



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

Office of the Borough Manager

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September 14, 2021

To the Members of the Alaska State Redistricting Board:

On September 7, 2021 the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MSB) Assembly adopted Resolution Serial No. 21-095 (attached) directing the Borough Manager to develop a State redistricting plan that allocated the MSB six House districts and three Senate districts.

We are requesting that the Board adopt six districts for the MSB: an Eastern MSB district, a Goose Bay/Big Lake district, a Houston/NW district (paired with Denali Borough), a Wasilla district, a Palmer district, and a Southern district in the core area between Palmer and Wasilla. The historical growth of the MSB clearly indicates that populations within MSB districts will very likely grow much faster than other districts around the State. Therefore, within the allowable deviations, the districts within our boundaries should be drawn with a negative deviation. If the Board determines it is necessary to include additional population to areas extending outside the MSB, the Borough supports including residents outside the Borough to the east towards Glennallen, and not towards Anchorage. If the boundaries of the MSB must be crossed to form a House district, the Borough prefers the cross to occur to the east where the district does not extend into a separate municipality or other political boundary.

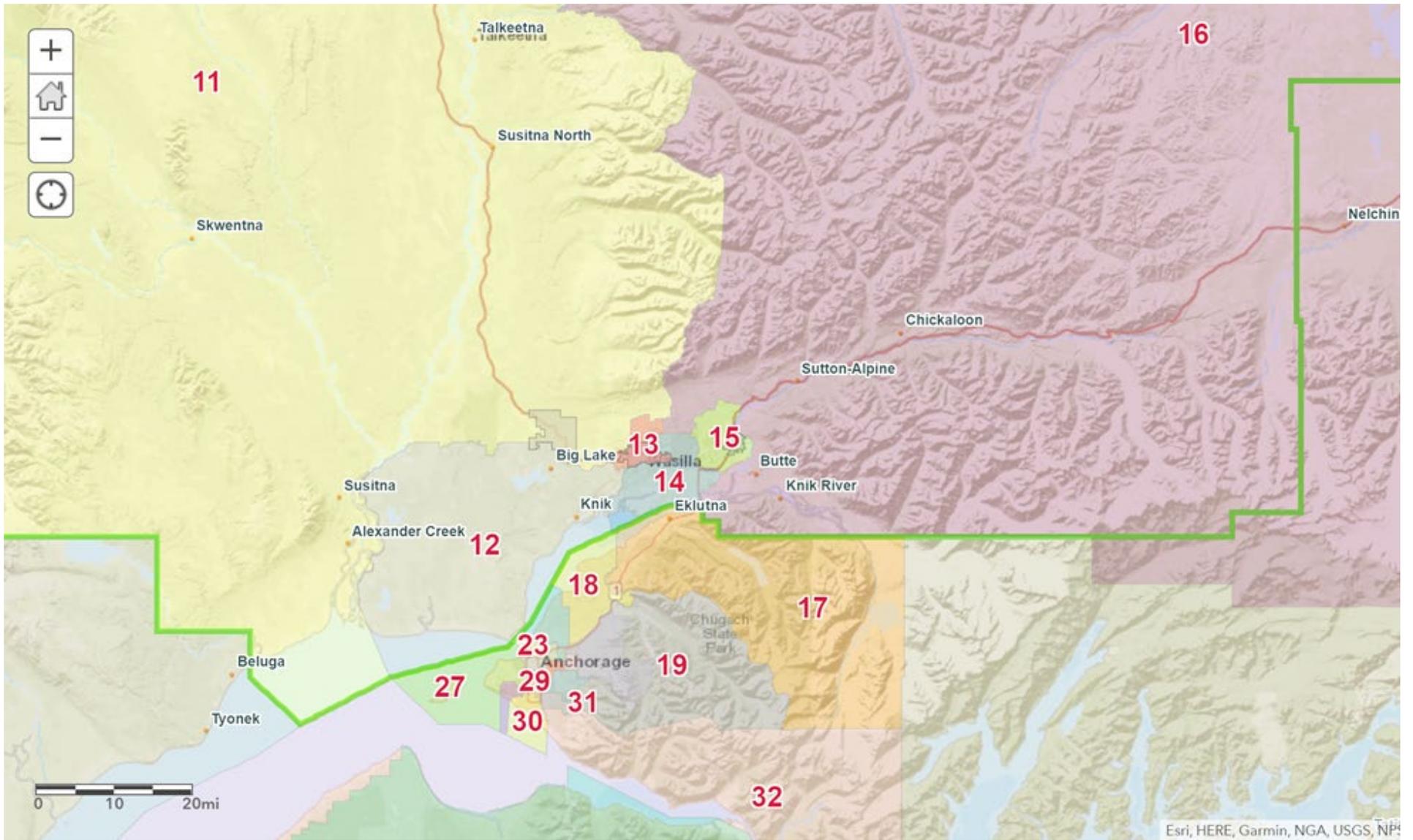
Residents within the MSB should not be joined into a district which is principally within Anchorage. The Borough prefers that any State plan would leave residents within the Knik River area within an MSB district rather than including them in a district within Chugiak/Eagle River. Knik River area residents do not share shopping, entertainment, or recreational centers with residents of Chugiak/Eagle River. Knik River area residents within the MSB typically do these things within the Borough near Palmer, Wasilla, or our 'core area.' Chugiak/Eagle River residents conduct these activities in Chugiak and Eagle River. These same Knik River area residents are not even in the same school district as residents of Chugiak/Eagle River and therefore do not have the same social settings when it comes to activities like school events, school sports, and friendships formed during educational years. Finally, the Knik River area attracts residents whose socio-economic outlook aligns with the more limited government found within the MSB. Simply put, such a disparate pairing highlights the lack of socio-economic and overall lifestyle integration between the residents of the Knik River area and residents of Chugiak/Eagle River.

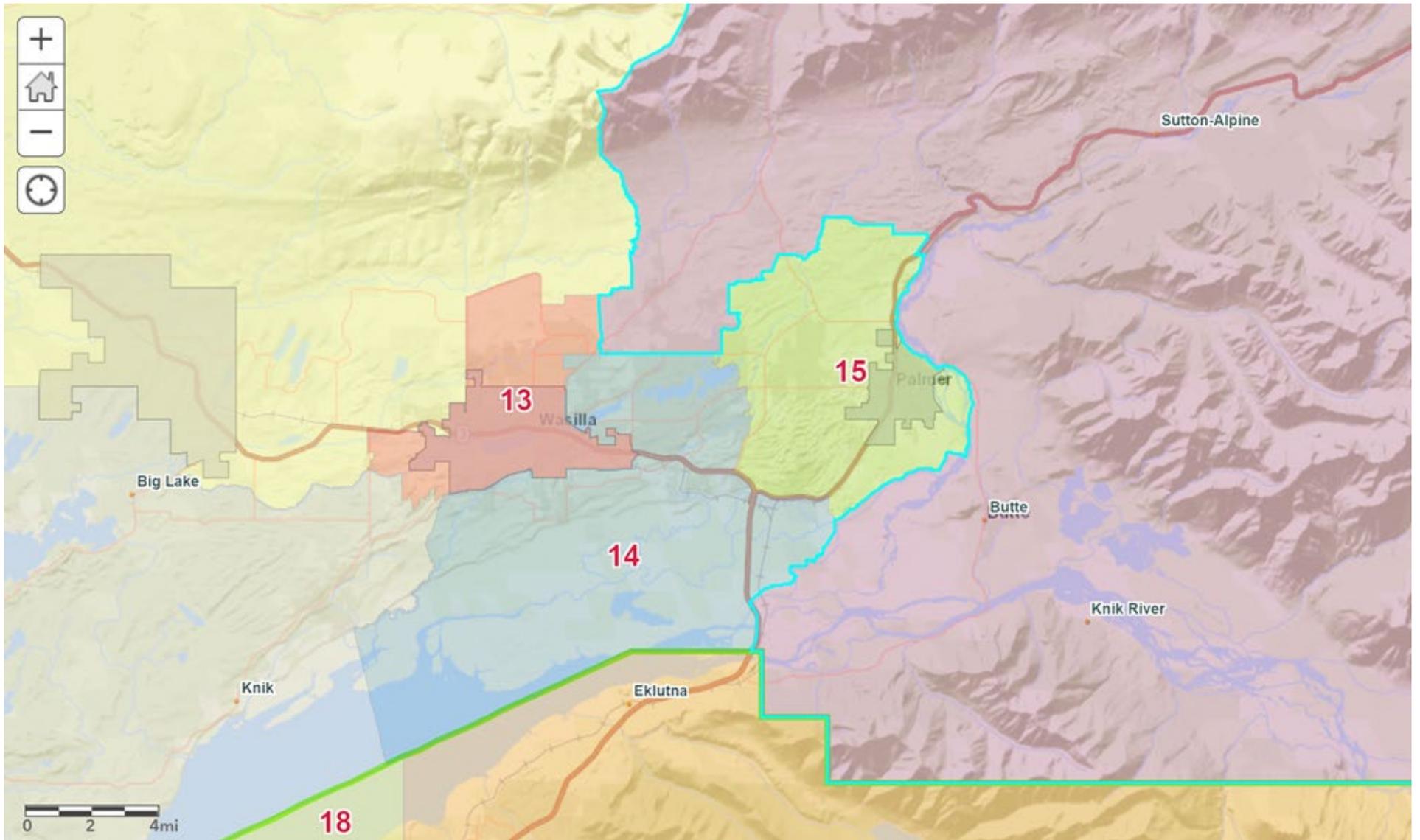
According to 2020 US Census data, the Municipality of Anchorage population allows for 15.885 representatives and the MSB population allows for 5.84 representatives requiring additional population to complete both districts. In addition to the Borough plan submittal, we are amenable to the Board's v.2 plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MB", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Michael Brown
Borough Manager





Amended: 09/07/21
Adopted: 09/07/21

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 21-095**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A STATE OF ALASKA REDISTRICTING PLAN TO THE ALASKA STATE REDISTRICTING BOARD.

WHEREAS, the United States Census released the official redistricting files from the 2020 Census on August 12, 2021; and

WHEREAS, this release included Alaska's total population of 733,391, and triggered the states redistricting process for the 40 house seats with a target population of 18,335; and

WHEREAS, this data release included the Borough population of 107,081 and based on the state target population indicates the Borough is entitled to 5.84 state house seats; and

WHEREAS, the Borough grew 20.3 percent during the 2010 to 2020 time frame, and growth is anticipated to continue into the future; and

WHEREAS, the Borough's historical growth clearly indicates that Mat-Su Districts will be malapportioned sooner than other districts around the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly hereby directs the Manager to develop and present a state redistricting plan that allocates the Borough six house districts, with three senate districts. This may require partnering with the Denali

Borough to minimize districts that cross other Borough boundaries and accommodates the future growth of the Borough to the greatest extent possible.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this - day of -, 2021.



VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Hale, Nowers, McKee, Tew, Sumner, and Boeve