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April 13, 2011

WHEREAS, City Council appointed a 2011 Redistricting Commission in accordance with Chapter IV, Section 5 (b) of the Dallas City Charter for the purpose of drawing new council districts using the results of the 2010 Census; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 Redistricting Commission has developed a set of guidelines for use during the redistricting process to allow consistent criteria to be used in the development and review of alternative plans for proposed City Council districts; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

Section 1. That the 2011 Redistricting Guidelines attached to this resolution as Exhibit 1 are hereby approved for use in the 2011 redistricting process.

Section 2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately from and after its passage in accordance with the Charter of the City of Dallas, and it is accordingly so resolved.

APPROVED BY
CITY COUNCIL

APR 13 2011


City Secretary

EXHIBIT 1 2011 REDISTRICTING GUIDELINES

The Redistricting Commission intends to apply the following guidelines as consistently as possible and to the greatest extent possible, in the drawing of city council district boundaries that are in the best interests of the residents and the City of Dallas. The Redistricting Commission acknowledges, however, that on some occasions these redistricting guidelines may conflict with one another.

A. The following guidelines regarding Population Equality, Minority Representation and Contiguity and Compactness shall be applied as required by the U.S. Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, and other federal and state laws.

1. Population Equality.

The districts should be drawn so that they are substantially equal in population according to the total count as presented in the 2010 census data. The total deviation between the largest and the smallest district must be as small as possible, but in all cases must be less than ten percent.

Minor population deviations of less than ten percent may be allowed if they are necessary to achieve a good faith, legitimate objective, such as:

- preserving the voting strength of minority populations in compliance with the Voting Rights Act;
- making the districts compact;
- maintaining communities of interest in a single district and avoiding splitting neighborhoods;
- using public school attendance boundaries as defined by the independent school districts in the City of Dallas to assist in defining neighborhoods;
- preserving the cores of existing districts as permitted by case law, meaning to recognize the traditional geographic, economic, cultural or social center of an existing district as supported by public testimony;
- following easily identifiable geographic boundaries and other unique geographical configurations; or
- facilitating responsiveness of elected representatives to their constituents.

2. Minority Representation.

As required by the Voting Rights Act, the voting strength of racial, ethnic, and language minorities in the districts should not be diluted by depriving minority voters of an equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice, such as by packing or fracturing districts. Race, ethnicity, and language minority consideration, however cannot be the predominant factor to which other districting legal principles are subordinated.

A majority minority district may be created to provide fair representation to the members of racial, ethnic, and language minority populations where compelling justification requires such a district as determined by the following factors:

- a reasonably compact district can be drawn in compliance with the other redistricting guidelines in which voters of the minority group constitute a majority of the electorate and will increase the probability that members of the minority will be elected;
- the minority community is politically cohesive and usually votes together; and
- other voters in the area generally vote as a bloc to successfully defeat the minority community's preferred candidates.

3. Contiguity and Compactness.

The districts should be geographically compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness and contiguity involve both a functional and a geographic aspect. Functional compactness and contiguity include factors such as:

- the availability of transportation and communication;
- the existence of common social, cultural, community, and economic interests;
- the ability of constituents of a council district to relate to each other;
- the existence of shared interests, including a history and tradition of working together;
- the use of public school attendance boundaries as defined by the independent school districts in the City of Dallas to assist in defining neighborhoods; and
- the drawing of district boundaries that facilitate communications between constituents and their elected representatives.

B. Other guidelines which may be considered include:

1. Incumbents.

The configuration of districts shall be neutral as to incumbents. The districts must not be configured for the purpose of either protecting or defeating an incumbent.

2. Communities of Interest.

Communities of interest shall be maintained in a single district, where possible; and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods. For purposes of this guideline, "communities of interest" include geographic areas where there are people who share clearly recognizable similarities of social, political, cultural, ethnic, religious, or economic interests. Factors to be considered in defining "neighborhoods" include homeowner associations, neighborhood associations, crime watch groups, public testimony, census tract information, and traditionally recognized areas of Dallas.