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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT ANCHORAGE

In the Matter of the
2021 REDISTRICTING PLAN.)
Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI

EAST ANCHORAGE PLAINTIFFS' NOTICE OF FILING EXPERT AFFIDAVIT

COME NOW the East Anchorage Plaintiffs, through undersigned legal counsel, and pursuant to the Court's pretrial orders, hereby files the Affidavit of Chase Hensel, Ph.D.

DATED this 15th day of January, 2022.

BIRCH HORTON BITTNER & CHEROT
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

By: /s/ Holly C. Wells
Holly C. Wells, ABA #0511113
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the 15th day of January, 2022, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served electronically on the following:

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT ANCHORAGE

In the Matter of the)
2021 REDISTRICTING PLAN.) Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI
_____)

AFFIDAVIT OF CHASE HENSEL, PH.D.

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss:
Third Judicial District)

I, Chase Hensel, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state as follows:

QUALIFICATIONS

1. I have a BA from Cornell University, an MA from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Anthropology, and a Ph.D. from the University of California Berkeley in Anthropology. I have worked extensively on a variety of consulting projects throughout the State, including a previous redistricting case. I also worked on the constitutional challenge to the Alaska Official English Initiative. I am a retired Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

2. In the past five years, I have testified in court as an expert witness on the following cases:

Ahtna v. State of Alaska, Case No. 3AN-08-06337CI

State of Alaska v. Conrad Jones, Case No. 4GA-19-00023CR

State of Alaska v. Mark Huntington, Case No. 4GA-19-00012CR

REQUEST FOR OPINION: SCOPE OF REQUEST

3. I was retained by Felisa Wilson, Yarrow Silvers, and George Martinez (together, “the East Anchorage Plaintiffs”) to provide my expert opinion regarding several issues involving the existence, or lack thereof, of communities of interest within the Municipality of Anchorage and the impact adopted senate pairings would have on these communities of interest.

4. Specific questions posed by the East Anchorage Plaintiffs were as follows:

Communities of Interest Inquiries

A. Is the Alaska South Muldoon Promulgated House District (Promulgated House District 21 or PD 21) a separate community of interest, in whole or part, from the Alaska Eagle River Valley Promulgated House District (Promulgated House District 22 or PD 22)?

B. Does PD 22 (Eagle River Valley) comprise a community of interest with Alaska North Eagle River/Chugiak Promulgated House District 24 (Promulgated House District 24 or PD 24)?

C. Does the Alaska North Muldoon Promulgated House District (Promulgated House District 20 or PD 20) and PD 21 (South Muldoon) comprise a community of interest?

Dilution Inquiries

A. In your expert opinion, what will be the effect of the pairing of PD 22 and PD 21 on voters and the communities of interest, if any, in these districts and the ability of voters to influence the outcome of senate elections in the paired district?

B. Will this pairing dilute the voting power of voters in PD 21 South Muldoon District?

5. This affidavit provides my determinations regarding these questions as well as other related areas of analysis that informed or related to these questions.

CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS

6. Based upon my analysis as detailed in this affidavit, PD 22 (Eagle River Valley) and PD 24 (Eagle River/Chugiak) comprise a single community of interest.

7. Based upon my analysis as detailed in this affidavit, PD 21 (S. Muldoon) and PD 20 (N. Muldoon) are part of a single community of interest.

8. Based upon my analysis as detailed in this affidavit, the effect of the pairing of PD 22 (Eagle River Valley) and PD 21 (S. Muldoon) is to reduce the value and meaning of votes cast by PD 21 voters and dilute the power of PD 21 voters to elect candidates that serve the interests of the PD 21 community of interest.

9. For purposes of this analysis and in order to comply with time limitations imposed in the case for which this opinion is offered, I focused my analysis on the specific districts identified in the scope of inquiry as well as characteristics and data that influenced or impacted the specific districts identified in the scope of inquiry.

10. In discussing the ways and degrees to which pairings involve communities of interest, I will focus, in particular, on the problematic pairing of PD 21 (S. Muldoon) and PD 22 (Eagle River Valley).

11. The development of common interests depends on the extent to which populations are connected through direct access to each other, a similar sense of place, and orientation towards each other through routine patterns of movement and social commonality.

12. Adjacency establishes that the lands and populations on those lands are sufficiently near each other to enable connection. Similarity establishes the connections that are, in fact, made and is the largely social determinant of connection. In a community of interest, populations:

- can travel between areas via easy routes;
- have established patterns of interaction that orient them to each other; and
- have common interests and concerns that derive from relationship to similar places with similar conditions.

Access and Patterns of Contact

13. For people in proximal places to have continuing connection, they need to have direct access to each other. Geographic/natural factors can prevent, limit, or facilitate the formation and continuation of a community of interest. A community of interest also depends on human actions and intentions, which may either link populated areas and facilitate access, or intentionally limit or prevent access.

14. In relation to access, social and natural variables are interrelated in ways that are best illustrated with a series of examples.

15. National vs. state borders provide an example of how social and geographic dimensions of contiguity are interrelated, in relation to the criteria of likeness and connection. The United States, Canada and Mexico are “like” in that they are all countries. They are also geographically contiguous with the U.S., sharing Northern or Southern borders. In the instance of separate nations, however, access is carefully restricted. Countries that share borders emphasize a wary distance in social relations. The social connections across borders are limited.

16. Neighboring (geographically contiguous) U.S. states such as New York and New Jersey, or Texas and Oklahoma, by contrast, have a high degree of social connection. People in each state are free to cross borders and connect with each other’s populations.

17. Connected states are thus “similar/like” in ways that differ from the similarity of connected countries. Between nations we impose controls and barriers to limit social access. Between states, we build and maintain interstate highways to facilitate access.

18. In addition to the imposition or minimization of physical barriers and controls, the language we use indexes similarity, difference, and sense of connection or lack thereof. People express and/or reinforce disconnection in the language of separation, caution and/or vulnerability, as in the case of foreign nations; they express and/or promote connection with language that signals such things as shared identity, opportunity and inclusion.

19. Borders that are defended through barriers and/or regulations essentially make contiguous areas less connected or disconnected by blocking continuous connections among people. They are physical and verbal statements of non-similarity, signifying that “our people” are different from “your people” in critically important ways. By contrast, where we facilitate direct access, we imply that our people are similar to yours. Between these extremes of neighboring foreign countries and neighboring U.S. states, areas involved in redistricting illustrate a range of access situations.

20. For example, JBER along the boundary of PD 21 and 22 is designated as “an impact area perpetually closed.” The joint base is a bounded area that channels access to its land through guarded gates and restricts access to its facilities to those with clearance. These access controls emphasize JBER’s distinction from neighboring civilian populations.

21. Muldoon, by contrast, is characterized by easy access along both north-south and east-west axes. Debarr is a major route and Muldoon Road is a main commercial corridor. While residents, depending on exactly where they live, no doubt frequent some routes more than others, there are no barriers of geography or infrastructure to notably impede internal access or access to adjacent neighborhoods on

the north and west. There is restricted access to JBER on the east, with no roads, while the southern limit is green space (park and botanical garden).

22. Eagle River and Chugiak represent yet a different access situation. They share a boundary that is largely along rugged geography, thus limiting points of access. To get from one to the other, however, the Glenn Highway provides an easy and direct route. With no competing routes or other main roads leading elsewhere, the highway links these two places more than the geography separates them. While the same highway also connects to Anchorage, the distance is approximately three times as far.

Patterns of Movement and Indicators of Social Orientation

23. A community of interest, comprised of social and geographic connections and collective interests resulting from those connections, presupposes not only the possibility of access but the actual travel between/among the populated portions of a district. Here, we address routine routes and other factors that facilitate or discourage linkages and orient people toward or away from other populations. Existing patterns of travel and evidence of social orientation toward and away from other groups are indications of whether and how populations are connected.

24. Here, maps only tell part of the story. We need to understand how people move on the landscape, information that is not highlighted on maps. A vast empty area that is map-proximal to another area, for example, begs the question of connection: the Chugach Mountains that separate Muldoon from the Eagle River Valley are a barrier in addition to JBER restrictions. To go from Muldoon (PD 21) to Eagle River (PD 22) one must travel through PD 20 and PD 23. As a result, PD 21 and PD 22 are for all intents and purposes disconnected.

25. Where people have local infrastructure to allow them to pursue most of their routine activities, their primary sphere is generally close to where they live. The connections among people become denser and more continuous within such areas, reinforcing their orientation toward the local area. Residents of Eagle River may need to come to the Anchorage Urban Area to work or to obtain services unavailable near home, but they orient to their immediate community through schools, worship, recreation and shopping for sundries and groceries. Residents of urban Anchorage have the densely connected city as their sphere of activity, with access to resources within their own and surrounding sectors.

26. Though there is good road connection between urban Anchorage and Eagle River, residents of urban Anchorage, with its dense and diverse infrastructure, do not routinely travel there. The one-way flow is significant: between well-connected populations, a reciprocal flow is to be expected.

27. When the Covid-19 epidemic led to travel restrictions between communities in the spring of 2020, the State understood Eagle River to be a separate community within which most “critical personal needs” could be met, “common sense” dictating that discrete

place names and local perceptions of “geographic separation” define a community.¹ Covid-19 Health Mandate 11 was structured in the form of FAQs. Concerning travel during lockdown, the answer to “How is ‘community’ defined?” was this:

The prohibition on travel between communities is designed so that people must use the closest available services to fulfill critical personal needs. Common sense applies – normal usage of location names and understanding of geographic separation applies when asking about community boundaries. For instance, Eagle River, Palmer, Wasilla, and Anchorage are all separate communities. You may only travel to another community for critical personal needs if you cannot meet those needs in your community.

28. Even if one had to go to Anchorage for some essential purpose, the mandate instructed, e.g., filling the gas tank and getting food locally before leaving one’s community. For epidemiological purposes, Eagle River was considered a closed community; i.e., there has already been a situation in which, excepting critical needs, residents of Eagle River and Muldoon had no access to each other’s areas.

29. As another example, although Eagle River schools are part of the Anchorage School District, the bus service has a different transportation provider, Reliant Transportation – Chugiak/Eagle River.²

30. Residents of North and South Muldoon are, by contrast, continuously linked by shared routes and mutually accessible infrastructure. There are pharmacies and banks in South Muldoon while automotive services, gas stations, bars, and restaurants cluster in North Muldoon. The complementary distribution of various types of businesses and services fosters interconnection. Elementary schools, churches, parks and playgrounds are distributed throughout.

31. In short, Northeast Anchorage³ is oriented to urban Anchorage; Eagle River is oriented towards the Eagle River area.

Relationships to Place

Sense of place in relation to local issues

32. Because peoples’ needs arise in specific settings and must be addressed in ways that suit those settings, political representation is most effective where

¹ https://dhss.alaska.gov/News/Documents/press/2020/FAQs_03272020-SOA-COVID-19-Health-Mandate-011-012.pdf.

² <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/5421>.

³ Certain area designations such as “Northeast Anchorage” and “Scenic Foothills” are loose descriptions. The exact areas referred to by these names vary among sources.

constituents share a sense of place. Shared sense of place is at the heart of political inclination and disinclination: it is behind what people identify as their issues and whether and how they try to address those issues through the political process. Citizens everywhere have concerns that fall into broadly shared categories, such as taxes, schools, health, safety, employment, and services. Within these categories, however, specific and critical interests are very different for people from the urban core as compared with the exurban periphery. Everyone has concerns about “roads” but at a closer look, these concerns are about getting to and from places efficiently and safely, measures that vary depending on one’s place-based frames of reference. An exurban commuter wants a fast drive on a well-maintained divided highway into the city. A city dweller wants options to be able to get around without a car, including safe sidewalks and traffic controls that may slow down the commuters.

33. A place-based perspective thus gives us a more grounded understanding of people’s sense of relationship to their home community, its needs, and their voting patterns. It helps us understand how socioeconomic similarities relate to identities, values and affinities that connect people, and how socioeconomic differences divide them.

34. Shared, place-based experience suggests common frames of reference and activity that bring issues to the forefront for residents of an experientially shared area. If there are non-functioning traffic lights, if garbage accumulates, if an increasing number of residents experience homelessness due to a disaster or a loss of social services, if there is a subgroup vocally pushing for attention, these issues are likely to be on everyone’s lips. Place-based knowledge of local road surfaces, walking routes, housing conditions and school programs is not theoretical or distant, but experiential and immediate. People have a shared language of experience, and the needs of their shared place are familiar.

35. Place literally embodies peoples’ needs and concerns. This is because each inhabited place reflects a unique set of local constraints and opportunities, including both geographic and sociocultural factors, that shape and are shaped by the ways people live and work there.

36. A common foundation of lived, place-based experience creates a relationship to one’s place that informs peoples’ awareness of ongoing and emerging issues. People gain experience in the areas they frequent – parks, stores, clinics, community centers and schools. Issues arise and are considered in the context of such events and the ways they are understood to be locally important. Residents trade knowledge of events that happen and problems that occur in their community as they encounter each other in frequented spaces. Their stories about and references to such events form a shared body of local knowledge and perspectives that are likely to be unfamiliar and comparatively irrelevant to non-residents.

37. Solutions to locally perceived problems include such things as formal infrastructure, services, and programs that may require government support as well as informal and improvised solutions that residents individually and collectively devise. The

resulting buildings, roads, processes, parks, empty lots, and pathways shape peoples' routines and, in turn, give rise to new needs and solutions. In a sense, places and their inhabitants become distinctive together over time. Loosely, this distinctiveness is the "character" of a place.

38. In short, a place becomes distinctive – and develops common interests – through features and events both human-made and natural. Immersed in a place's particular conditions, people develop a sense of what their place "is" or "is like" and what they want and need to maintain or improve conditions there; i.e., its issues. A shared sense of place thus relates to shared social understandings and assumptions that translate directly into political priorities and voting choices.

Community self-presentation and place

39. In a variety of contexts, PD 22 residents represent themselves as a highly distinct community that is focused on place-based issues within the area they consider theirs:

40. The public Facebook page "Chugiak - Eagle River Area News and Info" has 2,400 members. A sense of community, sharing of information and a reference to the U.S. Constitution are all expressed in the group's dedication to: "All things Chugiak - Eagle River area. This local news and information Facebook group is 'for' the local community and 'by' the local community including those with local information to share that may be of interest to those in the community."⁴

41. The area has a newspaper, the Alaska Star.⁵ Its description as a "weekly community newspaper that has served Chugiak-Eagle River for more than 35 years" expresses longstanding identity as a distinct place. The newspaper's Instagram site identifies the area served as "Chugiak, Eagle River, Peters Creek, Eklutna and Thunderbird Falls," indexing that subscribers/readers/residents in these named places are interconnected, orienting to each other within the local area.⁶

42. The Chugiak-Eagle River Professionals Group refers multiple times to the distinctiveness of the community and its common interests.⁷ The opening statement "About Us" is that "The Chugiak-Eagle River Community is unique!" The group's goal is that "Individuals who live, work, raise families, and play in our community will have a forum to meet others of like-minded interests, educate themselves both professionally and personally, stay up-to-date with local events & opportunities for coordinated

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/407722959839121>.

⁵ <https://www.alaskastar.com/>.

⁶ <https://www.instagram.com/starnewspaper>.

⁷ <https://www.cer.org/government-structures-and-local-public-servic>.

volunteer/service projects, become familiar with our community's unique past and assist in making their own positive footprint in the future.”

43. Local festivals are also an expression of place-based identities. The 2021 Official Guide to the Bear Paw Festival frames the event in terms of “coming together as a community to celebrate our successes, acknowledge the work we still have to do, and to enjoy a week in July that makes the Chugiak-Eagle River area the best place to call home.” This description explicitly ties strength of community in place to local action.⁸ Self-described as “the largest and longest running community event in Chugiak-Eagle River,” the festival features distinctively local events including “Slippery Salmon Olympics” and the “Chopped Salmon Throwdown.”⁹

44. The Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board, “constituted in order to review and make recommendations on actions regarding potential changes in land use issues that impact multiple Community Council areas in the Chugiak Eagle River area,” is another indication that the residents of the area share a set of distinctly place-based concerns.¹⁰

45. The language of EaglExit also appeals to shared history and to the sense of a continuing and distinct community that shares common needs in place:¹¹

The Village of Eklutna was the beginning of local governance in our area. The homesteaders that came later also showed a strong desire for our own city separate from Anchorage. A Chugiak-Eagle River Borough existed for two years in the early 70s. Now our journey continues with a strong desire to form an independent local government built on the vision of its people. The new government and school district would be built from the bottom up, focusing on the very basic needs of our local residents.

46. That EaglExit's goals echo multiple efforts over the decades, since the 1970s, to detach the area from Anchorage and form a separate governmental entity indicates an enduring local dialogue around topics of autonomy and interdependence.¹²

47. While PD 22 residents emphasize their uniqueness in contrast to Anchorage, a strong collective sense of identity, and an unquestioned sense of place,

⁸ https://issuu.com/61degrees/docs/2021_eagle_river_official_bear_paw_guide.

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/BearPawFestival/>.

¹⁰ <https://www.cer.org/government-structures-and-local-public-servic>.

¹¹ <https://eagleexit.com/about/>.

¹² <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2019/04/18/chugiak-eagle-river-residents-renew-effort-to-separate-from-anchorage/>.

residents of PD 21 are concerned with creating a positive image, meeting the needs of a diverse population within Anchorage, and strengthening their sense of place.

48. Muldoon/Northeast Anchorage areas self-represent and are referred to in the language of urban community. Neighborhoods are the common socio-geographic expression of diversity in urban spaces. Cities are typically described as having a particular character; so are the neighborhoods that constitute them, wherever populations, activities, and structures make such areas distinctive. An urban sense of place is often rooted in one's neighborhood. The experience of living in an urban neighborhood closely bordered by other neighborhoods differs from living in a discretely bounded and more rural town; Muldoon, unlike Eagle River, has an integral relationship with the rest of Anchorage.

49. The mission of the Muldoon Chamber of Commerce references the diverse character of the neighborhood. It is "to encourage East Anchorage businesses to work together to cultivate a vibrant economy and a positive image for the diverse community that lives, works, shops and plays in Muldoon."¹³

50. Muldoon's history is also cited in connection with the area's image and its desires for continuing improvements within the context of Anchorage's urban planning. The community-focused website "I love Muldoon" describes how development accelerated "with no zoning until the early 1970's ... Muldoon Road became a crowded, dangerous track with ramshackle buildings thrown up without regard to safety or sensible construction codes, and no notion of aesthetics." Upgrades to Muldoon Road have created "a proper urban thoroughfare" and the possibility of a town center in the Anchorage comprehensive plan "would give Muldoon the sense of place it never had."¹⁴

51. Chanshtnu Park is widely referenced as a source of local pride resulting from residents' political action and volunteer labor. "Muldoon neighbors have been working hard to turn what was once an abandoned lot into a lively, community space."¹⁵ It has emerged as a focus for community gathering and is designed to foster positive connections with place, with recreational areas and a farmer's market¹⁶ as well as a community food forest and community garden plots in progress.¹⁷

52. From these sources, it is evident that PD 22 residents take their historical continuity as a separate community as a given. PD 21 residents, by contrast, are

¹³ <https://muldoonalaska.biz/join-us/>.

¹⁴ <https://ilovemuldoon.com/about/arnold-i-muldoon-the-man-behind-muldoon/>.

¹⁵ <https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/current-projects/2019-projects/chanshtnu-food-forest/>.

¹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/muldoonfarmersmarket/>.

¹⁷ <https://www.alaskanewssource.com/2021/06/28/growing-community-while-growing-food/>.

consciously engaged in a process of self-definition with reference to their place and its history: “The name Chanshtnu Muldoon Park ties our past to the present in a public space that future generations will enjoy. ‘Chanshtnu’ refers to the Dena’ina name for ‘Chester Creek’ which is a defining feature of the park. ‘Muldoon’ is a common place name honoring an early Anchorage homesteader in the area.”¹⁸

53. In the extensive testimony on redistricting, adjectives people used to describe their areas were consistent with those that appeared in the non-political contexts cited above. The topic of redistricting prompted people to compare and contrast. Notably, people who identified as living in Eagle River recurrently used descriptors that suggested self-containment or self-sufficiency, like “separate,” “stand alone,” “separate on its own,” “an independent community” and “unique.” People who identified as living in NE Anchorage recurrently referenced “neighbors” and “neighborhood” and “diversity.”

54. Based upon my analysis as summarized in this Affidavit, the pairing of PD 21 and PD 22 will significantly reduce the ability for voters in PD 21 (South Muldoon) to influence the election of their representative in the state senate and the pairing of House Districts 23 and 24 will significantly reduce the ability for voters in House District 23 (Gov’t Hill/JBER/Northeast Anchorage) to influence the election of their representative in the state senate.

55. Based upon my analysis as summarized in this affidavit, the pairing of PD 21 and PD 22 and the pairing of PD 23 and 24 will substantially dilute the voting power of voters in PD 21(South Muldoon) and significantly dilute the voting power of voters in PD 23 (Gov’t Hill/JBER/Northeast Anchorage).

Social Data and Voting Patterns

56. This section includes data on ethnicity, income and voting patterns. Ideally, we would have reliable current data on ethnicity, income and voting by promulgated district. In reality, the nature of existing sources and our ability to use them is more complicated. These complications include:

A. Much of the decadal data for the 2020 census has yet to be released, and data that have been released have limitations. A footnote in Dec 2021 Alaska Economic Trends cautions that “Data released from the new decennial census for redistricting purposes have so far been limited to total population, totals by race, totals for the population 18 and older, and some housing characteristics. More data are expected in mid-2022, including detailed age structure and composition of households. The pandemic and a new process of adding random statistical ‘noise’ for privacy purposes slowed the original release timeline.” Co-author Liz Brooks (Research Analyst at the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development), recommends that “data for very small geographic areas, such as

¹⁸ <https://www.muni.org/departments/parks/pages/chanshtnumuldoonparkphase1development.aspx>.

census blocks, may be noisy and should be aggregated into larger geographic areas before use.” She notes that much of the “population and housing characteristic data, including population counts for every geography below the state level, had noise introduced.” Further, she notes that there may be larger relative uncertainty for small population groups.¹⁹

B. The American Community Survey data, which goes through 2019, indicate such large margins of error as to be useless for analysis.

C. Census tracts do not align well with state voting precincts. This problem is worse for some promulgated districts than others. Specifically, PD 21 and 22 map reasonably well; PD 20 and 24 do not map as well.

D. As a result, in relation to voting records, we can analyze voting for PD 21 and 22 with more confidence than for PD 20 and 24. This is because:

- (1) PD 21 and 22 match sufficiently well with 2013 Districts 27 and 14. PD 20 and 24, however, are each made of precincts from two 2013 districts (12 and 13 in the case of PD 24, and 15 and 16 in the case of PD 20) and are not as well aligned; and
- (2) Precinct-level voting data have been affected by the large numbers of absentee and early votes in the wake of Covid-19. Absentee and early votes are not reported by precinct.

57. For the purposes of forming my opinion, the state of Alaska’s analysis of Anchorage neighborhoods from the 2010 census data²⁰ is clearer and more reliable than the ACS data and more complete than the 2020 census data currently available. These data largely agree with the ARB’s data for promulgated districts.

58. As seen in the map attached as Exhibit 2, the way that the state has combined census tracts into essentially four named groups (Northeast Anchorage, Muldoon/Baxter, Eagle River, Chugiak) approximates PD 20, 21, 22 and 24.²¹

59. Also, there is evidence (presented below) of continuity in the demographic patterns of the relevant areas.

RACE/ETHNICITY

60. There are stark contrasts between the overall racial/ethnic breakdowns for promulgated districts. Fully three-quarters of PD 22 (Eagle River Valley) and 24 (N. Eagle

¹⁹ Email, Liz Brooks, attached as Exhibit 1.

²⁰ <https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/trends/split/sep13art1.pdf>.

²¹ Anchorage Combined Census Tracts, (Alaska Economic Trends, September 2013, p. 5), attached as Exhibit 2.

River) residents reported as White. PD 20 (N. Muldoon) is the most diverse and is a majority minority district. PD 21's (S. Muldoon's) population more closely resembles that of the municipality (Anchorage overall is 60% White/40% Minority). From the ARB district demographics, the percentages of total population are as follows²²:

PD 20 (N. Muldoon)	White 38%	Minority 62%
PD 21 (S. Muldoon)	White 52%	Minority 48%
PD 22 (Eagle River Valley)	White 76%	Minority 24%
PD 24 (N. Eagle River)	White 75%	Minority 25%

61. Here, an array of ethnic and racial identities is represented as “Minority” in distinction to “White.” These are separated out in some of the following data. Certainly, members of different subgroups have specific concerns that derive from distinct cultural, linguistic and historic experiences. However, the distinction Minority or White captures essential truths. First, members of Minority groups share the common challenges of living in relation to a White majority. Second, and related, in the case of PD 20 (N. Muldoon) and PD 21 (S. Muldoon), multiple minorities live together in an urban setting with the employment and living conditions that accompany poverty and low educational attainment.

62. The attached map shows that in parts of urban Anchorage, ethnic/racial diversity varies even at the neighborhood level. In PD 20 (N. Muldoon), made up of part of Wonder Park, Ptarmigan Area, Northwest Muldoon and part of Northeast Muldoon, there is significant variation in the diversity index across the district. Similarly, PD 21 (S. Muldoon), made up in part by Baxter, Cheney Lake, Scenic Foothills and Muldoon has noticeable variations in the diversity index.²³

TABLE 1. Demographic Characteristics of Chugiak, Eagle River, NE Anchorage and Muldoon/Baxter²⁴

63. Table 1 shows ethnic/racial diversity data from the 2010 census.²⁵ In comparison with the ARB data (shown on the previous page), we see an increase in

²² See, District Demographic table produced 12/30/2021 by ARB, attached as Exhibit 3.

²³ See, *Anchorage has some of the country's most diverse neighborhoods, 2020* (A First Look at the 2020 Census, Dec 2021, p. 10), attached at Exhibit 4.

²⁴ Abstracted from Alaska Economic Trends, September 2013.

²⁵ <https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/trends/split/sep13art1.pdf>.

minority populations of 12% for PD 20 and 21 (N. and S. Muldoon), and 8% and 10%, respectively, for PD 22 and 24 (Eagle River Valley and N. Eagle River). PD 20 and 21 are becoming even more diverse and their diversity is increasing at a faster rate than that of PD 22 and 24.

AREA	AGE (percentage values)			RACE (percentage values)							ETHNICITY (%)
	18 - 64	< 18	>65	WHITE	ALASKA NATIVE/ AMER. INDIAN	ASIAN	HAWAII / PAC ISL.	BLACK	OTHER	2+ RACE	HISPANIC (ANY RACE)
CHUGIAK	67%	26%	7%	85%	5%	2%	0%	1%	1%	6%	4%
EAGLE RIVER	67%	28%	5%	84%	4%	3%	0%	2%	1%	6%	6%
NE ANC	64%	29%	7%	50%	11%	11%	3%	12%	2%	11%	9%
MULDOON BAXTER	65%	26%	9%	64%	8%	6%	2%	8%	2%	10%	7%

TABLE 2. Ethnicity, education, and economic status by high school

School	Bartlett	Bartlett (%)	Eagle River	Eagle River (%)
All students	249		202	
African-Am	28	11%	13	6%
AK Native	19	8%	8	4%
Asian Pac. I	82	33%	6	3%
Caucasian	46	18%	136	68%
Hispanic	23	9%	20	10%
2 or more	51	20%	19	10%
Econ Disad.	175	70%	48	24%
Dropout		3.3%		0.6%
Rating	42		57	

64. The Bartlett High School catchment area primarily consists of PD 20 (N. Muldoon) and 21 (S. Muldoon) and includes a small portion of District 23 and a strip of land north of the Glenn Highway.²⁶ Table 2 gives us a recent snapshot of the ethnic profiles of the high schools serving PD 21 (S. Muldoon) and 22 (Eagle River Valley). It shows that Eagle River High School's catchment area has much less diversity than Bartlett's. This is consistent with the profiles of these areas seen in census data from 2010 and, as far as we have it, from 2020 (and thus increases confidence in use of 2010 census data elsewhere in this Affidavit).

²⁶ <https://www.asdk12.org/demographics-gis/boundaries/>.

65. There are correlative data on income and educational attainment.

66. Income disparities correspond with a much lower dropout rate for Eagle River High School (less than 20% of that for Bartlett High School) and a 54% rate of post-secondary education in PD 22 (Eagle River Valley), which is 2.5 times that of PD 21's (S. Muldoon's) rate.

B. INCOME

67. The following three tables provide different views of income range and variability. For reference, median household income in Anchorage is \$83,000.

Table 3. Income and Poverty Levels of Chugiak, Eagle River, NE Anchorage and Muldoon/Baxter

(Abstracted from Alaska Economic Trends, September 2013)²⁷

Household Income (Percentage Values)				
	Above \$50,000	Above \$75,000	Above \$100,000	Population Below Poverty Level
CHUGIAK	77% (+/-10)	60% (+/-8)	45% (+/-7)	2% (+/-1)
EAGLE RIVER	82% (+/-6)	68% (+/-6)	49% (+/-5)	3% (+/-2)
NE ANCHORAGE	58% (+/-7)	40% (+/-6)	20% (+/-4)	14% (+/-4)
MULDOON/BAXTER	73% (+/-6)	53% (+/-5)	36% (+/-4)	9% (+/-2)

Notes

1. Incomes are in 2011 inflation-adjusted dollars.
2. Poverty thresholds are set by the U.S. Census Bureau and vary by family size and composition.
3. Margins of error are given in parentheses.

TABLE 4. Food stamps

Neighborhood food stamp rates:

Eagle River	4%
Chugiak	7%
NE Anch	13%

²⁷ <https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/trends/split/sep13art1.pdf>, p. 5, by Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section.

TABLE 5. School Ratings, Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility, Title I

South Muldoon			
PD 21 Schools	Rating	%FRL	Title I (Y/N)
Susitna Elementary	49	50%	N
Baxter Elementary	60	36%	N
Chester Valley Elementary	28	74%	Y
Nunaka Valley Elementary	41	67%	Y
Anchorage STReAM Academy	33		N
Scenic Park Elementary	61	37%	N
<i>Average</i>	40	44%	

Eagle River Valley			
PD 22 schools	Rating	%FRL	Title I (Y/N)
Homestead Elementary	63	23%	N
Alpenglow Elementary	60	15%	N
Ravenwood Elementary	70	12%	N
Eagle River HS	57	14%	N
<i>Average</i>	63	16%	

North Muldoon			
PD 20 Schools	Rating	%FRL	Title I (Y/N)
Begich Middle	-	-	Y
Clarke Elementary	28	100%	Y
Creekside Elementary	44	86%	Y
Muldoon Elementary	50	100%	N
Bartlett High	42	65%	Y
<i>Average</i>	41	75%	

Eagle River-Chugiak			
PD 24 Schools	Rating	%FRL	Title I (Y/N)
Chugiak High	51	21%	N
Birchwood Elementary	67	29%	N
Chugiak Elementary	58	19%	N
Fire Lake Middle	53	31%	N
Mirror Lake Elementary	53	21%	N
<i>Average</i>	56	24%	

68. The following comments apply to the above tables:

Table 3 compares household income levels and shows that Chugiak and Eagle River are significantly wealthier than NE Anchorage and Muldoon/Baxter. Of Chugiak and Eagle River households, 45-49% earn more than \$100,000 and only a negligible

percentage of the households are below poverty level. By contrast, NE Anchorage and Muldoon/Baxter have 20-36% of households at the highest level and 9–14% below poverty level.

Table 4 shows Food Stamp recipients, another indicator of household poverty, as a percentage of all households in the indicated areas. NE Anchorage has three times as many recipients as Eagle River.

Table 5 provides school data that relate to income. FRL (Free and Reduced Lunch/Meals) eligibility tells us the percentage of households of school-aged children experiencing poverty. Within Alaska, eligibility for free lunch/meals is up to \$43,000 annual income for a family of four (130% Federal Poverty Level) and for reduced price lunches up to \$61,000 annual income for a family of four (185% Federal Poverty Level). Title I eligibility is also based on income, providing federal financial assistance to schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families.²⁸ The distribution of Title I eligible schools is all in North and South Muldoon (PD 20 and 21); there are none in Eagle River (PD 22 or 24). Table 5 also shows an inverse relation between eligibility for free and reduced-price lunches/meals and school ratings. Higher school ratings are determined by the State of Alaska as a comparative measure of school quality. Higher school ratings tend to correlate with wealthier and less diverse residential areas; lower school ratings correlate with lower income areas and more population diversity. They also correlate with average neighborhood housing prices. Notice that within S. Muldoon, the two more highly rated schools are located in the wealthier parts of the catchment area.

C. VOTING PATTERNS

Party Voting Patterns PD 21 (S. Muldoon) and PD 22 (Eagle River Valley)

69. It is important to have some sense as to how the needs and wants of PD 21 (S. Muldoon) and 22 (Eagle River Valley) are likely to align or conflict in the promulgated Senate pairing.

70. PD 21 (S. Muldoon) is clearly a swing district with numerous races decided by a margin of 2% or less.

71. PD 22 (Eagle River Valley), on the other hand, votes solidly and predictably Republican. Based on their voting patterns, if the two districts were combined, the reliably Republican voters in PD 22 would overwhelm the less strongly partisan voters in PD 21 (S. Muldoon). All of the Democratic candidates that PD 21 selected in the last four voting cycles would have been defeated in the combined Senate pairing and the result would be a district that voted solidly Republican.

²⁸ <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html>.

72. There is some evidence that 2013 D15 and 2013 D16, from some of whose precincts PD 20 is formed, vote weakly Democratic, though since it is not that strongly Democratic and there is no way to get precinct level information²⁹ this is a bit speculative. PD 24, on the other hand, is very likely to trend at least as strongly Republican as PD 22, given that 2013 D12 and 2013 D13, in combination, vote even more strongly Republican than PD 22. This suggests that pairing Promulgated Districts 20 and 21 could shift that Senate vote to be more strongly Democratic, but that pairing Promulgated Districts 22 and 24 would preserve their strongly Republican orientation.

SUMMATION

73. The promulgated Senate pairing of PD 21 and PD 22 groups together House districts that are not similar enough to be deemed a single community of interest. PD 20 and PD 21 (N and S Muldoon) together comprise a community of interest. PD 22 and PD 24 (Eagle River Valley and Eagle River/Chugiak) also constitute a single community of interest.

74. PD 22 also has a solidly Republican voting pattern. This united Republican voice would dominate and dilute the more economically, ethnically, educationally, and politically diverse PD 21 and eclipse the urban concerns that derive from its own sense of identity and place.

75. Further, Eagle River has a particularly strong sense of local identity as a separated place with a distinctive orientation to the Eagle River-Chugiak area. This sense of local identity and interests is intensifying in the political arena. Currently, the Anchorage Assembly members representing Eagle River (District 2) are preparing to introduce a proposal for an advisory vote by Eagle River/Chugiak/Eklutna residents on separating from or remaining in the Municipality of Anchorage. Simultaneously, Assembly Vice Chair Christopher Constant, representing downtown Anchorage, is reportedly preparing to propose a municipal advisory vote on the issue of separation. This trajectory towards a possible vote on the issue raises the real possibility that Eagle River/Chugiak might be separated from the Municipality of Anchorage.³⁰ If that were to happen, the Senate district made by pairing PD 21 and 22 would then span different types of geopolitical entities (for example, a city and a borough or a unified municipality and a borough), one of which had declared its interest in dissociating from the other. Separation and dissociation are at odds with the existence of or association with a community of interest.

²⁹ Although voting is broken down by precinct, precinct identifiers are not available for the large number of absentee and early votes. If we could look at precinct level voting, it would be useful, since in the process of redistricting precincts are often moved between districts.

³⁰ <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2022/01/03/anchorage-assembly-member-pushing-for-advisory-vote-on-whether-eagle-river-should-secede-from-the-city/>.

76. Finally, the largely White district PD 22 (Eagle River Valley) will dilute the political voice of PD 21's Minority voters. This is because the distinctions rich v. poor, exurban v. urban, and high v. low educational attainment, in the respective districts, map with White v. Minority. These categorical differences underlie different political choices.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

 1/14/22

Chase Hensel, Ph.D.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this ____ day of January, 2022.

Notary Public for Alaska
My Commission expires: _____

** SEE ATTACHMENT FOR CALIFORNIA
NOTARIAL BLOCK .*

California JURAT

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

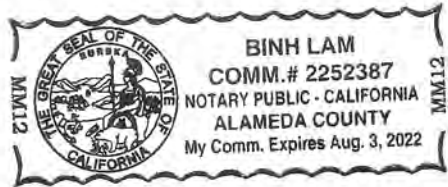
State of California

County of Alameda

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this 14th day of January, 2022, by Chase Hensel

proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) who appeared before me.

Signature [Handwritten Signature] (Seal)



ADDITIONAL SOURCES INDEX

Table 1

<https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/trends/split/sep13art1.pdf>

“Demographic Characteristics of Anchorage Areas, 2010 Census”, p.4.

U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section.

Table 2

<https://education.alaska.gov/compass/Report/2019-2020/5/null#attendance-graduation-and-dropoutrateshttps://education.alaska.gov/compass/Report/2018-2019/5/50050#postsecondary-enrollment>

Table 3

<https://Attainment#figure/lower-state-legislative-district-in-alaska>

<https://statisticalatlas.com/countysubdivision/Alaska/AnchorageMunicipality/Anchorage/Food-Stamps#data-map/neighborhood>

Table 4

<https://education.alaska.gov/compass/Home/AccountabilitySchoolsInDistrict?districtId=5>

<https://education.alaska.gov/search?q=Free+and+Reduced+Price+Meals+Report+For+Program+Year%3A+2020&submit=>

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/5320>

Tempest Evans

From: Brooks, Liz M (DOL) <liz.brooks@alaska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 3:41 PM
To: Tempest Evans
Cc: Holly Wells
Subject: RE: Block Level Census Data | Litigation Request
Attachments: DECENNIALPL2020.P2_data_with_overlays_2021-11-29T142604.csv

Follow Up Flag: Moved to Worldox (BHBC Client Files\508582\2\01161367.MSG)
Flag Status: Completed

External Email Address

Hi, Tempest.

That's correct: ACS data doesn't exist at the block level, so I can't connect you with any ACS data at the block level. Correct again: Tracts consist of block groups; ACS data is available at the block-group level. Block groups are a collection of blocks.

Race data from the 2020 Census is available at the block level, but the Census Bureau says data users shouldn't analyze the data at the block level. Data users should instead aggregate blocks together for analysis. The 2020 Census data contains statistical noise that is most apparent at the block level.

Attached is a spreadsheet with the race statistics you requested for all blocks in Anchorage in 2020, per 2020 Census. (The Census Bureau doesn't have data for the AIAN population by block in 2019.) Similar spreadsheets for other boroughs and census areas are available online at data.census.gov. From that link, you should be able to select all blocks in each borough and census area through the "Geos" filter.

I will call you around 9 a.m. tomorrow to follow-up by phone.

Liz Brooks

From: Tempest Evans <tevans@BHB.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 3:18 PM
To: Brooks, Liz M (DOL) <liz.brooks@alaska.gov>
Cc: Holly Wells <hwells@BHB.com>
Subject: RE: Block Level Census Data | Litigation Request

Hello Liz,

I tried calling, hopefully I can explain exactly what we're looking for here. I see that the ACS survey is only at block-group level. Does that mean that you can't get any data broken down by blocks alone? When I use the viewer online, it looks like each tract is broken into any number of "block groups".

For the purposes of my request, I have included the five groupings of blocks that I need to find data for, at sheets A through E.

For the data.census.gov link below, I'd like to get the following tables for ACS and see if I can get them broken down on the block level:

EXHIBIT 1, Page 1 of 3

- Percent below poverty level – age 18 – 64 years (2019)
- Household – Mean Income (dollars) – Estimate (2019)

For either the redistricting data, or decennial census data I would like to find race and ethnicity data tables on the block level. Particularly interested in the following subcategories:

- Total: Population of one race: - American Indian and Alaska Native alone (2019)
- Total: Population of one race: - White Alone - (2020)

I thought I could do this just by selecting the correct parameters under “filter” and “geography” as displayed here: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=United%20States> but it only displays and generates a table at the tract level.

Any help or direction is much appreciated.

Tempest Evans

Paralegal | Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
510 L Street, Suite 700 | Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Direct 907.263.7236 | Fax 907.276.3680

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From: Brooks, Liz M (DOL) <liz.brooks@alaska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 11:00 AM
To: Tempest Evans <tevans@BHB.com>
Cc: Holly Wells <hwells@BHB.com>
Subject: RE: Block Level Census Data | Litigation Request

External Email Address

Hi, Tempest.

I received your voicemail message and email. I can help you find block-level data from the 2020 Census, but the Census Bureau says data users shouldn't use block-level data without aggregating blocks together. See below.

The American Community Survey publishes estimates down to the block-group level, not the block level. The [American Community Survey](#) produces estimates for various social and economic dimensions.

You can access 2020 Census data and American Community Survey data through the Census Bureau's online interface, data.census.gov. I'd be happy to help you use that tool to access the data you seek.

[Here is a summary of key considerations and recommendations for data users working with the 2020 Census redistricting data:](#)

- Data for very small geographic areas, such as census blocks, may be noisy and should be aggregated into larger geographic areas before use.
- Small population groups may experience larger relative uncertainty. While the absolute error is the same for all groups within the same table, the noise added to small groups will result in higher relative error because the underlying population (the denominator) is smaller.

- For a given geography, particularly at the block level, the uncertainty introduced by disclosure avoidance may result in apparent inconsistencies between the population and housing tables, such as more occupied housing units than people.

The redistricting data files include certain “invariants”—data that are kept exactly as enumerated with no noise added.

Invariant statistics for the 2020 Census redistricting data are:

- Total number of people in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
- Total number of housing units in each census block.
- Number of occupied group quarters facilities by major group quarters type in each census block (e.g., correctional facilities, nursing facilities, college dorms, and military quarters).

All other population and housing characteristic data, including population counts for every geography below the state level, had noise introduced.

Please let me know how else I can help you access the data you seek. Thank you for reaching out.

Liz Brooks
Research Analyst
Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Research and Analysis Section
Population and Census Unit
907-465-5970

From: Tempest Evans <tevens@BHB.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 4:33 PM
To: Brooks, Liz M (DOL) <liz.brooks@alaska.gov>
Cc: Holly Wells <hwells@BHB.com>
Subject: Block Level Census Data | Litigation Request
Importance: High

Hello Ms. Brooks,

I’m working with attorney Holly Wells on a redistricting matter involving census data, Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI.

We will be requesting block-specific census data on racial and economic factors, including the Alaska Census Data and American Community Survey. I was provided your name as someone who could give me further information about how to request this data.

Please let me know if you or any of your staff are available to facilitate. Our matter will proceed on an extremely expedited basis pursuant to court rules, and your prompt attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Tempest Evans
Paralegal | [Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot](#)
510 L Street, Suite 700 | Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Direct 907.263.7236 | Fax 907.276.3680

This transmittal may be a confidential attorney-client communication or may otherwise be privileged or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, you have received this transmittal in error. Any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this transmittal is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by reply or by telephone (907) 276-1550 and immediately delete this message and all attachments.

ANCHORAGE COMBINED CENSUS TRACTS

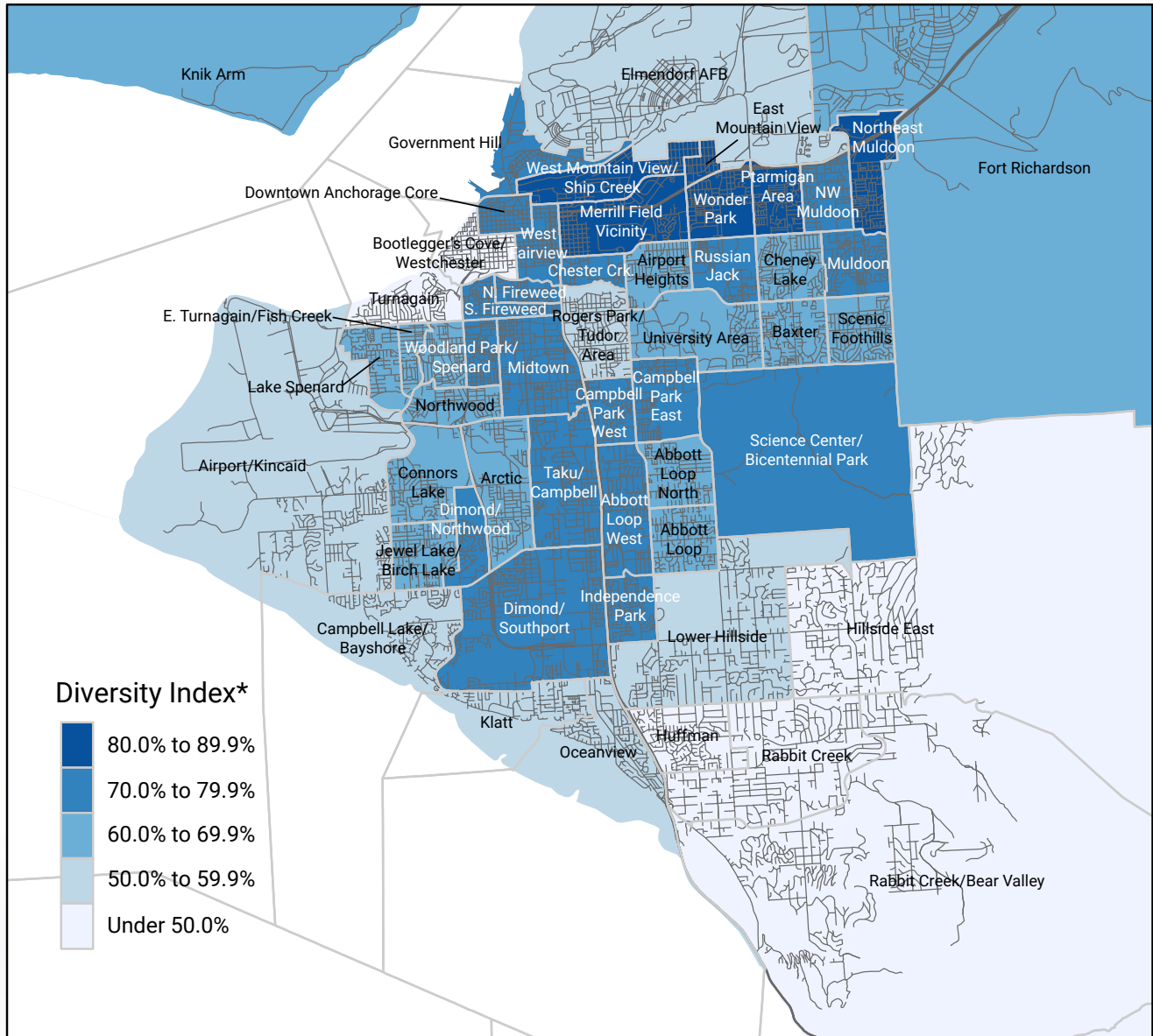


Notes: These areas are based on census tracts and groups of census tracts that make up the Municipality of Anchorage. The names are not official, and are not part of U.S. Census Bureau data. The areas should not be confused with Anchorage Community Councils.
 Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS, ARB DOCUMENT PROVIDED 12/30/2021

DISTRICT	Total Population Tabulation				Racial Demographics as a Percent of Total Population				Percent	Racial Demographics as a percent of VAP			
	All Persons	Target	Dev.	Difference	White	Black	Hispanic	Minority	Voting Age	White	Black	Hispanic	Minority
1	17,921	18,335	-2.26%✓	-414	56.86%	0.61%	4.34%	43.14%	77.73%	60.53%	0.63%	3.63%	39.47%
2	18,048	18,335	-1.56%✓	-287	57.96%	0.62%	5.01%	42.04%	78.61%	62.07%	0.67%	4.14%	37.93%
3	18,195	18,335	-0.76%✓	-140	69.67%	0.71%	5.33%	30.33%	77.79%	73.53%	0.79%	4.57%	26.47%
4	18,122	18,335	-1.16%✓	-213	58.94%	1.29%	6.81%	41.06%	80.08%	62.57%	1.27%	5.82%	37.43%
5	18,707	18,335	2.03%✓	372	54.39%	1.15%	6.99%	45.61%	77.33%	57.11%	1.36%	6.14%	42.89%
6	18,434	18,335	0.54%✓	99	83.98%	0.35%	3.10%	16.02%	80.22%	85.42%	0.34%	2.59%	14.58%
7	18,465	18,335	0.71%✓	130	75.83%	0.61%	5.28%	24.17%	74.82%	78.76%	0.66%	4.22%	21.24%
8	18,471	18,335	0.74%✓	136	80.83%	0.52%	3.16%	19.17%	78.85%	82.71%	0.55%	2.71%	17.29%
9	18,284	18,335	-0.28%✓	-51	79.12%	1.08%	5.31%	20.88%	76.33%	82.05%	1.12%	4.51%	17.95%
10	18,523	18,335	1.03%✓	188	56.55%	2.87%	11.02%	43.45%	75.51%	60.81%	2.98%	9.74%	39.19%
11	18,103	18,335	-1.26%✓	-232	64.70%	3.04%	7.67%	35.30%	75.68%	67.92%	2.83%	6.53%	32.08%
12	18,217	18,335	-0.64%✓	-118	52.08%	3.61%	8.94%	47.92%	75.87%	55.40%	3.75%	8.21%	44.60%
13	18,185	18,335	-0.82%✓	-150	50.48%	4.62%	10.16%	49.52%	78.87%	54.91%	4.64%	8.82%	45.09%
14	18,213	18,335	-0.66%✓	-122	50.84%	4.96%	8.98%	49.16%	81.41%	54.81%	5.18%	7.86%	45.19%
15	18,168	18,335	-0.91%✓	-167	60.28%	2.55%	6.49%	39.72%	75.43%	64.24%	2.60%	5.49%	35.76%
16	18,182	18,335	-0.83%✓	-153	60.99%	2.53%	7.14%	39.01%	78.48%	64.81%	2.52%	6.34%	35.19%
17	18,203	18,335	-0.72%✓	-132	53.01%	7.93%	9.20%	46.99%	82.12%	57.54%	7.28%	7.97%	42.46%
18	18,243	18,335	-0.50%✓	-92	30.40%	9.53%	13.57%	69.60%	71.68%	35.97%	9.70%	12.24%	64.03%
19	18,239	18,335	-0.52%✓	-96	47.16%	6.72%	9.39%	52.84%	78.04%	51.94%	6.84%	8.28%	48.06%
20	18,285	18,335	-0.27%✓	-50	37.59%	9.96%	10.62%	62.41%	73.01%	43.16%	10.47%	9.94%	56.84%
21	18,414	18,335	0.43%✓	79	52.49%	7.10%	7.94%	47.51%	76.19%	57.86%	7.24%	6.59%	42.14%
22	18,205	18,335	-0.71%✓	-130	76.29%	2.27%	7.81%	23.71%	72.73%	78.94%	2.33%	6.37%	21.06%
23	18,023	18,335	-1.70%✓	-312	56.59%	9.49%	14.08%	43.41%	78.40%	57.76%	9.61%	12.90%	42.24%
24	18,032	18,335	-1.65%✓	-303	75.17%	1.76%	6.85%	24.83%	74.92%	78.19%	1.91%	5.83%	21.81%
25	18,822	18,335	2.66%✓	487	77.95%	1.04%	4.95%	22.05%	73.56%	81.00%	1.11%	4.16%	19.00%
26	18,807	18,335	2.58%✓	472	76.15%	1.11%	5.37%	23.85%	68.46%	79.62%	1.25%	4.31%	20.38%
27	18,799	18,335	2.53%✓	464	75.42%	1.29%	5.58%	24.58%	72.17%	78.84%	1.32%	4.32%	21.16%
28	18,793	18,335	2.50%✓	458	78.18%	0.94%	5.38%	21.82%	72.28%	80.03%	1.05%	4.67%	19.97%
29	18,773	18,335	2.39%✓	438	79.50%	0.70%	4.83%	20.50%	72.38%	81.66%	0.79%	3.69%	18.34%
30	18,536	18,335	1.10%✓	201	78.48%	1.11%	3.44%	21.52%	79.86%	79.92%	1.23%	2.78%	20.08%
31	18,294	18,335	-0.22%✓	-41	53.24%	6.94%	8.19%	46.76%	78.36%	56.84%	7.09%	7.18%	43.16%
32	18,522	18,335	1.02%✓	187	65.40%	8.04%	13.37%	34.60%	74.46%	67.97%	8.31%	12.86%	32.03%
33	18,500	18,335	0.90%✓	165	74.56%	2.37%	6.04%	25.44%	72.74%	77.14%	2.50%	5.47%	22.86%
34	18,382	18,335	0.26%✓	47	77.72%	1.91%	6.20%	22.28%	75.96%	79.88%	2.03%	5.20%	20.12%
35	18,367	18,335	0.18%✓	32	71.22%	2.35%	5.30%	28.78%	78.09%	74.13%	2.43%	4.69%	25.87%
36	18,558	18,335	1.22%✓	223	58.84%	0.67%	3.49%	41.16%	76.51%	62.25%	0.71%	2.91%	37.75%
37	18,226	18,335	-0.59%✓	-109	22.38%	3.25%	8.94%	77.62%	78.45%	25.83%	4.11%	9.85%	74.17%
38	17,853	18,335	-2.63%✓	-482	8.35%	0.46%	0.99%	91.65%	64.54%	10.90%	0.67%	1.08%	89.10%
39	17,453	18,335	-4.81%✓	-882	9.04%	0.40%	1.13%	90.96%	63.71%	12.21%	0.50%	1.19%	87.79%
40	18,824	18,335	2.67%✓	489	20.09%	1.24%	3.45%	79.91%	69.94%	27.00%	1.67%	4.15%	73.00%
Assigned	733391												
Total Pop	733391												

Anchorage has some of the country's most diverse neighborhoods, 2020



*The diversity index shows the percent chance that two people selected randomly from a given area will be from different racial or ethnic groups.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census

That was Alaska's lowest natural increase since the 1970s, but at 9.4 percent, it still ranked second among states. Utah was highest at 11.2 percent over the last decade, and Texas followed Alaska at 7.4 percent.

At the low end, West Virginia and Maine sustained natural *decrease* — more deaths than births — losing an estimated 1.7 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively.

While no borough or census area in Alaska had natural decrease between 2010 and 2020, Wrangell

came close with only 20 more births than deaths, and Haines had just 30 more births. Southeast tends to grow less through natural increase than the rest of the state because its older population means a lower birth rate.

The much-younger western and northern parts of the state grew most through natural increase because of their higher birth rates. Overall, 23 of Alaska's 30 boroughs and census areas had higher rates of natural increase than the U.S. average of 3.8 percent for the last decade.