

The Composition of Mississippi Congressional Districts From 1860 - 1966

Demonstrates the use of "Packing" and "Cracking" to Maintain Domination and Control

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1932

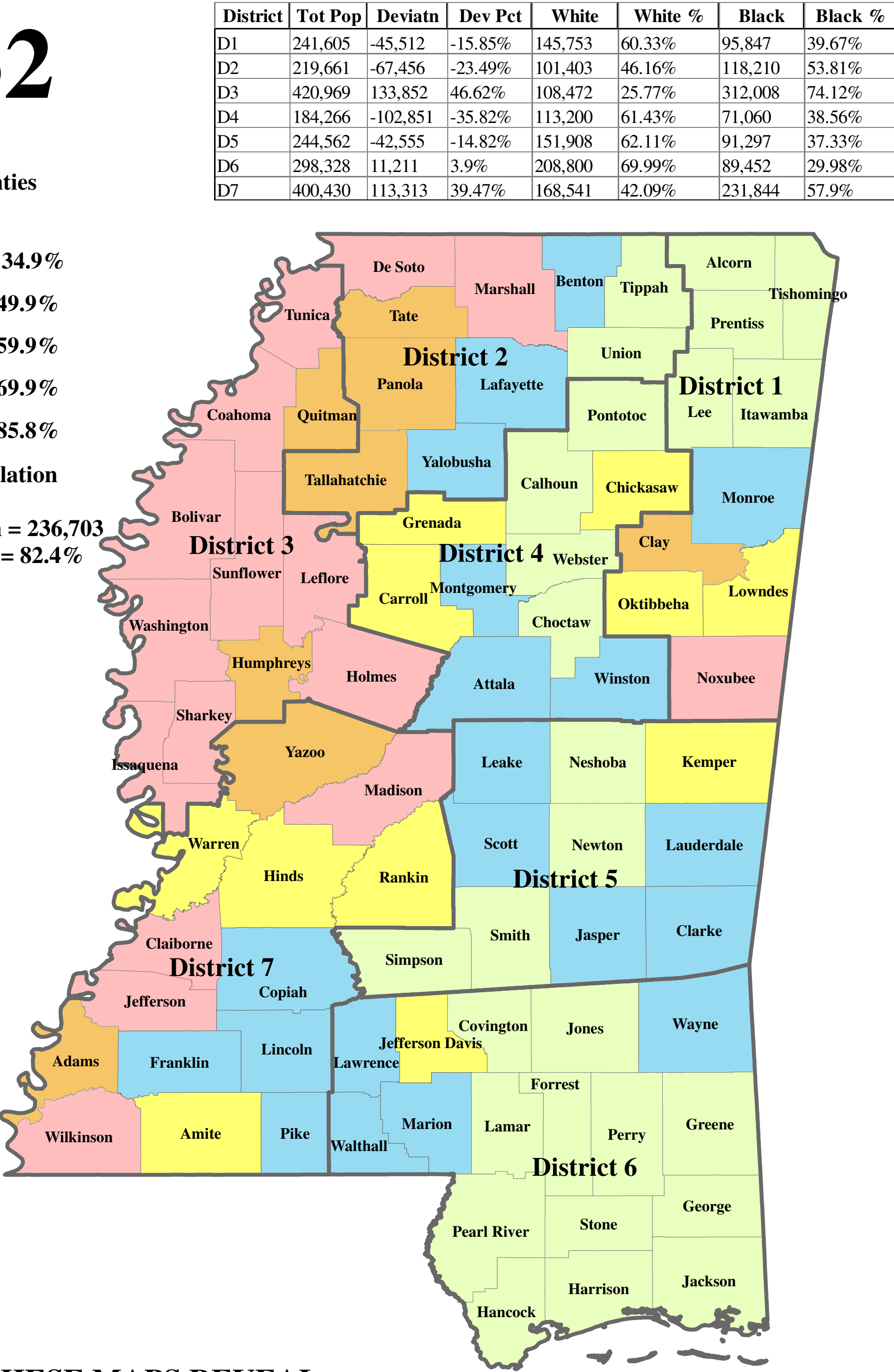
Legend

MS 1930 Counties

% Black **

- 5.7% - 34.9%
- 35% - 49.9%
- 50% - 59.9%
- 60% - 69.9%
- 70% - 85.8%

1930 MS Population
50.2% Black
Plan Deviation = 236,703
Deviation Pct. = 82.4%



1952

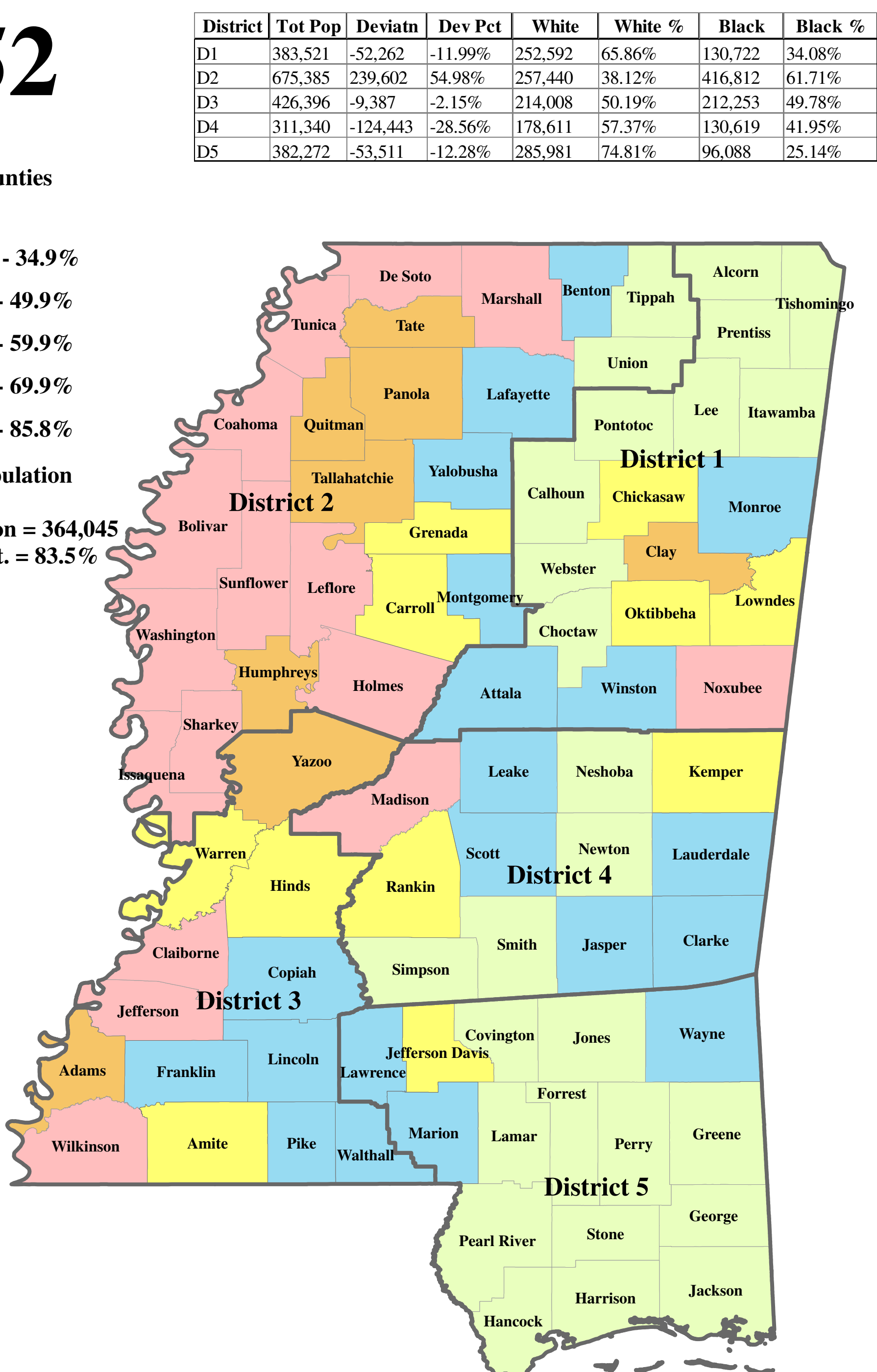
Legend

MS 1950 Counties

% Black **

- 5.7% - 34.9%
- 35% - 49.9%
- 50% - 59.9%
- 60% - 69.9%
- 70% - 85.8%

1950 MS Population
45.3% Black
Plan Deviation = 364,045
Deviation Pct. = 83.5%



1962

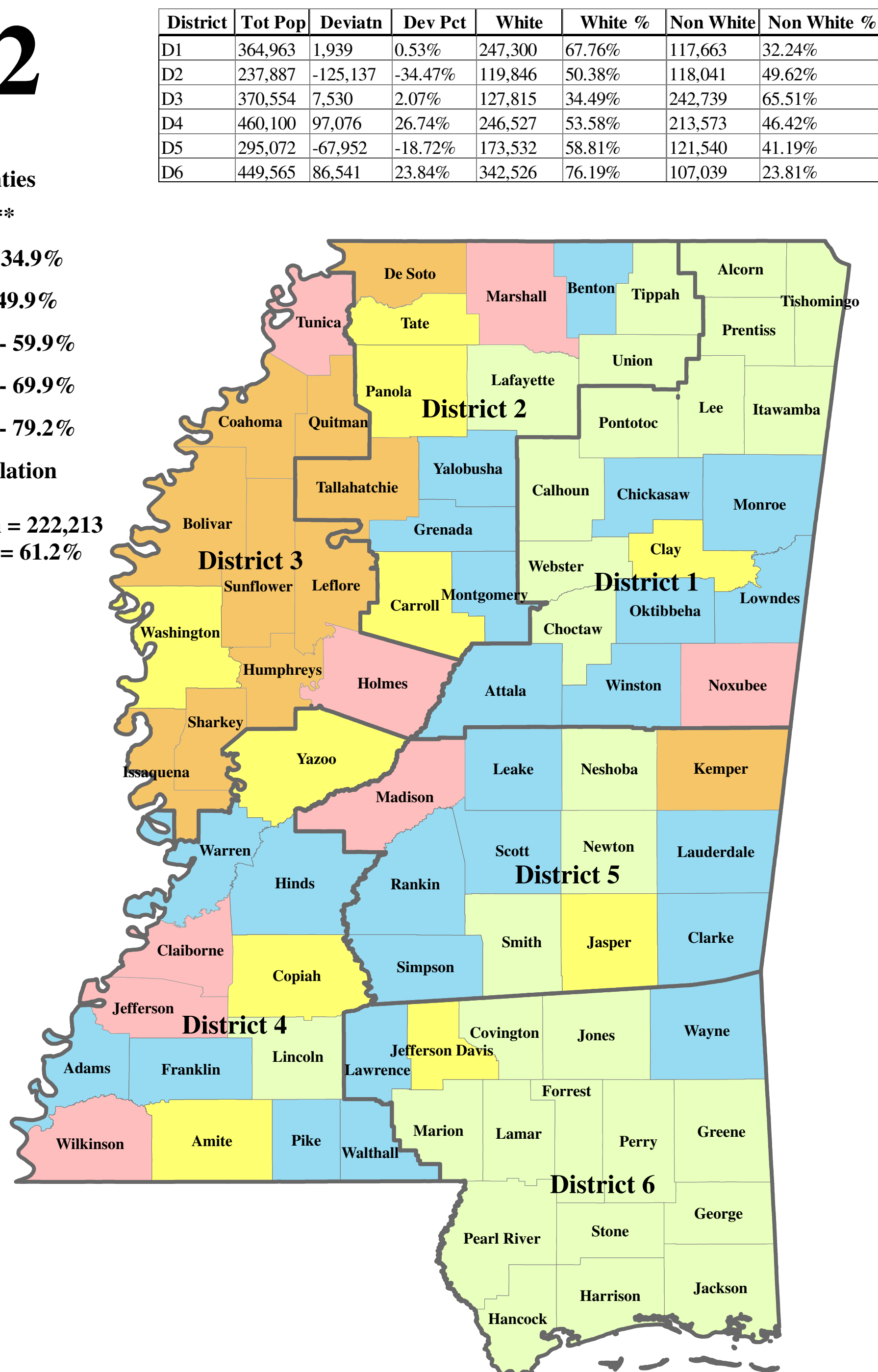
Legend

MS 1960 Counties

% NonWhite **

- 4.9% - 34.9%
- 35% - 49.9%
- 50.3% - 59.9%
- 60.7% - 69.9%
- 70.4% - 79.2%

1960 MS Population
42.3% Black
Plan Deviation = 222,213
Deviation Pct. = 61.2%



1966

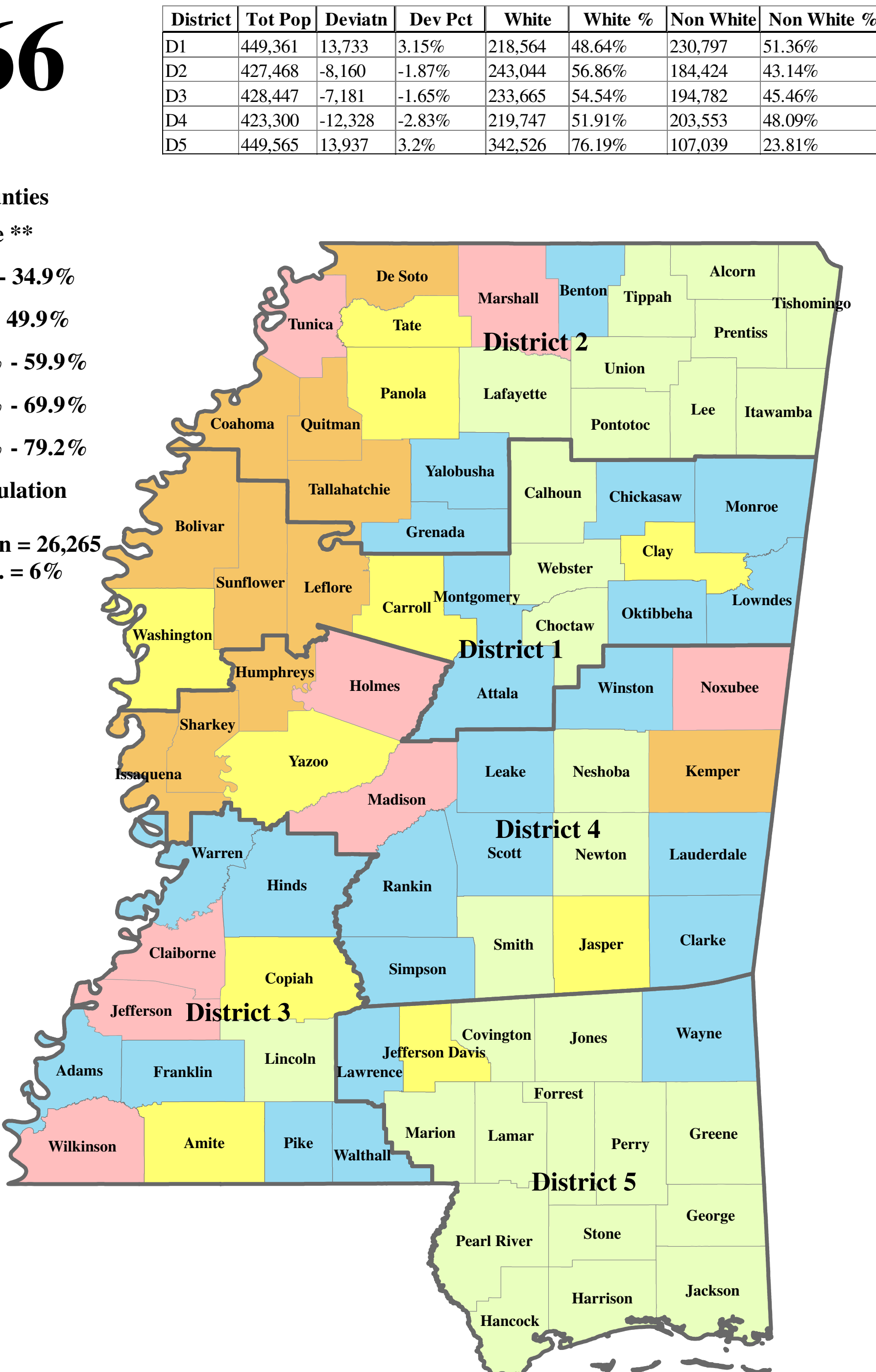
Legend

MS 1960 Counties

% Non White **

- 4.9% - 34.9%
- 35% - 49.9%
- 50.3% - 59.9%
- 60.7% - 69.9%
- 70.4% - 79.2%

1950 MS Population
42.3% Black
Plan Deviation = 26,265
Deviation Pct. = 6%



WHAT THESE MAPS REVEAL:

The congressional redistricting maps from 1860 through 1962 show how black citizens, who were denied the right to vote, were “packed” into the Delta district to keep total census population counts high to justify enhanced representation for the relatively much smaller white minority population in the Delta. Over 105 years, the Delta region of MS was redistricted to benefit plantation owners. The map in 1966, created in response to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, shows how the population of the Delta district (Dist. 1) was “cracked” among 4 other districts

to ensure that no Mississippi district had the capacity to elect a black congressional representative. In 1966 the black population percentage in the Delta district dropped from 65.71% (when it was called Dist. 3) to 51.36% (Dist. 1). The black voting age population was only about 46%. After the 1970 census it took 14 years and 7 trips to the US Supreme Court to restore in 1986 the Delta district (now Dist. 2) to near its original shape, which it approximates today, with a 58% black voting age population (2000 census).

Data Sources:

Minnesota Population Center | National Historical Geographic Information System | Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota 2004, <http://www.nhgis.org>
Historical, Demographic, Economic, and Social Data: The United States, 1790-1970, Inter-University Consortium for Political Research & Michael R. Haines, Colgate University

** Important for all Map Legends: Critical information is often concealed in plain sight. The U.S. Census Bureau has changed terminology and classification schemes by fiat or law, to suit, follow, or establish "objective" measures of social reality. 1860 is the final census year in which the term "slave" is used, as the holding of persons in bondage was outlawed, and the 3/5ths compromise was overturned with ratification of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments of the U.S. Constitution. In subsequent censuses other terms are used to describe the African American population, ranging from "negro" to "black" to "mulatto," to "colored," to "non white" - - depending on the decade.

1860

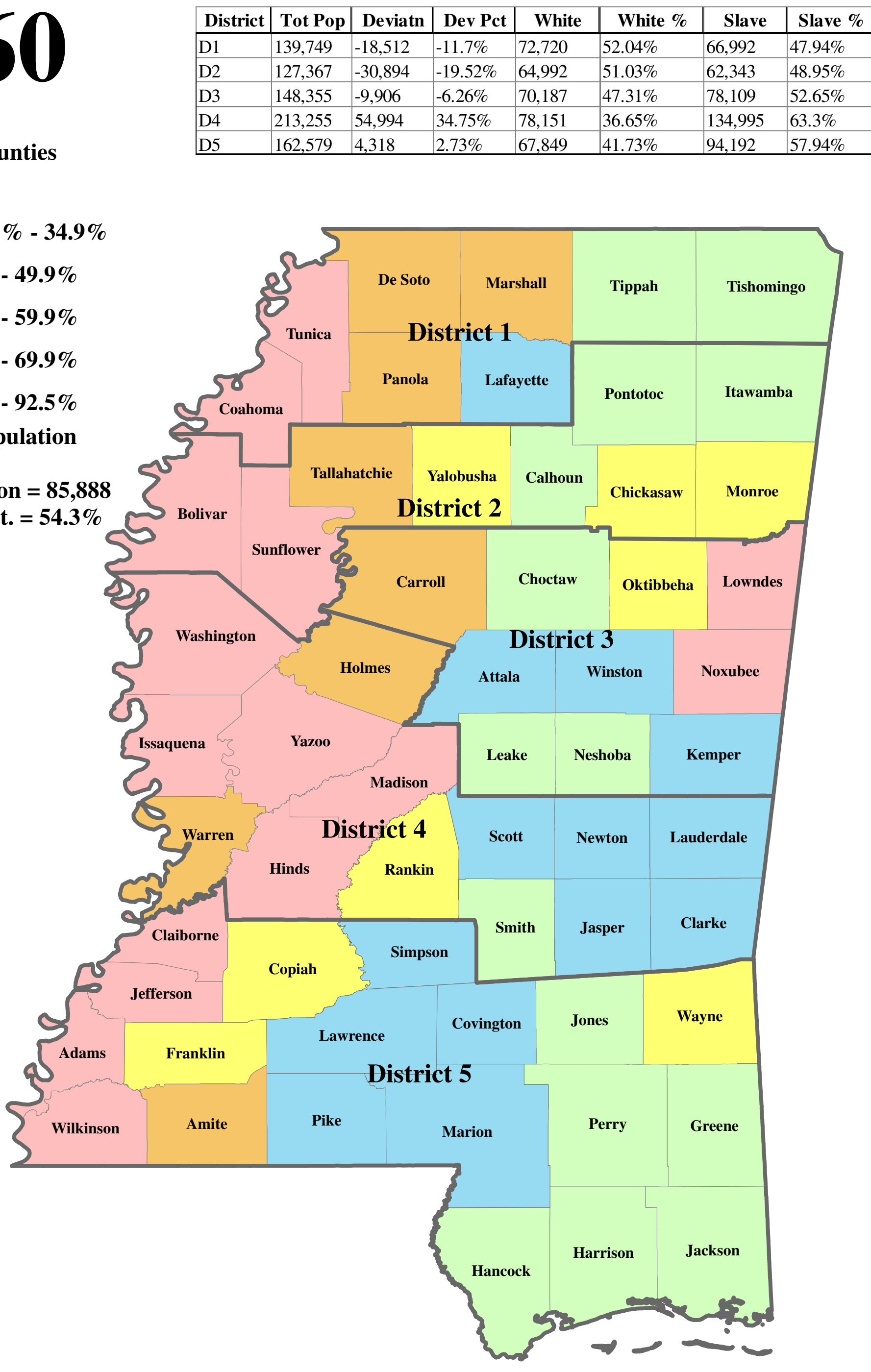
Legend

MS 1860 Counties

% Slave **

- 12.25% - 34.9%
- 40% - 49.9%
- 50% - 59.9%
- 60% - 69.9%
- 70% - 92.5%

1860 MS Population
55.2% Slave
Plan Deviation = 85,888
Deviation Pct. = 54.3%



1870

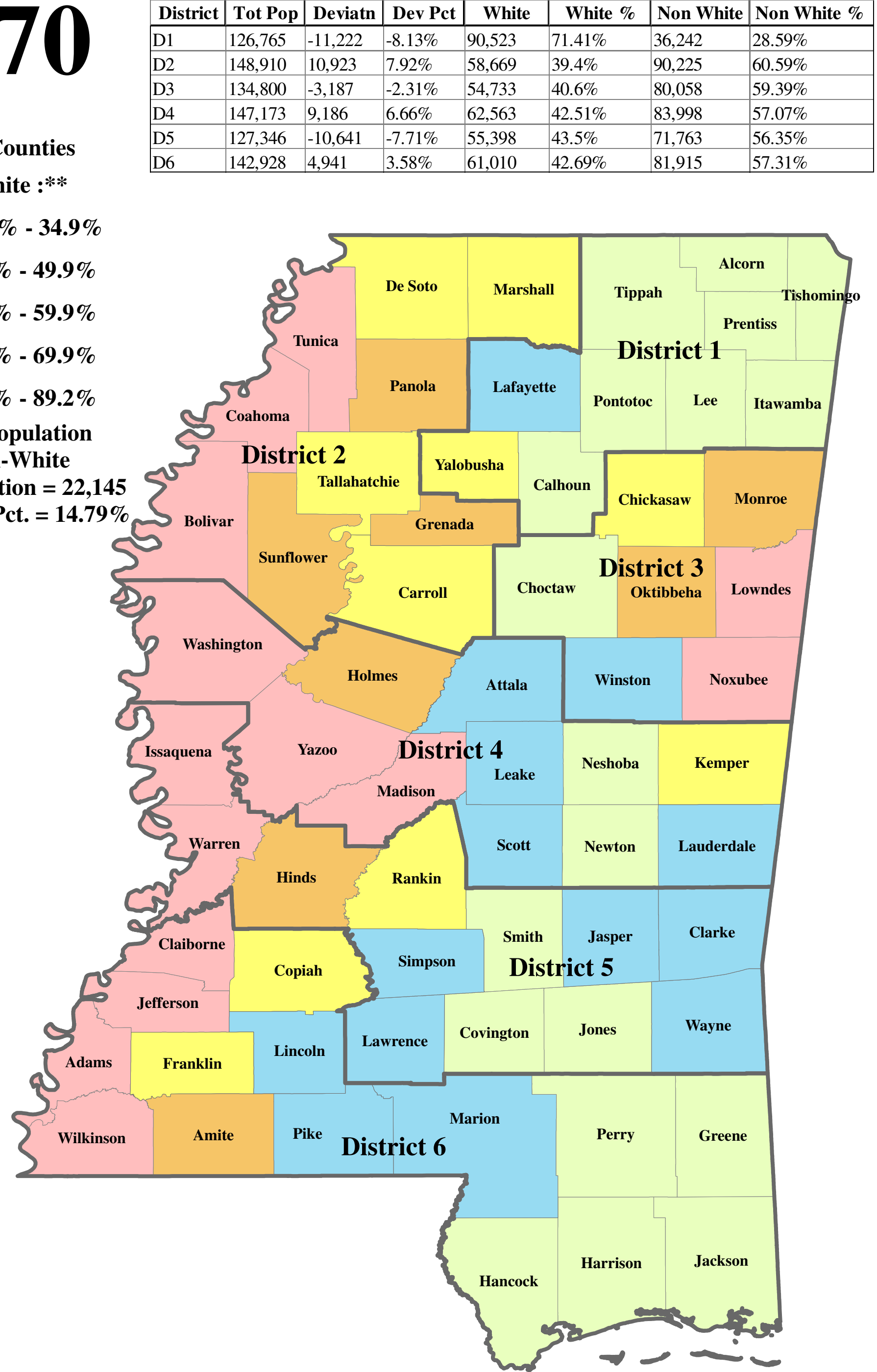
Legend

MS 1870 Counties

% Non White **

- 9.3% - 34.9%
- 35% - 49.9%
- 50% - 59.9%
- 60% - 69.9%
- 70% - 89.2%

1870 MS Population
53.7% Non-White
Plan Deviation = 22,145
Deviation Pct. = 14.79%



1880

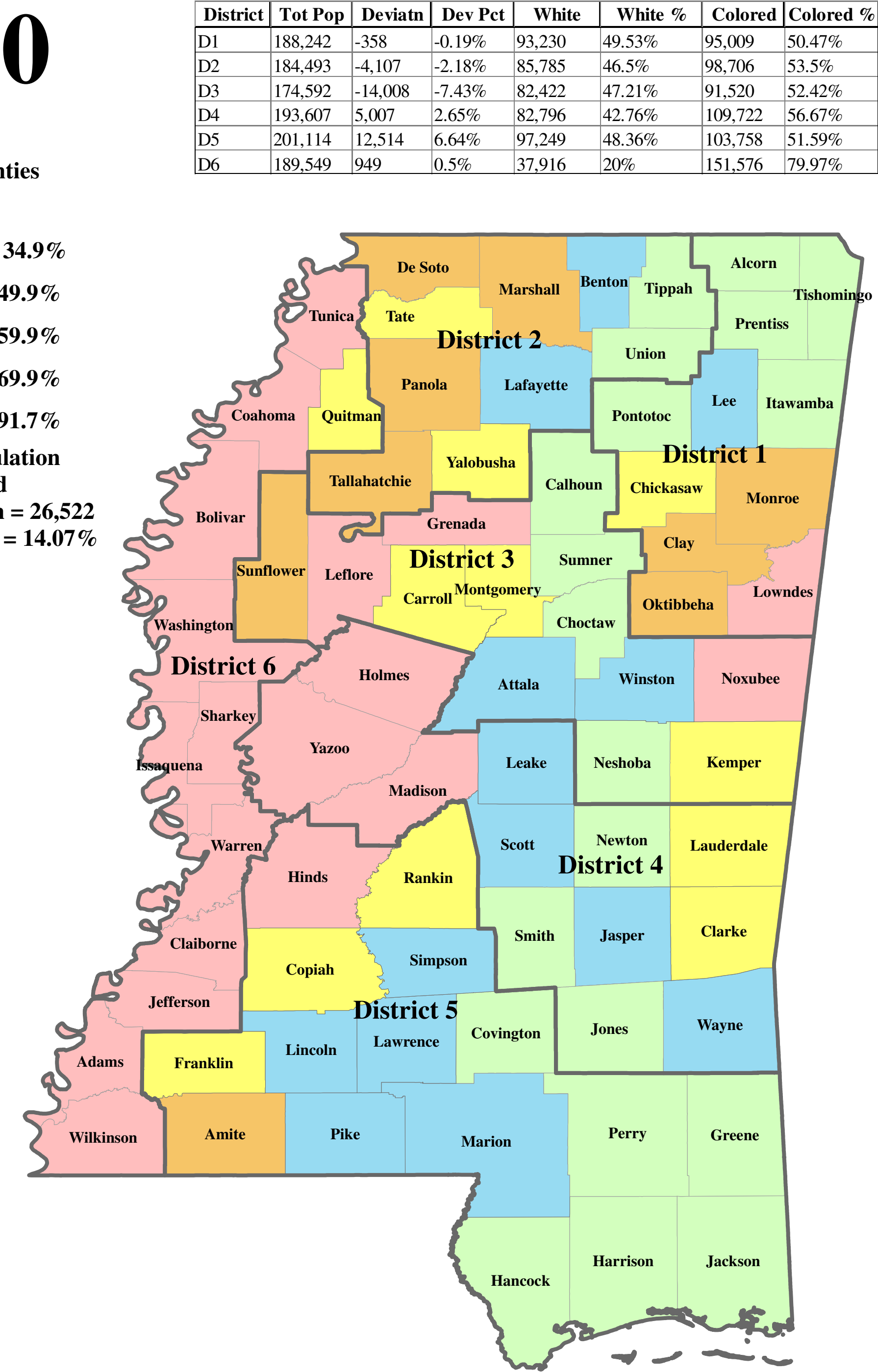
Legend

MS 1880 Counties

% Colored **

- 9.4% - 34.9%
- 35% - 49.9%
- 50% - 59.9%
- 60% - 69.9%
- 70% - 91.7%

1880 MS Population
57.5% Colored
Plan Deviation = 26,522
Deviation Pct. = 14.07%



1900

Legend

MS 1900 Counties

% Black **

- 9.9% - 34.9%
- 35% - 49.9%
- 50% - 59.9%
- 60% - 69.9%
- 70% - 94%

1900 MS Population
58.5% Black
Plan Deviation = 69,734
Deviation Pct. = 36%

