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DALLAS

Dallas Redistricting Advances Amid Neighbor Concerns

A pool of possible maps to be reduced Monday night

By **Ken Kalthoff** • Published April 25, 2022 • Updated on April 26, 2022 at 10:24 am



NBC 5's Ken Kalthoff explains the efforts to draw a shortlist of proposed maps for the next ten years of city council representation in Dallas.

Big decisions were scheduled for Monday night in this decade's [Dallas redistricting fight](#) to narrow the field of proposed maps.

From the [pool of dozens of possible maps](#) for 14 city council districts, the [Redistricting Commission](#) appointed to present a plan to the Dallas City Council was to select two or three finalists.

The new plan is required to level the population in each and provide fair representation based on demographic characteristics from the 2020 Census.

Downtown and Uptown Dallas District 14 with many large new apartments currently have thousands more residents than other districts.

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People in some neighborhoods fear they will lose clout for service delivery from City Hall with new district lines.

“Right now we finally have a voice at City Hall and they want to split us,” West Dallas Community Leader Debbie Solis said.

She successfully fought to save the historic Eagle Ford School near her home. But some of the proposed maps divide the school and her home from other parts of the Eagle Ford Ledbetter community. She wants all of West Dallas to remain united for a stronger voice at City Hall.

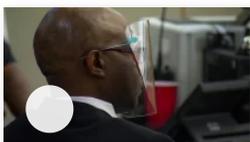
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“We have the same thing in common. We worked together and we needed each other,” Solis said. “We need more time we didn't even know they were splitting us apart.”

Dallas map expert Bill Betzen has participated in past redistricting battles. He submitted dozens of options of his own to this year's pool of proposed redistricting maps.

“Debbie Solis's concerns can be solved easily and quickly and should be because she's right. West Dallas should all be united north of I-30 into the same district,” Betzen said.

Monday Betzen was supporting a map proposed by Redistricting Commissioner Domingo Garcia, with a stipulation that Garcia's map would be amended to keep all of West Dallas united.

Garcia's map more closely levels the population in each district.

“It should very reasonably be nine minority districts, four Hispanic, four Black and one that's a minority opportunity district that goes either way,” Betzen said. “We did this with the shortest boundary lines in history. So in other words, we are, strictly speaking, cutting up the least neighborhoods that have ever been cut up in the history of single-member districts in Dallas.”

Garcia's map joins Uptown and near East Dallas' M Streets neighborhoods with Kessler Park in Oak Cliff.

It puts the traditionally Black Elm Thicket neighborhood in North Dallas in predominately white District 13, which some Elm Thicket residents spoke against Monday.

“Elm Thicket North Park is one of Dallas's largest historically Black neighborhoods north of the Trinity River. What we want to make sure is that our history is not forgotten,” resident Jonathan Maples said.

After months of past meetings, the Redistricting Commission spent hours listening to public speakers again Monday. It was scheduled to debate finalists Monday night.

More commission sessions are scheduled for amendments and the Dallas City Council gets a final say on the future district map to be used in next year's elections.

So, there is still time to join the [Dallas Redistricting fight](#).

| **CITY HALL** |

Dallas Is Getting Ready to Finish Drawing New Council District Boundaries

JACOB VAUGHN | **APRIL 28, 2022** | **4:00AM**



The Redistricting Commission meets at City Hall on April 25. **City of Dallas**

f    

Two proposed Dallas City Council district boundary maps are in the pipeline at City Hall. One will end up deciding who represents each part of Dallas. Some  argue both of these maps could increase Latino and Black representation in the city. Others, like West Dallas advocate Debbie Solis, say they feel they've been left

out of the process and that the result are maps that could break up their communities and make them less powerful.

A final map could be sent to the mayor and City Council early next month. Now, Solis and others are acting fast to make sure officials hear how they want to be represented so this can be reflected in the final council district boundaries.

“We’re being left out,” Solis said. “It’s just terrible.”

The two maps were narrowed down from 46 that were initially submitted. The two left are Map 17 and Map 41. Map 17 was drawn up by commissioners Randall Bryant, Bob Stimson and Roy Lopez. Map 41 was drawn by residents Melanie Vanlandingham and Darren Dattalo.

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Solis said either map would split West Dallas neighborhoods currently in District 6, now represented by council member Omar Narvaez.

In Map 17, Dallas City Council District 1 would stretch into some parts West Dallas, like south of Singleton Boulevard, the area around the Mountain View Dallas College campus and Arcadia Park. This includes a part of town Solis lives in as well. In this map, District 14 would include the Bishop Arts District, Methodist Dallas Medical Center and a good portion of the North Hampton Road area south of Interstate 30.

Residents in West Dallas are more organized than just six years ago, when Solis said she initially started advocating for her community. 

“We’re being left out.” – Debbie Solis, West Dallas resident

“I got involved six years ago because we weren’t being heard in the city of Dallas,” Solis said. “So, we registered and we got a lot of people to vote. ... We explained to them, we need to work together because we were getting gentrified without getting a voice in. Now we’re trying to stay together. We’re trying to keep the neighborhood together right now.”

She understand that the pandemic may have led to some lack of communication. Still, she said, “No one came to West Dallas to tell us what they were doing.”

Solis said she thinks that members of the Redistricting Commission have been so focused on strengthening Latino and Black representation in the city that they’re not hearing the concerns of her community. “It’s like, in every corner people are trying to just do what they want and not even think about West Dallas and our history and what we need and want.”

But it’s more than just Solis’ community that could see a split. The two final maps move a historically Black neighborhood in District 2, called the Elm Thicket NorthPark area, into the majority white District 13. Some District 2 residents oppose this.

The Redistricting Commission members responsible for Map 17 were open about their intentions: giving more power to voters of color in Dallas.

“The map is really based on the premise that we wanted to create four strong African American districts and four strong Hispanic districts,” Stimson, the commission’s District 1 representative, said at their meeting this week. Stimson said he and the other commissioners think one of the best ways to do that is to tie the North Oak Cliff area to downtown. Their map would also see District 9  include the area around White Rock Lake. The map would also extend District 2 to Far East Dallas and the Casa View area.

Under Map 41, District 2 would still be shifted to include Far East Dallas, but District 7 would then include the northwest side of Pleasant Grove.

Normal Minnis, the representative on the commission for District 14, said she supported Map 41 because she thinks it “represents the best of all the neighborhoods.”

The maps can still be tweaked though, and the commission will start working on that this Monday. There will be a hearing over the maps the following Saturday. Once a final one is chosen, City Council members have 45 days to make any amendments.

 **PDF — dallas-redistricting-map-17.pdf**

dallas-redistricting-map-17.pdf

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Page: of 4

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Plan Summary - Plan ID: COD-017-RB-BE-RL (Submitter: Commissioners Randall Bryant, Bob Stimson, Roy Lopez)
Date Submitted: 3-5-22
Current Status: Meets the City of Dallas Redistricting Criteria

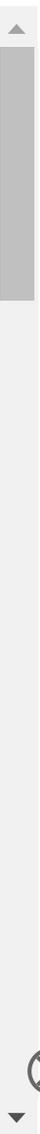
REVIEW CRITERIA FOR PLAN ACCEPTANCE

1. **Maximum Deviation Less than 10%:** Population Difference between most populated and least populated district divided by ideal population is less than 10%
 Plan meets Criteria Plan does not meet Criteria
Plan Max Deviation - 9.95%

2. **Contiguity:** All districts should be geographically contiguous.
 Plan meets Criteria Plan does not meet Criteria

3. **Unassigned Units - None**
 Plan meets Criteria Plan does not meet Criteria

4. **Other Map Characteristics for further evaluation:**
1. No. of Minority Majority/Plurality Districts: 8



dallas-redistricting-map-41.pdf

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Page: 1 of 4

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 **City of Dallas 2021-22 Redistricting Submitted Map Analysis**

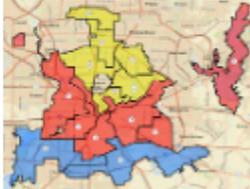
Plan Summary – Plan ID: COD-041-MCVLA-DD (Submitter: Melanie Vanlandingham and Darren Dettalo)

Date Submitted: 4-15-22

Current Status: Meets the City of Dallas Redistricting Criteria

REVIEW CRITERIA FOR PLAN ACCEPTANCE

- Maximum Deviation Less than 10%:** Population Difference between most populated and least populated district divided by Ideal population is less than 10%
 - Plan meets Criteria
Plan Max Deviation – 9.45%
 - Plan does not meet Criteria
- Contiguity:** All districts should be geographically contiguous.
 - Plan meets Criteria
 - Plan does not meet Criteria
- Unassigned Units – None**
 - Plan meets Criteria
 - Plan does not meet Criteria
- Other Map Characteristics for further evaluation:**
 - No. of Minority Majority/Plurality Districts: 8



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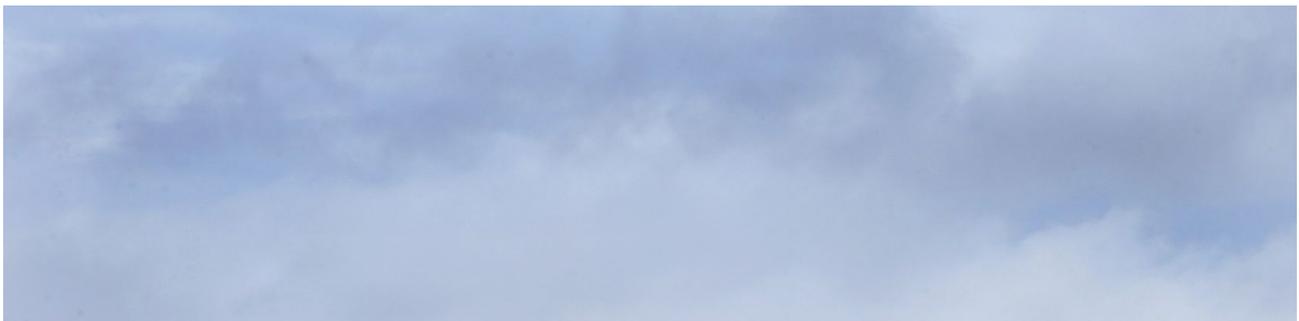
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NEWS > POLITICS

Dallas redistricting commission moving forward with two maps that could shift council representation

The commission narrowed dozens of proposed maps to two that some say could increase Black and Latino voting power. A final map is scheduled to be recommended to city officials next month.





Downtown Dallas skyline (Tom Fox / Staff Photographer)

By [Everton Bailey Jr.](#)

7:14 AM on Apr 26, 2022

The citizens group tasked with [redrawing Dallas' City Council district boundaries](#) has narrowed dozens of proposed maps to two.

The Dallas Redistricting Commission voted Monday to move forward two maps with revised population demographics and borders that supporters say could lead to more Latino and Black City Council members. But the maps also split and move some neighborhoods into new districts [despite many residents calling on commission members to preserve existing community and cultural ties](#).

The commission will meet again next Monday to start tweaking the [maps of the city's 14 districts](#). A public hearing on the proposals is set for that Saturday. The commission could decide on a final map to recommend to Mayor Eric Johnson and the City Council as early as May 9. All three meetings will be at Dallas City Hall.

The Council would have 45 days to amend and approve a final map or the version the commission recommended would be automatically adopted. The new map



“It’s not easy to come up with a plan that fits everyone’s desires and demands,” Jesse Oliver, the commission’s chair, said after the vote for the final two maps. “But if we all work together on that effort, we can get close and walk away with something that is acceptable and not one that gets essentially pushed down the throats of the public.”

The city realigns its Council district boundaries every 10 years after the release of the most recent U.S. Census data to reflect the changes in population. The goal is to make sure all districts have as close to an equal number of residents as possible to ensure fair representation.



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BY



The commission charged with recommending a new map has 15 members appointed by the mayor and the City Council. The latest redistricting process began last October.

Dallas’ population grew by 106,563 residents in 10 years to 1.3 million, 2020 census numbers show, meaning each of the city’s 14 districts should now have around 93,170 residents. Eight of the current districts have populations above that mark. For example, there are nearly 107,000 people in District 14, which includes Uptown, parts of downtown and Old East Dallas.



Vanlandingham and Darren Dattalo. There were around 40 maps submitted to the commission, which greenlit 17 of them since January to consider further.

Most of the changes in both maps occur in the southern, central, eastern and western parts of the city.

Map 17 shifts District 14 southwest to include the Bishop Arts District, Methodist Dallas Medical Center and much of the North Hampton Road area below Interstate 30. But the proposed map would extend District 9 in the White Rock Lake area west to cover much of Old East Dallas. The plan would also move District 14 council member Paul Ridley out of the area he represents and into District 9.

District 1, which currently covers the Bishop Arts area and North Oak Cliff, would shift into West Dallas territory including south of Singleton Boulevard, Arcadia Park and the Mountain View College area. District 4 would still cover much of the southern half of Oak Cliff, but it would also include Deep Ellum, the Cedars and parts of South Dallas.

District 2, which currently has the Cedars and Deep Ellum, would extend east to Far East Dallas and the Casa View area.

Bryant, Stimson and Lopez said a driving factor in how they redrew boundary lines was to increase the power of voters of color in the city.

“The map is really based on the premise that we wanted to create four strong African American districts and four strong Hispanic districts,” said Stimson, the District 1 representative on the commission. “The best way to do that was to take the North Oak Cliff area in its totality and tie it into the downtown area.”

The majority of residents who live in District 14 are white. District 1 is an area predominantly made up of Latino residents whose current Council representative, Chad West, is white. The latest Census data showed the district



The area has experienced a renewal in recent years but it's led to housing becoming more expensive, pushing out longtime residents. While the Latino population fell by nearly 9,200 to about 57,000 in the past decade, the area gained 2,000 more white residents and nearly 500 more Black residents.

The map proposal would push the District 1 population to more than 88,000 residents with around 83% of them Latino.

Map 41 also extends District 2 into Far East Dallas and District 4 into the Cedars and parts of South Dallas. It also extends District 7, which currently covers South Dallas, Fair Park and Buckner Terrace, into the northwest side of Pleasant Grove.

In this map, District 1 keeps the Bishop Arts area and adds the Design District. Parts of West Oak Cliff near Cockrell Hill would be in District 6, which currently covers West Dallas. The medical district, including UT Southwestern Medical Center and Parkland Memorial Hospital, would also be in District 6.

District 9 would gain Vickery Meadow and the NorthPark Center area in this proposal.

Norma Minnis, District 14's commission representative, said among the reasons she was advocating for the proposal was because Vanlandingham had solicited and incorporated feedback from residents, community leaders and commission members.

"There's still some amendments and some tweaking that need to be done, but I think it really represents the best of all the neighborhoods," Minnis said before the final vote.

The proposals call for new Council representation for some neighborhoods despite opposition.

Both maps move the Elm Thicket NorthPark area, a historically Black neighborhood in District 2 near Dallas Love Field, into District 13 in Northwest



the history of the area is preserved and they are concerned residents' voting power would be drowned out in the new district.

“We have a good cross-section of committed neighbors — Hispanic, white, Asian, Black — who are working together and voting together,” said Zach Thompson. “At no time should we talk about turning this district over to Preston Hollow.”

He said residents didn't want to lose out on being represented by a person of color.

Anyone who wants to speak during the May 7 public hearing has to register online (www.bit.ly/2021RDCTH) by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting. Anyone who wants to give public comments during the May 2 or May 9 redistricting commission meetings has to register via email at Redistricting@dallascityhall.com by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting.



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Everton Bailey Jr. Everton covers Dallas city government. He joined The Dallas Morning News in November 2020 after previously working for The Oregonian and The Associated Press in Hartford, Conn.

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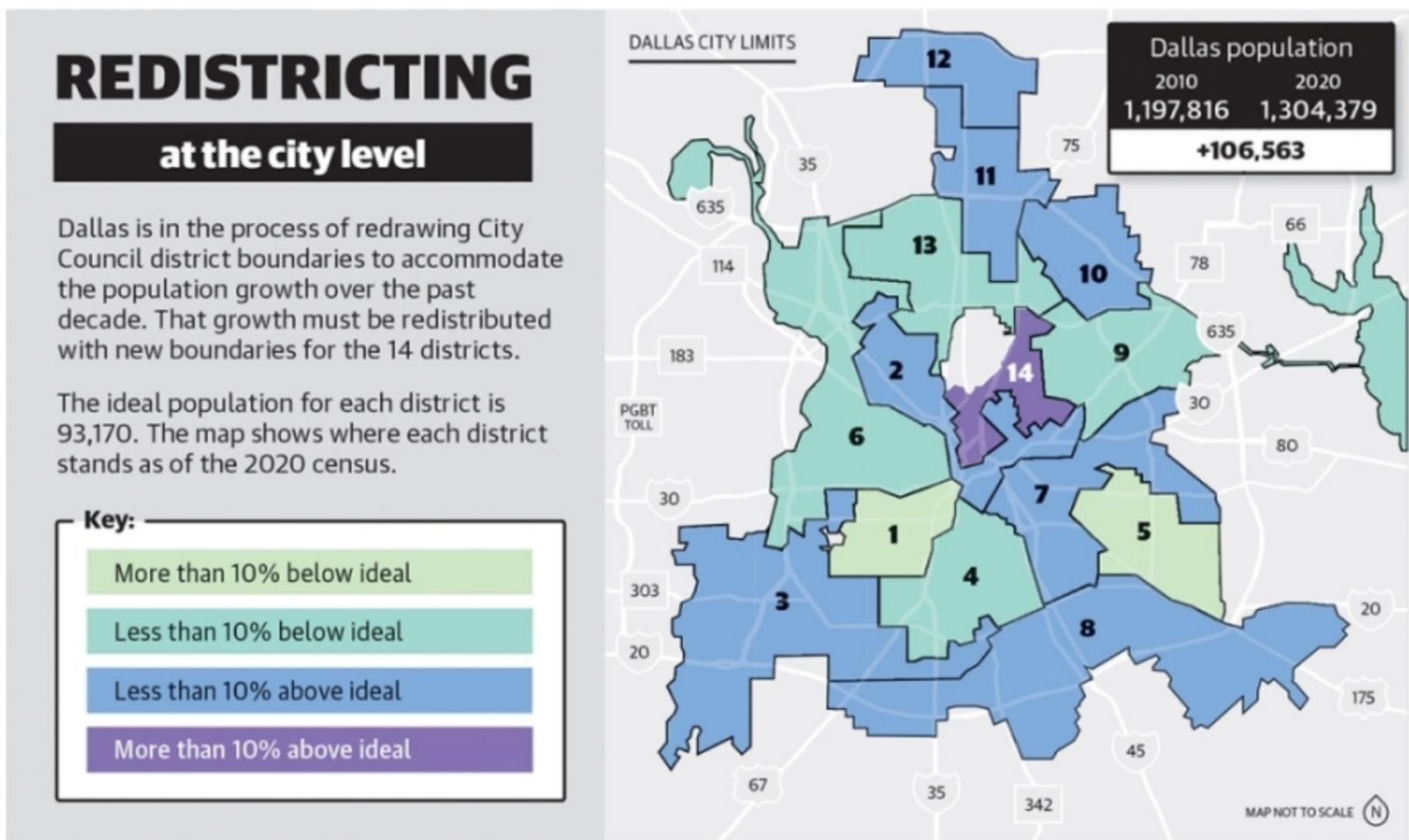


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Dallas Redistricting Commission selects top 2 choices for redrawing City Council map



All 14 Dallas City Council districts are redrawn once every 10 years based on population changes. (Community Impact Newspaper)

By [Jackson King](#) | 6:20 PM Apr 26, 2022 CDT | Updated 6:20 PM Apr 26, 2022 CDT

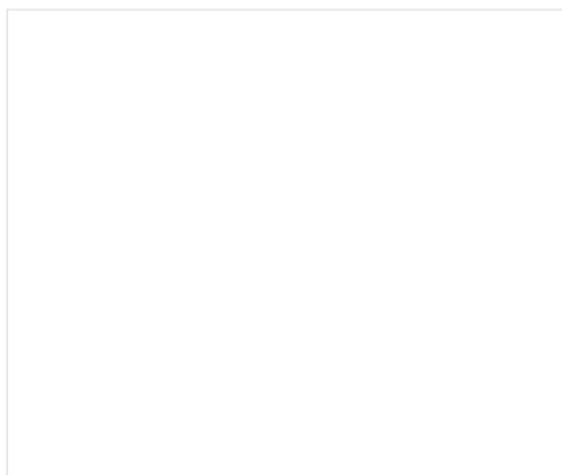
The Dallas Redistricting Commission selected two options for the 2021 City Council Redistricting Plan during its April 25 meeting.

The commission will next consider revisions to the two options before presenting them for public comment May 7, attorney Brent Rosenthal, who represents southern Lakewood as part of District 9 on the commission, said via email.

"In my opinion, both of the proposed maps provide suitable templates for devising the final map to be submitted by the redistricting commission to Mayor [Eric] Johnson for City Council approval," Rosenthal said via email. "Both maps retain White Rock Lake as the core of District 9. Map 17 adds part of current District 14—the M Streets and the eastern Swiss Avenue area—while shifting the southern and eastern perimeter of the district to District 2. Map 41 also cedes some of the southeastern part of District 9 to District 2, but adds an area north of Mockingbird Lane and east of Central Expressway—including Vickery Meadows and The Village—which now resides in Districts 13 and 14."

The redistricting commission plans to hold a map amendment workshop at 3:30 p.m. May 2 at Dallas City Hall. A public hearing will be held at 3 p.m. May 7 to receive feedback on both selections before a planned map development workshop at 3:30 p.m. May 9. The commission is expected to select a final map during the May 9 meeting that will be presented to Dallas City Council.

As mandated by the Dallas Charter, the redistricting plan will [redraw Dallas' district lines](#) from which council members are elected. According to the commission's website, redistricting usually takes place every 10 years after each U.S. Census and affects all jurisdictions that use districts.



Council appointed the 15-member commission in 2021 to develop the district plan based on the results of the 2020 census and in compliance with the charter and federal law.

The new district boundaries are slated to go into effect for the May 2023 council election.

According to the Dallas Charter, council has 45 days after the district plan is submitted to the mayor to adopt, or modify and adopt, a new redistricting plan. If final action is not taken by council within 45 days, the redistricting commission's plan becomes final.

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By [Jackson King](#) 

Jackson joined Community Impact Newspaper as a reporter in January of 2022. He graduated in 2020 from Texas A&M with a degree in journalism. Jackson covers education, local government, business, development, real estate, transportation and nonprofits in the Richardson community. Prior to CI, he covered sports for the Wylie News, interned at Maroon Weekly and Insite Brazos Valley Magazine in College Station, Texas, and wrote freelance for the Dallas Morning News.

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- Central Austin
- Georgetown
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How the proposed redistricting maps could affect East Dallas

By Renee Umsted | April 27th, 2022 | City Hall, News | 0 Comments

The Dallas Redistricting Commission is moving forward with two maps to redraw district boundaries.

Commissioners have been [meeting since January](#) to evaluate dozens of submissions from residents, following the recent U.S. Census. [Data revealed](#) that District 14's population was nearly 14,000 higher than the ideal number. District 9's population was about 3,000 lower than the ideal population.

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The commissioners settled on maps 17 and 41 and will

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The commission could decide on a final map to recommend to the mayor and City Council as early as May 9, and then the council has 45 days to alter and approve a map; otherwise, the version the commission recommended would be adopted. The new map will be in effect by the next City Council election in May 2023.

Maps 17 and 41 both have the population of the proposed District 14 below the ideal number and the population of the proposed District 9 above the ideal number.

There are also landmarks that both maps include in the same district. The entire [Gaston-Garland-Grand intersection](#) is located in District 9 in both maps; the [current one](#) has parts of the intersection in districts 2, 9 and 14.

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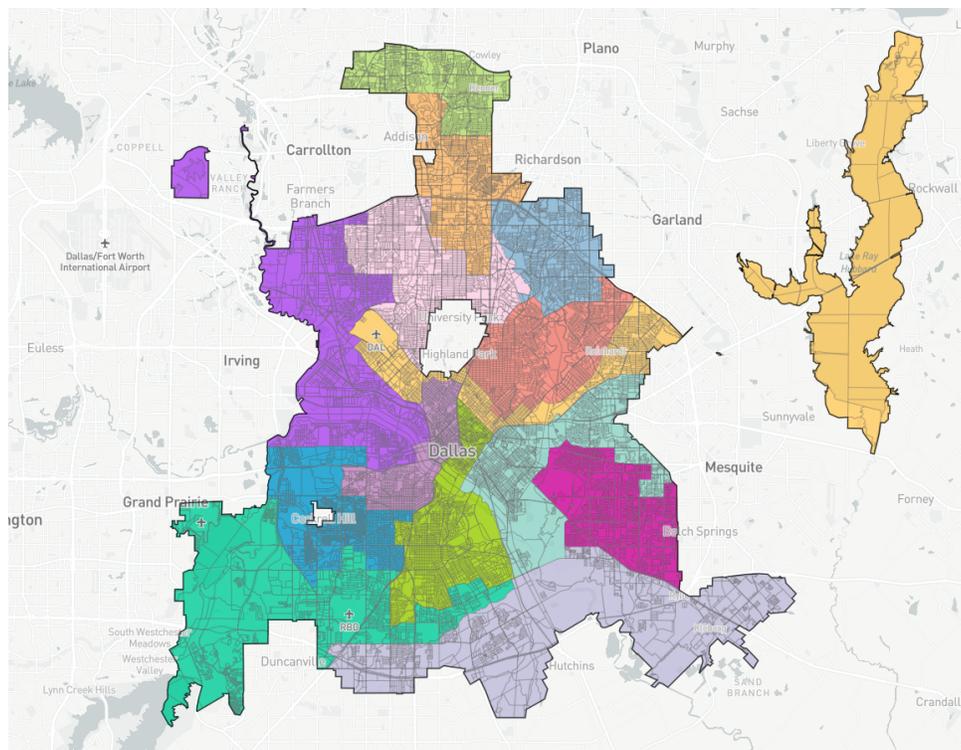
April 27th, 2022

And Lakewood Country Club is located in District 9 in both maps. Right now, it's located in District 14.

But there are key differences in how East Dallas is divided.

Here are some distinctions to note:

Map 17



Map 17 submitted by commissioners Dandell Brant

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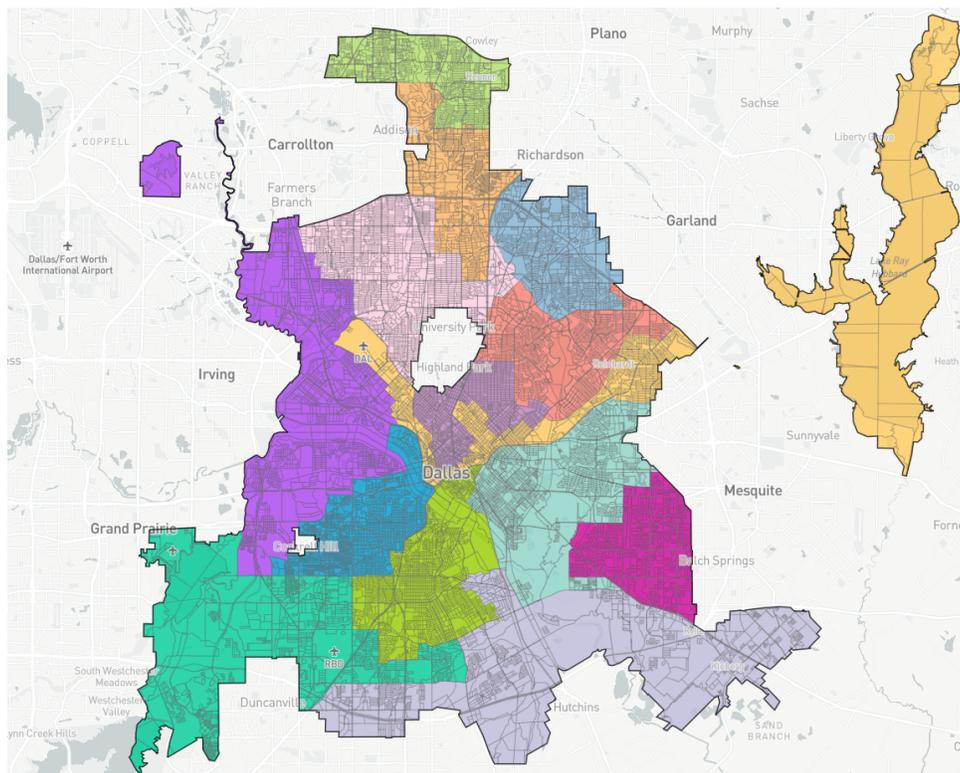
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The Village is lopped into District 13, which includes Preston Hollow and Bluffview and other parts of North Dallas.

District 14 does not include anything east of Central Expressway. Instead, it includes Oak Lawn, Turtle Creek, Downtown and a northern section of Oak Cliff. That means District 14 Council member Paul Ridley would not reside in the district he represents.

Map 41



Map 41, submitted by Melanie Vanlandingham and Darren Dattalo.

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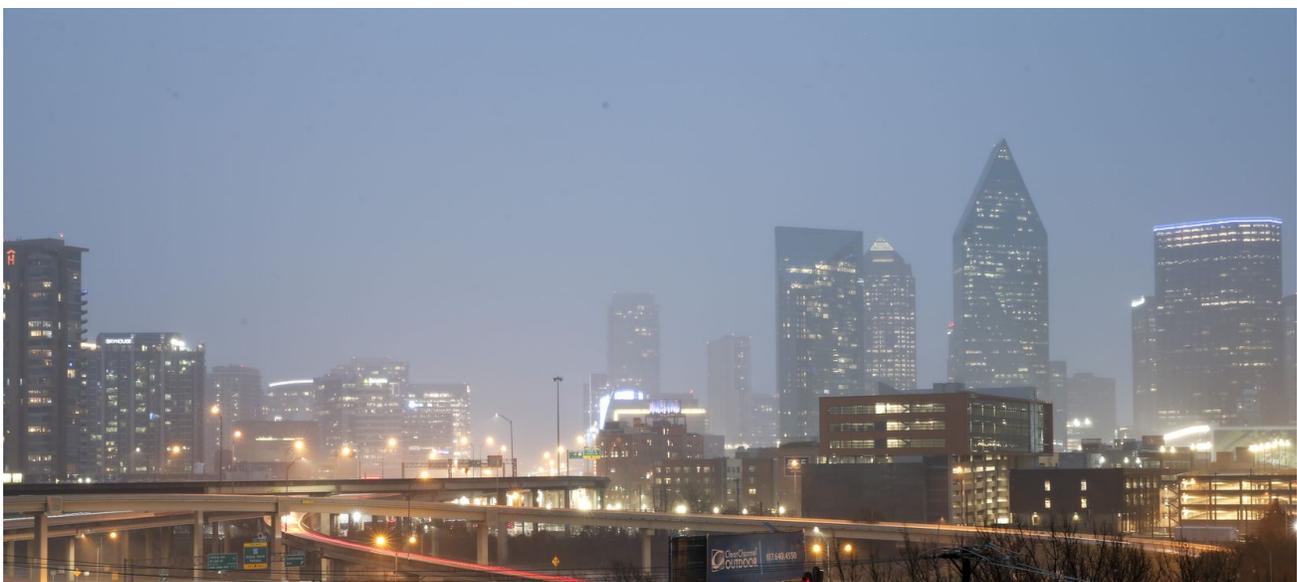
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NEWS > POLITICS

Some Dallas neighborhoods likely to be split by redistricting, despite objections from residents

Residents in west, central and northern Dallas cited existing neighborhood ties, fear of lost political power among the reasons why they rejected some proposed new council district maps.





The downtown Dallas skyline in March 2022. (Shafkat Anowar / Staff Photographer)



By [Everton Bailey Jr.](#)
7:11 PM on Apr 22, 2022

Several Dallas neighborhoods will likely be split up during city district boundary changes despite the pleas of residents, according to the city's redistricting commission chair.

The 15-member group overseeing the once-in-a-decade process is scheduled to vote Monday on their top three map proposals. But the commission on Friday heard from dozens of residents around the city urging them to keep their neighborhoods intact.

Residents in west, central and northern Dallas cited existing community ties and concern of lost political power among the reasons they rejected redrawn boundaries in some of about a dozen submitted maps being considered by the commission.

Jesse Oliver, the commission chair, said he appreciated the concerns of residents Friday, which have been echoed in previous meetings. But the process likely won't end with everyone getting what they want.

"No matter which map gets drawn, neighborhoods get split up," he said. "It is virtually impossible not to do that to somebody's neighborhood."

The redistricting process to redraw the 14 City Council districts occurs every 10 years after the release of U.S. census data. The goal is to make sure all districts have as close to an equal number of residents as possible.



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The commission charged with coming up with the new map has 15 members appointed by the mayor and the City Council.

Dallas' population grew by 106,563 residents in 10 years to 1.3 million, 2020 census numbers show, meaning each of the city's 14 districts should now have around 93,170 residents. Eight of the current districts have populations above that mark, ranging from close to 94,000 in North Dallas' District 11 to nearly 107,000 in District 14, which includes Uptown, parts of downtown and Old East Dallas.

The remaining six districts have populations ranging from around 91,000 in northwest Dallas' District 13 and almost 78,000 in the Bishop Arts and north Oak Cliff area of District 1.

After next week, a public hearing on the final maps is scheduled for May 7. A final map could be selected by the redistricting commission on May 9 or May 10.

After the map is submitted to Mayor Eric Johnson and placed on an agenda, the council would have 45 days to approve it. Council members could suggest changes to the map before then.

The new map would be in effect by the next City Council election in May 2023.



numbers are incomplete

As the city ramps up its redistricting process, the rate of residents who responded to the 2020 census survey via online, phone or mail lower than in 2010.

BY EVERTON BAILEY JR.

On Friday, several residents objected to maps that split neighborhoods. Several residents of the Elm Thicket NorthPark area, a historically Black neighborhood in District 2 near Dallas Love Field, said they rejected one map created by three commission members that put the area in District 13. That district is majority white.

Zach Thompson said the map diluted the power of the city's Black voters. Jonathan Maples, another resident, said he wished there was a town hall meeting in his neighborhood ahead of time to get more feedback from the people who live there. Both men said they would rather have the area moved to District 6.

"We have more in common with West Dallas than Preston Hollow on any given day," Maples said.

Residents from West Dallas told commission members they didn't want to see any changes in boundary lines, including a proposal that remove the Design District and move some people into north Oak Cliff. Community members have deep roots in the area and want to continue building on community organizing efforts that developed over time.

"We want to stay with like-minded residents and we want to stay with our West Dallas families and friends," said Debbie Orozco Solis, a third-generation West Dallas resident.

She asked for the map submission process to be extended, saying several Latino communities didn't get information in Spanish about the redistricting meetings and many felt left out of the process. There was no indication Friday that an extension would happen.



Hamilton Park from his district. He said his communities would like to remain within the Richardson Independent School District.

“Please keep our communities together and keep our neighborhoods stitched together as much as you can,” McGough said. “And certainly, please don’t come in and start dividing us in ways that could do damage to our community over the long term.”



The Dallas Morning News

My Account



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