

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, City Council approved Resolution 20110428-048 directing the City Manager prepare a draft plan reflecting single member districts; and

WHEREAS, a plan would only become effective if an appropriate measure was passed at an election; and

WHEREAS, in preparing the plan, the City has certain responsibilities for districting under federal and state law, including but not limited to Amendments 14 and 15 to the United States Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, and Texas Government Code sections 2058.001 and 2058.002; and

WHEREAS, a set of established districting criteria will serve as a framework to guide the City in the consideration of districting plans; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Council will review all plans in light of these criteria and evaluate how well each plan conforms to the criteria; and

WHEREAS, All plans submitted should conform to these criteria and Resolution 20110526-025 regarding districting guidelines; and, **NOW**, **THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the Council, in its consideration of a districting plan for city councilmember districts, will adhere to the following criteria to the greatest degree practicable:

1. Where practicable, easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.
2. Communities of interest should be maintained in a single district, where practicable, and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods.
3. To the extent practicable, districts should be composed of whole voting precincts. Where this is not possible or practicable, districts should be drawn in a way that permits the creation of practical voting precincts and that ensures that adequate facilities for polling

places exist in each voting precinct. Splitting census blocks should be avoided.

4. Districts must be configured so that they are relatively equal in total population according to the 2010 federal Census. In no event should the total deviation in population between the largest and smallest district exceed ten percent.
5. The districts should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness may contain a functional as well as geographical dimension.
6. The plan should be narrowly tailored to avoid retrogression in the position of racial minorities and language minorities as defined in the Voting Rights Act with respect to their effective exercise of electoral franchise.
7. The plan should not fragment a geographically compact minority community or pack minority voters in the presence of polarized voting so as to create liability under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 USC § 1973.

ADOPTED: _____, 2011

ATTEST: _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk