

# The Dialectical Structures of Political Fragmentation, Social Stratification, and Economic Decline:

The Tragedy of Post-War Detroit

Presentation prepared for the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association. New Orleans, Louisiana.

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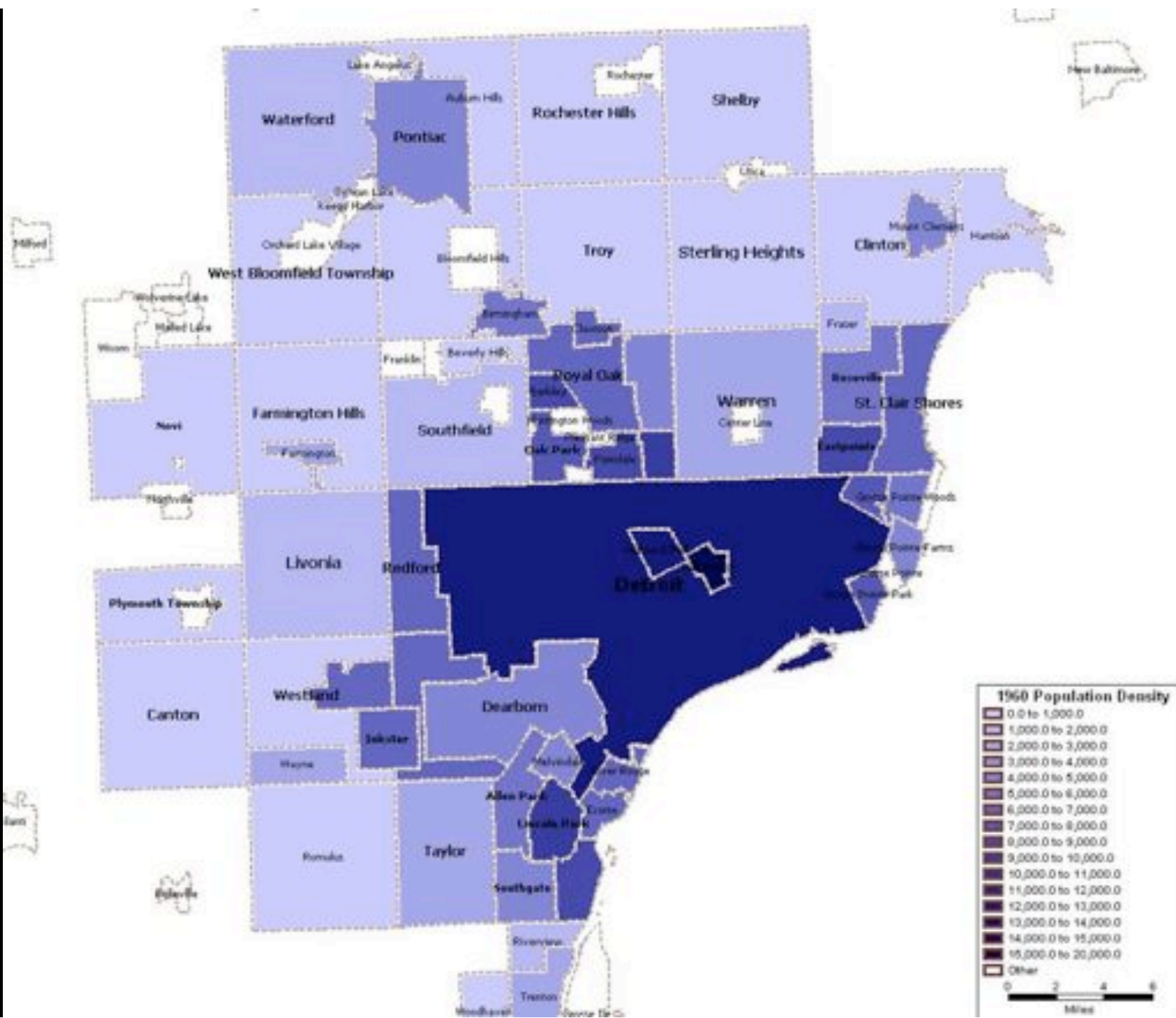
The Political, Social,  
and Economic  
Structures of Space in  
Metropolitan Detroit

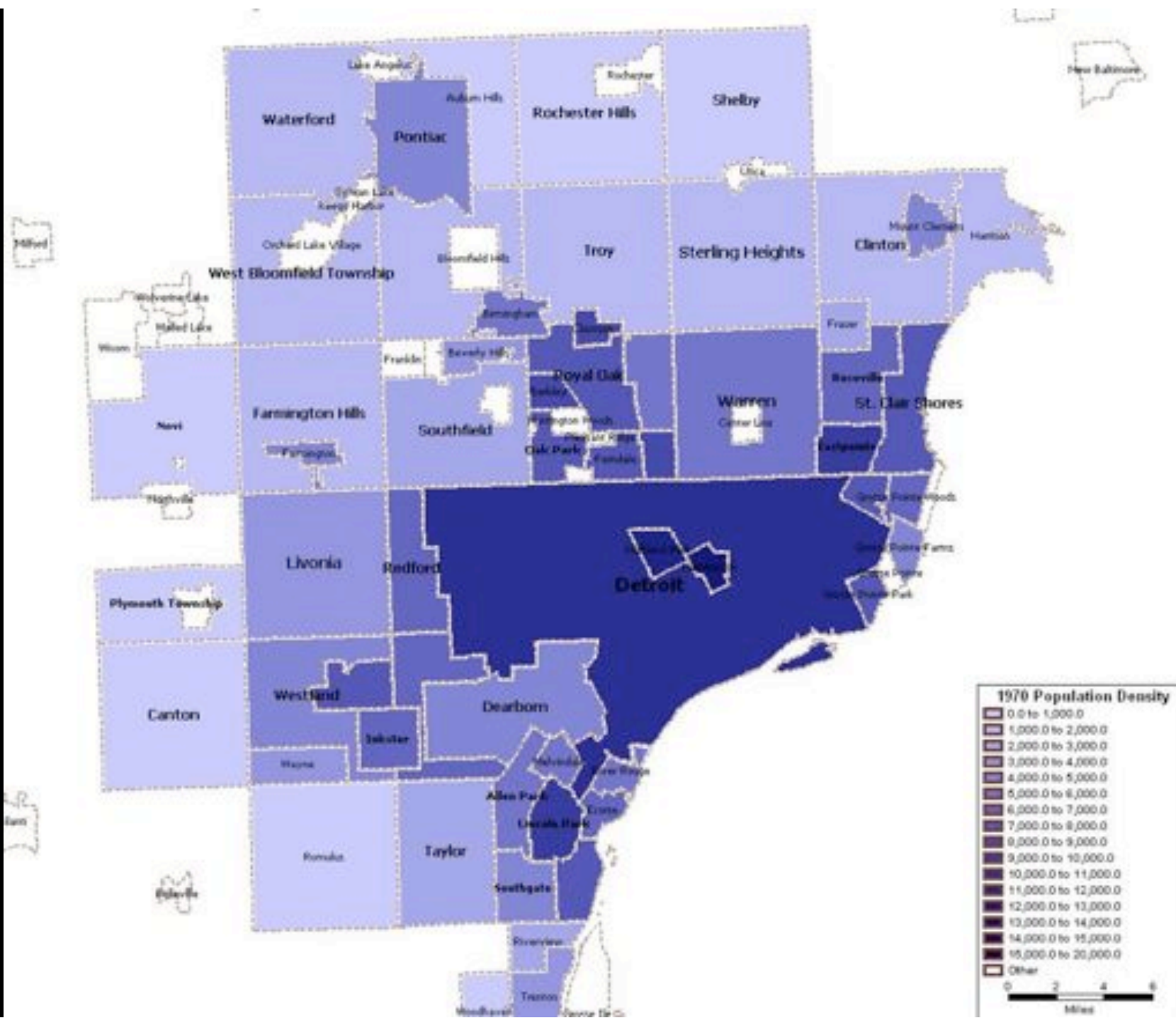
# Population Growth and Dispersion

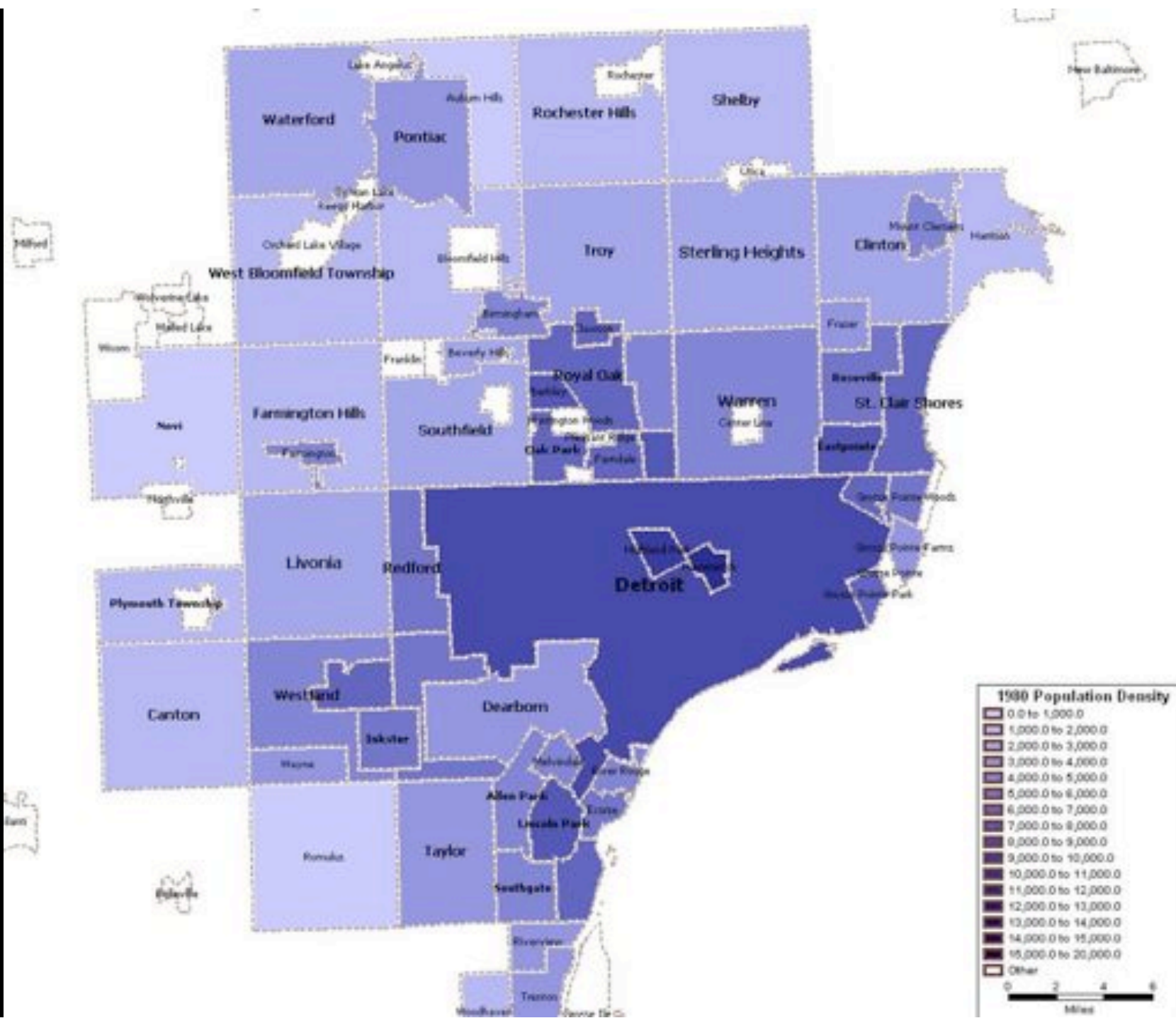
- Longitudinal Analysis Of Population Density Amongst Localities in Metropolitan Detroit through the Post-War Era.

# Definition

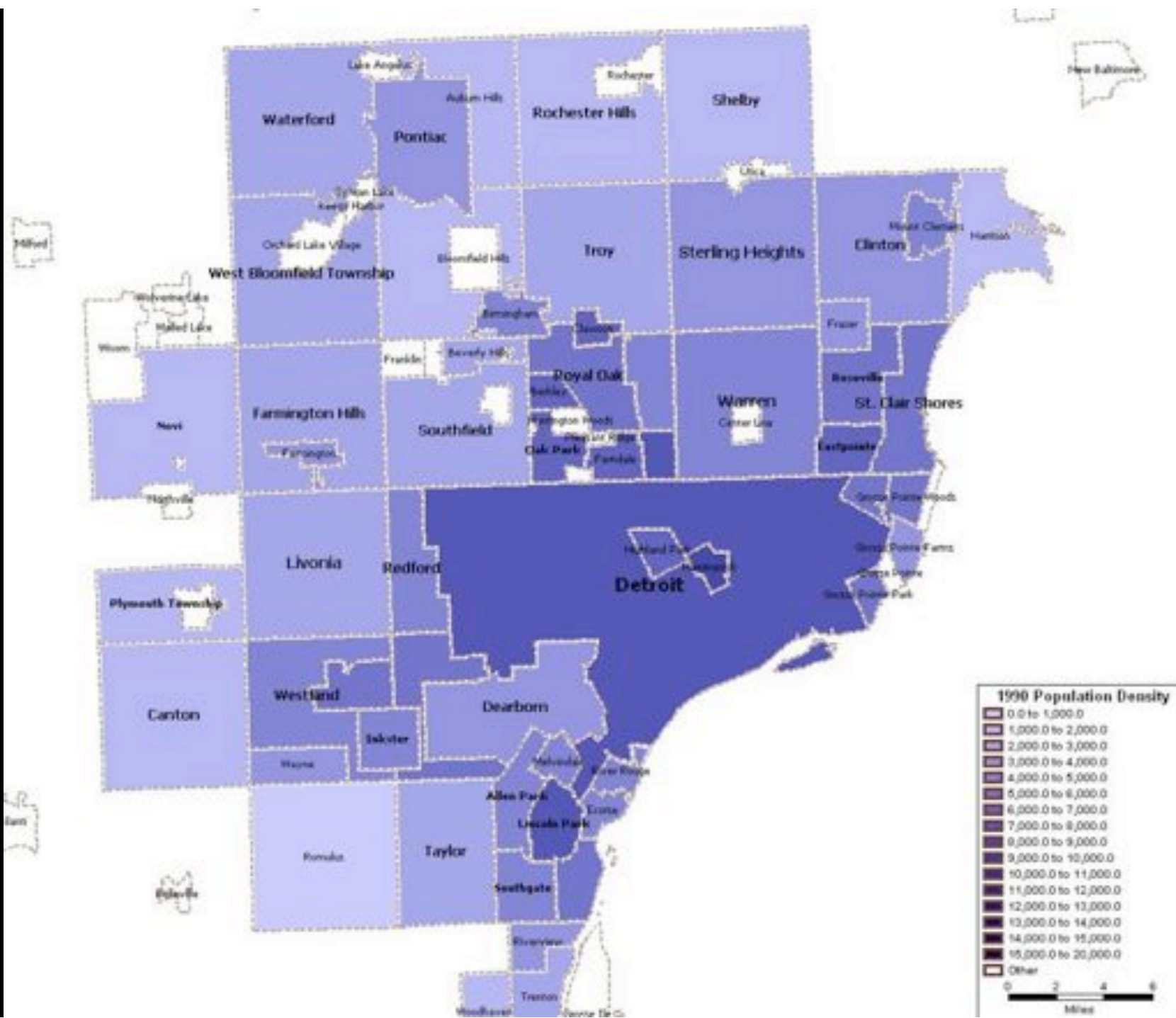
- Population Density = Persons / Square Mile for given localities (Census Places).
- Source: US Census of Population and Housing



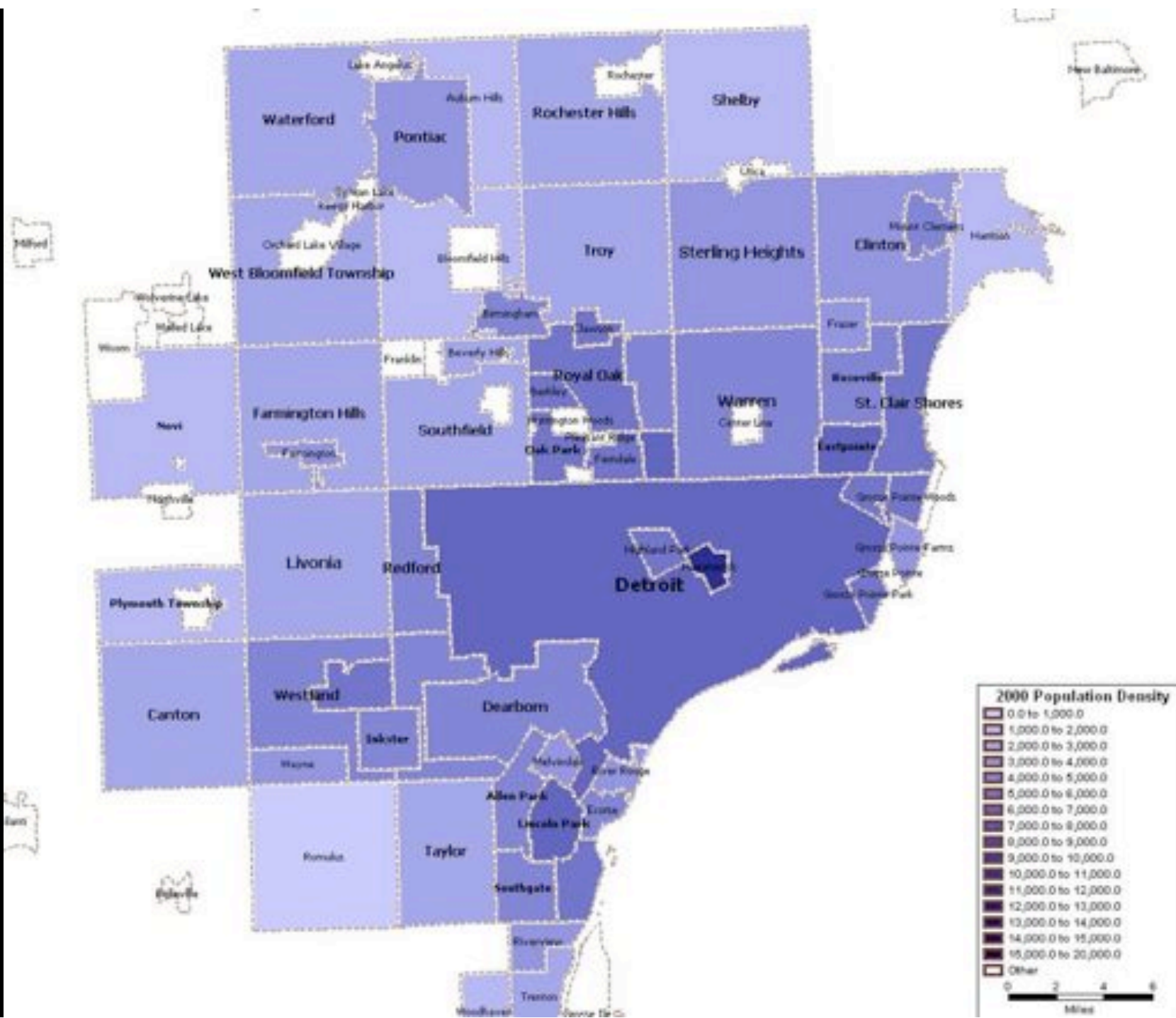










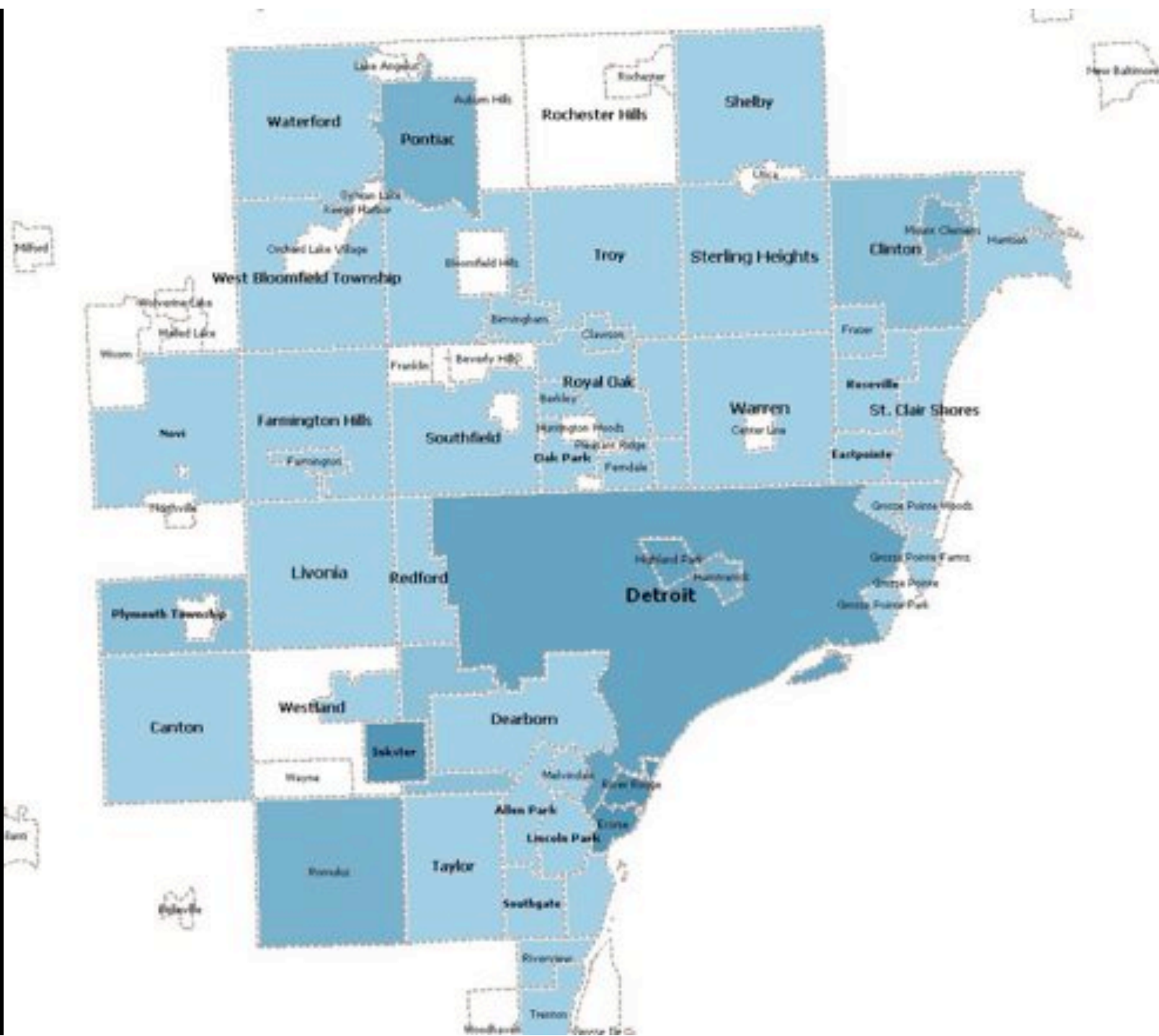


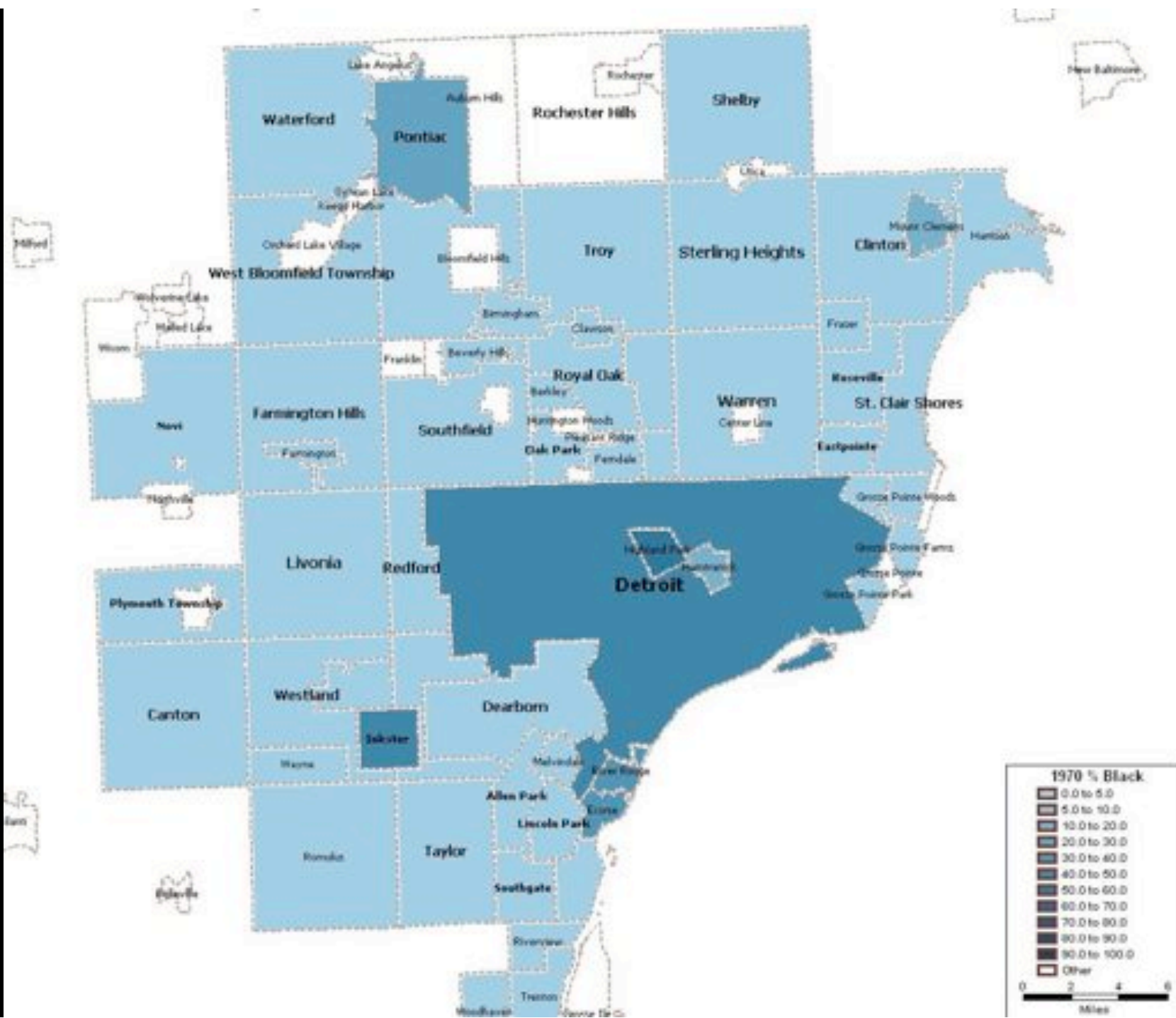
# Racial Distribution in Metropolitan Detroit

- Longitudinal Analysis Of Racial Concentration and Integration Amongst Localities in Metropolitan Detroit through the Post-War Era.

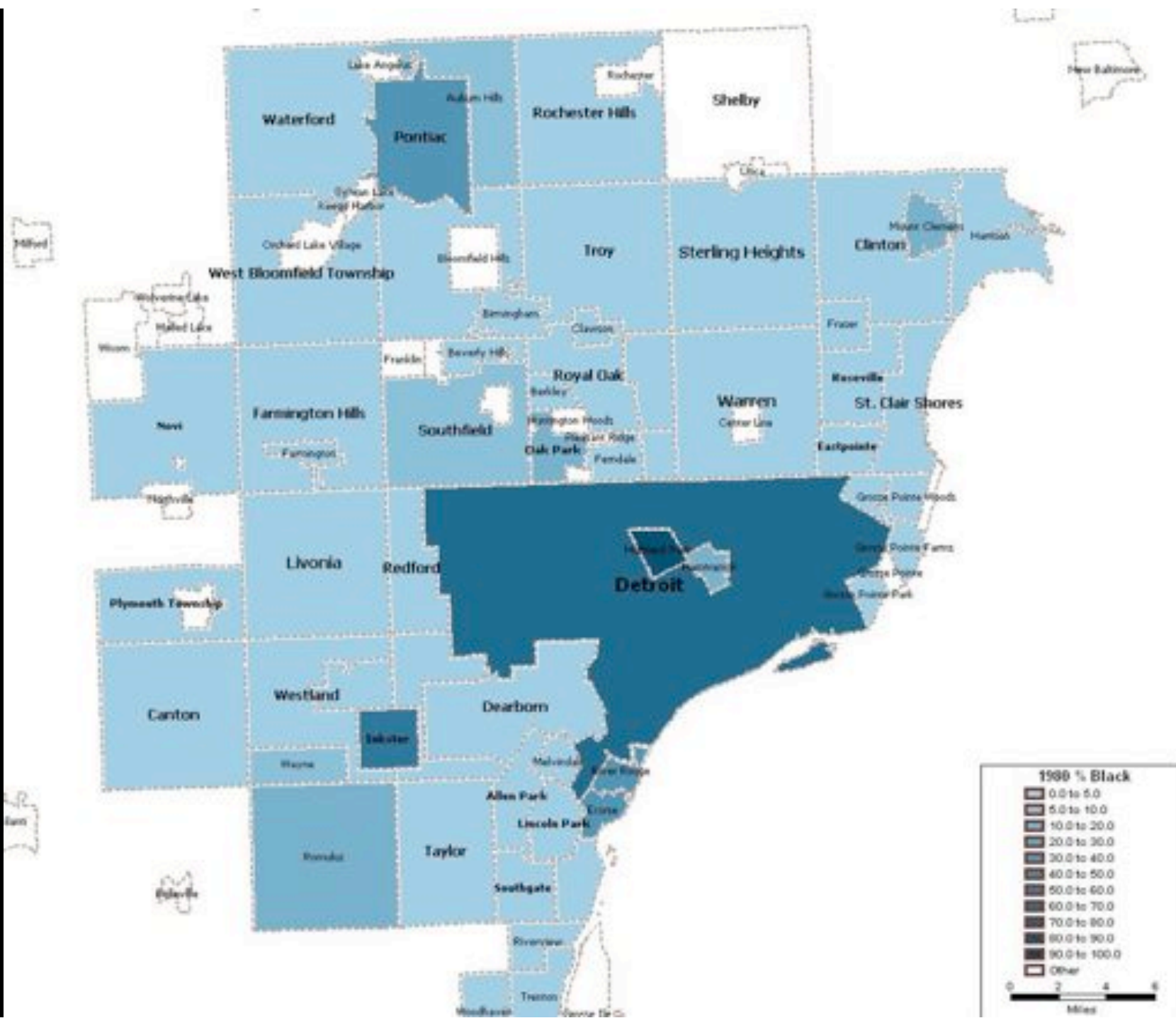
# Definition

- % Black = Percentage of all persons in given localities (Census Places) who are black.
- Source: Census of Population and Housing.

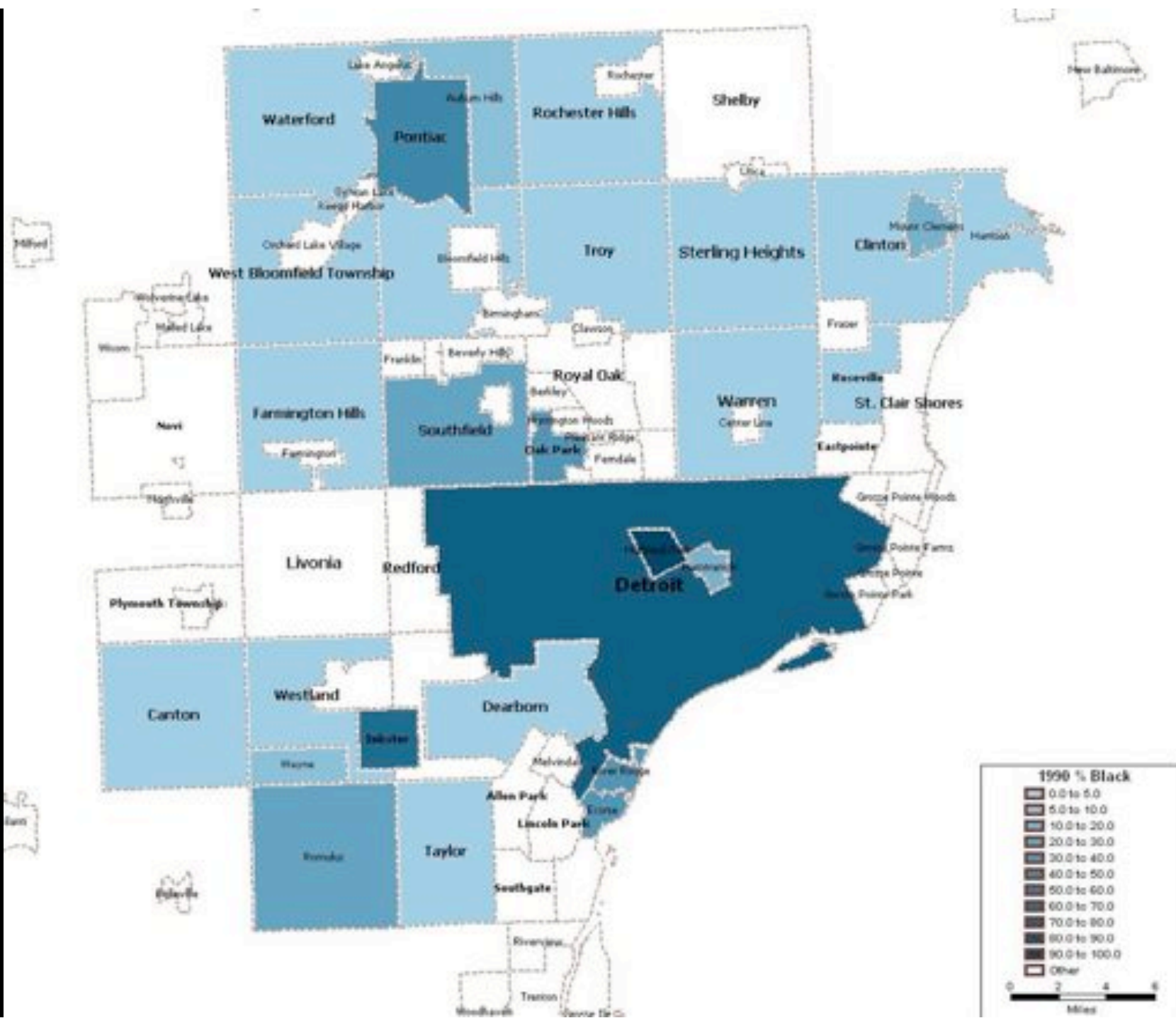


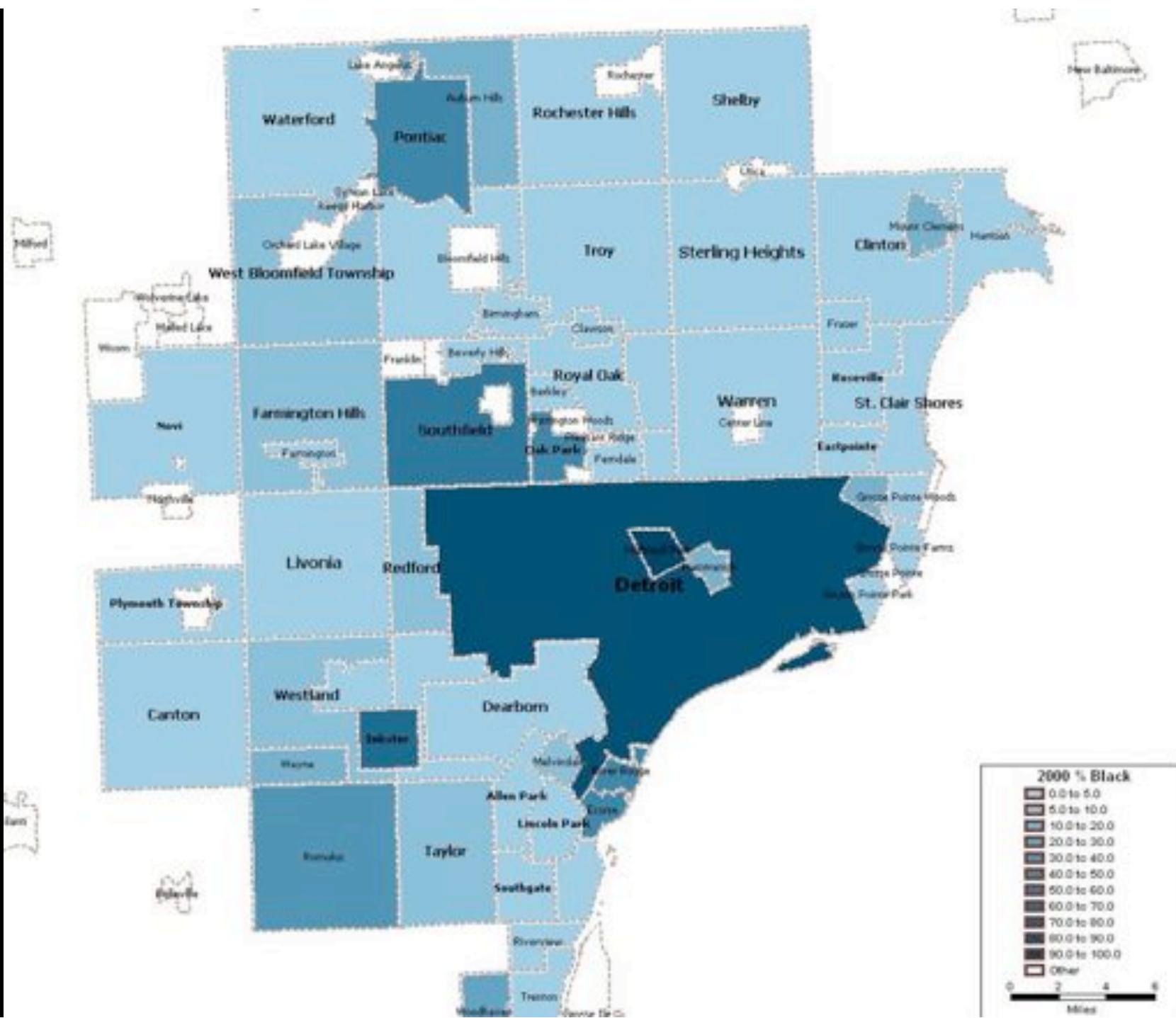










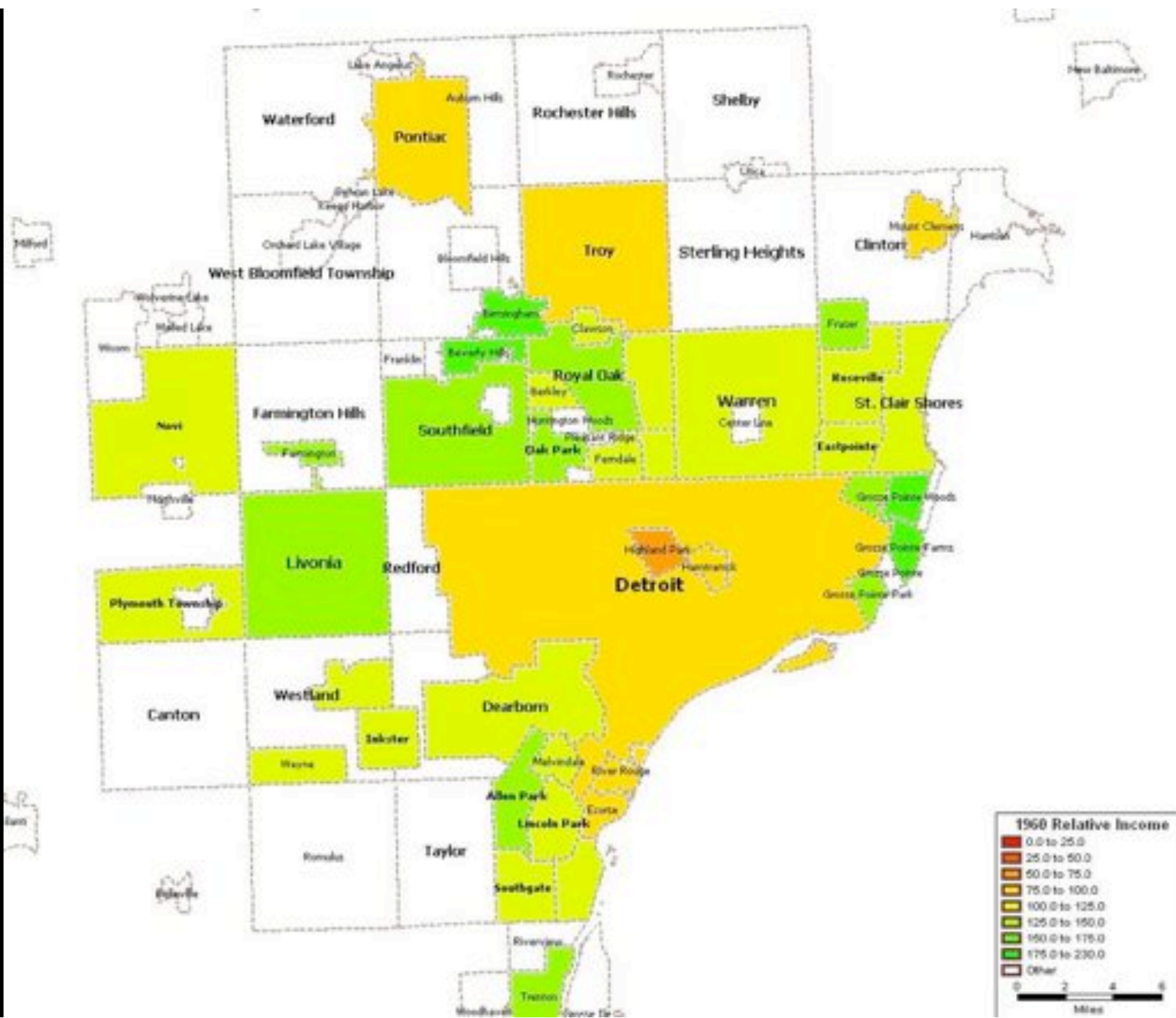


# Income Distribution in Metropolitan Detroit

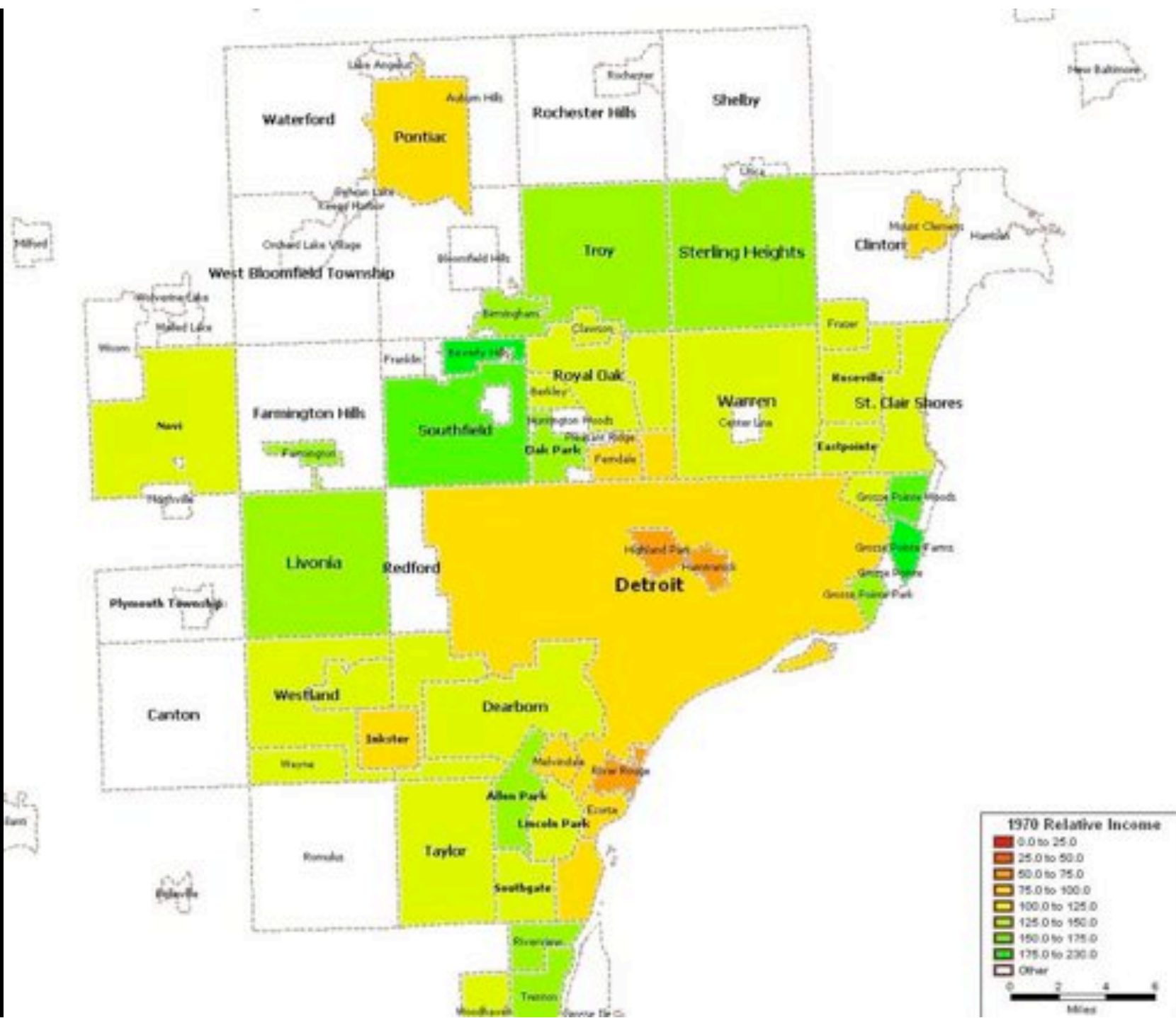
- Longitudinal Analysis Of Relative Income Distribution and Concentration Amongst Localities in Metropolitan Detroit through the Post-War Era.

# Definition

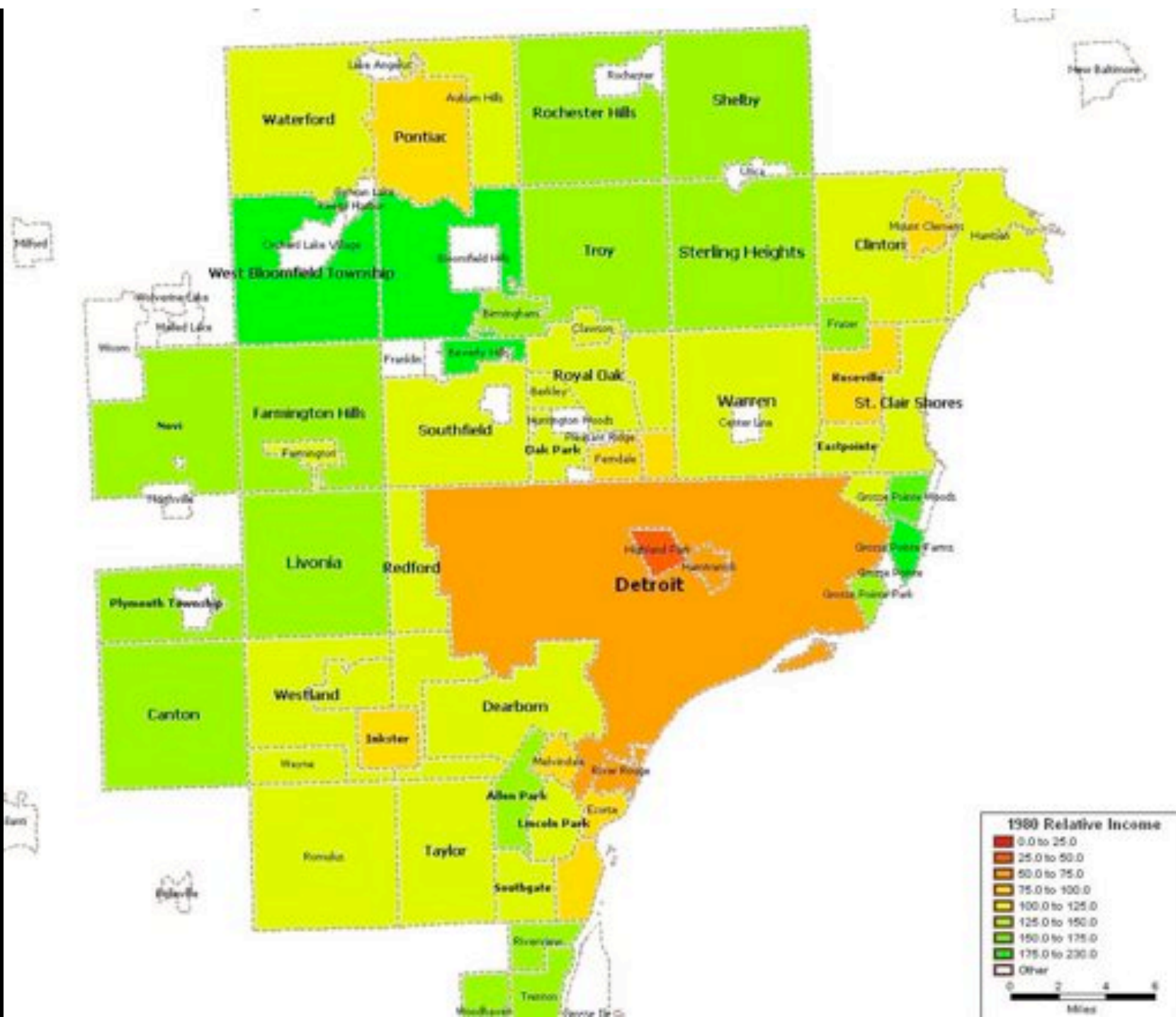
- Relative Income = Median Household Income for given localities (Census Places), calculated as a percentage of Median Household Income specified for the Metropolitan Region (MA, SMSA, PMSA, et cetera).
- Source: Original data from Census of Population and Housing.

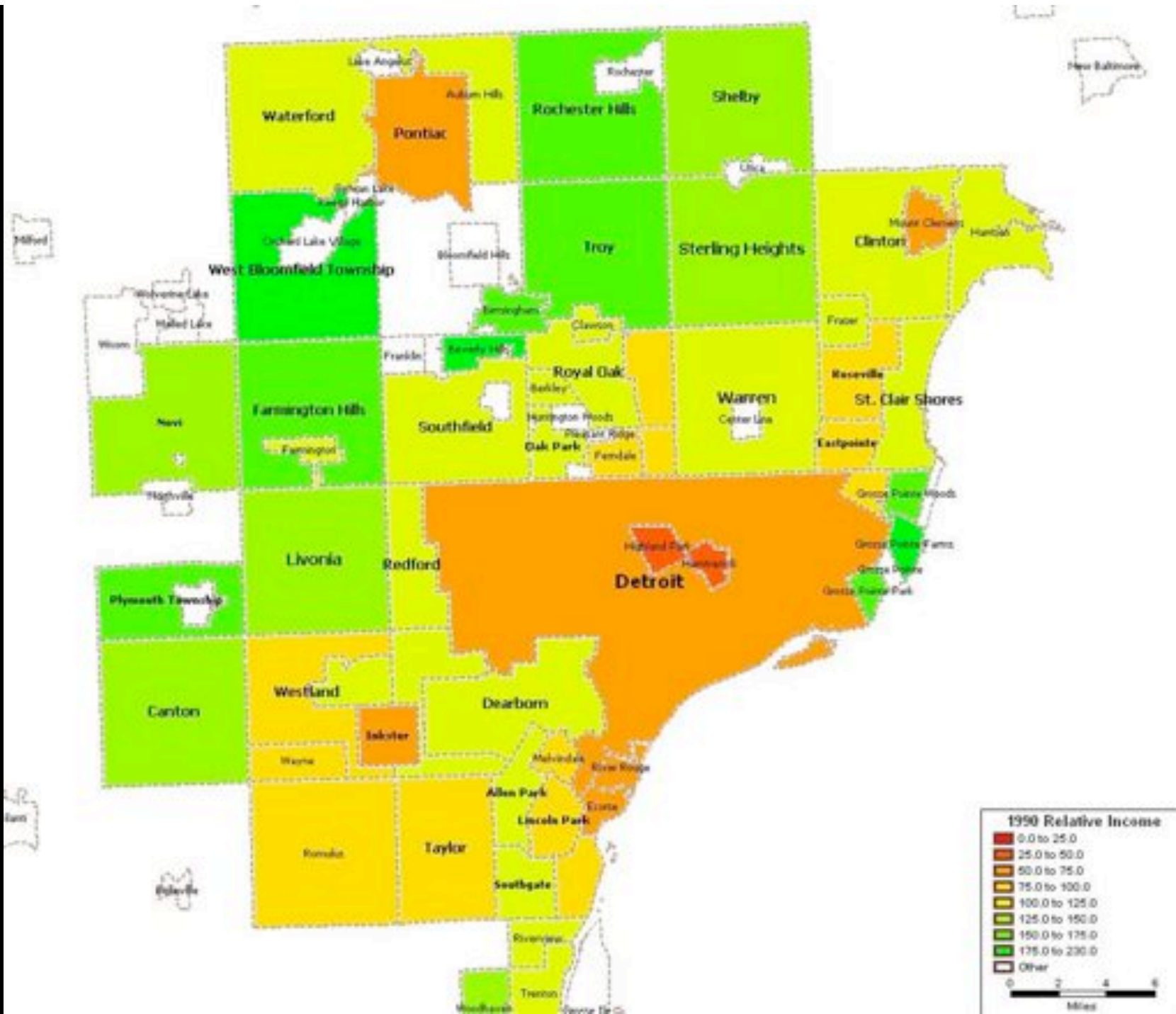


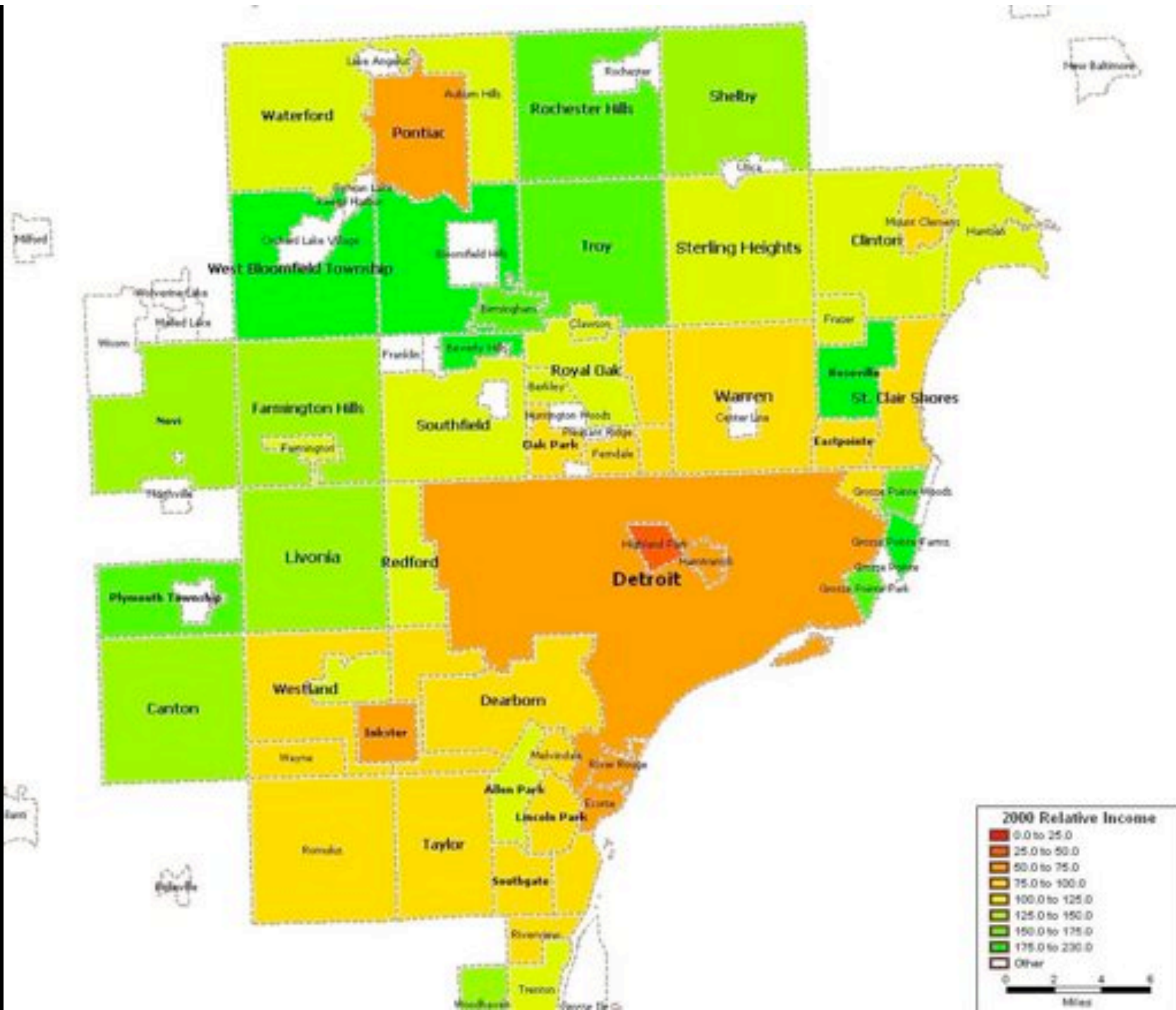












# The Spatial Structures of Political Participation and Preference in Metropolitan Detroit

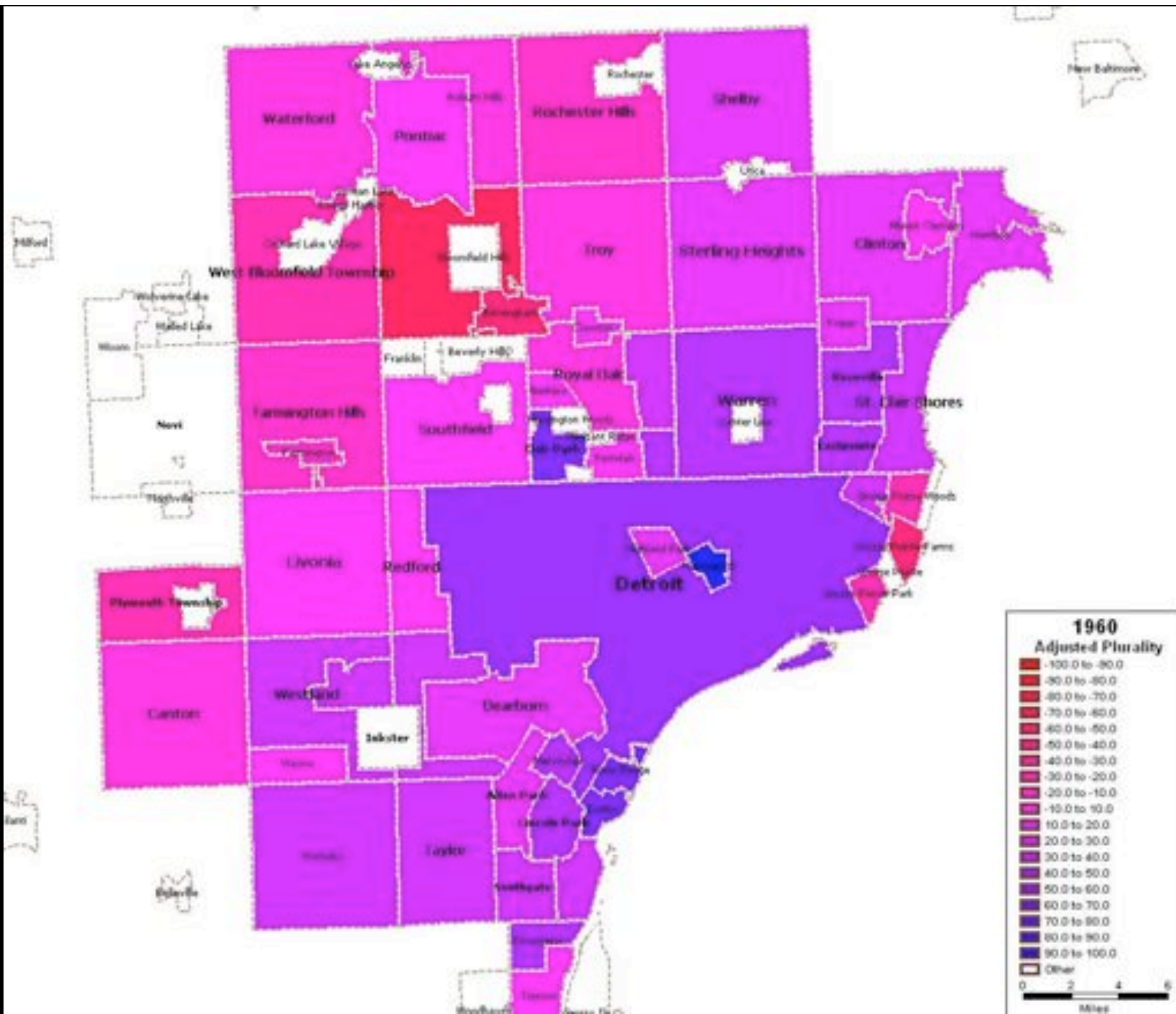
# Distribution of Relative Party Preference in Metropolitan Detroit

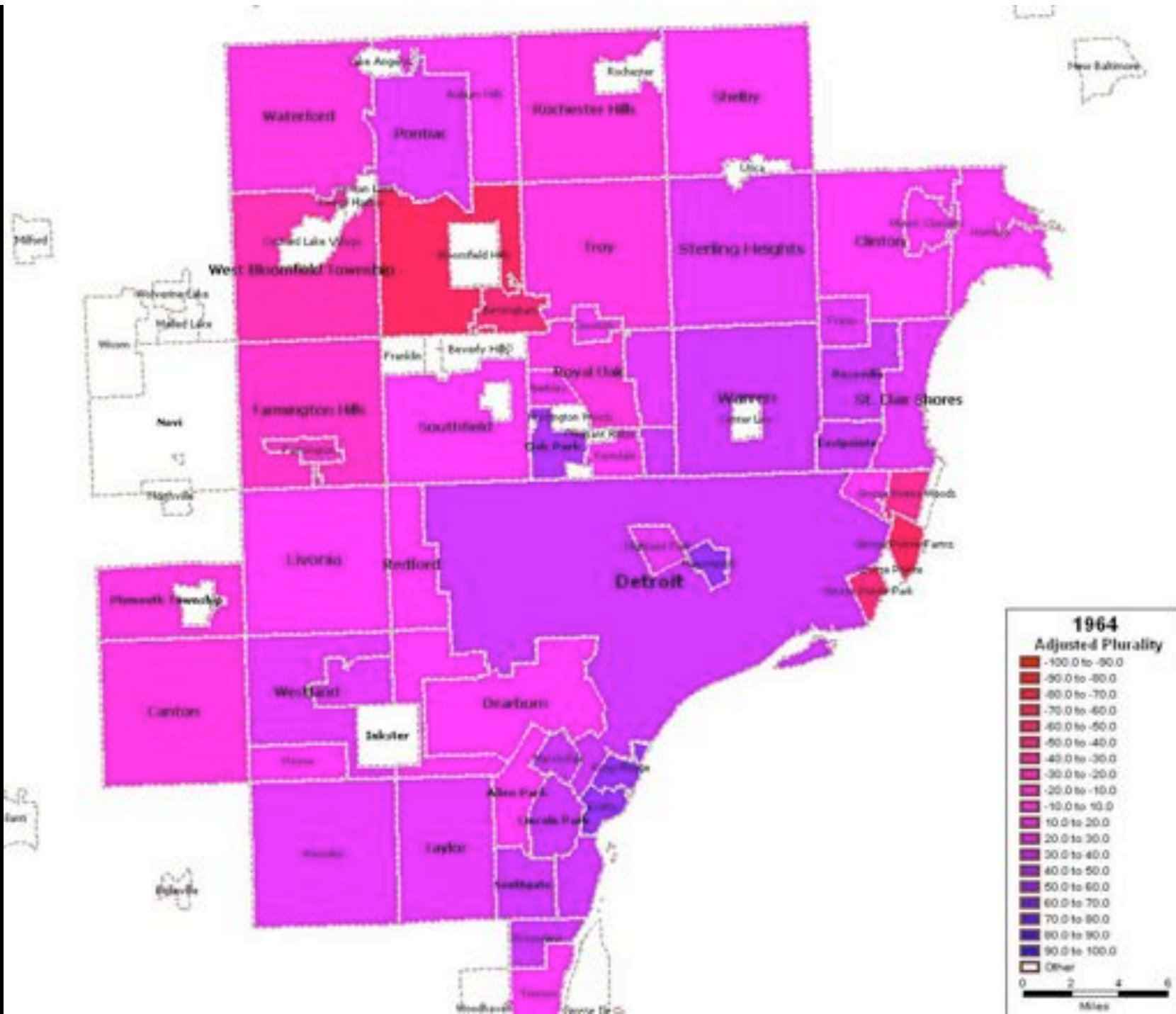
- Longitudinal Analysis Of the Distribution and Concentration Relative Relative Party Pluralities in Presidential Election returns for Localities in Metropolitan Detroit through the Post-War Era.

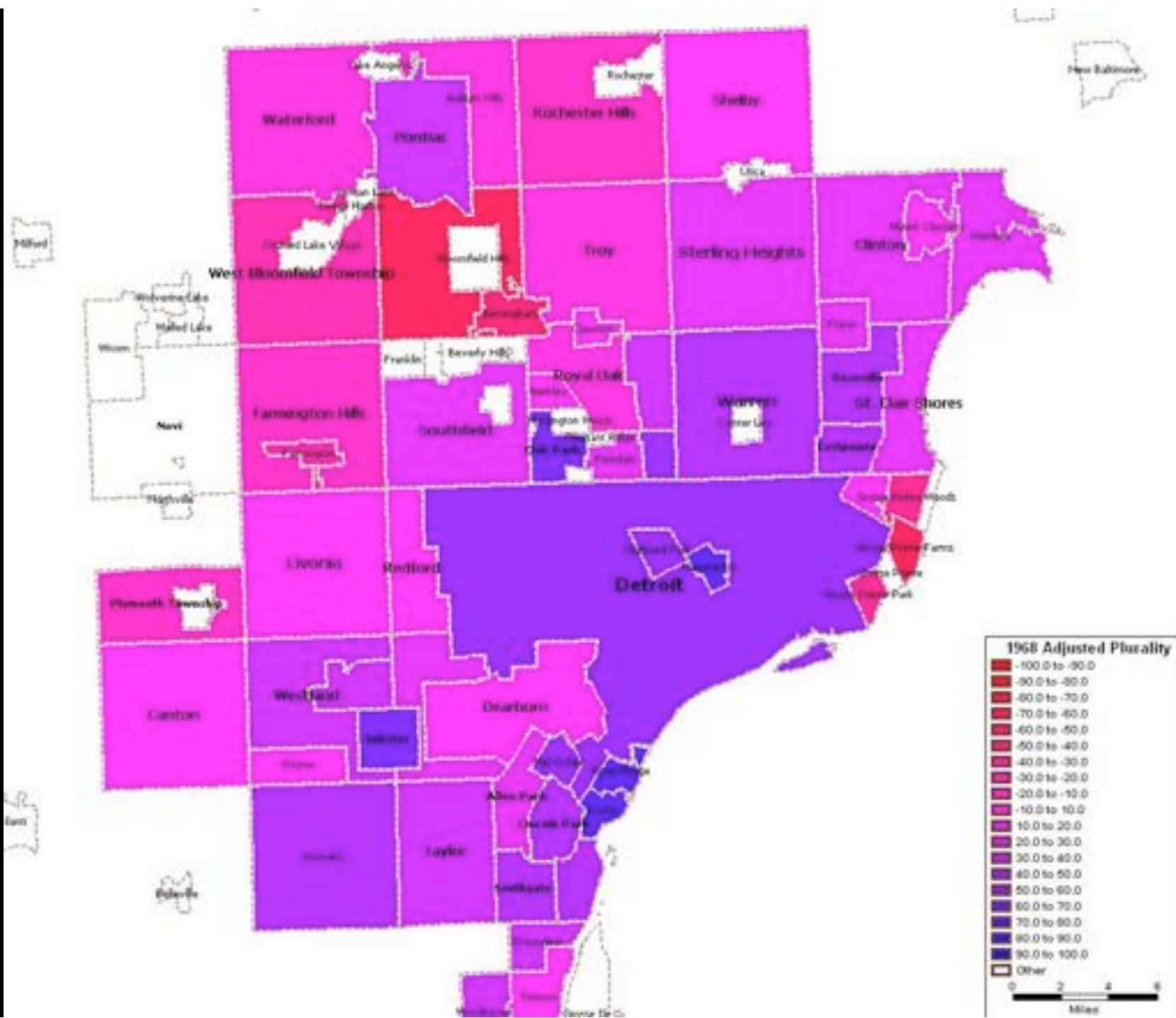
# Definition

- Relative Party Preference for presidential election returns for given localities (places)  
= % Place returns for the Democratic Presidential Candidate - % Place returns for the Republican Presidential Candidates less the same figure for the State of Michigan.
- Source: Detroit Election Study.

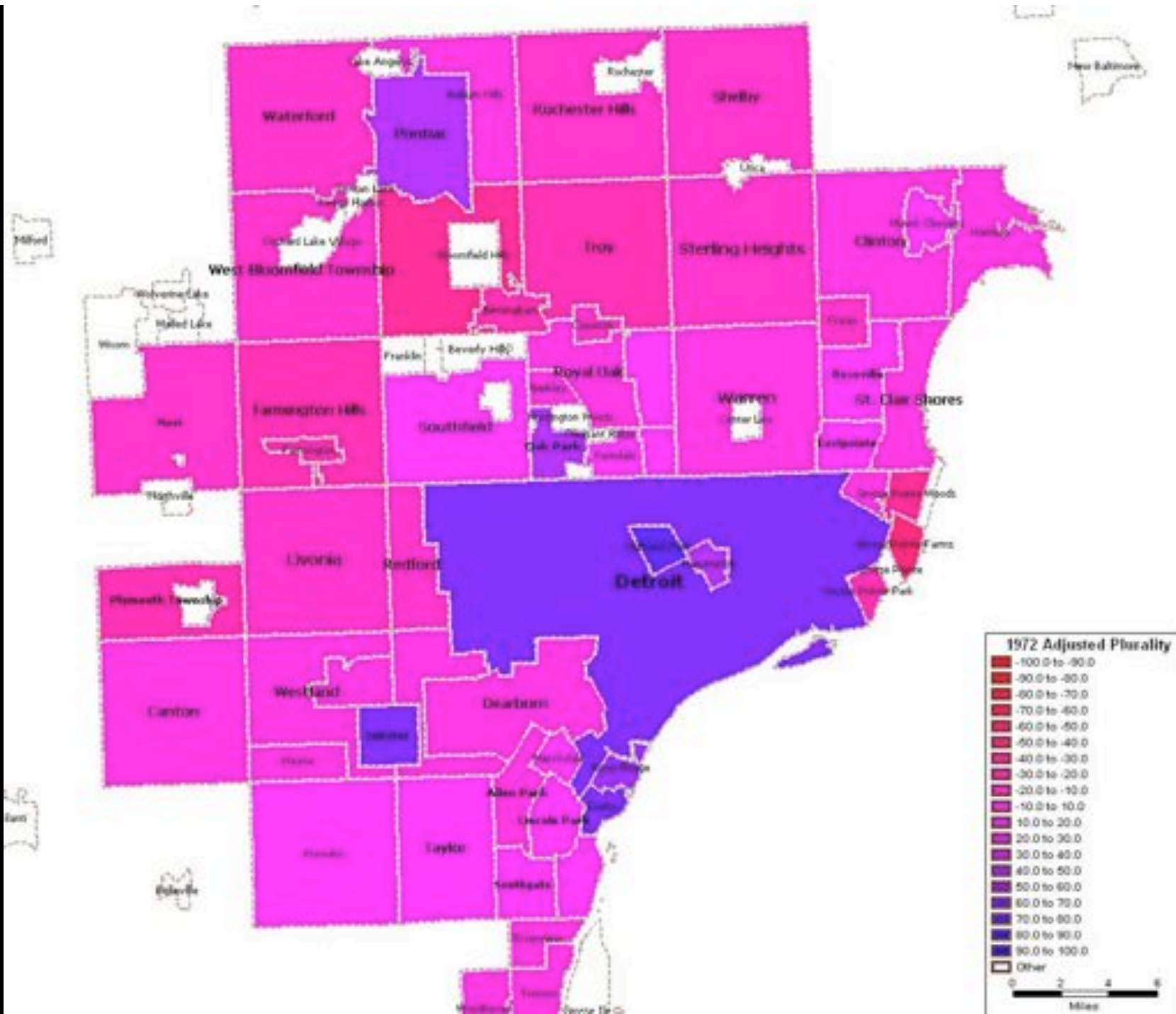


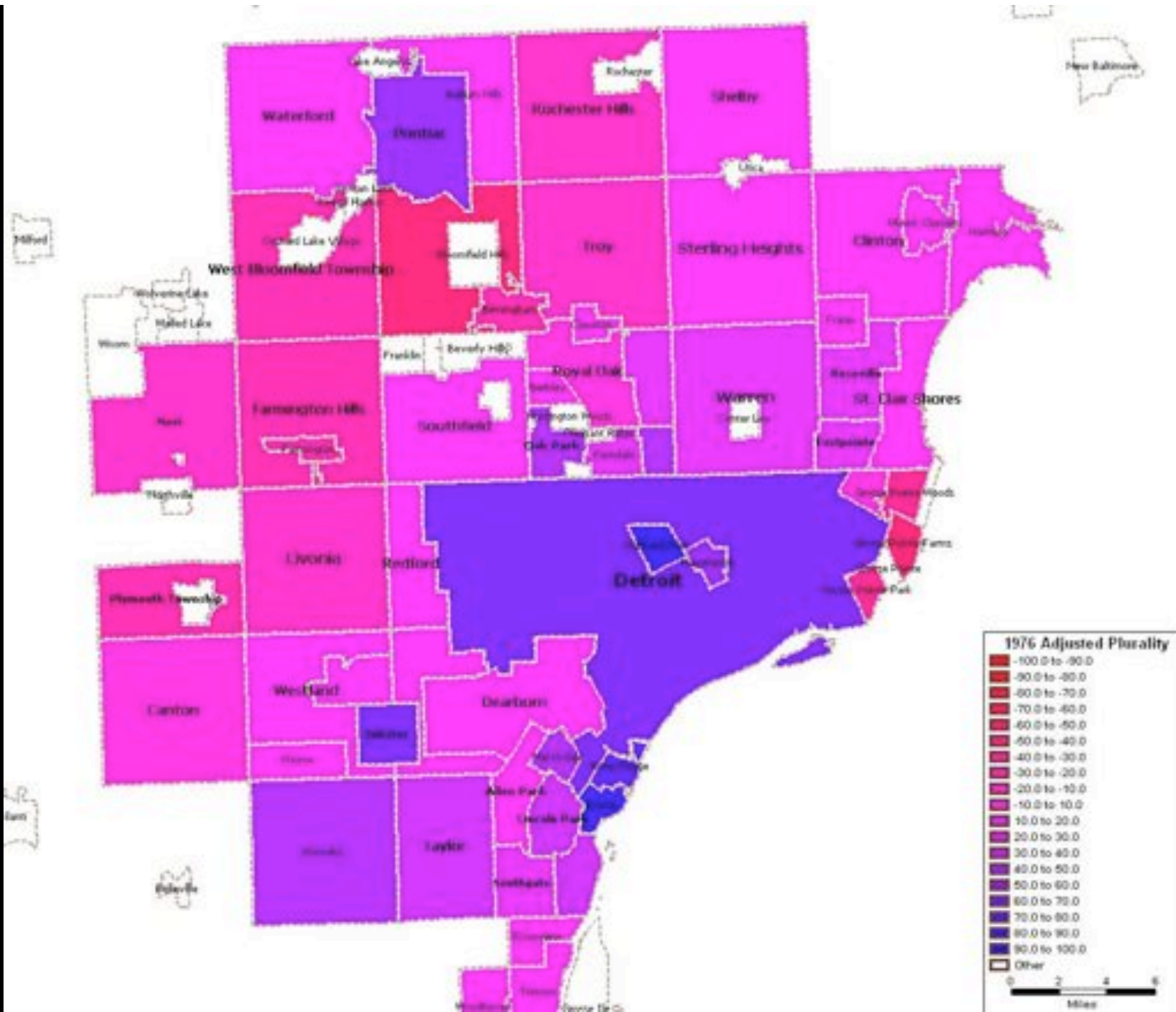


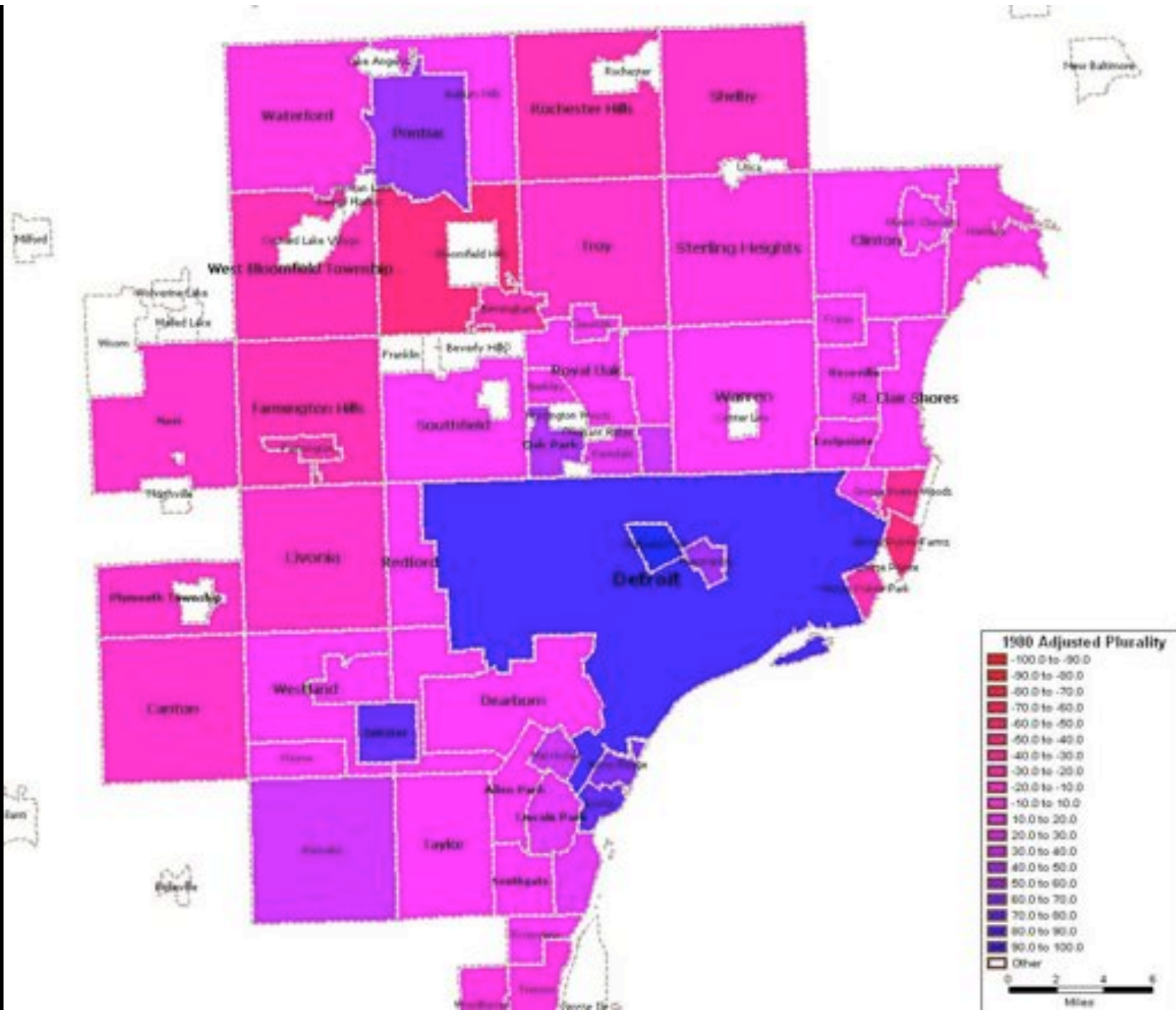




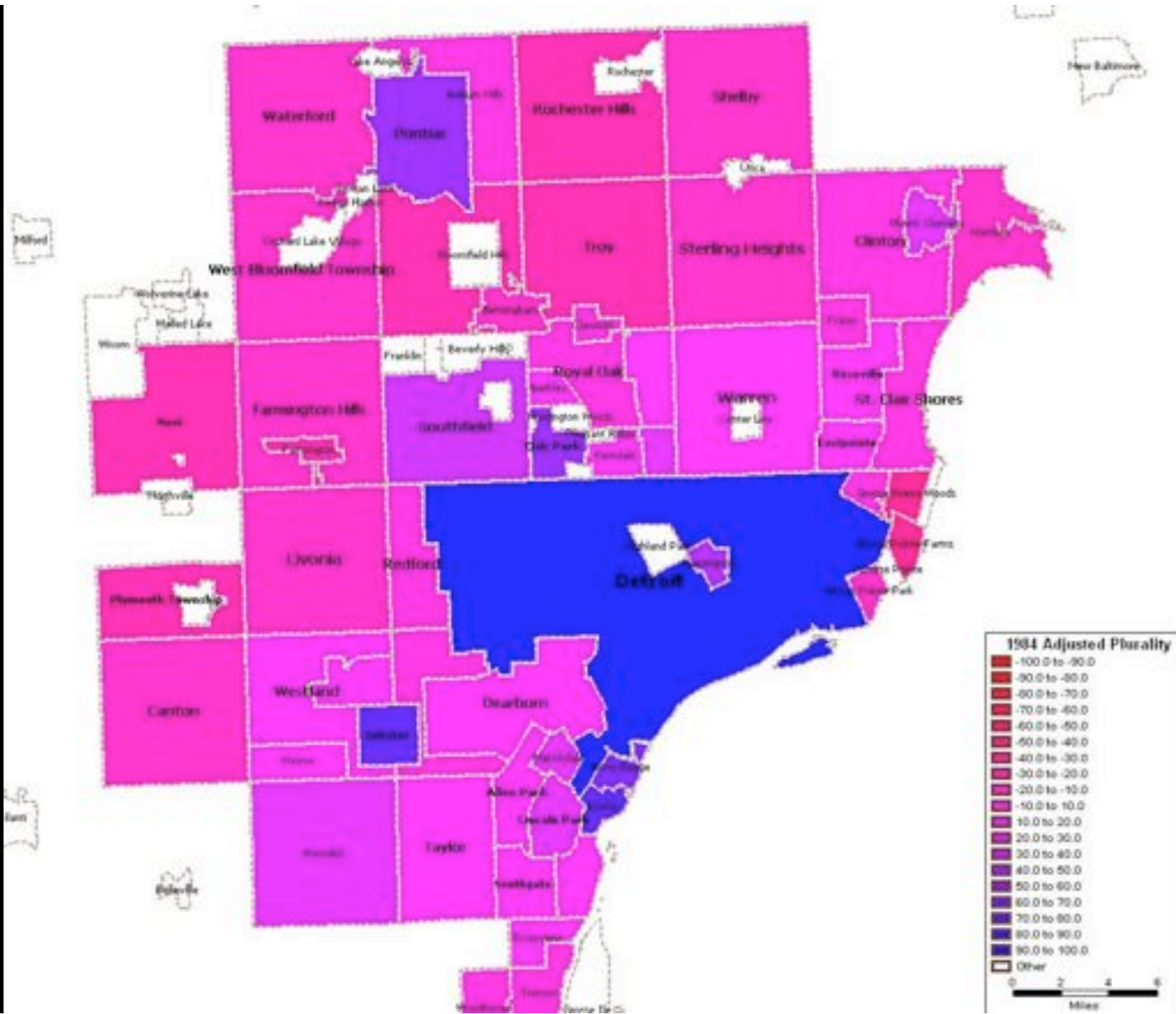


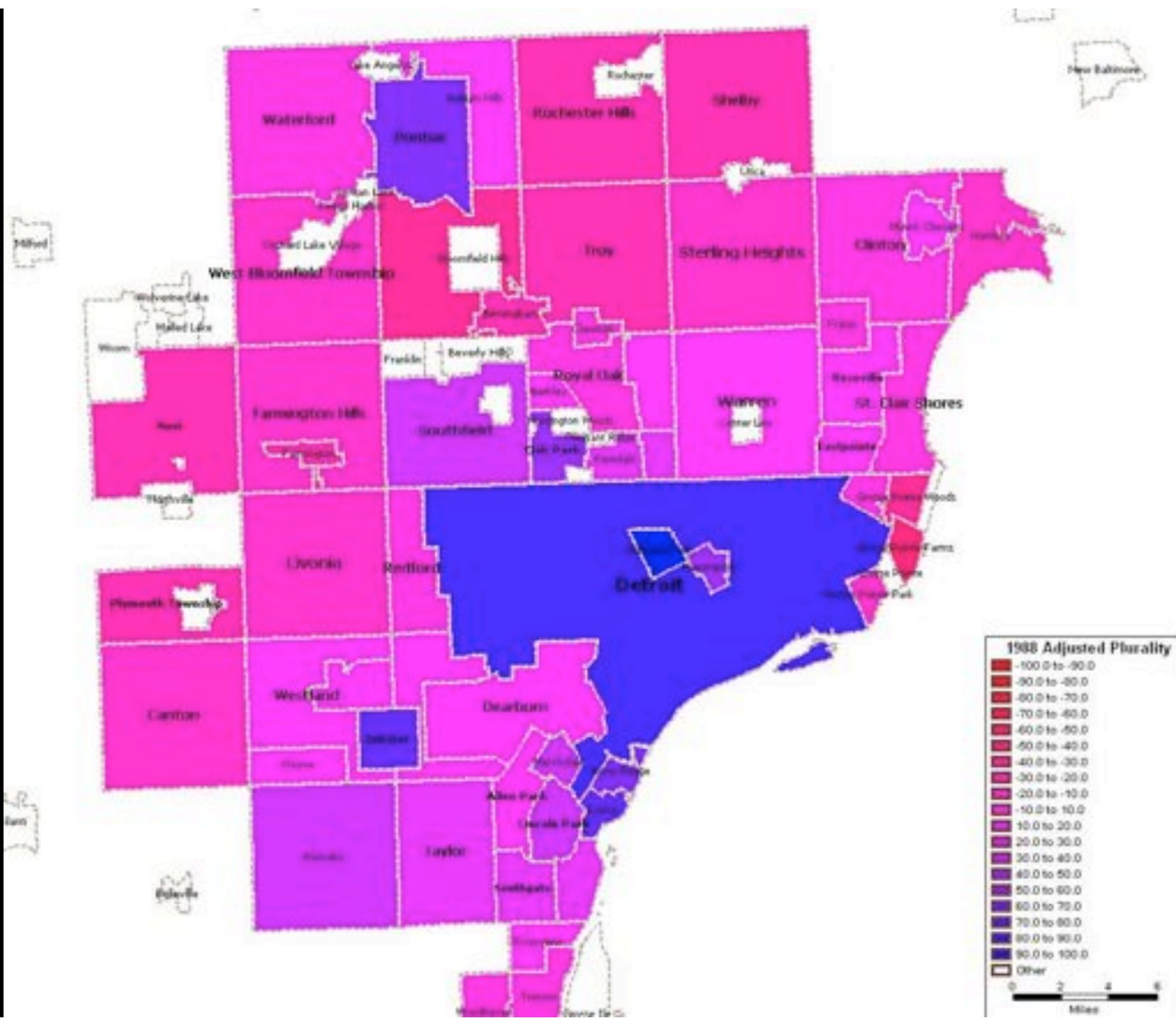


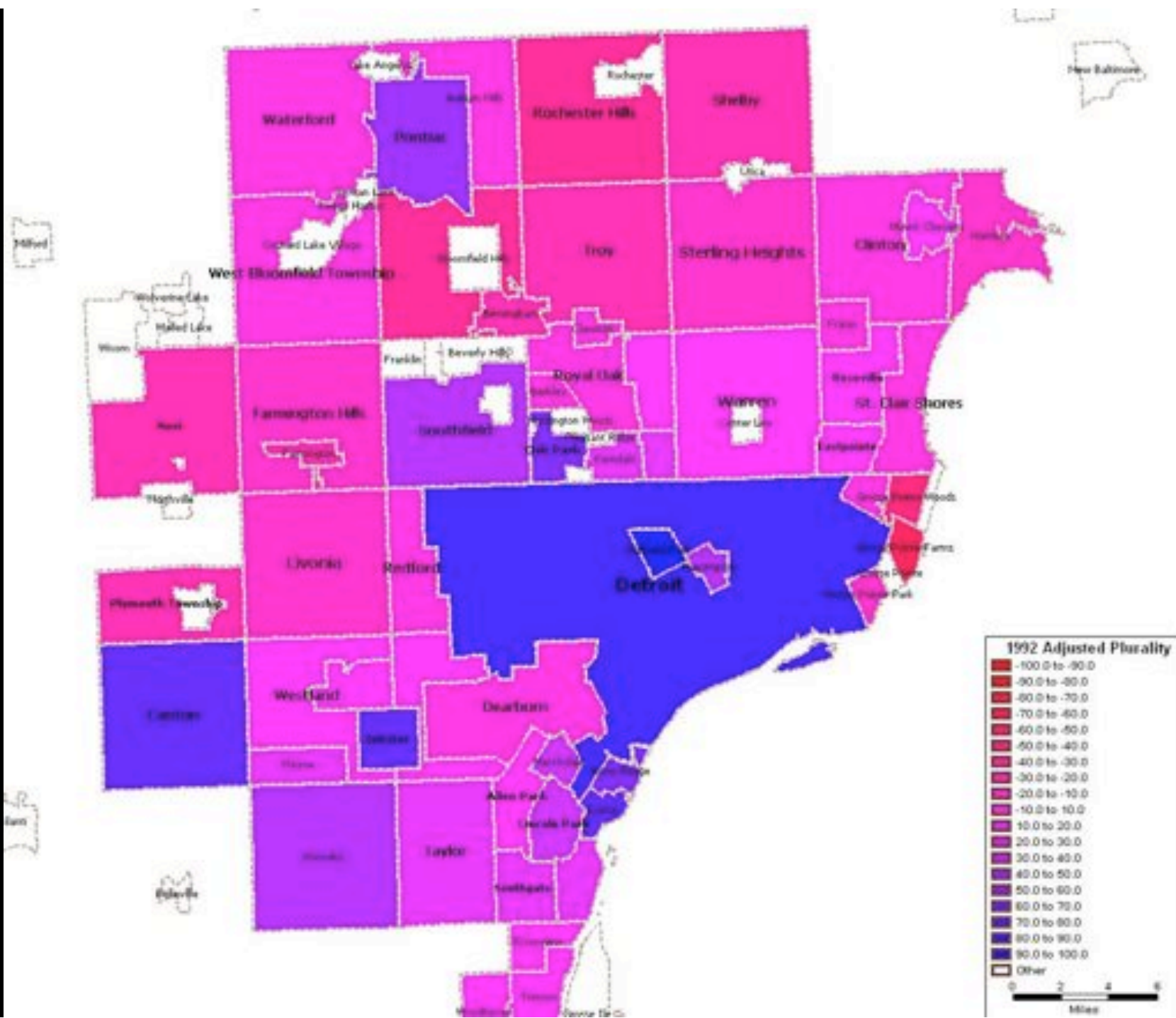




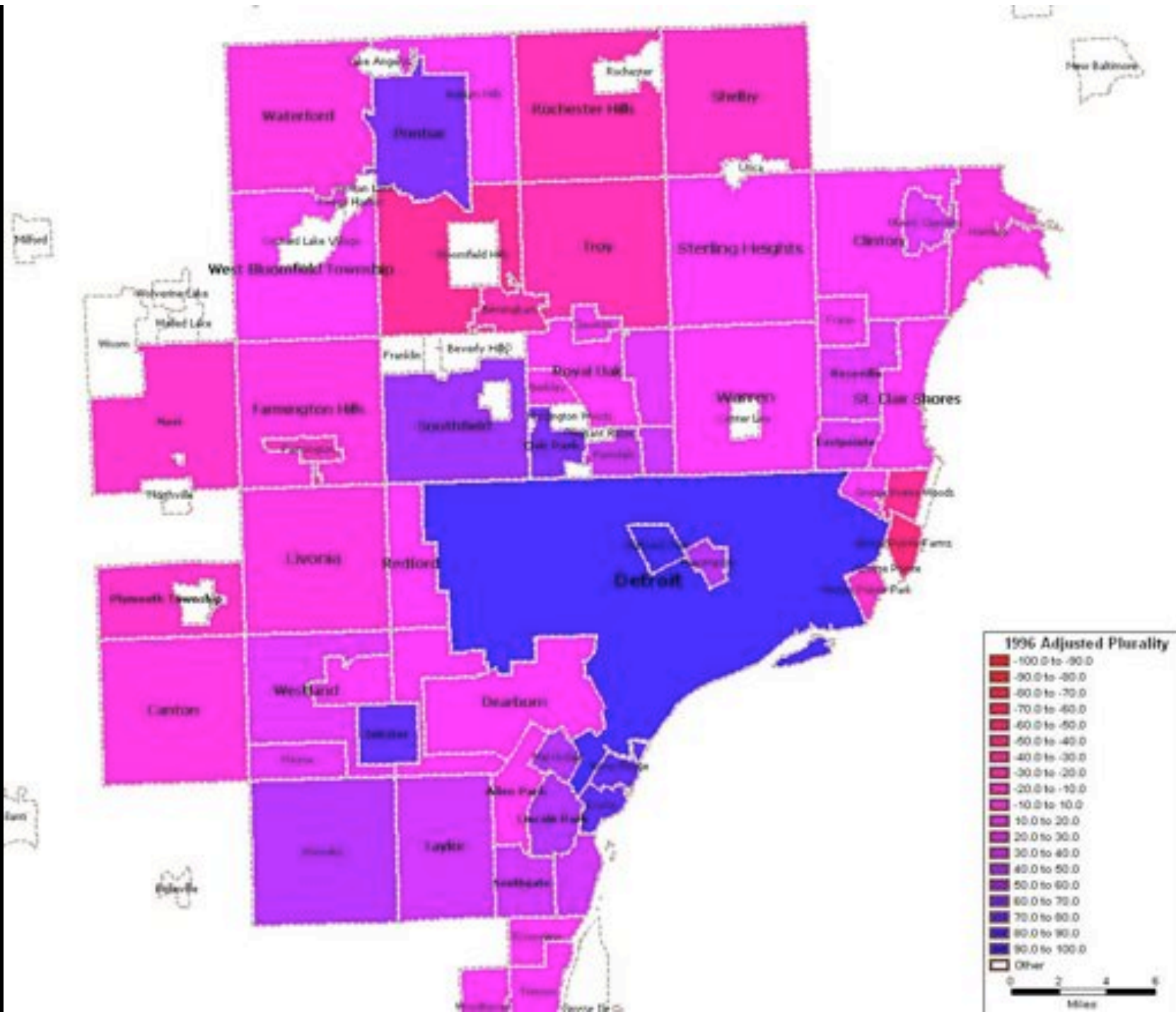


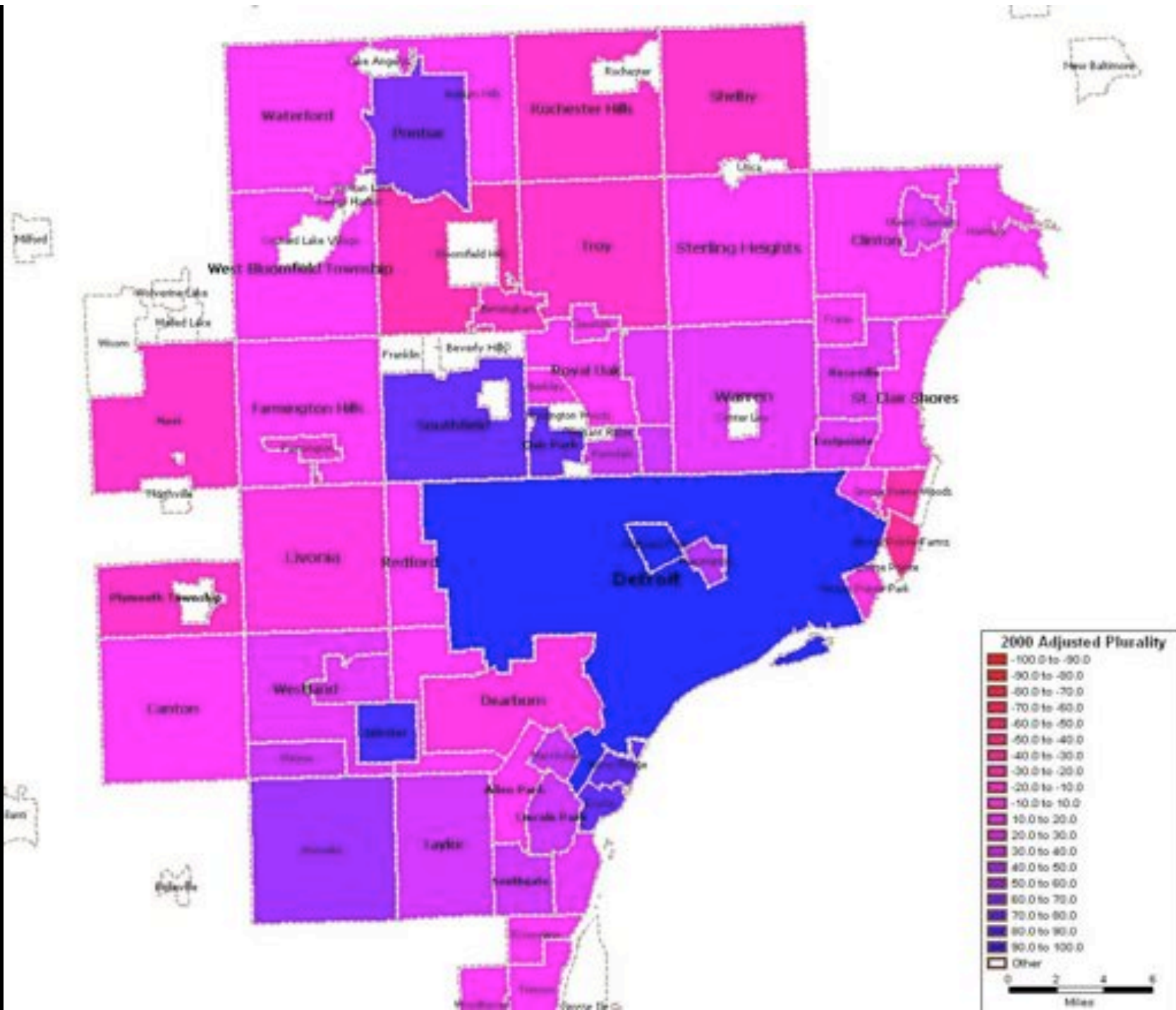




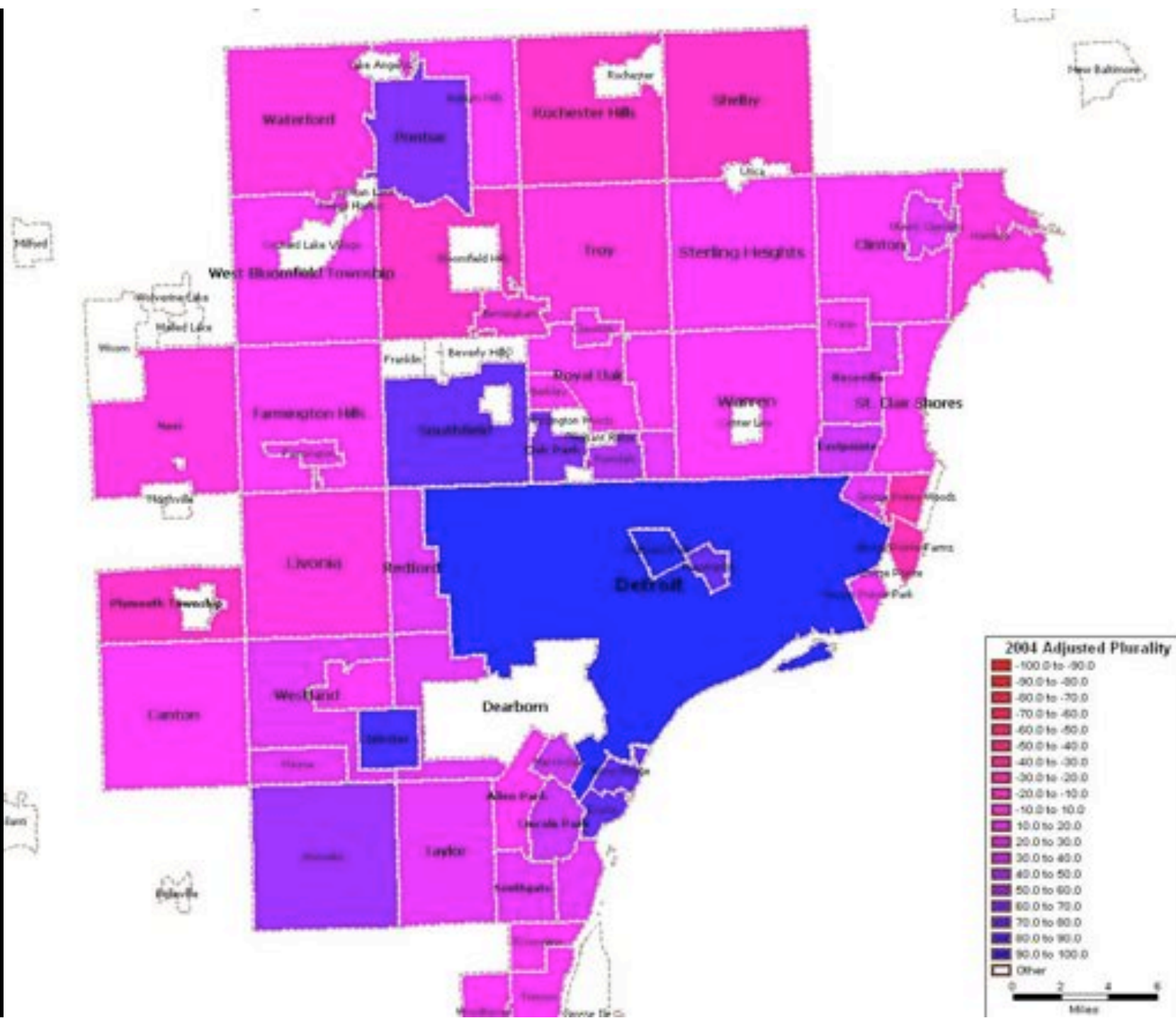


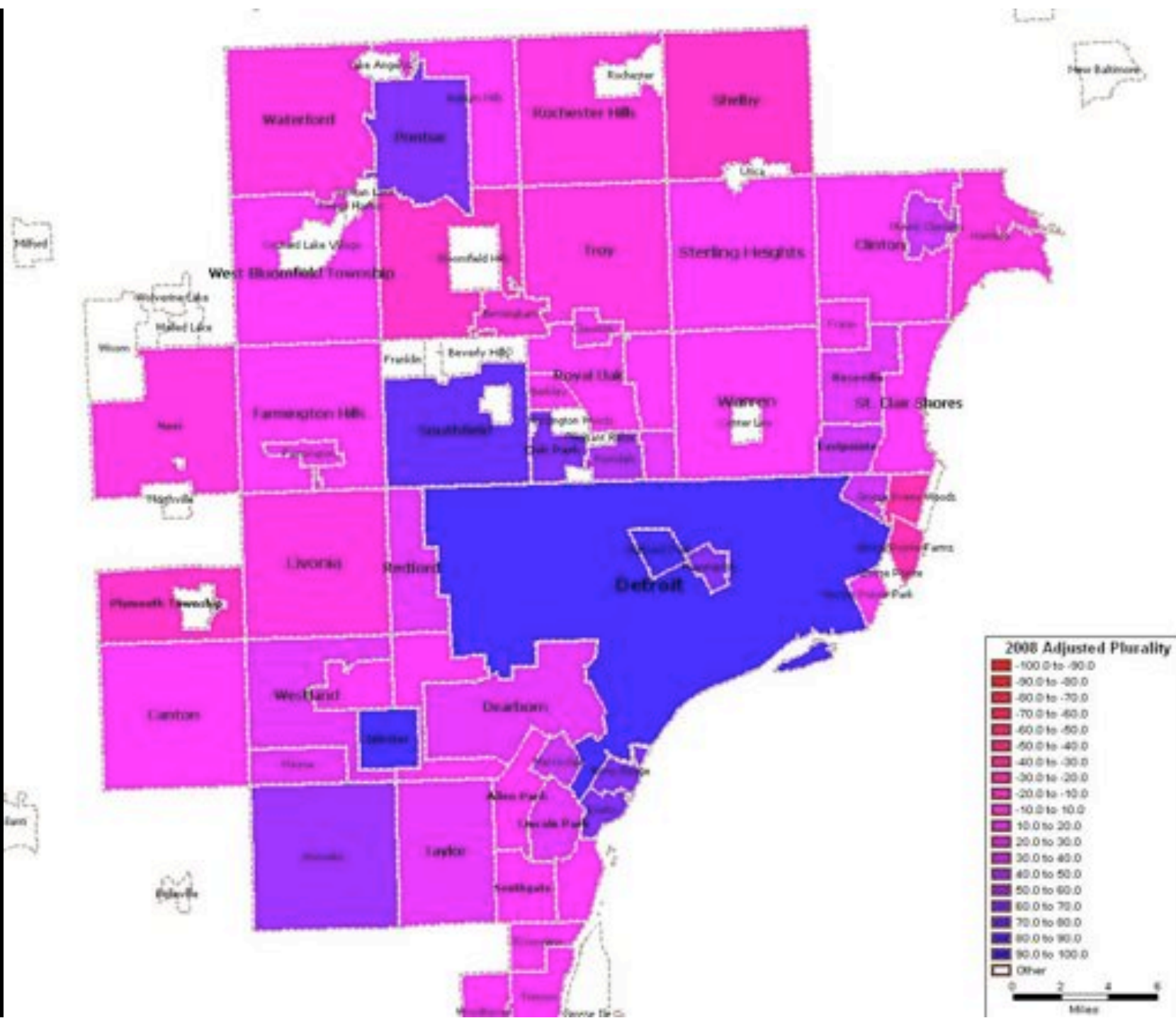










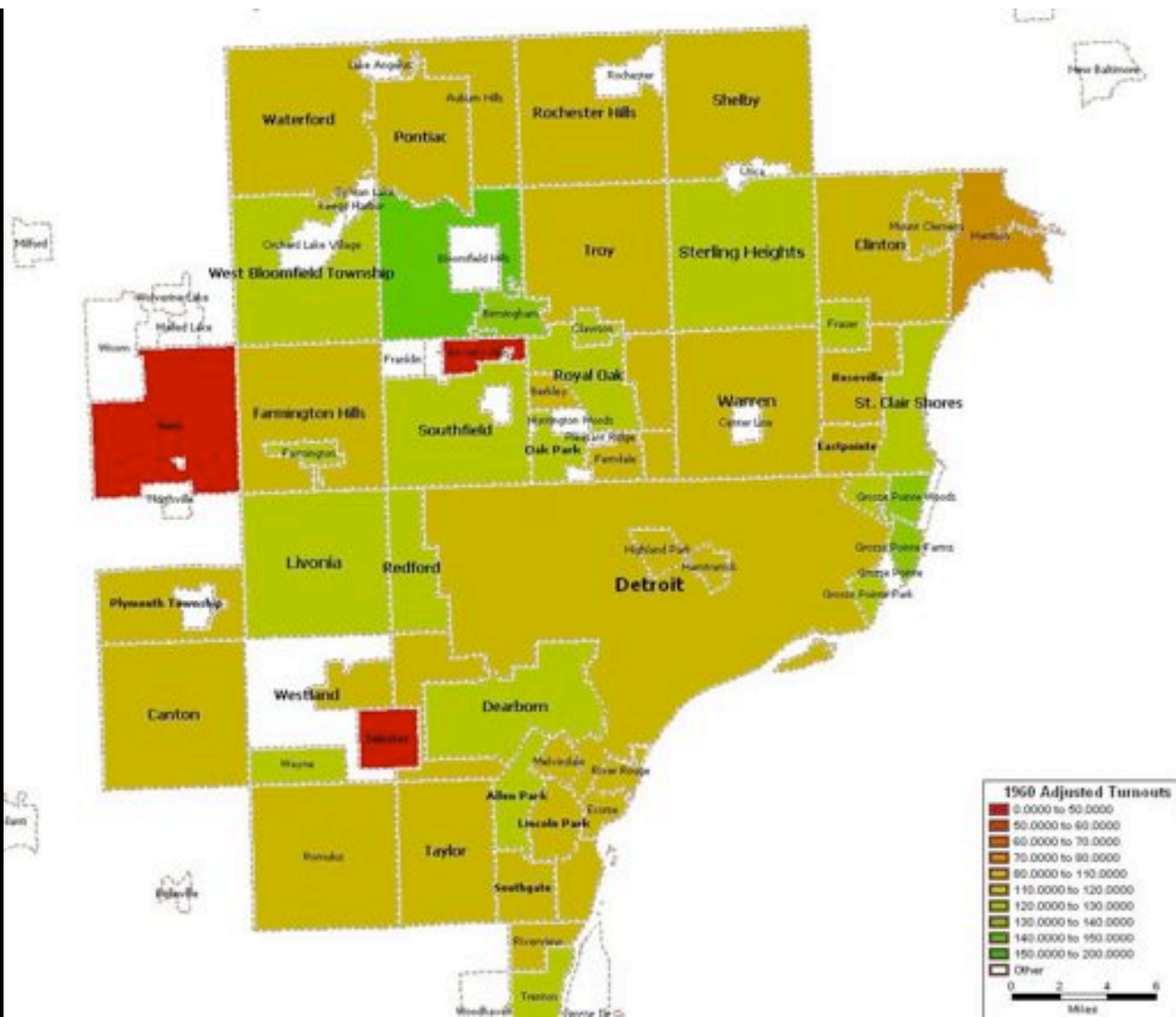


# Distribution of Relative Voter Turnout in Metropolitan Detroit

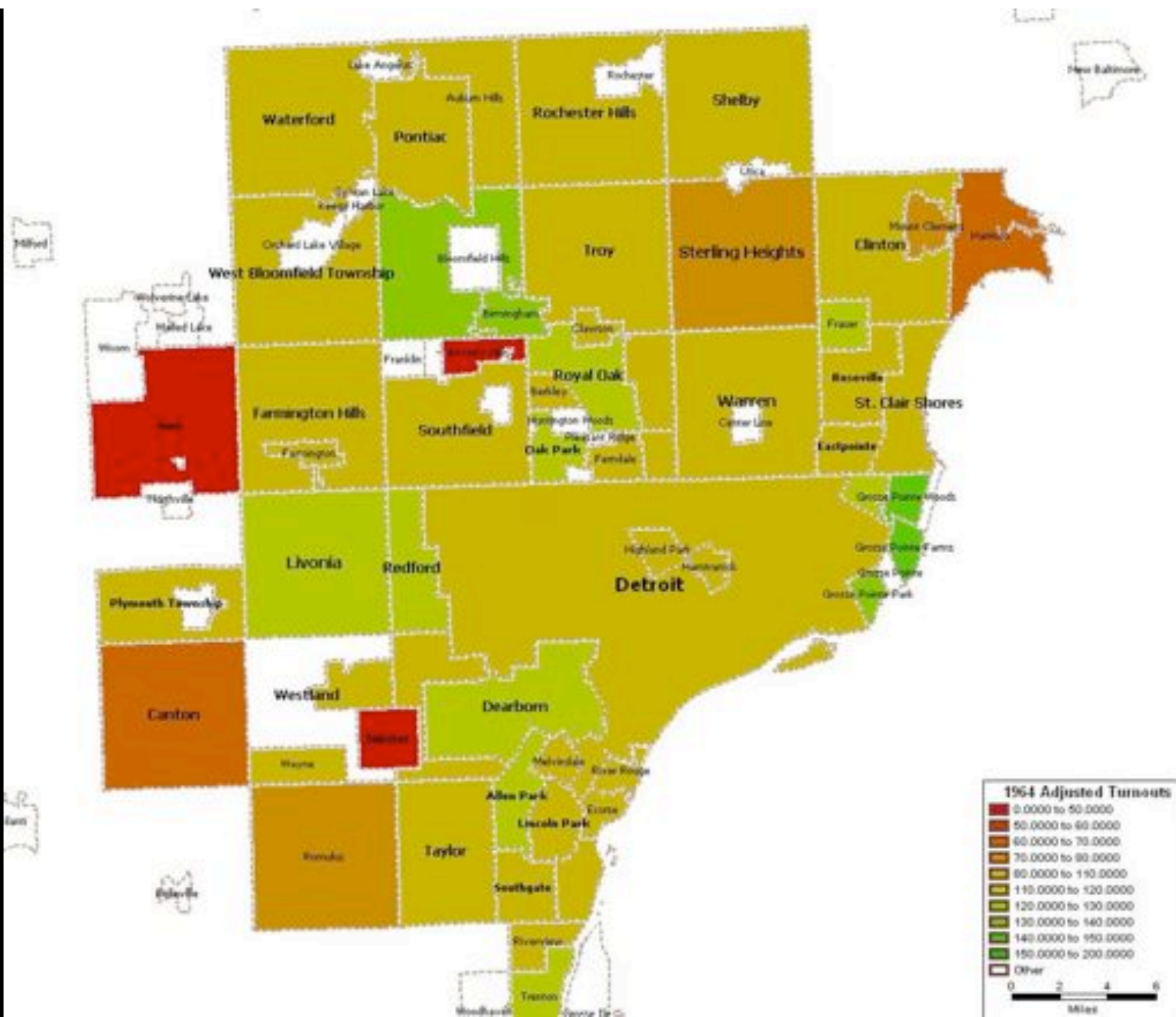
- Longitudinal Analysis Of Adjusted or Relative Voter Turnout Trends in Presidential Elections for Localities in Metropolitan Detroit through the Post-War Era.

# Definition

- Adjusted Voter Turnout for Detroit area localities (places) = Total number of presidential election returns for a given place as a percentage of that place's voting aged population shown as a percentage of the same figure for the State of Michigan for the respective election year.
- Source: Detroit Election Study.

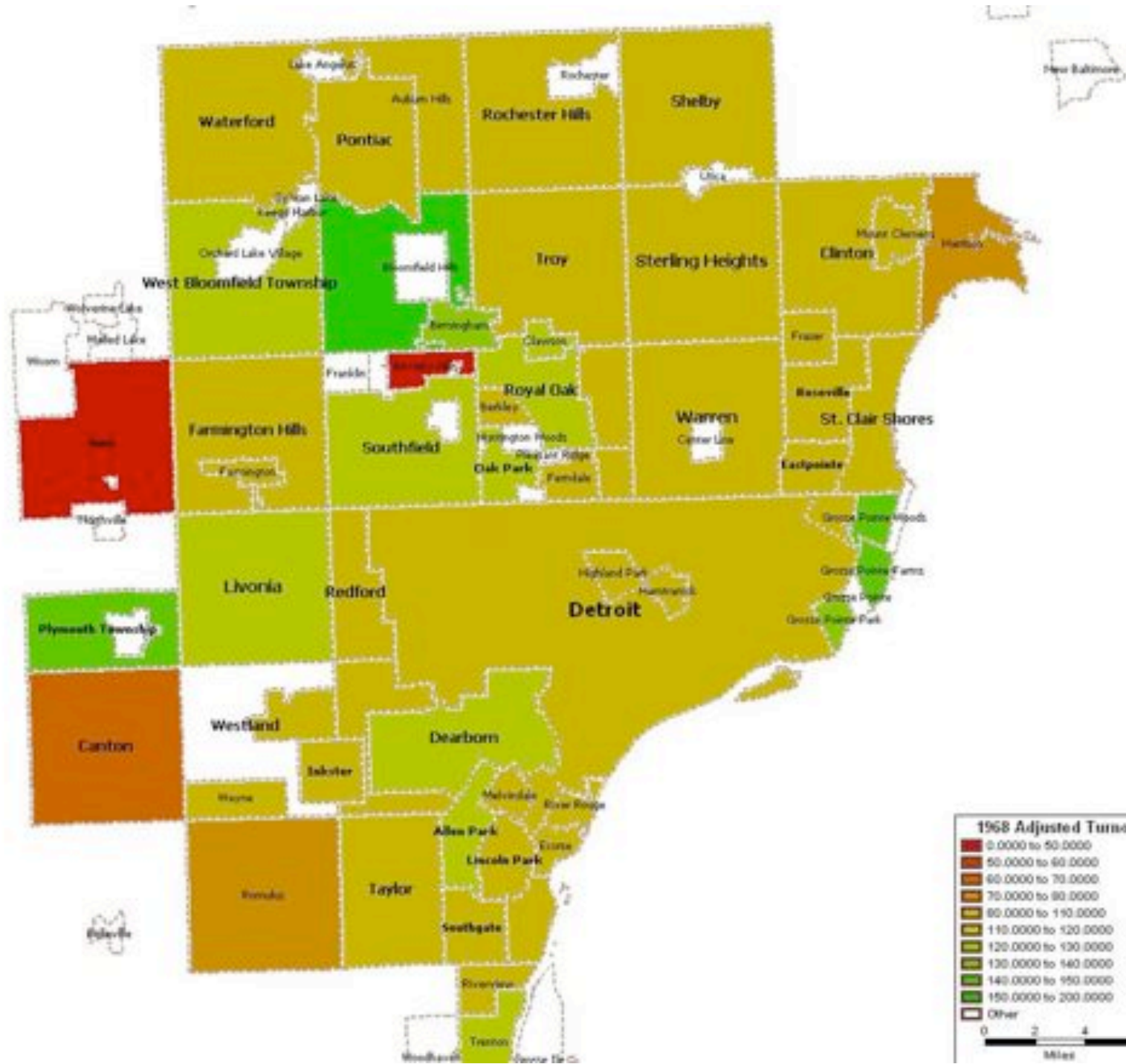






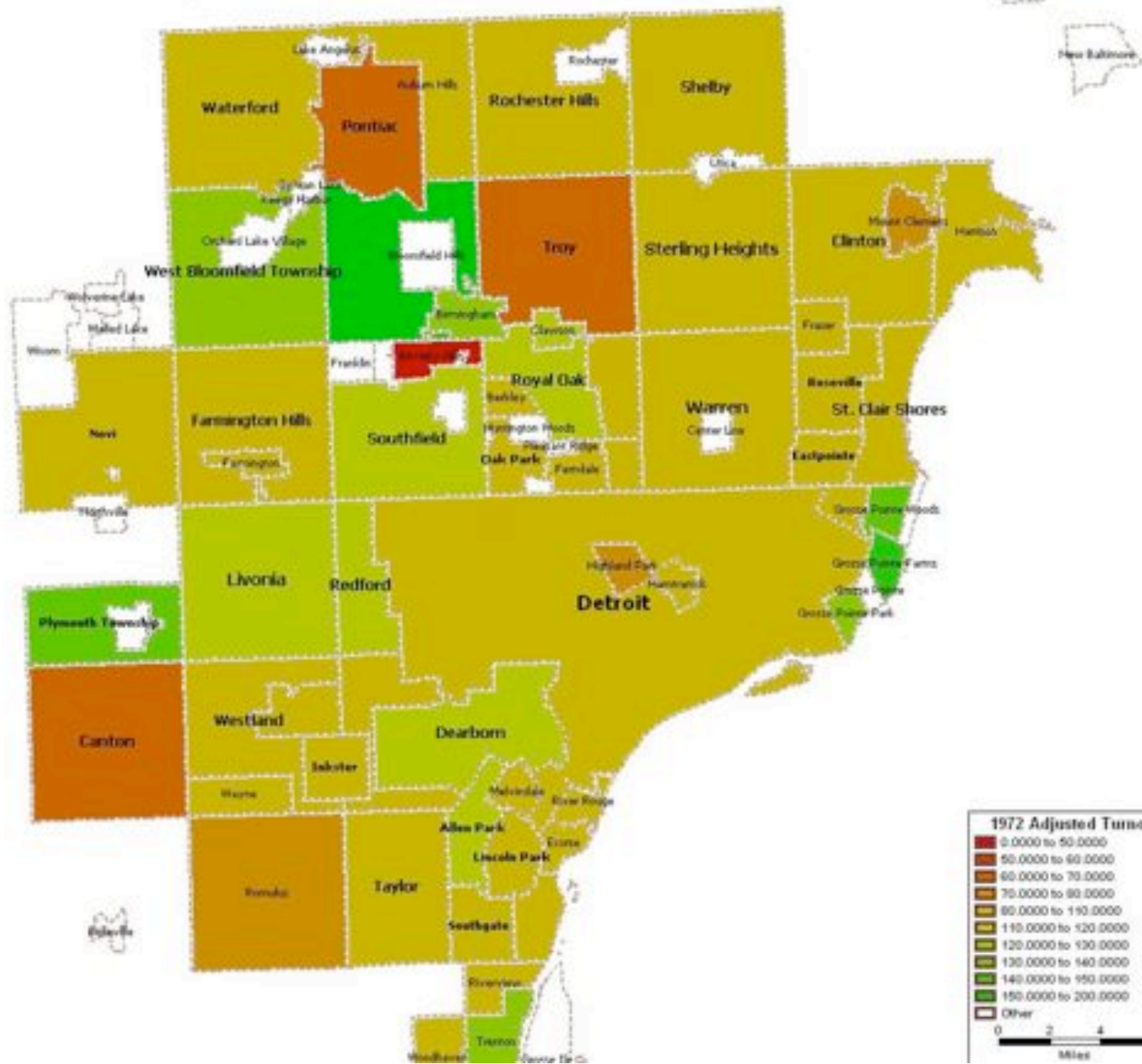
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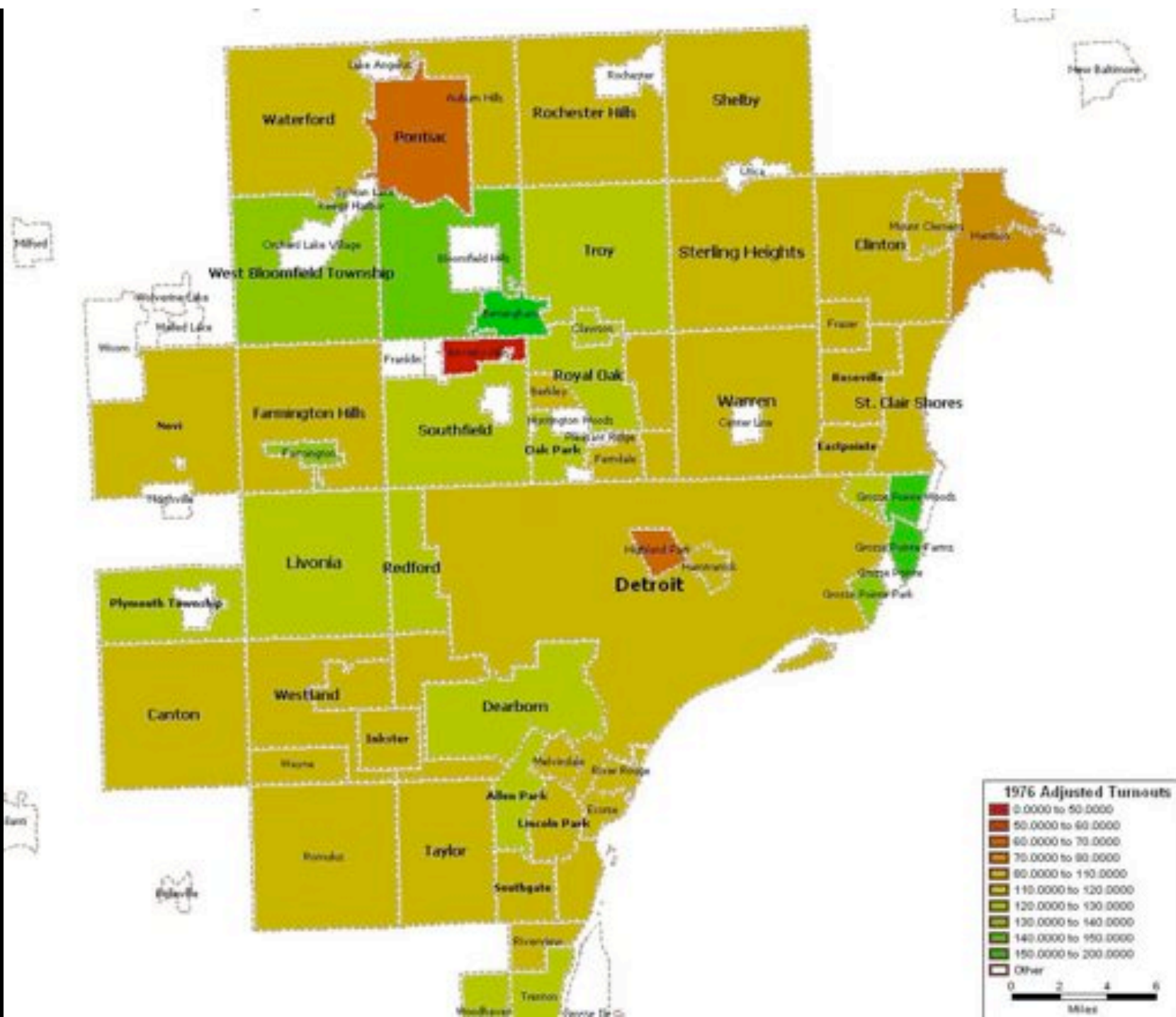


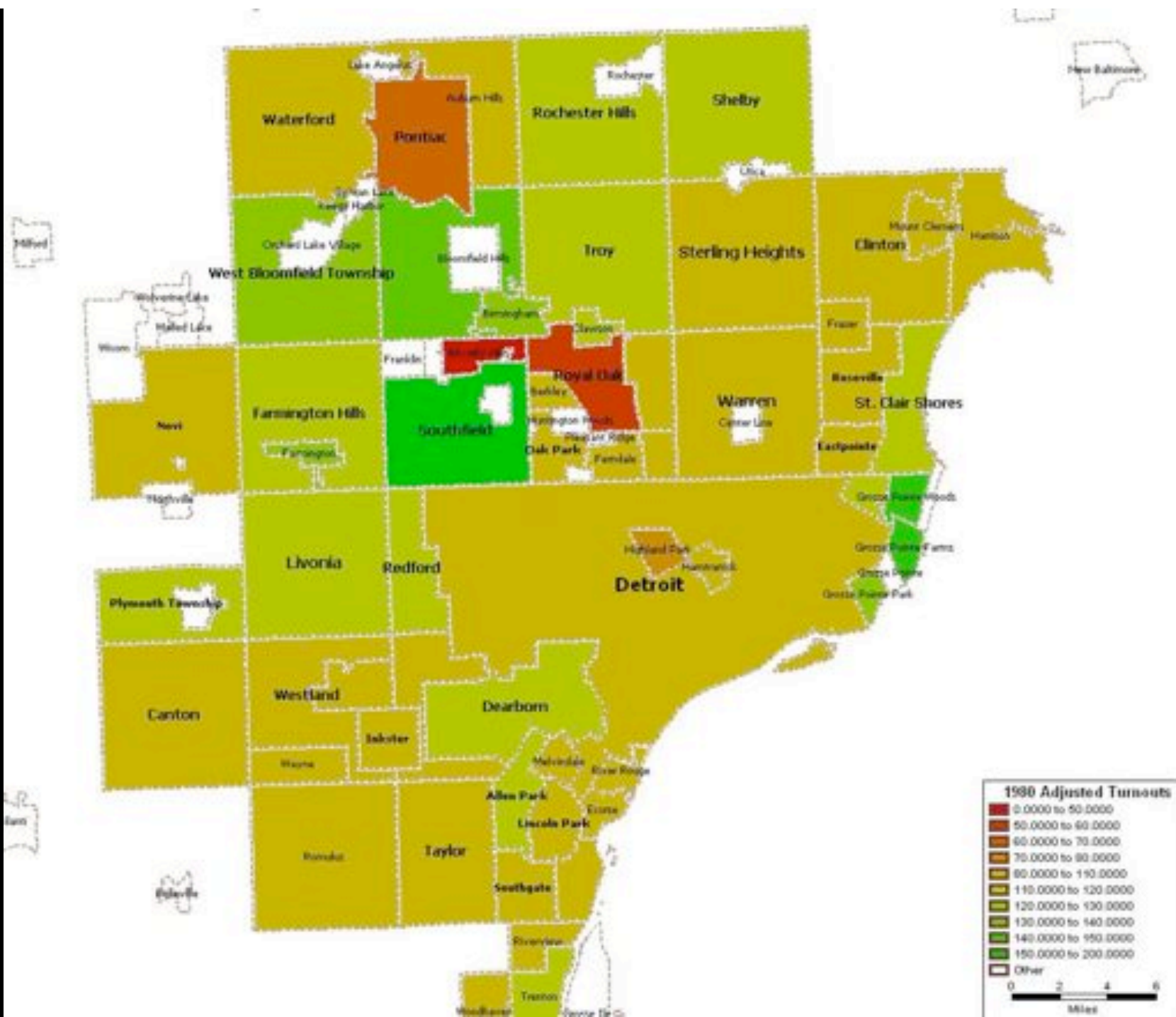
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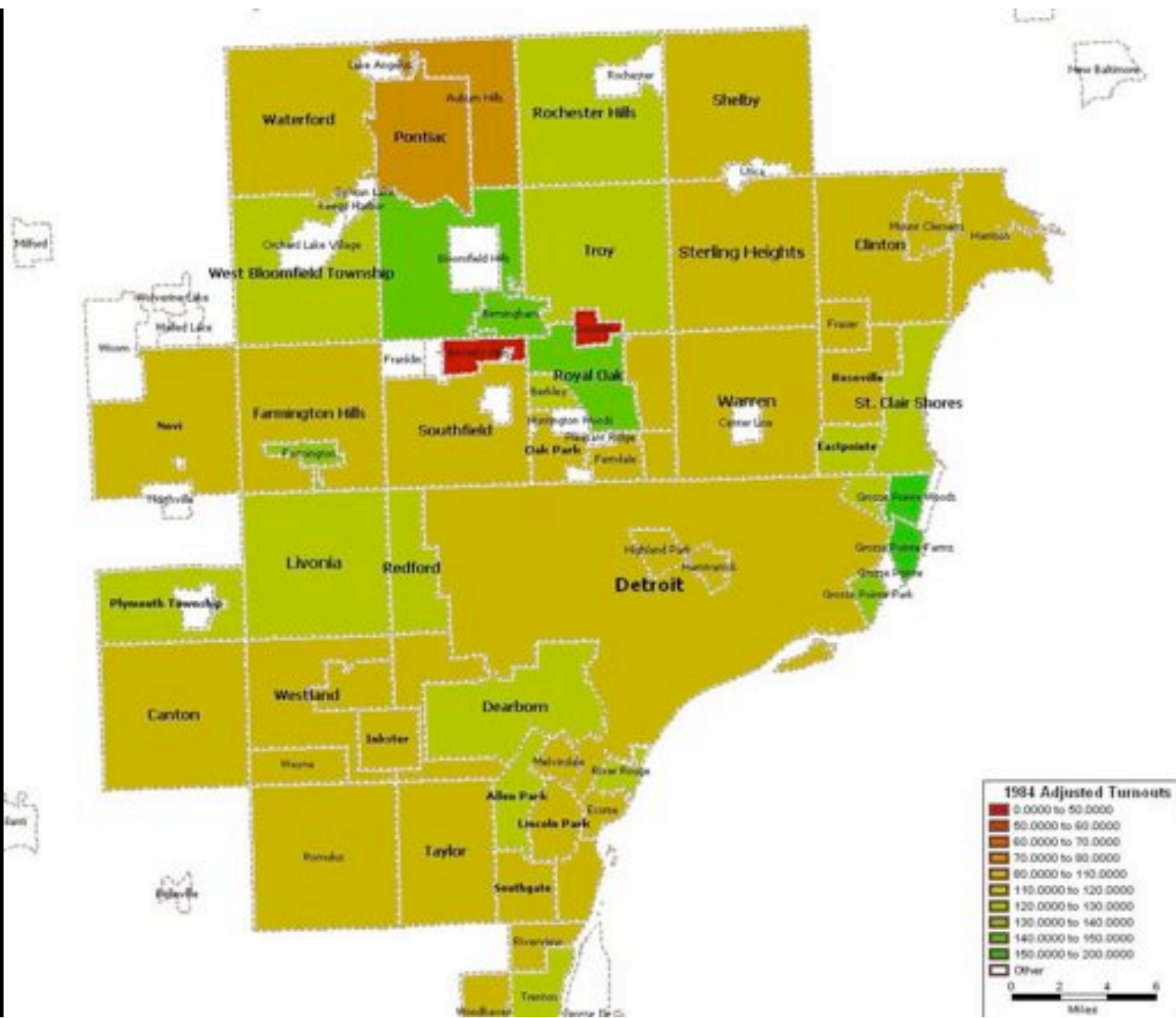


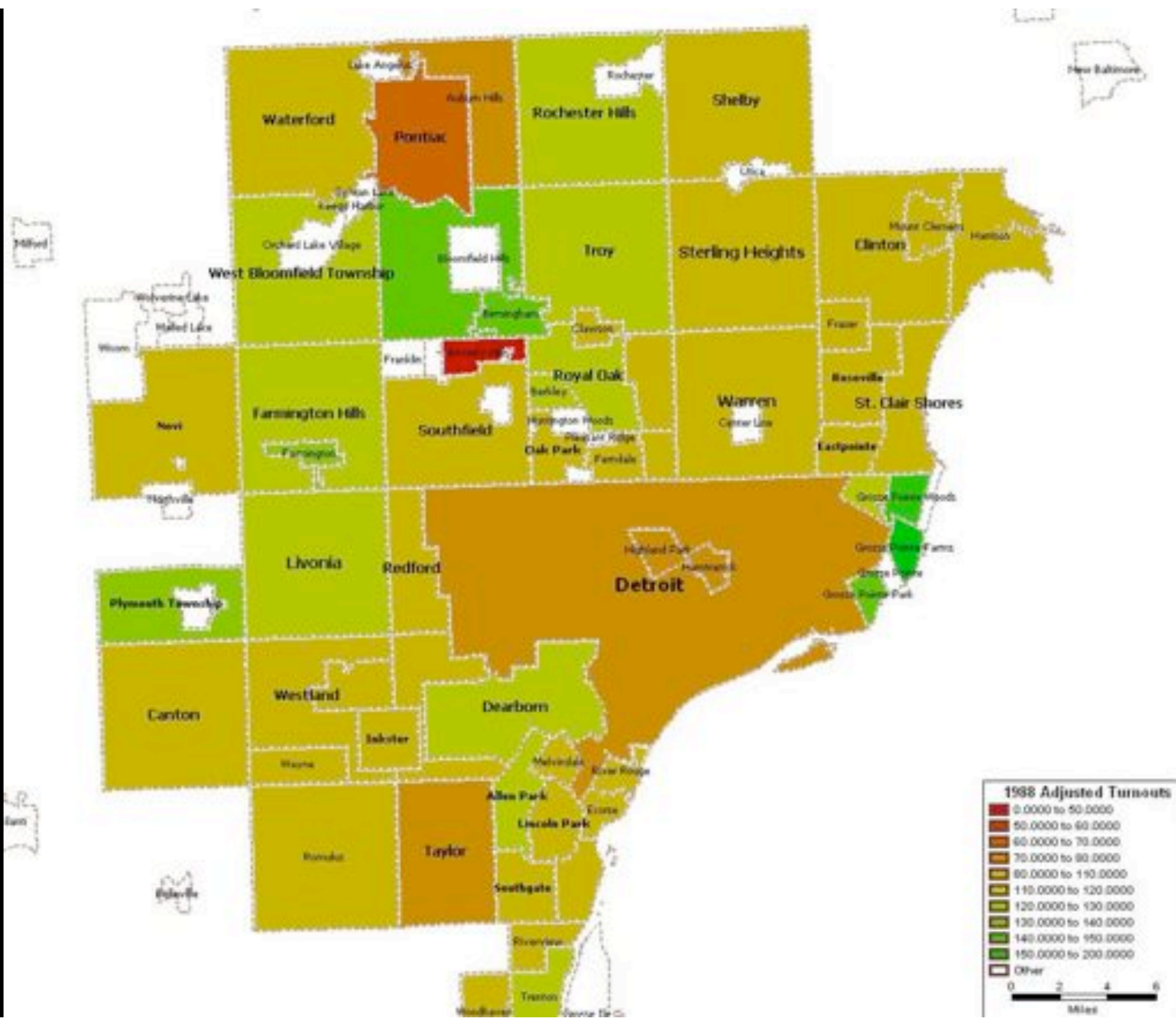


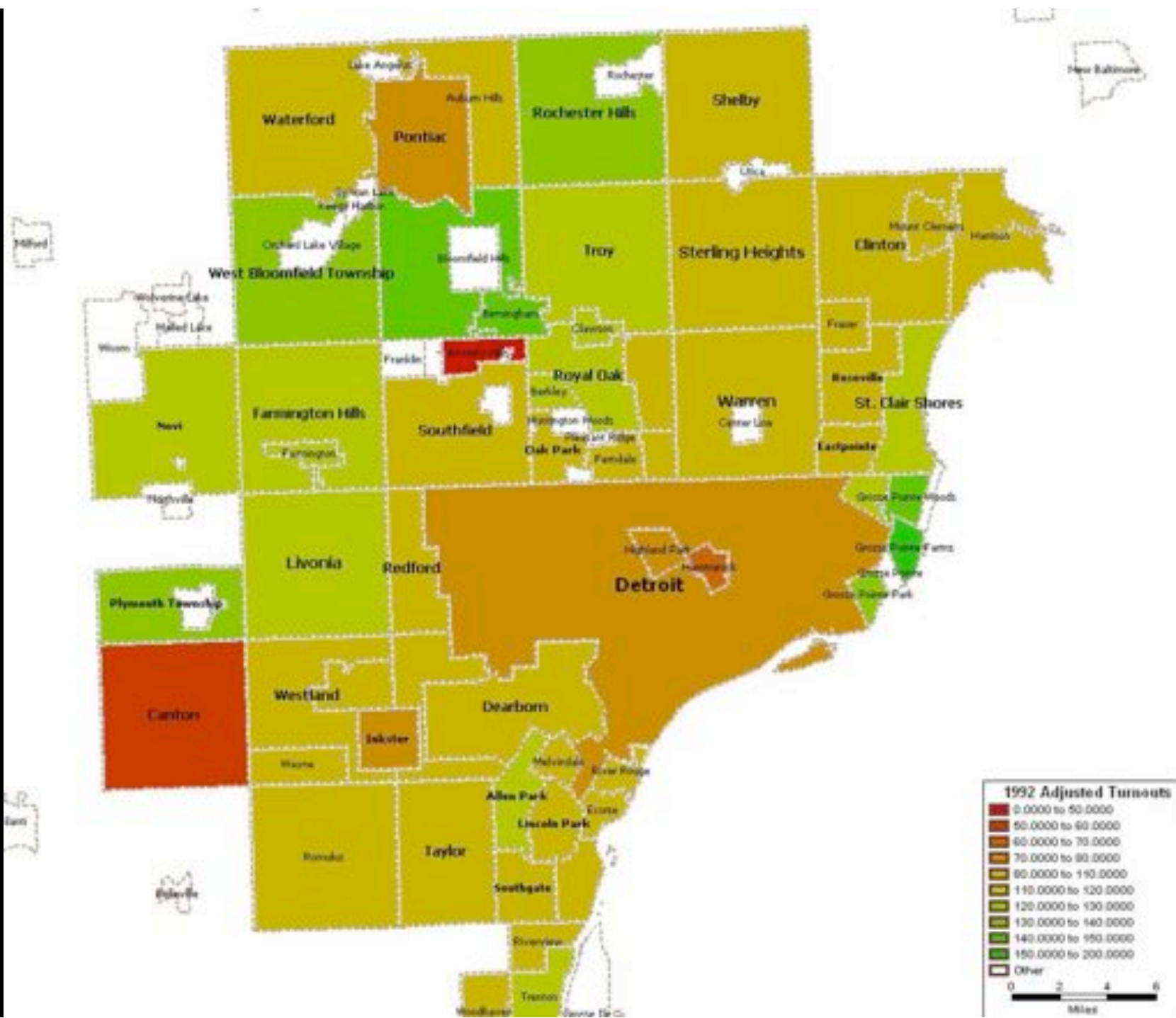




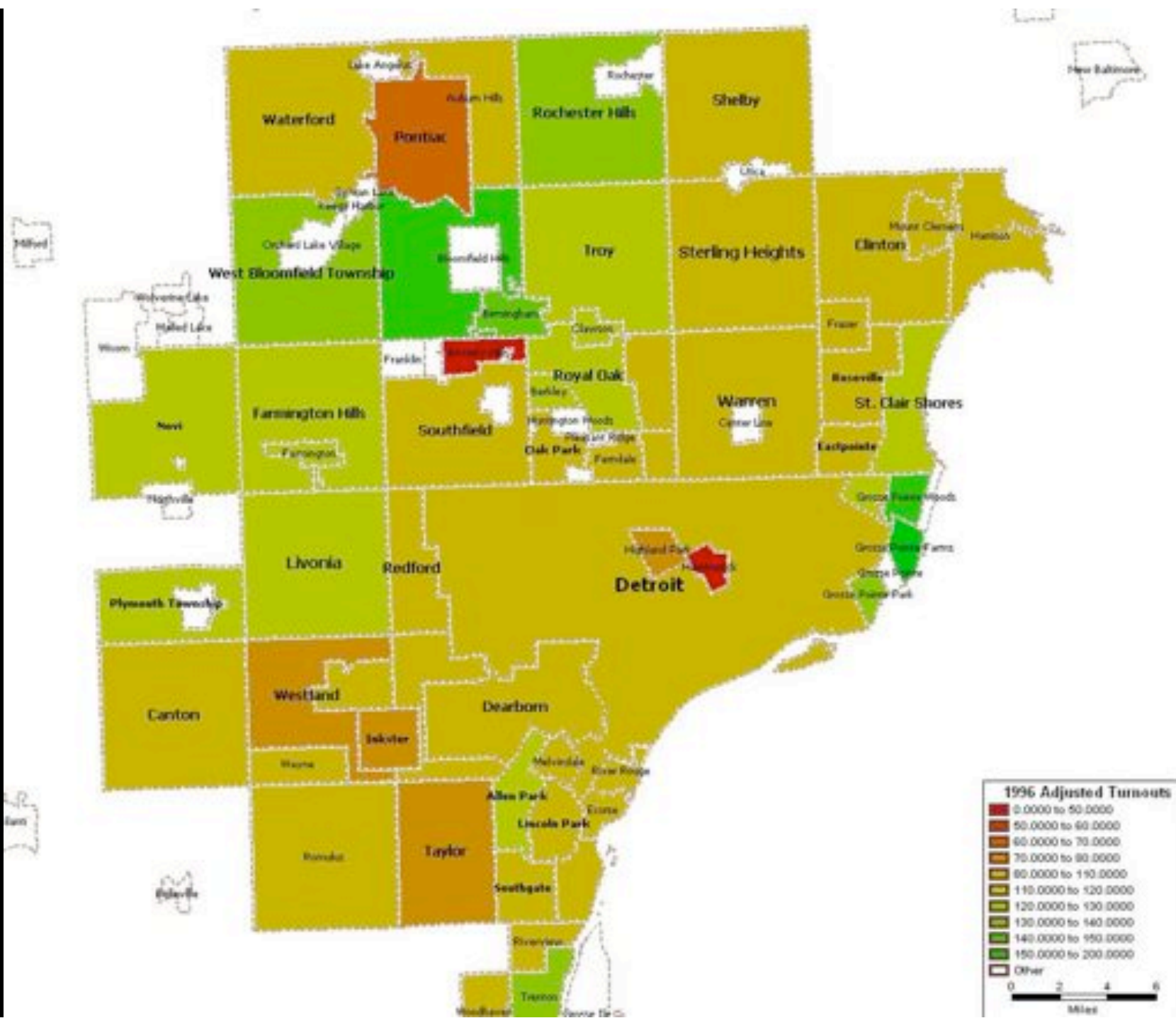




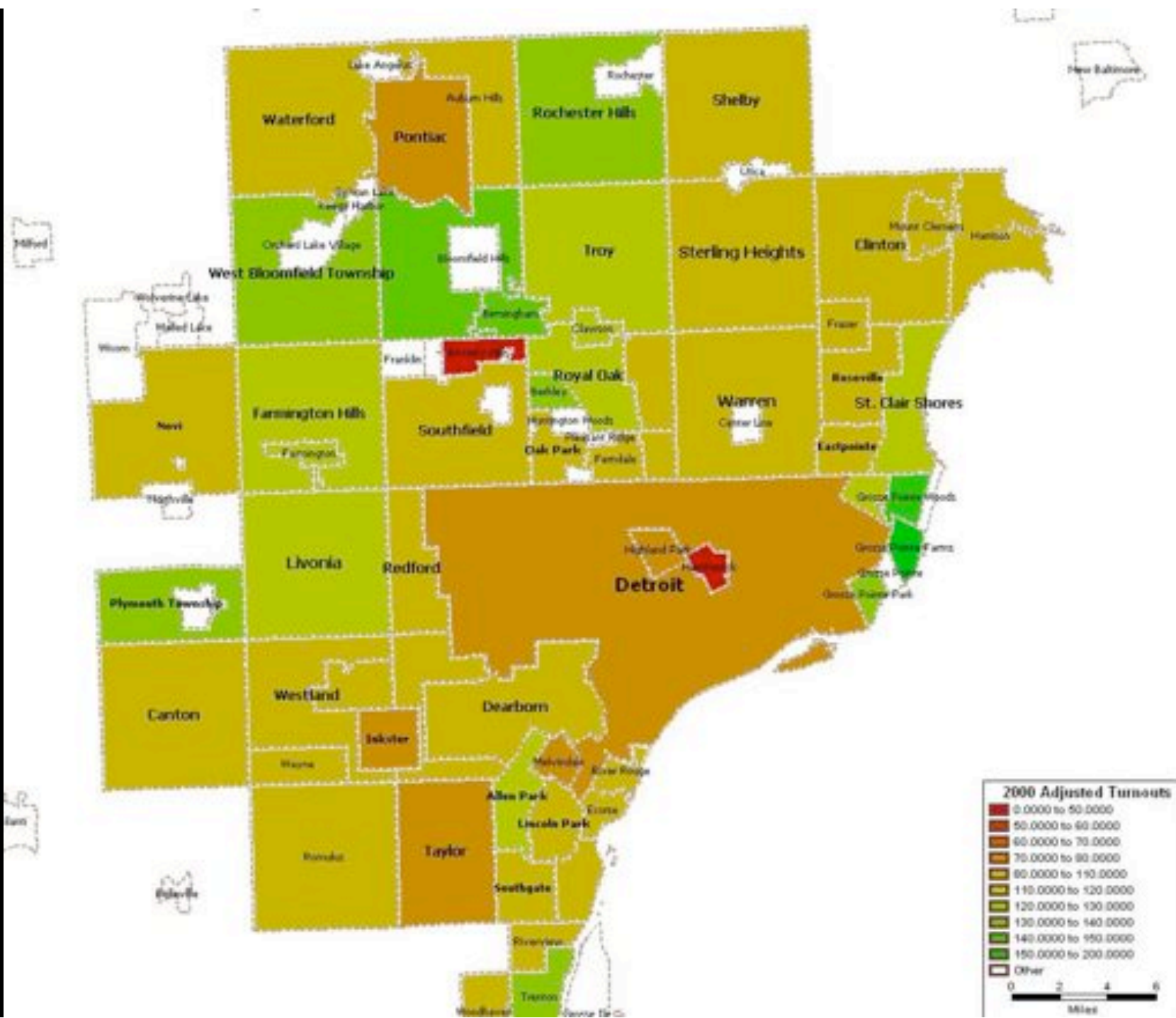






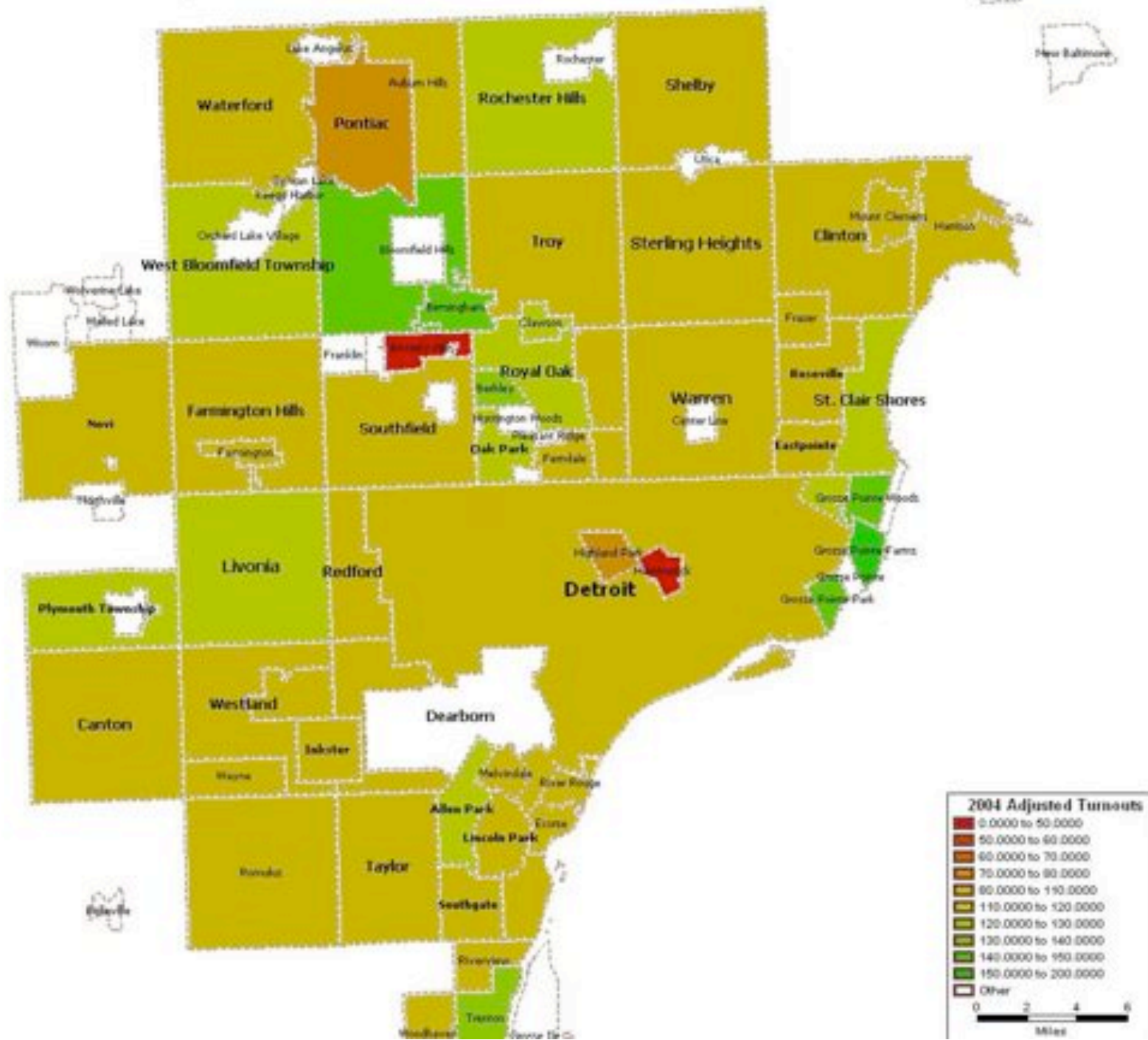






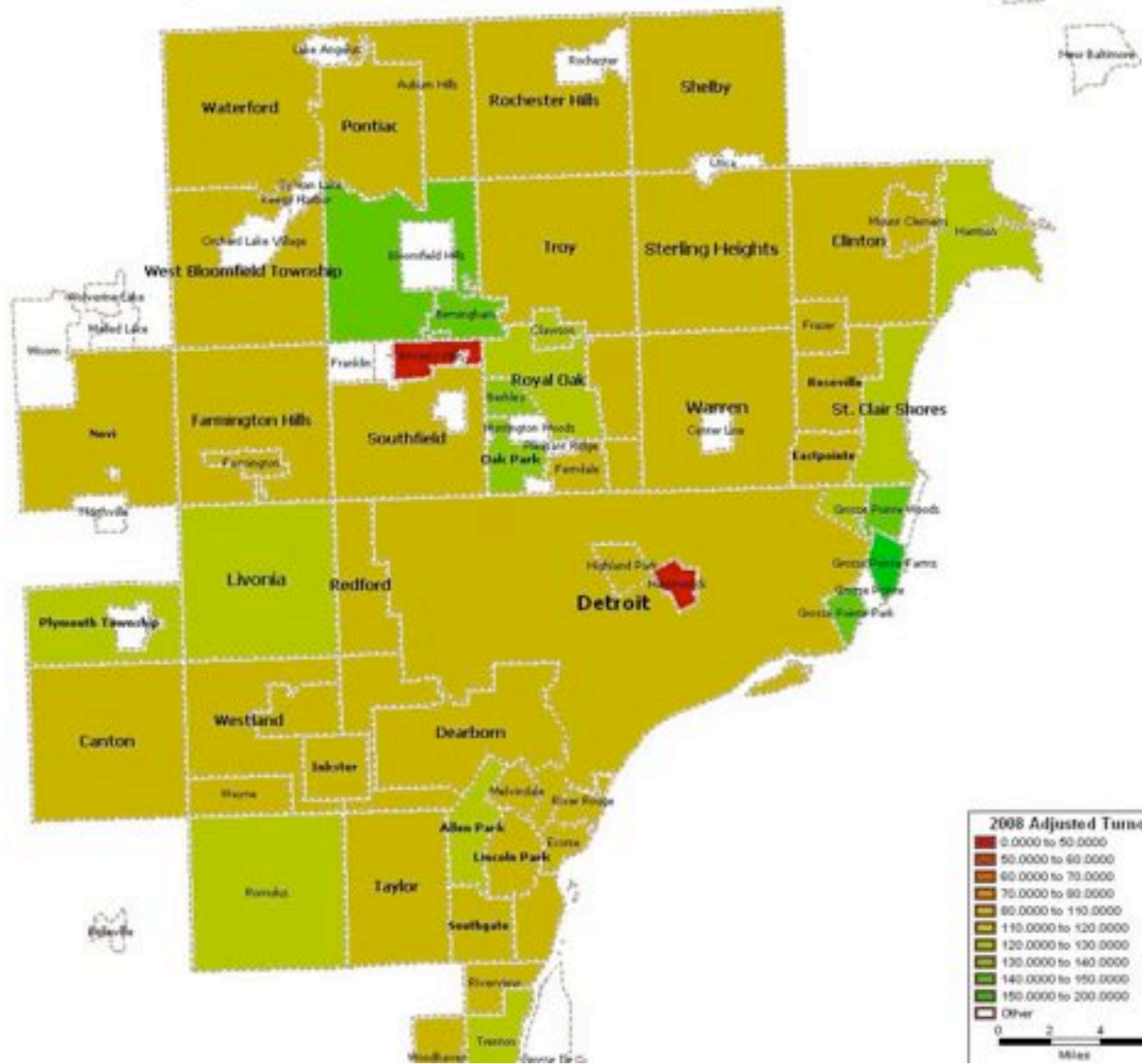
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# General Conclusions

- In the Detroit region, metropolitan localities, or places, are strongly associated with the distribution of persons by race, income, and political participation and preferences in Presidential elections.



- These associations are clearly evident, regardless of whether places are categorized empirically or theoretically.

- The distribution and concentration of individuals by political preference and participation in Metropolitan Detroit strongly coincides with the distribution and concentration of persons by race and economic well-being

- These associations have increased dramatically in strength and clarity throughout the post-war era, and are associated with the dramatic processes of developmental expansion and demographic dispersion (suburbanization and sprawl) that have characterized the region during this era.

- These trends have resulted in potentially balkanizing structures of metropolitan political space. Here, spatial structures in the form of metropolitan localities are increasingly strongly associated with residents' political, economic, and racial position vis a vis the region as a whole. And so, places increasingly define their residents' aggregated or shared political, economic, and racial perspectives and identities.



# How do Places Work?

## Theories of Metropolitan Structure

# Coincidental Effects and the Passivity of Place

- Individual Associations: Here, political, material, and social distinctions are associated at the individual level, and come to characterize places as individual persons and households sort themselves by place. The sorting of persons, and the concomitant sorting of their respective preferences and characteristics amongst metropolitan places can be self-perpetuating and intensifying.

# Critical Effects and the Active Structure of Differential Space

- Spatial Associations: Metropolitan places do not only attract and retain persons by their respective, and perhaps associated, economic, social, political and racial or cultural positions and preferences, they also can and do affect those very positions and preferences in ways that intensify them over time for spatially located persons and groups. That is, places are not merely the products of the persons who live in them, persons become, to some real and effective extent, the social, economic, cultural, and political products of the places that they live in.

# How can this happen?

## Concentration Effects

- The spatial aggregation and concentration of persons by their respective economic condition, interests, and perspectives creates places that are characterized by inherent and relative (to other metropolitan places) material or economic interests and perspectives which affect their residents correspondingly.
- The spatial aggregation and concentration of persons by their respective political, social, and cultural capital, interests, positions, and perspectives creates places that are characterized by inherent and relative political, social, and cultural interests, positions, and perspectives which affect their residents correspondingly.
- Relationships between the two sets of dynamics can mutually be reinforcing.



# The Dangerous

- **Dialectic of Space**  
The active or passive aggregation of persons in within Metropolitan spatial structures along associated economic, social, racial, cultural, and political lines aligns, and dynamically reinforces and intensifies, cleavages of political interests and perspectives that would otherwise be cross-cutting, thus threatening the pluralistic assumptions inherent to the American republic.

# Conclusion

- As the existence and activity of dialectical dynamics of metropolitical dispersion and fragmentation in the Detroit region become increasingly evident, the fundamental nature of this problem in relationship to the developmental challenges of the region becomes increasingly unavoidable.

# Developmental Solutions

- Developmental policy in the region must be regional in nature.
- Developmental policy proposals must be sensitive to the political limits and needs of the present system.

- In the end, regional developmental policy must be reconciliatory in nature to succeed. That is, it must work to transcend the political balkanization that has come to define and divide the region so dramatically and intensely by making place matter less, at least politically.