

City of Dallas

Redistricting Process and Demographic Profile

☛ Overview of the Redistricting Process

Redistricting is the process of redrawing the boundary lines for the 14 city council districts to reflect the population changes reported by the 2010 census.

Redistricting Process

☛ Authorized by City Charter

When the citizens of Dallas adopted the Charter provision for the 14-1 City Council, they also created a redistricting process that is used every 10 years after the Census to redraw the districts so that they are substantially equal in population.

☛ Redistricting Commission appointed by City Council

The Charter sets up a process for a Redistricting Commission to be created by the City Council to handle the redistricting process.

☛ Plan developed by the Commission with public input

The Charter requires the Redistricting Commission to promptly convene in as many sessions as are necessary, including public hearings, to develop, prepare and recommend a districting plan that proposes the respective boundaries of the 14 council districts.

Redistricting Commission

☛ Comprised of 15 Commissioners, appointed by each councilmember

- Chair is appointed by the Mayor subject to confirmation by the majority of the Council and the Council appoints a vice chair from among the 14 appointed commissioners.
- Members reflect the racial and ethnic makeup of Dallas' population and geographic balance

Redistricting Plan Process

- The Commission is currently meeting weekly and during the summer will meet more frequently when necessary
- The Commission has adopted a set of guidelines to ensure consistency in developing and reviewing plans. The guidelines have been submitted to the City Council for approval.
- When the guidelines and plan submission packet are available to the public, they will be posted on City's website (<http://dallascityhall.com/redistricting>)
- When the Guidelines have been approved by the City Council, a plan submission packet will be developed. This will provide a checklist for members of the public wishing to submit plans to the Commission to let them know what is needed for the Commission to understand and review a proposed plan.
- The Commission will hold at least 9 public hearings to obtain resident input on alternative plans beginning on April 28th and continuing with two hearings per week until May 26th.
- Thereafter the Commission will use the public testimony to redraw the plans, making changes and alternate plans until it can reach an agreement on an acceptable plan for recommendation to the Mayor. The Commission hopes to make its submission to the Mayor in late August 2011.

▼ The Mayor will present the recommended plan to the City Council at its next meeting for consideration.

- ◆ The City Council has 45 days to approve or modify the plan. If it does not do so, the plan recommended by the Commission becomes the city's plan.
- ◆ Once the plan is approved by the City Council, it must be submitted to the U.S. Justice Department for approval under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. The Justice Department will have 60 days to approve the plan or to ask additional questions of the City.
- ◆ The new districts will be used in the May 2013 elections unless otherwise ordered by a court.

Elections Schedule ◆ The City Charter mandates an election every two years in odd-numbered years

- ◆ May 14, 2011 is the regularly scheduled election date
- ◆ New redistricting plan must be approved by the Department of Justice and in effect 90 days prior to next City Council election
- ◆ New plan could not be drawn using 2010 census data in time for the May 2011 council election

Demographic Profile

The 2010 Census reported that the population of Dallas grew by 9,236 persons since 2000, but that growth occurred irregularly throughout the city with some districts gaining population and other districts losing population.

Population Change by Council District

*Total Voting Age Population
by City Council District*

Percent of Total Voting Age Population by City Council District