| SMITHVILLE missouri | STAFF REPORT |
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| **Date:** | September 14, 2021 |
| **Prepared By:** | Jack Hendrix |
| **Subject:** | New Ward Map Discussion |

At the August 3 Work Session, staff requested direction from the Board regarding goals for structuring new ward boundaries with updated census information. At that time, the Board directed a preference for a map that includes wards representing the north, central and south sections of town. While it was expected the first week of September, Census data was received the second week of August and staff began the process of creating maps. This process began with staff manually entering the census tract data onto the official Census Tract Maps for Smithville. Once the data was cross-checked by multiple staff, the ward counting process could begin.

As identified in August, the first item was to define the "ideal ward" by numbers. With an official population of 10,406, the ideal ward was defined at 3,469. This number means that the maximum difference between the highest and lowest ward totals could not exceed 346. Staff then began counting the census tract populations of the current ward boundaries to determine if changes were necessary. When the new numbers for the existing Ward 1 reached over 20% deviation of the new ideal ward, the process was stopped, and new maps were specifically required. Staff then began grouping the tracts into defined neighborhoods or communities of interest. Then staff began tabulating totals for potential new wards by starting at the north end of the map and working south.

The first map (Exhibit 1) that followed the natural "north, central and south" layout that the Board directed is shown in the first map. That map used (roughly) 180th Street as the dividing line for the proposed new Ward 2. That map included a total of 3,031 in the new Ward 2, which was significantly over the maximum deviation allowed of 10%. Working from the south, the New Ward 3 could nearly match the existing Ward 3 boundary and contain a total of 3,480. This new Ward 3 boundary was close enough to the ideal ward (+11) that it was used in all new map considerations, which left just Ward 1 and 2 boundary lines to be adjusted to approach 3,469 in each.

The second map (Exhibit 2) added to the proposed Ward 2 the area that included Greyhawke subdivision and adjusted the western line somewhat to reach a new total of 3,485. While this map certainly met the standard deviation goal of less than 10%, it would isolate the Harborview subdivision (in the new Ward 1) away from and not

contiguous to other portions of Ward 1. This map seems to be similar to the existing map concerns expressed by the Board.

As a result, a third map was drawn. That map captured the Harborview subdivision population into the new Ward 2 and removed the Wildflower subdivision. Additional adjustments were made on the western side of the new line to make it easier to describe in an ordinance that would allow future annexations without needing to adjust the Ward Boundaries in the future. This third map (Exhibit 3) also made the ward sizes closer than the second map, with a new total in each as follows:

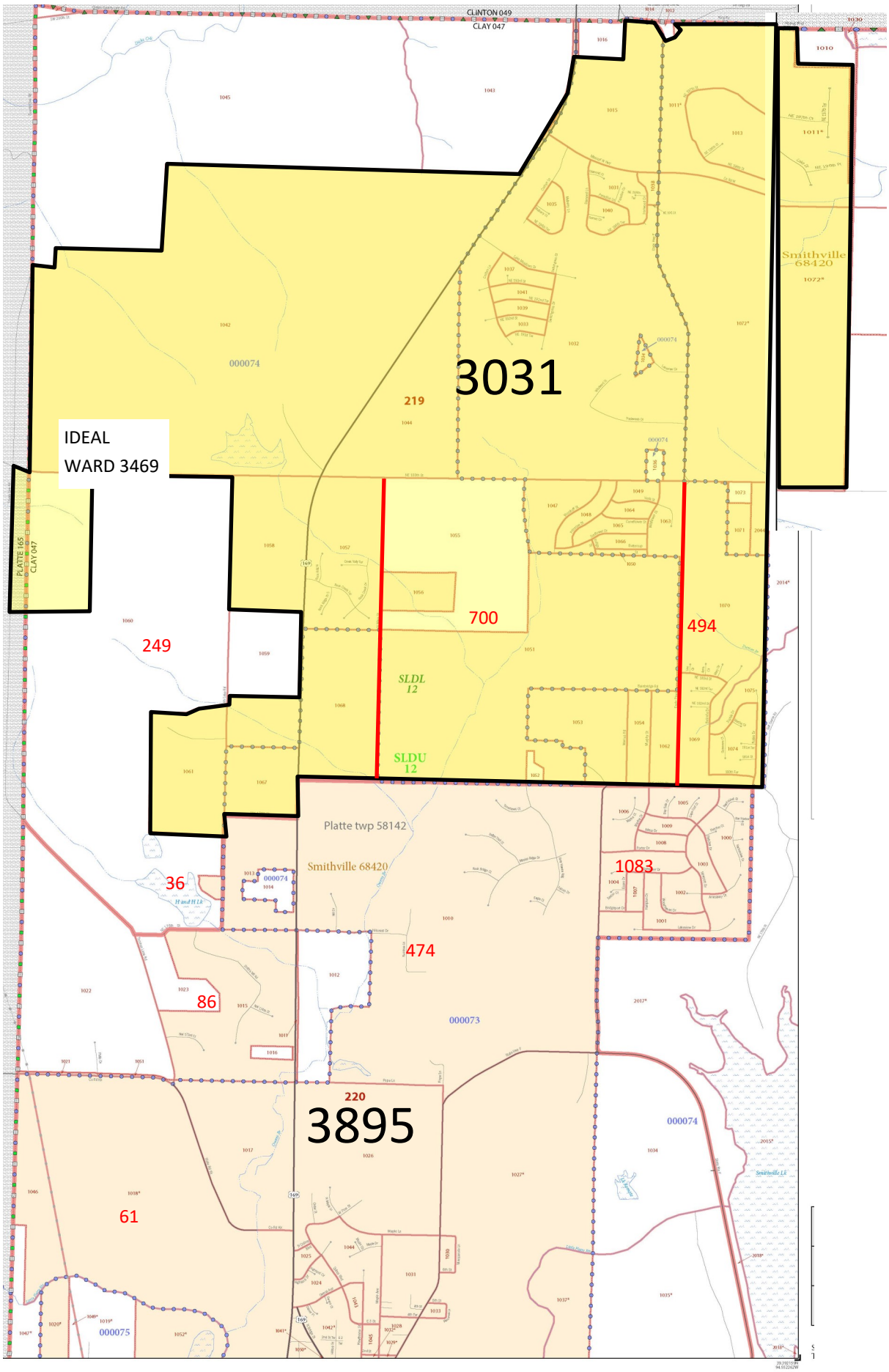
Ward 1 3,476

Ward 2 3,450

Ward 3 3,480

Exhibit 3 approaches near equality in population of each Ward; the districts are relatively compact and contiguous; does not impact existing neighborhood boundaries; retains the Ward 3 boundary as close as possible; and does not impact incumbency of any Alderman. As a result, staff recommends the map in Exhibit 3 become the new Ward Boundaries.

# Exhibit 1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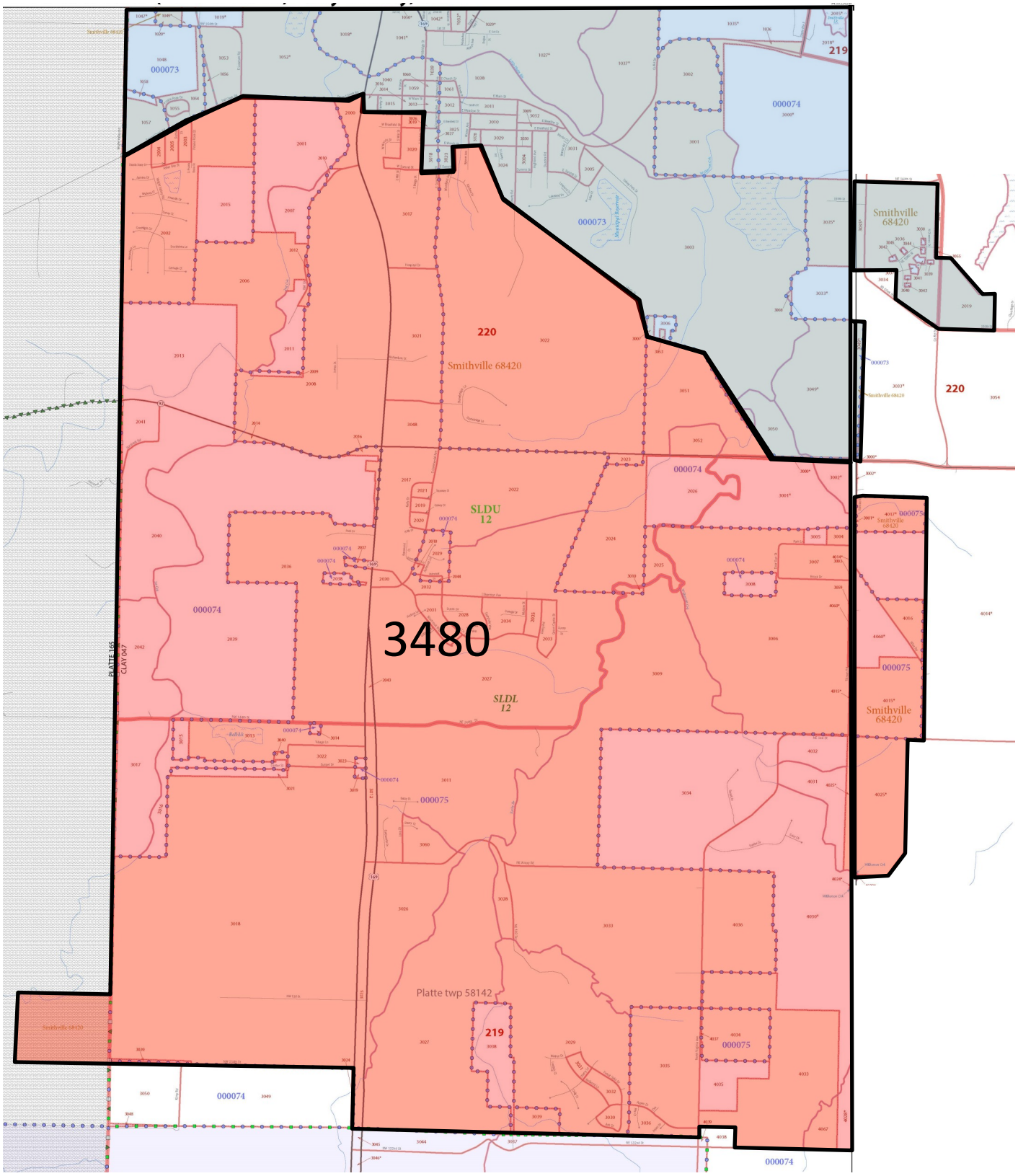
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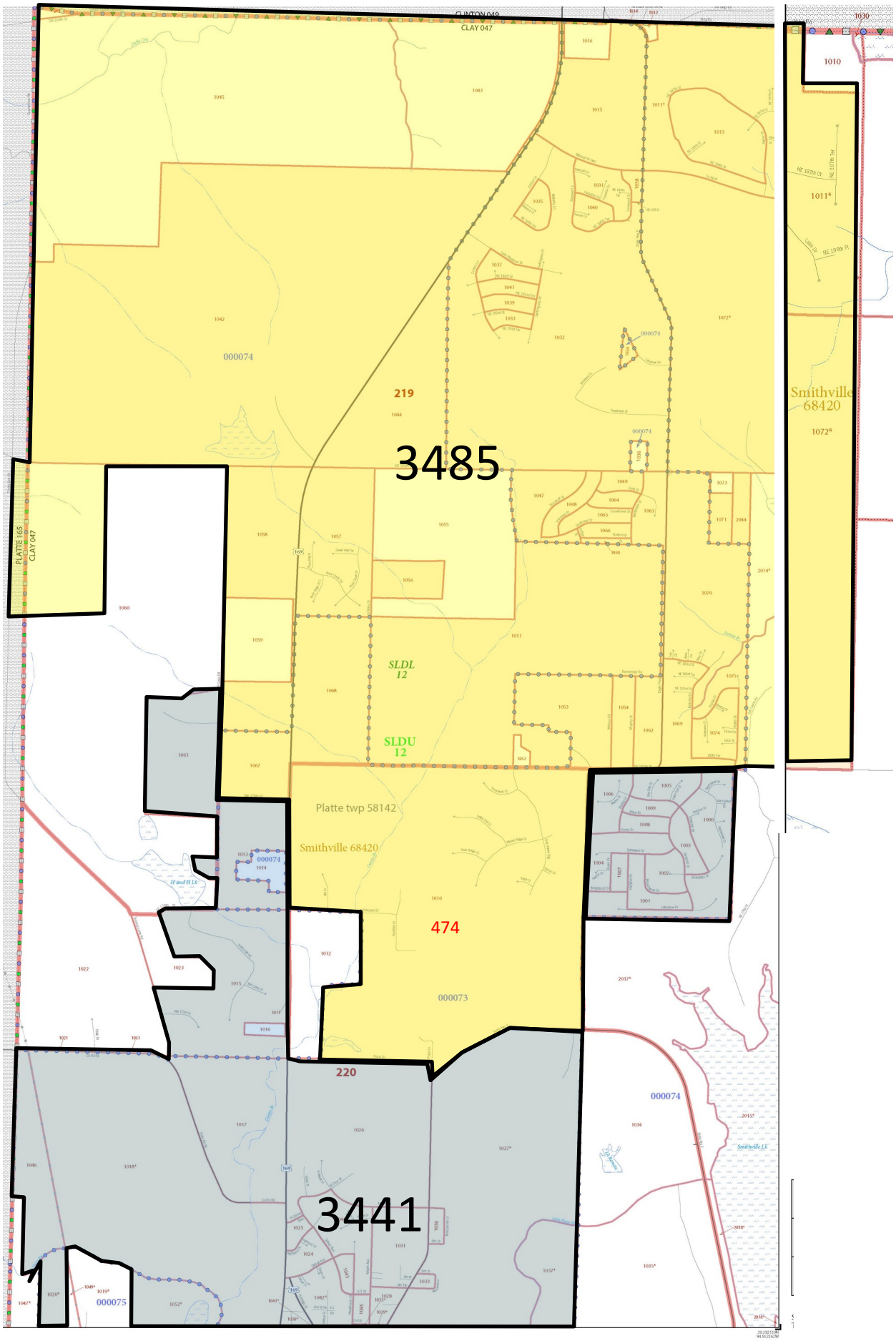
Exhibit 2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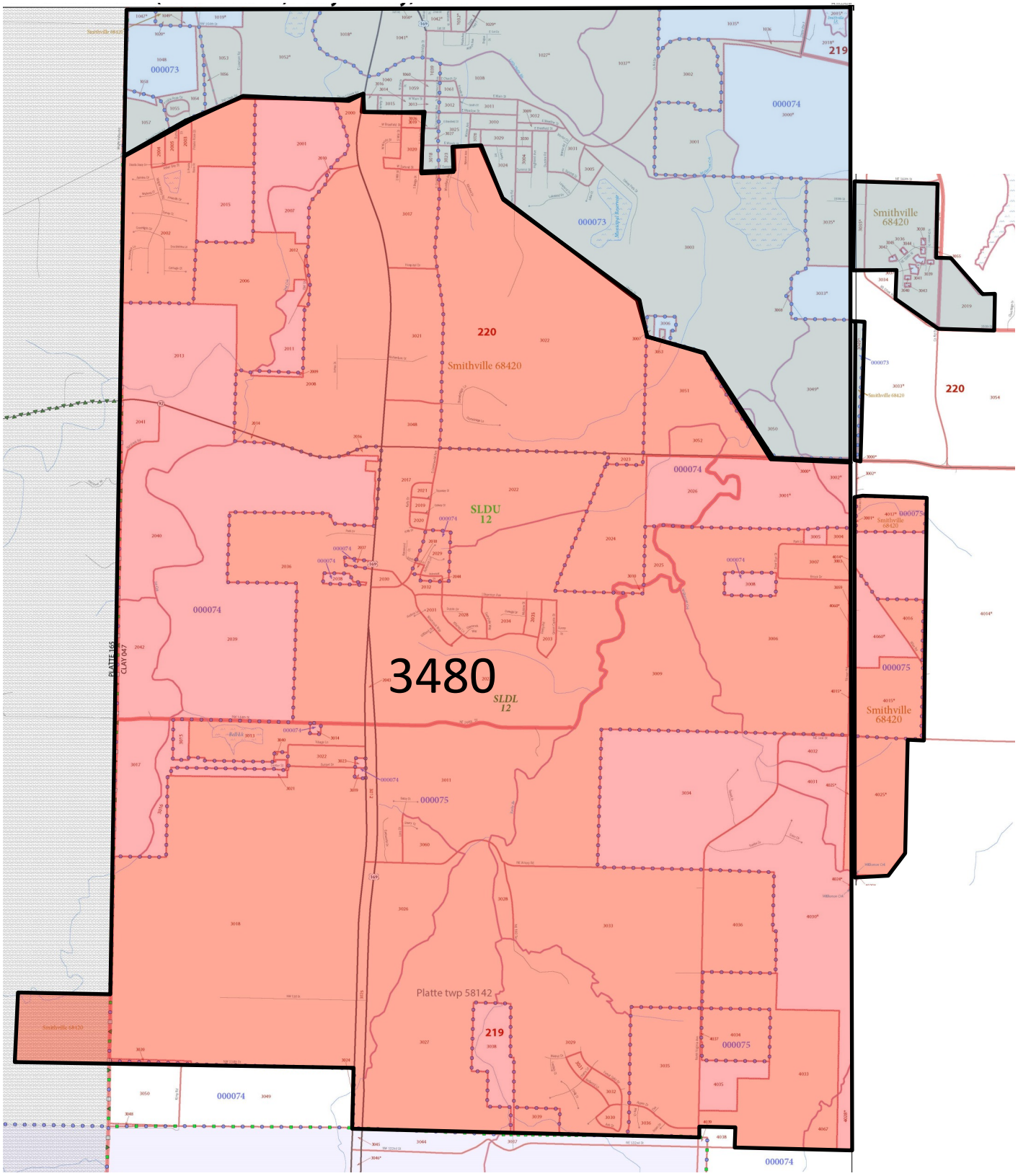
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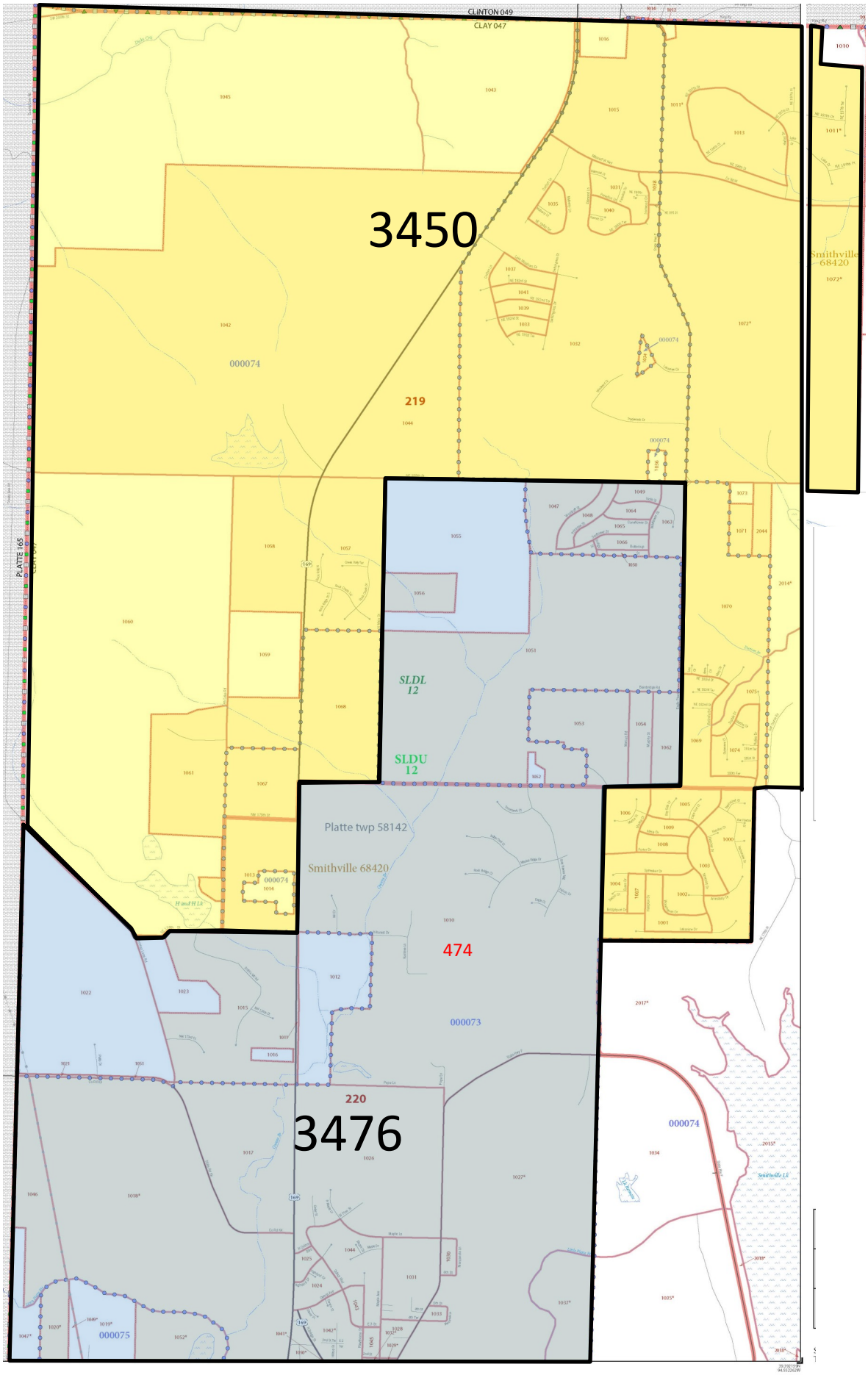
Exhibit 3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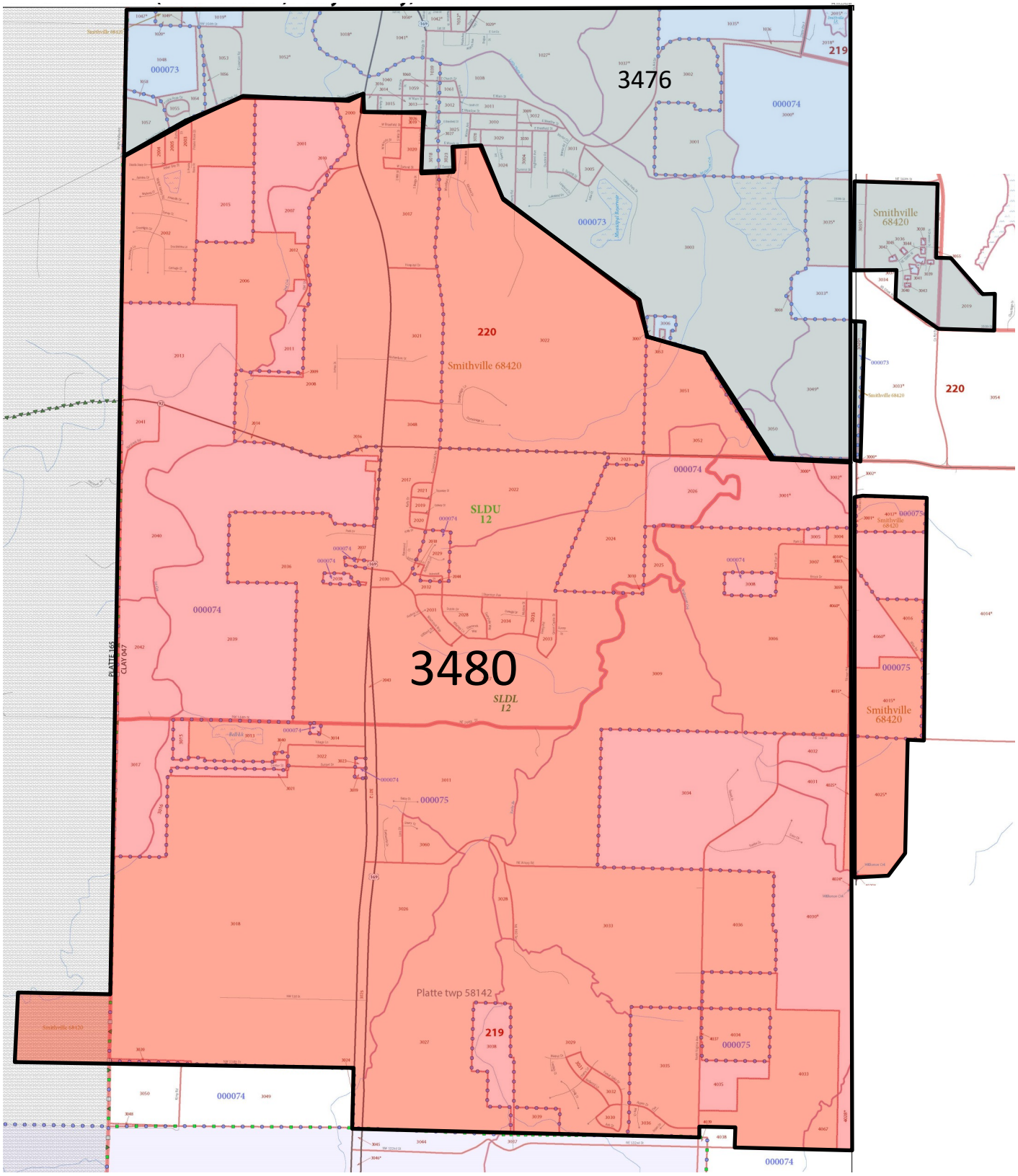
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