

# REDISTRICTING 2021

Dinwiddie County Attorney's Office

June 2021

Presenter:

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# DECENNIAL REDISTRICTING

- The Constitution requires a census of the population be taken every 10 years (2021, 2011, 2001, 1991, etc.).
- The Virginia Constitution and laws requires redistricting for legislative and congressional maps based on decennial data.
- This means U.S. House of Representatives, General Assembly, and local Board of Supervisors and School Board districts need to be redrawn.
- 2020 Census Data was delayed because of Covid-19 Pandemic.
- Redistricting does NOT impact school district boundaries (i.e. who goes to which elementary school).

# TIMELINE

- August: Expecting U.S. Census data by about August 16.
- August/September: At the August meeting, or at the very latest, the September meeting, Board of Supervisors can appoint a Redistricting Advisory Committee (15 members).
- September: Virginia Redistricting Commission should have maps to General Assembly.
- October?: After General Assembly approval of U.S. House of Representatives and General Assembly, localities must redistrict.
- Although no scheduled BOS/School Board elections until 2023, as soon as possible after General Assembly approval, localities need to perform local redistricting.
- Local redistricting is approved by Ordinance, changing the County Code.
- After local districts approved by Board of Supervisors, there is now a preclearance process in place with the Attorney General of Virginia.

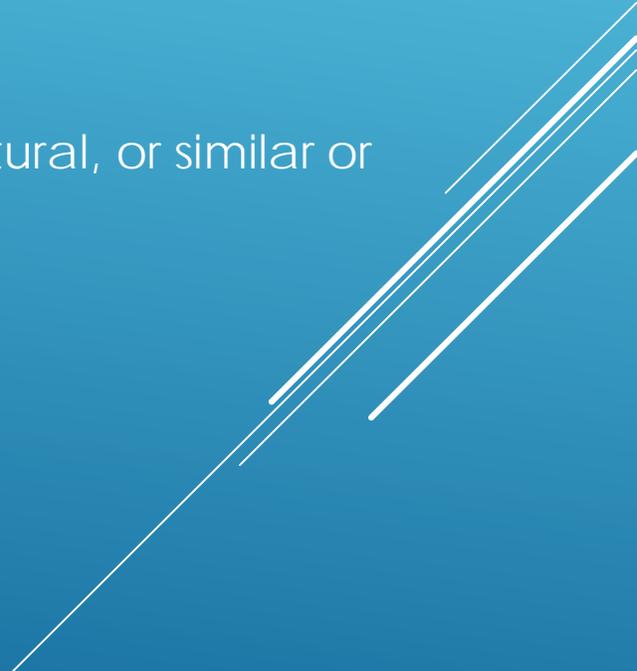
# REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

- Although not strictly a legal requirement, for at least the past two cycles (2001 and 2011), the BOS has appointed a Redistricting Committee (or Redistricting Advisory Committee).
- In 2011, the Committee consisted of 15 citizen members (three (3) from each board district).
- In 2011, the Committee worked with County Attorney's Office to craft districts and precincts that would comply with all applicable federal and state legal requirements.
  - This year, those rules include the federal Voting Rights Act and the recently approved Voting Rights Act of Virginia, among others.
- The Committee would bring a recommended map back to the Board of Supervisors.

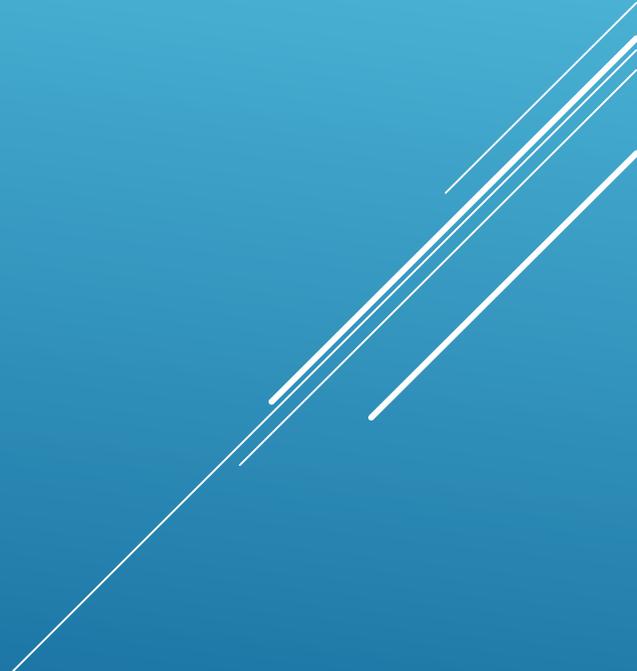
# COMPOSITION OF ELECTION DISTRICT AND PRECINCTS

- Each district should be “compact and contiguous”
- Clearly defined boundaries
  - Road
  - Street
  - Highway
  - River
  - Stream
  - Etc.
- Precincts at time established should have no more than 5,000 registered voters, and no fewer than 100.
- No “Split” Precincts: Each precinct must be wholly contained in U.S. House, State Senate, House of Delegates, and BOS/School Board District. Waiver is required for “split” precincts.

# REQUIREMENTS FOR POLLING PLACES

- Within or within one mile of precinct boundaries
  - Funds are to be provided to provide adequate facilities for polling place
  - Public building, whenever practicable
    - No headquarters, office, or assembly for private organization
    - EXCEPT civic, educational, religious, charitable, historical, patriotic, cultural, or similar or approved by State Board because no other is available
  - Easily accessible for elderly and handicapped
    - If not, a alternative should be provided
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# NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

- Changes cannot take place less than 60 days before an election
  - Notices must be mailed more than 15 days before an election
  - GIS map with changes must be sent to various entities
    - Electoral Board
    - Virginia Division of Legislative Services
    - Department of Elections
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# CONCLUSION/ANY QUESTIONS

- Once finalized, can be very difficult to change precinct boundaries and even polling places for the next ten years.
  - Any questions?
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