

Report to the Alaska Redistricting Board And Proposed Plan



Submitted September 17, 2021 by

Alaskans for Fair Redistricting
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Summary Statement

Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) is excited to present our redistricting proposal and share what we believe is the best mapping option for the next decade. We believe that this plan meets all of the mapping criteria and would provide the most equitable way for the people of Alaska to have a fair and represented voice in their government.

AFFR is a non-partisan coalition of Alaska Native Organizations, Organized Labor Unions, Non-Profit Organizations, Public Interest Groups and Individuals committed to achieving a fair and equitable redistricting plan for Alaska. This report, maps of the proposed plan, and information can be found on our website <https://www.akfairredistricting.org/>.

As a coalition, we have worked to engage as many Alaskans as possible to participate in the development of a fair and equitable redistricting plan that will satisfy the applicable federal and state law. To this end, AFFR has developed a proposed plan for submission to the Alaska Redistricting Board. It is presented here.

The decisions before the Alaska Redistricting Board are not taken lightly and require careful consideration when balancing numerous interests. Our efforts are to ensure that the Board's final plan will be informed by many Alaskan communities and voices. We encourage the Board to adopt AFFR's map as a draft plan and to give this plan great weight in the development of a final plan.

AFFR encourages everyone who may see this proposed plan or other plans considered by or published by the Board to submit comments to the Alaska Redistricting Board. Information about Board activities can be found online at: <https://www.akredistrict.org/>.

AFFR would also appreciate hearing your comments. Comments can be directed to AFFR staff by contacting robin@akpirg.org.

Finally, AFFR extends its thanks to the many people who participated in the development of this Report and Proposed Plan.

Alaskans for Fair Redistricting Proposal

This report accompanies a statewide redistricting plan submitted to the Alaska Redistricting Board by Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR). The plan itself is set forth in a series of maps which have been provided to the Board in electronic form.

The first section of this report describes Alaskans For Fair Redistricting and discusses the process for development of the Plan. In Section 2 we set forth the criteria that guided the creation of the plan. In Section 3, we discuss some difficult policy judgments embodied in the plan, the rationales for the choices made, as well as the alternatives for the Board to consider in assessing these choices. In section 4 we provide a map and description of the individual proposed House and Senate districts. AFFR expects to supplement the discussion presented in this report, and as we continue to monitor public testimony and the work of the Board we remain open to changing aspects of the plan.

Sincerely,



Joelle Hall
Chair
Alaskans for Fair Redistricting

Section 1. Alaskans for Fair Redistricting

Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) is a broad coalition of Alaskans working for a fair and legal redistricting plan. AFFR has worked to encourage community involvement in the redistricting process and held regional input sessions to hear directly from stakeholders across the state. Our membership includes Alaska Native organizations, Organized Labor Unions, Non-Profit Organizations, Public Interest Groups and Individuals who all share a commitment to the future of the state of Alaska. *See Appendix A for list of AFFR coalition participation.*

AFFR developed its proposed plan to be consistent with all relevant constitutional and statutory provisions and to address concerns that have been raised by coalition members, Board members, and the public.

Although the time has been very short and further complicated by impacts of COVID-19 on the U.S. Census Bureau timeline, more than 60 groups and individuals have contributed meaningfully to our understanding of the socio-economic integration of communities in our vast, but closely knit, state. Those groups represent roughly 400,000 Alaskans. In early 2021 AFFR began holding regular meetings and conducted preliminary mapping work based on available data from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development which allowed us to hit the ground running when the Census data was released.

AFFR has two staff. One to handle administrative duties and stewardship of the AFFR coalition and one for mapping and data analysis services for the development of a plan.

Section 2. Criteria Governing Plan Development

Multiple federal and state legal standards govern a redistricting plan. The interaction of these standards provides much of the complexity inherent in the line-drawing process.

The Alaska Supreme Court requires that priority must be given first to the requirements of Article VI, section 6 of the Alaska Constitution and to the equal protection requirements of the U.S. Constitution. The requirements of Article VI, section 6 are: contiguity and compactness, relative socio-economic integration, respect for local government boundaries, and use of drainage and other geographic features in describing boundaries.

The Court requires the Board to first adopt a plan that meets all constitutional requirements before making any necessary modifications to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act. The Board has indicated it will take Voting Rights Act considerations into account at a later stage. Accordingly, we have prepared a plan that meets all the constitutional requirements and have made no modifications related to the Voting Rights Act.

A. Federal equal protection requirements.

The federal Constitution requires that state legislative districts have equal populations, as far as practicable, to respect the principle of one person, one vote.

The size of an “ideal” district is determined by dividing the total population of the state by the number of legislative districts. In accordance with 2020 Census Data the current size of an ideal district in Alaska is 18,335 people.

“Deviation” refers to the percentage that a district’s population varies above or below the population of the ideal district. “Total deviation” refers to the spread between the most underpopulated and most-overpopulated district. Federal law requires a good faith effort to minimize deviations but has generally treated a total deviation of less than 10% as acceptable for equal protection purposes, and 1% net deviation acceptable in urban areas.

The federal guarantee of equal protection also prohibits intentional discrimination against any group. The AFFR plan was drawn without intent to discriminate for or against any identifiable group of citizens.

B. Alaska Constitutional Requirements

Contiguity

A House district must be drawn so that all parts of a district touch other parts; in other words, a district may not consist of unconnected parts, separated by another district. Because of Alaska’s geography, it is permissible for some amount of open water to be included within a district, so that the land-based parts of a district do not actually touch each other.

A Senate district must consist of two contiguous House districts.

The AFFR plan satisfies this requirement. All House districts contain only contiguous land parts or lands that, although separated by water, have a logical connection. All Senate districts consist of two contiguous House Districts.

Compactness

A House district must be “compact.” Compact means having a small perimeter relative to the area encompassed. The most compact shape is a circle, but all districts cannot be perfect circles. Thus, the compactness requirement is satisfied by demonstrating that districts are *relatively* compact, meaning that as far as possible the district has reasonably regular shapes, without narrow arms or odd appendages, taking into account Alaska’s size and shape and population distribution. Irregular shapes and appendages must be justified by showing there is no practical alternative way to satisfy other requirements. Relative compactness is easier to establish in urban areas where population is denser.

The House districts in the AFFR map are relatively compact. The justifications for odd-appearing districts are explained in this report.

Socio-Economic Integration

Article VI Section 6 of the Alaska Constitution specifies that each House district must contain “as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area.” Socio-economic integration means that residents of a district interact with each other, such as through transportation links, shared economic activities, shared culture, services, and other economic and historic links.

In developing our plan, we paid particular attention to evidence of socio-economic integration and attempted to join within districts groups with historic or demonstrable socio-economic ties. The specific evidence supporting the relative socio-economic integration of particular districts is described in this report.

Equal Population

The Alaska Constitution imposes a more demanding requirement for equal population than does the federal Constitution, particularly for urban areas, where all parts of the area are legally defined to be socio-economically integrated. With the currently available mapping technology, population deviations in non-urban areas may be justified by the need to satisfy other criteria.

The AFFR plan has a total deviation of 4.88% at the House level and 3.2% at the Senate level statewide and a near zero net deviation within Alaska’s three largest urban boroughs. Working within this constraint, we endeavored to keep distinct neighborhoods and communities of interest intact within organized boroughs.

Consideration of Local Government Boundaries.

While Alaska's Constitution appears to permit but not require a redistricting plan to consider local government boundaries, the courts have consistently held that respecting borough boundaries is an important aspect of maintaining socio-economic integration. When a borough or other local governmental unit is divided, there must be a reason why that solution is the most practicable and demonstrates why that division does not intentionally dilute the voting strength of that area.

The AFFR plan was drawn to respect local government boundaries as far as possible. No borough with sufficient population to form a House district is split to prevent the borough residents from being the majority of any district, and AFFR's Plan broke borough boundaries only where required in order to maintain equal representation and socio-economic integration. In only one instance it was necessary to break a borough boundary between two House districts, and this was made necessary by the unique socio-economic regions of the Kenai Peninsula Borough.

Consideration of Drainages and other Geographical Features.

The Alaska Constitution encourages plans to use such natural features to describe district boundaries wherever possible. The AFFR plan does so.

Section 3. Challenging Policy Decisions

Shrinking Southeast Alaska Population

Due to declining population since the last census, the four current districts in Southeast Alaska only have the population for 3.91 ideal districts. Adding the City and Borough of Yakutat brings this to 3.94 ideal districts requiring a 1.4% downward deviation across these four districts. Adding the City of Cordova and environs brings the population to 4.09 ideal districts requiring a 2.15% average upward deviation.

After significant deliberation, we decided it was best to stop the Southeast districts at Yakutat and downwardly deviate all four districts. Not only does this result in a closer to ideal population than including Cordova, but it results in more socio-economically integrated districts. By including Yakutat, the four Southeast districts will exactly comprise the territory of the Sealaska ANCSA region and the Annette Island (Metlakatla) Indian Reservation. Cordova has traditionally not been considered part of Southeast Alaska and has closer socio-economic ties to the other communities along the Gulf of Alaska.

Balancing Cultural Regions in Western Alaska

Creating a map that provides fair representation for rural Alaska and fairly reflects the rich cultural diversity found in rural Alaska was a major priority for AFFR in developing our map. Two concerns with the current districts we heard from stakeholders was the desire of Doyon, Limited and other organizations within the Doyon ANCSA region to keep that region within the six Interior region House seats. Similarly, there was a concern raised by communities around Hooper Bay that due to their strong ties to Bethel, the northernmost villages within the Calista ANCSA region should be included in a district with Bethel.

Unfortunately, concerns conflict with each other and it was not possible to fully meet both of these concerns while meeting the requirements of the U.S. and Alaska Constitutions. We crafted district boundaries that extend the borders of the Bethel district north to the mouth of the Yukon River, bringing the communities of Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay, and Chevak into this district. While we were not able to keep all of the Doyon region into just six districts, with the exception of the City of Nenana we were able to keep the remainder of the region within a seventh district. Nenana has clear socio-economic ties to the neighboring communities within the Denali Borough and achieving the constitutionally required integration mandates keeping Nenana and the Denali Borough within the same district.

Minimizing Deviation in Large Urban Boroughs While Respecting Borough Boundaries

We worked diligently to achieve a near zero net deviation within the three largest boroughs: the Municipality of Anchorage, the Matanuska Susitna Borough, and the Fairbanks North Star

Borough in order to ensure that these boroughs were not overrepresented. In doing so, we made sure to only break each borough boundary once to include population from outside of that respective borough.

Since Anchorage and the Mat-Su have almost enough population for 16 and 6 House districts respectively, it is clear that if population from these two boroughs were to be included in the same district, it would require breaking both of these boroughs at least two ways or would cause one or both of these boroughs to be significantly over/underrepresented.

To achieve zero net deviation in the Matanuska Susitna Borough, we created a district that includes the rural portions of the Mat-Su, the Denali Borough, and the Glenn Highway north to Glennallen and the Denali Highway east to Paxson. There is clear socio-economic integration across this district, and it ensures that the Mat-Su receives the full representation it is entitled to while respecting its borough boundaries to the maximum extent.

In order to achieve zero deviation within the Fairbanks North Star Borough, we included Eielson Air Force Base and the community of Salcha in a district that includes the rural portions of Interior Alaska and communities along the Richardson Highway. There is clear socio-economic integration along this district and this ensures that the Fairbanks North Star Borough is fully represented.

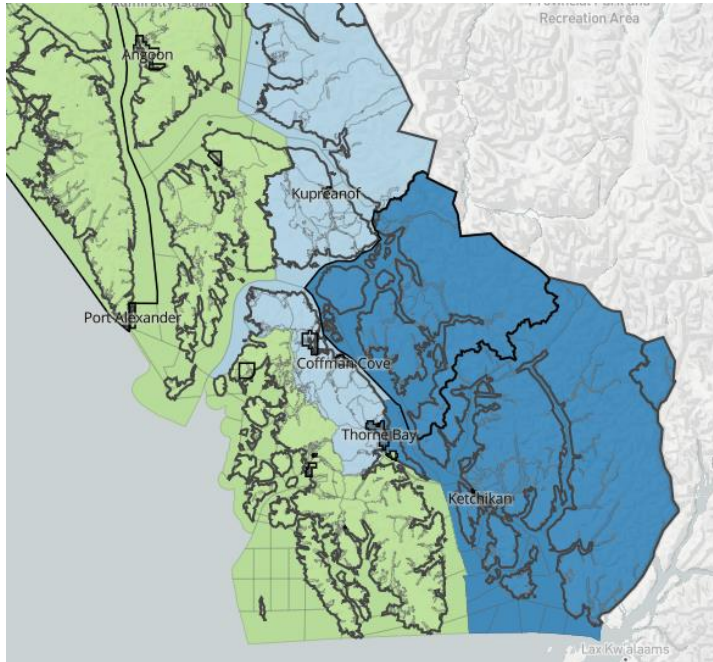
Achieving near zero deviation within the Municipality of Anchorage required including population from the northern portions of the Kenai Peninsula Borough in a district with South Anchorage. There is clear socio-economic integration between Anchorage and the northern Kenai which connects to Anchorage through the Seward and Sterling Highways. Other alternatives we explored were including Valdez or communities along the Richardson Highway into a district with Anchorage, but we determined that these districts would not be as compact or socio-economically integrated as an Anchorage-Peninsula district.

Rural Kenai Peninsula Borough

The unique socio-economic and geographic features of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the Gulf Coast region did require splitting excess population from the Kenai Peninsula Borough into two different districts. The borough contains the villages of Tyonek and Beluga across Cook Inlet from the Kenai Peninsula as well as the Alutiiq (Sugpiaq) villages of Nanwalek and Port Graham on the Peninsula which have clear socio-economic integration with the greater Gulf Coast region but little socio-economic integration with Anchorage. Similarly, the northern inland portions of the borough have little integration with the Gulf Coast. Population mathematics dictates that unless these communities are included with the population outside the borough, the Kenai Peninsula Borough will be significantly underrepresented.

Section 4. House District & Senate Pairings Descriptions

House 1 - Gateway to Alaska



Population: 18,193

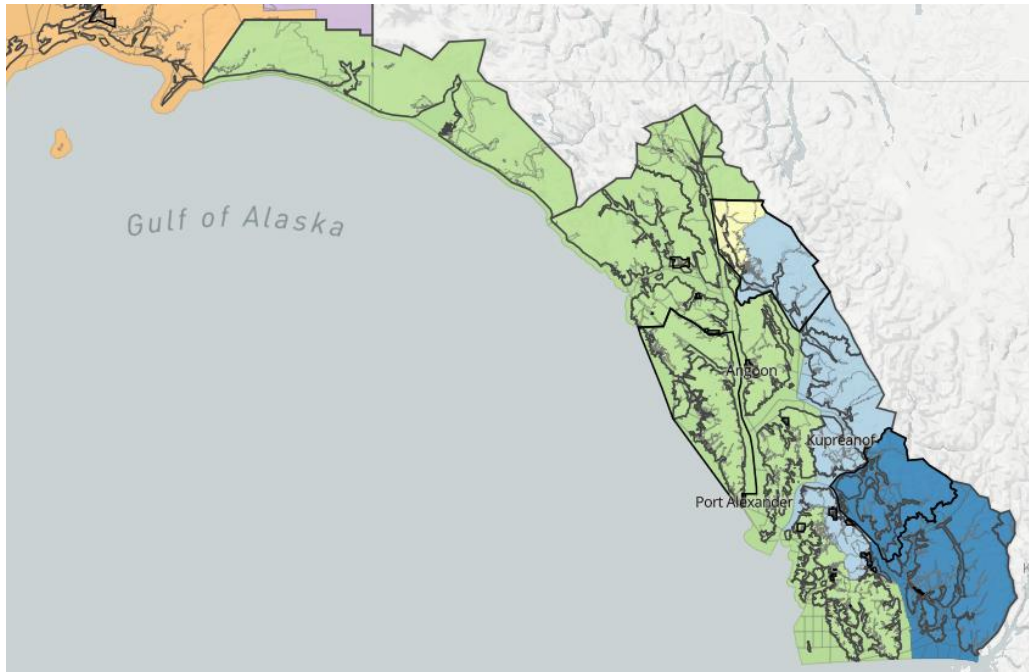
Deviation: -142 (-0.77%)

This district forms a cohesive connection between the communities of Ketchikan and Wrangell and encompasses the Ketchikan Gateway and Wrangell boroughs.

These communities are timber and industrial-influenced towns connected by ferry transportation. Craig is also road-connected on Prince of Wales Island (POW). These communities have connections with Ketchikan, utilizing its regional commercial establishments, airports, ferry terminals, and shopping centers.

The district also includes Wrangell, another former timber mill town like Ketchikan that has similarly transitioned to cruise ship tourism and boat repairs as an economic base. These common economic bases link these two communities — large ship repairs in Ketchikan and midsize vessel repairs in Wrangell bring ocean-going vessels from all over Alaska for repairs or reconditioning at both shipyards. Cruise ship visitor traffic in the area includes ports of call in both Ketchikan and Wrangell where similar businesses provide tourism and shopping opportunities for cruise ship passengers. Improvements to Wrangell's port facilities have increased cruise ship traffic to the community, and subsequently Wrangell has become the second port of call for continuation of the Gateway to Alaska vessel traffic.

House 2 - Sitka & Southeast Islands



Population: 17,946

Deviation: -389 (-2.12%)

This rural Southeast district includes Sitka, and a number of rural subsistence villages. It spans the Coastal Islands from Metlakatla to Yakutat, including the rural towns of Angoon, Hoonah, Kake, Klawock, and Hydaburg.

Much of the district shares a common culture and heritage, as many residents have a rural subsistence lifestyle. The district joins Sitka and Petersburg with rural villages that share their common commercial and sport fishing activities. Commercial fishing — primarily herring, salmon, and halibut — is the basic industry in all of these towns and links these communities. The primary Native hospital for residents is the SEARHC Hospital in Sitka, the district's common hub.

This district includes the City and Borough of Sitka, the City and Borough of Yakutat, and the unorganized borough. The district boundary is at the panhandle junction with the mainland, which is consistent with the Sealaska regional corporation boundary, but divides the Yakutat Borough boundary. Cape Yakataga, which is also the Yakutat Borough, is included with other Prince William Sound communities. Yakutat has cultural and economic ties with the Southeast villages.

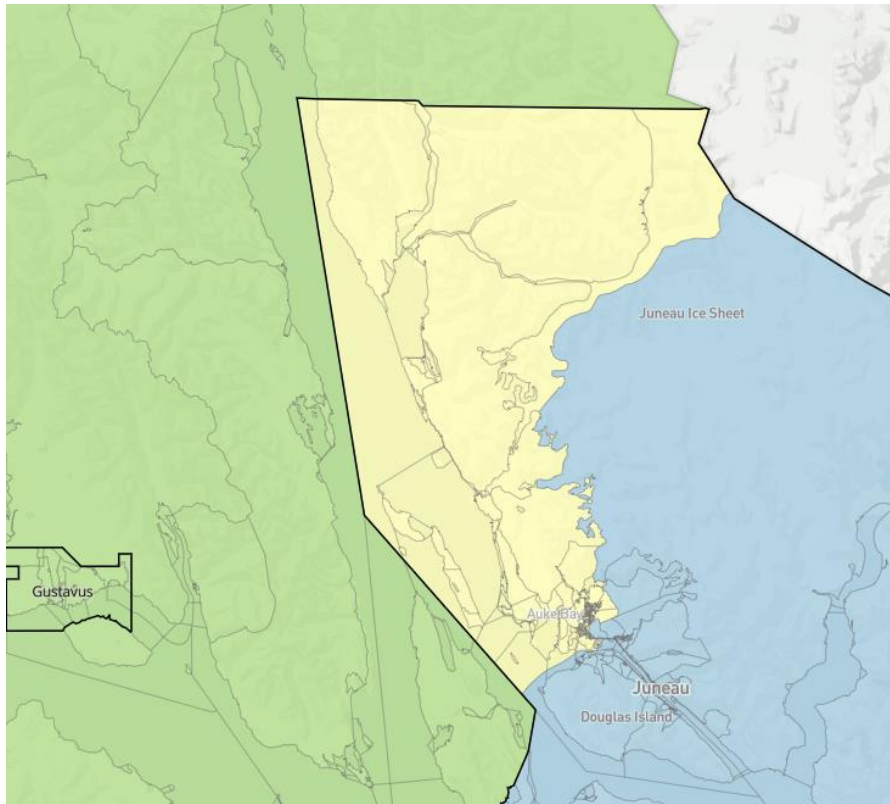
Senate A - Panhandle (1 & 2)

Population: 36,139

Deviation: -531 (-1.44%)

Districts 1 and 2 combine to form Senate District A which includes most of rural Southeast Alaska. The inclusion of the Haines and Skagway Boroughs along with the City of Klukwan allows all of Southeast's international border crossings to be consolidated within a single Senate district.

House 3 - Mendenhall

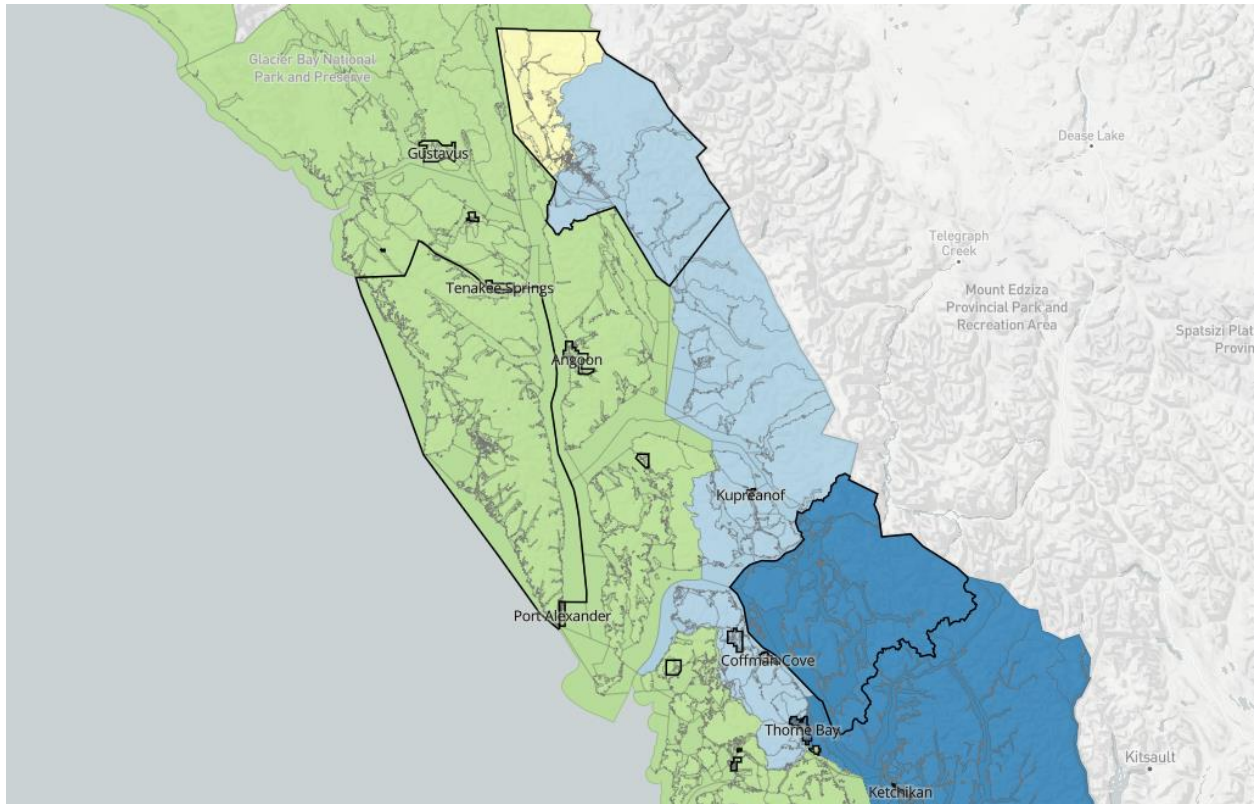


Population: 18,076

Deviation: -259 (-1.41%)

This district contains the communities found in the Mendenhall Valley, Mendenhall Loop Road area, Auke Bay, Point Lena, and other communities found along the Glacier Highway. While the neighborhoods located in the Mendenhall Valley are generally suburban, the communities found further out the Glacier Highway and the Back Loop Road area are characteristically more rural. These communities all lie within the the City and Borough of Juneau and are socio-economically integrated through shared services and economic activity in the Mendenhall Valley. The boundary between the two Juneau districts runs just north of Fred Meyers.

House 4 - Juneau/Tongass



Population: 18,071

Deviation: -264 (-1.44%)

The Juneau-Tongass Seat includes downtown Juneau, Douglas, the City and Borough of Juneau land on Admiralty Island, Petersburg and North Prince of Wales Island.

It is impossible to include the entire City and Borough of Juneau into one district and historically the region has had two seats that are Senate paired. Population migration in the last two decades has mandated that Juneau break a borough boundary in order to gather population. Petersburg is connected to Juneau through transportation links, shopping, and tourism. The entire Petersburg Borough is contained in this seat, as are the economically linked communities of north Prince of Wales Island and the unorganized borough to obtain the needed population.

While historically the Petersburg Borough has been included in a Sitka district, this plan recognizes the strong socio-economic ties between the Petersburg Borough and the City and Borough of Juneau, the top domestic travel destination out of the Petersburg James A. Johnson Airport.

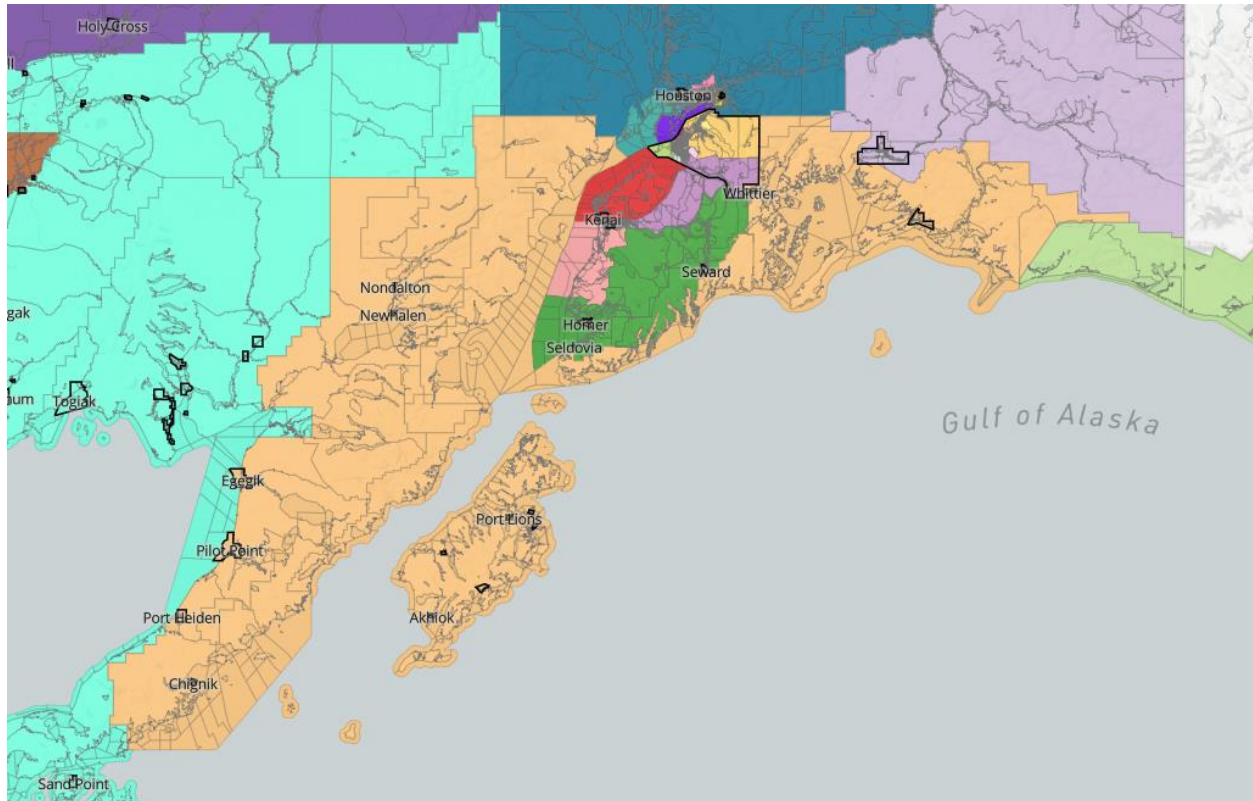
Senate B - Juneau/Petersburg (3 & 4)

Population: 36,147

Deviation: -523 (-1.43%)

Districts 3 and 4 combine to form a Senate district that includes the City and Borough of Juneau, the Petersburg Borough, and north Prince of Wales Island.

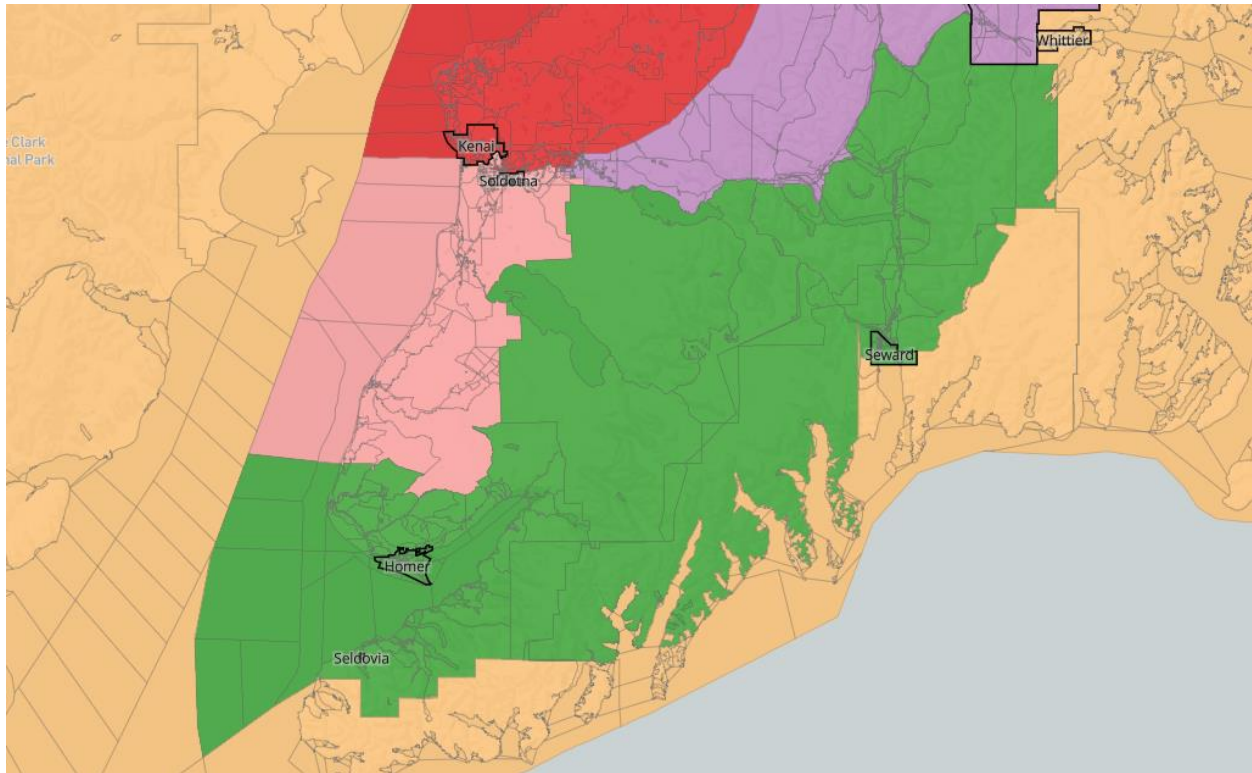
House 5- Gulf Coast



Population: 18,382
Deviation: 47 (0.26%)

This district includes the Kodiak Island Borough, the Lake and Peninsula Borough, the City of Cordova, the City of Whittier, the rural portions of the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and the villages of Tatitlek and Chenega. Commercial and subsistence fishing in the Gulf of Alaska and Cook Inlet are important economic drivers throughout this district. Inclusion of the Lake and Peninsula Borough in this district allows for the Alutiiq (Sugpiaq) communities across the Gulf Coast to be in the same district, and keeps the Dena'ina village of Tyonek in the same district as the Dena'ina villages around Lake Iliamna.

House 6 - Peninsula Bays



Population: 18,651

Deviation: 316 (1.72%)

This district incorporates the southern portion of the Kenai Peninsula, including the Homer and Seward areas and the Kachemak Bay communities of Seldovia and Halibut Cove. These communities are united by their shared economic ties to the tourism, fishing, and leisure industries in Kachemak and Resurrection Bay. In the rest of the Kenai Peninsula tourism, and fishing is tied to the Kenai and Russian Rivers, but in this district these activities take place on the ocean.

Additionally, this district keeps the Russian Old Believer communities of Nikolaevsk, Voznesenka, Kachemak Selo, and Razdolna all in the same district. These communities share strong cultural and historic ties. Commercial fishing in Kachemak Bay is the economic backbone of these communities.

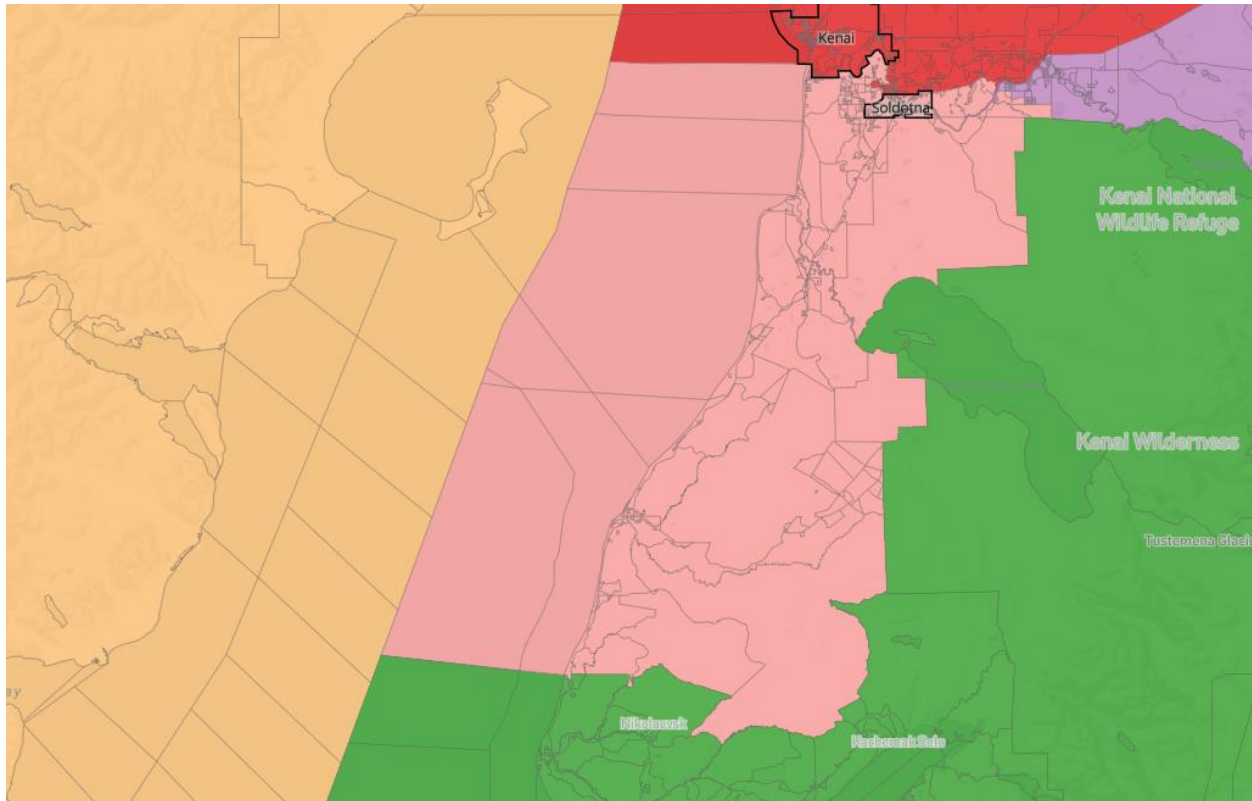
Senate C - Gulf of Alaska (5 & 6)

Population: 37,033

Deviation: 363 (0.99%)

Districts 5 and 6 combine to form this district which includes communities across the Gulf of Alaska. Commercial and subsistence saltwater fishing in the Gulf and its bays unite this district.

House 7 - Sterling Highway

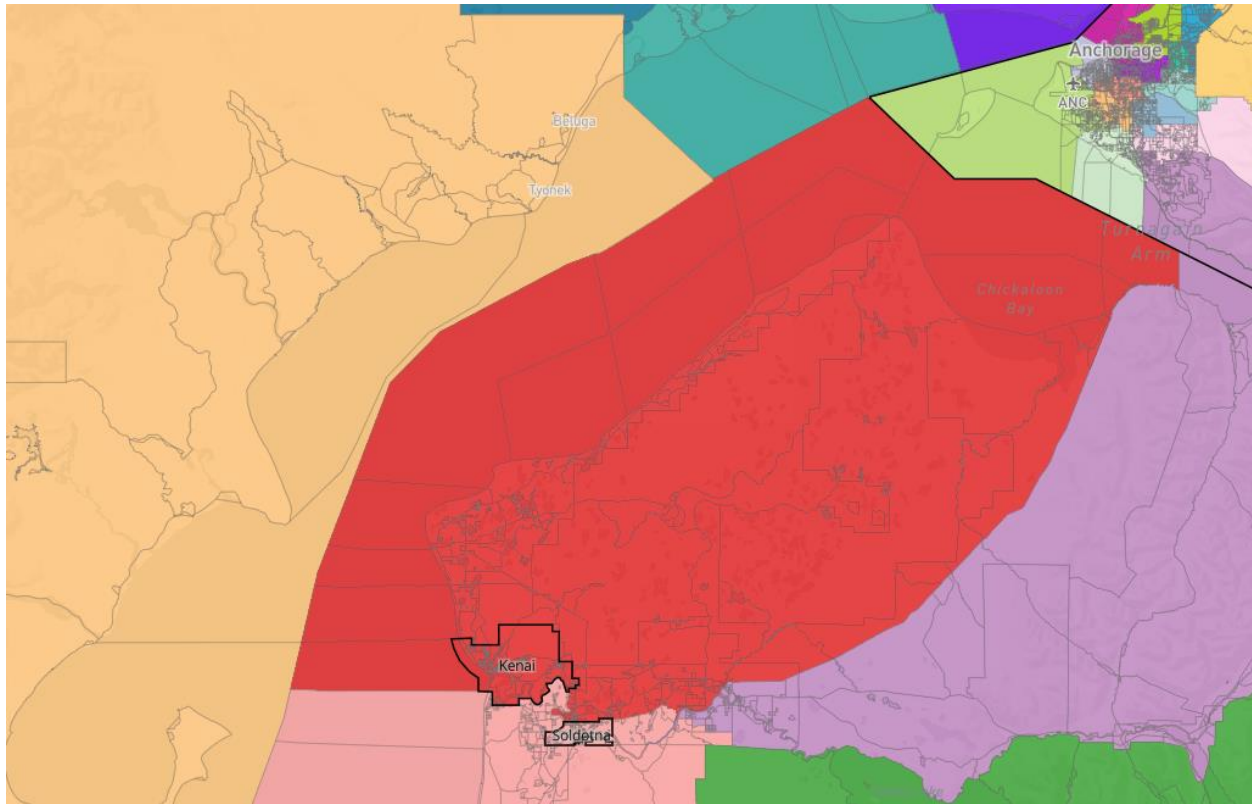


Population: 18,694

Deviation: 359 (1.96%)

The City of Soldotna and the communities of Ninilchik, Clam Gulch, and Kasilof are socioeconomically integrated through sport/commercial fishing and also the Sterling Highway which runs through the district. The smaller communities in this district shop and seek medical services in Soldotna. Additionally, these communities have strong historic ties to one another and make up the primary region on the road system for salmon fishing. Thousands of Alaskans travel to this area of the state annually and utilize the region's fisheries.

House 8 - Kenai Spur



Population: 18,623

Deviation: 288 (1.57%)

House 8 contains all of the City of Kenai and the communities of Nikiski and Salamatof along the Kenai Spur Highway. The major integrating factor for this district is the Cook Inlet oil and gas industry. The Kenai Refinery is located in this district and many of the workers at the refinery live in either Nikiski or Kenai.

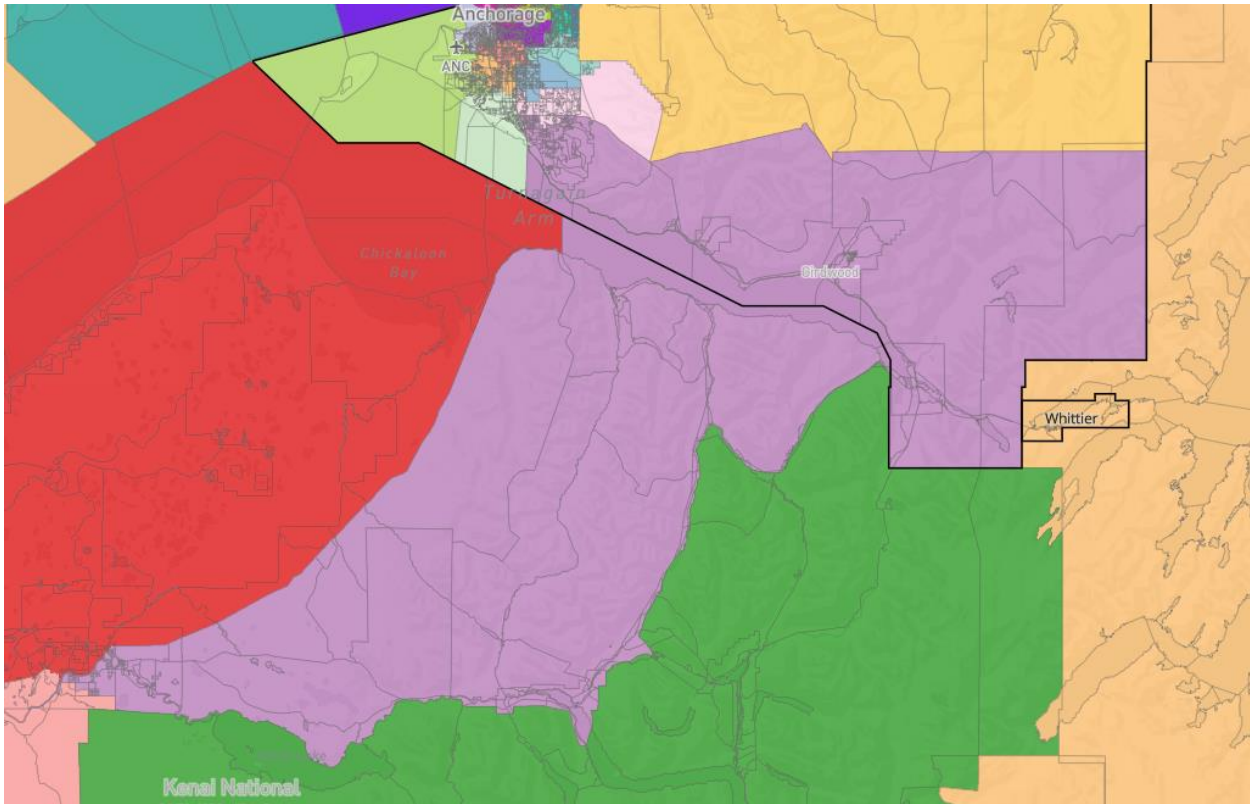
Senate D - Kenai Highways (7 & 8)

Population: 37,317

Deviation: 647 (1.76%)

This district is made up of Districts 7 and 8 and includes the cities of Kenai and Soldotna and communities along the Sterling and Kenai Spur Highways. This district is integrated by these two highways as well as economic and recreational activity on the Kenai River.

House 9 - Turnagain Arm



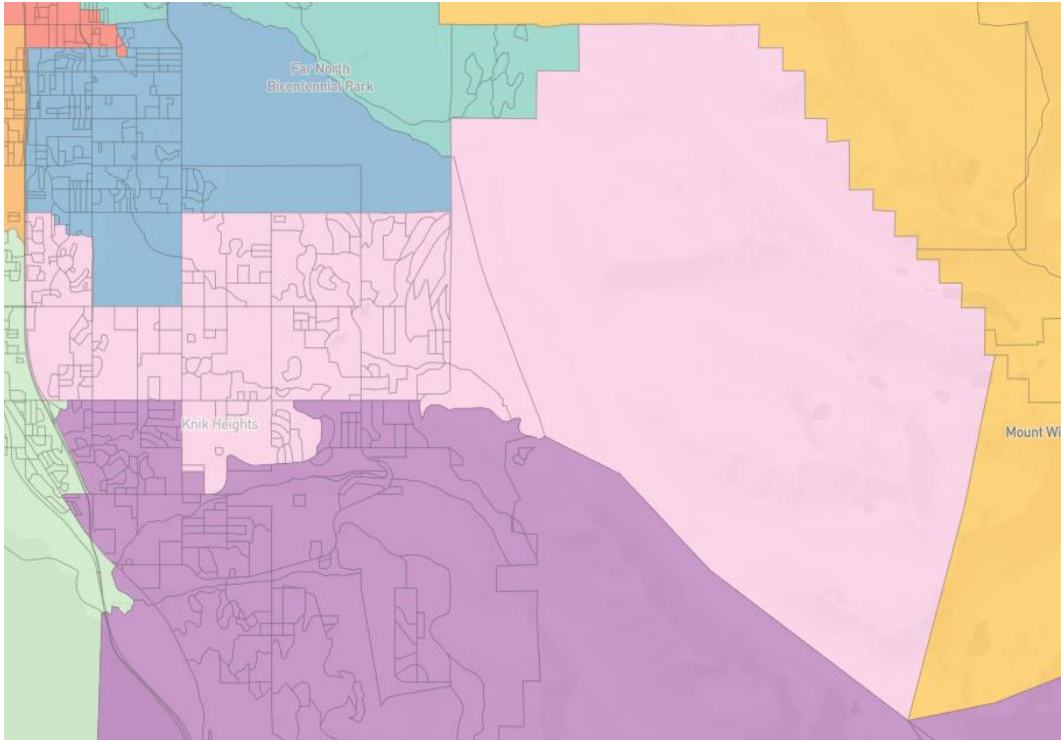
Population: 18,362

Deviation: 27 (0.15%)

This proposed district encompasses a large stretch of coastline, extending from South Anchorage and following Turnagain Arm down the Seward Highway to include the communities of Potter, Bird Creek, Indian, Rainbow, Girdwood, and Hope. The Seward Highway is the main means of transportation for the coastal communities. They share similar economic activity with many businesses in the area operating in the tourism and leisure industries.

The area of South Anchorage included in this district has strong cultural and economic ties to the Turnagain Arm communities. The creeks that flow into Turnagain Arm are popular fishing spots for South Anchorage residents.

House 10 - Huffman/O'Malley



Population: 18,335
Deviation: 0 (0.00%)

This district contains the residential area bordered by the Seward Highway on the west and is bounded primarily by Abbott on the north and by Huffman on the south. This district contains a cut-out for Ruth Arcand Park and a carve-out for Knik Heights to minimize deviations. To the east this district goes up into the Chugach to pick up sufficient population.

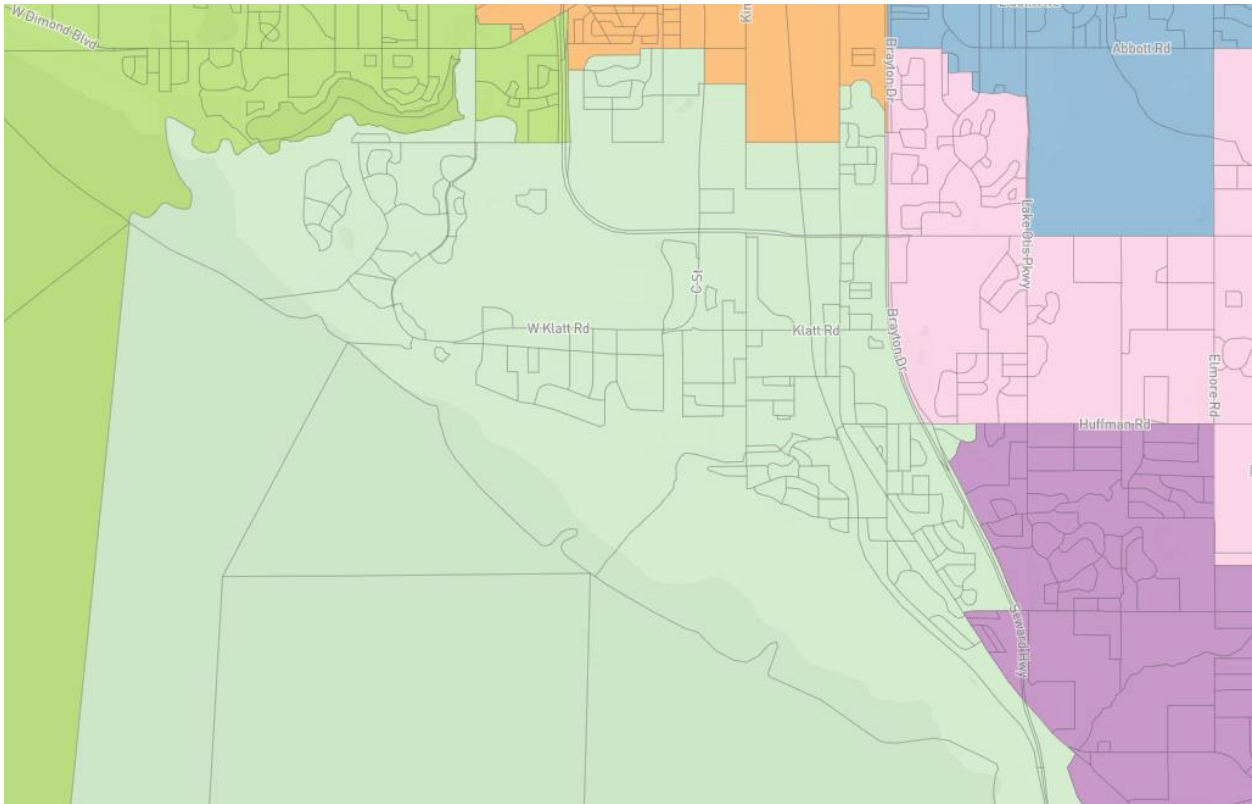
Senate E - Chugach Mountains (9 & 10)

Population: 18,071

Deviation: -164 (-1.44%)

Consisting of Districts 9 and 10, this district includes the Hillside neighborhoods of Anchorage as well as the Turnagain Arm communities and the north Kenai Peninsula.

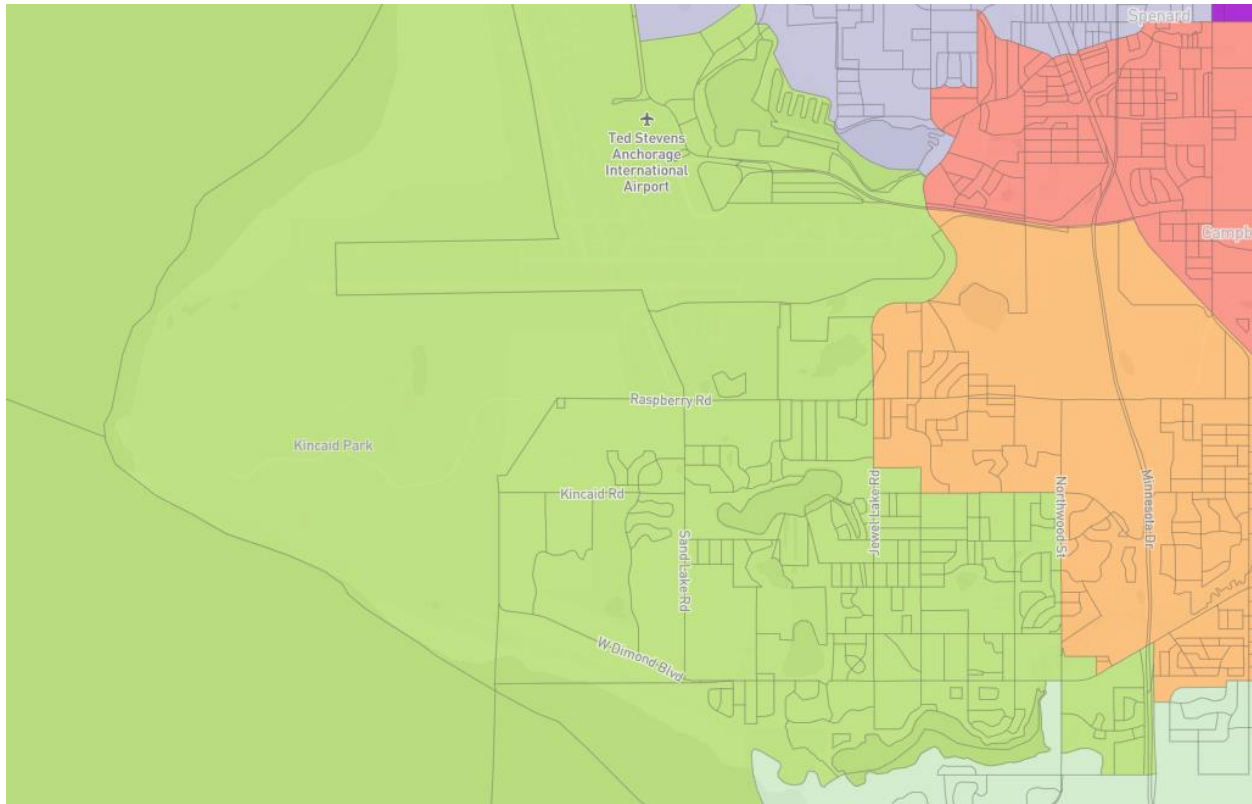
House 11- Bayshore/Oceanview



Population: 18,342
Deviation: 7 (0.04%)

Bounded by the Seward Highway on the eastern side, this district follows the census block lines around 100th Avenue and goes west to curve below Campbell Lake. It is bounded in the south by Cook Inlet. This district includes the coastal neighborhoods of Bayshore and Oceanview.

House 12 - Westside Lakes



Population: 18,299

Deviation: 36 (-0.20%)

This district includes the neighborhoods around Campbell Lake, Jewel Lake, Sand Lake, Lake Hood, Delong Lake, and Sundi Lake. These lakes give this part of Anchorage its unique character with recreational activities that include boating and sport fishing. The district also includes Kincaid Park.

Aviation is another unifying characteristic of this district as it includes floatplane facilities in Campbell Lake, the Lake Hood Seaplane Base, and the Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport. The district follows Jewel Lake Road to the east and Raspberry Road running north. The western boundary follows Wisconsin Street and then Fish Creek as it crosses Northern Lights to pick up a portion of Turngain and Lyn Ary Park. In the South it is bounded by Campbell Lake and Campbell Creek.

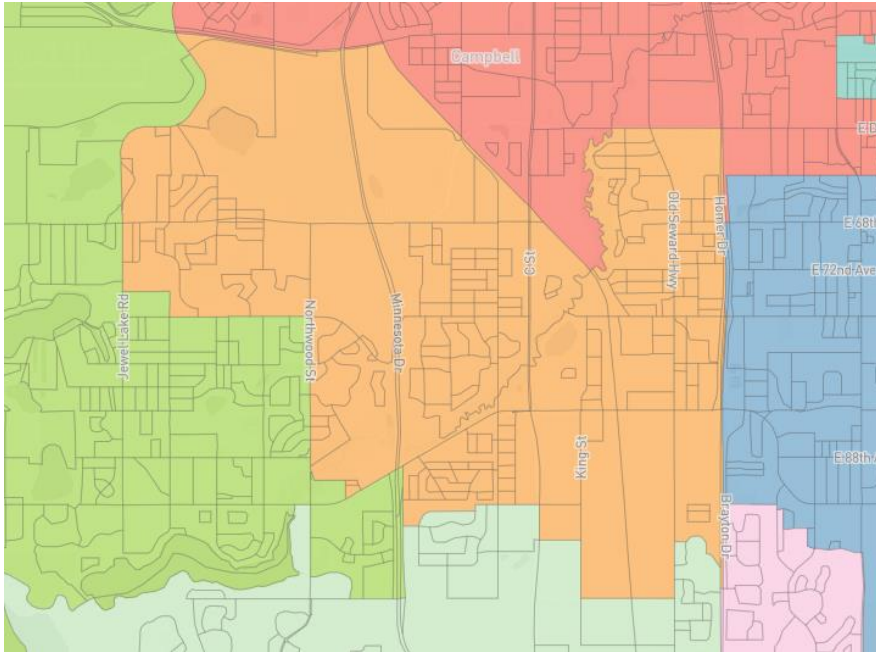
Senate F - Southwest Anchorage (11 & 12)

Population: 36,641

Deviation: -29 (-0.08%)

Districts 11 and 12 combine to unite the neighborhoods of southwest Anchorage.

House 13 - Taku/Campbell

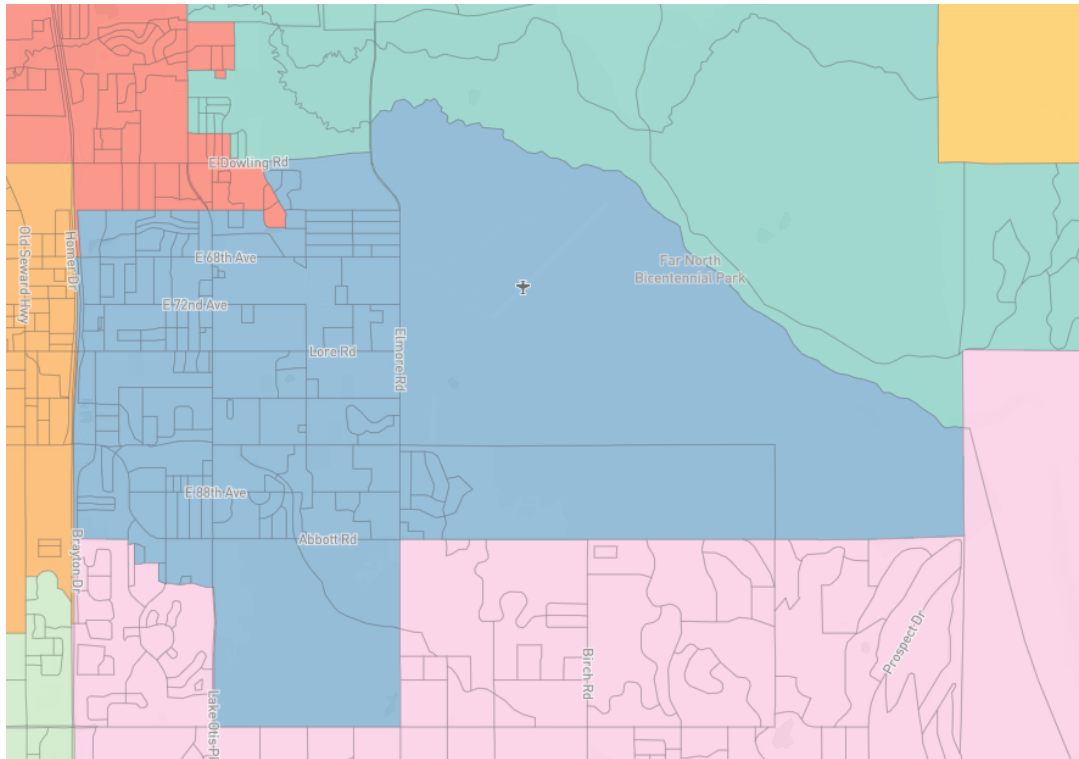


Population: 18,334

Deviation: -1 (-0.01%)

This district encompasses the area where residential and industrial areas of Anchorage blend. The district includes the business/hotel districts south of International Airport Road and the heavy industrial areas around Arctic Boulevard as well as the high-density housing along the New Seward Highway.

House 14 - Abbott Loop



Population: 18,351

Deviation: 16 (0.09%)

This district includes the Abbott Loop neighborhood in Anchorage. It is bounded by the New Seward Highway to the West, the base of the Chugach in Far North Bicentennial to the East, and Abbott to the south. It includes a carve-out to include Ruth Arcand Park and a portion of the Bureau of Land Management's Campbell Tract along a fork of the Campbell Creek because these areas are frequently used recreationally by Abbott Loop residents.

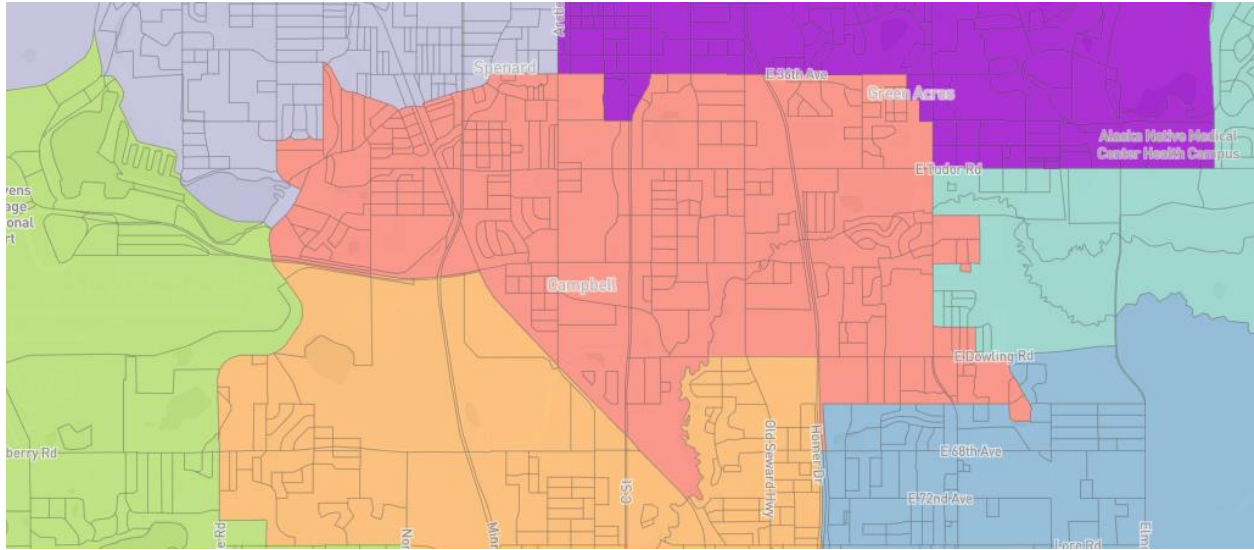
Senate G - Lower Hillside (13 & 14)

Population: 36,685

Deviation: 15 (-0.04%)

The districts 13 and 14 combine to form a senate district encapsulating the residential Abbott Loop neighborhoods and the business and urban housing in the Taku/Campbell area.

House 15 - West Tudor

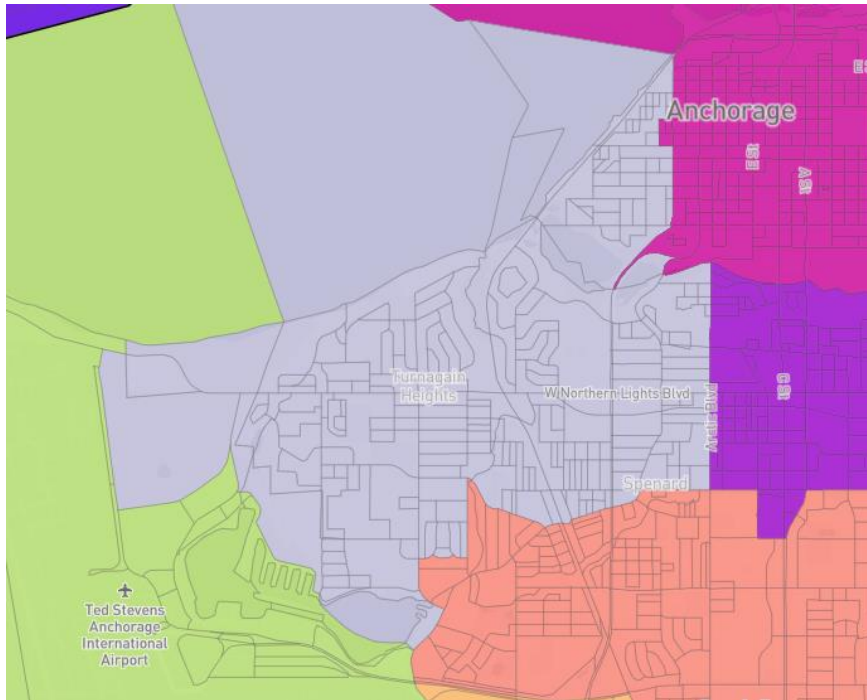


Population: 18,315

Deviation: -20 (-0.11%)

Centered on Tudor Road, this district runs from McCrae Street in Spenard along 36th Ave to Lake Otis Parkway along the east, with carve-outs for populations with strong neighborhood ties. It tracks back west along 72nd before jogging up to Dowling and then back up Arctic to Spenard. This district contains a large portion of lower midtown featuring housing blocks blended into retail spaces dominated by big box stores. This area features some older neighborhoods like Geneva Woods, Spenard, and Green Acres.

House 16 - Coastal Trail



Population: 18,330

Deviation: -5 (-0.03%)

This district contains the neighborhoods of Turnagain, Spenard, Westchester, and Bootleggers Cove, all of which are linked by the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. The vibrant trail system and shared access to recreational facilities around Westchester Lagoon create strong ties between these neighborhoods. It is bounded on the east mainly by L Street and Arctic Boulevard and contains populations south of Northern Lights Boulevard from the Turnagain and Spenard neighborhoods.

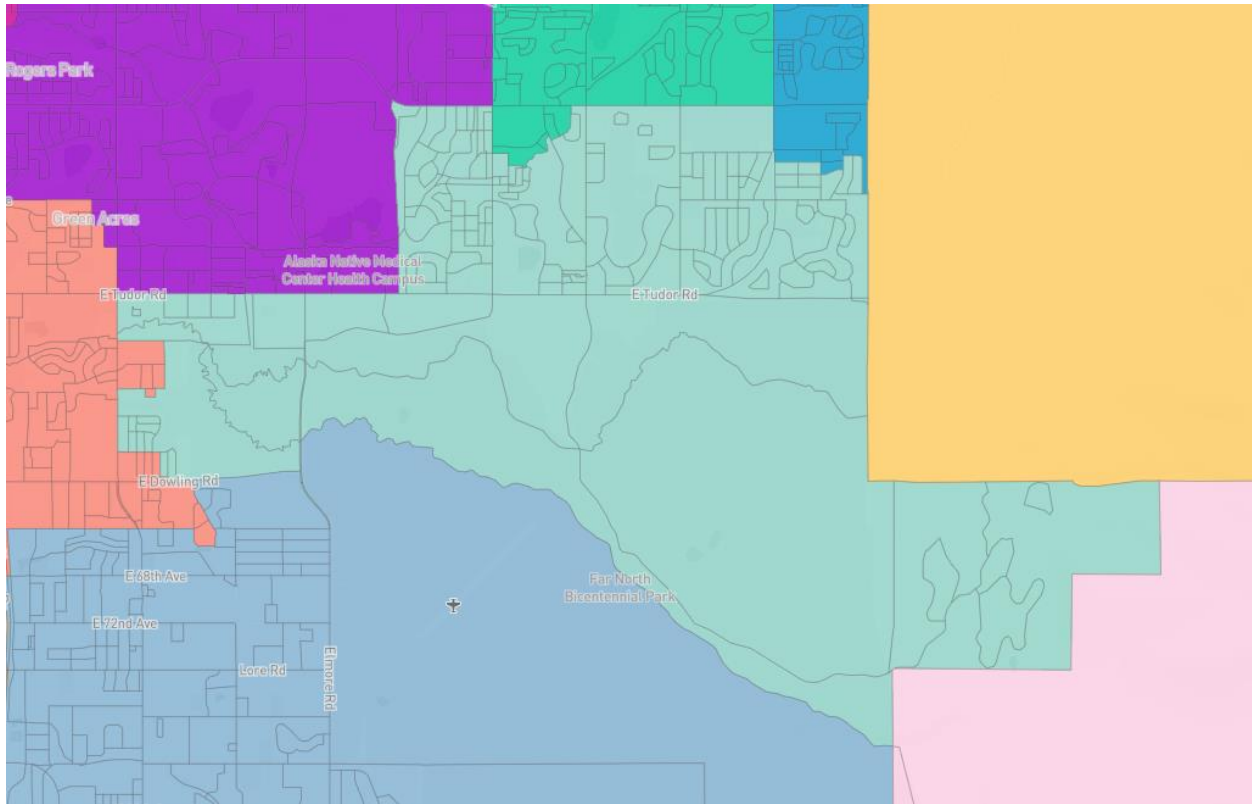
Senate H - West Tudor and Coastal Trail (15 & 16)

Population: 36,645

Deviation: -25 (-0.07%)

Districts 15 and 16 are paired to create a Senate district containing the neighborhoods of Geneva Woods, Spenard, Green Acres, Turnagain, Westchester, and Bootleggers Cove.

House 17 - Chugach Foothills

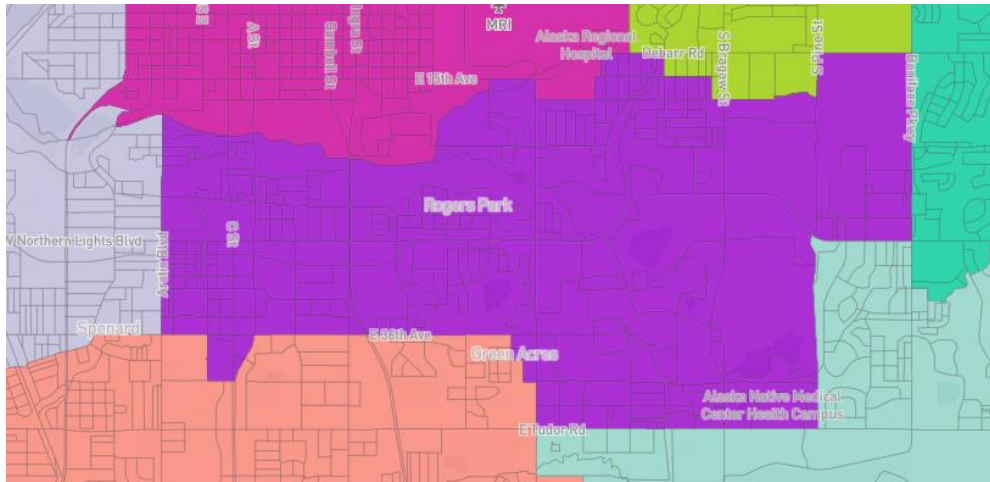


Population: 18,333

Deviation: -2 (-0.01%)

Bounded on the west by Bragaw and in the east by precinct lines in Far North Bicentennial Park, this district is centered around the Tudor Road curve. It is bounded in the south by Campbell Creek within Far North Bicentennial Park and in the north by Northern Lights Boulevard. This area is characterized by the neighborhoods that cluster along the Tudor/Muldoon curve and utilize the park and nearby trail system recreationally.

House 18 - Northern Lights



Population: 18,339
Deviation: 4 (0.02%)

This district includes the Rogers Park neighborhood and Anchorage's "U-Med District," which includes the University of Alaska Anchorage, Alaska Pacific University, Providence Alaska Medical Center, and Alaska Native Medical Center campuses. It is bounded on the south by Tudor Road and Northern Lights Boulevard and on the west by A Street along the creek. To the north it is bounded by Debar Road running east to carve out for population.

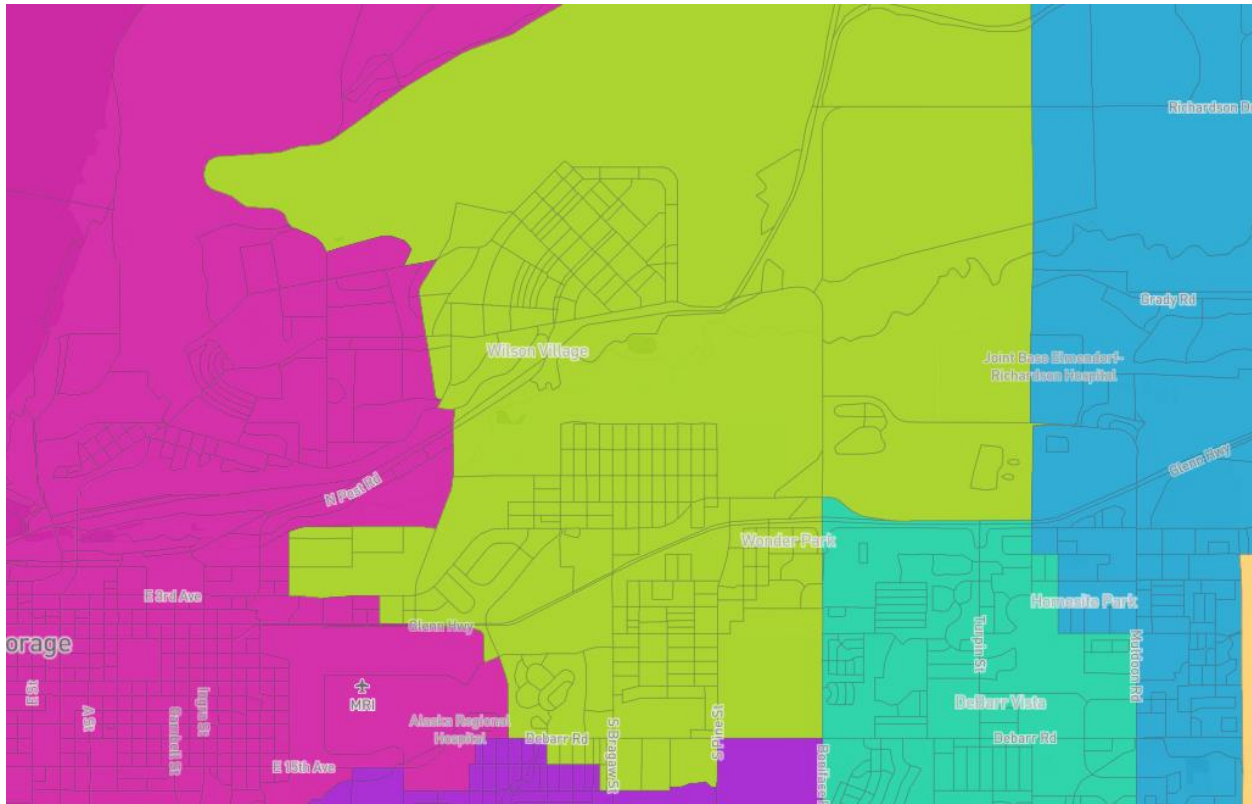
Senate I - U Med/Foothills (17 & 18)

Population: 36,672

Deviation: 2 (-0.01%)

Districts 17 and 18 are combined to form a district containing the U-Med and Foothills neighborhoods. These neighborhoods are socioeconomically integrated through the multiple universities and medical campuses in the district, all of which employ residents of the district.

House 19: Mountain View

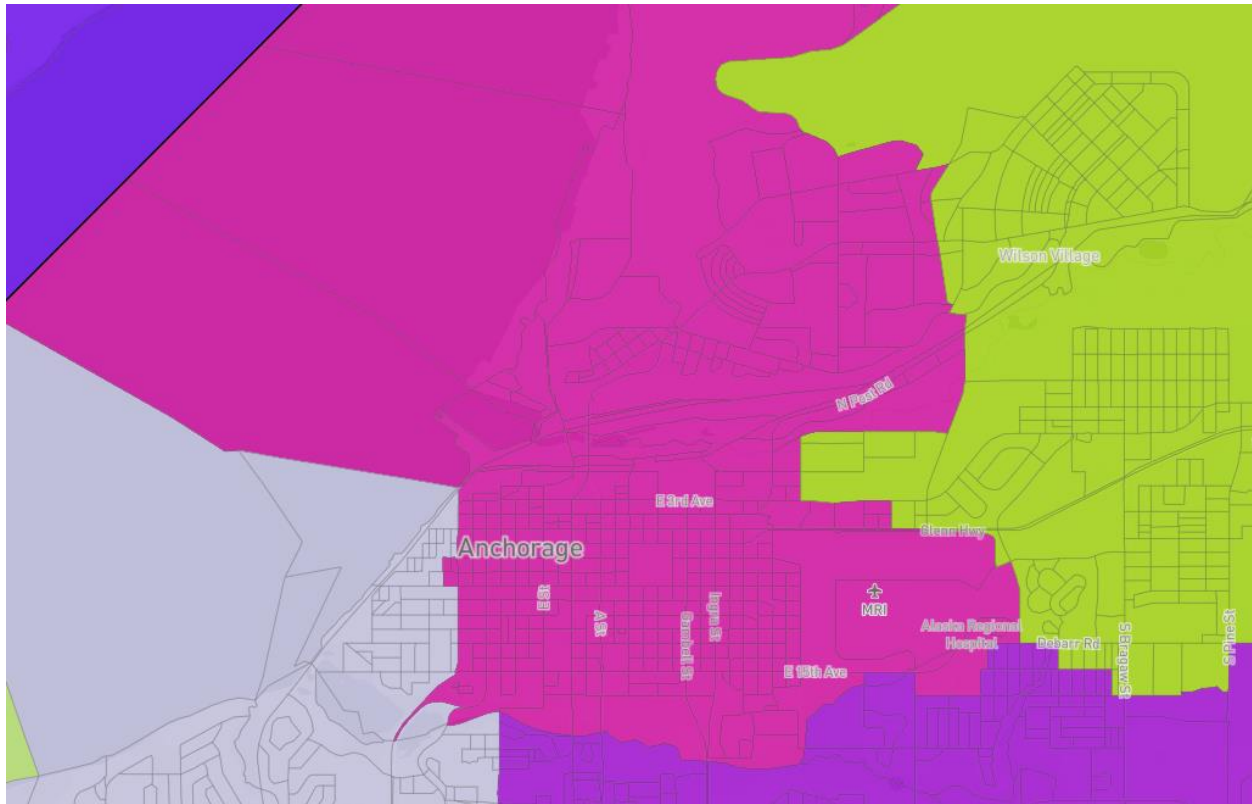


Population: 18,330

Deviation: -5 (-0.03%)

This district includes the neighborhoods of Mountain View, Wonder Park, Russian Jack, and the portion of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson that utilizes services in these neighborhoods through the Boniface Road gate. Directly inside the Boniface Road gate is a large section of military housing that utilizes the Boniface gate to access amenities and services in the area.

House 20: Downtown Anchorage



Population: 18,336
Deviation: 1 (0.01%)

This district includes Downtown Anchorage and the neighborhoods of Fairview, Government Hill, South Addition, and the portion of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson that utilizes services in this district through the Government Hill and Post Road gates. This district includes major transportation infrastructure like the Merrill Field airport, the Port of Alaska, and the Alaska Railroad terminal. The district is bounded by L Street on the west and mainly by Chester Creek/Westchester Lagoon on the south. It includes blocks to the west and south that have strong neighborhood connections to the district.

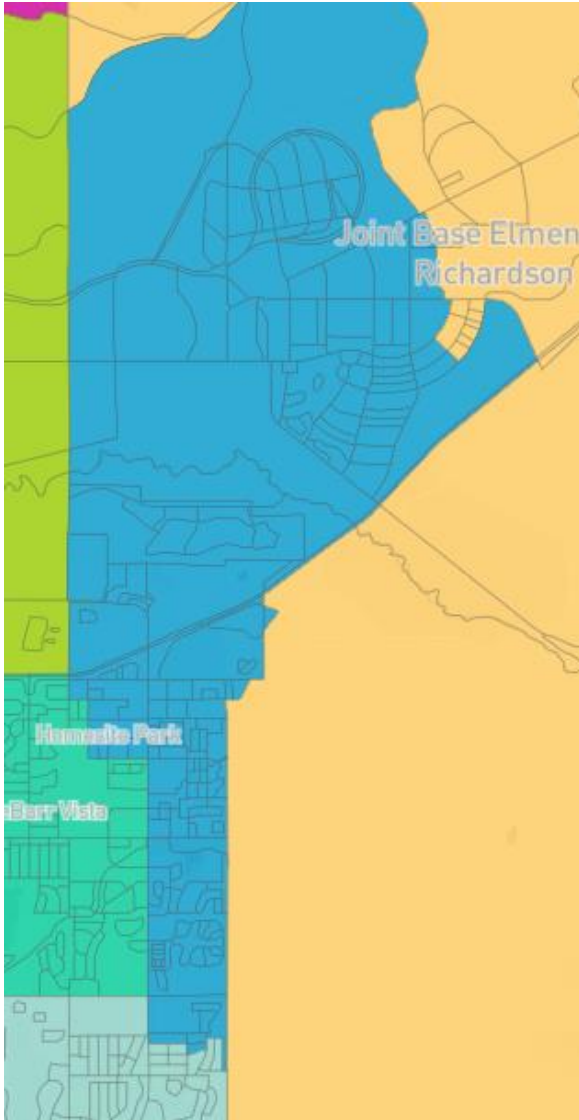
Senate J - The Views (19 & 20)

Population: 36,666

Deviation: -4 (-0.01%)

Districts 19 and 20 combine to form a Senate district containing the neighborhoods of Mountain View, Wonder Park, Russian Jack Fairview, Government Hill, and South Addition. This district would keep the gates of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson together with areas off base utilized frequently by service members.

House 21 - Muldoon



Population: 18,334

Deviation: -1 (-0.01%)

This district includes the Muldoon neighborhood east of Muldoon Road as well as portions of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson that utilize the Muldoon Road gate. This district includes a portion to the northwest of Muldoon Road so that businesses on both sides of Muldoon that cater to service members remain in the same district. It extends slightly to the south of Chantshnu Muldoon Park and Windsong Park to include neighborhoods on either side that frequently use these parks recreationally.

House 22 - Creekside



Population: 18,347

Deviation: 12 (-0.07%)

This district includes the Creekside Town Center and the neighborhoods of Creekside Park, Nunaka Valley, Turpin, Cheney Lake, and Foxhall. It is bounded by the Glenn Highway to the north, Boniface Parkway to the west, Muldoon Road to the east, and Northern Lights Boulevard to the south. The district includes some census blocks south of Northern Lights Boulevard, like Baxter Elementary School, which have strong neighborhood connections to the district.

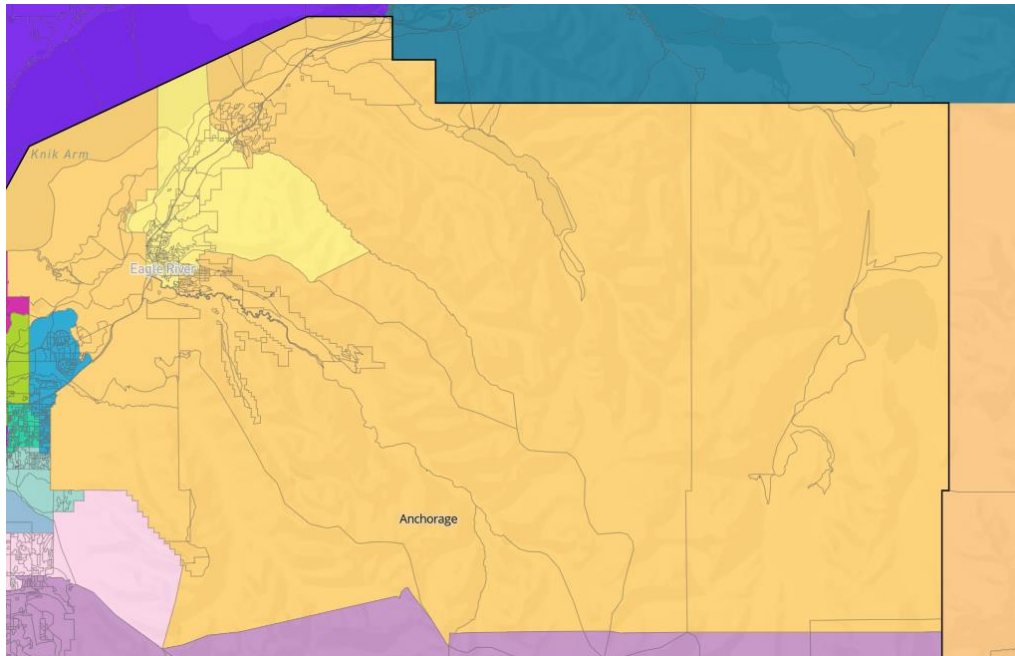
Senate K - Northeast Anchorage (21 & 22)

Population: 36,681

Deviation: 11 (0.03%)

Districts 21 and 22 are paired to form a district containing residential neighborhoods of northeast Anchorage and a portion of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

House 23 - Rural Eagle River/Chugiak



Population: 18,344
Deviation: 9 (-0.05%)

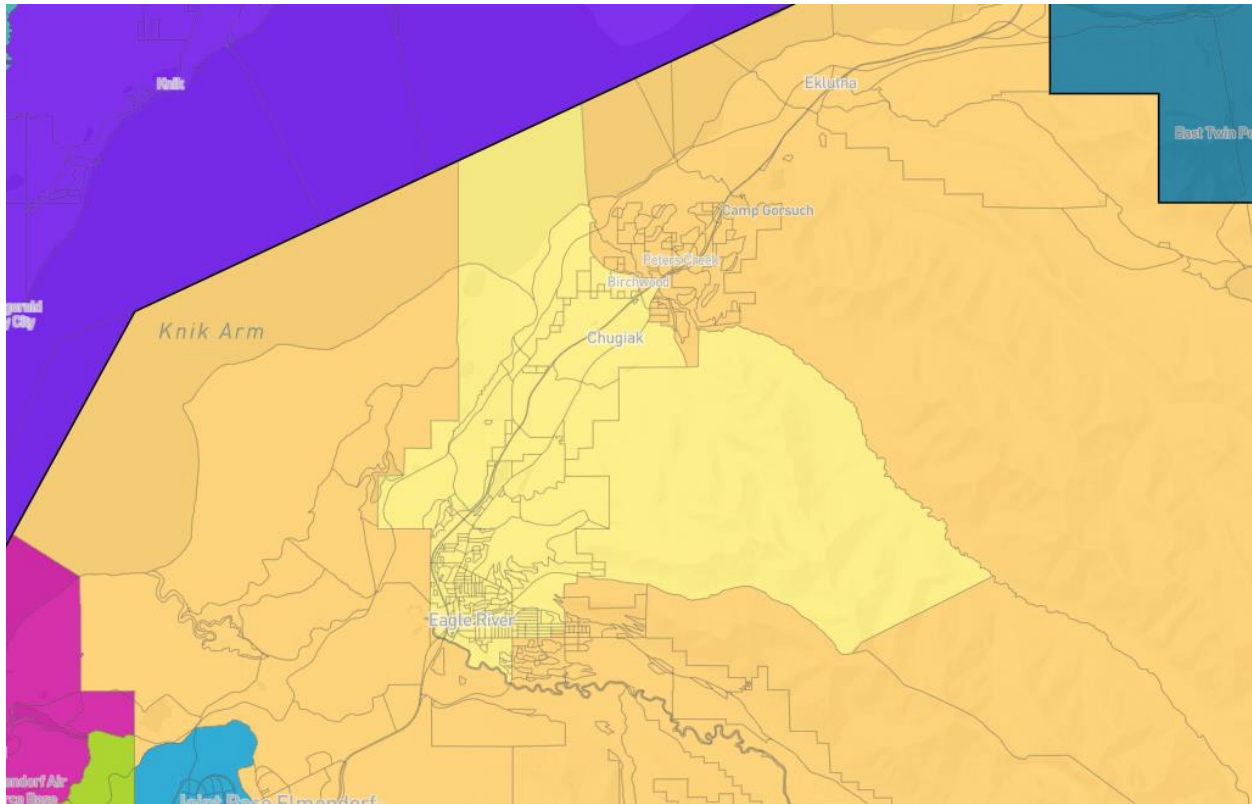
The district is bounded on the south by precinct lines in the Chugach, on the west by the Inlet, and the Municipality of Anchorage boundary on the north. It connects the non-city communities of Hiland Road, North Birchwood, Peters Creek and Eklutna, the northern part of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson including the on-base housing, Arctic Valley, and the neighborhoods at the end of Eagle River Road near the Eagle River Nature Center.

These communities have many common traits such as road service areas, volunteer fire departments, well water, septic systems, large lots, and a rural feel. All of these communities of interest utilize Eagle River as their hub for shopping.

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson abuts Eagle River and many military members both active duty and retired live in the Eagle River/Chugiak area. The Eagle River/Chugiak population is just shy of having enough population to fill out two full House seats and create one Senate seat. The available population for Eagle River to complete the seat are either from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Anchorage or the Mat-Su Valley. We believe the population source that makes the most sense given their physical and social/economic connection is from base. The valley population that is physically closest is across a borough boundary. Pulling from northeast Anchorage is clearly the worst choice in terms of socioeconomic integration.

Additionally, since the Board heard testimony that this area of Fort Richardson is the most connected with Eagle River, we opted to fill out the Eagle River seat with base population.

House 24 - Eagle River Proper



Population: 18,338
Deviation: 3 (-0.02%)

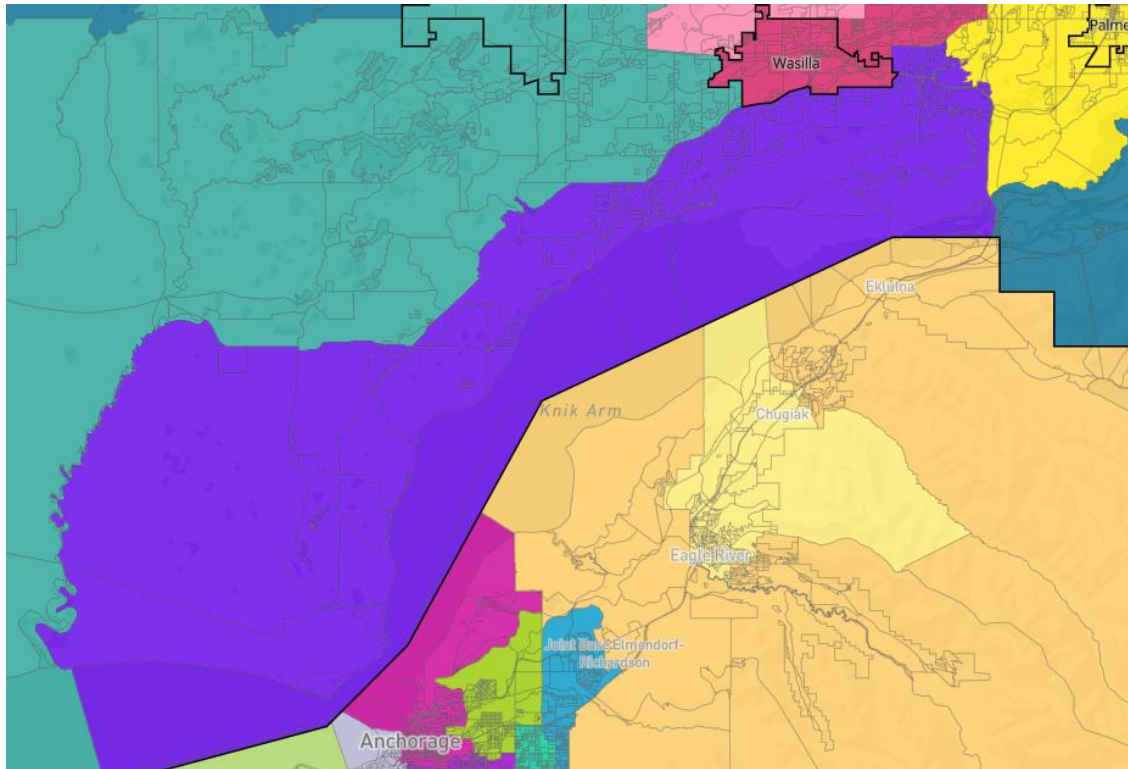
The district is bounded by Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson property to the west and moves around the other side of the Glenn Highway and out to the water. In the south it follows the Eagle River and heads north again to pick up some of the larger lot homes on the northern side of Eagle River road and into southern Chugiak for population.

This 'city' district encompasses most of what the locals consider the town of Eagle River and includes the residential areas that resemble that 'city' definition; smaller lots, many with sidewalks, on city water and sewer and walkable to amenities.

Senate L - Chugiak/Eagle River (23 & 24)**Population:** 36,682**Deviation:** 12 (0.03%)

Eagle River is not currently incorporated as its own city, but it conducts many functions of city government like park mill levies, road service, and streetlights. Eagle River is also moving forward with an effort to create their own city government and during the life of this Proclamation Plan may opt to leave the Municipality of Anchorage and form their own borough. Considering these efforts and to respect the strong community feel of Eagle River/Chugiak, we have opted to pair the two districts together, which also minimizes their connection to either the Mat-Su Borough or the Municipality of Anchorage.

House 25 - Knik-Goose Bay

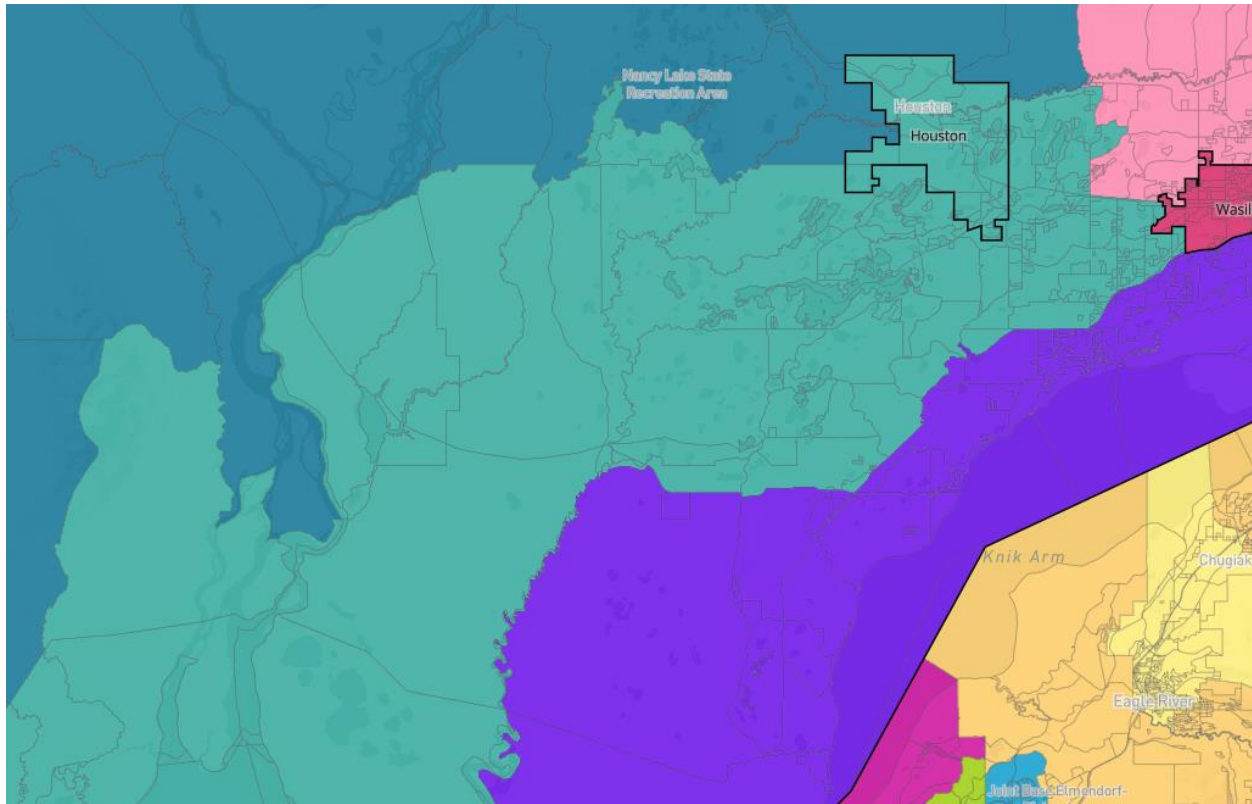


Population: 18,334

Deviation: -1 (-0.01%)

This district includes communities along the Knik-Goose Bay Road and south of the City of Wasilla. This is the fastest growing area of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and the population is now large enough to constitute a House district.

House 26 - Houston/Big Lake



Population: 18,345

Deviation: 10 (-0.05%)

This district includes the City of Houston, its outskirts, and the community of Big Lake. The Parks Highway and Big Lake Road form the transportation backbone of this district.

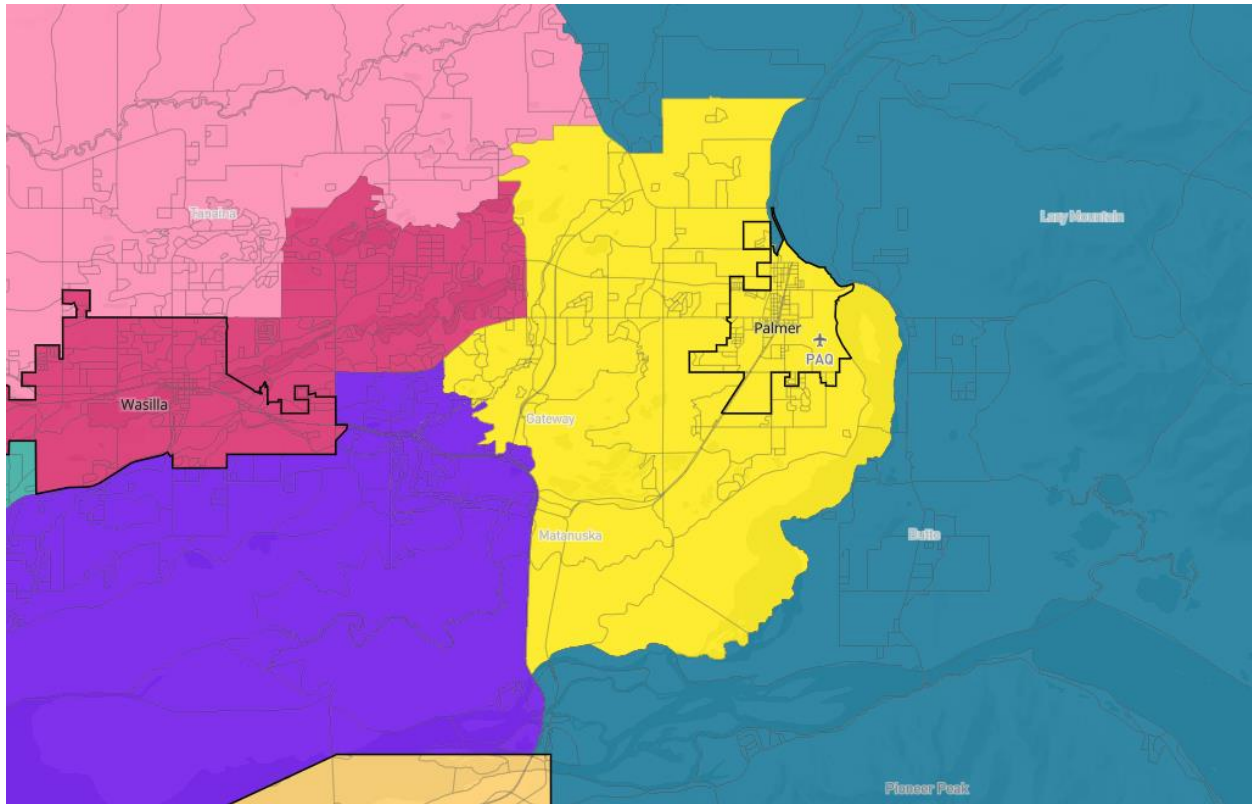
Senate M - West Susitna (25 & 26)

Population: 36,679

Deviation: 9 (0.02%)

Districts 15 and 26 pair together to create a large district containing the communities of Big Lake, Houston, and the neighborhoods of Knik-Goose Bay Road. These areas all fall on the same side of the Parks Highway and are generally considered to be some of the more rural areas of the Mat-Su valley.

House 27 - Palmer

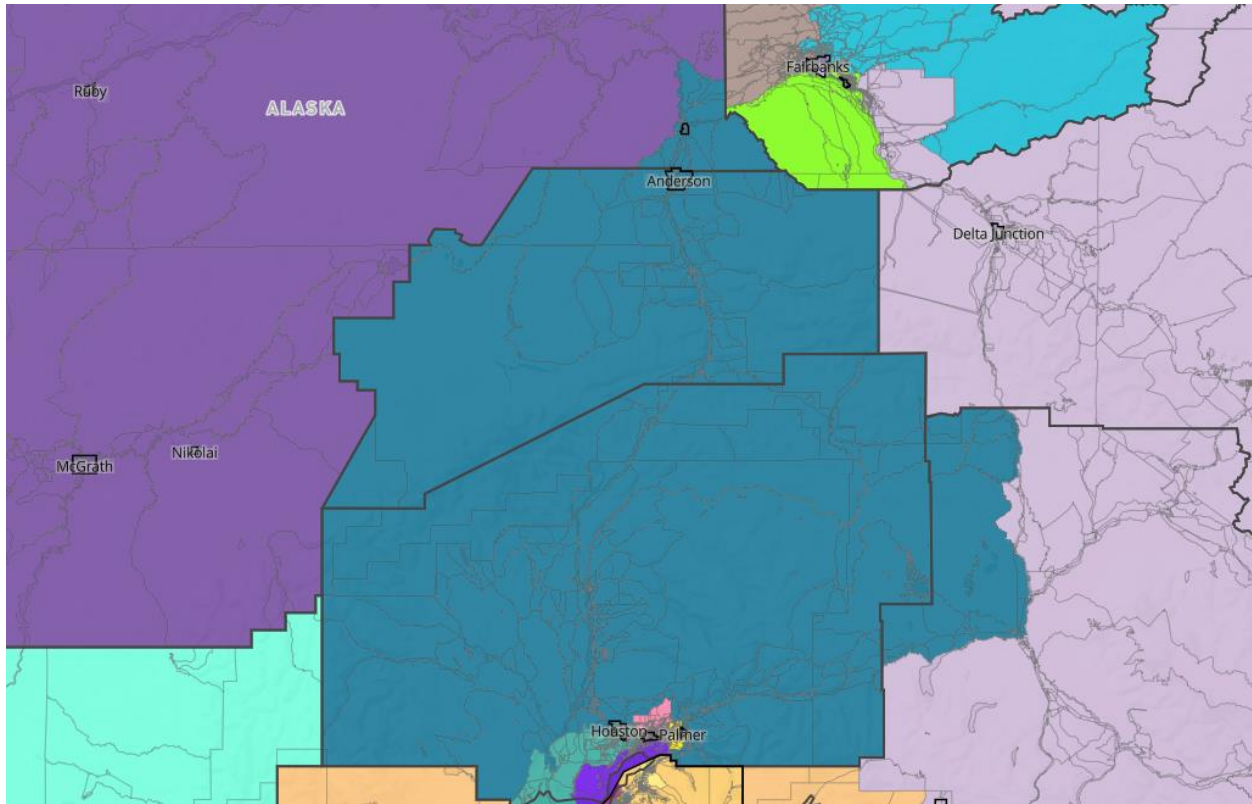


Population: 18,332

Deviation: -3 (-0.02%)

This district includes the City of Palmer and the greater Palmer area. It is bounded by the Matanuska River to the east and south and the Glenn Highway to southwest. The northwest portion of the district includes neighborhoods with strong community ties to Palmer.

House 28 - Central Highways



Population: 18,337
Deviation: 2 (0.01%)

This district contains the rural portions of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Denali Borough, the City of Nenana, Paxson, and Glennallen. Central Alaska's highway system creates strong community and economic ties between these communities, with the Parks Highway, Glenn Highway, and Old Glenn Highway providing north/south integration and the Denali Highway, Denali Park Road, and the Fishhook Road system providing east/west integration. The inclusion of communities outside of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is necessary to prevent excessive deviation and ensure that the communities within this district receive the full representation their population mandates.

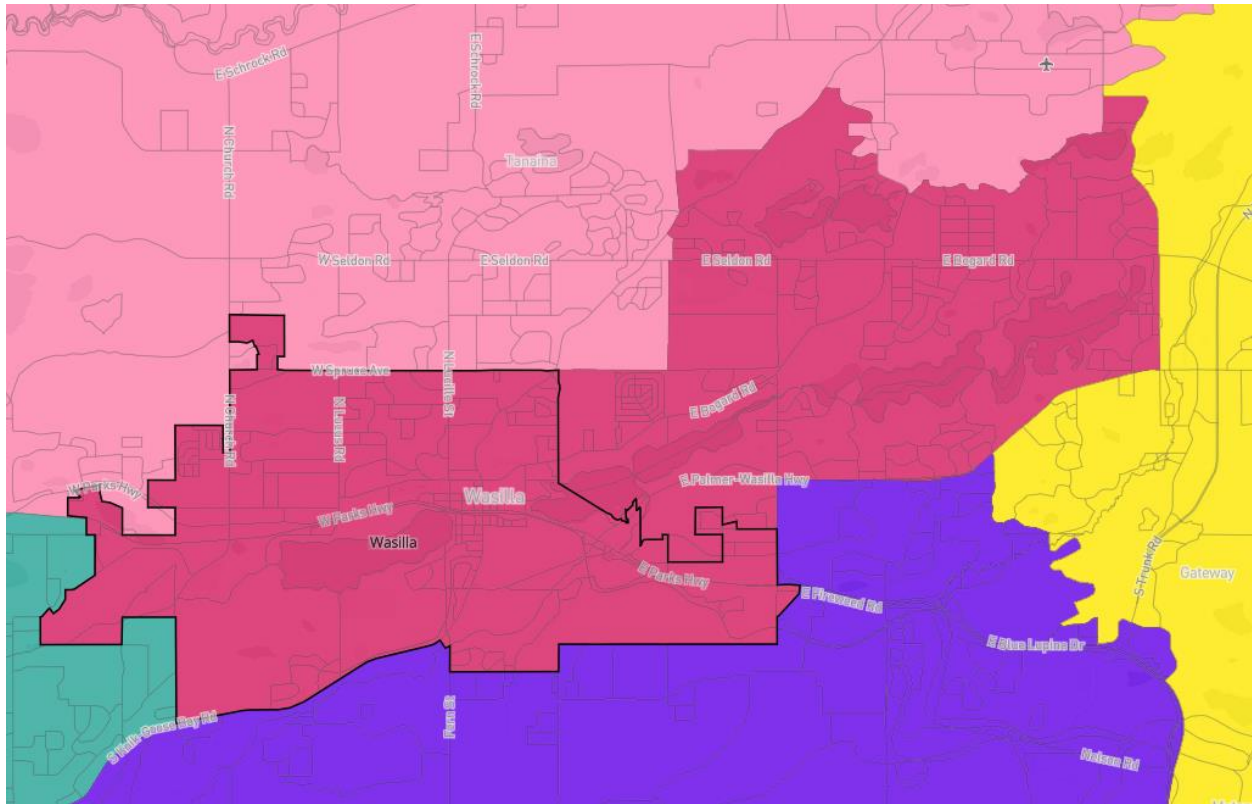
Senate N - Mountain Vistas (27 & 28)

Population: 36,669

Deviation: 1 (>0.01%)

Districts 27 and 28 are paired to create a large district containing the urban area of Palmer and some of the more rural areas of central Alaska. The communities within this district are connected by and socioeconomically integrated through major highways.

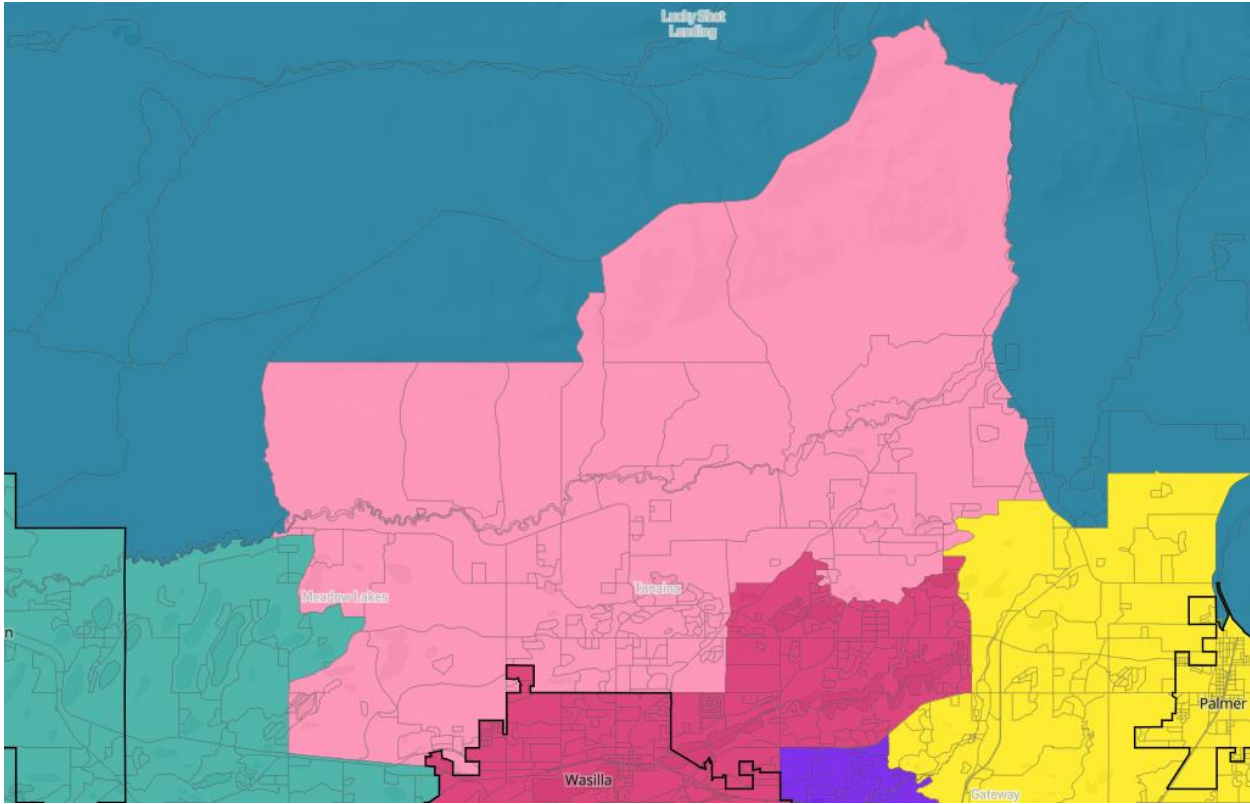
House 29 - Central Wasilla



Population: 18,339
Deviation: 4 (0.02%)

This district includes the City of Wasilla and the urban portions of the greater Wasilla area to the west of the city limits along the Palmer-Wasilla Highway. The city limits form the boundary for the western portion of the district and North Engstrom Road forms the eastern boundary.

House 30 - Rural Wasilla



Population: 18,326

Deviation: -9 (-0.05%)

This district contains the more rural portions of the greater Wasilla area. The numerous small plane facilities across this district including Shawn Field, Jolly Field, Kalmbach Airport, and Wolf Lake Airport testify to the rural character of this district.

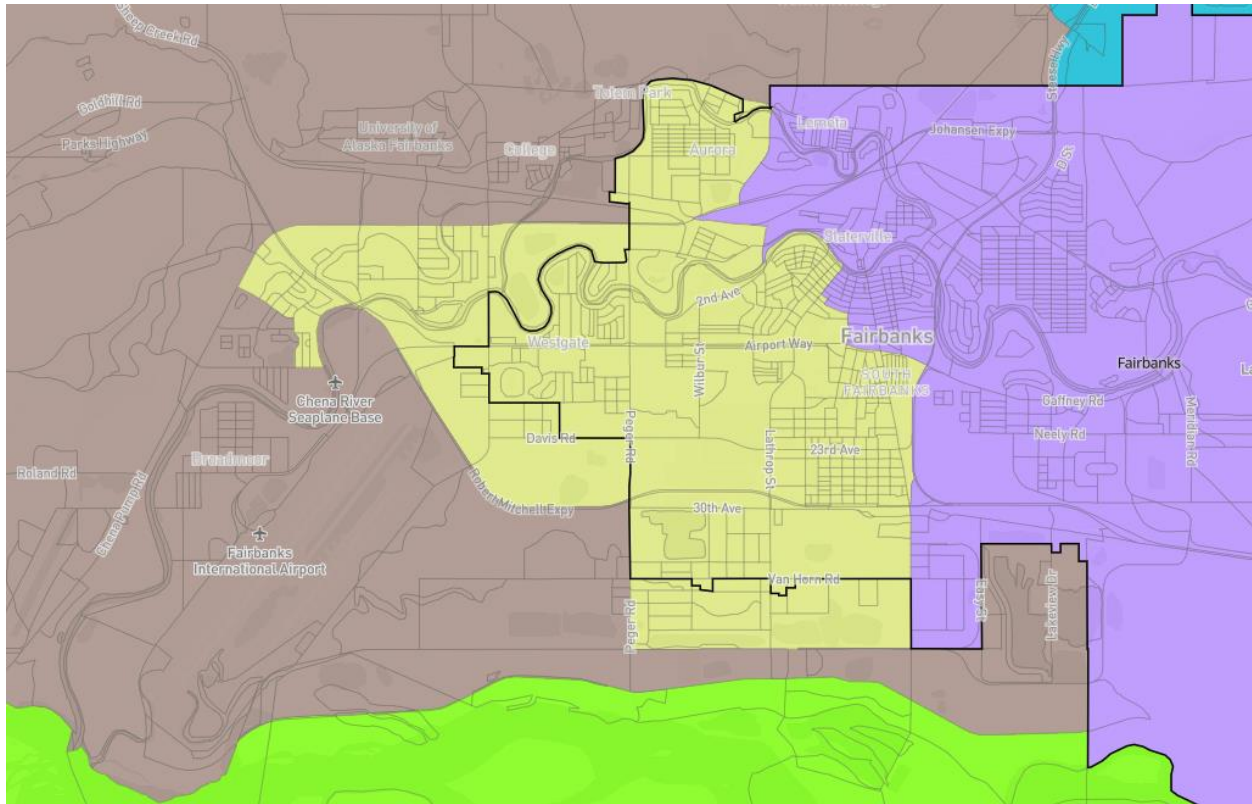
Senate O - Wasilla (29 & 30)

Population: 36,665

Deviation: -5 (-0.01%)

This Senate district pairs 29 and 30 to include the City of Wasilla and the greater Wasilla area. The residents of these areas all primarily use the City of Wasilla as a hub for economic activity.

House 31 - West City Fairbanks

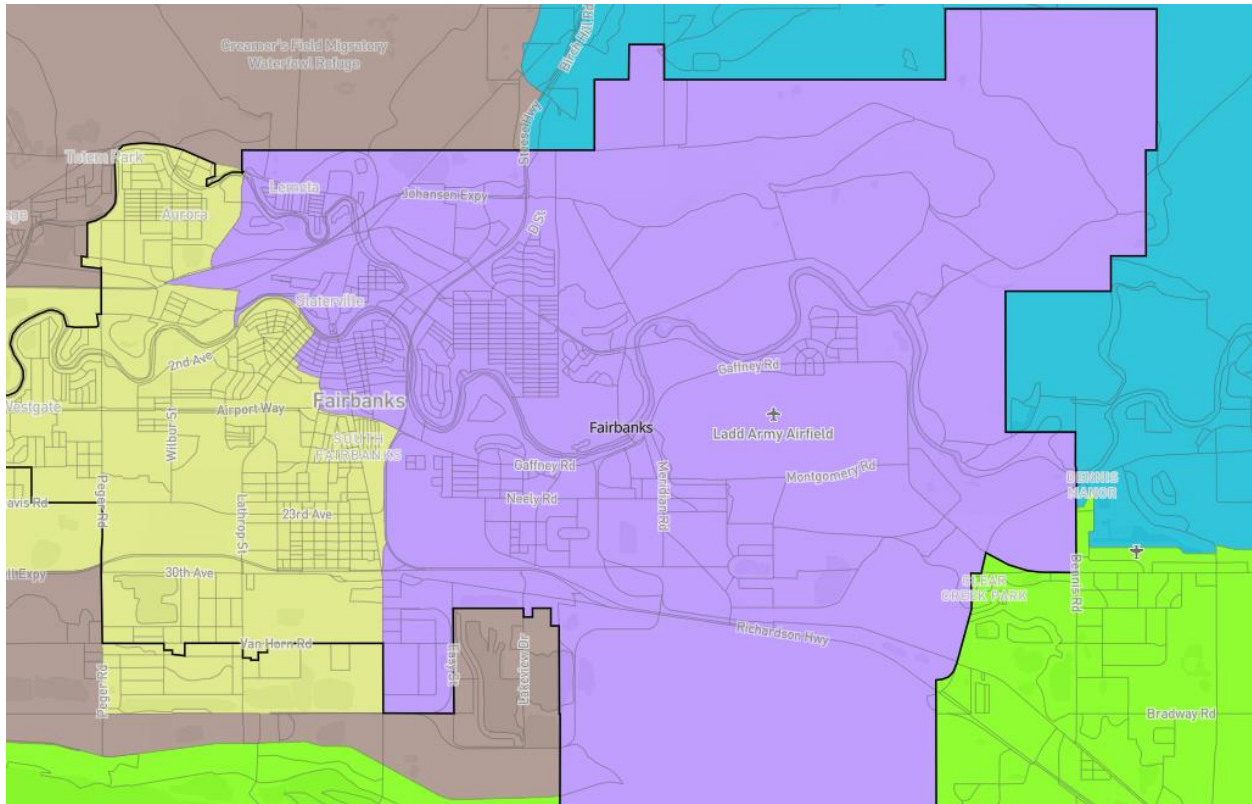


Population: 18,333

Deviation: -2 (-0.01%)

This district includes the western portion of the City of Fairbanks as well as the most urban areas outside of the city limits. To the south of the city, it would include the South Van Horn area. To the west of the city, it would include the Geist and University West neighborhoods which are highly urbanized and have more in common with the City than with the neighboring community of Chena Ridge. Within the City, this district includes the neighborhoods of Aurora, Riverview, Executive Estates, and South Cushman.

House 32 - East City Fairbanks



Population: 18,342
Deviation: 7 (0.04%)

The East City District is entirely within the City of Fairbanks and would include Fort Wainwright and the eastern portion of the city. The city limits would form the northern, eastern, and southern boundaries. Major boundaries on the west include the Richardson Highway, Airport Way, Danby Street, and Cowles Street. Neighborhoods within this district include downtown Fairbanks, Hamilton Acres, Island Homes, Lemeta, and Slaterville. Many service members and their families reside in these neighborhoods, and Fort Wainwright is a major employer and economic hub of the district.

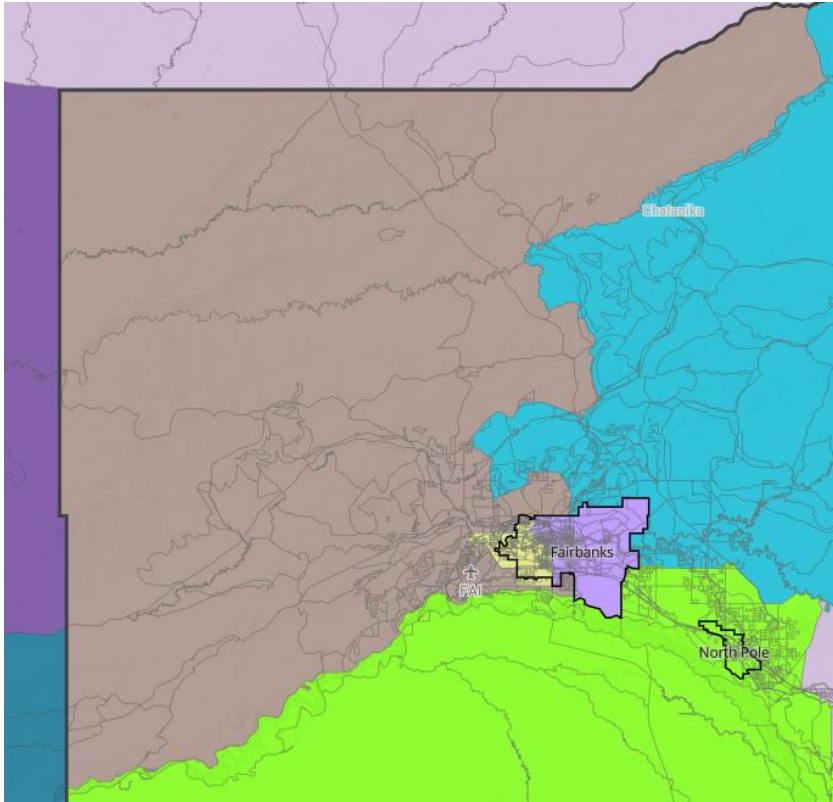
Senate P - Urban Fairbanks (31 & 32)

Population: 36,675

Deviation: 5 (-0.01%)

The two urban districts within the City of Fairbanks would be paired as these districts are the most urbanized and pairing the two aligns with court precedents.

House 33 - West Borough Fairbanks

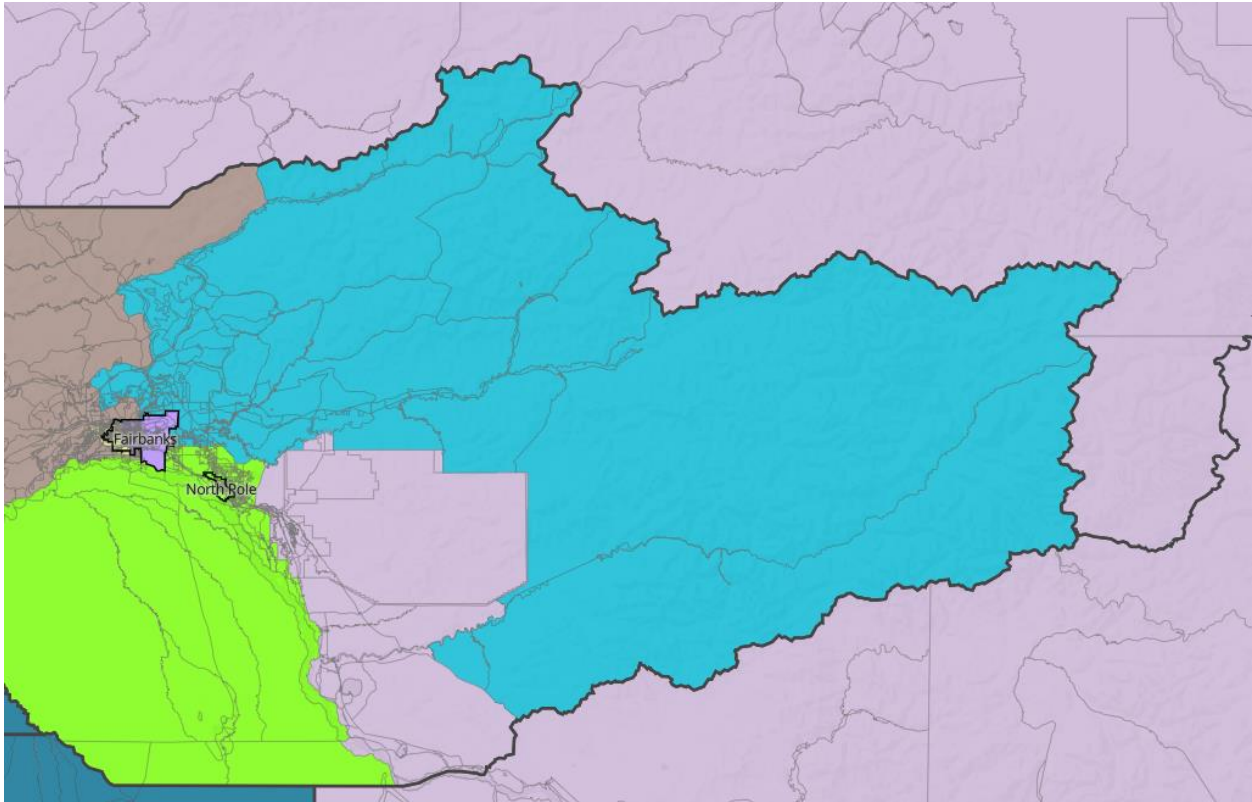


Population: 18,325

Deviation: -10 (-0.05%)

This district contains the western portions of the Fairbanks North Star Borough north of the Tanana River. It includes the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. UAF is the economic and cultural bedrock for western Fairbanks. This district includes the communities of College, Chena Ridge, Ester, Goldstream, Lakeview, and Pike. Major boundaries include Farmers Loop Road, Ballaine Road, Goldstream Road, the Elliott Highway, the borough boundary, the Tanana River, and the Chatanika River.

House 34 - East Borough Fairbanks



Population: 18,358

Deviation: 23 (0.13%)

This district contains the eastern portion of the Fairbanks North Star Borough north of North Pole and Eielson Air Force Base. This district includes many of the more rural portions of the borough including the communities of Fox, Two Rivers, and Chatanika. Major boundaries include Eielson Air Force Base, the Chatanika River, Badger Road, Farmers Loop Road, the borough boundary, and the City of Fairbanks limits.

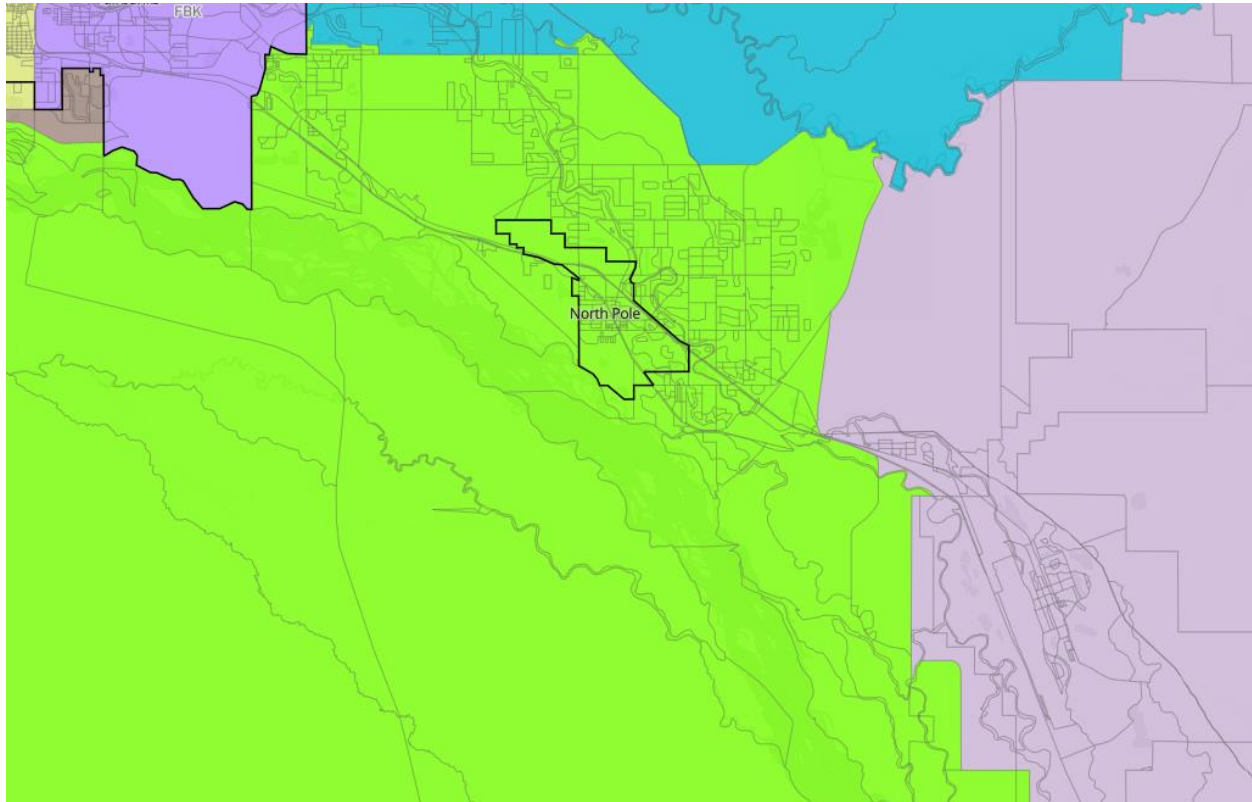
Senate Q - Rural Fairbanks (33 & 34)

Population: 36,683

Deviation: 13 (-0.04%)

The western borough and eastern borough districts would be paired as these districts share many common rural characteristics and communities of interest.

House 35 - North Pole

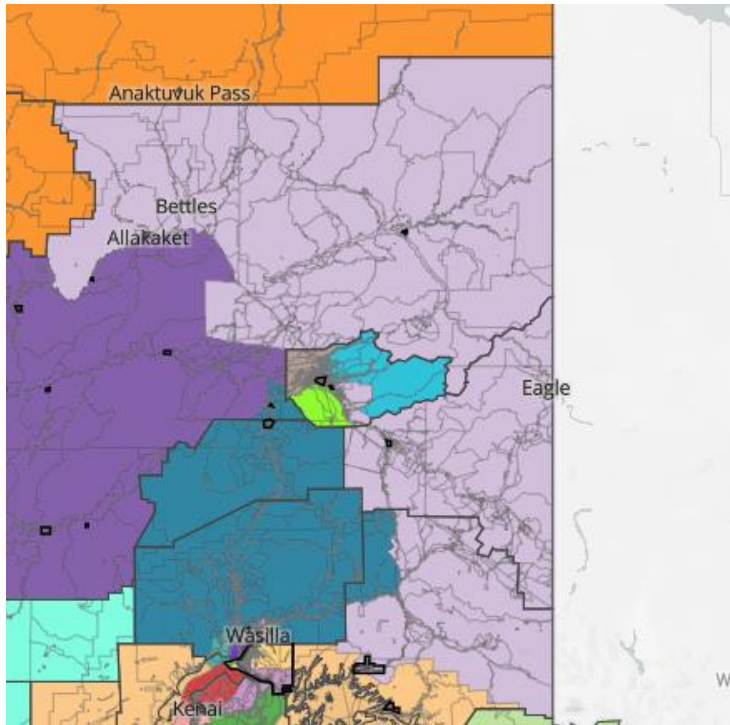


Population: 18,317

Deviation: -18 (-0.10%)

This district includes the City of North Pole and the greater North Pole area, as well as the unpopulated Tanana Flats south of the Tanana River. Major boundaries include Eielson Air Force Base, the City of Fairbanks limits, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough boundary.

House 36 - Richardson/Yukon



Population: 18,239

Deviation: -96 (-0.52%)

This large interior district includes many communities along the Richardson Highway as well as many rural areas and Alaska Native communities. The eastern boundary of the district is the United States/Canadian Border, and the northern boundary follows the boundary of the North Slope Borough. The northwest boundary reflects the Northwest Arctic Borough Boundary.

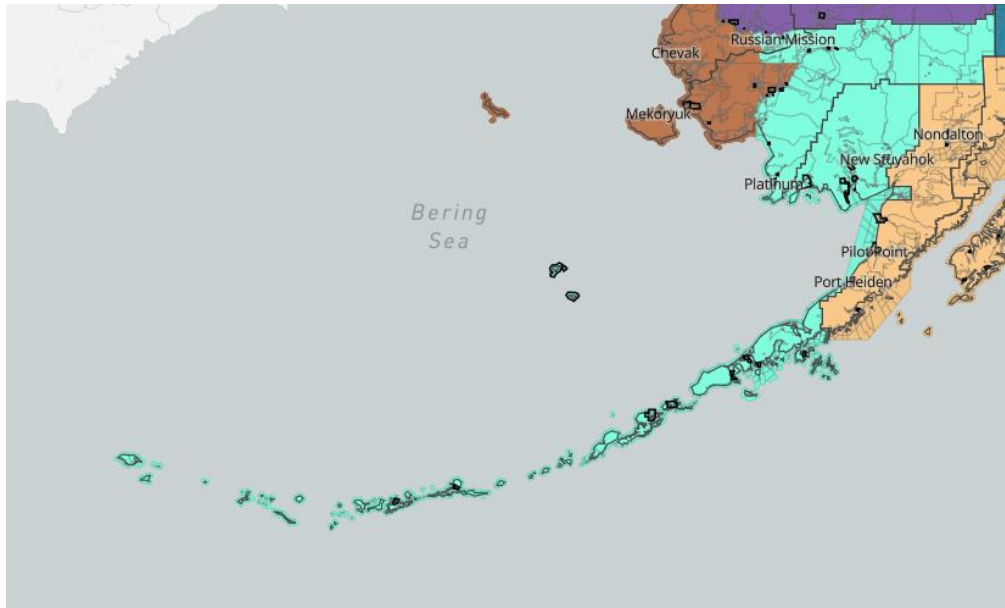
Senate R - Interior/Richardson (35 & 36)

Population: 36,556

Deviation: -114 (-0.31%)

The Greater North Pole district would be paired with the district encompassing the Yukon area and the Richardson highway. These districts share a socio-economic integration along the highway and are also similarly rural in many areas.

House 37 - Bristol Bay

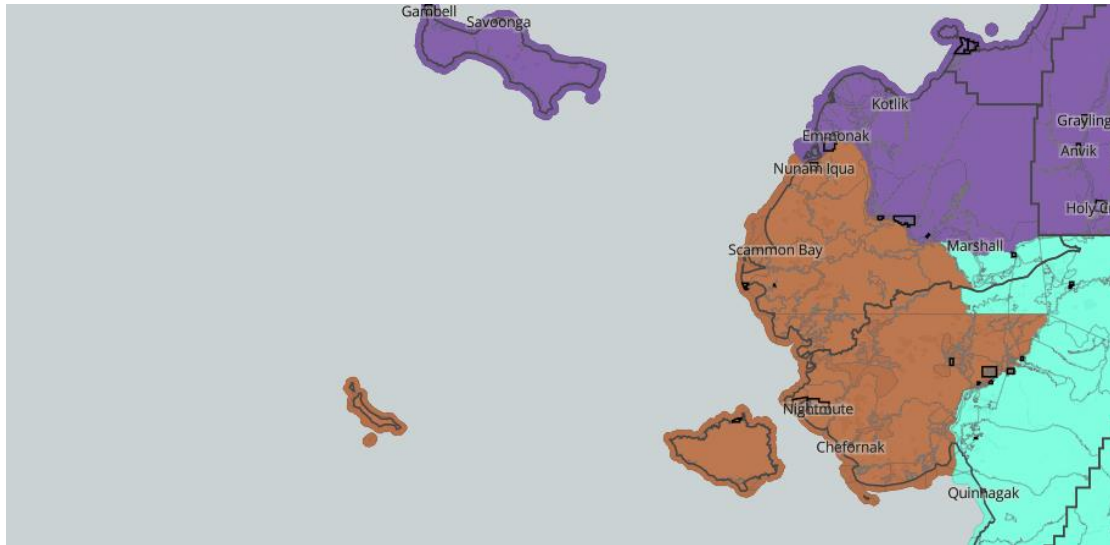


Population: 18,180

Deviation: -155 (-0.85%)

This district contains the Aleutian West Census Area, the Aleutians East Borough, the Bristol Bay Borough, and the City of Dillingham.

House 38 - Lower Delta



Population: 18,507

Deviation: 172 (0.94%)

This district contains the lower Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta between the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. It includes the City of Bethel, which serves as the transportation and health care hub for the region, and numerous villages including Hooper Bay and Chevak. Bounding this district between the mouths of the two rivers allows for villages within the Calista ANCSA region to be included within the same House and Senate districts.

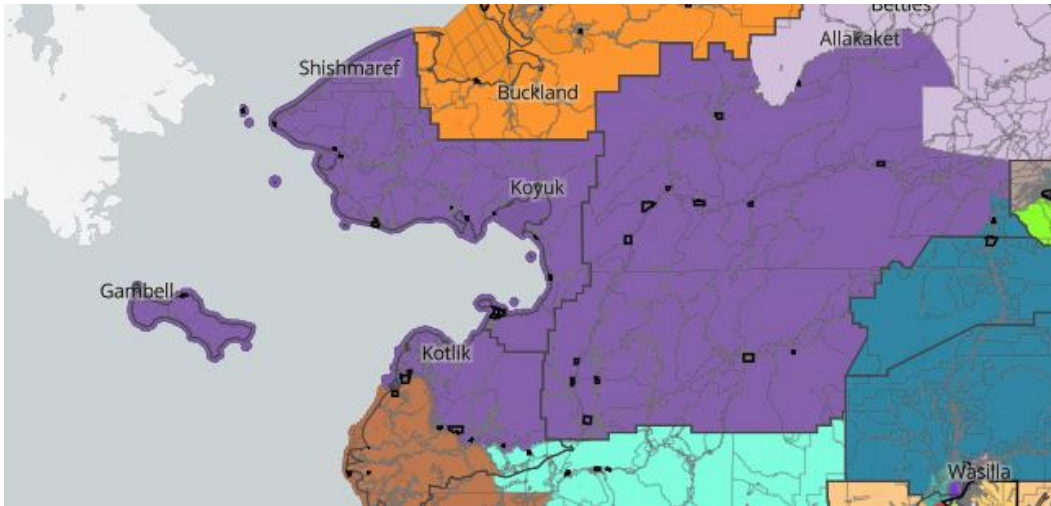
Senate S - Southwest Alaska (37 &38)

Population: 36,687

Deviation: 17 (0.05%)

Combining districts 37 and 38 creates a southwest Alaska district with the main hub communities of Bethel and Dillingham and a multitude of rural villages. This district reflects public testimony received by the Redistricting Board.

House 39 - Bridge to Tomorrow

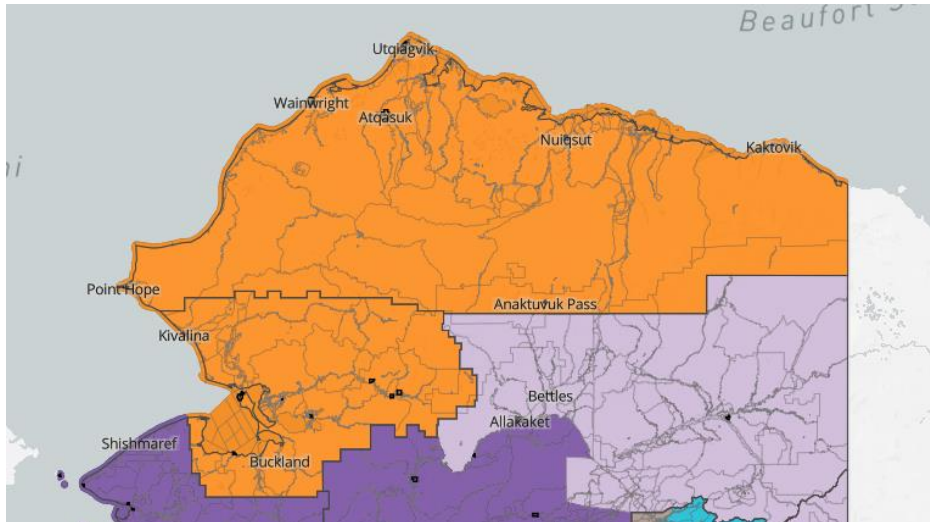


Population: 17,948

Deviation: -387 (-2.11%)

This district angles from the International Date Line to the central Yukon and includes the hub community of Nome and a diverse set of villages in Western Alaska. This district marks the confluence of Alaska's indigenous Yupik, Inupiat, and Athabaskan cultures. Communities in the region share a history of subsistence hunting and fishing which plays an important role in the daily lives of residents throughout the district.

House 40 - Arctic



Population: 18,824

Deviation: 489 (2.67%)

This proposed district extends from the U.S./Canada border to the Russian border and stretches down the continental Divide. It includes all of the North Slope Borough and all of the Northwest Arctic Borough. Additionally, it follows the regional corporation boundary lines for the Arctic Slope Regional Corp and Nana Regional Corp.

This district is consistent with the current district 40 and includes the cities of Utqiagvik and Kotzebue which both serve as hubs for transportation and support services throughout the district. The population is composed mainly of Inupiat people living a traditional subsistence lifestyle. The district also includes the industrial complex and oil fields near Prudhoe Bay and Deadhorse.

Senate T - The Great North (39 & 40)
Population: 36,772
Deviation: 102 (0.27%)

Districts 39 and 40 would be paired to create a senate seat encompassing North and Northwest Alaska.

Appendix A - Alaskans for Fair Redistricting Coalition Participation

Alaskans for Fair Redistricting received feedback from the following organizations in development of this plan:

Alaska AFL-CIO
Alaska Black Caucus
Alaska IBEW
Alaska Poor People's Campaign
Alaska Public Interest Research Group
Alaskans for Better Elections
Alaskans for Posterity
Bristol Bay Native Corporation
Doyon Limited
Enlaces
Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation
First Alaskans Institute
NANA Regional Corporation
Native American Rights Fund
Native Peoples Action
Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates
Progress Alaska
Save Our State
Tanana Chiefs Conference
The Alaska Center
The Alaska Civic Engagement State Table
The Mobilization Center

Note: *Organizations listed here have participated/attended AFFR meetings or provided feedback on the AFFR plan. This list does not assume an official endorsement by any organization.*