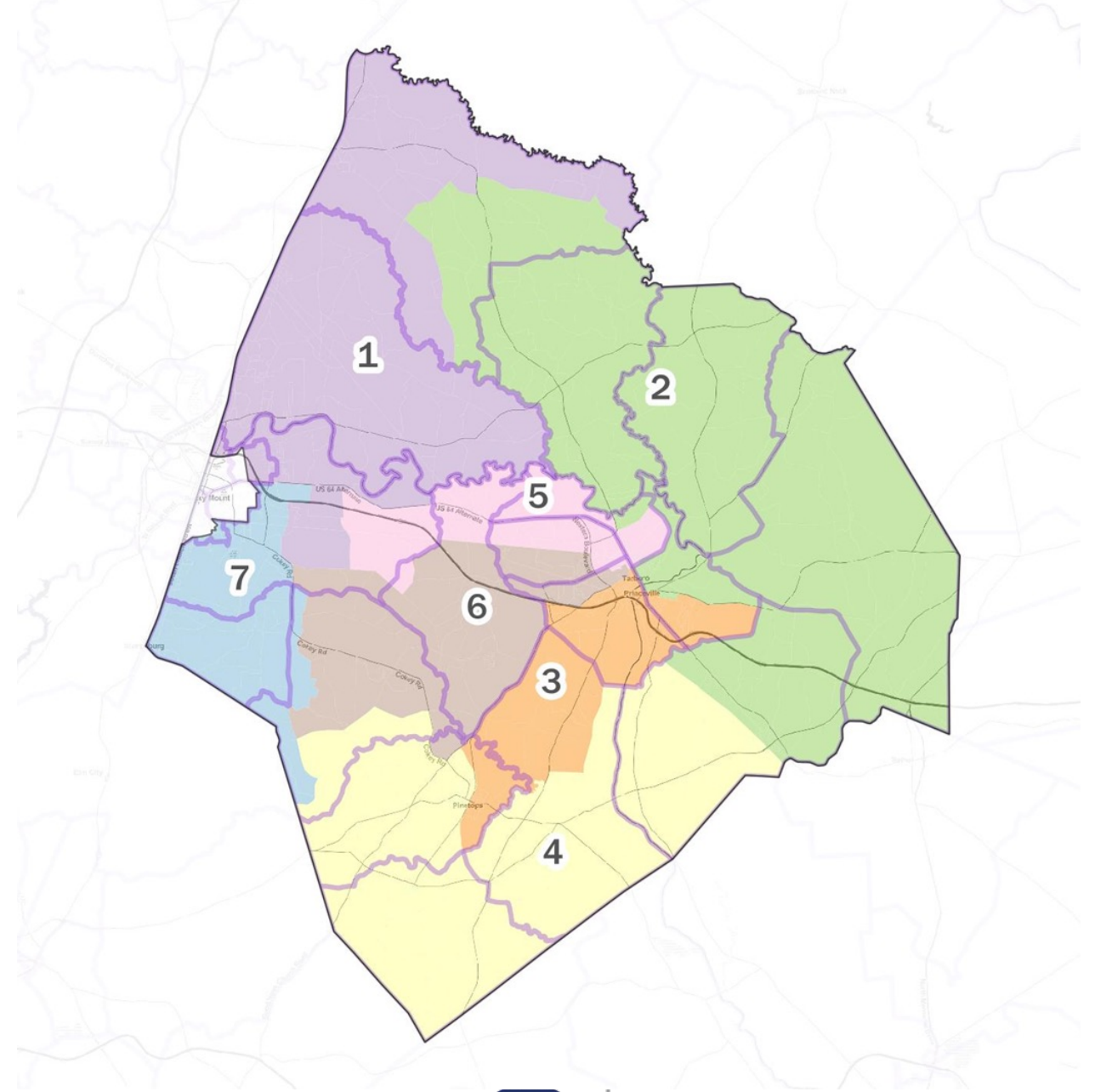


Edgecombe County Board of Education

Redistricting after County Line Merger

Patricia R. Robinson

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THARRINGTON SMITH, LLP
EDUCATION LAW

Legal Requirement to Redistrict

Effective July 1, 2024, the boundaries of the Nash School Administrative Unit shall be identical to the boundaries of Nash County. Any territory that was previously part of the Nash School Administrative Unit that is located outside of the boundaries of Nash County shall be annexed to the school administrative unit of the county in which the territory is located. ***Any local board of education gaining territory annexed into the school administrative unit under this section shall revise electoral districts in accordance with G.S. 115C-37(i).***

Legal Requirement to Redistrict

The local board of education shall revise electoral district boundaries from time to time[.] If district boundaries are set by local act or court order and the act or order does not provide a method for revising them, the local board of education shall revise them only for the purpose of (i) accounting for territory annexed to or excluded from the school administrative unit, and (ii) **correcting population imbalances among the districts** shown by a new federal census or **caused by exclusions or annexations. In establishing district boundaries, the local board of education shall use data derived from the most recent federal census.**

Current Election District Statistics

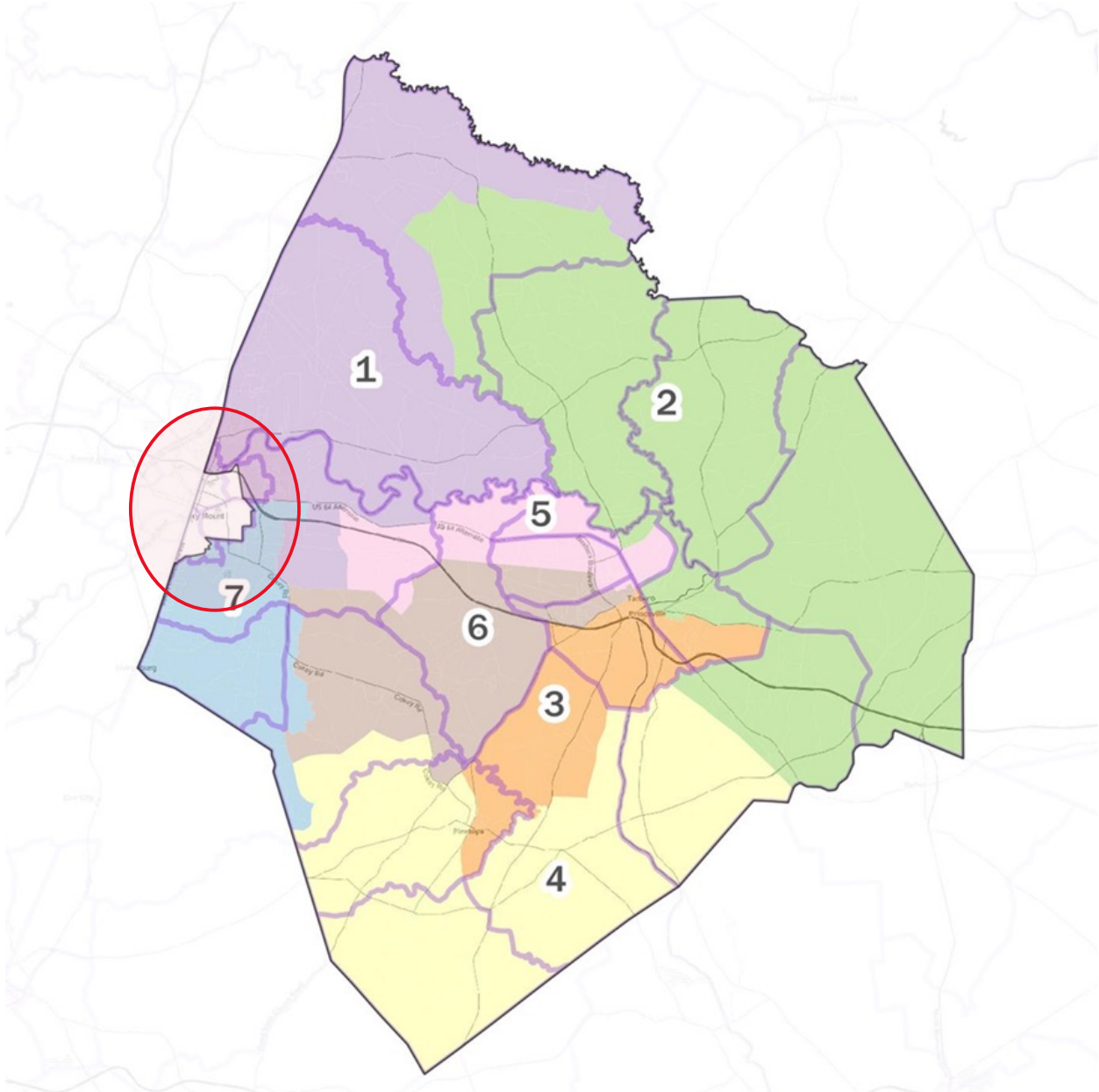
Redistricting
Plan Adopted
in 2021

Total Population: 39,080

Ideal District Size: 5,583

District	Population	Population Deviation	Percent Deviation
1	5,554	-29	-0.52%
2	5,590	7	0.13%
3	5,614	31	0.56%
4	5,582	-1	-0.02%
5	5,599	16	0.29%
6	5,513	-70	-1.25%
7	5,628	45	0.81%

Additional Territory after July 1, 2024



Substantial Equality of Population

Using total population of Edgecombe County from the 2020 Census, the Board's districts will no longer be within +/- 5% of the ideal size.

- Total Population of Edgecombe County: 48,900
- *Difference of 9,820 in total population*

- Ideal District Size: 6,986
- *Difference of 1,403 per electoral district*

- New districts will have a population between 6,637 - 7,335

Guiding Criteria . . . some examples:

- **Substantially equal population (required)**
 - Total population, not voting age population or registered voters
- **Contiguity**
- **Administrative boundaries (e.g., keeping municipalities whole when possible, using whole precincts as building blocks)**
- **Communities of interest (prioritizing the intactness of neighborhoods, or other historical, cultural, or economic communities)**
- **Boundaries follow visible physical features like roads, waterways, and water bodies**



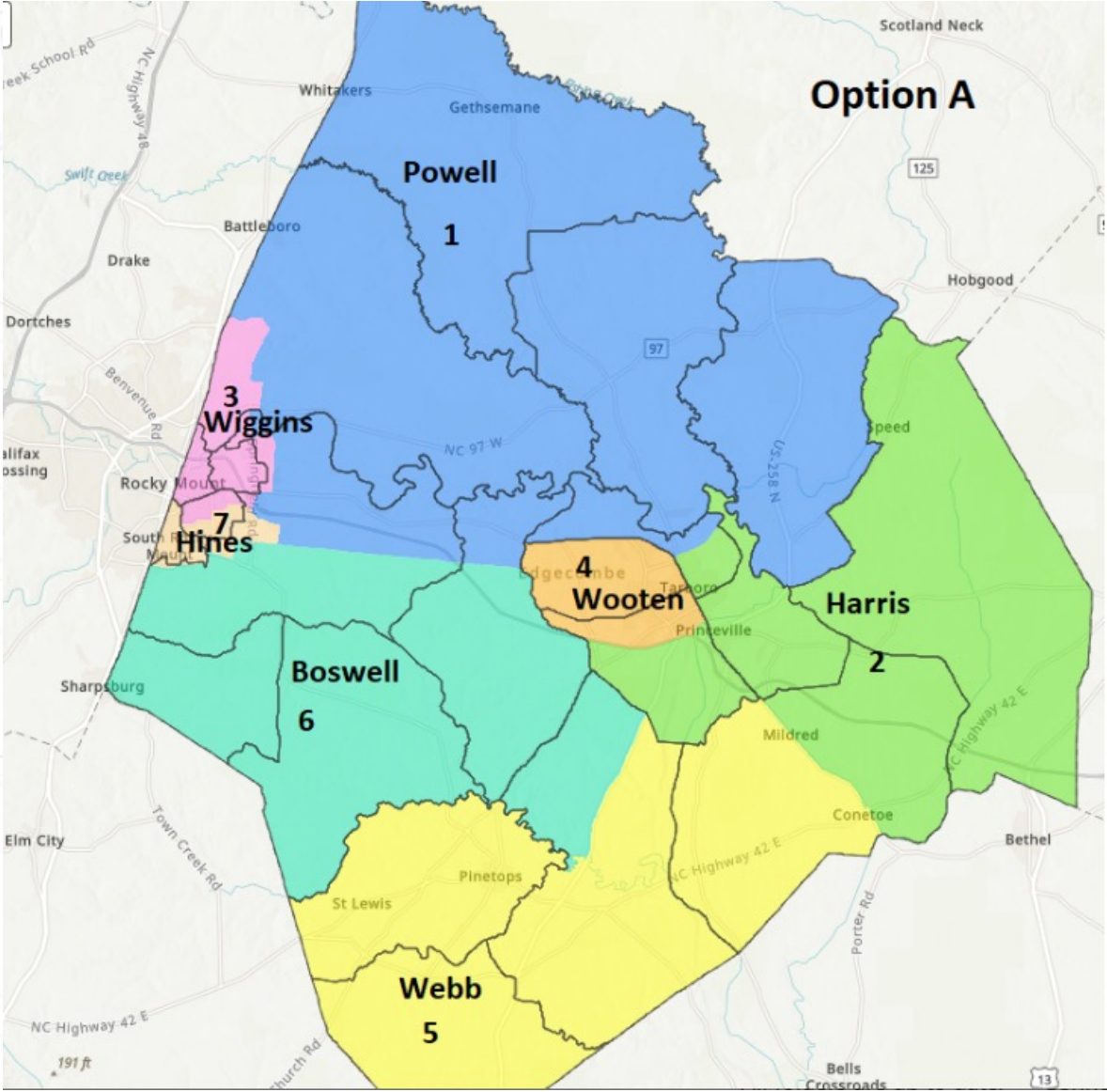
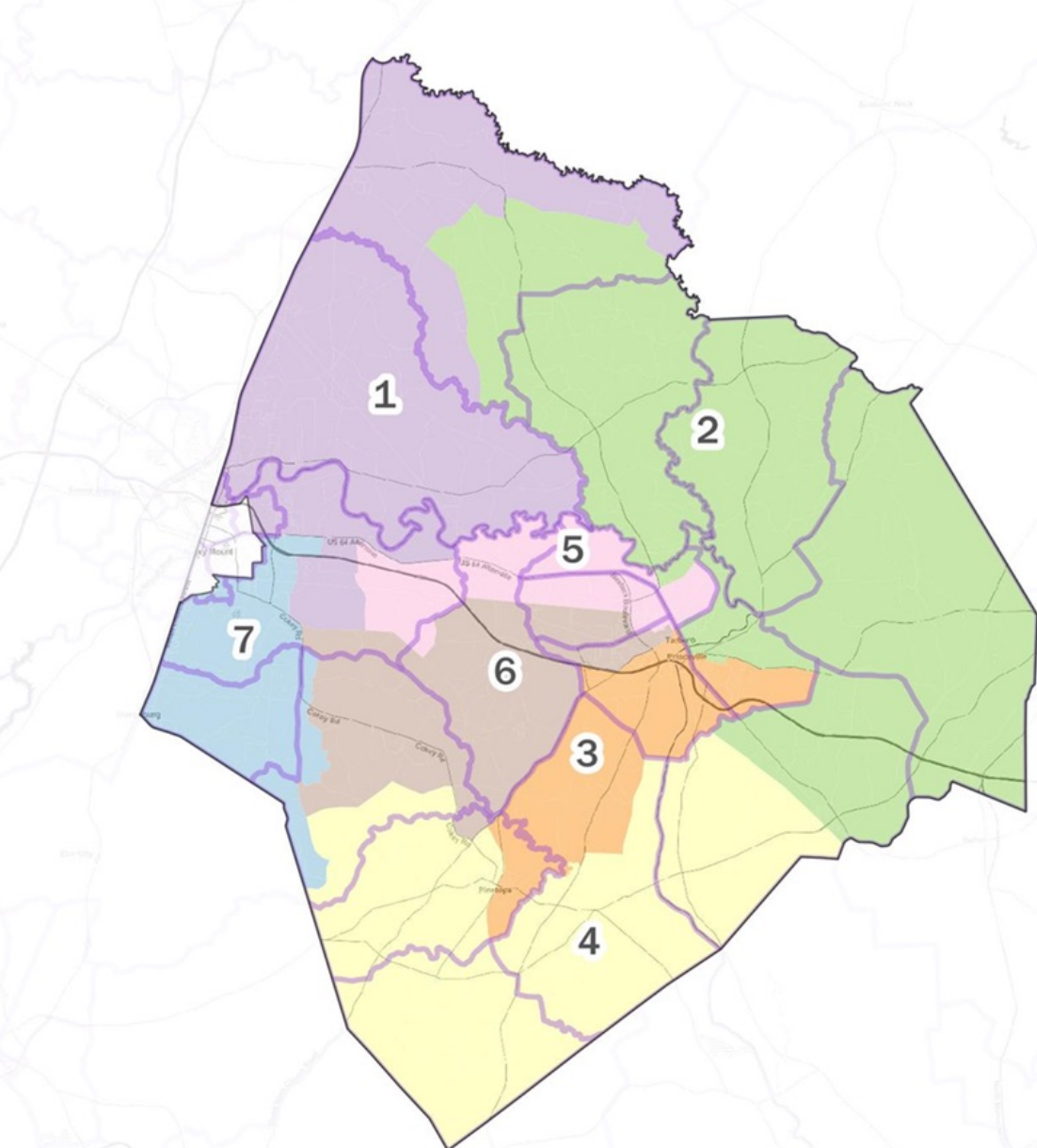
**Guiding
Criteria . . .
more
examples**

- Preserving the core of existing districts
- Compactness
- Avoiding pairing incumbents
- Plan for population growth
- School(s) in each district



No partisan considerations

BOE Districts vs. County Commissioner Districts



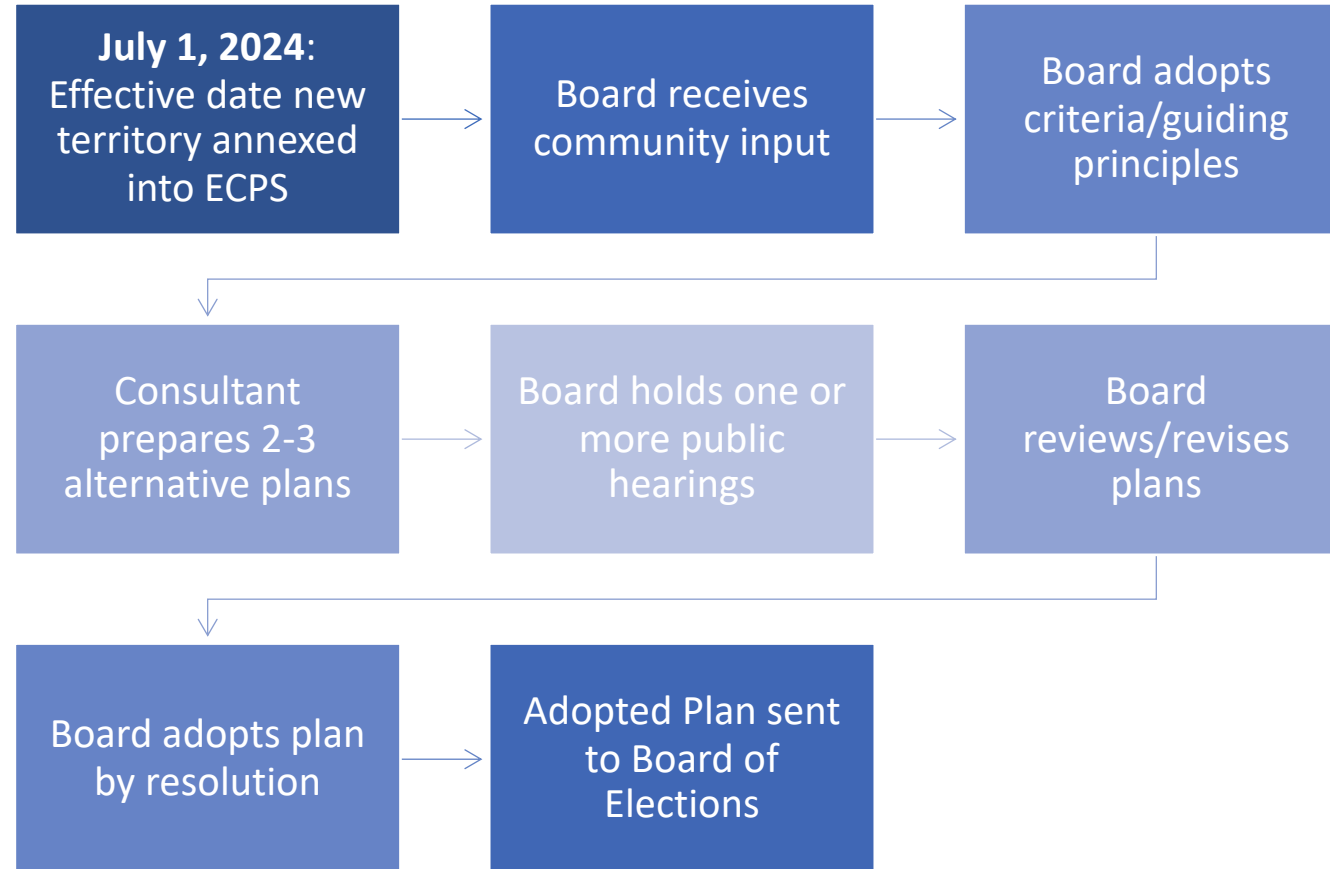
Additional Considerations Board Member Elections

- *Section 1. The Edgecombe County Board of Education shall consist of seven members. One member each shall be elected from the seven districts . . . Only those voters residing in a district shall be eligible to vote in elections for that district.*
- *Sec. 2. Elections shall be nonpartisan and shall be held in **even-numbered years at the same time as party primaries for county offices.***
- *Sec. 5. Board members shall be elected for **four-year, staggered terms.** . . . The members elected at that time from Districts **1, 3, 5, and 7** shall serve initial terms of four years, and their successors shall be elected in 1998 and every four years thereafter. The members elected in 1994 from Districts **2, 4, and 6** shall serve initial terms of two years, and their successors shall be elected in 1996 and every four years thereafter.*

**Additional
Considerations
Board Member
Elections**

- *District seats 2,4, and 6 were just elected in 2024 (**Worsley, Ellis, and Privott**)*
- *District seats 1,3,5, and 7 will be up for reelection in 2026 (**Wilson, Johnson, Kent, and Calhoun**)*

Next Steps



Questions?

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