

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING

### VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Palmer 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: October 31, 2021

Name: **AFFER - 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 go 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.**

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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 breech 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.

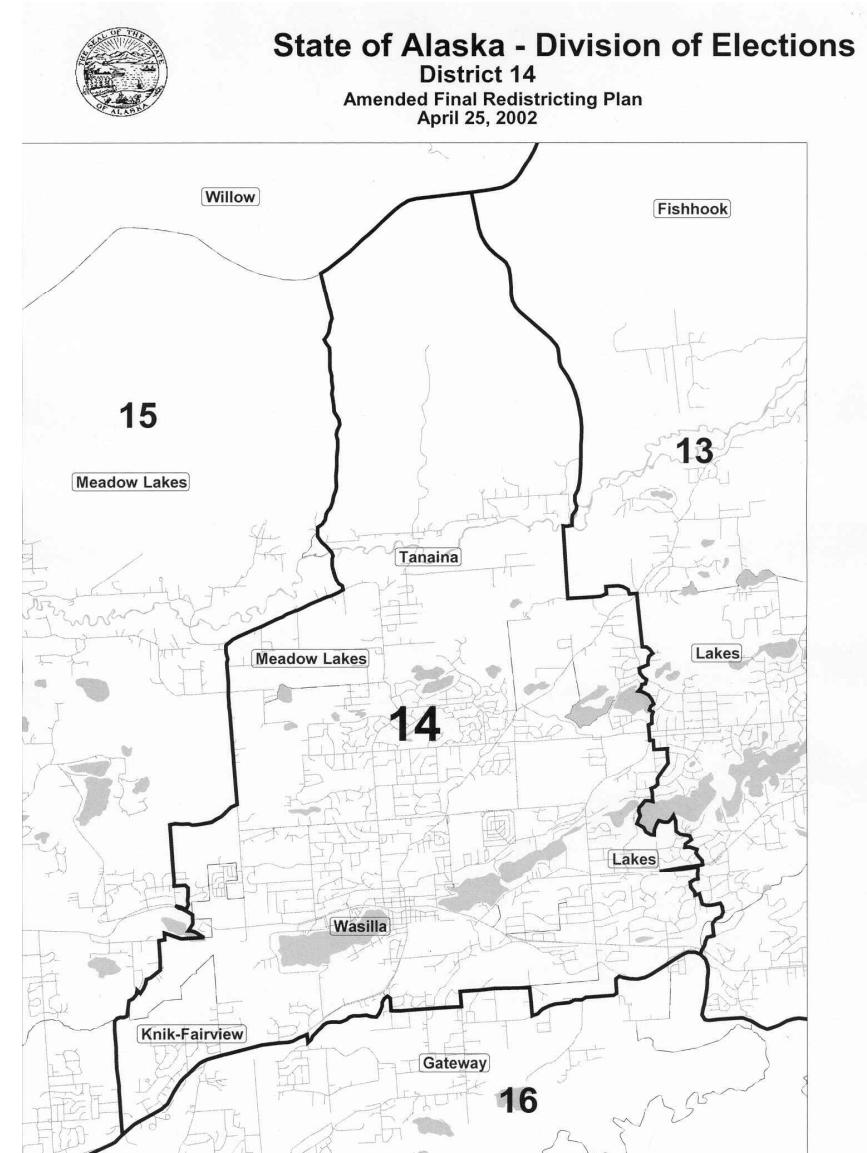
MatSu Borough requests the addition of the Denali Borough to AFFER v2.7.4.1 District 11. The Denali Borough provides required additional population the MSB needs for six house seats.

**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**

**From:** Randy Ruedrich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 7:48 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Cc:** Steve Colligan 7 [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Salcha assigned to North Pole District

Assigned Salcha to North Pole District with Eielson and Moose Creek.

See Attached City of Fairbanks Districts adjusting area added to East of City of Fairbanks.

Added more of Badger area to Tanana River District.

Attached adjusted North Pole District/Tanana District map and the complete Tanana District map.

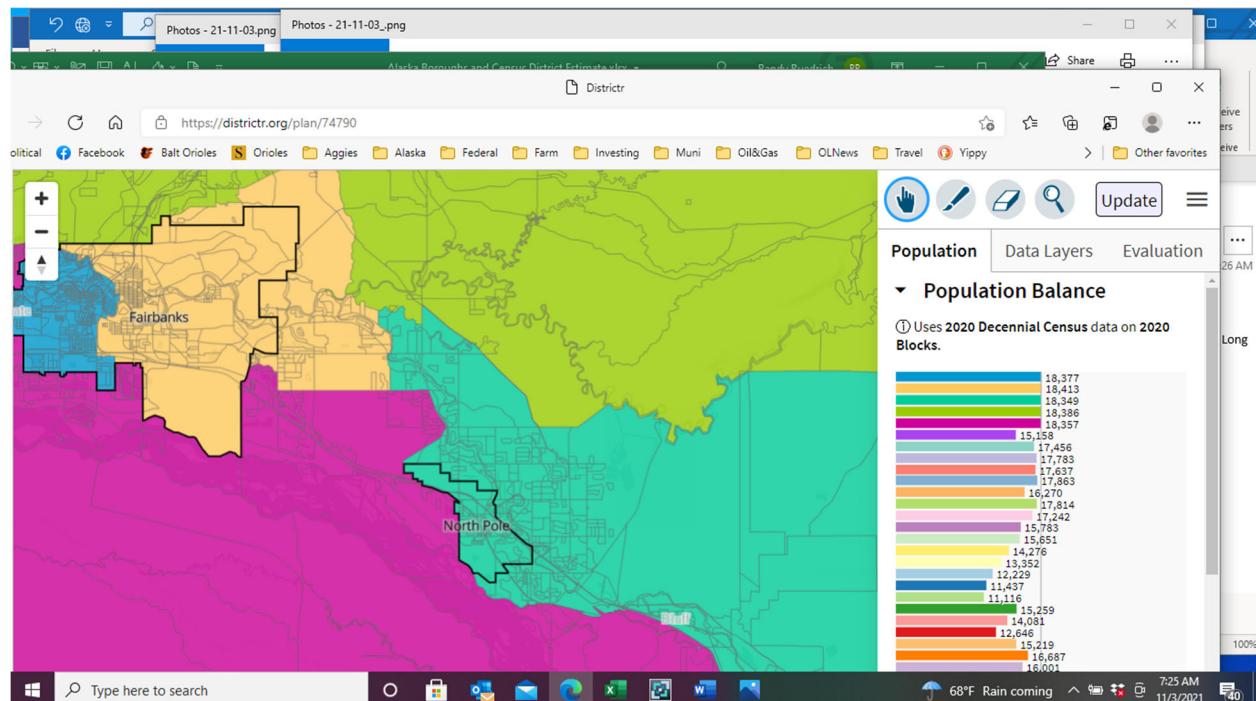
All FNSB district deviations are less than 1% over Ideal

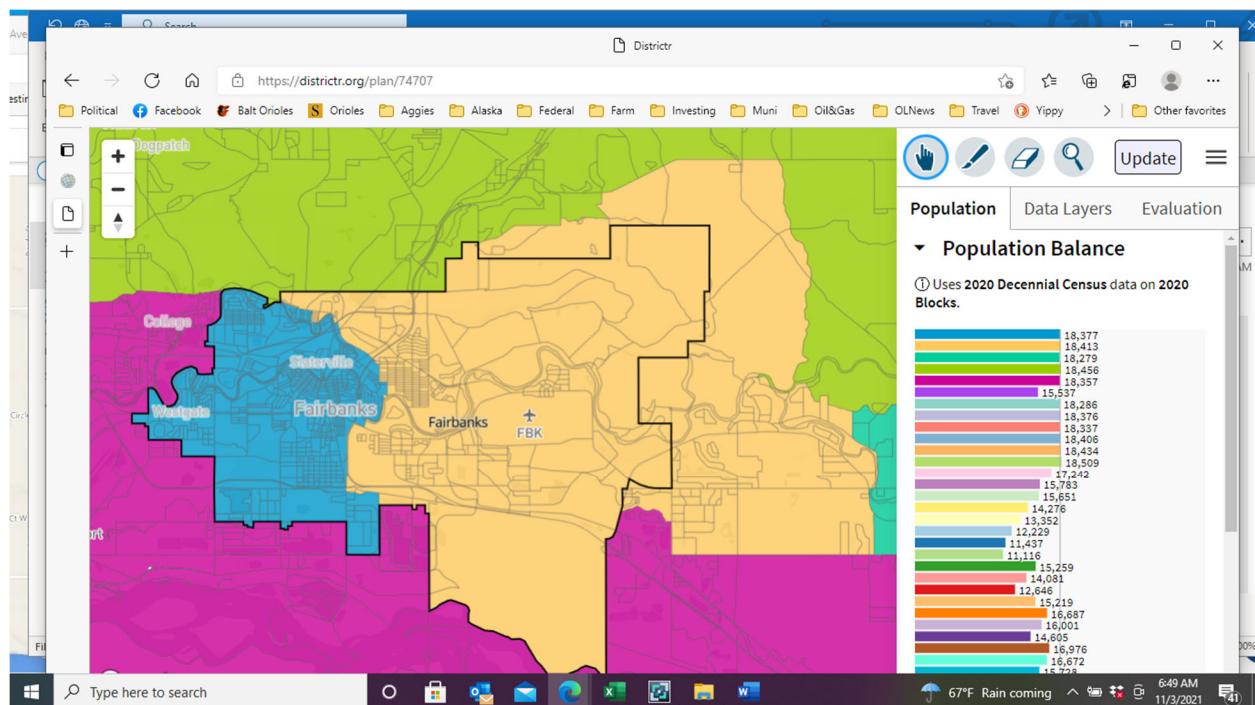
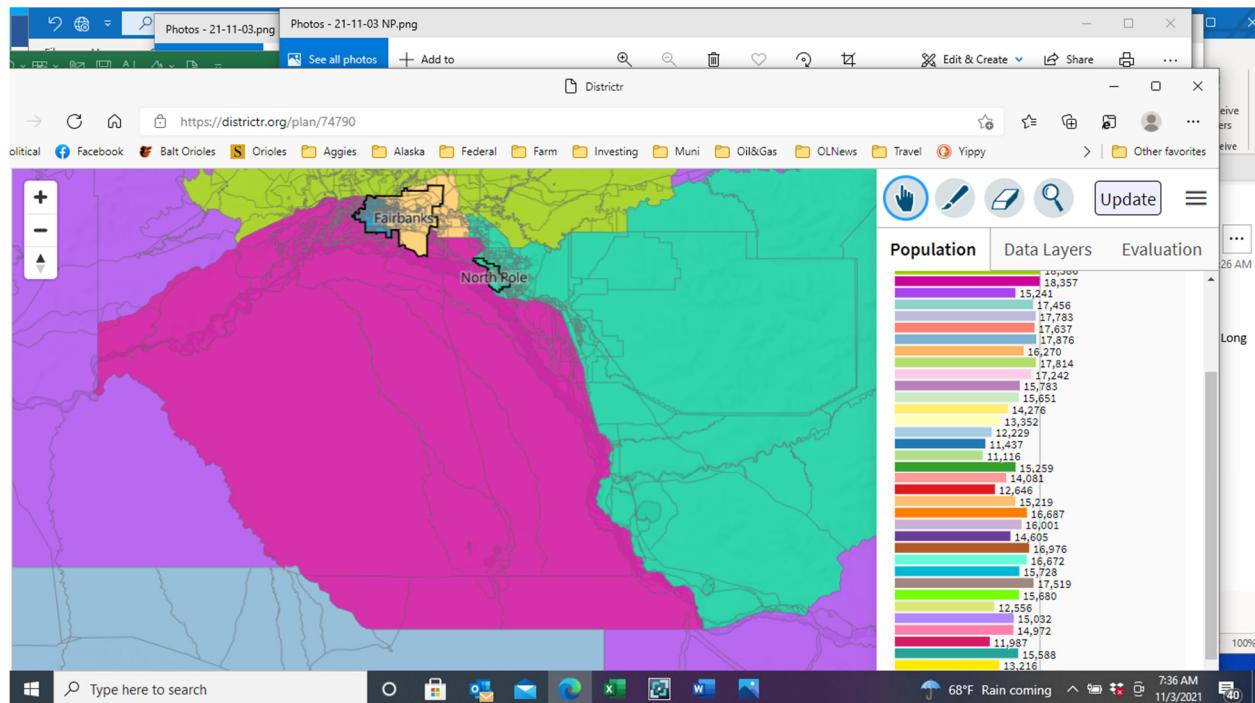
West City 18377 0.23%  
East City 18413 0.43%  
North Pole 18349 0.08%  
North FNSB 18386 0.28%  
Tanana 18357 0.12%

Average Excess 0.27%  
Deviation Range 0.08% to 0.43% or .35%

Alaskans for Fair & Equitable Redistricting

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

**Email:** [robin@akpirg.org](mailto:robin@akpirg.org)

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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**

Report to the Alaska Redistricting Board and Final Recommendations. November 2, 2021

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

Municipality	Version 3	Version 4	AFFR	Doyon	AFFER	Senate Minority
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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Municipality	Version 3	Version 4	AFFR	Doyon	AFFER	Senate Minority
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

### **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.

## **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.

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	\$=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 brough 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 brough 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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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.

## 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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## **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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### **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” process 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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### **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.

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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.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Anderson".

Michelle Anderson, President  
Ahtna, Incorporated

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**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.

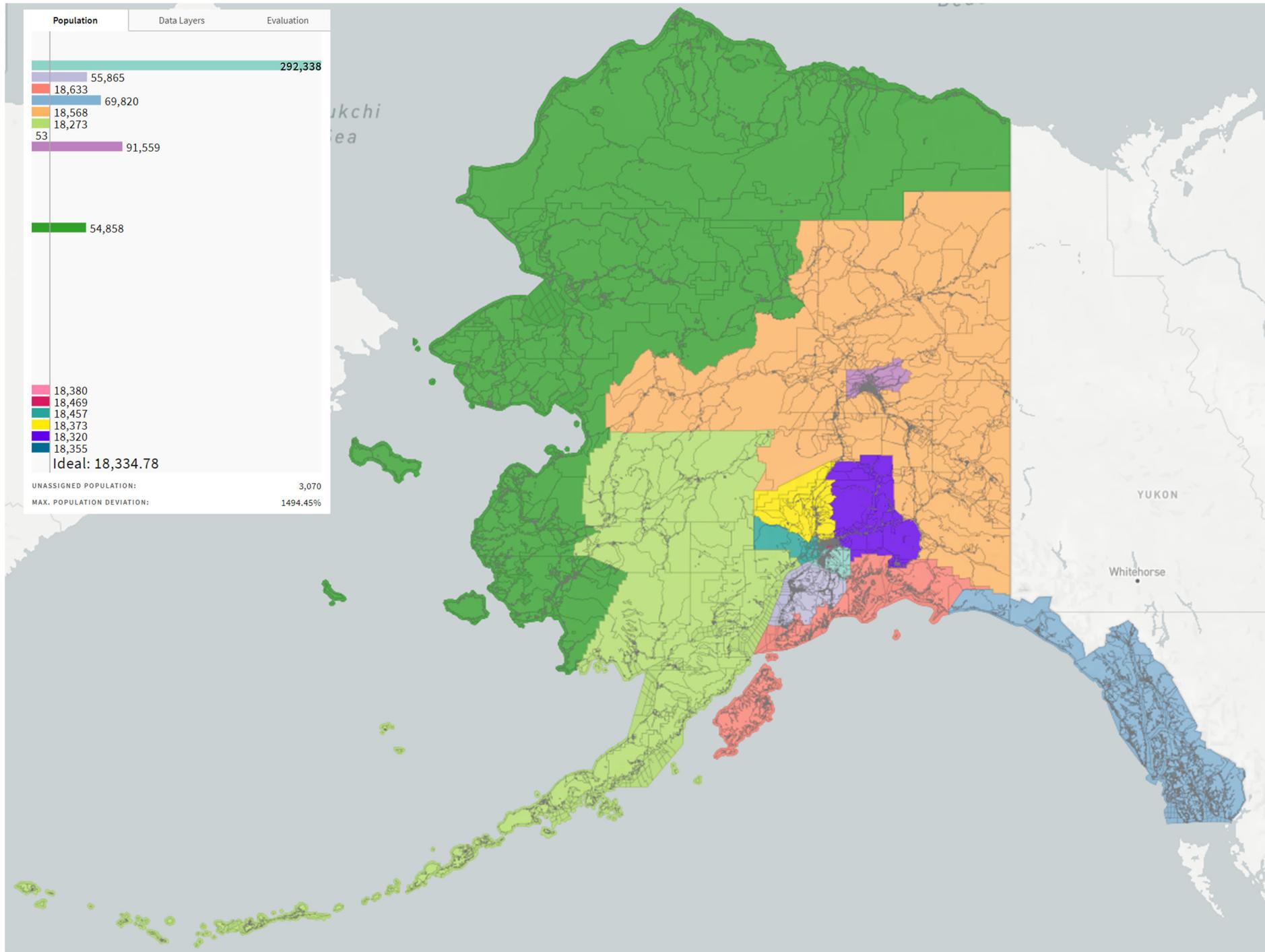
Natural landmarks (rivers, roads, mountains, etc.)

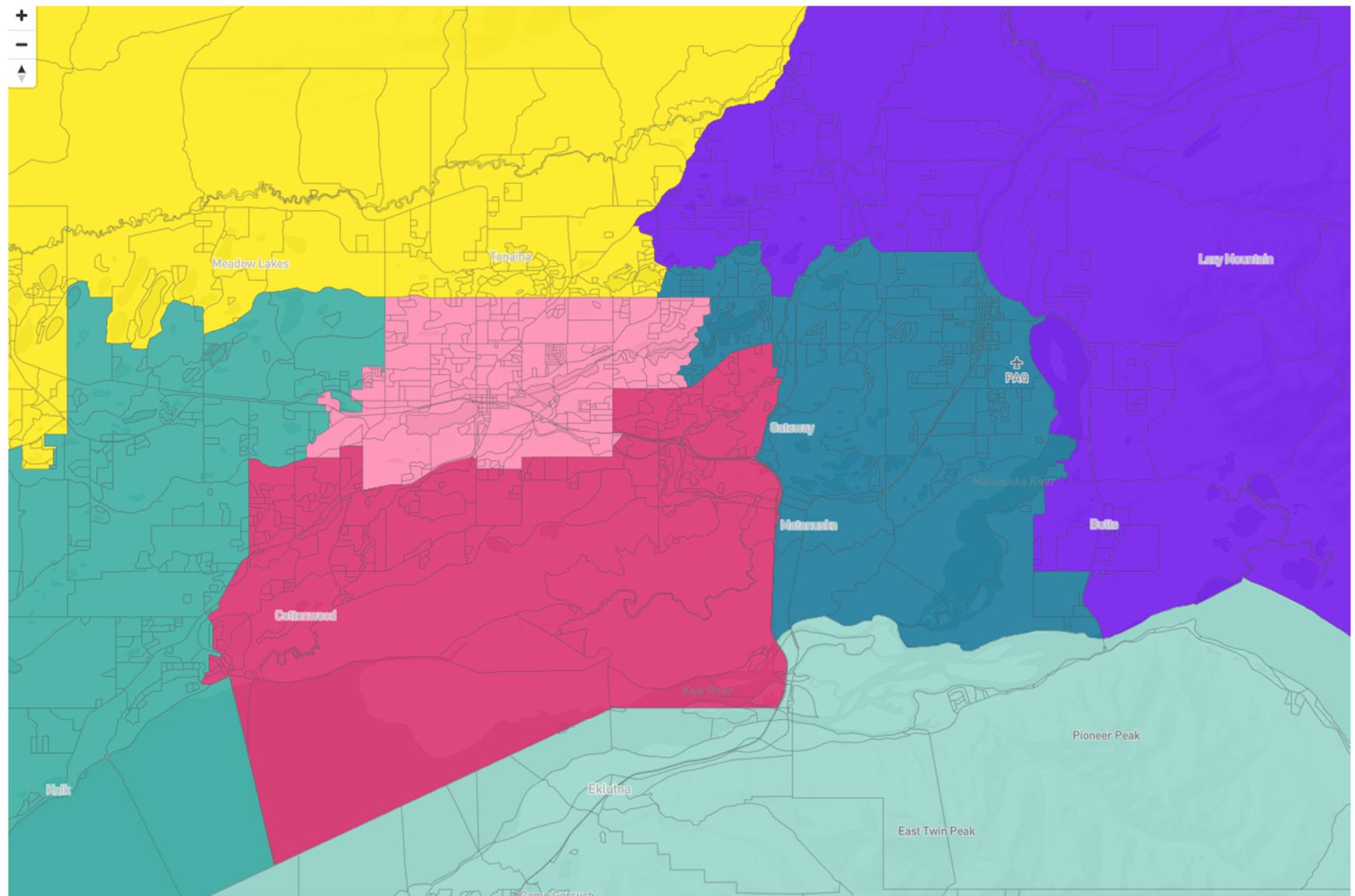
- Map #73975 divides the Mat-Su between Palmer and Wasilla and between the Wasilla City limits on the south and Seldon Road on the north. Seldon is a current boundary and a long and straight road that is well known in the community.

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**

**Kodiak 10/15/21 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: October 27, 2021

Date: October 27, 2021, 5:01 pm

Name: **Scott Arndt**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Mr. Scott spoke in favor of the Doyon Coalition map.**

---

**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.**

---

**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**

**Wasilla 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony**

**Summary Date: November 2, 2021**

**Name: Dixie Banner**

**Email or Phone Contact:** [REDACTED]

**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.**

---

**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, etcâ€¢! 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.**

---

**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

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 1, 2021, 3:18 pm

Name: **Alan Batten**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99712**

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]

---

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

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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

Thank you,  
Jonnie Bernier

---

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

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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.

---

**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. AFFERâ€™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. Doyonâ€™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.

---

**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

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 4, 2021, 6:07 pm

Name: **Mike Bronson**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **NAACP**

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**

---

**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.**

---

**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: [REDACTED]

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.**

---

**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]

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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  
[REDACTED]

---

**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

# 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 Hatchers 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.**

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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

**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, Kaslof, 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
- AFFER (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 Whitier 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, Kaslof, 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 vagrant 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 Whitier 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, PO Box 15096, 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](http://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

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<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 not 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 <Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov>  
**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 DECENTNIAL 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

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

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

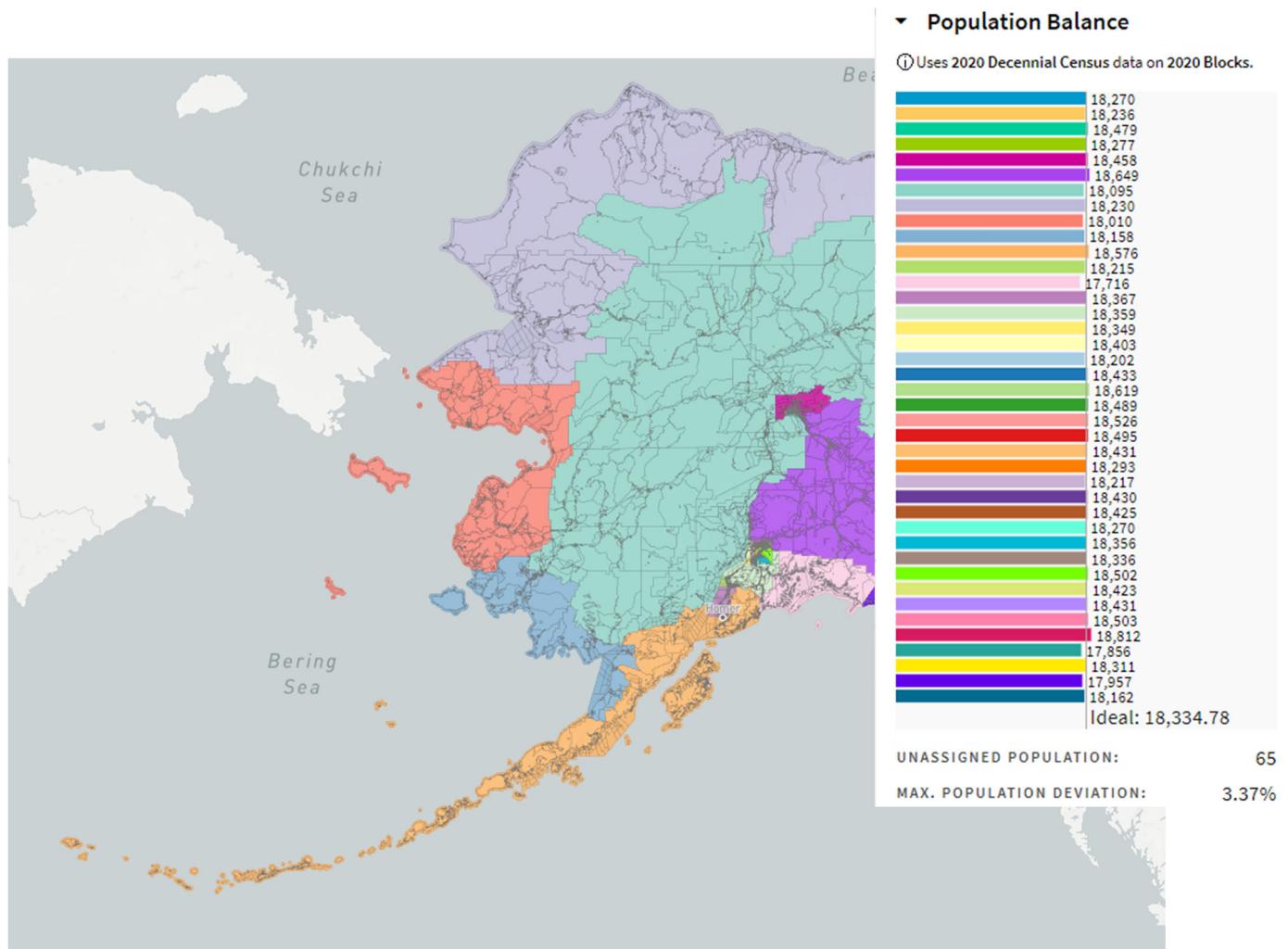
Date: November 3, 2021, 5:43 pm

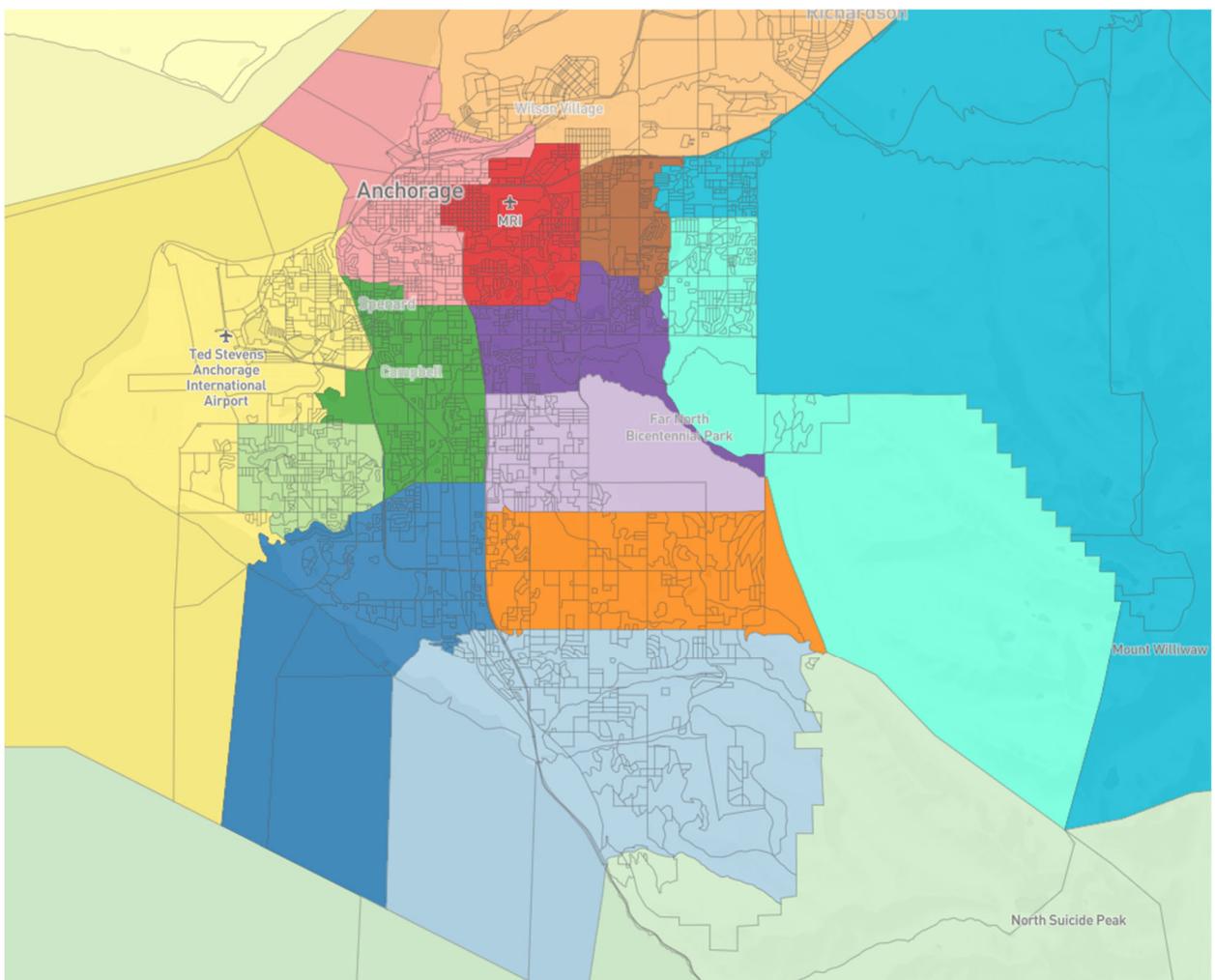
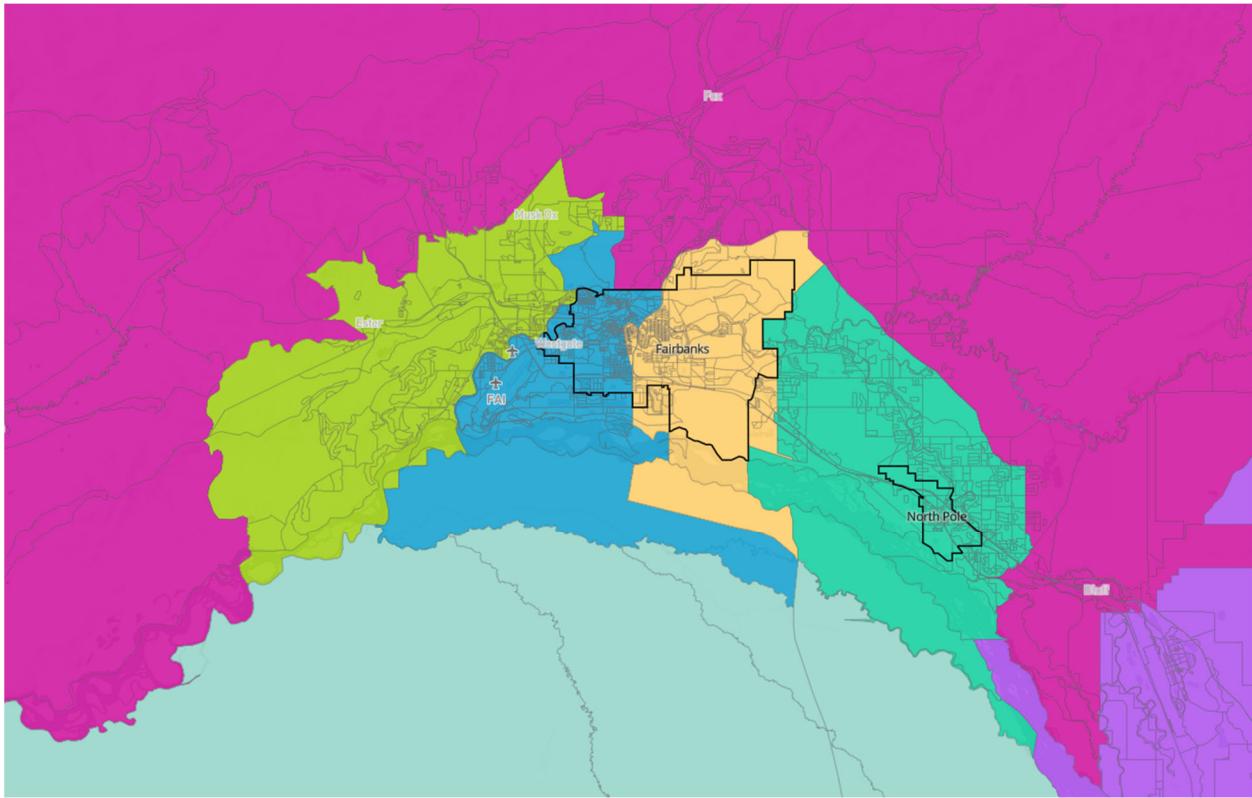
Name: **Henry Cole**

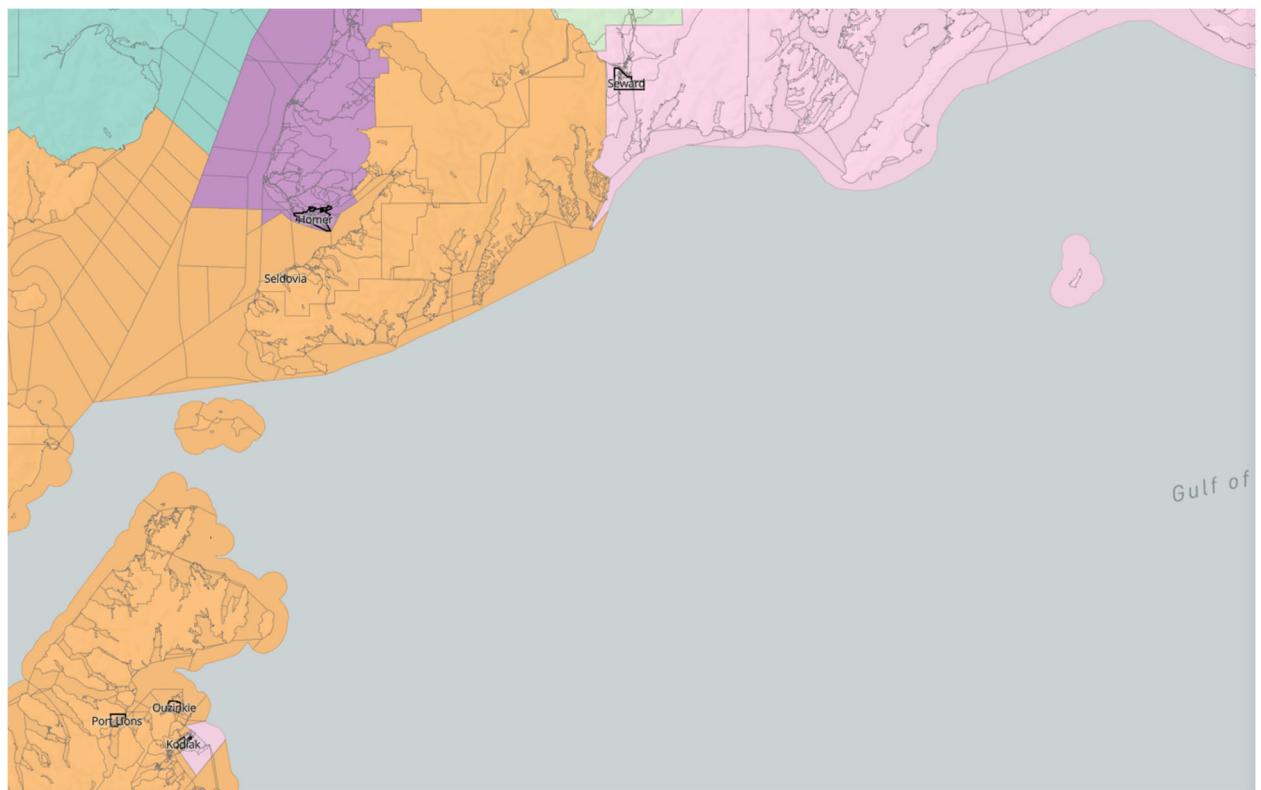
Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

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: [REDACTED]

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.anchoragepress.com/news/with-census-complete-gerrymandering-ready-to-rear-its-ugly-head-in-alaska/article\\_923d4f60-164a-11ec-ac93-47d0a8286340.html](https://www.anchoragepress.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**

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

**Summary Date: October 31, 2021**

Name: **Erick Cordero**

Email or Phone [REDACTED]

**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: [REDACTED]

**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  
3350 N Clark-Wolverine Rd  
Palmer, AK 99645  
(907) 354-3365

---

**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**

**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 <together777forever@gmail.com>  
**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 NEIBORHOOD INTO 2 SECTIONS. STOP IT. NOR ARE YOU AUTHORIZED TO MESS UP TUDOR RD, ABBITT RD, OMALLEY OR OTHRR NATURAL BOUNDARY LINES FROM ANCHORAGE.

STOP DESTROYING OUR RIGHTS. STOP IN JESUS NAME.

REBECCA CRELLEY  
ANC

---

**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 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)

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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 1, 2021, 1:41 pm

Name: **Robb Donohue Boyer**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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 â€“ 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

Palmer 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: October 31, 2021

Name: Nathaniel Amdur-Clark Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Group Affiliation, if applicable: Doyon Coalition

**Nathaniel noted that the coalition focuses on fair representation for Rural Alaska. Nathaniel presented some mapping changes to the Doyon Coalition's proposed map and also talked about some concerns of the constitutionality of Board Map v.3.**

**They began mapping by consulting within the coalition and with stakeholders statewide. They've also had the benefit of listening to and reading testimony from the community. Based on the testimony and other discussions held with stakeholders, an updated proposed map was introduced that integrates mapping changes in the Mat-Su Valley, Anchorage, and the Kenai Peninsula. These updated maps were attached to Nathaniel's written submitted testimony.**

**Regarding Mat-Su, it was brought to their attention that they inadvertently split some census blocks from the City of Palmer between Districts 26 and 30; this was unintentional and the error was corrected. Additionally, they've refined the proposed map, specifically Districts 24-30 which retain a low population deviation across the whole region while keeping the local gov't boundaries within the borough whole, maintaining community cohesiveness whenever possible.**

**Proposed District 24 contains populations from the Mat-Su Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage and this is legally permissible and constitutional. This was necessary as the courts have been clear that reducing population deviations that would otherwise necessarily result from the Mat-Su Borough's excess population, when you put everything else together, is a valid and non-discriminatory reason for districts that span the borough boundaries.**

**Regarding Kenai, they were made aware that they inadvertently mapped 2 census blocks within the City of Kenai with District 8 rather than 7. Their updated map fixes this small error.**

**In Anchorage, in response to testimony and commentary for mapping Anchorage, they've extensively reworked Anchorage. Their updated map maintains low population deviations across the city, improves compactness of the proposed districts, and adheres to the community council regions. Where practical, major and natural features were followed in significant road corridors.**

**Lastly, regarding the Fairbanks districts in Board Map v.3, they are unconstitutional. Proposed Districts 31-35 are upwardly deviated between 4.26 and 4.43%. The Alaska Constitution requires that each district contain a population as near practicable to the ideal population of 18,835. This means the total population within each district must be as near as practicable to 0. Large total deviations within a borough, area, or region may be a sign of other issues, but having a low total deviation does not absolve the board from its constitutional requirement of making each district as close to 0 deviation as possible.**

**The Doyon Coalition has provided a map that is practicable and shows that you can map the interior, which is socio-economically integrated, with the Fairbanks North Star Borough, taking the most rural parts of the borough to combine them with the rural interior, creating low population deviations.**

**There is nothing “impracticable” about drawing Fairbanks in a way that does not devalue the vote of each and every Borough resident. Therefore, as proposed the Board’s proposed V3 Fairbanks districts would be unconstitutional if adopted by the Board in a final map.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING

### VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Wasilla 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Nathaniel (Tanner) Amdur-Clark**  
Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

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

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.

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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 get back to voting with the rest of lazy mountain which is my community.**

---

**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 Borromeo'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 Borromeo's map.

Thank you,  
Tanya Dumas  
resident of South Anchorage

---

**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.

They 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:** 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'Neall  
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  
65  
  
Mindy O'Neill  
Presiding Officer

66            ATTEST:

67  
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)

---

**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:** 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: [REDACTED]

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

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!**

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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]  
[REDACTED]

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**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 AFFR 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 AFFR 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]

# 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: [REDACTED]

**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.**

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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

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**From:** Sharon George <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: **Sharon**

Last Name: **George**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

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

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 Boardâ€™s Version 3 map is unfair in the Fairbanks area:

â€¢ V. 3 violates the one person one vote criterion in every district in the greater Fairbanks area thereby causing a serious underrepresentation of the Interiorâ€™s regional hub. This is undemocratic.

â€¢ 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.

â€¢ 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.

â€¢ 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:**

â€¢ 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.

â€¢ 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.

â€¢ 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 Boardâ€™s Version 3 and Version 4 maps specifically in respect to the Fairbanks area, I have the following general comments:**

â€¢ 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.

â€¢ 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 Boardâ€™s proposals for pairings.**

**As John Adams and the framers of the Constitution noted, legislatures should be, â€œan exact Portrait, a Miniature, of the People at large.â€ You must do your best to honor that concept. Thank you for your consideration,**

**Sharon W. George**



**Fairbanks, AK**

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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.**

**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 its 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.

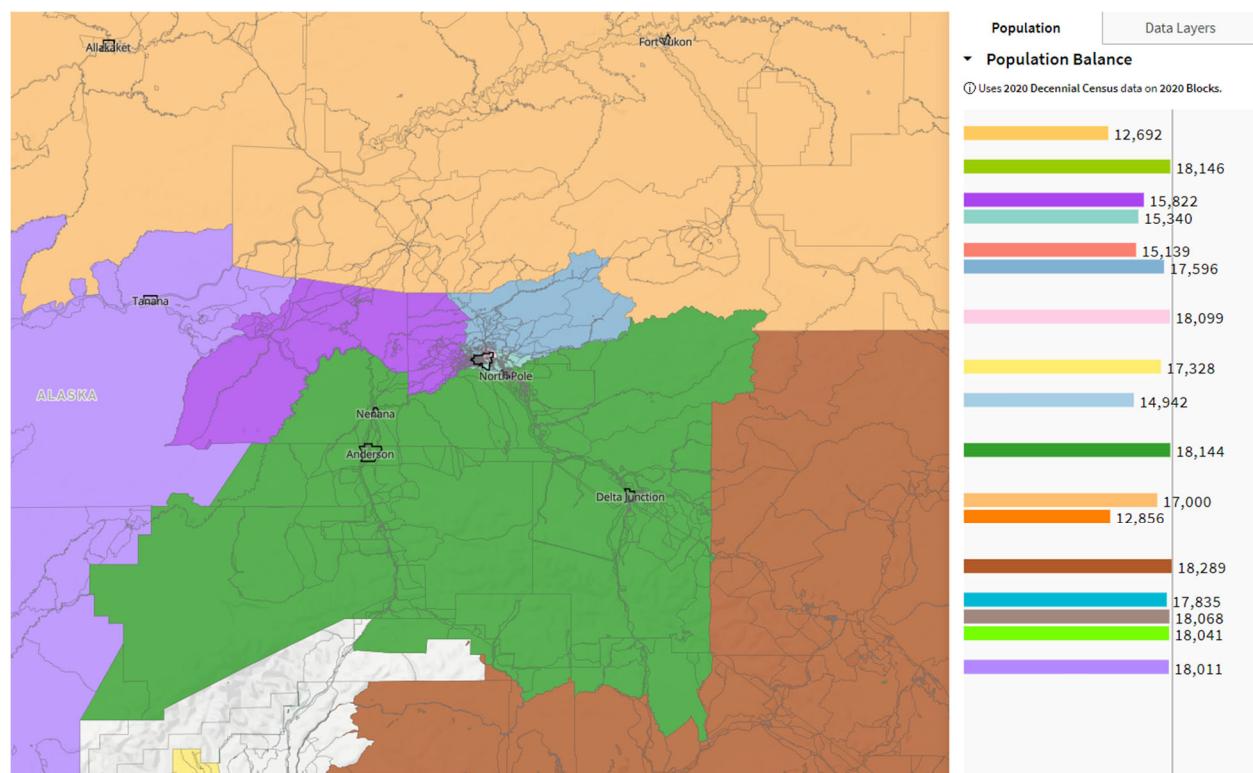
Of the 6-maps the board has under consideration, none of them are acceptable. The best one is the Board's version #4 which includes Eielson AFB and removes the coastal areas of Valdez and Cordova. A noted change would be to ensure both sides of the Glenn Hwy are included if this one is adopted. Having the border 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:** 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]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 1, 2021, 2:59 pm

Name: **Cliff Groh**

Email or Phone [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

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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 Whitier 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**

**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.**

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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 [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.

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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 (HAWXURST-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

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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*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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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:** [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:** [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

Wasilla 10/25/21 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

**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:** 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".**

---

**From:** Marc Johnson [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 2, 2021 9:49 AM  
**To:** Testimony [REDACTED]  
**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

Contact number: 907-398-8674

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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 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 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.**

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

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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**

**Wasilla 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony**

**Summary Date: November 2, 2021**

**Name: CJ Koan**

**Email or Phone Contact:** [REDACTED]

**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.**

---

**From:** [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

---

**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 10/25/21 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 Highway. 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.**

---

**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 Whitier 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



# 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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**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.**

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**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!**

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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.**

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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 Whitier 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

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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

## 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. Borromeo 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. Borromeo 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:** 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.**

**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:** David Miller <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 7:26 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, 7:26 pm

First Name: **David**

Last Name: **Miller**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **N/A**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Palmer 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony**

Public Comment: **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 PlanCompactness (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]

# 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.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 4, 2021, 4:38 pm

Name: **Matthew Moser**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

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.

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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: [REDACTED]

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

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 4, 2021, 7:46 pm

Name: **Nancy Munro**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

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:** 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 Corporation**

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*

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 [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:** 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?**

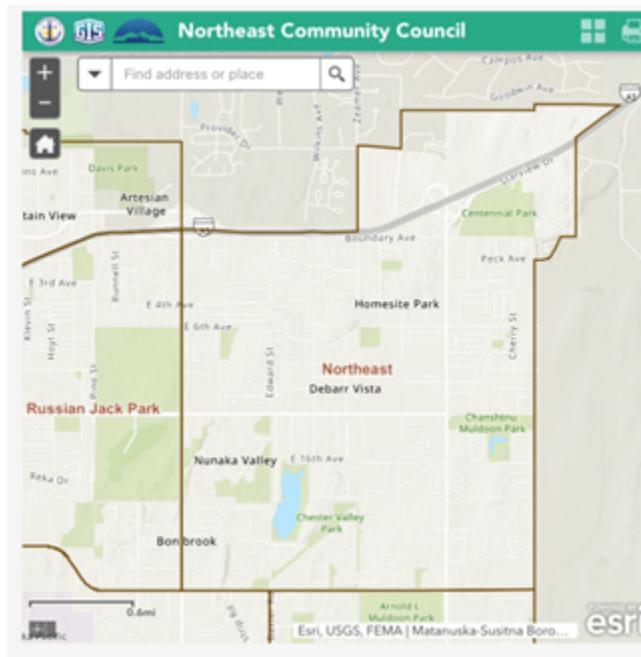
## Resolution 2021-5

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: JBak

Secretary: Rachel Brown

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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: [REDACTED]

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:** 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 follows 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: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **N/A**

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**

**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**

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

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Dave Peck**

Email or Phone [REDACTED]

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:** 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

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

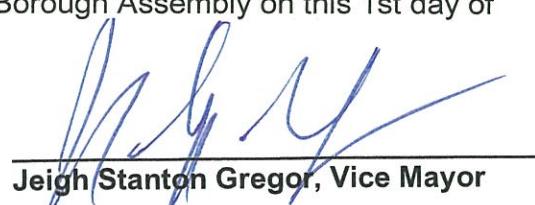
**WHEREAS**, Petersburg shares a number of these socio-economic interests with Wrangell, Sitka and a number of smaller communities on Prince of Wales Island; and

**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.

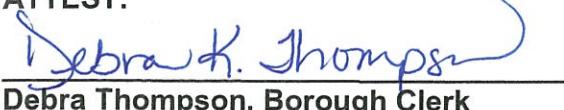
**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Assembly of the Petersburg Borough, as follows:  
Of the six proposed Redistricting Maps put forth by the Alaska Redistricting Board, the Petersburg Assembly supports the Map titled "Senate Minority Proposed Southeast".

**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:** 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]  
**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

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 2, 2021, 9:06 pm

Name: **Brian Plummer**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99645**

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 Anchorageâ€¢ 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**

**Seward 10/12/21 Verbal Testimony**

**Summary Date: October 26, 2021**

Name: **Denise Plush**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Ms. Plush would like Seward to stay with Homer, Kodiak, or other coastal communities as they all have similar economic interest, such as fishing. The northern peninsula has different economic drivers and thus should not be grouped with Seward. Additionally, Seward should be able to elect someone who represents their interests.**

**Ms. Plush spoke in favor of the AFFR map.**

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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 10/25/21 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

## 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:** 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] [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

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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!**

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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.**

---

**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.**

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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**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

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.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Name: **Doug Robbins**  
Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

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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.

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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  $\frac{1}{4}$  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 Hannan, 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, 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: October 31, 2021, 9:15 pm

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**

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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:** 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 Whitier 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.

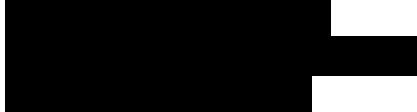
**\*Do not break up the Kodiak Island Borough**

- 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



# 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 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. 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**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99801**

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 of 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. 3Â 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

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING

### VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Wasilla 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Bee Rupright**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**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.

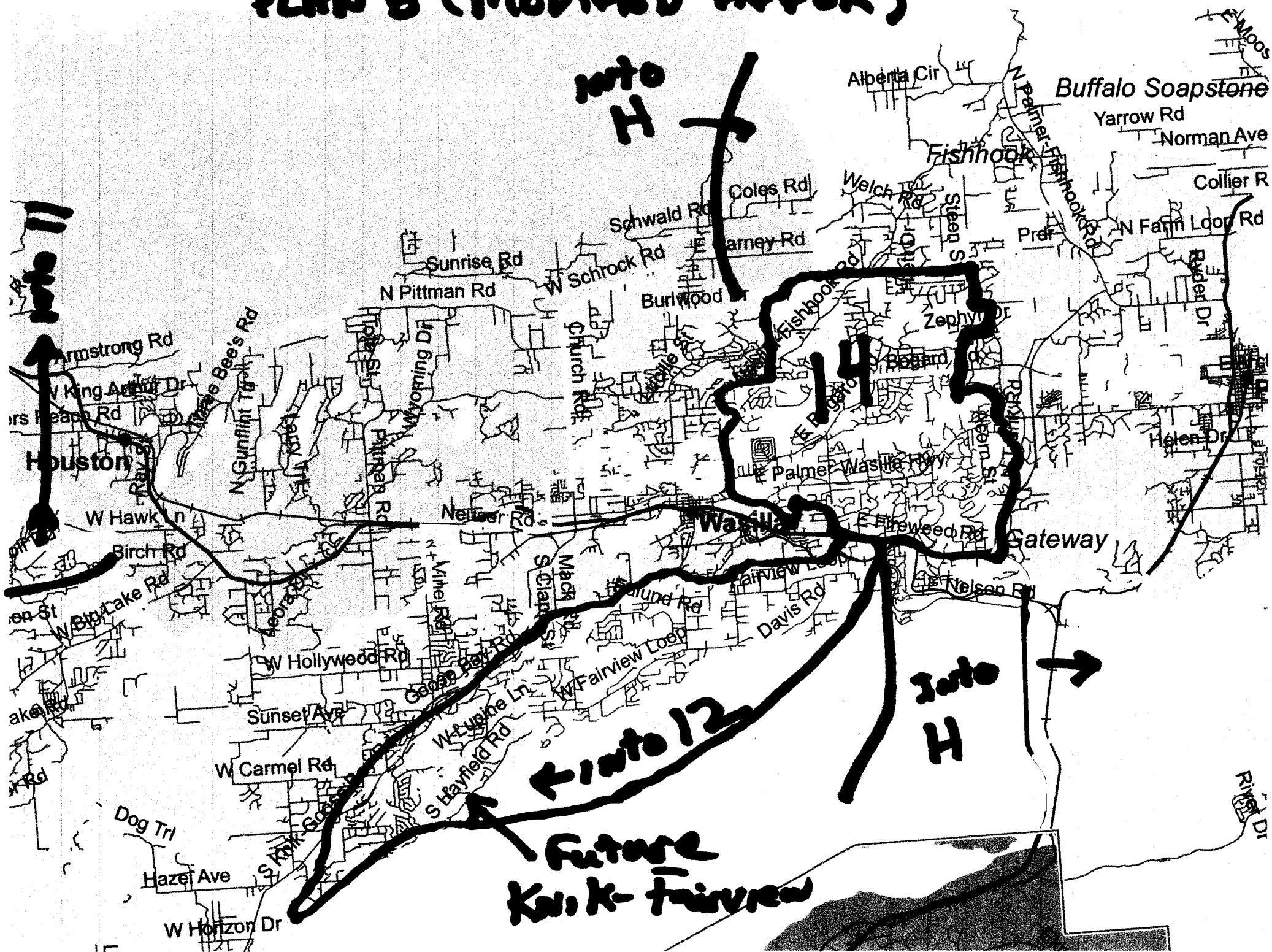
Special Thanks to Juli Lucky for all her help and her excellent handling of the public meeting in Wasilla and personal help for myself.

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 AFTER)



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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 41 Eureka St. 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]

**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 Whitier 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:** 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 preferable 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. Because 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 (AFFR), or with upriver/interior communities that are socieconomically dissimilar and face different issues.**

**Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to submit comments.**

# **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: [REDACTED]

**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

Sealaska Comments to Redistricting Board  
October 30, 2021

(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  
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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.

**From:** 9072023089@vzwpix.com <9072023089@vzwpix.com>  
**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

**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 Borromeo 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.

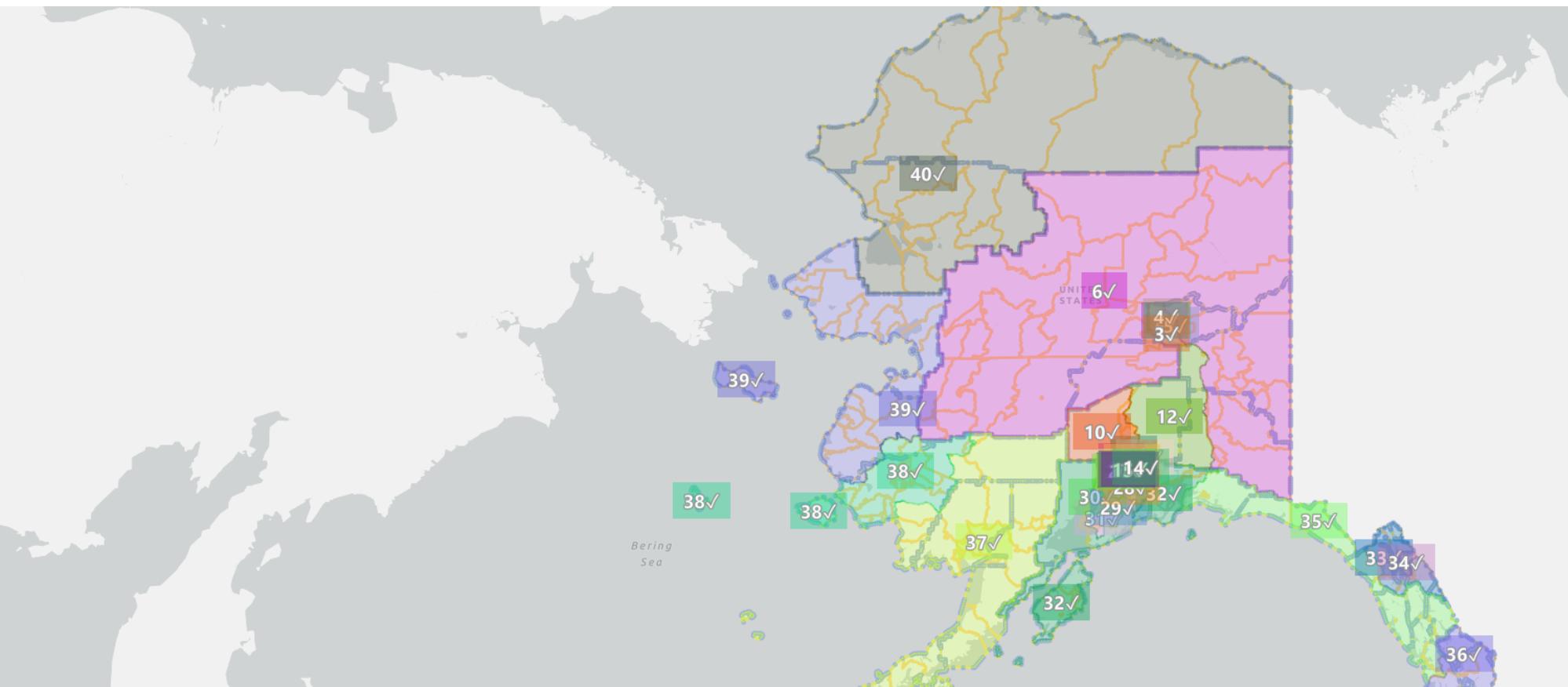
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Combined plans 10-27-21.zip  
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October 27 testimony to the Board revised.docx  
19 KB

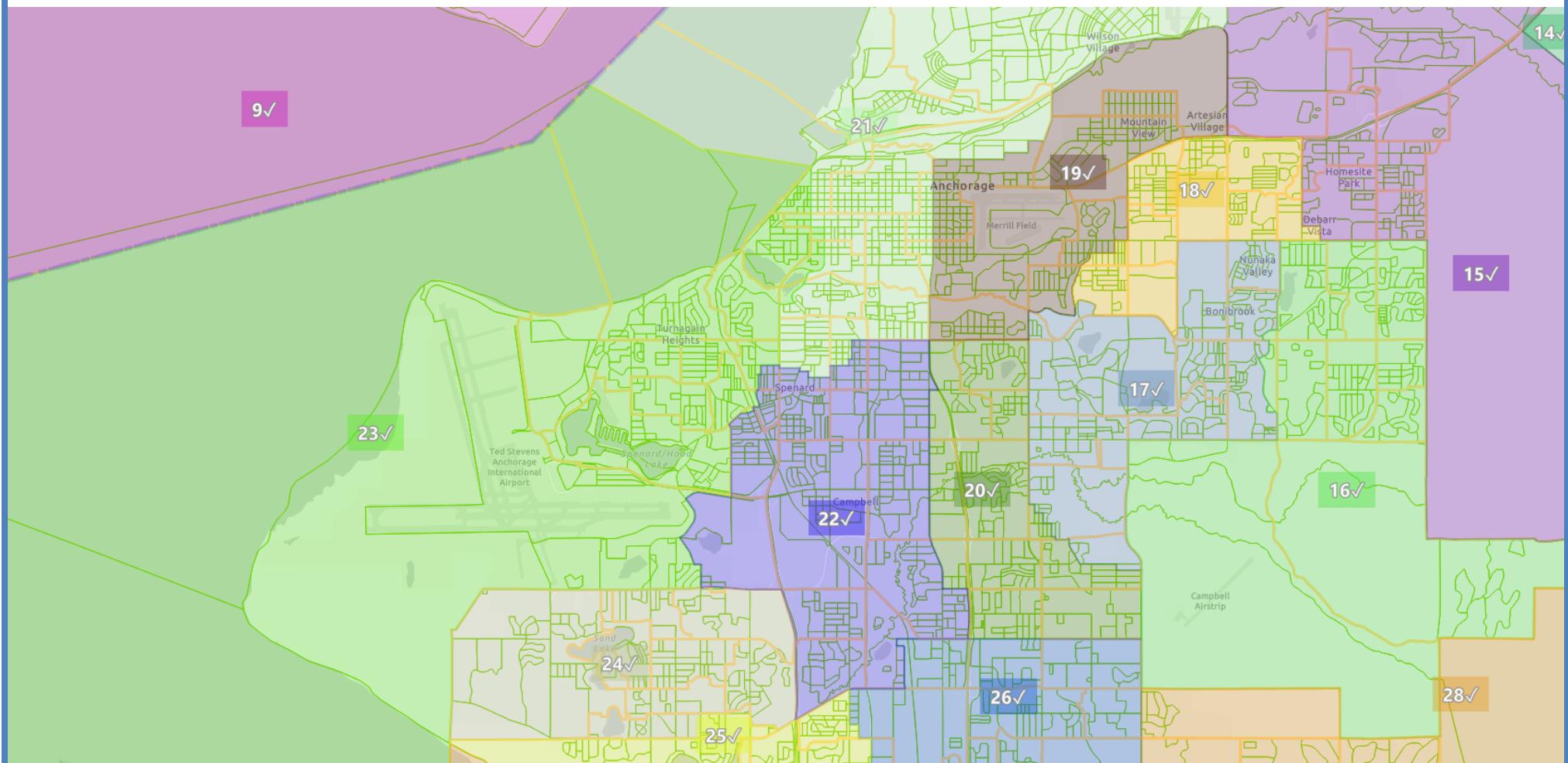
# CantwellCombined1



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

Total Population Tabulation				
DISTRICT	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
Assigned	733391			
Total Pop	733391			
Unassigned	0			

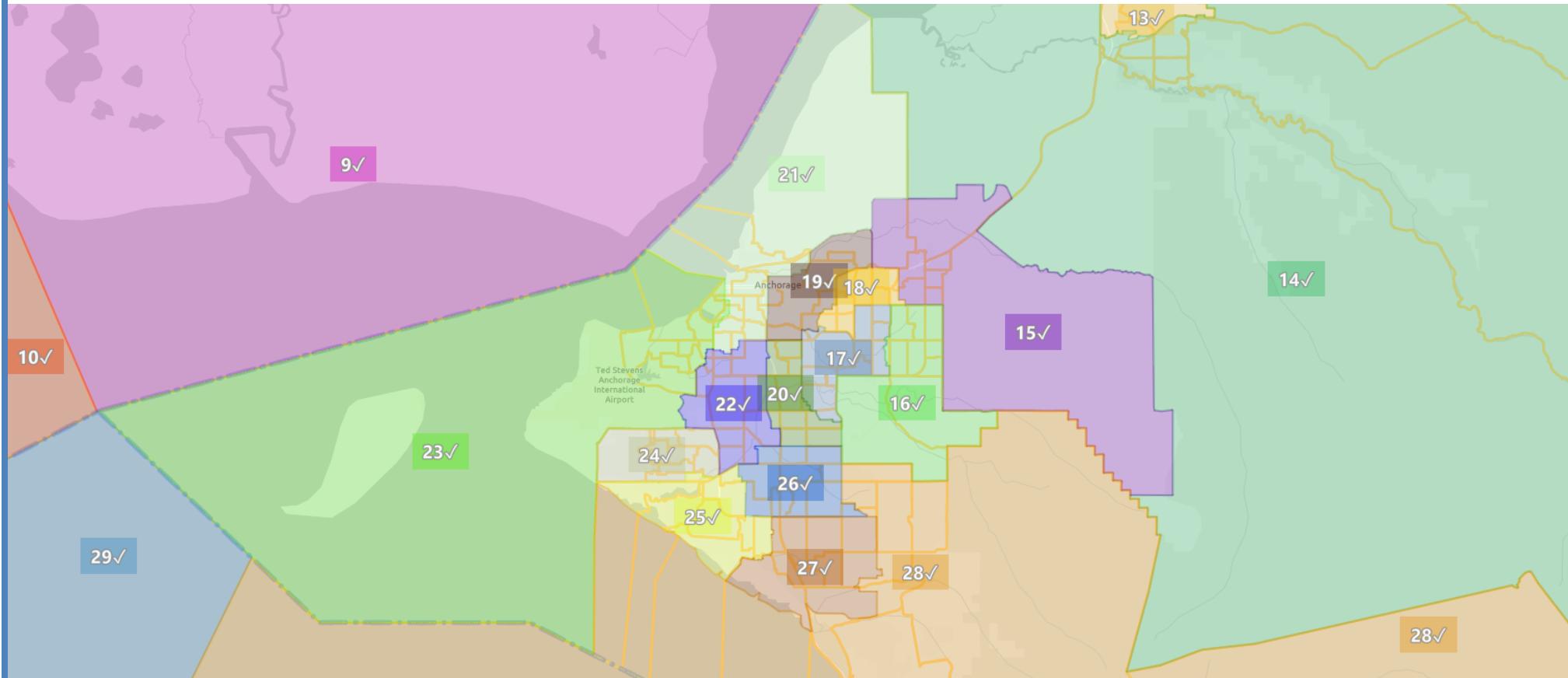


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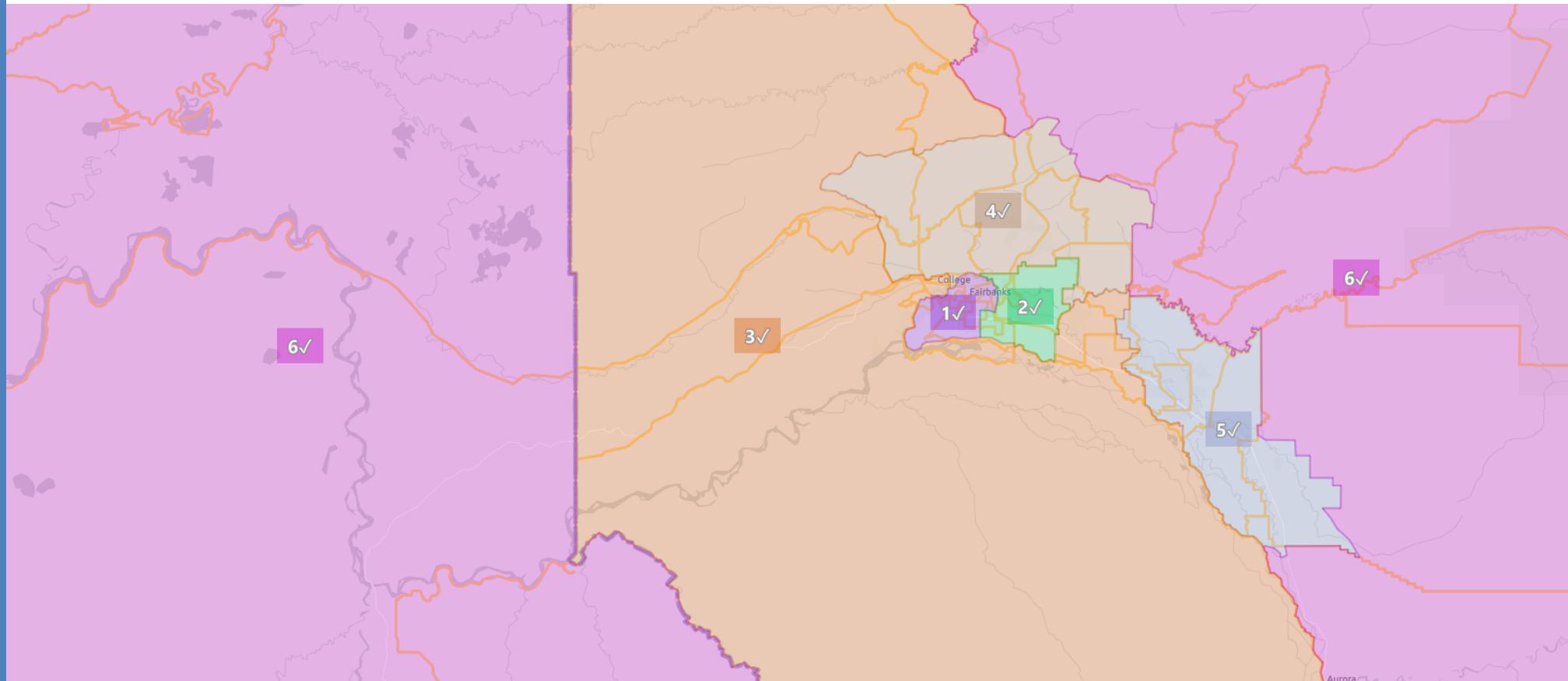
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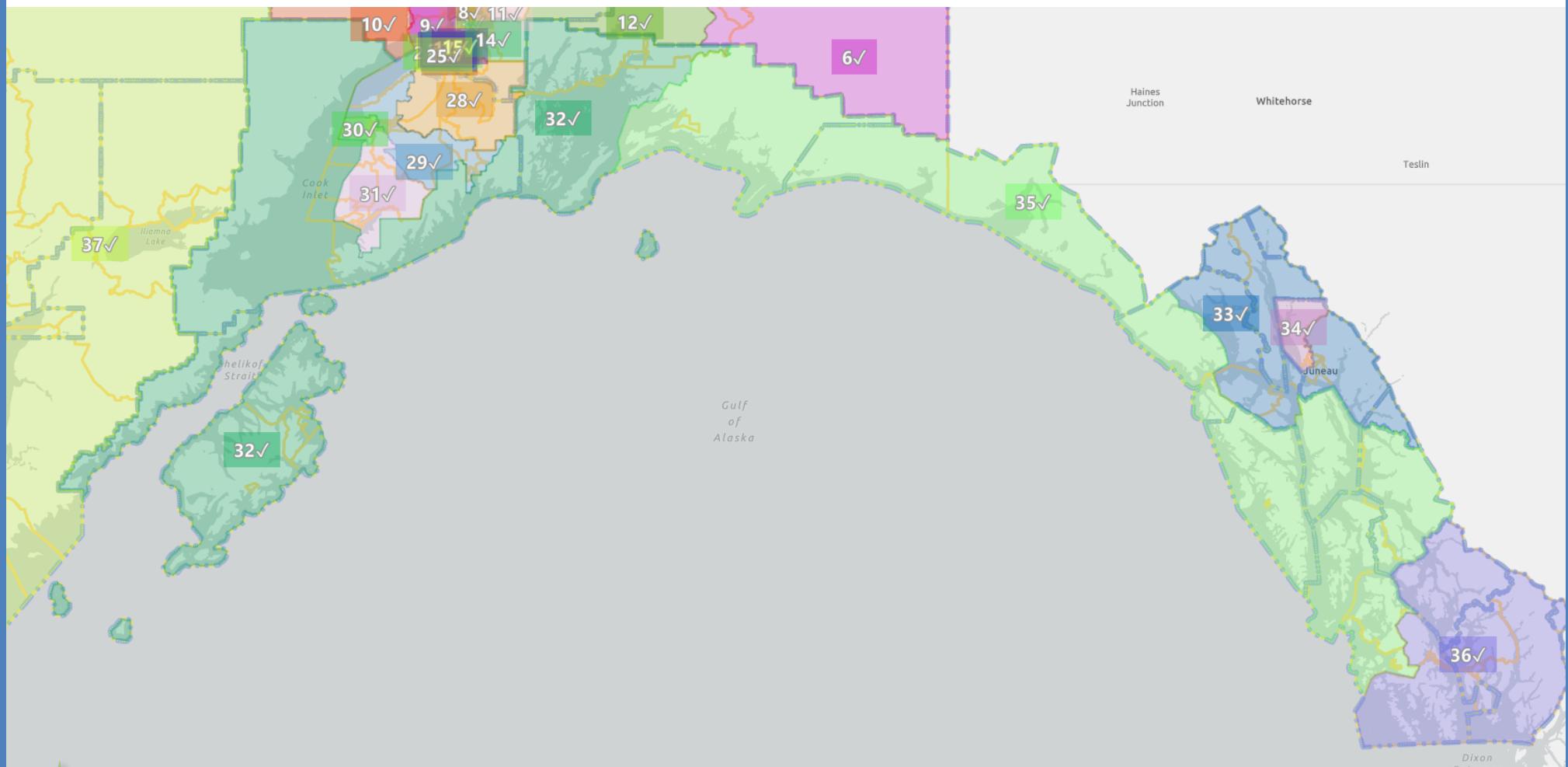


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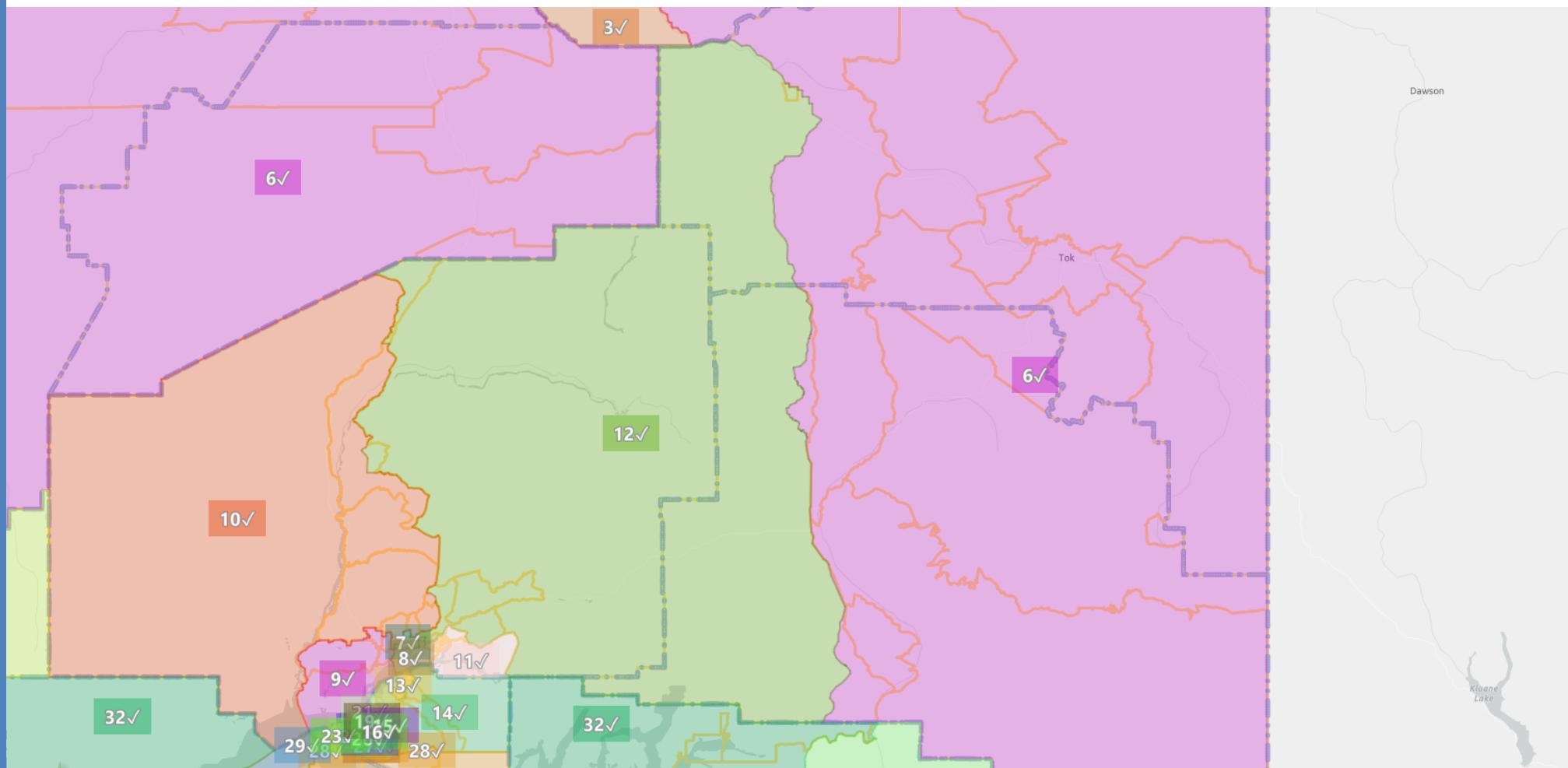


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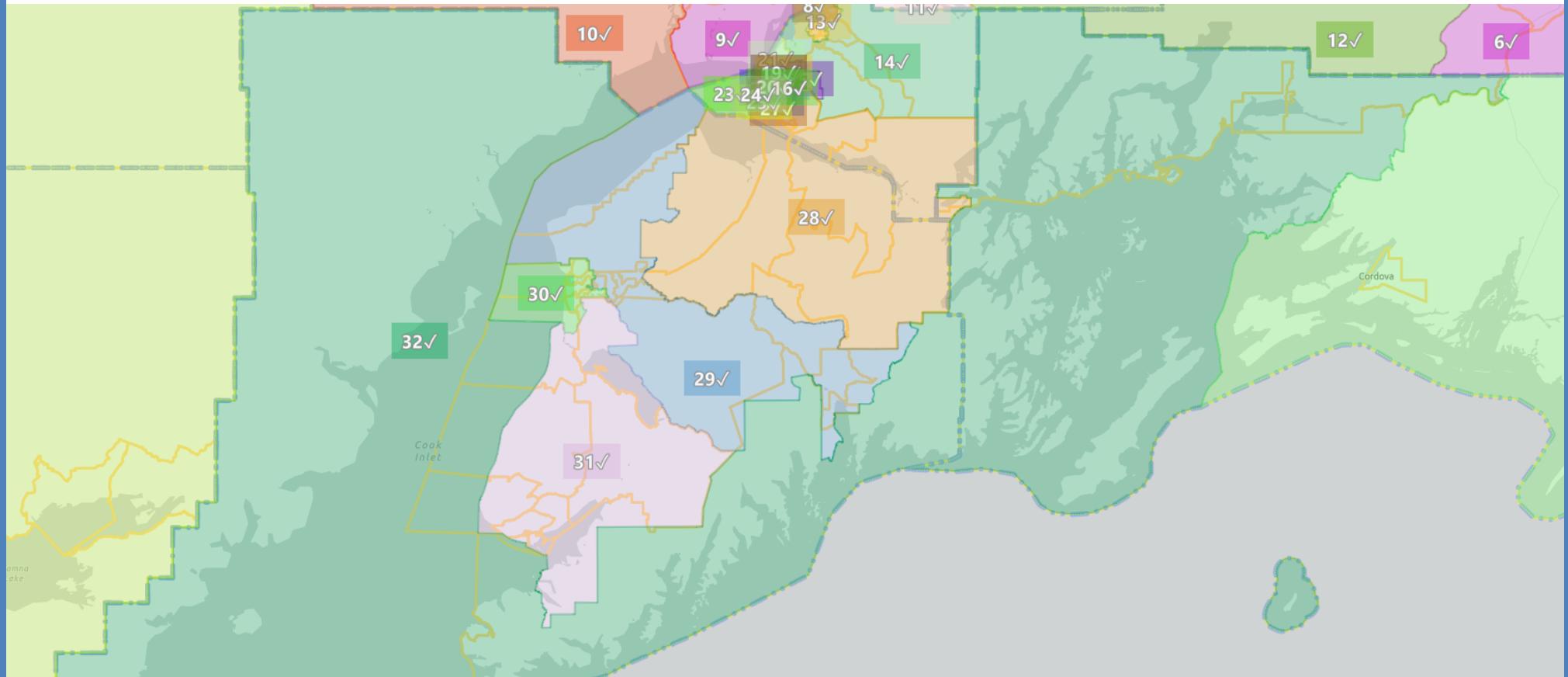


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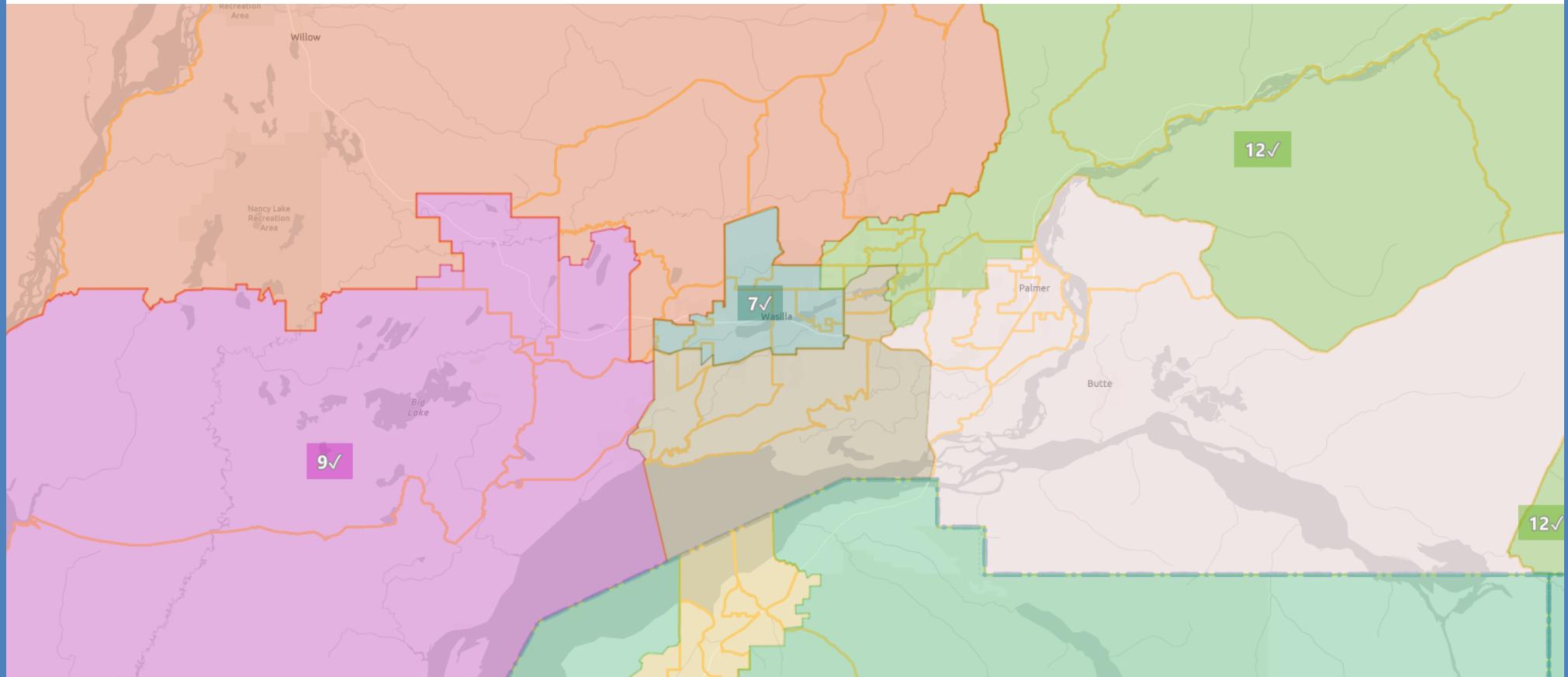


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Map Date: 10/27/2021 10:44:58 PM Last Edit: 10/27/2021 10:12:10 PM



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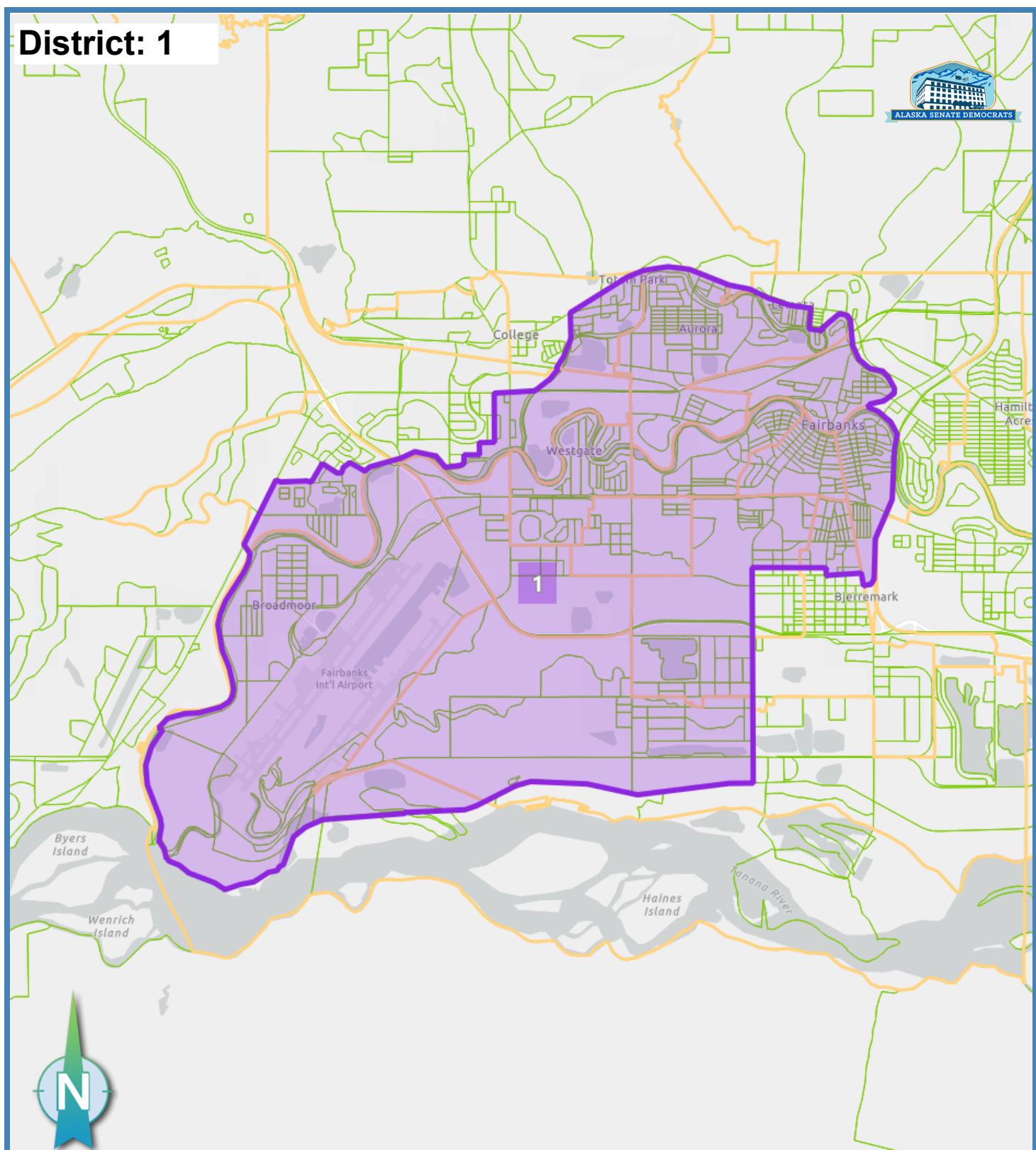
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Map Date: 10/27/2021 10:46:07 PM Last Edit: 10/27/2021 10:12:10 PM



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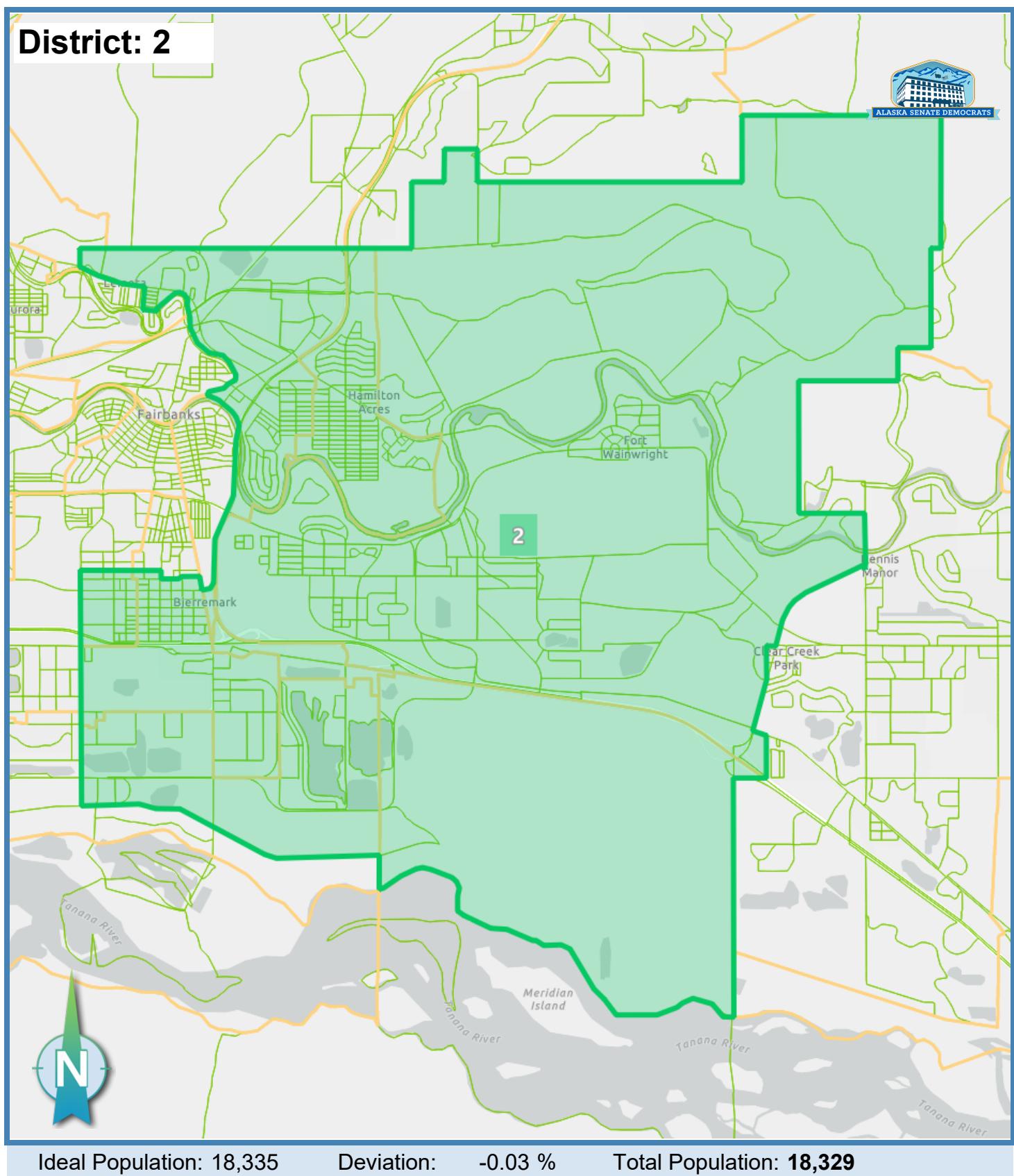
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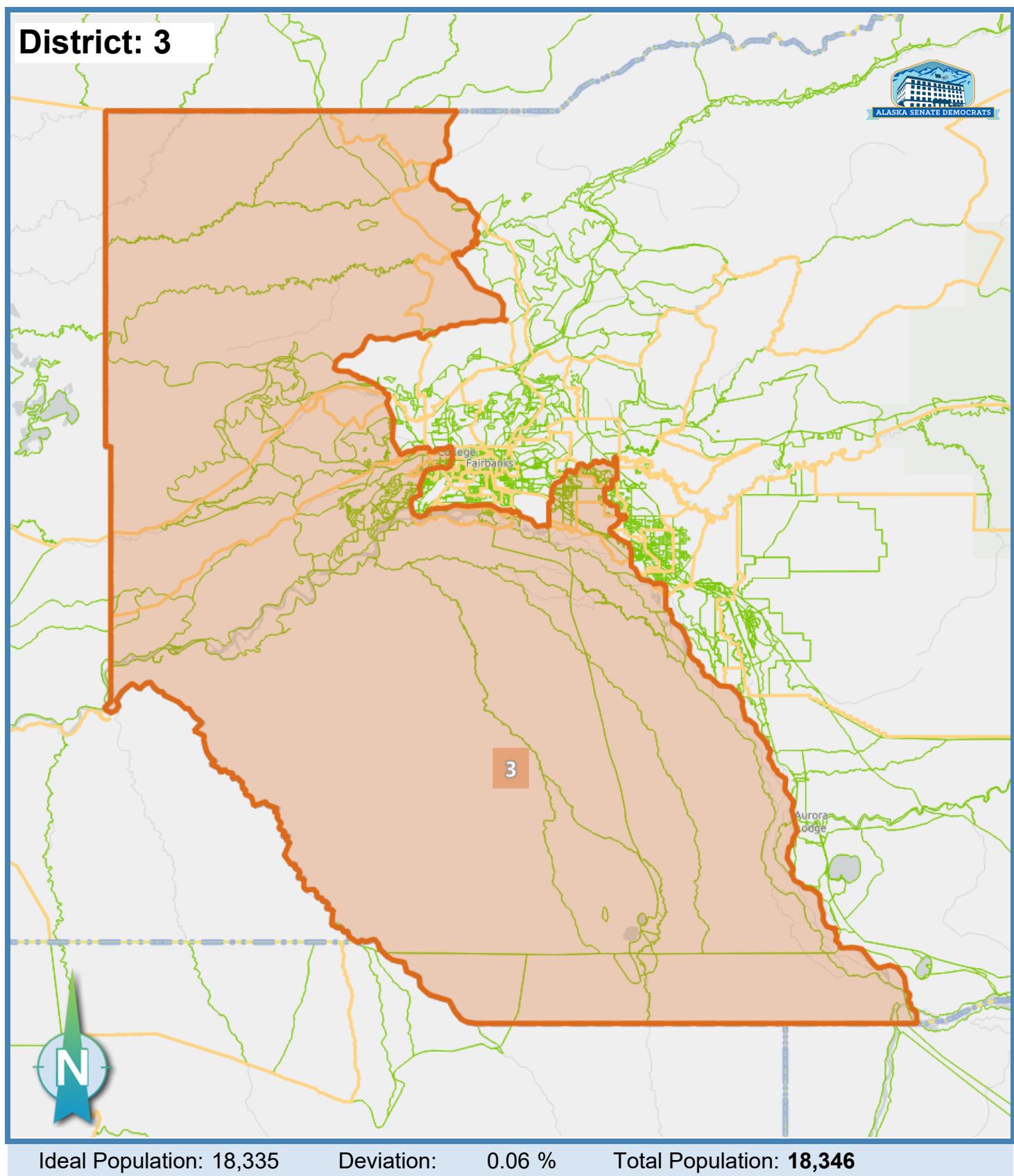


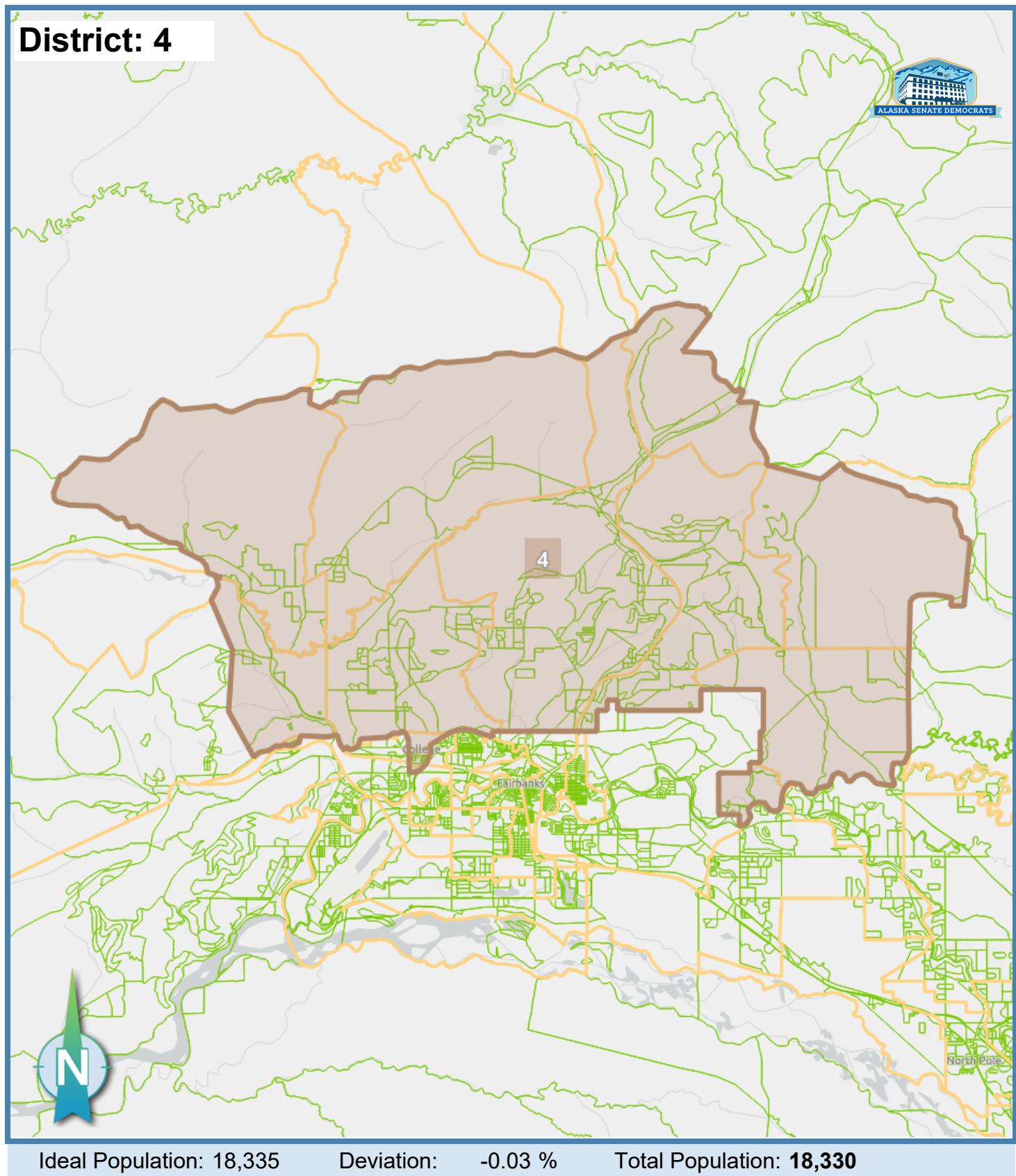
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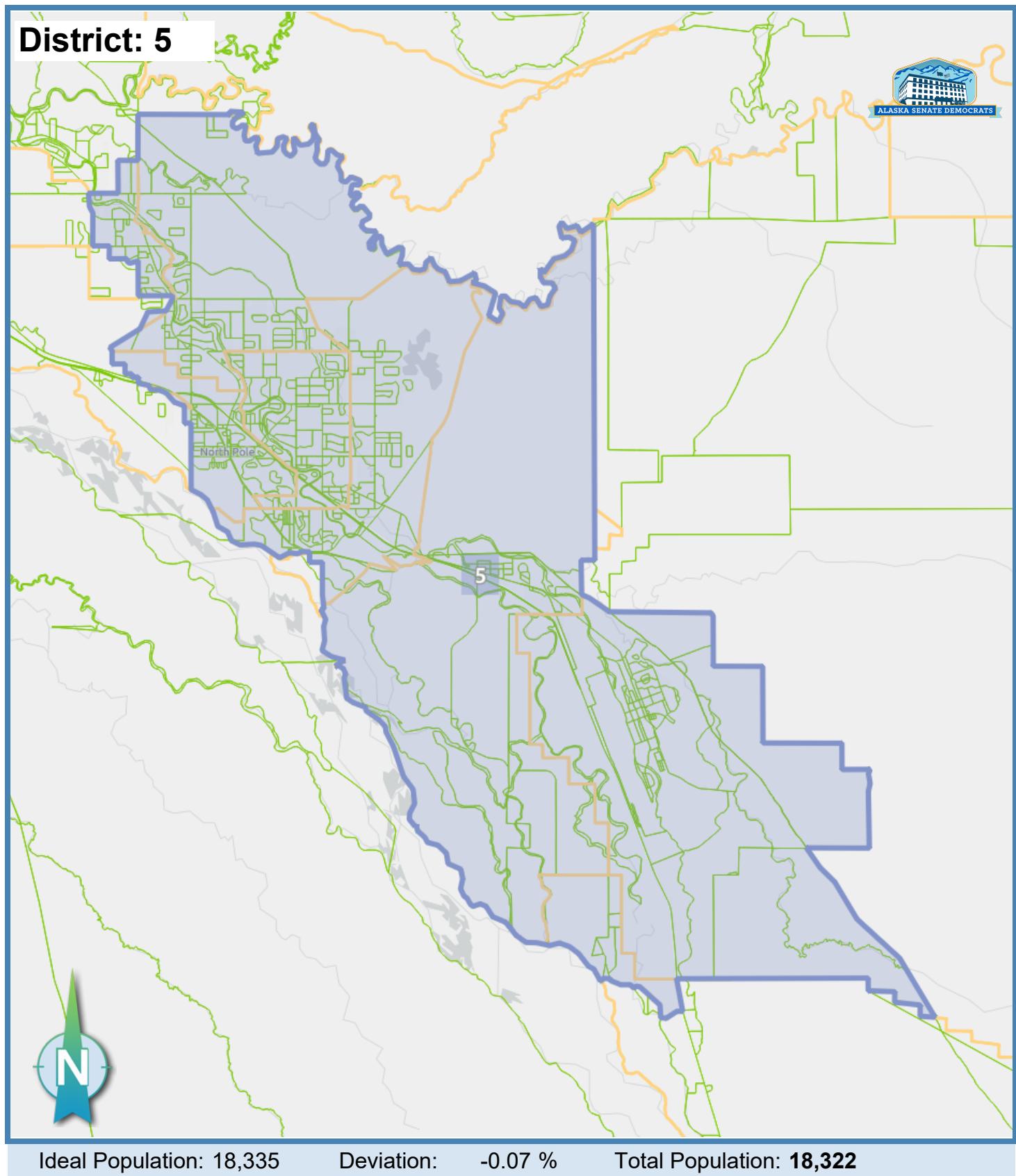
Deviation: -0.05 %

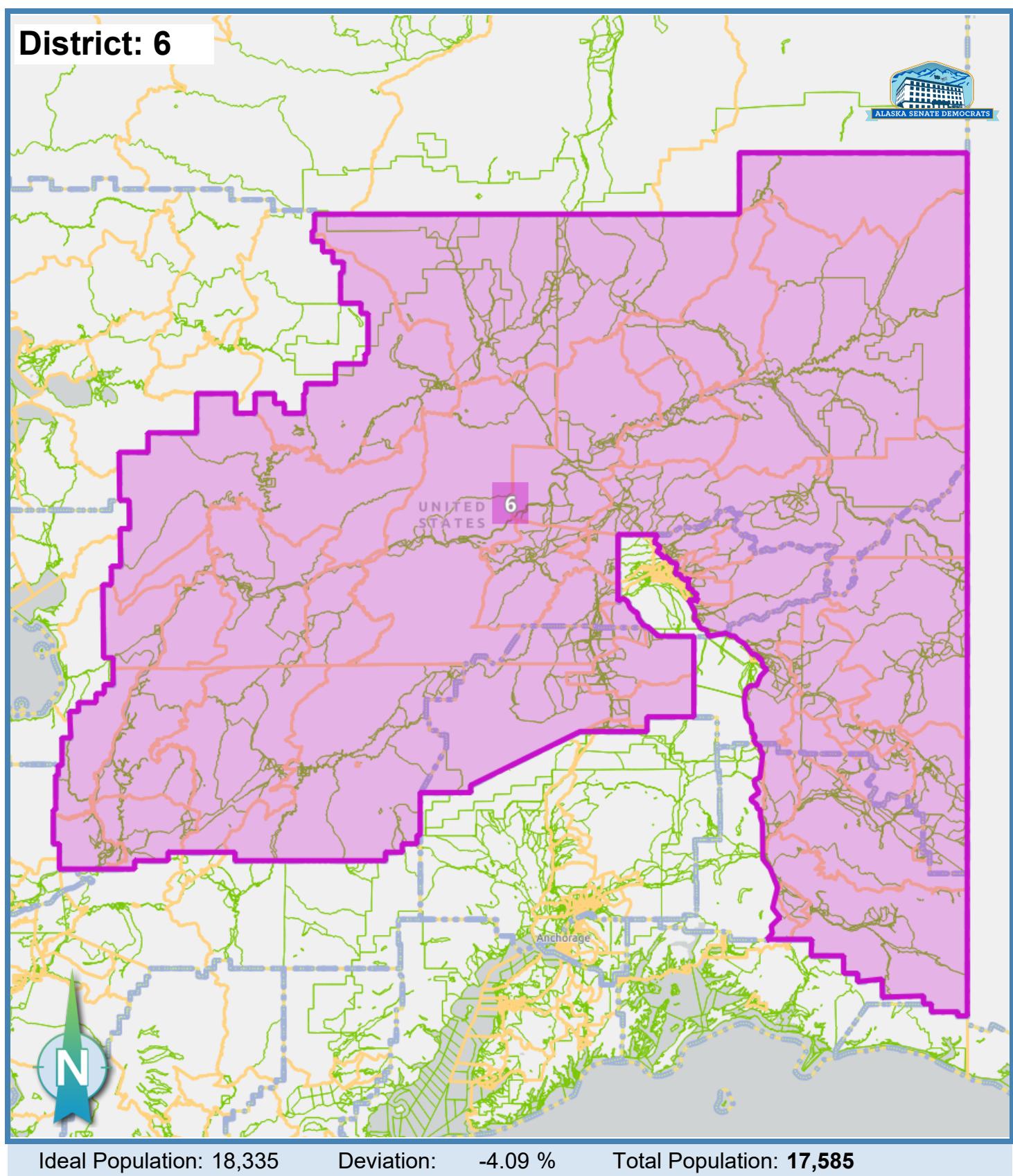
Total Population: 18,326

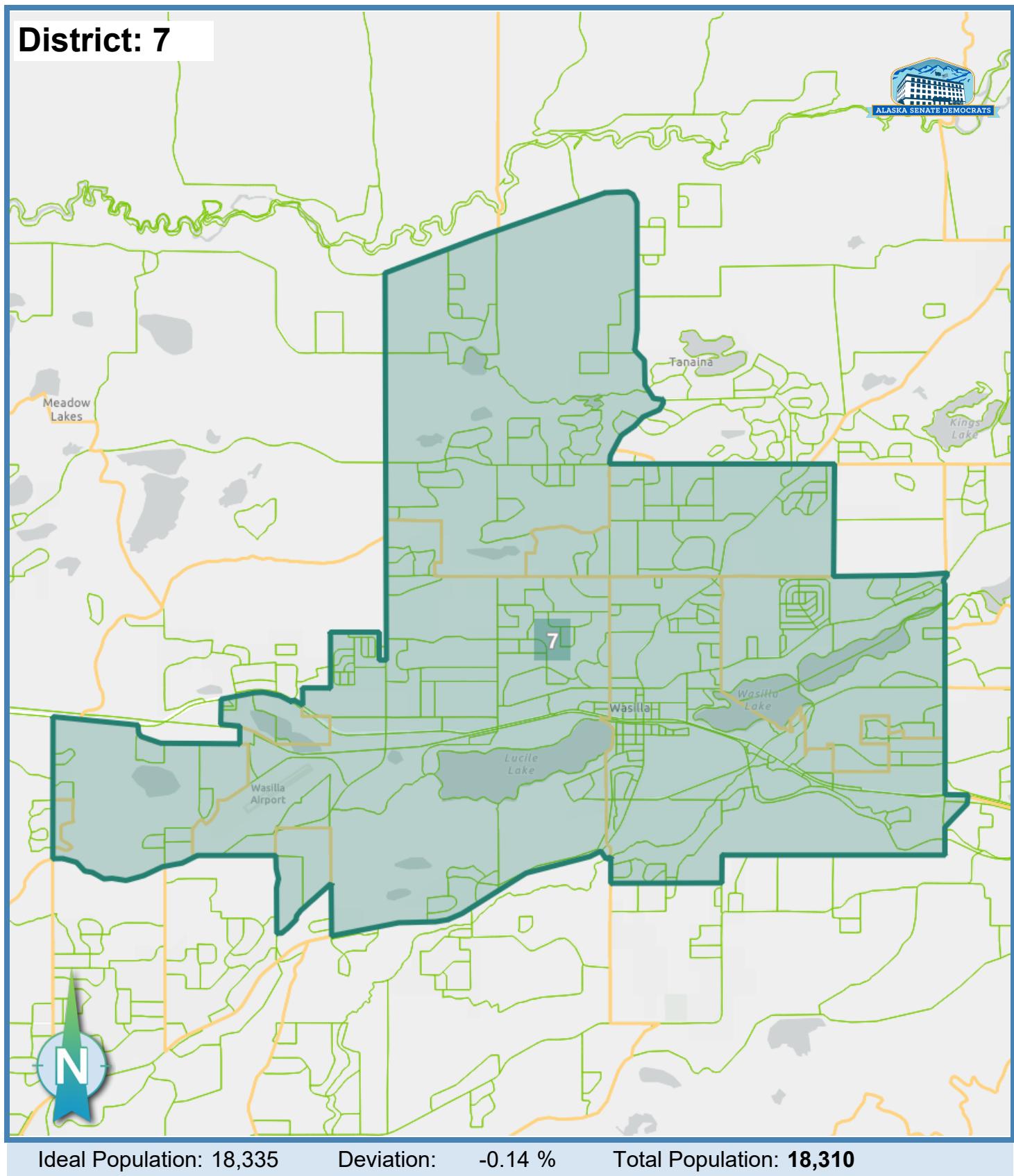


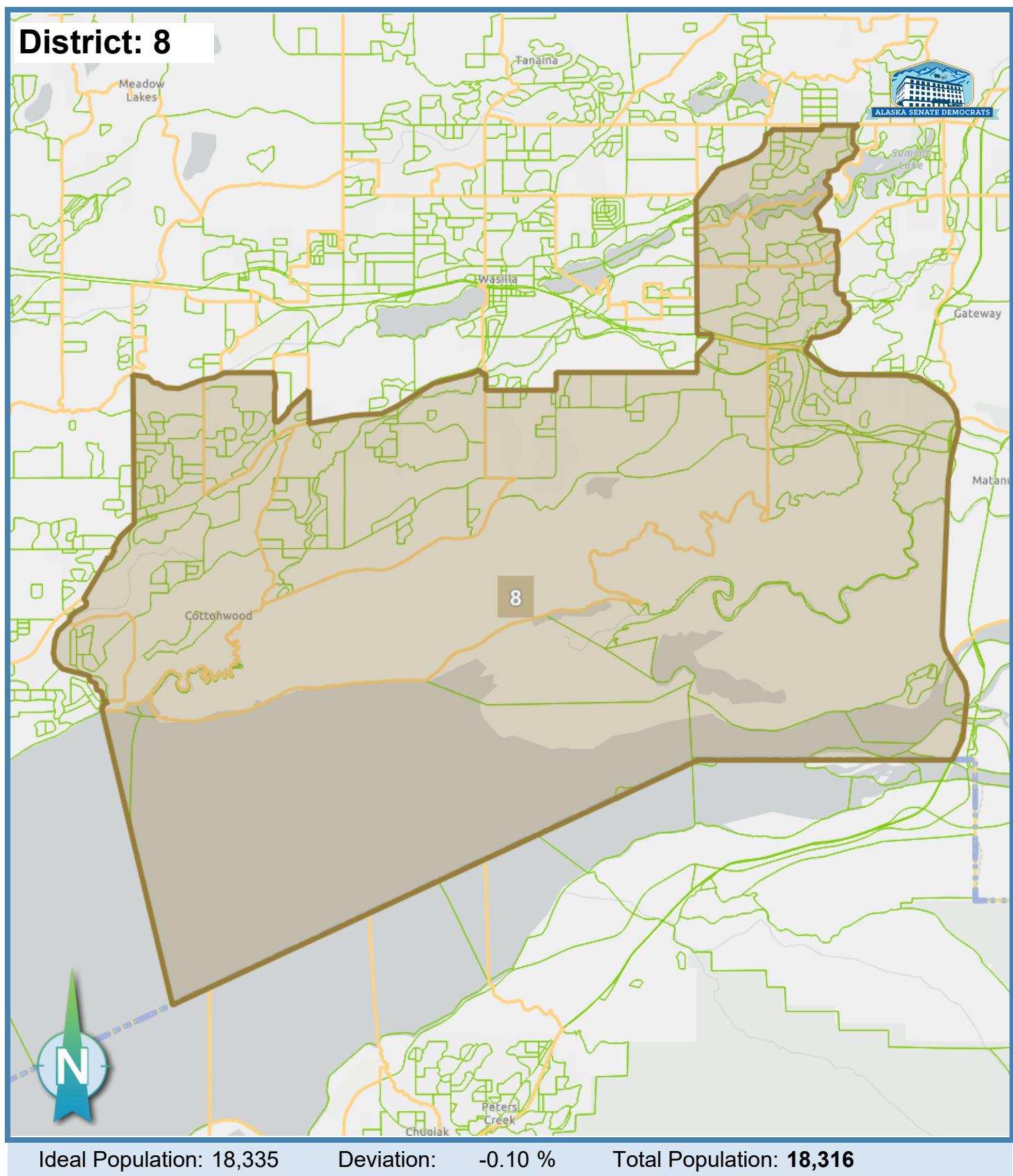


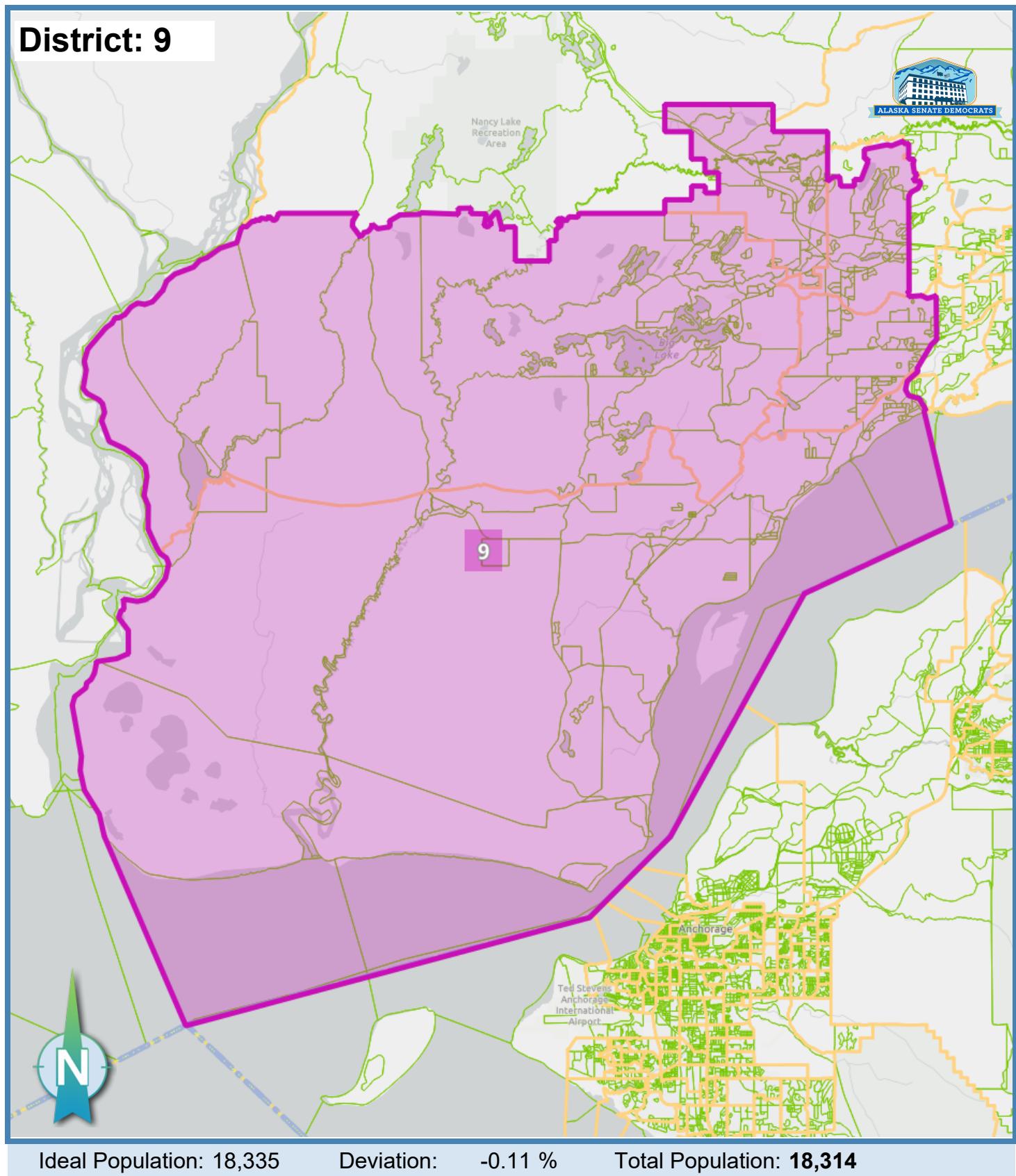


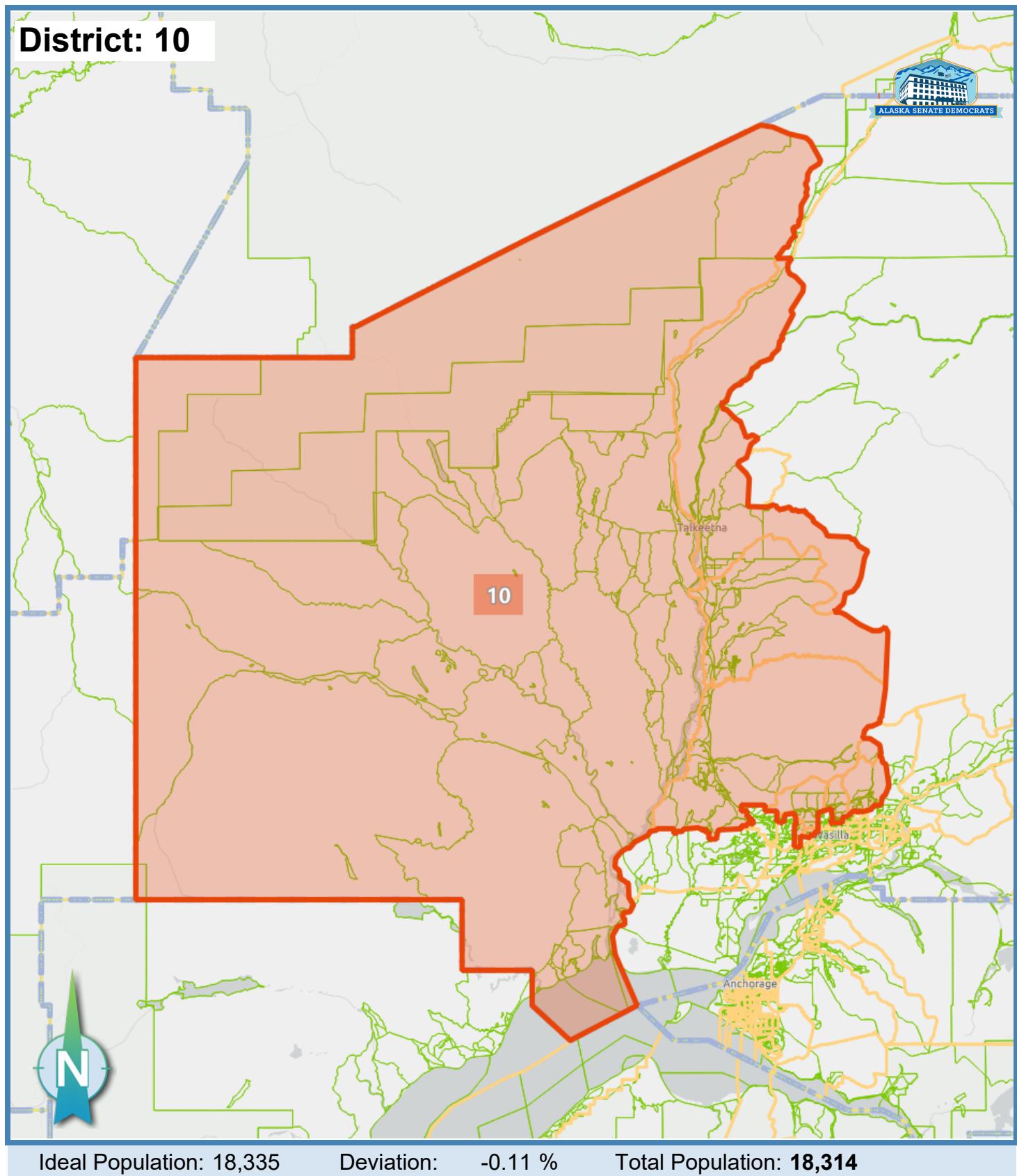


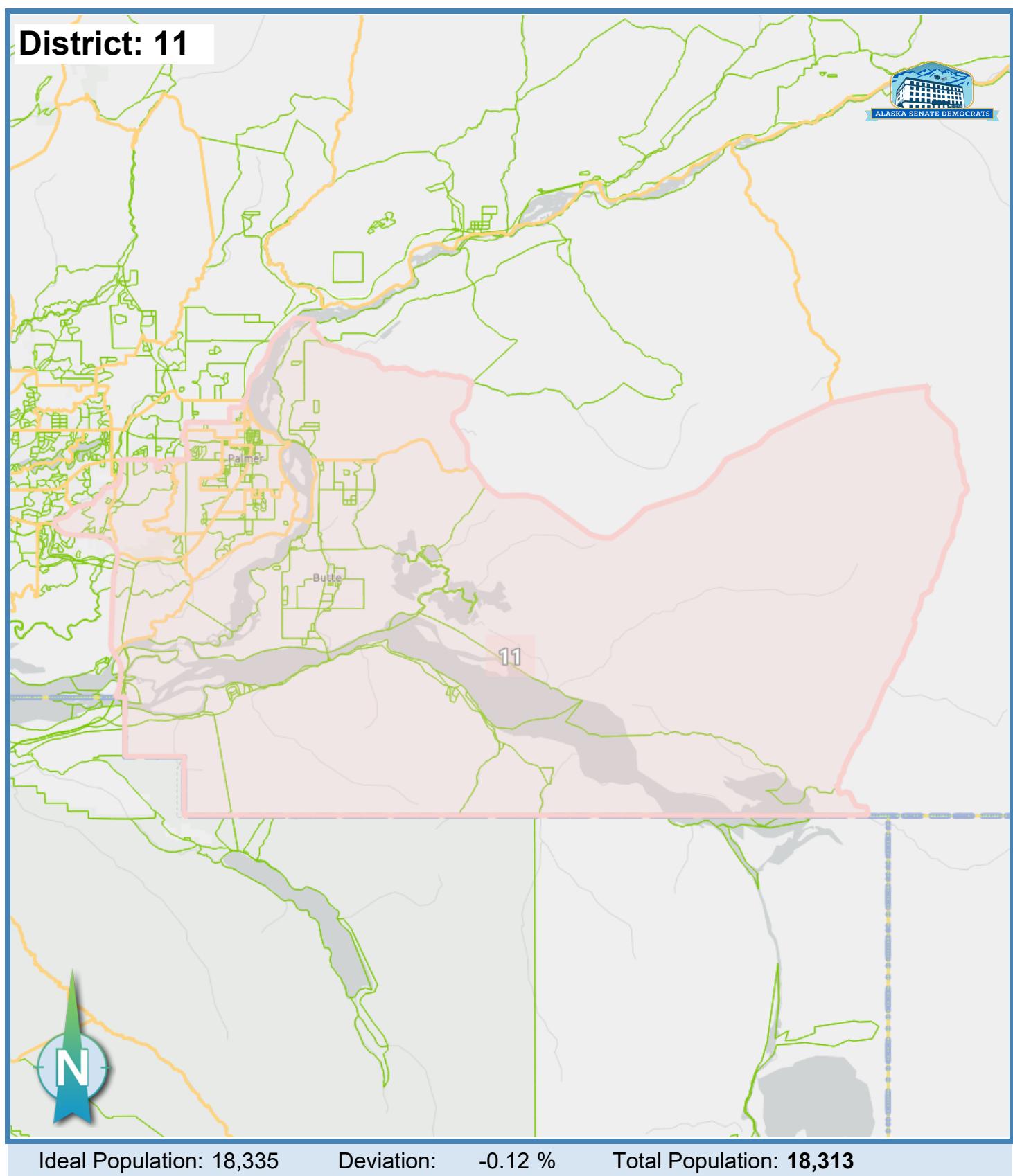


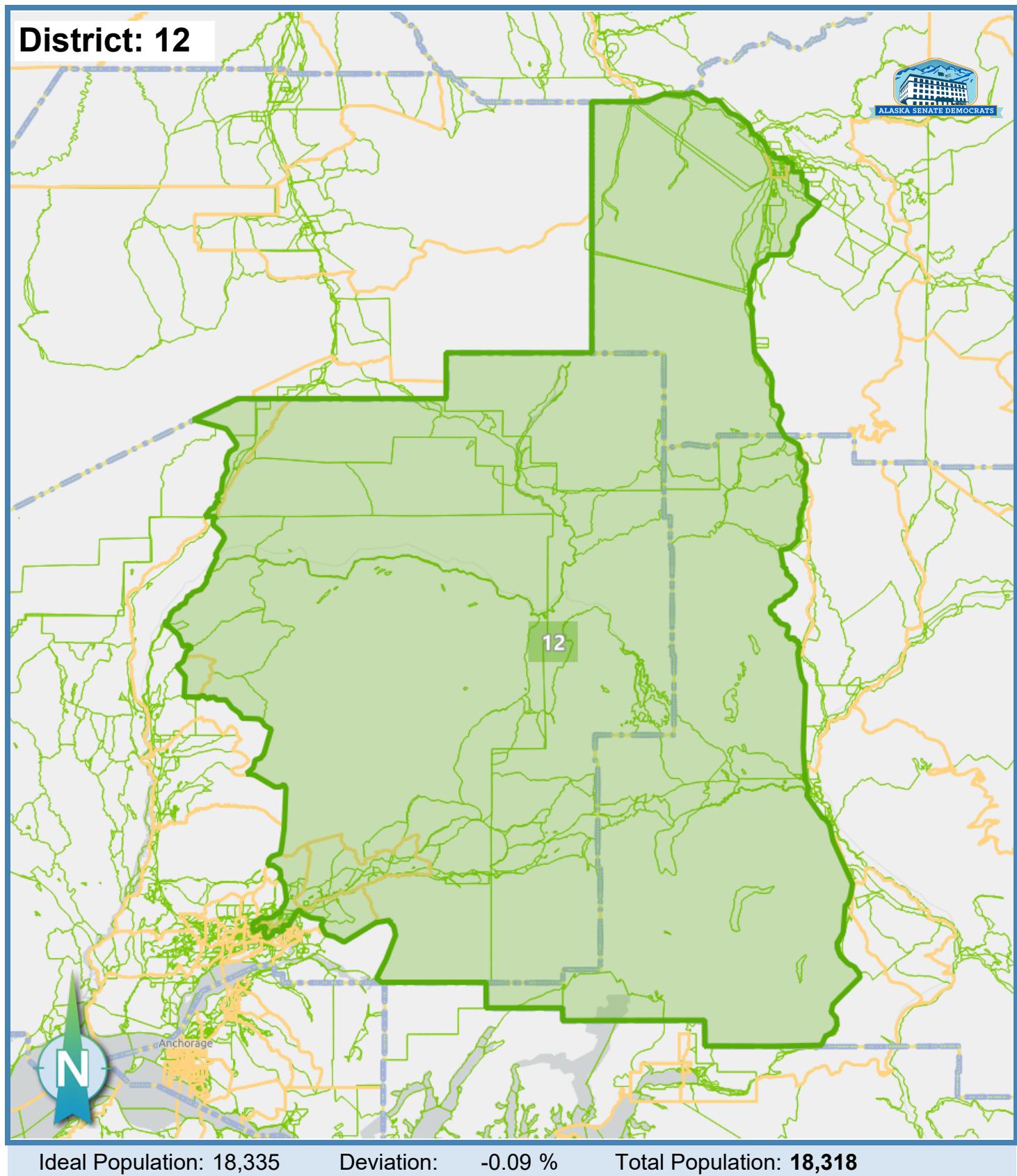
**District: 7**

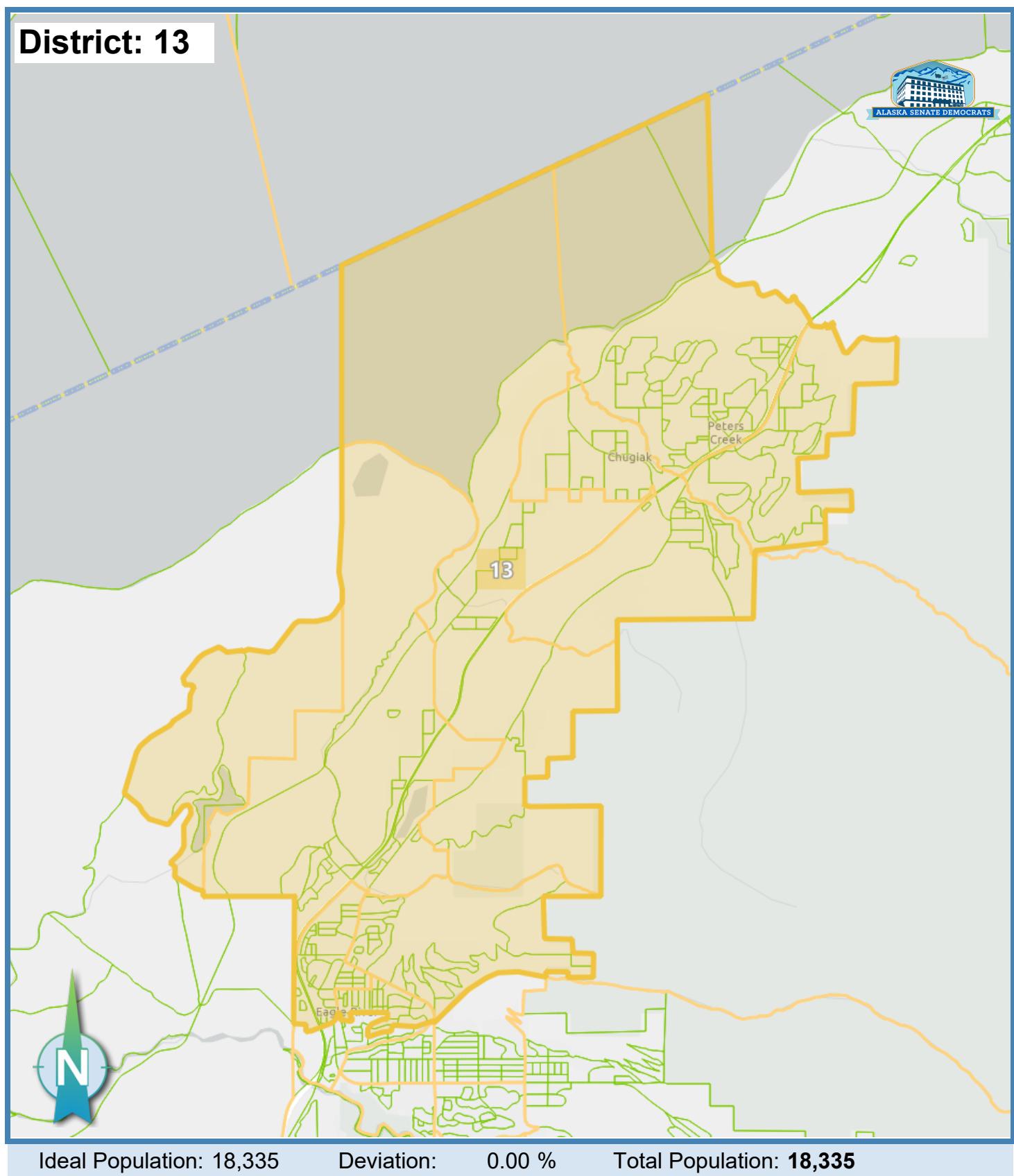


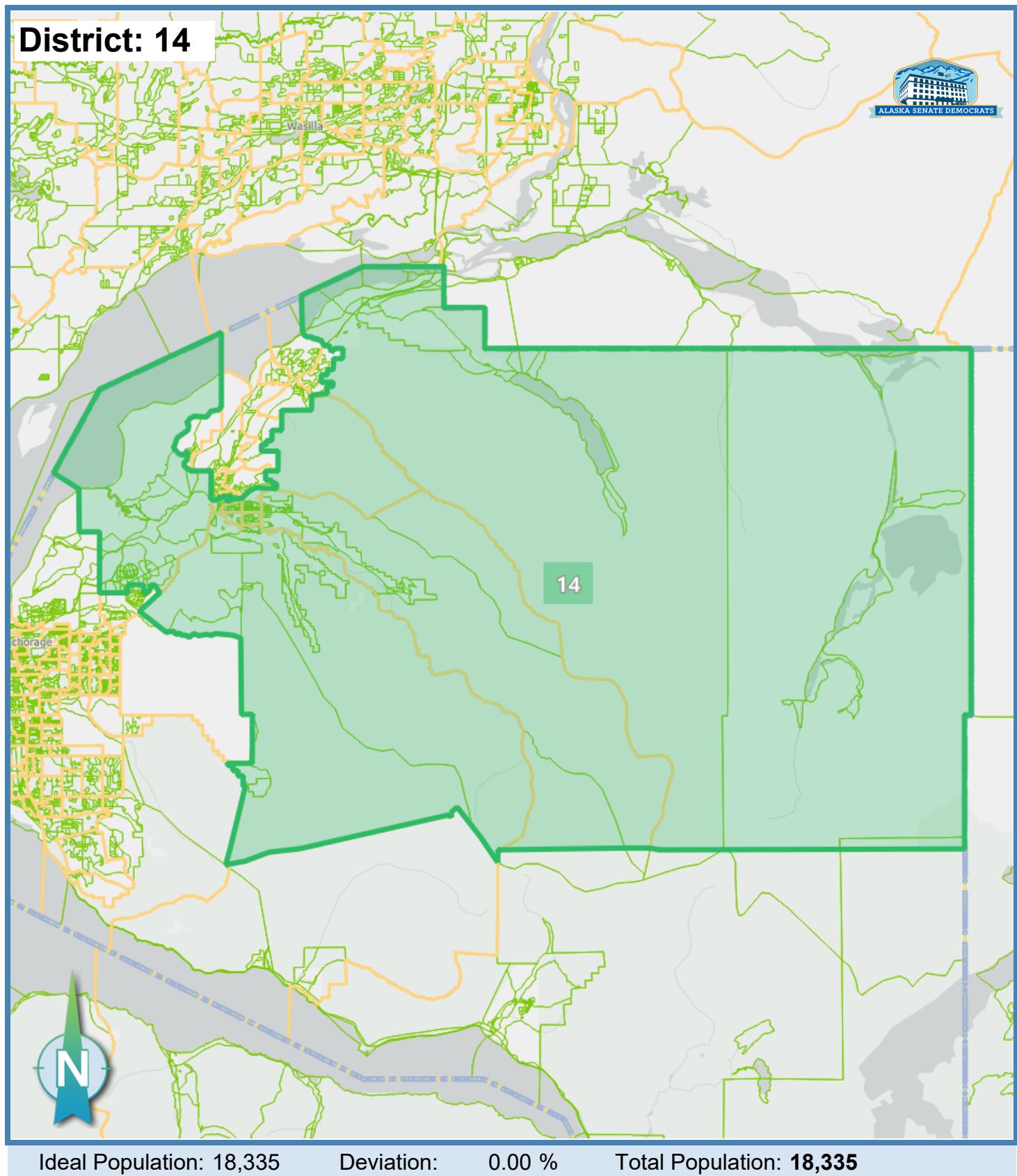


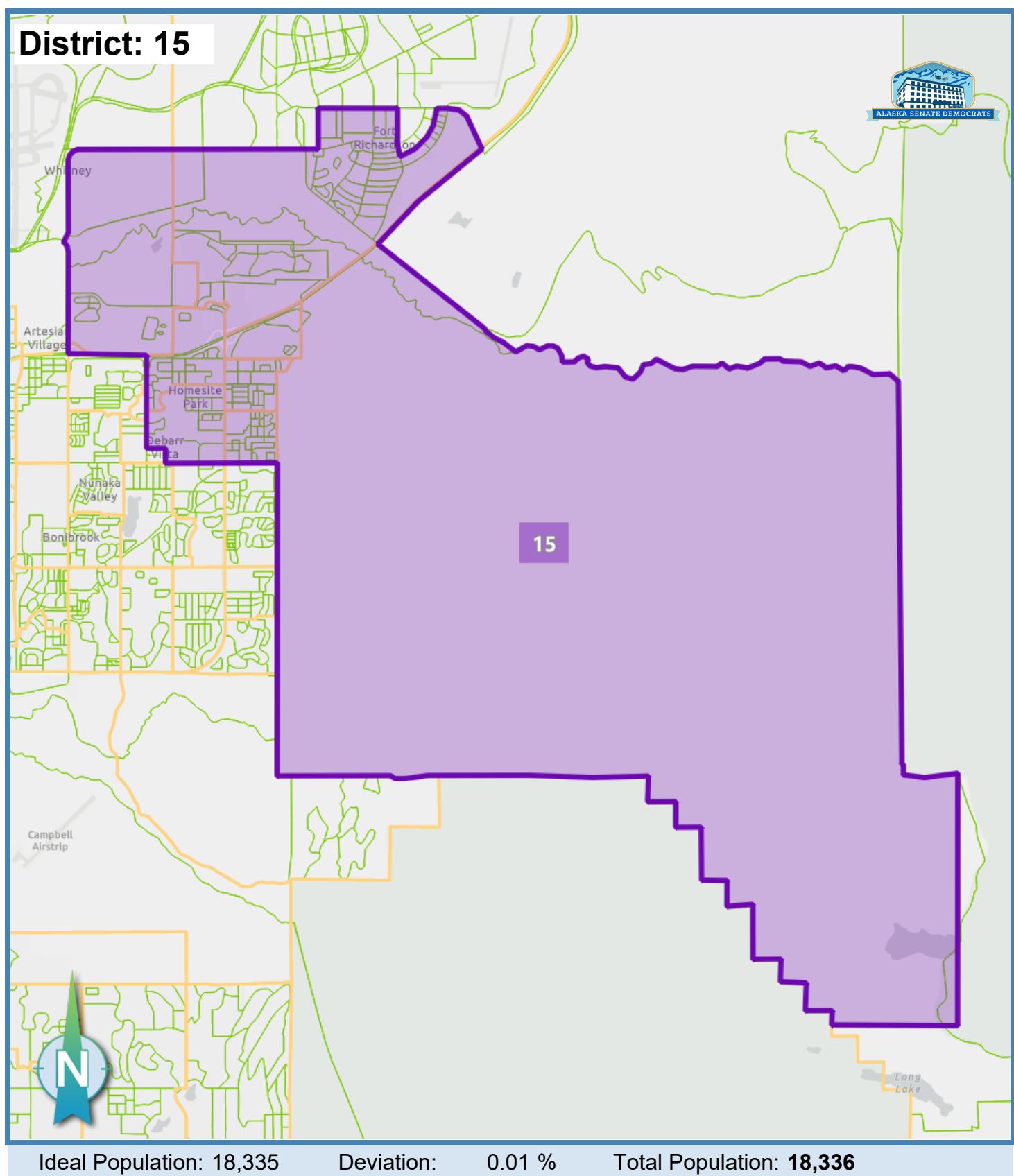


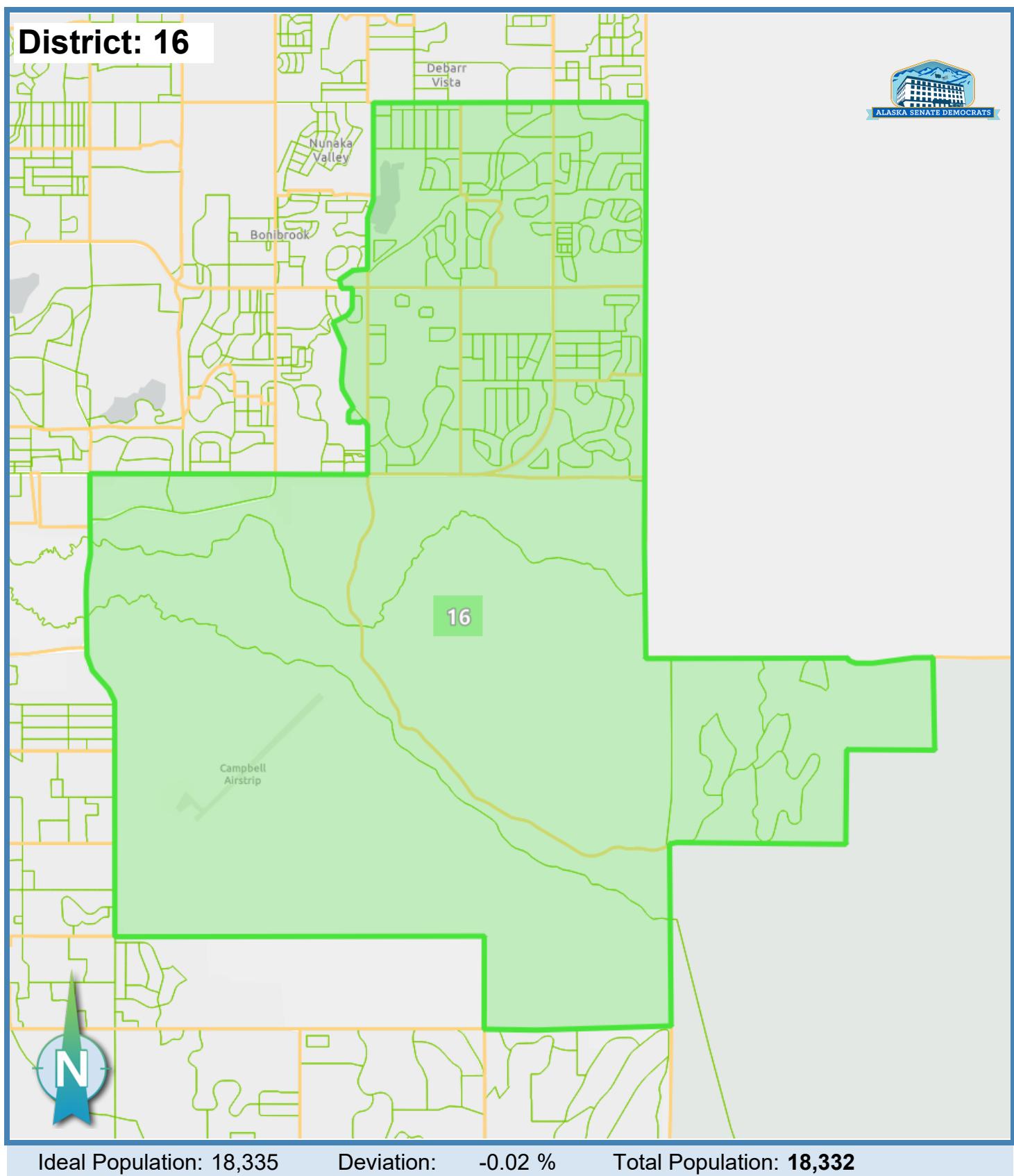


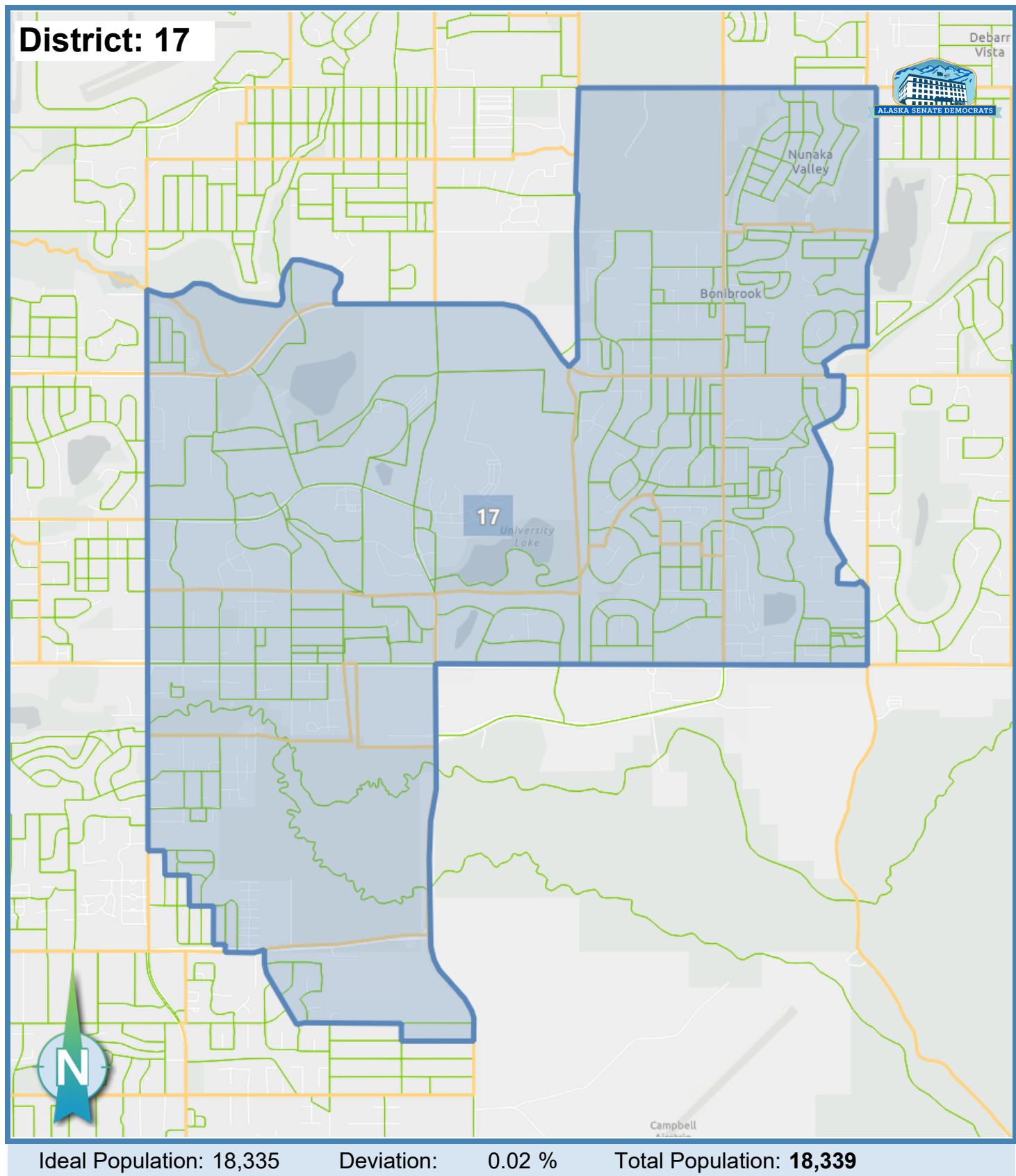


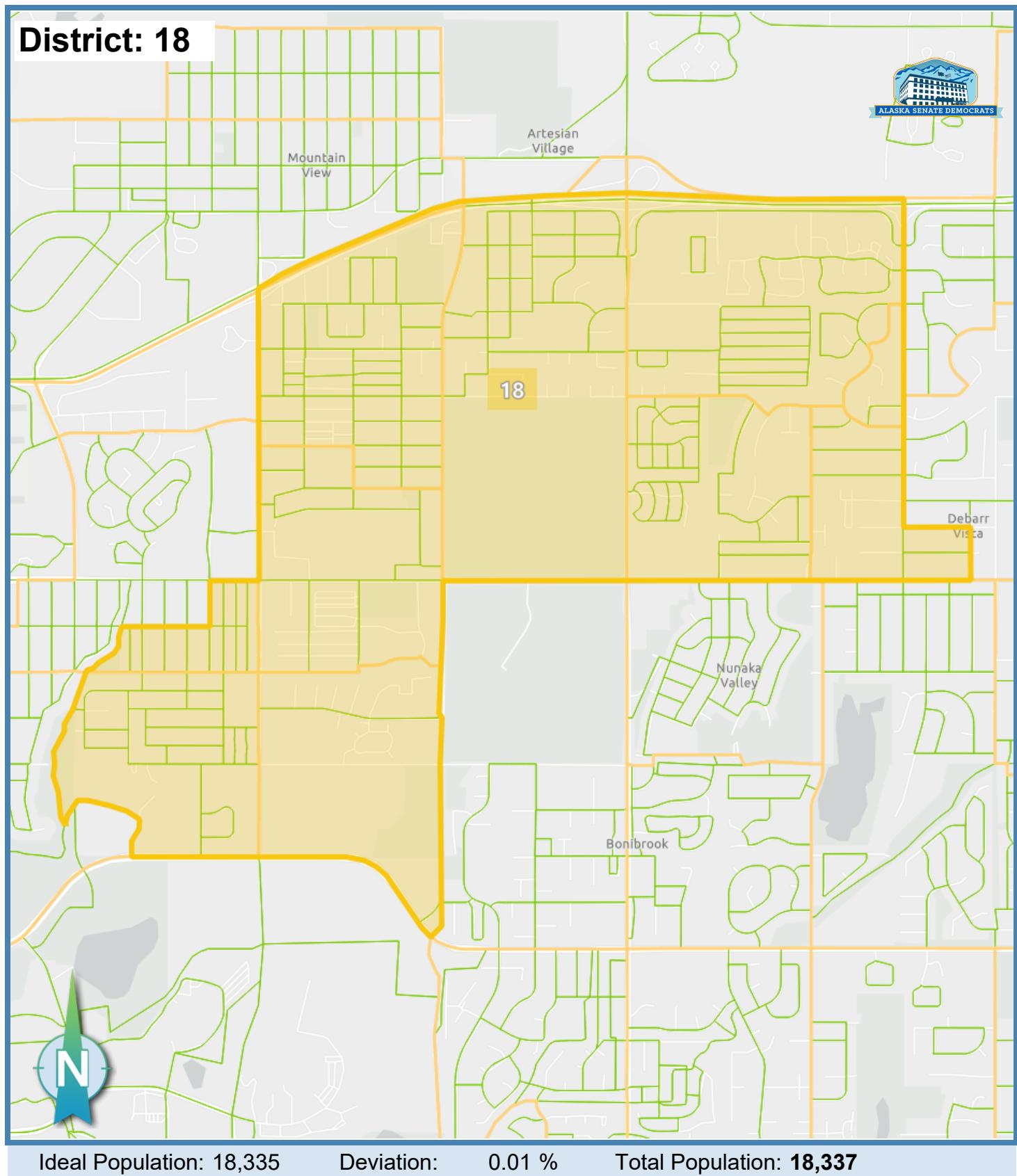


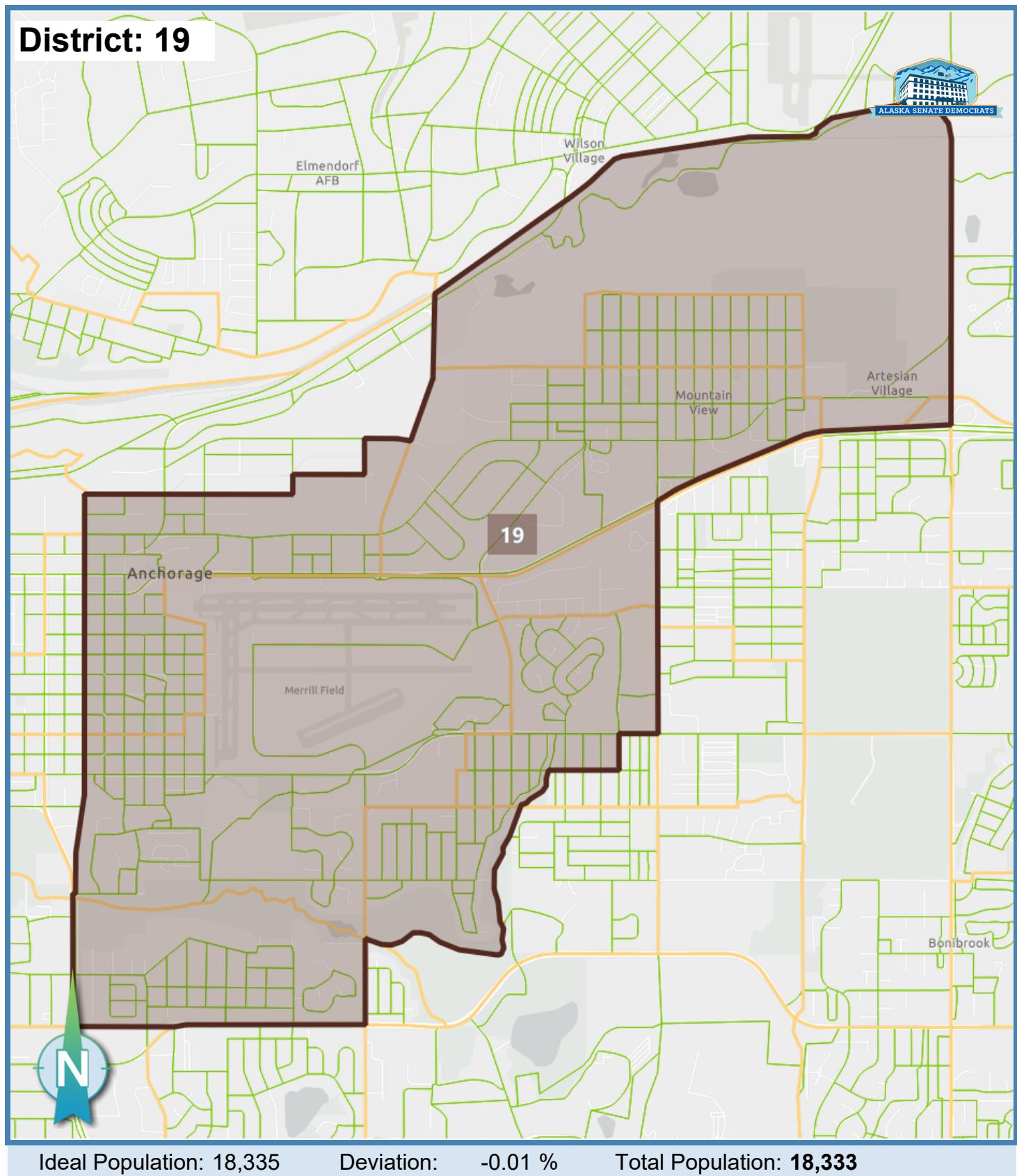


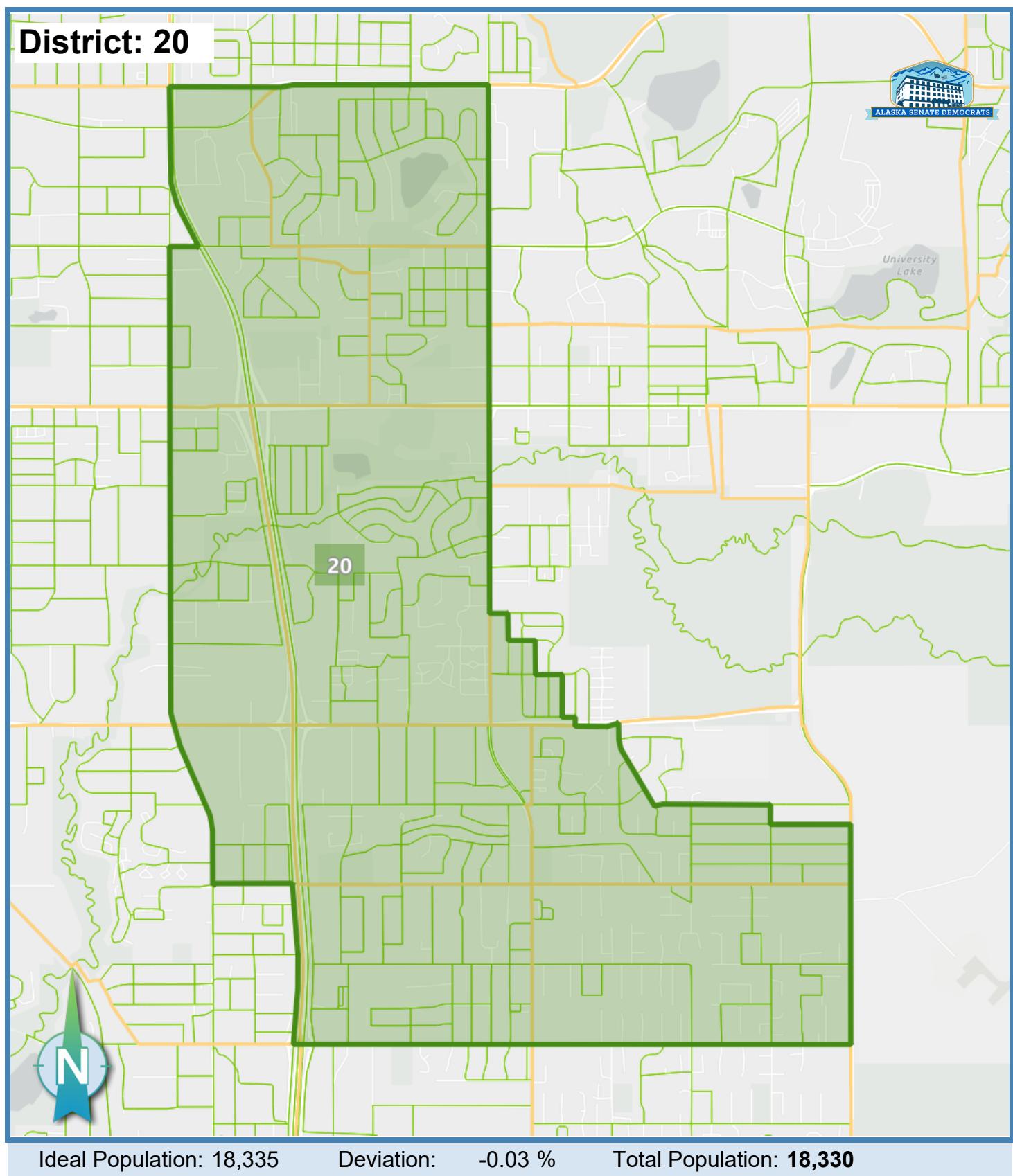


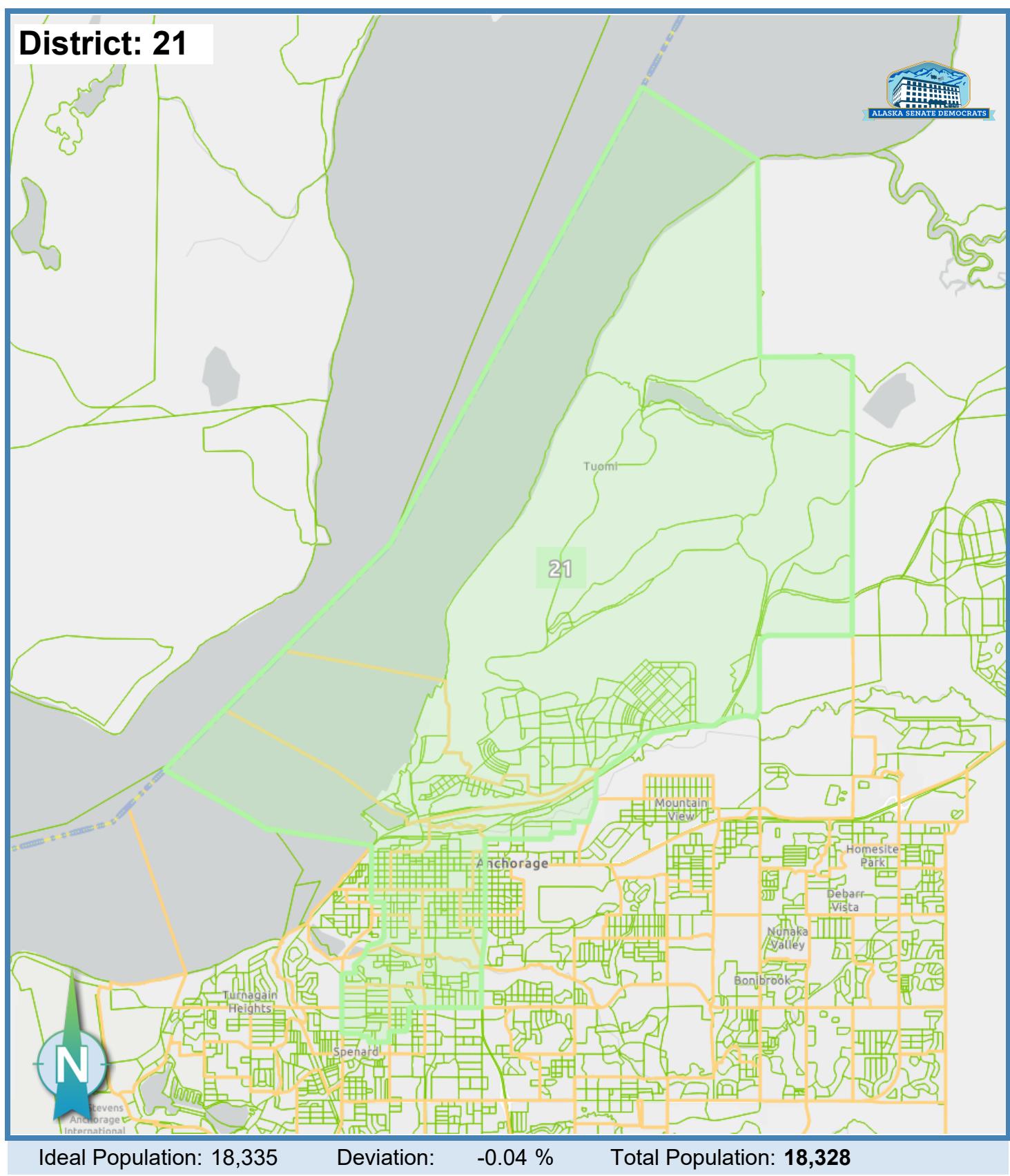


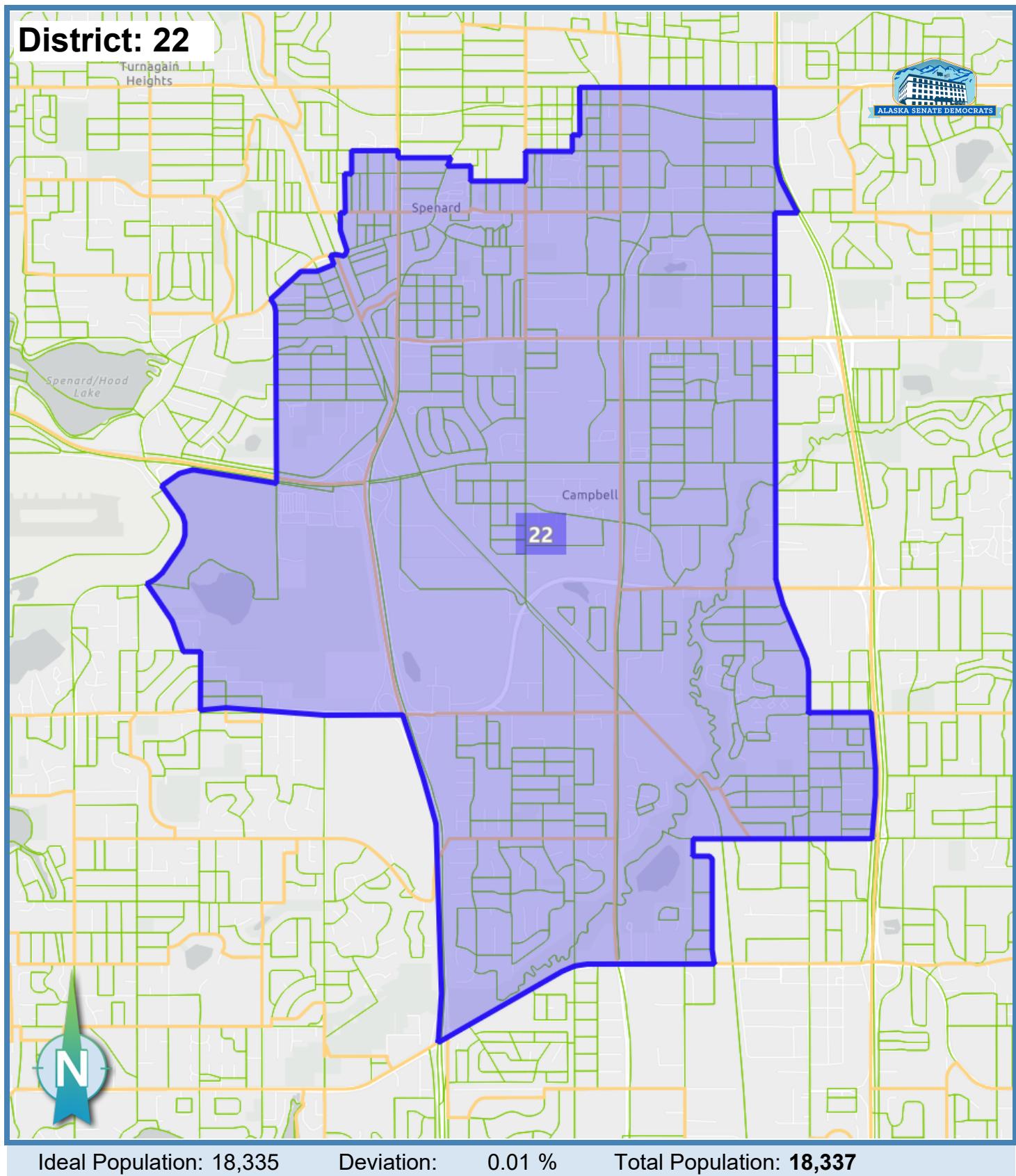


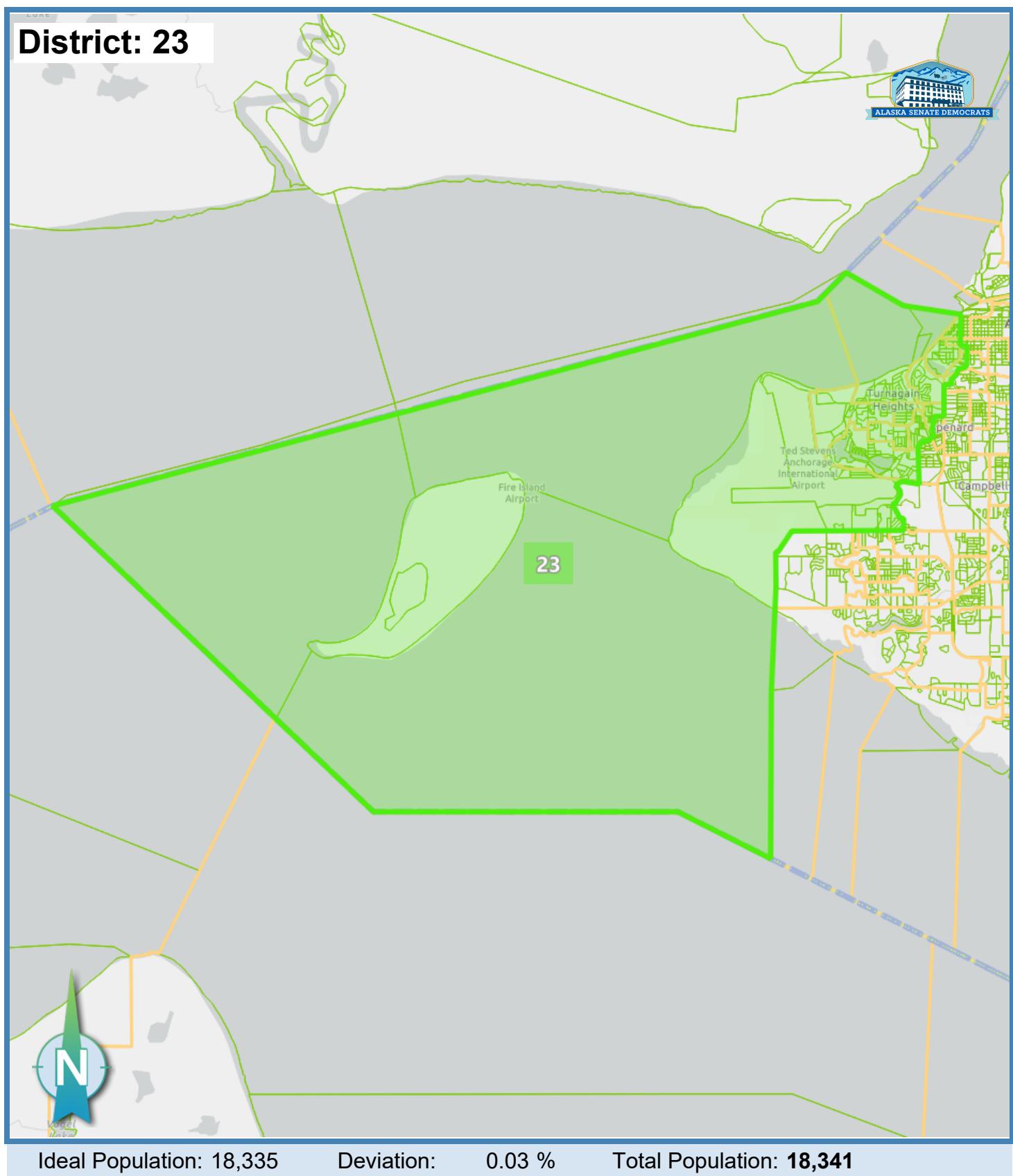












**District: 24**Stevens  
Municipal  
AirportSpencer/Hood  
Lake

24

Sand Lake

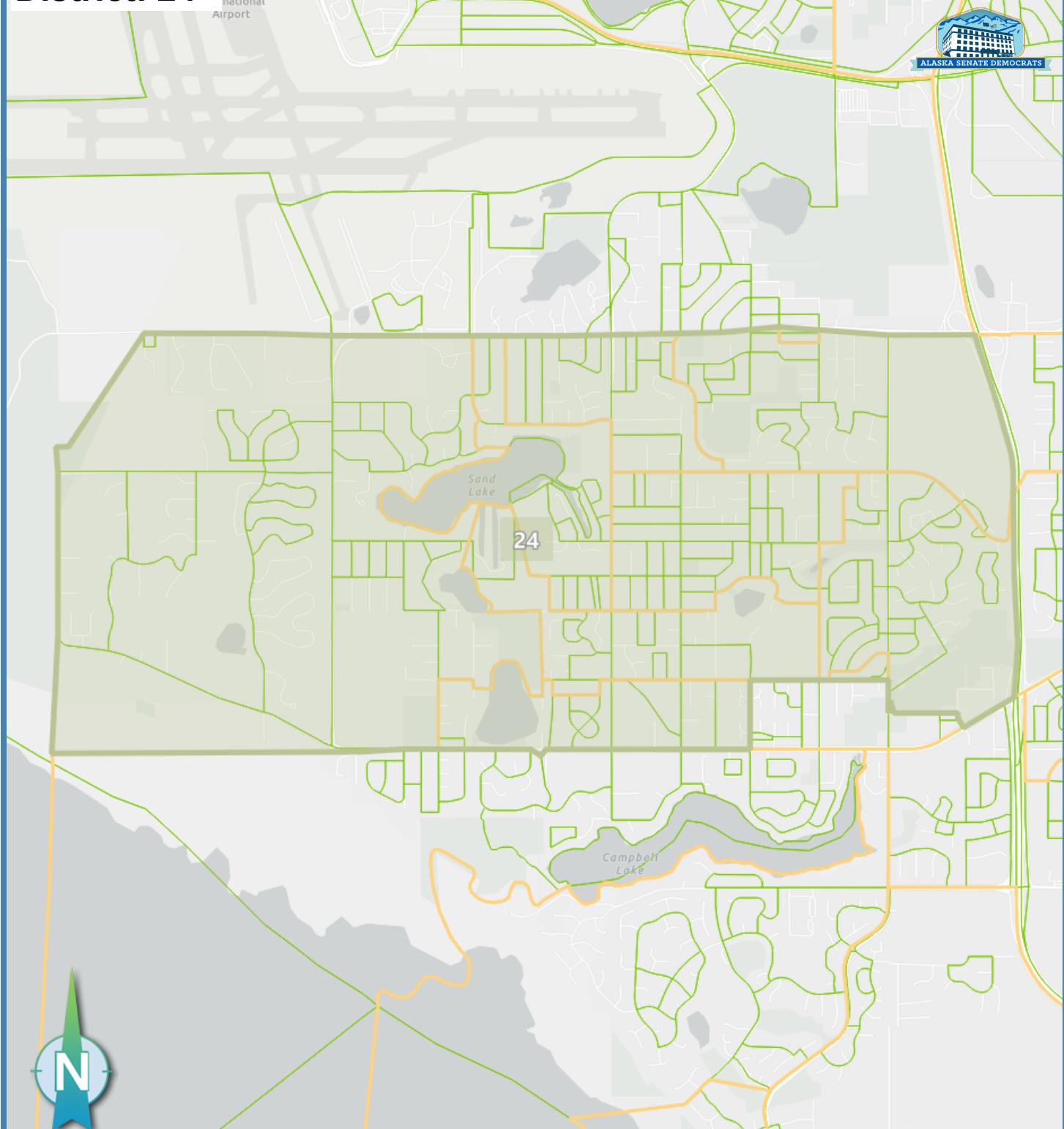
Campbell  
Lake

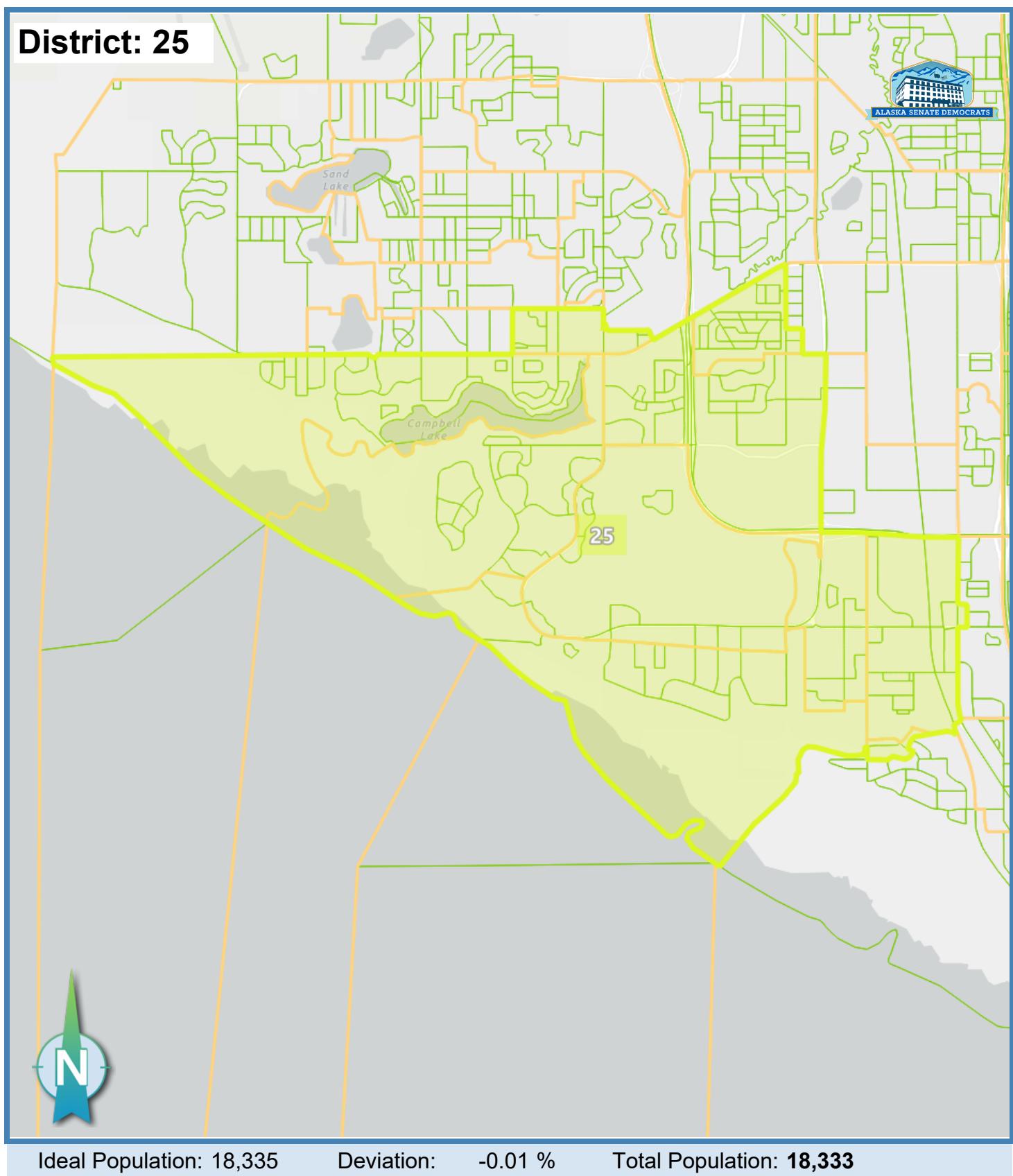
Ideal Population: 18,335

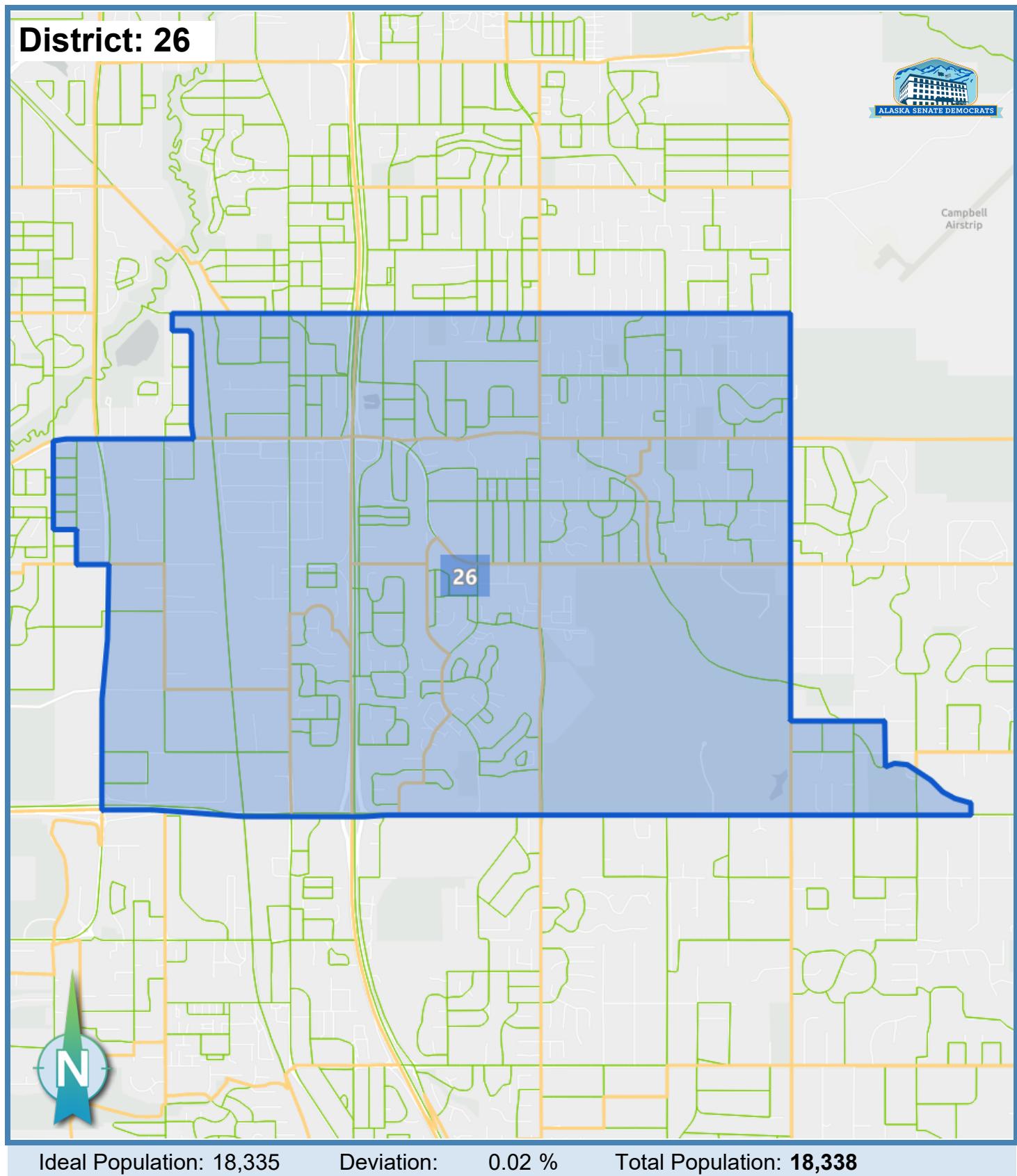
Deviation:

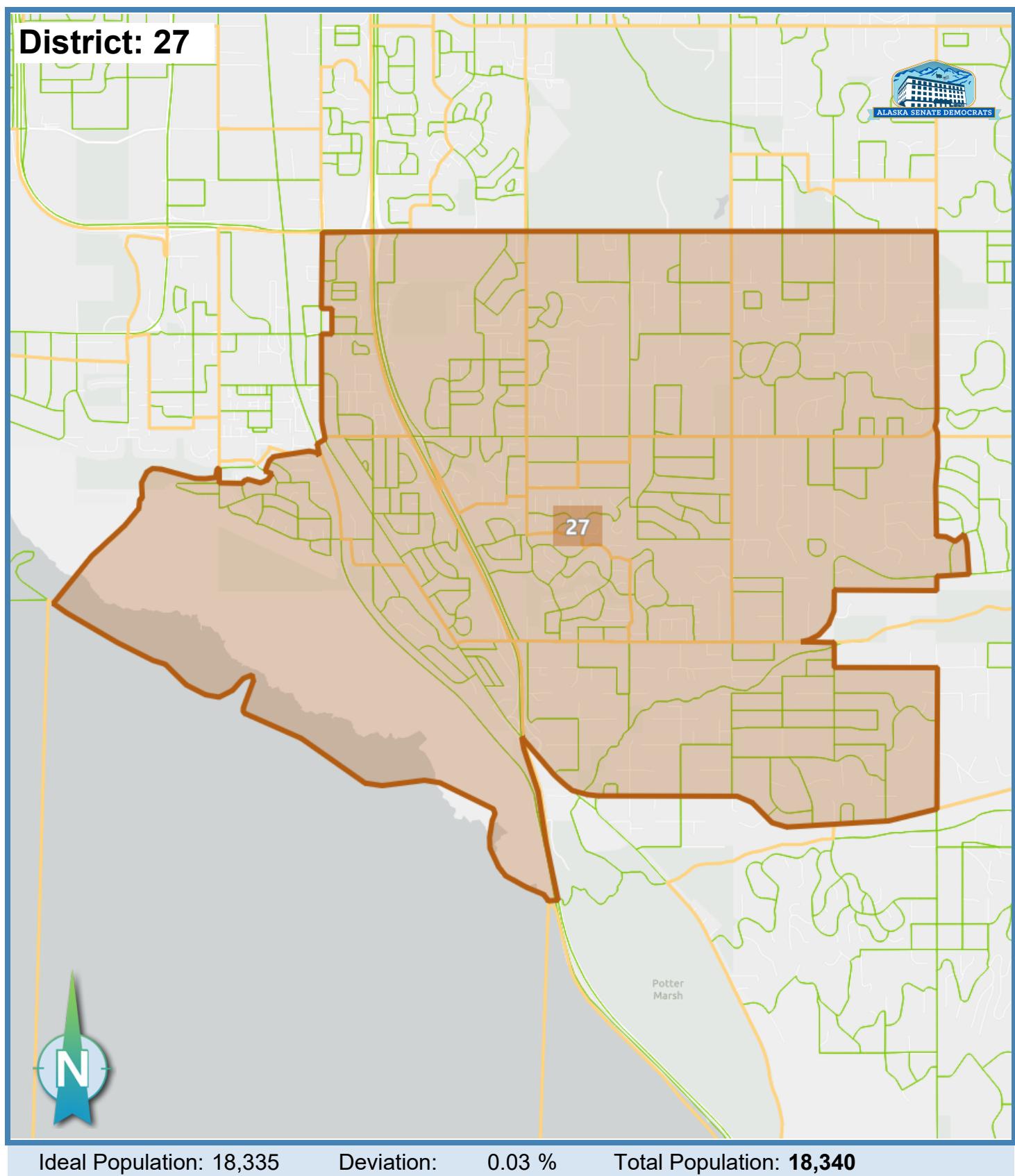
0.05 %

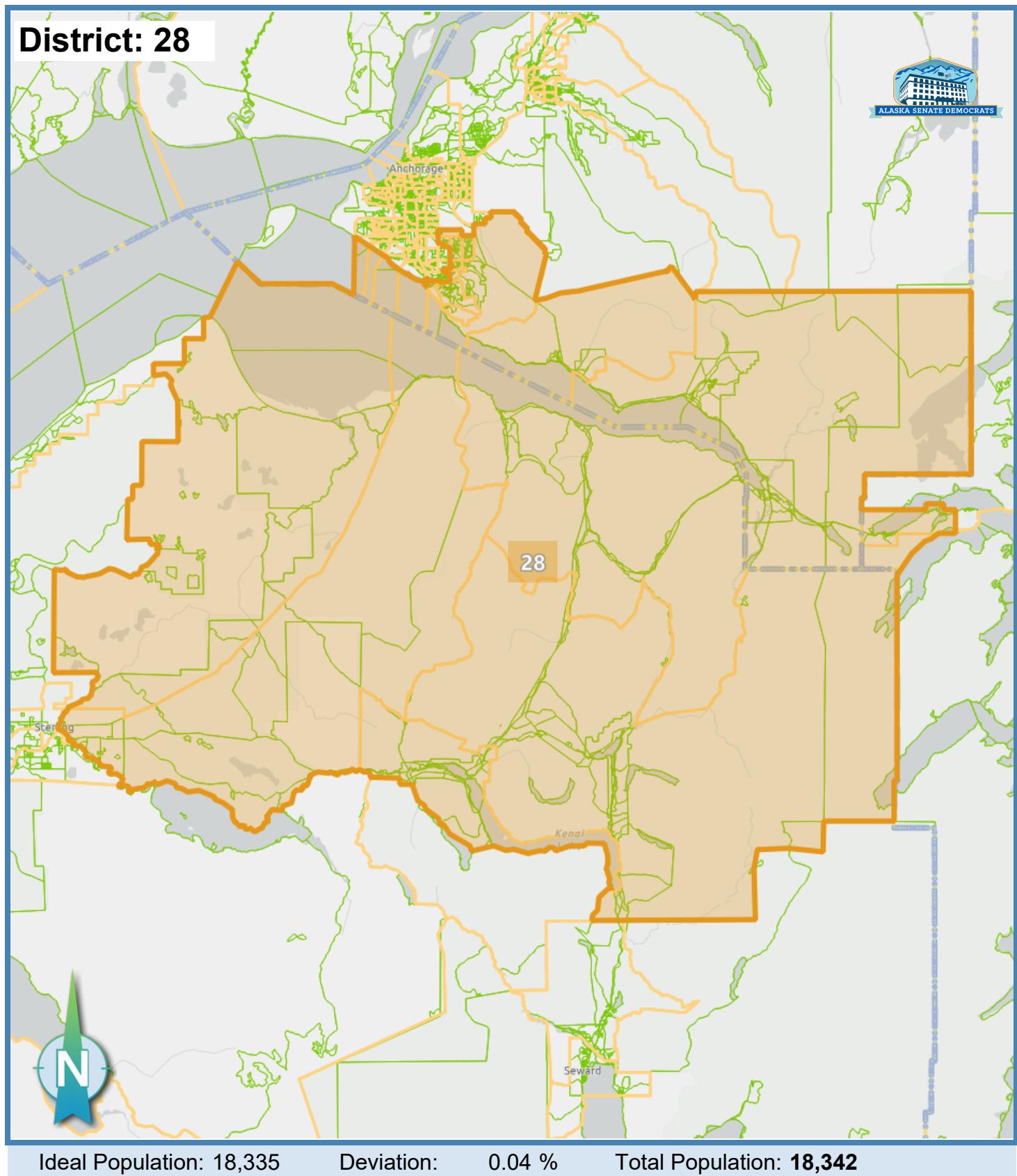
Total Population: 18,344

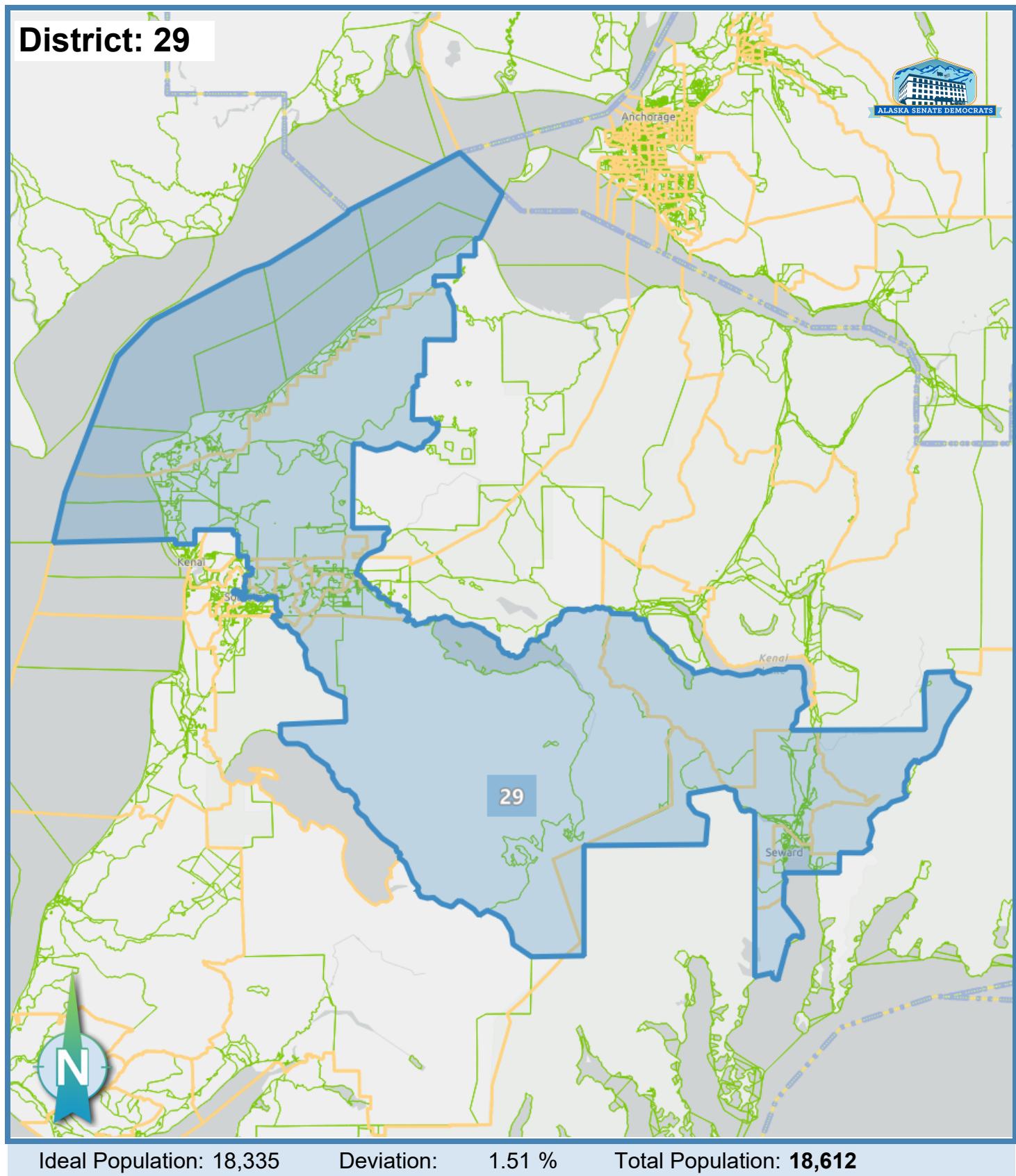












**District: 30**

30

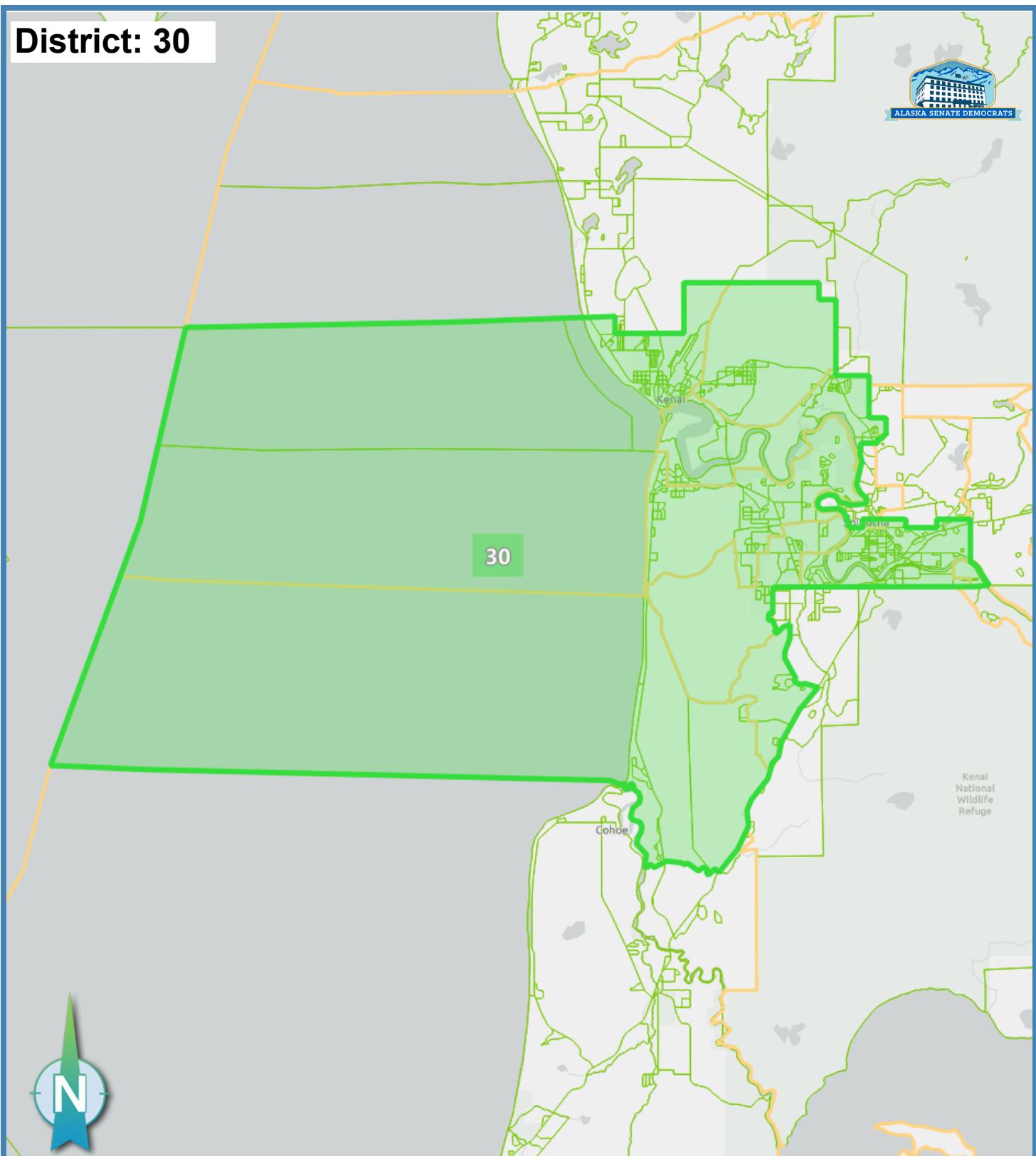
Kenai  
National  
Wildlife  
Refuge

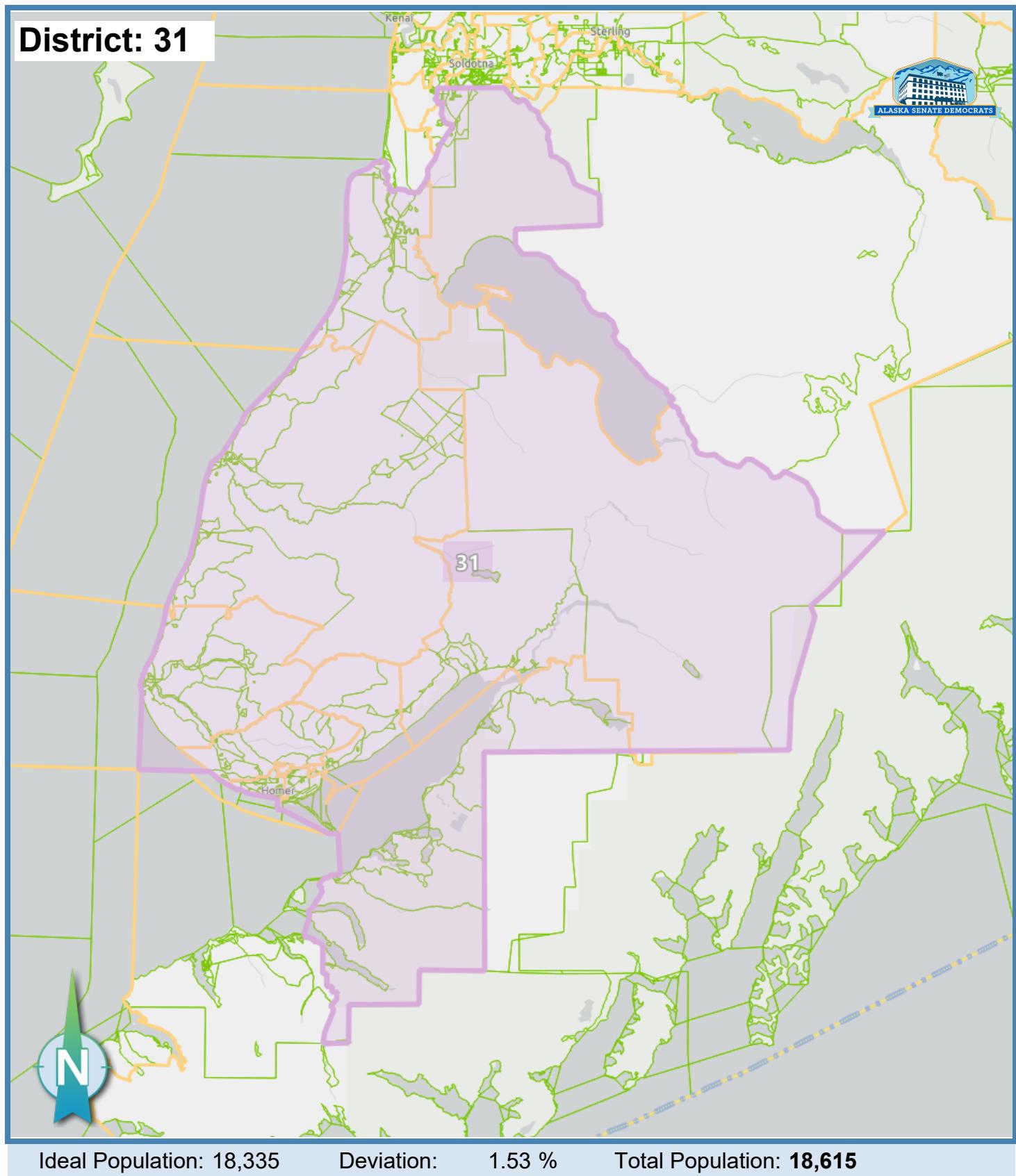
Ideal Population: 18,335

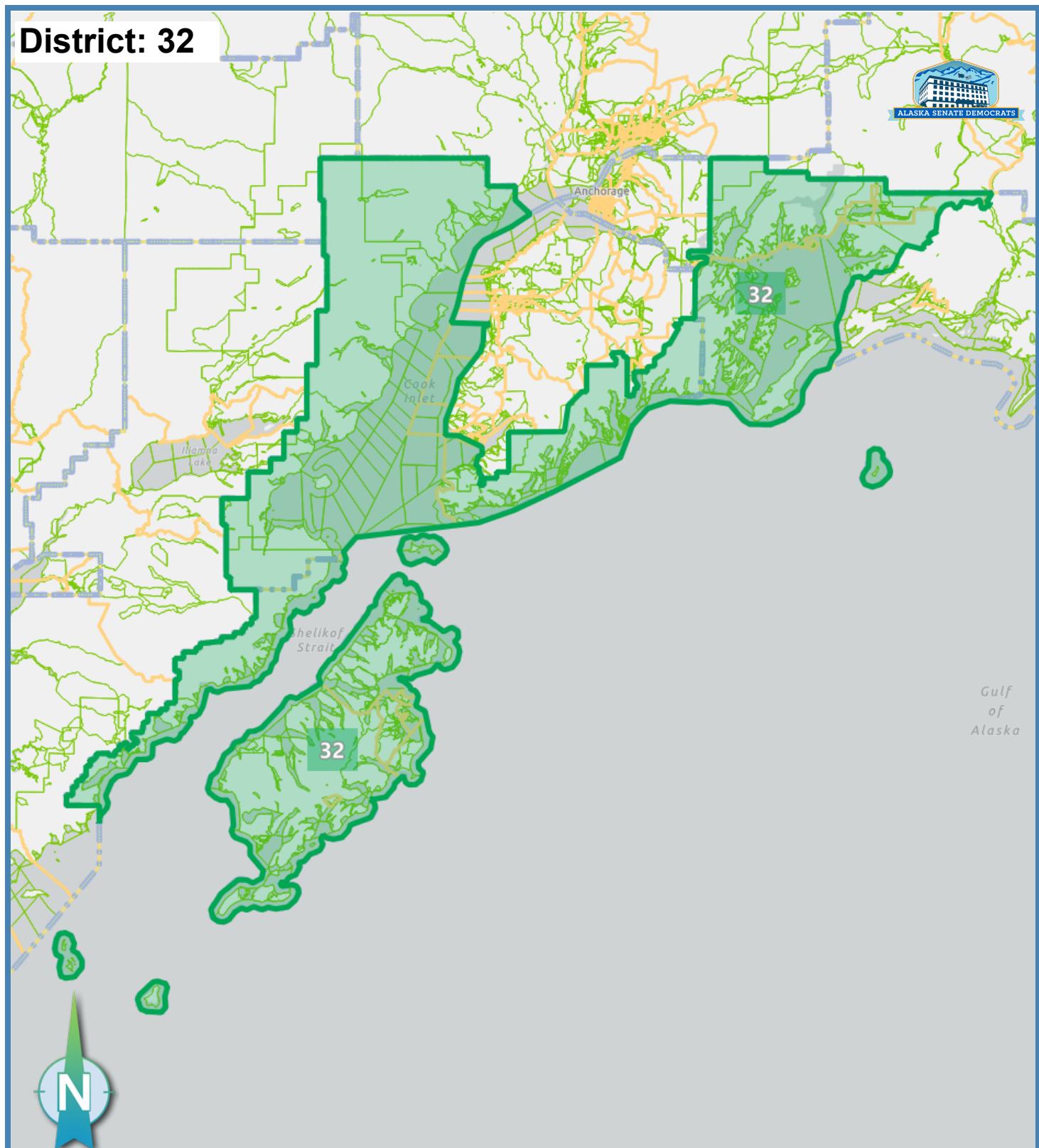
Deviation:

1.51 %

Total Population: 18,612



**District: 31**

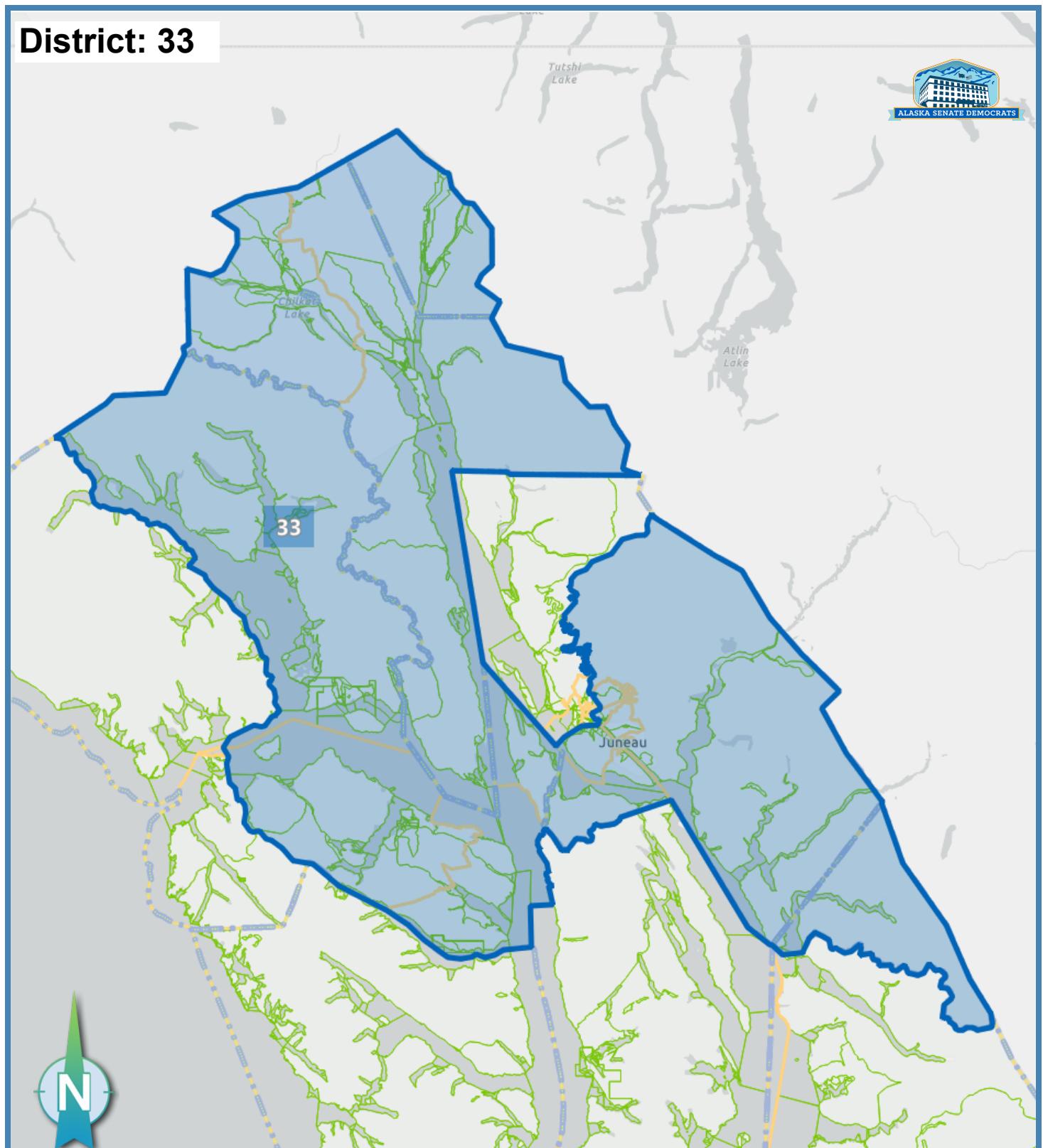


Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation:

0.34 %

Total Population: 18,398

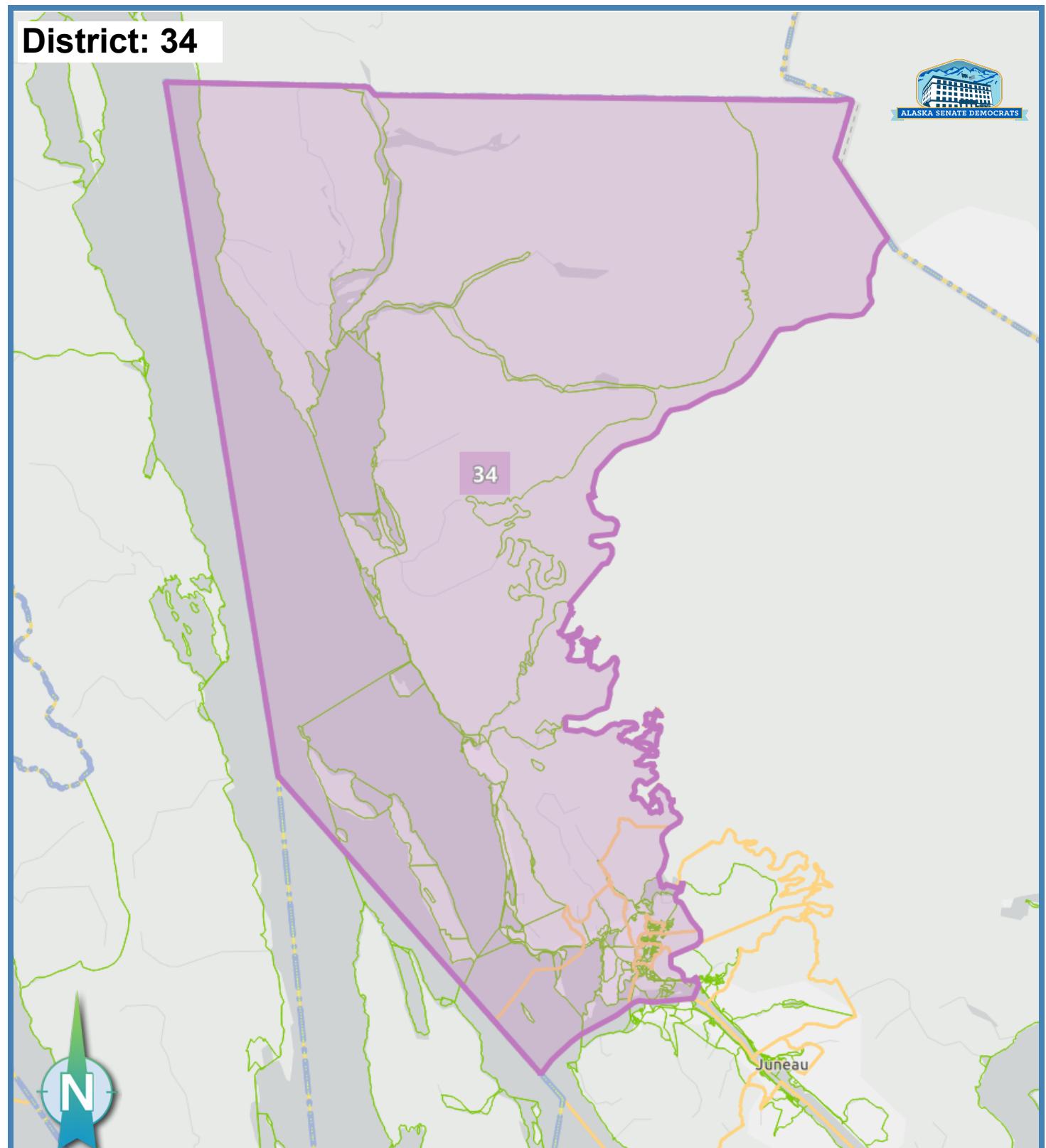
**District: 33**

Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation:

2.10 %

Total Population: 18,720

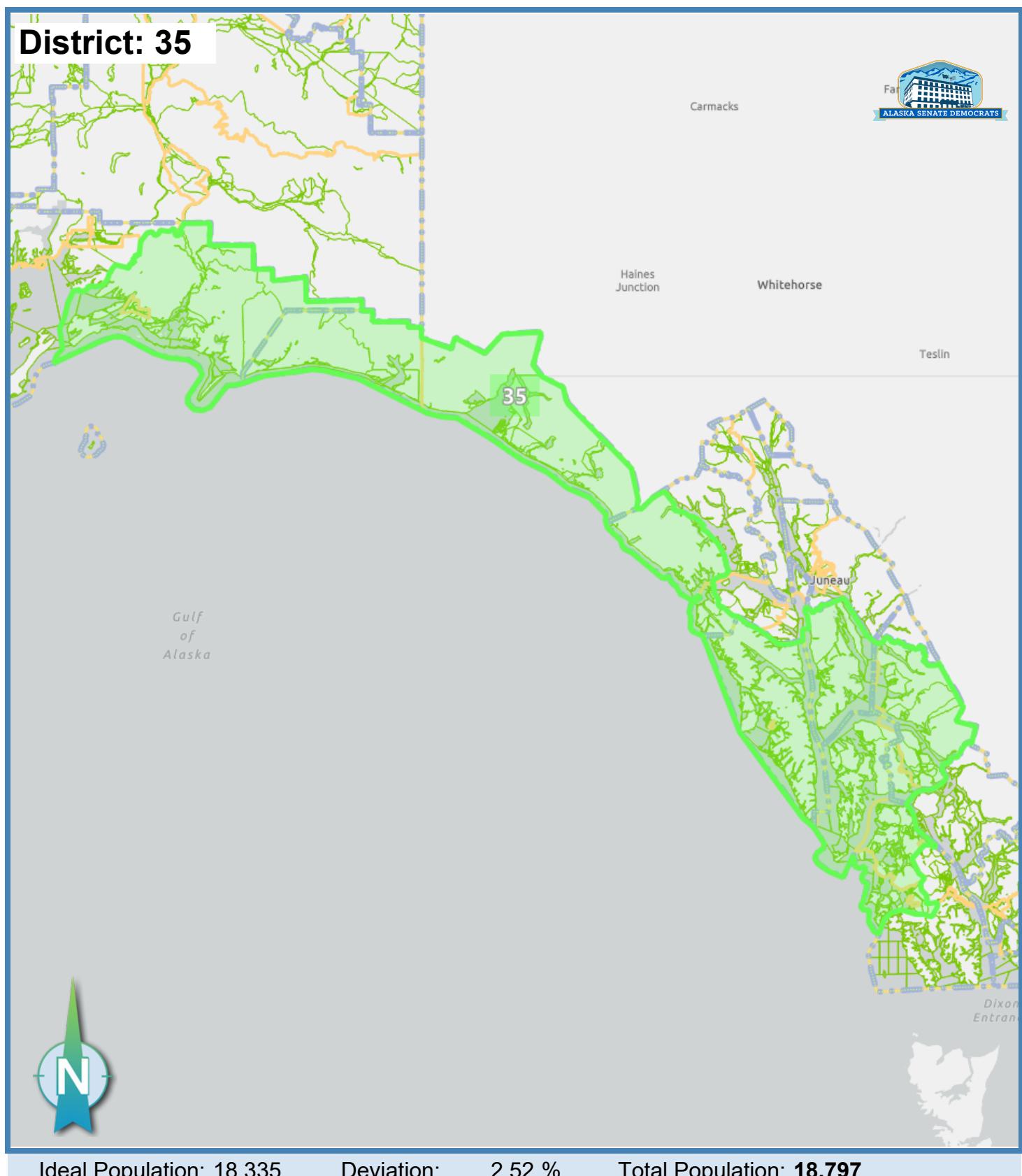
**District: 34**

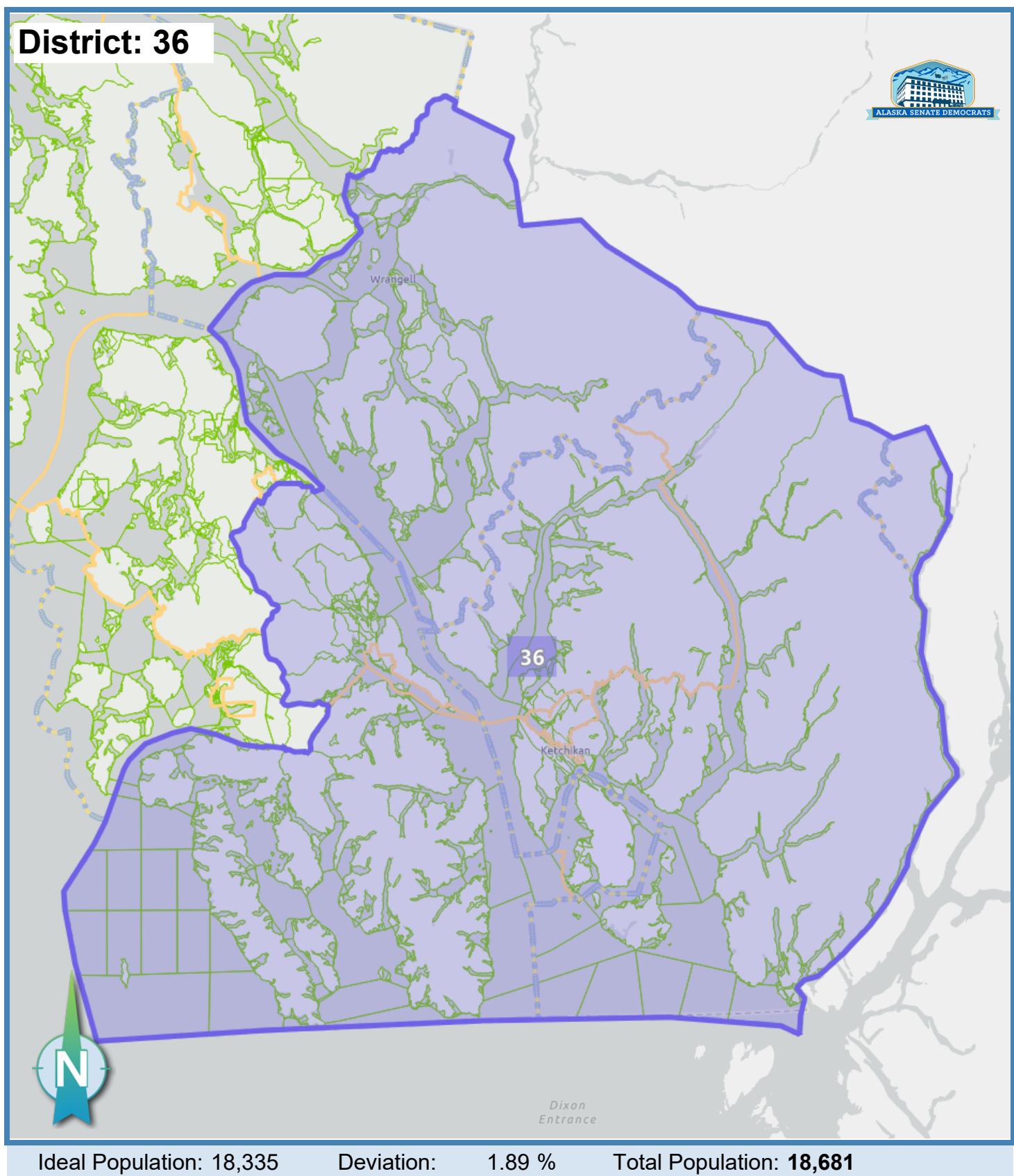
Ideal Population: 18,335

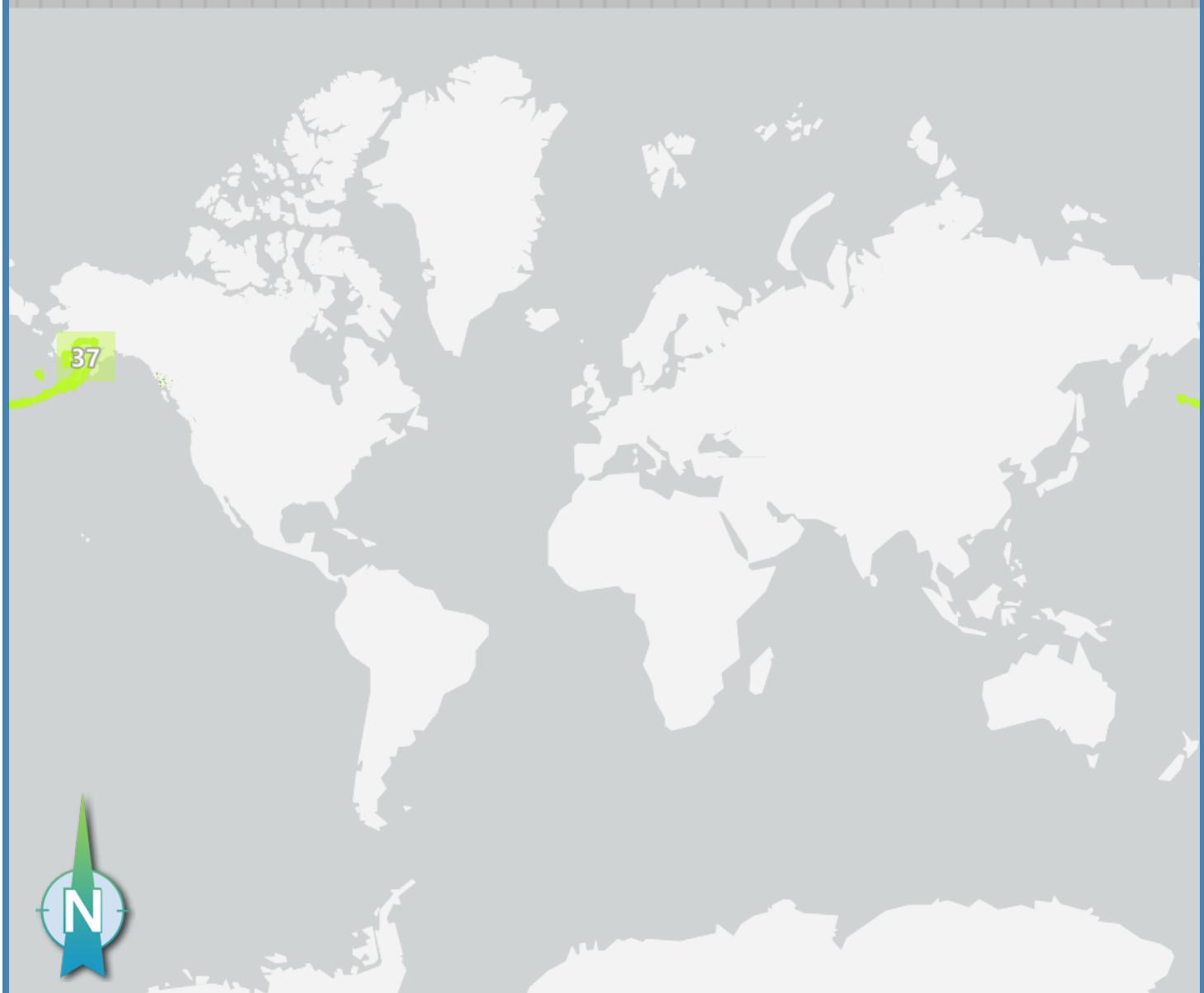
Deviation:

2.10 %

Total Population: 18,720





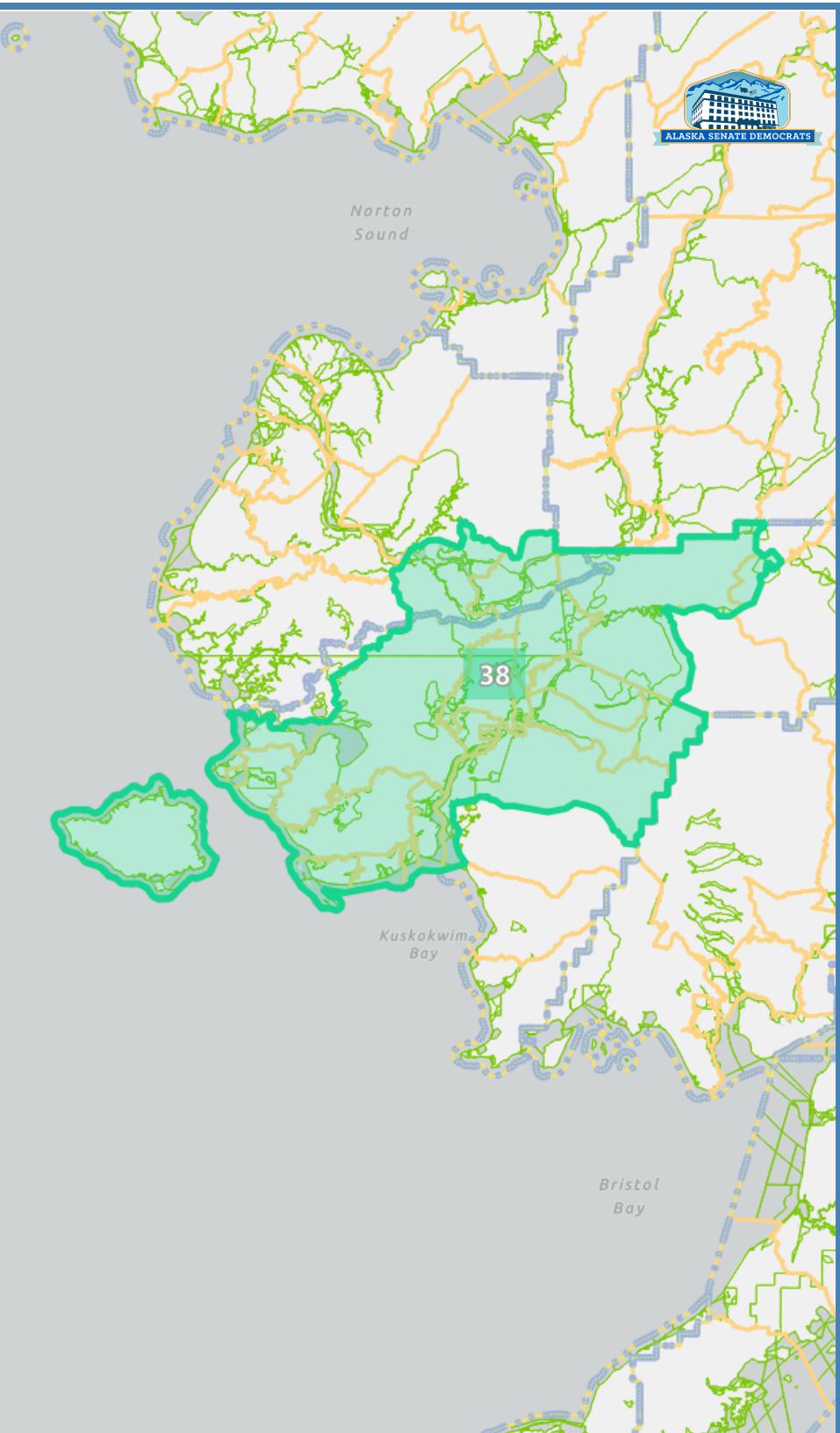
**District: 37**

Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation:

-4.07 %

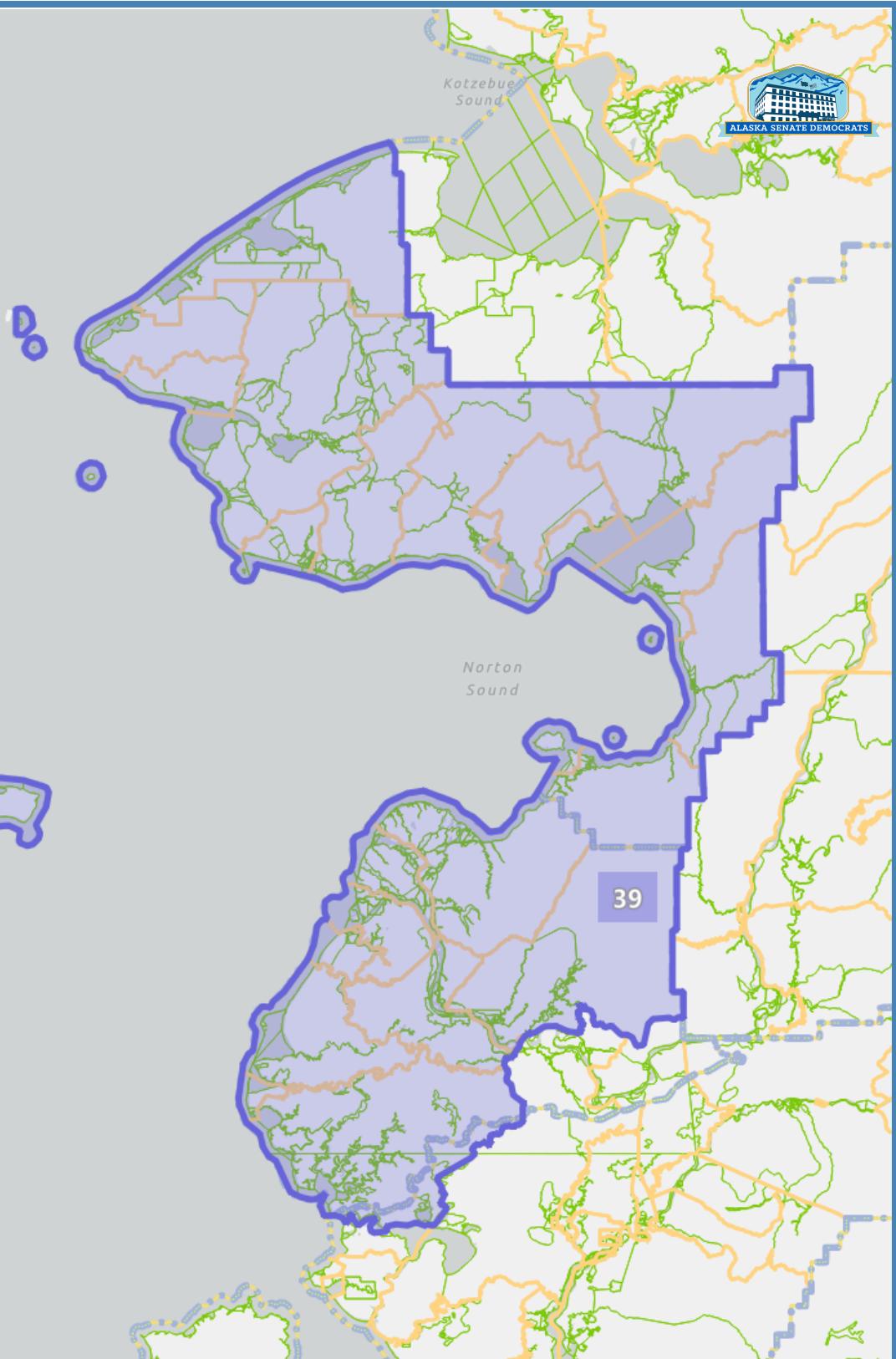
Total Population: **17,589**

**District: 38**

Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -3.92 %

Total Population: **17,616**

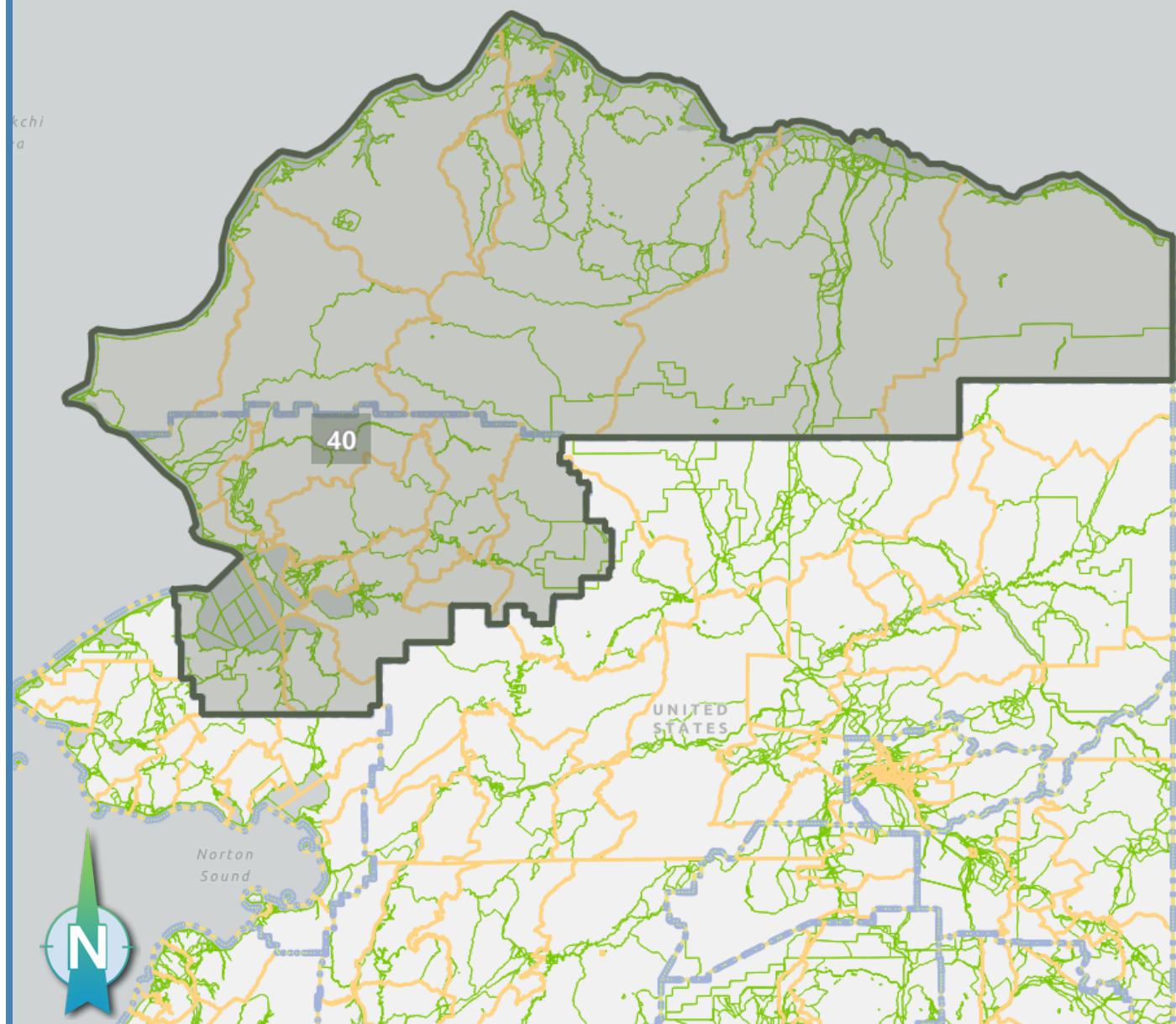
**District: 39**

Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation:

-3.44 %

Total Population: **17,704**

**District: 40**

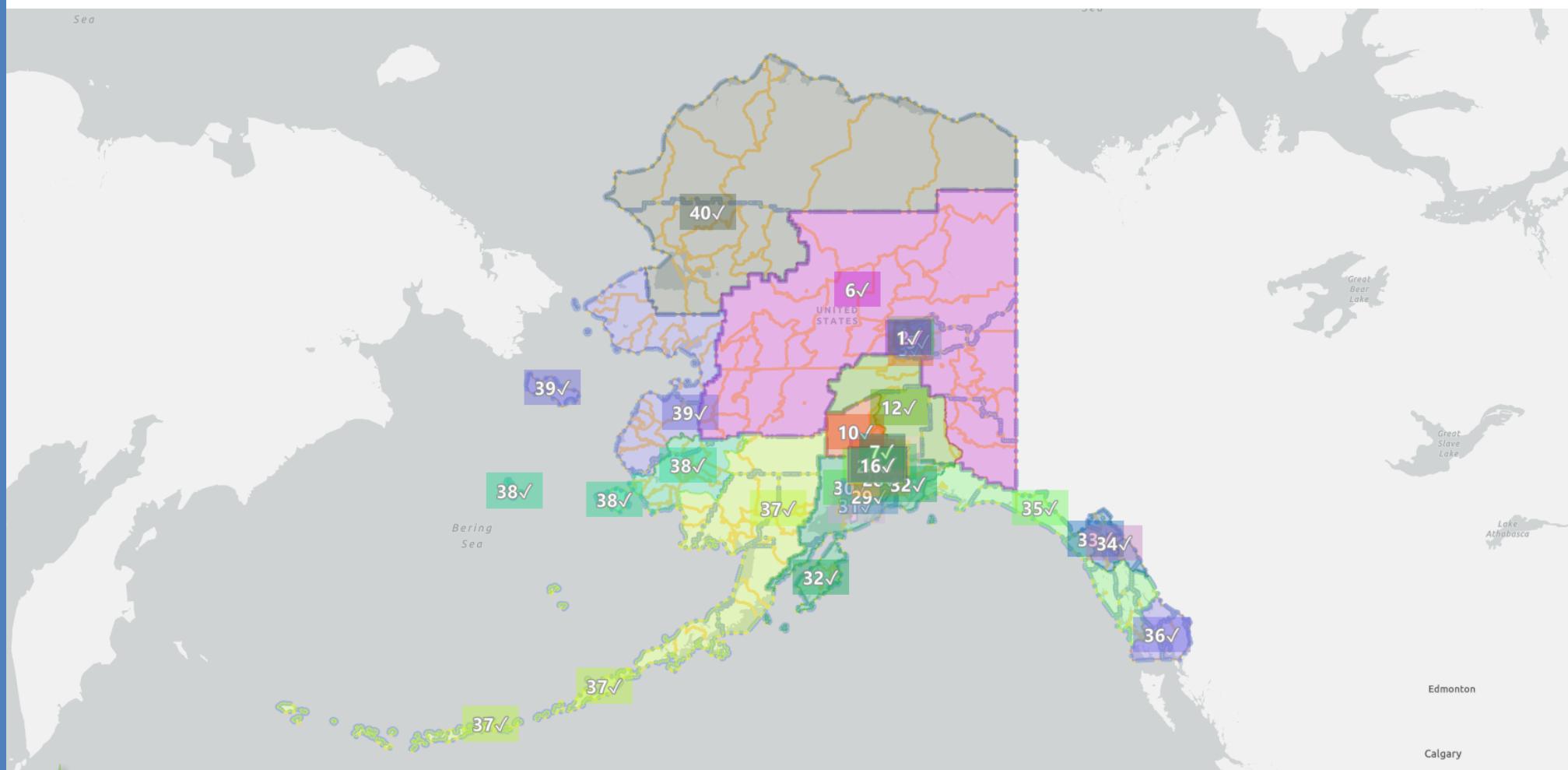
Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation:

2.67 %

Total Population: **18,824**

# Combined1

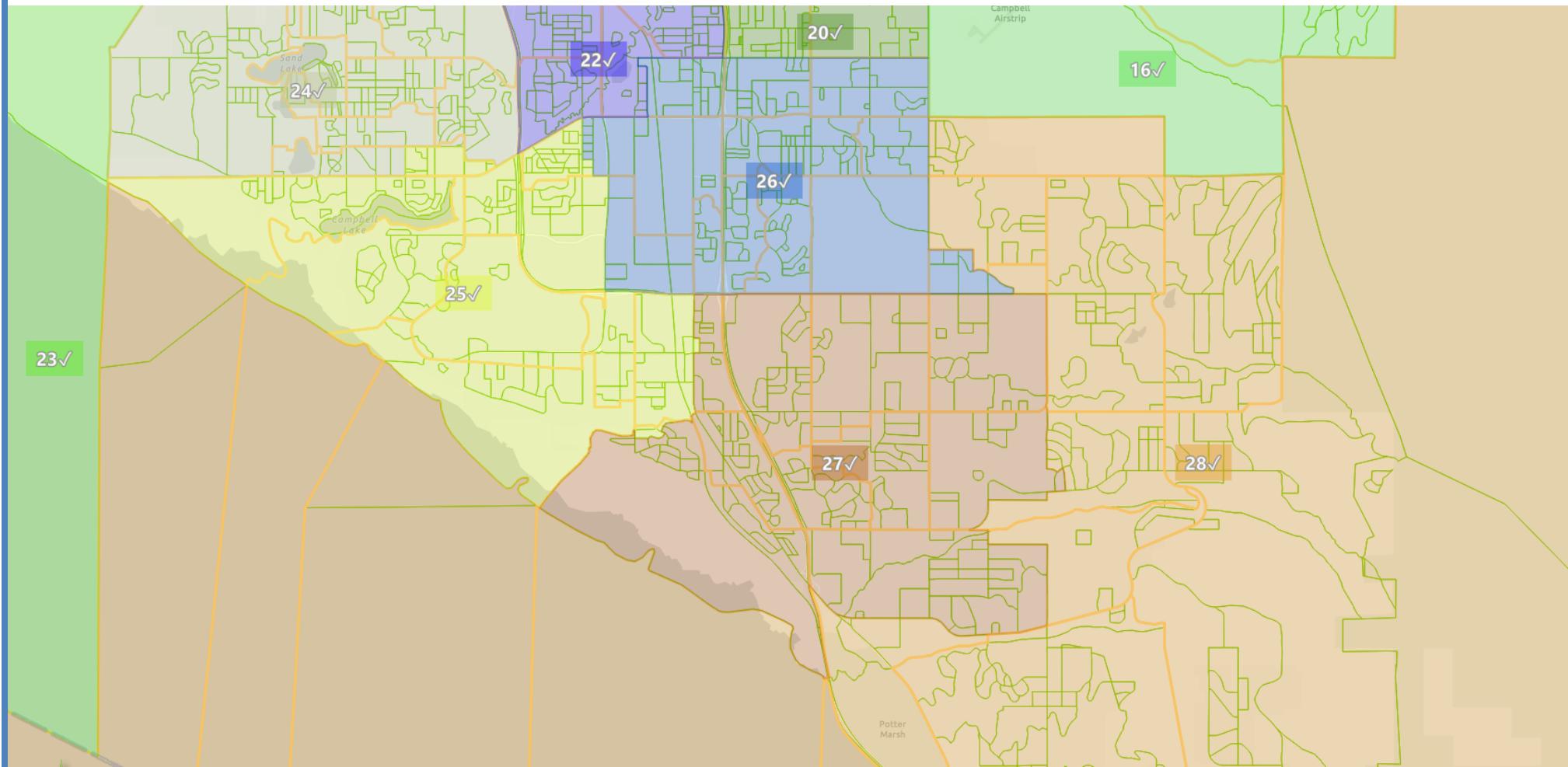


Combined1 - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/27/2021 10:54:43 PM Last Edit: 10/27/2021 10:09:56 PM

Total Population Tabulation				
DISTRICT	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
Assigned	733391			
Total Pop	733391			
Unassigned	0			

# CantwellCombined1

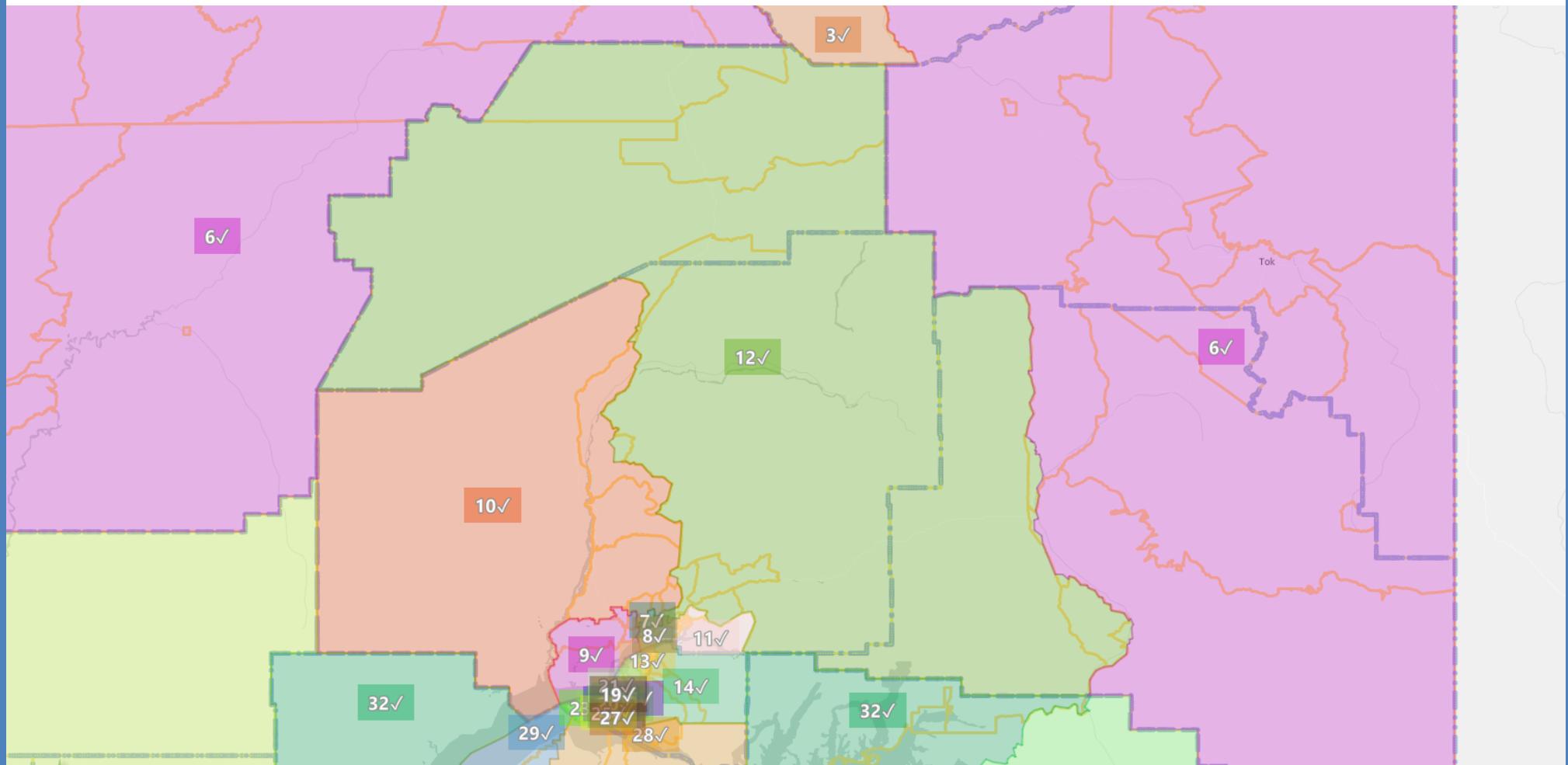


CantwellCombined1 - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/27/2021 10:52:41 PM Last Edit: 10/27/2021 10:12:10 PM



# Combined1



Combined1 - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/27/2021 10:55:46 PM Last Edit: 10/27/2021 10:09:56 PM



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Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

**Combined1**

Plan Type and Name: House of

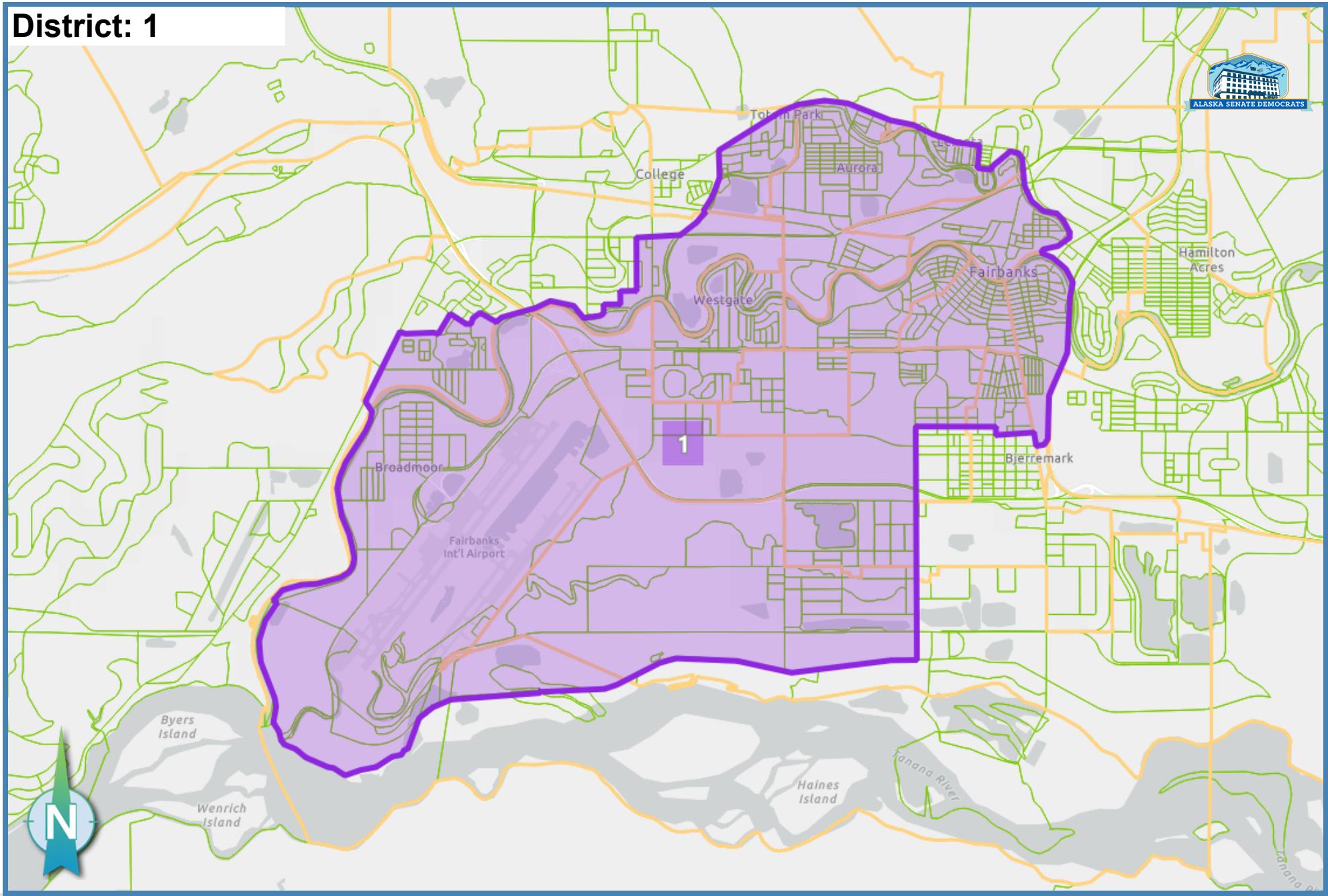
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**Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171**

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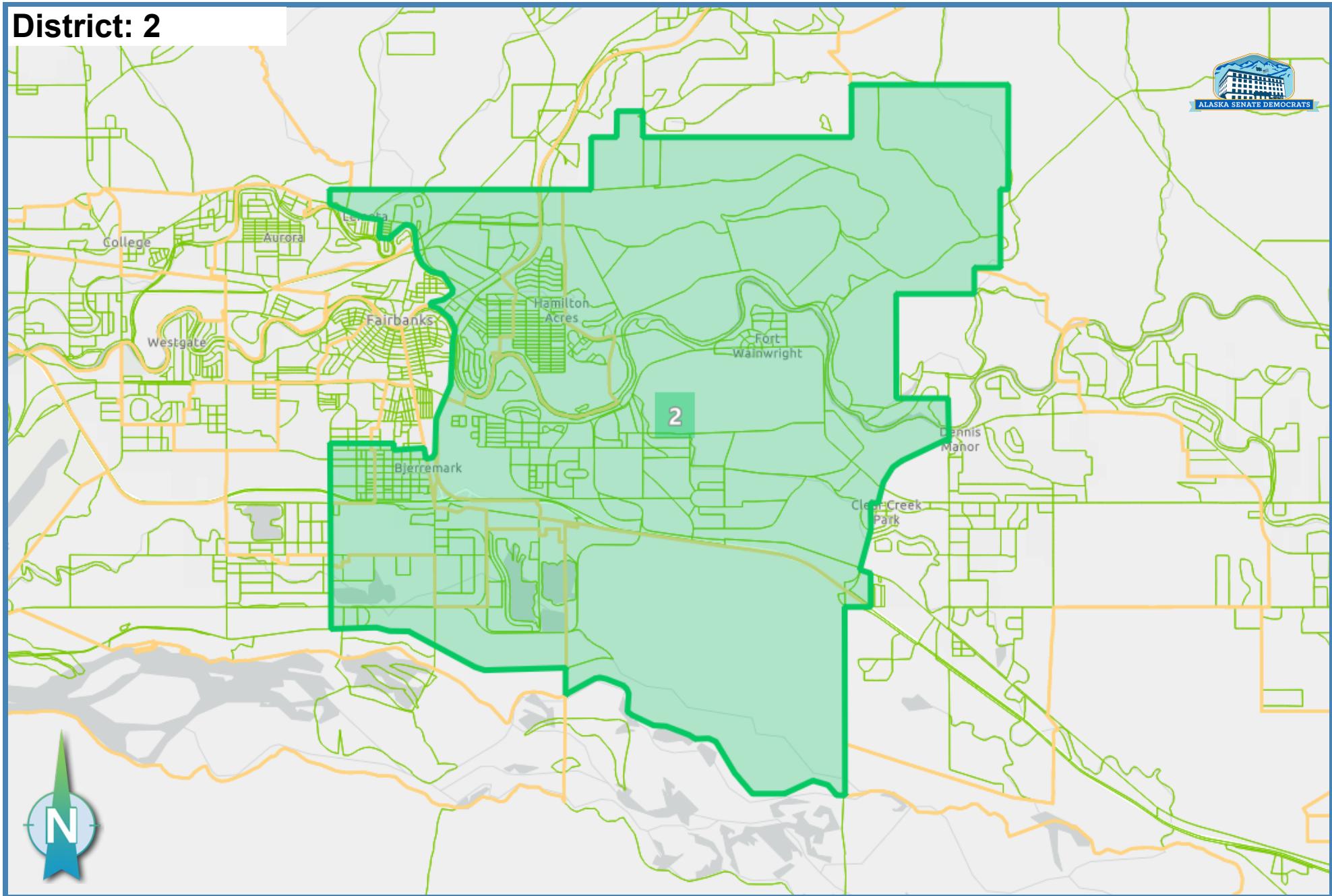




Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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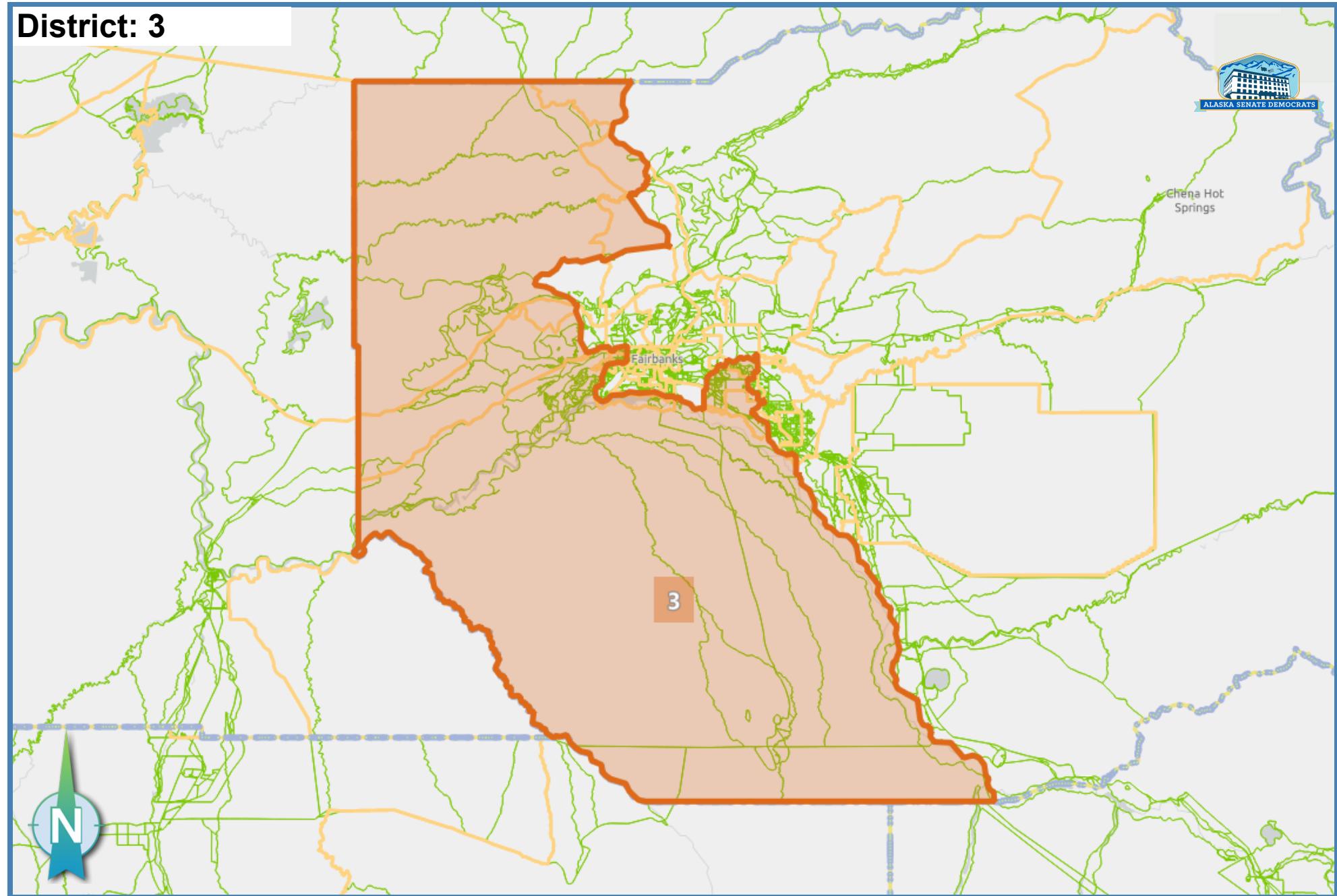
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Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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**District: 3**

Ideal Population: 18,335

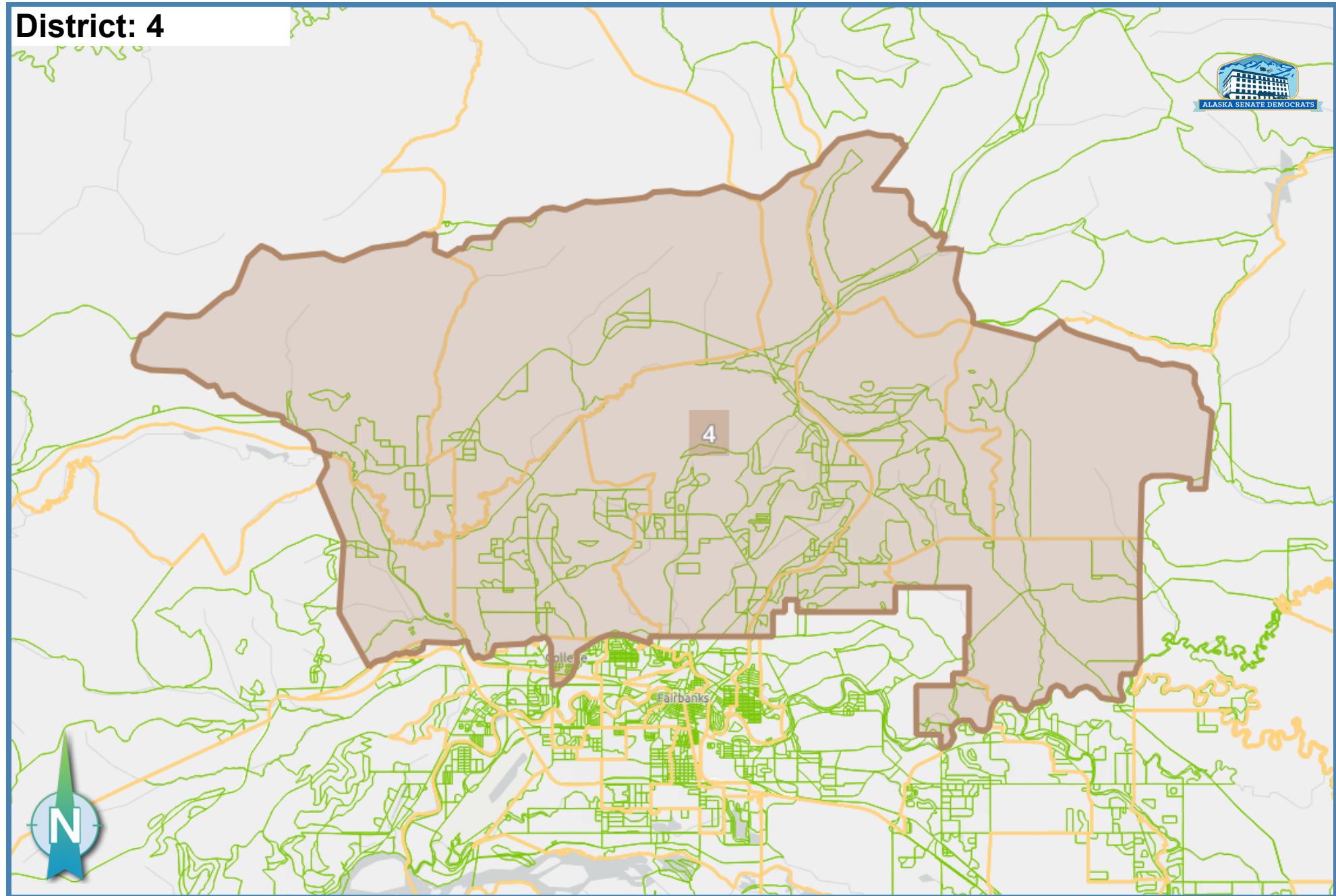
Deviation: 0.06 %

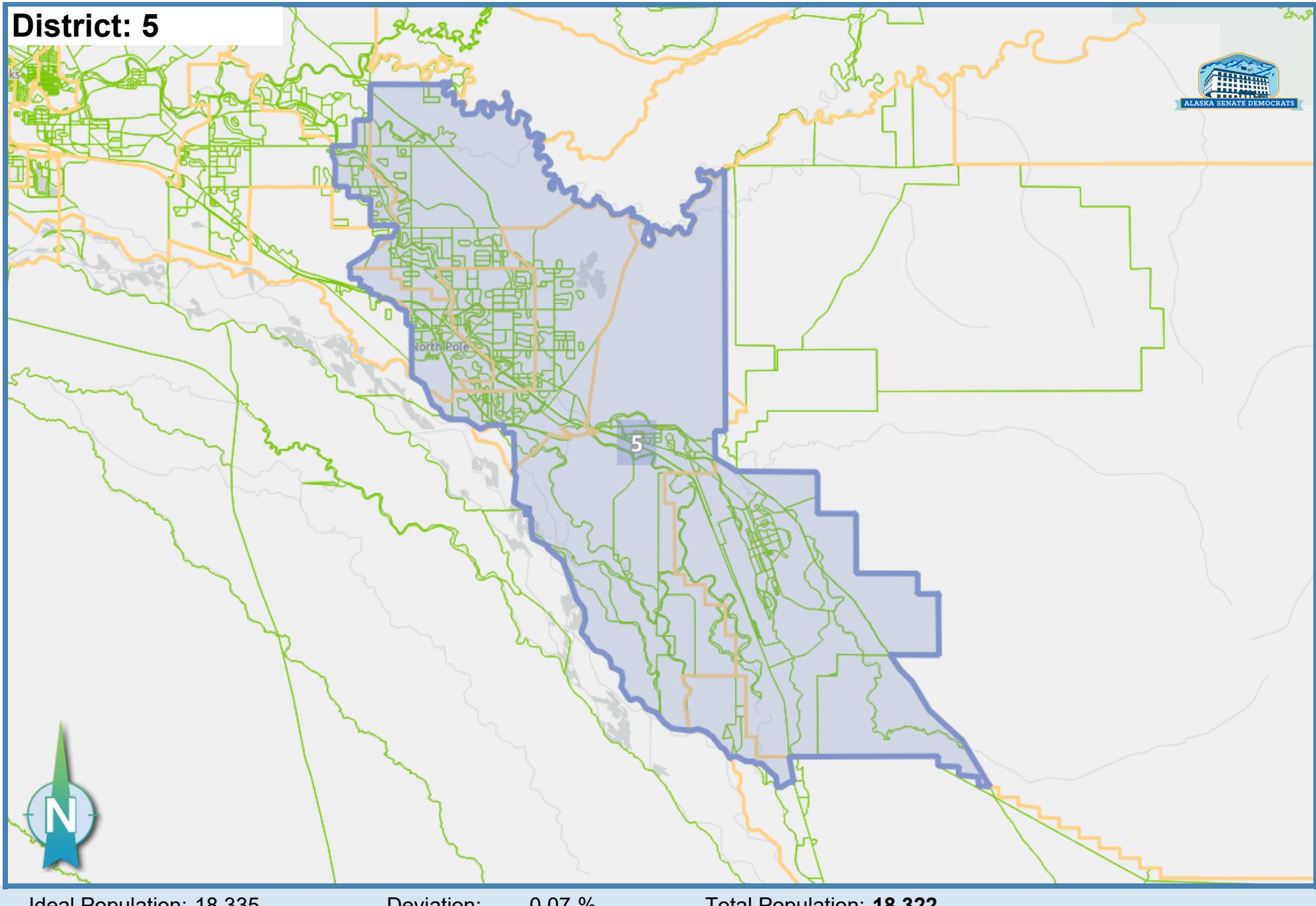
Total Population: 18,346

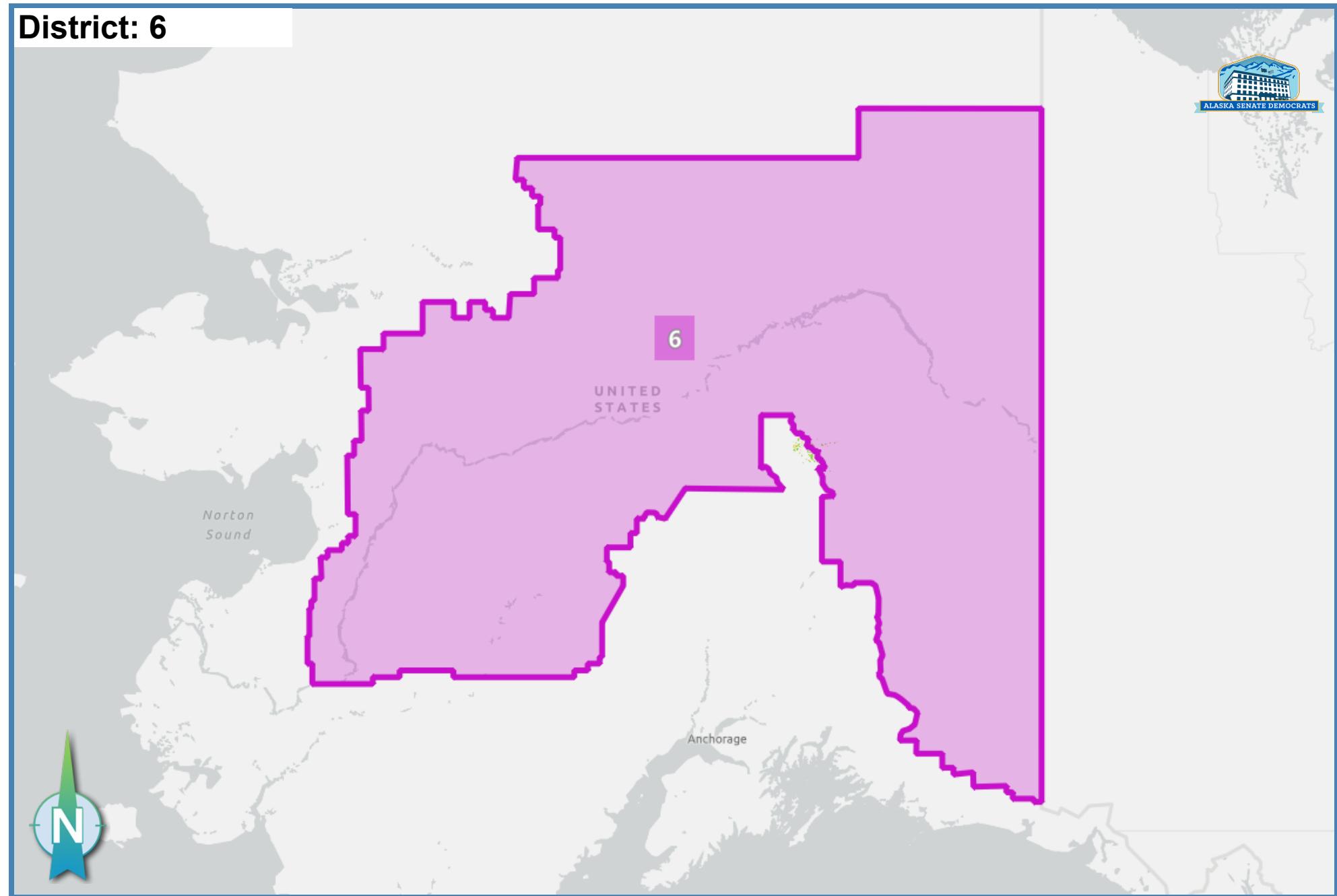
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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**District: 4**



**District: 6**

Ideal Population: 18,335

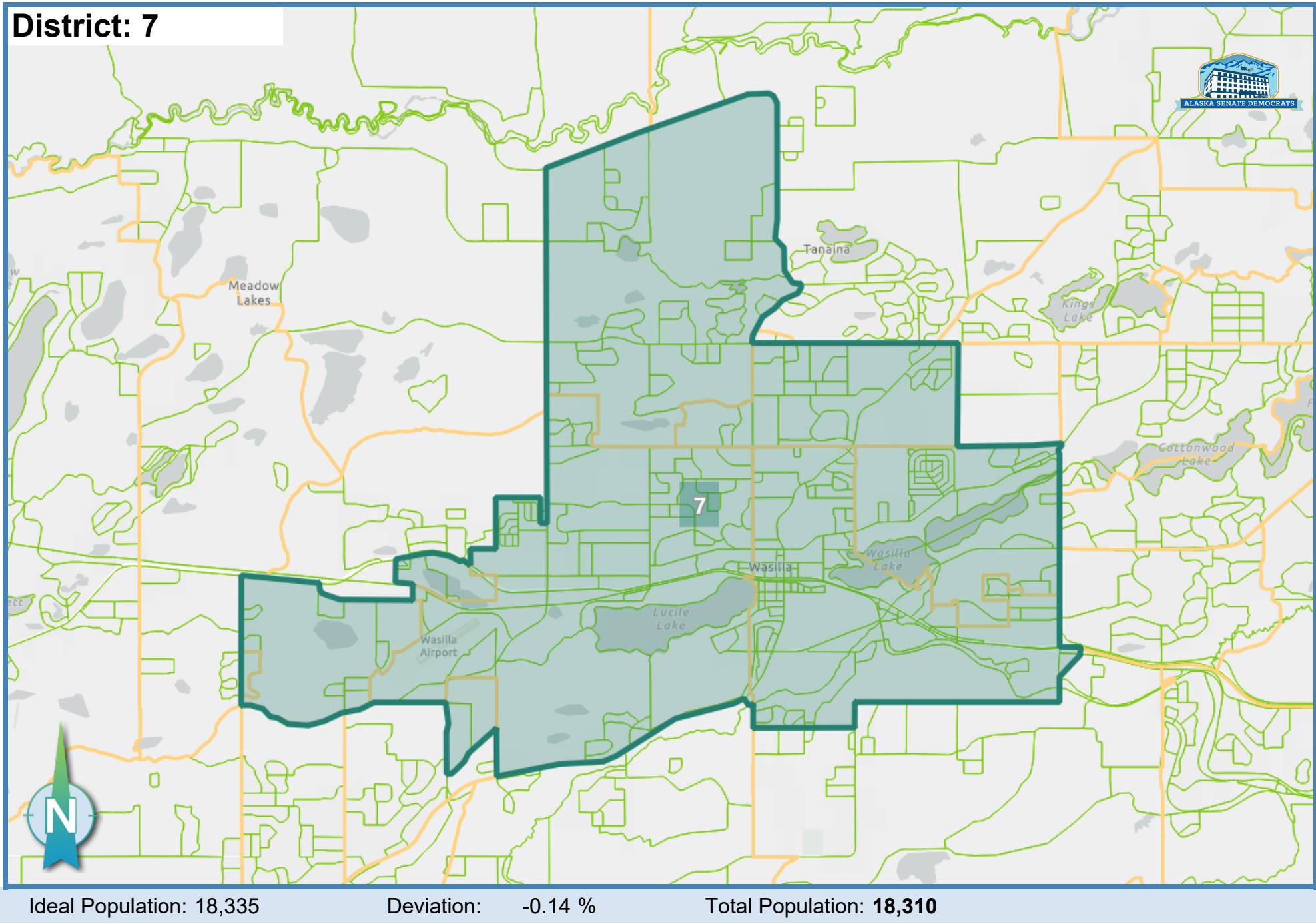
Deviation: -4.06 %

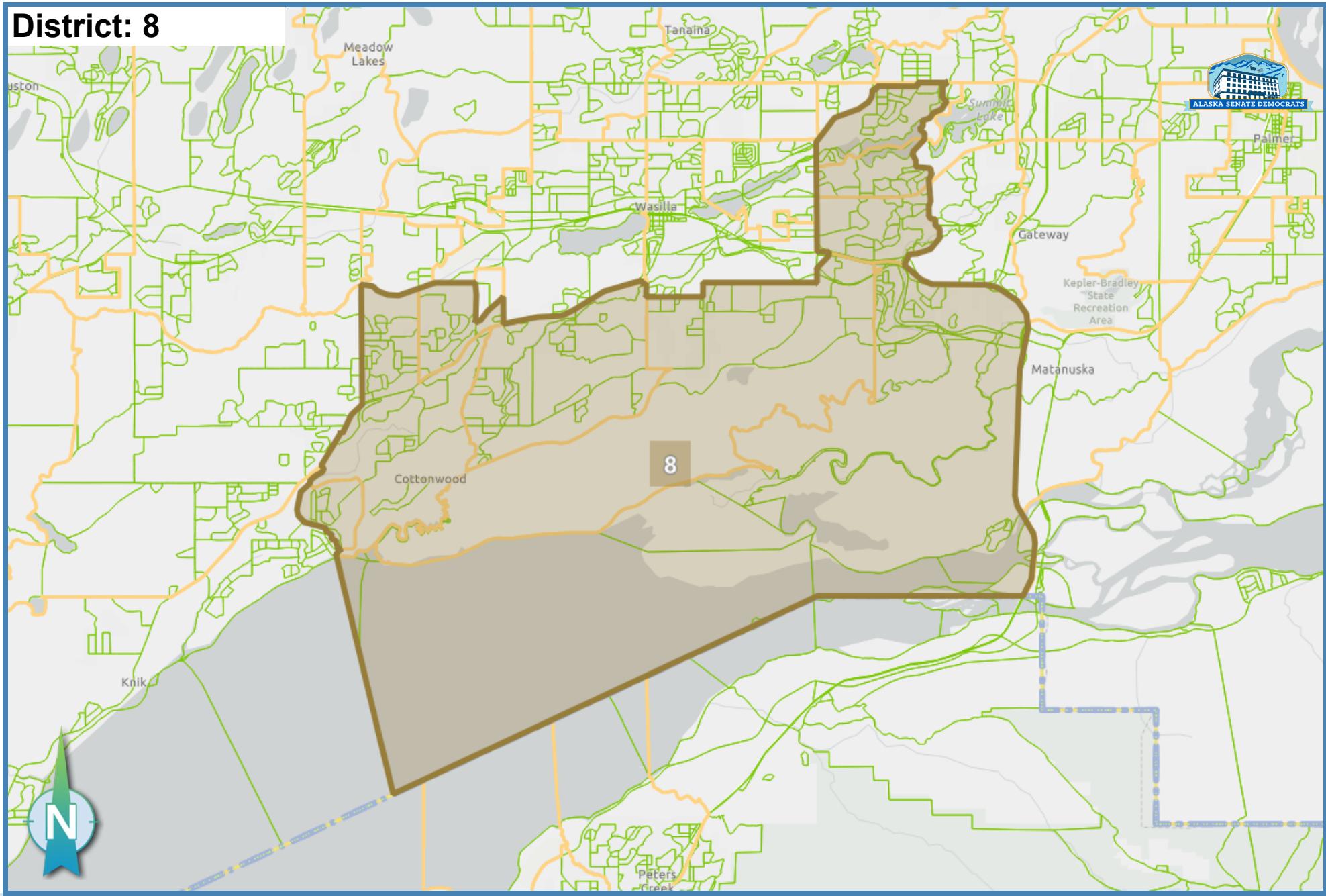
Total Population: 17,590

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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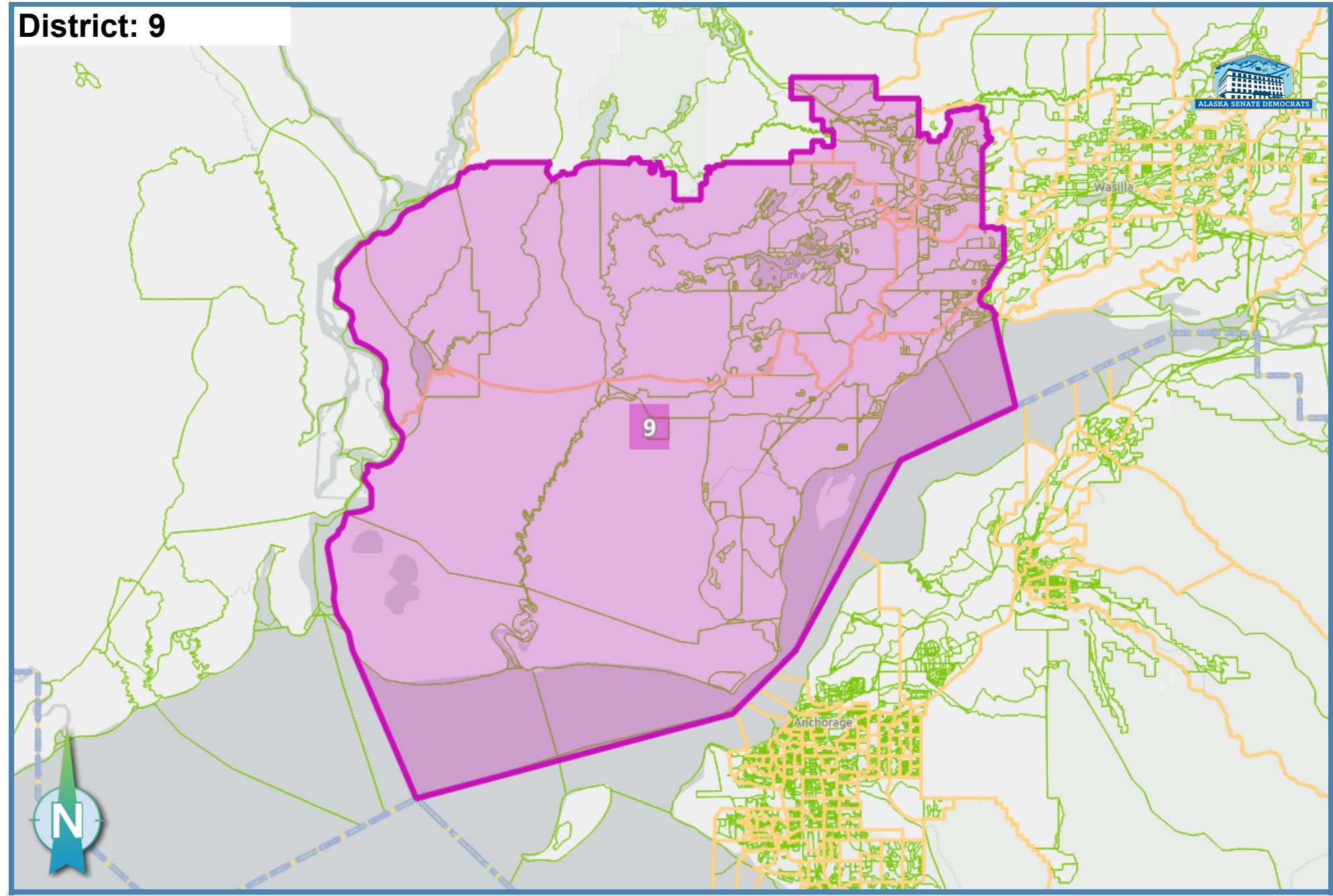




Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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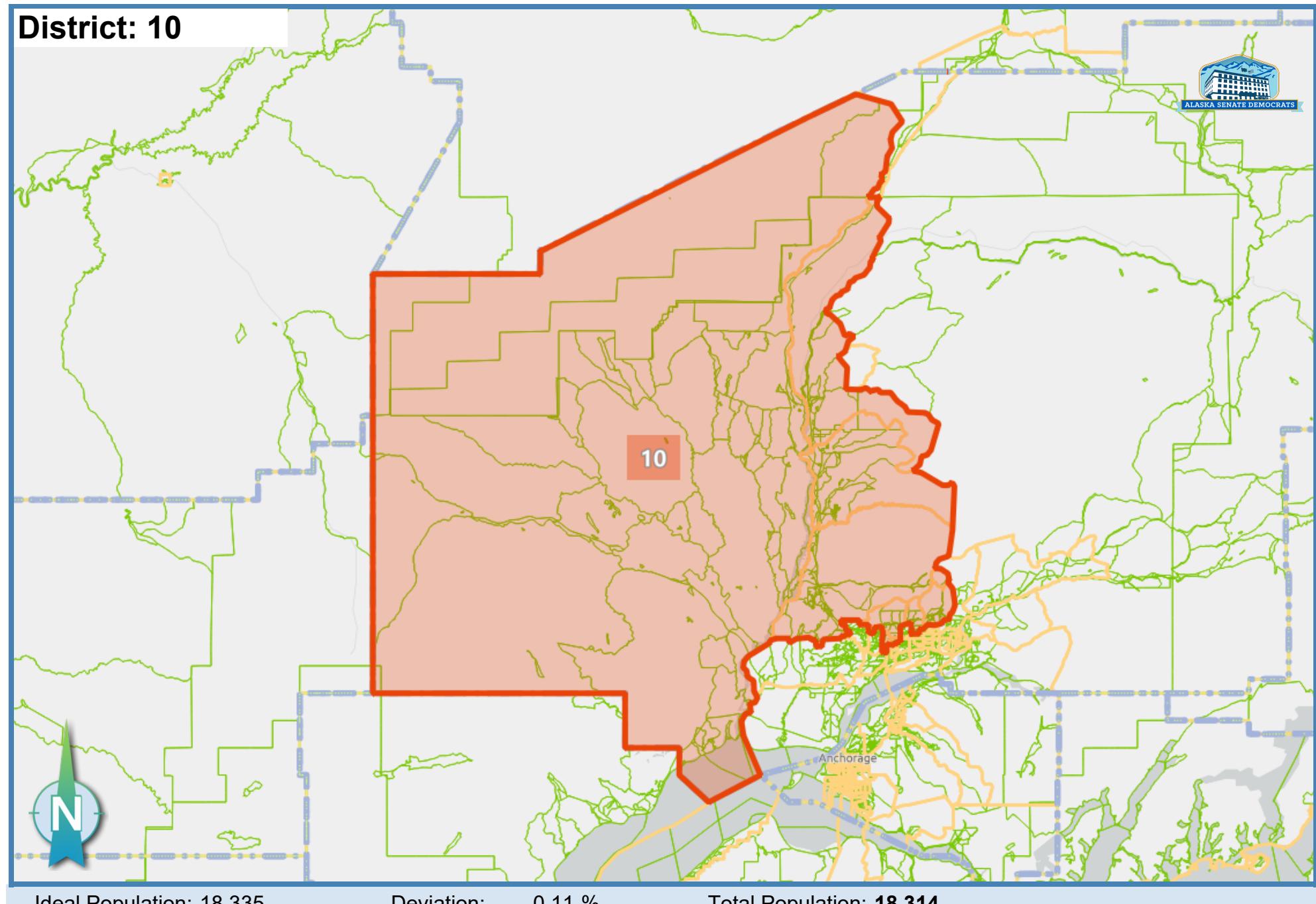
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**District: 9**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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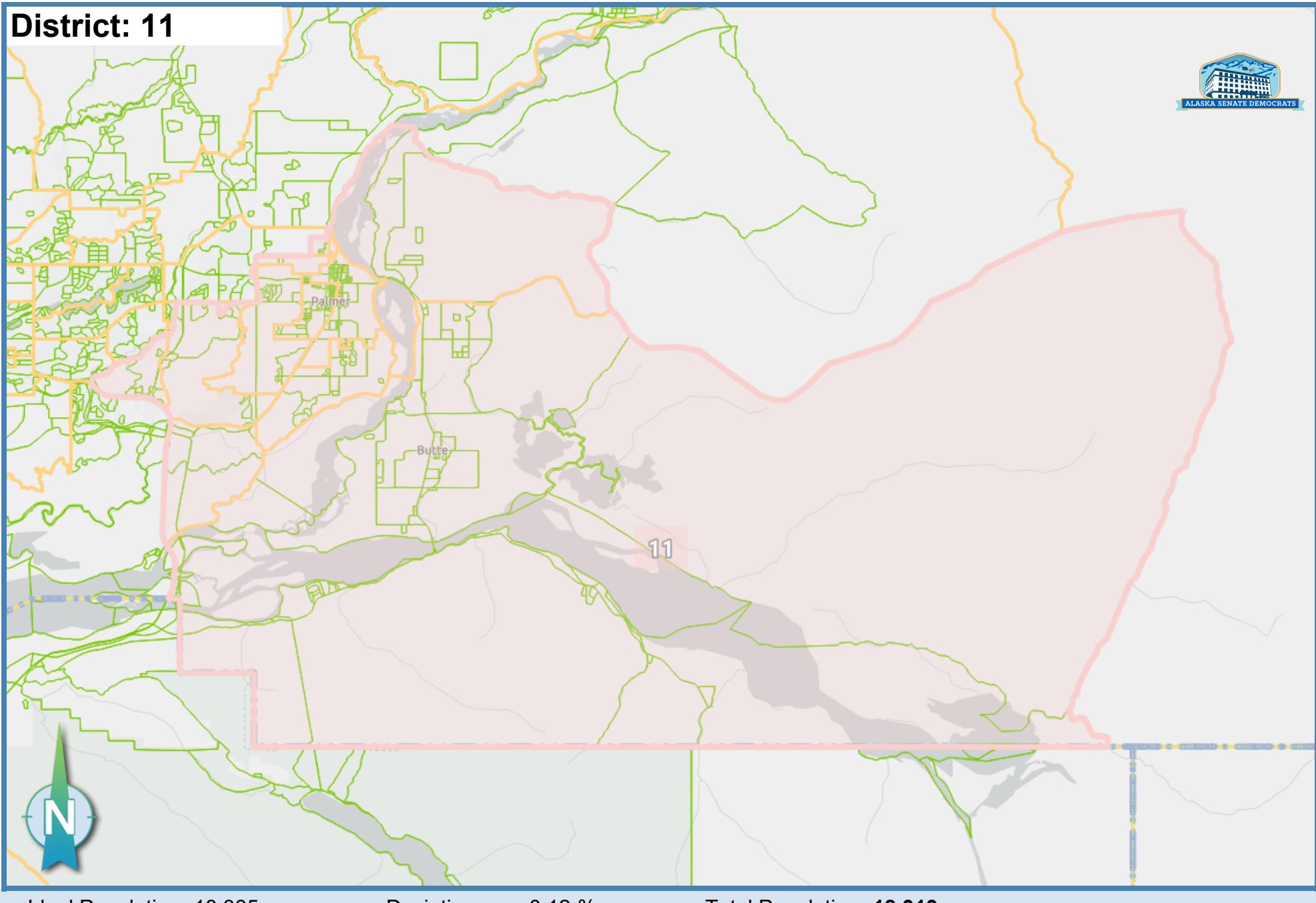
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**District: 10**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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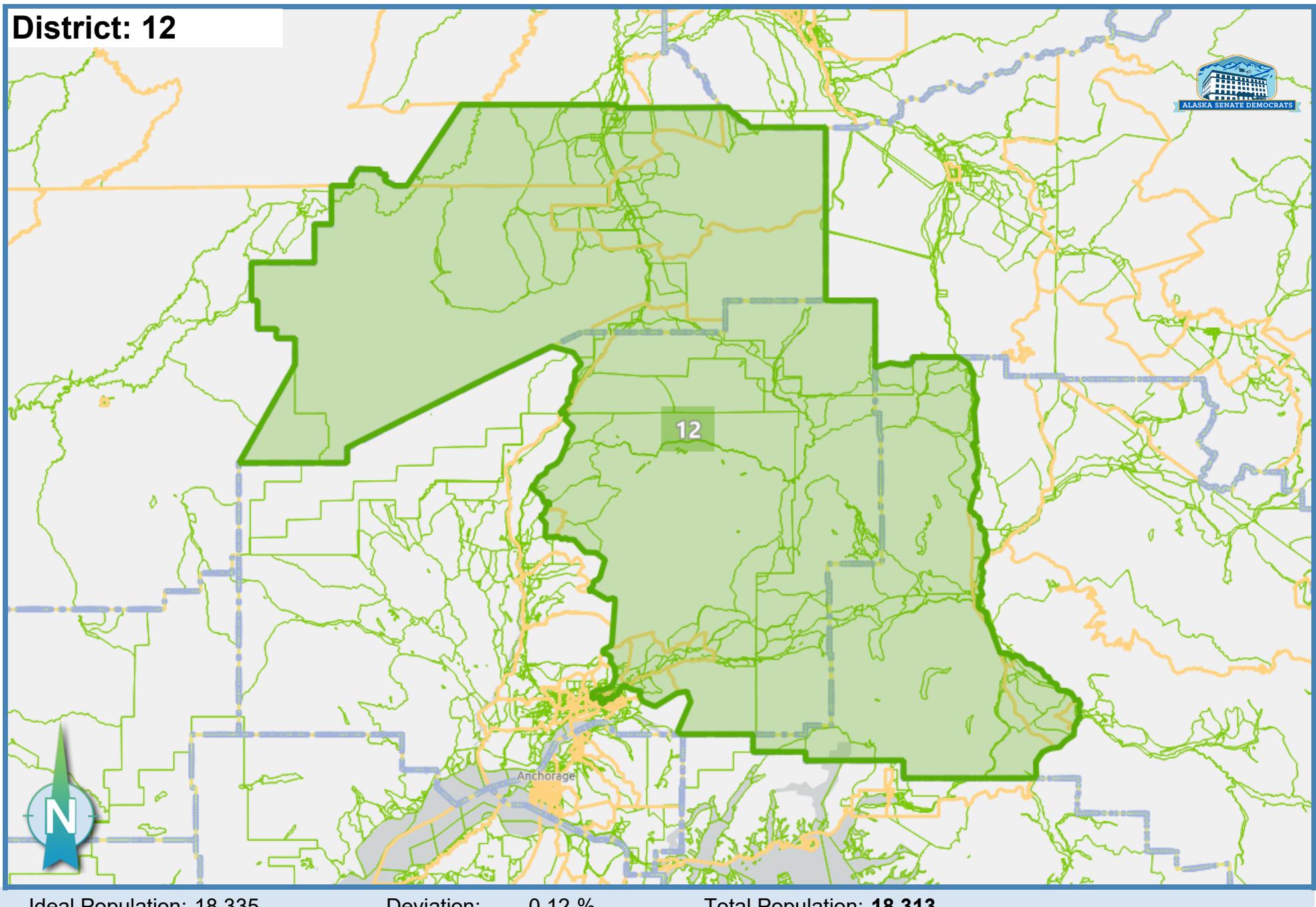


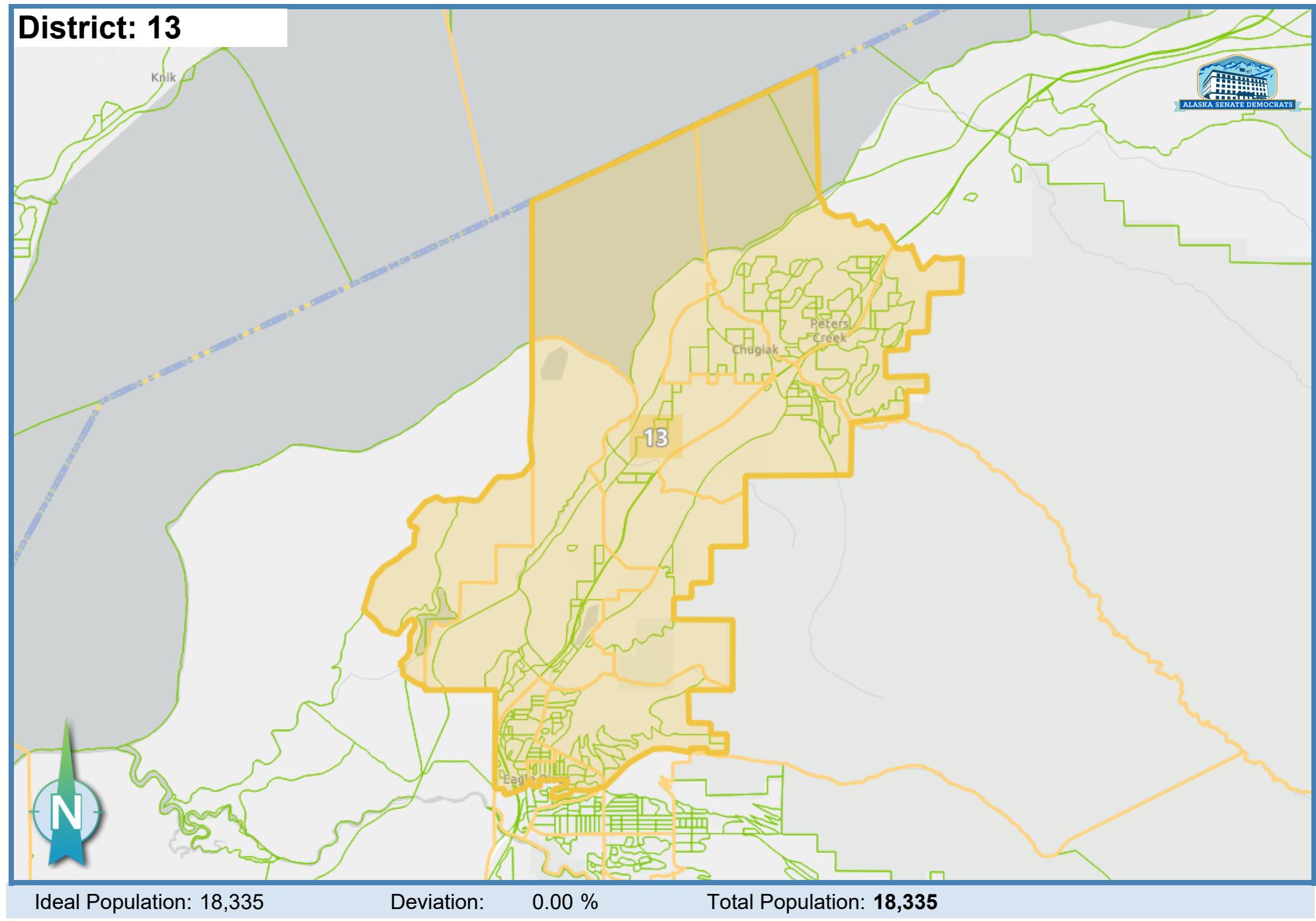
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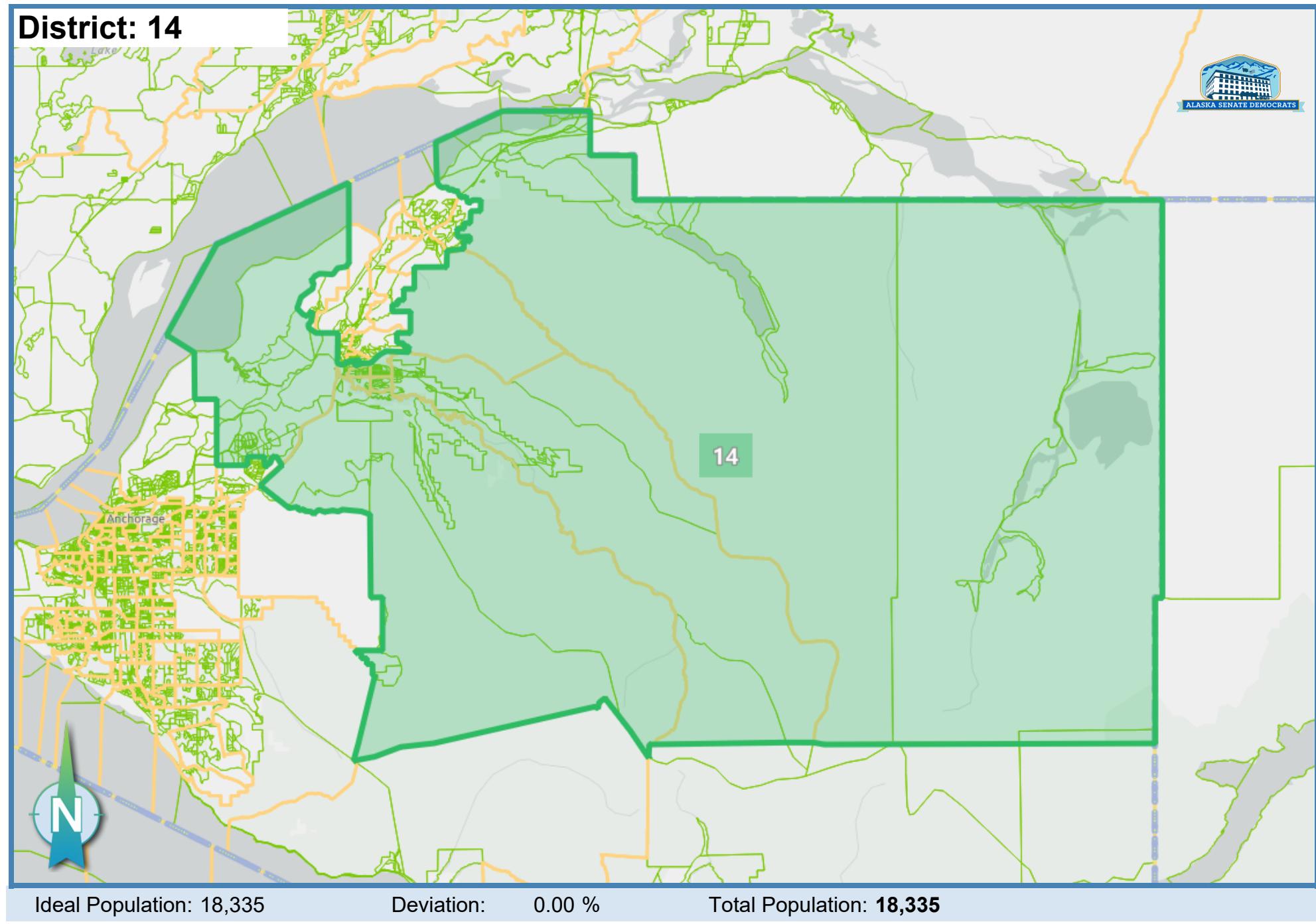
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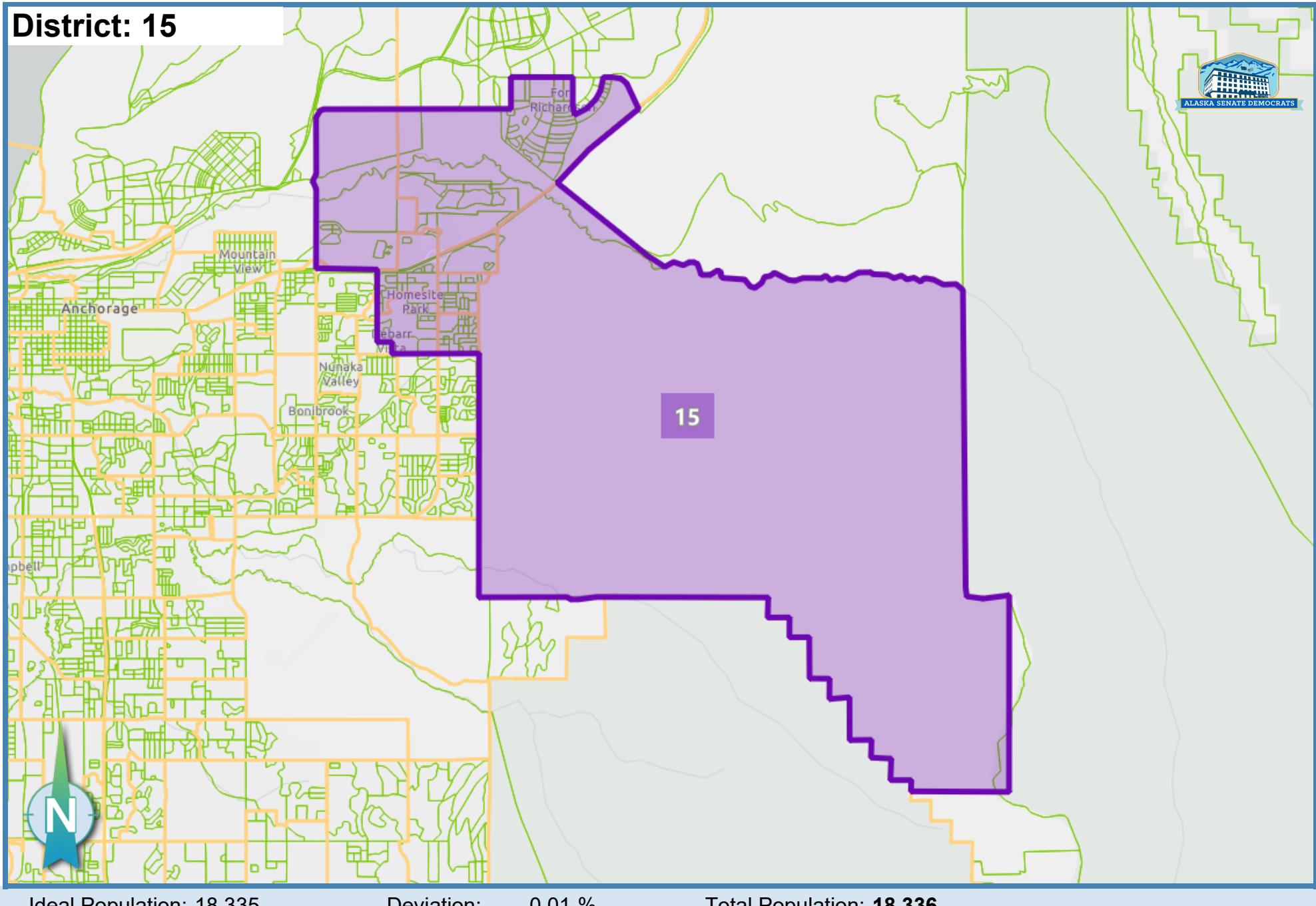
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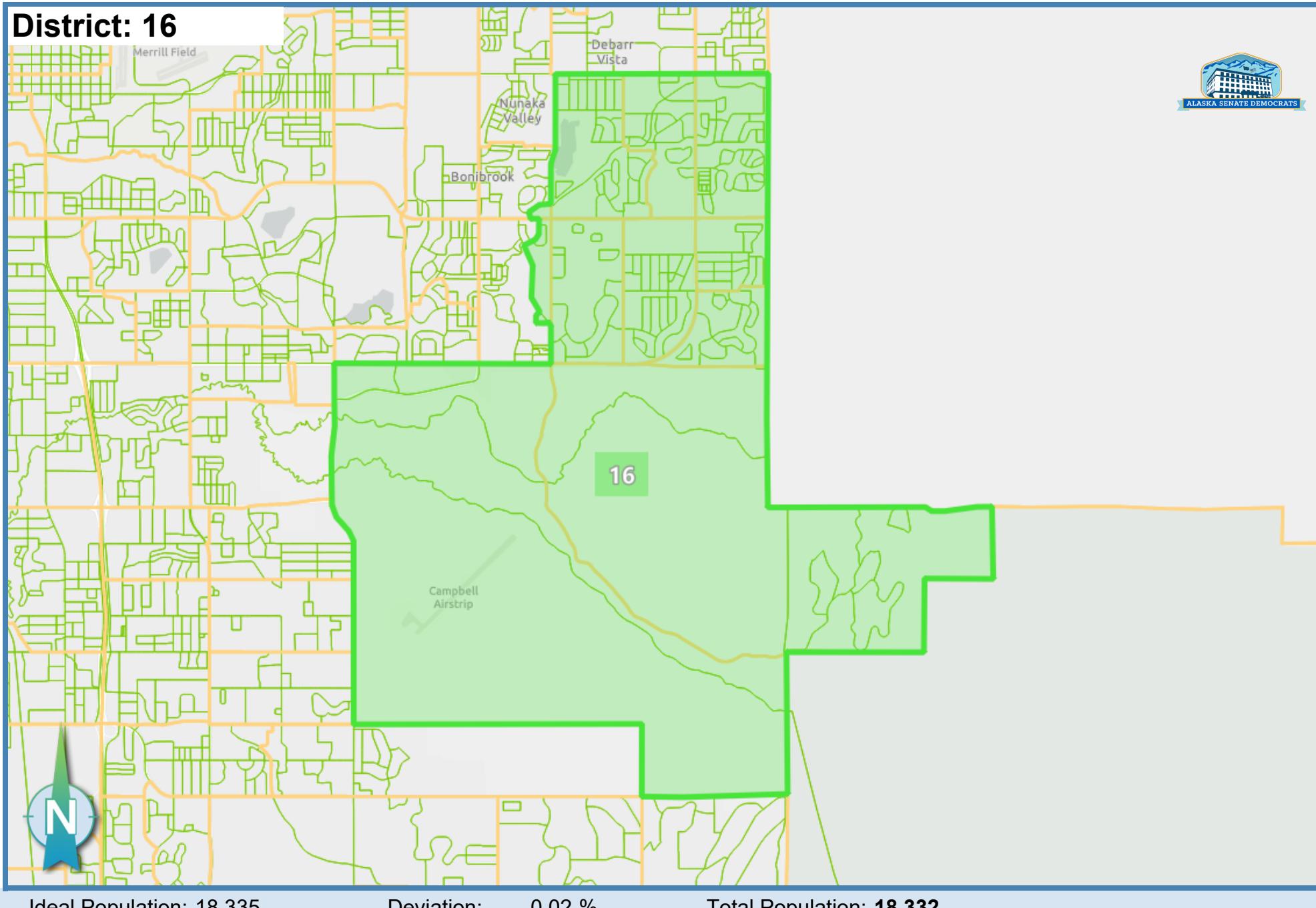




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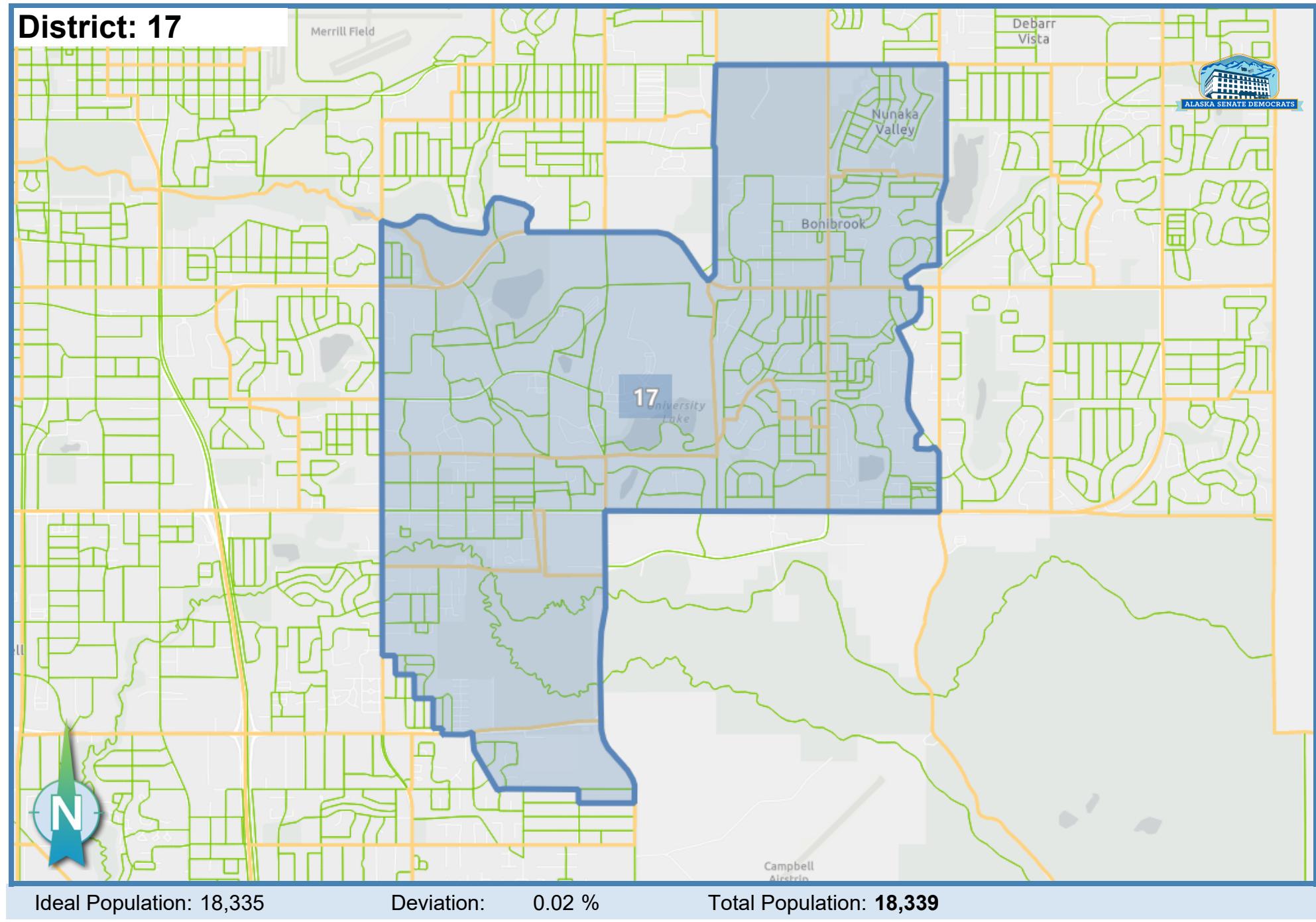


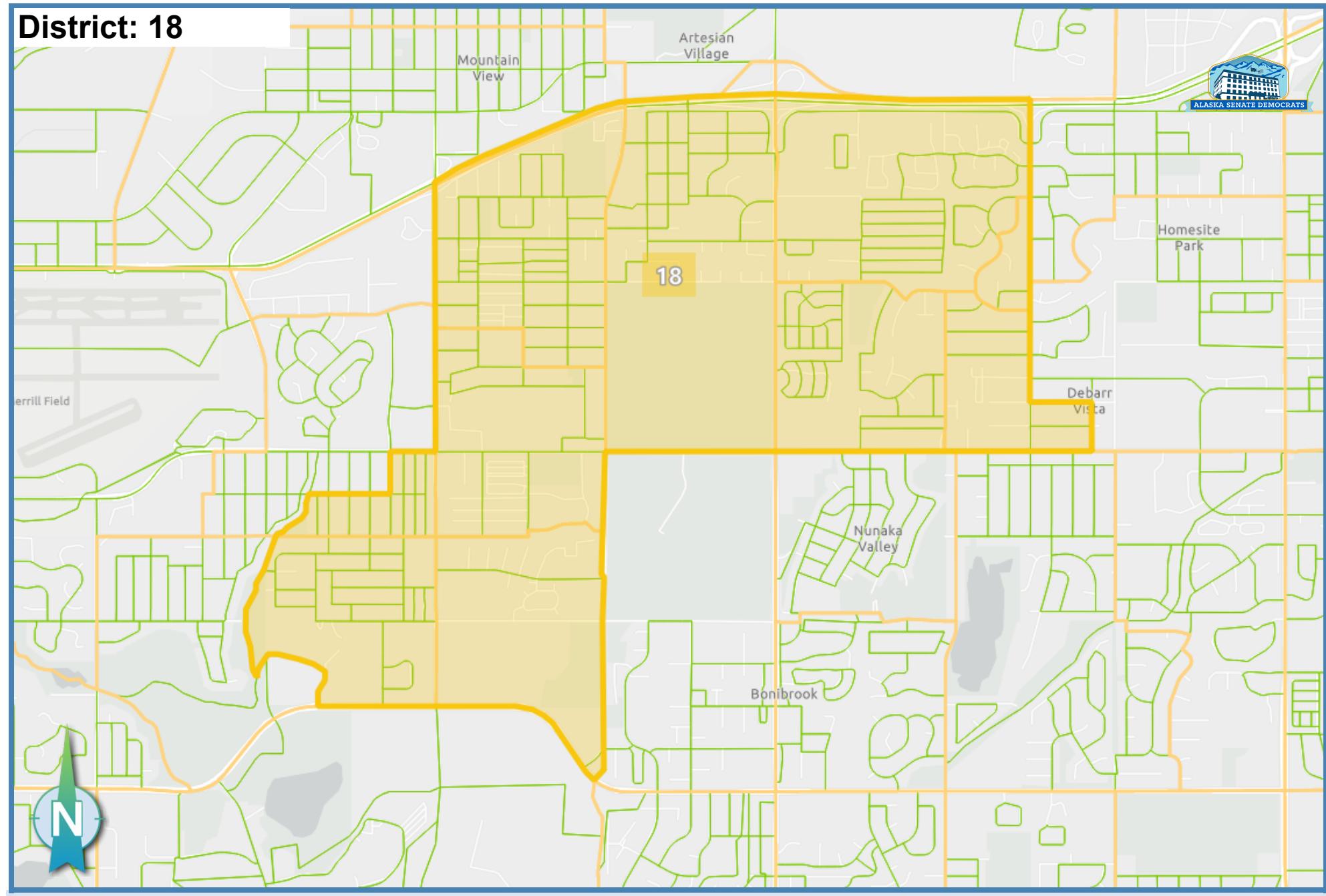
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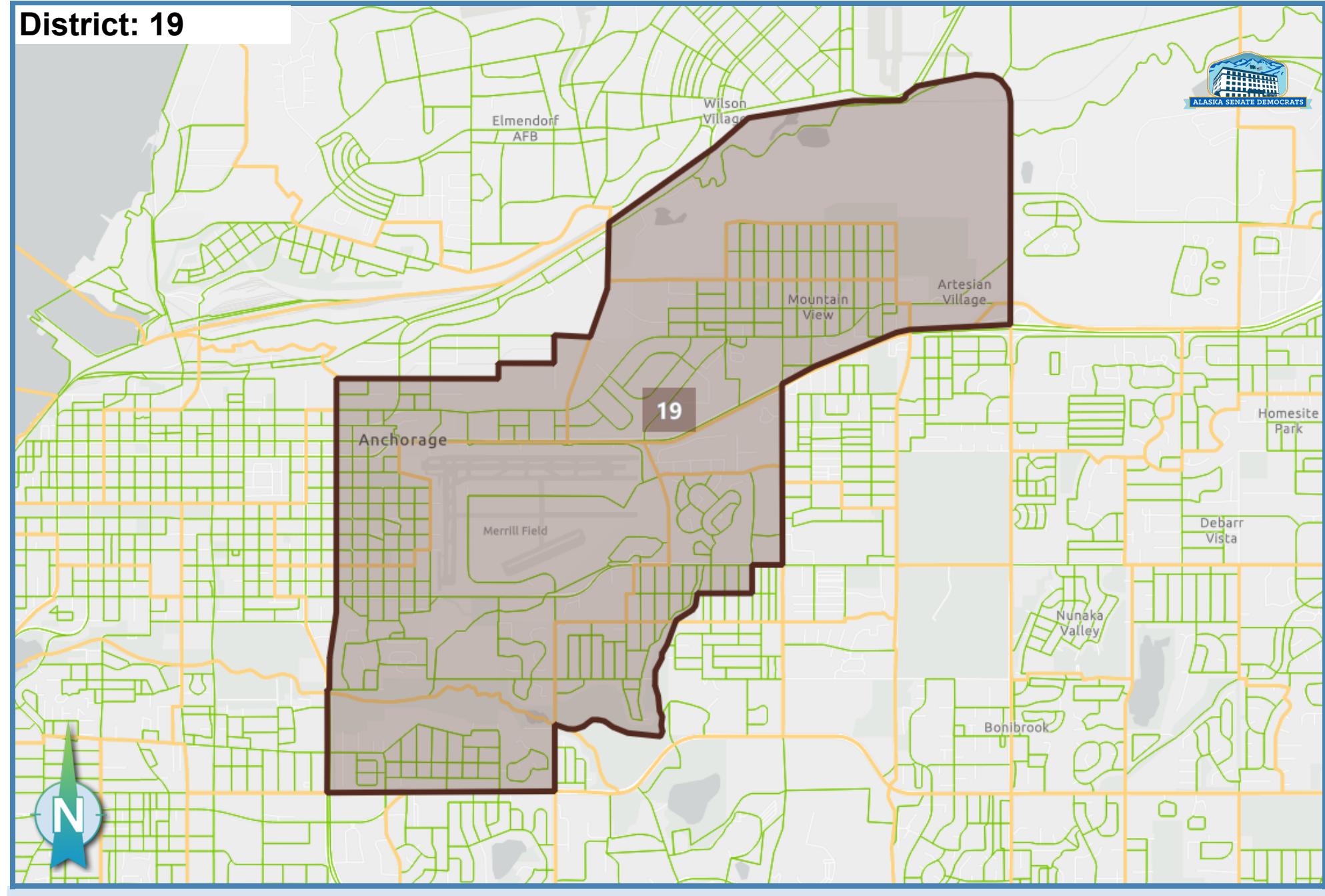


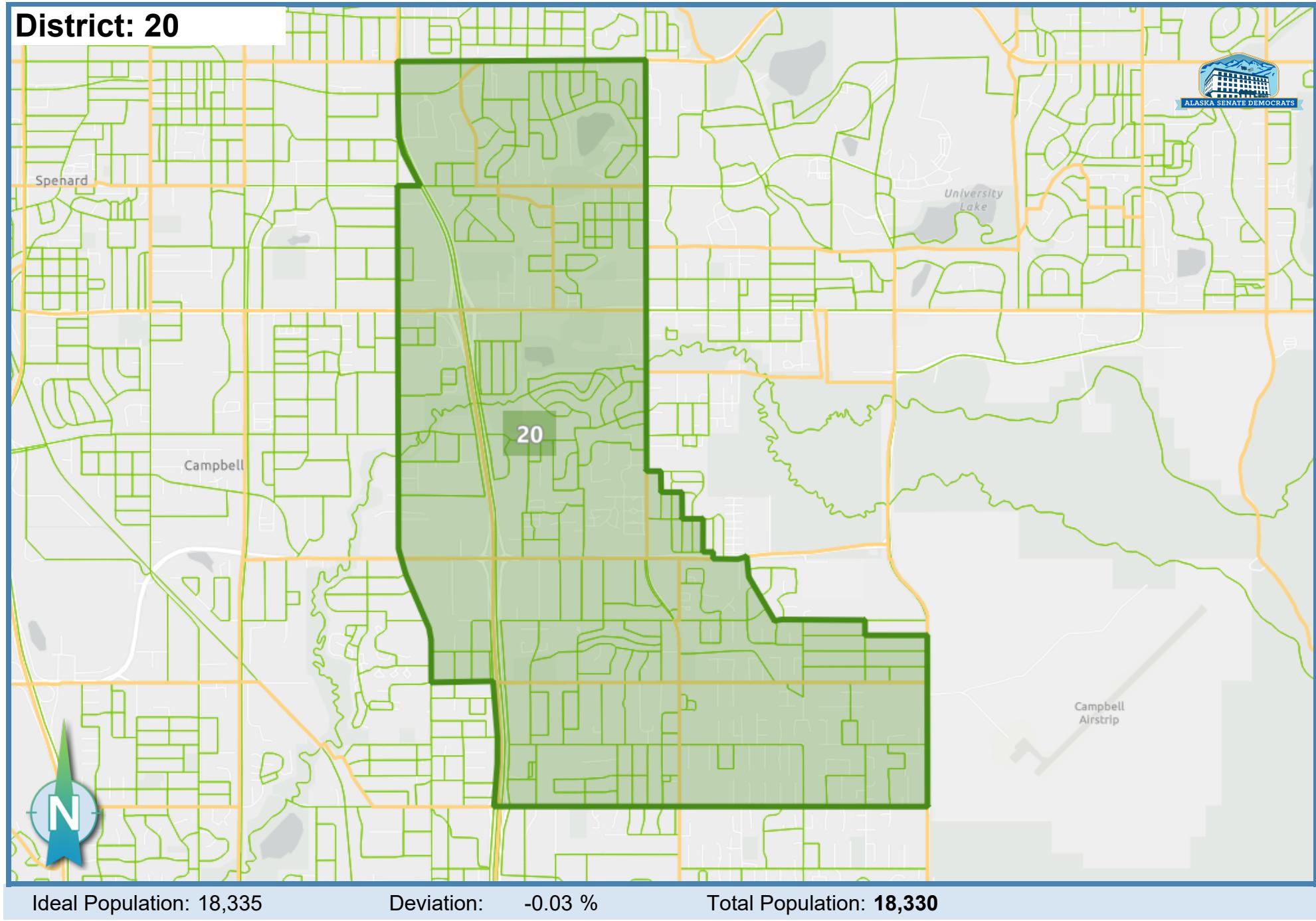


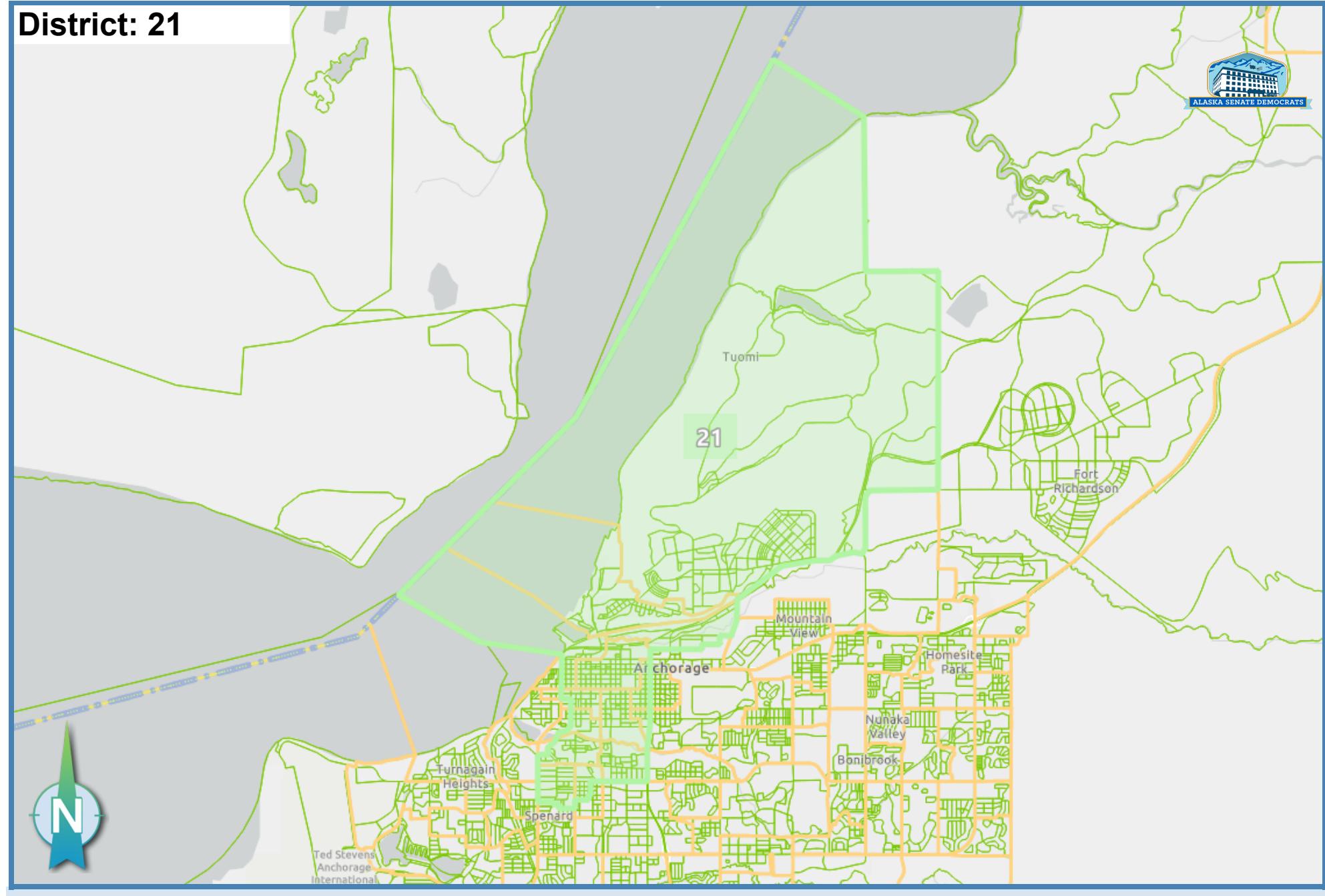
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**District: 19**



**District: 21**

Ideal Population: 18,335

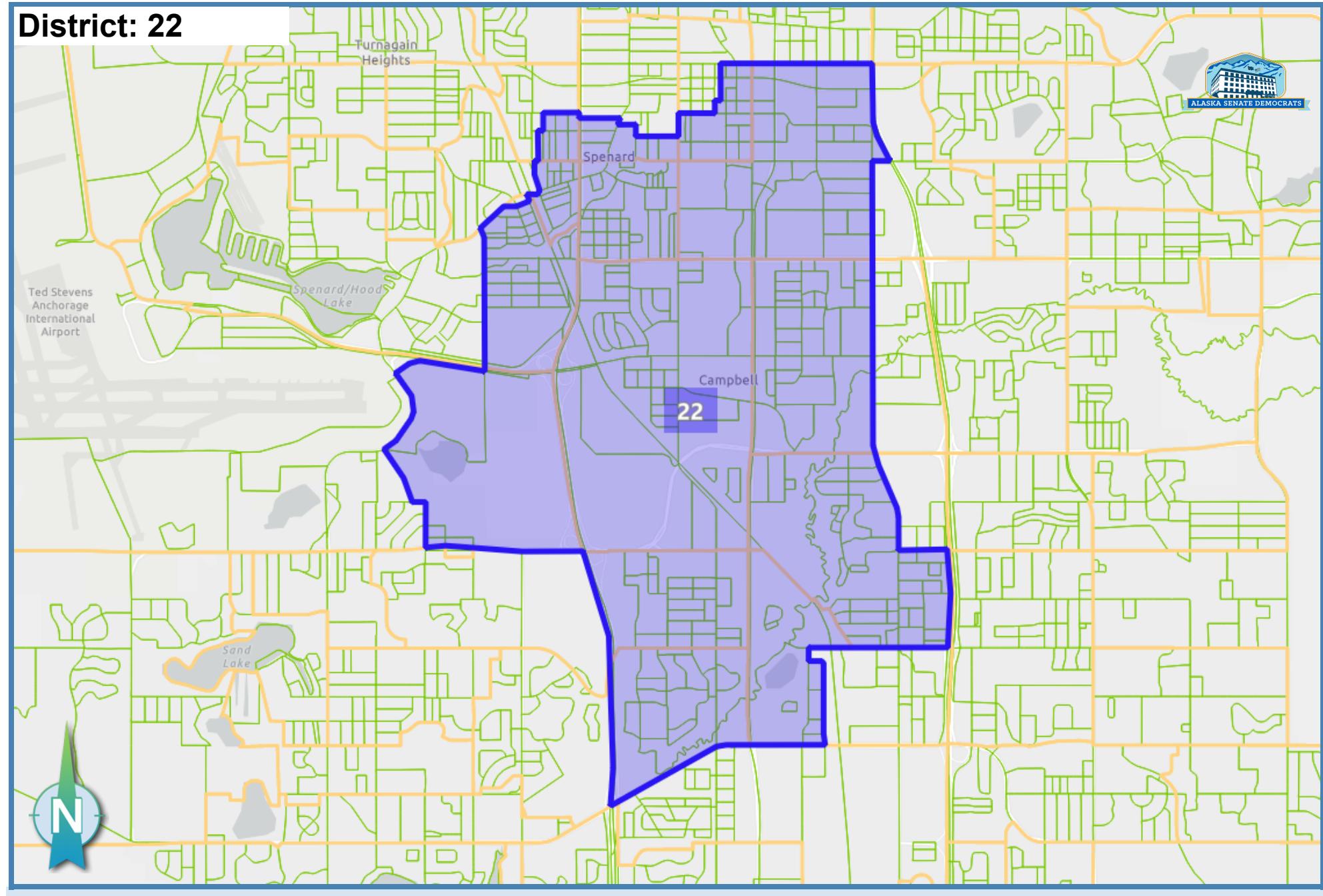
Deviation: -0.04 %

Total Population: 18,328

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:02:37 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/27/2021 10:57:06 PM

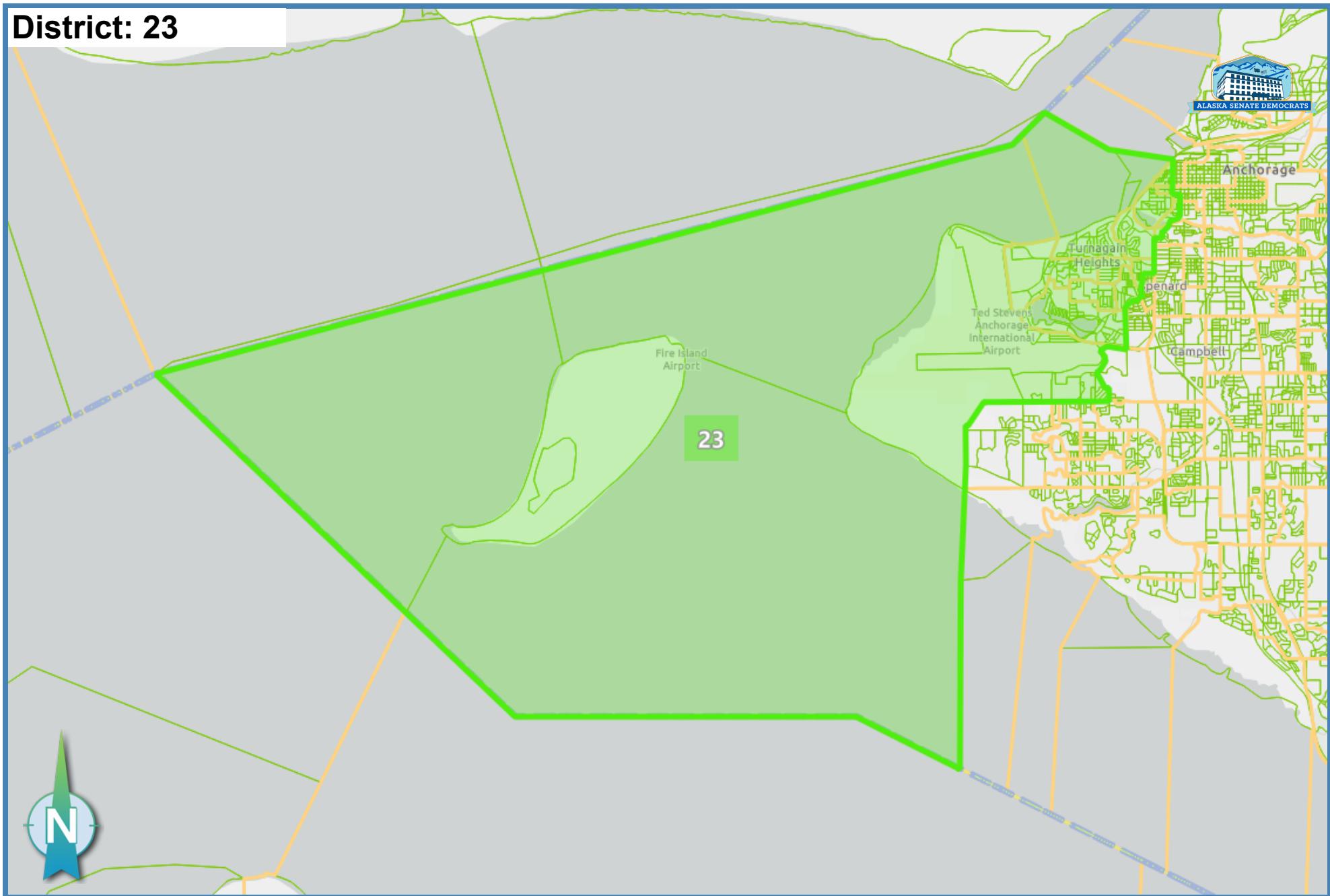
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**District: 22**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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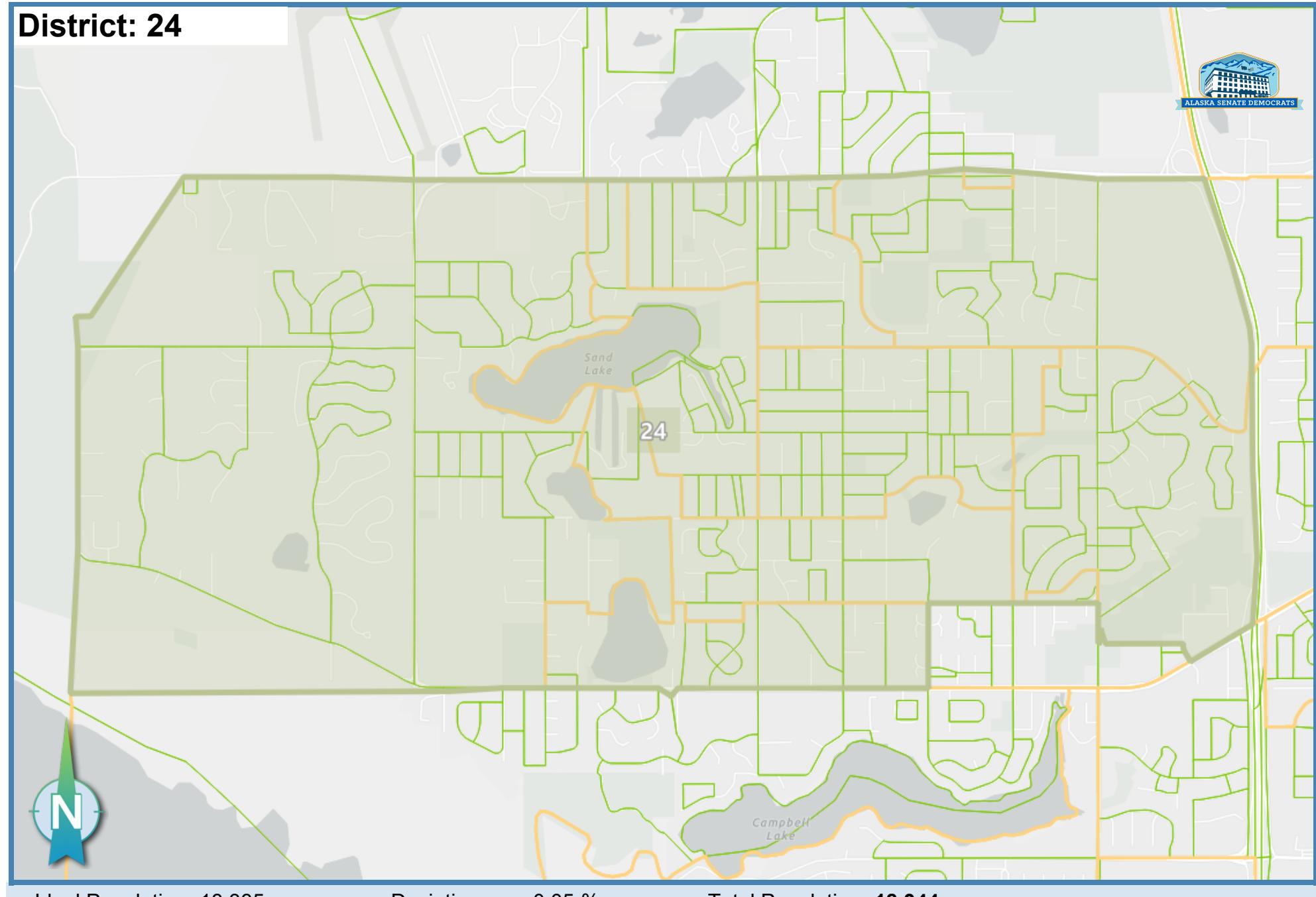
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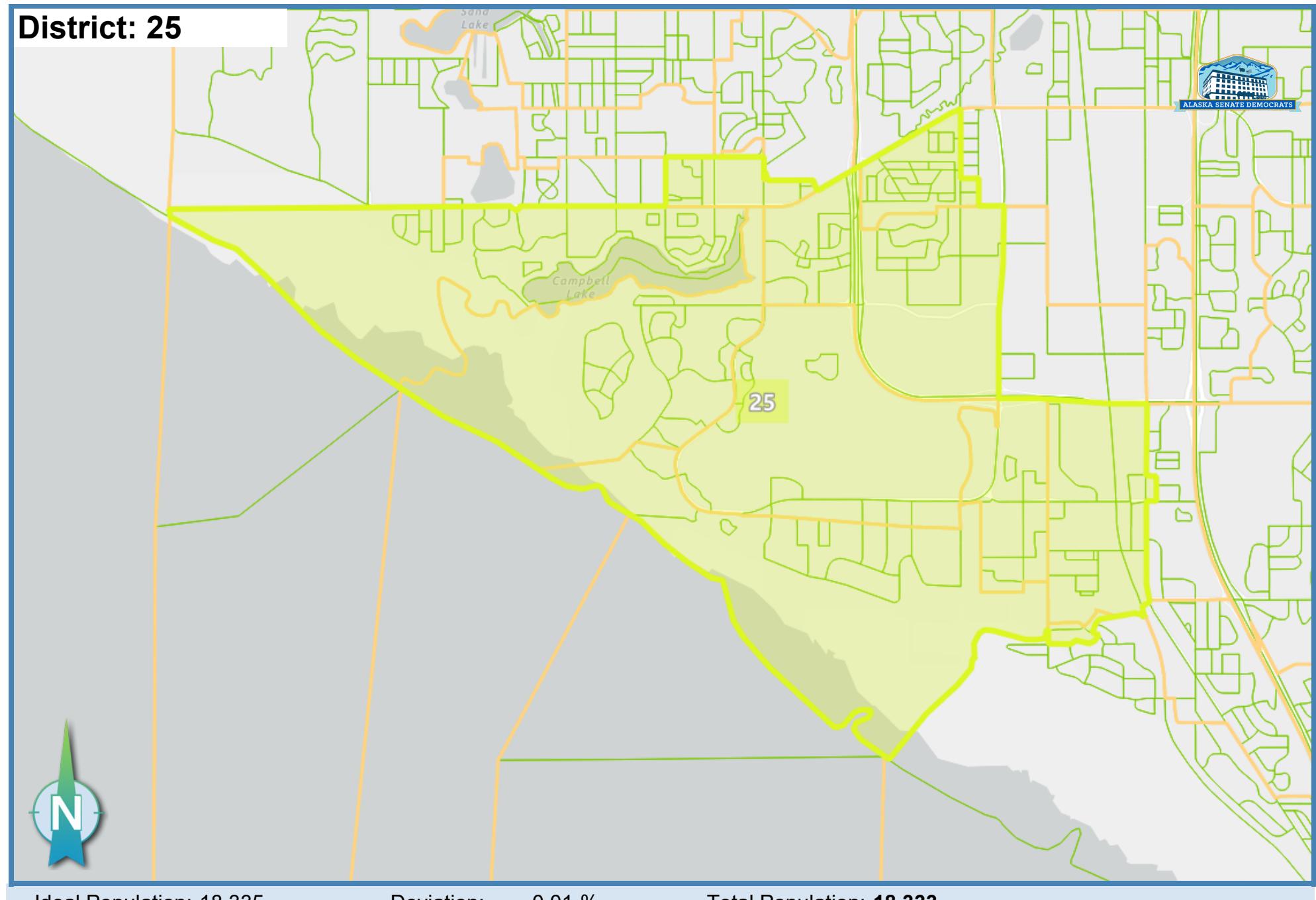
**District: 24**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:02:37 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/27/2021 10:57:06 PM

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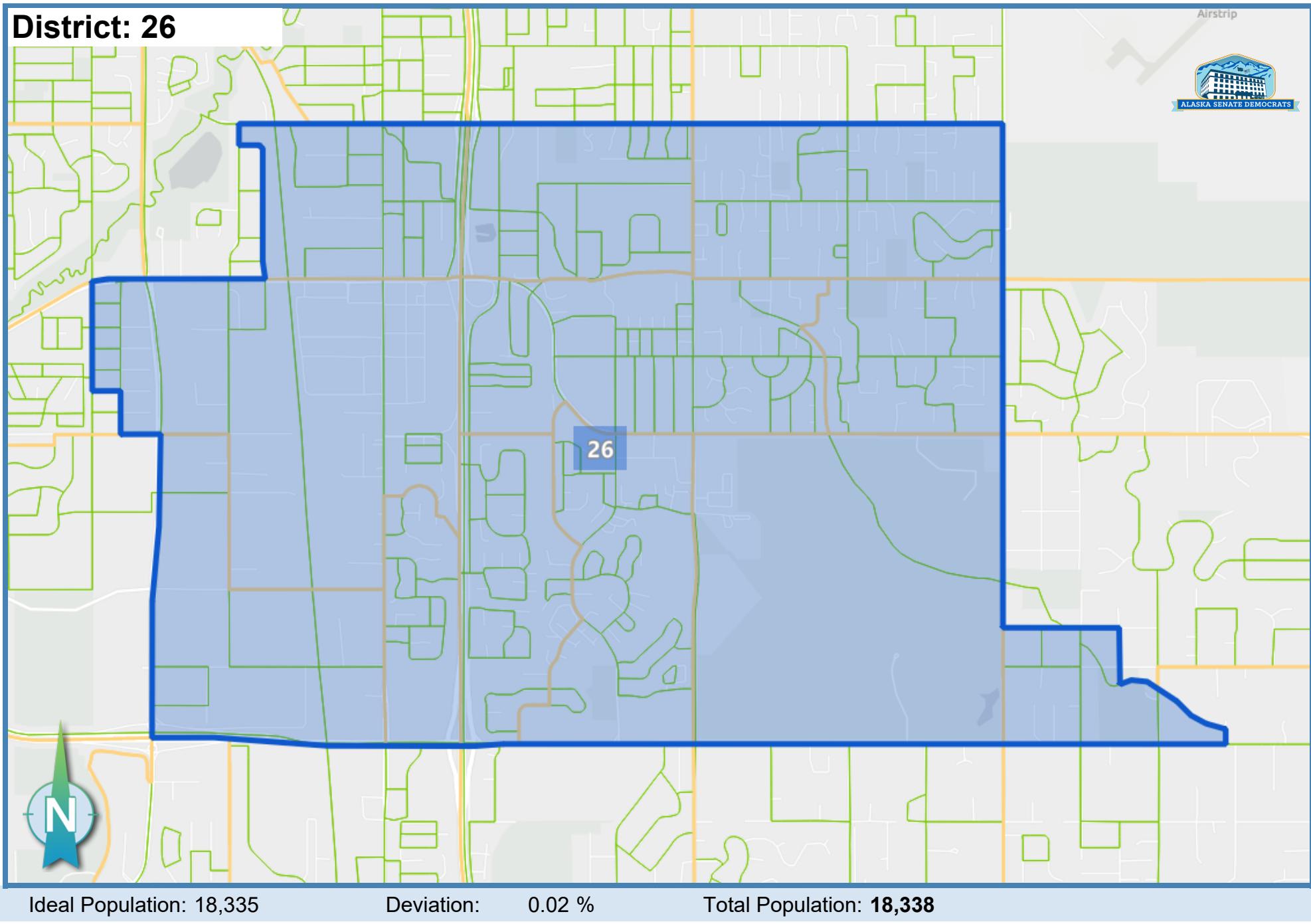


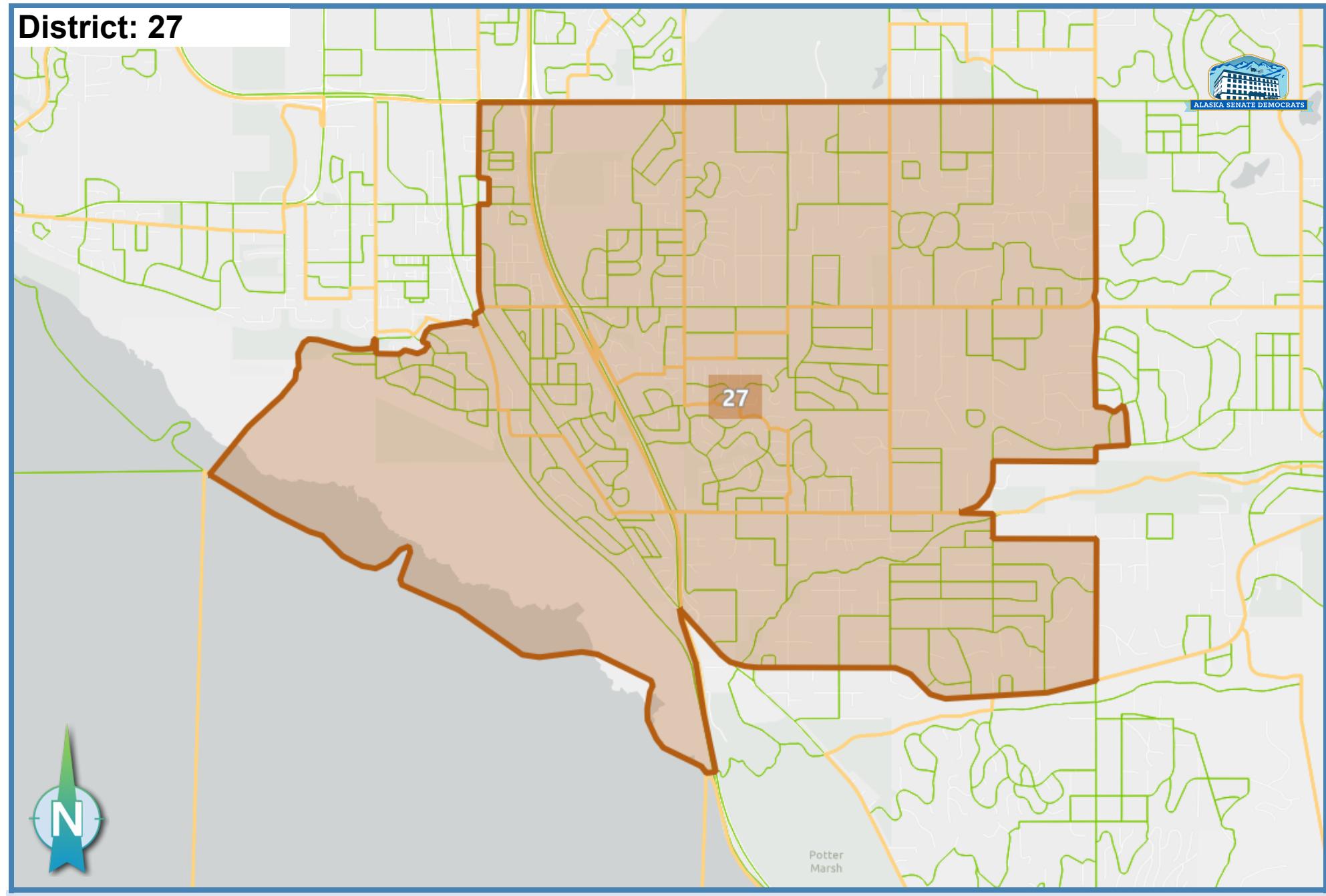
**District: 25**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:02:37 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/27/2021 10:57:06 PM

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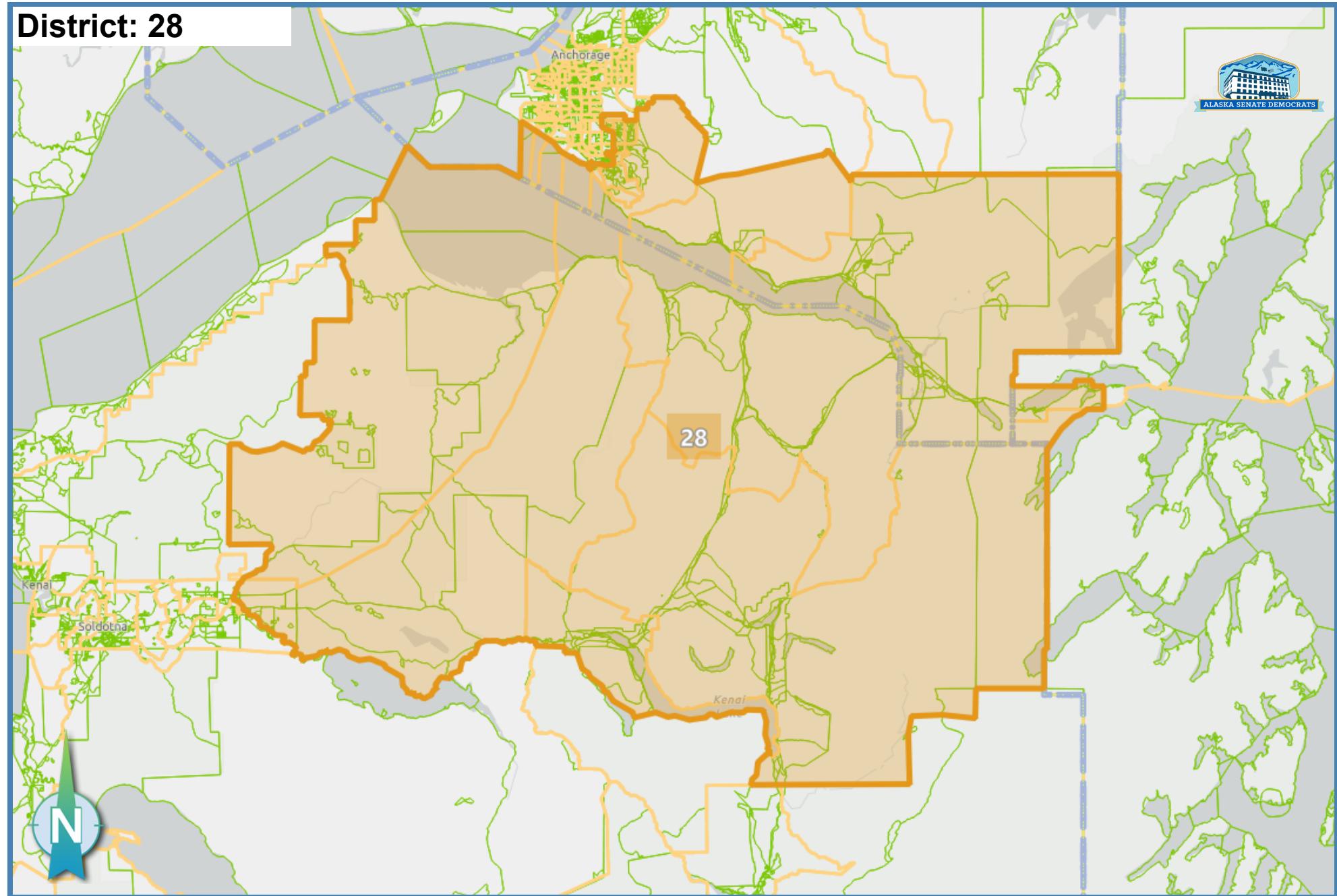




Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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: 28**

Ideal Population: 18,335

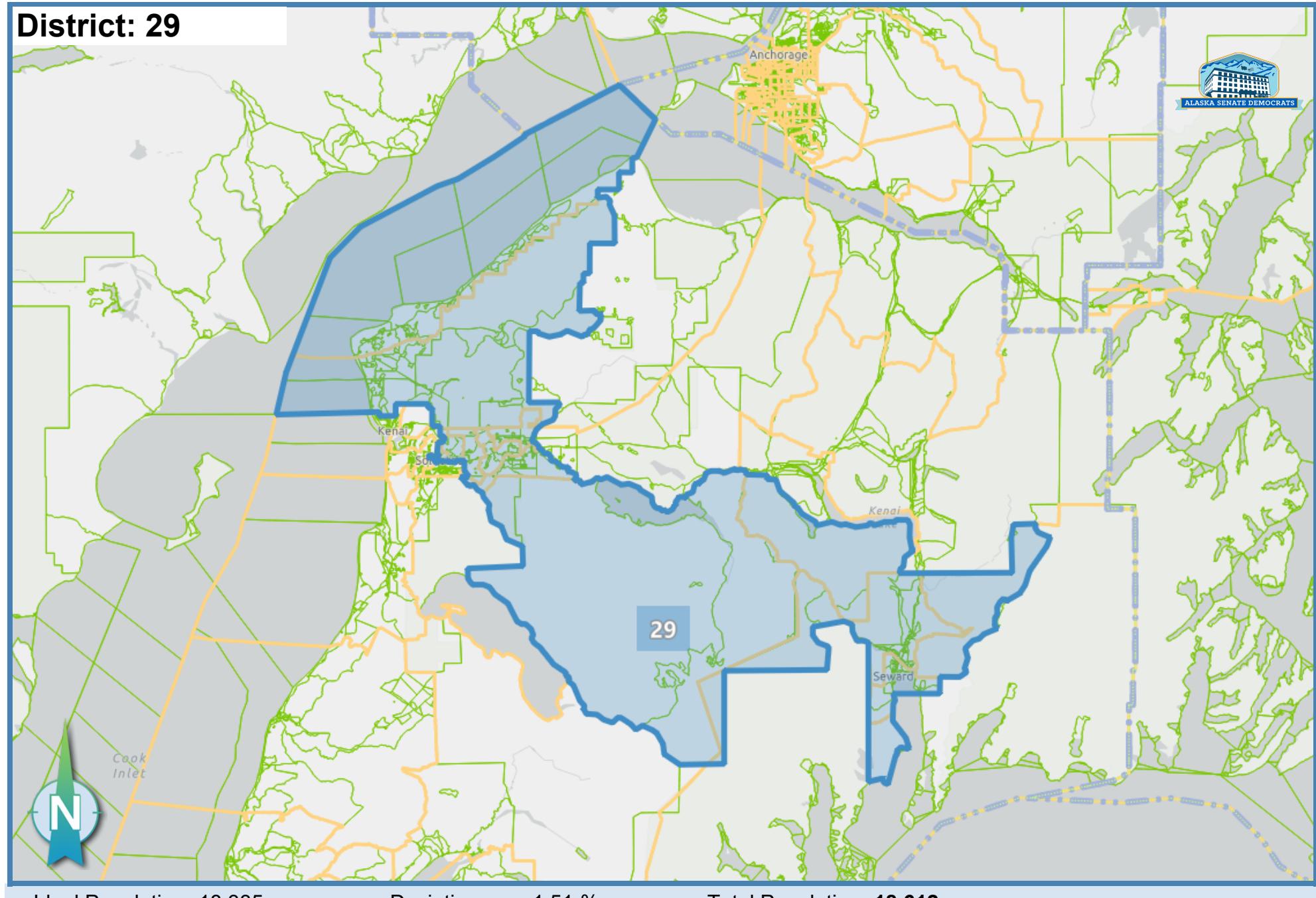
Deviation: 0.04 %

Total Population: 18,342

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

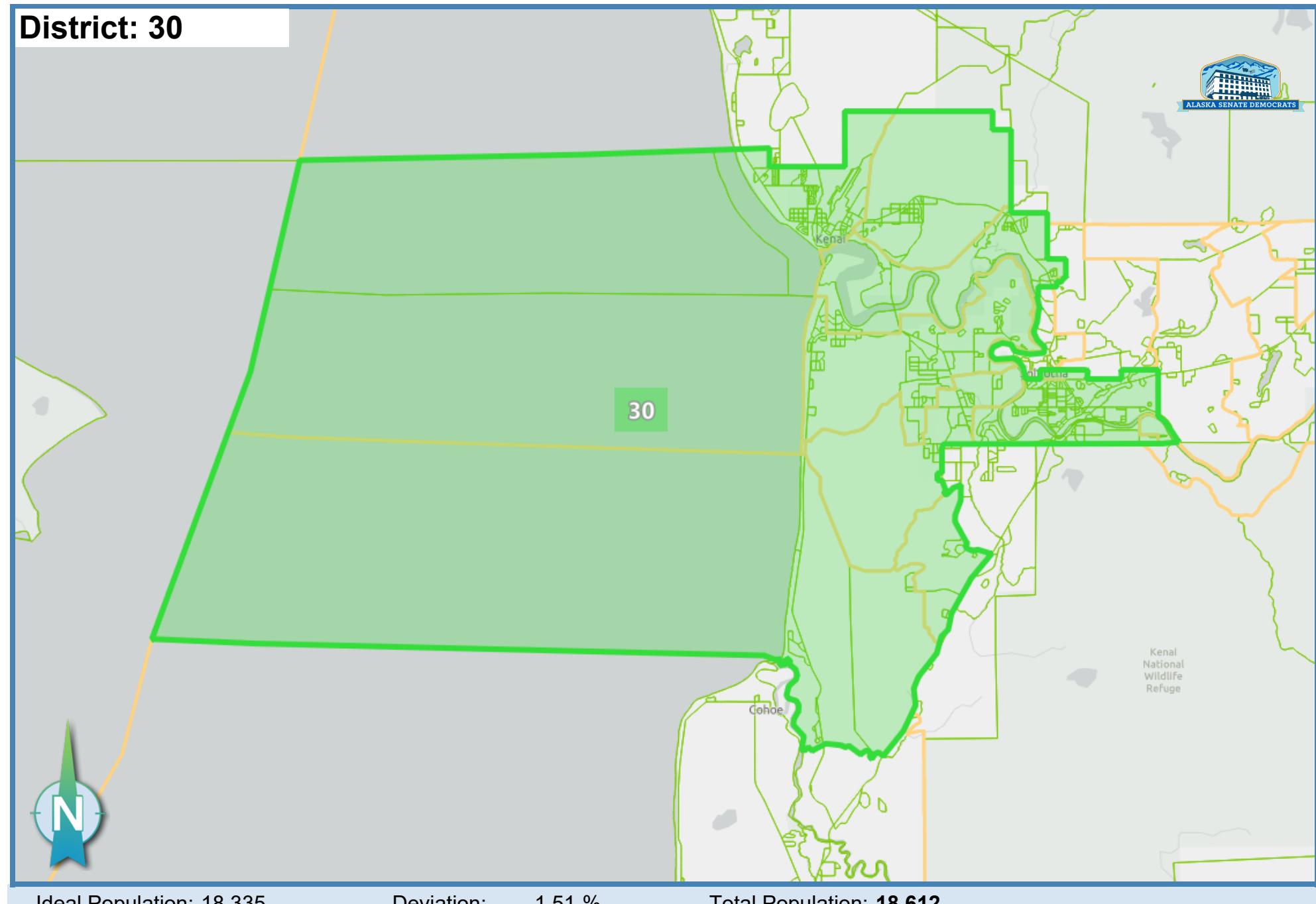
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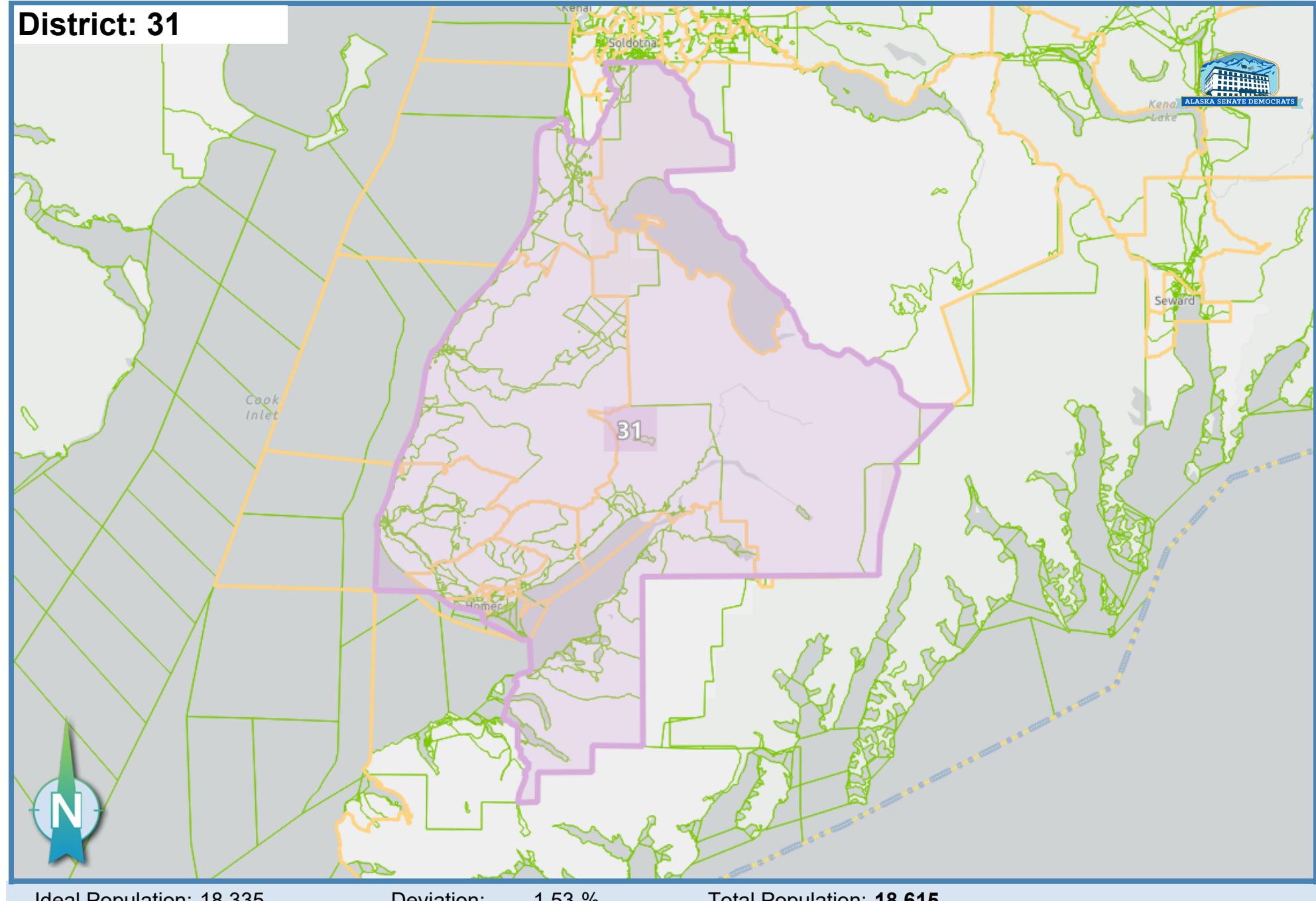
**District: 29**

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: 31**

Ideal Population: 18,335

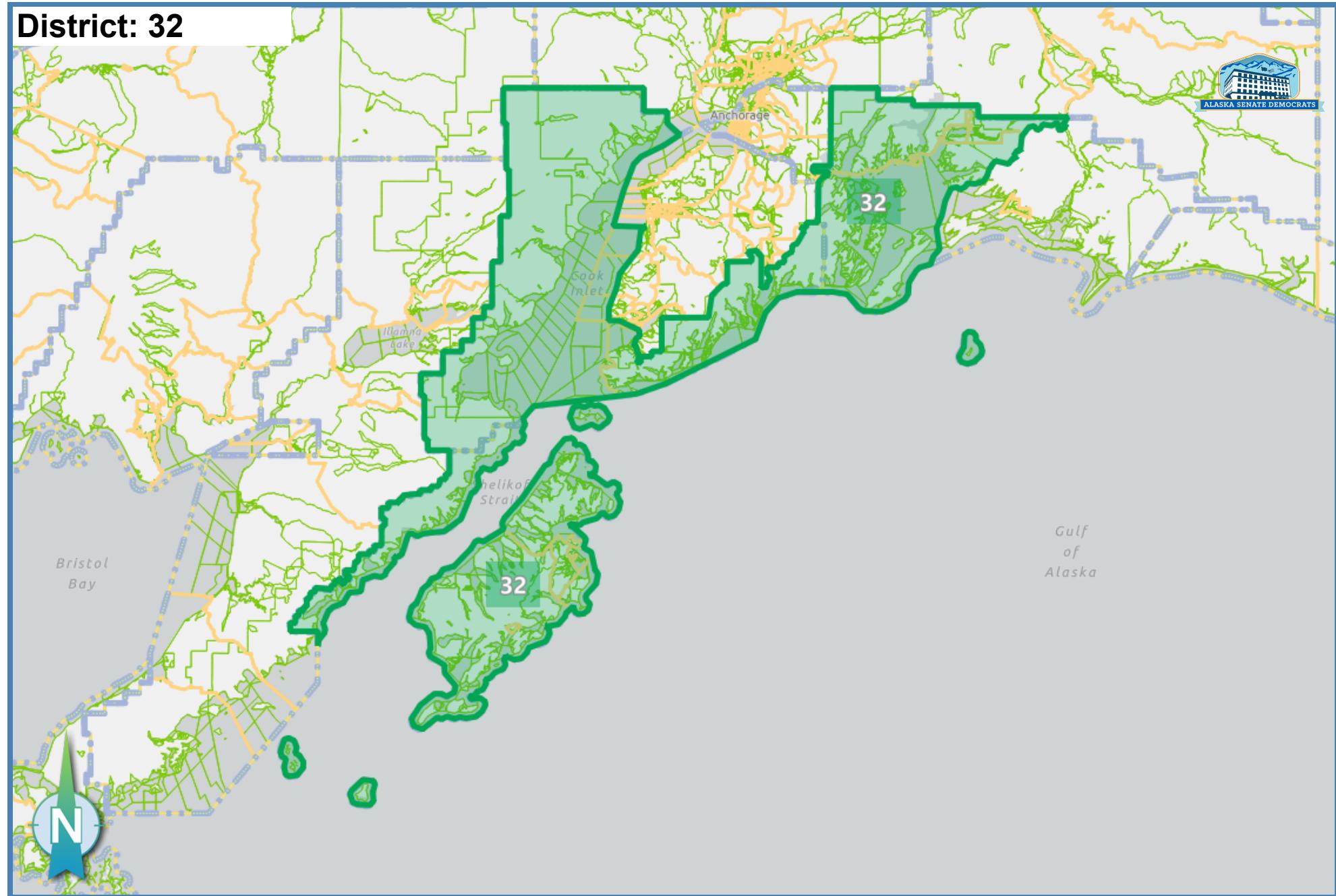
Deviation: 1.53 %

Total Population: 18,615

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: 32**

Ideal Population: 18,335

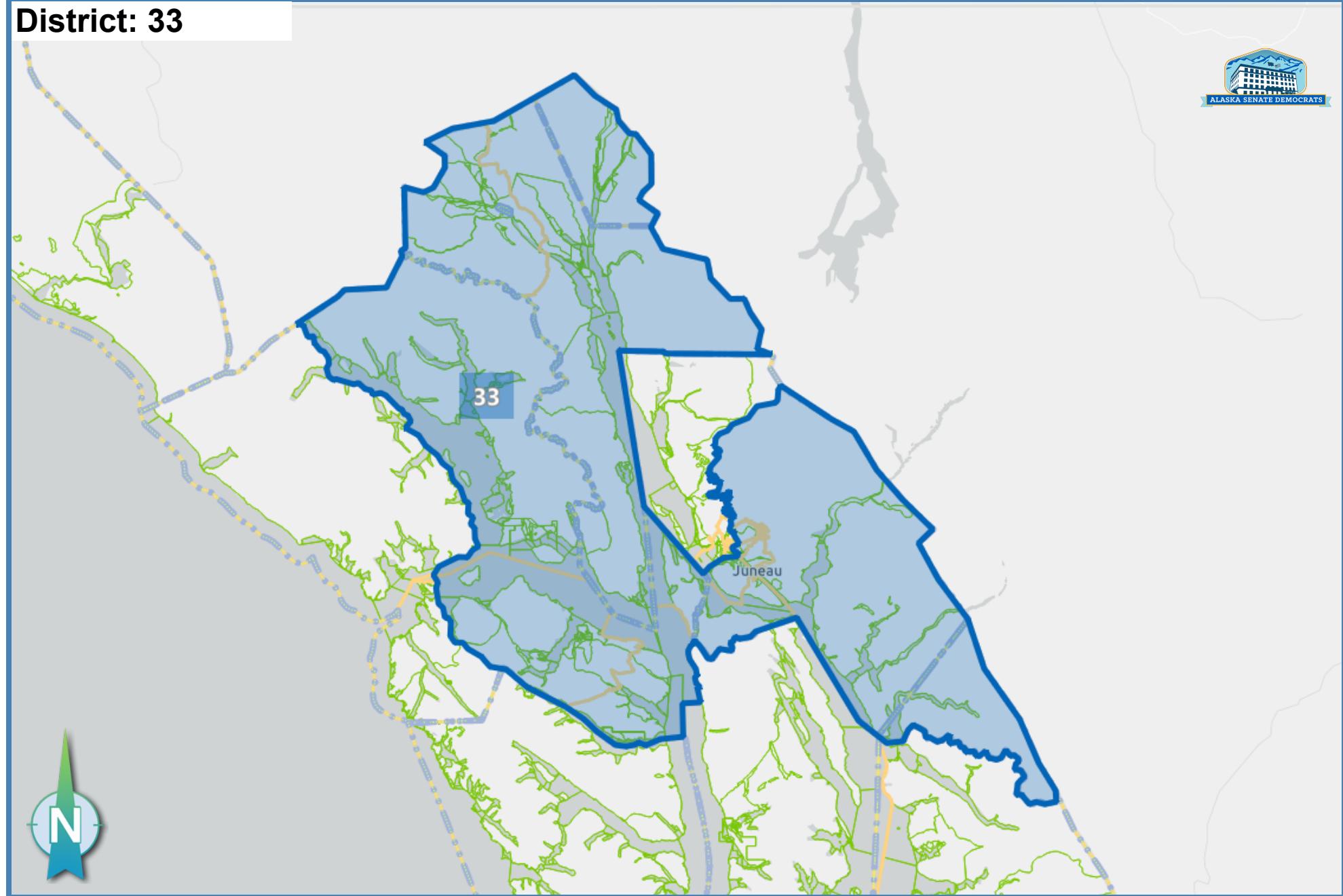
Deviation: 0.34 %

Total Population: 18,398

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: 33**

Ideal Population: 18,335

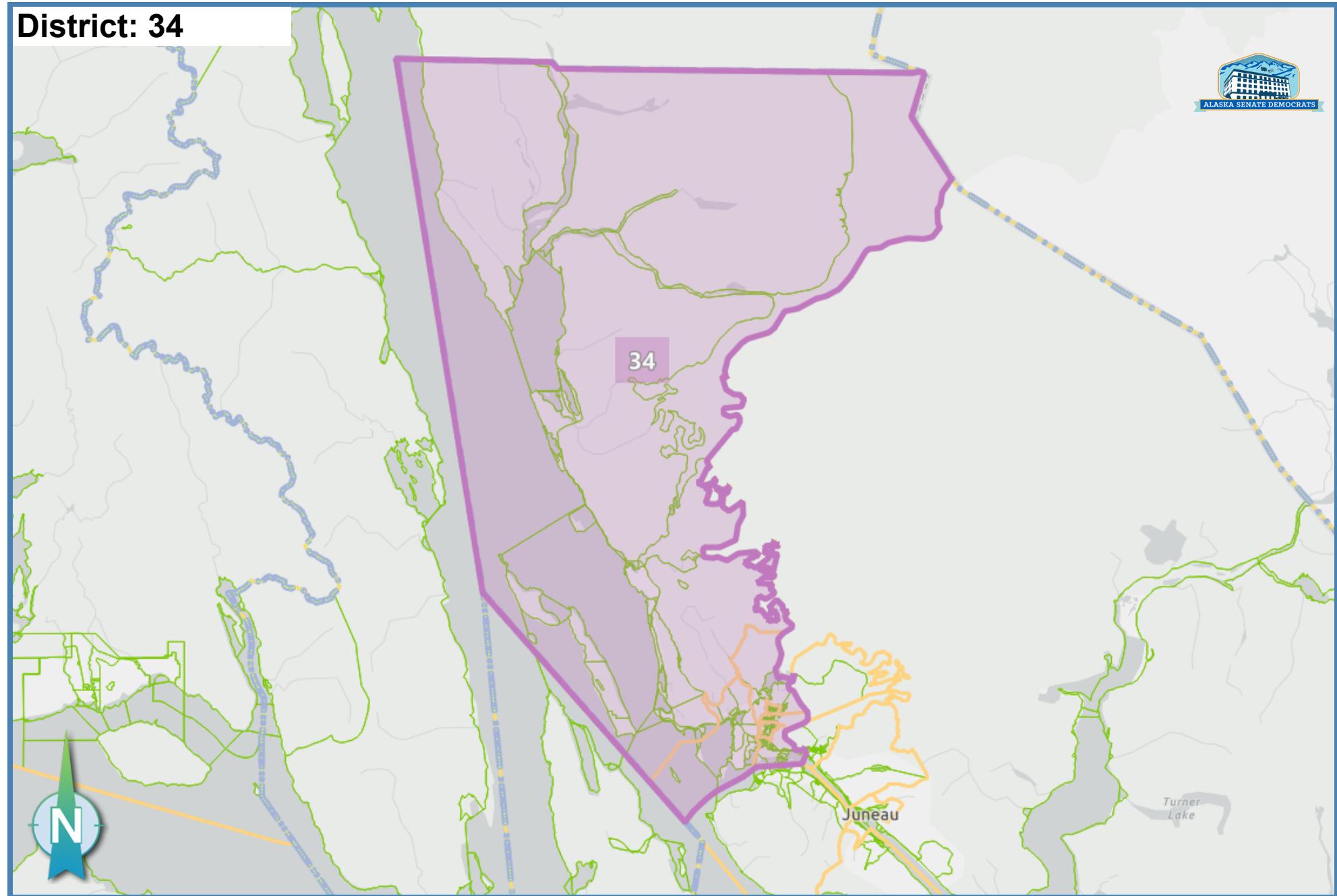
Deviation: 2.10 %

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

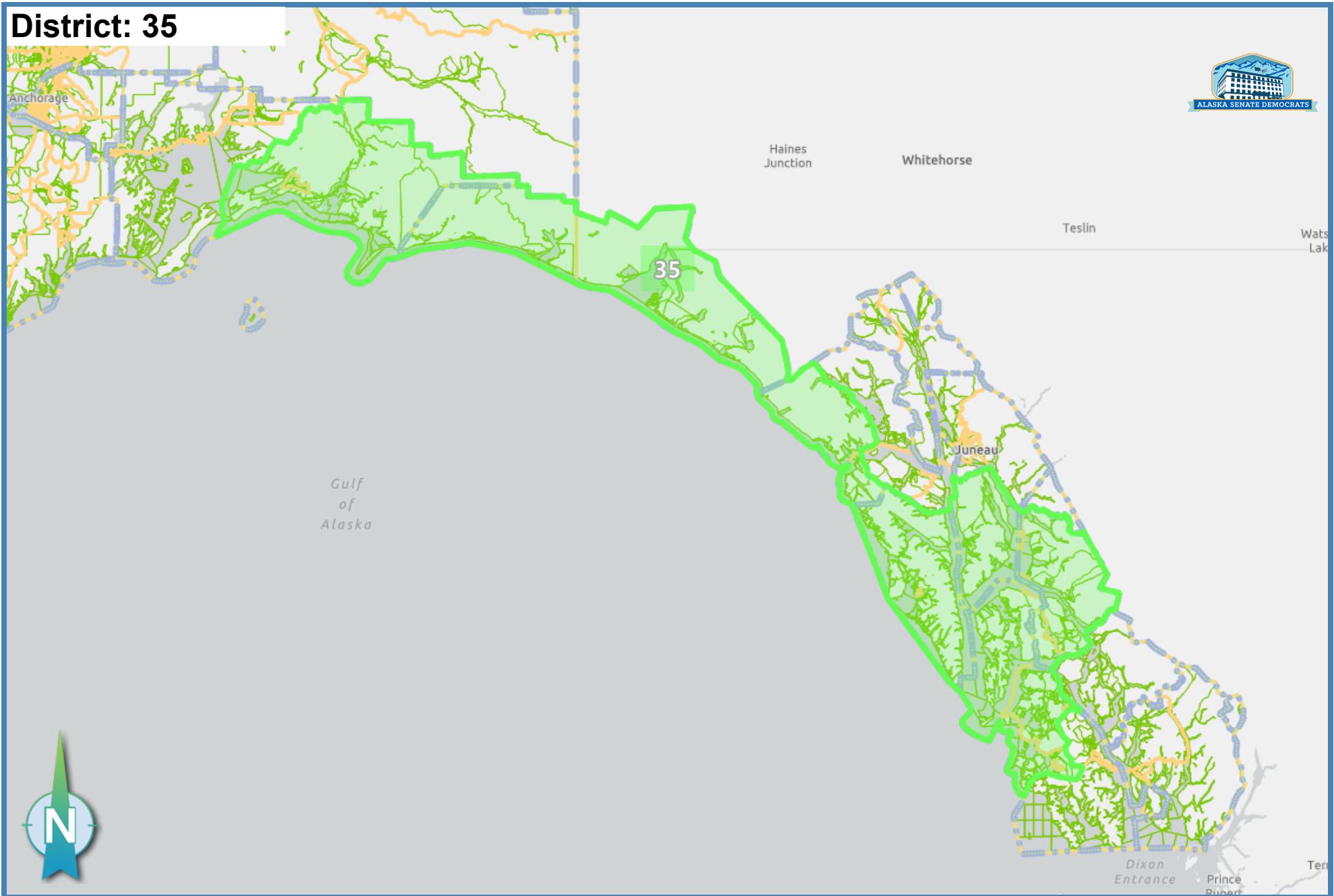
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**District: 34**

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

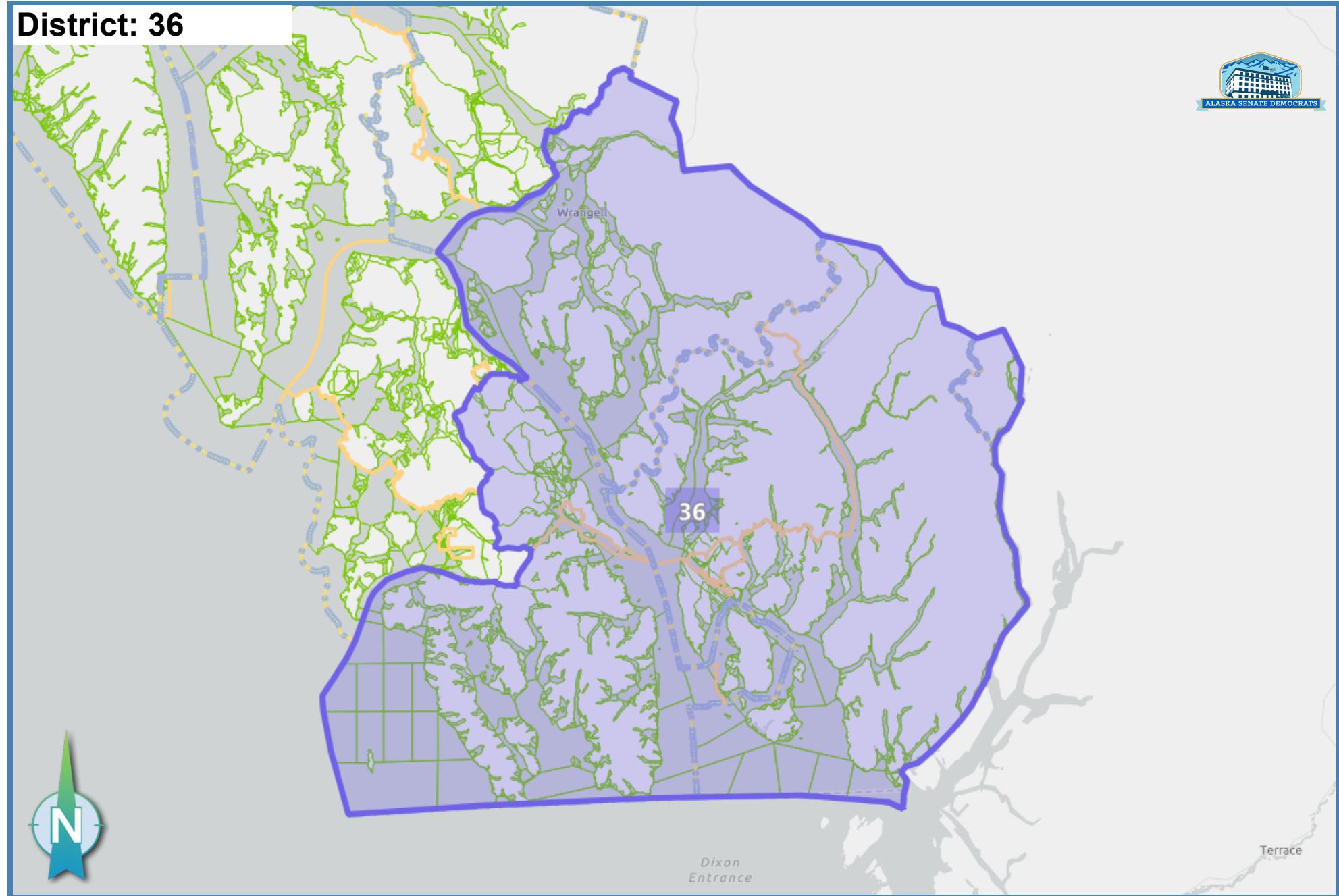
Deviation: 2.52 %

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

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: 37**

Ideal Population: 18,335

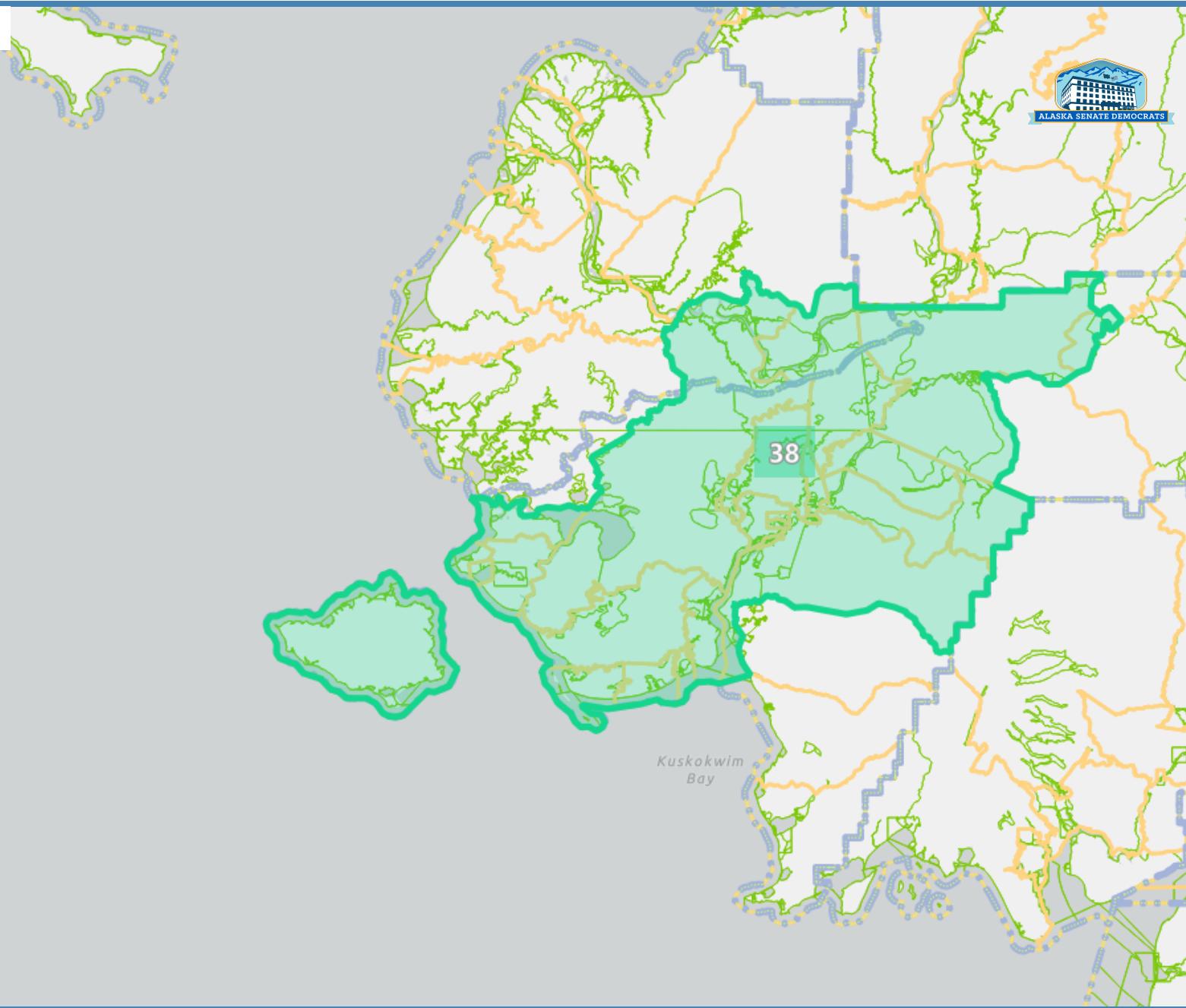
Deviation: -4.07 %

Total Population: 17,589

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: 38**

Ideal Population: 18,335

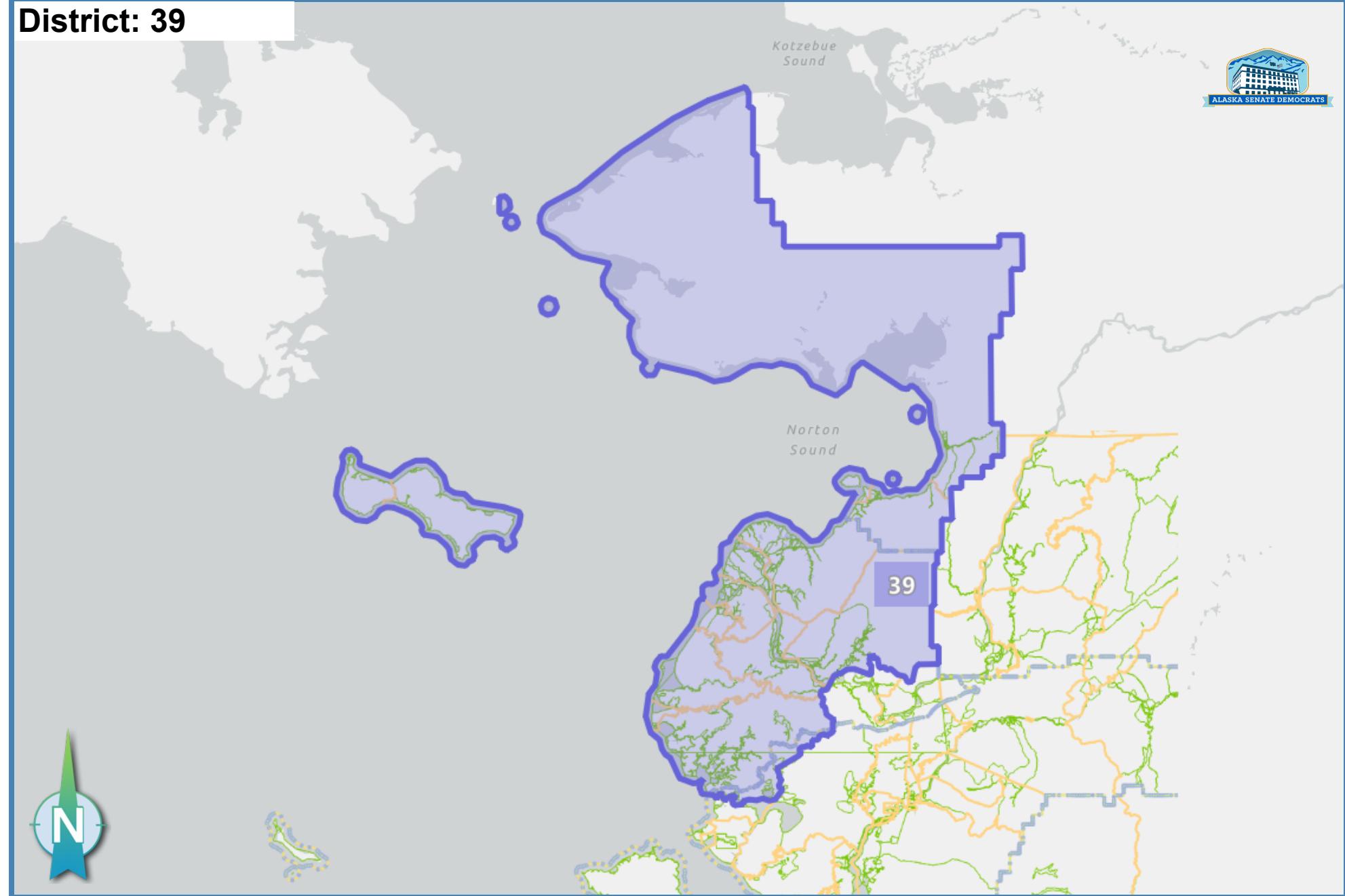
Deviation: -3.92 %

Total Population: 17,616

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: 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**Chukchi  
Sea

40

UNITED  
STATES

Norton



Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: 2.67 %

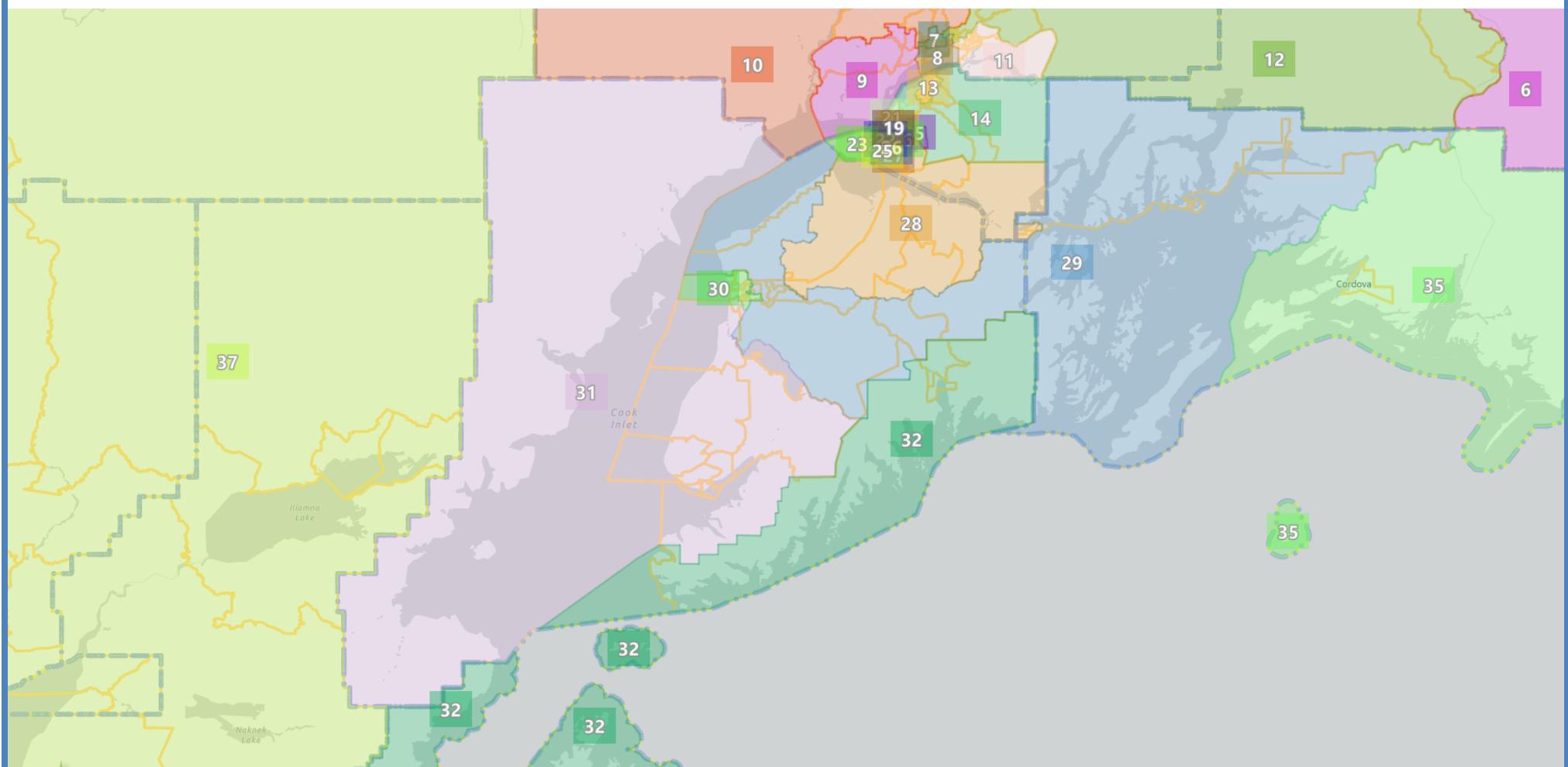
Total Population: 18,824

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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# Combined2

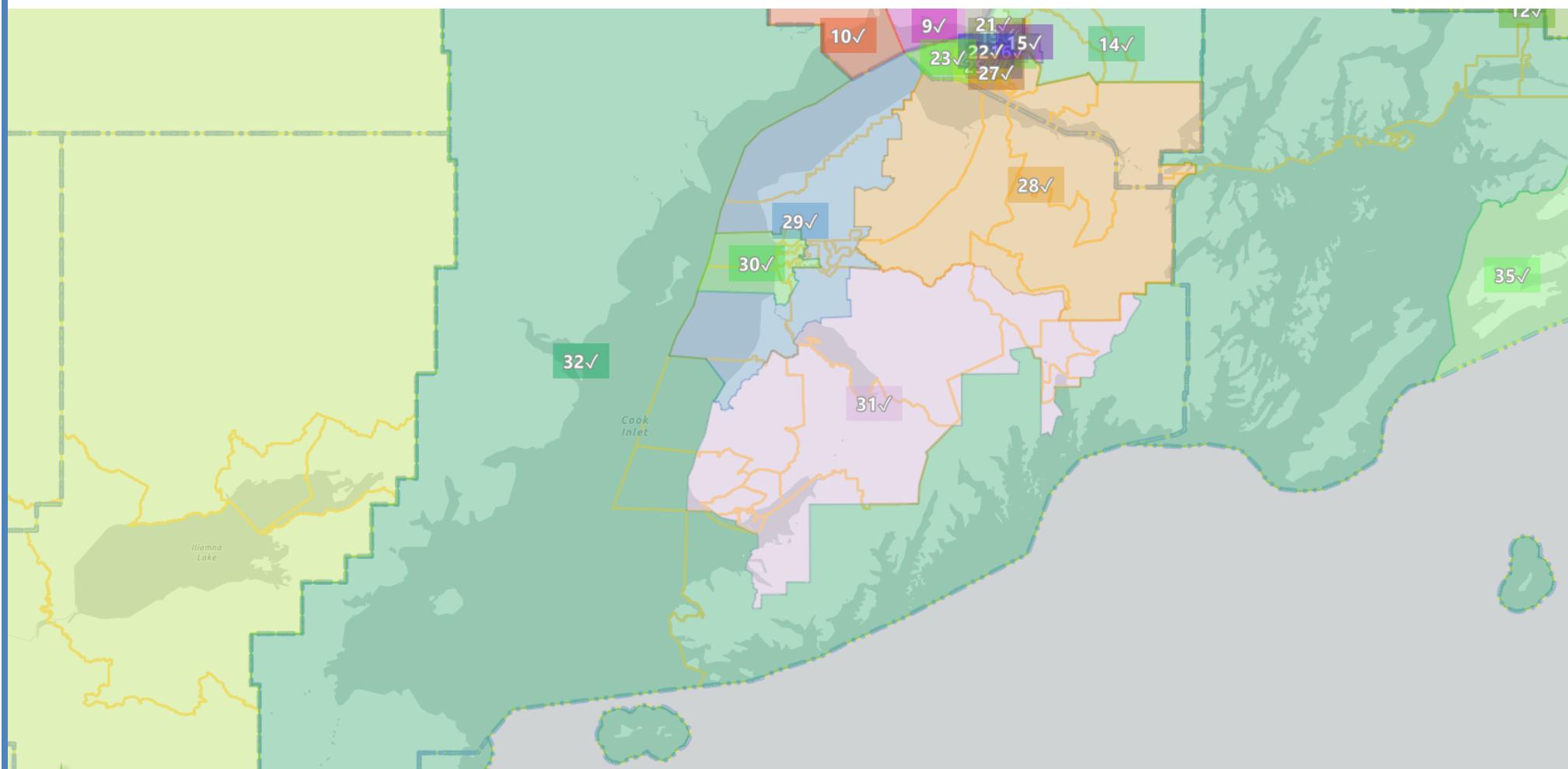


Combined2 - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/27/2021 11:04:37 PM Last Edit: 10/27/2021 4:50:24 PM

DISTRICT	Total Population Tabulation			
	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

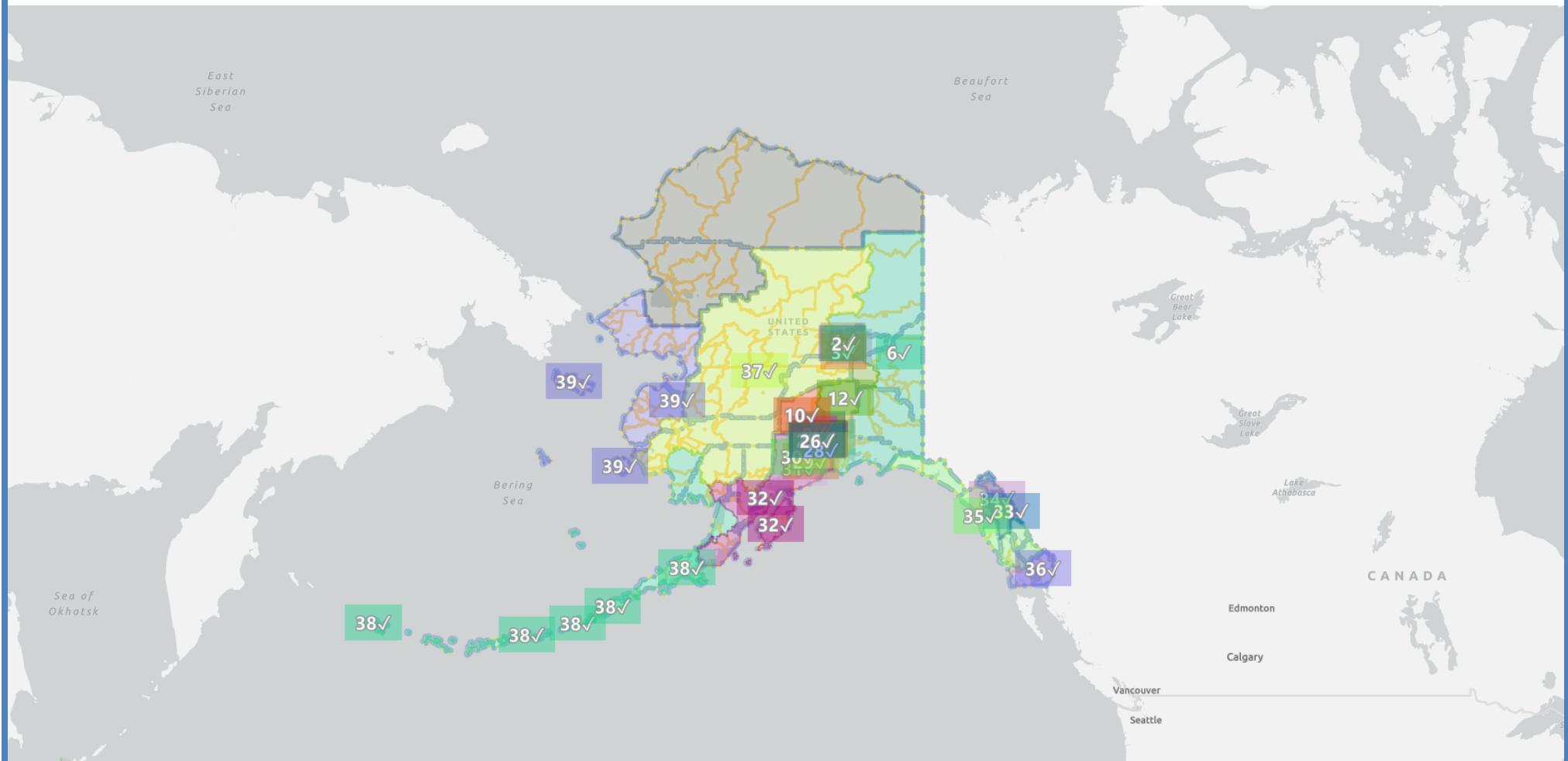


Combined3 - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/27/2021 11:01:30 PM Last Edit: 10/27/2021 10:10:58 PM



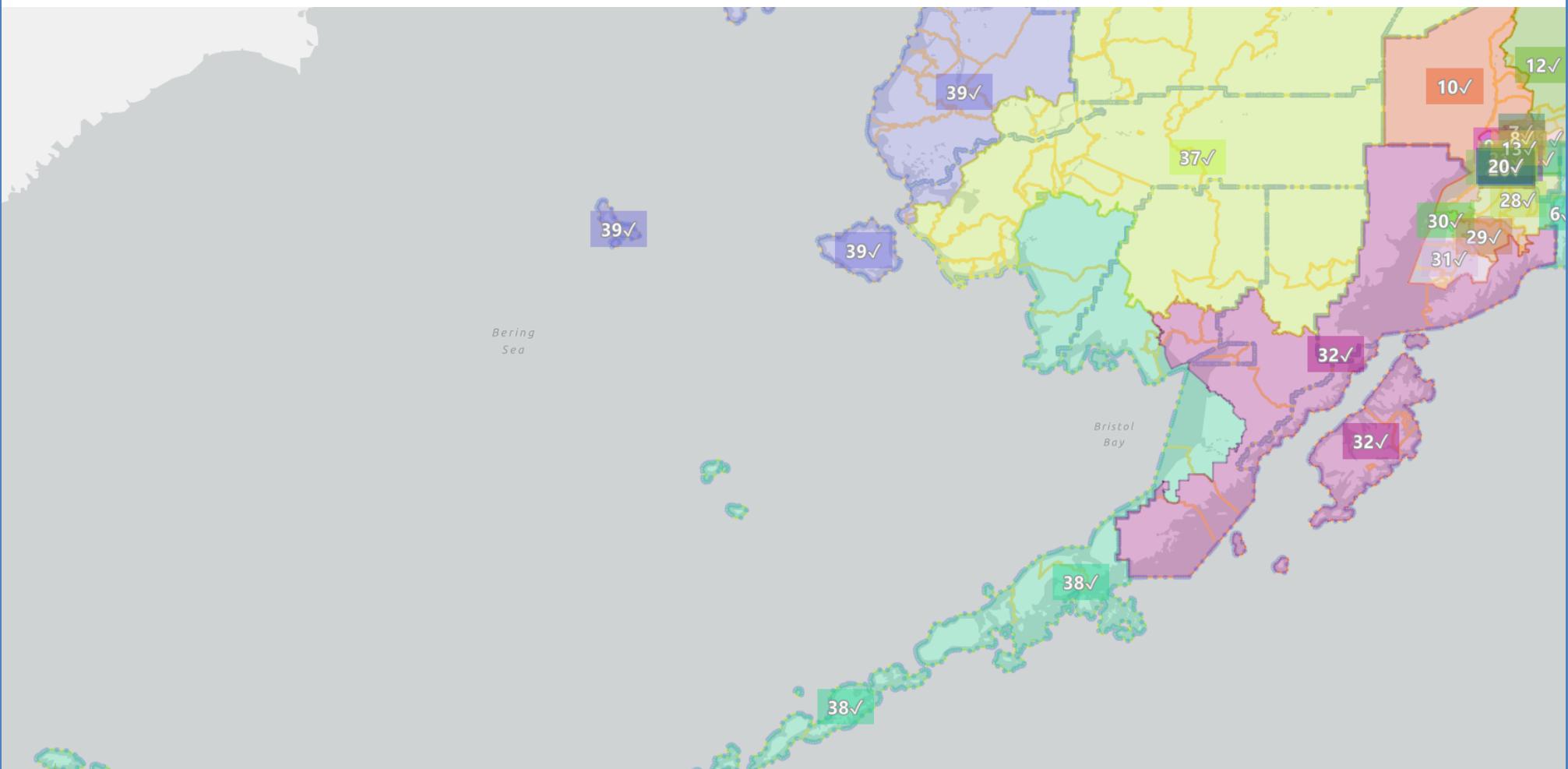
DISTRICT	Total Population Tabulation			
	All Persons	Target	Dev.	Difference
28	18,342	18,335	0.04%✓	7
29	18,626	18,335	1.59%✓	291
30	18,622	18,335	1.57%✓	287
31	18,591	18,335	1.40%✓	256
32	18,398	18,335	0.34%✓	63



Valdez-Cordova - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

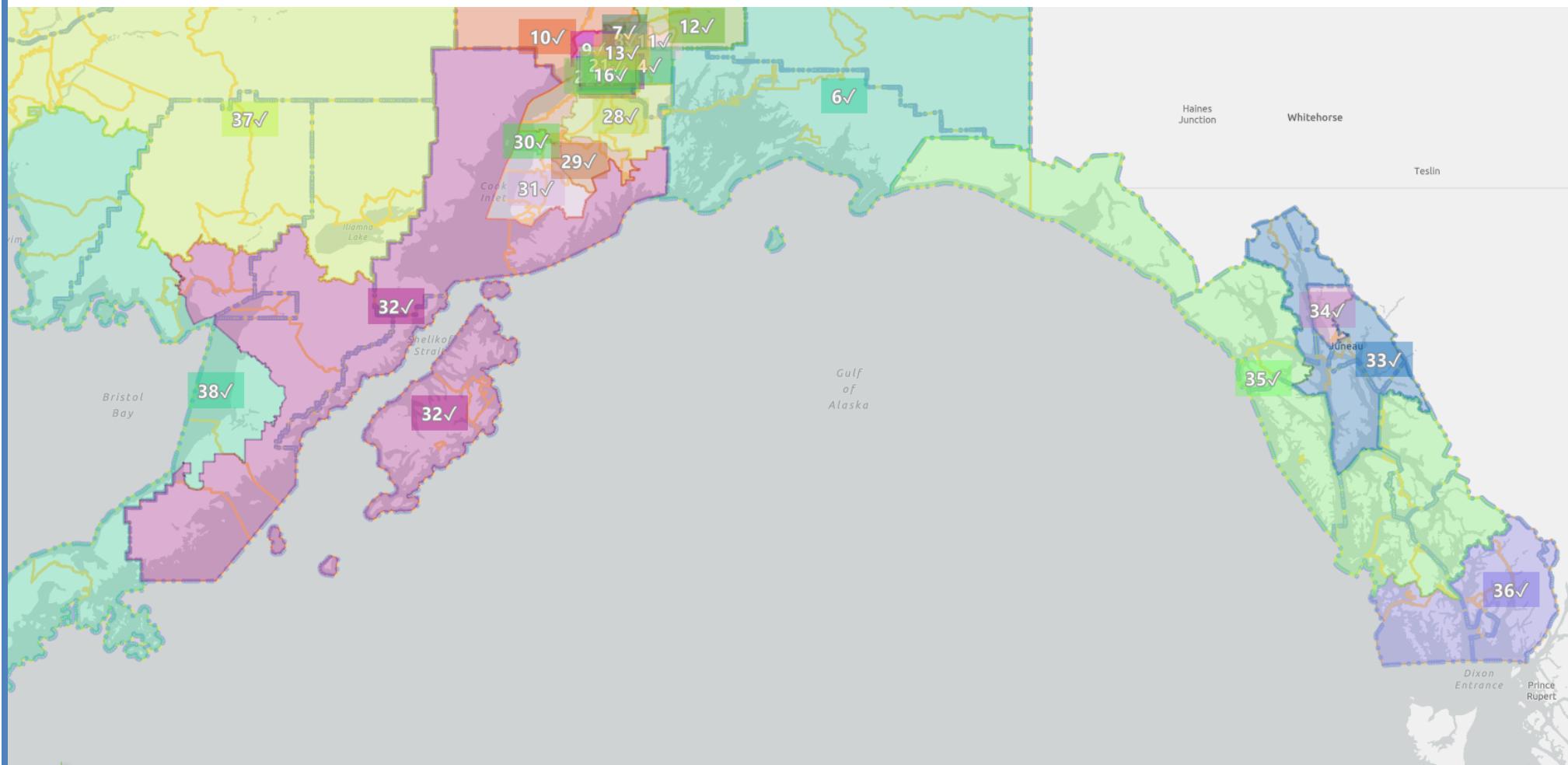
Map Date: 10/27/2021 11:06:50 PM Last Edit: 10/24/2021 1:28:05 PM

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
Assigned	733391			
Total Pop	733391			
Unassigned	0			



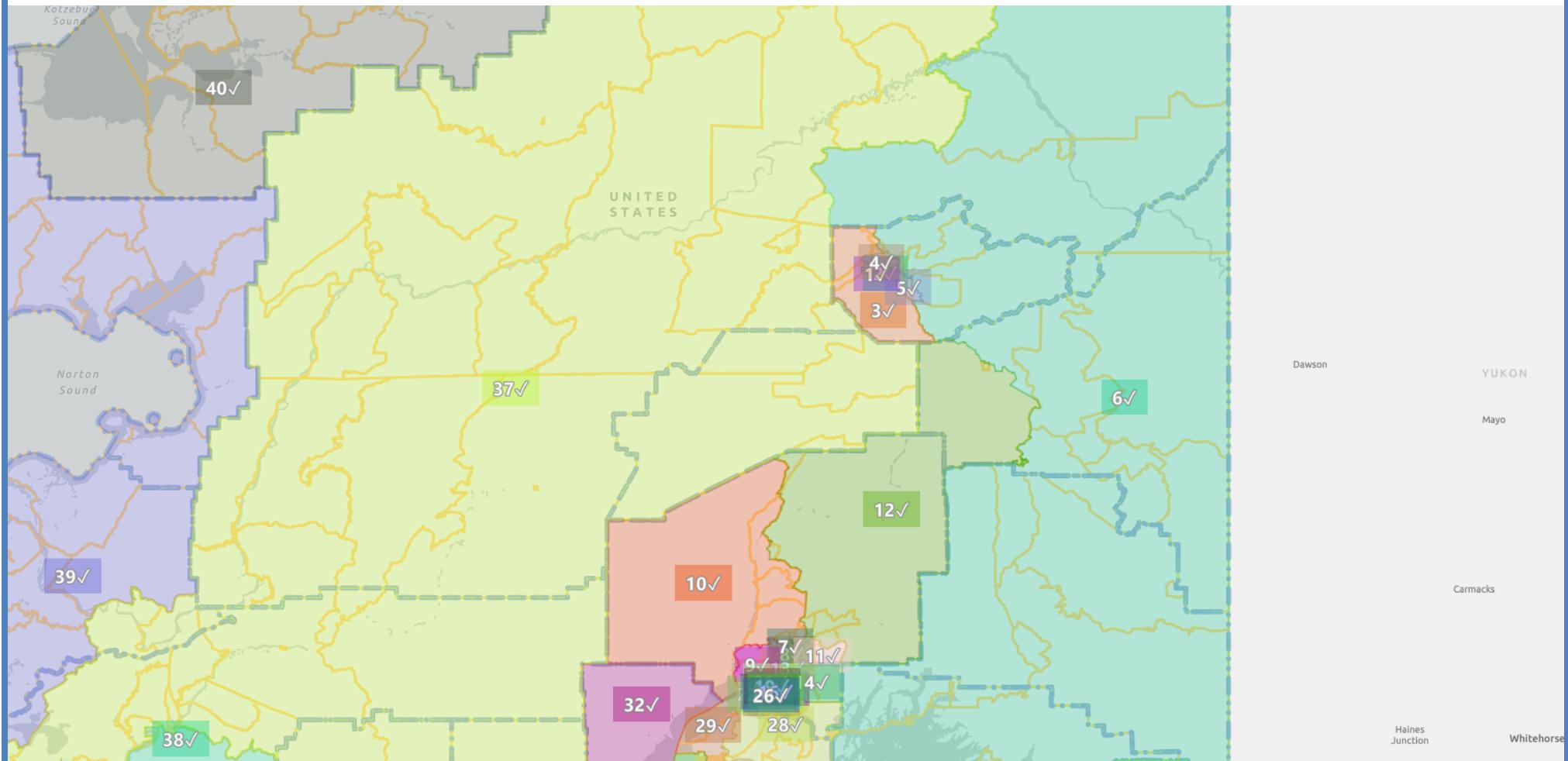
Valdez-Cordova - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/27/2021 11:11:17 PM Last Edit: 10/24/2021 1:28:05 PM



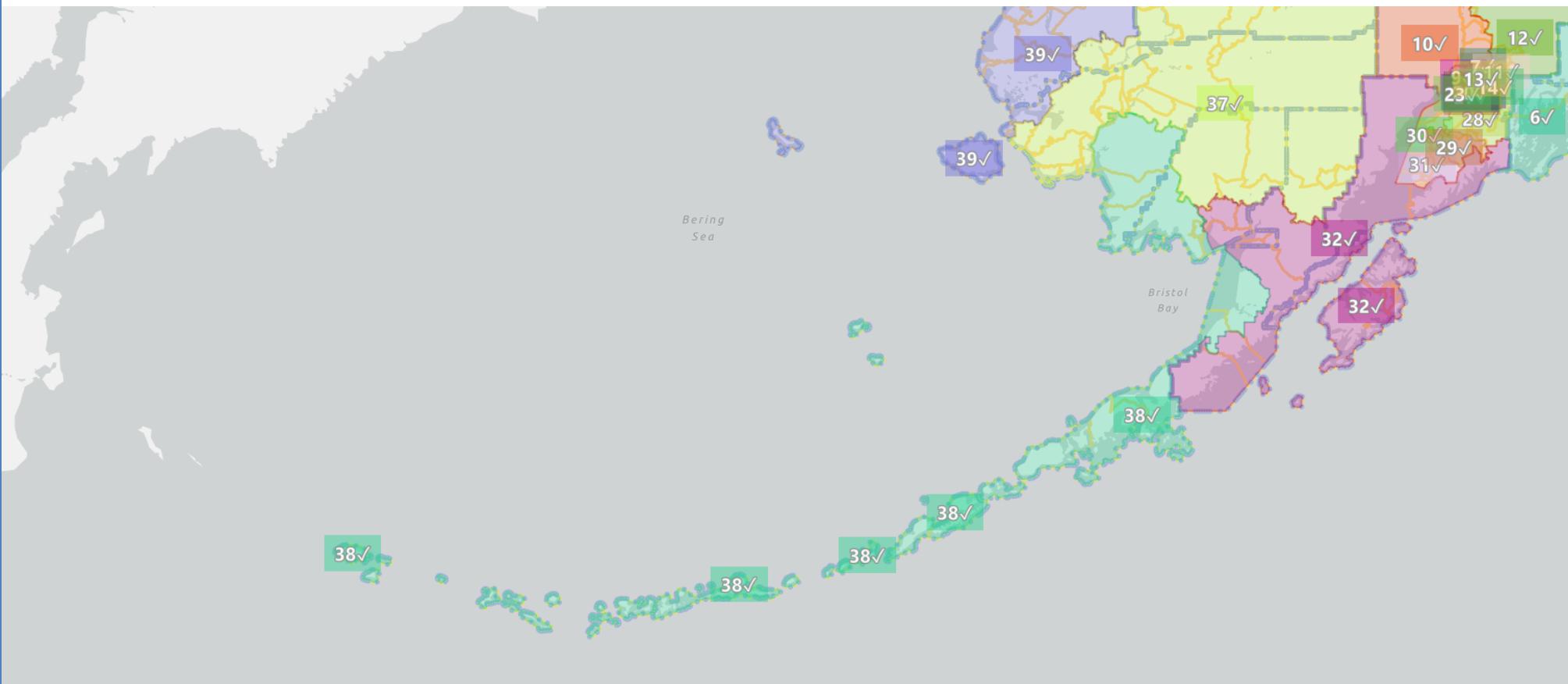
Valdez-Cordova - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/27/2021 11:08:01 PM Last Edit: 10/24/2021 1:28:05 PM



Valdez-Cordova - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/27/2021 11:12:40 PM Last Edit: 10/24/2021 1:28:05 PM



Valdez-Cordova - Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

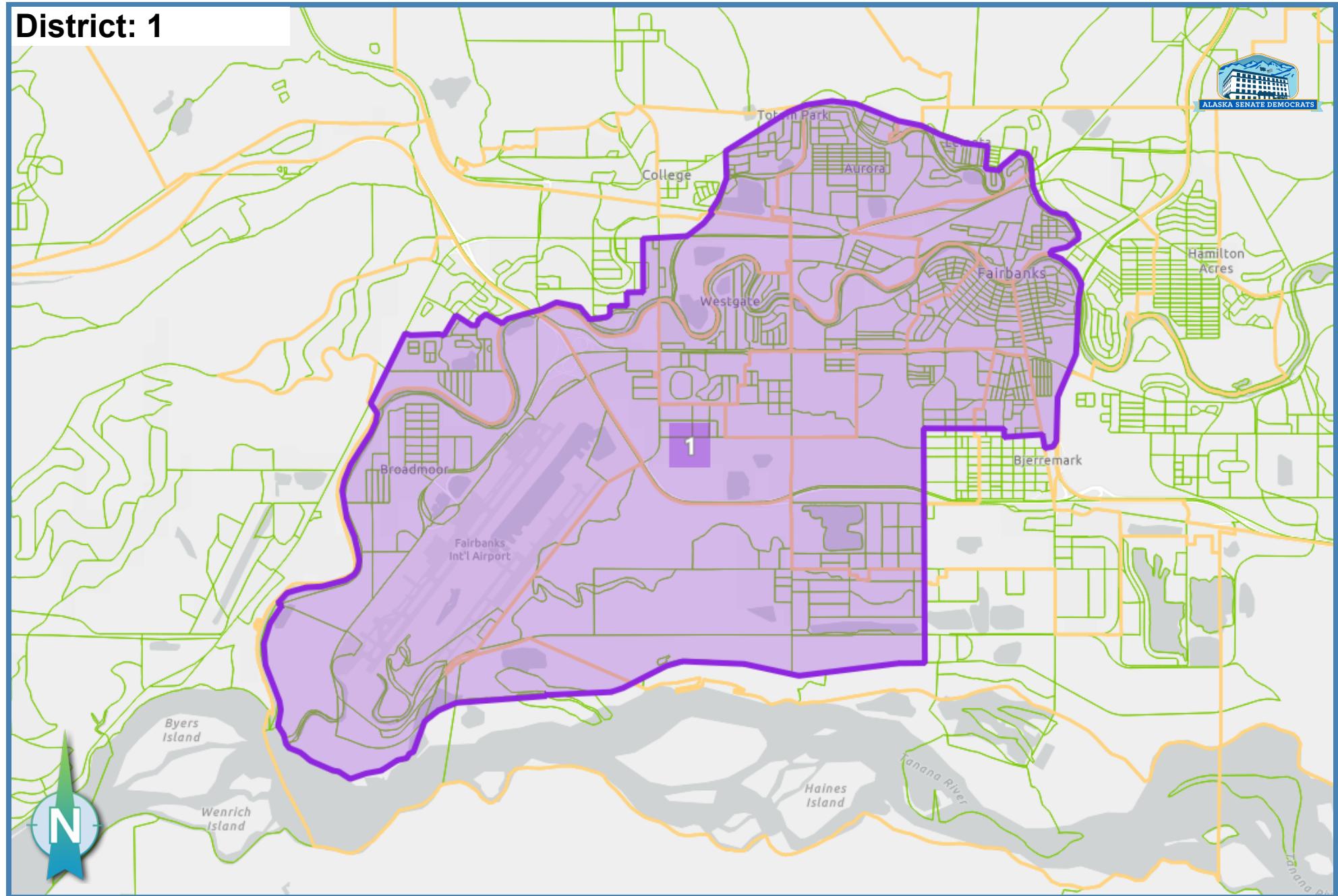
Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:21:35 AM Last Edit: 10/28/2021 12:20:09 AM

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Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

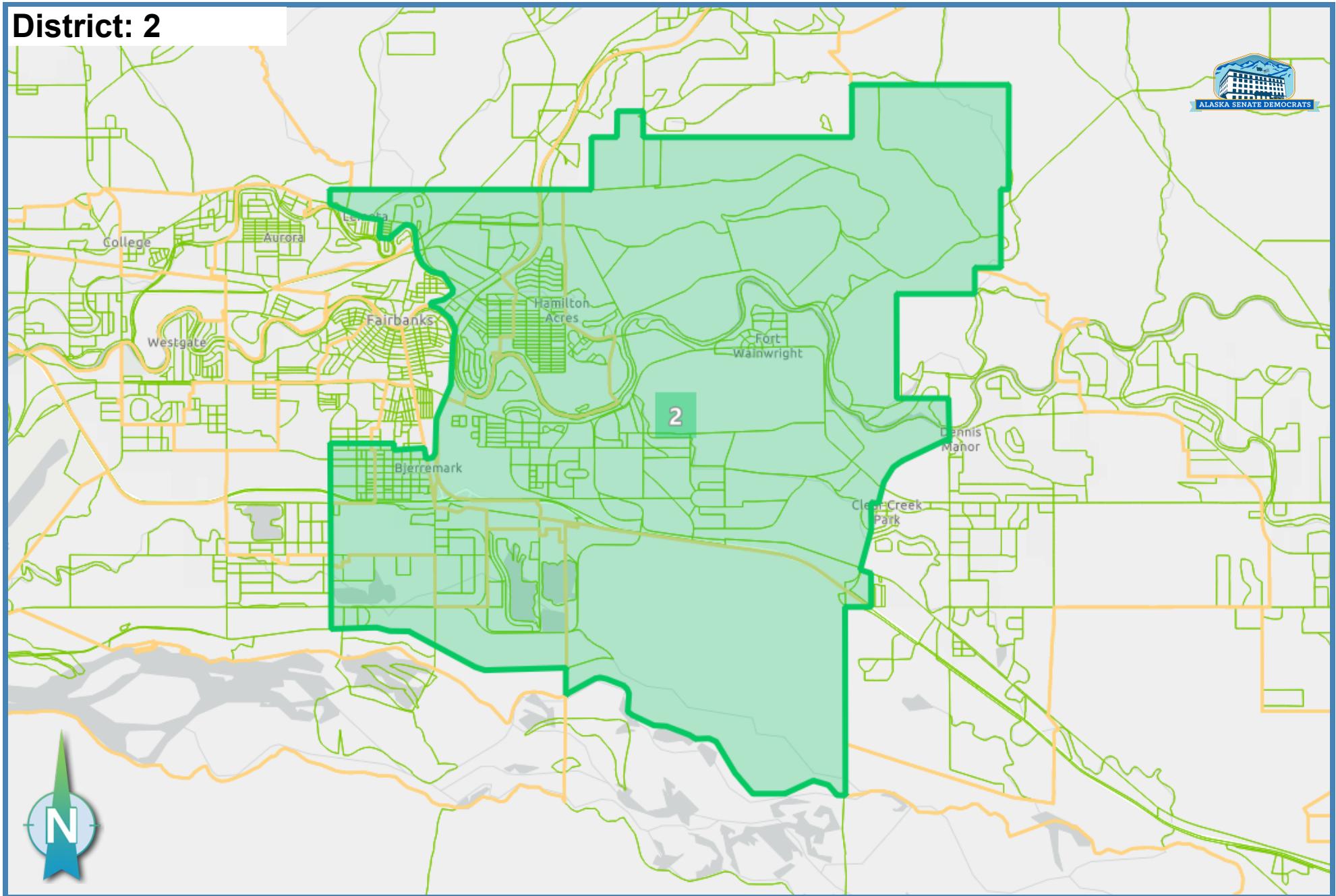
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**District: 1**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:25:57 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

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**District: 2**

Ideal Population: 18,335

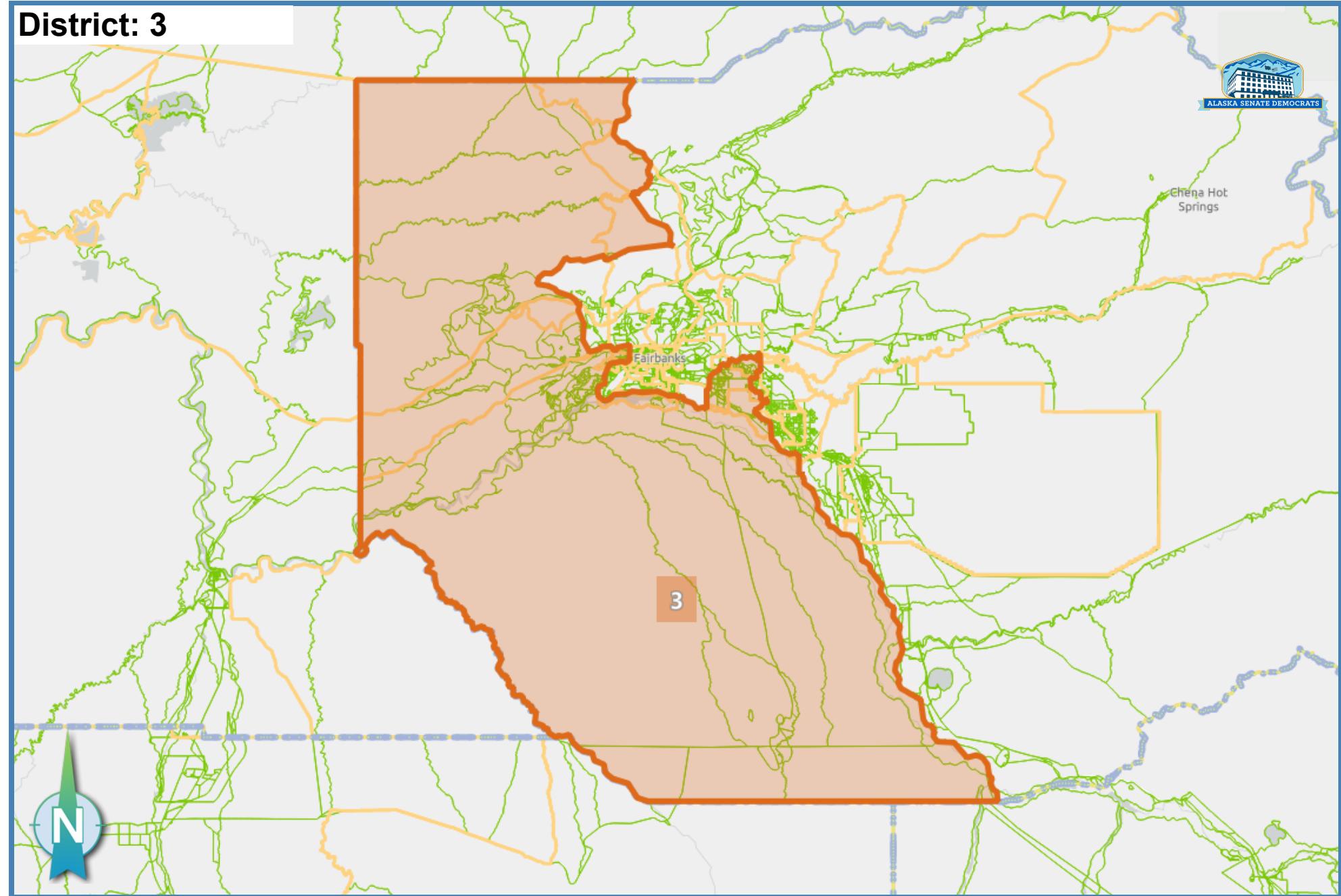
Deviation: -0.03 %

Total Population: 18,329

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:25:57 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

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**District: 3**

Ideal Population: 18,335

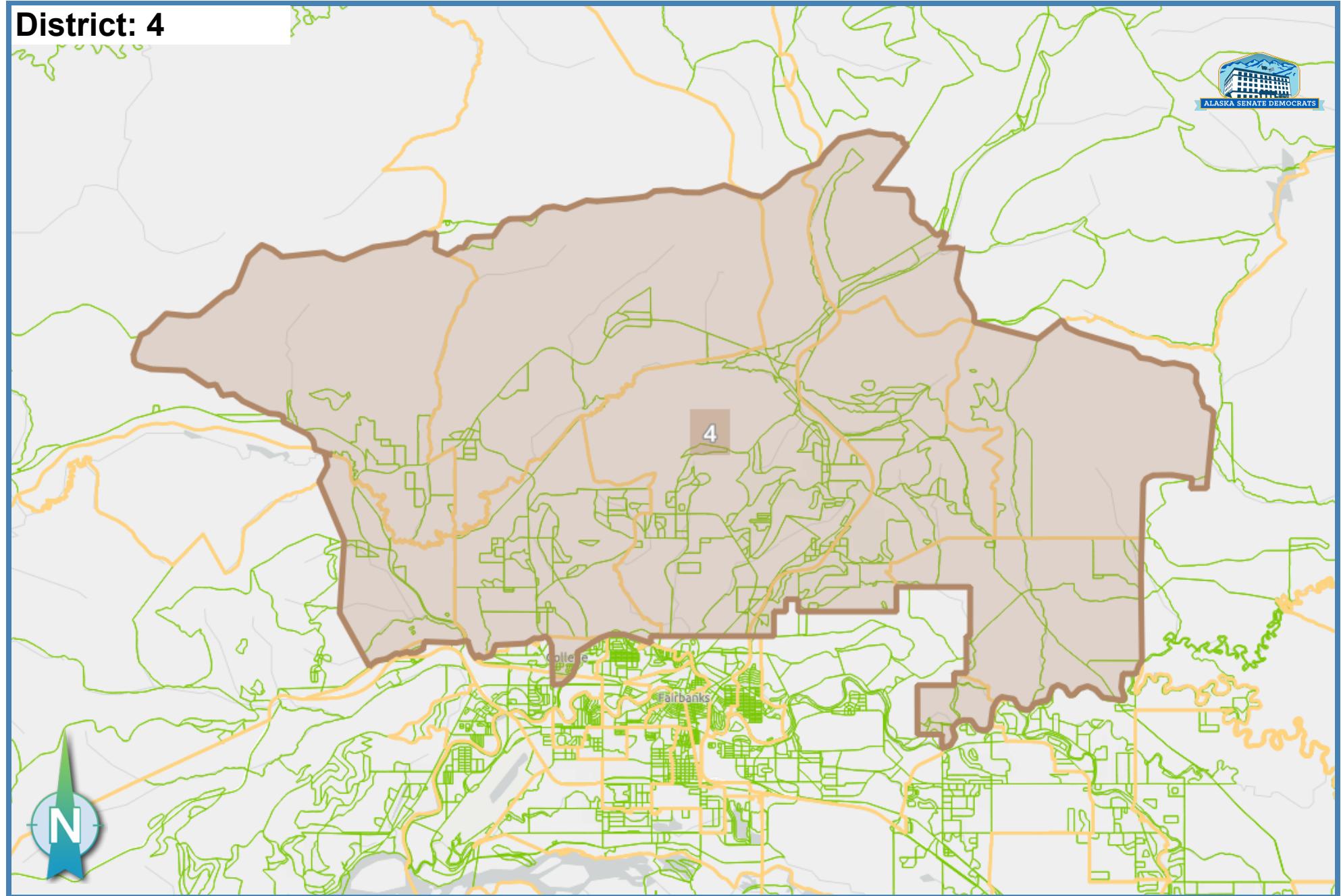
Deviation: 0.06 %

Total Population: 18,346

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:25:57 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

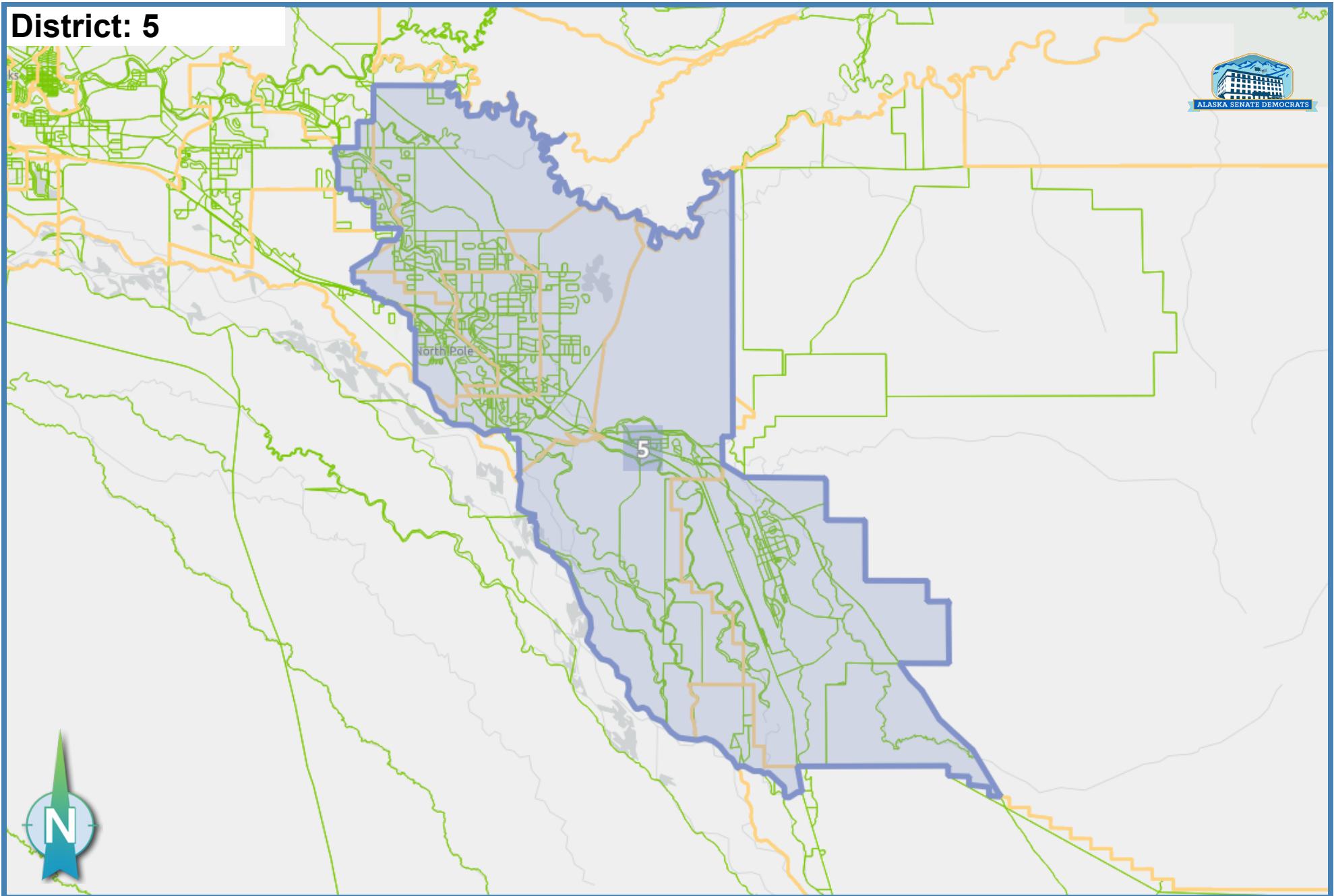
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**District: 4**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:25:58 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

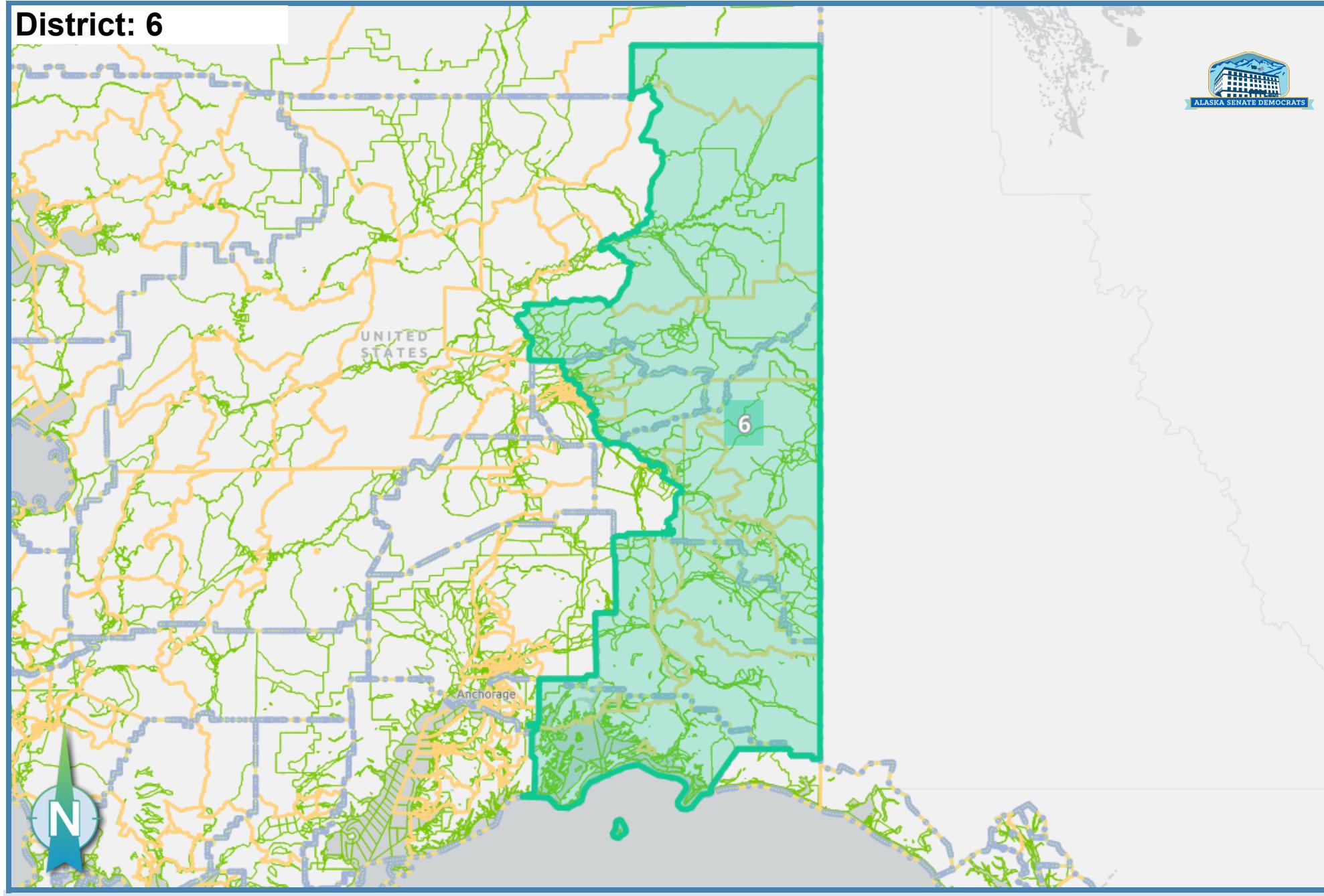
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**District: 5**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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**District: 6**

Ideal Population: 18,335

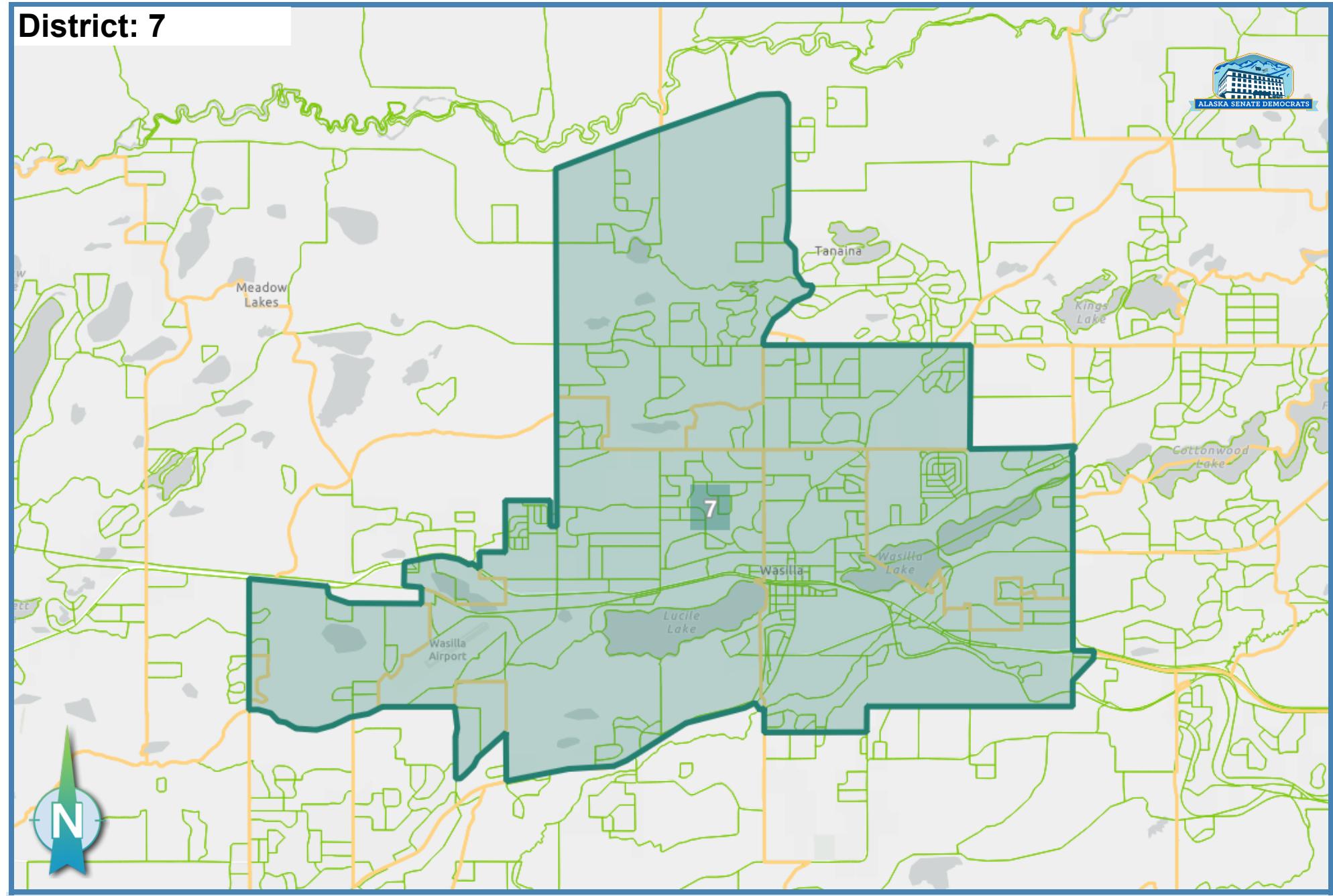
Deviation: -0.18 %

Total Population: 18,301

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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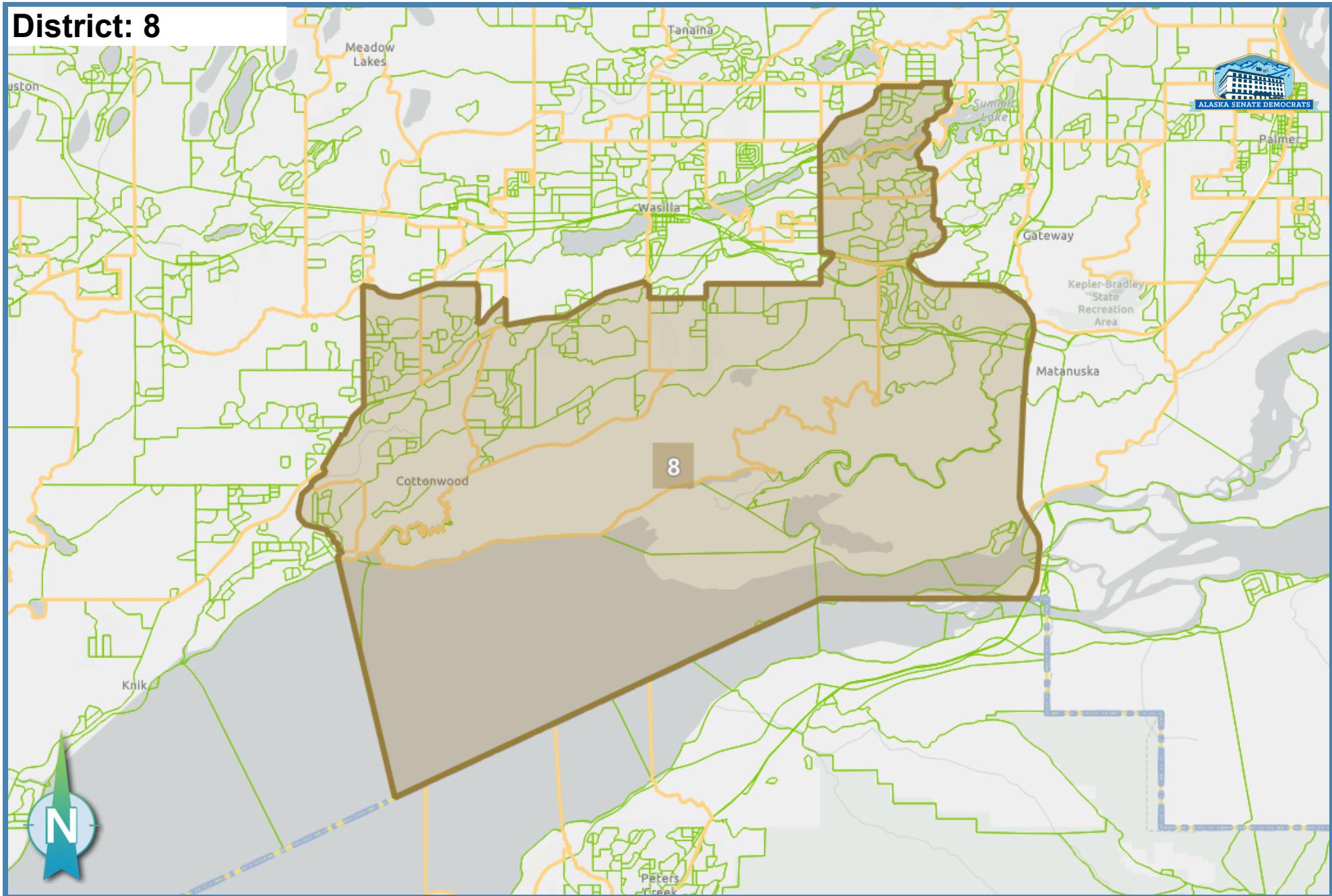
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**District: 7**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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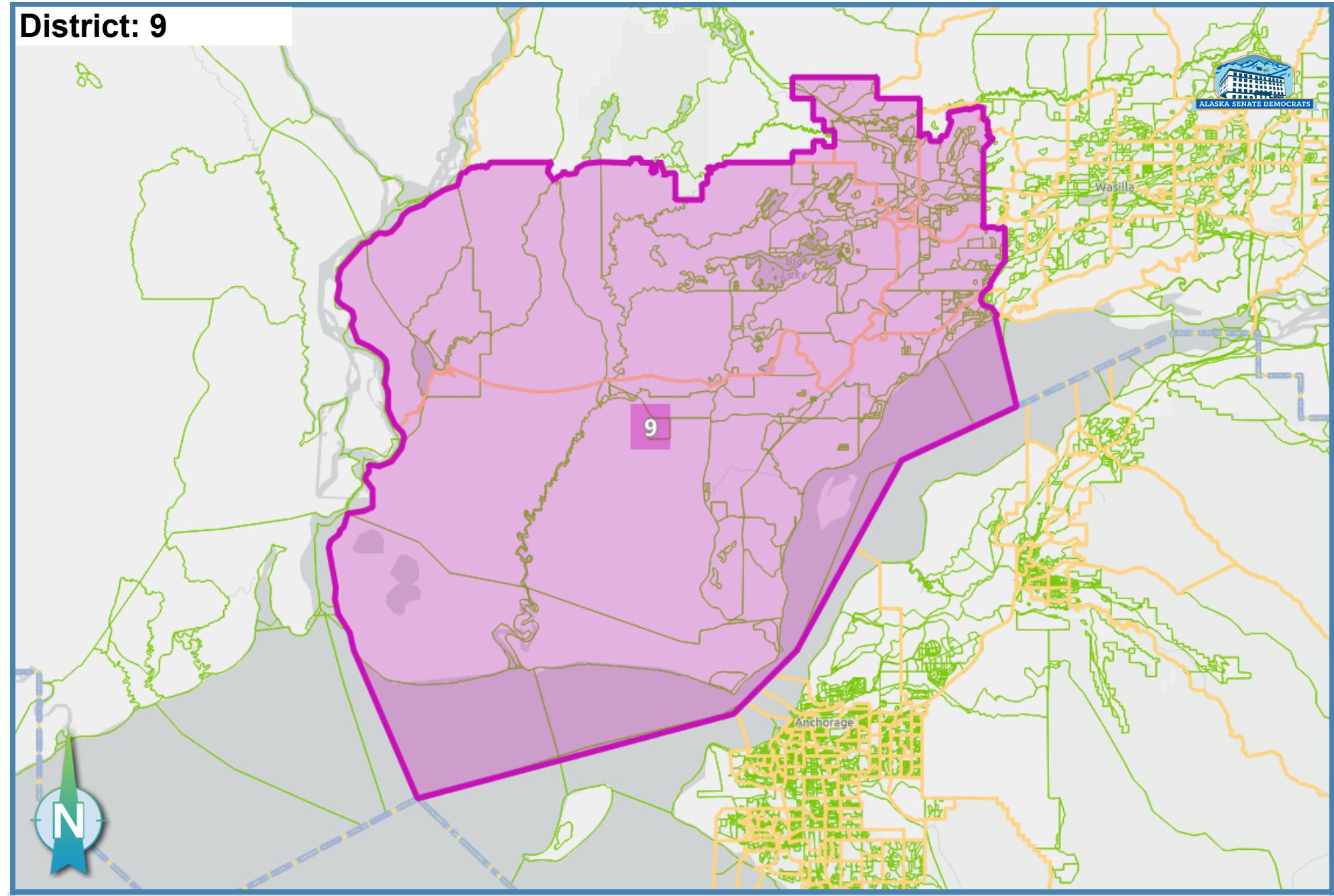
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Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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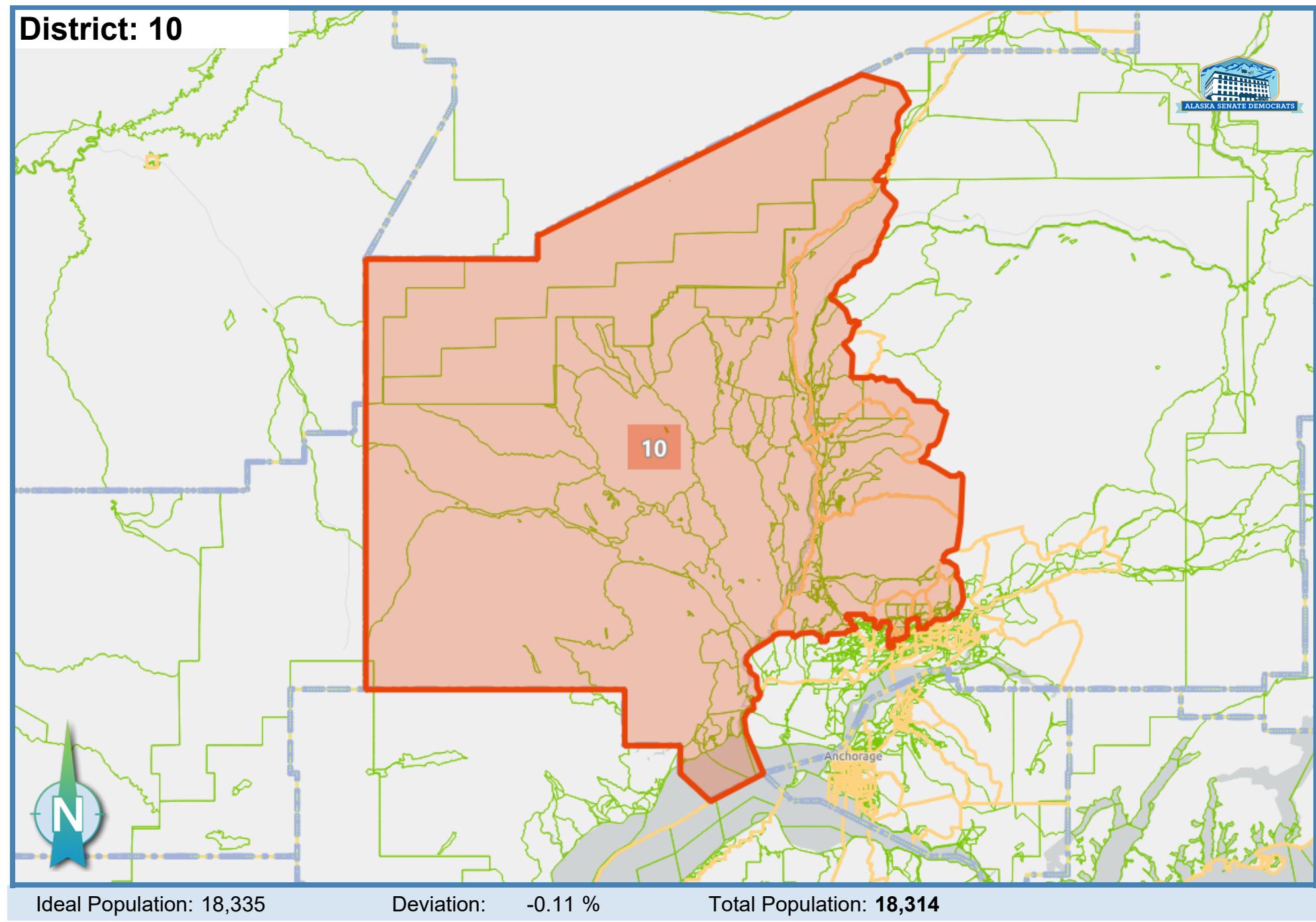
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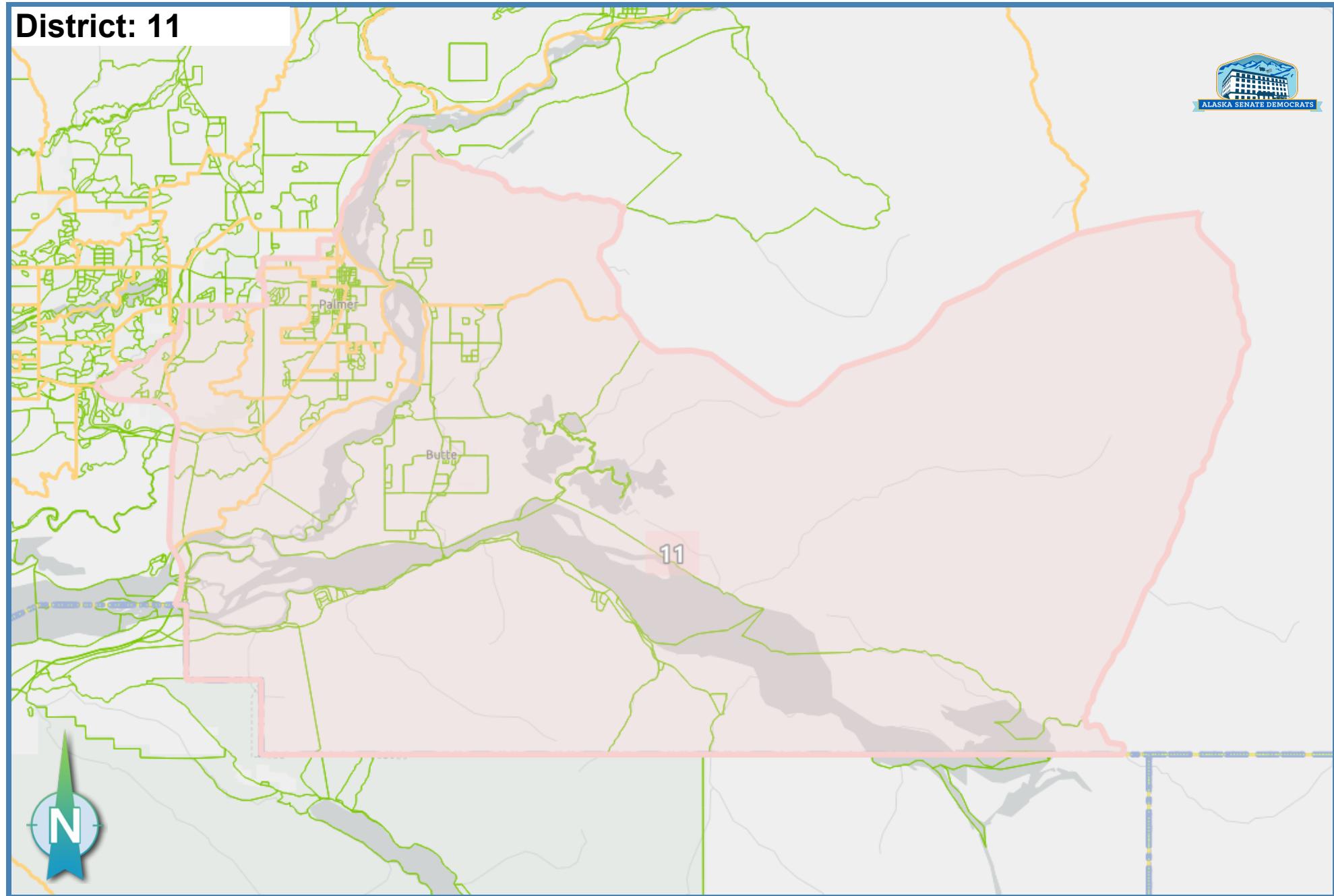
**District: 9**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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**District: 11**

Ideal Population: 18,335

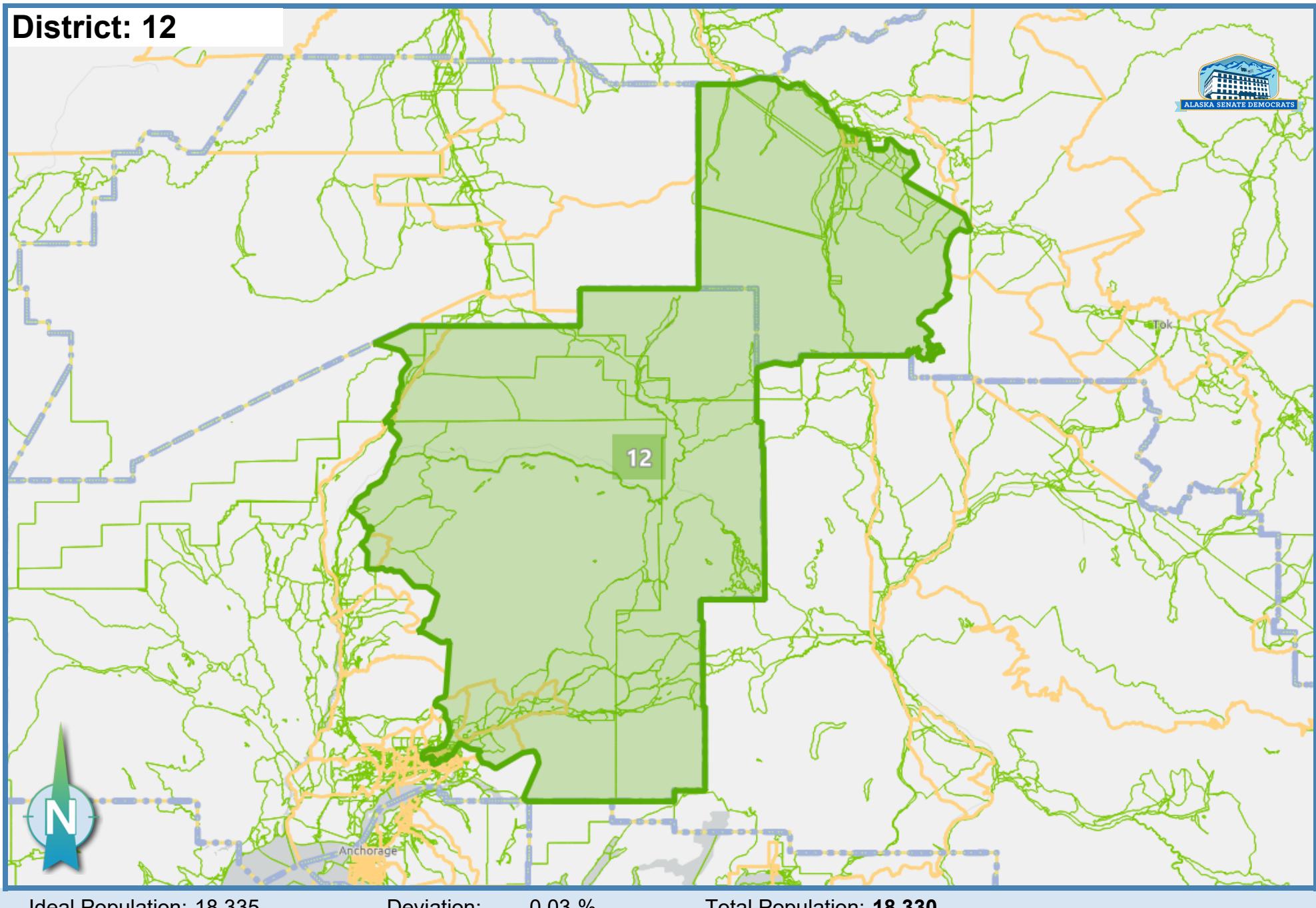
Deviation: -0.12 %

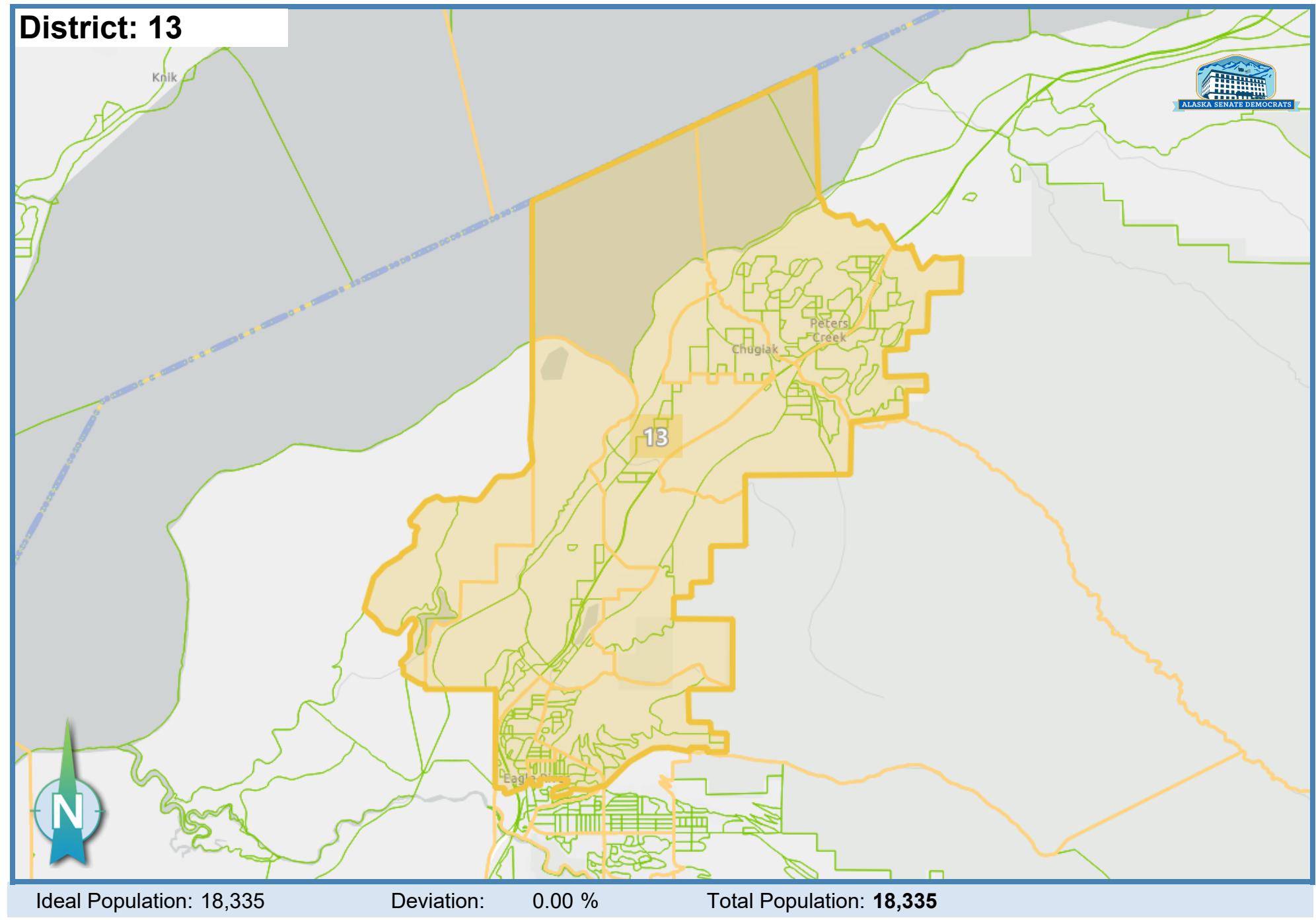
Total Population: 18,313

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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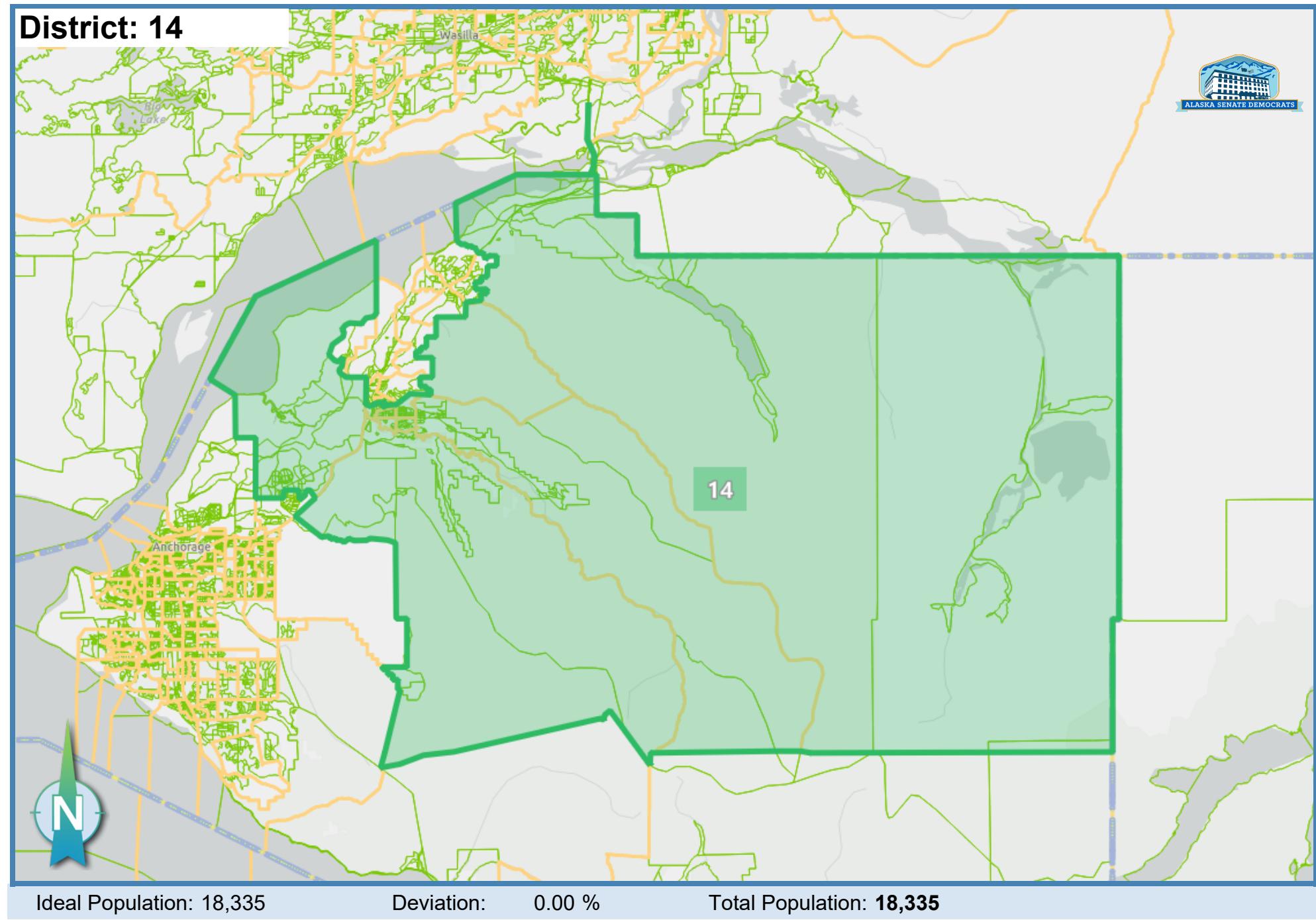


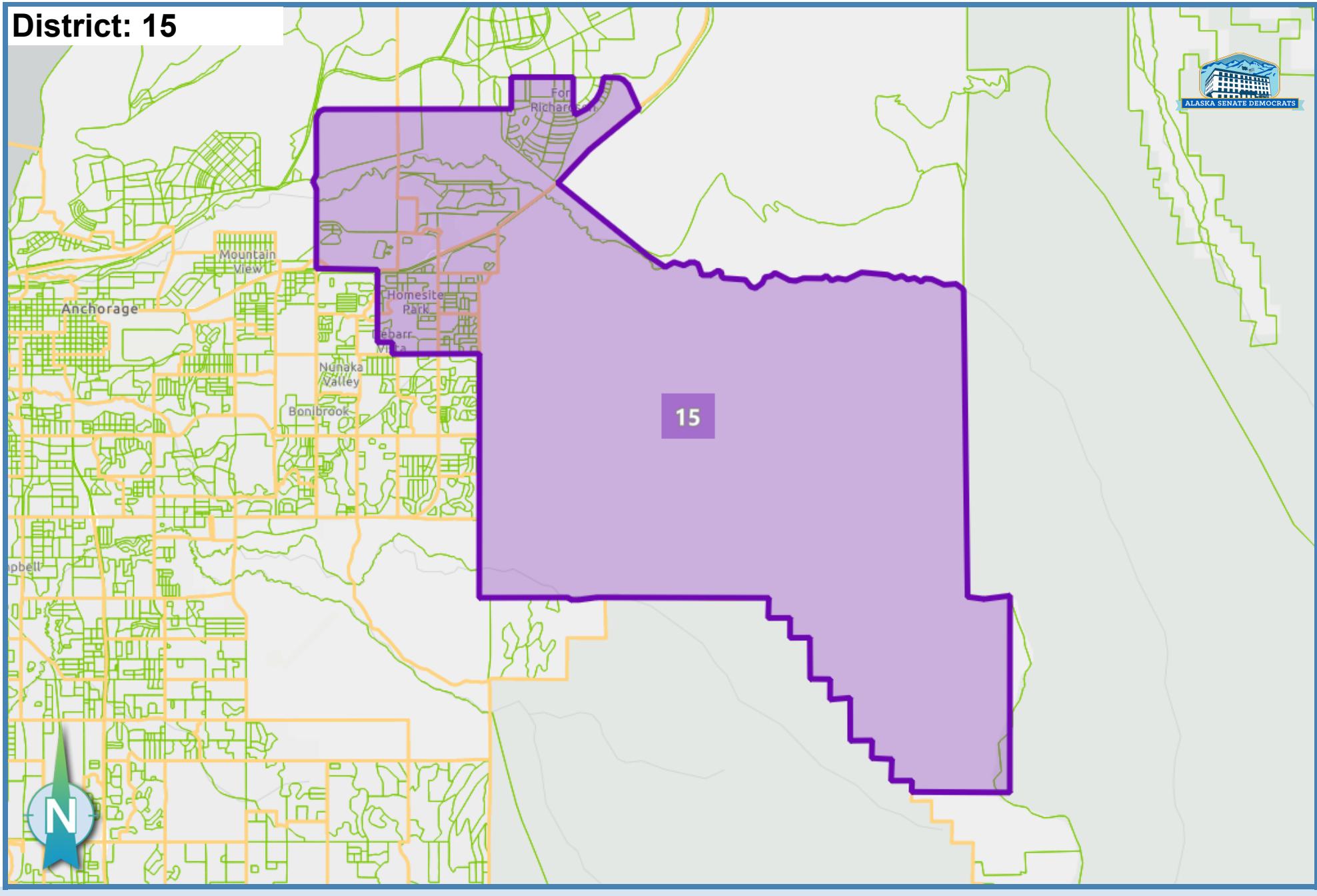


Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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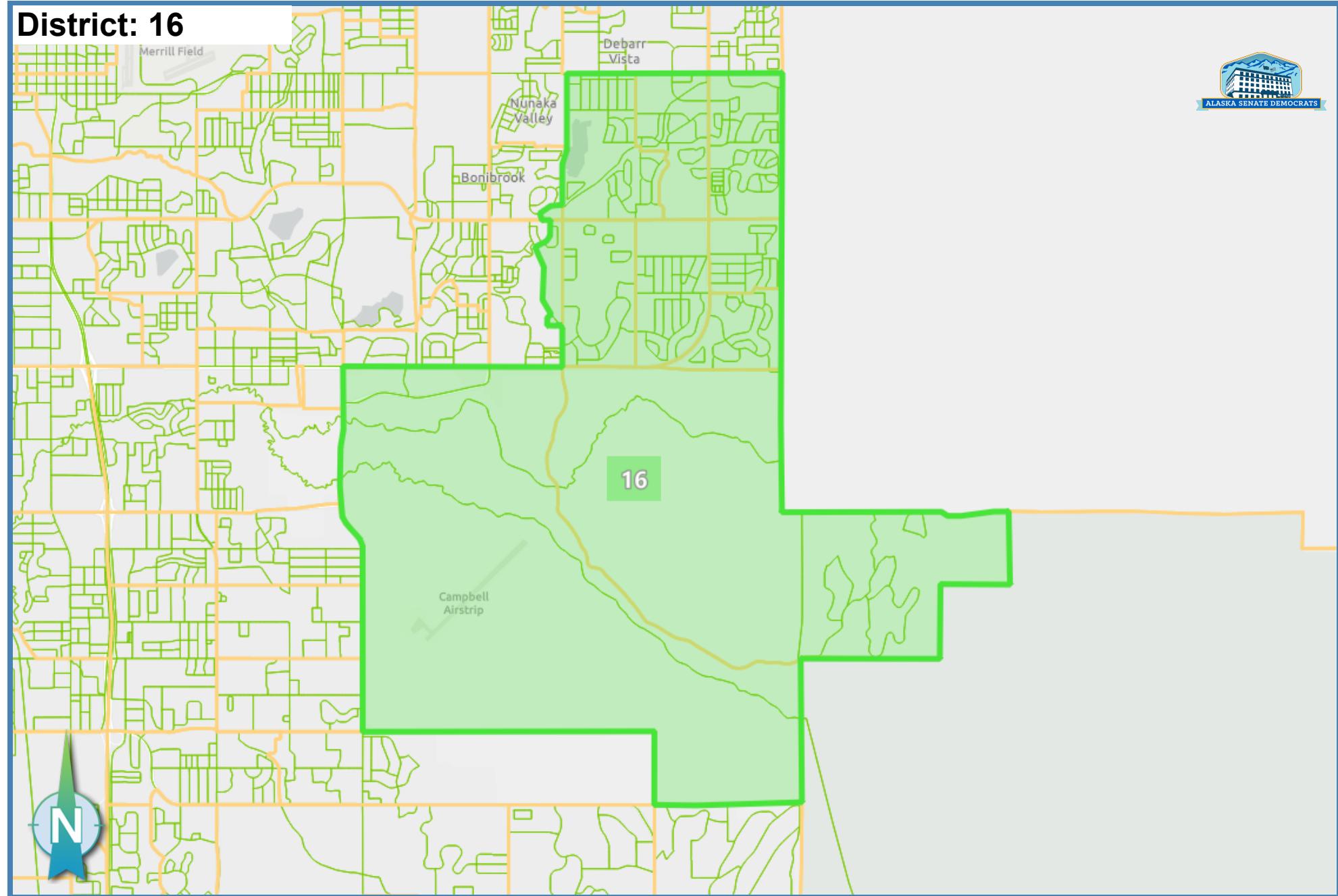




Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:25:59 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

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**District: 16**

Ideal Population: 18,335

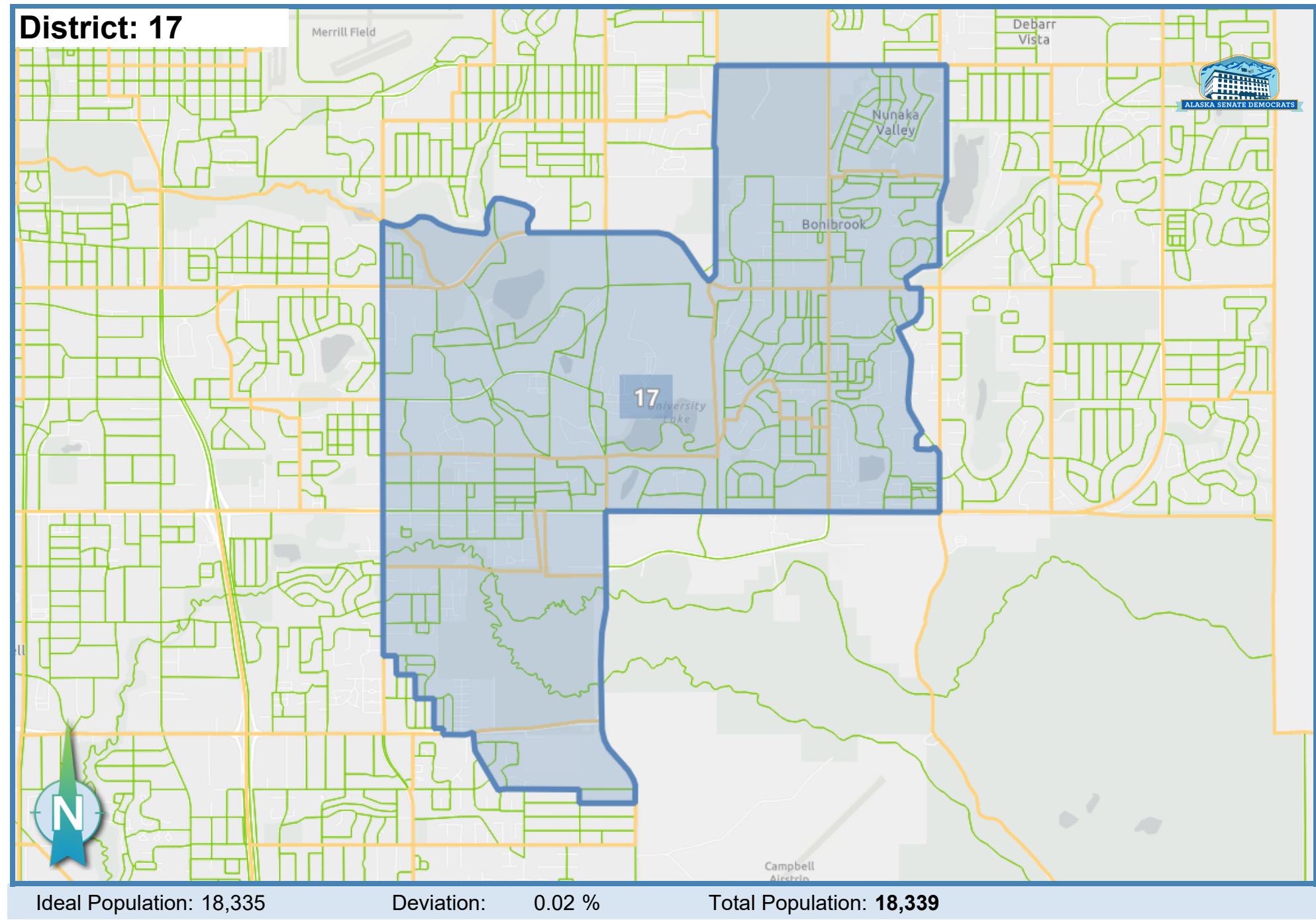
Deviation: -0.02 %

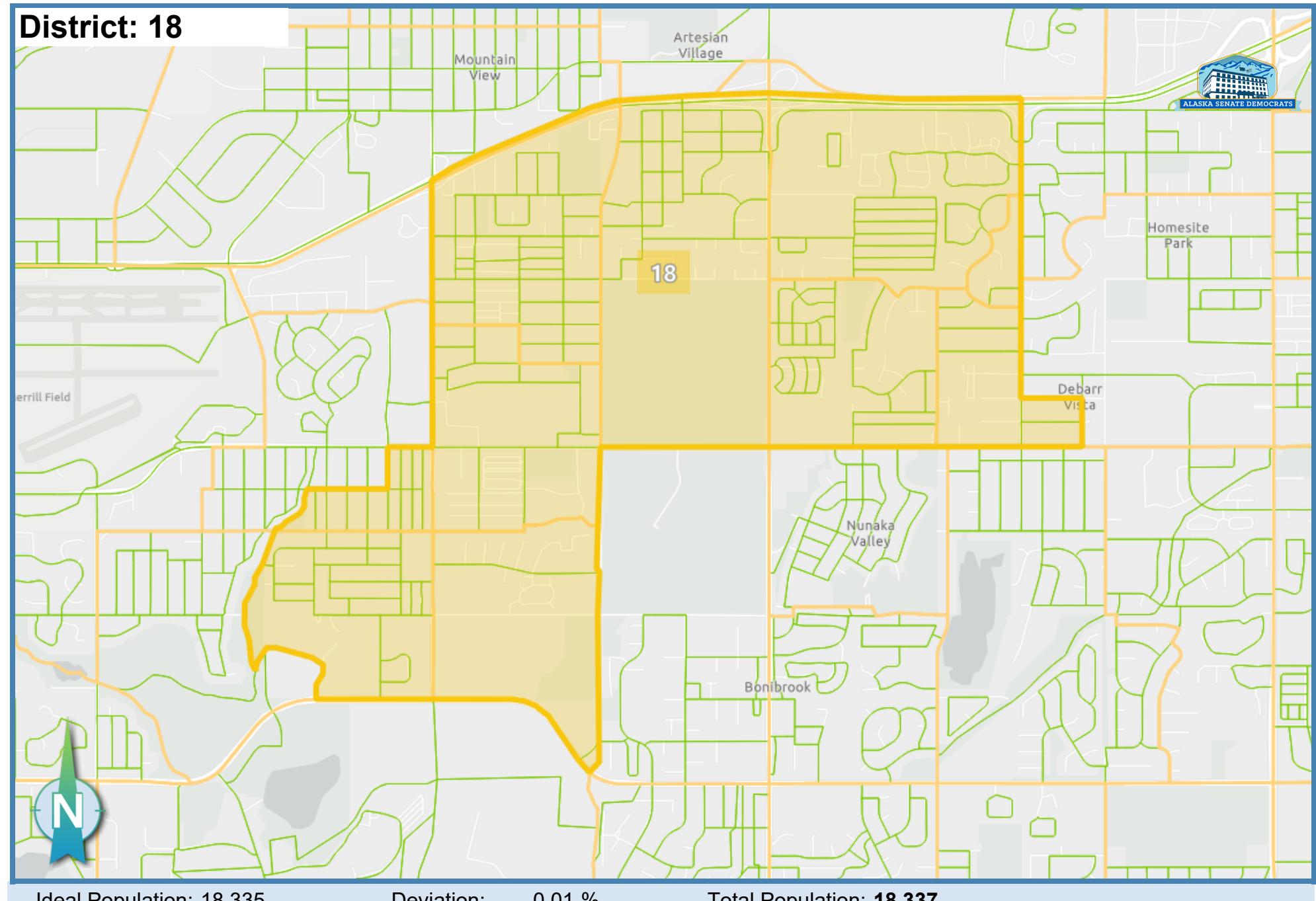
Total Population: 18,332

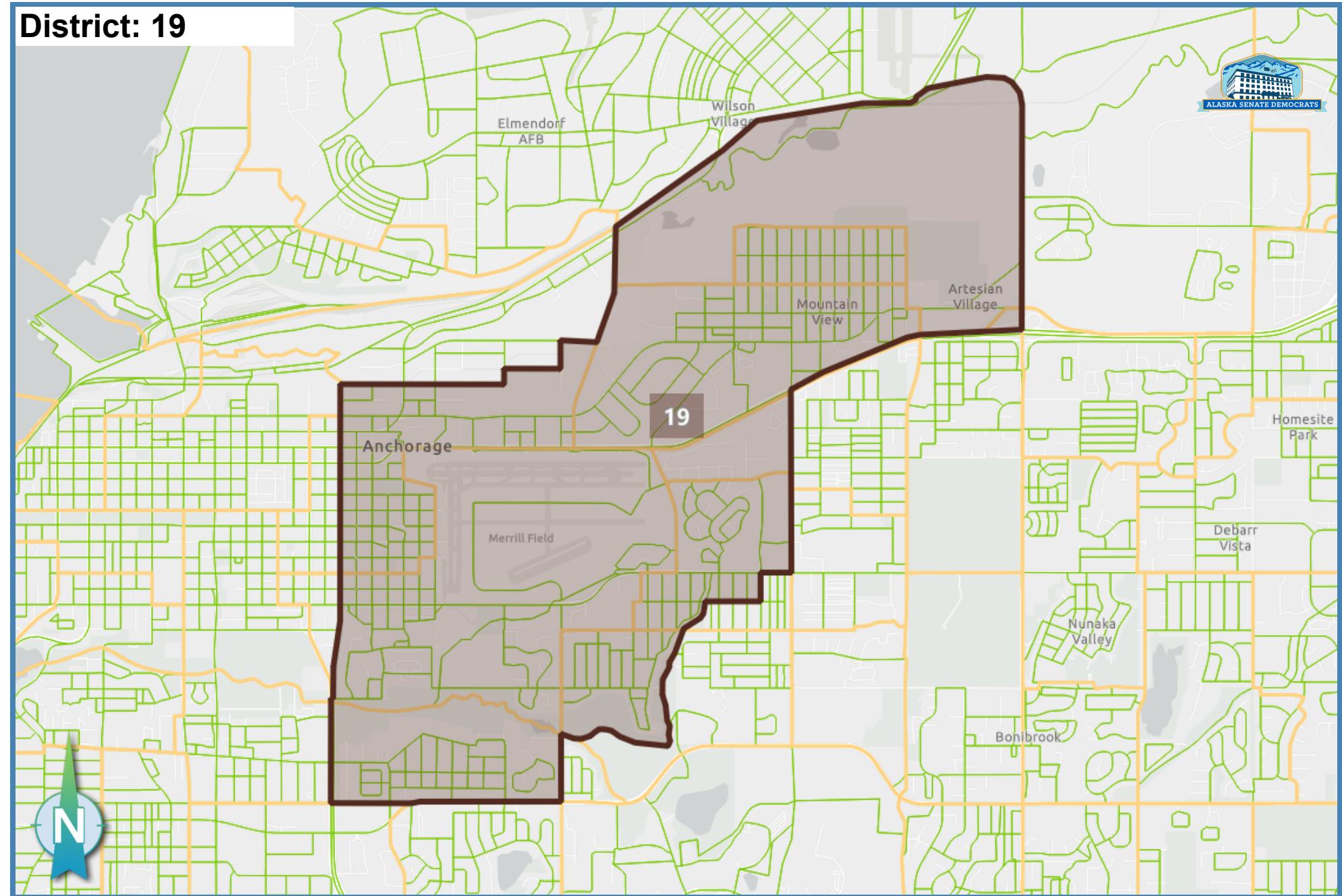
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**District: 19**

Ideal Population: 18,335

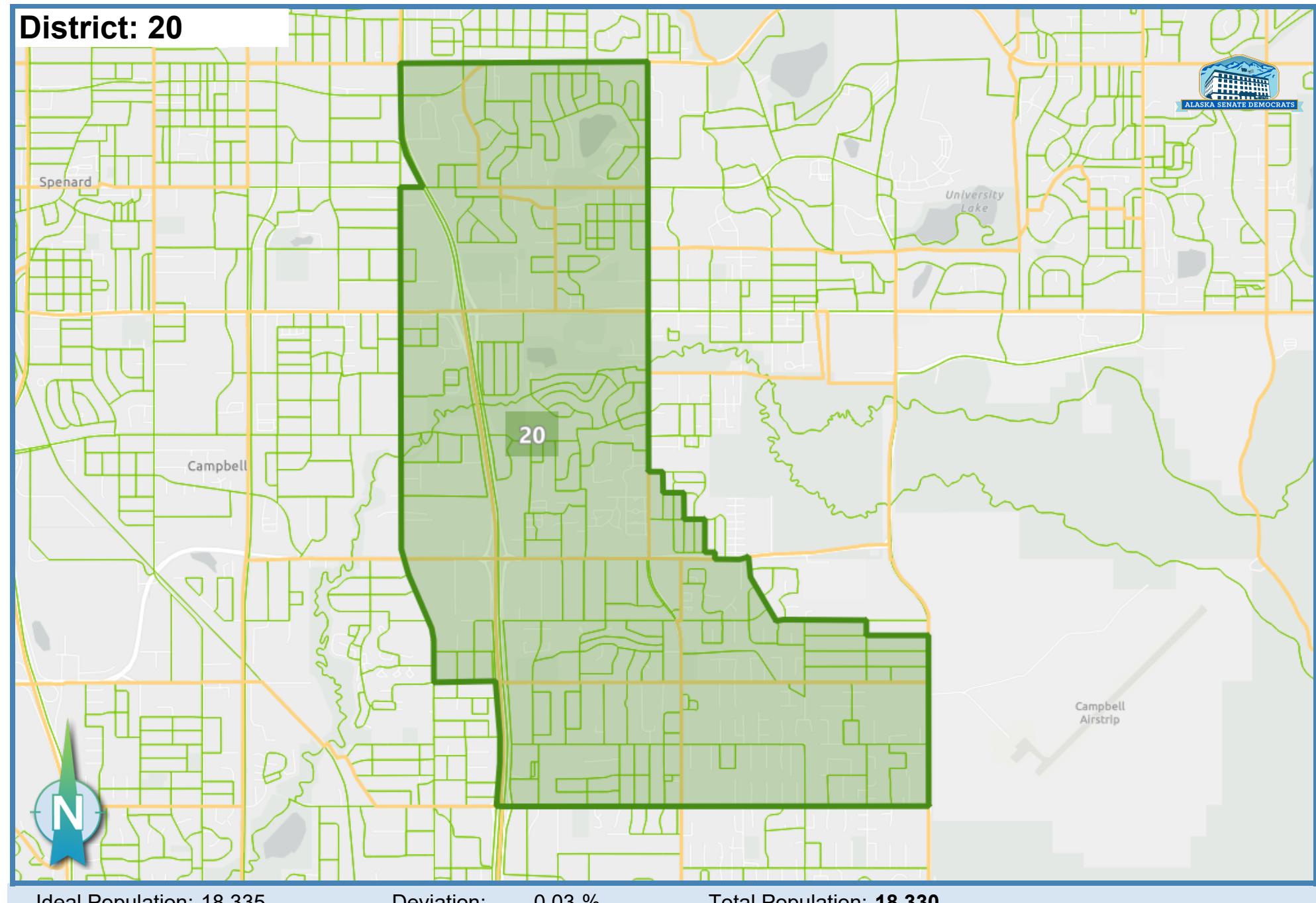
Deviation: -0.01 %

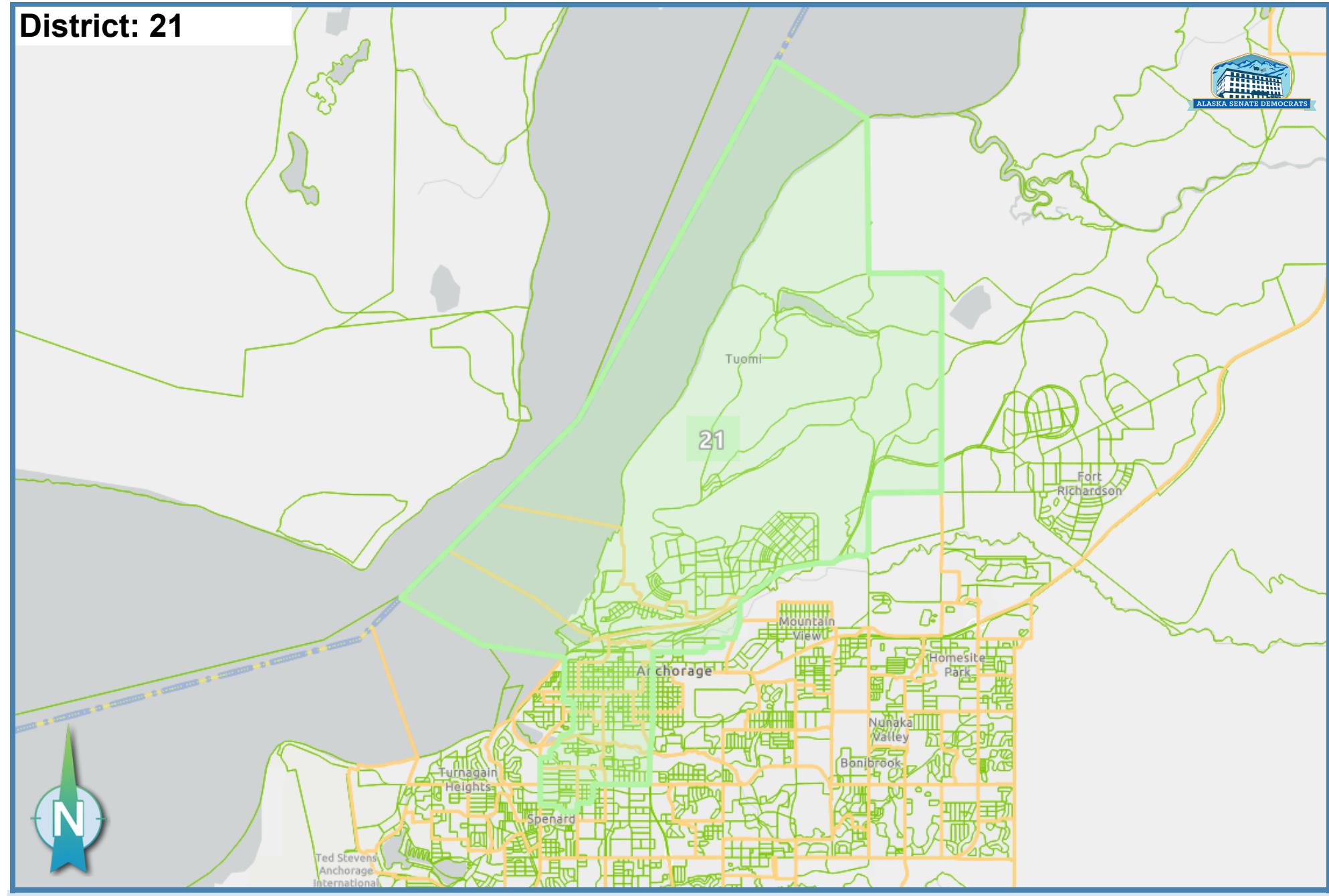
Total Population: 18,333

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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**District: 21**

Ideal Population: 18,335

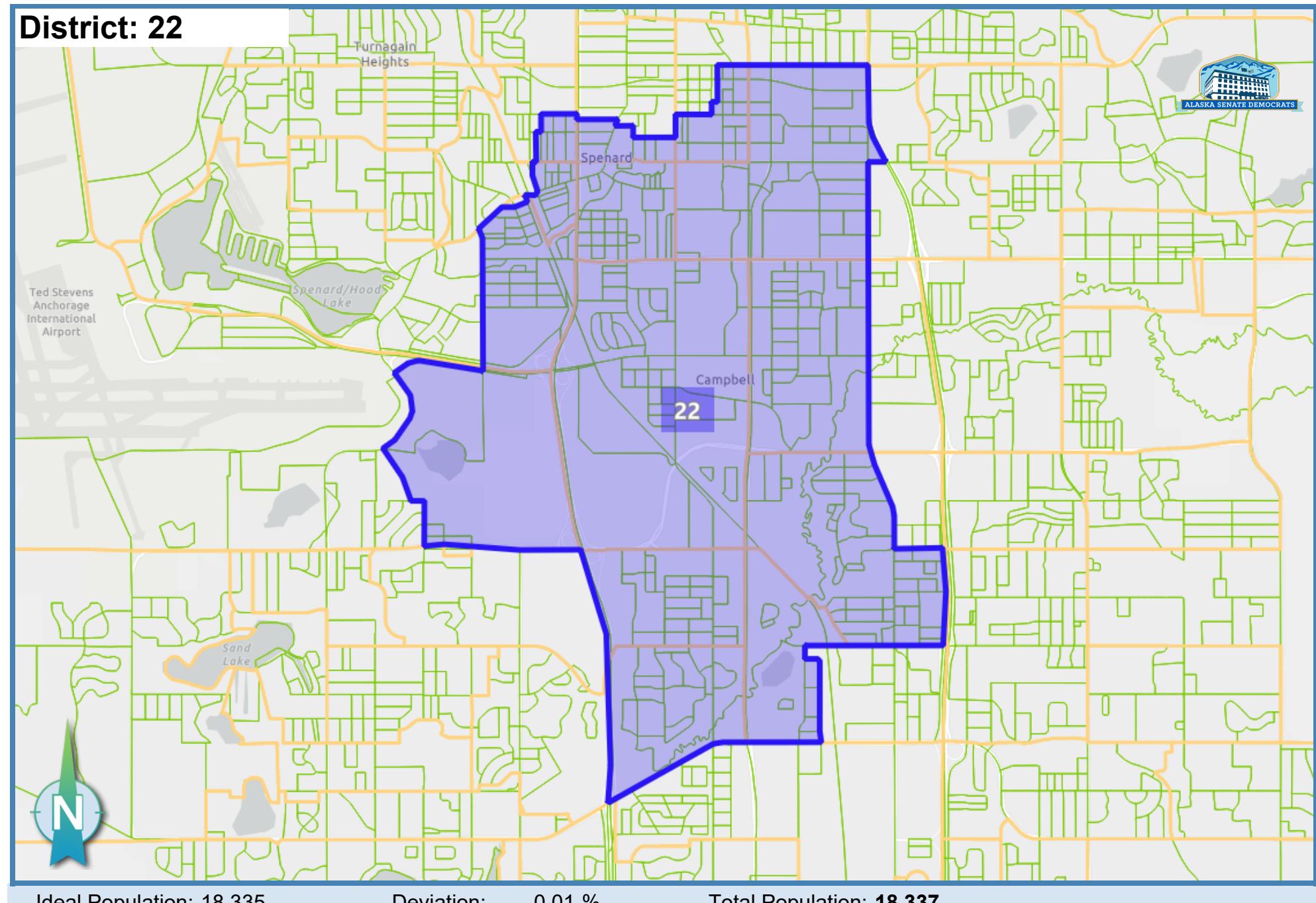
Deviation: -0.04 %

Total Population: 18,328

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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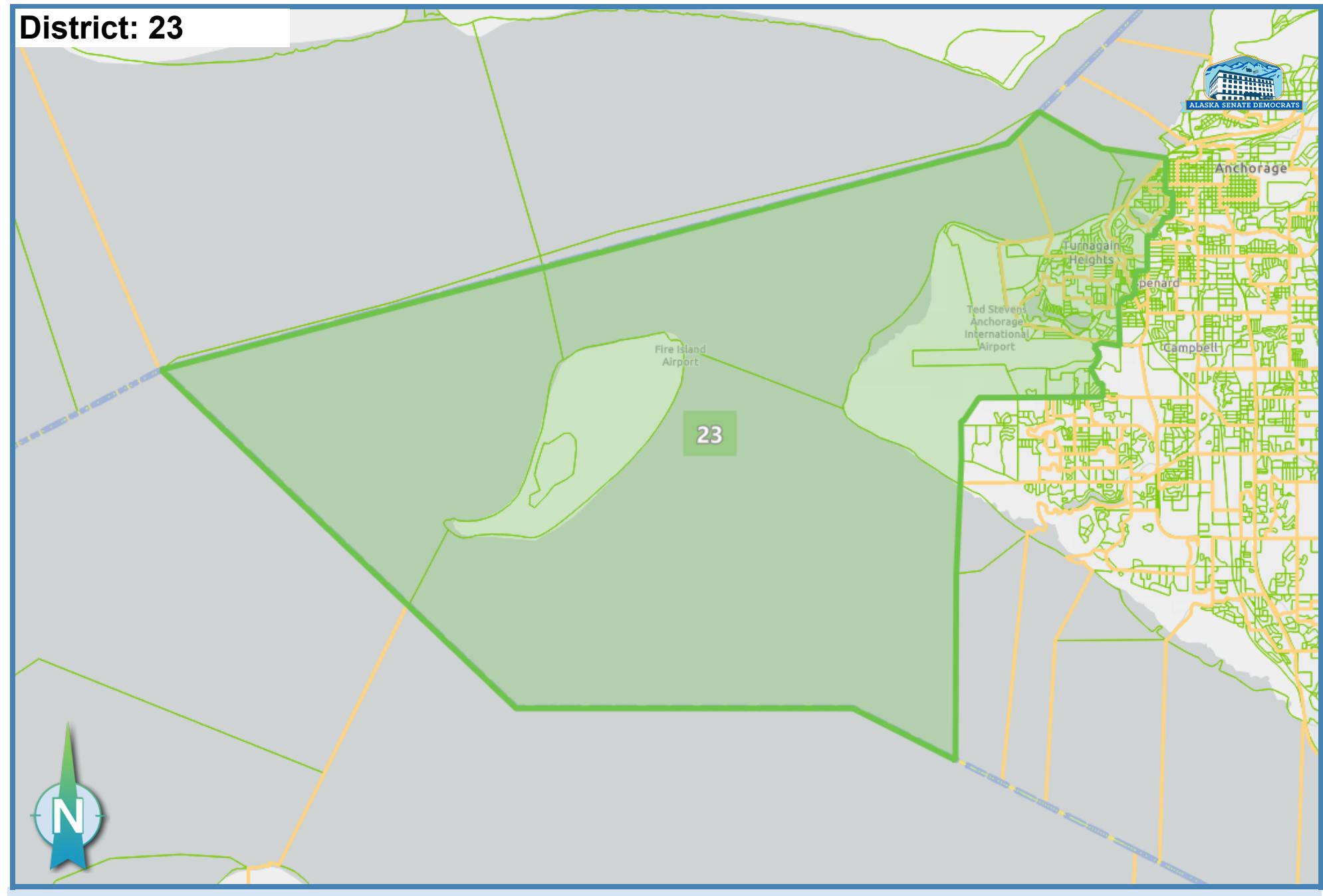
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**District: 22**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

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**District: 23**

Ideal Population: 18,335

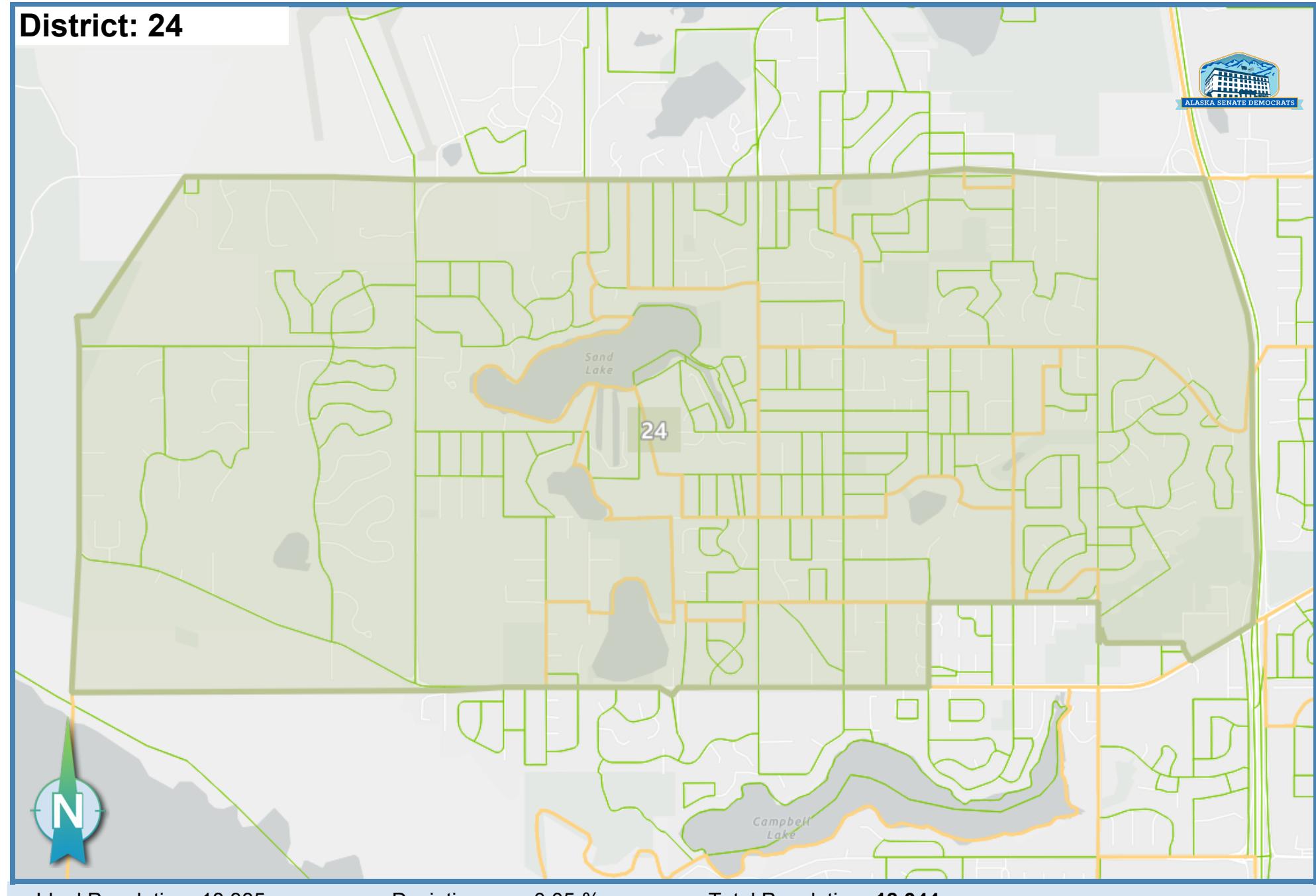
Deviation: 0.03 %

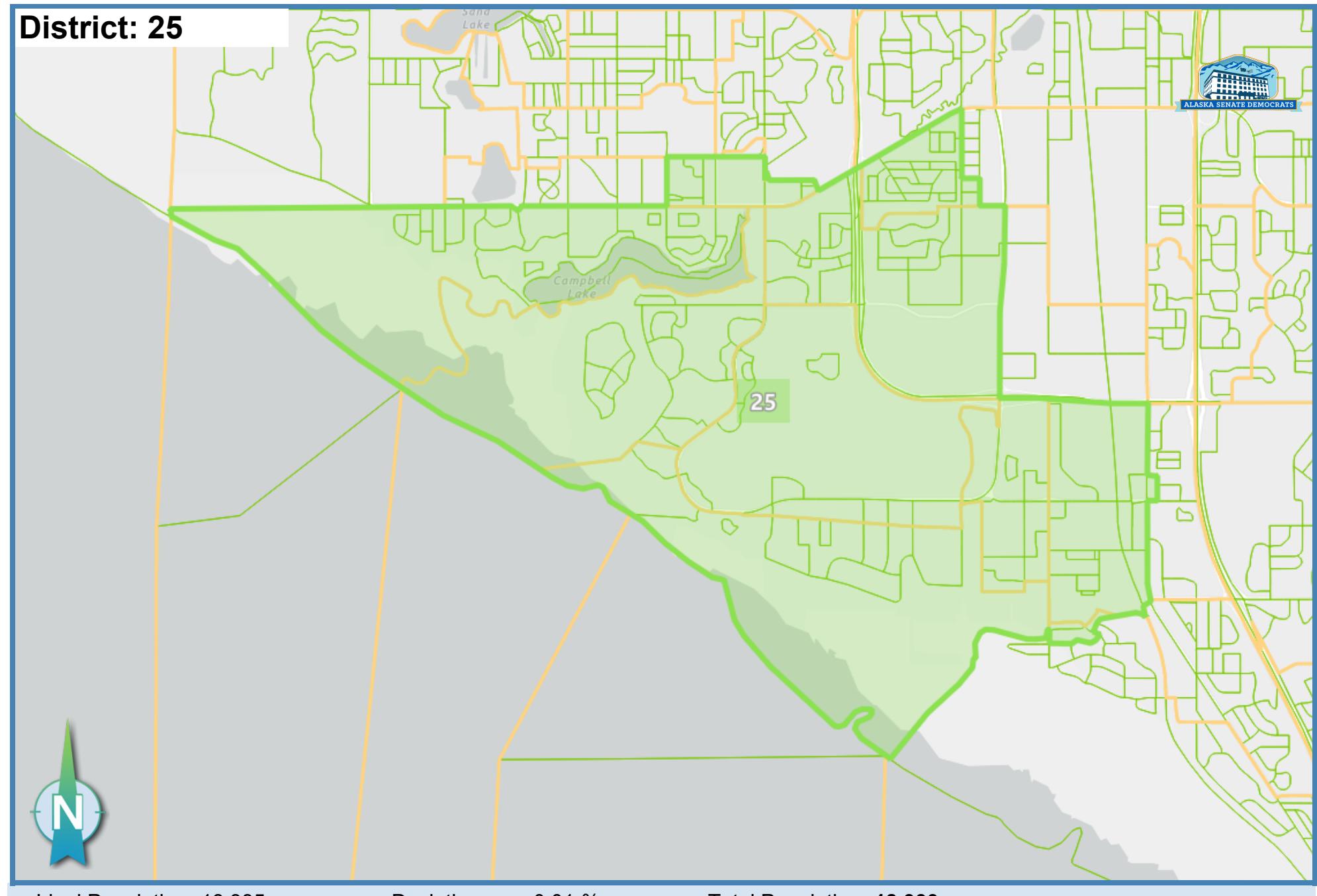
Total Population: 18,341

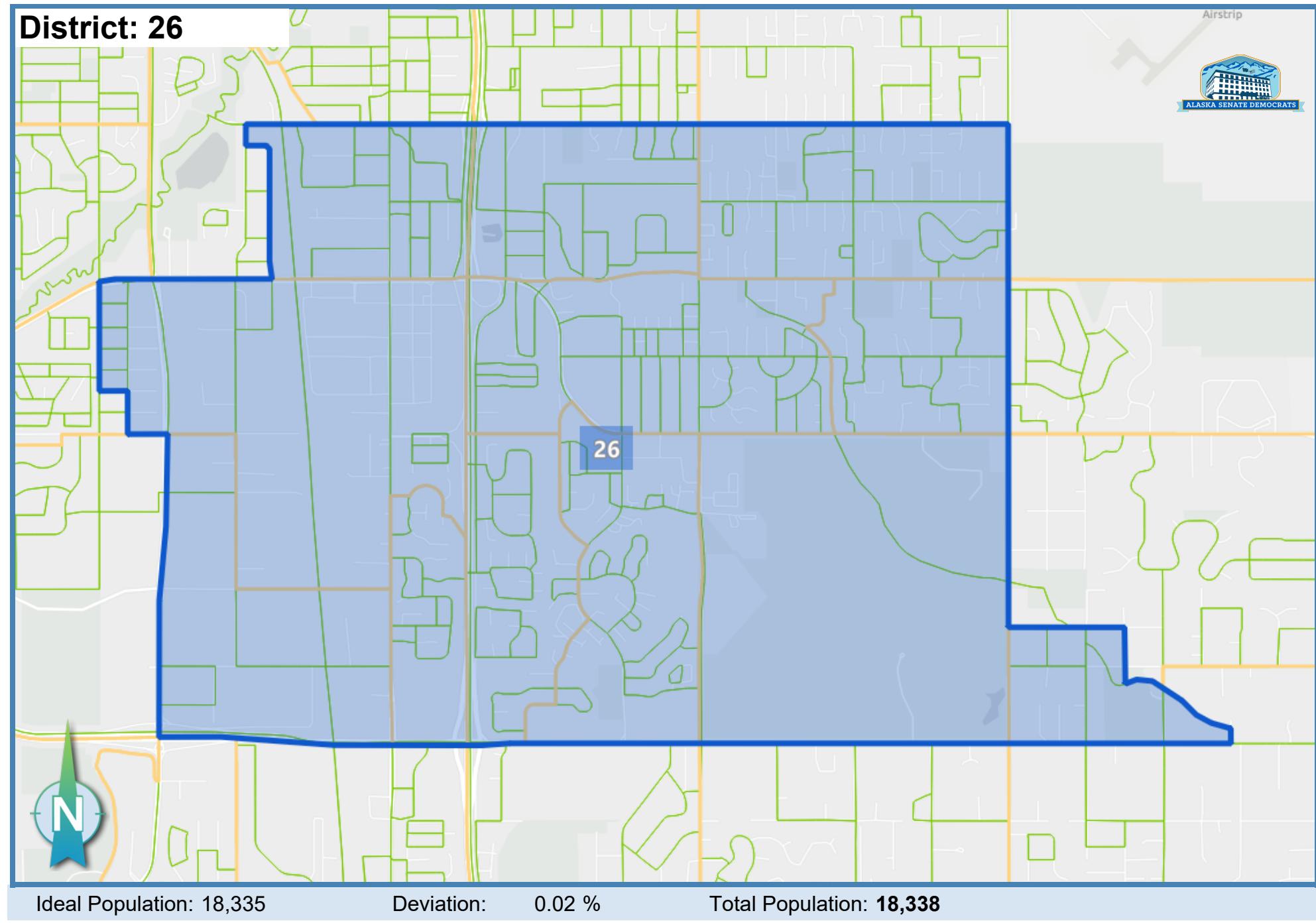
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

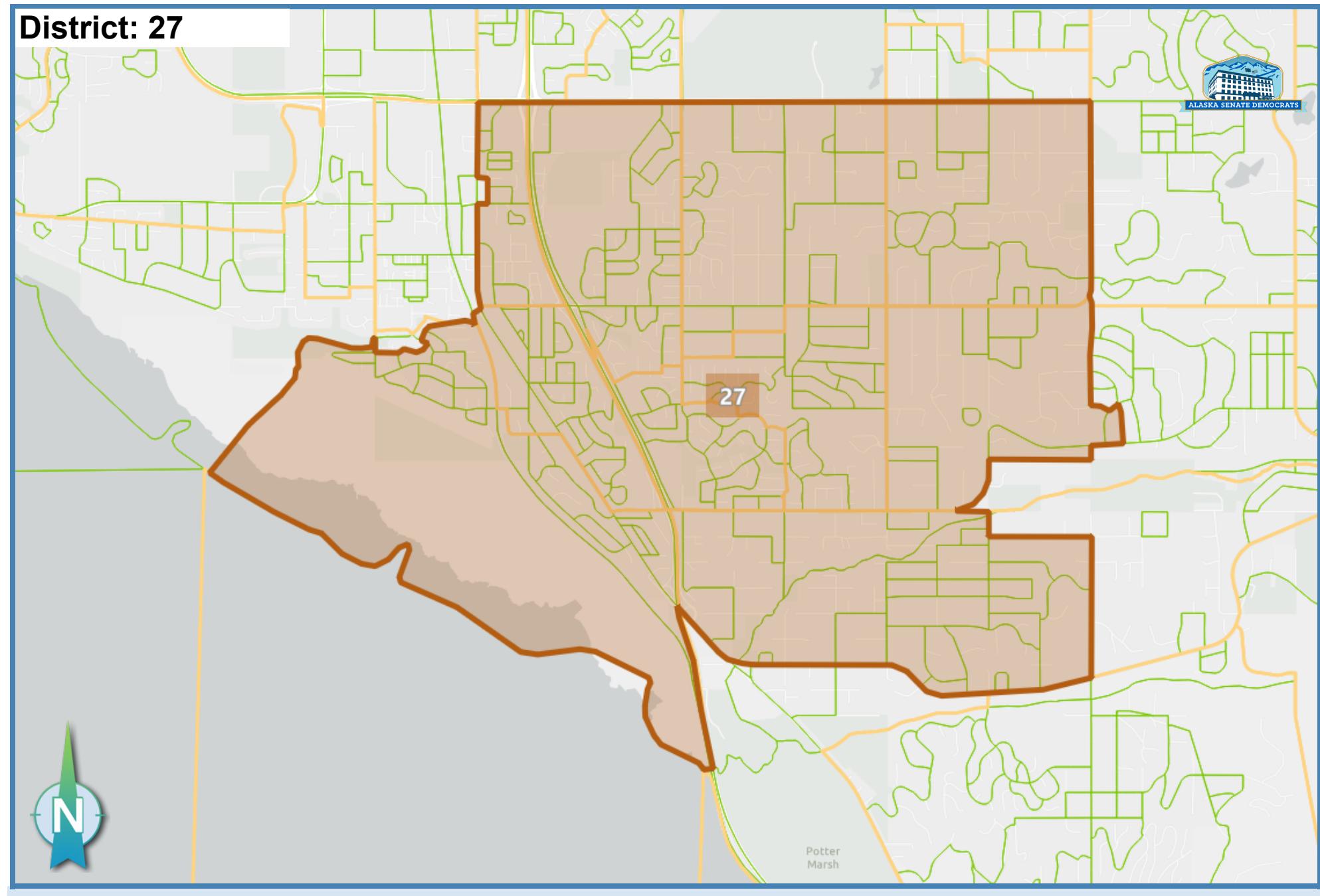
Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:26:00 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

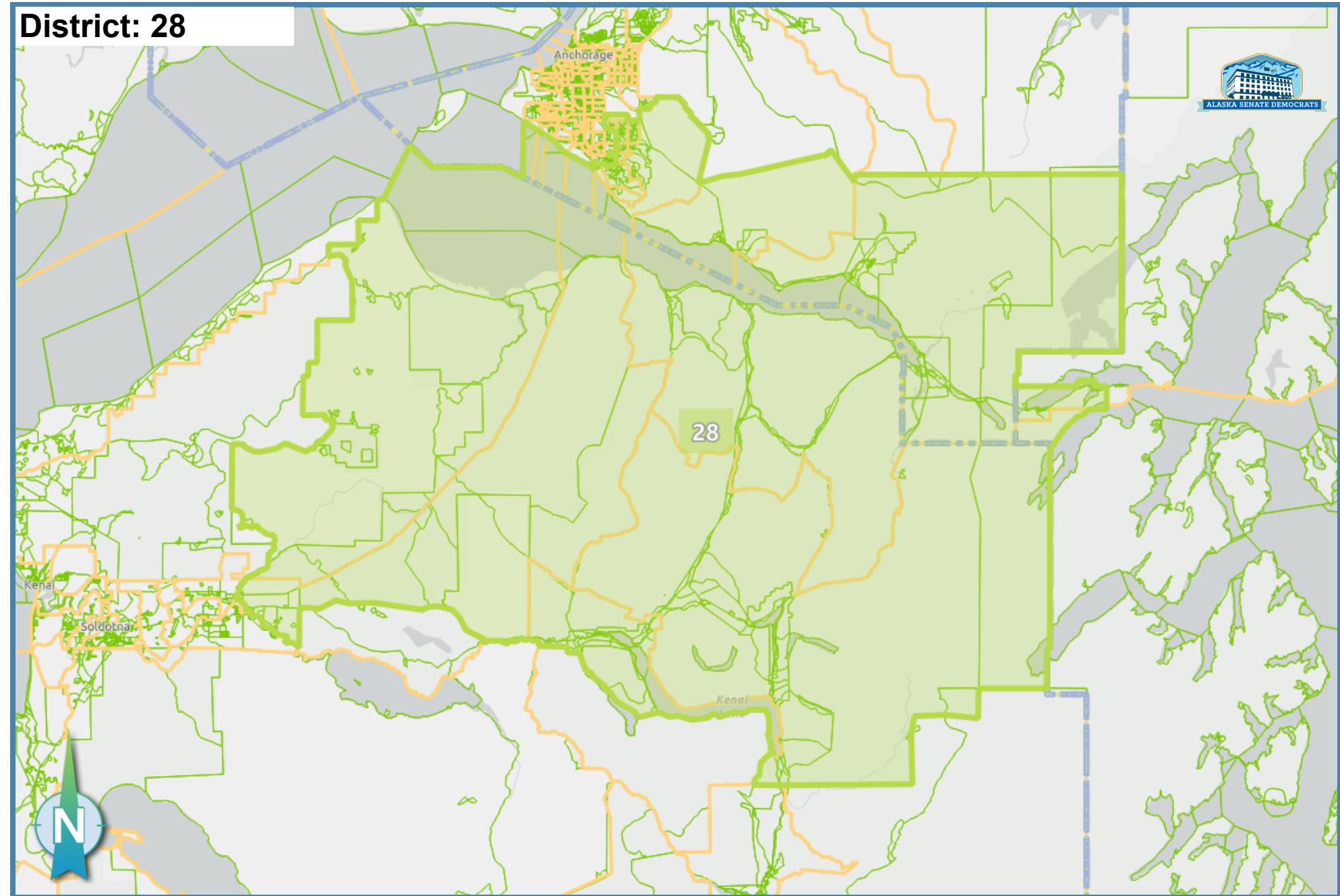
Page: 25

**District: 24**

**District: 25**





**District: 28**

Ideal Population: 18,335

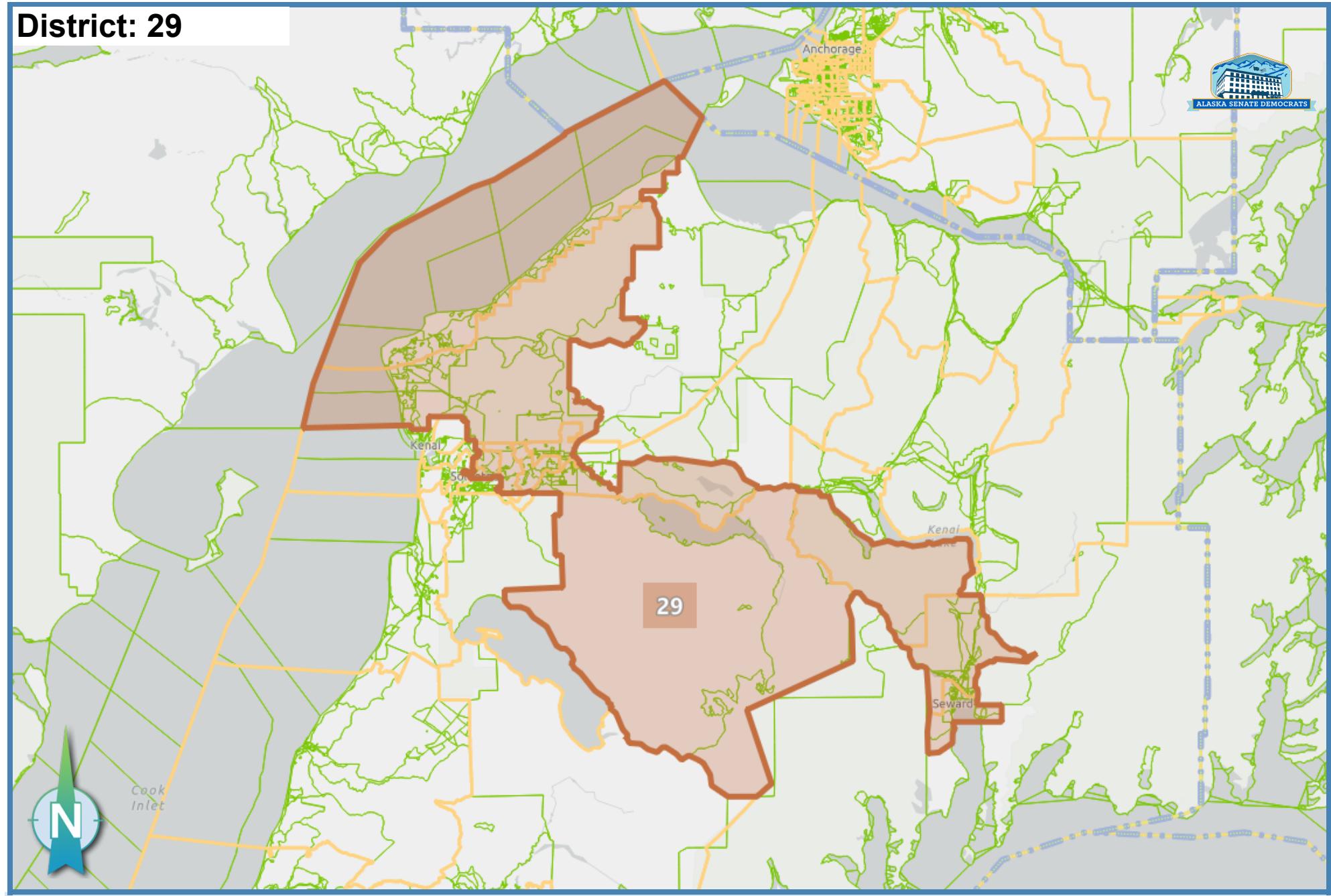
Deviation: 0.04 %

Total Population: 18,342

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:26:00 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

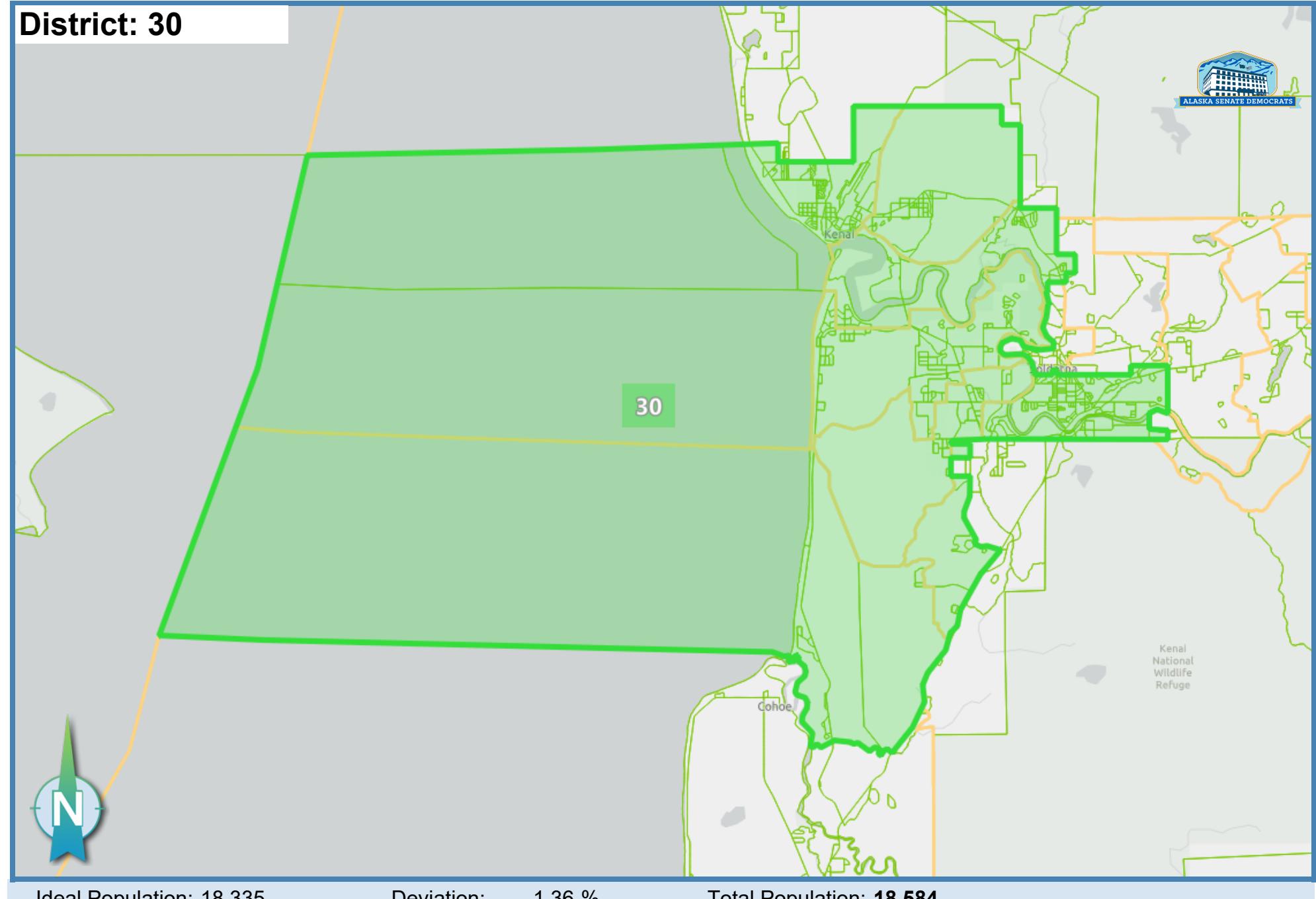
Page: 30

**District: 29**

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:26:01 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

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**District: 30**

Ideal Population: 18,335

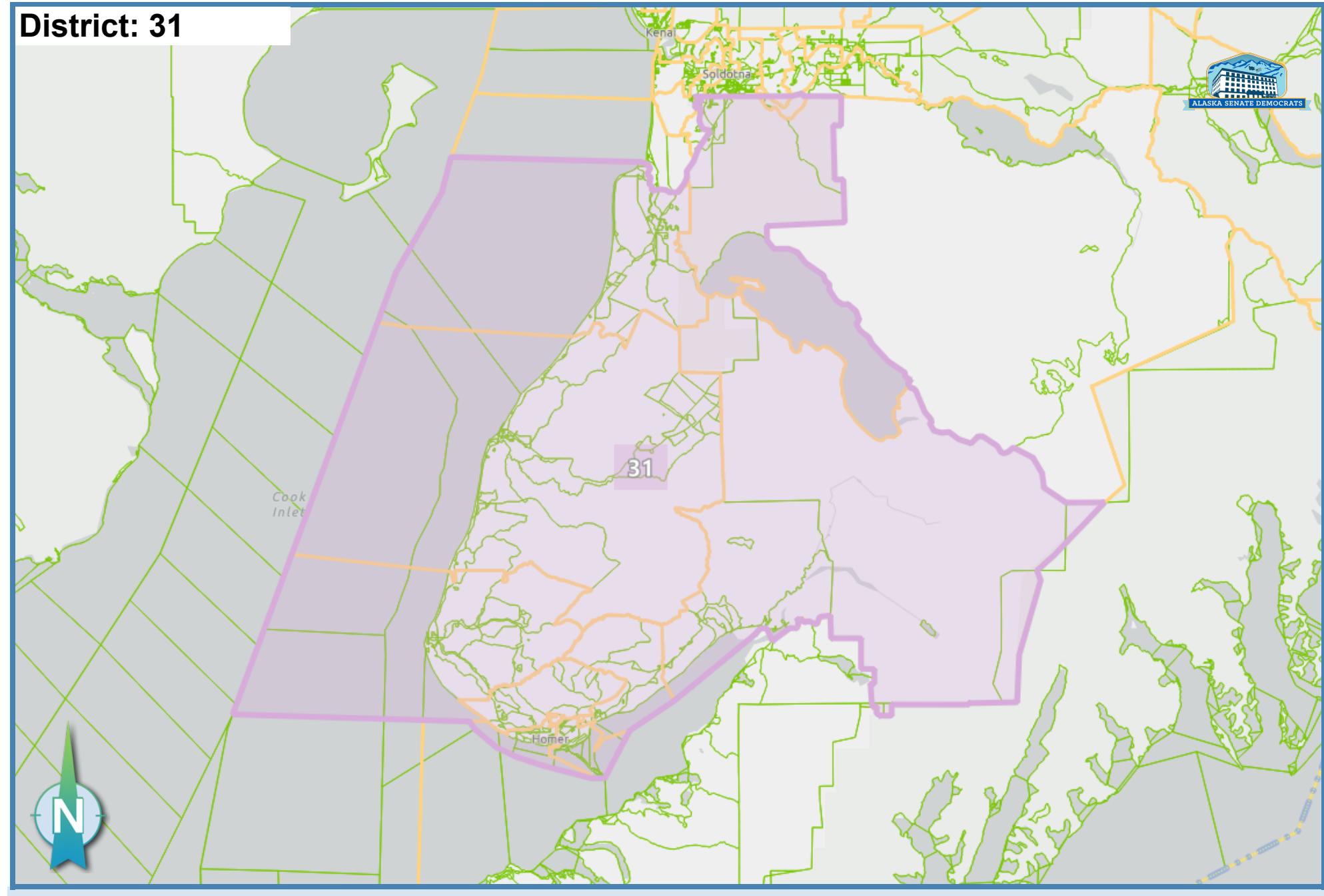
Deviation: 1.36 %

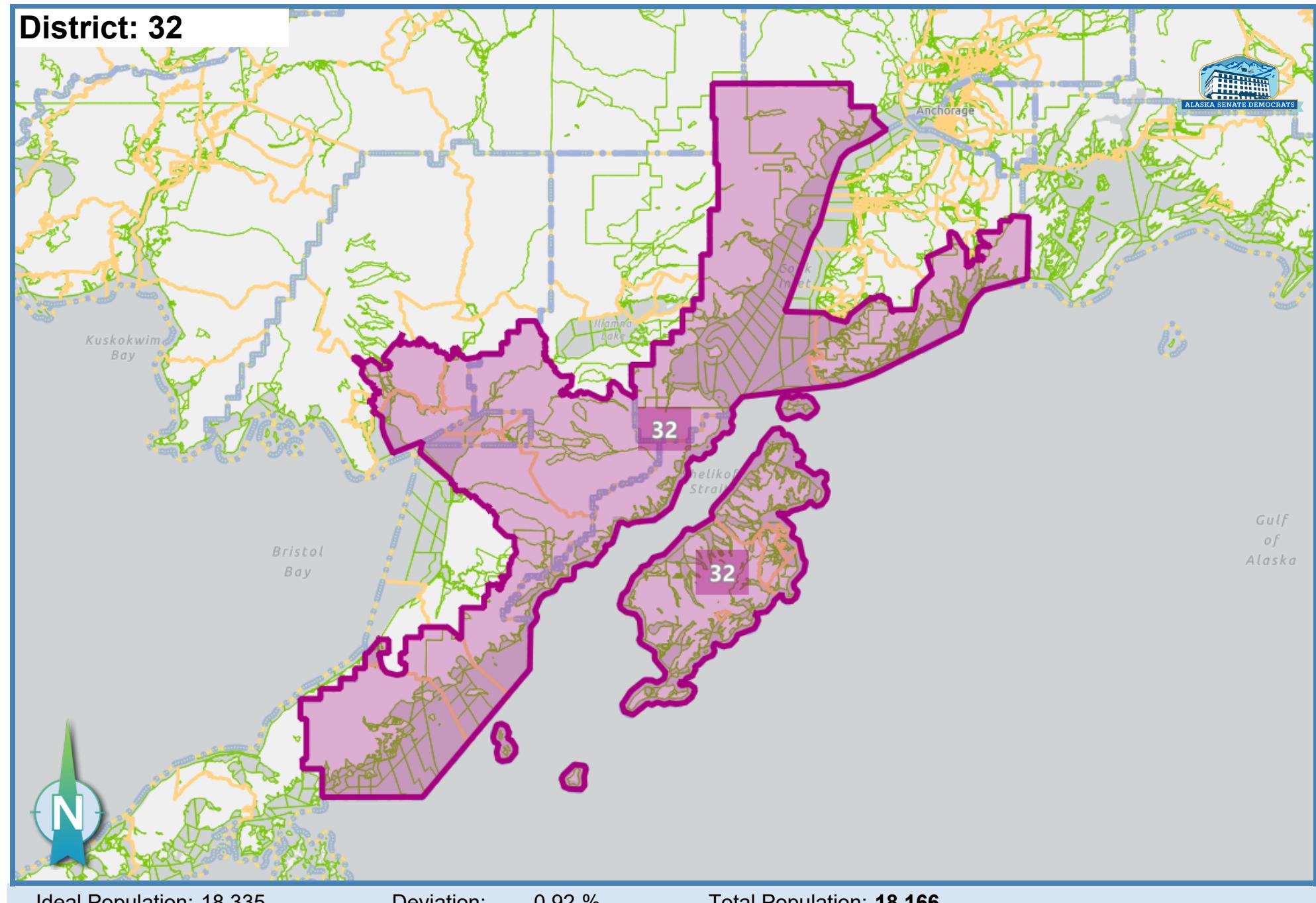
Total Population: 18,584

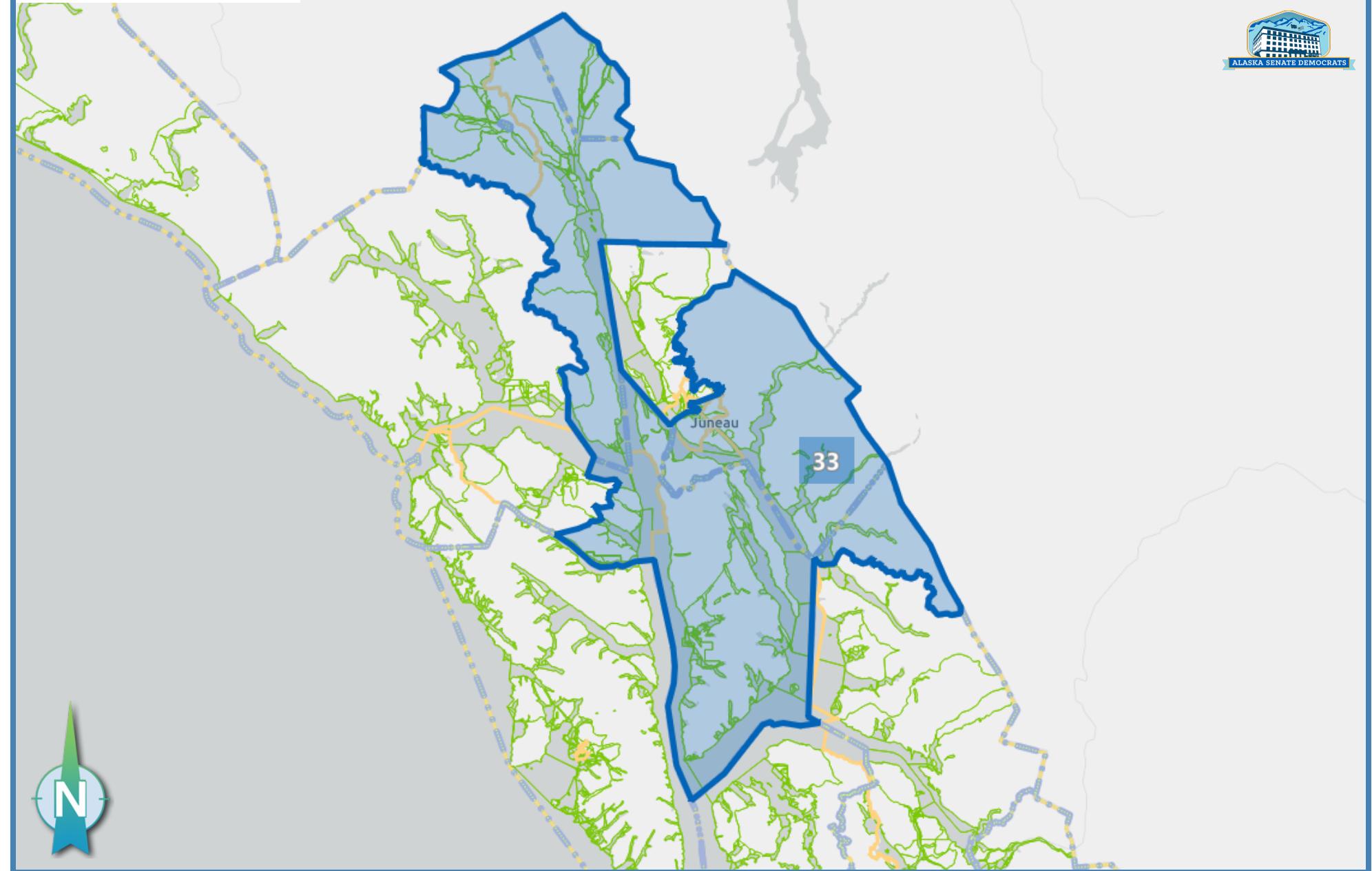
Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:26:01 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

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**District: 31**



**District: 33**

Ideal Population: 18,335

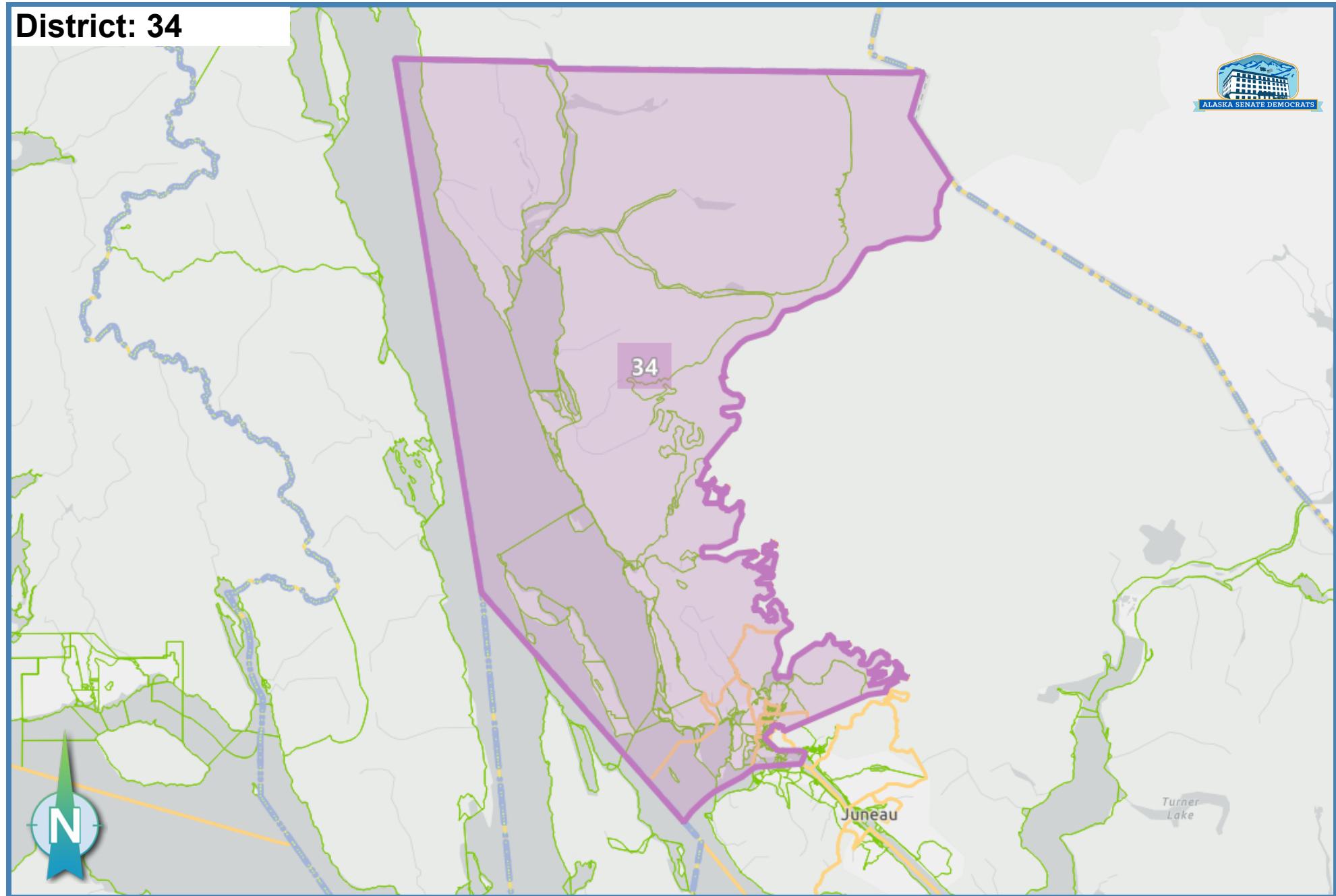
Deviation: -1.35 %

Total Population: 18,087

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:26:01 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

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**District: 34**

Ideal Population: 18,335

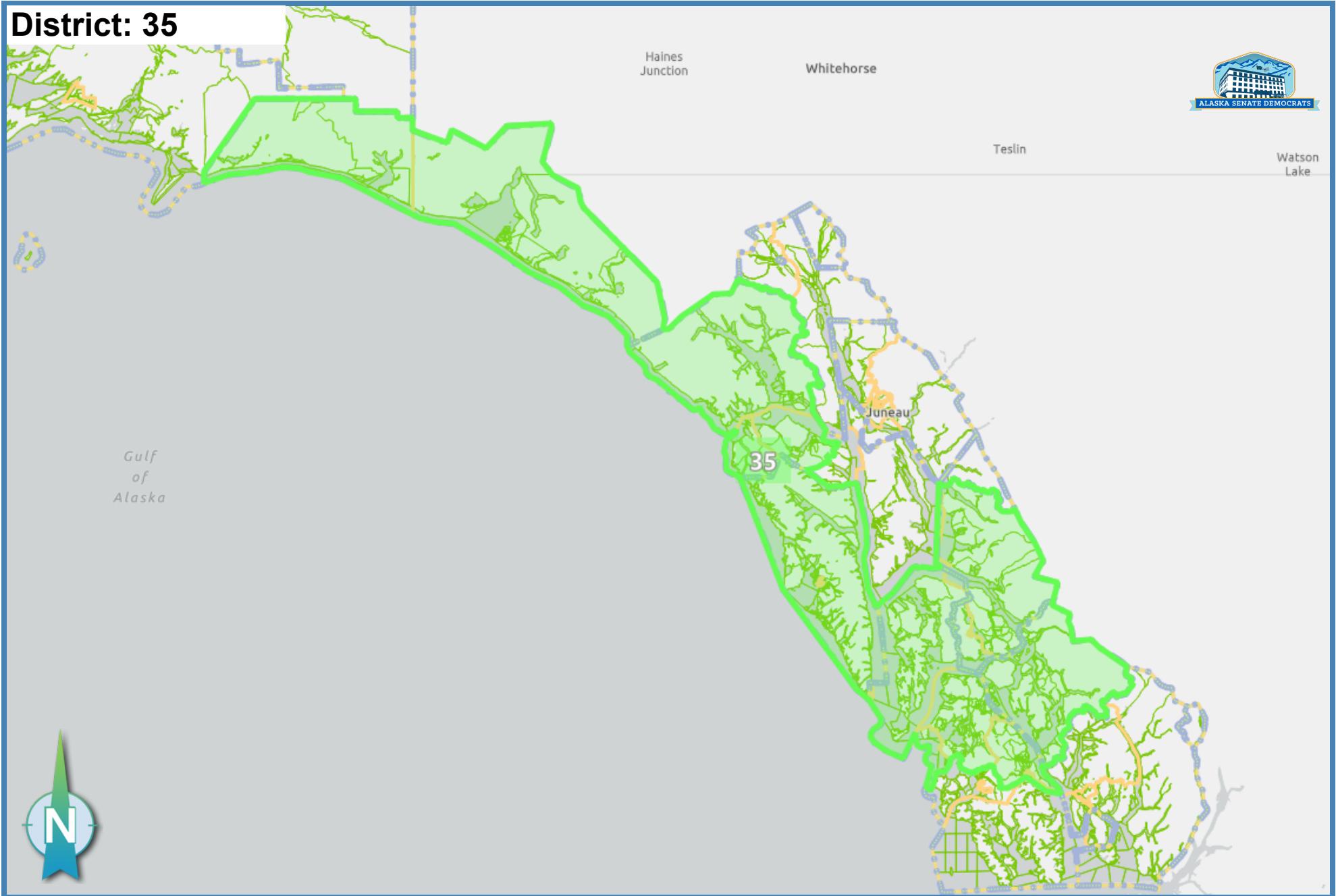
Deviation: -1.44 %

Total Population: 18,071

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:26:01 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

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**District: 35**

Ideal Population: 18,335

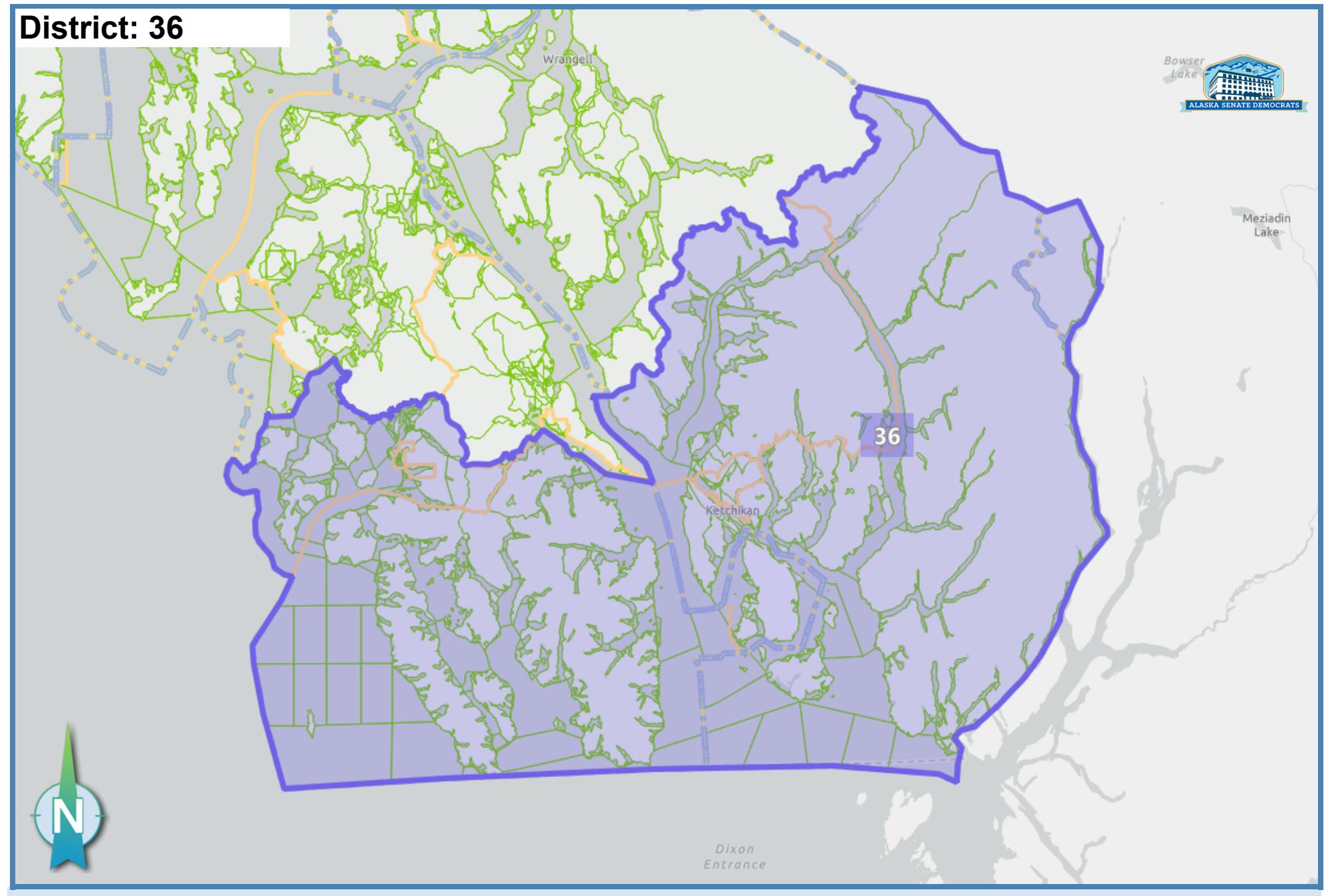
Deviation: -1.44 %

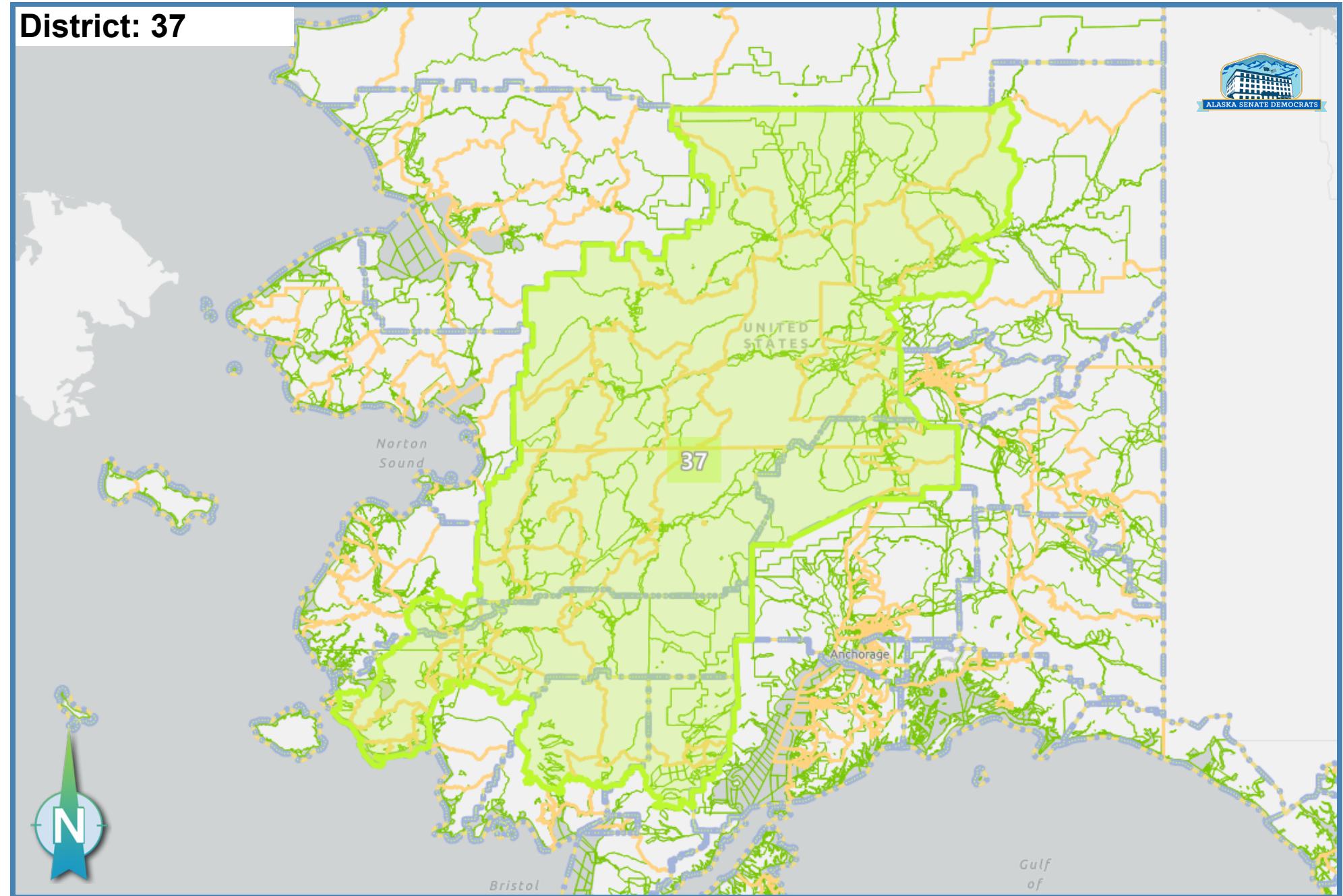
Total Population: 18,071

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:26:01 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

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**District: 36**

**District: 37**

Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation: -0.94 %

Total Population: 18,162

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:26:01 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

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**District: 38**

Ideal Population: 18,335

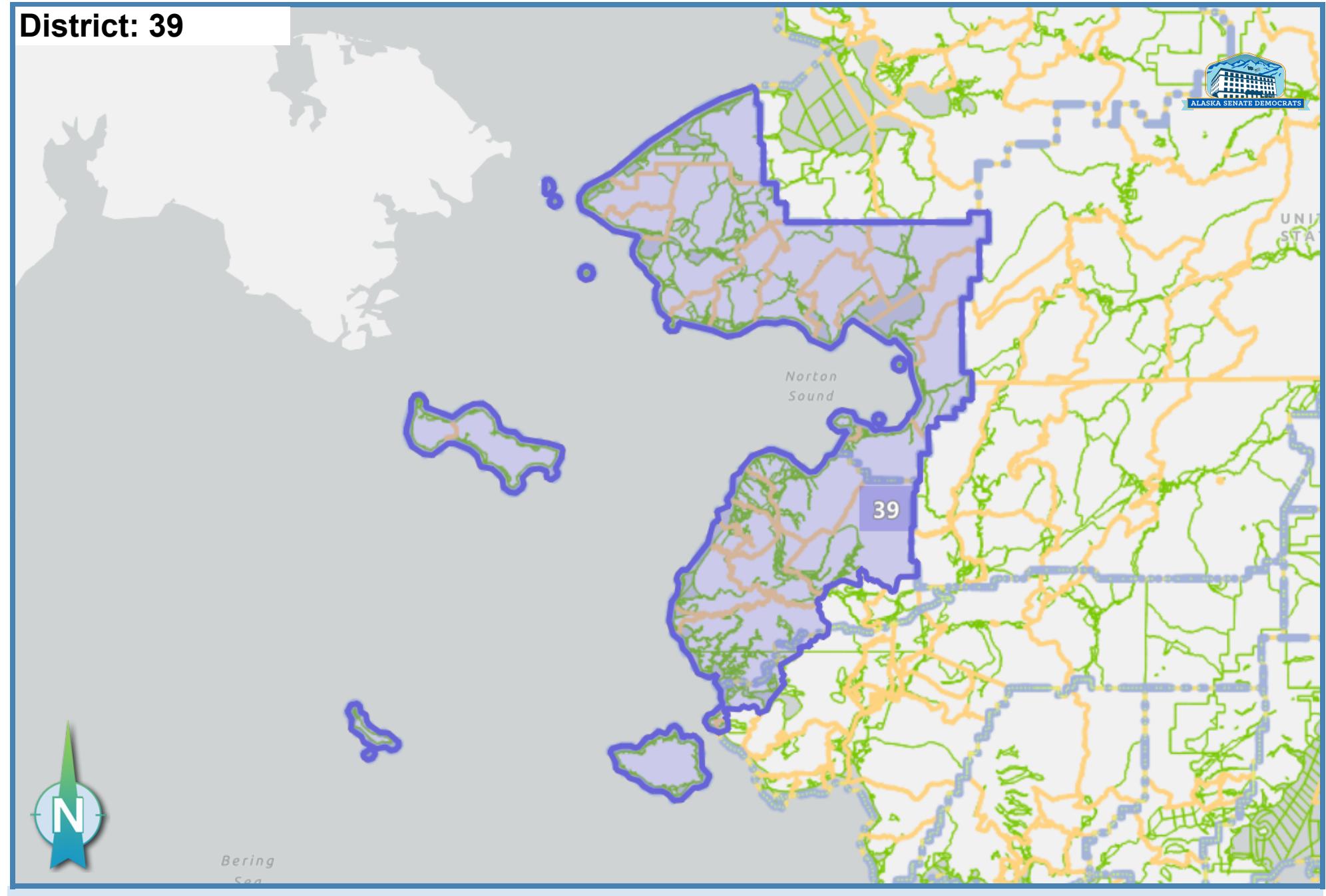
Deviation: 0.93 %

Total Population: 18,506

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:26:02 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

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**District: 39**

**District: 40**Chukchi  
Sea

40



Norton

Ideal Population: 18,335

Deviation:

2.67 %

Total Population: 18,824

Based on: 2020 Census Geography, 2010 PL94-171

Map Date: 10/28/2021 12:26:02 AM Plan Last Edited on: 10/28/2021 12:22:42 AM

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**Note to the Reapportionment Board, Answering Member Borromeo**  
**From Senator Tom Begich**  
**October 30, 2021**

Member Borromeo,

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) contiguosity 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 contiguity 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.**

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**From:** Hal Shepherd <opbdhal@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 1, 2021 1:01 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Kenai Peninsula Redistricting Proposal

In my hast 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**

[x1wxm sr }D eovihmxngx2svk](#)

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 is 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 were 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 Whitier 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  
[REDACTED]

Fritz Creek, AK 99603

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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 2, 2021, 1:44 pm

Name: **Cindy Spanyers**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

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:** 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. Doooooo iiiiiittttt!!

Jean Strong  
Chugiak

[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING

### VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Wasilla 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: Jesse Sumner

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**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.**

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**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

# 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 Ma t-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:** 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**

**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.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING

### VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Wasilla 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: Loy Thurman

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Wasilla 10/25/21 Verbal Testimony**

Public Comment: **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

Seward 10/12/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: October 26, 2021

Name: Tom Touges

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Mr. Touges noted that people in Crown Point, Primrose, and Moose Pass shop, attend school, and go to the hospital in Seward. There are some maps that do not include these communities which are in the "Y South." Seward is "Seward Highway oriented" and having a representative that represents Seward is also important. Mr. Touges is in favor of Seward being connected to Homer as opposed to being connected to Kodiak. Kodiak is 4-5 times as big as Seward which means that Seward would likely have a representative from Kodiak. Mr. Touges would rather see Seward being connected with the communities on the peninsula that you can drive to.

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**From:** Lois Turinsky <loitursturinsky@ak.net>  
**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

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## 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 affected by its ‘neighbor’, TSAIA in both positive and negative 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 councils 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  
[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99517  
[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 31, 2021, 6:30 pm

Name: **Michelle Turner**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

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 EagleExit. 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.

## ▼ Population Balance

ⓘ Uses 2020 Decennial Census data on 2020 Blocks.

72,329  
18,839

76,879

18,919  
18,632  
108,700  
291,519

53,244  
18,287

18,907

18,532

18,443

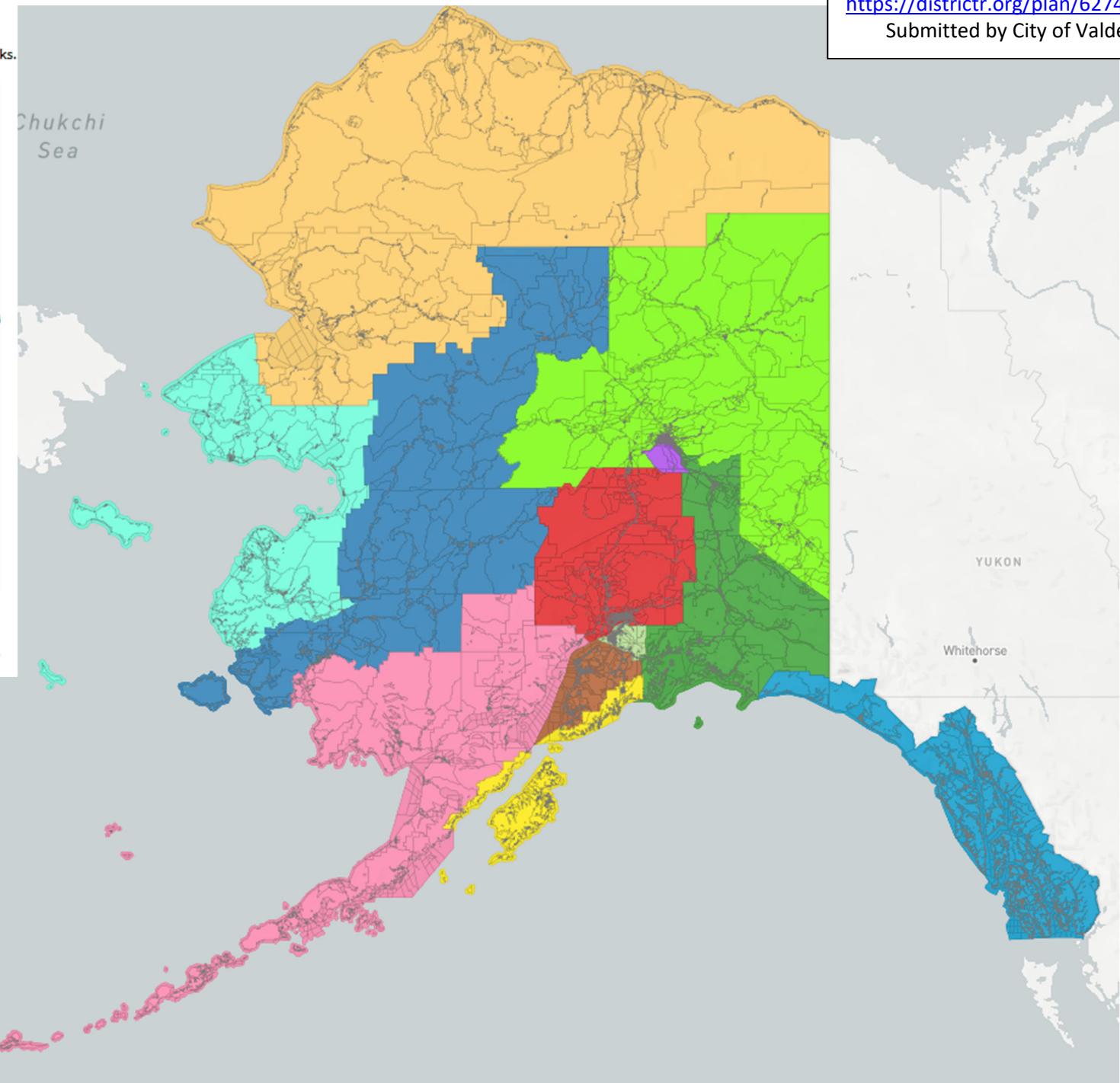
Ideal: 18,334.78

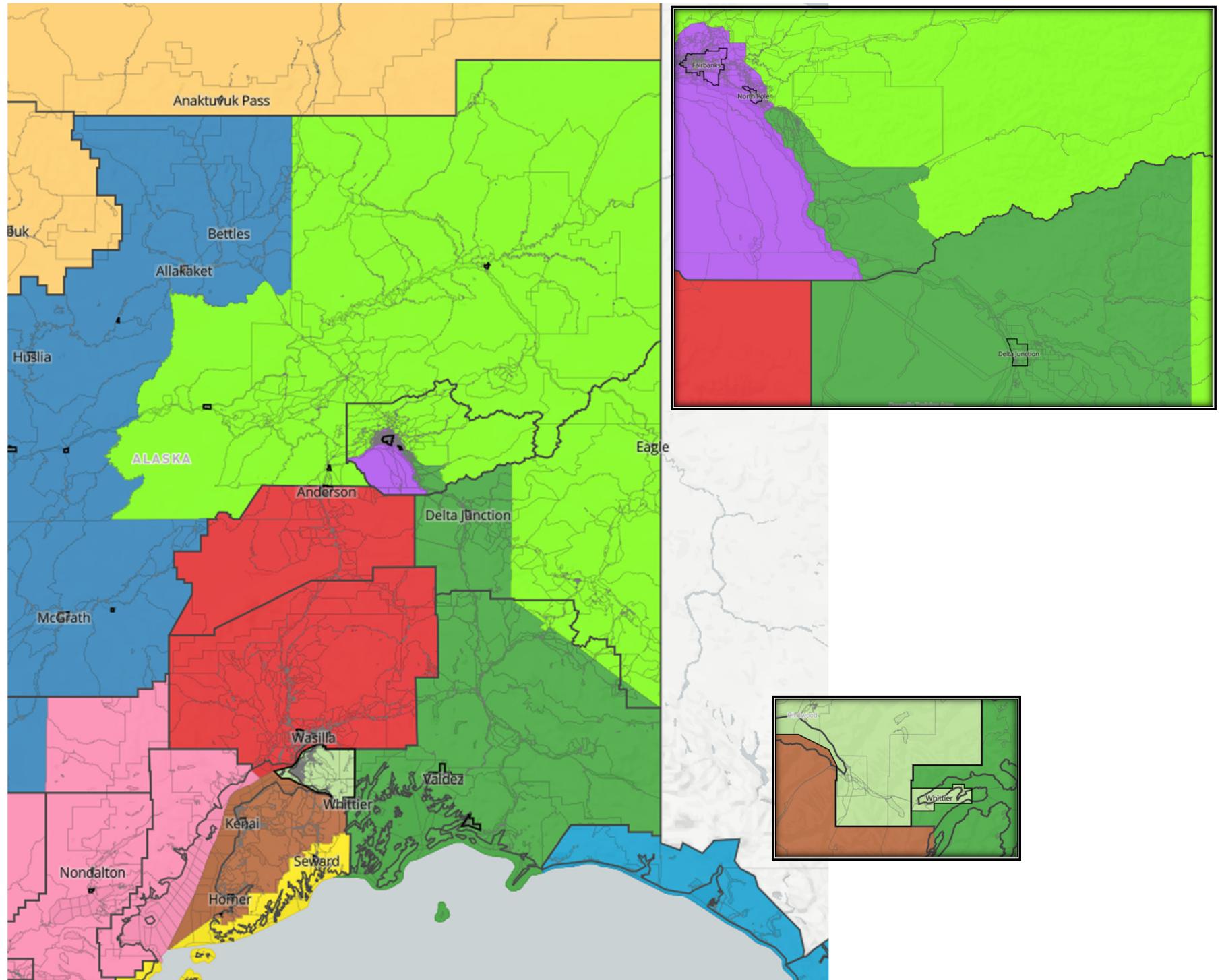
UNASSIGNED POPULATION: 161

MAX. POPULATION  
DEVIATION: 1489.98%

<https://districtr.org/plan/62741>

Submitted by City of Valdez





**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

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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.**

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

Gustavus, Alaska 99826

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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

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 29, 2021 7:38 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** redistricting

Dear Board,  
To the State of Alaska Redistricting Board:

My name is Mary Watson and I appreciate being given this opportunity to weigh in on the question of redistricting. I have been a Juneau resident, business owner and voter for nearly 60 years. My voting district is in the Juneau Airport - 31-410. 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; consideration should include compactness with districts made up of localized zones not having "irregular" shapes; communities represented by a district should be socioeconomically integrated - ergo "connected and related" and there should be contiguity to the districts drawn - i.e. a singular space and not separate "chunks" if you will.

**OPPOSE:**

For all of the above points referenced, **the following FOUR maps do not adhere to the constitutional criteria and I strongly oppose them:**

**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).

**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 the opportunity for me to state my view.

Sincerely,

Mary Watson

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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:** 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.**

# 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.**