



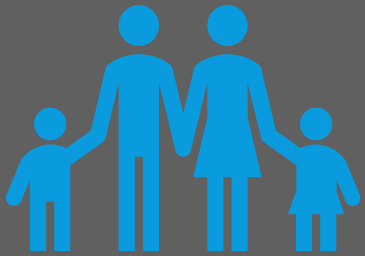
CITY OF SAVANNAH

**REDISTRICTING
PLAN
PRESENTATION**

Melanie Wilson, Executive Director

**Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan
Planning Commission**

OVERVIEW



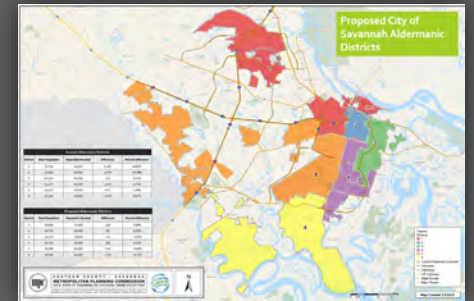
**2020
Census**



**Review of
Redistricting
Rules &
Process**

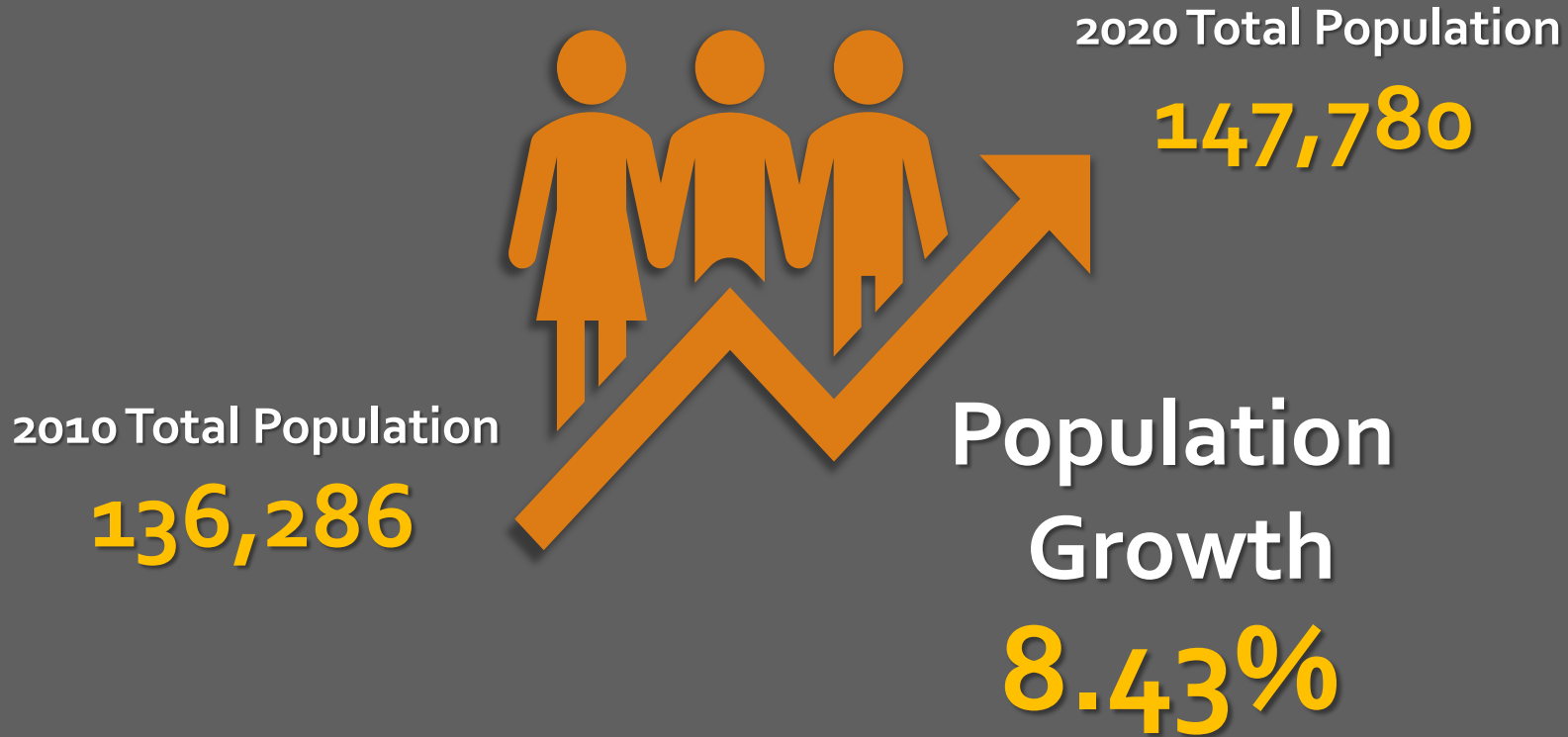


**Redistricting
Timeline**



**Proposed
District
Maps**

City of Savannah Population



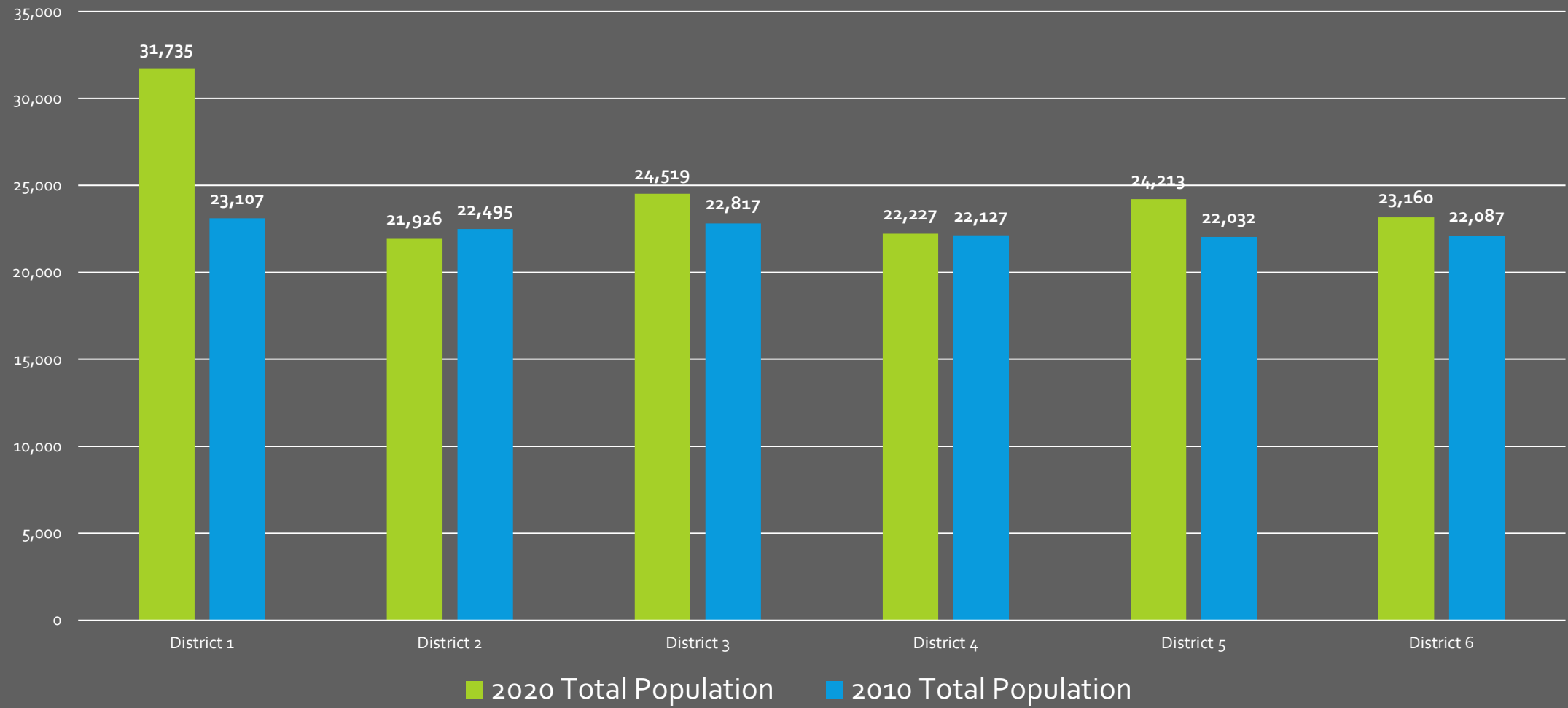
Census Information

- The population of Georgia increased from 9,687,653 in 2010 to **10,711,908** in 2020.
- Chatham County's population increased from 265,128 in 2010 to **295,291** in 2020.
- City of Savannah's population increased from **136,286** in 2010 to **147,780** in 2020. (April 1, 2020).

2020 & 2010 Census Counts per District

City of Savannah Population District Changes				
District	2020 Total Population	2010 Total Population	Difference	Percent Difference
1	31,735	23,107	8,628	37.34%
2	21,926	22,495	-569	-2.53%
3	24,519	22,817	1,702	7.46%
4	22,227	22,127	100	0.45%
5	24,213	22,032	2,181	9.90%
6	23,160	22,087	1,073	4.86%

City of Savannah Aldermanic Districts 2010 & 2020 Census Population Counts



2020 POPULATION & POPULATION NEEDED PER DISTRICT 24,630

Difference in Population Needed:			
Districts	2020 Total Population	Population Needed	Difference
District 1	31,735	24,630	+7,105
District 2	21,926	24,630	-2,704
District 3	24,519	24,630	-111
District 4	22,227	24,630	-2,403
District 5	24,213	24,630	-417
District 6	23,160	24,630	-1,470

WHAT IS REDISTRICTING

- Redistricting, or “reapportionment” is the redrawing of the boundaries of an elective political district.
- Redistricting occurs at least once every ten years. The release of decennial census data triggers reapportionment of Congressional seats among the several states, and causes the various state legislatures to reapportion the population of their state into their allotted number of Congressional districts
- If the census data demonstrates that a city has grown in population or that population within the city has shifted among elective districts, the city will need to reapportion the population

Why is redistricting necessary?

- **New Census** → **New Maps**

- District boundaries change so that each district will have as close to equal population as practicable.
- City's population of **147,780** must be distributed equally among 6 Districts.
- Each District should have a population of **24,630** or as close to this number as possible with plus or minus **2.5% or 5% total**.

Ideal Value = 24,630

All Districts are affected by the changes!

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

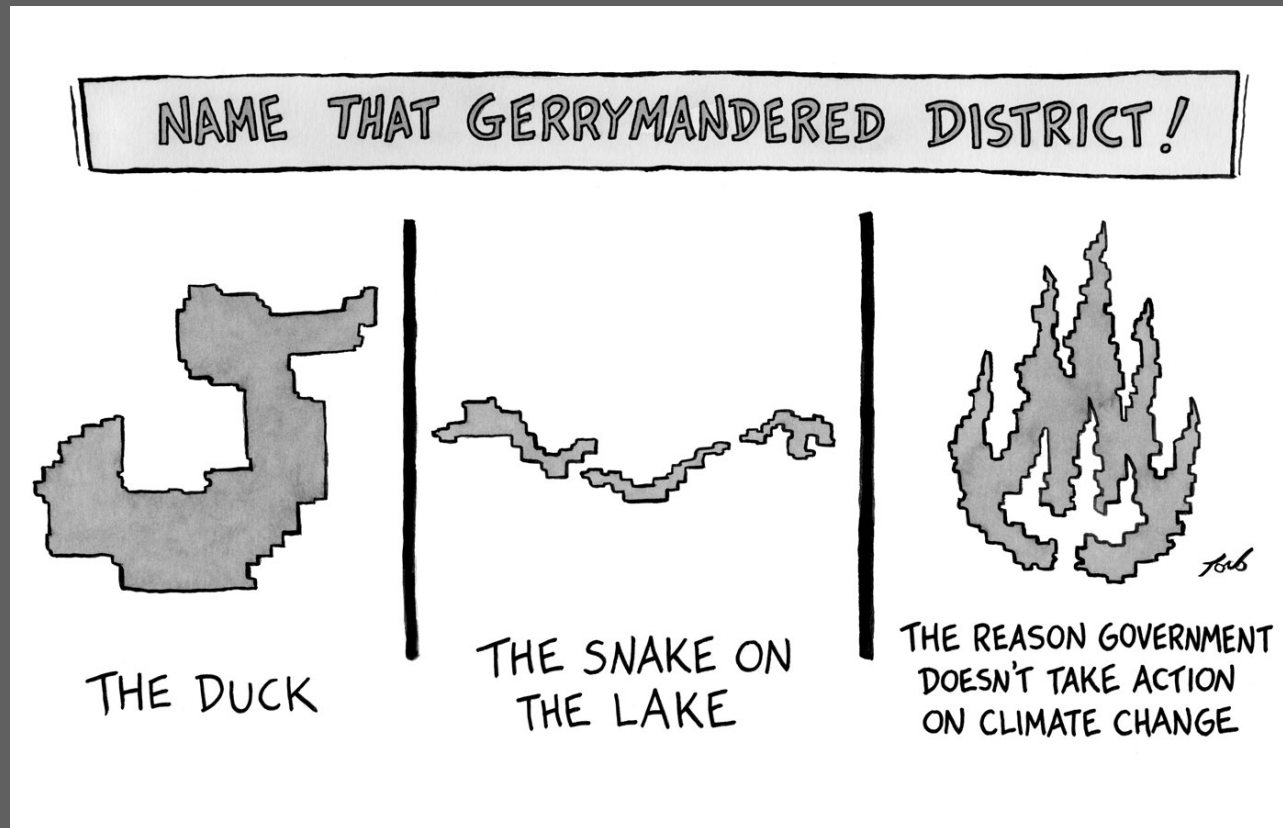
Legal Requirements

- Compliance with U.S. and State Constitution
- Compliance with the Voting Rights Act of 1965
- Equal Protection Clause (14th Amendment)
- “One Person, One Vote”
- Where the maximum population deviation between the largest and smallest district is less than $\pm 5\%$, a local legislative map presumptively complies with the one-person, one-vote rule

Traditional Redistricting Principles

- Compactness
- Contiguity
- Respecting political boundaries
- Communities of interest

GERRYMANDERING



Sometimes you know it
when you see it!

WHAT IS GERRYMANDERING?

- Gerrymandering occurs when a political district map is redrawn to favor a particular class or party
 - For example, political districts have been redrawn to underrepresent minorities or ensure a particular party is overrepresented

TYPES OF GERRYMANDERING

CRACKING

The lines are redrawn to spread the opposition's votes across several districts. This effectively dilutes their vote so it's not as powerful.

PACKING

Districts are redrawn such that the opposition's supporters condense to a few areas. When a district map that has been packed, the boundaries are long and convoluted like a snake.

This way, the dominant parties can maintain control of an area.

O.C.G.A. § 36-35-4.1

SAVANNAH REDISTRICTING WILL USE HOME RULE

HOME RULE

The basic authority for municipal Home Rule in Georgia is found in the following constitutional provision: **“The General Assembly may provide by law for the self-government of municipalities and to that end is expressly given the authority to delegate its power so that matters pertaining to municipalities may be dealt with without the necessity of action by the General Assembly”** (Ga. Const. Art. IX, Sec. II, Par. II).

GEORGIA LAW FOR REDISTRICTING BY HOME RULE

O.C.G.A. 36-35-4.1. Reapportionment of election districts for municipal elections. The municipal governing authority **shall by ordinance** amend its charter pursuant to paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of Code Section 36-35-3 to reapportion the districts in accordance with the following specifications:

- (1) Each reapportioned district shall be formed of contiguous territory; and the boundary lines of such district shall be the center lines of streets or other well-defined boundaries;
- (2) Variations in population among such districts shall comply with the one person-one vote requirements of the United States Constitution; and

GEORGIA LAW FOR REDISTRICTING BY HOME RULE CONTINUED...

(3) The reapportionment shall be limited to adjusting the boundary lines of the existing districts only to the extent reasonably necessary to comply with the requirements of paragraph (2) of this subsection; and the number of members of the municipal governing body and the manner of electing such members, except for the adjustment of district boundary lines, shall not be changed by the municipal governing authority.

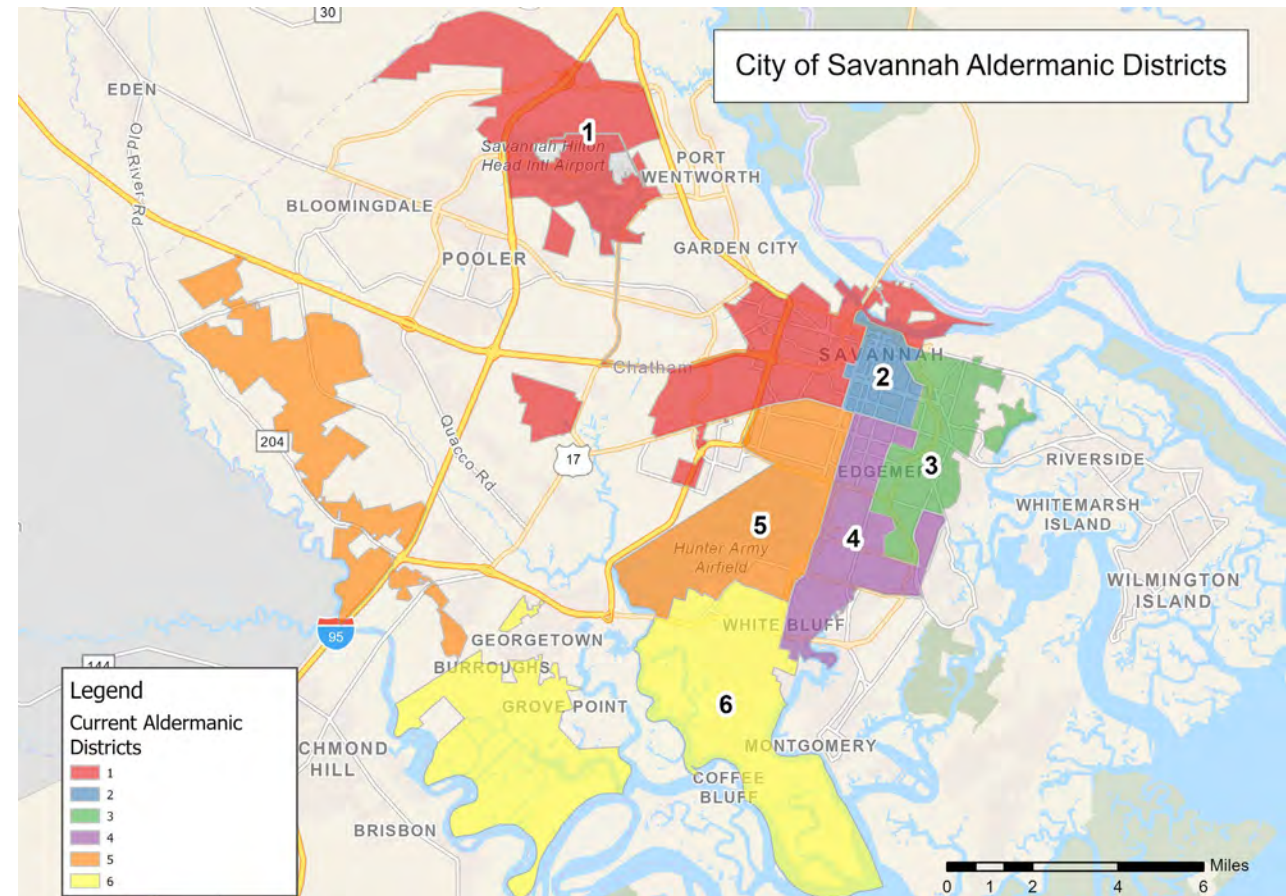
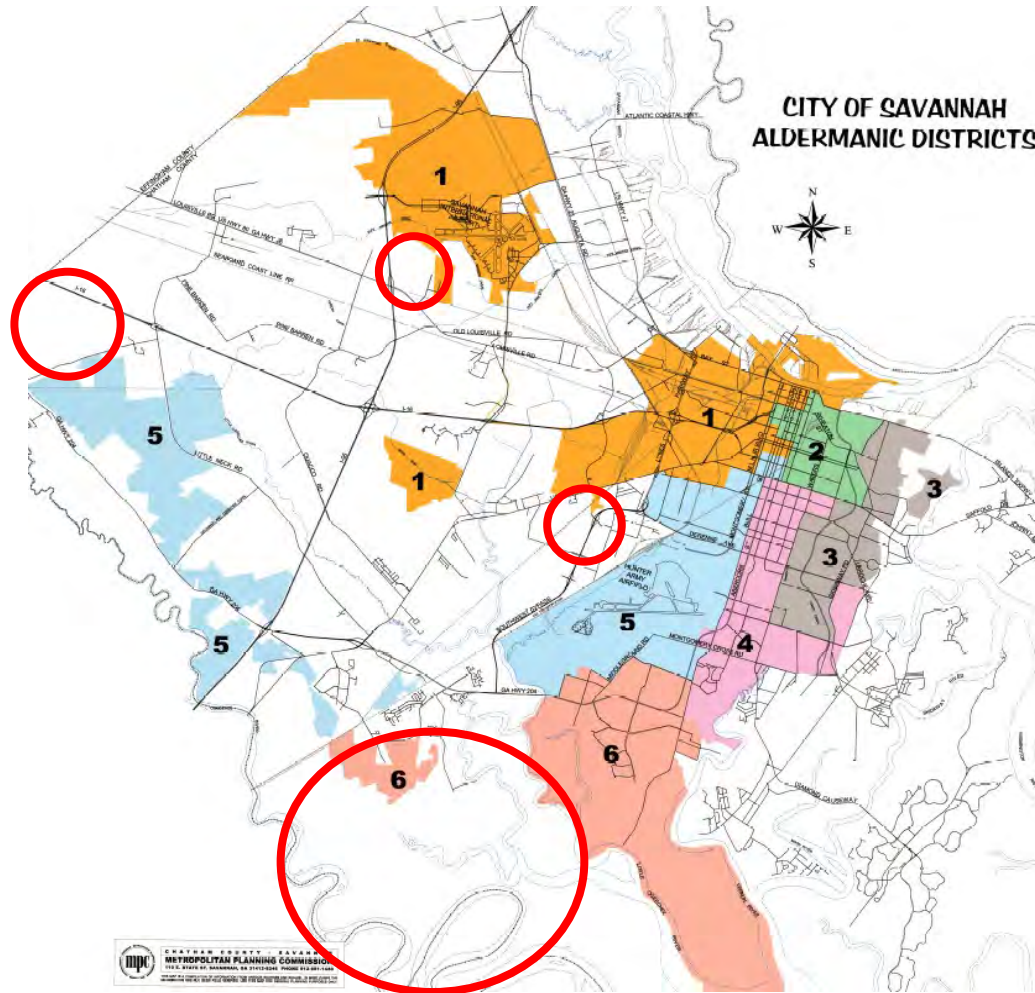
(4) **Annexed territory**: In addition to reapportionment following publication of the decennial census, a municipal governing authority shall reapportion districts pursuant to this Code section if the annexation of additional territory to the corporate boundaries of the municipality has the effect of denying electors residing within the newly annexed territory the right to vote for members of the municipal governing authority on substantially the same basis as the other electors of the municipality vote for members of the municipal governing authority.

MPC PLAN FOR REDISTRICTING BY HOME RULE

1. City of Savannah elected officials met with MPC staff to review proposed changes for district boundary changes.
2. The updated draft Plan is based on the most **equitable distribution of residents based on total population**.
3. MPC staff reviewed the racial distribution in each district after lines have been drafted.
4. Elected Officials agree on new boundary changes and draft an ordinance.
5. Proposed ordinance is publicly advertised.
6. Ordinance is adopted by Council.

All Districts are affected by the changes!

2010 AND CURRENT ALDERMANIC DISTRICTS



PROPOSED DISTRICTS

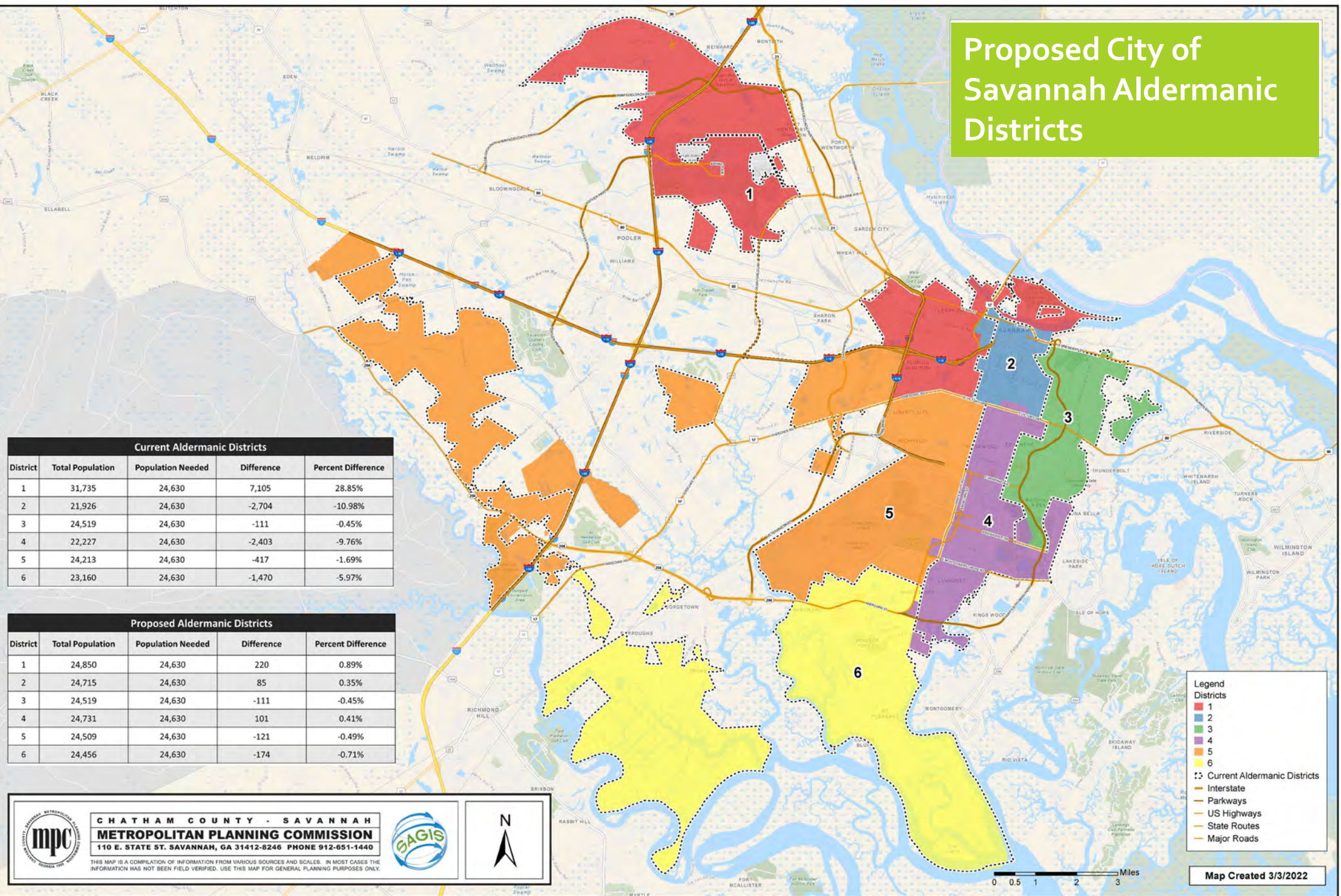
The following chart and maps are the proposed districts after meeting with elected officials.

PROPOSED DISTRICT STATISTICS

POPULATION NEEDED PER DISTRICT 24,630

Difference in Population Needed:				
Districts	2020 Total Population	Population Needed	Difference	Percent Difference
District 1	24,850	24,630	220	0.89%
District 2	24,715	24,630	85	0.35%
District 3	24,519	24,630	-111	-0.45%
District 4	24,731	24,630	101	0.41%
District 5	24,509	24,630	-121	-0.49%
District 6	24,456	24,630	-174	-0.71%

Proposed City of Savannah Aldermanic Districts



Current Aldermanic Districts				
District	Total Population	Population Needed	Difference	Percent Difference
1	31,735	24,630	7,105	28.85%
2	21,926	24,630	-2,704	-10.98%
3	24,519	24,630	-111	-0.45%
4	22,227	24,630	-2,403	-9.76%
5	24,213	24,630	-417	-1.69%
6	23,160	24,630	-1,470	-5.97%

Proposed Aldermanic Districts				
District	Total Population	Population Needed	Difference	Percent Difference
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CHATHAM COUNTY - SAVANNAH
METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION
 110 E. STATE ST. SAVANNAH, GA 31412-8246 PHONE 912-651-1440

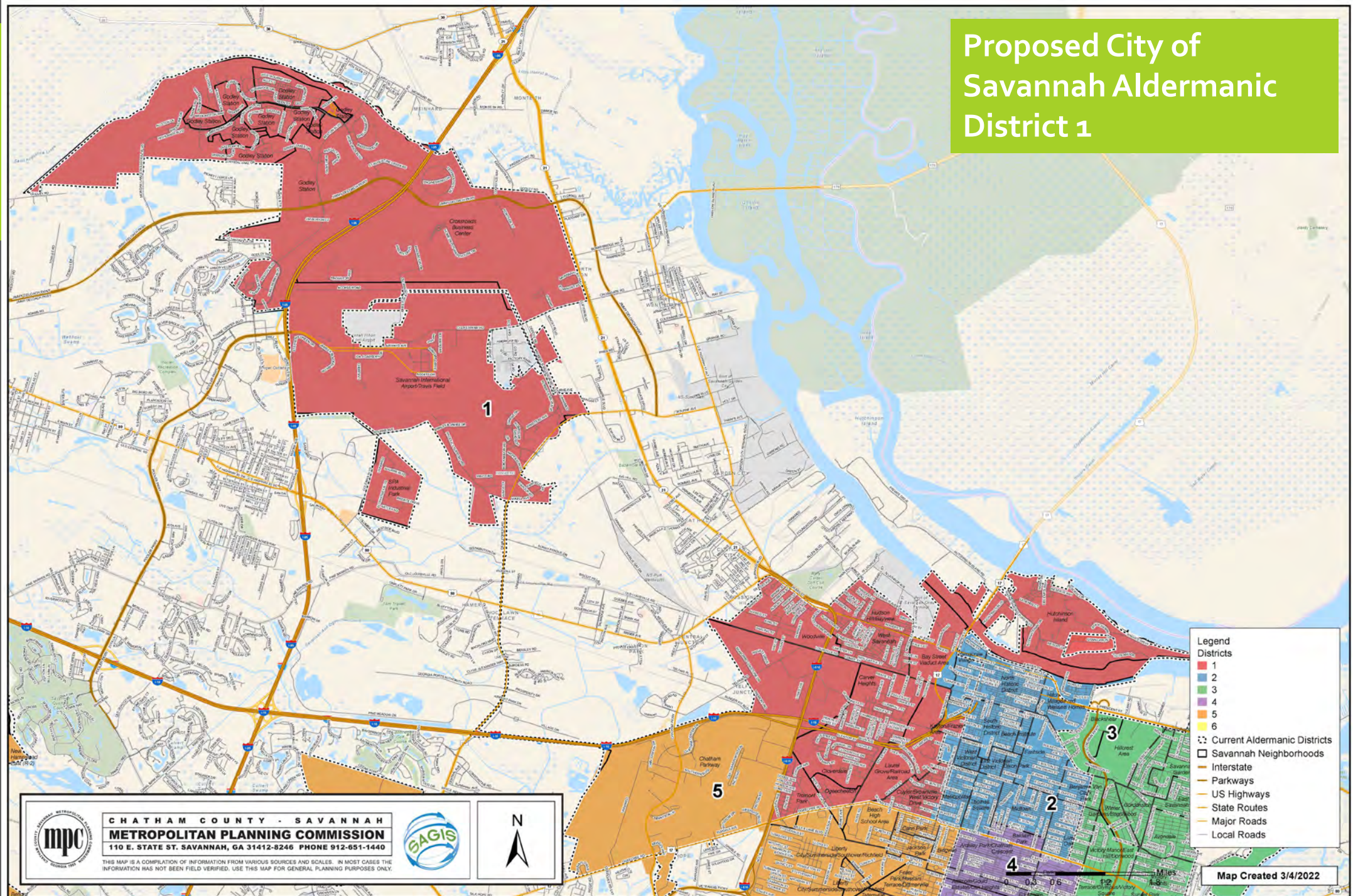


THIS MAP IS A COMPILATION OF INFORMATION FROM VARIOUS SOURCES AND SCALES. IN MOST CASES THE INFORMATION HAS NOT BEEN FIELD VERIFIED. USE THIS MAP FOR GENERAL PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY.

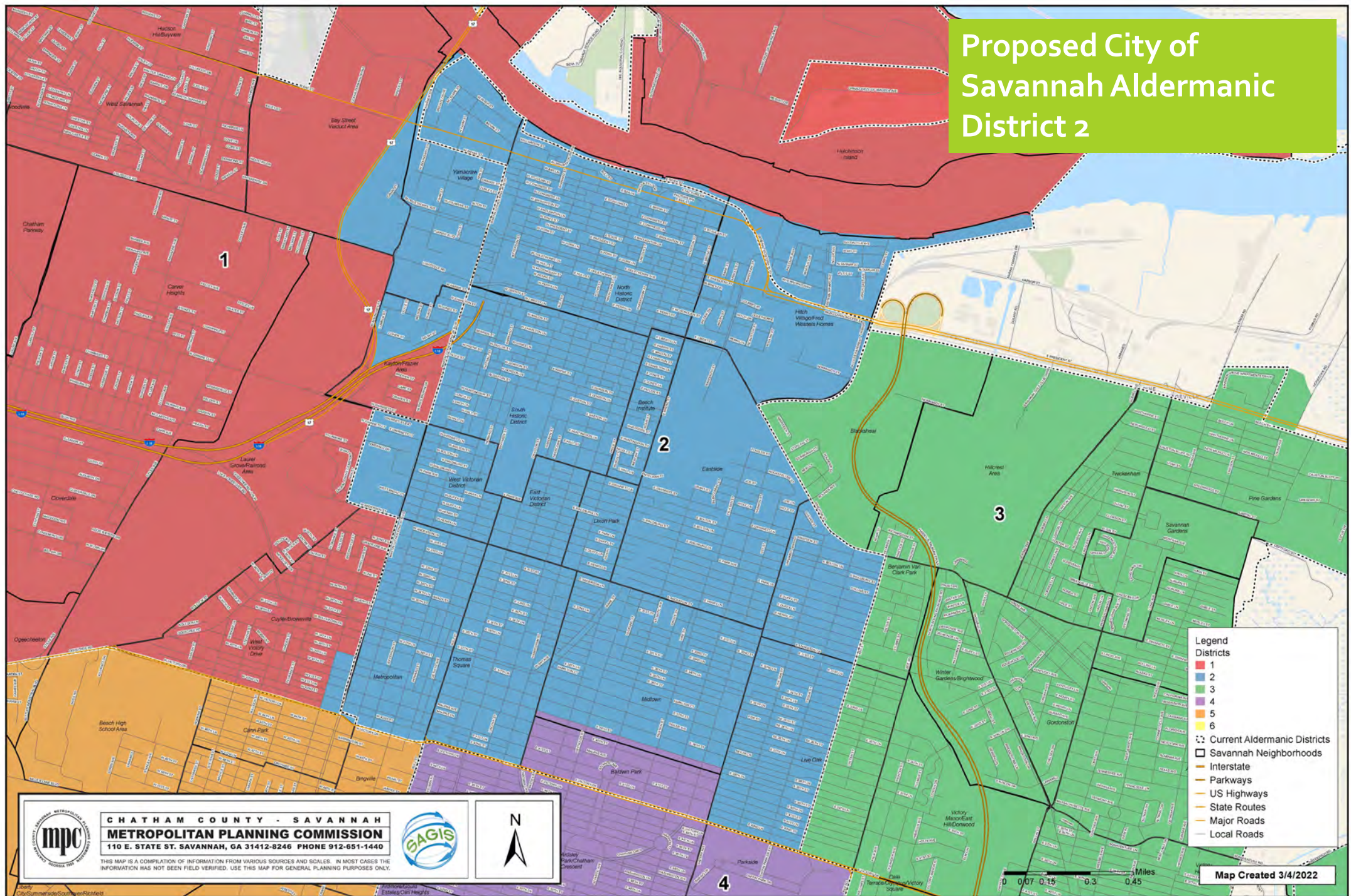
Map Created 3/3/2022

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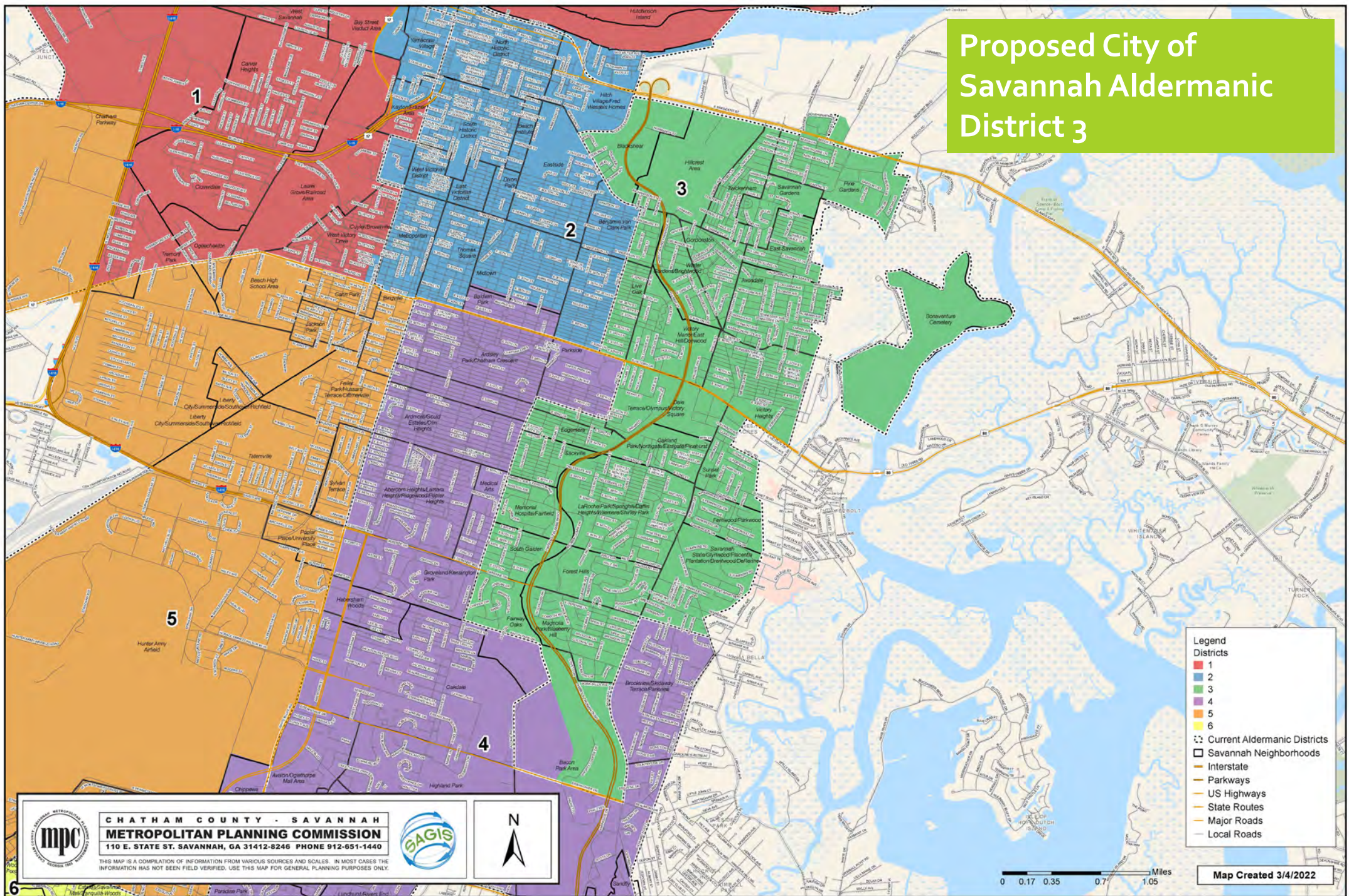
Proposed City of Savannah Aldermanic District 1



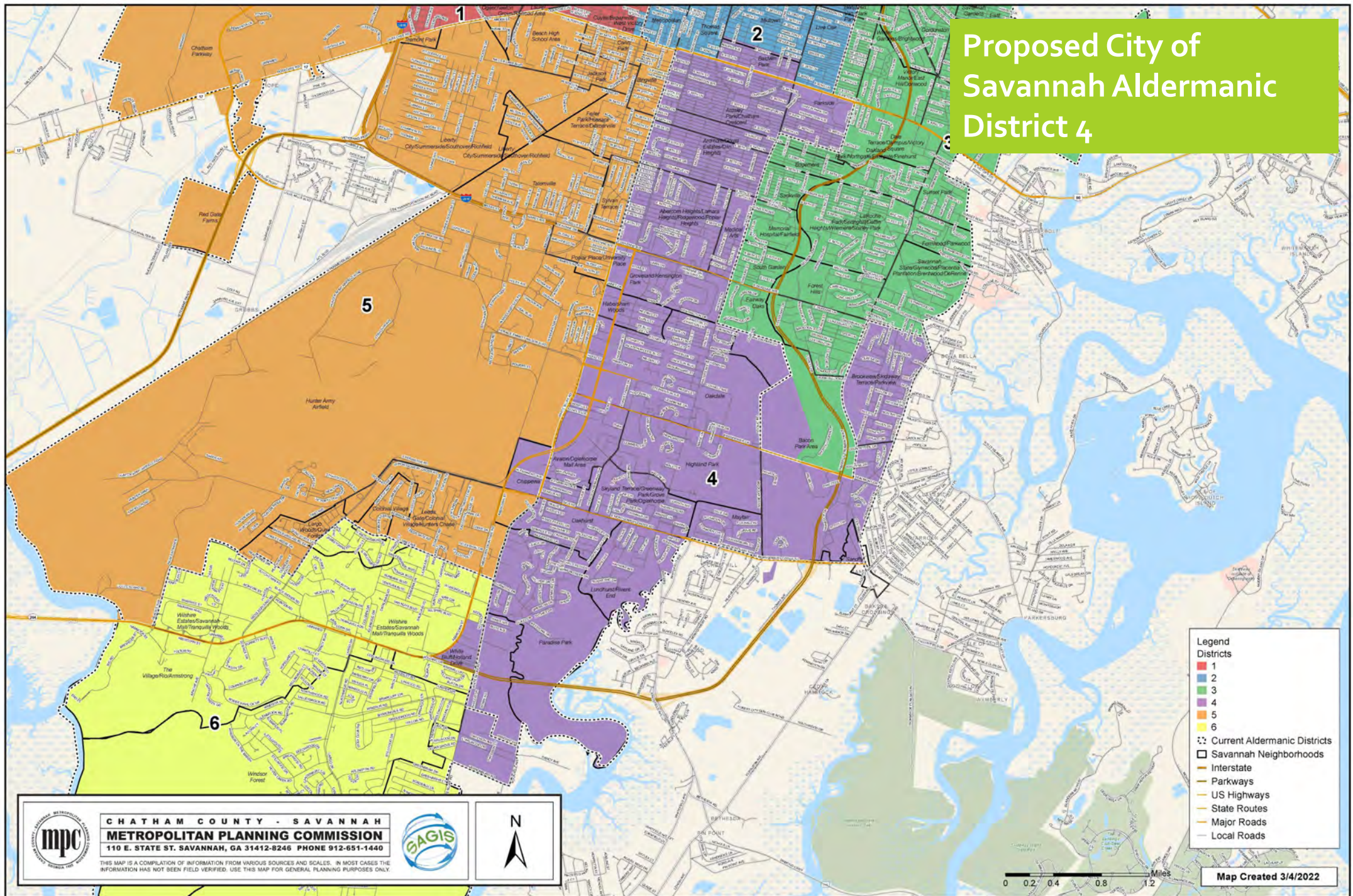
Proposed City of Savannah Aldermanic District 2



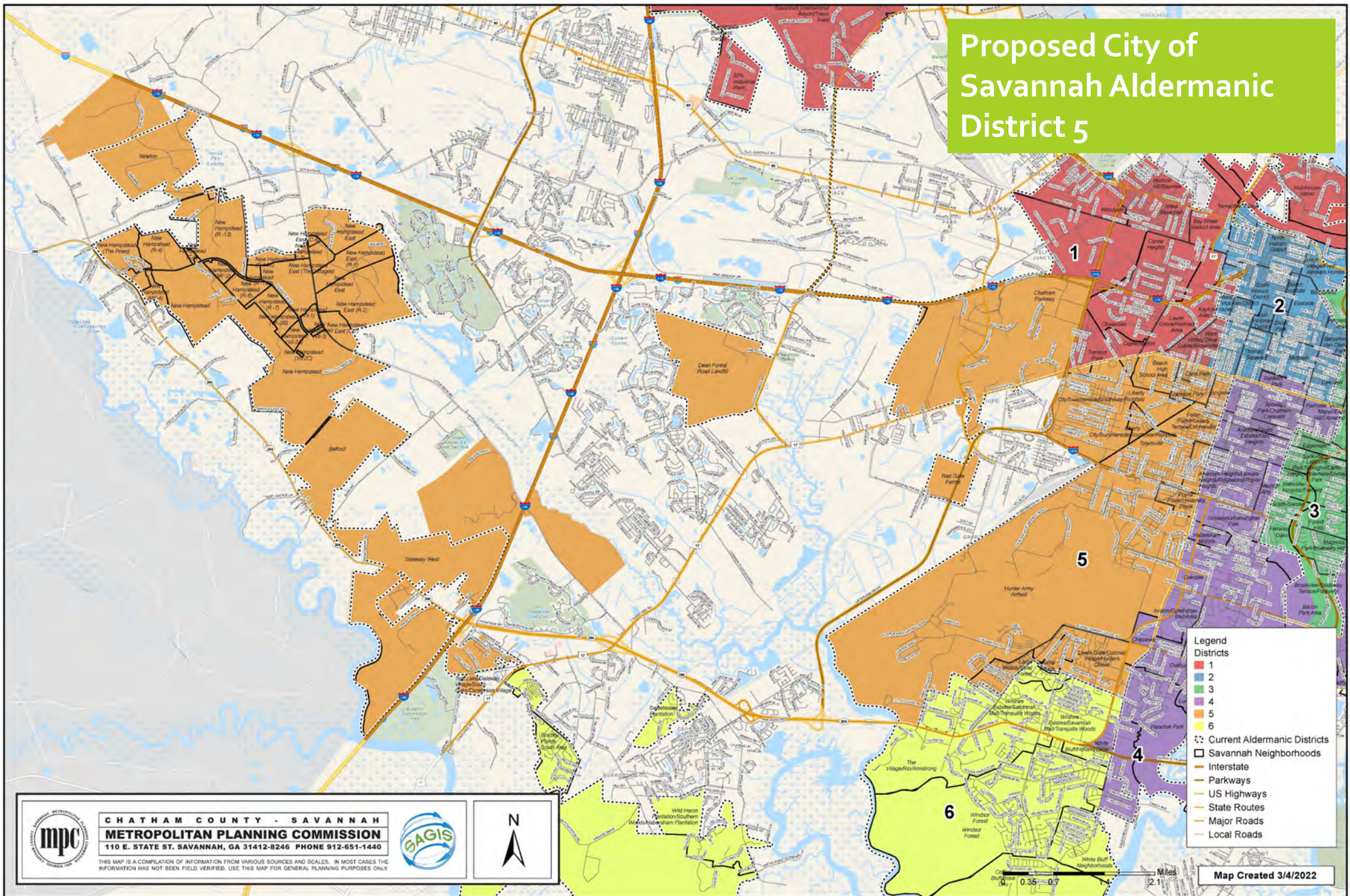
Proposed City of Savannah Aldermanic District 3



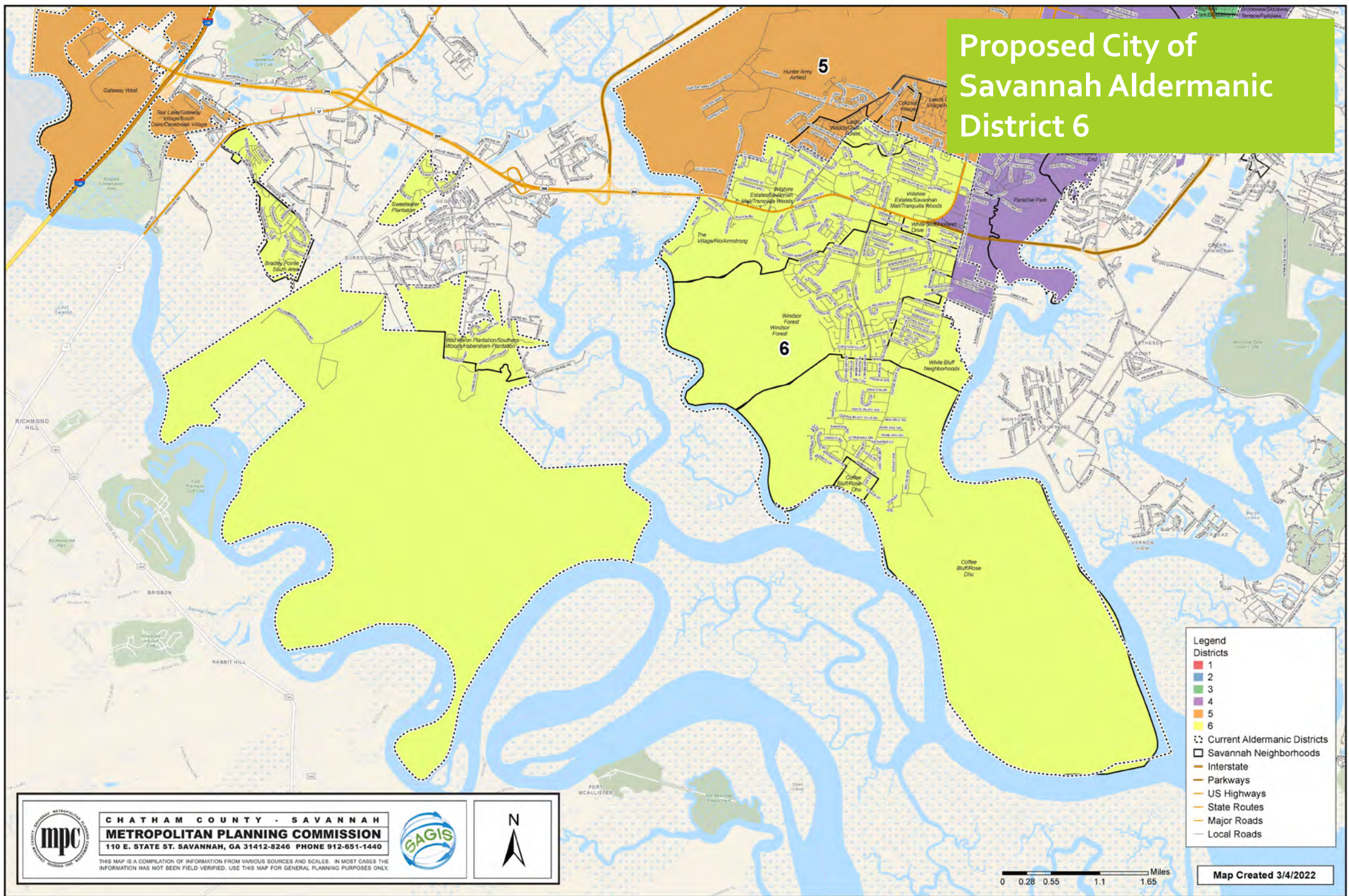
Proposed City of Savannah Aldermanic District 4



Proposed City of Savannah Aldermanic District 5



Proposed City of Savannah Aldermanic District 6



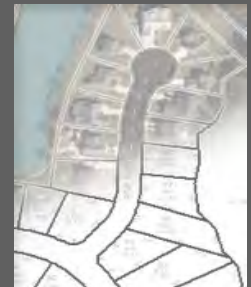
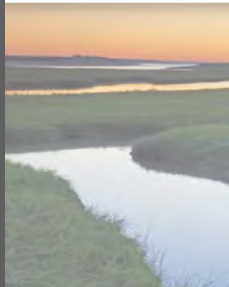
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METROPOLITAN PLANNING COMMISSION



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