shared about her and her neighbors. Veri shops at Sagaya in Midtown and Carrs on Minnesota/Northern Lights. She skis and bikes the coastal trail and only uses this trail going to Westchester Lagoon and Earthquake Park. In thinking of the watersheds, the AFFR map details both where she shops and plays. Veri spoke in favor of the AFFR map. Veri also used to live on C Street and Fireweed, which is not as far. She shopped at Fred Meyer on Seward and Northern Lights and her habits were different even if it wasn't that from her current residence. Thus, the way AFFR maps the city makes sense considering her lived experience and habits.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 1, 2021, 1:41 pm

Name: **Robb Donohue Boyer**  
Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Combining East Anchorage and Eagle River Map #3**

Public Comment: **Alaska State Redistricting Board**

**10/30/2021**

My name is Dr. Robb Donohue Boyer. I have lived in Alaska since 1956 and during that time have resided in Eagle River for 30 years and East Anchorage for the last 17. During my educational career I have been a teacher and school administrator at Chugiak, Gruening, Bartlett and East High Schools. I believe I have a thorough understanding of the cultural and community make-up of those two great areas (Eagle River and East Anchorage) of the Municipality of Anchorage.

I acknowledge the multiple variables associated with the Redistricting Board's work and understand that the redistricting process is a complicated one. Having said that, I believe the Alaska Constitution does provide some over-riding guidance that should be used when making your final decisions.

Article VI, section 6 of the AK state constitution clearly outlines districts "shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area." Whether the Commission uses the more common interpretation of "socio-economic" (a social science that examines how groups either grow, stagnate, or progress based upon their local economy and the influences of their social interactions), or the publicly stated definition of those who "generally live, work, and recreate together" analysis any plan that takes a portion of East Anchorage and puts it into a combined Eagle River/East Anchorage district fails to meet the constitutional test.

Specifically, Board Proposal #3 pre-supposes the similarities between the populations, relative to their representative needs. Those similarities "on the whole -- simply don't exist. The populations certainly don't live, work and recreate together, nor do they share like socio-economic status. Anyone who has lived in those areas for any length of time understands that which the Board appears to have either ignored or been unaware of. The simple existence of a Brexit movement in the Eagle River community is just one example of how the socio-economic viewpoints between the two areas differ.

My plea is simple. Whichever final proposals you adopt, please do not break East Anchorage apart and combine any section with the Eagle River area.

**Robb Donohue Boyer**

[REDACTED]  
**Anchorage, Alaska 99504**  
[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Wasilla 10/26/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Nathaniel (Tanner) Amdur-Clark**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Doyon Coalition**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: **Nathaniel outlined the changes to the Doyon Coalition map that have been made since their preliminary 40-district map was turned in:**

**A part of the City of Palmer was inadvertently split up into 2 districts (26 and 30); this was unintentional and an error. The updated map corrects this area and further refines the proposed map of the Mat-Su region. These proposed Mat-Su districts maintain low population deviations, keeps local boundaries within the Mat-Su Borough whole, maintains community cohesiveness, are relatively compact with no odd or bizarre shapes, and follows natural features.**

**Nathaniel discussed some general concerns on population deviations:**

- **Board Map v.3's Fairbanks districts are unconstitutional. If you like Board Map v.3, help the board figure out how to fix Fairbanks.**
- **Proposed Districts 31 through 35 are upwardly deviated between 4.26 and 4.43 percent which is about 800 more people than the ideal number in each district. This also results in each person's vote in Fairbanks to be 4.5% less.**
- **If adopted by the board, the districts in Board Map v.3 will be challenged, reviewed by the courts, and struck down. All the work that everyone has put in "will all be for nothing".**
- **Until the 1998 amendments to the Alaska Constitution, plans did not need to justify deviations from the ideal district size of 10%. That is the federal standard and is no longer the case in Alaska as the voters changed the Alaska Constitution which now requires that each district contain a population as near as practicable to the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the state by 40, which is currently 18,335 people. The Constitution states that each population deviation within each district (not region or borough) must be as near as practicable to 0. Large total deviations within a particular region or borough may be evidence of other equal representation issues, and having a low population deviation within a region does not absolve the board of its constitutional requirement to ensure that each district has as near as practicable to a 0 population deviation. This is especially true in urban areas, where the Alaska Supreme Court has acknowledged that the population is sufficiently dense and evenly spread to allow minimal population deviations, especially with new technology where you can click one census block at a time to see how that changes.**

**Achieving near 0 populations is sometimes not practicable. There are also issues of geographic constraints or having no available population in an area that is able to be integrated to create a district with close to 0 deviation. For example, in Southeast Alaska there isn't enough population, so all districts in this area will be slightly under-or-over deviated.**

**If the board will adopt a map that has population deviations, it must show why all of the other examples that have been presented are not practicable. The Doyon Coalition map has deviations that are entirely practicable, therefore Board Map v.3 Fairbanks districts are unconstitutional if adopted by the board in a final map.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: Tanner Amdur-Clark

Affiliation: Doyon Coalition

The coalition represents a broad range of interests across Alaska with a particular focus on rural representation that is fair and effective. The coalition has prepared and submitted maps for public testimony and certain changes/updates have been made: - They started with consultation with stakeholders statewide and have taken public testimony that have been taken into account. - Changes to the Kenai and Mat-Su were made to correct errors. - Anchorage has been significantly been redrawn and the coalition would like to receive more public input on this.

In response to testimony and commentary regarding Anchorage, they've created district lines with low population deviations while improving the compactness of the districts. Anchorage community council regions were adhered to wherever practicable. The coalition also tried to follow major natural features and road corridors throughout. Tanner spoke regarding the constitutionality of certain maps proposed to the board: - It would be a disservice to everyone if the map adopted by the board is declared unconstitutional. The board's proposed districts within the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) are all upwardly deviated by having more than 800 people than what is ideal in each district.

An important key point is that deviations in Fairbanks are not constitutional and will be challenged and reviewed by the courts. Until the 1988 amendments to the constitution, plans did not need to justify the deviations from the ideal district size within 10%, the federal standard. This is no longer the case and now the constitution requires that each district contain a population as near as practicable to the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the state by 40. The constitution states that the population within each district must be as near as practicable to 0. Large total deviations within a particular region or borough may be evidence of other equal representation issues, but having a low total deviation within a borough does not absolve the board of its constitutional responsibility to ensure each district's deviation is as low as practicable. The coalition has presented a practicable and constitutional way to draw an area with a non-high deviation. The Alaska Supreme Court "has acknowledged that in urban areas in particular, the population is sufficiently dense and evenly spread to allow minimal population deviations, especially in light of newly available technological advances." In the 2001 cycle, the Supreme Court threw out the map because the board failed to show that the deviations in the Anchorage districts and in the Artic Slope district were as low as practicable. The board did not explain why they were unpracticable. Achieving 0 deviation is sometimes not practicable due to geographic constraints or not having available socio-economically integrated areas nearby to round out a district or region. For example, Southeast Alaska does not have enough population to have near 0 population deviations. This is the same for the North Slope and Southwest Alaska, but this is not an issue in Fairbanks. FNSB is deeply socio-economically integrated with the rest of the interior. This is also true for the communities within the ANCSA region and the Ahtna region. The Doyon map shows an entirely practicable example of how Fairbanks and the rest of the interior can be mapped without justifying compactness, contiguity, relative socio-economic integration, or the principal of 1 person, 1 vote. There is nothing impracticable about drawing Fairbanks in a way that

does not devalue the vote of each resident, therefore, the Board Map v.3 would be unconstitutional if adopted in the final map and the coalition urges the board not to adopt this map. In urban areas, when there are strong neighborhood identities, you try as hard as you can to keep these distinct neighborhoods together. The court will be asked whether the resulting district is socio-economically integrated. It is not about comparing whether one version is more socio-economically integrated than another one. For example, on the coalition's map, there is a portion of FNSB included with the rest of the interior (Pleasant Valley and Two Rivers). The court would ask if Pleasant Valley, Two Rivers, and the resulting rest of the rural interior are socio-economically integrated. You can also show socio-economic integration by having links in a region as a whole or in an individual place. For example, the court looked at Kenai and South Anchorage and saw that the peninsula was socio-economically integrated with Anchorage and South Anchorage is socio-economically integrated with Anchorage. Therefore, South Anchorage is socio-economically integrated with the Kenai Peninsula. If we apply this to Fairbanks, we conclude that the neighborhoods are socio-economically integrated with Fairbanks. The court does not compare, they just ask whether or not it's integrated.

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**From:** Kyle Draskt <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 11:19 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 11:18 am

First Name: **Kyle**

Last Name: **Draskt**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99645**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting**

Public Comment: **I live at the end of wolverine road in Palmer and we got redistricted to Sutton. We are not a part of Sutton in any way. I'd like to got back to voting with the rest of lazy mountain which is my community.**



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: **Melanie Dufour**

**Melanie lives in District 31 out East End Road and objects to moving her district in with Kodiak. Kodiak and her community have nothing to do with each other. Her children attend school in Homer, she shops in Homer, and the current district is her home district. She does not see any benefit to redistricting her community Kodiak and she would be surprised if the Kodiak community wanted her community to be districted with them.**

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**From:** Tanya King Dumas [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:40 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting testimony

Members of the redistricting committee:

I support Nicole Borrromeo's map, which respects individual neighborhood boundaries and does not split up East Anchorage or South Anchorage in illogical ways.

I strongly oppose the map proposed at the last minute by Bethany Marcums, a bait and switch with her V1 map that she admitted on the record was largely unpopular. The new plan ignores hundred of public written comments and hours of testimony. It would put East Anchorage/Muldoon into Eagle River (which both areas are opposed to). It would put part of East Anchorage into a South Anchorage district, meaning you'd have to drive through four other districts to get there - these are socio-economically different areas and the mash-up does not serve the voice of the neighborhood residents. Most of the remainder of East Anchorage is blatantly shaped into a long, add, diagonal district that is one of the most racially diverse in the country. Diluting the voices of people of color with this gerrymandered proposal could run afoul of the Voting Rights Act. Taken together, the slicing and dicing of East Anchorage silences the voices of East Anchorage residents and is unacceptable.

Please approve Nicole Borrromeo's map.

Thank you,  
Tanya Dumas  
resident of South Anchorage

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: David Dunsmore

Affiliation: Alaskans for Fair Redistricting

As Joelle stated, one of AFFR's main focuses is to ensure that the true socio-economic integration, as required by the constitution, is recognized both within rural and urban Alaska and to look at the different cultural communities in Alaska to ensure that they are people who live, work, play, and vote together. The AFFR map is the only map that keeps the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people across the Gulf of Alaska within a single house district. The map also takes a neighborhood-driven approach within urban Alaska to ensure distinct neighborhood communities are respected, which is why their map has resulted in the NE Community Council being in a single senate seat and respects neighborhoods like Fairview and Mountain View. The map also recognizes the connection the coastal trail has with western areas such as Turnagain. AFFR submitted a memo related to Voting Rights Act concerns that they hope the board will consider. The process for mapping focused on the Hickel process and maps were drawn to respect the constitutional requirements. Their map is likely the only map that is constitutional. Within Anchorage, their map and the Senate Minority Caucus map are the only constitutional maps. If the board looks at respecting majority/minority coalitions, the analysis submitted by AFFR, they will see it is constitutional and also compliant with the Voting Rights Act.

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**From:** Mike Edgington [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:09 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Comments on 11/5 maps

Dear Redistricting Board,

I am very disappointed with the last-minute substantial changes to the Anchorage area maps under consideration by the Board. While I appreciate the speed staff were able to upload those maps, it has not been possible for the public to analyse the changes in the few minutes before the final round of public comments.

Of the two maps under consideration, the "v.4 Anchorage Best" map is the only one that appears to meet the constitutional requirements. Compact districts that are primarily convex are strongly preferential to convoluted shapes, unless there are geographic restrictions which do not apply to Anchorage Bowl.

I am unclear the status of the other maps which were adopted earlier by the board, but as a resident and elected official for Girdwood, I want to comment on the proposals on the southern area of Anchorage.

The communities in and to the immediate south of Anchorage Bowl are tied together by strong economic and cultural links along the Seward Highway.

So it is supportable to combine Turnagain Arm communities with more rural sections of South Anchorage, along with Whittier and even the very northern section of the Kenai Peninsula (Cooper Landing and Hope).

However, adding completely disparate areas of Kenai Peninsula that are not contiguous by road, such as Nikiski, looks like partisan gerrymandering and does not meet the socio-economic connection required by the Alaska constitution.

Thanks,

Mike Edgington  
Girdwood, Alaska.

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**From:** Matthew Eglin <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:57 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Get Involved Response

A website response from the Get Involved form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 9:57 am

First Name: **Matthew**

Last Name: **Eglin**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **What is the real reason behind this waste of time and money?**

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**From:** Judy Norton-Eledge [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 6:26 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Anchorage

As a  
Long time Alaskan who has lives both in urban and Rural Alaska I want to thank The Redistricting board and the excellent information they have sent to people that signed up to receive it.

As a former Eagle River resident I support Eagle River and East Anchorage being put in one district.

Many military families choose either Eagle River or East Anchorage.

Thy are most certainly the closest geographical area. When you leave Eagle River and head into Anchorage you first arrive in East Anchorage.

Having lives also in downtown I think it makes sense to put downtown and Mt View together. Once again the two areas Run together and if nee to town you would not know where one starts and the other ends.

Many people that consider themselves living downtown are Very close to Mt View.

Thank you for listening.

Judy Eledge

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, 99517

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Andrew Elliott <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 11:44 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Get Involved Response

A website response from the Get Involved form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 11:43 am

First Name: **Andrew**

Last Name: **Elliott**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **Redistricting board**

**Just wanted to give my opinion on the Mat-Su Valdez question.**

**Putting Valdez with the Mat-Su along with the Denali borough is unacceptable. The Mat-Su has 107,081 people by itself. This is 2929 short of 6 ideal districts, add Valdez, Denali borough, Nenana and take out Cantwell leaves 113,088 people 3,078 people over 6 ideal districts. This means that Mat-Su by itself would have a -2.66% deviation per district and would have a +2.79% deviation per district with the before mentioned population added in. Basically, you can put Valdez or the Denali borough with the Mat-Su. Not both.**

**My Opinion would be to put Valdez only with the Mat-Su, and put the Denali borough with the rural interior. This would leave Mat-Su/Valdez with 111,150 people or 1140 over 6 ideal districts, this comes out to +1.03% per district. If you really want to get your deviations lower you can take the 792 people that live in the Mat-Su on the south side of the Knik River and put them in the Peters Creek District (like in board map V.1). This does not disenfranchise Peters Creek/Anchorage at all because it is such a small number of people. This would leave Mat-Su/Valdez with 110,348 people or 348 over 6 ideal districts. this would come out to +0.31% deviation per district.**

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**From:** Nancy Esson-Schweiker <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 8:45 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 3, 2021, 8:44 am

First Name: **Nancy**

Last Name: **Esson-Schweiker**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Proposed Plan Version 4**

Public Comment: **I am completely opposed to the change in this districting. Merging Government Hill with Eagle River is absurd, we aren't even close. Please do not carry through with any of the Versions particularly this one. Thank you**



1 By: Mindy O’Neill  
2 Introduced: 10/28/2021  
3 Amended: 10/28/2021  
4 Adopted: 10/28/2021  
5

6 FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

7  
8 RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 36  
9

10 A RESOLUTION PROVIDING COMMENTS TO THE ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
11 REGARDING THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS IN THE FAIRBANKS  
12 NORTH STAR BOROUGH  
13

14 WHEREAS, The population of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (Borough)  
15 is 95,655 according to the decennial U.S. Census; and  
16

17 WHEREAS, The Constitution of the State of Alaska requires the Alaska  
18 Redistricting Board (Board) to reapportion house districts based upon the population as  
19 near as practicable to the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the state by forty,  
20 or an ideal district size of 18,335 people, thereby entitling the Borough to 5.22 house  
21 seats; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, Overpopulating the Fairbanks North Star Borough’s districts  
24 shortchanges the people of the Fairbanks North Star Borough and systematically  
25 underrepresents Fairbanks North Star Boroughs voice in state government; and  
26

27 WHEREAS, Where possible, all of the excess population of a municipality  
28 should be placed together in one other district in order to maximize effective  
29 representation of the excess group; and  
30

31 WHEREAS, Borough residents have the right to substantial equality of  
32 population among their districts as compared to other districts in the state, and these  
33 deviations can be easily reduced as evidenced by proposed plans adopted by the Board;  
34 and  
35

36 WHEREAS, Some draft plans contain Borough districts which combine  
37 geographical areas of the Borough that are not reachable without crossing the district  
38 boundaries, and some will require driving through three other districts to reach each part,  
39 which is unnecessary in the urban areas of the state; and  
40

41 WHEREAS, Existing communities of interest should be represented based  
42 on city boundaries, geographical proximity, and interconnected neighborhoods that share  
43 common interests and values.  
44

45 WHEREAS, The Assembly encourages the Redistricting Board to do a  
46 comprehensive review of any plan before it is finalized to ensure established  
47 neighborhoods and subdivisions are not unnecessarily divided in ways that place  
48 residents in districts away from their common-interest neighbors.

49  
50 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly of the Fairbanks  
51 North Star Borough supports a redistricting plan that maximizes the representation of  
52 Borough citizens by grouping the excess population as a whole into one district rather  
53 than overpopulating five districts and further requests contiguous and compact districts  
54 that keep communities of interest together.

55  
56 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution should be  
57 forwarded to the Alaska Redistricting Board.

58  
59 ADOPTED THE 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER 2021.

60  
61

62  
63   
64 Mindy O'Neill  
65 Presiding Officer

66  
67 ATTEST:

68  
69   
70 April Trickey, CMC  
71 Borough Clerk

72  
73

74 Yeses: Lyke, Cooper, Wilson, Lojewski, O'Neill, Williams  
75 Noes: Cash, Tomaszewski  
76 Other: Sanford (Abstained)

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**From:** Beth Farnstrom [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:33 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Just a quick email to say:

1. Eagle River should be in the district with East Anchorage.
2. Mt View should be with downtown Anchorage.

The proximity of these areas makes them have more in common, and provides a congruent district for representation for their legislators and is the best solution with the maps suggested.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for this important decision that we will live with for the next 10 years.

Sincerely,

Beth Farnstrom  
Anchorage

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Louise Farquharson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:51 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting testimony

Name: Louise Farquharson (pronounced Far - ker- son)  
Address: [REDACTED], Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709

Comment:

Goldstream is in no way socioeconomically linked or geographically contiguous to the Tok/ Delta corridor and I oppose any map that places them in the same district. Being placed in the same district as Tok and Delta would impact the quality of life and community services in Goldstream Valley, and also disenfranchise the residents of this area. I commute into Fairbanks daily to work at the University and my family and I frequent the post offices, grocery stores, restaurants, and coffee shops in west and downtown Fairbanks several times a week. Our socio-economic footprint is primarily in the University area. In summary it is most equitable to include Goldstream in a district that allows the population's socio-economic ties to Fairbanks to be represented fairly.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: **Lisa Fellows**

Public Comment: **Lisa lives out East End Road and opposes the District 31 redistricting to Kodiak as she lives and works in Homer. She does not feel that she would be represented well if the community was redistricted with Kodiak.**

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**From:** Mary E. Fenno <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 12:39 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** The Goldstream Valley is part of Fairbanks!

To the Alaska Redistricting Board:

I strongly disagree with versions of the redistricting map that put the Goldstream Valley into a district with outlying communities. As stated in Section 6.6, District Boundaries:

*“Each house district shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area.”*

It is wrong to include the Goldstream Valley with the outlying areas, such as Tok and Delta! We are part of Fairbanks and especially the University of Alaska community! If you want a socioeconomically cohesive map, it would be better to group the outlying communities along the Richardson Hwy. with Delta and Tok.

The Fairbanks districts are over 19,000 each and this is a much larger population than any of the other districts. It will not give us equal representation. This also needs to be addressed to make it fair!

Please choose maps that do not distort, pack, and crack our districts and make our votes worthless! Give Alaskans an equal voice in our state government!

Sincerely,

Mary E. Fenno

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Mary Fenno <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 9:21 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Get Involved Response

A website response from the Get Involved form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 6, 2021, 9:21 am

First Name: **Mary**

Last Name: **Fenno**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **I AM DISGUSTED WITH YOUR BLATANT DESTRUCTION OF OUR DISTRICT BY MOVING OUR AREA OF THE GOLDSTREAM VALLEY TO DISTRICT 36 TO FURTHER THE REPUBLICANS PLAN TO NEGATE THE FAIR VOTIING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.**

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**From:** Savannah Fletcher <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 2:09 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 2:09 pm

First Name: **Savannah**

Last Name: **Fletcher**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: (██████████)

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **I support the AFFR map and encourage the Board to ensure that the Fairbanks Borough area has sufficient representation so that each individual is represented and we aren't overly stuffed into high-population districts that minimize our vote.**



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 4, 2021, 3:15 pm

Name: **Louis Flora**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **The Alaska Center**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Support for AFFR map**

**Alaska Redistricting Board  
P.O. Box 240147  
Anchorage, AK 99524**

**Alaska Redistricting Board:**

**The Alaska Center is a statewide and state-based organization that envisions a thriving, just, and sustainable Alaska for future generations. We educate, engage and empower Alaskans of all ages to support clean air and water, healthy communities, and a strong democracy.**

**The Alaska Center recognizes the challenges of the job of the Redistricting Board in crafting legislative districts that comply with constitutional requirements, and believe that the map presented by Alaskans For Fair Redistricting (AFFR) provides the best model of compliance with the AK Constitution's article VI section 6 requirements on legislative district boundaries.**

**The AFFR map recognizes the unique socioeconomic and cultural similarities of communities within districts to a degree that other maps do not. For instance: AFFR seeks to contain the Mendenhall valley portion of the City and Borough of Juneau as an intact district where other maps arbitrarily divide this community. A quick drive from Downtown Juneau to the airport reveals that the pinch point between Fred Meyers and the airport runway is where the community of the Mendenhall valley truly begins.**

**Another AFFR district map seeks to reunite the communities of Homer and Seward in the same district as they were for many years, recognizing the fact that these coastal communities share a distinctly similar economy based on tourism and the marine trades. AFFR rightly retains the communities of Russian Old Believers at the end of East End Road with the Homer district to which these communities are directly connected.**

**Other coastal regions are also treated fairly under the AFFR map vs. the other maps. For instance, Board Option 3 needlessly breaks the Kodiak Island Borough by putting the portion of the borough on the Alaska Peninsula in a district with Dillingham and the Aleutians. The Alaskans For Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER) map places Valdez in a district with Kodiak and Cordova in a Richardson Highway district, creating a situation where Valdez is in an off-road system district while Cordova is in a road system district. AFFR presents a reasonable and cohesive map for coastal Alaska.**

**In Southcentral Alaska, the AFFR plan maintains the socio-economic boundaries between Anchorage, Eagle River, and the Mat-Su Valley -- a goal repeatedly mentioned by testifiers in each community. In Anchorage, connecting the Fairview and Mountain View neighborhoods in one district could improve representation for two of the state's -- and country's -- most culturally diverse communities. An**

**important part of this plan would pair up base residents on JBER with the gate neighborhood they are closest to. Rather than lumping all military voters into one or 2 districts, integrating these communities with their civilian neighbors presents an opportunity to improve access and turnout for some of Alaska’s hardest-to-reach voters.**

**In all parts of the state, the AFFR maps aspire to maintain unique community cohesion in ways that are less apparent in other proposed maps. The AFFR plan keeps the Ketchikan Gateway Borough whole and part of a district with the Wrangell Borough, Hyder, Metlakatla, and Thorne Bay. AFFR maps include Haines, Skagway, and Klukwan and do not include Juneau specifically to ensure the all land border crossings are in the same Senate district and that Juneau is not in a district with any road system communities.**

**The AFFR statewide deviation is well below the Board developed map deviation figures. This, combined with the emphasis put on retention of community and regional cohesion, lack of partisan bias, and respect for borough and municipal boundaries makes AFFR the most reasonable and legally defensible map.**

**Thank you for your work.**

**Sincerely,**

**Louie Flora  
Government Affairs Director,  
The Alaska Center**



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: Chelsea Foster

Chelsea spoke in favor of the AFFR map because it is the only map that respects the distinct and diverse communities in the East Anchorage, Mountain View, Downtown Anchorage, and Fairview. It does not split up these areas and includes them in Eagle River, South Anchorage, and a large unified JBER district where peoples in the areas will have their votes diluted. This is a simple matter of equity. These communities are highly diverse and deleting representation would also eliminate minority representation. Although the board may be inclined to choose their own map, strong feedback on the AFFR map should help the board to make thier maps more equitable. The AFFR map puts hillside neighborhoods in its own district with no portions of East Anchorage or Downtown Anchorage included. It would put the Abbott Loop neighborhood in its own District 14 and the Huffman/O'Malley neighborhood in one district, keeping houses on both the north and south of Hillside Drive in the same district which is very important to her as a southside resident. It also puts south Hillside in District 9 from Huffman and O'Malley in a district with Turnagain Arm communities.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Palmer 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 1, 2021

Name: **Beth Fread**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Beth wanted to ensure that the board knew that she is a part of the State Roads and Highways Advisory Board, but is representing herself today. Beth lives in the Mat-Su Borough voting district for representative District 12, senate District F.**

**Beth expressed concern for the plan boundary for District 16-8 on Map v. 2741 should be moved east away from the Matanuska River and Palmer and drawn through the Lazy Mountain foothills, maintaining that area and the Butte in the Mat-Su Borough. It should end in the Knik shoreline on the northside and would not take Butte into the Eklutna/Chugiak/Peters Creek area. Those areas are generally compatible in their voting and it would serve the Butte best to remain where they currently are.**

**Butte is located in the Mat-Su Borough boundaries and should not be limited to voting in the Anchorage municipal area boundaries. The governance of the Mat-Su impacts Butte residents much sooner than Anchorage's expansion into the area would require. There is also very little in common between Eklutna/Chugiak/Eagle River.**

**The Old Glenn Highway from Eklutna to Butte can be icy and dangerous in the winter while also being the alternate route out of the Butte area that runs south of the Knik River. Therefore, the access to Palmer is more important than access to Anchorage.**

**Butte residents predominantly live, work, and play in the Mat-Su Borough and would prefer not to fall under the jurisdiction of Anchorage in any way, shape, or form.**

**While Valdez is currently in District 9, that district is hard on their representative. It would make more sense for Valdez, Cordova, Whittier, and other fishing areas in the Prince William Sound to be combined as they have oil from Valdez coming in which helps their economy. Cordova and Whittier have tourism and commercial fishing in common which the Mat-Su Borough does not share as a similarity.**

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**From:** nancy leighann frederickson-Pope <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 7:46 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 3, 2021, 7:46 am

First Name: **nancy leighann**

Last Name: **frederickson-Pope**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Independent Voter**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99645**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting Boundaries**

Public Comment: **I do not support your proposed redistricting boundaries. I do not find them to be in the least bit fair or in the best interest of the Alaska Voter. In all honesty I am appalled (but not surprised) by what your committee has proposed.**

**I do support a much more thought-out, carefully assessed, and far more fair option:**

**<https://districtr.org/plan/73975>**

**Thank you very much for your consideration!**

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Larry Freeman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 2:54 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Flaws in plans

Dear Redistricting Board Members:

You have been given a difficult task to balance the requirements placed before you to ensure that each Alaskan is best represented in the legislature. My specific comments will be self-serving but will focus on the following principles:

- Each vote must have equal weight.
- Each district should be geographically compact.
- District boundaries should correspond to municipal boundaries or major natural/infrastructure features.
- Districts should not combine communities with conflicting interests if avoidable.

Specific Problems:

Redistricting Board Plan v3 is a failure. Overall variance of nearly 9% -- this plan does NOT give fair representation, in particular my district has the highest overpopulation (4.43 %) and is sprawling. In addition, neighboring district 35 is also one the most overpopulated districts and cuts through the Tanana flats -- a representative in this district would have to drive at least half an hour and cross two other districts to get to constituents on the other end of the district. Smacks of gerrymandering.

Redistricting Board Plan v.4 is a fail. Overall variance of over 9% -- this plan does not give fair representation. Although my house district (35) is fairly represented, with a -0.36 variance, it is paired with a sprawling rural house district for a senate district where constituents have nothing in common.

AFFER Plan is a failure, although it has the lowest overall variance of 3.36% districts are sprawling, and suffers from the same problems as the Board v.3 plan. It appears to be designed to eliminate all Democratic Senate and House members from the Interior, it will not stand up in court.

AFFR Plan has an overall variance of less than 5%, has a low variance in my district. The districts don't combine disparate neighborhoods across wide expanses of muskeg. There are some weird details that need to be fixed in the core area of Fairbanks.

The Doyon Plan is similar in my point of view as the AFFR plan, relatively low variance, and it avoids some of the "gerrymander" issues of the v.3 and AFFER plan.

The Senate Majority Plan is a pretty good plan. It has the second lowest variance overall, my district has a very low variance. In the Fairbanks area all the districts are compact except for district 3, which crosses the Tanana Flats to combine disparate neighborhoods; this particular case looks like gerrymandering.

Overall, I like the Senate Majority Plan the best but it's gerrymander problems need to be fixed

Now for my self-serving advice:

- Specifically the problem of dealing with short-changing the Fairbanks North Star Borough. You have a math problem, FNSB contains 5,174 more residents than will fit in 5 house districts.
  - I favor a plan that puts those extra residents (from more rural parts of FNSB) in with a single rural Interior Alaska house district. and that house district should be combined with a suburban FNSB house

district to form a Senate District. The remaining four house districts should be combined into two senate districts.

- The Tanana River (and upstream the Big Delta River) is a natural boundary and should not be crossed by any single district that represents FNSB Residents.
- The FNSB in general, has an east-west divide, generally UAF related to the west, and military and pipeline support industry to the east -- a municipal boundary would be the east boundary of the City of Fairbanks, a geographic boundary be
- If I had the GIS tools that you have I would start drawing the FNSB districts in down-town Fairbanks and work outward to the north, west and southeast. First using the Tanana River then the east boundary of the City of Fairbanks as a starting point for district population, then use features such as the Chena River and swampy creek bottoms as boundaries to keep neighborhoods together.

Regards,

Lawrence Freeman

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, AK

--

Larry Freeman

[REDACTED]

---

**From:** Bob French [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 11:42 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Comments on the Redistricting Maps

Thanks for your efforts in creating district maps that meet the Alaska Constitution criteria. Unfortunately many of the current maps that are being proposed do not meet those criteria.

1. Low Population Deviation. Very important to follow the principal of equal representation. Board Version 4 is the worst for population deviation of any of the maps in the Anchorage area. BV4 should be rejected for that reason alone. Board Version 3 has very high population deviation across the state, and should also be rejected. The AFFR map has a much better population deviation. The Senate Minority map has the lowest population deviation.

2. Compactness and contiguity: Not allowing Gerrymandering is Key! The AFFER map is filled with blatant gerrymandering designed to pit Democrats against each other, and should be completely rejected in it's entirety. Board Version 3 also has blatant gerrymandering especially evident in the splitting of the Mendenhall Valley, and strange splitting of the Homer area into two house districts. Board Version 4 splits 4 house seats in Anchorage with Eagle River House seats, which violates both the Compactness/contiguity criteria, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> requirement of Socioeconomic integration. With the amount of military families living in Eagle River, JBER should be included with the other north Anchorage Communities of Eagle River, Chugiak, Birchwood, Peters Creek and Eklutna. The AFFER map has similar problems with Compactness/contiguity and Socioeconomic integration, as shown by splitting Ketchikan from Saxman and Metlakatla, as well as splitting Ester away from the rest of the Fairbanks area. The Senate Minority Map has the best map for Southeast Alaska, but has strange north-south splits through much of Anchorage, and does not combine Eagle River and East Anchorage senate seats. The Doyon Coalition Map has non-contiguous splits as seen by districts 15-H and 16-H, along with 19-J and 20-J, and should be rejected on that basis alone.

3. Socioeconomic Integration: Communities in the same districts should share similar sizes, economies and culture. The AFFR map in particular helps keep a Homer/Seward based house district with a north Kodiak district in the Senate pairing, as they are all coastal communities which share the same economies and culture. The Board Version 4 pairing of Anchorage and Eagle River house seats into one senate seat fails the Socioeconomic integration criteria, and could be fixed by renumbering the pairs.

All of the maps have some flaws, but I think that the AFFR Map has the best balance of compactness, contiguity, integration, and minimal population deviation. I ask that you support the AFFR map, or one very similar to the AFFR map.

Thanks  
Bob French  
[REDACTED]



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**From:** John Gaedeke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 12:58 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting of Goldstream

I respectfully request you do not put Goldstream Valley in District 36, it appears to violate article 6 section 6 of the Alaska State Constitution.

Thank you


John Gaedeke  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Milan Galey**

Email or Phone Contact: 

**Milan Galey lives in the Salamanoff-Nikiski area. Some of the proposals look like this area should be included with South Anchorage, but there is nothing in common with both communities.**

---

**From:** Glenna Gannon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 12:48 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Districting in Fairbanks

Goldstream is in no way socioeconomically linked or contiguous to the Tok/Delta corridor, It IS very much tied in with the college corridor/ area and should be included as such. As a resident of Goldstream for over 16 years, my daily commute was to College and East Fairbanks, and my life and livelihood was NOT economically or otherwise independent of Fairbanks like the more rural communities of Tok and Delta. I oppose the map that places Goldstream with Tok and Delta areas in the same unit, and I believe being placed in that same unit would decrease the quality of life and services and would disenfranchise Goldstream residents.

Sincerely,  
Glenna Gannon, MES.c

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**From:** Melinda Gant <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 8:25 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 2, 2021, 8:25 pm

First Name: **Melinda**

Last Name: **Gant**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Government Hill, Anchorage**

Public Comment: **Government Hill in Anchorage is being considered to be placed in the district of Eagle River/Chugach. I strongly this new district for Government Hill.**

**Our community has been designated in our Government Hill Neighborhood Plan that includes Ship Creek, Alaska Railroad, and the Port of Alaska. We border the Downtown district. Our Community is greatly impacted with these areas and local voting and bonding for our Community greatly tied together. Schools are also tied together as our Community attends Government Hill, Romig, & West High.**

**The Eagle River and Chugach area is a 20-30 minute drive from Government Hill. Their Community access is from the Glenn Highway and separated from the Anchorage Bowl and more importantly from Government Hill.**

**There is absolutely no connection to the 3 communities mentioned above and more importantly no crossover to voter needs i.e. bonds, school boards, assembly persons, and lastly location.**

**I request the reconsideration of placing Government Hill within the district of Eagle River/Chuagach**

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**From:** Sandra Garity [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 11:35 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** redistricting plan

I have reviewed the Proposed plans for redistricting. I support the AFFR plan. The AFFR plan reflects the similar geographic features and drainage as defined in the Alaska Constitution. It also appears politically neutral. The AFFR map contains the required population quotient as defined in the Alaska Constitution. It would keep Homer and outreach/Fritz Creek and East End intact.

I believe that the AFFR map meets the Alaska Constitution requirements  
Sandra Garity

---

**From:** Angela Gastaldi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Public testimony regarding redistricting of Goldstream Valley

To whom it may concern,

As a member of the Goldstream Valley community I am writing to inform the Redistricting Board that it is NOT appropriate to group the Goldstream Valley with the far-away rural towns of Tok and Delta. Goldstream community is a vital part of Fairbanks. Myself and many neighbors work in the city of Fairbanks (I work at the University) and our votes should count with the city, not with rural areas hundreds of miles away.

Thank you for your time and consideration.


Sincerely,  
Angela Gastaldi

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 2, 2021, 8:25 pm

Name: **Sharon George**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Public Comment: **Dear Members of the Alaska Redistricting Board,**

I am a 36-year resident of the Fairbanks North Star Borough and am speaking for myself. I spent most of my 50-year working career in the spatial data, mapping, remote sensing, and GIS worlds so know that science, statistics, and art along with various rules can be brought to bear when creating polygons such as the House districts currently proposed. I appreciate the difficulty of this undertaking and applaud all the teams whose diligent effort that has gone into creating each of the proposed maps.

The primary purpose of redistricting is to ensure one person one vote by creating districts that contain equal population and are representative of the population. A relatively integrated socio-economic focus is a second driving concern. Compactness and contiguity are layered upon that although it is not clear to me in Alaska statute if compactness refers to geographic or racial compactness. In lower priority, consideration MAY be given to local government boundaries. Local government boundaries created nearly 120 years ago in the case of the City of Fairbanks, nearly 60 years ago for the Fairbanks North Star Borough and 45 years ago for the Municipality of Anchorage did not focus on the future use of their boundaries in redistricting so those boundaries have limited merit as an overriding defining criterion.

Based on the above, the Redistricting Board's Version 3 map is unfair in the Fairbanks area:

- **V. 3 violates the one person one vote criterion in every district in the greater Fairbanks area thereby causing a serious underrepresentation of the Interior's regional hub. This is undemocratic.**
- **V. 3 links the UAF, College and the Chena Ridge areas with Eielson Air Force Base, Salcha and Harding Lake fifty miles away in District 35. This clearly calls into question the concept of integrated socio-economic focus as well as compactness. UAF, College and Chena Ridge are very different in almost every way from Eielson AFB, the small community of Salcha and recreational Harding Lake.**
- **V. 3 creates one sweeping east-west aligned district (#31) that combines Ester, Goldstream Valley, Farmers Loop, Fox, Two Rivers and Pleasant Valley while looping outside (excluding) the Steele Creek area. The suburban neighborhoods that make up Ester, Farmers Loop and Goldstream are tied more directly to the university area and developed Fairbanks urban core and are quite different socially, economically and by personal preference from the more distributed housing and rural motivation of residents of the eastern Chena Hot Springs Road area beyond about Nordale Road.**
- **V. 3 relies on the use of the Fairbanks North Star Borough boundary as a principal criterion for packing all the citizens into an artificially confined area. The borough boundary was created in 1964 without considering redistricting and the boundary adds no compelling value to the**

redistricting process in 2021. Further, in no other area in the state were local government boundaries used in totality as a core assumption. Since the use of local government boundaries is offered by statute only as an option, limiting the voting power of the entire Fairbanks area based on this boundary is unreasonable.

Map Version 4 proposed by the Alaska Redistricting Board is problematic in the Fairbanks area:

- V. 4 links the Farmers Loop and western Chena Hot Springs Road areas including Steele Creek with Two Rivers and Pleasant Valley to the east and a sizable portion of Badger Road to the south (#34). The suburban neighborhoods that make up Farmers Loop and Chena Hot Springs Road west of Nordale Road are linked more directly to the university area and urban Fairbanks and are quite different socially and economically from the more dispersed and rural nature of Chena Hot Springs Road area east of Nordale Road. The central portion of Badger Road included in District 34 relates more logically with North Pole and is not similar to the Farmers Loop and western Chena Hot Springs area economically or culturally.
- V. 4 divides Badger Road into three separate districts (#32, 33, 34) which is objectional. Badger Road is a developed continuum along most of its length and identifies more directly with the North Pole area. All the maps currently proposed divide Badger Road into two or three parts. Leaning towards fewer districts for the Badger Road area is preferred.
- V. 4 links the university and College areas with downtown and south Fairbanks in District 31. Five out of the six proposed maps acknowledge the cultural differences and focus between the university/College west Fairbanks area and eastern and southeastern parts of Fairbanks with only the
- V. 4 map deviating from recognizing this real distinction.

Beyond the evaluation of Redistricting Board's Version 3 and Version 4 maps specifically in respect to the Fairbanks area, I have the following general comments:

- The interior and coastal areas of Alaska are distinctly different in culture and economic focus. Districts should not be drawn that combine the interior population with those who live under maritime environmental and economic focuses and forces. McGrath and Nome just do not have the same local concerns, nor does it serve the interior communities or Valdez if they are combined in a single district.
- It is disappointing that the Redistricting Board did not publish Senate pairings tables. Even if not required, all the third-party groups did publish that important information. It really does make a difference and the citizens are the poorer for not being informed of the Board's proposals for pairings.

As John Adams and the framers of the Constitution noted, legislatures should be, "an exact Portrait, a Miniature, of the People at large." You must do your best to honor that concept. Thank you for your consideration,

Sharon W. George

  
Fairbanks, AK



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**From:** Sharon George <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:47 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 1:47 am

First Name: **Sharon**

Last Name: **George**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Fairbanks area as shown late 11/4/2021**

Public Comment: **In the latest Fairbanks area map as shown on the screen late today, it is extremely difficult to understand where the boundaries are when the only identifying feature shown in the background is the stream network. At a minimum the road network including names of major roads needs to be displayed for the Zoom audience. It makes it very difficult to comment otherwise.**

**If what I think I saw is correct, the most current map shows the Goldstream Valley area, which is intimately tied to the university and urban Fairbanks culturally and economically, now as part of District 36. In the world in which the citizens actually live and work, Goldstream Valley is a suburb directly tied physically and culturally to the College/Fairbanks area and has much closer ties and concerns in every way to Fairbanks than, for example, Eielson AFB does. I totally support the concept of District 36 to ensure the representation of rural Interior Alaska citizens, but I hope I am wrong about the Goldstream Valley being part of District 36.**

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**From:** Tom George <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:40 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 2, 2021, 9:39 pm

First Name: **Tom**

Last Name: **George**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99708**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Version 3 and general observations**

Public Comment: **I am a sixty plus year resident of Alaska, who works with stakeholders across the entire state engaging with state, federal and at times local officials, both elected and in the administration of the different levels of government. I appreciate that this is a challenge to start with a clean slate and build districts that meet the multiple conditions imposed by state and federal requirements, and that no outcome will be perfect, given the diverse geographic and ethnic differences which comprise Alaska.**

**I find the overall boundaries of the proposed Doyon Coalition to be most reflective of groupings that I believe support similar geographic and economic interests across the state. That is, they keep coastal communities together with other coastal area, as opposed to pairing portions of the interior with coastal communities, as many of the other plans prescribe.**

**I particularly object to the packing of the districts in Fairbanks as proposed under the Board Proposed Plan Version 3. When looking in detail at this area, which is where I have lived since 1956, I believe the Doyon plan does the best job of combining similar areas into reasonable districts that match the nature of the residents in these areas.**

**Thanks for the opportunity to comment.**

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**From:** Emily Gibson <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 12:08 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Get Involved Response

A website response from the Get Involved form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 4, 2021, 12:08 am

First Name: **Emily**

Last Name: **Gibson**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **AFFER is a plan that is unlawful due to gerrymandering. It obviously works to target conservative legislators by redrawing the political boundaries or forcing them to run against each other.**

**Map#73975 is an ideal and balanced choice for Alaska. It has smaller population deviations between each district, it honors city limits, and avoid gerrymandering**

**Please support map #73975, while recognize the unlawfulness of the AFFER plan.**

**Thank you**

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**From:** Connie Giddings <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 5:19 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 4, 2021, 5:19 pm

First Name: **Connie**

Last Name: **Giddings**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Alaska Redistricting Board-please choose Nicole's map-keep Eastside whole**

Public Comment: **I have lived on the Eastside of Anchorage for 49 years. I graduated from East High and my children went to East. I can affirm the community needs and socio-economic issues of Muldoon have little relatable to Eagle River and South Anchorage. Please keep Eastside eastside for fairness and community representation.**

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**From:** Measured HeatLoss [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:03 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** East anchorage proposal

Add my name to the growing chorus of voices who object to placing parts of Muldoon road into Eagle River and South Anchorage.

I grew up in Muldoon and I can testify that most of the economic and social issues important to the residence of Muldoon are not widely shared by residence of Eagle River or South Anchorage. Muldoon residents will lose their voices if this plan is adopted.

Fred Giddings

[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, 99508

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Leslie Gonsette [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:15 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT NICOL'E'S MAP!

AK Redistricting Board:

My name is Dr. Leslie Gonsette and I live at 99577 in Eagle River. I want to express my support of Nicole Borromeo's map. Bethany Marcum's latest map continues to ignore MANY prior public testimony against grouping parts of Anchorage's Muldoon area with Eagle River. Eagle River and East Anchorage are socio-economically distinct and geographically separate and should be treated as such. It will also decrease the voice of East Anchorage residents.

Lastly, Valdez should not be treated as being part of Anchorage and thus shouldn't be added to the map. Not only is it far but they do not share similarities, being remote and rural. Priorities and goals will not align.

Respectfully,

Leslie Gonsette, M.D.

**From:** Pamela goode [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 6:05 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Public Comments - Delta Area - 20211102

Dear members of the Alaska Redistricting Board,

I am from the rural area of REAA#15 Delta/Greely School District. Our current district is very large and very diverse with challenging socioeconomic integration. There are four distinct areas, heavily populated Eastern Rural Mat-Su (rapidly growing), Valdez/Whittier (coastal), Delta Junction (interior, Ft. Greely, rural) and the Copper Valley (rural).

I bring this to light because it is a concern that our district is becoming the “left-over” district again as it appeared to be during the last redistricting exercise.

I understand how challenging redistricting can be. I have spent days working the mapping models myself creating my own districts based on my understanding of socioeconomic integration in conjunction with achieving the 18,335 population target. This is not an easy task.

My incomplete “rough draft” can be found here, <https://districtr.org/plan/74428> . I started with western Alaska because **I felt the large horse shoe that included the Delta area was an unacceptable representation for just about everyone living in that area.** Especially the maps that included Valdez or Cordova.

My focus is on the Delta Junction area representation. Within this area you will find Ft Greely Missile Defense, a farming community, Northern Star (Pogo) mine, private businesses that support the community and tourism, private businesses that do not require buildings and work out of their homes, state and federal government workers and a growing retirement contingency. There are increasing numbers of individuals that have moved into this area due to it’s unique attributes towards those wishing to live self-reliant lifestyles and those seeking higher levels of personal liberty.

Due to the Alaska Highway ending in Delta Junction at the intersection of the Alaska Highway and the Richardson Highway, this area has several landmarks that reside in the National Register of Historic Places including the only intact remnant of the “Original Alaska Highway” in Alaska.

Recommendations (SEE GREEN AREA: <https://districtr.org/plan/74428>)

- REAA #15 Delta Junction Area: Small City, Ft Greely Missile Defense, Pogo Mine, Farming, Tourism, Rural, Unorganized, Dry Creek included.
- Southeast Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB): Eielson Air Force Base, Rural Harding-Birch Lake, Rural Salcha
- Land South of the populated areas of FNSB: Ft. Wainwright
- Nenana area to the FNSB: Small City, Farming, Unorganized, Rural
- Denali Borough: Rural lifestyles, Tourism, Clear Air Station
- Northeast Section of Mat-Su Borough: Very Rural, puts the entire Denali Highway in one District.

- **If residents have electricity from the grid, it is provided by the same utility company GVEA.**  
There are no Power Cost Equalization supplemental payments that I am aware of.
- Most of the area is accessible on the road system.

Another map you may find of interest (REAA #15, #17, Denali Hwy to Denali Borough border, FNSB to the City of North Pole: <https://districtr.org/plan/74448> . I do not advocate for this mapping; however, it does keep the district on the same road system all using the same major shopping hub for supplies, Fairbanks. This speaks to its socioeconomic integrated ties.

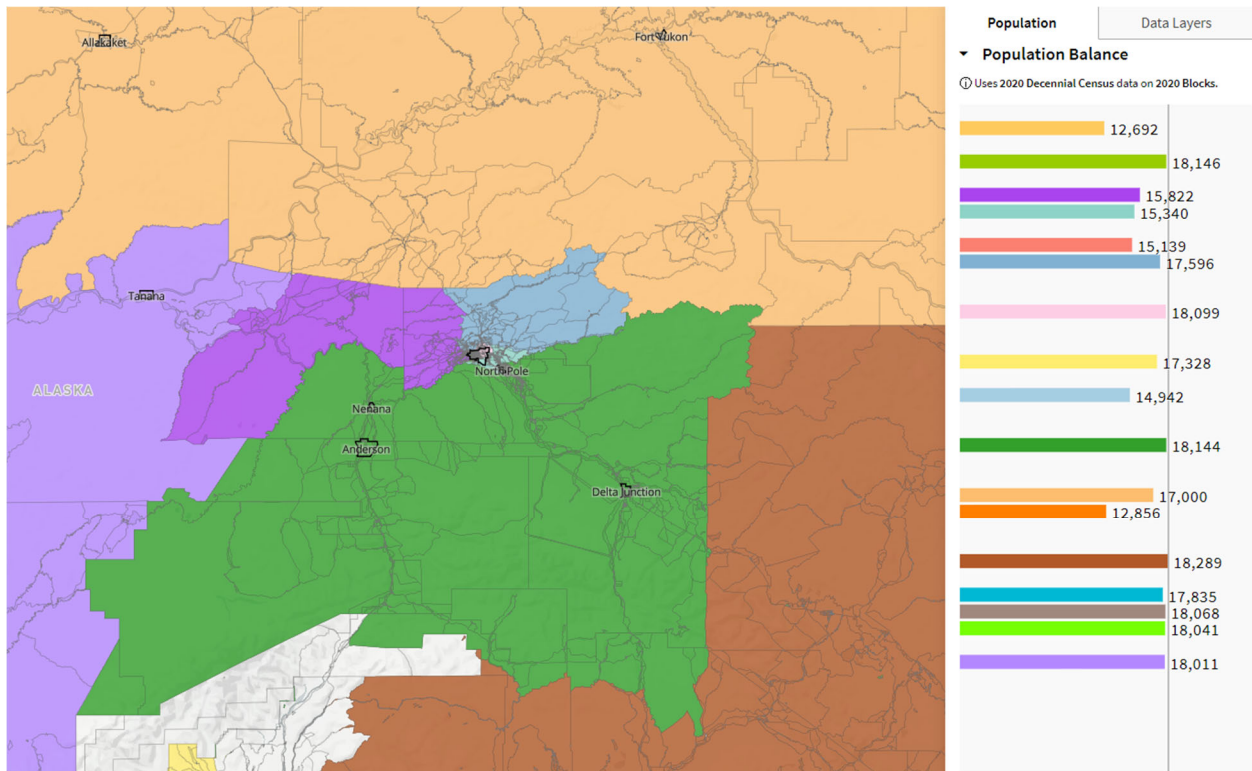
Of the 6-maps the board has under consideration, none of them are acceptable. The best one is the Board's version #4 which includes Eielson AFB and removes the coastal areas of Valdez and Cordova. A noted change would be to ensure both sides of the Glenn Hwy are included if this one is adopted. Having the boarder dividing the Glenn Hwy is not a good idea.

This concludes my public comments.

All the best,

Pamela Goode

REAA #15 Delta/Greely Area





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**From:** Penny Goodstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:22 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** UPDATE: maps for redistricting

Update: the map I think makes the most sense is version #4 on the website; it was designed/submitted by Nicole Borromeo.

Thanks

Penny Goodstein

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Penny Goodstein <[REDACTED]>  
**To:** testimony@AKredistrict.org <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021, 01:07:29 AM AKDT  
**Subject:** maps for redistricting

PLEASE ACCEPT THE MAP BY NICOLE BORROMEO!

We do not seem to be immune from the national hobby of creating districts that do not reflect the voters.

I have reviewed 2 maps.

One is by Nicole Borromeo, the other by Bethany Marcum. They are so different!

Bethany Marcum's map is RIDICULOUS. It puts East Anchorage and Eagle River together. They are separate entities; so separate that once again Eagle River is attempting to create a new municipality. It puts part of East Anchorage near Muldoon curve, with South Anchorage, creating a strange shape and even stranger voting groups.

Marcum's map sticks JBEAR and the rest of East Anchorage together in a very odd shape; it puts the military personnel and the most diverse Anchorage population into the same voting district.

Just LOOKING at the maps indicates that Nicole Borromeo created a map with some idea of communities. Bethany Marcum seemed to have a pre-determined outcome and threw neighborhoods together into an oddly shaped map.

Penny Goodstein

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**From:** Madeleine Grant <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 7:05 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Anchorage diverse areas

Hello

East Anchorage/Muldoon is one of the most racially diverse areas of Anchorage & socioeconomically quite distinct from both Eagle River & also South Anchorage. The proposed plan to lump these together does not meet the stated goals of redistricting. And the proposed plan also looks a bit likely the legendary "gerrymander" cartoon

Please do not do this

Thanks for your hard work

Madeleine Grant

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**From:** Andrew Gray <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 7:27 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** DO NOT GROUP EAST ANCHORAGE WITH EAGLE RIVER

AK Redistricting Board:

Bethany Marcum's latest map appears to ignore ample previous public testimony against grouping parts of Anchorage's Muldoon area with Eagle River. As has been stated many times before, Eagle River and East Anchorage are socio-economically distinct and geographically separate.

Please do not allow East Anchorage to be split up and attached to a distant, rich suburb with which it shares little.

Respectfully,  
Andrew T. Gray  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Patricia Grenier <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 12:48 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 12:48 pm

First Name: **Patricia**

Last Name: **Grenier**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **V.4 Anchorage Best**

Public Comment: **This is the best map for community/neighborhood integrity I have seen so far.**

**V.3 Anchorage Alt 3 dices up East Anchorage and the Hillside too much.**

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**From:** Jeanine Griek [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 7:47 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

I strongly urge you to not include the Goldstream area as part of rural interior Richardson Hwy/delta/Tok in redistricting. It makes far more sense to include the Salcha/Eielson/Harding lake area that is geographically nearby and have similar needs.

The Ester/Goldstream area is part of the Fairbanks and University area and not rural alaska villages.

Thank you for taking the time to thoughtfully consider this.

Jeanine Griek

Sent from my iPhone

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Cordova 11/1/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Jennifer Grimwood**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Jennifer would like Cordova to be separated from Kodiak. For the last 10 years, they've had more political power than Cordova and Cordova has not had much influence in the elections in terms of representatives. She would like to see Cordova go southeast or merge with Valdez. For 10 years, they had a district comprised of Cordova down to Craig, meandering through all the villages and this worked out well. Jennifer agreed with Sylvia Lange's comments about the history of the Cordova and the relationship with the Upper Copper River. In the 90's, Cordova was apart of Copper River and the district went all the way up to Delta. It's time for a change.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 1, 2021, 2:59 pm

Name: **Cliff Groh**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Proposed Plan Version 4**

Public Comment: **Dear Members of Alaska Redistricting Board:**

**I have reviewed the proposed maps for redistricting our state. I have a specific concern about Board Proposed Plan Version 4. This proposed map pairs proposed House District 21 with proposed House District 22 to form a proposed Senate District. I do not believe that this proposed Senate district is consistent with good public policy.**

**Proposed House District 21 includes Government Hill and all of Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER). Proposed House District 22 includes Eagle River/Chugiak/Peters Creek.**

**As a resident of the Government Hill neighborhood, I am particularly aware that the only forms of access to and from the neighborhood for most non-military members are (a) via the A-C Couplet or (b) walking to or from Ship Creek. Both those methods involve coming from or going to the south.**

**As opposed to pairing Government Hill with Eagle River/Chugiak/Peters Creek, it is both possible and far better public policy to put Government Hill in a Senate district that runs mostly south of Government Hill instead of one that runs to Eagle River/Chugiak/Peters Creek. It is also possible and far better public policy to combine two House districts from Eagle River/Chugiak/Peters Creek into a Senate district.**

**Thank you for your hard work, and I hope that you can accommodate this substantial concern.**

Sincerely,

**Cliff Groh**  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 2:30 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY TO AK REDISTRICTING BOARD (GUARD-CORDOVA)

My testimony about the Alaska Redistricting Board's proposed plans is as follows:

1. **INTRODUCTION.** My name is Jeffrey H. Guard. I reside at 902 Cliff Trail in Cordova, Alaska. I am a retired commercial fisherman.
2. **BEST PLAN.** I understand the Alaska Redistricting Board adopted 6 different proposed plans. In my opinion, the BEST PLAN for Cordova is the plan drafted by AFFR (as distinguished from AFFER). The AFFR plan offers contiguity and compactness; preserves local government boundaries; uses geographic features appropriately; and preserves communities of interest. In this plan, Cordova is placed with nearby Native villages (Chenega and Tatitlek), Whittier, and Kodiak. We share strong social and economic interests with these communities such as commercial fishing, the Alaska Marine Highway System, and tourism. This BEST PLAN is not a perfect plan, but it is far better for Codovans than all other options.
3. **NEXT BEST PLANS.** I understand that Board v.3 and Board v.4 plans are very similar for Cordova. These plans are not as good as the AFFR plan which is the BEST PLAN. Board v.3 and v.4 dilute the voice of Prince William Sound communities of interest, insofar as they do not include Valdez or Whittier. These plans fail to integrate our common social and economic interests, such as fishing, the Alaska Marine Highway System, and tourism.
- 4.
5. **WORST PLANS.** The Doyon, AFFER, and Senate Minority plans are the WORST PLANS for Cordova. If these are my only 3 options, you may as well sell us back to Russia. The Doyon plan takes us away from Kodiak, removes Whittier from Prince William Sound, and diminishes our common coastal political, social, and economic interests. In this way the Doyon plan fails the COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST test. The AFFER and Senate Minority plans are terrible for Cordova because, in addition to failing the communities of interest test, they also fail the COMPACTNESS test. In these 2 plans, Cordova is placed in a district that is a bizarre shape, which is evidence of gerrymandering for unlawful purposes and will be subject to strict scrutiny by the court. Cordova is also the only coastal community. The proposed districts include greatly dispersed populations, jagged boundary lines, and geography that makes no sense. They put Cordova back in a "donut hole," where we've been before, and will effectively leave us without representation. Our only redress for these deficiencies will be through the courts.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Jeffrey H. Guard



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**From:** mary lee Guthrie [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 9:28 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Fairbanks

Hello Board Members,

I would like to register my objection to the overpopulation of Fairbanks house districts on your proposed maps. A single district with such a high deviation would be bad enough, but to have that repeated across Fairbanks is astonishingly inequitable.

Secondly, as a 50 year resident of Fairbanks, I have a sample over many years and different stages of life of the west - UAF centered - side of town. The golden triangle of working life: driving to work, getting kids to school, and shopping for groceries, is for many of us, roughly contained in a radius around the university. These strong west side connections continue into retirement years. I take grandchildren to schools their parents once attended. I meet friends at the dump and the Botanical garden. Etc.

I appreciate the work you have done to make the array of maps available to the public.

Thank you,  
Mary Lee Guthrie

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Name: **David Guttenberg**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

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Date: November 5, 2021, 3:44 pm

Comments: **November 5, 2021, 3:30 pm.**

I just saw the the new map with the Goldstream district, new district 36, (I think it's Fairbanks v7) all of the testimony your have heard regarding Goldstream and disenfranchising the voters is still relevant. The bizarre horseshoe district you created is simply partisan gerrymandering. If you had simply shifted district lines east, instead of creating a horseshoe around Fairbanks that would have accomplish a greater representation for all the communities in the new district instead of the new lines and it would have kept socio economic and natural communities together in a way that makes sense.

It appears the board acquiesced to the chair to draw the Fairbanks lines because he is from Fairbanks. He simply illustrates his partisanship.

There are much simpler way to draw the natural Fairbanks districts, the board chose not to do it. That can be illustrated in the Chairs comments on redistricting by the Fairbanks Borough Assembly's resolution, he chose to paraphrase the resolution to fit his needs and not the intent of the resolution.

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Date: November 5, 2021, 11:28 am

Comments: **Friday, November 5, 2021**

**To: The Alaska Redistricting Board**

**My name is David Guttenberg.**

**I currently serve on the Fairbanks North star Borough assembly, I'm not representing the borough.**

**I also served 16 years in the Alaska legislature, from 2003-2019.**

**I represented three different districts under three different redistricting maps, one of which was declared unconstitutional by the Alaska Supreme Court.**

**That was District 38, began in my community of Goldstream in Fairbanks took in much of the Yukon River, McGrath, and along the western coast of Alaska from Kotlick to Hooper Bay.**

**Now imagine that, look at a map of Alaska, draw a circle around western Fairbanks, circle the Yukon River to the Emonock, and extend that line a hundred miles north and south along the coast that was district 38 in 2012. You are repeating maps that look like districts that were previously declared unconstitutional. That district had too many distinct socio economic and community centers.**

Now you're repeating that same unconstitutional mistake of breaking up social, economic and political boundaries and disenfranchised communities from Fairbanks to Homer.

Few know the consequences of that. I do.

When you repeat what was done did 2010 and repeat those same mistakes, you disenfranchised Alaskans and their communities. You're forcing under representation regardless of the population deviation.

The ability of a representatives or senator to represent such diverse interest's forces under representation, it's inevitable. I know, I had to do it.

When you break natural socio and political boundaries when you don't have to, your forcing inequality.

That's not fair representation.

I'm asking you to not do that again. It's hard to keep up with current maps, your redrawing then as I rewrite my testimony.

I'm testifying again with written back up because it is my understanding that the board will not be transcribing oral arguments and that is unfortunate and it doesn't serve the public purpose of the redistricting board.

Thank you

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 6, 2021, 10:02 am

Name: **David Guttenberg**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Goldstream Community**

Public Comment: **The board hasn't listened or heard a thing the Goldstream community said.**

**All of the comments from the Goldstream community regarding the Fairbanks map are still relevant regarding the new Fairbanks map that was only available on the redistricting board page after everyone testified. All the people that testified over all the meeting regarding Goldstream were not listened to.**

**I've lived in Goldstream for 51 years. I represented the community for 16 years in the legislature and now on the borough assembly (I'm testifying) The board was deaf to their concerns. The demographic of Goldstream show it is the highest educated community in the state, that's because it's a strong university community. The UA is one of the largest employers in the borough and Fairbanks identifies itself that way. I drive by the university everyday. The new map is difficult to read but it looks like the board put Goldstream in with communities on the east end of the Richardson hyway. That's not just awkward it's absurd.**

**The way to draw the Fairbanks map that aligns with the mandates for socio economic integration and compactness it to "leak" the borough to the east along the Richardson Hyway.**

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**From:** Elyse Guttenberg <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 2:46 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Get Involved Response

A website response from the Get Involved form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 2:46 pm

First Name: **Elyse**

Last Name: **Guttenberg**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **I am writing today to express my deep concern with the new map which takes Goldstream Valley, where I have lived since the 1970s, and removes it from the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) with which it is closely aligned, and places it in a rural district with which it has nothing else in common.**

**I also want to express my disappointment with Mr. Binkley's continued habit of debating callers during public testimony, thus using up the one hour that citizens from across the entire state were allowed for a call in. Only after waiting five hours online, and finally voicing my disappointment in the process, was the hour of time extended to allow public debate.**

**Not only did Mr. Binkley debate callers " which prevented people who could not stay online any longer from speaking"but the so-called "information" he used to tell people from my home community that they were wrong, was incorrect and disingenuous.**

**Mr. Binkley referred to Resolution 2021-36, passed unanimously by the FNSB Assembly on October 28, 2021, and claimed that the Redistricting Board had done everything requested by the Borough to prevent overpopulating districts, and that this was done by breaking the borough boundaries, also as requested. He implied that the board had gone out of its way to honor the Resolution and removing Goldstream from the borough into a rural district was appropriate.**

**What he failed to mention was that the Resolution also said, "WHEREAS, Existing communities of interest should be represented based on city boundaries, geographical proximity, and interconnected neighborhoods that share common interests and values. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Assembly" further requests contiguous and compact districts that keep communities of interest together."**

**Goldstream has in the past been used as a ping pong ball in Redistricting efforts that the courts deemed unconstitutional. The board is doing it again.**

- 1. The University of Alaska Fairbanks is a 10 to 15 minute drive from Goldstream Valley and a four hour drive from Tok.**
- 2. Many people that live in Goldstream work and go to school at the University.**

3. Children that live here go to school in Fairbanks schools, from pre-school through elementary, Junior and Sr. High.
4. We shop, attend religious services, recreate, use the post office, roads, library, volunteer here, and so much more.
5. We vote with the Fairbanks North Star Borough that represents our interest.
6. To get to Tok or Delta requires a two to four hour drive “in good weather” and takes us through all of Fairbanks, out the highway past North Pole, Salcha, Harding Lake and Eielson Airforce base. None of these are places where we go to school, shop or have very much in common with.

To remove Goldstream and place it in a district with which it is not socio-economically aligned “as defined in the constitution” is to deny us representation in the Legislature. It disenfranchises our citizens and denies us the right to one person one vote.

If population is needed to meet the appropriate deviation numbers, the board would be more faithful to the constitution by taking portions of Salcha, Eielson, Harding Lake and/or Eielson, which is far nearer and has more in common with Delta and Tok and placing them together in one district. This is easy. The technology and staff is available. To do less brings up questions of intent, and gerrymandering. This is also true of the latest maps which take North Pole, a distinct and proud community, and enlarges it to encroach on Fairbanks. It makes no sense, and leads one to question the supposed non-partisan nature of the process.

Thank you for your time.

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**From:** Kat Haber <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 8:12 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Fair Redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

**\*Keep all the communities of Kachemak Bay in the same district**

- Seldovia and Halibut Cove have strong socio-economic ties to Homer with water taxi services allowing for daily commutes between these communities
- Both board options put Fritz Creek, the Russian Old Believer villages, Seldovia and Halibut Cove in a different district from Homer. This is not OK.
- Do not separate Seldovians by putting the portions of Seldovia outside the city limits in a different district than those in city limits.

**\*Keep the whole Gulf Coast region in a single Senate district**

- Do not put Whittier in an Anchorage district, separating it from other Gulf Coast communities
- Homer and Seward belong in the same district, because unique in the region their economies are centered on fishing and tourism in Kachemak and Resurrection Bays
- Kenai and Nikiski belong in the same district, because Kenai is the economic hub for the Kenai Spur Highway communities
- Soldotna, Kasilof, Ninilchik, and Clam Gulch belong in the same district because Soldotna is the economic hub for the south Sterling Highway communities

**\*Nikiski and Seward do not have shared socio-economic or transportation links. Do not put them in the same district.**

- Nikiski's economy is focused on the oil and gas industry which does not exist in Seward
- Seward's economy is focused on tourism and fishing, industries which do not significantly exist in Nikiski
- Travelling from Nikiski to Seward would require either flying through Anchorage or driving through two other districts under both board options.

**\*Do not place Fritz Creek, Voznecenka, Razdolna, and Kachemak Selo in a different district from Homer**

- Fritz Creek is a bedroom community for Homer which has no transportation links or socio-economic integration with Kodiak and Cordova
- Both board options separate the Old Believer villages of Nikolaevsk from the other three Old Believer villages, these villages represent a unique socio-economic region and belong in the same district
- The stated justification for including these communities with Kodiak is that historical ties exist from the Russian colonial period. This is not accurate, the Old Believers are not in any way connected to the original Russian colonists and did not arrive in Alaska until 1968. Fritz Creek is not a Russian community and has no ties to the colonial period.

**\*Do not break up the Kodiak Island Borough**

- Do not put Kodiak with Dillingham and the Aleutians.
- Do not place Nikiski in a district with South Anchorage. The state justification is that there is a shared tie because of the oil industry. There are no oil industry facilities within the South Anchorage portion of the district
- Do not place Valdez in a district with Kodiak and Cordova in a Richardson Highway district, creating an absurd situation where Valdez is in an off-road system district while Cordova is in a road system district.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kat Haber



Homer, Alaska 99603



**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Skagway 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Janalynn Hager**

**Janalynn expressed concern that Skagway may not be included with other similar communities. Janalynn would like Skagway to remain in a district that is dependent on cruise ships like Skagway's so the decisions made are like-minded.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Palmer 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: October 31, 2021

Name: **Tim Hale**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Borough Assembly (District 1), but representing self**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Tim Hale is a Butte resident and stated that House District 12 shares a representative with Anchorage and House District 9 shares a representative with Valdez and Delta Junction. Tim and most of his neighbors would not like this to continue as they would like a district that encompasses the socio-economic feature of the Matanuska River. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough has made it clear that they do not want to be connected with Anchorage, Valdez, or Delta Junction. The Butte Community Council has written the board a letter expressing their desire to stay with South Knik River Road and possibly Lazy Mountain, Sutton, or Palmer with no connection to Anchorage.**

**Tim Hale also pointed out that as the Mat-Su area stands, there are residents at the top of Lazy Mountain who are in District 9 and not District 11, which is what most of the Lazy Mountain area is. As a result, they have to travel far just to get to their precinct voting place.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Joelle Hall**

Affiliation: **AFFR**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**On October 19th, AFFR submitted a document written on majority/minority coalition districts. They acknowledged that the court has seen both sides of this issue. This comes down to a judgement call on behalf of the board as to whether or not to create a majority/minority coalition as a protected Voting Rights Act group. AFFR hopes that the board will consider this in the Voting Rights Act process and think of protecting these voices and districts in Anchorage. The AFFR map does create these districts and it is done in conjunction with exploring some of the natural breaks in the military community and the exits that they use. The AFFR map also uses the Coastal Trail and western lakes districts as the trail is the main integrator on the westside districts. Joelle pointed out that senate pairings are available for the public to comment on with logical pairings inside the boundaries for the most part. They do not combine east and south together. They are more logical than pairing Eagle River and Anchorage. It is about time for Joelle to live in District 12, which is a small piece of Anchorage that belongs to the Mat-Su. It's time for South Anchorage to break its boundaries so she can come back to an Eagle River seat.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Pamela Hall**

**Pamela is a 50+ year resident of the area and taking East End Road out of its current district makes no sense. East End Road should be included in Homer's district and not in another district. Pamela does not understand why this is happening, it seems like votes are trying to be split.**

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**From:** Tina Hammer <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 11:55 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 1, 2021, 11:55 am

First Name: **Tina**

Last Name: **Hammer**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99574**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **I ask that the redistricting board adopt a plan that keeps Cordova in a district with Kodiak and other coastal commercial fishing communities.**

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**From:** Robert Hannon [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:13 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream Valley

I was recently alerted to proposed changes to the district map that would shift the Goldstream Valley so that it links with Tok and Delta! What is the logic in that? The notion certainly can't be driven by social and economic concerns. The Goldstream has always been integral with Fairbanks. One example of this link is our major cinema has been called the Goldstream for years. More seriously, many students, faculty and staff work and study at the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

I'm forced to conclude the move is a cynical attempt to undermine a popular Democratic area. At a time when our country and state are riven by fierce polarization, the redistricting of the Goldstream is nothing less than a further erosion of credibility of the political process. That is a damning legacy for a board charged with the public good and democratic principles.

I urge you to correct the redistricting of the Goldstream and return it to its natural bond with the greater Fairbanks area.

Sincerely,  
Robert Hannon  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

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**From:** Jamie Hansen <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 6:17 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 1, 2021, 6:17 am

First Name: **Jamie**

Last Name: **Hansen**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Map v.3**

Public Comment: **Hello,**

**I am writing to share my family's surprise and disapproval of Board Map v.3 and other maps that fail to provide fair representation to residents of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. We live in the Fairbanks North Star Borough just off Henderson Road and Goldhill Road in West Fairbanks. I believe that would be District 31 in Board Map v. 3.**

**Two points here:**

**1) This is similar to the concern raised by the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly, and that is that not all maps provide full representation to the area, which according to 2020 census findings on population should have 5 and a quarter districts. Before moving to the Goldhill area, we lived about 7 miles down the Parks Highway in an area where our neighbors voted with folks in Western Alaska, I think it was an area between Nome and Bethel, and we voted with folks in Fairbanks. That makes no sense, if the aim here is to group communities according to geography and service need. I would ask that full representation be provided to us and that we be grouped with others using the same roads and state services.**

**2) Similar to this, I respectfully ask that the Board again consider proximity and shared service need over politics. For reasons I can't understand, parts of Gold Hill Road appear to be the dividing line for District 31 in v.3. We would be grouped with areas of the Fairbanks North Star Borough outside of our fire service area by 40+ miles like Pleasant Valley but stores, Gold Hill, and homes less than 5 miles from us would be put in a different District. My office at the base of the UAF campus, a 7-mile bicycle from our house, is in a different district but now we're in the same district as Fox? This does not make sense. I understand this is a difficult process, but I do ask that the Board take commonsense into account. Gold Hill and the Parks Highway are not the way to divide West Fairbanks.**

**Thank you for considering my comments.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Connie Harris**

**Connie recommended redistricting to be based on the school bus transportation route as it is close to neighborhoods and educates the students who are attending school.**



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**From:** Linda Kaye Harter <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:45 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 4, 2021, 11:45 am

First Name: **Linda Kaye**

Last Name: **Harter**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507-6672**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting to attach disparate neighborhoods.**

Public Comment: **I first came to the Territory of Alaska in 1950.**

**I am totally opposed to any redistricting which attaches neighborhoods that do not share a community of interests. This would be true of the plan which puts Muldoon & JBER to Eklutna & Eagle River. Mixing urban and rural results in ineffective representation & not in the public's interest.**

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**From:** Dorne Hawxhurst [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 2:27 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** TESTIMONY TO AK REDISTRICTING BOARD (HAWXHURST-CORDOVA)

My testimony about the Alaska Redistricting Board's proposed plans is as follows:

1. **INTRODUCTION.** My name is Dorne Hawxhurst. I reside at 902 Cliff Trail in Cordova, Alaska. I am a licensed attorney.
2. **BEST PLAN.** I understand the Alaska Redistricting Board adopted 6 different proposed plans. In my opinion, the BEST PLAN for Cordova is the plan drafted by AFFR (as distinguished from AFFER). The AFFR plan offers contiguity and compactness; preserves local government boundaries; uses geographic features appropriately; and preserves communities of interest. In this plan, Cordova is placed with nearby Native villages (Chenega and Tatitlek), Whittier, and Kodiak. We share strong social and economic interests with these communities such as commercial fishing, the Alaska Marine Highway System, and tourism. This BEST PLAN is not a perfect plan, but it is far better for Codovans than all other options.
3. **NEXT BEST PLANS.** I understand that Board v.3 and Board v.4 plans are very similar for Cordova. These plans are not as good as the AFFR plan which is the BEST PLAN. Board v.3 and v.4 dilute the voice of Prince William Sound communities of interest, insofar as they do not include Valdez or Whittier. These plans fail to integrate our common social and economic interests, such as fishing, the Alaska Marine Highway System, and tourism.
- 4.
5. **WORST PLANS.** The Doyon, AFFER, and Senate Minority plans are the WORST PLANS for Cordova. The Doyon plan takes us away from Kodiak, removes Whittier from Prince William Sound, and diminishes our common coastal political, social, and economic interests. In this way the Doyon plan fails the COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST test. The AFFER and Senate Minority plans are terrible for Cordova because, in addition to failing the communities of interest test, they also fail the COMPACTNESS test. In these 2 plans, Cordova is placed in a district that is a bizarre shape, which is evidence of gerrymandering for unlawful purposes and will be subject to strict scrutiny by the court. Cordova is also the only coastal community. The proposed districts include greatly dispersed populations, jagged boundary lines, and geography that makes no sense. They put Cordova back in a "donut hole," where we've been before, and will effectively leave us without representation. Our only redress for these deficiencies will be through the courts.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Dorne Hawxhurst

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Skagway 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Cooper Hayes**

**Cooper spoke in favor of Skagway remaining connected to the Downtown Juneau district because their economies are very linked. This link is vital to their success as a tourist community. Cooper spoke in favor of Board Map v.4, the Senate Minority Caucus map, and the Doyon Coalition map. Cooper agrees with Mayor Cremata that the Senate Minority Caucus map is likely the best.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Skagway 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Ian Hays**

**Ian urged the board to keep Skagway in the same district as Downtown Juneau. Ian is in favor of the Senate Minority Caucus map. Ian noted that he was raised in Mendenhall Valley from age 1 through 23. The lifestyle and socio-economic needs are not the same as Skagway. Please keep Skagway tied into downtown Juneau; this would be beneficial.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

**Date/Time:** 10/2/2021

**Name:** Roger Helmer

**Email or Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Comment:** I support the adoption of districts, which have balanced populations, generally follow political sub-divisions, do not give an advantage to any particular political party and/or group, does not maintain any politician's position through gerrymandering.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 5, 2021, 11:29 am

Name: **Lacey Hemming**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **Hello**

**My name is Lacey Hemming and I'm here to testify in support of Nicole's Map it keeps neighborhoods together with natural boundaries.**

**I do not support Bethany Marcum's map, her map completely ignores hundreds of public testimony that came in over the last few months. The major concern I have is placing East anchorage in with Eagle River and Muldoon curve neighborhood in with south Anchorage. These two communities can't be farther apart in terms of socio-economic standings. WE need to keep neighborhoods and communities together to help support the cultural diversity of Anchorage. I see it only one way it greatly silences the voices of east Anchorage residents.**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 2:27 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** support of Map # 73975

It is only right that you include people with commonalities in like areas.  
You are to serve the people, not any type of special interests.  
Thank you,  
Amy Henry

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: Leo Hicker

Leo Hicker spoke in opposition of Board Map v.3 as it overpopulates districts and results in underrepresentation of Fairbanks. Through living and interacting with the Fairbanks communities, the social groups tend to be oriented east and west along the Chena River. The maps should represent these communities. As a university student, he feels connected to Goldstream, Ester, Chena Ridge, and university areas and he would like to be represented with these communities as they have similar interests and values. The AFFR map is the only one that would achieve this. The AFFR and Board Map v.4 both reflect the east/west divide, but Board Map v.3 uses north-south lines and breaks up communities of interest.



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**From:** Melissa Hickey <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 30, 2021 1:16 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** re-districting

**I support combining Eagle River's Hiland Precinct and most of Chugach Park #2 Precinct with Muldoon in the 2021 Redistricting Map.**

**This Anchorage Muni district is a much more compact than combining this part of Eagle River with South Anchorage in the 2001 District 32 Map.**

*Melissa Hickey*

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:25 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

We are concerned that consideration is being given for Eagle River to not stand alone in the new redistricting. If this is the case then the only thing that makes sense to us is that Eagle River should be joined with East Anchorage because of the number of military families who live off base and share like lifestyles.

It would be also reasonable to put Downtown Anchorage with Mtn. View because of their physical locations and, again, shared lifestyles.

We appreciate your consideration and support for combining Eagle River and East Anchorage and as well as combining Downtown Anchorage and Mtn. View in the new redistricting.

Most sincerely,  
Dwight & Linda Hill

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

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**From:** Julia Hnilicka [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:00 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Comments on Redistricting Maps

Dear Board,

No Alaskan deserves to be underrepresented, especially not Interior Alaskans. Board Map 3 underrepresents Fairbanks, the Golden Heart of the Interior. I urge you to not adopt this map as it will negatively impact the representation of the population of Fairbanks, and the Interior.

Respectfully,  
Julia Hnilicka

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**From:** Anastasia Hoffman <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 10:16 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 10:16 am

First Name: **Anastasia**

Last Name: **Hoffman**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99559**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Version Map 4**

Public Comment: **Thank you for your service and commitment to ensuring this redistricting effort is accomplished with integrity and transparency. I'm writing in support of the board proposed plan version 4 which addresses the constitutionally mandated considerations. The towns and villages in v4 are contiguous, compact and socio-economically integrated. One example showing the socio-economical connection occurred very profoundly this summer. On the Yukon River there was a terrible salmon collapse and the villages located near the mouth of that river were unable to harvest salmon there. As a result, people from villages along the Yukon coast boated up to the Norton Sound area in search of fish. The KYUK news article with a link posted below describes the situation. Essentially, when the local resource for food security was lost the community members went to the next closest point of access, fishing with their neighbors to the north. Another meaningful example is the likeness and exchange of Yup'ik songs and dance between those communities. During the Camai Dance festival in Bethel, dance groups from Stebbins often join the dance groups from Emmonak, Alakanak and Kotlik on stage to share songs, beat drums and move seamlessly with one another. The interconnectedness of the communities represented in board v4, takes these socio-economic and spiritual connections into consideration appropriately and fairly. Quyanara for your work and for including my comments in this process.**

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<https://www.kyuk.org/environment/2021-08-13/yukon-subsistence-users-go-to-new-lengths-for-food-after-massive-salmon-decline>

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 7:14 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

As a KPB registered voter, home owner and resident of Soldonta for the last 2 years, Alaskan resident for almost 15 years, I am firmly against this redistricting attempt. It removes my decades old right of local representation by trying to mingle us in with an opposing political ideology and make it seem fair by the grouped registered voter numbers. This is in fact an attempt to deprive me of my personal views. It goes against our strong local community standards of God and family.

Sincerely,

Joleen Holt

[REDACTED]  
Kenai, AK 99611

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**From:** Noelle Holt <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 5:56 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 5:56 am

First Name: **Noelle**

Last Name: **Holt**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **East Anchorage redistricting**

Public Comment: **Splitting East Anchorage into Eagle River and South Districts is blatant gerrymandering with the obvious goal of silencing our highly diverse community. We value our diversity and our voices and we are in no way similar politically or geographically to the districts you are trying to shove us in to. Our leadership fights for our community and our rights. Redistribution into Eagle River and South will bury our needs and send our taxes to neighborhoods other than ours where the human and physical infrastructure needs aren't as high, but the time to play ridiculous political games seems endless. Hundreds of voices before me have said this vey same thing to the board. We are distinct! Ignoring our voices is poor leadership and a wildly transparent attempt at voter suppression through gerrymandering.**

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**From:** Genevieve Holubik <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:56 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 8:56 pm

First Name: **Genevieve**

Last Name: **Holubik**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting**

Public Comment: **Of the four items to consider - compactness, contiguity, socio-economic integration and equality of population - the easiest to consider is population. I would start by not trying to fix or change districts whose 2020 census population had a 5% or less deviation from the 18, 355 target population - for instance, districts 14, 16, and 20 . The fewer changes to district lines, the less confusion for voters and candidates. Then, I'd look at neighboring - contiguous- districts who 2020 population numbers have made one district significantly under the target and the other, over - like 12 and 13 - and work thru the socio-economic aspects and possible compactness. After that, it looks like it will take working thru the items with more than two districts to make a balanced. My rank ordering of the 6 maps under consideration as of Nov 4 is: 1) AFFR, 2) Board #4, 3) Senate Minority, 4) Doyon; 5) and 6) are definite NOs!: Board #3 and AFFER. I'll check my ranking as the Board redraws the maps.**

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**From:** Luke Hopkins <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:56 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Get Involved Response

A website response from the Get Involved form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 1:55 pm

Name: **Luke Hopkins**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

**Comments: I am Luke Hopkins and I have lived in this west area of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) for over fifty years. For all those years I have had my socioeconomic ties -. my everyday driving, shopping, schools and work routines near the University campus- within the boundaries of the FNSB.**

**During the Nov 4, 2021 Redistricting Board meeting, a board member's apparent comment that "you don't have to be terribly concerned with the socioeconomic integration of the borough" is not accurate or acceptable to me.**

**I have not had and do not expect to have any socioeconomic connections that would place my daily living experiences similar to the Delta and Tok communities in this proposed district. As with our current Fairbanks districts, I find that the eastern Borough areas of Eielson and Salcha have more socioeconomic connections withÂ areas east of the Borough boundaries than Goldstream has as proposed in the 11/4/21 Dist 36.**

**Public comment submitted on Nov 5, 2021 by Luke Hopkins, 3360 Murphy Dome Road, Fairbanks, AK, 99709**



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**From:** Josh Horst [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:56 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Northwest Fairbanks - Goldstream Valley

Hello, my name is Josh Horst, [REDACTED] Fairbanks AK 99709.

Although not published on the redistricting board's website, it has come to my attention that the board will consider a map today which would slice Goldstream Valley out of any Fairbanks-centered districts and insert us into a far-flung rural district reaching as far East as Tok. I write to express my opposition to this map, as a resident and home owner in Goldstream Valley, a Fairbanks business owner, and a member of the Goldstream Valley Lions Club community service organization. Residents of Goldstream Valley should be aligned with and represented by our fellow residents of this community. Please do not cast Goldstream afar, as was done 10 years ago but instead to the Southwest, and rather keep us in a compact district that more accurately aligns with your mandate issued by the Alaska State Constitution.

Respectfully,  
Josh Horst

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 8:23 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** redistricting testimony

I support Map #73975.

It has smaller population deviations between districts, it follows city limits boundaries and has fewer bizarre boundary lines/more compact shapes so there will be less confusion among voters, it groups similar social and economic communities are placed together, and natural landmark boundaries are utilized. None of the other maps make sense to me in how they were decided on. I would like to see Map #73985 enacted.

Lori Horvath  
Fairbanks, AK

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4 Public Testimony**  
**Name: Tasha Hotch**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

**Tasha spoke in favor of the Doyon Coalition map because of how it maps out the senate districts. It does need work on the house districts. Mountain View has more than 50% of the homeless population; JBER does not understand some of the challenges Mountain View has, so this likely needs to be changed.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony**  
Name: **Brian Hove**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

**Constitutionally, the AFFER map is closer to the requirements with its adherence to the Fish Creek boundary. Brian is conflicted with the Fairbanks North Star Borough and whether it is broken or not. He understands the desire to keep this area whole. As Randy Ruedrich has pointed out, it will be more difficult to justify larger deviations. If the borough cannot be kept whole, Brian prefers the AFFER map. There is a solution presented in this map.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Cordova 11/1/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Helen Howarth**

Affiliation: **Citizen of Cordova and City Manager**

Email or Phone [REDACTED]

**Helen believes that Cordova wants to be in communities that share similar issues, this means coastal communities, communities off the road system, etc. Kodiak, Prince William Sound, and other similar regions have similar issues to Cordova. They also operate as a region when they participate in the PWS economic district which meets regularly to discuss the economic issues and ways to resolve them. They already operate as a collectively to draw resources to their community to solve issues they already have. Cordova could go southeast, but not sure to what extent the impact would be. Cordova is comfortable with the representation they get with having a Kodiak representative. The community is growing and has changed by 300. Kodiak is not a competing community since they share so many things. Regarding Whittier and whether they can be involved, Helen is unsure. It may also make sense to include communities out East End Road due to the similarity in commercial fishing and there being many Russian Old Believers in Cordova. However, their allegiance is to Homer. Cordova's decision is to be politically engaged with coastal communities with similar industries as well as native traditions where there is a strong presence in Cordova. (i.e. Tatitlek-Chenega Native communities)**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Wasilla 10/26/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Ester Huddleston**

**Ester is concerned about the public process as the Mat-Su Borough did not have any information on the location and time of the meetings in the borough. It is clear in the constitution that the public process is in place when it comes to redistricting. Additionally, Ester feels that the board is not giving enough information to the public with the different maps online.**

**Ester noted a concern on boundaries crossing (i.e. Mat-Su Borough integrating with Anchorage and Mat-Su Borough integrating with Denali). Over the last 10 years, there was a population of about 23,000. In District 10, the Mat-Su Borough elected this official and she does not approve moving District 10 into Fairbanks as this would result in the Mat-Su Borough losing their elected officials. There are also many people in the Mat-Su Borough who rely on snow machines and boats to get to their homes as the Mat-Su Borough is still vastly remote. Having an elected official with a different lifestyle representing the Mat-Su Borough is not preferable.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: Laurie Hueffer

**Laurie supports a map that is fair, equitable, and does not gerrymander, thus she is unsupportive of Board Map v.3. Laurie is in favor of the AFFR map and Board Map v.4 which better represents the local communities in Fairbanks. Laurie appreciates that the need to separate the North Pole from Fairbanks was recognized in both maps. She also feels it is important to not overpopulate districts, consider equity, and the natural alignment of Fairbanks.**

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**From:** Laurie Hueffer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:00 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Fairbanks area redistricting testimony

Hi, my name is Laurie Hueffer, and I live in Fairbanks. I testified previously about redistricting, but from what I saw yesterday the new draft map still creates serious problems in the Fairbanks area.

The new board plan breaks up west Fairbanks communities, including removing Goldstream from Fairbanks and putting it with Delta Junction and Tok in District 36 (Inappropriate: reference Article VI, Section 6 of the Alaska Constitution).

Separating Goldstream previously did not work (reference unconstitutional ruling when included in a district that ran to the coast). Goldstream shares strong social and economic ties with Ester, Fox, Chena Pump, Chena Ridge, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and they should all be represented together.

I also testified regarding the distinct differences between North Pole and Fairbanks, they continue to deserve distinct and separate representation.

I do appreciate that the board has listened to my testimony about not overpopulating Fairbanks. Now, I look forward to another update allowing the map to be fair, constitutional, and representative of each of our communities.

Thank you.

--  
Laurie Hueffer  
[REDACTED]



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Christine Hutchison**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Christina agreed with Mary Jackson's testimony and spoke in favor of Board Map v.3 and v.4, but prefers the v.3 layout.**

**Christina does not see how Nikiski and South Anchorage are socio-economically integrated. The communities are very different. The comparison of home values is also significantly different.**

**The AFFER map is also not compact. Maybe the community would like the divergent and doesn't mind being overpopulated with few representatives but would like the borough to stay intact.**

**Do not push Fritz Creek and Fox River into the ocean.**

---

**From:** Christine Hutchison <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:49 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 1:49 pm

First Name: **Christine**

Last Name: **Hutchison**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99611**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **complaints on Friday 11/05**

Public Comment: **I want to let the board know that I think the board and staff have done an expectational job both in showing and discussing the maps, making your own map formatting available and taking the testimony. I have listened to lots of such meetings both legislative and otherwise; and this process and been exceptionally available to the public. If there is a source for complaints, it is because the complainants were not involved in the process at an earlier point. Thank you again so much for the exceptional level of volunteer efforts.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Skagway 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Reba Hylton**

Affiliation: **Skagway Assembly**

**The Assembly unanimously support Skagway remaining in the same district as Downtown Juneau due to all reasons that have been stated previously.**

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**From:** Joel Irwin <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 8:00 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 3, 2021, 7:59 am

First Name: **Joel**

Last Name: **Irwin**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99654**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Doyon Coalition Proposed Plan**

Public Comment: **I fully support the Doyon Coalition Proposed Plan as it provides a more inclusive and racially equitable distribution. It is important that all people in Alaska, no matter where they live, have an equal voice in the political process.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

First Name: **Mary Jackson**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Mary Jackson stated that she would like to see the board move forward with keeping the Kenai Peninsula Borough intact and divided in 3 to result in 3 representatives. Her reasoning for this is that when the borough's population is divided by 18,335, this equals 3.2. She would not like to see the .2 go anywhere else. Kenai has been a borough for almost 60 years, predicated around the constitution with a driver that the borough is already a socio-economic entity.**

**Mary encouraged the board to look at the Kenai Peninsula's service areas and how they work in the borough, how there's an interplay and interdependence within the borough. This shows how intact the borough is and how intact it should be kept.**

**If the board can divide the borough by 3, then Mary would be in favor of Board Map v.3 or v.4 because of the way they the top goes across from north to east, keeps Kenai-Soldotna together, and has urban areas (no urban areas with rural areas, doesn't make sense).**

**One consideration that the board has discussed is whether they should adhere to borough boundaries or the ANCSA boundary; the borough boundaries should be adhered to as it is in the constitution. It is not right for the Kenai Peninsula Borough to have maps that "bite from the borough from all sides" because the borough is not "low hanging fruit".**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Skagway 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Katelyn Jarrod**

**Katelyn spoke in favor of keeping Skagway with Downtown Juneau.**

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**From:** Lisa Jodwalis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 2:07 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting proposal for Districts 35 and 36

My name is Lisa Shon Jodwalis and I have resided in Goldstream Valley (zipcode 99709) since 1985. I respectfully request that the Redistricting Board not put Goldstream Valley in District 36. Goldstream Valley is contiguous with Fairbanks and shares common social and economic attributes with Fairbanks. Furthermore, any proposal that splits the Goldstream area between two or more districts divides a community that has widely shared social and economic interests, as evidenced by the Goldstream Community Facebook group.

Goldstream is almost 200 miles in a direct line from Tok. To lump this area with Tok is an extreme stretch of redistricting rules and as such violates article 6 section 6 of the Alaska State Constitution.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.  
Lisa Shon Jodwalis

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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**From:** Michelle Johannsen <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 11:20 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream Gerrandering

Hello,

My name is Michelle Johannsen. I live in the Goldstream Valley. The redistricting of our community to be included with the rest of rural Alaska is an obvious attempt to cancel out our voices. I am speaking out against this redistricting.

-Michelle Johannsen



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**From:** Marc Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:49 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Redistricting Comments

Hello Alaska Redistricting Board,

I am a life long Alaskan, residing in west Anchorage on Wiley Post Avenue, zip code 99517.

I am writing to express my support for the AFFR (Alaskans For Fair Redistricting) plan. I believe that this plan incorporates the following key elements to ensure that redistricting is done per Alaska law that requires low population deviation, compactness, socioeconomic integration, contiguity and pairings:

- Keeping Eagle River separate from Anchorage
- Not combining Nikiski with south Anchorage
- Keeping Homer and Seward in one district

Thank you for considering my comments. I feel strongly that redistricting needs to be done in a fair nonpartisan manner and I appreciate your efforts to ensure that happens.

Sincerely,

Marc Johnson

[REDACTED]

Anchorage AK 99517

[REDACTED]

Contact number: 9 [REDACTED]

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**From:** Tanner Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 10:50 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** AK Redistricting 2021 Comment

Hello all,

I am writing to voice my comment for the redistricting discussion.

I live in the ANC area, East ANC. I strongly support the maps put forth by the AFFR plans.

I am concerned about the Marcum and Borrromeo plans for my local area, as well as the Binkley Fairbanks are plan and the Board plan for the Kenai.

Marcum's Anchorage plan has many similarities to her V1 map that she admitted on the record was largely unpopular. It also ignores public testimony given. I am an East ANC resident, and I would be strongly opposed to the combination of my area and Eagle River. This map ignore the diverse and unique communities in the East ANC area as well as Mountain View.

Tanner Johnson  
East ANC

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: **Avram Kalugin**

**Avram spoke in opposition of the East End Road community being redistricted with Kodiak.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Damien Kalugin**

**Damien lives in Voznesenka Village and is against his community being redistricted to Kodiak. It does not make sense for his community to be excluded from the Kenai Peninsula.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: Hionia Kalugin

Hionia is a Voznesenka resident and stated that during the wintertime, before they were a Kenai Peninsula Borough-maintained road, the roads were not maintained. In the last 5 years, this area has been the last area to be maintained (not until noon or 1 PM), even though it is apart of the system and Hionia expressed concern for the road and safety conditions during the winter. The roads must be maintained and taken care of. To be redistricted to an area such as Kodiak sounds like an unsound idea and this community would have no voice in the maintenance of their roads.

Tourists come to East End during summer time and must be taken care of properly, and this area must be given higher value than what it is given currently.

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**From:** Len Kamerling [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:20 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream Valley Fairbanks Redistricting plan

Dear Redistricting Board,

I would like to register my strong objection to the planned redistricting for Fairbanks that joins the Goldstream Valley to Tok and Delta. First and foremost, this does not meet the constitutional intent of having communities with shared socioeconomic backgrounds kept together. Goldstream Valley is part of the University of Alaska community and it shares strong social, economic, and educational ties with Ester, Chena Ridge and the city of Fairbanks. As rural communities, Salcha, Eielson and Harding Lake have much more in common with the Tok / Delta district and are more closely located.

I urge you to reconsider this drastic redistricting plan. Most importantly, joining Goldstream Valley to the Tok and Delta electoral district would harm all of these communities by denying them a unified voice in Juneau.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Leonard Kamerling  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

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**From:** Mark Kansteiner [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 7:57 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Seward redistricting

Greetings,

As a resident voter of Seward, Alaska I strongly support having Seward and Moose Pass in the same district. Thank you,  
Mark Kansteiner

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**From:** Cody Kapotak <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 4:31 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 4, 2021, 4:30 pm

First Name: **Cody**

Last Name: **Kapotak**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **All**

Public Comment: **At first glance, all of the interactive maps look very similar. Upon further inspection, there are appear to be minor visual differences in the outlined district areas for each map. All maps have multi-colored sections separating the different districts. All maps display some information when clicking on each district such as some statistical data. Three of the maps also include a "Senate Seat" row in the description with single capital letters as the information displayed. One of the AFFR Senate Pairings tables held the most information, the rest were a couple columns with letters and numbers, no other descriptive information was seen. All map options' district populations and deviations provided showed numbers with little to no context that could be derived. I love the idea of district maps that are equitable representation for our Alaska Native people and our BIPOC relatives that also meet legal requirements, but I did not see how any of these maps portrayed or delivered on that important topic. It seemed like a lot of information was lacking at the face value and I also couldn't find much more good descriptive information with the many links that were on the provided website of map options.**



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**From:** Eva Kapotak <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 4:32 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 4, 2021, 4:32 pm

First Name: **Eva**

Last Name: **Kapotak**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **At first glance, all of the interactive maps look very similar. Upon further inspection, there are appear to be minor visual differences in the outlined district areas for each map. All maps have multi-colored sections separating the different districts. All maps display some information when clicking on each district such as some statistical data. Three of the maps also include a "Senate Seat" row in the description with single capital letters as the information displayed. One of the AFFR Senate Pairings tables held the most information, the rest were a couple columns with letters and numbers, no other descriptive information was seen. All map options' district populations and deviations provided showed numbers with little to no context that could be derived. I love the idea of district maps that are equitable representation for our Alaska Native people and our BIPOC relatives that also meet legal requirements, but I did not see how any of these maps portrayed or delivered on that important topic. It seemed like a lot of information was lacking at the face value and I also couldn't find much more good descriptive information with the many links that were on the provided website of map options.**

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**From:** Julie Kaufman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 12:05 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream Valley redistricting

Dear Redistricting Board,

I'm writing to express my strong objection to the planned redistricting for Fairbanks that joins the Goldstream Valley to Tok and Delta.

Goldstream Valley is part of the University of Alaska community and it shares strong social, economic, and educational ties with Ester, Chena Ridge and the city of Fairbanks. As rural communities, Salcha, Eielson and Harding Lake have much more in common with the Tok / Delta district and are more closely located.

This redistricting plan would deny all the communities involved a unified voice in Juneau.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Julie Kaufman

[Julie Kaufman](#) | [Vice President of Research](#) | [GrantStation.com, Inc.](#)  
[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Mary Elizabeth Kehrhahn-Stark**

**Mary expressed concern about Board Map v.3 as it is unfair for the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) and the voters of the borough. According to the census, the FNSB should be allocated 5.23 ouse seats that are socio-economically integrated and then one other seat for the excess population. The excess population should go to another district with fair representation having one person, one vote. Mary asked for Board Map v.3 to not be adopted.**

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**From:** Mary Kehrhahn-Stark <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:11 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

Name: **Mary Kehrhahn-Stark**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99708**

Issue of Concern: **Integrity in the selection of the Final Redistricting Map for 2021**

Public Comment: **Hello, my name is Mary Kehrhahn-Stark. I live in the Goldstream Valley, Fairbanks North Star Borough.**

**I testified earlier regarding the proposed map where the Borough had been overpopulated. Thank you for the map change to remedy this distortion.**

**Today, I am testifying again, to ask that the board respect the federal requirement of "one person, one vote" by thoroughly evaluating how it is that the Goldstream Valley has been placed with interior villages, Tok and Delta to create one District.**

**Apparently, elements of socioeconomic integration have been ignored. Socioeconomic integration consists of (a) historic relationships, (b) common aspects in economics, and (c) geographic settings.**

**The Goldstream Valley is and has been integral to the University of Alaska-Fairbanks community. Our population largely consists of staff, faculty and students of the University. This has been the historical relationship for as long as I have been here, and that is for at least 30 years. It has, UAF and the Valley, as you know, even longer historical ties. The Tok or Salcha area hardly bears any relevance here, except once, when a friend was doing her student teaching in Salcha when she wanted test out teaching in a small remote village. Because of the UAF relevance, Goldstream has historic ties with Ester, Chena Pump, and Chena Ridge-for the same reason. We are students, staff and professor s. and other supporting businesses to that UAF population.**

**Because of these historic relationships, Goldstream residents share the same post offices, grocery stores and other places of business serving our needs. We do not travel to the interior villages or Tok or Salcha. Lastly, our geographical setting, begs us to use the Parks HWY to go south, because it is closest to us. As for the interior villages, Tok, and Delta, they use the Richardson HWY because those towns are right on the HWY.**

**Pairing Goldstream with the Rural areas is not representative of either community and placing them together would harm both by denying them a voice in Juneau. It doesn't make sense-unless you are trying to dilute the Goldstream voice? Or is cracking a better description?**

**A suggestion: Use Salcha, Eielson and Harding Lake to populate Tok.**

**And, also leave North Pole to its own district. This is fair to North Pole and to Fairbanks.**

**Throughout this morning's discussion about Anchorage, there was so much talk of fairness, and deviation. Please do the same for Fairbanks, without piecing it apart.**

**Thank you for your commitment to making a fair Redistricting Map that promises the federal requirement of one person-one vote.**

---

**From:** Frank Keim [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:13 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream redistricting

Good morning,

I am a resident of Goldstream voting District 31 and I completely disagree with the board's most recent proposal to place us in District 36. That is a brazen attempt to water down the district to make it less representative of the citizens who live here. Please stay with Version 4 of the proposal and keep us connected with the University community, since a majority of the people I've come to know over the 60 years I've lived in this area are associated in one way or another with the University.

Thank you.

Frank Keim  
[REDACTED]

--

"To seek a river's source is to seek our own, to turn and turn and always return--to snow and mountains, to sea and sky, and always to water, always to the soul's deep springs, always to the flowing ungraspable image that forever runs free of all names and knowing, singing the story of its own being, bearing forth from distant passages its mortal and infinite nature."

John Daniel  
*The Spirit of Rivers*

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**From:** Andrew Keller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 12:35 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Fairbanks Districts

Hello,

Please do not put sections of the Goldstream Valley in Fairbanks with an Interior district connecting with Tok.

If more population needs to be added to Tok, please add Delta, Salcha and if necessary Eielson and North Pole.

Goldstream Valley, Farmers Loop, Becker Ridge and other areas around UAF should be consolidated in one or two districts that surround the University.

Thank you,

Andrew Keller  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99708  
[REDACTED]

From: Alison Kelley [REDACTED]  
Date: Tue, Nov 2, 2021, 5:49 PM  
Subject: Redistricting Alaska  
To: <[testimony@akredistrict.org](mailto:testimony@akredistrict.org)>  
Cc: Dave Schmidt [REDACTED]

Hello,

I've been an Alaska resident since 1991 and an Alaska business owner since 2015. I've lived in Palmer, Valdez, Homer, and, since 2018, Anchorage. I reside at 2305 West Tudor Road, Anchorage, 99517.

I entreat you to adopt the Alaskans For Fair Redistricting (**AFFR**) plan which is the only plan that adheres to the required constitutional elements for districts to reflect low population deviation, compactness, socioeconomic integration, contiguity and pairings. The **AFFR** plan does this by:

1. Keeping Eagle River separate from Anchorage
2. Excluding Nikiski, a peninsula community that is not contiguous with Anchorage, from the South Anchorage district
3. Keeping Homer and Seward, two coastal communities that share ocean-based economies, in one district

I hope you'll consider my comments and adhere to the districting requirements established in Alaska law.

Redistricting must be based on a fair nonpartisan process. I appreciate your efforts to ensure that happens.

Respectfully,

Alison Kelley

---

**From:** Kristan Kelly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 3:31 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Fairbanks

To the members of the redistricting board.

I'd like you to reconsider grouping the Fairbanks area of Goldstream with rural areas. Goldstream is very much an integral part of Fairbanks and is economically and culturally similar to the west Fairbanks communities of Ester, Chena Pump, the university area and Fox. They should be kept together.

Thank you to all for your work on redistricting.

Kristan Kelly



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**From:** Warren Keogh [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 3:29 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting comment

Alaska Redistricting Board -

Unfortunately, given the Alaska Redistricting Board proposed plans and maps, it appears the Board is heading toward partisan gerrymandering rather than an even handed, equitable, and impartial redistricting.

As a 43 year resident of the Mat Su Borough I recommend that there be five districts wholly within Borough boundaries and only one Mat Su district extending into another area, excepting Chugiak and Eagle River areas. Municipality of Anchorage precincts should be excluded from any Mat Su district.

Proposed plans by AFFR and the Senate Minority Caucus appear to be fairer and more impartial than the other proposed plans.

Version 3 of the Redistricting Board's map is off the mark in several ways. One is the unfair and inequitable packing of residents in Fairbanks. One must ask the question, "Who specifically is generating these maps for the Board and which director is advising them to draw districts like this?" Why the unnecessarily high population deviations?

Please avoid the litigation inequitable redistricting will bring and try to get it right the first time around. I'm pessimistic, but hopeful that you do get it right.

Respectfully,

Warren Keogh  
[REDACTED]

Chickaloon, Alaska 99674  
[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Kathryn Kindt**

**Kathryn is a Two Rivers resident in a gerrymandered district and she hopes this will change. Kathryn has reviewed the proposed changes and spoke in favor of Board Map v.4 and the Doyon Coalition map. She likes to see communities united and not split up, such as Chena Hot Springs and places off the road system.**

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**From:** Tyler Kirk [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:49 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Opposed to redistricting

I wrote to oppose the redistricting of Goldstream. It must remain a part of Fairbanks. Please stop gerrymandering and work to govern.

Tyler Kirk

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**From:** Kendra Kloster [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 12:25 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for redistricting board

Dear Redistricting Board,

I am writing to you today as a resident of East Anchorage with concerns about some discussions and considerations taking place to include our area with Eagle River. I also serve as the President of Russian Jack Community Council and have been involved in a number of community efforts such as the Muldoon Farmers Market, served on the planning committees for Russian Jack Springs Park and Chantshnu Muldoon Park. I also write to you as an Indigenous woman, mother, someone who deeply cares about our state and ensuring that every voice in Alaska has a fair opportunity to be heard.

It is with great concern that I am writing to you today about combining together any part of East Anchorage with Eagle River. This action would greatly dilute the voices of the East Anchorage residents. Furthermore, East Anchorage is one of the most diverse communities in the nation with over 100 languages spoken in our community and high schools. Ensuring that our diverse community is represented adequately means that we need to have our district with the fair opportunity to elect a representative that best serves our community. Gerrymandering East Anchorage with Eagle River or South Anchorage would impact our voices and create a district that dilutes an area with so much diversity. By not keeping East Anchorage whole it would greatly impact our community representation and dilute the voices of East Anchorage residents, and therefore, believe it to be unconstitutional.

There are other maps that have been able to keep East Anchorage whole, so I know there are other options that will work.

Furthermore, I want to highly encourage the Board to be reviewing all comments from communities and do your very best to honor the communities wishes. As it is our representation, our voices, that will be impacted by the maps that you will be adopting for all Alaskans. People within their own communities are the experts on their homelands. We know our communities, and hope that our public testimony is weighed upon with great care.

Additionally, I would request that more care is taken when it comes to public testimony opportunities. Our rural communities have had less opportunity to weigh in because of the lack of call-in numbers and virtual participation. It should be standard practice that at every meeting there is a call in number for the community, the meetings are all live streamed, and information is made available well in advance. Our communities and people cannot plan when things are last minute, as this process is also taking place during harvesting time when many families are hunting to ensure they have food for the winter.

I appreciate your service to our state and appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts and concerns on this very important issue.

Gunalcheesh,  
Kendra Kloster

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Wasilla 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: CJ Koan

Email or Phone Contact: 

**CJ Koan lives in District 12 and supports the Mat-Su Borough having 6 house districts and 3 senate districts as shown in the AFFER map. CJ also supports the addition of the Denali Borough to AFFER map's proposed District 11 as the Denali Borough provides some of the additional population the Mat-Su Borough needs for the 6 house seats.**

**CJ spoke in favor of Board Map v.3. CJ expressed concerns about the AFFER map as the Butte and Palmer should remain together. Additionally, CJ believes that the district in the Fairview Loop area should be extended west through Settlers Bay instead of going north to Wasilla. The Settlers Bay area population is more alike.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: Jaeleen Kookesh

Affiliation: Sealaska

Sealaska is proud to partner with other Alaska Native corporations to develop a proposed statewide redistricting plan. Jaeleen urged the board to strongly consider the Doyon Coalition map and voiced the following concerns of importance to Sealaska: 1. The Doyon Coalition has proposed a compact map that is contiguous and socio-economically integrated. Southeast Alaska population is currently at 71,286 which corresponds to just under 4 districts. Southeast is entitled to this amount of districts, granted they will all slightly be under-deviated. Their proposed map creates district borders that make sense and include geographic boundaries. They have also proposed a Southeast Alaska island district (District 2) which includes communities on Prince of Wales Island. This proposed district of islands and rural communities maintains socio-economic integration and is contiguous. It is linked by geography, socio-economics, and culture. One of the most important features are the islands and whenever possible, they have tried to ensure the communities on the same islands are represented together with the exception of the Admiralty Island. They have tried to maintain the islands as a whole. They provided another option for Juneau, Proposed Districts 3 and 4. District 3 maintains the distinct Juneau areas of Ahk Bay and Mendenhall Valley and puts the downtown districts in northern communities of Haines, Gustavus and Skagway. Sealaska is okay with other map versions that keep northern communities of Mendenhall Valley, Ahk Bay, and Juneau together. 2. In past redistricting cycles, many rural communities have been placed with districts that do not share the same concerns, economic bases, or cultures. For examples, placing interior off-road system communities with coastal communities. Sealaska supports their coalition partners in retaining rural interior villages together and maintaining separation from coastal communities. 3. The Doyon Coalition has concerns about Board Map v.3 in the Fairbanks area as the districts are upwardly deviated between 4.23 and 4.43 percent. In their view, this is too high of a deviation. Jaeleen wants to ensure that rural representation is maintained overall. Regarding Prince of Wales Island, can they be broken and how can it be shared with Ketchikan or should it remain in larger Sitka district? Sealaska looked at the possibility of breaking up communities and their maps intentionally kept islands together, but looking at the possibilities, her preference for Prince of Wales is that at least the traditionally Native communities stay together (Craig, Klawok, Kasaan, and Hydaburg) and pull from eastern island of Prince of Wales such as Thorn Bay.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Cordova 11/1/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Clay Koplín**

Affiliation: **City of Cordova Mayor**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Clay is in favor of Cordova being a coastal district as there are many commonalities with Kodiak and other coastal communities. Prince William Sound is a strong and growing fishery. There are many fishes coming in and out of Cordova as well. The fisheries connect the communities, which is 99% of their economy.**

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**From:** Silke Schiewer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 11:10 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting Tok, Delta and Richardson Hwy.

Dear Redistricting Board

We follow the news with great concern that the Fairbanks Goldstream Valley gets lumped together with Tok, Delta and the Richardson Highway.

How can that be, since the Goldstream Valley has so little in common with these other areas? Furthermore, Delta and Tok treat the Goldstream Valley with disdain. Why? Because of the proximity of the Goldstream Valley to UAF. Our life experiences, economic basis and education backgrounds could not be more different. Just to give you an example out of many: The vaccination rate in the Goldstream Valley is high, while that rate is Rock Bottom in Delta and Tok.

In addition, some of Delta's main concerns are favorable policies for mining and Army posts, while the Goldstream Valley is routing for increased funding for UAF and the public school system in general. In addition, the prospects of getting a gold mine right next to the Goldstream Valley (Felix Gold / Millrock / Pogo gold mine) is raising great concerns and opposition to this development. Please understand that these are only examples of a large spectrum of topics where we are not on the same page with the "outlying communities". It would be like caging a lion together with a wolf. The outcome would without doubt be catastrophic. We would be deadlocked on almost everything! There can not be even the appearance of "like-mindedness". Please do not bungle this up. There is no gain in doing so (not even political)!

Hoping for the best while fearing the worst,

yours

Thomas Felix Krause, [REDACTED], Fairbanks, AK 99709



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

First Name: **Margaret (Peggy) Kugel**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Date: November 5, 2021, 12:17 pm

Comments: **I object to today's version of Map 3. It is not acceptable to chop off part of Muldoon and add it to Eagle River. This is not compact and it is not socio-economically integrated. It is also not appropriate to expect the public to be able to comment on a moving target that has not been made available until after 12 pm today.**

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Date: November 5, 2021, 9:51 am

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **New Map?**

Public Comment: **I have heard there is a new map that was proposed this week (week of Nov 1-5) (i.e., after the close of the period for submission of written testimony. If I could find this new map, I would love to make a comment on it today, but it does not appear to be posted on the Redistricting Board website where all the other maps are posted. I need to see a map that shows the streets in Anchorage so that I can see what district I would be in and so that I can see the boudaries of all districts. Otherwise, how is it possible to cmment ona map?**

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**From:** Richard Kuzuguk <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:05 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 9:05 am

First Name: **Richard**

Last Name: **Kuzuguk**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Shishmaref Tribal Member**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99762**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Lack of addressing current status in regards to fisheries**

Public Comment: **Shishmaref have never gotten any answers between whom is suppose to be supporting subsidies for fishing revenues, NSEDC boundaries are 17 miles short to include Shishmaref for fishing industry, we are suppose to be under Maniilaq fisheries, but our voting boundaries are with Nome district, this conflict needs attention before asking to changing anything. The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act must be reassessed before anything else.**

---

**From:** Matt Kynoch [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 10:38 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Fairbanks redistricting testimony

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to oppose redistricting Goldstream Valley into district 36. Redistricting this area into a district with Delta Junction, Tok, and other rural communities far from Fairbanks not only makes no sense, but violates article 6 section 6 of the Alaska State Constitution.

Goldstream valley is part of Fairbanks. Almost everyone that lives there works in Fairbanks and relies on Fairbanks for their day to day needs. It takes me 9 minutes to drive to the University from my address in the Goldstream neighborhood. Hell, the mailing address says "Fairbanks".

This move to quietly lump this neighborhood of Fairbanks in with distant communities that don't share the same values is pretty fishy to say the least, and smells strangely of voter suppression. Again, to make this as simple as possible, this proposal violates article 6 section 6 of the Alaska State Constitution.

Sincerely,

Matt Kynoch  
**Fairbanks** Resident

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**From:** Jonathan Lang <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:55 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Districts

Good morning.

Please do not split Muldoon. Eagle River has no business being linked to Muldoon. The needs of East Anchorage do not match the needs of Eagle River. If EaglExit happens this choice will be even more divisive.

Please keep Muldoon cohesive and keep it separate from Eagle River.

Peace and Love!

- Jon

Jonathan "Bearded Jon" Lang, Doer  
Pay No Attention to the (Man Behind the Curtain) Films

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[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

- always on; not always answered

--

It is not length of life, but depth of life -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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**Dena'inaq ełnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)**

*I live and work on Dena'ina land. (English)*



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# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Cordova 11/1/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: Sylvia Lange

Affiliation: Native Village of Eyak

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Sylvia serves as Vice Chair of the Traditional Council of the Native Village of Eyak. Board Maps v.3 and v.4 appear most closely aligned with their present needs for representation. The maps include their village in District 5 and includes the Chugach villages in the Lower Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound where there are many cultural and familial ties. The boundaries are also similar to what was used in the last redistricting cycle. They have been connected to Kodiak for most of the last 10 years and the connections have been strengthened; Kodiak and Cordova have similar socio-economic links, although Kodiak is a much larger community. There are mutual fishing ties to the Suqpiq and Alutiiq populations, similar freight transportation connections, and marine highways are important for their communities. The other maps have varying deviations. AFFR map, while including many small coastal communities, stretches too far to the west for the village to feel much regional connection. The Senate Minority Caucus map separates them from all coastal communities and does not meet any of the socio-economic needs.

The AFFER map poses serious problems by separating them from all coastal communities, including Prince William Sound, and pairs them with interior Alaskan communities with which there are limited connections. The Doyon Coalition map keeps the village with Prince William Sound and includes some Chugach villages, but it separates them from Whittier, which is their AMHS connection. The map also separates them from the Copper River watershed communities, such as Chitna and Gulkana. For these reasons, the village supports Board Maps v.3 and v.4. No map links the village to Southeast Alaska and this is important to the village as they feel an affinity on several levels with the communities of Southeast Alaska, particularly the more remote and smaller coastal communities. They share cultural connections with their Tlingit relatives, especially those in Yakutat. They host cultural events and the neighbors to the south travel to the village for those events. They also share a fishery and seafood processing economic base, similar to the southeast communities. They also share the extension of the temperate rainforest that stretches from the Southern Alaska border to Prince William Sound. Transportation systems, barge lines, and Alaska Airlines flights and 61 and 66 are all shared routes for decades. They are also similarly dependent on the Alaska Marine Highway System as the only road connection to the rest of Alaska. They were previously connected to the southeast islands in years past, and it suited their needs well. A link was included to a draft map that includes Cordova with Southeast for future redistricting considerations. The link is included in an email that was sent by Sylvia.

Kodiak has been a good fit for the village and they do not prefer to be separated from Prince William Sound (PWS). Valdez is more interested in going up the highway rather than being connected to the village. There is subsistence and commercial fishing with some sport fishing, but personal use on the upper Copper can cause resource conflicts. They make their living mostly by commercial fishing and they are a small boat fishery with very few large vessels. Socio-economically, the village is connected to Kodiak, but the smaller PWS communities and the small boat fisheries have more connection with the village.

Culturally, the village can go either way as they have Sugpiaq relatives in Kodiak, Unga relatives in PWS , Tlingit relatives in Southeast Alaska. It seems as though every 10 years, they are the "red-headed step child of the redistricting process". PWS has always been their "front yard and back yard". In some ways, they do get two representatives if they go either way. They can fit either way quite comfortably. Socio-economic ties that the village has with the Copper River: - There was a railroad service service that went up to Kennecott, prior to that, it was a Native community. Then copper was discovered, then fishing. Generally, the village is a colonial community. - In pre-history times before non-Natives came to the area, there was much trade on the Copper River all the way up to Ahtna. - There was also a trade route that went behind the village on the Bremner River up to Yakutat. - Copper was highly prized in the Tlingit archipelago and they were in the middle of the trade route. - Fishing is all about PWS and Copper River Delta where there are small boats with single individuals. The village keeps an eye on the escapement on what goes up the river. This resource is a balance between subsistence, personal, and commercial fishing.

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**From:** D L [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 3:41 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting Testimony

Dear Board Members

I am writing you out of concern for district maps in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. A few maps divide Fairbanks North-South to combine areas like Chena Pump and Salcha or Ester and Two Rivers. Fairbanks has a clear demographic divide of East-West. A North-South divide like in the Board Proposed Plan V.3 would create gerrymandered districts and representation for the west side of the borough would be drowned out by the east side of the borough.

Please make sure to create districts that best represent geographic regions.

The AFFER, Senate Minority, and Doyon maps best reflect the demographics of the Fairbanks North Star Borough

Sincerely

Don Larson

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Skagway 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Elizabeth Lavoy**

**Elizabeth spoke in favor of keeping Skagway paired with Downtown Juneau due to economic similarities through their port, historic districts, downtown, walkability, etc. Skagway's business bases mirror what is happening in Downtown Juneau. It does not make sense for Skagway to be paired with the Mendenhall Valley. Elizabeth is in favor of any map that pairs Downtown Juneau with Skagway.**



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**From:** Christopher Lease <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 11:20 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Support for Board Proposed Plan #3

Hello,

I live in the Goldstream valley, and want to provide my support for redistricting plan #3 for the new district 31.

This provides rural areas around Fairbanks from the west to the east a singular area that has the most people who would have like concerns.

In my opinion, redistricting plan #4 is a disaster for the rural areas around Fairbanks, and combines areas that do not have similar concerns.

I have been listening in and watching the live Zoom discussion on the redistricting plans, and it seems to be centered on Anchorage. I unfortunately do not have time to sit and wait for the public testimony.

Thank you for your hard work on this, and for trying to make this as transparent as possible.

V/R,

**Christopher A. Lease**  
Goldstream valley resident

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**From:** Shaun LeBaron [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 6:26 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Support the AFFER plan

I support the AFFER redistricting plan for the combination of East Anchorage and Eagle River. Please consider, Thank you.

East side resident

Sent from my iPhone

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Wasilla 10/26/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Glenda Ledford**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Wasilla Mayor**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Glenda reflected on some of Wasilla's legislative redistricting configurations and plans put forth so far, some of which are directly carved into the borough boundary and cities to cure problems created elsewhere in the state. The Mat-Su has enough population for 6 legislative seats and 3 senate seats.**

**The City of Wasilla has a good working relationship and has had communications with the Denali Borough and the city feels that they would be a best associated with the borough. It is also important to the City of Wasilla to keep its corporate boundaries, Greater Wasilla boundaries, and historical boundaries intact.**

**The City of Palmer likely has similar interests as its utility districts and several other services reach beyond the corporate city limits as well.**

**The AFFER map best reflects compact and contiguous boundaries.**

**Board Map v.3 starts to address Wasilla and its associated population to the northwest. The area northeast, the Tanana precinct area and an extension of Wasilla Main Street that turns into Wasilla-Fishhook Road and Lucille Street that serves as a connector; this is represented in the AFFER plan quite clearly, which Wasilla prefers as a configuration.**

**Other areas associated with Wasilla are Knik Goose Bay (KGB) to the south, Park Highway to the east and west are compact and the most contiguous with Wasilla's main highway, intersection on Main Street, and Parks High way. The Greater Wasilla area has historically been associated with KGB, Wasilla industrial area and the airport to the west, and the Tenana precinct north of Wasilla. The 2002 legislative map shows the same configuration of the Wasilla and core area to the north.**

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**From:** Nancy Lee-Evans [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:35 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Changes to proposed redistricting

To Whom It May Concern:

**\*Keep all the communities of Kachemak Bay in the same district**

- Seldovia and Halibut Cove have strong socio-economic ties to Homer with water taxi services allowing for daily commutes between these communities
- Both board options put Fritz Creek, the Russian Old Believer villages, Seldovia and Halibut Cove in a different district from Homer. This is not OK.
- Do not separate Seldovians by putting the portions of Seldovia outside the city limits in a different district than those in city limits.

**\*Keep the whole Gulf Coast region in a single Senate district**

- Do not put Whittier in an Anchorage district, separating it from other Gulf Coast communities
- Homer and Seward belong in the same district, because unique in the region their economies are centered on fishing and tourism in Kachemak and Resurrection Bays
- Kenai and Nikiski belong in the same district, because Kenai is the economic hub for the Kenai Spur Highway communities
- Soldotna, Kasilof, Ninilchik, and Clam Gulch belong in the same district because Soldotna is the economic hub for the south Sterling Highway communities

**\*Nikiski and Seward do not have shared socio-economic or transportation links. Do not put them in the same district.**

- Nikiski's economy is focused on the oil and gas industry which does not exist in Seward
- Seward's economy is focused on tourism and fishing, industries which do not significantly exist in Nikiski
- Travelling from Nikiski to Seward would require either flying through Anchorage or driving through two other districts under both board options.

**\*Do not place Fritz Creek, Voznecenka, Razdolna, and Kachemak Selo in a different district from Homer**

- Fritz Creek is a bedroom community for Homer which has no transportation links or socio-economic integration with Kodiak and Cordova

- Both board options separate the Old Believer villages of Nikolaevsk from the other three Old Believer villages, these villages represent a unique socio-economic region and belong in the same district
- The stated justification for including these communities with Kodiak is that historical ties exist from the Russian colonial period. This is not accurate, the Old Believers are not in any way connected to the original Russian colonists and did not arrive in Alaska until 1968. Fritz Creek is not a Russian community and has no ties to the colonial period.

**\*Do not break up the Kodiak Island Borough**

- Do not put Kodiak with Dillingham and the Aleutians.
- Do not place Nikiski in a district with South Anchorage. The state justification is that there is a shared tie because of the oil industry. There are no oil industry facilities within the South Anchorage portion of the district
- Do not place Valdez in a district with Kodiak and Cordova in a Richardson Highway district, creating an absurd situation where Valdez is in an off-road system district while Cordova is in a road system district.

Thank you for your consideration.

Nancy Lee-Evans

The Anam Cara Program

[REDACTED] Homer, AK 99603  
[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 31, 2021, 6:34 pm

Name: **Donna Leigh**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99801**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **redistricting**

Public Comment: **I prefer the AFFR plan which puts Auke Bay, Out the road, and the Valley in one district. We have little in common with Haines and Skagway.**

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**From:** Donna Leigh [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 6:33 PM

**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>

**Subject:** Redistricting

I live in Juneau AK.

I live in the Auke Bay area.

We should be in the same district as Out the Road and the valley.

We have very little in common with Haines and Skagway and outlying areas.

I prefer the AFFR plan.

Donna Leigh

99801

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Donna Leigh



A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.


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# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 5, 2021, 2:55 am

Name: **Melanie Leydon**  
Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Marcum's Map (it's gerrymandered)**

Public Comment: **I ONLY support Nicole's map because it appears more compact, respects individual neighborhood boundaries, and does not split up East Anchorage into Eagle River and South Anchorage and also do not agree with adding a far flung part of the state such as Valdez in with Anchorage.**

**I have major issues with Bethany Marcums proposed map:**

**Marcum's Anchorage has many similarities to her V1 map that she admitted on the record was largely unpopular.**

**The plan completely ignores hours of public testimony, as well as 100's of written comments.**

**This map would put East Anchorage / Muldoon into Eagle River - overwhelming testimony from both East Anchorage and Eagle River opposed this concept. Eagle River is Socio-economically distinct from East Anchorage - in fact they have a current Eagle Exit movement to separate themselves from the Municipality.**

**Part of East Anchorage, around the Muldoon curve, is also put into a South Anchorage district. You have to drive through four other districts to get to the rest of this proposed district. Again, East Anchorage is socio-economically distinct from South Anchorage.**

**Most of the remainder of East Anchorage is placed with JBER in an odd, long, diagonally shaped district. This part of East Anchorage is one of the most racially diverse areas in the country and diluting minority voices in this manner could run afoul of the Voting Rights Act . The map does not respect the diverse communities in east Anchorage & mountain view.**

**Taken together, this slicing and dicing of East Anchorage represents an egregious gerrymander and reduces the voice of East Anchorage residents.**

**Downtown and Government hill would be in a district with mountain view**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: John Lincoln

Affiliation: NANA CEO

**NANA is a for-profit Alaska Native corporation for 15,000 Inupiat shareholders in Alaska, including Buckland and Deering. NANA urges the board to adopt a map that reflects their ANCSA region, borough municipalities, and tribal health service areas by keeping their 11 socio-economically integrated communities together in District 40. Socio-economic integration is a critical component of the redistricting process and true integration will reflect the interactions of the people in these areas. There is clear evidence of this in the region including transportation, health, government, education, , significant ancient cultural ties and more. 100% of testifiers at the 10/5/21 Kotzebue asked for the same consideration to keep Buckland and Deering in District 40 to keep the region whole.**



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Lucille Lincoln**

Affiliation: **Ahtna, Inc. and Enrollee of Kluti-Kaah**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Lucille lives in Tazlina and testified in support of the Doyon Coalition map. It is important that the Ahtna villages remain in the same district because they are all socio-economically integrated; the same goes for Cantwell. They all have the same language, customs, traditions, and they hunt, fish, and do berry picking together. There are also relatives in Cantwell. Their village and Cantwell is very integrated in different ways. It is important for the villages to stay in one area. The other proposed maps exclude Cantwell from their village and this is wrong because Cantwell is apart of the village and they feel disconnected and abandoned. Please ensure that the Ahtna villages and Cantwell stay in the interior districts.**

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**From:** Darcy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 30, 2021 3:37 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** public comment

Dear Redistricting Board members -

I write in support of districts designated according to our State's constitution which states that districts must be compact, contiguous, reflect the socioeconomic reality of the populations it is meant to service as well as equal population distribution. The board's current Maps 3 and 4 and AFFER third party map do not do this for my district – 34. To divide up my district and form an unconstitutional district with our northern neighbors limits our ability to have representation that effectively deals with our issues. It works well the way it is. Thank you for consideration of my views. Darcy Lockhart [REDACTED]. Juneau

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**From:** Austin Love <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 8:42 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 3, 2021, 8:42 pm

First Name: **Austin**

Last Name: **Love**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99686**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Alaska Redistricting Map: Valdez Option 1**

Public Comment: **I fully support the public comment provided by the City of Valdez to the Alaska Redistricting Board, attached to City of Valdez Resolution #21-42. That public comment supports a map titled "Valdez Option 1" which can be found here <https://districtr.org/plan/62741>. The Alaska Redistricting Board should adopt Valdez Option 1.**

---

**From:** Jessica [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 8:09 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting of the MSB

To Whom This May Concern,

As a resident of the Mat-Su valley I strongly urge that the suggested redistricting plan be tossed out! This plan directly targets conservative legislators by forcing them to run as opponents against each other (providing an advantage to liberal legislators not having to compete), and clearly creates an unfair disadvantage for conservative voters. Please leave the districts alone and stop messing with things when they aren't broken. Instead of spending time and money on redistricting, how about we focus on reducing taxes, being fiscally responsible and targeting real community issues? I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jessica Lowe

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Princess Lucaj <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:30 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 2, 2021, 9:30 am

First Name: **Princess**

Last Name: **Lucaj**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **I fully support the Doyon Coalition proposed map. As a tribal member, I feel it is critical that our voices are able to coalesce as one rural Alaska district. Voting rights and voter suppression is something that Alaska Native people pay attention to given the history of discrimination within our State. I feel the proposed Doyon Coalition Map addresses these concerns. Thank you!**

---

**From:** Liz Lyke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:46 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Please consider keep communities together in Fairbanks.

Good morning,

I'm asking that you please keep the residents in Fairbanks together as you re-district. DON'T cram us all into 5 districts and dilute each voters voice. Likewise please connect districts by roads! Connecting residents with land that is not passage by car or even foot is not right. I've reviewed all the plan and the Doyon plan is by far the best. Let's consider keeping residents group together in the communities they've built. Likewise indigenous Alaskans voice are the ones we ought to be listening the most, please make sure to consider these things more than the likely outcomes of any future elections. Many of us are keeping track of this work, please give us a better map than the 2011 map, which was ultimately thrown out by the supreme court.

Thanks,

Liz Lyke District 5 resident.

"We must always aim for the impossible; if we lower our goal, we also diminish our effort." - Dorothy Day

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Lesley Lyman**

**Lesley favor of Senate Minority Caucus map. It is beyond understanding how Key Harbor and downtown can be put together. If it is redistricted to throw incumbents together by obvious gerrymandering, that is a thought she is blown away with. She hopes the board will settle on something more democratic than the Senate Minority Caucus map.**

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**From:** Ann Mackovjak <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 8:07 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 8:06 pm

First Name: **Ann**

Last Name: **Mackovjak**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Nonpartisan**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99826**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting map**

Public Comment: **Dear Redistricting Board Members,**

**Having looked at the proposed maps, I can see choosing the right one is no easy task. I am going to cast my "vote" for the Doyon map as it leaves Gustavus with Haines, Skagway and part of Juneau. As a Gustavus resident for many years, I believe that we are best aligned with these communities.**



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: Dianne MacRae

Dianne MacRae testified regarding Mary Jackson's proposed map and Dianne does not feel that separating the community would be best. She likes Mary Jackson's proposed map as it is better for the Kenai Peninsula to be underrepresented, but represented as one community. She lived in Anchorage when Kenai was apart of the district, and she has lived in Kenai when the Kenai Peninsula was apart of the Anchorage district; it did not work well. When doing the math, you end up negating a small section of people who are not served or represented impactfully in their area. Dianne asked the board to consider Mary Jackson's proposed map as outlined in her testimony.

Currently, the Kenai community barely sees Sen. Gary Stevens and have learned to adapt to this. It is important that the community does not lose a fraction to be diluted into another place "because of the math".

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**From:** Isabella Mamea [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:40 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting concerns for a minority in Anchorage

Dear Alaska Redistricting Board Members,

My name is Isabella Mamea . I am Samoan (from American Samoa, a territory of the US). I am a member of the Pacific Community of Alaska, a non-profit organization in Anchorage. I live in the East Anchorage neighborhood, and I work downtown on 4th Street. My children attend school at Airport Heights Elementary, Wendler Middle School, and East High School.

I usually shop for groceries at Fred Meyers on the corner of New Seward and Northern Lights, Walmart at A Street and often times Freddy's/Walmart at Debarr. I always take my kids to the Airport Heights playground or Tikishla park in my neighborhood

Our family attends church at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Maplewood in my neighborhood.

Anchorage's growing diversity is one of Anchorage's defining socio-economic features. The Municipality of Anchorage's minority population is now 43.5%. In the Anchorage Bowl there are 16 contiguous majority-minority census tracts with 66,594 total population, including the most diverse neighborhoods in the country. The maximum number of districts should be drawn to allow these diverse neighborhoods to elect their preferred candidate. Majority-minority census tracts are made up of multiple groups of racial minority groups, who have more in common with one another as communities of interest as racial minorities than they do with non-racial minority populations around them. To split these majority-minority census tracts up is to dilute their ability and their right to have districts that represent their unique make-up.

I feel our neighborhood is very distinct from Chugiak and Eagle River. We do not shop at the same places, worship at the same churches, go to the same parks, visit the same restaurants. Please do NOT include us in the same district. This is not a socioeconomically integrated pairing. Chugiak and Eagle River have expressed a lot of interest in leaving the Municipality of Anchorage, so why would we include them with East Anchorage? Not to mention these communities are very racially distinct from each other. East Anchorage has extraordinary racial and linguistic diversity, whereas Chugiak and Eagle River are much less diverse. The diversity of East Anchorage should be respected and not grouped in a way that would erase minority representation. Do not crack our communities up into multiple districts. I also do not feel it is appropriate to put East Anchorage in a district with communities south of Tudor or JBER. Instead of pairing communities east of Muldoon with Eagle River and Chugiak, South Anchorage or JBER, I would rather be paired with neighborhoods along Turpin and Debarr, neighborhoods east of Boniface and Northern Lights, or near Patterson and Northern Lights.

I would like a map that reflects the diversity of Anchorage's neighborhoods

- Anchorage's growing diversity is one of Anchorage's defining socio-economic features
- The Municipality of Anchorage's minority population is now 43.5%
- In the Anchorage Bowl there are 16 contiguous majority-minority census tracts with 66,594 total population, including the most diverse neighborhoods in the country.
- The maximum number of districts should be drawn to allow these diverse neighborhoods to elect their preferred candidate

Thank-you for your time in considering this humble request.

Sincerely,

*Isabella Maugatai Mamea*

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 7:39 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream redistricting

I am a 40 year resident of Goldstream Valley and I am writing to say I am opposed to the recent proposal that aims to group Goldstream Valley with the Tok, Delta areas in, I believe, district 36. For one, geographically, it makes no sense, as we share no borders and there are many communities in between us (Fairbanks, N. Pole, Salcha, Harding Lake, Eielson).

There are no shared activities and residents don't interact...there is little reason for residents of Tok or Delta to even be aware of Goldstream. I fear that any concerns of the residents of Goldstream would be overlooked and ignored.

We are not socio-economically similar in any way.

Residents of Goldstream work, shop, engage in activities, are members of clubs and organizations, attend schools that are based in the greater Fairbanks area and that is where our interests are. We need to be grouped with our neighbors.

There were some recent proposals that did group us with neighbors, in district 31.

I encourage you to follow the criteria in establishing districts ...contiguous, socio-economically similar

I would have called in to testify, however I am heading into Fairbanks to my job and I am not available to call. I feel very strongly about this.

Sincerely,  
Margaret Mannix

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, Ak 99707

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 9:42 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting comments

Dear Redistricting Committee,

As residents of Homer, Alaska from 1979-1986 and residents of Fritz Creek, Alaska since 1986 to the present,  
we submit the following comments in regards to redistricting:

**\*Keep all the communities of Kachemak Bay in the same district**

- Seldovia and Halibut Cove have strong socio-economic ties to Homer with water taxi services allowing for daily commutes between these communities
- Both board options put Fritz Creek, the Russian Old Believer villages, Seldovia and Halibut Cove in a different district from Homer. This is not OK.
- Do not separate Seldovians by putting the portions of Seldovia outside the city limits in a different district than those in city limits.

**\*Keep the whole Gulf Coast region in a single Senate district**

- Do not put Whittier in an Anchorage district, separating it from other Gulf Coast communities
- Homer and Seward belong in the same district, because unique in the region their economies are centered on fishing and tourism in Kachemak and Resurrection Bays
- Kenai and Nikiski belong in the same district, because Kenai is the economic hub for the Kenai Spur Highway communities
- Soldotna, Kasilof, Ninilchik, and Clam Gulch belong in the same district because Soldotna is the economic hub for the south Sterling Highway communities

**\*Nikiski and Seward do not have shared socio-economic or transportation links. Do not put them in the same district.**

- Nikiski's economy is focused on the oil and gas industry which does not exist in Seward
- Seward's economy is focused on tourism and fishing, industries which do not significantly exist in Nikiski
- Travelling from Nikiski to Seward would require either flying through Anchorage or driving through two other districts under both board options.

**\*Do not place Fritz Creek, Voznecenka, Razdolna, and Kachemak Selo in a different district from Homer**

- Fritz Creek is a bedroom community for Homer which has no transportation links or socio-economic integration with Kodiak and Cordova
- Both board options separate the Old Believer villages of Nikolaevsk from the other three Old Believer villages, these villages represent a unique socio-economic region and belong in the same district
- The stated justification for including these communities with Kodiak is that historical ties exist from the Russian colonial period. This is not accurate, the Old Believers are not in any way connected to the original Russian colonists and did not arrive in Alaska until 1968. Fritz Creek is not a Russian community and has no ties to the colonial period.

**\*Do not break up the Kodiak Island Borough**

- Do not put Kodiak with Dillingham and the Aleutians.
- Do not place Nikiski in a district with South Anchorage. The state justification is that there is a shared tie because of the oil industry. There are no oil industry facilities within the South Anchorage portion of the district
- Do not place Valdez in a district with Kodiak and Cordova in a Richardson Highway district, creating an absurd situation where Valdez is in an off-road system district while Cordova is in a road system district.

Thank you for your consideration,

Karen Murdock

William Marshall



Homer, AK99603

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: **Nila Martushev**

**Nila is an East End Road resident and spoke in opposition of this area being districted with Kodiak. Everything East End Road residents do leads to Homer and separating East End Road to Kodiak is not preferred.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Homer 10/13 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: Antonine Martushez

**Antonine lives 21 miles out East End Road and spoke against her area being redistricted as the residents in her area rely on Homer through groceries, gas, etc. If Kodiak is their district, they will not be able to easily access their representative. Their community is unique and they are a family. Redistricting would create more issues. Antonine feels that her community is getting pushed to the side and her community is at risk of not being represented fairly.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Ledia Martushoff**

Affiliation: **Voznesenka Village, FoxCreek**

**Ledia stated that her community is apart of the Homer community. She shops in Homer and her daughter goes to school in Homer. She is against being removed from District 31 and would like to remain in this district.**



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: Helenmarie Matesi

Hellenmarie lives off Becker Ridge in the Chena/Ester area on the westside of town. Hellenmarie spoke in opposition of Board Map v.3 as it would group her community with North Pole. The map also overpopulates Fairbanks districts in a way that doesn't happen in other communities in the state. It would diminish the effectiveness of votes and fairness of the system. The map also results in Anchorage and Mat-Su being overrepresented while Fairbanks is underrepresented. The map also does not follow the east/west orientation that exists in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. Hellenmarie sent in a document. She spoke in favor of Board Map v.4 and the AFFR map as they recognize North Pole's distinct identity and keeps the Greater North Pole in one community. Ester is her community; North Pole is not her community. Her first choice is the AFFR map. Her second choice is Board Map v.4.

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**From:** Megan McBride [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 6:44 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Save East Anchorage

The current draft of the redistricting map divides East Anchorage in a way that is unfair to the community. This looks like gerrymandering with the results of losing the voice of East Anchorage residents. The proposed map splits up East Anchorage and combines this neighborhood with Eagle River and South Anchorage, which both have very different demographics are much more white, much higher median income, and much more politically conservative. If you just encourage doesn't have enough residence to be its own legislative district then combining it with parts of Midtown or with North Anchorage in the makes much more more sense. If East Anchorage doesn't have enough residents to be its own legislative district then combining it with parts of Midtown or with North Anchorage makes much more sense. The East Anchorage high school and Bartlett high school areas have much more in common with each other, for example.

Thank you,  
Megan McBride

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**From:** McBride, Will [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 7:28 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Folks,

I am writing to object to the proposed redistricting.  
I am specifically unhappy about the changes to East Anchorage.  
I have lived on the Hillside for the past 31 years.  
I am building a new dwelling in Airport Heights.  
The Anchorage Hillside and Eagle River are clearly conservative.  
East Anchorage is typically much more progressive.

East Anchorage needs its own representatives separate from the Hillside and Eagle River.  
East Anchorage has elected some of the folks I have high respect for.  
Do not take Away the voice of East Anchorage.

Please reconsider

**Will E. McBride, PE**  
**Electrical Administrator**  
**CONAM Construction Company**

[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Stephen McCasland**

**Stephen stated that his business is in Homer and he lives in Fritz Creek. He is worried because East End Road is socio-economically tied to Homer and should not be separated. Residents of East End Road go to school, work, and use the harbor and airport in Homer. The Russian villages are closely tied as well. If redistricting must happen, Seward should be added back to the district as it once was as they are also a waterfront community based on tourism and fishing. Drop Kasilof north to gain Seward as that area is not as socio-economically similar to Homer.**

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**From:** Adam McComb <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 9:28 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 6, 2021, 9:28 am

First Name: **Adam**

Last Name: **McComb**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Final Redistricting Map Does Not Meet Constitutional Requirements**

Public Comment: **Hello,**

**The Goldstream Valley in Fairbanks North Star Borough is grouped in with the towns of Tok, Mccarthy, Coldfoot, and others. It would be unfair for us and unfair for them if we shared a representative with different goals. Please reconsider this boundary to meet the constitutional requirements of combining simular socio-economic and adhere to government boundaries such as the Fairbanks North Star Borough, as it has for the last decade.**

**Thank you for your time.**

**Adam McComb 99709**

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**From:** Brooke McDavid [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:16 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Public testimony Re: Goldstream - Fairbanks

Redistricting Board,

I would like to submit this as public testimony against redistricting to include Goldstream Valley, which is directly adjacent to Fairbanks, in the same district as Tok and Delta Junction. Article VI, Section 6 of the AK Constitution states that:

“ Each house district shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area.”

Goldstream Valley is not in an area contiguous with Delta or Tok, nor does it have similar socio-economics. Pairing Goldstream, which is adjacent to Fairbanks and tied to Fairbanks socio-economically, with rural communities far away would essentially place Goldstream under representation that has vastly different priorities and issues. It would dilute the needs of both the Goldstream community AND those of the rural communities.

Please accept this is testimony against including Goldstream in the same district as Tok and Delta Junction.

Thank you,

Brooke McDavid  
Fairbanks, AK

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 4, 2021, 5:28 pm

Name: **Kevin McGee**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **NAACP, Anchorage, Alaska**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **Redistricting Addendum Comments**

**November 4, 2021**

**Dear Redistricting Board Members,**

I previously submitted detailed redistricting comments but based on conversations and proposals put forward recently by Board Member Marcum, I feel compelled to provide an addendum to those comments: Today, Board Member Bahnke asked if Ms. Marcum's combination of East Anchorage and Eagle River would dilute the power and voice of minority voters in East Anchorage. Clearly, yes Ms. Marcum's proposed map would dilute the power and voice of minority voters. It appears clear that diminishing the power of minority voters is not merely the impact of Marcum's proposed maps, but is in fact the intent of her maps.

If East Anchorage is divided into districts comprised of East Anchorage neighborhoods, then our neighborhood's diverse voters have a real influence on elections, and thus a meaningful voice in the state legislature. The updated Anchorage map Ms. Borrromeo put forward is an example of a Constitutionally-grounded map that would protect all voters' franchise. By contrast, gerrymandering East Anchorage into Eagle River is designed to swamp minority voters' voice and elect a White Republican who would, in effect, be chosen by Eagle River voters. This is an outrageous and illegal attempt to gerrymander the map in clear violation of Constitutional directives.

In the strongest possible terms, I urge the Board to reject Ms. Marcum's proposed gerrymander and instead pick a legally-sound map, such as AFFR's or the Anchorage map presented by Ms. Borrromeo today. Diluting minority voters' voice is an outrageous and illegal objective and must be rejected.

//signed//

Kevin D. McGee

President, Anchorage NAACP

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**From:** rosemary mcguire [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:25 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream Valley redistricting

Hello,

I am writing to oppose the proposed redistricting of Goldstream Valley with Tok, Delta & the Richardson Highway. This makes no possible sense. Goldstream community members work, recreate and shop in Fairbanks. We have no community economic or social ties to Tok or Delta. I can't see this as anything but political gerrymandering. We belong with the University area, and areas north and west of Fairbanks (where we are located) not with the distant rural areas proposed.

Please join me in opposing this bad idea.

Rosemary McGuire



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**From:** Susan McHenry <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 3:12 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 2, 2021, 3:11 pm

First Name: **Susan**

Last Name: **McHenry**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Unfair distribution in some maps**

Public Comment: **I oppose map #3 and the AFFER proposal**

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**From:** Connie McKenzie <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 7:51 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 1, 2021, 7:50 am

First Name: **Connie**

Last Name: **McKenzie**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99801**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board plan v.3**

Public Comment: **I support board plan v.3. By including Haines and Skagway with district 4 the map is contiguous and all of the Southeast districts follow natural formations for border lines.**

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**From:** Steve Meckel <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 7:19 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 7:19 am

First Name: **Steve**

Last Name: **Meckel**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **My concern is with the proposed AFFER map for my area, specifically distrcit 5c.**

Public Comment: **I have a concern with the AFFER proposed redistricting map, district 5C. This map places me in a district with communities that are hundreds of miles away from my location. I live in Goldstream, which is just a few miles outside of the Fairbanks city limits. Fairbanks is my home community. I work in Fairbanks, shop in Fairbanks and interact with people in the community. It would be unfair to me and to the people in those remote locations to put us in the same voting district. Please do not consider the AFFER redistricting plan and work to provide fair representation to all Alaska voters. Thank you for the work that you are doing.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Kathy Medcoff**

**Kathy agreed with Mary Jackson's testimony and spoke in favor of Board Maps v.3 and v.4.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Grace Merkes**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Sterling Community Center**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: **Grace noted that the more the Kenai Peninsula Borough can be kept together, the better it will be for the state and residents.**

**Regarding Sterling, it is a large community that is very spread out and is rural. Currently, Sterling is combined with Nikiski; this is a good thing as they have similar backgrounds and support each other's regulations and rules. Including Seward is a different story as they are more of a coastal community, such as Homer.**

**In reviewing the maps, Grace supports the Board Maps v.3 and v.4 and asked the board not to split Sterling up in the**

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**From:** Dave Messier <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 11:36 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream Valley comment

Dear Redistricting Board Members,

My name is Dave Messier, I live at [REDACTED] Fairbanks, AK 99709 and recently learned that the redistricting board is considering grouping the goldstream valley in with the rural villages of Tok and Delta. I also serve on the board of Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) and work as a project manager for Tanana Chiefs Conference so I am well aware of the demographics in that part of the interior. Moving the Goldstream valley into a grouping with rural areas like Tok and Delta makes absolutely no sense when considering the intent of redistricting.

I would encourage the board to leave the Goldstream valley in a district that is geographically and socioeconomically more similar such as the university area north of UAF rather than torture the shapes and the intent of the law and group our census block with more far flung regions of the interior.

Thank you for all your work in ensuring that redistricting is a fair process that allows all Alaskans to have their voices heard.

-Dave Messier

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Palmer 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: October 31, 2021

Name: David Miller

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

David Miller noted that on Board Map v.4, it brings in Valdez which David strongly opposes. Board Map v.3 is "more coherent" but could bring the Butte area into a more compact, compatible, and socio-economic cohesiveness. Overall, David prefers Board Map v.3, but he would prefer to keep Butte and Palmer more connected. If necessary, he has felt good interacting with as far south as Chugiak and possibly Birch Creek. David strongly opposes any map that does have Valdez tied into the Butte area and he would fund a lawsuit against this decision.

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**From:** Aaron Mischenko [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 9:16 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Constituent Testimony

Redistricting Board, Please support Map #73975 (<https://districtr.org/plan/73975>)

- Map# 73975 has smaller population deviations between each district than the AFFER Plan Compactness (size and shape):
- Map# 73975 honors city limits boundaries and does not have districts with crazy shapes! Contiguous (are the boundaries continuous on land especially)
- Unlike the AFFER Plan, Map# 73975 doesn't gerrymander the districts by grabbing Nikiski on the Kenai Peninsula and putting it into a district with Huffman Rd. in South Anchorage...how does that even make sense? Socio-economic Integration (are similar communities placed within the same districts):
- Unlike the AFFER Plan, Map # 73975 continues to include the City of Valdez with the Mat-Su because Valdez is a developed community with a substantial tax base on the road system near the Mat-Su. It should not be paired with other communities that are not on the road system, like it is in the AFFER Plan. The Denali Borough should not be included in a Mat-Su district. Fairbanks is the closest large city from any location within the Denali Borough. The closest Costco to the Denali Borough is in Fairbanks. The closest Wal-Mart is in Fairbanks. The Denali Borough is more connected to Fairbanks than it is to either Palmer or Wasilla. Natural landmarks (rivers, roads, mountains, etc.)
- Map #73975 divides the Mat-Su between Palmer and Wasilla and between the Wasilla City limits on the south and Seldon Road on the north. Seldon is a current boundary and a long and straight road that is well known in the community.

I do NOT support the AFFER plan!!

Aaron Mischenko  
[REDACTED]



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**From:** Lili Misel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 6:50 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream area should not be with Tok

Dear Redistricting Board,

I recently read that the Goldstream area is being redistricted with Tok and other rural and remote communities south of Fairbanks.

I live in Fairbanks and the new map being drawn creates serious problems for how the people of Fairbanks are represented. This mapping does not meet the constitutional goal of having communities with shared socioeconomic backgrounds kept together.

Goldstream is part of the Fairbanks community, NOT the Interior rural villages of Tok and Delta. The board would serve the Interior far better by using Salcha, Eielson and Harding Lake to populate Tok – they have far more in common and are near each other.

Pairing Goldstream with the rural area is not representative of any of the communities involved in this redistricting. Goldstream shares strong social, economic, educational ties with the Ester and Chena Ridge, Chena Pump and nearby neighborhoods and should be represented together.

Thank you,  
Lili Misel  
Fairbanks

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: **Robbi Mixon**

**Robbi is a Fritz Creek resident and spoke in opposition of redistricting Fritz Creek into Kodiak as there are no socio-economic ties to Kodiak. Redistricting Fritz Creek to Kodiak would be detrimental as the community would not get the representation that they deserve.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Bob Molloy**      Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Kenai City Council , but speaking on behalf of self**  
Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: **Bob Molloy asked for the City of Kenai to be kept intact and spoke against the Doyon Coalition proposal which carves out a small part of the city and puts it in District 8-D. Dividing the community would have negative impacts.**

**Board Map v.3 and v.4 are more preferable maps. Bob encouraged the board to keep the Kenai Peninsula together as much as possible.**

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**From:** Dawson Moore <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:02 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 4, 2021, 8:01 pm

First Name: **Dawson**

Last Name: **Moore**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Valdez City Council**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99686**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Valdez**

Public Comment: **I heard tonight of the new map that oddly lumps us in with Anchorage. We need to get back to sharing a district with people who share our concerns and lives, either up the Richardson or into Prince William Sound. I'm not picky: most of the proposals are marked improvements from our current districting, which has kept Valdez largely unrepresented on the state level for a decade. I'm speaking for myself, not in an official capacity for the Valdez City Council. Thanks for your important and complicated work.**

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**From:** Dorothy Moore [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 11:16 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Cc:** Jake Staser; Schantz, Donna  
**Subject:** Support of Valdez proposal  
**Attachments:** DMM redistricting suggestions.docx

Members of the redistricting board:

Thank you for the opportunity to address the current redistricting process.

I am a lifelong resident of Alaska, first arriving in 1949. I remember getting my first voter registration -card when I was in college (AMU later renamed Alaska Pacific University) I am very proud of a voter registration number less than 3000. (#00002288) I am a retired government-civics-history teacher who represented Valdez City Council during the last two redistricting cycles.

I wish to support the city of Valdez proposal.

I understand the complexities of the process of redrawing the lines every ten years.

Living through the results of the 2000, and 2010 process I have not felt, as a voting individual, my community was adequately represented when lumping Valdez with larger communities in the Mat Su valley. It is convenient from a map point of view but people who live in smaller communities, or isolated communities, have different needs than those who are within an hour of large box stores.

In my representation of Valdez on the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Council I have found more understanding between and among communities with water based access.

Because of my experience, with the process of redistricting, and living through the results for my community, I am supporting the City of Valdez redistricting proposal.

Thank you for your time and energy as you evaluate and recommend lines for redistricting.

Dorothy Moore, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], Valdez Alaska 996861

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**From:** Heidi Morel <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 12:48 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream Redistricting

Hello,

I am a resident of Goldstream Valley and I am against being put in district 36. We are not only located very far from that district, but also our community's needs are not the same. I feel like this kind of redistricting would be a blatant display of gerrymandering instead of redistricting for the good of local communities. Please consider the residents of the Goldstream community instead of your own political agenda.

Thank you for your consideration.

- Heidi Morel

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 4, 2021, 4:38 pm

Name: **Matthew Moser**  
Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Partisan gerrymandering**

Public Comment: **Dear Members of the Redistricting Board,**

**I remember when a previous redistricting board used a partisan gerrymander to take out Senator Bettye Davis and Representative Pete Petersen, following the 2010 Census. That partisan map was thrown out by the courts after a single election cycle conducted under a provisional map. The process was a mess, and both confused and disenfranchised Alaska voters.**

**Given that history, I was outraged to see Board Member Marcum put forward proposed lines (clearly drawn by Randy Ruedrich) that combine East Anchorage and Eagle River into a gerrymandered House seat, and that intentionally combine Representatives Snyder and Spohnholz into a single seat. Ms. Marcum claimed that she is "wedded" to population deviations to draw these lines. That claim is a lie. Multiple other maps already presented to the public for East Anchorage and Eagle River have lower population deviation. The Senate Minority map actually has a population deviation of 0 for its two Eagle River seats. AFFR's map has deviations of 3 and 9 people respectively for those districts. Both AFFR and the Senate Minority maps more clearly follow Constitutional guidance around compactness.**

**I have listened to the Board's attorney, who claims that socioeconomic integration naturally occurs with any districts within the Municipality of Anchorage. That argument seems weak considering the clear geographic separation of Eagle River and Anchorage. The Constitution makes clear that geographic features and watercourses should be respected in pursuit of compactness and socioeconomic integration. Eagle River and Chugiak occupy different watersheds than the rest of Anchorage, and are at the foot of a different part of the Chugach Mountains. Eagle River/Chugiak are at the base of the Western Chugach, while Anchorage is at the foot of the Front Range of the Chugach (Ship Creek is the dividing line). AFFR, Board Map Version 3, and the Senate Minority map are all more compact, and more consistent with Constitutional language related to geographic features, compared to Ms. Marcum's indefensible gerrymander.**

**Voters' intent with the 1998 Constitutional amendment establishing non-partisan redistricting seems clear: Draw maps that are as integrated, compact, and equal in population as possible. The obvious best option for Eagle River is two paired House districts, and the population deviation can be as low as zero, as the Senate Minority map shows. This allows more logical and compact division of East Anchorage neighborhoods, as presented in AFFR's map.**

**I urge you to reject Ms. Marcum and Mr. Ruedrich's attempts at partisan gerrymandering, and adhere to your Constitutional directives for redistricting.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: Keon Mostofi

Keon opposes being moved from District 31 to offset the population. It would make more sense to move the line of Kenai-Soldotna's district southward so Homer loses some population and Kenai-Soldotna could gain population, then incorporate Fritz Creek into the Homer district again. This would better represent the people of those areas. East End Road is economically and socially tied to Homer. They live there, don't leave in the winter, start businesses there, and use the harbor. There is no way to leave without going through Homer. Thus, Keon spoke in favor of the community remaining with Homer.



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**From:** Diane Moxness <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 7:56 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 7:56 pm

First Name: **Diane**

Last Name: **Moxness**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **none**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **AFFR**

Public Comment: **After a review of the maps submitted to the Redistricting Board I fully support the map submitted by the Alaskans For Fair Redistricting. It appears to have the least deviation in Anchorage from the one-voice one-vote goal. It respects many community council boundaries and reflects the culturally diversity of the Anchorage population. It best situates my West Anchorage neighborhood with areas of common concerns. Thank you.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Kathryne Mulder**

Affiliation: **Fritz Creek**

**Kathryne spoke in opposition of Fritz Creek redistricted elsewhere as District 31 allows them to be connected to Homer. Fritz Creek residents have a road system that connects them to Homer where they shop, go to school, travel to for emergencies, etc.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 4, 2021, 7:46 pm

Name: **Nancy Munro**  
Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Support for AFFR plan**

Public Comment: **Dear Redistricting Board,**

**As I long-time resident of Anchorage I encourage you to support the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) plan because I think its name is well-deserved:**

**The AFFR plan has far fewer deviations within Anchorage than the other 3 plans. No district has more than 36 people from the ideal.**

**It makes sense that Chugiak/Eagle River form their own Senate district separate from the Anchorage bowl.**

**The AFFR plan keeps the Northeast community council intact within one district.**

**East Anchorage, Mountain View, and Fairview are each very distinct neighborhoods. None of them should be grouped in with the base. The AFFR plan also recognizes that there is a connection between service members at JBER and the services immediately off-base.**

**Sincerely,**

**Nancy Munro**

**From:** Sean Murphy [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 3:12 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Support for Proposed Plan 4

My name is Sean Murphy. I live in Assembly District 2 and House district 14. I am supporting Proposed Map Plan 4. I believe the communities connected in plan 4 are socio-economically paired, our communities are unique and well connected. This plan reflects the nature grouping of people in our community, and this plan does not connect us with Anchorage.

Thank you for taking my testimony.

Sean Murphy

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Date: November 1, 2021, 3:01 pm

Name: **Sean Murphy**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Support for Proposed Plan 4**

Public Comment: **I support Proposed plan four because Eagle River communities are well connected, more socio-economic the same, and proposed plan four doesn't connect ER/Chugiak area with South Anchorage, or any part of Anchorage.**

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**From:** Dave Musgrave <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:23 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Comments on Redistricting Maps

Hello Board,

**I urge you to make sure populations are fairly distributed in your final map.** Packing residents in particular districts, as the Board's map version 3 does in Fairbanks, leads to higher deviations than are unnecessary in an organized Borough.

I am a resident of the MatSu Borough believe the **MatSu should have at a minimum of five full house districts and only break the Borough boundaries to include population to create a sixth district.** That district should not include any precincts from the Municipality of Anchorage, but instead reach to the east of the Borough or the north of the Borough.

**Please keep deviations low.** Although a final map will likely have an overall deviation in the 7% range, in the organized Boroughs that have multiple House seats, the deviations should be kept to a minimum. AFFR and Senate Minority Caucus maps do this.

Thank you,

Dave Musgrave  
[REDACTED]  
Palmer AK 99645  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Kengo Nagaoka [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:47 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Fair districting for East Anchorage

Good afternoon,

I am writing with concern after seeing the new redistricting map include East Muldoon and Eagle River in the same district. These two locations are dissimilar in almost every way I can think of: geography, income level, race and ethnic background, and social connection. They should not be put in the same district.

The areas outlined in the 2013 Proclamation for Anchorage are much more fair, the districts are more fairly shaped, and include neighborhoods with similar socioeconomic backgrounds and social connections.

East Anchorage should remain East Anchorage, please reconsider this draft and ensure fair districting.

Kengo Nagaoka

Turnagain resident, former District 19 resident, and staff at Alaska Literacy Program (located in District 19)



November 5, 2021

John Binkley, Chairman  
Alaska Redistricting Board  
PO Box 240147  
Anchorage, AK 99524

Dear Chairman Binkley:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the six draft map proposals that are before the Board. NANA is a for-profit Alaska Native Corporation with a social responsibility to 15,000 Iñupiaq people from Northwest Alaska, including Buckland and Deering.

As the Board approaches the deadline to adopt a final map, we strongly urge you to adopt a map that keeps our ANCSA boundary intact and keeps our eleven, socio-economically integrated communities together in House District 40.

We believe socio-economic integration is a critical component of the redistricting process, and that true integration will reflect interconnectedness and interaction between the people of that area. There is clear evidence of socio-economic integration within our region. Transportation routes, health and education services, and significant cultural ties are long-standing examples of socio-economic integration in our region.

I would like to emphasize the fact that 100% of testifiers at the October 5 public hearing in Kotzebue all asked for the same consideration – that is to leave our regional boundary intact and keep Buckland and Deering in District 40. I echo the same request as those community leaders you have already heard from.

Additionally, we support the map proposal from the Doyon Coalition. Their map strengthens rural districts to allow a higher percentage of Alaska Native voters, effectively working toward the goal of fair representation. Further, the Doyon Coalition worked collaboratively with groups across the state to get input and adjust proposed districts based on local preference. In both the unified Interior district, the deference to the requests of the Northwest Arctic Borough and Bering Straits, and the "islands" district in Southeastern Alaska, the Doyon Coalition map has endeavored to find a path for Alaska Natives to elect the representative of their choice.

For these reasons, and many more, we support proposals that keep our regional boundaries intact, namely the proposal from the Doyon Coalition. Thank you for your service and leadership, and for the opportunity to share our comments.

Thank you,

John Lincoln  
President/CEO

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**From:** Carrie Nash [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:35 AM  
**To:** Testimony

I am dismayed that Ms. Marcum and Mr. Binkley are derailing the redistricting process by pushing through really indefensible maps and districts in the name of making Calista happy, making EagleExit happy and diluting Fairbanksians voices by including a left-leaning, cohesive district with Tok and Delta Junction.

Please DO NOT APPROVE

- maps that include East Anchorage with Eagle River
- maps that include the bulk of West Fairbanks with Tok and Delta
- maps that give 100% say to Calista Corp. and ignore regional villages and corporations with valid testimony about cohesiveness
- maps that put Valdez into the MatSu Borough

None of the above ideas will work for fair representation. There is no reason to approve solutions that are clearly going to court due to their very clear violation of the standards the Redistricting Board is supposed to follow.

Thank you,  
Carrie Nash, Fairbanks

--  
Carrie Nash  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] cell

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99709



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**From:** Anna Nashoanak <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 9:06 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 1, 2021, 9:05 pm

First Name: **Anna**

Last Name: **Nashoanak**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Stebbins Corperation**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99671**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Concerned of the old map sites**

Public Comment: **Please keep old map sites and knew maps sites colored**



November 2, 2021

Alaska Redistricting Board  
P.O. Box 240147  
Anchorage, AK 99524  
Submitted via Email  
[testimony@akredistrict.org](mailto:testimony@akredistrict.org)

Dear Chairman Binkley and members of the Alaska Redistricting Board,

Native Peoples Action (NPA) would like to thank you for your service to the state in this critical process of redistricting. We write to provide feedback about the Board's process and share few concerns regarding some of the processes the board took during this short time frame to ensure all Alaskans have a fair chance of participating and that certain legal requirements are met.

Native Peoples Action is a statewide Alaska Native non-profit that gives voice to our ancestral imperative to uplift our peoples and protect our ways of life. Our traditional ways of life, our governance structures, and our relationships between each other and the environment have been sustained in Alaska for more than 10,000 years. We strive to incorporate these sustained practices into the way decisions are made, the way our communities are governed, and the way we treat our environment to ensure that we will remain in this place justly and naturally for thousands of years to come. It is this reason, and many others, that we, and all Alaskans, have the ability to connect, understand, and be a part of the decisions that are being made that affect each one of us. This redistricting process will have impacts on our communities for the next ten years, there needs to be assurances that are communities are being listened to, provided ample opportunities for participation and to be a part of this process.

As we have followed this process closely, we have seen causes for concern that we implore to be addressed through the remaining portions of this process and be noted for future redistricting processes.

1. The Board should be providing call-in numbers and opportunities for virtual attendance for every meeting

We are greatly concerned by the lack of actions taken by the Board to create access to public board meetings, including, no call-in number for rural hubs and smaller communities or ability to attend meetings virtually, especially during this Covid pandemic. Since the pandemic many organizations, governments and businesses have successfully made public meetings more accessible through the use of virtual spaces, many have adopted this as the current normal, which is another reason it is disappointing to see the Board not taking these additional steps to increase access to these public meetings.

We must emphasize that everyone who is impacted by this process be given the opportunity to get involved and have access to the Board for testimony, questions and information. By not



publicly streaming meetings and not providing a call-in number, community members who are not in the community the board is visiting, are not given the chance to participate in their regional discussions alongside who they identify with as a whole. While we appreciate the opportunity given to allow Kotzebue and Bethel surrounding communities to call in, the short turnaround didn't allow as many people the chance to participate. As noted in one of the cancellations in Unalaska, communication in rural Alaska can be difficult due to the remoteness, poor cell and internet connectivity, and other things that can occur that aren't commonplace in urban communities.

More care and consideration need be taken into account when setting up meetings and planning ahead for every community to have a call-in number and ability to participate virtually and in person, and set up within a reasonable amount of time for people to plan. Furthermore, additional outreach should be done to communities in advance - during these months of meetings families are gathering food for the coming winter and should not be left out of this process because of the inability to plan on attending or sending in comments without proper notification and information.

Additionally, culturally, many Alaska Native people are more comfortable with oral v written communication - while there were statewide call-ins, the most effective testimony is as a whole community; and given the state's Covid pandemic and increase in the Delta Variant, and many households being multigenerational in rural communities, telephonic options would be a safe option for families. Providing a call-in number for each of the community visits when they were announced would alleviate some of these challenges, and we look forward to seeing the public participation increase in the next round of redistricting.

## 2. Board's lack of consideration for race data and not considering Voting Rights Act prior to map drafting

Other concerns we have prior to public touring of the maps, is the Board's decision in the beginning to not consider race data as a part of socio-economic integration and not considering the Voting Rights Act (VRA) prior to map drafting. Race data is part of socioeconomic integration - especially for certain Alaska Native groups and the vast distinctions - as many other court cases and others have noted in public testimony. The VRA was one tool to ensure race and other protected classes are, in fact, protected and ensure minority voices are not diluted.

Providing a VRA analysis should have been done on the proposed maps and shared with the public to ensure a more transparent and fair redistricting process. Postponing the VRA analysis only precludes Alaskans from reviewing and commenting on the analysis and any VRA-required adjustments, and in turn, hinder the Board's ability to make well-informed decisions.

## 3. Community input is important and should be considered during this process

As the Board continues the redistricting process we encourage you to listen carefully to the testimony that our communities and individuals are providing. We have many distinct cultures and communities who need to be heard and ensure their voices are being honored. As we reviewed the comments from people across the state, important aspects have been highlighted



and specific requests were made from community members to be included with other areas, no longer combined with certain areas, or to not be included with. While there are hundreds of comments to read and listen to and build and piece together the complicated and large puzzle of our state, we ask that you take the comments of the public under serious consideration and give the weight needed.

We hope that we can have a collaborative and respectful process for all Alaskans, and work hard to ensure all Alaskans, no matter of location, can have the same opportunities to participate. We hope that these suggestions and comments can be considered and taken into account for the rest of this process and into future redistricting processes. Alaskans need to know that their voices are heard and do matter through this process.

Again, NPA thanks you for all the work that you have done for our state and we look forward to seeing these public proceedings continue to improve.

Gunalchéesh/Háw'aa/Quyana/Mahsi'/Baasee'/Maasee'/Dogedinh/Thank you,

Kendra Kloster  
Executive Director  
Native Peoples Action

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**From:** Chris Needham <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 11:15 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 1, 2021, 11:15 pm

First Name: **Chris**

Last Name: **Needham**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **redistricting Fritz Creek with Kodiak**

Public Comment: **It is the most asinine plan I think you could have come up with. Keep Fritz Creek with Homer. As someone who owns property and lives in Fritz Creek at 55771 Benjamin Ave and would be personally harmed by the lack of appropriate representation, I protest this decision and agree with Alaskans for Fair Redistricting. Keep Fritz Creek with Homer. PERIOD. This is seriously the dumbest and most unfair thing I have seen in a long time.**

**-Fritz Creek Resident and tax payer**

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**From:** Hayden Nevill [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 3:43 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream district

Hello Redistricting Board Members,

I am a Fairbanks resident writing with concern about where Goldstream will end up with redistricting.

Goldstream is fully a part of the Fairbanks community, especially the University community. It is not part of the Interior rural villages.

Salcha, Eielson and Harding Lake are natural fits with the Interior villages, Tok and Delta Junction. Please group those communities in redistricting.

Please do not separate Goldstream from their community.

Thank you,

Hayden Nevill (*he/him*)

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**From:** Lizzie Newell <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 3:18 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 4, 2021, 3:18 pm

First Name: **Lizzie**

Last Name: **Newell**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Including Valdez with Anchorage**

Public Comment: **I'm in Anchorage, Independence Park, which can be included with either Abbott Loop(plan 3 #11) or Hillside(plan 4 #15). I don't see how Valdez can be included in Anchorage in a manner that maintains socio/economic integration, compactness and continuity. I assume it would be shoehorned into South Anchorage, which would put it in the same districts as Rabbit Creek. Really?? Valdez and Rabbit Creek?**

---

**From:** Elizabeth Newell <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:02 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 1:02 pm

First Name: **Elizabeth**

Last Name: **Newell**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Map 3 improved. District 11 Weird shape. Not socio-economically integrated.**

Public Comment: **District 11 is a weird shape and has part but not all of Abbott Loop, Bayshore/Klatt, Taku/Campbell, and Huffman/O'Malley. 4 different community council areas makes community engagement extremely difficult. There's no time or place that people in this proposed district regularly interact. The communities shop in different places(Dimond, Abbott Loop Town center, Huffman Town center) and go to different schools.**




# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 5, 2021, 4:00 pm

Name: **Gary Newman**  
Your ZIP Code: **99712**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Fairbanks area redistricting**

Public Comment: **Written testimony of what was offered orally on 11/5/21**

**I ask the Board to reconsider factors that led the Board to tentatively approve representation of the 5.2 seats for Fairbanks by moving the northwest section of the FNSB into Rural District 36.**

**The Board appeared to accept that Eielson was an economic engine to the borough, thus was found compelling to meet the socio-economic integration of what was characterized as more rural northwest area of the FNSB composed of what was alluded to as including those who live in dry cabins, implying that is adequately similar to the Interior Athabaskan villages. I find this comparison troubling on several levels.**

**The focus on Eielson being an economic engine fails to recognize the "socio" and "integration" of the constitutional requirement. Eielson is a closed air force base by definition. You can't get into the base without a valid reason to get past the guard gate. They have their schools, their own recreation and social structure, even their own power plant. Those who live on base are not anywhere close to being socially integrated into the FNSB. It was mentioned that, in the past, many military did not even register to vote in Alaska, but that receiving a Permanent Fund Dividend changed that dynamic.**

**By contrast, the equivalent roughly 4,000 people in Goldstream, work, shop, and recreate in Fairbanks. They are and have been here for the long term and engage in our community in many ways. The current Alaska House representative, the past two borough mayors and the past Alaska House representative of many years would be excluded from being represented by someone in the FNSB. These are individuals who have substantially contributed their time for their community and they are not alone. This proposed exclusion of the Goldstream area was driven by the Board's Fairbanks representative, and was given deference by other Board members because of his life-long knowledge of Fairbanks. On appearance, the proposed plan to exclude them appears to be politically targeted and I find that extremely suspect.**

**I want to touch on one of the things that, in my 50 years in Fairbanks, has become rather evident. Alaskans like recreation and we love our trails. The area proposed to be incorporated into District 36 has one of our significant ski areas and many trails, some historic, such as from Murphy Dome to the Elliot Hwy. These areas are used not just by the local residents, but by residents from around the entire borough.**

**In contrast, I would submit that Eielson Air Force Base residents who enjoy recreation like hunting and fishing typically use areas to the south of them along the Richardson and Alaska highways for recreation. They even fly their F-15s and F-35s more over District 36. The Board discussed the idea of a Richardson Hwy district that could include Valdez. I also played with the numbers there, but at a population of around 10,000, it falls short. However, even the Board recognizes the significance of the Richardson corridor. It seems logical that Eielson would fit better into District 36 than the northwest**

**section of the FNSB with the people who are fully socio-economically integrated and engaged in community life in our borough.**

**At the Board's Fairbanks hearing last month, I heard a lot of support for the Board's Version 4. Other than one part of the FNSB Assembly's request by resolution to not overpopulate the borough districts and Doug Isaacson's request to include Eielson, I have heard no mention of others' testimony in the Redistricting Board's deliberation this week. That seems to discard the efforts FNSB residents made to educate the Board on their perspectives.**

**I request that the Board substitute Board Version 4 Best, recognizing that it far better meets the constitutional requirement of socio-economic integration than does the current Board proposal for the FNSB legislative house districts in fulfillment of your constitutional charge.**

**Thank to the Board and to staff for your dedication to this challenging exercise.**

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**From:** Kerry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:18 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** DO NOT separate goldstream from fairbanks

I find it laughable and highly suspicious that there is even the remotest idea to consider redistricting goldstream with Delta Junction and Tok -- How incredibly unethical and inefficient and illogical.

Obviously this does not follow the criteria in drawing districts of staying contiguous and compact. The ridiculous inclusion of goldstream into District 36 ignoring Salcha, Eielson, Harding Lake, North Pole and any other community directly connected to Tok and Delta Junction just makes this process seem a joke and makes the political parties seem desperate or making some sort of power grab.

Please do not consider this ridiculous proposal.

~K

Not all those who wander are lost

K. L. Nicholson PhD

Certified Wildlife Biologist®

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Wendy Noomah**

**Wendy shops in Homer, her children go to school in Homer, and her husband works in Homer. Wendy is against being in a district that is mostly comprised of Kodiak as she feels she has more in common with people in Seward than in Kodiak.**

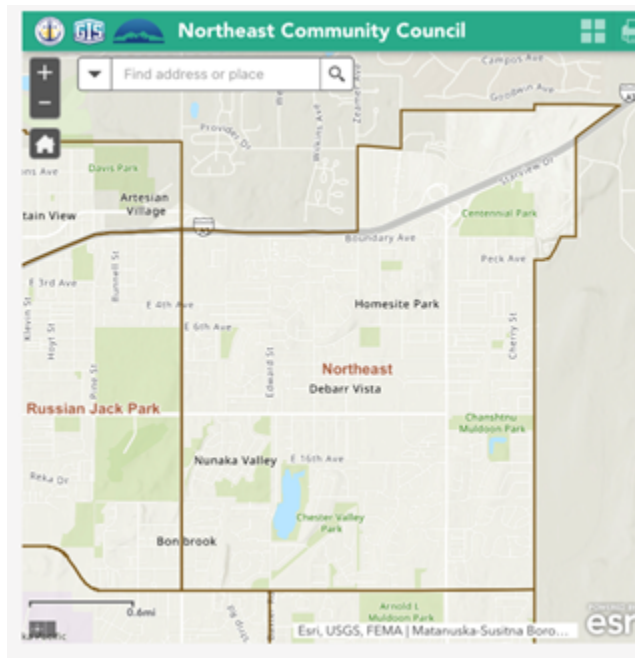
## Resolution 2021-5

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

October 21, 2021

### Statewide Redistricting

**WHEREAS**, the Northeast Community Council (NECC) is the Community Council that is the voice of the people of Northeast Anchorage and includes the following boundaries:



**WHEREAS**, according to Census data, Northeast Anchorage has one of the most ethnically and racially diverse populations in the United States;

**WHEREAS**, Northeast Anchorage is a distinct and socioeconomically integrated area with strong neighborhood identities very different than that of Eagle River and South Anchorage;

**WHEREAS**, Northeast Anchorage is home to many active-duty service members and Veterans who frequent the businesses and services provided along Muldoon Rd and near the Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) Muldoon Rd. gate;

**WHEREAS**, in the past, portions of Northeast Anchorage have been included within districts including Eagle River and/or South Anchorage that are not socioeconomically similar and have very different legislative interests;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the NECC respectfully asks the Alaska Redistricting Board to

1. Protect our neighborhoods and maintain our neighborhood ties by including the entire NECC boundaries within one Senate District;
2. Include the portion of JBER that uses the Muldoon Rd. gate and includes Tikahtnu Commons and Bartlett High School within our District.

Votes for: 12    Votes Against: 3    Abstain: 4

**Motion Passes** /    Motion Does Not Pass

President: *J Bak*

Secretary: *Rachel Bonner*

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**From:** Laurinda Obrien <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 10:28 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 1, 2021, 10:28 pm

First Name: **Laurinda**

Last Name: **Obrien**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99559**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **I would like district's to be defined as currently understood by residents.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 4, 2021, 3:07 pm

Name: **Patrick O'Connor**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99801**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Continuity of Juneau Communities (Board v. 3, AFFER)**

Public Comment: **To the Alaska Redistricting Board,**

**I want to start by saying thank you for the time and effort you have put into this process. I write to you about my concerns with the proposed Board v. 3 and AFFER maps. The way these maps split neighborhoods does not reflect the compactness or distribution of services among these communities.**

**The Board v. 3 map splits Downtown Juneau, Salmon Creek/Twin Lakes, Lemon Creek, the portion of the Mendenhall Valley along Glacier Highway, and the half of Auke Bay on the north side away from the majority of the Valley, the south side of Auke Bay, and Out the Road. People living in Downtown are more likely to head to Costco in Lemon Creek or Bartlett Hospital in Salmon Creek, and vice versa. People living in Auke Bay and Out the Road will be traveling towards the Valley for services like groceries, hospitals, and schools. Someone living Out the Road and going to Thunder Mountain High School in the Valley, for example, would start in their legislative district, pass through another on Glacier Highway, and return to their home district once they arrive at school. The districts in this map separate the University of Alaska - Southeast campus in half. It also splits down the middle of Mendenhall Valley Road heading toward Auke Bay, separating those neighbors in representation despite their clear communal interests.**

**The AFFER map splits Downtown Juneau, Lemon Creek, the portion of the Mendenhall Valley along Glacier Highway, and Auke Bay away from the majority of the Valley and Out the Road. Again, Auke Bay and Out the Road will be traveling towards the Valley for major services like groceries, medical care, and schools. If a Representative for that district were to reside in the Valley and went to hold a town hall in Haines, they would have to pass through the other district to get to the airport at the base of the Valley (closer than Downtown) before returning to their own district in Haines.**

**I am asking that within Juneau, you split these two districts somewhere near Fred Meyer and the airport along Egan Drive/Glacier Highway. Such a division would combine clear communities of interest together, i.e. Downtown Juneau/Douglas/Thane/Lemon Creek/Salmon Creek in one district and the Mendenhall Valley/Auke Bay/Out the Road in the other. It is vital the districts properly represent the communities of their constituents. This is especially so in Southeast Alaska, where the segmented nature of area available for development has created sharp delineations between neighborhoods.**

**Once again, thank you for the thoroughness you have put into this process. I appreciate your consideration.**



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**From:** Sandy O'Connor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 2:12 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Leave the Goldstream Valley Voters with the UAF Community

November 5, 2021

I have lived in the Goldstream Valley, Murphy Dome area since 1982. I am a part of the community living around the university and it's nearby areas. We are made up of a wide variety of social, educational and economic peoples. Yet, we share many common beliefs and goals for our large geographical area.

We DO NOT belong assigned to a voting block in far away Tok and Delta. Leave us alone and add citizens closer to that area geographically.

Thank you,  
Sandra O'Connor  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Susan Tilly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:18 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Public testimony regarding proposed redistricting

Hello,

I was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska.

I moved to the Goldstream Valley as a young woman in 1975.

I came to this area because of its connection to the University of Alaska, the larger residential lots, the wonderful recreation trails and the easy going...free thinking people of the area.

I have remained here because the people residing in the area are generally environmentally conscious, liberal and respectful of their fellow residents beliefs and life choices.

Living in an area of like-minded people creates a cohesive community in which people survive, thrive and care for one another.

I am extremely concerned with the proposal to include my voting area with folks from Tok, Delta and the Richardson Highway!

The people living in that far distant area live a very different lifestyle and often have acutely different opinions and voting response than I have, or people in my area have.

The proposed combination would mean the area that I reside in would be very often, unfairly overruled.

We would be forced to follow rules and ideas that do not fit into our needs or lifestyle.

I propose that the Goldstream district remain combined with the University area... as it has been for years.

Combining Tok, Delta and the Richardson Highway with other interior, rural villages makes far better sense and will result in better served citizens in each district.


Respectfully  
Susan O'Connor

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Wayne Ogle**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Public Comment: **Wayne Ogle, Nikiski resident, noted that when he first saw the maps that were released, he was somewhat gratified to see Board Maps v.3 and v.4 that both keep the Kenai Peninsula into a socio-economic grouping that makes sense. Mary Jackson's analysis of the service areas is often forgotten, and Nikiski has 3 service areas. Wayne encouraged the board to consider Mary Jackson's analysis.**

**Overall, Wayne is in favor of Board Maps v.3 and v.4.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: **Mindy O'Neill**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly**

**Mindy is the Presiding Officer of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly which recently approved Resolution 21-36 on October 28, 2021. The Assembly specifically strays away from making comments pertaining to one specific map, but there are general concerns. The largest concern the assembly has is the general underrepresentation of the districts that are overpopulated. This lessens the voice of the borough residents and underrepresents them in the state. According to the census, Fairbanks has a right to 5 and a little less than 1/4 representation. The assembly encourages the board to put the excess population into 1 district rather than spreading it out and overpopulating the interior district. Equal deviations are proven to be possible with some adopted maps and the assembly encourages the board to review those plans and methodology for the best representation across the state, including the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB). Due to the urban nature of FNSB, it is unnecessary to divide the area in such a way that residents must cross multiple districts to get to another. The assembly requests maps with these types of plans to be revised. Finally, existing communities and interest should be represented and based on city boundaries, geographic proximity, and interconnected neighborhoods that share common interests and values. The assembly encourages the board to do a comprehensive review of any plan before it is finalized to ensure established neighborhoods are not unnecessarily divided in ways that places residents and districts away from common interest neighbors. In summary, the assembly supports a plan that maximizes representation of the borough citizens by grouping the excess population as a whole into one district rather than overpopulating 5 districts and further request compact and contiguous districts. A copy of the approved resolution will be sent to the board for the record.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: **Savannah Paladino**

**Savannah lives in the Fritz Creek area and spoke in opposition of redistricting East End Road and the Fox Valley area. Her child attends school in Homer, Savannah works in Homer, and she believes her vote should stay in Homer.**

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**From:** Erin Parcher-Wartes [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:21 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream Valley

In an essay about her hometown my daughter recently wrote for her sophomore writing course she said, “The valley begins a few miles north of the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF), a top university for Earth and Space sciences. This proximity means that Goldstream is the highest educated town in Alaska per capita; nearly all of your neighbors will be affiliated with UAF somehow, either student, staff, or alumni.”

At the age of 16, my daughter recognizes the connection that Goldstream has to the university and it’s surrounding region. Our community has little in common with Tok or Delta, nor with any remote villages. Goldstream, while having a uniquely independent spirit, is closely tied to the university and communities in the near west of Fairbanks.

Please reconsider the proposal to include Fairbanks in the voting districts associated with distant communities to the east and north, instead keep Goldstream where it belongs, with the western edge of the city of Fairbanks.

Many thanks for your time and consideration,

Erin Parcher Wartes

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
[REDACTED]

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Sent from my tricorder.

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Queen Parker**

**Queen Parker agrees with Mary Jackson's proposed map as described in her testimony because the service areas should stay together.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Queen Parker**

**Queen spoke in favor of keeping Nikiski with the Kenai Peninsula Borough to remain compact and contiguous with the borough.**



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**From:** Abigail Paul <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:29 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream Should Stay in Univ, North and West

Good Morning,

Goldstream should be included in the same district as the University, north and west instead of in a district with Tok, Delta and the Richardson Hwy. Socioeconomically, Goldstream is integrated with the University community. I am asking the board to please use Salcha, Eielson and Harding Lake to populate a district with Tok. This a matter of extreme importance to the Goldstream community.

Thank you for your consideration,


Abigail Paul  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Dave Peck**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Public Comment: **Dave, Kenai resident, spoke in favor of Board Maps v.3 and v.4 as keeping the communities intact is preferable.**

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**From:** Mary Sattler Peltola [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:34 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Board Version 4 is best for Bethel House District

Good morning.

Board Version 4 is best for socio economic integrity over the Binkley proposal on Tuesday. The Bethel and Nome areas are much more economically and socially integrated than either Bethel or Nome is with the interior region.

To exclude the villages surrounding Bethel from the Bethel district is ridiculous. People commute to work from our nearby villages and are fully integrated into the Bethel economy and get all services from Bethel, including the Legislative Information Office. Expecting Kwethluk to be in Nome is silly.

Having one hour to respond to brand new maps is also a very poor public process, as is expecting all people to have enough internet data to follow your process on your website.

Please don't put Bethel or Nome into an interior district.

Mary Peltola  
Former State House member, 1999-2009, District 38

Mary Sattler Peltola  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Genevieve Johnson Perreault <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:43 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Fairbanks Map/Goldstream

I am very disappointed and concerned that the board is attempting to lump Goldstream in with Tok and more rural areas of the Interior. We are a neighborhood of Fairbanks. My friends and neighbors commute to Fairbanks and to UAF, not to Tok. The vast majority of Goldstream residents' lives and livelihoods are Fairbanks-based, and except for the residents of Goldstream on the Fox end, we are \*west\* Fairbanks-based, and our district should represent this. To claim otherwise is craven absurdity.

Genevieve Perreault  
Spinach Creek Road  
FAIRBANKS

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**From:** Karen Perry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 3:57 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Map input

**Importance:** High

Redistricting Board,

**Please support Map #73975** (<https://districtr.org/plan/73975>)

- Map# 73975 has smaller population deviations between each district than the AFFER Plan

**Compactness** (size and shape):

- Map# 73975 honors city limits boundaries and does not have districts with crazy shapes!

**Contiguous** (are the boundaries continuous on land especially)

- Unlike the AFFER Plan, Map# 73975 doesn't gerrymander the districts by grabbing Nikiski on the Kenai Peninsula and putting it into a district with Huffman Rd. in South Anchorage...how does that even make sense?

**Socio-economic Integration** (are similar communities placed within the same districts):

- Unlike the AFFER Plan, Map # 73975 continues to include the City of Valdez with the Mat-Su because Valdez is a developed community with a substantial tax base on the road system near the Mat-Su. The closest Wal-Mart to Valdez is in the Mat-Su. It should **not** be paired with other communities that are not on the road system, like it is in the AFFER Plan.

The Denali Borough should **not** be included in a Mat-Su district.

Fairbanks is the closest large city from any location within the Denali Borough. The closest Costco to the Denali Borough is in Fairbanks. The closest Wal-Mart is in Fairbanks.

The Denali Borough is more connected to Fairbanks than it is to either Palmer or Wasilla.

**Natural landmarks** (rivers, roads, mountains, etc.)

- Map #73975 divides the Mat-Su between Palmer and Wasilla and between the Wasilla City limits on the south and Seldon Road on the north. Seldon is a current boundary and a long and straight road that is well known in the community.

I do NOT support the AFFER plan!! Thank you for your time on this issue,  
Karen M Perry  
Chugiak AK

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**From:** Rod Perry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 5:51 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Dear Redistricting Board:

I strongly ask you to **support Map # 73975** as the fairest, most honest and sensible redistricting plan that adheres most closely to written redistricting directions.

Patrick Henry's famous, "Sit, I do not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it" expresses the spirit we need all political processes and politicians to be true to. Instead, so sadly and to our state and nation's detriment, devious, underhanded, special interest workings often dominate.

I will not belabor repeating the parameters under headings of Compactness, Contiguous, Socio-economic Integration, and Natural Landmark, but other plans that various groups have tendered to you shout out blatant hostility with the obvious intent of destroying their opposition by making a sham of these parameters.

Hopefully, as a neutral arbiter, you do not let down your public and disgrace your office by countenancing boundaries so plainly crafted to disenfranchise one or another class of voters.

Relying on your nonpartisanship,  
Rod Perry  
Chugiak

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: Linda Pete

Affiliation: Ahtna, Inc. and Gakona Tribe

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Linda Pete resides in Copper Center, but was born and raised in Gakona. Linda spoke in support of the Doyon Coalition map as it is important to keep the villages together as they are socio-economically integrated. They share all the customary and traditional values, are related to the Cantwell residents, share the same values, and speak the same language. It is not right to split them up into different districts. It is important to stick together as "one people". The other maps does not include Cantwell in their district; Linda does not support these maps. Linda encourages the board the consider the Doyon Coalition map. Linda would like to be included in the Fairbanks population as there are social ties as well as ties to the Upper Tenana region where there are relatives and the same customs and values.

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH  
RESOLUTION #2021-14**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PETERSBURG BOROUGH IN SUPPORT OF  
REDISTRICTING MAP DESIGNATED "SENATE MINORITY PROPOSED  
SOUTHEAST"**

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Constitution calls for the legislature to be comprised of twenty senate members and forty house members from districts drawn based on the decennial census, conforming to the "one person – one vote" standard; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 census is now complete and the legislative districts will be drawn by the Alaska Redistricting Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alaska Constitution imposes a number of requirements on redistricting plans for both the house and senate seats; and

**WHEREAS**, one of those requirements is that Districts should contain a relatively integrated socioeconomic area; and

**WHEREAS**, the socio-economic interests of the Petersburg Borough include small vessel fishing, tourism, health care and education as substantial components of the local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, Petersburg shares a number of these socio-economic interests with Wrangell, Sitka and a number of smaller communities on Prince of Wales Island; and

**WHEREAS**, the much larger cities of Juneau and Ketchikan are not communities with common socio-economic interests with the Petersburg Borough; and

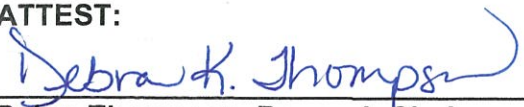
**WHEREAS**, only one current proposal maintains Petersburg Borough boundaries, while also including the entirety of Kupreanof Island, as well as the Stikine River delta, both areas of cultural, economic, and ecological significance to our borough.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Assembly of the Petersburg Borough, as follows: Of the six proposed Redistricting Maps put forth by the Alaska Redistricting Board, the Petersburg Assembly supports the Map titled "Senate Minority Proposed Southeast".

**PASSED AND APPROVED BY** the Petersburg Borough Assembly on this 1st day of November 2021.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeigh Stanton Gregor, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Thompson, Borough Clerk



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**From:** Ryan Petersen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 12:21 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on Proposed Map

I am submitting testimony in opposition to Bethany's current proposed map. This map blatantly disregards hours of public testimony, and frankly makes no sense. I voice support of Nicole's map.

Regards,

Ryan Petersen

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**From:** Patricia Phillips <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 6:55 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 1, 2021, 6:54 pm

First Name: **Patricia**

Last Name: **Phillips**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99832**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Rural vote**

Public Comment: **The Doyon Coalition proposed Southeast is a good proposal, it maintains the strength of the indigenous vote for predominantly Alaska Native communities.**

**The Senate Minority proposal dilutes the remote rural voice by combining these communities with predominantly non-rural communities, the interests of the rural vote will almost always be out voted by non-rural interests.**

**Board proposed v.4 attempts to maintain a rural vote along the outer southeast communities, many of which have historically indigenous populations.**

**Petersburg & Wrangell have common interests and economies, and should be aggregated together.**

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**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of Idamarie Piccard [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 8:07 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** A preferred redistricting model

The fairest, least partisan redistricting model is the one provided by the group:  
Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR)  
Idamarie Piccard  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage 99508  
Thank you

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: **John Pitcher**

**John Pitcher lives at 40168 Alpenglow Circle, 6 miles down East End Road. He lives at the boundary of the district. It would make no sense for District 31 to be included with Kodiak as there are no connections. His wife works in Homer and he does as well, part-time, and there is no connection whatsoever with**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 2, 2021, 9:06 pm

Name: **Brian Plummer**  
Your ZIP Code: **99645**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Gerrymandering**

Public Comment: **Redistricting Board,**

**Please support Map #73975 (<https://districtr.org/plan/73975>)**

â€¢ **Map# 73975 has smaller population deviations between each district than the AFFER Plan**

**Compactness (size and shape):**

â€¢ **Map# 73975 honors city limits boundaries and does not have districts with crazy shapes!**

**Contiguous (are the boundaries continuous on land especially)**

â€¢ **Unlike the AFFER Plan, Map# 73975 doesn't gerrymander the districts by grabbing Nikiski on the Kenai Peninsula and putting it into a district with Huffman Rd. in South Anchorage! how does that even make sense?**

**Socio-economic Integration (are similar communities placed within the same districts):**

â€¢ **Unlike the AFFER Plan, Map # 73975 continues to include the City of Valdez with the Mat-Su because Valdez is a developed community with a substantial tax base on the road system near the Mat-Su. The closest Wal-Mart to Valdez is in the Mat-Su. It should not be paired with other communities that are not on the road system, like it is in the AFFER Plan.**

**The Denali Borough should not be included in a Mat-Su district.**

**Fairbanks is the closest large city from any location within the Denali Borough. The closest Costco to the Denali Borough is in Fairbanks. The closest Wal-Mart is in Fairbanks.**

**The Denali Borough is more connected to Fairbanks than it is to either Palmer or Wasilla.**

**Natural landmarks (rivers, roads, mountains, etc.)**

â€¢ **Map #73975 divides the Mat-Su between Palmer and Wasilla and between the Wasilla City limits on the south and Seldon Road on the north. Seldon is a current boundary and a long and straight road that is well known in the community.**

**I do NOT support the AFFER plan!!**

**Thank you for your time on this issue,**

**Brian Plummer**  
**Wasilla AK**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: **Andrew Pollack**

**Andrew lives out East End Road and spoke in opposition of redistricting Fritz Creek, East End Road communities, Fox River, and Kachemak city. Even though these communities are technically not a part of Homer, the residents shop there, use their boat harbors, the airport, etc. Redistricting these communities to Kodiak is a bad decision as the community would lose representation.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: **Meghan Pollack**

**Meghan spoke in opposition of Fritz Creek being redistricted with Kodiak as there are many East End Road residents who frequent Homer for work and recreation.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: **Leedia Polushkin**

**Leedia is an East End Road resident whose children attend school in Homer. Additionally, her PO box is in Homer and she shops in Homer. Leedia spoke in opposition of redistricting the East End community to Homer.**



**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Skagway 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Charity Pomerai**

**Cherry echoed the testimonies of all previous testifiers about retaining connections to Downtown Juneau as this is the center that mirrors what the residents are in Skagway.**

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**From:** Dahsuri Popoalii <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 6:59 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Public testimony

Dear Alaska Redistricting Board Members,

Talofa lava! My name is Dahsuri Togi I am a part of the Pacific Islander community (Samoan). I live in Spenard on Oregon and Spenard street. I shop frequently at the Carrs on Northern Lights and Minnesota. I utilize the post office across from Carrs or the one by the airport. I am NOT in the same neighborhood as someone east of the Seward Highway or anyone living on Lake Otis. We shop in different areas and are completely separate and different. It is unreasonable to have our district stretch so far from east to west. I feel more connected and in community with other residents in Spenard and areas north of Northern Lights, including Fireweed. Spenard should not be split into 2 as proposed on Board V3. It does not make any sense and this is my community I connect with. Please do not include communities east of the Seward Highway. Please include communities north of Northern Lights so that those on Fireweed and along the Spenard thru-way are included. The lakeside neighborhoods around Lake Hood, Jewel Lake, Delong Lake, Sand Lake should be within one district.

I would like a map that reflects the diversity of Anchorage's neighborhoods. The Municipality of Anchorage's minority population is now 43.5%. In the Anchorage Bowl there are 16 contiguous majority-minority census tracts with 66,594 total population, including the most diverse neighborhoods in the country. The maximum number of districts should be drawn to allow these diverse neighborhoods to elect their preferred candidate.

Fa'afetai tele lava,  
Dahsuri Togi

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Wasilla 10/26/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: Carolyn Porter

Email or Phone Contact [REDACTED]

Carolyn Porter lives between Palmer and Wasilla. Carolyn expressed concerns about "sweeping changes" that are unnecessary and believes that it is in the best interests of representatives and constituents to make as few changes as possible.

Carolyn noted that lifestyles differ between Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley, Talkeetna, Fairbanks, Juneau, Kenai, etc. Mixing up different areas can make the jobs for senators and representatives more difficult as they try to address the needs of people who are in different socio-economic settings as others.

Carolyn lives in District 12 where they know their representative and vice versa. They live close, recreate together, dine out together, etc. They are not all the same, but they have a good working relationship. Carolyn would like to see this not tampered with.

Carolyn supports having 6 representatives and 3 senators.

Some maps have pulled in communities that are widely separated socially and economically. The AFFER map is most preferable over the other proposed maps.

Overall, as considerations are being made on redistricting, Carolyn would like the changes to be small.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Skagway 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Deborah Potter**

Affiliation: **Skagway Assembly**

**Deborah Potter echoed Mayor Cremata's statements. In 2020, Skagway did not have any cruise ships which resulted in a 95% loss of the economy; this is what ties them to the Downtown Juneau district and separates them from Auke Bay and Mendenhall Valley. It is important to be in the same district as Downtown Juneau.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 31, 2021, 11:50 pm

Name: **Glenn Prax**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **Drawing election district boundaries that are contiguous and compact, socio-economically integrated, are equally populated, and have reasonably rational boundaries is indeed a tricky task, so I appreciate the redistricting board's work whatever the outcome.**

**I reside within the Fairbanks North Star Borough, so I am primarily concerned about the board's proposals as they apply to the borough. Of those, board proposal v.4 gets high marks for compactness, but it fails the test of socio-economic integration because it assigns residents living in the Eielson and Salcha areas to a district that is outside of that is primarily outside of the borough's boundaries.**

**The residents of the Eielson and Salcha area are socio-economically connected to residents living in the North Pole / Badger Road area. They tend to share a preference for a more 'self-reliant' lifestyle that is common to the eastern part of the borough as opposed to residents living toward the west side of the borough who tend to live a more urban lifestyle with a higher preference for government provided services. On the other hand, they do live within an organized borough but would be paired with Alaskans who primarily do not live within organized boroughs. This works to the disadvantage of the remaining residents of the east side of the FNSB and those living in the unorganized area of Alaska as well as the residents of the Eielson / Salcha area.**

**Establishing district boundaries so the residents of the Eielson / Salcha are included as part of the FNSB as proposed by redistricting board proposal v.3 would result a more balanced solution for all borough residents and residents of the unorganized district as well as providing more effective representation for the Eielson / Salcha area - even though these borough districts would be 'overpopulated' compared to other districts.**

**Therefore, I encourage the board to adopt a redistricting plan that is closer to board proposal v.3 than v.4.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Glenn M. Prax**

[REDACTED]

**North Pole, 99705**

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**From:** Joe Prax <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 4:56 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 4:56 pm

First Name: **Joe**

Last Name: **Prax**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99686**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Valdez**

Public Comment: **Hello**

**I would like to strongly urge Valdez be included in a district that would follow the Richardson highway corridor. Valdez is connected with these communities through the oil industry, tourism and school activities. Although we are on the water we have little connection to South East, Kodiak, the Kenai Peninsula or even Cordova although all are nice places. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: Diane Preston

Diane stated that the AFFR and AFFER maps were difficult to navigate on the website. She believes the AFFR map is the best plan from what she can see in the Fairbanks area. Where she lives is part of a contiguous neighborhood that is not broken up by the roads she lives on. Diane spoke in opposition of the AFFER map which pairs her with Chena Hot Springs Road and puts her in a different district than her neighbors across the road. Board Map v.3 divides her and her neighbors, placing her with Fox and her neighbors in North Pole. The Senate Minority Caucus map also puts her neighbors across the street with North Pole with no community connection. Board Map v.4 at least has her in a contiguous district with her neighbors; she appreciates this. The Doyon Coalition map places her with her neighbors, but breaks up the Chena Hot Springs community. The AFFR map looks the best overall for Fairbanks.

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**From:** Jim Preston [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:05 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Support Senate Minority proposal for Southeast Alaska

I have been a resident of Alaska, off and on, since before Statehood in the early 1950s. I have been a continuous resident since 1978, and a Juneau resident since 1984. My entire 37 years in Juneau I have been registered in the Mendenhall Valley district for Alaska House representation. For the past twenty or so years I have resided in the Auke Bay Area.

It is abundantly clear that the two Board Proposals, 3 & 4, gerrymander the Juneau districts, regardless of intention. It is bad enough to split Auke Bay out of the Valley District, but the notched neighborhood that includes Ms Story's house being removed is the icing on the cake of gerrymandering. These 2 proposals, and the other similar ones, should be rejected immediately.

The Senate Minority proposal best represents the historic division of the four Southeast districts for the past several decades. This proposal also has the best population consistency as well. I strongly urge the Redistricting Board to adopt this proposal for Southeast.

Thank you for your service, and for your consideration.

Jim Preston  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad



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**From:** Leila Pyle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:14 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony about redistricting re: Fairbanks area

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of the Fairbanks North Star Borough writing to submit testimony about the proposed redistricting maps for Alaska. Please count this as official testimony in the current redistricting process. I'm not sure if I have to prove that I'm an AK resident to testify, but you can look up my name and the address I'm a resident at if you need to - Leila Pyle, [REDACTED] Fairbanks, AK 99709.

In response to the map of the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) area, the Goldstream neighborhood on the northern side of the FNSB should absolutely not be included with a large swath of rural Alaska. As a resident of the Fairbanks area, the community of Goldstream is definitely a part of the Fairbanks community, with shared interests and concerns, and should be included in a compact and contiguous district with other parts of Fairbanks. Geographically, it would make sense to include it with the area that encompasses the Farmers Loop area of Fairbanks and/or the western part of the borough that extends to neighborhoods like Ester and the Rosie Creek area. These areas are geographically close and similar to Goldstream. Likewise, it would be doing a disservice to the rural communities in the other part of that area that they would probably end up being represented by a resident of the Fairbanks area - by Alaska standards the whole of the FNSB is a much more urban area and residents of the FNSB would probably not be the best people to represent rural communities in the northern and western Interior. The communities are very distinct.

So, my testimony is that I do not support the map that puts Goldstream with rural communities to the northwest. Instead, if it's not possible to combine Goldstream with its immediate geographically contiguous areas as I suggest above, I would suggest spreading the district with Goldstream in it out to the southeast rather than the northwest. More rural communities to the southeast of Fairbanks (including those included in the FNSB) have much more in common than those to the northwest. Many share the road system with Fairbanks and are part of the broader area in which Fairbanks is a hub community. I believe this is represented in board map version 4.

I know that other residents of the FNSB will be testifying similarly. Please take our perspective into account and redraw a different map that more accurately gives our community, as well as the communities of the surrounding rural Interior, the representation that we each deserve.

Thank you,  
Leila Pyle

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~~~~~<>~~~~~<>~~~~~<>~~~~~<>~~~~~

Leila Pyle  
[REDACTED]

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**From:** Alyssa Quintyne [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 3:09 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** AQ Interior Testimony

Hi good afternoon,

My name is Alyssa Quintyne from Fairbanks. I just testified today, and my apologies, I thought I had sent my written testimony in last week but had the wrong email. So I'll just surmise both here.

First, I just want to let you know that I had to wait 4 hours to testify, and I've never has that happen to me in all of my years being a constituent or organizer. I'm lucky because I can work from home, I kinda get paid to do things like this, and the only major lives I'm responsible for are my various aloe plants. The way for us to engage needs to be a little bit more structured, intentional, and transparent if the board is going to hold opportunities for public testimony before the 10th. Designated times and time limits should've already been established so local organizers could've shared that information with our communities, and folks could plan their testimonies ahead of time. I recognize that this is a very time consuming and fluctuating task, however, that comes with the job - making sure the public can engage fully without being rushed or confused.

As I've mentioned, I'm a community organizer and creative here in the Interior, and my job is to work and understand all the communities here in the Interior, how we work, play, vote, and thrive together. I have live in Fairbanks for 21 year. My parents and I were stationed hereto Ft. Wainwright in 2001, and I've lived here ever since. I've live on base, in Aurora for the majority of my time here, and recently moved to my own place here on Ookpik Way off of Farmers Loop. As an organizer, my expertise is community and our intersections. I strive to make sure any work, campaign, initiative, or project I am working on or bringing to my communities are inclusive, equitable, transparent, and intersectional. Part of that is understanding the numbers game of population, boundaries, and different area statistics yes, but I argue that more importantly - the most important thing is understanding the context and impact of those numbers, and how our decisions play a part in changing the impact drastically. That's really what I want to stress here.

Being a Bajan-American woman of color, I have never trusted the redistricting process. Everything in Alaska's history specifically, with blackboxing and redlining, has taught me that our elected leaders would rather condense Black, Brown, and Indigenous, LGBTQ, Disable, and Migrant voters into the smallest districts then actually hear us and let us have a seat at the table. As I've grown older and more aware of how imperative redistricting is, I saw laying down my mistrust as an opportunity to make sure my friends and my mother, who doesn't trust this process either, are aware and knowledgeable. I wanted to give them a shot to consult the board on how we can best represent ourselves.

Interior Alaskans know our communities best. We may not have official neighborhood boundaries or community councils like other cities in the state do. And that can be a challenge. What we do have is strong connection and communal knowledge. We know where Aurora ends and Totem begins. We know why our towns move with the Chena and Tanana, and why the name Nuchalawoyya touches our spirit (it's the Dene word for where the Chena and Tanana meet). We not only built our town around that, but our cultures, roads, schools, and our visions around that. Our little pockets of West, East, and South parts of town all center around our schools and bodies of water. We all wanted to be connected to what will educate, move, and feed us. Chena Pump, Ester, Goldstream, UAF, and Farmers Loop, for example, all work and vote and play together for a reason. 29th on South Cushman, Lacey and Clay street Downtown, and the whole Aurora neighborhoods being our towns more racially and economical diverse districts are that way for a reason. That's what West Valley is literally down the hill from UAF. That's why there's 2 bus lines, the red and blue, that run from UAF, to Farmer's Loop, to College, and half of Airport to Freds West. That's why Ft. Wainwright branched out to host another family housing spot near Anne Wien in the early 2000s to

let families live on the west side, as well as the east. And that's why they're in the same district. Same thing with part of College, Downtown, and South Cushman. Same thing with the business side of east Fairbanks, South Van Horn, and Ft. Wainwright. Same thing with North Pole and Eielson and Salcha. Same thing with Delta and Fort Greely. You get my point- You can live in Fairbanks your whole life and not have that context. It takes being immersed in our communities to really comprehend why. We're pocketed not by party, but by our values and the issues we face in the Interior, how we are not only impacted by the many crises of climate, healthcare, housing, and transportation; but also how we handled those crises And so far, our districting process and our elected leaders have respected that.

Why it's so imperative to me to continue to respect that is the way in which we vote. We know that voter access to transportation and information is deeply inaccessible in the Interior. And we know that how we fix that is by voting together. When our future reps and sens represent us and our values and visions, we are more likely to vote. When we see our friends and close ones engaged and talking about the elections, we are more likely to vote. When our polling places and constituent meetings are held in central locations and community space that make sense to those district, we are more likely to engage. When we are part of a district with relevant, transparent, common sense boundaries, we are more likely to engage. That's why I have stressed in my two testimonies so far that keeping communities together is more important than deviations or what the FNSB says in a resolution. I understand that the Board has \*many\* constitutional and municipal obligations that I don't know of and don't understand. I understand that Fairbanks is growing exponentially and we have to make tough decision on how we are to be included. I really do hold space for that. But too often, those decisions are made ignoring and sacrificing the people most impacted. Too often, census numbers and statistics and resolutions are taken higher than the knowledge and voice of the people who these things center and impact. These maps and this process \*have\* to make sense to the people. It has to center us and it has to view us as the experts. Otherwise you detrimentally impede us from fully and enthusiastically engaging and being represented.

In the current Interior map, I will strongly argue again, removing Goldstream from the west side into Rural Interior makes no sense. Ask yourselves - exactly what does Goldstream have in common with Minto? Do Goldstream folks have to deal with racial profiling from Troopers around fishing season because of implicit bias against Native people? Do Goldstream folks have to provide their own snow shoveling to bush fire services? Do they only have one road thru their community to access necessary resources? Do they have to drive for hours to get to a major medical appointment? Do Tok residents like in the FNSB? Can YKF folks drive 10-15 mins max to get to Freds? Does rural Alaska have easier access to bulk water, oil, food, and emergency services? Do they have a central fire and ambulance service, or do they rely on the state for that? Or do they have to provide most of that themselves because most of them live in an un-organized borough?

When you deviate Eielson and Salcha and put them with Fox and Steele Creek - an Airforce community and a bush town, with two affluent smaller communities filled with people that just wanna live in the woods and not be bothered by anyone - communities where the pollution from the coal refineries travel and sit, causing our military personnel and families to develop sudden lung an heart conditions and severe allergies to the point where they request to be stationed elsewhere (I know that because I am from one of those families who now has a chronic heart condition from air pollution), versus communities where the pollution mostly rolls over - two areas that are more than 2 hours away from each other - How then will a representative properly advocate from their district? Who's burdens will have to be sacrificed for the others benefit? How is that then fair to either community to speak and work with their elected leaders?

It's not! All of that matters in re-districting because that's what you impact. That's how we make decision to fix and improve public services, that's how we get funds to support our communal and municipal work. That's how we take care of each other. The current changes to Goldstream, North Pole, Eielson, and Salcha are not transparent, compact, balanced, equitable, or fair. When I see maps like that, it feels like members of this Board have ulterior motives by splitting up well known moderate and progressive districts in to conservative districts, and diminishing our POC and other communities votes into the smallest districts. That doesn't make me trust this process or who was appointed to represent us. And I know, and will continue to hold steady that is not the intention of this Board. But that is the impact, that's how it comes across to us. And that makes a lot of us, especially us young folks of color, not want to engage - because what's the point? Y'all are just going to put us where you see fit, and not by how

we actually live. That's not the interpretation that I want my communities to leave with once this process is over.

I sincerely hope and ask that you all reconsider and vote to add the proposed AFFR map of the Interior into the current Board version you are working on. The Interior has spoken already, loud and clear. That map is the best representation of the Fairbanks I currently, and future-ly, will work and live in. That is the map I want to show people that I know will make sense when it is time for us to learn our new district boundaries. That is the map that will ensure Black and Brown and Indigenous, LGBTQ, and Migrant voices are equally represented like everyone else. That is the map that makes me trust this process a little bit more.

With all of this, I thank the Board for your efforts - and my offer still stands. Happy to host and drive y'all around the Interior so you see first hand how intricate and nuance our quaint little pocket communities are to us and our futures ahead.

Thank you,

~ Alyssa

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: **Shelley Rainwater**

**Shelley Rainwater is an East End Road resident who shops and works in Homer, and as such, opposes this community being grouped with Kodiak.**

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**From:** Debbie Rathbun <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 6:45 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 6:45 pm

First Name: **Debbie**

Last Name: **Rathbun**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99701**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Fair representation for each district - AFFER is best plan**

Public Comment: **The two best proposals are AFFER and #4. The AFFER proposal has the closest deviations for each district making it the most fair plan for the most people.**

**Growing up in rural villages a professor from UAF told my parents the trend was for village people to move to urban areas for work. This trend continues today as observed with several rural schools closing when their school population is less than 10 students. This allows the villages to have better representation than the more crowded Fairbanks districts. These folks are represented both in the urban area they work in along with the rural areas they fish & hunt in during the summer months.**

**To be more compact the Ester area should be combined with the huge area north of them. Cordova should be combined with SouthEast to be contiguous with neighbors.**

**Thank you!**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **John Rathbun**

**John spoke in favor of keeping the communities of Salcha, Eielson , and Wainwright together; this is best served in Board Map v.3 and thus, he supports Board Map v.3.**

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**From:** John Rathbun <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 6:01 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 6:01 pm

First Name: **John**

Last Name: **Rathbun**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99701**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Please choose choice AFFER or #4 not Doyon or AFFR**

Public Comment: **I support redistrict AFFER or #4. This represents fair distribution of population. It keeps cohesive units together. Include the community of Esther with the district spanning the middle of the state together with interior villages thus grouping like political perspectives. (Villages are losing population.) Salcha Eielson and FTWW need to be kept together in the FNSB because of continuity and political likeness. Do not choose AFFR or Doyon gerrymandering plans submitted by their lobbyists. How did SE get advantage of -600 people and not take from dist 5 spanning the state?**



TO: Alaska Redistricting Board

FROM: Lynda Raymond

[REDACTED], Homer, AK 99603

DATE: October 31, 2021

After looking over the various maps that you have presented, **the AFFR Map best represents a congruity of socio-economic characteristics of the communities involved.** If areas are similar, they should have one representative who can best represent their specific needs.

**Homer and Seward—should be together**

Both areas have the most similar socio-economic characteristics: both are tourist areas (out of the way, end of the road), both have harbors and much water-based activity, both have fishing (commercial and sport), and both have specific attractions for birding and other wildlife viewing and study. Both have similar cultures and similarities in their schools, social and community organizations, churches, culture/art opportunities. (Homer on the map includes the area up to a little ways north of Anchor Point.)

**Homer and the area east of town out East End Rd—should be together**

This area is one congruent, contiguous area and should not be separated. It is united by access to road transportation, employment, shopping, trooper coverage, schools, access to medical care, the court system, the City Library, culture/art opportunities, churches, community activities, access to the airport and harbor.

**Soldotna and southern Peninsula north of Homer—should be together**

**Kenai and northern Peninsula north of Kenai—should be together**

Similar socioeconomics with Soldotna being the center for those communities for employment, shopping, medical care, the arts, sports, churches, airport, etc.

*Thank you for considering my testimony. I have been an Alaskan for almost 55 years and a resident of the Homer area for 20 years.*

Lynda Raymond

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**From:** Jennifer J. Reed [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 4:42 PM  
**To:** Kasey Casort; Testimony  
**Subject:** Written testimony on redistricting

10-31-21

From: Jennifer Reed

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
[REDACTED]

To: Alaska Redistricting Board

Subject: Adopt AFFR and Board Map 4

I am a 26-year resident of Goldstream Valley and am alarmed at the potential for disproportionate and politically imbalanced redistricting.

Board Map V.3 does not give Fairbanks the representation the population is entitled to.

- Redistricting Board map version 3 packs hundreds of extra people into every interior district, underrepresenting every Interior resident compared to Anchorage, Kenai and Mat-Su.
- V.3 ignores the natural orientation of the region, and the need for North Pole to have its own representation reflecting this distinct community.
- The political motivations for structuring the V. 3 map, as is, will benefit one political party at the expense of our communities and our values.

Please adopt AFFR and Board Map 4. Both the AFFR map and Board Map V.4:

- Keep West Fairbanks areas of interest like Ester and those communities closest to the University and North Pole separate (keeping the greater North Pole area together in a district);
- Don't overpopulate districts, adhere to the natural alignment of Fairbanks; and
- Ensure that our community will have appropriate representation for the next 10 years.

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**From:** Michael Rehberg <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:28 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 3, 2021, 12:28 pm

First Name: **Michael**

Last Name: **Rehberg**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Stop breaking Northeast Anchorage for political gain**

Public Comment: **Good afternoon. The present debate over carving out part of Muldoon and stapling it onto Eagle River is a clear partisan move to dilute the community's strength in voting. The area is trending blue, and the plan also serves to remove a sitting legislator or two, so this is an obvious target for persons with clear conservative agenda. . The choice of keeping deviation below 0.5% over retaining the integrity of this actual, on-the-ground neighborhood is counter to common sense and your constitutional mandate. Please return to a Northeast Anchorage that has not been Swiss-cheesed and diluted by Eagle River voters. We are two different communities. Thank you.**

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**From:** Michael Rehberg [REDACTED] > on behalf of Michael Rehberg  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:11 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Michael Rehberg - Testimony for Nov 5, 2021 meeting

Good morning,

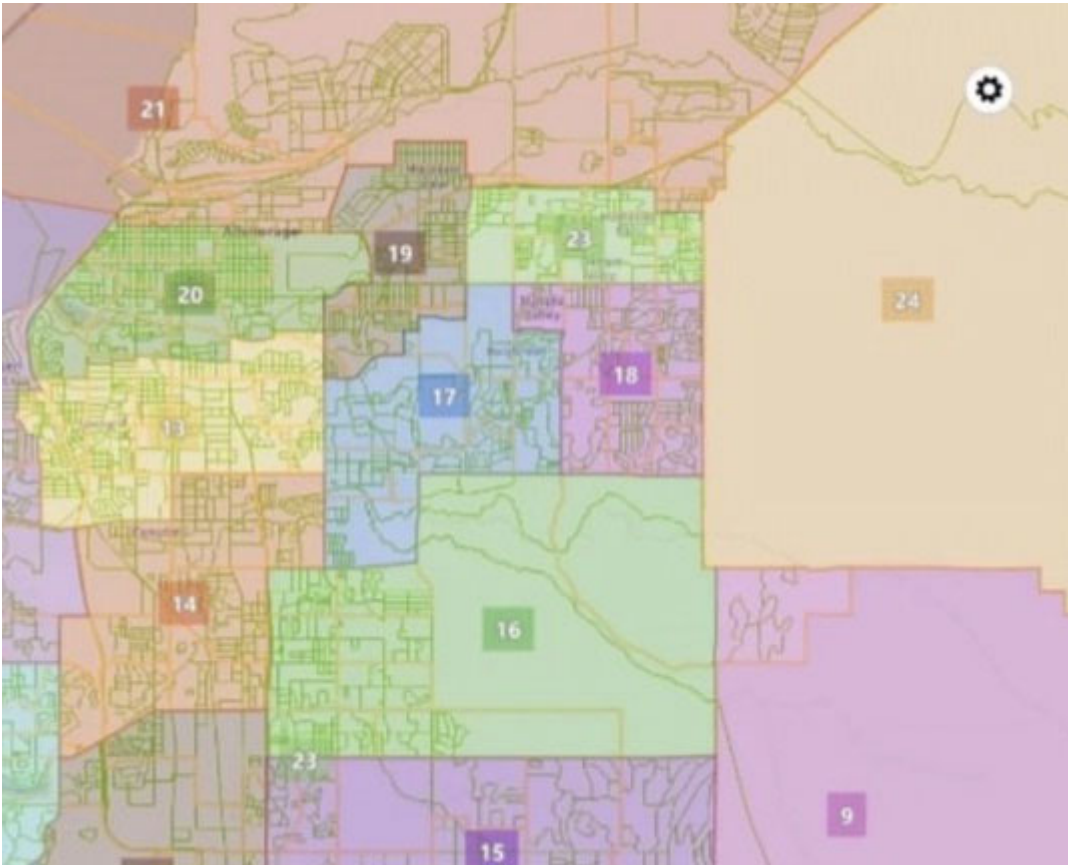
I ask this board to keep my neighborhood, Northeast Anchorage, intact. Right now, our neighborhood enjoys truly competitive elections - votes are close, candidates from all parties come to our doors to make their case, and involvement in our political process is rewarded.

The new map by Member Borromeo honors this and retains our vibrant neighborhood democracy. However, the new map by board member Marcum destroys this.

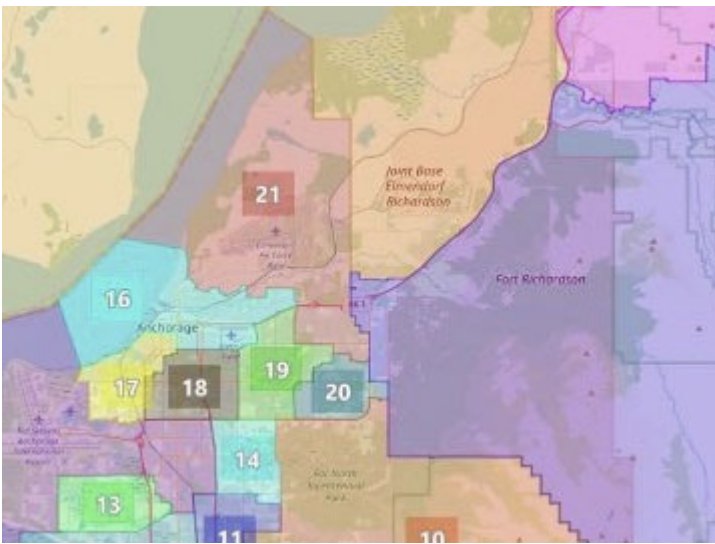
Northeast Anchorage does **not** have the same needs as Eagle River or South Anchorage. The legislators we elect are vital to pursue CIP funding for capital improvements - and our urban neighborhood has far different needs than suburban/mountainous Eagle River and South Anchorage.

There is also no constitutional reason to split up Northeast Anchorage. The board's own counsel, on November 3rd, advised that deviations of 1-2% are acceptable and pass constitutional muster. The insistence of Member Meacham on holding deviation down to 0.5% is unnecessary, and a transparent attempt to justify gerrymandering our neighborhood for political gain.

**I support this map from Board Member Borromeo, which retains our neighborhood with compact districts that follow logical boundaries:**



**I reject this map from Member Meacham**, which eviscerates Northeast Anchorage and dilutes our community voice by spreading us into Eagle River (7 miles away), South Anchorage (4 miles away), and JBER.



Sincerely,

Michael Rehberg  
Cheney Lake neighborhood, Anchorage

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**From:** Bob Reupke <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 6:50 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 6:49 pm

First Name: **Bob**

Last Name: **Reupke**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistrict Separation of Muldoon & Eagle River**

Public Comment: **Hi, I have lived in the Muldoon area since the early 1970s and am against having Muldoon and Eagle River in the same district. They are distinct areas and are about 10 miles apart and don't compare in the socioeconomic factor. Eagle River is much more affluent with more single- family homes and the Muldoon Community with lower income and a much larger amount of dense housing.**

Thank you,

**Bob Reupke**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 5, 2021, 6:56 pm

Name: **Toni Reupke** Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistrict Separation of Muldoon & Eagle River**

Public Comment: **Hello - I was born and raised in Anchorage, and have lived in Muldoon on E. 10th Ave. in Anchorage, since 1980. I am very concerned about the redistricting maps reflecting Muldoon and Eagle River in the same district. I feel that Muldoon should not be combined with Eagle River. Each area has very different concerns:**

- **Muldoon and Eagle River have a large socioeconomic diversity;**
- **EagleExit is not relevant to Muldoon;**
- **Muldoon has homeless issues that are concerning because we are closer to the Anchorage Bowl;**
- **Eagle River has issues related to the Glenn Highway corridor in getting to and from work and home that may arise;**
- **in an emergency (fire, earthquake, etc.), Eagle River has a couple of bridges that would need to be addressed and delt with;**
- **Eagle River has a volunteer Fire Dept.; Muldoon is under the Anchorage Fire Dept.;**
- **Muldoon's bus issues are different, because Muldoon and Eagle River are 10 miles apart;**
- **Eagle River (the river) runs close to their community and has concerns regarding the environment; erosion; fishing and water issues;**
- **Muldoon has more dense housing; Eagle River is primarily single family homes and lots**

**These issues and more are what our State Senators and Representatives will need to address and constituents will have questions about. A State Senator and Representative should be focused on his or her immediate areas. Thank you for your time. Please listen to the residents of this area!**

Regards,

**Toni Reupke**

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**From:** Joshua Reuther <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 2:45 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 2:45 pm

First Name: **Joshua**

Last Name: **Reuther**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99708**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Map V.3 does not fully represent Fairbanks and North Pole area**

Public Comment: **I prefer AFFR map and Board Map V.4 versions, not Board Map V.3. Please keep 6 distinct districts in Fairbanks and North Pole area. Both communities are distinct.**



**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: **George Reutov**

**George Reutov spoke in favor of the roads getting fixed in his area..**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Julie Reutov**

Affiliation: **Fox River**

**Julie lives in Fox River District 31 and spoke in opposition of her community being redistricted with Kodiak.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: **Zahar Reutov**

**Zahar Reutov is an East End Road resident and spoke in opposition of this area being redistricted with Kodiak and stated that it is unacceptable. His community is in Homer where he lives and works.**

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**From:** Peter Reynoldson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:11 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream is part of Fairbanks

Goldstream valley should absolutely not be politically lumped in with Delta Junction and Tok. We are part of Fairbanks and the University community. We have made this clear in the past. This action to gerrymander our community must stop.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 4, 2021, 3:07 pm

Name: **Leslie Ridle**  
Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Public Comment: **Dear Redistricting Board Members,**

**I feel compelled to offer comments late in this process based on recent proposals submitted by Bethany Marcum. After the Board discarded V1 and V2, it appeared that the Board had decided to reject any efforts to gerrymander East Anchorage and Eagle River neighborhoods.**

**Surprisingly, Ms. Marcum is now attempting to resurrect this gerrymander, with the clear, illegal, partisan objective of eliminating Senator Wielechowski, protecting HD 14 for a Republican, and eliminating either Rep. Spohnholz or Rep. Snyder. Ms. Marcum's proposal is less compact and less equal in terms of district population than the map Ms. Borromeo presented today, and far less consistent with Constitutional language than the map AFFR and the Senate Minority presented for Eagle River and East Anchorage neighborhoods.**

**Constitutional directives are clear: Craft compact, socioeconomically integrated districts that are as equal in population as possible, taking into account natural geographic features. AFFR, Senate Minority, and Ms. Borromeo's updated V4 presented today all appear to be developed based on those Constitutional criteria. Ms. Marcum's maps have a clear partisan purpose, and as a result are less Constitutional.**

**The Marcum proposal should be rejected in favor of one of the other more Constitutional proposals. There is no reason to waste Alaskans' time, and create a mess of upcoming elections, with considering a map that is clearly unconstitutional and would be overturned in court.**

**Thank you for your service.**

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**From:** Daniel Rizzolo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 10:50 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting Testimony

Redistricting Board Members:

I live in the Goldstream Valley area of the Fairbanks North Star Borough. I am opposed to the redistricting plan that places my community in the proposed District 36 with Delta Junction and Tok. The proposed District 36 does not form a “contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area.” My community is most closely connected with Ester and Chena Ridge. These are the neighbors I see at my son’s sporting events, at Fred Meyer grocery shopping, and while getting a meal at Ivory Jack’s or The Pumphouse. These are the people with whom I share my local policy concerns in the Alaska state government. I do not share concerns with folks in Delta Junction and Tok.

Sincerely,  
Dan Rizzolo

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: Doug Robbins

Public Comment: **Doug Robbins lives in the Hillside area of Anchorage in house District 28. Board Map v.4 is the best map for Southeast Anchorage/Girdwood. Currently, house District 28 is a distinct community according to state demographic data (household income, marriage rate, low unemployment, high voter turnout, etc.). South Anchorage has no socio-economic integration or real contiguity with communities on the Kenai Peninsula. Similarly, South Anchorage should not be joined with neighborhoods west of the Seward Highway like in Board Map v.3.**

**Girdwood is well-connected to Anchorage for shopping, dining, and recreation, but there are no connections to the communities further south including Cooper Landing and Sterling.**

**Please reject Board Map v.3, AFFR map, Senate Minority Caucus map, AFFER map, and the Doyon Coalition map. Please keep the version of Board Map v.3 to maintain the socio-economic integration that is held in Southeast Anchorage.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 31, 2021, 9:15 pm

Name: **Doug Robbins**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **Redistricting Board,**

**Here are suggestions regarding the proposed Senate district pairings for the Redistricting Board Map Version 4, which is my favored map, except for the doughnut district in Juneau. As in my telephone testimony earlier in the month, I would argue that contiguity should mean contiguity by road within the district. People do not climb mountains to visit their neighbors, even in Alaska. The Constitutional requirement of contiguity, sensibly, must include the idea of social contiguity, in the way that people come together as a community. That means contiguity by roads, not just blocks of color on a map.**

**The pairings implied by the chosen numbering make sense through most of the state, except north Anchorage, Eagle River, and the Mat-Su districts. Here are my proposed pairings, and objections to the pairings implied by the numbering system in this area.**

**North Anchorage and Eagle River:**

**Districts 21 & 23 should be paired. This is the most compact and contiguous solution for north Anchorage. The pairing implied by the Board's numbering system would combine 23 & 24, linking a portion of east Anchorage with part of Eagle River. These neighborhoods are not contiguous by road within the district.**

**22 & 24 should be paired. This maintains contiguity by road within the district for Eagle River and neighborhoods along Glenn Highway.**

**26 & 27 pairing maintains contiguity in Wasilla**

**25 & 28 pairing unites citizens along the Glenn Highway, and maintains contiguity.**

**29 & 30 unites citizens in the lake district west of Wasilla and along Parks Highway and maintains contiguity by road.**

**The remaining sequential pairings are reasonable.**

**Doug Robbins**



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Name: **Doug Robbins**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

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Date: November 4, 2021, 1:13 pm

Issue of Concern: **Districts 3 & 4, Board Map Version 4**

Public Comment: **My testimony today relates to the “doughnut” district and “doughnut hole” of districts 3 and 4 involving the capital city of Juneau, on Board Map version 4.**

**The Constitutional requirements that districts be compact, contiguous, and showing socioeconomic integration is clearly intended to represent communities as voting entities. The doughnut district, as drawn on Map Version 4, violates the parameter of contiguity, from the perspective of the communities North and South of Juneau. There is no real contiguity, from a social point of view, between communities connected across a glacial icefield. Any travel between St. Therese, in District 3 north of Juneau, to Thane, in District 3 south of Juneau, must be through District 4 in Juneau itself. The doughnut district is not contiguous in a practical sense. To the maximum degree possible, communities should be connected and contiguous along the road system or marine highway.**

**The doughnut district around Juneau should be redrawn to improve social contiguity, as reflected by the road system.**

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Date: November 4, 2021, 1:30 pm

Issue of Concern: **Districts 3&4, Board Maps Versions 3 and 4**

**Public Comment: The maps proposed by the Board (V.3 and V.4. and the preceding maps V.1 and V.2) show an apparently deliberate attempt to disadvantage incumbents of the House Majority Coalition. Despite revisions to the initial maps proposed by the Board, few of these problems were addressed. There is an excellent op-ed in the ADN by Robert Hockema on Sept. 23, 2021 detailing these violations. Our constitutional rules for redistricting are based on a fundamental principle of fairness, and the maps, as proposed, are deeply unfair.**

**Particularly egregious is the targeting of Representative Story’s home, in map Version 3, which takes a census block of ¼ sq. mile, including six buildings and 30 people, away from district 4 (pop. 18,136), and adds it to district 3 (population 18,181), which has more people. If the 30 people in the “Story Divot” are reallocated, the populations of District 4 about be 18,166, and the population of District 3 would be 18,151, a better balance, with a difference of only 15 people instead of 45 people. The same divot exists on the partisan AFFER map. There is no logical reason for this deviation along Glacier Highway. Indeed, there is no logical reason for this tiny census block to exist (or the nearby spike-shaped block which must be measured in square feet) considering that nearby large blocks north of Mendenhall Road include undivided populations of 185, 212, and 492 people. The fact that the Census Bureau produced irregular and biased maps does not relieve the Redistricting Board of its obligations to balance the districts according to Constitutional standards.**

**In revised map Version 4, the Board found a new and innovative way to disadvantage Representative Story, by drawing a “doughnut” map and again pairing her with Representative Hannen, who lives on the far side of Juneau.**

**As a technical auditor, I had to judge work according to results, not by statements, according to the standards of my organization. Also, it was necessary to not only avoid impropriety in technical work, but to avoid the appearance of impropriety. The Board maps have the appearance of unnecessarily and deliberately disadvantaging incumbent Representatives Story and Hannan.**

**It is insufficient for the board to claim ignorance of these issues; the board needs to meet a higher standard of actually producing fair maps and avoiding the appearance of impropriety.**

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Date: November 4, 2021, 4:09 pm

Issue of Concern: **New Bethany Marcum Map 11/3/2021**

**Public Comment: I see on social media that Board Member Bethany Marcum introduced a new map in the Board working session on 11/3/2021. This map is not available on the Redistricting Board website, and I cannot see what is being proposed. This map circumvents the public process specified in the Board's Constitutional responsibilities. I can't comment on what I cannot see.**

**I will reiterate that Board Map Version 4 satisfies the Constitutional requirements for contiguity, compactness and socioeconomic integration for the Anchorage area. An alternative map is not needed.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Martha Roberts**

**Martha opposed Board Map v.3 as it breaks Fairbanks into only 5 districts while the other areas have 6 districts which means Fairbanks would lose 1/2 a senator. They would also be underrepresented compared to Anchorage and Mat-Su. It would also separate North Pole from Eielson AFB which several testifiers have spoken against. When will the board release the senate pairings? The Senate Minority Caucus map puts her neighborhood with Goldstream where her community has more in common than the northeast.**

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**From:** Ardy Cakes & Confections [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 1:58 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

Hi there,

I'm writing to share my opinion on the proposed redistricting options. I think it makes sense to combine Eagle River and East Anchorage.

Thank you for your time,  
Ardy Robertson

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**From:** Mark Robokoff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 11:07 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Cc:** Sarah Bethany Baird  
**Subject:** Written Testimony, East Anchorage Resident

**Importance:** High

Dear Redistricting Board:

I am in the Scenic Foothills area at 8240 Resurrection Drive. Bethany Marcum's map would redraw the district to put me in the South Anchorage district rather than with my much closer neighbors. Indeed, I would have to drive through four other districts to reach those South Anchorage residents. Nor do I believe any part of East Anchorage should be combined with Eagle River. East Anchorage is vastly disparate from either of those two areas socio-economically. Many, many hours of in-person testimony has been made to that effect and Marcum's map ignores it.

To my neighbors on the board: Anchorage is very distrustful of its local government right now! Absurd maps like Bethany Marcum's exacerbate this problem! Please, I beg you, stop trying to put one over on us. We should be able to trust our local leaders. Please help repair that trust by adopting Nicole Borromeo's map, which is much more reflective of district homogeneousness and does not force us to question the partisan motives of the board at large.

Thank you for your attention.



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: **Tory Rockefeller**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self/Small Business Owner**

**Tory lives out East End Road in Homer and noted she is a business owner in Homer city limits but lives 12 miles out East End Road. If East End Road was redistricted with another community, she would not have a vote in the Homer election. By redistricting her residence to be a part of Kodiak, she would have no voice in determining what happens to her business or the school district where her daughter attends school.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Kelvin Rogers**

**Kelvin is in support of the AFFR map and Board Map v.4 as Board Map v.3 carves out Fairbanks in ways that don't make sense and lumps Fairbanks in with North Pole where he has barely frequented. Board Map v.4 and AFFR maps both split up Fairbanks along lines that make sense with the communities that he has lived in and observed.**

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**From:** susan ruddy <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 7:59 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Kachemak Bay, etc.

Please consider the following!

To Whom It May Concern:

**\*Keep all the communities of Kachemak Bay in the same district**

- Seldovia and Halibut Cove have strong socio-economic ties to Homer with water taxi services allowing for daily commutes between these communities
- Both board options put Fritz Creek, the Russian Old Believer villages, Seldovia and Halibut Cove in a different district from Homer. This is not OK.
- Do not separate Seldovians by putting the portions of Seldovia outside the city limits in a different district than those in city limits.

**\*Keep the whole Gulf Coast region in a single Senate district**

- Do not put Whittier in an Anchorage district, separating it from other Gulf Coast communities
- Homer and Seward belong in the same district, because unique in the region their economies are centered on fishing and tourism in Kachemak and Resurrection Bays
- Kenai and Nikiski belong in the same district, because Kenai is the economic hub for the Kenai Spur Highway communities
- Soldotna, Kasilof, Ninilchik, and Clam Gulch belong in the same district because Soldotna is the economic hub for the south Sterling Highway communities

**\*Nikiski and Seward do not have shared socio-economic or transportation links. Do not put them in the same district.**

- Nikiski's economy is focused on the oil and gas industry which does not exist in Seward
- Seward's economy is focused on tourism and fishing, industries which do not significantly exist in Nikiski



- Travelling from Nikiski to Seward would require either flying through Anchorage or driving through two other districts under both board options.

**\*Do not place Fritz Creek, Voznecenka, Razdolna, and Kachemak Selo in a different district from Homer**

- Fritz Creek is a bedroom community for Homer which has no transportation links or socio-economic integration with Kodiak and Cordova
- Both board options separate the Old Believer villages of Nikolaevsk from the other three Old Believer villages, these villages represent a unique socio-economic region and belong in the same district
- The stated justification for including these communities with Kodiak is that historical ties exist from the Russian colonial period. This is not accurate, the Old Believers are not in any way connected to the original Russian colonists and did not arrive in Alaska until 1968. Fritz Creek is not a Russian community and has no ties to the colonial period.

**\*Do not break up the Kodiak Island Borough**

- Do not put Kodiak with Dillingham and the Aleutians.
- Do not place Nikiski in a district with South Anchorage. The state justification is that there is a shared tie because of the oil industry. There are no oil industry facilities within the South Anchorage portion of the district
- Do not place Valdez in a district with Kodiak and Cordova in a Richardson Highway district, creating an absurd situation where Valdez is in an off-road system district while Cordova is in a road system district.

Thank you for your consideration.

My iPhone encourages brevity....

Susan Ruddy

(Indonesia)

(Alaska & WhatApp)

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 1, 2021, 5:28 pm

Name: Frank Rue

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: Dear Chair Binkley, and Members Bahnke, Borromeo, Marcum and Simpson:

Thank you for the tremendous time and effort you are putting into gathering public comment on the redistricting process and map alternatives.

I have been a resident of Alaska for 44 years, lived mostly in Juneau, but also in Anchorage, and have had the privilege of traveling to many rural communities across Alaska, and to all regions of the state.

After considering the six proposals presented by the Board, I have the following comments for your consideration.

1) Looking at the statewide perspective, I believe the AFFR map does a good job of meeting the criteria for most of the state, however I think that proposed District 4-B is not appropriate, reaching down into the southern Southeast to include Hollis and Coffman Cove with Juneau. I support either the Senate Minority map or the Doyon Coalition map as the best at meeting the compactness, contiguity and socioeconomic integration criteria, while also minimizing deviation from population counts for Southeast Alaska.

2) I do not support either Board Proposals 3 or 4 because among many other issues (see below), neither meets the requirement to minimize deviation from population counts, with deviations of 8.99% in Proposal 3 and 9.19% in Proposal 4.

3) Board Proposal 3 has two odd blips in the Auke Bay area off Glacier Highway (at Seaview-Cross-Bayview Aves, and at RV Park Dr.) that appear to go out of their way to break up existing neighborhoods in an inappropriate way that appears to contravene the redistricting criteria of socioeconomic integration and compactness. One of them also puts two existing representatives in the same proposed district. This particular boundary line is partisan gerrymandering which should disqualify it. That needs to be corrected in any proposal that moves forward.

4) The AFFR map has less population deviation than some proposals, but has other features that do not do a good job of meeting compactness, socioeconomic and contiguity criteria, For instance, proposed District 1-A reaches down to include Ketchikan, but has what looks like a surgical cut out that separates Saxman from Ketchikan. This is another example of attempted gerrymandering which should disqualify it. Likewise in the Juneau area, the 'downtown' Juneau area, proposed District 3-B, has a 'lobster claw' appendage out the road at Auke Bay which just so happens to put two Juneau representatives in the same downtown district. This not only fails the compactness, contiguity, and socioeconomic integration test, but is partisan gerrymandering and further reasons to reject this proposal.

In conclusion, my views are that the AFFR, Doyon, or Senate Minority maps (in that order) would be the best vehicles for the board to move forward, with needed changes to areas, like Southeast Alaska

**(see item 1 above), to strengthen the compactness, contiguity and socioeconomic integration, and to remove any clear partisan gerrymandering (see items 3 and 4 above).**

**I do not favor advancing Board proposals v. 3 or v. 4, and I do not support the AFFER proposal.**

**It is paramount that all Alaskans are fairly represented, and that no districts are manipulated to favor or disfavor one party or the other, or one particular candidate over another.**

**Thank you for considering these comments. I wish you the best in your efforts.**

**Sincerely,**

**Frank Rue**

**[REDACTED]**

**Juneau**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 1, 2021, 4:53 pm

Name: **Sally Rue**  
Your ZIP Code: **99801**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Comments on proposed maps**

Public Comment: **Dear Chair Binkley, and Members Bahnke, Borromeo, Marcum and Simpson:**

**Thank you for the tremendous time and effort you are putting into gathering public comment on the redistricting process and map alternatives. I appreciate the difficulties and complexities you are faced with in meeting the needs of all regions of the state, and trying to meet the criteria of compactness, contiguity, socioeconomic integration, and minimum deviation from population count. I also commend the Board and staff for providing such good online tools to allow many Alaskans (those who have access to technology and good broadband) to study and compare the alternatives. Unfortunately not all Alaskans are able to access these tools; that makes your efforts to have public meetings in quite a few communities all the more critical.**

**I have been a resident of Alaska for 44 years, lived mostly in Juneau, but also in Anchorage, and have had the privilege of traveling to many rural communities across Alaska, and to all regions of the state.**

**After studying the maps, I doubly appreciate the challenge you face, and realize that with every tweak in one region, it causes ripple effects across the state. After considering the six proposals presented by the Board, I have the following comments for your consideration.**

**1) Looking at the statewide perspective, I believe the AFFR map does a good job of meeting the criteria for most of the state, however I think that proposed District 4-B is weird, reaching way down into the southern Southeast to include Hollis and Coffman Cove. I think both the Senate Minority map and the Doyon Coalition map better meet the compactness, contiguity and socioeconomic integration criteria, while also minimizing deviation from population counts for Southeast Alaska.**

**2) I do not believe that Board Proposals 3 and 4 meet the requirement to minimize deviation from population counts, with deviations of 8.99% in Proposal 3 and 9.19% in Proposal 4.**

**3) Board Proposal 3 has two small and glaring zigzags in the Auke Bay area off Glacier Highway (at Seaview-Cross-Bayview Aves, and at RV Park Dr.) that appear to go out of their way to break up existing neighborhoods in a nonsensical way that appears to contravene the redistricting criteria of socioeconomic integration and compactness. One of them also puts two existing representatives in the same proposed district. I can think of no other rationale for this particular boundary line, and it looks like a little gerrymandering worked its way into this proposal. That needs to be corrected in any proposal that moves forward.**

**4) The AFFER map has less population deviation than some proposals, but has other features that do not do a good job of meeting compactness, socioeconomic and contiguity criteria, For instance, proposed District 1-A reaches down to included Ketchikan, but has what looks like a surgical cut out that separates Saxman from Ketchikan. What is the explanation for this? Does this reflect the wishes**

of Saxman? Ketchikan? Is this an example of attempted gerrymandering? Likewise in the Juneau area, the 'downtown' Juneau area, proposed District 3-B, has a weird 'lobster claw' appendage out the road at Auke Bay which just so happens to put two Juneau representatives in the same downtown district, which seems to work against compactness, contiguity, and socioeconomic integration. Is this an example of attempted gerrymandering?

In conclusion, my views are that the AFFR, Senate Minority, or Doyon maps (in that order) would be the best vehicles for the board to move forward, with needed changes to areas, like Southeast Alaska (see item 1 above), to strengthen the compactness, contiguity and socioeconomic integration, and to remove any whiff of gerrymandering (see items 3 and 4 above) that may have crept in.

I do not favor advancing Board proposals v. 3 or v. 4, and I do not support the AFFER proposal.

It is paramount that all Alaskans are fairly represented, and that no districts are manipulated to favor or disfavor one party or the other, or one particular candidate over another.

Thank you for considering these comments. I wish you the best in your efforts.

Sincerely,  
Sally Rue  
Juneau

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**From:** D Rumbo <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 6:40 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

Name: **D Rumbo**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99623**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **73975**

Public Comment: **Redistricting Board,**

**Please support Map #73975 (<https://districtr.org/plan/73975>)**

**Map# 73975 has smaller population deviations between each district than the AFFER Plan**

**Compactness (size and shape):**

**Map# 73975 honors city limits boundaries and does not have districts with crazy shapes!**

**Contiguous (are the boundaries continuous on land especially)**

**Unlike the AFFER Plan, Map# 73975 doesn't gerrymander the districts by grabbing Nikiski on the Kenai Peninsula and putting it into a district with Huffman Rd. in South Anchorage! how does that even make sense?**

**Socio-economic Integration (are similar communities placed within the same districts):**

**Unlike the AFFER Plan, Map # 73975 continues to include the City of Valdez with the Mat-Su because Valdez is a developed community with a substantial tax base on the road system near the Mat-Su. The closest Wal-Mart to Valdez is in the Mat-Su. It should not be paired with other communities that are not on the road system, like it is in the AFFER Plan.**

**The Denali Borough should not be included in a Mat-Su district.**

**Fairbanks is the closest large city from any location within the Denali Borough. The closest Costco to the Denali Borough is in Fairbanks. The closest Wal-Mart is in Fairbanks.**

**The Denali Borough is more connected to Fairbanks than it is to either Palmer or Wasilla.**

**Natural landmarks (rivers, roads, mountains, etc.)**

**Map #73975 divides the Mat- Su between Palmer and Wasilla and between the Wasilla City limits on the south and Seldon Road on the north. Seldon is a current boundary and a long and straight road that is well known in the community.**

**I do NOT support the AFFER plan!!**

**Thank you for your time on this issue,**

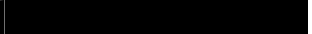
**D Rumbo  
Wasilla**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Wasilla 10/26/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Bee Rupright**

Email or Phone Contact: 

**Bee Rupright, Wasilla resident, spoke in favor of keeping the Mat-Su Borough separate from Anchorage and prefers the AFFER map. Also, soon, there will be a "middle district" in between Palmer and Wasilla.**

**Bee Rupright expressed the importance of thinking about the identity of the people and what areas residents identify with. The other plans do not have senate district pairings and this was an issue for her. Bee would change the AFFER plan to do the following:**

- 1. District 13-G paired with 14-G which would also be different by going up higher to District 16-H. This would create a district in that area. The southern portion of 16-H and the northern portion of 14-G would be joined up together to create a "middle district" including the Knik Goose Bay area.**
- 2. Swing 16H around as it was before, maybe with 14-G and 12-H.**
- 3. Move eastern residents over to Palmer.**

**From:** Bee Rupright [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 2:37 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Cc:** Juli Lucky <juli.lucky@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Proposed Plan B (Modification of AFFER)

November 1 2021

To the Alaska Redistricting Board Members  
cc/Juli Lucky, Public Engagement Coordinator

RE: Proposed Mat-Su Borough Redistricting  
Plan B (Modification of AFFER Mat-Su Redistricting Map)

Dear Juli,

I hope you can read my chicken scratch map. Not being able to view the population blocks altogether on the maps I can utilize (on my computer and not having the proper software) here is my proposal:

District 14 begins from Fireweed (south) to Pamela Drive (north) retaining AFFER proposed boundaries to the east and west.

To make up the population difference in District 16, grabbing a small portion of Dist F (SE corner) and also Dist 14 (SE corner).

The rest of remaining Dist 14 (as proposed) to go into Dist 12. To make up the difference in Dist 11 and Dist 12, a small portion of district 12 near Houston would be incorporated into Dist 11 correlating to the amount being added into Dist 12 from District 14 (as proposed).

I hope this makes sense to you and someone can work the population numbers. As I mentioned before, this proposal is due to what I perceive as community identity, which is not served by the AFFER proposition by the South West "arm" into "Wasilla".

This proposal also aligns the small portion of South East 14 (as proposed) into 16 as I believe their identity to be more "Palmer".

This proposal does indeed create the much needed middle district in the Mat-Su Valley in entirety and leaves room for the future District of Knick-Fairview "Arm" which will most likely occur in ten years.

To close, the key to this proposal is to incorporate community identity as a paramount criteria marker to be considered when re-districting.



This plan addresses the need for the Mid-Mat Su Valley District right now and leaves a clear concept for the future Knick-Fairview District.

Thank You for your consideration to all Re-districting Board Members.

Special Thanks to Juli Lucky for all her help and her excellent handling of the public meeting in Wasilla and personal help for myself.

AS A NOTE: This correspondence is being submitted as is to the public comment section as well, as time is short, and although the population numbers haven't been worked out yet, I believe this plan feasible.

Thank You all for your consideration and efforts in this difficult assignment.

Bernadette Rupright

# PLAN B (MODIFIED OFFER)

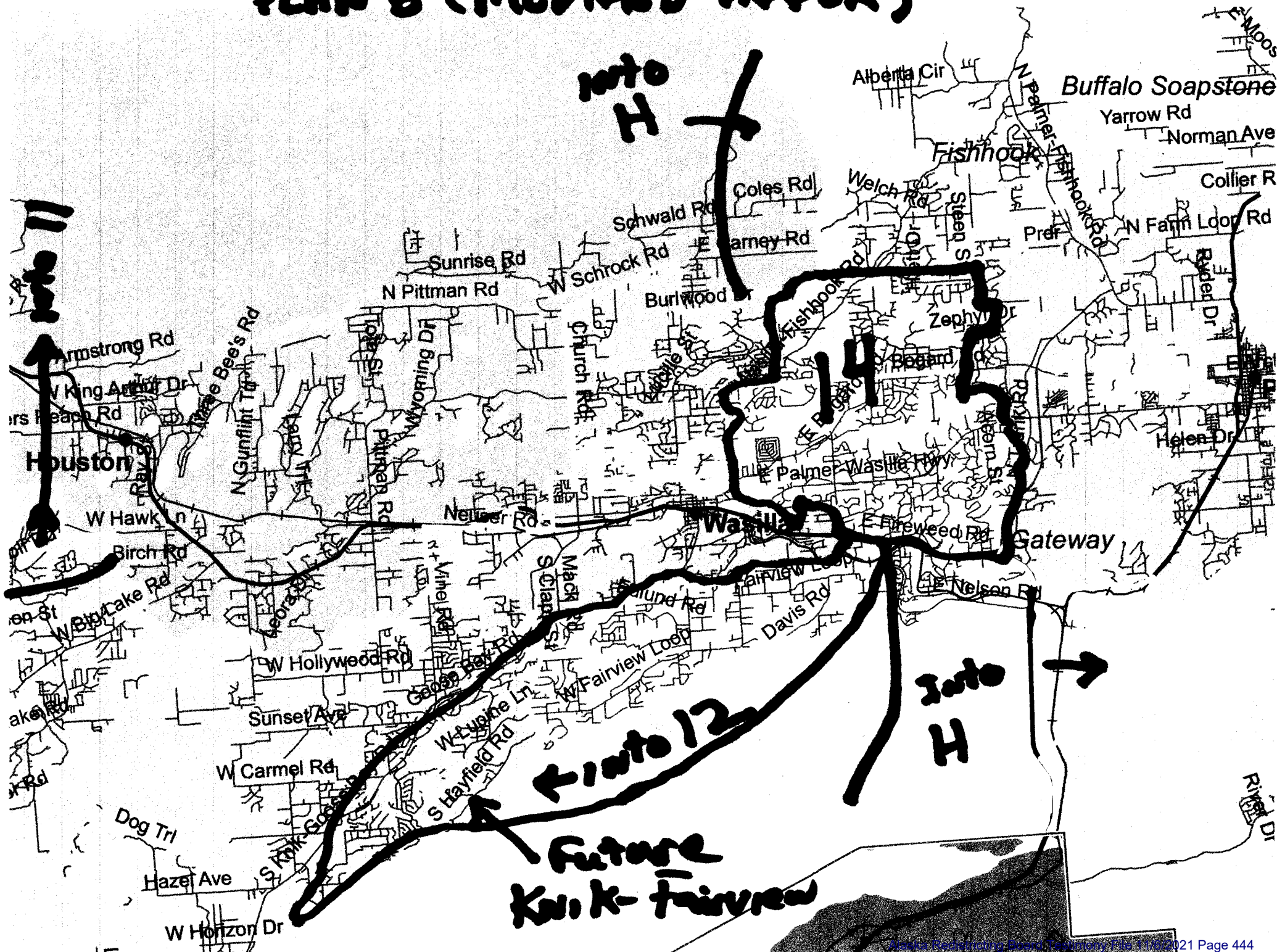


Photo H

Photo 14

Photo 12

Photo H

Future Kirk-Fairview

Houston

Washou

Gateway

Buffalo Soapstone

Fisherhook

Alberta Cir

Sunrise Rd

Schwald Rd

Coles Rd

N Pittman Rd

W Schrock Rd

Arney Rd

Burlwood Dr

Welch Rd

Spren S

Yarrow Rd

Norman Ave

Collier R

N Farm Loop Rd

Prer

Ryder Dr

Zephyr Dr

Pogard Dr

Helen Dr

Palmer Washou Hwy

Fireweed Rd

Nelson Rd

Neuler Rd

Shund Rd

Davis Rd

Fairview Loop

W Hollywood Rd

Sunset Ave

W Carmel Rd

Dog Trl

Hazel Ave

W Horizon Dr

River Dr

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 2:36 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Re: Redistricting Fairbanks

Hi, there--

I live at [REDACTED] in Fairbanks, zip code 99701. I'd like to state my support for the AFFR map and Board map 4. I'm against Board map version 3 as it would both overpopulate the Fairbanks districts, watering down our representation, and break up the community along a north/south axis which disregards the natural boundaries of the community. I hope that the board will set sensible boundaries that respect our natural east-west alignment along the Chena River.

Sincerely,  
Robyn Russell

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: **Kristin Rutledge**

**Kristin opposed any plan that proposes to redistrict Fritz Creek and East End Road and with Kodiak instead of Homer. This does not make sense economically and socially. Kristin is tied to Homer through shopping and use of the docks and does not see how these communities can be tied to Kodiak.**

**From:** Josephine Ryan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 12:22 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** No to Redistricting!

To Whom It May Concern:

**\*Keep all the communities of Kachemak Bay in the same district**

To Whom It May Concern:

**\*Keep all the communities of Kachemak Bay in the same district**

- Seldovia and Halibut Cove have strong socio-economic ties to Homer with water taxi services allowing for daily commutes between these communities
- Both board options put Fritz Creek, the Russian Old Believer villages, Seldovia and Halibut Cove in a different district from Homer. This is not OK.
- Do not separate Seldovians by putting the portions of Seldovia outside the city limits in a different district than those in city limits.

**\*Keep the whole Gulf Coast region in a single Senate district**

- Do not put Whittier in an Anchorage district, separating it from other Gulf Coast communities
- Homer and Seward belong in the same district, because unique in the region their economies are centered on fishing and tourism in Kachemak and Resurrection Bays
- Kenai and Nikiski belong in the same district, because Kenai is the economic hub for the Kenai Spur Highway communities
- Soldotna, Kasilof, Ninilchik, and Clam Gulch belong in the same district because Soldotna is the economic hub for the south Sterling Highway communities

**\*Nikiski and Seward do not have shared socio-economic or transportation links. Do not put them in the same district.**

- Nikiski's economy is focused on the oil and gas industry which does not exist in Seward
- Seward's economy is focused on tourism and fishing, industries which do not significantly exist in Nikiski
- Travelling from Nikiski to Seward would require either flying through Anchorage or driving through two other districts under both board options.

**\*Do not place Fritz Creek, Voznecenka, Razdolna, and Kachemak Selo in a different district from Homer**

- Fritz Creek is a bedroom community for Homer which has no transportation links or socio-economic integration with Kodiak and Cordova
- Both board options separate the Old Believer villages of Nikolaevsk from the other three Old Believer villages, these villages represent a unique socio-economic region and belong in the same district

- The stated justification for including these communities with Kodiak is that historical ties exist from the Russian colonial period. This is not accurate, the Old Believers are not in any way connected to the original Russian colonists and did not arrive in Alaska until 1968. Fritz Creek is not a Russian community and has no ties to the colonial period.

**\*Do not break up the Kodiak Island Borough**

- Do not put Kodiak with Dillingham and the Aleutians.
- Do not place Nikiski in a district with South Anchorage. The state justification is that there is a shared tie because of the oil industry. There are no oil industry facilities within the South Anchorage portion of the district
- Do not place Valdez in a district with Kodiak and Cordova in a Richardson Highway district, creating an absurd situation where Valdez is in an off-road system district while Cordova is in a road system district.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Josephine Ryan

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**From:** Teresa Sammis <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:06 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Proposed Goldstream to District 36

To whom it may concern,

As a longtime resident of Goldstream Valley, I know that we effectively are a suburb of Fairbanks with next to nothing in common with the rural areas of Delta Junction and Tok. The fact that Salcha and other areas closer to those communities are NOT included in this proposal for District 36 gives the appearance of gerrymandering. Plus this would be in violation of article 6, section 6 of the Alaska State Constitution.

We need adequate representation in the legislature and our needs more closely align with those of Fairbanks. I respectfully request you do not put Goldstream Valley in District 36.

Sincerely,  
Teresa Sammis

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:44 AM  
**To:** [testimony@akredistricting.org](mailto:testimony@akredistricting.org)  
**Subject:** Redistricting Testimony

To the Redistricting Board:

My name is Elsa Malapit Sargento of the Filipino American Community, a retired schoolteacher of the Anchorage School District, founder of the Alaska Federation of Filipino Americans, Inc, advisor, Bridge Builders of Anchorage, a resident of Anchorage for 47 years and counting. I live in Sandlake/Jewel Lake Area but I do have families and extended families who live in East Anchorage and all over Anchorage.

My nieces, nephews, and grandchildren go to Begich Middle School. My Families shop at Fred Meyers, Walmart near Debarr and Muldoon. Chanashitsu Park ,Mountain View Community Center and Mountain View Library are important parts of their neighborhood.

When talking to my families they feel that their neighborhood is very distinct from Chugiak and Eagle River. They do not shop at the same places, do not worship in the same churches, do not go to the same parks and restaurants. Please do not include them in that same district. This is not a socio-economically integrated pairing.

Chugiak and Eagle River have expressed a lot of interest in leaving the Municipality of Anchorage. So why even think of including them with East Anchorage. Not to mention these communities are very racially distinct from each other. East Anchorage has extra ordinary racial and linguistic diversity whereas, Chugiak and Eagle River are much less diverse.

The diversity of East Anchorage should be respected and not grouped in a way that erase minority representation. Please do not crack our communities up into multiple districts.

Thank you



# Scenic Foothills Community Council Resolution 2021-03 A Resolution for Statewide Redistricting

WHEREAS, the Scenic Foothills Community Council (“SCC”) is an organization representing the interests of the residents of the Scenic Foothills neighborhood of Anchorage; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Redistricting Board (“Board”) is drawing new legislative districts; and

WHEREAS, each house district must be of contiguous and compact territory containing (as near as practicable) a relatively integrated socio-economic area; and

WHEREAS, Scenic Foothills is part of East Anchorage, which is a socio-economically unique area in Anchorage,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Scenic Foothills Community Council recommends that the Redistricting Board bring the new state redistricting plan into closer alignment with local neighborhood boundaries, including East Anchorage, and not split off part of the socio-economically distinct East Anchorage Neighborhoods, including the Scenic Foothills CC Neighborhood, for inclusion in an Eagle River or South Anchorage district, which are socio-economically distinct from East Anchorage, especially as done in the current proposed board map three area around the Muldoon Curve.

Resolved, this 4th day of November 2021.

Date: 11/5/2021

Scenic Foothills Community Council President, Karen Bronga

Vote: 18 in favor, and 0 opposed.

[Official signed version to be sent shortly]

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**From:** Anne Schaefer <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 3:20 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 1, 2021, 3:20 pm

First Name: **Anne**

Last Name: **Schaefer**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99574**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **Hello,**

**I have lived and worked in Cordova, Alaska for 7 years now. I am a member of the City Council but my views expressed here are my own.**

**I writing to ask the Redistricting Board to adopt either board-proposed plan v.3, board-proposed plan v.4, or AFFR's plan. These plans are prefereable because they keep Cordova in the same district as Kodiak, which faces many similar issues as our community: coastal community, commerical fishing, dependance on marine transportation, etc. Becuase we share similar interests and encounter similar challenges, our elected leaders are able to represent the interests of the entire district. All other proposed plans result in Cordova being the only coastal fishing community in the district (AFFER), or with upriver/interior communties that are socieconomically dissimilar and face different issues.**

**Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to submit comments.**

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**From:** Linda Schandelmeier [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:26 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Please rethink this map

Dear Redistricting Board,

I am writing to object to your map pairing the Goldstream area of Fairbanks with the interior rural villages and Tok and Delta. Goldstream is socioeconomically related to the University community in Fairbanks, not Tok, Delta or other rural villages, and so this pairing does not meet the constitutional goal of keeping like communities together.

The communities of Salcha and Eielson are more socioeconomically allied with Tok, while Goldstream shares ties with Ester, College Hills and Chena Ridge.

It's time to go back to the drawing board on this one.  
Let's be fair to all of our Alaskan voters.

Sincerely,

Linda Schandelmeier  
[REDACTED],  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

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**From:** Janet Schichnes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:29 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistributing

To the Board Members:

As a resident of Fairbanks, I have the following comments on the proposal to to put Goldstream together with the rural villages of Tok and Delta. These communities have little in common by cultural, social and economic standards and does not meet constitutional goal to keep similar communities together. Salcha, Eielson and Harding Lake are a better match with Tok and Delta.

Gold stream is part of the University community. Pairing Goldstream with the rural area is not representative of either community and placing them together would harm both by denying them a voice in Juneau. Goldstream shares strong social, economic, and educational ties with the Ester and Chena Ridge, Chena Pump and nearby neighborhoods and should be represented together.

Respectfully,

Janet Schichnes  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks

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**From:** Silke Schiewer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 10:39 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** redistricting for north west Fairbanks area

Dear redistricting board members.

I am a resident of northwest Fairbanks (Murphy Dome/Goldstream area) and would like to point out that our area is socioeconomically closely aligned with the rest of Fairbanks, especially the other hillside areas surrounding Fairbanks such as Farmers Loop, Gilmore Trail, Chena Ridge. These areas are predominantly middle class with a lot of professionals and members of the university community living here (I am myself a retired UAF professor). It does not make sense to lump our area in a voting district with rural outlying areas such as Salcha, Delta Junction, or Tok (as in currently considered map) or rural western Alaska (as proposed 10 years ago and then reconsidered). I urge you to create districts in a non-partisan fashion based on the criteria outlined in the constitution such as compactness and socioeconomic integration. It is not according to these criteria if the Goldstream/Murphy Dome area is part of the same district as Delta Junction.

Regards, Silke Schiewer

[REDACTED], Fairbanks, AK 99709

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Crystal Schoenrock**

Email or Phone Contact: 

**Crystal Schoenrock, Nikiski business owner, moved to Nikiski and if she wanted to live in Anchorage, she would have moved there. Crystal agrees with Mary Jackson's testimony and does not want to see Nikiski being separated as the community is almost like a family. There are many people who move out of Anchorage as they are tired of Anchorage, but this shouldn't result in Nikiski stepping in to help them out. Also, no bridge is needed. Crystal likes having one way in and out.**



October 30, 2021

Alaska Redistricting Board  
P.O. Box 240147  
Anchorage, AK 99524  
[testimony@akdistrict.org](mailto:testimony@akdistrict.org)

Chairman Binkley and Members of the Alaska Redistricting Board:

I am providing comments on behalf of Sealaska Corporation, the Alaska Native Regional Corporation created pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) for Southeast Alaska. Sealaska represents more than 23,000 shareholders, predominantly of Tlingit, Haida and Tsimshian descent. At the outset, we would like to thank you for your service on the Alaska Redistricting Board, as we know that it is a tremendous commitment. We also greatly appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on the proposals under consideration by the Board.

Sealaska is proud to have partnered with Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, Ahtna, Inc., and Doyon, Limited in developing a statewide redistricting map that respects socioeconomically integrated regions and connections across Alaskan communities, ANCSA regional boundaries, geographic features, and communities of interest, while maintaining low population deviations in our proposed districts. We strongly urge the Board to adopt this map as final on or before the November 10<sup>th</sup> deadline.

We would also like to take this opportunity to provide specific testimony concerning three issues of great importance to Sealaska: (1) the proposed borders of the four Southeast Alaska House Districts; (2) proper representation for rural Alaskan districts; and (3) the unconstitutional population deviations for the proposed Fairbanks North Star Borough Districts in the Board's Version 3 map.

**1. Our Coalition has Proposed Compact, Contiguous, and Socioeconomically Integrated Southeast Alaska Districts.**

Southeast Alaska has a population of 71,286 people, which corresponds to 3.89 districts of ideal population. Southeast is therefore entitled to four House Districts and two Senate seats, and each of the House districts must include, on average, about 500 people (2.75%) fewer than the ideal population of 18,335.

Our proposed map creates district borders that make sense and run along easily understood social and geographic boundaries. Our proposed District 1 contains the City and Borough of Wrangell, the Ketchikan Gateway Borough, Metlakatla, and Hyder. These areas have socioeconomic connections and have been found to be socioeconomically integrated in past plans. Most importantly for Sealaska, we also propose a Southeast Alaska "Islands" district

(proposed District 2), which links the communities on Prince of Wales Island, Angoon, Hoonah, Kake, Sitka, Petersburg, and returns the Borough of Yakutat with other rural Southeast communities. This proposed district maintains socioeconomic integration for a rural Southeast district and is contiguous, linked by geography, socioeconomics, and culture. Also, one of the most significant geographic (and socioeconomic) markers in Southeast Alaska are the many islands. Wherever possible communities on the same island should be represented together in this redistricting process. With the exception of the far Northern end of Admiralty Island, which is part of the City and Borough of Juneau, our proposed district borders keep islands whole.

Our coalition provided another option for the Board to consider for Juneau. Our proposed Districts 3 and 4 also have borders that align with the socioeconomic and geographical borders of our region. Proposed District 3 maintains the distinct Juneau areas of Auke Bay and the Mendenhall Valley. Proposed District 4 contains Downtown Juneau, Douglas, Thane, Lemon Creek, and communities with strong socioeconomic ties to Juneau—the City and Borough of Haines, Skagway, Gustavus. Citizens of all these communities regularly travel to Juneau through the Alaska Marine Highway Service or regularly scheduled air service to shop, recreate, receive healthcare, and use other services at facilities located in proposed District 4. Importantly, as Juneau residents testified repeatedly at the public meeting in Juneau, the natural boundary between the Juneau districts is on Egan Drive near the local Fred Meyer store. Our proposed map puts the border in that location.

## **2. The Redistricting Map Must Respect Rural Regional and Cultural Boundaries**

In past redistricting cycles, Alaska’s rural communities have often been placed in legislative districts with areas that do not share the same concerns, economic bases, or cultures—for example, placing Interior off-road-system villages with coastal communities. We support our coalition partners and oppose any proposal that connects rural Interior villages with coastal communities outside of their ANCSA regional boundaries, or places disconnected and distant coastal communities within the rural Interior district.

## **3. The Board’s Proposed Version 3 Fairbanks Districts are not Constitutional.**

The Board's Proposed Version 3 creates districts within the Fairbanks North Star Borough (proposed Districts 31-35) that are upwardly deviated by between 4.26 and 4.43 percent—around 800 people more than ideal in each district. This is an unconstitutional deviation.

Until the 1998 amendments to the AK Constitution, redistricting plans did not need to justify deviations from the ideal district size within 10 percent. However, Alaska voters changed the Alaska constitution in 1998, instituting a new standard. The Alaska Constitution now requires that each district maintain “a population as near as practicable to the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the state by forty.”<sup>1</sup> This means that the population deviation within each “district”, not each “region,” or each “borough”, should be “as near as practicable” to zero. Large total deviations<sup>2</sup> within a particular region or borough may be evidence of other

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<sup>1</sup> AK Const. Art. VI § 6 (emphasis added).

<sup>2</sup> Total deviation is the percentage difference between the most populous and least populous districts in a given region or Borough.



Sealaska Comments to Redistricting Board  
October 30, 2021

equal representation problems, but having a low total deviation within the Borough, does not absolve the Board of its constitutional responsibility to make sure that each district's deviation is as low as practicable.

This is especially true in urban areas, like Fairbanks. The “Alaska Supreme Court [has] acknowledged that in urban areas in particular, the population is sufficiently dense and evenly spread to allow minimal population deviations, especially in light of the newly available technological advances.”<sup>3</sup> In the 2001 cycle, for example, the Supreme Court overturned the Board's map because the Board failed to show that the deviations in the Anchorage districts and the Arctic Slope district were as “low as practicable.” The board had considered maps that had lower deviations but failed to show that they were not practicable.

Achieving near zero population deviation is sometimes not practicable due to geographic constraints or the non-availability of socioeconomically integrated areas to “round out” a district or region. Our region of Southeast Alaska is a prime example because the reality is that there is not enough population or connectivity to reach an even population within all districts.<sup>4</sup> However, there is no such problem in Fairbanks. The Fairbanks North Star Borough is deeply socioeconomically integrated with the rest of the Interior—especially the other communities within the Doyon ANCSA Region. Because it is entirely “practicable” to draw Fairbanks in a way that does not devalue the vote of each and every Borough resident, the Board's proposed Version 3 Fairbanks districts would be unconstitutional if adopted by the Board in a final map.

We thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Sealaska and in support of rural representation in Alaska. We would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have about Sealaska's comments.

Respectfully,

SEALASKA CORPORATION



Jaeleen J. Kookesh  
VP, Policy-Legal Affairs & Corporate Secretary

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<sup>3</sup> *In re: 2011 Redistricting Cases*, 2013 WL 6074059, at \*5.

<sup>4</sup> Additionally, very rural districts like our proposed District 37 may have larger deviations because there are no socioeconomically integrated communities that could be added to reduce the deviation without simply passing the problem on.

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Skagway 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

**Name: Kristin (Tina) Seier**

**Tina is a lifelong Alaskan resident who agrees with Skagway being aligned with the Downtown Juneau corridor. It makes it easier for representatives as they both have similar circumstances.**

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 11:52 AM

**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>

**Subject:**

Seldovia Village Tribe prefers the Seldovia Village to be associated with Homer where we serve the people of the lower Peninsula with 3 Community Health Centers and our management and administrative services are.

Thank you.

Crystal Collier  
President/CEO  
Seldovia Village Tribe

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: Tom Begich

Affiliation: Senate Minority Caucus

Email or Phone Contact: [sen.tom.begich@akleg.gov](mailto:sen.tom.begich@akleg.gov)

Senate Minority Caucus began mapping with a blank slate, taking into account known socio-economic entities and the Alaska Constitution requirements. The map was then adjusted to meet low deviations and to meet the federal "one person, one vote" standard, a process that is referred to as the Hickel process. At the time that the map was presented, the board expressed concern about the placement of Cordova and what they numbered as District 6, the large interior district, and the placement of Galena and McGrath in a district that included Nome. They affirm that these were difficult decisions and their argument was that these placements would be acceptable due to low deviations that are acceptable within the Alaska courts. They cited prior decisions to support this. They've listened to testimony and have adjusted their starting point map to reflect the testimony while keeping constitutional premises aligned. In doing so, they've communicated with other third party groups to understand the rationale behind their decisions, and with other political parties and looked at extensive public testimony. What they know is that no map will satisfy everyone, so difficult decisions will need to be made.

Today, the Senate Minority Caucus submits an updated map for consideration. They are not asking the board to post them, they want it to be for the board's deliberation. These maps, they hope, will give the board options they need to address concerns described by the public. All maps place Cordova with the southeast and divides southeast districts into 4 overpopulated districts by no more than 2.52 percent, which is the overall overpopulation in District 35 (an islands district). The overall deviation goes from 1.89 percent over to 2.82 percent over. This is on the record for consideration by the board as one option. There is an additional option that will not be submitted unless requested by the board and staff; the map places Cordova with Valdez and create an extensive eastern district. There would be a second district using the western part of the interior into the Dillingham area. The maps submitted today set the hard Doyon border, using the Doyon regions to the west and the south. If Cordova is not in southeast, then regardless of where it is placed, that Doyon boundary must shift eastward. There is no other way to draw a constitutional map. That being said, in doing this hard boundary, the excess population is absorbed that would have been needed from Cordova and thus becomes part of the interior map.

The maps also addresses two other key issues heard in formal and informal discussions. They slightly reform the 2 city Fairbanks boundaries using the east city boundary and seeks the excess population from the 2nd Fairbanks city district from the west. It firms up the eastside boundary consistent with testimony heard. The maps fairly allocate the excess population into the Doyon-based district and fully addresses equivalent populations due for Mat-Su and Anchorage. They also allocate the Kenai overpopulation to 20% though between 2 additional districts, taking care of the issue of how to allocate the Anchorage 12% that is necessary and also ensures the Kodiak-based district has enough population to not be over or underrepresented. This is consistent with a finding in the Kenai Peninsula

v. State and Hickel v. Southeast Conference where all excess population should go into another district in order to maximize fair representation of the excess group. Both of the board's concerns of the initial maps having Cordova added into an extensive interior district and the Galena, Ruby and McGrath communities being excluded with the Doyon district have been addressed in the updated map.

Anchorage, Fairbanks, and some Mat-Su districts have been cleaned up to be more compact. Combination 1 creates a more complete Doyon district based on the testimony of Doyon and others, puts Valdez in a Kodiak district, makes Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Mat-Su more compact, and adjusts the 4 western rule districts to balance the population.

Another option: Seward was put in with a Kodiak-based district and moves Seldovia and Valdez into the Kenai borough districts. This was done to show that there are other options, but they always bring you to the same place: You have to take 2 cuts to the Kenai borough to accommodate a large interior district Third option: The original map is changed by moving a population from the Delta Junction area into the Mat-Su borough district and taking the Denali Borough and moving that into the Doyon area. Shifts a population of about 1,600 or 1,700.

All the maps come in at 6.77% overall deviation, well under the 10% threshold. At least 4 districts contain a majority of Alaska Natives and 2 others would have fallen under the threshold of Native influence. At least 15 of the house districts would have a majority, minority, or an over 45% minority population; these should be considered in how maps are developed. They are not looking to replace the maps that are submitted, but would like to provide options to the board. Constitutional issues should be avoided so all Alaskans can have faith in the reapportionment process.

Tom referenced the 2001 redistricting cases regarding deviations. The caucus had built maps based on community council boundaries in Anchorage. They used the whole plus 5 percent and minus 5 percent deviations in creating that map. The court specifically identified that that was unconstitutional and that was a new rendition or new interpretation of the court at the time that since has been reaffirmed by the courts. Since then, they remanded the map back to the board to redraw and the maps were redrawn to have a deviation of only 1.35 percent and the court accepted it and stated this: "Newly available technological advances will often make it practicable to achieve deviations substantially below the 10% federal threshold, particularly in urban areas. " They did not specifically identify Anchorage at that point. "Accordingly, Article 6, Section 6, in many cases will be stricter than the federal threshold. This is post-adjustment of the reapportionment constitutional standard." This means, when it comes to Fairbanks, Mat-Su and Anchorage the board will be held by the court to a very strict standard reflective of at most 1.35 percent deviation that was accepted in the 2001 reapportionment process and reaffirmed in 2011.

What is truly important about this is the board has not "gotten more lax" in its requirements and technology is no where near where it was in 2001 when technological advances were identified, so the board must meet the deviations. The areas in southeast cannot have unnecessary deviations that are significantly plus or minus, when it can be shown on the record that you can create socio-economically integrated districts that clearly are very close in deviations. The Senate Minority Caucus maps do that. They show that you can keep all 4 southeast districts within a fraction of each other in terms of overall population. The maps also allow high deviations, but another map can be drawn to meet all criteria with deviations that are lower than the maps presented by the board.

**Testimony to the AK Redistricting Board of Senator Tom Begich  
10/27/2021 (revised)**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Board,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify once again on behalf of the Senate Minority Caucus. As mentioned in the past, our map was presented as a foundation as you began your process of reaching out to Alaskans so that, with public input and a robust statewide discussion, we might build the most constitutional, fair, and equitable map possible to guide us into the next decade.

From the very beginning a number of issues have been identified that really will determine the formation of a decent map. We began our map from a blank slate, taking into account the importance of known socioeconomic entities and the Alaska Constitutional requirements of compactness and contiguity. We then adjusted our map to meet the lowest possible deviations to meet the federal one person one vote standard.

At the time that we presented our map the Board identified areas of concern with both the placement of Cordova in what we numbered as our District 6, our interior House District, and the placement of traditional Doyon region villages such as Galena and McGrath, in with other districts. We affirmed that these were difficult decisions. Our argument was that low deviations would make these considerations acceptable to the Court. We cited prior decisions to support this, and you chose to adopt the map among others for consideration.

We have listened closely to the testimony over these past few weeks and in good faith have sought to adjust our starting point map to reflect that testimony, while keeping in mind the constitutional premises that underly our original map. In doing so we have communicated with other third-party groups to determine the rationale behind some of their decisions, communicated with other members of the legislature – Republican, Democrat, and Independent – and looked at the extensive public testimony to date. What we know from this process, just as you have learned, is that no map will satisfy everyone, so difficult choices have to be made.

Today we are submitting additional maps for your consideration in your deliberations toward a final map, in hopes that one of these options might most effectively address much of the testimony and some of the concerns your members have described. These maps all make a significant choice – they place Cordova in with the Southeast, then near equally divide the Southeast districts into 4 districts that are overpopulated by no more than 2.52% (District 35), with an overall deviation of between 1.89% To 2.52% - or 346 to 462 persons.

These maps also set the hard “Doyon” border on the West and South of their region, as this was a significant consideration voiced in testimony and by the Board. If Cordova is not in Southeast, then, regardless of where it is placed, that Doyon Boundary must shift Eastward, allowing the excess population to be absorbed by the Western Alaska rural and underpopulated districts.

These maps all also slightly reform the two Fairbanks City boundaries, using the East city boundary for District 2, and seek the excess population for the second Fairbanks City district, District 1, from the West. These maps also seek to more firmly compact Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Mat Su Districts while maintaining low deviations in each. These maps also fairly allocate the additional 22% of the Fairbanks Northstar Borough's excess population into that Doyon-based district, and fully address the equivalent populations due for Mat-Su and Anchorage. They also allocate the Kenai overpopulation of 20%, though between two additional districts. The Fairbanks through Anchorage Districts meet the Court's condition as stated in *Hickel*:

"We recognize that it may be necessary to divide a borough so that its excess population is allocated to a district situated elsewhere. However, where possible, all of a municipality's excess population should go to one other district in order to maximize effective representation of the excess group. (see footnote 26 below) This result is compelled not only by the article VI, section 6 requirements, but also by the state equal protection clause which guarantees the right to proportional geographic representation. See *Kenai Peninsula Borough v. State*, [743 P.2d 1352, 1369, 1372-73](#) (Alaska 1987) (stating that a primary indication of intentional discrimination against a geographic region was a lack of adherence to established political subdivision boundaries). *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, 846 P.2d 38, 52 (Alaska 1993)"

Footnote 26: Dividing the municipality's excess population among a number of districts would tend to dilute the effectiveness of the votes of those in the excess population group. Their collective votes in a single district would speak with a stronger voice than if distributed among several districts.

Both of the Board's concerns with the initial Senate Minority map, Cordova being added to an extensive Interior District, and the Doyon communities of Galena, Ruby, and McGrath being excluded from that district are resolved with these new maps, as are concerns with urban and semi-urban districts that may have been perceived as less compact. There are differences between the four maps as each seek to resolve issues brought up in testimony. All maps have an overall deviation of at least 6.74%

Combined1 – Creates a more complete Doyon District per the testimony of Doyon and others. Puts Valdez in the Kodiak District. Makes Anchorage, Mat Su, and Fairbanks more compact. Adjusts the four Western Rural Districts to balance population. (6.74% overall map deviation, Low/High: Districts 37 at -4.07, District 40 at +2.67)

Combined2 – Tries a novel change of putting Seward in with the Kodiak based District and moves Valdez, Tyonek, and Seldovia into the Kenai Borough Districts. Otherwise, it is the same as Combined1 (6.74% overall map deviation, Low/High: Districts 6 at -4.09, District 40 at +2.67)

CantwellCombined1 – This map is also identical to Combined 1, except that it puts Cantwell and the Denali Borough in the "Doyon" District (6), while putting Delta Junction and surrounding areas in Mat Su District 12, per testimony from Ahtna and others regarding Cantwell. This does

also allow for nearly all of the Copper River area and much of the Richardson Highway Alaska Native/Ahtna population to be in District 6. (6.76% overall map deviation, Low/High: Districts 37 at -4.07, District 40 at +2.67)

As mentioned In doing this, we also restructure the Bering Straits Region district and the Bethel and Southwestern districts to bring them into population conformity. We adjust Southeast to absorb Cordova by once again returning Wrangell to a Ketchikan District, and placing much of Prince of Wales Island in an Island district.

Consider these maps proposed solutions to the dilemma you face. They don't satisfy everyone, and they raise the overall deviation, due to a District in Rural Alaska being overpopulated in all maps (District 40 at +2.67%), and others being underpopulated (District 37 at -4.07% in Combined1 and Combined3, District 6 in CantwellCombined1 at 4.09%), though all individual districts are under the 5% +/- deviation and districts 1-5, and 7-28, are each within less than .14% +/- deviation. These maps arrive there through a clear, definable process that began with the state's constitutional provisions, progressed through the federal requirements, and finished based on testimony before the board – following the court's *Hickel* process, and adjusting to meet public comment.

Finally, I would add, to my knowledge that the Board has not taken into consideration the Alaska Native Population in these maps. While it is true that the Federal Voting Rights Act has been weakened significantly, it still exists and must be considered in your process. These maps, to the best of our ability to determine it, contain at least 4 districts that contain a majority of Alaska Natives, and likely at least one and possibly more that reach the 35% threshold of a "Native Influence" district, as determined by prior courts.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to your final deliberations and encourage to look at these maps as a potential solution to the problems you have identified.

***(These remarks have been revised from the oral testimony to reflect adjustments made to the submitted map after discussions with Doyon, following public testimony. Board Member Borromeo requested comments on the Constitutionality of the other plans before the Board. These will follow in later written testimony. Board Member Borromeo also requested to see a map that showed Valdez and Cordova in the same district, which was mentioned in testimony. This will also be provided, as will an additional Kenai Peninsula variation.)***



**From:** Thomas S Begich [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Testimony from 10-27 revised and initial responses to questions  
**Date:** October 28, 2021 at 10:06:33 AM AKDT  
**To:** [testimony@akredistricting.org](mailto:testimony@akredistricting.org)

Hi Julie,

Attached are the maps I discussed in testimony yesterday and a revised version of the written testimony I left there last night. I have also included the Valdez/Cordova option I mentioned in testimony that Board Member Borrromeo requested. I will follow up with answers to the additional questions reviewing the other maps regarding constitutionality. Below are some explanatory notes:

**Combined1** is the basic map. It uses the Doyon West and Southwest Boundaries. Cantwell follows Combined1, but trades out Delta for Denali Borough. I took a little more time to draw up a stronger AK Native highway map, so that is why the delay. Apologies.

**CantwellCombined1:** Overall Deviation 6.76%. If District 6 shed 4 people, the overall map deviation could be reduced to 6.74%. Places the Denali Borough with District 6, the Doyon District. Includes virtually all of the Richardson Highway and eastward Alaska Native population. Combines with Fairbanks to take in the excess Fairbanks population from rural areas. Does not include Eielson, Ft. Greely, or Delta Junction. District 6 has an Alaska Native population likely in excess of 38% (though we still have not been provided the Alaska Native matrix numbers - this is based on subtracting the Black and Hispanic numbers from the overall minority numbers. Min. Pop: 42.33%. There are 10 Majority-Minority Districts in this map of which at least 4 are Majority Alaska Native. An additional 4 Districts exceed 45% in Minority population.

This map only breaks Fairbanks once to shed excess population, Mat Su and Anchorage once to acquire excess population, Kenai twice to shed excess population, and holds all cities intact.

Maps for Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Mat-Su, Southeast, Western Alaska, and the Kenai/Coast Gulf are otherwise identical to Combined1.

**Combined 1:** Overall Deviation 6.74%. Places the Denali Borough with District 12, the Mat Su District that acquires excess population. Does not include part of the Richardson Highway Copper River/Center population. Combines with Fairbanks to take in the excess Fairbanks population from rural areas. Does not include Eielson, but includes Ft. Greely and Delta Junction. District 6 has an Alaska Native population likely in excess of 36% (though we still have not been provided the Alaska Native matrix numbers - this is based on subtracting the Black and Hispanic numbers from the overall minority numbers. Min. Pop: 41.91%. There are 10 Majority-Minority Districts in this map of which at least 4 are Majority Alaska Native. An additional 4 Districts exceed 45% in Minority population.

This map only breaks Fairbanks once to shed excess population, Mat Su and Anchorage once to acquire excess population, Kenai twice to shed excess population, and holds all cities intact.

Maps for Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Mat-Su, Southeast, Western Alaska, and the Kenai/Coast Gulf are otherwise identical to CantwellCombined1.

**Combined 2:** Overall Deviation 6.74%. This map is the same as Combined 1, except that it has a Kenai variation that places Valdez in with the Kenai Peninsula, Seward in with the Kodiak

District, and Seldovia and Tyonek back in the Kenai Borough Homer District. This could be modified with CantwellCombined1 Denali/Richardson/Delta changes without affecting overall deviations. There are 10 Majority-Minority Districts in this map of which at least 4 are Majority Alaska Native. An additional 3 Districts exceed 45% in Minority population.

This map only breaks Fairbanks once to shed excess population, Mat Su and Anchorage once to acquire excess population, Kenai three times to shed excess population and acquire Valdez, and holds all cities intact.

Maps for Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Mat-Su, Southeast, Western Alaska, and the Kenai/Coast Gulf are otherwise identical to CantwellCombined1.

**Combined 3:** Overall Deviation 6.74%. This map is the same as Combined 1, except that it has a Kenai variation that places Seward in with the Homer District, and creates a more compact District 29, This could be modified with CantwellCombined1 Denali/Richardson/Delta changes without affecting overall deviations. There are 10 Majority-Minority Districts in this map of which at least 4 are Majority Alaska Native. An additional 4 Districts exceed 45% in Minority population.

This map only breaks Fairbanks once to shed excess population, Mat Su and Anchorage once to acquire excess population, Kenai twice to shed excess population, and holds all cities intact.

Maps for Anchorage, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Mat-Su, Southeast, Western Alaska, and the Kenai/Coast Gulf are otherwise identical to CantwellCombined1.

**Valdez Cordova:** Overall Deviation 4.18%. This is not a map favorable to Doyon. This is based on the Valdez submission, which indicated a district could be drawn with Valdez and Cordova together. It should be noted that the Valdez submission carried a matrix error that only allocated 4 full House Districts to the Fairbanks North Star Borough, rather than their full 5 minimum. This error made their map possible. This map indicates what you would likely have to do if you accepted the Valdez approach. This creates a massive District 37 stretching from the Kuskokwim Delta to Arctic Village, places the Denali Borough with that District, The Mat Su District 12 acquires excess population from the Delta Ft Greely area. Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Mat SU are the same as in Combined1, but Southeast, without Cordova, takes the form of the original Senate Minority map - splitting Prince of Wales Island with Craig and Hollis in a Ketchikan District and Wrangell in a Sitka district. Gustavus also moves into the Sitka District.

District 6 has an Alaska Native population likely less than 26% (though we still have not been provided the Alaska Native matrix numbers - this is based on subtracting the Black and Hispanic numbers from the overall minority numbers. Min. Pop: 31.87%. There are 11 Majority-Minority Districts in this map of which at least 4 are Majority Alaska Native. An additional 4 Districts exceed 45% in Minority population.

This map only breaks Fairbanks once to shed excess population, Mat Su and Anchorage once to acquire excess population, Kenai twice to shed excess population, and holds all cities intact.

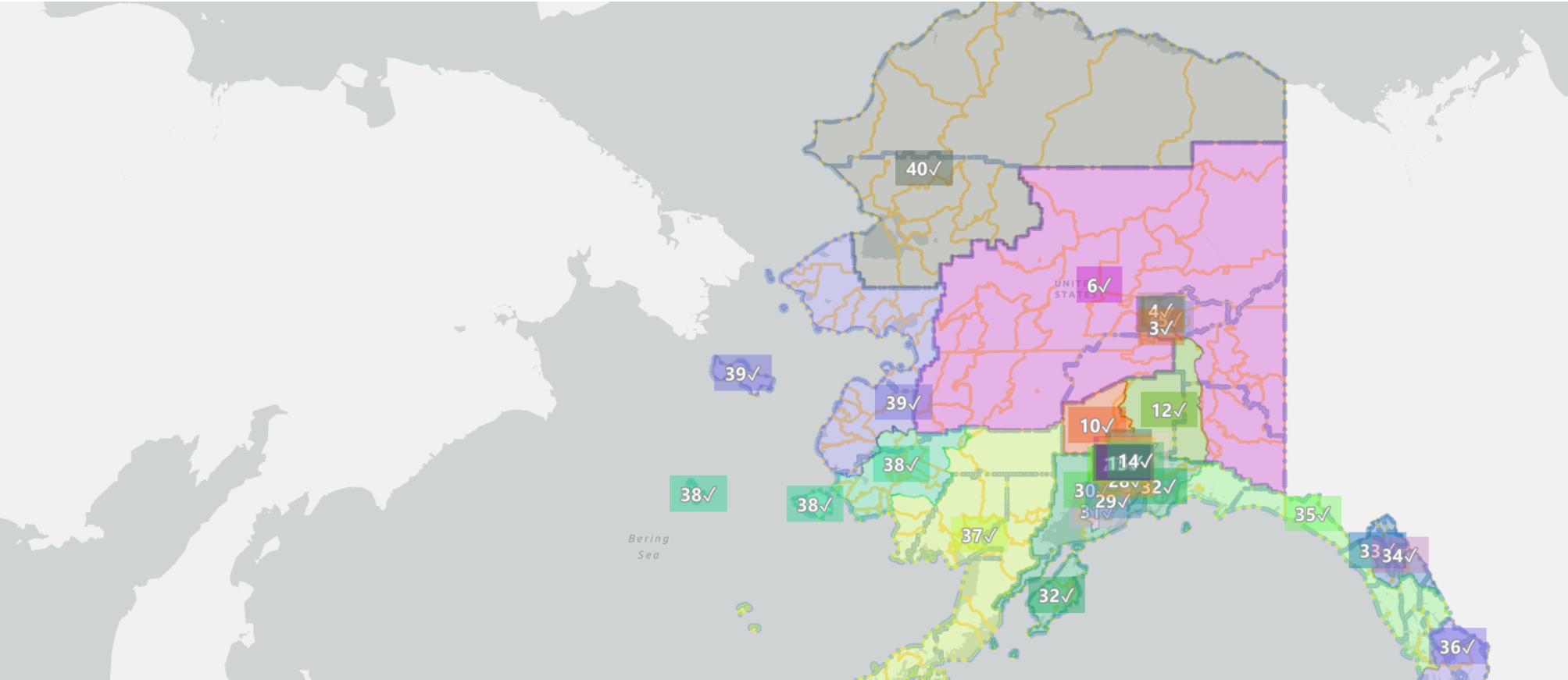
[Click to Download](#)

Combined plans 10-27-21.zip  
43.9 MB

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October 27 testimony to the Board revised.docx  
19 KB

# CantwellCombined1



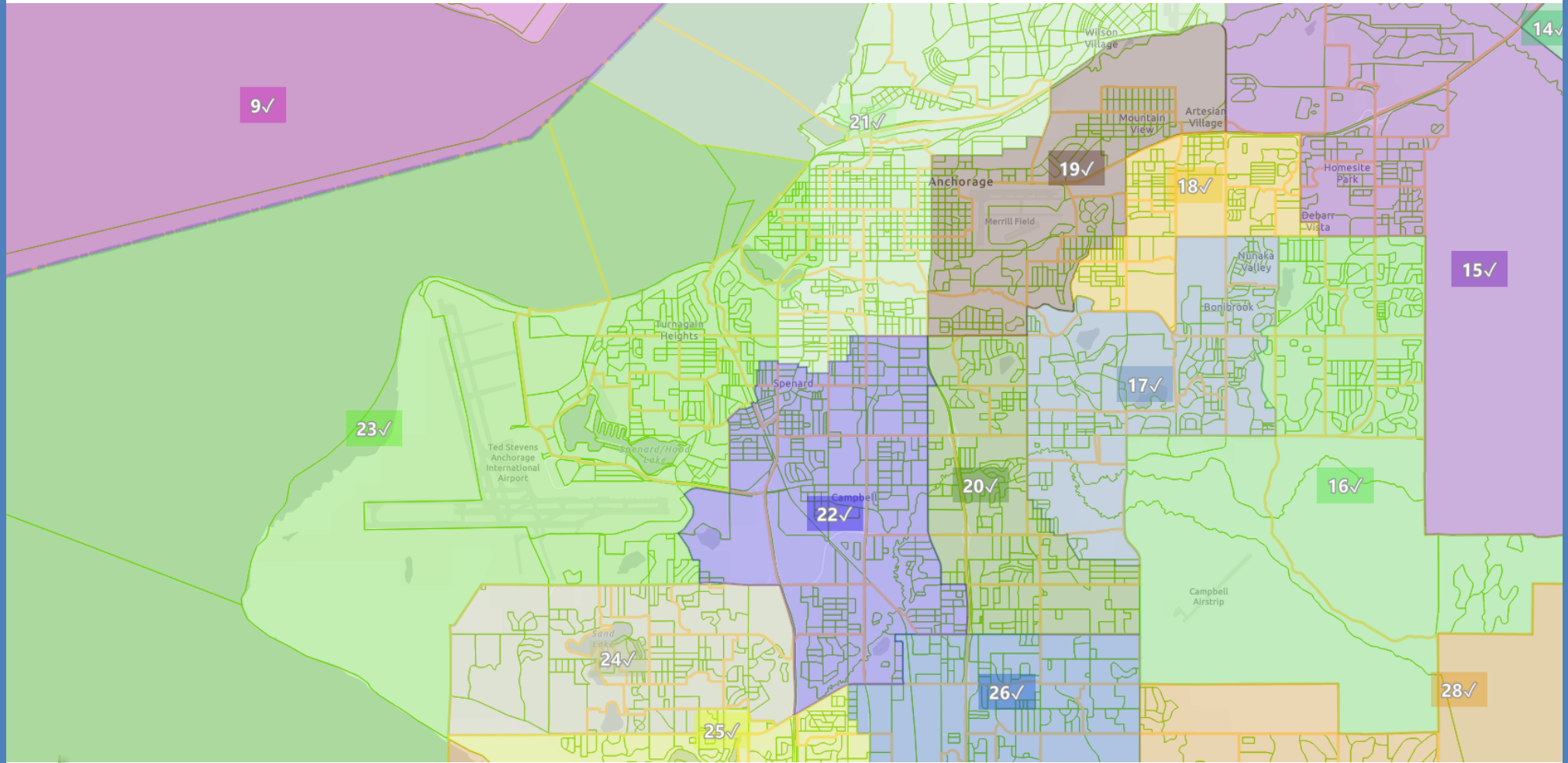
CantwellCombined1 - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/27/2021 10:39:07 PM Last Edit:10/27/2021 10:12:10 PM



| DISTRICT          | Total Population Tabulation |        |         |            |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------|------------|
|                   | All Persons                 | Target | Dev.    | Difference |
| 1                 | 18,326                      | 18,335 | -0.05%✓ | -9         |
| 2                 | 18,329                      | 18,335 | -0.03%✓ | -6         |
| 3                 | 18,346                      | 18,335 | 0.06%✓  | 11         |
| 4                 | 18,330                      | 18,335 | -0.03%✓ | -5         |
| 5                 | 18,322                      | 18,335 | -0.07%✓ | -13        |
| 6                 | 17,592                      | 18,335 | -4.05%✓ | -743       |
| 7                 | 18,310                      | 18,335 | -0.14%✓ | -25        |
| 8                 | 18,316                      | 18,335 | -0.10%✓ | -19        |
| 9                 | 18,314                      | 18,335 | -0.11%✓ | -21        |
| 10                | 18,314                      | 18,335 | -0.11%✓ | -21        |
| 11                | 18,313                      | 18,335 | -0.12%✓ | -22        |
| 12                | 18,311                      | 18,335 | -0.13%✓ | -24        |
| 13                | 18,335                      | 18,335 | 0.00%✓  | 0          |
| 14                | 18,335                      | 18,335 | 0.00%✓  | 0          |
| 15                | 18,336                      | 18,335 | 0.01%✓  | 1          |
| 16                | 18,332                      | 18,335 | -0.02%✓ | -3         |
| 17                | 18,339                      | 18,335 | 0.02%✓  | 4          |
| 18                | 18,337                      | 18,335 | 0.01%✓  | 2          |
| 19                | 18,333                      | 18,335 | -0.01%✓ | -2         |
| 20                | 18,330                      | 18,335 | -0.03%✓ | -5         |
| 21                | 18,328                      | 18,335 | -0.04%✓ | -7         |
| 22                | 18,337                      | 18,335 | 0.01%✓  | 2          |
| 23                | 18,341                      | 18,335 | 0.03%✓  | 6          |
| 24                | 18,344                      | 18,335 | 0.05%✓  | 9          |
| 25                | 18,333                      | 18,335 | -0.01%✓ | -2         |
| 26                | 18,338                      | 18,335 | 0.02%✓  | 3          |
| 27                | 18,340                      | 18,335 | 0.03%✓  | 5          |
| 28                | 18,342                      | 18,335 | 0.04%✓  | 7          |
| 29                | 18,612                      | 18,335 | 1.51%✓  | 277        |
| 30                | 18,612                      | 18,335 | 1.51%✓  | 277        |
| 31                | 18,615                      | 18,335 | 1.53%✓  | 280        |
| 32                | 18,398                      | 18,335 | 0.34%✓  | 63         |
| 33                | 18,720                      | 18,335 | 2.10%✓  | 385        |
| 34                | 18,720                      | 18,335 | 2.10%✓  | 385        |
| 35                | 18,797                      | 18,335 | 2.52%✓  | 462        |
| 36                | 18,681                      | 18,335 | 1.89%✓  | 346        |
| 37                | 17,582                      | 18,335 | -4.11%✓ | -753       |
| 38                | 17,623                      | 18,335 | -3.88%✓ | -712       |
| 39                | 17,704                      | 18,335 | -3.44%✓ | -631       |
| 40                | 18,824                      | 18,335 | 2.67%✓  | 489        |
| <b>Assigned</b>   | <b>733391</b>               |        |         |            |
| <b>Total Pop</b>  | <b>733391</b>               |        |         |            |
| <b>Unassigned</b> | <b>0</b>                    |        |         |            |

# CantwellCombined1

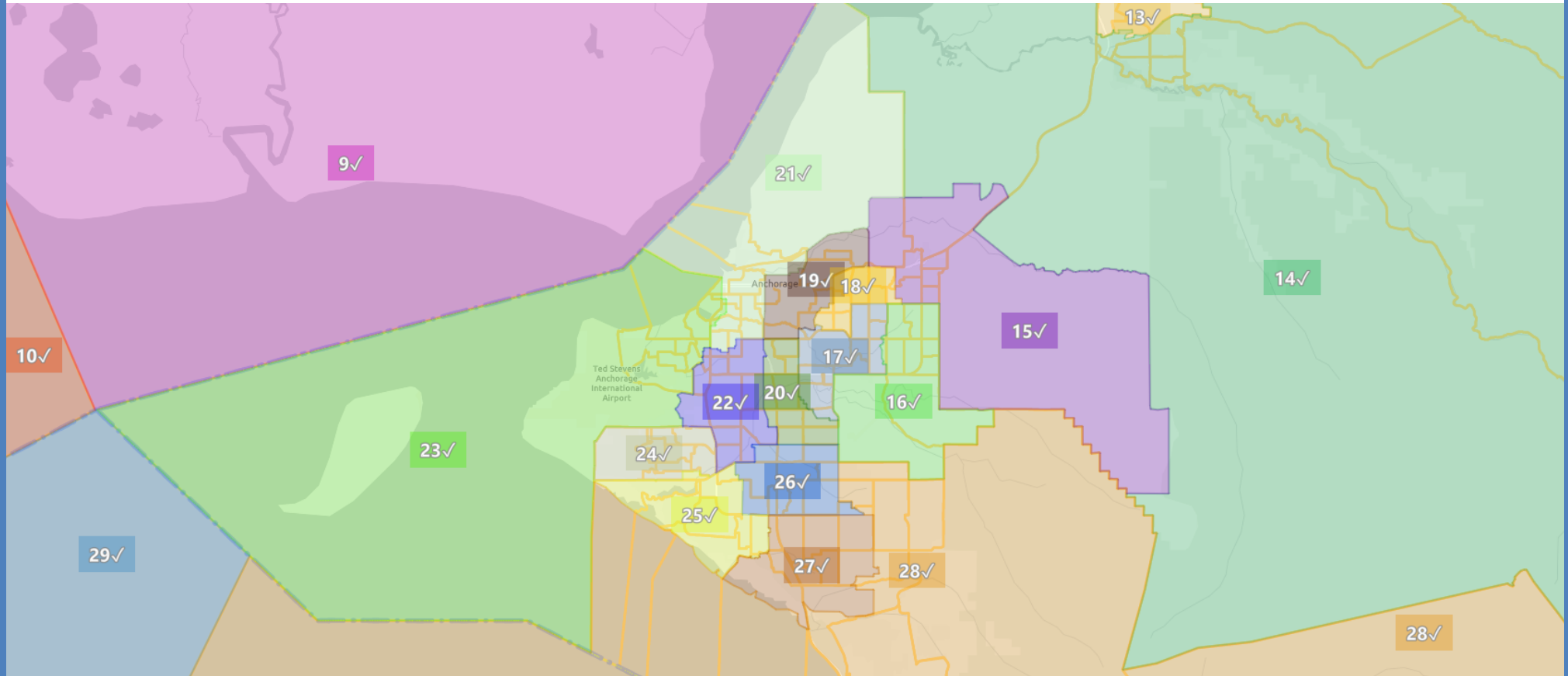


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Map Date: 10/27/2021 10:51:12 PM Last Edit:10/27/2021 10:12:10 PM



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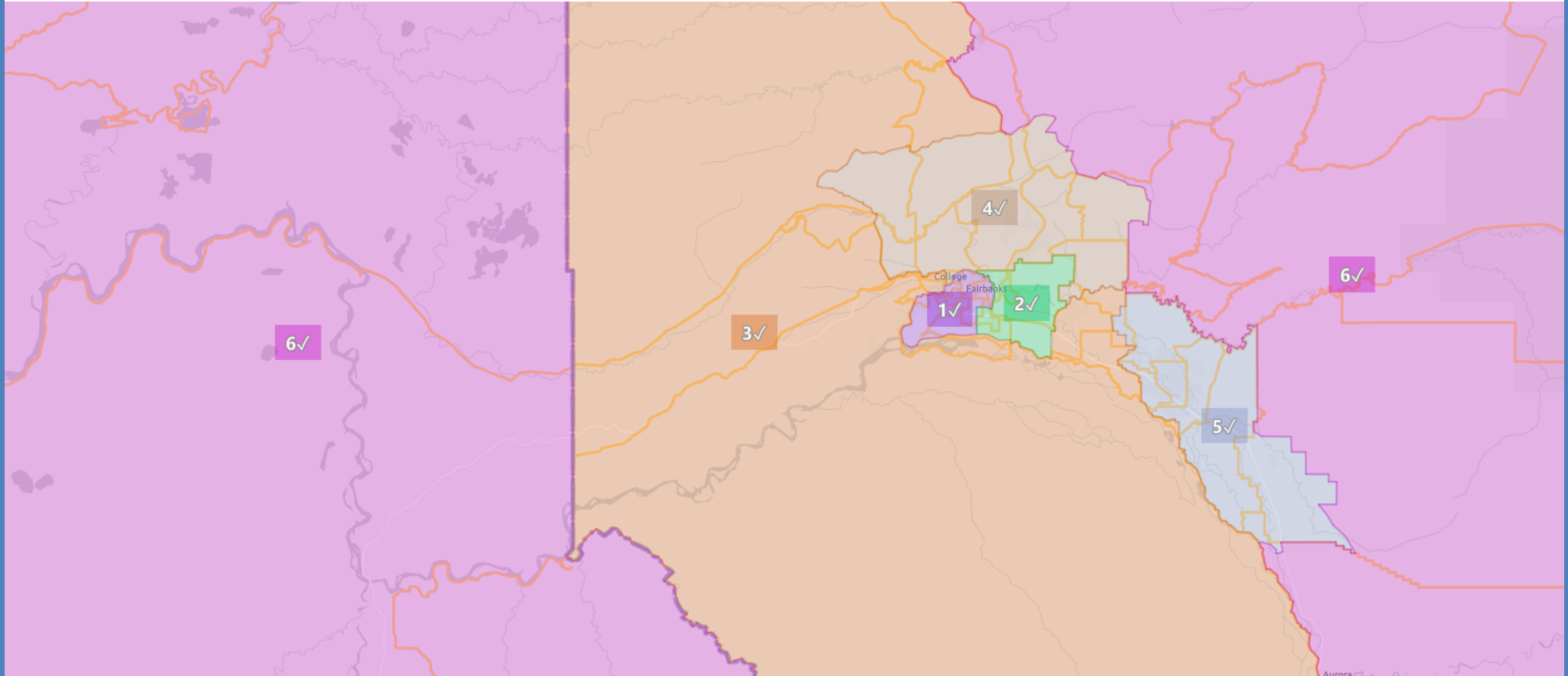


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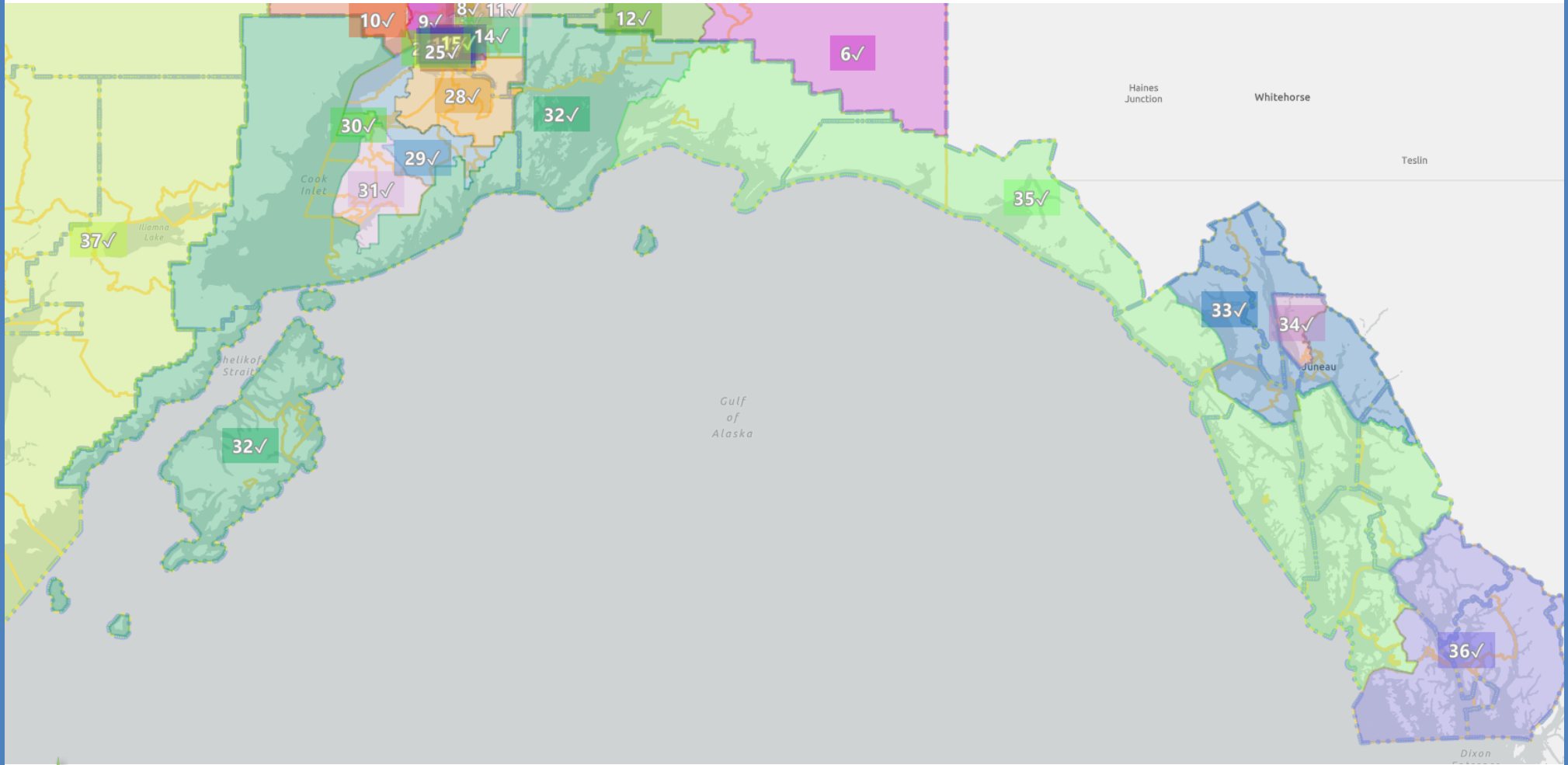


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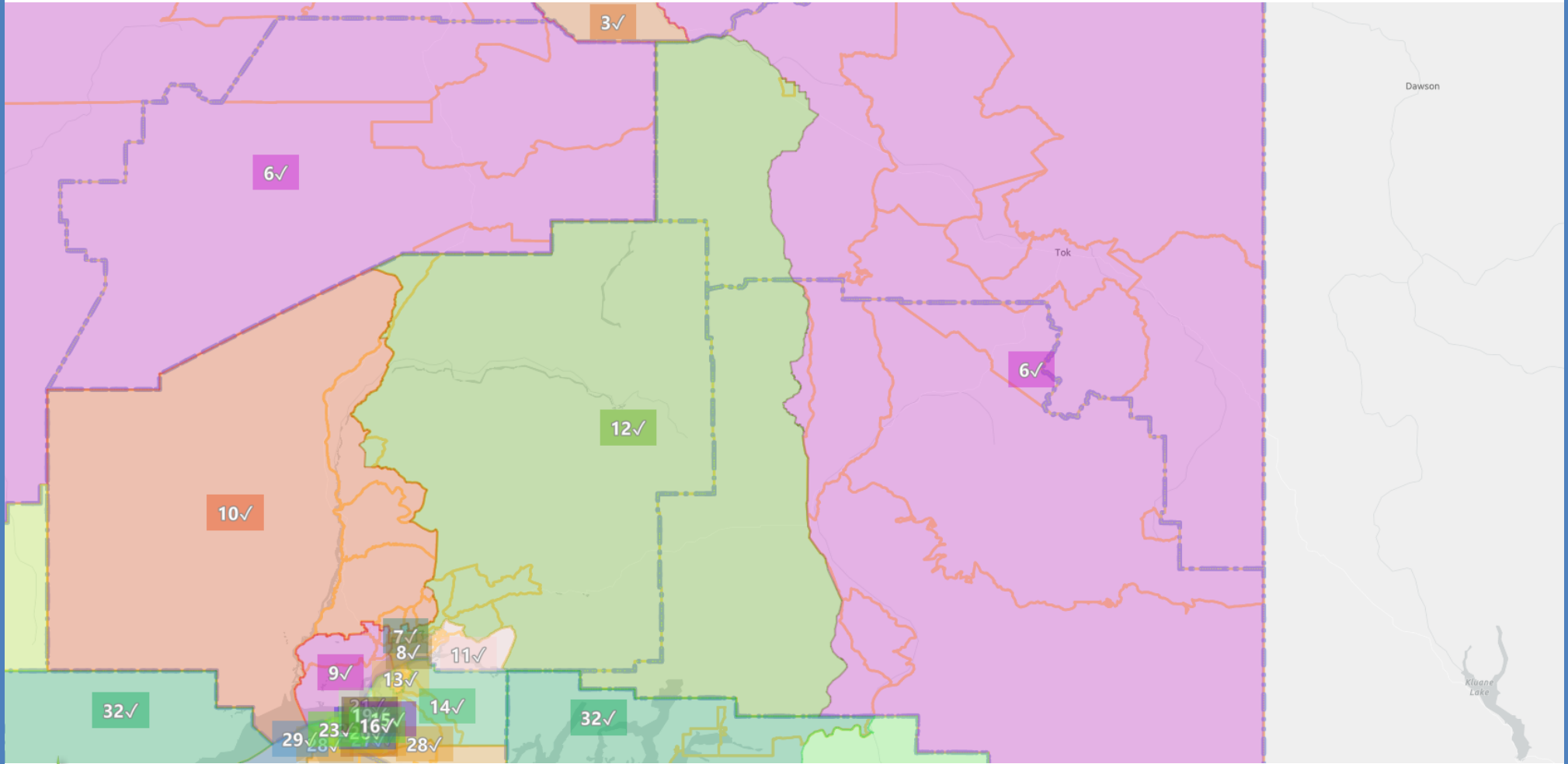
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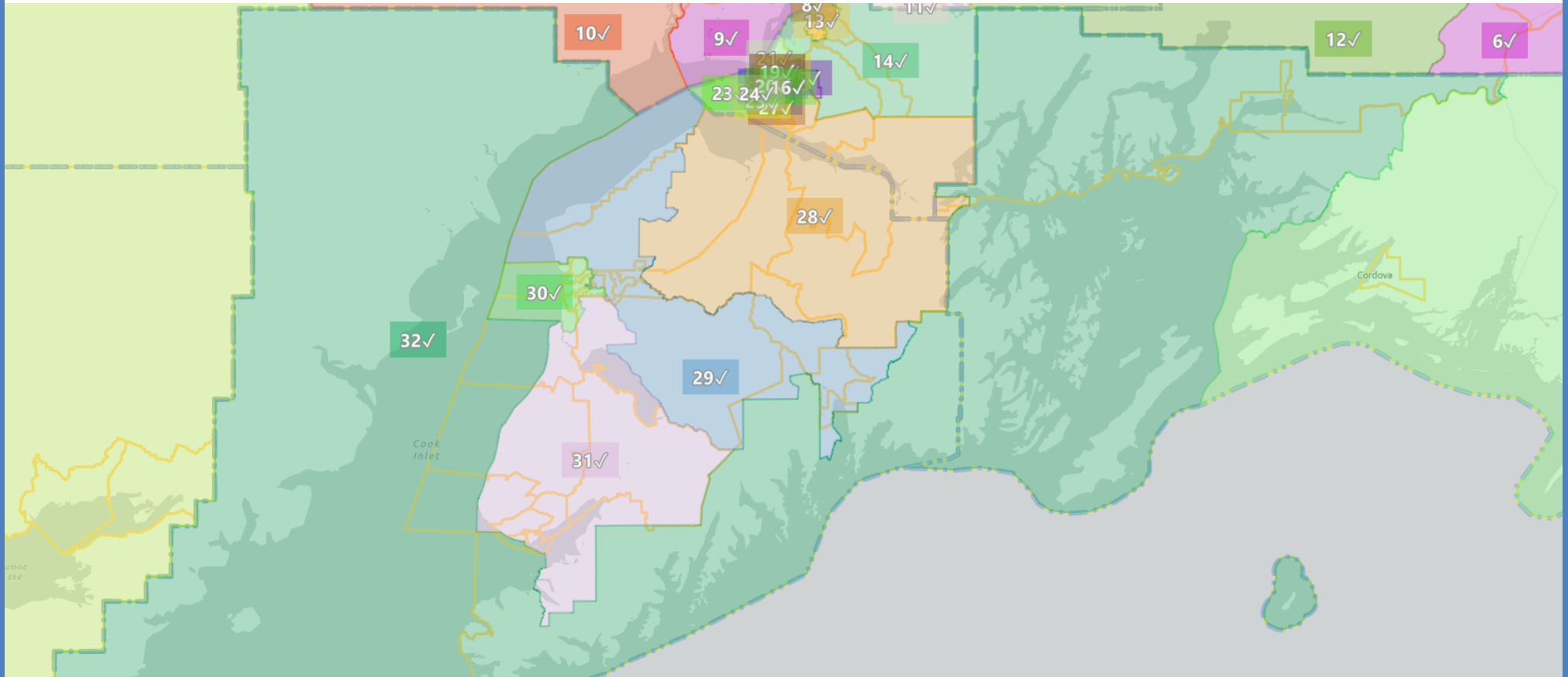


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Map Date: 10/27/2021 10:58:37 PM Last Edit:10/27/2021 10:53:26 PM



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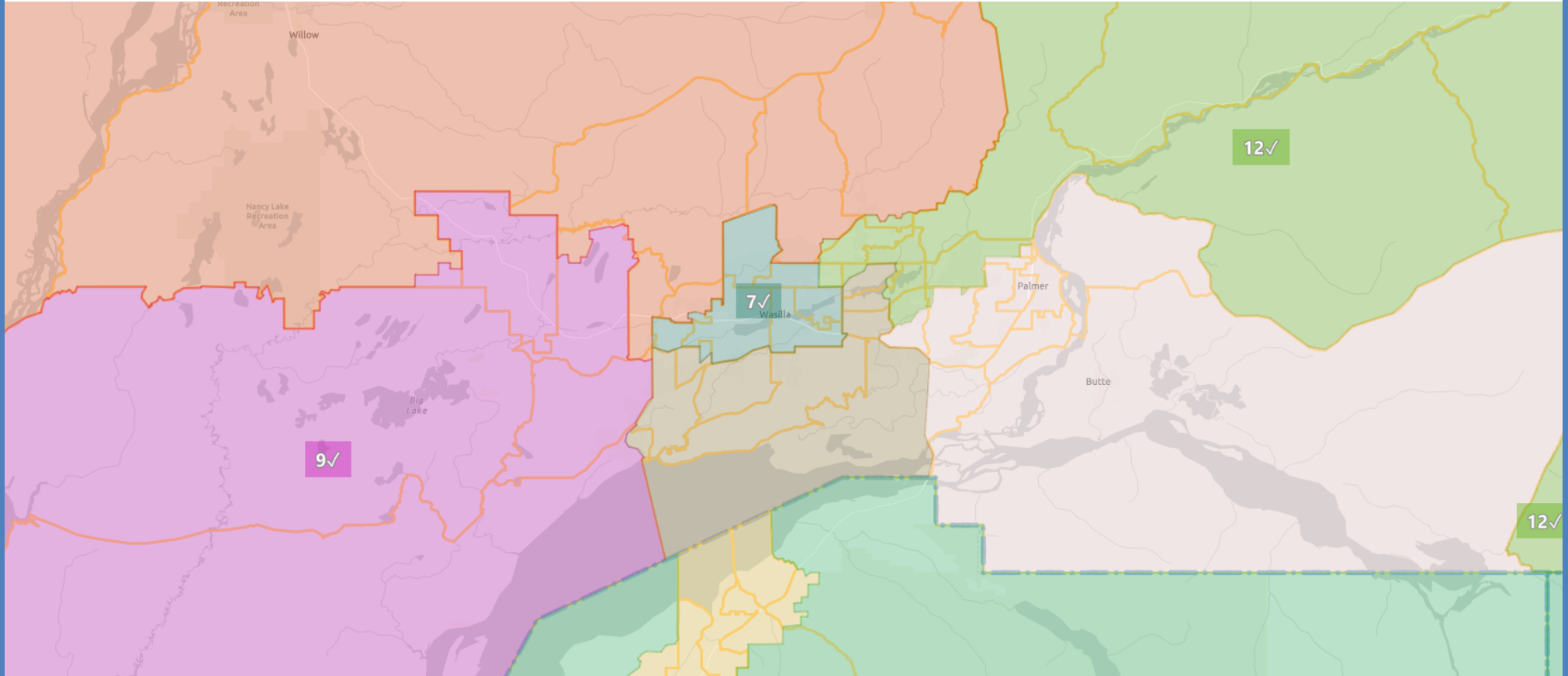


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Map Date: 10/27/2021 10:44:58 PM Last Edit:10/27/2021 10:12:10 PM



# CantwellCombined1



CantwellCombined1 - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/27/2021 10:46:07 PM Last Edit:10/27/2021 10:12:10 PM



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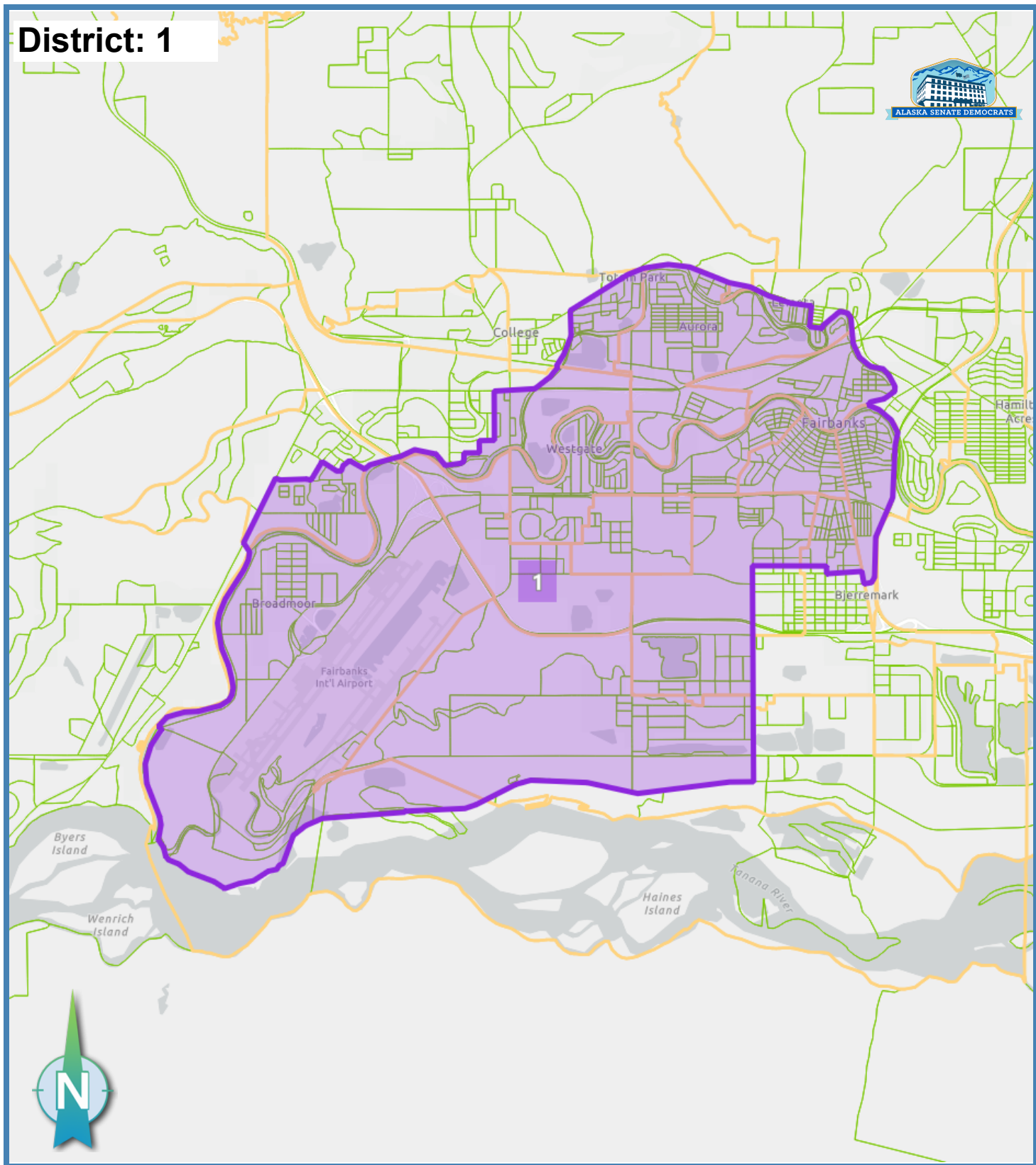
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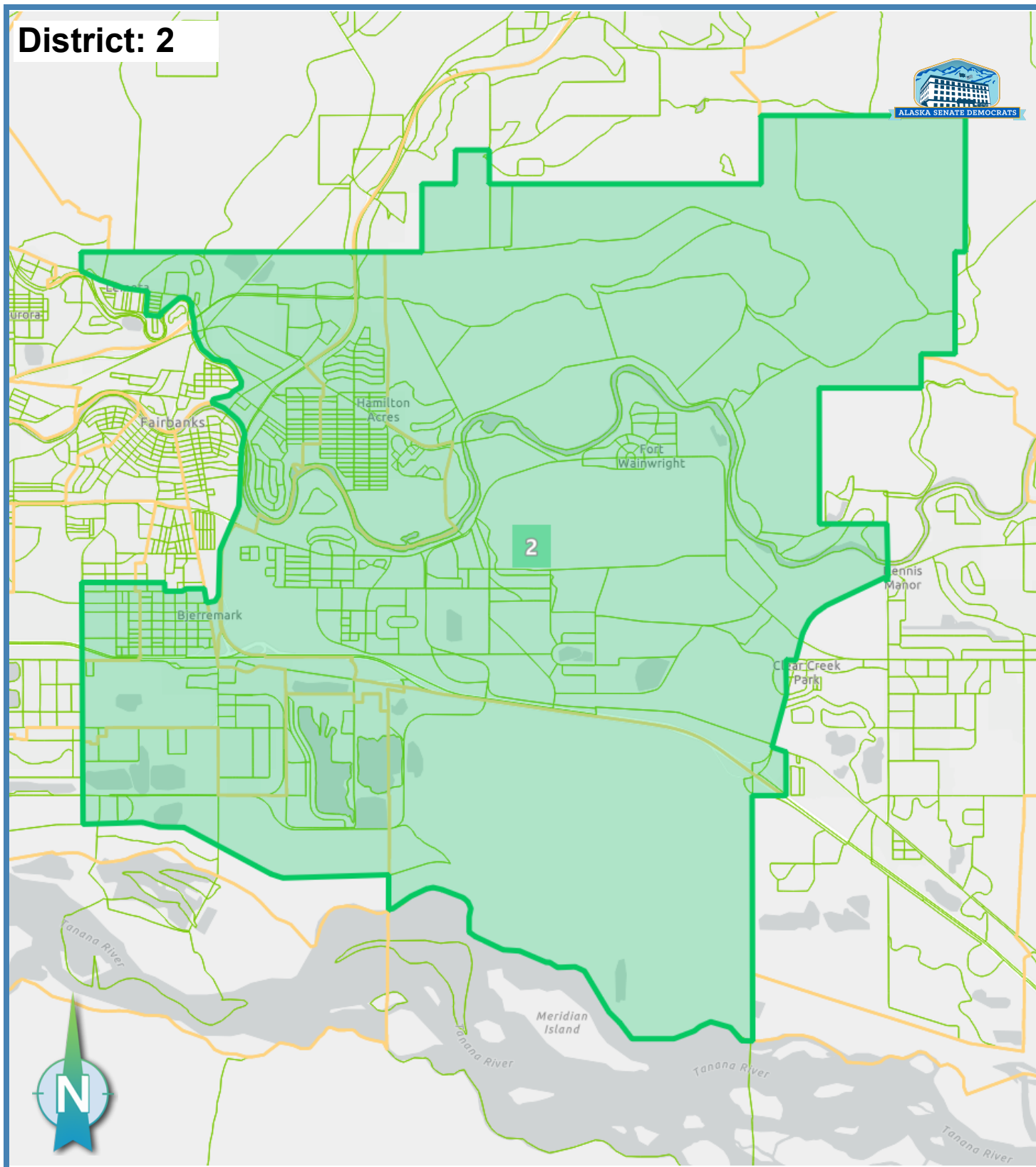
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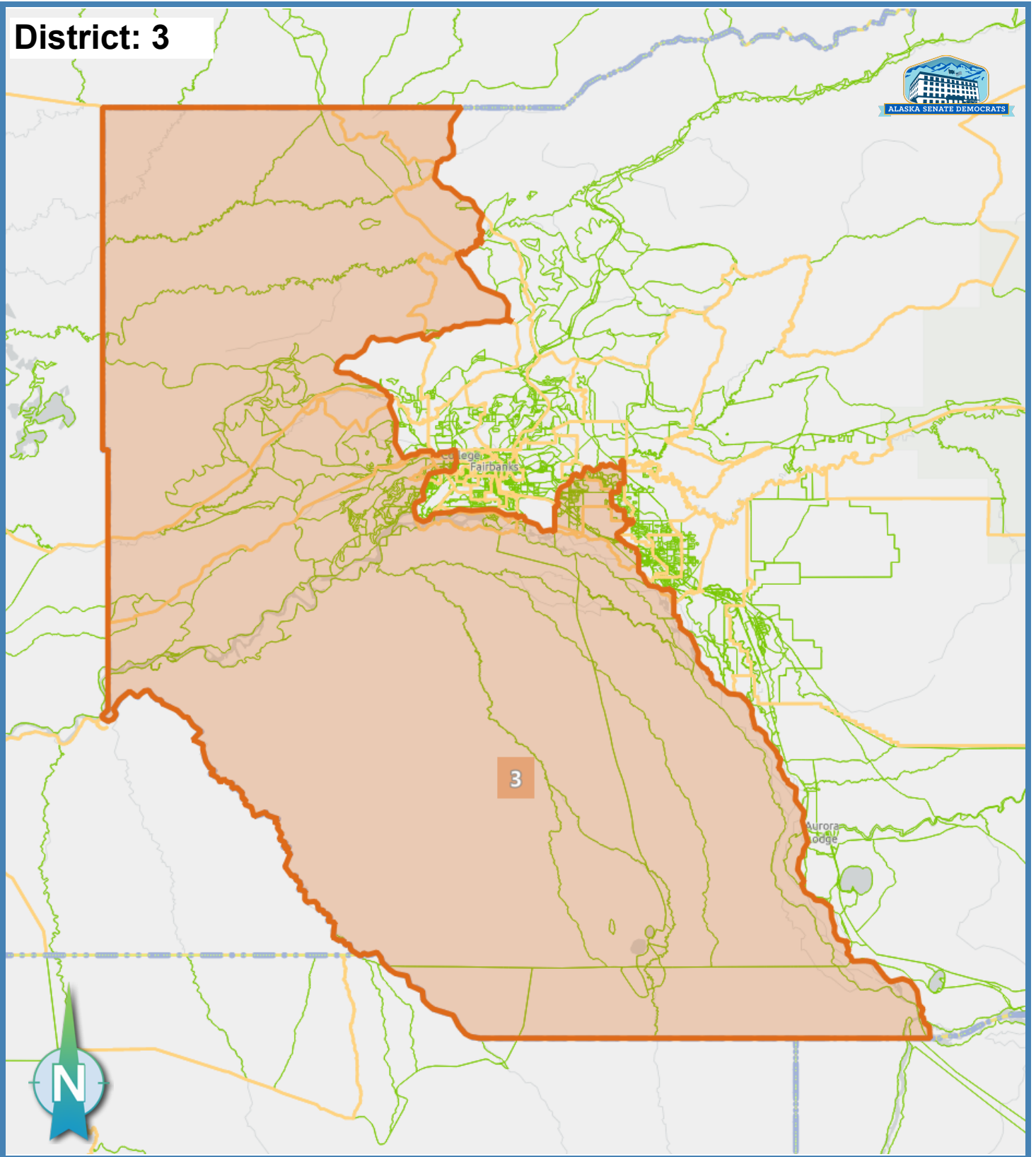
Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -0.05 %      Total Population: **18,326**

# District: 2



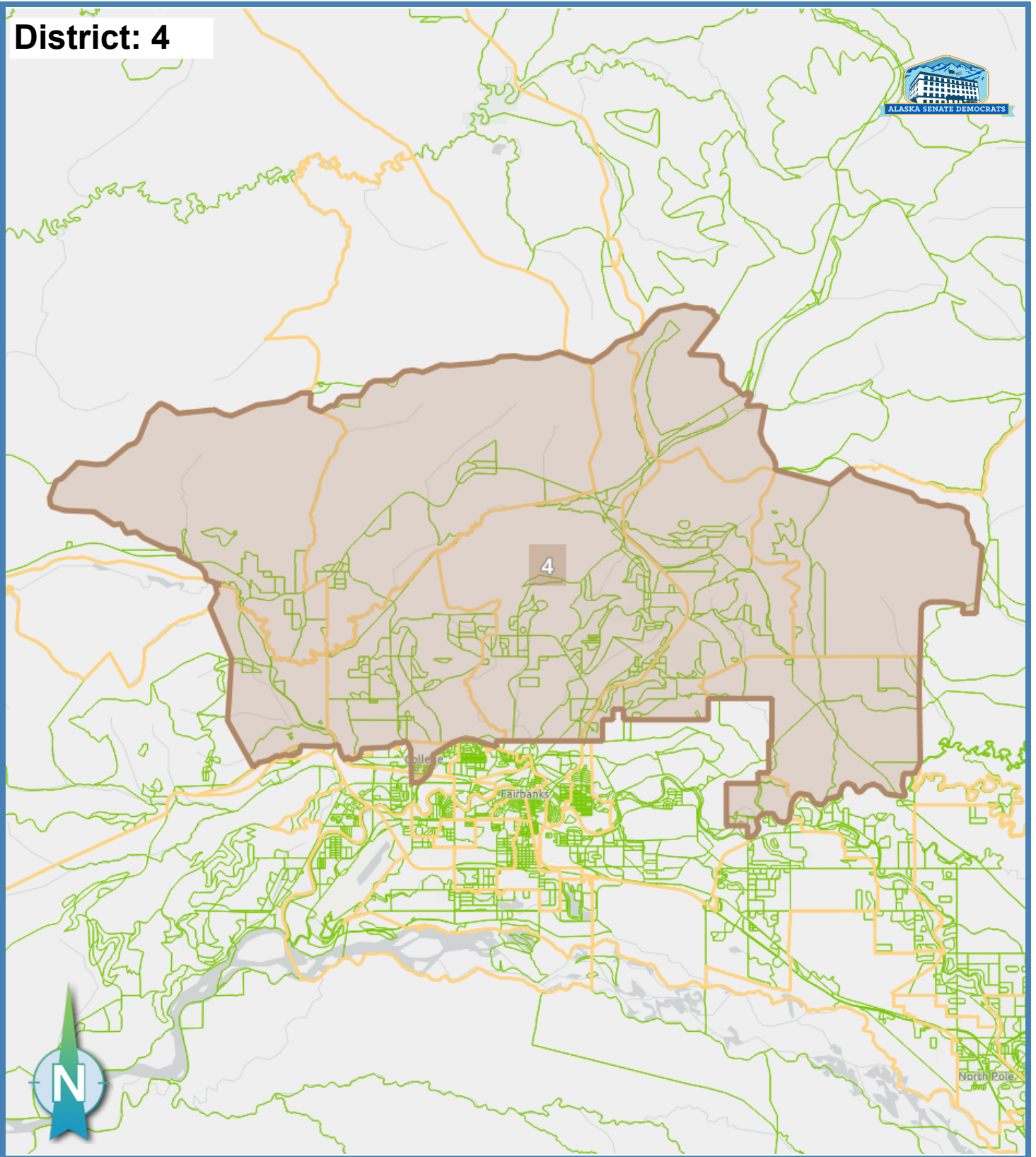
Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -0.03 %      Total Population: 18,329

# District: 3



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 0.06 %      Total Population: **18,346**

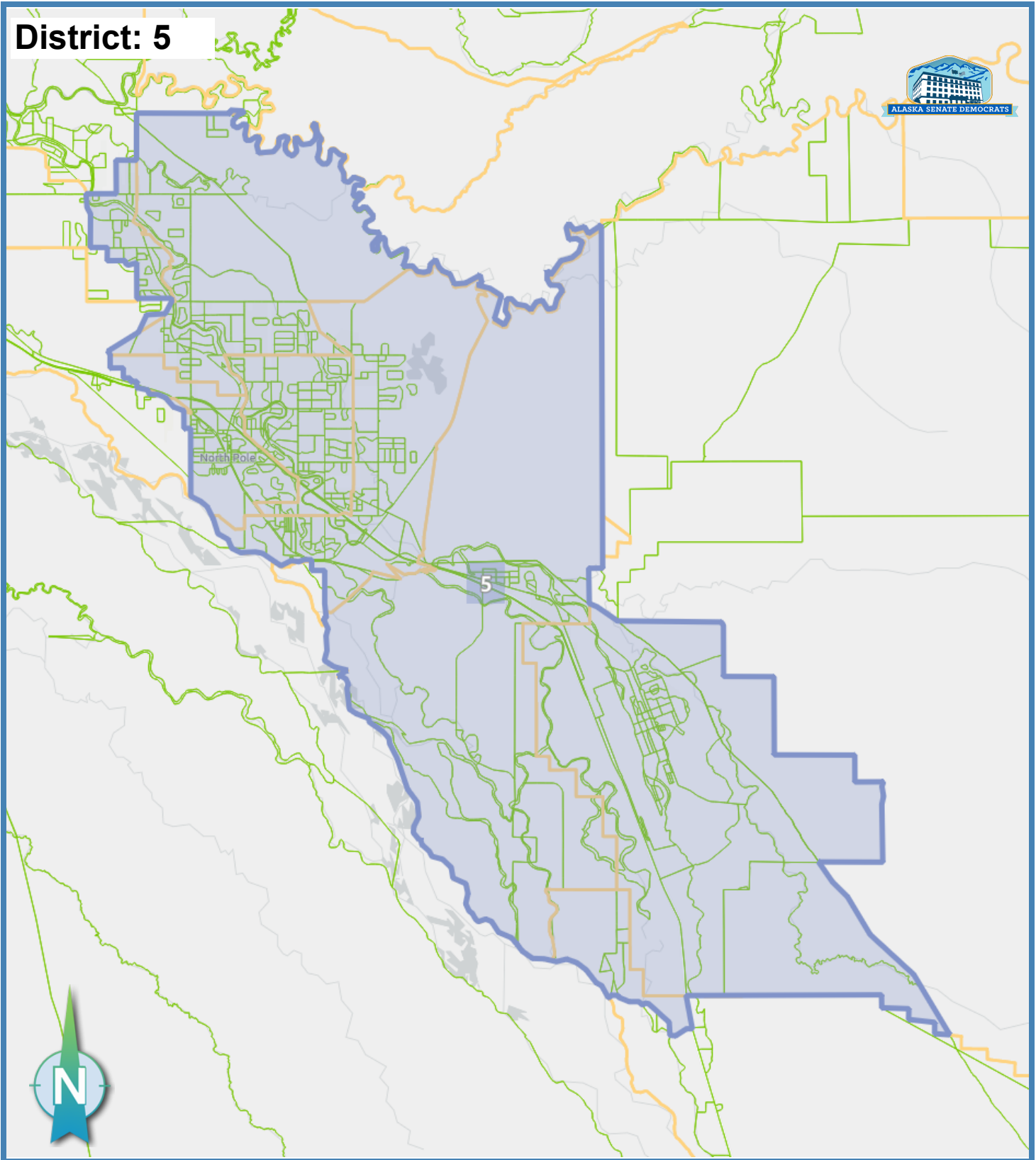
# District: 4



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -0.03 %      Total Population: **18,330**

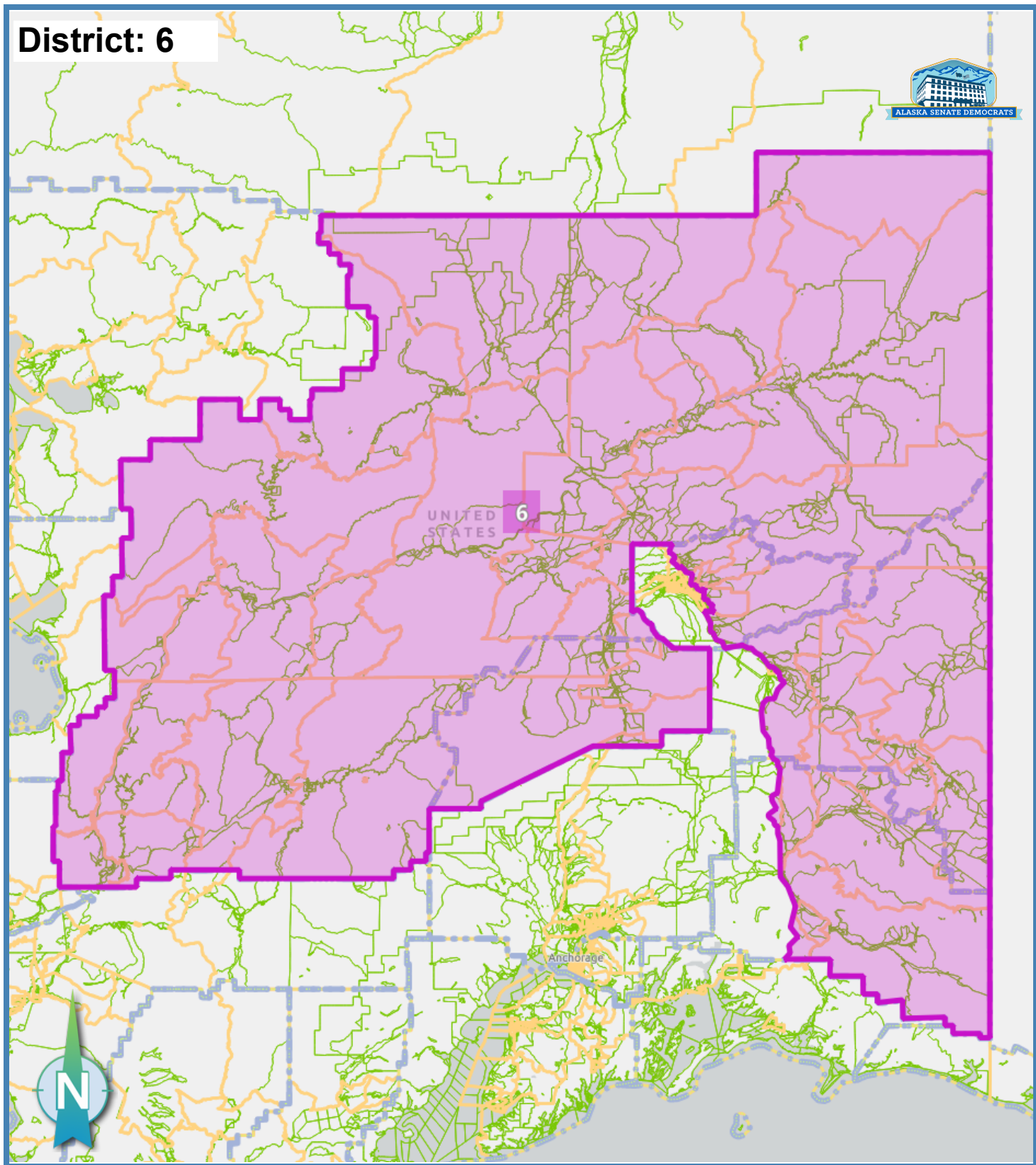


# District: 5



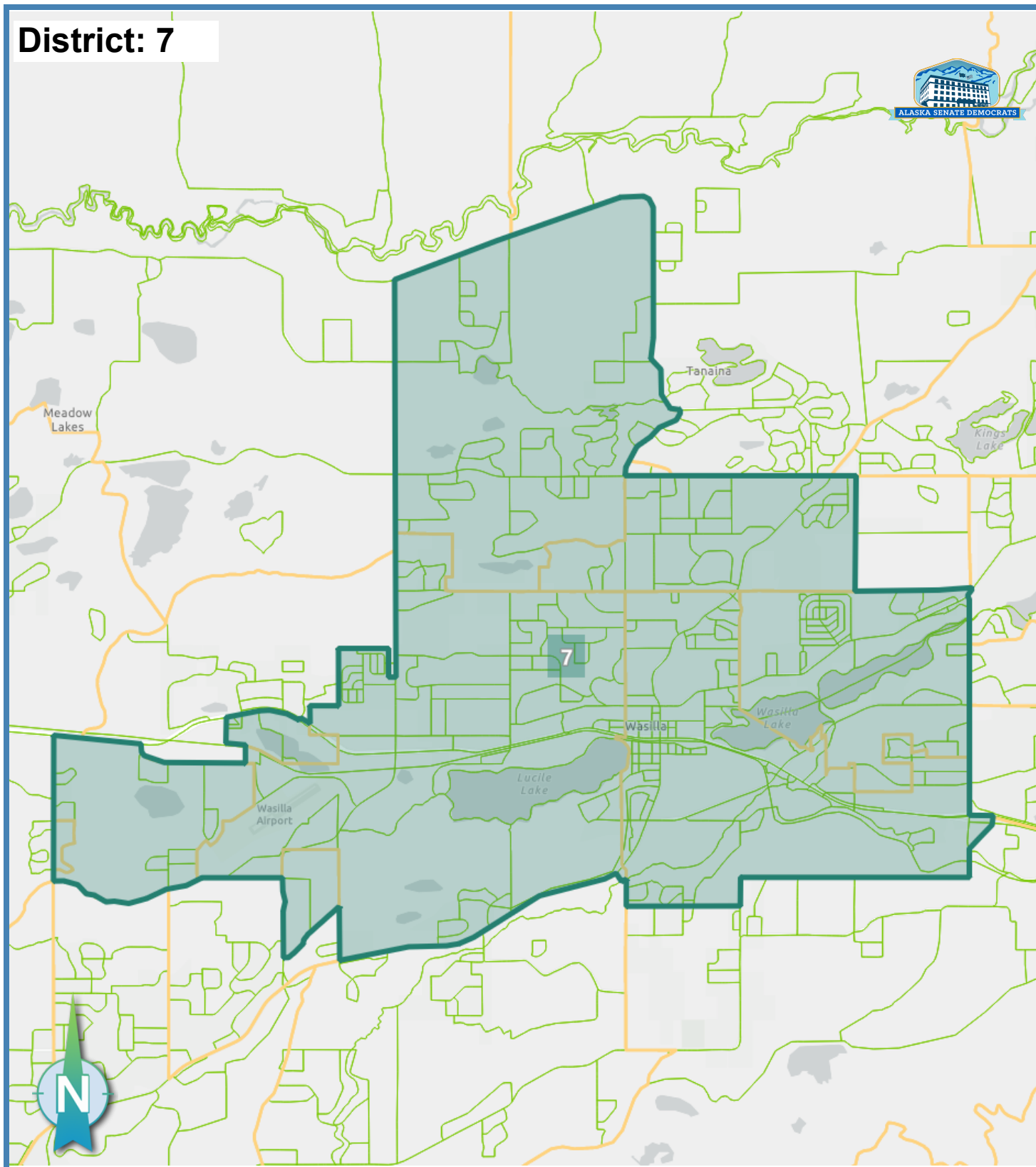
Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -0.07 %      Total Population: **18,322**

# District: 6

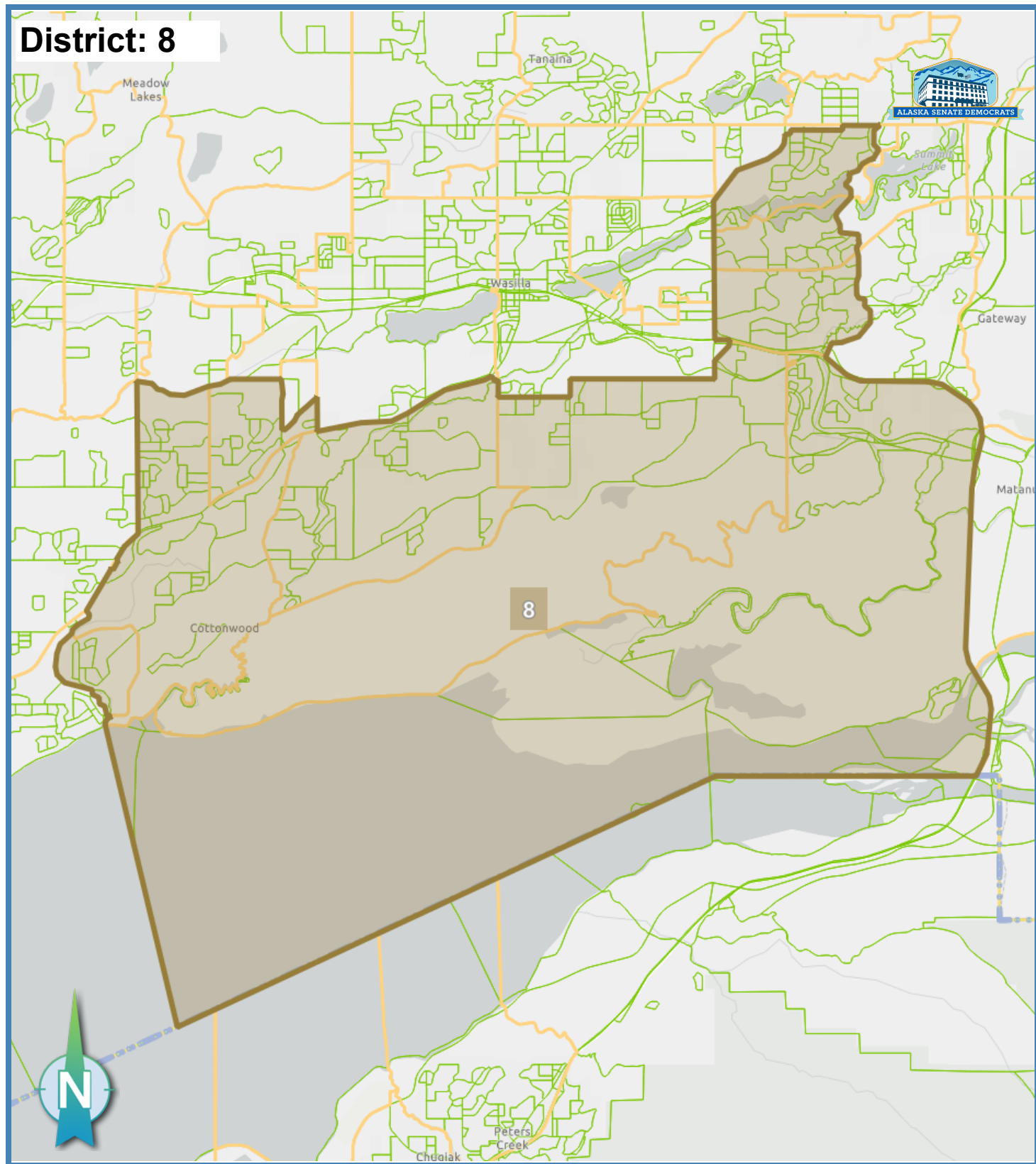


Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -4.09 %      Total Population: 17,585

# District: 7

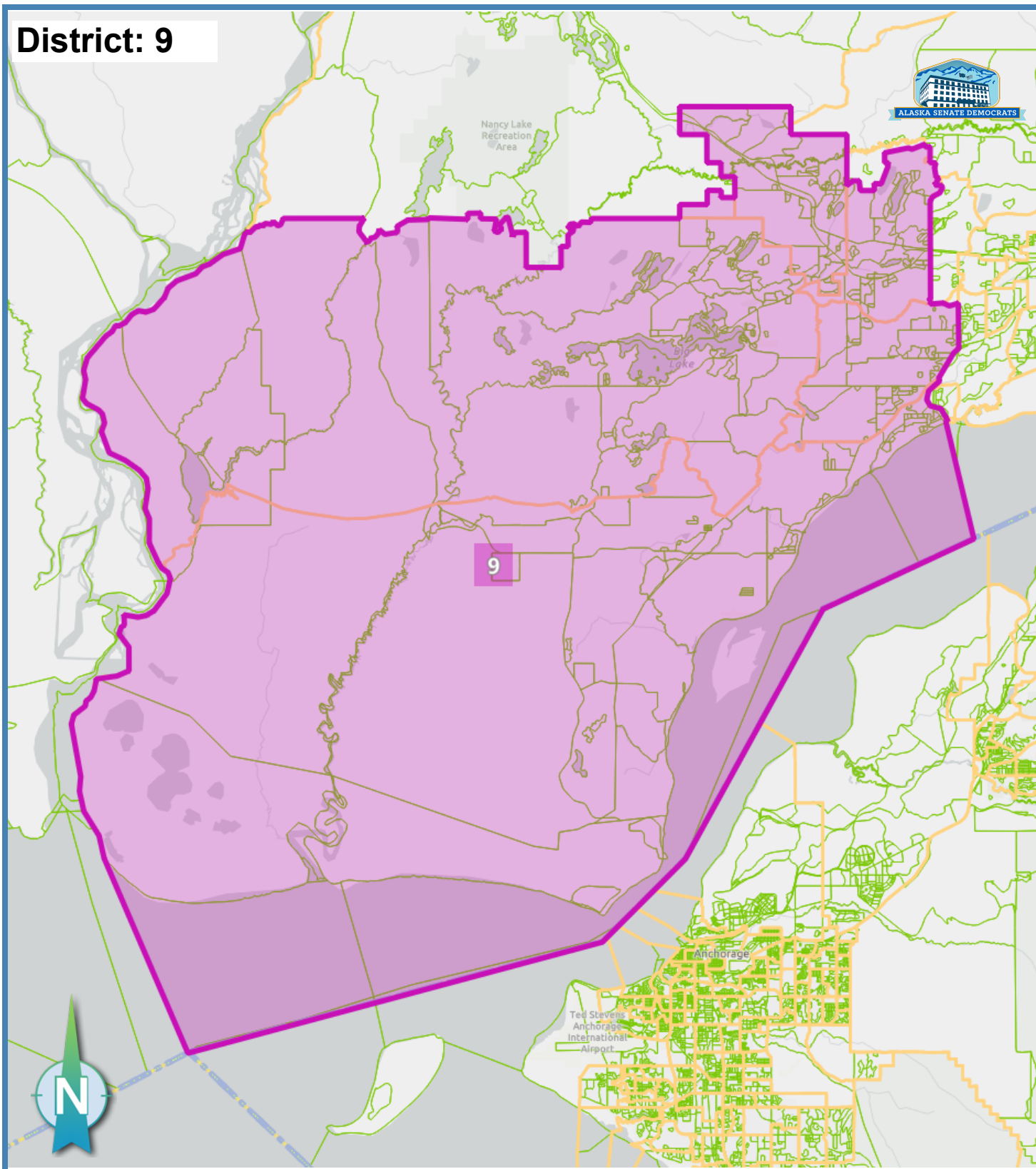


Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -0.14 %      Total Population: **18,310**



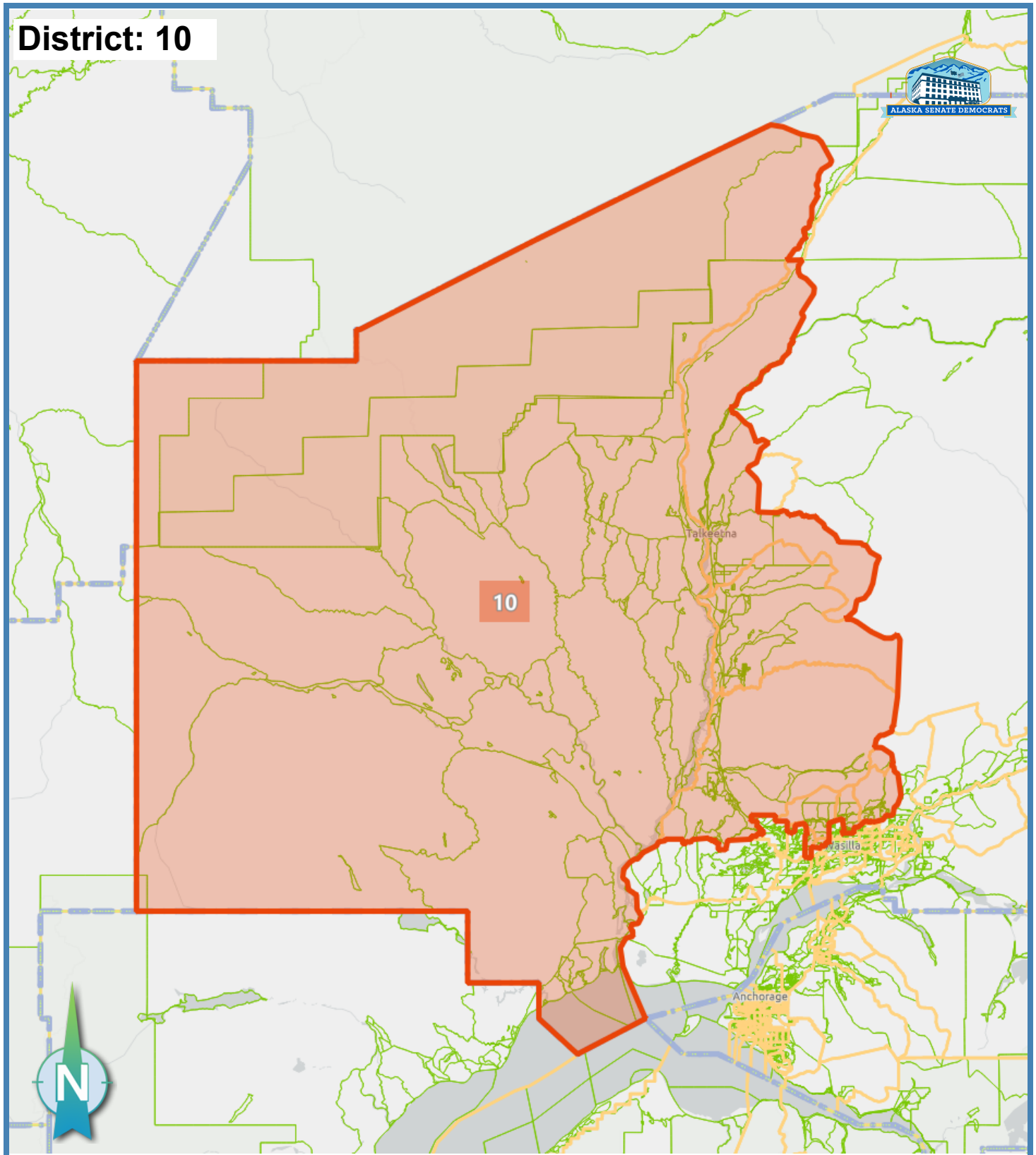
Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -0.10 %      Total Population: 18,316

# District: 9



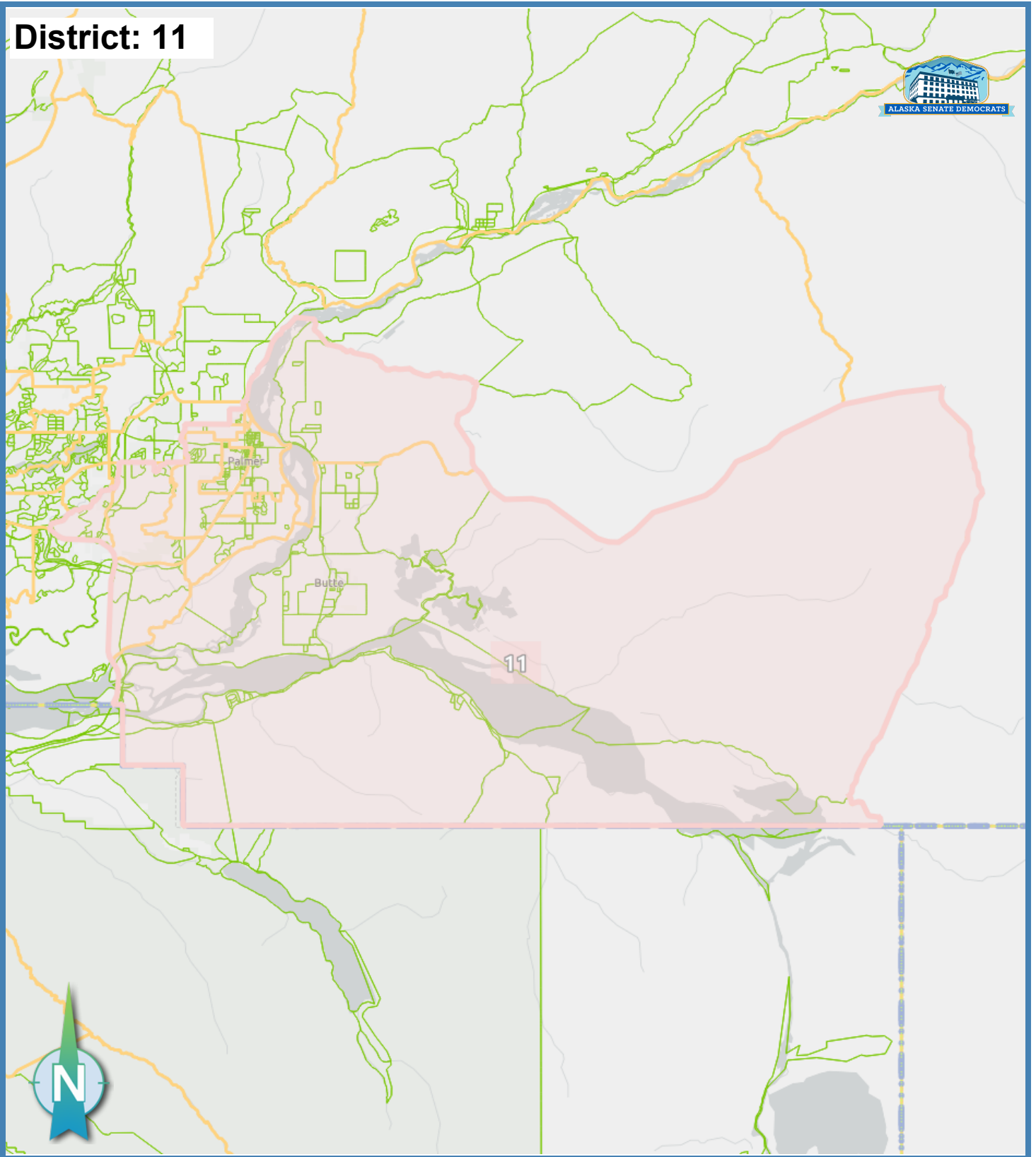
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# District: 10



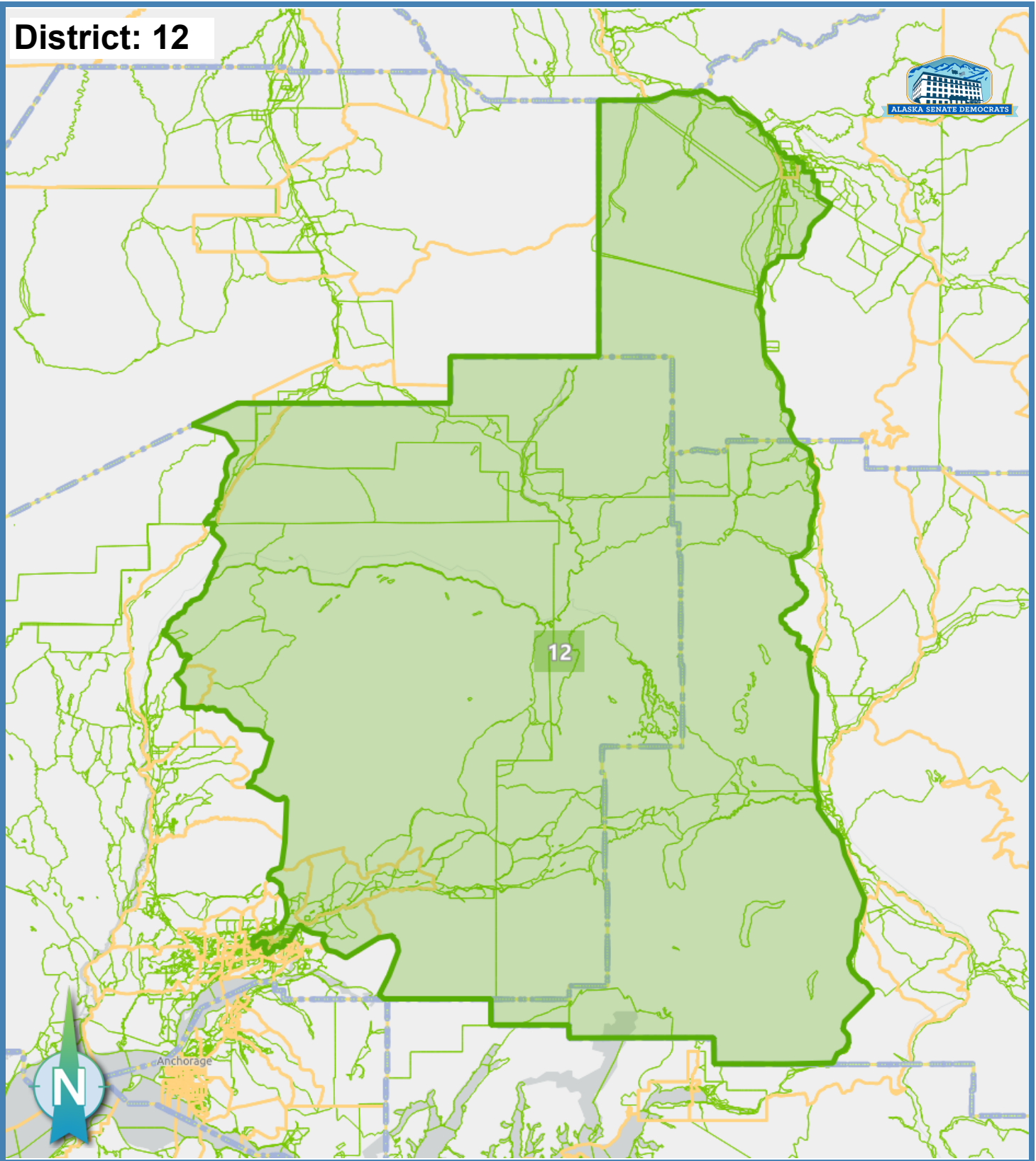
Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -0.11 %      Total Population: **18,314**

# District: 11



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -0.12 %      Total Population: **18,313**

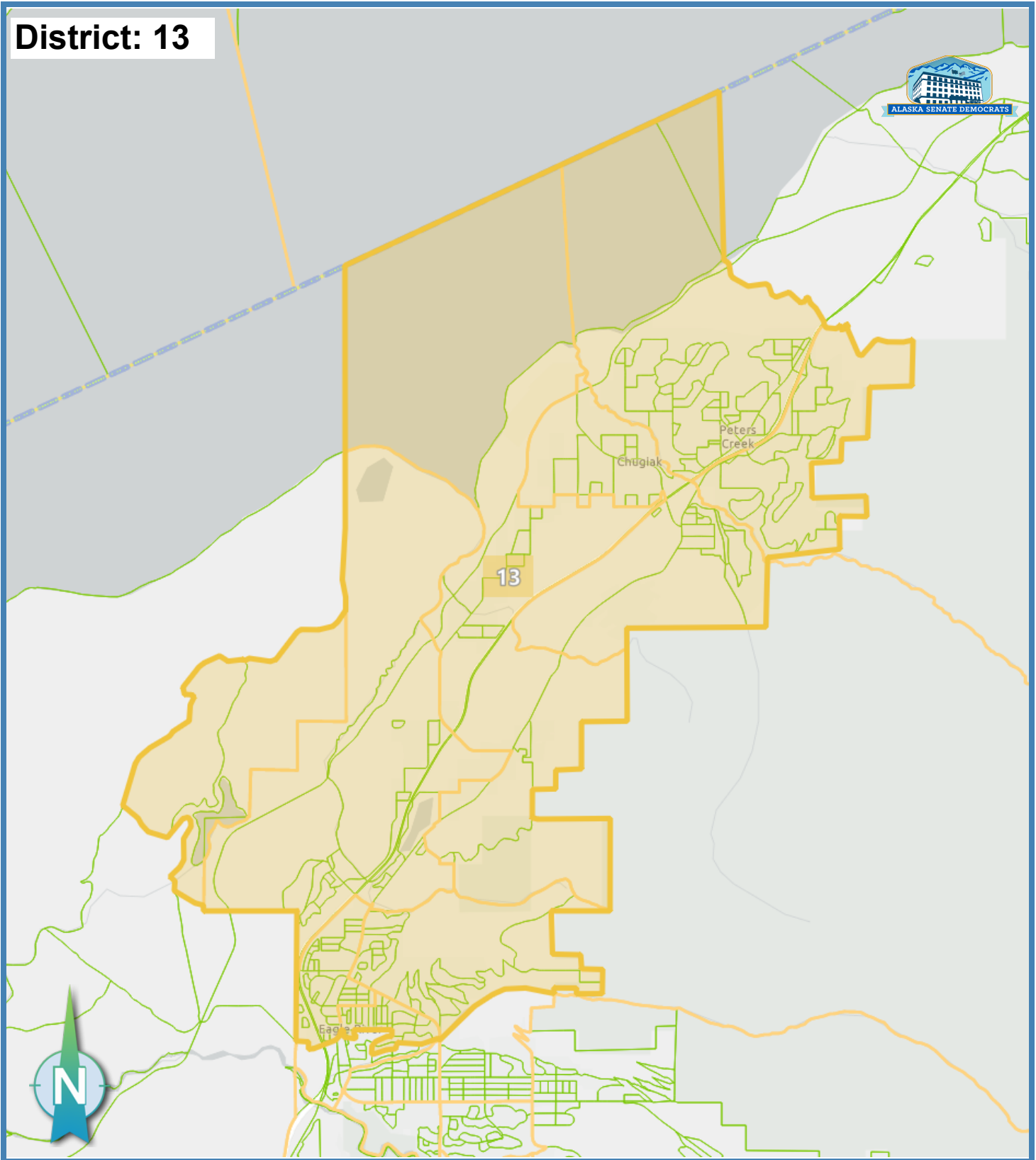
# District: 12



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -0.09 %      Total Population: **18,318**

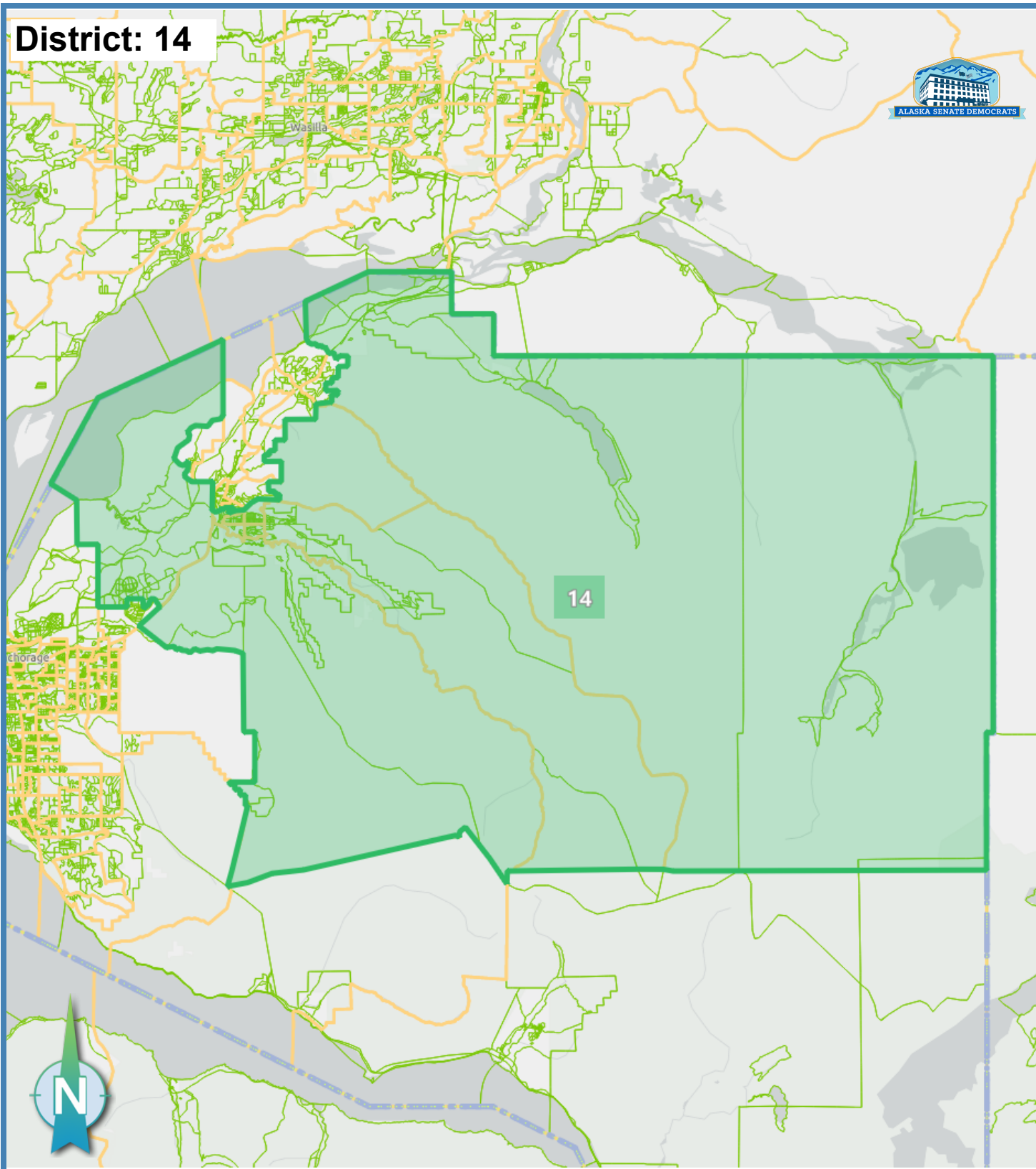


**District: 13**



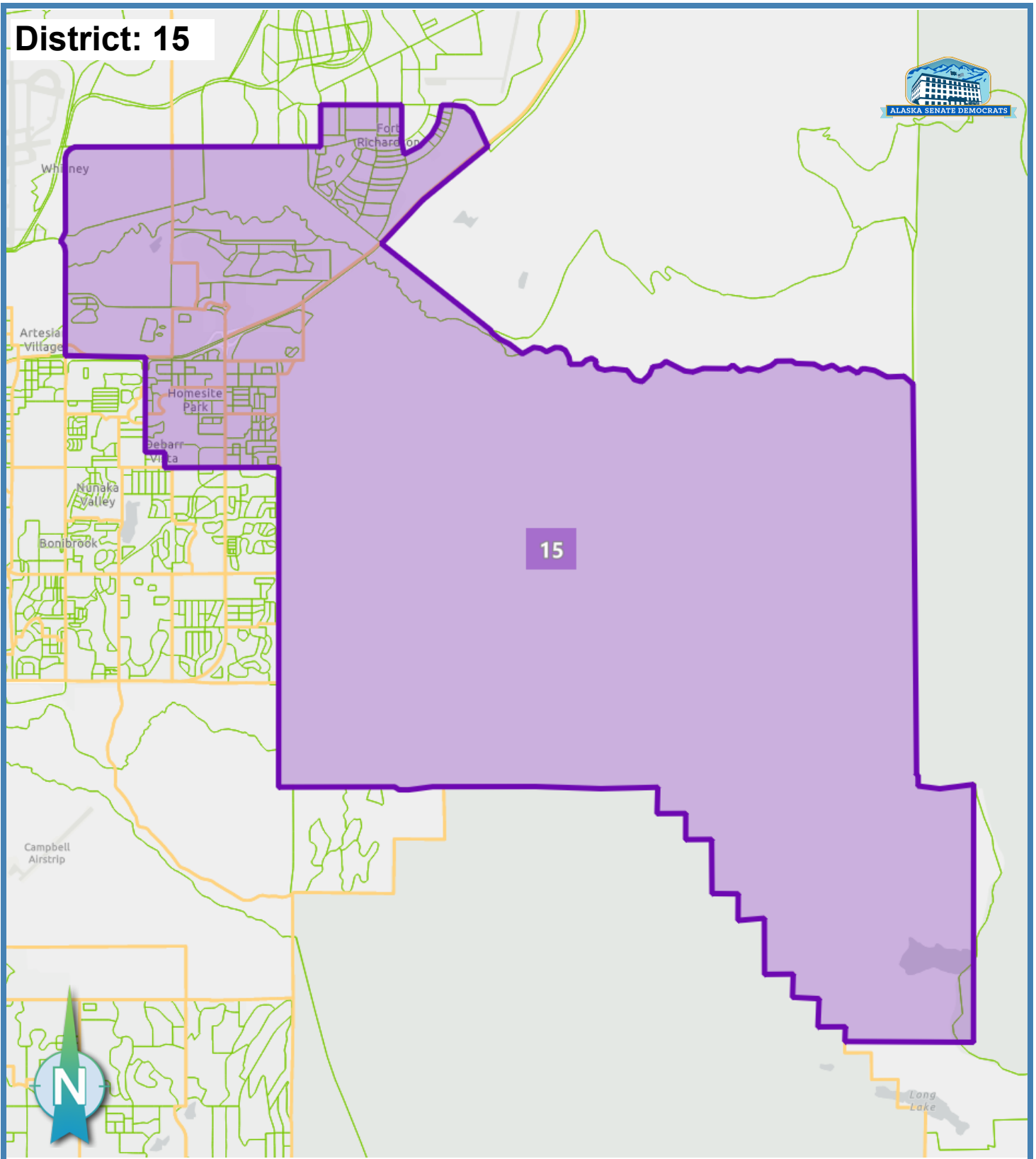
Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 0.00 %      Total Population: **18,335**

# District: 14



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 0.00 %      Total Population: 18,335

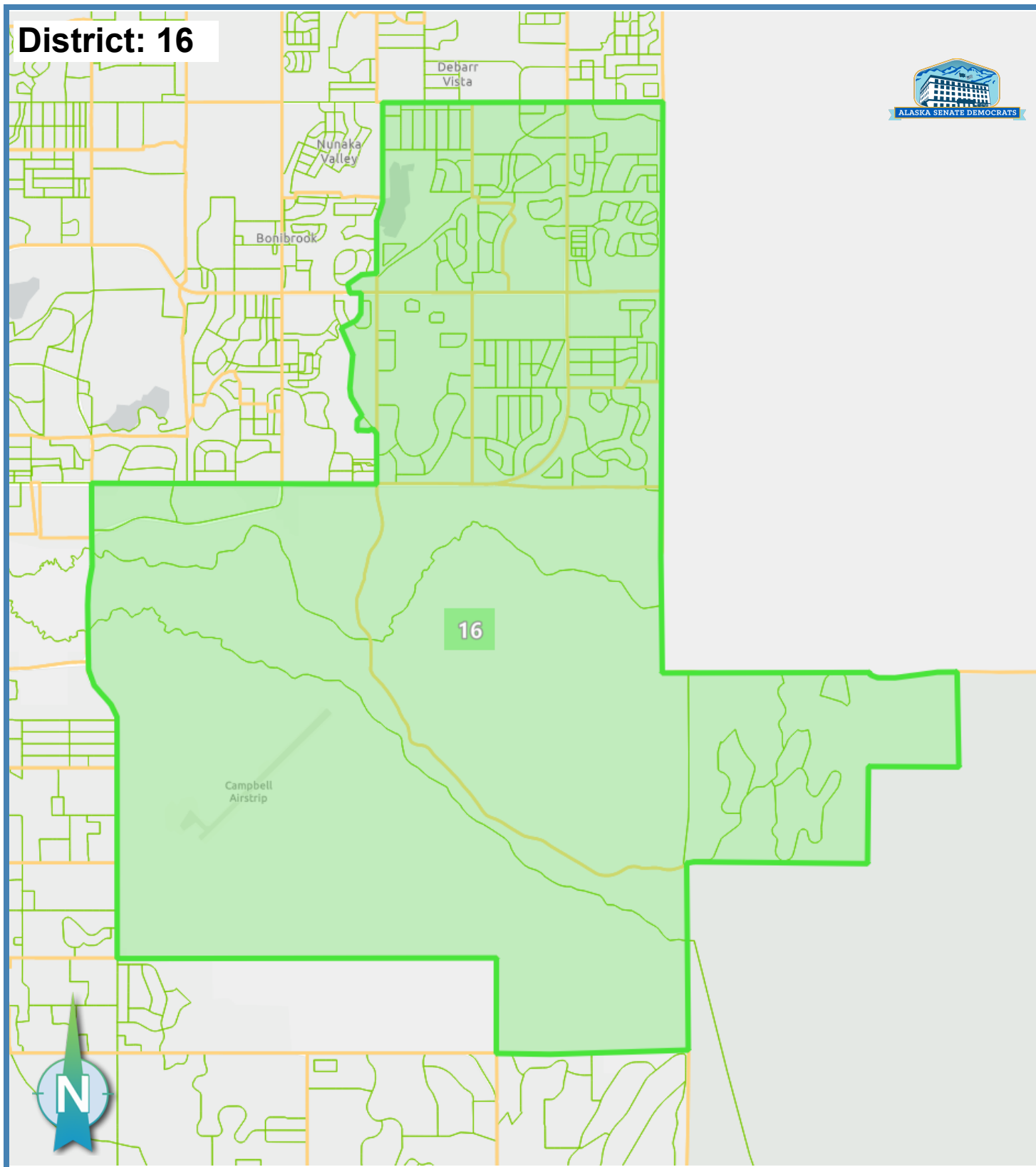
# District: 15



15

Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 0.01 %      Total Population: **18,336**

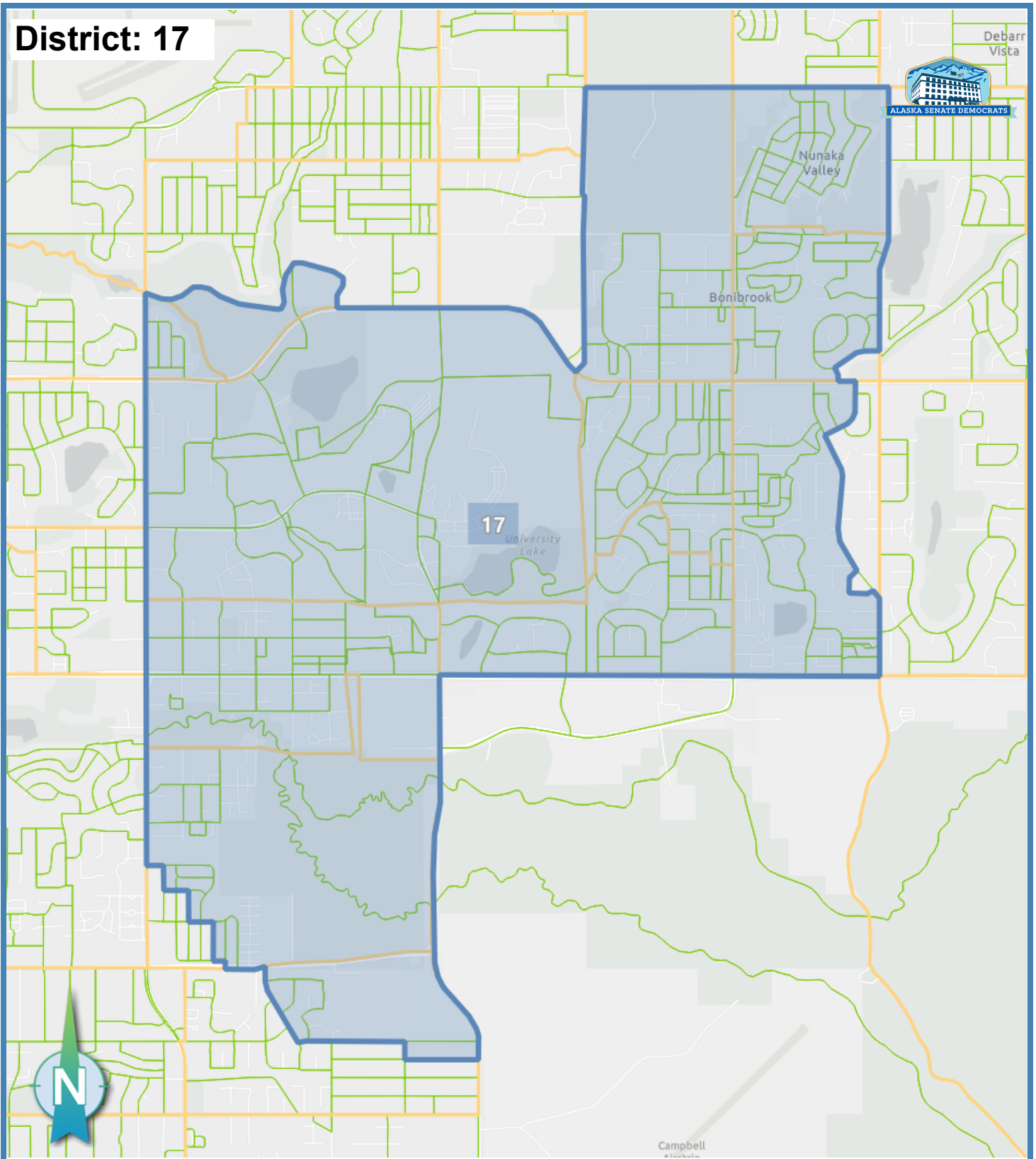
# District: 16



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -0.02 %      Total Population: 18,332

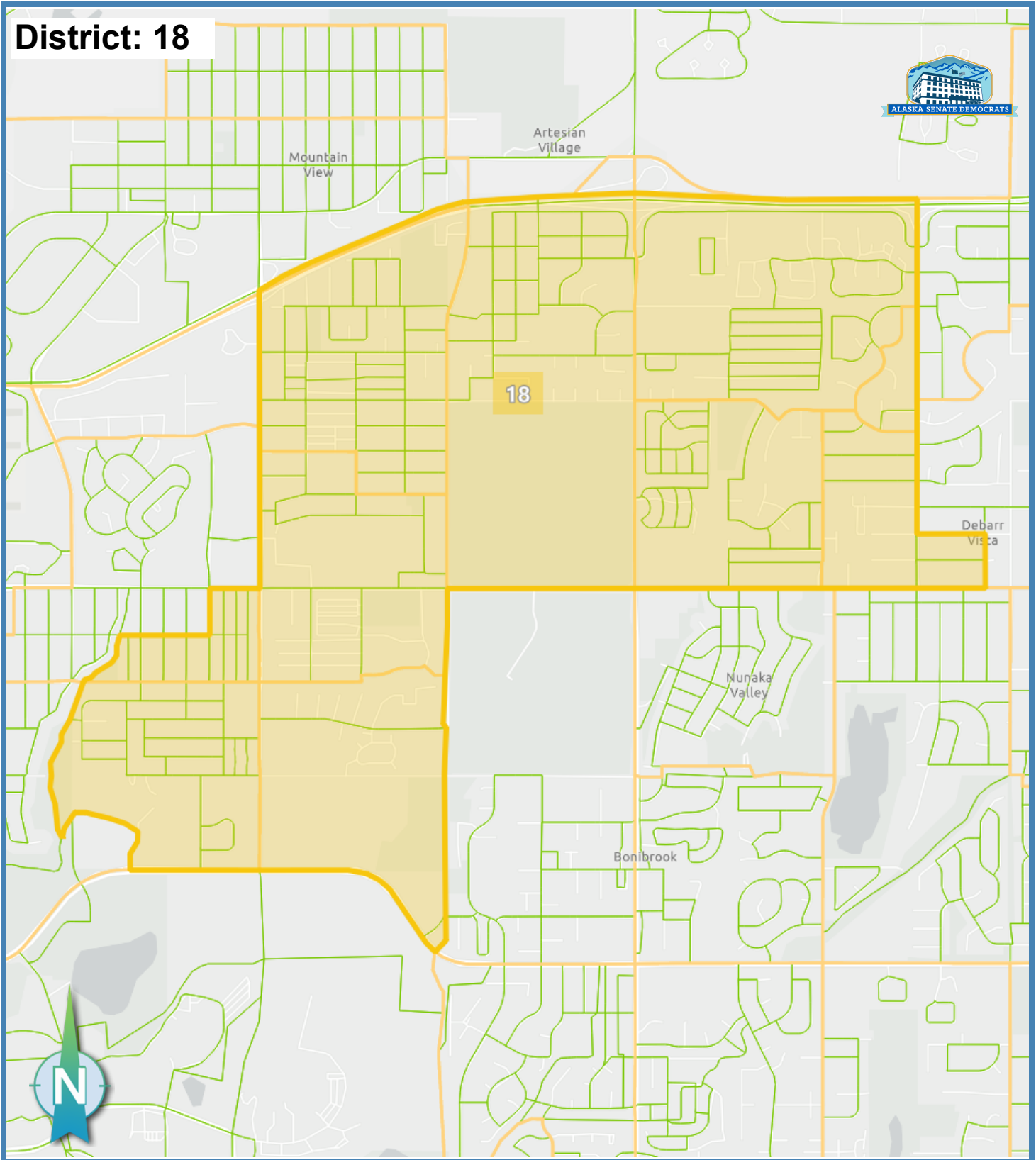


# District: 17



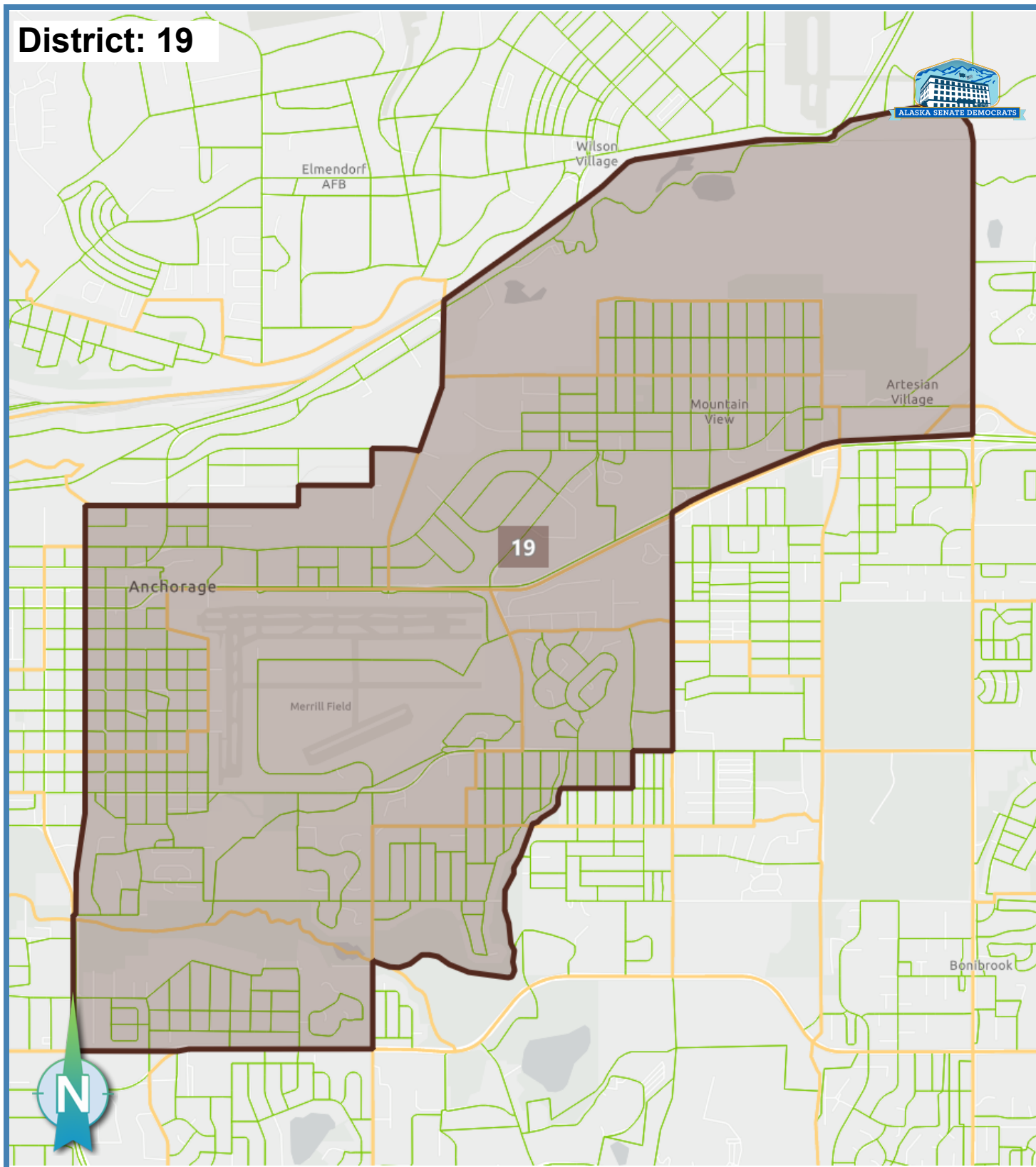
Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 0.02 %      Total Population: **18,339**

# District: 18



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 0.01 %      Total Population: 18,337

# District: 19



# District: 20



University Lake

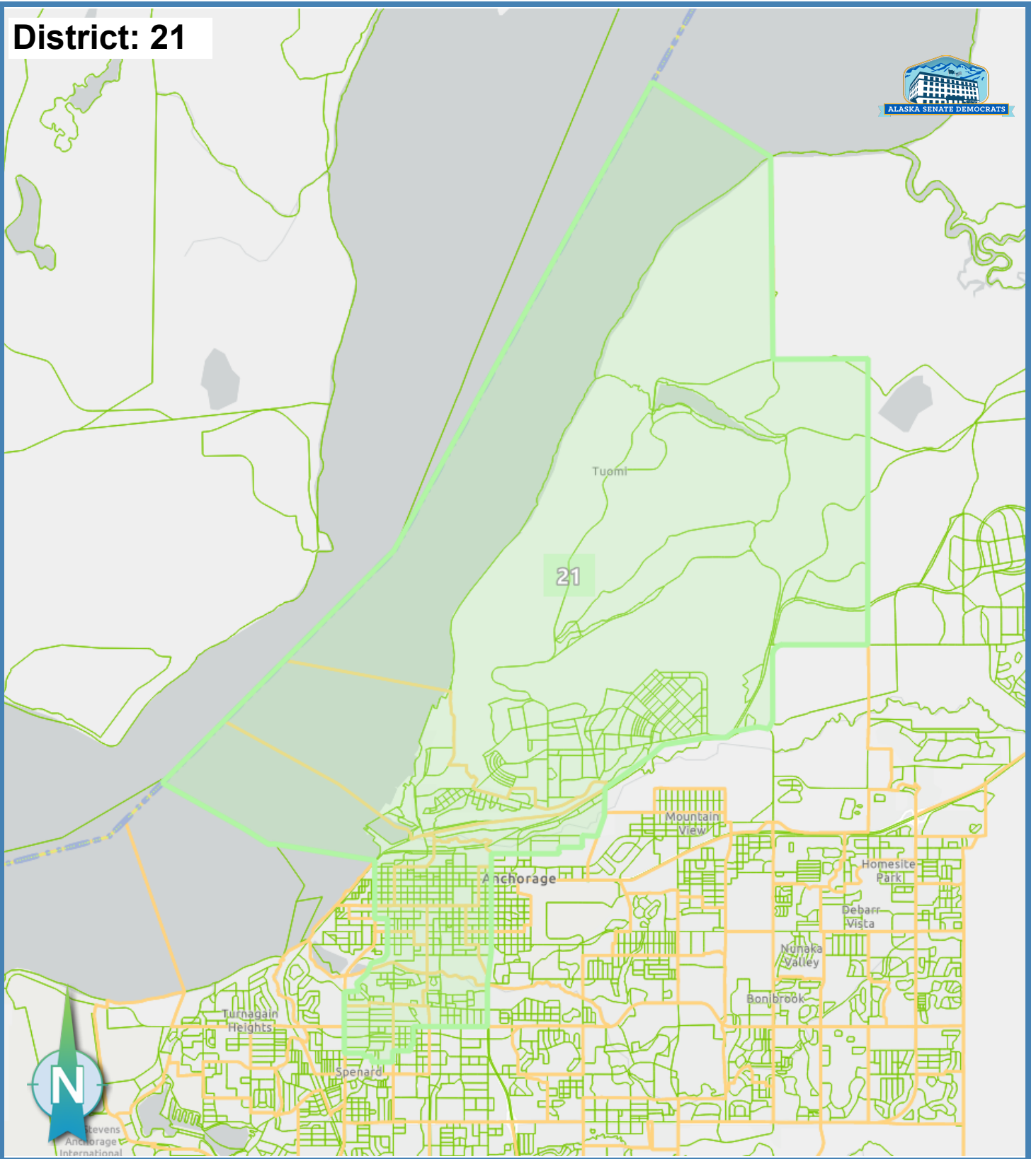
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Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -0.03 %      Total Population: **18,330**

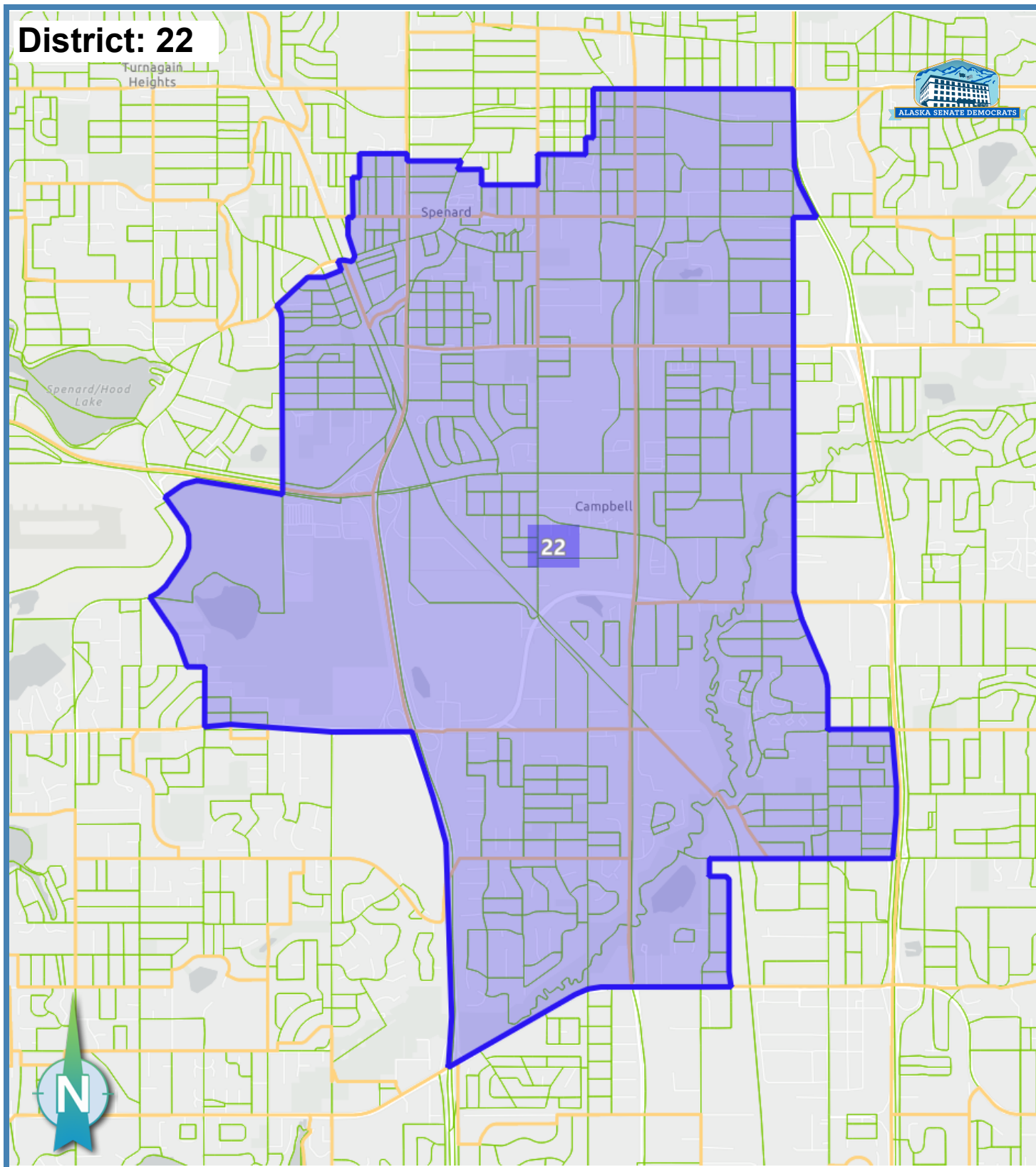


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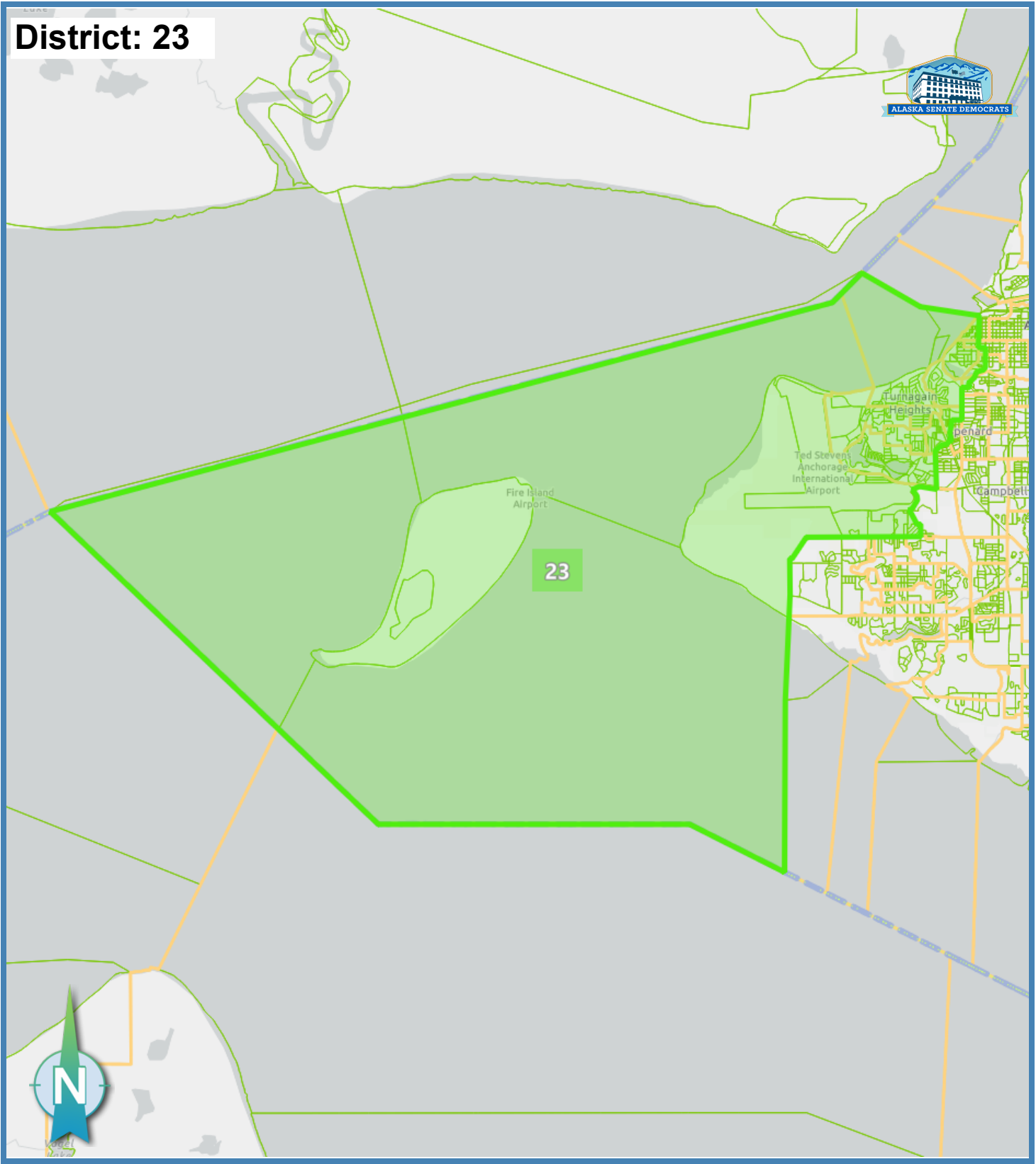
Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -0.04 %      Total Population: **18,328**

# District: 22



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 0.01 %      Total Population: 18,337

# District: 23

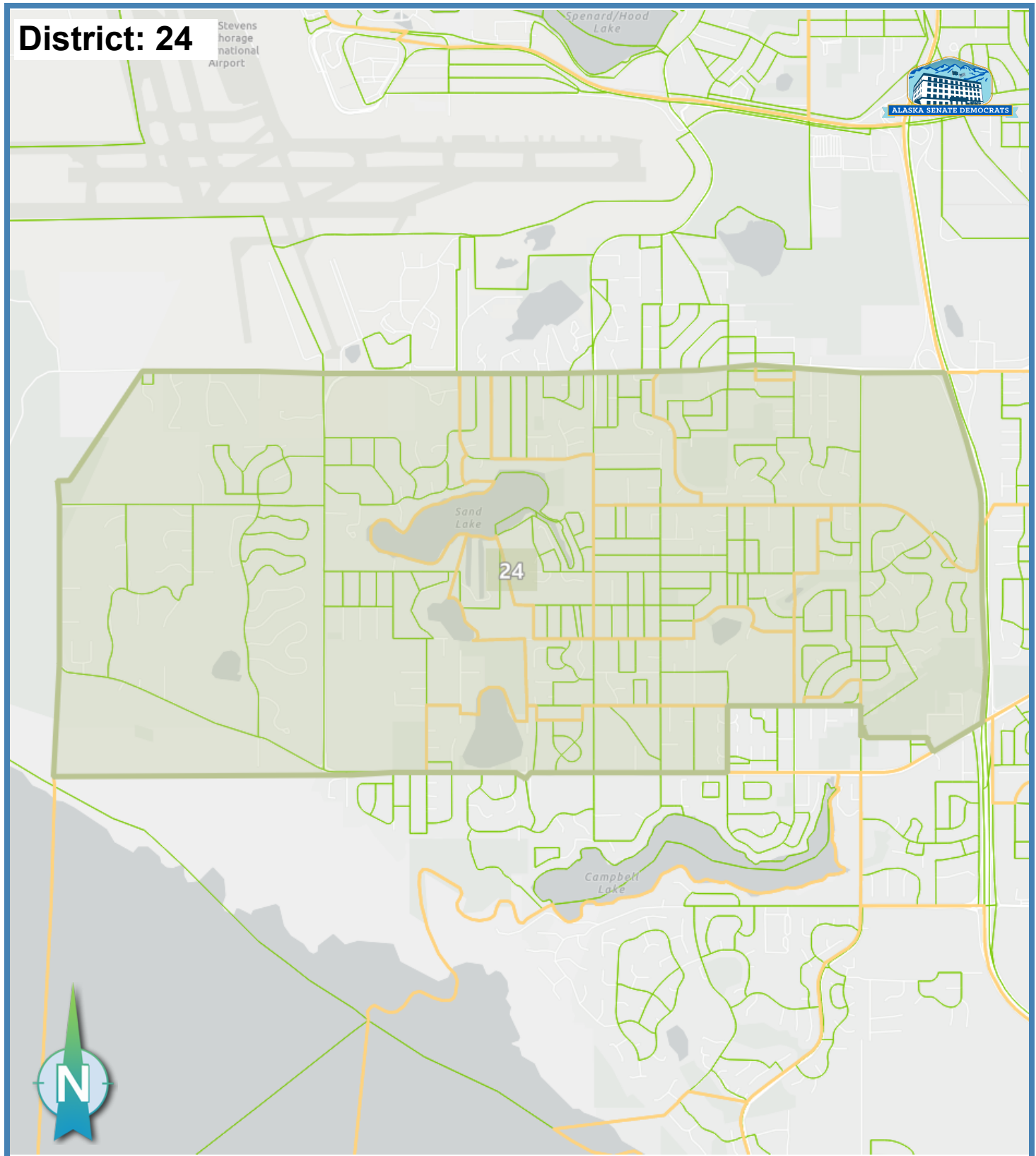


23

Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 0.03 %      Total Population: **18,341**

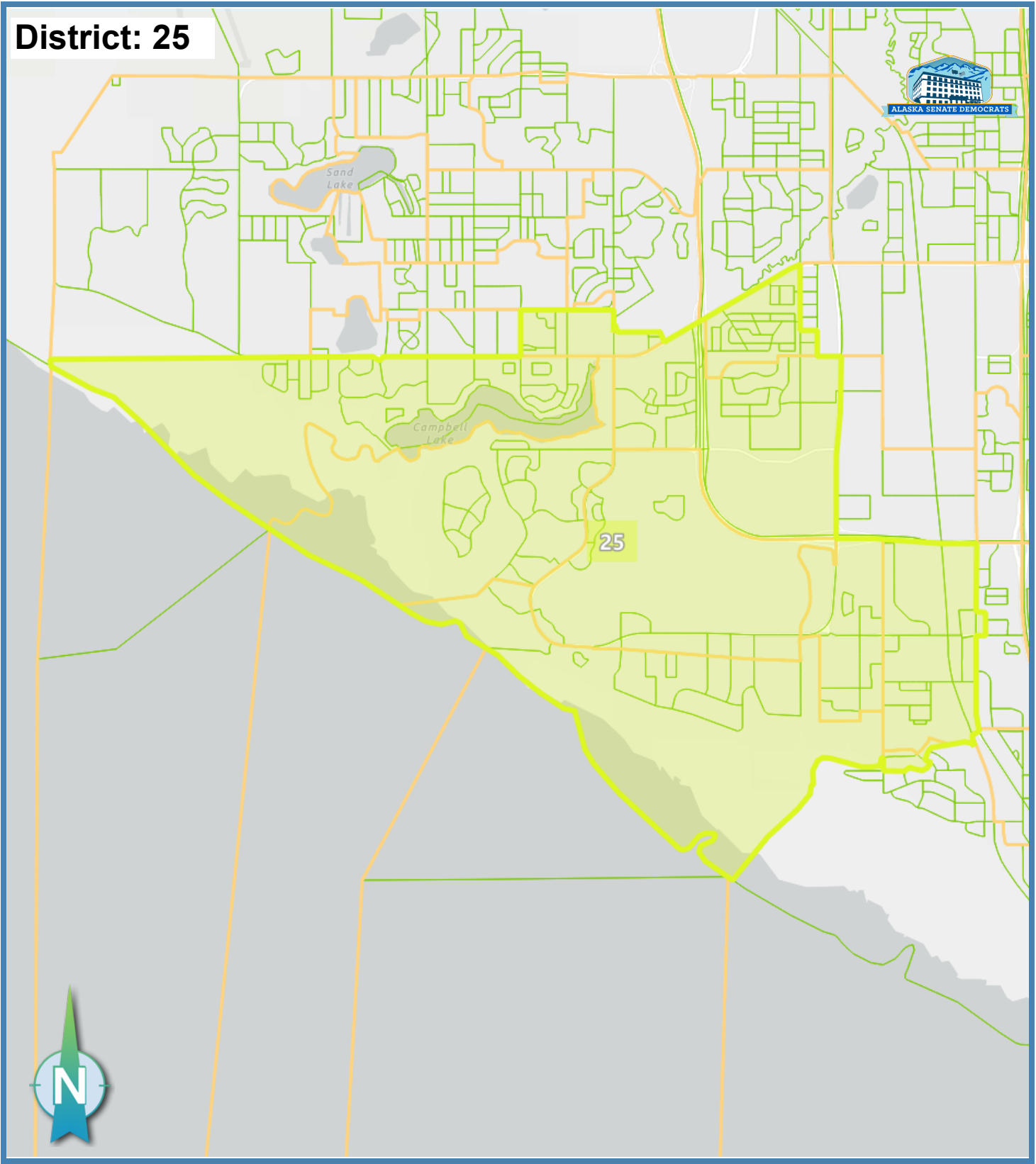
# District: 24

Stevens  
storage  
national  
Airport



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 0.05 %      Total Population: **18,344**

# District: 25



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -0.01 %      Total Population: **18,333**

# District: 26



Campbell Airstrip

26



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 0.02 %      Total Population: 18,338

# District: 27



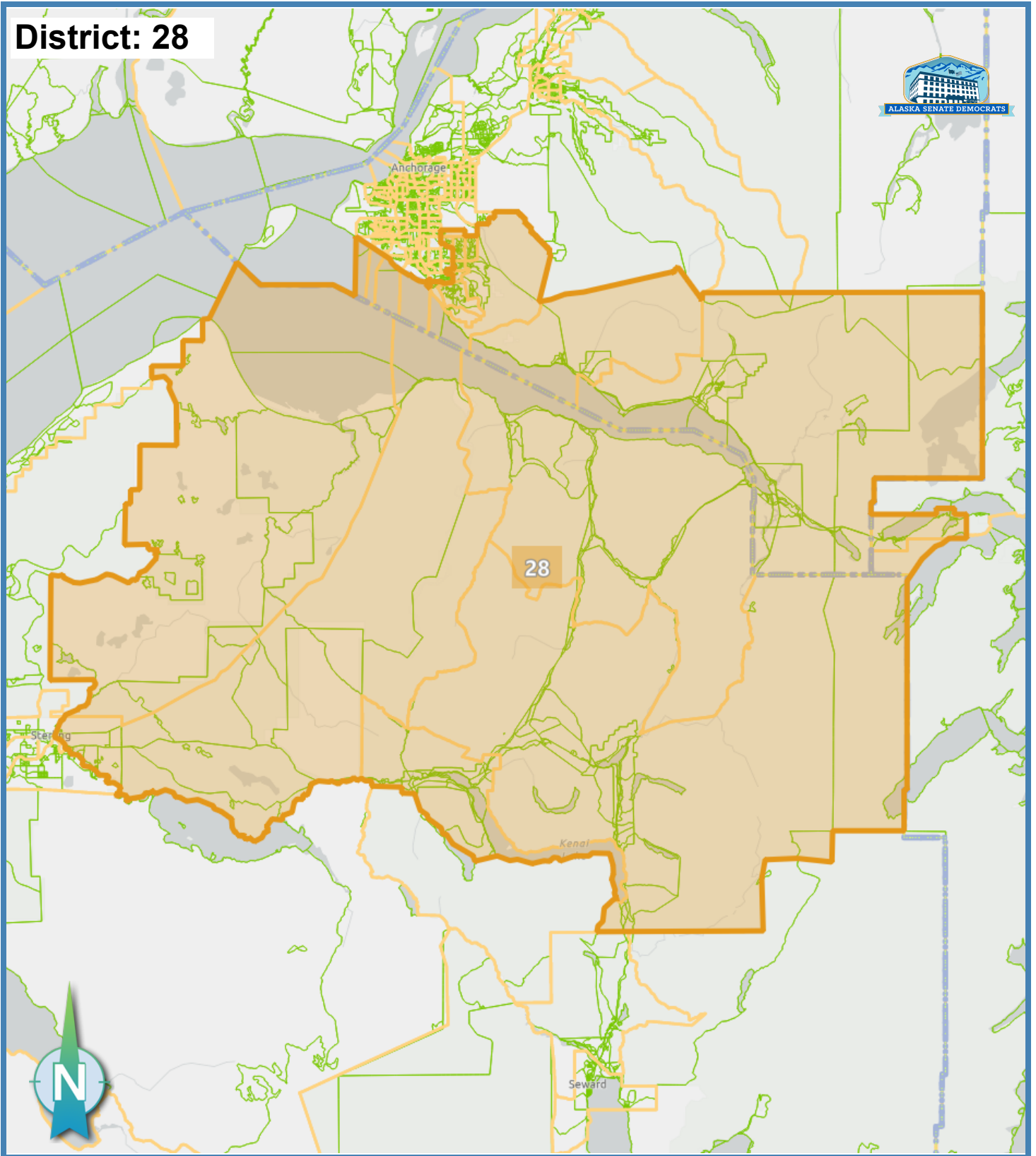
27

Potter Marsh



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 0.03 %      Total Population: **18,340**

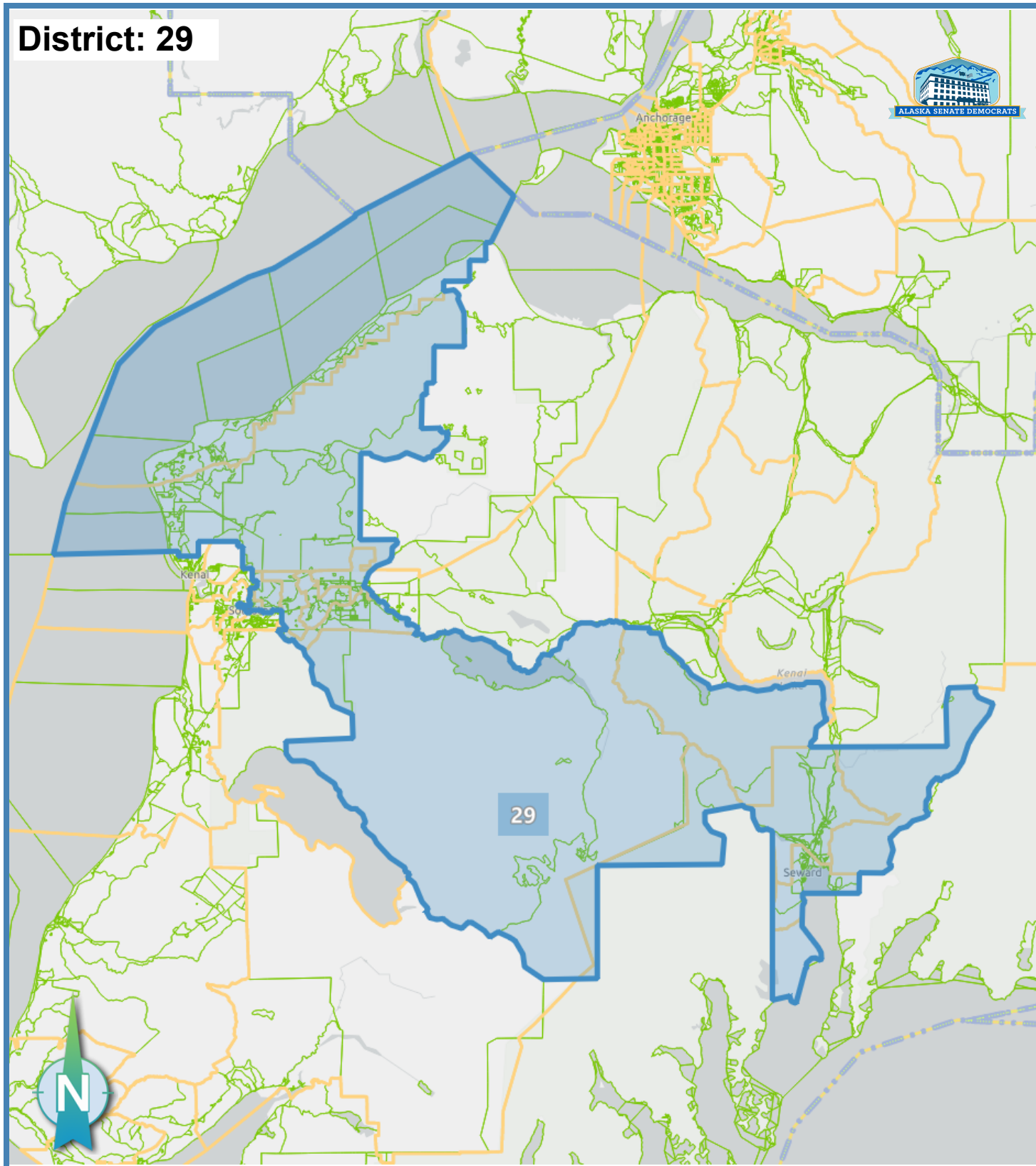
# District: 28



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 0.04 %      Total Population: 18,342

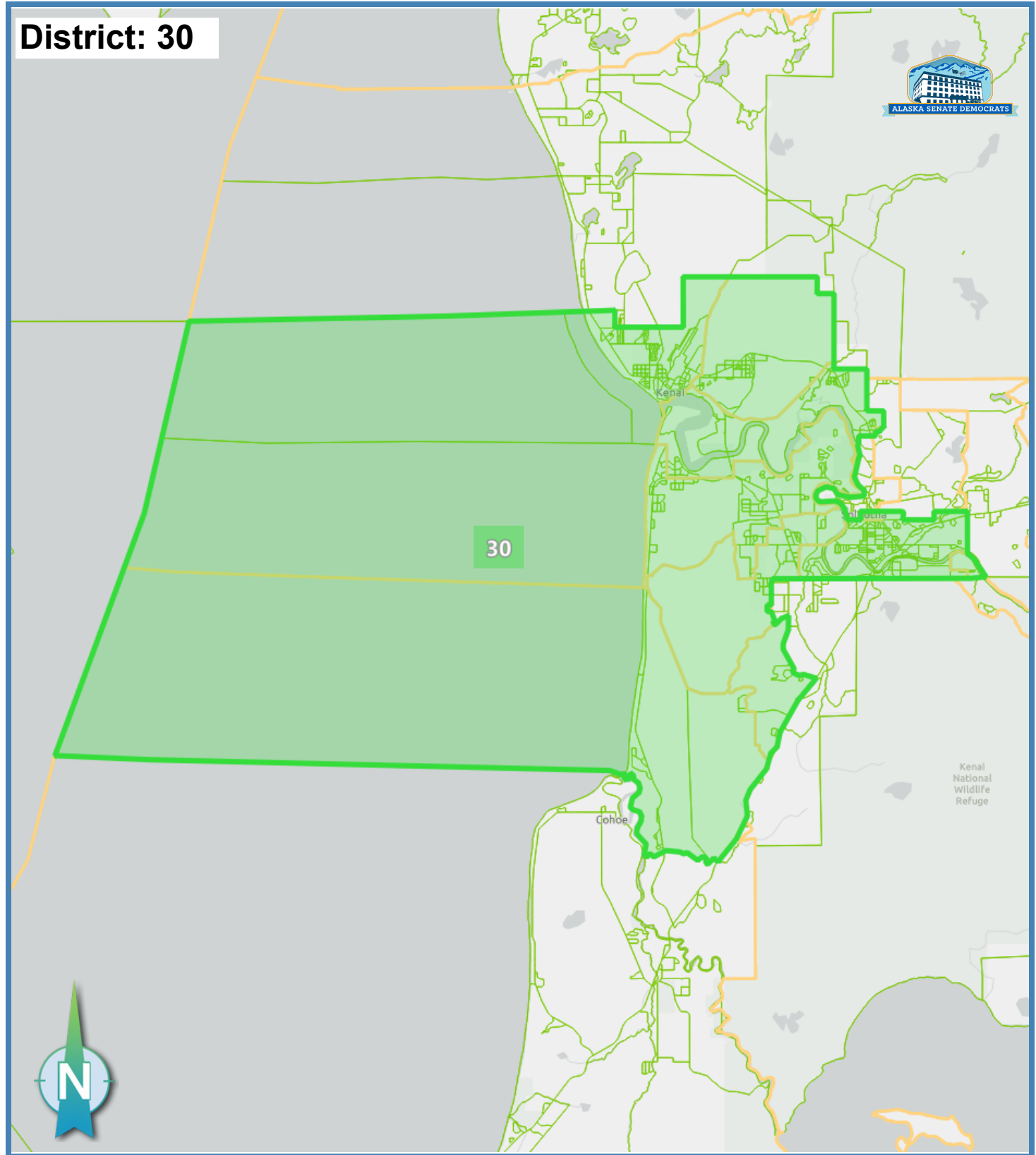


# District: 29



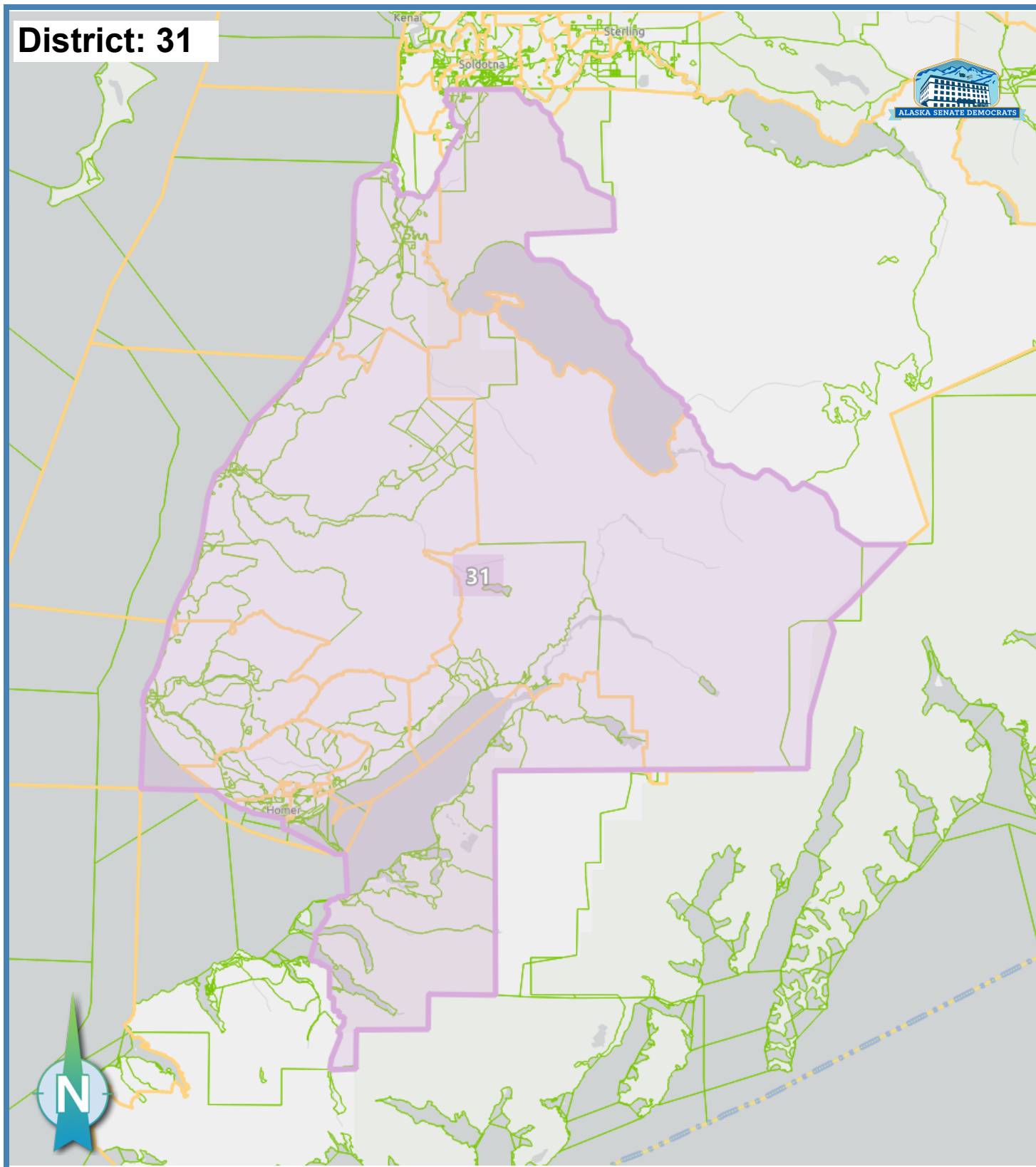
Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 1.51 %      Total Population: **18,612**

**District: 30**



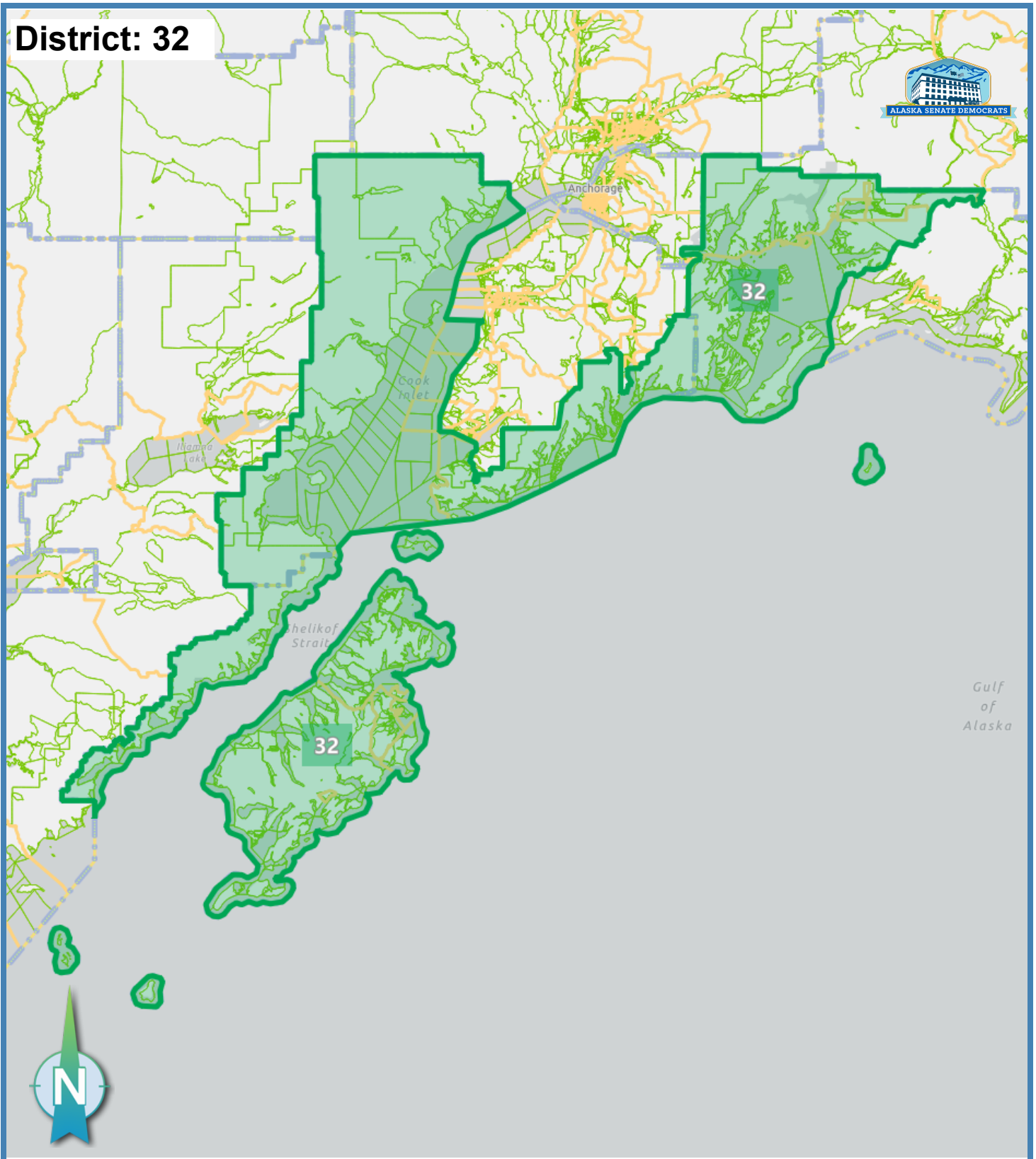
Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 1.51 %      Total Population: **18,612**

**District: 31**



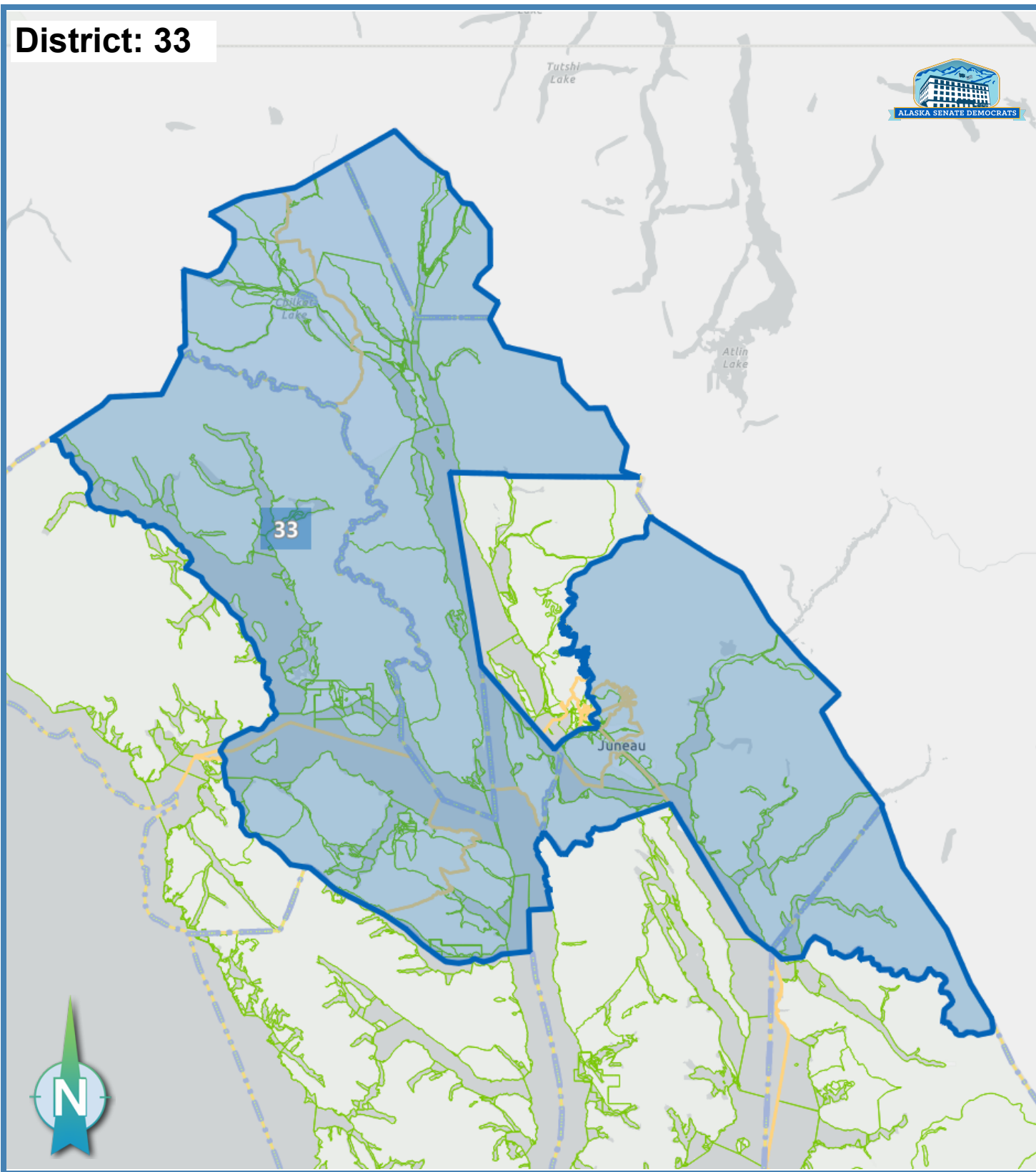
Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 1.53 %      Total Population: **18,615**

# District: 32



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 0.34 %      Total Population: **18,398**

# District: 33



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 2.10 %      Total Population: 18,720

# District: 34

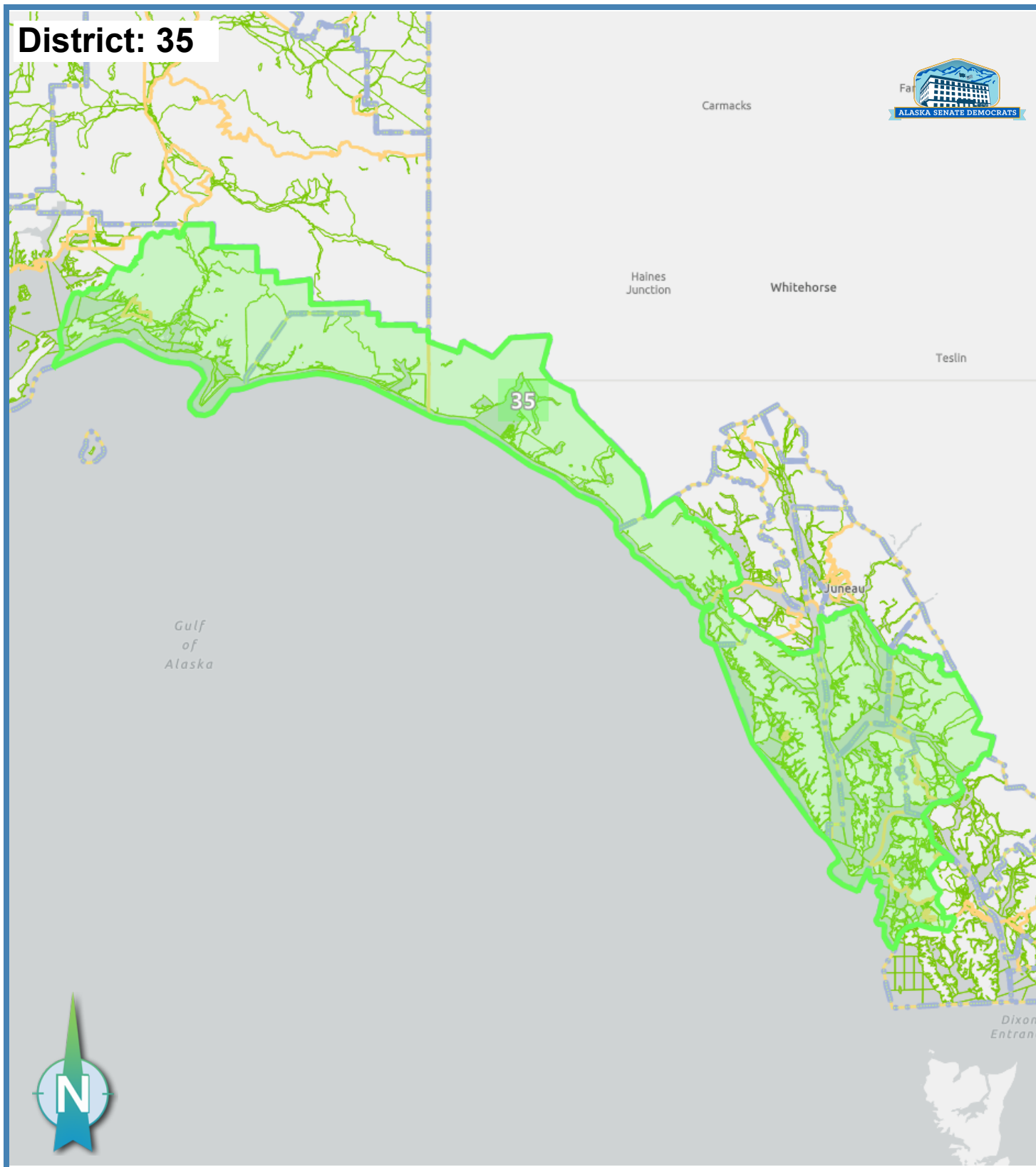


34

Juneau

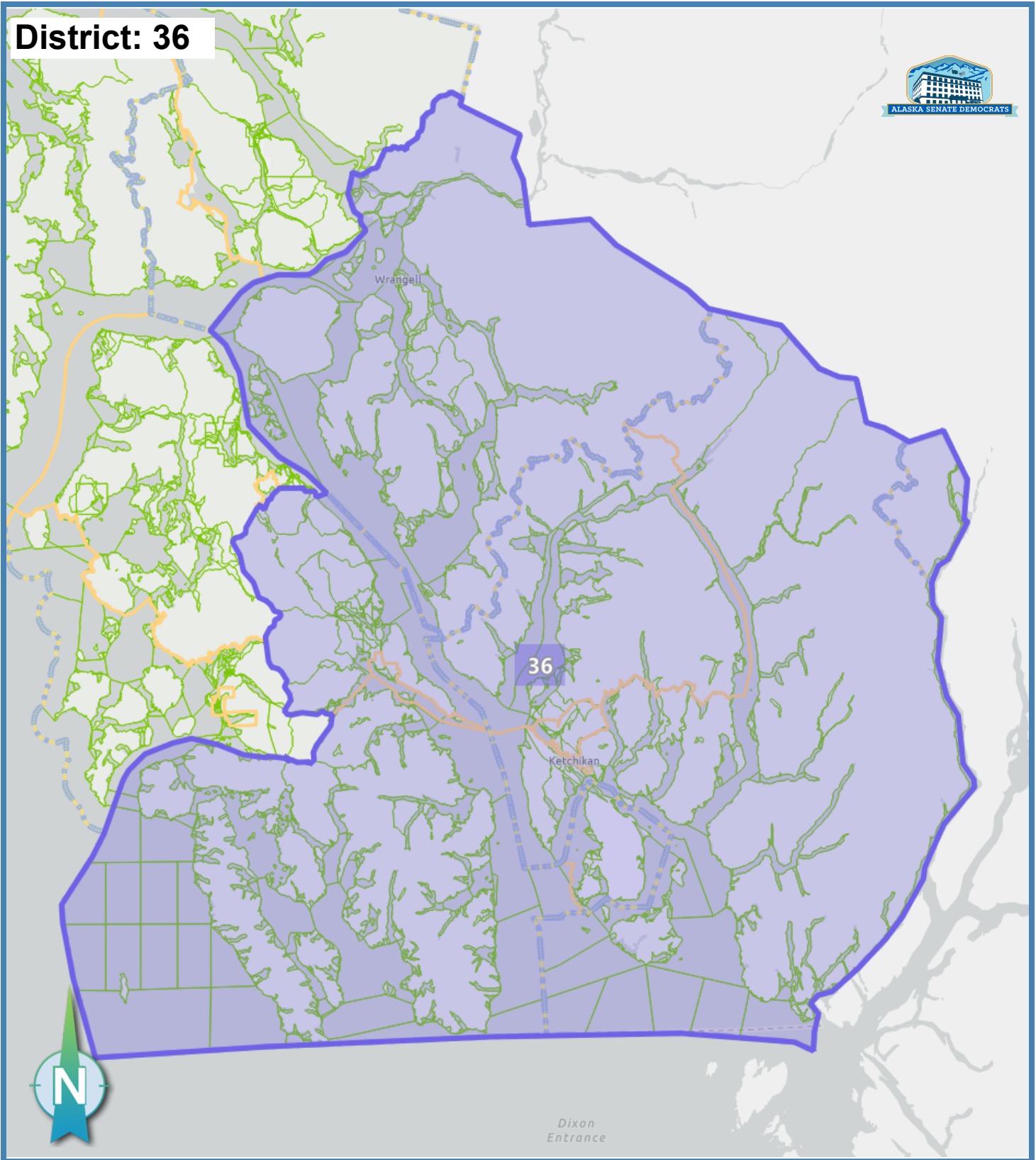
Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 2.10 %      Total Population: 18,720

# District: 35



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 2.52 %      Total Population: **18,797**

# District: 36



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 1.89 %      Total Population: **18,681**

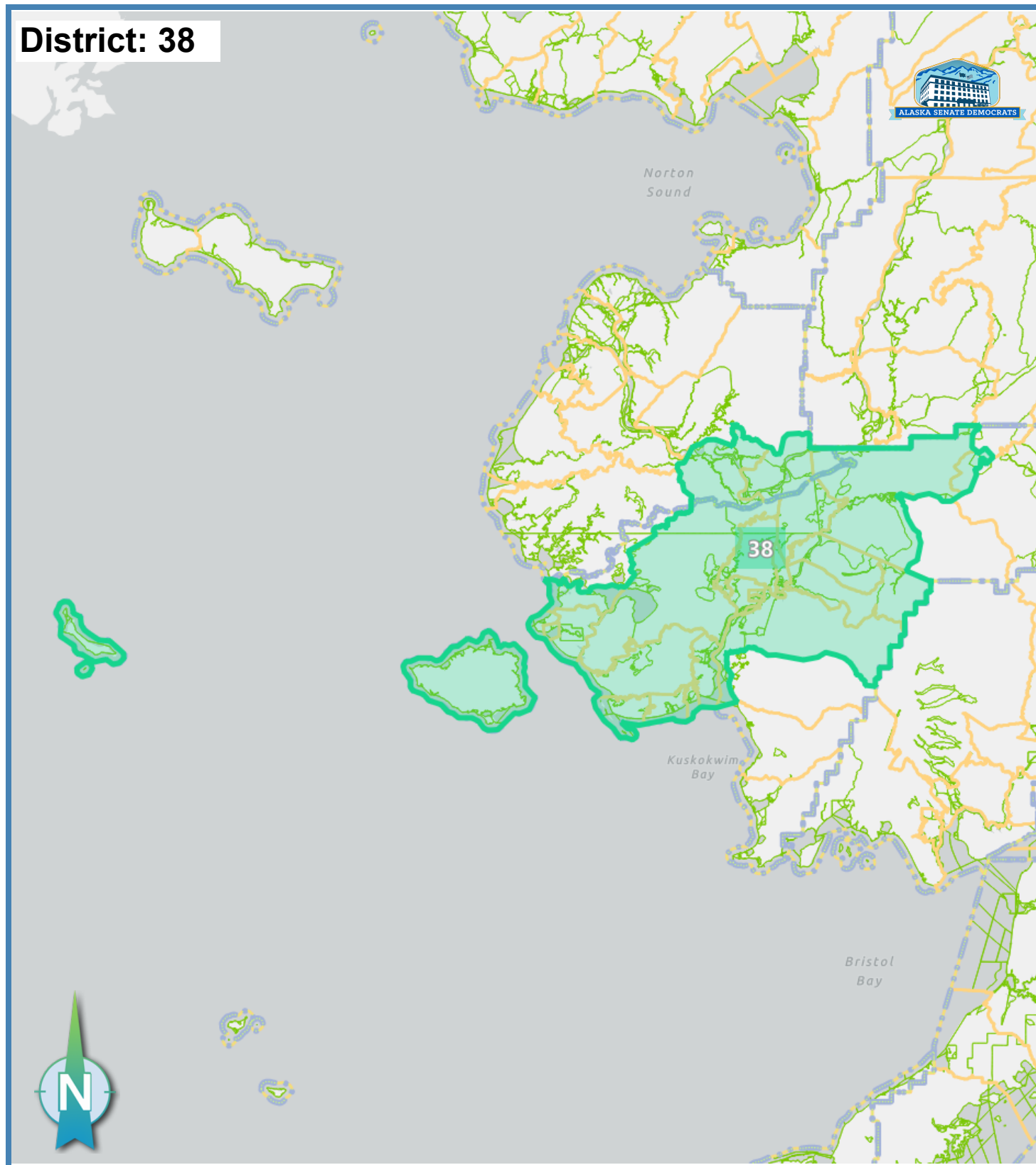


**District: 37**



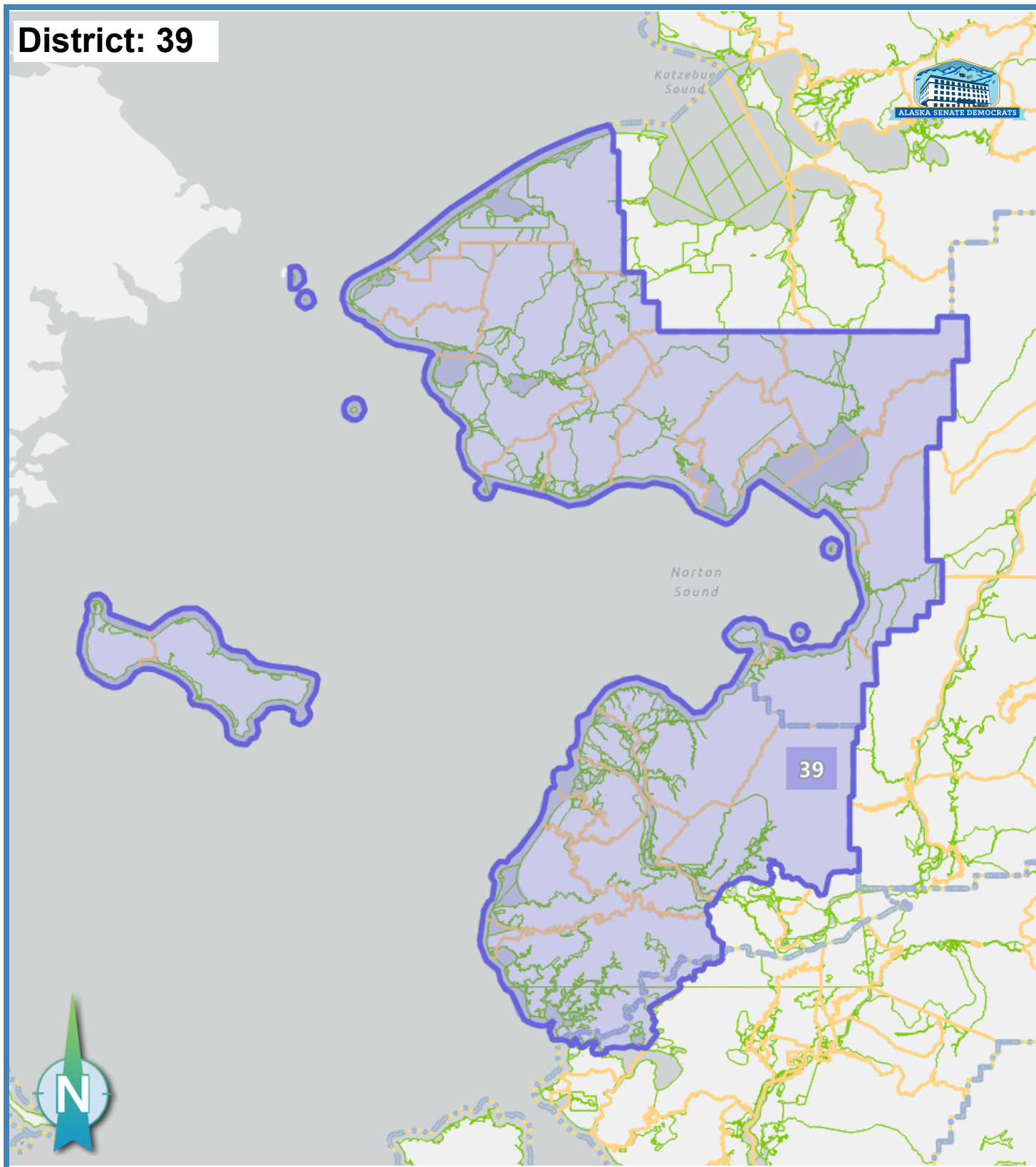
Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -4.07 %      Total Population: **17,589**

**District: 38**



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: -3.92 %      Total Population: **17,616**

**District: 39**

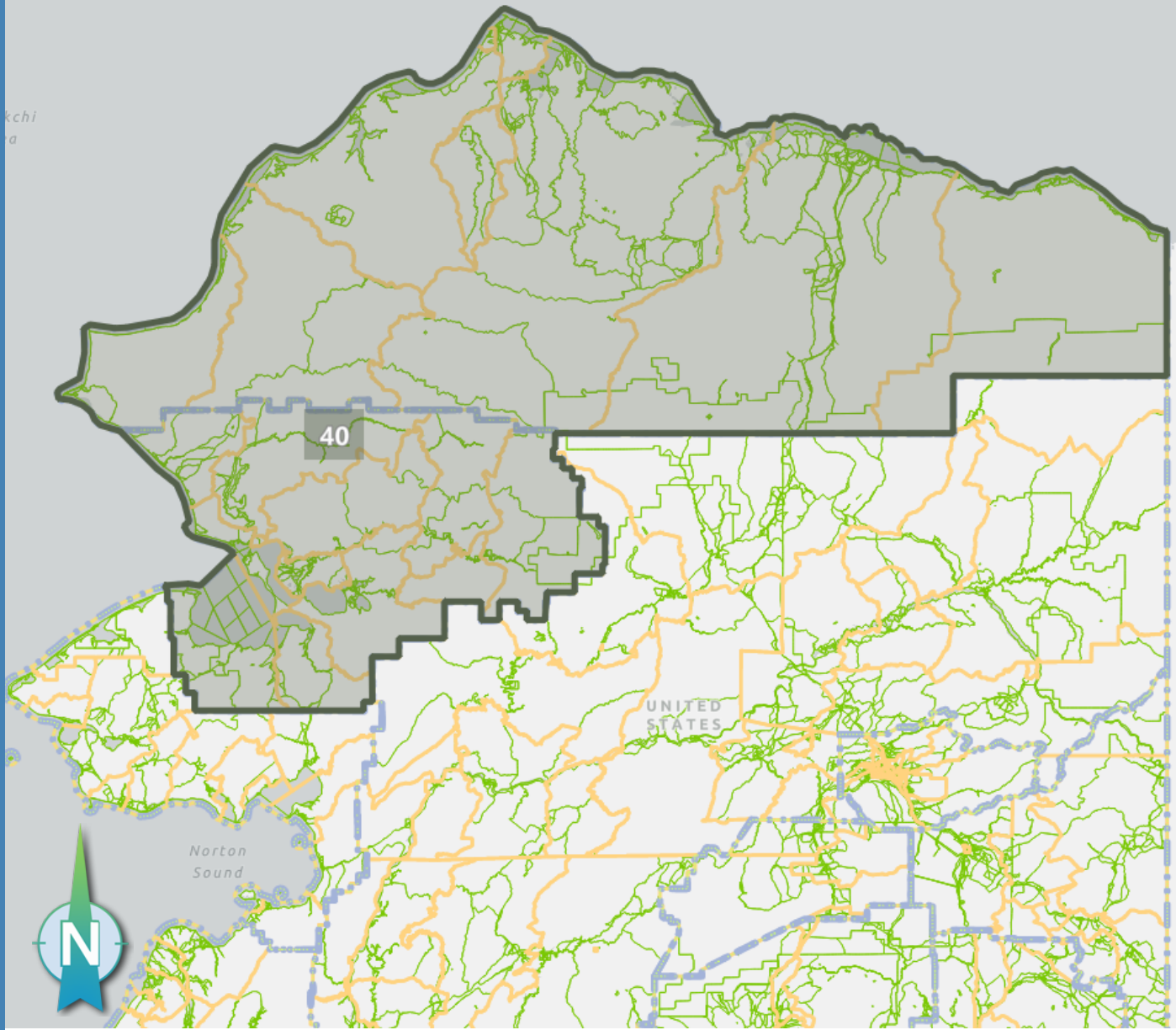


Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -3.44 %

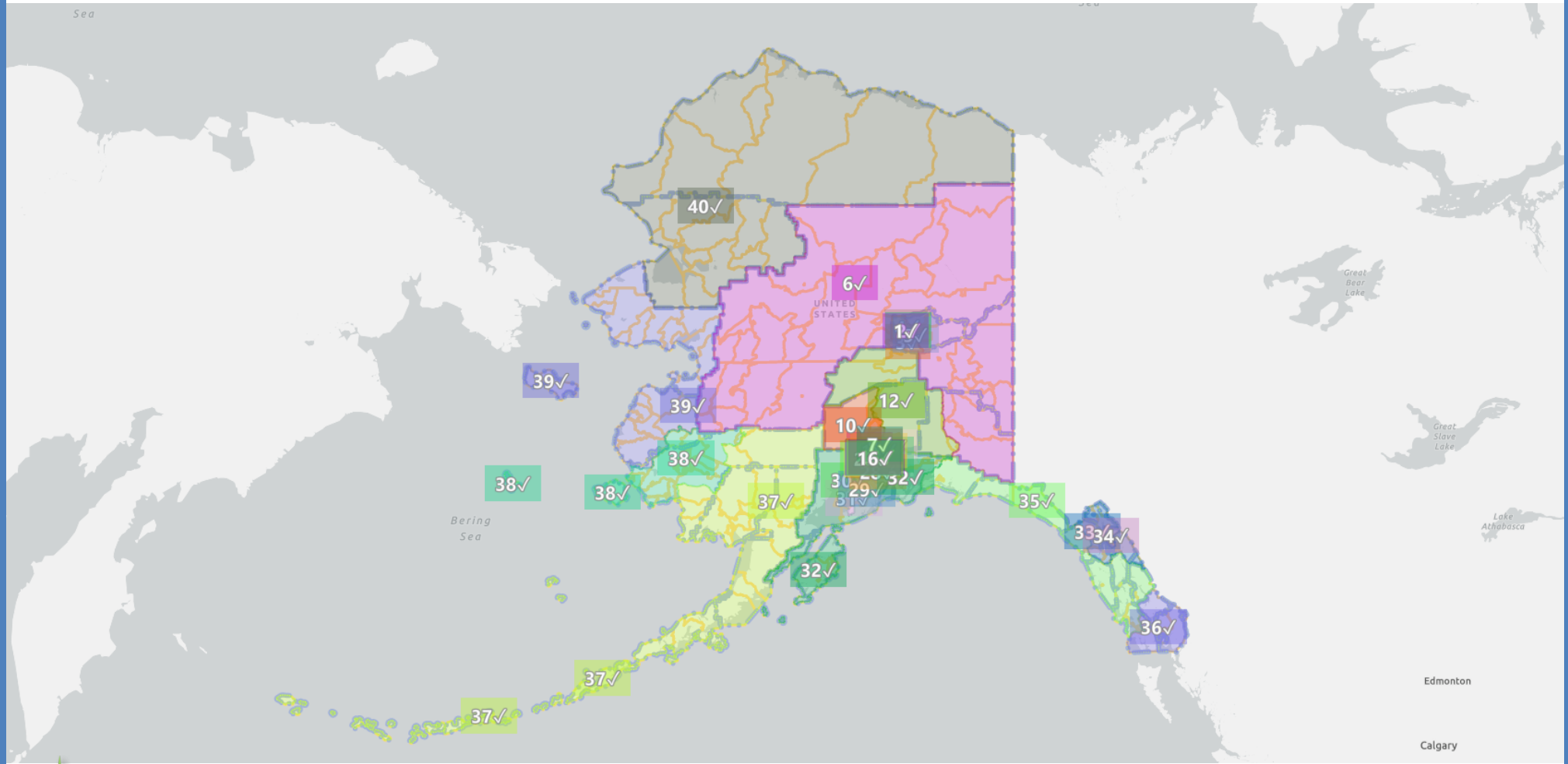
Total Population: 17,704

# District: 40



Ideal Population: 18,335      Deviation: 2.67 %      Total Population: **18,824**

# Combined1



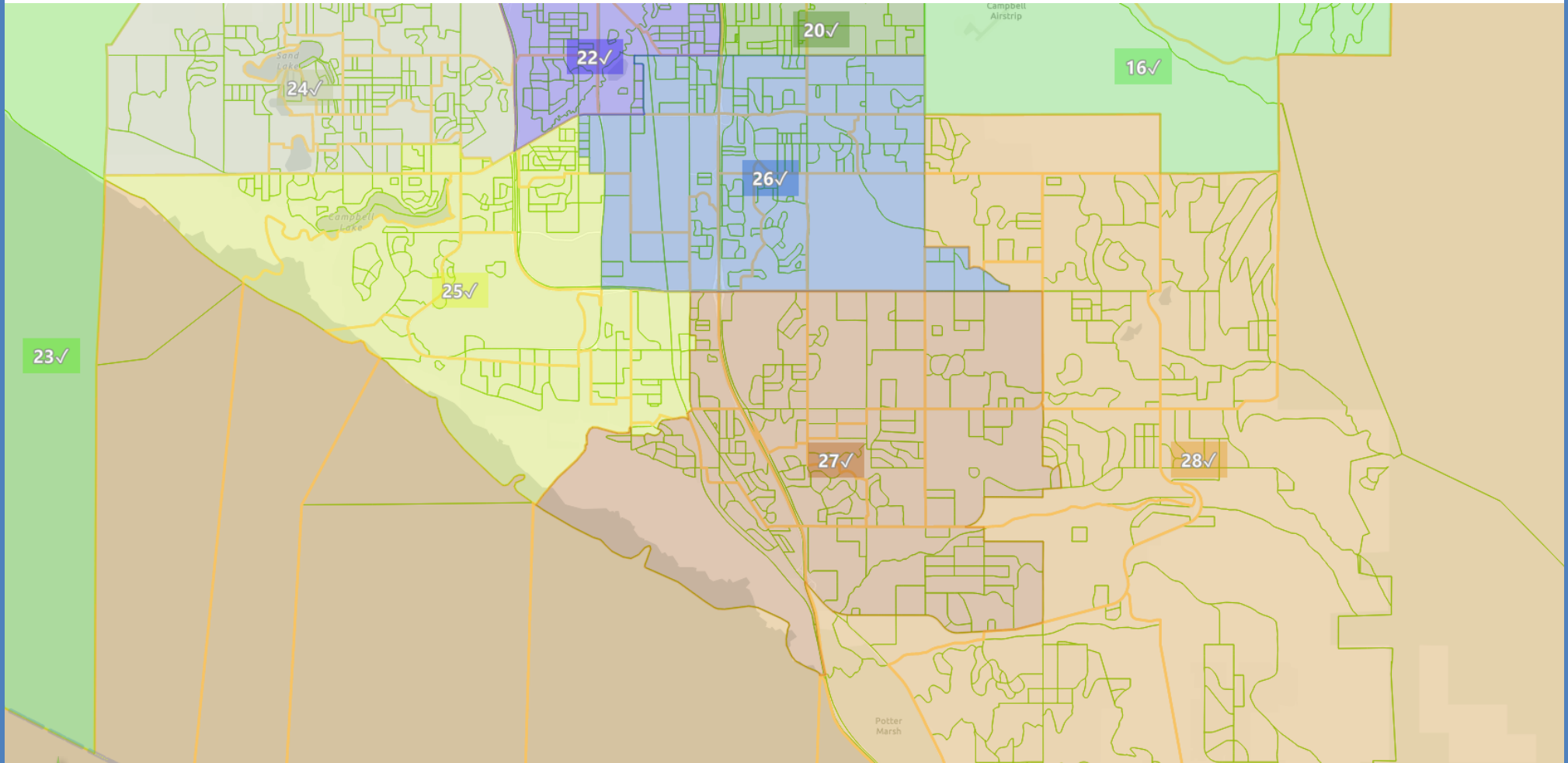
Combined1 - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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| DISTRICT          | Total Population Tabulation |        |         |            |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------|------------|
|                   | All Persons                 | Target | Dev.    | Difference |
| 1                 | 18,326                      | 18,335 | -0.05%✓ | -9         |
| 2                 | 18,329                      | 18,335 | -0.03%✓ | -6         |
| 3                 | 18,346                      | 18,335 | 0.06%✓  | 11         |
| 4                 | 18,330                      | 18,335 | -0.03%✓ | -5         |
| 5                 | 18,322                      | 18,335 | -0.07%✓ | -13        |
| 6                 | 17,590                      | 18,335 | -4.06%✓ | -745       |
| 7                 | 18,310                      | 18,335 | -0.14%✓ | -25        |
| 8                 | 18,316                      | 18,335 | -0.10%✓ | -19        |
| 9                 | 18,314                      | 18,335 | -0.11%✓ | -21        |
| 10                | 18,314                      | 18,335 | -0.11%✓ | -21        |
| 11                | 18,313                      | 18,335 | -0.12%✓ | -22        |
| 12                | 18,313                      | 18,335 | -0.12%✓ | -22        |
| 13                | 18,335                      | 18,335 | 0.00%✓  | 0          |
| 14                | 18,335                      | 18,335 | 0.00%✓  | 0          |
| 15                | 18,336                      | 18,335 | 0.01%✓  | 1          |
| 16                | 18,332                      | 18,335 | -0.02%✓ | -3         |
| 17                | 18,339                      | 18,335 | 0.02%✓  | 4          |
| 18                | 18,337                      | 18,335 | 0.01%✓  | 2          |
| 19                | 18,333                      | 18,335 | -0.01%✓ | -2         |
| 20                | 18,330                      | 18,335 | -0.03%✓ | -5         |
| 21                | 18,328                      | 18,335 | -0.04%✓ | -7         |
| 22                | 18,337                      | 18,335 | 0.01%✓  | 2          |
| 23                | 18,341                      | 18,335 | 0.03%✓  | 6          |
| 24                | 18,344                      | 18,335 | 0.05%✓  | 9          |
| 25                | 18,333                      | 18,335 | -0.01%✓ | -2         |
| 26                | 18,338                      | 18,335 | 0.02%✓  | 3          |
| 27                | 18,340                      | 18,335 | 0.03%✓  | 5          |
| 28                | 18,342                      | 18,335 | 0.04%✓  | 7          |
| 29                | 18,612                      | 18,335 | 1.51%✓  | 277        |
| 30                | 18,612                      | 18,335 | 1.51%✓  | 277        |
| 31                | 18,615                      | 18,335 | 1.53%✓  | 280        |
| 32                | 18,398                      | 18,335 | 0.34%✓  | 63         |
| 33                | 18,720                      | 18,335 | 2.10%✓  | 385        |
| 34                | 18,720                      | 18,335 | 2.10%✓  | 385        |
| 35                | 18,797                      | 18,335 | 2.52%✓  | 462        |
| 36                | 18,681                      | 18,335 | 1.89%✓  | 346        |
| 37                | 17,589                      | 18,335 | -4.07%✓ | -746       |
| 38                | 17,616                      | 18,335 | -3.92%✓ | -719       |
| 39                | 17,704                      | 18,335 | -3.44%✓ | -631       |
| 40                | 18,824                      | 18,335 | 2.67%✓  | 489        |
| <b>Assigned</b>   | <b>733391</b>               |        |         |            |
| <b>Total Pop</b>  | <b>733391</b>               |        |         |            |
| <b>Unassigned</b> | <b>0</b>                    |        |         |            |

# CantwellCombined1

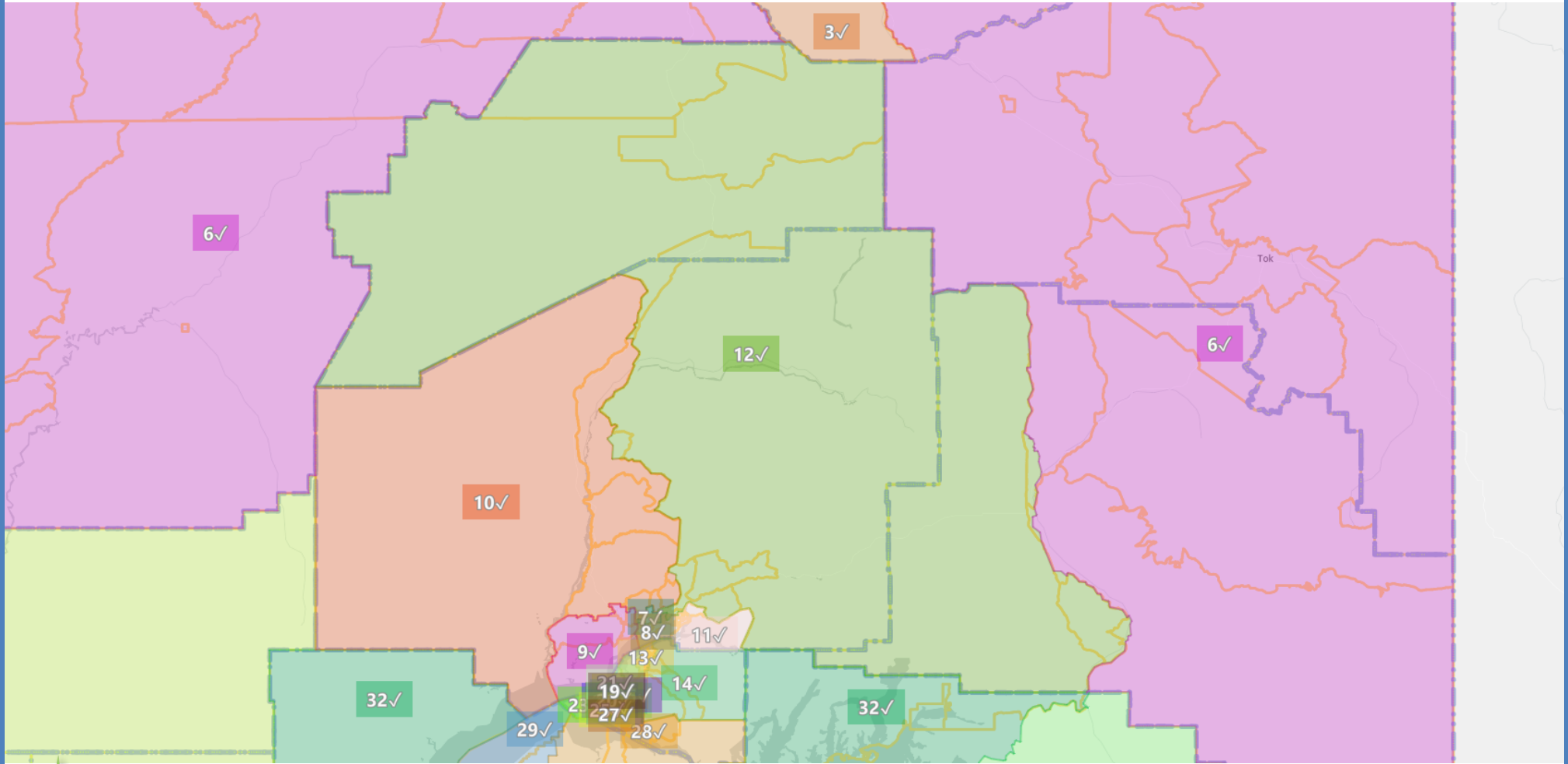


CantwellCombined1 - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# Combined1



Combined1 - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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**Combined1**

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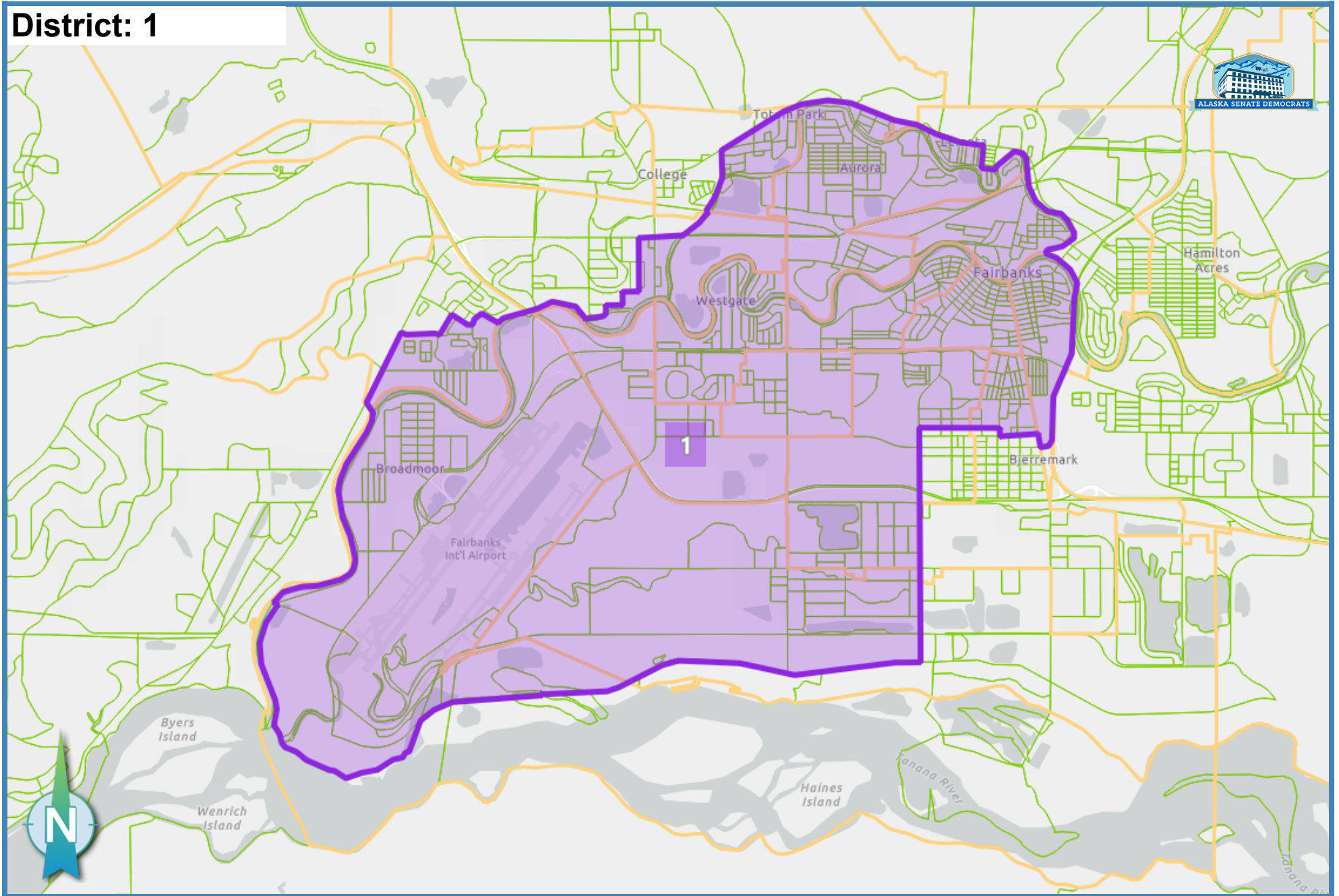
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# District: 1



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.05 %

Total Population: 18,326

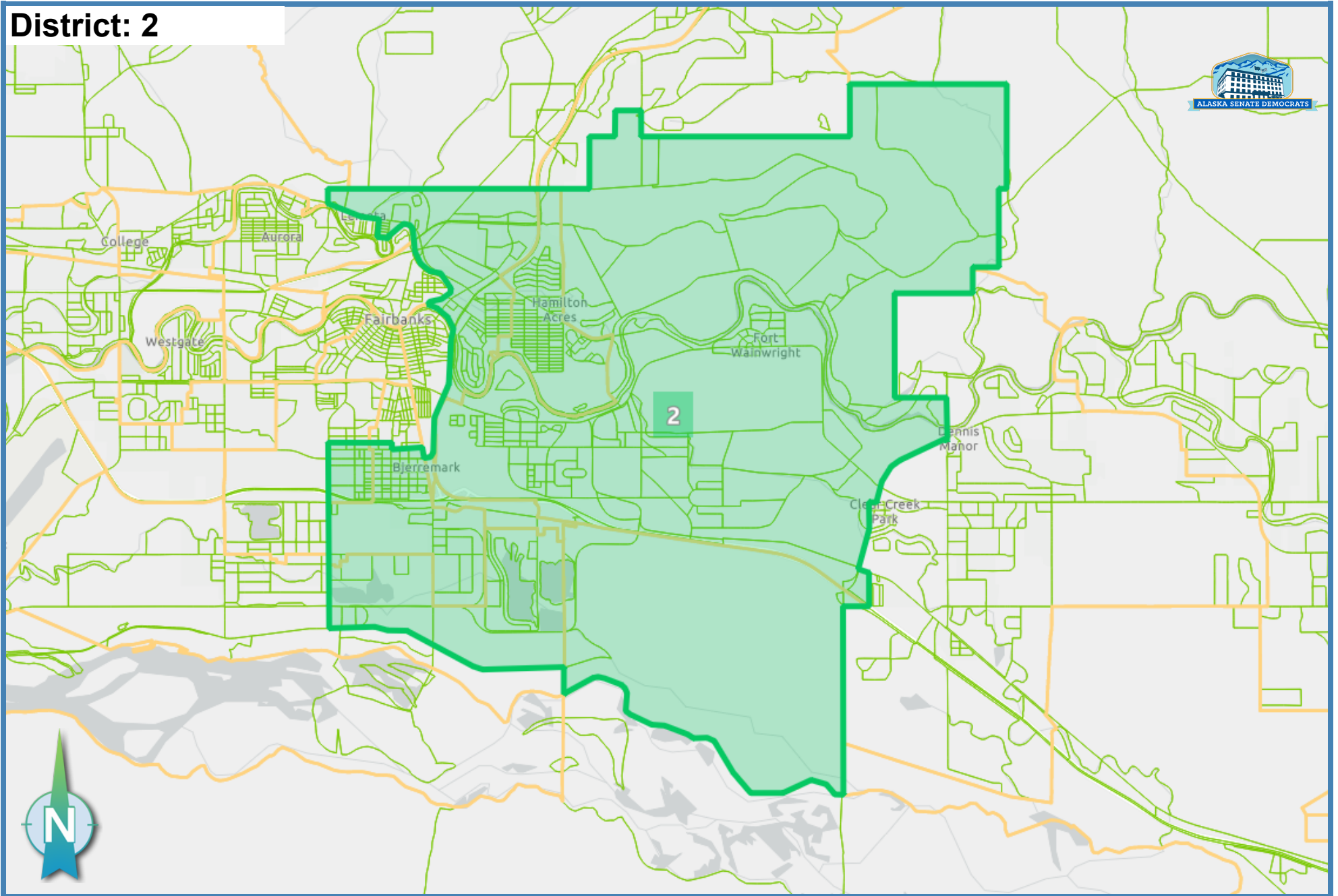
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# District: 2



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.03 %

Total Population: **18,329**

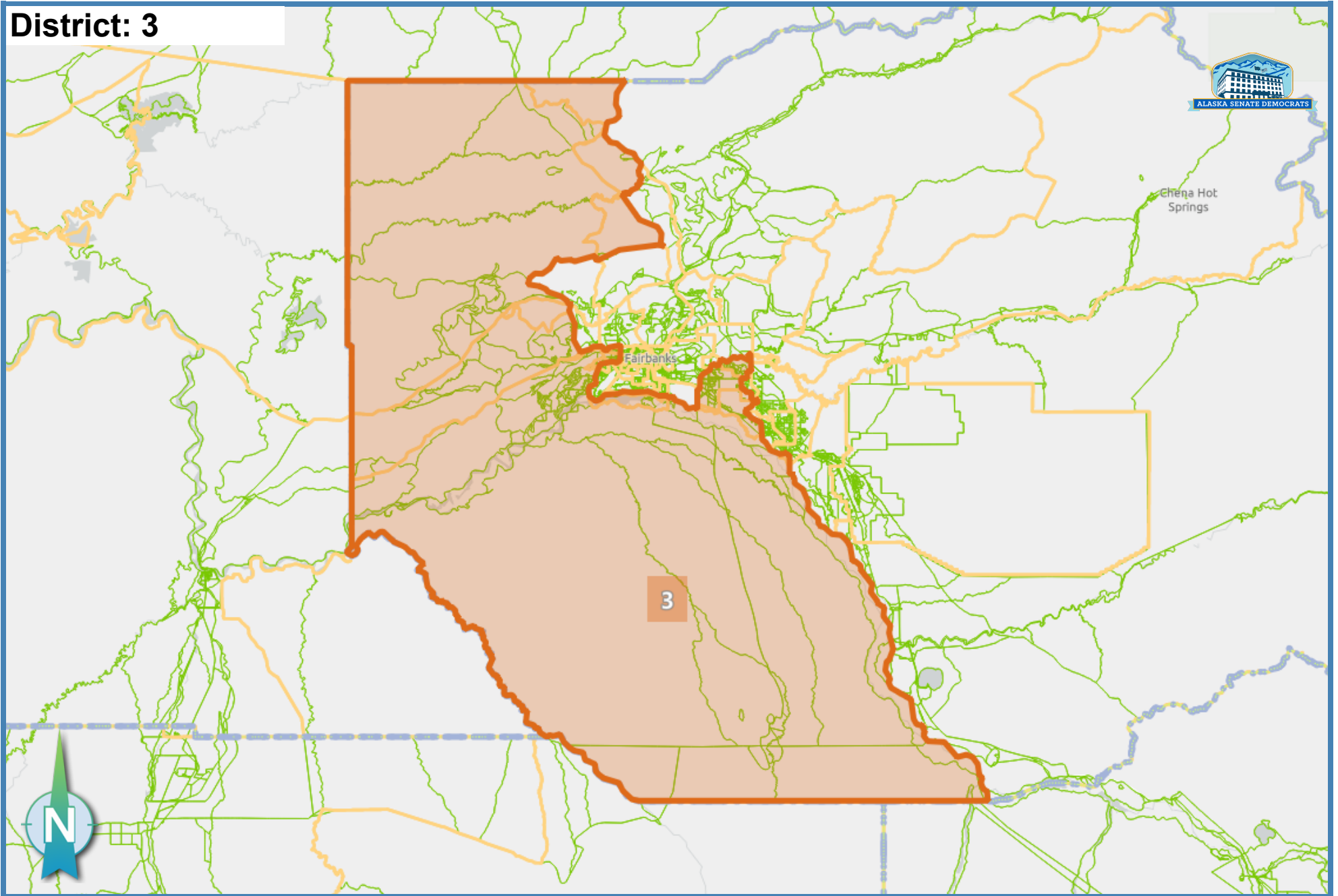
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# District: 3



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.06 %

Total Population: 18,346

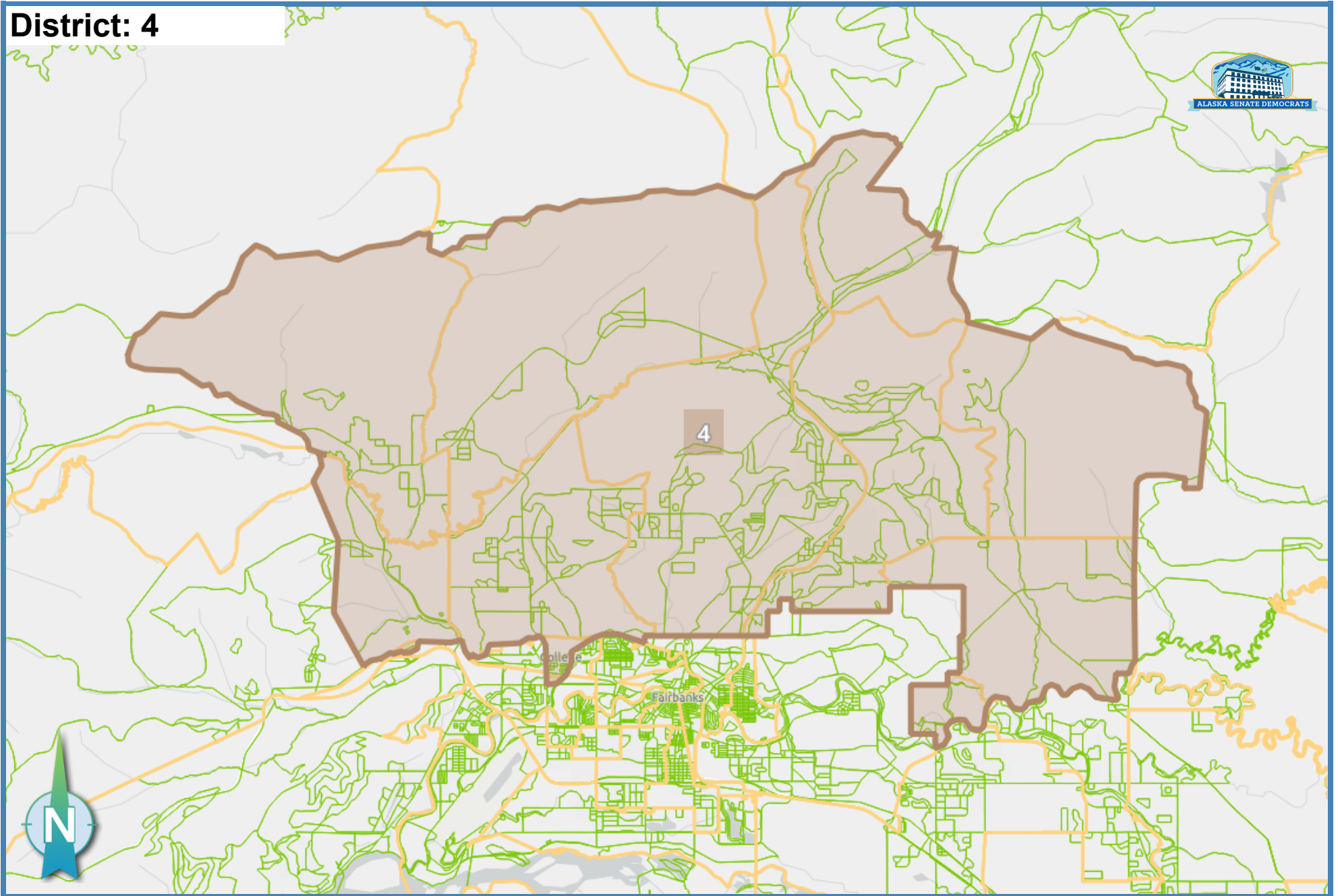
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# District: 4



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.03 %

Total Population: **18,330**

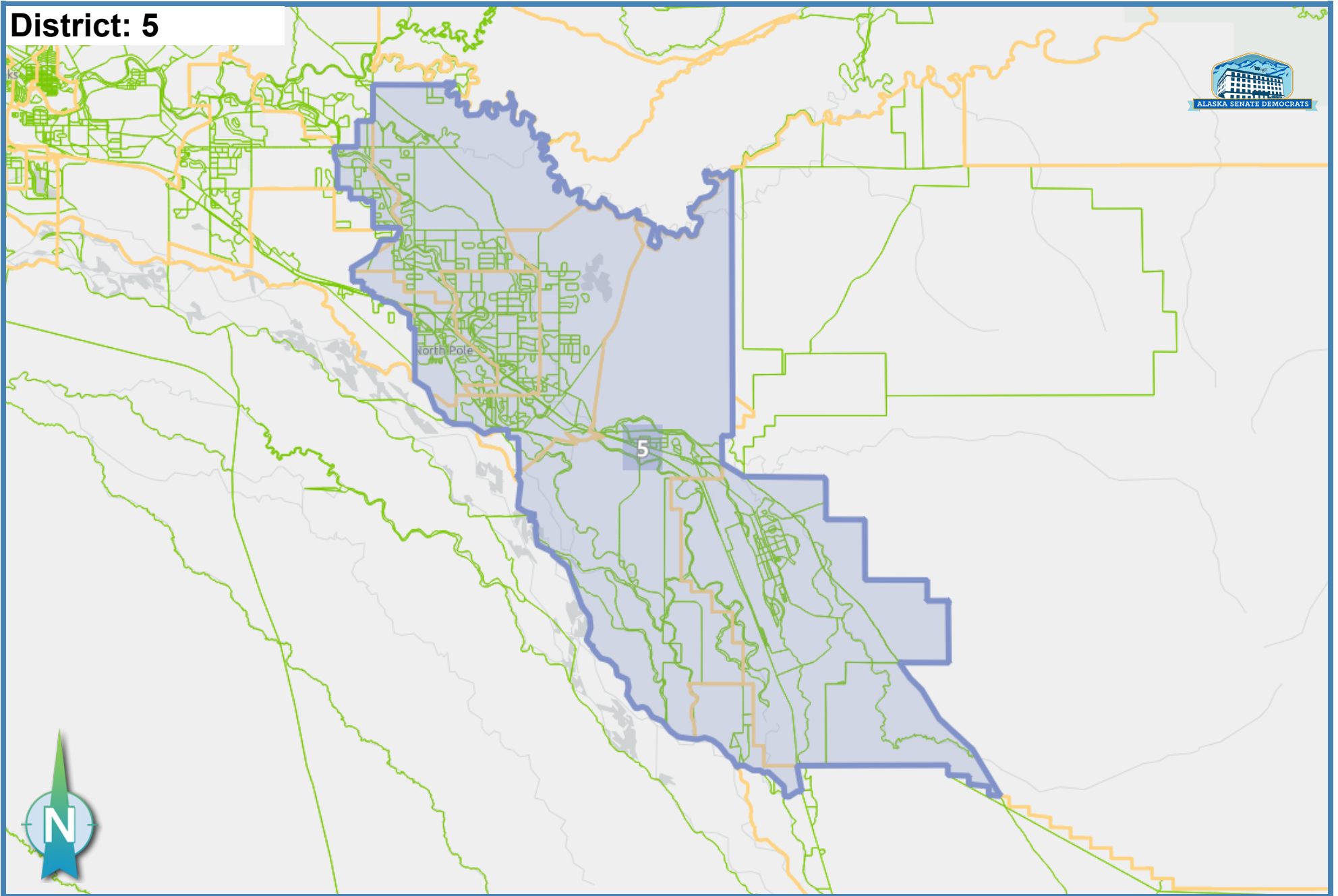
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# District: 5



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.07 %

Total Population: **18,322**

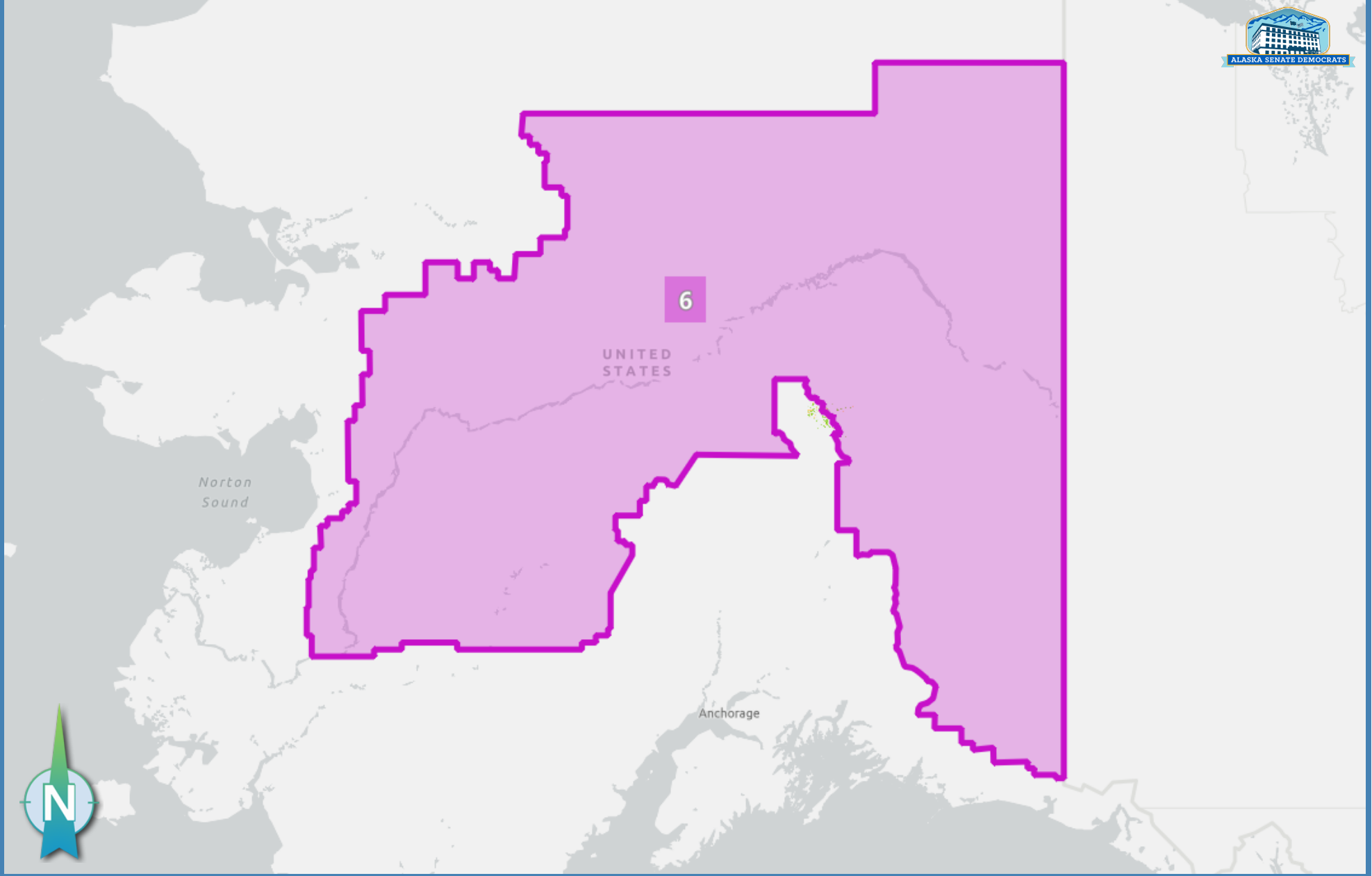
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# District: 6



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -4.06 %

Total Population: 17,590

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

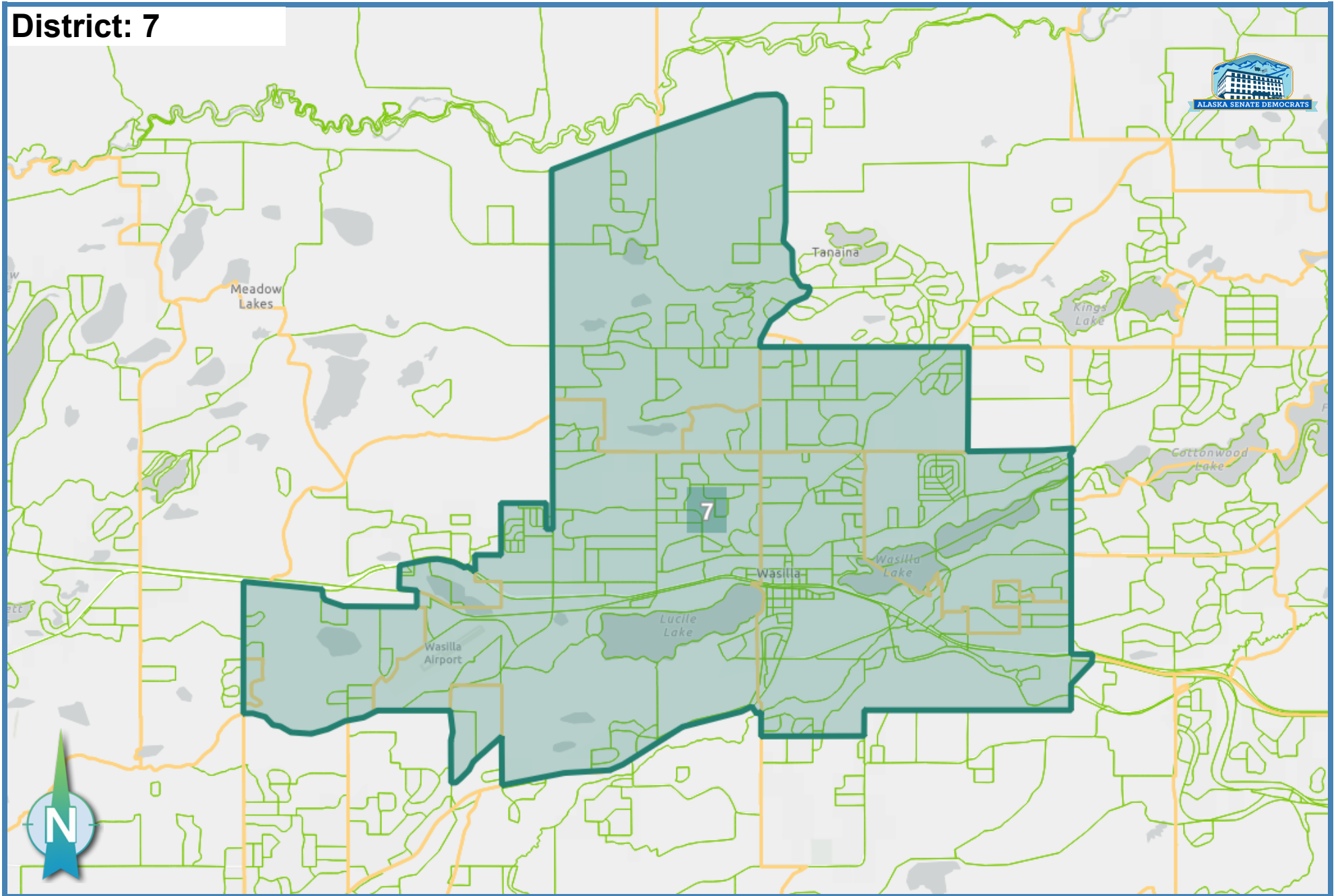
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# District: 7



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.14 %

Total Population: 18,310

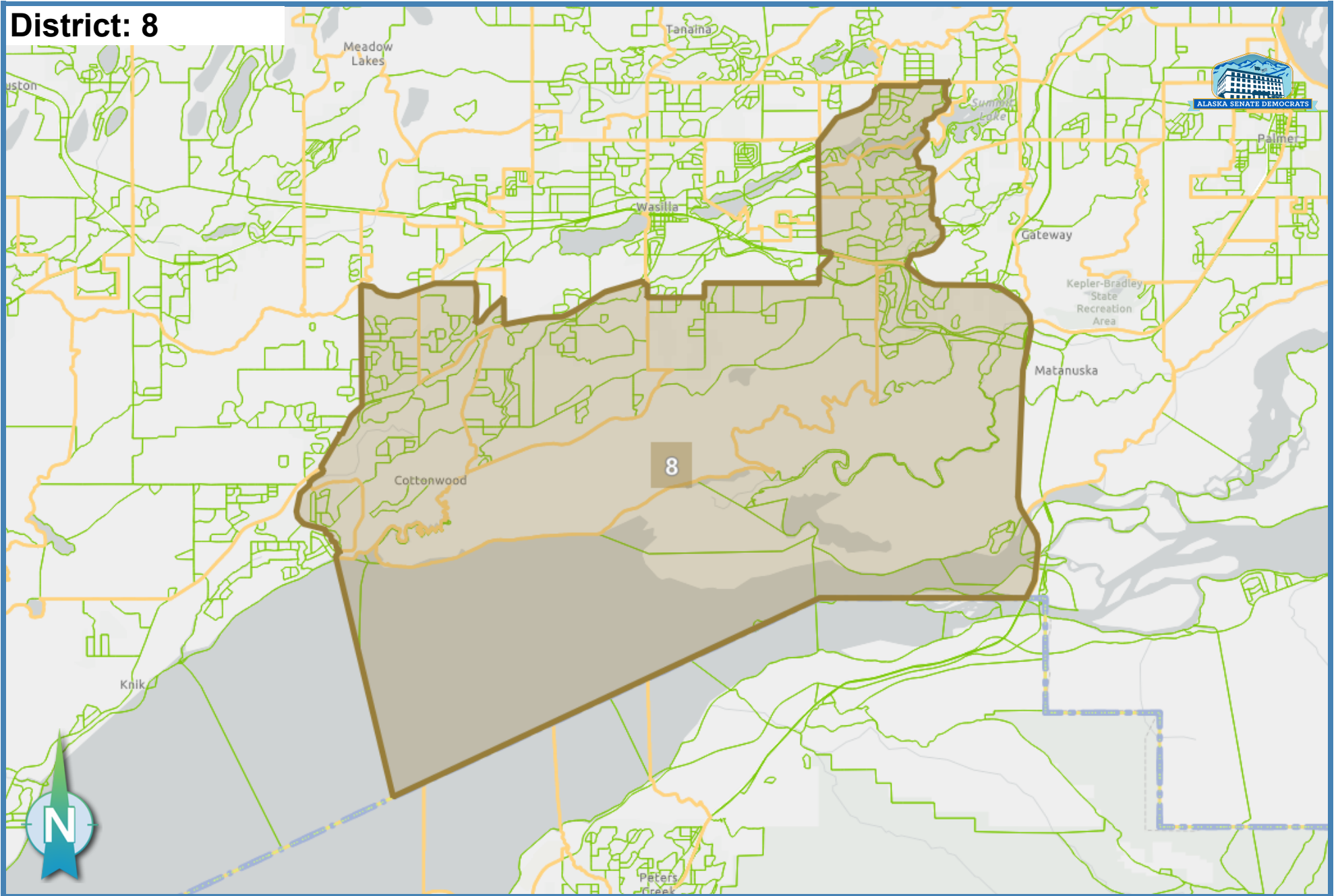
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# District: 8



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.10 %

Total Population: 18,316

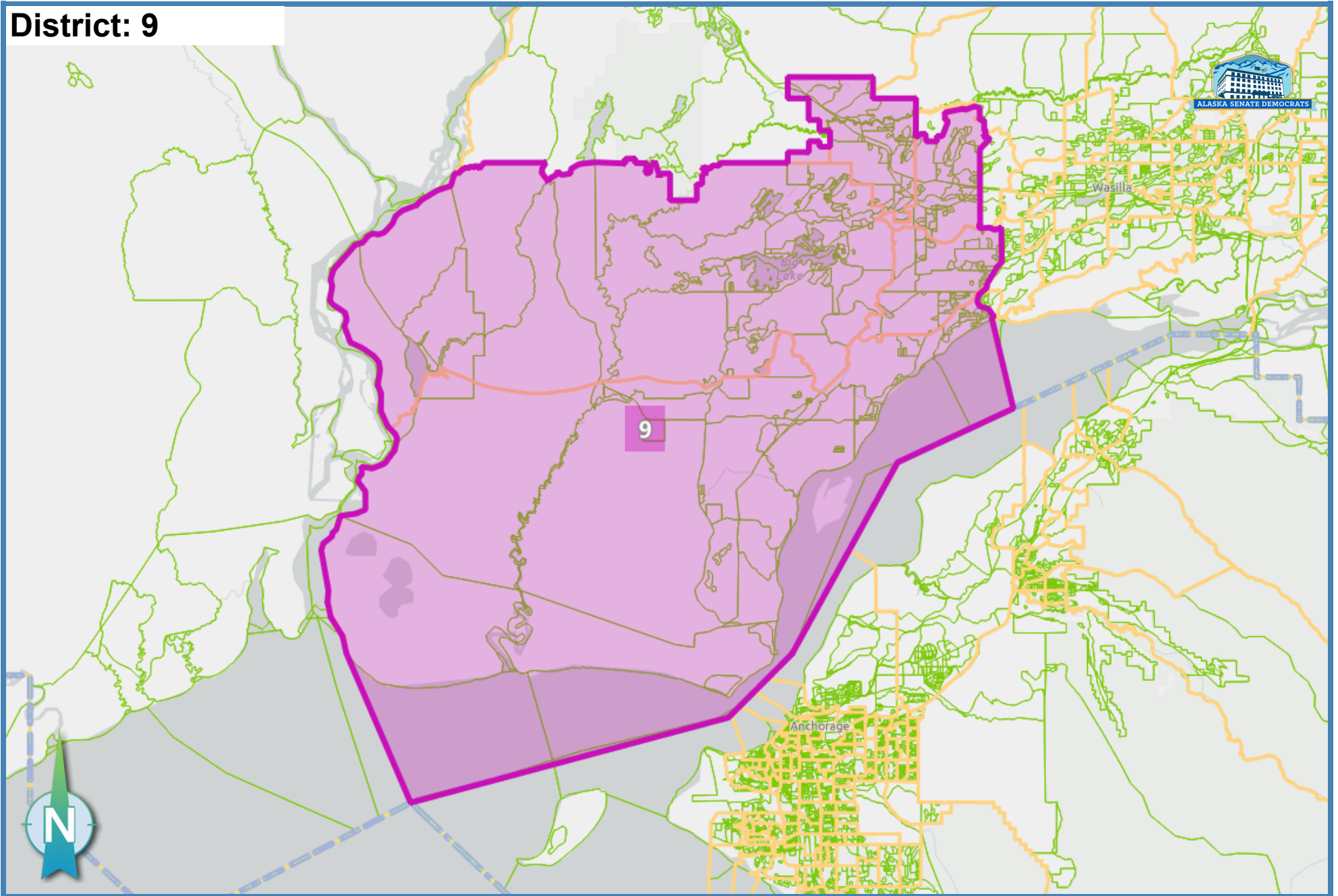
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# District: 9



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.11 %

Total Population: 18,314

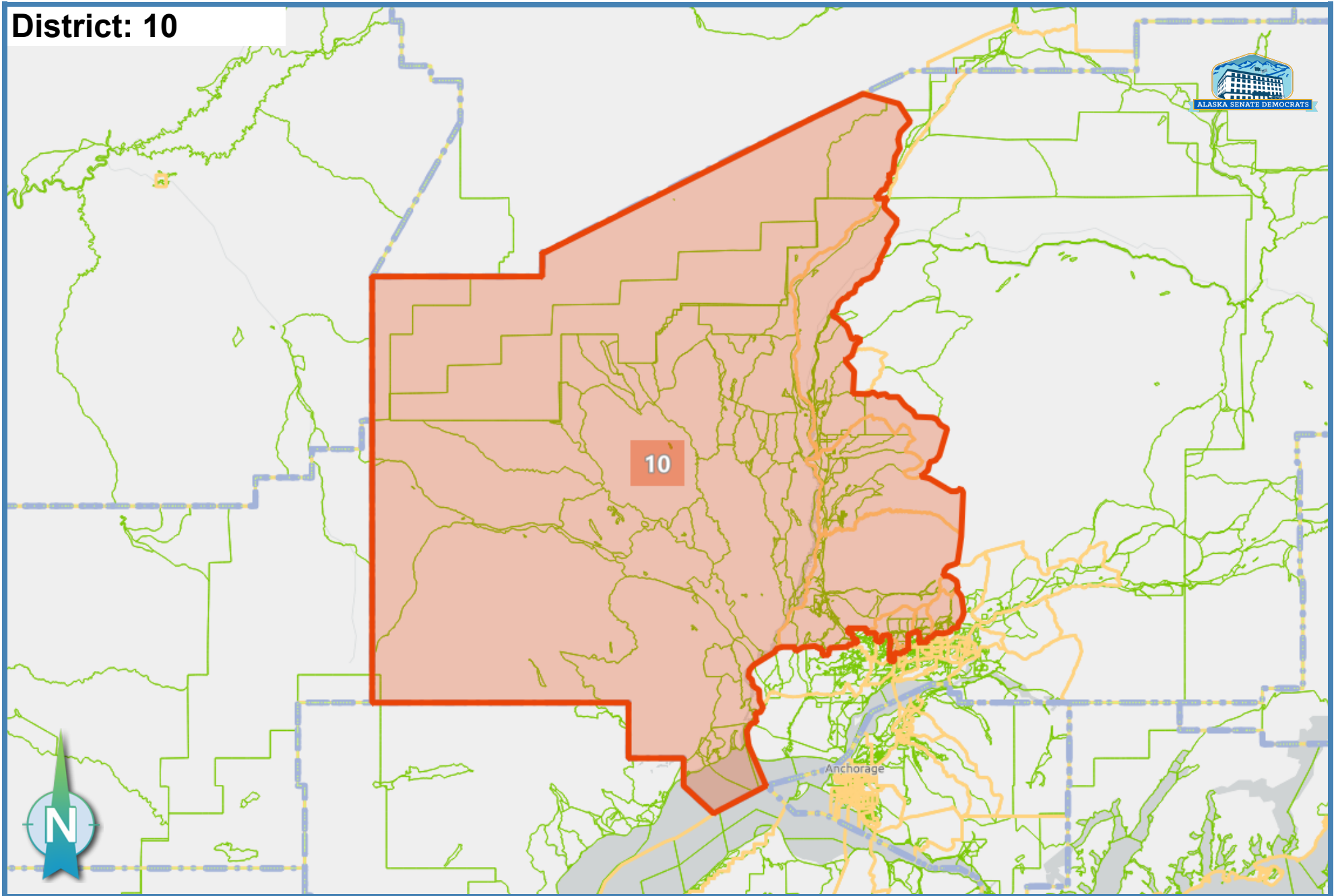
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# District: 10



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.11 %

Total Population: 18,314

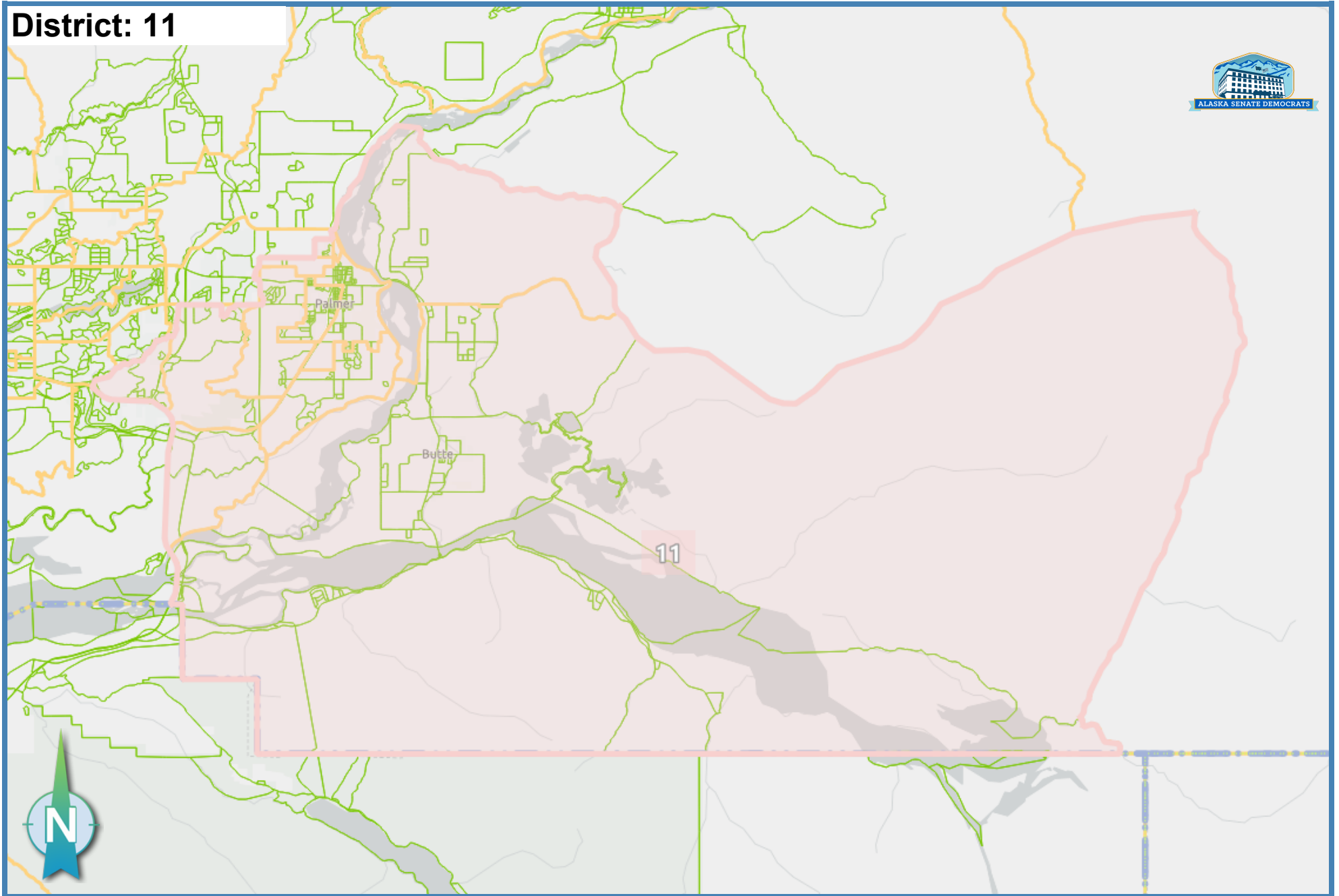
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# District: 11



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.12 %

Total Population: **18,313**

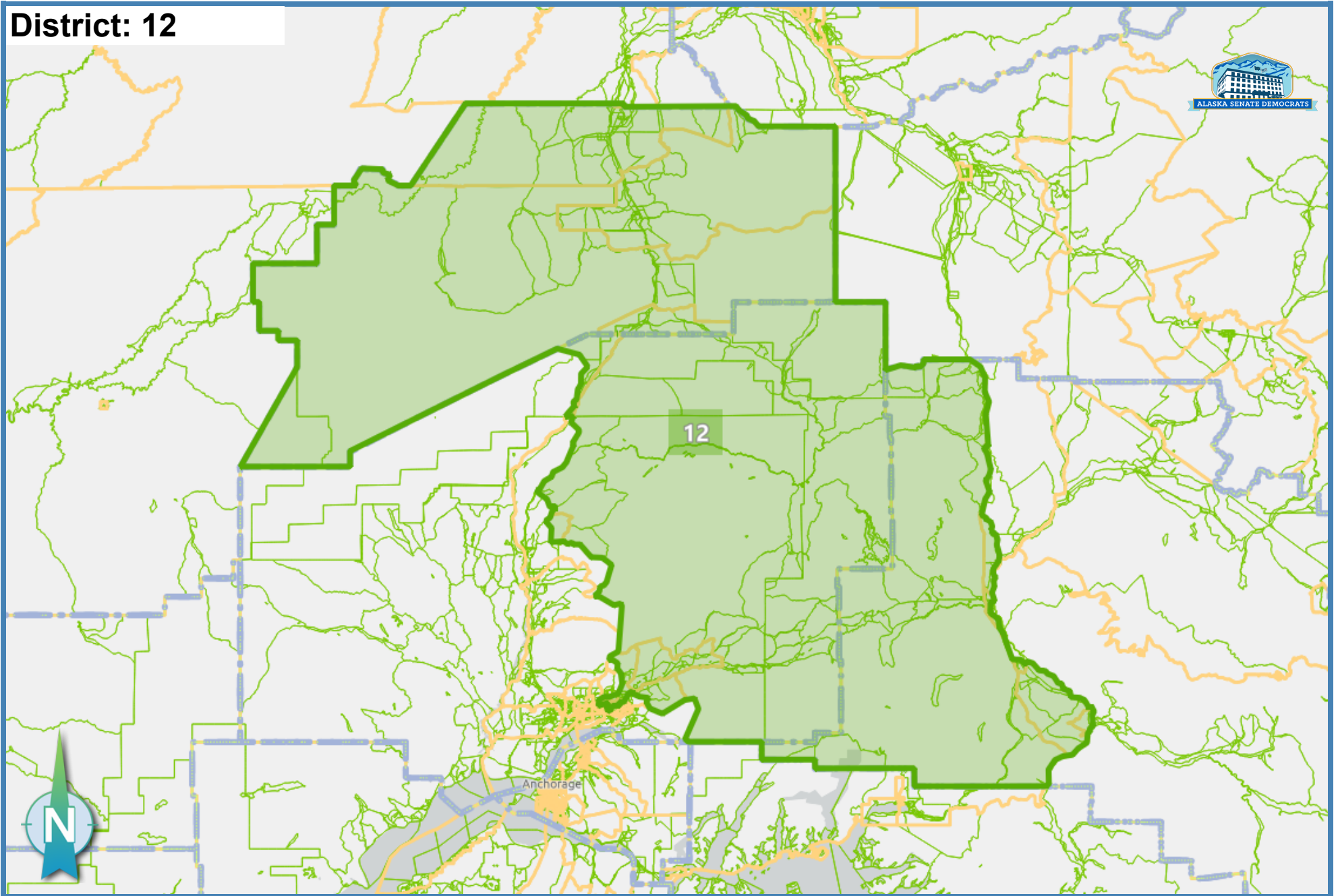
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# District: 12



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.12 %

Total Population: 18,313

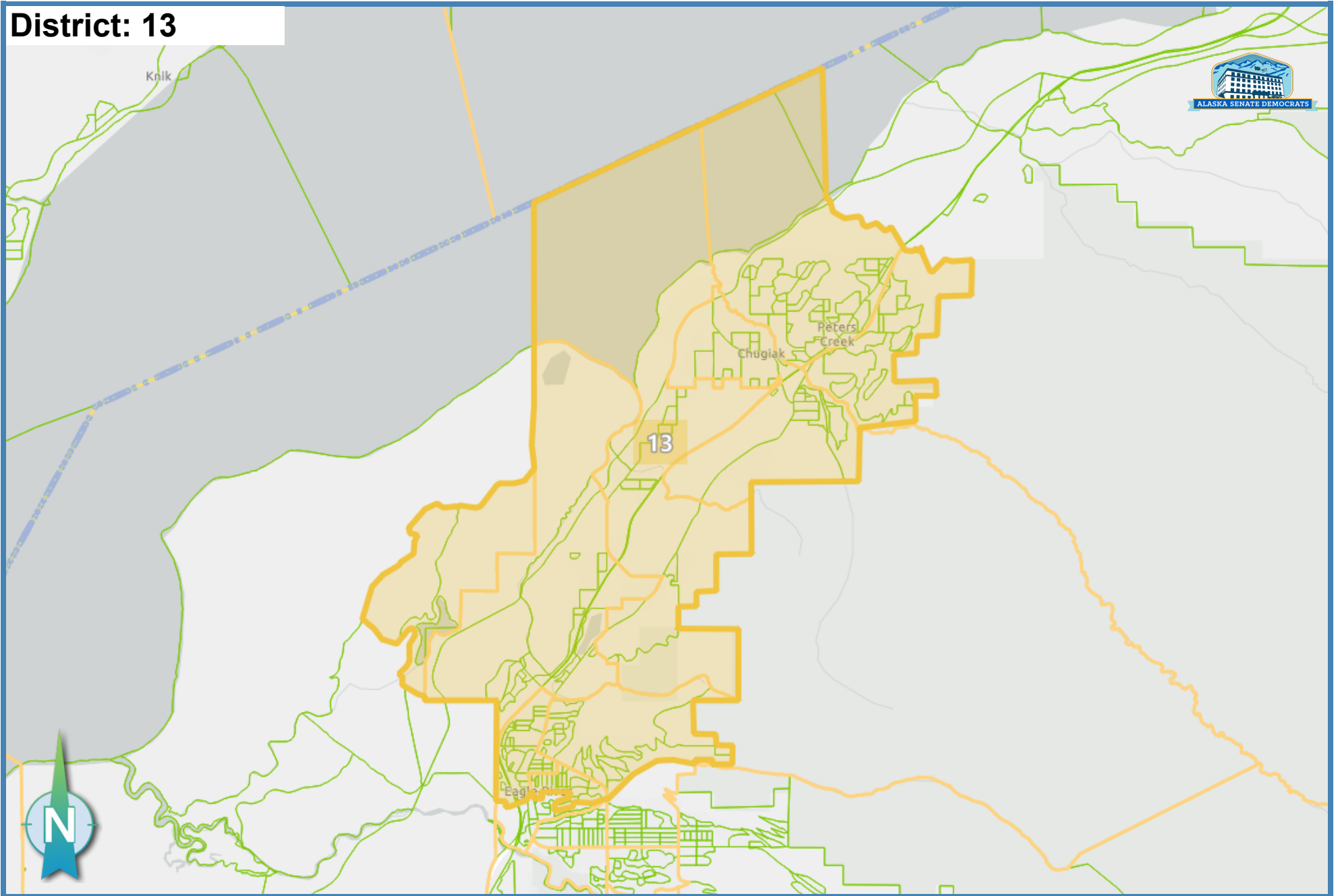
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# District: 13



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.00 %

Total Population: **18,335**

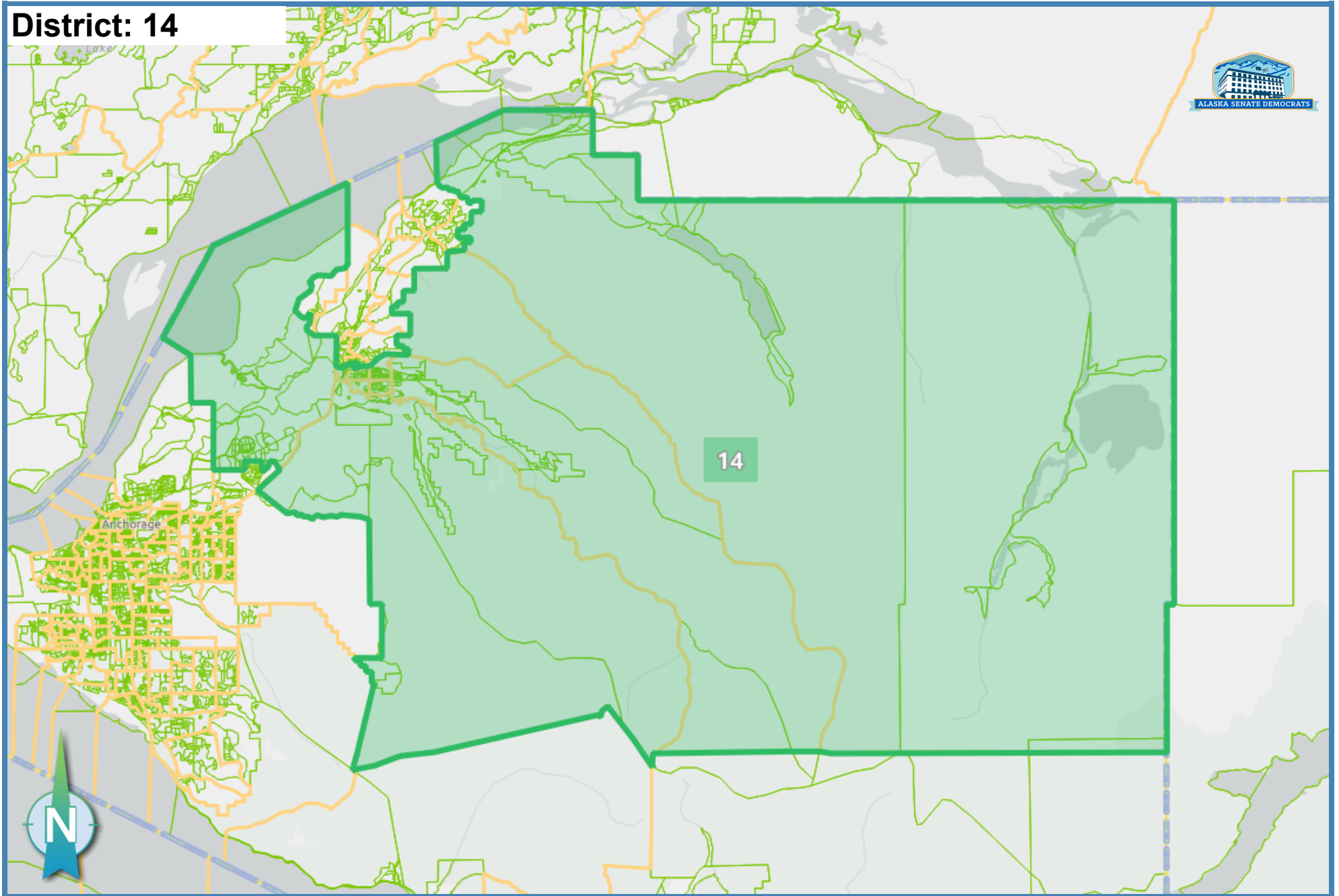
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# District: 14



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.00 %

Total Population: 18,335

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

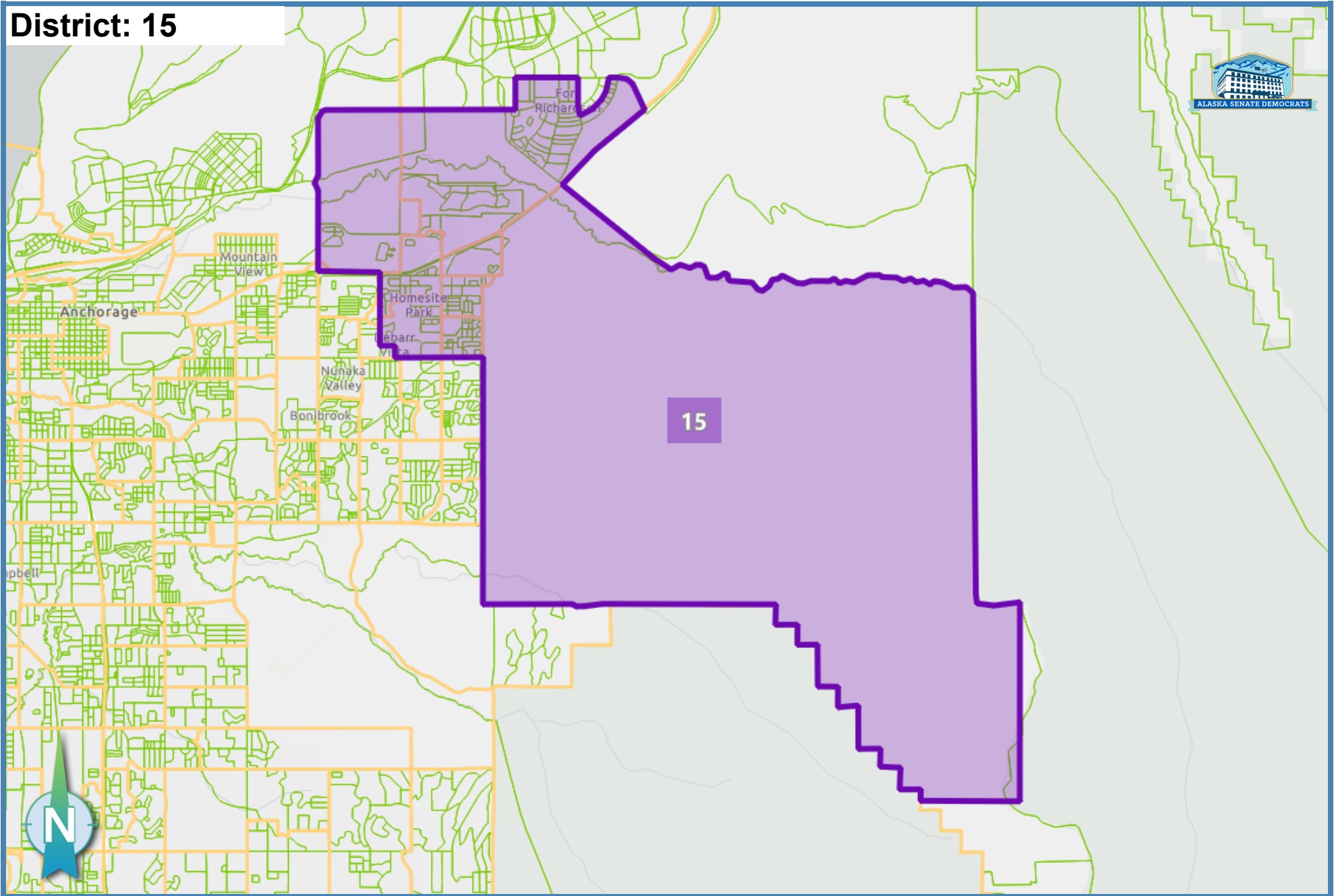
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# District: 15



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.01 %

Total Population: 18,336

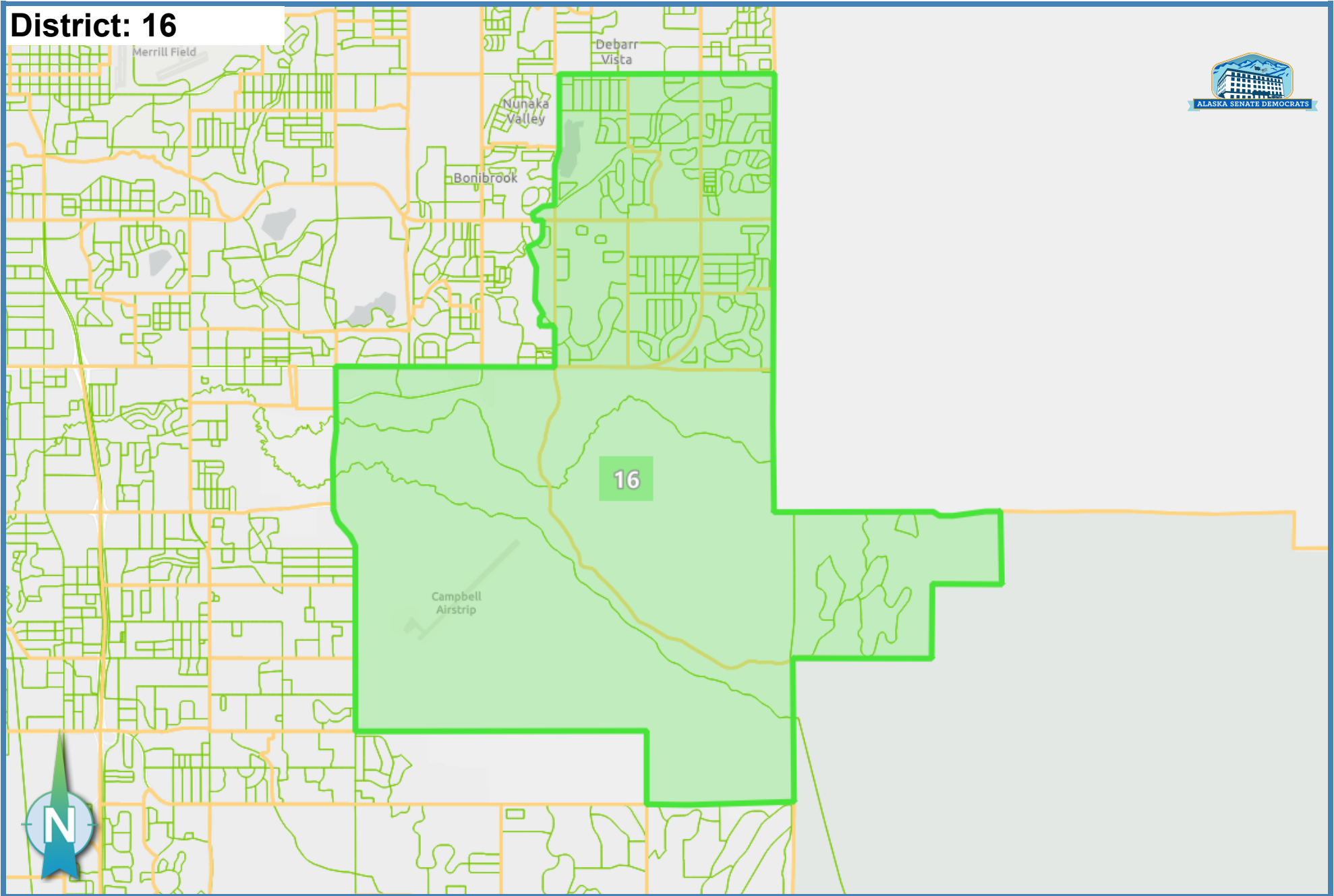
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# District: 16



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.02 %

Total Population: 18,332

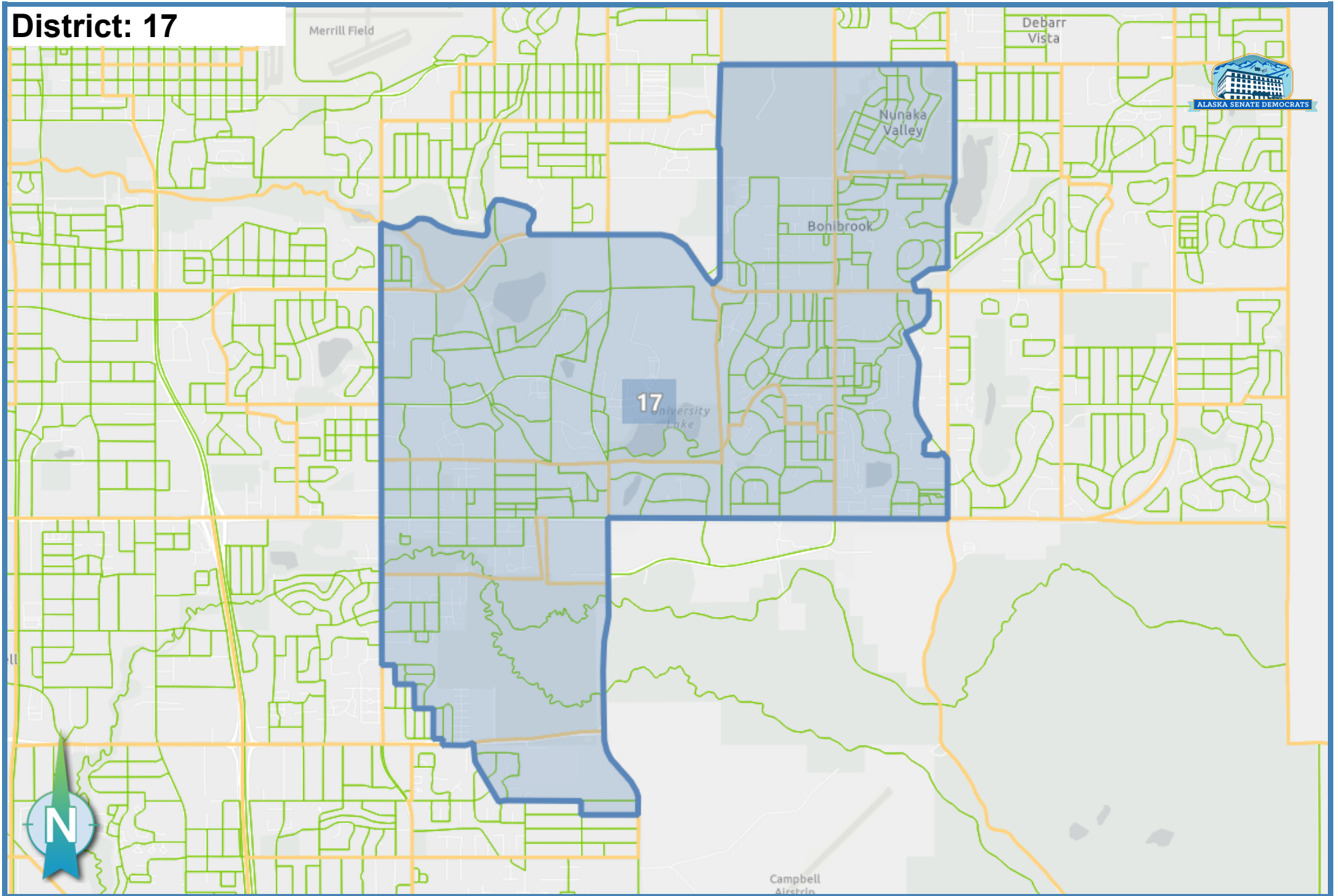
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# District: 17



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.02 %

Total Population: 18,339

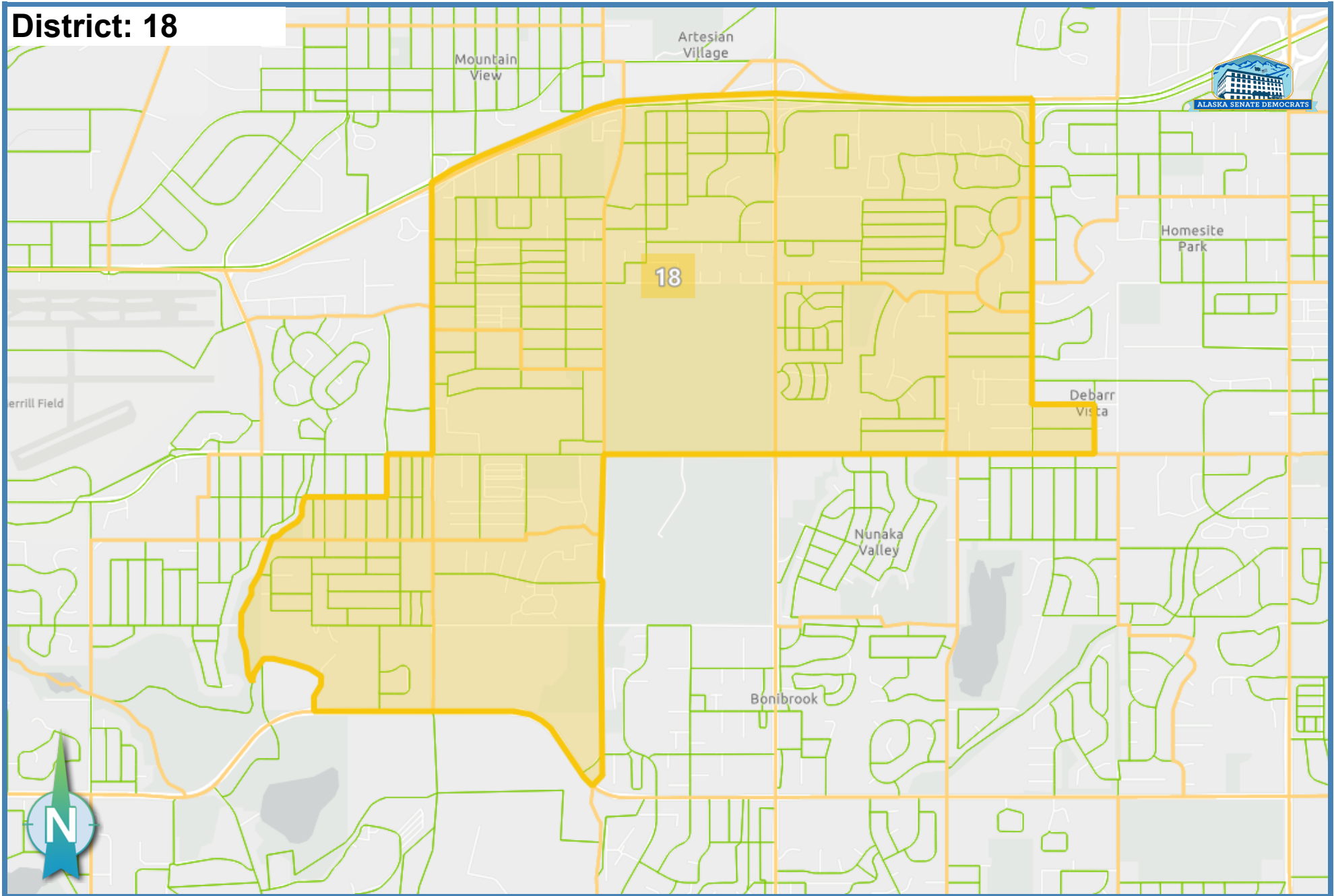
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# District: 18



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.01 %

Total Population: 18,337

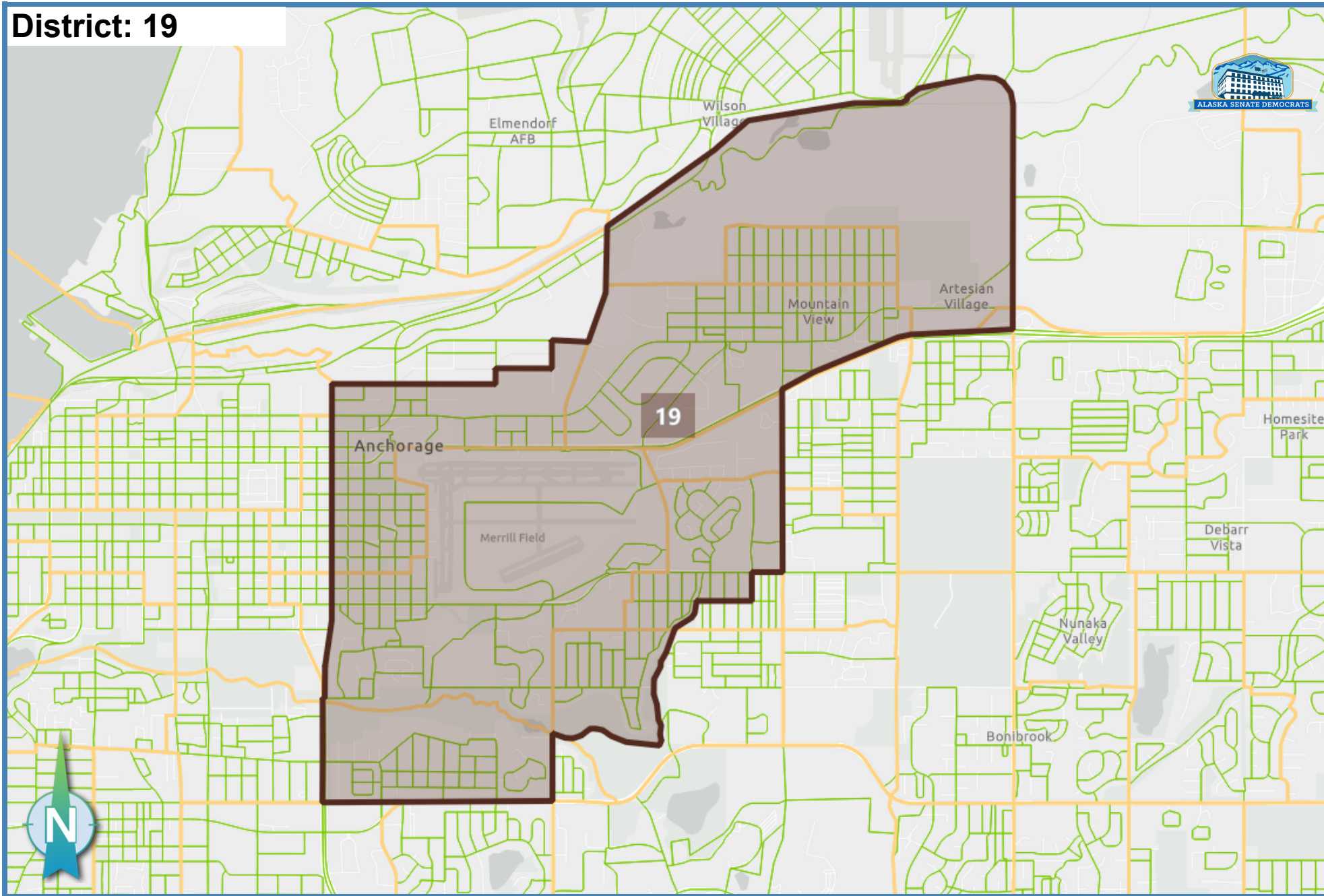
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# District: 19



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.01 %

Total Population: 18,333

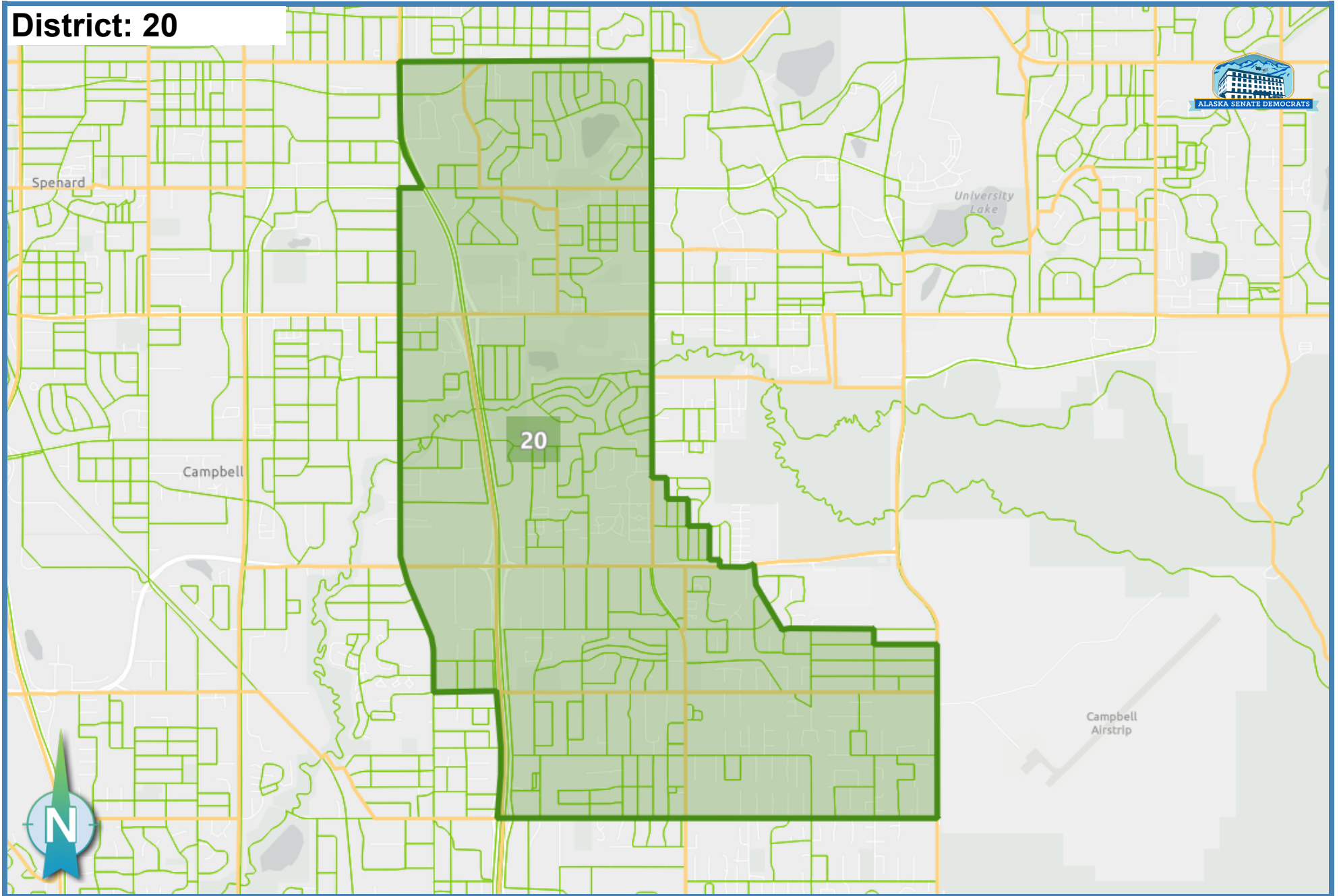
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# District: 20



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.03 %

Total Population: **18,330**

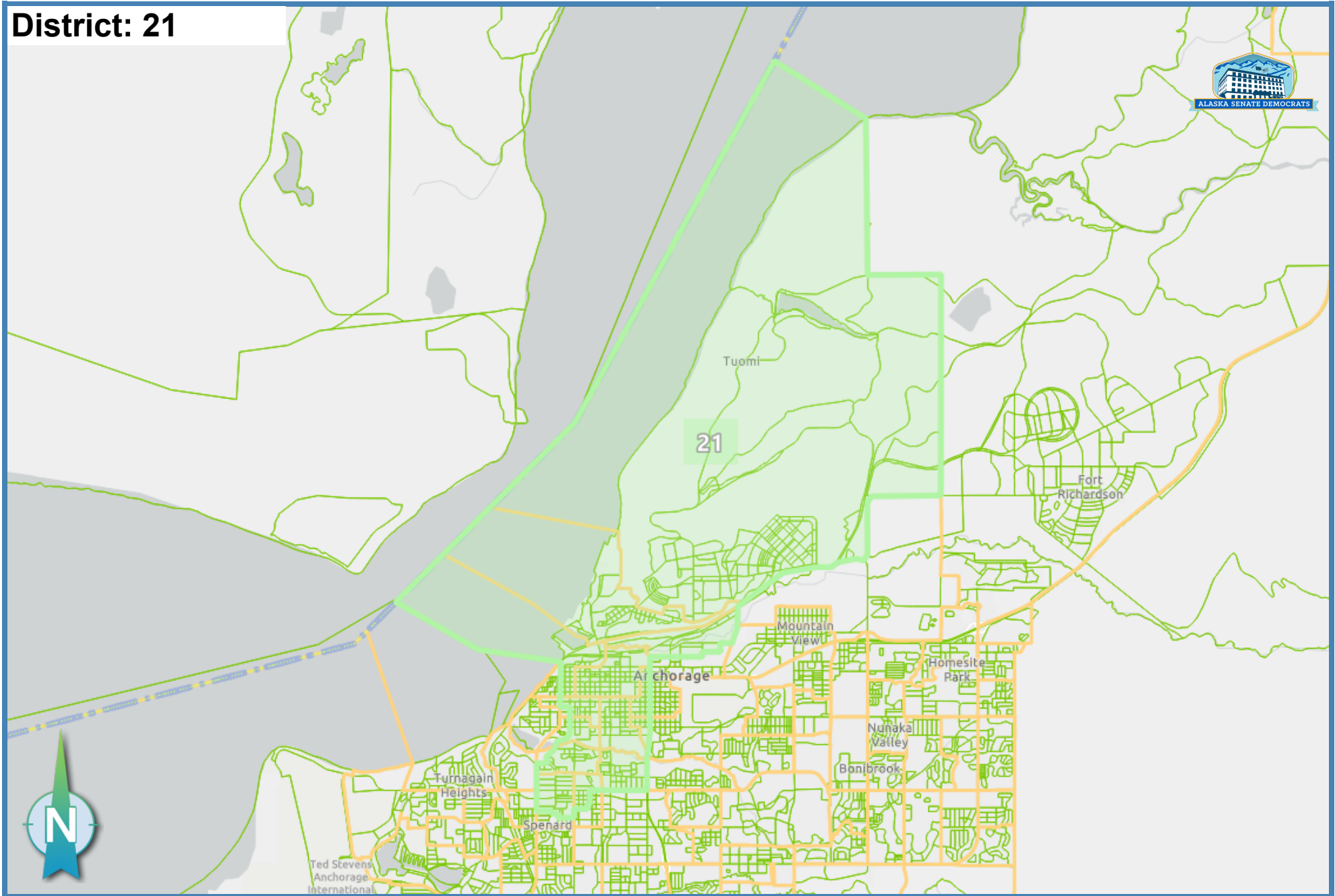
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# District: 21



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.04 %

Total Population: 18,328

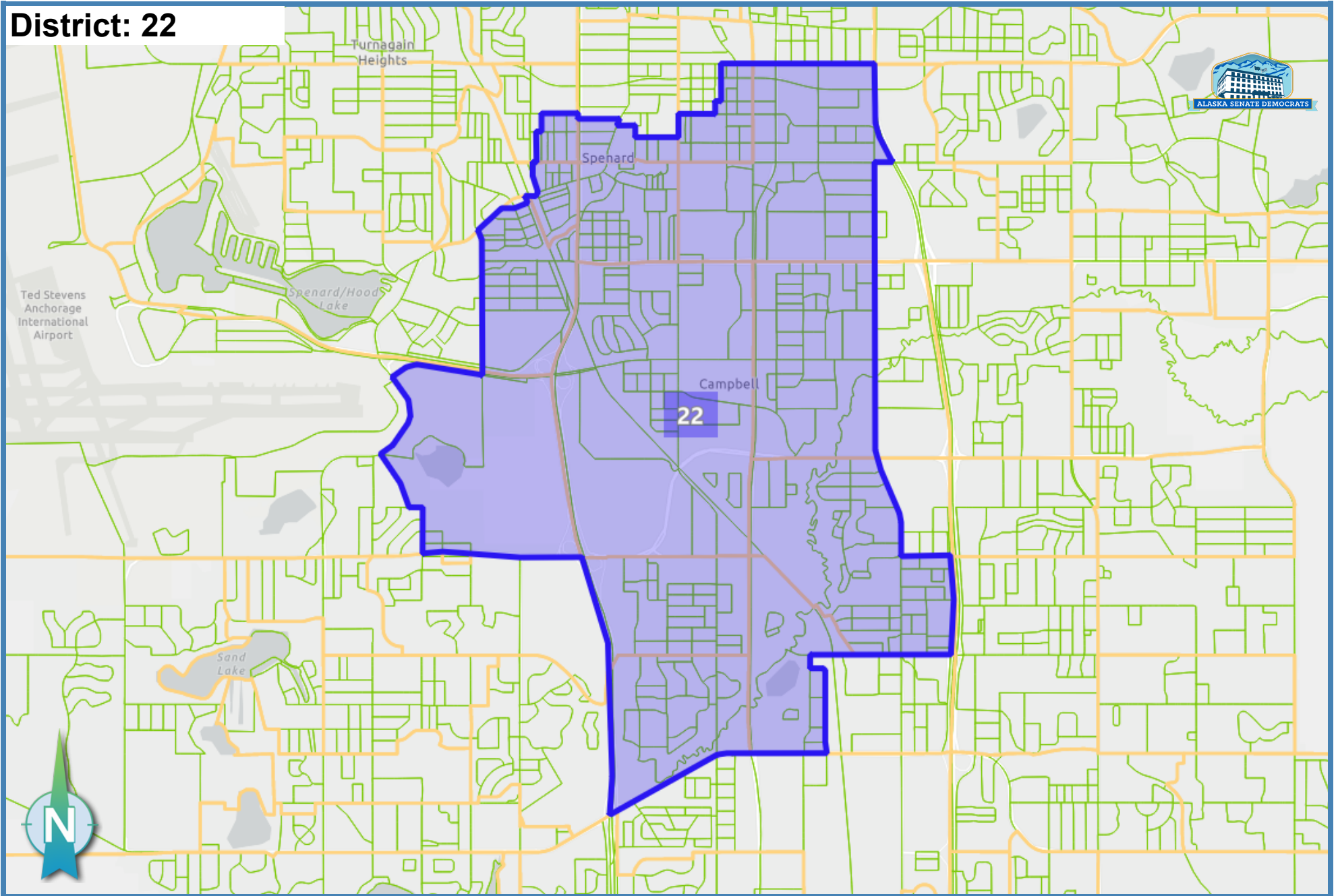
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# District: 22



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.01 %

Total Population: 18,337

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

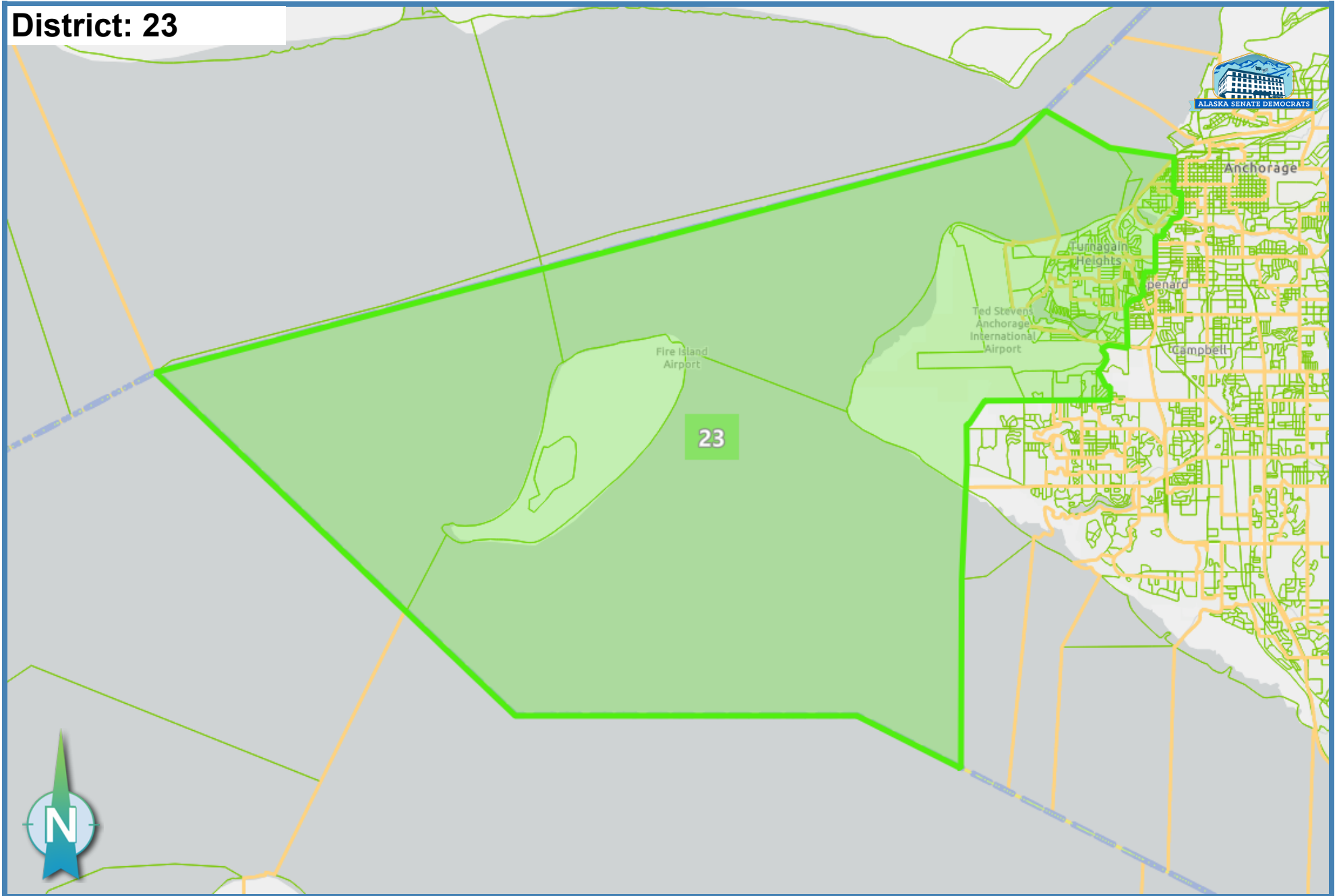
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# District: 23



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.03 %

Total Population: **18,341**

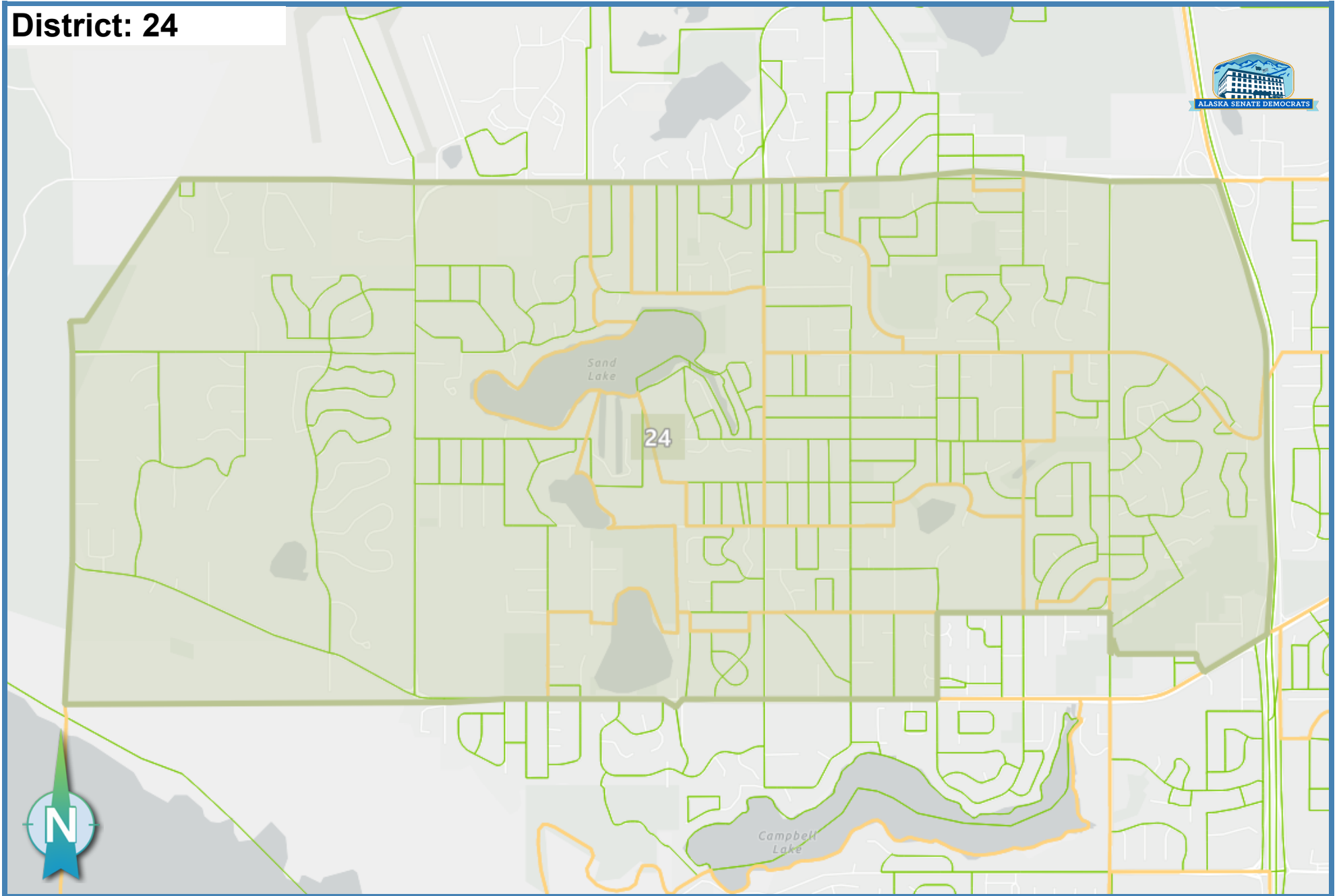
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# District: 24



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.05 %

Total Population: **18,344**

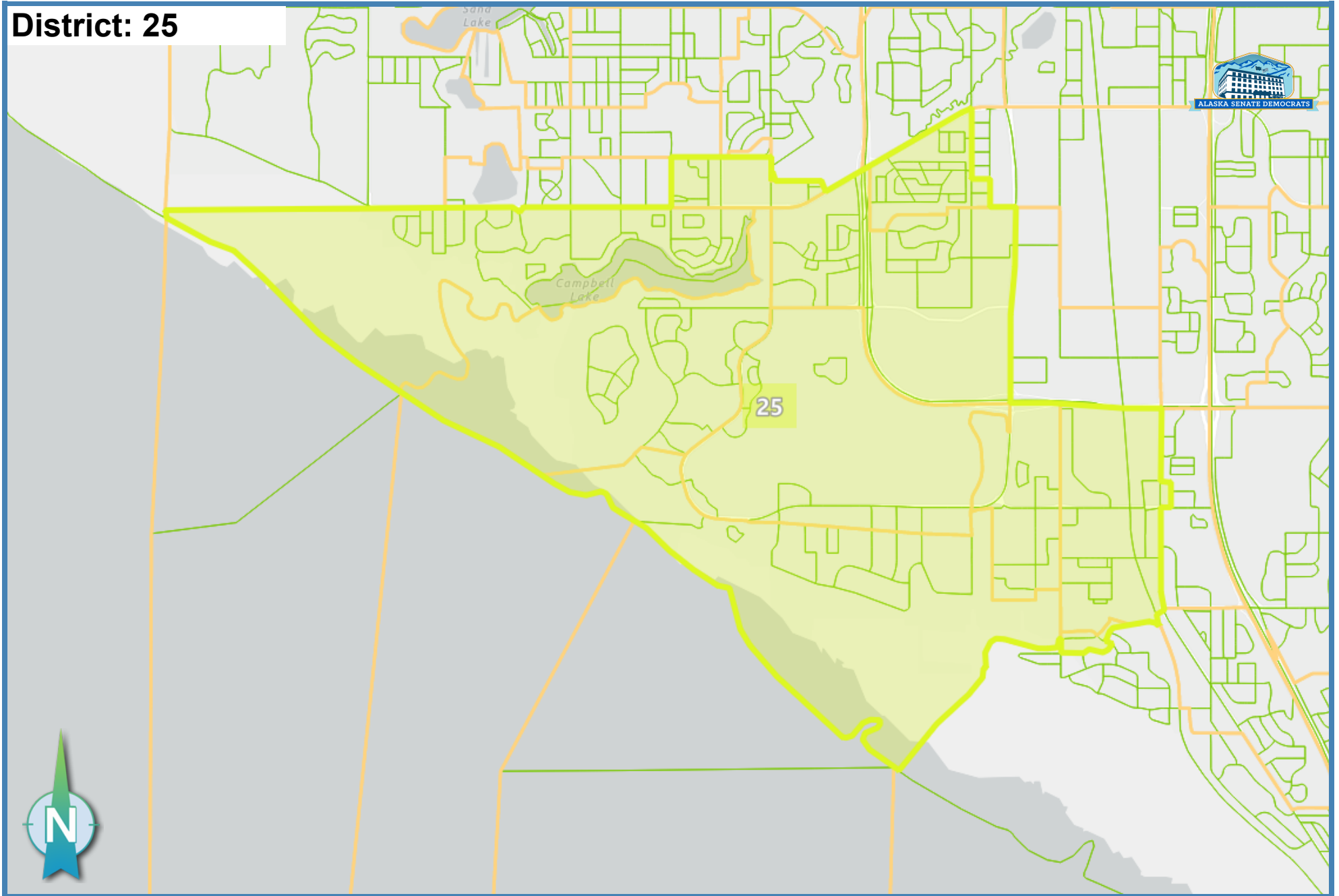
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# District: 25



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.01 %

Total Population: 18,333

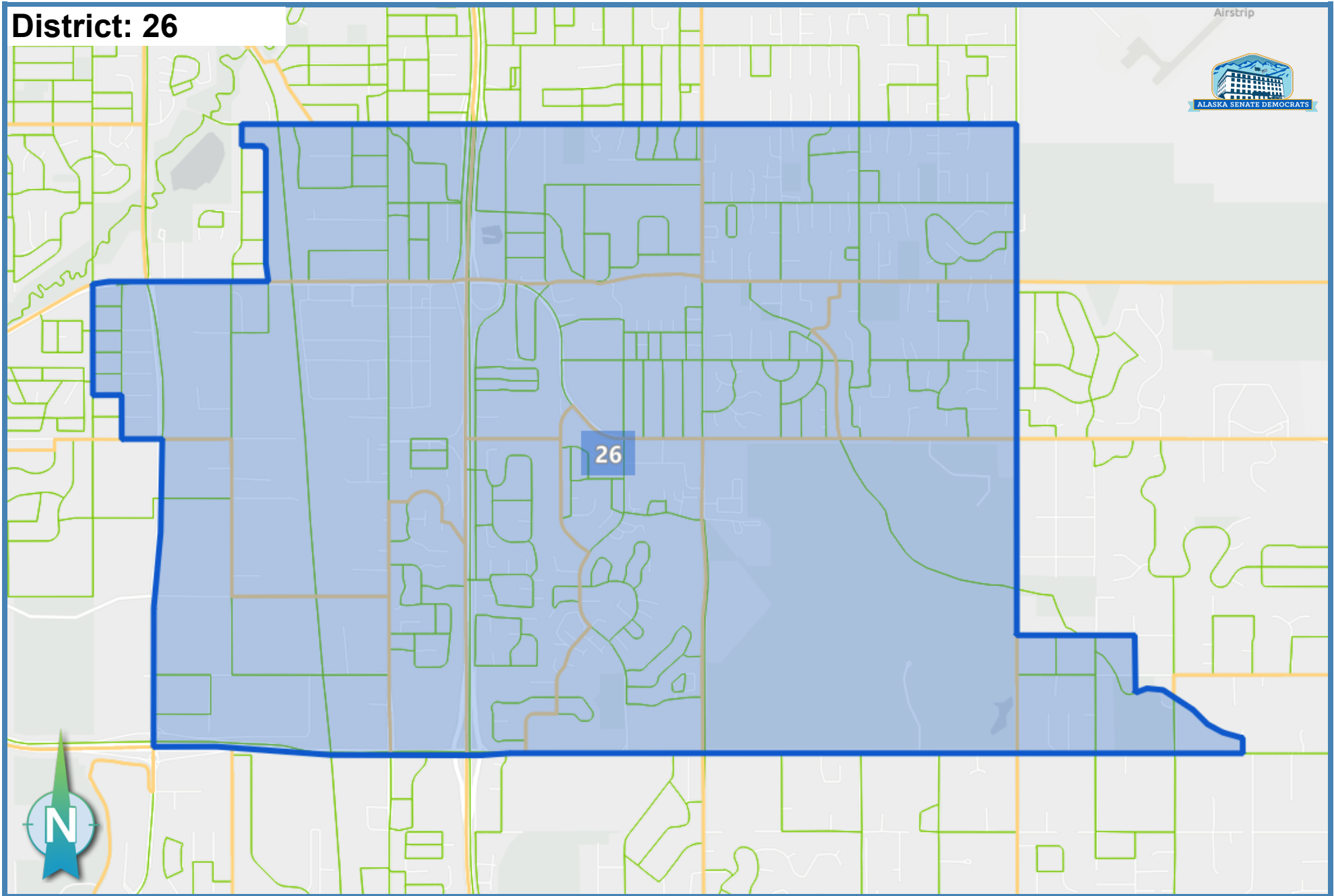
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# District: 26



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.02 %

Total Population: **18,338**

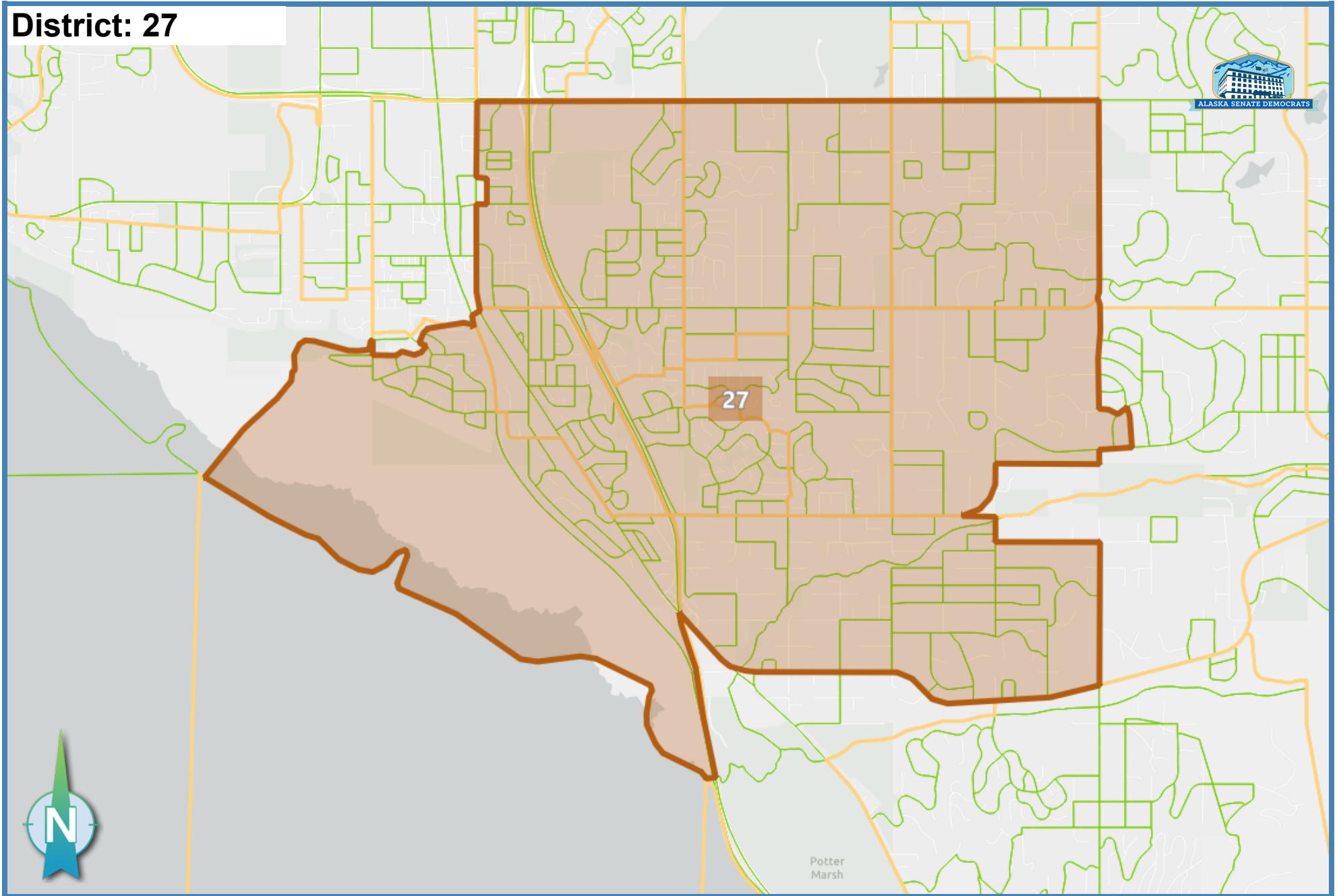
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# District: 27



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.03 %

Total Population: **18,340**

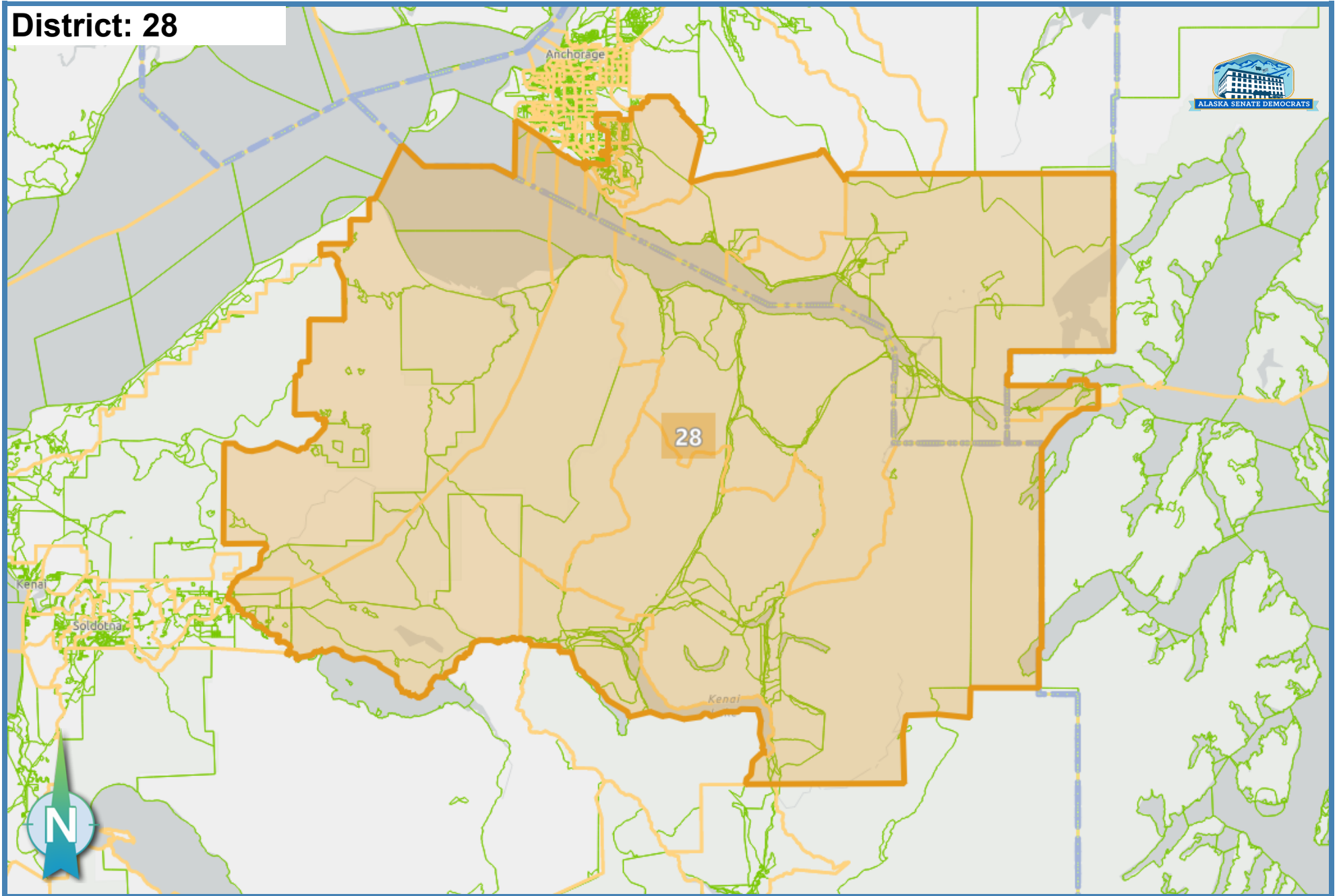
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# District: 28



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.04 %

Total Population: 18,342

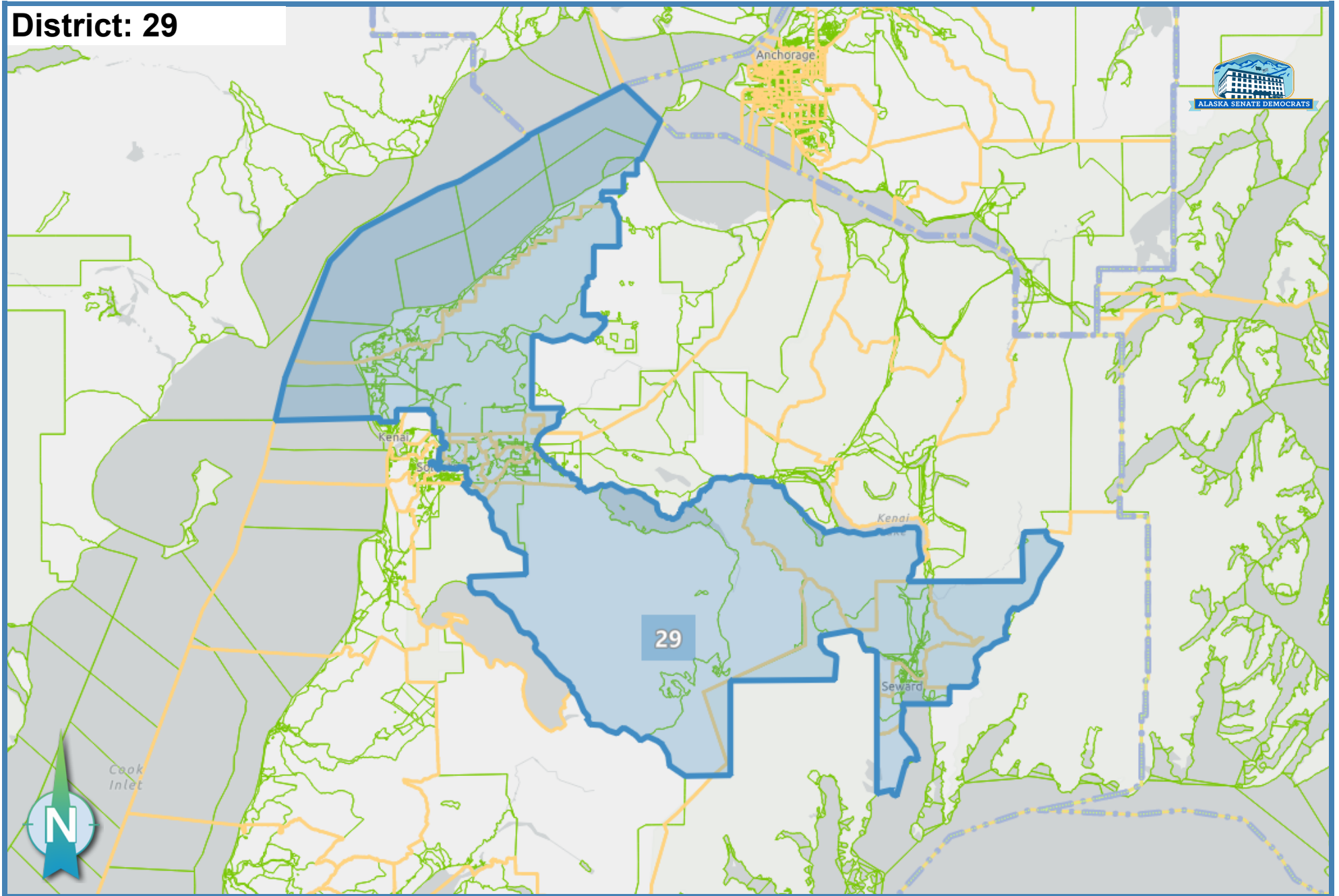
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# District: 29



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 1.51 %

Total Population: 18,612

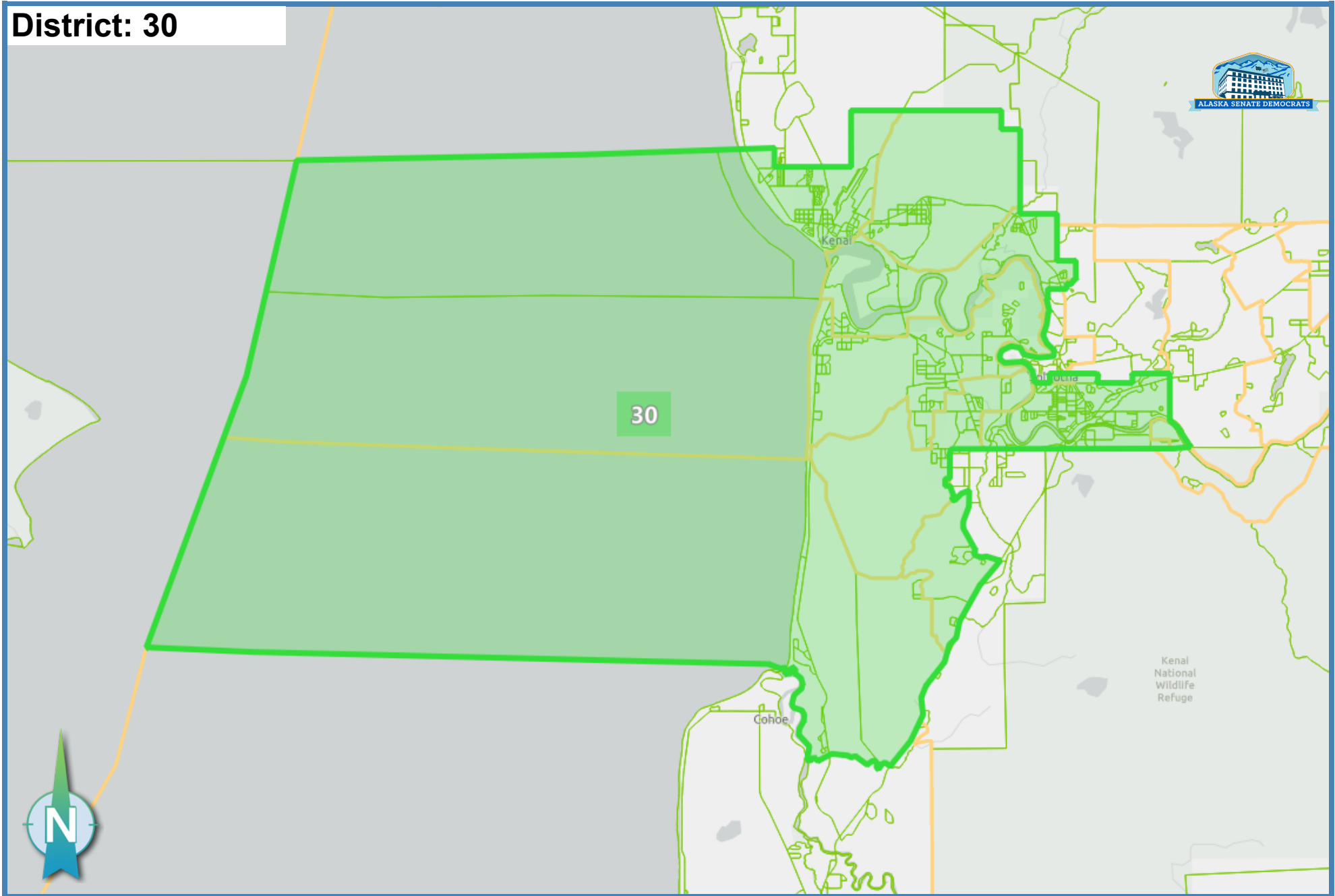
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# District: 30



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 1.51 %

Total Population: **18,612**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

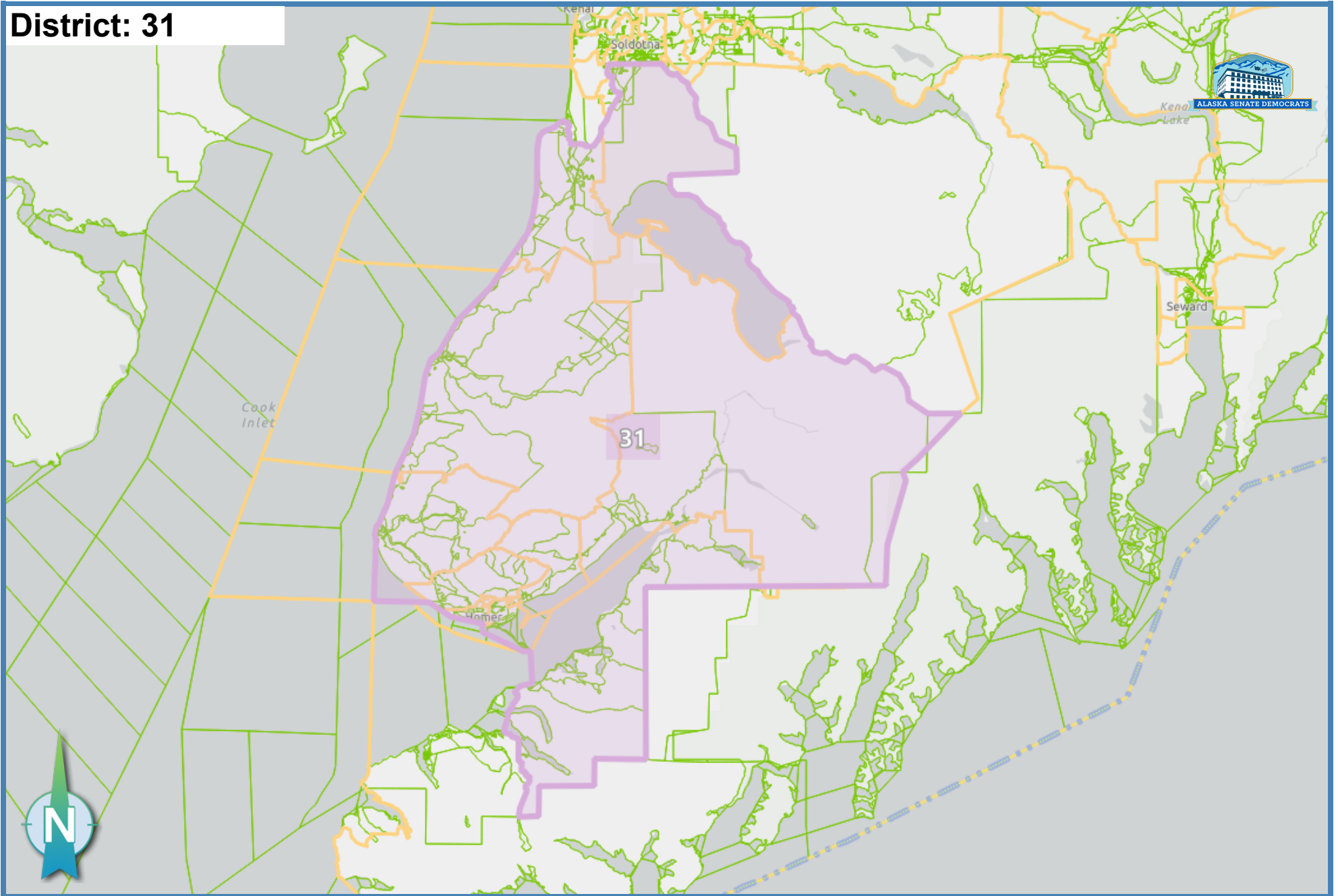
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# District: 31



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 1.53 %

Total Population: **18,615**

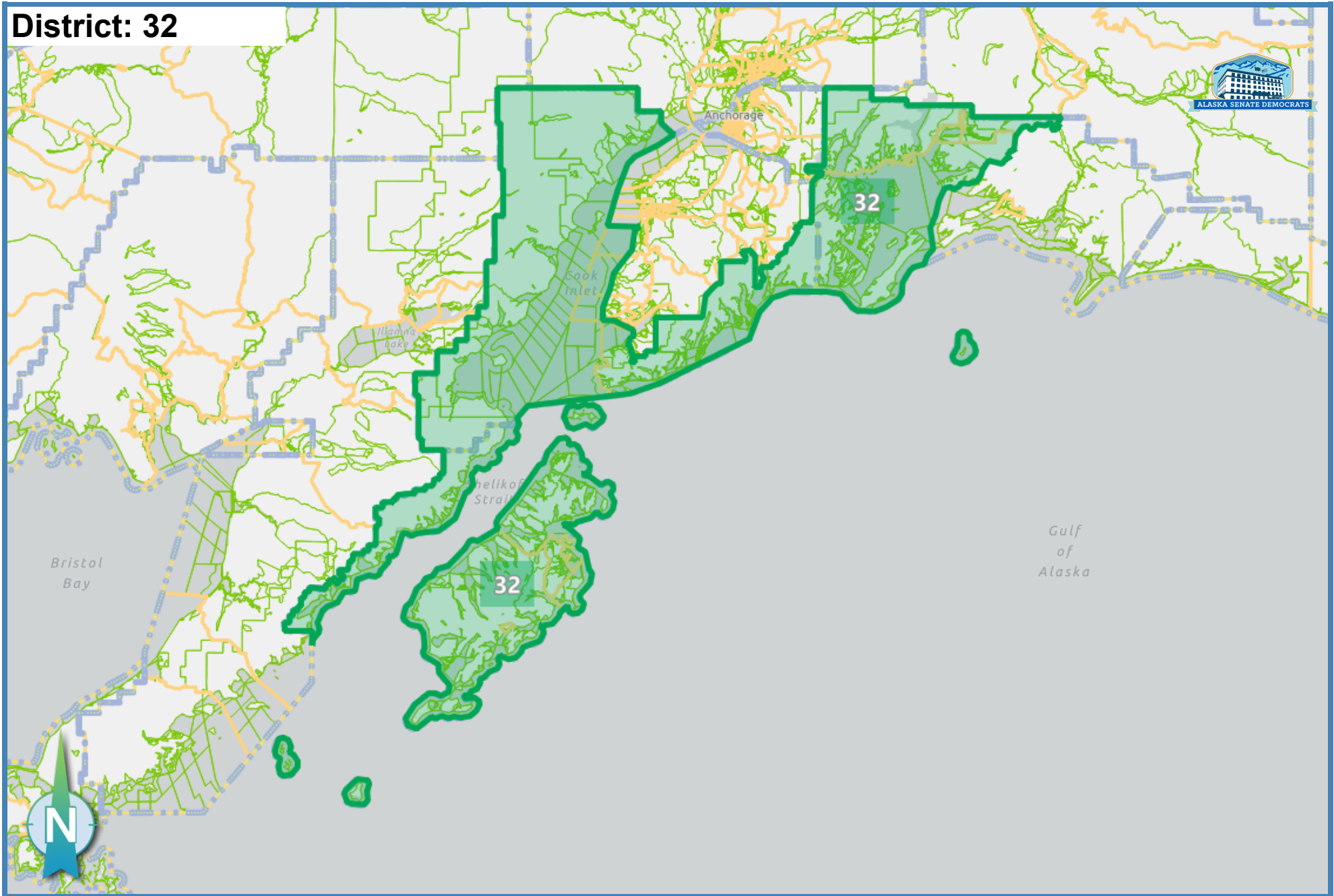
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 32



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.34 %

Total Population: **18,398**

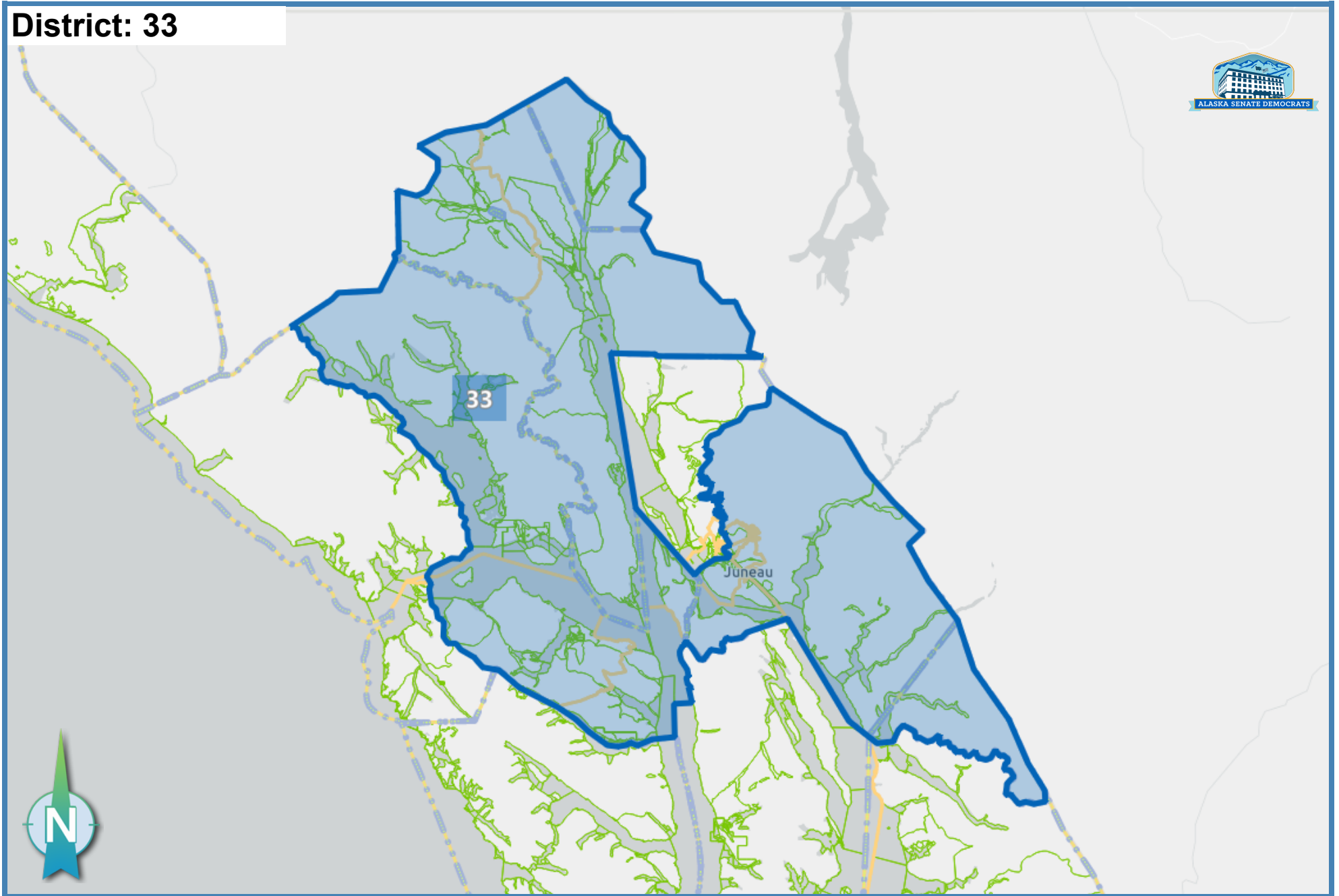
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 33



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 2.10 %

Total Population: **18,720**

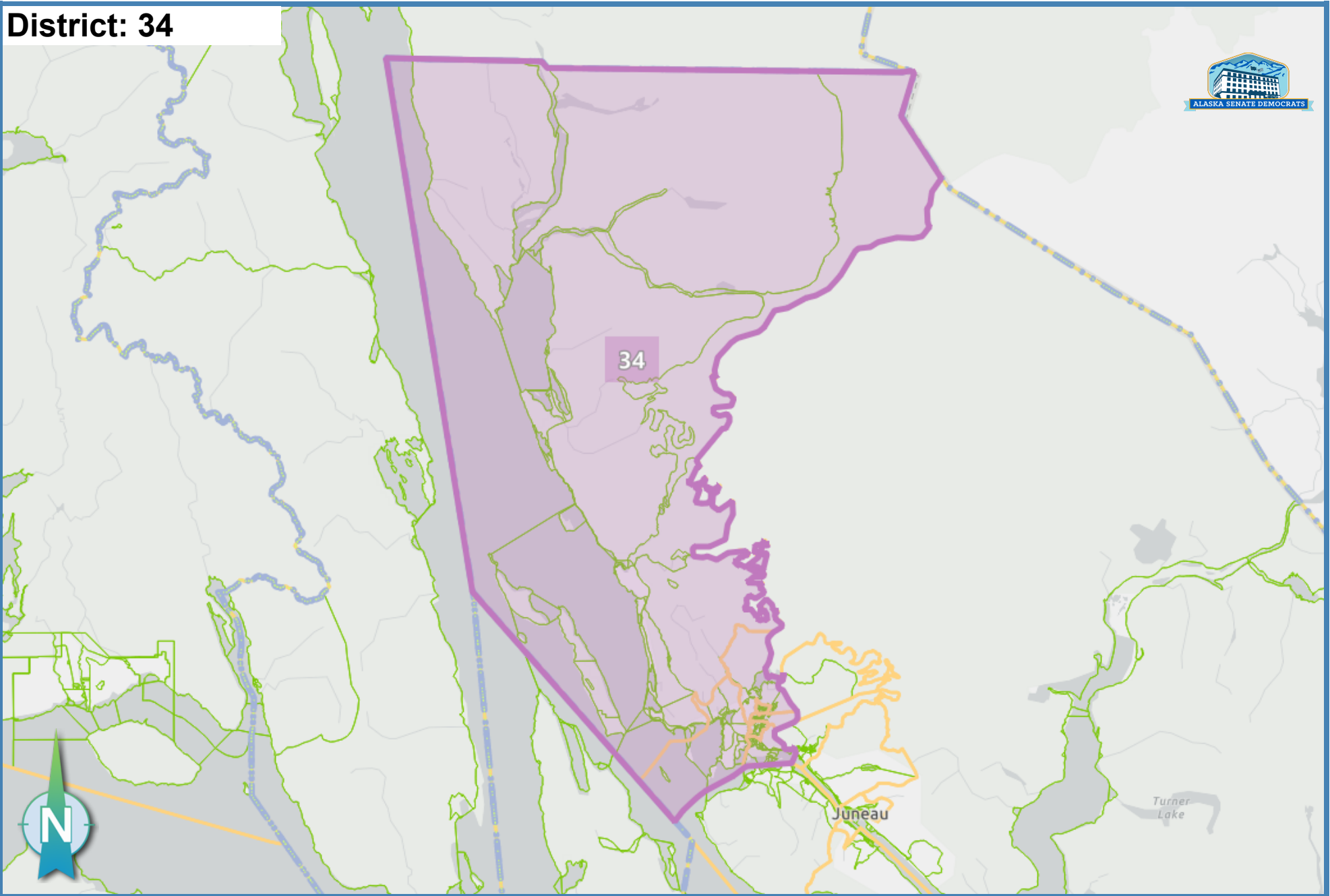
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 34



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 2.10 %

Total Population: 18,720

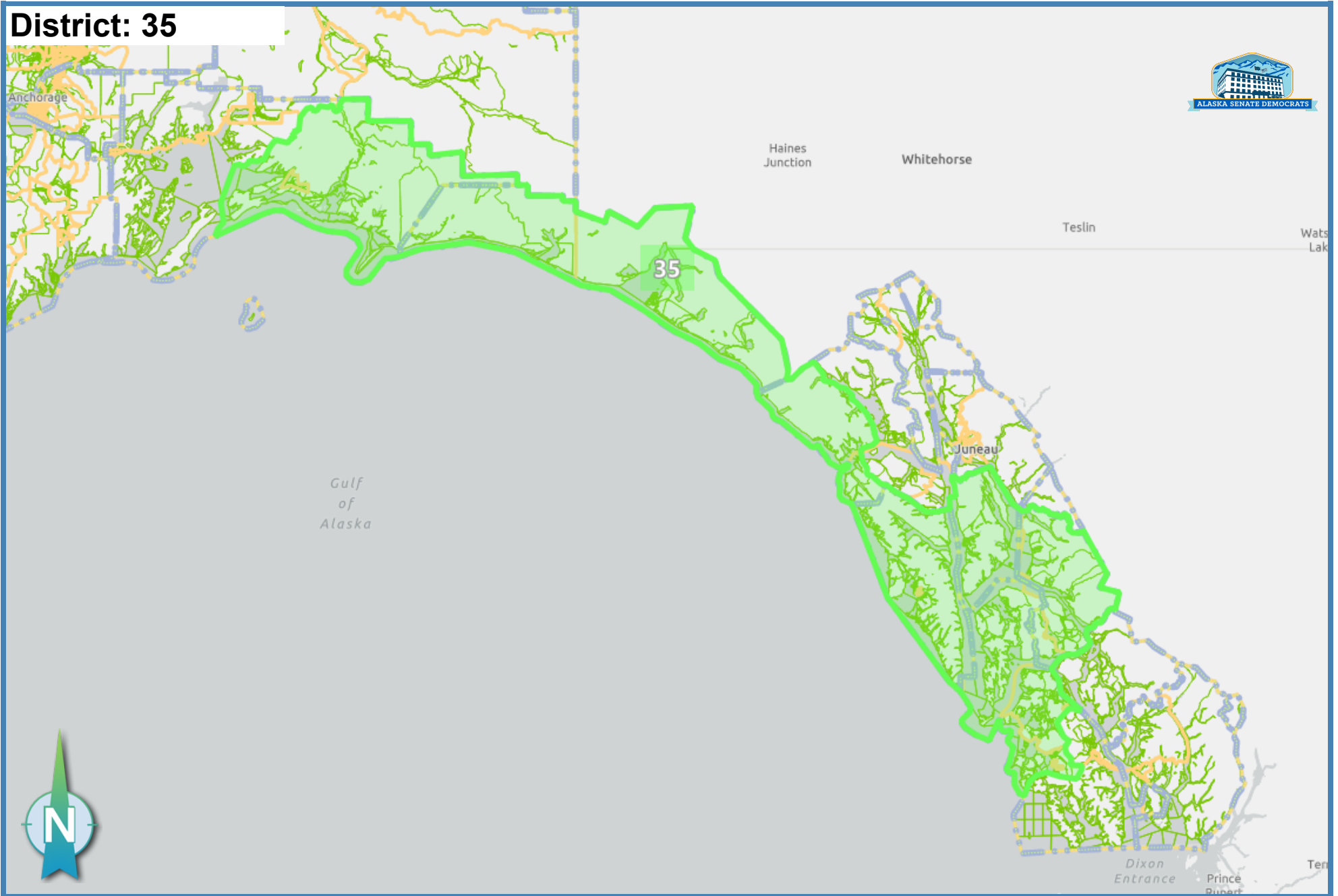
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:02:38 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/27/2021 10:57:06 PM

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# District: 35



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 2.52 %

Total Population: **18,797**

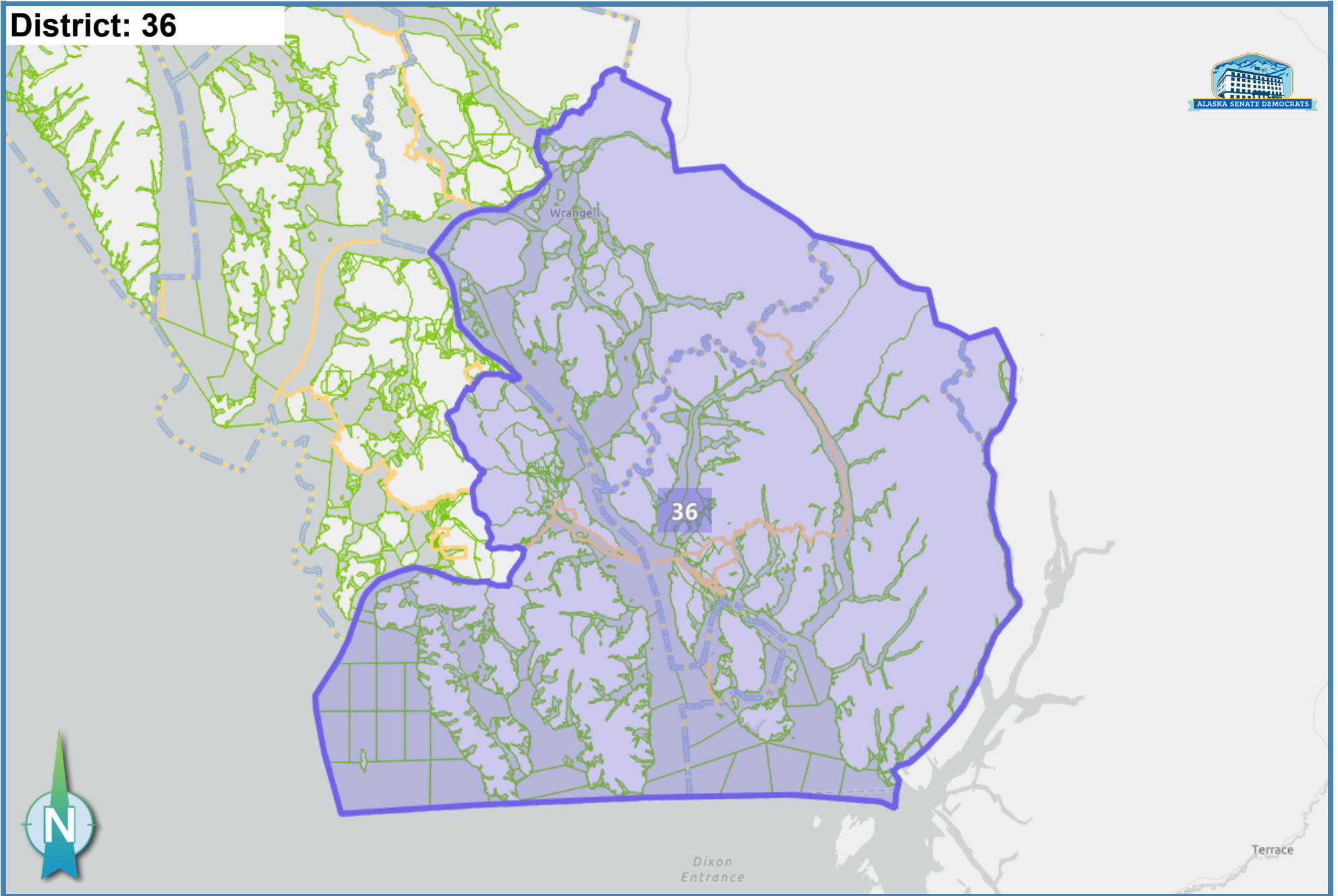
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:02:39 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/27/2021 10:57:06 PM

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# District: 36



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 1.89 %

Total Population: **18,681**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 37



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -4.07 %

Total Population: **17,589**

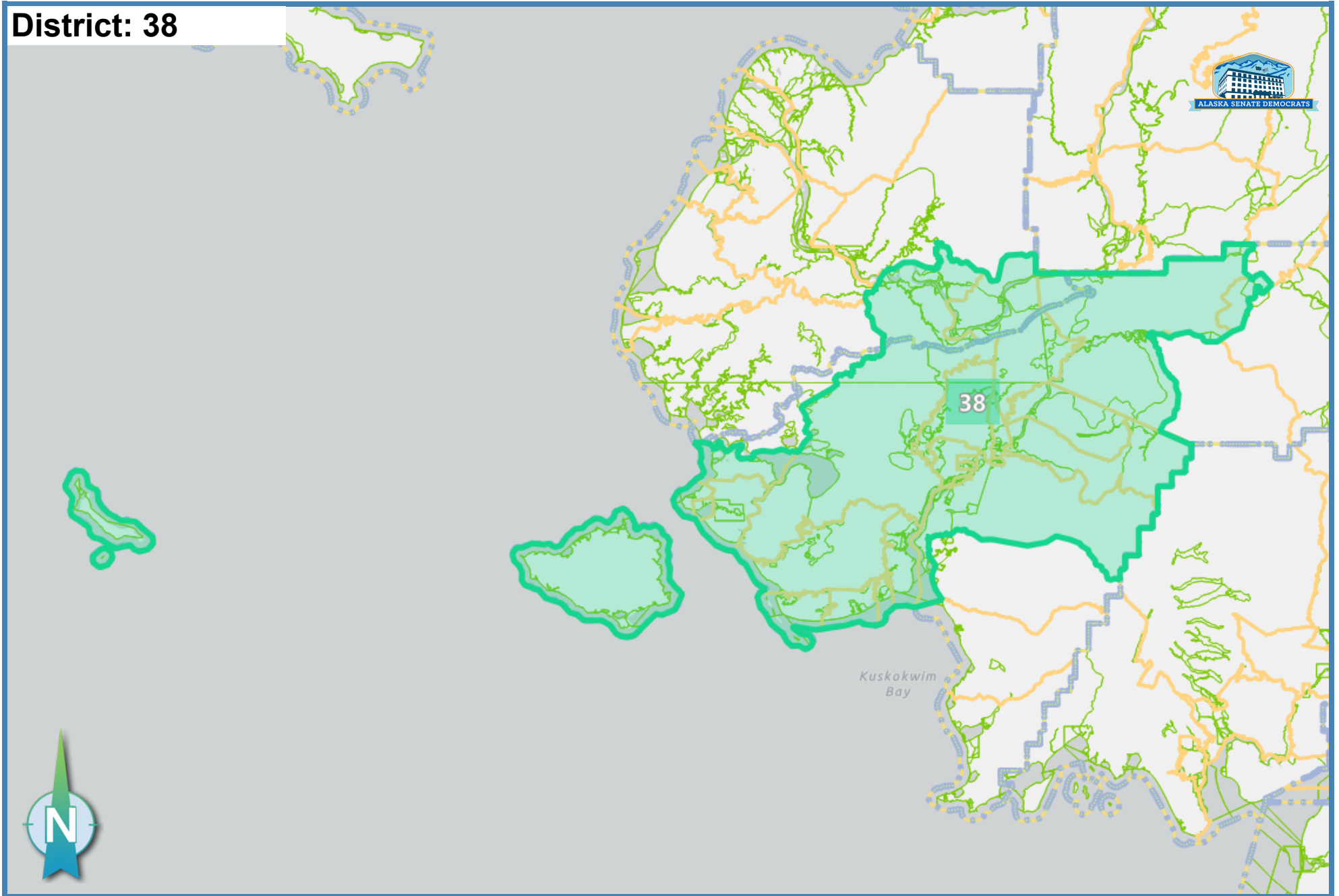
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 38



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -3.92 %

Total Population: 17,616

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

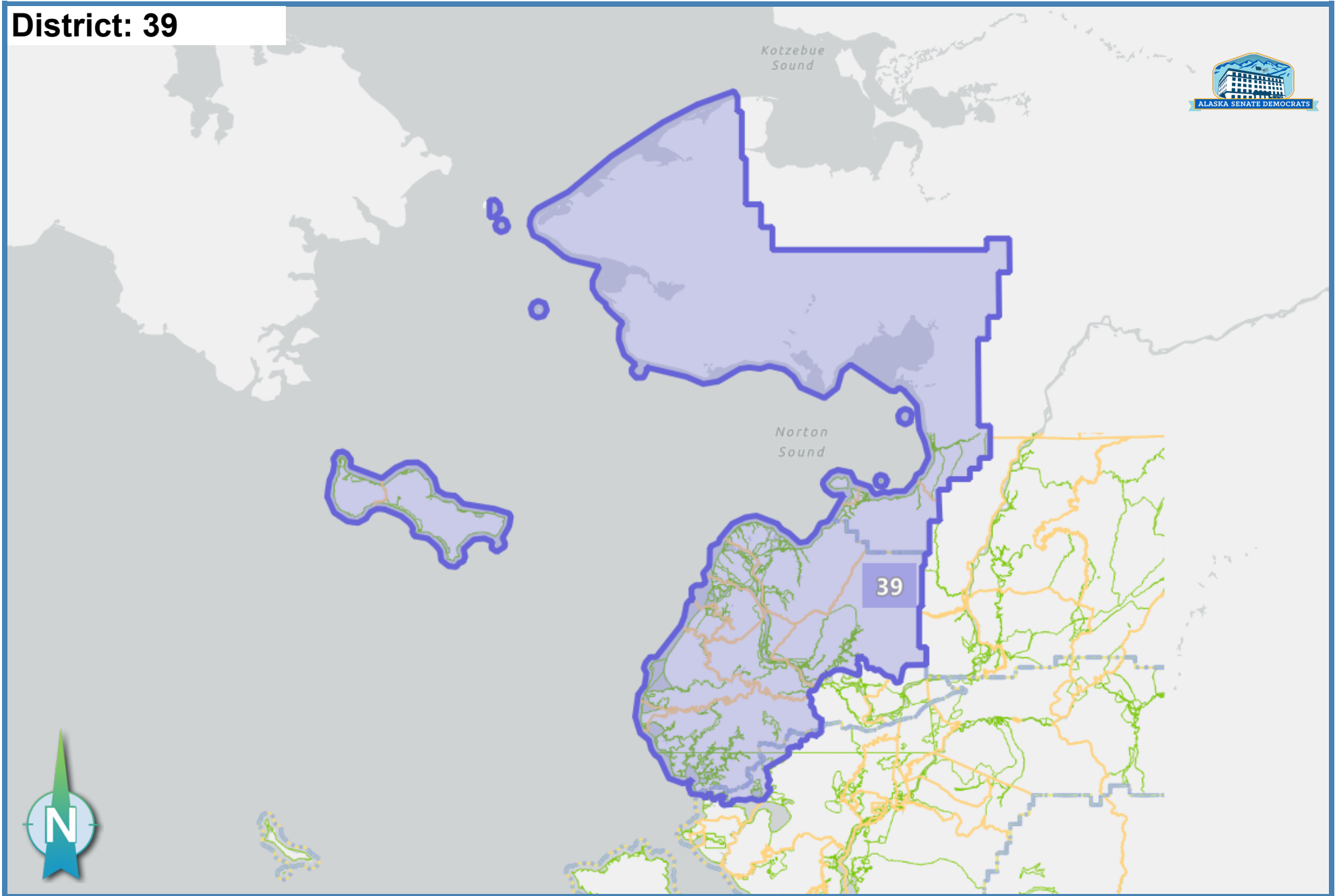
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# District: 39



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -3.44 %

Total Population: **17,704**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

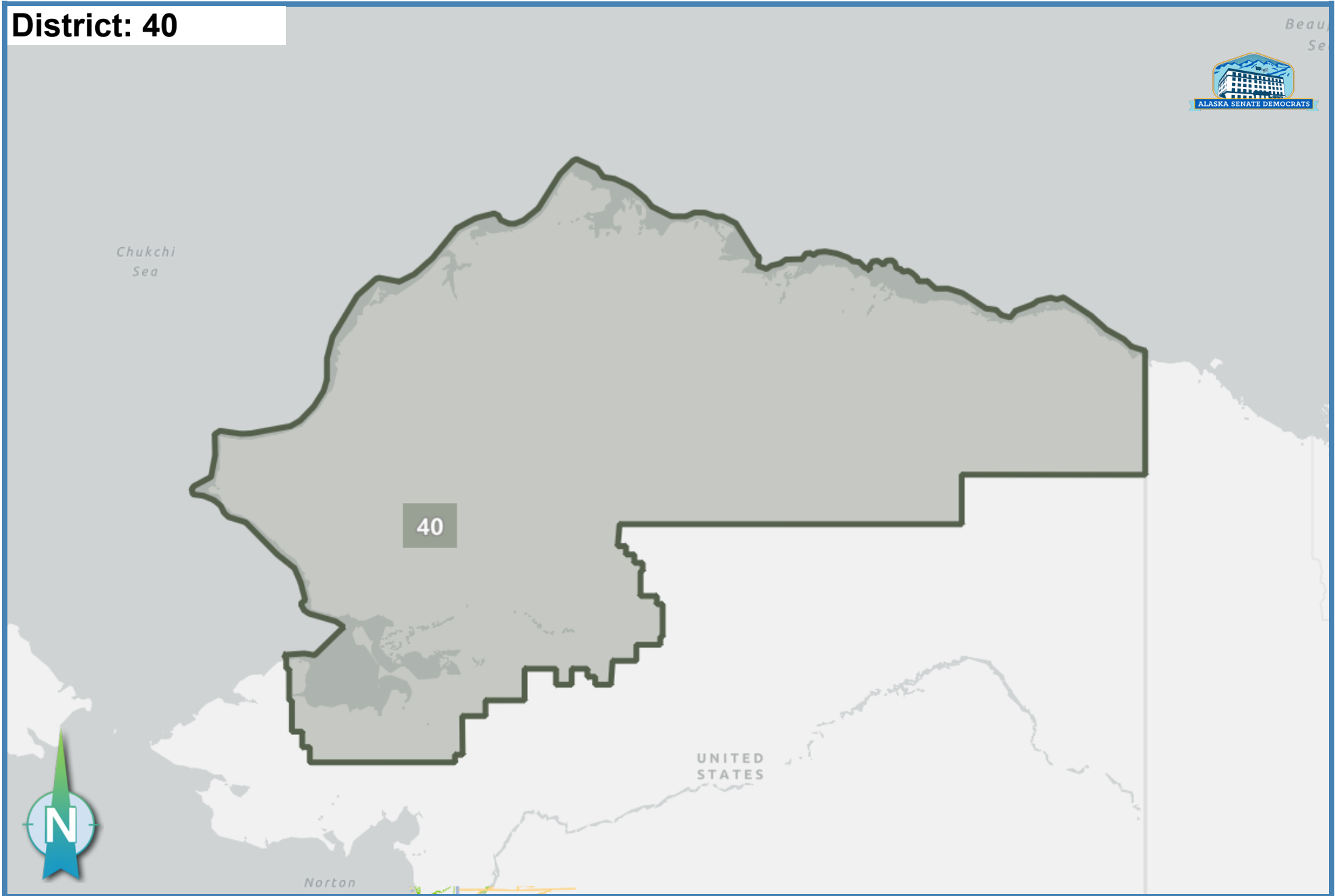
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# District: 40

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Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 2.67 %

Total Population: **18,824**

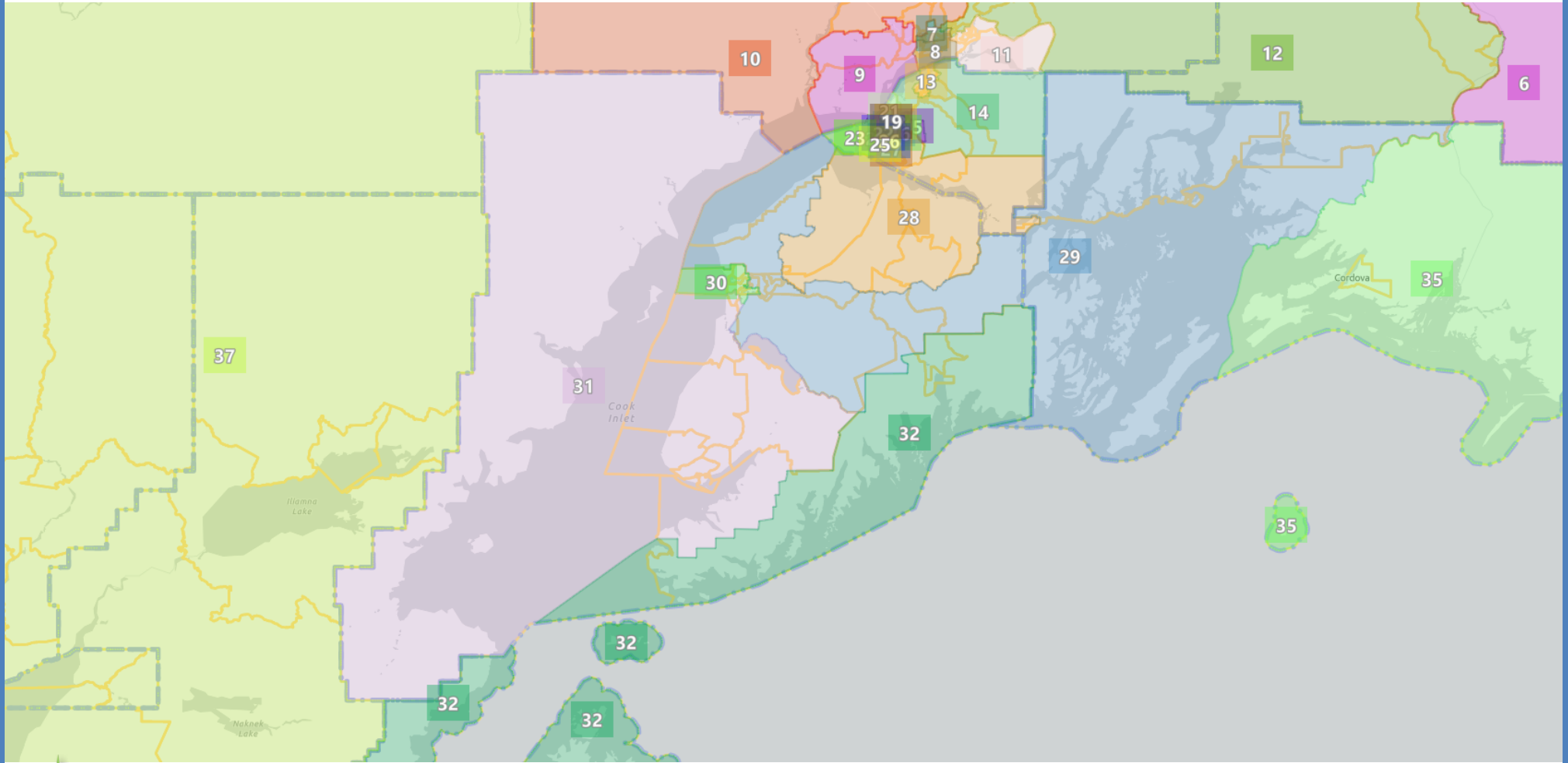
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# Combined2



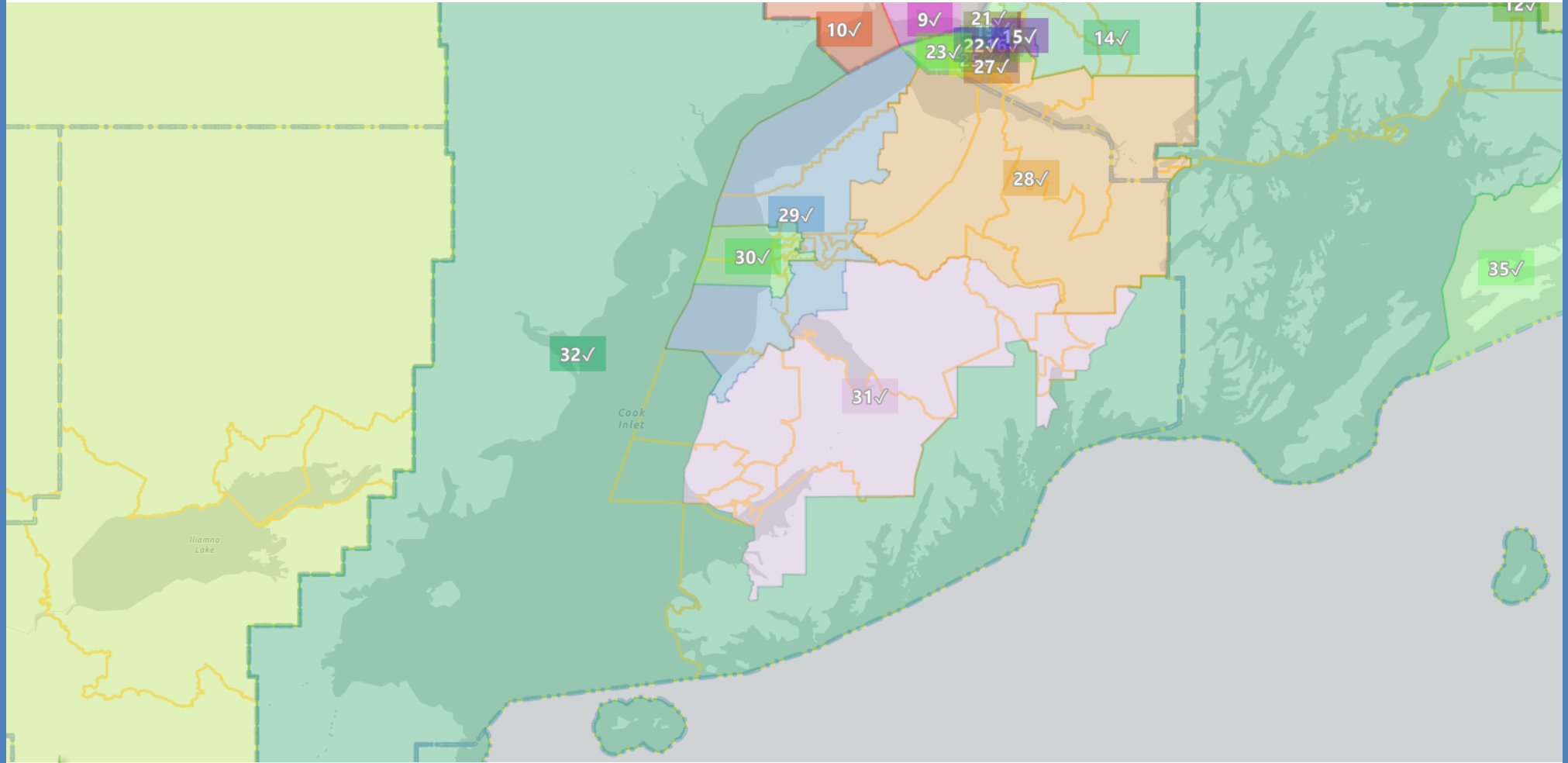
Combined2 - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/27/2021 11:04:37 PM Last Edit:10/27/2021 4:50:24 PM



| Total Population Tabulation |             |        |        |            |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------|--------|------------|
| DISTRICT                    | All Persons | Target | Dev.   | Difference |
| 28                          | 18,342      | 18,335 | 0.04%✓ | 7          |
| 29                          | 18,593      | 18,335 | 1.41%✓ | 258        |
| 30                          | 18,597      | 18,335 | 1.43%✓ | 262        |
| 31                          | 18,596      | 18,335 | 1.42%✓ | 261        |
| 32                          | 18,451      | 18,335 | 0.63%✓ | 116        |

# Combined3



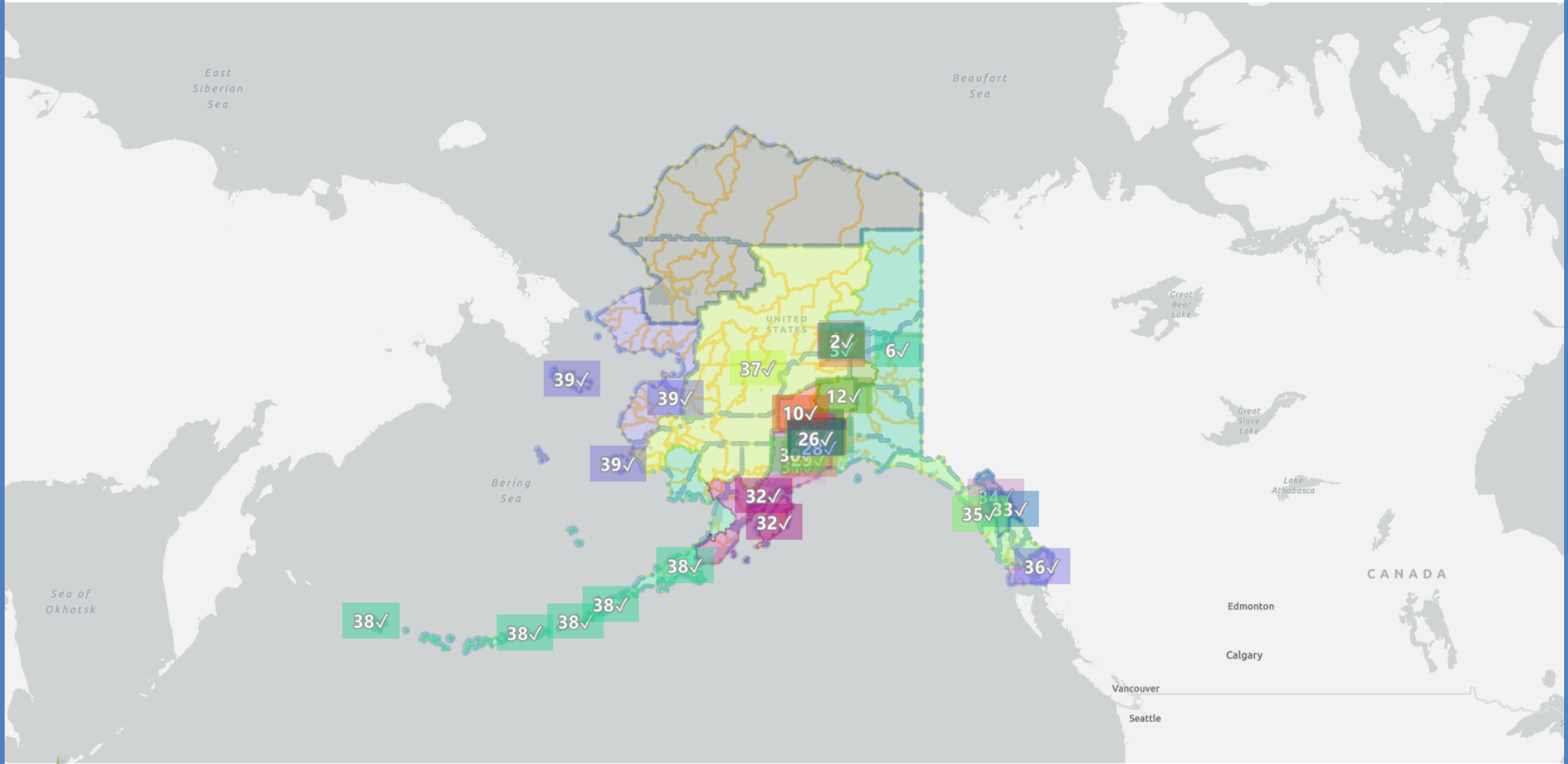
Combined3 - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/27/2021 11:01:30 PM Last Edit:10/27/2021 10:10:58 PM



| Total Population Tabulation |             |        |        |            |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------|--------|------------|
| DISTRICT                    | All Persons | Target | Dev.   | Difference |
| 28                          | 18,342      | 18,335 | 0.04%✓ | 7          |
| 29                          | 18,626      | 18,335 | 1.59%✓ | 291        |
| 30                          | 18,622      | 18,335 | 1.57%✓ | 287        |
| 31                          | 18,591      | 18,335 | 1.40%✓ | 256        |
| 32                          | 18,398      | 18,335 | 0.34%✓ | 63         |

# Valdez1Rev



Valdez-Cordova - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

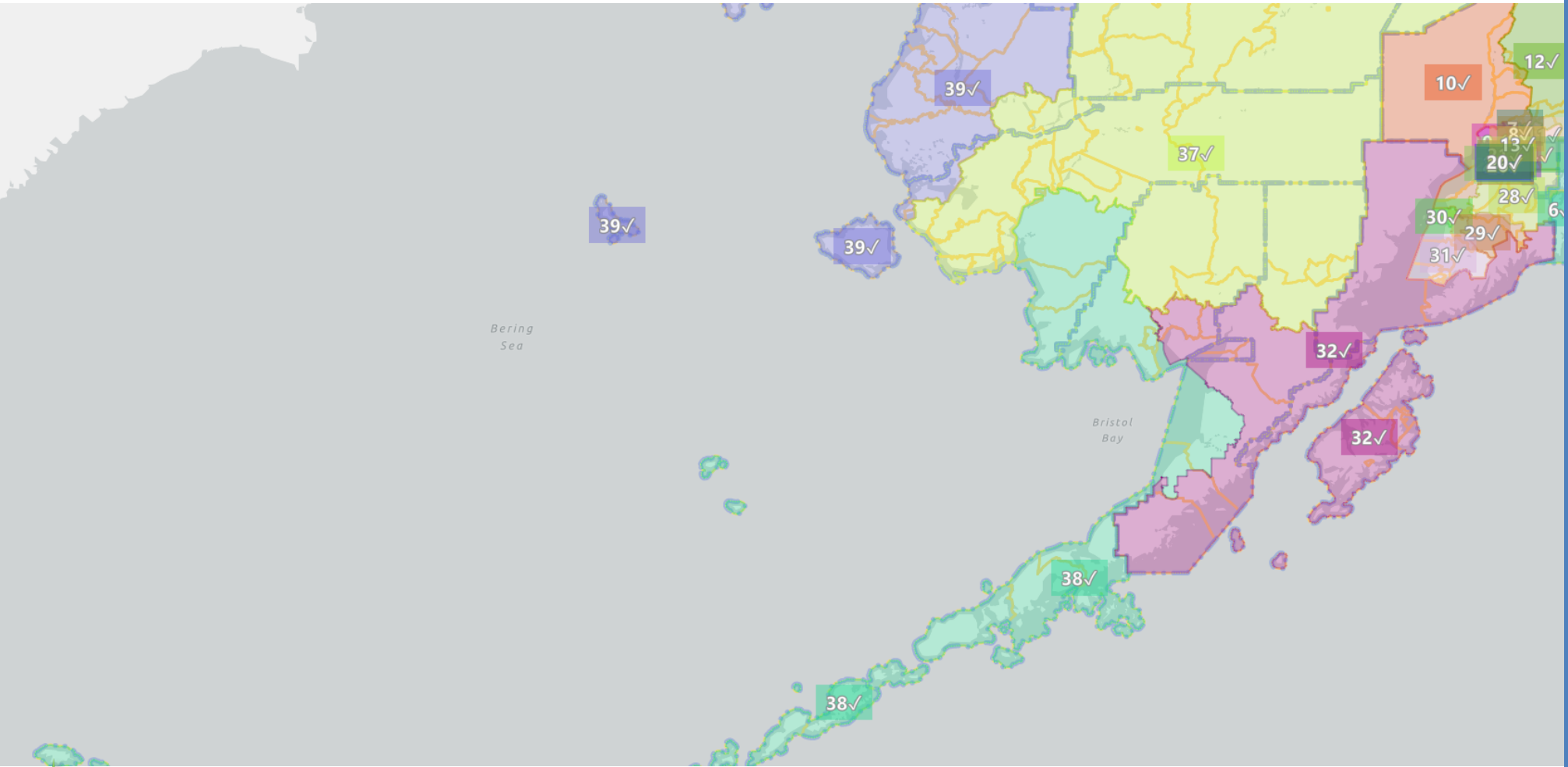
Map Date: 10/27/2021 11:06:50 PM Last Edit:10/24/2021 1:28:05 PM



| DISTRICT          | Total Population Tabulation |        |         |            |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------|------------|
|                   | All Persons                 | Target | Dev.    | Difference |
| 1                 | 18,326                      | 18,335 | -0.05%✓ | -9         |
| 2                 | 18,329                      | 18,335 | -0.03%✓ | -6         |
| 3                 | 18,346                      | 18,335 | 0.06%✓  | 11         |
| 4                 | 18,330                      | 18,335 | -0.03%✓ | -5         |
| 5                 | 18,322                      | 18,335 | -0.07%✓ | -13        |
| 6                 | 18,301                      | 18,335 | -0.18%✓ | -34        |
| 7                 | 18,310                      | 18,335 | -0.14%✓ | -25        |
| 8                 | 18,316                      | 18,335 | -0.10%✓ | -19        |
| 9                 | 18,314                      | 18,335 | -0.11%✓ | -21        |
| 10                | 18,314                      | 18,335 | -0.11%✓ | -21        |
| 11                | 18,313                      | 18,335 | -0.12%✓ | -22        |
| 12                | 18,330                      | 18,335 | -0.03%✓ | -5         |
| 13                | 18,335                      | 18,335 | 0.00%✓  | 0          |
| 14                | 18,335                      | 18,335 | 0.00%✓  | 0          |
| 15                | 18,336                      | 18,335 | 0.01%✓  | 1          |
| 16                | 18,332                      | 18,335 | -0.02%✓ | -3         |
| 17                | 18,339                      | 18,335 | 0.02%✓  | 4          |
| 18                | 18,337                      | 18,335 | 0.01%✓  | 2          |
| 19                | 18,333                      | 18,335 | -0.01%✓ | -2         |
| 20                | 18,330                      | 18,335 | -0.03%✓ | -5         |
| 21                | 18,328                      | 18,335 | -0.04%✓ | -7         |
| 22                | 18,337                      | 18,335 | 0.01%✓  | 2          |
| 23                | 18,341                      | 18,335 | 0.03%✓  | 6          |
| 24                | 18,344                      | 18,335 | 0.05%✓  | 9          |
| 25                | 18,333                      | 18,335 | -0.01%✓ | -2         |
| 26                | 18,338                      | 18,335 | 0.02%✓  | 3          |
| 27                | 18,340                      | 18,335 | 0.03%✓  | 5          |
| 28                | 18,342                      | 18,335 | 0.04%✓  | 7          |
| 29                | 18,582                      | 18,335 | 1.35%✓  | 247        |
| 30                | 18,584                      | 18,335 | 1.36%✓  | 249        |
| 31                | 18,587                      | 18,335 | 1.38%✓  | 252        |
| 32                | 18,166                      | 18,335 | -0.92%✓ | -169       |
| 33                | 18,087                      | 18,335 | -1.35%✓ | -248       |
| 34                | 18,071                      | 18,335 | -1.44%✓ | -264       |
| 35                | 18,071                      | 18,335 | -1.44%✓ | -264       |
| 36                | 18,057                      | 18,335 | -1.52%✓ | -278       |
| 37                | 18,162                      | 18,335 | -0.94%✓ | -173       |
| 38                | 18,506                      | 18,335 | 0.93%✓  | 171        |
| 39                | 18,463                      | 18,335 | 0.70%✓  | 128        |
| 40                | 18,824                      | 18,335 | 2.67%✓  | 489        |
| <b>Assigned</b>   | <b>733391</b>               |        |         |            |
| <b>Total Pop</b>  | <b>733391</b>               |        |         |            |
| <b>Unassigned</b> | <b>0</b>                    |        |         |            |



# Valdez1Rev

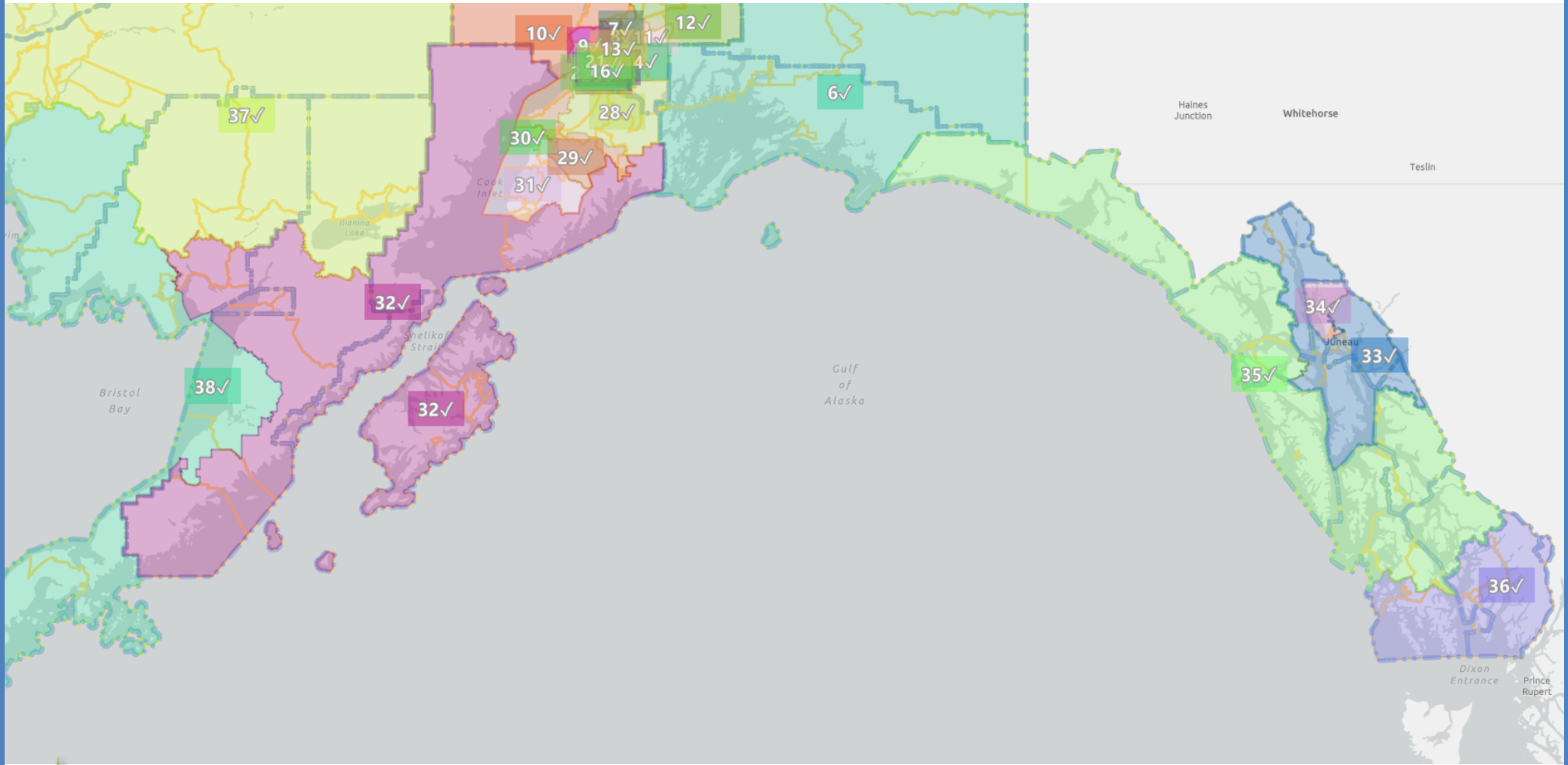


Valdez-Cordova - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/27/2021 11:11:17 PM Last Edit:10/24/2021 1:28:05 PM



# Valdez1Rev

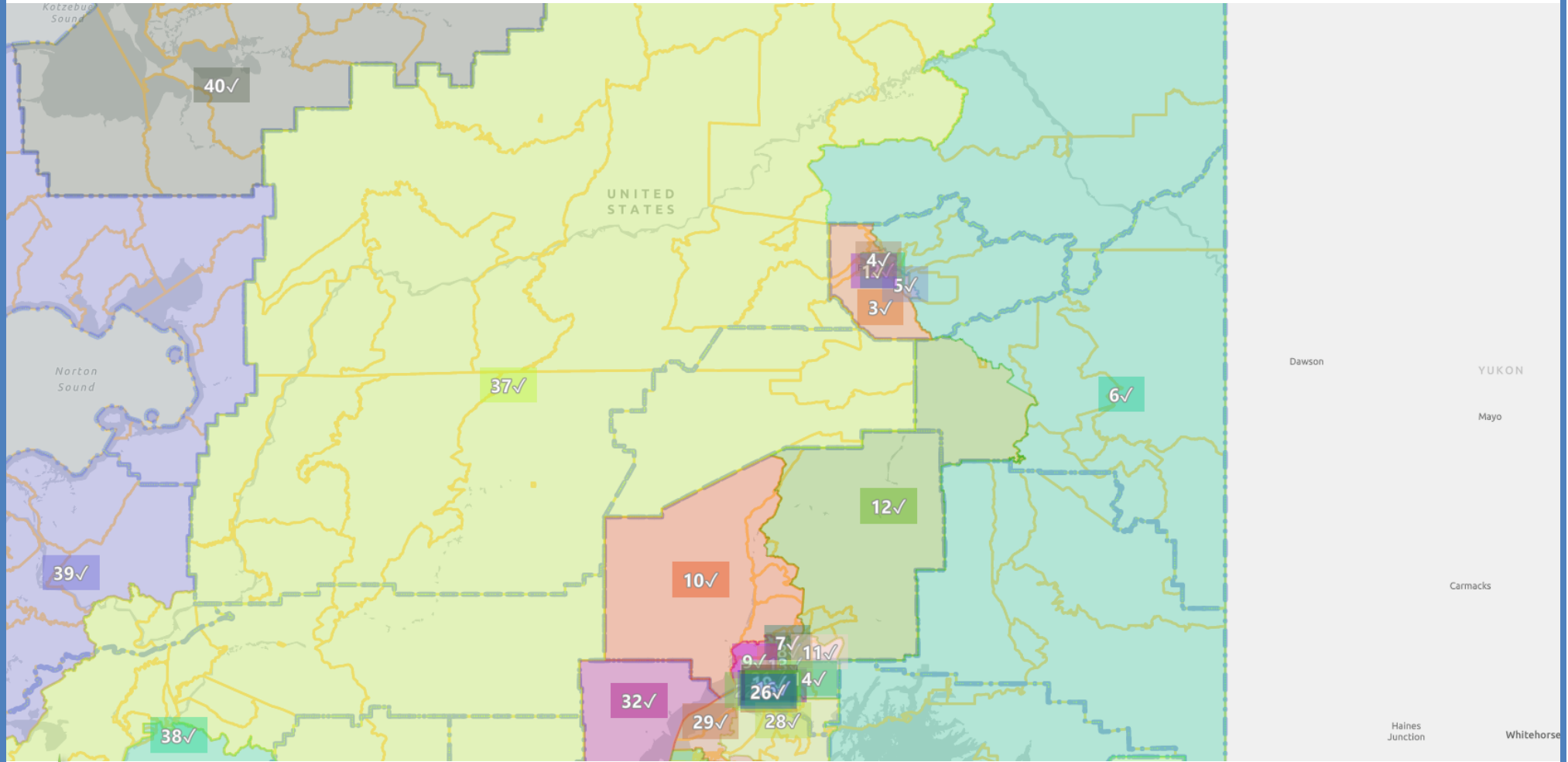


Valdez-Cordova - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# Valdez1Rev

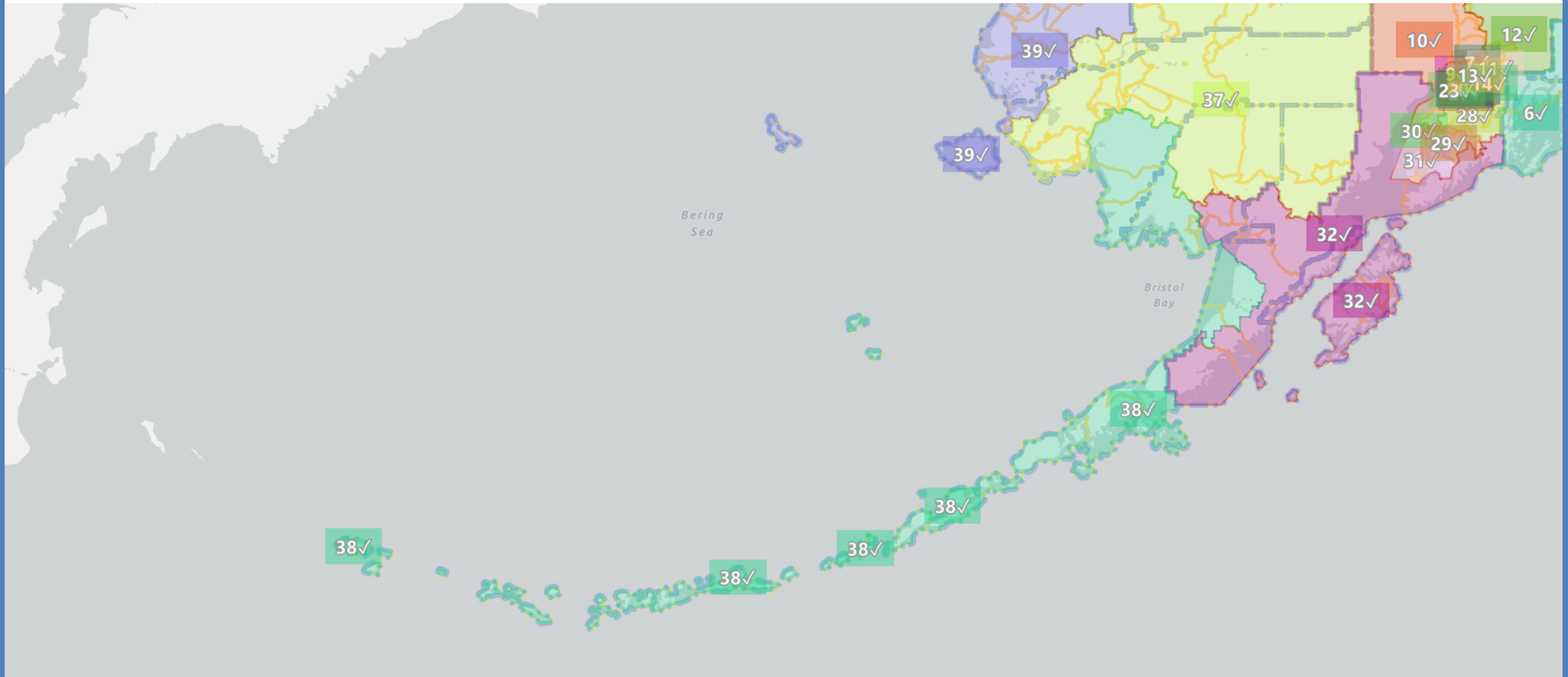


Valdez-Cordova - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# Valdez1Rev



Valdez-Cordova - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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**Valdez-Cordova**

Plan Type and Name: House of

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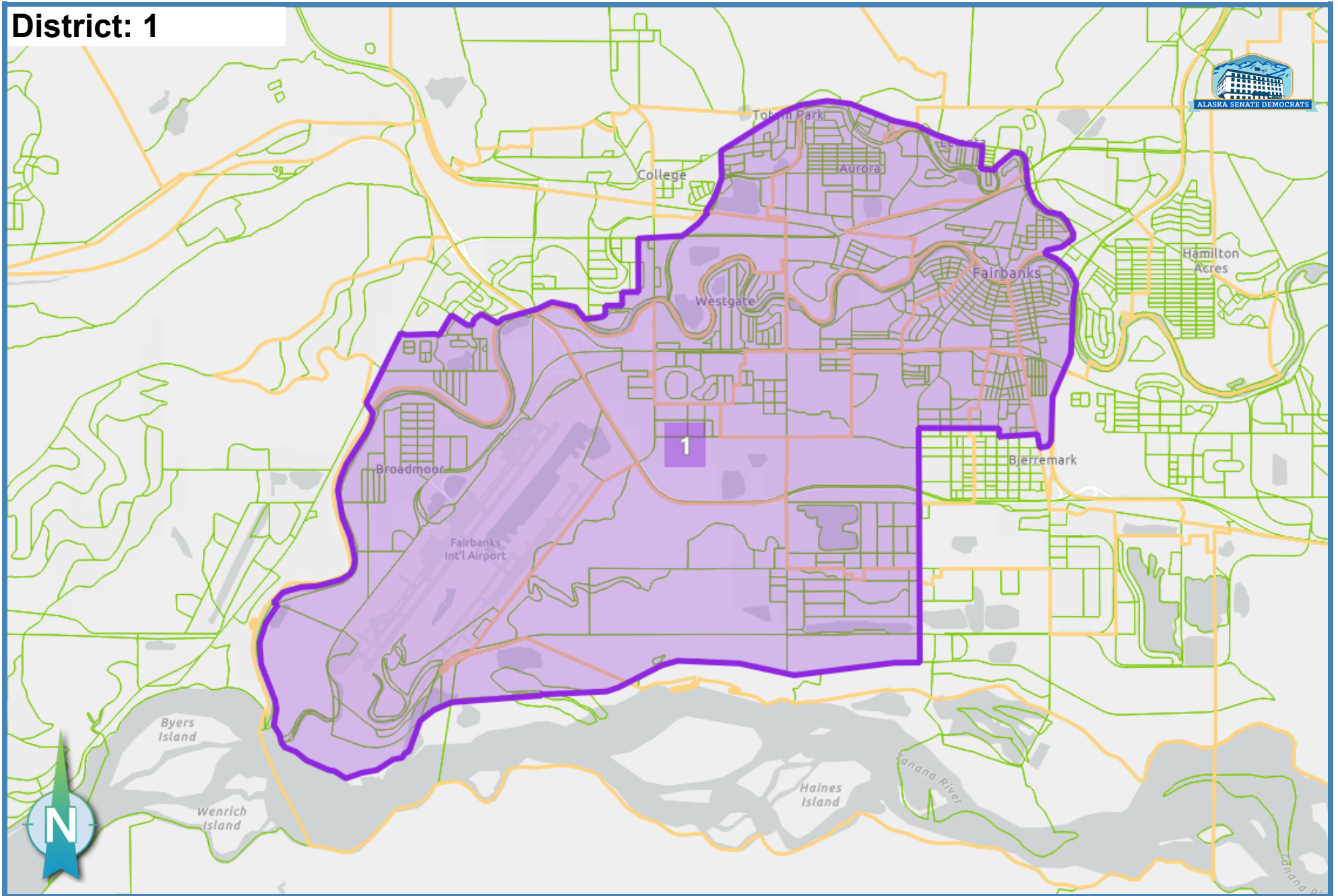
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# District: 1



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.05 %

Total Population: 18,326

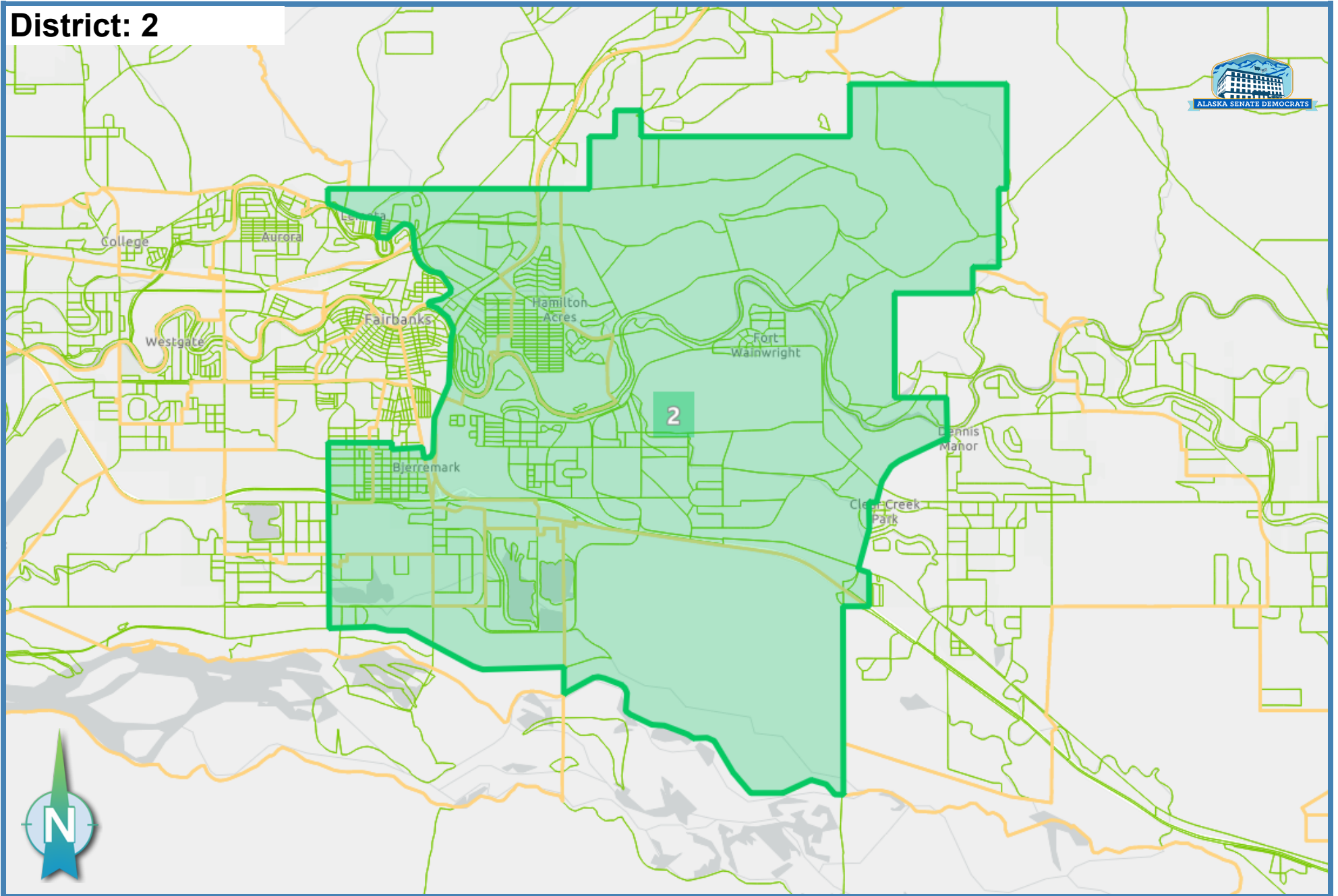
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# District: 2



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.03 %

Total Population: **18,329**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

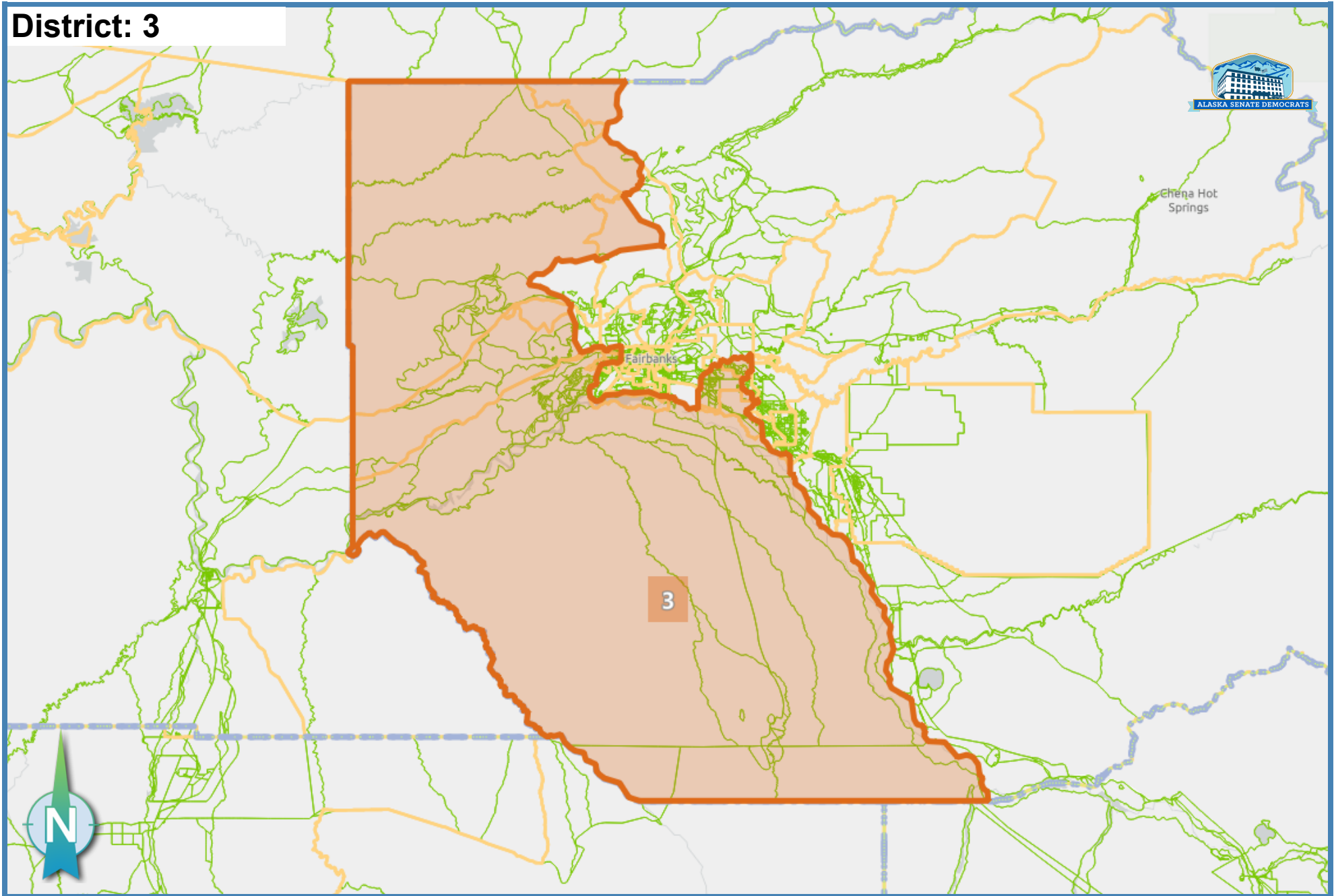
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# District: 3



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.06 %

Total Population: 18,346

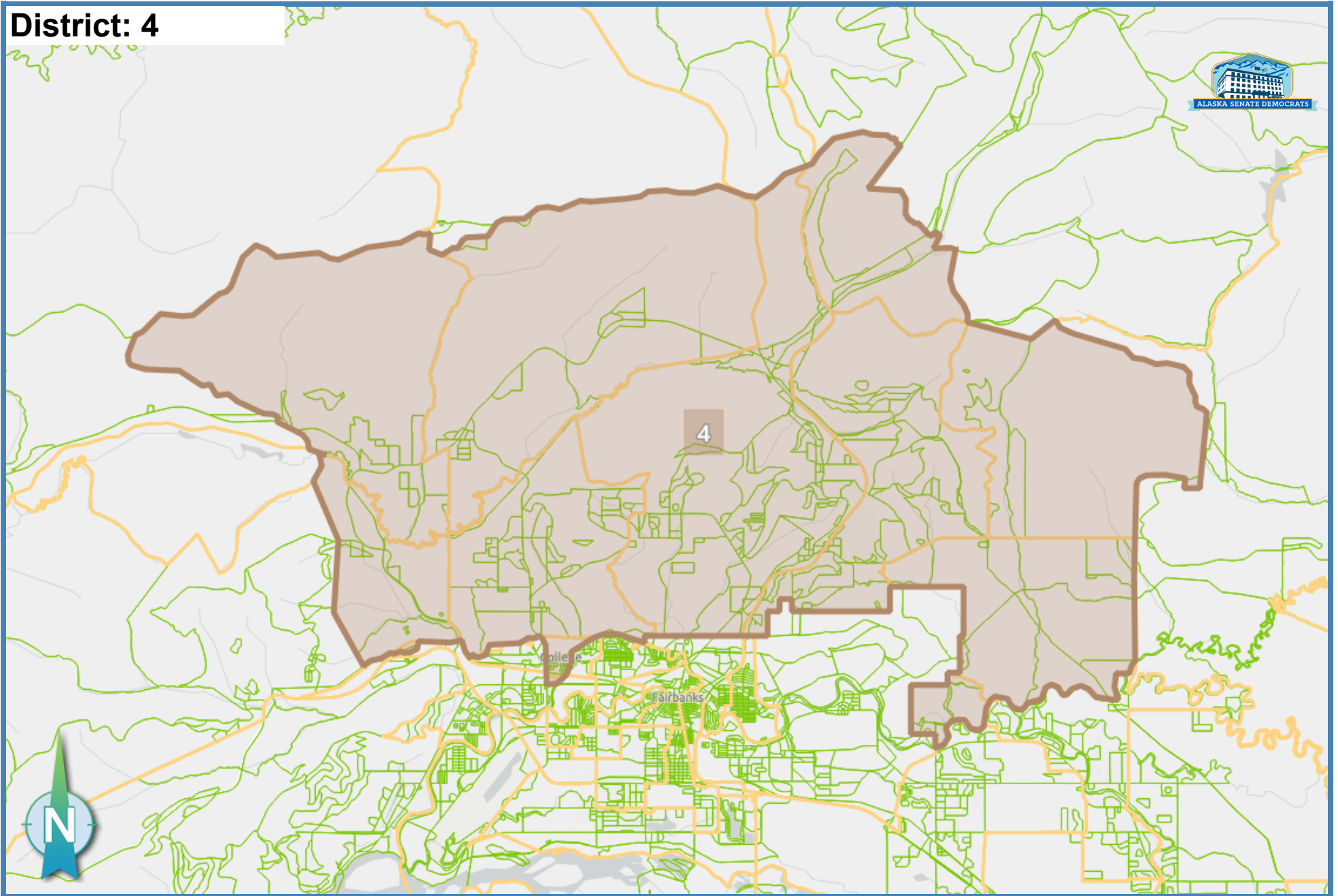
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# District: 4



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.03 %

Total Population: 18,330

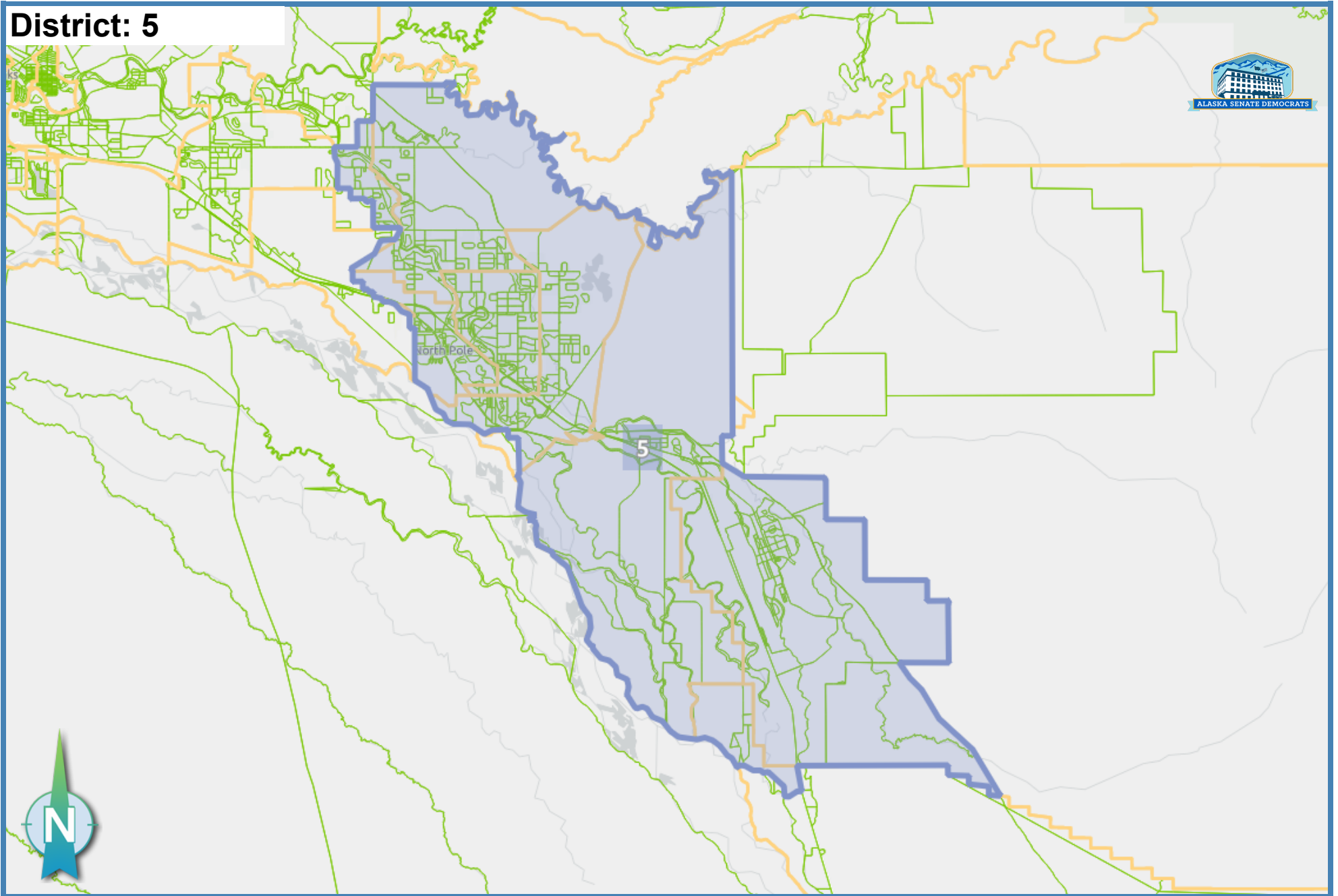
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# District: 5



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.07 %

Total Population: **18,322**

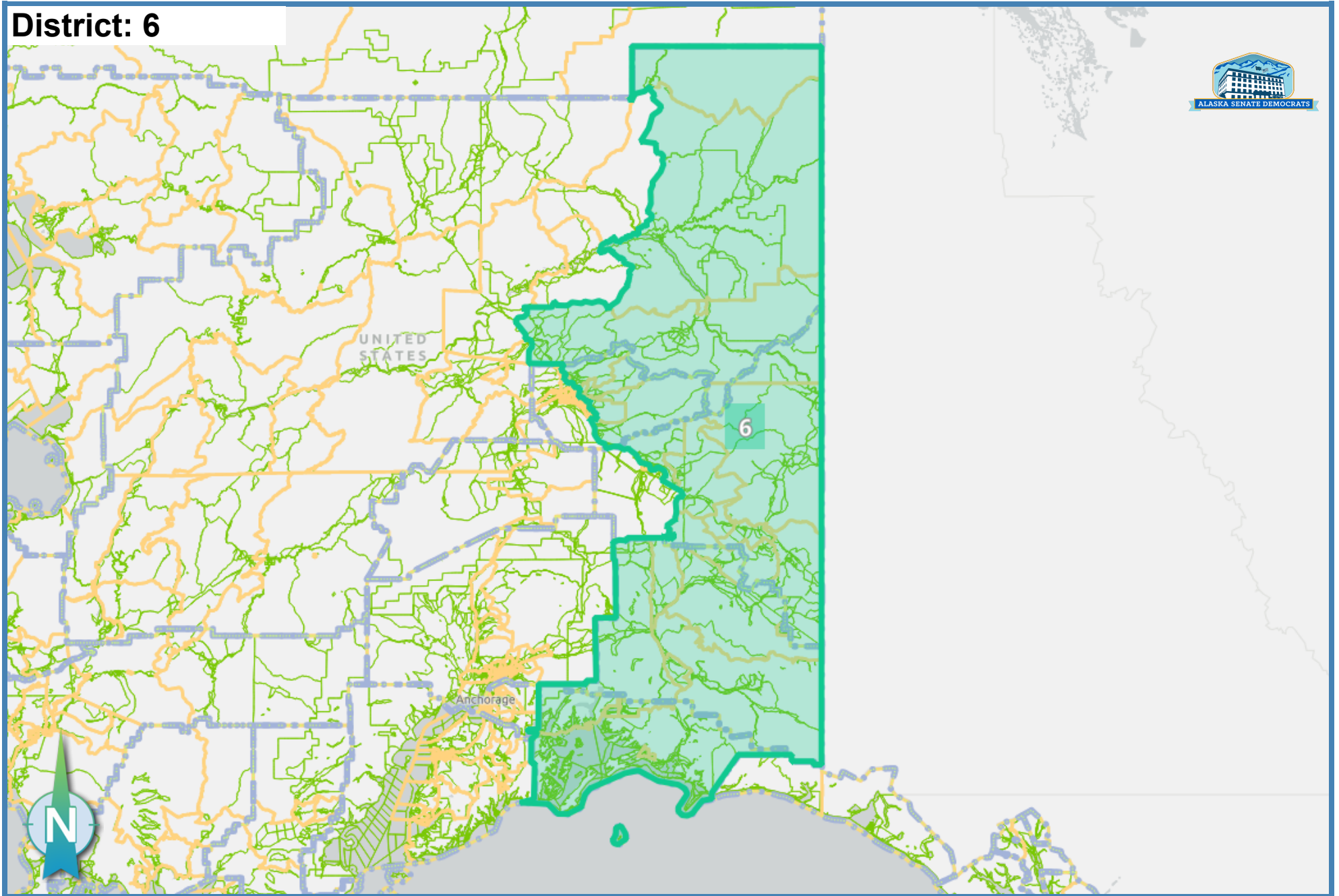
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# District: 6



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.18 %

Total Population: 18,301

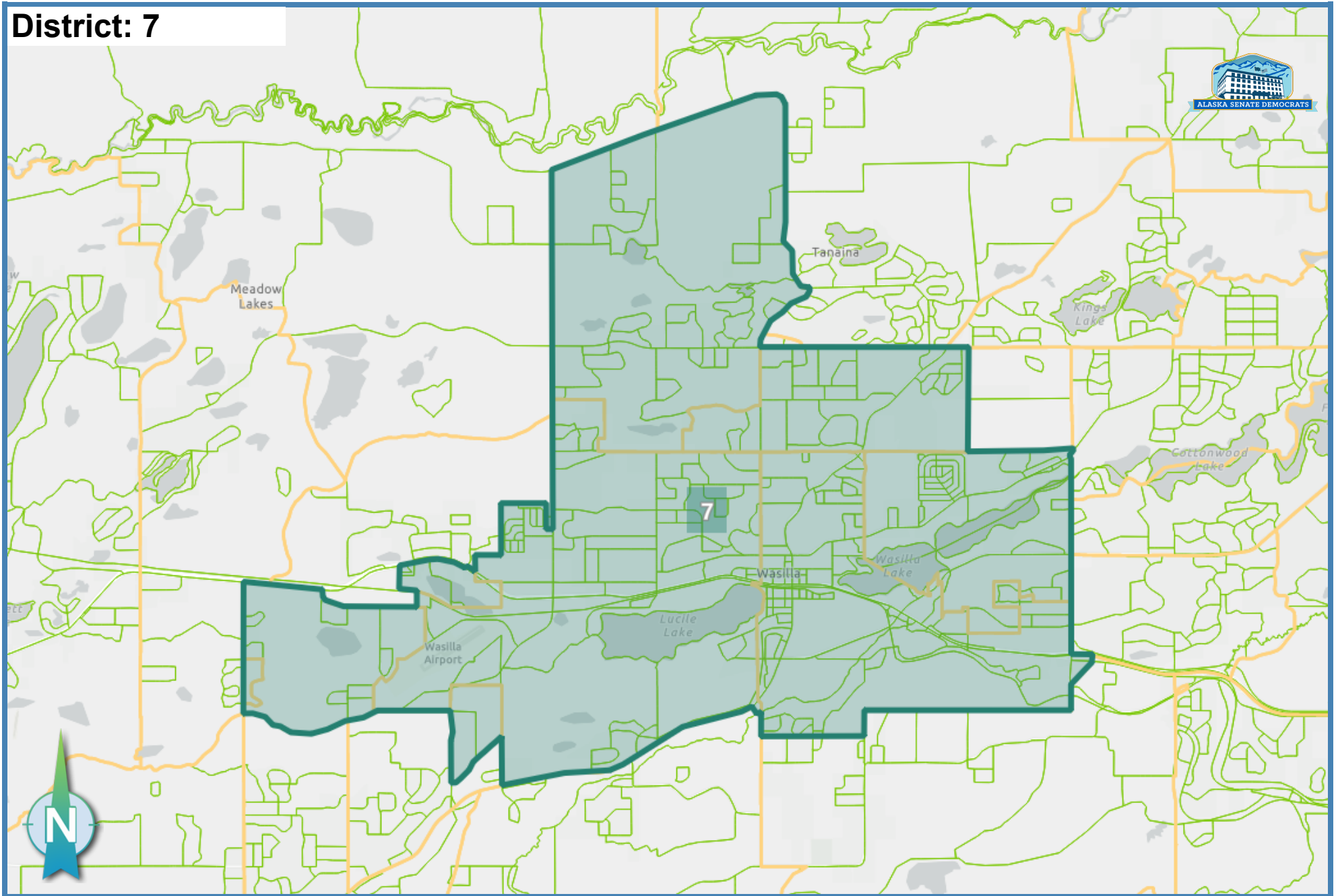
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# District: 7



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.14 %

Total Population: 18,310

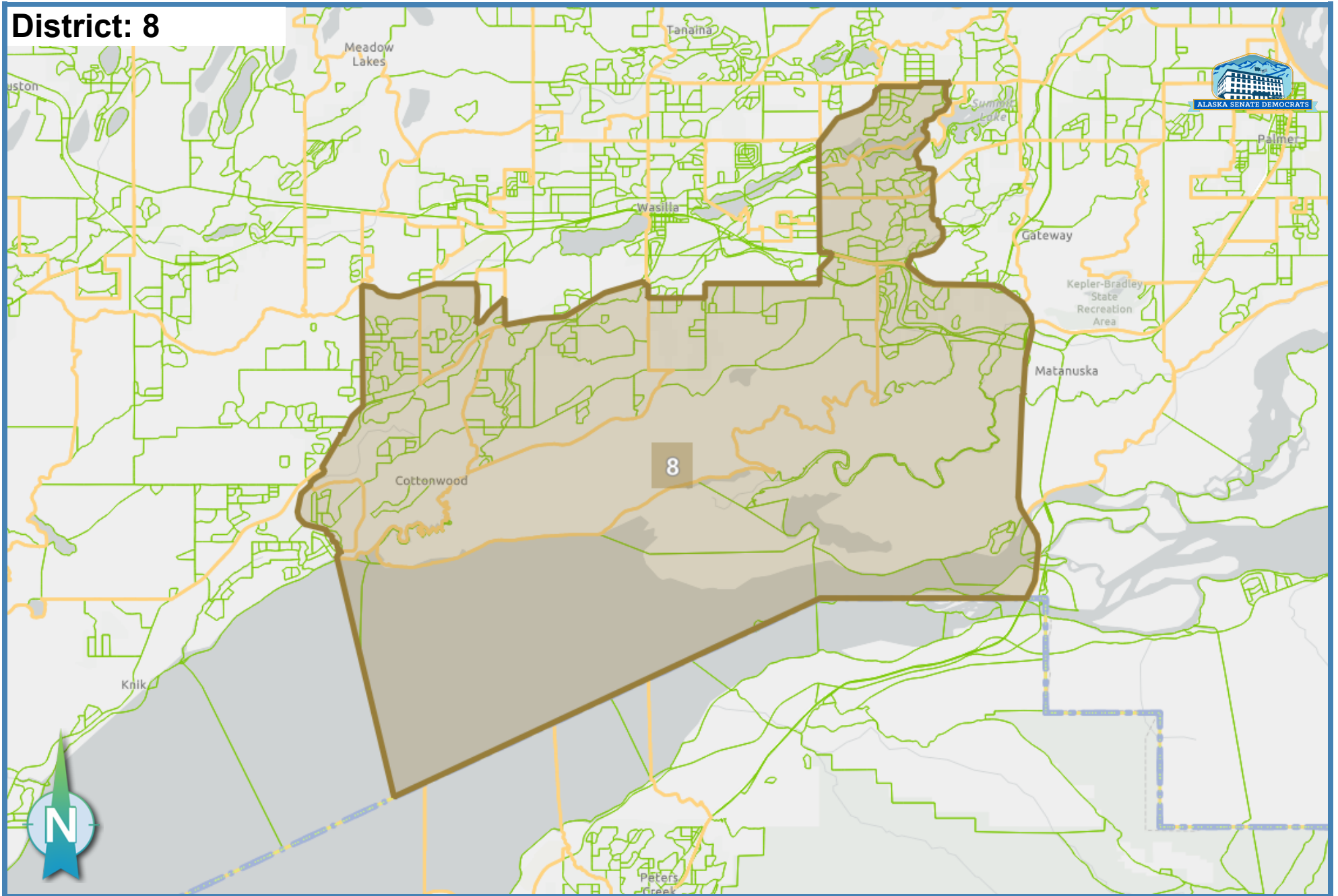
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# District: 8



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.10 %

Total Population: 18,316

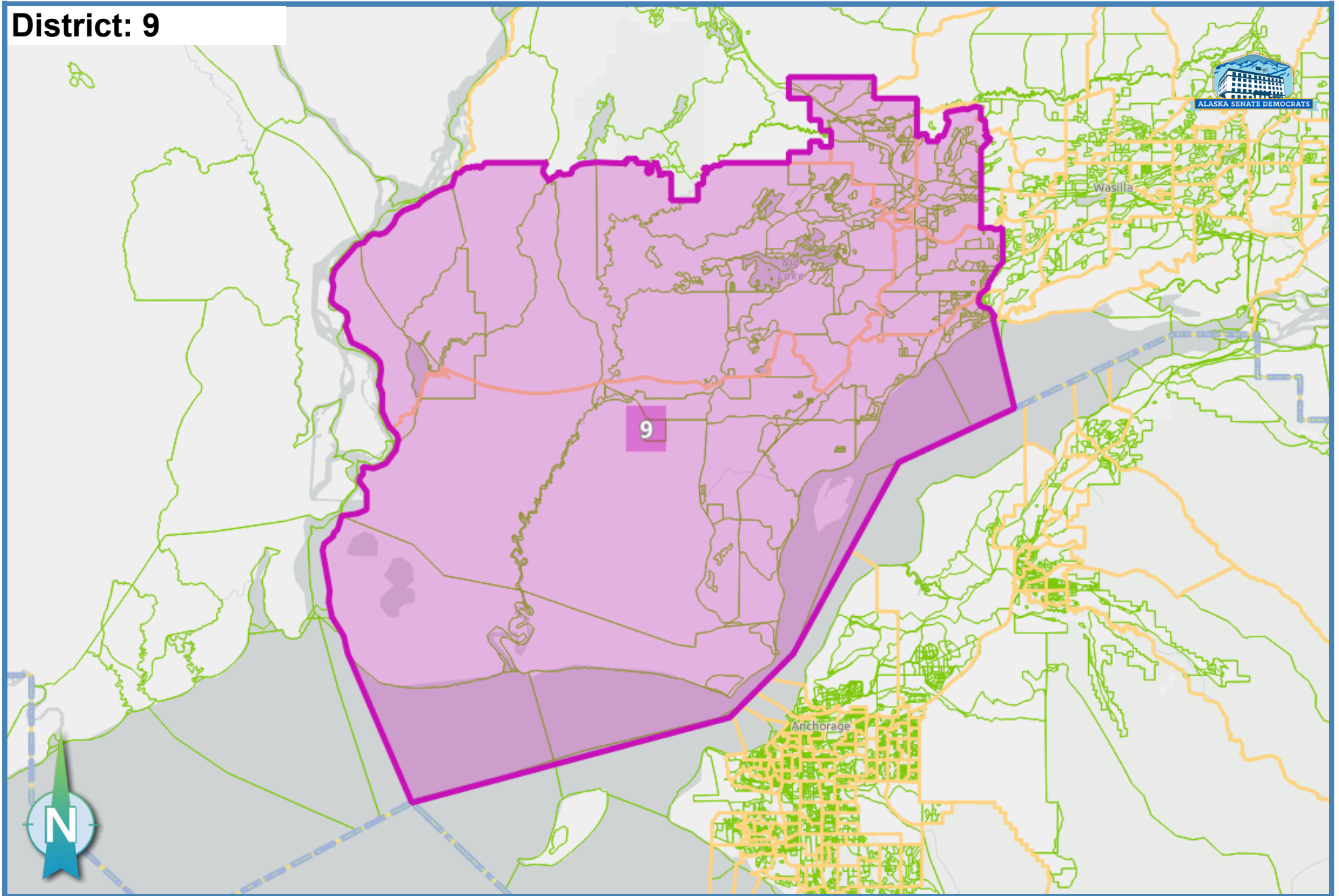
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# District: 9



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.11 %

Total Population: 18,314

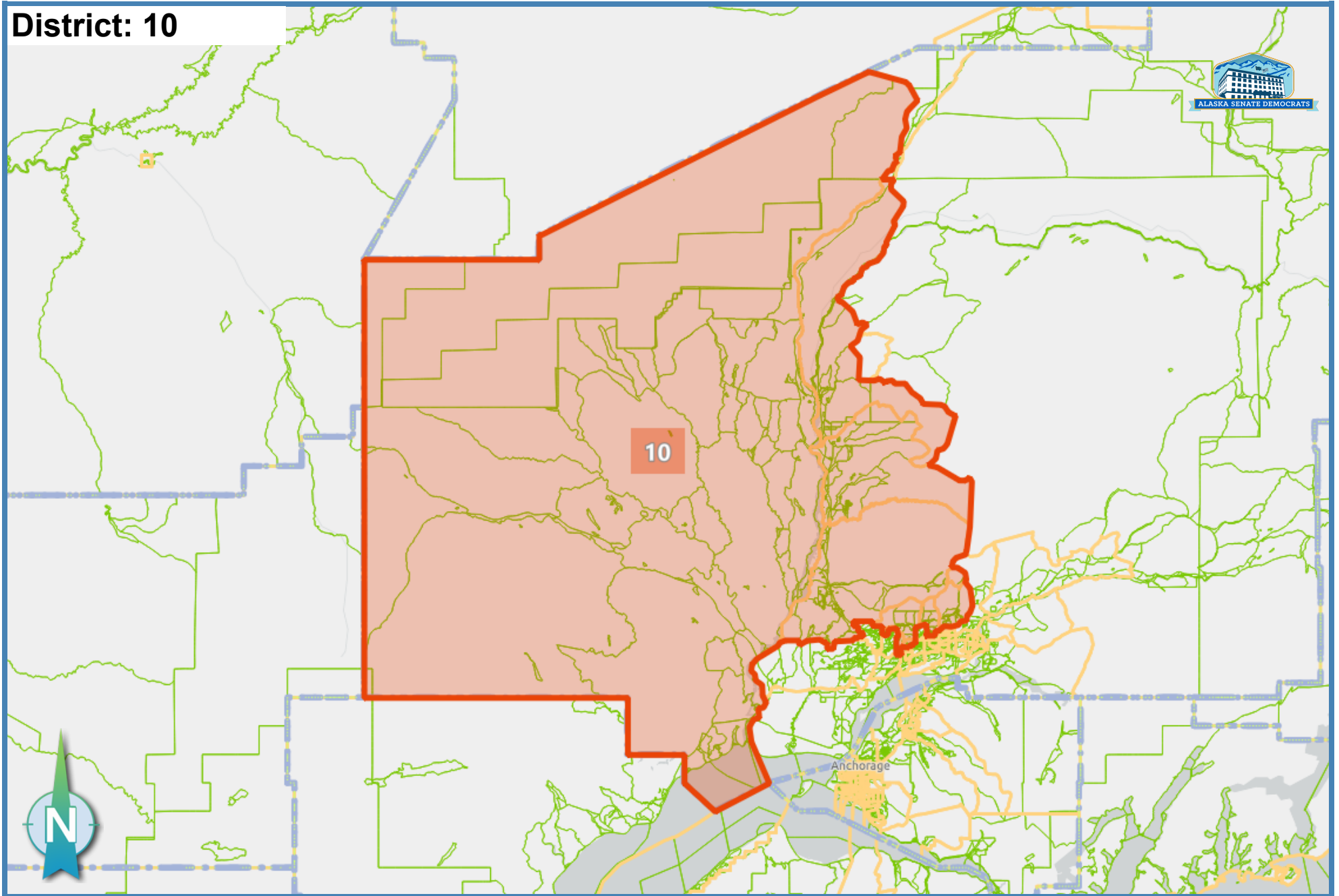
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# District: 10



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.11 %

Total Population: **18,314**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

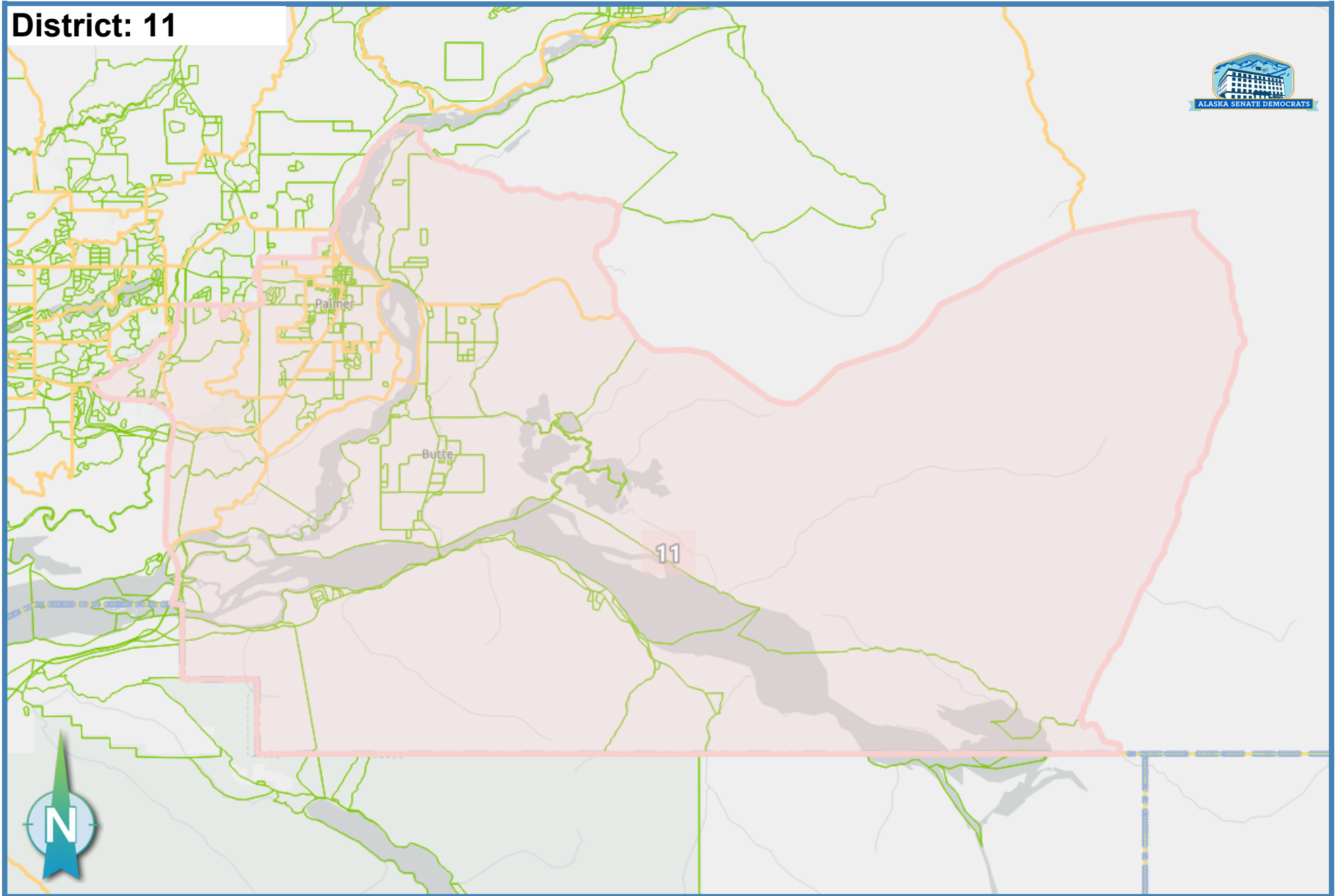
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# District: 11



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.12 %

Total Population: **18,313**

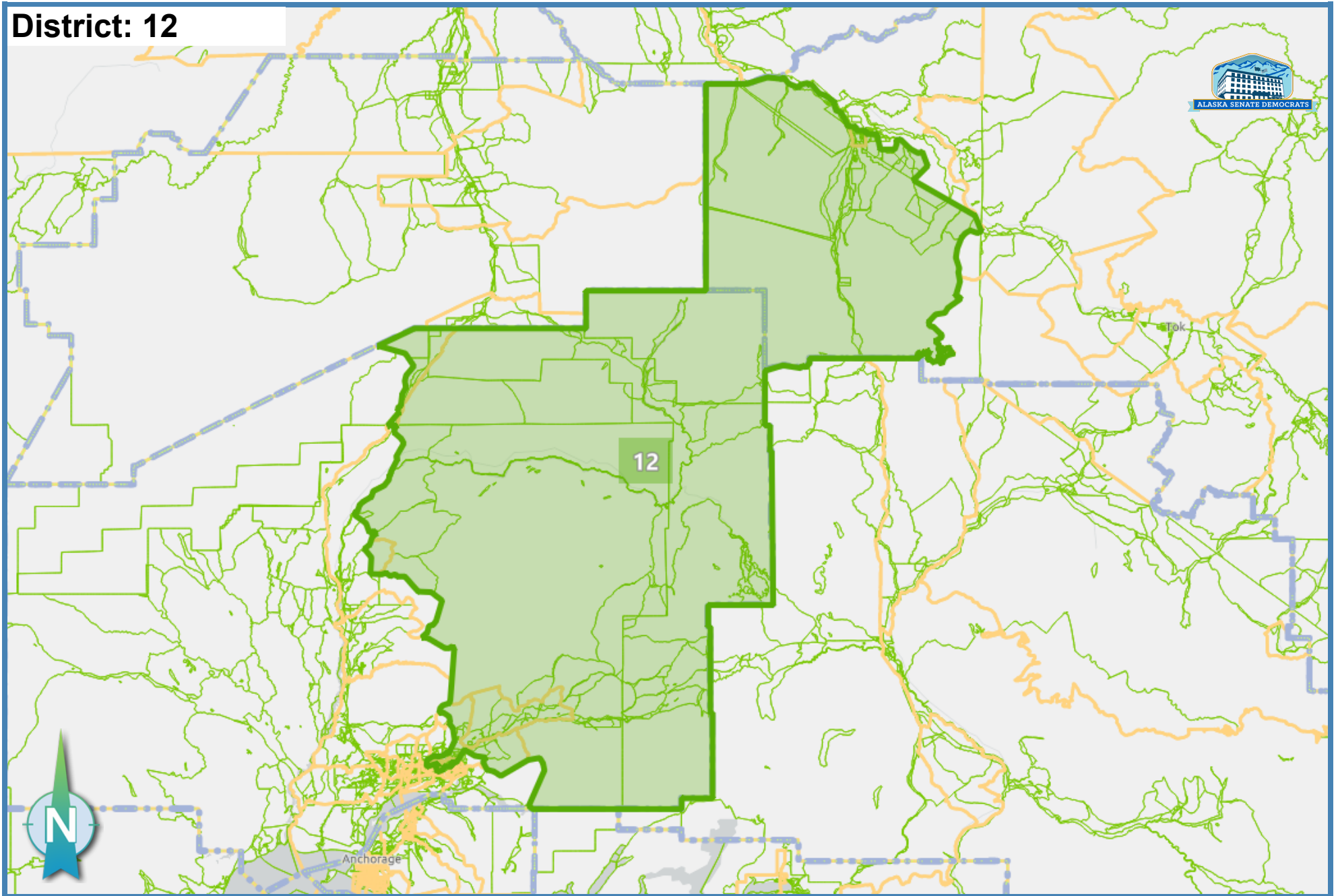
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# District: 12



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.03 %

Total Population: 18,330

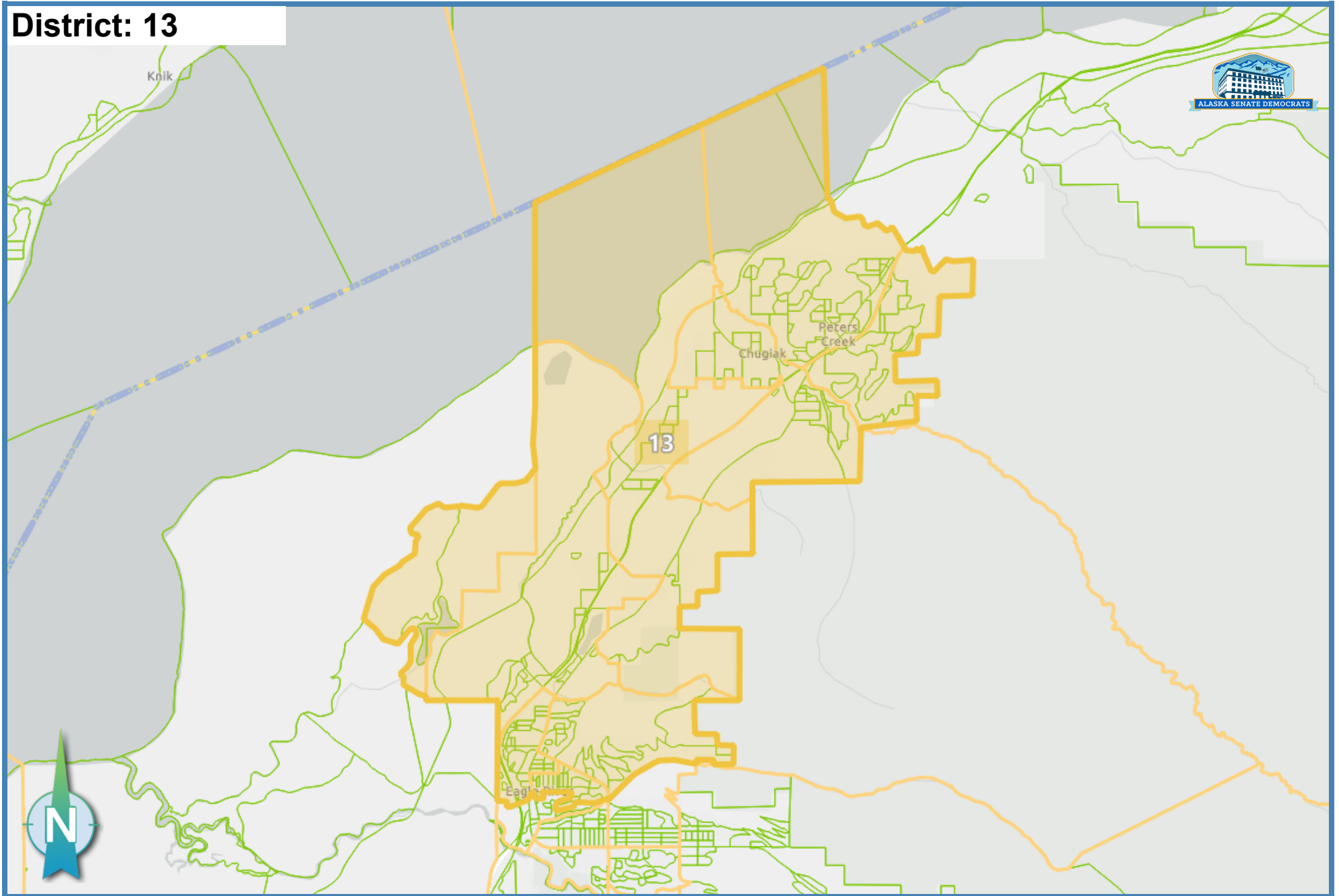
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# District: 13



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.00 %

Total Population: **18,335**

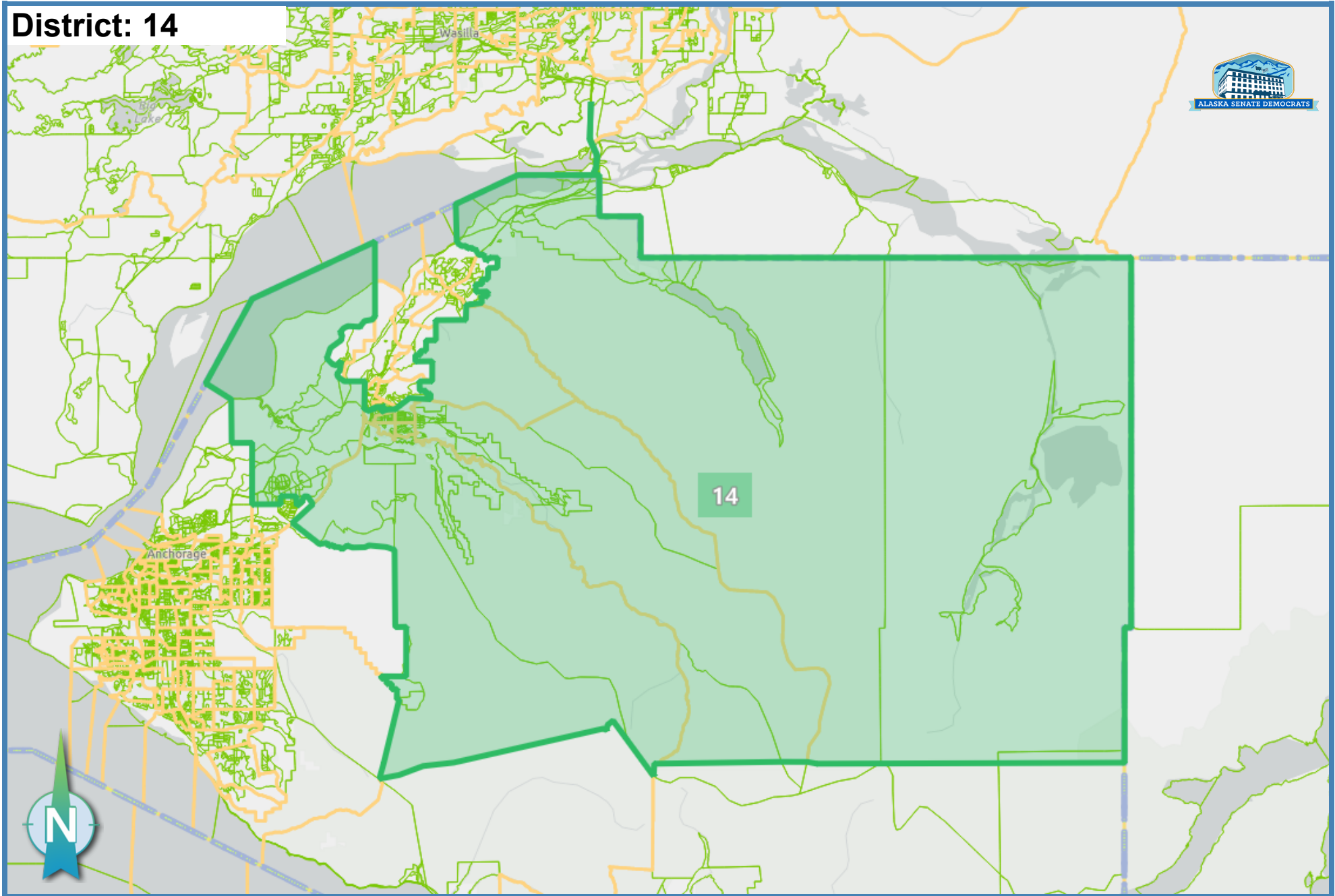
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# District: 14



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.00 %

Total Population: 18,335

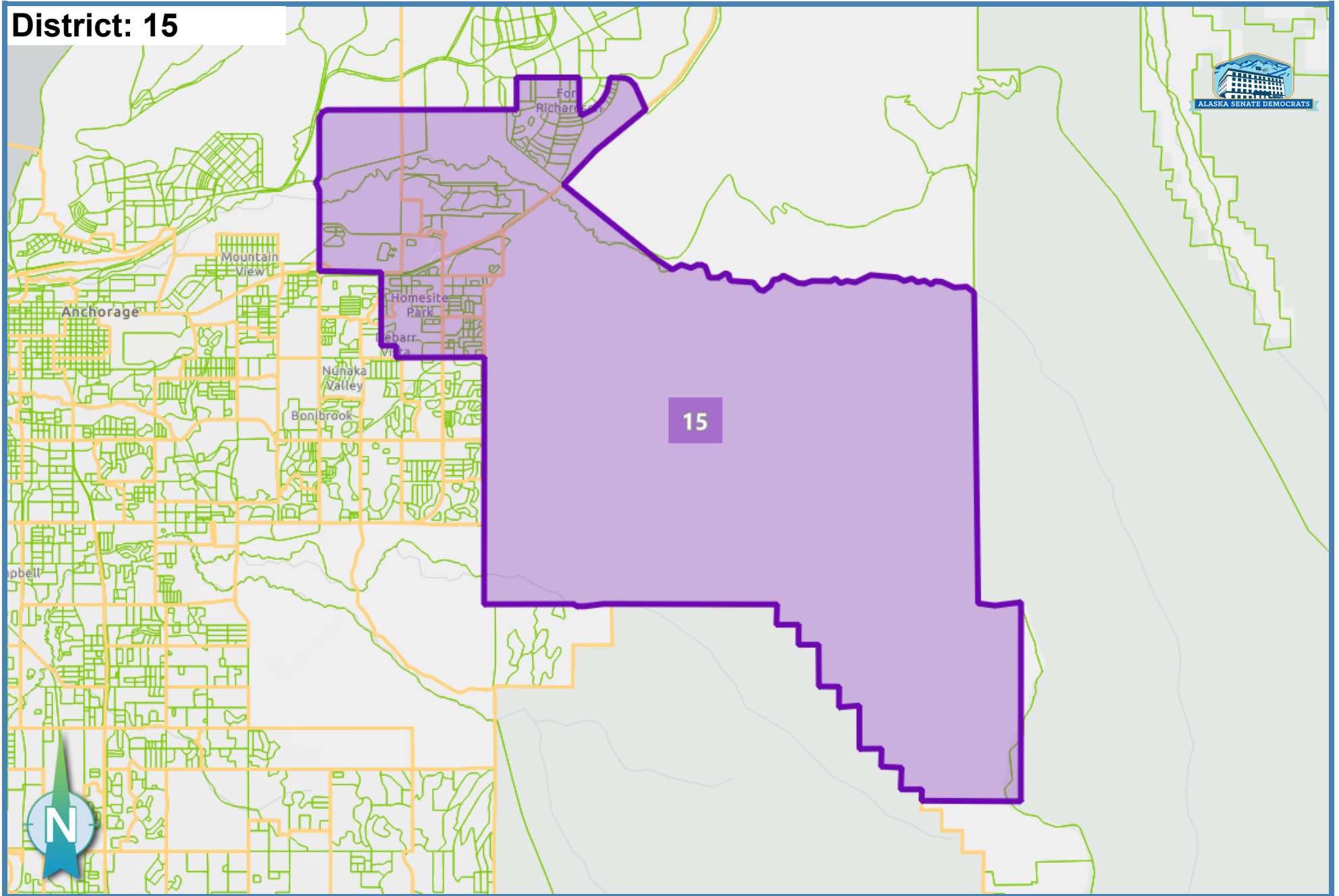
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# District: 15



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.01 %

Total Population: 18,336

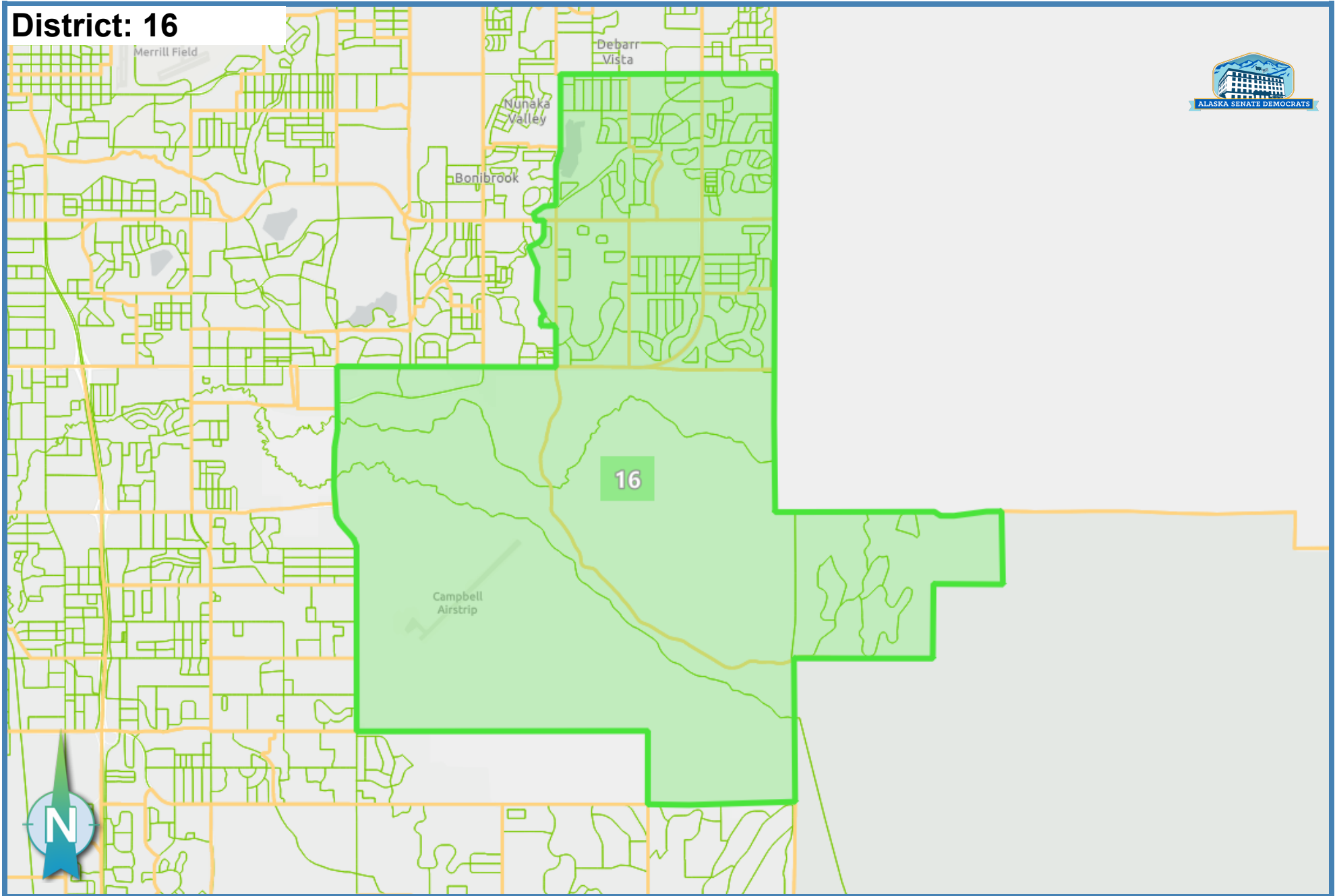
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# District: 16



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.02 %

Total Population: 18,332

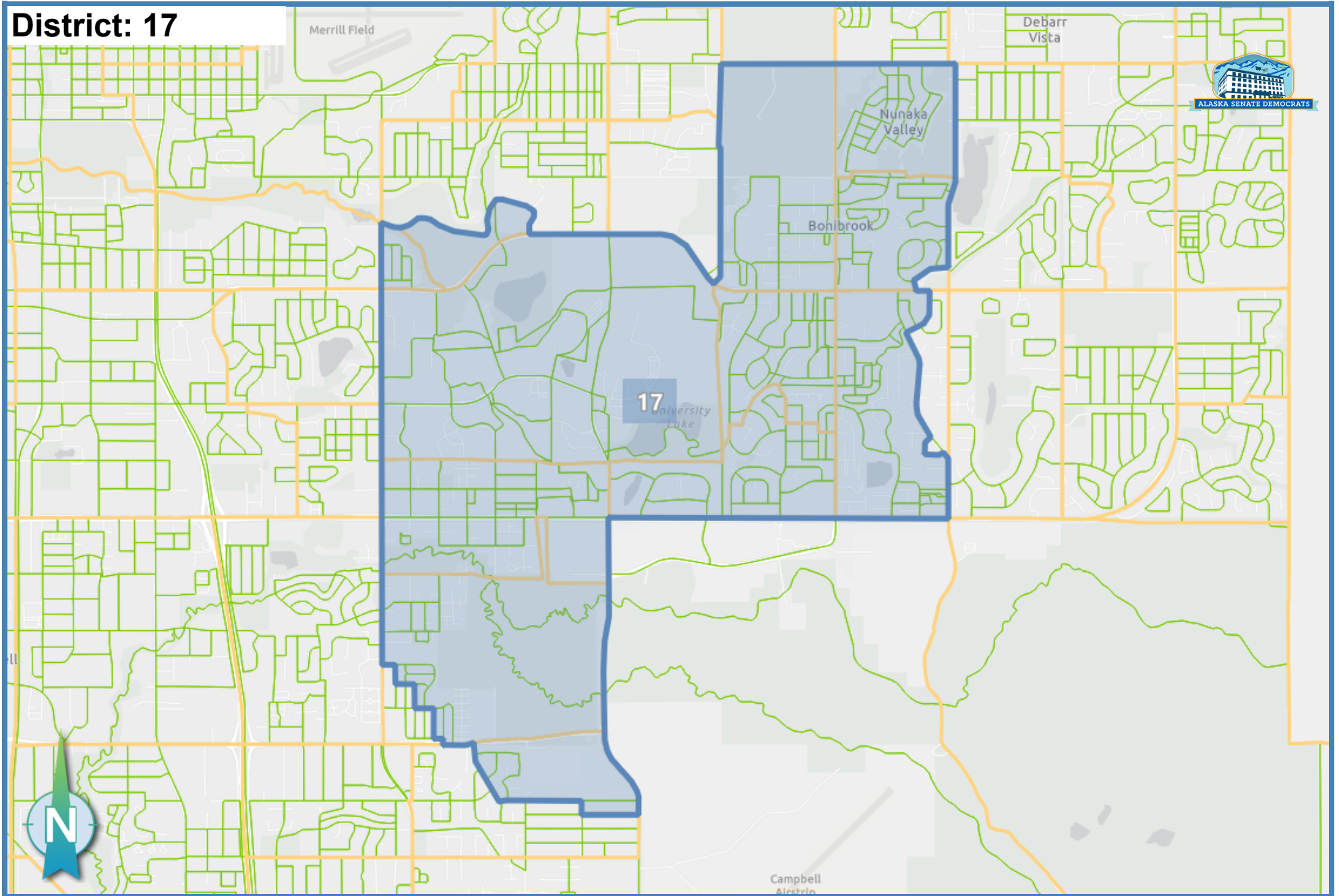
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# District: 17



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.02 %

Total Population: 18,339

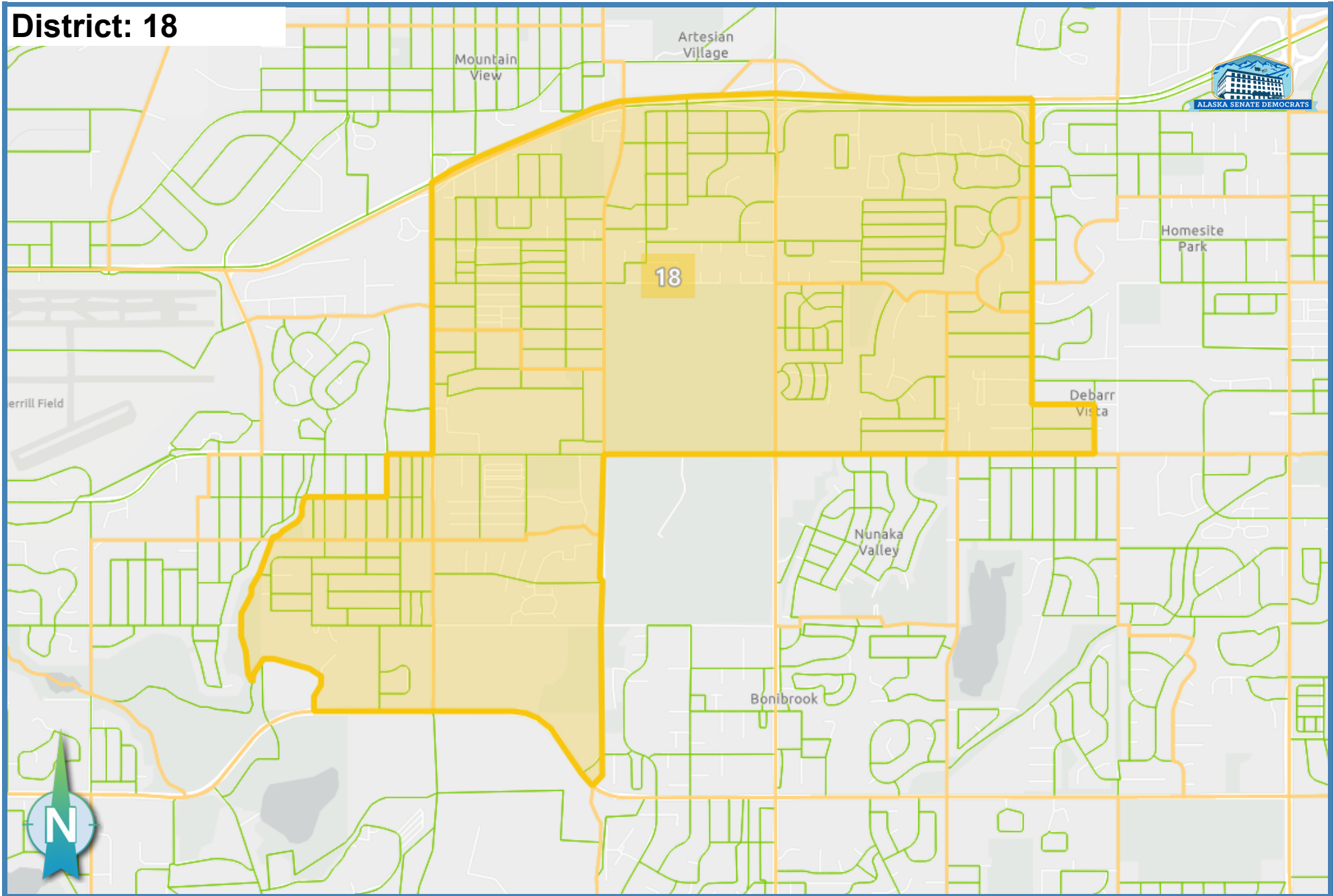
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 18



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.01 %

Total Population: 18,337

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

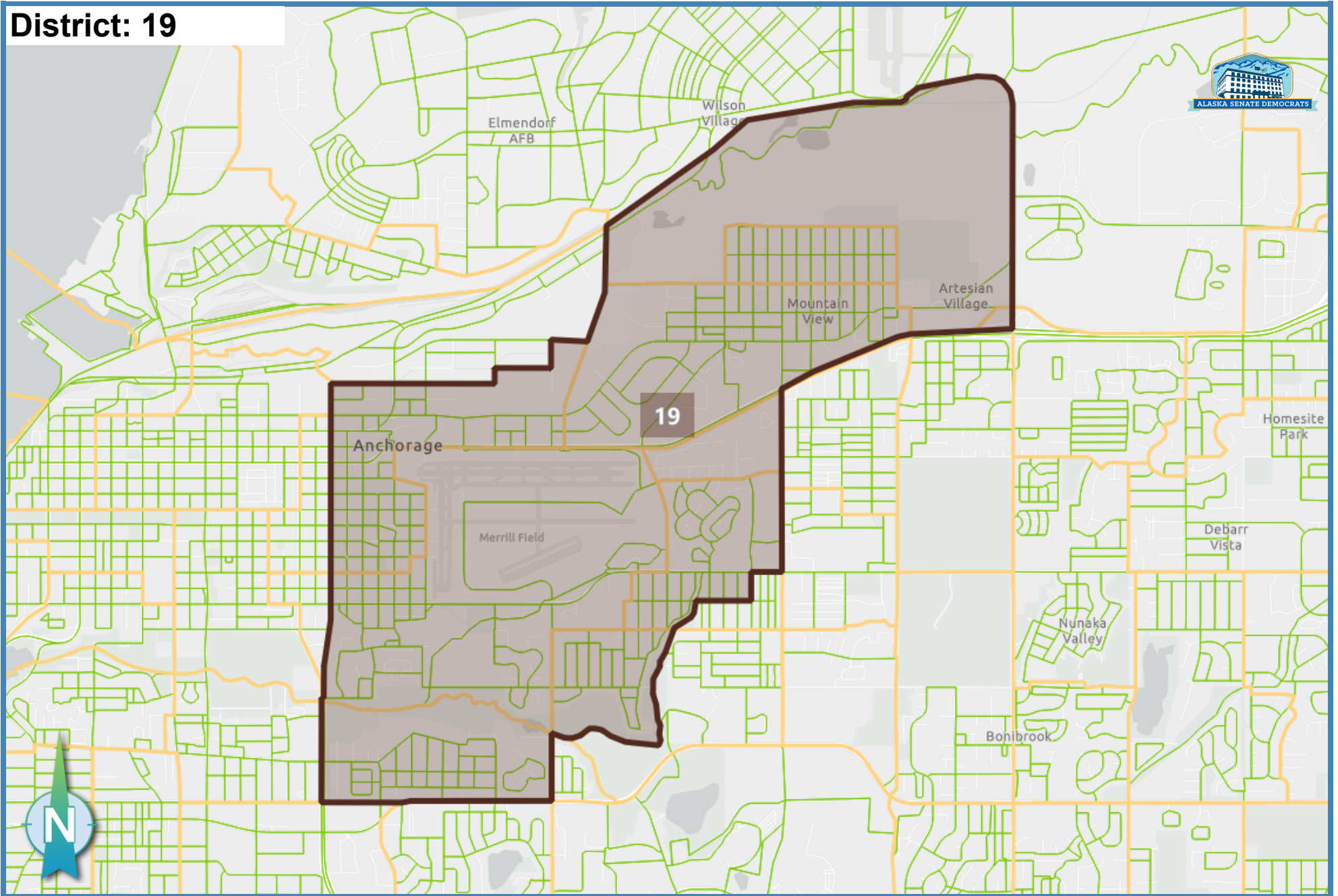
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# District: 19



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.01 %

Total Population: 18,333

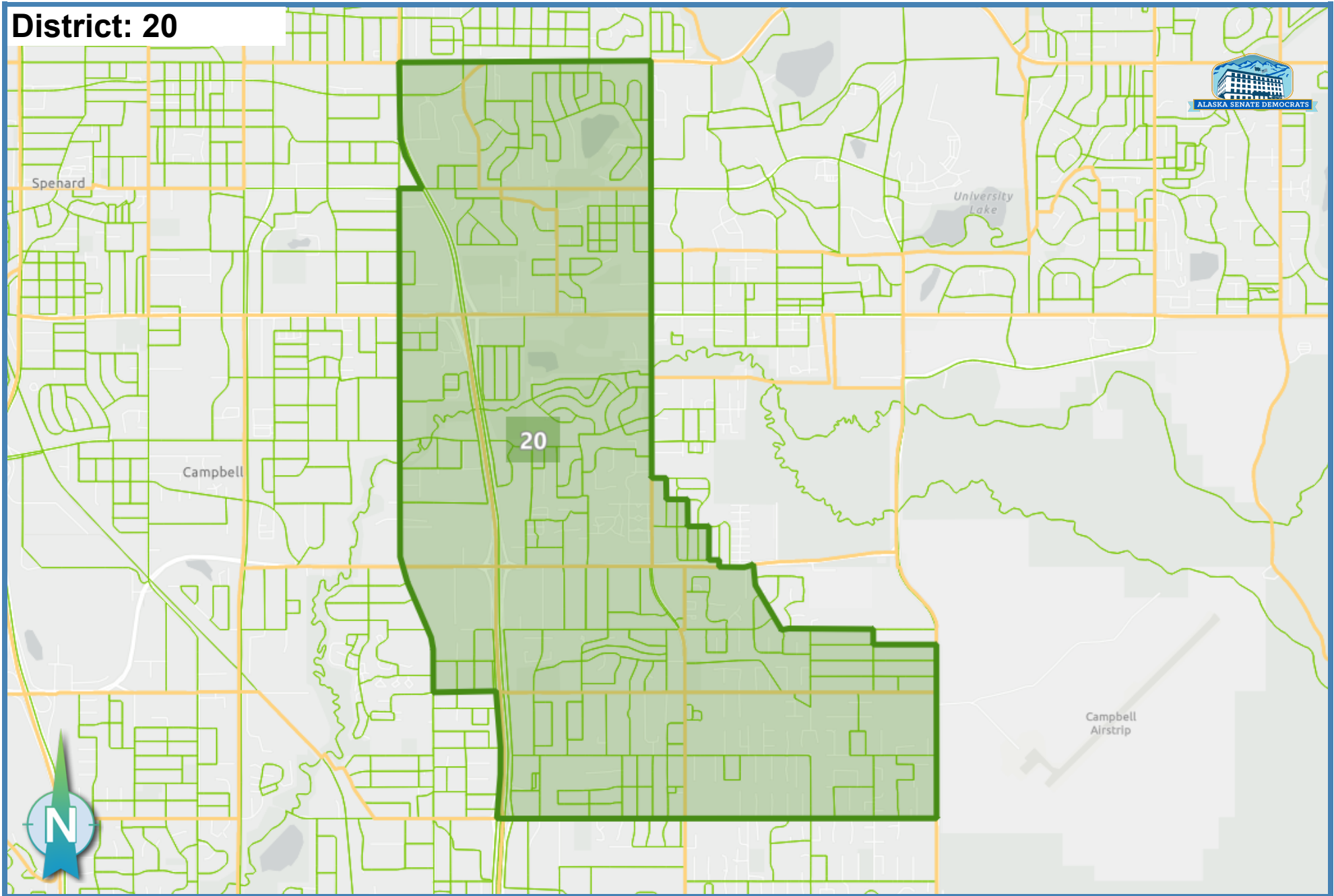
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# District: 20



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.03 %

Total Population: 18,330

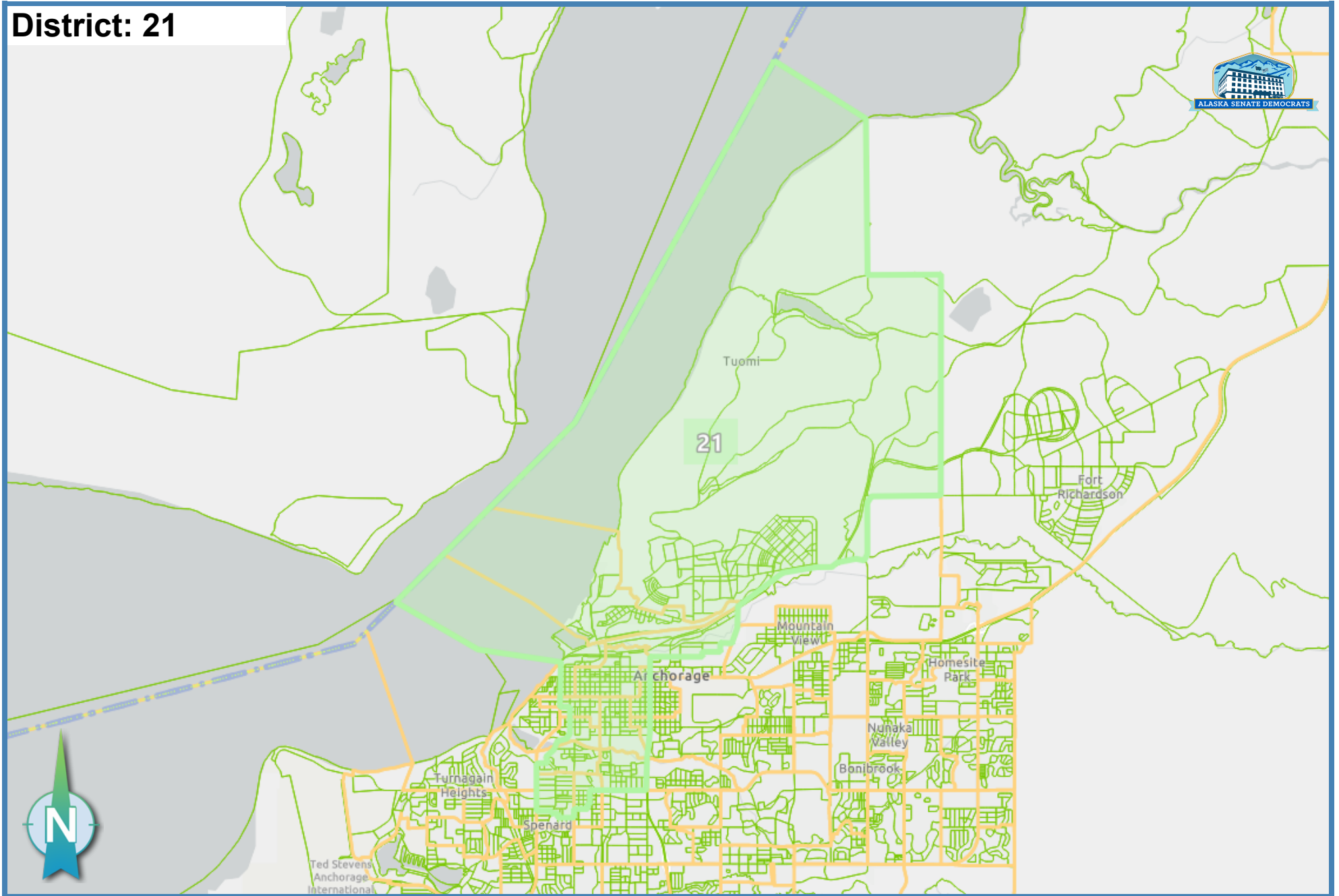
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# District: 21



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.04 %

Total Population: 18,328

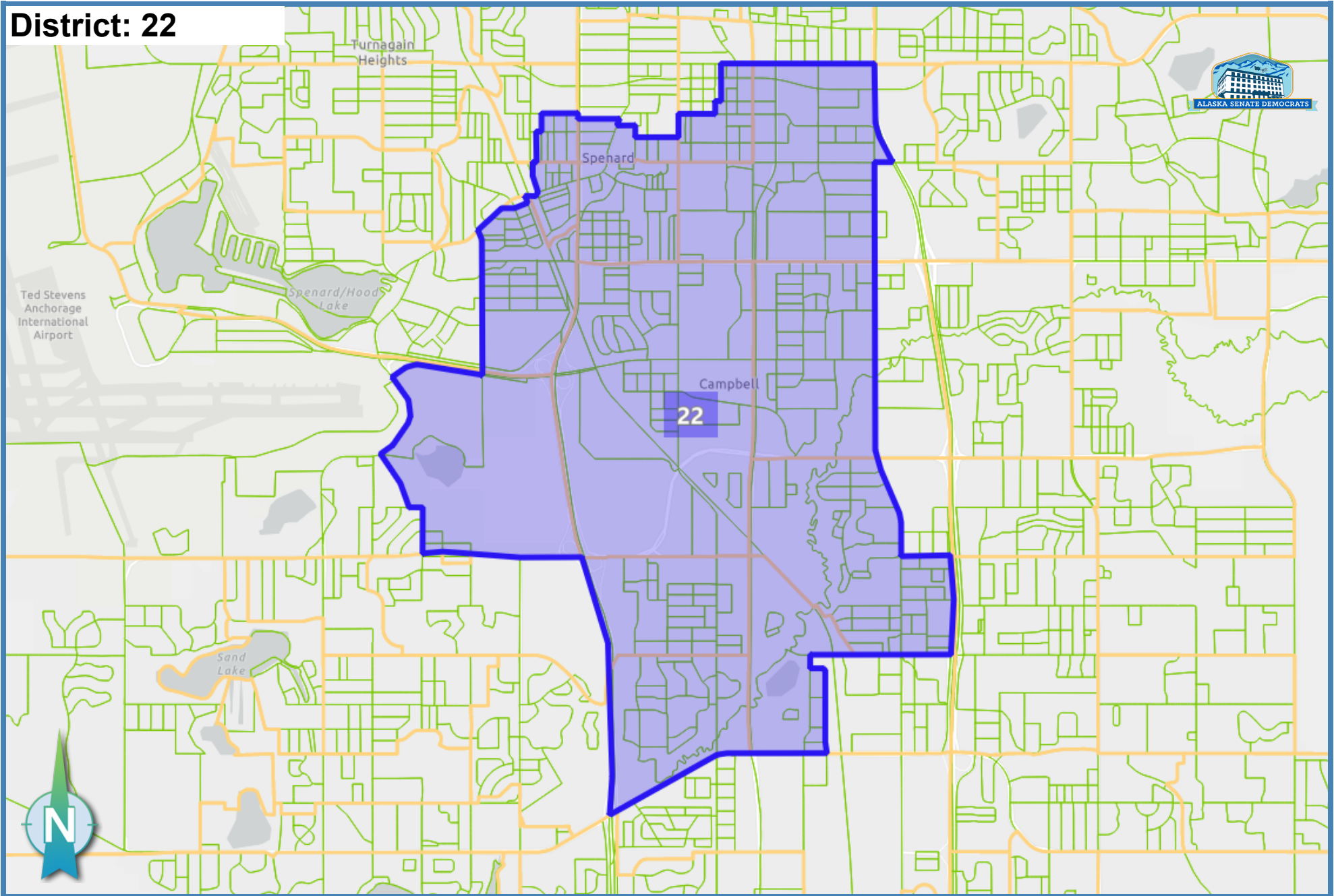
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 22



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.01 %

Total Population: 18,337

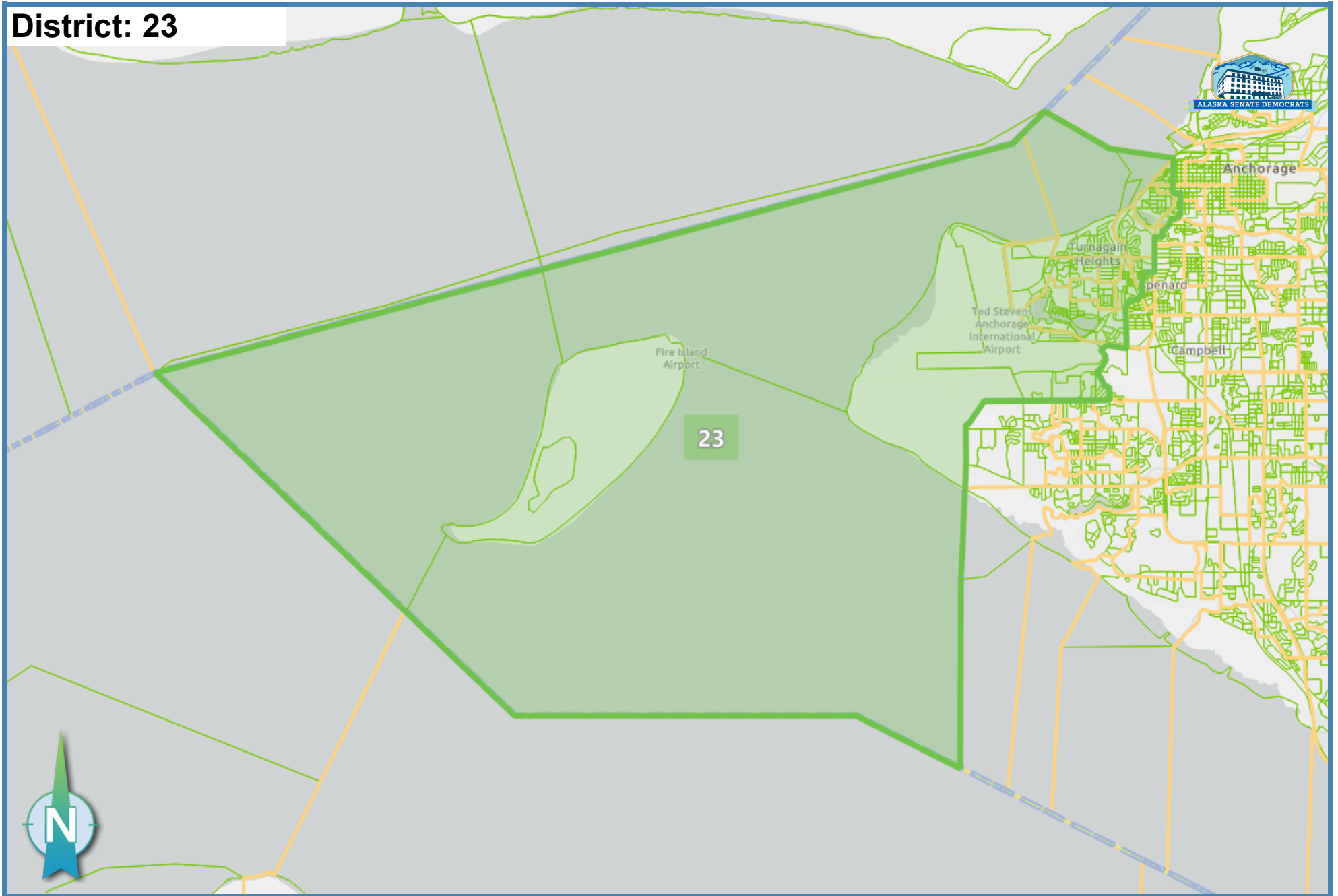
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# District: 23



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.03 %

Total Population: 18,341

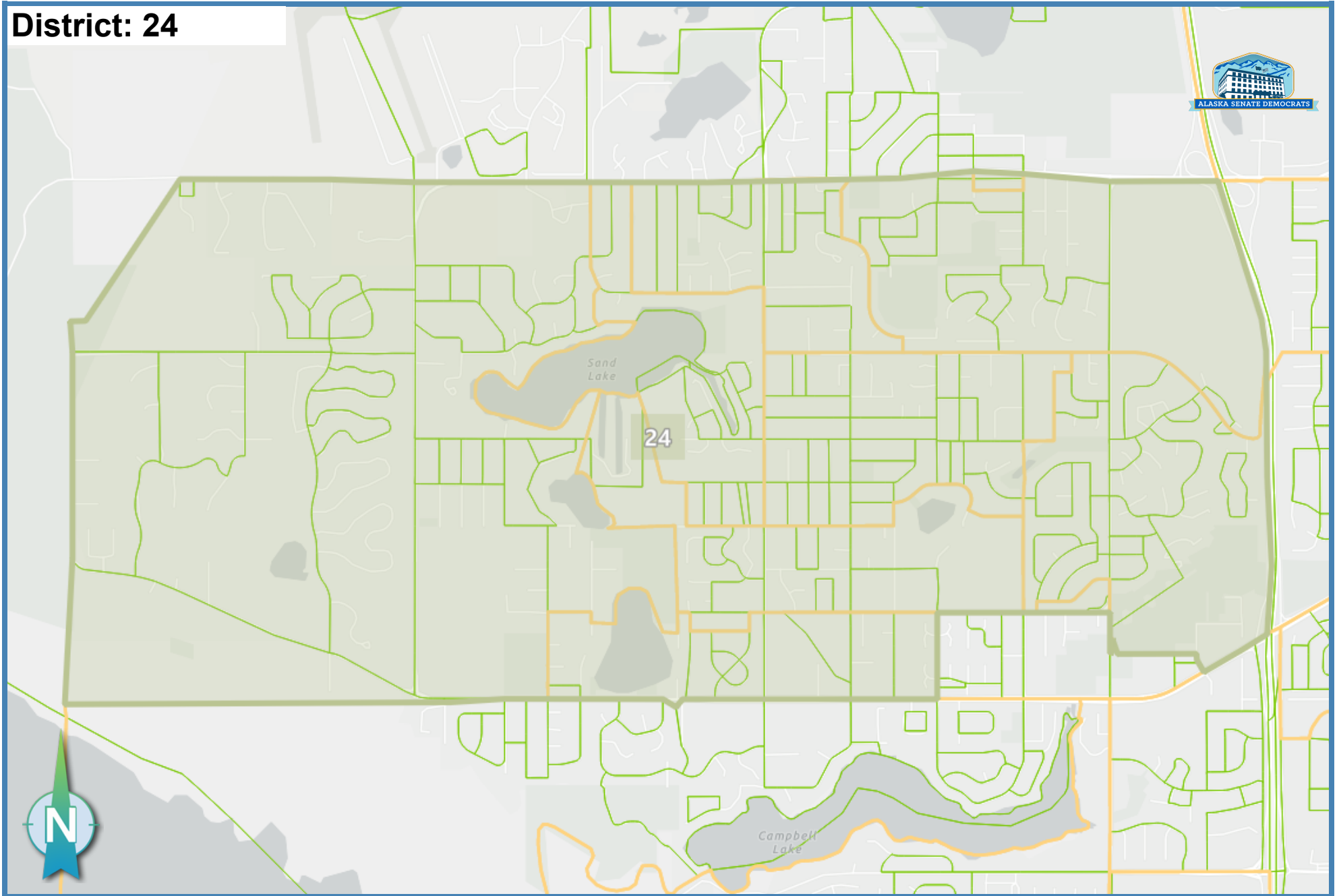
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# District: 24



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.05 %

Total Population: **18,344**

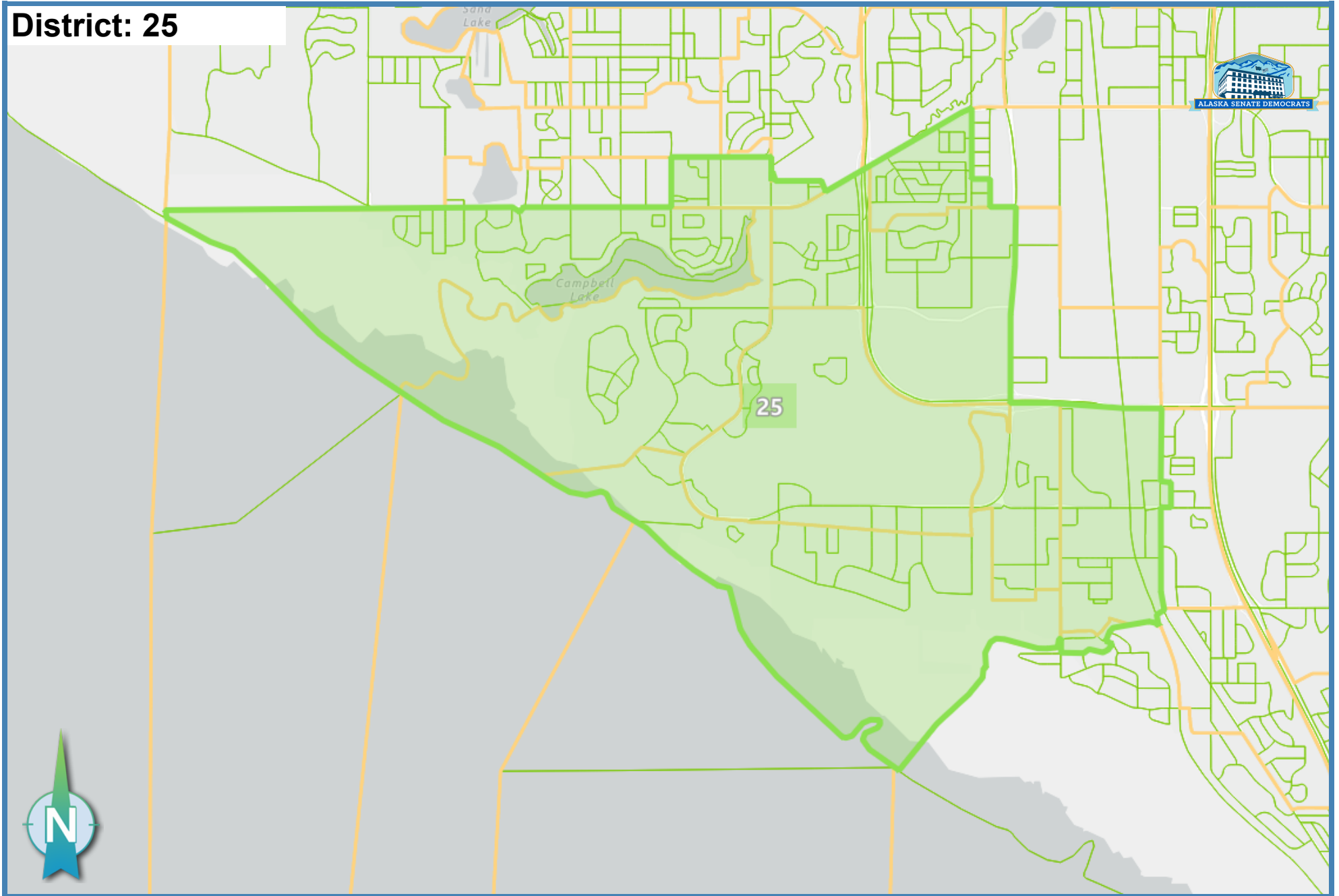
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 25



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.01 %

Total Population: **18,333**

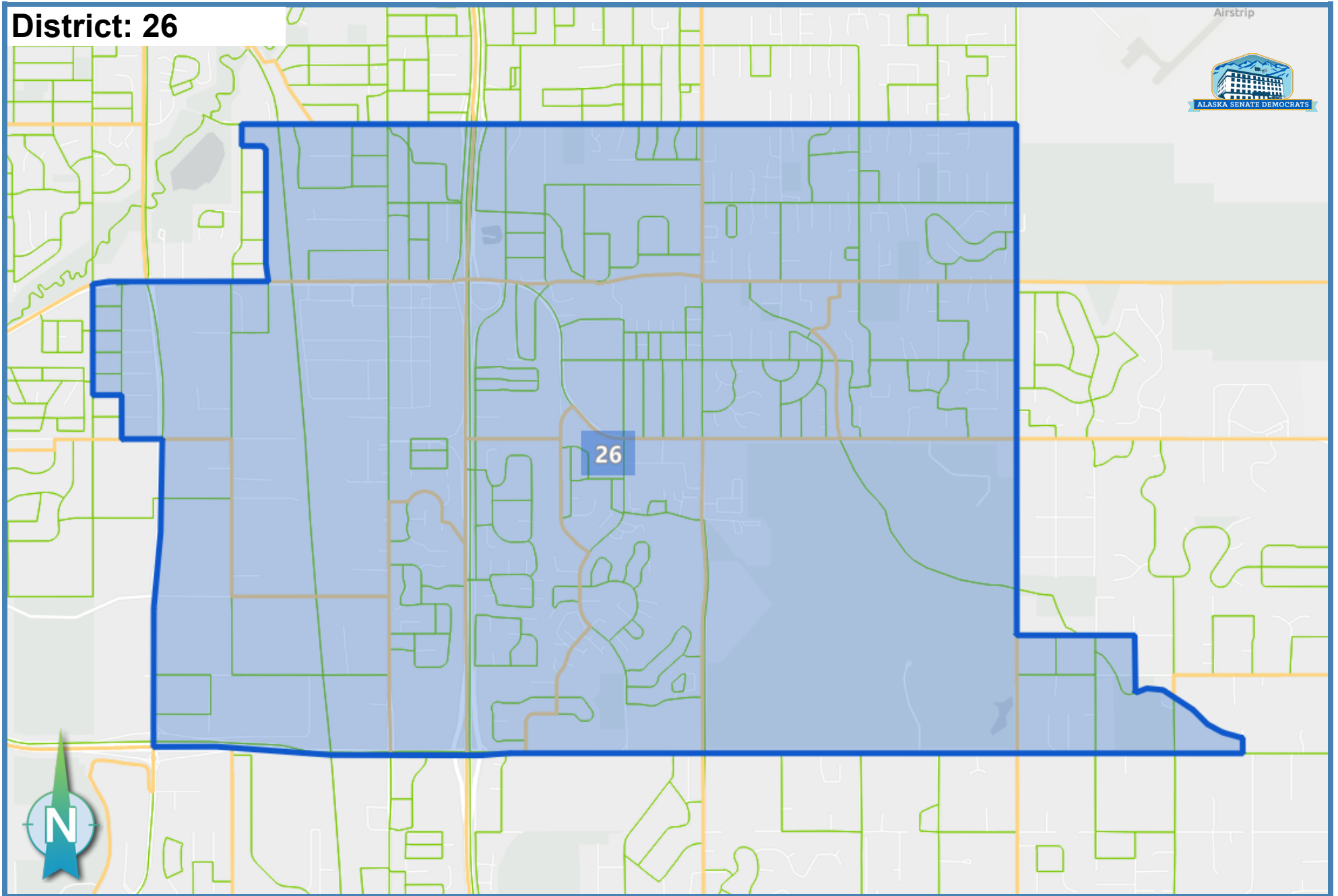
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 26



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.02 %

Total Population: 18,338

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

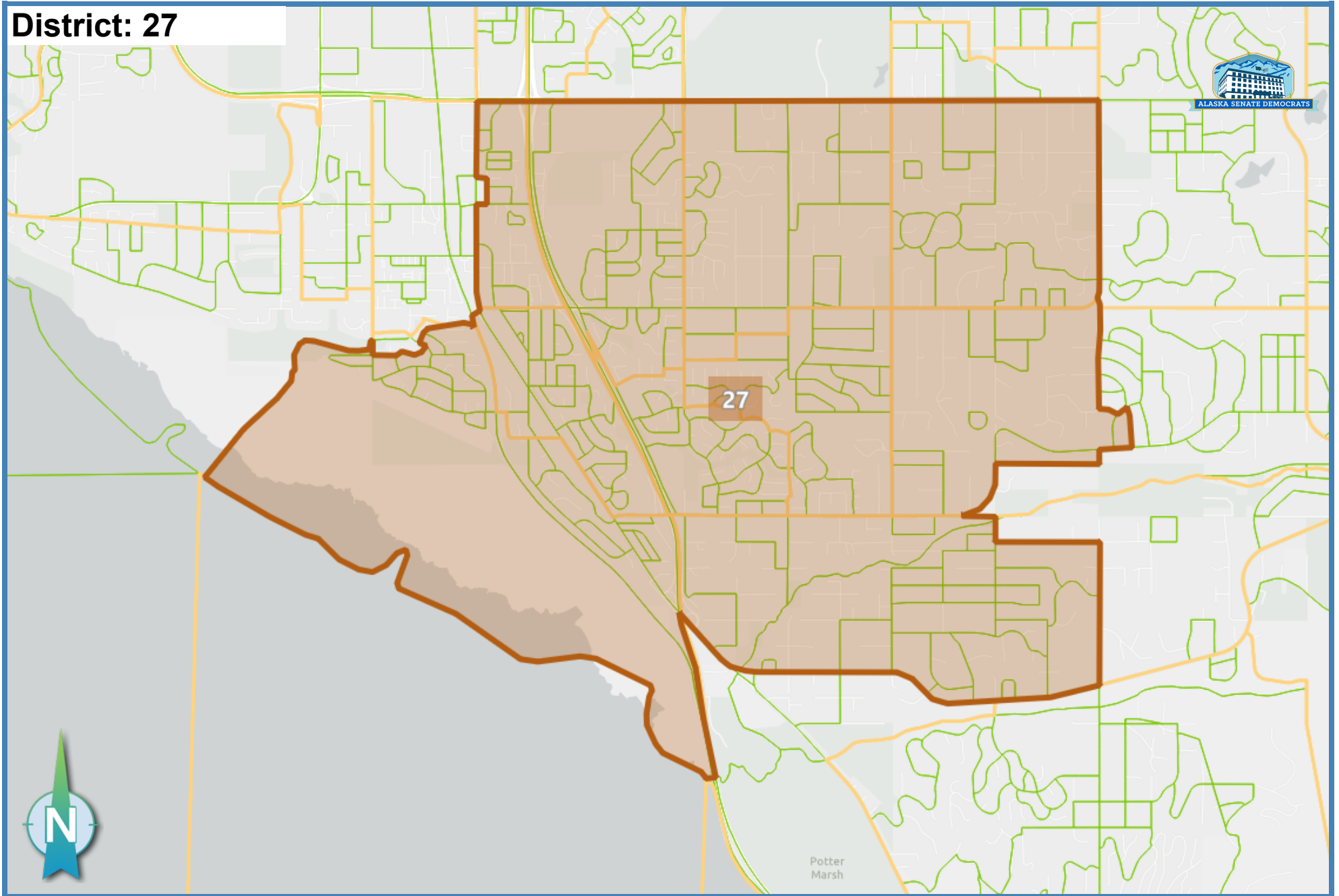
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# District: 27



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.03 %

Total Population: 18,340

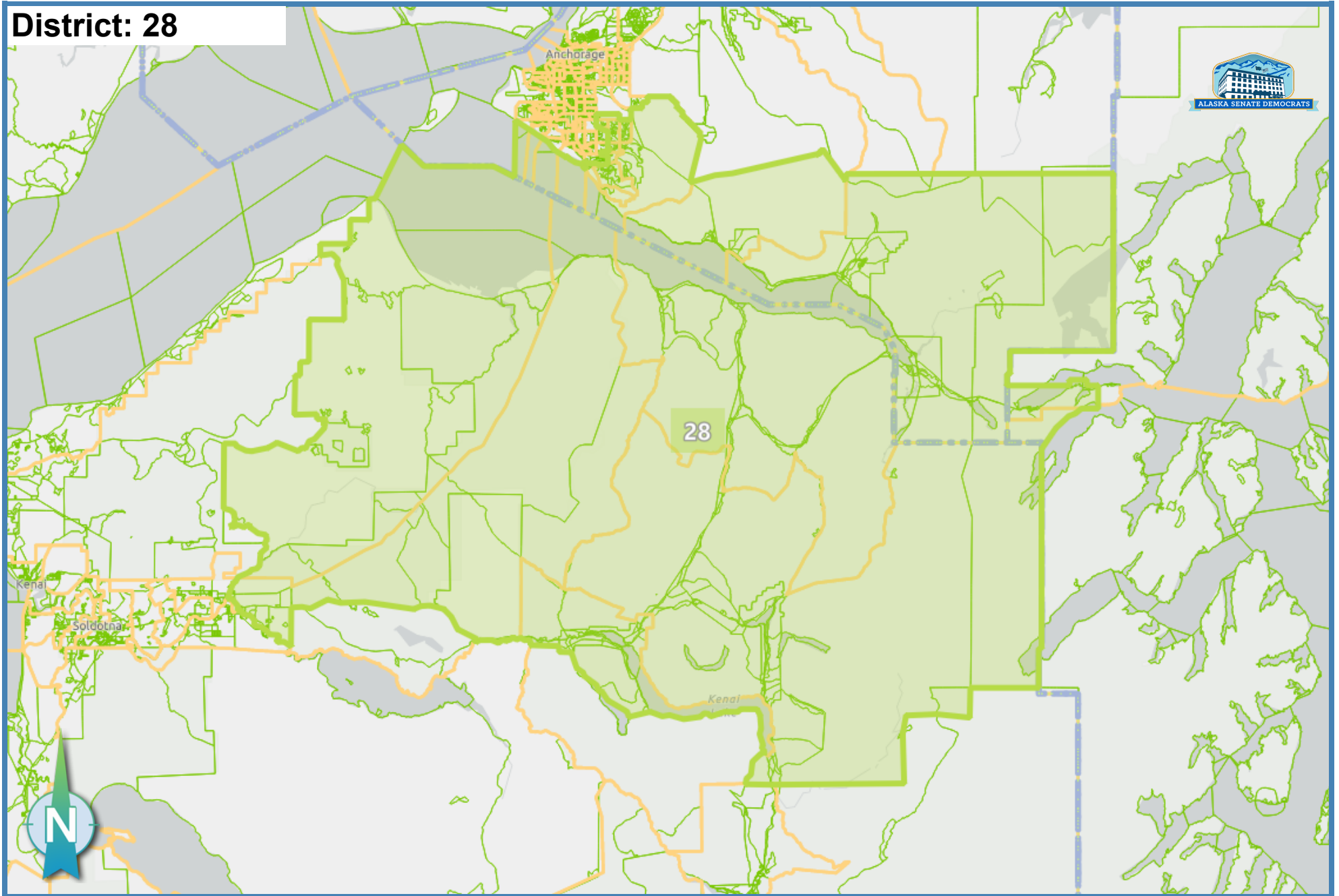
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 28



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.04 %

Total Population: **18,342**

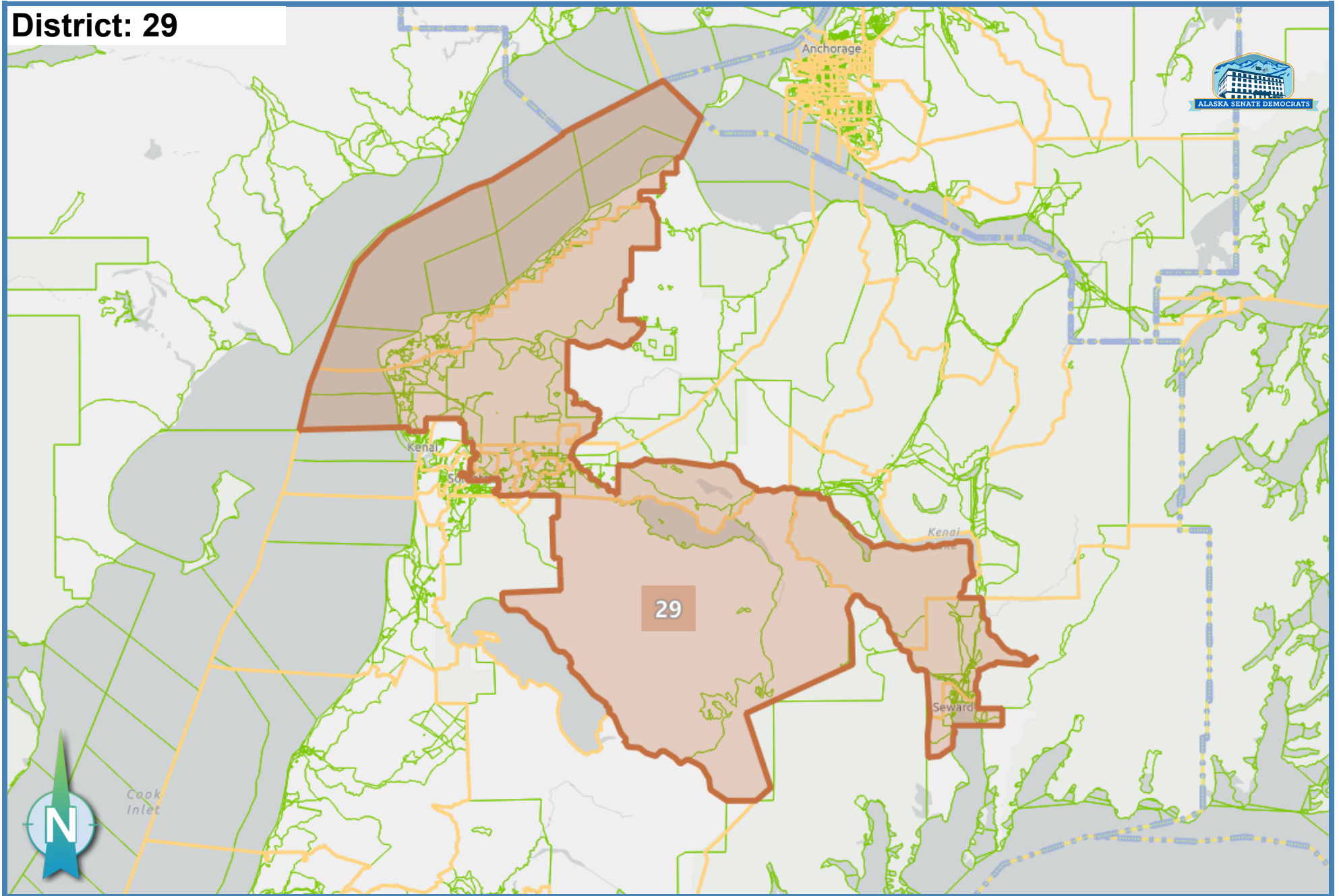
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 29



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 1.35 %

Total Population: 18,582

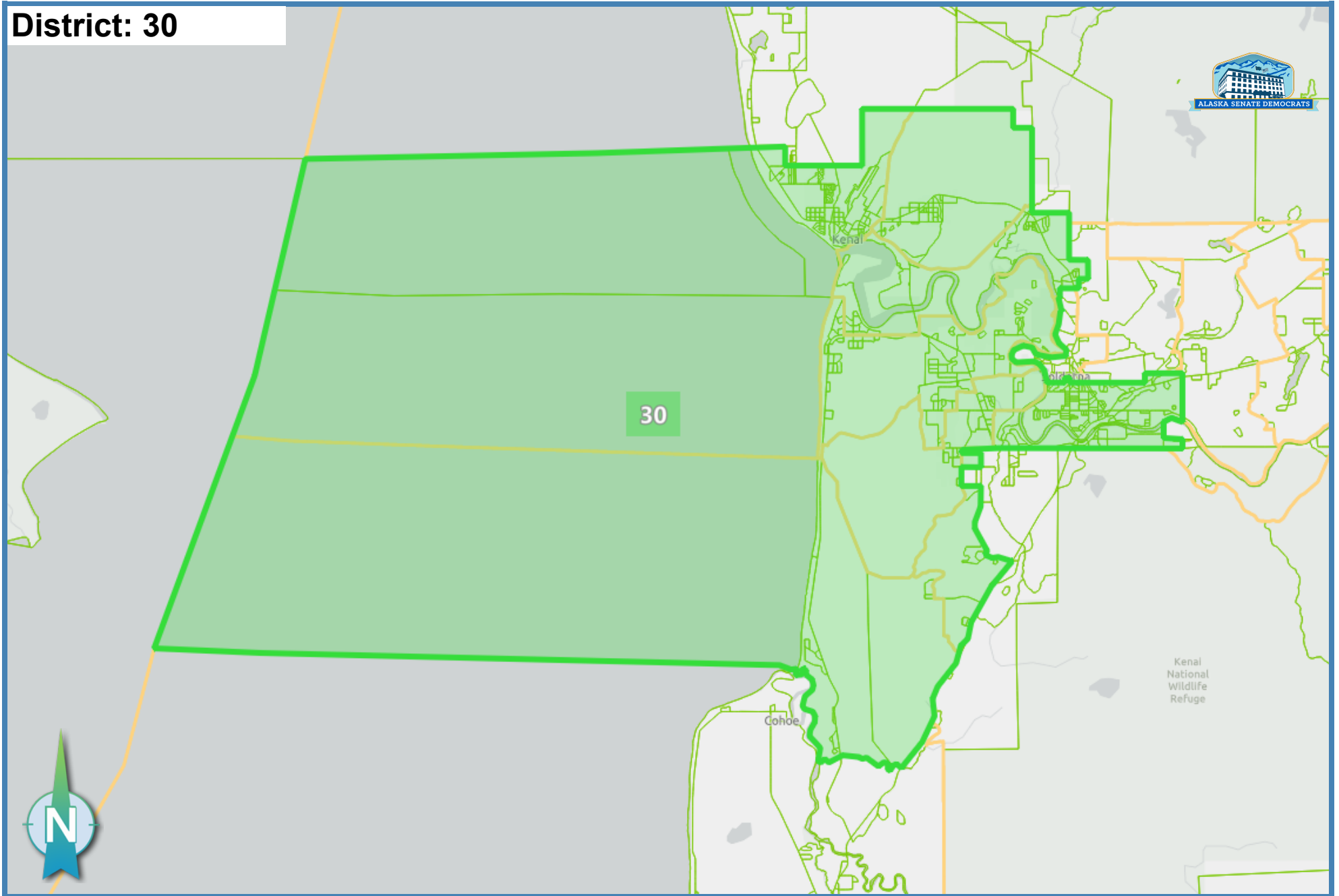
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 30



30

Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 1.36 %

Total Population: **18,584**

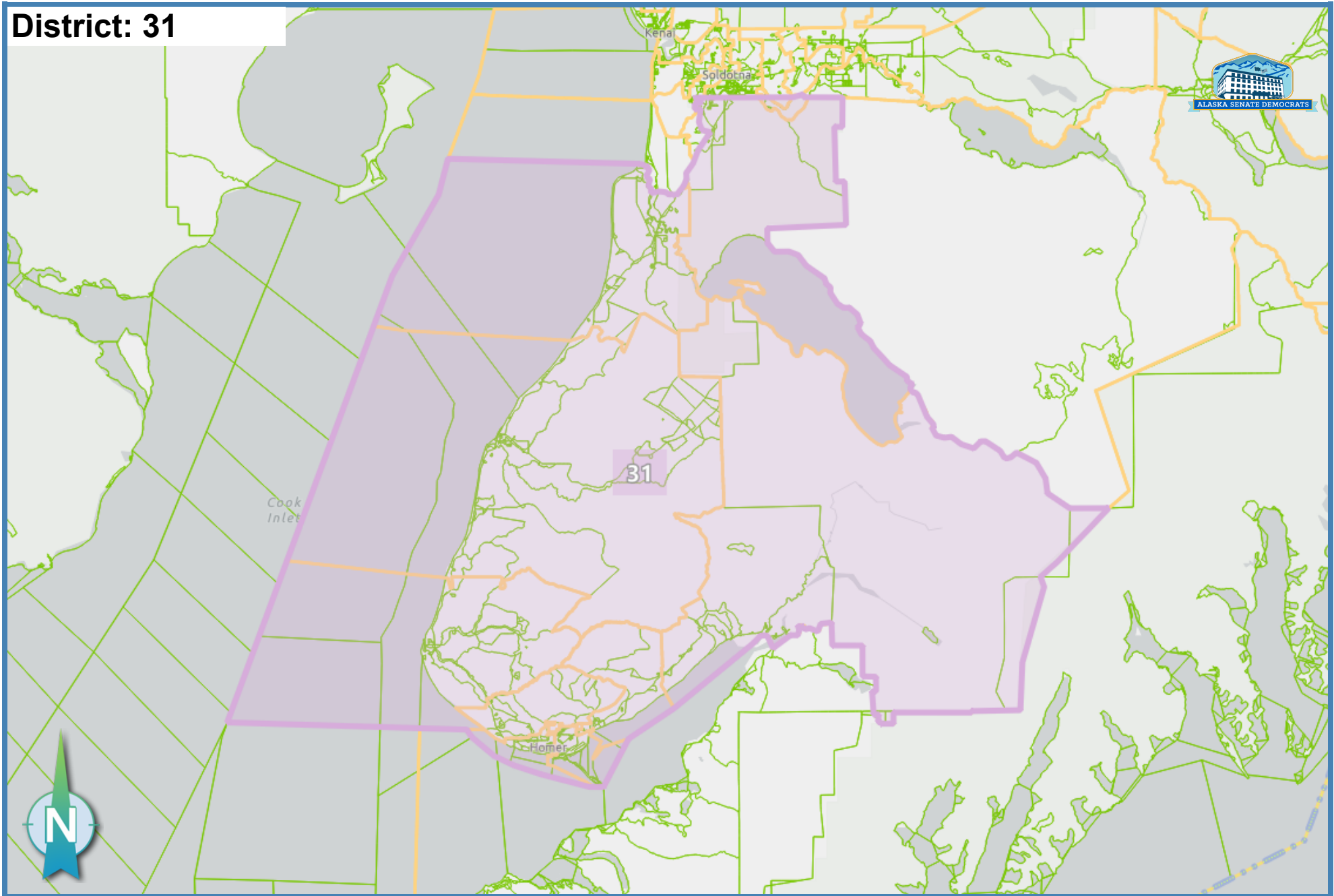
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 31



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 1.38 %

Total Population: **18,587**

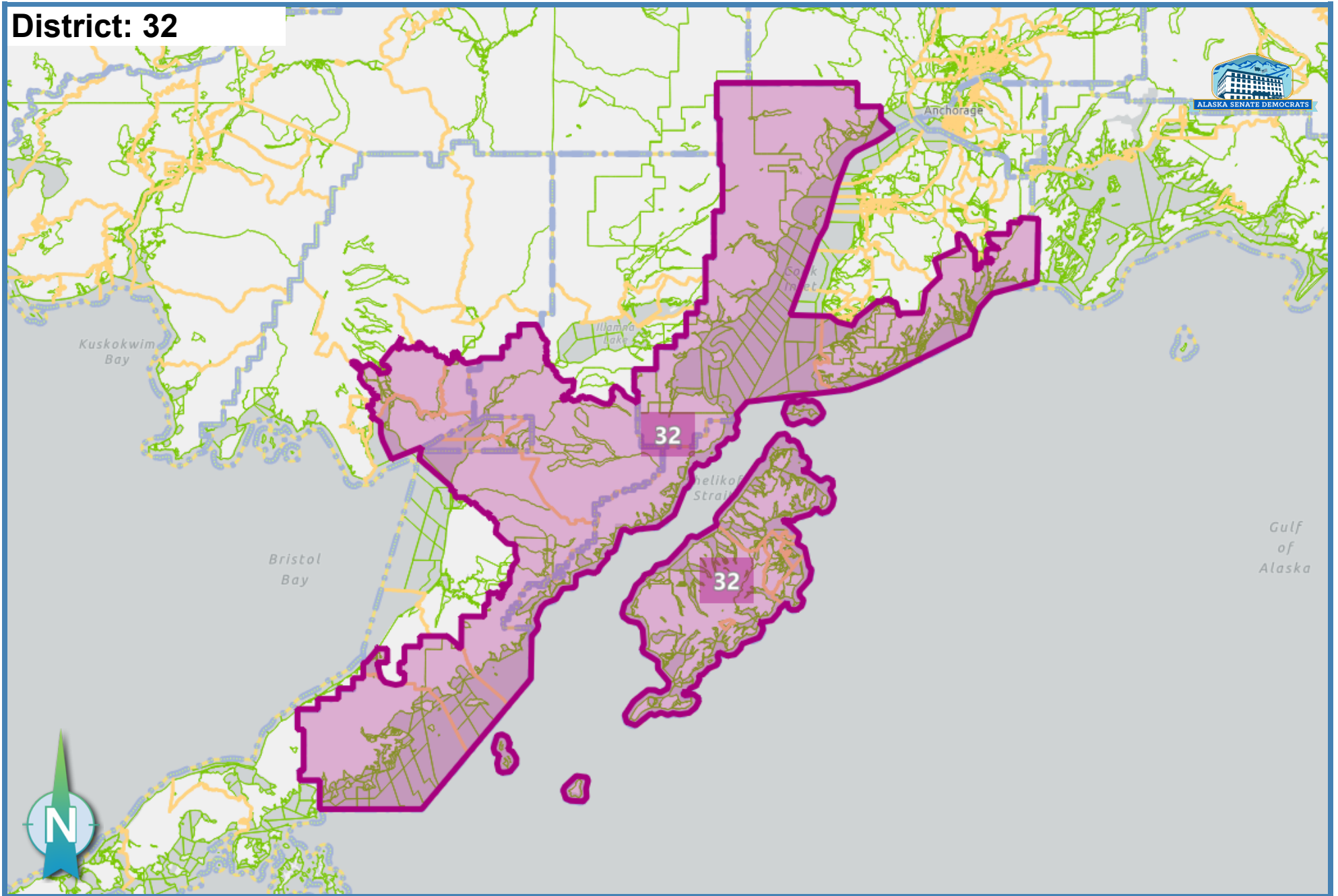
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 32



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.92 %

Total Population: 18,166

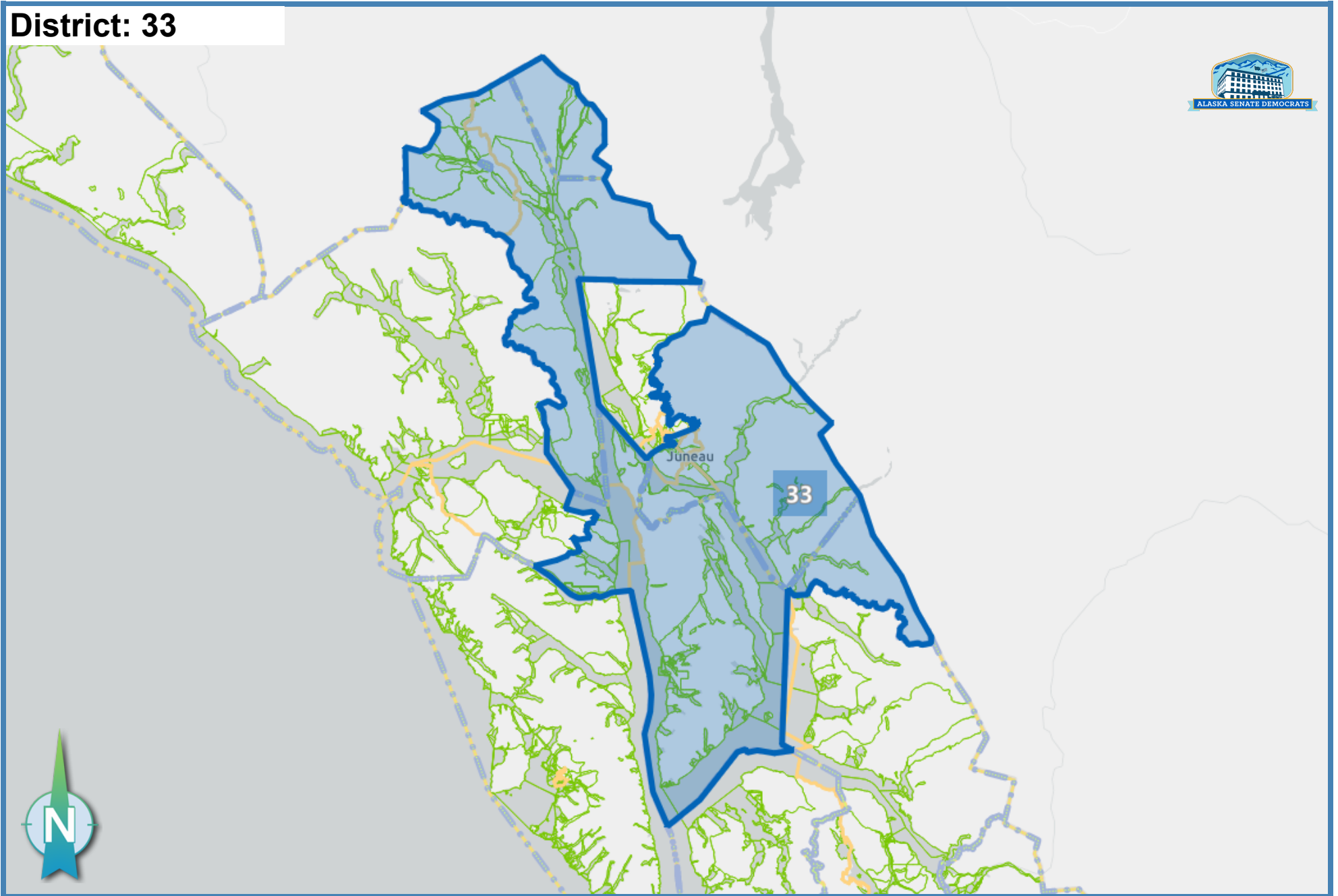
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 33



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -1.35 %

Total Population: **18,087**

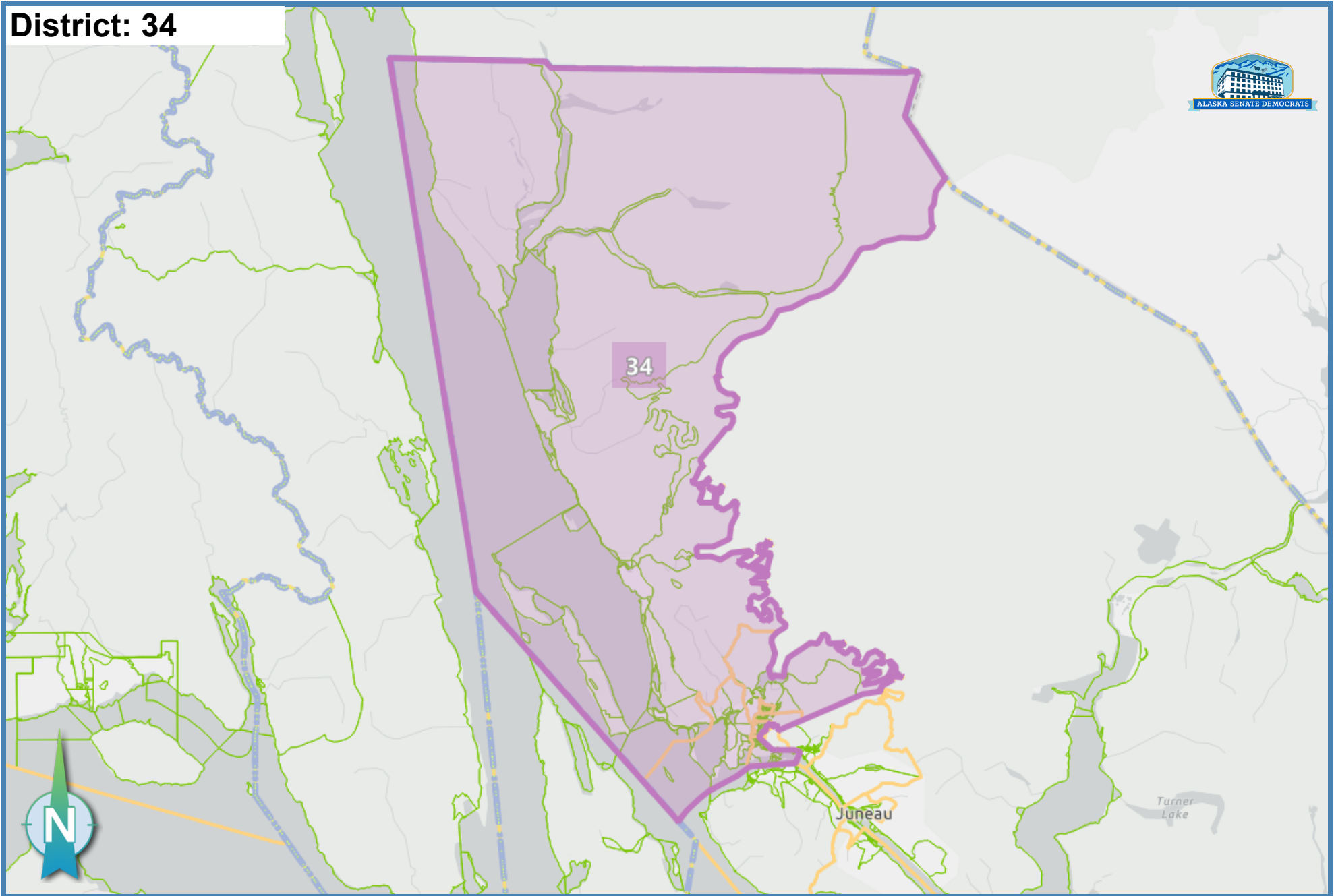
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 34



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -1.44 %

Total Population: 18,071

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

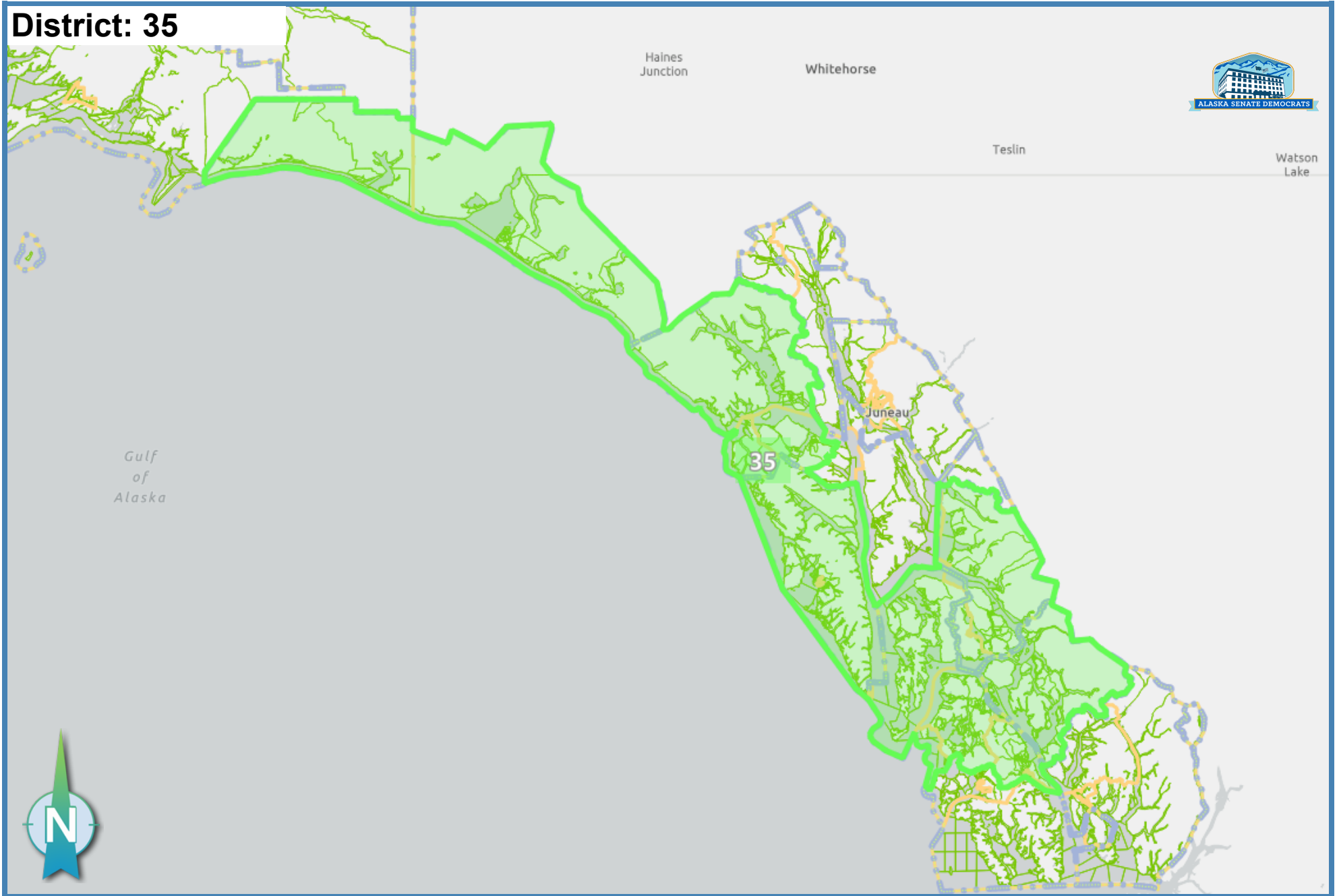
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# District: 35



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -1.44 %

Total Population: **18,071**

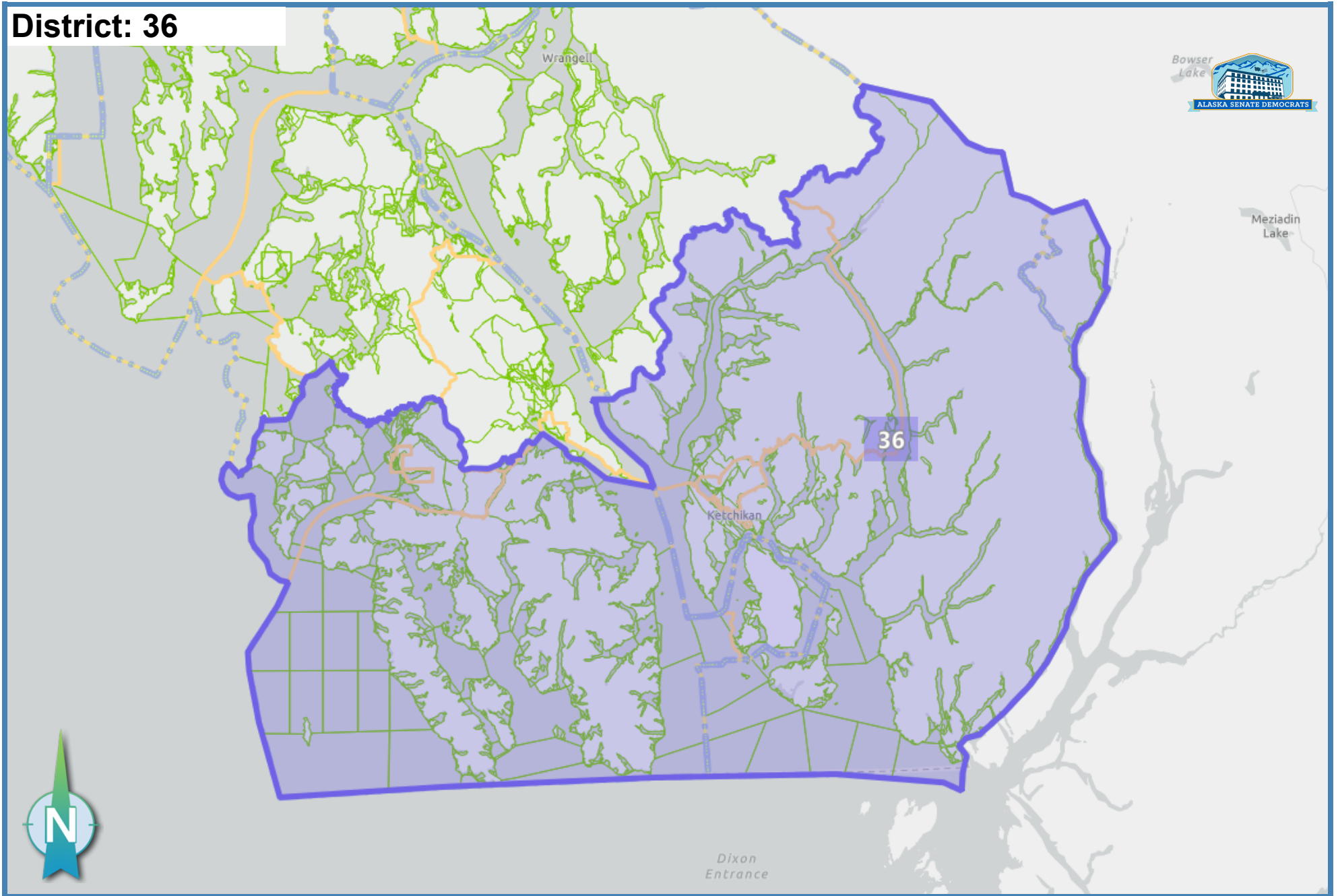
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 36



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -1.52 %

Total Population: **18,057**

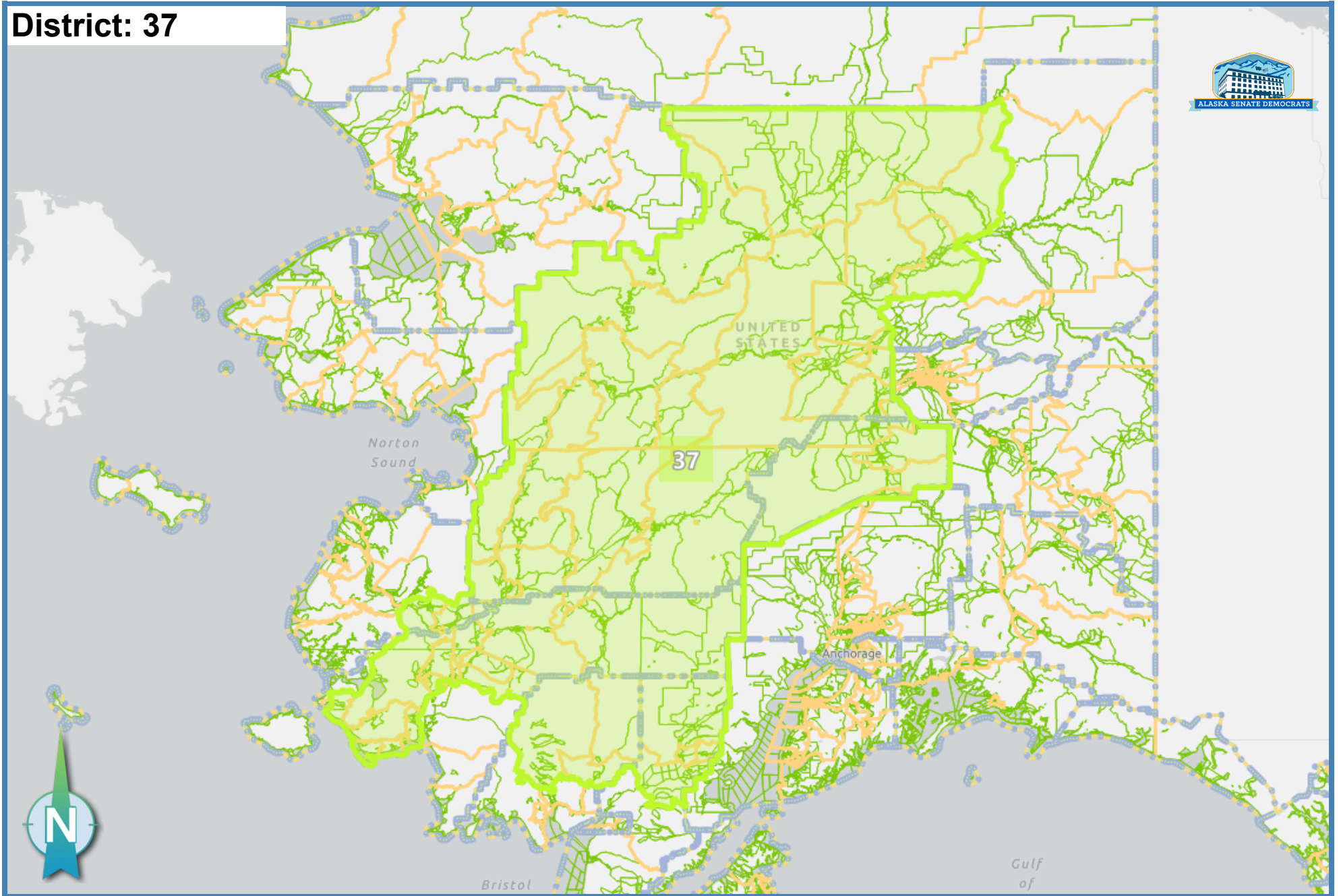
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 37



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.94 %

Total Population: 18,162

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 38



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.93 %

Total Population: **18,506**

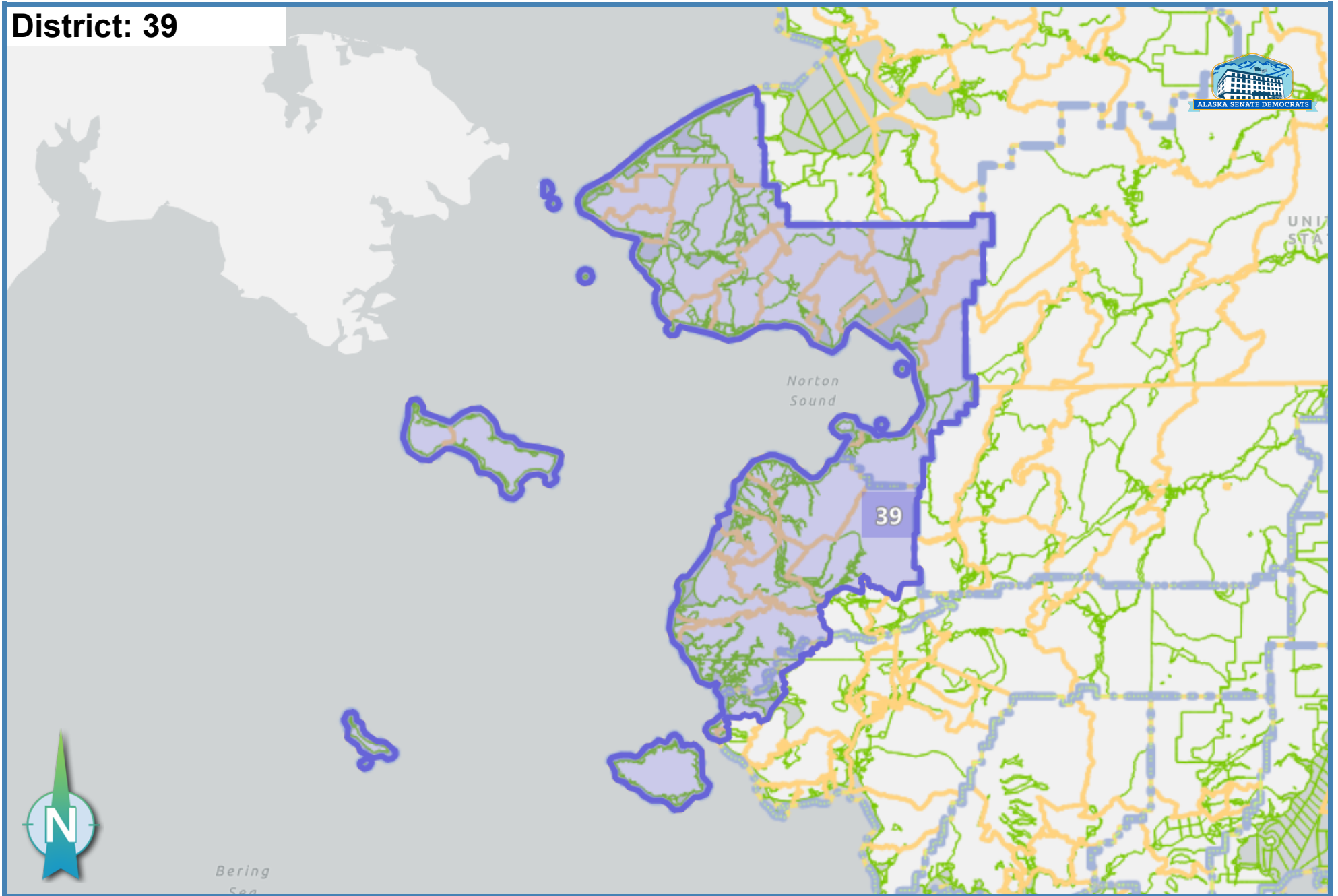
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# District: 39



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 0.70 %

Total Population: 18,463

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

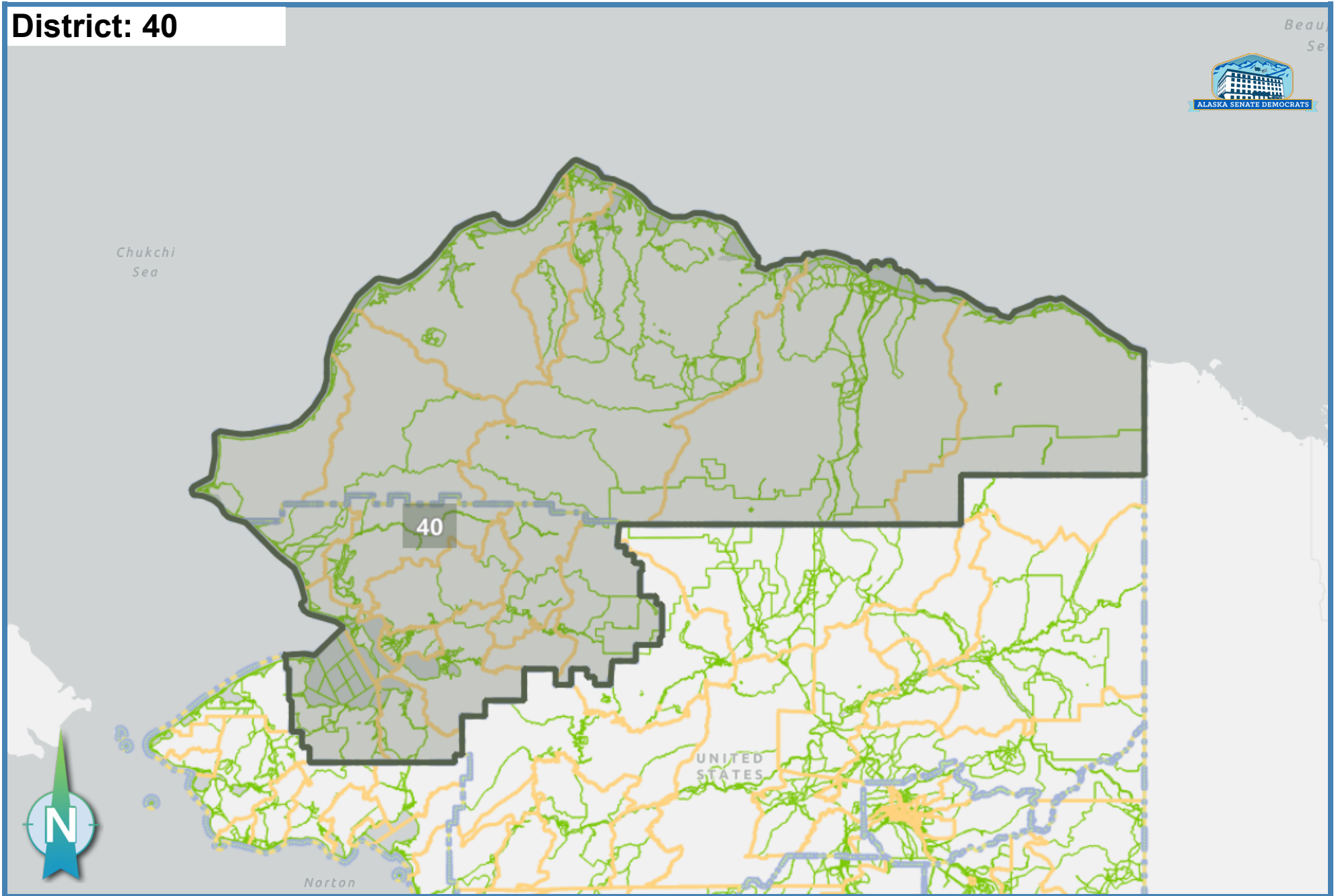
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# District: 40

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Se



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 2.67 %

Total Population: **18,824**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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**Note to the Reapportionment Board, Answering Member Borrromeo  
From Senator Tom Begich  
October 30, 2021**

Member Borrromeo,

You have asked me about my views on the constitutionality of other plans presented by the Board. In general, it appears as though the Board has accepted a prioritization of socioeconomic integration that I do not believe the Court will accept, as such an interpretation clearly conflicts with the Alaska Court's increasing focus on lower deviations between house districts in support of providing full and equal representation for all Alaska Citizens. The Board appears to have instead promoted district and overall map deviations that are unnecessarily high. Many third-party plans – and testimony before the Board – have underscored that there can be lower deviations in virtually all instances without materially sacrificing compactness, contiguity, and socioeconomic integration. Consequently, in answer to your question, the likelihood of litigation is high with Board maps 3 and 4, as they appear more focused on socioeconomic integration than on deviations. I should point out that these maps represent an improvement over Board maps 1 and 2, but likely remain unconstitutional – particularly Board Map 3, based on my reading of prior court decisions.

To reiterate, my expertise in the past has been around the area of socioeconomic integration, where I have been certified as an expert witness by the Court in the 1991 cycle. I was under contract to the state for that cycle's Board. I further was deployed as a state employee to support the work of the Governor's Office with the Board in 2001, and was privately contracted to clients and the state to offer advice on reapportionment in 2003 and 2011 – 2013.

**Response to question:**

Those prior court decisions have clearly described how socioeconomic integration is to be applied. The March 21, 2002 Supreme Court order and remand to Superior Court said:

(Section 5, footnote 2)

"In *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, [846 P.2d 38](#) (Alaska 1992), we adopted and observed the following priorities relating to redistricting:

**Priority must be given first to the Federal Constitution**, second to the federal voting rights act, and third to the requirements of article VI, section 6 of the Alaska Constitution. The requirements of article VI, section 6 shall receive priority *inter se* in the following order: (1) contiguousness and compactness, (2) relative socioeconomic integration, (3) consideration of local government boundaries, (4) use of drainage and other geographic features in describing boundaries. [emphasis added]

*Id.* at 62. We adhere to these priorities in this order."

This note clearly indicates the primacy, in the Court's eyes, of the federal Constitution in the process of redistricting over socioeconomic integration. This is why deviations matter, as they are a reflection of one person one vote (*Baker v. Carr*), a federal standard. Further, this note underscores that *inter se*, socioeconomic integration falls in consideration after contiguosness and compactness. Overemphasizing socioeconomic integration over deviations is incorrect – they each are part of a mix, but federal law remains the highest consideration. The *Hickel* process is consistent with this value. First draw the map to meet the Alaska Constitution (keeping in mind *inter se* ranking), then modify it because of federal primacy with federal considerations – deviation and, formerly, the VRA. Again, why deviations matter.

Earlier Alaska cases were more generous with deviations – even justifying substantial deviations over and above the federal standard for state legislatures first identified in *Reynolds v. Sims*, and firmly established at 10% in *Brown v. Thomson*, though those higher deviations were viewed as necessary to meet other federal considerations (VRA for example). But the Alaska Supreme Court in 2002 found that Alaska should apply a more narrow deviation standard than the federal standard to urban areas, as defined in this discussion of rejected Anchorage Districts (again, from the March 22, 2001 Order):

**“Newly available technological advances will often make it practicable to achieve deviations substantially below the ten percent federal threshold, particularly in urban areas.** Accordingly, article VI, section 6 will in many cases **be stricter than the federal threshold.** Here the board believed that deviations within ten percent in Anchorage automatically satisfied constitutional requirements; plaintiffs established that the board failed to make any attempt to further minimize the Anchorage deviations. Because, as the board's counsel conceded at oral argument, the board made no effort to reduce deviations in Anchorage below ten percent, **the burden shifted to the board to demonstrate that further minimizing the deviations would have been impracticable** in light of competing requirements imposed under either federal or state law. We conclude that the board failed to offer an acceptable justification for the Anchorage deviations. [emphasis added]

**The board considered and rejected Anchorage plans with significantly lower maximum deviations,** apparently because these plans did not respect the board's conception of neighborhood boundaries. But as we held in *Groh v. Egan*, Anchorage neighborhood patterns cannot justify "substantial disparities" in population equality across Anchorage districts. **Anchorage is by definition socio-economically integrated, and its population is sufficiently dense and evenly spread to allow multiple combinations of compact, contiguous districts with minimal population deviations.** Accordingly, the Anchorage deviations are unconstitutional, and require the board on remand to make a good faith effort to further reduce the deviations. [emphasis added]

*In re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 44 P.3d 141, 146 (Alaska 2002)



If districts can be created that have a lower deviation within a defined socioeconomic area, and Boroughs and Municipalities are by definition socioeconomically integrated areas (see: *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, [846 P.2d 38, 52](#) (Alaska 1993)), then the Board is compelled to ensure that these lower deviations are used, unless they can justify a more compelling reason for not using them.

Numerous maps meet this criteria of showing lower deviations for urban areas, The Senate Minority Caucus Map, for example has deviations under .14% for all five fully contained Fairbanks districts, all 6 Mat Su majority districts, and all 16 Anchorage Majority districts. Further, within the Kenai Borough there is minimal deviation between the three wholly contained Kenai districts, and the same is true between the four house districts in Southeast – whether overpopulated (if Cordova is included in Southeast), or underpopulated (if Cordova is not included in Southeast – see more on Cordova below).

This focus on deviation emerges from a prior understanding in *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, 846 P.2d 38, 47 (Alaska 1993), before the constitutional change in 1998, that:

“The Alaska Constitution requires districts comprising "relatively integrated" areas. Alaska Const. art. VI, § 6. Petitioners argue that the term "relatively" diminishes the degree of socio-economic integration required within an election district. We are urged to compare all proposed districts with a hypothetical completely unintegrated area, as if a district including both Quinhagak and Los Angeles had been proposed. We decline to adopt petitioners' interpretation of this provision. **"Relatively" means that we compare proposed districts to other previously existing and proposed districts as well as principal alternative districts to determine if socio-economic links are sufficient.** "Relatively" does not mean "minimally," and it does not weaken the constitutional requirement of integration.”

In the case of the current Board Maps 3 and 4, it is clear that options that meet a stricter deviation standard than those proposed by the Board can be executed while retaining respect to the Alaska standards of compactness, contiguity, and “sufficient” socioeconomic integration. Further, the Board unnecessarily reduces the proportional strength of Fairbanks in Board Map 3 by not allocating the excess population (23% of an additional district – or roughly 3,980 people) to another district or districts. Instead the Board map unnecessarily packs population in these five districts with deviations in all exceeding 4.27% at a minimum, contrary to the direction in the March 2002 Order cited above.

In support of excess population allocation, the Alaska Court in *Hickel* found that:

“The Governor's plan unfairly dilutes the proportional representation the residents of the Mat-Su Borough are guaranteed. **A municipality should not be made to contribute so much of its population to districts centered elsewhere that it is deprived of representation which is justified by its population.**” *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, 846 P.2d 38, 53 (Alaska 1993) [emphasis added]

Further the Court observed that:

“We recognize that it may be necessary to divide a borough so that its excess population is allocated to a district situated elsewhere. However, **where possible**, all of a municipality's excess population should go to one other district in order to **maximize effective representation of the excess group**. (see footnote 26 below) This result is compelled not only by the article VI, section 6 requirements, but also by the state equal protection clause which guarantees the right to proportional geographic representation. See *Kenai Peninsula Borough v. State*, [743 P.2d 1352, 1369, 1372-73](#) (Alaska 1987) (stating that a primary indication of intentional discrimination against a geographic region was a lack of adherence to established political subdivision boundaries). [emphasis added]  
*Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, 846 P.2d 38, 52 (Alaska 1993)”

Footnote 26: Dividing the municipality's excess population among a number of districts would tend to dilute the effectiveness of the votes of those in the excess population group. Their collective votes in a single district would speak with a stronger voice than if distributed among several districts.

However, this interpretation of prior Alaska Court rulings regarding placement of excess populations has been suggested as ambiguous by Board Counsel, likely based on these findings in 2002:

“The board interpreted this court's decision in *Kenai Peninsula Borough v. State* to preclude the board from pairing population from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough with the Municipality of Anchorage because both Anchorage and the borough **had sufficient excess population to "control" an additional seat.**<sup>7</sup> But *Kenai Peninsula Borough* **does not entitle political subdivisions to control a particular number of seats based upon their populations.** *Kenai Peninsula Borough* simply held that the board cannot intentionally discriminate against a borough or any other "politically salient class" of voters by invidiously minimizing that class's right to an equally effective vote. *Kenai Peninsula Borough* recognizes that when a reapportionment plan unnecessarily divides a municipality in a way that **dilutes the effective strength of municipal voters**, the plan's provisions will raise an inference of intentional discrimination. But an inference of discriminatory intent may be negated by a demonstration that the challenged aspects of a plan resulted from legitimate non-discriminatory policies such as the article VI, section 6 requirements of compactness, contiguity, and socio-economic integration. [emphasis added]  
*In re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 44 P.3d 141, 144 (Alaska 2002)

But in footnotes to that same conclusion in the 2002 Order, the Court found that:

“7. The Municipality of Anchorage has a population that would support 16.6 house seats. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough's population would support 3.8 seats. Taken collectively, these municipalities — which by any measure meet article VI, section 6's relative socio-economic integration requirement — would support 20.4 seats. But under the board's interpretation of the doctrine of proportionality, the Municipality of Anchorage is entitled to control seventeen seats and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is entitled to control four seats, for a collective total of twenty-one seats.

On remand it is likely that the board will consider whether to combine a portion of the excess population of these two municipalities to create a twentieth district. Doing so would leave a population excess of .4, and would raise the question what to do with that excess. **One answer might be to overpopulate slightly each of the twenty districts, adding about 300 people to each district, a positive deviation from the ideal of about two percent. But this choice might be seen as undesirable, especially given the relatively high growth rate of the area, and if this choice is not taken, the question will be whether the .4 excess population can be combined with a neighboring area.**

This would raise two issues. The first issue is whether this court's anti-dilution rule expressed in *Hickel*, [846 P.2d at 52](#), would permit such a combination. This rule holds that where possible the excess population of a municipality can only go to one other district. For example, in the scenario under discussion here (a joint Anchorage/Matanuska-Susitna district), the excess .4 populations of both municipalities would not fit into a single joint district, thus making it impossible to achieve literal compliance with the anti-dilution rule. **We conclude, however, that this need to accommodate excess population would be sufficient justification to depart from the anti-dilution rule.**

The second issue is whether any neighboring area that might be joined with the .4 excess population would be sufficiently integrated. Based on the briefs and oral arguments, it appears to us, under these circumstances, **that any neighboring areas north, east, or south of the combined municipalities would meet the constitutional requirement of relative socio-economic integration.** [emphasis added]

This footnote refines the Court's position. In this unique case, the excess is .4 — if you combine the excess populations of Mat Su and Anchorage in one additional district from the 2000 Census. But in 2021 we face an entirely different circumstance. Combining the excess from the Borough and the Municipality in one additional district would leave an excess of .7 — nearly an additional seat. The Board would be forced to look either north, east, or south to see that excess absorbed (note that west of these two entities is not considered an option), **but this population may be too large to be absorbed without significantly impacting integration of other boroughs or creating higher deviations.** In 2001 the court ordered the Board to “*take a hard look at options that it may have ignored based on its misinterpretation of the law.*” In *re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 44 P.3d 141, 144 (Alaska 2002) That is precisely what the Board must do. In today's instance those options have been reviewed by at least some of the third-party groups already. There is ample opportunity to fully represent the additional population of the Fairbanks, Kenai, and Mat-Su Boroughs, and the Municipality of Anchorage, retaining constitutional socioeconomic integration, meeting the contiguity and compactness standards

upheld in prior litigation, all **while maintaining low deviations**, thus meeting federal and state constitutional standards as well.

In light of third-party proposals being presented to the Board that meet the rigorous state constitutional standards, the Board is compelled to present a plan to the public that is at least equal to those that have been presented.

A couple of further notes worth considering:

***On the question of Cordova in Southeast:***

While this idea was rejected in prior courts, or not acted on by prior Board's. there is a note in the 2002 court record that opens this option to consideration:

"The Craig plaintiffs acknowledge that a district including Cordova and extending as far south as Baranof Island would be compact. But they argue that extending the district beyond Baranof Island to the southern boundary of the state violates the compactness requirement. **Although we have in the past invalidated Southeast Alaska districts that included Cordova, 4 current population figures justify Cordova's inclusion in House District 5 to prevent substantial deviations in Southeast Alaska.**" [emphasis added]  
*In re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 44 P.3d 141, 143 (Alaska 2002)

4"*Carpenter v. Hammond*, [667 P.2d 1204, 1215](#) (Alaska 1983) (holding that "inclusion of Cordova in House Election District 2" violated socio-economic integration requirement, "[a]lthough the question [was] an extremely close one")." *In re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 44 P.3d 141, 143 n.4 (Alaska 2002)

***Juneau and Southeast Deviations***

It should be noted in this discussion that Board maps 3 and 4 have substantial deviations between the 4 proposed House districts in Southeast. These are unnecessary. Other maps provided to the Board show that four roughly equal in population districts can be drawn in Southeast – whether over or underpopulated (whether with or without Cordova) without violating compactness or contiguity. Further, Board map 4 splits the Juneau Borough in a way that splits the geography of the Borough. A map that follows a more traditional break at the Fred Meyer line (this was included in much of the Juneau testimony), appears to make more rational sense. This latter point, however, is not a matter of constitutional violation.

***On the Question of Eagle River in Anchorage:***

Per all prior court findings, Eagle River/Chugiak – defined as that area North of the Glen Highway Muldoon interchange to the Knik Bridge, is a part of the socioeconomically integrated Municipality of Anchorage. Nonetheless, as identified in prior plans, there is compelling testimony that these areas should be integrated into two House districts and a single Senate district, as *Luper* contended in 2002. It would not violate the constitution to do so, nor is it compelled by the Constitution to do so, yet most maps presented to the Board do create two House districts from Eagle River/Chugiak/Peters Creek, though not all pair these two as a

Senate district. Creating such house and senate districts does not violate the State Constitution, but, as a matter of public policy, it might be compelling to combine House districts in this area in a single Senate District. This is a policy issue that the Board must decide.

***On Neighborhoods within Municipalities and other organized areas (from 2001 decision discussion by the court):***

“Anchorage neighborhood patterns cannot justify "substantial disparities" in population equality across Anchorage districts.<sup>13</sup> Anchorage is by definition socio-economically integrated, and its population is sufficiently dense and evenly spread to allow multiple combinations of compact, contiguous districts with minimal population deviations. Accordingly, the Anchorage deviations are unconstitutional, and require the board on remand to make a good faith effort to further reduce the deviations.

*In re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 44 P.3d 141, 146 (Alaska 2002)

13. In *Groh*, we considered testimony concerning patterns of housing, income levels, and minority residency. We observed:

While such patterns may form a basis for districting, they lack the necessary significance to justify the substantial disparities of 5.9, 6.5 and 8.6 percent. **In an urban area** such as Anchorage, **more mathematical exactness can be achieved than in the sparsely settled portions of the state** where pockets of culturally and economically divergent populations may be separated by geographic barriers. [emphasis added]

*In re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 44 P.3d 141, 146 n.13 (Alaska 2002)

As Judge Ridner Observed: “respect for neighborhood boundaries is an admirable goal," but "it is not constitutionally required and must give way to other legal requirements” *In re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 47 P.3d 1089, 1091 (Alaska 2002)” The Alaska Supreme Court also rejected the notions that communities within the Anchorage area are socially and economically distinct. The court held: "Anchorage is by definition socio-economically integrated and its population is sufficiently dense and evenly spread to allow multiple combinations of compact contiguous districts with minimal population deviations." *Id.* at p. 9; *see also Groh v. Egan*, [526 P.2d 863, 878-79](#) (Alaska 1974).

***Considerations in Other Maps.***

When reviewing other maps, keeping in mind the above notes, it should be noted that there are other issues to consider:

- 1) Where it can be minimized, Boroughs/Municipalities should only be broken once. This is violated in most maps on the Kenai, but this is truly due to Alaska’s unique circumstances. In instances where there are multiple breaks, they should be kept to a minimum and those that appear to cause less disruption to an overall map while not violating the State or federal constitutional criteria should be given precedence (lower deviations, relative equality of population in wholly contained districts within a

Borough; spreading of excess population to areas that are contiguous, relatively compact (though harder to achieve), and socioeconomically integrated.

There are multiple ways to keep Anchorage, Mat Su, and Fairbanks NSB from being broken more than once and, at least in the Senate Minority map, those three entities also can be situated in districts under .14% deviation. Kenai districts can be nearly equaled in population, though overrepresented on most maps. Southeast's four districts, regardless of whether they are over or underpopulated due to Cordova's placement, can also be relatively balanced.

Again, as noted above, "**...more mathematical exactness can be achieved than in the sparsely settled portions of the state** where pockets of culturally and economically divergent populations may be separated by geographic barriers. [emphasis added] *In re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 44 P.3d 141, 146 n.13 (Alaska 2002). This implicitly suggests that when "mathematical exactness" is achievable, it should have a priority. As technology advances this continues to be possible to greater and greater degrees. This has the effect of limiting opportunities to "gerrymander", a compelling reason for adoption of ever-stricter standards over the decades.

- 2) The Alaska Court has ruled that Delta Junction, and by extension other parts of the Unorganized Borough can be divided.

"The trial court correctly concluded that the **Delta Junction area has no constitutional right to be placed in a single house district. Dividing the area does not violate the constitutional requirement that districts be socio-economically integrated so long as each portion is integrated, as nearly as practicable, with the district in which it is placed.** Further, **dividing an unorganized area** such as the Delta Junction area **does not**, without more, **constitute sufficient evidence of an equal protection violation such that the board must justify its action.** Nevertheless, because this order requires reconsideration of the districts encompassing this area, on remand the board should take a hard look at alternatives, including constitutional alternatives that preserve socio-economically integrated areas." [emphasis added]  
*In re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 44 P.3d 141, 144-45 (Alaska 2002)

- 3) Saxman is part of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and should not be removed from it arbitrarily:

"Saxman, part of the Borough, is more socio-economically integrated with the City of Ketchikan than it is with other Native communities of the Southeast islands." *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, 846 P.2d 38, 51 (Alaska 1993")

- 4) Valdez submitted a matrix with its map that only included 4 House Districts for Fairbanks, instead of 5. This is a mistake and likely means their very well laid out map is

flawed. We provided a “Valdez-Cordova” option to show you how this more likely would look if constitutional principles were applied. We do not recommend this approach.

- 5) While some maps, after this process, may have lower deviations than others, the process for how you arrived at those higher deviations is what matters. In describing the maps created by the Senate Minority Caucus, and our process, we have emphasized that we started with a *Hickel* process, adjusted to lower deviations taking into account federal law (deviation), then adjusted based on testimony and the Board’s deliberative efforts. This raises the overall deviation, but creates a record for the Court to review to see that it was a systematic, rational, and explained process. That is how you avoid protracted legal action.

I hope this has answered your question sufficiently. If you have further questions, I am available to assist.

Tom Begich  
State Senate Minority Leader for the Senate Minority Caucus

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**From:** Elizabeth Senear <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 5:05 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 1, 2021, 5:05 pm

First Name: **Elizabeth**

Last Name: **Senear**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99574**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **2021 Redistricting**

Public Comment: **I am primarily concerned with Cordova remaining in a district with other south central coastal communities that share the same concerns regarding the fishing industry, the maritime industry and the ferry system. To this end, I want to see Cordova remain in the same district as Kodiak. This seems to be the only solution to keeping Cordova with like-minded communities and meeting the 18,000 person goal. The Doyon, AFFER and Senate Minority maps all include Cordova with interior communities and sever it from most of the other coastal communities. This would leave us as a small population in a district with very different economies, concerns than ours. The AFFR, v and v4 maps all accomplish this. There are slight differences between the maps in which other communities are included. I don't have a strong feeling of the best one among those alternatives and feel it is partly up to the other communities that would in/out.**



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**From:** Claire Shaw <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 3:41 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 4, 2021, 3:40 pm

First Name: **Claire**

Last Name: **Shaw**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **East Anchorage redistricting proposal**

Public Comment: **I am writing to ask that you reject a last-minute attempt by Board Member Marcum to gerrymander East Anchorage into Eagle River. Her proposal is clearly driven by partisanship, specifically an attempt to target Senator Wielechowski and either Representative Snyder or Spohnholz, who are put into the same district. She also draws these lines to create a safe Republican district.**

**None of these partisan goals are acceptable. There are better, more Constitutional maps for the Eagle River/East Anchorage boundary, including maps previously submitted by the Senate Minority and AFFR, and the map presented by Board Member Nicole Borromeo.**

**I urge you to establish district lines based on Constitutional criteria, not partisan gamesmanship.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: Karen Shemet

**Karen Shemet, an East End Road (6 mile) Homer resident, asked for the community to remain in its current district and not be redistricted with Kodiak. Karen is in agreement with Poppy Dunson (sp?) especially concerning the Russian Old Believers villages and their affiliation with Nikolaevich and keeping East End Road part of Homer and not part of Kodiak. It makes no sense to district East End Road with Kodiak.**

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**From:** Hal Shepherd [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 1:01 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Kenai Peninsula Redistricting Proposal

In my haste to get these comments off my long list of legitimate projects I have to deal with on a daily basis, I forgot to add our name and address to the last e-mail. Please, disregard the last comments sent in on this topic under the same e-mail address and use these comments instead. Thank you.

**Hal Shepherd**

### **Redistricting Comments**

[xiwxq sr}D eovihmxxmp&svk](#)

The redistricting represents nothing more than another attempt by the state republican party to draw the lines to make sure progressive candidates cannot get elected or require progressive candidates to run against each other or eliminate districts that are traditionally progressive strongholds. My specific comments are as follows:

**I. The Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) is the only map that respects the**

**natural socio-economic connections within the Kenai Peninsula for the following reasons:**

- 1) Homer and Seward belong in the same district, because their economies are focused on fishing and tourism in Kachemak and Resurrection Bays which are unique in the region;
- 2) Kenai and Nikiski belong in the same district, because Kenai is the economic hub for the Kenai Spur Highway communities;
- 3) Soldotna, Kasilof, Ninilchik, and Clam Gulch belong in the same district because Soldotna is the economic hub for the south Sterling Highway communities

**II. AFFR is the only map that keeps all the communities of Kachemak Bay in the same district for the following reasons:**

- 1) Seldovia and Halibut Cove have strong socio-economic ties to Homer with water taxi services allowing for daily commutes between these communities;
- 2) Both board options put Fritz Creek, the Russian Old Believer villages, Seldovia and Halibut Cove in a different district from Homer. Fritz Creek where we live is included in this group for the ridiculous reason that these villages would be more accustomed to the historic Russian Colonies. Fritz Creek, however, contains a much larger percentage of residents who have no connection to such colonialization or, for that matter Russian ancestry;
- 3) AFFER (the Republican sponsored map) actually divides in several different districts Seldovia by putting the portions of Seldovia outside of the city limits in a different district.

**II. AFFR is the only map that keeps the whole Gulf Coast region in a single Senate**


**district for the following reasons:**

- 1) Both board options put Whittier in an Anchorage district, separating it from other Gulf Coast communities;
- 2) AFFR is the only map that puts the entire Alaska Peninsula in the same district;
- 3) By pairing the greater Gulf Coast district with a Homer/Seward district, AFFR forms a united Gulf Coast Senate district.

**CONCLUSION**

It's appalling that we as private citizens have to take time out of our busy schedules to comment on politically motivated redistricting measures that should never have been initiated in the first place. The ridiculous justifications provided by the Redistricting Board and the Alaska Republican party illustrates that their proposals are nothing more than an effort to ensure that progressive candidates to state and local offices do not get elected. The Board should, therefore, consider it's duty to uphold democracy and eliminate this entire redistricting effort or if it must move forward with this process, adopt the Americans for Fair Redistricting proposal in it's entirety.

Hal & Jessica Shepherd

  
Fritz Creek, AK 99603

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**From:** Sue Sherif <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 1:42 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 1:42 pm

First Name: **Sue**

Last Name: **Sherif**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99708**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Fairbanks Maps Under Current Consideration**

Public Comment: **1. I find it very frustrating that the changed Fairbanks districts don't seem to be posted online the day after their consideration. The versions via Zoom were pretty illegible.**

**2. Chairman Binkley said that no one has testified from the Fairbanks area asking that Fairbanks districts be fairly populated and offering their area to be included in another district. Well, I am the first evidently. I live off Chena Hot Springs Road and have been in District 6 in the current system. While this has not been ideal, I believe our area is a better match to a rural district than lopping Goldstream off the Fairbanks map. This decision grossly misconstrues the Fairbanks North Star Borough's resolution, which has been referred to as a rationale for separating the Goldstream valley from its more natural grouping with a connection to the University/Western part of the borough.**

**I am relieved that the board has listened to the Fairbanks testimony to not overpopulate our districts out of all proportion to the all of the other districts in the state, but the Board's solution to ignore all the testimony of the east-west orientation of our community is surprising and disappointing. There needs to be a better rationale than attributing this decision to the FNSB assembly's resolution.**

**I am listening to other Fairbankans who are testifying about their frustration in not being able to see a posted and legible version of the map that you are co nsidering. It is good that you were able to post the Anchorage map versions that were just discussed, but where are the maps of Fairbanks yesterday? How can Fairbankans give reasonable public comment if they cannot see the latest versions of the maps?**

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**From:** Steve Shreiber <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 4:47 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 4:47 pm

First Name: **Steve**

Last Name: **Shreiber**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99503**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Idea # 3**


Public Comment: **This redistricting cuts across Native Corporations and Municipalities. They need to be separated and redrawn.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 5, 2021, 1:17 pm

Name: **Yarrow Silvers**  
Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Best map 3 and 4**

Public Comment: **I am here today to advocate for the Best map 4 working map which is both more compact and better respects socio-economic boundaries as well as preserves the voices of racially diverse communities in East Anchorage. I find it concerning that the necessity of analyzing best map 3 for Voting Rights Act violations was brought up yesterday and yet this map was still on the table until this morning and is now being quickly changed, particularly when there is another option, map 4, that is so much more constitutionally sound.**

**Map 4 best has excellent deviations, is more compact with lots of straight lines and nearly rectangular shaped districts, respects natural socio-economic boundaries, takes into account public testimony, and is unlikely to run afoul of the VRA.**

**In fact, I can see no reason to use best map 3, except possibly to gerrymander East Anchorage's, as well as other areas of Anchorage's, voices away. With East Anchorage sliced and diced between JBER and South Anchorage, it is a very effective map if dilution of East Anchorage's votes is the goal. However, our Alaska State Constitution clearly calls for a non-partisan process that disallows partisan gerrymandering.**

**Although the map has been hurriedly adjusted this morning, much of Anchorage is still chopped up, districts have been created that look like snakes, and natural socio-economic boundaries are not respected. My district in particular, which is #20 in best map 3, remains chunked up strangely with part of it around the Muldoon curve in a South Anchorage district that requires driving through 4 other districts to get to. Why is this population not moved through these districts so that contiguous populations are in a district together?**

**To say that there is no other option or that this is the best option does not ring true, feels disingenuous and raises many questions for me. While there has been a lot of talk of one person one vote concerns, this feels transparently false in respect to best map 3 because diluting the votes of certain populations does not fit in with the concept of one person one vote. Best Map 3 does not honor one person one vote.**

**Thank you for hearing my comments and I request that the board recognizes that best map 4 is the more thoughtful, constitutionally sound, and appropriate of the 2, and please choose this one. Thank you.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: Christopher Simon

Christopher spoke in favor of the Doyon Coalition map because the Koyukuk River villages have been unfairly split for several years and as a result they are marginalized in the political process. They have some villages on the northern district and some villages are on the Koyukuk River on the northwest district; they are an afterthought to many of the issues. They would like their own representative from their region to represent their interests and values. They have earned the right to remain together. They do not split up other regions, but it has always seemed okay to split up the interior region; this is not okay. Christopher strongly supports to keep the interior villages within one district. It is unfair to do otherwise.



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: Robin Smith

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Robin Smith lives in South Anchorage and focused on how the board should recognize Alaska's growing diversity, but first wanted to reflect on how the AFFR map is the best for her neighborhood in Southwest Anchorage. The AFFR map is the only map that keeps the Southwest Anchorage area united into a single senate seat and creates two compact house seats based on the logical neighborhood connections. The map creates one Southwest Anchorage district centered around neighborhoods like Delong Lake, Jewel Lake, Sand Lake, etc. that form a unique socio-economic group. The second Southwest Anchorage district connects Bayshore, Southport, and Oceanview which are also very socio-economically connected.

The new data from the 2020 Census reveals that diversity in Alaska has grown with 41% of the state's population identifying as race or ethnicity other than White. This is up substantially from 2010 when only 33% of the race identified as such. Sociologist, Chad Ferrell, at UAA found that Alaska's 3 most diverse neighborhoods are in Anchorage, with Mountain View at the top of the list. According to the US Census Bureau, Anchorage is about 68% White, 12.6% Asian, 4.6% Native American or Pacific Islander, 14.8% Native and 6.7% Latino and 7.7% Black and 7.7% other race. In our public schools in Anchorage, over 100 different languages are spoken. East, Bartlett, and West are 3 of the most diverse high schools in the nation. Unfortunately, we don't see this diversity in the legislature. As one of the most diverse districts in the nation, it is only fair that our districts should reflect that diversity. AFFR's map could help Alaska achieve that representation. The AFFR map respects the distinct and diverse communities in East Anchorage/Mountain View areas. Diversity of these areas should be respected and grouped with only the portions of JBER that utilize the services of their neighborhoods. The districts also respects the community council areas. Board Maps v.3 and v.4 divide the communities of Downtown, Fairview, and Mountain View. In the Anchorage bowl, there are 16 contiguous majority/minority census tracts with 66,594 total population. The Voting Rights Act requires creating as many majority/minority districts within these tracts as possible. These multiple minority coalition districts would represent residents whose interests are more aligned than with white residents. Not only is the AFFR Map the only constitutional map, but also best reflects the diversity present in urban neighborhoods. It would encourage leaders from these diverse communities to run for office and represent their neighborhoods' distinct needs.

To show the consequences of redistricting that doesn't consider unique socio-economic communities, this example was provided: Senator Bettye Davis was the first African American to serve in the Alaska State Legislature, representing East Anchorage for 12 years. She received many accolades including the recently named East Anchorage High School change. She remained the only African American during her entire tenure. She lost her 4th election bid primarily due to redistricting changes after the 2010 census. It placed a large portion of Eagle River into her district in Anchorage proper. She lost, and we lost, that African American perspective from the legislature. Respecting multiple minority coalition districts would allow the intent of the Voting Rights Act in protecting minority representation. Robin urged the board to support the AFFR map particularly in the Anchorage area.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

**From:** David Song [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 12:25 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Adopt Map v4!

It is more compact, received VRA vetting, and had extensive public testing, whereas the new version of Map 4 was only introduced this morning and has major changes.

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**From:** David Song [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 10:52 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Testimony

Anchorage's growing diversity is one of Anchorage's defining socio-economic features. The Municipality of Anchorage's minority population is now 43.5%. In the Anchorage Bowl there are 16 contiguous majority-minority census tracts with 66,594 total population, including the most diverse neighborhoods in the country. The maximum number of districts should be drawn to allow these diverse neighborhoods to elect their preferred candidate. Majority-minority census tracts are made up of multiple groups of racial minority groups, who have more in common with one another as communities of interest as racial minorities than they do with non-racial minority populations around them. To split these majority-minority census tracts up is to dilute their ability and their right to have districts that represent their unique make-up.

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **John Sonin**

**John Sonin expressed concern with redistricting efforts that pit both Juneau representatives against each other. Fair maps must be drawn and representation in Juneau must be maintained.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 2, 2021, 1:44 pm

Name: **Cindy Spanyers**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99801**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Mendenhall Valley/Juneau area**

Public Comment: **Dear Board Members:**

**Thank you for making Juneau one of your first stops when conducting the public hearings earlier this fall. Like many Juneau residents, I was relieved the board may have made a mistake by pulling our representative from House District 34 and a few of her neighbors into another district altogether and pitting her against an incumbent. I understand that issue will be rectified in the final redistricting plan.**

**However, I remain concerned about two of the other plans submitted.**

**I object to the AFFER plan which splinters Mendenhall Valley apart. This cohesive area sits between natural geographical boundaries which lends itself into cohesive neighborhoods where residents work, attend schools, shop, and worship. As a resident who lives "out the road" past Auke Bay, I am dismayed the AFFER plan and the Marcum plan cut my neighborhood off from the Mendenhall Valley and all of Juneau and places us north with Skagway and Haines, neither of which are on the road system. Our livelihoods are completely secured with the Juneau area: these plans sever us completely.**

**I respectfully ask you to support the AFFR plan which maintains the integrity of Mendenhall Valley and supports those of us living past Auke Bay to be able to connect with our neighbors, work locations, and schools - and, hopefully, our representative.**

**Thank you.**

**Cindy Spanyers**

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**From:** Margaret Spears <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:36 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 4, 2021, 9:36 pm

First Name: **Margaret**

Last Name: **Spears**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **East Anchorage Redistricting Plan**

Public Comment: **Iâ€™d like to voice my support for Nicole Borromeoâ€™s updated redistricting map. I have lived in East Anchorage for nearly 30 years and have always loved and appreciated the vast diversity within this area of town. We are very different than South Anchorage and Eagle River, and Bethany Marcumâ€™s updated redistricting map is very obviously an attempt to gerrymander and dilute the voice of myself and my community in East Anchorage. East Anchorage has as much in common with South Side as we do with Downtown (which is almost nothing). We are geographically, socioeconomically, and culturally very different and distinct from Eagle River and South Anchorage, and the collective voice of East Anchorage should not be divided for any political gain. This attempt does not go unnoticed and Iâ€™m sure is not appreciated by myself and my community.**

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**From:** Margaret Spears <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 12:37 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 12:36 pm

First Name: **Margaret**

Last Name: **Spears**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **East Anchorage Redistricting**

Public Comment: **Iâ€™d again like to voice my disappointment with the newly-updated redistricting map proposed by Bethany Marcum. Locations within the Anchorage bowl (specifically East Anchorage, where I have lived for nearly 30 years) have little in common geographically, socioeconomically, and culturally with Eagle River. Similarly, areas along the Tudor/Muldoon curve are drastically different than South Anchorage, and the same goes for Nunaka Valley and Mountain View. The vast differences in these areas makes it seem silly to lump them together, which leads me to believe itâ€™s a continued attempt to dilute the voices of such a diverse area of town. East Anchorage is itâ€™s own area, and dividing it to combine sections with other areas that are distinctively different makes no sense.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: James Squyres

James spoke in favor of Board Map v.4 and the AFFR maps are superior as they both embrace elements of his previous testimonies on 8/24 and 9/17 on the socio-economic integration from Eielson AFB. There are socio-economic ties due to the recent accident on the Richardson Highway with a convoy that goes between Eielson and Greeley. This backed up traffic in both directions, comprised of Alaskans traveling within the area. There are missiles in the ground in Greeley. Along with the F-35's in Eielson, this is a natural grouping. An issue to be resolved is addressing the constitutional requirements (contiguous, compact, and socio-economically integrated). He has heard testimonies that finetuning has taken place in Anchorage districts over the issue of relatively socio-economically integrated areas. He has also heard testimonies about the great rural "horseshoe" of Alaska being problematic.

Combining the road system of Delta, Deltana, in missile defense, with Holy Cross, Koyukuk, and Hughes is not a socio-economic tie nor is it compact. This board can do better. Article 6, Section 6 indicates that drainage and geographic features shall be apart of the redistricting process. However, when the highway was left behind for the river system at Coldbrook, they went into another world that deserves a different type of representation at the legislature. At his last testimony, James submitted a map that he would like the board to consider. Besides combining similar interests on the road system up to Eielson, it also reaches up to Denali Borough to similar Alaskans and includes Clear Air Force Station. This inclusion of Clear/Anderson moves the needle on socio-economic integration and addresses compactness. James is aware that the board is directed to use census numbers, but there is a discretion on being above or below the exact divisor. The RAA area has more PFD applications (over 200) than is shown in the census count, and there are a number of reasons due to a spread out area and people protecting their privacy, but that is no reason why they should not be represented in the legislature.

Boundary lines should be drawn through wilderness in the back of subdivisions, not down streets and highways. If you can see different campaign signs on different sides of the road, this is a sign that socio-economic integration may need to be looked at closer. Delta/Deltana being in the same district as Holy Cross down the Yukon is a significant red flag that should be looked at again.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Sherry Stead**

**Sherry Stead is against the redistricting of Fritz Creek to Kodiak because Fritz Creek is only connected to Homer through one road. Everyone must go through Homer to go anywhere else. Also, Fritz Creek residents grocery shop, access their mailboxes, and attend school in Homer. They are one community connected by one road. She asked that Fritz Creek remain in the same district with Homer. They have nothing in common with Kodiak.**



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**From:** Jean Strong <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 2:06 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

I've been looking at this very confusing map thing. I live in Chugiak and I think you guys should put Eagle River with East Anchorage. It's only 15 minutes from Eagle River to the Elmendorf main gate and since lots of military families live in both areas I think they belong together. Those of us in Eagle River and points north try to shop in East Anchorage because it's closer. Also we are more likely to share the same values and vote the same way. Makes sense. Dooooo iiiiiitttt!!

Jean Strong  
Chugiak

[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Wasilla 10/26/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: Jesse Sumner

Email or Phone Contact: 

Jesse spoke in favor of the AFFER map as both have the Mat-Su Borough as a compact, self-enclosed, socio-economically integrated group. It is also okay to include the Denali Borough with the Mat-Su Borough as there are shared economic interests. The Mat-Su Borough Assembly, City of Palmer, and City of Wasilla have all supported a 6 district Mat-Su Borough map. There's no reason that the borough should split its district with Anchorage or Valdez as there are no shared socio-economic interests. Any excursion out should include the entirety of the Denali Borough or potentially Glennallen.

The valley deserves their own representation. If the Denali Borough is included and the population is spread over the entire borough, that results in a less than 1% deviation. Growth should also be considered. If there is a deviation, there should be an underpopulation because of growth.

There should be 6 representatives that represent the Mat-Su Borough in large part. The Mat-Su Borough has the population for 5.84 seats, so the borough should have the majority representation in 6 seats. There is no way to break this.

---

**From:** Arthur J. Sutton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:15 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Goldstream is Fairbanks

To whom it may concern;

Goldstream is a Fairbanks community, located just north and west of the University of Fairbanks. Some might even say we are part of UAF. Many UAF students, faculty, and staff even live in Goldstream in part because of its close proximity to the University.

Goldstream needs to stay apart of a Fairbanks district, not lumped in with rural areas or areas along the Richardson or Alcan highways.

Thank you for your consideration.

Arthur (AJ) Sutton  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:51 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** redistrict maps

The potential redistricting maps published in the newspaper are replete with signs of gerrymandering. The lines appear to be drawn so that incumbents no longer live in the districts they currently represent, excluded by very narrow margins, perhaps one street or block. In several cases, the new lines would pit two incumbents against each other in the election. Most of those so affected seem to be the liberal candidates. And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Even that much evidence of potential election tampering calls for the current maps to be scrapped and redrawn as close to existing lines as possible, by a new committee that is absolutely nonpartisan. OUTRAGEOUS!

Kathleen Swick  
Anchorage voter

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Palmer 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: October 31, 2021

Name: Jim Sykes

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: **Jim Sykes expressed support for maps that stay within the boundaries of the Matsu Borough to provide 3 senators and 6 representatives. It is extremely important that all of the communities on the east side of the Matanuska River be re-combined into one legislative district in order to meet constitutional requirements for compactness, economic and residential continuity.**

**In the previous redistricting cycle, continuous communities were cut from South Knik River, Butte and Lazy Mountain into 3 pieces. Unbelievably about 120 voters were hacked off the north end of Lazy Mountain and shoveled into House District 9 with Whittier, Valdez, Glennallen, Delta, and to communities across the Matanuska River to the west and north. If they wanted to vote at the polls, they had to drive right by the usual polling place on Lazy Mountain and then another 7 or 8 miles to Farm Loop.**

**Lazy Mountain was cut once again at Smith Road that divided House District 11 from 12. People in this section of Lazy mountain were added to large numbers of Palmer residents west of the Matanuska River-leaving roughly 1,000 voters east of the river in District 11. Travelling south, Butte and South Knik River were joined to Chugiak in the Municipality of Anchorage and out to southwest Matsu to Fairview in District 12. The east river residents in District 12 number about 3,000. Bottom line, the East River communities need to be kept whole and within one legislative district in the Mat-Su Borough. It looks like at least 3 maps accomplish this.**

**Jim visited South Knik River Community Council last Thursday where the maps were discussed. When people learned one of these might attach them all the way to Anchorage, the reaction was loud and disapproving. Jim asked for the board to restore the communities on the east side of the Matanuska River and south side of the Knik River into one that sticks to the the constitutional requirements for compactness, economic and residential continuity.**

**Jim also asked for the board to ensure that Mat-Su is fairly allocated six house seats and three senate seats within its borders, or very close to it.**

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**From:** Mary Szatkowski <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 10:57 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 10:57 pm

First Name: **Mary**

Last Name: **Szatkowski**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Goldsteam Valley redistricting to unit 36**

Public Comment: **Hello,**

**I am confused on the redistricting of Goldsteam Valley, a very populated part of the Fairbanks metropolitan area, being lumped in unit 36 on the Final redistricting map. The rest of this area is quite rural, while Goldsteam is really experienced as an extension of the Fairbanks city. The socioeconomic needs of Goldsteam are very different than that of Tok, Glenallen, or the other communities in Unit 36. In redistricting versions 3 and 4 Goldsteam is more appropriately sectioned with similar areas that surround Fairbanks - with Ester in one and with Two Rivers in the other. I am confused what happened to those ideas when moving to the final redraw. Please consider not grouping Goldsteam in Unit 36 with it being such a geographically large and socioeconomically diverse unit in the current final redraw.**

**Thanks**

**Mary**

---

**From:** Michael Szidloski [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 10:10 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Alaska 2021 redistricting maps

I support Nicole's map over any of the others presented by the committee. The other maps are so egregious in their attempts to hit the right number that they lump disparate communities together in a blatantly transparent attempt to shift political positions in the state. In a prior email I decried the involvement of Randy Ruerdich in the process and the response from this board was to distance themselves from them. However, yesterday's live stream had multiple committee members providing shout outs to Mr. Ruerdich, and this does \*nothing\* to engender confidence in this committee's findings. Additionally the other maps are \*still\* blatantly partisan and will only lead to pointless lawsuits. Unless the goal is to push through something blatantly partisan with the hopes that the courts move too slowly and thus affect the 2022 elections. Again, the people of the state of Alaska are watching. Earn our trust back, be fair, be above board, and LISTEN to the populace. The maps lumping Eagle River and East Anchorage are travesty, as much as the maps lumping Goldstream with Delta Junction and Tok are. Listen to the community of Valdez for who they want to be represented by. The more you don't, the more destructive you are as a body to the idea of democracy in Alaska.

--

One day posterity will remember, this strange era, these strange times, when ordinary common honesty was called courage. -- Yevgeny Yevtushenko

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**From:** Caroline Tautz Hutto [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:19 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Fairbanks and goldstream valley redistrict

To all,

I am extremely disappointed with the proposal for redistricting in regards to Goldstream Valley and Fairbanks. Combining Goldstream Valley with the areas of Delta and Tok seems like a gerrymandering for specific political parties and election fraud. Keeping communities close to Fairbanks within voting rights within those communities and not influenced by communities outside of those areas that could significantly create different outcomes for communities that don't even have interaction with one another on a regular basis is not only wrong but illegal based on current board guidelines and legislation. If this districting plan goes through you can expect a lawsuit from the community.



---

**From:** Stephanie Taylor [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 9:01 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting

For fairness and balance, I support the AFFER map for Muldoon/Eagle River. Combining Eagle River's Hiland Precinct and most of Chugach Park #2 Precinct with Muldoon in the Redistricting Map would be a much more balanced approach than the other maps.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Taylor  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99504

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: Leslie Teders

Leslie lives in the Chena Pump area and has seen many changes due to redistricting before, some of which were difficult for her to understand. Because she is retired, she has reviewed all maps carefully and does not agree with Board Map v.3 and v.4 as it seems the deviations are very high. She prefers the AFFR map as it seems to be less divisive among communities with less population differences. It is also helpful for North Pole to maintain their own area as many maps divide North Pole in the middle. She does not agree that her community has anything in common with other communities that show on the maps. She has more in common with people who live on the other side of Chena Ridge. Cutting up the community areas and districts and putting them in direct conflict is not right. Please reconsider the maps and look at the AFFR map as it covers the population requirements.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Darla Theisen**

**Darla does not support Board Map v.3 as it does not make sense to put North Pole with Fairbanks. These communities are very different. Darla also does not support grouping Delta with Koyukuk. People in Eielson and Salcha do most of their shopping in Fairbanks and North Pole, not in Delta, but she does understand the connection between Eielson and Ft. Greeley.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Kenai-Soldotna 10/14/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: Kathryn Thomas

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Kathryn Thomas, South Soldotna resident, is a business owner who has served on local and state boards. Kathryn looks at Alaska and the Kenai Peninsula's economic issues. She believes the access to elected representatives is important to inform and educate representatives on key issues impacting residents' lives and businesses. She would like to see the Kenai Peninsula intact or, at a minimum, any portion separated in the redistricting plan should have common economic ground to provide good representation.

Kathryn spoke in favor of the AFFER map in terms of the Kenai Peninsula. She is not 100% happy with the map, but prefers it over the others and it provides the opportunity for each district to provide its own voice of representation. The plan provides for good commonality in each proposed district.

The largest controversy is District 32-P in the Nikiski area; this is not ideal, but the area is economically driven by oil and gas and this area being included with the small district in Anchorage should be beneficial.

Kathryn mentioned that her business customers are mostly from Nikiski, but her vote was with Homer and this is a large difference.

---

**From:** Hans Thompson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:18 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Public Testimony

The Marcum map puts the area seems to me to have unnecessarily stretched districts when it could have districts be more centrally located and represent areas that have more homologous local interests. Namely, stretching district 17 from downtown to the airport and combining muldoon and eagle river.

--

Hans Thompson  
[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Wasilla 10/26/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: Loy Thurman

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Loy Thurman noted that the valley is the largest growing area in the state so the community should be enlarged. He would be inclined to keep Valdez, but that would be put the population up too high to about 4,000. Glennallen may be reluctant to be combined with the valley, but their residents shop in the valley and are socio-economically integrated in the valley.

Some of the maps bring the valley all the way up to Anderson and Clear and those are parts of Fairbanks; this does not make any sense as this is geographically too far away. Even though the Alaska Supreme Court has had some rulings in the past, covering a large land mass from Anderson to the valley still does not make sense.

A factor to consider is that the valley is the largest growing area and will continue to grow over the next 10 years, whereas more rural areas will be decreasing in size.

The last point is about the Meadow Lakes area. It is constantly being divided and chopped up and Loy would like to see them stay together. This is to the north of Parks Highway , up Church Road to the Little Su and then west to the top of Houston.

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

**Name: Clara Ticket**

**Clara is opposed to moving Buckland and Deering to District 39. Both locations are part of the NANA region (District 40) and their main hub is in Kotzebue where they receive healthcare.**

---

**From:** Erin Tilly [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:46 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Do NOT redistrict Goldstream into Delta/Tok

Absolutely not. There is literally no reason at all, be it geographic, economic, or cartographic that Goldstream be lumped in with Tok/Delta. What there IS however, is a blatant attempt with this proposed map at gerrymandering to attempt to influence the outcome of upcoming elections. Knock it off, IMMEDIATELY.

Erin Tilly  
Lifetime Goldstream resident  
Active voter



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: **Mimi Tolva**

**Mimi lives in Kachemak Bay out east End Road. Mimi read that there is a proposed plan for the Kachemak Bay to be districted with Kodiak and spoke in opposition of this proposal because everyone in Kachemak Bay does business in Homer, not Kodiak. Mimi strongly urged the board to not district her community with Kodiak.**

---

**From:** Lois Turinsky [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:49 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** redistricting

Hello,

As an Anchorage resident for over 76 years I would like to testify to having Eagle River stand alone OR even better, be joined with East Anchorage, makes sense for many reasons. Please give this serious consideration.

Also consider putting downtown with Mt. View. They are joined by location already.

Thank You!

Sincerely,  
Lois B. Turinsky  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage

---

## Turnagain Community Council

c/o TCC Vice President & Acting President Cathy L. Gleason  
tccpresident@yahoo.com - 907-248-0442

November 1, 2021

(sent via email)

### **RE: Draft Alaska Redistricting Proposals, Map Version 3 & Map Version 4**

Alaska Redistricting Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the 10-year Alaska Redistricting Mapping Options now out for public comment. I am currently serving as Vice President/Acting President (and Past President) of Turnagain Community Council (TCC), an all-volunteer neighborhood group in West Anchorage.

Currently, a small portion in the northeast area of the TCC boundaries in Anchorage is within Rep. Harriet Drummond's District (District 18) — with the majority of our neighborhood and council boundaries — including a portion of Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (TSAIA) represented by Rep. Matt Claman (District 21). This has served our community council well to-date, but in both draft Map Versions 3 and 4, the Turnagain neighborhood/TCC boundary is divided into unacceptable segments.

#### **Draft Map Version 3:**

In Draft Map Version 3, a very small portion of the West Turnagain neighborhood is segregated into an area identified as the new District 18, which also encompasses all of TSAIA, and parts of Southwest Anchorage and the Midtown area. This makes no sense, as West Turnagain has much stronger ties with the remaining portions of the Turnagain neighborhood, than with Midtown, in particular. And *all of the Turnagain area* is affect by its 'neighbor', TSAIA in both positive and negatives ways. **Even worse, Draft Map Version 3 divides the TCC boundaries into three separate districts — Districts 16, 17 & 18.**

#### **Draft Map Version 4:**

In Draft Map Version 4, a very small portion of the East Turnagain neighborhood (Captain Cook Estates neighborhood south of West Northern Lights Blvd.) is also segregated into a separate District from the remaining TCC neighborhood south and west of Fish Creek (the creek is TCC's boundary in this area). As with Version 3, this ends up dividing the TCC boundaries into three separate districts — **District 12, 13 & 20).**

#### **Turnagain Community Council Request:**

As one of the more active community council in Anchorage, we invite our State Senators and Representatives to our monthly meetings to provide Legislative Reports. Allowing enough time on our agenda for reports from representation of two different Districts is sometimes challenging — can't imagine having time at our meetings to hear from representation from three Districts, if either the Version 3 or Version 4 map, as now presented, is approved by your Redistricting Board.

- As per Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC 2.40.040(A), current **community council boundaries inherently reflect “natural communities, with common interests and a district identity.”**
- As per the Alaska Redistricting Map Requirements, **“The Alaska Constitution requires that new districts meet for criteria: compactness, contiguity, socio-economic integration and equality of population.”**
- The new State Redistricting Map should closer align with existing local neighborhood and community council boundaries. **By including the Captain Cook Estates area within District 12 in the Version 4 Map, this would retain the two-District representation Turnagain Community Council now has in place.**

Representation by more than two Districts is not conducive to productive neighborhood engagement with our Alaska State Senators and Representatives — and it would put additional burdens on these elected legislators to juggle communication and meaningful engagement with multiple Anchorage community councils in West Anchorage.

Please take into account community council boundaries in Anchorage when determining where, logically, the redistricting lines are drawn for West Anchorage.

Sincerely,

Cathy L. Gleason  
Turnagain Community Council Vice President and Acting President


██████████  
Anchorage, AK 99517  
██████████

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 31, 2021, 6:30 pm

Name: **Michelle Turner**  
Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Identification of district/senate boundaries based upon socio-economic integration as required by the Alaska State Constitution**

Public Comment: **Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on redistricting. I think it is important that the opinions of community members be taken seriously by the Redistricting Board and the recommendations be given serious consideration. I reviewed the plans adopted by the Board considering the relevant characteristics outlined in Article VI, Section 6 of the Alaska Constitution. Because I live in Anchorage, my comments are focused on that area.**

**Article VI of the Alaska Constitution, Section 6 outlines how house and senate districts should be formed. The Constitution requires certain characteristics of the districts, noting that they should be:**

- **Contiguous**
- **Compact**
- **Nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area**
- **Contain equal population “as near as practicable”**
- **Each senate district shall be composed as near as practicable of two contiguous house districts**
- **Additionally, consideration may be given to local government boundaries.**

**I think most people who in Southcentral Alaska can agree that the Mat-Su and Anchorage are communities that are separate socio-economic areas with separate personalities. As such, I applaud the maps that recognize this and treat these areas as separate and unique spaces. Given that both Mat-Su and Anchorage are close to the preferred population, they should be treated separately with no population pulled from one and given to the other. It may be necessary to add population to either or both of these areas to meet the equal population requirement, but if that occurs it should be done in a way to ensure that the district created meets the “integrated socio-economic area” requirement.**

**For example, Board maps 3 & 4 have preferred outer boundaries for Anchorage which corresponds to the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) northern border and incorporates Whittier to the south. While Whittier is not part of MOA, there is a close relationship as the only road access to Whittier is via MOA and it shares a police force with the MOA community of Girdwood. Regarding this boundary, the AFFER and Doyon maps are the worst as they combine the demographically distinct (based upon education, wealth, and age) Hillside area with portions of the Kenai Peninsula including Nikiski.**

When evaluating the district boundaries within the MOA, there are several distinct socio-economic areas that should be used to evaluate boundaries. The most obvious of these is separating Eagle River from the rest of the Anchorage districts. Eagle River is distinct geographically, demographically, and the area's politics are so different that there is active support for a resolution to separate Eagle River from the rest of the MOA Eagle River. The population of Eagle River is sufficient for two districts. The most appropriate separation is to have one "urban" district located around the business district and a "rural" district that incorporates Hiland Road, Arctic Valley Road, Old Glenn Hwy and other areas with less dense population in the manner of Board Map 3. It does make sense to include them both in a single senate district.

The demographics of the various neighborhoods should be used to determine district lines within the Anchorage bowl. Districts in north Anchorage should include portions of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) because of the integration between JBER and Anchorage neighborhoods based upon the gate that they are closest to: people who live in Anchorage work on base and, for non-military spouses, visa-versa. Additionally, JBER personnel rely upon Anchorage for goods, services, and entertainment that cannot be found on base. Because of this interrelationship, districts should be drawn incorporating portions of JBER north of a gate and portions of Anchorage south of that same gate as shown in the AFFR map.

Midtown neighborhoods are centered around work opportunities (e.g., the U-Med district). South of midtown, there is a demographic dividing line along the Seward Highway, with the western portions (e.g., Abbot Loop, Hillside, O'Malley, Rabbit Creek, Bear Valley) being distinct from those east of the highway (Ocean View, Klatt, Bayshore, Sand Lake, Jewel Lake); therefore, these areas should be in separate districts. Board Map 4 best incorporates these distinctions. Senate district pairing should use the same criteria outlined above. For example, using Board Map 4, the best pairings are: 9/15, 10/11, 12/21, 13/17, 14/16, 18/23, 19/20, and 22/24.

Regardless of where populations fall in the districts, community resources that do not have population associated with them (e.g., parks, schools, libraries) should be included with the neighborhoods that rely upon these resources. That way the people who use these resources will be represented by legislators who have an active say in what happens to them.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed redistricting. I look forward to seeing the final maps and appreciate the Board's faithfulness to the redistricting requirements as outlined in the Alaska State Constitution.

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: **Barbara Tyndall**

**Barbara stated that any plan for North Pole should include Eielson AFB, Salcha, and Moose Creek as they are closely aligned socio-economically with North Pole. Many residents do their shopping and attend church in North Pole. Barbara spoke in favor of the AFFR map and Board Map v.4.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/4/2021

Name: Gary Tyndall

Gary suggested that, in the interest of representation, there should be more weight than just population numbers. Gary gave some comments on the AFFER map which appears to be the best balance of factors in consideration: 1) In the northeast corner of District 6-C, there is a portion that projects north of the river and comes up below West Badger Road area and down to North Pole, this would be better placed with District 9-E (North Pole/Moose Creek) based on the people who live there, what they're doing for work, and their interests. 2) Within District 8-D, there is a projection eastward and it seems to have a border that is along Badger Road. He suggested a more appropriate border to move it up smaller to make it along the river and slew; this is a more natural dividing line than the road itself. 3) The AFFER Map does a better job of bringing in areas to the east and south that are contiguous such as Moose Creek, Eielson , and Salcha. 4) It also conforms to borough boundaries and representation as well.



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**From:** Liliane Ulukivaiola [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:45 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for Redistricting

My name is Liliane Ulukivaiola.

I am part of the Pacific Islander community. I live on East 16th street between Valarian St. and Columbine St., east of Muldoon road. I go to the University of Alaska Anchorage and the children in my family go to Bettye Davis East Anchorage High School and Russian Jack Elementary. I work as a Community Health Worker in the Airport Heights Neighborhood as well as within the Pacific Island community in Anchorage, but I also serve anyone in the Anchorage area who wants to take part in our program to serve our community. Chanshtnu park and Mountain View Community Center are important parts of my neighborhood. I have also taken part in the creation of the Food Forest at Chanshtnu Muldoon Park, where people will be able to have access to fruits and vegetables that will be growing there. I have also been to camps where houseless individuals reside in that area because of housing insecurity. I also have family that resides in those areas. This is frequently where many Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color (BIPOC) families live.

I feel our neighborhood is very distinct from Chugiak and Eagle River. We do not shop at the same places, worship at the same churches, go to the same parks, visit the same restaurants. Please do NOT include us in the same district. This is not a socioeconomically integrated pairing. Chugiak and Eagle River have expressed a lot of interest in leaving the Municipality of Anchorage, so why would we include them with East Anchorage? Not to mention these communities are very racially distinct from each other. East Anchorage has extraordinary racial and linguistic diversity, whereas Chugiak and Eagle River are much less diverse. The diversity of East Anchorage should be respected and not grouped in a way that would erase minority representation. Do not crack our communities up into multiple districts. I also do not feel it is appropriate to put East Anchorage in a district with communities south of Tudor or JBER. Instead of pairing communities east of Muldoon with Eagle River and Chugiak, South Anchorage or JBER, I would rather be paired with neighborhoods along Turpin and Debarr, neighborhoods east of Boniface and Northern Lights, or near Patterson and Northern Lights. Feel free to edit these exact streets.

Anchorage's growing diversity is one of Anchorage's defining socio-economic features. The Municipality of Anchorage's minority population is now 43.5%.

In the Anchorage Bowl there are 16 contiguous majority-minority census tracts with 66,594 total population, including the most diverse neighborhoods in the country.

The maximum number of districts should be drawn to allow these diverse neighborhoods to elect their preferred candidate.

**From:** Jake Staser [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 6:42 PM  
**To:** Juli Lucky <juli.lucky@akredistrict.org>  
**Cc:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** City of Valdez - Clarification Re: Statements by the Board During 11/2/2021 Work Session

Good Evening,

I serve as the City Attorney for the City of Valdez and am writing to provide clarification regarding what I perceived as some misconceptions regarding the City of Valdez's Public Comments.

First, it was suggested today that the City of Valdez discussed Hydaburg in its comments along with historical districts that included Valdez with South East Alaska. The City of Valdez's public comments do not address the Board's task of dividing Southeast Alaska into four districts, does not mention Hydaburg, and makes no mention of Valdez being included in District with Southeast Alaska. To the contrary, Valdez argues that it cannot practicably be included in a district with Southeast Alaska while satisfying the constitutional redistricting criteria.

Second, at least one Board member suggested that Valdez's Comments were too lengthy to reference during the work session. Please note that the Comments contain a live Table of Contents that is intended to facilitate the Board's use of the comments for reference (Holding Ctrl and clicking on a section of the TOC will link you directly to that section). In addition, the comments themselves are 21 pages in length. The exhibits make up the bulk of the document and are provided as evidentiary support the positions set forth in the Comments. Valdez's Comments should not be dismissed as too voluminous for review.

Third, the City of Valdez encourages the Board to review the Comments submitted by Valdez in advance of making a determination regarding what District Valdez should be included in. Valdez should not be included in a District with Mat-Su Borough communities, with which it has no socioeconomic ties. Instead, Valdez should be included in a District with Richardson Highway Communities and/or Prince William Sound Communities

Finally, we appreciate the hard work and dedication of the Board and understand the difficulty of the task at hand.

Thank you and best regards,

*Jake W. Staser, Esq.*

**B·B & W BRENA, BELL  
& WALKER**

Brena, Bell, and Walker, P.C.  
810 N. Street, Suite 100  
Anchorage AK, 99501  
(907) 258-2000

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION #21-42

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ADOPTING REDISTRICTING COMMENTS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WHEREAS, as a result of the 2020 Census, the Alaska Redistricting Board ("Board") is actively preparing draft redistricting plans for the State of Alaska that will directly affect the City of Valdez and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Comments attached hereto reflect the position of the City of Valdez with regard to redistricting.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, that:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated in this resolution as if set forth fully herein;

Section 2. The City of Valdez adopts the Comments attached hereto for submission to the Redistricting Board as public comments of the City of Valdez.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 26th day of October, 2021.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

  
Sharon Scheidt, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk





Comments to the Alaska Redistricting Board  
Regarding the 2021 Redistricting Process

Submitted by:

The City of Valdez, Alaska

**Dated: October 26, 2021**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

In adopting a redistricting plan based upon the 2020 census, the Redistricting Board (“Board”) must comply with the constitutional mandate that districts be contiguous, compact, and socioeconomically integrated.<sup>1</sup> In order to satisfy these requirements, the Valdez must be included in a district with Richardson Highway communities. The “Valdez problem,” as it has been referred to by numerous Board Members and third parties, cannot be solved by forcing Valdez into a district with Matanuska-Susitna (“Mat-Su”) Borough communities, Kodiak, the Kenai Peninsula, the Municipality of Anchorage, or Southeast Alaska. Valdez is not socioeconomically integrated with these communities and should not be separated from the Richardson Highway communities with which it shares the most commonalities. Accordingly, Valdez submits these comments to the Board along with an alternative redistricting plan attached hereto as Exhibit A, a live version of which may be found at <https://districtr.org/plan/62741>.

## **II. VALDEZ DOES NOT BELONG IN A DISTRICT WITH THE MAT-SU BOROUGH.**

There is no socioeconomic integration between Valdez the Mat-Su Borough communities such as Sutton, Chickaloon, Palmer, and Wasilla and including Valdez in a district with such communities necessarily fails to provide fair representation for the citizens of Valdez.

<sup>1</sup> Alaska Constitution Article VI, Section 6.

**A. There is no Socioeconomic Integration between Mat-Su Borough Communities and the City of Valdez.**

Socioeconomic integration was defined by the delegates to the Constitutional Convention as follows: “where people live together and work together and earn their living together . . . they should be logically grouped that way.”<sup>2</sup> In order to satisfy this constitutional requirement, the Board must provide “sufficient evidence of socio-economic integration of the communities linked by the redistricting, proof of actual interaction and interconnectedness rather than mere homogeneity.”<sup>3</sup> Where “significant social and economic interaction among the communities within an election district” does not exist, the district will be held invalid under Alaska law.<sup>4</sup> Because people from Valdez do not work, live, or recreate with people from Wasilla, Palmer, or other Mat-Su Borough communities, Valdez cannot legally be combined in a house district that includes such communities.

The Alaska Supreme Court has identified several criteria for determining whether communities are socioeconomically integrated including “transportation ties, namely ferry and daily air service, geographical similarities and historical economic links.”<sup>5</sup> Alaska Courts have determined that socioeconomic integration existed where evidence of such included: “service by the state ferry system, daily local air taxi service, a common major economic activity, shared fishing areas, a common interest in the management of state

<sup>2</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 46 (quoting 3 PACC 1836 (January 11, 1956)).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* (quoting *Kenai Peninsula Borough*, 743 P.2d at 1363).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* (internal citations and quotations omitted).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* (citing *Groh v. Egan*, 526 P.2d 863, 879 (Alaska 1974)).

lands, the predominately Native character of the populace, and historical links evidenced socio-economic integration.”<sup>6</sup> None of these criteria are satisfied in districts that combine the City of Valdez with Mat-Su Borough communities.

1. There is no Alaska Marine Highway System (“AMHS”) service or any daily air taxi service between Valdez and Mat-Su Borough communities. The only airline providing service to Valdez is RAVN Air, and such service is limited to flights between Valdez and Anchorage.<sup>7</sup> In addition, there is no ferry terminal located in the Mat-Su Borough.<sup>8</sup>
2. Valdez and the Mat-Su Borough do not share any common major economic activity. Valdez’s economy is driven primarily by the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (“TAPS”), commercial fishing activities, and tourism.<sup>9</sup> The Mat-Su Borough economy “largely consists of tourism, retail sales, and service activities.”<sup>10</sup> There are little to no ties between the Mat-Su Borough and TAPS. TAPS does not traverse any portion of the Mat-Su Borough and there is little oil and gas property located in the Mat-Su Borough particularly on a per capita basis.<sup>11</sup> 34% of Mat-Su Borough citizens commute to Anchorage for work while virtually no Valdez citizens do.<sup>12</sup> Moreover, there is no harbor or fish processing facility located in the Mat-Su Borough to support commercial fishing activities and no commercial fishing industry operating out of the Mat-Su Borough.<sup>13</sup>
3. Mat-Su Borough and Valdez communities utilize entirely different fishing areas. Valdez utilizes Prince William Sound along with the Copper River and its tributaries while Mat-Su communities utilize the Matanuska and Susitna Drainages and Cook

<sup>6</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 46 (citing *Kenai Peninsula Borough*, 743 P.2d at 1361).

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.ravnalaska.com/map>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://dot.alaska.gov/amhs/route.shtml>.

<sup>9</sup> Exhibit B at 8 (Draft Valdez Comprehensive Plan) (In Valdez, the Oil & Gas industry accounts for 12% of total jobs and 28% of total earnings, the seafood industry accounts for 12% of total jobs, and the visitor sector accounts for 15% of all jobs.).

<sup>10</sup> Exhibit C at 5 (Mat-Su Comprehensive Plan).

<sup>11</sup> Exhibit D (Alaska Taxable 2020) (Mat-Su Borough has \$7,903,480 in AS 43.56 oil and gas property within its jurisdiction while Valdez has \$1,950,652,640).

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.matsugov.us/e/e-1/economy>.

<sup>13</sup> Exhibit E (Fish Processor Map).



Inlet. These areas are not regulated in the same manner for commercial or sport fishing purposes and constitute entirely distinct fishing areas.

4. There is no common interest in the management of state lands shared between Valdez and Mat-Su Borough communities because the citizens of each community do not utilize the same geographic areas or state managed resources in any substantial way.
5. Valdez and Mat-Su do not include predominantly native communities nor is there homogeneity among the native tribes that historically occupied these distinct areas. Valdez is located in the ancestral homeland of the Chugach Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people,<sup>14</sup> is included in the Chugach Native Corporation Boundary, and is directly adjacent to the Ahtna Native Corporation Boundary.<sup>15</sup> The Mat-Su Borough is predominantly in the Cook Inlet Native Corporation Boundary and consists primarily of the ancestral homeland of the Dena'ina.<sup>16</sup> 2020 census data reveals that neither Valdez nor the Mat-Su Borough is predominantly Native. In Valdez, 309 individuals out of a total population of 3,985 (7.8%) identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native.<sup>17</sup> In the Mat-Su Borough, 6,844 individuals out of a total population of 107,081 (6.4%) identified themselves as American Indian or Alaska Native.<sup>18</sup> Accordingly, Valdez is not socioeconomically integrated with Mat-Su Borough communities by virtue of being “predominantly Native.”
6. There is no evidence of historical links between Valdez and the Mat-Su Borough. Valdez is historically linked to Richardson Highway communities and Prince William sound by virtue of the 1898 gold rush to interior Alaska and the Klondike, construction of the Richardson Highway, development of commercial fishing industry, the 1964 earthquake, construction of TAPs, and numerous other factors.<sup>19</sup> The Mat-Su Borough’s history is dominated by gold and coal mining in the Matanuska and Susitna river drainages, agriculture, construction of the Seward-Fairbanks railroad route, and construction of the parks highway.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>14</sup> Exhibit B at 6.

<sup>15</sup> Exhibit F (ANCSA Maps).

<sup>16</sup> Exhibit F.

<sup>17</sup> <https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/census-return-result?value%5B0%5D=4946>.

<sup>18</sup> <https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/census-return-result?value%5B0%5D=4418>.

<sup>19</sup> Exhibit B.

<sup>20</sup> <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha/clg/AlaskaCLGs/Matanuska-Susitna.htm#natreg>.

As evidenced by analysis of the criteria used by the Alaska Supreme Court to determine whether communities are socioeconomically integrated, Valdez and the Mat-Su Borough do not share sufficient ties to satisfy this constitutional requirement. Accordingly, redistricting plans that force Valdez into a district dominated by Mat-Su Borough communities are invalid.

**B. Including Valdez in a District with Mat-Su Borough Communities Deprives Valdez of Fair Representation.**

The citizens of Valdez are legally entitled to “‘fair and effective representation’—the right to group effectiveness or an equally powerful vote.”<sup>21</sup> As the Alaska Supreme Court has held, the goal of redistricting is to provide “adequate and true representation by the people in their elected legislature; true, just, and fair representation.”<sup>22</sup> Redistricting plans that use Valdez as a source of population to lower deviations for Mat-Su Borough districts violate the constitutional requirements for redistricting and result in districts that deprive Valdez and its citizens of fair representation in the legislature. Indeed, Valdez’s current district, District 9-E, is dominated by voters from the Mat-Su Borough that are generally not aligned with the interests of the citizens of Valdez. On information and belief, Valdez’s senator has failed to even set foot in Valdez during his tenure in office. Thus, districts that combine Valdez with Mat-Su Borough communities have in fact failed to provide Valdez with fair representation as required under Alaska Law.

<sup>21</sup> *Hickel v. S.E. Conf.*, 846 P.2d 38, 47 (Alaska 1992), *as modified on reh’g* (Mar. 12, 1993) (quoting *Kenai Peninsula Borough v. State*, 743 P.2d 1352, 1363 (Alaska 1987)).

<sup>22</sup> *In re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 44 P.3d 141, 147 (Alaska 2002).

**C. Mat-Su Borough Boundaries should be Maintained for Purposes of Redistricting.**

The Mat-Su Borough and Denali Borough together contain a sufficient population to maintain borough boundaries while satisfying the redistricting criteria. Those boundaries should be maintained during the redistricting process. As the Alaska Supreme Court has stated “[h]owever, local boundaries are significant in determining whether an area is relatively socio-economically integrated [because] a borough must have a population which ‘is interrelated and integrated as to its social, cultural, and economic activities.’”<sup>23</sup> The Mat-Su and Denali Borough may be divided in to six districts with a population of 18,177 each and a deviation of 1.2% from the target district population without violating borough boundaries. Valdez’s proposed map honors these borough boundaries.<sup>24</sup>

**D. The Citizens of Valdez and the Mat-Su Borough Oppose a District that Combines these Unconnected Communities.**

Citizens from Valdez have repeatedly offered public comments against the inclusion of Valdez in a district with the Mat-Su Borough.<sup>25</sup> These comments make clear that Valdez has few if any commonalities with Mat-Su Borough communities. Moreover, the Mat-Su Borough itself recognizes that there are insufficient ties to Valdez to justify including Valdez in a district with the Mat-Su Borough and has recommended a redistricting Plan that does not include Valdez in a district with Mat-Su Borough communities.<sup>26</sup> There is

<sup>23</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 51 (Alaska 1992) (quoting AS 29.05.031).

<sup>24</sup> Exhibit A.

<sup>25</sup> Exhibit G (Public Testimony Re Valdez).

<sup>26</sup> <https://transparency.matsugov.us/pages/redistricting#recommendations>.

no better indication regarding whether communities are interconnected than the perception of the citizens that live in those communities. The Board should place heavy weight on substantial public input opposing an unnatural district that combines Valdez and Mat-Su Borough communities.

### **III. VALDEZ IS SOCIOECONOMICALLY INTEGRATED WITH RICHARDSON HIGHWAY COMMUNITIES AND PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND COMMUNITIES**

Valdez is socioeconomically integrated with Richardson Highway and Prince William Sound communities under the criteria established by the Alaska Supreme Court.

#### **A. Transportation.**

Valdez has substantial transportation connections with Richardson Highway communities and Prince William Sound communities by virtue of the Richardson Highway and the AMHS. Valdez is the regional port and harbor for Richardson Highway communities and the Fairbanks North Star Borough (“FNSB”) and is widely considered the “gateway to the interior.” Valdez is included in the Northern Region for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, which also includes Richardson Highway communities and the Fairbanks North Star Borough.<sup>27</sup> Moreover, the AMHS serves Valdez and other Prince William Sound communities including Tatitlek, Cordova, and Chenega.<sup>28</sup> Valdez residents routinely travel the Richardson Highway for purposes of work and recreation and Valdez is home to regional port and harbor facilities that serve Richardson Highway communities. Thus, Valdez is socioeconomically integrated with

<sup>27</sup> <https://dot.alaska.gov/nreg/facts.shtml>.

<sup>28</sup> <https://dot.alaska.gov/amhs/route.shtml>.

Richardson Highway and Prince William Sound communities through shared transportation.

**B. Economic Activity.**

There is a substantial amount of major economic activity that connects Richardson Highway and Prince William Sound communities with Valdez. Valdez's economy is driven primarily by the Trans Alaska Pipeline System ("TAPS"), commercial fishing activities, and tourism.<sup>29</sup> TAPS generally follows the Richardson Highway from FNSB south to the Valdez Marine Terminal in Valdez. TAPS is a major economic driver for communities along its ROW.<sup>30</sup> FNSB contains \$720,267,520 in AS 43.56 oil and gas property and Cordova has \$8,989,820 of such property within its jurisdiction. Alyeska Pipeline Service Company maintains offices in both Fairbanks and Valdez. In addition, Petro Star operates refineries in North Pole and in Valdez.<sup>31</sup> Further, FNSB is a major staging area for oil and gas operations and mining<sup>32</sup> and is adjacent to Eielson Air Force Base and Fort Wainwright.<sup>33</sup> The Port of Valdez is extensively utilized for shipping oil and gas equipment, mining equipment, and military supplies north along the Richardson Highway for use in commercial and military activities.

<sup>29</sup> Exhibit B at 8 (In Valdez, the Oil & Gas industry accounts for 12% of total jobs and 28% of total earnings, the seafood industry accounts for 12% of total jobs, and the visitor sector accounts for 15% of all jobs.).

<sup>30</sup> Exhibit D (Mat-Su Borough has \$7,903,480 in AS 43.56 oil and gas property within its jurisdiction while Valdez has \$1,950,652,640).

<sup>31</sup> <https://petrostar.com/divisions/refining/>

<sup>32</sup> Exhibit H at 10 (FNSB Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy).

<sup>33</sup> Exhibit H at 2-3.

Valdez also shares utilities with Richardson Highway and Prince William Sound communities. Copper Valley Electric Association (“CVEA”)<sup>34</sup> and Copper Valley Telecom (“CVTC”) serve Valdez and Richardson Highway communities with CVTC also serving Cordova. In addition, both utilities maintain offices in Valdez and in the Copper Basin. Similarly, Prince William Sound College is located in Valdez<sup>35</sup> and has extension campuses in Cordova<sup>36</sup> and the Copper Basin.<sup>37</sup> The Copper Basin extension campus consists of a regional hub in Glennallen with outreach sites in Mentasta, Slana, Chistochina, Kenny Lake, and Chitina.<sup>38</sup>

Prince William Sound communities and Valdez are also connected by virtue of ties to the commercial and sport fishing industry within the sound. Valdez and Cordova both have robust commercial fishing fleets, numerous charter services, and are home to numerous fish processing facilities.<sup>39</sup> Valdez and all Prince William Sound communities are members of the Prince William Sound Economic Development District (“PWSEDD”), which was established in 1991 for the purpose “foster[ing] economic growth and responsible development in the Prince William Sound region.”<sup>40</sup> PWSEDD identified the four key industries that drive the economies of Prince William Sound communities as Oil

<sup>34</sup> Exhibit I (CVEA Service Area).

<sup>35</sup> <https://pwsc.alaska.edu/about/>.

<sup>36</sup> <https://pwsc.alaska.edu/>.

<sup>37</sup> <https://pwsc.alaska.edu/directory/departments/cordova.cshtml>.

<sup>38</sup> <https://pwsc.alaska.edu/directory/departments/copper-basin.cshtml>.

<sup>39</sup> Exhibit E.

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.pwsedd.org/>.

and Gad Distribution, Seafood, Marine Transportation and Ports, and Tourism and Outdoor Recreation.<sup>41</sup>

**C. Shared Fishing and Hunting Areas.**

Valdez, Richardson Highway communities and Prince William Sound communities utilize the same fisheries and hunting grounds. For example, these communities extensively utilize the Valdez small boat harbor as evidenced by the following data:

| <b>Community</b> | <b>Permanent Slip</b> | <b>Transient Slip</b> | <b>Customer Database</b> |
|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Delta Junction   | 10                    | 30                    | 40                       |
| Fairbanks        | 113                   | 379                   | 492                      |
| North Pole       | 48                    | 187                   | 236                      |
| Glennallen       | 4                     | 19                    | 26                       |
| Copper Center    | 10                    | 14                    | 24                       |
| Cordova          | NA                    | 100                   | 102                      |
| Valdez           | 200                   | 208                   | 408                      |

In fact, Fairbanks residents utilize the Valdez Small Boat Harbor at a higher rate than Valdez residents do. Valdez acts as the regional harbor for Richardson Highway communities, the residents of which use Valdez to access sport, subsistence, and commercial fisheries. Valdez and Richardson Highway communities also share Copper River fisheries including the dip net fishery at Chitina and sport fisheries on the Klutina, Gulkana, and Tonsina. In addition, Valdez shares saltwater fisheries with other Prince William Sound communities including Cordova, Tatitlek, and Chenega, which are included in the same commercial and sport fishing regulatory areas as Valdez.

<sup>41</sup> <https://www.pwsedd.org/key-industries>.

#### **D. Common Interest in Management of State Lands.**

Valdez and Richardson Highway communities share a common interest in the regulation of state lands because the citizens of these communities utilize the same geographic areas and resources. For example, Valdez is included with Richardson Highway and Prince William Sound communities in Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation contingency plans for oil spill response<sup>42</sup> and for Area Management Plans developed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources.<sup>43</sup> Valdez shares a common interest in the management of state lands with Richardson Highway and Prince William Sound communities by virtue of state defined land management boundaries in addition to shared commercial and recreational concerns.

#### **E. Native Communities.**

Although Valdez and most Richardson Highway and Prince William Sound communities are not “predominantly Native,” they do share relatively homogenous native populations. Valdez is located on the boundary of the traditional home lands of the Chugach Alutiiq, who traditionally lived in Prince William Sound, and the Ahtna Athabascan, who traditionally lived in the Copper River Basin including Valdez. Valdez is located at the nexus of the traditional homelands – within the Chugach ANCSA region but directly abutting the Ahtna ANCSA Region.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>42</sup> <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/contingency-plans/response-plans/> (Valdez is included in the Prince William Sound Region and Area 2 of the Inland Region).

<sup>43</sup> <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/areaplans/> (Valdez is included in the Prince William Sound Area Plan and abuts the boundary for the Copper River Area Plan).

<sup>44</sup> Exhibit F.



## **F. Historic Ties.**

Valdez has substantial historic ties to both Richardson Highway and Prince William Sound Communities beginning with the native people who lived in these areas and interacted with one another via the Valdez Trail corridor.<sup>45</sup> Subsequently, beginning during the gold rush of 1898 Valdez experienced an influx of prospectors seeking a route to the Copper River Basin, the Interior and the Klondike. In 1898 and 1899, a trail was built from from Valdez to the Tonsina River and in 1901 the trail was extended to Eagle.<sup>46</sup> The Keystone Canyon Trail to Fairbanks, which subsequently became the Richardson Highway in 1919, was developed shortly thereafter. Thus, Valdez and Richardson Highway communities have been continuously connected by well established transportation corridors since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Valdez is known as the “gateway to the interior” for a reason. It is the historic starting point for overland access to the Copper River Valley and the Fairbanks area and continues to serve as a primary point of access for these areas.

Beginning in 1973, the construction of TAPS further linked Valdez to Richardson Highway communities. TAPS parallels the Richardson Highway from Fairbanks to Valdez

<sup>45</sup> Exhibit J at 2 (History of the Valdez Trail) (“Trade occurred among the different Alaska Native groups long before contact with the Russians. The Ahtna, for example, often served as middlemen, bartering with the Chugach, Tlingit, and Eyak peoples, as well as their Athapaskan relatives, the Dena’ina and the Tanana. Although copper was their most important export, they also exchanged moose, caribou, lynx, and beaver pelts for marine products like seal skin boots. Both oral and documentary evidence suggests that the Ahtna regularly held intertribal trade fairs within the Valdez Trail corridor, including ones near both Thompson and Isabel passes.”).

<sup>46</sup> Exhibit J at 5-6.

– a stretch that constitutes the entire southern half of the pipeline. Valdez served as a primary port for transportation of materials and equipment required to construct the pipeline. The operation of TAPS and employment associated therewith continues to connect Valdez with Richardson Highway communities and FNSB today. For decades Valdez has served as the regional port and harbor connecting Richardson Highway communities with Prince William Sound for both recreational and commercial purposes.

Valdez’s historical direct ties to Prince William Sound are also numerous and well established. The Alutiiq people have lived in Prince William Sound for thousands of years. Prince William Sound communities are also historically linked by fur trading, commercial fishing, hatchery development, and the development of the marine highway system. The Exxon Valdez oil spill further united Prince William Sound communities both during the response to the spill and thereafter. Those affected by the oil spill have banded together to protect their environment and resources and maintain close ties for that purpose. Indeed, the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council, which was founded in 1989, represents all Prince William Sound communities as a permanent citizen committee overseeing the oil industry and government regulators. It is readily apparent that Valdez and Prince William Sound communities are historically connected in a variety of ways.

**G. Valdez Should be Included in a District with Richardson Highway and/or Prince William Sound Communities.**

As set forth herein, the constitutional and judicially established criteria for redistricting require that Valdez be included in a district with Richardson Highway communities and Prince William Sound communities. Valdez is not socioeconomically

integrated with Mat-Su Borough communities, Kodiak, the Kenai Peninsula, the Municipality of Anchorage, or Southeast Alaska, and therefore cannot legally be included in a district with such communities. The manifest commonalities between Valdez, Richardson Highway communities and Prince William Sound weigh heavily in favor of adopting the alternative redistricting plan submitted herewith as Exhibit A as an alternative that best satisfies the criteria the Board is mandated to follow.

#### **IV. DRAFT REDISTRICTING PLANS.**

Valdez refrained from submitting a draft redistricting plan for purposes of the Board's public outreach tour after reviewing the proposed districts set forth in Board Proposed Version 1 and 2, which were adopted as draft plans on September 9, 2021. Valdez determined that the Board's proposed District 36, which was identical in both Version 1 and Version 2, was acceptable because the district united Valdez with socioeconomically integrated communities along the Richardson Highway, while maintaining Mat-Su Borough boundaries. Subsequently, on September 20, 2021, at the end of the last meeting for presentation of draft plans to the Board, the Board introduced Version 4. Prior to that time Version 4 had never before been made available for public review or comment. The late introduction and adoption of Version 4 was a surprise to Valdez and precluded Valdez from offering comments related to Version 4 prior to adoption of the draft. Indeed, the agenda for the September 20, 2021, meeting provided that the Board would conduct a "review of improvement to Board Proposed Plans v1 and v2." This agenda statement failed to provide notice that the Board would be considering the adoption of an entirely new redistricting plan identified as Version 4. Notwithstanding

Valdez's position that the alternative [planshould be adopted by the Board, Valdez offers the following comments on the draft redistricting plans used during the Board's public outreach tour.

**A. Board Proposed Version 3, District 36 is Acceptable.**

District 36 in Version 3, unites Valdez with Richardson Highway communities that it shares strong socioeconomic ties with and respects the Mat-Su Borough boundary. The large size of the proposed district and the inclusion of Valdez with communities that are geographically remote such as Holy Cross and Koyukuk may lead challenges based upon the socioeconomic integration or compactness of the district. However, Valdez believes that the proposed District 36 in Version 3 is sufficiently socioeconomically integrated, compact, and contiguous. Version 3 maintains the integrity of borough boundaries and includes a district for Valdez, District 36, that will provide fair representation for all citizens within the proposed district.

**B. The AFFR Plan, District 36-R is Acceptable.**

The AFFR Plan unites the City of Valdez with many socioeconomically integrated communities along the Richardson Highway and in the FNSB. The proposed District 36-R does not force Valdez into an unnatural district including the Mat-Su Borough. In addition, proposed District 36-R would be paired with District 35-R, which includes socioeconomically integrated areas of FNSB including North Pole. Valdez believes that proposed District 36-R in the AFFR plan is sufficiently socioeconomically integrated, compact, and contiguous.

**C. Board Proposed Version 4 Does Not Satisfy Constitutional Redistricting Criteria.**

District 25 in Board Proposed Version 4 exemplifies the issues caused by forcing Valdez into a District with the Mat-Su Borough. Version 4 is flawed in several ways including the following:

1. It separates Valdez from all Richardson Highway communities. Valdez would be in a different district than Tonsina, Squirrel Creek, Kenny Lake, Willow Creek, Copper center, Silver Springs, Tazlina, Copperville and most of Glennallen. All of these communities are socioeconomically integrated with Valdez. A Valdez citizen travelling the Richardson highway would have to drive outside of their district for hundreds of miles to get to from Valdez to the other boundary of their own district.
2. It Separates Valdez from all Prince William Sound communities.
3. It includes Valdez in a district with the communities of Chickaloon, Sutton, and the outskirts of Wasilla and Palmer. There are no socioeconomic ties between Valdez and these communities.
4. Using the Glenn Highway as a boundary arbitrarily separates members of communities based upon what side of the road they are on. It is illogical to suggest that in rural areas the citizens on the north side of a two-lane highway should be in a different district than their neighbors on the south side of the highway. Version 4 arbitrarily bisects Glennallen and separates Lake Louise from Tolsona and Glennallen.
5. It ignores school district and borough boundaries.
6. It subsumes Valdez into a Mat-Su Borough district despite the fact that the Mat-Su and Denali Boroughs, can be divided into six districts with an average of 18,114 people. There is no reason to force the Valdez population into the Mat-Su Borough as there is already sufficient population to create constitutionally compliant districts within existing borough boundaries.
7. It does nothing to solve issues related to socioeconomic ties between communities like Holy Cross and Koyukuk, with communities around Valdez like Chitina and Glennallen.

8. It divides residents of Homer from their neighbors along Kachemak Bay including the communities east of Homer such as Fritz Creek as well as Halibut Cove and Seldovia.

**D. The Doyon Coalition Plan Does Not Satisfy Constitutional Redistricting Criteria.**

District 27-N of Doyon's Plan, suffers from many of the same flaws as Board Proposed Version 4. The Doyon Plan fails to satisfy constitutional redistricting requirements for several reasons including the following:

1. It separates Valdez from all Richardson Highway communities. Valdez would be in a different district than Tonsina, Squirrel Creek, Kenny Lake, Willow Creek, Copper Center, Silver Springs, Tazlina, Copperville and most of Glennallen.
2. It arbitrarily bisects Glennallen.
3. It forces Valdez into a district with communities like Sutton, Chickaloon, Palmer, and Wasilla, with which Valdez shares no socioeconomic connection.
4. Valdez's district would be paired with a district including Houston, Willow and Talkeetna, creating a senate district that entirely fails to meet any constitutional criteria. The Doyon Plan would pair Valdez with Parks Highway communities while separating Valdez from Richardson Highway communities. Both the boundaries of proposed District 27-N and the pairing of that district with 28-N fail to meet the constitutional criteria for redistricting.
5. It forces Valdez into a district with Mat-Su Borough, which is wholly unnecessary in light of the population available to from six districts within the Mat-Su and Denali Borough boundaries.
6. It does nothing to solve issues related to concerns regarding socioeconomic ties between communities like Holy Cross and communities around Valdez like Chitina and Glennallen.
7. It fails to consider borough or school district boundaries.
8. It separates Homer from its neighboring communities of Halibut Cove and Seldovia.

**E. The AFFER Plan Does Not Satisfy Constitutional Redistricting Criteria.**

Proposed District 36-R in the AFFER plan fails to satisfy constitutional and judicially established redistricting criteria. The AFFER plan is flawed in several ways including the following:

1. It separates Valdez from the communities it is most socioeconomically integrated with including all Richardson Highway communities and Cordova.
2. The AFFER Plan also forces Valdez into a District with Kodiak, the Kenai Peninsula, and the west side of Cook Inlet, with which Valdez has no socioeconomic ties.
3. It pairs Valdez with a district including all of the Eastern Kenai Peninsula communities including Kasilof and Homer, with which Valdez has no socioeconomic ties.
4. It places Cordova in a district with Richardson Highway communities while separating Valdez from such communities. This plan defies logic as the only practical means of reaching these communities from Cordova is through Valdez. Cordova does not belong in a district with Richardson Highway communities or portions of Fairbanks. Certainly not as an alternative to including Valdez in such a district.
5. It fails to solve any concerns related to the socioeconomic integration of communities like Kaltag and Koyukuk with communities around Valdez like McCarthy and Cordova.
6. It arbitrarily divides Prince William Sound communities and Copper Valley communities.
7. It pays no regard to existing municipal, borough, or school district boundaries.

**F. The Senate Minority Plan Does Not Satisfy Constitutional Redistricting Criteria.**

District 32-P in the Senate Minority Plan fails to satisfy constitutional and judicially established redistricting criteria for the following reasons, among others:

1. It separates Valdez from the communities it is most socioeconomically integrated with including all Richardson Highway communities and Cordova.
2. It forces Valdez into a district with Kodiak, the Kenai Peninsula, and the west side of Cook Inlet, with which Valdez shares no socioeconomic ties.
3. It pairs Valdez with a district including all of the Eastern Kenai Peninsula communities including Kasilof, Homer, and portions of Soldotna, with which Valdez shares no socioeconomic ties.
4. It places Cordova in a district with Richardson Highway communities while separating Valdez from such communities despite the fact that the only practical means of reaching these communities from Cordova, is through Valdez. Cordova does not belong in a district with Richardson Highway communities or portions of Fairbanks. Certainly not as an alternative to including Valdez in such a district.
5. It arbitrarily divides Prince William Sound and Copper Valley communities.
6. It combines Kenai Peninsula communities like Cooper Landing with South Anchorage.
7. It does nothing to solve issues related to socioeconomic ties between communities like Galena, with communities around Valdez like McCarthy, and Cordova.
8. It pays no regard to existing municipal, borough, or school district boundaries.

**V. THE BOARD SHOULD ADOPT VALDEZ OPTION 1.**

Having had the opportunity to review all draft plans adopted by the Board including Version 4, Valdez believes that the alternative redistricting plan submitted herewith as Exhibit A (“Valdez Option 1”) best satisfies constitutional and judicially established redistricting criteria. In addition, Valdez Option 1 addresses the majority of concerns raised during the public comment period. A live version of Valdez Option 1 is available at: <https://districtr.org/plan/62741>.



Valdez Option 1 does not endeavor to draw district lines within areas such as the Municipality of Anchorage, Mat-Su and Denali Borough, Kenai Peninsula, Fairbanks, or Southeast Alaska. Individual districts within these homogenous areas may be drawn with small population deviations. Valdez defers to the expertise of the Board with regard to drawing specific district boundaries within these areas. Board Version 3 provides a good example of how such boundaries may be drawn.

Details regarding deviations for the Districts/Areas identified in Valdez Option 1 are provided below:

| District/Area                      | Color      | Number of Districts | Population Per District | Deviation |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Municipality of Anchorage          | Mint       | 16                  | 18,219.9                | - 0.0063  |
| Mat-Su and Denali Borough          | Red        | 6                   | 18,116.6                | - 0.0119  |
| Southeast                          | Lt. Blue   | 4                   | 18,082.3                | - 0.0138  |
| FNSB                               | Purple     | 4                   | 19,219.8                | + 0.0483  |
| Kenai Peninsula                    | Brown      | 3                   | 17,748                  | - 0.0320  |
| Alaska Peninsula/Aleutians         | Pink       | 1                   | 18,532                  | + 0.0107  |
| Yukon Kuskokwim                    | Drk. Blue  | 1                   | 18,953                  | + 0.0337  |
| Western Alaska                     | Turquoise  | 1                   | 18,414                  | + 0.0043  |
| North Slope                        | Gold       | 1                   | 18,839                  | + 0.0275  |
| Interior/Rural FNSB/Eastern Alaska | Lime       | 1                   | 18,907                  | + 0.0311  |
| Richardson Highway/Valdez/Cordova  | Dark Green | 1                   | 18,632                  | + 0.0151  |
| Lower Kenai Peninsula/Kodiak       | Yellow     | 1                   | 18,443                  | + 0.0053  |

Valdez Option 1 is an example of how the Board may draw districts in a manner that best satisfies constitutionally mandated criteria. The population deviations included for the districts in Valdez Option 1 are well below the 10% deviation threshold established by the Alaska Supreme Court.<sup>47</sup> Rather than focus on obtaining minimum possible deviations at

<sup>47</sup> *Hickel*, 846 P.2d at 48 (“[A]s a general matter an apportionment plan containing a maximum population deviation under 10% falls within the category of minor deviations. The state must provide justification for any greater deviation.”).

the expense of socioeconomic integration, compactness, and contiguity, Valdez Option 1 seeks to establish districts in a manner that keeps communities with strong ties together in accord with the intent of Alaska's redistricting laws.

The City of Valdez hopes that the Board will consider Valdez Option 1 as an alternative to presently adopted draft redistricting plans and encourages the Board and any interested party to utilize Valdez Option 1 to develop a redistricting plan that best satisfies the legal criteria for redistricting.



## NOTES REGARDING VALDEZ OPTION 1

Valdez Option 1 is an example of how the Board may draw districts in a manner that best satisfies constitutionally mandated criteria while including Valdez in a district with the communities it is socioeconomically integrated with. The population deviations included for the districts Valdez Option 1 are well below the 10% deviation threshold established by the Alaska Supreme Court.<sup>1</sup> Rather than focus on obtaining minimum possible deviations at the expense of socioeconomic integration, compactness, and contiguity, Valdez Option 1 seeks to establish districts in a manner that keeps communities with strong ties together. A live version of Valdez Option 1 is available at: <https://districtr.org/plan/62741>

Valdez Option 1 does not endeavor to draw district lines within areas such as the Municipality of Anchorage, Mat-Su and Denali Borough, Kenai Peninsula, Fairbanks, or Southeast Alaska where the districts within these areas may be drawn with small population deviations. Valdez defers to the expertise of the Board with regard to drawing specific district boundaries within these areas. Board Version 3 provides a good example of how such boundaries may be drawn.

Details regarding the Districts/Areas identified in Valdez Option 1 are provided below:

| District/Area                      | Color      | Number of Districts | Population Per District | Deviation |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Municipality of Anchorage          | Mint       | 16                  | 18,219.9                | - 0.0063  |
| Mat-Su and Denali Borough          | Red        | 6                   | 18,116.6                | - 0.0119  |
| South East                         | Lt. Blue   | 4                   | 18,082.3                | - 0.0138  |
| FNSB                               | Purple     | 4                   | 19,219.8                | + 0.0483  |
| Kenai Peninsula                    | Brown      | 3                   | 17,748                  | - 0.0320  |
| Alaska Peninsula/Aleutians         | Pink       | 1                   | 18,532                  | + 0.0107  |
| Yukon Kuskokwim                    | Drk. Blue  | 1                   | 18,953                  | + 0.0337  |
| Western Alaska                     | Turquoise  | 1                   | 18,414                  | + 0.0043  |
| North Slope                        | Gold       | 1                   | 18,839                  | + 0.0275  |
| Interior/Rural FNSB/Eastern Alaska | Lime       | 1                   | 18,907                  | + 0.0311  |
| Richardson Highway/Valdez/Cordova  | Dark Green | 1                   | 18,632                  | + 0.0151  |
| Lower Kenai Peninsula/Kodiak       | Yellow     | 1                   | 18,443                  | + 0.0053  |

The City of Valdez hopes that the Board will consider Valdez Option 1 as an alternative to presently adopted draft redistricting plans and encourages the Board and any interested party to utilize Valdez Option 1 as a starting point for developing a redistricting plan that best satisfies the legal criteria for redistricting.

<sup>1</sup> *Hickel v. S.E. Conf.*, 846 P.2d 38, 48 (Alaska 1992), *as modified on reh'g* (Mar. 12, 1993)

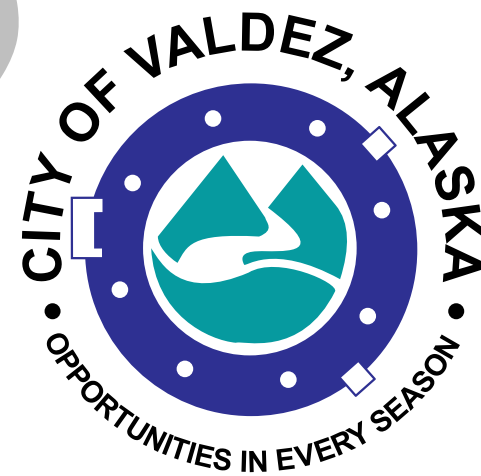
[A]s a general matter an apportionment plan containing a maximum population deviation under 10% falls within the category of minor deviations. The state must provide justification for any greater deviation.

# PLAN VALDEZ

OLDTOWN | NEWTOWN | YOURTOWN

## VALDEZ COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REVISION

OCTOBER 2021



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, learn, and operate on the traditional ancestral lands of the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people.

These lands have been stewarded for thousands of years since time immemorial by the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people. The traditional name of this area in Sugt'stun is Saucit which may come the Alutiiq word for person or people, suk.

Valdez was not traditionally occupied year-round, but was a traditional trading ground between the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq and Ahtna people since time immemorial, and we respect that this land served an important purpose for this region. We acknowledge the past history of colonization, its impacts, and the resilience of the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people who still live here today. Valdez is a unique community in that the Valdez Native Tribe serves all local indigenous residents, and is not specific to the Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people. We acknowledge the ancestral, and current Indigenous stewards of this land who reside here today.

## VALDEZ CITY COUNCIL

Sharon Scheidt, Mayor  
Jimmy Devens  
Dennis Fleming  
Susan Love  
Dawson Moore  
Alan Sorum  
Tom Wegner

## VALDEZ CITY STAFF OVERSIGHT

Mark Detter, City Manager  
Roxanne Murphy, Assistant City Manager  
Kate Huber, Planning Director

## COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Colleen Stephens, Chair  
Kathy Nielsen, Vice Chair  
Angela Alfaro  
Anna Bateman  
Cherise Beatus  
John Engles  
John Fannin  
Jesse Passin  
Donna Schantz  
Rhonda Wade  
Mike Wells

## PAST MEMBERS:

Dave Dengel  
Mary Jo Evans  
Jessica McKay  
Dahlia O'Neil  
Keith Thomas

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Kittelson & Associates  
Rain Coast Data  
SALT  
PND Engineers  
ECI  
Gordon Smith  
Corvus Culture

## THANK YOU

The planning team would like to thank the community of Valdez, City Council (current and past), Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee, Planning and Zoning Commission and other City Boards and Commissions, Focus Group participants, Planning Department and other City Departments, and all who provided input in the development of this plan.

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DRY

DRAFT



# YOUR PLAN



The Valdez Comprehensive Plan Revision - **Plan Valdez** is a collective vision developed by the community to shape Valdez over the next 20 years. It offers a foundation for determining effective public policy and land use decisions now and into the future. The plan is broken down into themes, goals, and actions that create a framework for informed, directed development and decision making. **Plan Valdez** outlines short- and long-term planning actions that will continue to safeguard the City's history and sense of place. Overall, the plan:

- Establishes a blueprint for future land use and infrastructure to effectively and efficiently guide private and public investments;
- Seeks to balance competing demands on land to the greatest benefit for citizens and the community as a whole;
- Identifies areas that will benefit from public infrastructure to promote well-planned, phased development patterns;
- Facilitates the development of work plans, budgets, capital improvements, and recommended amendments to zoning and land use ordinances to achieve desired goals and responsible stewardship of public resources; and,
- Implements a consistent framework for addressing land use issues that will establish a degree of predictability for property owners, businesses, and residents.

**Plan Valdez** builds on the region's rich history and community values, integrates previous and upcoming plans and projects, and recognizes the contributions of City leaders and community members. It reflects these continuances and changes, as well as the contemporary values and issues of concern within the community. It embodies what Valdez will be for future generations and acknowledges that change is gradual and requires a long-term commitment.

**Plan Valdez** was drafted during the health pandemic, COVID-19, and at a time when the nation is actively addressing racial equity. Both of these historic events make planning for the future less certain but also exemplify the need to proactively plan for a healthy and inclusive future.

## WHO USES A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A Comprehensive Plan means little if it is not implemented. To be successful, the plan strategies must be implemented through the shared responsibility of all stakeholders including residents, private developers, civic groups, businesses, City Staff, Boards and Commissions, local government, and elected officials through capital improvements. The following outlines who and how they would use **Plan Valdez**.

### COMMUNITY MEMBERS

*(Residents, business owners, developers)*

When submitting a development application or reviewing one, use the plan to document which goals, objectives and actions the proposed project implements.

### CITY STAFF

*(Planning & Development Services)*

Use the plan to conduct analysis of proposed actions for consistency with the plan and local ordinances to make land use and zoning recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

### PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

*(Community members appointed by City Council)*

Use the plan to provide policy recommendations to the City Council. Base decision-making and findings of fact on consistency with the plan, local ordinances, and regulations.

### CITY COUNCIL

*(Elected by community members)*

Base decision-making and findings of fact on consistency with the plan. Use the plan to guide policy decisions to facilitate plan goals, objectives, and actions.

## PLANNING THEMES

Collaborative  
Accountable  
Transparent



Livable Built  
Environment



Thriving, Stable  
and Sustainable  
Economy



Connected



Healthy Living



Environmental  
Stewardship



Adaptable and  
Resilient



## KEEPING THE PLAN UP TO DATE

**Plan Valdez** is intended to be a living document. Full updates to the plan should be undertaken every 5 years. The plan may also require amendments between updates. A major amendment would result in a substantial alteration of the City's land use mixture or boundary or a rezone of existing parcels and require approval of the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council. Major amendments to **Plan Valdez** should be done when:

- The extension of facilities and services (road, water, sewer) has changed the optimum intensity of development appropriate for the area.
- The pattern of growth in an area no longer reflects the type of growth expected in the current designation.
- There are new community or neighborhood plans and/or specific planned developments, which may either replace existing designations or which may have policies, elements, or standards which modify, replace, or supersede the plan.
- There is substantial support from residents and property owners for the proposed change.

## THE ROLE OF A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

A Comprehensive Plan serves many functions, and is used in a variety of ways.

**PLANVALDEZ**

### BASIS FOR COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AND DECISION MAKING

The goals and policies guide the Planning and Zoning Commission and City Council in their deliberations on zoning, subdivisions, capital improvements, and other matters relating to land use and development. This provides a stable, long-term basis for decision-making.

### BASIS FOR REGULATORY ACTION

Forms the groundwork for a statutory basis upon which zoning and land use decisions are made.

### LONG-TERM GUIDE

Assists in the long-term evaluation of public and private proposals that affect the community's physical, social, economic, and environmental characteristics.

# ABOUT VALDEZ



## HISTORY OF VALDEZ

Located on the Chugach Alutiiq/Sugpiaq people's ancestral homeland, the Valdez area has the traditional place name of Saucit, and may have the meaning 'the people from the place that rises into view'. It has been a gathering place since time immemorial for Alaska Native people to meet, hunt, fish, and trade. Seasonal villages existed in the area; however, they were not permanently inhabited before the town's founding by white settlers. Captain Cook was the first non-native visitor to Prince William Sound in 1778. Spanish cartographer Salvador Fidalgo sailed to Alaska in 1790 to reestablish the Spanish claim to the area and named it the Bay of Valdes after Admiral Antonio Valdes.

In the winter of 1897, 4,000 prospectors traveled to the Valdez area as part of the Klondike Gold Rush. Valdez was falsely advertised as the All-American Route to the goldfields of the Interior; however, there was no town or established trail upon their arrival. The prospectors established a tent city that eventually grew into Valdez. The following year, a formal trail was established through Thompson Pass to the Interior. Realizing Valdez as a strategic location, the Army built Fort Liscum at the present day Alyeska Trans-Alaska Pipeline terminal.

The trail provided the only American inland route to Fairbanks and was upgraded to become the Richardson Highway in 1919, with Valdez serving as the primary shipping port in and out of the Interior. During this time, the primary industries included local mining, shipping, fox farming, fishing, and tourism. In 1924, the Alaska Railroad connected the port community of Seward to Anchorage and Fairbanks, and Valdez was no longer the only entry to the Interior. The community entered its first bust period, with the population falling to 500 residents. At the onset of the bust, Fort Liscum closed. Valdez continued as a fisheries, shipping, and local mining community, but at a smaller scale. Over time, the community served a greater role in the shipping of military freight to the Interior.

On Good Friday, March 27, 1964, a magnitude 9.2 earthquake rocked the Valdez area. The earthquake triggered an underwater landslide resulting in several tsunami waves that destroyed the Valdez waterfront, killing 35 people. The townsite (now called Old Town) was condemned and relocated four miles to the west at its present site. In 1973, Federal Government plans approved the Trans-Alaska Pipeline construction with the terminus at Valdez, setting off a growth boom with 8,000 residents. In 1989, the population dropped to 3,500 and has remained near 4,000. Today, Valdez's primary industries are the oil sector, fisheries, transportation and shipping, local government, and recreation-based tourism.

### IN THE BEGINNING

Ancestral homeland to the Chugach Sugpiaq/Alutiiq people.  
Source for fishing, hunting, and trading.

**1867**

U.S. purchase Alaska from Russia.

**1898**

Military trail from Port Valdez to Eagle is established.

**1741 TO 1867**

Russian and European explorers arrived.

**1897 TO 1898**

Gold-seekers come to Valdez to follow the "All-American Route" over the Valdez Glacier into the Interior.  
Route advertised as a pre-existing trail but miners arrive to find no town or trail and a tent city springs up forming Valdez.

**1901**

The City of Valdez is incorporated with a population of 300-400 people.  
Valdez-Eagle Trail constructed.

“The town was here before the pipeline and it will be here after. Don’t plan for the kids you have now, plan for future generations.”

*Valdez Resident*

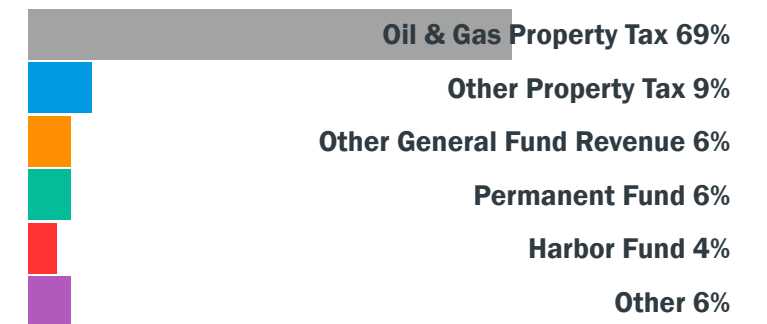
## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Valdez is a home-rule city. The Home Rule Charter states that the Charter “shall be liberally construed to the end that the City may have all powers necessary or convenient for the conduct of its municipal affairs, including all powers that cities may assume pursuant to the provisions of the state constitution.” The city manager serves as the chief administrative officer for the City and is appointed by, and serves at the pleasure of, the City Council. The city manager is responsible for the overall supervision and coordination of City operations and the City budget. City of Valdez departments include:

- Administration
- Capital Facilities
- City Clerk
- Economic Development
- Finance
- Fire
- Human Resources
- Information Technology
- Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services
- Planning
- Police
- Ports and Harbors
- Public Works

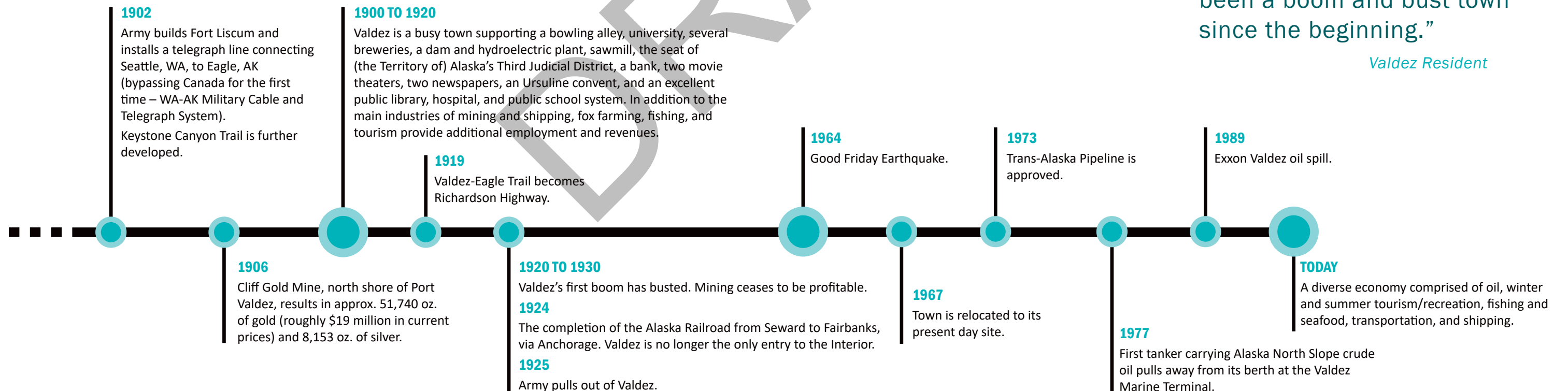
## VALDEZ BUDGET SOURCES

The City operates on an annual budget that represents a calendar year fiscal year, beginning on January 1st and ending on December 31st. The annual budget report highlights the financial needs and resources of the City’s upcoming fiscal year. These items include capital expenditures, capital improvements, City expenditures, and City revenue. Over the past 6 years from 2016 to 2021, the City budget has ranged from \$50M to \$73M with an average annual budget of approximately \$61M. Property tax revenues have averaged approximately \$44.5M.



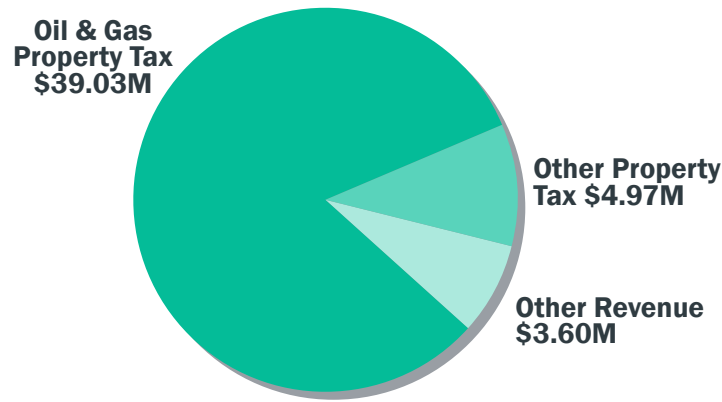
“My parents and grandparents, they talk about the cycles. It’s been a boom and bust town since the beginning.”

*Valdez Resident*



One of the key challenges for the long-term economic viability of the City of Valdez finances is its dependence on property taxes for revenue.

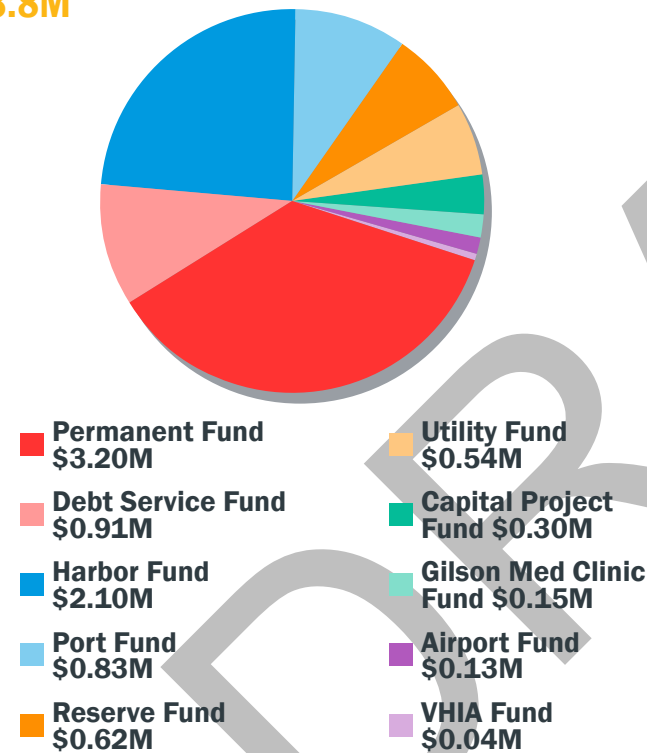
### 2020 GENERAL FUND REVENUES \$47.6M



Since 2006, approximately 90% of the city's general fund revenues have been comprised of property taxes. Because the City's tax structure is dependent on property tax revenues, the City does not burden taxpayers with sales tax and substantial fees on City operated utilities. The City's mill rate is 20 mills (2% or \$20 dollars for every \$1,000 of taxable value) to maximize property tax collections based on the State of Alaska Statutory formula for the taxation of oil and gas. About 90% of the tax revenue comes from the marine terminal, Petro Star's Valdez refinery, and other Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) pipeline facilities. This leaves the City of Valdez especially vulnerable to changes in property valuations for these key properties. Case-in-point, a new valuation for TAPS will be developed in 2021. If that assessment is significantly below current levels, the City of Valdez will have to reassess its fiscal priorities and/or find alternative revenue streams for the community. Both the fairness and the sustainability of the Valdez tax and fee system will be a challenge and focal point for the community looking forward.

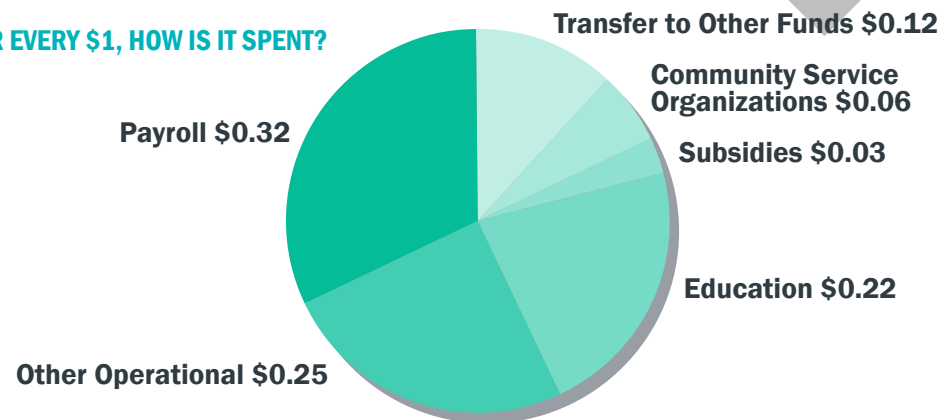
The City of Valdez Permanent Fund was established 1977. The City of Valdez charged oil company owners of the pipeline 1%, in exchange for letting the companies use the City's bonding authority to issue tax-exempt bonds. This created a \$13.5 million windfall and the permanent fund. The principal of the fund "shall not be spent, but shall be held perpetually in trust for the benefit of the present and future generations of Valdez residents." The purpose of the Valdez Permanent Fund and the fund's long term capability of becoming a source of operational funding for the City will be examined by the City Council. The City should develop a plan for revenue diversification in the event of a significant future disruption to property tax values.

### 2020 REVENUE FROM OTHER FUNDS \$8.8M



### HOW DOES VALDEZ SPEND ITS MONEY?

FOR EVERY \$1, HOW IS IT SPENT?



## THE ECONOMY

By many measures, Valdez has the highest median household income in Alaska. Well-paying oil jobs push income levels significantly higher than other Alaska towns. Valdez has the highest total median earnings of any community across Alaska at \$63,304 and also has the highest median full-time, year-round earnings at \$71,346.

In terms of median household income, Valdez has the 2nd highest level of household earnings of any city in the state. With a median household income of \$95,847, the median household income in Valdez is 25% higher than that of Alaska as a whole and 59% higher than the US.

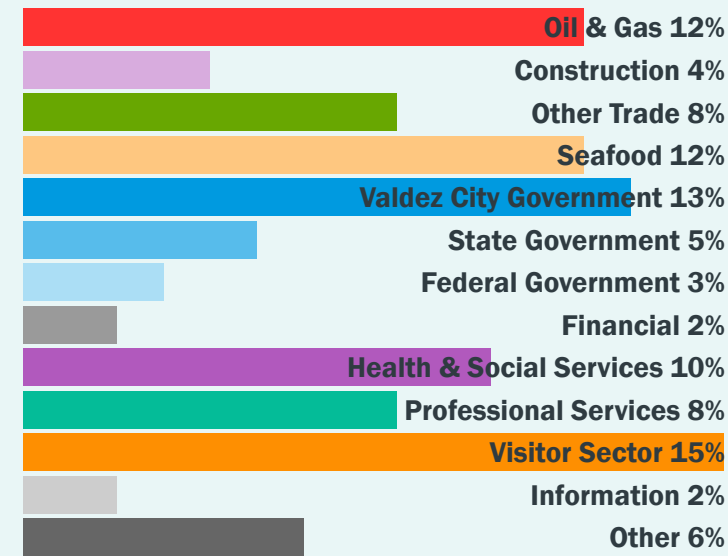
A total of 3,922 non-local workers in the Valdez-Cordova Census Area\* in 2018 earned \$83.9 million, accounting for 41% of all earnings that year, and comprising 59% of the total workers in the area.

The high level of non-resident workforce is driven by seafood processing and oil refining. In the Valdez-Cordova Census area, 82% of seafood processing workers are non-Alaskans.

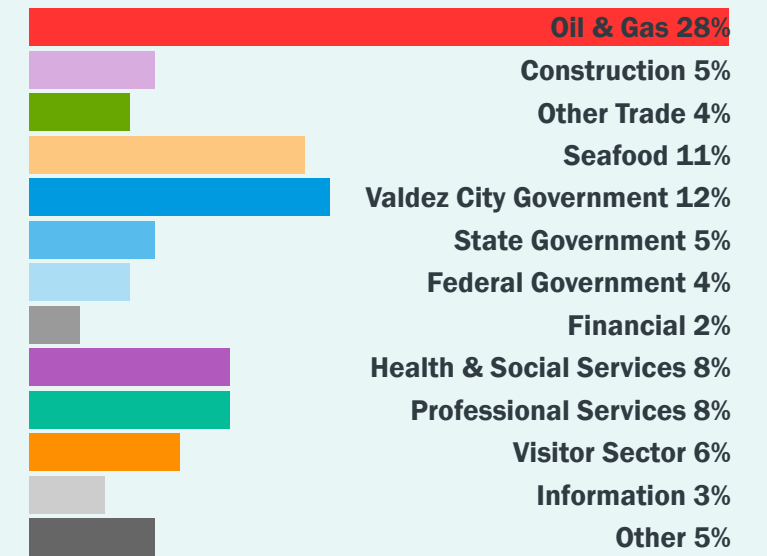
In Valdez in 2018, there were 2,830 jobs with an associated \$153 million in workforce earnings. The oil and gas sector is the largest provider of local wages, making up 28% of all workforce earnings in 2018. However, oil supports fewer annualized direct jobs, or year-round equivalent jobs, than the visitor sector, the seafood sector, or the Valdez government, which comprise the top three job providers in the community.

### THE WHOLE VALDEZ ALASKA ECONOMY 2018

#### 2,830 ANNUALIZED JOBS



#### \$153 MILLION WORKFORCE EARNINGS

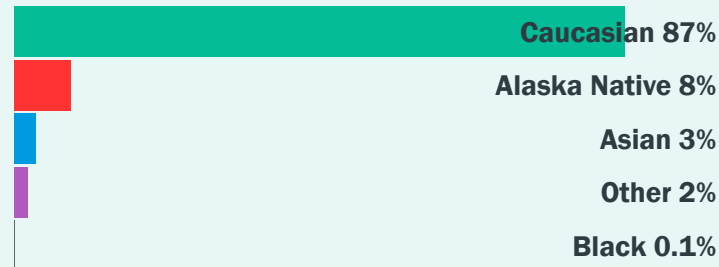


\*In 2019, Valdez was split from the Valdez-Cordova Census Area and became part of the newly formed Chugach Census Area along with Cordova and Whittier. At the time data was collected, Chugach Census Area information was not available for this new area.

“Where can we effectively compete? An airplane factory won't work, we are a hub for transportation, fishing, and tourism.”

Valdez Resident

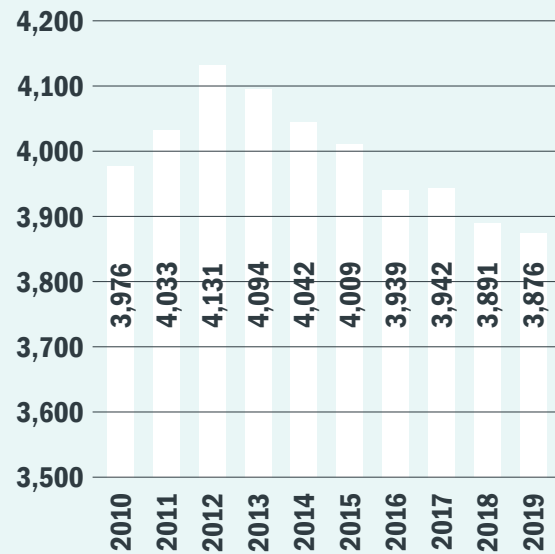
# WHO LIVES HERE?



## RACE

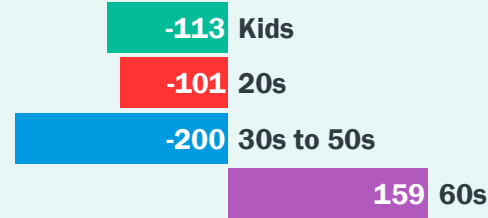
Racially, Valdez is a predominantly white community. The majority of residents are Caucasian, eight percent are Alaska Native, three percent are Asian, and 0.1% are Black. Ethnically, Valdez looks very different from the state of Alaska as a whole, which is approximately two-thirds white, 19% Alaska Native, 9% Asian, and 5% Black.

## 2020 POPULATION: 3,855



In the past seven years, the population has fallen every year but one, for a total loss of six percent, or 255 people. Some specific sub-demographic groups have fallen much more quickly than the total population.

## 7 YEARS OF VALDEZ POPULATION CHANGE -225 PEOPLE -6%



## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Continued Valdez population losses are expected, with 38 fewer residents projected in 2020. The 2025 Valdez population is on track to be the lowest recorded population for the community since the 1980s. According to these pre-COVID-19 estimates, between 2020 and 2045, the community is expected to lose 7% of its population, with a loss of 11% in the three decades between 2015 and 2045.

## WHAT DOES POVERTY LOOK LIKE IN VALDEZ?

Nine percent of the total Valdez population is below poverty levels, including 16% of school-aged children. In 2018, 8% of the white population in Valdez was below poverty and 56% of Alaska Natives living in the community were living below poverty levels.

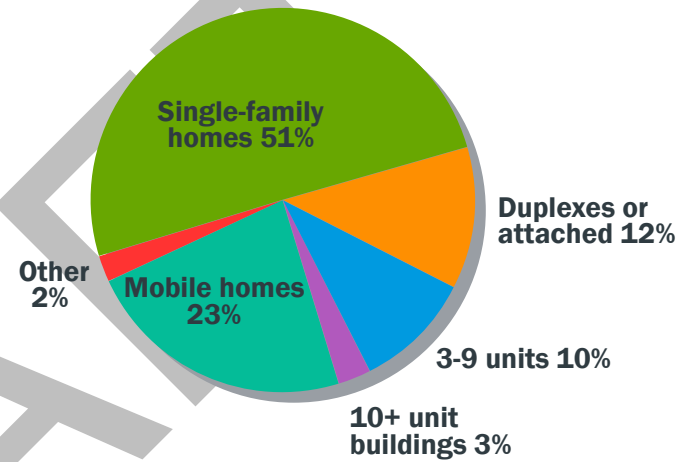
“Sometimes people can’t find housing so they choose not to relocate to Valdez for the job.”

*Valdez Resident*

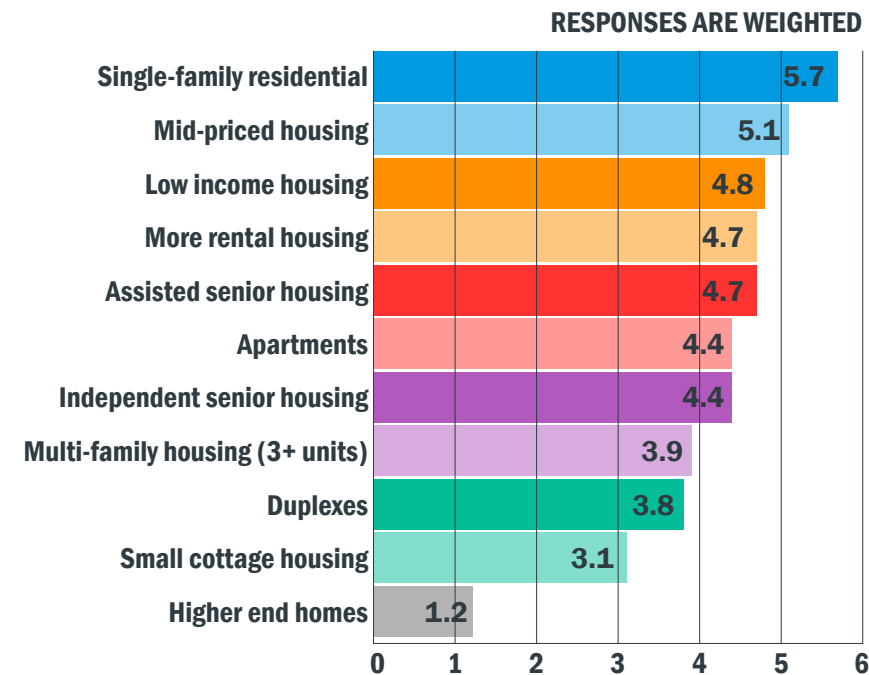
# HOUSING

Valdez has a high percentage of mobile/manufactured homes that make up the overall housing stock. Nationally, just 4.6% of all housing stock is made up of mobile homes. In Alaska, that figure is slightly higher at 6.3%, while coastal Alaska is 7.4%. In Valdez mobile homes make up 23%, nearly a quarter, of all housing units.

## VALDEZ HOUSING INVENTORY

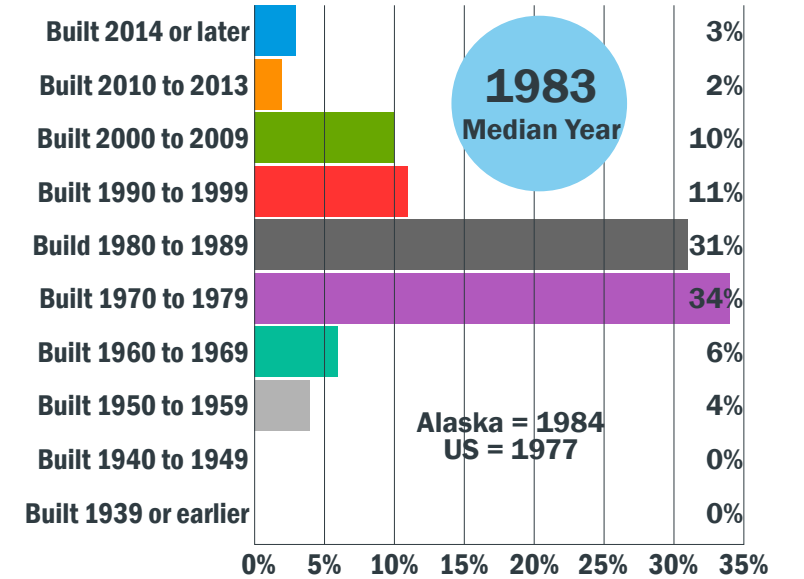


## HOW IMPORTANT ARE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOLLOWING HOUSING TYPES IN VALDEZ?



## YEAR BUILT IN VALDEZ

### PERCENTAGE OF HOMES BY YEAR BUILT



Results from the community survey provided feedback for the types of housing that the community feels is missing in Valdez. The top three housing developments that are most important to residents are single-family residential, mid-priced housing, and low-income housing.

“The availability of housing in general is very important. This is the biggest complaint or concern we get from new hires.”

*Valdez Resident*

# COMMUNITY VOICES



“When kids graduate they want to explore the world. When they come back to Valdez, they want to meet a partner, get a job, and buy a house. Can they do it?”

*Valdez Resident*



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

The community of Valdez shared with the planning team their perspective on what the future vision of their ideal community is. These community values, concerns, and aspirations created the foundation for *Plan Valdez*. To date, throughout the 18-month long process, over 750 voices were heard through multiple opportunities to provide input. These opportunities included virtual public meetings, focus groups, City Commission and Board meetings, City Council work sessions, the community survey, and submitting comments in response to the release of the draft plan.

The planning team typically held monthly meetings with the Comprehensive Planning Advisory Committee throughout the process. Several meetings were held with the Planning and Zoning Commission, various City Boards and Commissions, the Planning Department, and other City Departments. Valuable input from these diverse groups of stakeholders also helped to shape the plan’s vision.

## OUTREACH LIMITATIONS

At the onset of the project, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world and impacted the public engagement process planned for *Plan Valdez*. Due to travel restrictions, the planning team resorted to virtual meetings throughout the duration of the discovery and planning process. The planning team maintained paper copies and mailers to ensure that people without access to the virtual meetings were included in the process and had chances to participate in *Plan Valdez*.

While these tools were successful, they do not fully replace direct interaction and idea sharing that occurs through in-person engagement events. Unfortunately, these limitations were insurmountable and required to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community.

## WHAT WE HEARD

### COMMUNITY VALUES

- Small town spirit and values
- Neighbors helping neighbors
- Resiliency
- Access to recreation
- Culture and history

### CONCERNS

- Protecting character while growing the economy
- Increasing development costs and high cost of living
- Reduced regional transportation services
- Growing quality education and employment opportunities
- Diminishing population
- Access to healthcare
- Limited access to affordable childcare
- Long-term mental and physical health
- Lack of affordable housing and general lack of housing

### ASPIRATIONS

- Be a community where people want to stay
- Have a sustainable, stable, and year-round economy
- Have quality affordable services: education, health care, childcare, and senior living
- Have a variety of housing types to meet different needs and income levels
- Be a model city for wellness
- Grow in a positive and productive trajectory with the public and private sectors partnering in an efficient and effective manner
- Be celebrated for its quality of life
- Balance racial inequities

# OUR LAND



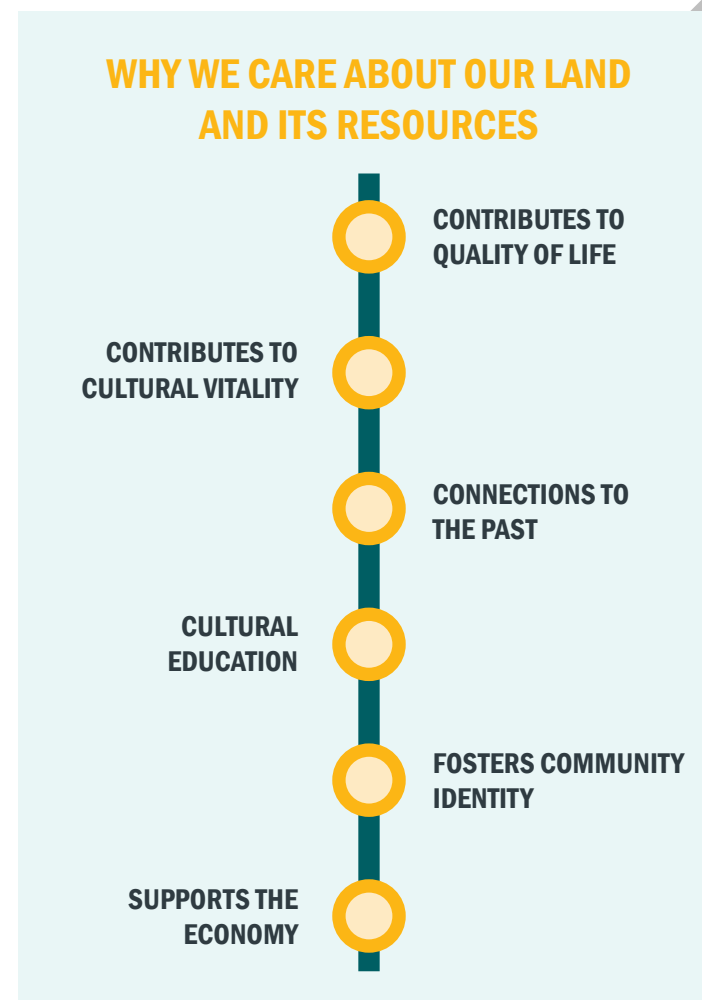
The natural features and resources of Valdez are central attributes that attracted early settlement and continue to attract residents, visitors, and businesses today. The historic and cultural resources of the community represent a living history of the area. Choices made in how the City is developed and how residents live day-to-day affect the quality of these resources. In turn, natural hazards, climate change, and other environmental issues potentially pose a threat to these same resources. Therefore, land use plans and major land use decisions need to be made with the fullest possible understanding of the resources and potential impacts. By integrating the natural, cultural, and built environment, Valdez will preserve and enhance a high quality of life for its residents with clean water, recognition of its historical past, habitat for fish and wildlife, and safe and secure places for people to live and work.

## LOCAL CULTURE

Valdez is located in Prince William Sound, the ancestral homeland of the Chugach Sugpiaq/Alutiiq people, and is rich in history and culture. There is scant documented information regarding the archaeological and cultural resources of the area; however, indigenous community members indicate there are important cultural resources here. Documented information is similarly lacking for subsistence use areas as the City of Valdez is located in a state Non-Subsistence Use Area and Valdez is considered a non-rural community under federal subsistence regulations. Community members have expressed their support in identifying and preserving the cultural resources in the area, including historic sites, buildings, and sensitive cultural locations.

Currently, the City of Valdez does not have a program that actively manages and considers cultural resources; however, ordinance 97-01 and Chapter 2.36 of Valdez Municipal Code established a Valdez Museum and Historical Archive that supports and enhances goals in heritage preservation, public education and economic development. The City of Valdez does not have a landmark designation program, nor does it maintain an inventory of local places deemed worthy of preservation. There are no properties in the City of Valdez that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places and there are no properties listed in the Alaska Landmark Register.

Historic and cultural resource preservation is conducted as part of a comprehensive planning framework, combining benefits of preservation with other community planning objectives. While federal and state laws and regulations govern the consideration of these place-based resources during state and federal project planning, consideration and preservation of these resources is most effective at the local level. The goal of *Plan Valdez* is to set up a framework that aligns with the private sector, independent organizations, and citizens to increase awareness of, and to protect Valdez's cultural resources.



## FACTORS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO OUR CULTURAL RESOURCES



# THRIVING & SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Valdez proactively plans for and adapts to economic cycles and industries as they change and evolve.

## Thriving & Sustainable Economy

Valdez has a unique economy for a coastal community. The rich oil and gas sector provides many highly-paid jobs for non-residents, while the remainder of the economy closely resembles that of a typical coastal Alaska community. It is the wealthiest community in Alaska by many measures, yet more than half of its Alaska Natives live in poverty. Valdez residents are among those able to afford housing in the state, yet trailers make up nearly a quarter of all homes in the community.

One of the unique components of the Valdez workforce is the high level of non-residents working in the community. Non-residents are one dataset for which there is only high-level Census area data for the larger Valdez-Cordova Census area. Valdez represents approximately half of the jobs and wages in this census area.

From an economic perspective, the community's most important focus should be to increase the availability of housing stock, especially to create more rental housing and entry-level housing for the Valdez workforce. Since housing is being considered elsewhere in this document, this section will deal with other goals that will improve and grow the Valdez economy.

## WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT ELEMENTS TO FACILITATE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE FUTURE?

(From Community Survey)



## GOAL 3.1

### Build upon Valdez's core economy

Continue to expand Valdez's core industries (shipping, tourism, oil, and fisheries) and status as a premier port community.

The pipeline has traditionally provided the City with stable employment as well as a steady source of tax revenue. More than a quarter of all local wages and 12% of all jobs in Valdez are in this sector. Oil is also the primary source of income for the City of Valdez with oil and gas property tax earnings. Seafood follows oil as the next most important source of jobs and workforce earnings for Valdez. The Valdez fishery is important to the community due to the number of fishermen the rich fishery supports, but also due to the logistical road connection the community provides, making it an excellent place to locate fish processing facilities. Continuing to support these industries is critical to the economic future of Valdez.

The Valdez waterfront serves as the driver for future growth, preservation, and the enhancement of Valdez as a community. Finding ways to ensure that it remains a first-class working waterfront should be encouraged. Opportunities and activities to build out the elements of the Comprehensive Waterfront Master Plan to strengthen Valdez as a premier port in Prince William Sound are important to the economic future of the community. According to the survey of nearly 500 residents developed for this project, 59% of residents call implementation of the Valdez Waterfront Comprehensive Master Plan a medium, medium-high, or highest level priority.

### ACTION

- A. Continue to advocate for the core economies (shipping, fishing, oil, tourism).
- B. Continue to partner on the feasibility and exploration of large-scale economic projects that benefit Valdez and State.

### OTHER PLANS THAT SHAPE THIS GOAL

- Valdez Pioneer Field Airport Master Plan Update (ADOT&PF)
- Waterfront Comprehensive Master Plan
- Competitive Market Analysis and Long Range Planning for the Port of Valdez
- Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (ADOT&PF)
- Alaska Statewide Long Range Transportation and Freight Plan (ADOT&PF)

## GOAL 3.2

### Pursue a diverse and self-reliant economy

Pursue a diverse and self-reliant local economy through working with local industries, workforce, education systems, entrepreneurs, and businesses to retain and attract businesses and residents who want to work and live in Valdez, year-round.

While the pipeline provides steady employment and a source of tax revenue, the community is concerned with the longevity of these benefits as production declines. The community desires to be proactive in creating a diverse and self-reliant economy that better insulates the City from a 'boom and bust' economy and the expected decline in oil revenue and employment. In the community survey, focus on the core industries is the priority with diversification the next economic priority. Identifying and attracting new local economic opportunities will help address this concern. Directly linked to developing a diverse economy is the need to address housing, childcare and other lifestyles issues.

### ACTION

- A. Participate in private/public partnerships to support small businesses.
- B. Develop City incentives for new business development.
- C. Continue to work with and provide support for industries (both new and existing) to develop new opportunities that diversify and support the local economy.
- D. Continue to monitor and participate in discussions around Borough formation.

### COLLABORATION (NON-CITY OF VALDEZ LEAD)

- Continue to be partners to facilitate hospital expansion.
- Continue to work with industry partners to identify local workforce needs and expand on workforce and trades training with UAA, high school and local businesses.

### OTHER PLANS THAT SHAPE THIS GOAL

- Waterfront Comprehensive Master Plan
- Competitive Market Analysis and Long Range Planning for the Port of Valdez

## GOAL 3.3

### Promote Valdez as a destination

Promote the community as a year-round visitor and recreation destination while effectively balancing the benefits with possible impacts.

Prior to the pandemic, Valdez captured four percent of Alaska's non-resident visitor market, and is a recreation draw for Alaskans on the road system. When adjusted to annualized employment, the visitor industry accounted for 15% of all year-round equivalent jobs in the community (2019). The visitor sector is the top provider of jobs in Valdez, and one of the fastest growing sectors. However, the visitor industry provided only six percent of total community workforce earnings, making it the 6th most significant wage provider. There are many opportunities to increase total visitors and total visitor spending.

### ACTION

- A. Develop a tourist carrying capacity study, including the target number of cruise ship port calls/annually.
- B. Ports and Harbors: Upgrade Kelsey Dock for cruise ships (structural, motor coach staging, wayfinding, seawalk).
- C. Enhance the Old Town site as an important destination.
- D. Enhance trail facilities by adding wayfinding and installing trailhead facilities.

### COLLABORATION (NON-CITY OF VALDEZ LEAD)

- Partner to enable cultural, recreation, and business opportunities.
- Support partners in their development of recreation opportunities (non-motorized and motorized).
- Develop new 'local' shore excursions (eco and cultural).
- Expand shoulder season for fishing with hatchery.
- Continue to partner to market Valdez tourism.
- Increase and develop new local attractions (independent and organized tourism).

### OTHER PLANS THAT SHAPE THIS GOAL

- Waterfront Comprehensive Master Plan
- Valdez Visitor Market Profile
- Valdez Museum & Historical Archive Master Interpretive Plan
- Meals Hill Master Plan (when approved 2021)



# CONNECTED



Valdez has a safe and efficient multi-modal transportation network that supports future generations' health and mobility needs, enhances economic vibrancy, and improves local and regional connectivity.

## Connected

Each of us relies on a network of transportation options every day: walk, fly, ferry, bicycle, bus, or drive. It's how we connect with each other, our families, jobs, and essential services like medical care. It's how we receive our food, fuel, packages, and basic goods that contribute to our quality of life. When these networks stop functioning, there are real impacts on our everyday lives - lost time, missed opportunities, and service interruptions. Maintaining a well-connected, reliable, and diverse transportation network requires planning, especially in a remote environment like Valdez.

Valdez residents, visitors, and workforces rely on the Richardson Highway, the Port of Valdez, the Alaska Marine Highway Ferry System, the Valdez Marine Terminal, and the Valdez airport for travel and cargo. One or more of these may not be operational at any given time due to extreme weather or funding constraints. Recently, air service has been disrupted, due to carrier problems and ferry service has been sporadic at best due to an aging fleet and budget constraints. It is not uncommon for the Richardson Highway to have multiple closures throughout the winter. In addition to getting to and from Valdez, making connections within the community are critical. How does someone arriving at the airport get to the Town Center or Working Waterfront? Are there designated freight routes to facilitate the efficient movement of freight and minimize conflicts with other modes? If you are visiting from a cruise ship, can you easily walk to your destinations? If you don't have a car in Valdez, can you get to work, school, and medical facilities? Moving forward, Valdez needs to ensure that these are working components of their city model.

We are in a time of transformational technologies, including fiber optic networks and 5G communications, connected and automated vehicles, mobility as a service, big data analytics, and alternative fuels. These emerging technologies are changing the way people, goods, and information move. The City of Valdez should monitor these technologies to prepare for them and assess how and if they can help achieve the City's vision.

## GOAL 4.1

### Improve regional connectivity

*Advocate for and participate in initiatives to improve regional connectivity across multiple transportation modes including air, water, and road.*

A well-connected transportation network reduces the time and distances traveled to reach destinations and increases the options for routes of travel. Planning for an integrated transportation system looks at not only how all of the individual components work independently, but also how they complement each other and function together for the safe, reliable and efficient movement of people and freight. While the City has little control over the regional network, strong community engagement in regional and state planning processes can help to identify and advocate for connectivity needs and gaps.

### ACTION

- Identify and plan for needed connections between transportation modes for efficient regional travel times.
- Maintain and/or acquire right of way for potential future transportation uses and connectivity through subdivision actions, redevelopment, and purchases.
- Participate in the statewide and regional transportation planning and advocacy.
- Monitor emerging technology and statewide planning efforts.
- Continue to advocate for reliable ferry and air service.

### COLLABORATION (NON-CITY OF VALDEZ LEAD)

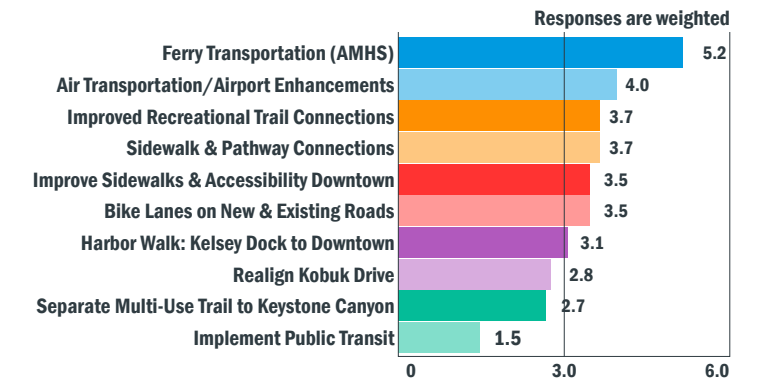
- Collaborate with coastal communities for a healthy AMHS system.

### OTHER PLANS THAT SHAPE THIS GOAL

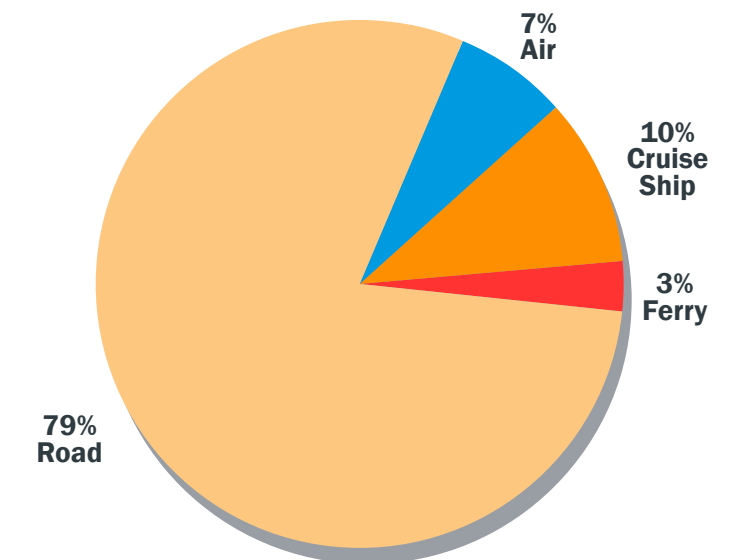
- Valdez Pioneer Field Airport Master Plan Update (ADOT&PF)
- Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (ADOT&PF)
- Alaska Statewide Long Range Transportation and Freight Plan (ADOT&PF)

## HOW IMPORTANT ARE THE FOLLOWING CONNECTION IMPROVEMENTS?

(From Community Survey)



## PASSENGER ARRIVALS IN VALDEZ BY MODE OF TRAVEL IN 2019



# CONNECTED (CONT'D)



## GOAL 4.2

### Improve community transportation connections

*Develop a safe, convenient, and linked year-round multi-modal transportation network to neighborhoods, destinations, and services.*

Creating a multi-modal transportation system requires enhancing the current automobile/truck oriented system to include a network of improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities. More people walking and biking is good for the local and visitor economy and enables all members of the community to interact with each other and the surrounding environment. While all place types will benefit from a safer, walkable and bikeable network, connectivity between the Town Center and Working Waterfront should be a priority.

### ACTION

- A.** Update and modernize road standards inclusive of non-motorized facilities.
- B.** Develop a pedestrian and bicycle plan (specific to area bounded by North Harbor Drive, Pioneer Drive, Hazelet Avenue and Chitna Avenue).
- C.** Work with ADOT&PF to complete key intersection safety studies (Hazelet Ave from Meals Avenue to Pioneer Drive).
- D.** Implement “park once” improvements in the Harbor and Town Center area that encourage people to park and walk to multiple destinations.
- E.** Coordinate with ADOT&PF to prioritize the extension of multi-use pathways (one for each, motorized (ORV) and non-motorized use) to Keystone Canyon including within the Duck Flats (ADOT&PF is lead).
- F.** Coordinate with ADOT&PF to prioritize the improvement of the “Welcome to Valdez” sign site (pull-out and pedestrian crossing facilities) (ADOT&PF is lead).
- G.** Monitor cruise ship passenger travel and assess when visitor volumes trigger a need for transportation improvements.

### COLLABORATION (NON-CITY OF VALDEZ LEAD)

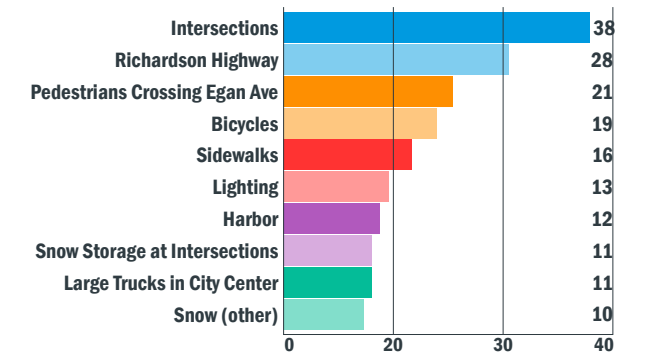
- Coordinate with local non-motorized and motorized groups for funding/implementation of improvements.
- Upgrade Richardson Highway to support movement of larger sized cargo from port to interior.
- Work with ADOT&PF to identify funding through the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program funding for transportation alternatives (TA). These set aside funds include smaller scale transportation projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, trails, and safe routes to school projects.
- Work with ADOT&PF to identify opportunities for improvements to include pull outs for short-term parking, scenic views and a potential pathway along Dayville Road.

### OTHER PLANS THAT SHAPE THIS GOAL

- Valdez Pioneer Field Airport Master Plan Update (ADOT&PF)
- Alaska Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (ADOT&PF)

## WHAT SAFETY CONCERNS DO YOU HAVE RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION?

(From Community Survey)



# Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Development Plan



## 2005 Update

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning and Land Use Department

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# Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Development Plan (2005 Update)

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## **Purpose**

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Development Plan (Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan) was originally adopted in 1970. This plan contains sections addressing Borough-wide as well as community-specific issues. Since 1970, the plan has been updated and amended through the adoption of community based plans, specific plans such as the Long Range Transportation Plan and Lake Management Plans, and plans prepared by the State of Alaska, such as the Susitna Area Plan. The purpose of revising the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan of 1970, as amended, is to update the section addressing Borough-wide growth and development issues. In addition, this revision will discuss the method of comprehensive planning used by the Borough, how community based plans and Borough-wide plans relate to one another, and Borough-wide planning issues.

The Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan, as amended, provides general goals and policy recommendations to help guide future development in order to enhance our quality of life and the public health, safety, and welfare. Because the comprehensive plan seeks to promote a high quality of life for a twenty year period, its goals and recommendations are general in nature so as to accommodate new technologies, development patterns, a growing population and diversifying economy.

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## **Comprehensive Planning in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough**

The Borough undertakes comprehensive planning in several ways, including: participation in state and federal plans, community based plans, Borough-wide and regional plans, and functional plans such as Lake Management plans. This section describes the general public participation process used by the Borough in developing its plans, discusses the community by community approach used for comprehensive planning in the Borough, and briefly addresses implementation techniques. Implementation of the plan is further discussed on page 15.

### **Public Participation:**

The Borough encourages active public participation in comprehensive planning efforts. The use of citizen based planning teams to develop goals, objectives, and recommendations is the standard method used by the Borough when developing its plans. In most cases, the Borough Planning Commission appoints citizens to planning teams in an effort to obtain broad public involvement and a balance of interests.

In addition to the use of planning teams, a variety of other methods are typically used to increase public involvement. These techniques vary depending upon the type of plan, level

of public interest and impact, and recommendations from the planning team, Planning Commission, Assembly and Administration. Typical public involvement efforts include open houses, survey questionnaires, public presentations, focus groups, and both informal and formal requests for public comments.

The Borough uses a formal process to adopt its plans. The formal process begins with the plan's review by the affected community council(s). After community council review, plans are reviewed by the Planning Commission where public hearing(s) are also held. The Planning Commission then makes its recommendations to the Borough Assembly where a public hearing is held and the plan is considered and adopted. Once the Borough Assembly adopts a plan, it then becomes a part of the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan.



*Matanuska River Watershed Coalition*  
(Frankie Barker, MSB)

### **Implementation:**

Comprehensive plans may be implemented in a number of ways. The typical manner of implementing a comprehensive plan is through a zoning ordinance. When a community comprehensive plan is adopted by the Assembly, it is typically implemented through a zoning ordinance specific to the community planning area; these zoning ordinances are called Special Use Districts (SpUDs). There are several SpUDs within the Borough today. In addition to zoning ordinances, comprehensive plans may be implemented through subdivision regulations, capital improvement programs, specific ordinances, and general policy.

### **Components of the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan:**

As mentioned earlier, the Borough's comprehensive plan consists of a variety of plans addressing various Borough and community needs and issues. The plans generally fall into one of the following categories:

- State and Federal plans;
- Borough Regional plans;
- Community plans;
- Specialty or Functional plans.

For example, State plans address how state lands are to be managed. Regional transportation and public facility plans guide the development of the Borough's future infrastructure. Community plans address community goals and objectives as well as how these goals and objectives will be achieved at the local level. Lastly, specialty or functional plans address specific issues such as the management of a particular lake or the waste management function of the Borough. Table 1 describes some of the plans adopted by the Borough in each of the aforementioned categories.

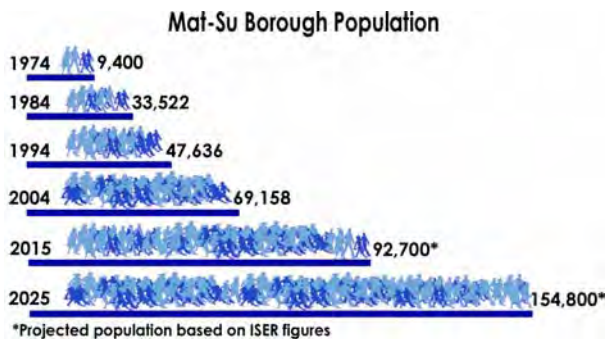
**Table 1**  
Examples of Plans Adopted as Part of the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan

| <b>State &amp; Federal Plans</b>  | <b>Borough Regional Plans</b>                       | <b>Community Plans</b>          | <b>Specialty/Functional Plans</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Susitna Area Plan                 | Long Range Transportation Plan                      | Chickaloon Comprehensive Plan   | Big Lake, Lake Management Plan    |
| Willow Sub-Basin Plan             | Borough-wide Public Facilities Plan                 | Talkeetna Comprehensive Plan    | Port MacKenzie Master Plan        |
| Susitna Basin Forestry Guidelines | Borough-wide Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan | Glacier View Comprehensive Plan | Solid Waste Management Plan       |

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## Borough-wide Goals and Recommendations

The first Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan was developed and adopted in 1970. Since 1970, the Borough has dramatically changed in terms of its economy, population and built/natural environment. For instance, in 1970 the Borough had an agricultural based economy, a population of approximately 7,500 and limited infrastructure. Today, retail, finance, and real estate services are the primary sectors of the Borough’s economy. The Borough’s population is near 75,000 and the public and private infrastructure has grown significantly.



The new growth has also brought new industries and technologies to the Borough. Some of these new industries and technologies such as communication towers, waste incinerators, and oil and gas development have created compatibility issues in residential neighborhoods and recreational areas. Managing these and other land uses to enhance the quality of life of Borough residents, while also

improving and diversifying the local economy, is one task of comprehensive planning.

Alaska State statute requires that a local community’s comprehensive plan address, at a minimum, three issues: land use, transportation and public facilities. This update to the Borough’s 1970 Comprehensive Development Plan addresses these issues as well as six others including Planning Methods, Community Quality, Parks and Open Space, Economy, Hazards, and Implementation.

**Table 2**  
Comprehensive Plan Elements

| State-Required Elements                         | Borough-Elected Elements                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Transportation<br>Public Facilities<br>Land Use | Planning Methods<br>Economy<br>Hazards<br>Parks and Open Space<br>Community Quality<br>Implementation |

**Planning Methods:**

The Borough’s present method of relying upon four general categories of plans (i.e., State/Federal, Borough/Regional, Community, and Specialty/Functional plans) to guide the development within the Borough provides for public participation at all levels of planning. The Borough’s present method of planning provides a balance between Borough, regional, and local community desires while also providing the means to participate in state and federal decision making.

Some issues are best addressed through a Borough-wide or regional planning process. For example, developing an integrated transportation system of highways and arterials to address inter and intra state traffic is best done at the Borough-wide level. The actual location of the highway or arterial, however, is best addressed at the community level through local community based plans. The use of community based comprehensive plans and special use districts provide residents with the opportunity to guide development within their specific community. It is essential that community based plans are consistent with the goals and policies of the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan in order to maintain efficient, equitable, and effective planning efforts throughout the Borough. To maintain the desired balance between Borough-wide and local community needs the following goals and recommendations are made:

**Goal (PM-1):** *Use a variety of plans to address the different needs of Borough residents and communities.*

Policy PM1-1: Continue the use of four general planning categories to address the various planning needs of Borough residents and communities; the general planning categories being: state and federal, Borough-wide and regional, community, and specialty or functional plans.

Policy PM1-2: Adopt plans that are consistent with and compliment the goals and policies of the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan.

**Goal (PM-2):** *Encourage local communities to develop goals, objectives, and recommendations for their communities.*

Policy PM2-1: Continue to use the community based comprehensive planning process to allow each community in the Borough to tailor land use, transportation, public facility, recreation, and other recommendations to their specific needs and desires which are consistent with the goals and policies of the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan.



Policy PM2-2: Encourage local communities to further refine the goals and recommendations of state, federal, Borough-wide and regional plans through community based comprehensive plans which are in compliance with the goals and policies of the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan.

### **Economy:**

The Borough's economy has dramatically changed since 1970. The economy has changed from an agricultural based economy to one that largely consists of tourism, retail sales, and service activities. The Borough's economic maturation process continues to diversify consistent with population growth. For instance, the Borough has recently seen new development in the health care industry bringing new economic and employment opportunities to local businesses and residents.



*Vessel Bound for Port MacKenzie (MSB)*

The Borough continues to strive for an improved quality of life for its residents through increased economic growth and job creation. Some of the efforts that have been embarked upon include Port MacKenzie, Hatcher Pass Ski Area, creation of economic development incentives, promotion of tourism, and business retention and expansion.

The Borough needs to continue its efforts to maintain, diversify, and expand its economic base. Moreover, continued recognition and support of individual local communities specific economic

goals should occur. In pursuing these efforts the Borough should seek to achieve the following goals to address economic development:

**Goal (E-1):** *Develop an Action Plan for continued economic development and diversification.*

Policy E1-1: Regularly update the Borough's Economic Development Plan.

Policy E1-2: Work closely with other private, public, and non-profit entities to develop an agreed upon approach to economic development and specific economic development projects.

Policy E1-3: Identify and focus resources on existing and anticipated key economic nodes as a means to improve the potential success.

Policy E1-4: Locate new economic nodes at or near major arterial intersections instead of allowing linear commercial growth along such arterials.

Policy E1-5: Encourage a mix of complimentary uses at designated economic node locations.

Policy E1-6: Recognize and support the different economic and community development goals of the Borough's local communities.

Policy E1-7: Work cooperatively with outlying borough communities to facilitate local efforts to develop economic plans that are consistent with their needs and desires.

**Goal (E-2):** *Manage Borough owned lands in a manner that fosters economic development while ensuring quality of life.*

Policy E2-1: Consider impacts to surrounding properties when considering potential uses of public lands.

Policy E2-2: Work with local communities to identify possible mitigation and/or enhancement plans when considering uses or sales of borough owned land.

Policy E2-3: When determining sales price of borough owned land, sales price of private property should be considered so as not to put private property owners in a disadvantaged position to sell their property.

Policy E2-4: Consider potential impacts potential buyers/lesers of borough owned land may have on surrounding community.

**Goal (E-3):** *Create an attractive environment for business investment.*

Policy E3-1: Provide reasonable economic and financial incentives for business retention and expansion.

Policy E3-2: Institute appropriate land use guidelines and regulations that reduce land use conflicts and protect residents and businesses.

Policy E3-3: Enhance the transportation infrastructure to reduce travel times and improve transport efficiencies and safety.

Policy E3-4: Provide superior education facilities and programs for student and worker training.

Policy E3-5: Work cooperatively with the University of Alaska Anchorage to expand the Matanuska-Susitna College to a four-year university.

### **Public Facilities:**

Public facilities include schools, fire stations, libraries, parks, water and sewer systems, landfills, and recreational structures. These facilities are necessary to support community development and growth by supporting the provision of clean water, emergency response, education, recreation, and other vital community services. Public facilities are therefore a necessary ingredient in enhancing the borough's quality of life. A community's public facility infrastructure also engenders a sense of community by providing physical features that may promote additional development activity and thus enhancing community quality. Successful economic development relies upon a comprehensive public facilities network. Potential investors must be assured of the availability of clean water supplies, efficient waste disposal services, fire protection, and quality education opportunities.



*Teeland Middle School (MSB)*

The Borough's public facilities support different population centers and user groups; therefore the levels of service provided by these facilities may differ depending upon location and service population. The 1984 Borough-wide Public Facilities Plan provided five general

principles to guide the development of public facilities within the Borough. The principles have guided the Borough well over the last twenty years. Updating these five principles to address today's needs is necessary as the Borough has changed greatly since 1984. The updated principles for public facility development are:

- Public facilities serve as the basic infrastructure required to build local communities.
- Public facilities should be considered as systems that interrelate with each other.
- Public facility systems should recognize and accommodate the regional diversity of the Borough.
- Public facilities, to the extent feasible and practical, should be developed on the basis of locally adopted and reasonable standards that are appropriate to the various regions.
- Public facilities can, and should, share space and infrastructure to allow multiple uses to the extent feasible and practical.

In addition to the general principles that guide the development and placement of public facilities, facility and level-of-service standards are also important considerations for the efficient and effective development of public facilities.

Since the Borough adopted a Borough-wide Public Facilities Plan in 1984, it has been amended by the adoption of the following Borough-wide functional plans:

- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, 2000
- Solid Waste Management Plan, 2002
- Borough Library Comprehensive Plan, 2001
- Historic Preservation Plan, 1987

These functional plans have addressed the changes that have occurred in the Borough since 1984 and developed recommendations for the future. To help guide further development of the Borough's public facilities the following goals and recommendations are made:

**Goal (PF-1):** *Develop efficient and effective public facilities to meet the needs of the Borough's diverse communities, economy, and growing population.*

Policy PF1-1: Regularly update the 1984 Public Facilities Plan by preparing functional plans for each of the principle public facility categories to provide overall guidance to the development of the Borough's public facilities while achieving consistency with the goals and policies of the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan.

Policy PF1-2: Allow local communities, through local community based plans, to tailor the Borough-wide Public Facilities Plan and regional functional plans to address specific local needs and conditions while tailoring such plans to comply with the goals and policies of the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan.

Policy PF1-3: Develop a set of facility and level of service standards to guide the development of public facilities.

Policy PF1-4: To the extent feasible and practical, co-locate public facilities in order to reduce construction, operating, maintenance costs, and potential negative impacts.

Policy PF1-5: Identify and acquire the necessary land for future public facilities.

Policy PF1-6: Identify and retain public lands that are appropriate for future public facility use.

Policy PF1-7: Consider expansion of public water and sewer infrastructure where appropriate based upon population growth trends and anticipated population density.

### **Transportation:**

A transportation plan identifies the future transportation system for an area by identifying the service level and network improvements necessary to accommodate future growth patterns. A transportation plan also makes recommendations for improving the various modes of transportation and makes recommendations that may improve how the system functions, such as congestion management and road interconnectivity throughout the community. In addition to providing recommendations addressing physical improvements, a transportation plan seeks to improve the natural environment by reducing air and water pollution. Furthermore, through reduction of travel times and safety improvements, the plan should advance the economy as well as the community's general quality of life.

The Borough adopted its first regional transportation plan in 1984 which was later updated with the adoption of the 1997 Long Range Transportation Plan. Each of these plans recognized the need for the development of a regional network of highways and arterials to support the Borough's population and economic growth. The plans also recognized the



*Parks and Glenn Highway Interchange*  
(Sandra Petal, MSB)

importance of improving the various modes of transportation by making recommendations for airports, marine port development, rail, and public transportation and trails that enhance connectivity between communities. System improvements through congestion management techniques, first discussed in the 1997 Long Range Transportation Plan, seek to improve the efficiency of the existing system. The progress made by the 1984 and 1997 plans should be continued and enhanced. In order for the Borough to

keep pace with new technologies and globalization of the economy, recommendations should be considered for other modes of transportation such as electrical, communications, and pipelines.

**Goal (T-1):** *Develop an integrated surface transportation network that facilitates the efficient movement of people, goods, and services throughout the Borough and region.*

Policy T1-1: Regularly update the Long Range Transportation Plan.

Policy T1-2: Develop an integrated highway and arterial surface transport system.

Policy T1-3: Allow local communities, through local community based plans, to refine and tailor transportation system needs and alternatives for their particular community needs that are consistent with the borough's long range transportation plan and Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan.

Policy T1-4: Develop an effective multi-modal transportation plan that provides recommendations for all modes of transportation including surface, air, waterborne, rail, public transit and trails, pipeline, electrical, and communications. Such a plan should strive to better connect the borough's various communities and neighborhoods.

Policy T1-5: Complete functional plans that address each mode of transportation to achieve a higher level of specificity.

Policy T1-6: Provide and encourage street and trail connectivity at a regional and local level. Require new developments to integrate street and trail connectivity as a component of their proposal.

**Goal (T-2):** *Protect and enhance the Borough's natural resources including watersheds, groundwater supplies and air quality.*

Policy T2-1: Identify and implement techniques and incentives that improve air quality, reduce non-point water pollution, and improve fuel efficiency.

Policy T2-2: Encourage transportation planning efforts that recognize and consider the Borough's diverse land use development patterns and encourage local community land use decision-making.

### **Hazards:**

Borough residents may periodically be confronted by natural and human caused hazards. Potential natural hazards include floods, earthquakes, avalanches, wildfire, snow and windstorms and extreme cold. Human caused hazards include hazardous material and waste spills, railroad derailments, and air and water contamination. It is vital for the Borough and its residents to be adequately prepared to respond to these hazards in order to reduce the loss of life and property. Moreover, it is necessary to have prepared action plans for community and economic recovery so that our community may begin a timely rebuilding/recovery process. To adequately address natural and human caused hazards, the following goals and recommendations are made:



*Windstorm, Wasilla Lake  
(Sandra Petal, MSB)*

**Goal (H-1):** *Develop an approach for responding to natural and human caused hazards.*

Policy H1-1: Prepare a Borough-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**Goal (H-2):** *Adequately prepare for natural and human caused emergencies.*

Policy H2-1: Conduct regular multi-agency emergency response training workshops.

Policy H2-2: Ensure Borough employees are adequately trained for emergency response.

Policy H2-3: Conduct regular public information campaigns on emergency preparedness.

## Land Use:

The Borough is comprised of over 24,000 square miles containing urbanized, suburban, rural, and remote areas. There are twenty-six recognized communities, each distinguished with unique life styles and community values. While the Borough is distinguished with diversity in land use patterns and communities, a common thread exists throughout the Borough that seeks to preserve and enhance existing qualities that make living and working within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough a chosen and welcomed lifestyle.

Balancing the different needs and desires related to land use decisions is challenging. Some land use decisions need to be addressed in a consistent fashion throughout the Borough because they have a common affect on the population as a whole. Consistent application of Borough-wide land use decisions results in an effective, efficient, equitable policy. For example, the Borough created a Borough-wide seventy-five foot (75') shoreline setback for habitable structures. Developing consistent standards for businesses wishing to locate in the Borough is another reason for making some land use decisions at the Borough-wide level. Consistent standards allow the business community to better plan their investments and allow for better predictability for both industry and residents alike. Many land use issues are best addressed at a Borough-wide level because of the very nature of the issue. Examples of such issues include watersheds, groundwater, and waste disposal which affect large areas and multiple communities.

While many issues are better addressed at a regional or Borough-wide level, it is necessary to recognize that some land use issues are better addressed at the local community level. This is due to the unique characteristics embodied within the Borough's communities. For instance, communities with water and sewer infrastructure may prefer small lot development, while those communities without such infrastructure and having sensitive groundwater supplies may prefer large lot development. Certain communities may wish to preserve important historical sites or promote certain economic opportunities which may be irrelevant to other communities.

Some of the key reasons to manage land uses are to limit residential and commercial sprawl, limit proximity of incompatible uses, and to encourage uses that support one another. For instance, while it may not be appropriate for a loud, externally illuminated, busy industrial use to be located next to a residential use, there are reasons to encourage a modest-sized grocery store to be located within close proximity to residential properties. To maintain a healthy and diversified economy it is necessary to provide places for all development, especially commercial and industrial development; hence, land use regulations should accommodate such uses and provide investors with a clear understanding, supported by consistent policies, of where and how they may develop their specific investments. To support this land-use framework, the following goals and recommendations are provided:

**Goal (LU-1):** *Protect and enhance the public safety, health, and welfare of Borough residents.*

**Policy LU1-1:** Provide for consistent, compatible, effective, and efficient development within the Borough.

**Goal (LU-2):** *Protect residential neighborhoods and associated property values.*

Policy LU2-1: Develop and implement regulations that protect residential development by separating incompatible uses, while encouraging uses that support such residential uses including office, commercial and other mixed-use developments that are shown to have positive cumulative impacts to the neighborhood.

**Goal (LU-3):** *Encourage commercial and industrial development that is compatible with residential development and local community desires.*

Policy LU3-1: Develop and implement regulations that provide for non-residential development.

Policy LU3-2: Allow local communities, through local community based plans, to refine Borough-wide regulations addressing development patterns and impacts while maintaining consistency with the goals and policies of the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan.



*Palmer in Winter* (Frankie Barker, MSB)

**Goal (LU-4):** *Protect and enhance the Borough's natural resources including watersheds, groundwater supplies and air quality.*

Policy LU4-1: Identify, monitor, protect, and enhance the quantity and quality of the Borough's watersheds, groundwater aquifers, and clean air resources.

Policy LU4-2: Population density standards should accommodate the natural system's ability to sustain varying density levels.

**Goal (LU-5):** *Recognize and protect the diversity of the Borough's land use development patterns including agricultural, residential, commercial, industrial and cultural resources, while limiting sprawl.*

Policy LU5-1: Develop and implement land use planning efforts that recognize, protect, and enhance the Borough's diverse land use development patterns and encourage local community land use decision-making, while limiting sprawl and maintaining consistency with the goals and policies of the Borough-wide Comprehensive Plan.

Policy LU5-2: Encourage and provide various lot size and population density standards to accommodate a variety of property owners and residents.

**Goal (LU-6):** *New developments greater than five (5) units per acre should incorporate design standards that will protect and enhance the existing built and natural environment.*

**Goal (LU-7):** *The borough should actively limit sprawl through setting appropriate density standards and encouraging residential and commercial development to occur in areas that are centrally located and within close proximity to public and private services.*

## Parks and Open Space:

Parks and other open spaces make a distinct contribution to the landscape and quality of life in the Borough. Without proactive decisions, policies and financial commitment, this aspect of our quality of life is in jeopardy. As the Borough experiences additional growth pressures, not only is the protection and development of such areas needed, but the equitable dispersion of parks and open space should be addressed. Consequently, the Borough should strategically and creatively position itself to deal with open space demands for various users. Some of the challenges facing the Borough to meet this need are:

1. Acquiring and developing additional parkland, campgrounds and recreational areas in areas of the Borough where such amenities are deficient, by providing additional neighborhood parks, community parks, campgrounds, recreational areas and open space.
2. Providing additional pedestrian and bicycle trails and linkages, between parks, open spaces, water bodies, and neighborhoods. Acquire additional public greenways to enhance such trails and linkages.
3. Developing facilities such as restrooms and additional benches in new and existing parks and recreational areas.
4. Providing ongoing renovation and maintenance of parks and recreational areas associated facilities.
5. Promoting habitat conservation through acquisition and preservation of important natural areas including farms and open space.



Trunk Road Farm (Sandra Petal, MSB)

Currently, the Borough maintains a large number and diversity of parks, campgrounds and recreational areas. As the Borough's population continues to grow, the demand for various year-round passive and active recreational opportunities increases. The Borough should accommodate such demand with the following goals and recommendations:

**Goal (PO-1):** *To acquire, develop, and redevelop a system of parks, recreation facilities, community centers, and open spaces that is safe, functional, and accessible to all segments of the population.*

**Policy PO1-1:** Acquire parks, community centers, recreation, and open space facilities in those areas of the Borough facing population growth, commercial development, and in areas where facilities are deficient.

**Policy PO1-2:** Develop pedestrian and bicycle linkages between schools, public facilities, neighborhoods, parks and open spaces and population centers where feasible.



Policy PO1-3: Ensure adequate maintenance and operation funding prior to development of parks and recreational facilities.

Policy PO1-4: Ensure that parks and open spaces are provided using the following standards to determine the need for parks (Table 3).

Policy PO1-5: Actively promote through various land use techniques the preservation of agricultural land.

**Table 3**  
Park and Open Space Levels of Service

| <b>Facility</b>         | <b>Standard</b>        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Neighborhood Parks      | 5 acres/1,000 persons  |
| Community Parks         | 10 acres/3,500 persons |
| Nature/Open Space Parks | 15 acres/5,000 persons |

Natural Resource Conservation. Natural areas and open spaces are a vital component of the health and well being of the Borough. Conservation and enhancement of the ecological resources found within the Borough should be a key component of its land use and park planning. In surveys and workshops, Borough citizens have consistently identified natural areas as being a key component of the Borough’s quality of life.

The Borough has hundreds of lakes, streams and rivers that provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife, contribute to water quality and provide recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Open space corridors serve many important functions, including recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and the connection of individual features that comprise a natural system. For example, the “Crevasse Moraine” area in the Borough’s Core Area provides such functions.



*Two Moose*  
(Jackie Muncy, MSB Photo Contest Winner)

**Goal (PO-2):** *Protect and preserve natural resource areas.*

Policy PO2-1: Work cooperatively with numerous resource management agencies, community councils, and citizens to care for lakes, wetlands, streams, rivers, and wildlife habitat and corridors while providing public access for recreational opportunities that have minimal impacts to such areas.

Policy PO2-2: Preserve opportunities for people to observe and enjoy wildlife and wildlife habitats.

Policy PO2-3: Identify, through analysis, potential natural resource areas throughout the Borough that should be protected.

## Community Quality:

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough's natural environment, with its abundant supplies of clean water, its beauty, and its other natural resources, has attracted people to our community for generations. Natural systems serve many essential biological, hydrological, and geological functions that significantly affect life and property in the Borough. Features such as lakes, wetlands, streams and rivers provide habitat for fish and wildlife, flood control, and groundwater recharge, as well as surface and groundwater transport, storage, and filtering. Vegetation, too, is essential to fish and wildlife habitat, and also helps to support soil stability, prevents erosion, and absorbs significant amounts of water, thereby reducing runoff and flooding. A well-functioning natural environment also provides clean air, which is becoming a growing concern as the Borough continues to develop. In addition to these functions, the natural environment provides many valuable amenities such as scenic landscape, community identity, open space, and opportunities for recreation, culture, and education.



*Mud Lake, Knik Public Use Area  
(Frankie Barker, MSB)*

In addition to the aforementioned benefits, a healthy natural environment helps to fuel the Borough's economy. Industry and its employees are attracted to communities which are recognized as having a high quality of life. The natural environment is one of the key considerations or indicators of the definition of quality of life. Currently the Borough is recognized as a place to "work and play"; this recognition must be nurtured and protected in order for the Borough to continue its ability to attract business and industry in the years to come. Two specific industries that have capitalized on the Borough's quality of life are

tourism and recreational opportunities. The Borough's citizens recognize and often comment upon the important role the natural environment plays in our quality of life.

The Borough's desire and duty to protect natural resources must be balanced with the Borough's obligations to:

- Accommodate future growth, and
- Provide a development process that is timely, predictable, and equitable to developers and residents alike.

Success in balancing these complex and often conflicting concerns depends in large part upon the provision of extensive opportunities for public participation, during the formulation of policies, programs, incentives, and regulations relating to the natural environment.

As a rapidly growing community with an abundance of environmental resources, the Borough has a daunting yet reachable task to manage such resources appropriately. The Borough's natural resources include several significant rivers and lakes, many supporting

significant fish populations. The Susitna and Matanuska Rivers act as significant drainage basins, and are hydrologically unpredictable, thus requiring adequate planning for erosion and flooding occurrences. The Borough also contains a vast number of wetlands, riparian and wildlife corridors, wilderness areas, and considerable topographic variation. Being partially located on both the north and west shores of Knik Arm presents additional unique concerns and opportunities associated with the marine environment. With this said, the Borough's challenge for the future will be to accommodate new and infill growth while protecting and enhancing natural systems on public and private lands.

Natural Water Systems. The Borough is currently embarking on a study/plan to address the past, current, and future impacts as well as evaluate and record the primary functions, existing problems and future opportunities within the Big Lake Watershed natural system. This effort is indicative of the importance planning efforts have when addressing Borough-wide watershed issues.

Development, through addition of impervious surface and removal of vegetation, increases the volume and flow rate of surface water runoff. If uncontrolled, this increases the peak flow and decreases summer base flow in stream channels. Property damage and loss of human life can result if stream channels are not large enough to contain the increased flows, or if the development has encroached on the natural floodplain of the stream or river. In addition, frequent high flows can cause excessive erosion and can destroy the complex channel structure that provides food and habitat for fish and other aquatic life.

The retention of natural drainage systems should be given priority to altering such systems in most cases. However, many natural watercourses may be unable to accommodate unusually large storms or increased runoff from development, not to mention the meandering presence many of the Borough's streams and rivers have. In such cases, the natural stream and river systems should be preserved and enhanced by stabilizing the banks of watercourses. Preserving the natural drainage system to the greatest extent feasible and discouraging non-essential structures, land modifications, or impervious surfaces in the drainage system will assist in ensuring optimal natural functioning within the drainage area.



*Wetlands Class (Frankie Barker, MSB)*

Increases in impervious surface resulting from development cause decreases in ground water recharge. This causes a decline in base flows and subsequent loss of habitat that impacts fish and wildlife populations. Moreover, the pollutants carried with such runoff including gasoline, oil, sediment, heavy metals, and herbicides, can potentially contaminate water supplies for numerous Borough properties which rely on well systems for drinking water.

Floodplains are lands adjacent to lakes, rivers, and streams that are subject to periodic flooding and erosion. Floodplains naturally store flood water, protect water quality, and are valuable for recreation and wildlife habitat. New development or land modification in

designated floodplains should be designed to maintain natural flood storage functions and minimize hazards to life and property. Areas subject to erosion, such as the banks along the Matanuska River, should be similarly managed to accomplish the same life and safety concerns.

The availability of clean water is essential to residential and business development and to the survival of vegetation, fish, animals, and humans in our ecosystem. Water quality is degraded when indiscriminate modifications to wetlands, watercourses, lakes, subsurface drainage, or associated natural areas occur, thus disrupting basin functions. In addition to water quality degradation, such actions can cause flooding, decreases in groundwater quantity, sedimentation, erosion, uneven settlement, or drainage problems. Land surface modifications and other development activity should be properly managed to avoid these problems.

**Goal (CQ-1):** *Protect natural systems and features from the potentially negative impacts of human activities, including, but not limited to, land development.*

**Policy CQ1-1:** Use a system-wide approach to effectively manage environmental resources. Coordinate land use planning and management of natural systems with affected state and local agencies as well as affected Community Council efforts.

**Policy CQ1-2:** Manage activities affecting air, vegetation, water, and the land to maintain or improve environmental quality, to preserve fish and wildlife habitat, to prevent degradation or loss of natural features and functions, and to minimize risks to life and property.

**Policy CQ1-3:** Guide development along the Borough's many glacially braided rivers such as the Matanuska River to preserve the resources and ecology of the water and shorelines, avoid natural hazards, minimize erosion and associated property damage and public welfare and safety.

**Policy CQ1-4:** Provide site restoration if land surface modification violates adopted policy or development does not ensue within a reasonable period of time.

**Policy CQ1-5:** Make information concerning natural systems and associated regulations available to property owners, prospective property owners, developers, and the general public,



Matanuska River (Frankie Barker, MSB)

**Goal (CQ-2):** *Manage the natural and built environments to achieve minimal loss of the functions and values of all drainage basins; and, where possible, enhance and restore functions, values, and features. Retain lakes, ponds, wetlands, streams, and rivers and their corridors substantially in their natural condition.*

**Policy CQ2-1:** Using a watershed-based approach, apply best available science in formulating regulations, incentives, and programs to maintain and, to the degree possible, improve the quality of the Borough's water resources.

Policy CQ2-2: Comprehensively manage activities that may adversely impact surface and ground water quality or quantity.

Policy CQ2-3: When appropriate, utilize Borough adopted “Best Management Practices” when managing watershed impacts.

Policy CQ2-4: Develop a “wetland banking” and “land trust” program to provide property owners and developers alternatives when considering development strategies on environmentally sensitive lands.

### **Implementation:**

There are a broad range of measures necessary to implement the Comprehensive Plan involving a wide variety of people and organizations. It is the responsibility of the Borough, however, to put in place mechanisms that will promote the actions needed for implementation. Listed below are the primary methods that will be used to implement the Plan.

- Land-use regulations (SpUDs);
- Capital improvement program;
- Subdivision regulations.

Because of the broad range of plans that the Borough utilizes when developing and implementing its comprehensive planning efforts, the Borough’s implementation methods consist of all of the most common means of implementing comprehensive plans with the exception of impact fees.

A comprehensive plan cannot be implemented entirely by codes and ordinances. Some recommendations made within the plan require other types of actions that only a governing body can take. Examples of these types of actions are: developing capital improvement programs; promoting redevelopment or in-fill development, and fostering good public participation, perhaps the keystone and the catalyst of most plan implementation techniques.

Obviously, there can be many other similar actions that can aid in implementing the comprehensive plan, none of which require codes and ordinances to be put into effect by which, nevertheless, are equally as important to assist with plan implementation. For example, periodic informational meetings with Borough community councils to discuss the comprehensive plan can aid in plan implementation. Exchanges with groups like the local Chamber of Commerce and other civic organizations will keep the plan in the forefront as individuals make business decisions and civic groups plan their community assistance activities. Collectively, actions by individuals and individual civic groups can add up toward accomplishing goals set forth in the plan. When government sponsored activities are linked to non-governmental actions real progress can be made.

Land-use Regulations. Land use regulations set the legal requirements for new development and modifications to existing uses. The vast majority of such regulations are found in zoning and subdivision codes as well as shoreline plans. The Borough uses both Borough-wide and special use district (SpUD) zoning ordinances. Borough-wide zoning ordinances address land use issues that are common throughout the Borough and are most effectively and

efficiently administered on a Borough-wide basis. Examples of these ordinances include setback standards including a seventy-five foot water-body setback, alcohol beverage dispensary, sanitary solid waste disposal sites, and mobile home park standards.

Special use districts are zoning ordinances that implement locally adopted community based comprehensive plans, state management plans, and certain components of a Borough-wide plan. SpUD's are thus tailored to a local community's special conditions that are unique to the geographic boundary of such community. Local communities have the ability to redefine a particular Borough-wide zoning measure through their SpUD. For example, a community may regulate a certain land use in a more permissive or restrictive manner than provided by a Borough-wide zoning measure. A SpUD may also implement a state plan such as the Denali State Park Special Use District implements the Denali State Park Management Plan.

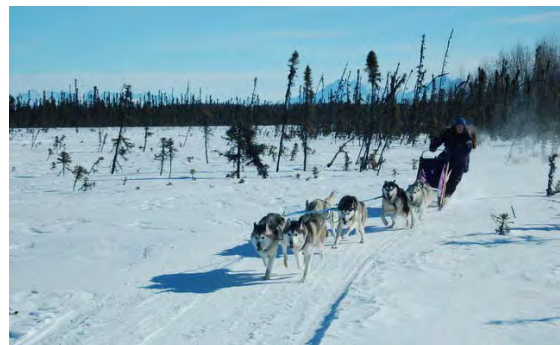
Common land use standards that are regulated by a zoning ordinance or other land use implementing techniques include: density standards, setback and height standards, use separation and standards, signage standards, lot coverage limitations, design standards, landscape and parking standards and wireless communication facility standards.

Although by nature regulations impose restrictions on the development of property, where appropriate, regulations can be structured to provide incentives to desired development, rather than being solely restrictive. For instance, if the community determined that a certain area is appropriate for commercial uses, however, due to the proximity to residential properties, the uses should be limited to businesses that will have minimal impacts to the area and provide a service to the surrounding properties (e.g., small grocery store), a land-use regulation could be drafted to accommodate such concerns.

Capital Improvement Plans. Although not technically a part of the Comprehensive Plan, Capital Improvement Plans, or Functional Plans, address in detail subjects more generally discussed in the Comprehensive Plan. Existing Borough functional plans include:

- School District Plans
- Trails and Recreation Plans (Pedestrian, Bike, Trail, Park, Refuge projects)
- Borough Capital Projects (e.g., Port MacKenzie, Hatcher Pass Ski Recreational Area)
- Transportation Plans (Federal, State, Local)

Functional plans are both guided by and help to guide the Comprehensive Plan. Theoretically, the Comprehensive Plan sets the broad policy framework which functional plans address in more detail. In practice, however, functional plans also raise issues and ideas which help to shape Comprehensive Plan goals and policies. Either way, general consistency between the Comprehensive Plan and functional plans is important, as is regular updating of functional plans to maintain their effectiveness.



*Mushing* (Harry Banks, MSB)

Subdivision Standards. The subdivision ordinance is one of the key tools used to implement the comprehensive plan. Subdivision regulations are designed to provide a variety of land-use benefits to a community including the following:

- Ensure a well-designed and functional subdivision or land development;
- Set minimum standards for the layout or design of developments;
- Promote coordinated development including adequate vehicular connectivity;
- Insure the installation of necessary improvements;
- Manage storm water runoff and erosion



*Subdivision in Palmer (Frankie Barker, MSB)*

**Goal (I-1):** *Encourage flexibility in the implementation of the Borough's comprehensive plans.*

Policy I1-1: Provide a variety of methods, including land-use regulations, subdivision standards and capital improvement plans, to implement the comprehensive plan.

**Goal (I-2):** *Allow local communities to have the ability to tailor implementation methods to local needs and desires.*

Policy I2-1: Allow the use of special use districts as a means of implementing locally adopted community based comprehensive plans if they comply with the borough-wide plan.

Policy I2-2: Allow local communities to consider land use regulations that are more flexible than Borough-wide zoning measures.

### **Life after the Plan:**

After the Borough adopts the comprehensive plan and any implementing codes and ordinances, there is a tendency to put the plan away and to consider the planning task complete. This is not and should not be the case. A community is seldom a stagnant place; especially considering the rapid population growth the borough is experiencing. Planning is an organized process managing change. Therefore, all change should be examined to see what effects it may have upon the community. The comprehensive plan and its implementing ordinances should be adjusted accordingly. This examination and updating procedure should be done methodically and periodically. This is known as the continuing planning process. With that said, this plan should be reviewed every seven (7) years, and if the review uncovers shortcomings, the plan should be updated to account for such changes.

## APPENDIX

# Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Development Plan Components

The following is a non-inclusive list of plans and studies that are incorporated by reference as part of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Development Plan (as of 2005).

### **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH REGIONAL PLANS**

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Development Plan (adopted 1970, amended 2005)

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Public Facilities Plan (adopted 1984)

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Coastal Management Plan (adopted 1984, amended 1992)

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Historic Preservation Plan (adopted 1987)

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Core Area Comprehensive Plan (adopted 1993, amended 1997)

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Long Range Transportation Plan (adopted 1997)

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Recreational Trails Plan (adopted 2000, amended 2004)

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Rail Corridor Study (adopted 2003)

### **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH COMMUNITY PLANS**

City of Palmer Comprehensive Plan (adopted 1982, amended 1999)

City of Wasilla Comprehensive Plan (to include City of Wasilla Trails Plan; City of Wasilla Alaska Railroad Relocation Reconnaissance Study; City of Wasilla Hazard Mitigation Plan, Phase I – Natural Hazards) (adopted 1992, revised 1996, amended 1999)

City of Houston Comprehensive Plan (adopted 1982, amended 2003)

Chickaloon Comprehensive Plan (adopted 1991, amended 1995)

Chase Comprehensive Plan (adopted 1993)

Glacier View Comprehensive Plan (adopted 1994)

Big Lake Comprehensive Plan (adopted 1995)

Knik-Fairview Comprehensive Plan (adopted 1997)



Petersville Road Corridor Management Plan (adopted 1998)

Lake Louise Comprehensive Plan (adopted 1998)

Talkeetna Comprehensive Plan (adopted 1998, amended 1999)

Sutton Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2000)

Meadow Lakes Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2005)

## **MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SPECIALTY/FUNCTIONAL PLANS**

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Community Health Plan (adopted 1997)

Point MacKenzie Port Master Plan (adopted 1998, amended 1999)

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Solid Waste Management Plan (adopted 2002)

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Library Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2005)

## **Lake Management Plans**

Knik Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1995)

Crooked Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1995)

Honeybee Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1995)

Rainbow Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1995)

Island and Doubloon Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1995)

West Papoose Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1995)

John Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1995)

Crystal Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1995)

Bonnie Lake Area, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1996)

Wolf Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1997)

Twin Island Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1997)

Fish Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1997)

Blodgett Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1997)

Big Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1998)

Memory Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1998)

Toad Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1998)

Lake Management Plan (adopted 1998)

Question, Little Question, Lake Five and Unnamed Lakes, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1998)

Marilee Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1998)

Diamond Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1999)

Christiansen Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 1999)

Neklasen and Lower Neklasen Lakes (adopted 2000)

Marion Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 2000)

Long Lake (Houston), Lake Management Plan (adopted 2001)

Three Mile Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 2002)

Wolverine Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 2004)

Whiskey Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 2004)

Little Lonely Lake, Lake Management Plan (adopted 2005)

### **Asset Management Plans**

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (adopted 2001)

Deshka River Recreation Management Plan (adopted 2004)

Jordan Lake Parcel Master Plan (adopted 2004)

Talkeetna Lakes Park Plan (adopted 2004)

Talkeetna Riverfront Park Plan (adopted 2004)

## STATE AND FEDERAL PLANS

Willow Sub-Basin Area Plan (adopted 1982)

Hatcher Pass Management Plan (adopted 1986)

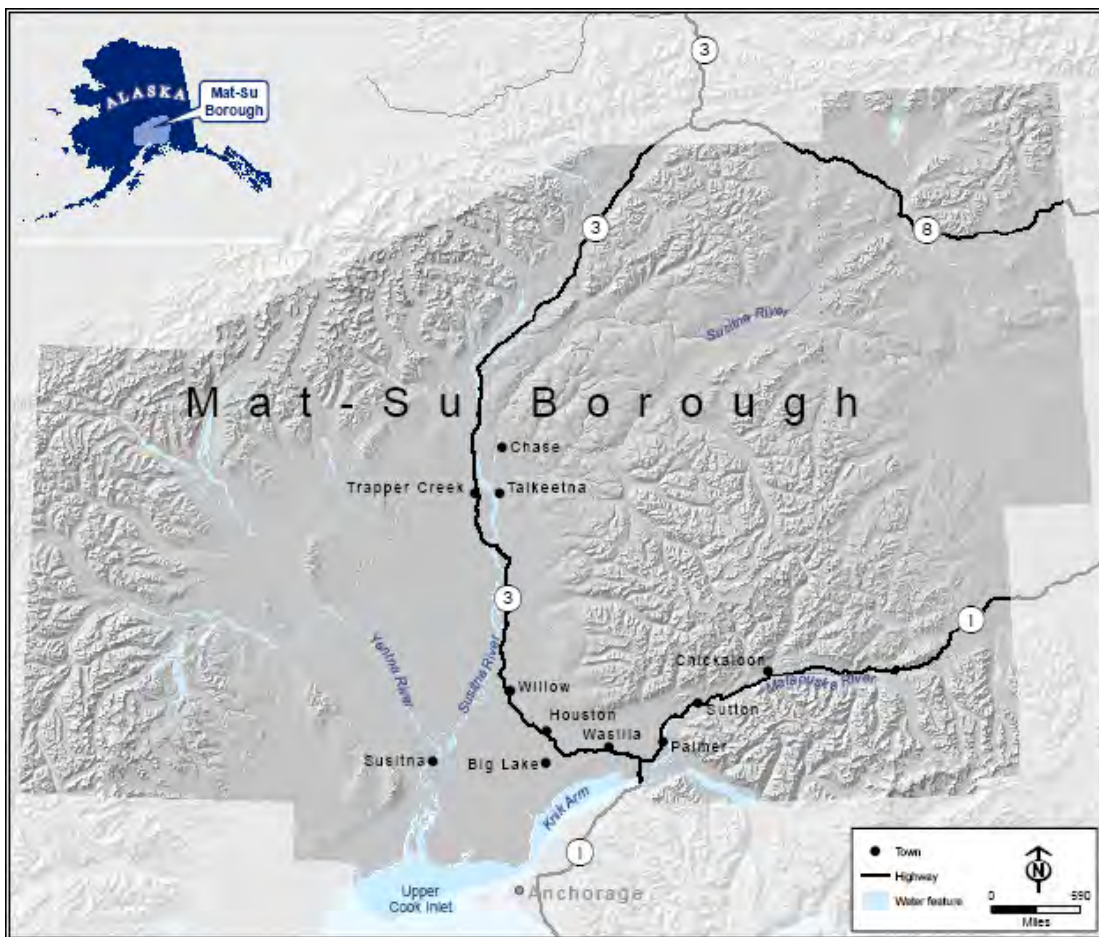
Denali State Park Management Plan (adopted 1986)

Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge Management Plan (adopted 1986, revised 1999)

Susitna Area Plan (adopted 1985, amended 1993)

Hatcher Pass Management Plan Amendment (adopted 1989)

Susitna Basin Forestry Guidelines (adopted 1991)



CODE ORDINANCE

By: Borough Manager  
Introduced: 12/06/05  
Public Hearing: 01/03/06  
Adopted: 01/03/06

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH  
ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 06-001**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MSB 15.24.030(B)(1) TO ADOPT THE  
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - 2005 UPDATE.

WHEREAS, the original Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1970, and due to the increased population growth, infrastructure demands, and other impacts associated with development an updated plan is needed; and

WHEREAS, throughout the entire update process, the Borough solicited and accepted public comments, a planning committee met several times to discuss planning methods to address growth and development issues within the Borough, and a 60 day public review period provided the public, including community councils, an opportunity to comment on the draft plan; and

WHEREAS, Boroughwide issues such as transportation systems, economic development, housing, land use, and environmental quality need continued and expanded attention; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 update introduces specific goals and policies to address the many issues that the Borough must embrace in order to maintain the high quality of life we enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 05-44, recommending Assembly adoption of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Plan - 2005 Update.

BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the Borough Code.

Section 2. Amendment of paragraph. MSB 15.24.030(B)(1) is hereby amended to read as follows:

(1) Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Development Plan, adopted 1970, amended (1998) 2005;

Section 3. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 3 day of January, 2006.

*/s/*

\_\_\_\_\_  
TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

*/s/*

\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, CMC, Borough Clerk (SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Woods, Allen, Colberg, Kvalheim, Bettine,  
Colver, and Vehrs

# ALASKA TAXABLE 2020

Municipal Taxation - Rates and Policies • Full Value Determination  
**REPORT**

Volume LX  
January 2021



Mike Dunleavy,  
Governor

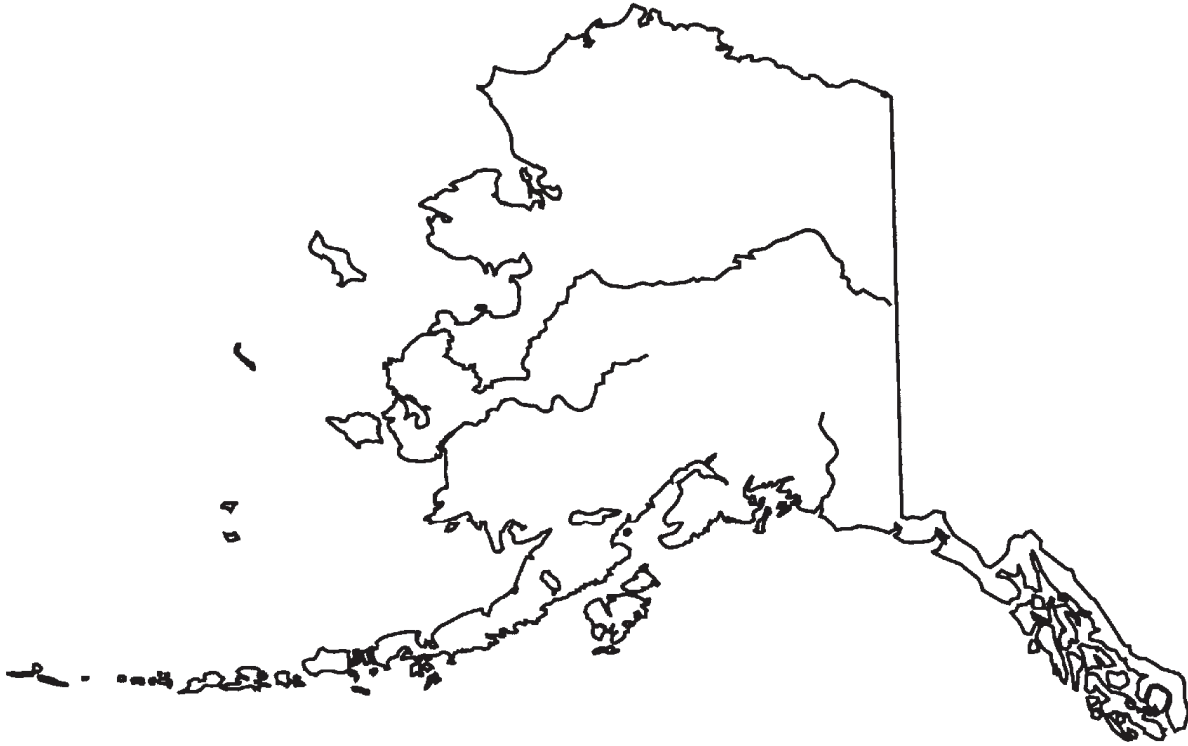
Julie Anderson, Commissioner  
Department of Commerce, Community,  
and Economic Development  
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/>

Sandra Moller, Director  
Division of Community & Regional Affairs  
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/>

The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Upon request, this report will be made available in large print or other accessible formats. Requests for such should be directed to the Office of the State Assessor at (907) 269-4605, or the request may be mailed to:

Office of the State Assessor  
Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
550 W. Seventh Avenue, Suite 1640  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3510

# Alaska Taxable 2020



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**Office of the State Assessor  
Joseph Caissie  
Acting State Assessor**

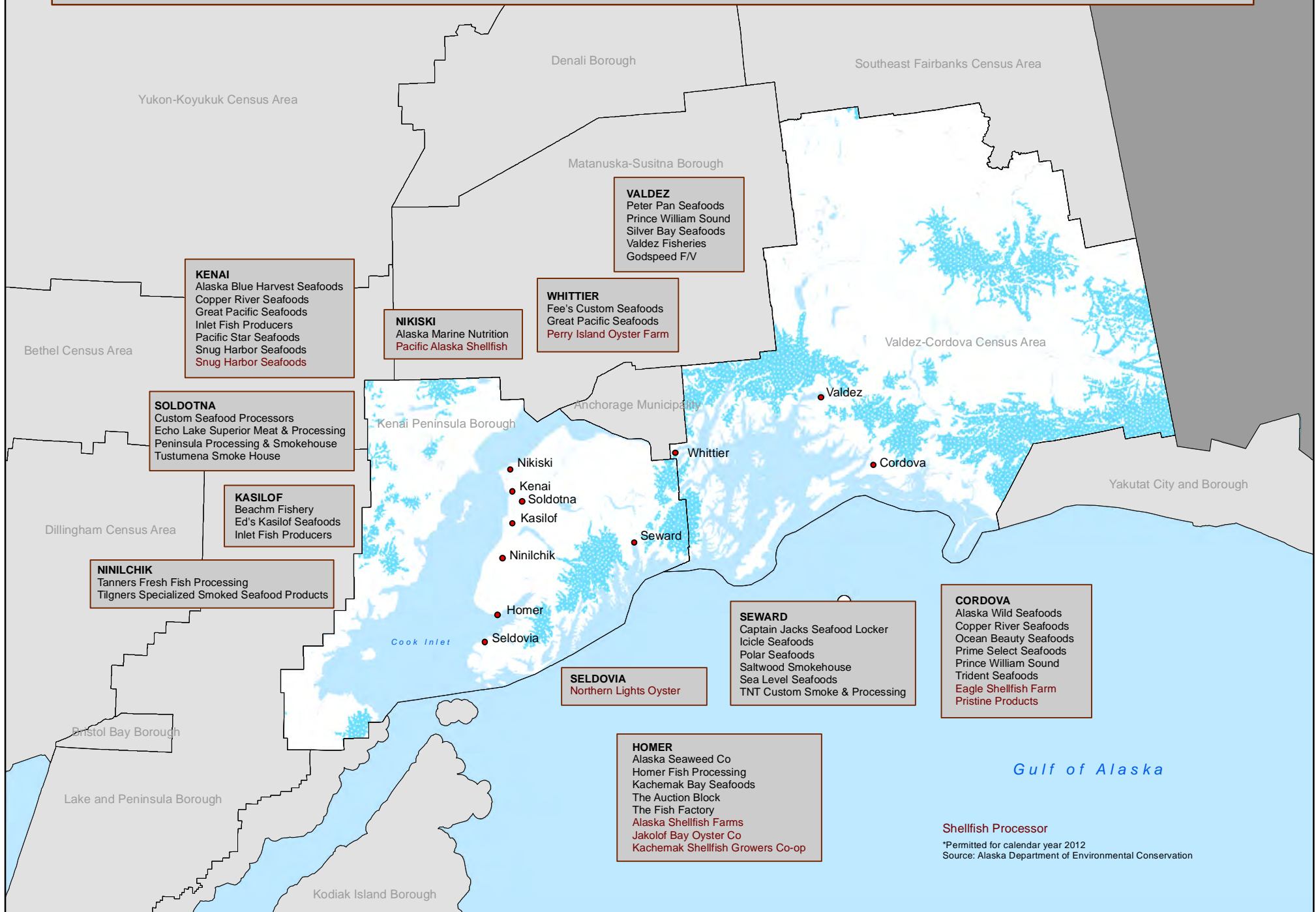


## Table 2

The A/V ratios and CODs in this table are supplied by local assessment officials, and reviewed by the Office of the State Assessor.

| Municipality                                 | Locally Assessed Real Property | Locally Assessed Personal Property | State Assessed Oil & Gas Property | Total Assessed           | Reported A/V Ratio % (1) | Reported COD (2) |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Municipality of Anchorage                    | \$31,904,271,312               | \$2,647,971,942                    | \$152,044,560                     | \$ 34,704,287,814        | 0.96                     | 5.82             |
| Bristol Bay Borough                          | \$199,874,750                  | \$197,799,838                      | \$0                               | \$ 397,674,588           | 0.84                     | 13.65            |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough                 | \$7,890,654,591                | \$0                                | \$720,267,520                     | \$ 8,610,922,111         | 0.96                     | 6.69             |
| Fairbanks                                    | N/A                            | N/A                                | \$46,339,740                      | \$ 46,339,740            |                          |                  |
| Haines Borough                               | \$376,224,100                  | \$0                                | \$0                               | \$ 376,224,100           | 0.98                     | 8.22             |
| City and Borough of Juneau                   | \$4,742,808,985                | \$374,225,444                      | \$0                               | \$ 5,117,034,429         | 0.97                     | 6.45             |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough                      | \$6,666,423,400                | \$307,927,426                      | \$1,493,428,710                   | \$ 8,467,779,536         | 0.94                     | 12.33            |
| Kenai                                        | N/A                            | N/A                                | \$53,200,820                      | \$ 53,200,820            |                          |                  |
| Ketchikan Gateway Borough                    | \$1,515,368,100                | \$60,724,600                       | \$0                               | \$ 1,576,092,700         | 0.95                     | 9.24             |
| Kodiak Island Borough                        | \$1,298,329,669                | \$157,498,073                      | \$0                               | \$ 1,455,827,742         | 0.93                     | 9.96             |
| Matanuska Susitna Borough                    | \$9,990,968,845                | \$56,075,491                       | \$7,903,480                       | \$ 10,054,947,816        | 0.94                     | 9.82             |
| Wasilla                                      | N/A                            | N/A                                | \$446,290                         | \$ 446,290               |                          |                  |
| Palmer                                       | N/A                            | N/A                                | \$185,130                         | \$ 185,130               |                          |                  |
| North Slope Borough                          | \$848,257,562                  | \$0                                | \$21,562,678,020                  | \$ 22,410,935,582        | 0.89                     | 9.39             |
| Petersburg Borough                           | \$331,665,200                  | \$0                                | \$0                               | \$ 331,665,200           | 0.81                     | 21.12            |
| City and Borough of Sitka                    | \$1,126,204,000                | \$43,861,340                       | \$0                               | \$ 1,170,065,340         | 0.87                     | 11.85            |
| Municipality of Skagway                      | \$359,410,580                  | \$0                                | \$0                               | \$ 359,410,580           | 0.84                     | 14.78            |
| City and Borough of Wrangell                 | \$158,912,300                  | \$0                                | \$0                               | \$ 158,912,300           | 0.79                     | 5.88             |
| City and Borough of Yakutat                  | \$52,209,900                   | \$0                                | \$0                               | \$ 52,209,900            | 0.91                     | 9.37             |
| <b>Total Borough Assessed Value</b>          | <b>\$67,461,583,294</b>        | <b>\$3,846,084,154</b>             | <b>\$23,936,322,290</b>           | <b>\$95,243,989,738</b>  |                          |                  |
| Municipality                                 | Locally Assessed Real Property | Locally Assessed Personal Property | State Assessed Oil & Gas Property | Total Assessed           | Reported A/V Ratio % (1) | Reported COD (2) |
| Cordova                                      | \$229,526,625                  | \$0                                | \$8,989,820                       | \$238,516,445            | 0.88                     | 9.11             |
| Craig                                        | \$112,074,600                  | \$0                                | \$0                               | \$112,074,600            | 1.00                     | 8.95             |
| Dillingham                                   | \$164,980,887                  | \$39,277,816                       | \$0                               | \$204,258,703            | 0.83                     | 8.61             |
| Nenana                                       | \$16,815,131                   | \$2,933,642                        | \$0                               | \$19,748,773             | 0.96                     | 8.74             |
| Nome                                         | \$312,895,700                  | \$42,114,556                       | \$0                               | \$355,010,256            | 0.88                     | 8.92             |
| Pelican                                      | \$11,573,047                   | \$181,221                          | \$0                               | \$11,754,268             | 0.91                     | 6.19             |
| Unalaska                                     | \$446,657,475                  | \$247,850,814                      | \$0                               | \$694,508,289            | 0.89                     | 6.91             |
| Valdez                                       | \$289,422,150                  | \$0                                | \$1,950,652,640                   | \$2,240,074,790          | 0.83                     | 10.48            |
| Whittier                                     | \$47,155,800                   | \$62,508,768                       | \$1,478,040                       | \$111,142,608            | 0.98                     | 6.12             |
| <b>Total Cities Assessed Value</b>           | <b>\$1,631,101,415</b>         | <b>\$394,866,817</b>               | <b>\$1,961,120,500</b>            | <b>\$3,987,088,732</b>   |                          |                  |
| <b>Unorganized Borough Assessed Value</b>    | <b>\$0</b>                     | <b>\$0</b>                         | <b>\$3,093,981,590</b>            | <b>\$3,093,981,590</b>   |                          |                  |
| <b>Statewide Value of Assessed Property*</b> | <b>\$69,092,684,709</b>        | <b>\$4,240,950,971</b>             | <b>\$28,991,424,380</b>           | <b>\$102,325,060,060</b> |                          |                  |

# Southcentral Region Canneries and Land-Based Seafood Processors\*





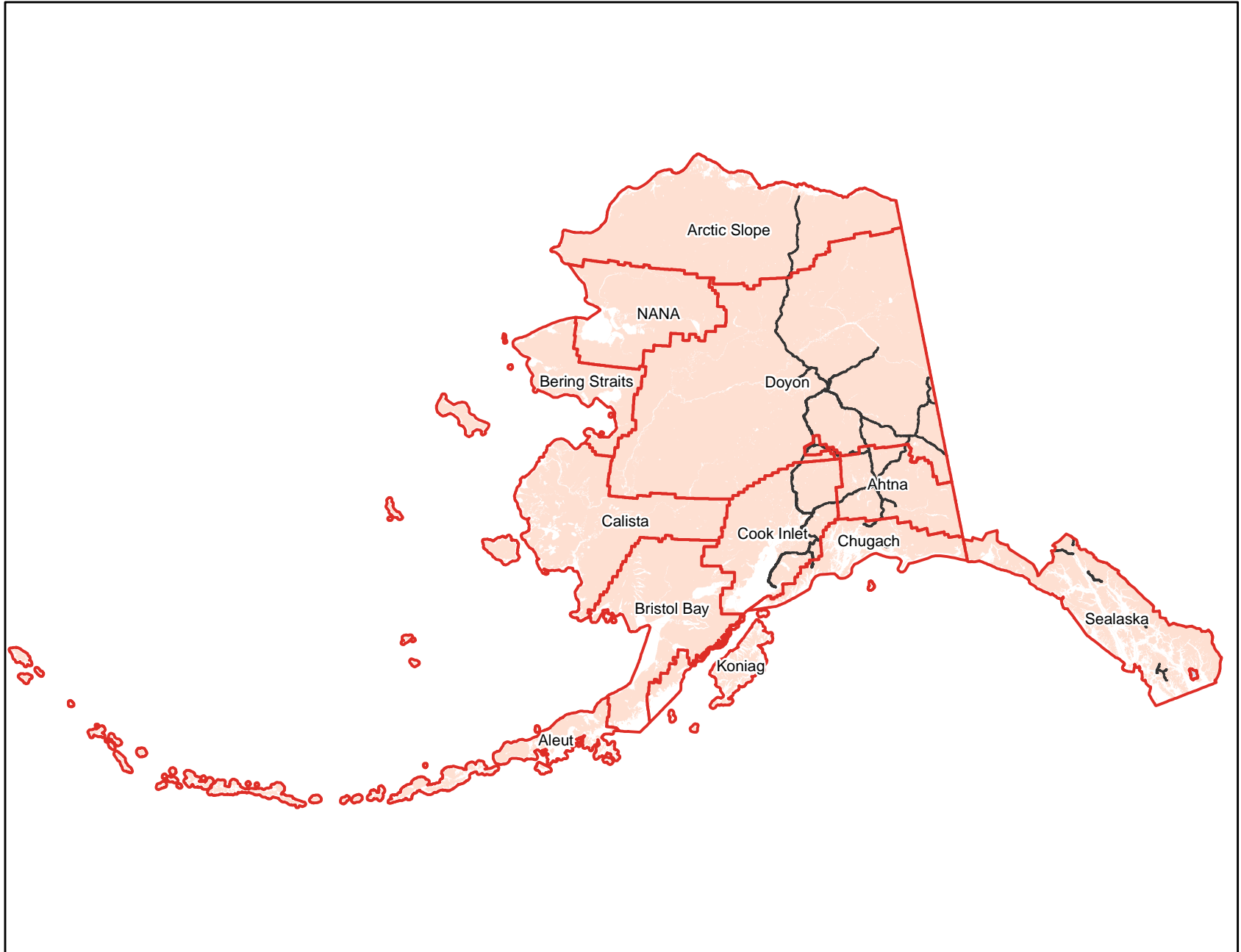
Shellfish Processor  
 \*Permitted for calendar year 2012  
 Source: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

# Statewide Regional Corporations

## Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary

### Legend

-  Regional Corps
-  Highway



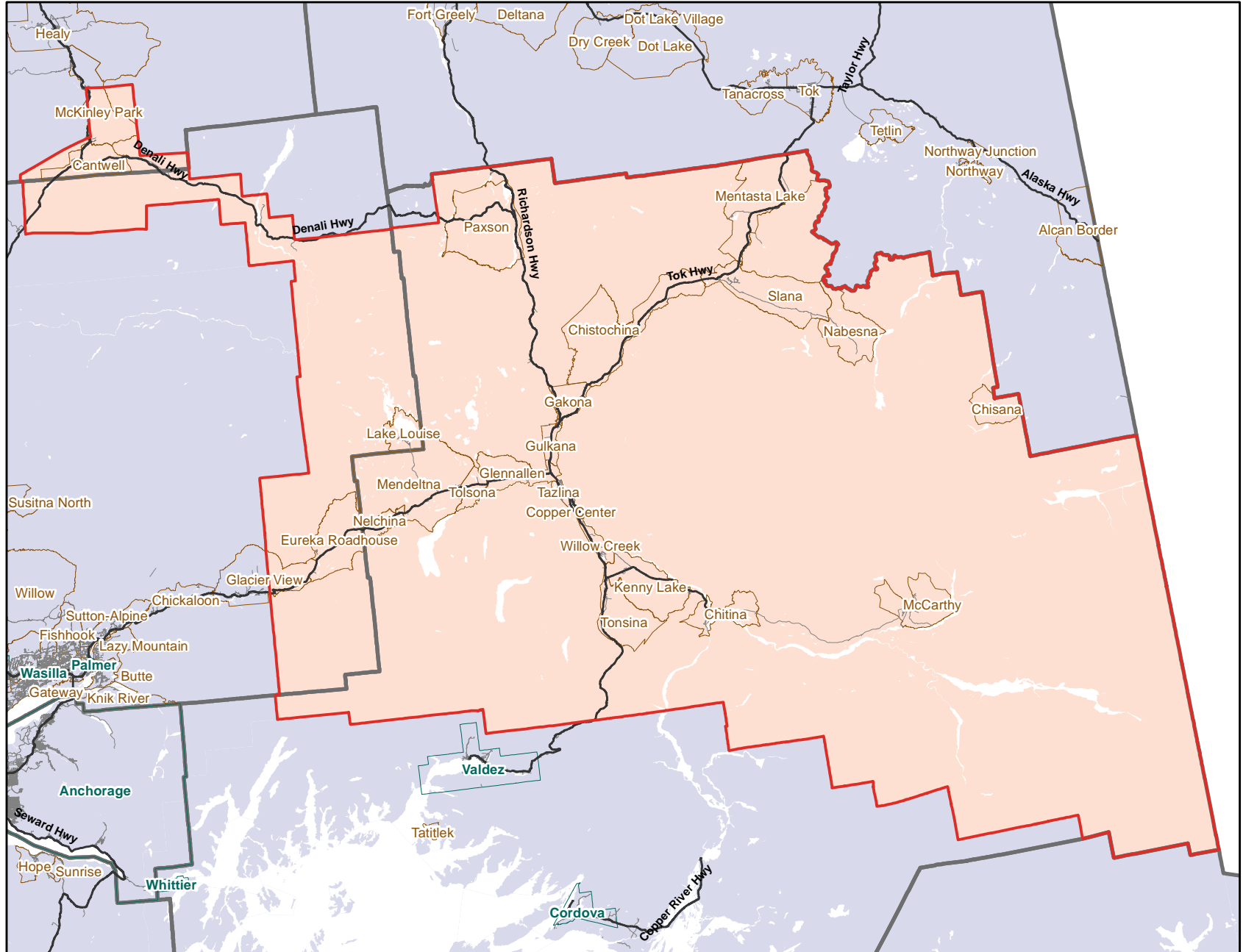
Prepared by:  
Alaska Department of  
Labor & Workforce  
Development

July 2012

Source: US Census  
2010 TIGERLine

# Ahtna, Incorporated

## Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary



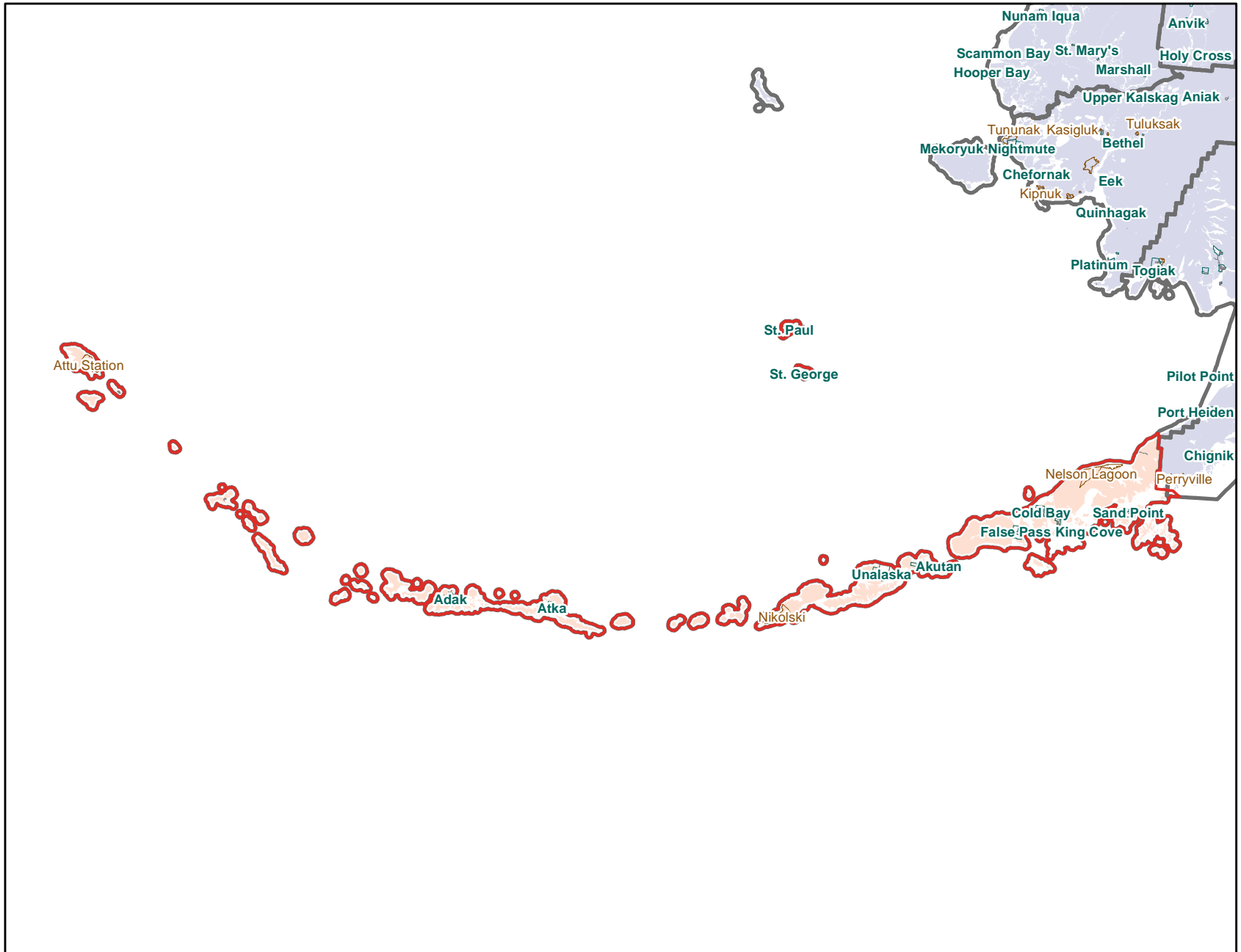
Prepared by:  
Alaska Department of  
Labor & Workforce  
Development

July 2012

Source: US Census  
2010 TIGERLine

# The Aleut Corporation

## Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary



Prepared by:  
 Alaska Department of  
 Labor & Workforce  
 Development

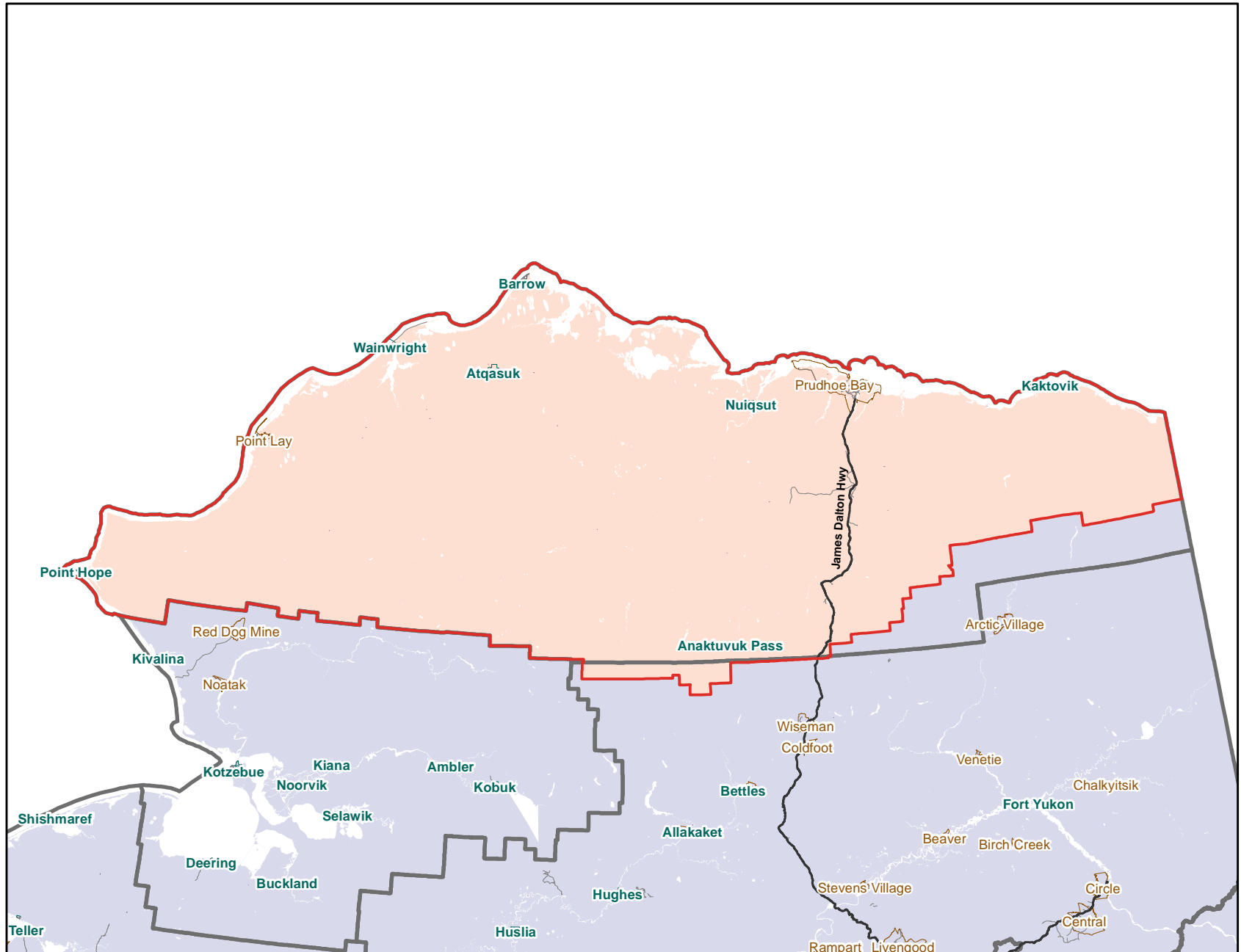
July 2012

Source: US Census  
 2010 TIGERLine

# Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary

## Legend

- Arctic Slope
- Highway
- Road
- CDP
- City
- Borough/CA



Prepared by:  
Alaska Department of  
Labor & Workforce  
Development

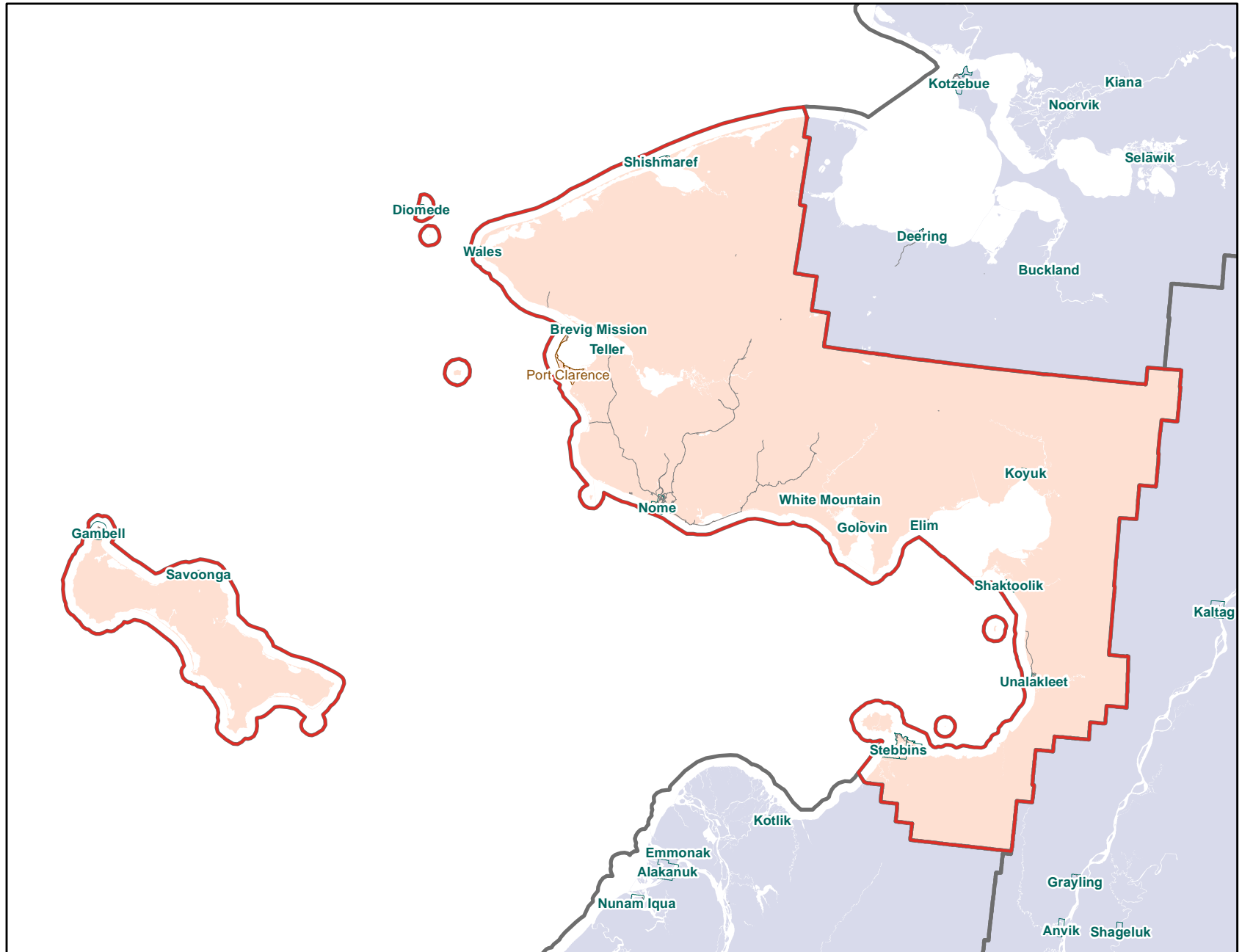
July 2012

Source: US Census  
2010 TIGERLine

# Bering Straits Native Corporation Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary

**Legend**

- Bering Straits
- Highway
- Road
- CDP
- City
- Borough/CA



Prepared by:  
Alaska Department of  
Labor & Workforce  
Development

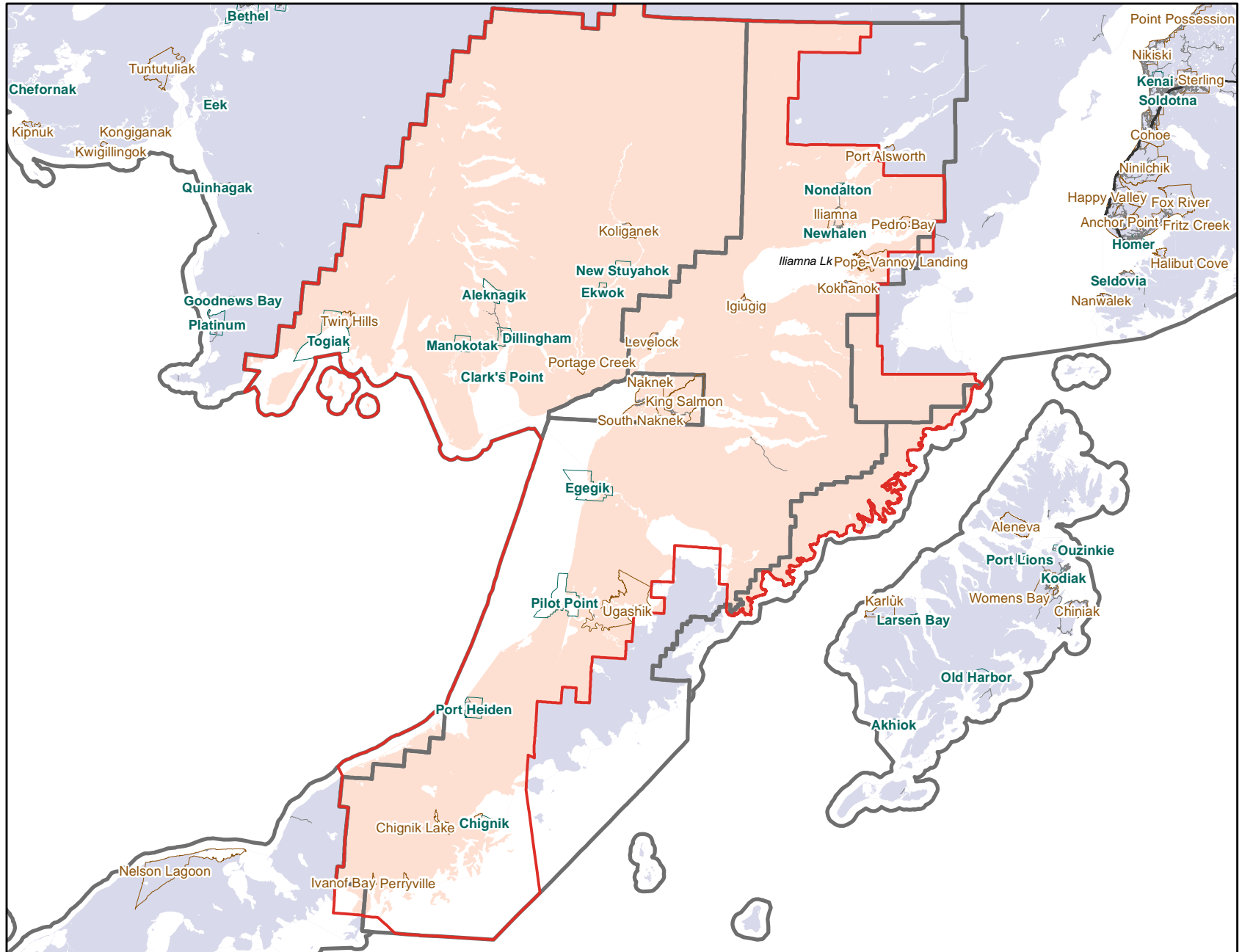
July 2012

Source: US Census  
2010 TIGERLine

# Bristol Bay Native Corporation Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary

**Legend**

- Bristol Bay
- Highway
- Road
- CDP
- City
- Borough/CA



Prepared by:  
Alaska Department of  
Labor & Workforce  
Development

July 2012

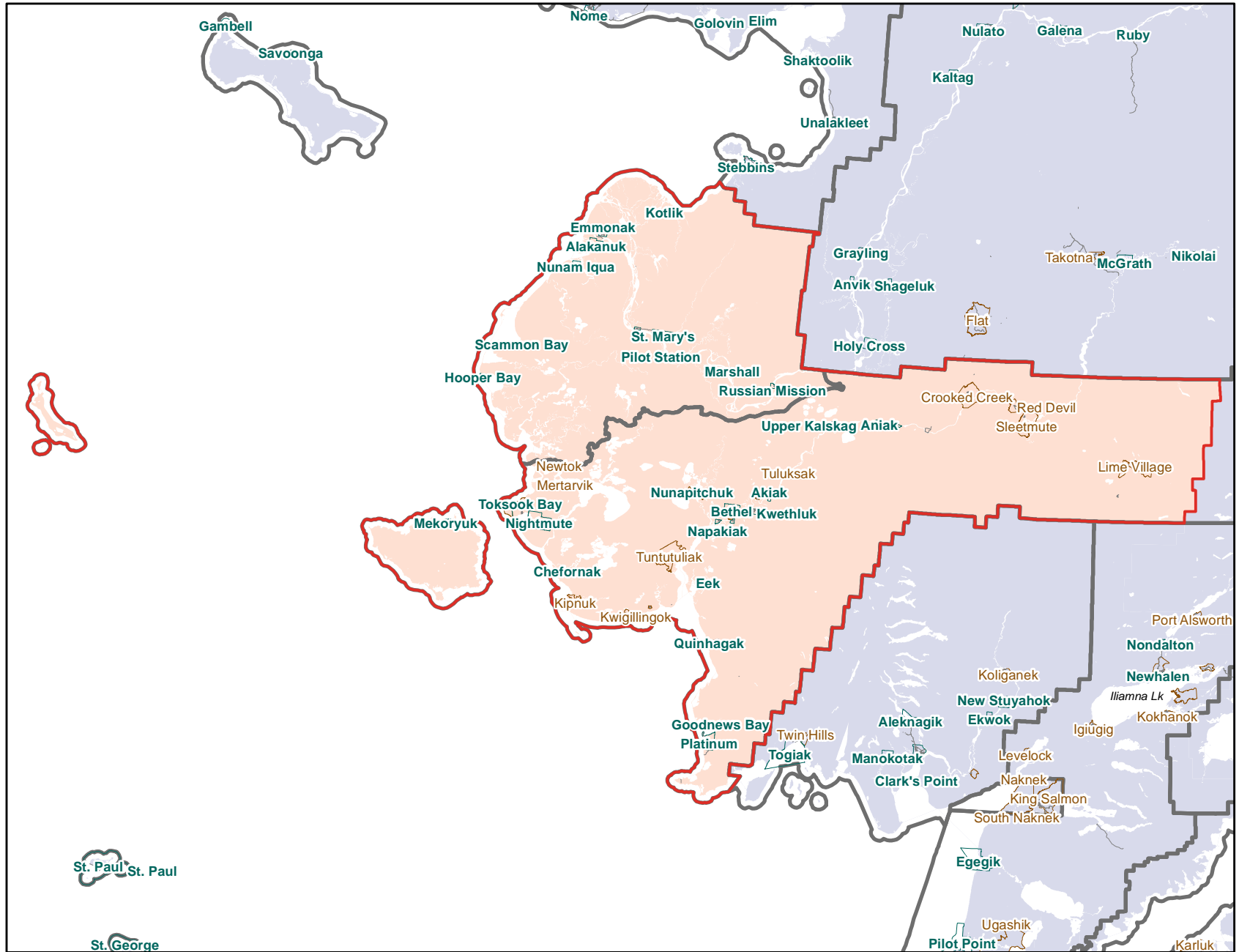
Source: US Census  
2010 TIGERLine



# Calista Corporation Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary

**Legend**

- Calista
- Highway
- Road
- CDP
- City
- Borough/CA



Prepared by:  
Alaska Department of  
Labor & Workforce  
Development

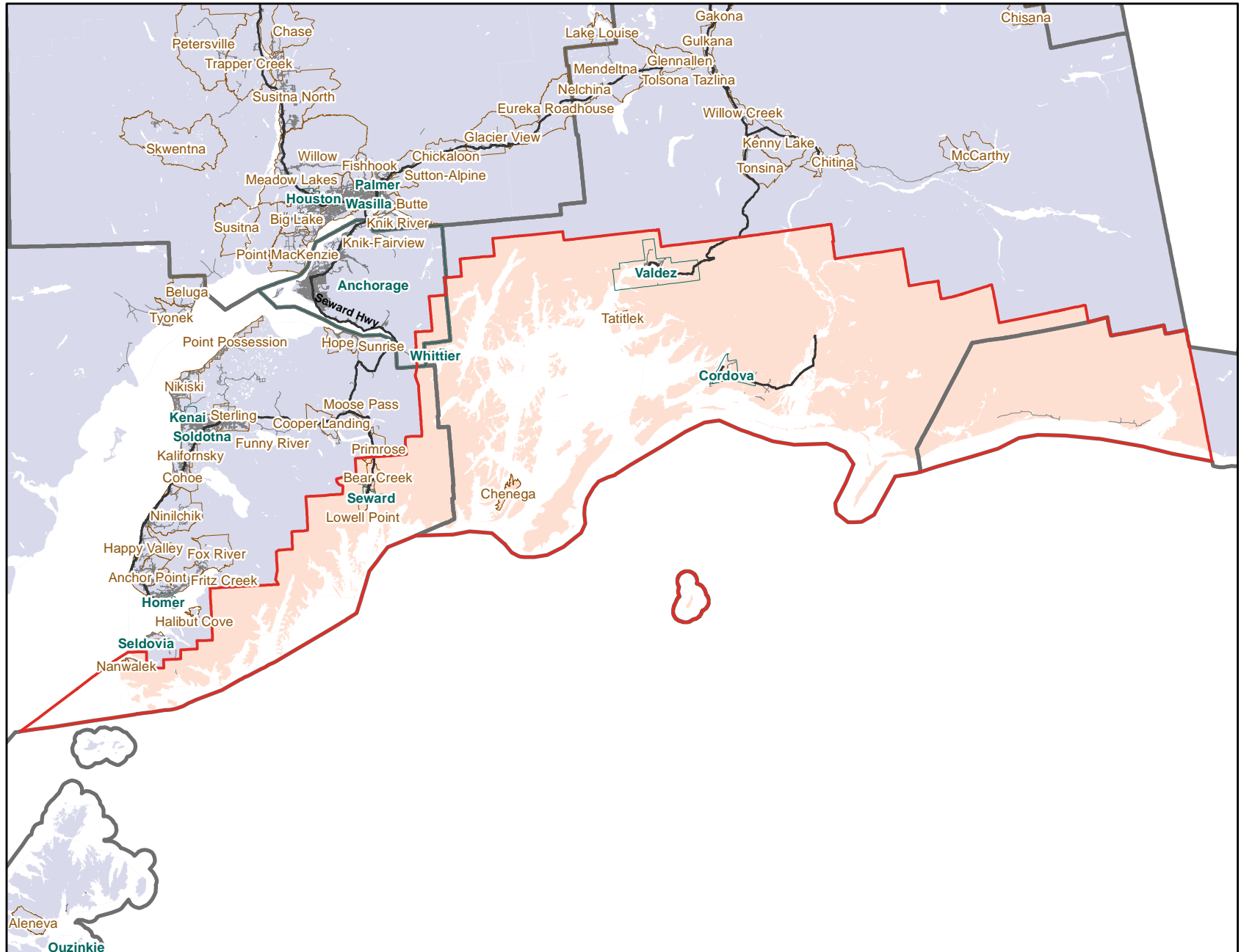
July 2012

Source: US Census  
2010 TIGERLine

# Chugach Alaska Corporation Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary

**Legend**

- Chugach
- Highway
- Road
- CDP
- City
- Borough/CA



Prepared by:  
Alaska Department of  
Labor & Workforce  
Development

July 2012

Source: US Census  
2010 TIGERLine

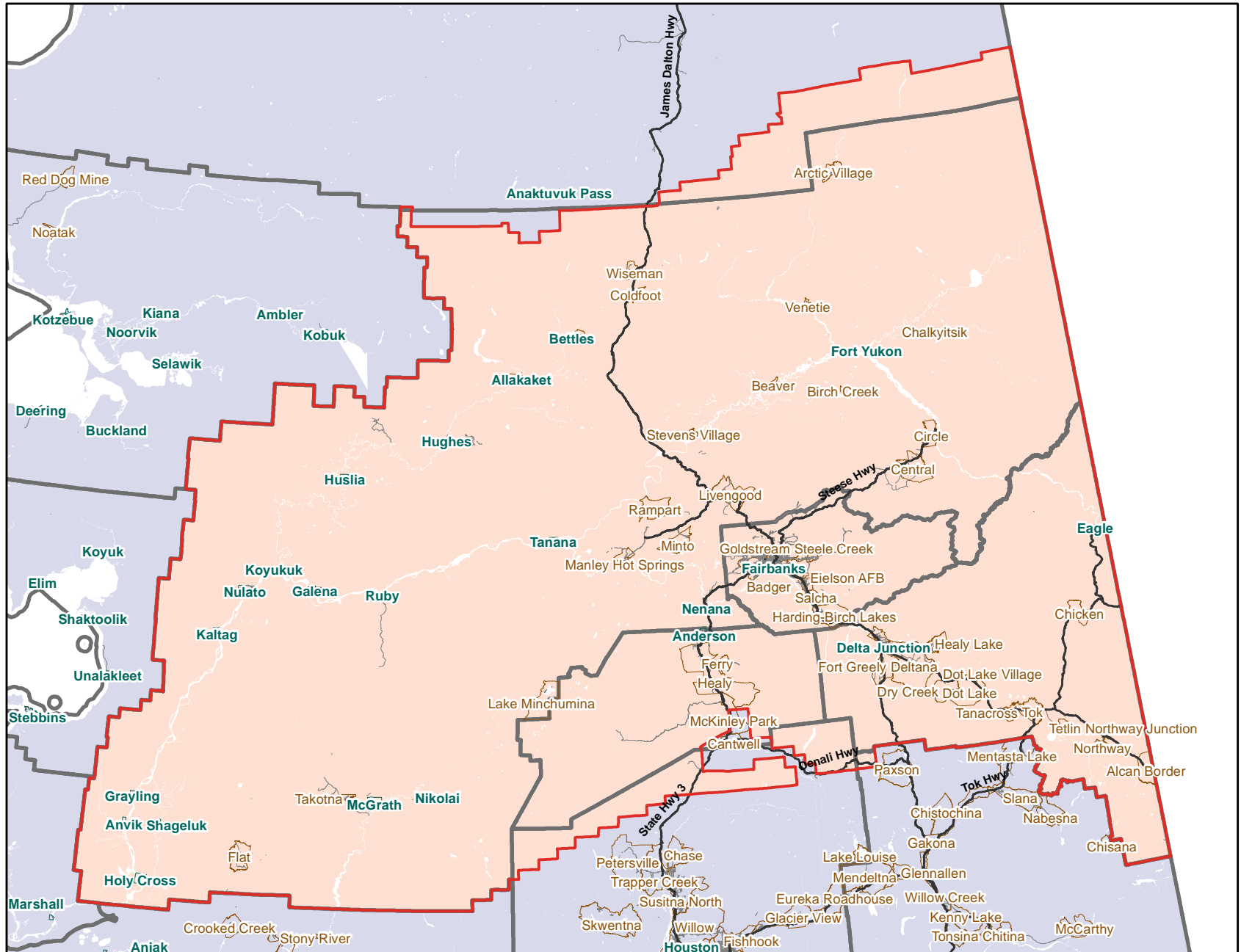


# Doyon, Limited

## Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary

**Legend**

- Doyon
- Highway
- Road
- CDP
- City
- Borough/CA



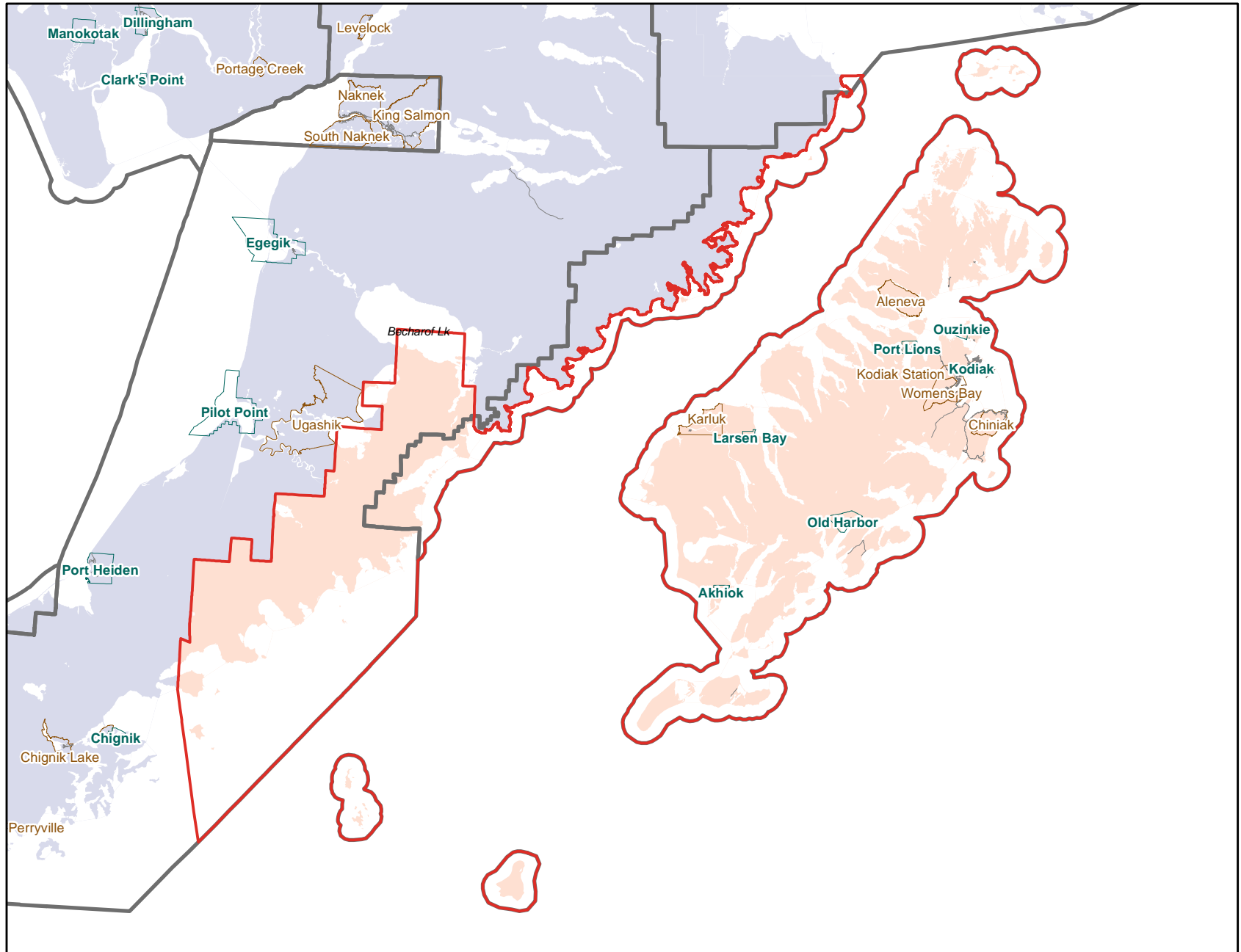
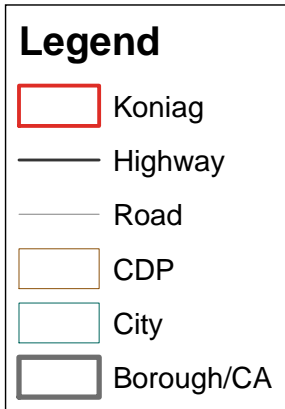
Prepared by:  
Alaska Department of  
Labor & Workforce  
Development

July 2012

Source: US Census  
2010 TIGERLine

# Koniag, Incorporated

## Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary



Prepared by:  
Alaska Department of  
Labor & Workforce  
Development

July 2012

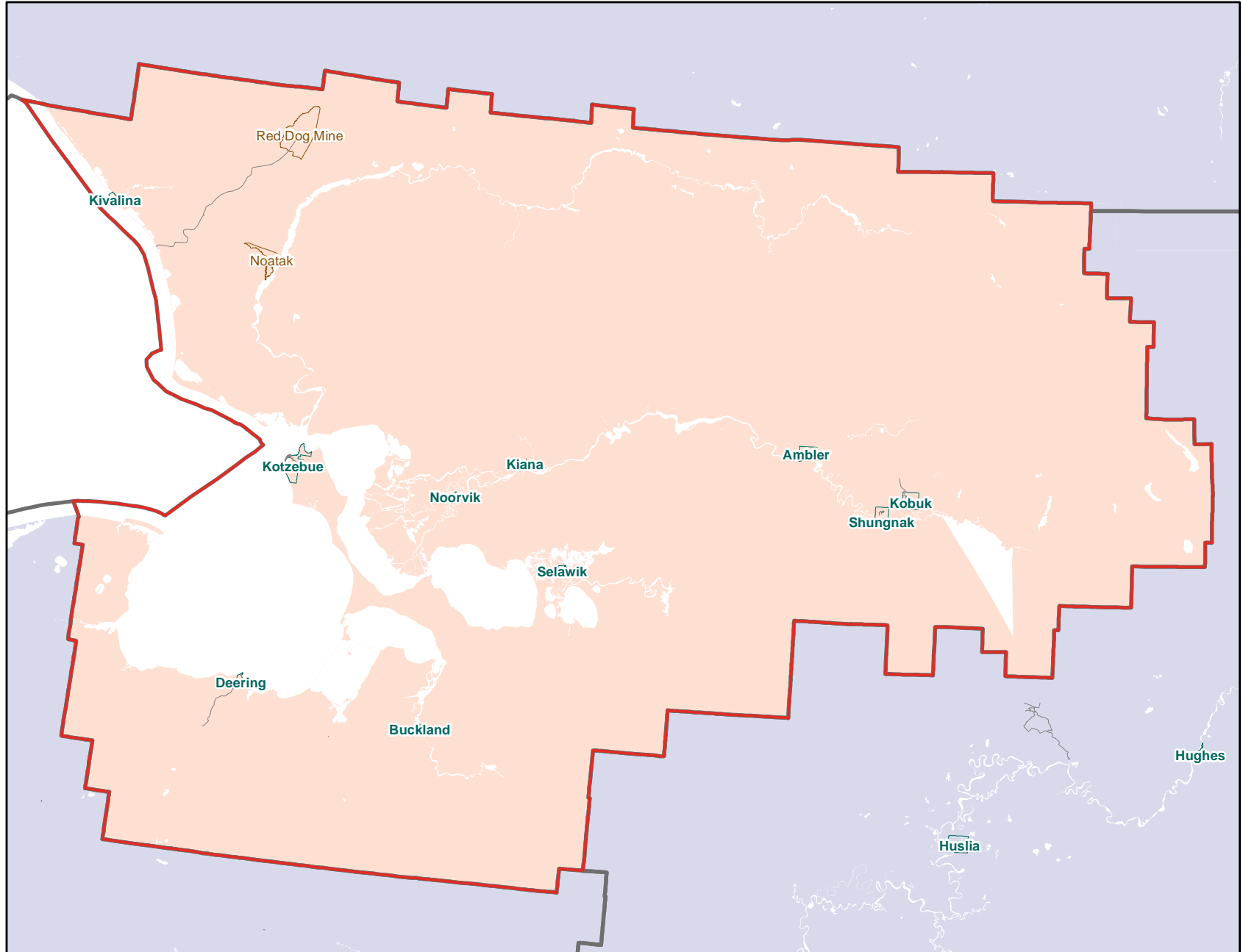
Source: US Census  
2010 TIGERLine

# NANA Regional Corporation

## Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary

### Legend

-  NANA
-  Highway
-  Road
-  CDP
-  City
-  Borough/CA

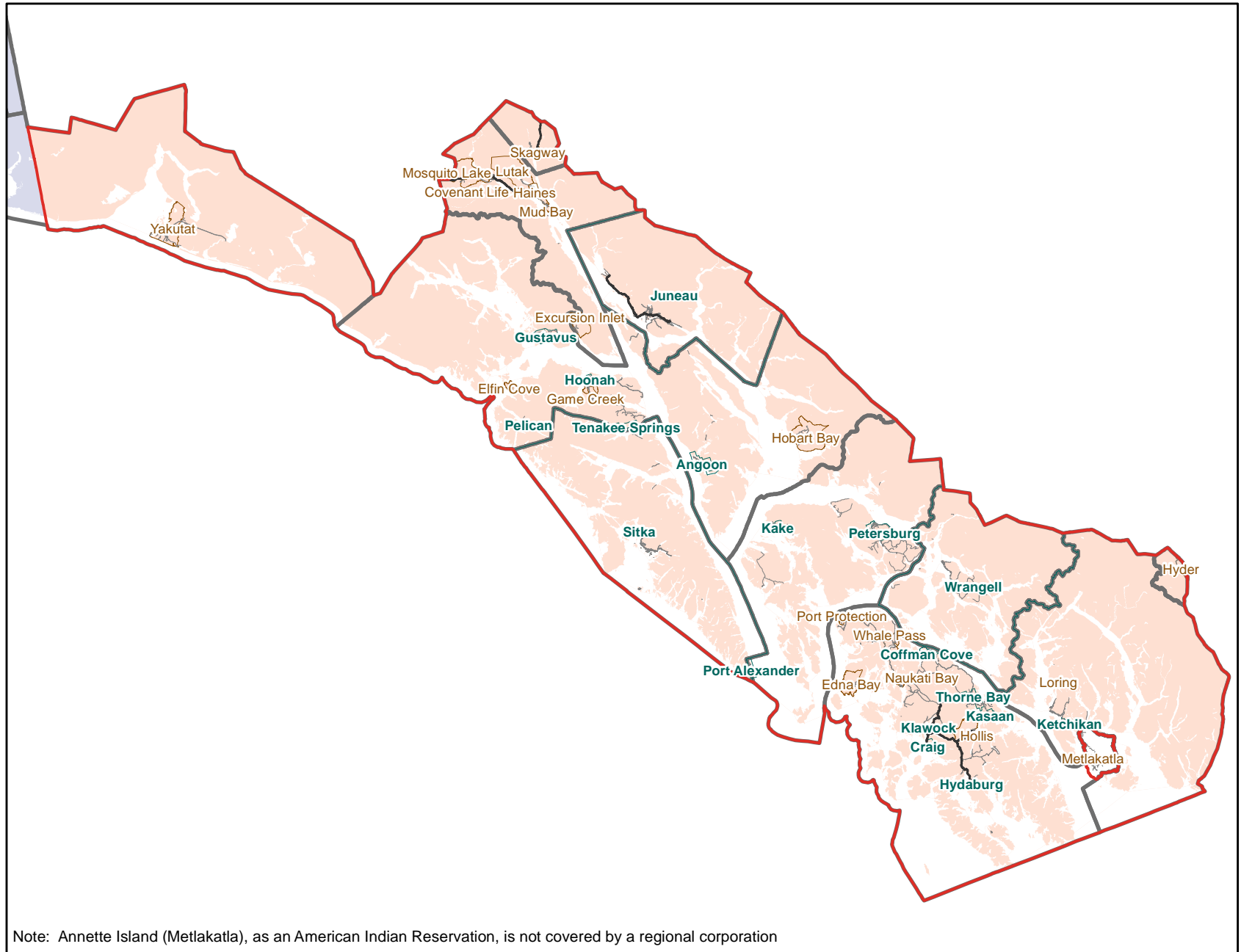
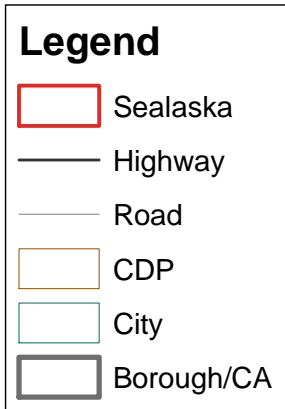


Prepared by:  
Alaska Department of  
Labor & Workforce  
Development

July 2012

Source: US Census  
2010 TIGERLine

# Sealaska Corporation Alaska Native Regional Corporation Boundary



Prepared by:  
Alaska Department of  
Labor & Workforce  
Development

July 2012

Source: US Census  
2010 TIGERLine

Note: Annette Island (Metlakatla), as an American Indian Reservation, is not covered by a regional corporation

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 10:01 AM

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

First Name: **Adam**

Last Name: **Pollock**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99645**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **palmer**

Public Comment: **I live 5 miles from downtown Palmer (Buffalo Mine Road) . To have a district that is combining Palmer, Valdez, and Delta Junction is in complete violation of the intent in the AK. constitution that districts encompass communities in proximity to eachother and have similar needs and concerns. I would challenge you to explain to me what Valdez and Delta Junction have in common. It seems that this change was done with the intent to lump what had been a less conservative are(sutton, chickaloon) with the more conservative Delta area to weaken the chances of people like Warren Keogh against people like our current governor, who narrowly won. It also might be that the coal mine in Sutton that was vehemently opposed by an overwhelming majority of locals would have a better chance of proceeding by allowing people who live hundreds of miles away lopsided representation. Please look at the distance between Delta and Valdez and tell me what is contiguous about it? Please return the area just East of Palmer to the Mat-Su Valley where it belongs and return Delta and Valdez to their respective boroughs. Thank You**



---

**From:** Nathan Duval <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 5:59 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: September 30, 2021, 5:59 pm

First Name: **Nathan**

Last Name: **Duval**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99686**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Proposed version 3**

Public Comment: **Valdez has strong historical connections to the Richardson highway corridor as the gold rush gateway to the interior. Additional ties between Valdez and the interior include the connection to the pipeline and corresponding labor force. Additionally, the Valdez Port serves to supply the military and mining supplies and resources to the interior.**

**There is very little socioeconomic tie to the matsu and our representation from that area has been poor in the past.**

**I am from Fairbanks and my travel, recreation, and hunting and fishing all are connected to the Richardson highway headed North.**

**Any district that can include the communities north of Valdez on the Richardson highway and Cordova would would be the best mix of fishing and waterfront and pipeline interests for our community. Of the maps presented the board proposal 3 would be the best. The AFFR proposal wouldn't be bad either. However a new map with Cordova, Valdez, and communities north not in the Matsu would be great for historical, socioeconomic, and recreational reasons.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 30, 2021, 6:54 pm

First Name: **Bart**

Last Name: **Hinkle**

Your ZIP Code: **99686**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **City of Valdez employee - commenting as an individual**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Oral Testimony given in Valdez on 9.30**

Public Comment: **As I mentioned in my oral comments, I am supportive of AFFR Proposed District 36-R (preferred option) and the Board proposed v3 District 36. This is largely due to the Richardson Hwy. corridor and corresponding communities represented in each of these proposals.**

**I was born and raised in the Fairbanks area, attended Eielson High School, and have lived and worked in Valdez since 1999. My personal, professional, and recreational life consists of the Richardson Highway communities. Sure, I go to Anchorage (Mat Su) out of necessity - but only out of necessity.**

**The history and established socioeconomic ties that Valdez and the Fairbanks region share are undeniable. Alternatively, there is no socioeconomic link between Valdez and the Mat Su Borough.**

**Freight, ammunition, TAPS, and utilities are but a few of the ties that bind Valdez to the Richardson Hwy. options. So much so that the AK DOT has us in the North region - with Fairbanks and all the Rich Hwy. communities.**

**Growing up outside of Salcha, many weekends were spent in the Valdez area. Primarily fishing, but also because High School sports were (and still are) in the same conference. I certainly was not alone in that regard, and it remains to this day that I routinely see many Fairbanks people in Valdez. Over 160 permanent slips in our boat harbor are registered to Fairbanks and North Pole personnel. Over 560 transients slips sport that same characteristic.**

**I can go on and on, but the crux of the statement is "no MatSu" and "yes" to Richardson Hwy. options.**

---

**From:** Patricia Relay <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 30, 2021 8:57 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: September 30, 2021, 8:56 pm

First Name: **Patricia**

Last Name: **Relay**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99686**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Testimony to support AFFR Proposed Map 36 R**

Public Comment: **As a community member of Valdez, Alaska I urge you to support the AFFR Proposed District 36 R map. Valdez has been under represented over the last ten years by elected officials from the Matsu Valley. We have little in common with the Valley. Valdez is the gateway to the interior. The Richardson Highway, the oldest highway in the state links Valdez to the Copper River Basin, Fairbanks and east to the Canadian Boarder. We are not only socio economically connected through our port, we are connected through our shared history and culture. We share the gold rush, early and current tourism, oil and gas, the burden of high costs of living, native heritage, transportation, and athletics. Valdez needs to be represented by elected officials that understand our way of life. We cannot be an afterthought.**

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**From:** Kathleen Todd <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 2, 2021 6:58 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 2, 2021, 6:57 pm

First Name: **Kathleen**

Last Name: **Todd**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99686**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Valdez**

Public Comment: **In my opinion Valdez has more in common with Cordova and Tatitlek or the communities on the way north towards Fairbanks than we do with Mat-Su.**

**Also, several of these plans seem to have boundaries that go along roads (it is extremely difficult to figure out exactly what is being proposed). It seems ridiculous to separate people who live forty miles from anywhere from their across the road neighbors. If one lives on the road system but away from the population centers it seems like the next community down the road or the communities that share school buses should be together.**

**In general any plan that puts current incumbents in districts together without a large relative drop in the population of that area should receive extra scrutiny as being a possible attempt to gerrymander.**

---

**From:** Suzanne McCarthy [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, October 4, 2021 8:30 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Alaska Redistricting Comments

To Whom it May Concern,

I grew up in the Copper River region and have lived for many years in Anchorage. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on proposed maps and believe that protecting all Alaskans' franchise is of the utmost importance. Our district lines should ensure as equal of population as possible, while keeping communities together whenever possible. With those goals in mind, I believe AFFR's map does the best job keeping lines as compact as possible while recognizing communities of interest. AFFR keeps Valdez in with other road-system communities along the Richardson Highway, which provides greater socioeconomic integration than connecting it with off-road system coastal villages. By keeping Valdez in a road-system district, AFFR can assemble a Senate district composed of a Kodiak/Cordova and a Homer/Seward House district. This is the best possible solution to provide socioeconomic integration, equitable population, and as compact of lines as possible along the Gulf Coast. Finally, it seems clear AFFR's map for Anchorage has the most equal population with compact district lines and is the obvious choice to use. AFFR's maps on the Kenai are very compact and integrated as well, far more so than any other map alternative for the Kenai. Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

*Suzanne McCarthy*

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **James** Last Name: **Devens**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **City Council**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Mr. Devens spoke in opposition of grouping Valdez with the Mat-Su Borough as there are no socio-economic ties between the two that are significant and measurable. Placing Valdez in a district with Sutton, Chickaloon, and portions of Palmer and Wasilla would result in Valdez becoming an appendage.**

**Mr. Devens noted that there is more socio-economic integration with the Richardson Highway communities leading up to the Fairbanks North Star Borough. For example, the Valdez port is the regional harbor for Richardson Highway communities. Military supplies arrive at the port and are shipped to Eilson Air Force Base and Ft. Greeley. Heavy mining and oil equipment are also shipped through Valdez routinely.**

**There is also significant use of Valdez port with private and commercial vessels, including essentially every community on the Richardson Highway.**

**Mr. Devens spoke in favor of Board Map v.3, specifically District 36, as this proposed district unites Valdez with the communities on the Richardson Highway and there is no integration with the Mat-Su Borough, which Valdez has no significant socio-economic ties with. There are some limitations due to the large size of the district stretching to Holy Cross, but the overall integration of this map is better than other proposed maps.**

**Mr. Devens also spoke in favor of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map, specifically District 36-R, as Valdez is grouped with Richardson Highway communities.**

**Mr. Devens acknowledged that the map does take a significant population portion from the Fairbanks North Star Borough, but since that area has a population surplus this is acceptable.**

**Mr. Devens expressed concerns regarding Board Map v.4 as it separates Valdez from all of Richardson Highway and a large portion of Tonsina, Copper River, Kinney Lake, Silver Springs, Tazlina, and Glennallen. Valdez is considered a hub to those communities' residents. Additionally, this map separates Valdez from Prince William Sound communities with no geographic overlap of the districts.**

**Mr. Devens commented that using the Glenn Highway as a boundary separates communities unnecessarily and at detriment. Doing this bisects communities by a highway, resulting in neighbors living in different districts.**

---

**From:** Nathan Duval <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2021 5:37 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 15, 2021, 5:36 pm

First Name: **Nathan**

Last Name: **Duval**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **N/A**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Valdez 9/30 Verbal Testimony**

Public Comment: **Mr. Duval noted that the history of Valdez is rich with the Richardson Highway and the affiliation with these communities is more realistic for socio-economic purposes. Growing up in Fairbanks, Mr. Duval played sports coming down the Richardson Highway. Mr. Duval has also on the Transalaska Pipeline where there were crews and connections to people going north toward Fairbanks; there was little connection with the Mat-Su Borough to the west. Recently, Valdez has received more support from legislators from the Fairbanks area while receiving silence from their representative from these same issues.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Dennis** Last Name: **Fleming**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Community Council**

Email or Phone Contact: 

**Mr. Fleming spoke in favor of Board Map v.3, specifically District 36, as it groups Valdez with the Fairbanks area. This grouping is much better than the borough the district is currently in where representation is not as strong. Fairbanks and Valdez also share commerce and recreation between both communities.**



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**From:** Carolyn Keller <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, October 16, 2021 4:06 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 16, 2021, 4:06 pm

First Name: **Carolyn**

Last Name: **Keller**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting Board Version 3 is unconstitutional**

Public Comment: **Redistricting Board Version 3 is unconstitutional in that it does not give the Fairbanks area representation based on population (5.3 representatives), and gives more representation to Anchorage and the Mat-Su area than they are due. In addition, Version 3 divides the Fairbanks area north-south. The Fairbanks area divides itself in an east-west pattern historically and at present.**

**While Redistricting Board Version 4 is more fair, it does not fully meet the legal criteria. The deviation from statewide population representation is far too high at over 10%. For the Fairbanks area consider including Valdez in a 6th district to gain better representation. Many commercial fishermen live in Fairbanks and fish in Valdez, and engage in many other business and recreational activities along the Richardson Highway. This would be a good combination for Valdez and Fairbanks**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL & WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Dawson** Last Name: **Moore**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Valdez City Council**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Verbal Testimony Summary: **Mr. Moore stated that in the last decade, Valdez has been underrepresented at a statewide level and spoke in favor of Board Map v.3 as it seems to have communities that mirror his own experiences as a Valdez resident. Mr. Moore commented that he would be much happier if Valdez was not grouped with the Mat-Su Borough.**

Handwritten Testimony: **Valdez has been essentially unrepresented for the past decade on a state level because of districting and I have no interest in continuing to be lumped together with Mat-Su. Version three seems like it connects Valdez with other end-of-the-road communities best. There is also a good case to have us grouped with the other communities in Prince William Sound.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Sheri** Last Name: **Pierce**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **City of Valdez**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Ms. Pierce stated that Valdez should not be grouped into a district with the Mat-Su Borough for the following reasons:**

1. Valdez is a regional port and harbor for Richardson Highway communities and the Fairbanks North Star Borough.
2. There are military supplies that come in through Valdez and are transported to Eilson Air Force Base and Ft. Greeley.
3. Heavy mining and oil equipment are routinely shipped through Valdez.
4. Richardson Highway and the Fairbanks North Star Borough residents use Valdez harbor facilities at a rate equal to or greater than Valdez residents. Statistics available for this if needed.
5. Richardson Highway and the Fairbanks North Star Borough residents recreate and do business in Valdez.
6. The City of Valdez has a Memorandum of Agreement with Ft Greeley to provide recreational opportunities in Valdez for service members stationed there.
7. Trucking companies move goods back and forth between Valdez to the Fairbanks North Star Borough.
8. Valdez residents fish hunt along the Richardson Highway and the Fairbanks North Star Borough.
9. Valdez is part of the DOT northern region which includes the Richardson Highway and Fairbanks North Star Borough.
10. Valdez is served by the electric and telephone companies that also serves Glennallen and other Richardson Highway communities.
11. Transalaska Pipeline system creates employment associated with its operation unites communities along its route including the Richardson Highway and Fairbanks North Star Borough communities.

**Ms. Pierce spoke in favor of the following maps:**

1. Board Map v.3, specifically District 36, is acceptable as it keeps Valdez out of the Mat-Su district and ties them in with Fairbanks.
2. Alaskans for Fair Redistricting map, specifically District 36-R, as it unites Valdez with socio-economically integrated communities along the Richardson Highway and does not force Valdez into an unnatural district. It would also be paired with District 35-R which includes socio-economically integrated areas of the Fairbanks North Star Borough and North Pole.

**Ms. Pierce noted that Valdez' representative has had difficulties picking priorities as most of their support comes out of the Mat-Su Borough.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Patricia** Last Name: **Relay**

**Ms. Relay referenced the socio-economic impacts voiced by other testifiers that have stated that District 36 (Board Map v.3) and District 36-R (AFFR map) shows this. It is important that Valdez stays in these districts for their cultural identity and connection as well. Also, Valdez residents drive up the Richardson Highway and recreate along the Richardson Highway often.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL & WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Hope** Last Name: **Van Der Mevlee**

Public Comment: **Ms. Mevlee agreed with what other testifiers have stated about not being grouped with the Mat-Su Borough. Ms. Mevlee spoke in support of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map, specifically District 36-R, and Board Map v.3. Ms. Mevlee would like to see more of Prince William Sound and Cordova included with Valdez to include more coastal representation.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

**Valdez 9/30 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Todd** Last Name: **Wegner**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Valdez 9/30 Verbal Testimony**

Public Comment: **Mr. Wegner stated that he is speaking on behalf of the school district and noted that two years ago, Valdez used to be Region 3 (Palmer, Wasilla, Kenai Peninsula), but they've regionally moved into Region 6 along the Richardson Highway corridor that also includes Fairbanks and Galena schools. There is a cultural connection with school districts as well.**

**Mr. Wegner is in favor of Board Map v.3.**



March 10, 2016

# Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

*Prepared by:*

**Applied Development Economics, Inc.**

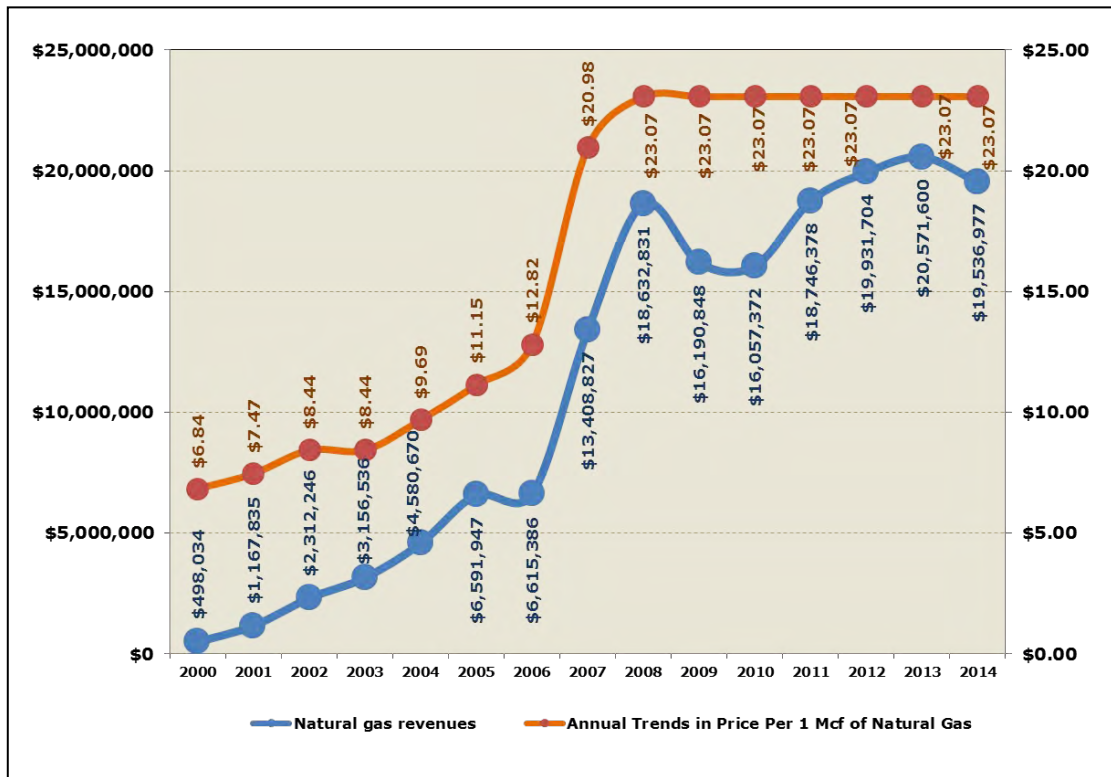
255 Ygnacio Valley Road, #200, Walnut Creek, CA 94596 ■ 925.934.8712

99 Pacific Street, #200 J, Monterey, CA 93940 ■ 831.324.4896

[www.adeusa.com](http://www.adeusa.com)



**FIGURE 21**  
**ANNUAL TRENDS IN TOTAL NATURAL GAS REVENUES AND COST PER MCF: FAIRBANKS NATURAL GAS LLC**



## INSTITUTIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

There are a number of institutions in FNSB critical to residents' economic and social well-being. Of these, four are discussed below. These are the military facilities in FNSB, the University of Alaska Fairbanks, special research centers at the UAF, and the non-profit social services sector.

### MILITARY

The two military bases located within the FNSB are Fort Wainwright Army Base and Eielson Air Force Base (AFB). These facilities provide mission support, joint operations training, arctic operations training, and cold climate testing services for the US Army and Air Force missions in Alaska and abroad. Fort Wainwright Army Base borders the City of Fairbanks to the east and is home to the 172<sup>nd</sup> Stryker Brigade Combat Team which is comprised of the 1st Battalion 17th Infantry, 2nd Battalion 1st Infantry, 4th Battalion 11th Field Artillery, 4th Squadron 14 Cavalry, 172nd Brigade Support Battalion, 52nd AT Company, 562nd Engineer Company, 21st Signal Company, and the 572nd MI Company. Other US Army Alaska units stationed at Fort Wainwright Army Base include the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion 52nd Aviation, 4th Battalion 123rd Aviation, 203rd Personnel Services Battalion, 507<sup>th</sup> Signal Company, Northern Warfare Training Center, and the 9th Army Band. Fort Wainwright Army Base is also the host



to a number of mission support tenant units, including the 3rd Air Support Operations Squadron and MEDDAC/DENTAC units.<sup>18</sup>

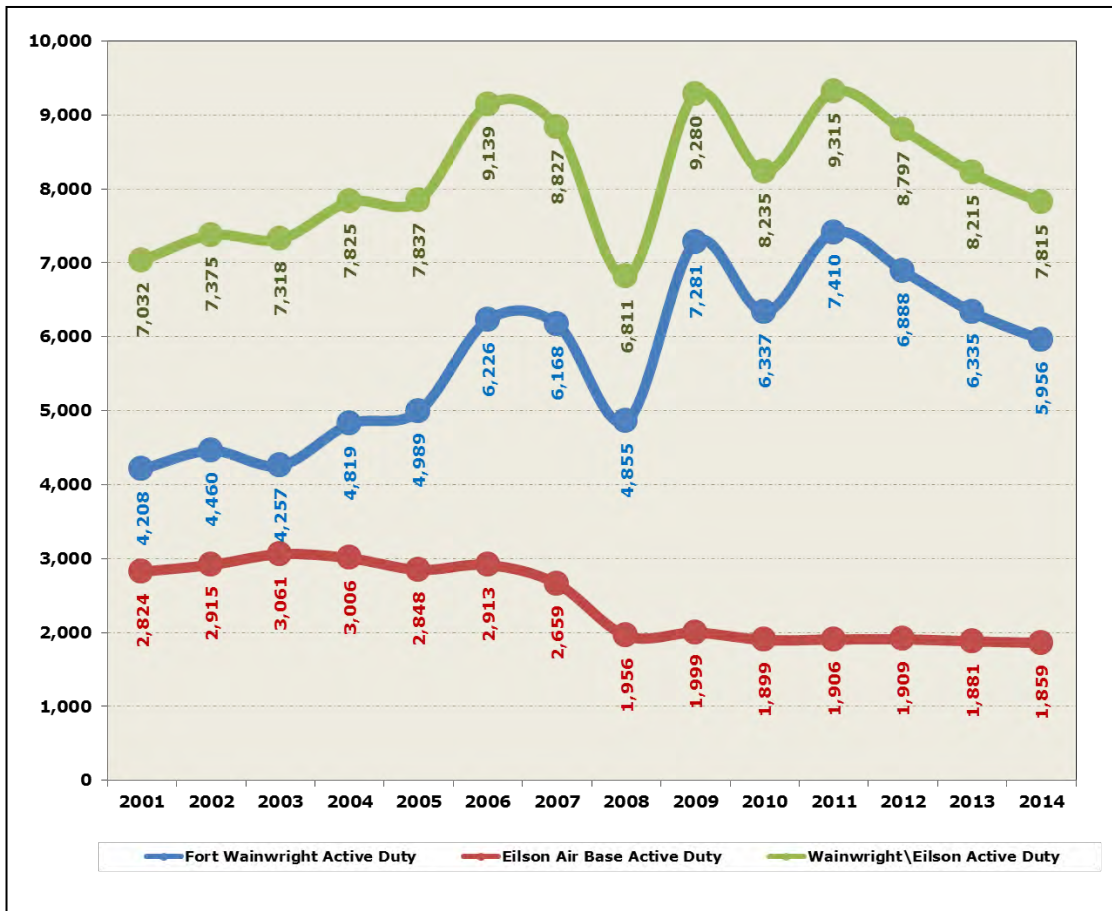
Eielson AFB borders the City of North Pole to the east and is home to the 354th Fighter Wing. The 354th Fighter Wing is comprised of the 354th Operations Group, the 354th Maintenance Group, the 354th Mission Support Group, and the 354th Medical Group. Eielson AFB is also host to the Alaska Air National Guard's 168th Aerial Refueling Wing and the 353rd Combat Training Squadron.

There are 7,815 active-duty military personnel stationed at Fort Wainwright and Eielson AFB combined. Of the 7,815 active-duty military personnel, 5,956 are at Fort Wainwright and 1,859 are at Eielson AFB. From 2001 to 2008, the number of active-duty personnel at Fort Wainwright increased annually by 2.1 percent a year, and the rate of increase picked-up even more from 2008 to 2014, to 3.5 percent a year. In contrast, active-duty personnel at Eielson AFB dropped by 5.1 percent a year from 2001 to 2008, and slid slightly by 0.8 percent a year from 2008 to 2014. However, Eielson is scheduled to receive a new fighter wing with up to 54 F-35s. This will add as many as 3,000 new jobs and dependents in FNSB, including private contractors.

Coincidentally, as the chart below shows, both military facilities experienced an inflection point in 2008. Typically, the decision to locate military personnel is not related to the ebb and flow of the larger civilian economy, but, in the case of both facilities, dramatic changes occurred on the eve of the Great Recession. The number of active-duty personnel at both facilities dropped dramatically from 8,827 in 2007 to 6,811 in 2008, then spiked again to 9,280 in 2009.

<sup>18</sup> FNSB, "2011: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy", pages 28 and 29

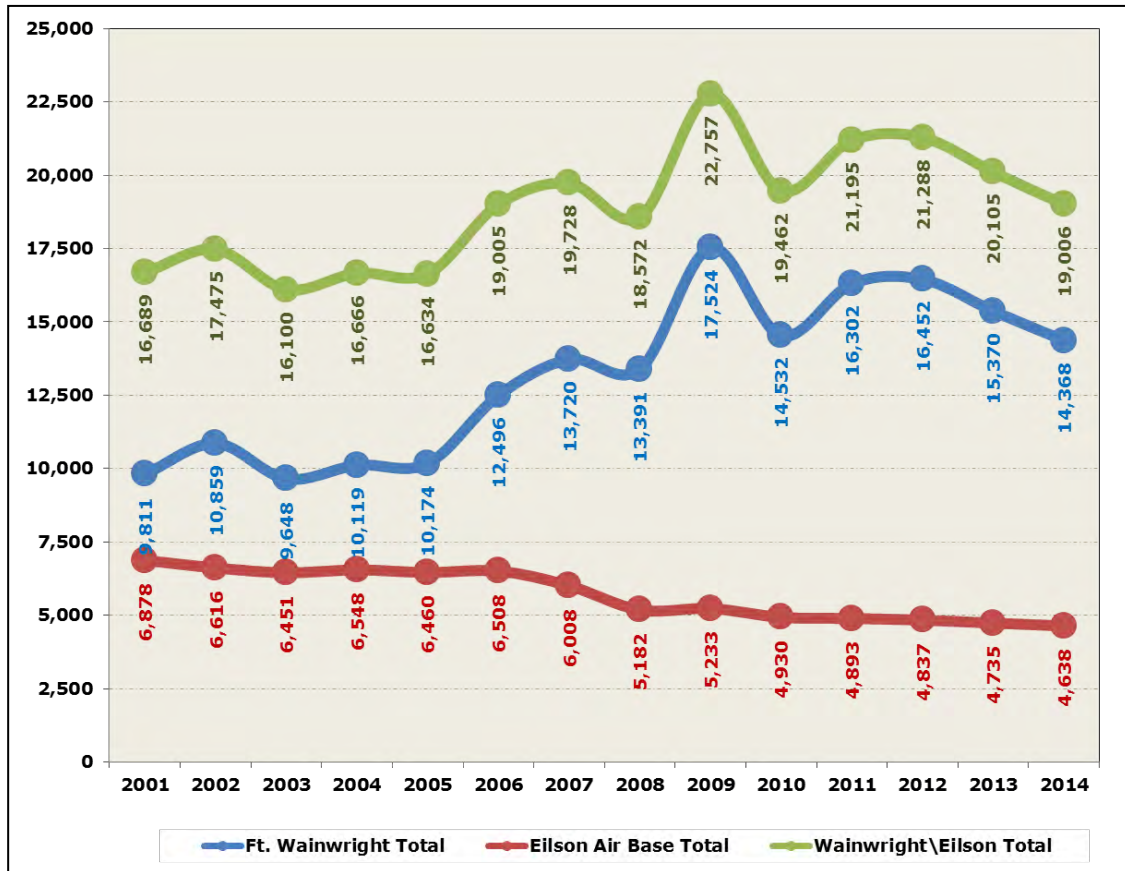
**FIGURE 22**  
**ANNUAL TRENDS IN NUMBER OF ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL AT FORT WAINWRIGHT AND EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE**



In addition to the 7,815 active-duty personnel at these military facilities, there are 11,191 dependents – spouses and children of active duty personnel. Active duty personnel and dependents at the two facilities amount to 19,006 persons, with 14,368 at Fort Wainwright and 4,638 at Eielson. In addition to the active duty military personnel, Fort Wainwright Army Base currently employs 1,188 civilians, while Eielson AFB employs 480 civilians.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> “Fort Wainwright” in US Military Bases (Sun Key Publishing) <http://bit.ly/1LmZiRO> and “Eielson Air Force Base” in Alaska F-35s (Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation) <http://bit.ly/1ihASTb>

**FIGURE 23**  
**ANNUAL TRENDS IN NUMBER OF ACTIVE DUTY PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS AT FORT WAINWRIGHT AND EIELSON AIR FORCE BASE (EIELSON MISPELLED IN GRAPH KEY)**



## UNIVERSITY

UAF was founded in 1917 as the Alaska Agricultural College and School of Mines, and is a Land, Sea, and Space Grant institution. UAF is home to seven major research units. These units include the Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, Arctic Region Supercomputing Center, the Geophysical Institute, the Institute of Marine Science, the Institute of Arctic Biology, the Institute of Northern Engineering, and the International Arctic Research Center. The Alaska Native Language Center and the University of Alaska Museum of the North are also located on UAF's campus. UAF's Geophysical Institute operates the Poker Flat Research Range, the only university-owned scientific rocket launching facility in the nation.<sup>20</sup>

Eight academic schools and colleges are housed within UAF. These include the College of Engineering and Mines, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of Natural Science and Mathematics, the College of Rural and Community Development, the School of Education, the School of Fisheries and Ocean

<sup>20</sup> FNSB, "2011: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy", page 30

Sciences, the School of Management, and the School of Natural Resources and Agricultural Sciences. UAF offers 168 degrees and 33 certificates in 127 disciplines and began offering a doctoral degree in nursing last year.

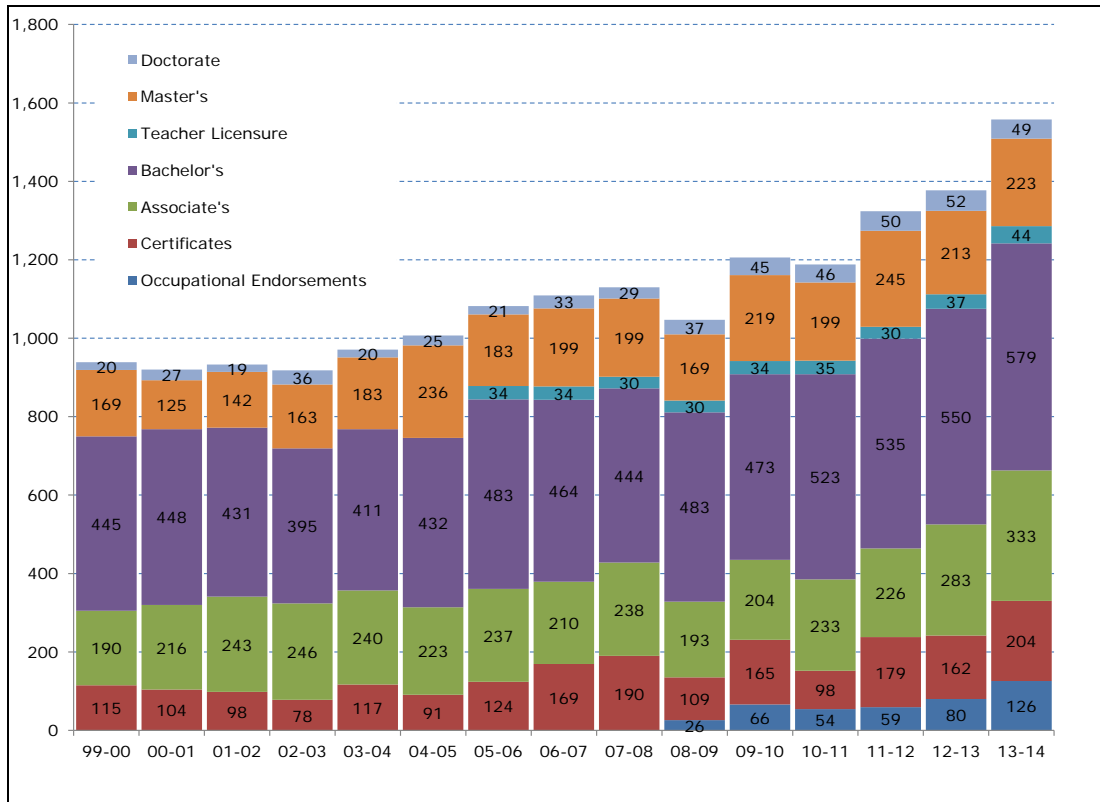
In Fall 2014, there were 11,235 students enrolled in the UAF system, with the bulk (at 6,159) enrolled at the Fairbanks campus. As the Great Recession proceeded, the number of enrollees increased from 11,821 in 2008, to 12,717 in 2009, 13,574 in 2010, and 13,624 in 2011. At 6,159 in 2014, enrollment at the Fairbanks campus is significantly ahead of the number of enrollees in 2008 (4,976) and the years soon after 2008. From 2009 to 2012, enrollment at the Fairbanks campus ranged from 4,976 to 6,184, and then dropped slightly to 6,159 in 2014.

**TABLE 24**  
**FALL ENROLLMENT: UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA FAIRBANKS (ALL CAMPUSES)**

|            | URBAN     |                                  | RURAL          |         |                        |           |           | OTHER            | URBAN<br>SUB-<br>TOTAL | RURAL<br>SUB-<br>TOTAL | OTHER | TOTAL<br>ENROLLMENT<br>(COMBINED<br>COUNT) |
|------------|-----------|----------------------------------|----------------|---------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------------|
|            | Fairbanks | Career &<br>Technical<br>College | Bristol<br>Bay | Chukchi | Interior-<br>Aleutians | Kuskokwim | Northwest | Rural<br>College |                        |                        |       |                                            |
| 2003       | 5,412     | 3,330                            | 404            | 243     | 457                    | 326       | 321       | 1,441            | 8,742                  | 1,751                  | 1,441 | 11,934                                     |
| 2004       | 5,291     | 3,306                            | 327            | 235     | 304                    | 317       | 384       | 2,056            | 8,597                  | 1,567                  | 2,056 | 12,220                                     |
| 2005       | 5,270     | 3,090                            | 215            | 146     | 285                    | 250       | 127       | 2,205            | 8,360                  | 1,023                  | 2,205 | 11,588                                     |
| 2006       | 5,034     | 3,147                            | 272            | 177     | 244                    | 218       | 262       | 2,124            | 8,181                  | 1,173                  | 2,124 | 11,478                                     |
| 2007       | 5,036     | 3,059                            | 494            | 182     | 285                    | 233       | 270       | 2,112            | 8,095                  | 1,464                  | 2,112 | 11,671                                     |
| 2008       | 4,976     | 3,160                            | 374            | 361     | 257                    | 223       | 188       | 2,282            | 8,136                  | 1,403                  | 2,282 | 11,821                                     |
| 2009       | 5,271     | 3,257                            | 478            | 378     | 334                    | 281       | 161       | 2,557            | 8,528                  | 1,632                  | 2,557 | 12,717                                     |
| 2010       | 5,504     | 3,520                            | 460            | 332     | 392                    | 231       | 364       | 2,771            | 9,024                  | 1,779                  | 2,771 | 13,574                                     |
| 2011       | 5,668     | 3,616                            | 544            | 184     | 304                    | 244       | 225       | 2,839            | 9,284                  | 1,501                  | 2,839 | 13,624                                     |
| 2012       | 5,314     | 3,244                            | 308            | 265     | 273                    | 206       | 197       | 2,633            | 8,558                  | 1,249                  | 2,633 | 12,440                                     |
| 2013       | 6,184     | 3,236                            | 358            | 331     | 205                    | 393       | 196       | 1,025            | 9,420                  | 1,483                  | 1,025 | 11,928                                     |
| 2014       | 6,159     | 3,009                            | 292            | 97      | 186                    | 385       | 203       | 904              | 9,168                  | 1,163                  | 904   | 11,235                                     |
| 03-08 CAGR | -2%       | -1%                              | -2%            | 8%      | -11%                   | -7%       | -10%      | 10%              | -1%                    | -4%                    | 10%   | 0%                                         |
| 08-14 CAGR | 4%        | -1%                              | -4%            | -20%    | -5%                    | 10%       | 1%        | -14%             | 2%                     | -3%                    | -14%  | -1%                                        |

In 2014, the UAF system issued 579 Bachelor's degrees, up from 550 in 2013, 535 in 2012, and 473 in 2011. The number of Bachelor's degrees issued in 2014 was the highest over the 14-year period from 1999-2000 school year to 2013-2014 school year. UAF also issued the most AA degrees in 2014 relative to any other school year during the 1999-2000 to 2013-2014 period.

**FIGURE 24**  
**NUMBER OF GRADUATES RECEIVING DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES: UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA AT FAIRBANKS**



## RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY

In 2010, UAF, established an Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization to help commercialize research generated within the university. This includes research on arctic squirrels, blueberries, minerals and satellite mapping. There is a local group of investors that regularly meets with University researchers to learn about their products and investment opportunities. In addition to commercializing research, the University has played a leading role in research and development in fields unique to the climatic attributes of Alaska. The Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) is a private non-profit corporation created by the home building community to facilitate the development, use, and testing of sustainable, durable, healthy, and cost-effective building technologies for people living in the Circumpolar North. In September 2006, Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) finished construction of a cold weather research test facility and demonstration project on a 2.5 acre parcel within the 30 acre parcel UAF has identified for a research park. The Sustainable Northern Communities project was initiated in 2008 to address the needs for sustainable rural housing in northern climates. The project investigates, develops and incorporates many sustainable solutions that will benefit northern communities by demonstrating a culturally

designed, affordable, replicable and simply constructed home that uses very little water or energy. CCHRC is partnering with university researchers, industry experts and entrepreneurs to develop, test, and certify arctic and energy efficient construction techniques, materials, and products.<sup>21</sup>

## **NON-PROFIT SOCIAL SERVICES**

FNSB has an important social services sector, comprised not only of government agencies but also a variety of non-profit organizations. Employment in the health care and social services sector in the Borough reached nearly 5,000 jobs in 2014, with another 467 jobs in arts and recreation services that also promote physical and social well-being. Additional related services and jobs are provided in education, legal services, and food services. Organizations serve both youth and the elderly, as well as a number of populations at risk such as non-English speakers, AIDS and Alzheimer's patients, the homeless and families in poverty. Many of the services are designed to be preventative and keep people healthy and productive. Providing mental health services is particularly challenging, however, as the main treatment facility in the Borough has closed.

In addition to private charitable funds, corporate support and volunteers, two grant funds help support organizations in this sector: the Community Matching Grant Fund, which receives state funds, and the Matching Assistance Grant Program, which is operated just within FNSB.<sup>22</sup> The former program offers grants up to \$50,000 and in FY 2014 was able to fund ten organizations out of 12-14 applications received. This program has seen some decline in state support due to lower state revenues from declining oil prices. The second program offers matching grants up to \$25,000 and is supported wholly from Borough funds. The recipient organizations must have commitments for other grants from outside agencies to complete funding for each project. It is estimated that the organization receiving these grants generate a 15 fold return in terms of other income generated, in-kind contributions and other multiplier effects.

The efforts of many of these organizations relate directly to economic development in terms of promoting job security and wage progression for at-risk populations. The community is particularly concerned with serving the needs of disabled workers and the incarcerated population as they seek to transition into private sector jobs.

## **ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE**

Economic development practitioners and planners have traditionally divided economies into two broad industrial categories—the “economic base” and “local support” industries. Economic base industries are the drivers of local and regional economies in that these industries draw income into a local economy by selling products outside of the local economy, much like the export industries of a national economy. Accrued earnings then circulate throughout the local area in the form of wages and salaries; proprietor income; investments; purchases of fixed assets, goods, and services; and generation of more jobs and wealth. The economic base is typically comprised of industries within the

<sup>21</sup> FNSB, “2011: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy”, page 30

<sup>22</sup> Peter Pinney, Executive Dean, College of Rural and Community Development, University of Alaska Fairbanks, personal communication, August 25, 2015

manufacturing, minerals-resource extraction, and agricultural sectors. Tourism can be an economic base industry in so far as it brings income from the outside. There are also the “local support industries” such as retail or service sectors, the progress of which is a function of the economic base and demographic changes, and more so the latter than the former. As population increases in a given area, demand for services—such as realtors, teachers, and healthcare increase, as does demand for basic retail items like groceries, gas for commuting, or clothing at local shops.

While FNSB is blessed with multiple sectors and industries that comprise this Borough’s economic base, one key broadly-construed sector – resource extraction (mining and oil-natural gas) – involve activities occurring outside of the FNSB. Yet resource extraction remains one of FNSB’s economic bases because this Borough serves as a staging ground for resource extraction occurring in the North Slope and Interior Alaska regions. The Fort Knox Gold Mine is located within the Borough, as well as some smaller mining operations.

## **MINING, OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT**

The mining and oil and natural gas industries dominate Alaska’s economy, with the North Slope region containing more than a dozen of the 100 largest oil fields in the United States and several of the 100 largest natural gas fields. Alaska’s North Slope is one of the largest oil fields in the country, although production has fallen to less than 500,000 barrels per day from its peak of 2.0 million barrels per day in 1988.<sup>23</sup> The FNSB serves as an important staging area for oil and gas exploration, development, and production in Alaska’s Northern and Interior Regions, particularly as the FNSB is the midpoint of the 800 mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) running from Prudhoe Bay south to Valdez. The TAPS supplies the Petro Star refinery located in the FNSB with Alaska North Slope (ANS) crude oil. Similarly, the FNSB serves as a staging area for much of the State’s mineral exploration and development. Three of the state’s largest mining operations (Usibelli, Fort Knox and Pogo) lie within 150 miles of Fairbanks.<sup>24</sup>

### **MINERAL DEVELOPMENT**

In 2013, the economic value of Alaska’s mining industry as a whole was \$3.9 billion. Of this amount, the production or market value of mined resources was \$3.4 billion, development cost was \$358.8 million, and exploration cost for future resources was \$175.5 million. At \$1.46 billion, the economic value of mining industry in the Eastern Interior region – of which the FNSB is a part and a staging ground into – was 37 percent of Alaska’s total.

Moreover, relative to the state as a whole, mining is growing the fastest in the Eastern Interior. From 2000 to 2008, the economic value of mining in this region grew annually by 24 percent, then by 12 percent per year from 2008 to 2013. In comparison, the total value of mining in the state grew by 14.3 percent per year between 2000 and 2008, and by 4.5 percent per year between 2008 and 2014.

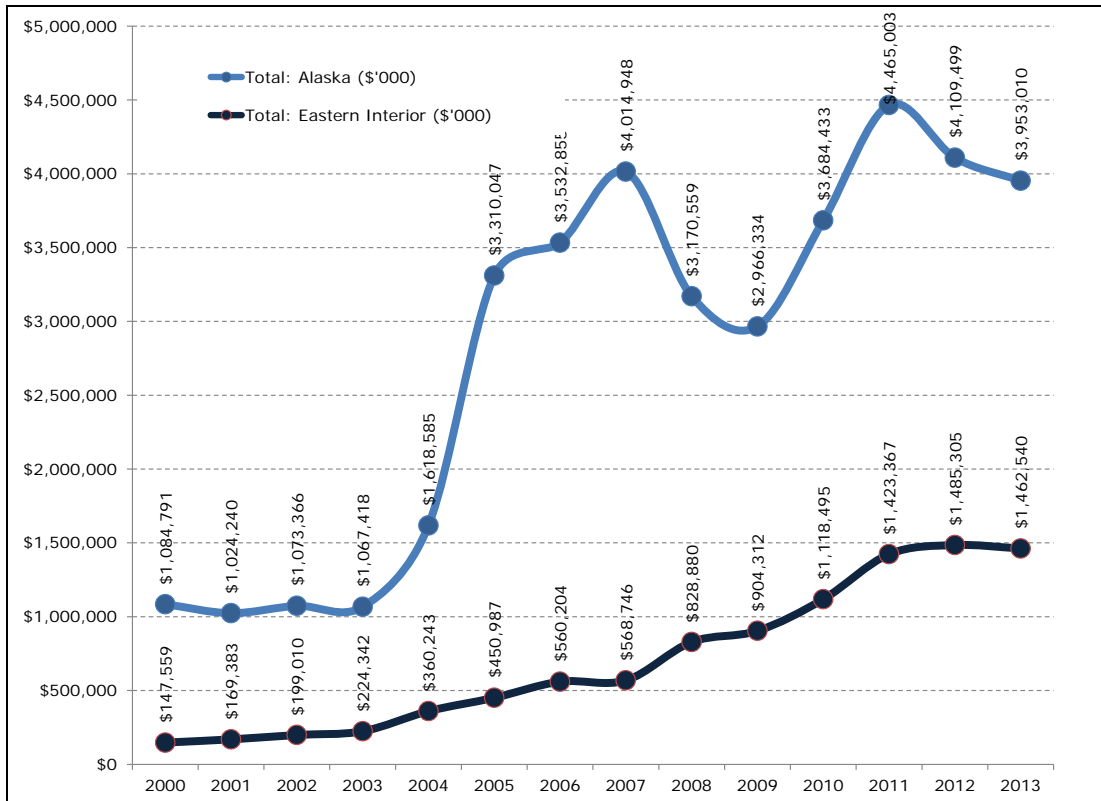
<sup>23</sup> US Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, “Monthly Alaska North Slope Crude Oil Production (Thousand Barrels): January 1981 through April 2015” (<http://bit.ly/1NFSqjg>)

<sup>24</sup> FNSB, “2011: Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy”, pages 34 and 35

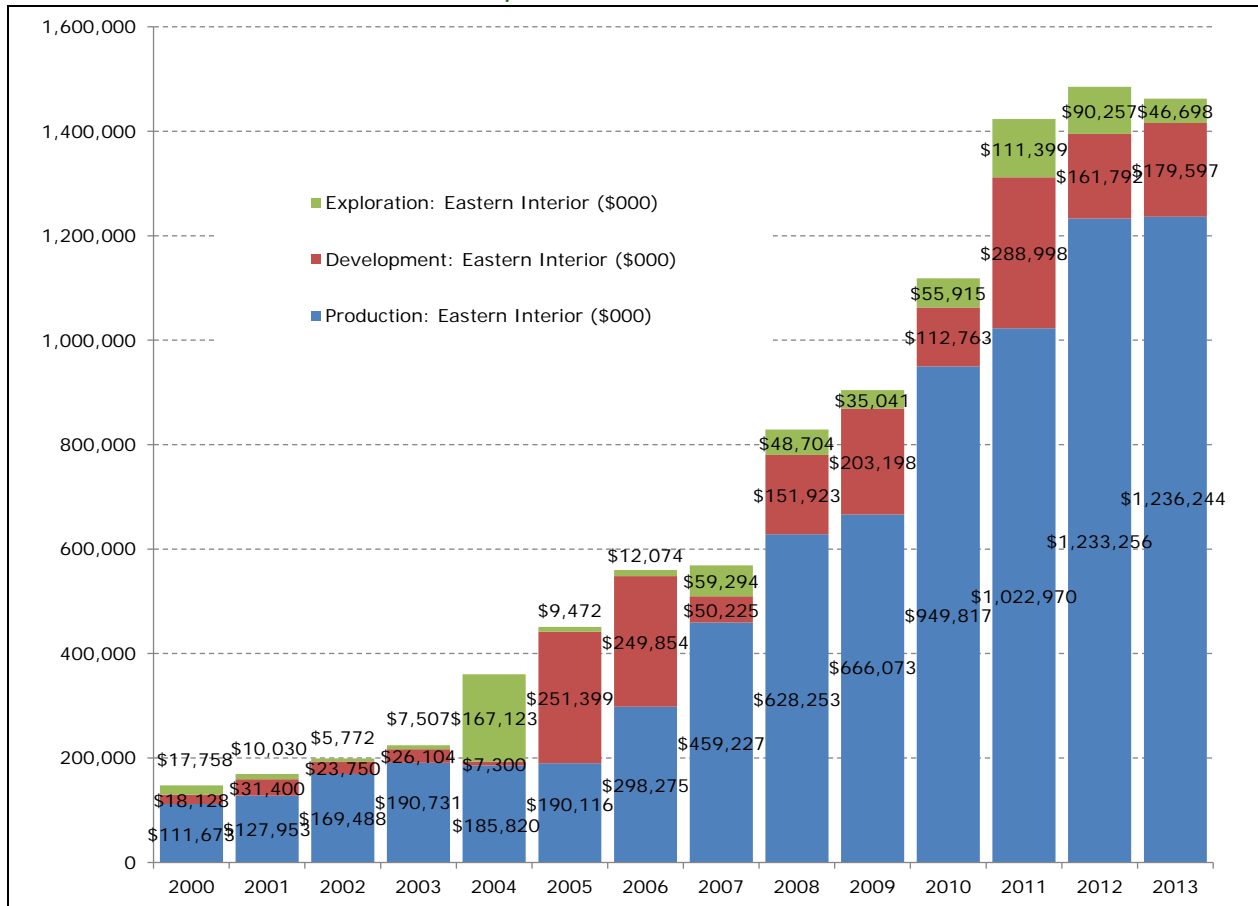


The total economic value of Eastern Interior mining continued its upward trajectory through the Great Recession, while in the state as a whole, mining declined from 2007 through to 2009, recovering by 2010.

**FIGURE 25**  
**ANNUAL TRENDS IN TOTAL ECONOMIC VALUE OF MINING IN ALASKA AND EASTERN INTERIOR REGION**



**FIGURE 26**  
**ANNUAL TRENDS IN ECONOMIC VALUE OF MINING IN EASTERN INTERIOR REGION BY**  
**EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT AND PRODUCTION**



All of the 2013 \$1.24 billion production value of minerals extracted in the Eastern Region was for gold and various types of sands and rocks, with gold accounting for 98 percent. In contrast, the value of all minerals produced in Alaska in 2013 was \$3.42 billion, of which 48 percent was for gold and various types of sands and rocks.

**TABLE 25**  
**TRENDS IN AGGREGATE VALUE OF PRODUCTION: SELECT MINING INDUSTRY COMMODITIES**  
**(GOLD AND SANDS-AND-ROCKS)**

|                         | 2000                 | 2005                 | 2008                 | 2010                   | 2013                   | 00-08        | 08-13        |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Alaska</b>           | <b>\$240,526,000</b> | <b>\$289,002,000</b> | <b>\$809,987,462</b> | <b>\$1,172,087,071</b> | <b>\$1,636,979,978</b> | <b>16.4%</b> | <b>15.1%</b> |
| Gold                    | \$154,058,000        | \$189,918,000        | \$698,223,883        | \$1,119,785,870        | \$1,551,921,325        | 20.8%        | 17.3%        |
| Sands-and-Rocks         | \$86,468,000         | \$99,084,000         | \$111,763,579        | \$52,301,201           | \$85,058,653           | 3.3%         | -5.3%        |
| <b>Eastern Interior</b> | <b>\$111,673,315</b> | <b>\$190,115,795</b> | <b>\$628,253,434</b> | <b>\$949,817,424</b>   | <b>\$1,236,244,165</b> | <b>24.1%</b> | <b>14.5%</b> |
| Gold                    | \$106,222,815        | \$150,951,168        | \$614,151,223        | \$938,584,864          | \$1,214,247,474        | 24.5%        | 14.6%        |
| Sands and Rocks         | \$5,450,500          | \$39,164,627         | \$14,102,211         | \$11,232,560           | \$21,996,691           | 12.6%        | 9.3%         |

Source: Applied Development Economics, based on State of Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, Annual Alaska Mineral Industry Reports (2000 through 2013)

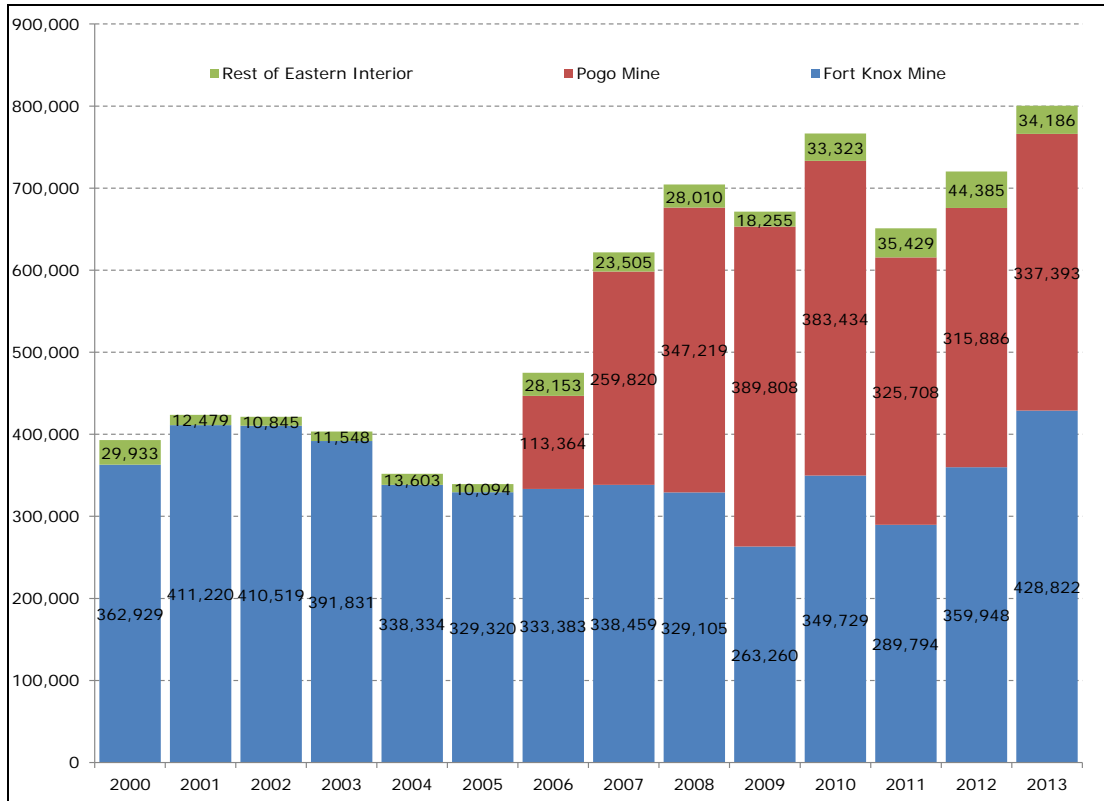
In 2013, Alaska produced 1,022,987 ounces of gold, of which, 800,401 ounces came from the Eastern Interior region. Of the 800,401 ounces, 766,215 came from Fort Knox Mine and Pogo Mine, which are both in the FNSB. The amount of gold produced by Fort Knox Mine has grown by over 5 percent annually since 2008, while gold from Pogo has remained relatively flat, declining slightly by 0.6 percent annually over the same period.

**TABLE 26**  
**TRENDS IN PRODUCTION OF OUNCES OF GOLD IN EASTERN INTERIOR REGION**

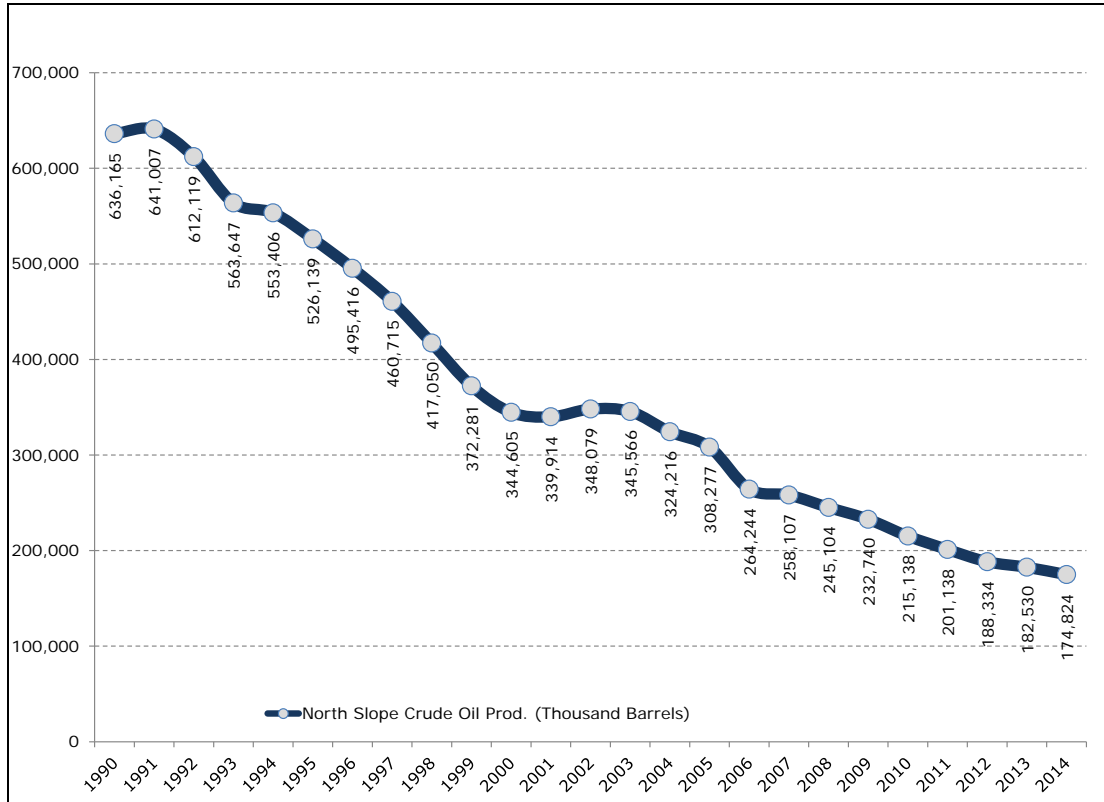
| YEAR       | GOLD: ALASKA | TOTAL EASTERN INTERIOR | FORT KNOX MINE | POGO MINE | REST OF EASTERN INTERIOR |
|------------|--------------|------------------------|----------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 08-13 CAGR | 5.0%         | 2.6%                   | 5.4%           | -0.6%     | 4.1%                     |
| 00-08 CAGR | 4.8%         | 7.6%                   | -1.2%          |           | -0.8%                    |
| 2013       | 1,022,987    | 800,401                | 428,822        | 337,393   | 34,186                   |
| 2012       | 921,240      | 720,219                | 359,948        | 315,886   | 44,385                   |
| 2011       | 848,929      | 650,931                | 289,794        | 325,708   | 35,429                   |
| 2010       | 914,462      | 766,486                | 349,729        | 383,434   | 33,323                   |
| 2009       | 780,657      | 671,323                | 263,260        | 389,808   | 18,255                   |
| 2008       | 800,752      | 704,334                | 329,105        | 347,219   | 28,010                   |
| 2007       | 726,933      | 621,784                | 338,459        | 259,820   | 23,505                   |
| 2006       | 570,129      | 474,900                | 333,383        | 113,364   | 28,153                   |
| 2005       | 427,031      | 339,414                | 329,320        |           | 10,094                   |
| 2004       | 456,485      | 351,937                | 338,334        |           | 13,603                   |
| 2003       | 528,191      | 403,379                | 391,831        |           | 11,548                   |
| 2002       | 562,094      | 421,364                | 410,519        |           | 10,845                   |
| 2001       | 550,644      | 423,699                | 411,220        |           | 12,479                   |
| 2000       | 551,982      | 392,862                | 362,929        |           | 29,933                   |

Source: Applied Development Economics, based on State of Alaska Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, Annual Alaska Mineral Industry Reports (2000 through 2013)

**FIGURE 27**  
**ANNUAL TRENDS IN PRODUCTION OF OUNCE OF GOLD: EASTERN INTERIOR REGION**



**FIGURE 28**  
**ANNUAL TRENDS IN BARRELS OF OIL PRODUCED IN NORTH SLOPE REGION**



Although Alaska's oil production has declined steadily as the state's oil fields have matured, it is still one of the top crude oil producers in the nation, with most oil production taking place on the North Slope, according to the US EIA. Alaska is the second leading natural gas producer (in terms of gross withdrawals) in the United States. However, most of the state's production is not brought to market, because natural gas volumes far exceed local demand. Also, there is insufficient pipeline capacity to transport the natural gas to distant markets. Most of the extracted natural gas is reinjected into existing oil fields to provide pressure to maintain oil production rates.<sup>25</sup>

**TABLE 27**  
**ANNUAL TRENDS IN CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION: ALASKA NORTH SLOPE**

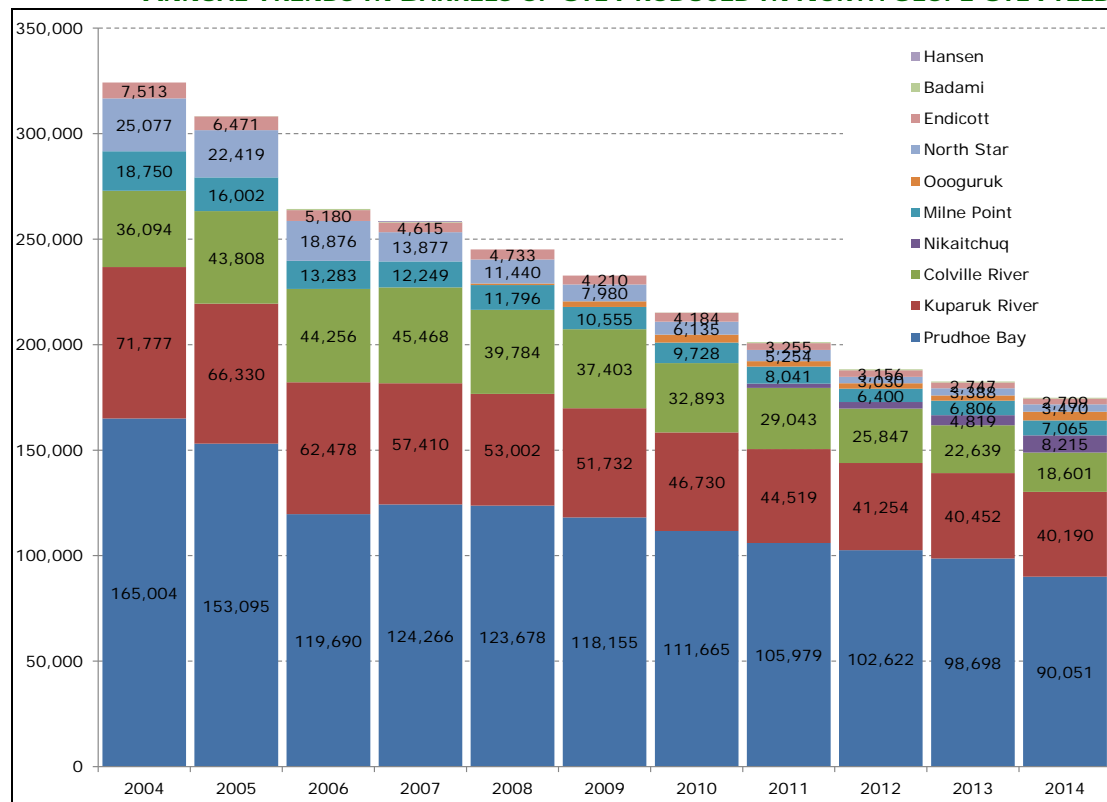
| ('000 BARRELS)                                 | 2000    | 2005    | 2008    | 2010    | 2014    | 00-08 CAGR | 08-14 CAGR |
|------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------|------------|
| North Slope Crude Oil Prod. (Thousand Barrels) | 344,605 | 308,277 | 245,104 | 215,138 | 174,824 | -4.2%      | -5.5%      |

Source: Applied Development Economics, based on US Dept. of Energy EIA

<sup>25</sup> US Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, "Alaska: State Profile and Energy Estimates" (<http://bit.ly/1HpowfQ>)

Oil produced in the North Slope region dropped by 5.5 percent a year from 2008 to 2014, an annual rate of decline that exceeded the 4.2 percent for the 2000-2008 period. In 2014, the North Slope region generated 174,824,000 barrels of oil, down from 245,104,000 in 2008. Of the oil generated in the North Slope, the bulk come from fields in the Prudhoe Bay, which in 2014 generated 90,051,000 barrels of oil, or 52 percent of North Slope oil. Historically, fifty percent of all oil produced in the North Slope comes from Prudhoe Bay.

**FIGURE 29**  
**ANNUAL TRENDS IN BARRELS OF OIL PRODUCED IN NORTH SLOPE OIL FIELDS**



Of the 3,190,932 MMcf of natural gas withdrawn from Alaska as a whole, 3,076,362 MMcf (96 percent) come from the North Slope region and, of this amount, 2,647,306 MMcf (or 86 percent of North Slope) come from Prudhoe Bay. Historically, 86 percent of all natural gas withdrawn from the North Slope come from Prudhoe Bay. The total volume of natural gas withdrawn from the North Slope has remained somewhat steady each year since 2008, averaging around 3,100,000 MMcf a year.

**TABLE 28**  
**ANNUAL TRENDS IN ALASKA NORTH SLOPE NATURAL GAS GROSS WITHDRAWALS (MMcf)**  
**BY FIELDS**

|                   | 2004      | 2005      | 2006      | 2007      | 2008      | 2009      | 2010      | 2011      | 2012      | 2013      | 2014      | 04-08  | 08-14  |
|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Total Alaska      | 3,663,984 | 3,663,424 | 3,223,352 | 3,498,322 | 3,434,769 | 3,330,453 | 3,214,494 | 3,184,786 | 3,181,990 | 3,224,429 | 3,190,932 | -1.6%  | -1.2%  |
| Total North Slope | 3,455,031 | 3,451,703 | 3,026,646 | 3,329,962 | 3,281,807 | 3,191,366 | 3,085,767 | 3,066,445 | 3,072,397 | 3,137,139 | 3,076,362 | -1.3%  | -1.1%  |
| Prudhoe Bay       | 3,035,805 | 2,986,593 | 2,581,850 | 2,864,563 | 2,802,030 | 2,748,965 | 2,638,782 | 2,637,145 | 2,708,719 | 2,747,061 | 2,647,306 | -2.0%  | -0.9%  |
| North Star        | 104,383   | 142,131   | 142,296   | 151,145   | 175,958   | 167,618   | 170,453   | 189,985   | 131,833   | 175,956   | 193,059   | 13.9%  | 1.6%   |
| Endicott          | 131,156   | 140,335   | 123,052   | 138,536   | 136,608   | 118,073   | 131,861   | 112,233   | 120,013   | 103,462   | 122,719   | 1.0%   | -1.8%  |
| Kuparuk River     | 125,381   | 119,323   | 112,395   | 114,098   | 107,789   | 100,685   | 97,113    | 86,520    | 74,680    | 74,263    | 80,683    | -3.7%  | -4.7%  |
| Colville River    | 45,200    | 49,510    | 52,268    | 52,760    | 50,093    | 45,876    | 36,940    | 29,601    | 28,110    | 27,617    | 22,091    | 2.6%   | -12.8% |
| Milne Point       | 11,690    | 11,304    | 9,217     | 7,106     | 7,463     | 7,186     | 5,856     | 5,421     | 4,253     | 4,252     | 3,882     | -10.6% | -10.3% |
| Oooguruk          | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 384       | 1,805     | 2,747     | 2,873     | 2,401     | 2,182     | 3,159     |        | 42.0%  |
| Walakpa           | 1,245     | 1,255     | 1,244     | 1,156     | 1,196     | 1,022     | 1,305     | 1,230     | 1,287     | 1,375     | 1,556     | -1.0%  | 4.5%   |
| Nikaitchuq        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 277       | 417       | 652       | 1,229     |        |        |
| Badami            | 0         | 1,120     | 4,202     | 412       | 0         | 0         | 374       | 815       | 389       | 269       | 556       |        |        |
| Barrow            | 170       | 133       | 122       | 174       | 285       | 136       | 335       | 347       | 296       | 48        | 121       | 13.8%  | -13.3% |
| Hansen            | 0         | 0         | 0         | 12        | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         | 0         |        |        |

Source: Applied Development Economics, based on US DOE EIA (Petroleum and Other Liquids [<https://archive.is/wWqCl> and <https://archive.is/M0Ry1>]) and Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (Monthly Production Reports [<https://archive.is/qnJtP>])



Regulatory Commission of Alaska

**DRAFT**

APPENDIX A  
Certificate of Public Convenience  
and Necessity No. 10 Granted to  
**COPPER VALLEY ELECTRIC  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Utility Type:  
Electric

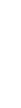
**Legend**

Service Area - CPCN 10

Map 1 of 4



Miles  
0.6



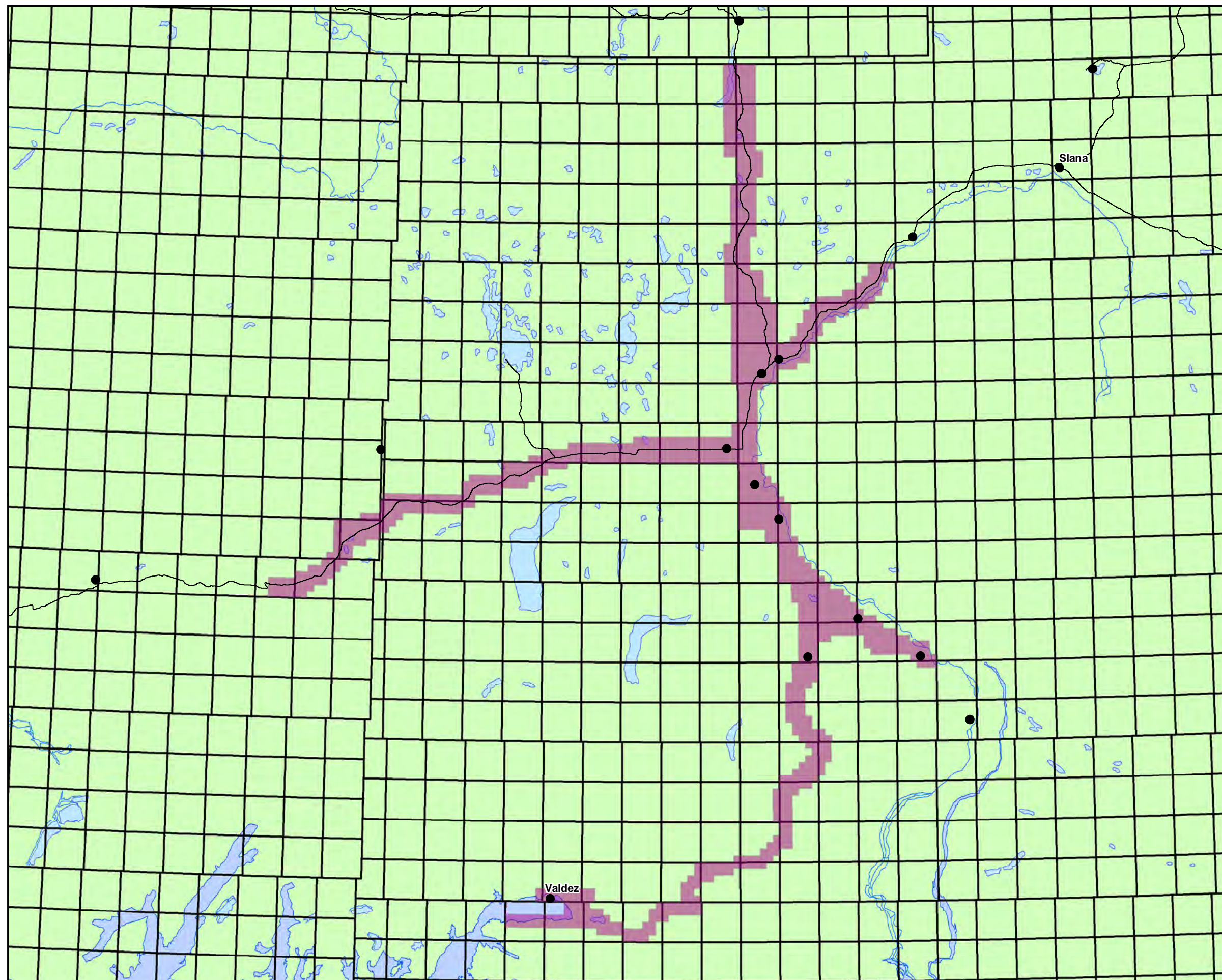
Alaska Albers Equal Area Conic  
1983 North American Datum

Order U-90-006(3E), March 8, 2013

Date: Mar. 13, 2013

File: sa\_0010.shp

Author: RCA-JAK







Regulatory Commission of Alaska

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Electric

**Legend**

 Service Area - CPCN 10

Map 2 of 4



Miles  
0.6



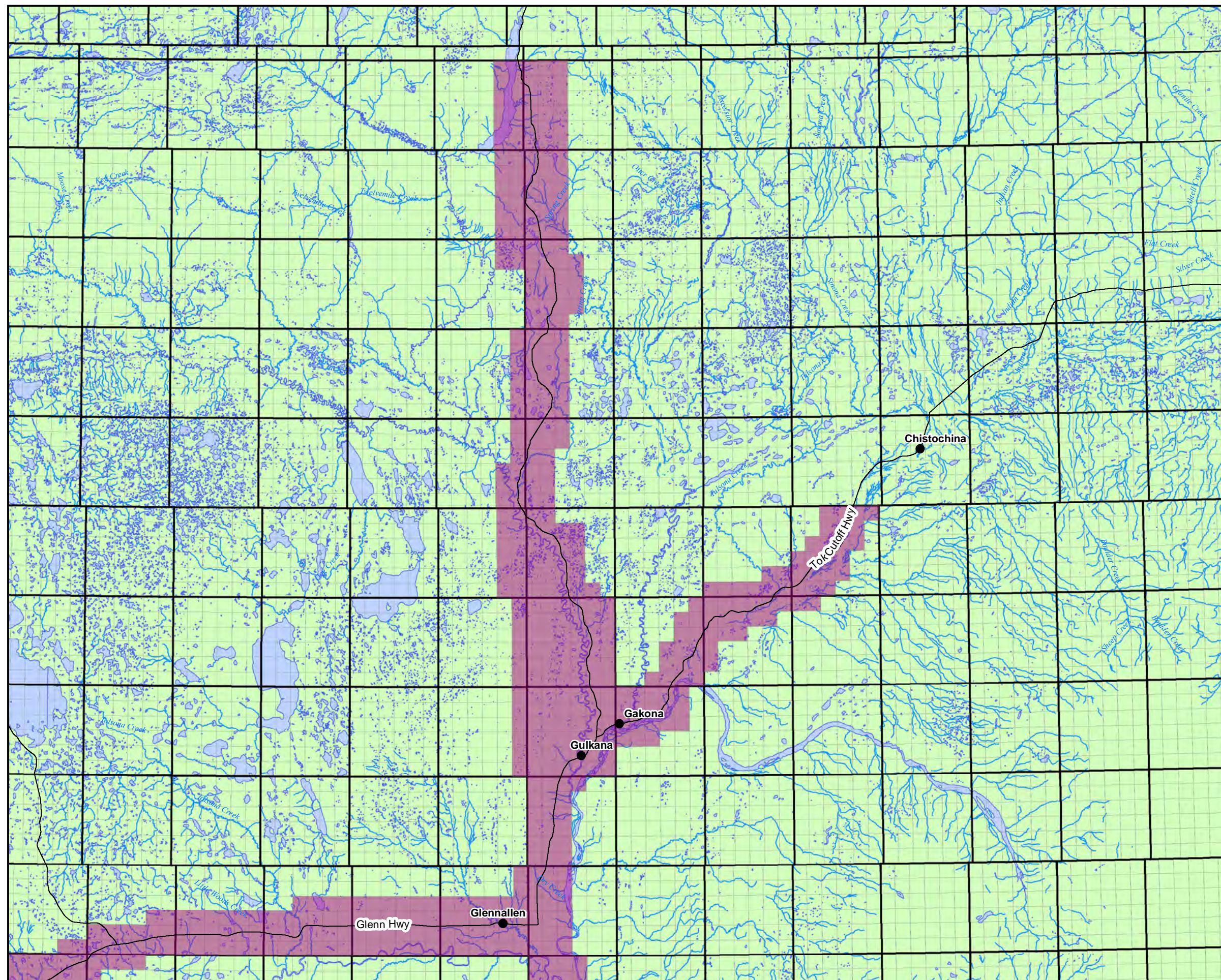
Alaska Albers Equal Area Conic  
1983 North American Datum

Order U-90-006(3E), March 8, 2013

Date: Mar. 13, 2013

File: sa\_0010.shp

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Regulatory Commission of Alaska

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Utility Type:  
Electric

**Legend**

Service Area - CPCN 10

Map 3 of 4



Miles  
0.6

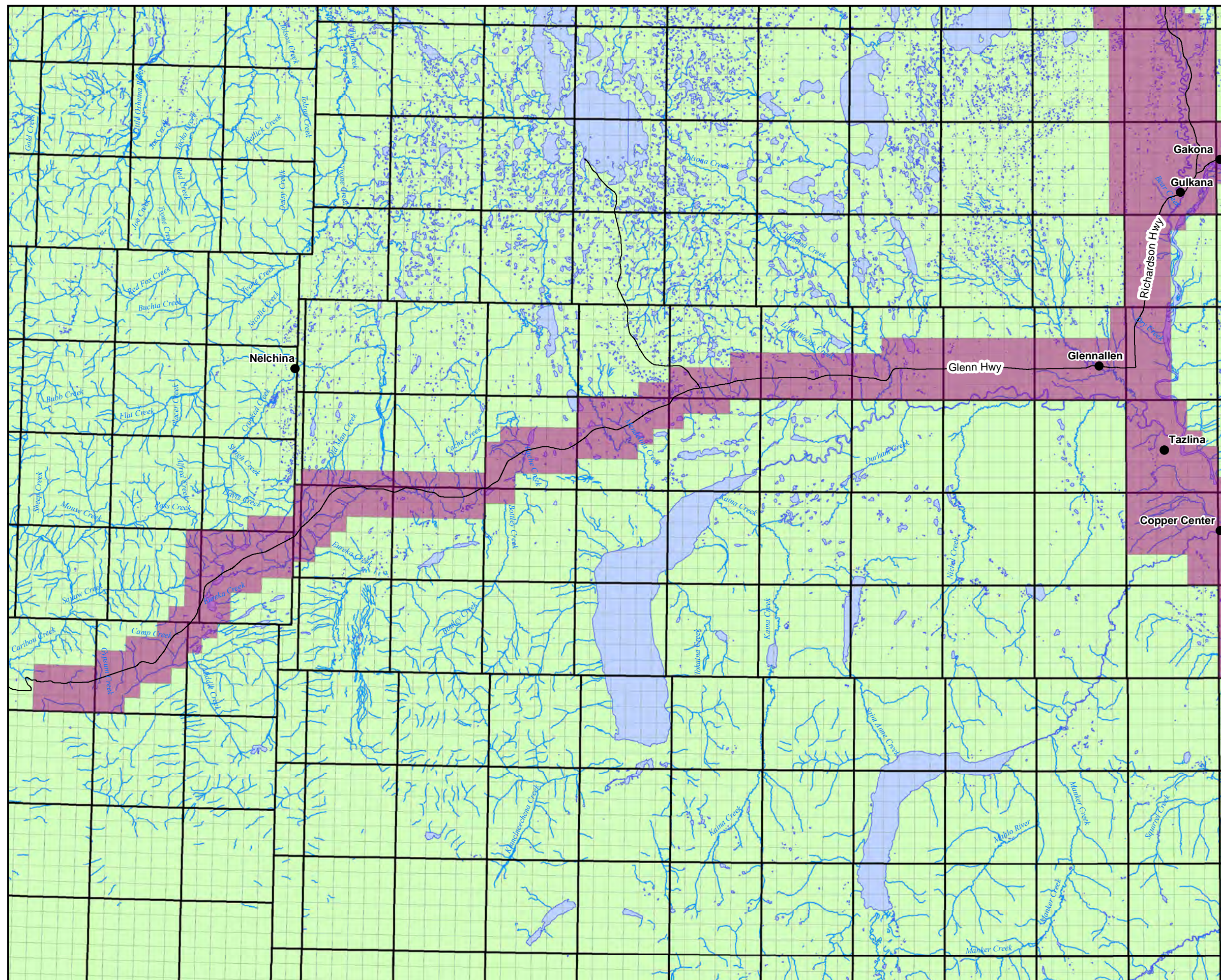
Alaska Albers Equal Area Conic  
1983 North American Datum

Order U-90-006(3E), March 8, 2013

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Regulatory Commission of Alaska

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ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Utility Type:  
Electric

**Legend**

Service Area - CPCN 10

Map 4 of 4



Miles  
0.6



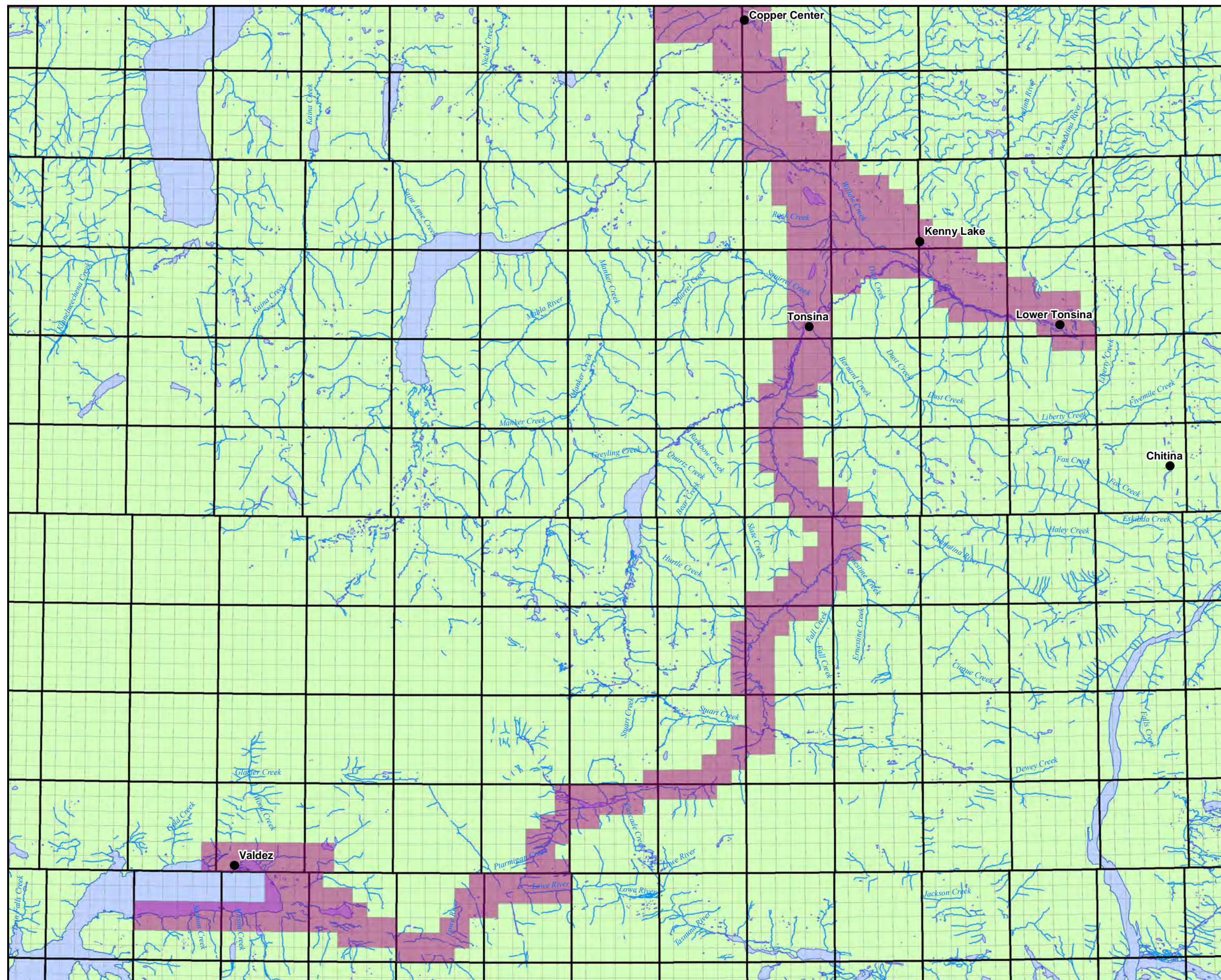
Alaska Albers Equal Area Conic  
1983 North American Datum

Order U-90-006(3E), March 8, 2013

Date: Mar. 13, 2013

File: sa\_0010.shp

Author: RCA-JAK



## COVID-19 Response

Masks are required for everyone, regardless of location or vaccination status, in all NPS buildings, crowded outdoor spaces, and all forms of enclosed public transportation. Additional details are available at [www.nps.gov/coronavirus](https://www.nps.gov/coronavirus). Before visiting, please check the [park website](#) to determine its operating status. Please [recreate responsibly](#).

## National Park Service

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# Wrangell - St Elias

National Park & Preserve  
Alaska

*NPS.gov / Park Home / Learn About the Park / History & Culture / Places / History of The Valdez Trail*

# History of the Valdez Trail

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by **Geoffrey Bleakley**,

*Park Historian*

*The Valdez Trail provided the first overland access to much of interior Alaska. This essay focuses on the development of overland transportation along the trail corridor, describing aboriginal use, American exploration, trail construction, and later route improvements and maintenance. This is an IN-DEPTH essay outlining the history of The Valdez Trail.*

### **Indigenous Use of the Valdez Trail Corridor, 1800-1890.**

Native groups traditionally controlled all of the land bordering the Valdez Trail. South of the Chugach mountains, the land belonged to the Chugach (or Prince William Sound) Eskimo. Various Athapaskan groups held the more northern territory.

Each created their own transportation networks. In general, local paths were used for subsistence activities, while longer trails were used for trade and occasionally for raiding. These routes usually followed natural corridors such as river valleys and traversed the more obvious mountain passes.

Trade occurred among the different Alaska Native groups long before contact with the Russians. The Ahtna, for example, often served as middlemen, bartering with the Chugach, Tlingit, and Eyak peoples, as well as their Athapaskan relatives, the Dena'ina and the Tanana. Although copper was their most important export, they also exchanged moose, caribou, lynx, and beaver pelts for marine products like seal skin boots. Both oral and documentary evidence suggests that the Ahtna regularly held intertribal trade fairs within the Valdez Trail corridor, including ones near both Thompson and Isabel passes.

In 1783, Russian promyshlenniki led by Leontii Nagaev discovered the mouth of the Copper River. Ten years later, employees of Pavel Sergeevich Lebedev-Lastochkin founded a post at Nuchek, about 30 miles further west.

No one is certain when the first Russian ascended the Copper River, but Dmitri Tarkhanov may have reached the mouth of the Chitina River in 1796. Semyen Potochkin certainly did. In 1798 he conducted a census of local inhabitants before wintering at the Ahtna village of Taral.

Although other explorers followed, attempts to examine Alaska's eastern interior abruptly ceased in 1805 when the Tlingit successfully destroyed the Russian colony at Yakutat. As a result, it was not until the mid-teens that Russian interest in the area returned.

In 1819 the Russians sent Afanasii Klimovskii to explore the region. Klimovskii progressed farther than any of his predecessors, certainly reaching the Gakona River and perhaps even the mouth of the Chistochina. Of more lasting importance, his party established a trading post called Copper

Fort near Taral, which endured, off and on, for the next forty years.

In 1847 the Russian American Company received Native reports of English trading activity on the middle Yukon River and dispatched Ensign Ruf Serebrennikov to reconnoiter the area. Serebrennikov, however, only reached Batzulnetas, a village on the upper Copper River, before being killed.

The Ahtna, Tanana, and Han maintained complete control of their territory throughout the Russian colonial period of 1784 to 1867. The Russians' presence, however, did stimulate trade and consequently, the use of certain trails. The Ahtna, for example, initially delivered copper to the traders at Nuchek via the Keystone Canyon route. Lt. William R. Abercrombie, who visited the area in 1884, reported a "deep and well-worn trail up the canyon and across to the Tiekel River in the Copper River valley."

Similar paths existed elsewhere along the route. In Ahtna country, Lieutenant Walter C. Babcock related finding an "old Indian . . . foot trail" along the Little Tonsina River. "It had evidently been much used at one time, as there were numerous signs of brush cutting done many years ago, and the trail for long distances was worn down a foot or more below the natural surface."

Frank C. Schrader described a faint line following the northwestern side of the Copper River between the villages of Taral and Slana. Lt. Joseph C. Castner found an "old Indian trail" in Tanana country, down the right bank of the Delta River. Further east, Lt. Henry T. Allen discovered both Ahtna and Tanana corridors, including one leading from Suslota Lake to the Tanana River.

E. Hazard Wells located Tanana tracks, as well. Ascending the valley of the Tokio (now Tok) River in 1890, Wells recounted that his route became difficult to follow. "Several times we lost it while descending the mountainside, but at the bottom, in the forest-clad valley, it reappeared deeply printed into the moss." He also noted Han pathways, including "a well-beaten trail" leading to the village of Kechumstuk.

### **American Exploration of the Valdez Trail Corridor, 1885-1898.**

When the United States acquired Alaska from Russia in 1867, neither party knew much about the territory's eastern interior. Russians had focused their attention on coastal areas and had only made a few abbreviated attempts to explore the region. Americans, in contrast, had never visited the area at all.

Neglected for the next fifteen years, the district began attracting interest in the mid-1880s. Gold strikes in northern British Columbia's Cassiar region and near the present site of Juneau lured prospectors to the north. Many eventually entered the interior, most by way of the Yukon River, but some via Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound.

The American government worried about the potential for conflict between the undisciplined miners and Alaska's Native population. Consequently, the U.S. Army soon dispatched several expeditions to reconnoiter the region. One such party, led by Lt. Frederick Schwatka, charted the entire Yukon River in 1883. Another, headed by Lt. William R. Abercrombie, attempted to examine the Copper River basin the following year. Although stopped by rapids on the lower river, Abercrombie later located an alternative overland route to the interior: across the Valdez Glacier heading the Valdez Arm.

In 1885, the army sent Lt. Henry T. Allen to finish Abercrombie's work. More successful than his predecessor, the lieutenant ascended the Copper River and pioneered the route across the Alaska Range and into the Tanana River valley.

Five years later, a private expedition led by E. Hazard Wells added another segment. Journeying down the Yukon from its headwaters, the party traveled up the Fortymile River and traversed the Kechumstuk Hills to Mansfield Lake. From there, they crossed the Tanana River and ascended the Tok River to near Mentasta Pass. Much of this route was later incorporated into the trail's Eagle City Branch.

Northern gold discoveries continued, climaxing with an especially rich find on northwestern Canada's Klondike River in 1896. This precipitated the region's greatest rush. In their haste to reach the gold fields, many stampedeers prepared inadequately for the hardships they would have to endure. As a result, the U.S. Army soon received reports of widespread deprivation. Responding to the rumors, the military dispatched Capt. Patrick H. Ray and Lt. Wilds P. Richardson to proceed to Alaska and to provide necessary relief.

Most stampedeers reached the Klondike via a largely Canadian path over the Chilkoot Pass, located near the northern end of Alaska's Lynn Canal. Many, however, objected to the foreign control of that transportation corridor and called for an "all-American route." Recognizing the logic of their demands, Ray recommended the immediate construction of a government trail into the Yukon River basin.

Unscrupulous local promoters, circulating stories of an easy passage linking Prince William Sound with the interior, lured thousands of gullible stampedeers to Port Valdez. Unfortunately, the arriving prospectors found only one way across the Chugach Range: Abercrombie's exceptionally difficult and dangerous path over the Valdez and Klutina glaciers. Faced with few options, most attempted that route, and many eventually died from disease, accidents, and exposure.

In the spring of 1898, the army sent Capt. William R. Abercrombie back to Port Valdez, hoping to locate a safer way. The captain first inspected the Lowe River valley, where he spotted the remains of a Chugach trail leading to the north toward Keystone Canyon. Proceeding to the interior via the Valdez Glacier, Abercrombie found an Ahtna path leading up the right (or

western) bank of the Copper River. Both were eventually utilized by the Valdez Trail.

Contemporaneous with Abercrombie's efforts, another army expedition also sought a practical route to the interior. This group, under the command of Capt. Edwin F. Glenn, blazed a path linking Cook Inlet to the Copper River basin. Not content with merely reaching Lake Louise, an exploratory party led by Lt. Joseph C. Castner continued northward along the Gulkana River, eventually locating a new pass through the Alaska Range.

Although it attracted little immediate attention, Castner's trail soon gained significance. Speaking about his adventure ten years later, Castner noted that a "well-beaten path traveled yearly by hundreds goes up our old Gulkona [sic] and down our Delta to the Tanana, traversing one of the best passes through the Alaska Alps." In the intervening decade, Castner's route had been incorporated into the Fairbanks fork of the Valdez Trail.

### **Construction of the Valdez Trail, 1898-1906**

Abercrombie returned to the region in 1899. Utilizing only hand tools, his soldiers built a 93-mile packhorse trail from the coastal community of Valdez to the Tonsina River. Weary stampedeers immediately adopted this shorter path. Addison M. Powell, a civilian employee of Abercrombie's and an early explorer of the Chistochina River, reported that by the end of the summer, the route was already filled with prospectors headed for the Nizina River basin.

Mountaineer Robert Dunn employed the half-built trail the following year on his way to Copper Center. Unlike the stampedeers who were usually too hurried to appreciate its spectacular scenery, Dunn recorded a vivid description of the route:

*By night we had gone twenty miles up the Lowe River--its bed a strip of Arizona in the exotic forest--and then through Keystone Canyon by a five-foot trail cut in the cliff's face a thousand feet above the stream. In the canyon were two waterfalls, each 700 feet high. . . . Another day among ptarmigan and ice and blue morainal tarns took us over the misty pass and into the great valley of the Copper River.*

Encouraged by such traffic, construction continued, and by 1901 the army had completed its trail all the way to Eagle City.

Alaska residents soon demanded additional federal aid. In 1903, visiting members of a Senate Subcommittee on Territories heard testimony on a broad range of subjects, including the need for better transportation. Army Signal Corps Lt. William L. Mitchell, for example, related the



current condition of the Valdez-Eagle City Trail. Pioneer Judge James Wickersham went even further. He requested that the government improve the route, calling such action an essential prerequisite to developing the interior's mining potential.

U.S. Geological Survey geologist Alfred H. Brooks agreed. Incidental to a discussion on the future of placer mining, he recommended that a million dollars be spent in building wagon roads to the inland placer camps. Such arguments seem to have convinced the senators. Upon returning to Washington, they recommended that the government construct a system of transportation routes, beginning with a well-built wagon road connecting Valdez and Eagle City.

That winter Congress appropriated \$25,000 to conduct the initial survey. The following spring the War Department appointed an army engineer to supervise the work. Completing the job in August 1904, J. M. Clapp estimated that it would cost \$3,500 per mile or a total of approximately \$1.5 million to build the road.

By then, however, Eagle City had already lost its priority as the trail's terminus. Mineral production on the upper Yukon River had begun to decline, and Felix Pedro had discovered gold in the Tanana River valley. Stampeders heading for this new strike left the Eagle City Trail near the Gakona River and followed that stream to its headwaters. Joining Castner's path near Paxson Lake, they crossed the Alaska Range and proceeded down the Delta River. Upon reaching the Delta's mouth, they followed the Tanana River northwest to Fairbanks. By late 1903, this Fairbanks branch had become the dominant interior route.

The new trail quickly attracted its first common carrier. In December 1904, James Fish announced that his Valdez Transportation Company would soon provide passenger service to Fairbanks. "Over such part of the trail as is practical," he assured travelers, "comfortable bob sleds will be fitted up and drawn by two horses. Over the summit, and wherever it is not practicable [sic] to run two horses abreast, the single double-ended sleds will be used and the horses driven tandem." A month later the first of its tri-weekly stages left Valdez, promising a nine day trip for the exorbitant price of \$150.

While not a stage passenger, Wickersham traveled the trail during the same period. Conditions remained somewhat primitive. The judge recorded crashing his dog-sled on the approach to Copper Center, suffering scratches, bruises, and a twisted ankle. Reaching the Chippewa "roadhouse" on a cold, February night, Wickersham found only a canvas lean-to attached to a small, open-fronted cabin. Admittedly austere, even this housing was jammed with "men and dog-teams transporting mining supplies . . . to Fairbanks."

Although too late to be enjoyed by Wickersham, trail improvements were already under discussion. That January, President Theodore Roosevelt had established the Board of Road Commissioners for Alaska (popularly known as the Alaska Road Commission or ARC) and

designated Maj. Wilds P. Richardson as its first president. Richardson was particularly concerned about the development of interior Alaska and emphasized the speedy construction of a more permanent Valdez-Fairbanks route.

The ARC's initial construction efforts met only basic demands. The trail's width was determined by its anticipated traffic. Light traffic required a 10-foot roadway, while heavy traffic demanded 16-feet. Over most level, well-drained ground, road crews merely cleared a corridor. Where it was possible to improve drainage, they sometimes removed the moss, "grading up and crowning, with a single ditch on interior slope and frequent cross culverts to carry off seepage and rainfall and prevent cutting." In permafrost areas, where good drainage was impossible, crews utilized corduroy construction. Designed to prevent the frozen ground from melting and creating an impassable quagmire, this technique involved placing a layer of poles parallel to the roadbed and covering them with another layer at right angles to the first.

Culvert construction varied. Where the needed water capacity was small, the Road Commission usually fabricated pipe culverts from four 12-inch planks. For larger applications, the crews built culverts entirely of log, except in treeless sections where they sometimes utilized a dry masonry technique.

Under normal conditions, the Road Commission would probably have limited itself to reconnaissance and survey work that first season and not undertaken any real construction. Receiving urgent appeals from the residents of Fairbanks, however, Richardson moved to provide immediate relief. Road crews rapidly replaced 3,032 feet of worn-out corduroy and bridged about 25 small streams.

The ARC distributed and cached the materials necessary for its next construction season along the entire route during the winter of 1905-06. Besides arranging for the delivery of rations, animal forage, and tools, it also began the job of bridging the Tazlina River. Built by Lars Holland, this \$19,000 structure replaced a hazardous ferry on which several passengers had been drowned.

For interior Alaska, the bridge was a technological wonder. Four hundred and fifty feet long, it employed two Howe truss spans of 108 feet, two King post spans of 50 feet, and approaches. The main trusses rested on pile bents, protected by 10 x 30 foot, rock-filled crib piers. The trusses were constructed of hewn lumber, with the lower chords built from four to six pieces, bolted and keyed together. A lack of large timber near the site forced Holland to secure trees from as much as six miles away.

John A. Clark navigated the trail that spring. One of a party of six young men riding bicycles to Fairbanks, he vividly described his journey along the Delta River:

*The winter trail followed the river and so did we. We were unable to judge whether there was open water ahead and we didn't care much. The water ran over the tops of our shoe packs, and frequently one of us would slip on the smooth ice and go down into the water. We seemed to flow with the black water--black water underfoot, with black night ahead.*

Improving the trail was a difficult and expensive process. Engineers had to overcome many obstacles, including a short construction season, raging glacial rivers, permafrost, and an abundance of mountainous terrain. Crews relocated many of the original segments, including the one linking Gakona with Castner's pass. Nevertheless, by the end of the 1906 season, the Alaska Road Commission had finished the route.

These trail refinements substantially speeded postal service. While previous contractors had required about ten and one-half days to traverse the distance between Valdez and Fairbanks, mail carrier Ed Orr completed the journey during the winter of 1906-07 in a record time of only six days, ten hours, and ten minutes.

The refurbished trail also attracted more common carriers. In 1907, at least two stage lines vied for its passenger and freight business: Orr's company and another operated by Dan T. Kennedy. Orr's enterprise was particularly successful. Equipped with nine-passenger, horse-drawn bobsleds boasting fur robes and carbon-heated foot warmers, it moved travelers from the coast to Fairbanks in just eight days.

Such changes had a dramatic effect on the community. Expanding quickly, the town soon acquired most of the amenities of civilization, including electric lights, running water, and a telephone system. Something of a supply depot for the rest of the interior, Fairbanks possessed hotels, schools, churches, hospitals, and even a daily newspaper. Although the town received substantial river traffic during its short summer, the remainder of the year the Valdez Trail provided its only access.

### **Maintenance and Use of the Valdez Trail, 1907-1919**

As the Road Commission grew more sophisticated, it eventually adopted fixed standards for its roads. A "wagon road," for example, embraced "only that class of road intended to meet the conditions of an all-year-round traffic of considerable tonnage, located with suitable grades, crowned, ditched, and drained, and corduroyed or planked where necessary." A "winter road," like that between Valdez and Fairbanks, was "designed to meet the requirements for winter

travel only." While not crowned, ditched, or drained, such a road possessed suitable width for double teams and a proper grade for loads.

In 1907, the Alaska Syndicate began developing its rich copper claims above the Kennicott Glacier. While it soon started work on an affiliated railroad, that project required over two years to complete. In the interim, the corporation moved its requisite personnel, supplies, and equipment via the southernmost section of the Valdez Trail. Acting swiftly, it erected a 400-ton mill and a 16,000 foot tramway before the railway ever reached the site.

Granted substantial annual funding, the Alaska Road Commission gradually upgraded the Valdez Trail. Originally created for pack and saddle horses, it quickly evolved into a winter road and by the end of 1908, about a third was suitable for wagons. Traffic increased as well.

J. H. Ingram, the superintendent of the Valdez District, estimated that contractors had moved over 83,000 pounds of mail, 2,500 tons of freight, and nearly 100 head of cattle over his section during the preceding year.

By now, enterprising citizens had located "roadhouses" along the entire route. Usually owned by homesteaders, these inns provided travelers with a convenient and comfortable place to stop. As most operators cultivated gardens, many supplied fresh vegetables in season. Not surprisingly, these lodges became the local nodes: what Richardson called "small centers of settlement and supply" from which to explore the adjoining country.

The trail itself, however, still needed a little work. In 1908, one pilgrim died when the sled in which he was riding overturned after hitting a chuckhole near the Tiekel River. Travelers experienced other setbacks, as well. Extensive flooding in 1909 severely damaged the Tazlina River Bridge. Repairs cost more than \$13,000, about 70 percent of the price of the original structure, and required nearly a year to complete.

During the summer of 1909, maintenance of the Valdez Trail required 19 crews. Each consisted of a foreman, cook, two teamsters, and about 20 laborers, plus a wagon and six to eight horses for moving camp and hauling timbers. "Plows and scrapers were used wherever practicable, although the greater part of the work, being in a broken and rocky country or through brush and timber swamp, had to be done by hand with pick, mattock, and shovel."

In 1910, the trail received its first serious competition. Roughly paralleling its southernmost one-quarter, the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad immediately captured most of the freight traffic headed for the Chitina River valley. Because the train was faster, many Fairbanks-bound travelers also rode it. Disembarking in Chitina, they rejoined the Valdez-Fairbanks route via the newly constructed Chitina-Willow Creek (later Edgerton) Cutoff. Use of the Valdez to Willow Creek section subsequently declined.

Ignoring the competition, the Board maintained its expenditures. In 1910, for example, it spent \$248,782 on improving the trail. Eventually, its persistent efforts began to achieve results. That August, for example, Richardson made the first continuous trip over the route in a wagon, covering the entire distance in only 13 days!

The following year the ARC built a new, 420-foot bridge over the Tonsina River, replacing one constructed by the military in 1900 and now considered unsafe. Except for the Gulkana, Delta, Tanana, Salcha, and Piledriver Slough, all important rivers traversed by the trail were now bridged. Of the remaining five, only the Delta lacked a ferry.

Bridge work continued in 1912. The Road Commission placed a 40-foot truss over Ptarmigan Creek, two 60-foot spans across Stewart Creek, and a 270-foot pile trestle over Gunn Creek. Most impressive, however, was its 748-foot bridge, possessing a single center king-post, over an unnamed glacier stream near the Miller Roadhouse.

The new bridges contributed to another innovation. In 1913, the first motorized vehicle traveled the entire length of the trail. The automobile averaged about nine miles per hour, despite having to be "helped through soft spots on rather heavy grades."

Others quickly followed. The Road Commission, however, largely ignored the phenomenon, declaring that it made "no pretense of having built roads adapted for automobile travel." Five years later its basic position remained unchanged. While acknowledging the increasing number of such vehicles, the Board still discouraged their use.

Despite the ARC's objections, mechanization had clearly arrived. In 1918, the Board purchased two tractors, one eight-foot road grader, three six-foot road graders, four three-way road drags, and four heavy trucks. Automobile stage coaches now traveled regular routes between Valdez and Fairbanks and motorized vehicles carried most of the mail. No longer a trail, in 1919 the Road Commission conceded to the inevitable and redesignated it as the Richardson Road in honor of its newly retired first president, Colonel Wilds P. Richardson.

### **Maintenance and Use of the Richardson Road, 1920-1945.**

Journeying to Alaska in 1923 to dedicate the Alaska Railroad, President Warren G. Harding inspected both ends of the Richardson Road. While he only viewed about 50 miles of the corridor, he was apparently impressed. In a speech delivered upon his return to Seattle, he noted that "our long national experience in pushing our highways ahead of the controlling wave of settlement ought to convince us that the broadest liberality towards roads in Alaska will be sure to bring manifold returns." In keeping with that belief, the President pledged "to serve Alaska generously, and more, in this matter of road building." Nothing, however, came of his promise; Harding died only a few days later.

By 1925, tour companies throughout the United States advertised the Richardson Highway as the center portion of the "Golden Belt Line." Appealing to the more adventurous traveler, this circular route stretched from Cordova to Seward and incorporated the Copper River and Northwest Railroad at one end and the Alaska Railroad at the other. One major automobile carrier, aptly designated the Richardson Highway Transportation Company, carried hundreds of passengers each season, operating what it described as a fleet of passenger vehicles over the road "without delay or inconvenience."

Controversy erupted in 1932 when the Interior Department tried to increase the profitability of the Alaska Railroad by taxing Richardson Highway users. When most motorists ignored its license fee requirements, the Road Commission tried another tack: collecting a toll at the commission-operated ferry across the Tanana River. Commercial carriers quickly objected and, beginning in 1940, staged a general revolt. Rebellious truckers crossed the river on a home-built scow, defiantly flying a skull-and-crossbones flag. When challenged, one group even seized and disarmed the local U.S. Deputy Marshall. Despite such flagrant violations, the government was powerless to enforce its law. A Fairbanks grand jury judged the tax to be discriminatory and refused to return indictments against the accused. In 1942, Interior Secretary Harold L. Ickes finally bowed to the inevitable and repealed the toll.

The threat of war brought many changes to the Richardson Highway. In 1940, Lt. Gen. John L. Dewitt, the commander of the U.S. Fourth Army, recognized that Anchorage was isolated and vulnerable to attack. To alleviate the danger, he proposed connecting the city to the road. Gen. Simon B. Buckner, the head of the Alaska Defense Command, agreed, further suggesting that the highway be widened and straightened, and that its bridges be strengthened sufficiently to withstand the anticipated increase in military traffic.

Both were prudent requests. Following the outbreak of World War II, the men and supplies used to construct the Alaska section of the Alcan (now called the Alaska) Highway were all moved along the Richardson, with materials flowing southeast from Fairbanks as well as north from Valdez. Finished in November 1942, the Alcan joined the Richardson Highway to the remainder of the North American highway system at the interior Alaskan village of Delta Junction.

The Anchorage connection came more slowly. It was late 1943 before the Glenn Highway, named for pioneer Alaskan explorer, Capt. Edwin F. Glenn, linked the city to the Richardson Highway at Glennallen.

## **Conclusion**

The Valdez Trail provided the first overland access to much of interior Alaska. Built by the U.S. Army and the Alaska Road Commission between 1898 and 1907, it followed a series of indigenous paths linked by such prominent explorers as Lt. Henry T. Allen, Capt. William R.

Abercrombie, Capt. Edwin F. Glenn, and Lt. Joseph C. Castner. Although originally directed to Eagle City, the trail was diverted to Fairbanks following a nearby gold discovery in 1902. A closing thrust in a period of pioneer American trail building which began with Daniel Boone's construction of his Wilderness Road through the Allegheny Mountains in 1769, the Valdez Trail channelled people, freight, and mail into the district, promoting mining activity, aiding the development of supporting industries, and hastening the settlement of the Copper, Yukon, and Tanana river valleys.

Last updated: April 14, 2015

#### **CONTACT THE PARK**

##### **Mailing Address:**

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve  
PO Box 439  
Mile 106.8 Richardson Highway  
Copper Center, AK 99573

##### **Phone:**

(907) 822-5234

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**From:** Chick Zee [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:16 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Anchorage Map

I have lived in the East Anchorage, South Anchorage, and Midtown voting districts over the last few years, and have grown familiar with their characters.

Ms. Marcum's map dividing East Anchorage into Eagle River and South Anchorage is a mistake. These constituencies have very different needs and socioeconomic profiles. East Anchorage is multi-ethnic blue collar workers while Eagle River is predominantly white residents who commute to white collar jobs in Anchorage proper. The residents of East Anchorage will be harmed the most by these actions. Eagle River is also actively seeking to break from Anchorage, so marrying them into a voting district with East Anchorage doesn't seem to make much sense.

Ms. Borromeo's seems like the most appropriate, but Senate district 23 should be 22 so that Government Hill remains a part of the NE Anchorage district and allowing Eagle River to have it's own representative, which is appropriate given their ongoing attempts to separate from Anchorage.

Thank you

Charlotte Van Zee,  
Anchorage, Alaska



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**From:** Jesse Venable <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 11:22 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 11:21 am

First Name: **Jesse**

Last Name: **Venable**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99708**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Goldstream area lumped with Delta and Tok**

Public Comment: **I strongly object to the Goldstream area being lumped in with Delta and Tok in the latest redistricting proposal. We in the Goldstream area are not contiguous with those areas to the south, we are dissimilar (we aren't rural), and we do not share the same interests.**

**It's very hard to imagine why this was suggested, unless it's due to gerrymandering.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: November 3, 2021

Name: **Dennis Wade**

**Dennis leaves out East End Road and he does not believe it is a good idea to put Fox River, Fritz Creek, and East End Road in a district with Kodiak. These communities are much different than the Kodiak region.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/20/2021 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: November 4, 2021

Name: Robert Wall

Robert lives in District 29, Precinct 190 and expressed support for Mary Jackson's testimony on 10/11/21. Robert spoke in opposition of the Kenai Peninsula being redistricted with Kodiak and Nikiski being districted with South Anchorage. Robert would like to see the contiguous continuity of the Kenai Peninsula being honored. The road system, electrical systems, school board systems, the borough assembly, etc. are all tied together within the Kenai Peninsula. The 19,600 residents, although a little larger of 18,335, is still within the federal limit of 10% deviation (+/-) and he would like to see the 3 districts within the Kenai Peninsula for fair representation.

Board Map v.3 and v.4 are the "most palatable" maps for the Kenai Peninsula. Robert Wall submitted 3 written/emailed testimonies as well.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Skagway 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **John Walsh**

**John is a resident of Douglas and spoke in favor of Skagway being affiliated with Douglas and Downtown Juneau, and the Angoon, and smaller communities around Juneau. John has been a municipality worker for the last 15 years and cannot recount a time where they have needed to interface with North Juneau. They focus on the general government of the CBJ and the industry that serves both communities. Ketchikan, Juneau, and Skagway have cruise ships in common. The Downtown Business Association is similar to the business community in Downtown Juneau. The larger Upper Land Canal connection is intact more succinctly when Haines, Juneau, and Skagway are linked.**

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**From:** David Ward <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 10:09 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 31, 2021, 10:08 pm

First Name: **David**

Last Name: **Ward**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Equitable (non-gerrymandered) districts**

Public Comment: **For the rural portions of the state, the Doyon and v.3 proposed plan do the best job of grouping similar geographic regions so that people throughout each district will have economic and social needs in common. Closer inspection of the Anchorage area reveals some key differences, with the Doyon plan splitting JBER into two districts and showing signs of possible gerrymandering, as evidenced by the convoluted borders of some of the districts. The v.3 plan keeps JBER together, reasonably groups Anchorage neighborhoods with fairly straight borders, and also does a good job keeping the cores of Eagle River, Palmer, and Wasilla in single districts. Please register my strong support for the v.3 plan. The v.4 plan also looks good, with the same strengths as the v.3 plan, but it has only three districts in the panhandle whereas all other plans have four, and I suspect an error there. I have been unable to determine how either plan affects incumbents, but a balanced plan should affect both parties equally.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: Susan Warner

Susan Warner thanked the board for offering maps to the public, such as the Doyon Coalition map that retains Gustavus, Juneau, and Haines (District 33) as the primary socio-economic, political, and cultural affiliations of the Gustavus community; this is much more aligned with Juneau and Haines than Hoonah or Yakutat. Please consider redrawing the Doyon Map of District 33 boundaries to retain and preserve their right to have a political say in their presently adjacent lands and seas rather than cutting off the western boundary and gifting it to a new ocean district. Inside waters people have the right to have a say as outside waters do. Less disruptive reapportionment can be easily obtained by a few minor adjustments to the existing District 33 boundaries: Drop the northeast line south toward Burners Bay, the eastern boundary east to include Shelter Island, and raise the southeast boundary to draw a line from Montana Creek Trailhead to Fish Creek. If 415 people were thereby added to District 33 by these simple changes, both Districts 33 and 34 would have less than a 1% deviation from target (District 33 at 18,154 and District 34 at 18,175). Even more importantly, this minor adjustment would prevent destroying the fair balance of political power in the community. Hoonah would continue to integrate and align with adjacent lands, seas, and neighbors and Yakutat continuing to do the same with neighbors, lands, and seas to the north.

To: Alaska Redistricting Board

October 30,2021

Thank you for your work to fairly reapportion districts in Alaska. And thank you for offering a map, such as the Doyon configuration, that retains Gustavus in the Juneau and Haines District 33, as the primary socioeconomic, political, and cultural affiliations of the Gustavus community are much more integrated and aligned with Juneau and Haines than with Hoonah or Yakutat.

However, please consider re-drawing the Doyon map of District 33 boundaries to retain and preserve our right to have a political say in our presently adjacent land and seas, rather than cutting off our western boundary and gifting it to a brand new "ocean" district in Southeast. Inside waters people should have just as much right to have a political say in the opportunities, developments, and disposition of heretofore adjacent land and seas as outside waters people do, as is drawn for coastal Districts other than in Southeast Alaska. Article I Section 1 of the Alaska Constitution provides that all persons are equal and entitled to equal rights, opportunities, and protections under the law. In keeping with Article 8, and to ensure the "wise use" of our natural resources, with the retention of public domain lands for the public good, it should be incumbent upon the Redistricting Board to see to it that the general public have a voice in dispositions thereof, not just a single, privileged group.

A far less disruptive reapportionment could be easily obtained by a few minor adjustments to the existing District 33 boundaries. Drop the Northeast line south toward Berner's Bay, the Eastern boundary east to include Shelter Island, and raise the Southeast boundary by drawing a straight line from the Montana Creek Trailhead to Fish Creek. If 415 people were added to District 33 by these simple changes, both Districts 33 and 34 would be adjusted to a less than 1% deviation from the target, with District 33 at 0.99% with 18,154 and District 34 at 0.87% with 18,175 citizens.

Even more importantly, this minor adjustment would prevent destroying the excellent and fair balance of political power in our neighborhood, with Hoonah continuing to integrate and align with their adjacent land and seas and neighbors to the south and Yakutat to integrate and align with their adjacent land and seas and neighbors to the North.

Thank you for all your efforts to achieve a fair and balanced distribution of representation in our great State.

Susan Warner  
PO Box 235, 10 Pine Street  
Gustavus, Alaska 99826  
907.750.7846

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**From:** Halawa-Bill Watson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 7:32 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on redistricting

**Testimony for Eagle River – Muldoon District**

**I support combining Eagle River’s Hiland Precinct and most of Chugach Park #2 Precinct with Muldoon in the 2021 Redistricting Map.**

**This Anchorage Muni district is a much more compact than combining this part of Eagle River with South Anchorage in the 2001 District 32 Map.**

Very Respectfully,  
Bill Watson



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**From:** Andrew Watts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 2:45 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** East Anchorage

Good morning,

I'm writing today in strong opposition to plans that divide East Anchorage's legislative district and group them in with Eagle River and South Anchorage. Not only does doing so violate principle of compactness, but these areas are vastly different in regards to racial composition, socioeconomic status, and cultural sensibilities. Further, there's a strong likelihood that any proposed districts that split East Anchorage in this way would be found either illegal or unconstitutional after extensive, expensive litigation.

As a former resident of Eagle River and current resident of East Anchorage, I recognize the importance of legislators being able to appropriately represent the residents of their district. Splitting these districts would harm the ability not only of East Anchorage legislators to represent their constituents, but the constituents of Eagle River and South Anchorage legislators as well.

Finally, I urge the Board to consider carefully all public testimony in making your decision on a final map, not just cherry picking the testimony that supports your preferred partisan outcome. Please remember that Alaska's redistricting process was designed with fairness and equal representation rather than partisanship in mind.

Thank you for your consideration,

Andrew Watts

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Erin W [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:55 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony on Redistricting - Anchorage

Dear Redistricting Board,

I was born and raised in East Anchorage and now live in Spenard (99517). The latest map proposed by Bethany Marcum ignores overwhelming public testimony against grouping parts of Muldoon with Eagle River. Eagle River and East Anchorage are socio-economically distinct and geographically separate.

To allow East Anchorage to be split up and attached to a distant, rich suburb would be to refuse to follow your mandate of mapping Anchorage in a way that ensures districts are:

- o As close to 18,335 people as possible per district
- o Contiguous
- o Compact
- o Relatively socioeconomically integrated
- o Provide for fair representation – no intentional discrimination is allowed

To my understanding, the map that best achieves the above criteria is the AFFR Plan. I urge you to adopt this plan, or at the very least, to reject board proposals that so clearly fail to meet the above requirements.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Erin H Willahan

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**From:** Jaina Willahan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 8:36 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony against proposed plan

Good morning Redistricting Board,

My name is Jaina Willahan, and I am a lifelong Alaskan. I wanted to make it clear to you that I do not support your planned map for redistricting. Your proposed plan fails to recognize the diversity of our neighborhoods, and also fails to respect both Borough and City boundaries. I believe we need a plan that is socio-economically integrated and that represents ALL of the people. That being said, I urge you to utilize the AFFR plan, as it meets this criteria and better reflects our growing diversity.

Thank you,  
Jaina Willahan

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**From:** Gordon Williams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:04 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Map revisions and public testimony

Dear members of the Alaska Redistricting Board,

As a general principal of redistricting one would hope that as much as possible the deviation be small in the number of constituents per representative, and that the regions be compact, in the sense that they should not only be contiguous, but that they should be relatively compact (there are lots of ways to measure this, not all of these measures make sense in Alaska). What I notice about the screen shots I've seen is that the maps currently under consideration (and yet not posted to the website) ignore the role of the road system. In particular, it makes more sense in our state's definition of compactness to treat communities on the highway system as being related to each other the closer they are on the road system, and so any measure of compactness should take this into account. Consequently, if there is a district that contains two distant sections of the state highway system, but not the continuous piece of the road between them and the communities on them, then such a district should be considered highly suspect. For example (as has been the case with some maps I've seen proposed), putting Ester or Gold Stream in the same district as Tok makes no sense, unless the major population centers on the road system between them are included as well; given the populations of the census areas between (say) Gold Stream and Tok (e.g., Fairbanks, North Pole, Eielson, Delta) having these two communities share a district makes no sense to me and suggests to me an attempt to dilute a pool of voters for partisan reasons (whether the residents of Tok or of Gold Stream is unclear). Another example is that a prior map had Ester and Salcha in the same district, but connected by the Tanana flats and the road system between them belonging to other districts. This ignores the important effects of the road system on tying communities together along socioeconomic and cultural lines. Living in a district on the road system means that a lot more of my cultural and economic activity is going to be with people *closer* to me on the road system, and the formation of political coalitions with people off the road system or on more distant and non-contiguous parts of the road system potentially disenfranchises me or them.

So as you consider districts involving the communities in the interior, please take this into account.

best wishes and thanks,  
Gordon Williams  
[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

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**From:** Karen Williams <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 8:40 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 3, 2021, 8:40 pm

First Name: **Karen**

Last Name: **Williams**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **None of East Anchorage should be lumped with Eagle River! I live in East Anchorage, and Eagle River is simply NOT my community. This is a serious problem!**

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**From:** Kent Williams <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 10:18 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 5, 2021, 10:18 am

First Name: **Kent**

Last Name: **Williams**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **HB 4008-Redistricting**

Public Comment: **After reviewing Bethany Marcum's redistricting map for the state of AK but especially for East Anchorage I believe she has lost touch with the intent of the process. Why would you include a portion of East Anchorage with Eagle River and South Anchorage, this violates the constitutional mandate for nonpartisan integrated socioeconomic districts. This is why I believe Nicole Barrameo's map is best represents what should be for East Anchorage as well as Anchorage as a whole. I thank all of you for your work and dedication on this matter.**

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**From:** Leah Berman Williams <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 9:02 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

Name: **Leah Berman Williams**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **November 5 map for FNSB**

Public Comment: **I am writing to discuss the final map being discussed on November 5, 2021, for the Fairbanks North Star Borough.**

**I am extremely concerned that this map joins the Goldstream/Murphy Dome/Spinach Creek area to a large interior district including Tok, McGrath, etc.**

**This is in direct contradiction to the idea of keeping socioeconomically tied areas together in a district. The Goldstream area is extremely similar to the College/Ester/University West neighborhoods, in terms of where their kids go to school, where people work, etc. as well as with the rest of Fairbanks, and have little to no similarities with the more rural Alaskan villages. I don't understand why a district that pairs Goldstream with Tok is even being considered. The pairing described in Board V. 4 makes a lot more sense, pairing more rural folks in Salcha / Chena Hot Springs Road, along with the folks at Eielson (who are more transient and not very integrated into the borough at all), which has historical precedent supporting it.**

**This proposed map is extremely problematic and does not reflect the existing structure of the borough.**

**I am also frustrated that these draft maps which are being considered as the \*final\* map are not posted on the redistricting site in time for clear public testimony about them.**

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**From:** Nelli Williams [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:17 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Public testimony re: Maps 3 & 4

Dear Anchorage Redistricting Board,

Thank you for providing helpful maps to review throughout this process. I am writing to comment on the maps currently under consideration by the board. As a mother and voter in Anchorage I am completely opposed to Board Proposed Map v3 it divides and carves out neighborhoods with disregard to how neighborhoods and communities in Anchorage function. It also goes against a majority of public testimony in these areas. I urge the board to support Board Proposed Map v.4. This map provides clean sensible lines based on neighborhoods and communities, and doesn't insensibly split or pair regions of our community that are vastly different for many reasons (ie: East Anchorage with Eagle River or S. Anchorage).

Thank you for listening to public input.  
Nelli



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**From:** Dr Paula Williams <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:46 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 4, 2021, 11:46 pm

First Name: **Dr Paula**

Last Name: **Williams**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **The Alaska Black Caucus ; NAACP**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Ms Marcum's proposed gerrymandering map**

Public Comment: **I totally disapprove of Ms Marcum's gerrymandering map. This is unspeakable, deceitful, illegal and completely outrageous. This is a unethical attempt to diminish the power of minority voters. I would NEVER agree to this criminal injustice!**

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**From:** Mark Winterstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 3:50 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Opposition to Goldstream being included in district 36

Hi My name is Mark Winterstein, I live at [REDACTED], in the Community of Goldstream adjacent to Fairbanks, AK. I'm writing in opposition of the redistricting plan to combine the community of Goldstream with rural communities in district 36. We do not share socio-economic similarities with these rural communities. We should be included with the communities of ester and the university as the districts are currently drawn. We work and send our kids to school in these communities. Peeling our community off from Fairbanks to be included with rural communities is a violation of the guidelines set forth on redistricting in the Alaska constitution. We are not of similar socio-economic status.

Thanks

Mark Winterstein

Sent from my iPhone

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Statewide 10/30/21 Teleconference Testimony**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Doug Woodby**

**Doug Woodby is in support of redistricting that results in the minimum deviation from an even proportion between districts. It makes common sense to have equal voting power. For this reason, he is opposed to Board Maps v.3 and v.4 and is in support of the Doyon Coalition map, AFFR map, and the Senate Minority Caucus maps. For Juneau, he opposes the AFFER plan due to the way it splits the Mendenhall Valley which violates the socio-economic homogeneity. He strongly opposes Board Map v.3 due to the deliberate effort to carve out the the current residents on the same street as local incumbent, Andrea Story, to put her in future election competition with other local incumbents in the state house.**

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**From:** April Woolery <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:45 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 2, 2021, 9:44 pm

First Name: **April**

Last Name: **Woolery**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **After looking at all of the interactive maps and watching the presentations on each, I would prefer that the Board adopt the Doyon Coalition version. My second choice would be Board version 3. Thank you for all of the hard work you have put into this process.**

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**From:** Carolann Wooton <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 9:36 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 1, 2021, 9:36 am

First Name: **Carolann**

Last Name: **Wooton**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99827**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting of Upper Lynn Canal**

Public Comment: **I approve of the Upper Lynn Canal attaching to the North Douglas District and separating from the Juneau District. The Upper Lynn Canal is a rural area that would benefit from affiliation with an area that is rural as well. We have our own issues, and our issues are often very different then issues in a larger community such as Juneau. What works for Juneau, is often not a good solution for our rural areas.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 3, 2021

Name: **Stephen Wright**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Date: November 3, 2021, 6:54 pm

Comments: **Let me Clarify AFFR is not for Alaskans but a select few RINOs who feel that they need to punish Republicans for being conservative. I do not support the RINO AFFR plan but If it was adopted the numbering system is what is being used to box other conservatives out of the process. However, It is important to note that this is the worst of all plans. The most concise and well thought out plan is V4**

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Date: November 3, 2021, 6:15 pm

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **AFFR Numbering inconsistent**

Public Comment: **Numbering should be changed for the MATSU. A new map should be drawn to consolidate ideas from the six maps. To have a more streamlined zoning.**

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**From:** Jeff March [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, November 5, 2021 11:01 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** I like Nicole Borromeo's map because it is more condensed

Good Morning!

I tried to call in, and it appears your executive session was continuing. Please take my written testimony.

I have looked at Bethany Marcum's proposed map and Nicole Borromeo's map. Here are my thoughts.

Nicole's map is more compact. It retains neighborhood boundaries. It keeps East Anchorage together, and doesn't split it up into Eagle River and South Anchorage. Also, adding Valdez with Anchorage doesn't make sense to me. Valdez has their own community with their own issues. Anchorage and Valdez have a different economy base, and different needs.

Public testimony has been greatly in favor of Nicole's map. In fact, Bethany's map has not been well accepted.

Please choose Nicole Borromeo's map for redistricting.

Thank you,

Frances Yates-March