

PUBLIC DRAWS THE LINES

THE PUBLIC redistricting competition created by Azavea and sponsored by the *Daily News* and WHYY launched at the beginning of August. By the end of the month, more than 500 people had registered, and more than 1,000 maps had been started. Ultimately, 70 completed maps passing legal muster were created.

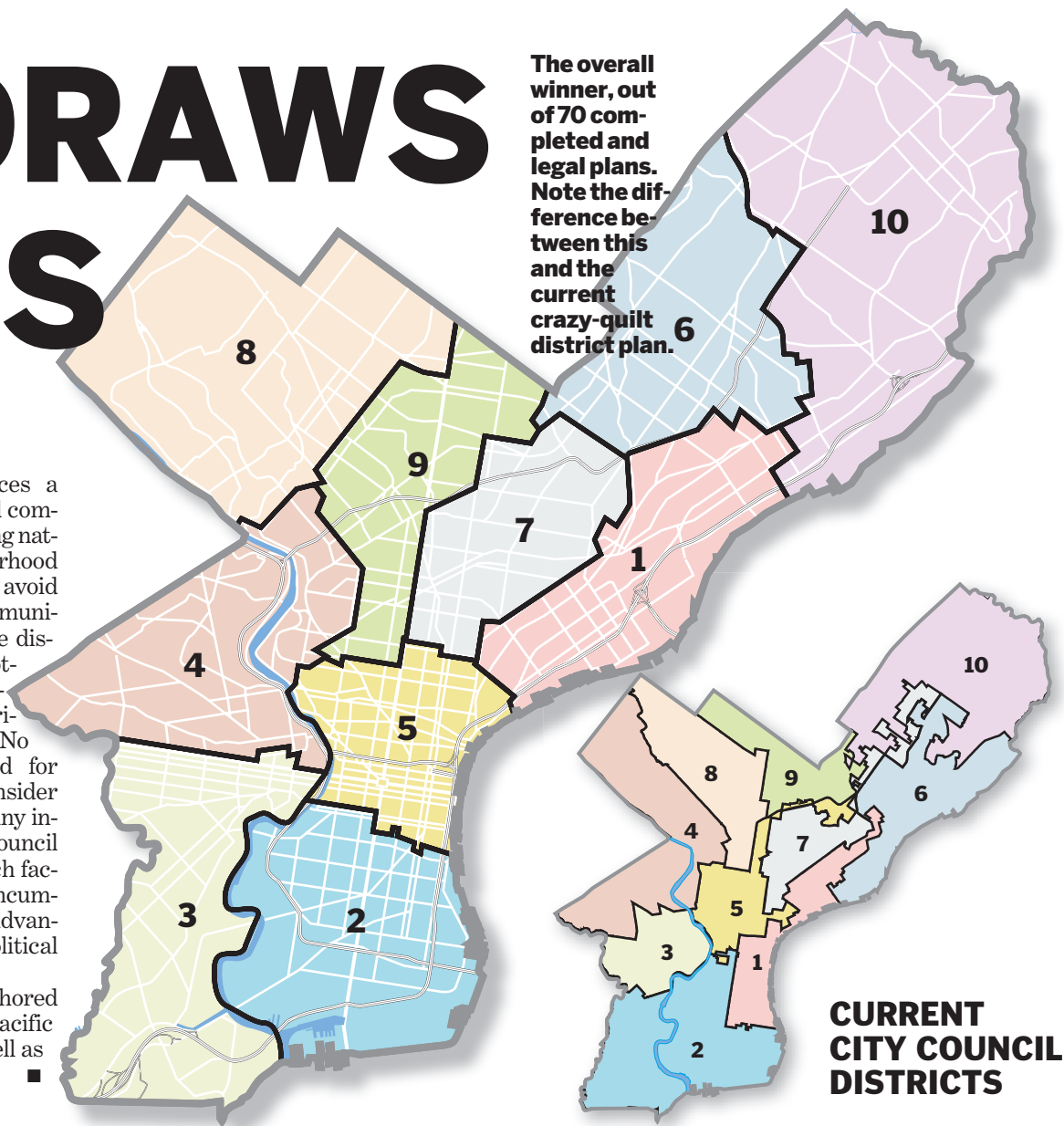
We scored entries on three key requirements — districts had to be compact, equal in population, and with a minimum of ward splits. For the overall winner, we also considered how well the map adhered to natural boundaries (like rivers) and how well communities of interest were maintained. That winning entry belongs to John Attanasio, a nonprofit consultant with a background in law and research. He lives in the city and estimates he spent days on this plan. Here's what he has to say about his

winning plan:

"My redistricting plan places a high value on compactness and community identity. While respecting natural geographic and neighborhood boundaries, I also sought to avoid splitting racial and ethnic communities. My plan thus contains one district with a majority Hispanic voting age population. It also contains four districts with a majority Black voting age population. No gerrymandering was required for these results. What I did not consider [were] the home addresses of any incumbent (or nominated) City Council members. Consideration of such factors can serve only to give an incumbent an undeserved electoral advantage or to eliminate a political threat."

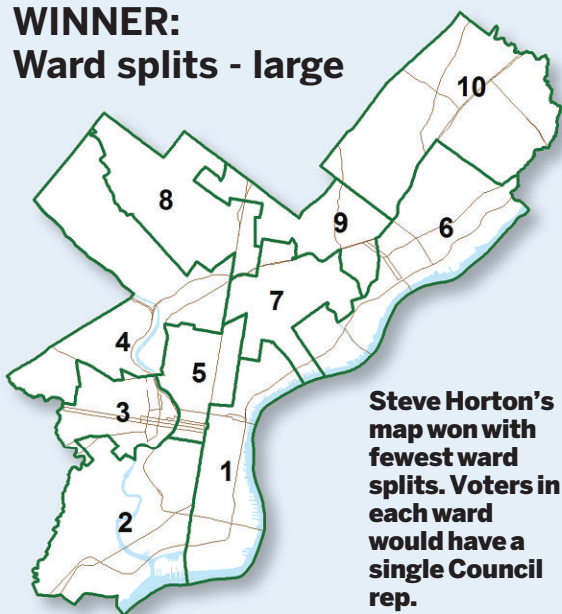
Other notable plans were authored by a team named "Asian Pacific Americans for Progress," as well as by Gary Pzielonis and Bonan Li. ■

The overall winner, out of 70 completed and legal plans. Note the difference between this and the current crazy-quilt district plan.



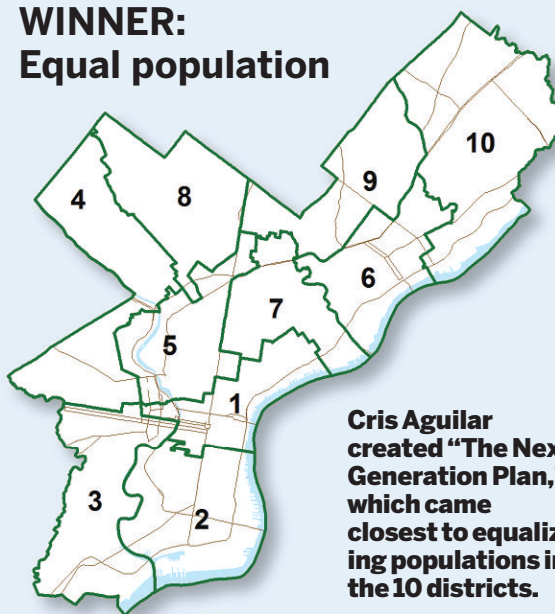
CURRENT CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS

WINNER: Ward splits - large



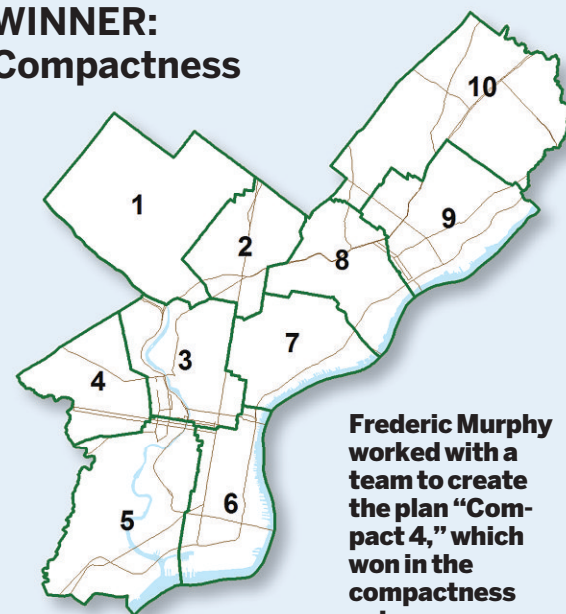
Steve Horton's map won with fewest ward splits. Voters in each ward would have a single Council rep.

WINNER: Equal population



Cris Aguilar created "The Next Generation Plan," which came closest to equalizing populations in the 10 districts.

WINNER: Compactness



Frederic Murphy worked with a team to create the plan "Compact 4," which won in the compactness category.