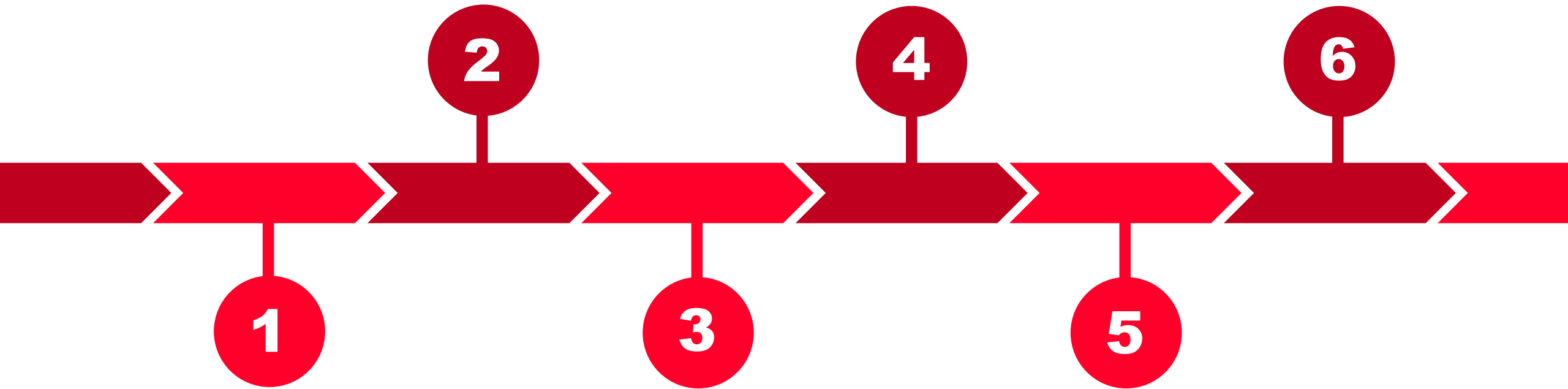


STEP BY STEP: Reviewing Redistricting

A guide to how Census data, municipal boundaries and State law impact redistricting

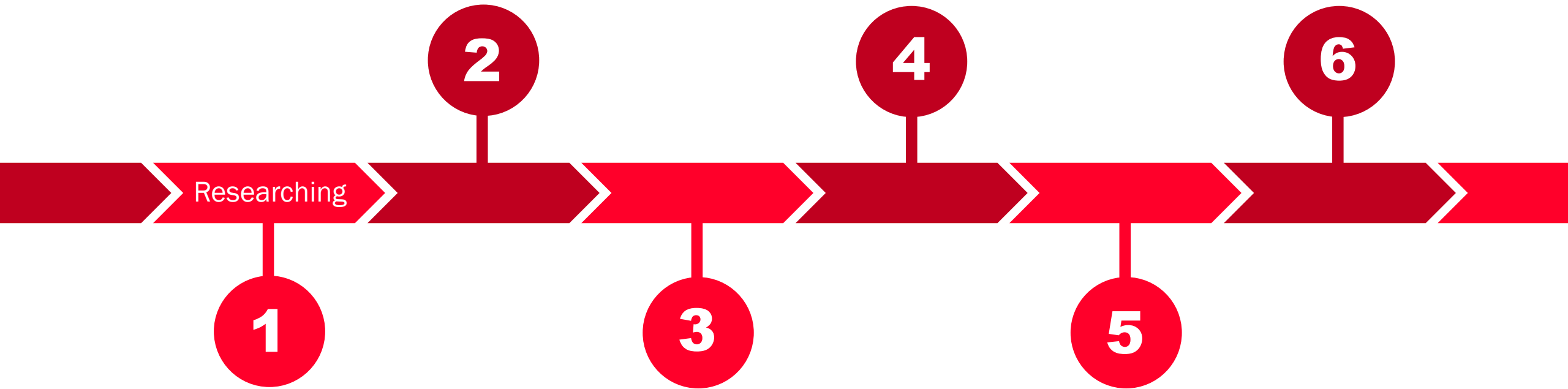


Prepared by the County Manager's Office and Real Property Tax Services

August 2022

Step 1 – Digging into U.S. Census data

State law requires that legislative districts encompass equal-size populations



The decennial (every 10 years) U.S. Census provides the population figures upon which the County redistricting process relies. These figures are a mix of actual Census responses and Census Bureau estimates.

2010 VS. 2020

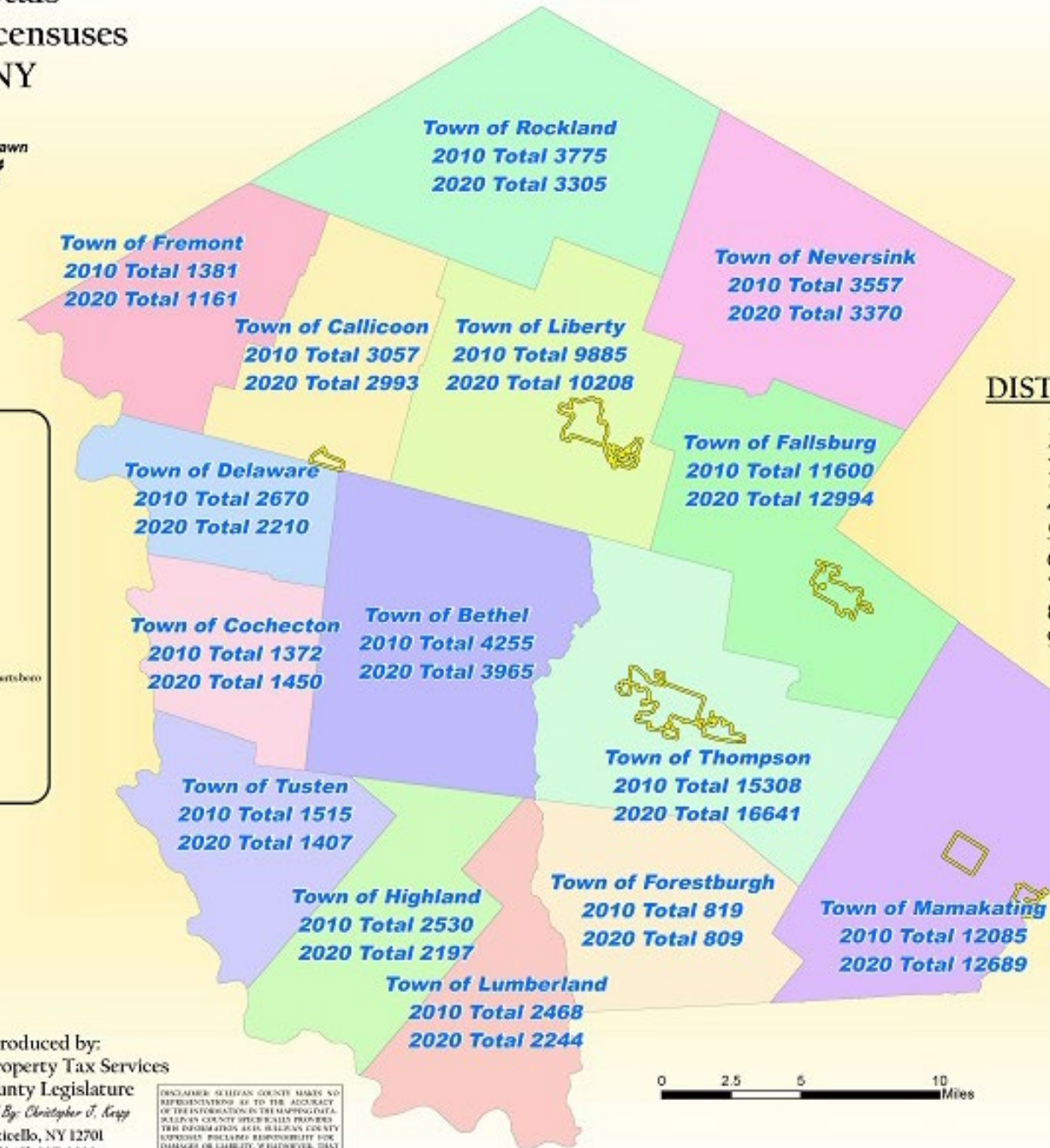
Generally speaking, our population (people claiming Sullivan County as their primary residence) increased in the most populous areas and decreased in the more rural regions.

Not everyone filled out a Census form. Thus the Census Bureau must estimate a certain amount of population in any given area. Estimates are derived from births, deaths, Federal tax returns, Medicare enrollment, and immigration.

Town Population Totals 2010 & 2020 decennial censuses Sullivan County, NY

Legislative District Boundaries are Drawn Pursuant to: Resolution No. 293-14 Adopting Local Law No. 3 of 2014 on July 17, 2014

Note: Population totals are adjusted to account for incarcerated individuals.



This map was produced by:
Sullivan County Real Property Tax Services
for the Sullivan County Legislature
DATE: 7/13/2022 Prepared By: Christopher J. Kepp
100 North Street, Monticello, NY 12701
(845) 807-0221 Fax: (845) 807-0232

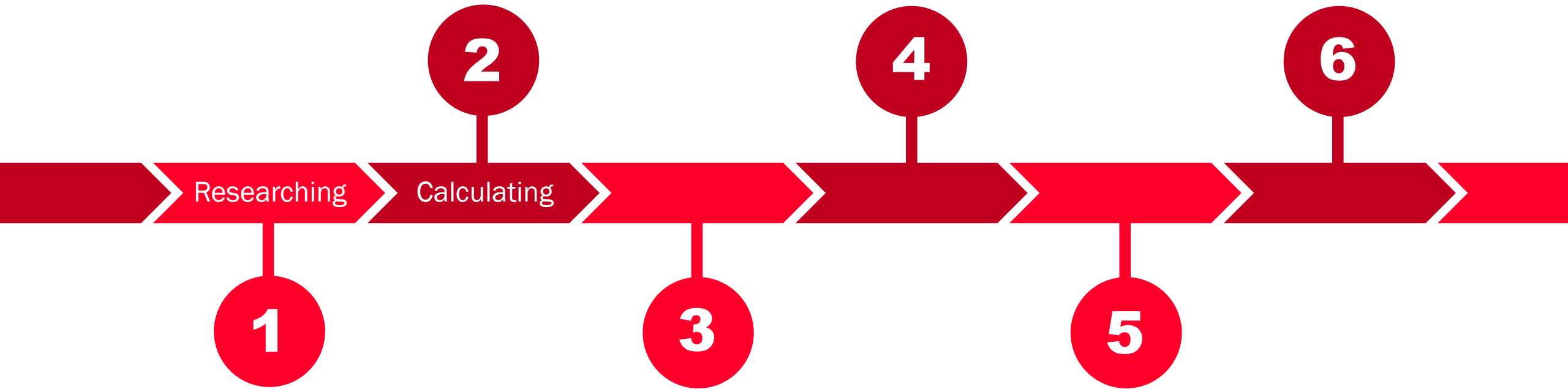


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Step 2 – Determining redistricting

Redistricting involves understanding the distribution of the population Countywide



Redistricting is not as simple as dividing the County's population by nine. Pockets of population – and the lack thereof – play a deterministic role in where district lines will be drawn.

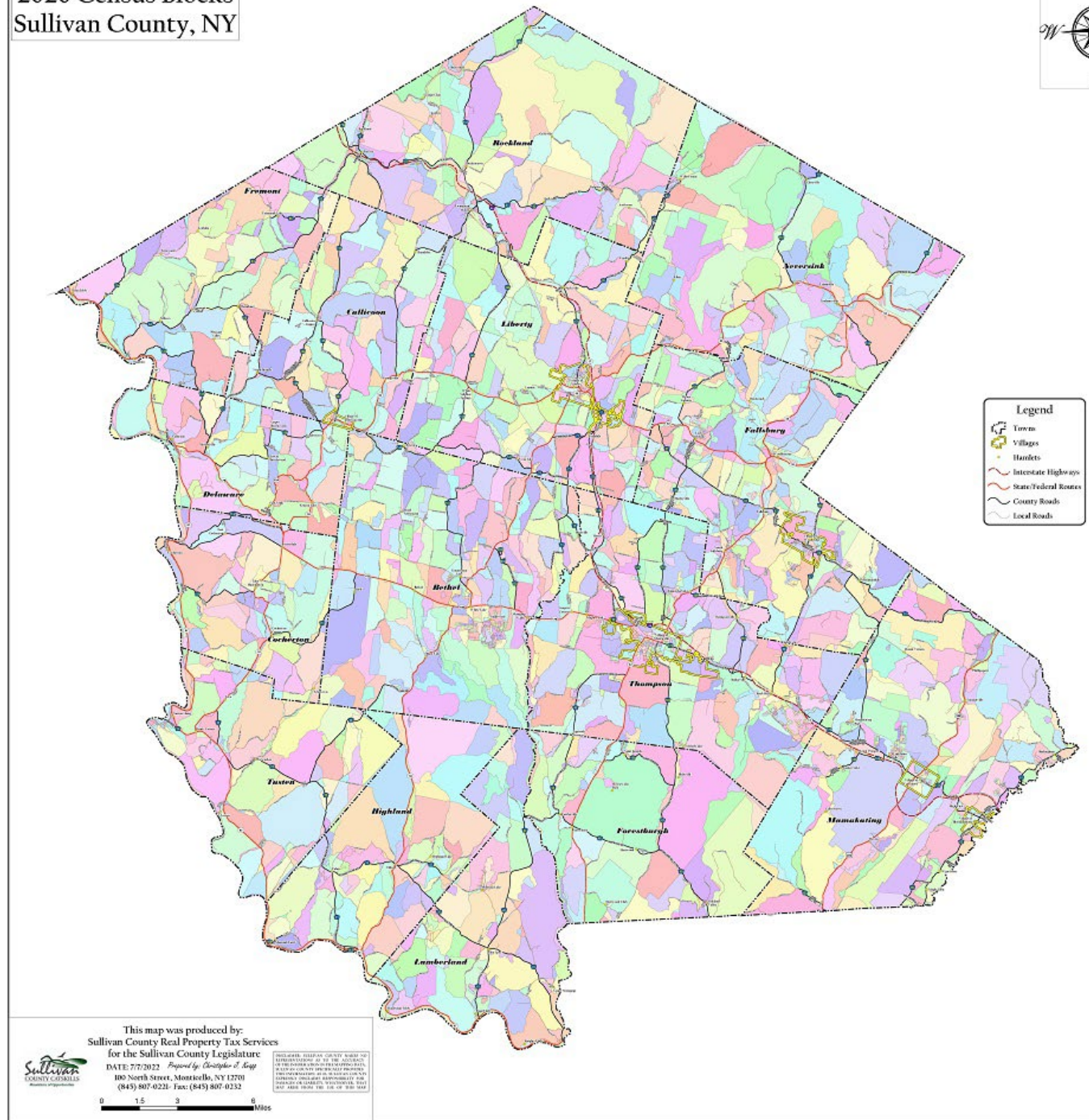


Census Blocks

As of 2020, there are nearly 3,700 Census “blocks” in Sullivan County. These are so-named because they are the building blocks of Census data.

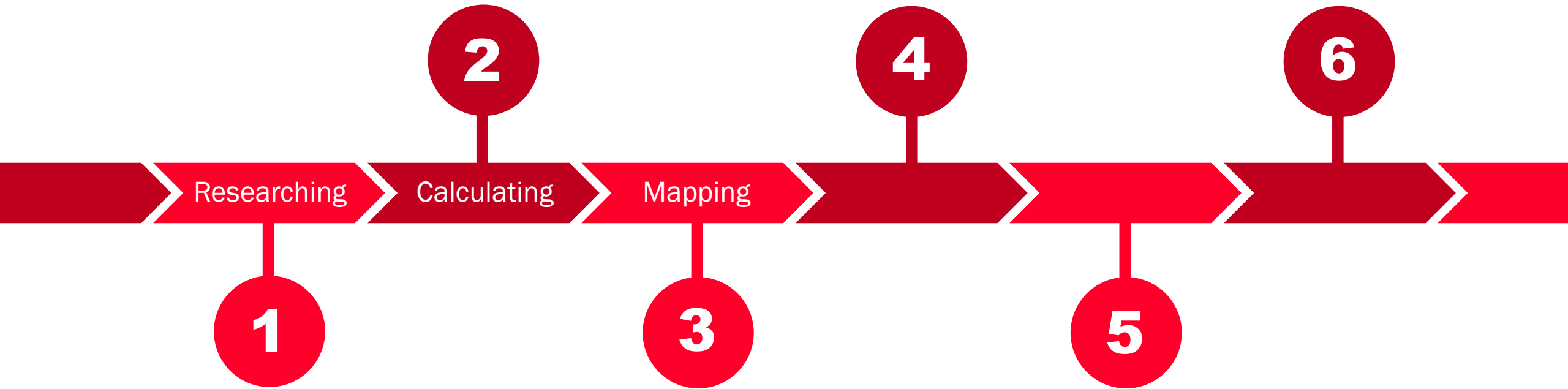
Blocks are statistical areas bounded by visible features such as roads, streams, and railroad tracks, and by nonvisible boundaries such as property lines and town, school district, and county limits.

Our independent consultant utilized these blocks as the smallest areas able to be considered in the redistricting process.



Step 3 – Drawing the new districts

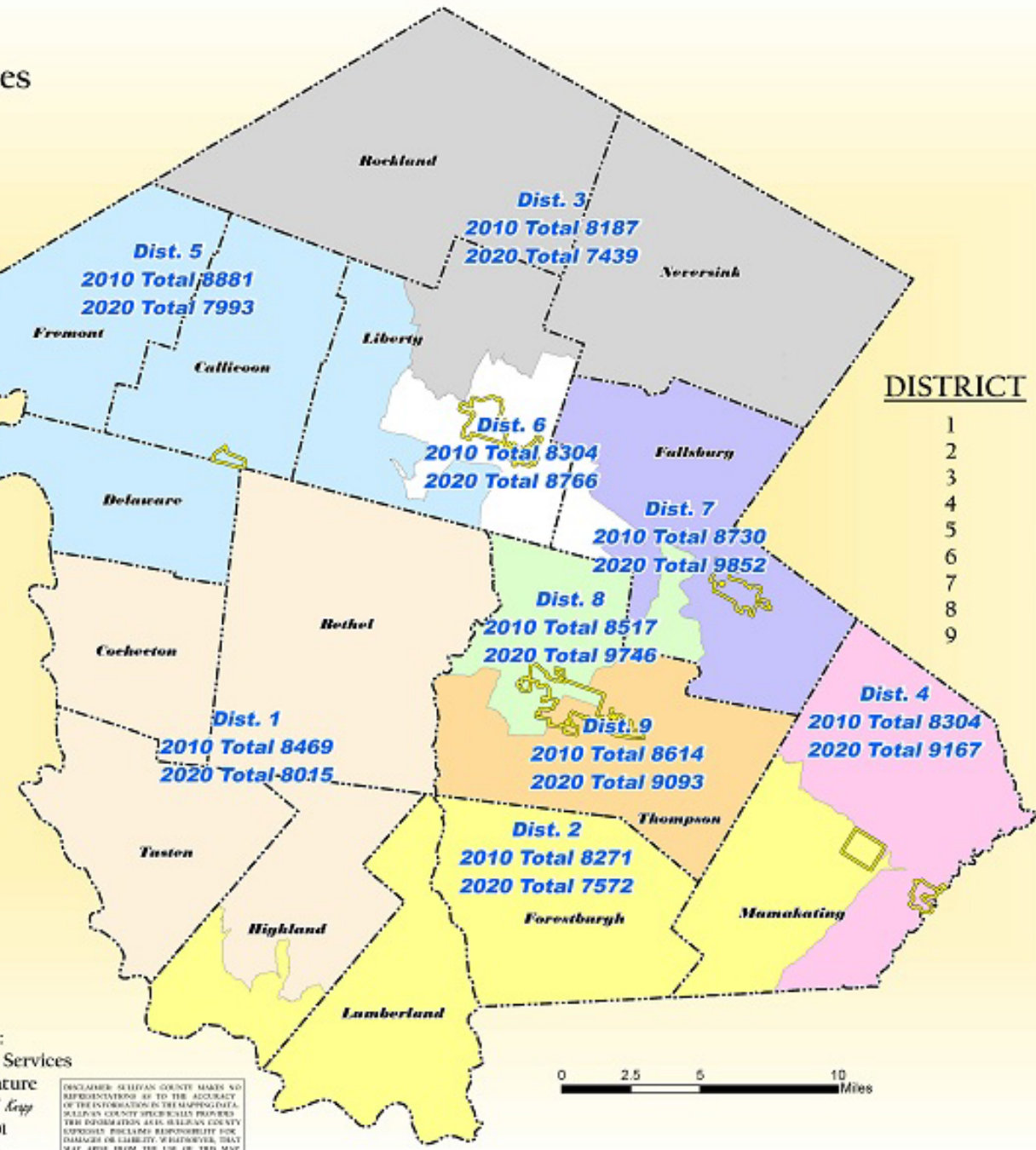
Every change to the boundaries of one district can end up changing all the districts



The most and least populous districts cannot be more than 5% different. Districts also cannot be redrawn to favor certain parties or incumbents. Districts must be contiguous and compact. As much as possible, they should not divide towns and villages nor disenfranchise minorities.



District Population Shifts



<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>LEGISLATOR</u>	
1	Robert Doherty	(R)
2	Nadia Rajsz	(D)
3	Michael Brooks	(R)
4	Nicholas Salomone Jr.	(R)
5	George Conklin, III	(R)
6	Luis Alvarez	(D)
7	Joseph Perrello Sr.	(R)
8	Ira Steingart	(D)
9	Alan Sorensen	(R)

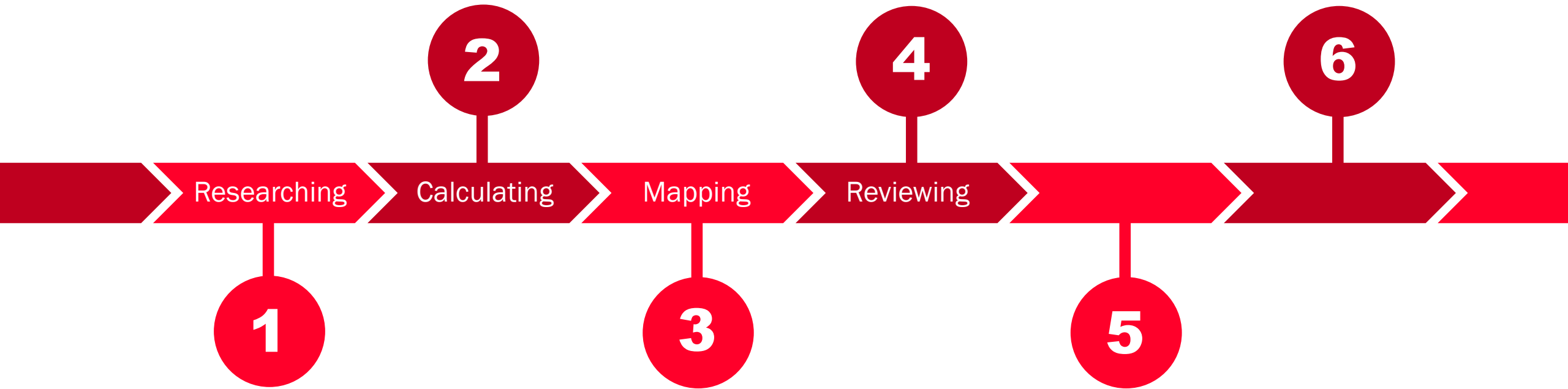
As with townships, legislative districts serving more rural areas saw their populations decline sometimes significantly, while districts encompassing more heavily populated regions experienced often notable increases.

The map at left shows current legislative district boundaries.

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Step 4 – Presenting the maps for review

Legislators and the public are given time to look at the maps and make comments



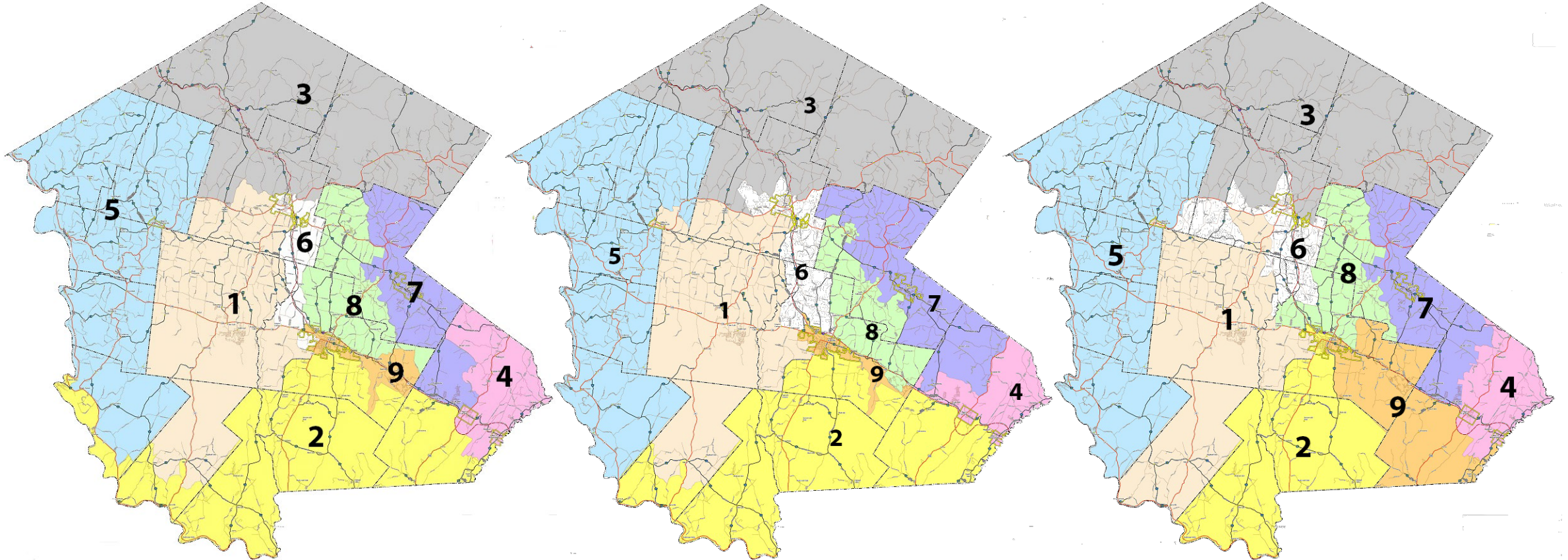
Building consensus and creating confidence in whatever redistricting plan is selected requires more than the hiring of an independent consultant. Every stakeholder is invited to critically assess the options.

The Current Options Under Consideration

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

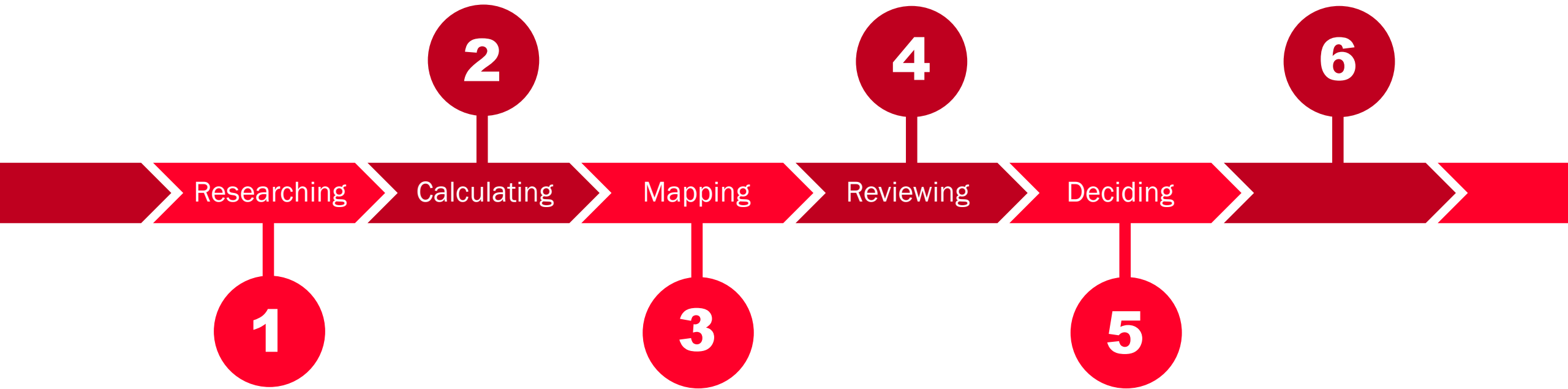
OPTION 3



The **mean** (average) number of people in any legislative district, using 2020 Census data, should be **8,627**. While a 5% variation is allowed, the above maps represent no more than a 0.41% variation between districts.

Step 5 – Making a choice that matters

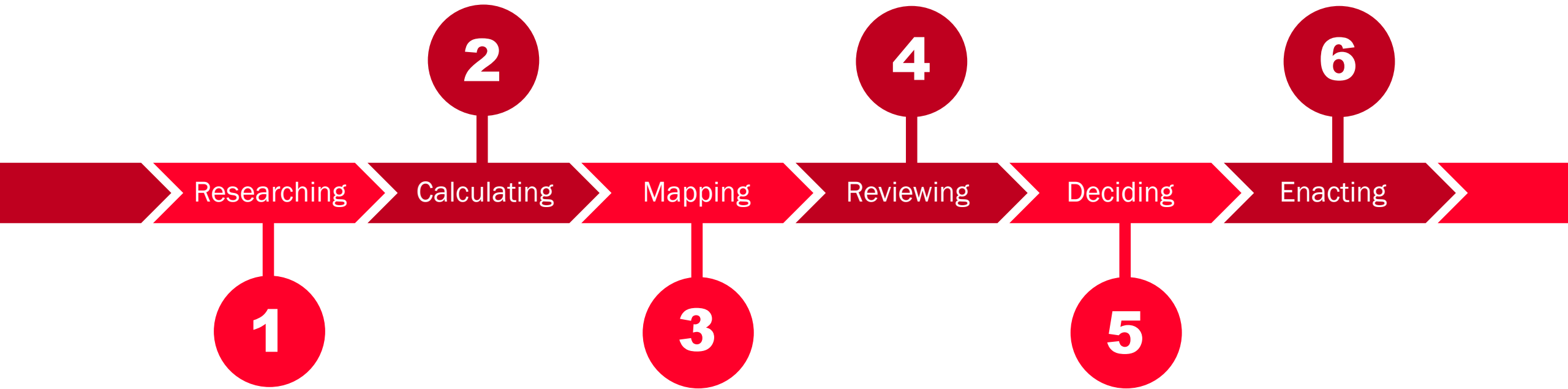
What will the next 10 years of representation look like in Sullivan County?



The community and political implications of redistricting inevitably mean not everyone will be happy. Nevertheless, legislators are legally and time-bound to decide which proposed map best suits the goals of the process.

Step 6 – Activating the new districts

Legislators must amend the County Charter to reflect the redrawn boundaries



Once the new districts are codified into law, the Sullivan County Board of Elections will redraw affected election districts to match, subject to State law. Candidates for County Legislature will run for office in November 2023, and the winners' four-year terms will start in January 2024.



For more information – including a fact sheet and maps that can be magnified – visit www.sullivanny.us/Departments/Legislature/Redistricting

