

Council of 5 Advisory Committee Overview



Respectfully Presented at the Town Council Meeting
January 16, 2020



Council Of Five Advisory Committee

Acknowledgement of Guidelines

- All meetings must conform to the Maryland Open Meetings Act and provide the opportunity for public comment
- Work with and include the town attorney in your meetings
- Take into account the cause/affect of any recommendations that would require additional charter changes and their affect on each other
- Look into other jurisdictions that have made this transition for advice

Budget Update

- A budget of \$5000 is provided for attorney time, administrative expenses, and professional services. **Nothing significant to report**

Deliverable Update

- Providing council update as directed 1/16/20
- Election of Eric Johnson Jr. as chair and Joe Saboury as vice chair
- Intend to deliver up to (5) options for the council on the findings of the committee and our recommendations for moving forward
- Some, but not all of these recommendations may include districting options



Council Of Five Advisory Committee

Election Cycle and Term Considerations

Length of Terms:

- There is a general consensus that the three year term is adequate, however if there was a change the new terms would not exceed 4 years

Election Cycles:

- Evaluating options for folding in the (2) new seats
- No changes to current term for seated elected officials
- Considering a cycle that provides an off year such as a 2/3/0 scenario to relieve the burden on town staff and voters
- Considering a cycle that provides for there never to be a year where the majority of the council was up for election 2/2/1
- Recommend the continuation of the policy that if there is only one candidate registered to run for a vacant seat upon the registration deadline that no election is held for that position and the candidate is awarded the position
- Recommend that the council itself should determine the positions within the council vs. a committee recommendation



Council Of Five Advisory Committee

Districting Considerations

Now vs. Later

- The move to 5 council members will require amending the town charter. Now is an opportune time to consider districting as we can eliminate the need to and expense involved in change the charter a second time if districting is found to be a viable and necessary endeavor

Considerations

- MML and Other Data shows mixed results / reasoning
- Any recommendation would adhere to legal precedent and after consultation with the town attorney

We respectfully request direction from the town council on whether or not to continue exploring districting under the committees current direction from the council



Council Of Five Advisory Committee

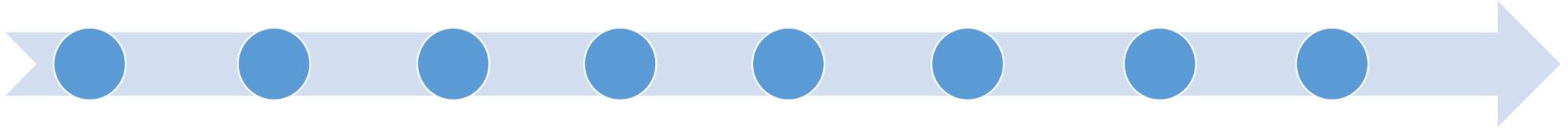
In any scenario it is the recommendation of this committee that a great deal of effort is spent on communications and marketing to keep the citizens informed

Advisory Committee Presents Recommendations (FEB 20)

Charter Amendments / Public Hearings (APR 2)

Candidates File For Election (AUG 3)

Absentee Ballot Request Deadline (SEP 28)



Town Council Reviews / Decides on Transition Plan (MAR 5 & 19)

Charter Amendments Completed (APR-JUL)

Public Notice of Candidates for Election (SEP 21)

Election Day (OCT 5)

Approx. 8 Months From Council Decision On Recommendation to Election

We strongly encourage citizen participation in this effort and invite all to participate in our committee meetings as scheduled and posted on the town website.

Backup Slides (committee working slides)

Overview

- I. Status of Council-Directed Deliverables
- II. Review of MML Data on Districting
- III. Lessons Learned from Other Municipalities
- IV. Historical Data – Election Candidates
- V. Marketing Considerations/Soft Education for Citizens
- VI. Foundational Principles of Districting
- VII. Districting Scenarios Based on Census Data
- VIII. Conclusions and Recommendations

I. Status of Council-Directed Deliverables

Charge Item	Status
A. All meetings shall conform to the Maryland Open Meetings Act and provide the opportunity for public comment	In progress; two open meetings advertised and held: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurs, Dec 19 @ 6:30 pm • Tues, Jan 7 @ 6:30 pm
B. Work with Town Attorney Sharon VanEmburch and include her in your meetings	Council of 5 Advisory Committee continues to work with Ms. VanEmburch; we have reviewed/incorporated her memos of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurs, Nov 5, 2019 to Town Council • Fri, Jan 3, 2020 to Advisory Committee
C. Please take into account the cause and effect of any recommendations which would require additional charter changes and their effect on each other	Ongoing and in consultation with Ms. VanEmburch
D. A budget of \$5,000 is available which can include attorney time, administrative expenses, and professional services	Nothing significant to report

I. Status of Council-Directed Deliverables

Charge Item	Status
E. Look into other jurisdictions that have made this transition for advice	Reviewed data from Ms. VanEmburch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 1991 MML Memo • Dec 2019 MML Data
F. Provide at least 5 separate ideas of how to make the transition	In progress
G. At the first meeting, a chair will be elected to run the meetings and a meeting timeline will be established	Completed; Eric Johnson elected Chair and Joseph Saboury elected Vice Chair; group agreed to meet as needed to complete the deliverables; meetings will be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thurs, Dec 19 @ 6:30 pm • Tues, Jan 7 @ 6:30 pm • Wed, Jan 22 @ 6:30 pm • Wed, Feb 5 @ 6:30 pm
H. A progress update to the Town Council is requested at their January 16, 2020 meeting which will include a timeline for measurables and an estimated completion date	Completed by virtue of these slides; Advisory Committee will continue to provide intermittent updates on the group's progress

II. Review of MML Data on Districting

A. June 1991 MML Memo:

- **31 (or 20%) of 154 incorporated cities/towns elect by wards/districts**
- Of these 31 with districts:
 - 5 (or 17%) had at-large candidates
 - 9 (or 30%) have an elected mayor with full voting rights
 - 3 (or 10%) permit mayoral voting under special circumstances

B. Dec 2019 MML Data of 159 Maryland Municipalities:

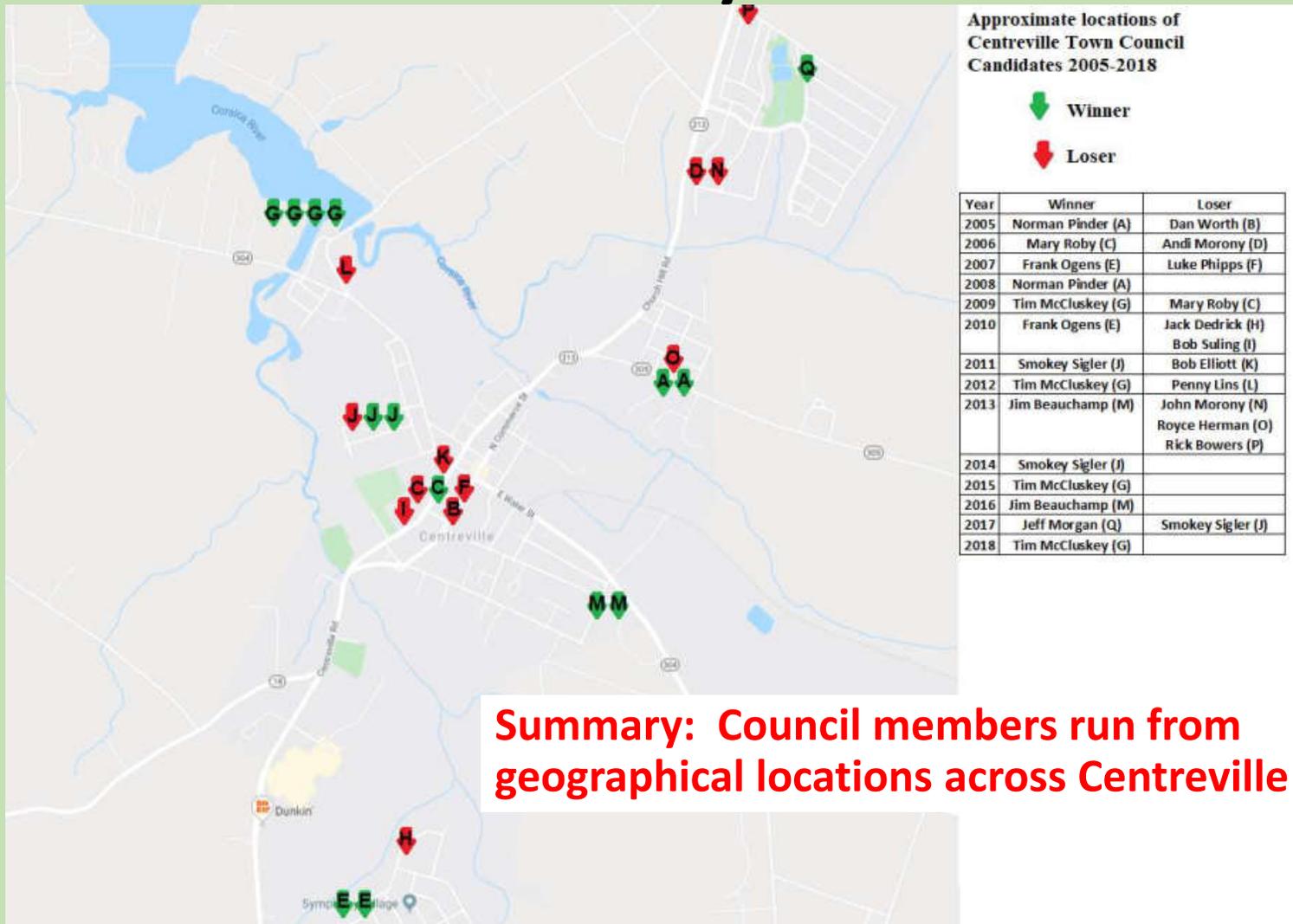
- Election Cycles:
 - **92 (or 58%) host elections ODD or EVEN years**
 - **62 (or 29%) host YEARLY elections**
 - 5 (or 3%) host elections every THREE or FOUR years
- Terms
 - **107 (or 67%) have staggered terms**
 - **72 (or 45%) have 4-yr terms; 18 (or 11%) have 3-yr terms; & 63 (or 40%) have 2-yr terms**

III. Lessons Learned from Other Municipalities

- A. Impact of turf battles in districts (Arroyo Grande)
- B. Overwhelming reasons to do districts; only a few not (Colton)
- C. Intermittent requirement to redistrict; limit city's ability to recruit best elected officials; creation of fiefdoms (Corning)
- D. In large cities districting a necessity, but not for smaller ones; reduce campaign expenses of candidates; increase opportunities to minorities (Downey)
- E. Elected from districts maintains a stronger sense of common good (Fremont)
- F. No pros to districting, only cons (Fullerton)
- G. Poor minority representation impetus for districts (Glenora)
- H. 2 at-large members = statesmen (best interests of whole community); 4 district reps thought first about own districts and need for deal making (ICMA)
- I. Concern of losing whole city focus and generating more deal making (Pacifica)

Summary: Mixed recommendations for/against districting

IV. Historical Data – Residency of Election Candidates



IV. Historical Data – Number of Candidates

2009 – Two Candidates

2010 – Three Candidates

2011 – Two Candidates

2012 – Two Candidates

2013 – Four Candidates

2014 – One Candidate (still had election)

September 2014 – changed the charter to cancel elections if only one candidate filed for office

2015 – One Candidate (no election)

2016 – One Candidate (no election)

2017 – Two Candidates

2018 – One Candidate (no election)

2019 – Two Candidates

Summary: Out of the 11 last elections:

- **4 had one candidate (no election)**
- **5 had two candidates**
- **2 had three or more candidates**

V. Marketing Considerations/Soft Education for Citizens

- A. In Progress: Formal/Recurring Email Alerts from Town on Mtgs
 - *Town of Centreville Update - December 20, 2019*
- B. Recommendation: Town Web Page tab/link with Advisory Committee Agendas/Minutes
- C. In Progress: Social Media Platforms – Unofficial
- D. Exploring options for Non-attendees to Submit Questions and Feedback (use Town Clerk's email address as point of contact; Ms. Brinkley will then forward on to Advisory Committee members)

VI. Foundational Principles of Districting

A. 1960s – U.S. Supreme Court decisions: “Population equality” – “1 person, 1 vote”

- Courts will accept variations in population between districts
- District size above or below the average size is its variation
- **Total deviation of <10% is generally accepted**

B. Redistricting Decision Factors:

- Districts should be compact (with regular boundaries)
- Districts should be contiguous (not separated into 2 or more separate areas)
- **Boundaries should follow major geographical or neighborhood boundaries**
 - **And should group together neighborhoods/communities with shared interests/concerns**
- **Districts should be based on the overall population – not simply adult/voting population**
- Redistricting should not result in 2 incumbents in the same district

VI. Foundational Principles of Districting

C. The Role of Race – the 1965 Voting Rights Act:

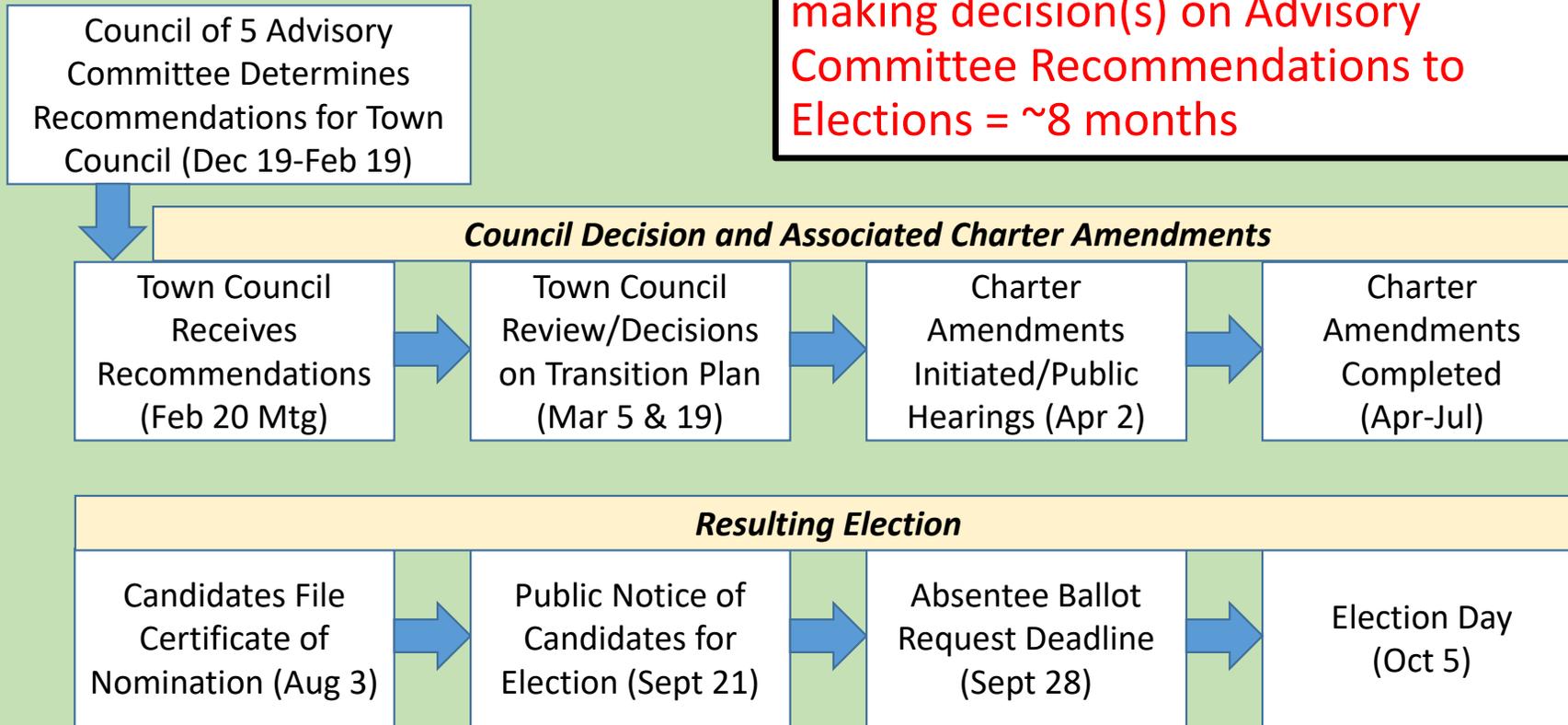
“a. No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color

b. . . . [N]othing in this section established a right to have members of a protected class elected in numbers equal to their proportion in the population.”

- Courts recognize as valid/legitimate goals:
 - Compactness, contiguity
 - following major geographical/neighborhood boundaries
 - Grouping communities with shared interests and concerns
- “Racial gerrymandering” is prohibited (any effort to include or exclude persons on racial lines regardless of intent)

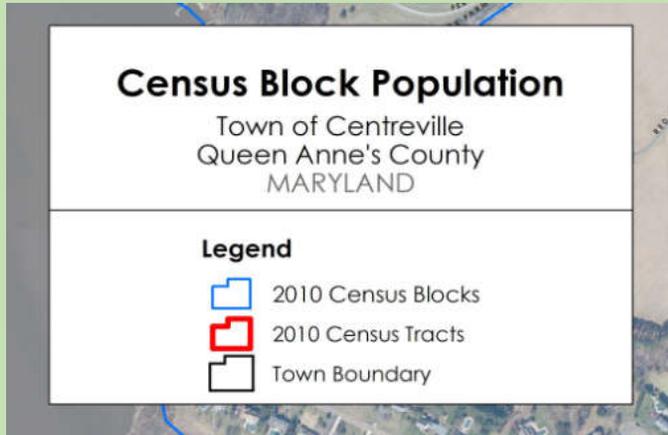
VII. Timelines

Summary: From point of Town Council making decision(s) on Advisory Committee Recommendations to Elections = ~8 months



Note: Public Hearings Require 21 Days Notice

VIII. Districting Scenarios Based on Census Data



VIII. Districting Scenarios Based on Census Data (Cont)

4-DISTRICT SCENARIO

A. Assumptions:

- 1. 4 Total Districts; 1 Candidate from Each; 1 At-Large
- 2. 2010 Population Total of 4,285
- 3. 4,285 divided by 4 = 1,071.25

B. Potential Scenarios:

A. Scenario 1 - North/South @304

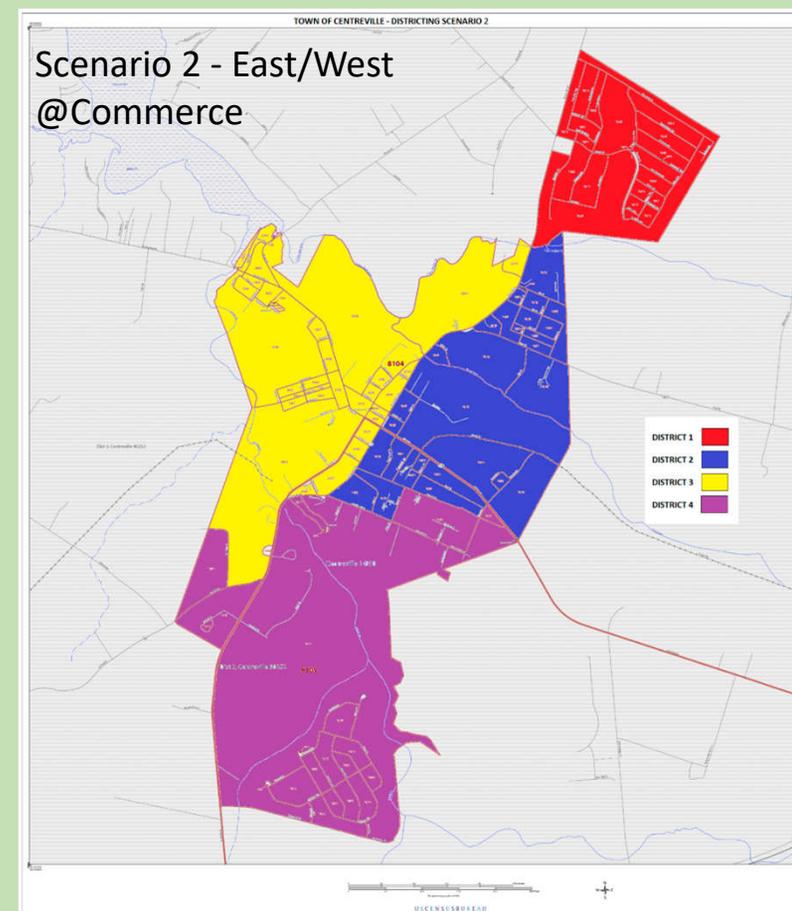
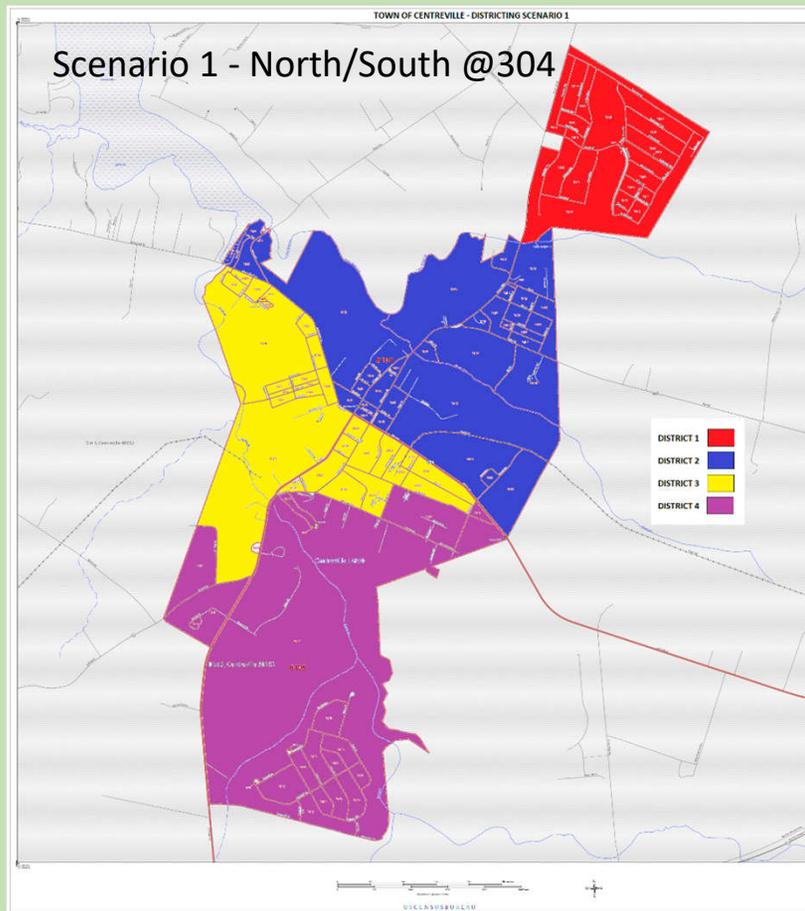
Scen 1	Dist 1	Dist 2	Dist 3	Dist 4
Population	1126	1032	1131	996
Differential	5%	-4%	6%	-7%

B. Scenario 2 - East/West @Commerce

Scen 2	Dist 1	Dist 2	Dist 3	Dist 4
Population	1126	1140	1023	996
Differential	5%	6%	-5%	-7%

VIII. Districting Scenarios Based on Census Data (Cont)

4-DISTRICT SCENARIO



VIII. Districting Scenarios Based on Census Data

3-DISTRICT SCENARIO

A. Assumptions:

1. 3 Total Districts; 1 Candidate from Each; 2 At-Large
2. 2010 Population Total of 4,285
3. $4,285 \text{ divided by } 3 = 1,428.33$

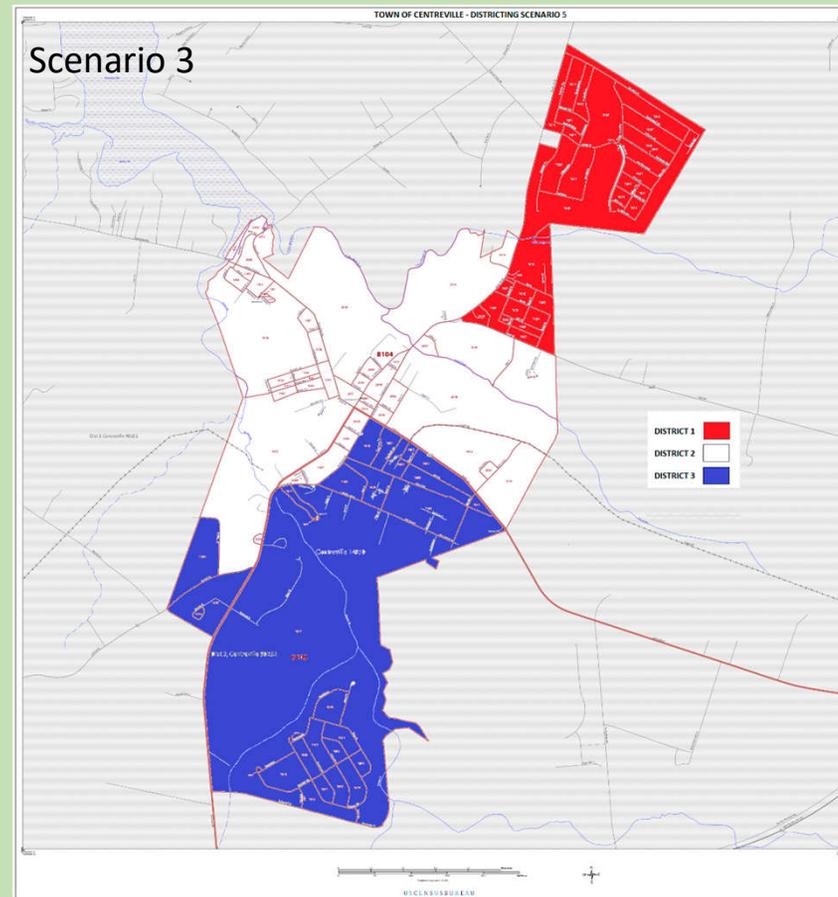
B. Potential Scenario:

A. Scenario 3 - North/South @304

Scen 3	Dist 1	Dist 2	Dist 3
Population			
Differential			

VIII. Districting Scenarios Based on Census Data (Cont)

3-DISTRICT SCENARIO



VIII. Districting Scenarios Based on Census Data (Cont)

2-DISTRICT SCENARIO

A. Assumptions:

- 1. 2 Total Districts; 2 Candidates from Each; 1 At-Large
- 2. 2010 Population Total of 4,285
- 3. 4,285 divided by 2 = 2,142.50

B. Potential Scenarios:

A. Scenario 4 - North/South @304

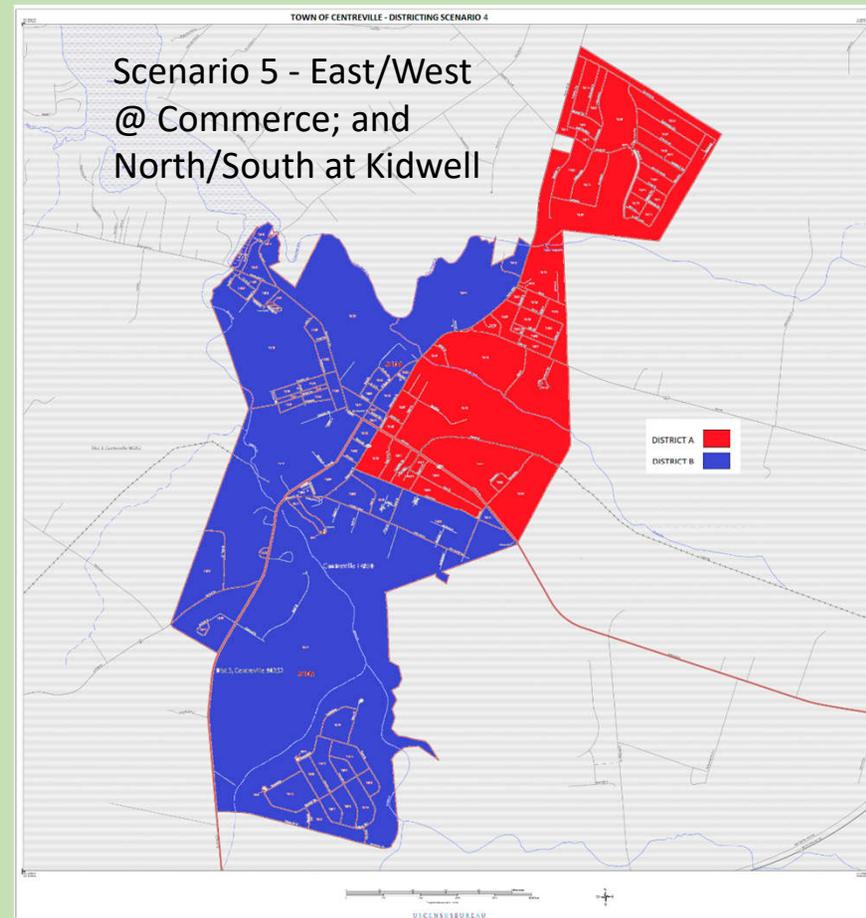
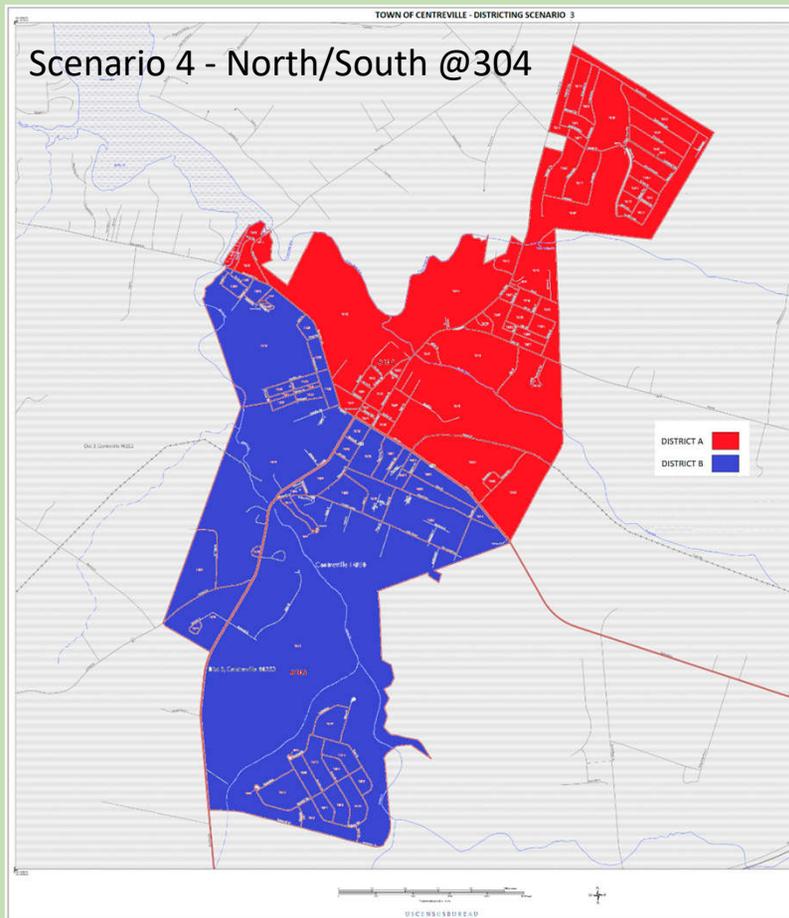
Scen 4	Dist 1	Dist 2
Population		
Differential		

B. Scenario 5 - East/West @ Commerce; and North/South at Kidwell Avenue

Scen 5	Dist 1	Dist 2
Population		
Differential		

VIII. Districting Scenarios Based on Census Data (Cont)

2-DISTRICT SCENARIO



IX. Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Conclusions:

1. Districting: Data from MML/other states mixed on for versus against
2. Terms: If terms were increased, no more than 4 years
3. Staggering: Majority of MD candidate elections under staggered terms

2. Recommendations:

1. Marketing Efforts: Town Web Page tab/link with Advisory Committee Agendas/Minutes
2. Mayor and Other Council Positions: Town Council of 5 should decide; remove from Advisory Committee discussion
3. Districting: Town Council provide direction to Advisory Committee on whether or not to continue discussions on districting
4. 2 seat/2 candidate elections: Run similar to 1 seat/1 candidate scenarios (no election in such cases)
5. Election Cycles: Advisory Committee should explore 2 scenarios:
 - a) No election year where a majority of the council could be “dumped” (i.e., 2-2-1)
 - b) Scenarios where there could be years in which there were no elections (i.e., 2-3-0)