

COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

**June 8, 2021 – 3:30 p.m.
Council Chamber – City Hall**

A Council work session was held to discuss proposed new City Council Districts.

Attending: Mayor Bill McMurray and Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, Madison Davis, Russell Moore, Marty Novak and Kent O'Dell.

Bryan Carter, City Manager; Clint Thompson, Planning & Community Development Director; Debra Bradley, Health Director; Jason Soper, Interim City Attorney; Zack Martin, City Planner; Mary Robertson, Asst. to the City Manager/Communications & Public Relation Manager; Ed Schilling, Multimedia Planner; and Paula Heyde, City Clerk.

Mayor Bill McMurray called the meeting to order.

Bryan Carter, City Manager, gave a history on how we got to where we are today.

Zack Martin, City Planner, went through a power point presentation on three Council redistricting proposals (copy attached).

Mayor McMurray and Councilmembers Madison Davis and Marty Novak favored Proposal #3. Councilmembers Brenda Blessing, Russell Moore and Kent O'Dell favored Proposal #2.

Councilmember Davis proposed getting input from the Councilmembers who are not present before making a decision. Mr. Carter said he would contact the three Councilmembers who are not present to get their input and then file an ordinance based on that feedback with a proposed first reading on June 28.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.



Minutes transcribed by Paula Heyde, CMC, City Clerk.

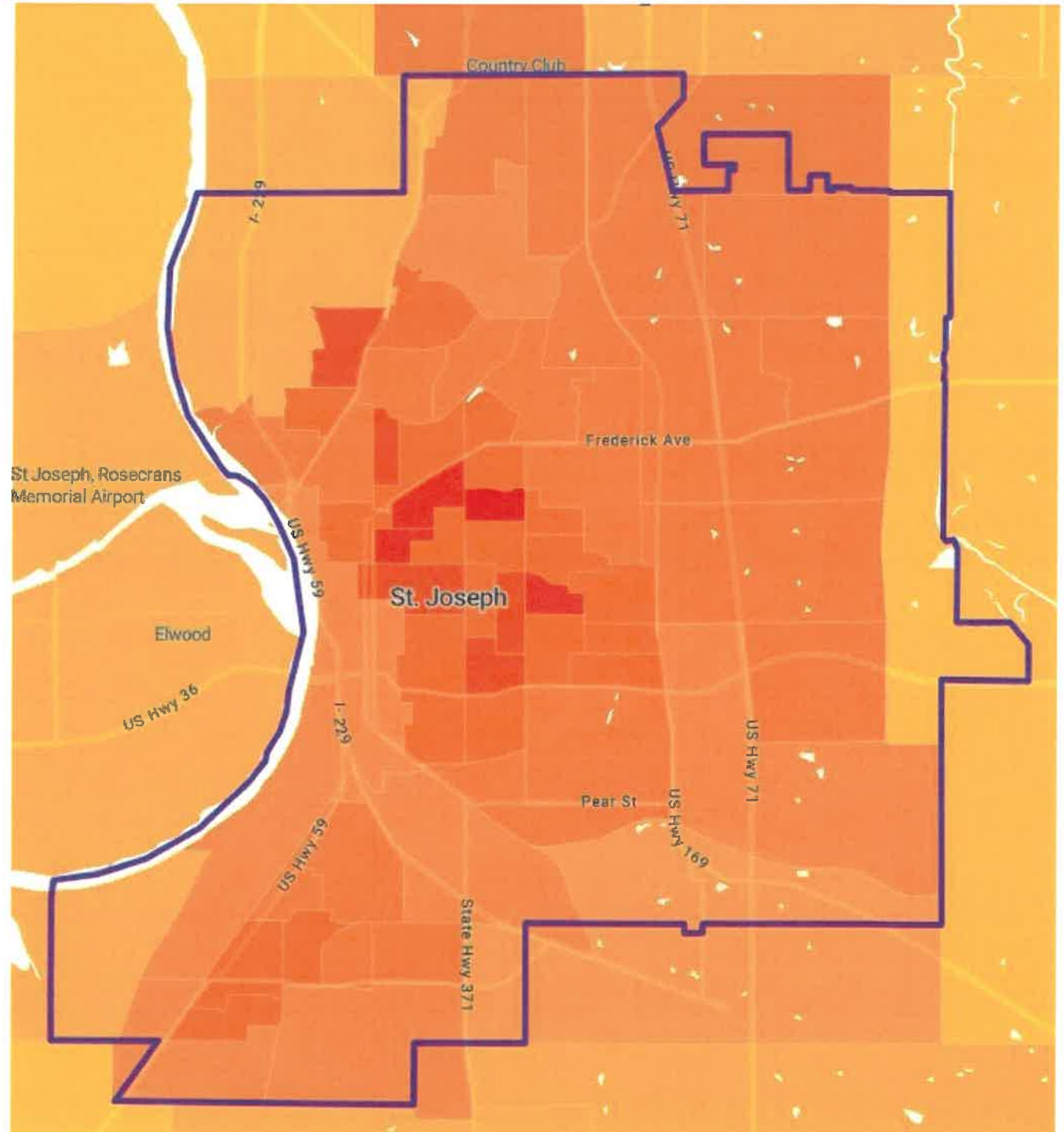


CITY OF ST. JOSEPH COUNCIL REDISTRICTING PROPOSALS



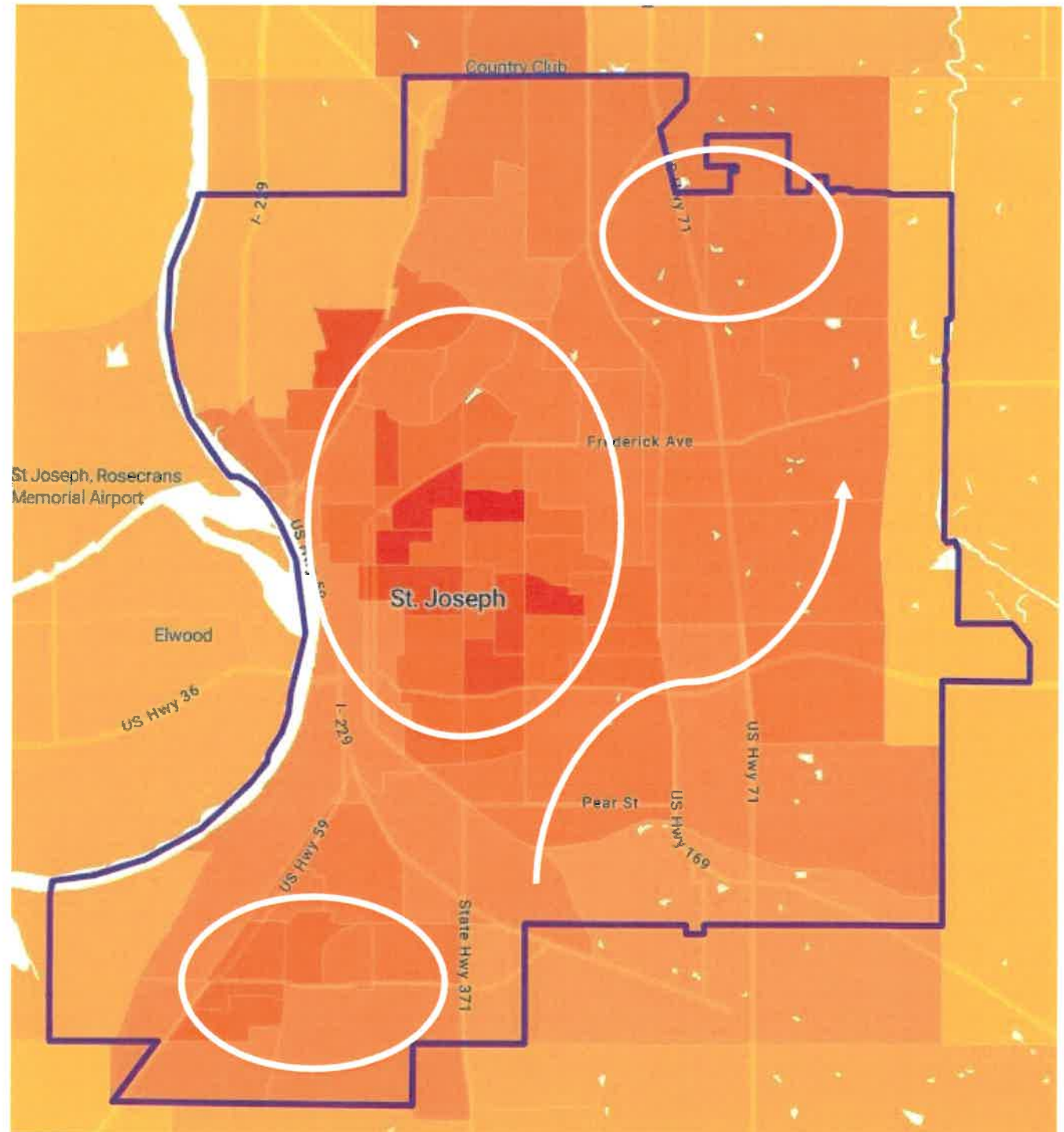
DATA

- The estimates are from 2019 and the census block groups, and population density are shown to the right.
- Census block groups are subdivisions of census tracts
- Some census blocks group extend beyond city limits (like their associated tracts)
- This is the smallest level of data available currently.
- Proposals were created using the census block groups as guidelines. All populations given are estimates.



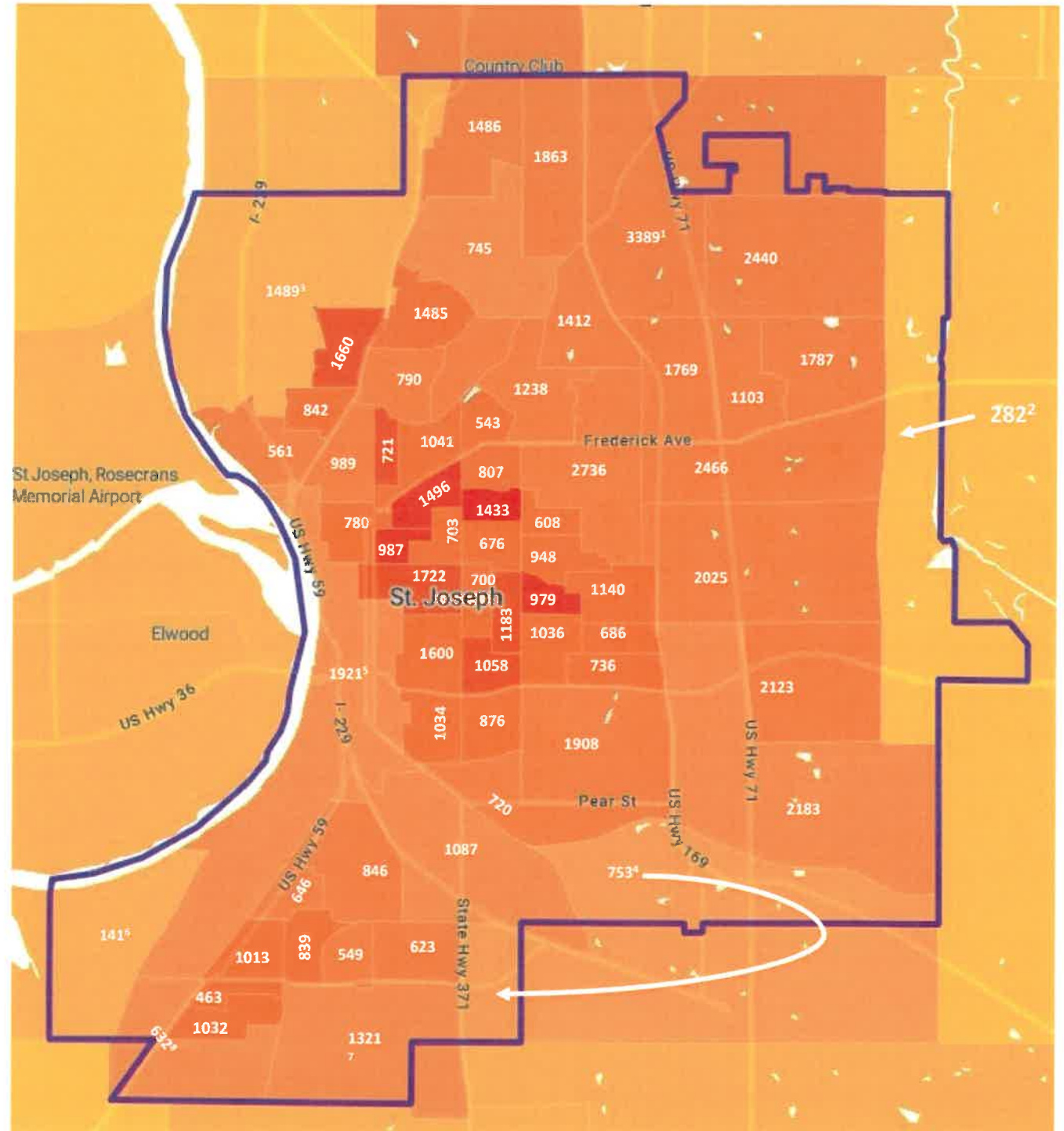
NOTES

- Population is NOT evenly distributed across a city. The map to the right shows population density. The darker the color, the denser the population.
- Core centers of population are circled. The general population flow is from SW to NE.
- Because of this population dispersion, it is NOT possible to create a perfect line splitting population.



NOTES

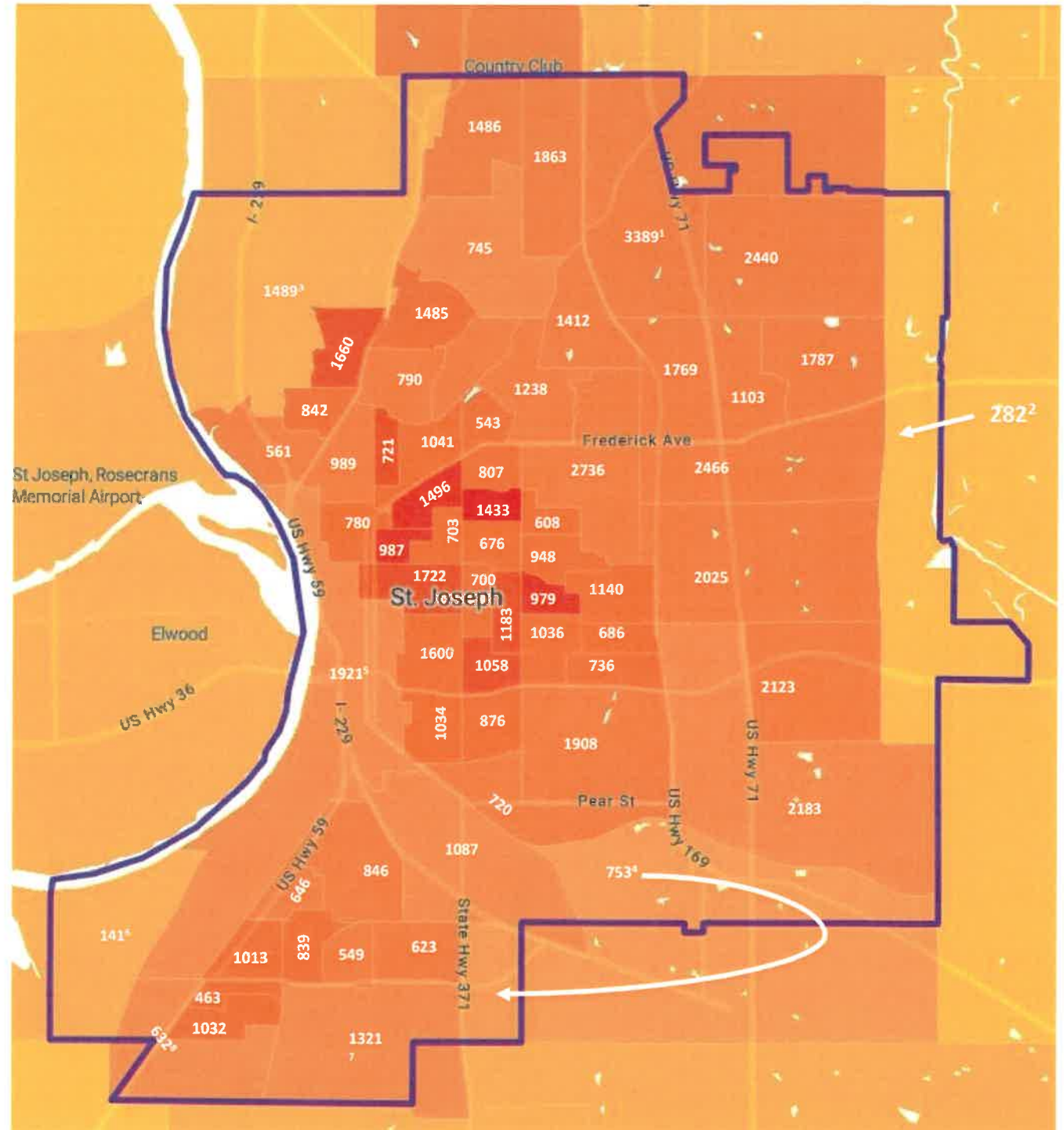
- To calculate estimates of fringe census block groups, staff counted the number of housing units inside or outside (whichever was less) city limits (CL) and multiplied by the average US household size (2.48 rounded to 3). This number was either the count within city limits or subtracted from the ACS estimate to provide an estimate for the population outside city limits. These counts are reflected to the right.



NOTES

- Staff calculated a total population of 8,007 within city limits in these fringe groups.
- This was added to the 67,758 estimate for groups completely within city limits.
- Total: 75,765 based on these calculations
- The recommended district population, split evenly is 18,941

NOTE: All proposals are ONLY estimates; based on data provided by the ACS and the methods used by staff to split fringe and inner-city census block groups.

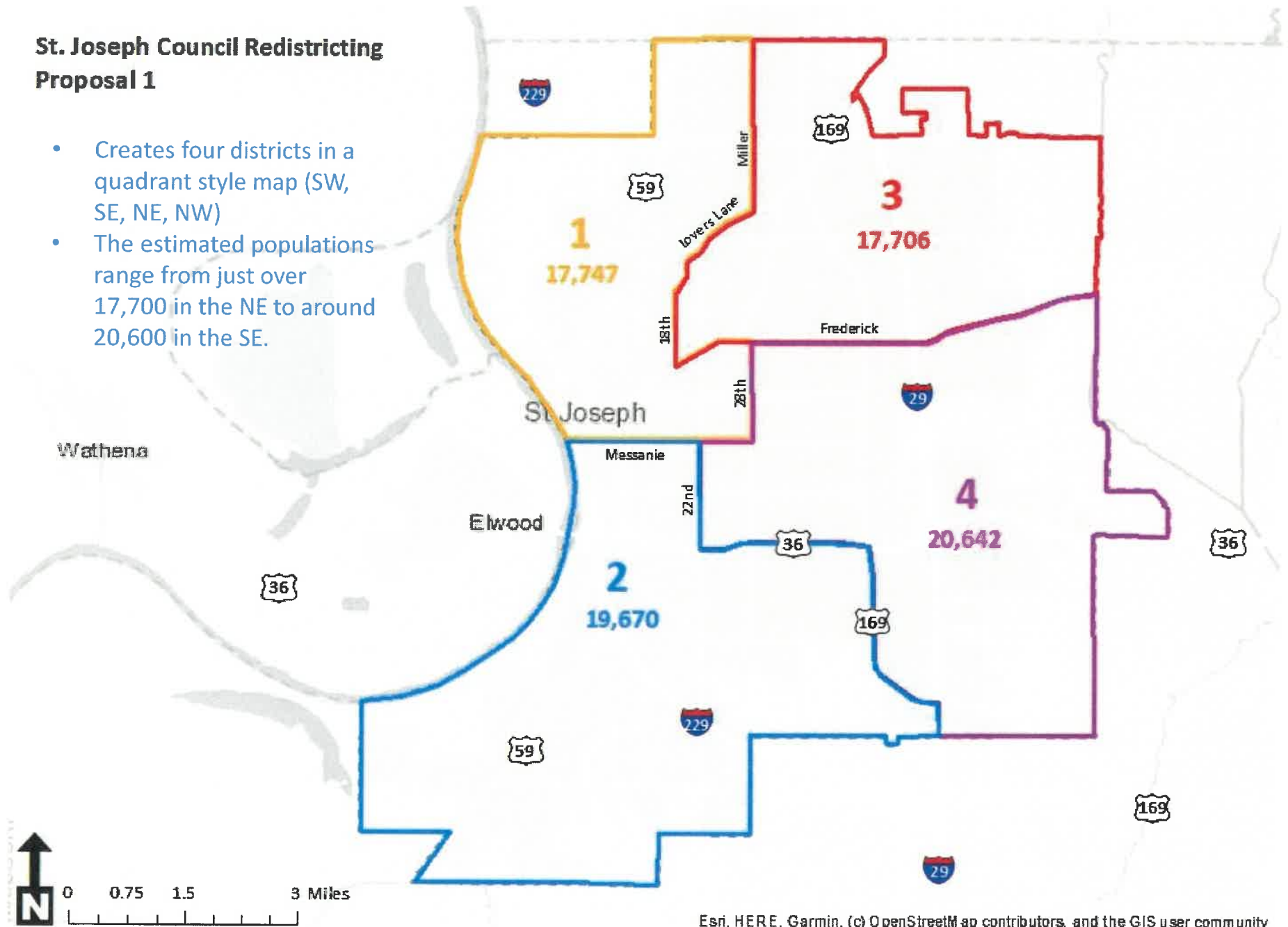


NOTES

- In certain instances, on each proposal, staff also split existing census block groups at a logical point (usually a street or intersection) and calculated the population that may fall into either side of the line into the census block group.
- This was done using the same method as the fringe groups: number of buildings (noting when apartments and multiplying by floors and units) multiplied by the average US household size to gain a total.
- While staff is comfortable with these estimates generally, it must be noted that these are NOT exact. Issues such as vacancy, family sizes larger or smaller than the US average, etc. make it difficult to know the exact number. Staff ensured that the split numbers totaled up to the amount of the census block group's original estimate, and that the total of all proposals reached the total estimated population of the city.
- Staff strove to reach straight and sensible lines as much as possible, however as stated before, population is not dispersed equally across a city. To maintain relatively equal populations, divisions exist in streets that are logical and closely associated with a census block group border.
- Staff limited proposals to two quadrant-based models and one "core" based model, as no method of rearranging allowed for equal population dispersion in the "sandwich" models (north-south districts running from the river to the eastern city limits).

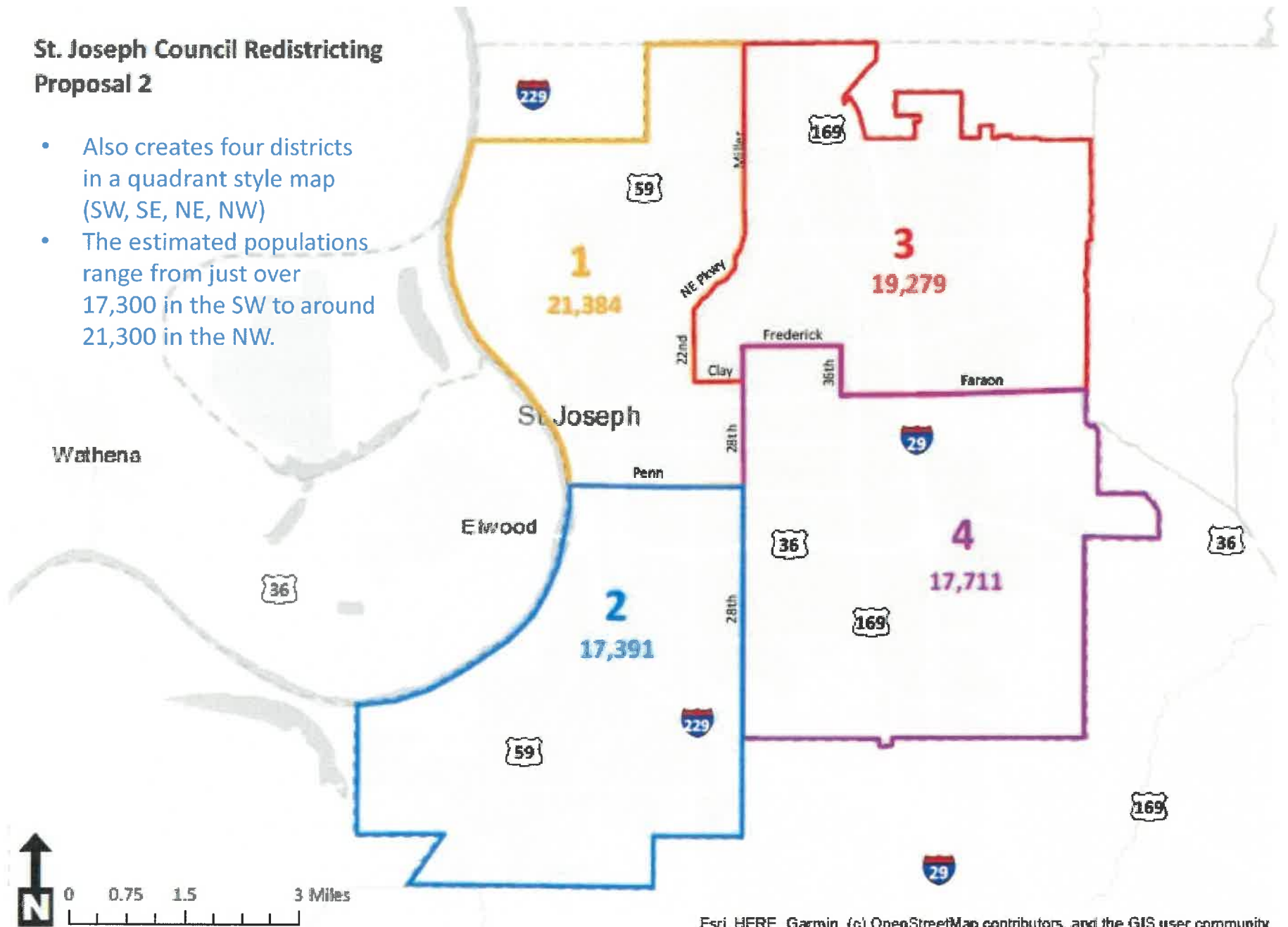
St. Joseph Council Redistricting Proposal 1

- Creates four districts in a quadrant style map (SW, SE, NE, NW)
- The estimated populations range from just over 17,700 in the NE to around 20,600 in the SE.



St. Joseph Council Redistricting Proposal 2

- Also creates four districts in a quadrant style map (SW, SE, NE, NW)
- The estimated populations range from just over 17,300 in the SW to around 21,300 in the NW.



St. Joseph Council Redistricting Proposal 3

- Creates a “core” around downtown with districts radiating from that point.
- Populations range from 17,900 in the east, to 19,400 in the north.
- This is the most equal proposal.

