

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, the Council would like to be advised by a task force on various options for designating Council districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council seeks task force candidates that are independently selected and who would contribute relevant analytical skills, the ability to be impartial, residency in various parts of the City, and appreciation for the City of Austin's diverse demographics and geography; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

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

1. A Districting Advisory Task Force shall be appointed to study, conduct public hearings and advise the Council on possible options to organize the City into Council districts. The Task Force shall consist of 15 members appointed by the process set out in this resolution. A quorum shall consist of nine members. Nine votes shall be required for action. The Task Force shall conduct its business according to Robert's Rules of Order.
2. As soon as possible following the adoption of this resolution, the City Auditor shall widely advertise the opportunity for citizens of the City of Austin to apply for a place on the Districting Advisory Task Force. The City Auditor shall design appropriate application forms considering the criteria for applicants stated in this resolution, and a process for receiving applications and for reviewing and ranking applicants. The City Auditor may solicit any information from the applicants that the City Auditor determines is necessary or appropriate in selecting qualified applicants, including, but not limited to: gender, race, ethnicity, age, current occupation, sexual orientation (at

applicant's discretion), home address, relevant professional expertise, skills, and/or experience, such as: statistical analysis, community or neighborhood involvement, advocacy of issues of importance to the city.

3. A city resident who is a registered voter and who meets the other criteria stated in this resolution may apply beginning on May 1, 2012 for a place on the Districting Advisory Task Force. All applications must be received by the close of business on June 1, 2012.
4. To qualify to serve on the Districting Advisory Task Force, a person must attest that he or she is: (a) a city resident (b) who is a registered voter (c) residing in the City of Austin (d) eligible to vote in Austin City Council elections, (e) who has been continuously registered as voter and has been continuously a resident of the City for five years preceding the effective date of this resolution, and (f) who must have voted in at least three of the last five City general elections, (g) except for an applicant (i) who is a full-time student in a college or university located in the City of Austin, and who need only attest to being (ii) a registered voter and (iii) a resident of the City eligible to vote in City elections.
5. An applicant for the Districting Advisory Task Force must attest that he or she is not, nor has been within the last five years preceding the effective date of this resolution:
  - a. a City employee;
  - b. appointed to a City office;
  - c. the recipient of a City contract over \$50,000;
  - d. an elected official;
  - e. a candidate for elective office;
  - f. a state- or City-registered lobbyist;

- g. an employee of a state- or City-registered lobbyist;
  - h. a paid political consultant;
  - i. a paid employee, official, manager or director of a campaign of a candidate for elective office; or
  - j. a contributor or bundler of more than \$1,000 in total contributions to all candidates in a City election cycle.
6. No later than June 15, 2012, the City Auditor shall complete the review of the applications and, from the applicants who meet the criteria stated in this resolution, select the 60 most qualified; these shall constitute the Applicant Pool. The City Auditor may not communicate directly or indirectly with any member of the City Council, or their staffs or representatives, about any matter related to this selection process. If there are fewer than 60 qualified applicants, the City Auditor shall include all the qualified applicants in the Applicant Pool.
7. On June 15, 2012, the City Auditor shall randomly draw from the Applicant Pool the names of eight applicants, who shall be invited to become members of the Districting Advisory Task Force. The City Auditor shall promptly notify the selected applicants, who shall become members of the Task Force upon written agreement to serve. If any decline to serve, the Auditor shall draw additional names randomly from the Applicant Pool until a total of eight who agree to serve have been selected.
8. No later than June 21, 2012, the initial eight members of the Districting Advisory Task Force shall meet and select from the remaining members of the Applicant Pool an additional seven applicants who shall be invited to become members of the Districting Advisory Task Force, by the following process:

- a. The initial eight members shall appoint the remaining seven members from the Applicant Pool in a manner that, to the extent practicable, seeks to ensure that the Task Force reflects the diversity of the City of Austin, including, but not limited to, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity. However, formulas, specific ratios or other quotas shall not be applied for this purpose.
  - b. The initial eight members shall appoint the remaining seven members in a manner that, (i) to the extent practicable and without compromising the diversity goal of subsection “a” above, seeks to ensure geographic diversity of residence within the City among the members; and, (ii) in furtherance of this goal, to the extent practicable without compromising the diversity goal of subsection “a” above or the geographic diversity goal of part “(i)” of this subsection, seeks to ensure that for each of the four current Travis County commissioners precincts at least three members of the Task Force reside in that precinct.
  - c. The City Auditor shall promptly notify the additional applicants selected who shall become members of the Task Force upon written agreement to serve. If any decline to serve, the Auditor shall promptly notify the members of the Districting Advisory Task Force (including the initial eight members and any additional members), who shall select additional applicants from the Applicant Pool until there are a total of 15 members, all of whom have agreed in writing to serve.
9. If the Applicant Pool is not sufficiently large to produce 15 members of the Task Force, the Task Force shall consist of all qualified applicants in the Applicant Pool who agree to serve; a quorum shall consist of fifty-one percent of the members; and action shall require approval of at least fifty-one

- percent of the members; provided, that if fewer than nine persons from the Applicant Pool agree to serve, the Council may appoint remaining members who meet the criteria stated in this resolution whether or not they are members of the Applicant Pool or ever applied, up to a total of 15 members.
10. Upon any Task Force member's resignation, or upon any member's failing to continue to satisfy the criteria stated in this resolution or otherwise required by the Auditor's application and selection process, that person shall immediately cease to be a member of the Task Force and a vacancy shall occur; and the Task Force shall promptly notify the Auditor of such vacancy, which the Auditor shall fill by selecting an applicant who is willing to serve from the remaining Applicant Pool.
  11. The Council may by resolution provide specific tasks for the Districting Advisory Task Force. A written report to Council on the Task Force's findings and recommendations shall be provided by the Task Force on or before October 18, 2012. The Districting Advisory Task Force shall dissolve upon the submission of its findings and recommendations to the Council or on November 5, 2012, whichever comes first.
  12. The City Manager shall provide appropriate resources and staff support to Task Force to facilitate its meetings.

ADOPTED: April 26, 2012

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirley A. Gentry  
City Clerk