

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (ICRC)

PUBLIC FORUM: DISTRICT 2

MENDEZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

5106 VILLAGE SQ. DR.

AUSTIN, TX 78744

TUESDAY, AUG. 10, 6-8 P.M.

Public Forum Agenda

1. How to sign up for testimony
2. Background on the Independent Citizens Redistrict Commission (ICRC)
3. Current City Council district maps and demographic information
4. History of the 10-1 Austin City Council districts
5. Explanation of the delayed Census, and
6. Instructions for how to proceed through breakout sessions and how to use map print outs.



Find us on Facebook and Twitter at Austin Redistricting



Find us on Instagram @austinredistrict

ICRC websites:

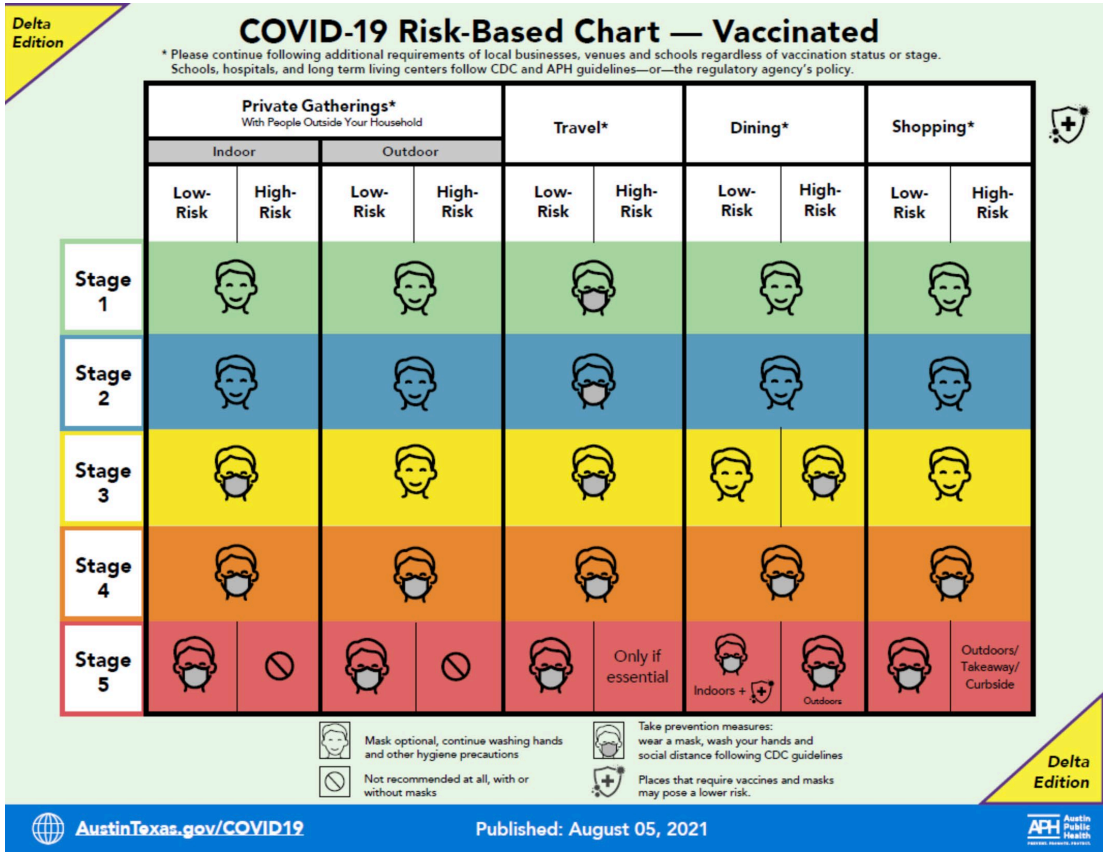
https://www.speakupaustin.org/city-of-austin-redistricting

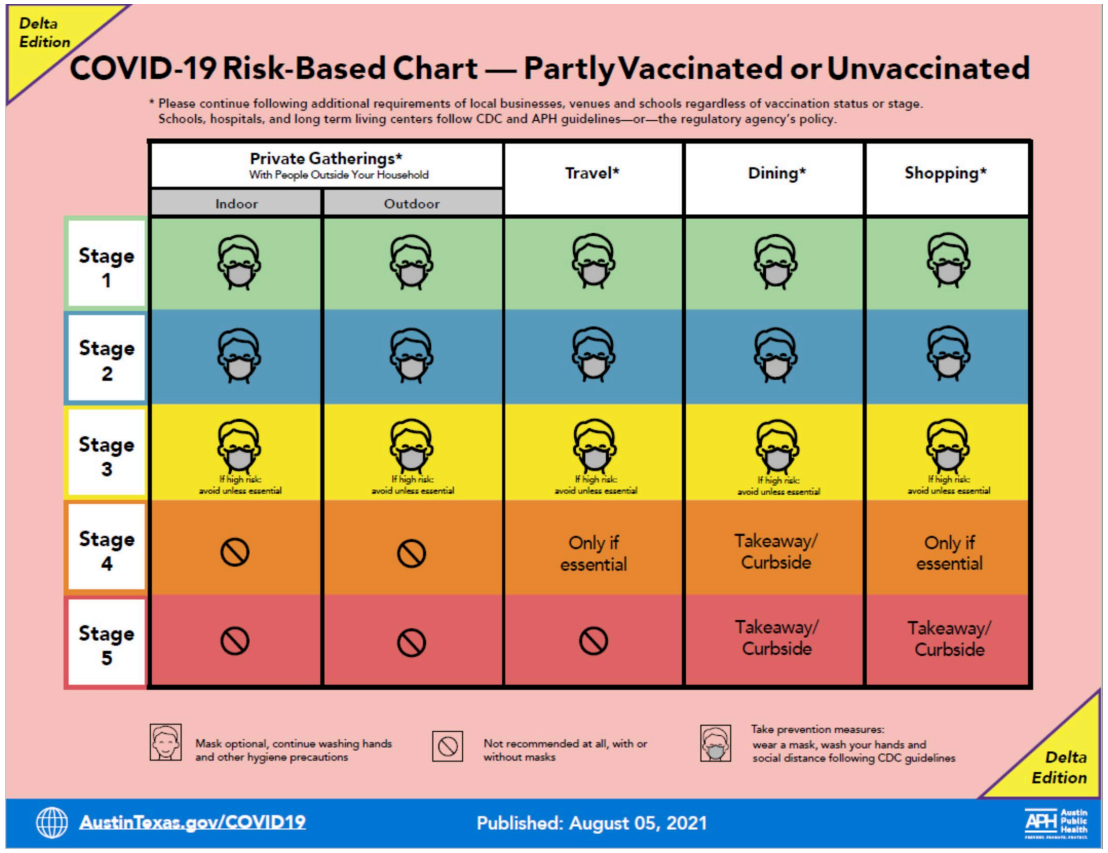
https://redistrictatx.org/

http://www.austintexas.gov/content/independent-citizens-redistricting-commission

Please Mask Up!

The City of Austin has returned to Stage 5 COVID-19 Guidelines.





ICRC Commissioners

District 1 – Errol Hardin

District 1 – Selina Yee

District 2 – Sara Inés Calderón

District 3 – Brigham Morris

District 3 – Hoang Le

District 4 – Dr. Sterling Lands

District 5 – Prabhu Kannan

District 6 – Eugene Schneider

District 7 – Christina Puentes (Chair)

District 7 – Camellia Falcon

District 8 – Joshua Blank

District 9 – Shaina Kambo

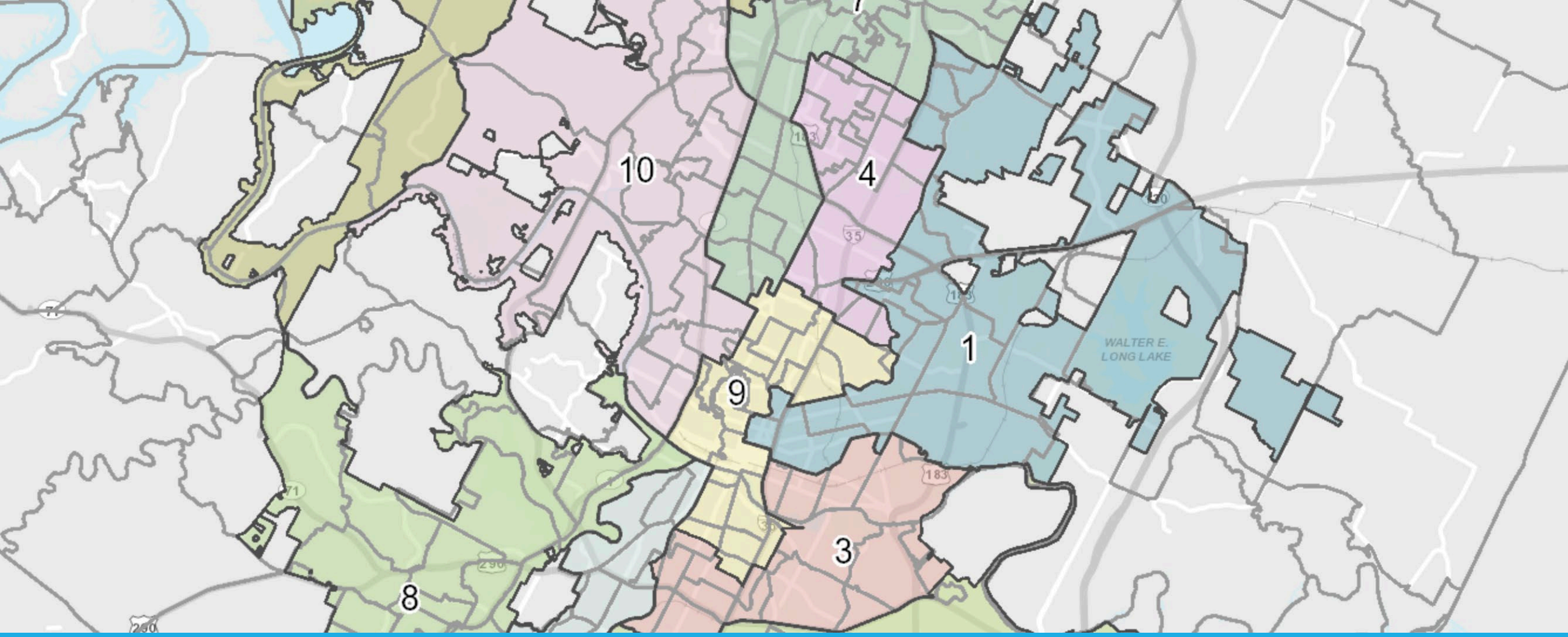
District 10 – Luis Gonzalez (Vice-Chair)

District 10 – Erin Dempsey

District 2 Commissioner Sara Inés Calderón



Sara Inés Calderón has been a resident of District 2 since 2014, when she came back to live in Austin for the second time, previously she worked at *¡ahora sí!* at *The Austin American-Statesman*. Since coming back she's made Austin her home, working at various tech startups in town, as well as working with community and non-profit organizations to invite more people of color to consider careers in technology.



“Let the people draw the maps.”

--Austinites for Geographic Representation

ICRC Background & Selection Process

History

Austin residents voted to elect City Council by geographic district in 2012. Before that vote, six council members and the mayor were elected citywide. Today, the city has 10 districts with a council member elected from each district. The mayor is still elected citywide.

In 2013, a diverse group of Austin residents determined the boundaries for the 10 council districts. Since then, Austin's population has grown and changed an estimated 24% from 790,000+ people to 979,000+. This year a new group of citizens will redraw the district boundaries to reflect these changes.

ICRC Selection Process

300+ applications received

89.31% of received applications met minimum requirements

Applicant Review Panel selected the 60 most qualified Commission applicants

City Auditor randomly selected 8 Commissioners from the qualified pool

The randomly selected 8 commissioners choose 6 additional applicants from the qualified pool

14 commissioners will work to draw the district boundaries

The Role of the ICRC

The Commission will decide on the new boundaries through an open and transparent process with many opportunities for public input.

In order to draw the district boundaries, commissioners need input from residents throughout the process. The process involves:

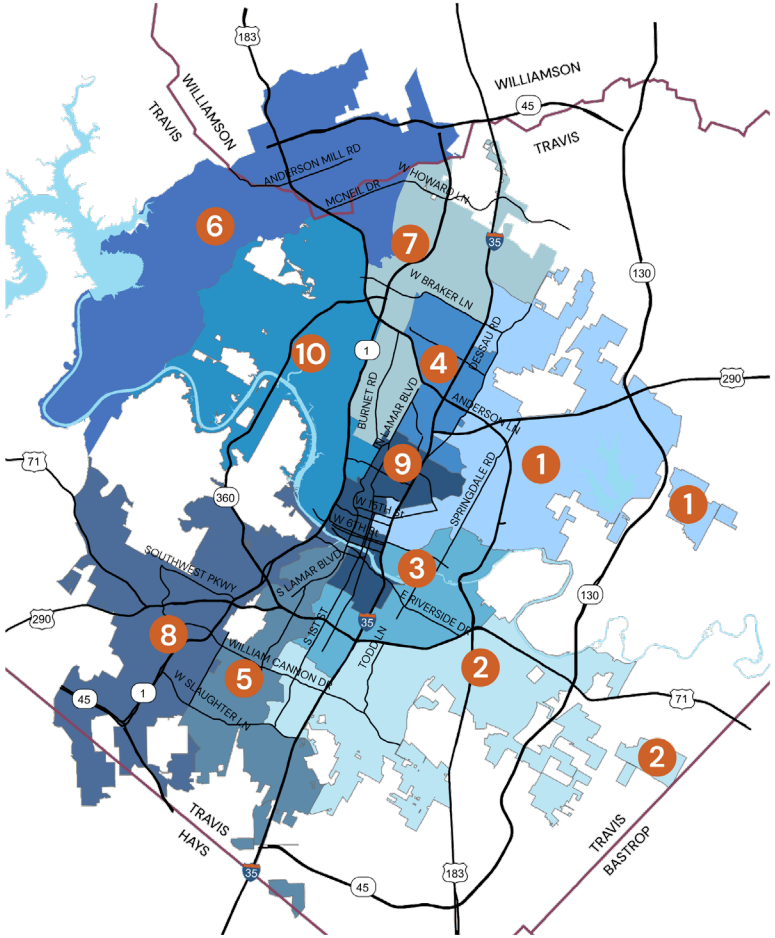
- **Holding public meetings in each of the 10 city council districts**
- **Coming up with an initial draft of the boundaries**
- **Holding four more public meetings (one in each of the Travis County precincts)**
- **Proposing final boundaries**
- **Holding two more public meetings (one north and one south of Lady Bird Lake)**
- **Voting on final boundaries**
- **Adopting a final plan by no later than November 1, 2021**

Why Redistricting Matters

Redistricting will change how Austin residents are represented by City Council and shape how they think about their community.

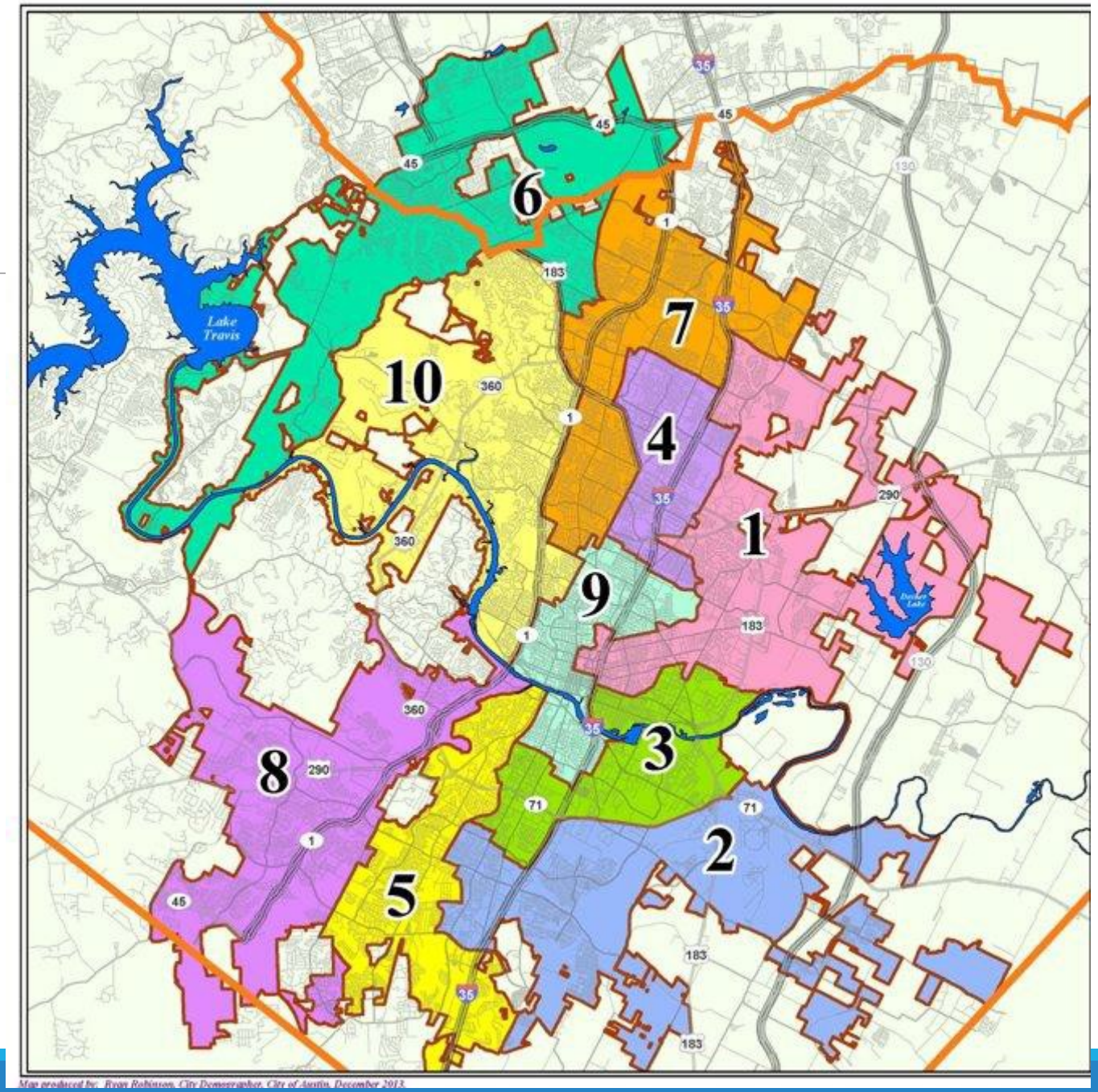
Austin's population has grown and changed since the districts were originally drawn in 2013. The new district boundaries may change as well.

Residents who participate will have a chance to meet Austinites across the city and learn more about the city they call home. They will learn about Austin's history and make important decisions about Austin's future.



ICRC Final Plan

November 2013



How Does the ICRC Draw Maps?

From the City Charter, Section 3.E

1. Each district shall have reasonably equal population with other districts, except where deviation is required to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act or is allowable by law.

2. Districts shall comply with the federal Voting Rights Act and any other requirement of federal or state law.

3. Districts shall be geographically contiguous.

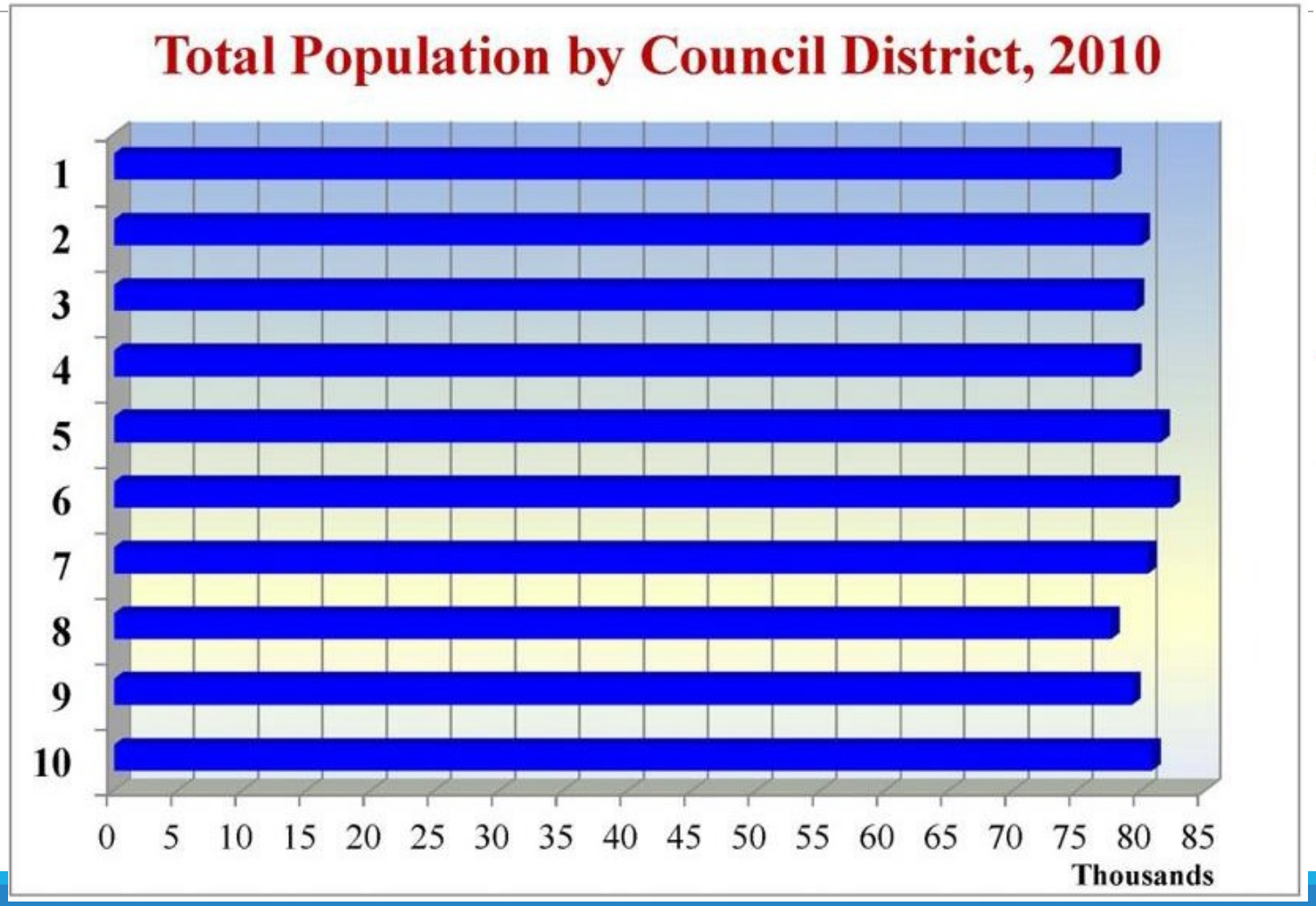
4. The geographic integrity of local neighborhoods or local communities of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes their division to the extent possible without violating the requirements of any of the preceding subsections.

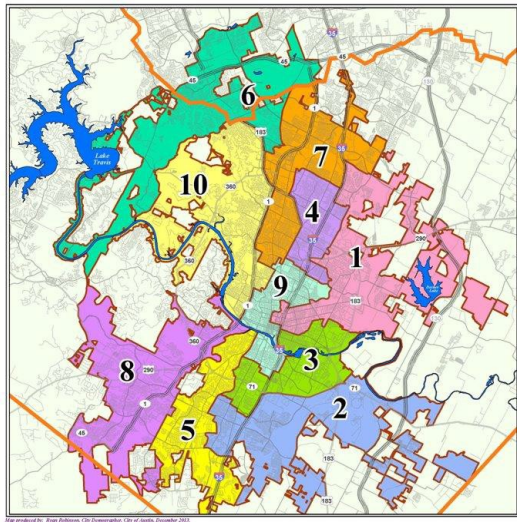
5. District boundaries shall be drawn to encourage geographical compactness such that nearby areas of population are not bypassed for more distant populations as is practical.

6. District boundaries shall be drawn using the boundaries of existing election precincts, as is practical.

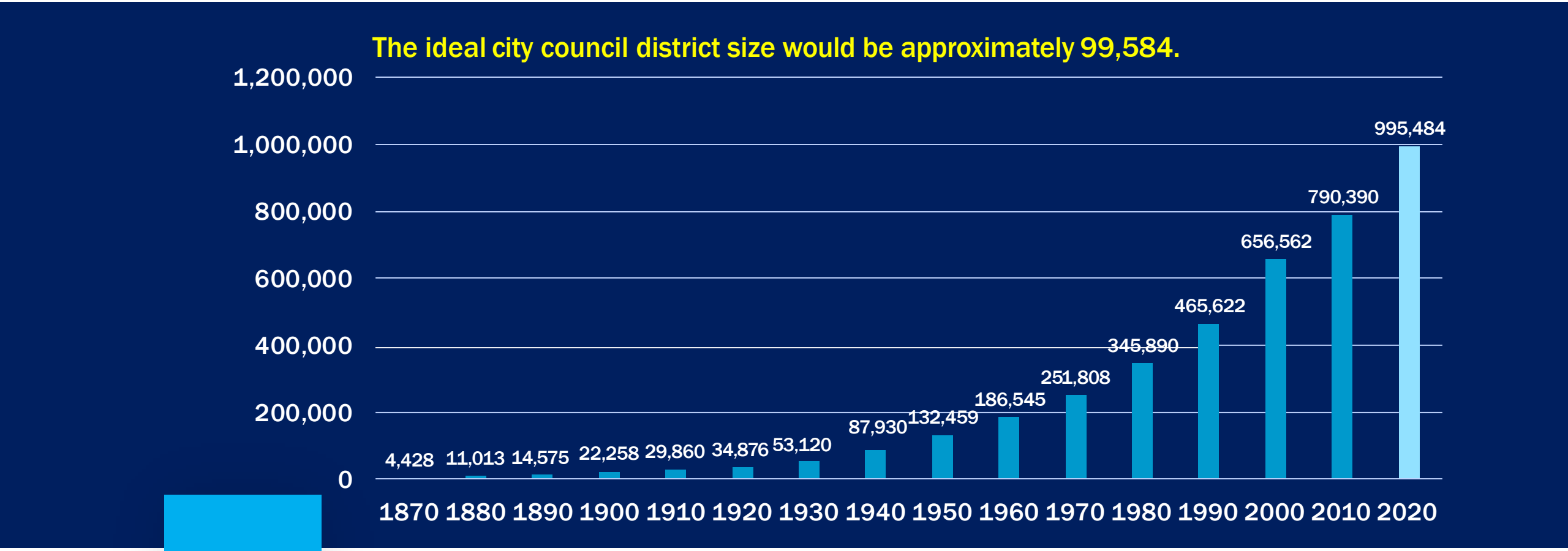
7. District boundaries shall be drawn using geographically identifiable boundaries, as is practical.

Total Population by District, 2010





Austin Population Growth, 1870 to 2020

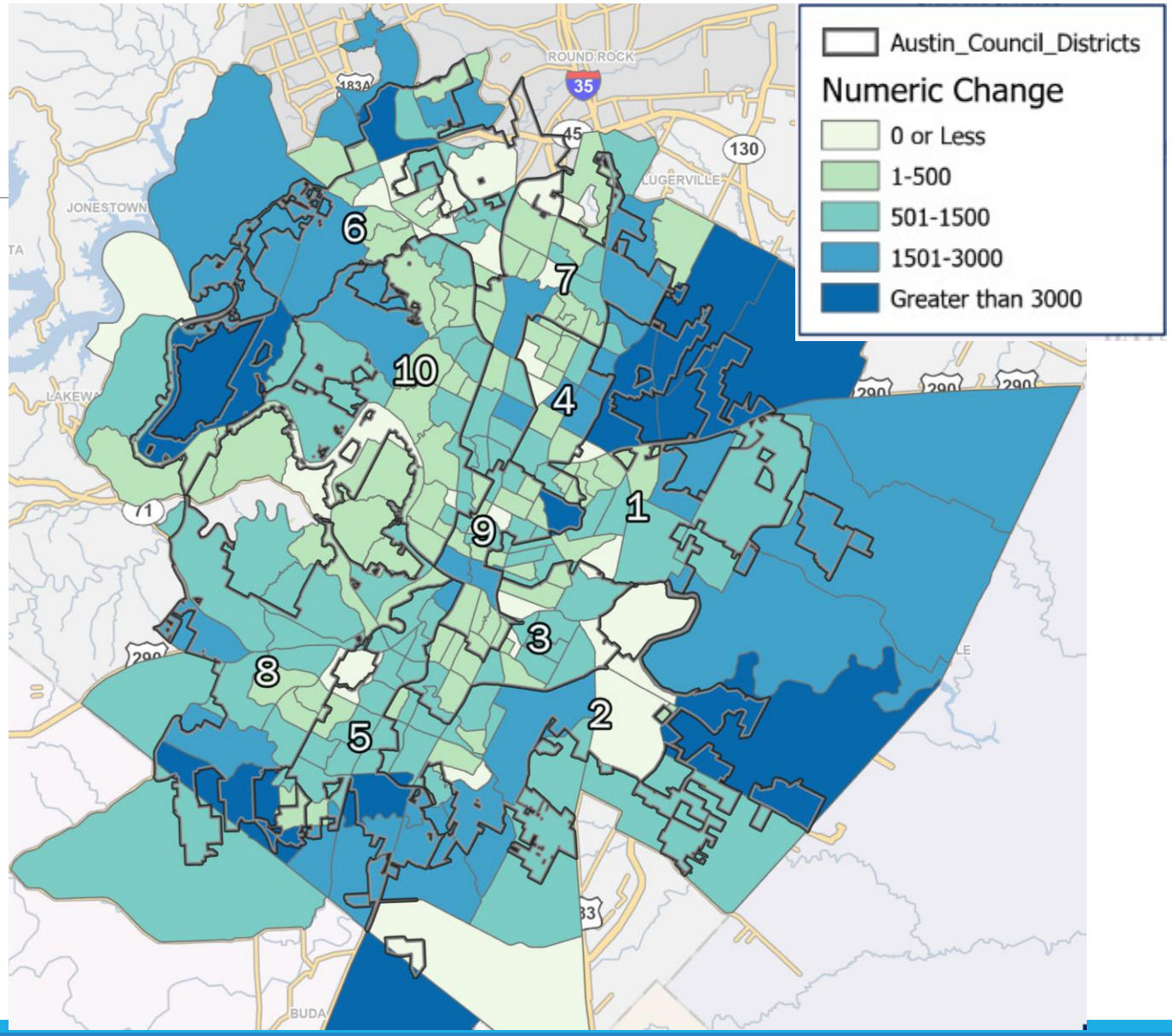


0.995 million

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Censuses 1870 – 2010; U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Vintage 2020.

HOUSING & PLANNING

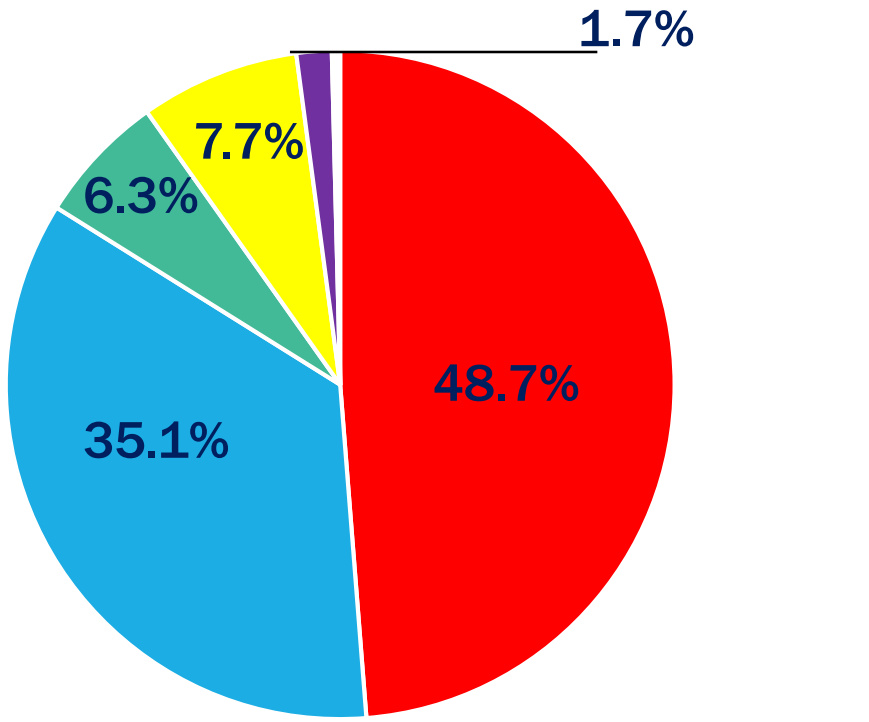
Numeric Population Change, 2010 to 2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, American Community Survey 2019 5-Year Estimates

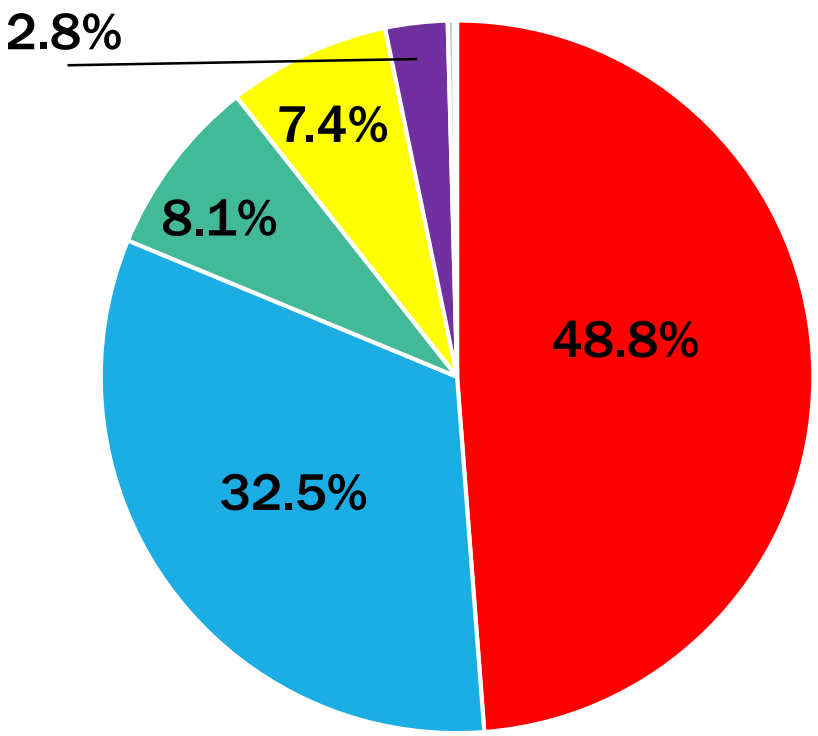
Austin Race/Ethnicity Composition

2010 Demographics



- White
- Hispanic
- Asian, Pacific Islander
- Black
- Two or more races, NH
- American Indian, Alaska Native 0.2%
- Other races, NH 0.2%

2019 Demographics



- White
- Hispanic
- Asian, Pacific Islander
- Black
- Two or more races, NH
- American Indian, Alaska Native, NH 0.3%
- Other races, NH 0.1%

Why Do We Not Have the 2020 Census Data?

Operational delays caused by COVID-19 in addition to wildfires, hurricanes, allegations of political interference, fluctuating deadlines and lawsuits delayed the Census Bureau's original plan to deliver the redistricting data to the states starting on Feb. 18, 2021 and ending on March 31, 2021.

Redistricting data will be released mid-August to late September at census.gov

- Aug. 12–Census Bureau will release raw data
- Sept. 30–Census Bureau will release toolkit with software to understand data in census

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Associated Press

Group Activity Instructions (45 minutes)

1. Attendees will be divided into equal groups corresponding to designation on name tags.

Find the people in the audience who match the designation on your name tag.

2. Commissioners will lead each group through the map printout activity.
   - Commissioners are not participants, but *facilitators*
   - Commissioners will review the steps for the activity and the redistricting priorities as noted in ICRC charter, section 3.E
   - Groups will identify aspects/areas of interest within their district that matters most to them and their local community on provided district map printouts

3. Each group will select one speaker to report group findings and questions/concerns.

4. Each speaker will have 5 minutes to report to the entire commission and everyone in attendance.

Common Areas of Interest

Areas of interest are the overlapping sets of **neighborhoods, networks, and groups** that share interests, views, cultures, histories, languages, and values and whose boundaries can be identified on a map.

Examples:

- Neighborhoods
- Schools
- Parks
- Shopping malls and grocery stores
- Recreation facilities
- Bus routes

Questions to Consider in Small Group Breakout

What do I need to know about your district?

How do you live your life in your community?

What routes do you take to work?

What churches, mosques, temples do you attend?

What grocery store to you frequent?

What schools do your children attend (pre-K, elementary, high school, private, community college, university)?

How accessible is Capitol Metro bus line?

What are some of the shared community spaces- shopping centers, homeowners' associations, parks, pools, etc.?

Where do you go to the doctor?

Where is the nearest police and fire station in your community?

What are your communities shared interests- health conditions, land use, environmental conditions, and/or other issues?

What are the racial and ethnic compositions, cultural identities, and households that predominantly speak a language other than English in your community?

Explain the socio-economic status in your community, including but not limited to income, home-ownership and education levels.

What are the shared political boundary lines from other jurisdictions in your community?

Public Testimony

- All individuals wishing to make comments must have signed in prior to the meeting.
- Each speaker is limited to 3 minutes, unless additional time is granted by the Chair.
- Those in attendance are asked to refrain from disrupting the meeting by making noise of any kind (clapping, verbal feedback, etc.); anyone who disrupts the proceedings will be asked to leave.
- The Commission is interested in gathering data on citizens' view of neighborhoods, maps, and the redistricting plan.
- Everyone is asked to abide by these guidelines so that the public forum process can proceed smoothly and all who wish to speak have the opportunity to do so.

Map Worksheet Instructions (20 minutes)

1. Collect a map worksheet for the district in which you reside.

2. Read the instructions at the top, then using a pen, draw points (dots, stars) on the map to represent the places you frequent in your district.

3. Circle the areas that you wish to remain intact in your district.

4. Leave written comment on the back of the map of your district.

5. You can also mark up the city-wide map and leave comments.



Upcoming Public Forums

DISTRICT-SPECIFIC FORUMS

D1: Saturday, August 14: 1-3pm

George Washington Carver Museum; Lobby

1165 Angelina St, Austin, TX 78702

D5: Tuesday, August 17: 6-8pm

Via Zoom

CITY-WIDE FORUMS

Virtual Public Forum #1

Saturday, August 21: 10am-12pm

Via Zoom

Virtual Public Forum #2

Friday, August 27: 11am-1pm

Via Zoom

Thank You for Attending the ICRC's Public Forum!



Have something to say to all the commissioners?

Email us at
icrc.commissioners@austintexas.gov