

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, it is necessary to provide for the orderly consideration and evaluation of comments and districting plans which may come before the City Council; and

WHEREAS, these guidelines relate to persons who have specific comments and proposed districting plans for the Council to consider; and

WHEREAS, the Council welcomes any comments relevant to the districting process; and, **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

That the Council hereby set the following guidelines:

1. Proposed plans must be submitted in writing. Council wishes to be sure that all proposals are fully and accurately considered.
2. Any plan must show the total population and voting age population for Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and Anglo/other for each proposed city council district, based on 2010 Census data. If a plan is submitted without population breakdown, the Council may not have sufficient information to give it full consideration.
3. Plans should district the entire City of Austin. The Council will consider the effect of any plan on the entire city. Also, Council is subject to the Voting Rights Act, which protects various racial and language minorities. Thus, as a matter of federal law, the Council will be required to consider the effect of any proposal on multiple racial and ethnic groups. If a plan does not district the entire city, it may be impossible for the Council to assess its impact on one or more protected minority groups.

4. Plans must conform to the criteria the Council will be using in drawing the councilmember districts.
5. Comments from staff and the public must be submitted in writing and be legible, even if the person also makes the comments orally at a public hearing.
6. Persons providing comments or proposing plans must identify themselves by full name and home address and provide a phone number and, if available, an email address. The Council may wish to follow up on such comments.
7. To be fully considered and for full analysis, plans should be submitted by Friday, July 8.

ADOPTED: _____, 2011

ATTEST: _____
Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk