



Supervisor

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Catoctin District



Loudoun County
VIRGINIA



Updates on White's Ferry & County Redistricting

Dear Catoctin residents,

There have been some important developments on the White's Ferry situation and on Loudoun's redistricting process.

For White's Ferry, we now have a [formal staff report](#) on the situation, which explores the short- and long-term options for restoring the ferry to service. And for the redistricting process, our own Office of Mapping and Geographic Information has built an online [interactive map-building tool](#), which lets you view the proposals for re-slicing the county into districts - and lets you create and submit your own alternative ideas.

Here are the details:



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The Formal Report on White's Ferry

Loudoun has been pushing for a solution to the White's Ferry shutdown ever since the ferry ceased operations in December 2020. County staff have been studying the problem in detail. And after much analysis, they have produced a [formal report](#) that explores options for restoring the ferry service.

The report focuses on what it would take to bring the ferry service back to its original levels, and then on how to improve and expand it. At minimum, the existing ferry vessel would need to be inspected for seaworthiness, staff would need to be hired, and the ferry cable will need to be restrung. Improving the ferry would also require some investments in long-term infrastructure boosts, (more staffing, roadways, fare collection, lighting, vessel upgrades) that would expand the system's capacity and beef up its resilience.

Restoring White's Ferry is clearly important for our transportation network and for our commuters - according to the report, restoring the ferry service will save over \$1 million in travel time costs for commuters in 2023, and over \$1.7 million per year in travel time savings by 2040. It would also have vital secondary effects on our county economy.

You can find all this and more in the [full report](#). I highly recommend giving it a read. It's not a short read, but if you wanted to know what it will take to bring White's Ferry back into operation, this is an excellent place to start.

Download the Report



Image Credit: [Screenshot](#) from Loudoun Redistricting Tool website / Loudoun County Government

New Redistricting Map Tool Makes Public Feedback Easy and Effective

In previous years, redistricting often involved hand-drawn maps and a great many Excel spreadsheets. This time, however, we have a new tool at our disposal. The new redistricting map tool lets users view an online map of Loudoun County and split it up into proposed districts. There's even a built-in process that checks the proposal against the [redistricting rules](#) (such as ensuring each district has roughly the same number of people in it).

This tool is now open to the general public. You can use it to create your own proposed redistricting maps, and then you can submit those straight to county staff. The deadline for submitting your proposals is **November 30**.

So, how does one use this tool? Is there a tutorial or how-to guide to get a new user started? Indeed there is.

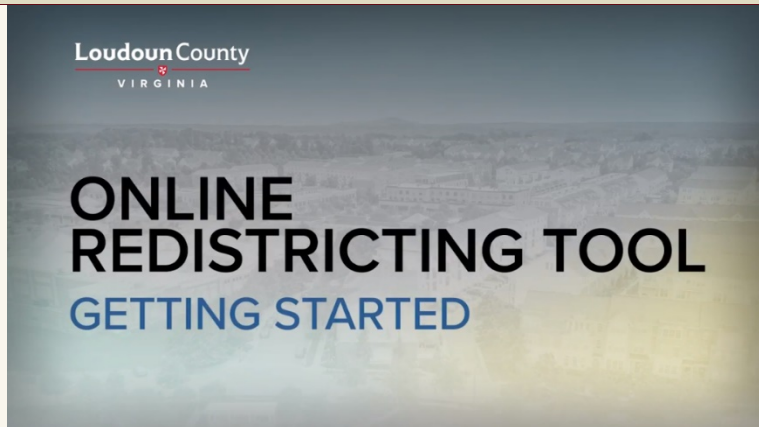


Image Credit: [Screenshot](#) from Loudoun Redistricting Tool website / Loudoun County Government

This [series of short videos](#) teaches you how to start your redistricting plan, set up your map and start editing it, and submit your finished proposal.

Once again, that deadline for submitting your proposal is **November 30**. I'd love to see a whole collection of good proposals from our Catoclin residents!

Try the Mapping Tool

Sincerely,

Supervisor Caleb A. Kershner

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