

Corpus Christi, Texas 2021 Redistricting

Initial Assessment

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REDISTRICTING

Applicable Law

Three Principles, plus

**“One person – one vote”
(equal population)**

**Voting Rights Act § 2
(nondiscrimination)**

***Shaw v. Reno*
(limits use of race)**

**Plus, as diagnostic tool:
Voting Rights Act § 5
(retrogression)**

Redistricting

One Person - One Vote

- U.S. Constitution – single-member districts must have *approximately equal populations*
- Rule of thumb: **total deviation < 10%**
 - Compare most populous and least populous districts to “ideal”–sized district
 - Add both departures from ideal together

<u>District</u>	<u>Ideal district</u>	<u>District total pop.</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Deviation</u>
A	10,000	11,000	1000	+ 10.0 percent
B	10,000	10,750	750	+ 7.5 percent
C	10,000	10,250	250	+ 2.5 percent
D	10,000	8,000	- 2000	- 20.0 percent
<hr/>				
Totals:	40,000	40,000	net= 0	net= 0 percent

Total maximum deviation = difference between most populous and least populous districts = 10 percent + 20 percent = 30 percent.

Example Deviation Calculation

Available Census Data

PL94-171 File

- “Census block” level
 - Total population
 - VAP
(voting age
population)
 - Race
 - Hispanic origin



What Population Do You Use?

Total Population

- To determine one person - one vote

VAP

(Voting Age Population)

- To measure voting rights issues

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act

- No discrimination on basis of race or language minority status
- Generally, avoid *cracking or packing*
- Cracking or fracturing is dividing minority voters to fragment their voting power.
- Packing is concentrating minority voters when dividing them would permit the group to elect their candidates of choice in more than one district
- Other practices can also violate Section 2

14th Amendment (*Shaw v. Reno*)

Limits race-based decision making, including redistricting

Was race the predominant consideration in drawing a redistricting plan?

If so, is the plan a *narrowly tailored* means of addressing a *compelling governmental interest*?

Redistricting Standards under Shaw-Reno Line of Cases

- Usually, race may not be the predominant factor to the subordination of traditional districting principles
- But it is OK to be aware of race and to consider race *to satisfy Section 2 and Section 5*
- To “narrowly tailor,” use race no more than necessary
- Bizarrely-shaped districts not unconstitutional per se
 - Bizarre shape may be evidence that race predominated

Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act

- Preclearance no longer required (*Shelby County v. Holder* (2013))
- Section 5 standard is “retrogression”
 - Are minorities worse off under the new system?
 - No discriminatory purpose or effect
- Still a useful diagnostic tool to identify potential Section 2 issues

Benchmark

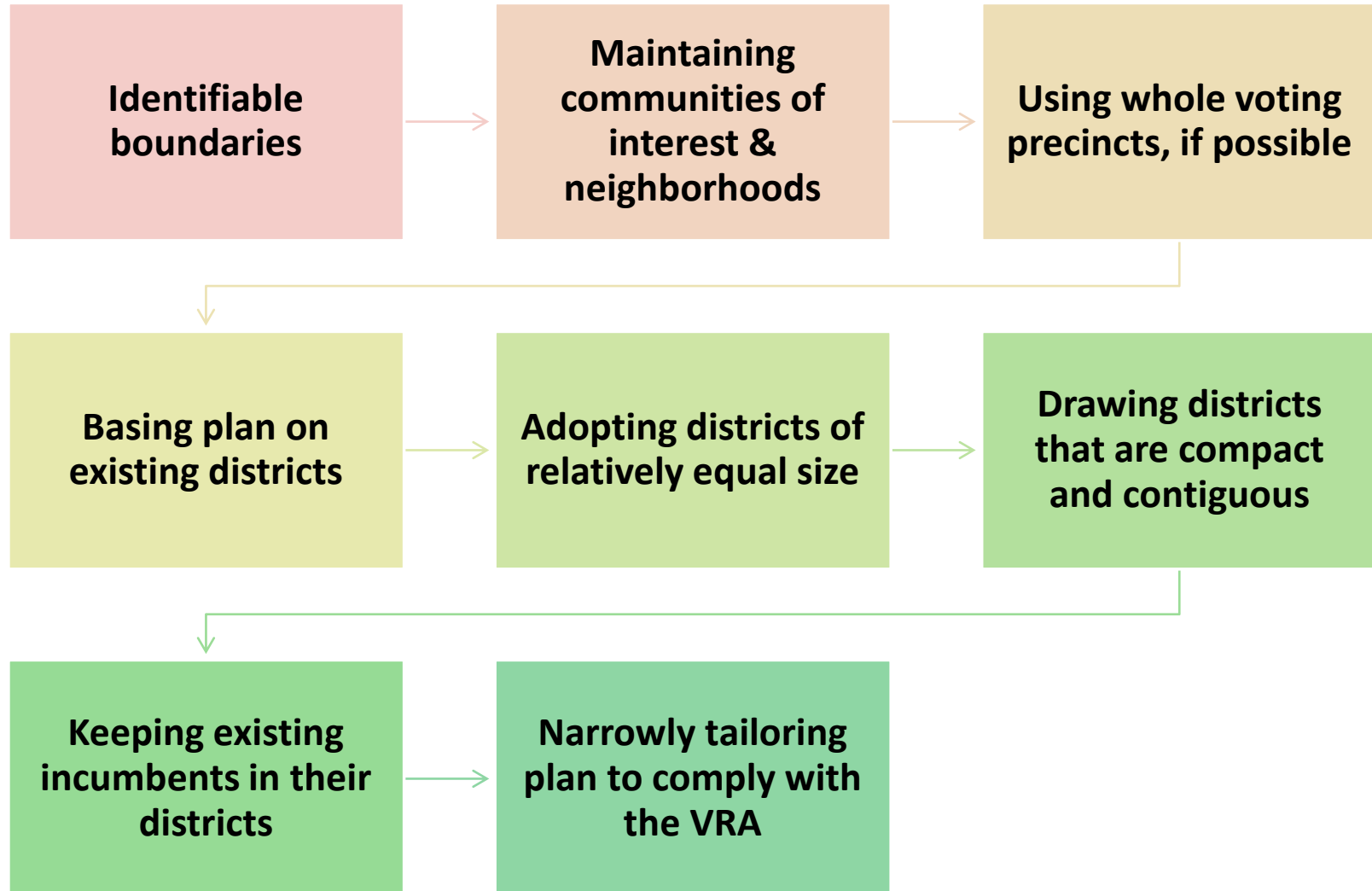


The benchmark is the standard against which retrogression is measured.



The benchmark is 2020 Census data superimposed on the last legally enforceable plan (typically, current city council districts with all annexations included).

Adopt Criteria



Steps To Balancing Conflicting Legal Obligations In Redistricting

Plan ahead

Build a record



Be Aware

Of legal obligations and responsibilities



Adopt

Criteria that reflect traditional redistricting principles, including consideration of race to the extent required to meet obligations under the Voting Rights Act



Pay Attention

To the criteria when drawing the plan. Consider and evaluate each plan presented (whether by district's hired consultant or by general public) in light of the adopted criteria.

Steps To Balancing Conflicting Legal Obligations In Redistricting



Analyze the final plan in terms of how well it conforms to the adopted criteria



Make sure the analysis is considered by the City Council before plan adoption



Avoid truly bizarre districts

Plan Development Elements

Initial Assessment

Adopt plan criteria, guidelines

Develop illustrative plan(s)

Public comment / hearing

Analyze comments

Adopt final plan

Implementation



Draft Redistricting Time Line

January 25

Present Initial Assessment

February 17

Illustrative Plan and First Drawing Workshop

March 22

Public Hearing and Second Drawing Workshop

April 12

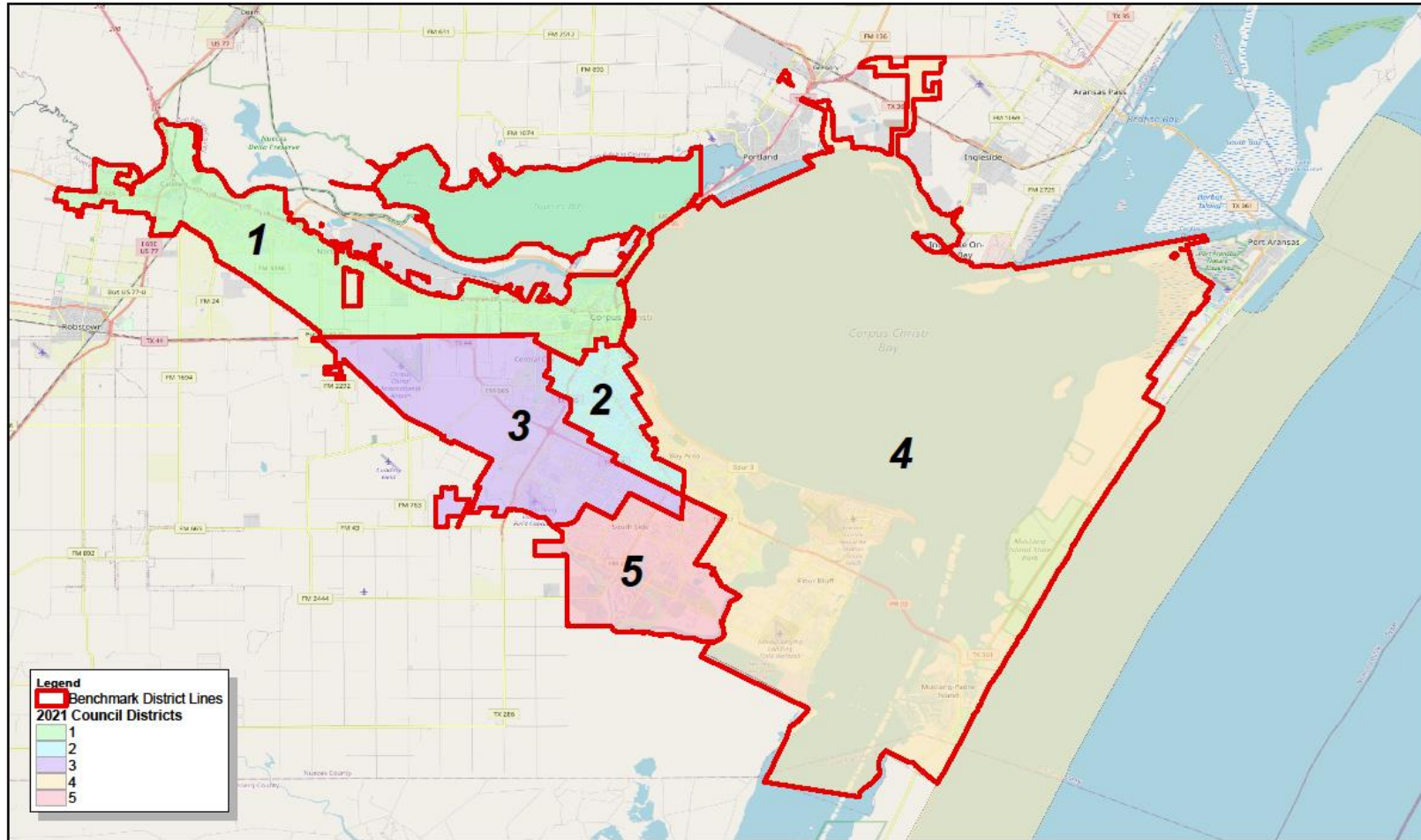
Public Hearing and Final Adoption



Corpus Christi, Texas

**2011 Benchmark
with 2020 Census
Data**

Current Districts



Created: 12/14/2021
Background Image: ESRI World Street Map

Corpus Christi City Council Districts 2021 Initial Assessment

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Data Source: Roads, Water and other features obtained from the 2020 Tiger/line files, U.S. Census Bureau



City of Corpus Christi

Overall Deviation For Current Districts

Using 2020 Census Data

Corpus Christi Council Districts Initial Assessment



Demographics Report - Summary 2020 Census Total Population

Plan Last Edited on: 12/13/2021 8:12:04 PM

District	Persons	Ideal Size	Deviation	Hispanic % of Total Population	Non-Hispanic White % of Total Population	Non-Hispanic Black % of Total Population	Non-Hispanic Asian % of Total Population	Non-Hispanic Other % of Total Population
1	58,129	63,580	-8.57%	65.98%	27.98%	3.11%	0.70%	2.23%
2	53,627	63,580	-15.65%	76.40%	18.18%	2.99%	0.63%	1.81%
3	57,921	63,580	-8.90%	77.90%	13.86%	5.33%	1.15%	1.76%
4	71,033	63,580	11.72%	38.45%	50.39%	3.75%	3.06%	4.35%
5	77,188	63,580	21.40%	53.38%	34.00%	4.22%	5.11%	3.29%

TOTAL: 317,898 60.70% 30.22% 3.91% 2.37% 2.81%

Ideal Size: 317898 / 5 = 63580

Total Population: 317,898

Overall Deviation: 37.06%

Some percentages may be subject to rounding errors.

City of Corpus Christi

Voting Age Population For Current Districts

Using 2020 Census Data

Corpus Christi Council Districts Initial Assessment



Demographics Report - Summary 2020 Census Voting Age Population

Plan Last Edited on: 12/13/2021 6:25:25 PM

District	Total VAP*	Hispanic % of Total VAP	Non-Hispanic Anglo % of Total VAP	Non-Hispanic Black % of Total VAP	Non-Hispanic Asian % of Total VAP	Non-Hispanic Other % of Total VAP
1	43,654	62.75%	31.05%	3.21%	0.75%	2.25%
2	41,097	74.01%	20.44%	2.99%	0.71%	1.85%
3	43,394	75.87%	15.63%	5.64%	1.22%	1.65%
4	56,393	35.21%	53.32%	4.12%	3.24%	4.11%
5	58,733	50.52%	36.82%	4.35%	5.19%	3.12%
	243,271	57.66%	33.06%	4.10%	2.47%	2.71%

* VAP - Voting Age Population

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QUESTIONS?

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