

Resolution No. 21-254

A resolution setting guidelines for 2020 redistricting proposals from outside interested parties

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Arlington has certain responsibilities for redistricting under federal and state law including, but not limited to, Amendments 14 and 15 to the United States Constitution, U.S.C.A., and the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.A. § 1973, *et seq*; and Texas Government Code §§ 2058.001 and 2058.002; and Texas Election Code §276.006; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has certain responsibilities for redistricting under the City Charter; and

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

WHEREAS, these guidelines relate to persons other than the City of Arlington who have specific proposed redistricting plans they wish the City Council to consider; and

WHEREAS, the City Council welcomes any comments relevant to the redistricting process; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2021, the City of Arlington Redistricting Task Force voted to approve recommending these redistricting guidelines to the City Council; NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ARLINGTON, TEXAS:

I.

That in order to make sure that any plan that might be submitted is of maximum assistance to the City Council in its decision-making process, the City Council hereby sets the following guidelines:

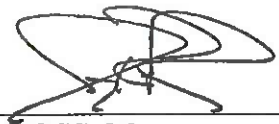
1. Citizen Maps are those submitted to the City of Arlington by members of the public, special interest groups, other political subdivisions, or individual members of the City Council.
2. Citizen Maps shall be assigned a name in accordance with the naming convention established by the City, beginning with Citizen Map, followed by an alpha character and if applicable, a numeric character. Citizen Maps shall identify the creator or the organization that has produced the Citizen Map for purposes of tracking civic engagement, including names of members of the board of directors if the map is submitted by an organization.

3. Citizen Maps must be submitted in writing. If a plan is submitted orally, there is significant opportunity for misunderstanding, and it is possible that errors may be made in analyzing it. The City Council wants to be sure that all proposals be fully and accurately considered.
4. ~~Any Citizen Maps must show the total population and voting age population for Black or African Americans, Hispanics, Asians, Anglo and any other race identified by the census for each proposed City Council district. If a plan is submitted without a population breakdown, the City Council may not have sufficient information to give it full consideration.~~
5. Citizen Maps must be submitted to the City Secretary by November 12, 2021.
6. Citizen Maps must redistrict the entire City. The City Council, of course, will be considering the effect of any plan on the entire City. Also, the City Council is subject to the Voting Rights Act, which protects various racial and language minorities. Thus, as a matter of federal law, it will be required to consider the effect of any proposal on multiple racial and ethnic groups. If a Citizen Map does not redistrict the entire City, it may be impossible for the City Council to assess its impact on one or more protected minority groups. Incomplete maps make it difficult to gauge compliance with One Person / One Vote.
7. Citizen Maps must conform to the criteria the City Council will be using in drawing the City Council member districts. Citizen Maps must be accompanied by a transmittal report identifying any criteria used other than that specified on the Resolution adopted by the City Council. It is crucial that the foundation for decisions reflected in a proposed plan be carefully documented.

PRESENTED AND PASSED on this the 12th day of October, 2021, by a vote of 9 ayes and 0 nays at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Arlington, Texas.

ATTEST:


Alex B.
ALEX BUSKEN, City Secretary



JIM R. ROSS, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
TERIS SOLIS, City Attorney

BY Teris Solis