

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING CRITERIA FOR USE IN
2025 REDISTRICTING PROCESS AND
ESTABLISHING GUIDELINES FOR PERSONS
SUBMITTING SPECIFIC REDISTRICTING
PROPOSALS AND PROVIDING COMMENTS.**

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County 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.; section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C.A. §10301; Tex. Const. art. V, §18(b); and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 2058.001 and 2058.002; and,

WHEREAS, review of the 2020 census data revealed a population imbalance amongst the Commissioner's districts requiring redistricting of those districts; and,

WHEREAS, in response to the 2020 census data, the County redistricted commissioner districts in 2021;

WHEREAS, the resulting commissioner district boundaries from the 2021 redistricting do not comply with the Voting Rights Act and thus require the Commissioners Court to again redistrict commissioner districts; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Commissioners Court to comply with the Voting Rights Act and with all other relevant law, including Tex. Elec. Code §§ 42.001, *et seq.*, and,

WHEREAS, the Commissioner's Court has created a Citizens Advisory Committee ("the Advisory Committee") to make redistricting recommendation(s) to the Commissioners Court; and

WHEREAS, a set of established redistricting criteria will serve as a framework to guide the Advisory Committee and the County in the formulation and consideration of districting plans; and,

WHEREAS, redistricting criteria will provide the Advisory Committee and the Commissioner's Court a means by which to evaluate proposed plans; and,

WHEREAS, redistricting criteria will assist the County in its efforts to comply with all applicable federal and state laws; and,

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

WHEREAS, these guidelines relate to persons who have specific redistricting plans they wish the Advisory Committee and the Commissioners Court to consider.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSONERS COURT
OF THE COUNTY OF FORT BEND, TEXAS:**

Section 1. That the County, in its adoption of a redistricting plan for commissioner districts, will adhere to the following criteria when establishing new commissioner district boundaries:

Section 2. To the extent practicable:

1. Easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.
2. Communities of interest should be maintained in a single district to avoid splitting neighborhoods.
3. Commissioner precincts should be composed of whole voting precincts. Avoid splitting census blocks unless necessary.
4. Commissioner districts must be configured so that they are relatively equal in total population according to the 2020 federal census data. In no event should the total population deviation between the largest and the smallest district exceed ten percent as compared to the ideal precinct size.
5. Commissioner districts should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness may contain a functional, as well as a geographical, dimension.
6. Consideration may be given to the preservation of incumbent-constituency relations by recognition of the residence of incumbents and their history in representing certain areas.
7. The plan should be narrowly tailored to avoid racial gerrymandering in violation of *Shaw v. Reno*.
8. The plan should not fragment a geographically compact minority community or pack minority voters in the presence of polarized voting or otherwise discriminate against protected groups so as to create potential liability under the Voting Rights Act.

Section 3. The Commissioners Court will review all plans considering these criteria and will evaluate how well each plan conforms to the criteria.

Section 4. Citizens may submit proposed plans to the Advisory Committee. Any plan submitted to the Advisory Committee by a citizen for the Advisory Committee's consideration should be a complete plan—*i.e.*, it should include all four (4) Commissioner districts, should

redistrict the entire County, and otherwise comply with this resolution. The Advisory Committee may decline to consider any plan that is not a complete plan.

Section 5. All plans submitted by citizens, as well as plans submitted by staff, consultants, and members of the Commissioners Court shall also conform to the Criteria adopted in this Resolution.

Section 6. In order to make sure that any comments regarding the redistricting process and any redistricting plan that might be submitted are of maximum assistance to the Advisory Committee in its decision-making process, the Commissioners Court hereby sets the following guidelines to be followed by each person submitting a comment or a redistricting plan for consideration:

1. The Commissioners Court wants to be sure that all proposals are fully and accurately considered. Therefore, citizen-proposed plans must be submitted in writing and be legible. If a plan is submitted orally, there is significant opportunity for misunderstanding, and it is possible that errors may be made in analyzing it.
2. The Advisory Committee may wish to obtain additional information about submitted plans. Therefore, persons submitting proposed plans must identify themselves by full name and home address and provide a phone number and, if available, an email address.
3. Plans for each proposed commissioner district should be based on the 2020 Census Data and conform to the redistricting criteria in this resolution.

The Advisory Committee shall establish procedures governing submission of proposals consistent with this resolution.

Section 7. The plan should afford incumbent office holders with the assurance that they will continue to represent the majority of individuals who elected these incumbents, and all incumbents' residential locations should be retained in their reformed precincts to ensure continuity in leadership during the remaining term of incumbents.

Section 8. This Resolution shall become effective and be in full force and effect on its execution by the County Judge.

PASSED AND APPROVED on this ____ day of August 2025.

FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS

KP George, County Judge

ATTEST:

Laura Richard, County Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Bridgette Smith-Lawson, County Attorney