

Viewpoints on the Summit County Redistricting Draft Plan

By
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- [1. Dave's Redistricting App](#)
- [2. DRA 2020 articles on medium.com](#)
- [3. DRA 2020 Youtube Channel](#)
- [4. Summit County Nonpartisan Independent Fair Districting Commission](#)
- [5. Book, Todd & Salling, Mark, Oct 5th Presentation: The VRA and Summit County Council Districts Redistricting](#)
- [6. U. S. Department of Justice, Updated VRA Guidance, September 1, 2021](#)
- [7. Demographics for Current Districts](#)
- [8. Demographics for Draft Plan](#)
- [9. Triad Research Group, Redistricting Draft Plan with Precincts, October 5, 2021](#)
- [10. Schneider, Mike. "Census data: US is diversifying, white population shrinking", AP News, August 13, 2021](#)

Summary

The Draft plan map was entered into Dave's Redistricting App to provide an alternate viewpoint and analysis of the proposal.

A modification of the plan is also explored. It produces a majority-minority District. Tradeoffs to achieve that goal are considered.

The maps were published to allow others to propose their own solutions.

Draft Plan

Map

The Draft Plan has been entered into Dave's Redistricting App (DRA2020)([Ref 1a](#)). I was able to use the full scale map of the Draft Plan ([Ref. 9](#)), which has precincts named, and move the precincts in my original map of the current layout to their new Districts. The Draft plan map is published at the following link. Click on the link to view it.

[Draft Plan Map \(Oct 5, 2020\)](#)

Anyone can view the map. DRA2020 will pop up a request to create an account. You can dismiss it if you want. If one creates an account, you can duplicate maps and explore changes on your own.

A screen snapshot is in Figure 1 below. At the top right menu ribbon one generally uses the Statistics and Analyze buttons to look at results. The Map button returns to the Map view. [Reference 2](#) has instructional articles on how to use DRA2020. [Reference 3](#) has Youtube video tutorials.

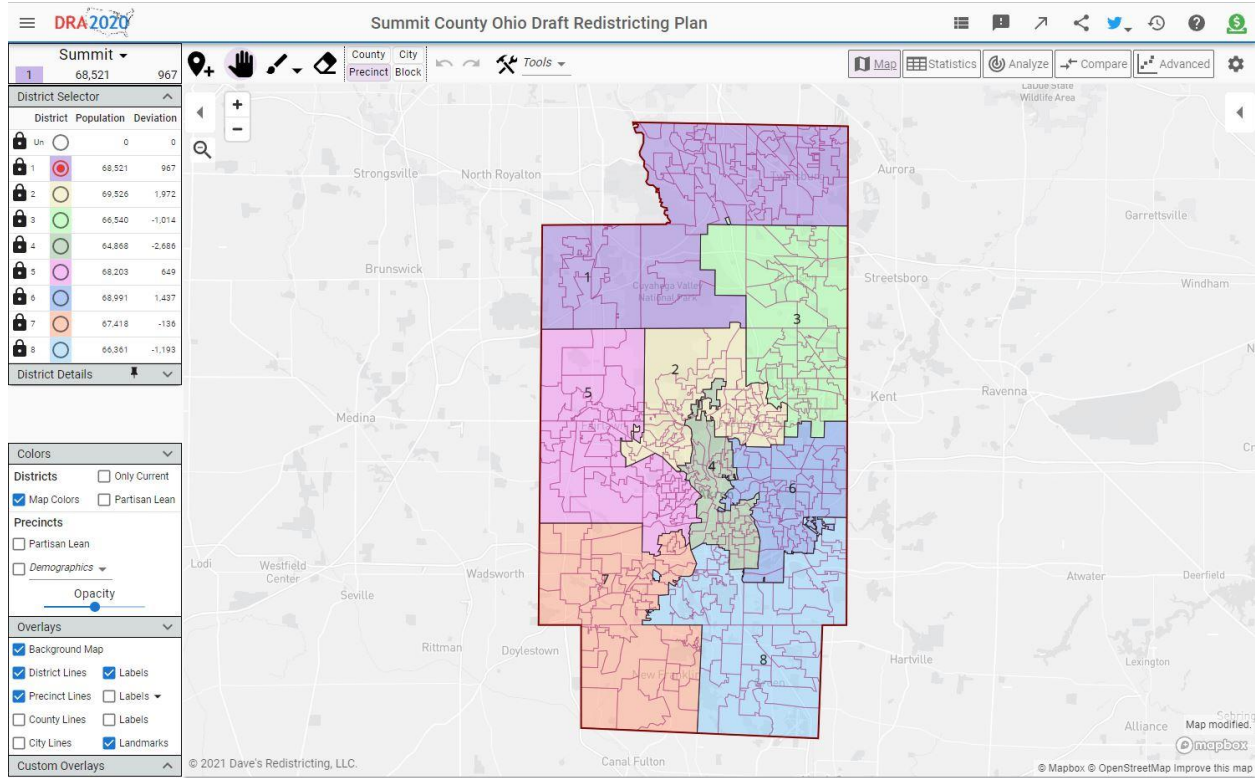


Figure 1. Summit County Ohio Redistricting Draft Plan

I have provided a separate zip file containing 3 screen snapshots for the DRA2020 Draft Plan. The Map is shown on one. I attempted to match colors to those used in the consultant's map. Figure 1 is the map.

Statistics

A second picture (Figure 2) shows the results on the Statistics page, accessed through the Statistics menu button.

Population		Shapes		Partisan Lean			Demographics (VAP)						DOWNLOAD		
ID	Total	+/-	🗺️	📄	Dem	Rep	Oth	Total	White	Minority	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Native	Pacific
Un	0				0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
1	68,521	1.43%	✓	✓	50.41%	47.54%	2.05%	54,767	78.96%	21.04%	1.67%	12.16%	5.72%	1.10%	0.09%
2	69,526	2.92%	✓	✓	56.85%	40.66%	2.49%	56,811	82.61%	17.39%	1.84%	9.08%	4.22%	1.81%	0.06%
3	66,540	-1.50%	✓	✓	47.25%	50.64%	2.11%	52,045	89.06%	10.94%	1.75%	3.04%	4.17%	1.21%	0.07%
4	64,868	-3.98%	✓	✓	73.90%	23.37%	2.73%	49,987	51.78%	48.22%	3.85%	35.18%	7.49%	2.18%	0.13%
5	68,203	0.96%	✓	✓	65.29%	32.87%	1.84%	53,214	57.83%	42.17%	2.19%	34.60%	3.79%	1.45%	0.11%
6	68,991	2.13%	✓	✓	54.42%	42.77%	2.81%	55,104	75.52%	24.48%	1.97%	13.63%	6.27%	2.14%	0.11%
7	67,418	-0.20%	✓	✓	45.54%	51.40%	3.05%	53,463	86.59%	13.41%	1.30%	7.91%	0.83%	2.64%	0.08%
8	66,361	-1.77%	✓	✓	43.10%	54.29%	2.61%	53,121	88.94%	11.06%	1.43%	4.49%	1.94%	2.35%	0.05%
	67,554	6.90%	✓	✓	53.88%	43.71%	2.41%	53,564	76.62%	23.38%	1.99%	14.82%	4.29%	1.86%	0.09%

Notes

- The 6.9% population deviation is within the 10% threshold tolerated by the courts.
- One district leans Republican, four lean Democratic, and three fall in the 45–55% competitive range.

Figure 2 Summit County Redistricting Draft Plan - Statistics

It is observed that the population in each District matches the total population as supplied by Todd Book, Esq. in the Draft Plan Demographics page ([Ref. 8](#)). The total percent deviation from the desired Average population in the +/- column is 6.90%. The page states that this is within the 10% tolerated by the courts. In the Demographics (VAP) section, Districts 4 and 5 are highlighted as having significant Minority populations. These numbers at 48.22% and 42.17% of Voting Age Population (VAP) are higher than those in Todd's "Percent AA Any" column, 35.2% and 34.6% respectively ([Ref 8](#)). This reflects the treatment of data as described in the DRA2020 About Data page ([Ref 1b.](#)). DRA2020 combines the Race Alone data with its combination with other races, including Hispanic ethnicity. The White numbers are White alone and not Hispanic. Hispanic is an ethnicity counted over all races. Their opinion is that this treatment is consistent with what the Voting Rights Act (VRA) requires.

Todd's information slides on the VRA ([Ref. 5](#), slide #3) and the DOJ updated guidance ([Ref. 6](#)) indicate that the DOJ will consider all minorities in investigating VRA compliance. District 4 All "Minority" as a percent VAP is slightly below 50% in this view of DRA2020 data (Figure 2).

Analysis

The Analyze page (not shown) states that all basic requirements are met. The Analyze feature consists of a number of pages with mathematical analysis of map features. It is accessed by clicking on the Analyze button.

There are no big surprises. Todd and his associates are to be commended for balancing the requests of the Community with the requirements of the law.

Demographics

Another picture shows the Demographic distribution as a percent of VAP for all groups.

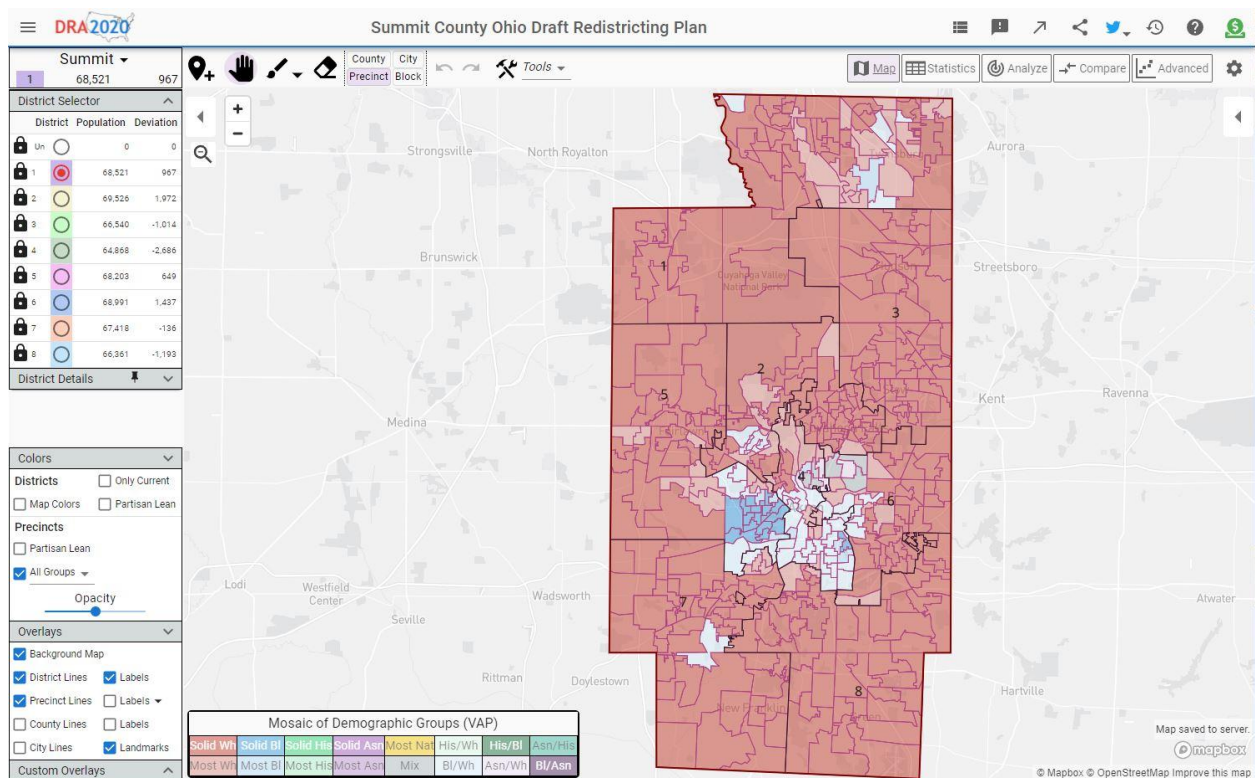


Figure 3. Demographic Groups mapped as a percentage of VAP

It was noted that the new District 5 on its Southeastern boundary contains the Solid African American neighborhoods of West Akron (blue section on Demographic map in Figure 3).

Modification of Draft Plan

A few studies were done around all the bounds of District 4 to investigate raising the minority percentage above 50%. It turned out to be a slightly difficult task. One must keep the population deviations within bounds.

Population Accounting

It was noted that District 4 had a high negative deviation from the desired Average population in the Draft Plan (Figure 1), -2686. District 2 has a positive deviation, 1972; while District 5 is at 649 deviation. These add up to -65 (see Table I). It should be possible to reduce the total deviation by swapping precincts amongst these three districts.

A solution was found by exchanging 5 precincts.

1. West Akron: Precincts 3-H, 3-K, 3-F are transferred from Summit County District 5 to 4.
2. Northwest Akron: Precincts 8-L and 8-B are transferred from District 2 over to 5

Table I. shows the Population changes that result from the Precinct swapping.

Table I. Population Accounting

Precincts moved District 5 to 4	Total Population of Precinct					
3-H	1447					
3-K	1065					
3-F	1030					
Precincts moved District 2 to District 5	Total Population of Precinct					
8-L	934					
8-B	1359					
	Debit	Credit	Balance	Population Change	Initial Deviation	Final Deviation
District 2			69526		1972	
8-L	934		68592			
8-B	1359		67233	-2293		-321
District 4			64868		-2686	
3-H		1447	66315			
3-K		1065	67380			
3-F		1030	68410	3542		856
District 5			68203		649	
3-H	1447		66756			
3-K	1065		65691			
3-F	1030		64661			
8-L		934	65595			
8-B		1359	66954	-1249		-600
			Totals	0	-65	-65

Modified Map

The result is the Modification of the Draft Plan map which can be viewed at this link.

[Modified Draft Plan](#)

A second zip file contains 4 screen snaps of this version. One is the Map itself. It is in Figure 4 below.

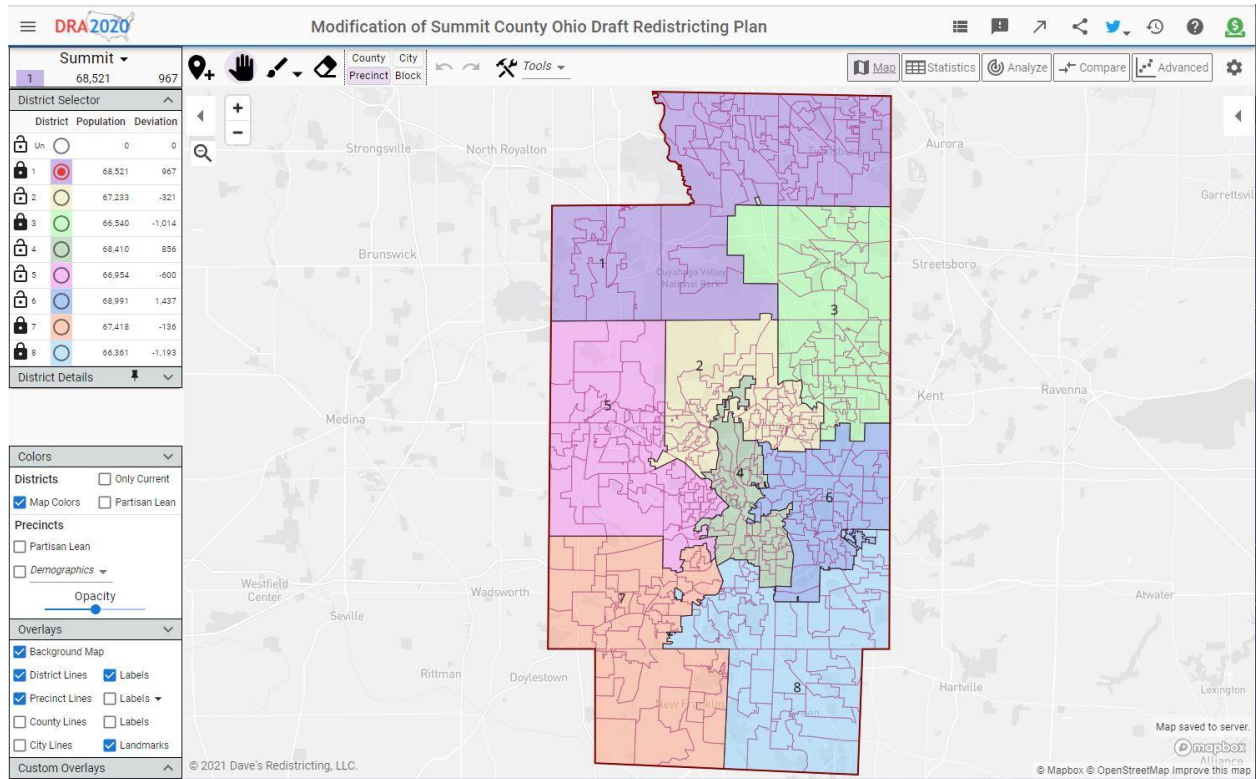


Figure 4. Modified Redistricting Draft Plan Map

Statistics

Modification of Summit County Ohio Draft Redistricting Plan

Map Statistics Analyze Compare Advanced

ID	Population		Shapes		Partisan Lean			Demographics (VAP)							DOWNLOAD
	Total	+/-	🗺️	📄	Dem	Rep	Oth	Total	White	Minority	Hispanic	Black	Asian	Native	
Un	0				0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
1	68,521	1.43%	✓	✓	50.41%	47.54%	2.05%	54,767	78.96%	21.04%	1.67%	12.16%	5.72%	1.10%	0.09%
2	67,233	-0.48%	✓	✓	56.80%	40.66%	2.55%	54,977	82.58%	17.42%	1.84%	9.06%	4.23%	1.85%	0.06%
3	66,540	-1.50%	✓	✓	47.25%	50.64%	2.11%	52,045	89.06%	10.94%	1.75%	3.04%	4.17%	1.21%	0.07%
4	68,410	1.27%	✓	✓	75.14%	22.20%	2.66%	52,504	49.87%	50.13%	3.86%	37.40%	7.22%	2.18%	0.14%
5	66,954	-0.89%	✓	✓	63.83%	34.35%	1.82%	52,531	60.92%	39.08%	2.10%	31.47%	3.87%	1.39%	0.10%
6	68,991	2.13%	✓	✓	54.42%	42.77%	2.81%	55,104	75.52%	24.48%	1.97%	13.63%	6.27%	2.14%	0.11%
7	67,418	-0.20%	✓	✓	45.54%	51.40%	3.05%	53,463	86.59%	13.41%	1.30%	7.91%	0.83%	2.64%	0.08%
8	66,361	-1.77%	✓	✓	43.10%	54.29%	2.61%	53,121	88.94%	11.06%	1.43%	4.49%	1.94%	2.35%	0.05%
	67,554	3.89%	✓	✓	53.88%	43.71%	2.41%	53,564	76.62%	23.38%	1.99%	14.82%	4.29%	1.86%	0.09%

Notes

- The 3.89% population deviation is within the 10% threshold tolerated by the courts.
- One district leans Republican, four lean Democratic, and three fall in the 45–55% competitive range.
- There is one majority-minority district.

Figure 5. Modified Redistricting Draft Plan- Statistics

The Statistics picture (Figure 5) shows that the total percent +/- population deviation was reduced to 3.89%. District 4 is now at 50.13% VAP for all minorities. The page states that this is a majority-minority district. The tradeoff is that District 5 has a lower Minority percentage at 39.08%.

Demographics

A third picture in Figure 6 shows the Demographic distribution of All race and ethnicity groups with the modified boundaries.

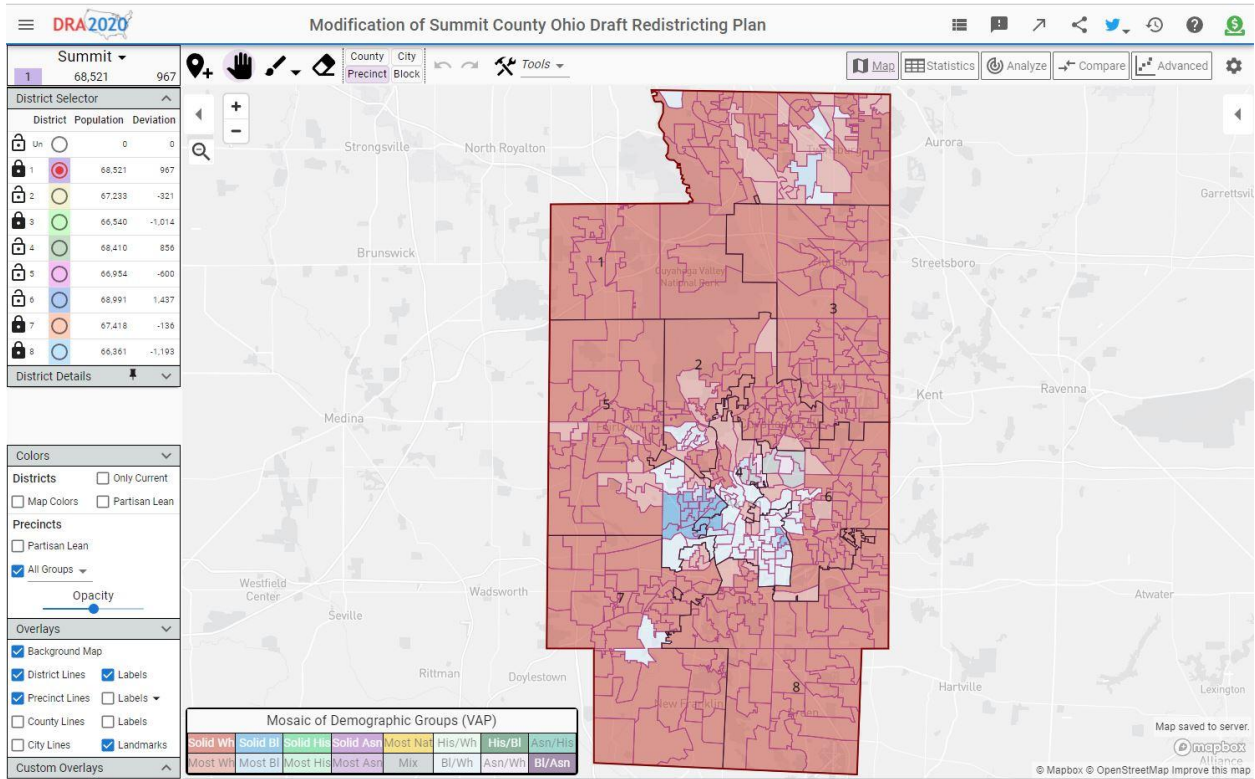


Figure 6. Modified Redistricting Draft Plan- Demographic Groups mapped as a percentage of VAP

Comparison of Analysis Metrics

The fourth picture (Figure 7) compares the Analysis polar graph from the Analyze pages of the 2 maps.

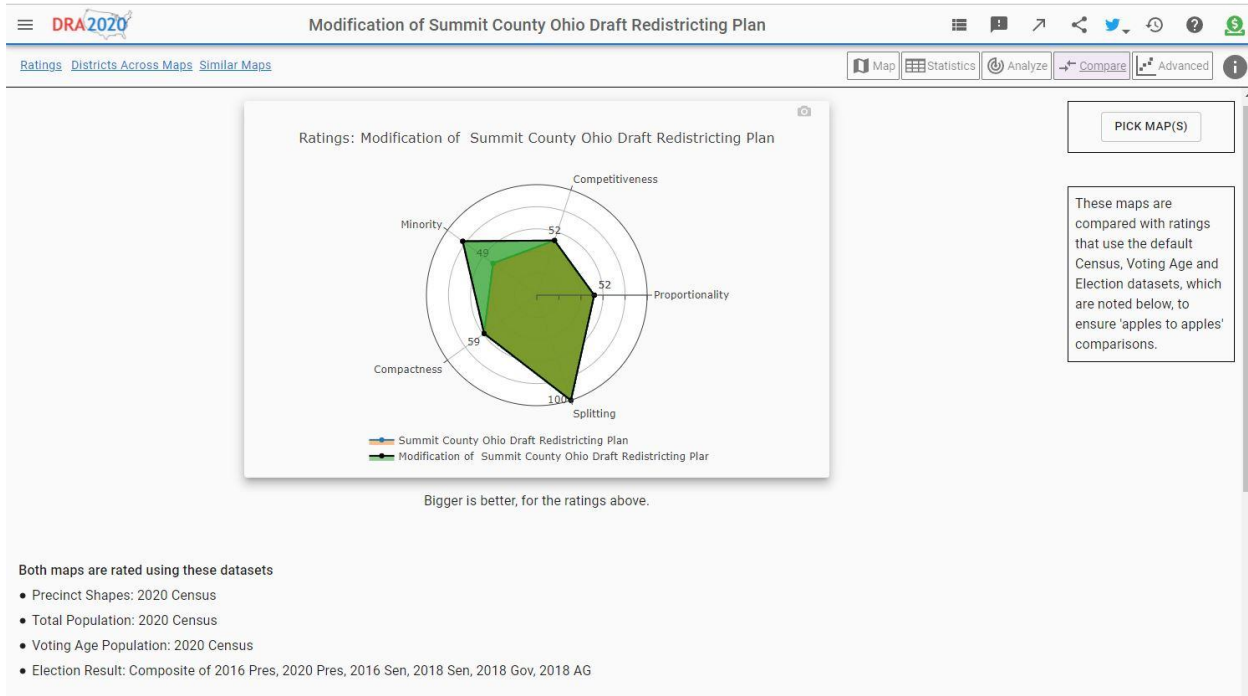


Figure 7. Comparison of Analysis Metrics for Draft Plan and the Modified Version

The modified plan raises the "Minority" representation metric from 49 (Ok) to 83 (Very Good). But as their disclaimer states on the Analyze page "Disclaimer: This analysis does not ensure Voting Rights Act (VRA) compliance!"

Discussion

Table II compares the effect of the plans on the All Minority percent of the Voting Age Population. The data is from the maps in the DRA2020 software.

The current map was not published. The available data contained split precincts. The numbers are approximate for the current 2020 map.

Table II. Plan Comparison of VAP Minority percentages

Map	All Minorities (% of VAP)		Average
	District		
	4	5	
Current 2020	35.50%	47.59%	41.55%
Draft Plan	48.22%	42.17%	45.20%
Modified Draft Plan	50.13%	39.08%	44.61%

The current 2020 districts were around 35.50% in 4 and 47.59% in 5 for all Minorities. The Draft Plan reduces district 5 to 42.17%.

The modified plan reduced the total percent +/- population deviation to 3.89%.of the target average.

The modification produced a majority-minority in District 4 by a slim margin.However, it is not guaranteed to satisfy the Voting Rights Act requirements. It swapped the relative magnitude of Districts 4 and 5 from the current map.

The results can be interpreted in different ways. The modified plan may be viewed as reducing the distribution of minority voters in District 5 by too much. That is the tradeoff to produce a majority-minority in District 4 now. However, the relative percentages between the 2 districts are higher than the current map, although the positions are swapped.

The modified boundary in West Akron (Figure 6) can be viewed as unpacking a concentrated minority population, or as breaking up a cohesive neighborhood that has shared goals and viewpoints.

The Draft Plan puts both districts in the 40 to 50% range. It has a higher average percentage for the all minority percentage. Census trends ([Ref 10](#)) make a likelihood possible that the Draft

Plan as published might result in 2 majority-minority districts in relatively short time. But nothing is guaranteed.

Conclusion

A different view of the Draft Plan map was presented in Dave's Redistricting App. A modified scenario was produced to encourage thought.

The All Minorities population as a percent of Voting Age Population (VAP) expressed by Dave's Redistricting App is higher than the VAP numbers presented in the published consultant reports. The levels are raised enough to become interesting.

District 4 is just shy of 50% level for the Draft Plan (Table II). For the current map, District 5 is slightly below 50%.

The modified draft plan studied here approximately swaps the relative magnitude of Districts 4 and 5 from the current 2020 percentages, but they are higher. The modification reduces the District 5 Minority percentage of VAP relative to the draft plan. It produces a majority-minority in District 4 by a slim margin.

Public input is required from affected residents as to viewpoints on the redefined boundaries of the modified plan (Figure 6).

It's up to the Commission to decide if the mentioned tradeoffs warrant study of further modifications.

Others can use the published map to explore their own solutions.

References:

1. Dave's Redistricting App

A free browser based app to create, analyze and share redistricting maps for any state or community.

- a. [DRA 2020 \(davesredistricting.org\)](https://davesredistricting.org) Home Page
- b. [DRA 2020 About Data](#)

2. DRA 2020 articles on medium.com

<https://medium.com/dra-2020>

3. DRA 2020 Youtube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwxjw3U-rkPuc99XqSHpd1g>

4. Summit County Nonpartisan Independent Fair Districting Commission

<https://co.summitoh.net/pages/Summit-County-Nonpartisan-Independent-Fair-Districting.html>

5. Book, Todd & Salling, Mark, Oct 5th Presentation: The VRA and Summit County Council Districts Redistricting

https://co.summitoh.net/files-generic/18354/file/vra_presentation.pdf

6. U. S. Department of Justice, Updated VRA Guidance, September 1, 2021

<https://co.summitoh.net/files-generic/18353/file/updated-vra-guidance.pdf>

7. Demographics for Current Districts

<https://co.summitoh.net/files-generic/18358/file/demographics-for-current-districts.pdf>

8. Demographics for Draft Plan

<https://co.summitoh.net/files-generic/18359/file/demographics-for-draft-map.pdf>

9. Triad Research Group, Redistricting Draft Plan with Precincts, October 5, 2021

<https://co.summitoh.net/files-generic/18357/file/summit-council-draft-plan-large.pdf>

10. Schneider, Mike. "Census data: US is diversifying, white population shrinking", AP News, August 13, 2021

<https://apnews.com/article/race-and-ethnicity-census-2020-7264a653037e38df7ba67d3a324fc90d>