

**Redistricting Commission
Packet
June 28, 2011**

CITY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

BRIEFING OUTLINE

February 2011

PREPARED BY THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

This outline is not intended to replace the city code or state statutes. Always check the actual city code and state statutes for details and exceptions. Codes and statutes are subject to amendment.

REDISTRICTING COMMISSION BRIEFING OUTLINE

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I. Composition of the Redistricting Commission

A. Appointment.

1. The Redistricting Commission is appointed by the City Council. [Tex. Local Gov't Code §180.005; Dallas City Charter Ch. IV §5 (b) (1)]
2. The Redistricting Commission consists of 15 members, appointed to serve for such time as is necessary to complete the assigned redistricting work and submit a recommended plan to the Mayor. [Dallas City Charter Ch. IV §5(b) (3)]
3. The Mayor appoints the Chair of the commission, subject to confirmation by City Council. [Dallas City Charter Ch. IV §5(b)(1)]
4. The Vice-chair or Co-Vice-chairs are recommended by the commission, subject to appointment by the City Council. [Dallas City Code §8-9(e) (1)]
5. The Charter provision providing for the Redistricting Commission requires that as nearly as may be practicable, the members of the Redistricting Commission represent a fair and balanced representation of all geographical areas of the city in the redistricting process and reflect the racial and ethnic makeup of the city. [Dallas City Charter Ch. IV §5(b)(1)]
6. A person who serves on the Redistricting Commission may not serve on any other city board or commissions at the same time and for a period of one year after serving on the Redistricting Commission. [Dallas City Charter Ch. IV §5 (b) (2); Dallas City Code §8-1.4(b)]
7. An appointee must return a signed acceptance of appointment to the City Secretary within 15 calendar days from the date of receiving the notice of appointment. (Dallas City Code §8-1.2)
8. Required qualifications for Redistricting Commission members:
 - a. resident of city for six months;
 - b. qualified voter;
 - c. no criminal record deemed serious enough by City Council to serve as a disqualification;
 - d. not a party to pending litigation or claim against the city, or an employee or business associate of a party to pending litigation

against the city, or have a pecuniary interest in a claim against the city;

- e. not in arrears on any city taxes, fees or fines, or other obligations owed the city;
 - f. have a creditable record of attendance and performance in any previous board service;
 - g. not have been finally convicted of two or more felonies.
(Dallas City Code §8-1.4)
9. Redistricting Commission members must meet the qualifications for appointment at all times during service on the commission. [Dallas City Code §8-1.4(d)]
10. A vacancy on the commission is filled in the same manner as the original appointment. [Dallas City Code §8-20 (d)]
11. A member of the Redistricting Commission is not eligible to be a candidate for a place on the City Council in the next succeeding general election of the city, and may not be appointed or elected to the City Council or to any other official board or commission of the city for a period of one year after service on the Redistricting Commission. [Dallas City Charter, Ch. IV §5 (b) (1)]

B. Removal.

- 1. A Redistricting Commission member may be removed for cause by the City Council. A public hearing on charges publicly made must be held if demanded by the member within ten days. (Dallas City Charter XXIV §17)
- 2. A Redistricting Commission member may be removed for failure to perform duties or for malfeasance in office. (Dallas City Code §2-4)

C. Attendance.

- 1. A Redistricting Commission member will forfeit that position if the member has more than three unexcused absences in succession. (Dallas City Charter XXIV §17; Dallas City Code §8-20)
- a. Absences may be excused for medical reasons certified by a physician, or if excused by both the commission and the City Council. [Dallas City Charter XXIV §17 (a); Dallas City Code §8-20(a)]

2. A Redistricting Commission member will forfeit that position if the member misses more than 25% of the meetings in six months (for a commission that meets weekly or bi-weekly). It does not matter whether the absences were excused or unexcused. [Dallas City Code §8-20 (b)]
3. A Redistricting Commission member who leaves the meeting without permission of the Chair and does not return will be charged with an unexcused absence. (Dallas City Code §8-21) The Chair may allow a Redistricting Commission member to leave the meeting only in an emergency beyond the control of the member. (Dallas City Code §8-21)

D. Officers of the Redistricting Commission.

1. Chair. (Dallas City Code §8-9)
 - a. Presides at meetings. [Dallas City Code §8-9(a)]
 - b. Maintains order. (Dallas City Code §8-10)
 - c. Rules on points of order and procedure. [Dallas City Code §8-9(b)]
 - d. Limits debate to the question under consideration. (Dallas City Code §8-10)
 - e. States motions and announces results of votes. (Dallas City Code §8-11)
 - f. May call special meetings. (Dallas City Code §8-3)
 - h. The Chair should be referred to as “Madam Chair”. [Dallas City Code §8-9(d)]
2. Vice-chair. If the Chair is absent, a Vice-chair presides in the order of seniority in selection, if more than one. If both the Chair and Vice-chairs are absent, the commission elects a temporary chair who presides during that meeting. [Dallas City Code §8-9(a) and (c)]
3. Members.
 - a. Unless approved by the City Council, an individual member may not present the Redistricting Commission’s recommendations, resolutions, reports or findings to persons or agencies outside the city organization, except in the ordinary course of official commission meetings. [Dallas City Code §8-26(b)]

- b. Commission members must not interfere with the work of city employees. Requests should be submitted to the department director. (Dallas City Code §8-27)
- c. The Redistricting Commission may request advice from the city attorney. (Dallas City Code §2-12)
- f. Commission members must follow the legal opinion of the City Attorney regarding the Redistricting Commission's powers, duties, or responsibilities. (Dallas City Code §8-28)

E. Indemnification.

- 1. The city will indemnify Redistricting Commission members for liability for actions in the scope of their commission activities. [Dallas City Code §31A-4 (5) (B), §31A-5 (a)]
- 2. The city attorney will defend lawsuits and claims against Redistricting Commission members. (Dallas City Code §31A-6; Dallas City Code 31A-12)

II. Powers and Duties of the Redistricting Commission.

- 1. The Redistricting Commission shall promptly convene in such sessions as necessary, including public hearings, to develop, prepare, and recommend a districting plan that proposes the respective boundaries of the city council districts. [Dallas City Charter Ch. IV, §5 (b) (3)]
- 2. Upon completion of its work, the Redistricting Commission shall file its recommended districting plan with the Mayor. [Dallas City Charter Ch. IV, §5 (b) (3)]

III. Procedures of the Redistricting Commission

A. Rules of Procedure.

- 1. The Redistricting Commission may adopt rules of procedure, subject to approval by the City Council. [Dallas City Code §8-5]
- 2. If the Redistricting Commission does not adopt rules or the rules adopted are silent as to an issue, the proceedings are governed by the rules of order set forth in Robert's Rules of Order. (Dallas City Code §8-5)

B. Hearings and Quorum.

1. The Redistricting Commission may set the time and place of its meetings. (Dallas City Code §8-2)
2. Special meetings may be called at any time by the Chair, or by the Chair upon the request of one-third of the Redistricting Commission members. (Dallas City Code §8-3)
3. The agenda for each meeting of the Redistricting Commission must be posted at least three days (72 hours) before the meeting. [Tex. Gov't Code §551.043 (a); Dallas City Code §8-6 (c)]
4. The Chair may have a member of the public who becomes disruptive removed from the room. The person may be barred from future attendance. [Dallas City Code §8-25(b)]
5. Quorum.
 - b. A quorum of the Redistricting Commission is a simple majority of the members officially appointed to the Redistricting Commission (8 members), but not fewer than six if there are open positions on the commission. [Texas Gov't Code §551.001 (6); Dallas City Code §8-4]
 - c. If a quorum does not exist within 30 minutes after the posted starting time for the meeting, the meeting must be adjourned and rescheduled. (Dallas City Code §8-4)

C. Minutes.

1. The Redistricting Commission must keep minutes. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.021)
2. The minutes must show the attendance of each member. (Dallas City Code § 8-8)
3. Minutes are public records open to inspection. [Tex. Gov't Code §551.022; Dallas City Code §8-6 (a)]
4. Minutes must state the subject of each deliberation and indicate each vote, order, decision, or other action. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.021)
5. Draft minutes must be sent to the City Secretary within five days after the meeting. Final minutes must be sent to the City Secretary within five days after they are approved. (Dallas City Code §8-8)

6. The Redistricting Commission must furnish reports of its activities as requested by the city manager or city council. (Dallas City Charter XXIV §19)

IV. Conflicts of Interest and Code of Ethics

A. Purpose of the Code of Ethics. [Dallas City Code §12A-1(a)]

1. Commission members must be independent and impartial.
2. Decisions and policy must be made using proper procedures.
3. Commission members cannot have a financial interest, engage in any activity, or incur any obligation that is in conflict with the proper discharge of public duties.
4. Public office cannot be used for personal gain.

B. Financial Conflicts of Interest under the City Ethics Code.

1. Economic interest. A commission member may not take official action that will affect particularly the economic interests of:
 - a. himself/herself,
 - b. a client,
 - c. an employer,
 - d. a business entity in which the commission member has an economic interest,
 - e. a business entity that is affiliated with a business entity in which the commission member holds an economic interest,
 - f. a business entity in which the commission member is an officer or director,
 - g. a business entity that the commission member has discussed employment with in the last 12 months, or
 - h. a business entity that is engaged with the commission member in negotiations for a business opportunity.
[Dallas City Code §12A-3(a)]

2. “Affect particularly” means that an action is likely to have an effect that is distinguishable from its effect on the public in general or on a substantial segment of the public. [Dallas City Code §12A-2(2)]
3. “Economic interest” means an interest in land, chattels, intangibles, or contractual rights having more than de minimus value. [Dallas City Code §12A-2(17)]
4. Substantial economic interest. A commission member may not take any official action that will affect particularly the “substantial economic interests” of:
 - a. a relative in the first degree (parent, child, or spouse, either naturally or by marriage).
 - b. the commission member’s domestic partner,
 - c. an employer of the commission member’s relatives or domestic partner,
 - d. a business entity in which the commission member’s relatives or domestic partner have a substantial economic interest,
 - e. a business entity affiliated with a business entity in which the commission member’s relative or domestic partner has a substantial economic interest,
 - f. a business entity that the commission member’s spouse or domestic partner has discussed employment with in the last 12 months, or
 - g. a business entity that is engaged with the commission member’s spouse or domestic partner in negotiations for a business opportunity.
[Dallas City Code §12A-3(b)]
5. “Substantial economic interest” is defined as:
 - a. ownership of 10 percent of the shares, 10 percent of the value, or \$15,000 or more of the value of a company,
 - b. more than 10 percent of the person’s income comes from the company, or
 - c. interest in land worth \$2,500 or more.
[Dallas City Code §12A-2(31)]

C. Financial Conflicts of Interest under State Law.

1. If a commission member, or a relative in the first degree (parent, child, or spouse, either naturally or by marriage), has a substantial interest in a business entity or real property, the commission member may not act on any matter involving the business entity or real property if the action will have a special economic effect on the business or property that is distinguishable from its effect on the public. [Tex. Local Gov't Code §171.004(a)]
2. A "substantial interest" is:
 - a. owning of at least 10 percent of the voting stock of a business entity,
 - b. owning of at least 10 percent or \$15,000 of the value of a business entity,
 - c. receiving 10 percent or more of gross income for the previous year from a business entity, or
 - d. having an interest in real property over \$2,500.
(Tex. Local Gov't Code §171.002).
3. A violation is a Class A misdemeanor. [Tex. Local Gov't Code §171.003(b)]
4. A commission member can serve on the board of directors of a nonprofit organization if the member receives no compensation. (Tex. Local Gov't Code §171.009).
5. Disclosure requirements under state law related to receipt of income or gifts from a party contracting with the city or seeking to do so.
 - a.. If a member of the Redistricting Commission, or a member of his or her family, receives taxable income, or gifts during the preceding 12-month period having an aggregate value of more than \$250(excluding gifts of food, lodging, transportation, or entertainment accepted as a guest), from a person who has contracted with the city or with whom the city is considering contracting for the sale or purchase of property, goods, or services, the member shall file, a conflicts disclosure form. [Tex. Local Gov't Code §176.003]
 - b. The disclosure form must be filed with the city secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on the seventh day after the date on which the commission member becomes aware of the facts that require the filing of the statement (i.e. the donor of the gifts has a contract with the city or that the city is

considering doing business with that person). [Tex. Local Gov't Code §176.003(b)]

- c. A family member is defined as someone related in the first degree by consanguinity or affinity (parent, child, or spouse, either naturally or by marriage), to the Redistricting Commissioner. [Tex. Local Gov't Code §176.001(2)]
- d. A violation is a Class C misdemeanor. [Tex. Local Gov't Code §176.003(c)]

D. Actions Required in the Event of a Conflict of Interest.

A commission member who has a financial conflict of interest must:

- 1. file an affidavit of interest,
- 2. leave the hearing,
- 3. refrain from further participation in the matter,
- 4. not discuss the matter with any person likely to consider the matter, and
- 5. abstain from voting.
[Tex. Local Gov't Code §171.004; Dallas City Code §8-14(a); Dallas City Code §12A-3(c) and (d) (7)]

E. Unfair Advancement of Private Interests.

- 1. Commission members may not advance the personal interests of individuals beyond what is available to all citizens. [Dallas City Code §12A-4(a)]
- 2. Commission members may not acquire an interest in a matter that will be affected by impending official action of the city. [Dallas City Code §12-4(b) (1)]
- 3. Commission members may not acquire an interest in a matter affected by an official action of the city for one year after the official action. [Dallas City Code §12-4(b) (2)]

4. Commission members may not enter into an agreement that an official action will be rewarded or reciprocated by another person. [Dallas City Code §12-4(b) (3)]
5. A commission member may not influence the hiring of relatives or domestic partners by the city. [Dallas City Code §12A-4(b) (4)]

F. Gifts – Texas Penal Code.

1. A public servant commits a Class A misdemeanor if he/she solicits or accepts any benefit from a person who is subject to regulation by the government agency. [Texas Penal Code §36.08]
 - a. A “benefit” is anything reasonably regarded as pecuniary gain or pecuniary advantage, including a benefit to another person in whose welfare the public servant has a direct and substantial interest. [Texas Penal Code §36.01]
 - b. Exceptions are:
 - i. gifts given independently of official status,
 - ii. items less than \$50, and
 - iii. food, travel, and entertainment if it must be reported and the person giving the gift is present at the event. [Texas Penal Code §36.10]
2. A commission member may not accept a gift that may influence the member’s conduct. [Dallas City Code §12A-5(a)]
3. A commission member may not accept a gift, favor, privilege, or employment from a public utility that has a franchise or easement from the City. (Dallas City Charter Chapter XXIV §1).

G. Gift Policy for Board and Commission Members.(Res. No. 10-0847, Exhibit B)

1. Gifts should be evaluated against perceived conflicts or special considerations that could influence the ability of a commission member to perform his/her official duties.
2. The following gifts are allowed:

- a. Gifts other than cash (individually or cumulatively) with a nominal value (under \$50) received from citizens, persons or entities doing business with the city or seeking to do business with the city.
 - b. Gifts received on behalf of the city are allowed.
 - c. Gifts from a relative or a person with whom the commission member has a personal, professional, or business relationship, independent of the commission member's status with the city.
3. The following gifts are not allowed:
- a. A gift from any person who has an interest in the redistricting process before the commission.
 - b. A gift of cash, check, or negotiable instrument from a person or entity doing business with the city or seeking to do business with the city.
 - c. A gift given in exchange for taking official action.
4. The gift policy does not apply to campaign contributions.
5. An unsolicited gift that is not allowed may be donated to the city, to another governmental entity, or to a nonprofit charity.
6. Gifts must be reported by the commission member in accordance with state law and city requirements.
7. Meals, Travel, Lodging, and Entertainment.
- a. Meals and travel may be accepted if the commission member is a guest, and the donor is present.
 - b.. Meals and travel may not be accepted from any person who has an interest in the redistricting process pending before the commission.
8. Honorarium.
- a. "Honorarium" means a cash payment or in-kind gift
"Honorarium" does not mean a plaque.
 - b. Commission members may not accept an honorarium that is given in consideration of services that would not have been performed but for the member's position as a commission member.

- c. Commission members may accept reimbursement for meals and travel for a conference where the commission member is a speaker.
- d. An honorarium must be reported in accordance with state law and city requirements.

9. Reporting.

a. A commission member must file a sworn annual disclosure statement for any gift, ticket, meal, or travel with a value of \$50 or more or an accumulation of gifts, tickets, meals, or travel with a value of \$100 or more given to the commission member or an immediate family member from any person who is interested in or likely to become interested in the outcome of the redistricting process that involves the commission member's discretion.

i. "Immediate family" means spouse, domestic partner, and dependent children.

b. A commission member must also file an annual report of any gift, ticket, meal, or travel with a value of \$50 or more or an accumulation of gifts, tickets, meals, or travel with a value of \$100 or more given to the commission member or an immediate family member from any person who is registered as a lobbyist.(Article II-A Chapter 12A of the Dallas City Code)

c. The reporting form must be filed with the City Secretary by April 30th of the year immediately following the date of the gift. A report form is not required if there is nothing to report.

d. The reporting form must include:

- i. the date given;
- ii. the items given;
- iii. the value of the items;
- iv. the donor; and
- v. whether they were given to the commission member or a family member.

H. Confidentiality.

1. A commission member may not use the position to obtain official information unrelated to commission duties. [Dallas City Code §12A-6(a)]
2. A commission member may not disclose confidential information. [Dallas City Code §12A-6(b)]
3. A commission member must maintain the confidentiality of land purchase, security, personnel, and legal matters. (Dallas City Code §8-14.1).
4. A former commission member may not use or disclose confidential information. (Dallas City Code §12A-13).

I. Representation.

1. Current Redistricting Commission members.
 - a. A commission member may not represent others before:
 - i. the Redistricting Commission, or
 - ii. city staff for the Redistricting Commission. [Dallas City Code §12A-7(a)]
 - b. A commission member may not represent others for compensation (except himself/herself, spouse, domestic partner, or child) before the city. "Compensation" means money or anything of value. [Dallas City Code §12A-7(b)]
 - c. A commission member may not use the prestige of office to advance private interests. A commission member may not imply that he/she is able to influence city action on any basis other than the merits. [Dallas City Code §12A-7(b)(3)]
 - d. A commission member may not represent others (except himself/herself, spouse, domestic partner, or child) in litigation adverse to the city if the matter is substantially related to the commission member's duties. [Dallas City Code §12A-7(c)(2)]
2. Former Members of the Redistricting Commission.
 - a. A former commission member may not represent others (except himself/herself, spouse, domestic partner, or child) in litigation

adverse to the city on matters in which the commission member participated. [Dallas City Code §12A-14(c)]

c. A former commission member may not state that he/she is able to influence city action on any basis other than the merits. [Dallas City Code §12A-14(d)]

3. A person who appears before the commission must state his/her name and address. [Dallas City Code §12A-16]

4. A person who represents others (except spouse, domestic partner, or child) before the commission must disclose the person represented. [Dallas City Code §12A-17]

J. Outside Employment.

1. A commission member may not solicit or accept employment that conflicts with the commission duties. [Dallas City Code §12A-8(a)(1)]

2. A commission member may not provide services for compensation to a person or organization that is requesting consideration of its input to the commission. [Dallas City Code §12-8(a)(2)]

3. A commission member cannot act as surety for a business entity that does business with the city. (Tex. Local Gov't Code §171.003).

K. Use of City Property and Resources.

1. A commission member may not use city facilities, personnel, or equipment for private purposes. (Dallas City Code §12A-9).

L. Political Activity.

1. A commission member may not use the prestige of office on behalf of a candidate, serve as campaign treasurer, or solicit or receive campaign contributions for a candidate while serving on the Redistricting Commission. [Dallas City Code §12A-10(a)]

M. Actions of Others.

1. A commission member may not assist or induce others to violate the code of ethics. [Dallas City Code §12A-11(a)]

2. A commission member may not violate the code of ethics through the acts of another. [Dallas City Code §12A-11(b)]

3. No person may induce, conspire, or assist in a violation of the code of ethics. (Dallas City Code §12A-18).

N. Prohibited Interests in Contracts.

1. A commission member may not have a financial interest in a contract with the city. [Dallas City Charter Chapter XXII §11; Dallas City Code §12A-12(a)]
2. A commission member may not bid on, negotiate, or enter into a contract with the city. [Dallas City Code §12A-12(b)]
3. A former commission member may not have a financial interest in a contract with the city for one year after completing service on the commission, unless the contract is competitively bid. [Dallas City Code §12A-15(a)]
4. A former commission member may not bid on, negotiate, or enter into a contract with the city for one year after completing service on the commission, unless the contract is competitively bid. [Dallas City Code §12A-15(b)]

O. Ethics Opinions.

1. A commission member with public allegations in the media of violations of the Ethics Code may request an opinion from the Ethics Advisory Commission, (Dallas City Code §12A-31), or from the City Attorney. [Dallas City Code §12A-33(a)]
2. A commission member may rely on the opinion of the City Attorney if the request disclosed all relevant facts. [Dallas City Code §12A-33(b)]
3. The Ethics Advisory Commission will not take action if an opinion from the City Attorney is pending. [Dallas City Code §12A-33(c)]

P. Disciplinary Action.

1. If a commission member violates the code of ethics, disciplinary action will be decided by the City Council. [Dallas City Code §12A-37(c)]
2. False statements are subject to criminal prosecution for perjury. (Dallas City Code §12A-38).
3. A person who violates the code of ethics may be disqualified from contracts with the city for two years. (Dallas City Code §12A-39).

V. **Open Meetings/Open Records.**

https://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/og_training.shtml

- A. All meetings of the Redistricting Commission are open to the public. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.002; Dallas City Code §8-6) The term "meeting" includes any meeting at which a majority of the body receives information from any third person, including staff members. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.001)
- B. Written notice of the date, hour, place, and subject of a board meeting must be posted on a public bulletin board for 72 hours before the meeting time. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.043; Dallas City Code § 8-7) In an emergency, the notice may be posted two hours before the meeting. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.045)
- C. An action taken by the Redistricting Commission in violation of the Open Meetings statute is voidable. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.141)
- D. Violation of the Open Meetings Act is a misdemeanor punishable by a fine from \$100 to \$500 and imprisonment for one to six months. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.143 and §551.144) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution that the public official acted in reasonable reliance on a court order or a written interpretation contained in an opinion of a court, the attorney general or the city attorney. [Tex. Gov't Code §551.144(c)]
- E. The public may record Redistricting Commission meetings. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.023)
- F. Redistricting Commission members may confer with city employees for the purpose of receiving information. However, public business or agency policy must not be discussed with the city employee. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.075)
- G. All records of the Redistricting Commission are public records open to inspection. [Tex. Gov't Code §552.022]
- H. The Redistricting Commission must keep minutes. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.021)
 - 1. Minutes must show the attendance and voting record of each member. (Dallas City Code, Article II, §8-8)
 - 2. Minutes and tapes of meetings are public records open to inspection. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.022; Dallas City Code §8-6)
 - 3. Minutes must state the subject of each deliberation and indicate each vote, order, decision, or other action. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.021)
- I. Executive Session. An executive session is a meeting of the Redistricting Commission which is not open to the public.

1. An executive session may be held only if it concerns a subject that was in the public notice.
2. Procedure for calling an executive session. [Tex. Gov't Code §551.101; Dallas City Code §8-6(b)]
 - a. A quorum of the Redistricting Commission must have already convened in open meeting.
 - b. A motion to go into executive session is made, seconded and approved by majority vote.
 - c. The Chair announces that an executive session is going to be held.
 - d. The Chair identifies the section of the Open Meetings Act authorizing the executive session:
 - i. pending or contemplated litigation; (Tex. Gov't Code §551.071);
 - ii. the attorney has a duty of confidentiality to the Redistricting Commission; (Tex. Gov't Code §551.071)
 - iii. real estate transactions or prospective gifts; (Tex. Gov't Code §551.072 and §551.073);
 - iv. evaluation of staff members; (Tex. Gov't Code §551.074);
or
 - v. security personnel and devices; (Tex. Gov't Code §551.076)
 - e. The Chair indicates the date and time at the start and end of the executive session. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.103)
 - f. A tape recording of the executive session must be made. [Tex. Gov't Code §551.103; Dallas City Code §8-6(b)] Failure to make a tape recording of the executive session is a Class C misdemeanor. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.145)
 - g. A final vote must not be taken in executive session. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.102)
3. Executive session discussions with the city attorney are privileged, and must not be discussed with the media or public.

4. A Redistricting Commission member commits an offense punishable by a fine up to \$500 if he/she discloses confidential information obtained in the course of Redistricting Commission duties. A Redistricting Commission member who discloses confidential information will forfeit membership on the Redistricting Commission. (Dallas City Code §8-14.1)
5. A person commits a Class B misdemeanor, and may also be liable for civil damages, if he/she discloses to a member of the public the recording of a meeting that was lawfully closed to the public. (Tex. Gov't Code §551.146)

APPENDIX A: PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

- A. Main Motion. A motion to introduce an item to the body for consideration. For example, to follow/not follow staff recommendation.
- B. Subsidiary motion. A motion that modifies, delays or disposes of the main motion. Subsidiary motions are disposed of before the main motion.
1. Previous question. stop debate and order an immediate vote.
 - a. Shall not be made when another has the floor.
 - b. Requires a second.
 - c. Not debatable.
 - d. Not amendable.
 - e. 2/3 vote.
 2. Postpone to time certain. hold over a matter on the agenda to another meeting.
 - a. Shall not be made when another has the floor.
 - b. Requires a second.
 - c. Debatable.
 - d. Amendable.
 - e. Majority vote.
 3. Refer to committee.
 - a. Shall not be made when another has the floor.
 - b. Requires a second.
 - c. Debatable.
 - d. Amendable.
 - e. Majority vote.
 4. Amend. amends the main motion. (A contrary motion is out of order.)
 - a. Shall not be made when another has the floor.
 - b. Requires a second.
 - c. Debatable.
 - d. Amendable. (Only one amendment to an amendment is allowed. The second amendment is voted on before the first amendment.)
 - e. Majority vote.
 5. Postpone indefinitely. kill the main motion.
 - a. Shall not be made when another has the floor.
 - b. Requires a second.
 - c. Debatable.
 - d. Not amendable.
 - e. Majority vote.

- C. Privilege motion. Motion not related to the main motion, but given immediate consideration.
1. Adjourn. to close the meeting.
 - a. Shall not be made when another has the floor.
 - b. Requires a second.
 - c. Not debatable.
 - d. Not amendable.
 - e. Majority vote.
 2. Recess. to take an intermission.
 - a. Shall not be made when another has the floor.
 - b. Requires a second.
 - c. Not debatable.
 - d. Amendable.
 - e. Majority vote.
- D. Incidental motion. Motion relating to the manner in which the body conducts business. Incidental motions are given immediate consideration.
1. Parliamentary inquiry/Point of order. question about parliamentary procedure.
 - a. May be made when another has the floor.
 - b. Does not requires a second.
 - c. Not debatable.
 - d. Not amendable.
 - e. Not voted. Chair rules.
 2. Appeal. object to the decision of the Chair. (Dallas City Code §8-15)
 - a. May be made when another has the floor.
 - b. Requires a second.
 - c. Not Debatable.
 - d. Not amendable.
 - e. Majority to reverse Chair's decision.
 3. Suspend the rules. allows body to act contrary to regular rules.
 - a. Shall not be made when another has the floor.
 - b. Requires a second.
 - c. Not debatable.
 - d. Not amendable.
 - e. 2/3rds vote.
- E. Restorative motion. Motion that bring a question back before the body.
1. Reconsider. Brings back a motion previously voted on for further consideration. Cannot be made later than the next meeting. Motion must be made by a person who voted on the prevailing side in the earlier vote.

- a. Shall not be made when another member has the floor.
- b. Requires a second (can be anyone).
- c. Debatable.
- d. Not amendable.
- e. Majority vote.

F. Parliamentary Rules of the Redistricting Commission.

1. Debate. (Code of Conduct, Dallas City Code §8-22)

- a. Members must limit debate to the question under consideration. (Dallas City Code §8-13; Dallas City Code §8-22)
- b. Discussion must be addressed to the Chair and not to other members. (Commission Rules §)
- c. Members may only speak once on an item, until all members seeking to do so have spoken. (Dallas City Code §8-16)
- d. Members may only speak twice on an item, and no longer than five minutes without an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the commission. (Dallas City Code §8-16)
- e. Members must preserve order and decorum, and must obey the decisions of the Chair. (Dallas City Code §8-22)
- f. Members may speak only if recognized by the Chair. (Dallas City Code §8-22)
- g. Members should not be interrupted when speaking, except when a point of order is made and ruled upon by the Chair. (Dallas City Code §8-22)
- h. Members may not speak while a vote is being taken. (Dallas City Code §8-13)
- i. Members shall not make rude and derogatory remarks, reflections as to integrity, abusive comments, or statements as to motives or personality. (Dallas City Code §8-13; Dallas City Code §8-22)

2. Voting.

- a. Any member may request a roll call vote. (Dallas City Code §8-11; Dallas City Code §8-18)

- b. A member present at a meeting, but who is absent during a vote, will be recorded as voting in the affirmative, unless there is a conflict of interest. (Dallas City Code §8-17)
- c. A member who arrives late, or returns to the meeting before adjournment shall, upon arrival, vote on the record unless prohibited from doing so by a conflict of interest. (City Code §8-17)
- d. A matter is decided by a simple majority of the quorum, unless otherwise required by law. [Tex Atty. Gen. Op. No. GA-0554 (2007)]
- e. Members are required to vote, unless there is a conflict of interest. [Dallas City Code §8-17]

3. Miscellaneous.

- a. Members may not use telephones in the meeting room, read unrelated materials, or distract other members. (Dallas City Code §8-22)
- b. A member shall not leave a meeting without permission of the Chair. (Dallas City Code §8-21)
- e. Any member may move to require the Chair to enforce the rules of procedure. (Dallas City Code §8-22; Dallas City Code §8-25)
- f. A member may be removed from the room for failure to comply with decisions of the Chair. [Dallas City Code §8-22(f)]
- g. A member may appeal a ruling of the Chair to the entire Redistricting Commission. The Chair may be overruled by a majority vote of the commission. (Dallas City Code §8-15)

CITY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION BRIEFING NOTEBOOK

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Tab J. Dallas City Code Chapter 31A- Dallas Officer and Liability Plan

Tab K. Dallas City Resolution 10-0847, Exhibit B – Gift Policy for Board and Commission Members

PROCESS FOR PRESENTATION OF PLANS

In order to ensure fairness and transparency in the review process, the Commission has adopted a uniform process for reviewing each initial city-wide redistricting plan submitted.

1. The staff demographer will go over the Submission Summary before the plan presenter speaks. The Submission Summary along with a full plan submission will be in the meeting packet sent to the Commission members on Friday afternoon for meetings on Tuesdays and on Monday afternoon for meetings on Thursdays.
2. Each plan presenter shall identify himself or herself, the district in which he/she presides and whether the plan is an individual plan or is made on behalf of a business or a group. Any outside consultants who assisted with the plan shall be identified so that there is complete transparency to the Commission and to the public.
3. Each presenter of a city-wide plan shall be allowed 15 minutes to present the plan to the Commission, followed by a time period of 20 minutes for questions from Commissioners that will not be counted against the presentation time.
4. At the end of the plan presentations at each meeting, motions will be entertained to maintain selected plans for further consideration and for directions to staff to make changes to any plan that is selected for further consideration. Any plan so selected by the Commission for further

consideration will be posted on the Redistricting Website with the accompanying materials for review and comment by the public.

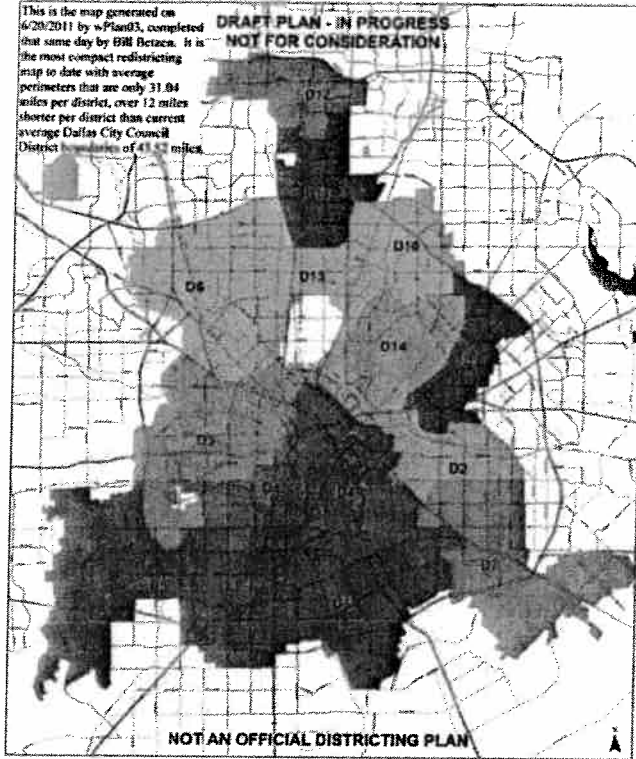
5. If a majority of the Commission has requested staff to make changes to a submitted plan, the Commission will review the result of the changes to the plan at a subsequent meeting with appropriate markings made on the plan to reflect each area of change. Staff will use a numbering system that links the edited version(s) of the plan with the original submission and will provide a Submission Summary showing the demographic changes in each category between the original submission and the plan with the requested changes.

**Redistricting Commission
Media Packet
June 17, 2011 to June 24, 2011**

Dallas City Council Redistricting plan wPlan03: the goal!

Today Dallas City Council Redistricting plan named wPlan03 was accepted for study and passed all required tests. It also set standards for other plans to match. The average perimeter was 31.04 miles, 12.5 miles less than the current average perimeter with the current 14 city council districts. Is there a better way to reunite neighborhoods and keep them together than eliminating 175 miles of district boundary lines?

Here are the map, the demographics, and the compactness measurements for wPlan03:



2011 Dallas Redistricting



wPlan03
DRAFT PLAN IN PROGRESS NOT FOR CONSIDERATION

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BLOG ARCHIVE

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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](#)

Statistics generated by Wplan03 on 6-20-11										
District	Hispanic	Hispanic Dev	Hispanic Dev	Hispanic P	Hispanic P	Hispanic P	Hispanic	2010 Dallas Voting Age Population		
								Total pop.	Hispanic %	Black %
Total Dallas Population from 2010 Census										
		Deviation from 85,539								
		#	%	%	Black %	Anglo %	Total voting age	Hispanic %	Black %	Anglo %
D1	85,100	-439	-0.51%	69.75%	10.31%	18.50%	65,015	61.97%	12.57%	23.83%
D2	85,990	392	0.46%	64.62%	20.45%	12.08%	59,230	59.44%	21.10%	17.28%
D3	86,032	474	0.55%	68.74%	15.00%	12.79%	59,214	63.88%	15.90%	18.04%
D4	85,564	6	0.01%	22.08%	56.83%	18.08%	62,756	18.90%	55.56%	22.77%
D5	84,417	-1141	-1.33%	32.00%	55.00%	9.79%	39,987	28.90%	56.41%	12.39%
D6	85,911	353	0.41%	69.47%	7.10%	20.68%	61,282	63.57%	7.90%	25.37%
D7	86,226	688	0.79%	67.35%	19.03%	12.80%	55,559	61.98%	20.47%	16.60%
D8	84,754	-804	-0.94%	30.20%	65.10%	3.55%	59,802	25.21%	68.98%	4.51%
D9	86,109	542	0.63%	89.42%	24.18%	22.97%	80,946	43.48%	24.04%	28.87%
D10	85,484	-74	-0.09%	22.55%	32.40%	38.00%	62,958	19.29%	31.12%	42.30%
D11	85,252	-506	-0.59%	33.82%	12.41%	48.27%	65,879	28.93%	12.23%	52.98%
D12	85,928	280	0.33%	17.32%	17.45%	54.46%	69,758	15.28%	16.65%	57.24%
D13	85,158	-892	-1.05%	26.81%	9.89%	55.92%	65,589	22.85%	9.78%	60.26%
D14	85,882	374	0.44%	16.57%	5.20%	74.18%	72,992	14.20%	4.80%	76.74%
Total	1,297,688	Total Variation = 2.11%		42.51%	28.09%	28.80%	880,688	27.23%	25.53%	32.72%

The above statistics were generated 6-20-11 from wplan03, a plan that moved the western border of District 1 to Marsh Road, while maximizing minority representation and correcting population imbalance in the other districts. Resulting population deviation went down over half a percentage point to 2.11% from wPlan04 while minority representation went up 0.4%. Email questions, or ideas for continued improvement, to Bill Betzen at address below. Remember, plans from the public are only accepted through the end of June.

Call 214.670.5425 or go to the web address below to make your own redistricting plan

The above average numbers are the highest yet secured in the affirmation of Voting Rights Act goals during this redistricting process for the Dallas City Council.

District	Perimeter		Hiscock		Culbreth		Doherty		Schwartzberg		Index Average
	(miles)	(sq. miles)	Score	Index	Score	Index	Score	Index	Score	Index	
District 1	24.05	11.54	25.76	0.88	34.60	0.76	25.06	0.90	20.06	0.95	0.87
District 2	20.48	17.73	22.91	0.97	53.80	1.26	23.99	1.29	48.93	1.32	1.51
District 3	24.70	32.00	24.03	1.87	77.59	1.36	33.29	1.06	57.78	1.75	2.01
District 4	35.80	37.46	20.62	1.64	70.33	1.39	31.84	2.70	28.43	1.64	1.85
District 5	28.16	48.71	43.09	2.97	64.73	1.39	19.10	1.64	42.54	1.28	1.82
District 6	29.20	27.99	44.96	1.99	90.22	1.67	39.47	3.14	62.83	1.77	2.12
District 7	42.37	33.45	35.46	1.44	67.00	1.04	23.42	1.86	48.39	1.37	1.48
District 8	37.29	36.77	42.01	2.29	72.16	1.40	22.19	2.99	56.74	1.73	2.10
District 9	24.83	14.28	26.78	0.87	63.45	0.83	29.11	0.87	53.96	0.93	0.88
District 10	19.72	15.83	28.14	1.06	67.18	1.05	51.16	1.31	71.53	1.15	1.14
District 11	23.50	16.16	33.34	1.42	77.36	1.19	26.79	1.37	60.65	1.25	1.56
District 12	20.75	14.43	32.22	0.92	89.29	1.02	42.64	1.20	45.30	1.00	0.98
District 13	25.23	19.46	28.28	1.01	74.78	1.05	38.52	1.54	62.06	1.24	1.21
District 14	27.27	20.48	20.22	1.07	77.95	1.43	24.86	1.48	29.04	1.58	2.01
Average	31.04	24.40	29.58	1.31	72.28	1.17	32.28	1.44	56.05	1.32	1.36

The Compactness Index average of 1.36 reflects very positive improvements to correspond with the low average district perimeter of 31.04 miles.

The final redistricting plan put in place by the Dallas City Council should have numbers at least this positive for minority representation, district perimeter, and compactness scores! If you agree, please let them know.

Posted by Bill Betzen at 8:28 PM



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Dallas Redistricting 2011

Rawlings faces a host of challenges as Dallas' new mayor

By RUDOLPH BUSH

Staff Writer

rbush@dallasnews.com

Published 18 June 2011 11:14 PM

When Mike Rawlings is sworn in as Dallas mayor eight days from now, he will come to City Hall with the support of most of his council colleagues and the strong backing of the city's business community.

Those are important political advantages for a new mayor to have, especially one elected with one of the lowest voter turnouts in memory for a mayoral race.

Whatever kind of honeymoon Rawlings enjoys will be tested by a series of tough issues that could separate City Council members along the racial and geographical lines that Rawlings has said he wants the council to move beyond.

How he deals with those in the next year will probably signal how successful a mayor he will be throughout his four-year term.

Here are the major challenges he faces:

Veteran council

When former Mayor Tom Leppert took office in 2007, he enjoyed a unique opportunity. Seven of his council colleagues were serving their first terms as well.

Dominated by new members, the council came as close to a fresh start as it could, and Leppert was able to quickly build relationships and coalitions.

The council that Rawlings inherits will have just two new members — Monica Alonzo and Scott Griggs. After leaving the council for six years, Sandy Greyson returns as a veteran of City Hall.

The council now has set alliances and voting blocs that aren't necessarily based on the issue at hand. That increases the challenge of managing votes and issues — a critical ability if a mayor hopes to have more power than his single vote and a bully pulpit.

Budget

For three straight years, the city budget has been in a bad spiral of increasing costs and decreasing revenues. Services have been cut, and taxes have been raised.

The picture is improving this year, but it isn't good. City Hall remains an estimated \$32 million short of what it needs to maintain current services — and that after City Manager Mary Suhm announced plans to slash \$20 million in services and lay off some 300 employees.

The cuts that Suhm recommended will leave the council with much to fret about because they include shutting down recreation centers and pools, cutting back on park maintenance and reducing funding for cultural programs.

Rawlings pledged not to support another increase in the city's tax rate, a position shared by most council members.

2012 bond program

The city of Dallas is saddled with \$1.9 billion in outstanding general obligation debt that absorbs some 30 percent of property tax revenue.

That debt has funded projects from flood control and street repairs to the construction of libraries and parks.

Despite that, at least \$6.4 billion in needed improvements remains, largely for streets and other transportation infrastructure.

But as City Hall's debt has climbed with bond issues in 1998, 2003 and 2006, property values have not kept pace.

That means a 2012 bond program must be relatively modest at \$500 million to \$600 million.

Throughout his campaign, Rawlings urged voters to "think big" about Dallas and pledged to support major projects.

But even if debt-weary voters are willing to pass a bond program in November 2012, there isn't likely to be much money for "think big" projects.

Trinity River

The most serious problem facing the Trinity River project isn't the toll road but how the city will repair its levees.

Rawlings must immediately join a process of spending perhaps \$100 million in repairs to bring the levees to a 100-year flood protection standard.

Meanwhile, the sense of the Trinity project has changed greatly since a 2007 referendum on the toll road.

At that time, every council member but one — Angela Hunt — supported the road as part of a grander vision.

Now, at least three members — Hunt, Greyson and Griggs — staunchly oppose the road.

Rawlings has been noncommittal, saying the issue doesn't have to be addressed while questions over its funding and effect on flood safety remain unresolved.

Redistricting

In August, the new mayor will receive a redistricting plan from a commission that has spent months planning how to redraw the city's 14 council districts. That could spark the beginning of a contentious fight.

The council will have the option to alter the plan before approving a final version, and if it goes anything as it did 10 years ago, nasty racial politics will play a part.

There's a push to create at least one more predominately Hispanic district, given that group's surging population. But doing so would come at the expense of a district controlled by whites or blacks.

Rawlings has said he supports a plan that will keep neighborhoods intact under one representative, vs. spreading them out among several council members the way Pleasant Grove is today.

But doing that in the face of local political interests will prove tricky.

Staff writer Steve Thompson contributed to this report.

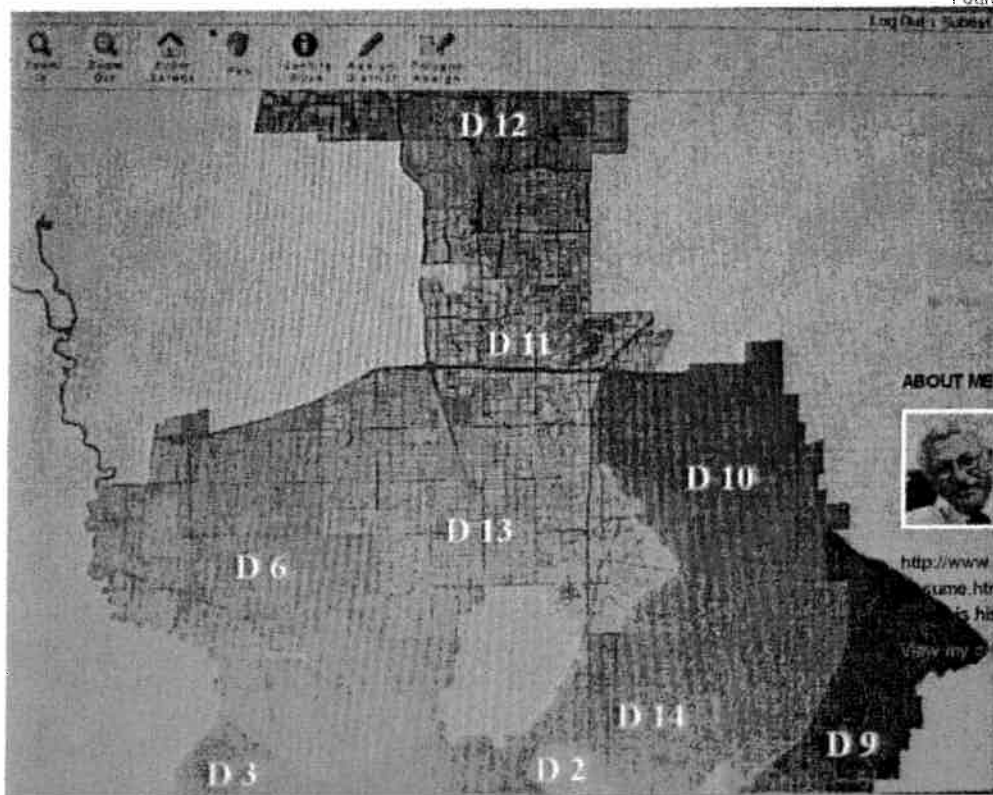
The Best Dallas City Council Redistricting Plan yet!

Using the online redistricting application for Dallas City Council, I have created this weekend the 6th and best redistricting plan yet. It is named wPlan03, not to be confused with pPlan03 submitted over a month ago.

WPlan03 increases minority representation potential for both Black and Hispanic communities of interest. The 5 Hispanic districts now have a voting age population that averages over 62% of the population in those 5 districts, 4 percentage points higher than the pPlan03 submitted a month ago. The three Black districts now have voting age populations that averages over 60%, 2 percentage points higher than the pPlan03 submitted a month ago.

The one failing of the online application is the difficulty in getting a map from it without city staff help. Below are two photos of the design of the districts reflected in the above statistics. These are digital photographs taken of the online map with the District numbers inserted. (Maybe someone can show me how to get a digital map from this software.) This clearly shows where the boundary lines are.

First, here is the map for the north side of Dallas under wPlan03 as of 6-19-11:



Here is the of the South side of Dallas under wPlan03 as of 6-19-11:



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Redistricting Process Online

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ABOUT ME



Bill Betzen

Middle school teacher with dropout prevention hobby. resume at

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

[View my complete profile](#)

Statistics generated by Wplan03 on 6-19-11

District	P2totpop	P2totpop Dev	P2totpop Dvp	P2hispanic P	P2whitealeo P	P2blackall P	P4totpop			
Total Dallas Population from 2010 Census							2010 Dallas Voting Age Population			
Lplan 01	Total pop.	Deviation from 85,558		Hispanic %	Non-Hispanic		Total voting age	Hispanic %	Non-Hispanic	
		#	%		Black %	Anglo %			Black %	Anglo %
D1	85,100	-458	-0.54%	69.75%	10.31%	18.56%	63,015	61.97%	12.57%	23.83%
D2	85,416	-142	-0.17%	64.86%	20.18%	13.12%	58,883	59.64%	20.94%	17.32%
D3	86,032	474	0.55%	68.74%	15.60%	12.79%	59,214	63.88%	15.90%	16.94%
D4	85,809	251	0.29%	23.32%	56.25%	18.03%	65,887	19.36%	55.14%	22.73%
D5	84,417	-1141	-1.33%	33.06%	55.00%	9.79%	59,087	28.90%	56.41%	12.59%
D6	85,911	353	0.41%	69.47%	7.19%	20.68%	61,282	63.57%	7.95%	25.37%
D7	86,226	668	0.78%	67.35%	19.03%	12.80%	55,550	61.98%	20.47%	16.60%
D8	84,509	-1049	-1.23%	29.59%	65.71%	3.55%	59,671	24.82%	69.47%	4.51%
D9	86,634	1076	1.26%	49.28%	24.43%	22.87%	61,293	43.37%	24.27%	28.77%
D10	85,484	-74	-0.09%	22.55%	32.48%	38.08%	62,988	19.39%	31.12%	42.30%
D11	85,248	-310	-0.36%	33.82%	12.41%	48.28%	65,877	28.93%	12.23%	52.98%
D12	85,942	384	0.45%	17.33%	17.45%	54.46%	69,760	15.28%	16.65%	57.24%
D13	85,179	-379	-0.44%	26.82%	9.89%	55.90%	65,604	22.85%	9.79%	60.25%
D14	85,909	351	0.41%	16.51%	5.19%	74.17%	72,577	14.29%	4.89%	76.75%
totals	1,197,816	Total Variation = 2.59%		42.32%	25.08%	28.79%	880,688	37.73%	25.56%	32.71%

The above statistics were generated 6-19-11 from wplan03, a plan moving western border of District 13 to Marsh Lane while maximizing minority representation around the rest of the Dallas map. Resulting total deviation was only 2.59%. Email questions, or ideas for improvement, to Bill Betzen at address below

Call 214-670-5435, or go to the web address below, to make your own redistricting plan.

<http://www.dallascityhall.com/Redistricting/index.html>

bbetzen@aol.com

<http://dallasredistricting2011.blogspot.com>

Bill Betzen

Average Hispanic % in 5 districts = 68.03%

Avg. Hispanic Voting Age Pop. = 62.21%

Average Black % in 3 districts = 58.99%

Avg. Black Voting Age Pop. = 60.34%

While I am certain that the compression tests for this wPlan03 will show improvement, those results will not be available until Monday afternoon at the earliest. City staff must run those tests after wPlan03 is formally accepted for submission. Your comments and questions are welcome: bbetzen@aol.com.

Remember, there are now two plans that will be presented before the Redistricting Commission on 6-21-11: pPlan03 submitted a month ago and wPlan24 submitted a week ago. WPlan03 is a new plan completed this weekend. It is built on the improvements of all the plans that have gone before it, and improves those results.

Posted by Bill Betzen at 10:05 AM



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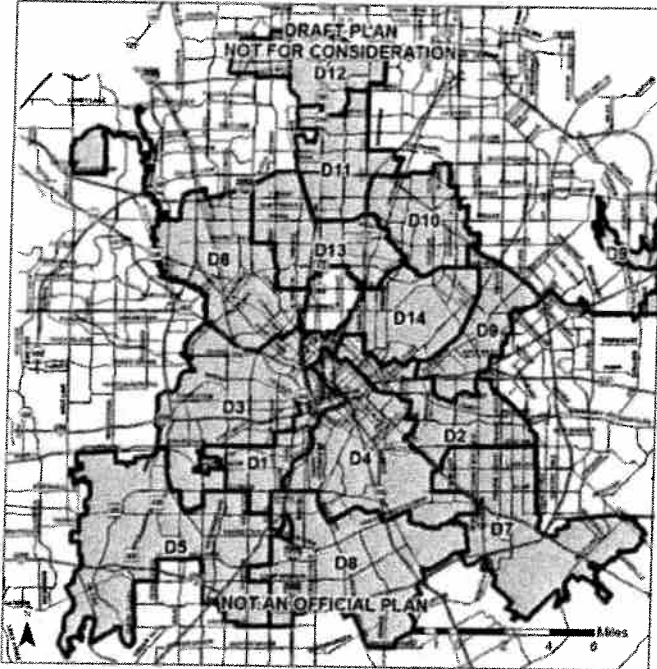
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Dallas Redistricting 2011

Fifth Dallas City Council Redistricting Plan as of 6-17-11

Following input received at the last Commission meeting, wPlan24 was redone to move districts closer to their population centers and thereby improve the compactness scores for the entire plan. The western boundary for District 13 was moved to Marsh Lane with effects that went around the map. Compactness measurements will be secured Monday. Here is the resulting map for pPlan12, the fifth plan done:



2011 Dallas Redistricting

Thursday, June 17, 2011 10:28:00 AM
 Prepared by: Bill Betzen
 File: pPlan12_20100617_1044
 For redistricting purposes only

Data source:
 Streets - City of Dallas, GIS Commission
 Council Districts - Bill Betzen

LEGEND

Highways Major Roads

pPlan12 Council Districts

Council Districts

pPlan12 IN PROGRESS NOT FOR CONSIDERATION

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

Projected coordinate system name: GCS_1983_Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, North Central Zone, Zone 14N
 Projected coordinate system units: Feet

I am very certain that the compactness measurements for this new map will be higher than any to date. Here are the populations statistics generated by this new map:

Statistics generated by pPlan12 on 6-17-11													
This report is made from Dallas City Council Redistricting improvements to pPlan12 by Bill Betzen													
District	Change	Change Dev	Change Pop	Change %	Hispanic %	Black %	White %	Hispanic %	Black %	White %			
Total Dallas Population from 2010 Census						2010 Dallas Voting Age Population							
Apex ID	Total pop.	Deviation from 55,551		Non-Hispanic		Total voting age			Non-Hispanic				
		#	%	Hispanic %	Black %	Hispanic %	Hispanic %	Anglo %	Black %	Black %			
D1	86,313	757	0.88%	68.47%	19.46%	10.65%	68,326	38,952	56.55%	15,979	24.64%	8,511	12.82%
D2	85,799	241	0.28%	63.83%	13.86%	20.45%	59,280	34,738	58.59%	10,787	18.19%	12,477	21.04%
D3	84,511	-1047	-1.22%	68.25%	12.99%	15.85%	58,311	36,908	61.88%	10,816	17.18%	9,395	16.11%
D4	84,496	-1062	-1.24%	23.88%	17.56%	56.47%	64,977	12,799	19.82%	14,154	21.82%	33,002	35.52%
D5	85,525	-35	-0.04%	33.94%	9.73%	54.11%	59,188	17,750	29.99%	7,177	12.42%	32,837	59.29%
D6	85,914	156	0.18%	69.47%	20.69%	7.19%	68,284	38,954	65.97%	15,540	24.17%	4,873	7.65%
D7	86,326	688	0.79%	67.35%	17.86%	19.03%	55,550	34,430	61.99%	9,234	16.09%	11,340	20.47%
D8	84,928	-430	-0.74%	29.83%	3.50%	65.59%	60,276	14,989	24.88%	2,659	4.41%	41,943	60.67%
D9	86,855	797	0.92%	40.81%	22.84%	23.81%	81,077	26,792	43.87%	17,565	28.75%	14,528	23.79%
D10	85,684	-74	-0.09%	22.55%	38.08%	32.46%	62,068	12,215	19.19%	26,647	42.89%	19,599	31.12%
D11	85,252	-106	-0.38%	33.82%	48.27%	12.41%	65,879	19,081	28.93%	34,702	52.04%	6,058	12.23%
D12	85,918	188	0.44%	17.13%	54.40%	17.43%	68,758	10,660	13.29%	39,829	37.24%	11,616	16.63%
D13	85,153	-405	-0.47%	26.81%	35.92%	9.89%	63,587	14,964	22.89%	39,526	60.38%	6,456	9.78%
D14	85,923	364	0.42%	16.99%	71.20%	5.61%	72,387	16,588	14.64%	35,013	78.00%	5,839	3.20%
total	1,182,000	Total Variance = 2,174	42.81%	28.86%	24.08%	300,000	320,000	50.00%	100,000	33.00%	221,140	23.1%	

Work remains to be done, but the maps are getting better. What problems do you see?

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Bill Betzen
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Dallas Redistricting 2011

Dallas Redistricting 2011

FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2011

Documents describing first two redistricting plans to be presented to Dallas City Council Redistricting Commission

Two pdf documents have now been received that were prepared by city staff from the first two redistricting plans that will be presented to the Redistricting Commission at their next meeting. The plans are pPlan03 and wPlan24. These are the documents that have already been sent to the Commissioners to prepare for the 6-21-11 meeting. If you are interested in seeing these two documents please email bbetzen@aol.com.

Please join us at the 6:00 PM meeting on Tuesday 6-21-11 in room 6SE of Dallas City Hall. You may also sign up to make your own comments on these plans, or any other item you may want to speak to the Commission about regarding redistricting.

Posted by Bill Betzen at 7:23 PM



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Se aprestan a fijar distritos

12:00 AM CDT on Saturday, June 18, 2011

Por JULIÁN RESÉNDIZ/AI Día

En cuatro semanas visitaron 10 vecindarios de Dallas para escuchar quejas y sugerencias sobre cómo acercar el gobierno a los ciudadanos.

Ahora los miembros de la Comisión de Redistribución comienzan la tarea de parcelar Dallas de manera que las minorías influyan más en las elecciones del cabildo y de que los residentes de un sector no dependan de alguien que vive en otro lado de la ciudad para resolver los problemas de su barrio.

La comisión reinició labores esta semana, luego del periodo de audiencias públicas que inició el 26 de abril y terminó el 24 de mayo.

"Felicito al público que acudió a las reuniones. Escuchamos a muchos grupos y no podríamos hacer nuestro trabajo sin tomar en cuenta su opinión", dijo la comisionada del Distrito 13 Elizabeth Jones.

Algunos líderes lamentaron la poca concurrencia de latinos a las audiencias de la comisión. Jones dijo que eso no los descalifica.

"La gente que no habló tiene el derecho de ser escuchada. Esto incluye a los vecindarios pobres y con retos", dijo.

Los comisionados discutieron los testimonios que recibieron en las audiencias y opinan que:

- Pleasant Grove deber tener su propio representante en el cabildo de Dallas. Actualmente este enorme vecindario del sureste de Dallas es parte de cuatro distritos.

Los vecindarios de Buckner Terrace en el este, West Dallas en el oeste, el norte de Oak Cliff y Oak Lawn en el centro no deben permanecer divididos.

- Los nuevos distritos de representación deben consistir de vecindarios contiguos, no como ahora, que algunos se extienden de un lado de la ciudad a otro.

"Me queda claro que la gente quiere distritos compactos. Esto me dice que no se sienten bien representados", dijo el comisionado del Distrito 6 John Lozano.

La armonía entre los comisionados no significa que los vecinos obtendrán todo lo que pidieron.

Pleasant Grove, por ejemplo, tiene demasiada población para evitar ser dividido. Tiene más de 100,000 habitantes y cada distrito debe tener alrededor de 85,000.

Y vecindarios con una gran mayoría latina como Oak Cliff deben absorber vecindarios no hispanos. Así como la ley prohíbe dispersar a las minorías, también exige que no haya concentraciones de una sola etnia.

"Me queda claro que no tenemos suficientes distritos en Dallas" para lograr todo lo que la gente quiere, dijo el comisionado del Distrito 5 Hollis Brashear.

Preparing to set districts

12:00 AM CDT on Saturday, June 18, 2011

By JULIAN RESENDIZ / day

In four weeks the Redistricting Commission visited 10 neighborhoods in Dallas to hear complaints and suggestions on how to bring government closer to citizens.

Now members of the Redistricting Commission began the task of parceling Dallas so that more minority influence in the elections of council and the residents of one sector does not depend on someone who lives across the city to solve problems their neighborhood.

The commission resumed work this week after the period of public hearings that began on April 26 and ended on May 24.

"I congratulate the public who attended the meetings. We heard from many groups and could not do our work without taking their views into account," said Commissioner Elizabeth Jones of District 13.

Some leaders regretted the low turnout of Latinos to the hearings of the commission. Jones said that would not disqualify them.

"People who did not talk entitled to be heard. This includes poor neighborhoods and challenges," he said.

The commissioners discussed the testimony received at hearings and saying that:

- Pleasant Grove must have its own representative on the council Dallas. Today this vast neighborhood of southeast Dallas is part of four districts.
- Buckner Terrace Neighborhoods in East, West Dallas in the West, North Oak Cliff, and Oak Lawn in the should not remain divided.
- New districts representation must consist of contiguous neighborhoods, not like now, some ranging from one side of town to another.

"It is clear that people want more compact districts. This tells me that I do not feel well represented," said Commissioner District 6 John Lozano.

The harmony between the commissioners does not mean that the neighbors will get everything you asked for.

Pleasant Grove, for example, has too many people to avoid being divided. It has more than 100,000 inhabitants and each district should have about 85,000 people.

And neighborhoods with a majority Latino and Oak Cliff have to absorb non-Hispanic neighborhoods. While the law prohibits minorities disperse, also demands that no one ethnic group be packed.

"It is clear that there are insufficient districts in Dallas" to achieve what people want, said District 5 Commissioner Hollis Brashear.