



City of El Paso Redistricting Process

April 11, 2022

Work Session

6.8 Support transparent and inclusive government





Overview

1. Why Redistrict?
2. Legal Requirements
3. Districting Commission Process
4. Review of Recommended Plans
5. Commission Testimony
6. City Council Discussion
7. Public Comment/Input

Redistricting Timeline

April 27, 2021	• Council Establishes Districting Commission
August 26, 2021	• Census Results Released
September 1, 2021	• Commissioner Appointment Deadline • Regular Meetings Began September 16
October 26, 2021	• Council Adopted Resolution to Establish Review Criteria
December 2021	• El Paso County Adopts New Precincts
January 24 – February 10, 2022	• Community Outreach Meetings
March 23, 2022	• Commission Recommended Three Plans to Council
April 11, 2022	• Presentation of Recommended District Plans
April 26, 2022	• Second Hearing of District Plans
May 8, 2022	• Last Day Council can adopt new boundaries



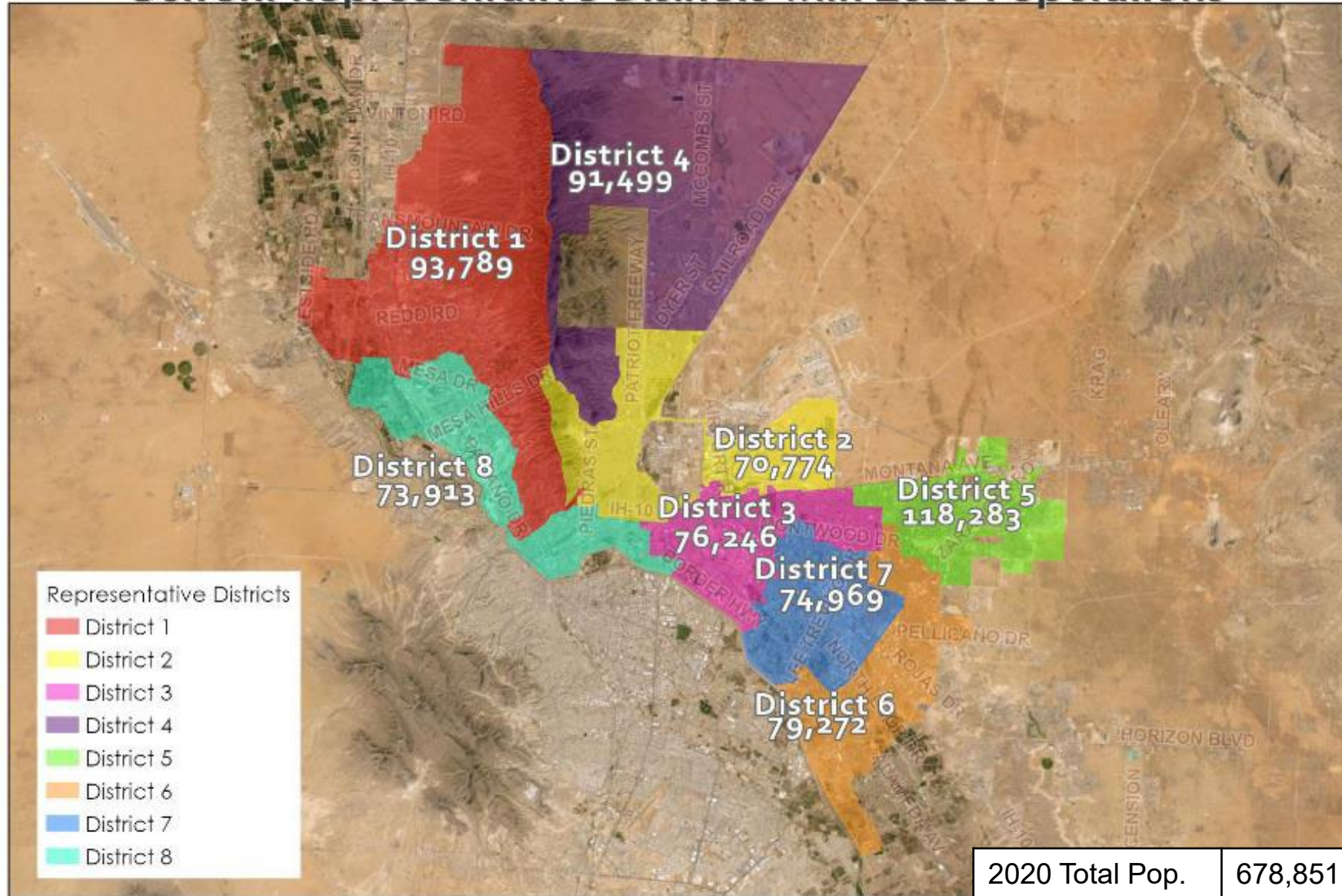
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Why Redistrict?

- One Person - One Vote Principle
 - Constitutional mandate
- Release of the Census updates the official population of El Paso
- We redistrict to maintain substantial equality in the populations of Representative districts

Current Representative Districts with 2020 Populations



This map is designed for illustrative purposes only. The features depicted here are approximate and make the specific details may be required to draw accurate conclusions. Enlargement of this map to scales greater than its original can induce errors and may lead to misinterpretation of the data. The Planning & Inspection Department Planning Division makes no claim to its accuracy or completeness.

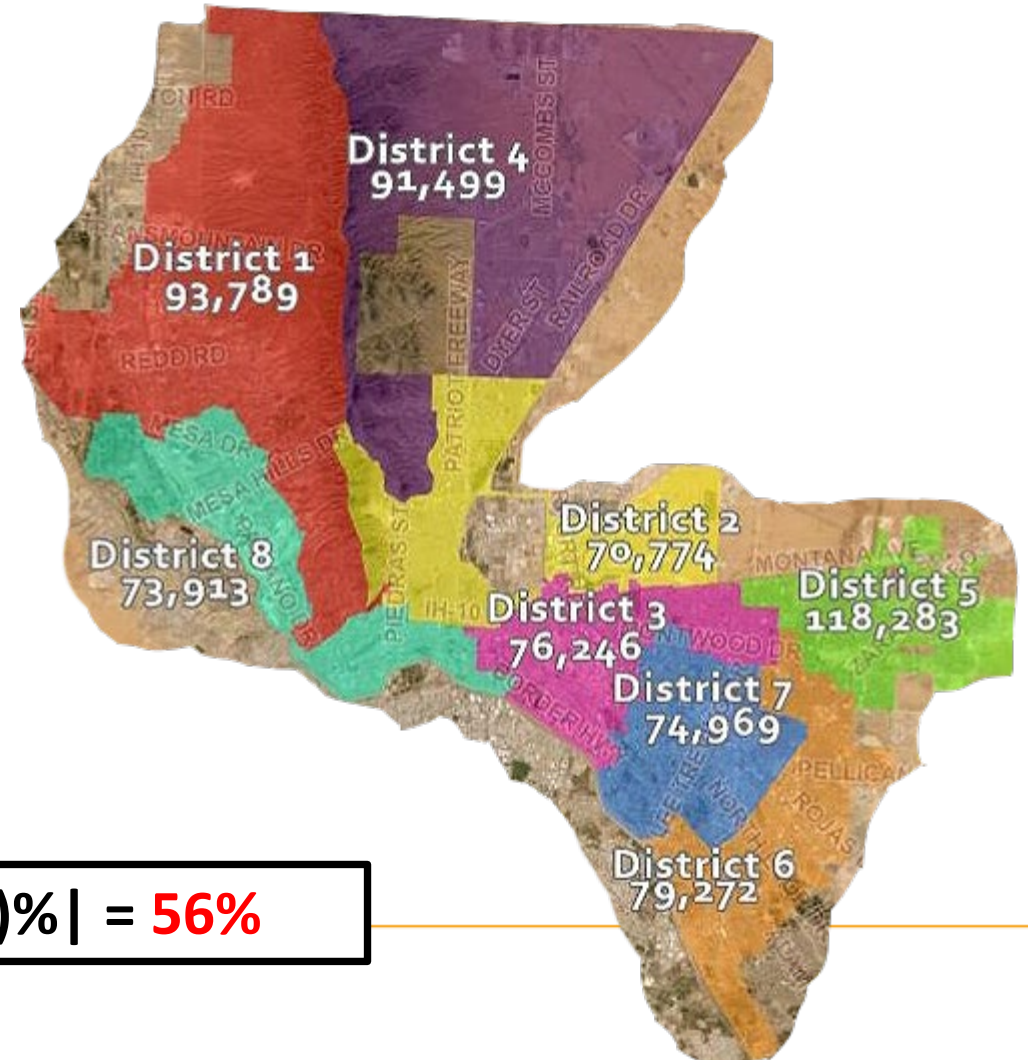


0 1.5 3 6 9 12 Miles



Current Deviation

District	Pop.	Ideal Size	Difference	Deviation
1	93,789	84,851	8,937	10.5%
2	70,774	84,851	(14,078)	(16.6%)
3	76,246	84,851	(8,606)	(10.1%)
4	91,499	84,851	6,647	7.8%
5	118,283	84,851	33,431	39.4%
6	79,272	84,851	(5,580)	(6.6%)
7	74,969	84,851	(9,893)	(11.6%)
8	73,913	84,851	(10,939)	(12.9%)
Total	678,815			



$$|39.4\%| + |(16.6)\%| = 56\%$$



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Legal Requirements - Federal

- 14th Amendment & Voting Rights Act Section 2
- One Person – One Vote
 - 10% threshold – held by courts
- Nondiscriminatory

Shelby v. Holder (2013)

- Prior to *Shelby v. Holder* the City was required to submit its redistricting plan to the Department of Justice for preclearance.
- *Shelby* eliminated preclearance review requirement.
 - Biggest change from the 2010-2012 process

Traditional Districting Criteria

- Courts have identified “traditional districting principles” that should be neutrally applied
- *Shaw v. Reno* (1993) – State could not disregard traditional redistricting principals and draw boundaries along racial lines

Adopted Districting Criteria

1. Where possible, easily identifiable geographic boundaries.
 2. Communities of interest should be maintained, avoid splitting neighborhoods
 3. To the extent possible districts should be composed of whole voting precincts
 4. To the extent possible districts should be based on existing districts
 - 5. Districts should be relatively equal in population (10% limit)**
 6. Districts should be composed of compact and contiguous area
 7. Consideration may be given to preserve incumbent districts
 - 8. No packing or cracking of minority voters**
-

Redistricting Requirements - Local

- Article II Section 2.4(B) of the El Paso City Code requires the City at the time of the Decennial Census to establish a Districting Commission
 - One Appointee from each member of Council
 - Makes recommendations on district Plans to Council



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Districting Process

- Districting Commission's first meeting took place on September 15, 2021
- Total of 15 public meetings held at City Hall
 - Hybrid format to allow both in-person and virtual participation
- Total of 15 community meetings held city-wide (approx. 100 participants)
 - 8 in-person meetings at locations across the City
 - 2 fully virtual meetings
 - 3 auxiliary meetings hosted by Council Representatives (Districts 1, 3, and 7)
 - 4 additional presentations to associations and interest groups (at requested)

Outreach



District Plans –Drafting and Review

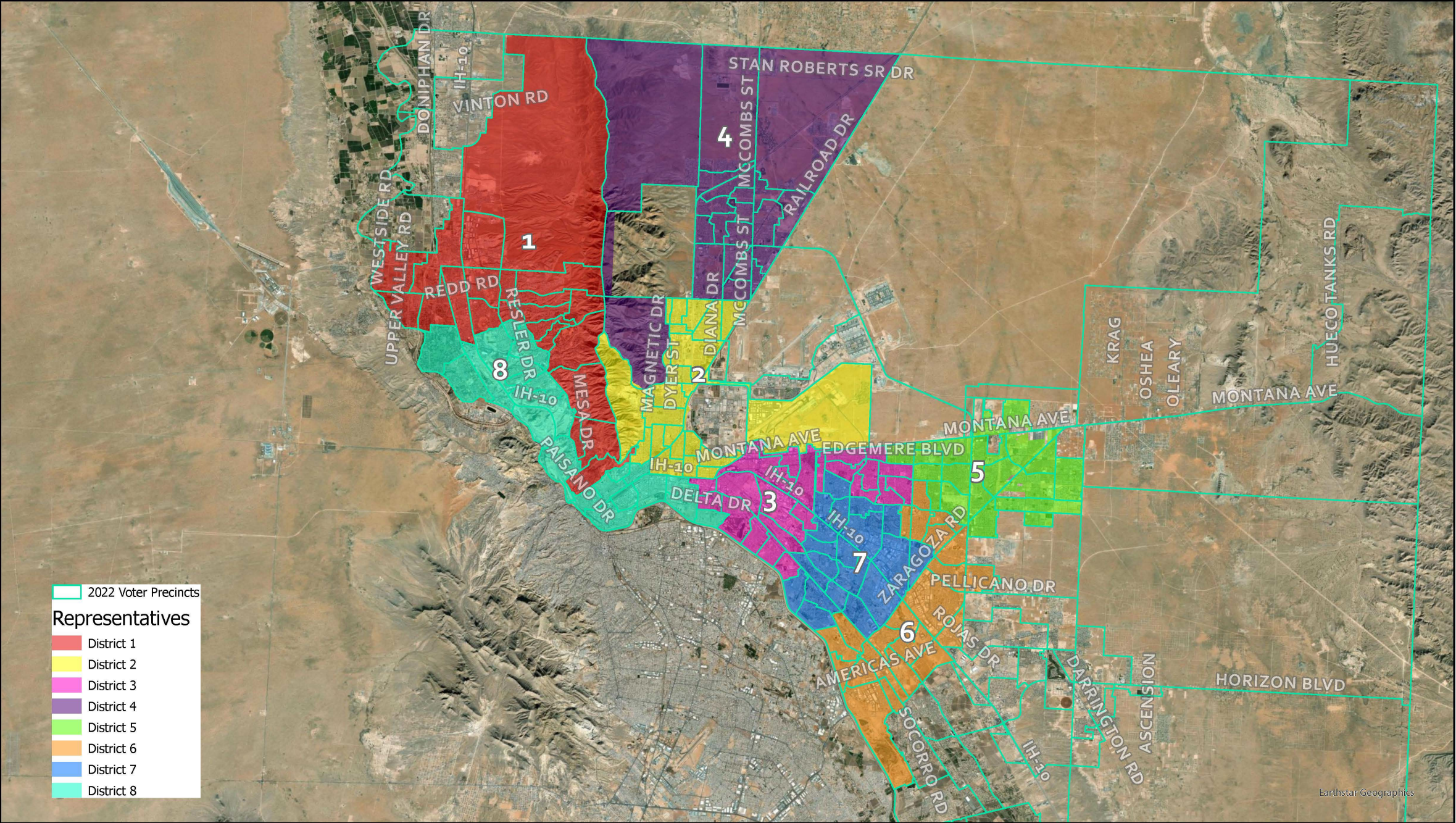
- Staff Drafts: Three plans
- Commissioner Drafts: Eight plans
- Public Drafts: 10 plans
- Live Editing Sessions at March 16th and 23rd Commission Meetings
 - March 23, 2022 Meeting concluded with ranked choice voting to select top three maps as recommendation to Council
 - First Choice – Commissioner Draft #7 (as revised 3-23-2022)
 - Second Choice – Commissioner Draft #6 (as revised 3-23-2022)
 - Third Choice – Commissioner Draft #8 (as revised 3-23-2022)



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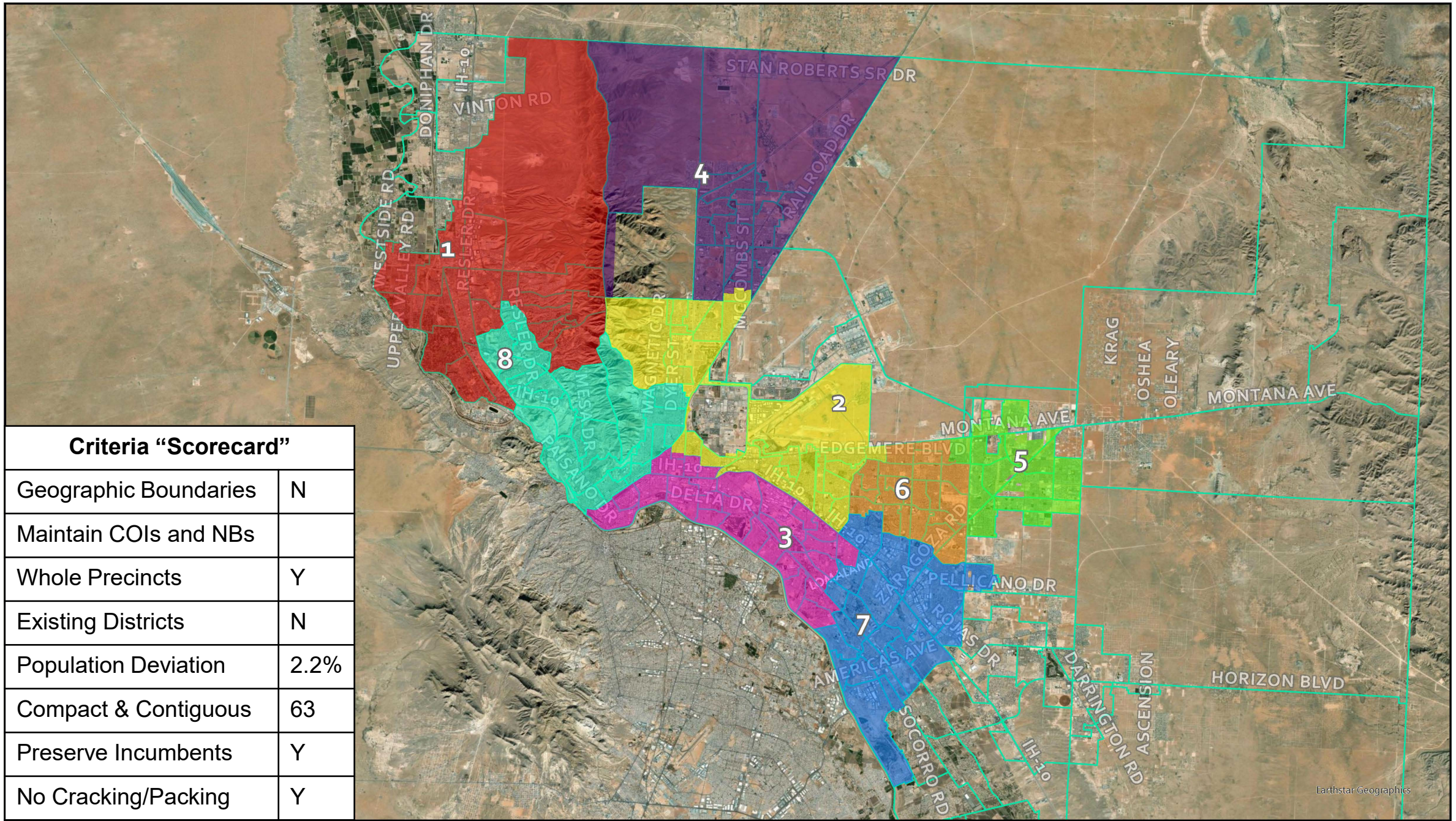
Current Districts



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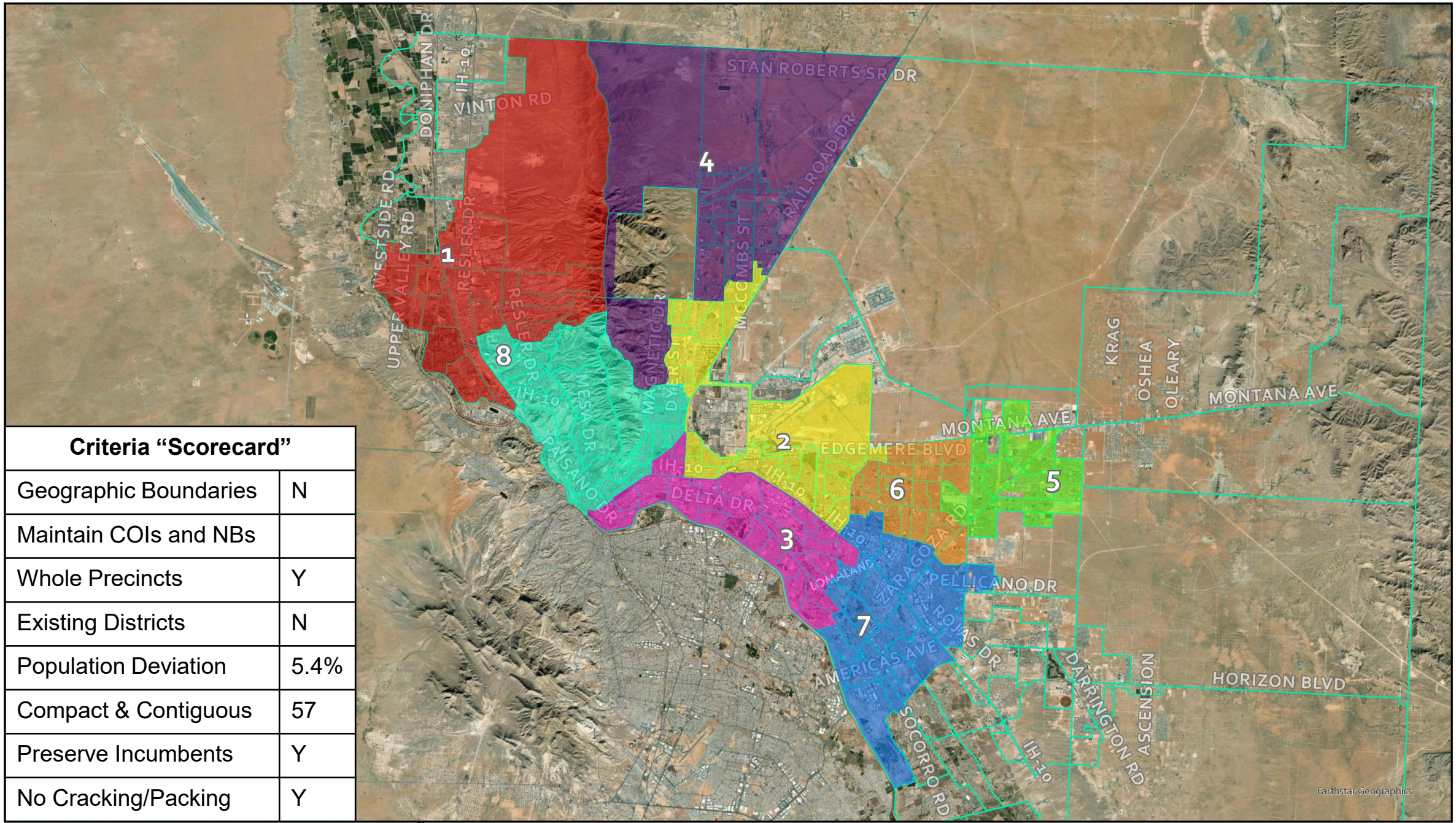
First Choice- Commissioner Draft #7 Revised 3/23/2022



Criteria "Scorecard"

Geographic Boundaries	N
Maintain COIs and NBs	
Whole Precincts	Y
Existing Districts	N
Population Deviation	2.2%
Compact & Contiguous	63
Preserve Incumbents	Y
No Cracking/Packing	Y

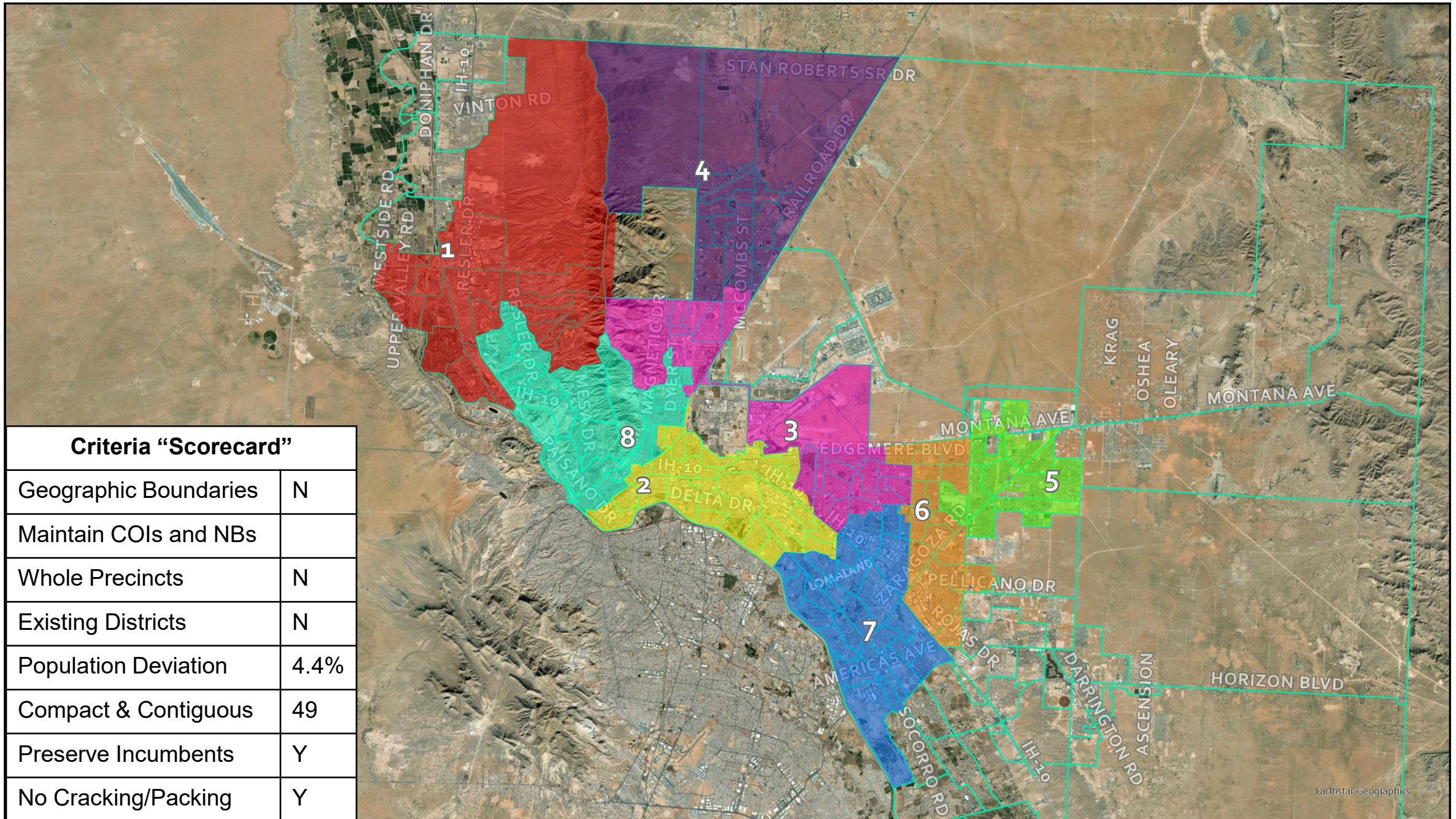
Second Choice - Commissioner Draft #6 Revised 3/23/2022



Criteria "Scorecard"

Geographic Boundaries	N
Maintain COIs and NBs	
Whole Precincts	Y
Existing Districts	N
Population Deviation	5.4%
Compact & Contiguous	57
Preserve Incumbents	Y
No Cracking/Packing	Y

Third Choice - Commissioner Draft #8 Revised 3/23/2022



Criteria "Scorecard"

Geographic Boundaries	N
Maintain COIs and NBs	
Whole Precincts	N
Existing Districts	N
Population Deviation	4.4%
Compact & Contiguous	49
Preserve Incumbents	Y
No Cracking/Packing	Y



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Procedure for Reviewing District Plans

- Edit one District Plan at a time
- All proposed revisions will require a Motion, Second, and Approval by a majority of Council
 - Staff will then make the approved edit and re-assess the district deviation
- To Approve, Remove, or Recall a District Plan - Motion, Second and majority approval will be required

Next Steps- Approval of a Resolution

- To adopt a districting plan which establishes new district boundary lines based on the 2020 U.S. Census data, to become effective immediately; and dissolving of the Districting Commission, as they have completed their duties in the redistricting process as identified in the City Charter.
 - Selected District Plan attached as Exhibit
 - Sent to County Elections Office who then file with State Comptroller
 - Revised boundaries used in November election

Mission

Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community

Values

Integrity, **R**espect, **E**xcellence,
Accountability, **P**eople

Vision

Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government