

COUNCIL OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

Topic: Possible Changes to Ward Boundary Lines

November 8th, 2021

President Jon Tomlinson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Tomlinson reviewed the purpose of the meeting, which was to discuss possible changes to ward boundary lines based on the most recent Census data, and reviewed the options that were presented by Mayor Markward at the Council meeting on October 11, 2021. He noted that Council could choose to take action on changing the boundaries, or could choose not to take any action. If Council did not take action, then by law, the Safety Service Director would have the authority to make necessary changes.

Tomlinson reviewed the maps that Markward had presented at that October Council meeting, with the current boundary line divisions, and the options that Markward had configured based on the 2020 Census data.

Penton gave his opinion that Option B was the closest to equal voters in each district, in his mind, and according to his view of the maps. It was noted all options were very close in number, with Penton sharing that he felt numbers should be as close as possible for the best representation.

Tomlinson stated that the Third and Fourth Wards are the areas with the most current population growth, and Tomlinson stated that those areas could have more numbers than currently listed in a short amount of time.

Agler stated that, at the moment, he felt that the numbers needed to be in line, and that if numbers change, it could be addressed again in the future. He offered Option C as the map he preferred best. Davis agreed with Option C, and Mergy and Marshall followed with their support of Option C. Tomlinson stated that he was indifferent to the options, and could agree with the choice the rest of Council preferred. Hatcher noted that any option that gave the First Ward more numbers at the current time might be preferable, since its population growth was currently the slowest, and it's numbers would likely fall slightly behind in comparison to other wards in time.

Tomlinson asked if any member of Council disagreed with Option C, as it appeared to have the most support. No member of Council voiced opposition, with Penton stating he was fine with Option C.

Mergy asked if City Ordinance 731.06(B) would need to be revised, and she asked if it would need to be on an emergency. Tomlinson stated that it would not need to be on an emergency, and just needed to be completed prior to the next election.

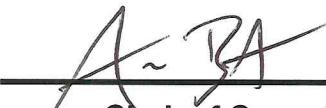
Reverend Stoller asked about population percentages of Option C. Tomlinson read off the percentages to those in attendance. He noted there was a nine-person difference between the highest population ward and the lowest population ward, according to Option C.

Mark Davis, 402 S. Tyler St., asked if they had numbers on how many people actually vote in a certain ward. Mark Davis stated that, as he understood, this was Census data and so included all people within a ward, not just voting-age individuals. Tomlinson researched the numbers on the Van Wert County Board of Elections for the most recent election. He noted that 79 individuals voted from First Ward, 260 from Second Ward, 230 from Third Ward, and 380 from Fourth Ward. Tomlinson stated that he didn't believe there was a fair way to split up the wards based on voting-age individuals, and believed that Census data was the most fair way to accomplish that goal. Mark Davis admitted that there would probably not be a fair way to make the split, and he was just bringing up the point for discussion.

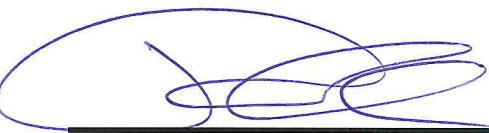
Joe Jared, 233 Burt St., asked if there was a way to divide the wards based on individuals that were 18 years of age and older. Penton stated that they need to remember that the number of individuals 18 and older will change every election. He didn't believe it would be a better way to split up the wards.

Mark Davis asked about new residential developments across the wards, and Hatcher and Tomlinson reviewed the areas they were aware of in each ward. Mark Davis suggested they'd have to change these lines in another 10 years based on growth in the south part of the city. He stated that the lines have been near his residence for 38+ years, and he viewed the wards as fairly balanced currently, in his opinion.

With no further discussion, Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.



Clerk of Council
Andrew Bittner



Council President
Jon Tomlinson

11/22/2021

Date

Option A

Holiday Inn Garage

Holiday Inn

McKinley's

Kear

Rod

232

33

BONNEMITZ

Stacy

Collins Ave

COLLEGE

WIFER

WSECOND

WTHIRD

WFOURTH

JEFFERSON

N WASHINGTON

ST

TRI-COUNTY MENTAL
HEALTH BOARD

LIBERTY
SONORITY

TRINITY
PROTESTANT
CHURCH

SOUTHERN
METHODIST
UMBERTION

DAIRY
FARM
ASSOCIATION

MATILDA
FOOTBALL
TEAM

VANTAGE POINT
JOINT

QUAKERS
AGENCIES

VALLEYWOOD
GARAGE

CLY SERVICE
GARAGE

AUGUSTINE
DR

TRAILING
CENTER

THOMAS EDISON
DEPARTMENT

JULIAN
PARK

PARKS
DEPARTMENT

EQUATION

OPTION

2nd Ward

2776

25.01%

1st Ward

2773

24.98%

Intravets
Witnesses

3rd Ward

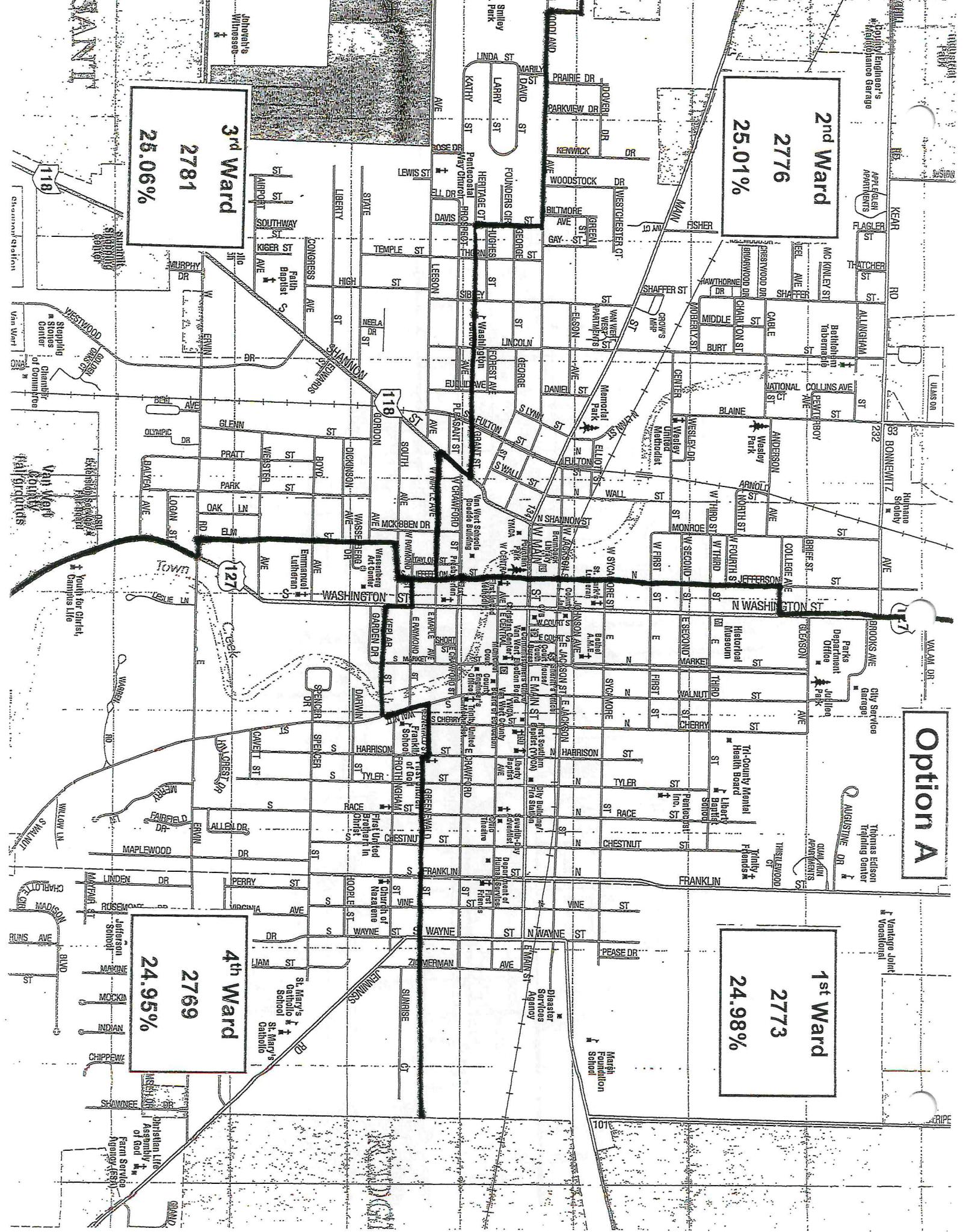
2781

25.06%

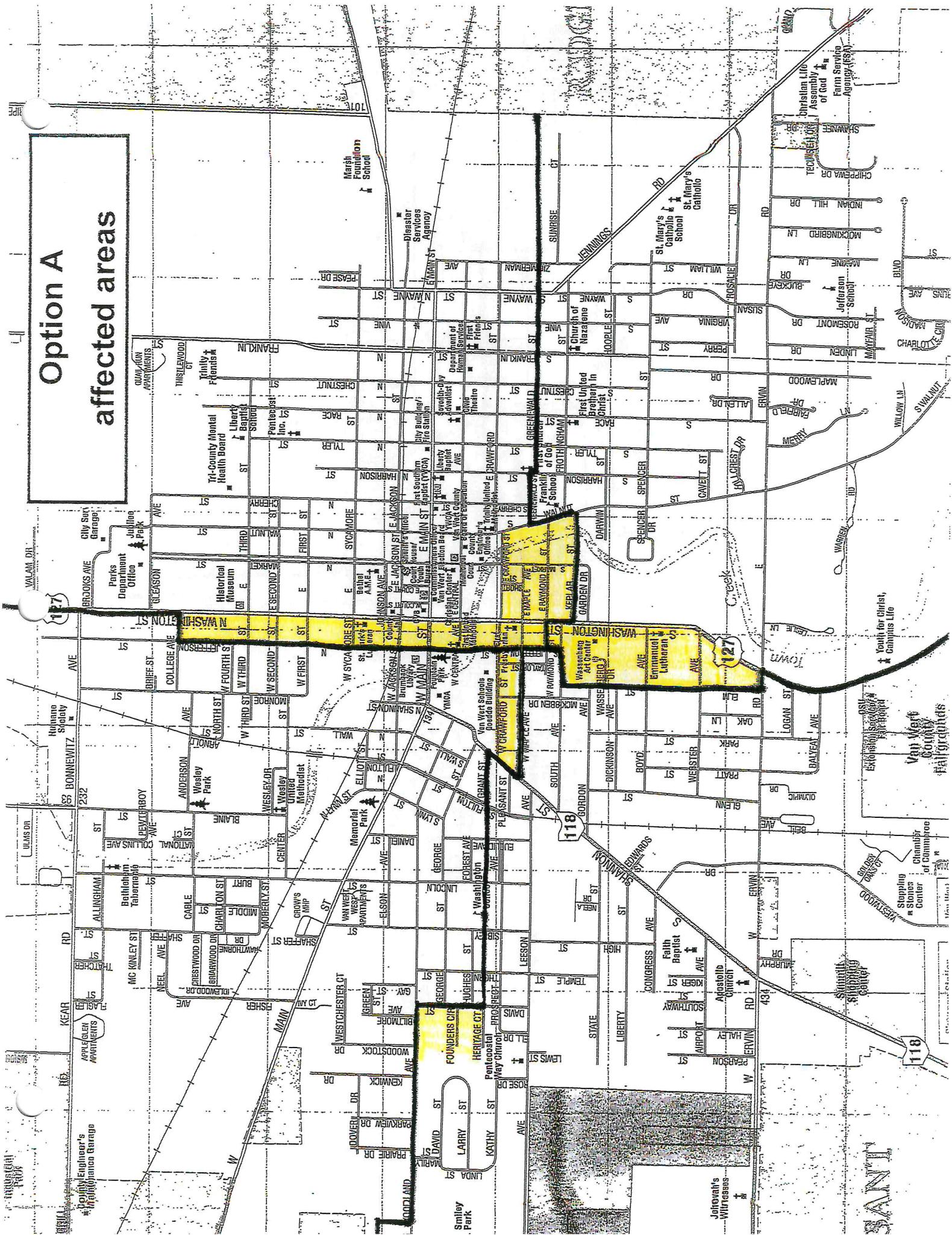
4th Ward

2769

24.95%



Option A affected areas

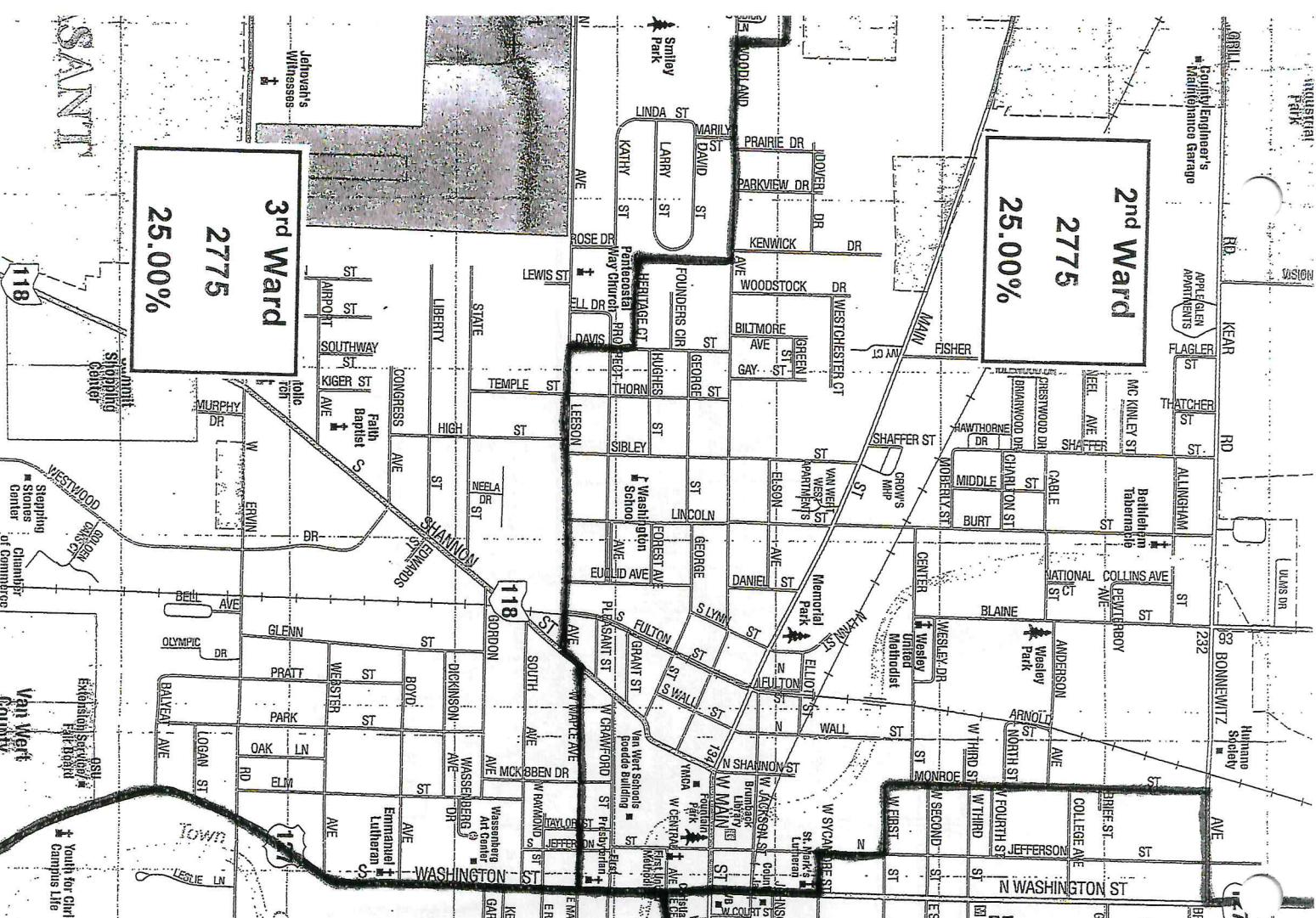


Option B

2nd Ward

2775

25.00%



3rd Ward

2775

25.00%



4th Ward

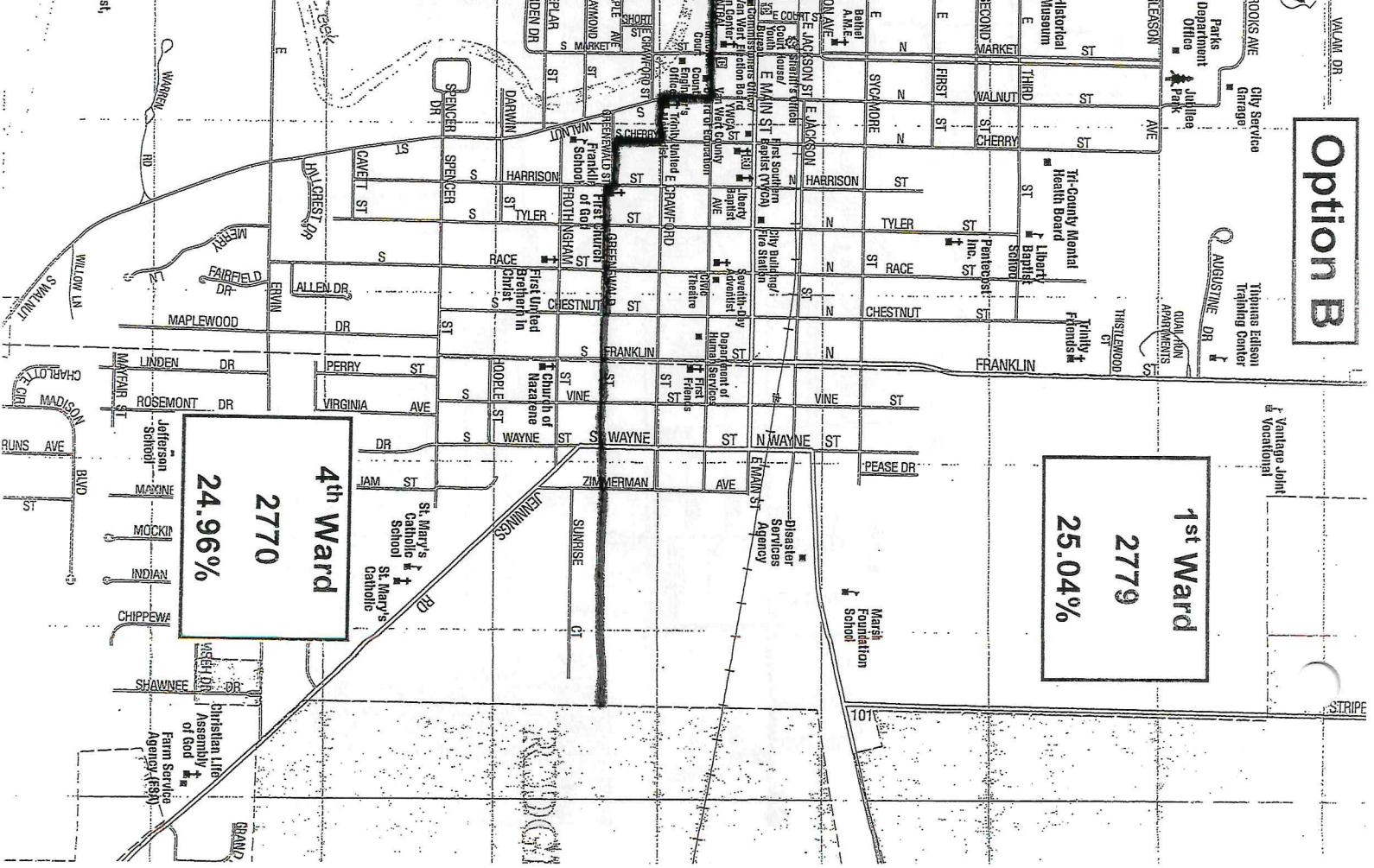
2770

24.96%

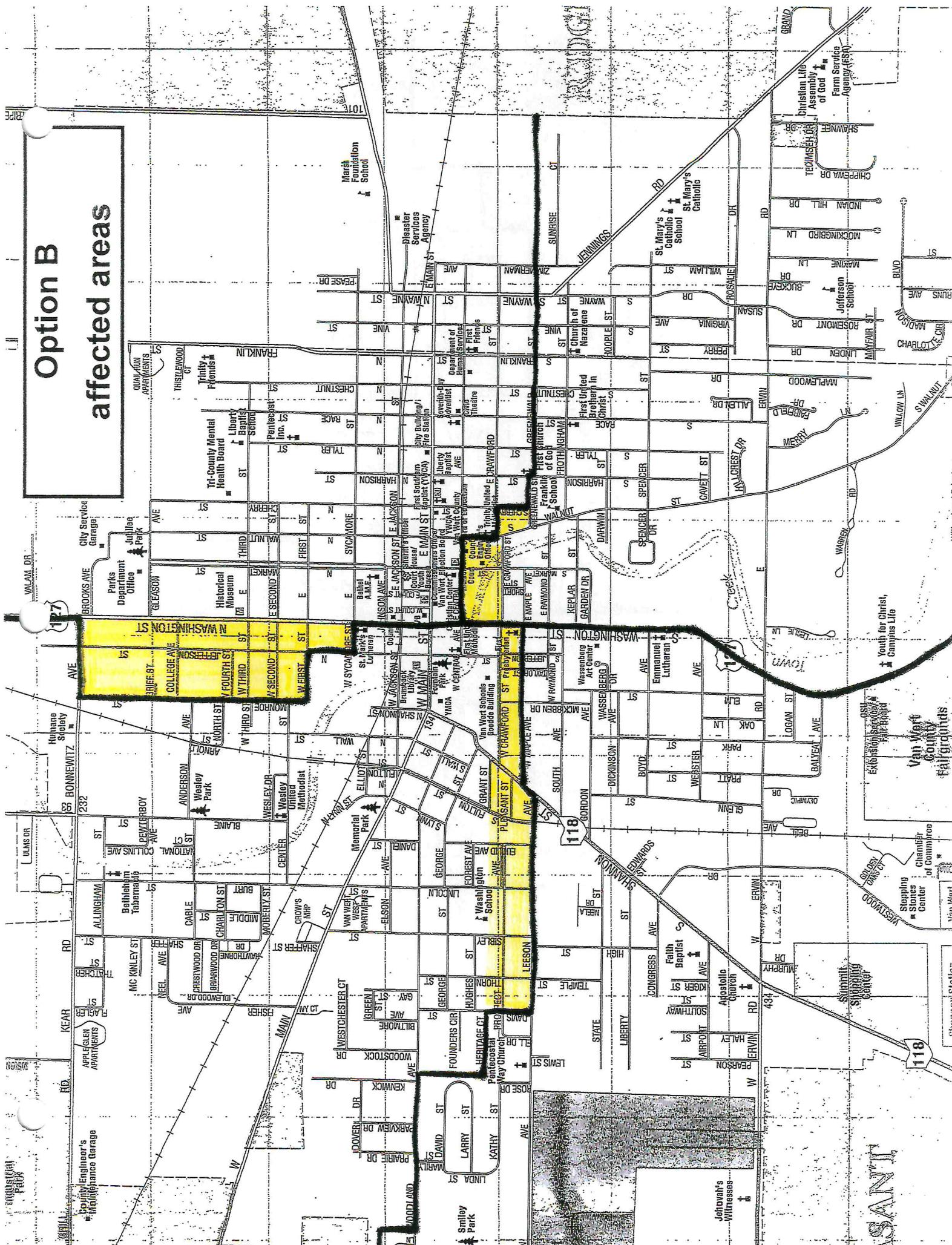
1st Ward

2779

25.04%



Option B affected areas



Option C

County Engineer's
Montpelier Garage

2nd Ward

2770

24.96%

NO. KEAR RD

APARTMENTS ST

PLACES ST

MAIN DR

HUNTINGTON DR

VALAM DR

BROOKS AVE

CITY SERVICE

PARK GARAGE

TRI-COUNTY MENTAL

LIBERTY BAPTIST

FRIENDS

FRANKLIN

MARCH FOUNDATION

SCHOOL

VOCATIONAL

STRIPE

WANTAGE JCT

101

1st Ward

2777

25.02%

NO. KEEF RD

APARTMENTS ST

PLACES ST

MAIN DR

HUNTINGTON DR

VALAM DR

BROOKS AVE

CITY SERVICE

PARK GARAGE

TRI-COUNTY MENTAL

LIBERTY BAPTIST

FRIENDS

FRANKLIN

MARCH FOUNDATION

SCHOOL

VOCATIONAL

STRIPE

WANTAGE JCT

101

2nd Ward

2770

24.96%

NO. KEEF RD

APARTMENTS ST

PLACES ST

MAIN DR

HUNTINGTON DR

VALAM DR

BROOKS AVE

CITY SERVICE

PARK GARAGE

TRI-COUNTY MENTAL

LIBERTY BAPTIST

FRIENDS

FRANKLIN

MARCH FOUNDATION

SCHOOL

VOCATIONAL

STRIPE

WANTAGE JCT

101

3rd Ward

2773

24.98%

NO. KEEF RD

APARTMENTS ST

PLACES ST

MAIN DR

HUNTINGTON DR

VALAM DR

BROOKS AVE

CITY SERVICE

PARK GARAGE

TRI-COUNTY MENTAL

LIBERTY BAPTIST

FRIENDS

FRANKLIN

MARCH FOUNDATION

SCHOOL

VOCATIONAL

STRIPE

WANTAGE JCT

101

4th Ward

2779

25.04%

NO. KEEF RD

APARTMENTS ST

PLACES ST

MAIN DR

HUNTINGTON DR

VALAM DR

BROOKS AVE

CITY SERVICE

PARK GARAGE

TRI-COUNTY MENTAL

LIBERTY BAPTIST

FRIENDS

FRANKLIN

MARCH FOUNDATION

SCHOOL

VOCATIONAL

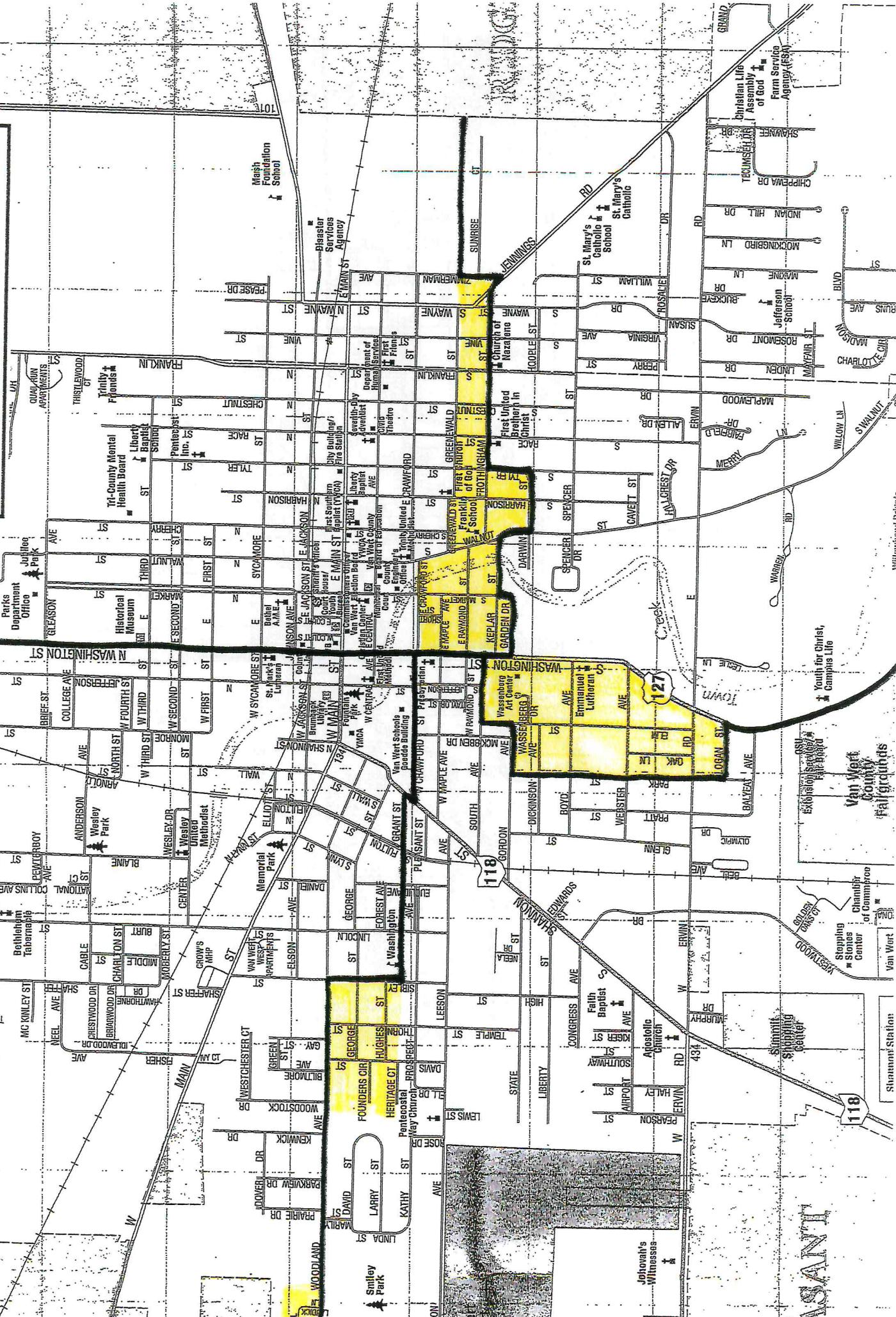
STRIPE

WANTAGE JCT

101

Option C

affected areas



Option D

2nd Ward

2770
24.96%

Community Garage
Maintenance Garage

Apple Glen Apartments

Flag St.

Hawthorne Dr.
Main St.

Idlewood Dr.
Woodland Dr.

Shaffer St.
Fisher St.

Middle St.
Burt St.

Blaine St.
Crows St.

Arnold St.
North St.

Jefferson St.
Washington St.

Gleason Ave.
College Ave.

Parks Department Office

Julia Park

Valam Dr.

Vantage Joint

Stripe

1st Ward

2777
25.02%

Thomas Edison Training Center

Augustine Dr.

Oval Ann Apartments

Thistlewood City Service Garage

Health Board

Fifty Friends

Liberty Bank

Scholar

Parkers

Inc. St.

Race St.

Chestnut St.

Franklin St.

Vine St.

Pease Dr.

Mars Foundation School

101

Wain St.

Baptist Services Agency

Disaster Services

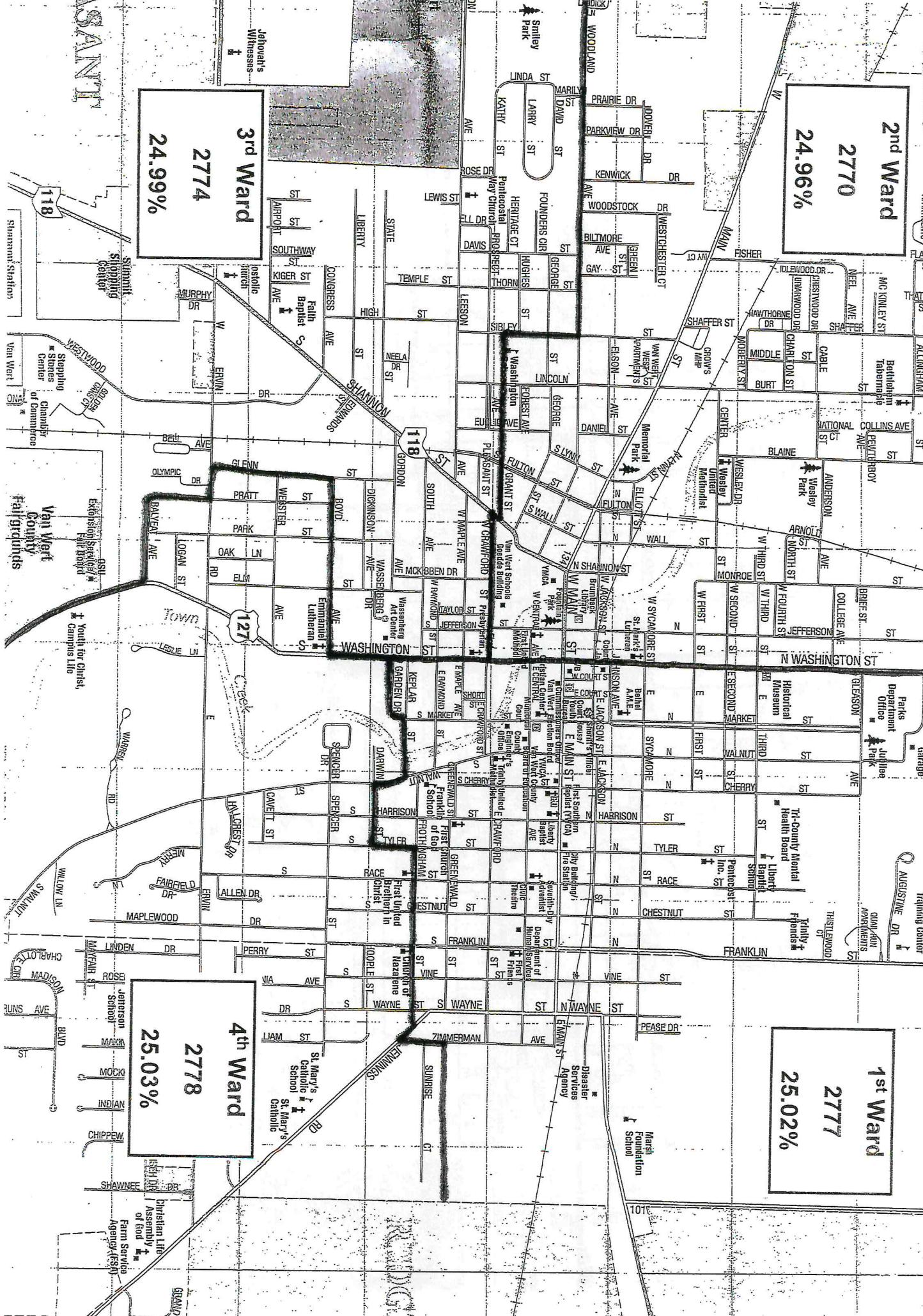
Human Services Department

Friends

First Friends

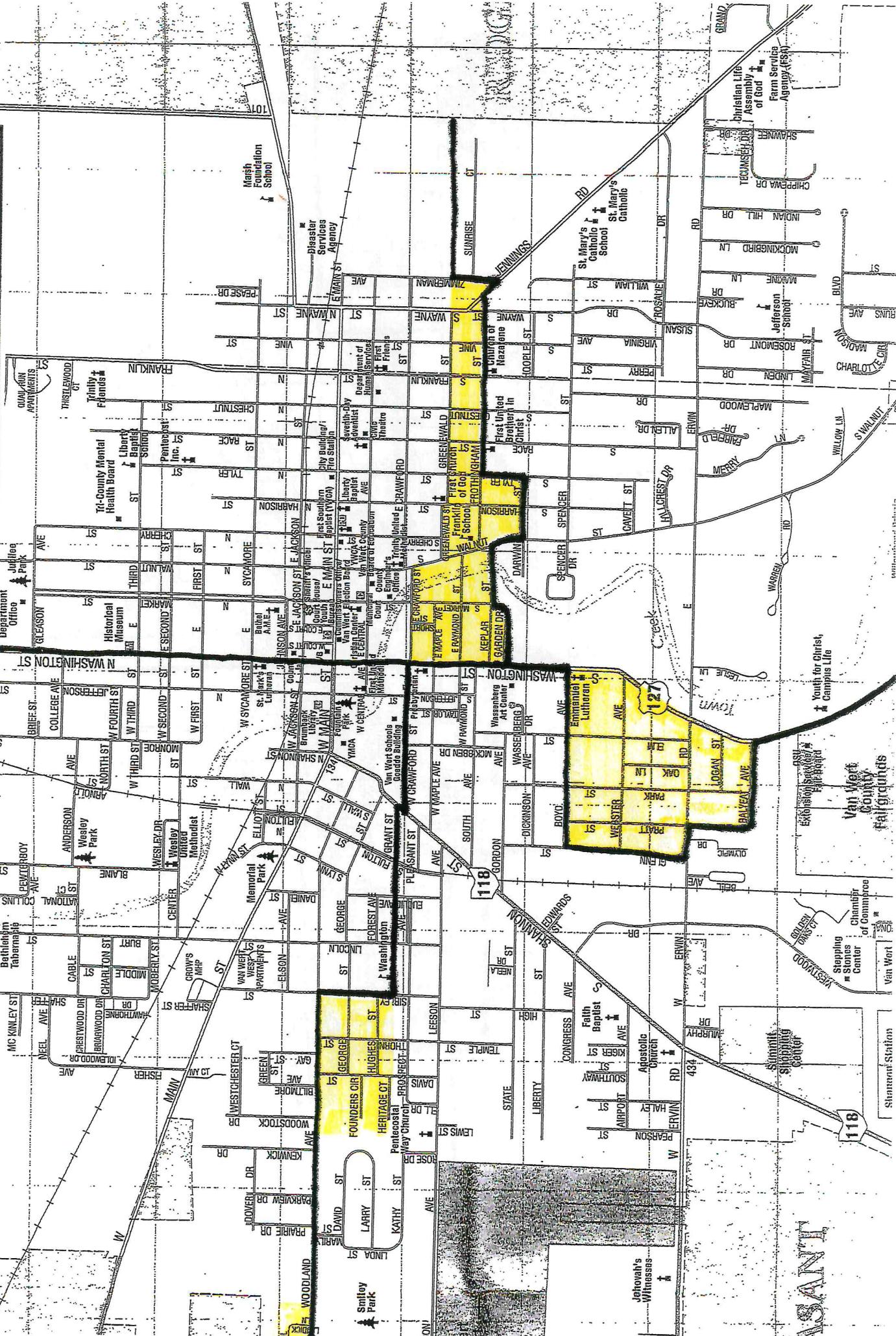
Friends

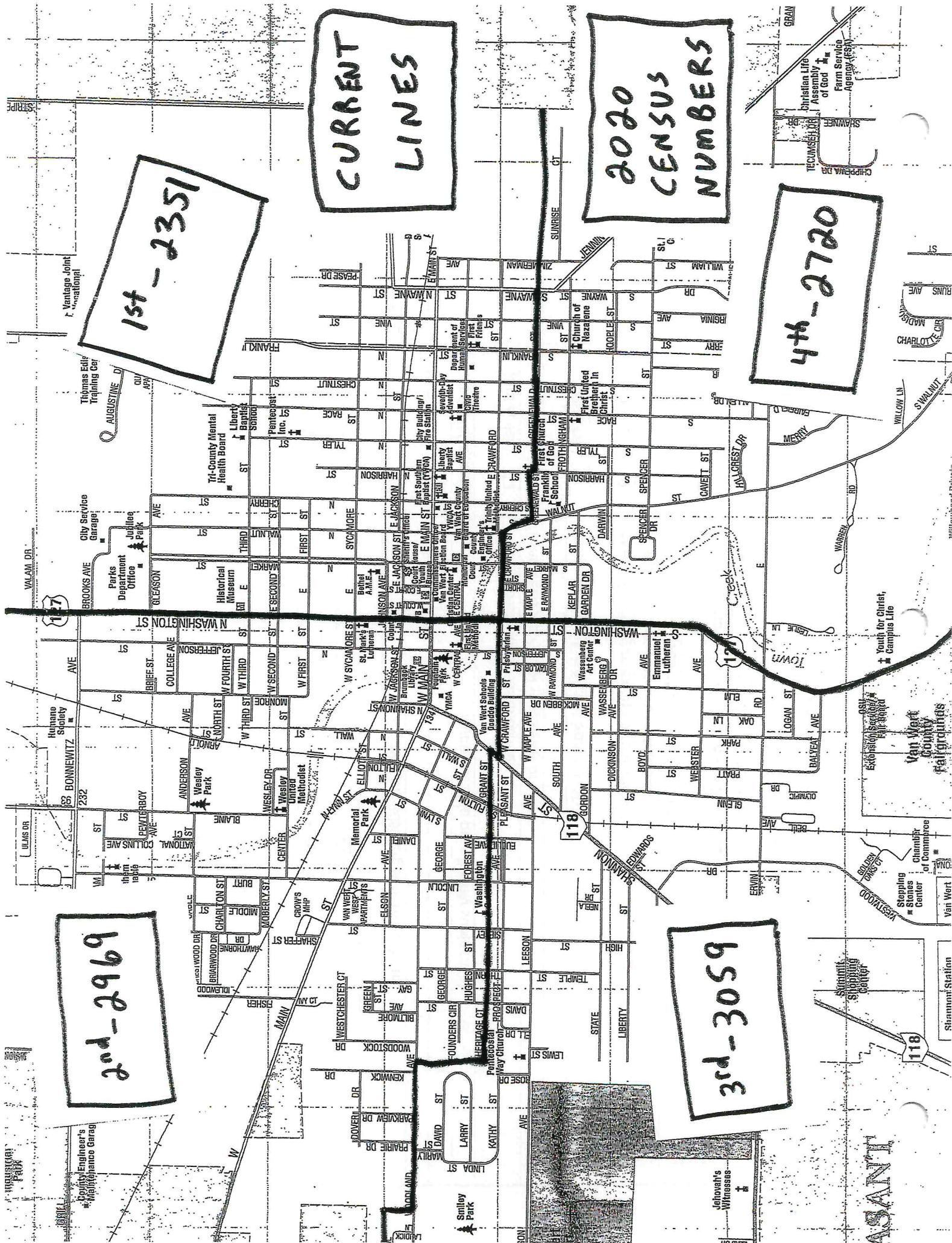
First Friends



Option D

affected areas





from ORC 731.06 (A) (1) deadline would be Thursday, December 30, 2021

from City Ordinance 731.06 (B) if Council doesn't take action SSD can do it

WARD	2020 Census	% of City	difference from ideal
1st	2351	21.18%	- 423.75
2nd	2969	26.75%	+ 194.25
3rd	3059	27.56%	+ 284.25
4th	2720	24.51%	- 54.75
	Ideal 25% = 2774.75		3rd Ward is 30% larger than 1st Ward
version	largest difference	some possible pros (highly subjective)	
A	(3rd & 4th) 12	"straightest" north-south divider	
B	(1st & 4th) 9	keeps Washington except about 3180 ft	
C	(4th & 2nd) 9	keeps Washington except about 2825 ft straightens the west end of Woodland uses Sibley instead of yards east of Larry	
D	(4th & 2nd) 8	keeps the most of Washington - all but about 2150 ft straightens the west end of Woodland uses Sibley instead of yards east of Larry	
		NOTE: only difference between C & D is divider between 3rd & 4th Ward	
		https://data.census.gov/cedsci/	