

**Redistricting Commission
Packet
August 2, 2011**

**Statement of the Chair
Regarding City Councilmembers**

August 2, 2011

It has come to my attention that citizens and the media may have an incorrect understanding that city councilmembers may not submit a redistricting plan to the redistricting commission. I wish to clarify that there is no law that prevents city councilmembers from presenting a redistricting plan or testimony to the redistricting commission.

The Dallas City Charter's provisions regarding redistricting contain only two restrictions on city councilmembers. First, a city councilmember may not be appointed to the redistricting commission. Second, a member of the redistricting commission may not be a city council candidate in the next general election.

Redistricting Commission Work Plan Timeline

Tues July 26

- Public Plan Presentations

Thurs July 28

- Public Plan Presentations

Tues Aug 2

- Commissioners Plan Presentations

Thurs Aug 4

- Commissioners Plan Presentations
- Review/discussion of all plans
- Vote to move plans forward
- Direction to staff to modify plans (Round 1)

Tues Aug 9

- Review/discussion of modified plans
- Vote to move plans forward
- Direction to staff to modify plans (Round 2)

Thurs Aug 11

- Review/discussion of modified plans
- Vote to select final map inventory for Public Forum **OR**
- Direction to staff to modify plans (Round 3, if needed)

Tues Aug 16

- No Meeting **OR**
- Vote to select final map inventory for Public Forum

Weds Aug 17
NLT 2pm

- No Commission Action/No Meeting
- Staff: Public Forum Meeting Agenda Posting w/Materials

Sat Aug 20

- Public Forum (start time 2pm)
- Final direction to staff to modify plans (if needed)

Tues Aug 23

- Review/discussion of final modifications
- **Vote for Final Map for Submission to City Council**

Mon Aug 29

- Redistricting Commission Chair and Vice Chair present proposed plan to Mayor

Weds Sept 7

- Mayor presents proposed plan to City Council during briefing session

**Redistricting Commission
Public Testimony Received
Via Fax, Email, and Mail
from July 26, 2011 to July 29,
2011**

Bratt, Peter

From: Toby Koonsman [tkoonsman@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2011 7:32 PM
To: reDallas11
Subject: Redistricting
Attachments: Redistricting Letter July 2011.doc

To whom it may concern:

Please find my neighborhood redistricting request attached to this mailing.

Thank you,

Toby Koonsman

July 28, 2011

Redistricting Commission
City of Dallas
1500 Marilla St. L1AN
Dallas, TX 75201

I currently reside in District 7 in a neighborhood South of Ferguson Road and North of Interstate 30. I urge you to strongly consider a redistricting plan that would include my neighborhood with other White Rock Lake communities North of Ferguson Road. I urge you to oppose any plan based on the old District 7 plan which does not reflect today's requirements for compactness and the need to keep area communities together.

Thank you for your consideration.

Toby Koonsman
2644 Dorrington Dr.
Dallas, TX 75228
District 7
214-660-4733
tkoonsman@aol.com

Bratt, Peter

From: MIKE AYOOB [mayoob@prodigy.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2011 12:36 PM
To: reDallas11
Cc: Eileen Hillridge - MooreRory
Subject: Redistricting

July 26, 2011

Redistricting Commission

City of Dallas

1500 Marilla St. L1AN

Dallas, TX 75201

I currently reside in District 7 in a neighborhood South of Ferguson Road and North of Interstate 30. I urge you to strongly consider a redistricting plan that would include my neighborhood with other White Rock Lake communities North of Ferguson Road. I urge you to oppose any plan based on the old District 7 plan which does not reflect today's requirements for compactness and the need to keep area communities together. Thank you for your consideration.

Michael L. Ayooob

8557 Sweetwood Dr

Dallas, TX 752228

District 7

214-328-5768

mayoob@prodigy.net

**Redistricting Commission
Public Testimony Received on
July 28, 2011 from John
Bankston**

July 15, 2011

Hello Mary,

Thank you for returning my phone call I enjoyed talking with you. I am sending two pages of names on the petition to keep Councilman Atkins in District 8. John left them in his truck by mistake when he went to the meeting on redistricting Thursday night. He left the other ones at the meeting. Have a great weekend and will be in touch soon.

Thank you,

Rosie

PETITION

TO KEEP

COUNCILMAN TENNELL ATKINS

IN DISTRICT 8

NAME	ADDRESS
JAMES DAVIS	2352 Licorice Pl
Frank Perez	2340 Licorice Pl 75217
Herbert Santos	2332 Licorice Pl 75217
TERRY DUFFIE	2323 Licorice Pl 75217
Alex Nino	8332 midland Ln 75217
Coedriel McFuerz	2319 Licorice Pl. 75217
Ladunda Dawson	2307 Licorice Pl 75217
Shannon Dawson	" " " "
Rosemary Padilla	9335 Crimmon Ct. 75217
Wendrick Star	2301 Licorice Pl 75217
O C Smith	9309 Licorice Pl 75217
Harold Griffin	9303 Crimmon Ct 75217
Juan Lopez	9294 Crimmon Ct 75217
Shen McCh	9291 Crimmon Ct 75217
Emmie Buckner	9287 Crimmon Ct 75217
Marlon Brown II	9286 Crimmon Ct 75217
Harold Lewis	9275 Crimmon Ct. 75217

PETITION

TO KEEP

COUNCILMAN TENNELL ATKINS

IN DISTRICT 8

NAME

ADDRESS

Rosie Bankston	1861 Mulleshoe 75217
Monica Ibendahl	9267 Crimmon Ct 75217
T. McCann	9259 Crimmon Ct.
John Brown	9251 Crimmon Ct
Tieshea Hill	9231 Crimmon Ct.
Michael Brinkley	9227 Crimmon Ct.
Ruben Ruvalcaba	9219 Crimmon Ct.
Cesar Nouri	9203 Crimmon Ct.
Balthazar Lopez	9208 Crimmon Ct.
Philip Cook	9228 Crimmon Ct.
Michael Brinkley	9264 Crimmon Ct 75217
Delana Mendez	2348 Licorice Pl Dallas 75217
James Chavez	2344 Licorice Pl Dallas 75217
Marvin Shaw	2347 Licorice Pl Dallas 75217
Rebecca Perez	2340 Licorice Pl Dallas 75217

John Bankston
1861 Muleshoe RD
Dallas, Texas 75217

NORTH TEXAS PD&DC
DALLAS TX 75201
16 JUL 2011 PM 2 JL

Mary Hassen
3425 Hacienda
Dallas, Texas 75217

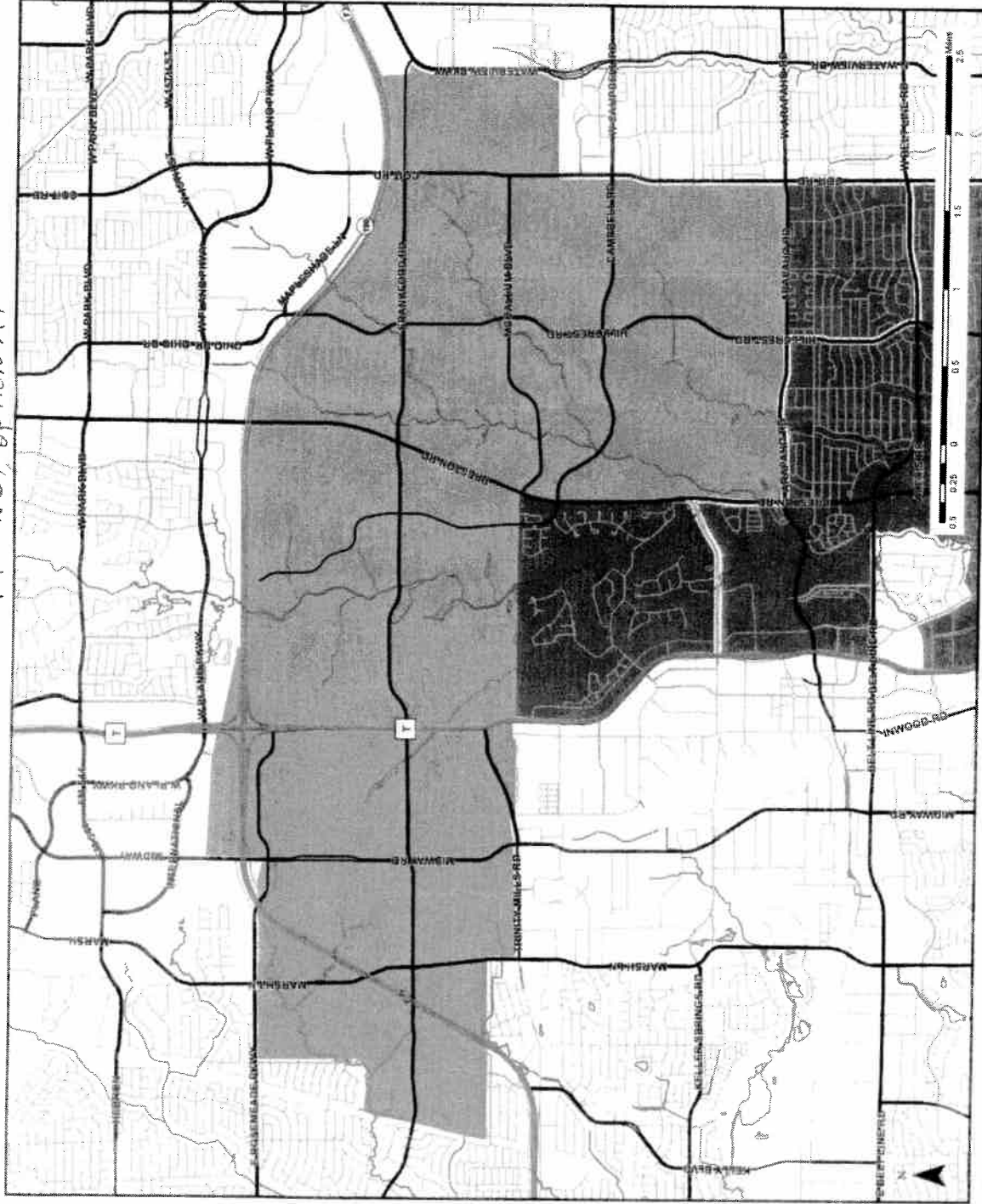
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**Redistricting Commission
Documents Received from
Public Speakers
August 2, 2011**

**Redistricting Commission
Documents Received from
Tom Wood
August 2, 2011**

WPLAN 5, option A,



Legend

- Highways
- Major Roads
- Other Roadways
- Waterways
- Major Lakes

Current District Boundaries

Proposed District Boundaries

- District 11
- District 12

Data Source:
 Council Districts - Lee Balkman (D12)
 Streets - City of Dallas, GIS Division
 Waterways - City of Dallas, GIS Division
 Current District Boundaries - City of Dallas, GIS Division

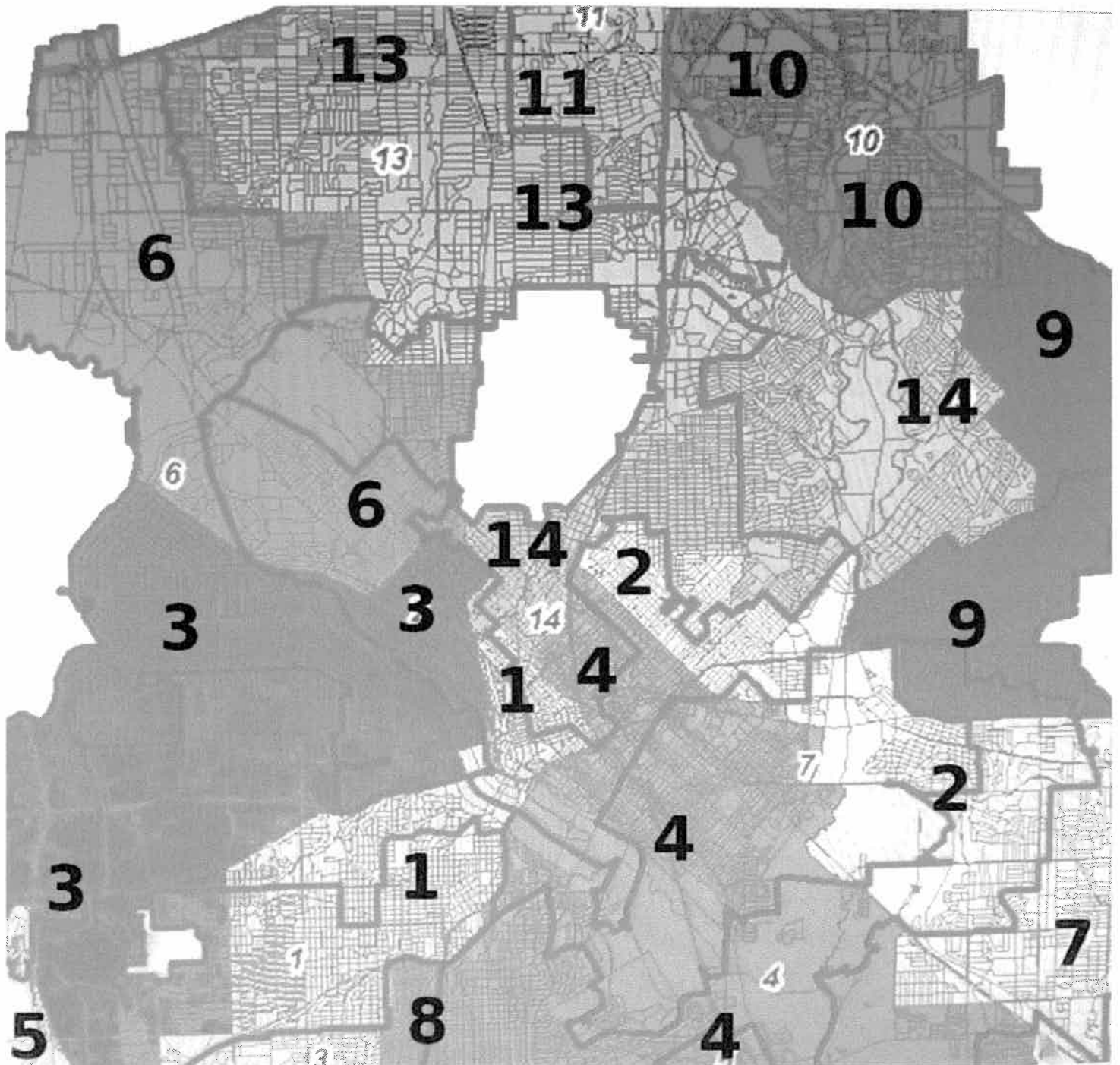
District 12 Demographic Profile

	Proposed	Existing
Total Population	88,633	94,604
Deviation (#)	3,075	9,046
Deviation (%)	3.59%	10.57%
Hispanic (%)	16.97%	16.64%
Black (%)	9.18%	16.31%
White (%)	67.69%	56.87%
Hispanic VAP (%)	14.86%	14.69%
Black VAP (%)	8.64%	15.60%
White VAP (%)	70.33%	59.43%

This data is believed to be correct, but its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. It is the users' responsibility to confirm the accuracy of this data. Please contact the original creators of this data for questions pertaining to its use.

Projected coordinate system name: NAD_1983_StatePlane_Texas_North_Central_FIPS_4202_Feet
 Geographic coordinate system name: GCS_North_American_1983

**Redistricting Commission
Documents Received from
Bill Betzen
August 2, 2011**



Wplan03 presented 7/12/11, but with 14 amendments 8-2-11

Wplan03 has the highest minority representations of any plan to date that also simultaneously has one of the most positive scores in compactness.

The average Hispanic voting age percentage in the 5 highest districts is **62.39%** while the average Black voting age percentage in the 3 highest districts is **62.69%**. The average of the four compactness index scores was **1.35** for wPlan03. This is the highest average index score for any full plan presented to the Commission that also has 8 minority districts. Second place was 1.24. The wPlan03 perimeter of **31.62 miles** was also the lowest perimeter measurement for any district with 8 minority districts. The plan with the second lowest perimeter (not done by Betzen) was wPlan55a, as amended by the Commission, with a perimeter of 36.26 miles.

Plan name	Plan creator (or Commission if an update)	Date of presentation to Commission, or update:	Range of Deviation away from population goal	Avg of Hispanic VAP % among 5 highest	Lowest Hispanic VAP % of these 5 Districts	Avg of Black VAP % among 3 highest	Lowest Black VAP % of these 3 Districts	Avg indexed score* of 4 compactness scores:	Average district perimeter in miles	Miles of district boundary line erased:
wPlan01	Randall Bryant	07/26/11	8.74%	58.72%	39.48%	59.27%	50.49%	1.3	33.19	144.62
wPlan55a	Commission	07/26/11	5.38%	62.54%	60.08%	60.38%	53.29%	1.24	36.26	101.64
wPlan04	Kyle Talkington	07/28/11	1.77%	60.49%	50.86%	58.50%	53.21%	1.14	37.52	84
pPlan05	Sandra Crenshaw	07/28/11	9.91%	60.46%	40.32%	59.62%	49.16%	1.4	30.88	176.96
pPlan14	Sandra Crenshaw	07/28/11	9.84%	60.69%	40.32%	60.63%	55.69%	1.42	30.65	180.18
wPlan22	Alexander Enriquez	07/28/11	0.03%	57.75%	46.61%	57.96%	38.52%	1.57	29.14	201.32
cPlan05	Commissioner Brashear	08/02/11	9.33%	56.05%	44.18%	51.55%	50.05%	1.31	33.38	141.96
cPlan04	Commissioner Ratcliff	08/04/11	9.28%	57.44%	47.71%	57.29%	50.02%	1.23	35.71	109.34
cPlan16	Commissioners Garcia, Ratcliff & Love	08/04/11	7.90%	61.05%	50.25%	58.04%	48.21%	1.18	35.87	107.1

The following wplan03 can be amended from the original above dated 7/12/11 to achieve the following:

wPlan04	Needs 9 amendments	9.42%	62.44%	57.63%	62.70%	55.45%	1.35?	31.62?	166.6?
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* "Average indexed score" averages the four measurements for compactness selected by Dallas city staff which were indexed for their level of improvement from current 2001 district boundaries. This measures progress toward more compact districts. The higher the number is above 1, the better. If below 1, that shows worse gerrymandering and a lack of progress toward a compact district.

Comparison statistics of plans listed on Dallas City Council Redistricting Plan Submissions web page as of 7/28/11 (Partial plans are not included.)

Plans:

Demographics:

Compactness:

VAP = Voting Age Population

Plan name	Plan creator (or Commission if an update)	Date of presentation to Commission, or update:	Range of Deviation away from population goal		Hispanic VAP % among 5 highest		Lowest Hispanic VAP % of these 5 Districts		Avg of Black VAP % among 3 highest		Lowest Black VAP % of these 3 Districts		Avg indexed score* of 4 compactness scores:	Average district perimeter in miles		Miles of district boundary line erased:
			Lower	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher	Lower	Higher					
cPlan10	Commissioner Halstead	06/21/11	6.07%	56.52%	49.01%	55.23%	51.34%	1.29	32.98	147.56						
cPlan10a	Commission	06/30/11	3.02%	57.18%	49.60%	55.69%	50.16%	1.27	33.65	138.13						
wPlan24	Bill Betzen	06/21/11	2.82%	61.74%	55.42%	59.77%	54.17%	1.3	32.96	147.84						
wPlan24a	Commission	06/30/11	3.94%	61.62%	55.43%	59.93%	54.21%	1.28	33.13	145.46						
wPlan24b	Commission	06/30/11	5.58%	61.72%	55.43%	59.93%	54.21%	1.29	33.1	145.88						
wPlan03	Bill Betzen	07/12/11	2.77%	61.84%	57.83%	60.25%	55.84%	1.35	31.62	166.6						
wPlan12	Benjamin Lopez	07/12/11	1.91%	57.87%	46.06%	56.14%	38.47%	1.3	33.02	147						
wPlan16	Sam Merten	07/12/11	0.15%	60.18%	41.80%	59.58%	52.49%	1.39	31.51	168.14						
wPlan45	Shirley Stark	07/12/11	0.79%	59.67%	52.56%	54.08%	32.28%	1.33	33.34	142.52						

Due to the fact that one "packed" district combined with other below 50% minority districts can still produce a high average percentage, the number of majority Hispanic or Black districts in a plan is given after the percentage below. Note: wPlan43 had 4 majority Black districts.

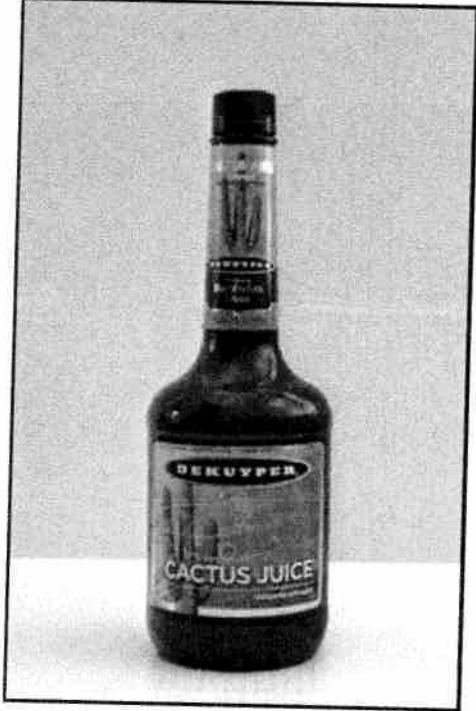
wPlan02	Helene McKinney	07/14/11	11.81%	59.31%/3	42.05%	61.62%/2	46.82%	1.27	33.99	133.42
wPlan43	Kieth McPhail	07/14/11	6.37%	57.73%/4	40.32%	51.64%/4	50.85%	1.17	37.12	89.6
wPlan55	Kieth McPhail	07/14/11	5.38%	62.56%/5	60.16%	60.38%/3	53.29%	1.23	36.64	96.32

**Redistricting Commission
Media Packet
July 22, 2011 to July 28, 2011**

Redistricting Commission Chair Ruth Morgan Says, Look, She Has It All Under Control

By Anna Merlan

published: Thu., Jul. 28 2011 @ 3:08PM



You may want to bring a bottle of this tonight.

It must be Christmas in July or Unfair Park's birthday or something, because there are *two* Redistricting Commission meetings this week. The second one is tonight, and the main event will probably be Sandra Crenshaw's presentation of her two proposed maps. We suspect she may follow that up by expanding upon the promises she made Tuesday night to lodge formal complaints with both the Department of Justice and the city's Ethics Commission over Dwaine Caraway's being allowed to submit a map through his appointed commissioner.

In advance of that particular bit of legislative excitement, this morning we called Redistricting Commission chair Ruth Morgan -- author of *Governance by Decree: The Impact of the Voting Rights Act in Dallas* -- to see how she thinks the process is going so far. Things got a little shouty between members of the public and the commissioners on Tuesday night. So is this what she envisioned when the commission asked ordinary citizens to get involved in the redistricting process?

"This is not unexpected. It happens in these things," Morgan tells Unfair Park. "There's a lot at stake and a lot of passionate feelings about what is right." She adds, with a dry little laugh, "One might wish that the commissioners would be a little less passionate in their questioning, because at times I think it could be misinterpreted as an attack. When I talked to the commissioners later, though, that was not their intention."

Morgan reminds us that the commission has been meeting for almost six months without compensation. "They are very conscientious," she said. "When something goes on from February the 8th to the hot summer days of August, it's quite demanding on their time and energies and work. I think they should be credited with what they've been doing. They've been exceedingly responsive to the public and exceedingly responsive to trying to fulfill the guidelines as they were adopted at the beginning."

So far, there have been 22 maps presented in total, about 14 of them from the public. Was Morgan expecting more proposals? "Drawing a citywide map is very complicated and time-consuming," she said. "Trying to keep in the guidelines that have been developed, it's a complicated process."

One member of the public at Tuesday's meeting described redistricting as being "like trying to nail jello to a tree," which is about the best summation of the process we've heard so far. Tonight's meeting is at 6 p.m. in Room 6ES at City Hall. It'll also be streamed over [the city's website](#), for those not holding *Project Runway* premiere watch parties. Come for the shouting, stay because it's going to affect all of our lives for the next decade.

Showing 0 comments

So far, there have been 22 maps presented in total, about 14 of them from the public. Was Morgan expecting more proposals? "Drawing a citywide map is very complicated and time-consuming," she said. "Trying to keep in the guidelines that have been developed, it's a complicated process."

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Real-time updating is **enabled**. (Pause)

Tomas 15 hours ago

Ms. Crenshaw's map pulls the Kessler neighborhoods out of North Oak Cliff and aligns them with downtown and Greenville. Isn't there some baseline requirement of common sense and logic? Who are these kooks?

Like Reply

Robert Wilonsky 15 hours ago in reply to Tomas

In Sandra's case, a former Dallas City Council member.

Like Reply

cp 15 hours ago in reply to Tomas

Yes, there is a baseline requirement of common sense and logic- per the US DOJ, districts must be compact and must have the same population within a 10% or less deviation.

Like Reply

Nunya 10 hours ago in reply to Tomas



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I actually like it. She basically put all of the entertainment districts into one. Any plan that doesn't put the Cedar's in with the rest of south dallas is a good map to me.

Like Reply



bbetzen 9 hours ago

Dr. Morgan is absolutely correct. The Dallas Redistricting meetings are going very well. The conflicts we are seeing are what happens when you make this process transparent, when you make it public. As the public begins to slowly understand the true power of redistricting, and how that power has been manipulated by politicians to select their own voters and create "impossible to lose" seats of power, the anger will spread.

Gerrymandering made possible in the "normal" redistricting process behind closed doors has created the impasse we now have in Washington. Too many politicians in Washington know there is no danger they will ever be voted out no matter how much they do not do in D.C. or how bad their decisions. They have either been able to gerrymander their own districts, selecting their voters, or, if they are not from "the party" in power, they have allowed the "other party" to use their district as the dumping ground as the other party "packs" their district as part of the gerrymandering strategy. Thus the large majority of current politicians are "safe," no matter the party. They are NOT motivated to keep the voters back at home happy.

Do you really want redistricting to go back behind closed doors? It must be done in the open so that the public sees what is happening and understands better and better the manipulation that is possible in redistricting. Dr. Morgan is happy to see that happening and the truth being more visible. It is working as long as people are honestly stating what they believe is the truth. All the Dallas Redistricting Commission meetings are recorded and the videotapes are posted at <http://www.dallascityhall.com/>... usually within a few days of the meeting.

Yes, it is messy. That is democracy! Let's celebrate it! Then lets try to find some logical pattern about the data that is being collected on each of the 21 different full Dallas City Council redistricting plans that have been submitted so far. See the comparison chart made for all 21 of these full plans tracking 8 objective measurements for each plan. See <http://dallasredistricting2011...>

What do you think of the comparisons? What numbers are missing? What numbers have no meaning? Remember the 8 partial plans submitted so far are not included in this listing as they usually either had fatal errors or only covered a small section of Dallas.

Like Reply



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Dallas City Council Redistricting Updates 7/26/11

Last night's meeting had some tense moments, but the following demographics, produced by the map below the chart, appeared to have been generally well received. (Click on chart to enlarge.)

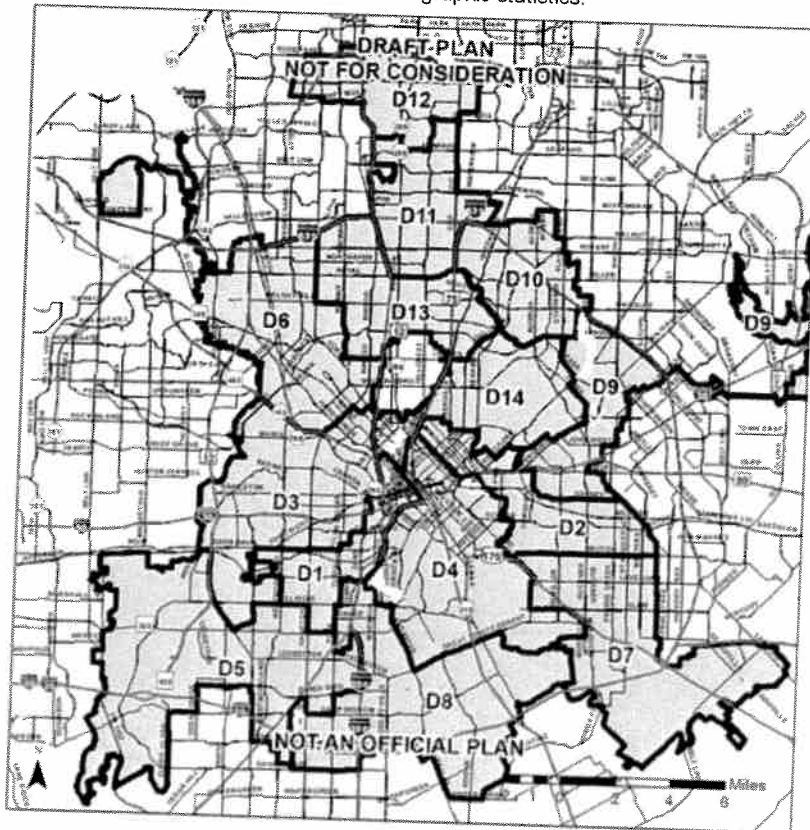
District	Total Population	Total Pop. Deviation	% Pop. Deviation	% Hispanic	% Black	% White	Young Age Pop (YAP)	YAP % Hispanic	YAP % Black	YAP % White
1	88180	-498	-0.56%	69.75%	10.31%	18.98%	82818	61.97%	12.97%	25.02%
2	88108	-452	-0.51%	63.34%	16.08%	18.58%	82274	57.85%	18.82%	23.33%
3	84172	-1003	-1.20%	69.75%	16.34%	11.72%	77420	65.18%	16.11%	18.62%
4	81302	-438	-0.54%	22.62%	64.71%	10.67%	80958	18.90%	65.35%	15.62%
5	82028	-2106	-2.58%	23.08%	54.30%	12.28%	80224	16.16%	55.45%	13.02%
6	87725	2212	2.52%	68.49%	7.26%	21.02%	83007	62.39%	7.86%	26.44%
7	88720	1181	1.33%	67.34%	19.11%	12.74%	82270	61.96%	20.54%	18.52%
8	82221	-1057	-1.29%	21.88%	63.49%	14.62%	77927	20.88%	67.29%	11.84%
9	88883	3243	3.65%	46.88%	29.27%	23.74%	82027	42.88%	32.32%	20.74%
10	89804	5144	5.73%	24.22%	31.89%	37.22%	82227	26.88%	38.64%	31.61%
11	85322	336	0.39%	33.26%	12.41%	48.22%	79919	13.74%	13.82%	23.28%
12	85156	349	0.41%	17.46%	17.46%	64.68%	77710	13.74%	13.82%	23.28%
13	85156	349	0.41%	17.46%	17.46%	64.68%	77710	13.74%	13.82%	23.28%
14	84172	-1003	-1.20%	28.81%	8.88%	62.31%	77420	19.88%	17.22%	17.52%
Average	88,108	Total Population = 7.9%		42.91%	26.50%	29.59%	82,500	59.88%	18.61%	21.51%

Average for Hispanic Voting Age Population % in 5 highest districts = 61.87%
 Average for Black Voting Age Population % in 3 highest districts = 62.70%

These improvements from the version of wPlan03 presented to the Redistricting Commission on 7/14/11 will require 6 improvements to be approved on wPlan03 that is now before the commission. All improvements must be approved by the commission. While the Hispanic voting age percentage improved only a little from the 61.83% achieved with the 7/14/11 version of wPlan03, the Black voting age percentage improved from 60.25% to 62.70%, a very significant improvement. If you like this plan, please let the Commission. Their email address is below or you may attend a Commission meeting and testify. Their web site is below also. Your questions or comments are welcome. Bill Betzen - bbetzen@tcc.com

Email for Redistricting Commission: bbetzen@tcc.com
 Web address for Redistricting Commission: <http://www.dallascityhall.com/Redistricting/index.htm>

There are 6 places in the map below where you will find that lines have been erased with white-out and new lines have been inserted. (Click on the map to see this more clearly.) These are the 6 areas where modifications are needed to wPlan03 to achieve the above demographic statistics.



2011 Dallas Redistricting

File: July 6, 2011 04:13:00 PM
 Prepared by: Bill Betzen
 Plan for wPlan03
 For distribution purposes only
Updated 7/26/11
 Data Source:

Source - City of Dallas, GIS Division
 Council Districts - Bill Betzen

LEGEND

Highways ~ Major Roads

wPlan3 Council Districts

Council Districts

This map reflects a redistricting of 6 areas that were modified on the original 6/30/11 version of wPlan03. These changes are reflected in the demographic improvements on the back of this map.

wPlan3
 IN PROGRESS
NOT FOR CONSIDERATION

To see the 6/30/11 version of wPlan03 go to www.dallascityhall.com/Redistricting/planreview.html if you have questions please call Bill Betzen at 314-953-9239

This data is believed to be correct, but its accuracy cannot be guaranteed. It is the user's responsibility to confirm the accuracy of this data. Please contact the original creators of this data for questions pertaining to its use.

Printed coordinate system code: NAD 83, StatePlane, Texas North Central FIPS 4302, Feet
 Geographic coordinate system name: GCS_North_American_1983

Please note that the above map had changes made in 6 locations to produce the significantly improved percentages, up 7 percentage points, for Black voting age

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Comparison of Redistricting Plans being considered...

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► June (10)

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ABOUT ME



Bill Betzen

Middle school teacher with dropout prevention hobby. resume at

<http://www.openadoption.org/bbetzen/resume.htm>, only other Bill Betzen online is his grandfather (1890-1969)

[View my complete profile](#)

population in District 4 when compared with the version of wPlan03 presented to the Commission. This was achieved by following the requests of residents of Uptown Dallas to reunify their area of Dallas. The northern boundary of District 4 was moved south from Turtle Creek to Thomas Avenue with the result that almost 8,000 in mostly Anglo population was moved from District 4 into District 14. This necessitated 5 of the 6 corrections that were made to the original wPlan03. That original wPlan03 is in the **data base of maps being considered by the Redistricting Commission.**

This change, plus one other minor change to District 8, moved the average Black voting age population (VAP) percentage for the three majority Black districts from 60.25% to 62.70%.

Additional changes were done this morning to the western edge of District 13 in response to concerns by the District 13 Commissioner. By moving the western boundary of District 13 from Marsh to Webb Chapel the Hispanic VAP has now risen a total of 3.66 percentage points in District 6 to 66.05%. This led to a rise of half a percentage point, to 62.43%, as the average for the percentages of Hispanic VAP in the 5 majority Hispanic districts in the modified wPlan03.

No other map being considered by the Dallas City Council Redistricting Commission is even close to the level of minority representation possible with these modifications to wPlan03: **62.70% Black VAP average in 3 districts** and **62.43% Hispanic VAP average in 5 districts.** Wplan03 also continues to be **the most compact map** being considered of all the maps that also have 8 minority districts.

Eight minority districts should be the **minimum** number of minority districts in any Dallas City Council map considered, and they should be strong districts, with VAP averages above 60%, unless someone manipulates the maps to make them weak.

Posted by Bill Betzen at 9:43 AM

0

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Dallas Redistricting 2011

This Whole Commission's Out of Order: City of Dallas's Redistricting Fun *Really* Begins

By Anna Merlan

published: Wed., Jul. 27 2011 @ 11:00AM



Wonder if Ruth Morgan's having fun right about now

OK, no one has actually studied the effects of redistricting on the human body, but after last night it seems safe to say that the longer a redistricting process goes on, the grouchier everybody gets. At the county level, we have Maurine Dickey's temper tantrum as evidence. And last night's meeting of the city's Redistricting Commission featured some yelling from the audience, some yelling from the commissioners and a few stern words from Ruth Morgan, the chair whose no-backroom-shenanigans and keep-it-civil policies are well documented.

But, first, a guest star: Mayor Mike Rawlings showed up for a redistricting meeting for the first time last night, sitting quietly at the staff table and munching on a boxed lunch. When Morgan asked if he'd like to say anything, he replied, "No, I'm just learning and listening. ... Thank you to all of you for your time."

But Mayor Mike disappeared pretty soon after it became clear that what was to be the main event of the evening, the presentation of Dwaine Caraway's not exactly street-legal map by commissioner Billy Ratcliff, was not going to happen after all. Ratcliff announced that he wouldn't be presenting the plan, as it is still "in evolution." "It has evolved from this to the plan that I'll be presenting on August 4th."

This was not thrilling news for former city council person Sandra Crenshaw. "We signed up to speak on this plan as scheduled," she said, referring to herself and Marvin Crenshaw. Morgan allowed them both time to air their grievances about Caraway's proposed map, at which point, Crenshaw said she believes it is "a violation of the code of ethics for [Ratcliff] to be advancing a map by a council member."

"This will be articulated at every public forum," she promised, and "through other means," including, she said, complaints to the Department of Justice and the city's own Ethics Commission.

The next bout of uncomfortableness came minutes later, when 24-year-old college student Randall Bryant presented his redistricting map. Donna Halstead, a commissioner fresh from her own proposed map being tabled amidst accusations from other commissioners of deliberate minority disenfranchisement, told Bryant, who is African-American, that his map was, in fact, kinda racist. Specifically, she criticized him for drawing District 10 in such a way that, according to her, "an Anglo would definitely be re-elected." But she also told him, "To look at this only in terms of the color of skin of the individuals is to be very shortsighted."

During the public comment period, former Unfair Park-er Sam Merten got up to talk about some changes he's made to his own proposal. ("Why is he speaking if he lives in Frisco?" a lady whispered agitatedly behind me. "I think he works in town," whispered her companion.) Specifically, he's moved Buckner Terrace into District 2, put all of Vickery Meadow in District 13, and all of Oak Lawn into District 14.

"The Village should be in District 13," said a slightly testy commissioner Elizabeth Jones. "People keep trying to chew my western boundary of my district." She added that Merten's map "makes a lot of radical changes that need not be made." Domingo Garcia also asked Merten, again, why his proposal significantly alters District 2, Pauline Medrano's district.

"I didn't make this map to protect incumbents," Merten said, very, very politely. He was equally calm with commissioner John Loza, who thanked him for coming and then said, "Now I'm gonna come after you." Loza demanded to know what the Hispanic neighborhoods along Maple -- "One of which I live in" -- have in common with Turtle Creek and Uptown. Merten replied that several districts are quite diverse, pointing to District 14 as an example.

"It doesn't sound like you have an answer for me, so I'm gonna just move on," Loza said.

"I've tried to answer your questions," Merten replied.

The low point of the meeting came during Bill Betzen's presentation: He's narrowed down his three maps to just one, and told the commission, "I really do enjoy working on these maps. ...I'm getting better all the time."

But Jones became visibly annoyed with him, telling him, "You have altered the north considerably," adding that he'd made a lot of changes to District 13. "I've told you again and again," she said, at a volume that could fairly be described as shouting, "take the Village out and put it back where it belongs!"

From the audience, Crenshaw shouted back, "The public doesn't take directives from the commission! The commission takes directives from the public."

"You're out of order," Morgan told her.

"You never call your commissioners out of order," Crenshaw replied. Morgan told her that she'd be asked to leave if she didn't abide by the rules of conduct. "*That's* in order," Crenshaw replied, and was quiet for the remainder of the meeting.

Jones turned back to Betzen and said, in a normal tone of voice, that she hoped he would "allow [himself] to embrace" the changes she's recommended.

Just a suggestion, but maybe the commission and the regulars in the audience might want to embrace some deep breathing exercises instead? A stress ball, perhaps? Because this thing ain't over yet by a long shot.

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Real-time updating is **enabled**. (Pause)

 **MattL1** 20 hours ago


Wow, these meetings actually sound fairly entertaining. Maybe they should sell tickets to the next one.


1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **cp** 20 hours ago

WTF? Why the hell should the Village be in district 13??? What does an apartment complex east of Central have in common with Preston Hollow?


And, WAY TO GO Sandra!!!

 Elizabeth Bair and 2 more liked this [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **Alan** 20 hours ago in reply to cp

The Village is a big chunk of population density made up of renters, who don't vote. That leaves a whole council district fully controlled by Preston Hollow homeowners of vast--but low density--estates.

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **KP** 19 hours ago in reply to Alan


Some Villagers vote, including me. We have more in common with areas south of us than northwest of us. Heck, I don't even go north of Northwest Highway most days of the week.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **cp** 18 hours ago in reply to Alan

What does that have to do with the price of tea in China? Or redistricting for that matter?

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **Bill Betzen** 20 hours ago

In spite of the fireworks, last night was a rather productive meeting. I've just posted to my blog, <http://dallasredistricting2011...> the handout I copied and gave to all the Commissioners as I spoke that led to the interaction described above. This map certainly needs more work and as you can see by my post, I have already responded to some of the District 13 Commissioners concerns regarding the western edge of District 13. I presume that will be acceptable.

However, the Villiage (between NW Hwy, Lovers Lane, Skillman and Central) has 10,205 people! Weeks ago it was demanded that it be put together. Now it must be out of District 13. What happened to the idea

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on inclusiveness and diversity in our great city?

After more than an hour of focusing on this issue only the alternative has been to break it up again and only be able to move some of it into District 14. It simply will not fit without terribly distorting population numbers in other districts. I welcome others to tackle it.

2 people liked this. Like Reply



cp 18 hours ago in reply to Bill Betzen

Why does D13 need 10k people from east of Central when there are plenty of dense population areas southwest of Preston Hollow in current D6?

Like Reply



Bill Betzen 14 hours ago in reply to cp

Look at the map at <http://dallasredistricting2011...> and remember that compactness is a goal for the redistricting process. The first step is to find each of the 14 population centers in Dallas that represent 85,558 people. There are only 14 spots on the map for the 2010 census. It is a mathematical/geographic calculation. Then you center each council district around that spot as closely as possible while also meeting Voting Rights Act criteria. This moves District 13 to take in the Village.

Like Reply



Sd214 19 hours ago

Yall realize that Randall Bryant is Kathy Nealy's grandson and works for her right? So where did that plan come from again?

Mountain Creek and 3 more liked this Like Reply



Bill Betzen 18 hours ago in reply to Sd214

It was rather obvious that Randall Bryant had designed the map he presented. It was a good job that showed hours of work. It was at least as good as most of the maps presented, if not better. He was a rather impressive young man who will go places in Dallas if he continues the work ethic and discipline he showed last night.

2 people liked this. Like Reply



PlanoDave 16 hours ago in reply to Bill Betzen

Especially if he continues to demonstrate that he has the ability to ensure that certain white politicians get re-elected....

Like Reply



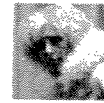
Lacpac2011 12 hours ago in reply to Sd214

Alright folks, peoples children are off limits. Mr. Bryant is married with two children and has his own business. He and his grandmother's family are long time residents of Dallas, specifically Hamilton Park to West Dallas to his home in Redbird. He mentioned at the hearing that I grilled him pretty good in private to see if the map was his creation. At least 6 commissioners equally put him to the test and he defended himself better than anything we have sitting on that council that looks like him. I still have a splitting headache trying to hold my temper as Mrs. Jones interrogated the young man like some criminal prosecutor, demanding to know "how do you make your living" and if he was a political consultant. "Isn't it true that you get paid to work in campaigns" she yelled at him. I had promised to exercise all venues to hold reign on this renegade commission process and I was about to throw my shoe at her when I am sure the disapproval from the blacks in the audience got louder. Blacks fought to get representation and not one of the black male commissioners Ratcliff the vice chair, called Jones out of order, especially when they are unlike most boards and commissions are not required to file financial disclosures. That's right. Since Jones is so nasty to everybody, I asked the city secretary what does she do for a living whose agenda is she carrying? No public records and yet she wanted Mr. Randall to disclose his business affiliation. Seriously, I want to know how many government contracts tied to city government do Brashear and Ratcliff have and how many are tied to Willis Johnson, the former go to person for minority business opportunity, now subject of FBI investigation. Halstead was condensing and told him that the ethnic minorities get charitable

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NAACP Joins Call To End War On Drugs

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services in District 10 and he should come to Lake Highlands sometime. Wow, didn't she hear he has ties to Hamilton Park. The sole black commissioner response came from Mary Hasan to Halstead. I hope that the good white folks in District 10 don't stop giving if the neighborhood goes black. (not Quite like this, but the message was clear. Morgan lends no leadership to this commission (See my submission to the DOJ. This process goes back to the days when blacks had to count the number of bubbles in a bar of soap to vote. Ratcliff had it right this whole process has been evolving and we want to know why?

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **Mike** 18 hours ago


Why did the Mayor eat a box lunch? Did everybody get one? Are they really that busy that they have to work through lunch and we pay for it? Or is that a mayoral perk - free lunch?

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)


 **alfredo** 18 hours ago


The final plan will be drawn by Federal District Court highly unlikely that any plan will be approved without a law suit

2 people liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **Bill Betzen** 14 hours ago [in reply to alfredo](#)


While that was easy to see as happening for the Texas State redistricting plans approved, I think there is an excellent chance that we will avoid such a resolution for the Dallas City Council. I challenge you to find any redistricting process anywhere in the nation that is more transparent, more actively accepting input, or providing more resources to the public to use in the design the redistricting maps they want to submit. Dallas is far out in front in doing redistricting right. Will there be problems? Certainly! Could a map be chosen by the Dallas City Council against which a lawsuit is filed? Absolutely! But the chances of a successful lawsuit are going down as the quality of the maps the Commissioners have to choose from improves. Public input is critical! Study the maps and go down to the Commission meetings and let them know your opinions. The next meeting starts in 24 hours, at 6 PM tomorrow in room 6SE of Dallas City Hall. If you want to speak call 214-670-5735 tomorrow, 7-28-11, to have your name placed on the list of speakers. If you cannot call before 5 PM, then be at room 6SE before 5:55 PM to sign up to speak. Or, if you just want free airconditioned entertainment for a few hours, come on down!

 **El Rey** liked this [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 **BCulbreath** 14 hours ago

What is wrong with these Commissioners , they forget we have term limitations in Dallas City Offices.How can you give a District a current Council Members name? How does Ms. Jones think she has authority to tell a citizen how to draw their map. Are all people taking on that Tea Party mentality, angry and mad if people disagree with them? My goodness what is happening to all people. God help us,Please people get a life love somebody.

2 people liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)

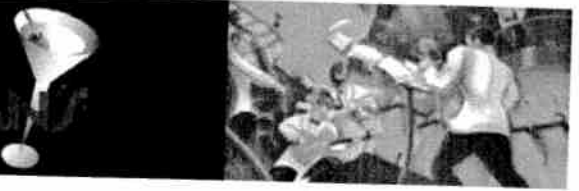
 **bbetzen** 11 hours ago

At tomorrow's Dallas City Council Redistricting meeting I will have copies for anyone interested of a comparison of the 22 full plans listed on the Dallas Redistricting web site and either already presented or scheduled for presentation. The information on each plan that I use in making the comparison is linked from the web page at: <http://www.dallascityhall.com/> . This updated comparison will continue the pattern of providing 8 measurements with which to compare the plans. The 7/14/11 version of this list, comparing the first 12 plans submitted, can be found online at <http://dallasredistricting2011...> . Please let me know if you find any of the measurements confusing. I will also post the updated list to my blog at <http://dallasredistricting2011...> as soon as it is completed tomorrow.

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Domingo, As a Member of the Redistricting Commission, You Should Really Know Better

By Robert Wilonsky

published: Tue., Jul. 26 2011 @ 2:21PM

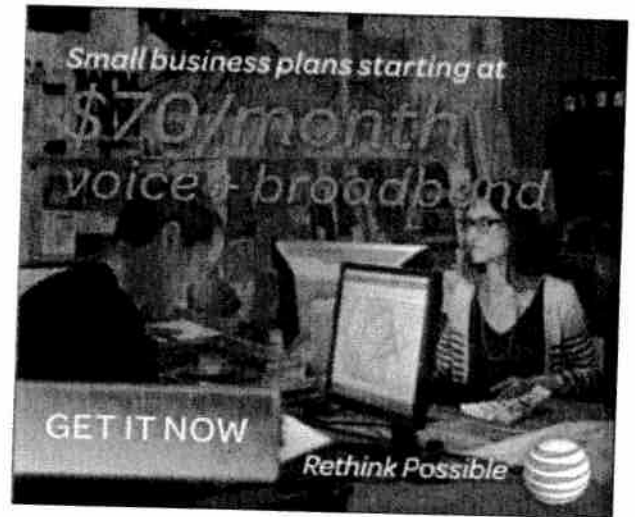


Click to embiggen Domingo Garcia's submitted map.

Like I said Friday, when we looked at Dwaine Caraway and Carolyn Davis's messed-up maps, Anna's heading to that Redistricting Commission meeting this evening at City Hall -- *sooooo* lucky. (Tell Sandra Crenshaw that Schutze sends his warmest regards.) In advance of that wingding, I went to the commission's site this afternoon to see if anyone submitted a map since last we looked -- and sure enough, moments ago some commission members' maps went live, complete with staff analysis. Which brings us to Domingo Garcia's submission -- one of two, actually, the other a Domingo-Brooks Love-Billy Ratcliff joint with which staff has some minor quibbles.

But Garcia's solo project ain't gonna fly: Like Caraway's, Garcia's submission -- which has five Hispanic-majority districts and two African-American-majority districts -- doesn't meet a single one of the three major criteria. As in: His districts aren't compact or contiguous and actually manages to leave pieces of the city out of one of the 14 districts -- amazing. And when it comes to issues of minority representation, says the staff analysis: "While this plan includes 7 minority districts and 2 minority coalition districts, many of the districts exceed the population deviation for population equality. Because all areas of the city were not assigned to a district, additional evaluation of the plan cannot be completed."

Still, at least his submission is better than fellow commissioner Elizabeth Jones's. She could only be bothered to redraw four districts' boundaries: 10 through 14. It doesn't work like that. Not like she should know. Oh, wait. Add Donna Halstead's nixed proposal to the scrap heap, and the commission's batting a bit 0-fer at the moment.



Sam Merten July 13, 2011

More Fun With Redistricting As We Look at Caraway and Davis's Unusable Submissions July 22, 2011

City Council OK's Mixed Use Plans for Gold Metal Recyclers, Okon Metals on South Lamar June 22, 2011

Mayor Assembles Council Brain Trust, Or Something, to Review Ethics Rollback May 10, 2011

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Domingo Garcia

Dwaine Caraway

Carolyn Davis

Redistricting Commission

Sandra Crenshaw

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Real-time updating is **enabled**. (Pause)


 Phelps 17 hours ago


Domingo writes his own criteria. They never manage to coincide with, you know, the law.

7 people liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)


 Tomas 17 hours ago


Domingo's gerrymandering of the North Oak Cliff neighborhoods, splitting up the Kesslers and Winnetka heights, is disgusting. I am a Mexican American resident of Oak Cliff and this is embarrassing. I hope this plan goes straight to the garbage can.

 rubbercow and 6 more liked this [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 MattL1 16 hours ago


How does someone on the damn Redistricting Commission submit a redistricting proposal that is so bad that it doesn't even include the whole city? How does one even get that gig?

 Jay Hawk and 10 more liked this [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 sandra crenshaw 15 hours ago


Tell Jim Hello, I can't take my eye off the city redistricting to ensure that UNT and Inland Port are not put in the hands of well you know who or anyone one else who has interfered with bringing jobs to my neighborhood or who blatantly attempts to silence Pct Chair and Election Judge of my precinct #3549 that includes UNT..

2 people liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 cp 15 hours ago

Why should Domingo know any better? He's responsible for bringing us our current mess in the first place!

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)

 sandra crenshaw 15 hours ago



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When negotiations failed with the City Attorney and the Commission under the threat of judicial action, to restrain councilmembers from directing staff and the commissions at this stage I pledged to exercise every public forum to ensure independent, impartial, transparent process without incumbement protection, cherrying and cutting out opponents that you see going on now with Dirty Dwayne, Dictator Donna and Gangasta Garcia being all over the map. To this end I am asking the ethics advisory committee to investigate Commissioners Donna, Halstead, Billy Ratcliff, and Hollis Brasher where there is evidence of violations of their code ethics and responsibility to the citizens and not the citizens council and council members. Please join me Thursday at city hall to let the commission know that we have drawn the line to stop corrupt gerrymandering to advance ward politics

Mister_Mean and 3 more liked this [Like](#) [Reply](#)



jfpo 15 hours ago in reply to [sandra crenshaw](#)

I love a post that I have to read three times before I understand it due to run-on sentences and made up words ("cherrying" ???). Betty Culbreath would be proud. Well played.

Diane Birdwell and 2 more liked this [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Mike 13 hours ago

How does this software work? It must be incredibly easy to use, but probably hard to do it right. None of these people impress me as an individual that spends much time hunched over a keyboard. That Garcia map looks like a lot of work even it was really off the mark.

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Fatty Arbuckle's Tub Stopper 11 hours ago

This looks like the homework I did in the parking lot right before class.

2 people liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



The Derelict 10 hours ago

carolyn davis can't even draw a map back to her house from city hall.

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



Diane Birdwell 10 hours ago

Well, they are getting closer. They are listening to us in the East who want to get the hell away from South Dallas in voting. No offense, S.D., but our issues, our concerns, our neighborhoods are not similar. We in the far east pay taxes and have been completely ignored, divided in two, whatever, to dilute our voice. So, at least in the proposed D 7, you have part of East Dallas together, although we are still stuck to Fair Park, but that almost makes sense ...

1 person liked this. [Like](#) [Reply](#)



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First Dallas ISD Redistricting Meetings started 7/25/11

This evening the first Dallas ISD redistricting meetings happened. I attended the one at Bryan Adams High School. There were 14 people in attendance. I heard afterward that nobody showed up at the other meeting on the other side of Dallas at Medrano Middle School. Testimony this evening by a very articulate recent college graduate, from the New Tejas Project, about the need for both printed and online redistricting materials in Spanish as well as English may help explain the lack of attendance at Medrano Middle School. It is located in a Dallas City Council District that is almost 70% Hispanic.

These meetings are managed by staff from Bickerstaff, Heath, Delgado and Acosta LLP who are on contract with DISD to manage the redistricting process. A court reporter attempted to record all testimony. Most of it appeared to center around questions relating to the redistricting process and differences between the four maps, and who made them. In summary the following most critical points emerged:

1. Need for more print and online materials in both Spanish and English explaining the redistricting process, as applied within DISD, was obvious.
2. There must be public access to both online and/or computer workstation software and databases to allow redistricting maps to be drawn by the public for submission. (If a political entity like DISD does not provide such public access then only firms or individuals with the significant resources needed for such data bases and software can effectively provide usable input for map design. Demographic data from 2010 census is critical.)
3. Information on compactness of each district is very important if we are seeking to create the most efficient districts possible. No information on the compactness of the current DISD district map, or the four proposed, was available, not even district perimeter or area. It is much easier for a trustee to represent a more compact area than some of the gerrymandered districts within DISD.
4. There needs to be a public record of every meeting placed online and available. (A videotape of the meeting may also be helpful but the expense may prohibit this.)
5. The need for maps with high school attendance zones to help in redistricting process, and in generating public interest, was mentioned by several present.

This is a new process for board members as well. Two local members were present this evening, Ms. Nutall and Mr. Perrott. They were obviously working hard to facilitate the process.

As the power behind redistricting becomes better understood the redistricting process will attract increased public interest. DISD would do well to consult with the Dallas City Council redistricting staff who appear to be far ahead in the process. But how can DISD do it all for about 38% of the \$650,000 the City of Dallas has budgeted for this process? A new map of more compact trustee districts, that will both preserve and produce a dedicated board to accurately reflect Dallas, is well worth the investment.

Posted by Bill Betzen at 7:36 PM

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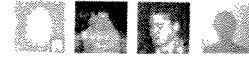
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▶ April (3)

ABOUT ME



Bill Betzen

Middle school teacher
with dropout
prevention hobby,
resume at

<http://www.openadoption.org/bbetzen/resume.htm>, only other Bill Betzen online is his grandfather (1890-1969)

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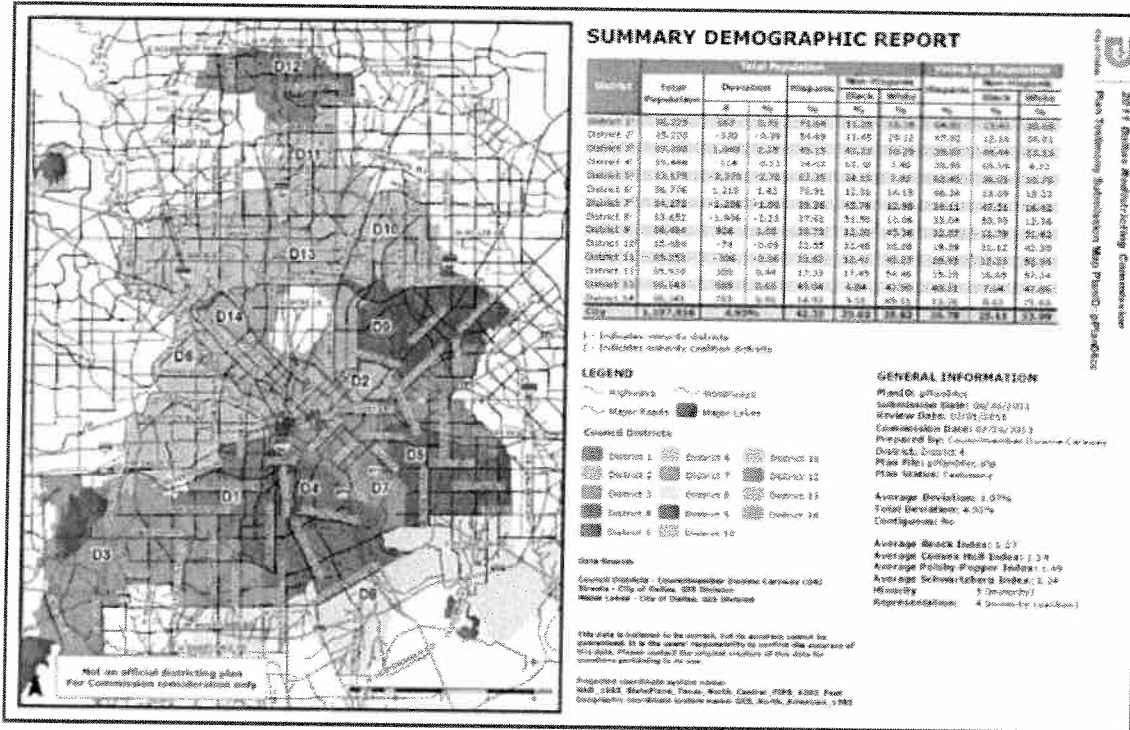
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Dallas Redistricting 2011

More Fun With Redistricting As We Look at Caraway and Davis's Unusable Submissions

By Robert Wilonsky

published: Fri., Jul. 22 2011 @ 4:05PM



Click to embiggen Dwaine Caraway's proposed map, or just look at it [here](#).

The next meeting of the Redistricting Commission is Tuesday -- I know, I know, settle down. At which point, the commission will discuss yet another round of submissions, among them one from none other than council member Dwaine Caraway. Only, don't expect the presentation -- which will be made by commissioner Billy Ratcliff, poor guy -- to go very far, since Caraway's proposed map fails on almost every level.

How so? Well, let's turn to the staff analysis, which says, right off the bat, that Caraway's hodgepodge of a proposal doesn't meet one of the main criteria, Minority Representation. Says staff, "This plan submission does not meet the minority representation test. This plan includes 5 minority districts and 4 minority coalition districts. This constitutes retrogression of minority representation from the 2001 District Plan," which has six minority districts. Also, for some reason the former mayor has managed to come up with only two districts (4 and 8) that are majority African-American -- as opposed to the three found in most submissions, including Sam's. Caraway's one other big problem: "The districts are not contiguous and as such boundaries could not be written."

So, fail. But not nearly as big a fail as Carolyn Davis receives for her presentation ... if that's what one chooses to call her "partial plan submission," which is being generous. Davis, you see, is only concerned with District 7, her district, not the entirety of the city. Which may work around the horseshoe, but not

with Kumi Morgan. And I'll leave it to you to look at Sandra Crenshaw's two submissions. Actually, Anna, that's all yers.

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 Anna Merlan 2 days ago


Oh, I'll be there on Tuesday all right. With my special redistricting party hat on.

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 Omar Jimenez 2 days ago

Ofcoooooourse!

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 cp 1 day ago

Davis is concerned with her voter "base". For some reason those Ferguson Road Initiative idiots have gotten behind her and the only reason she ever wins elections. That area north of I-30 needs to be cut out of District 7 altogether. I was at a redistricting meeting where some neighbors and I heard her scold Bill Betzen saying, "Oh your plan will never work, because it draws me out of here!" Davis's brains aren't big enough to give a shit about the whole city...

1 person liked this. Like Reply

 Cliff Dweller 1 day ago

In all fairness, Davis has a big target painted on her and everyone knows it. So she's trying to find a way to wiggle away from it. Can you blame her? Not that it's going to work, but she's gotta try.

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Diane Birdwell 1 day ago

Betzen's plan is about the most fair I have seen so far in all of this...

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