



[Home \(https://candysdirt.com/\)](https://candysdirt.com/)

[About \(https://candysdirt.com/about/\)](https://candysdirt.com/about/)

[Categories](#)

[Neighborhoods
\(https://candysdirt.com/neighborhoods/\)](https://candysdirt.com/neighborhoods/)

[Directories](#)

[Contact \(https://candysdirt.com/contact/\)](https://candysdirt.com/contact/)

DallasDirt
[\(https://candysdirt.com/category/dallasdirt/\)](https://candysdirt.com/category/dallasdirt/)

[Subscribe](#)



[\(http://www.georgebassdesign.com/\)](http://www.georgebassdesign.com/)

As Dallas City Officials Take on Redistricting, a

As Dallas City Officials Take on Redistricting, a Delicate Balancing Act Between Competing Interests Comes to Light

May 4, 2022 | April Towery (<https://candysdirt.com/author/april-towery/>) | 1 Comment (<https://candysdirt.com/2022/05/04/as-dallas-city-officials-take-on-redistricting-a-delicate-balancing-act-between-competing-interests-comes-to-light/#comments>) | Dallas (<https://candysdirt.com/category/dallas/>)

Share News:



([https://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?](https://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fcandysdirt.com%2F2022%2F05%2F04%2Fas-dallas-city-officials-take-on-redistricting-a-delicate-balancing-act-between-competing-interests-comes-to-light%2F)

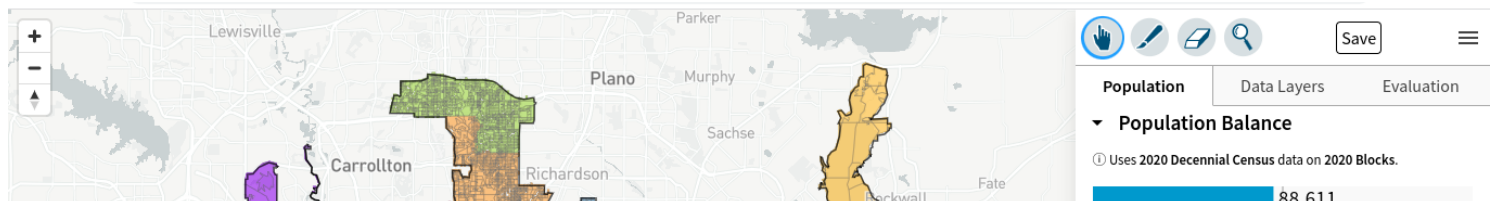
[u=https%3A%2F%2Fcandysdirt.com%2F2022%2F05%2F04%2Fas-dallas-city-officials-take-on-redistricting-a-delicate-balancing-act-between-competing-interests-comes-to-light%2F](https://www.facebook.com/sharer.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fcandysdirt.com%2F2022%2F05%2F04%2Fas-dallas-city-officials-take-on-redistricting-a-delicate-balancing-act-between-competing-interests-comes-to-light%2F))

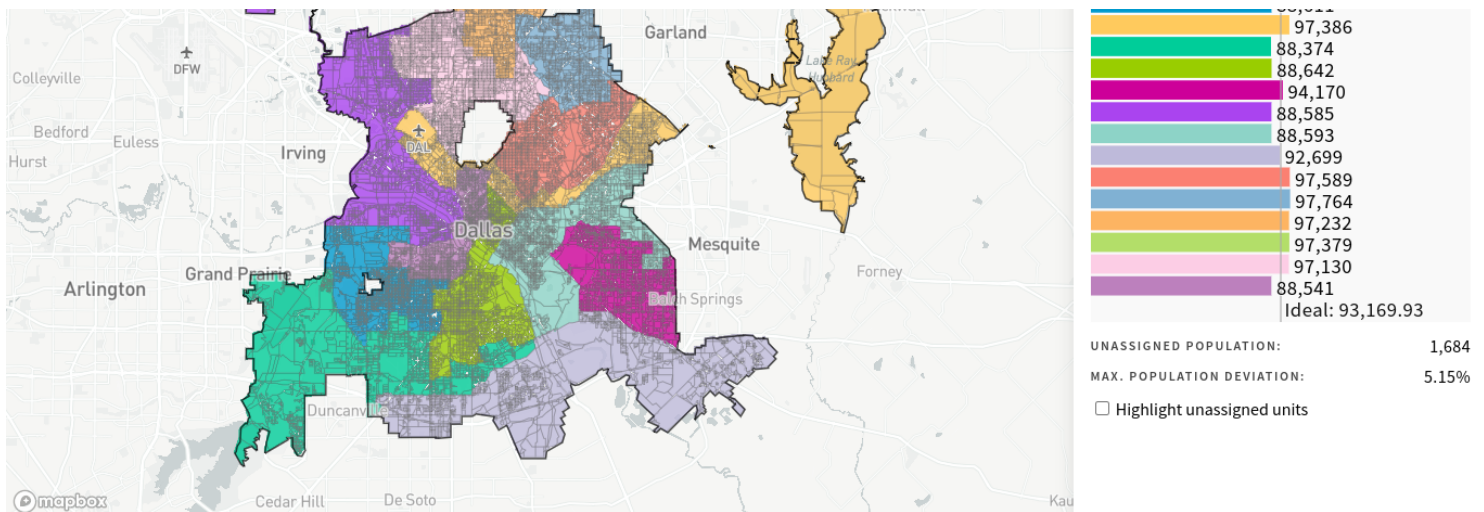


(<https://twitter.com/share?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcandysdirt.com%2F2022%2F05%2F04%2Fas-dallas-city-officials-take-on-redistricting-a-delicate-balancing-act-between-competing-interests-comes-to-light%2F>)



(<mailto:?body=https%3A%2F%2Fcandysdirt.com%2F2022%2F05%2F04%2Fas-dallas-city-officials-take-on-redistricting-a-delicate-balancing-act-between-competing-interests-comes-to-light%2F>)





Map COD-017, presented by Randall Bryant, Roy Lopez, and Bob Stimson

Following an exhaustive public input and review process, officials with the Dallas Redistricting Commission have narrowed their scope to two preferred maps (<https://dallasredistricting.com/redistricting-submissions/>) – and the one that makes the final cut could dictate boundary lines for the city's 14 districts over the next decade.

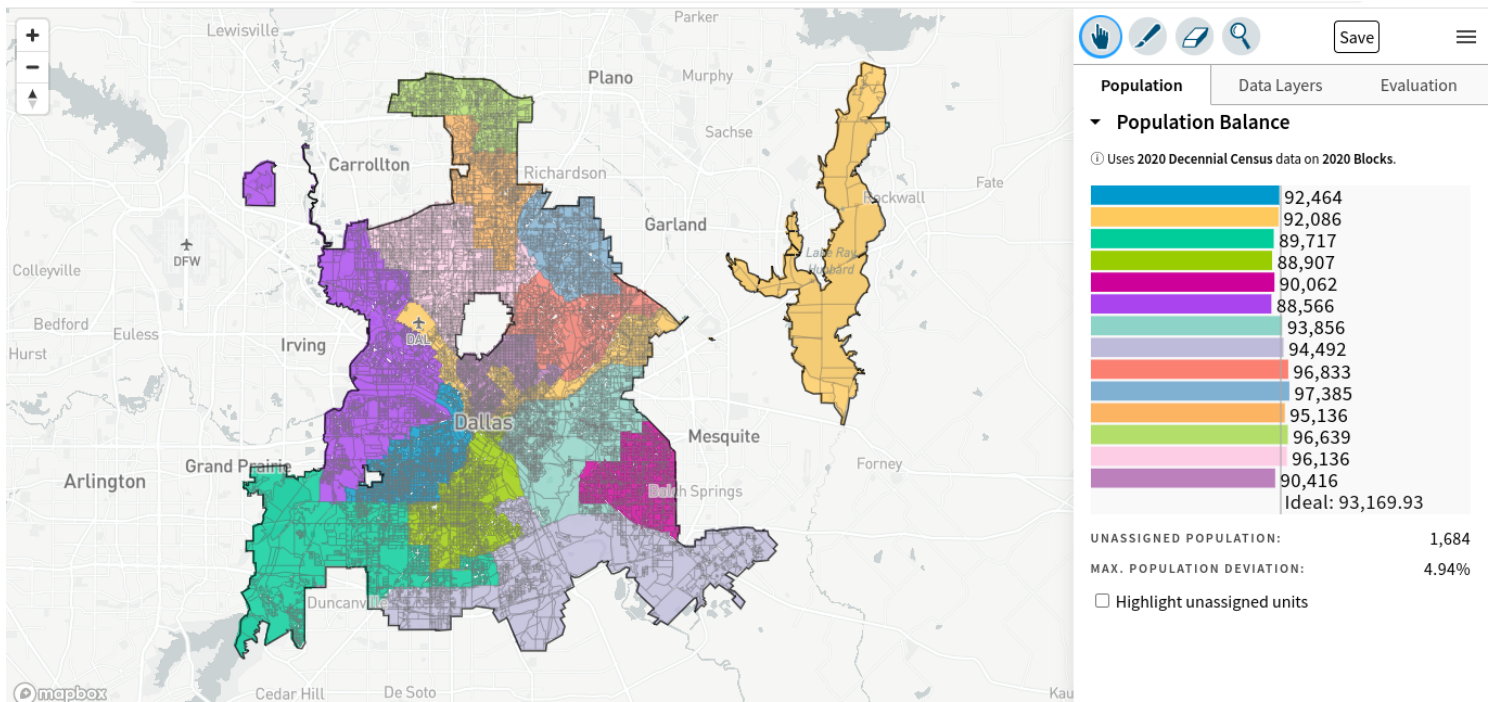
The final map selection is tentatively set for a day-long workshop on May 10 in the Dallas City Council chambers.

Once a map is selected by the redistricting commission it will be presented to the mayor, said Redistricting Commission Chairman Jesse Oliver.

Why are we redistricting?

Redistricting is conducted every 10 years to rebalance the population between districts. Dallas City Council-appointed commission members (<https://dallasredistricting.com/commission-members/>) have held numerous public meetings (<https://dallasredistricting.com/meetings/>) to gather feedback, and other community representatives have been tasked with drawing and

submitting maps (<https://dallasredistricting.com/redistricting-submissions/>) depicting proposed new boundary lines. The final maps must be approved by the Dallas City Council and the U.S. Justice Department.



Map COD-041, submitted by Melanie Vanlandingham and Darren Dattalo

Many of those involved have spoken about the importance of the process. When done right, advocates say that redistricting helps guarantee equal voter representation. It aims to avoid inequitable representation or gerrymandering, which is defined as “dividing a state, county, etc., into election districts so as to give one political party a majority in many districts while concentrating the voting strength of the other party into as few districts as possible.”

A History of Gerrymandering

One community representative says previous district maps badly gerrymandered Dallas minority voters, splitting up traditionally black or Hispanic neighborhoods into different districts, thereby diluting their voting power.

“I watched Dallas adopt single-member districts finally in 1991 after a 20-year battle led by many friends of mine,” said Bill Betzen, a retired social studies teacher who presented the City of Dallas redistricting map version COD-038 (<https://districtr.org/plan/124715>) for Commission consideration last month. Single-member districts are those represented by one officeholder versus a larger multi-member district represented by many. Dallas had at-large members (https://dallascityhall.com/government/citysecretary/archives/Pages/Archives_14-1gov.aspx) until the 1970s when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled them discriminatory and unconstitutional

with the 1970s when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled them discriminatory and unconstitutional.

“The problem is that the city created a district map in 1991 that had all minority districts terribly gerrymandered so as to weaken minority leaders and make them more dependent on North Dallas money for campaign cash needed to run in a terribly gerrymandered district. I also spent hundreds of hours in 2011 on redistricting, trying to eliminate gerrymandering. We were somewhat successful in spite of City Council,” Betzen said.

It’s key, Betzen said, to attempt to keep current office-holders eligible for re-election in their existing districts to ensure consistent representation.

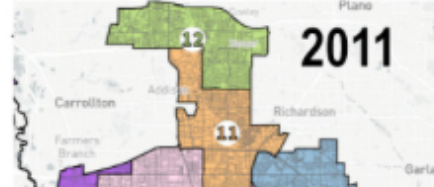
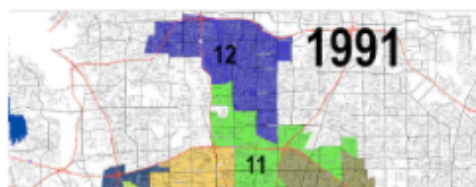
“Beyond that,” he said, “Change is normal.”

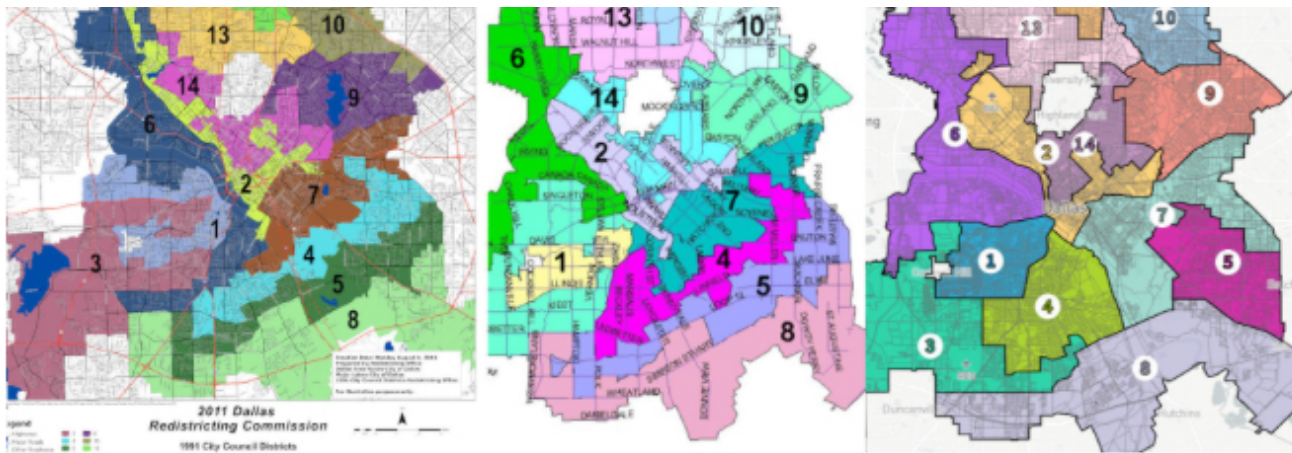
Texas Rep. John Turner (D-Dallas) said redistricting appears to be a more efficient process at the local level than at the state level.

“Nobody likes this process,” Turner said. “But at the city level, it’s not partisan; you have a commission designated to oversee it, and you have a lot more time for review.”

Turner is not seeking re-election and will complete his term at the end of the year. Due to redistricting, his home was drawn out of his area of representation — District 114, which, until the new boundaries take effect, includes the Dallas neighborhoods of Lake Highlands, Hamilton Park, Preston Hollow, and Midway Hollow.

Those critical of the current city of Dallas process say it hasn’t exactly been a walk in the park. Many were not aware that redistricting was occurring until the process was well underway, and those who don’t speak English or don’t have internet access are limited in their abilities to stay informed.





Graphic submitted by Bill Betzen

If It Ain't Broke ...

At an April 11 public hearing, several redistricting commissioners advocated for minimal change to the existing boundaries.

District 10 Commissioner Alan Walne said his priorities are to maintain racial diversity, current neighborhoods, and a “small-town feel in a big city, Lake Highlands, Texas.”

“Basically, what it comes down to is don't fix what's not broken,” Walne said of his Northeast Dallas district. “What you see are very minor tweaks because you don't have huge population differences that need to be adjusted.”

District 12 Commissioner Jonathan Neerman took a similar approach.

“The overwhelming issue we heard from constituents in District 12 is the request not to split Campbell Green Homeowners Association and Highlands North Homeowners Association, which means not using Campbell Road as the proposed southern boundary,” he said of the area near Coit and Campbell roads in Far North Dallas.

Commissioner Barbara Brown Larkin said District 13 residents don't want their boundary lines touched at all.

“For the most part what we're hearing from various homeowners' associations is they would

For the most part, what we're hearing from various homeowners' associations is they would like to keep the boundaries consistent with where they currently are," she said, noting that there is a particular concern about keeping private schools and economic diversity within her district which includes the Private School Corridor of Jesuit, Ursuline, Hockaday, and St. Marks.

But it was residents of District 14, which includes Lower Greenville, East Dallas, and parts of Uptown and Downtown, that spoke the loudest at the April 11 public hearing. Thirteen homeowners signed up to address the commission, and all voiced support for maps COD-026 and COD-029. While 026 was moved forward for further consideration and ultimately revised into Map 041 (<https://district.org/plan/125334>), Map 029 was left on the cutting room floor. Both maps were submitted by landscape architect Melanie Vanlandingham.

"Some of the maps that have been presented suggest a radical redrawing of our boundaries," said Olive Talley, a Prospect Avenue resident. "I don't think that's necessary, and I actually think it's wrong. Your work directly impacts people's lives. There's no reason to carve us up and every reason to keep us intact. When District 14 is strong, the city is strong."

The Hollywood/Santa Monica Neighborhood Association in East Dallas has encouraged residents in the area to voice their support of what is now Map 041.

"The Dallas Redistricting Commission is currently working to redraw council district lines — a change that will last for at least the next 10 years and affect how Hollywood/Santa Monica is represented on city council," residents were told in an April 20 email from the neighborhood association. "While our neighborhood, along with several other conservation and historic districts, is currently located in District 14, the district needs to 'lose' approximately 10,000 residents to meet the 93,000-resident threshold that is the target population for each district. As a neighborhood on the outskirts of District 14, there is potential for Hollywood/Santa Monica to be removed from our current district."

Ed Zahra, a Valencia Street resident, has lived in District 14 since 1974. He has served on the board of the Hollywood/Santa Monica Neighborhood Association for more than 41 years and has volunteered on several boards and commissions.

“My involvement with the quality of life in the City of Dallas is pretty extensive,” he said. “I understand the need to tweak our city council districts to balance them for diversity and population growth, but there is absolutely no reason to radically carve up District 14.”

Several plans were submitted by educated people who put in countless hours to volunteer their time, Zahra added.

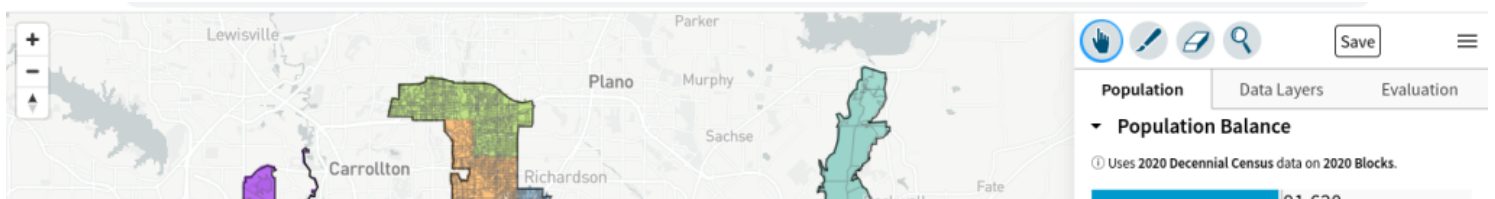
“It takes citizen involvement to get to City Hall, because there’s so much bureaucracy,” said Zahra, who also is involved in discussions with the city involving policies on short-term rentals (<https://candysdirt.com/2022/01/04/with-airbnbs-unchecked-the-city-of-dallas-stands-to-lose-millions-in-tax-revenue-from-short-term-rentals/>) in single-family districts.

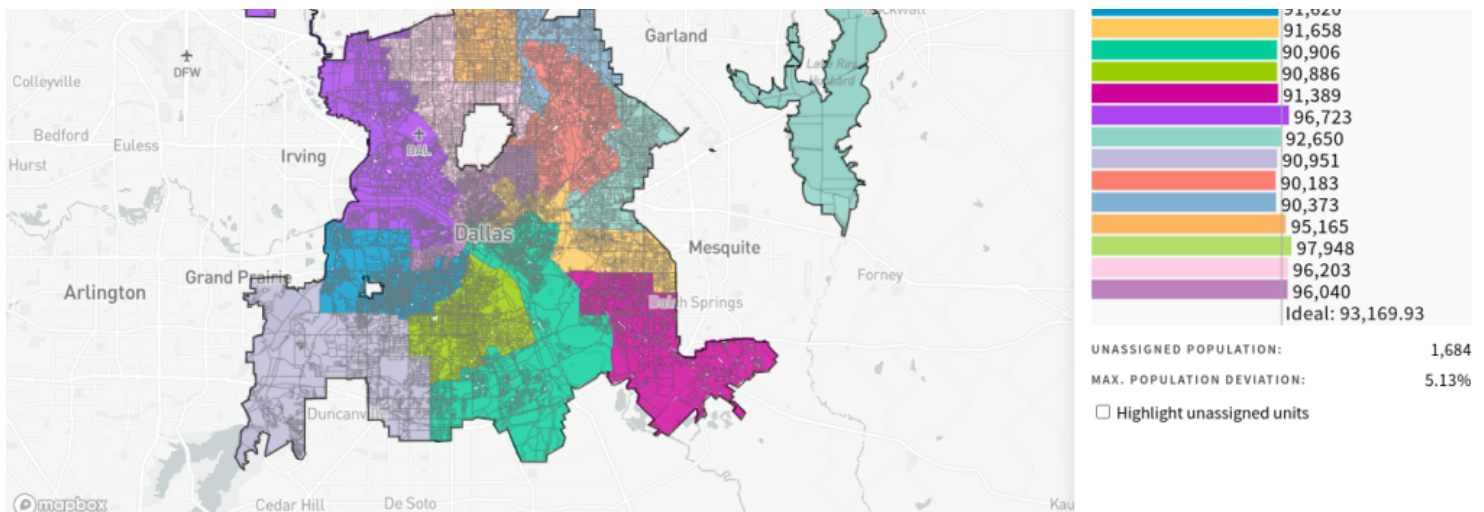
“The East Dallas crazy people, as a collective group, we jump in and fight,” he said. “Neighborhoods these days are pretty powerful. The voices of neighborhoods don’t just get pushed aside. We’re caretakers of our neighborhoods.”

The other map that made it to the final two — Map 017 (<https://districtr.org/plan/117178>) — dissects District 14 into three parts and moves Woodrow Wilson High School into District 9, Zahra said. In his preferred version, everybody north of Mockingbird gets moved out, because, ultimately, somebody has to go.

“They don’t share the historic neighborhoods,” Zahra said of the area that was drafted out of District 14 in Map 041. “What Melanie and Darren [Dattalo] did on their maps is they went into each of the neighborhoods and they massaged them and took off a little here and a little there, from the bottom up,” he said.

Residents can continue submitting public comments, and more hearings will be held prior to the final commission selection on May 10.





Map COD-040, submitted by Domingo Garcia

More Feedback

Redistricting is a matter so complex that it's challenging to cull it down to just the basics. The common refrain from residents is to not mess with their neighborhoods; the echo from redistricting commissioners and elected officials is that they're listening to the public feedback and carefully considering it.

"The goal of redistricting is to rebalance the populations between districts, which is dramatically necessary in Dallas," Betzen said. "District 14 surrounding the north side of downtown had grown to 106,927 while District 1 in North Oak Cliff was at 77,916, I do not know if District 1 had lost population or simply had not grown like the rest of Dallas. Knowing the area, I believe it is close to the population that District 1 had a decade ago."

Betzen proposed and supports map COD-038 because he believes it gives Dallas the strongest minority representation. It was not flagged by the commission for further consideration.

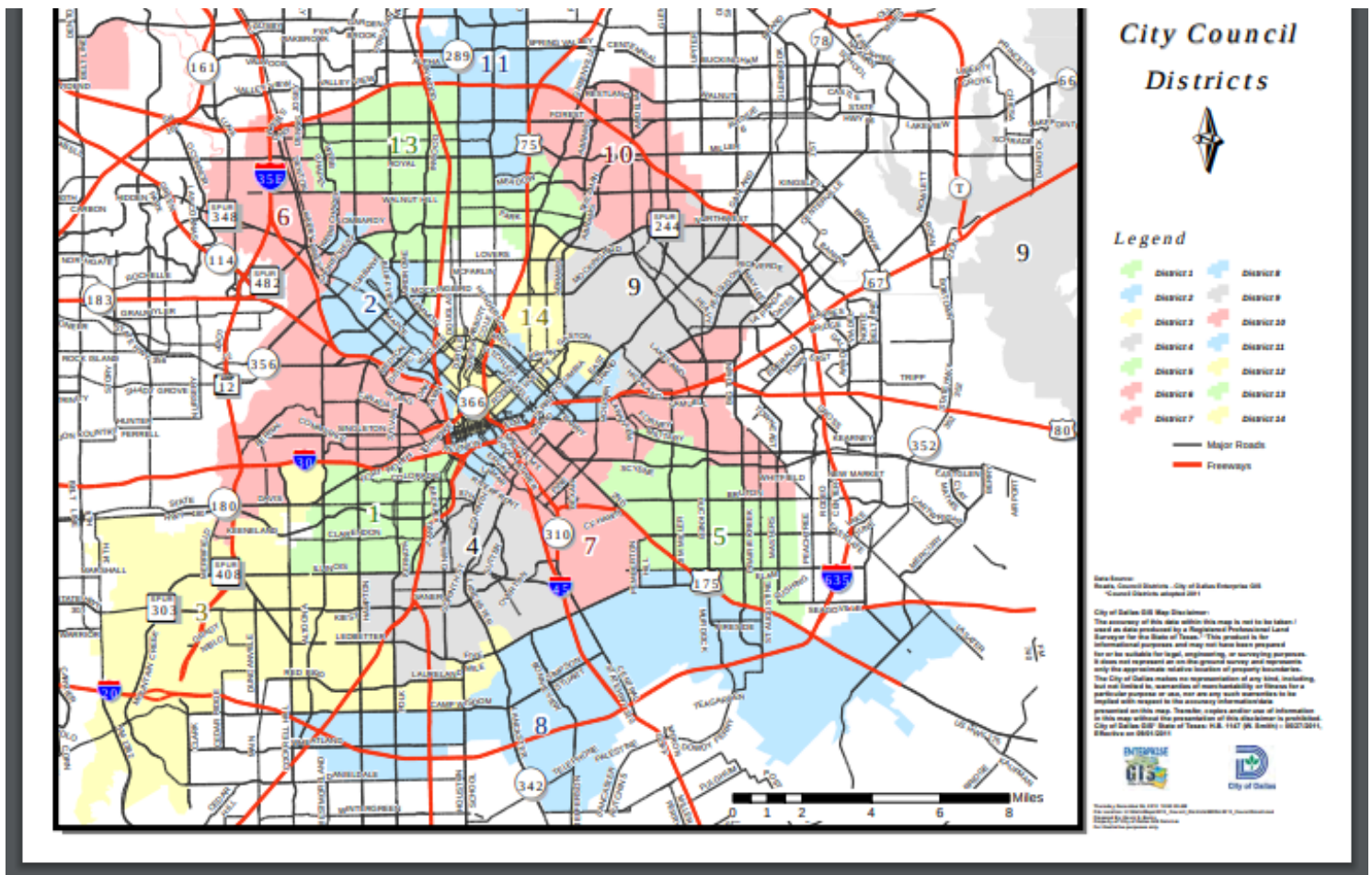
Just three maps were originally listed as the city's preferred plans: COD-017, submitted by Redistricting Commissioners Randall Bryant (District 8), Bob Stimson (District 1), and Roy Lopez (District 2); COD-40, submitted by Commissioner Domingo Garcia (District 5), and COD-041, submitted by landscape architect Melanie Vanlandingham and Realtor Darren Dattalo. COD-40 was removed from the list last week.

"The current District 1 although it is the most compact district in the current map is

The current District 1, although it is the most compact district in the current map, is comprised of two fairly distinct sections, North Oak Cliff and West Oak Cliff,” Stimson said. “The North Oak Cliff section, the area that I’ve tied into downtown on Map COD-17, is comprised of a series of neighborhood associations that have worked together for years on issues ranging from public safety, code enforcement, and the revitalization of the area. They have jointly created and implemented the Bishop Davis Land Use Study, the Oak Cliff Gateway (<https://candysdirt.com/tag/oak-cliff-gateway/>), the Jefferson Street Planned Development District, and the Fort Worth Avenue Planned Development District. Their efforts have spurred the development and redevelopment projects of the Bishop Arts District (<https://candysdirt.com/category/bishop-arts/>), Jefferson Boulevard, and most of the major thoroughfares in North Oak Cliff. At the same time, they have protected the single-family communities through the creation of historic districts, conservation districts, and a number of other zoning overlays.

“The West Oak Cliff area is also comprised of a number of neighborhood associations that are just now starting to deal with many of the issues that North Oak Cliff has faced,” Stimson added. “These neighborhoods, in conjunction with the city’s planning department, are currently finalizing the West Oak Cliff Area Plan that will guide the future redevelopment of this area.”





Mapmaking

Jeff Kitner, chief operating officer of the North Dallas Chamber of Commerce, volunteered his skills as a map author, submitting COD-10, COD-37 (co-authored with professional services consultant Rudy Karimi), and COD-43.

“District 11, where I live, is unlikely to change much, so I thought I would be in a good position to try to draw some data-based, objective maps which attempt to take into consideration many competing factors,” Kitner said.

Other Dallas residents, including Sophie Kitner, James McDowell, Sarah Evans, Desi Tanner, Ryan Moore, William Hoyt, Patricia Simon, District 14 Redistricting Commissioner Norma Minnis, former District 14 Dallas City Council representative Philip Kingston, former Dallas ISD Trustee candidate Omar Jimenez and former District 7 Dallas City Council representative Kevin

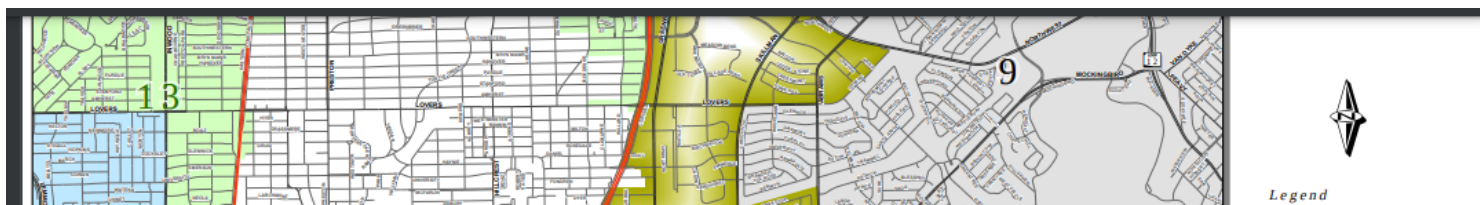
...traces candidate Omar Jimenez, and former District 7 Dallas City Council representative Kevin Felder also submitted their handiwork for consideration by the commission.

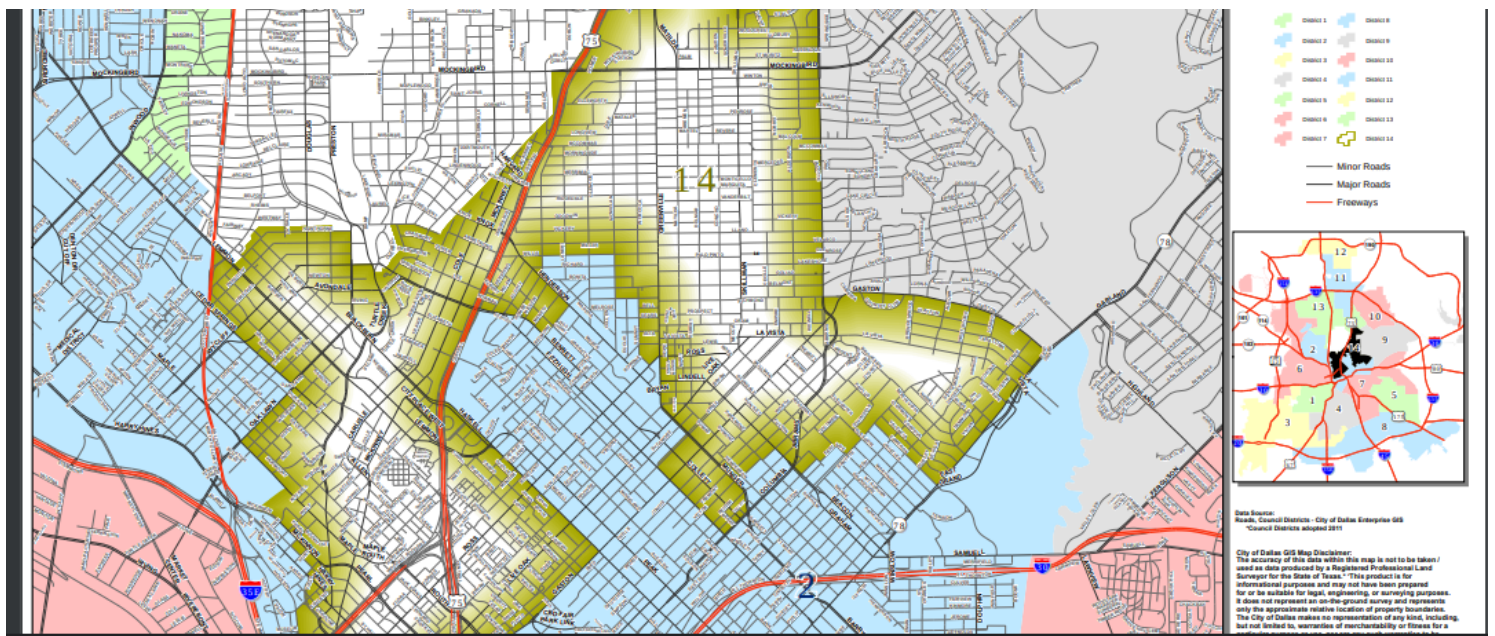
Dallas residents can submit public comments (<https://dallasredistricting.com/redistricting-submissions/#comment>) on their preferred boundary changes.

"I support a few different maps — including the three I authored or co-authored," Jeff Kitner said. "Generally, I prefer maps which best balance the often-competing interests of maintaining a low population, having natural boundaries, keeping neighborhoods together, increasing compactness, and [those] that accurately represent the racial demographics of the city."

Most of the input seems to be generated by residents of the districts close to the center of the city, Kitner added.

"This makes sense, because these areas do not have natural borders with other municipalities, and are harder to draw," he explained. "Additionally, the current District 14 is overpopulated based on census data, so some residents will have to be drawn into another district to ensure a more even population variance. Drawing proposed new Districts 14, 2, and 1 was the most challenging part for me. District 11, for example, has seen less citizen interest because it isn't likely to change significantly. This is because the district is close to the correct population number and there are already some logical boundaries like Central Expressway, as well as other municipalities like Addison and Richardson."





District 14 current boundaries

Those involved appear to agree on one thing: The voices of Dallas residents are the most important.

“The public must win,” Betzen said. “More compact districts will increase voter turnout and allow the public to hold their politicians more accountable.”

Archived footage of hearings on the matter and other related documents are posted on the city's redistricting website (<https://dallasredistricting.com/>).

Residents are invited to submit public comments (<https://dallasredistricting.com/redistricting-submissions/#comment>) online or attend a public hearing to contribute to the ongoing dialogue. Upcoming meetings are scheduled at 3 p.m. May 7, at 3:30 p.m. May 9, and tentatively at 9:30 a.m. May 10 at Dallas City Hall.

Posted in Dallas (<https://candysdirt.com/category/dallas/>)

Bill Betzen (<https://candysdirt.com/tag/bill-betzen/>), Boundary Lines (<https://candysdirt.com/tag/boundary-lines/>), Dallas City Council (<https://candysdirt.com/tag/dallas-city-council/>), Jeff Kitner (<https://candysdirt.com/tag/jeff-kitner/>), Jesse Oliver (<https://candysdirt.com/tag/jesse-oliver/>), maps (<https://candysdirt.com/tag/maps/>), Melanie Vanlandingham (<https://candysdirt.com/tag/melanie-vanlandingham/>), Olive Talley (<https://candysdirt.com/tag/olive-talley/>), Redistricting (<https://candysdirt.com/tag/redistricting/>), U.S. Census (<https://candysdirt.com/tag/u-s-census/>)



April Towery

April Towery studied journalism at Texas A&M University and has been an award-winning reporter and editor for more than 20 years. She's covered everything from city council meetings to Death Row executions. Her favorite things to write are feature stories and humorous columns. She loves to make people laugh. She won first place in humorous column writing, second place in news writing and third place in serious column writing at the 2019 South Texas Press Association Awards and picked up first place in humorous writing at the 2018 Texas Press Association awards ceremony. She has numerous other recognitions, including the Texas Associated Press Managing Editors' first-place award for special reporting, citing her continuous coverage of the College Station City Council and its violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act in 2006. She is the daughter of a longtime real estate appraiser and at one time knew her way

around a floor plan. She lives in Wylie and is learning daily about real estate, architecture, and housing trends.

| **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.

RELATED STORIES

[Dallasites Are Connecting Ex-Convicts with New Jobs](#)

[Melissa Lucio Execution Halted for now by Court of Criminal Appeals](#)

[Clyde Barrow's Childhood Home and Family Filling Station Demolished in West Dallas](#)

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

○ ○ ○

○

○

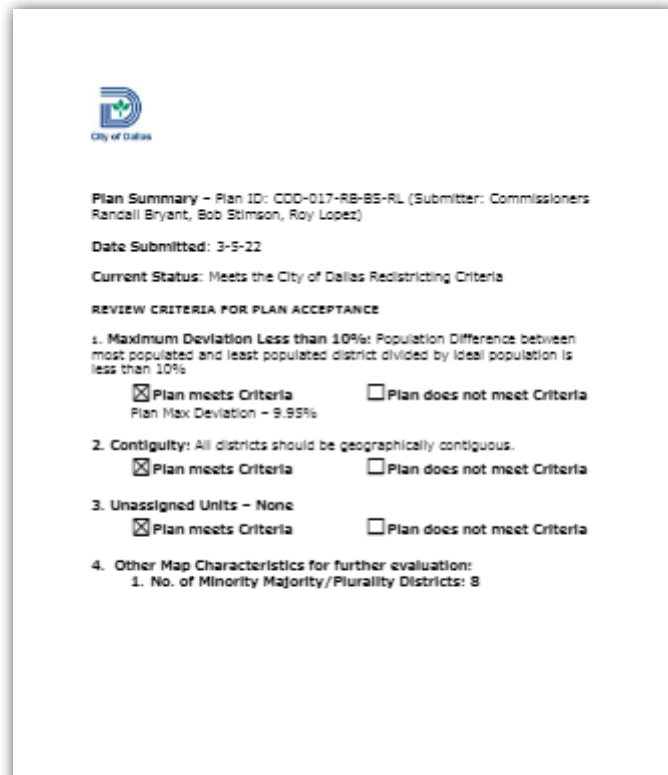
Page: 1 of 4

○

○

Automatic ▾

ViewerJS



dallas-redistricting-map-41.pdf

○ ○ ○

○


Page: 1 of 4

○

○

Automatic ▾

ViewerJS

 **City of Dallas 2021-**

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

Date Submitted: 4-15-22

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 – 9.45%

2. **Contiguity:** All districts should be geographically contiguous.

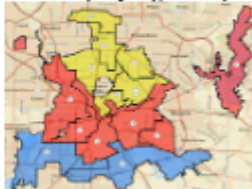
Plan meets Criteria Plan does not meet Criteria

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



KEEP THE DALLAS OBSERVER FREE... Since we started the *Dallas Observer*, it has been defined as the free, independent voice of Dallas, and we'd like to keep it that way. With local media under siege, it's more important than ever for us to rally support behind funding our local journalism. You can help by participating in our "I Support" program, allowing us to keep offering readers access to our incisive coverage of local news, food and culture with no paywalls.

[Make a one-time donation today for as little as \\$1.](#)

CONTACT: [Jacob Vaughn](#)
FOLLOW: Twitter: [@@officialjacobv](#)



MORE FROM HOMEPAGE

Tornado watch issued for parts of North Texas

Coyote shot dead after Dallas toddler attacked, officials say

19 D-FW restaurants with Cinco de Mayo celebrations

NEWS > POLITICS

Dallas redistricting panel amends maps to address neighborhood concerns

Changes were made to the final two proposals because residents in a predominantly Latino area and a historically Black neighborhood were split from their current communities.



Downtown Dallas in, February 2022, (Shafkat Anowar / Staff Photographer)



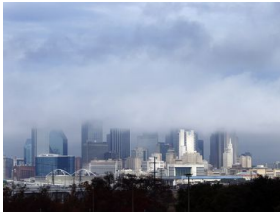
By [Everton Bailey Jr.](#)
1:48 PM on May 3, 2022



would be divided.

Residents in the predominantly Latino area of Ledbetter Eagle Ford in West Dallas and historically Black neighborhood Elm Thicket NorthPark in central Dallas near Love Field were worried the **proposed maps** would dilute their voting power and break up community ties they have been working build.

Redistricting commission members voted last week to choose two final maps that both moved Elm Thicket NorthPark from District 2 into District 13, where the majority of residents are white. One of the maps split West Dallas into two districts at Singleton Boulevard.



POLITICS

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

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.

BY EVERTON BAILEY JR.

Redistricting commission members on Monday, after hearing about four hours of community comments — including many from West and central Dallas who disapproved of both maps — voted to erase the Singleton Boulevard split to keep many of the existing boundaries for West Dallas in District 6. They approved changing one map to put Elm Thicket NorthPark back in District 2 and another that divided the area between District 2 and District 6, a compromise several residents said they'd be willing to accept because they felt it was likely to help them continue to have a person of color represent them on the City Council.

Dallas' redistricting commission is set to decide on a final Council district map as early as next Monday. The public will be allowed to weigh in at least two more times, Saturday at City Hall and during the meeting next week.



SPONSORED CONTENT

Learn about concussions and how to treat them

BY  Baylor Scott & White
HEALTH



The two proposals are map 17, drafted by commission members Randall Bryant, Bob Stimson and Roy Lopez, and map 41, from community members Melanie Vanlandingham and Darren Dattalo.

In the **updated version of map 41**, the boundaries of District 6 as well as Districts 5, 7, 8, 10 and 13 are kept roughly the same as today. This undoes some previous proposals like moving Vickery Meadow out of District 13 and into District 9, which currently covers the White Rock Lake area and East Dallas. Also, Pleasant Grove in District 5 would stay intact.

Other changes in this version include most of Kiest Park in southern Dallas moving from District 4 to District 3. The area surrounding Cockrell Hill would be part of District 1, which covers North Oak Cliff, the Kessler Stevens area and the Bishop Arts District. It also splits Elmwood Thicket into two districts.

Some of the changes from the original map include The Cedars and parts of South Dallas joining District 4, which covers South Oak Cliff, and District 2 extending to Far East Dallas and the Casa View area.

“We wanted to make sure that all the districts had the assets that they wanted,” said commission member Norma Minnis, who presented the changes. “We wanted to keep our neighborhoods intact.”

The **latest version of map 17** is mostly the same as the one approved last week with some tweaks that roughly keep areas like Ledbetter Eagle Ford, Elmwood Thicket NorthPark and Vickery Meadow in their current districts.

Some of the changes include undoing a proposal to move Jefferson Boulevard from District 1 to District 14, which covers Uptown, parts of downtown and Old East Dallas. But it keeps the previous version’s plan to shift the Bishop Arts District from District 1 to District 14.

“Even though I don’t like this map as my preferred choice, with these amendments these are things that will help make it better and much more likely for Latinos and African Americans to elect candidates of their choice with similar socioeconomic, home, church and school boundaries,” said commission member Domingo Garcia, who is national president of the League of United Latin American Citizens and a former Dallas City Council member.

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.

The new map would be in effect by the next City Council election in May 2023, when all 14 positions and the mayor’s seats will be up for grabs.

The commission will meet next on Saturday at 3 p.m. to get feedback from the public on the two amended maps, then will meet again Monday at 3:30 p.m. to consider selecting the final map.

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



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.

[✉ everton.bailey@dallasnews.com](mailto:everton.bailey@dallasnews.com) [🐦 @EvertonBailey](https://twitter.com/EvertonBailey)

ADVERTISEMENT