

**Philadelphia City Council Redistricting  
Preliminary Report on Public Input and Priorities**

**January 2022**

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## Background and Overview

This Preliminary Report is intended to offer guidance and insights on Philadelphia City Council district boundaries, how they affect communities, and potential changes to those boundaries to better serve certain areas of the city. The report includes 12 sections of summary findings received over the course of a public outreach and engagement campaign from September to December 2021 that included the following:

- 12 Workshops on the City Council redistricting process, how it works, and why it matters;
- 12 Community Input Meetings to hear from residents about the current boundaries;
- 150+ submissions to an online survey<sup>1</sup> in which respondents offered commentary on their community boundaries and/or Council district boundaries (Appendix A); and
- Regular meetings with civic and community leaders and their organizations.

The findings summarized in this report are not exhaustive of all perspectives or opinions on Council district boundaries or the various communities across Philadelphia. But, we encourage any mapmaker — whether they be a member of Philadelphia City Council or of the general public — to consider these findings as they propose changes to the Council district lines.

### **An Overarching Takeaway: Prioritize Communities of Interest**

In addition to the many localized observations, concerns and proposals offered by residents, the overarching priority heard throughout was for district boundaries to keep communities of interest whole in the final map to the greatest extent possible. In many cases, meeting participants or survey respondents were referring to their neighborhood, ethnic or language group, or a business corridor.

In some instances, the focus was on a relatively specific community of interest (e.g., keeping Chinatown or Port Richmond within a single district respectively); and in others, the community of interest may span a larger section of the city and include multiple neighborhoods (e.g., community organizations in Allegheny West, Tioga, Nicetown and Hunting Park working on issues of shared concern). Political ward boundaries were mentioned as well, especially given the overlapping civic roles of some ward committees, but there were few proponents of keeping wards intact at the cost of the aforementioned communities of interest.

Numerous meeting participants and survey respondents also remarked on the significant disparities between the communities and a concern that the more affluent sections of a given district receive more of a council member's attention and better city services.

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<sup>1</sup> Anonymized survey responses are publicly available at: [www.seventy.org/drawphilly](http://www.seventy.org/drawphilly)

## Involving the Public in the Redistricting Process

In the case of Philadelphia City Council redistricting, the Home Rule Charter grants Council the power to redraw its own 10 districts through the regular legislative process. Any system where elected officials have the broad power to shape the very districts in which they run for re-election is problematic — in effect, one's ability to pick their own voters. But even the most earnest mapper will encounter hard decisions about how to balance the numerous, and sometimes, conflicting community interests when drawing the lines.

This is why nearly 90 organizations endorsed and previously submitted to City Council in October 2021 the [Redistricting Roadmap for an Open, Accessible and Inclusive Process](#) (See Appendix B), which offers a thorough set of steps City Council could take to involve the public. Although a Charter-mandated deadline<sup>2</sup> for approving a map is fast approaching on February 12, it's important that city residents have a meaningful opportunity to weigh in. With the time available, critical steps in the official process should at least include:

- 1) **Releasing a proposed map with reasonable time** — at least 3 weeks — for residents to review boundaries, identify potential issues and offer feedback.
- 2) **Collecting and considering public feedback** through an accessible and well-publicized hearing, online survey or comment tool, and acceptance of resident-drawn maps.
- 3) **Ending prison gerrymandering in Philadelphia.** Use data that has reallocated incarcerated Philadelphians held in both state- and city-run prisons during the 2020 Census back to their home or last known address.

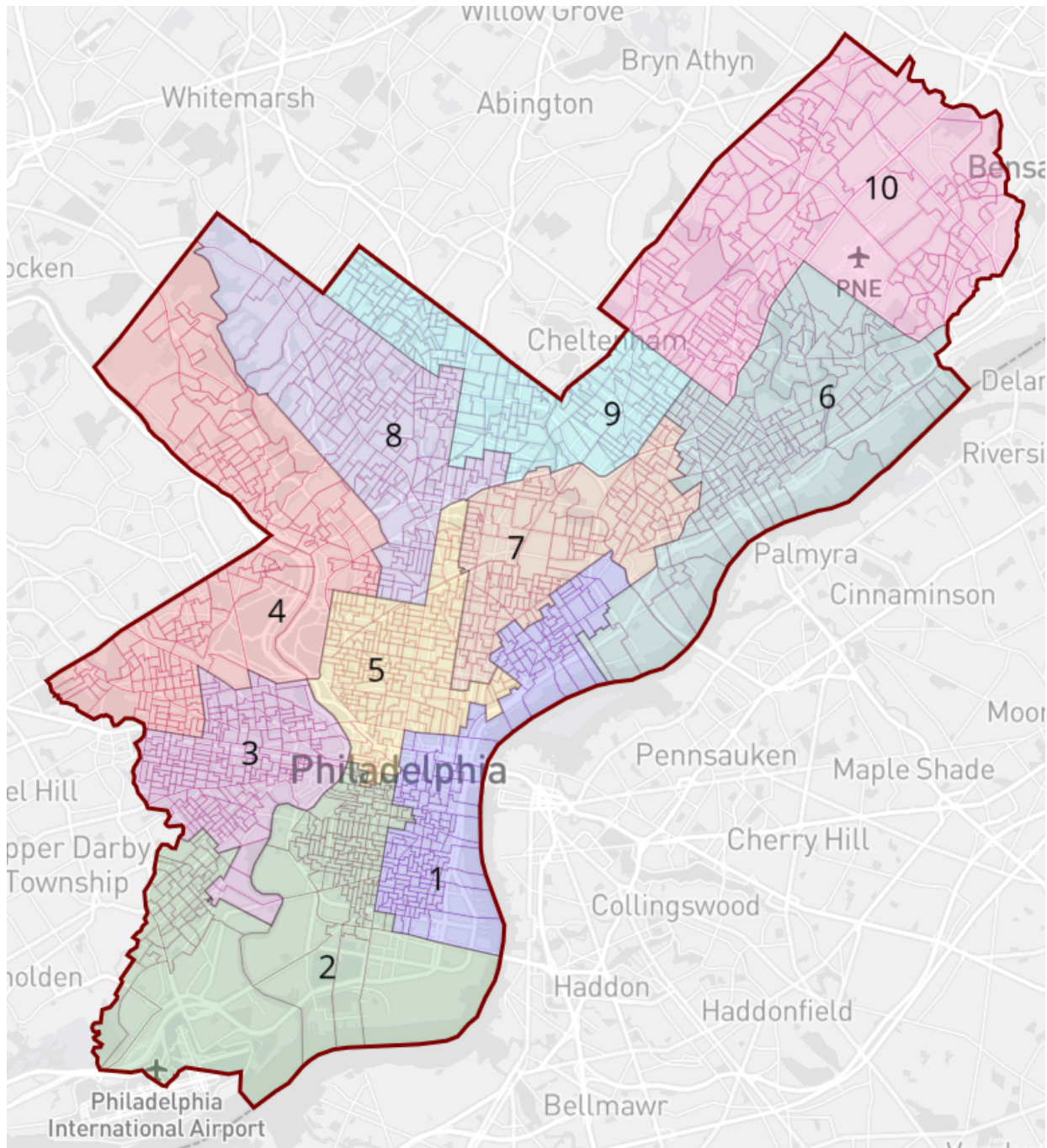
## Acknowledgements and Next Steps

This project was conducted by staff from the Committee of Seventy and MIA Strategies LLC with support from dozens of civic and community leaders. We are deeply grateful for their support and commitment, as well as the participation of the many residents across the city who offered their input. We plan for this report to be followed at the conclusion of this redistricting cycle by a final report that offers recommendations for 2031.

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<sup>2</sup> The Charter states that “it shall be the mandatory duty of the Council to redistrict the City within six months after the publication by the United States Census Bureau of the population of the City at each decennial census.” The Census Bureau released nationwide redistricting data on August 12, 2021, setting a deadline of February 12, 2022 for a mapping ordinance to be approved.

## Current City Council District Map



Mapping images used in this report are taken using Dave's Redistricting (DRA 2020). District colors are consistent throughout the report. An interactive version of the current Council map can be found at [seventy.org/drawphilly](https://seventy.org/drawphilly).

### Other Criteria: Population Equality, Compactness and Contiguity

<u>District</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2020 Adj</u>	<u>Adj Dev</u>	<u>Adj Dev %</u>	<u>Compactness<sup>3</sup></u>
<b>1</b>	155,609	171,941	172,448	11,396	7.08%	20%
<b>2</b>	145,728	155,831	156,464	-4,588	-2.85%	28%
<b>3</b>	149,245	156,181	157,116	-3,936	-2.44%	32%
<b>4</b>	144,562	147,472	148,104	-12,948	-8.04%	27%
<b>5</b>	145,221	171,170	172,123	11,071	6.87%	26%
<b>6</b>	159,445	167,075	167,171	6,119	3.80%	34%
<b>7</b>	159,843	156,858	158,036	-3,016	-1.87%	31%
<b>8</b>	150,908	150,407	151,315	-9,737	-6.05%	35%
<b>9</b>	158,474	159,391	160,078	-974	-0.60%	29%
<b>10</b>	156,971	167,471	167,661	6,609	4.10%	51%
<b>Total</b>	1,526,006	1,603,797	1,610,516			
<b>Avg.</b>	152,601	160,380	161,052			

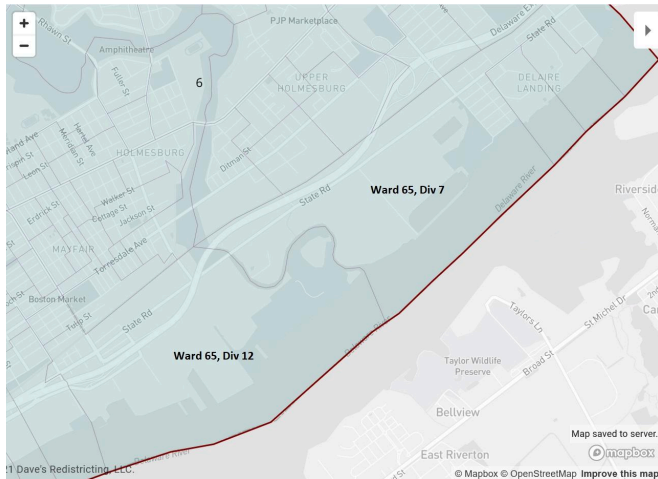
Multiple requirements must be met for a map to adhere to state and federal law including population equality, compactness, contiguity and compliance with the Voting Rights Act.<sup>4</sup> Prioritizing communities of interest in a City Council map, although not required by law, can be pursued so long as these other objectives are achieved.

**Population Equality:** A deviation of 10% between the most and least populous districts — or 5% in either direction from the ideal (average) district size — is generally understood to be the limit for a local redistricting plan to withstand a legal challenge. In terms of absolute numbers, this means that, in the next City Council map, the largest district can have no more than ~169,000 people and the smallest can have no fewer than ~153,000. As the table above indicates, Districts 1, 4, 5 and 8 have either too many or too few people and will have to lose or gain voting divisions accordingly.

<sup>3</sup> Compactness scores calculated by DistrictBuilder. See <https://app.districtbuilder.org/o/philly-public-redistricting>

<sup>4</sup> For an overview of state and federal law applicable to local redistricting, see “Final Report: Recommendations of the 2011-2012 Reapportionment Advisory Committee of Pittsburgh City Council.” October 3, 2012. Available at: [https://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/council/Final\\_RAC\\_Report\\_v4.pdf](https://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/council/Final_RAC_Report_v4.pdf)

**Prisoner-adjusted Data:** The 2020 adjusted figures use data approved by the Legislative Reapportionment Commission (LRC), the body responsible for redrawing state House and Senate districts. The LRC voted in August 2021 to reallocate, for the purposes of redistricting, more than 30,000 Pennsylvanians held in state-run prisons during the 2020 Census. As a result, approximately 6,719 Philadelphians are counted in their home communities for state legislative redistricting.



However, upwards of 5,000 people were also held and counted in city-run prisons in 2020 and have not yet been reallocated in any publicly-available data set. All of these individuals, most of whom are Black or Hispanic, would have been located in two voting divisions along State Road in the Northeast's 6th District. **It is not yet known whether City Council will use data that reallocates Philadelphians in city and state-run prisons back to their home communities.**

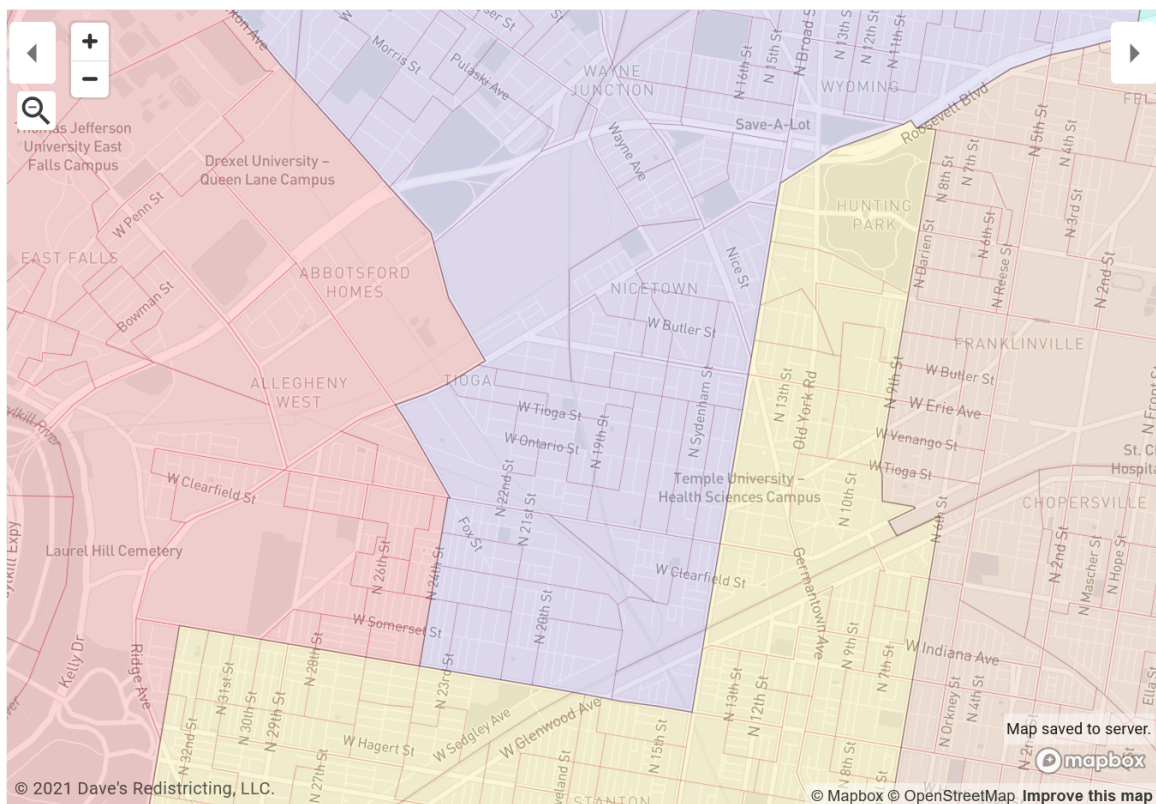
Facilities operated by the Philadelphia Department of Prisons are located Ward 65, Divisions 7 and 12.



## Allegheny West, Tioga, Nicetown and Hunting Park (District Boundaries 4, 5, 7 and 8)

The neighborhoods of Allegheny West, Tioga, Nicetown and Hunting Park are currently divided across the 4th, 8th, 5th and 7th Districts from west to east. Lehigh Ave and the railroad tracks adjacent to Sedgley Ave run along the southern side of the neighborhoods, with Roosevelt Blvd on the northern side. Civic and community organizations in these neighborhoods work collaboratively and in coalition on issues of importance to residents despite being located in the four different Council districts.

While Tioga and Nicetown are entirely within the 8th district, Hunting Park is split between the 5th and 7th Districts, and Allegheny West is split between the 4th and 8th. One potential solution to the Hunting Park split would be to shift 12 divisions — located between 9th St and Broad St, from Sedgley Ave to Roosevelt Blvd — from the 5th District to the 7th, though this would significantly increase the population of the 7th District and require changes elsewhere in that district and other parts of the city. A single division of residences between 33rd St and Ridge Ave, south of Lehigh Ave, was also identified as being split from the rest of nearby Strawberry Mansion.



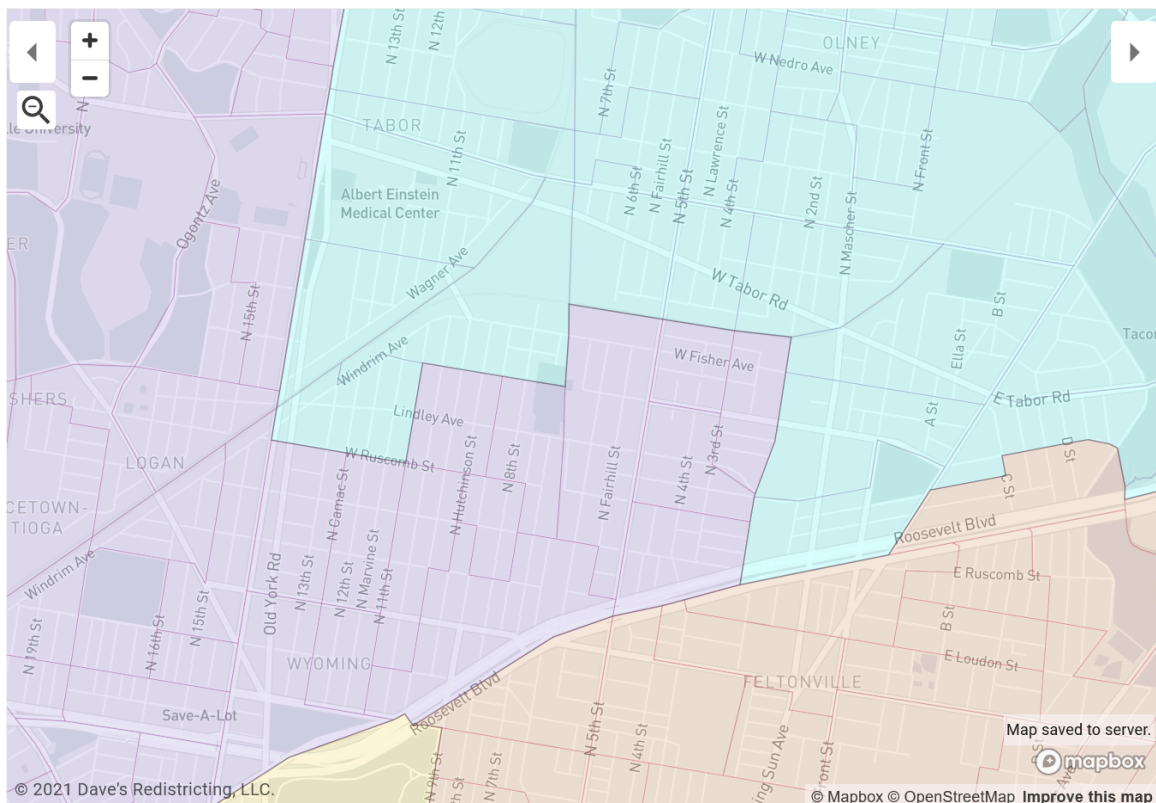


## Logan and Olney (District Boundaries 8 and 9)

The neighborhoods of Logan and Olney are currently divided between the 8th and 9th Districts along W Ruscomb St, W Duncannon Ave and the railroad tracks running parallel between W Fisher Ave and W. Somerville Ave. The 5th Street business corridor is also divided as it runs north from Hunting Park (in the 7<sup>th</sup> District), across Roosevelt Boulevard and into the 8<sup>th</sup> District for more than five blocks until W Somerville, where the 9<sup>th</sup> District begins.

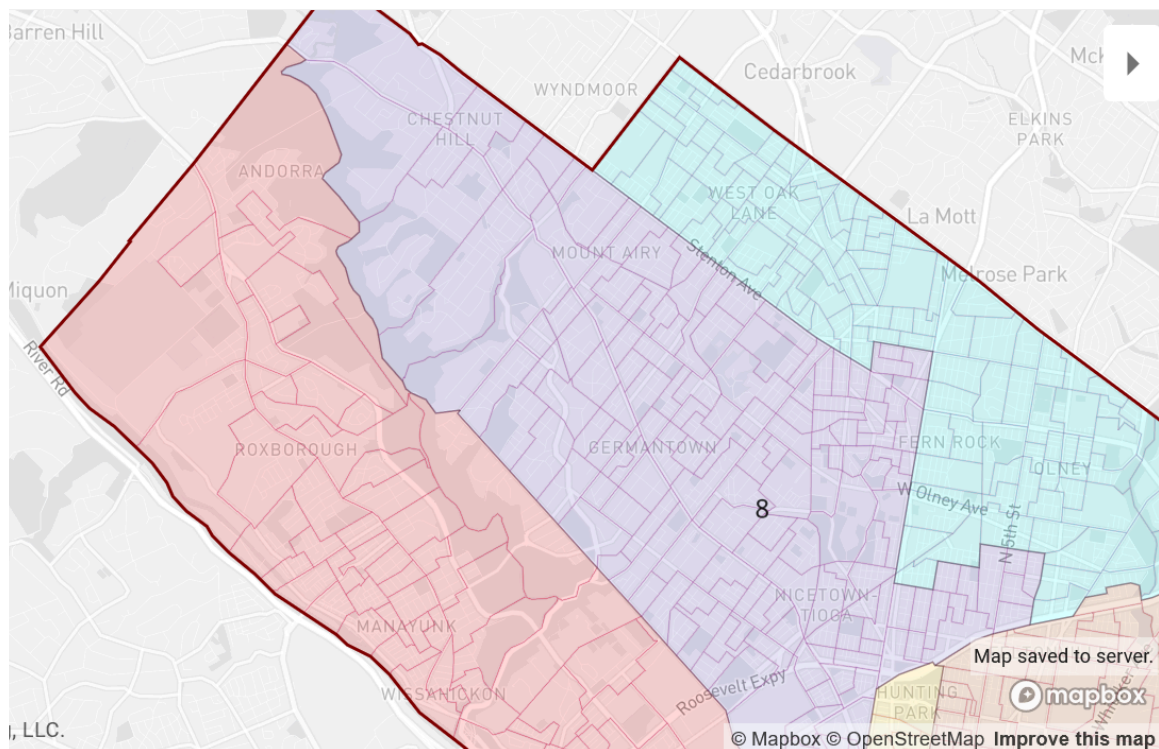
Respondents noted that these sections of Logan and Olney were within the 9<sup>th</sup> District as part of prior mapping plans, an arrangement that would be preferable to the status quo. Adding four divisions (Ward 42, Div 13, 17, 20; Ward 49, Div 9) immediately around 5<sup>th</sup> St from Roosevelt to W Somerville Ave would relieve the business corridor of its current split between the 8th and 9th Districts, but would not resolve the rest of the split for Logan and Olney. One respondent from Logan stressed that they were indifferent to the specific district as long as the resources and services needed for developing the Logan Triangle were provided.

Changing demographics were also highlighted, with growing Latino and AAPI communities across much of Logan and Olney including the south portions currently split. It was unclear how best to keep these communities of interest together other than keeping Logan and Olney whole.



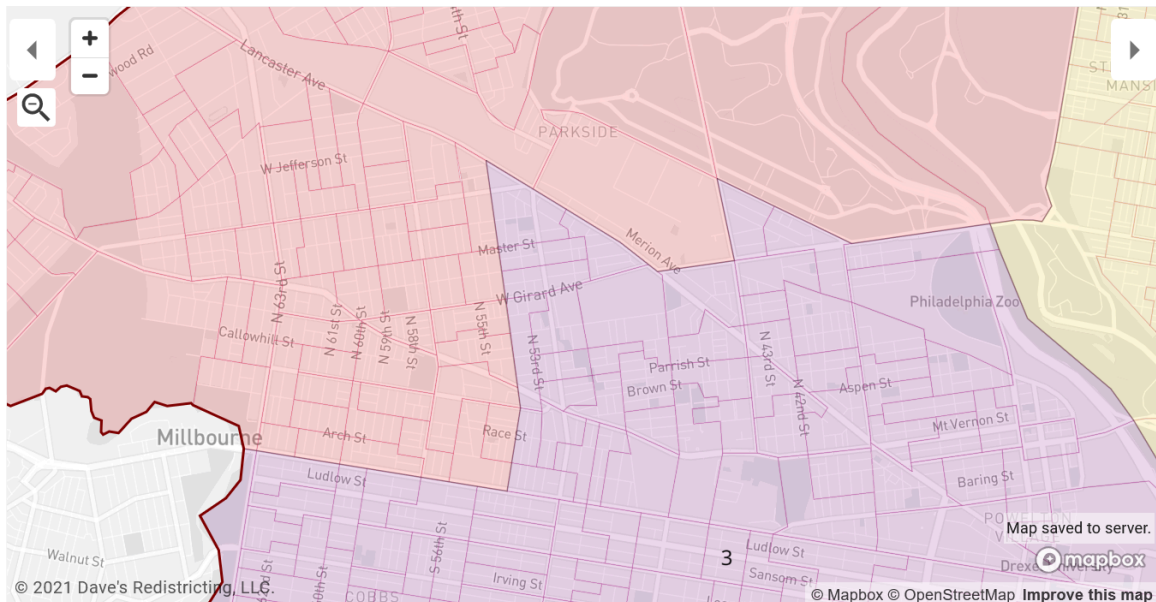
## Northwest (District Boundaries 4, 8 and 9)

The boundaries between the 4th, 8th and 9th districts in Northwest Philadelphia appear to largely keep communities whole. Wissahickon Creek (within Fairmount Park) and Wissahickon Avenue run along the boundary between the 4th and 8th. To the north, Stenton Avenue is a well-known boundary between the 8th and 9th districts from Ivy Hill Road to Ogontz Avenue, but juts up to 66th Avenue before continuing east to North Broad. There are four residential divisions, consequently, included in the 8th district with neighborhoods on the other side of Stenton Avenue. This current boundary keeps the 17th ward whole but splits these divisions off from the rest of West Oak Lane.



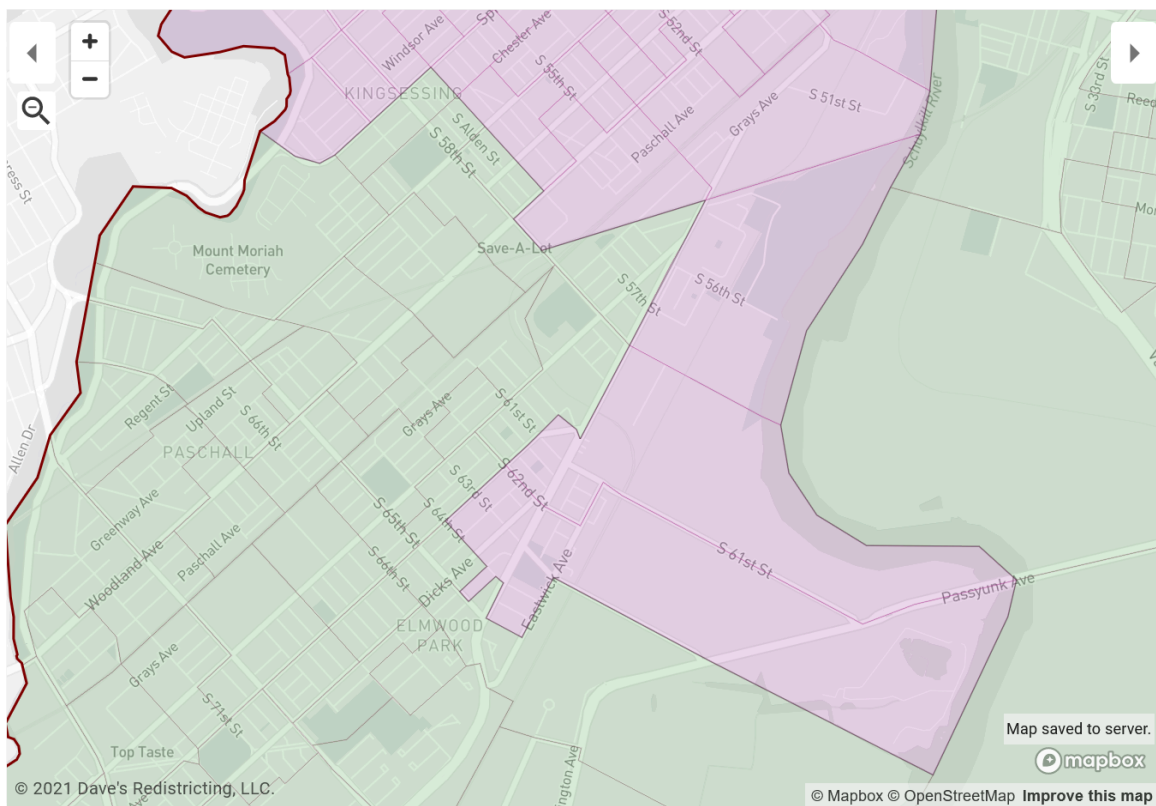
## West (District Boundaries 3 and 4)

The boundary between the 3rd and 4th Districts in West Philadelphia follows ward boundaries along Girard Ave, Parkside Ave, Belmont Ave, Lancaster Ave, N 54 St and Market St. No major concerns were identified around the boundary, although one respondent observed that the section of the boundary starting at Belmont Ave and running along Lancaster Ave would be better placed along the railroad tracks; this boundary currently splits parts of the Lancaster Ave commercial corridor. Making this change would require aligning the division boundaries with the railroad tracks. Another respondent noted that adding Ward 52, Div 1 to the 3rd District would keep most of Parkside whole (as well as address the prior observation about the railroad track boundary). Civic and community organizations routinely work together and across the 3rd-4th District boundary, which was retained from the 2011 Council map.



## Southwest (District Boundaries 2 and 3)

The boundary between the 2nd and 3rd Districts in Southwest Philadelphia splits the neighborhood of Kingsessing along a series of blocks from Cobbs Creek Parkway to Lindbergh Boulevard, where properties become heavily commercial and industrial adjacent to the Schuylkill River. One respondent noted that 58th St may be preferable to use in dividing the Southwest between the two Council districts, but that this is not currently possible between Kingsessing and Springfield Ave because of voting division boundaries. The three geographically-large divisions along the river in District 3 stood out to respondents and are understood to be part of Southwest Philadelphia. Although these divisions are predominantly commercial, a number of residential blocks along Lindbergh Ave are split by the district boundary along 54th and 65th Streets. Adding these three divisions (Ward 40, Div 4, 14, 28) to the 2nd District would eliminate this split, but no strong opinion on how to address this issue was identified.

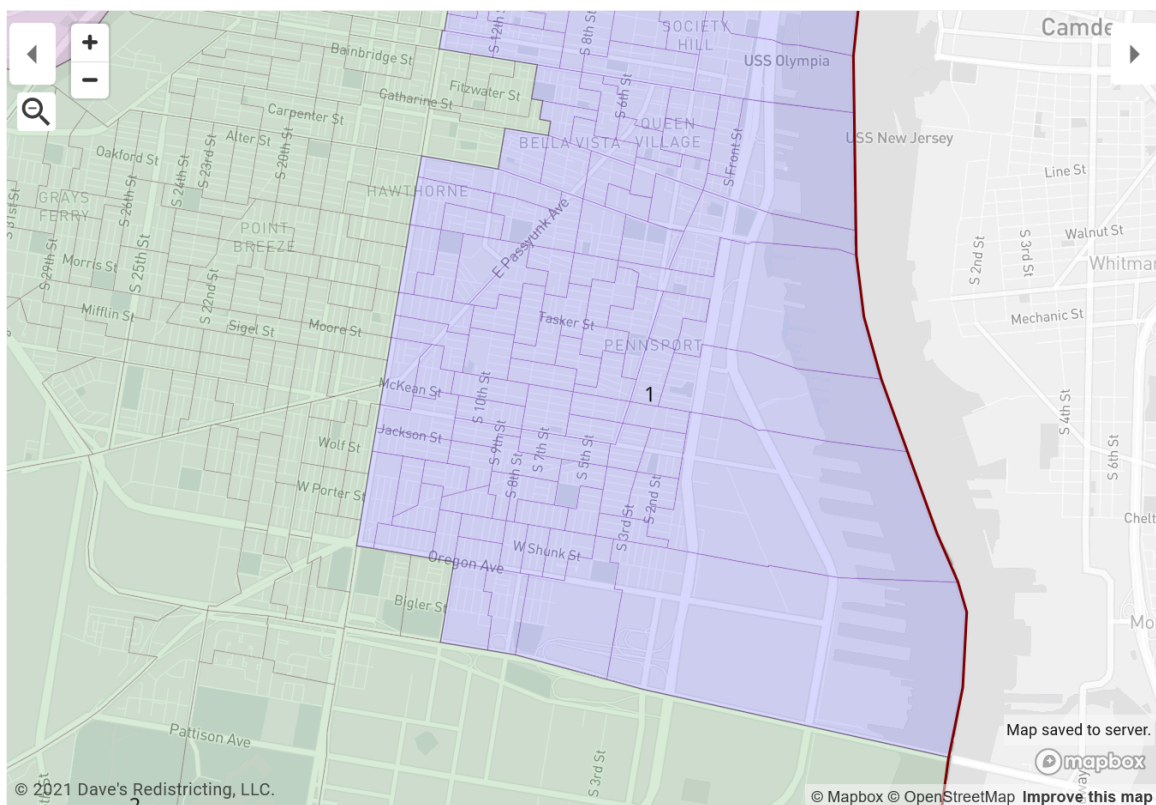




## South (District Boundaries 1 and 2)

The north-south boundary between the 1st and 2nd Districts currently runs down most of South Broad St, with two notable exceptions: first, between South Street to Washington Ave adjacent to Hawthorne, and second, where the boundary turns east at Oregon Ave before shifting over to I-76 towards the Walt Whitman Bridge. Between South and Washington, the 2nd District extends east to include all of Hawthorne and several blocks of residences east of 11th street (generally understood to be eastern boundary of Hawthorne). No specific concerns were identified about this section of the boundary, although it was noted that voting division shapes preclude using either 11th or 10th Streets as a straight boundary. The boundary turn at Oregon runs to 10th Street before turning south again to I-76, which is used for the rest of the 1st-2nd District boundary extending to the Delaware River. This particular feature appears to exist to keep Marconi Plaza and the Stella Maris athletic facilities within one Council district.

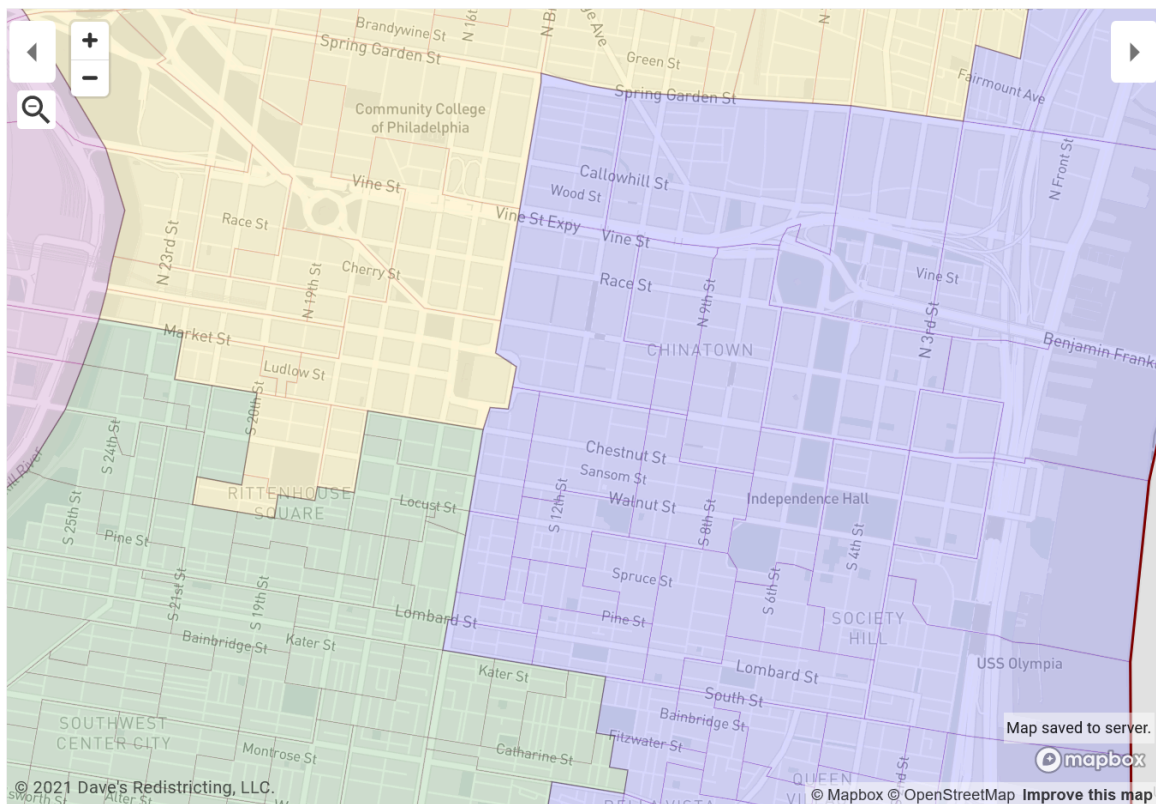
While these current boundaries between the 1st and 2nd Districts did not seem to pose any particular problems, some indicated that pushing the east-west boundary farther north across Oregon and towards Snyder would risk splitting a multitude of communities including the neighborhoods of Moyamensing and Whitman. A variety of AAPI and Latino communities around Mifflin Square Park and the 7th Street Corridor, for example, are already kept whole within the 1st District.



## Center City (District Boundaries 1, 2 and 5)

Center City between Spring Garden St and South St is divided between the 1st, 2nd and 5th Districts, with the three intersecting at S Broad St and Chestnut St. No concerns were identified on the eastern side of City Hall, where a number of communities are already kept whole within the 1st District (e.g., Chinatown, Old City, Society Hill, Washington Square West). But the current boundary between 2nd and 5th Districts on the west side of City Hall takes on an irregular shape, beginning at Market St before jutting south to Spruce St and then north to Chestnut St, the result of which is to include three high-density divisions including Rittenhouse Square within the 5th District.

Respondents noted that the status quo boundary is confusing to residents and businesses and unnecessarily splits this section of Center City. The consensus solution put forward was to use Lombard St between the Schuylkill River and S Broad St as the line between the 2nd and 5th Districts. Respondents suggested that Lombard is far more intuitive a boundary both for those around Rittenhouse Square and in Graduate Hospital to the south.

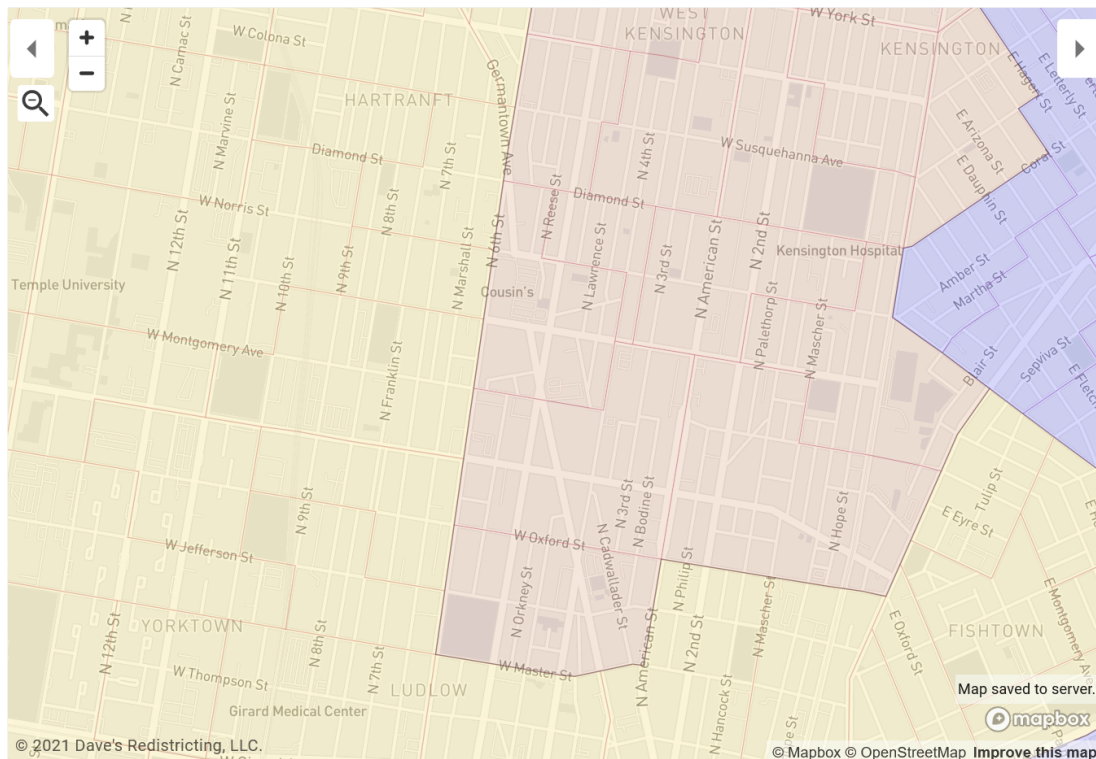




## Eastern North (District Boundaries 5 and 7)

A major boundary between the 5th and 7th Districts runs roughly two miles along 6th St from the railroad tracks at W Glenwood Ave to W Master St. No concerns were identified around most of this boundary, which keeps the commercial stretches of 5th Street within the 7th District. With regard to the larger Latino community in Eastern North Philadelphia, one stakeholder pointed to a goal of keeping the proportion of Hispanic voters in the 7th District as close to or above 55 percent to ensure continued representation in City Council; the current figure is 53.57 percent.

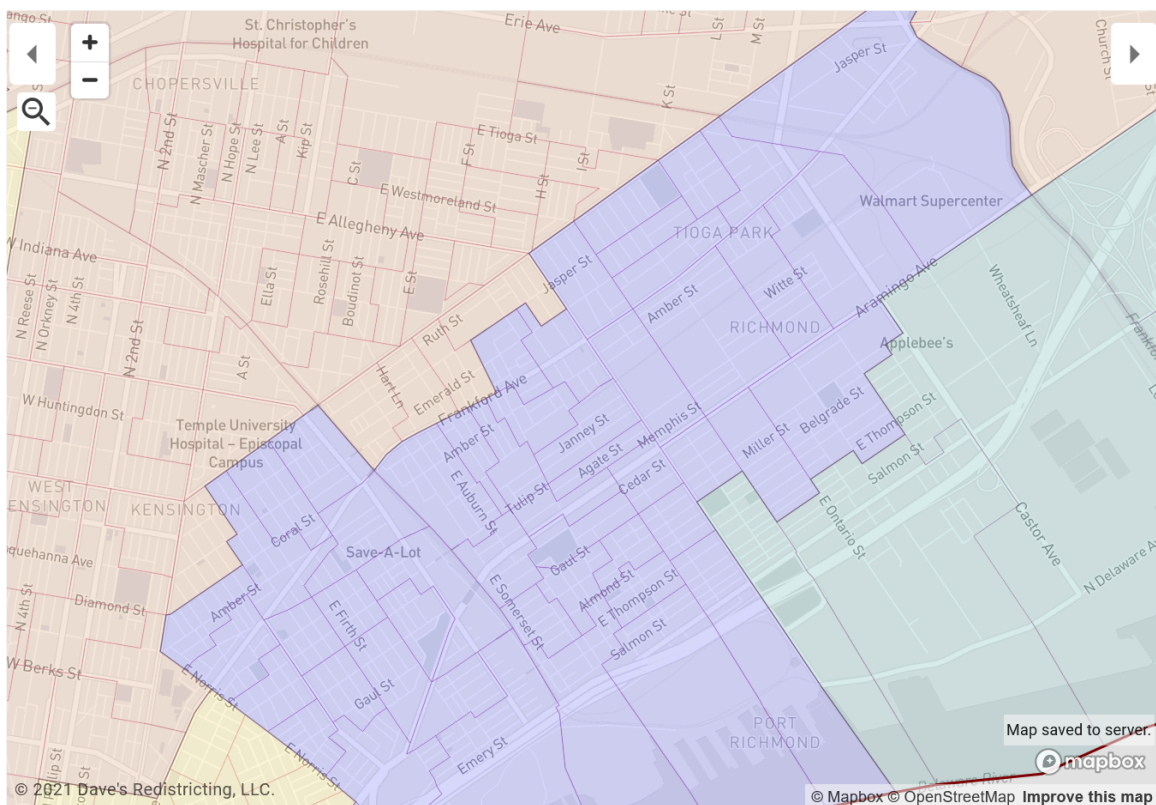
To the southern end of the 5th-7th district boundary, however, South (or Old) Kensington is currently split where the boundary reaches W Master St and extends east to N American St; the line then juts north to W Oxford St and then east to Frankford Ave. Respondents emphasized the history of the neighborhood, which is adjacent to parts of North Liberties and Fishtown that have developed rapidly in recent years. Given the current district shapes, attempting to keep South Kensington whole within the 5th District could be one possible solution, shifting the 5th-7th boundary towards Berks St. Division lines are not coterminous with Berks St, but adding three divisions (Ward 18, Div 14, 15, 16) to the 5th District would keep most of South Kensington together. A drawback of this change, however, would be having multiple district boundary lines (1st, 5th and 7th) adjacent to or dividing the community around Norris Square.



## Kensington and Port Richmond (District Boundaries 1, 6 and 7)

Kensington Avenue is a well-known boundary between the 1st and 7th Districts but jumps to Frankford Ave between E Stella St and the railroad tracks adjacent to Lehigh Ave. Several respondents suggested the most reasonable adjustment may be to shift four divisions (Ward 25, Div 14, 15, 19, 20) from the 7th to the 1st District, which would maintain Kensington Ave as a straight, 2.5-mile boundary from Frankford Creek to E Hagert St. The southern end of the Kensington Ave boundary ends at E Hagert instead of N Front St due to one division (Ward 31, Div 9) currently in the 7th District. Adding this division to the 1st District would keep more of East Kensington together.

Port Richmond is substantially split between the 1st and 6th districts, with E Allegheny Ave currently used as one portion of the boundary but multiple residential blocks creating an unintuitive line from Allegheny Ave to Castor Ave. Extending the 6th District south to E Somerset St would keep more of Port Richmond together, but division shapes create complications for an intuitive 1st-6th boundary nearby or on Aramingo Ave. Several respondents remarked on the shared issues faced by the entire area south of Frankford Creek and Kensington Ave (e.g. opioid use, housing and gentrification), even with widely varying demographics, and the difficulty in being represented by multiple elected officials.

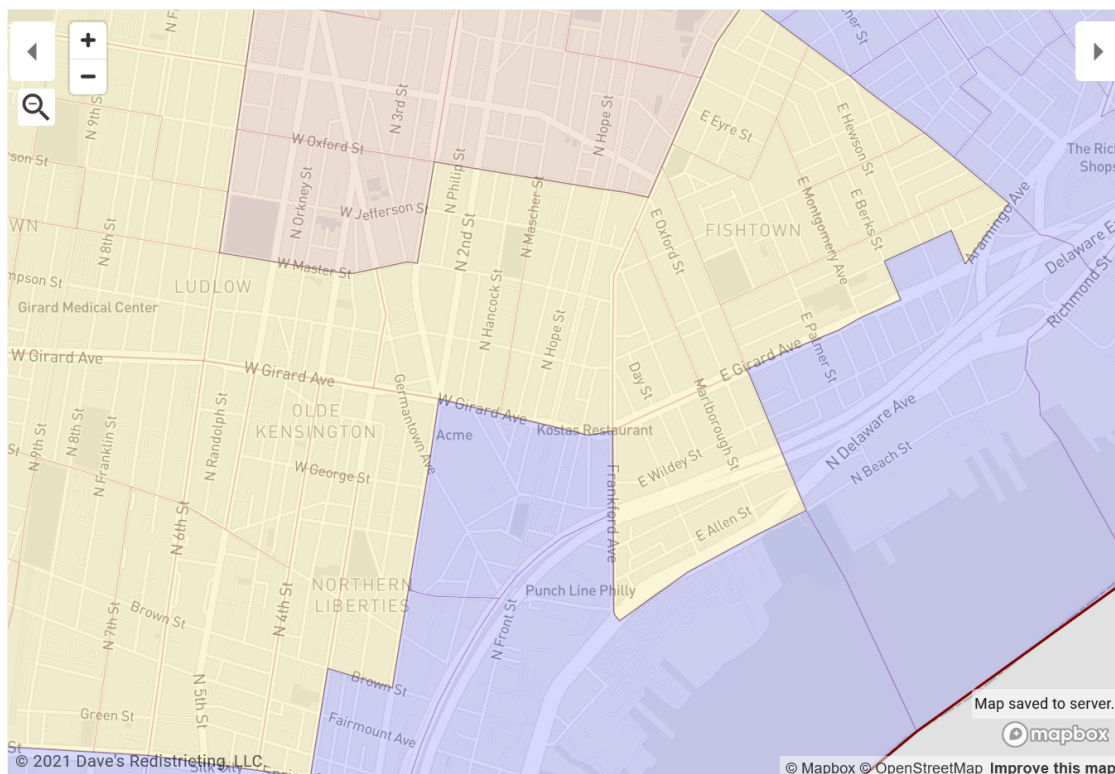


## Northern Liberties and Fishtown (District Boundaries 1 and 5)

The neighborhoods of Northern Liberties and Fishtown are each divided between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Districts. Respondents from Northern Liberties stressed that the split is challenging not only because of the interactions with two Council offices but also because of the boundary between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Police Districts, which runs along Poplar St. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Street business corridor is also split from Brown St to Girard Ave.

There was a clear consensus among Northern Liberties respondents to keep the neighborhood whole within the 1<sup>st</sup> District, which would require shifting from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> District five divisions south of Girard Ave and east of 6<sup>th</sup> St (Ward 5, Div 15, 17, 20, 23, 32). One respondent observed that making Northern Liberties whole within the 5<sup>th</sup> District would be a far more significant change in the map, compelling numerous other shifts in boundaries that would affect other communities.

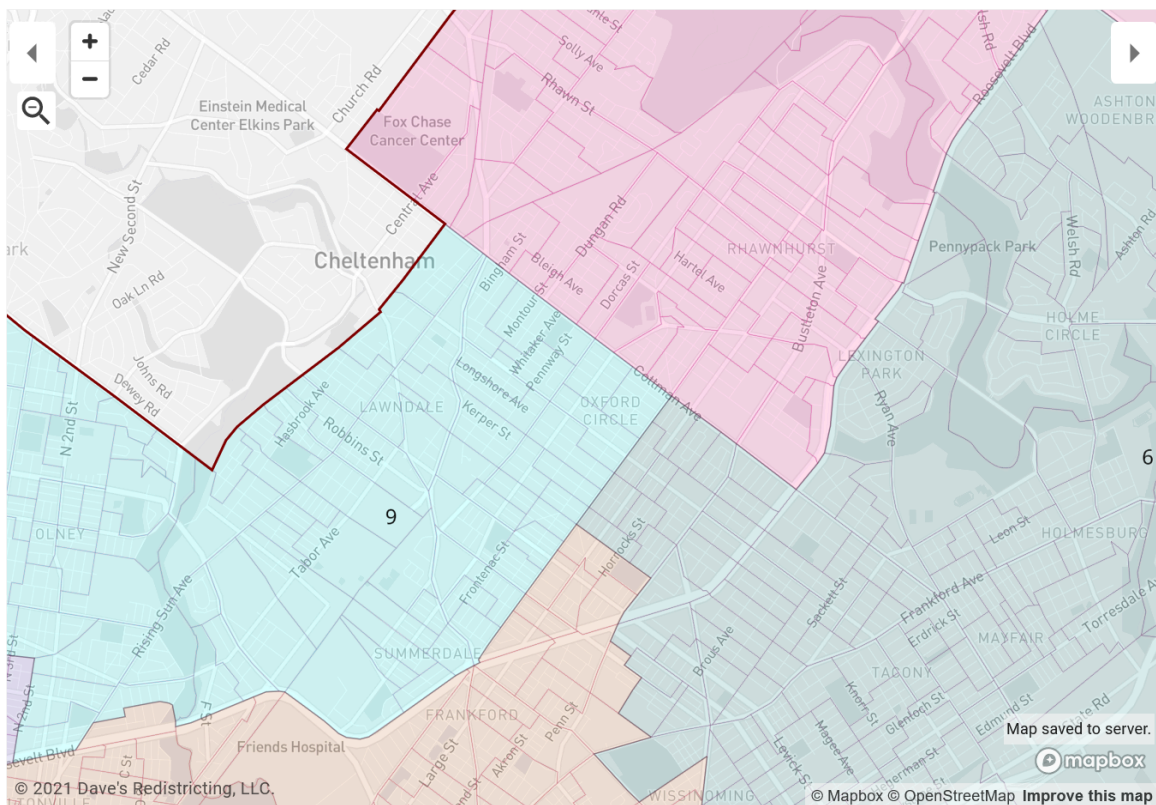
Most of Fishtown could also be made whole and would require shifting seven divisions from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 1<sup>st</sup> District (Ward 18, Div 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 19), making Frankford Ave a new boundary between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> from Girard Ave to Norris St. To the extent that Front St is seen as a boundary between Fishtown and South Kensington, division lines preclude using Front St as a district boundary.





## Near Northeast (District Boundaries 6, 7, 9 and 10)

Parts of the Near Northeast are currently split between several districts on both sides of Roosevelt Blvd but predominantly along the Castor Ave business corridor from Oxford Circle through Cottman Ave. Multiple concerns were raised around the current intersection of the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Districts along Castor Ave, which respondents indicated creates challenges for both businesses and residents along the corridor and in the Oxford Circle neighborhood. In addition to the challenge of engaging with multiple Council offices on any given issue, advocating around development was seen as increasingly difficult between these offices and with a proliferation of Registered Community Organizations.



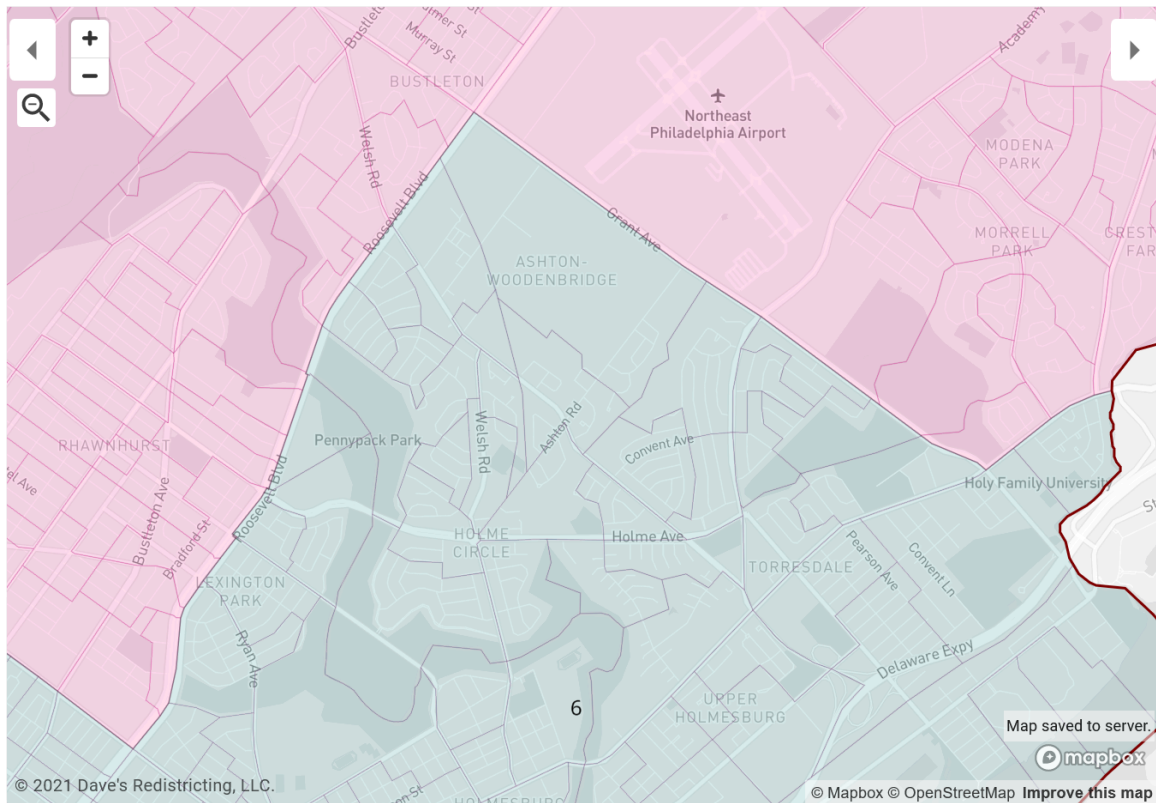
Many respondents noted the growing diversity in the Near Northeast, with fast-growing AAPI and Latino communities. The number of Chinese residents and businesses, for example, is growing in Oxford Circle but also across Roosevelt Blvd in Mayfair and north of Cottman Ave in Rhawnhurst. The large and diverse student body of Northeast High School, notably, draws from the communities on both sides of Cottman Ave.

Several recommendations were heard for the area, including an expansion of the 9<sup>th</sup> District from Castor Ave to Roosevelt Blvd to include all of Oxford Circle. Another was to shift the 10<sup>th</sup>

District boundary from Cottman Ave to Rhawnhurst St, intended to include together the increasingly diverse communities on both sides of Cottman and around Northeast High School. (With regard to voting division shapes, Rhawnhurst is also the next major road up from Cottman along which a boundary could be drawn with division lines.) One community organization that endorsed both changes cited the need to “keep neighborhoods together to protect racial, ethnic and large groups” and “advocate for the type of development that is appropriate for our community.”

## Far Northeast (District Boundaries 6 and 10)

The Far Northeast is divided between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Districts, with nearly all of the boundary running along Roosevelt Blvd and Grant Ave. Although the neighborhoods on both sides of these major roads are similar, no concerns regarding split communities were identified and respondents in both the 6th and 10th believed the current lines appropriate. One respondent observed that much of the adjacent property to Roosevelt and Grant is commercial, which may make these roads more intuitive as district boundaries. A similar observation was made about the corner of the 6th-10th district boundary by Northeast Philadelphia Airport and along Grant Ave. The only exception to this stretch of Grant Ave as a boundary begins at Frankford Ave, where the boundary turns north to keep Holy Family University in the 6th District.





## Appendix A: Survey on Public Input for City Council Redistricting

### 1. Use your voice to shape the new City Council districts

Philadelphia has 10 City Council districts that must be redrawn when new population data becomes available from the Census every 10 years. Their shape can determine who has a voice in the political process, including who can run and win public office. The districts can also directly impact how you are represented in government and how a range of important issues are addressed, from public safety and schools to land sales and zoning. Communities that are split between districts, for example, have their voice and power diluted. **This is our opportunity to keep communities together during this redistricting process. Learn more at:**

[www.seventy.org/drawphilly](http://www.seventy.org/drawphilly)

Complete this survey to share what matters to you in the Council redistricting process. Responses will be anonymized and shared with City Council for their consideration as they draw new districts.

Thank you for taking the time to use your voice in the redistricting process!

1. What is your ZIP/postal code?
2. Organization or group you represent (if applicable)
3. Have you ever been involved in giving input to a redistricting process before?
  - Yes
  - No
  - I don't know or remember

### 2. What does your community look like?

Think about whether, in the part of the city where you live, there is a shared sense of community or neighborhood. Sometimes there may be a well-known name for your community, neighborhood or area; sometimes not. In describing boundaries, consider naming streets, natural boundaries like rivers or parks, landmarks, etc.

Explaining both *what* the boundaries are and *why* those are the boundaries is valuable information for someone drawing political districts.

4. If you were to **identify the boundaries of your community, neighborhood and/or part of the city**, what would they be? **Why?**

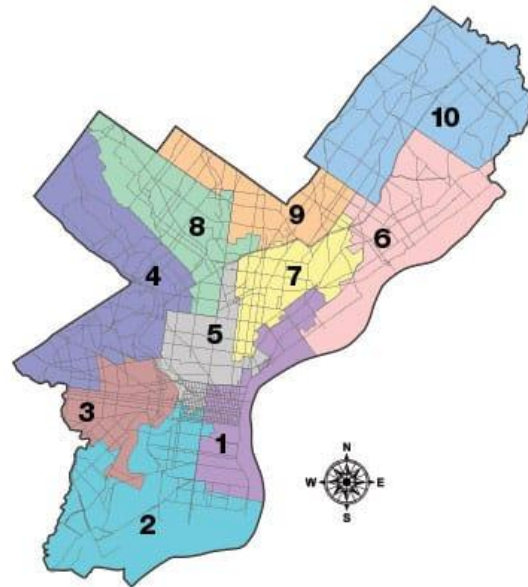
HINT: Think about important or noteworthy places (commercial areas or business corridors, rec centers or parks, schools, major employers, or schools, etc.), or what a

community meeting may be about (development proposal or housing, public safety, drug use, transportation, etc.

### 3. How should the current districts change?

The next two questions ask about the boundaries of your current council district. To find and view a map of your current district, [input your address in this tool](#) and click on your DISTRICT council member (1-10) in the list of LOCAL elected officials. (Your survey response will remain anonymous if you use this tool. Map may be difficult to view on a phone.)

If you already know which district you live in, click on your district number below to view a map:



**District 1:** Includes all or parts of South Philadelphia and Center City, Chinatown, Northern Liberties, Fishtown, Kensington and Port Richmond. **Councilmember Mark Squilla** currently represents the **1st District**.

**District 2:** Includes all or parts of Eastwick, Penrose, Elmwood, Paschall, Grays Ferry, Point Breeze, Graduate Hospital, Girard Estates, the stadium district, the Navy Yard, and the Philadelphia International Airport. **Councilmember Kenya Johnson** currently represents the **2nd District**.

**District 3:** Includes all or parts of University City, Powelton, Mantua, Belmont, Parkside, Mill Creek, Cobbs Creek, Kingsessing, Cedar Park, Walnut Hill, and Spruce Hill and Bartram Village. **Councilmember Jaime Gauthier** currently represents the **3rd District**.

**District 4:** Includes all or parts of Allegheny West, Belmont Village, East Falls, Manayunk, Overbrook, Roxborough, and Wynnefield. **Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr.** currently represents the **4th District**.

**District 5:** Includes all or parts of Strawberry Mansion, Hunting Park, Ludlow, Yorktown, West Poplar, Fairhill, Brewerytown, Francisville, Spring Garden, Fairmount, Logan Square,

Northwood, Fishtown, Northern Liberties, and Center City. **Councilmember Darrell Clarke** currently represents the **5th District**.

**District 6:** Includes all or parts of Tacony, Mayfair, Holmesburg, Holme Circle, Ashton, Bridesburg, Wissinoming, Port Richmond, Torresdale, Oxford Circle, Rhawnhurst, Bells Corner, Winchester Park, Pennypack and Frankford. **Councilmember Bobby Henon** currently represents the **6th District**.

**District 7:** Includes all or parts of Hunting Park, Feltonville, Juniata Park, Northwood, Frankford, Kensington, and Fairhill. **Councilmember Maria Quiñones-Sánchez** currently represents the **7th District**.

**District 8:** Includes all or parts of Germantown, Logan, Ogontz, Tioga, Nicetown, Glenwood, Mt. Airy, and Chestnut Hill. **Councilmember Cindy Bass** currently represents the **8th District**.

**District 9:** Includes all or parts of East Mt. Airy, West Oak Lane, East Oak Lane, Olney, Lawncrest, Lawndale, Burholme and Oxford Circle. **Councilmember Cherelle Parker** currently represents the **9th District**.

**District 10:** Includes all or parts of Foxchase, Rhawnhurst, Bustleton, Somerton, Parkwood, Millbrook, Normandy, Morrell Park and the Northeast Philadelphia Airport. **Councilmember Brian O'Neill** currently represents the **10th District**.

5. Which council district do you live in?
6. What **changes to your current district boundaries**, if any, would you recommend to City Council? **Why?**

HINT: Describe and explain like you might in testimony, speaking directly to City Council, and make a compelling case about how the districts should shift (or not) in your area.

7. **Is there anything else** you would like to share about how City Council districts should be drawn?

## Appendix B: Redistricting Roadmap

### Philadelphia City Council Redistricting Roadmap for an Open, Accessible and Inclusive Process

Philadelphia took a significant step forward in the 2011 redistricting cycle when several of the most gerrymandered districts in the country were finally addressed. This was due, in no small part, to substantial advocacy both in the communities negatively affected and by champions within City Hall of a more fair map that strove for equitable representation.

We have yet to install permanent reforms in the Home Rule Charter that would guarantee boundaries drawn to prioritize community objectives and that would limit the risk of political manipulation. Given that the current cycle is underway, this matter should be addressed later. But with new U.S. Census Bureau data indicating Philadelphia has continued to grow from new residents—not only from across the country but from around the world—it remains imperative that residents have a meaningful opportunity to shape the districts in which they will be represented.

**The following roadmap details the steps we ask that Philadelphia City Council follow to elevate community voices and ensure an open, accessible and inclusive redistricting process.**

These steps were developed based on our extensive experience in supporting and working within our diverse communities, and the specific challenges and opportunities of involving the public in the redistricting process.

#### 1) Prepare to collect and use public input

Philadelphia City Council should create an online portal similar to the Budget Center on [phlcouncil.com](http://phlcouncil.com) that includes the following:

- **A summary overview**, including a basic description of the redistricting process, how city residents can participate, and how their feedback will be considered and incorporated.
- **A schedule of public hearings**, both before and after the release of a preliminary mapping plan.
- **A submission form** to collect public input, including an ability to accept resident-drawn maps with accompanying map narratives or supporting explanations. Instructive feedback from residents to gather early in the process would include: **a)** factors or issues that matter most in redistricting (e.g., neighborhoods, schools, police districts, rivers, parks, major roads or other well-recognized boundaries); and **b)** feedback on the current council map and individual district boundaries.
- **The datasets and software** used by City Council to conduct its map-making.

- **Accessibility:** Provision of resources and information translated into at least Spanish (currently required for elections by the Voting Rights Act) and Chinese (which may soon be covered under federal law). Other language interpretation and translation, including ASL, should be covered to the greatest extent possible, especially for public hearings in areas with larger limited-English-proficient populations. The Citizens for Language Access Coalition highlights the following commonly-spoken languages: Vietnamese, Arabic, Haitian, French, Russian and Korean.

## **2) Count incarcerated Philadelphians at their home address**

The Legislative Reapportionment Commission voted on August 24 to reallocate Census data for most prisoners in state facilities so that those individuals, for the purposes of state legislative redistricting, would be counted at their last home address instead of at the state correctional facility where they are being housed. City Council should use this same prisoner-adjusted data to ensure that as many Philadelphians as possible are counted—and represented—in their home communities instead of a distant part of the state. City Council and the administration should also explore the feasibility of a similar reallocation for the approximately 4,000 Philadelphians who were being held in the city's State Road facilities during the 2020 Census.

## **3) Collect and analyze initial public input**

Through a combination of public hearings (virtual and/or in-person, depending on health risks) and resident submissions received through a new portal on [phlcouncil.com](http://phlcouncil.com), gather input from communities and stakeholders across the city. Holding an extensive series of district-specific or regional hearings, *both before* a preliminary map is released *and after* would set a high bar for redistricting-related hearing schedules anywhere in the country. Opportunities for Council members to hear directly from residents, ask questions, and comment during community discussions are critical. In addition to hearing from residents specifically about how lines should be adjusted or changed, public input should also inform the priorities or objectives of map-drawers, which should be explicitly stated and broadly understood (e.g., keeping neighborhoods together, protecting racial, ethnic or language groups, not splitting commercial corridors or school catchment areas).

To best prepare the public to participate, background information on the redistricting process, including the shapes of the current districts and options to submit feedback online, should be distributed widely ahead of time. Public hearing participants can be advised that the most instructive feedback for City Council will focus on specific features of the current map, how they would adjust certain boundaries and why.

#### **4) Release a preliminary map for public feedback**

The availability of a preliminary or draft mapping plan for the public to review is one of the most important steps of the process. With actual lines to examine, the specificity of feedback from residents and stakeholders will increase substantially as they can more readily identify potential issues with the proposed district boundaries in their area, while also affirming boundaries that make sense to them. If necessary, up to three such preliminary plans could be shared for public review, creating a degree of choice both for city residents and Council members. Replicating the constitutional timeline used by the Legislative Reapportionment Commission (30 days for review before a preliminary map is advanced) would provide a sufficient opportunity for residents and communities to share feedback.

#### **5) Publish a final map and narrative that tells its story**

Both the preliminary map(s) and the final approved mapping plan should be accompanied by a narrative that “tells the story of the map.” This narrative or supporting explanation should provide a description of each of the 10 districts, the process conducted to create those districts, how City Council incorporated feedback from the public, and how the map(s) accomplish the stated priorities or objectives.

#### **6) Commit to permanent reforms for 2031**

The status quo process for redrawing council districts has remained unchanged since it was adopted with the Home Rule Charter in 1951. To guarantee future redistricting cycles are open, accessible and inclusive, City Council should create an advisory committee led by residents to develop potential reforms, including an independent commission, to be codified in the Charter ahead of the 2030 Census.

###

With close collaboration among City Council members, civic and community groups, and residents and stakeholders across the city, we are confident **Philadelphia can set a new and higher standard for local government in working towards a mapping plan that prioritizes community voice, ensures equitable representation and garners public trust.**

The organizations below support this Redistricting Roadmap and urge City Council to follow these steps throughout the map-making process.

#### **As of January 5, 2022:**

100 Black Men of Philadelphia

35th District Town Watch

5th Square

African-Caribbean-Afro-Latino Descent PAC

Allegheny West Civic Association

Amistad Law Project

Asian American Legal Defense and

Education Fund



Asian Americans United  
 Awbury Arboretum Neighbors  
 Azavea  
 Beech Community Services  
 Bella Vista Neighbors Association  
 Better Civics  
 Block Captains Committee of Nicetown  
 Called To Serve CDC  
 Callowhill Neighborhood Association  
 Casa Dominicana  
 Cathedral Park CDC  
 Ceiba  
 Center for Leadership, Development and  
 Advocacy  
 Center City Organized for Responsible  
 Development  
 Center City Residents Association  
 Citizens Congress of Nicetown Organizations  
 Coalition of African Communities  
 Committee of Seventy  
 Community on the Rise  
 Congreso de Latinos Unidos  
 Fair Districts Philadelphia  
 Fishtown Neighbors Association  
 Franklin Bridge North Neighbors  
 Friends of Penrose  
 Hawthorne Empowerment Coalition  
 HMC Squared Community Association  
 Hestonville CDC  
 Hunting Park United  
 Japanese American Citizens  
 League-Philadelphia Chapter  
 Kingsessing Area Civic Association  
 Korean American Association of Greater  
 Philadelphia

Institute of Development and African  
 American Youth  
 Latino Lines  
 League of Women Voters of Philadelphia  
 Liberty City LGBT+ Democratic Club  
 Logan Square Neighborhood Association  
 Lower Moyamensing Civic Association  
 Millennials in Action  
 National Puerto Rican Agenda  
 New Kensington CDC  
 Nicetown CDC  
 Nicetown-Tioga Improvement Team  
 Normandy Civic Association  
 North of Washington Avenue Coalition  
 Northeast Philadelphia Chinese Association  
 Northern Liberties Neighbors Association  
 Ones Up  
 Overbrook West Neighbors  
 PA Voice  
 PA Youth Vote  
 Passyunk Square Civic Association  
 PennFuture  
 Penn Leads the Vote  
 Philadelphia 3.0  
 Philadelphia Arab-American Development  
 Corp  
 Philadelphia Association of CDCs  
 Philadelphia Bar Association  
 Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corp  
 Philadelphia Crosstown Coalition  
 Philly Neighborhood Networks  
 Philly NOW  
 POWER  
 Public Interest Law Center  
 Reclaim Philadelphia  
 Resident Action Committee II

Rising Sons

Riverwards Area Democrats

SEAMAAC

Snyderville CDC

South Kensington Community Partners

South of South Neighborhood Association

Strategic Partners For Change Firm

Tioga United, Inc.

United Voices for Philadelphia

Urban Affairs Coalition

VietLead

West Belmont Civic Association

West Girard Progress

West Philadelphia Corridor Collaborative

West Torresdale/Morrell Park Civic  
Association

Woori Center

Wynnefield Residents Association