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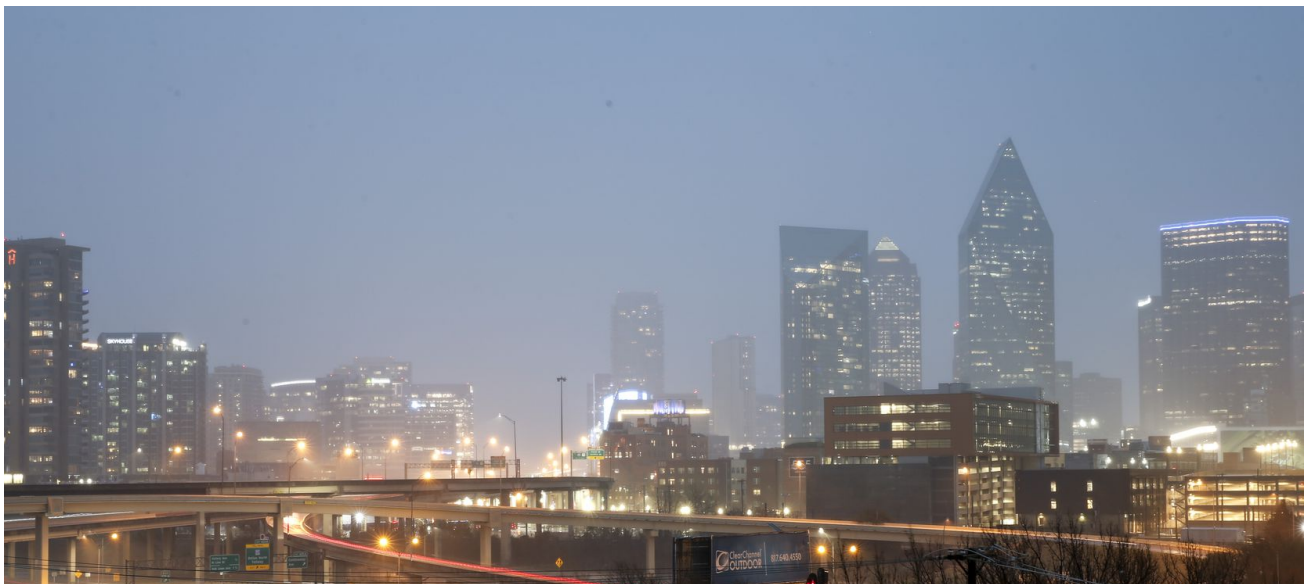
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NEWS > POLITICS

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.

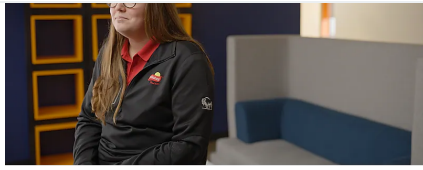
The 15-member group [overseeing the once-in-a-decade process](#) is scheduled to vote Monday on their top three map proposals. But the commission on Friday heard from dozens of residents around the city urging them to keep their neighborhoods intact.

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.”



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My Account



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