

2021 Redistricting

**City Council Meeting
October 20, 2021**

Brett Wilkinson, Director
Office of Government Affairs
City of Dallas

Jesse Oliver
Redistricting Commission Chairman



City of Dallas



Agenda

- Redistricting Overview
- Redistricting Commission Charter Requirements
- 2021 Redistricting Commission Membership
- Redistricting Commission Work Plan & Timeline
- Redistricting Website / Mapping Tool
- Next Steps for the Redistricting Commission
- Questions





Redistricting Overview

- Upon the release of the 2020 census, governing boards of local government bodies, including city councils, should review population changes to determine if districts are imbalanced and must be redrawn.
- Out-of-balance electoral districts may require the local government to rebalance the population among the districts.
- 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.



Redistricting Overview (cont.)



- 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.
- The districts shall be geographically compact, to the extent possible, and composed of contiguous territory.



Redistricting Overview (cont.)



- The reconfiguration of districts shall be neutral as to incumbents or potential candidates.
- 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.
- The redistricting commission may adopt any other requirements of federal or state law.



Redistricting Overview (cont.)



- The 2021 redistricting cycle will mark the first time since 1972 that Texas cities undertake the process without the preclearance requirements of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA).
- Historically, Section 5 of the VRA required Texas cities to obtain approval of voting changes, including redistricting plans, from the Department of Justice prior to using them in an election.
- As a result of a 2014 ruling by the United States Supreme Court, Section 5 preclearance is no longer applicable. However, cities remain subject to the nondiscrimination requirements of Section 2 of the VRA.



Redistricting Commission

Charter Requirements (Chapter IV, Section 5)



- Each member of the City Council shall appoint one member of the redistricting commission. The Mayor shall designate the chair of the redistricting commission, subject to confirmation by a majority of the City Council.
- In making such appointments, the Mayor and City Council shall, as nearly as may be practicable, provide fair and balanced representation of all geographical areas of the city in the redistricting process and provide a total membership that reflects the racial and ethnic makeup of the city's population.
- Members of the redistricting commission shall be appointed to serve a term that will end upon completion of the redistricting commission's work.
- Persons appointed to the redistricting commission must be registered to vote and meet the qualifications for service on a city commission. A member of the City Council is not eligible for appointment to the redistricting commission.



Redistricting Commission (cont.)

Charter Requirements (Chapter IV, Section 5)



- A member of the redistricting commission is not eligible to be a candidate for a place on the City Council in the next succeeding general election of the City and may not be appointed or elected to the City Council or to any other official board or commission of the City for a period of one year after service on the redistricting commission.
- City Council members may not have contact, directly or indirectly, with a redistricting commission member, or with redistricting commission staff, with respect to redistricting, except by testimony in an open meeting.
 - ***This also applies to any third-party redistricting consultant***
- Redistricting commission members may not engage in any discussions, directly or indirectly, regarding redistricting or the work of the redistricting commission with City Council members, except during an open meeting or by written communication given to the entire redistricting commission.



Redistricting Commission (cont.)

Charter Requirements (Chapter IV, Section 5)



- The redistricting commission shall convene in sessions that are necessary, including public hearings, to develop, prepare, and recommend a districting plan that proposes the respective boundaries of the various city council districts.
- Upon completion of its work, the redistricting commission shall file its recommended districting plan with the mayor. The mayor shall present the recommended plan to the city council at its next meeting.



Redistricting Commission (cont.)

Charter Requirements (Chapter IV, Section 5)



- Council has 45 days after the districting plan is **submitted to the Mayor** to adopt, or modify and adopt, a new districting plan (any modification requires $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the City Council)
- If final action is not taken by the City Council within 45 days, the plan submitted by the Redistricting Commission becomes the final districting plan
- The new districting plan will be implemented at the next general election of the City Council conducted at least 90 days following the date the final districting plan becomes effective for the City
 - **currently projected for May 6, 2023**



2021 Redistricting Commission Membership



City of Dallas Redistricting Commission Appointed Members

Name	District	Appointment Date
Jesse D. Oliver (Chairman)	Mayor Eric Johnson (District 15)	8/25/2021
Diane Ragsdale (Vice-Chair)	Adam Bazaldua (District 7)	4/7/2021
Robert Stimson	Chad West (District 1)	1/27/2021
Roy Carlos Lopez	Jesse Moreno (District 2)	5/19/2021
Gregory Demus	Casey Thomas (District 3)	10/5/2021
Kebran Ware Alexander	Carolyn King Arnold (District 4)	3/3/2021
Domingo Alberto Garcia	Jaime Resendez (District 5)	5/20/2021
Ricardo Medrano	Omar Narvaez (District 6)	9/9/2021
Randall Bryant	Tennell Atkins (District 8)	2/24/2021
Brent Rosenthal	Paula Blackmon (District 9)	9/1/2021
Alan Walne	Adam McGough (District 10)	10/5/2021
Matthew R. Garcia	Jaynie Schultz (District 11)	6/2/2021
Jonathan Neerman	Cara Mendelsohn (District 12)	8/25/2021
Barbara Brown Larkin	Gay Donnell Willis (District 13)	4/28/2021
Norma Minnis	Paul Ridley (District 14)	9/22/2021





Proposed Redistricting Workplan & Timeline

City Council was briefed on Jan. 6

City Secretary invited the Mayor and City Council to nominate members to the Redistricting Commission

Census data distributed to state and local governments
Redistricting Commission Retreat

City Council consideration of new districting plan (Council has 45 days after the districting plan is **submitted to the Mayor** to adopt, or modify and adopt, a new districting plan)

First City Council election under new districting plan (to avoid any potential litigation for using outdated district maps)

Jan

June

Aug/
Sept

Oct -
TBD

TBD

2/5
2023

5/6
2023

2021

City Council approved redistricting vendor contract with ARCBridge Consulting, Inc.

Development of new districting plan
(No City Charter deadline on completion date)

City Council Briefing on Census Results & Redistricting Update

90 days prior to the May 6, 2023 election **(City Charter requirement for when new districting plan must be in place for next election under new districting plan)**





Proposed Redistricting Process – 4 Stages

- **Stage 1 (October)** – Create a timeline and approve a process for public input, developing and accepting map plans and approving a final map plan
 - *The Commission discussed the process and timeline at its last meeting on October 6th and will be voting on the process and preliminary schedule at its next meeting.*
- **Stage 2 (November)** – Town Halls throughout the City to gain in-depth knowledge and feedback from City of Dallas constituents.
- **Stage 3 (December - March)** – Development, acceptance and presentation of plans.
- **Stage 4 (April - May)** – Approve a final plan for presentation to the Mayor.



Redistricting Website/Mapping Tool DallasRedistricting.com



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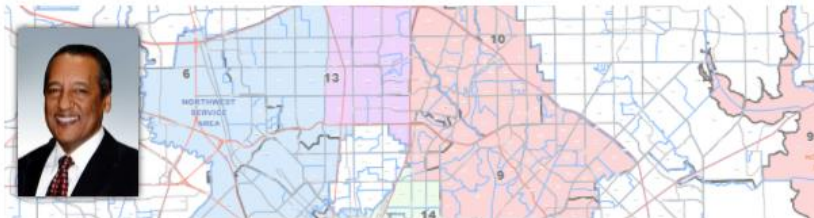
Join us in making a redistricting map that represents your community!

See Current Map | Submit Your Map

Redistricting 2021

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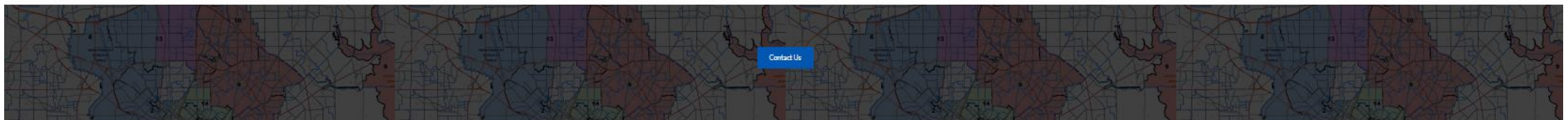
A Message from the Chairman



How do you want to be represented for the next 10 years?

The 2021 City Council Redistricting Plan is the culmination of the redistricting process mandated by the Dallas City Charter. The Charter requires the creation of a Redistricting Commission every 10 years when the Census figures are released. The Redistricting Commission, appointed by the City Council, will recommend a districting plan based on population changes but we need your input.

- Learn More
- Get Involved
- Contact Your Commissioner



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Next Steps for the Redistricting Commission



- Adopt proposed redistricting process and timeline, including the adoption of initial Redistricting Commission meeting and townhall schedules.
- Promote the redistricting process and educate residents on how to get engaged and submit maps.
- Work with the redistricting consultant to develop a new districting plan for City Council consideration.



Questions



2021 Redistricting

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