

Carol Kosary's Testimony to the Montgomery County Council at the Public Hearing on
Redistricting, Expedited Bill 41-21, Elections - Council Districts – Boundaries

Good evening, councilmembers. I am Dr. Carol Kosary. According to the map of communities provided to the Redistricting Committee I live in Redland. When I told my neighbors that the County thinks we live in Redland, however, the response I got really can't be repeated in a public forum. For the record, I live in Derwood and Derwood is defined by the 20855 zip-code boundaries. In total over 15,000 Montgomery County residents call Derwood home.

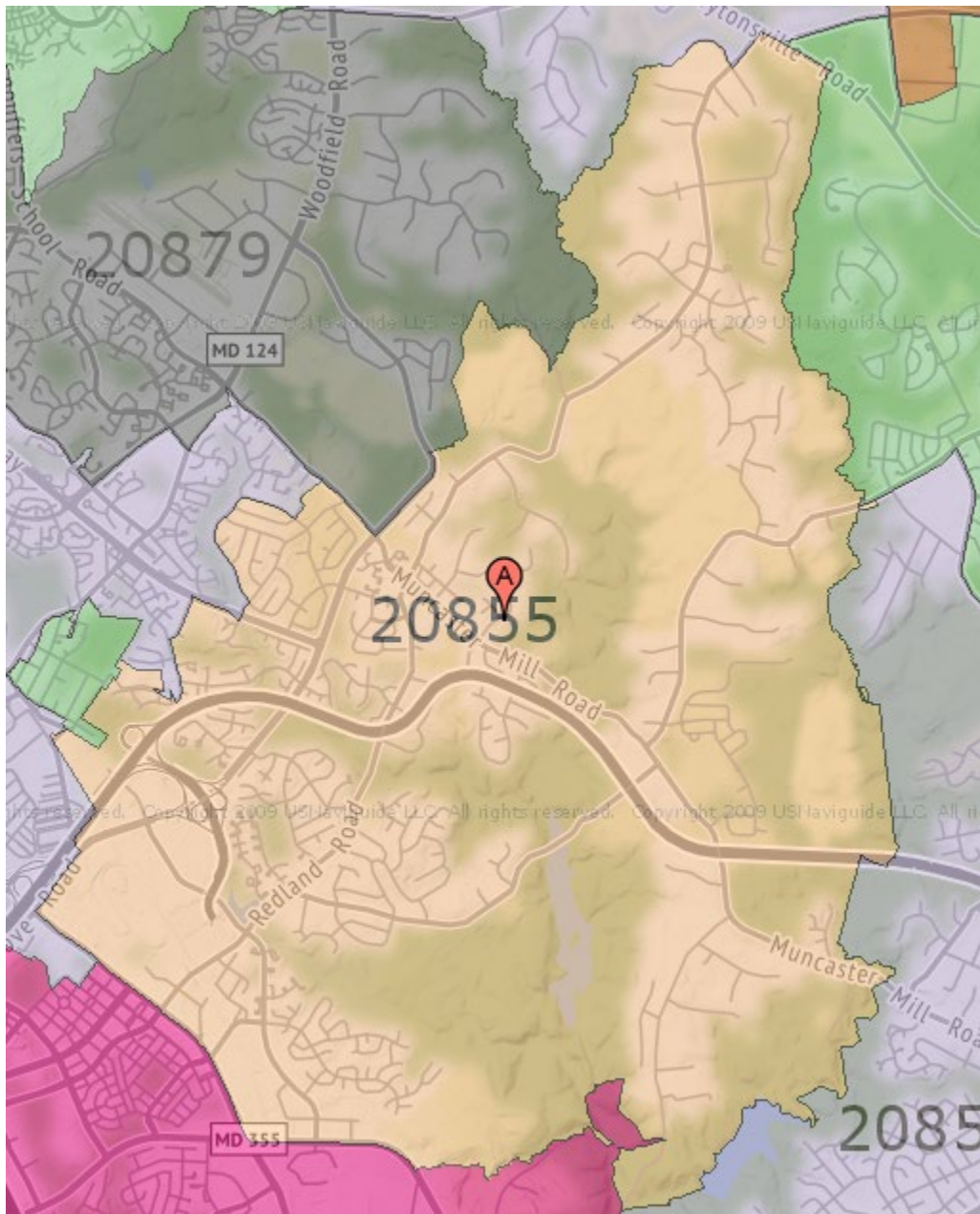
Among the Redistricting Commissions "ground rules" for mapping was the preservation of Communities of Interest; geographical areas, such as neighborhoods, where residents have common political interest. The first iteration of the map which was ultimately forwarded to the County Council placed all of Derwood in District 7, a mixed mid-county/up-county district which matches Derwood's mid-county/up-county mix.

The final map, however, split Derwood moving slightly more than 5,000 Derwood residents to District 6. This was done for no other reason than a request from the North Bethesda community that they be moved out of District 6. Ignoring the requests of Derwood residents that our community not be split the Redistricting Commission just grabbed part of Derwood to make up for the population shortfall.

During the November 9th County Council Session Commissioner Stein was asked about North Bethesda's concerns about their proposed District. He stated that "I think when people put their minds to really thinking about it, I think if you drive from Takoma Park, up through to Kensington, I don't think it would be that weird for you to think that this is all one district." No one, with a straight face, can say the same about District 6. If you drive from Wheaton, up through to Aspen Hill, it's not weird to think that this is all one district. And then you arrive at Derwood and literally run into Rock Creek Regional Park. The Derwood land area may appear large from the map, however, much of it is park. The population at slightly over 5,000, however, is small when compared with the remaining 140,000 in District 6. A large portion of this area is part of the Upper Rock Creek Master Plan area, an environmentally sensitive low-density residential portion of Derwood with nothing in common with District 6 and everything in common with District 7. It is also an area classified as upcounty by the Planning Department.

Derwood is asking the County Council to unite Derwood totally within District 7 where it belongs. Derwood, however, should not only be part of the problem. We should also be part of the solution. Separately we have transmitted a proposal for some minor modifications that address both Derwood's issues with this map along with issues we have heard from several other communities. We hope that the County Council will give these suggestions serious consideration.

Derwood Boundaries



Councilmembers,

By way of introduction, I am a doctorally trained statistician who recently retired after an almost 40-year career with the Federal Government as a GS15 Mathematical Statistician. During my Federal career I never worked for the Census Bureau, however, I did work extensively with Census data.

I have addressed three issues discussed at the November 9th County Council session where the redistricting map was introduced: Derwood, Kemp Mill, and Clarksburg. The issues raised by North Bethesda are, in my opinion, impossible to address without an extensive remapping effort which I have not undertaken.

My proposed changes to the map submitted by the Redistricting Committee would involve moving 14 voting precincts and involves small changes to all 7 Districts. The result remains *de minimis* and unlikely to trigger an Equal Protection violation.

		District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
Beginning Population		154,919	152,824	155,966	150,626	147,673	145,076	155,626
Voting Precinct	04-034 (1)						-2,416	2,416
	04-019 (1)						-2,857	2,857
	04-036 (1)						-4	4
	13-042 (2)					2,165	-2,165	
	13-064 (3)					-7,833	7,833	
	13-057 (4)					2,065	-2,065	
	08-015 (5)					759		-759
	02-006 (6)		10,115					-10,115
	06-009 (7)	3,766	-3,766					
	04-024 (8)		-4,106	4,106				
	13-039 (9)	-3,080			3,080			
	09-038 (10)			-481				481
	09-032 (10)			-1,525				1,525
	04-011 (11)			-1092	1092			
Ending Population		155,605	155,067	156,974	154,798	144,829	143,402	152,035
Percent Deviation (12)		2.50	2.14	3.40	1.96	-4.60	-5.54	0.14

- (1) Move Derwood precincts 04-034, 04-019, and 04-036 from District 6 to District 7. It should be noted that precinct 04-034 is entirely within the Upper Rock Creek Master Plan area and is considered by the Planning Department to be Upcounty (see: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/communities>). This places all of Derwood in District 7 except for the sections of Derwood included in precinct 09-014 where annexations by both Rockville and Gaithersburg have occurred. This area remains in District 3.

- (2) Move Kemp Mill precinct 13-042 from District 6 to District 5. This unites all of Kemp Mill in one District.
- (3) Move precinct 13-064 from District 5 to District 6. This precinct is over 40% Hispanic and adjacent to other high Hispanic precincts making this a logical move into a District designed as plurality Hispanic.
- (4) Move precinct 13-057 from District 6 to District 5. This precinct is over 40% Black making this a logical move into a District designed as plurality Black.
- (5) Move precinct 08-015 from District 2 to District 5. Most of this precinct is below the ICC, adjacent to Leisure World, and bounded to the west by Georgia Ave.
- (6) Move precinct 02-006 from District 7 to District 2. Precinct 02-006 covers both Clarksburg and Cedar Grove; however, the population density is in Clarksburg, not Cedar Grove. Precinct 02-006 is over 40% Asian and the adjoining precincts in District 2 also have large Asian populations. The portion of Cedar Grove which remains in District 7 (precinct 12-004) is in a precinct where most of the population is in Damascus and is over 70% White. This unites the vast majority of Clarksburg in District 2. The portion of Clarksburg which remains in District 7 is in precinct 12-002 which is shared by Damascus, is low density residential, and in the Ag Reserve.
- (7) Move precinct 06-009 (remainder of Travilah/portion of Darnestown) from District 2 to District 1. This area is currently part of the District which includes Bethesda and Potomac.
- (8) Move precinct 04-024 from District 2 to District 3. This precinct mostly comprises Lakewood Estates and is adjacent to the portion of Lakewood which is within Rockville municipal limits. This area is currently part of the District which includes Rockville.
- (9) Move precinct 13-039 from District 1 to District 4. This precinct is a combination of West Silver Spring and the only portion of Chevy Chase east of Rock Creek.
- (10) Move precincts 09-038 and 09-032 from District 3 to District 7. This is predominantly Washington Grove. Washington Grove's motto is "A Town Within a Forest" making District 7 with its midcounty/upcounty mix a good fit for this area.
- (11) Move precinct 04-011 from District 3 to District 4. This is the only portion of Potomac included in District 3. It now joins the portion of Potomac included in District 4. Potomac is now divided across 2 Districts, not 3.
- (12) Percent Deviation measures the percent difference between a district and the hypothetical "ideal" district, which in this case has a population of 151,816. For this proposed map the difference between the largest and smallest district is under 10% (3.40% + 5.54%) and therefore would be regarded as *de minimis* and unlikely to trigger an Equal Protection violation (see March 9, 2021, Memorandum to the Redistricting Commission Members from the Office of the County Attorney).

Thank you for this opportunity to suggest improvements to the proposed redistricting map.

Dr. Carol Kosary
Derwood, MD

UPDATE AFTER NOVEMBER 16th TESTIMONY

It would be extremely difficult to move all of Kemp Mill from District 5 to District 6. Basing this from where my proposal leaves off:

1. Precincts 13-019, 13-020, 13-033, and 13-011 move to District 6. It must be noted that Precincts 13-019 and 13-011 also include part of Four Corners so either these precincts must be split, or part of Four Corners is going over to District 6.
2. Precinct 13-064 would remain in District 5 (was moved to District 6 in proposal above).
3. Precinct 08-006 (Sandy Spring – Ashton) would need to move from District 7 to District 5 to produce a map which remains *de minimis*.