

Fred McGhee's Fidelitas Blog

AN AUSTIN REDISTRICTING COMMISSION?

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

PLEASE NOTE: Some of this blog entry will make more sense if you read the blog post that preceded it.

The primary item on the agenda of the January 19, 2012 meeting of the Austin Charter Revision Committee was expert testimony and public comment regarding the idea of the establishment of an "independent" redistricting commission for the city of Austin. The committee received testimony from Steve Bickerstaff, an expert on domestic and international election law and an adjunct professor at the University of Texas School of Law. Bickerstaff also submitted a letter to the committee in which he recommends that the Austin city charter should require that any city election district boundaries be drawn by an independent citizen commission. In the letter he writes that he believes that the best model for the City of Austin is found in the commission utilized in

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