

A RESOLUTION

2011-09-15-0024R

ADOPTING CRITERIA FOR USE WHEN REVISING CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR PERSONS SUBMITTING COMMENTS AND PROPOSALS DURING THE 2011 REDISTRICTING PROCESS.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council have responsibilities for redistricting under the City Charter as well as the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, as a result of growth in the City of San Antonio over the last decade, the 2010 Census reports a population imbalance among City Council districts requiring redistricting of the districts; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to establish criteria for its evaluation of redistricting plans and guidelines to facilitate input by members of the public on redistricting plans and the effect those plans may have on their representation on the City Council. **NOW THEREFORE:**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO, BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. The City Council of the City of San Antonio, Texas adopts the following criteria for evaluation and approval of a Redistricting Plan:

- A. Where practicable, easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.
- B. Communities of interest should be maintained in a single councilmember district, where practicable, and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods.
- C. To the extent practicable, 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; and splitting census blocks should be avoided.
- D. Although it is recognized that existing districts will have to be altered to reflect new population distribution, any districting plan should, to the extent practicable, be based on existing councilmember districts.
- E. Districts shall be configured so that they are relatively equal in total population according to the 2010 Census. In no event should the total deviation in population between the largest and the smallest district exceed ten percent.
- F. Districts should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness may contain a functional, as well as a geographical dimension.

- G. 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.
- H. The plan should be narrowly tailored to avoid retrogression in the position of racial minorities and language minorities as defined in the Voting Rights Act with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise.
- I. 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, 42 U.S.C. § 1973.

SECTION 2. The Mayor and City Council will review all plans in light of these criteria and will evaluate how well each plan conforms to the criteria.

SECTION 3. All plans submitted by citizens, as well as plans submitted by staff, consultants, and members of the City Council should conform to these criteria.

SECTION 4. The following guidelines are established in order to ensure that public comments or plans submitted for consideration are of maximum assistance in the decision-making process:

- A. Proposed plans should be complete and submitted in writing to ensure that all proposals are fully and accurately considered.
- B. Any plan should show the total population and voting age population by race or ethnicity for each proposed City Council district based on 2010 Census data. If a plan is submitted without a population breakdown, the Mayor and City Council may not have sufficient information to give it full consideration.
- C. Plans should redistrict the entire City of San Antonio. When redistricting the Mayor and City Council will consider the effect of any plan on the entire city. Also, the Mayor and City Council are subject to the Voting Rights Act, which protects various racial and language minorities. Thus, as a matter of federal law, the Mayor and City Council will be required to consider the effect of any proposal on multiple racial and ethnic groups. If a plan does not redistrict the entire city, it may be impossible for the Mayor and City Council to assess its impact on one or more protected minority groups.
- D. Plans must conform to the criteria the Mayor and City Council will use to evaluate Council districts drawn by the consultant.
- E. Verbal testimony received at district hearings will be transcribed and included in the public record. Written comments are also welcome.
- F. All comments and proposed plans must be submitted to the Mayor and City Council by the close of a public hearing to be held in Council chambers at the conclusion of district hearings.

VMZ
9/15/11
Item No. 14

SECTION 5. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage by eight (8) votes or more and upon ten (10) days following its passage if approved by fewer than eight (8) votes.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Council of the City of San Antonio, Texas this 15th day of September, 2011.

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:



Mayor Julián Castro

ATTEST:

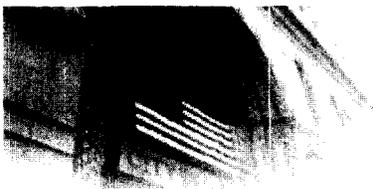


Leticia M. Vacek
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

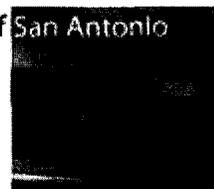


Michael Bernard
City Attorney



Request for
COUNCIL
ACTION

City of San Antonio



Agenda Voting Results - 14

Name:	5, 7, 9, 10, 11A, 11B, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21						
Date:	09/15/2011						
Time:	02:21:33 PM						
Vote Type:	Motion to Approve						
Description:	A Resolution adopting criteria for use when revising City Council district boundaries and establishing guidelines for persons submitting comments and proposals during the 2011 Redistricting Process. [Michael D. Bernard, City Attorney; David Mendez, Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP]						
Result:	Passed						
Voter	Group	Not Present	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Motion	Second
Julián Castro	Mayor		x				
Diego Bernal	District 1		x				x
Ivy R. Taylor	District 2		x				
Jennifer V. Ramos	District 3		x			x	
Rey Saldaña	District 4		x				
David Medina Jr.	District 5		x				
Ray Lopez	District 6		x				
Cris Medina	District 7	x					
W. Reed Williams	District 8		x				
Elisa Chan	District 9		x				
Carlton Soules	District 10	x					