

CITY OF IRVING

COUNCIL RESOLUTION NO. RES-2021-404

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WHEREAS, the City Council has certain responsibilities for redistricting under federal and state law including, but not limited to, Amendments 14 and 15 to the United States Constitution; the Voting Rights Act; and Texas Government Code §§ 2058.001 and 2058.002; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has certain responsibilities for redistricting under the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, upon review of the 2020 Census data, it appears that a population imbalance exists requiring redistricting of the City's councilmember districts; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City to comply with the Voting Rights Act and with 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 districting plans; and

WHEREAS, established criteria will provide the City a means by which to evaluate and measure proposed plans; and

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

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide for the orderly consideration and evaluation of redistricting plans which may come before the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the redistricting guidelines relate to persons who have specific redistricting plans they wish the City Council to consider; and

WHEREAS, the City Council welcomes any comments relevant to the redistricting process;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVING, TEXAS:

SECTION I. THAT the City Council hereby receives the Initial Assessment (considering 2020 Census data), attached as **Exhibit A**, which demonstrates that the City of Irving's councilmember districts are sufficiently out of population balance that the City should redistrict.

SECTION II. THAT the City Council will observe the following criteria, to the greatest extent possible, when drawing district boundaries:

1. Easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.

2. Communities of interest should be maintained in a single councilmember district, where possible, and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods.
3. Councilmember districts should be composed of whole voting precincts. Where this is not possible or practicable, councilmember districts should be drawn considering county election precincts. Avoid splitting census blocks unless necessary.
4. Although it is recognized that existing councilmember districts will have to be altered to reflect new population distribution, any districting plan should, to the extent possible, be based on existing districts.
5. Councilmember districts must be configured so that they are relatively equal in total population according to the 2020 federal census. In no event should the total deviation between the largest and the smallest councilmember district exceed ten (10) percent as compared to the ideal district size.
6. The councilmember districts should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness may contain a functional, as well as a geographical, dimension.
7. 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.
8. The plan should be narrowly tailored to avoid racial gerrymandering in violation of *Shaw v. Reno*.
9. 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 the Voting Rights Act.

SECTION III. THAT the City Council will review all plans considering these criteria and will evaluate how well each plan conforms to the criteria.

SECTION IV. THAT any plan submitted to the City Council by a citizen for its consideration should be a complete plan—*i.e.*, it should show the full number of councilmember districts and should redistrict the entire city. The City Council may decline to consider any plan that is not a complete plan.

SECTION V. THAT 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 VI. THAT in order to make sure that any plan that might be submitted is of maximum assistance to the City Council in its decision-making process, the City Council hereby sets the following guidelines:

1. Proposed plans must be submitted in writing and be legible. If a plan is submitted orally, there is significant opportunity for misunderstanding, and it is possible that errors may be made in analyzing it. The City Council wants to be sure that all proposals are fully and accurately considered.
2. Any plan must show the total population and voting age population for Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and Anglos/Other for each proposed councilmember district based on 2020 census data. If a plan is submitted without a population breakdown, the City Council may not have sufficient information to give it full consideration.
3. Plans should redistrict the entire City of Irving, so the City Council may consider the effect of any plan on the entire city. All plans are subject to the Voting Rights Act, which protects various racial and language minorities. Thus, as a matter of federal law, the 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 City Council to assess its impact on one or more protected minority groups.
4. Plans should conform to the criteria the City Council will be using in drawing the councilmember districts.
5. Comments must be submitted in writing and be legible, even if the person also makes the comments orally at a public hearing.
6. Persons providing comments and those submitting proposed plans must identify themselves by full name and home address and provide a telephone number and, if available, an e-mail address. The City Council may wish to follow up on such comments or obtain additional information about submitted plans.
7. All comments and proposed plans must be submitted to the City Council by the close of the public hearing.

SECTION VII. THAT this resolution shall take effect from and after its final date of passage, and it is accordingly so ordered.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVING, TEXAS,  
on October 28, 2021.

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RICHARD H. STOPFER  
MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Shanae Jennings  
City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Kuruvilla Oommen  
City Attorney