

A Resolution

NO. _____

ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR USE IN REDISTRICTING OF SINGLE-MEMBER CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Fort Worth is composed of representatives elected from single-member districts; and

WHEREAS, between 2000 and 2010, the population of the City of Fort Worth increased by 202,374 residents, or thirty-eight and six-tenths percent (38.6%); and

WHEREAS, this growth was not evenly distributed across the City of Fort Worth; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to redraw boundary lines for City Council single-member districts to adjust for the growth and shifts in population among the districts; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has certain redistricting responsibilities under federal and state law, including but not limited to, the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.A. section 1973, *et seq.*; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City Council to comply with the United States Constitution, the Voting Rights Act and all other relevant law, including *Shaw v. Reno* jurisprudence; and

WHEREAS, a set of established redistricting criteria will serve as a framework to guide the City in the consideration of redistricting plans; and

WHEREAS, redistricting criteria will assist the City in its efforts to comply with all applicable federal and state laws;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS THAT:

1. In order to conform to the constitutional mandate known as *One Person / One Vote*, all single-member districts should be configured so that they are



Resolution No. _____

relatively equal in total population according to the 2010 census. In no event should the total maximum deviation between the largest and the smallest district exceed ten percent (10%).

2. Single-member districts should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness may contain a functional as well as a geographic dimension.
3. Where possible, easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.
4. Where possible, communities of interest should be contained in a single district, and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods, unless requested by neighborhood representatives.
5. Where possible, each single-member district should encompass areas located inside Loop 820 and outside Loop 820, as such demarcation follows a commonly-known and easily-identified geographic boundary.
6. The plan should be narrowly tailored to avoid retrogression in the position of racial and language minorities as defined by the Voting Rights Act to respect their ability to participate in the electoral process.
7. The plan should not fragment a geographically compact minority community, or pack minority voters in the presence of polarized voting so as to create liability under section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.
8. To the extent possible, single-member districts should be composed of whole voting precincts. Where this is not possible or practicable, districts should be drawn in a way that permits the creation of practical voting precincts and that ensures that adequate facilities for polling places exist in each voting precinct.
9. Where possible, single-member districts should be composed of whole census block groups or blocks. Where the allocation of whole census blocks is not possible, the population for a split block shall be estimated in proportion to the percentage of the area of the block.
10. Consideration may be given to the preservation of incumbent-constituency relations by recognition of the residence of incumbents and their history in representing certain areas.



Resolution No. _____

Adopted this 14th day of June, 2011.

Mike Moncrief
Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Sarah J. Fullenwider
City Attorney

ATTEST:

By: _____
Marty Hendrix
City Secretary

