

Resolution adopting criteria for use in the 2022 redistricting process; and adopting guidelines for other entities submitting redistricting plans.

WHEREAS, this 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, U.S.C.A.; section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C.A. §10301; City Charter Art. II, Sec. 1; and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 2058.001 and 2058.002; and

WHEREAS, a review of the 2020 census data reveals that a population imbalance exists among the City's councilmember districts requiring redistricting of those 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 formulation and consideration of districting plans; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, these guidelines for entities submitting specific redistricting plans help to provide an orderly evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, the Council also welcomes any comments relevant to the redistricting process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that

Section 1. The City Council, in its adoption of a redistricting plan for councilmember districts, will adhere to the following criteria to the greatest practical extent when establishing new councilmember district boundaries:

- A. Easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.
- B. Communities of interest should be maintained in a single district, and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods.
- C. Councilmember districts should be composed of whole voting precincts. Where this is not possible or practicable, districts should be drawn considering county election precincts. Avoid splitting census blocks unless necessary.

- D. Although it is recognized that existing districts will have to be altered to reflect new population distribution in the City, any districting plan should be based on existing districts.
- E. 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 population deviation between the largest and the smallest district exceed ten percent as compared to the ideal district size.
- F. The 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 racial gerrymandering in violation of *Shaw v. Reno*.
- I. The plan should not fragment a geographically compact minority community or pack minority voters in the presence of polarized voting or otherwise discriminate against protected groups so as to create liability under the Voting Rights Act.

Section 2. In order to ensure that a redistricting plan submitted by another entity provides value, the City Council hereby sets the following guidelines to be followed by an entity submitting a proposed redistricting plan for consideration:

- A. The proposed plan must be submitted in writing and be legible.
- B. The proposed plan must show the total population and voting age population for each proposed council district based on the 2020 Census Data.
- C. The proposed plan should redistrict the entire City.
- D. The proposed plan should conform to the redistricting criteria the Council will be using in drawing the districts.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the _____ day of _____, 2022:

Paulette M. Guajardo _____

Roland Barrera _____

Gil Hernandez _____

Michael Hunter _____

Billy Lerma _____

John Martinez _____

Ben Molina _____

Mike Pusley _____

Greg Smith _____

ATTEST:

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Rebecca Huerta
City Secretary

Paulette M. Guajardo
Mayor