



**MAURINE DICKEY**  
**COUNTY COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT 1**

June 17, 2011

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Office of the Attorney General  
PO Box 12548  
Austin, TX 78711-2548

Re: Dallas County Commissioners Court Redistricting

Dear Attorney General Abbott,

“Nobody has seen this map. I want the record to be real clear.” -- John Wiley Price, Dallas County Commissioner, District 3, June 7, 2011.

Three of the four Dallas County Commissioners and the County Judge are playing a bait and switch game with the voters of Dallas County. Their conduct failed to give the public the required proper notice and results in what is, at a minimum, a disenfranchisement of thousands of voters.

I have represented District 1 since 2005, and I will not be seeking reelection when my term expires in 2012. In the months leading up to the June 7th meeting, I worked with the other members of the Court to agree on a new district map. As always, there is some give and take in that process, but we reached a fair compromise. The Court used the agreed upon map at each of the three required meetings where it invited the public to comment on the proposed districts. Then, at the meeting to approve the new map, Commissioner Price produced a new map for the first time. Therefore, the surprise map was never subject to the review of the citizens of Dallas County until it was up for a vote.

I am requesting that your office take action to protect the voters. The new map was approved by the Dallas County Commissioners without the benefit of public review or public comment as required. I ask that the Attorney General’s office rule that the new district map violates law and restore the original redrawn district map that was presented to the public for comment.

This new map looks similar to the agreed upon version with one crucial difference: in the new map, Districts 1 and 2 are flip-flopped. In other words, every Dallas County resident who was supposed to be in District 1 is now in District 2, which is represented by Mike Cantrell. This switch is not merely a matter of semantics. District 1 will elect a new Commissioner in 2012. District 2 is not up for election until 2014. By switching Commissioner Cantrell’s district, the voters formerly of District 1 will not have had an opportunity to choose a Commissioner for six years, instead of the usual four. In addition to switching Cantrell to what is planned to be the stronger Republican district, it will also cause the new, weaker Republican District 1 to be up for election as an open seat in 2012 when President Obama is campaigning. No doubt, the Democrat Commissioners expect this fact to help secure a victory for the Democrat nominee.



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With this new map, the three other Commissioners and County Judge Clay Jenkins are trying to turn off the light and close the door on Republican office holders in Dallas County. I refuse to play along.

On behalf of the residents of my district, I am requesting that the Attorney General review this matter immediately to determine if the rights of the citizens of Dallas County have been violated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Maurine Dickey".

Maurine Dickey  
Dallas County Commissioner District 1  
Dallas, Texas