

State Redistricting Matanuska-Susitna Borough

September 7, 2021
Assembly Meeting



Background

Redistricting – the process of drawing electoral district boundaries, for the State of Alaska this means drawing the boundaries of 40 house districts and their corresponding senate districts.

Reapportionment – In the State of Alaska Reapportionment is the process of drawing Assembly District Boundaries.

Unlike some states, Alaska's constitutional authors foresaw potential issues and set the schedule for Alaska redistricting to be triggered "immediately following the official reporting of each decennial census of the United States" (Alaska Constitution, Article VI, §3). After official receipt, the constitution requires that the State Redistricting board adopt a draft plan within 30 days and a final plan within 90 days.



State Redistricting Board Timeline

- August 12: Official release date of redistricting data
- September 7-9: Map drawing work sessions
- September 10: Discussion and adoption of State Board draft plan(s) (September 11 draft due per state statute)
- September 17: Presentations of submitted 3rd party plans
- September 21: Discussion and adoption of additional draft plan(s)
- November 10: Final plan adopted per state statute



Assembly Reapportionment Timeline

- November 10, 2021: State redistricting final plan adopted per state statute
- January 10, 2022: Within two months of state plan adoption, the Assembly determines and declares by resolution whether or not it is malapportioned (MSB 2.12.15)
- An ordinance will be adopted providing for reapportionment and the form of representation to be sent to the voters
- Election held



Redistricting Criteria – State Constitution

The Alaska Constitution requires new districts meet four criteria:

Contiguous: Territory which is bordering or touching. A district is contiguous if every part of the district is reachable from every other part without crossing the district boundary (i.e., the district is not divided into two or more discrete pieces). Absolute contiguity of land masses is impossible in Alaska, considering her numerous archipelagos. Accordingly, a contiguous district may contain some amount of open sea.

Compact: Compact in the sense used in redistricting means having a small perimeter in relation to the area encompassed. Compact districting should not yield bizarre designs.

Socio-Economic Integration: Where people live, work, and earn their living together. It has been described as occurring when a group of people live within a geographic unit, following, if possible, similar economic pursuits.

Equality of Population: Protects the “one person, one vote” principle of the equal protection clauses of the United States and Alaska constitutions. Requires each of the 40 house districts to be populated, as near as practicable, with 1/40th of the State’s population. Because of the realities of Alaska’s vast geography and population distribution, there are always some “deviations” in populations between districts.



Census 2020 Data

State of Alaska

733,391 – 40 House Seats
Target Population 18,335

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

107,081/18,335
Entitled to 5.84 House Districts

Anchorage

291,247/18,335
Entitled to 15.88 House Districts

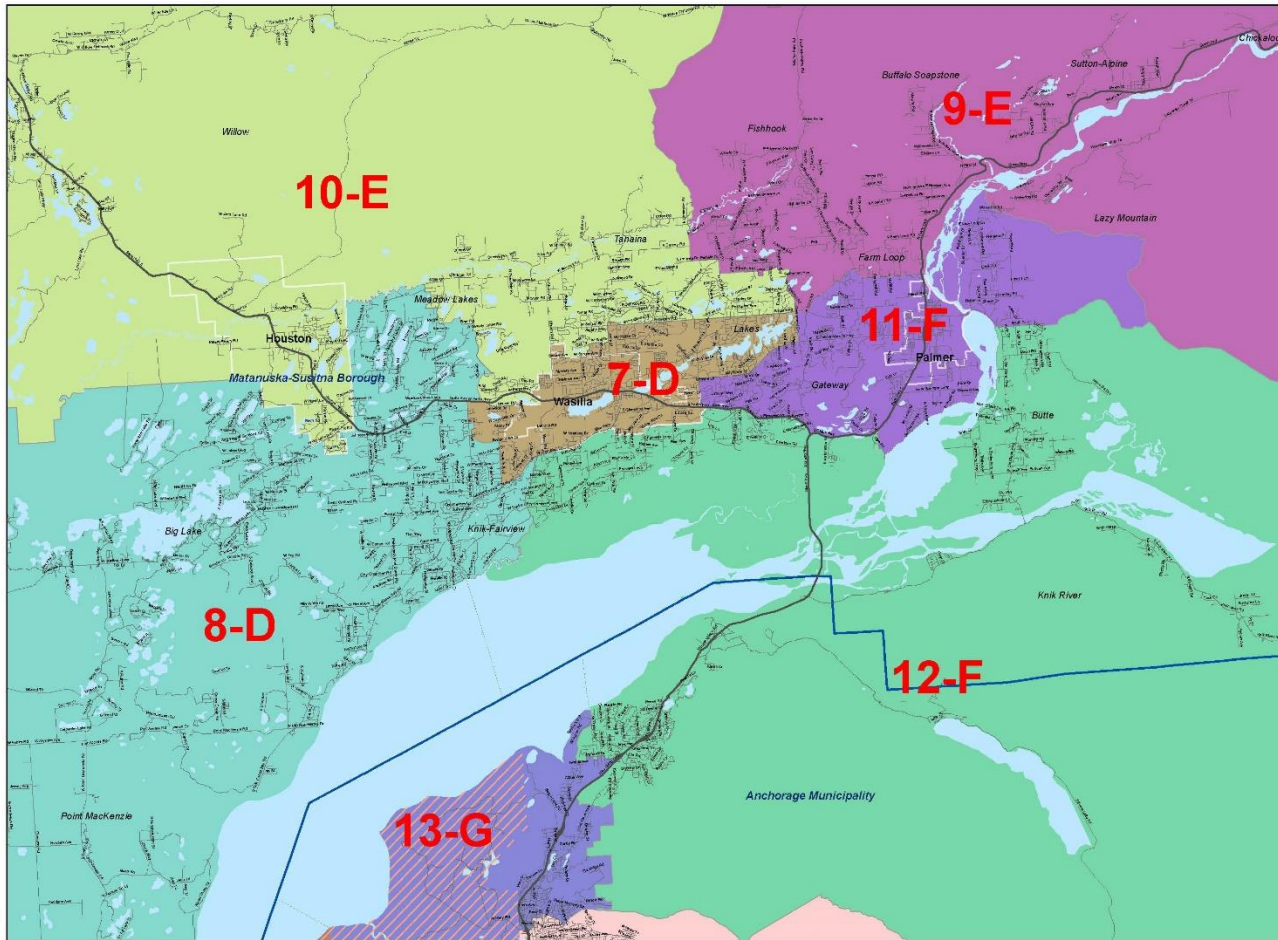


<u>Area Name</u>	<u>April 1, 2010</u>	<u>April 1, 2020</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Alaska	710,231	733,391	23,160
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	88,995	107,081	18,086
Kenai Peninsula Borough	55,400	58,799	3,399
Bethel Census Area	17,013	18,666	1,653
North Slope Borough	9,430	11,031	1,601
Juneau, City and Borough	31,275	32,255	980
Kusilvak Census Area	7,459	8,368	909
Nome Census Area	9,492	10,046	554
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,477	13,948	471
Chugach Census Area	6,684	7,102	418
Aleutians East Borough	3,141	3,420	279
Skagway Borough, Municipality	968	1,240	272
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,523	7,793	270
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area	2,149	2,365	216
Petersburg Borough	3,203	3,398	195
Dillingham Census Area	4,847	4,857	10
Yakutat, City and Borough	662	662	0
Bristol Bay Borough	997	844	-153
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,631	1,476	-155
Denali Borough	1,826	1,619	-207
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	7,026	6,808	-218
Wrangell, City and Borough	2,369	2,127	-242
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	5,588	5,343	-245
Aleutians West Census Area	5,561	5,232	-329
Copper River Census Area	2,955	2,617	-338
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area	6,172	5,753	-419
Sitka, City and Borough	8,881	8,458	-423
Haines Borough	2,508	2,080	-428
Kodiak Island Borough	13,592	13,101	-491
Anchorage, Municipality	291,826	291,247	-579
Fairbanks North Star Borough	97,581	95,655	-1,926

Existing Mat-Su House Districts

2013 Proclamation House Districts

MatSu



Mat-Su has 4 full house districts:

- District 7
- District 8
- District 10
- District 11

Mat-Su has 2 shared house districts:

- District 9 – Extends from Valdez to the boundary of the Fairbanks North Star Borough
- District 12 - shared with Anchorage

District	Short Name	2020 Pop	Ideal	Diff	Deviation
7	Wasilla	20,689	18,335	2,354	12.84%
8	Knik Goose Bay	23,097	18,335	4,762	25.97%
9	Sutton/Valdez/Delta	20,024	18,335	1,689	9.21%
10	Houston/Willow/Talk.	20,757	18,335	2,422	13.21%
11	Palmer/Lazy Mtn	19,683	18,335	1,348	7.35%
12	Butte/Peters Creek	20,172	18,335	1,837	10.02%
		124,422	110,010		



Mat-Su Population Changes

The top 5 communities with an increase of over 1,500 people:

- 1) Knik-Fairview: +4,385
- 2) North Lakes: +1,855
- 3) Fishhook: +1,710
- 4) Meadow Lakes: +1,627
- 5) Gateway: +1,543

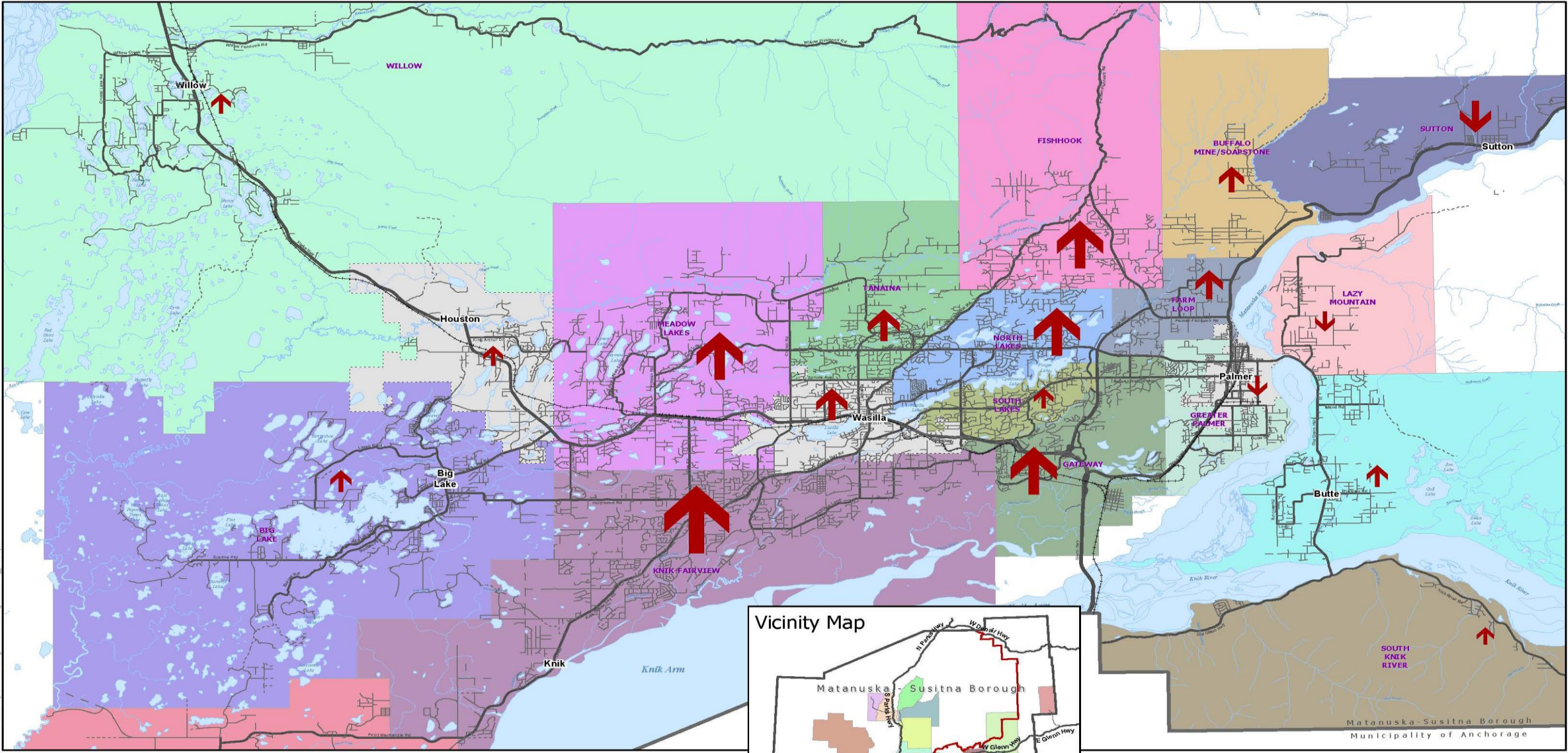


Area Name	April 2010	April 2020	Difference
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	88,995	107,081	18,086
Big Lake CDP	3,350	3,833	483
Buffalo Soapstone CDP	855	1,021	166
Butte CDP	3,246	3,589	343
Chase CDP	34	19	-15
Chickaloon CDP	272	254	-18
Eureka Roadhouse CDP	29	24	-5
Farm Loop CDP	1,946	2,747	801
Fishhook CDP	3,338	5,048	1,710
Gateway CDP	4,205	5,748	1,543
Glacier View CDP	234	375	141
Houston city	1,912	1,975	63
Knik-Fairview CDP	14,912	19,297	4,385
Knik River CDP	744	792	48
Lake Louise CDP	48	15	-33
Lazy Mountain CDP	1,479	1,506	27
Meadow Lakes CDP	7,570	9,197	1,627
North Lakes CDP	7,595	9,450	1,855
Palmer city	5,937	5,888	-49
Petersville CDP	4	27	23
Point MacKenzie CDP	540	1,852	1,312
Skwentna CDP	37	62	25
South Lakes CDP	5,032	5,229	197
Susitna CDP	18	11	-7
Susitna North CDP	1,260	1,564	304
Sutton-Alpine CDP	1,447	1,038	-409
Talkeetna CDP	908	1,055	147
Tanaina CDP	7,655	8,817	1,162
Trapper Creek CDP	481	499	18
Wasilla city	7,831	9,054	1,223
Willow CDP	2,102	2,196	94
Balance	3,974	4,899	925

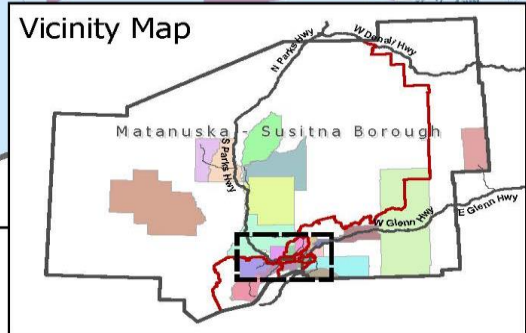


Mat-Su Borough Community Councils - Population Change

Willow - Houston - Wasilla - Palmer



John M. Schaefer/Mapbox/Mapbox.com, 2020; Esri, 2020



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|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| City Boundaries | Butte | Glacier View | North Lakes | Susitna |
| MSB Boundary | Chase | Greater Palmer | Petersville | Sutton |
| Community Councils | Chickaboon | Knik-Fairview | Point MacKenzie | Talkeetna |
| Big Lake | Farm Loop | Lazy Mountain | Skwentna | Tanaina |
| Fishhook | Louise, Susitna, & Tyone Lakes | South Knik River | Trapper Creek | Willow |
| Buffalo Mine/Soapstone | Gateway | Meadow Lakes | | |



0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles

Data Sources: Matanuska-Susitna Borough, State of Alaska Division of Elections

Prepared by MSB
IT Department - GIS Division
September 02, 2021

Mat-Su Redistricting Criteria

Proposed criteria to guide staff in presenting Borough plan for redistricting to State Board; requesting Assembly adoption by resolution

- Plan for continued future growth of the Borough
- Design a plan that gives Mat-Su 6 House Districts and 3 Senate Districts
 1. Eastern MSB District
 2. Goose Bay/Big Lake District
 3. Houston/North West District
 4. Wasilla District
 5. Palmer District
 6. Core District
- Partner with Denali Borough on the North, per their request, and take in area to the East towards Glennallen, to round out 5.84 allocation to full 6 seats and minimize split Districts



Potential District plan for Mat-Su

The draft districts below show 1 possible way to get 6 house districts by partnering with the Denali Borough to the North and extending out to the east towards Glennallen.

Active Matrix													
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
7	18,551	18,335	1.18%✓	216	76.57%	1.08%	5.61%	23.43%	71.65%	79.25%	1.20%	4.39%	20.75%
8	18,390	18,335	0.30%✓	55	73.63%	1.46%	4.81%	26.37%	73.69%	75.35%	1.73%	3.93%	24.65%
9	18,042	18,335	-1.60%✓	-293	81.21%	0.57%	3.71%	18.79%	73.64%	83.71%	0.59%	2.75%	16.29%
10	18,254	18,335	-0.44%✓	-81	80.62%	0.77%	3.77%	19.38%	76.79%	83.53%	0.71%	3.03%	16.47%
11	18,050	18,335	-1.55%✓	-285	77.14%	1.18%	5.53%	22.86%	71.55%	80.15%	1.34%	4.75%	19.85%
12	18,119	18,335	-1.18%✓	-216	76.79%	1.15%	5.62%	23.21%	71.18%	79.48%	1.21%	4.57%	20.52%

- 7. Wasilla District
- 8. Goose Bay/Big Lake District
- 9. Eastern MSB District
- 10. Houston/North West District
- 11. Palmer District
- 12. Core District



Possible MSB Core Area Districts

Legend

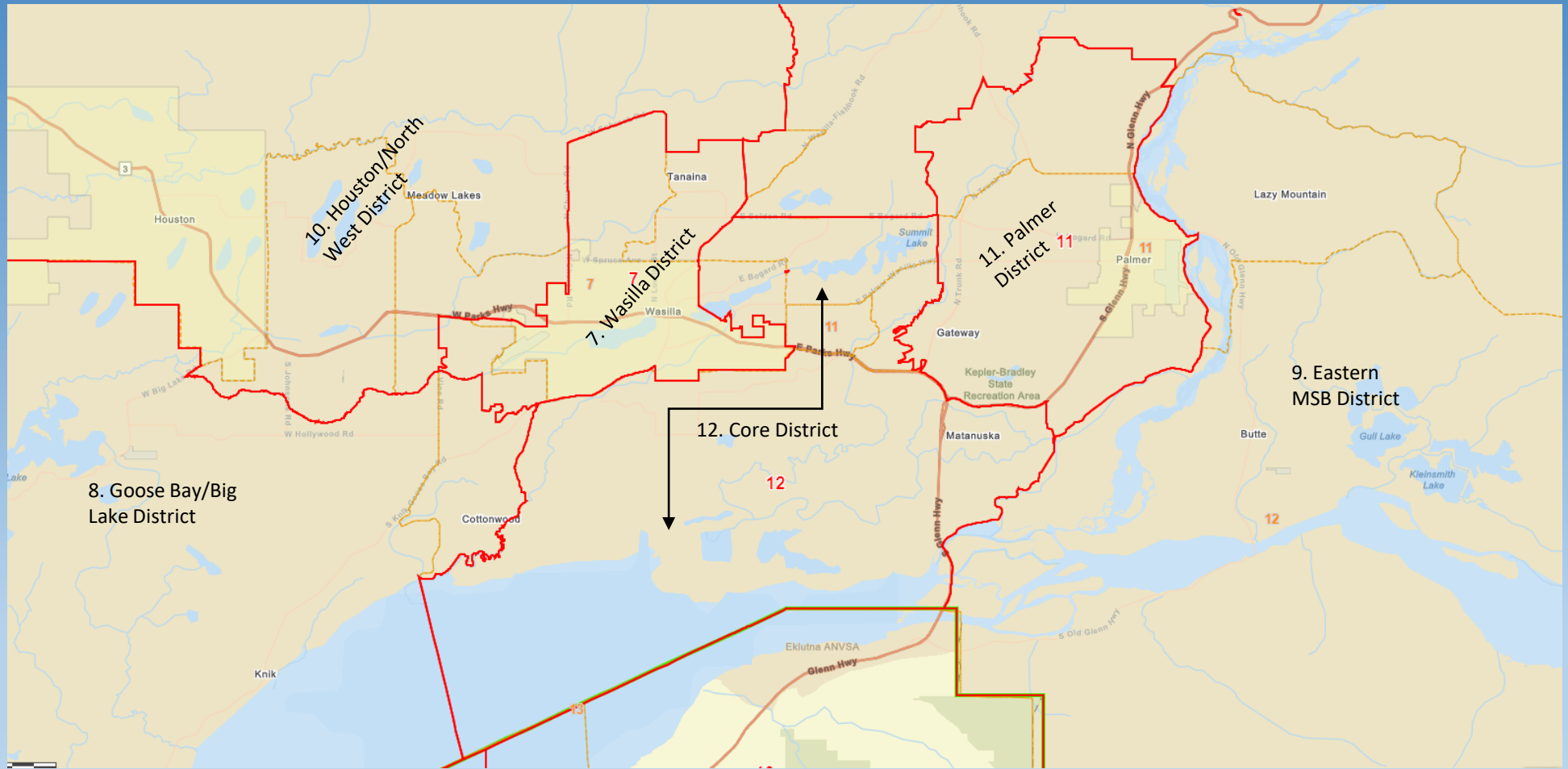
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2013 Proclamation Plan

Wasilla Houston Palmer City Boundary

Denali Borough Boundary

MSB Boundary



Potential pairing with Denali Borough and area to the East

Legend

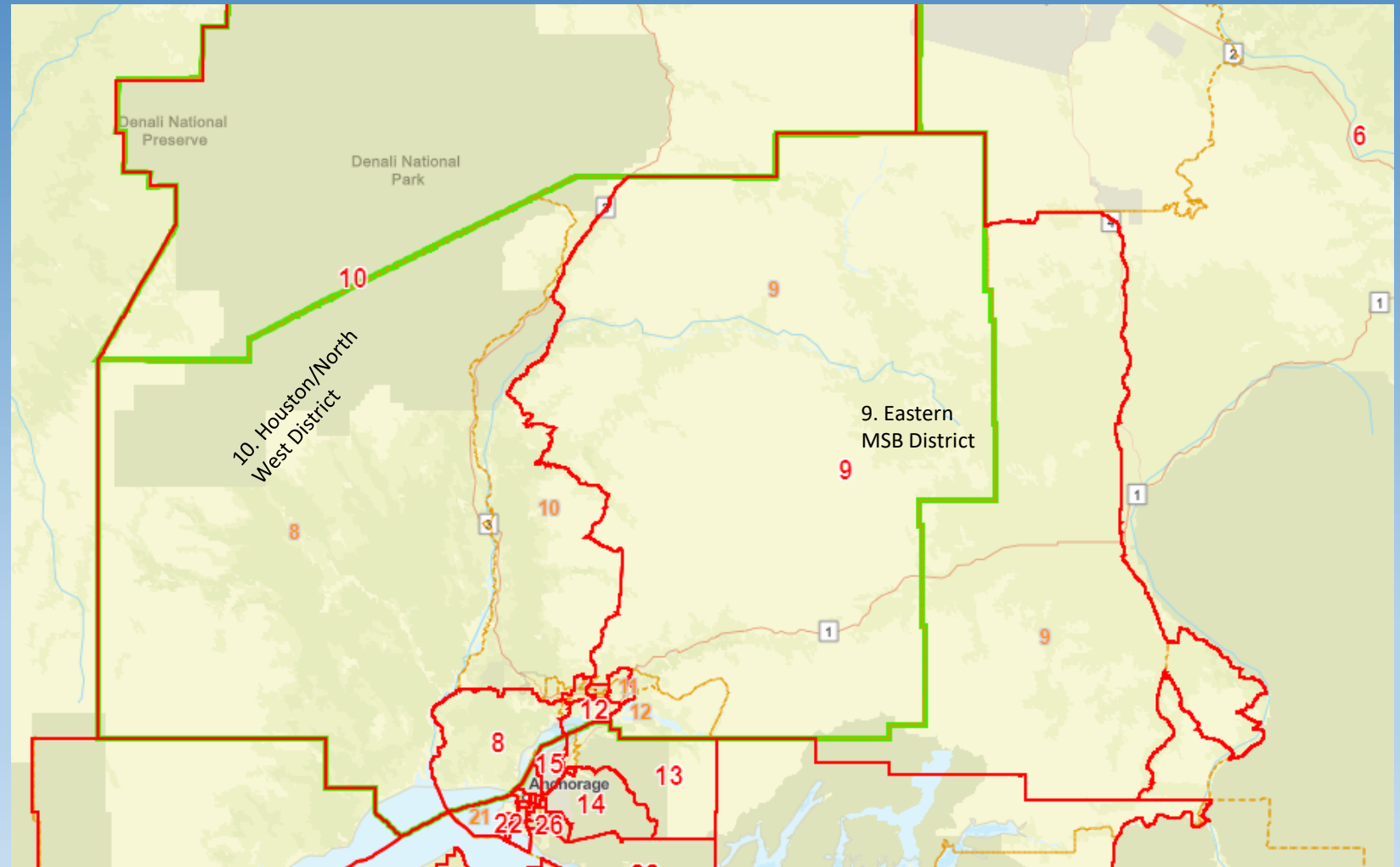
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2013 Proclamation Plan

Wasilla Houston Palmer City Boundary

Denali Borough Boundary

MSB Boundary



Recommendations

1. Amend and adopt RS 21-095 to direct the Manager to engage with the State Redistricting Board on a plan based on following criteria:
 - Plan for continued future growth of the Borough
 - Design a plan that gives Mat-Su 6 House Districts and 3 Senate Districts
 1. Eastern MSB District
 2. Goose Bay/Big Lake District
 3. Houston/North West District
 4. Wasilla District
 5. Palmer District
 6. Core District
 - Partner with Denali Borough, per their request, to round out 5.84 allocation to full 6 seats and minimize split Districts
2. Borough Mayor send a letter to the State Redistricting board clearly stating the Assembly's desire to partner with Denali Borough and not divide other Borough boundaries

