Demographics, the Census, and a Bit about Redistricting

Blake Esselstyn
Mapfigure Consulting

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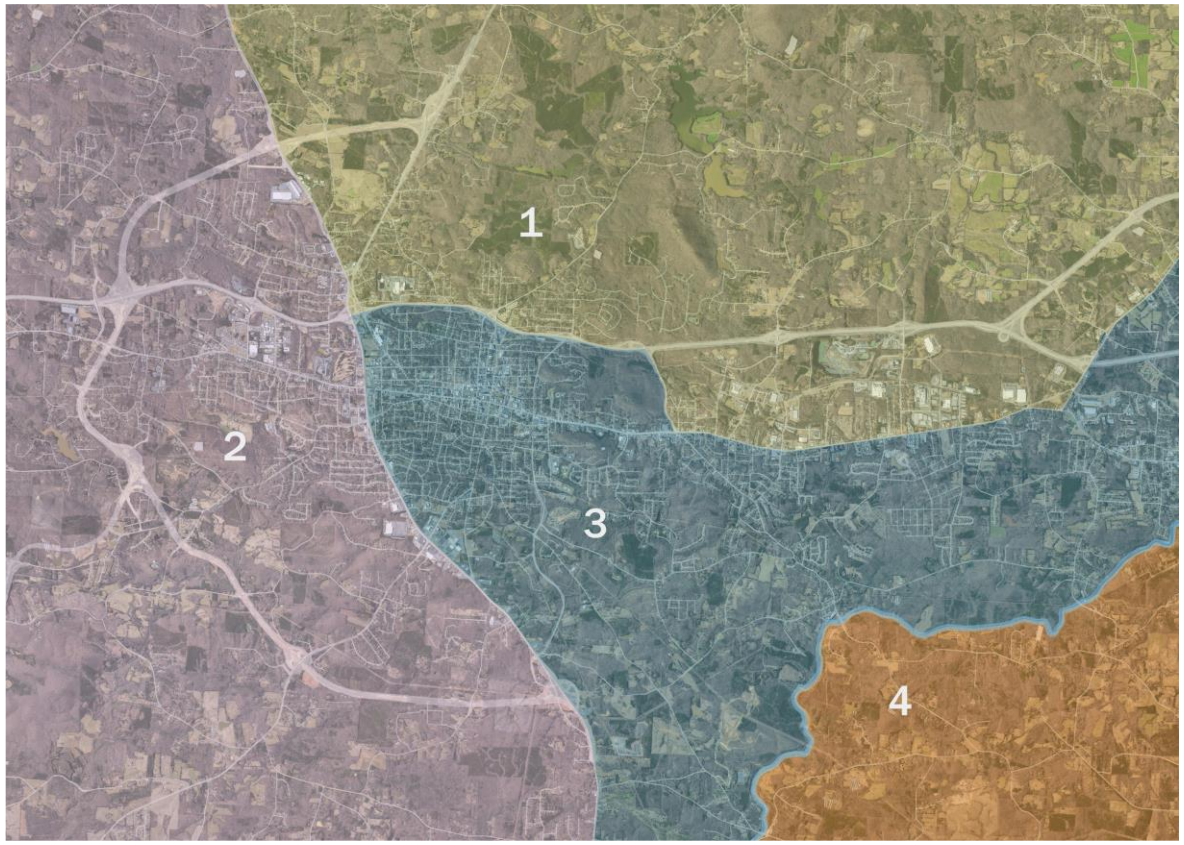
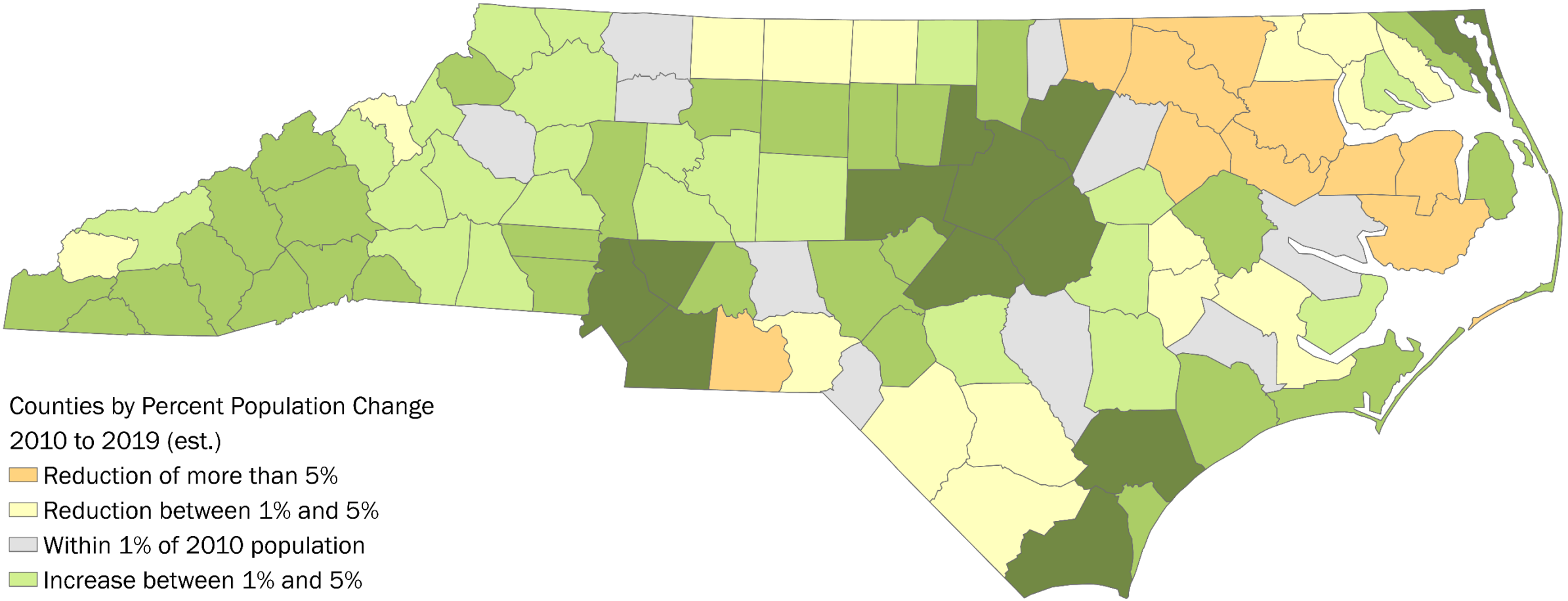
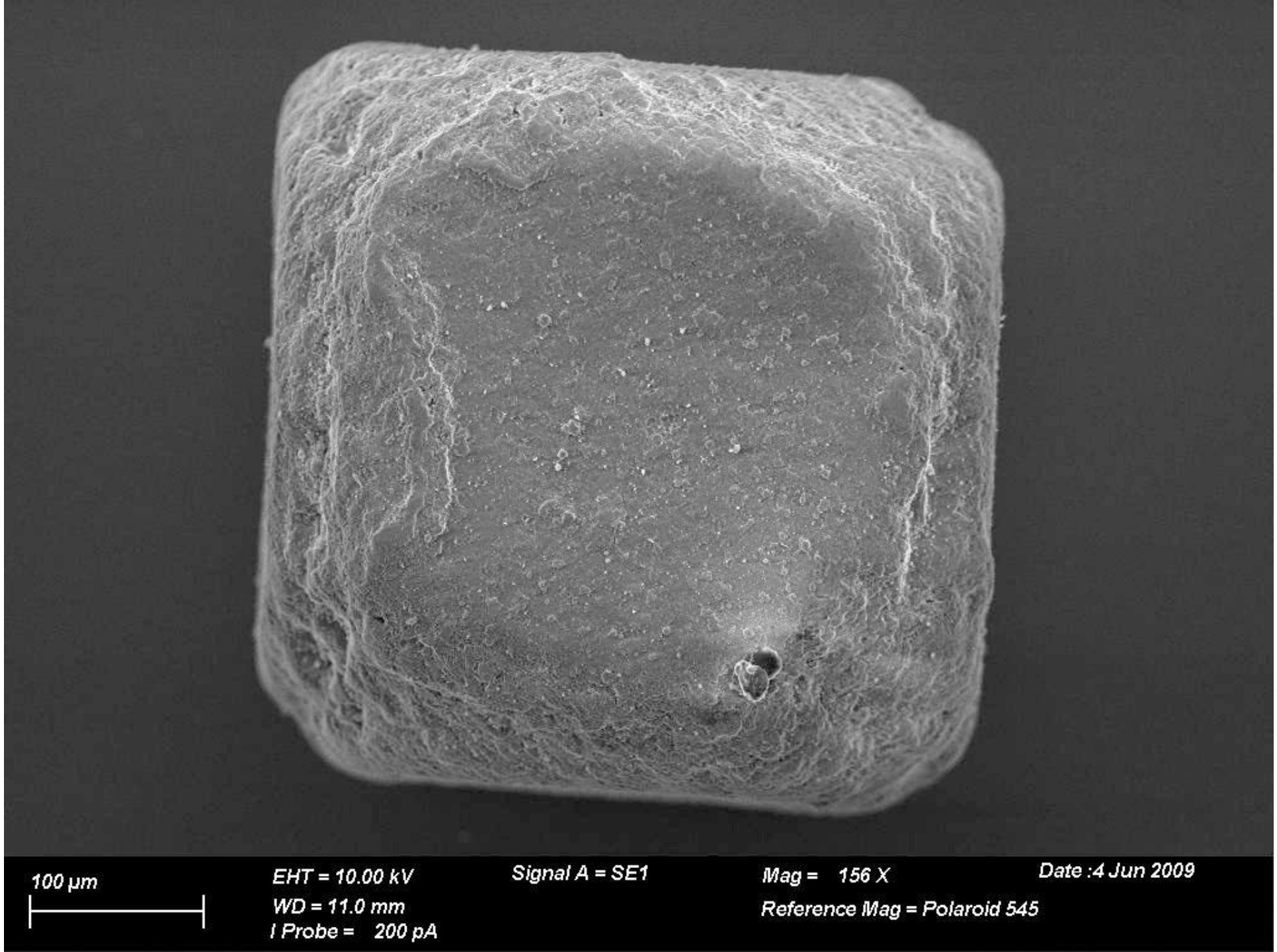
Poyner Spruill LLP



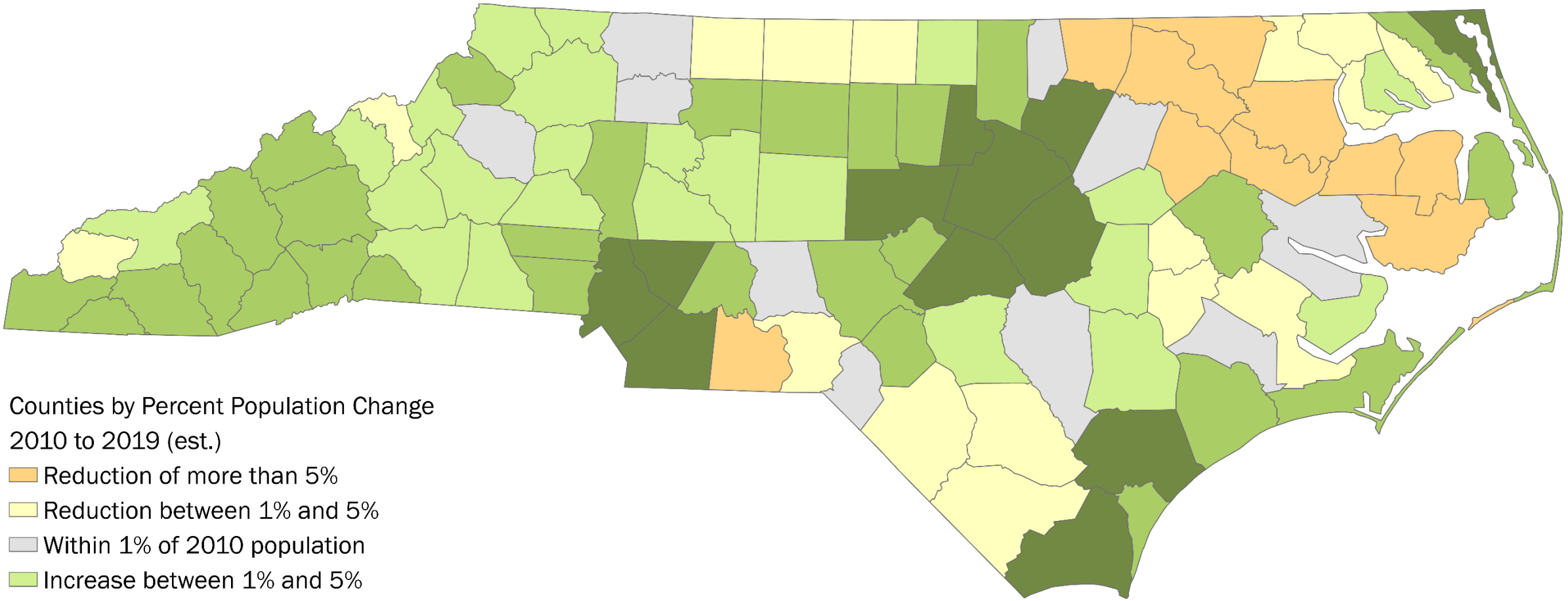
UNC School of Government
County Attorneys Conference
February 5, 2021



Source: 2010 US Census and NC OSBM 2019 County Estimates



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salt



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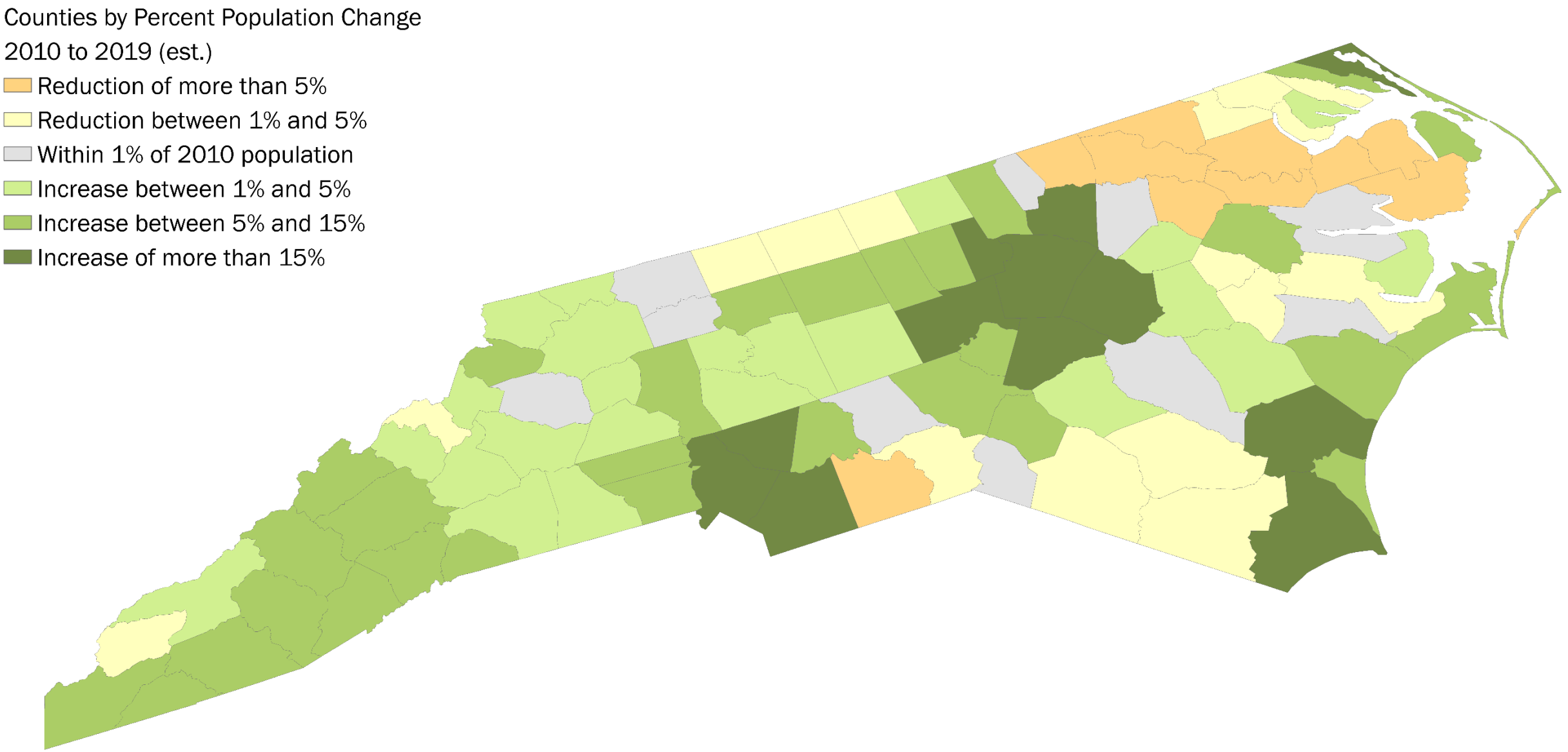

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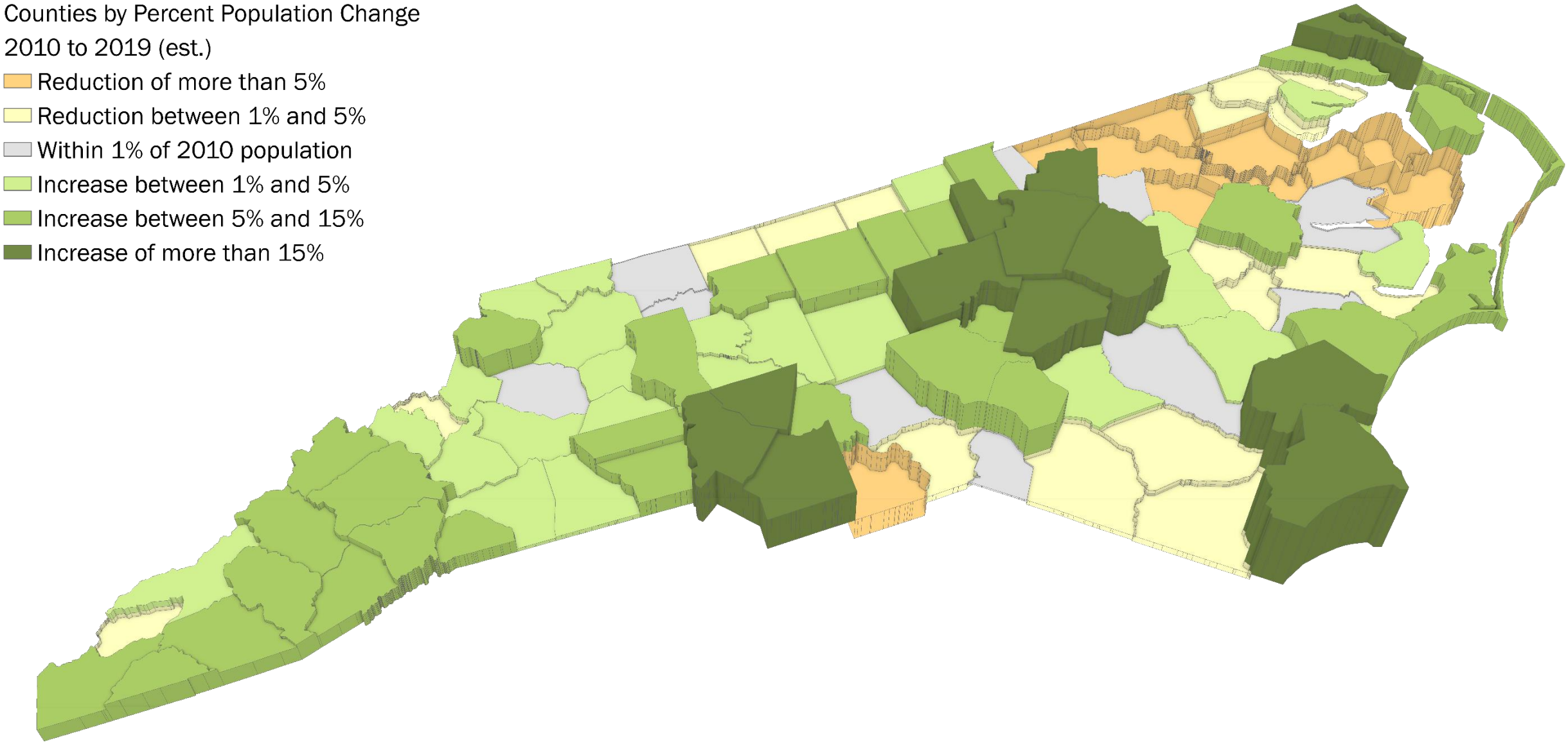

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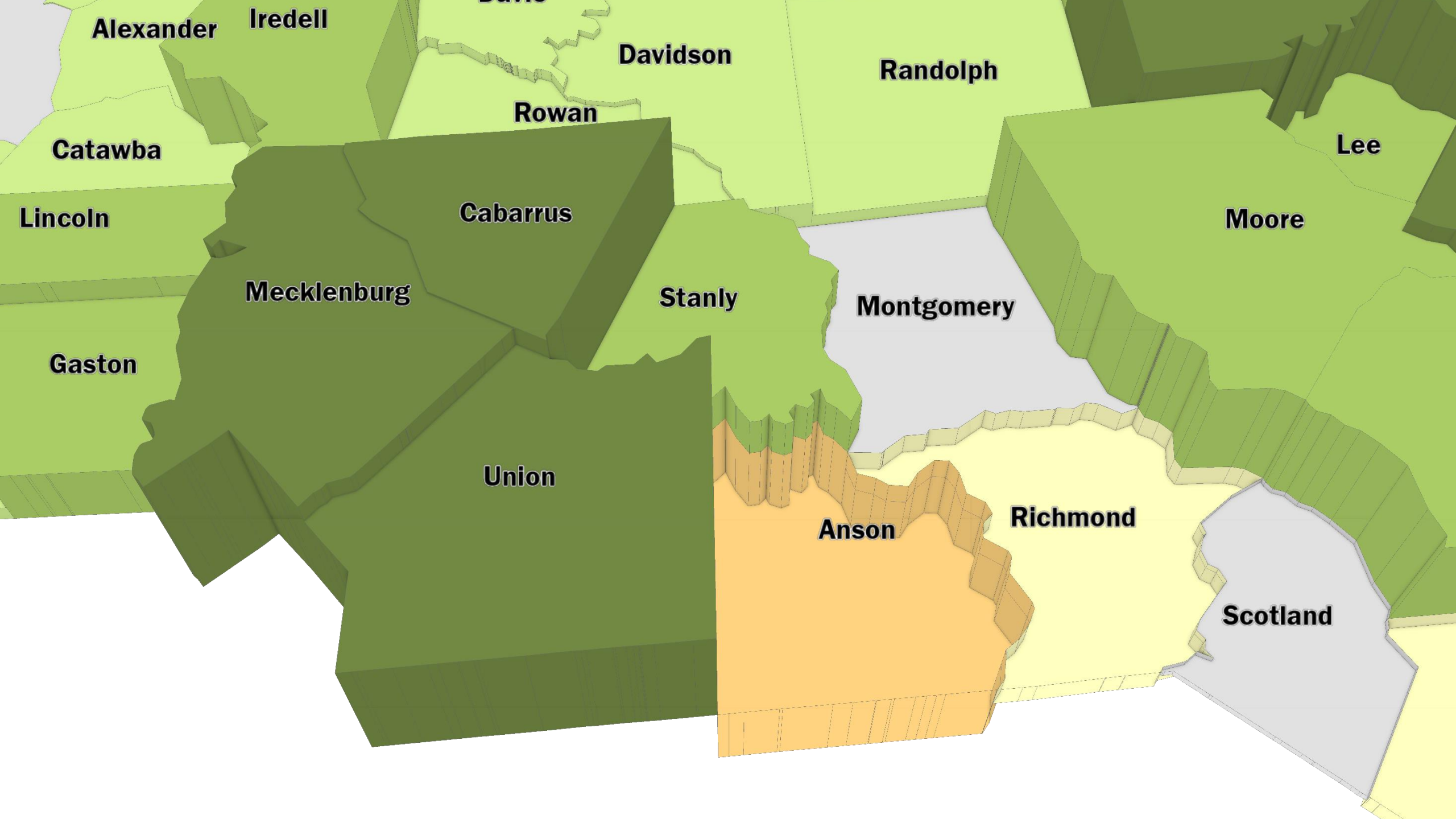
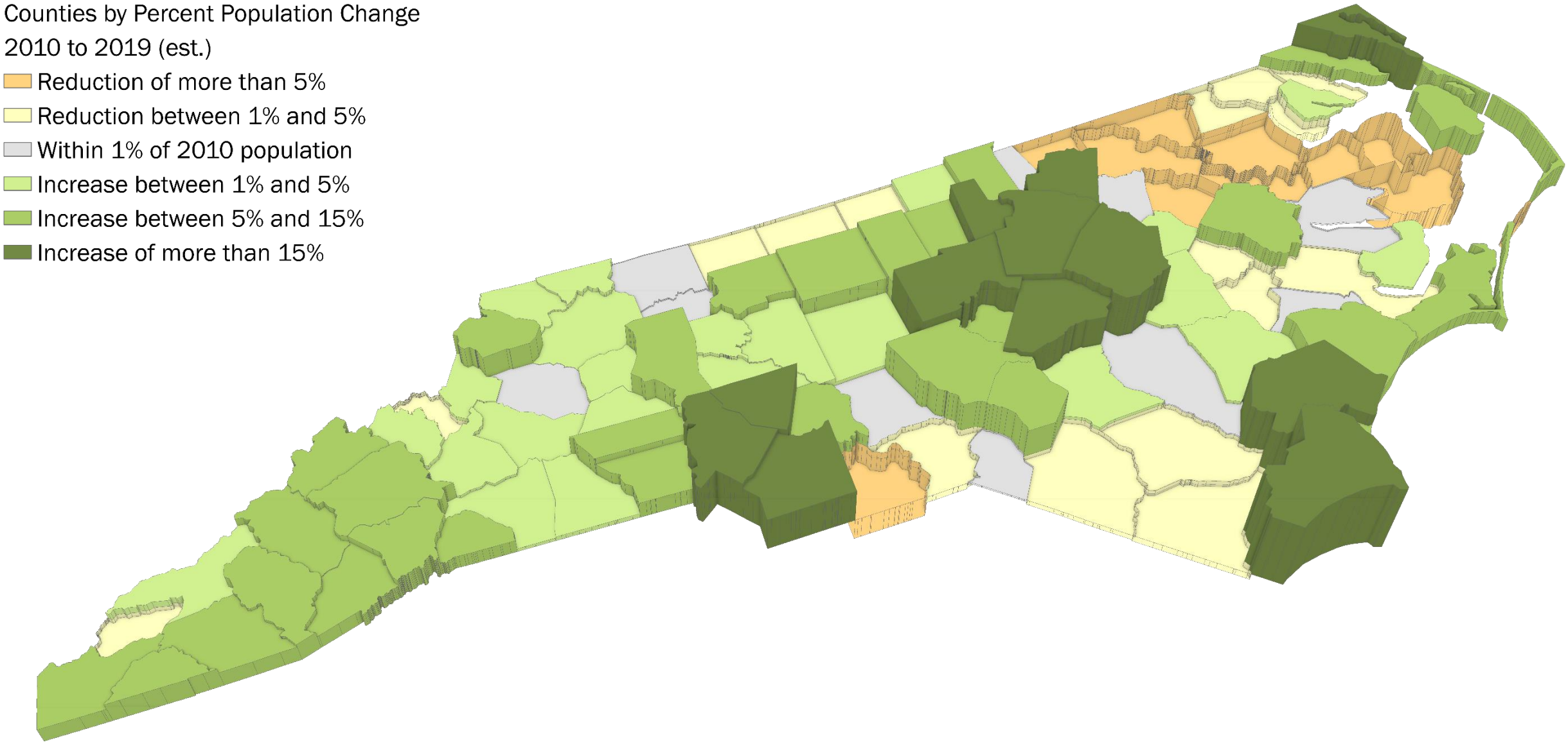

Alexander
Iredell
Davidson
Randolph
Rowan
Catawba
Lee
Lincoln
Cabarrus
Moore
Mecklenburg
Stanly
Montgomery
Gaston
Union
Anson
Richmond
Scotland



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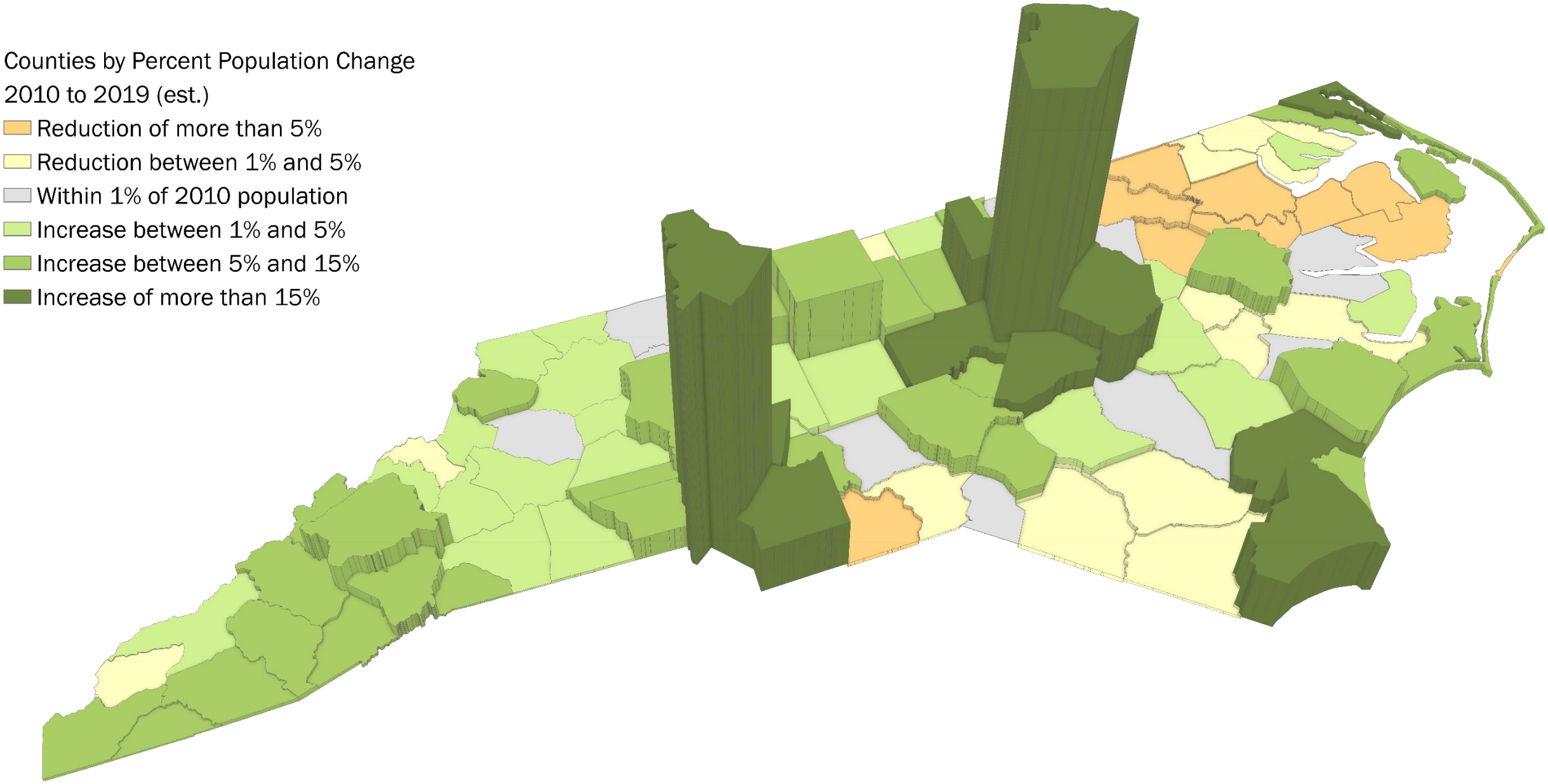

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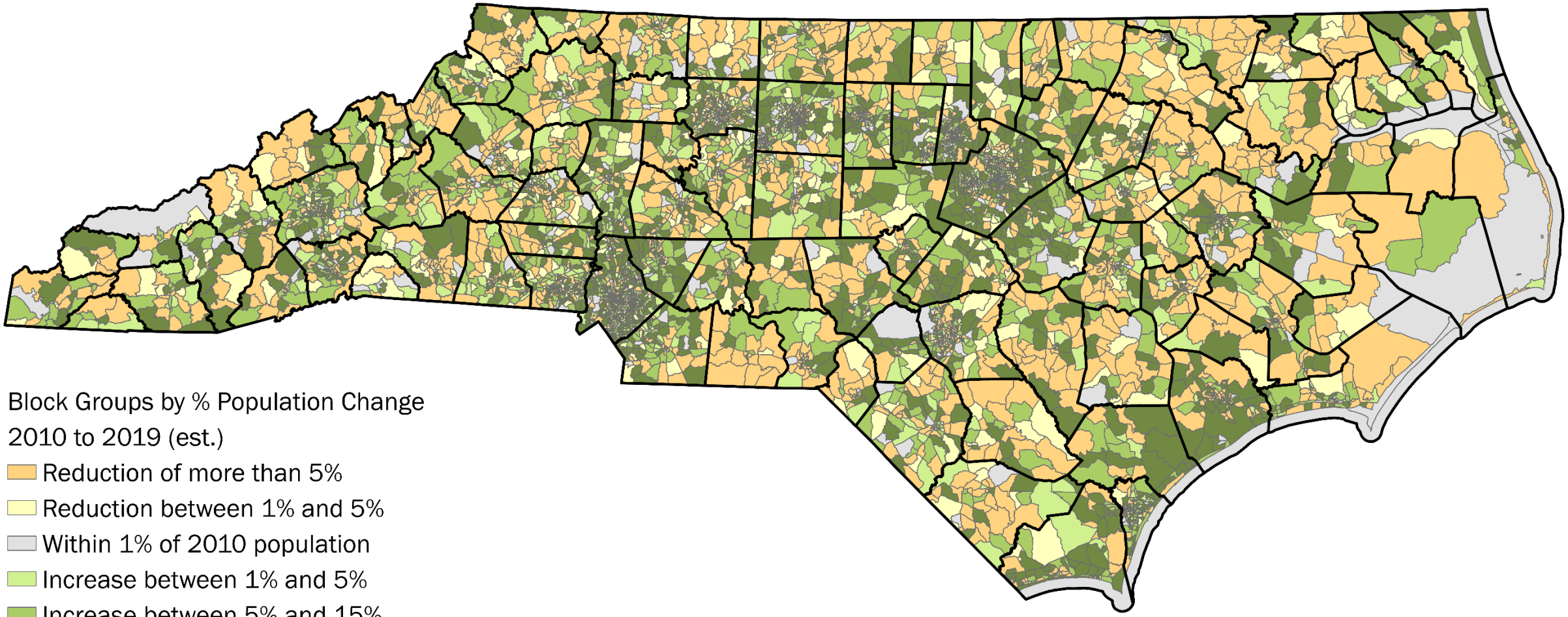
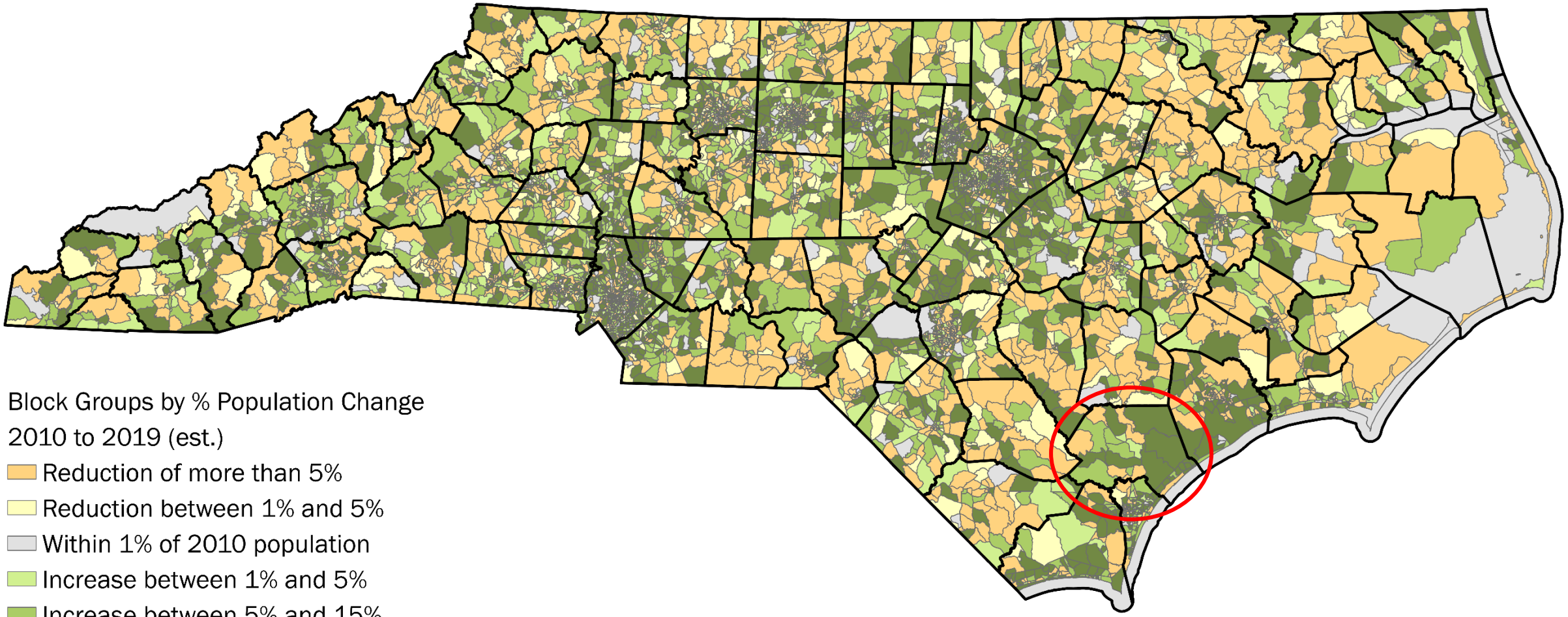


Source: 2010 US Census and ACS 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates



Source: 2010 US Census and ACS 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates

Block Groups by % Population Change
2010 to 2019 (est.)

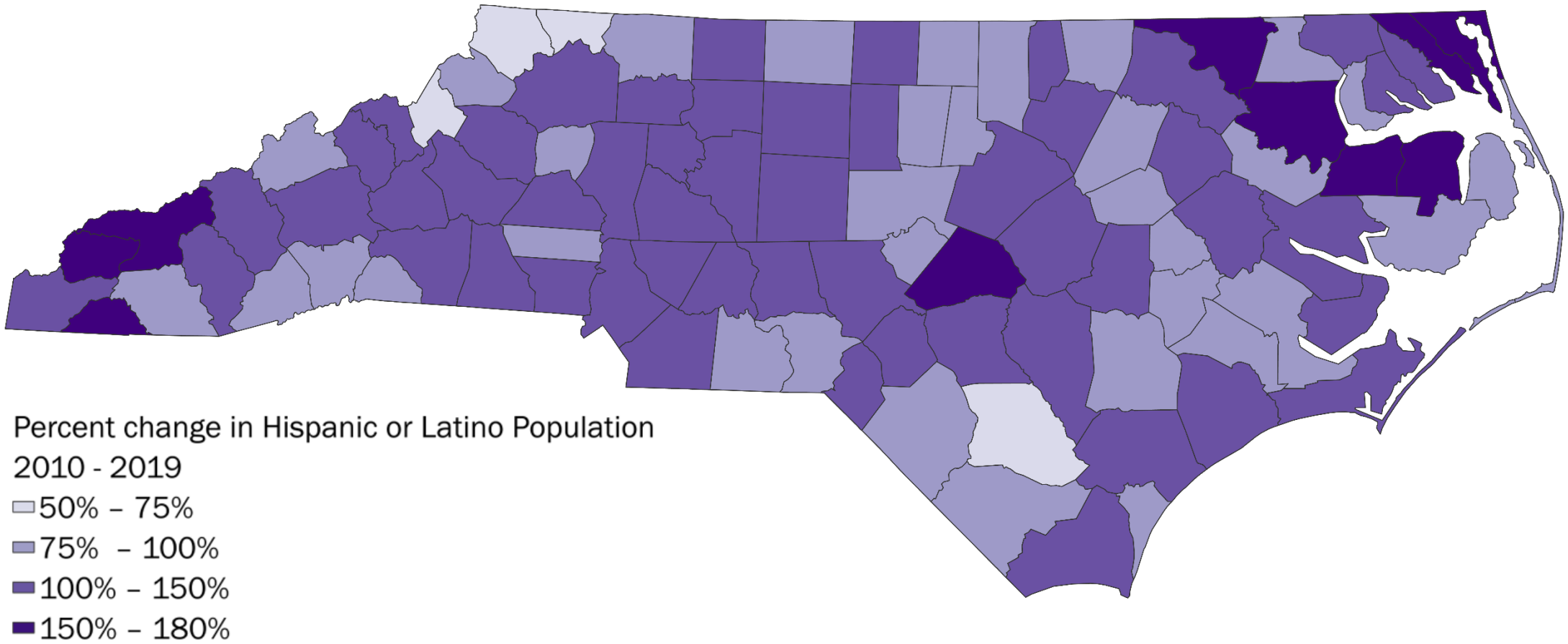
- Reduction of more than 5%
- Reduction between 1% and 5%
- Within 1% of 2010 population
- Increase between 1% and 5%
- Increase between 5% and 15%
- Increase of more than 15%

Source: 2010 US Census and ACS 2015-2019 5-Year Estimates

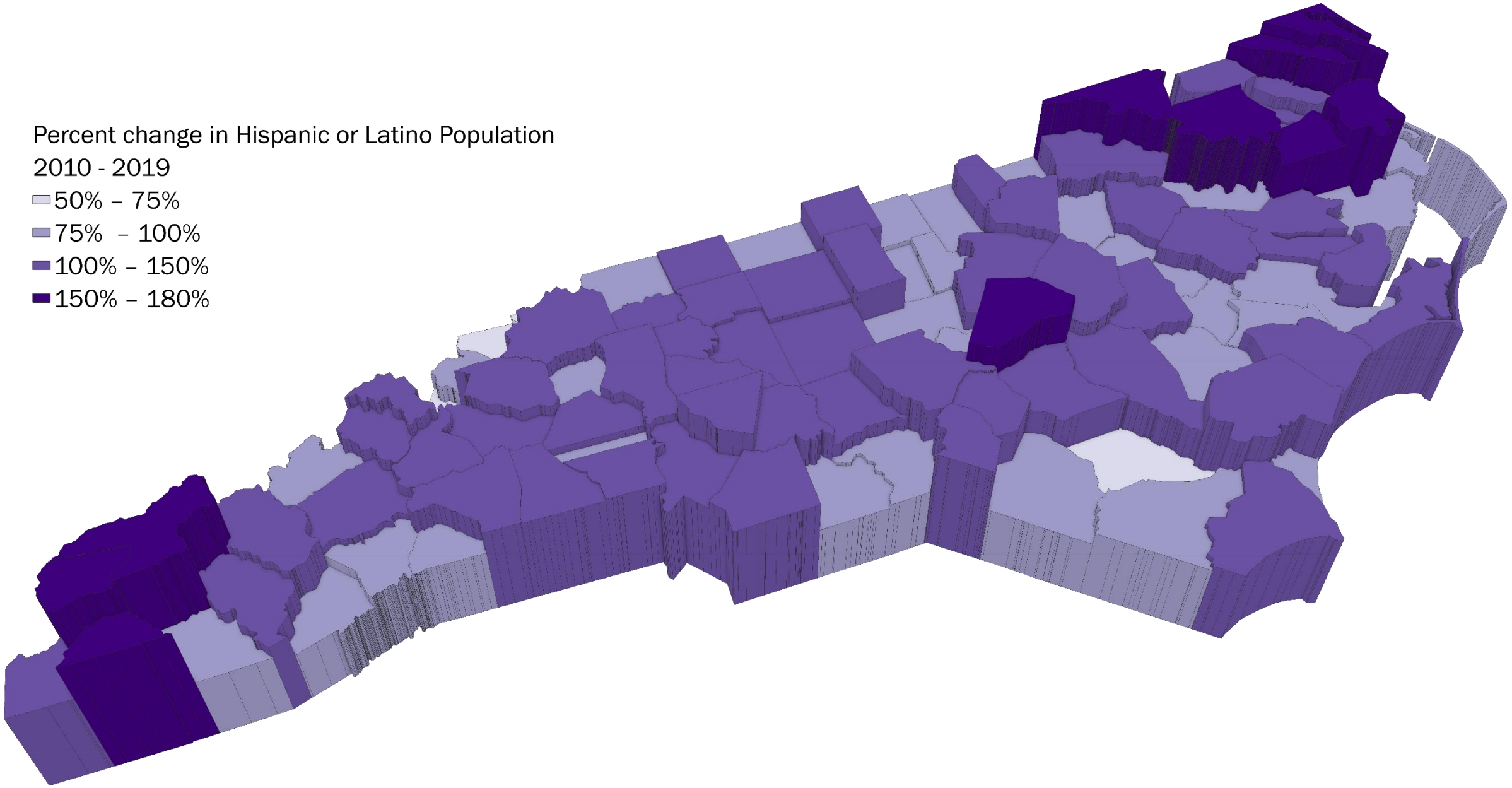
Race and Ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity

Looking especially at the county level



Source: 2010 US Census and 2019 Annual Population County Estimates



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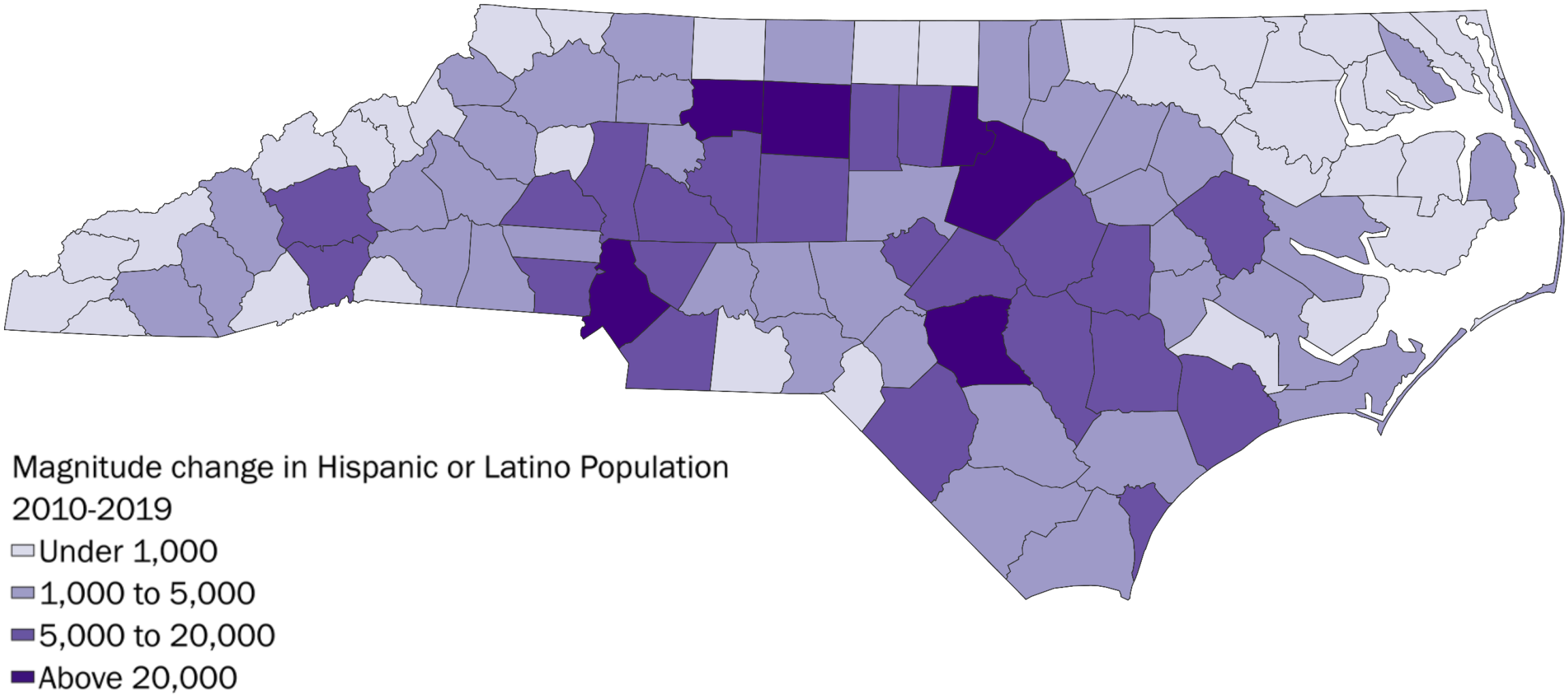

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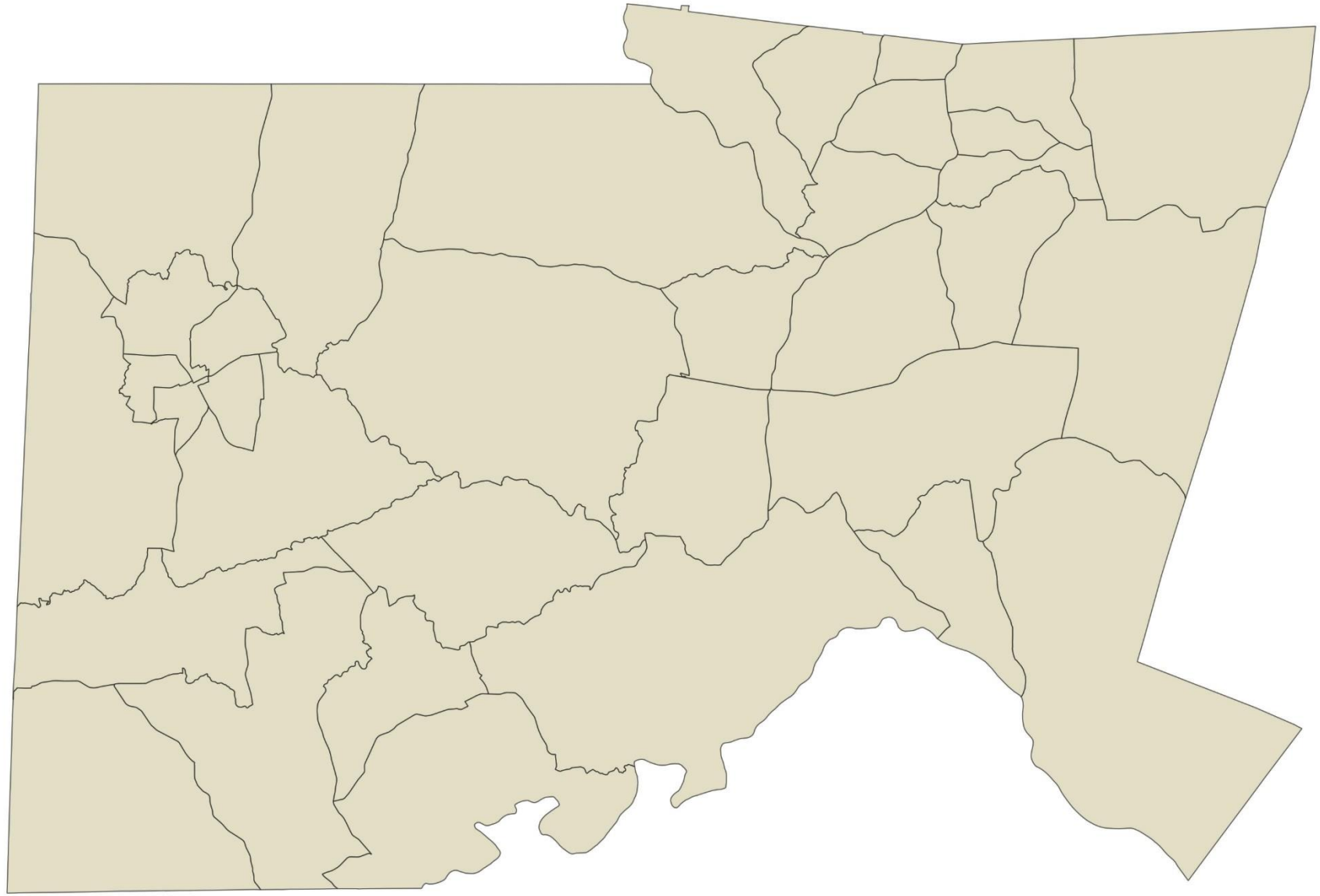

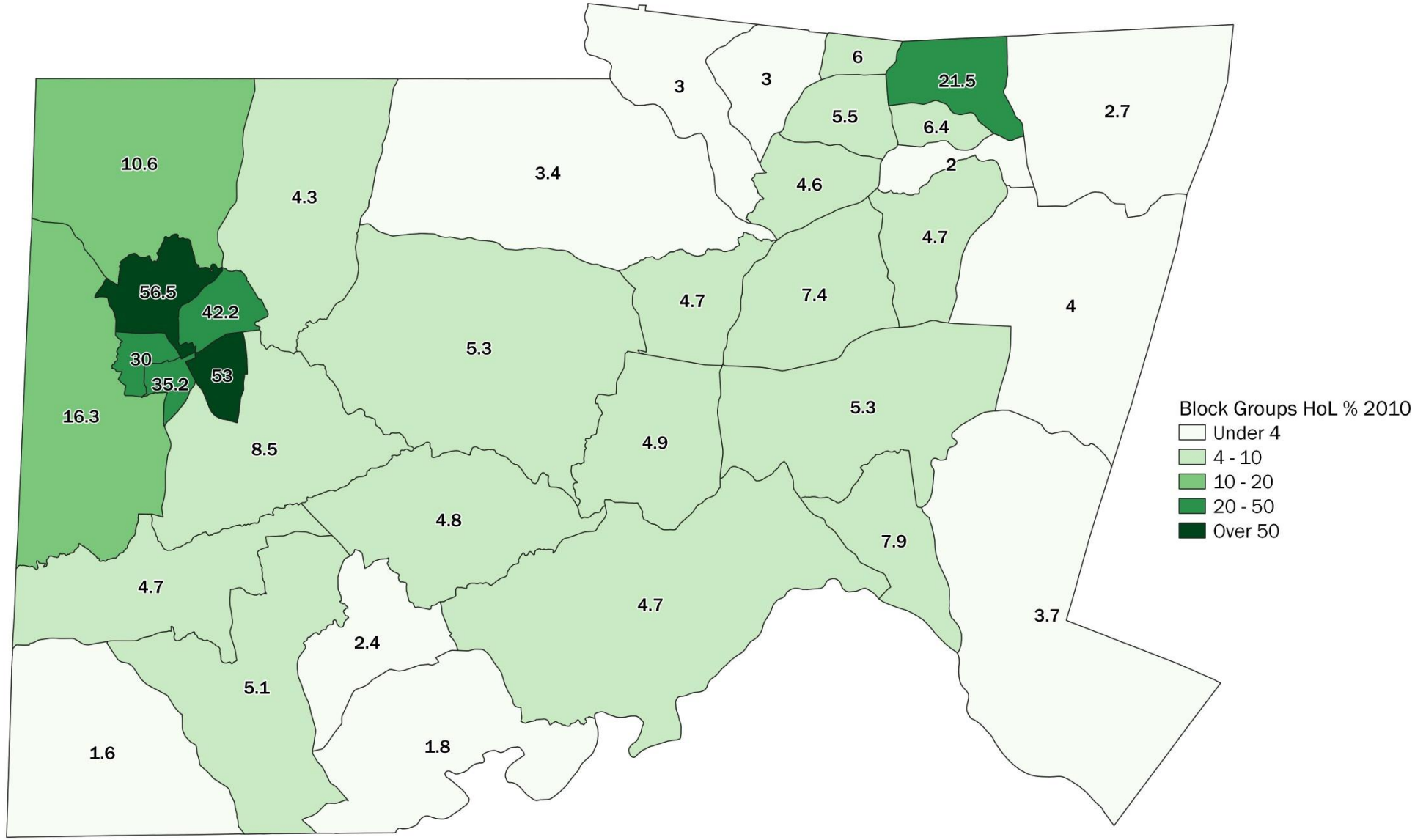
10.6
4.3
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3
3
6
21.5
2.7
5.5
6.4
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56.5
42.2
30
35.2
53
16.3
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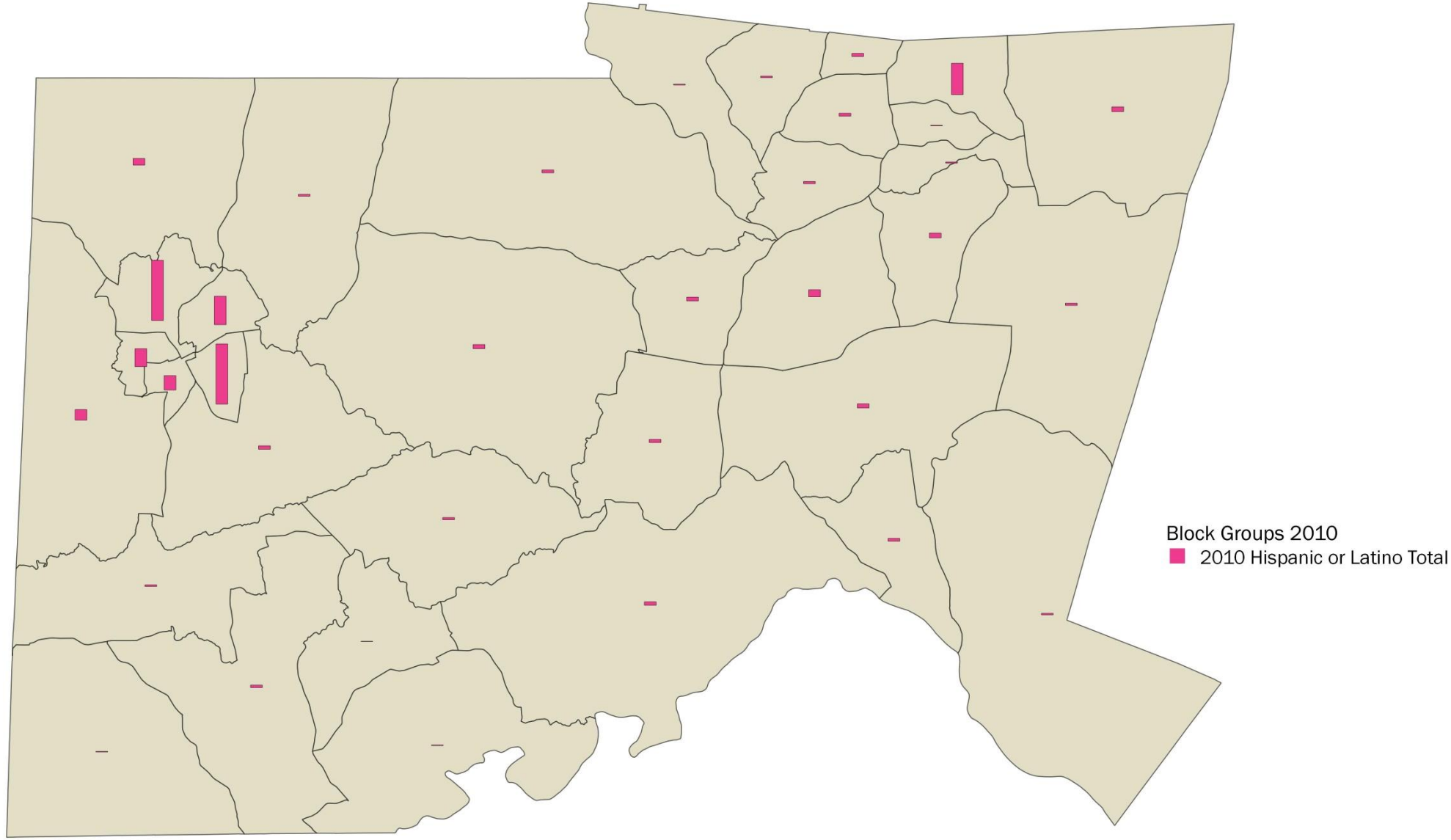
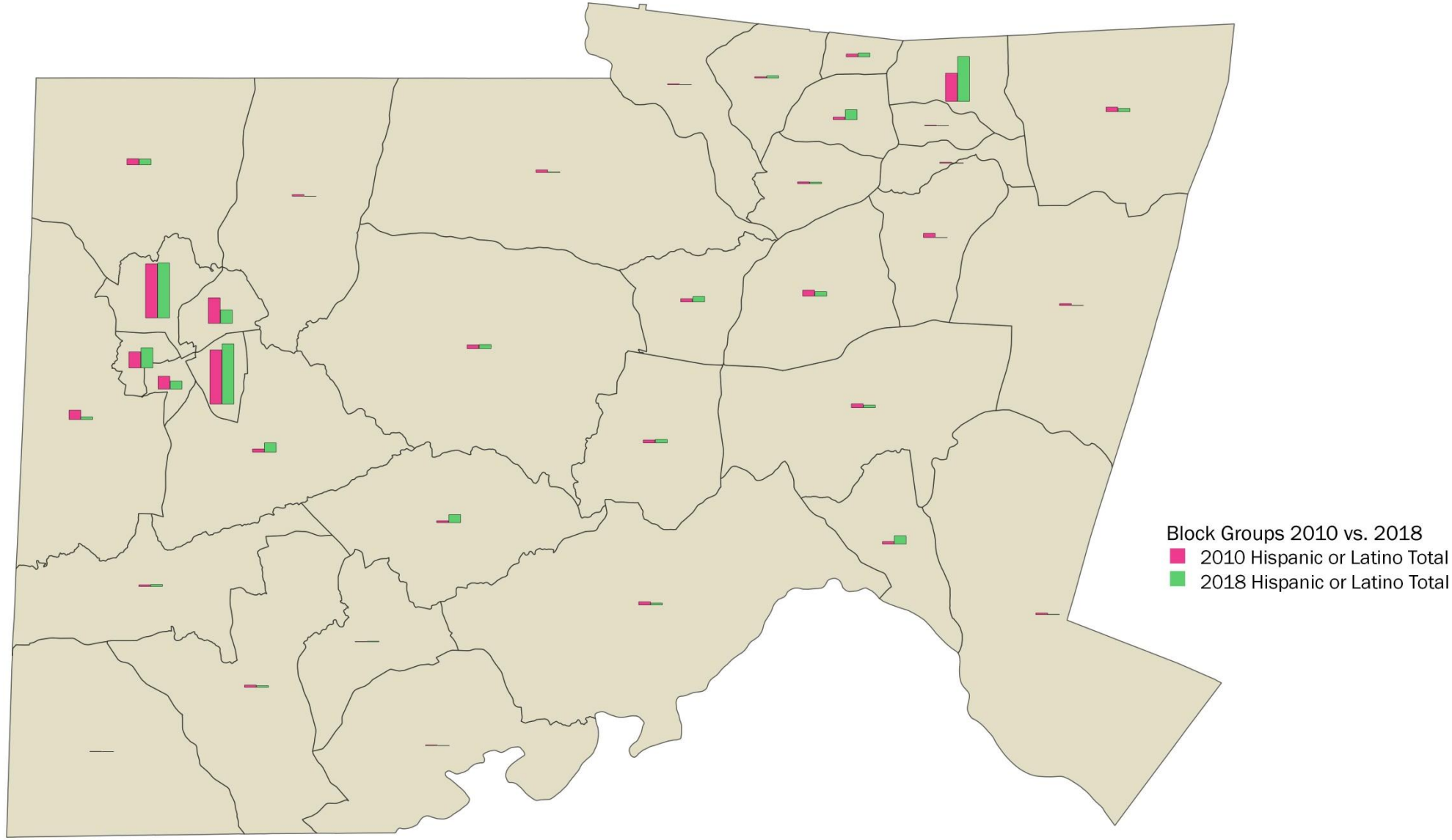
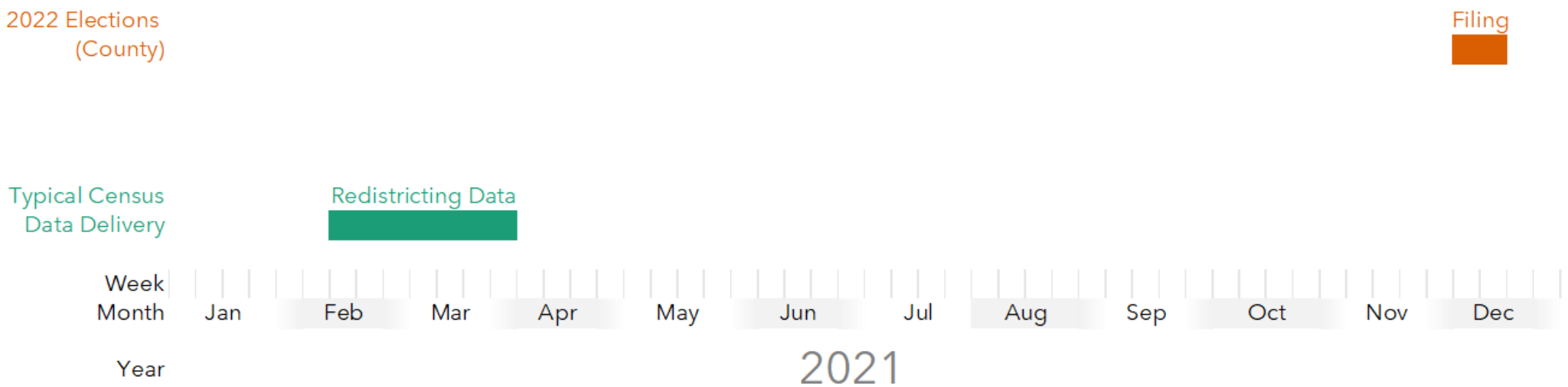
5.3
8.5
4.9
4.8
7.9
4.7
4.7
3.7
2.4
5.1
1.6
1.8
Block Groups HoL % 2010
Under 4
4 - 10
10 - 20
20 - 50
Over 50


Block Groups 2010
2010 Hispanic or Latino Total

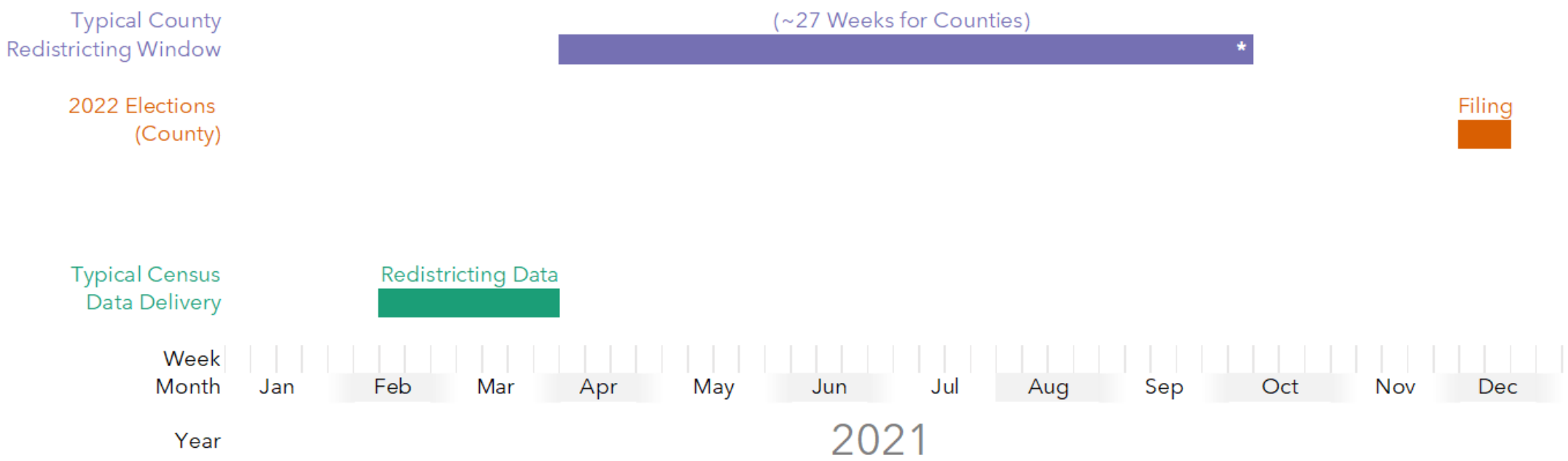

Block Groups 2010 vs. 2018
2010 Hispanic or Latino Total
2018 Hispanic or Latino Total

Census 2020

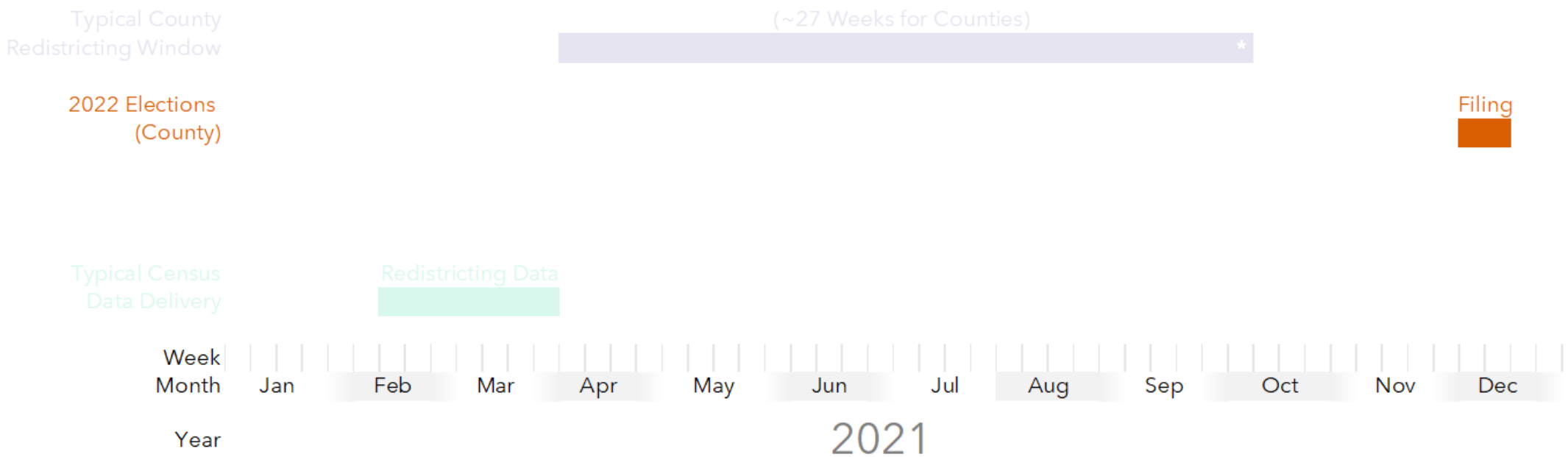
"Normal" Scenario



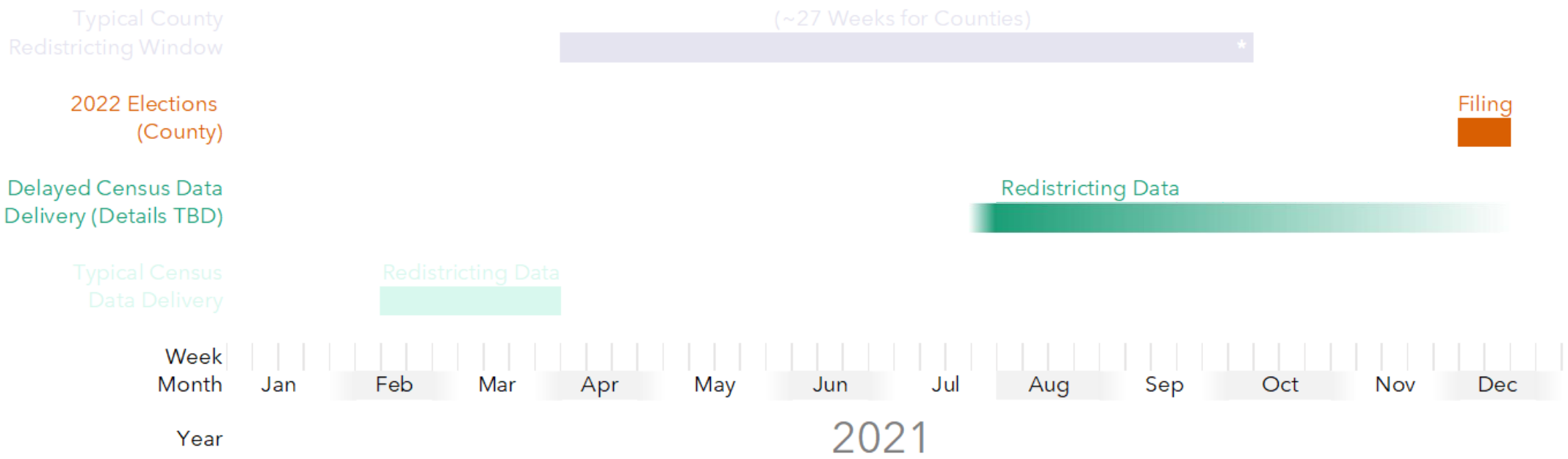
"Normal" Scenario



Pandemic-Adjusted Scenario



Pandemic-Adjusted Scenario (As of Feb. 1)



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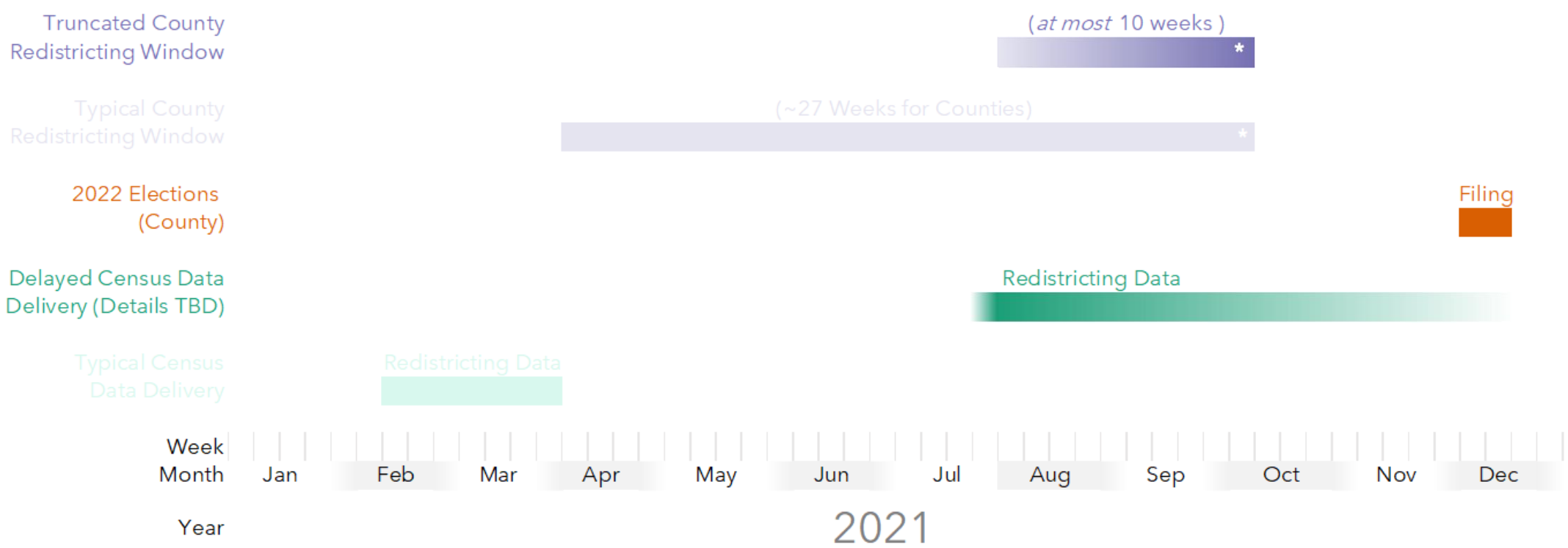


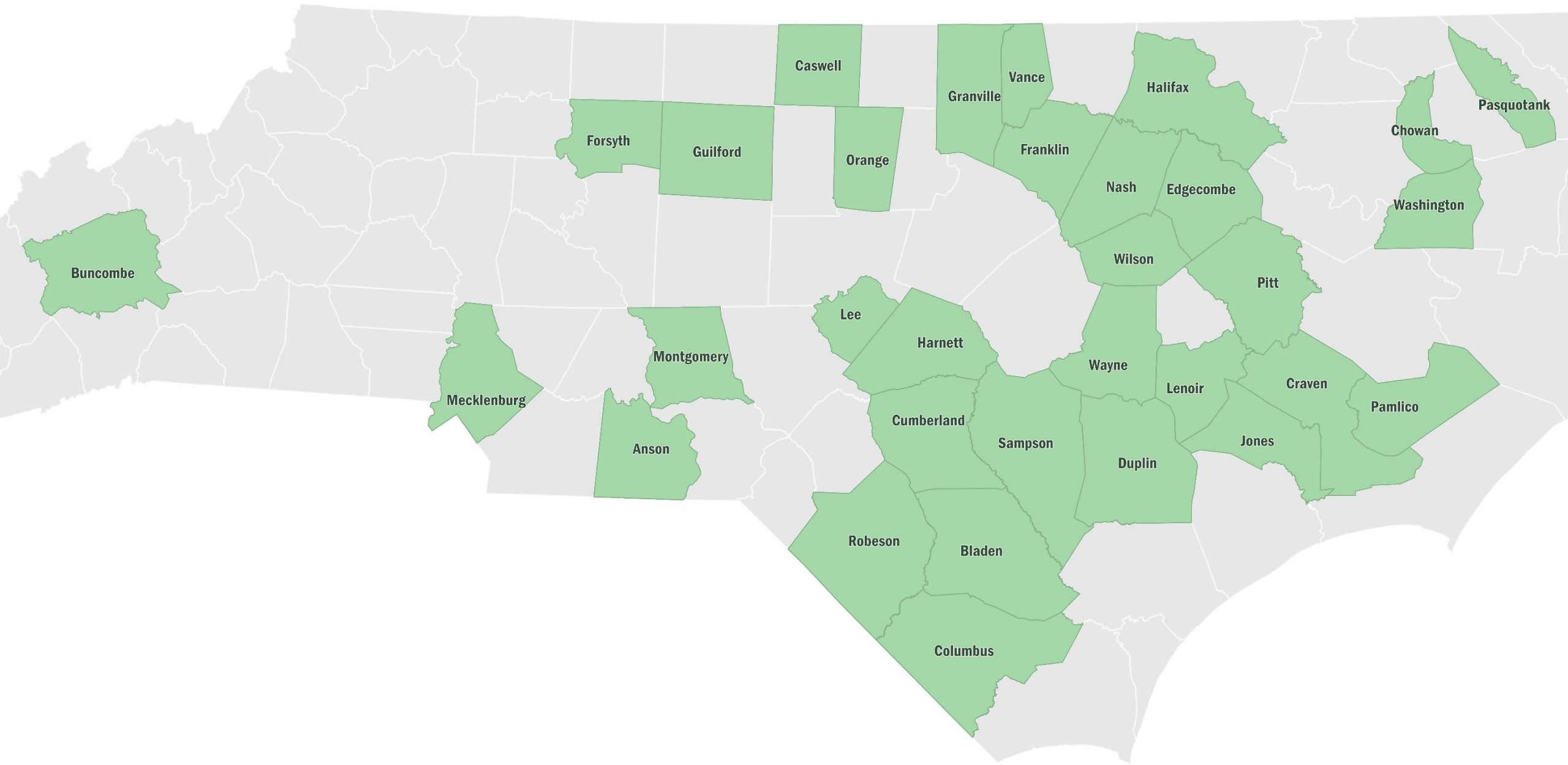
Providing accurate data

Safeguarding individual privacy

Data Quality	Bnae Kegouqe
Dada Qualitg	Vrkk Jzcfkdy
Data Qaality	Dncb PrhvBln
Dzte Qvality	Dncb Prtnavy
Dfha Quapyti	Tgta Ppijacy
Tgta Qucjity	Dfha Pnjvico
Dncb Qhulitn	Dzhe Njivaci
Ntue Quevdto	Dzte Privecy
Vrkk Zuhnvry	Dada Privacg
Bnaq Denorbe	Data Privacy

Graphic from Census.gov

Redistricting


Caswell
Granville
Vance
Halifax
Pasquotank
Forsyth
Guilford
Orange
Franklin
Chowan
Nash
Edgecombe
Washington
Buncombe
Wilson
Pitt
Lee
Harnett
Montgomery
Wayne
Mecklenburg
Lenoir
Craven
Pamlico
Cumberland
Sampson
Jones
Anson
Duplin
Robeson
Bladen
Columbus

Redistricting

Does your Board/Commission need to redistrict?

- Does your jurisdiction use true election districts?
- Are you within the permissible deviation range? (more on this later)
- What is the likelihood of this being the case?
  - Extremely low

Redistricting

Who draws the new districts?

The governing body for the local government.

By statute:

- The Board of County Commissioners (NCGS 153A-22)
- The Board of Education (NCGS 115C-37(i))
- The City Council (NCGS 160A-23.1)

Redistricting

What does this look like in practice?

- In many instances, governing bodies will engage a consultant to assist with the process
- This will generally be a lawyer and/or a demographer
- In some jurisdictions, the local GIS department or other staff members may lead effort
- Access to specialized mapping software is critical

Redistricting

What data is needed in order to redistrict?

- Census data
- Data/files for current district lines

Redistricting

Why do you need current district data if you're engaging in redistricting?

- Determine whether you must redistrict (you probably do)
- In other words, are your districts unlawful due to population imbalances?
- 2 rules:

  10% and +/- 5% rule

Redistricting

How long does the process take?

- Plan for a several month process, with a minimum of 3-4 public meetings
- It depends on several factors, including but not limited to:
  - Your regular meeting schedule
  - Your willingness to call special meetings
  - Whether you staff the process in-house vs. hire a consultant
  - Whether your jurisdiction coordinates with another jurisdiction (i.e., a board of county commissioners and board of education choose to use the same districts)
  - The number of draft plans you request
  - The type and amount of public input you receive

Redistricting

What happens after a finding is made that your districts need to be redrawn?

- Decide your guiding criteria
  - Contiguity
  - Recognizing communities of interest (i.e., precincts, municipal boundaries, physical features like roads and waterways, and/or other historical, cultural, or economic community)
  - Compactness
  - Preserving the core of existing districts
  - Avoiding pairing incumbents (known as “double bunking” to promote stability)

Redistricting

What happens next?

- Your consultant will take your existing districts, the new census data, and your criteria, and draw some number of redistricting plans.
- Legal review to make sure they are compliant with law and criteria
- Public hearing to present/discuss those plans

Redistricting

What happens next?

- Expect maps to be presented from members of the community
- Your team will have to determine how plans will be accepted, including any specified submittal processes, file formats, explanatory text, etc.

Redistricting

How does the Board/Commission select a plan?

- There is no specific guidance in the statutes
- In practice, the Board/Commission will discuss the various plans with the consultant or staff
- It may quickly reach consensus or a single plan, or ask the consultant to make adjustments
- At some point, the Board/Commission typically will vote to move forward with a particular plan and schedule a public hearing to receive input from the public

Redistricting

- A note on the Open Meetings Law and the Public Records Act:
  - The Open Meetings Law applies to redistricting just as to other governmental functions
  - Likewise, the Public Records Act will apply to your redistricting work
  - Assume that all documents created during the redistricting process would be subject to a Public Records Request

More on public hearings

- Note—technically, public hearing are not required but are strongly recommended
- It should be well publicized. The plan under consideration should be made available to the public before the meeting and at the meeting
- Members of the public should be invited to address the Board/Commission regarding the plan(s) under consideration and other topics relevant to the redistricting process
- Once the hearing is closed, the Board can engage in further discussion regarding the feedback it has received

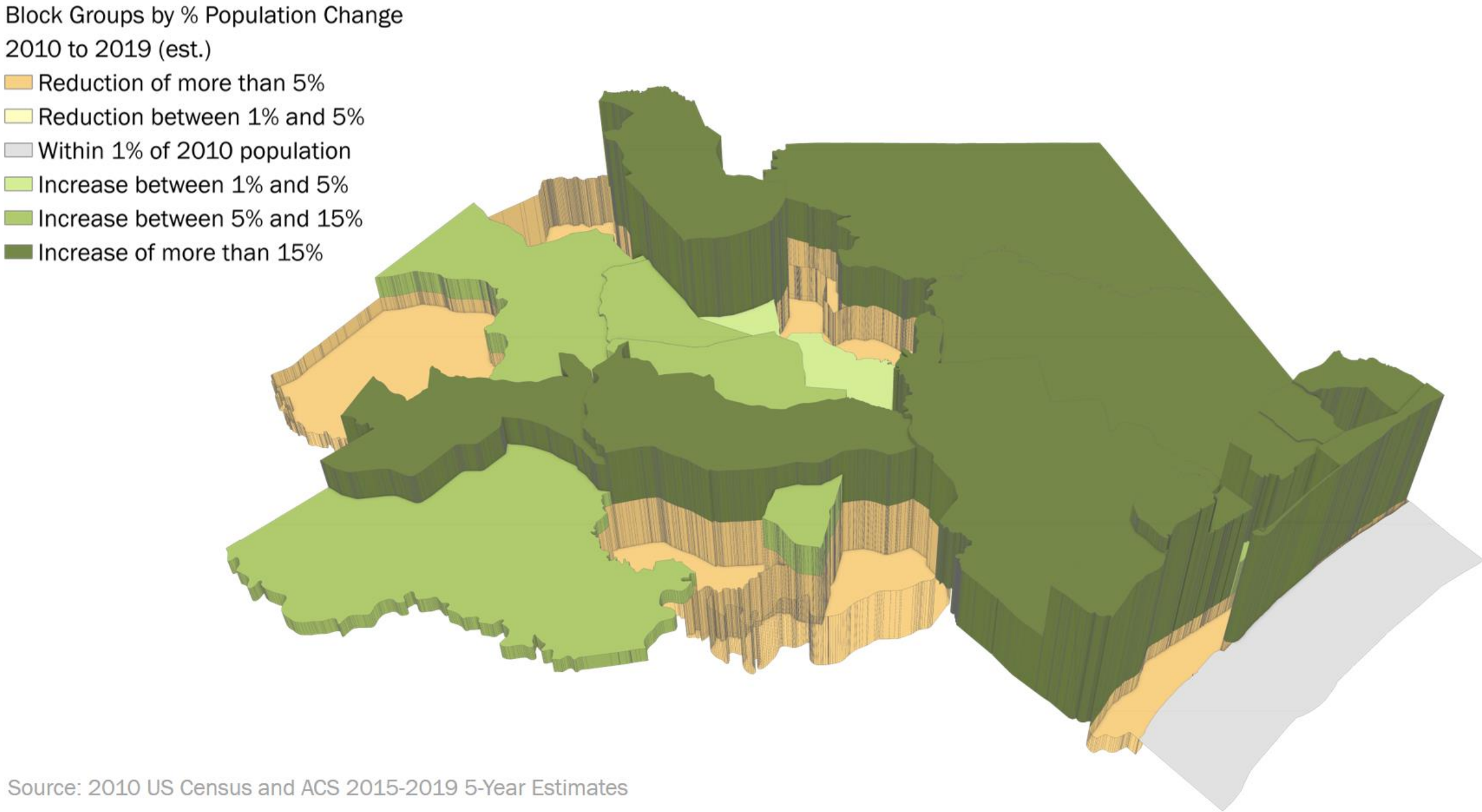
Redistricting

How is a plan adopted?

- It will be put into words through a resolution
- The Board/Commission may discuss the resolution and then vote to adopt it by majority vote just as other matters and resolutions are adopted.
- It will then need to be sent to the county board of election and likely the NC Secretary of State, Register of Deeds, NC Register, etc.

Redistricting

Then, congratulations! You are finished with local redistricting for the decade!



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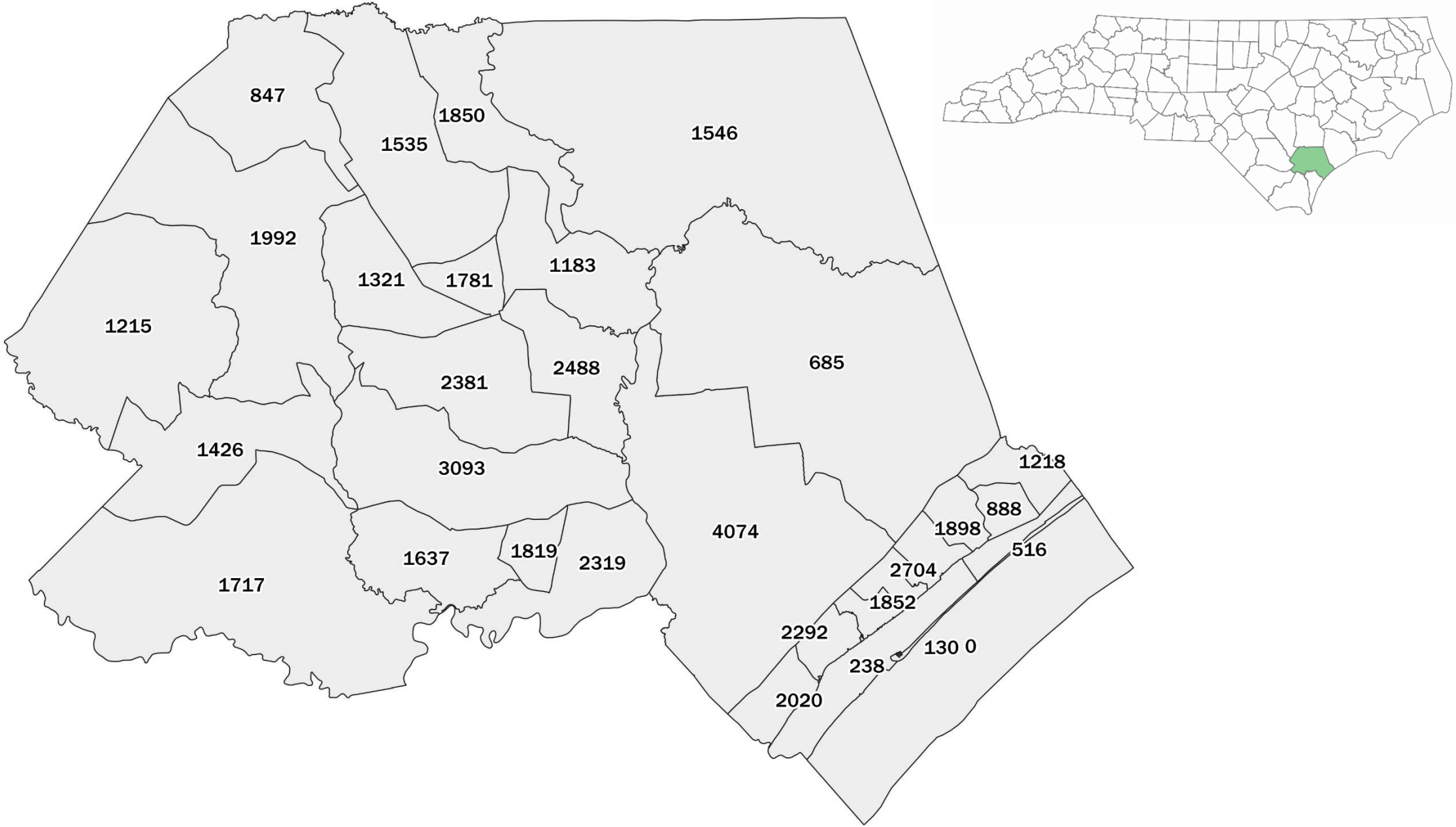
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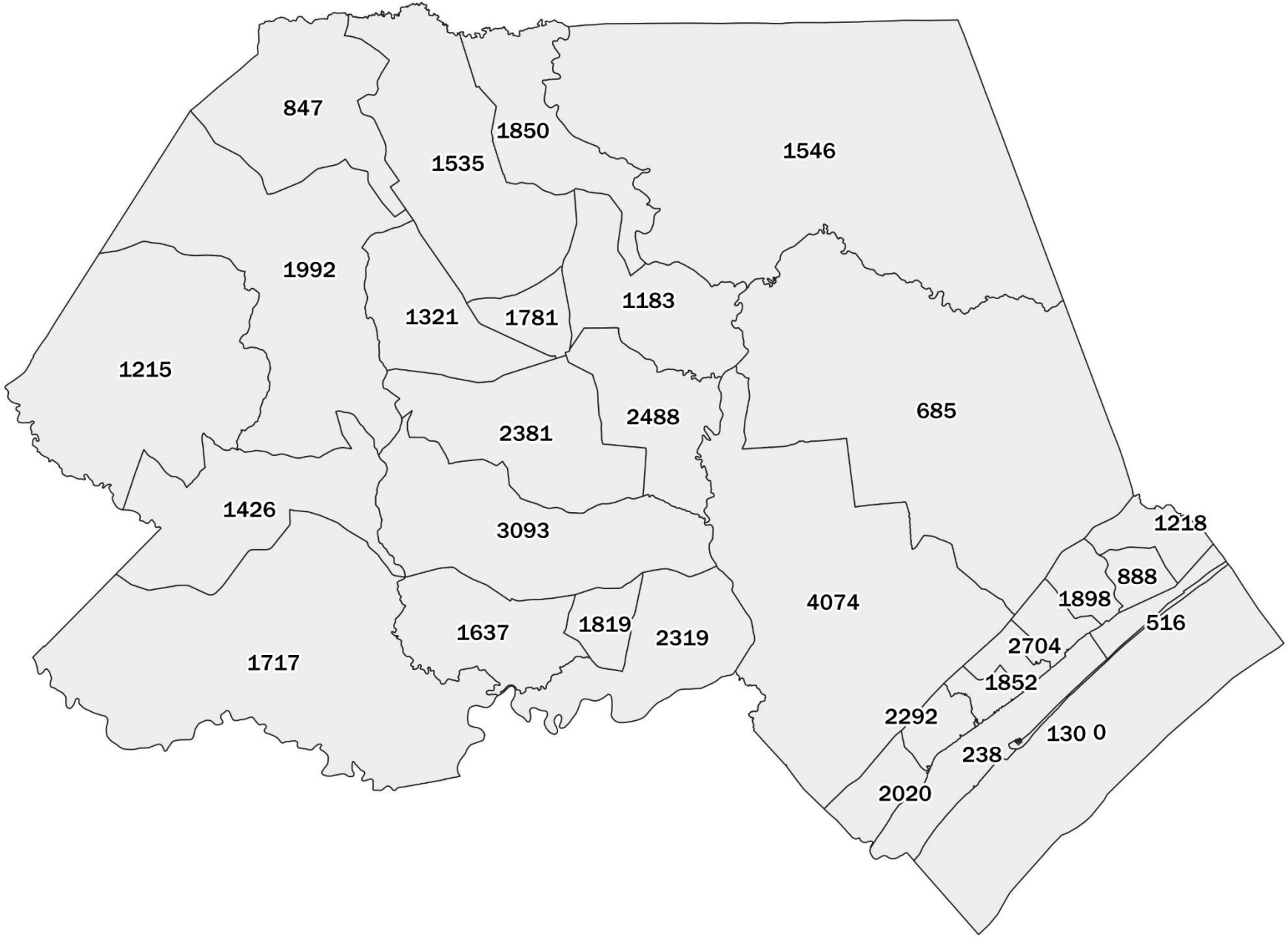
130 0
238
2020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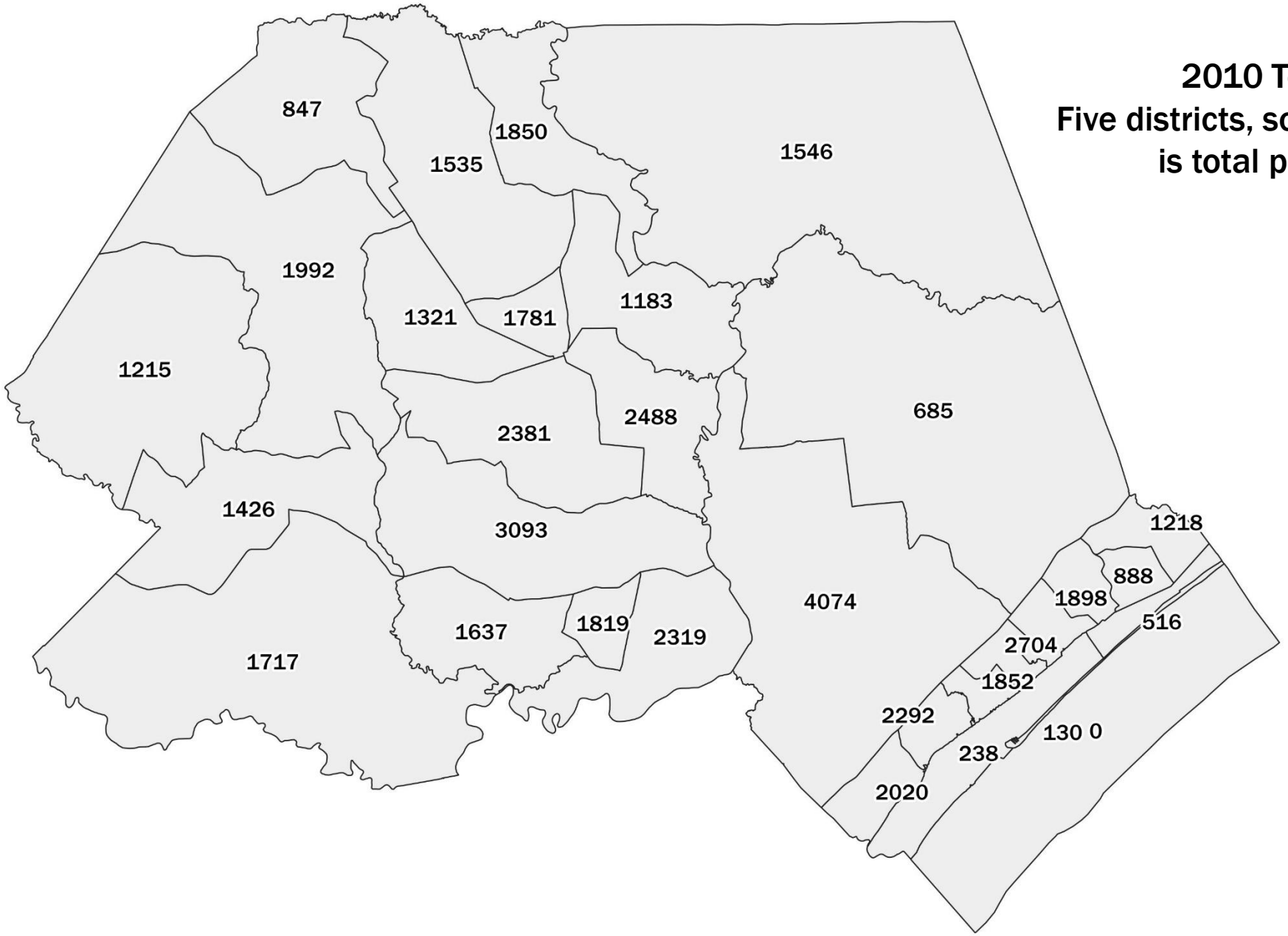
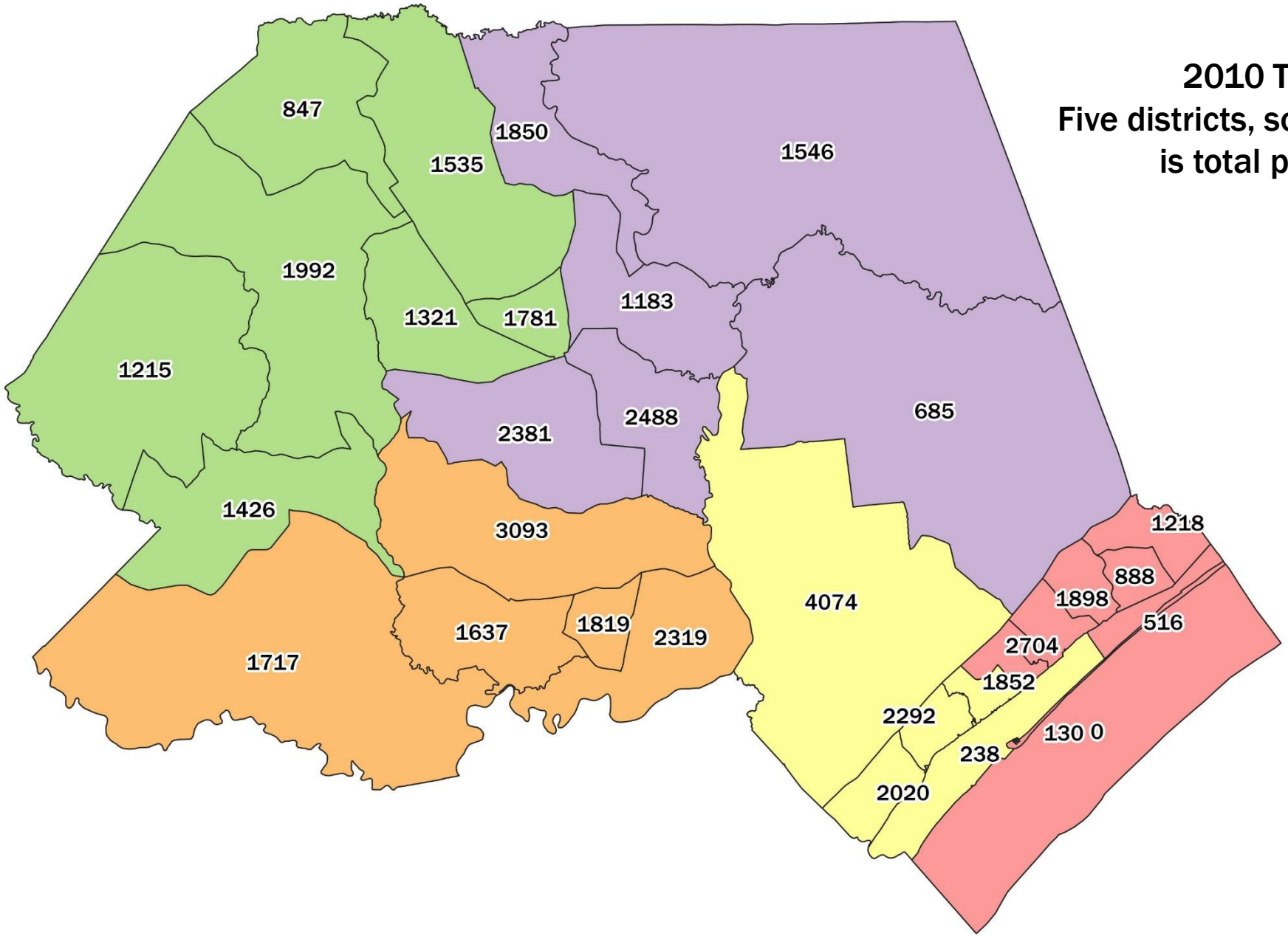


2010 Total population = 52,217
Five districts, so ideal district population is total population divided by five.
52,217 ÷ 5 ≈ 10,443



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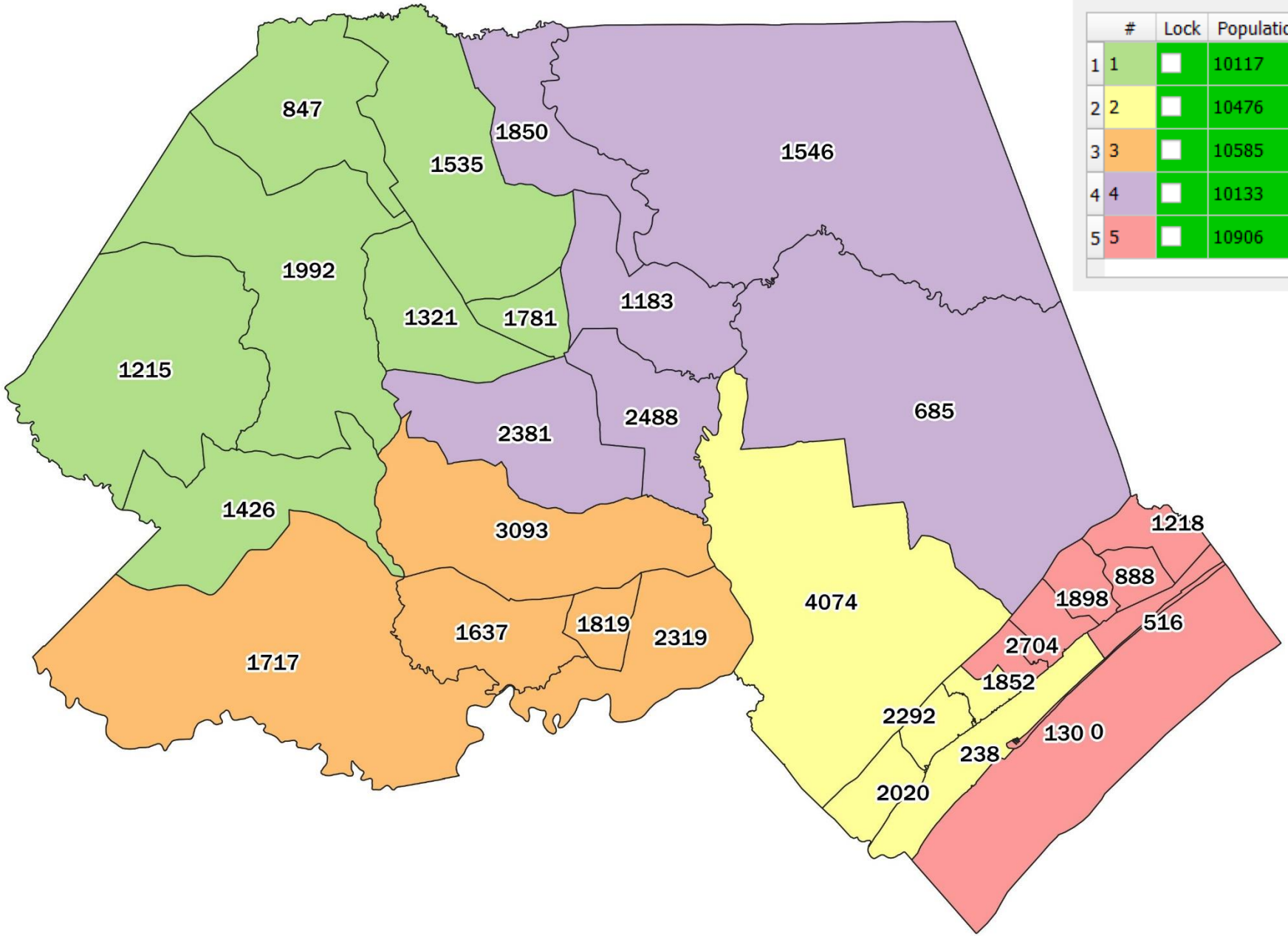
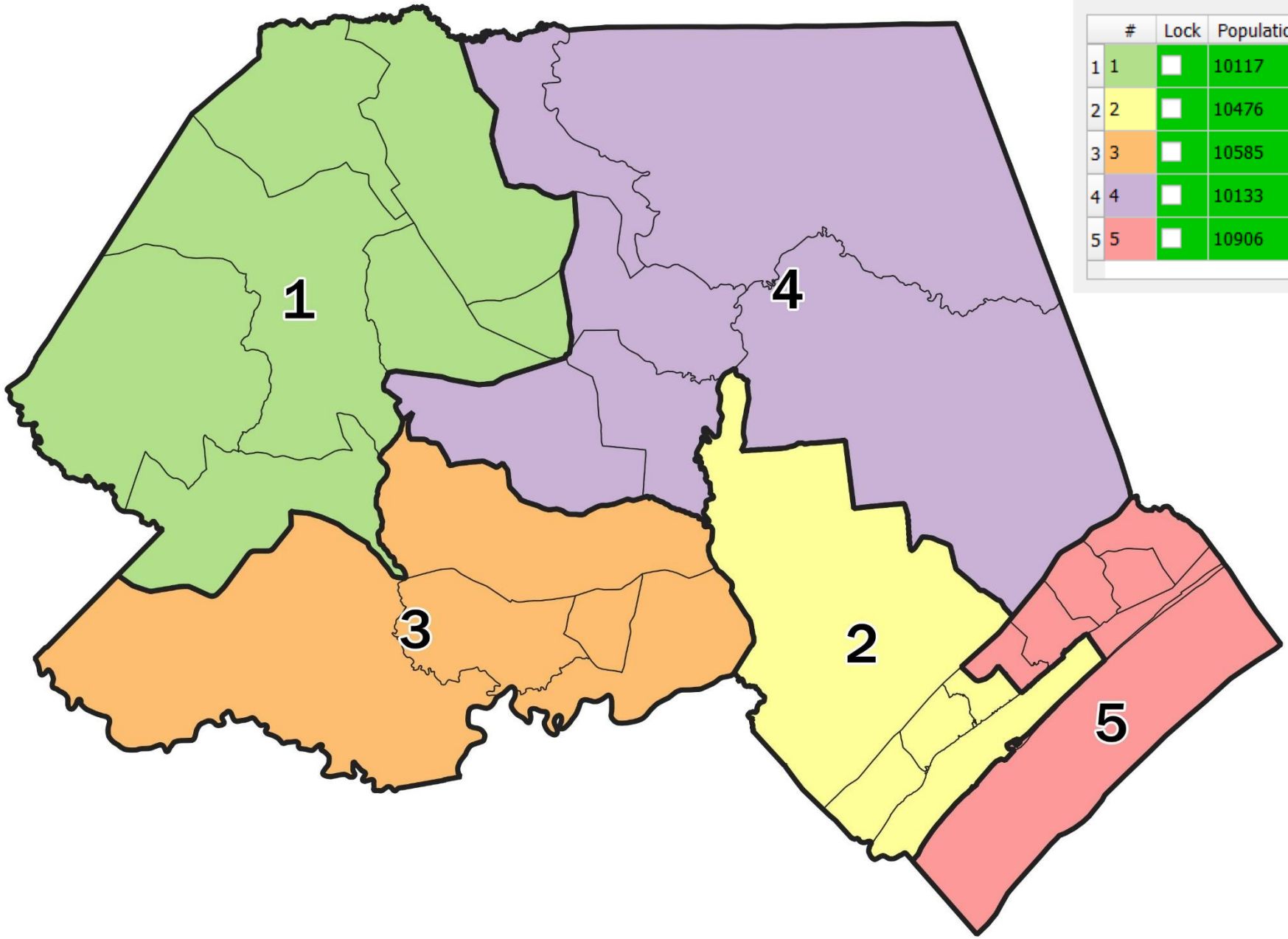


Attributes

	#	Lock	Population	To Target	Dev%
1	1	☐	10117	326	-3.12%
2	2	☐	10476	-33	0.32%
3	3	☐	10585	-142	1.36%
4	4	☐	10133	310	-2.97%
5	5	☐	10906	-463	4.43%



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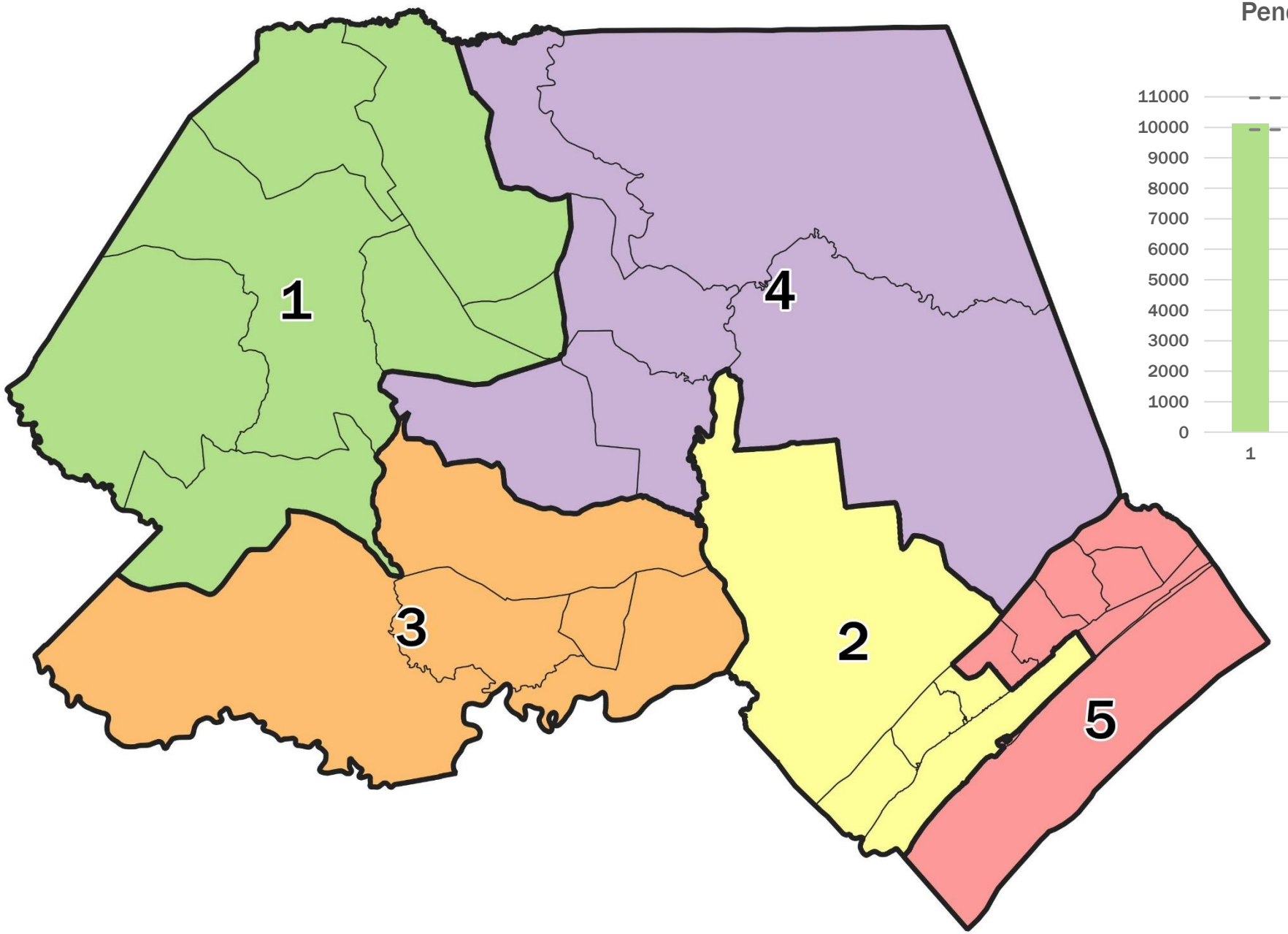
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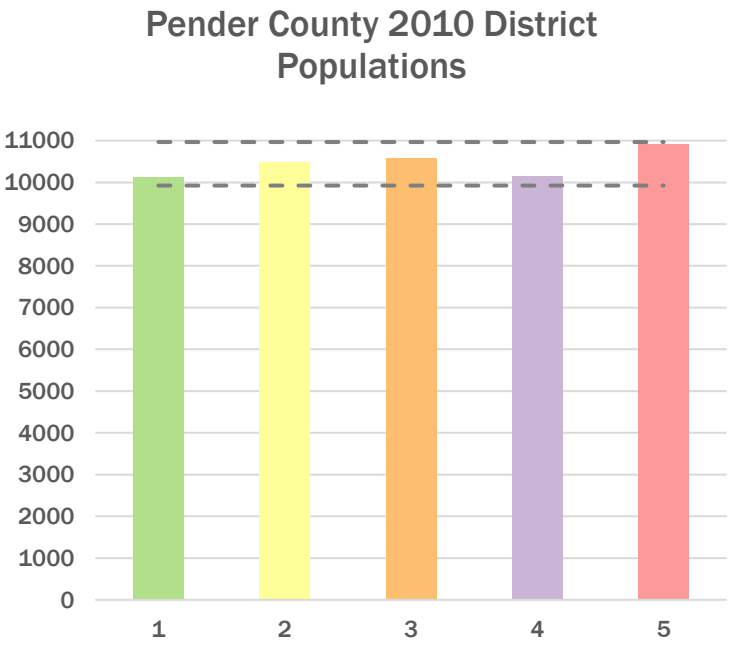
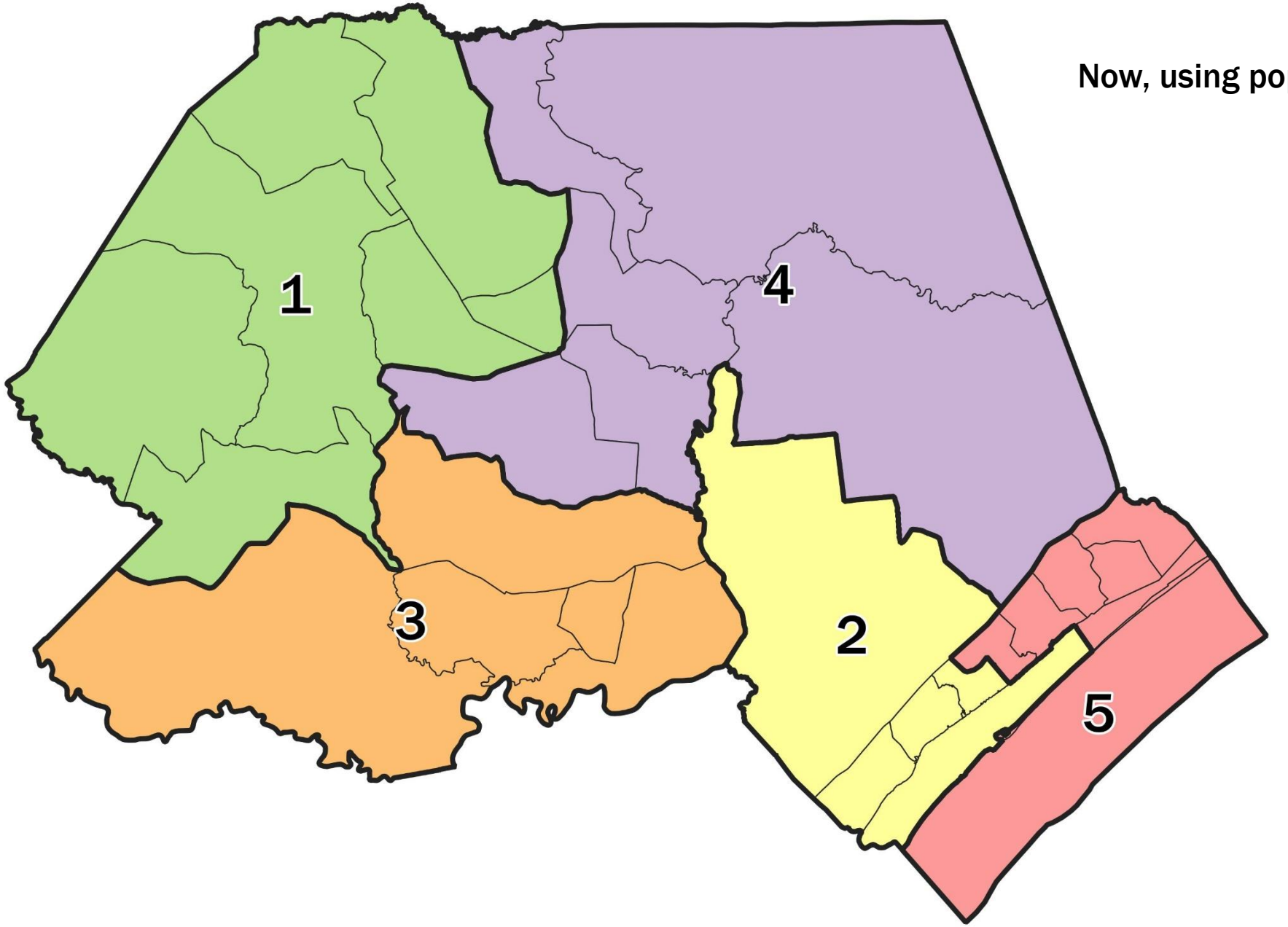
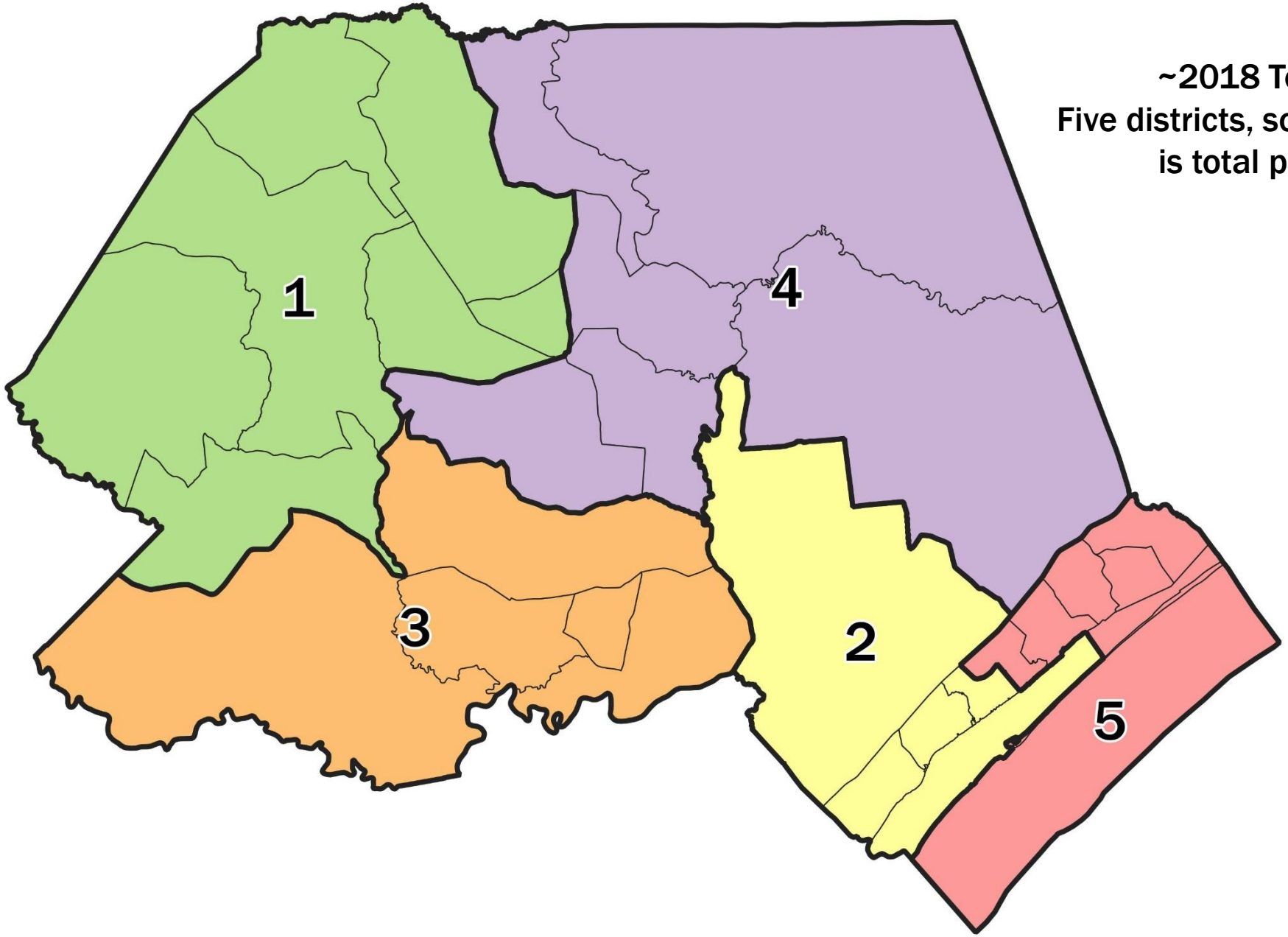
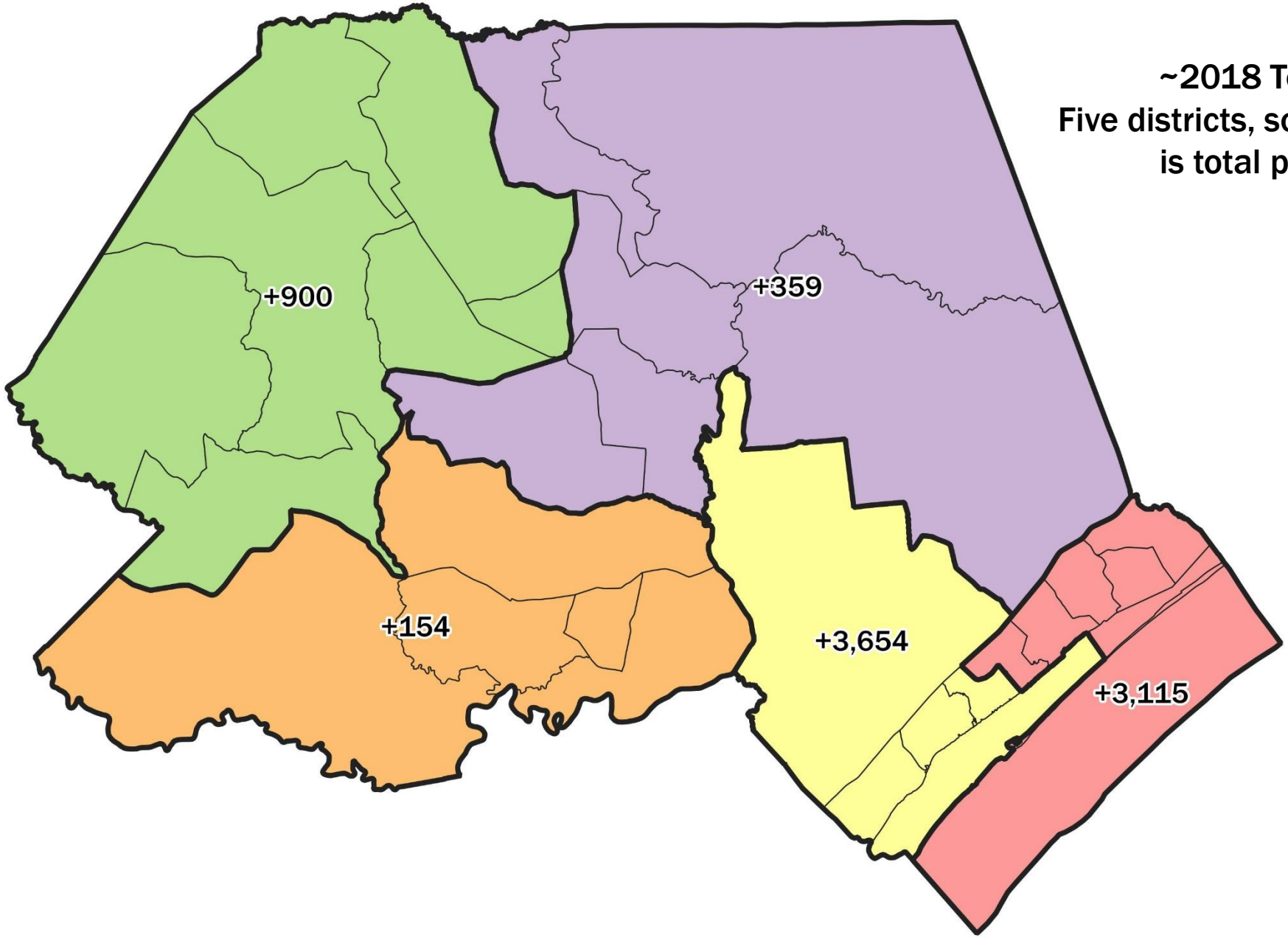

Pender County 2010 District Populations
11000
10000
9000
8000
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
1
2
3
4
5



Now, using population estimates from the end of the decade…



~2018 Total population = 60,399
Five districts, so ideal district population
is total population divided by five.
60,399 ÷ 5 ≈ 12,080



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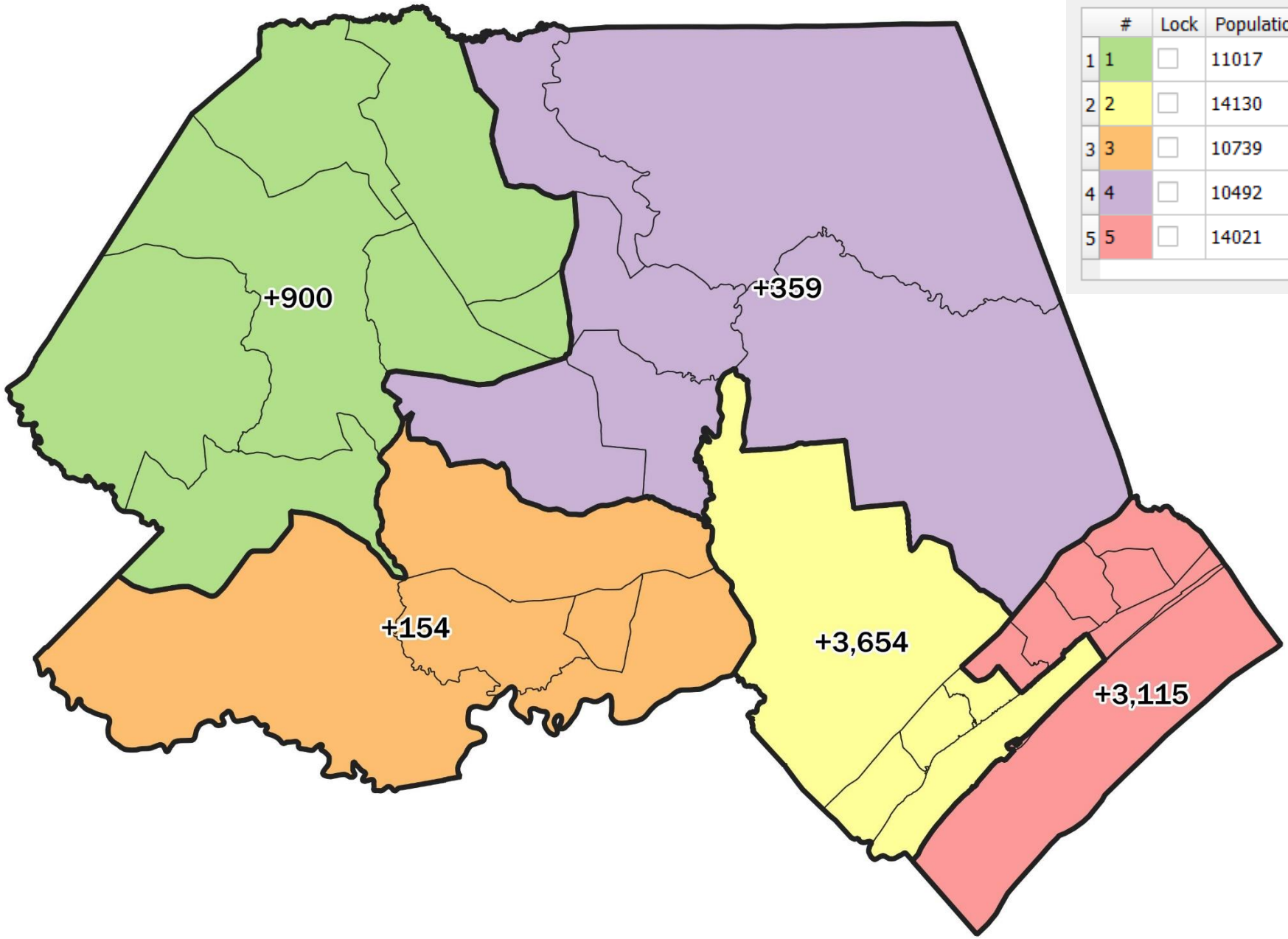
60,399 ÷ 5 ≈ 12,080



Attributes

	#	Lock	Population	To Target	Dev%
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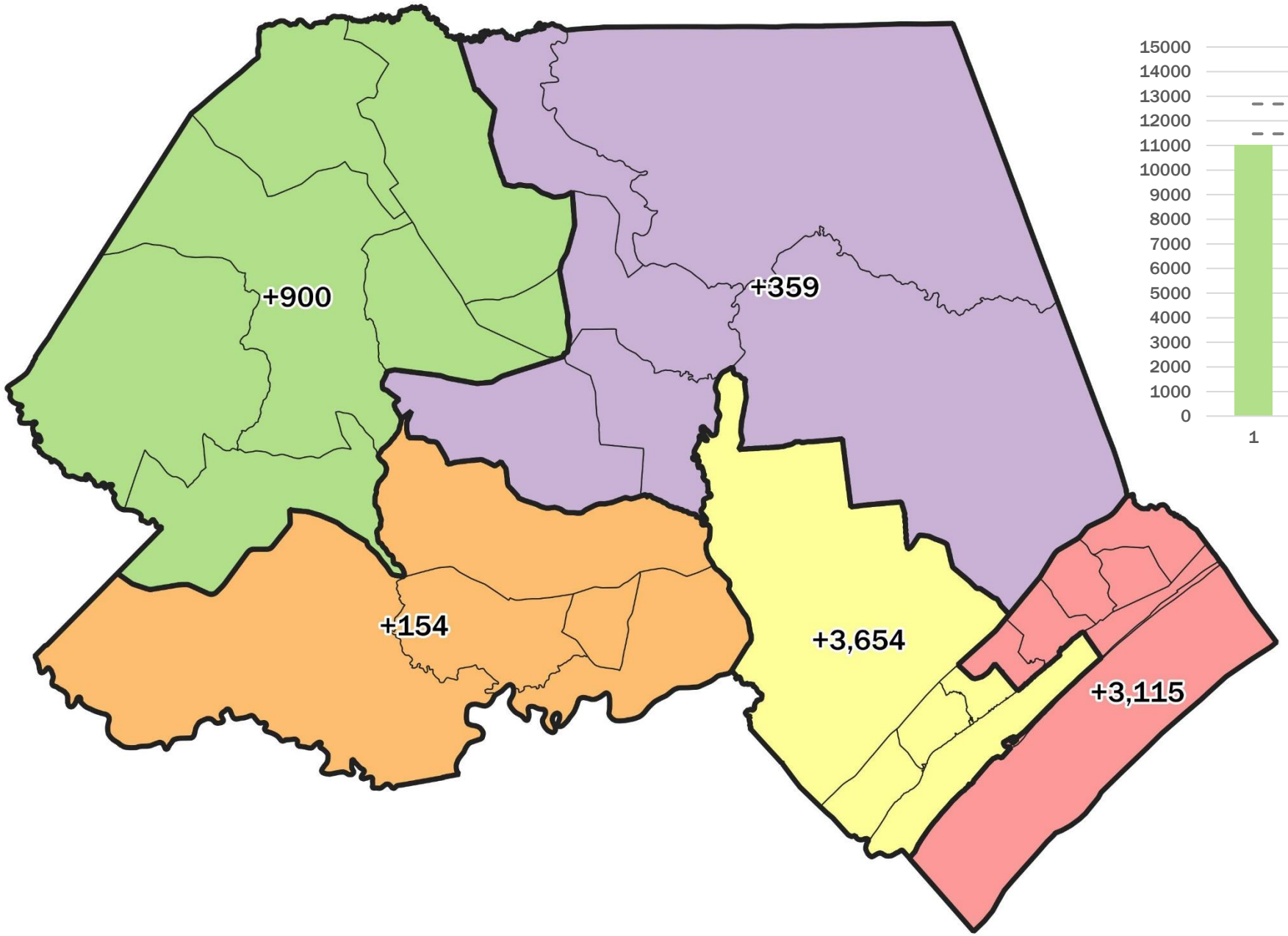
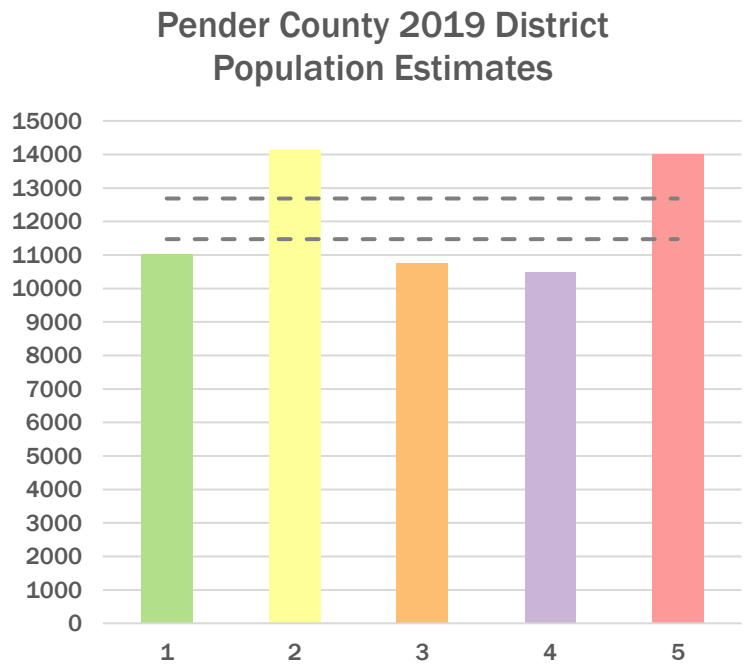
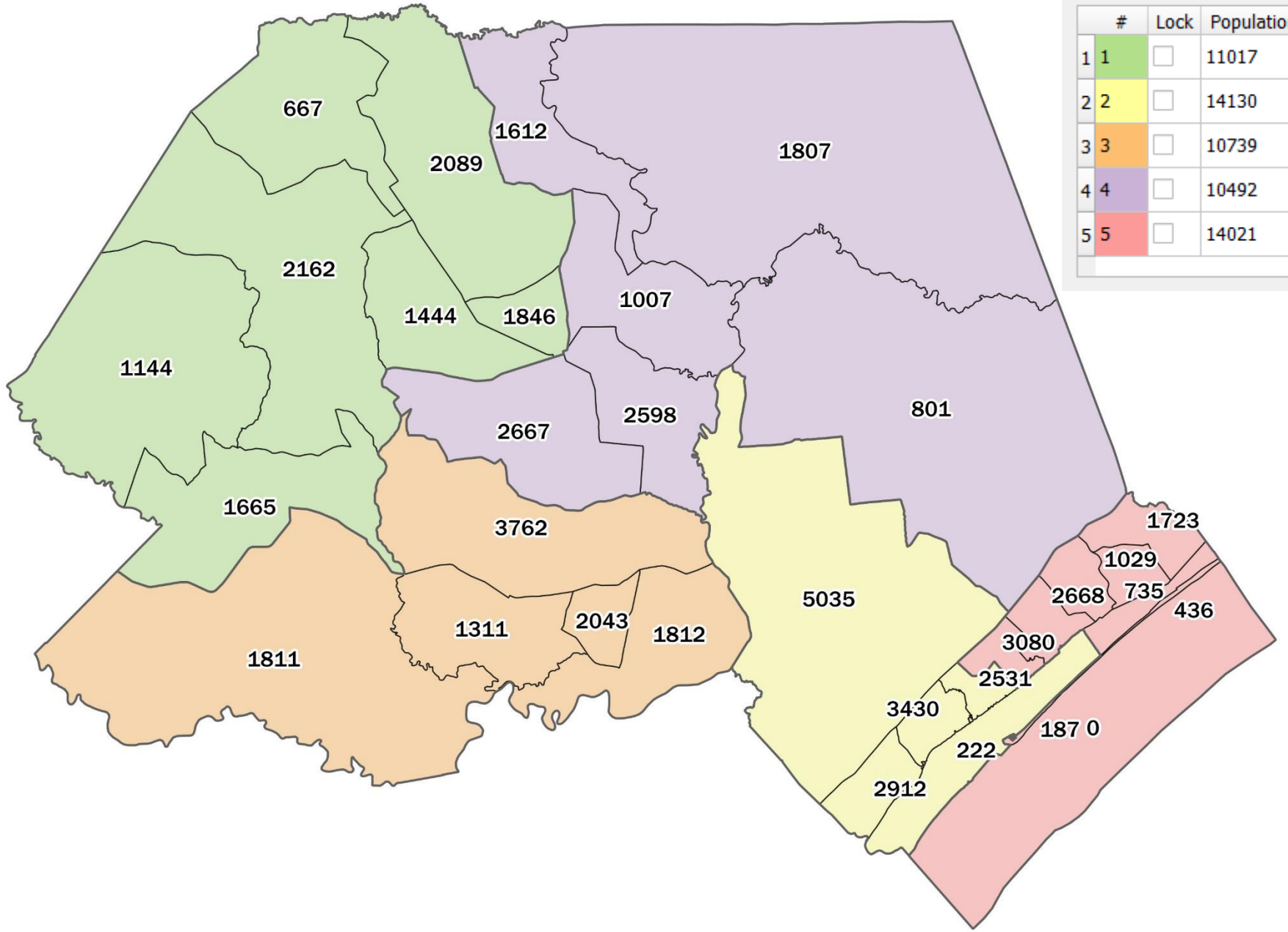
2	2	☐	14130	-2051	16.98%
3	3	☐	10739	1340	-11.09%
4	4	☐	10492	1587	-13.14%
5	5	☐	14021	-1942	16.08%

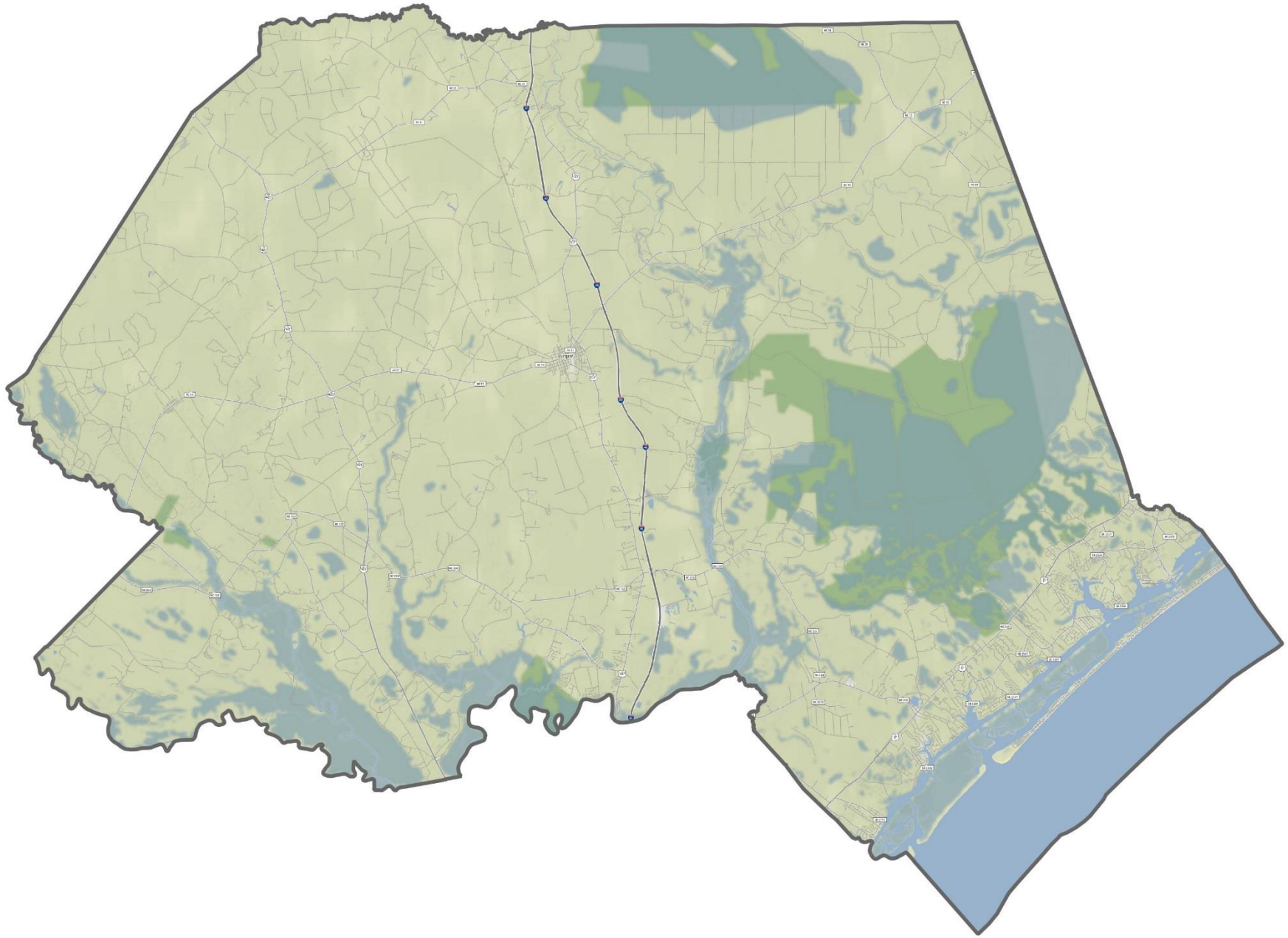

+900
+359
+154
+3,654
+3,115

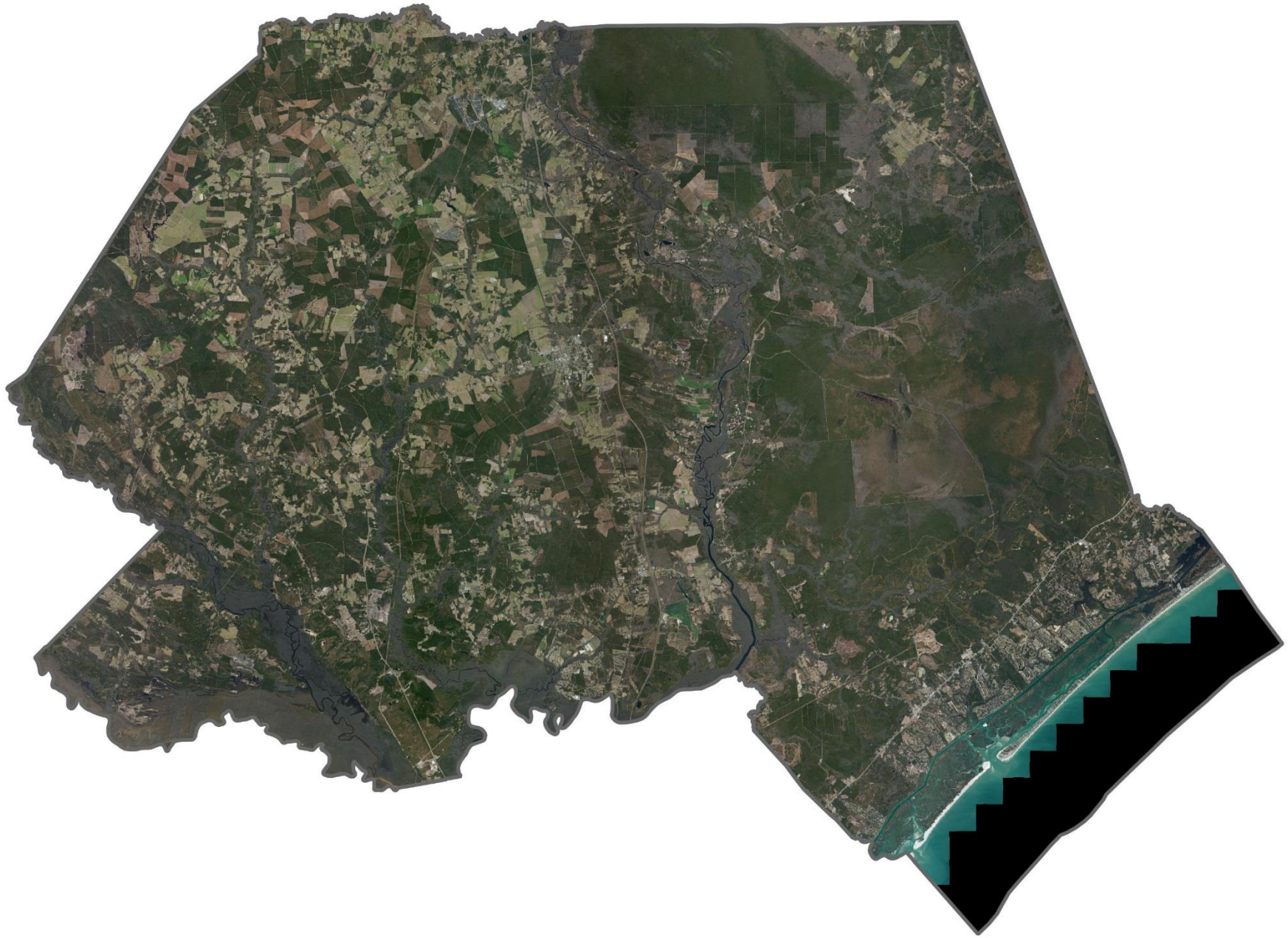

Pender County 2019 District Population Estimates
15000
14000
13000
12000
11000
10000
9000
8000
7000
6000
5000
4000
3000
2000
1000
0
1
2
3
4
5

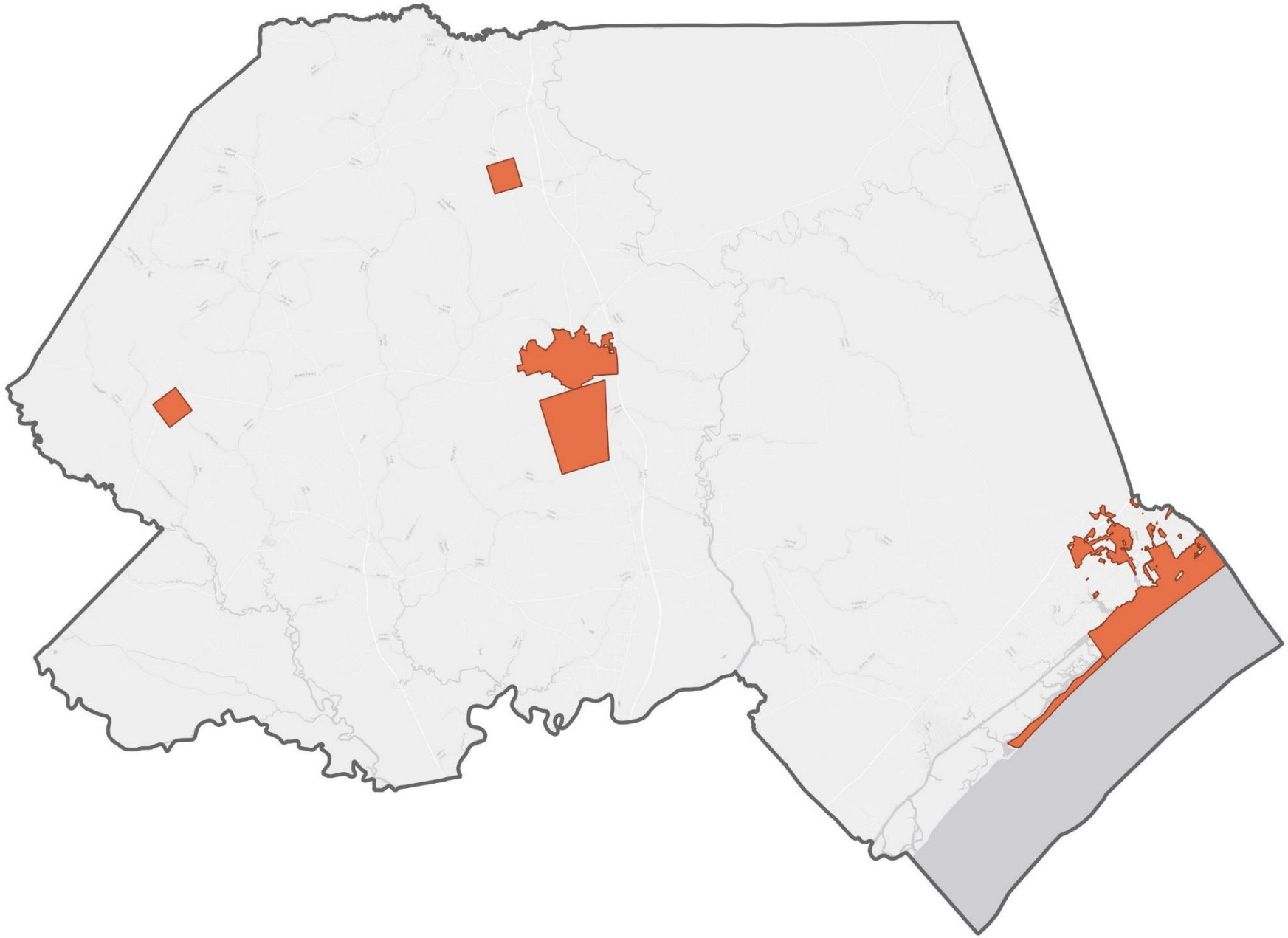


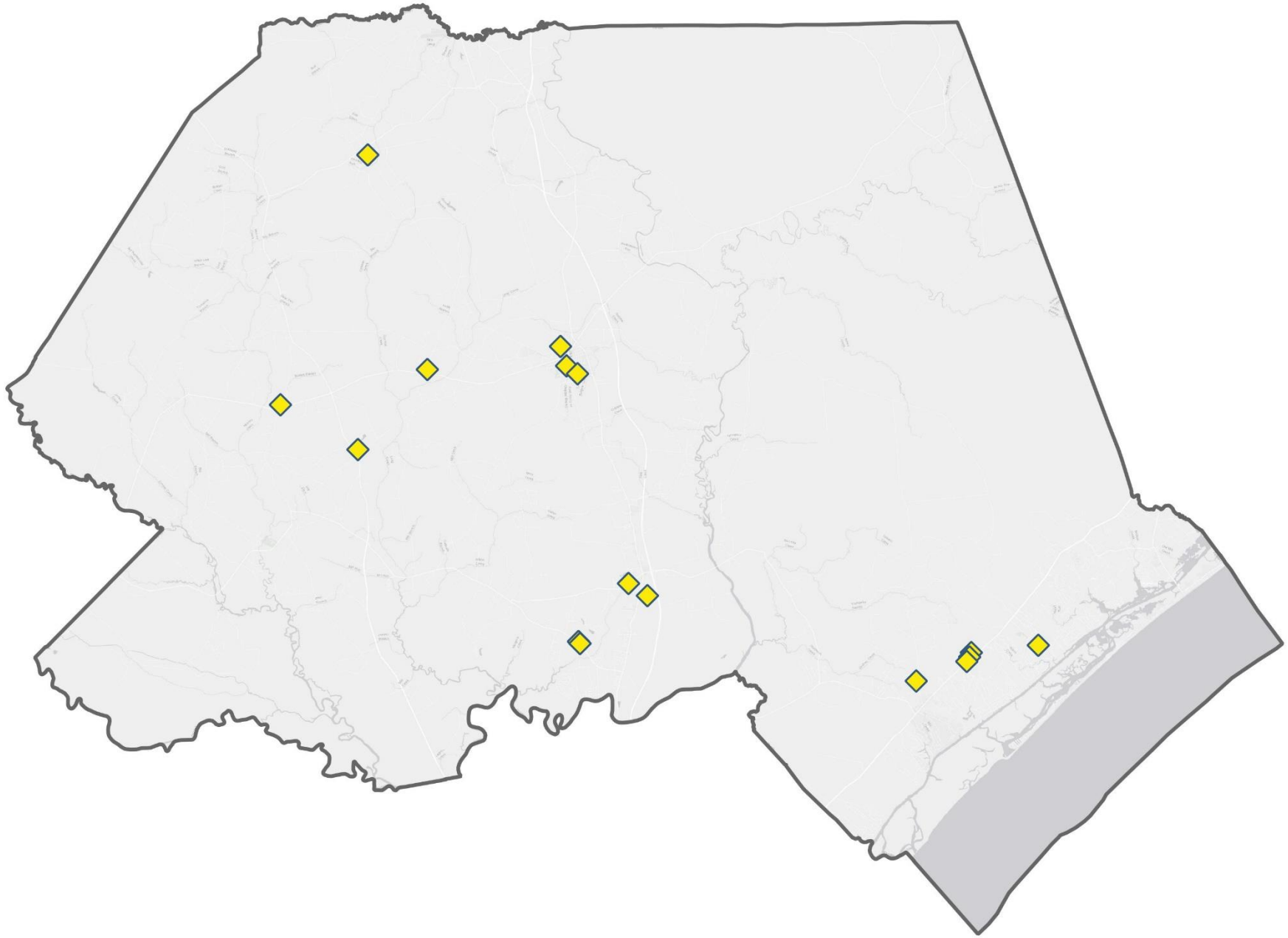
Attributes

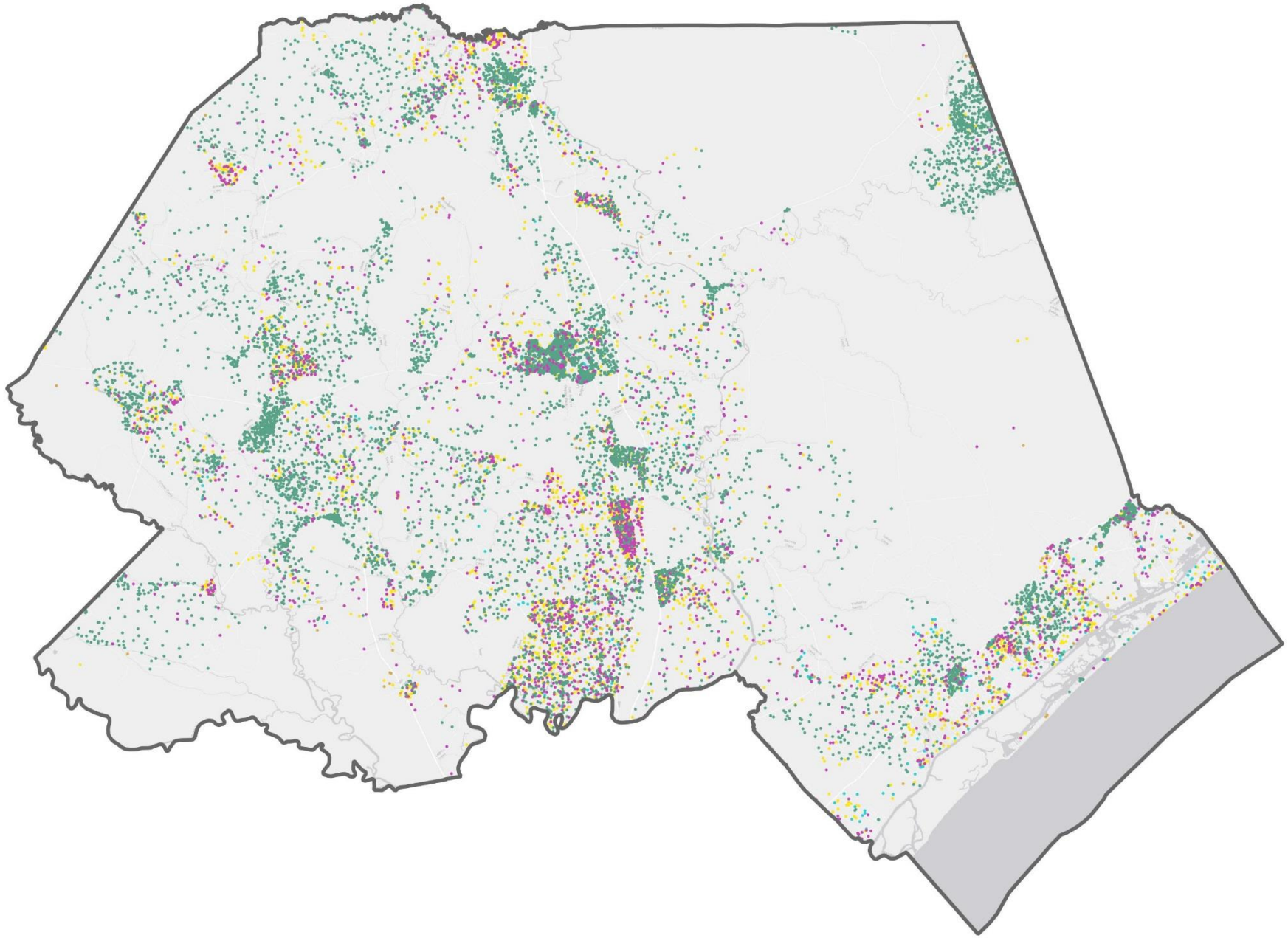
	#	Lock	Population	To Target	Dev%
1	1	☐	11017	1062	-8.79%
2	2	☐	14130	-2051	16.98%
3	3	☐	10739	1340	-11.09%
4	4	☐	10492	1587	-13.14%
5	5	☐	14021	-1942	16.08%



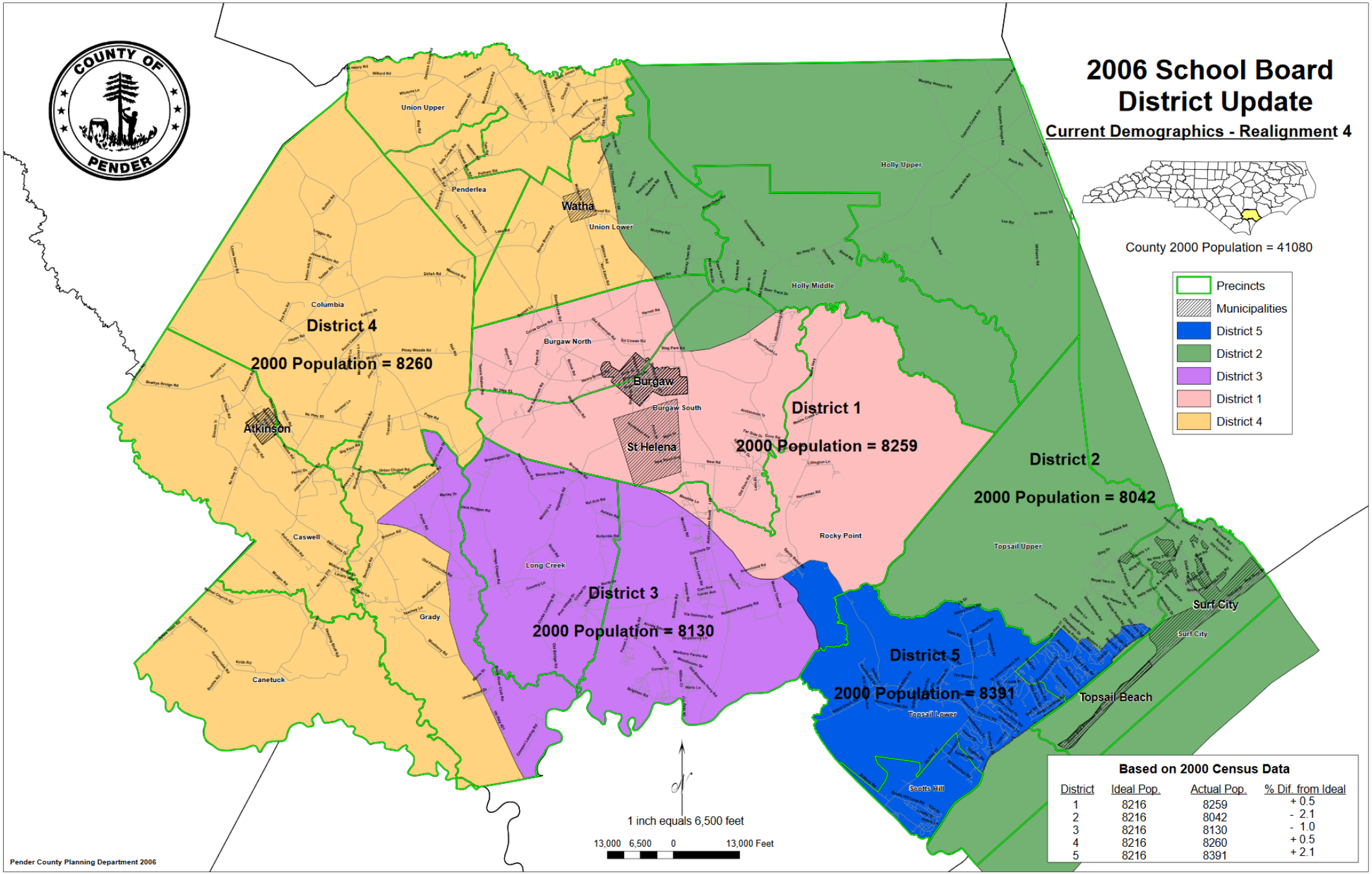








Showing demographic data based on 2010 census by blocks.



Based on 2000 Census Data

District	Ideal Pop.	Actual Pop.	% Dif. from Ideal
1	8216	8259	+ 0.5
2	8216	8042	- 2.1
3	8216	8130	- 1.0
4	8216	8260	+ 0.5
5	8216	8391	+ 2.1

Maptitude for Redistricting (Licensed to North Carolina General Assembly)

File Edit Map Dataview Selection Tools Redistricting Window Help

Census Block

Display Manager

- Districts
  - Theme: District Status
  - Theme: District
    - Other
    - 1
    - 10
    - 2
    - 3
    - 4
    - 5
    - 6
    - 7
    - 8
    - 9
- Water Area
- Streets
- Census Place
- **Census Block**
- Voting District
- Landmark Point
- Landmark Area
- County Subdivision
- Pipeline/Power Line
- Railroad
- River
- State
- TIGER/Line Segment
- Census Tract
- Census Block Group
- County

Dataview1 - Districts in Plan (10); Maximum (120)

District	Population	Deviation	[% Deviation]	PL10AA_TOT	PL10VA_TOT	EL10G_USS_D	[% EL10G_USS_D]	EL10G_USS_R	[% EL10G_USS_R]	EL10G_USS_L	[% EL10G_USS_L]	EL10G_USS_W	[% EL10G_USS_W]	EL10G_USS_TOT	EL12G_PR_D
10	86601	7,139	8.98%	86601	64769	15472	65.07%	7756	32.62%	538	2.26%	10	0.04%	23776	3259
9	39406	-40,056	-50.41%	39406	31023	10923	79.6%	2596	18.92%	194	1.41%	10	0.07%	13723	2030
8	30740	-48,722	-61.31%	30740	24580	7210	68.8%	3090	29.49%	176	1.68%	3	0.03%	10479	1267
7	164675	85,213	107.24%	164675	124080	20573	49.15%	20537	49.07%	725	1.73%	20	0.05%	41855	3677
6	36976	-42,486	-53.47%	36976	27545	4787	48.56%	4908	49.79%	158	1.6%	5	0.05%	9858	765
5	26122	-53,340	-67.13%	26122	19882	3141	41.62%	4308	57.08%	97	1.29%	1	0.01%	7547	486

temp_testing_06Feb2020.map - Block-Voting District-County (Template)

Redistricting Toolbox - temp_testing_06...

Target 8

Source All

Selection Layer Census Block

Theme None

Dataview2 - Pending Changes

District	8	10	9
Population	34,020	84,918	37,809
[Change - Population]	3,280	-1,683	-1,597
[Ideal Value]	79,462	79,462	79,462
Deviation	-45,442	5,456	-41,653
[% Deviation]	-57.19%	6.87%	-52.42%
PL10AA_TOT	34,020	84,918	37,809
[Change - PL10AA_TOT]	3,280	-1,683	-1,597
PL10VA_TOT	27,327	63,254	29,791
[Change - PL10VA_TOT]	2,747	-1,515	-1,232
EL10G_USS_D	8,062	15,087	10,456
[Change - EL10G_USS_D]	852	-385	-467
[% EL10G_USS_D]	68.3%	65.04%	80.57%
EL10G_USS_R	3,540	7,569	2,333
[Change - EL10G_USS_R]	450	-187	-263
[% EL10G_USS_R]	29.99%	32.63%	17.98%
EL10G_USS_L	199	530	179
[Change - EL10G_USS_L]	23	-8	-15
[% EL10G_USS_L]	1.69%	2.28%	1.38%
EL10G_USS_W	3	10	10
[Change - EL10G_USS_W]	0	0	0
[% EL10G_USS_W]	0.03%	0.04%	0.08%
EL10G_USS_TOT	11,804	23,196	12,978
[Change - EL10G_USS_TOT]	1,325	-580	-745
EL12G_PR_D	14,115	31,901	19,552
[Change - EL12G_PR_D]	1,445	-696	-749
[% EL12G_PR_D]	71.95%	67.61%	83.76%
EL12G_PR_R	5,245	14,633	3,565
[Change - EL12G_PR_R]	699	-347	-352

Map scale: 1 Inch = 0.5231 Miles (1:33,143)

Questions?

- Caroline Mackie, cmackie@poynerspruill.com
- Blake Esselstyn, blake@mapfigure.com

- Local Redistricting Service, LRS@ncredistrict.com
  - www.ncredistrict.org/lrs