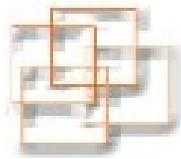


VILLAGE OF PORT CHESTER
BOARD OF TRUSTEE GOVERNANCE
OPTIONS:
DISTRICTED ELECTORAL SYSTEM
CONSIDERATIONS



Frontier
International Consulting

Phases of project

- *Phase I* Explore alternative governance options for Village Board of Trustee elections, especially in relation to dictates of the Voting Rights Act
- *Phase II* Analyze voting patterns by race/ethnicity and impact these patterns have on the opportunity of Hispanics to elect their candidates of choice under various governance options
- *Phase III* Draw illustrative district plans to determine possibilities for creating districts that provide Hispanic voters with the opportunity to elect candidates of choice

Phase III: districted electoral system

- For this phase of the project I drew two illustrative single-member district plans (a six-district plan and a five-district plan) to determine how many districts with substantial Hispanic majorities could easily be created
- At least two such districts must be included in a districted plan if there is to be no retrogression in Hispanic voting strength since Hispanic voters are electing two candidates of choice under the current cumulative voting system

Illustrative purposes only

- These plans are not being offered as proposals for adoption – they are for illustrative purposes only
- The plans were created with no knowledge of the local context, such as the where neighborhoods and other communities of interest are located or what additional factors should be taken into account when drawing district boundaries for the Village of Port Chester
- Public input required to produce district plan that takes these local factors into account

Criteria considered

- Districts should not deviate from the ideal district size by more than 5 percent (based on 2010 census population figures)
- Districts should be contiguous and geographically compact
- Hispanic districts should have a substantial majority of Hispanic citizen voting age population (more than a simple majority in order to compensate for low Hispanic turnout)

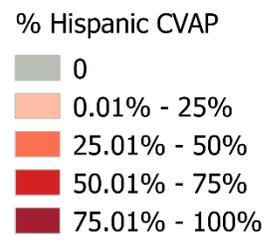
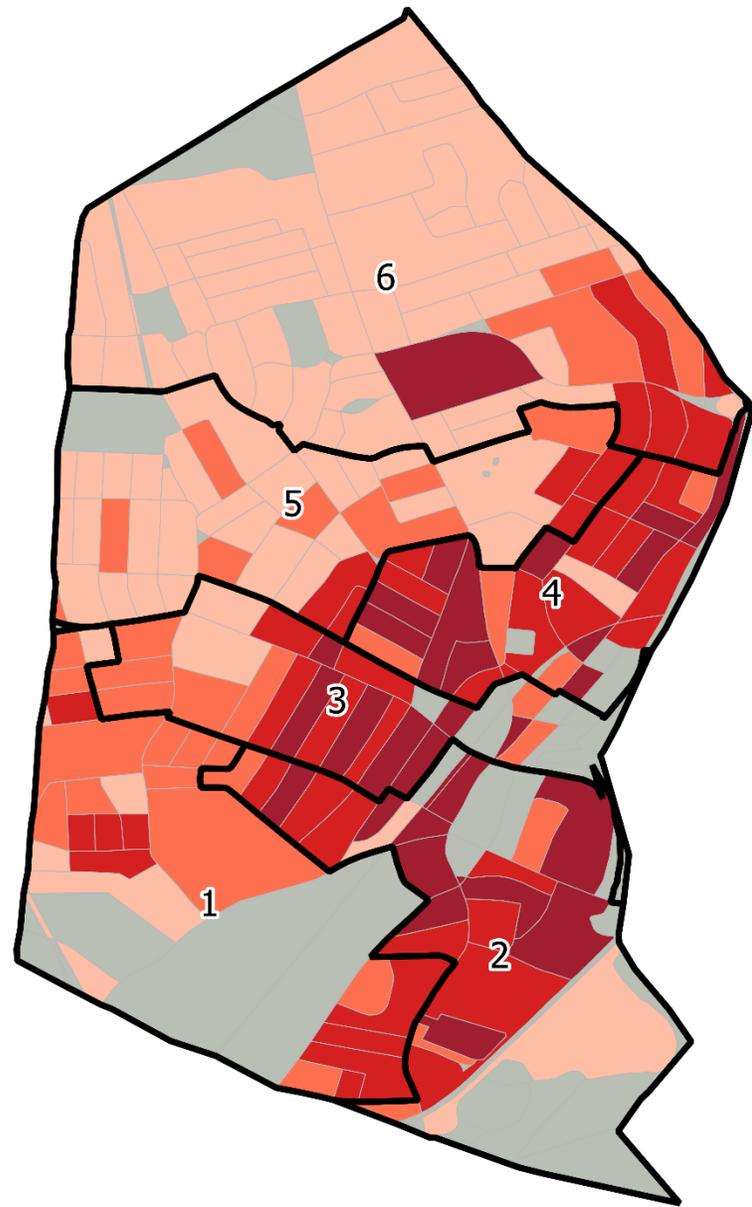
Population data used

- Total population from most recent decennial census (2010)
- Citizen voting age population estimates derived from American Community Survey conducted by Census Bureau. These estimates also reflect population as of 2010
- Hispanic population is likely to be much higher now and it may well be that more than two substantial Hispanic districts can easily be created following the release of the 2020 census

Six-district plan: population statistics

District	Total Population	Deviation from Ideal District Size	Percent Population Deviation	Citizen Voting Age Population Estimate	Hispanic Citizen Voting Age Population Estimate	Percent Hispanic Voting Age Population
1	4840	12	.25	2087	832	39.87
2	4770	-58	-1.20	1749	1166	66.69
3	4924	96	1.99	2031	875	43.08
4	4805	-23	-.48	1699	1088	64.05
5	4767	-61	-1.26	2356	630	26.74
6	4861	33	.68	2861	406	14.18

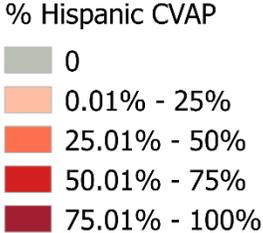
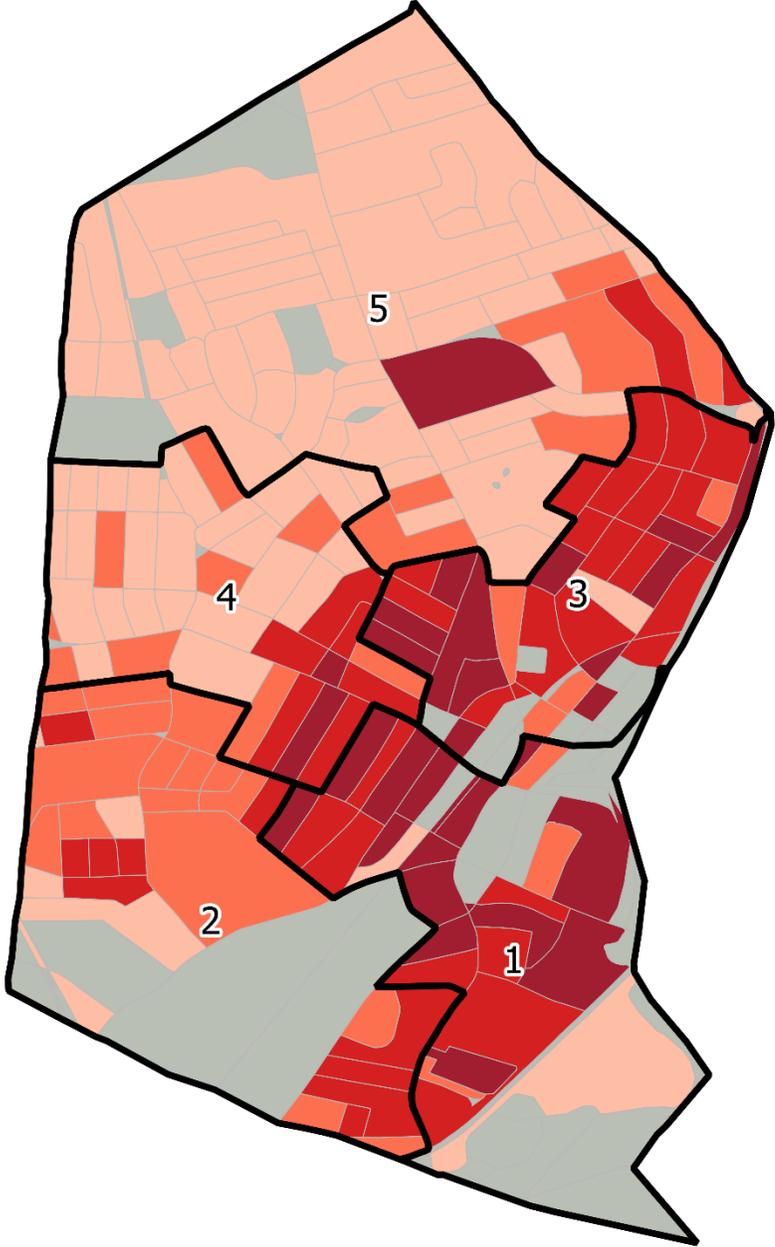
Six-district plan map



Five-district plan: population statistics

District	Total Population	Deviation from Ideal District Size	Percent Population Deviation	Citizen Voting Age Population Estimate	Hispanic Citizen Voting Age Population Estimate	Percent Hispanic Voting Age Population
1	5699	-94	-1.62	2024	1415	69.92
2	5896	103	1.78	2464	1015	41.19
3	5693	-100	-1.73	2091	1356	64.85
4	5823	30	.52	2788	757	27.17
5	5856	63	1.09	3415	453	13.27

Five-district plan map



Advantages

- Districts provide voters with easily identifiable “ombudsman” to whom they can turn for assistance and whom they can hold accountable in future elections
- District elections may reduce the cost of running for office, which may broaden the pool of candidates beyond those with financial resources needed to run a jurisdiction-wide campaign
- District elections may increase opportunities for mobilizing voters
- District elections are easy to administer
- Districted electoral system can accommodate staggered terms without impacting ability of minority voters to elect their candidates of choice

Disadvantages

- District boundaries will have to be drawn, and must be redrawn every ten years following decennial census. (Election precinct boundaries will also have to be redrawn to coincide with district boundaries)
- Only minority groups that are geographically concentrated and large enough to constitute a majority of the voters in a district can benefit from a districted electoral system
- Only minority voters that reside within the boundaries of the minority district(s) are likely to have an opportunity to elect their candidates of choice to office
- Increases in minority population and turnout may produce increased opportunity to elect candidates of choice only after decennial redistricting
- Officeholders may be more likely to work on behalf of their districts rather than the jurisdiction as a whole

Overall recommendations

Traditional at-large system	Modified at-large system	Districted system
Not recommended	Acceptable under specified conditions	Acceptable under specified conditions
<p>A traditional at-large electoral system will <i>not</i> provide Hispanics with an opportunity to elect candidates of choice. Voting is still polarized in Village elections and Hispanics do not constitute a large enough portion of the electorate to be able to elect candidates of choice under a pure at-large system.</p>	<p>Cumulative voting for six seats has provided Hispanic voters with the ability to elect two candidates of choice.</p> <p>Limited voting (with the vote limited to one) and ranked choice voting in the context of six seats are modifications that may also provide Hispanics with an opportunity to elect their preferred candidates but they have disadvantages associated with them.</p>	<p>A districted plan with five or six districts would provide Hispanics with an opportunity to elect their preferred candidates comparable to what they currently have only if the district plan offers at least <i>two</i> substantial Hispanic majority districts. This is easily accomplished.</p>