

**John C. Ackerman**

Tazewell County Board

*Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service*

April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**\*\*\* News Update \*\*\***

**Update on Tazewell County Redistricting Process**

As you are aware, the once-a-decade Redistricting of the Tazewell County Political Boundaries is underway. At the end of this process, we will have a re-arrangement of the political boundaries of the Tazewell County Board. Currently, the Tazewell County Board is divided into three political districts which following township lines;

District 1) Pekin, Cincinnati, Sand Prairie and Spring Lake

District 2) Morton, Groveland, Elm Grove, Dillon, Delavan, Malone, Boynton and Hittle

District 3) Washington, Fondulac, Deer Creek, Mackinaw, Little Mackinaw, Tremont and Hopedale

A new map and division is needed as a result of such great growth in Washington and Fondulac Townships; growth that has risen District Three's population far higher than District One and Two.

I have recommended a Three District Map for consideration while County Board Member Mel Stanford has recommended a Four District Map and Chairman David Zimmerman has submitted a Three District Map recommendation. I support both Member Stanford's and my recommendations as these proposals most closely follow the state guidelines. Chairman Zimmerman's is a good map, but it does not recognize the new State Law outlining that township **and municipality** lines not be divided except for the purpose of balancing the population between the districts. Under his recommendation the municipalities of East Peoria, Creve Coeur and Marquette Heights are divided.

When faced with the decision of dividing a Township or a Municipality, a choose that must be made to balance the population between the districts, I believe here in Tazewell County not dividing these municipalities is the closest observation of this State Law. As stated by the Peoria Journal Star recently "A final map should also try to keep real communities together" They continued "There's no excuse for East Peoria - a town of little more than 23,000 people - be broken up...".

These maps have been posted on the Tazewell County Website ([www.Tazewell.com](http://www.Tazewell.com)) and I have also posted them on my website ([www.JohnCAckerman.com](http://www.JohnCAckerman.com)). Please take the time to review these proposals and make your voice heard.

This is a very important issue as these divisions of the county shape every issue coming before the County Board for the next ten years. It is important that the result of this process is a County Board Representation that guarantees that each citizens of Tazewell County has an equal voice on the Tazewell County Board. With such a major fundamental decision before us, your input on this decision is more important than ever.

An important change to the process has been announced by Chairman David Zimmerman. It has been decided that we will be having two more PUBLIC HEARINGS on this issue before we finalize at the

end of the month. The first will be on **Wednesday, April 20th, at 4:00PM in the Jury Room on the Third Floor of the McKenzie Building** before the Tazewell County Executive Committee's Meeting. Following this **PUBLIC HEARING**, the Executive Committee will be voting on a recommendation for the full County Board.

Chairman Zimmerman is still asking that the Tazewell County Board vote on this issue at this County Board Meeting on April 27th, so these two meetings may be the last chance of any citizen to have their voice heard on this issue before the decision is made.

In his memo announcing this process, Chairman Zimmerman stated that "this process has never been more transparent and open to input from anyone that would like to participate." Making this process more transparent is essential for good government, but now that the process has been opened up it is your responsibility to take advantage of this opportunity to have your voice heard.

As always, I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve you on the Tazewell County Board and if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

***John C. Ackerman***  
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April 13, 2011

# Tazewell County Board to consider apportionment plan

PEKIN—The Tazewell County Board could decide as soon as April 27 how to apportion the County for County Board representation for the next 10 years. The County has scheduled public hearings to gather input regarding Board Chairman David Zimmerman's recommended plan on Wednesday, April 20, at 4 p.m. in the third floor Jury Room of the McKenzie Building, 11 S. Fourth St. in downtown Pekin, and also at 5 p.m. in the Justice Center Community Room, 101 South Capitol St., in downtown Pekin.

The County Board had a previous public hearing on March 30 to gather initial input. The public is also invited to submit comments via email to [survey@tazewell.com](mailto:survey@tazewell.com) or send comments to the Tazewell County Board Office, 11 S. Fourth St., Suite 432, Pekin, IL 61554. The County requests that those sending comments include their name and telephone number.

The existing district map, along with the recommended proposal for a new, three-district map, and alternate maps that may be among several discussed by the Board are available on the Tazewell County website (<http://www.tazewell.com>).

Under the recommended plan, District 1 would be comprised of the following townships: Pekin, Cincinnati, Spring Lake, Sand Prairie, Malone and Delavan. District 2 would include Groveland, Morton, Elm Grove, Tremont, Dillon and Hopedale townships. District 3, under Zimmerman's recommended proposal, would include Fondulac, Washington, Deer Creek, Mackinaw, Little Mackinaw, Boynton and Hittle townships. Under this proposal, District 1 would have a population of 44,922, while Districts 2 and 3 would have total populations of 45,209 and 45,263, respectively.

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Retaining the same apportionment plan as the County has maintained for the past decade is not appropriate because of population growth in District 3. Examining the apportionment of the County is required after each Decennial Census and must be approved by the County Board by July 28, 2011.

“The proposal properly balances the population among the three districts as required by the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and Illinois State law,” Zimmerman said. “It also follows township lines, which is required unless equal numbers can’t be achieved.”

The recommended map, along with existing map, are available for viewing from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the County Board Office on the fourth floor of the McKenzie Building.

In addition to the district map, the County Board will also soon decide how many Board members will represent the County. There are currently 21 County Board members, with seven members serving in each of three existing districts.

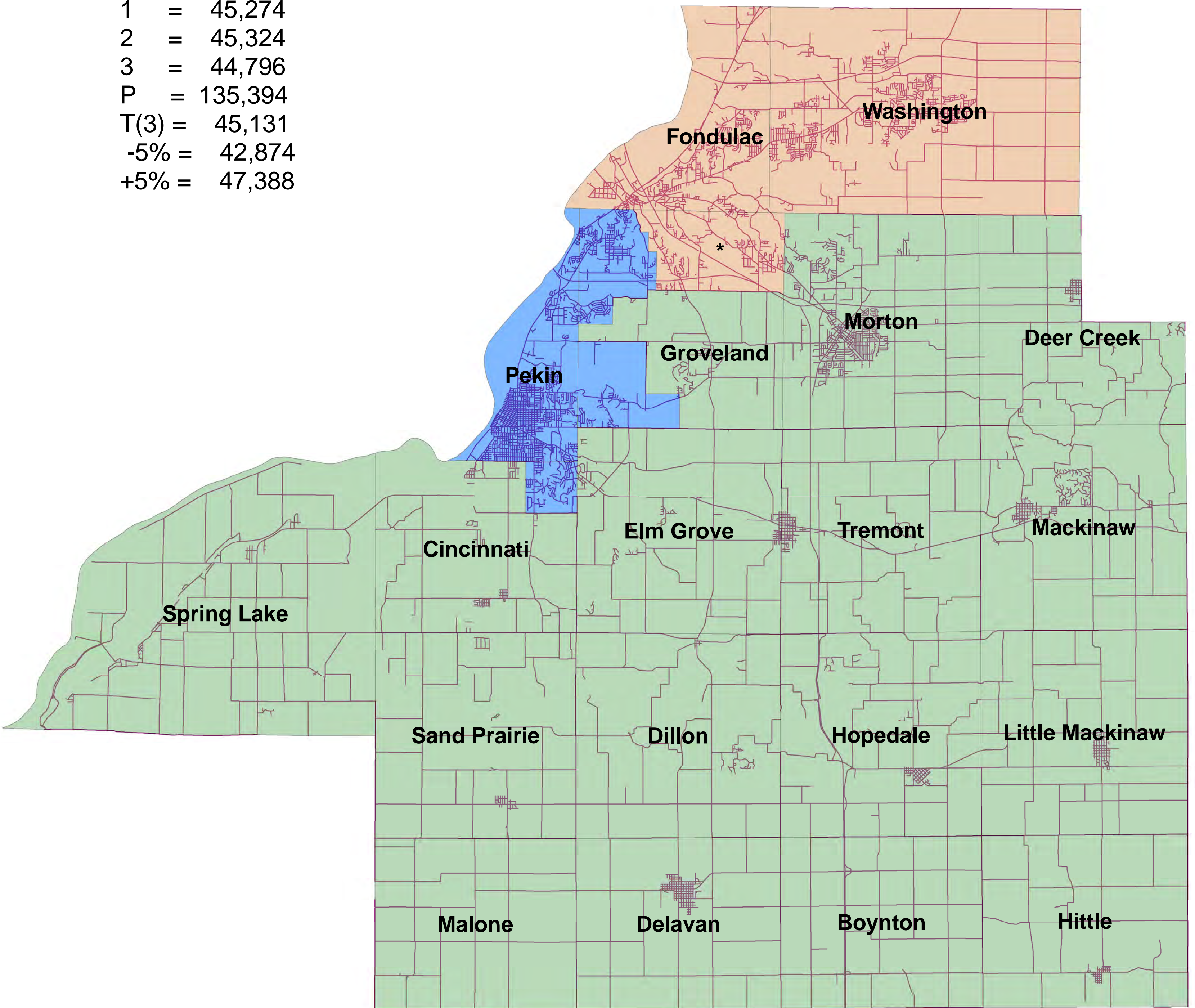
Although State Law provides the Chairman the right to submit a recommended plan to the Board, the apportionment plan is approved with the advice and consent of the County Board. It is expected the Board will discuss the recommended plan and possibly other proposals at an April 20 Committee of the Whole meeting. Final action on an apportionment plan could come as soon as the April 27 County Board meeting. The County Board meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the Justice Center Community Room, 101 South Capitol St., in downtown Pekin.

# Tazewell County Board Districts

## April 11, 2011

Proposal B

|      |   |         |
|------|---|---------|
| 1    | = | 45,274  |
| 2    | = | 45,324  |
| 3    | = | 44,796  |
| P    | = | 135,394 |
| T(3) | = | 45,131  |
| -5%  | = | 42,874  |
| +5%  | = | 47,388  |



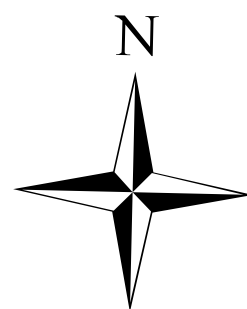
### Legend

#### Township\_Map

<all other values>

#### NAME

- District 1
- District 2
- District 3



1 inch = 10,696 feet

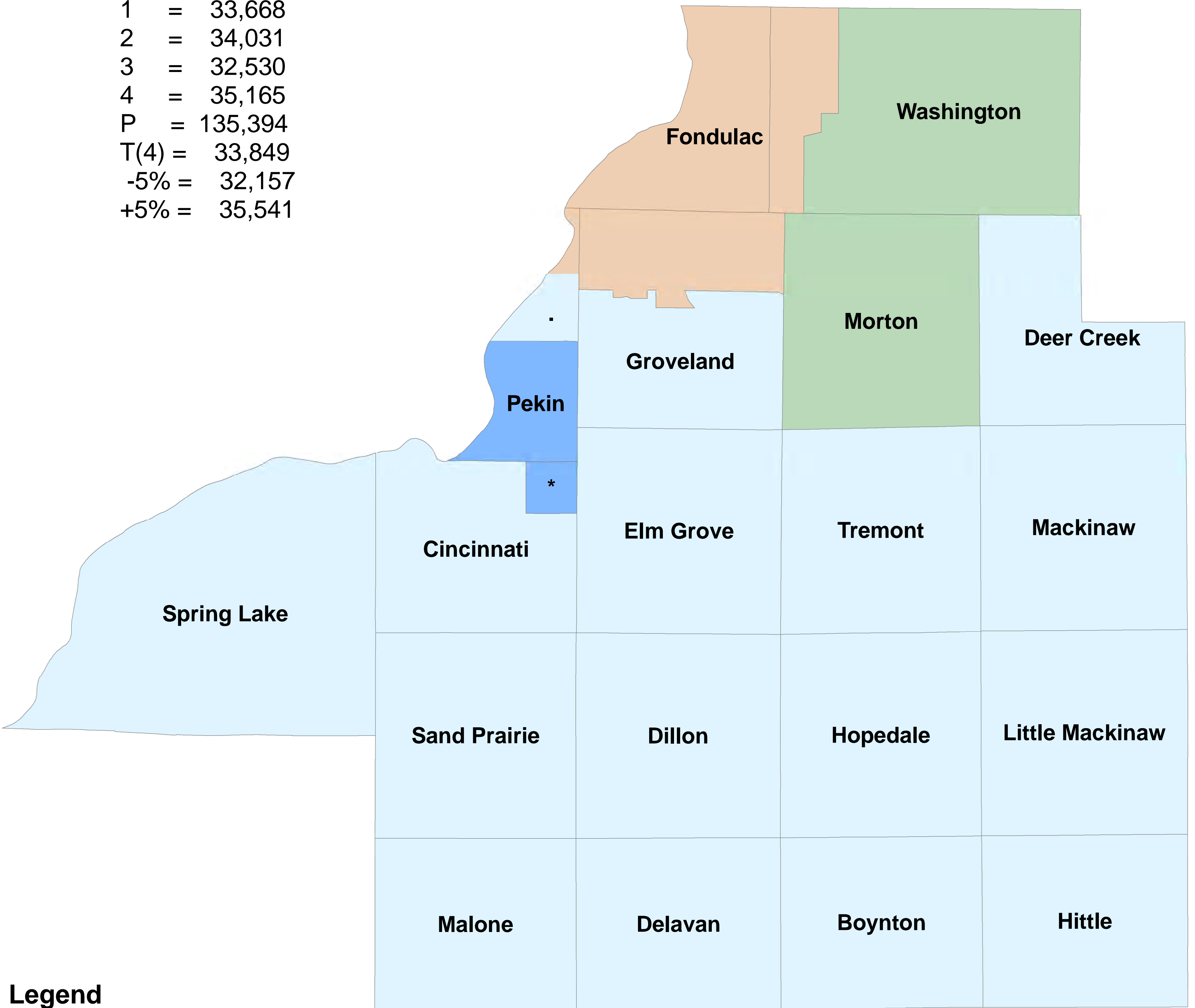
Source: Tazewell County GIS

# Tazewell County Board Districts

## April 15, 2011

### Four District Proposal C

1 = 33,668  
 2 = 34,031  
 3 = 32,530  
 4 = 35,165  
 P = 135,394  
 T(4) = 33,849  
 -5% = 32,157  
 +5% = 35,541



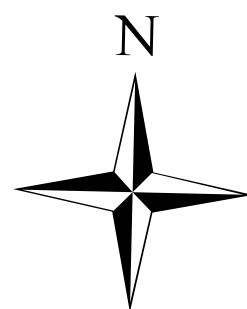
### Legend

#### Township\_Map

<all other values>

#### NAME

- District 4
- District 1
- District 2
- District 3



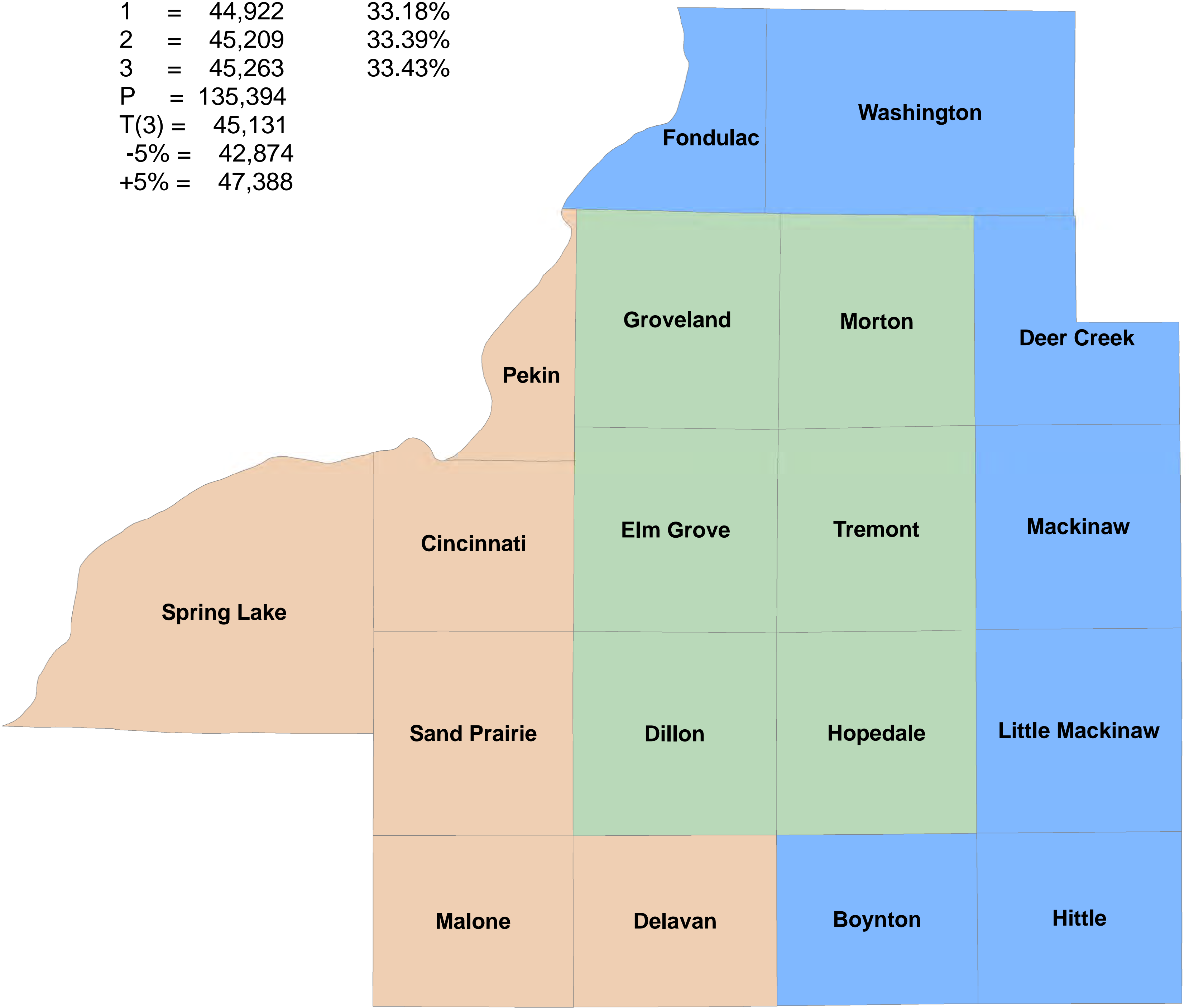
1 inch = 10,696 feet

Source: Tazewell County GIS

# Tazewell County Board Districts


## April 11, 2011

| Recommended |   |                    |
|-------------|---|--------------------|
| 1           | = | 44,922      33.18% |
| 2           | = | 45,209      33.39% |
| 3           | = | 45,263      33.43% |
| P           | = | 135,394            |
| T(3)        | = | 45,131             |
| -5%         | = | 42,874             |
| +5%         | = | 47,388             |



### Legend

#### Township\_Map

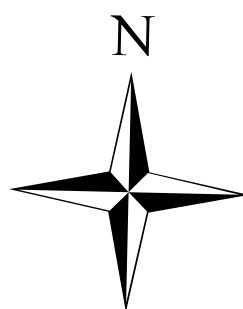
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#### NAME

 District 1

 District 2

 District 3



1 inch = 10,696 feet

Source: Tazewell County GIS