

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES
COMMISSIONERS COURT
FORT BEND COUNTY**

I, **Laura Richard**, duly elected County Clerk and Clerk of Court, Fort Bend County, Texas do hereby submit the Official Minutes of Commissioners Court held on the **26th** day of October, 2021. (Special Meeting – 6:00 PM)



LAURA RICHARD, COUNTY CLERK

Now, therefore, be it resolved upon the motion of Commissioner Meyers seconded by Commissioner Morales, duly put and carried, it is ordered to accept as presented for record the attached minutes approved on this the **9th** day of November, 2021.



County Judge KP George

KP GEORGE, COUNTY JUDGE

MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this 26TH DAY of OCTOBER, 2021, Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County, Texas, met at a special meeting with the following present:

KP GEORGE	COUNTY JUDGE
VINCENT MORALES	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 1
GRADY PRESTAGE	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 2
ANDY MEYERS	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 3
KEN R. DEMERCHANT	COMMISSIONER PRECINCT 4
LAURA RICHARD	COUNTY CLERK

When the following were heard and the following orders were passed:

- 1. Call to Order.**
Call to Order by Judge KP George at 6:00 p.m.

Judge George commended the County’s constituents for their interests in this important process of redistricting. Judge stated the Commissioners originally adopted a timeline, as state legislature had not yet completed their work in Austin. The court has learned the last day to adopt the 2022 Political Map for Fort Bend County is November 29, 2021, which is more time than initially anticipated. Judge George has asked our IT Department to continue to receive map options from the public and will ask the court to ratify and amend the timeline for the public’s feedback.

- 2. Receive Public Comments.**

The Public is invited to attend and participate in these meetings. Those wishing to address the Court should complete and turn in a public participation request form provided for this purpose. Each speaker will be asked to come before the Court, to identify themselves, their address, and the Commissioners Court Precinct and Election Precinct they reside within. Comments should be reasonably concise and to the point. Questions will be answered, but the Court will not permit argument or excessive discussion of any particular topic. The hearing will be conducted under rules of judicial decorum. A video recording will be made of this hearing.

The public comments were deferred until after the presentation of the maps.

3. Receive presentation of proposed redistricting maps.

A. Proposed maps presented by members of the Court.

Robyn Doughtie, Director of Information Technology displayed the Redistricting Maps and began with the current map of the four precincts.

Precinct 1 Proposed Map was presented.

Commissioner Morales described his redistricting map as a good diversity map, allows Commissioner Precinct 2 to have a hand in future development, and will allow Commissioner Precinct 1 to be involved in future development between Simonton and Orchard.

Precinct 2 Proposed Map was presented.

Commissioner Prestage explained the Precinct 2 map changes a decisions that brought Precinct 1 to take in Arcola and Fresno and has been in place for 20 years. In 2011, Precinct 1 had exactly 25% of the population therefore there was no reason to change. Commissioner stated his plan stays status quo and leaves the political situation the same, does not disrupt projects being worked on, communities of interests and future development plans. The Precinct 2 map presents the least amount of change.

Precinct 3 Proposed Map was presented.

Commissioner Meyers stated this Commissioners Court is not a Legislative body. The Court oversees operations in the budget necessary to provide County services to the residents of Fort Bend County. The precincts should reflect the geography and maintain communities of interests and not partisan politics. Commissioner Meyers stated through Dave's redistricting the proportionality, competitiveness, minority representation, compactness and splitting are measured. Commissioner tried to keep the subdivisions together, the MUDs, other taxing entities together rather than splitting them. He stated his map accomplishes these measures and believes it is the fairest.

Precinct 4 Proposed Map was presented.

Commissioner DeMerchant stated Precinct 4 map is called the ponytail map. Commissioner explained he created a map that is fair and balanced and represents diversity.

County Judge Proposed Map was presented.

Judge George quoted the Texas House Redistricting Chair, Representative Todd Hunter, said "Redistricting is a political process and some people like it, some people don't like it, that is the nature of the business". Judge stated his map is fair because it reflects the way the County is growing, this map gives opportunity for citizens to elect members of their choice who is a true reflection of respective community, this map balances all of the four precincts with a 0% deviation and it aligns with all the natural boundaries throughout the community.

Bridgette Smith-Lawson, County Attorney stated there are questions in these maps that are not obvious and legal analysis will be needed.

Below are public participants who called in and did not present a map:

Jennifer Cazares, 1206 Birkdale Court, Katy spoke on the County's process for Redistricting maps and asked for fair maps.

Item 3 continued - Receive presentation of proposed redistricting maps:

B. Proposed maps presented by members of the public.

Below are public participants who presented a map:

- Lakshmi Ramakrishnan, 619 Arden Oaks Drive, Sugar Land, Precinct 4135, stated this map represents keeping communities together and favors Commissioner Prestage's map.
- Sumita Ghosh, 4607 Keneshaw Court, Sugar Land, Precinct 4129, was present through phone, stated this map provides geographic identity, preserves ethnic identity and is in support of Commissioner Prestage's map as it represents a nonsegregation and nonracist map.
- Mohammad Aijaz, 12323 Ashford Hollow Drive, Sugar Land presented maps which represents communities of interests, because the AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) has a tremendous growth in the County. Mr. Aijaz favors Commissioner Prestage's map which provides communities to have an elected representative they want. His goal with the maps is to make sure that his elected representative represents him and his interests.
- Farha Ahmed, Precinct 4, stated she would like the maps to reflect united community's interests and not divided community's interests. Ms. Ahmed also stated it is important to make sure that thriving communities, like the Asian community, gets a chance to grow and make an impact in Fort Bend County. She would like to see the maps acknowledging the growth and the economic viability of this County.

Below are public participants present in court who spoke on the Redistricting Maps:

- Sofia Sheikh, 8014 Agora Circle, Sugar Land, Precinct 1087 spoke on the maps presented and said the maps should be to unite communities and not divide them. She is in favor of Judge KP George's map.
- Nabila Mansoor, 7719 Ehrhardt Lane, Sugar Land, Precinct 4, represents the Texas AAPI Redistricting Coalition. Ms. Mansoor explained the maps should reflect diversity; but what is seen is a dilution of Asian American areas are being cracked into different precincts, especially in the areas of Riverstone, Telfair and Aliana. She stated the communities should be kept together and Commissioner Prestage's map seems to do this.
- Terrance Koontz, 315 Oakdale, Stafford with the Texas Organizing Project, appreciates the extension of time in weighing in on the Redistricting maps and would like more time for adequate outreach and would like the Commissioners to host open discussions in neighborhoods.
- Kristin Martin, 4511 Summits Edge Lane, spoke in regards to Judge George 's explanation of his map presented during the 10:00 a.m. Special meeting. Ms. Martin is against Judge's proposed map.
- Dr. Jennifer Cantu, 527 Jeff Davis Drive, spoke on behalf of herself and as a member of the Latino community. Dr. Cantu urged the Commissioners to not take action and not vote on the maps today. She also asked the Commissioners to review the citizen's input and use it to revise the maps.
- Brooke Quach, 13316 Cedar Creek Point, stated it is vital the map chosen accurately reflects the population of the majority minority County, which this County depends on minority of color. Ms. Quach call upon the court to extend the time till the end of November to make a decision.
- Dylan Russell, 4518 Pebblestone Drive, Missouri City, Precinct 4127, Lakes of Brightwater, is concerned about the AAPI community being split up and is in agreement with Commissioner Prestage's map.
- Eamonn O'Neill, 6603 Indiangrass Lane, Precinct 3 believes the best maps are Precinct 3 and Precinct 4. Mr. O'Neill stated the maps should ensure stability in the rural and urban areas with the rural areas voting mostly Conservative Republican and urban areas voting mostly Liberal Democrat. He is concerned about having division in this County.

Item 3 continued - Receive presentation of proposed redistricting maps:

- Koretta Brown, 1911 Summer Place Drive, Missouri City, resident of Quail Green West was present, for this special meeting, to testify on behalf of progressive democracy. Ms. Brown supports Judge KP George's map.
- Nelvin Adriatico, 2918 Oakland Drive, Sugar Land, a representative of the Pilipino Asian Community, a business owner in Fort Bend and a resident in Precinct 4. Mr. Adriatico believes Redistricting is supposed to reflect the population change and racial diversity in order to have equitable representation in Congress and State Legislature. Redistricting is supposed to be protecting the people and uniting them not to isolate them and create a facade that they are being represented.
- Nishan Khan, 17006 Summer Hollow Drive, Sugar Land, Precinct 4045 resident suggests to keep the original Precinct together like Commissioner Prestage has done on his map, have a public forum and vote on the map after hearing the public.
- Precinct 3 resident stated the Court should be serving the public. She supports Commissioner Prestage's map because his map is fair.
- Rodrigo Carreon, 1122 Avenue C, stated he asked the court to keep the public united and serve the public.

4. Take all appropriate action regarding the redistricting of Fort Bend County political boundaries.

Mr. John Oldham was asked about the timeline for his deadline to prepare for the election. Mr. Oldham explained that filing is supposed to begin on November 13 and continue to December 13. Whichever map is chosen there will be changes and he suggests the adoption of the map not go beyond next week.

Marcus Spencer, First Assistant County Attorney reminded the court Mr. Bob Bass will need to evaluate the maps.

Bridgette Smith-Lawson, County Attorney stated a legal analysis is needed for all of the maps. There are maps presented that raise concerns regarding certain groups. Ms. Smith-Lawson stated she would like to discuss the maps in Closed Session of the next Commissioners Court.

Moved by Commissioner Prestage, Seconded by Commissioner Meyers
Duly put and unanimously carried (5-0), it is ordered to extend the deadline to submit redistricting maps from the public until Noon, Friday, October 29, 2021 and adopt a redistricting plan for Commissioners Court, Justice of the Peace and Constable Precincts during a Special Commissioners Court Meeting at 10:00 AM on November 4, 2021.

Judge George	Yes
Commissioner Morales	Yes
Commissioner Prestage	Yes
Commissioner Meyers	Yes
Commissioner DeMerchant	Yes

5. Adjournment.

Commissioners Court Special Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m. on Tuesday, October 26, 2021.

Moved by Commissioner Meyers,
to adjourn.



I attest to the accuracy of the foregoing minutes.

Laura Richard

Laura Richard, County Clerk, Fort Bend County, Texas