

**From:** [Bennett, Juliana](#)  
**To:** [Grady, Brian](#); [Zellers, Benjamin](#); [Redistricting](#)  
**Cc:** [Verveer, Michael](#); [Heck, Patrick](#); [Benford, Brian](#)  
**Subject:** Downtown Area Redistricting Solution  
**Date:** Friday, September 24, 2021 3:58:03 PM

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Hello Brian, Ben, and Redistricting Committee,

I hope that the past week has reaffirmed that college students, in this case UW students, are indeed a community of interest that redistricting must protect. I understand the rapid growth in the downtown area has made the puzzle of redistricting a bit more difficult to put together. The particular issue with downtown being Ward 49 luxury high rises, downtown business bid, keeping the Tenney-Lampham area within one district, and protecting college student voices on Common Council.

Personally, I do not understand why areas populated by privileged White people in Tenney-Lampham or businesses are taking precedent over the the community of interest that college students are. However, in collaboration with the central area alders CC'd in this email, we have come to a solution that we request the new maps to include.

I have taken the liberty to create a map for you all to look at: <https://app.districtbuilder.org/projects/51931cb5-9f3b-4b48-8093-da04d6bdd6f0>

This map creates a solution that we are all ok with. Here are the edits:

- The Tenney-Lampham area (Ward 44 and 45) into District 6.
- This allows room District 4 to maintain the current boundaries of Wards 50, 51, 52, and 53 for the downtown business bid.
- District 2 would then absorb the mass production of luxury high rises off of State and W Gorham (Ward 49).
- District 8 will then have room to maintain it's current Western boundaries with District 5 and keep all of the undergraduate residential halls and the Spring St and College Court area (Ward 55) within District 8.

A couple concerns for this map you may have is Tenney-Lampham and Ward 49. We can recognize that there has been this somewhat silly notion of a sacred boundary between E Washington and the Isthmus. However, this was before Ward 49 grew by 6000 people. In reality Tenney-Lampham and Marquette neighborhoods have very similar demographics. I don't want to speak for Patrick and Brian; yet, we all recognize that it wouldn't be the end of the world if we combine the neighborhoods into one district.

There's also this idea downtown that Ward 49 and 55 are similar and you're just trading students for students. I would like to push back against that notion and highlight the key

difference is wealth and racial equity. The market rate housing for Ward 49 is upward \$1200-\$1400. This is simply not a cost that low income students and students of color can afford. The demographics speaks for itself where Ward 49 is heavily populated by wealthy White and international students. Whereas, Ward 55 has more students of color, housing for multicultural student organizations, and low-modest rent prices. This is yet another reason why it is vital to keep Ward 55 or the Spring St and College Court areas within District 8.

Brian and Ben you can consider this email my official request for a map that includes these changes. Please send a map my way that reflect the aforementioned changes. Once again, if it wasn't clear before, it should be abundantly clear now that splitting residential halls and heavily dominated student areas is a terrible idea for all parties involved. I anticipate that we take this into account moving forward.

Regards,

***Juliana Bennett***

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Common Council Office  
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

Districts ↗

Counties Blockgroups Blocks

Labels ... 🔍

Number	Population	Deviation	Race	PVI	Comp.
1	13,430	-281,255		D+29	8%
2	14,045	-280,640		D+33	34%
3	14,349	-280,336		D+28	
4	13,595	-281,090		D+36	49%
5	13,894	-280,791		D+39	24%
6	13,624	-281,061		D+44	44%
7	13,717	-280,968		D+29	40%
8	13,965	-280,720		D+26	38%
9	13,157	-281,528		D+20	11%
10	13,876	-280,809		D+38	25%
11	13,305	-281,380		D+36	28%
12	14,290	-280,395		D+38	30%
13	13,099	-281,586		D+39	19%
14	13,481	-281,204		D+34	10%
15	13,833	-280,852		D+37	19%
16	13,867	-280,818		D+25	15%
17	14,270	-280,415		D+28	10%
18	14,320	-280,365		D+30	15%
19	13,162	-281,523		D+31	60%
20	13,457	-281,228		D+30	34%

