



City of Cambridge
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The City of Cambridge **Ward Realignment Committee** meeting will be held **on Thursday, September 21st at 6:00 pm at the City Hall Conference Room, 410 Academy Street, Cambridge, Maryland 21613.** These are the following items scheduled:

AGENDA - REVISED

1. Approve meeting minutes from Sept 14, 2023.
2. Discuss consequences/impacts of changed numbers to “Option 1” results
3. Proposed adjustments
4. Discuss and vote on adjusted model
5. Discuss presentation to City Council
6. Schedule next meeting

*** Please note the agenda is subject to change, the final agenda will be approved by the Committee at the Meeting.**



Ward Realignment Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 14, 2023

6:00 PM

The Empowerment Center, 615B Pine Street, Cambridge

Committee Members Present: Jim Sicks (chair), Greg Meekins (vice chair), Lou Hyman, Barbara Knepp, Talibah Chikwendu, Carlos Estin (attended virtually)

Committee Members Absent: Tabria Cornish

Staff present: Cheryl Hannan, Scott Shores

Chairman Sicks called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM with a quorum present of himself, Mr. Hyman, Ms. Knepp, and Ms. Chikwendu.

Talibah Chikwendu made a motion to approve the minutes from last week's meeting. Barbara Knepp seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

{Vice Chair Meekins and Mr. Estin joined the meeting.}

Chairman Sicks asked for a recap of where we are from last meeting to help shape the direction for tonight's discussions. All agreed the focus should be on keeping Wards compact and contiguous as possible and that the main priority was to fix the Wards which are out of compliance. Secondly, if existing issues with Ward boundaries can be addressed without doing a wholesale change, they would be considered.

The committee worked collaboratively from large printouts of the ward maps with the census blocks which are on the borders of each ward highlighted. A census block is the smallest designated area with population which can be considered for movement from one ward to another. A census block does not necessarily equal a geographic block.

The committee began by focusing on Ward 5, which is currently the smallest ward and out of compliance. They discussed several potential census blocks which could be moved to Ward 5 and settled on several that are in "the corner" of where wards 3, 4, and 5 meet. The objective of focusing on these blocks was to maintain the principles of contiguous and compactness to move these adjoining blocks from Wards 3 & 4 into Ward 5. These movements resulted in all 3 Wards being within tolerance, with Wards 3 and 4 being slightly smaller.

The next area considered was to reduce the size of Ward 1, currently the largest ward, by again looking for a census block that would be contiguous to Ward 3 and maintain the principle of compactness and racial diversity. A block was identified that brought Ward 1 within tolerance while bringing Ward 3 closer to the goal.

So, the next focus for the committee was on finding a block that was contiguous between Ward 2 (too large) and Ward 4 (too small) with enough population to smooth out the differences in sizes. A block was identified. This resulted in an almost equal distribution of population across



Ward Realignment Committee

the 5 Wards. Wards 1, 4, and 5 are slightly over the 100% target and Wards 2 and 3 are slightly under at 99% and 97%, respectively.

The committee agreed that this result was a thoughtful approach to rebalancing the wards and was acceptable to all of them and asked City staff to put it into the model to validate the above calculations and ensure racial distribution in the wards was not diminished by these movements.

The revised model will be the beginning of the conversation for next week's meeting. Where it will be decided whether to make further adjustments or to move forward with this proposal.

A motion for adjournment was made and approved. Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm.

OPTION #1
Total Population = 13,096
White: 5,129 (39%)
Black: 6,294 (48%)
Other: 1,673 (13%)

Legend

- Ward One_Option1
- Ward Two_Option1
- Ward Three_Option1
- Ward Four_Option1
- Ward Five_Option1

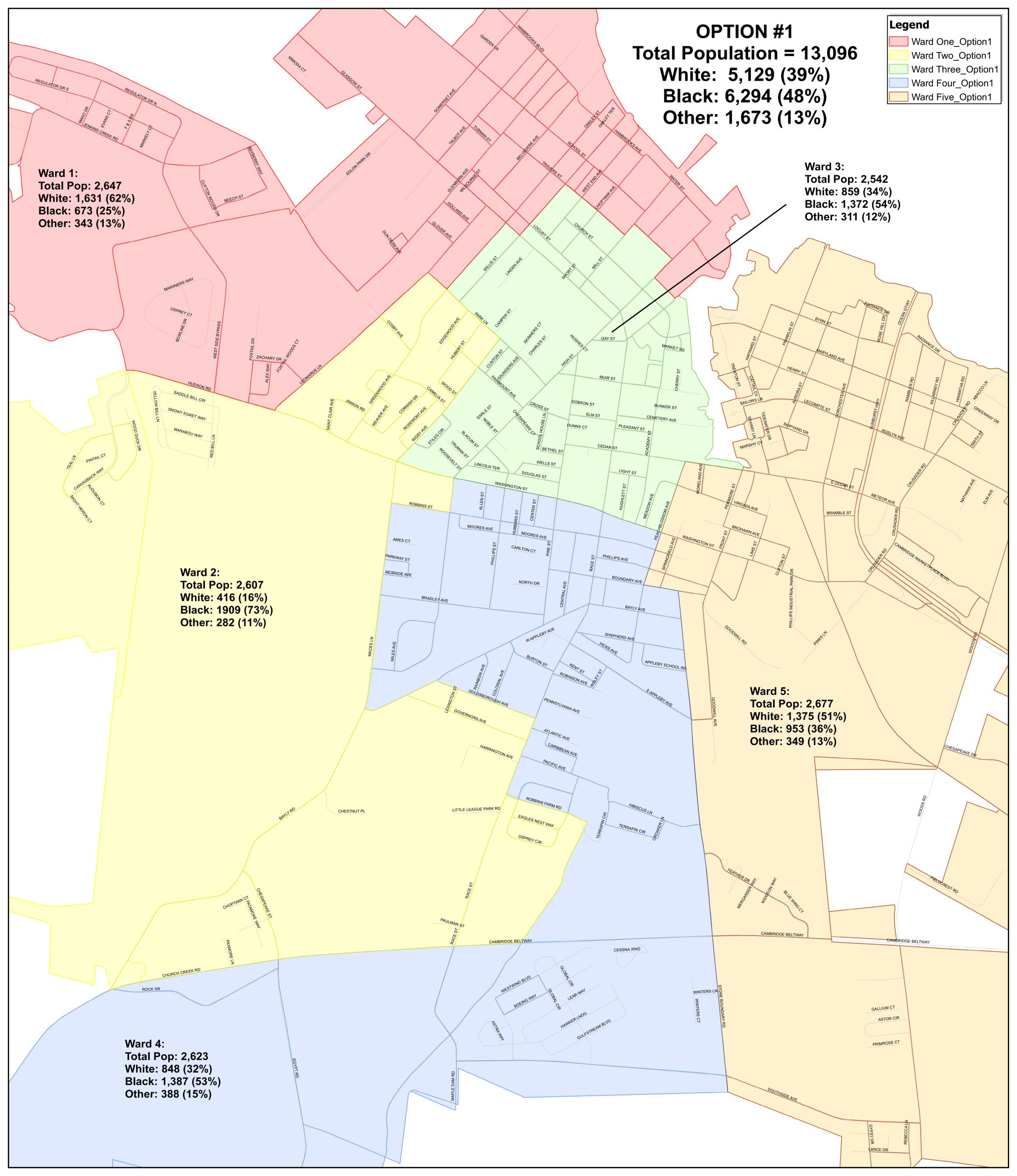
Ward 1:
Total Pop: 2,647
White: 1,631 (62%)
Black: 673 (25%)
Other: 343 (13%)

Ward 3:
Total Pop: 2,542
White: 859 (34%)
Black: 1,372 (54%)
Other: 311 (12%)

Ward 2:
Total Pop: 2,607
White: 416 (16%)
Black: 1,909 (73%)
Other: 282 (11%)

Ward 5:
Total Pop: 2,677
White: 1,375 (51%)
Black: 953 (36%)
Other: 349 (13%)

Ward 4:
Total Pop: 2,623
White: 848 (32%)
Black: 1,387 (53%)
Other: 388 (15%)



City of Cambridge

Ward Sizes

2020 is based on proposed realignment of census blocks

TOTAL POPULATION

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
2010	2,472	2,389	2,506	2,399	2,583	12,349
2020 - Proposed	2,647	2,607	2,542	2,623	2,677	13,096
Difference	175	218	36	224	94	747

	2010	2020	
Total	12,349	13,096	
Divided by 5	2,470	2,619	
+5%	2,593	2,750	Allowable tolerance threshold
-5%	2,346	2,488	of variance per election law.

Ward population compared to "ideal" population (outside +/-5% are highlighted in red)			
	2010	2020	
"Ideal" or equal ward sizes:	2,470	2,619	
1	100.1%	101.1%	
2	96.7%	99.5%	
3	101.5%	97.1%	All Wards are within Tolerance
4	97.1%	100.1%	
5	104.6%	102.2%	

City of Cambridge

2020 uses proposed census block changes

Ward Sizes

RACIAL COMPOSITION

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE TOTAL						
	2010	2020-P	Difference	2010	2020	Difference
Black	5,941	6,294	353	48.2%	48.1%	-0.1%
White	5,611	5,129	(482)	45.5%	39.2%	-6.3%
Other	777	1,673	896	6.3%	12.8%	6.5%
Total	12,329	13,096	767	100%	100%	

WARD 1						
	2010	2020-P	Difference	2010	2020	Difference
Black	572	673	101	23%	25%	2.3%
White	1,785	1,631	(154)	72%	62%	-10.6%
Other	115	343	228	5%	13%	8.3%
Total	2,472	2,647	175	100%	100%	

WARD 2						
	2010	2020-P	Difference	2010	2020	Difference
Black	1,874	1,909	35	78%	73%	-5.2%
White	401	416	15	17%	16%	-0.8%
Other	114	282	168	5%	11%	6.0%
Total	2,389	2,607	218	100%	100%	

WARD 3						
	2010	2020-P	Difference	2010	2020	Difference
Black	1,501	1,372	(129)	60%	54%	-5.9%
White	819	859	40	33%	34%	1.1%
Other	186	311	125	7%	12%	4.8%
Total	2,506	2,542	36	100%	100%	

WARD 4						
	2010	2020-P	Difference	2010	2020	Difference
Black	1,192	1,387	195	50%	53%	3.2%
White	1,053	848	(205)	44%	32%	-11.6%
Other	154	388	234	6%	15%	8.4%
Total	2,399	2,623	224	100%	100%	

WARD 5						
	2010	2020-P	Difference	2010	2020	Difference
Black	802	953	151	31%	36%	4.3%
White	1,553	1,375	(178)	61%	51%	-9.2%
Other	208	349	141	8%	13%	4.9%
Total	2,563	2,677	114	100%	100%	