



2020 REDISTRICTING BENCHMARK REPORT HILTON HEAD NO. 1 SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT

REPORT PREPARED BY:

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REDISTRICTING REPORT 2020

PRESENTED TO: HILTON HEAD NO. 1 SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICT

The South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office (RFA) has prepared the following analysis and accompanying map regarding the redistricting for Hilton Head No. 1 Special Purpose District.

RFA strives to release data that is complete, accurate, and useful. However, we ask that you notify us, either by email (redistricting@rfa.sc.gov) or phone (803-734-3793), of any discrepancies.

ITEMS TO NOTE PRIOR TO REVIEWING THIS REPORT:

- The 2020 Census presents new challenges regarding redistricting as the data below the state level will be affected by the U.S. Census Bureau's efforts with respect to differential privacy. The Bureau has stated that the total population in each state will be "as enumerated," but that all other levels of geography could have some variance from the raw data. This variance is referred to by the Census Bureau as "injecting noise" into the data and is an attempt to improve privacy. The bureau has indicated that no "noise" will be injected into the state total population, but it is likely that noise will be injected for every other level of geography. More noise is injected as the geography levels get smaller. In other words, population counts at the county, city, or block level may not be "as enumerated".
- Race is defined following the guidance provided in OMB Bulletin No. 00-02 which allocates population counts of a "minority race and white" category to the minority race. In Tables 2 and 3, NH DOJ Black is the sum of Non-Hispanic Black and Non-Hispanic Black and White as recommended by the Department of Justice (DOJ).

CONSIDERATIONS FOR PRELIMINARY PLAN:

In developing a preliminary plan, RFA recommends following constitutional and statutory provisions:

- The requirement of “one person, one vote” under the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and accepted variances.
- The Voting Rights Act, primarily Section 2, which protects the interest of the racial minority population.
- Other applicable court decisions and federal and state law.

Further, RFA recommends the following set of traditional redistricting principles be considered:

- Districts or wards will be drawn contiguously, so that all parts of the district or ward are connected to each other.
- Districts or wards will be drawn to minimize the division of voting precincts.
- Districts or wards will be geographically compact to the extent practicable, such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for a more distant population.
- Districts or wards will be drawn, when feasible, with respect to existing districts and communities of interest, which will require input from Council and the citizens.
- Districts or wards will be drawn to comply with other applicable court decisions and federal and state laws.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Per Act 124 of 2003, an act to amend Act 596 of 1969, as last amended by Act 1357 of 1974 the Hilton Head No. 1 Public Service District “shall consist of seven residents of the district who must be qualified electors of the district.” Additionally, Act 124 of 2003 divides the district into “four election districts as follows: District One from which one commissioner shall reside in and be elected by the qualified electors of that district; District Two from which one commissioner shall reside in and be elected by the qualified electors of that district; District Three from which two commissioners shall reside in and be elected by the qualified electors of that district; and District Four from which three commissioners shall reside in and be elected by the qualified electors of that district.”

Act 93 of 2023 was approved on June 19, 2023, to amend Act 596 of 1969, as last amended by Act 124 of 2003. Section 3 is amended to read:

SECTION 3. (A) The district must be operated, managed, and governed by a commission to be known as “Hilton Head No. 1 Public Service District Commission”. The commission shall consist of seven residents of the district who must be qualified electors of the district.

(B) The commissioners shall be elected from seven election districts established by the commission and properly apportioned with the assistance of the appropriate state agencies. The commission is authorized to participate in redistricting as necessary to comply with state and federal laws.

(C) On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2024, four commissioners, one from District Two, one from District Three, and two from District Four, as previously elected pursuant to Act 124 of 2003, shall be considered for election in accordance with the election districts established pursuant to subsection (B). On the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November 2026, the three remaining commissioners, one from District One, one from District Two, and one from District Four, as previously elected pursuant to Act 124 of 2003, shall be considered for election in accordance with the election districts established pursuant to subsection (B). Candidates shall file a statement of intention of candidacy with the county board of elections and registration pursuant to Section 7-13-35 of the S.C. Code, as amended. Commissioners shall reside in and be elected by the qualified electors of their respective election districts established pursuant to subsection (B). Commissioners must be elected for terms of four years until their successors are elected and qualify.

(D) The Beaufort County Board of Elections and Registration shall conduct and supervise the elections for commissioners in the manner governed by the election laws of this State, mutatis mutandis. Vacancies must be filled in the manner provided in Section 7-13-190 of the S.C. Code.

2020 CENSUS BENCHMARK REPORT

The following information represents the legislation passed in 2003 with seven total members in the four established districts. The draft map and affiliated demographic statistics that will follow this report will be based on the updated legislation approved in Act 93 of 2023.

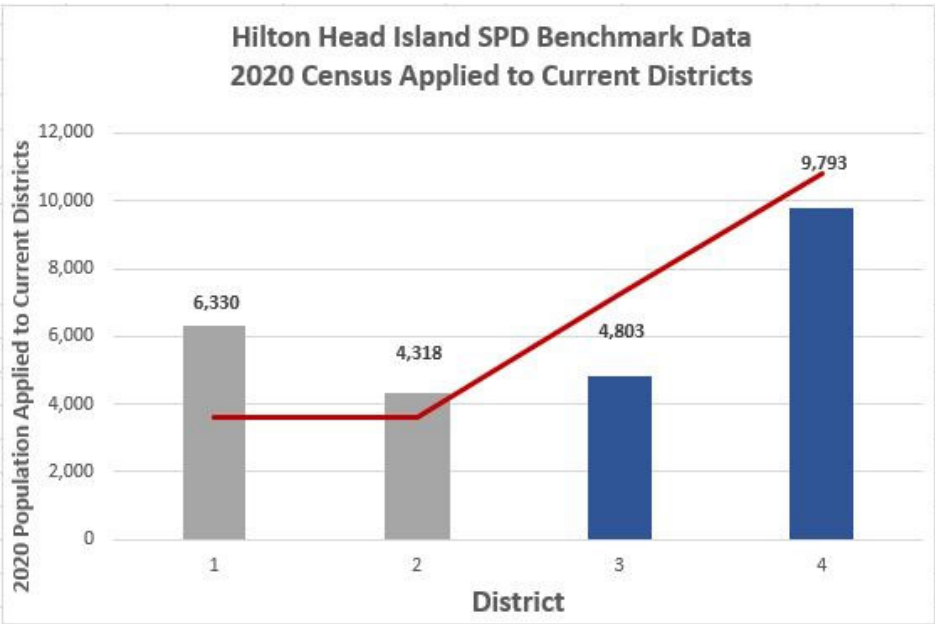
The population of the Hilton Head No. 1 Public Service District has increased 4.7% from 24,109 to 25,244. The Benchmark Report noted a deviation range of 108.93% (the sum of the highest deviation, 75.53%, and the absolute value of the lowest deviation | -33.41% |) which is above the maximum range of 10%. RFA recommends a deviation range of 5%. The target goal of each district is based on the number of commissioners per district divided by the total population.

The following table and chart show which districts are (under-) or over-populated, indicating potential adjustments needed to be within the allowable deviation range.

TABLE 1: 2020 CENSUS COUNTS APPLIED TO CURRENT DISTRICTS

District	2020 Census	Goal	Over/(Under)	% Deviation
1	6,330	3,606	2,724	75.53%
2	4,318	3,606	712	19.74%
3	4,803	7,213	(2,410)	-33.41%
4	9,793	10,819	(1,026)	-9.48%
Lowest	-33.41%			
Highest	75.53%			
Range	108.93%			

CHART 1:



MAP 1:

District Lines and
Addresses of Incumbents

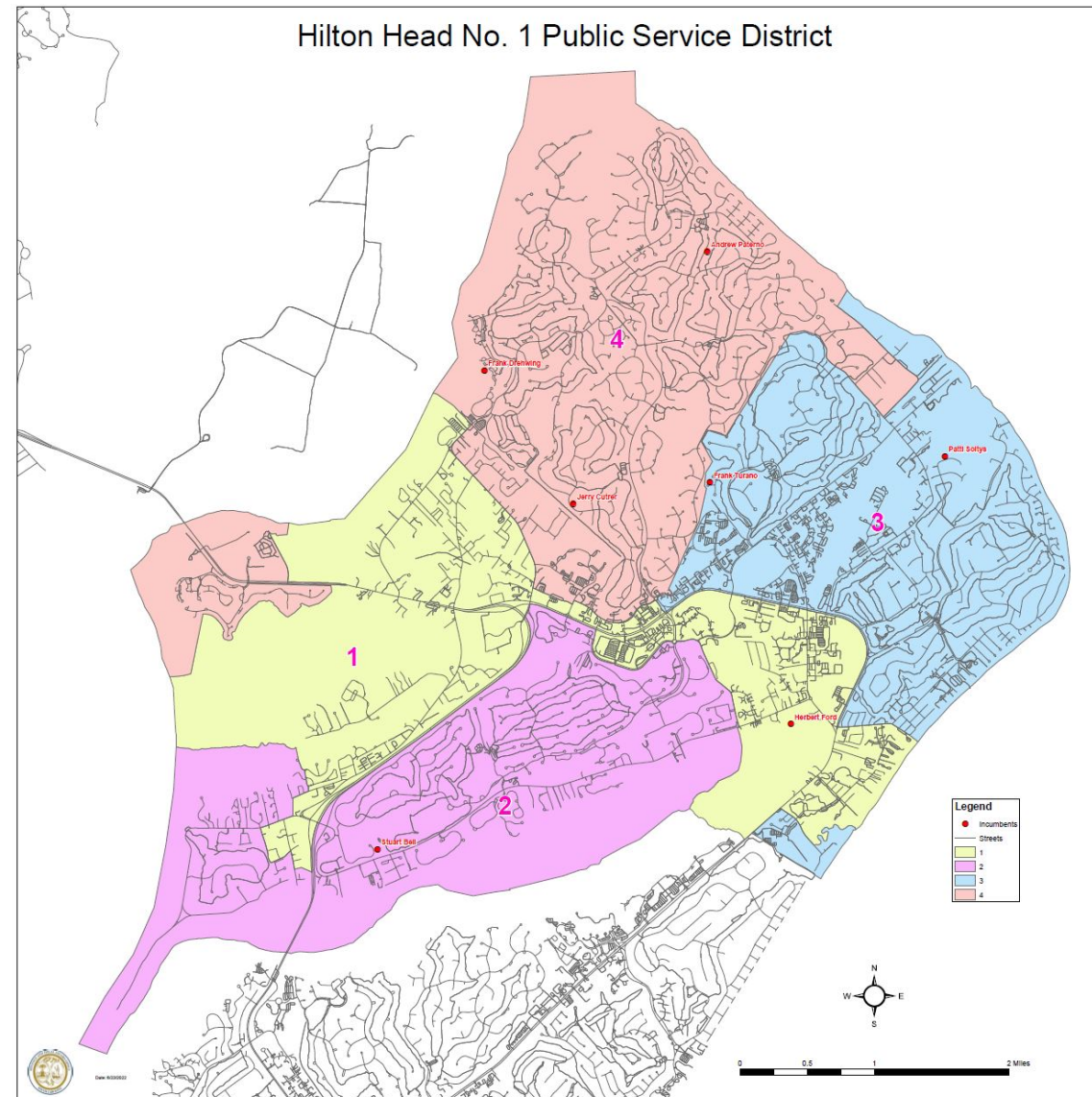


TABLE 2: TOTAL POPULATION BY RACE *RACE DEFINED USING DOJ DEFINITIONS. NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO IS ABBREVIATED AS NH.

District	Total	Hispanic	% Hispanic	NH White	% NH White	NH DOJ Black*	% NH DOJ Black	NH Other Race	% NH Other Race
1	6,330	1,880	29.70%	2,931	46.30%	1,314	20.76%	205	3.24%
2	4,318	683	15.82%	3,224	74.66%	304	7.04%	107	2.48%
3	4,803	946	19.70%	3,415	71.10%	238	4.96%	204	4.25%
4	9,793	795	8.12%	8,494	86.74%	227	2.32%	277	2.83%
Total	25,244	4,304	17.05%	18,064	71.56%	2,083	8.25%	793	3.14%

TABLE 3: VOTING AGE POPULATION BY RACE *RACE DEFINED USING DOJ DEFINITIONS. NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO IS ABBREVIATED AS NH.

District	Total VAP	Hispanic VAP	% Hispanic VAP	NH White VAP	% NH White VAP	NH DOJ Black* VAP	% NH DOJ Black VAP	NH Other Race VAP	% NH Other Race VAP
1	4,838	1,169	24.16%	2,546	52.63%	955	19.74%	168	3.47%
2	3,696	477	12.91%	2,881	77.95%	247	6.68%	91	2.46%
3	4,035	657	16.28%	3,047	75.51%	182	4.51%	149	3.69%
4	8,658	517	5.97%	7,737	89.36%	182	2.10%	222	2.56%
Total	21,227	2,820	13.28%	16,211	76.37%	1,566	7.38%	630	2.97%

RFA RECOMMENDATIONS:

- RFA requests Council conduct a public meeting to discuss this report and solicit feedback from the public.
- RFA recommends Council adopt, through either a resolution or acceptance of this plan, the following traditional redistricting principles:
 - Districts or wards will be drawn contiguously, so that all parts of the district or ward are connected to each other.
 - Districts or wards will be drawn to minimize the division of voting precincts.
 - Districts or wards will be geographically compact to the extent practicable, such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for a more distant population.
 - Districts or wards will be drawn to comply with other applicable court decisions and federal and state laws.
 - Districts or wards will be drawn, when feasible, with respect to existing districts and communities of interests, which will require input from Council and the citizens.
- RFA recommends Council give careful consideration to minority districts for compliance with Section 2 criteria of the Voting Rights Act.
- Because of the potential effects of differential privacy, RFA recommends Council adopt a deviation range of 5%.