

Dane County Redistricting Commission
2-Feb-21
Comments / Suggestions for District Builder

Commenter	Comment
Brian Standing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selection by "Census Block Group" should be replaced with selection by the most current version of "Municipal Wards." This will help make sure submitted maps conform to Wisconsin state law, and protect "communities of interest." 2. It would also be nice if there were an easy way to export the evaluation table in the lefthand column into a CSV file for each submitted map. 3. Can we export a CSV file from a "read-only" map HTML link? 4. Any way to get DistrictBuilder to export the BLOCKID field as text, rather than a number? 5. One (out of four) exported CSV files (Leonard-1.csv) exported with all entries in the BLOCKID field shown as "5500000000000000." The other three CSV files I received correctly showed the 15-digit identifier (e.g., "550250129001008") in the BLOCKID field. I'm puzzled why this would show up differently in different exports from DistrictBuilder.
Barry Burden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I like DistrictBuilder a lot but I have one piece of feedback for Azavea. Once a user has created many districts, it's hard to go back and find them later to make adjustments. A list of the districts appears on the left side of the page with small colored dots. But it is difficult to match those dots to the colors of the districts in the map. For example, if I want to modify a district that looks blue-ish on the map, it takes a lot of trial and error to find the matching shade of blue in the column in the left. • One way to solve this problem might be put to district numbers on the map to match the numbers in the left column. If that was done, it would be easier to see that the district on the map that needs modifying is number X and then find that X in the left column to select it. With 37 districts to keep track of, an efficient way to go back and forth would be appreciated.
Ken Opin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It would be very helpful if I could label each district with the number DistrictBuilder assigned it. As I was developing my map I bounced around the County, so now that I have to make adjustments, it's not easy to see which districts are which. 2. Another feature I'd like to see is the ability to slide districts up and down like a selection in a Netflix queue. When I drew my map I jumped all over the place. Now when I go back to revise, the districts don't appear above or below the adjoining districts in the list on the left. I'd like to have them adjoining so I can immediately see how a change in one district affects the adjoining one. 3. The ability to save a map and then use it as a template for a new map, without starting from scratch, would also be good.
Nakia Wiley	<p>District Builder is extremely user friendly.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I do have a question regarding the definition of interests. How can we know what a group of individuals' interests are? The only information that is provided is race. Perhaps we should explore the word "interests." Are we talking about farming, community development, political affiliation, sports, etc? 2. Adding municipal wards in district builder will be helpful. 3. More information on community of interest would be helpful as well.
Andrea Kaminsky	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One thing I find difficult about this software is that, with 37 colors, it's difficult to match the colors on the map with the little dots to the left of the districts in the list. For example, it looks like there's a big problem with Districts 10 and 11, but I can't find them in the map. • Concerned about how we can train the public to use this software and make sure they have a good experience with it. • Making the color indicator in the lefthand column bigger, perhaps the entire bar, rather than just a tiny dot, would also be helpful.

Idella Yamben	<p>A few challenges with the software that I had:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It was hard to find the right color to address choices. I wish there was some highlight feature so I could match the color of the block with the list. 2. I missed a whole block in the Sun Prairie region because I could not see it. While I could have used the zoom in function, mistakes are challenges because of number 1 above. 3. I tried to keep balanced. If I had a deviation of say +600 in one district, could I compensate by having a -600 or so another district? <p>I would appreciate hearing others tactics on where to start. I tried to start with the inner madison area. I would also like a refresher on how to use the fourth column (comp.) to help in making district selections.</p>
Ken Leonard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District Builder includes the names of neighborhoods on the map but doesn't show the boundaries of the neighborhoods. This makes it difficult to know if the new districts we are creating divide neighborhoods or not. I've found some maps of neighborhood associations that show boundaries but they don't have streets on them so it makes it hard to relate them to the District Builder map. Does the city or county have neighborhood maps with streets on them? • In addition, the block groups divide neighborhoods which also makes it difficult to not divide neighborhoods with districts we are creating. • In some cases, it is hard to keep major streets or highways from dividing districts because some of the streets and highways divide block groups including major streets like the West Beltline, University Avenue, East Washington, et <p>Otherwise, the software has worked well for me.</p>
Tim Confare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I started at the center of Madison and worked my way outwards. At first, I did the outside but I found that process to be more cumbersome. It might just be the way I do things and others may have better luck starting on the outside. • I hope people will know to use the Blocks in addition to the Block Groups. I used the Block Groups first and then clicked on the Blocks to "fine-tune" neighboring districts • At first I was frustrated at no "delete" or "remove" button if I made a mistake but I quickly got used to selecting a neighbor district and adding the block that I wanted to delete from the other district. This will probably be the number one question or complaint • One thing I really think we need is a Label with the District number so it is clear which district is on the map. Right now it is color coded but when there are 37 districts some of the colors look the same. After the initial adding of districts I went back and changed some of the districts but by then I couldn't tell out of the different shades of green (example) which one was district 15. • I didn't get a chance to correct the unassigned or non-contiguous polygons. If you select by Blocks some of them are very small and I can see if there may be a lot of non-contiguous polygons.
Rachel Rodriguez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need a signal indicating unassigned land area, in addition to unassigned population. Zero-population wards or lots will still need to be assigned to a district. • It would be good to have a way to renumber districts after they are "accepted."
Greg Hyer	<p>Make sure maps are not downgraded too much in grading process if submitted maps are incomplete. Commission wants to take elements of multiple maps to create ideal map that they can recommend.</p>