

# HOW DOES THE NEW VOTING SYSTEM WORK?

**City Council:** Voters will select a candidate from their neighborhood district to serve on City Council. Voters will also vote to elect three at-large candidates who can be from any part of the city.

**School Committee:** Voters will select one candidate from their district and two at-large candidates. These voting districts are formed by combining pairs of the eight new City Council districts.

School Committee District 1 is comprised of Council Districts 1 and 8  
School Committee District 2 is comprised of Council Districts 4 and 2  
School Committee District 3 is comprised of Council Districts 3 and 5  
School Committee District 4 is comprised of Council Districts 6 and 7



## WHO ARE WE?

We are a partnership of community-based organizations and residents in Lowell. Our goal is to spread awareness of the new system and engage voters in the local election process.



## A GUIDE TO LOWELL'S NEW VOTING SYSTEM

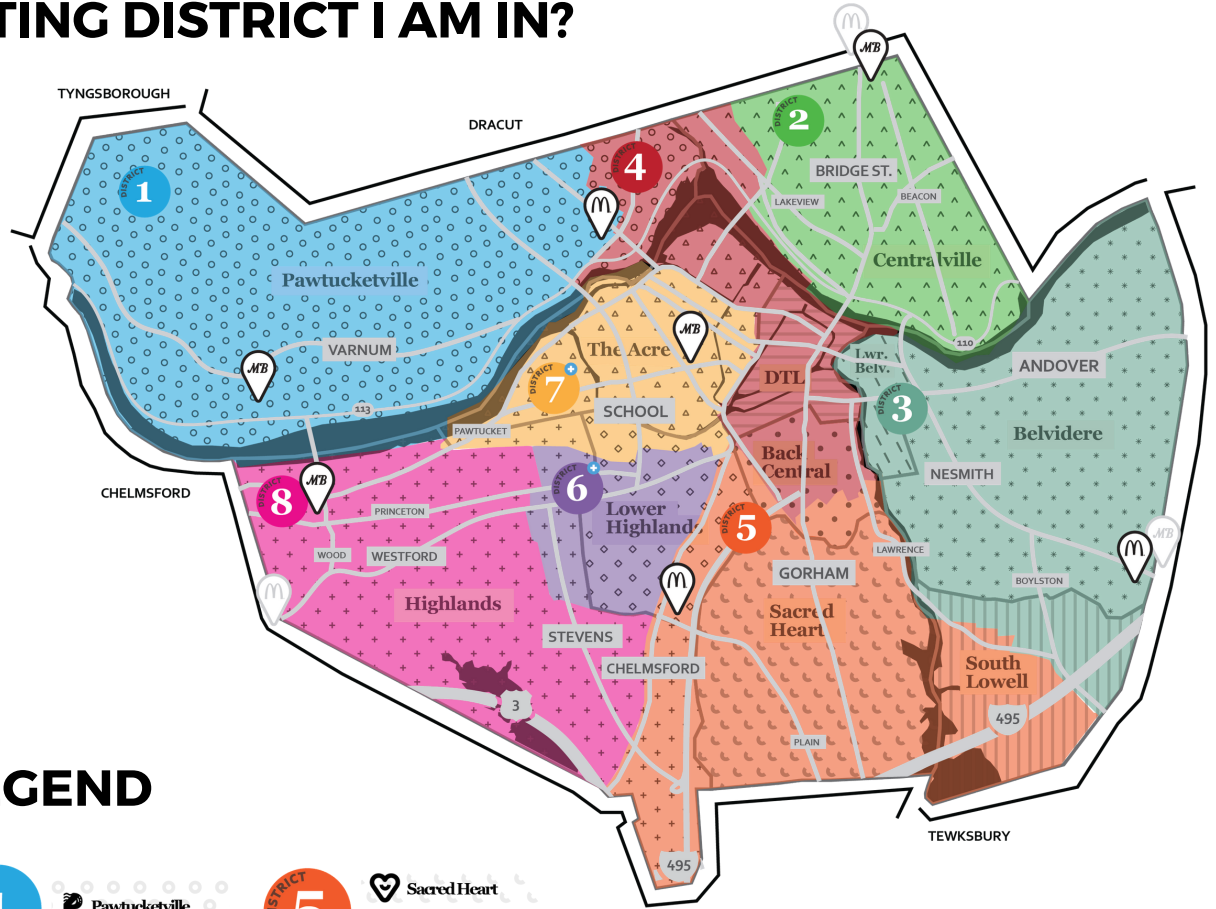
For more information visit [lowellvotes.org](https://lowellvotes.org)

# WHY IS LOWELL'S VOTING SYSTEM CHANGING?

Lowell's new voting system taking effect in 2021 is the result of a Voting Rights Act lawsuit filed against the city. The lawsuit which was settled in 2019 claimed that the city's at-large voting system was unfair to \*BIPOC voters and created inequality within the city of Lowell. In prior years Lowell's City Council and School Committee were chosen at-large, with every seat voted on by the entire city. Now, City Council and School Committee will be elected from voting districts which were established in Fall 2020, with two of the eight districts made up of "majority minority" populations. These voting changes seek to ensure a more representative government by electing candidates who live in all parts of Lowell.

\*Black, Indigenous, and People of Color

# HOW DO I KNOW WHICH VOTING DISTRICT I AM IN?



## LEGEND

- |                   |  |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| <b>DISTRICT 1</b> | Pawtucketville   | <b>DISTRICT 5</b> | Sacred Heart<br>South Lowell             |
| <b>DISTRICT 2</b> | Centralville   | <b>DISTRICT 6</b> | Lower Highlands<br>Highlands             |
| <b>DISTRICT 3</b> | Belvidere<br>South Lowell<br>Lower Belvidere                           | <b>DISTRICT 7</b> | The Acre<br>Lower Highlands<br>Highlands |
| <b>DISTRICT 4</b> | Downtown<br>Pawtucketville<br>Centralville<br>The Acre<br>Back Central | <b>DISTRICT 8</b> | Highlands                                |

To view a digital version of the map that is searchable by address visit: [yourlowellyourvote.org](http://yourlowellyourvote.org)

A proposed district map was released in November 2020, followed by a two month public comment period during which several public information sessions were held and residents were encouraged to share their input on the districts. Much effort was placed on keeping neighborhoods together but due to the need to keep districts roughly equal in population some neighborhoods had to be divided or combined in the final district map.