

# 2021 Update of Pine Bluff School Board Zones

Arkansas GIS Office

**Redistricting:** Every ten years, each school district board of directors is obligated to review the district's population as measured by the most recent United States Census and take any actions required by law regarding board zoning. Under Ark. Code Ann. § 6-13-631, any school district having a minority population of ten percent (10%) or greater is required to elect its school board of directors by zones of substantially equal population. Using the 2020 Census data, the district must calculate the total population residing within the boundaries of each zone. If the former zone arrangement violates the Voting Rights Act of 1965, or the population differences between the zones exceed those allowed by the "one person-one vote" principle of the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution, the district's zones must be redrawn in compliance with the law.

**Guiding Principles:** In addition to the legal criteria for evaluating a districting plan, many traditional criteria guide the creation of new electoral districts. Internally, new district boundaries should preserve, rather than divided communities of interest who share common traits. Externally, each district should be as closely and neatly packed together as possible and should not possess islands of territory disconnected from another portion of the district. To allow for intuitive and efficient election administration, district boundaries should attempt to be coincident with other electoral boundaries such as state legislative districts and bounded by visible physical features such as rivers, lakeshores, roads, or railroads to the greatest extent possible.

**Our Work:** The delivery of block-level population from the Census was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was delivered on August 12. The maps and charts on the following pages highlight the former zones and three scenarios for zones redrawn according to 2020 Census data. Following each map is a chart describing the population and demographic makeup of the zone.

#### **Pine Bluff School District:**

Population data - On July 1, 2021, the Dollarway School District was annexed into Pine Bluff School District. Because this occurred after the April 1, 2020, Census deadline, population totals for each school district were reported separately. Therefore, figures in this report reflect the

Census reported populations for both Dollarway and Pine Bluff school districts. Figures in this report also reflect a post-Census boundary correction between Watson Chapel School and Pine Bluff School Districts affecting 307 people. In this case, there were 307 people who the Census reported as residing in the Watson Chapel School District when they were physically located in Pine Bluff School District. This correction was sent to the U.S. Census Bureau but unfortunately was not discovered until after the Census had finalized their 2020 Decennial boundaries. The total population of the two school districts is 37,961.

In keeping with the former school board zone configuration, all scenarios in this report include a seven-member plan. The target population for each district is 5,423. All but one scenario keeps the former Dollarway school board zones intact.

# Pine Bluff School District Boundary

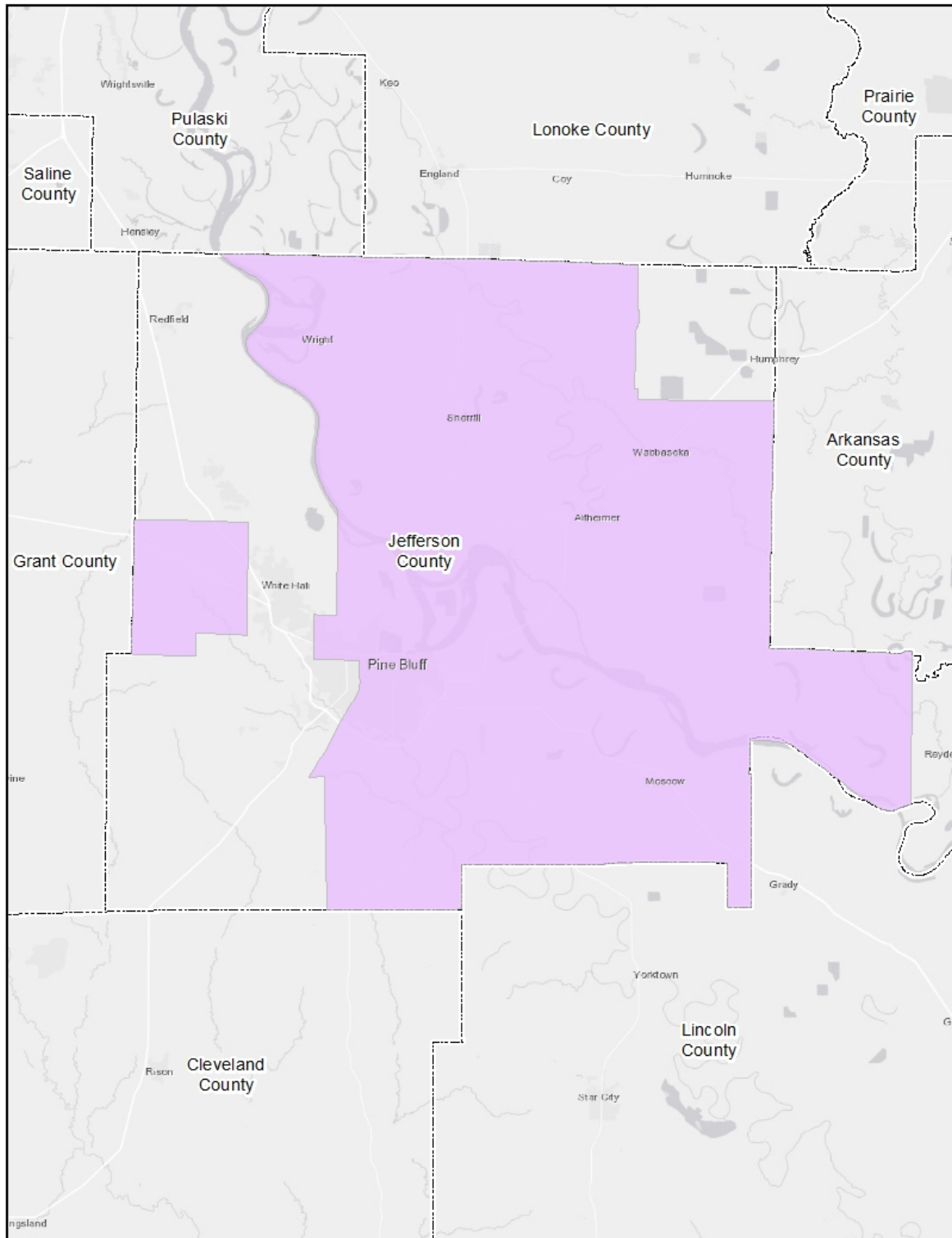
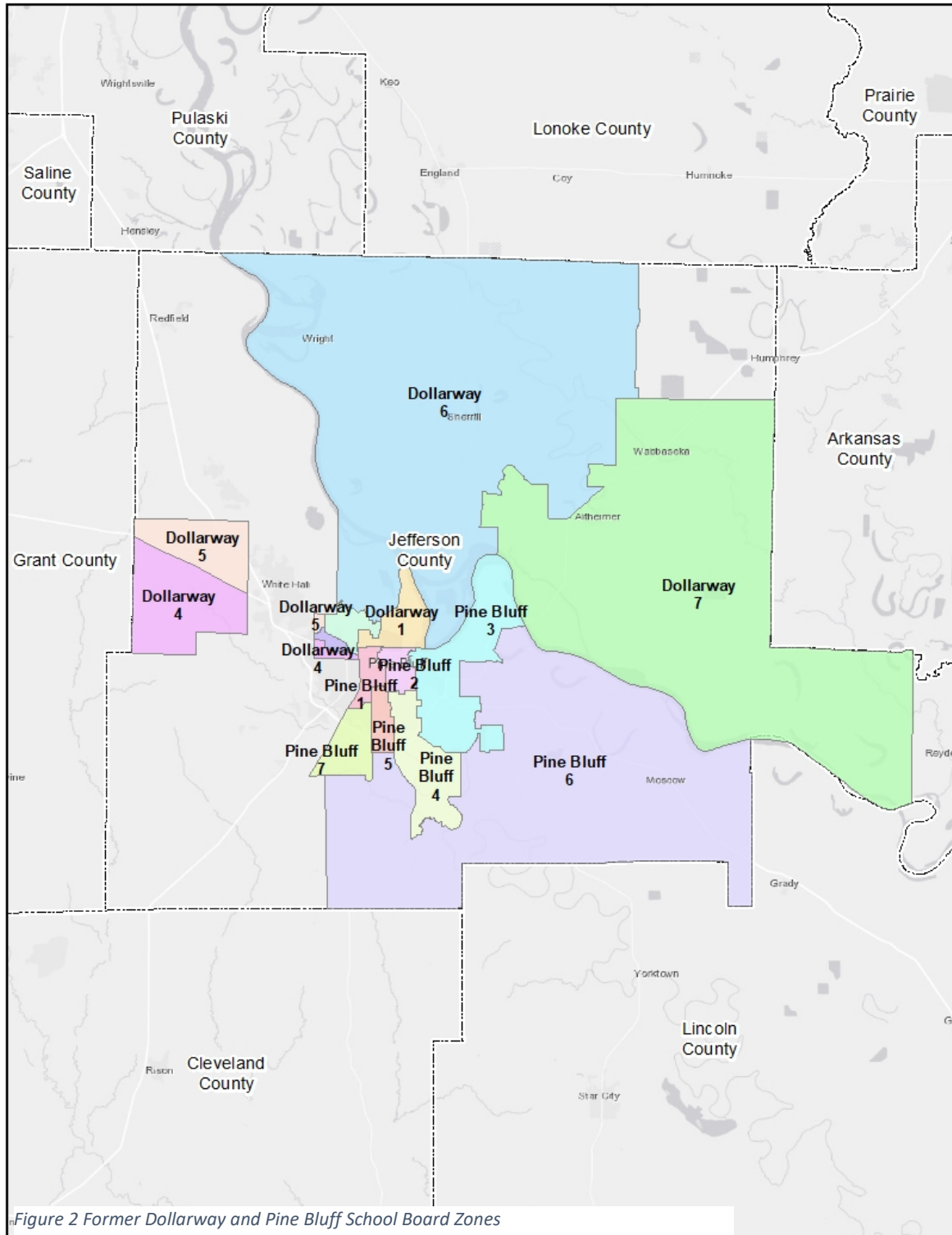


Figure 1 boundary of the Pine Bluff School District

# Former Dollarway and Pine Bluff School Board Zones



# Pine Bluff School Board Zones – Scenario 1 Map

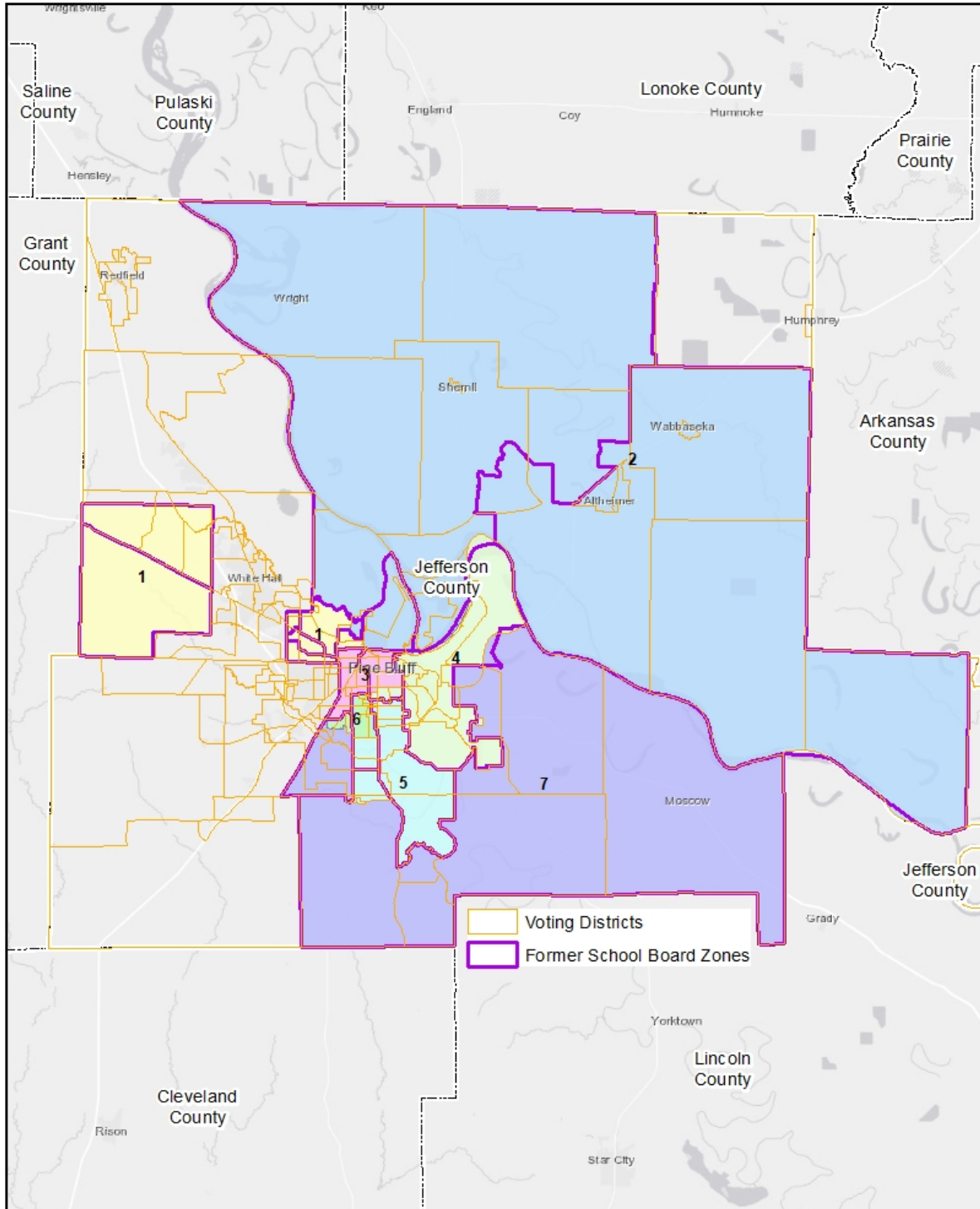
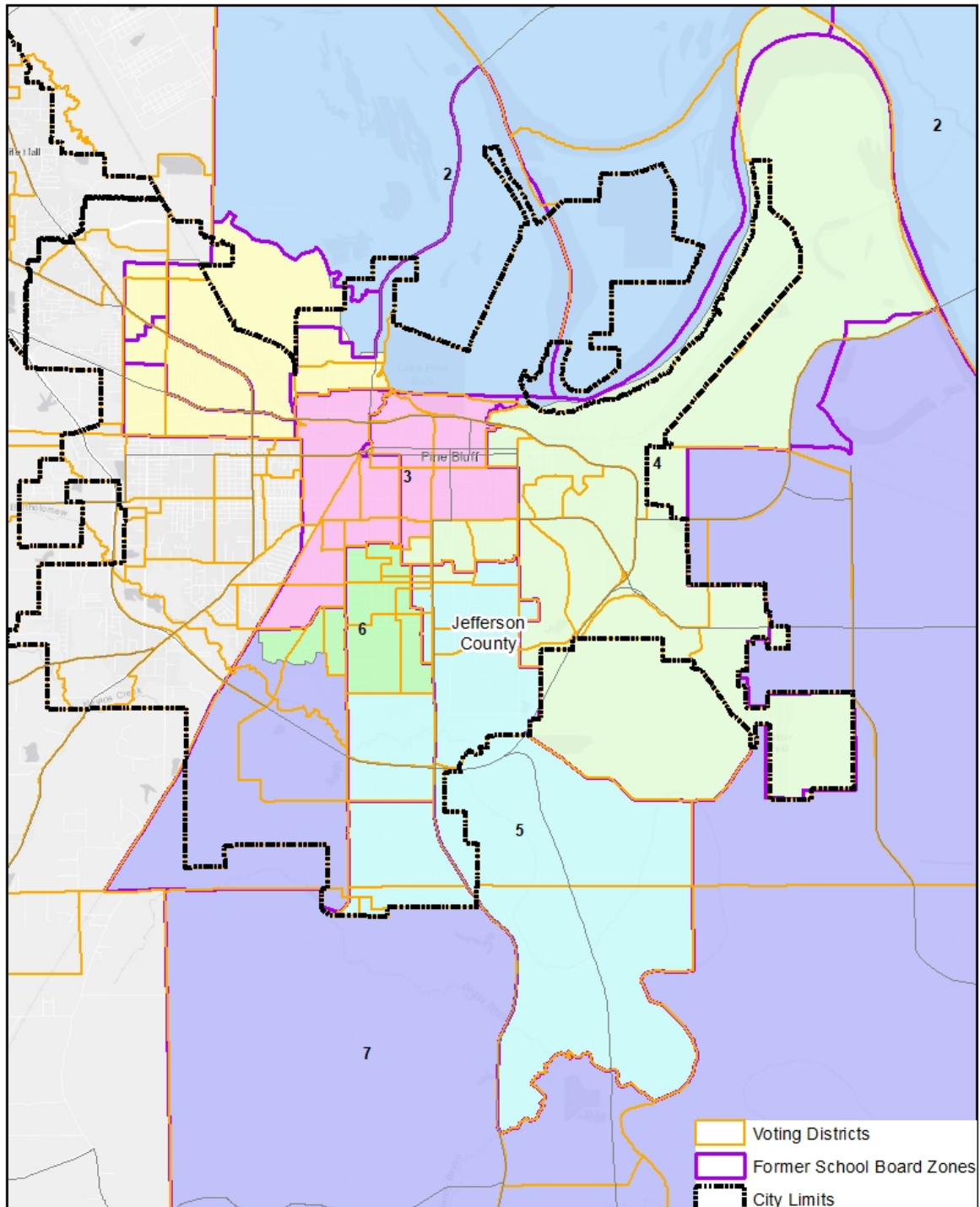


Figure 3 Scenario 1 Map – Attempts to maintain former zones and follow voting districts. No zones fully maintained. Consists of 99 whole voting districts.

# Pine Bluff School Board Zones – Scenario 1 Map



# Pine Bluff School Board Zones – Scenario 1

## Table

School Board Zone Variance Analysis Scenario # 1									
Zone	All Persons	Target	Variance from Target	Percent Variance from Target	White	Black	Hispanic	Minority	Legal Requirement
1	5267	5423	-156	-2.88%	39.78%	52.78%	2.54%	60.22%	Acceptable Variance
2	5411	5423	-12	-0.22%	30.33%	65.20%	3.40%	69.67%	Acceptable Variance
3	5378	5423	-45	-0.83%	8.16%	87.73%	1.54%	91.84%	Acceptable Variance
4	5477	5423	54	1.00%	7.96%	88.75%	1.53%	92.04%	Acceptable Variance
5	5476	5423	53	0.98%	13.09%	83.53%	1.19%	86.91%	Acceptable Variance
6	5407	5423	-16	-0.30%	14.93%	79.21%	1.52%	85.07%	Acceptable Variance
7	5545	5423	122	2.25%	42.56%	52.06%	1.93%	57.44%	Acceptable Variance

Table 1 Attempts to maintain former zones and follow voting districts. Not zones fully maintained. Consists of 99 whole voting precincts.



# Pine Bluff School Board Zones – Scenario 2 Map

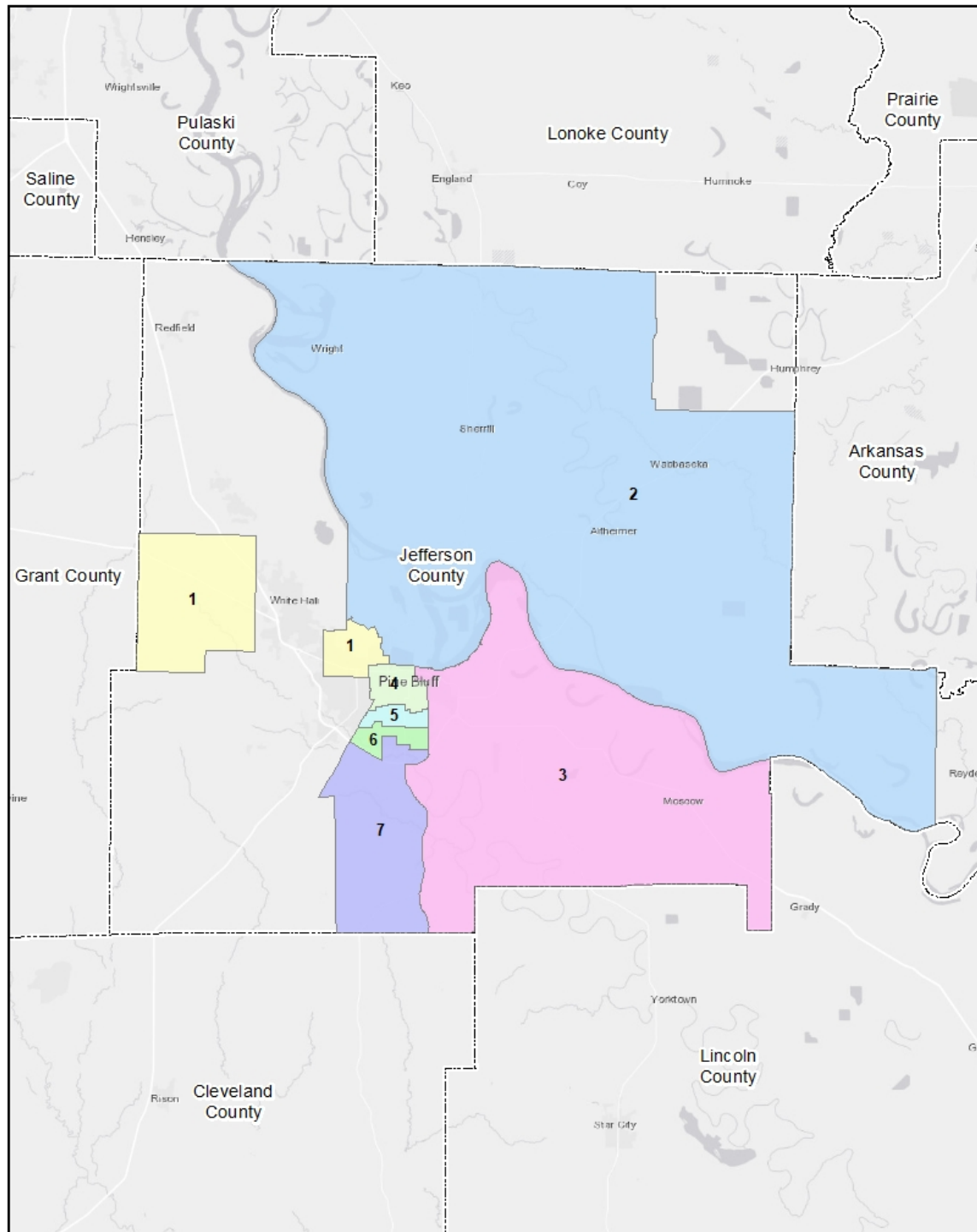


Figure 5 Attempts to achieve low variances while also following geographic features.

# Pine Bluff School Board Zones – Scenario 2 Map

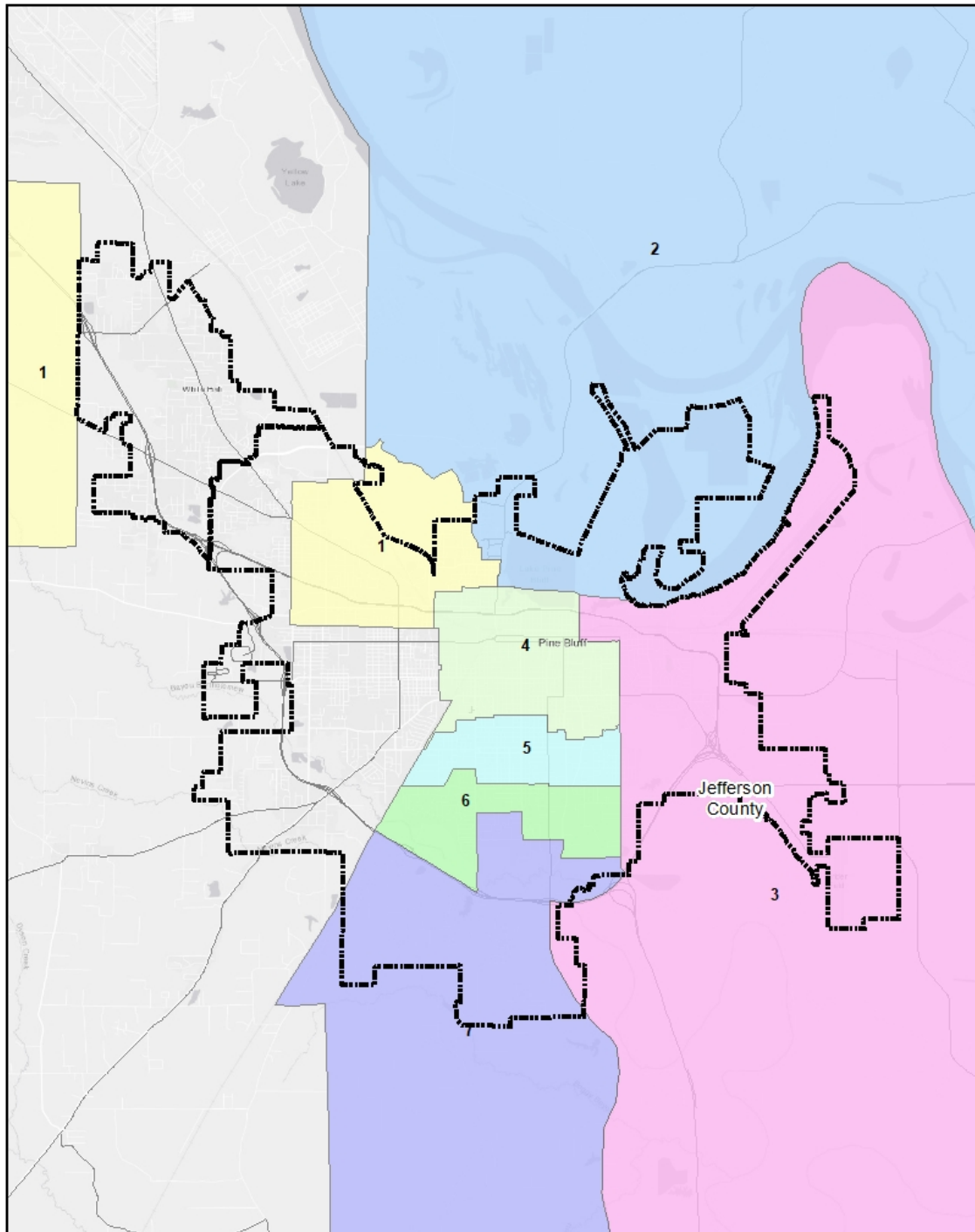


Figure 6 Attempts to achieve low variances while also following geographic features.

# Pine Bluff School Board Zones – Scenario 2

## Table

School Board Zone Variance Analysis Scenario # 2									
Zone	All Persons	Target	Variance from Target	Percent Variance from Target	White	Black	Hispanic	Minority	Legal Requirement
1	5223	5423	-200	-3.69%	40.09%	52.42%	2.57%	59.91%	Acceptable Variance
2	5455	5423	32	0.59%	30.10%	65.44%	3.37%	69.90%	Acceptable Variance
3	5411	5423	-12	-0.22%	17.85%	78.01%	2.25%	82.15%	Acceptable Variance
4	5378	5423	-45	-0.83%	8.14%	88.04%	1.56%	91.86%	Acceptable Variance
5	5422	5423	-1	-0.02%	6.25%	89.08%	1.57%	93.75%	Acceptable Variance
6	5395	5423	-28	-0.52%	12.88%	82.52%	1.13%	87.12%	Acceptable Variance
7	5677	5423	254	4.68%	40.88%	54.34%	1.22%	59.12%	Acceptable Variance

Figure 7 Attempts to achieve low variances while also following geographic features.

# Pine Bluff School Board Zones – Scenario 3 Map

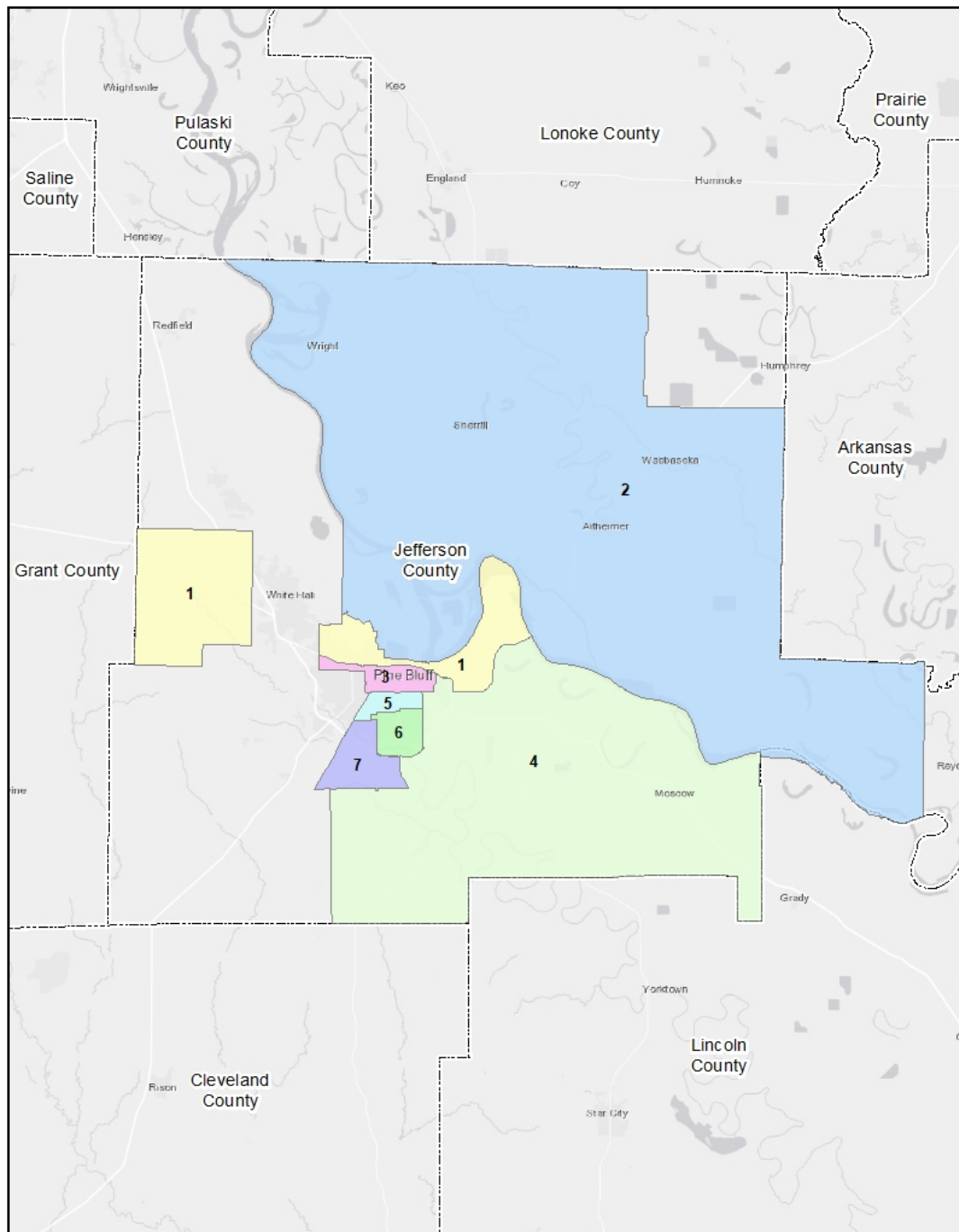


Figure 8 Attempts to achieve low variances while also following geographic features. Does not follow former Dollarway boundary.

# Pine Bluff School Board Zones – Scenario 3 Map

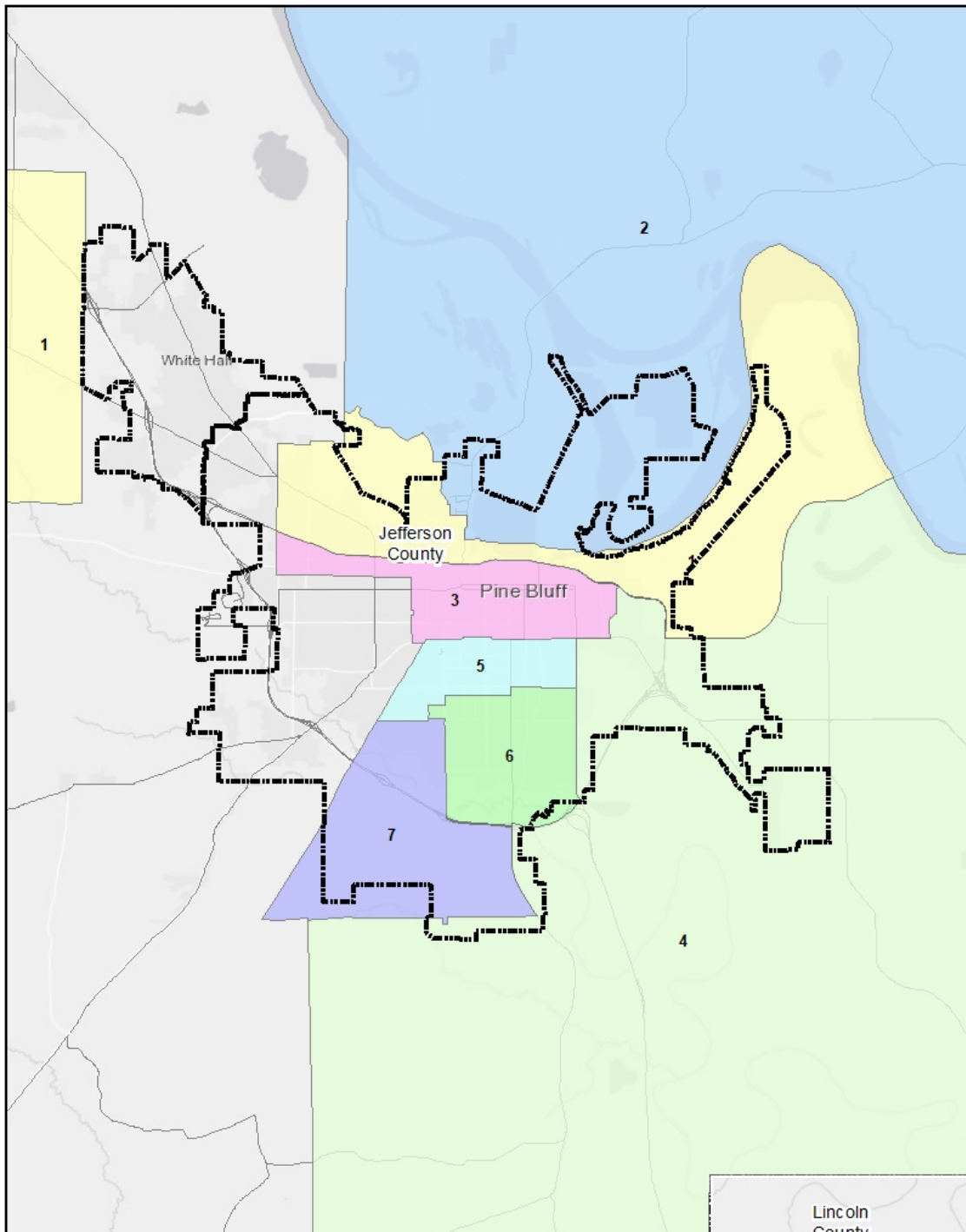


Figure 9 Attempts to achieve low variances while also following geographic features. Does not follow former Dollarway boundary.

# Pine Bluff School Board Zones – Scenario 3

## Table

School Board Zone Variance Analysis Scenario # 3									
Zone	All Persons	Target	Variance from Target	Percent Variance from Target	White	Black	Hispanic	Minority	Legal Requirement
1	5381	5423	-42	-0.77%	38.95%	53.80%	2.36%	61.05%	Acceptable Variance
2	5455	5423	32	0.59%	30.10%	65.44%	3.37%	69.90%	Acceptable Variance
3	5475	5423	52	0.96%	8.75%	87.82%	1.39%	91.25%	Acceptable Variance
4	5241	5423	-182	-3.36%	36.29%	58.56%	2.33%	63.71%	Acceptable Variance
5	5539	5423	116	2.14%	5.29%	90.90%	1.37%	94.71%	Acceptable Variance
6	5371	5423	-52	-0.96%	14.89%	80.26%	1.71%	85.11%	Acceptable Variance
7	5499	5423	76	1.40%	23.33%	71.70%	1.13%	76.67%	Acceptable Variance

Figure 10 Attempts to achieve low variances while also following geographic features. Does not follow former Dollarway boundary.