

Utah Redistricting  
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1 January 2022

## I. State Overview

In 2018, Utah voters approved a proposition to create an independent redistricting commission. However, the republican-dominated state legislature amended the law and made the commission purely advisory. Thus, Utah's adopted map for the 2020 redistricting cycle was adopted by the state legislature and not the independent commission. Utah is the fastest growing state in the nation for this cycle with 18.4% population growth since the last census (an addition of over 500,000 residents), outpacing its 14.5% growth in the prior cycle (2000-2010).

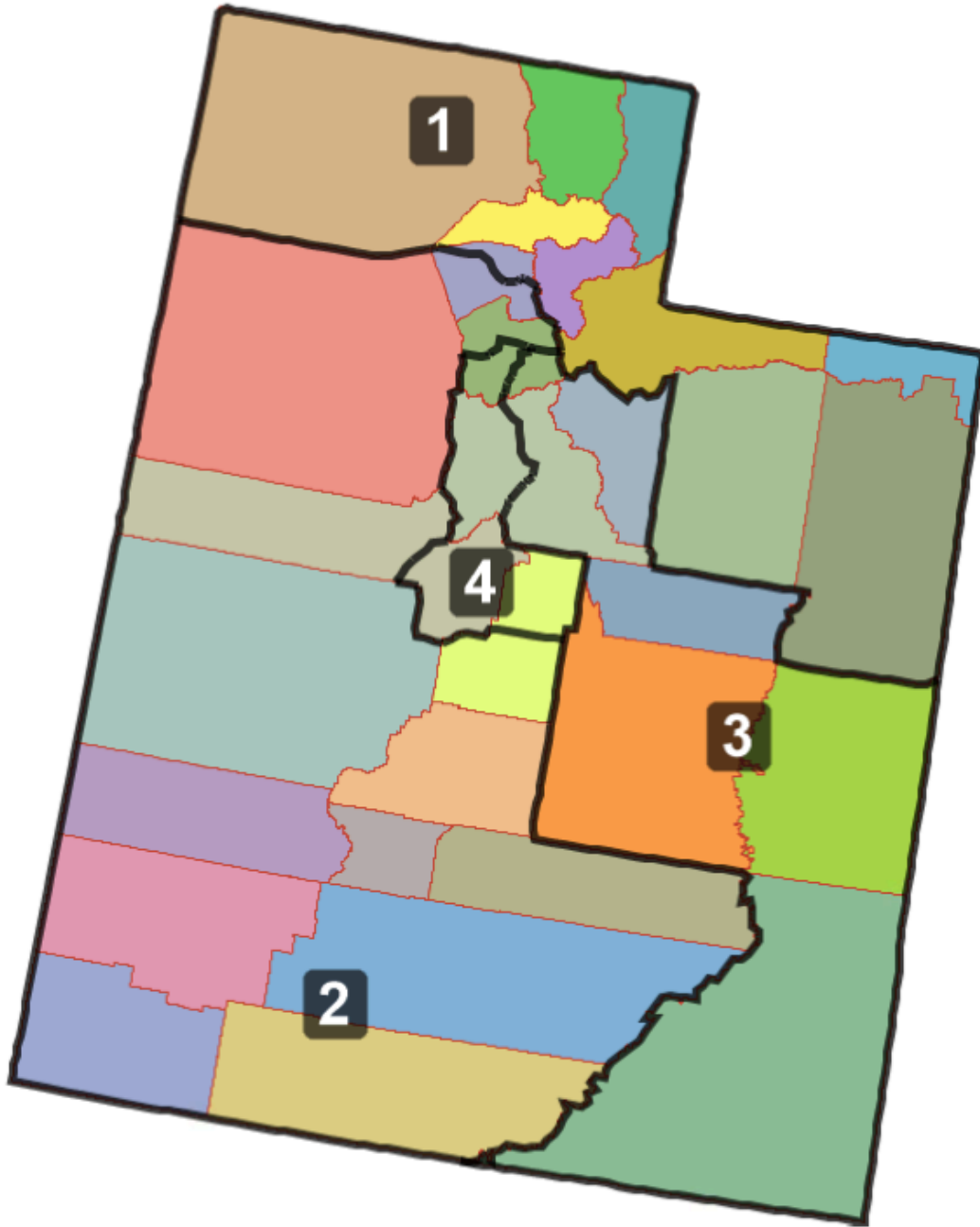


*UT-01: Map of Utah, Google Hybrid View*

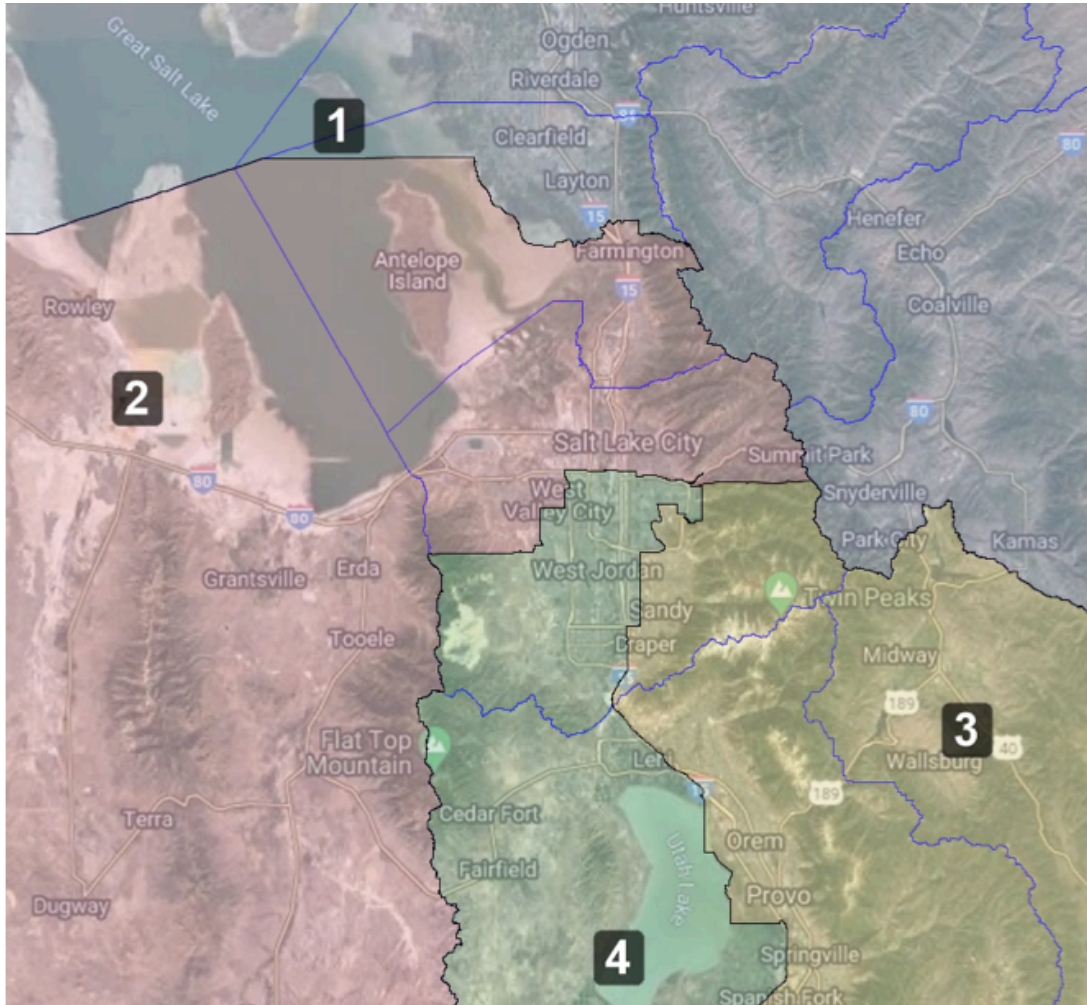
Utah is historically a very white state and does not have any minority opportunity districts. Hispanics are the largest single minority population in the state at 15.1% and 19.6% of the residents of Salt Lake County, the largest metro area in the state. However, the Hispanic population only grew from 14.4% in 2010 to 15.1% in 2020. At this rate of increase, it is unlikely that a minority opportunity district would be possible in the next redistricting cycle.

There are two primary metro areas in the state: Salt Lake City and St. George. Salt Lake City is the largest metro area encompassed in Salt Lake County and the surrounding areas. The population of the county is 1,185,238, making it the most populous in the state. St. George is in the state's southwest corner and was the third-fastest growing metro area in the country in 2020. This region was not a major issue in this redistricting cycle because it is entirely contained in District 2. However, the Salt Lake Metro area, including the division of Salt Lake County remained a contentious issue of the redistricting commission and the state legislature. Salt Lake County must be split at least once because population equality principles mandates that each district have 817,904 people.

Utah has four districts in a relatively square-shaped state. Historically, District 2 is in the southwest corner, District 1 is in the north, District 3 is in the west and District 4 is in the middle, around and part of Salt Lake County. In the 2010 map three districts included some part of Salt Lake County and all four included some part of the greater Salt Lake City metro area. By splitting the urban, more liberal metropolitan area into four districts that also have substantial rural populations, the map of Utah is considered a republican gerrymander.



*UT-02: Utah 2010 Map*



*UT-03: Utah 2010 Map, Salt Lake City Metro Area Zoom*

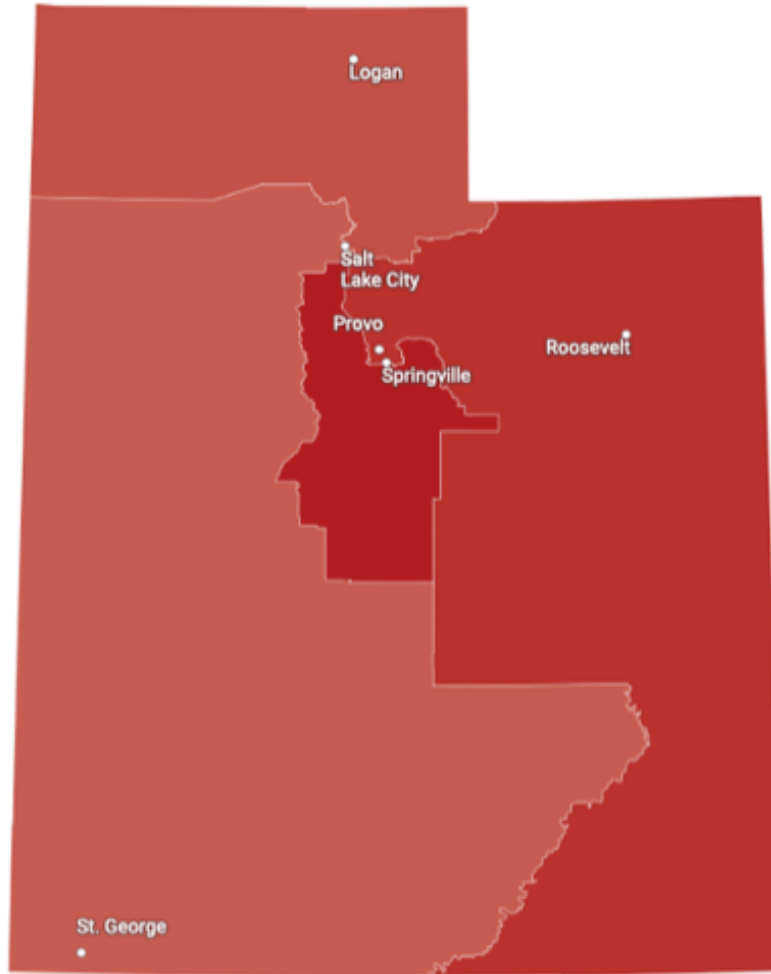
## **II. Adopted Map**

On November 12, 2021, the governor of Utah signed into law the new congressional map approved by the state legislature. The adopted map was drawn by the legislature and differed from the map drawn by the independent redistricting commission. There were 4 republican incumbents and, after the new map's adoption, all four are likely to stay safely as republican districts. Partisan data suggests that the "least" republican district is still an R+6 (based on 2020 voting data), making the 2020 adopted map a substantial partisan gerrymander.

As mentioned above, how to split Salt Lake County is a primary issue. It must be split because its population of over 1 million people exceeds the number of people required per district for population equality of 817,904. In the 2020 adopted map, Salt Lake County is split four times. However, the shape of the districts changed in the adopted map from the 2010 map.

Previously, District 4 was an “L” shape with the northern end including a part of Salt Lake County and elongated south and then with a “tail” to the east. In the 2020 map, the shape of District 4 is drawn in more of a mitten-shape like the state of Michigan. It keeps the northwestern arm, but expands the district east to include some of Utah County, but carves out the Salt Lake City suburb of Springville in a “U” shape for District 3.

In a major change from the 2010 map, the adopted 2020 map substantially alters the footprint of District 1 and expands it into the Salt Lake metro region. Where in 2010 District 1 followed the entire northern border of the state, in the adopted 2020 map, District 1 ends in Summit County in approximately the middle of the county. To make up for this, District 3 expands to the northeastern corner of the state, but gives up much of Utah County to District 4. District 2 changed primarily in the northern part of the district where the border between District 2 and 1 moved south and west to accommodate District 1’s expansion into the Salt Lake metro area.



**New District Ratings and Estimated PVIs**

DIST	Incumbent	Previous PVI	Estimated new PVI	2022 Rating
UT-01	Blake Moore (R)	R+20	R+12	Solid R
UT-02	Chris Stewart (R)	R+10	R+11	Solid R
UT-03	John Curtis (R)	R+17	R+14	Solid R
UT-04	Burgess Owens (R)	R+6	R+16	Solid R

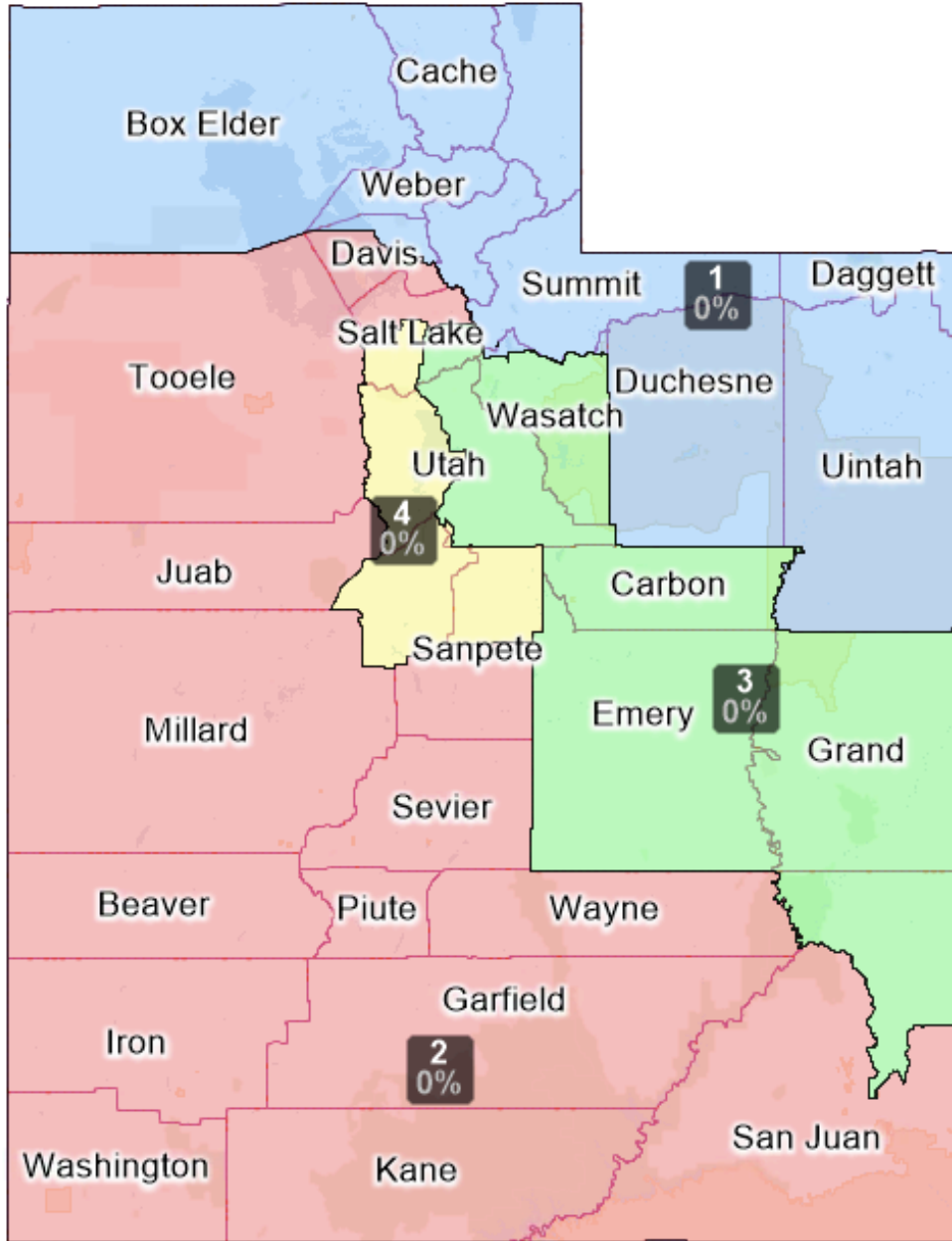
*UT-04: Utah Map Adopted by the State as published by the Cook Political Report*

### **III. Maps Drawn**

#### **A. Least Change**

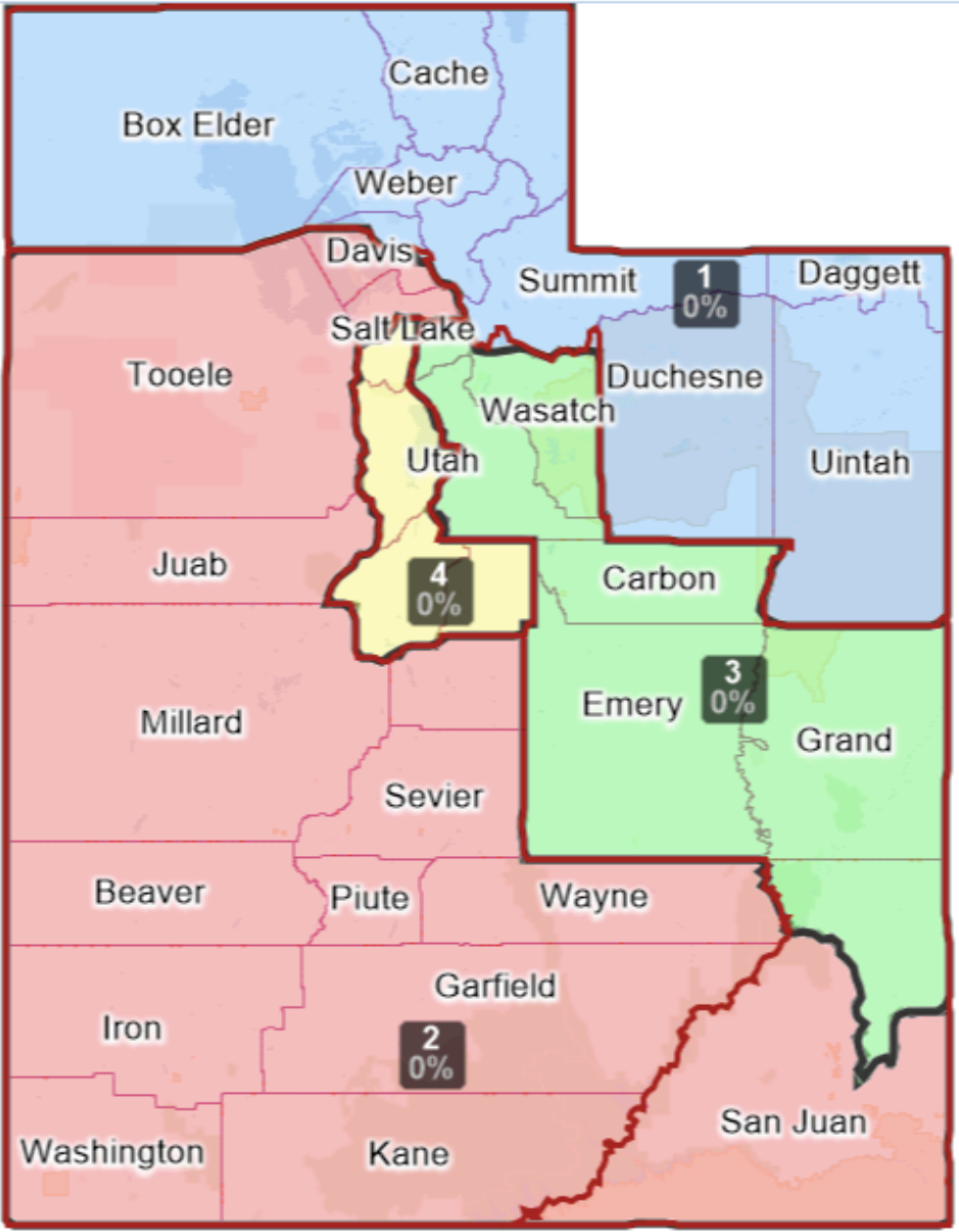
This least change map was drawn with the purpose to change the districts as little as possible from the 2010 map while accounting for the 500,000 additional people the state gained in the intervening 10 years. One of the primary differences between the 2010 map and the map I drew is that San Juan County in the southeast corner of the state moved from District 2 to District 3. This is a large geographical area for the county, but a relatively small rural population. This move accounts for the population growth in the St. George metro area in District 2's southwest corner.

While the population of St. George grew, most of the population growth in the state occurred in the Salt Lake City metro area. However, because the existing 2010 map already split Salt Lake County and the metro area between the four districts, only minor border changes were made to accommodate the population changes in the area. This map, as reflected in *UT-06*, shows that very minor changes were needed in the map to create a new 2020 map under least change principles.



*UT-05: Utah Least Change Map*

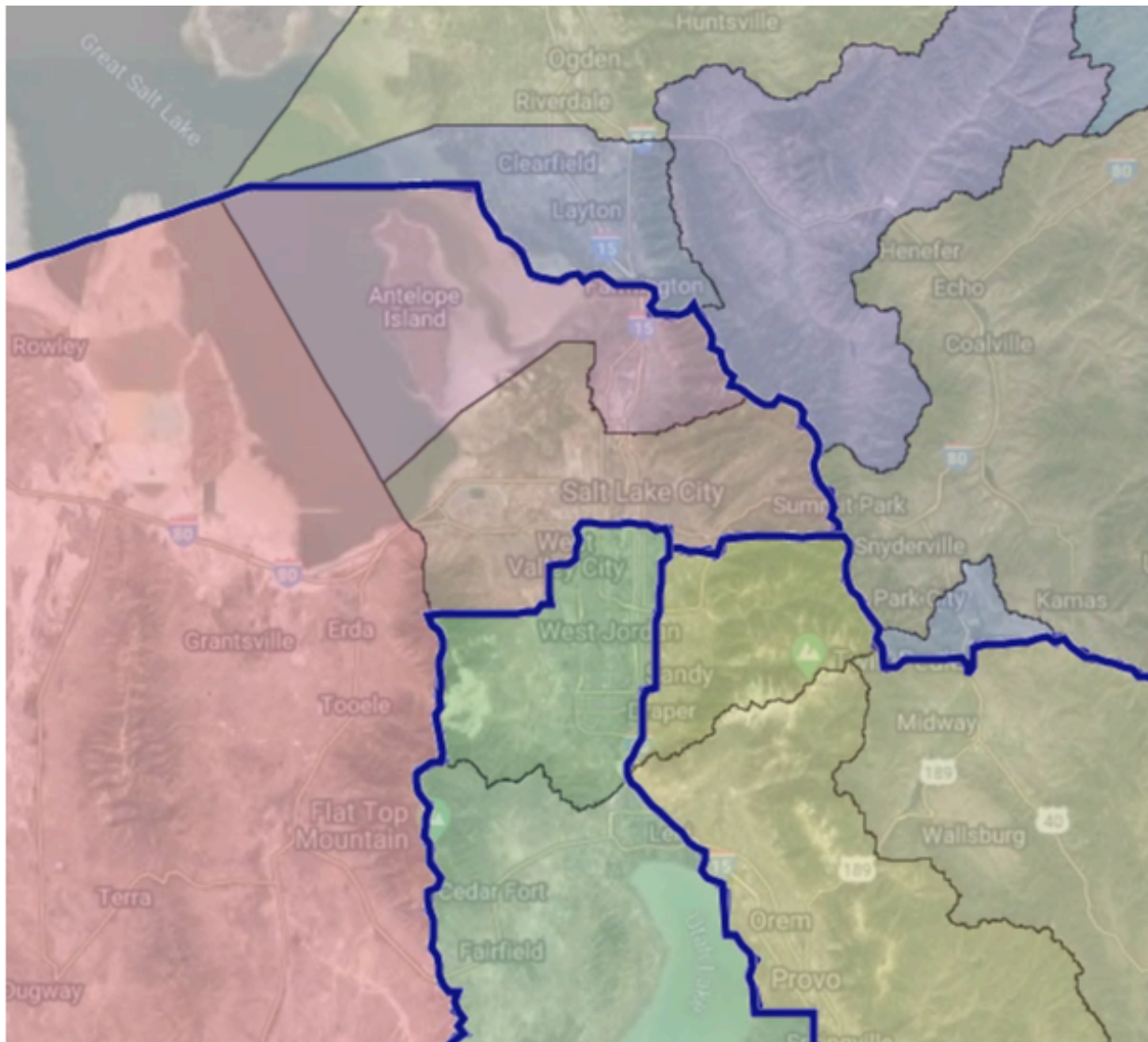




*UT-06: Utah Least Change Comparison with 2010 (in red)*

The map below (*UT-07*) shows a zoom of the Salt Lake Metro Area. This map demonstrates how all four districts contain parts of the urban area in addition to substantial rural areas of the state. District 4 takes much of the southern part of the metro area, while District 2 contains the city of Salt Lake. District 1 comes around the northern region of the metro area and

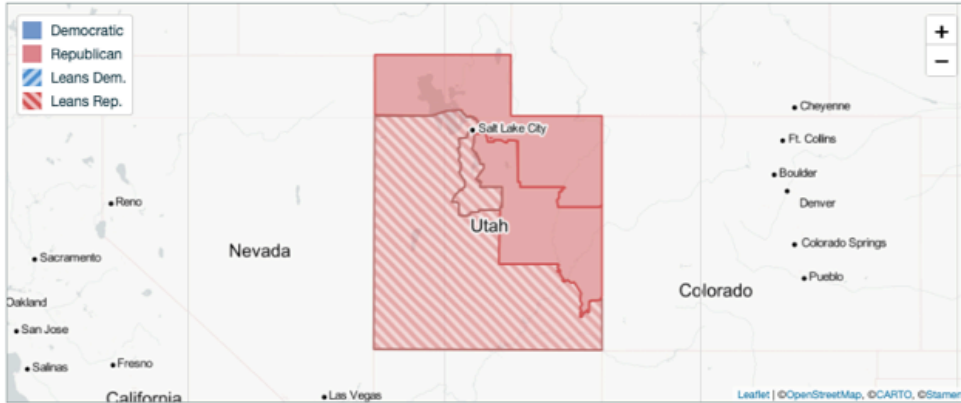
also includes some of the Great Salt Lake. Finally, District 3 takes some of the southeastern portions of the city.



*UT-07: Salt Lake Metro Area Zoom, Least Change Map*

The PlanScore data for this least change map maintains the status quo of 4 republican seats as safe republican seats.

## District Map



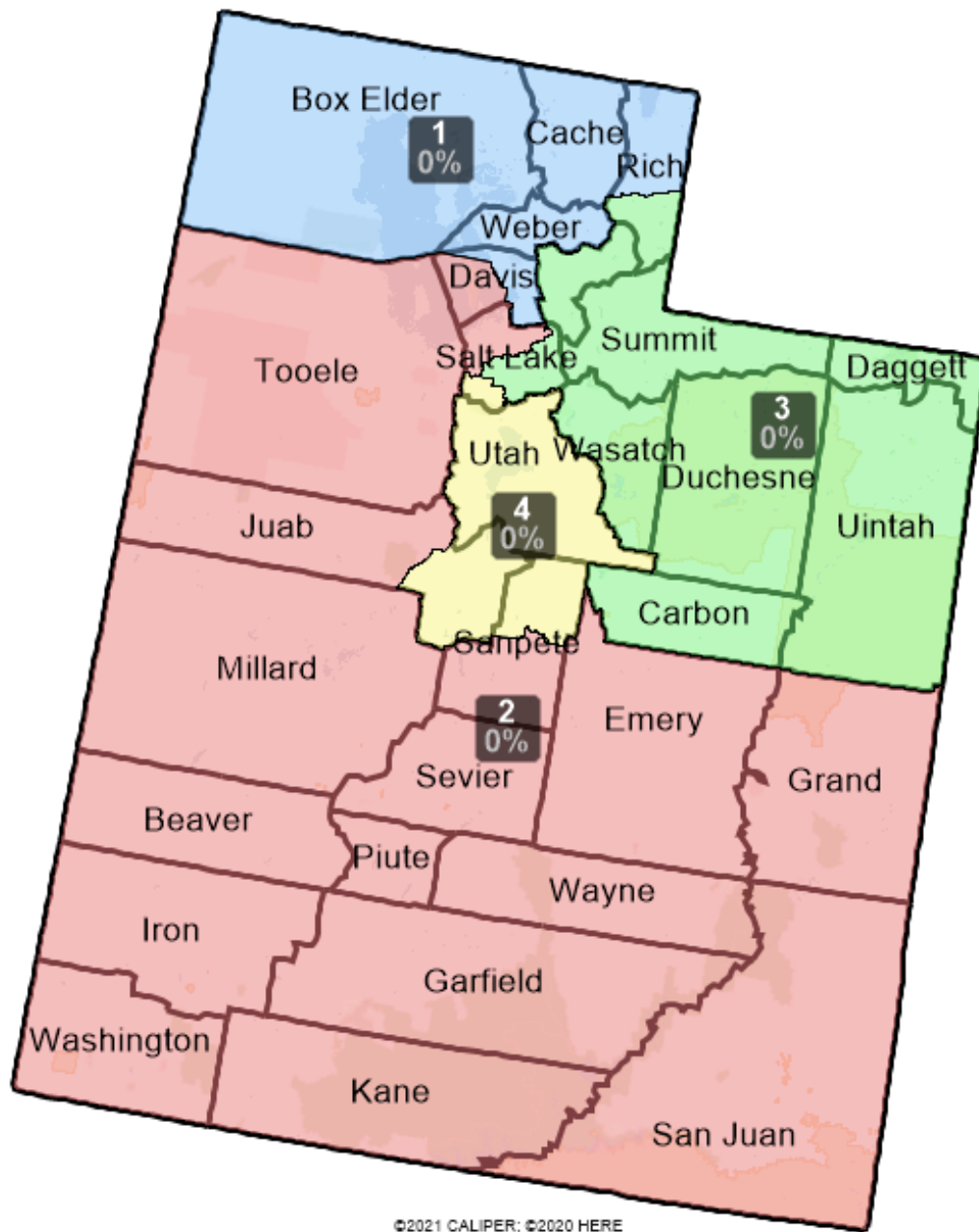
## District Data

District	Candidate Scenario	Pop. 2020	Hispanic CVAP 2019	Non-Hisp. Black CVAP 2019	Non-Hisp. Asian CVAP 2019	Non-Hisp. Native CVAP 2019	Chance of 1+ Flips†	Chance of Democratic Win	Predicted Vote Shares	Biden (D) 2020	Trump (R) 2020
1	Republican Incumbent	817,904	8.8%	1.2%	1.9%	1.3%	No	1%	35% D / 65% R	116,852	235,57
2	Republican Incumbent	817,904	9.1%	1.2%	2.5%	2.2%	Yes	16%	44% D / 56% R	158,275	208,19
3	Republican Incumbent	817,904	6.2%	0.7%	2.1%	0.9%	No	5%	40% D / 60% R	143,991	232,51
4	Republican Incumbent	817,904	10.9%	1.5%	3.0%	1.2%	Yes	16%	44% D / 56% R	141,155	188,84

*UT-08: Utah Least Change Plan Score.*

### B. Good Governance

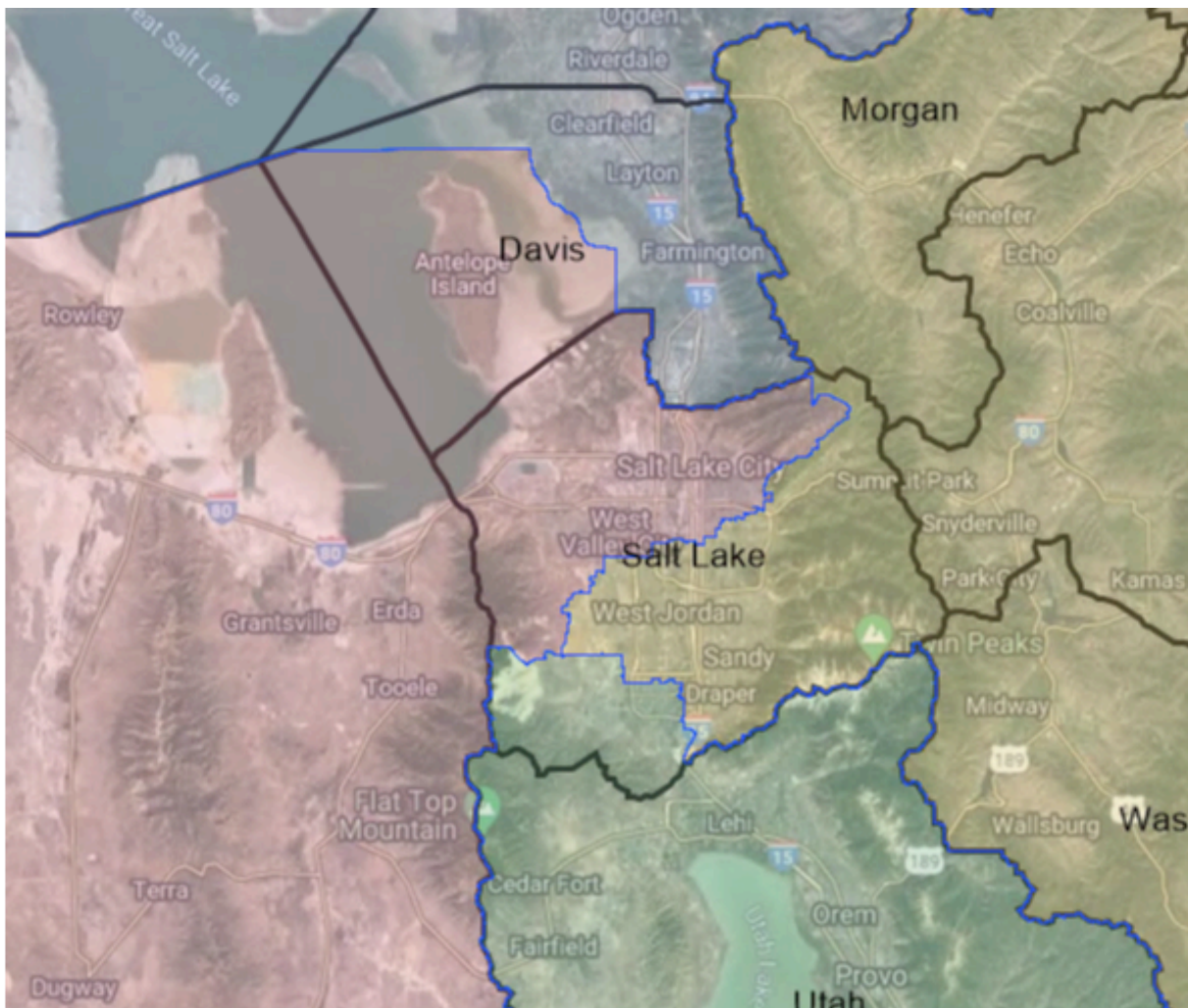
The good governance principle used in this map is to respect the political subdivisions of counties first and foremost. This is relatively simple in the rural areas because counties have smaller populations and certainly have less than the 817,904 needed to achieve population equality in each district. Therefore, many rural counties can be added together. However, this is more complicated in the Salt Lake metro area because Salt Lake County, the state's most populous, must be split at least once because the population is over 1 million people.



*UT-09: Utah Good Governance Map*

In my good governance map, I started by making District 1 more compact than the 2010 map by consolidating it into the northwest corner of the state. Davis County, which has some of the urban sprawl from the Salt Lake City metro area, was split between District 1 and District 2. In District 1, Rich County was also split between District 1 and District 3.

District 2 is primarily a rural district and encompasses the southern half of the state. However, like the other three districts, has some urban component in the way that the Salt Lake metro area is divided. District 2's urban region includes the northern half of Salt Lake County, the other parts of the county divided on the eastern portion to District 3 and a small portion of the same county in the southwest to District 4. District 2 also includes the western half of Davis County, just around Salt Lake, which is shared with District 1.

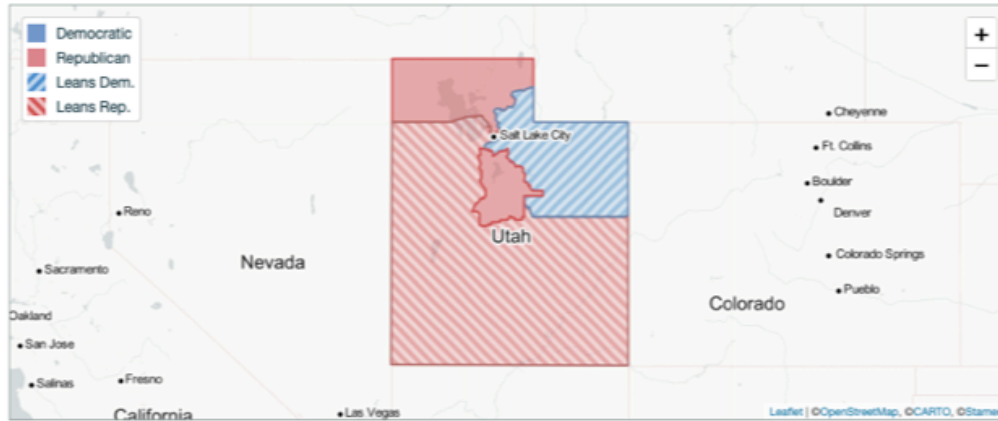


*UT-10: Good Governance Salt Lake City Metro Area Zoom*

The PlanScore analysis of this map could change the political makeup of the Congressional delegation. District 3 is labeled “Leans Dem,” which is likely due to the shift of

the district north and west into much of the Salt Lake metro area. District 2 is scored as a competitive district 47-D/53-R. This is substantially more competitive than the 2010 district, which was won by the republican candidate by 23 points in 2020.

## District Map



## District Data

District	Candidate Scenario	Pop. 2020	Hispanic CVAP 2019	Non-Hisp. Black CVAP 2019	Non-Hisp. Asian CVAP 2019	Non-Hisp. Native CVAP 2019	Chance of 1+ Flips†	Chance of Democratic Win	Predicted Vote Shares	Biden (D) 2020	Trump (R) 2020
1	Republican Incumbent	817,904	8.8%	1.3%	2.1%	0.9%	No	4%	38% D / 62% R	119,395	230,644
2	Republican Incumbent	817,904	10.7%	1.4%	2.7%	2.6%	Yes	32%	47% D / 53% R	153,329	192,033
3	Republican Incumbent	817,904	8.2%	1.1%	2.8%	1.2%	Yes	58%	51% D / 49% R	189,023	200,204
4	Republican Incumbent	817,904	6.7%	0.7%	1.7%	0.8%	No	1%	34% D / 66% R	98,526	242,257

*UT-11: Utah Good Governance Plan Score*

## IV. Appendix

### Maps/Images

UT-01: Utah State Image, Google Hybrid

UT-02: Utah 2010 Map

UT-03: Utah 2010 Map, Salt Lake City Metro Area Zoom

UT-04: Utah 2020 Adopted Map, as Republished by Cook Political Report

UT-05: Least Change

UT-06: Least Change Comparison to 2010 (in red)

UT-07: Least Change Salt Lake City Metro Area Zoom

UT-08: Least Change PlanScore

UT-09: Good Governance

UT-10: Good Governance Salt Lake City Metro Area Zoom

UT-11: Good Governance PlanScore

