



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, November 9, 2021

Council Session

Item F-3

#9857 - Consideration of Proposed Modifications to City Council Ward Boundaries Resulting from Redistricting (Second and Final Reading)

Staff Contact: Chad Nabity

Council Agenda Memo

From: Mayor's Committee on Redistricting

Meeting: November 9, 2021

Subject: 2021 Redistricting of Council Wards for 2022 Election Cycle

Presenter(s): Chad Nabity, AICP

Background

Every 10 years following the release of the decennial census of population and housing counts, it is the responsibility of every governing body that whose members are elected by wards or districts to balance the population in across those wards or districts. Members of the Grand Island City Council are elected across five wards therefore each ward should ideally represent 1/5 of the population of the city. According to the 2020 Census the population of Grand Island is 53,131 people so each ward should ideally have 10,626 people. It is generally accepted for Council wards that the population in each ward may vary by as much as 5% above or below the ideal number. Grand Island wards should range between 10,095 and 11,157 people.

Census data is typically made available to states and localities no later than April of the year following the Census. Do to issues created by COVID the data was delayed until mid-August and the Nebraska Unicameral met in early September to complete redistricting of Congressional and State Representatives.

In June of 2021, Mayor Roger Steele appointed a committee consisting of the following people to review and make recommendations on redistricting as soon as the Census data was made available. The following people were appointed to the redistricting committee:

Mayor Roger Steele; Cindy Johnson, Chamber of Commerce President; Peggy Pape, representing the Hall County Democrats; David Plond, representing the Hall County Republicans; Chad Nabity, Planning Director; and Jackson Henry, representing the Community Youth Council, City Council Member Maggie Mendoza.

The members of the Committee met with City Staff including Rashad Moxey, Planner, Nick Nolte, GIS Coordinator, and Amber Alvidrez, as advisor to the Community Youth Council along with Election Commissioner Tracy Overstreet.

Discussion

The Redistricting Committee met on September 23, 2021 to discuss the mission of the committee, review the populations of each ward based on the current census and to define parameters for creating new districts.

Population of each Ward as currently defined based on the 2020 Census:

Ward 1	12,464
Ward 2	10,300
Ward 3	10,256
Ward 4	9,507
Ward 5	10,604

The committee defined the following as the parameter under which they would operate:

- Each ward should fall within the range of 10,095 people to 11,157. (This is 5% plus or minus from the ideal population of 10,626 and the variance that the courts have determined would be allowed for city council and similar representative election districts.)
- New or planned subdivisions should be shown on the maps to indicate potential areas of population increase so that wards can be balanced with some anticipation for growth. Those wards that are expected to increase in population should be set closer to the lower boundary of 10,095. Those that are in developed areas that are unlikely to change should be set closer to 11,157.
- Boundaries should follow major streets or other geographic boundaries such as railroad tracks where possible.
- Boundaries should keep neighborhoods intact where possible.
- No more than two city council wards are allowed by state law in a single election precinct. If a precinct needs to be split it should be done in a manner that provides for sufficient voters from both wards to allow voter anonymity.
- Ward boundaries should match election precinct boundaries where possible.

Staff prepared new proposed Wards prior to the second committee meeting based on the parameters above and the committee reconvened on October 7 to review the results. After discussion and adjusting some of the boundaries the committee is forwarding the attached map to be titled "Election Ward Map of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska" along with individual maps of each ward for review to the City Council for approval. These maps are attached.

The population of each ward based on the census count is as follows:

Ward 1	10,406
Ward 2	10,392
Ward 3	10,765
Ward 4	10,431
Ward 5	11,137

Council may if they wish approve the ordinance that has been prepared to adopt the new Election Ward Map of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska as recommended by the committee.

In accordance with the §16-404(4) Following the release of the 2020 Census of Population data by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, as required by Public Law 94-171, the city council of any city of the first class requesting the adjustment of the boundaries of election districts shall provide to the election commissioner or county clerk (a) written notice of the need and necessity of his or her office to perform such adjustments and (b) a revised election district boundary map that has been approved by the requesting city council and subjected to all public review and challenge ordinances of the city by December 30, 2021. The revised election district boundary map shall be adopted by ordinance. Such ordinance shall be read by title on three different days unless three-fourths of the city council members vote to suspend this requirement.

Recommendation

The committee is recommending that the Grand Island City Council waive the three readings, approve the ordinance on first and third reading in the same night and authorize the Clerk to forward the new map to the Election Commissioner.

Alternatives

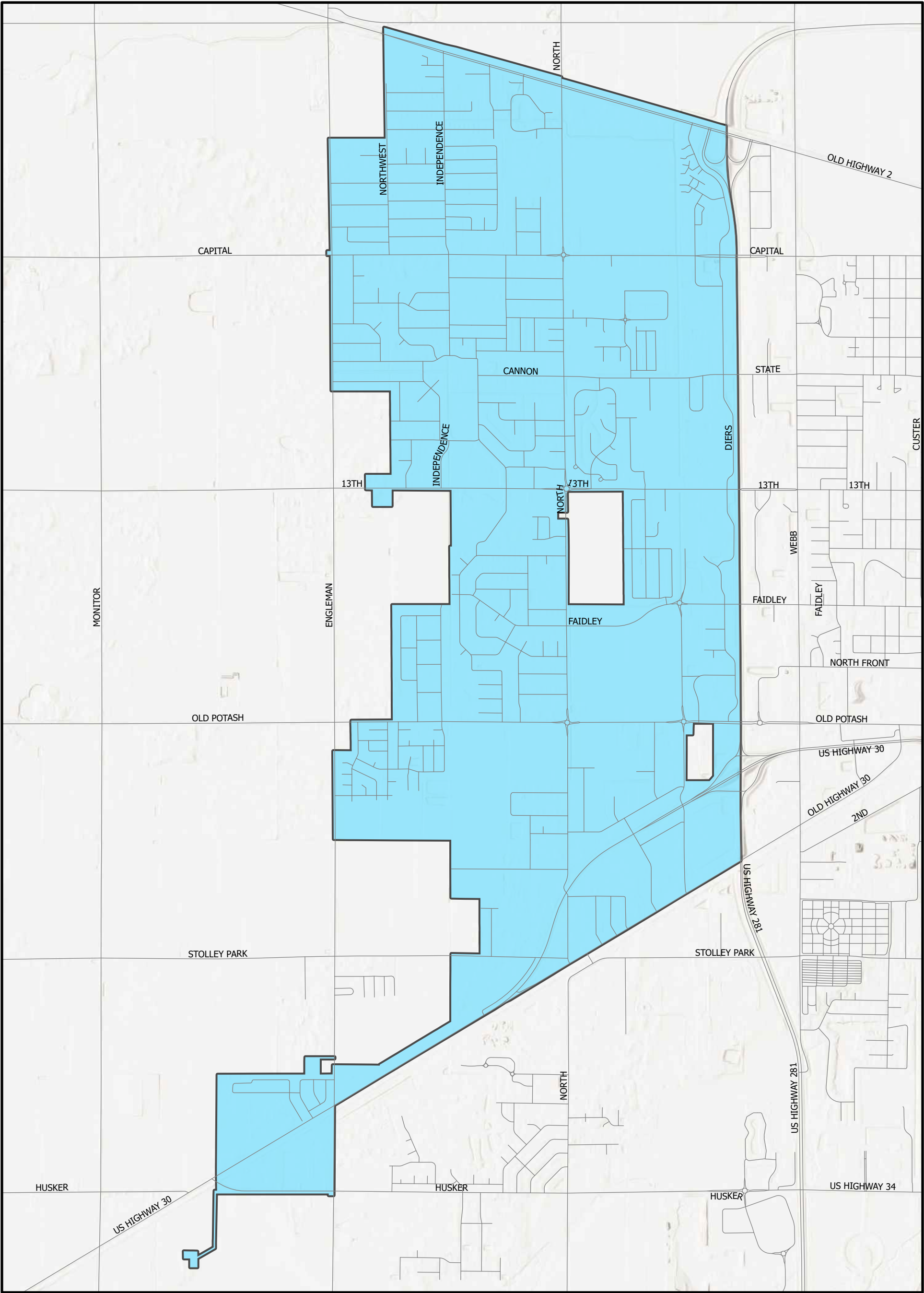
It appears that the Council has the following alternatives concerning the issue at hand. The Council may:

1. Move to approve
2. Refer the issue to a Committee
3. Postpone the issue to future date
4. Take no action on the issue

Sample Motion

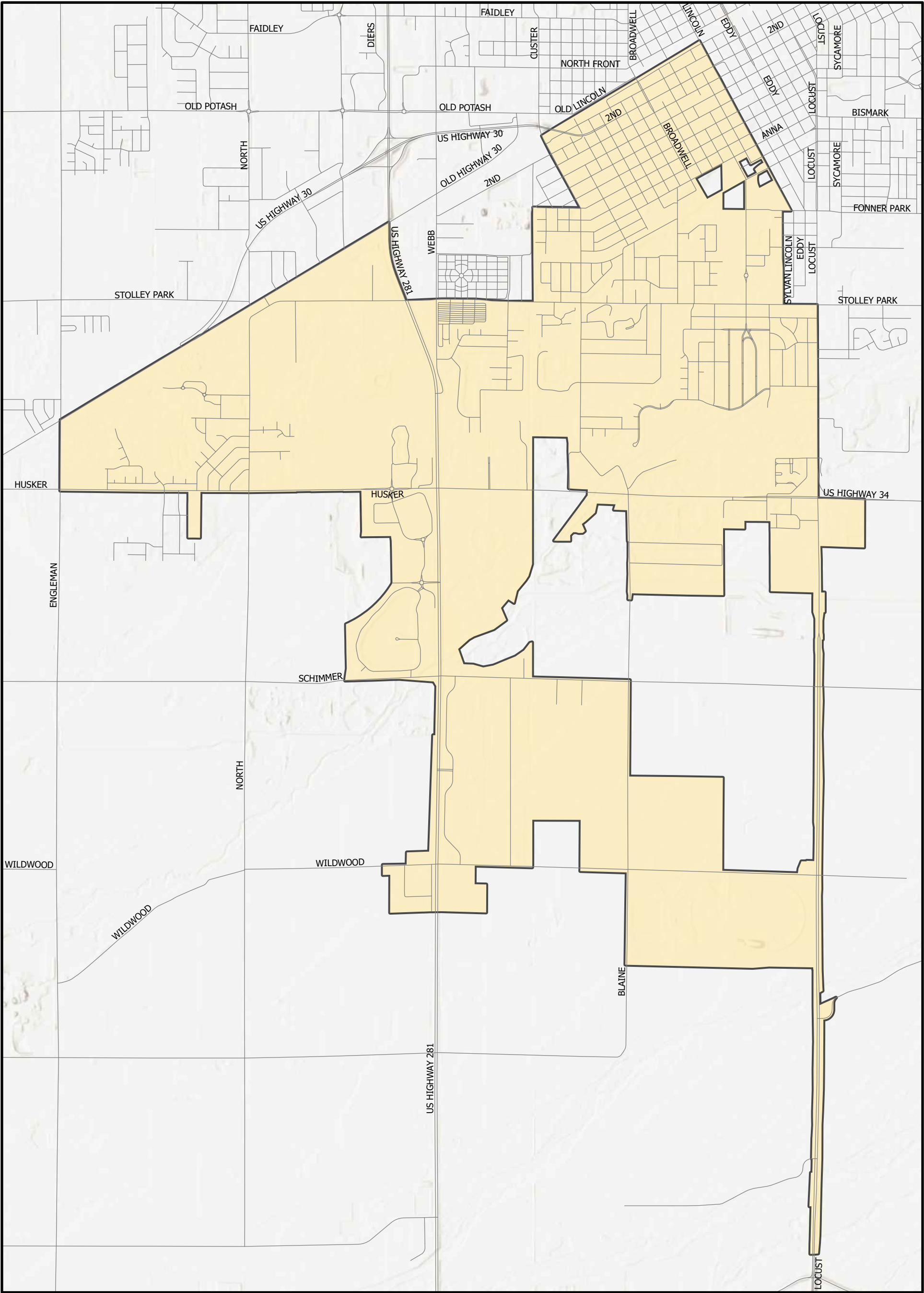
Move to approve the ordinance to redefine and readopt the Election Ward Map of the City of Grand Island as recommended.

Proposed City Council Ward 1



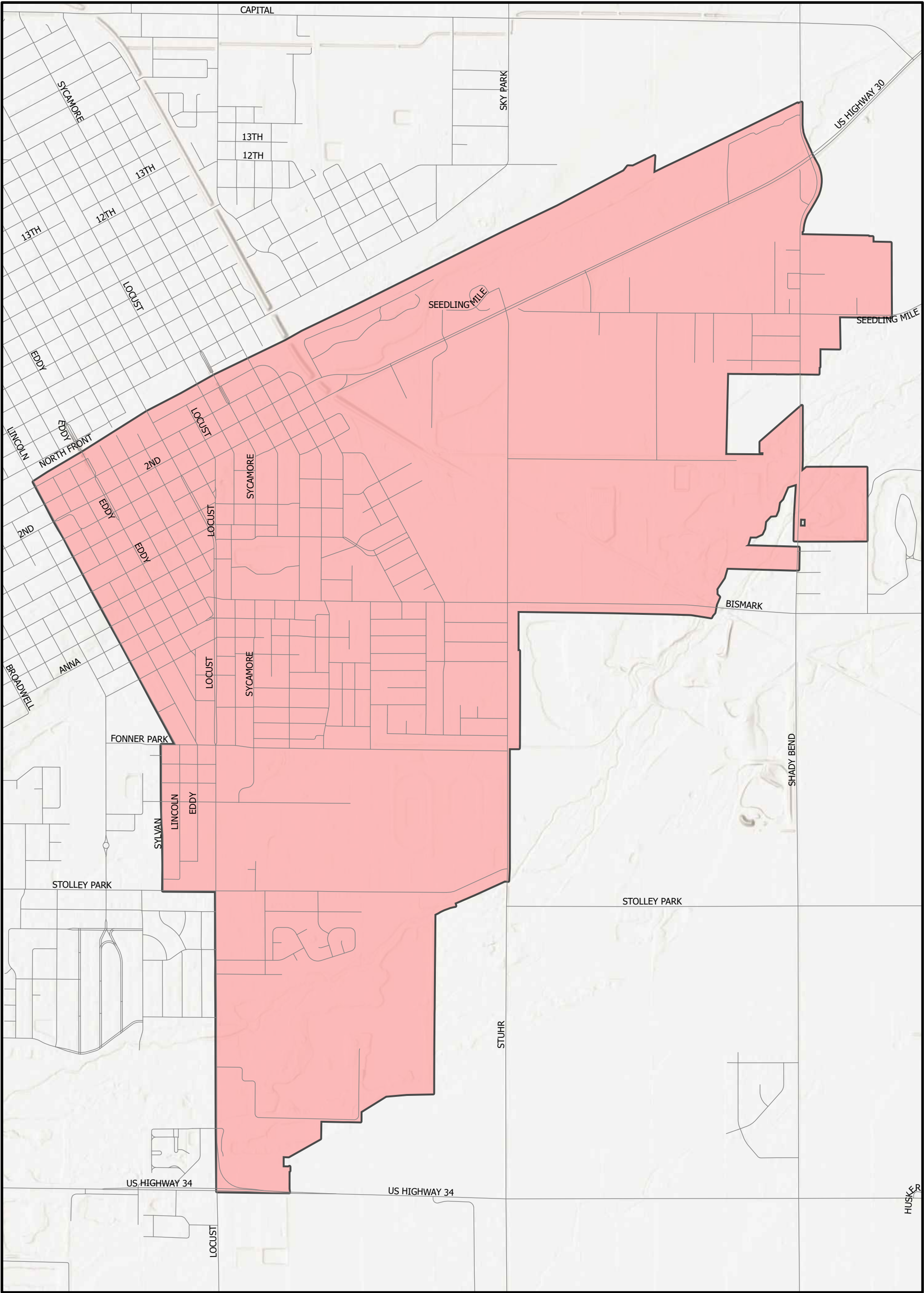
City Council Ward #1
2020 Population: 10,406
Deviation: -220 (-2.07%)

Proposed City Council Ward 2



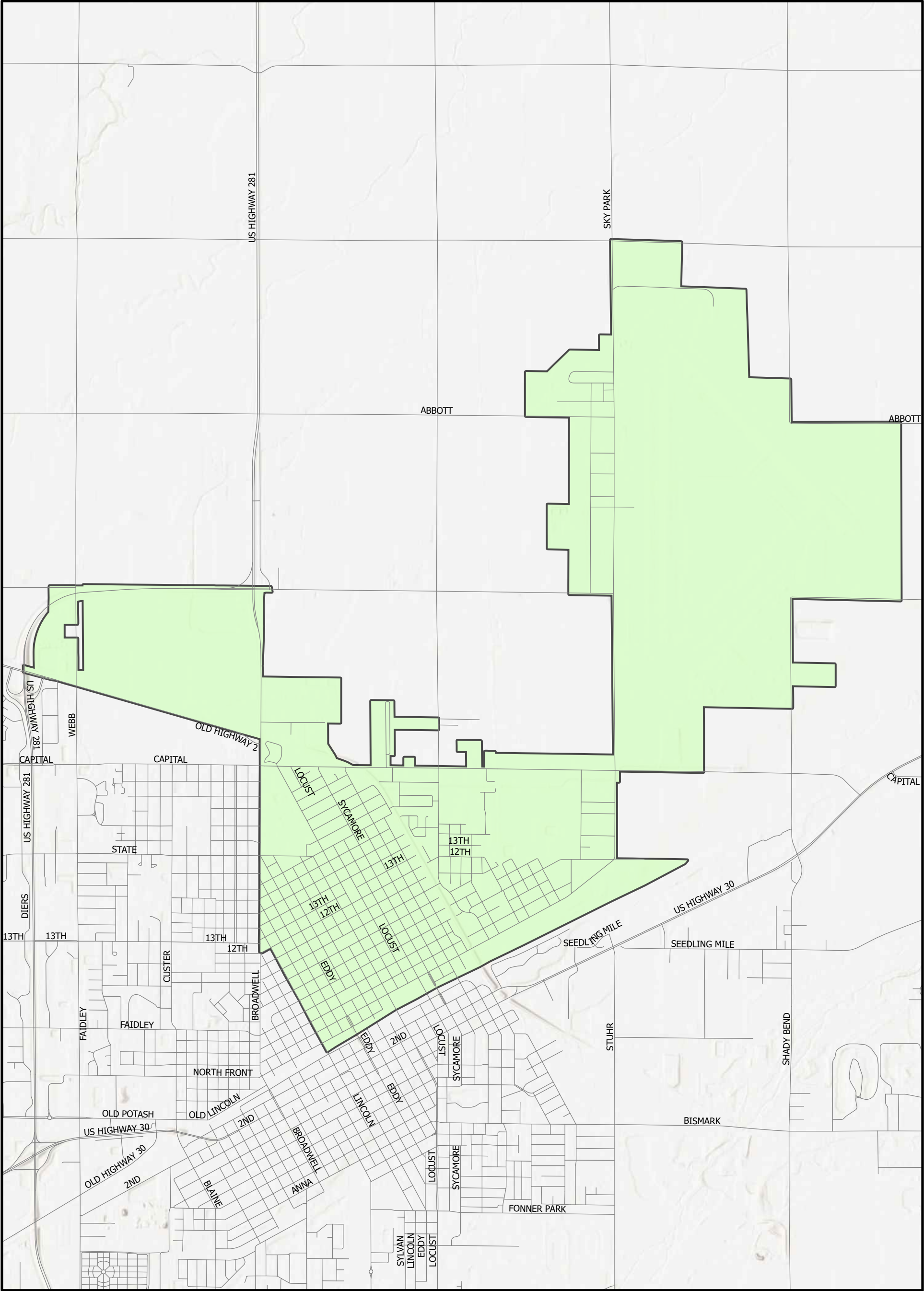
City Council Ward #2
2020 Population: 10,392
Deviation: -234 (-2.2%)

Proposed City Council Ward 3



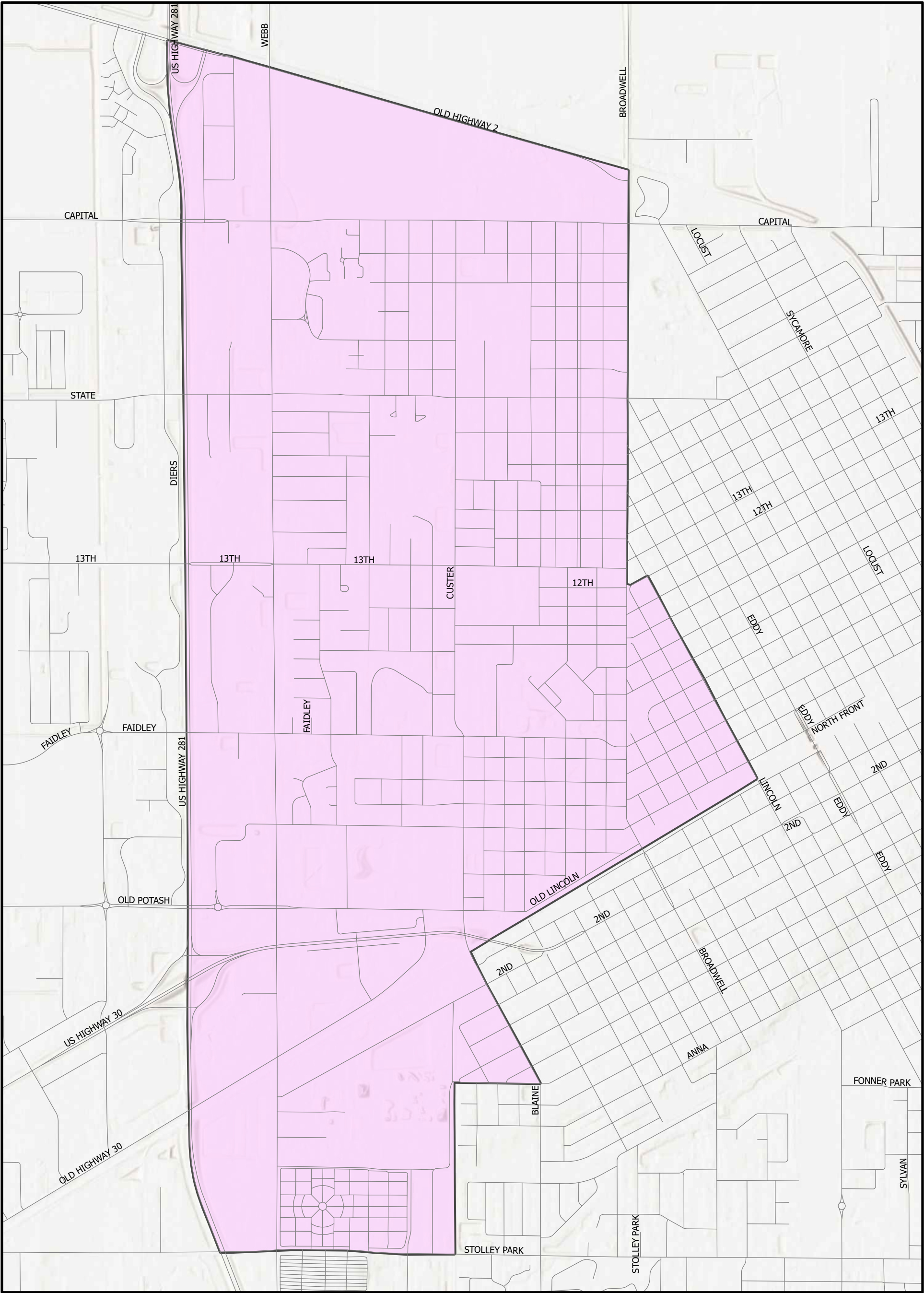
City Council Ward #3
2020 Population: 10,765
Deviation: +139 (+1.31%)

Proposed City Council Ward 4



City Council Ward #4
2020 Population: 10,431
Deviation: -195 (-1.84%)

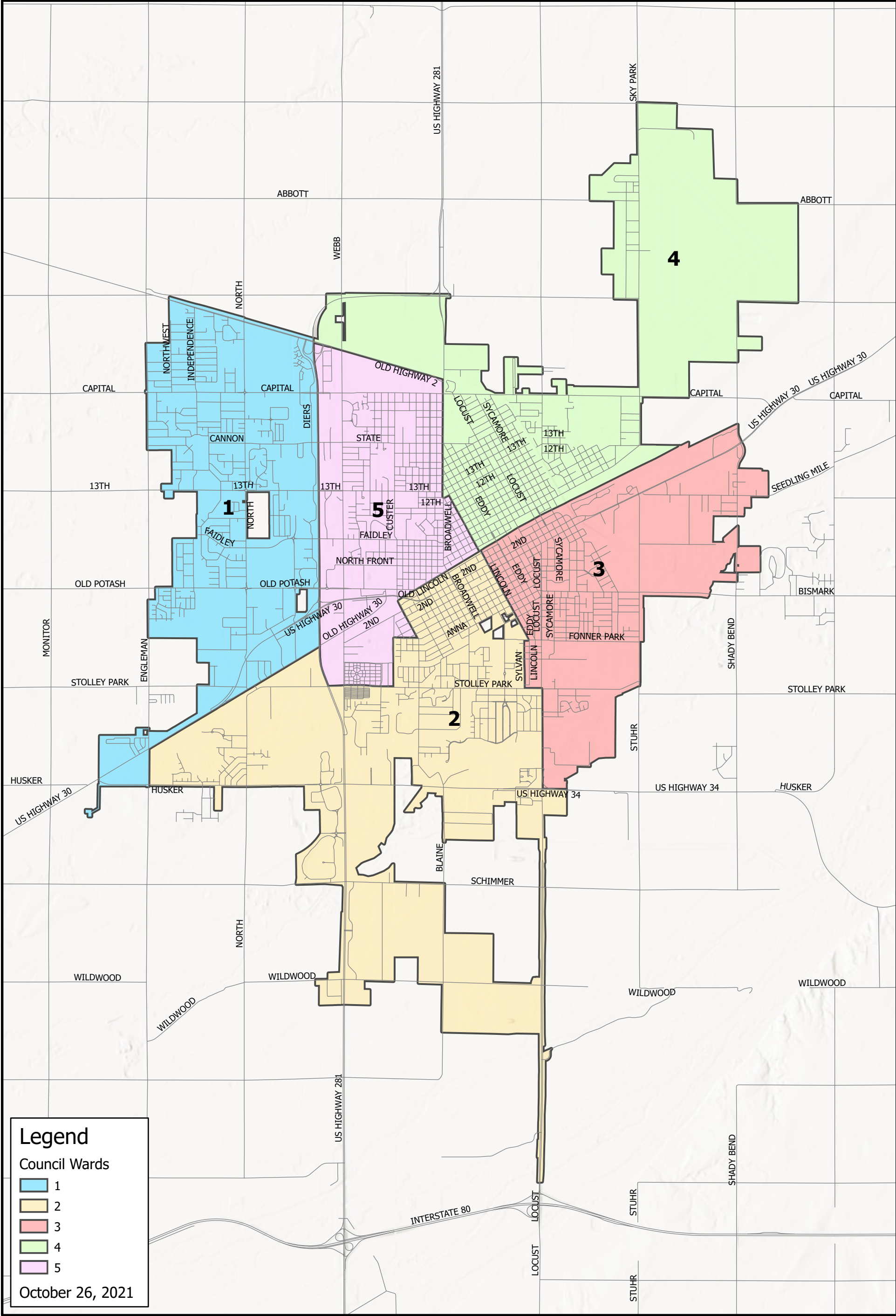
Proposed City Council Ward 5



City Council Ward #5
2020 Population: 11,137
Deviation: +511 (+4.81%)

Election Ward Map

of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska



ORDINANCE NO. 9857

An ordinance to amend Grand Island City Code Chapter 14, §14-3 pertaining to Elections; to amend §14-3 pertaining to election wards and their boundaries; to define the boundaries of the wards in the City of Grand Island; to adopt a revised map of such wards; to repeal Grand Island City Code §14-3 as it presently exists; and to provide for the publication and effective date of this ordinance.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA:

SECTION I. Grand Island City Code §14-3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

§14-3. Wards; Boundaries

The City of Grand Island, Nebraska, is hereby divided into five wards, numbered 1 through 5, the boundaries of such wards defined as shown on the drawing entitled, "*Election Ward Map of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska.*" The Election Ward Map of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, shall be kept current and on file in the office of the City Clerk.

SECTION 2. Grand Island City Code §14-3 as it presently exists is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. This Ordinance shall be in force and take effect from and after its passage and publication, within fifteen days in one issue of the *Grand Island Independent* as provided by law.

Enacted: November 9, 2021.

Roger G. Steele, Mayor

ATTEST:

RaNae Edwards, City Clerk

Approved as to Form November 6, 2021	by _____ City Attorney
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