



**City of Dallas**

# **Proposed Redistricting Guidelines, Plan Consideration Criteria, Process for Moving Plans Forward and Timeline**

**Redistricting Commission  
Meeting  
November 22, 2021**

Brett Wilkinson, Managing Director  
Office of Government Affairs  
Willow Sanchez, Assistant City Attorney  
City Attorney's Office

# Overview



- Proposed Redistricting Guidelines
- Proposed Plan Consideration Criteria
- Proposed Process for Moving Plans Forward
- Proposed Timeline
- Action Item – Approval of Redistricting Guidelines, Plan Consideration Criteria, Process for Moving Plans Forward and Timeline



# Proposed Redistricting Guidelines



**Charter Guideline:** *The districts shall be substantially equal in population according to the total population count as presented in the census data, except where deviation is required to comply with federal law or is allowable by law.*

## Additional Considerations

The total deviation between the largest and the smallest district must be as small as possible, but should be less than ten percent.

Minor population deviations may be allowed if they are necessary to achieve a good faith, legitimate objective, such as:

- preserving the voting strength of minority populations in compliance with the Voting Rights Act
- making the districts compact
- maintaining communities of interest in a single district and avoiding splitting neighborhoods
- using public school attendance boundaries as defined by the independent school districts in the City of Dallas to assist in defining neighborhoods
- preserving the cores of existing districts as permitted by case law, meaning to recognize the traditional geographic, economic, cultural or social center of an existing district as supported by public testimony
- following easily identifiable geographic boundaries and other unique geographical configurations



# Proposed Redistricting Guidelines



***Charter Guideline: In addition to the requirements of federal law, there shall be no discrimination on the basis of race, color, or membership in a language minority group, and the voting strength of racial, ethnic, and language minorities in the districts shall not be diluted to deprive minority voters of an equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice.***

## Additional Considerations

Race, ethnicity, and language minority consideration cannot be the predominant factor to which other districting legal principles are subordinated.

A majority minority district may be created to provide fair representation to the members of racial, ethnic, and language minority populations where compelling justification requires such a district as determined by the following factors:

- a reasonably compact district can be drawn in compliance with the other redistricting guidelines in which voters of the minority group constitute a majority of the electorate and will increase the probability that members of the minority will be elected
- the minority community is politically cohesive and usually votes together
- other voters in the area generally vote as a bloc to successfully defeat the minority community's preferred candidates.



# Proposed Redistricting Guidelines



***Charter Guideline: The districts shall be geographically compact, to the extent possible, and composed of contiguous territory.***

## Additional Considerations

Compactness and contiguity involve both a functional and a geographic aspect and are defined by case law to include factors such as:

- Contiguity: No part of the district should be geographically separated from any other part of the district
- Compactness: A district is generally considered reasonably compact if it has a fairly regular geometric shape (circle, square, hexagon) with constituents all living relatively near to each other and having minimum distances between all parts of a constituency.



# Proposed Redistricting Guidelines



***Charter Guideline: The reconfiguration of districts shall be neutral as to incumbents or potential candidates.***

Additional Considerations

None



# Proposed Redistricting Guidelines



***Charter Guideline: Communities of interest shall be placed in a single district and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods, where possible without violating the other requirements.***

## Additional Considerations

“neighborhoods” and “communities of interest” may be defined by:

- geographically compact areas where there are people who share clearly recognizable similarities of social, political, cultural, ethnic, religious, or economic interests.
- homeowner associations, neighborhood associations, crime watch groups and preservation/historic districts
- the existence of shared interests, including a history and tradition of working together and relating to each other
- the use of public school attendance boundaries as defined by the independent school districts in the City of Dallas
- boundaries that facilitate communications between constituents and their elected representatives
- easily identifiable geographic boundaries such as highways, major thoroughfares, and natural waterways.



# Proposed Plan Consideration Criteria



- A plan (partial or full) may be submitted by members of the Redistricting Commission or the public.
- Multiple plans (partial or full) may be submitted.
- Only plans that meet the minimum standard of being a complete city-wide plan with all population assigned to 14 contiguous districts with a total population deviation of less than 10% may be presented to the Redistricting Commission.



# Proposed Plan Consideration Criteria



- A list of plans (partial or full) that do not meet the established criteria shall be provided to the Redistricting Commission in their Commission agenda packets (list to be updated every two weeks).
- If a plan is submitted that does not meet established criteria, ARCBridge Consulting shall notify the submitter in writing as to why the plan does not meet the established criteria with the option to correct any deficiencies and resubmit prior to the final submission deadline.



# Proposed Plan Consideration Criteria



ARCBridge Consulting shall ensure the following for plan submissions:

- A Plan ID and Date of Receipt
- The Plan Submitter's Name or Organization Name (if applicable), Address, Telephone Number, Email Address and District. Organizations must designate a representative and include their name. – **Under Review**
- An acknowledgement that the plan submitter has consulted the Redistricting Guidelines prior to submission of their plan.
- An acknowledgement that the plan meets or does not meet all established redistricting guidelines
- A data table provided by ARCBridge Consulting displaying compactness scores based on Reock, Convex Hull, Polsby-Popper, and/or Schwartzberg indices (**for plans that meet redistricting criteria**).
- A data table provided by ARCBridge Consulting that includes (**for plans that meet redistricting criteria**):
  - i. the linear and square mileage of each district
  - ii. the Total population, Deviation, Demographic Total and Percentages of Hispanic, NH White, NH Black, NH Native, and NH AAPI; and Voting Age Population of the same listed demographics of each district.
  - iii. the Northern, Eastern, Southern and Western boundary of each district (**for final three plans**)



# Proposed Process for Moving Plans Forward



## Presentation of Plans

- **Plan Submission Deadline – April 15, 2022**
- Individuals or organizations who have submitted plans that meet established criteria may present their plan to the Redistricting Commission.
- Plan presenter(s) shall be allowed 15 minutes to present their plan and 5 minutes allotted to each Commissioner for questions and responses.
- After each plan is presented, the Redistricting Commission shall vote to accept or not-accept the presented plan, and accepted plans will be placed into Inventory for further Consideration.



# Proposed Process for Moving Plans Forward



- At a regularly scheduled Redistricting Commission Meeting (Target - May 2, 2022), Commissioners may nominate any plan from the Inventory to be added to a voting slate and Commissioners shall vote to approve (3) plans from the slate via Rank Choice Voting for final consideration.
- At two regularly scheduled Redistricting Commission Meetings (Target - May 9 and 16, 2022), the Commission shall propose and vote on any amendments to the final 3 plans.
- The Commission shall host (1) Public Hearing on a Saturday – subsequent to adoption of the three final plans (Target - May 21, 2022) to receive public comment on the final 3 plans.
- At a regularly scheduled Redistricting Commission Meeting (Target - May 23, 2022) the Commission shall propose and vote on any additional amendments to the final 3 plans (if needed) and/or vote to approve one final plan by a simple-majority vote to submit to the Mayor.



# Proposed Redistricting Timeline (dates subject to change)



- **April 15, 2022 - Deadline for Plan Submissions**
- April 25, 2022 - Final Meeting for Plan Presentations
- May 2, 2022 - Approve 3 Plans for Best and Final
- May 9, 2022 - Vote on Amendments to Each Plan
- May 16, 2022 - Vote on Amendments to Each Plan
- May 21, 2022 - Public Hearing to receive comment on 3 Plans
- May 23, 2022 (target) - Vote to Approve Final Plan (Additional Amendments If Necessary)



# Action Item



Approve redistricting guidelines, plan consideration criteria, process for moving plans forward and timeline





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