

# 2022 Polling District Review Final Report

Corporate & Residential Services Committee  
February 14, 2023



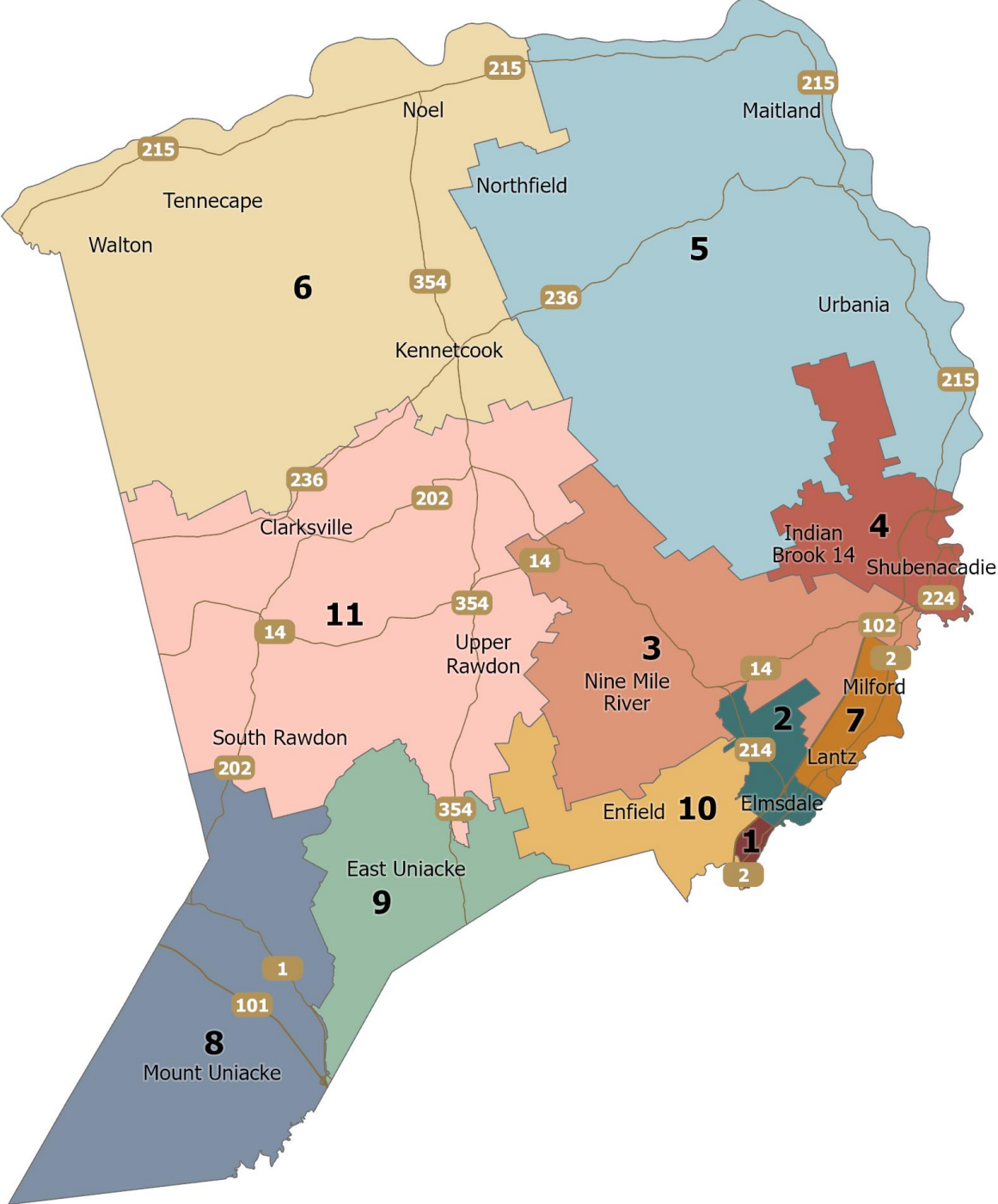
**EAST HANTS**

## Background

- This is the sixth report regarding the 2022 Polling District Review. Decisions made by Council to date include:
  - ❑ Endorsed the project moving ahead
  - ❑ Sought approval from the NS Utility & Review Board for up to a year's extension due to Covid 19. The Board granted up to a 4 month extension.
  - ❑ Decided to keep the Warden system and not seek public opinion on switching to a Mayoral system of leadership.
  - ❑ Approved the public consultation program conducted in Phase 1.
  - ❑ Approved a Council size of 11.
  - ❑ Decided to hold 2 workshops with all councillors to review various 11 district scenarios.
  - ❑ Directed Staff to conduct phase 2 public consultation with Council's preferred 11 district option.

This report discusses public consultation with the proposed 11 district option and a jurisdictional scan of other municipalities.

# Current District Boundaries



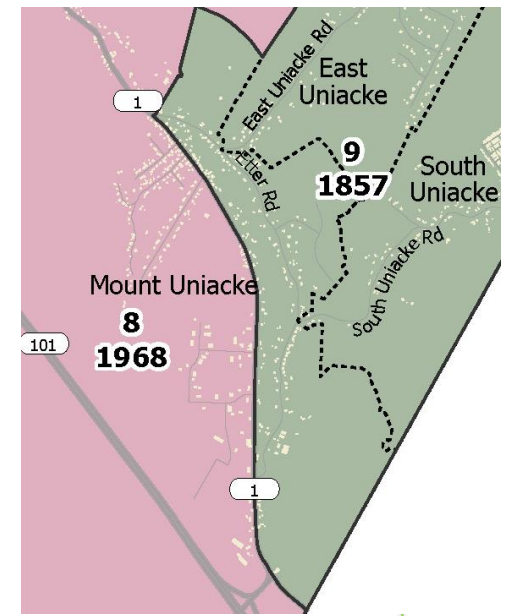
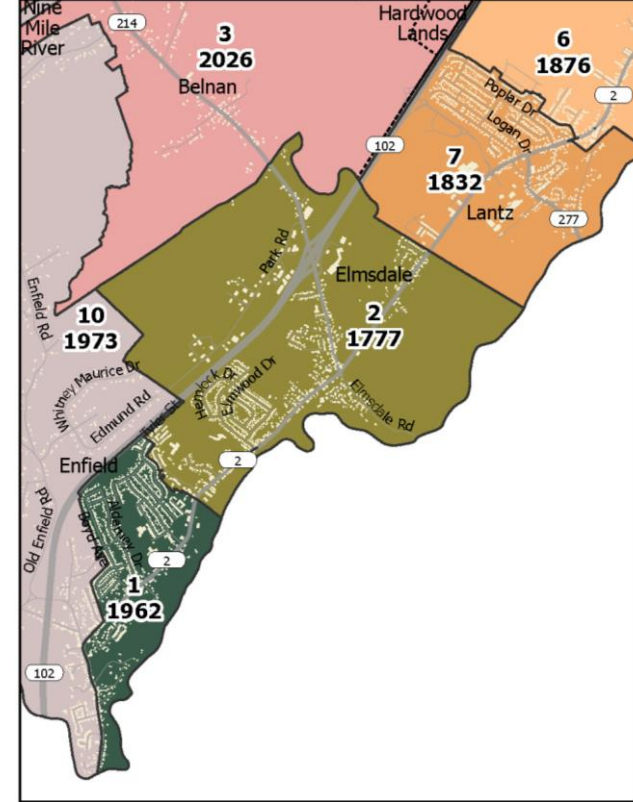
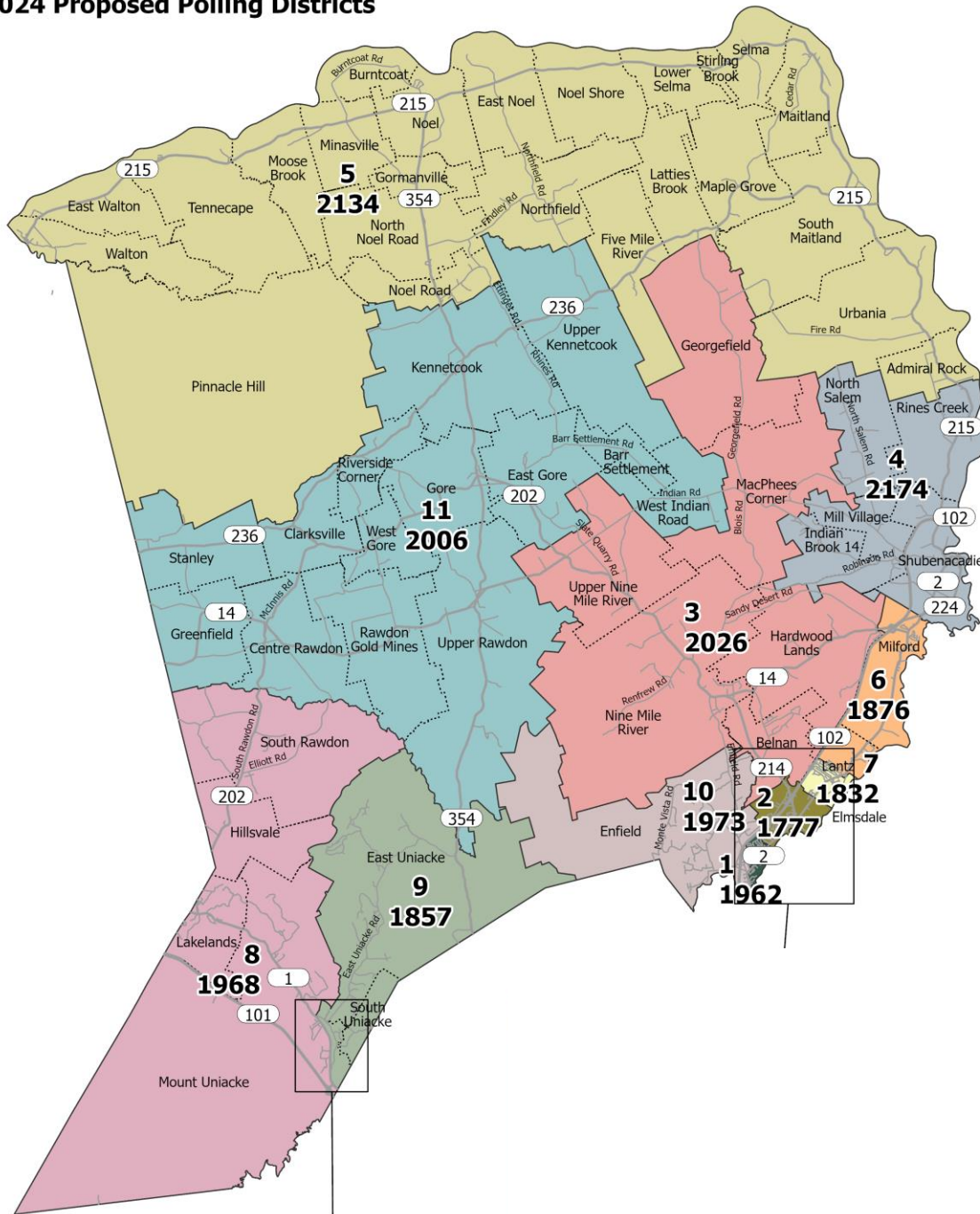
## Projected Voter Parity (October 2024)

Polling District	Electors	Variance	Variance %
1 Enfield	2595	+633	+32.3%
2 Elmsdale-Belnan	1968	+6	+0.3%
3 Milford-Nine Mile River	1900	-62	-3.2%
4 Shubenacadie	2002	+40	+2.0%
5 Maitland-MacPhee's Corner	1579	-383	-19.5%
6 Walton-Noel-Kennetcook	1417	-545	-27.8%
7 Lantz-Milford	3047	+1085	+55.3%
8 Mount Uniacke	1723	-239	-12.2%
9 South-East Uniacke	1760	-202	-10.3%
10 Enfield-Grand Lake	1800	-162	-8.3%
11 Rawdon-Gore	1793	-169	-8.6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	21584		
<b>AVERAGE</b>	1962		

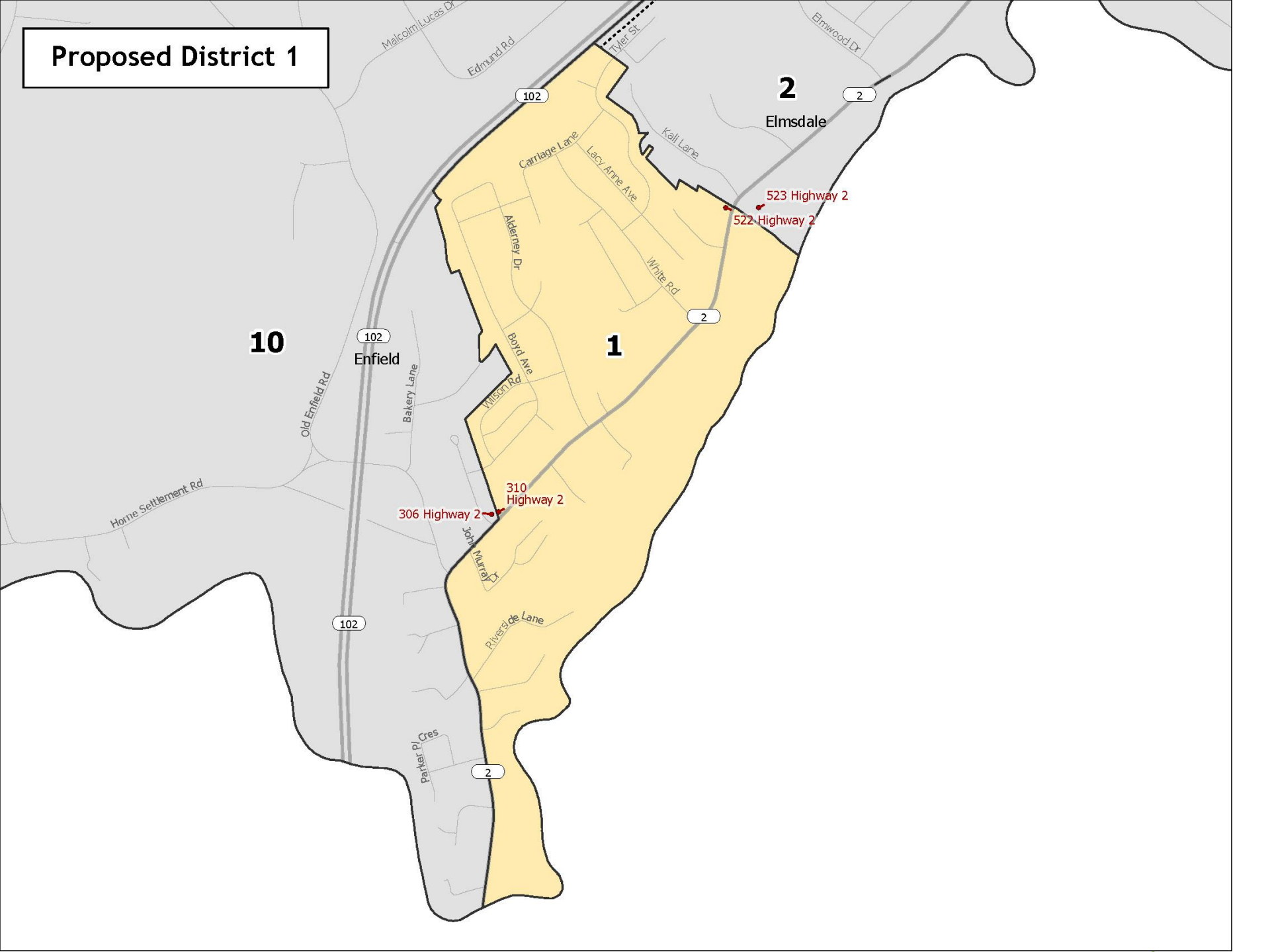
## Considerations for Draft District Boundaries

- Changes to district boundaries should respect voter parity, community of interest and be logical geographical entities.
- The NSUARB guidance is that each district should be within +/- 10% of the average. In extraordinary circumstances the Board may allow up to a +/- 25% variance.

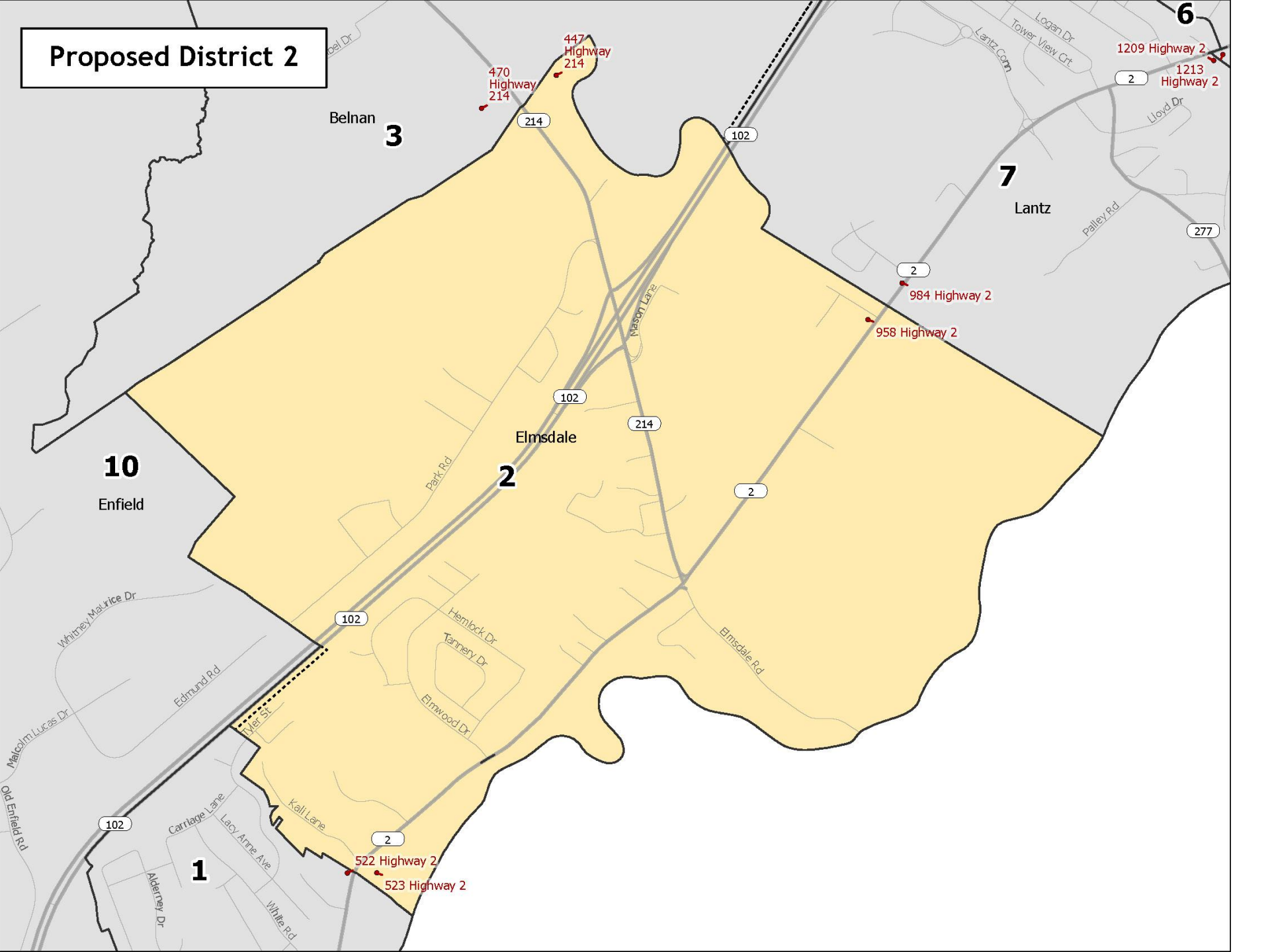
# 2024 Proposed Polling Districts



# Proposed District 1

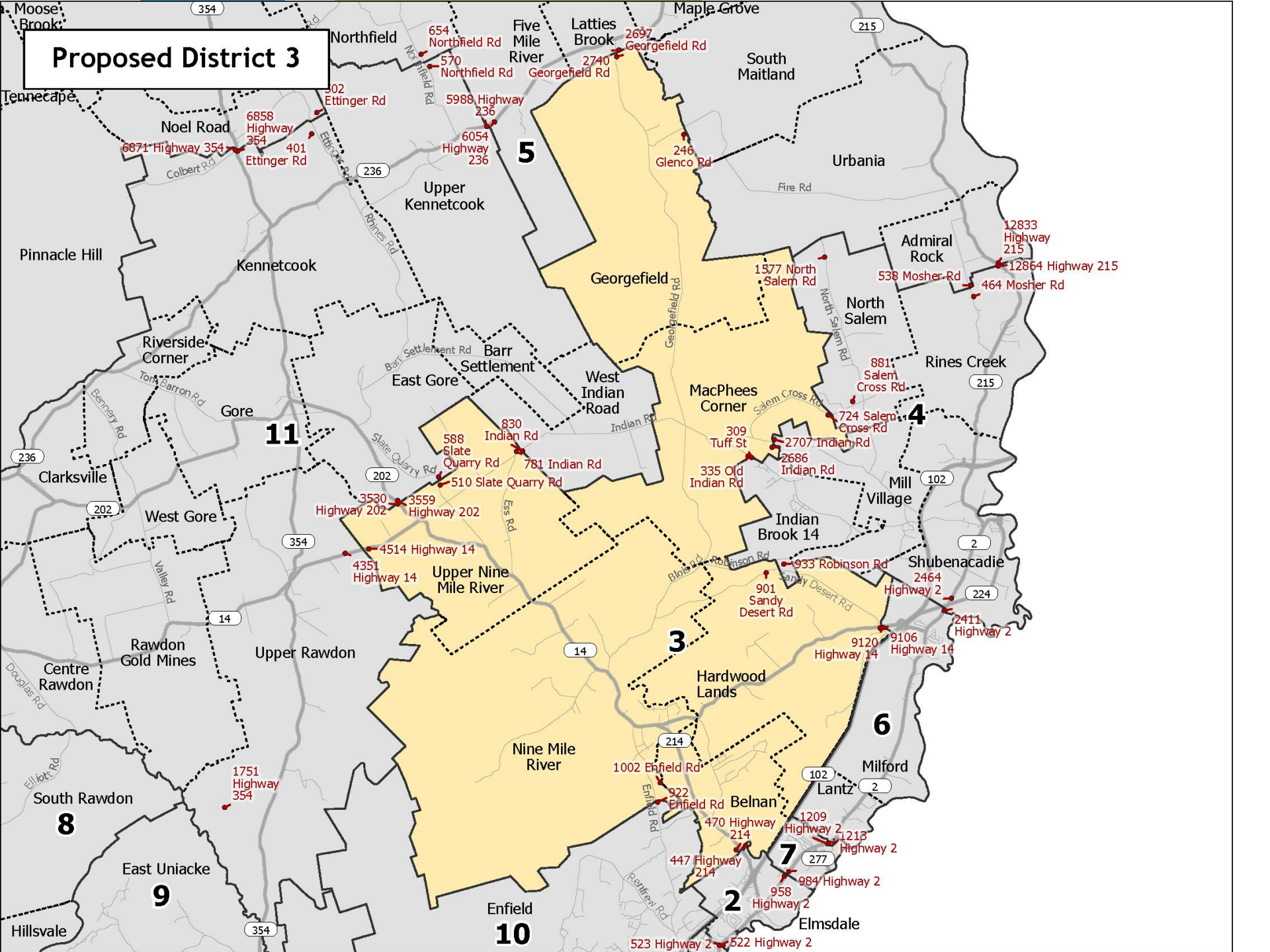


# Proposed District 2

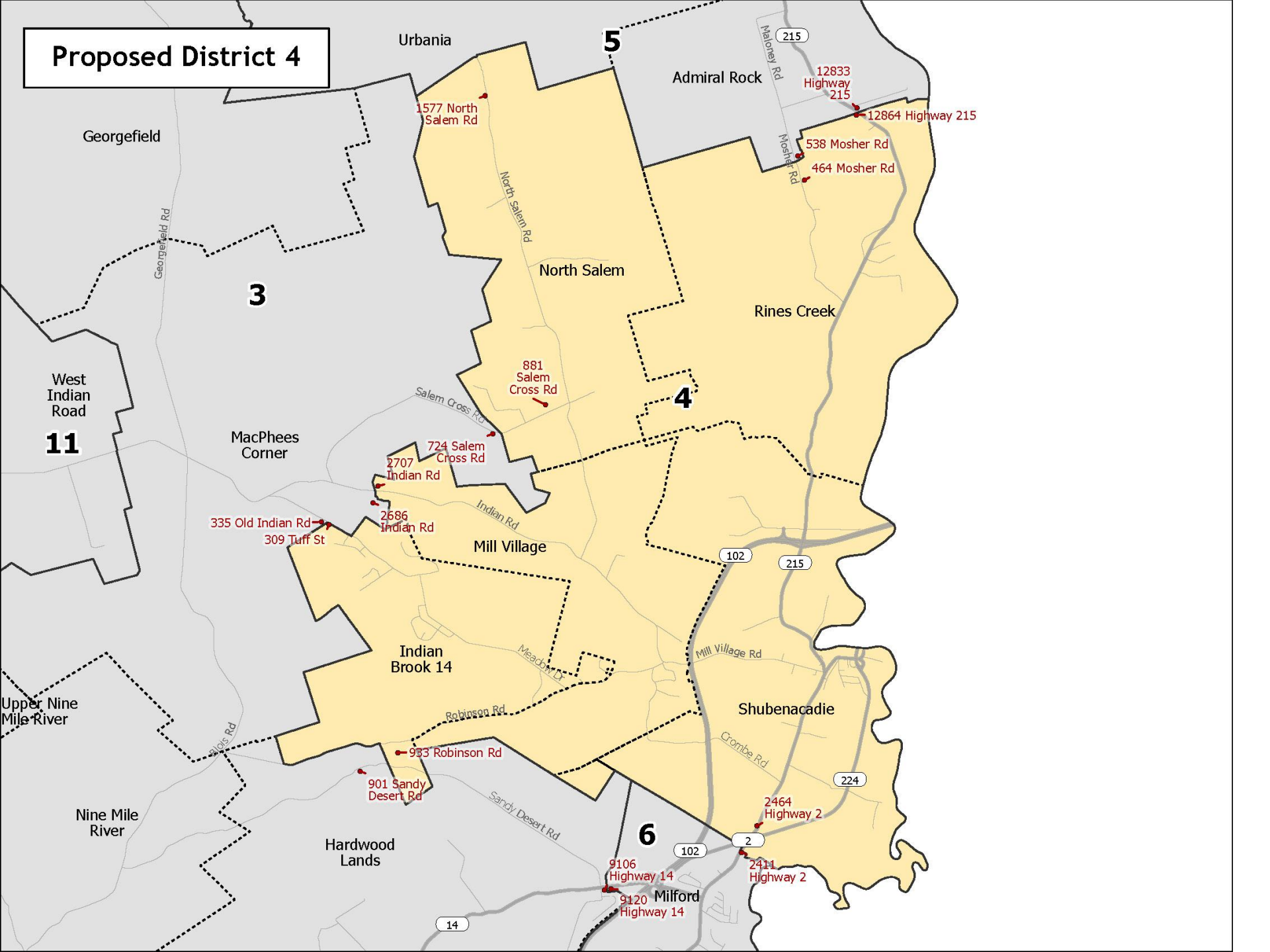




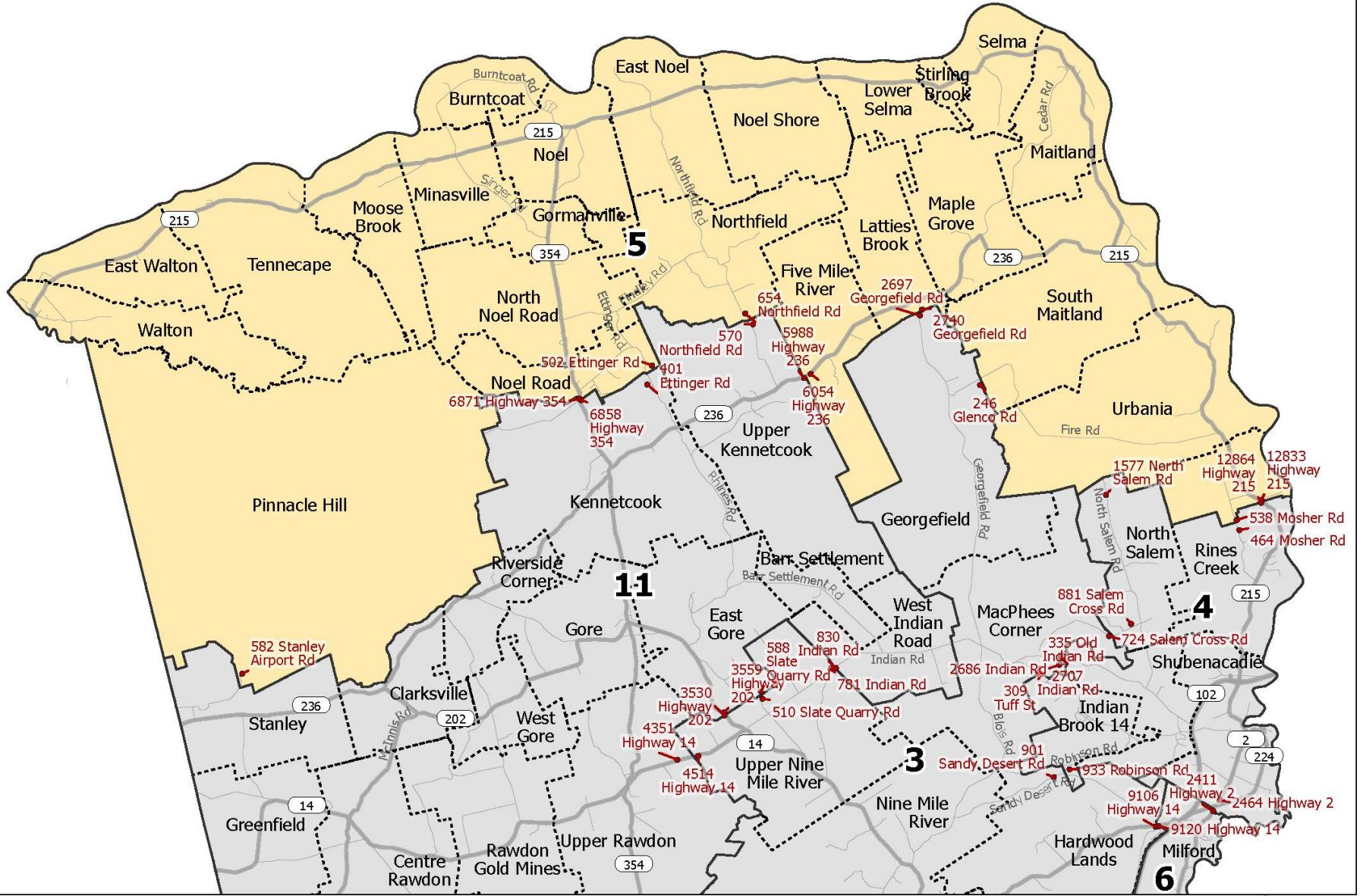
# Proposed District 3



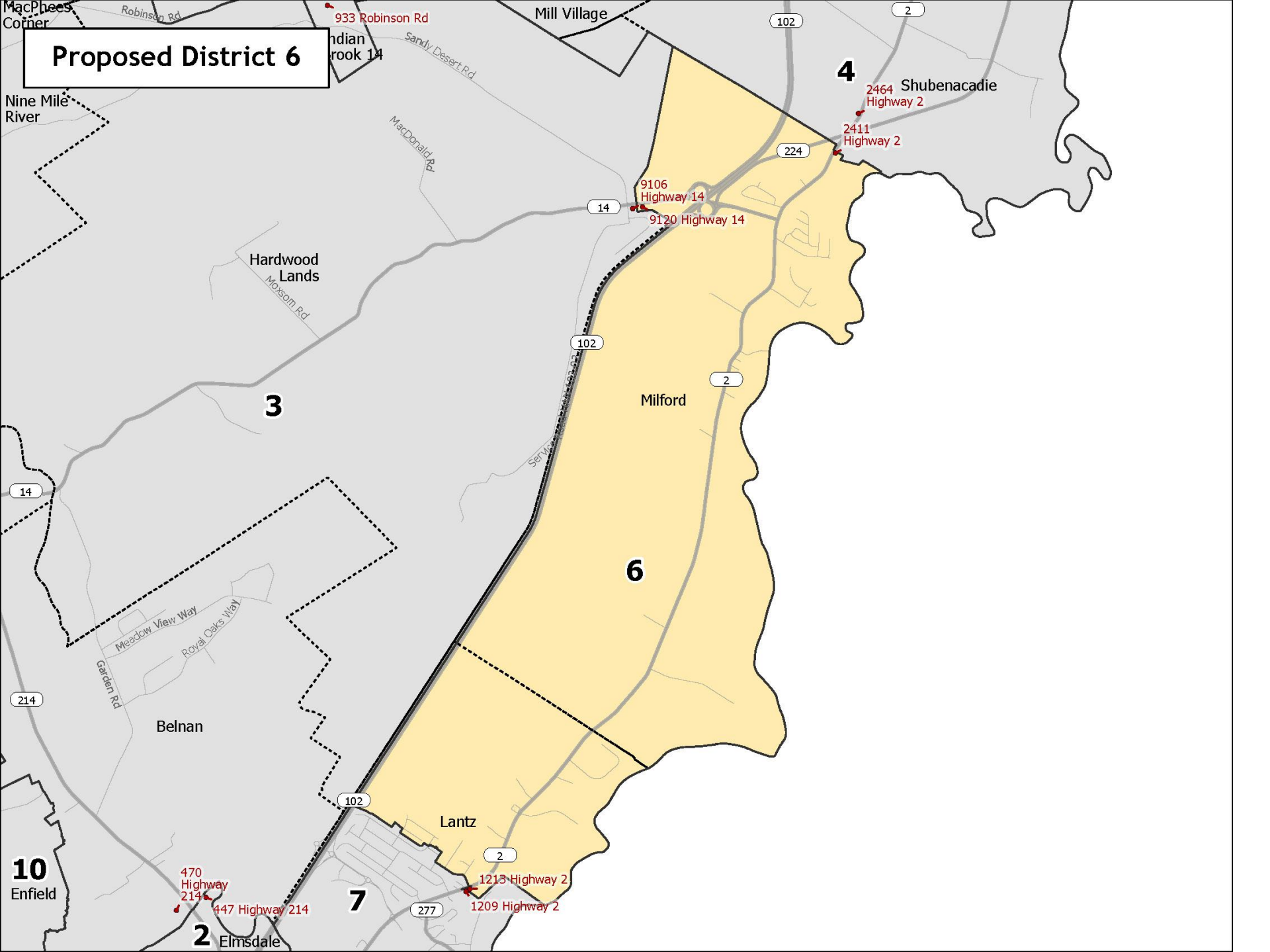
# Proposed District 4



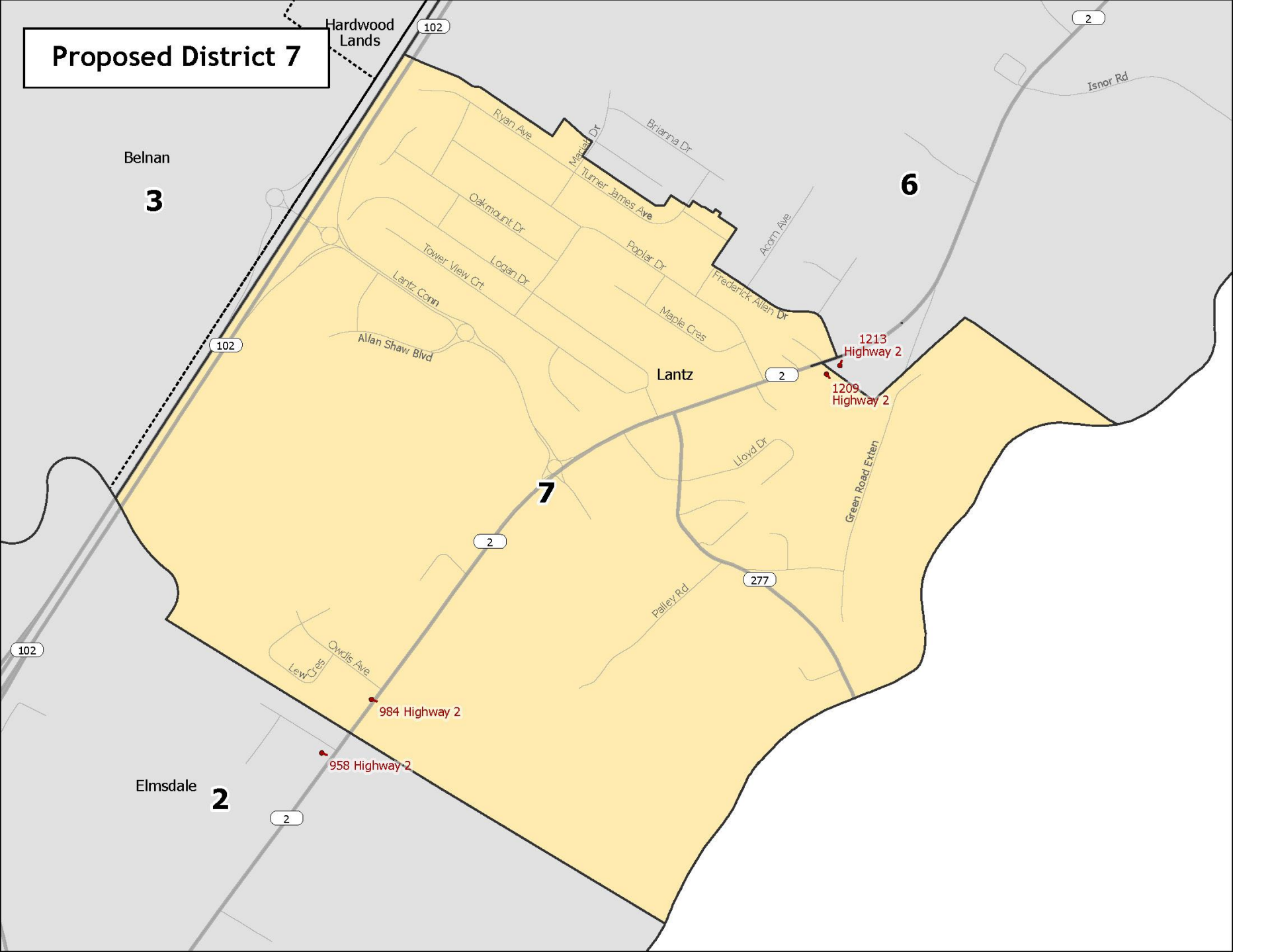
# Proposed District 5



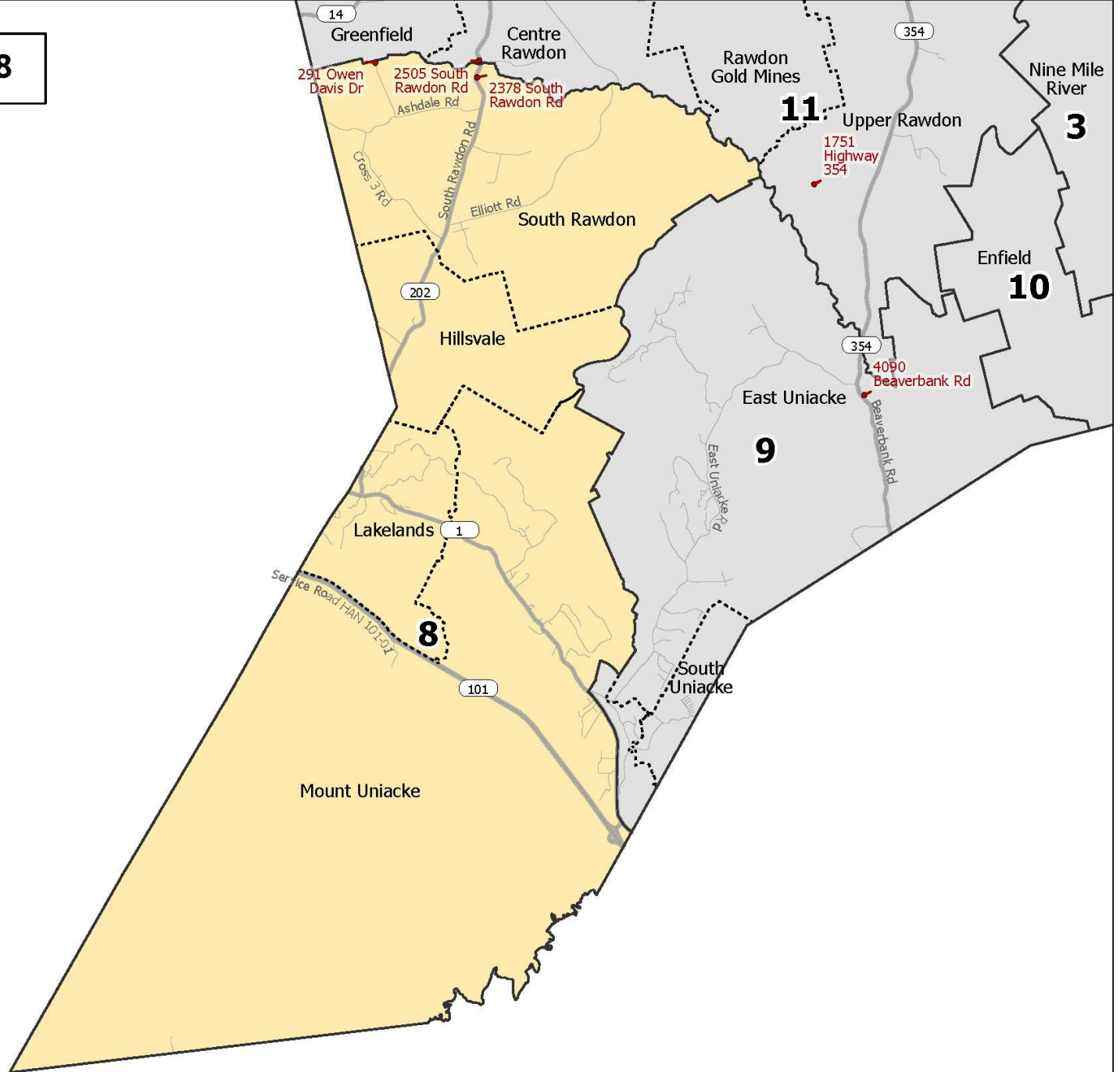
# Proposed District 6



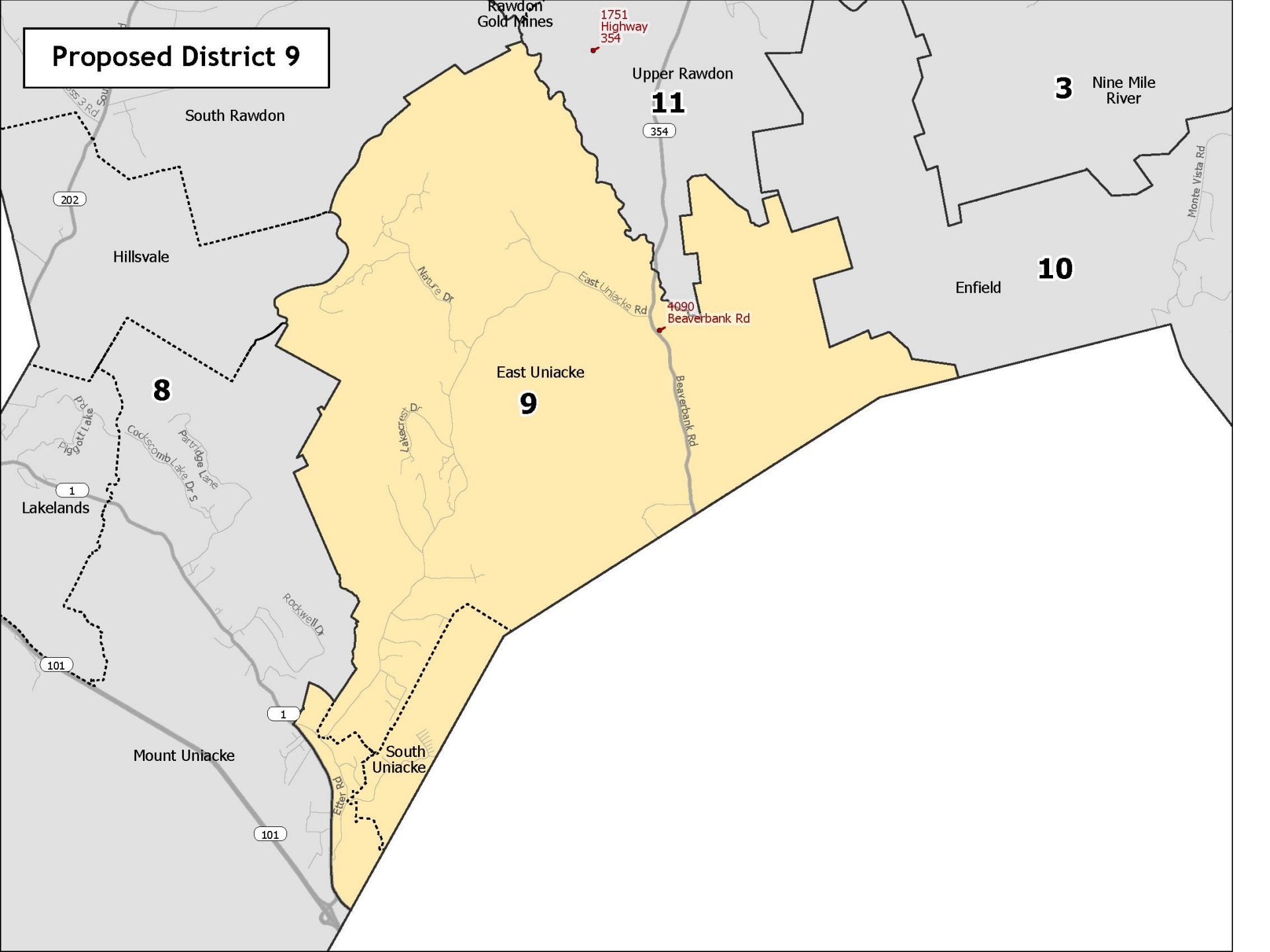
# Proposed District 7



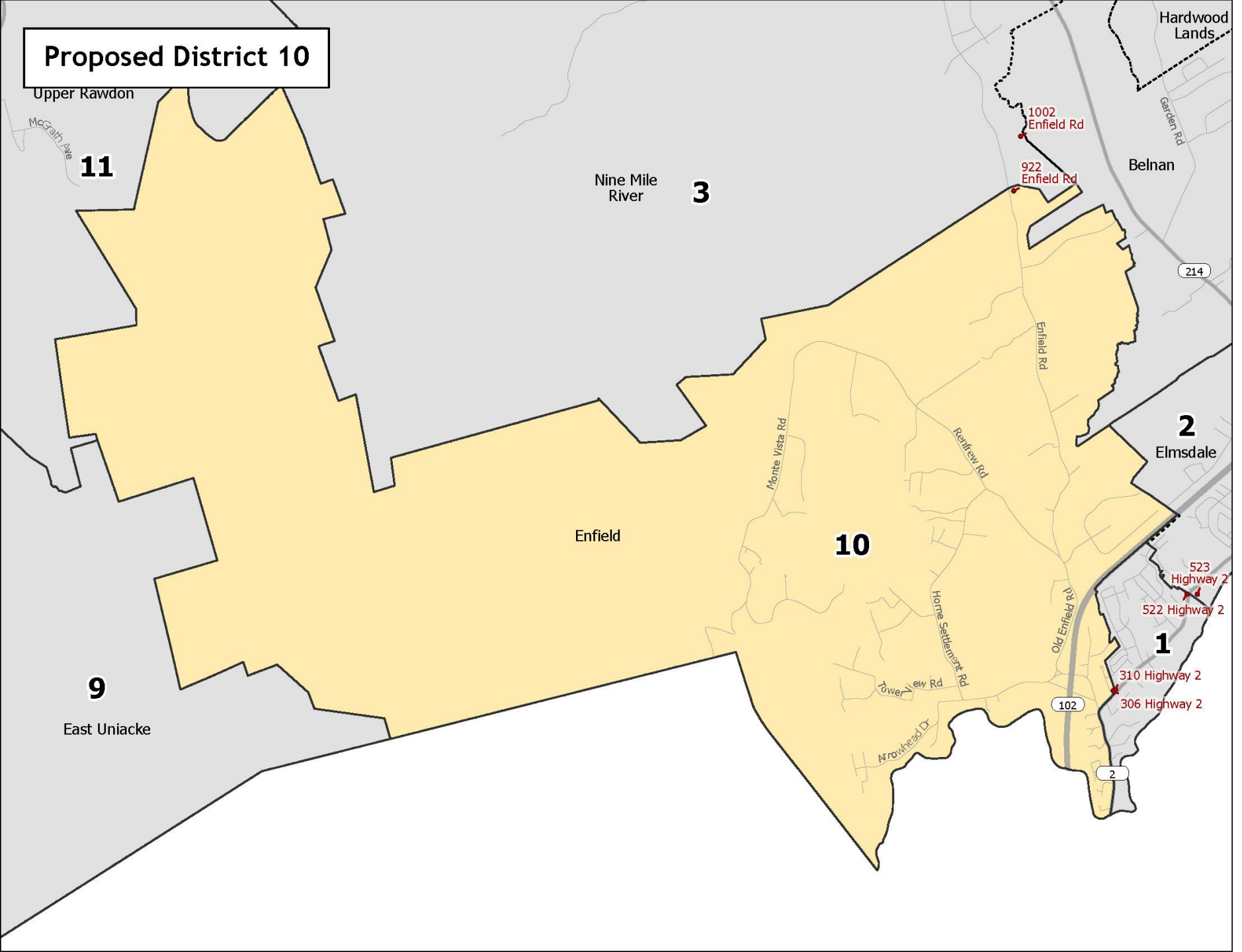
# Proposed District 8



# Proposed District 9



# Proposed District 10



Upper Rawdon

McGath Ave

**11**

Nine Mile River

**3**

1002 Enfield Rd

922 Enfield Rd

Belnan

214

**2**

Elmsdale

Enfield

**10**

Monte Vista Rd

Reservoir Rd

Old Enfield Rd

Home Settlement Rd

Tower View Rd

Arrowhead Dr

523 Highway 2

522 Highway 2

**1**

310 Highway 2

306 Highway 2

102

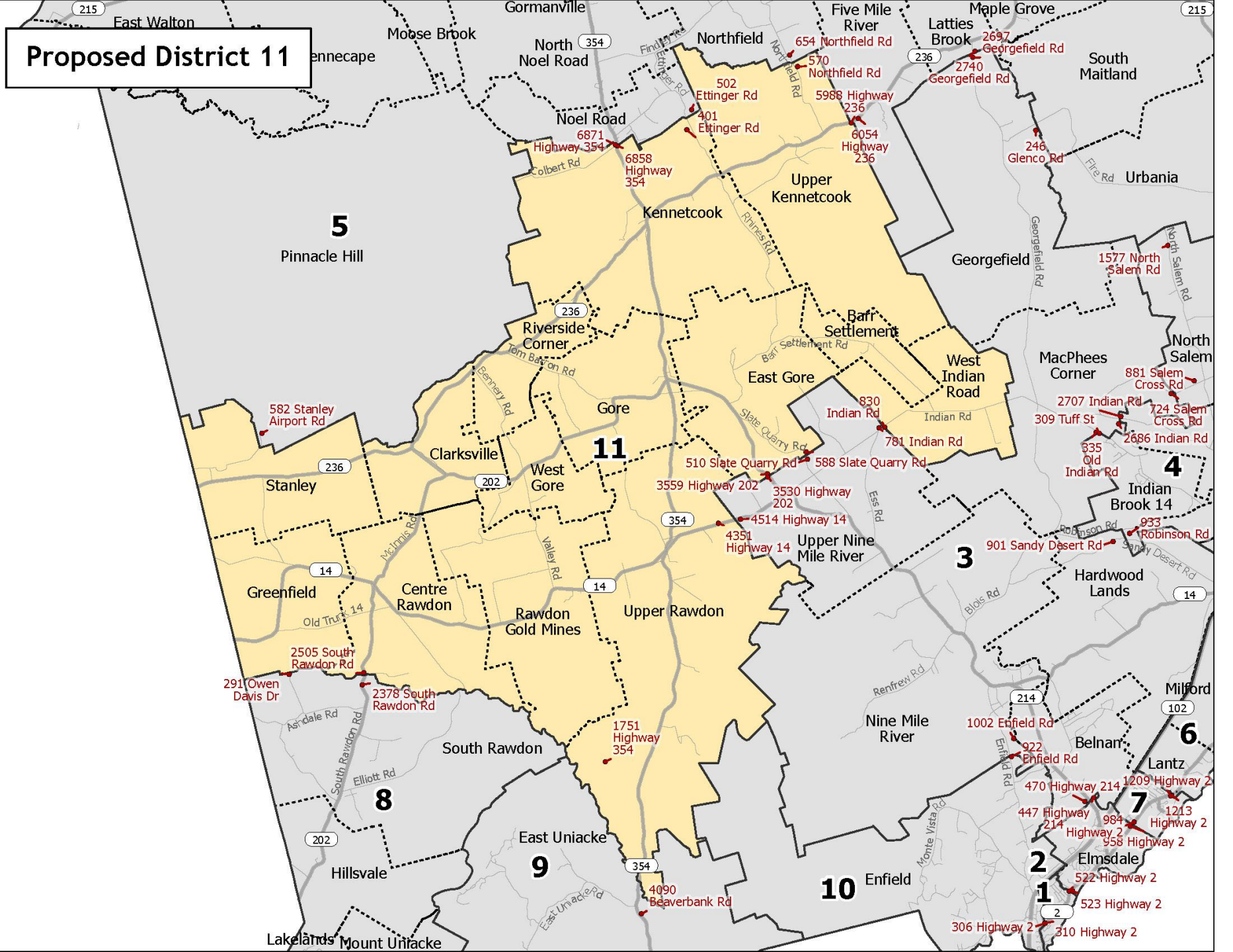
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**9**

East Uniacke



# Proposed District 11



## Option Fb - Preferred Option

Polling District	Electors	Variance	Variance %
1 Enfield Centre	1962	0	0
2 Elmsdale	1777	-185	-9.4%
3 Nine Mile River-Belnan	2026	+64	+3.3%
4 Shubenacadie-Indian Brook	2174	+212	+10.8%
5 Maitland-Noel Shore	2134	+172	+8.8%
6 North Lantz-Milford	1876	-86	-4.4%
7 South Lantz	1832	-130	-6.6%
8 Mount Uniacke-South Rawdon	1968	+6	+0.3%
9 South Uniacke	2094	+53	+2.7%
10 Enfield-Grand Lake	1973	+11	+0.6%
11 Rawdon-Kennetcook	2006	+44	+2.2%
<b>TOTAL</b>	21584		
<b>AVERAGE</b>	1962		

## Option Fb - Preferred Option

- The preferred option, results in 10 districts falling within the +/- 10% guidance.
- District 4 would fall just above the +/- 10% guidance at 10.8%.
- Staff believe that this variance is justifiable.
  - ❑ In previous decisions, the NSUARB has mandated that the community of Indian Brook not be divided between polling districts.
  - ❑ The Board has also previously mandated that the communities of Shubenacadie, Indian Brook and North Salem be kept together in one district.
- This option minimizes the number of communities divided between districts.
- Council workshop participants were generally in agreement that communities are grouped logically and respect community of interest.

## Phase 2 Public Consultation

- To garner public opinion on the proposed district boundaries, 3 community meetings were held in Kennetcook, Mt. Uniacke and Elmsdale in January 2023.
- The meetings were advertised in the Chronicle Herald, the municipal website and social media.
- The meetings were sparsely attended. However, the Kennetcook meeting attracted 17 members of the public who were generally concerned about the loss of Hants North representation on Council.
- Meeting notes from the meetings are appended to the staff report for Council to review.

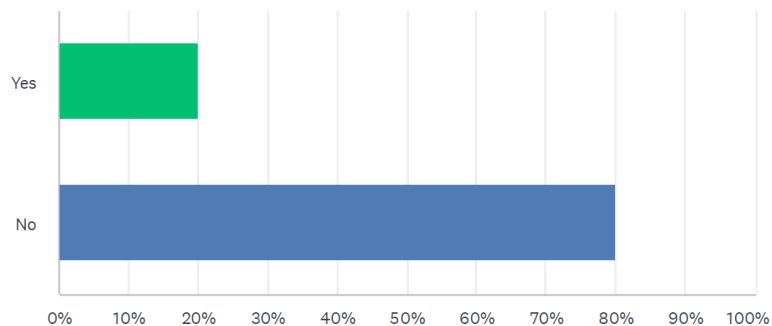
## Phase 2 Public Consultation

- A second on-line survey was also conducted from December 2022 to the end of January 2023 with the following results:
- 20 responses were submitted

Responses from	
Corridor	4
Mt. Uniacke	1
Rural/North	15

Q3 Looking at the existing polling districts and the proposed changes shown on the maps below, are you in favour of the changes?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 0



# Jurisdictional Scan

At one of the January public meetings, a question was raised regarding how rigorously other municipalities are adhering to the +/- 10% guidance. As a result, staff found the following:

Municipality	Largest variation	Rationale
Guysborough District	+12.8% (one district with a historic African Nova Scotian Community was left out of the avg as the board allowed it to have a -57.1% variation)	To better represent former Town of Canso
Queens RM	+20.89% (not yet approved)	Realigning districts to provide more cohesive representation for former Town of Liverpool
Colchester County	Within +/- 10% (review not yet completed)	
Halifax RM	-23.9% (not yet approved)	Community of interest, very large rural district (1829 km <sup>2</sup> vs 647 km <sup>2</sup> in EH) and Fall River expected to grow to add voters
Pictou County	-13.25% (not yet approved)	None provided
Chester District	+13.2% (not yet approved)	Did not want to divide community of Simms Settlement
Kings County	+5.8% (not yet approved)	
West Hants District	-12.5%	Approved as part of 2019 amalgamation decision

## Conclusion

- Phase I consultation was completed in May regarding the size of Council. Following that phase, it was decided to keep the size of Council at 11.
- Council then held two workshops in October to work through various 11 district scenarios and emerged with a preferred option.
- Phase II public consultation, regarding the district boundaries, was completed in January.
- The feedback largely reflects dissatisfaction in the rural/north part of the municipality with losing representation. This dissatisfaction appears to be amplified by concerns about the current plan update project underway.
- However, the actual number of citizens who participated in the 3 meetings and on-line poll was very low.
- CRS should now be in a position to make a recommendation to Council.
- Following a Council decision, Staff will prepare a submission to the NSUARB, which is due by the end of April 2023.

## Recommendation

That Staff be directed to prepare a submission to the NSUARB using the preferred 11 district option

## Recommended Motion

*The Corporate and Residential Services Committee recommends to Council that Council authorize staff to prepare a submission to the NSUARB requesting that the size of Council be set at 11 and that district boundaries follow the preferred option (Fb)*