

REGIONAL TRENDS BASED ON 2020 CENSUS DATA—STAFF DISCUSSION WITH COUNCIL

Date: September 30, 2021
Department: Planning, Development, and
Research
Meeting Date: October 5, 2021

Prepared by: Clint Chiavarini, Margi
Bradway
Presenter(s): Clint Chiavarini, Margi
Bradway
Length: 20 mins (+30 discussion)

ISSUE STATEMENT

Every 10 years, following the completion of the U.S. Census, the Metro Council is required to evaluate whether each of its six districts are of relatively equal population and to make adjustments to district boundaries as necessary to guarantee equitable citizen representation. The redrawn maps shift the boundaries of the six Metro Council districts to account for any uneven growth in the metropolitan region.

The Metro Council has a legal requirement of three months from receipt of U.S. Census data to complete the redistricting process. Metro received the data on September 16, 2021, necessitating a December 16, 2021 deadline.

The U.S. Census Bureau data provided on September 16 only includes a subset of tabulations from the 2020 Census. These include:

- total population
- voting age (18+) population
- race/ethnicity
- housing unit occupancy status
- population in group quarters

ACTION REQUESTED

No formal action requested. Staff is seeking Council direction on data the Council wishes to consider in the 2021 redistricting process. Possible redistricting scenarios will be presented at future council work sessions.

IDENTIFIED POLICY OUTCOMES

At a prior work session, Council discussed the policy outcomes based on the following adopted policy documents to guide Metro Council in this process: Metro's Strategic Framework, Metro's Strategic Plan to Advance Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Metro's Six Desired Outcomes.

Based on direction from Council, research staff will use the policy direction from Council to inform future scenarios for redistricting for the public and Metro Council to consider.

POLICY QUESTION(S)

1. Aside from population, what other demographic data would the Council like to consider?
2. In addition to the U.S. Census data, what other data, to the extent available, would be useful to Council in this process?
3. Are there other considerations staff should be aware of when moving forward with public engagement and scenario creation?

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

None. Discussion only; in this work session, we will give an overview of trends and Council direction will guide preparation of possible scenarios to be discussed in future work sessions.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT & FRAMING COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Legal Antecedents: US Constitution, federal Voting Rights Act, Oregon Secretary of State 2021 Redistricting Directive, Metro Charter Section 31(1), Metro Ordinance 11-1258, Metro Ordinance 01-895.

Anticipated Effects: During previous redistricting processes, Council directed staff to produce a variety of maps showing different scenarios that conform to the values, outcomes, and process defined by Council. Identifying preferred demographic datasets and geographic priorities will help staff prepare scenario maps for consideration.

BACKGROUND

Census Data:

Following the completion of the Decennial Census, the US Census Bureau tabulates an initial set of tables to comply with Public Law 94-171. PL 94-171 requires the Census Bureau to provide state legislatures with small area census population tabulations necessary for legislative redistricting. Metro uses this data to comply with the Charters directives for redrawing Metro Council districts.

The redistricting data includes:

- Total and voting age (18+) population
- Race and Ethnicity
- Housing unit occupancy status (vacant/occupied)
- Population in group quarters

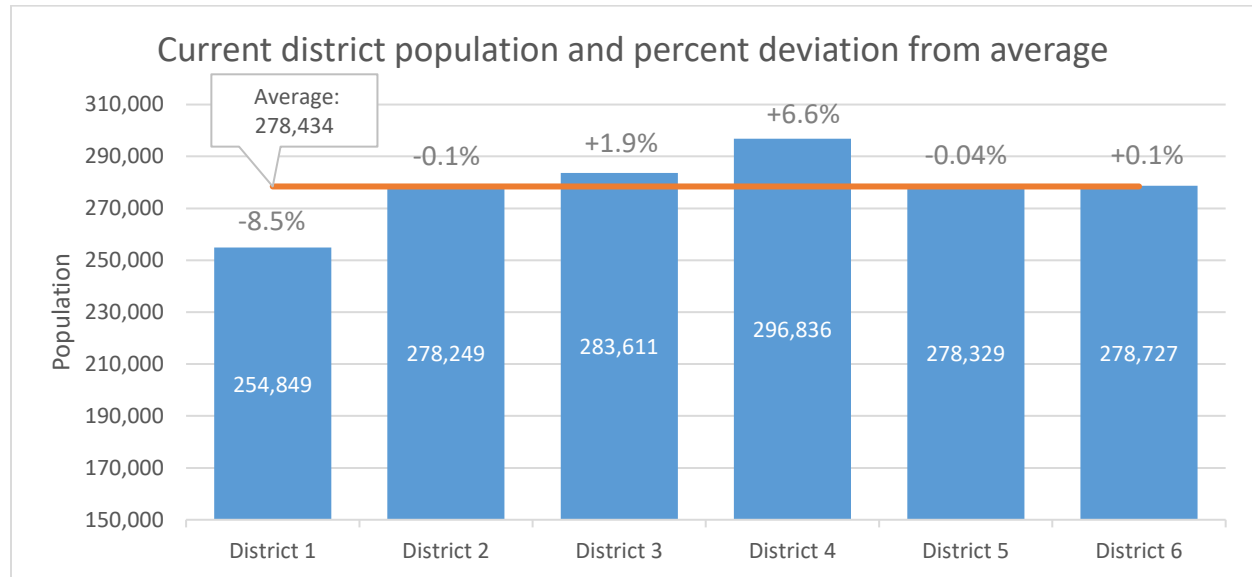
The redistricting data **does not** include:

- Age subcategories
- Sex
- Housing unit tenure (own vs. rent)
- Household type (family vs. non-family) and size
- Family type (married, single, children, etc.)
- Relationship to householder

We anticipate that these datasets will arrive in 2022, although the Census Bureau has not provided an official date on which data will be released.

Growth:

Significant growth has happened throughout the region. Population inside the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) is approximately 1,670,601, a 12.2% increase from 2010. Population has increased in all districts, although that growth has been uneven. In 2011, Metro Council set a goal of equalizing the population to a maximum of 5% variance between districts. The 2011 redistricting process produced district populations to within 3.5% of optimal. The last ten years have seen growth at different rates in the region causing the district populations to once again become out of balance.



Demographic Changes:

There are significant changes in the reported diversity of our region. Several factors that may have influenced how these numbers have changed:

1. In-migration by more diverse individuals and families.
2. Better counting of existing residents. Traditionally, the Census has undercounted communities of color. There was an unprecedented community effort in Oregon in 2020 to ensure people were counted. It is possible that this has led to long-time members of our community being counted for the first time.
3. Changes in how people self-identify. The 2020 Census made it easier for respondents to identify as having more than one race. Allowing a more thorough and accurate depiction of how people prefer to self-identify, may have contributed to the observed smaller increase in the “white-alone” population (as opposed to “white in combination [with other races]”).

ATTACHMENTS

None.

- Is legislation required for Council action? X Yes “ No
- If yes, is draft legislation attached? “ Yes X No
- What other materials are you presenting today?
 - Powerpoint presentation: Regional Trends Based on 2020 Census Data