# Communities of Interest

What is a Community of Interest?

A Community of Interest is a **geographic area** that shares **cultural**, **historical**, or **economic** interests. Communities of Interest encourage the drawing of fairer voting districts.

Communities of Interest can include...

1. Your neighborhood, or an area you live in.

2. The people you would like to choose representatives with.

3. A local group that is brought together by a common interest.

❏ Community Activities and Services

❏ Cultural or Historical Interests

❏ Economic or Environmental Interests

❏ Community Needs and Concerns
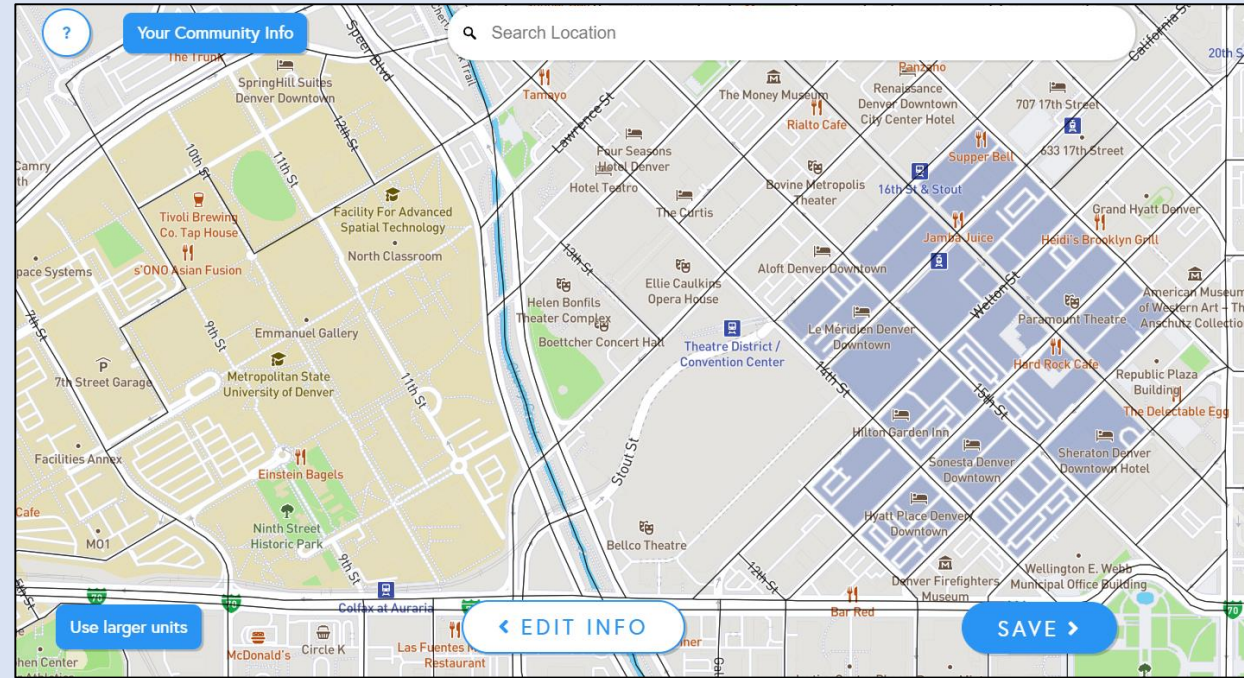
❏ Community drawn either using census blocks or block groups

❑ **COIs have power and can affect change**

    ❑ AALDEF (Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund) –
       New York City 2012

        ❑ https://www.aaldef.org/uploads/pdf/intervenor-lee-memorandum.pdf

    ❑ MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund) –
       California 2011

        ❑ https://www.maldef.org/assets/pdf/maldef_final_submission_052611_narrative.pdf

❑ Representable crowdsources COI information

    ❑ Best results: significant participation -> powerful combined testimony

❑ *Can citizen-submitted COIs affect change in the same way group-submitted COIs have in the past?*

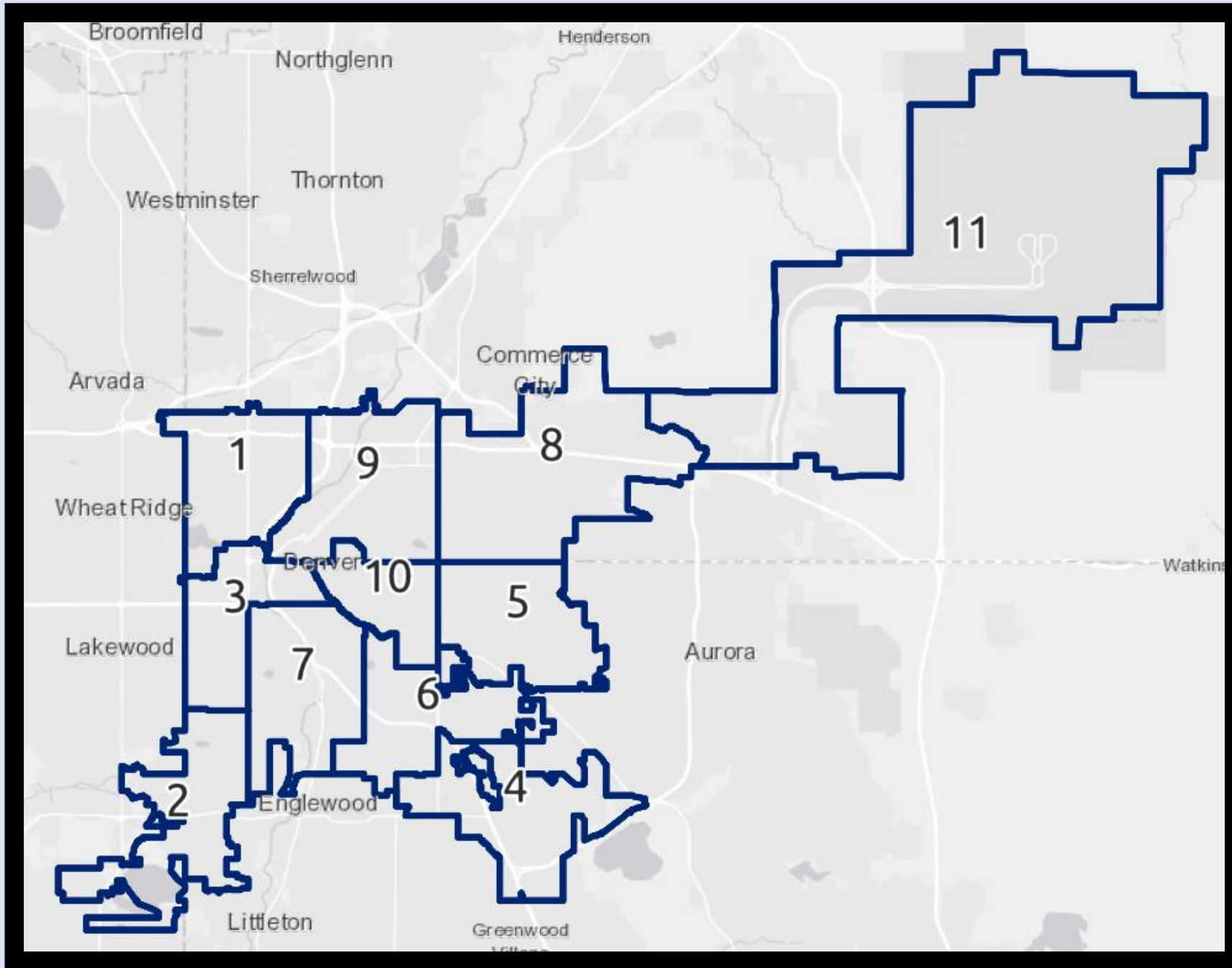❑ *What other uses can citizen-submitted COIs have?*
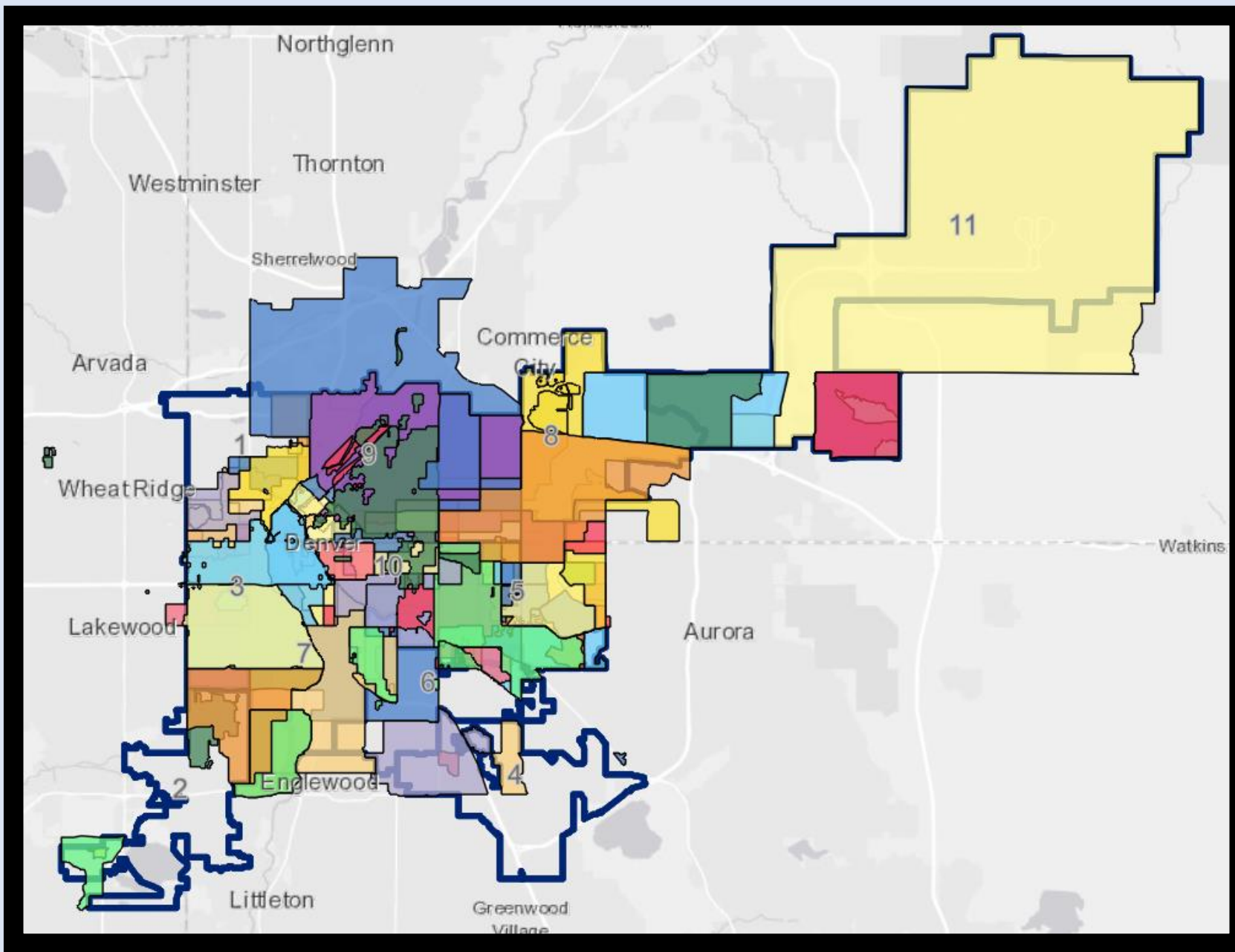
❑ **Current COI count: 122**

❑ **Sounds low? One of the highest in the country!**
❑ **Difficult to evaluate one-by-one**

❑ **Threshold: Any 2 or more COIs with shared geography and common interest**
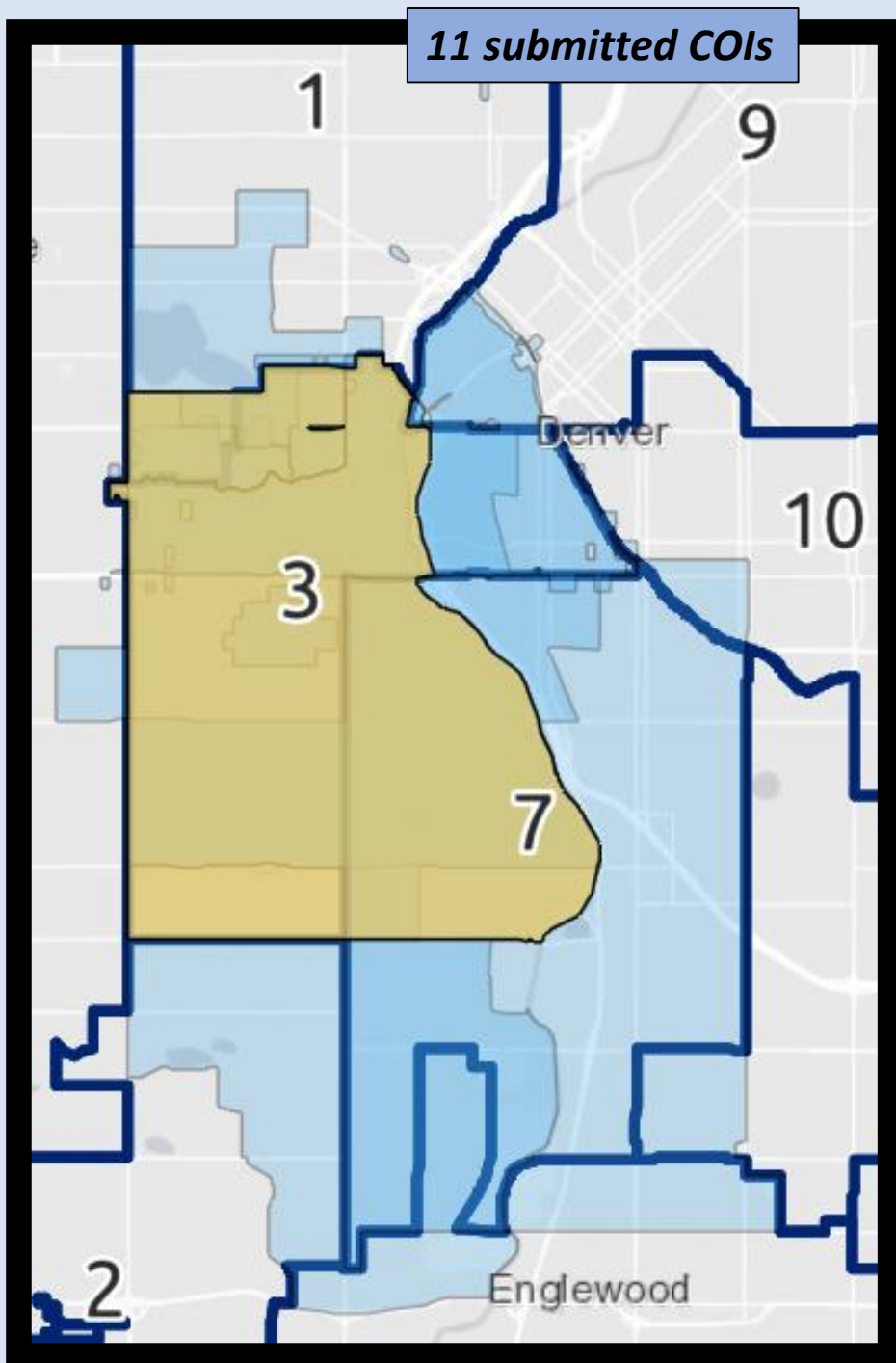
REDISTRICTING
denver 2022

D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10	D11	Total
19	4	19	3	38	13	18	22	32	17	6	191

West Denver

REDISTRICTING
denver 2022
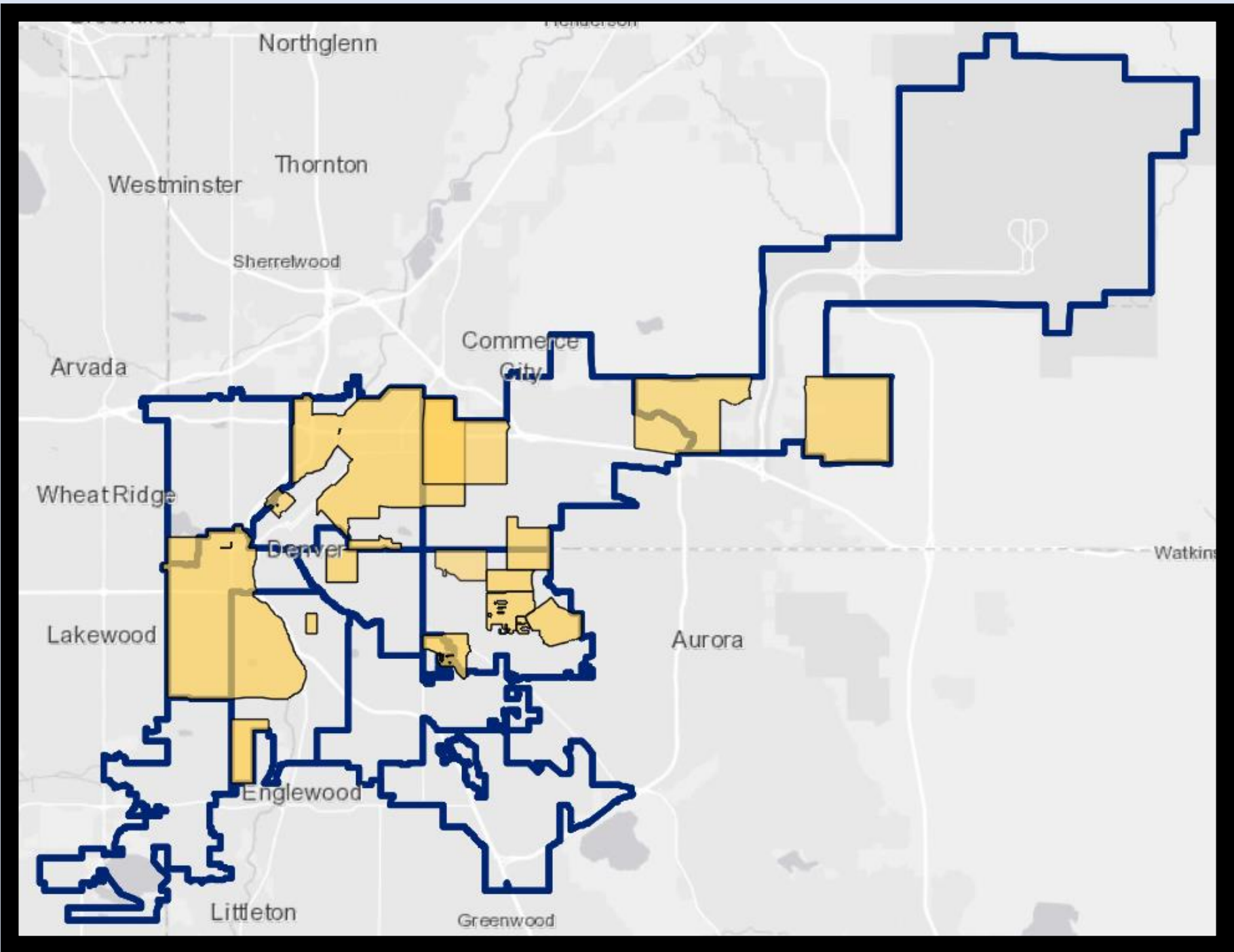
❑ Significant Latinx community

❑ Gentrification, displacement, lack of affordable housing

❑ Along W Colfax corridor – traffic and public transit issues; homelessness

❑ Athmar Park residents gather at several area parks – concerns about waste and safety

❑ Split into 3 districts, with individual COIs extending into 4 more districts

Transparent blue: individually submitted COIs

Transparent yellow: where they share geography

North Denver

❏ Pollution and air quality issues

  ❏ I25/I70
  ❏ Purina plant
  ❏ Suncor refinery
  ❏ Superfund site

❏ Cole/Clayton area lack of affordable housing
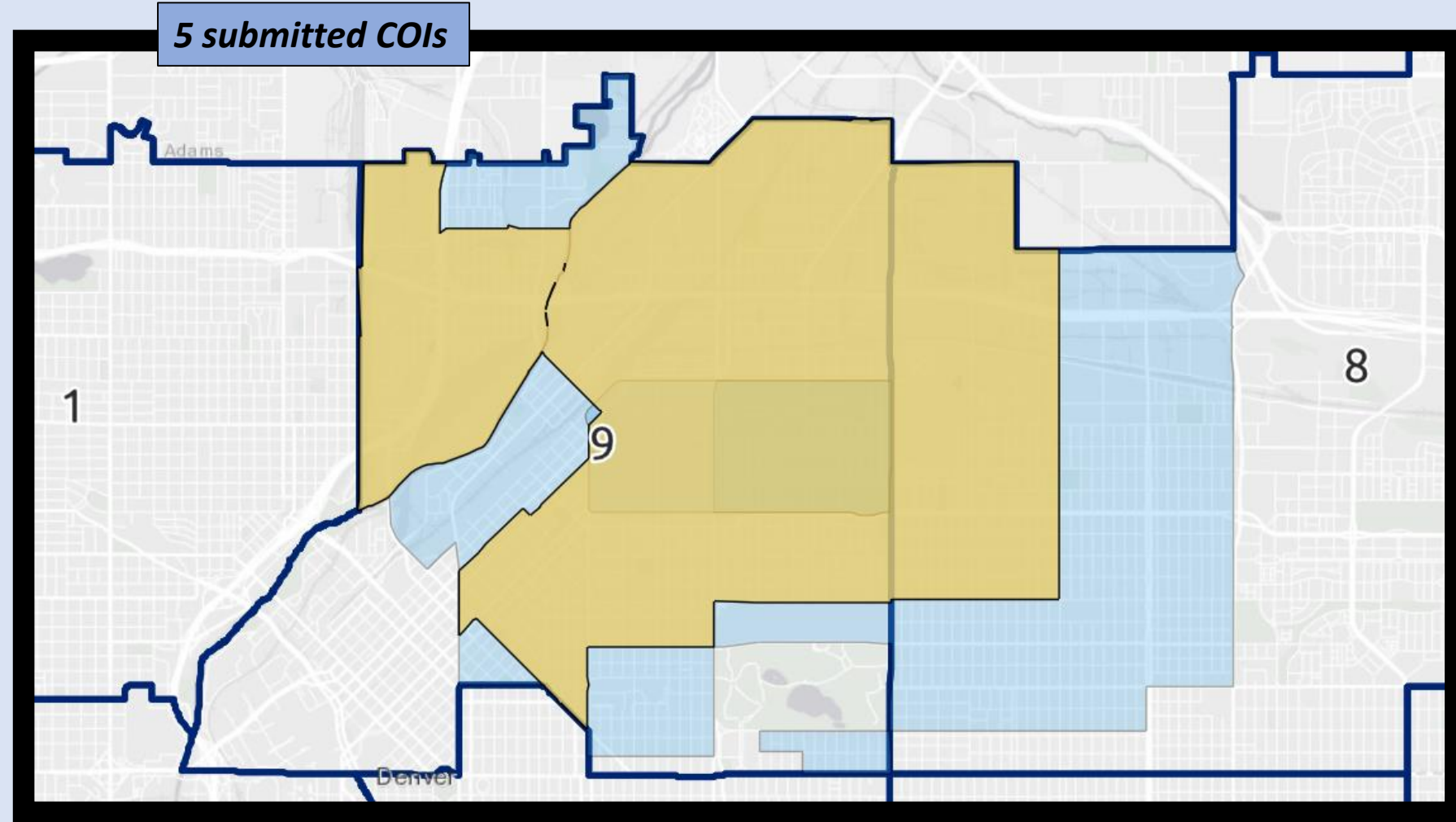
5 submitted COIs

Transparent blue: individually submitted COIs

Transparent yellow: where they share geography

7

College View

❑ Historically part of Loretto Heights (*which extends west into District 2*); residents here identify with Loretto Heights

❑ Children here use schools in District 2

❑ Historical (*and some current*) agricultural presence and importance to community

2

Transparent blue: individually submitted COIs

Transparent yellow: where they share geography

East Colfax

❑ Poverty, gentrification, displacement

❑ Multi-lingual and multi-cultural community

❑ Statistical neighborhood split between 2 districts; requests to unite neighborhood in 1 district

Montbello

❑ Significant Latinx community

Transparent blue: individually submitted COIs

Transparent yellow: where they share geography

Green Valley Ranch

❑ Crime issues

   ❑ Need their own police station

❑ Lack of shopping/grocery options, have to travel unusually far

4 submitted COIs

Transparent blue: individually submitted COIs

Transparent yellow: where they share geography
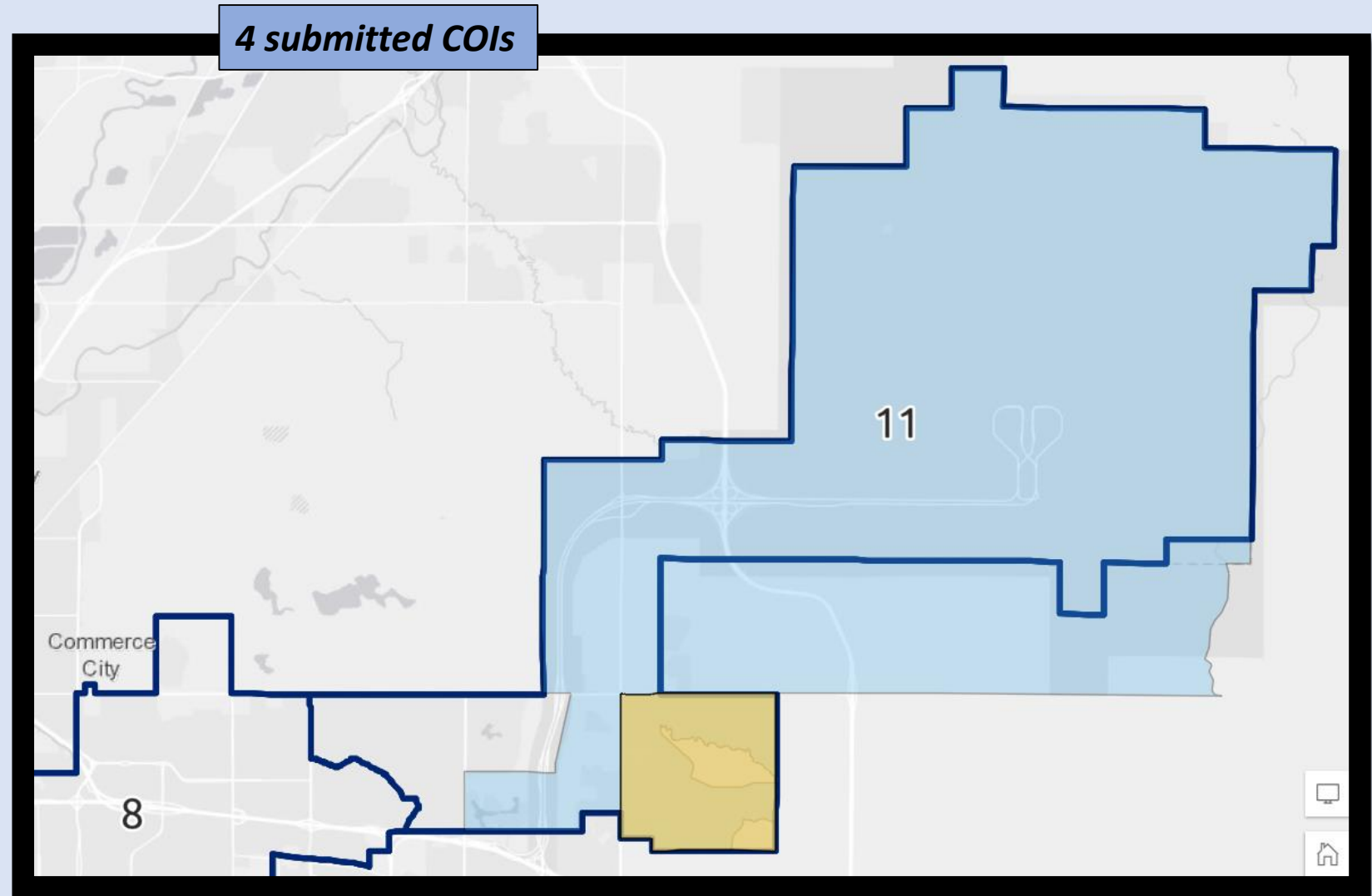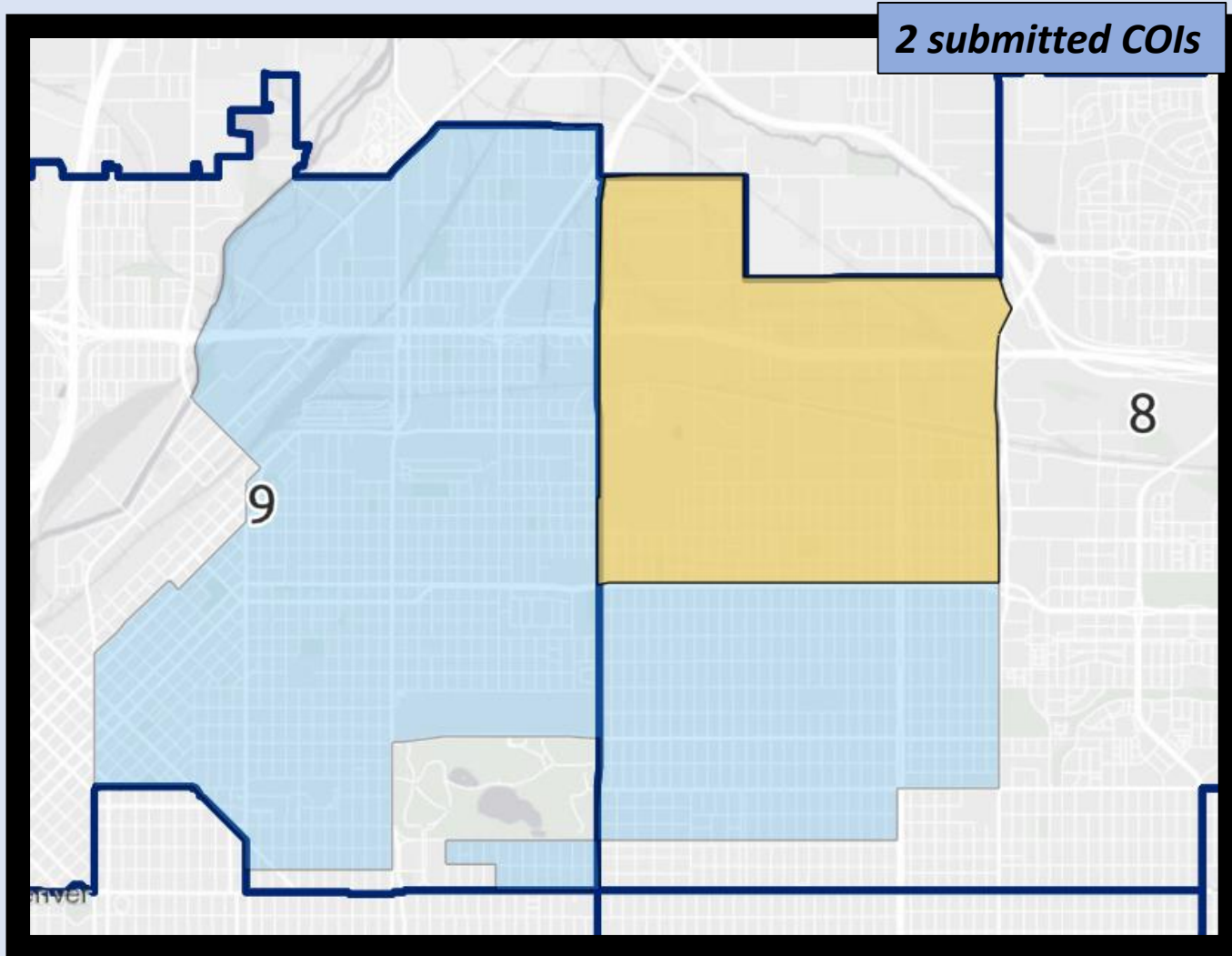
Northeast Park Hill

❑ Historically a black community

2 submitted COIs

Transparent blue: individually submitted COIs

Transparent yellow: where they share geography

9 submitted COIs
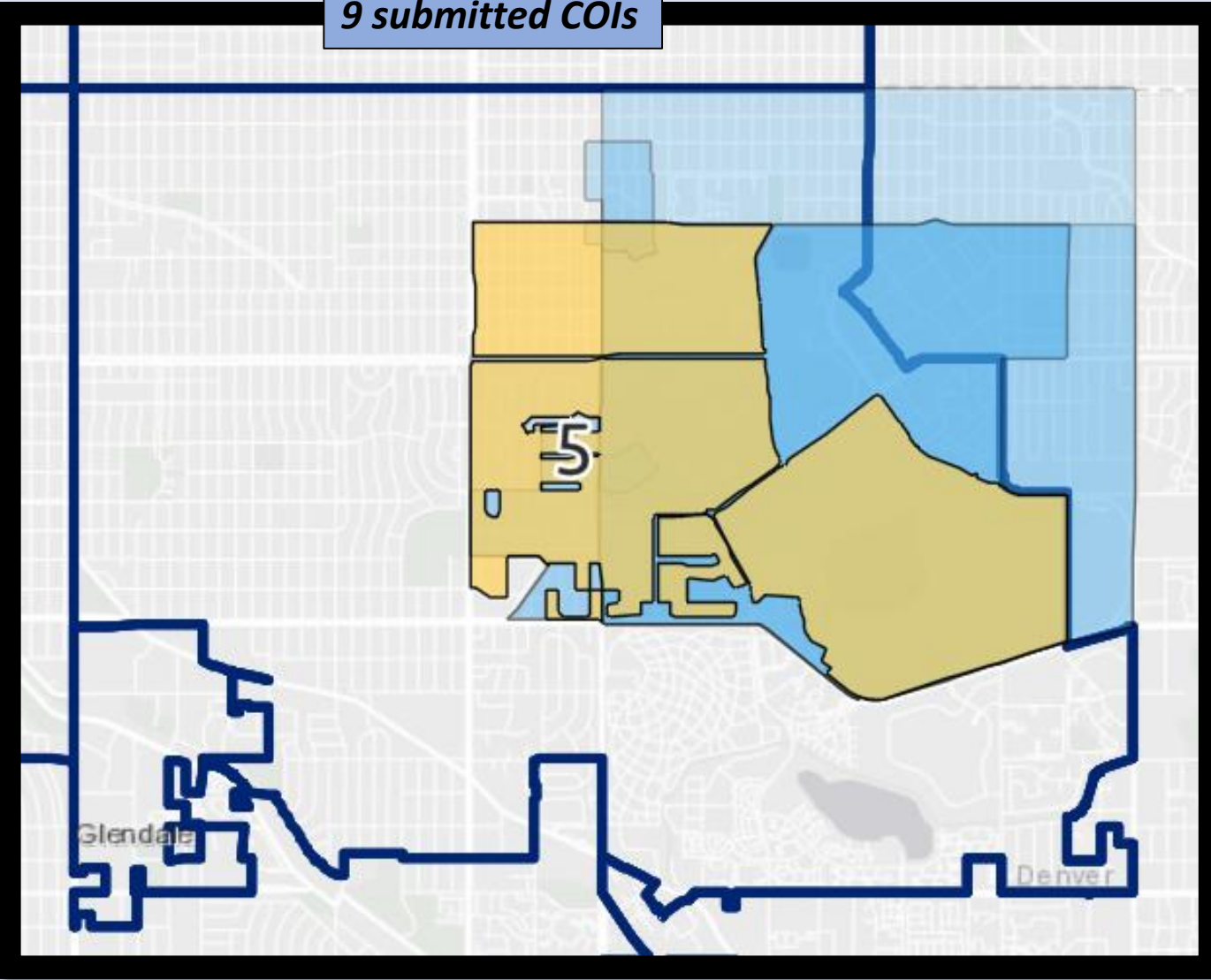
Lowry Area

❑ Crime

❑ Homelessness

❑ Traffic congestion/need accessible transportation

❑ Lack of affordable housing

Transparent blue: individually submitted COIs

Transparent yellow: where they share geography

West of Union Station

❑ Significant recent development leaves new community split between 2 districts

1

9

Denver

10
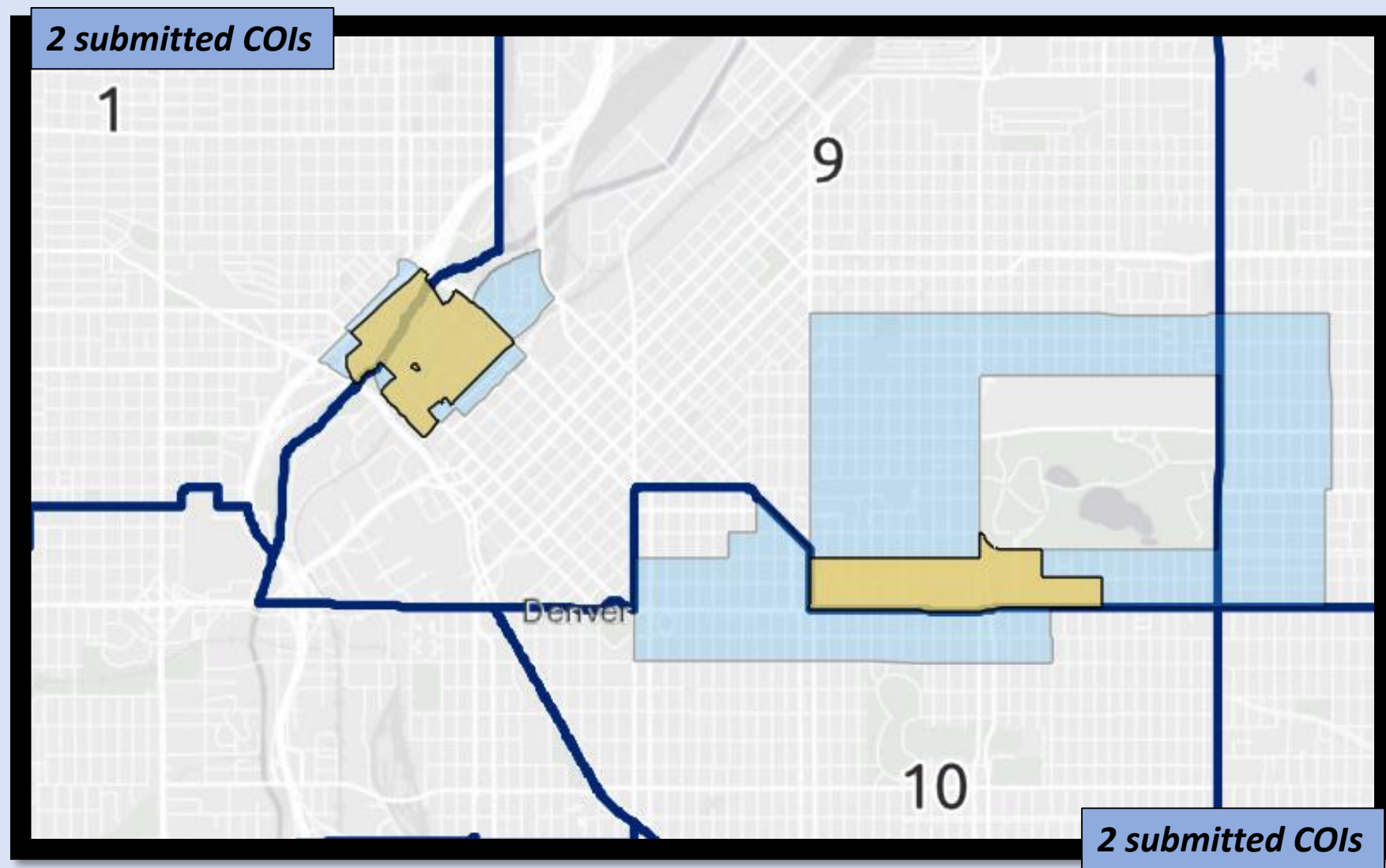
Colfax

❑ Lack of affordable housing

REDISTRICTING
denver 2022

Capitol Hill

❑ Lack of affordable housing/rent ❑ Poverty, homelessness ❑ Transportation issues

7 submitted COIs
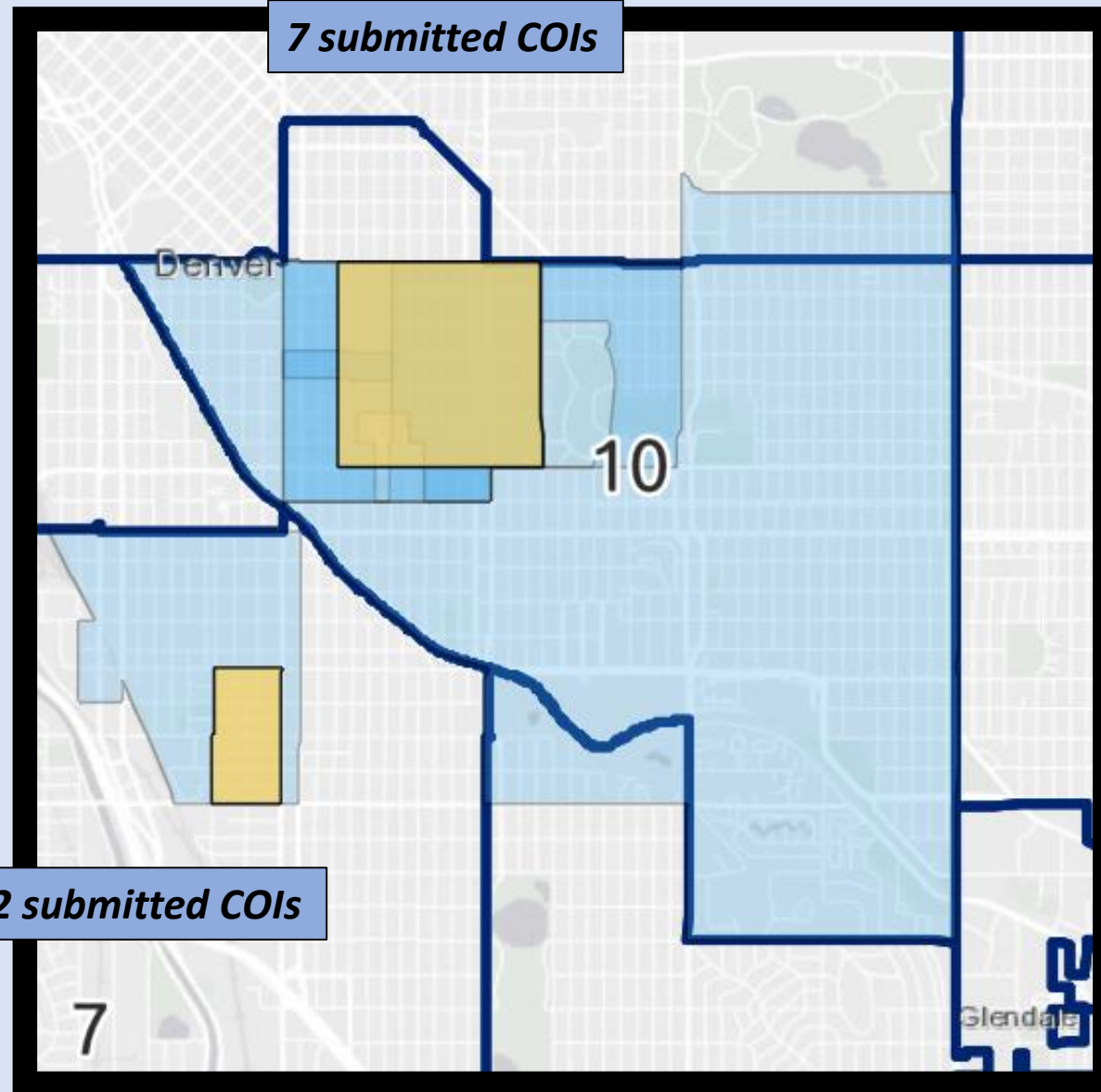
2 submitted COIs

Baker area

❑ Crime

❑ Homelessness

Transparent blue: individually submitted COIs

Transparent yellow: where they share geography

Mayfair

☐ Traffic congestion

Washington Virginia Vale Area

☐ Significant Jewish population

2 submitted COIs
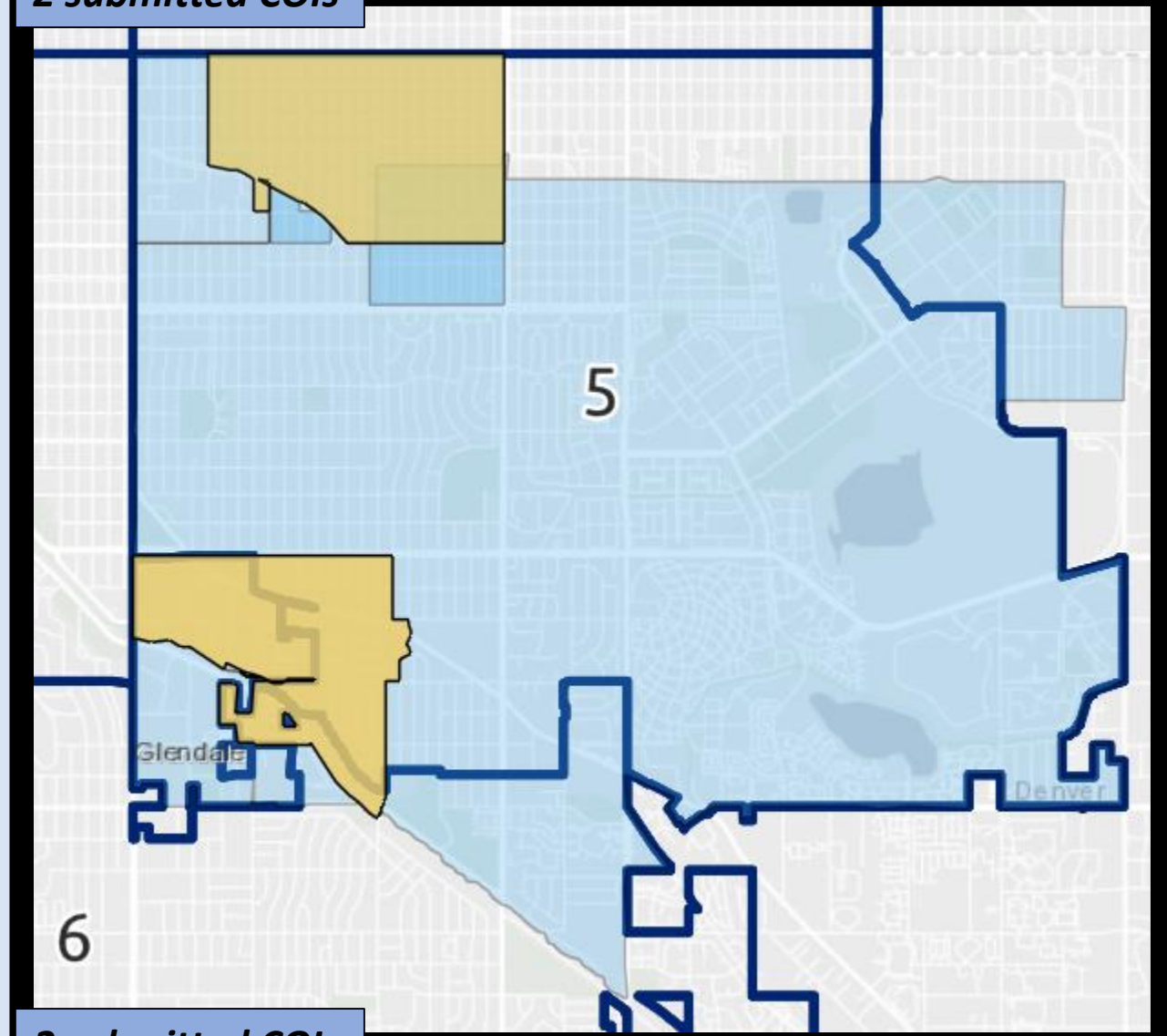
2 submitted COIs

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Transparent yellow: where they share geography

❑ *Can citizen-submitted COIs affect change in the same way group-submitted COIs have in the past?*

  ❑*It appears to be going in that direction. Some of these areas are quite detailed and robust.*

❑ *What other uses can citizen-submitted COIs have?*

  ❑ Highlight communities and areas that may need more/different outreach

  ❑ Holistic approach – supplement with other data

  ❑ Metrics to measure how "split" COIs are
      ❑ Integrated into Representable by EOS

❏ *What can we do to improve this process and build bigger results now or in the future?*

❏ *Talked to Dr. Theobald of UC Colorado Springs*

- ❏ Biggest piece of advice: Talking to researchers about similar projects
- ❏ Contacted us with student who, for his Master's Degree Research project, studied the competitiveness within Colorado congressional districts.
  - ❏ He also did research with involving Colorado Independent Redistricting Commission
- ❏ Future events planned

❏ Our Ideas:

- ❏ More engagement and earlier, especially in areas where participation is lacking
- ❏ Utilize the meeting-in-a-box to help guide the conversation
  - ❏ Meeting-in-a-box

Council Member Interview Data

- Sat in on interviews with each current Council member, made GIS of notes
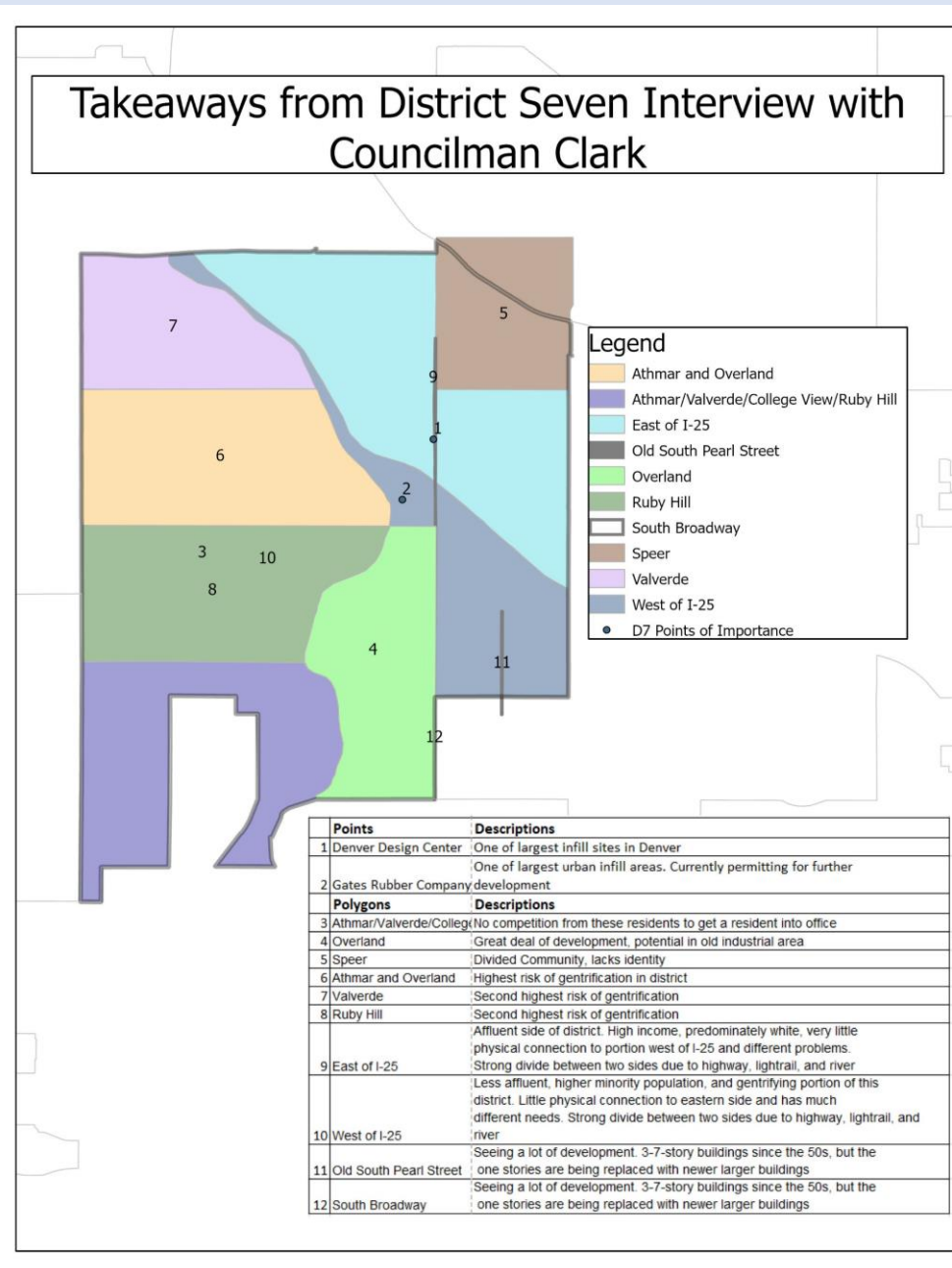- Data on notable roads, neighborhoods, and points of importance
- Data analysis fluid, hopeful to meet with members to specialize data for their needs
- Overlap in COI data and this (ex. Gentrification west of I-25, Loretto identifying with College View more than its current district)
- Hopeful to schedule one-on-one discussions with Council Members

Takeaways from District Seven Interview with Councilman Clark

Legend
- Athmar and Overland
- Athmar/Valverde/College View/Ruby Hill
- East of I-25
- Old South Pearl Street
- Overland
- Ruby Hill
- South Broadway
- Speer
- Valverde
- West of I-25
- D7 Points of Importance

Points		Descriptions
1	Denver Design Center	One of largest infill sites in Denver
2	Gates Rubber Company	One of largest urban infill areas. Currently permitting for further development
Polygons		**Descriptions**
3	Athmar/Valverde/College	No competition from these residents to get a resident into office
4	Overland	Great deal of development, potential in old industrial area
5	Speer	Divided Community, lacks identity
6	Athmar and Overland	Highest risk of gentrification in district
7	Valverde	Second highest risk of gentrification
8	Ruby Hill	Second highest risk of gentrification
9	East of I-25	Affluent side of district. High income, predominately white, very little physical connection to portion west of I-25 and different problems. Strong divide between two sides due to highway, lightrail, and river
10	West of I-25	Less affluent, higher minority population, and gentrifying portion of this district. Little physical connection to eastern side and has much different needs. Strong divide between two sides due to highway, lightrail, and river
11	Old South Pearl Street	Seeing a lot of development. 3-7-story buildings since the 50s, but the one stories are being replaced with newer larger buildings
12	South Broadway	Seeing a lot of development. 3-7-story buildings since the 50s, but the one stories are being replaced with newer larger buildings

Questions?