Memorandum

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From: Rodas Bekele
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Date: March 6, 2024

Re: Haverford Township Redistricting

As Haverford Township experiences demographic shifts and evolving community needs, it is imperative to reassess the Township's electoral boundaries to ensure equitable representation and compliance with legal mandates. This memorandum presents a comprehensive proposal for facilitating the redistricting of Haverford Township, focusing on key considerations, data analysis, and proposed redistricting approaches. By engaging in this redistricting process, Haverford Township can uphold democratic principles, safeguard voting rights, and foster social cohesion within the Township.

Considerations for Redistricting

During the redistricting process, there are several key factors that need to be considered to ensure fairness, equity and compliance with legal standards. These considerations are outlined below.

1. **One Person, One Vote Principle:** The US Constitution mandates that local governments with significant governmental functions should adhere to the principle of equal representation, ensuring that elected bodies are drawn from districts of substantially equal populations.

2. Voting Rights Act Enforcement: The Voting Rights Act, specifically Section 2, prohibits practices that inhibit the right to vote based on race, color, or membership in a language minority group. A race-based analysis on the census block level is necessary to ensure compliance. The voting rights act overrides the equal population principle.
3. Population Deviation Limit: No ward should deviate by more than 10 percent from the average population to uphold fairness and equity in representation. Deviations of more than 10 percent between the smallest and the largest district without a compelling reason may be considered constitutionally suspect.
4. Contiguous Territory: District boundaries must encompass contiguous territory to maintain logical and cohesive districts. This means that one should be able to travel from any point within the district without crossing its boundary.
5. Communities of Interest: Additional consideration is an assessment of Community of Interest (COI) – which is a group of people with shared concerns, interests, and characteristics. Communities in the same neighborhoods, physical landscapes, economic interests or with similar cultures, values and other characteristics should be considered in the redistricting. COIs do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates.

While the factors outlined above provide a foundation for redistricting, individual state or local governments may incorporate additional considerations such as measuring compactness of boundaries and others to further refine their redistricting plans.

Public Engagement

While CHPlanning will not initiate any public engagement efforts, the outlined considerations below can serve as a guide for the township's future engagement endeavors when seeking input from residents.

- As mentioned above, Community of Interest (COI), which may include communities in the same neighborhoods, sharing economic interests, or having similar cultural values should be preserved in the redistricting process. The COIs can be identified by engaging communities. The impact of the newly drawn boundaries on the COIs can be assessed and new boundaries that do not immensely impact COIs can be prioritized.

- Public Comment Period: A public comment period should be provided to communities to review draft maps and offer suggestions on redistricting to ensure inclusivity and transparency in the process.

Data Analysis

We utilize the following data sources.

- Demographic Data: to achieve roughly equal population distributions across districts, we rely on the US Census dataset specifically made for the redistricting process, Decennial Census dataset PL 94-171. This dataset has several demographic categories of which we will use total population, race, and voter age population data at the census block level.
- Local Election Results: to understand the voting patterns of the wards being redistricted, we utilize the most recent election results (2023 for Ward 3 and 2021 for Ward 4) of the Commissioner Haverford Township Electoral race.
- Political affiliation data at the Precinct level: in order to understand the impact the redistricting may have on voting outcomes, we use political affiliation data from Dave's Redistricting site, a website that houses several different datasets that can be used in the redistricting process. The site uses Election Composite data which, according to Dave's redistricting, is a mean of presidential, senatorial, gubernatorial election data to measure partisanship at the precinct level.

Ward Maps: Existing ward maps serve as a foundational reference point for the redistricting process.

Total Population

Haverford Township's nine wards exhibit varying degrees of deviation from the overall average ward population. Therefore, some room for improvement is available, based on the principle of roughly equal population distribution. Table 1, below, shows each of the wards' actual population distribution and each of the ward's deviation from the average population of 5,603.

Table 1. Total Population and Population Difference from the Average (2020) by Ward.

Ward	Population	Difference from Average	
		Count	Percent
1	5,699	96	1.7%
2	5,621	18	0.3%
3	5,239	-364	-6.5%
4	6,198	595	10.6%
5	5,404	-199	-3.6%
6	5,495	-108	-1.9%
7	5,473	-130	-2.3%
8	5,701	98	1.7%
9	5,600	-3	-0.1%
Average	5,603		

Source: Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data

Wards 4 and 3 have the highest deviation from the average population among all wards, at 10.6% and 6.5%, respectively. To reduce this deviation and align more closely with the principle of "one person, one vote," a reallocation of a portion of Ward 4's population to Ward 3 is proposed. This adjustment aims to reduce the variance from the population average while ensuring the continued contiguity of township wards. To understand the impact of redistricting, we analyze demographic data at the census block level, particularly examining blocks situated on the border between Wards 3 and 4, which we will refer to as candidate blocks. By strategically adjusting these blocks, we aim to maintain contiguous ward boundaries and prevent the creation of isolated ward segments during the redistricting process.

The Census blocks in Ward 4 at the boundary of Ward 3 (candidate blocks) are as outlined on the map below.
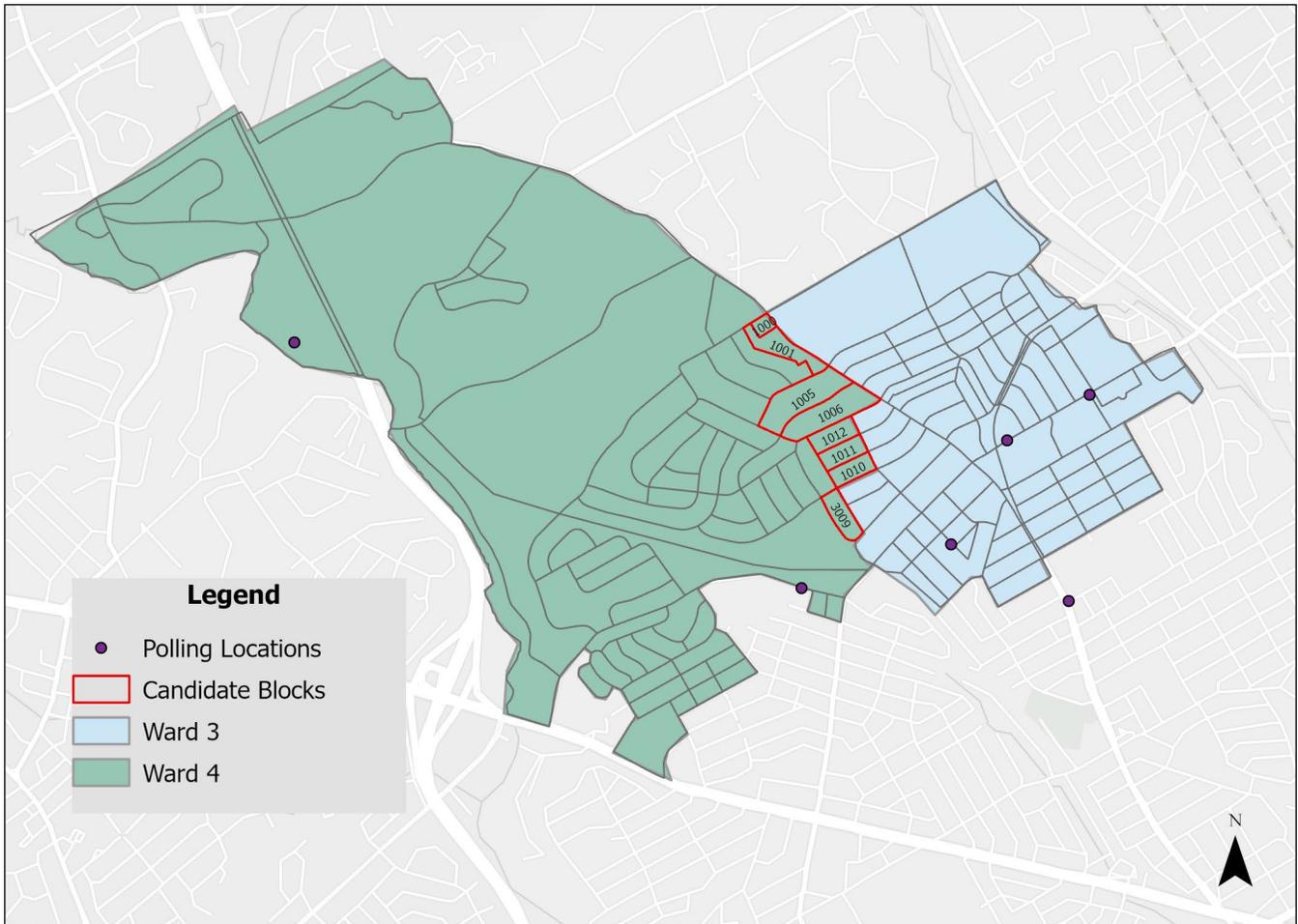
Figure 1: Candidate Blocks (highlighted in light Red) and Polling Locations.

The subsequent section will detail demographic information, encompassing total population, race, and total voting age population of the candidate census blocks. Subsequent sections will delve into the most recent ward commissioner election results and the general political affiliation of residents at the precinct level. These analyses aim to draw overarching conclusions regarding the potential impact of various redistricting approaches on population distribution, as further discussed in later sections.

Demographics

The demographic data presented below indicates that the majority of the populations residing in the candidate census blocks are white. Consequently, a race-based analysis (to adhere to the Voting rights act) at the census block is not necessary as the diversity within these census blocks is low.

Table 2. Blocks in Ward 4 bordering Ward 3

Block	White*	Black*	Asian*	Two or More Races*	Hispanic	Total Population	Voting Age Population
3009	76	2	0	0	4	82	62
1001	24	4	2	1	3	34	22
1012	58	1	3	3	4	69	65
1010	45	1	5	1	3	55	39
1011	59	0	0	1	2	62	47
1005	93	0	0	0	8	101	65
1000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1006	97	5	0	0	2	104	77

*Non-Hispanic

Source: Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data

Additionally, the data also reveals that, on average, more than half of the total population in these blocks are of voting age.

General Political Leanings

The table shows the political affiliation of Ward 3 and Ward 4 residents divided by the precinct.

Table 3: Wards 3 and 4 Political Affiliation

Ward	Precinct	Democratic Voters		Republican Voters		Other Voters	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
3	1	586	65.4	291	32.5%	19	2.1%
	2	413	62.2%	238	35.8%	13	2%
	3	518	61.6%	309	36.7%	14	1.7%
	4	522	64%	282	34.6%	11	1.3%
4	1	822	71.3%	323	28%	8	0.7%
	2	601	64.4%	316	33.9%	16	1.7%
	3	515	59.8%	331	38.4%	15	1.7%
	4	602	60.2%	384	38.4%	14	1.4%

Source: Dave's Redistricting

As depicted on the map, analysis at the precinct level reveals that the primary political affiliation in Wards 3 and 4 is aligned with the Democratic Party.

Local Election Results

We analyze the local commissioner election results and compare the results to general political affiliation at the precinct level. The following table (Table 4) show the votes each candidate for commissioner received in the ward 2023 election for Ward 3 and in the 2021 local elections for Ward 4.

Table 4: Wards 3 and 4 Commissioner Election Results by Precinct

Ward	Precinct	Democratic Candidates		Republican Candidates	
		Count	Percent	Count	Percent
3	1	374	70%	158	30%
	2	261	65%	138	35%
	3	341	66%	176	34%
	4	329	66%	166	34%
4	1	511	72%	195	28%
	2	350	64%	194	36%
	3	282	59%	197	41%
	4	357	58%	260	42%

Source: Delaware County Bureau of Elections

All the precincts in wards 3 and 4 had over half of their voters vote for the democratic candidate. Therefore, there is no need to redistribute based on party affiliation.

Polling Locations

To determine if any adjustments are necessary for polling locations, we examine the current placement of polling stations within the census blocks under review for redistricting. The specific locations and their alignment with Wards 3 and 4 are outlined below.

Table 5: Ward 3 and Ward 4 Polling Stations, Haverford Township

Ward	Precinct	Name	Address	Zip Code
3	1	Haverford Twp Middle School	1701 Darby Rd	19083
	2	American Legion Nunan-Slook	338 2200 Grasslyn Ave	19083
	3	Old Haverford Friends Meeting	235 E. Eagle Rd	19083
	4	Haverford School District Admin	50 East Eagle Rd	19083
4	1	Haverford Twp Community Center	9000 Parkview Dr	19041
	2	Lynnewood School	1400 Lawrence Rd	19083
	3	Lynnewood School	1400 Lawrence Rd	19083
	4	Haverford Twp Community Center	9000 Parkview Dr	19041

Source: Patch News, 2022

As shown in Figure 1, none of the polling locations for Ward 3 and Ward 4 are within the candidate blocks. Therefore, if the polling sites remain unchanged, the redistricting will not impact polling locations for future elections.

Approaches for Redistricting

Based on the information above, we can assume that a redistricting of any of the eight candidate census blocks at the border of Ward 3 and Ward 4 will not violate the voting rights act, will not have a substantial impact on election outcomes and will result in contiguous wards after the redrawing of boundaries. As mentioned above, final maps of the new boundaries should be made available for public

comment so there is a minimum to no impact on communities of interest in both wards.

To adhere to the equal population principle, we suggest the following three approaches to redistricting that will result in different deviations from the average population.

1. Adjust the deviation of Ward 4 to match the average deviation of all wards: The average deviation across the wards stands at 179 points or 3.1 % from the average population. Balancing Ward 4's population to this average requires relocating 416 individuals from Ward 4 to Ward 3. To achieve this adjustment, we propose moving all candidate census blocks except for Block 3009 to Ward 3, which would result in the relocation of 425 people. This redistribution would decrease Ward 4's deviation to 170 people from the average population, equivalent to a 3.03% deviation. Simultaneously, this adjustment would shift Ward 3's deviation to 61 people or 1.1% deviation.
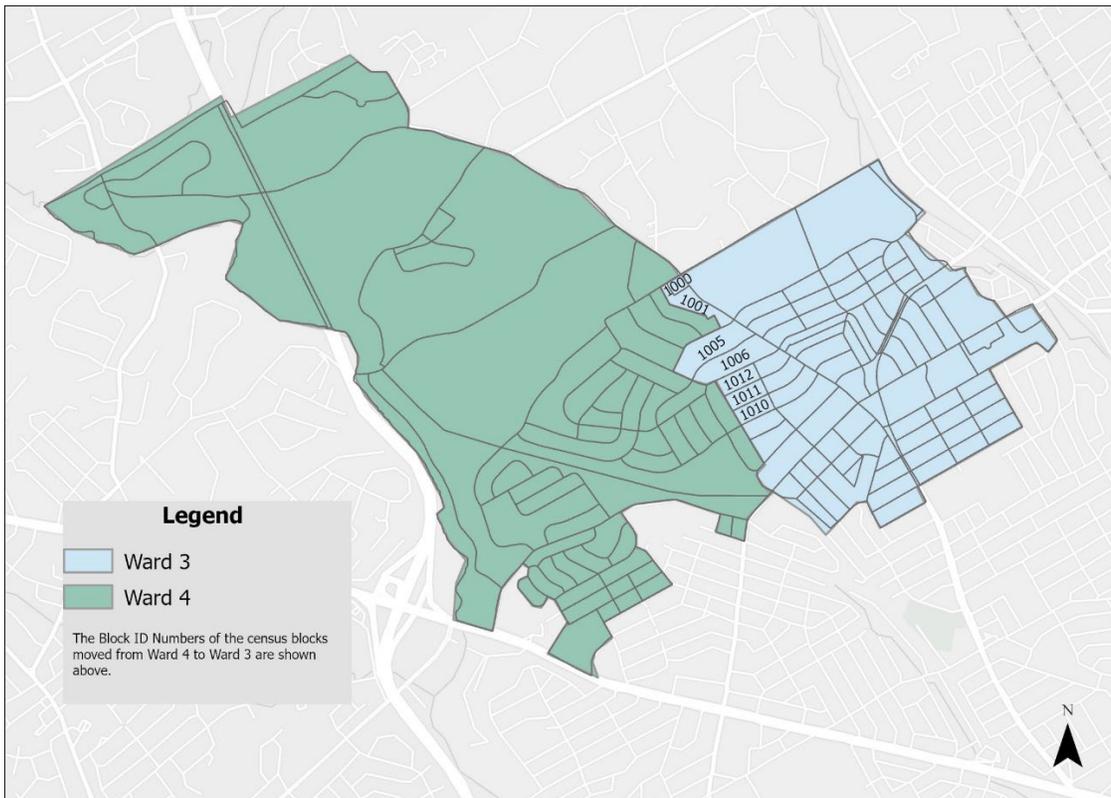
Figure 2: Proposal 1 for Redistricting

2. Equate the population of Ward 3 to the calculated average population of 5,603. This entails transferring 364 residents from Ward 4 to Ward 3. The closest approximation to this figure is achieved by relocating Blocks 1005, 1006, 1012, and 1011 to Ward 3, resulting in the transfer of 336 people. This adjustment will bring Ward 4's population to a deviation of 231 people or 4.3% from the average, while Ward 3's deviation will be -28 people or -0.5% deviation.
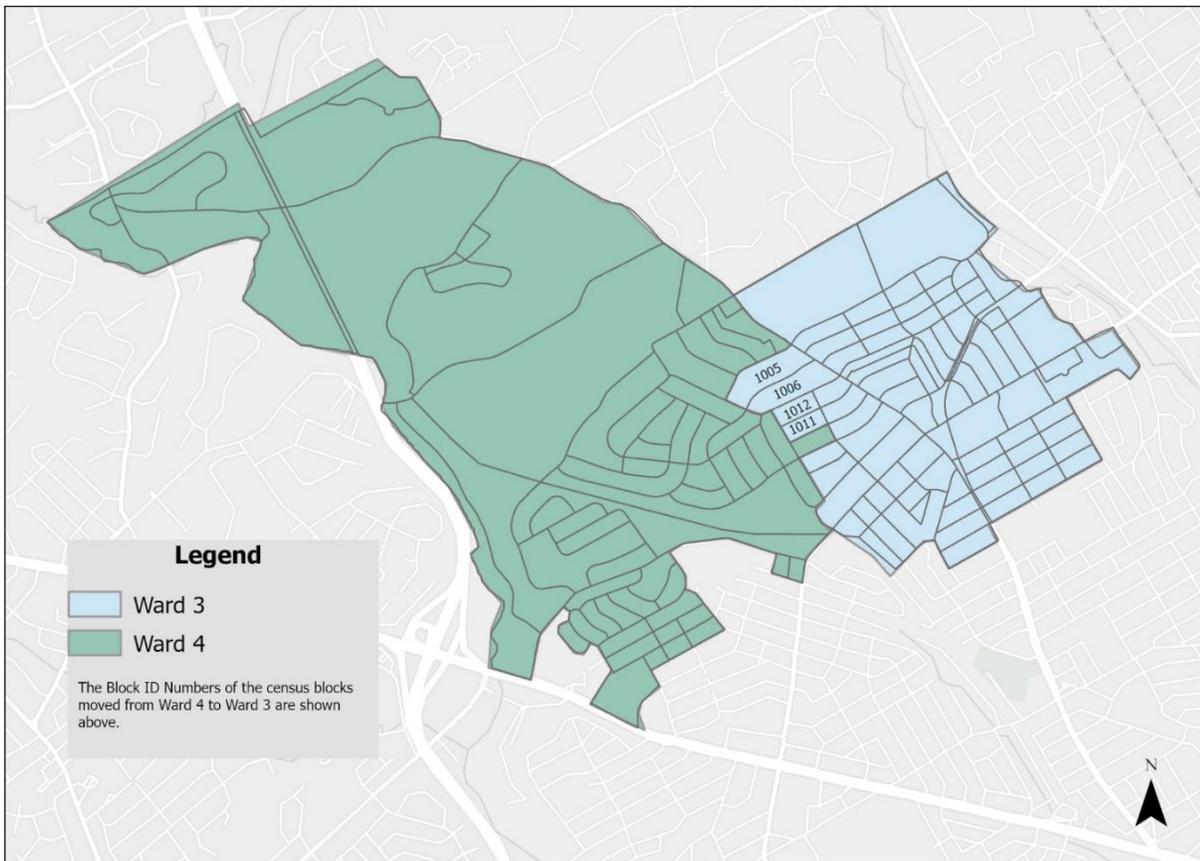
Figure 3: Proposal 2 for Redistricting

3. In accordance with the initial proposal of the Commissioners' Committee on Redistricting, redistribute 245 individuals from Ward 4 to Ward 3. The closest approximation to this figure would be achieved by moving Blocks 1000, 1001, 1005, and 1006, resulting in the transfer of 239 people from Ward 4 to Ward 3. This redistribution results in a deviation of 356 people for Ward 4, equivalent to 6.4%, and -125 people for Ward 3, or 2.23% deviation."
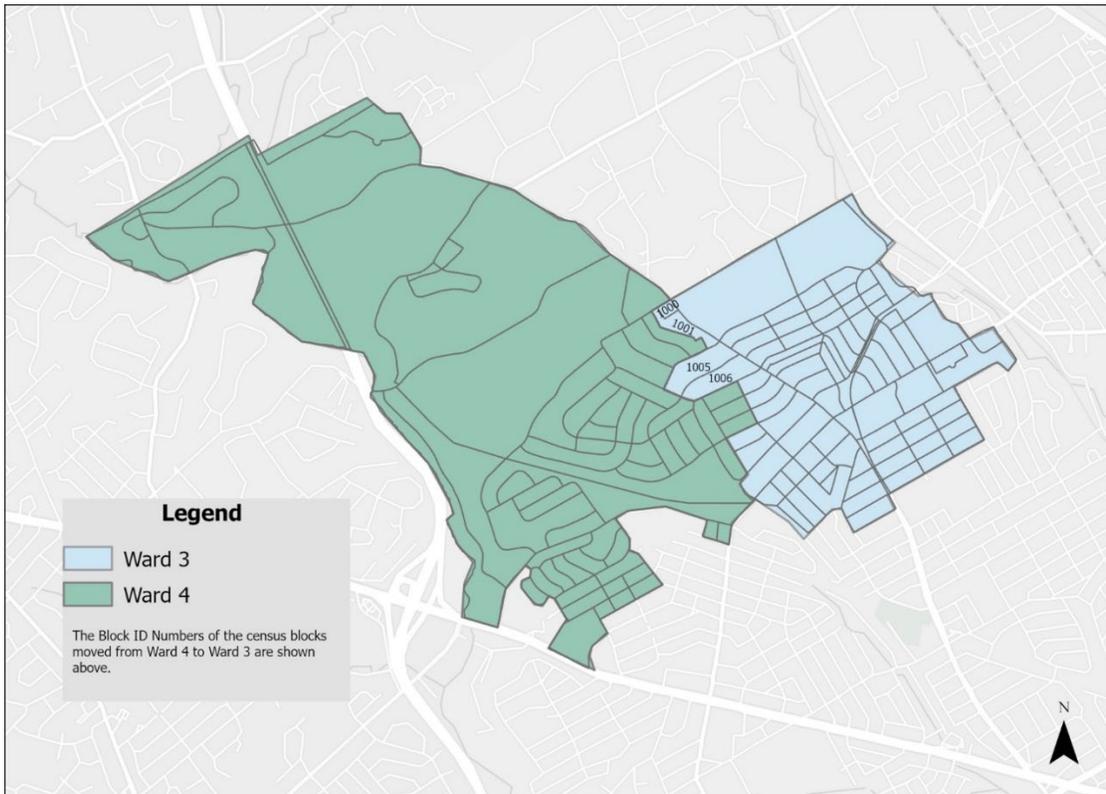
Figure 4: Proposal 3 for Redistricting

Recommendation

Based on our analysis, we can assume that any of the three approaches would not violate the voting rights act, will not have a substantial impact on election outcomes and will result in contiguous wards after the redrawing of boundaries. Determining the most suitable approach will rely on input from residents regarding any community assets not captured in the data that may be affected by the relocation of census blocks. However, with the objective of achieving the highest level of contiguity while minimizing population deviation across all wards, CHPlanning recommends Proposal 1, shown on Figure 2. This proposal would result in a 3.03% deviation for Ward 4 and a 1.1% deviation Ward 3.

Conclusion

CHPlanning has prepared this memorandum to outline a comprehensive proposal for the redistricting of Wards 3 and 4 in Haverford Township. Utilizing

demographic data sourced from the US Census, local election data from the Delaware County Bureau of Elections, and political affiliation data from Dave's Redistricting, we have crafted three distinct redistricting proposals. After careful consideration of principles such as equal representation, adherence to the Voting Rights Act, and the maintenance of contiguous territories, we recommended Map 1 as the preferred approach. This proposal strikes a balance between population deviation, territorial contiguity, and adherence to legal mandates.