

# Memorandum



DATE April 1, 2011

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT 2011 Redistricting Guidelines

On Wednesday, April 6, 2011 you will be briefed on the 2011 Redistricting Guidelines. The guidelines, approved unanimously by the Redistricting Commission on March 8, 2011, are scheduled for your consideration and approval during the April 13, 2011 City Council Agenda meeting. The presentation material is attached for your review.

If you have questions or need additional information, please let me know.

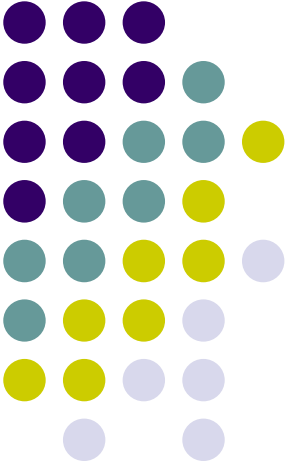
  
Mary K. Suhm  
City Manager

cc: Deborah A. Watkins, City Secretary  
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
C. Victor Lander, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager  
A.C. Gonzalez, Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Forest Turner, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Frank Libro, Public Information Office  
Helena Stevens-Thompson, Assistant to the City Manager

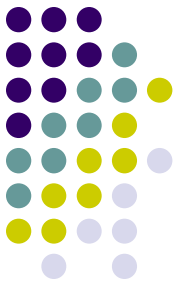
# Redistricting Guidelines



April 6, 2011

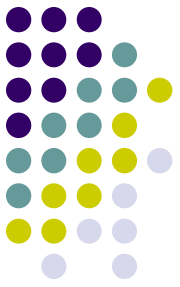


# Overview

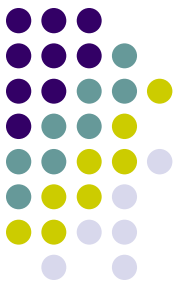


- The Redistricting Guidelines
  - Approved unanimously by the Redistricting Commission on March 8, 2011
  - Placed on the April 13, 2011 City Council agenda for adoption
  - Once approved, will be applied as consistently as possible in drawing new City Council boundaries

# Redistricting Guidelines Preamble



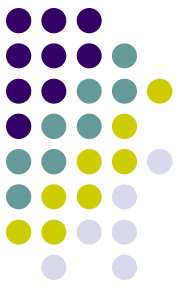
The Redistricting Commission intends to apply the following guidelines as consistently as possible and to the greatest extent possible, in the drawing of the city council district boundaries that are in the best interest of the residents and the city of Dallas. The Redistricting Commission acknowledges, however, that on some occasions these redistricting guidelines may conflict with one another.



# Redistricting Guidelines

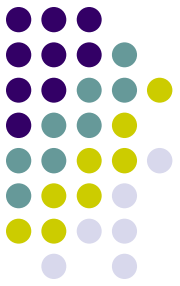
- Section A: Required by the US Constitution, Voting Rights Act, and other federal/state laws
  - Population Equality
  - Minority Representation
  - Contiguity and Compactness
- Section B: Other guidelines to be considered
  - Neutrality toward incumbents
  - Communities of Interest

# Districts of Substantially Equal Population



- Based on total population as determined by the 2010 Census
- Overall range of deviation between population of the largest and smallest district must be less than 10%
- Any deviation between the populations of the largest district and the smallest district must be due to a necessity to achieve another legitimate objective

# Minority Representation



- A plan cannot have the effect of diluting racial, ethnic or language minorities, however race cannot be the dominant motive in drawing districts
  - Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act
- Commission can draw districts where the minority has a fair chance to win where certain factors are present

# Contiguity and Compactness



- Districts must be composed of contiguous territory
- Districts should be as compact as possible



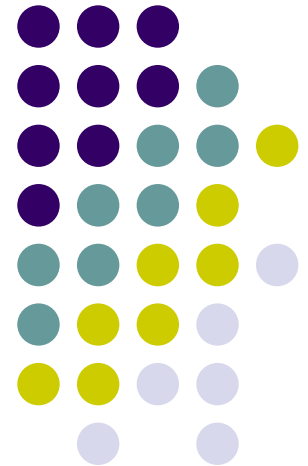
# Other Factors to be Considered



- The configuration of districts should be neutral as to incumbents.
  - The districts must not be drawn for the purpose of either protecting or defeating an incumbent
- Districts should attempt to preserve communities of interest and avoid splitting neighborhoods

# Appendix A

## 2011 Redistricting Guidelines



## REDISTRICTING GUIDELINES 2011

Approved by the Redistricting Commission: March 1, 2011 with Final Edits March 8, 2011,  
**To Be Submitted to City Council for Final Adoption: April 13, 2011**

The Redistricting Commission intends to apply the following guidelines as consistently as possible and to the greatest extent possible, in the drawing of city council district boundaries that are in the best interests of the residents and the City of Dallas. The Redistricting Commission acknowledges, however, that on some occasions these redistricting guidelines may conflict with one another.

A. The following guidelines regarding Population Equality, Minority Representation and Contiguity and Compactness shall be applied as required by the U.S. Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, and other federal and state laws.

### 1. Population Equality.

The districts should be drawn so that they are substantially equal in population according to the total count as presented in the 2010 census data. The total deviation between the largest and the smallest district must be as small as possible, but in all cases must be less than ten percent.

Minor population deviations of less than ten percent may be allowed if they are necessary to achieve a good faith, legitimate objective, such as:

- preserving the voting strength of minority populations in compliance with the Voting Rights Act;
- making the districts compact;
- maintaining communities of interest in a single district and avoiding splitting neighborhoods;
- using public school attendance boundaries as defined by the independent school districts in the City of Dallas to assist in defining neighborhoods;
- preserving the cores of existing districts as permitted by case law, meaning to recognize the traditional geographic, economic, cultural or social center of an existing district as supported by public testimony;
- following easily identifiable geographic boundaries and other unique geographical configurations; or
- facilitating responsiveness of elected representatives to their constituents.

### 2. Minority Representation.

As required by the Voting Rights Act, the voting strength of racial, ethnic, and language minorities in the districts should not be diluted by depriving minority voters of an equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice, such as by packing or fracturing districts. Race, ethnicity, and language minority consideration, however cannot be the predominant factor to which other districting legal principles are subordinated.

A majority minority district may be created to provide fair representation to the members of racial, ethnic, and language minority populations where compelling justification requires such a district as determined by the following factors:

- a reasonably compact district can be drawn in compliance with the other redistricting guidelines in which voters of the minority group constitute a majority of the electorate and will increase the probability that members of the minority will be elected;
- the minority community is politically cohesive and usually votes together; and
- other voters in the area generally vote as a bloc to successfully defeat the minority community's preferred candidates.

3. Contiguity and Compactness.

The districts should be geographically compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness and contiguity involve both a functional and a geographic aspect. Functional compactness and contiguity include factors such as:

- the availability of transportation and communication;
- the existence of common social, cultural, community, and economic interests;
- the ability of constituents of a council district to relate to each other;
- the existence of shared interests, including a history and tradition of working together;
- the use of public school attendance boundaries as defined by the independent school districts in the City of Dallas to assist in defining neighborhoods; and
- the drawing of district boundaries that facilitate communications between constituents and their elected representatives.

B. Other guidelines which may be considered include:

1. Incumbents.

The configuration of districts shall be neutral as to incumbents. The districts must not be configured for the purpose of either protecting or defeating an incumbent.

2. Communities of Interest.

Communities of interest shall be maintained in a single district, where possible; and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods. For purposes of this guideline, "communities of interest" include geographic areas where there are people who share clearly recognizable similarities of social, political, cultural, ethnic, religious or economic interests. Factors to be considered in defining "neighborhoods" include homeowner associations, neighborhood associations, crime watch groups, public testimony, census tract information and traditionally recognized areas of Dallas.