

CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING

Presented to the North Fort Worth Alliance
September 18, 2021



What iconic work of art about redistricting was created by the painter, Elkanah Tisdale, and published in the Boston *Gazette* on March 26, 1812?



What iconic work of art about redistricting was created by the painter, Elkanah Tisdale, and published in the Boston *Gazette* on March 26, 1812?

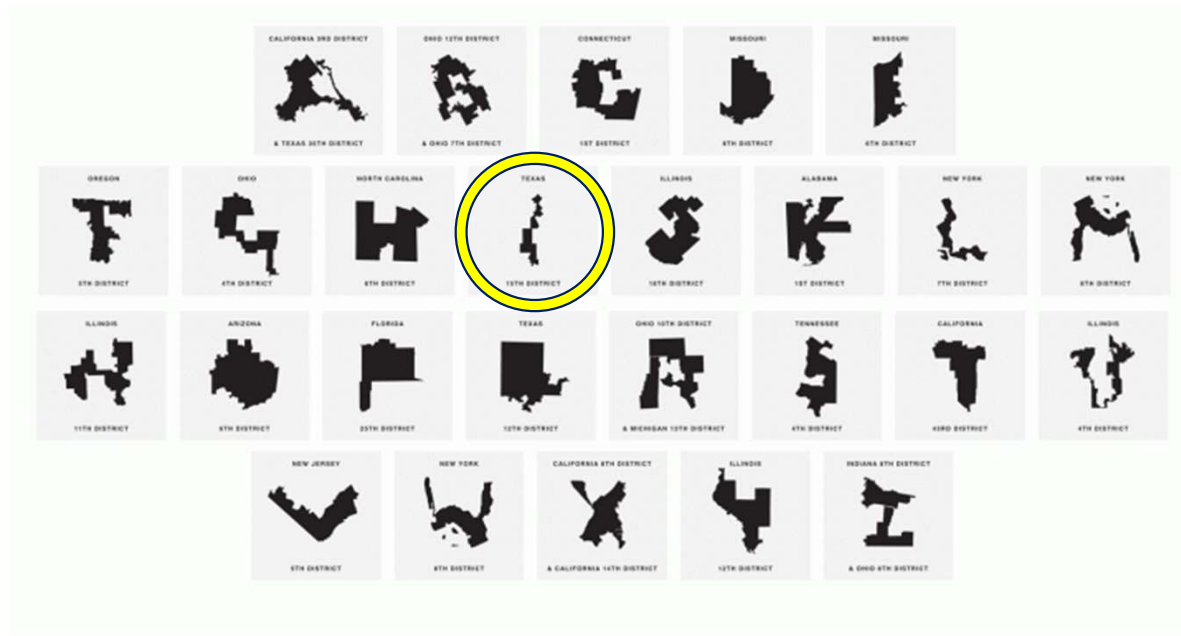


“The Gerry-Mander” is named after Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry, who approved a map of state senate districts that favored his Democratic-Republican party over the Federalist party.

To protest the practice of gerrymandering, what work of art was created in 2019 by Chicago-based digital artists Ben Doessel and James Lee?



To protest the practice of gerrymandering, what work of art was created in 2019 by Chicago-based digital artists Ben Doessel and James Lee?



The “**Gerry**” font renders maps of gerrymandered congressional districts into letters of the alphabet. For example, the 25th district of Texas forms the letter “I”.

"We've got to end the practice of drawing our congressional districts so that politicians can pick their voters, and not the other way around."

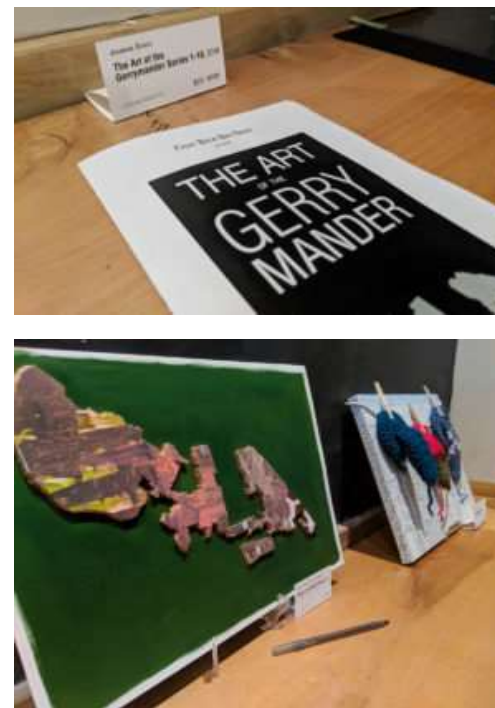
~ President Barack Obama

Art Exhibitions Inspired by Gerrymandering

Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 2019



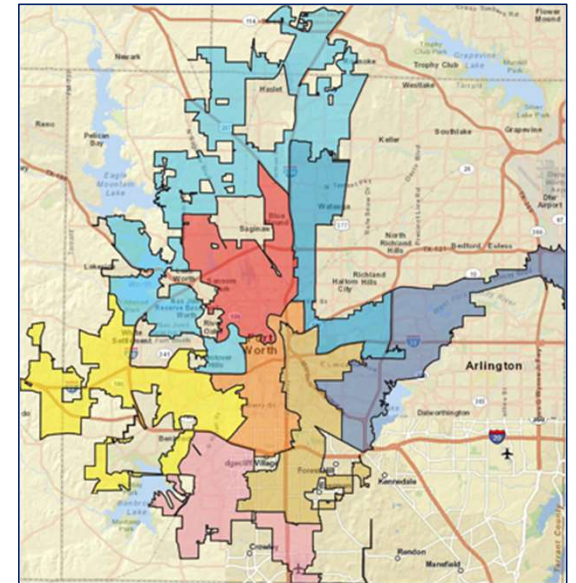
Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, New York, 2018



Resolution No. 5259-08-2020, Appointing a Redistricting Task Force

Adopted August 4, 2020

“The Redistricting Task Force is charged with evaluating the criteria and procedures by which the City Council has redrawn Council district boundaries in the past and, accordingly, **advising the City Council about redistricting criteria and procedures** that the City Council should use in the future.”



Redistricting Task Force

Members

Place 1: Lorraine Miller (Chair)
Place 2: Salvador Espino
Place 3: Graham Norris
Place 4: Craig Allen
Place 5: Bert Williams
Place 6: Linda Kennedy
Place 7: Tony DeVito
Place 8: Tracy Scott
Place 9: Kent Bradshaw
Place 10: Bill Schur
Place 11: Teresa Ayala

Staff

City Manager's Office
City Secretary's Office
Law
Planning and Data Analytics
Information Technology Solutions
Communications and Public Engagement
Diversity and Inclusion



Why are we redistricting?

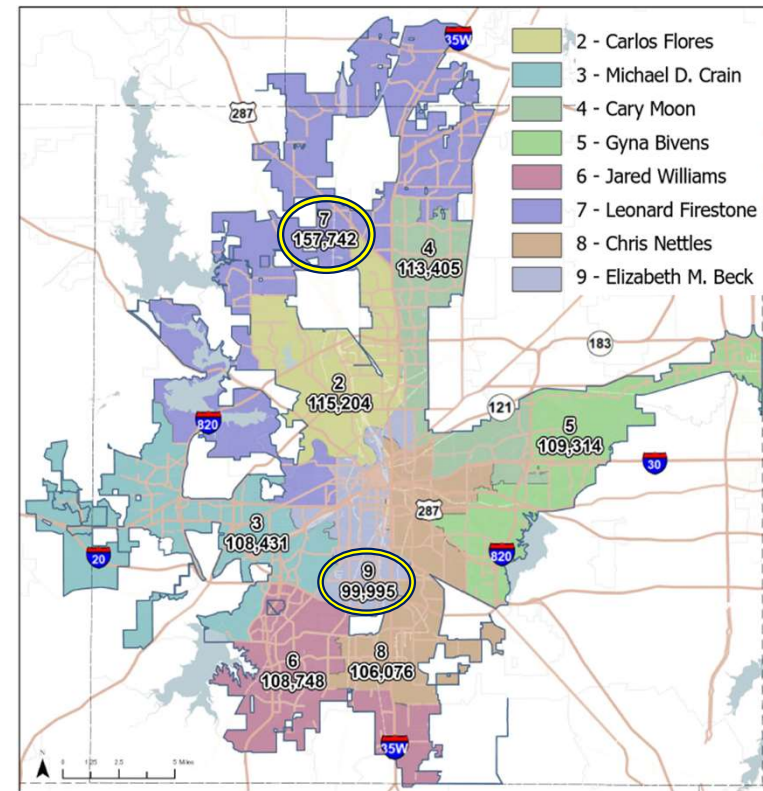
- To ensure that districts contain roughly **equal populations** as required by federal law.
- To create **two new districts**, as required by the City Charter, in view of Fort Worth's rapid growth.



Total 2020 Population = 918,915 or ~115,000 per District.

Total Population By District

District	2010 Census	2020 Census	Change
2	95,995	115,204	20%
3	90,443	108,431	20%
4	101,557	113,405	12%
5	90,792	109,314	20%
6	93,015	108,748	17%
7	89,762	157,742	76%
8	83,804	106,076	27%
9	95,838	99,995	4%



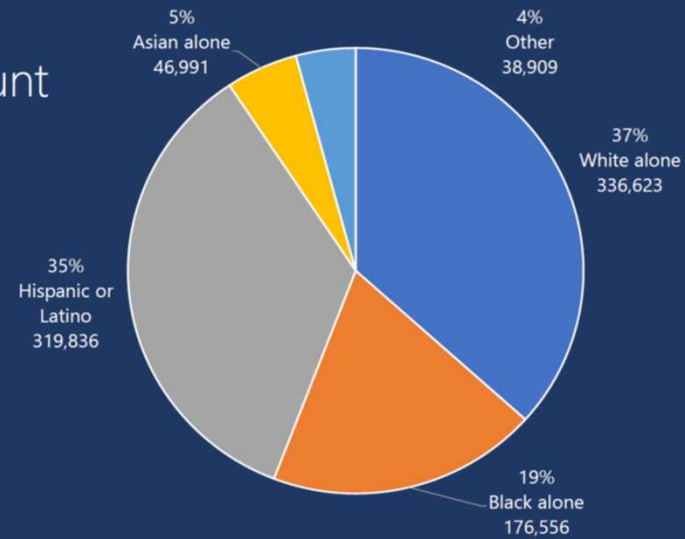
Fort Worth Population Characteristics*

	2010 Census	2020 Census	Change
Total Population	741,206	918,915	24%
White alone population	309,312	336,623	9%
Black alone population	136,941	176,556	29%
Hispanic or Latino population	252,468	319,836	27%
Asian alone population	27,095	46,991	73%
Other population	15,390	38,909	153%
Voting Age population	523,563	671,893	28%

*2020 counts based on Census block geography (per privacy protections)

Source: US Census Bureau

Fort Worth 2020 Census Count Race & Ethnicity



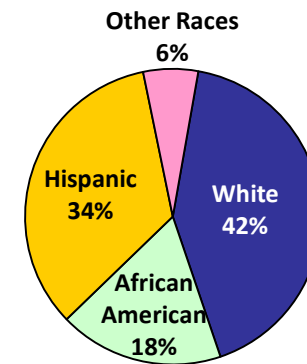
Source: US Census Bureau

Three Broad Goals

1. Prevent **gerrymandering**



2. Provide best opportunities to elect Council members who reflect Fort Worth's **diverse population**



Race/Ethnicity, 2010 Census

3. Promote **education and public participation**



Task Force Schedule, August – December 2020

Month	Activity
August	City Council adopts resolution appointing Redistricting Task Force.
September	Staff presents informational briefings . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Task force charge ○ Open Meetings Act training ○ Redistricting history and schedule ○ Legal basis for redistricting ○ Demonstration of redistricting software
October	Task force interviews representatives from Austin and San Antonio . Staff presents additional informational briefings . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Voting Rights Act ○ Local demographic trends
November	Staff provides task force with additional demographic data . Task force discusses preliminary findings . Task force discusses arrangements for Redistricting 101 seminar and public hearings .
December	Task force presents interim report to City Council.

Task Force Schedule, January – April 2021

Month	Activity
January	Task force chair and staff present virtual Redistricting 101 seminar . Task force conducts series of three virtual public hearings .
February	Task force discusses comments from public hearings, agrees on final recommendations . Task force members review and comment on draft final report . Interested task force members submit minority report .
March	Task force presents final report to City Council.
	Staff presents comments on task force recommendations.
April	City Council adopts resolution accepting final report and establishing criteria and procedures.

Public Participation in Task Force Activities

Event	Facebook Views	Webex Participants	Speakers	Written Statements
September 17 meeting	--	--	2	--
October 22 meeting	--	--	9	1
November 19 meeting	--	--	10	4
January 4 seminar	2,550	--	--	17
January 11 hearing	2,971	65	11	5
January 19 hearing	1,983	19	3	1
January 21 hearing	2,530	58	20	11



Most Common Themes Expressed in Public Comments

1. Desirability of creating an **independent redistricting commission**
2. Need for greater **public participation**
3. Need for greater **transparency**



Resolution No. 5375-04-2021

Adopted April 6, 2021

- Accepted **final report** of Redistricting Task Force
- Established **criteria and procedures** for redrawing district boundaries



Approved Redistricting Criteria

High Priority: <u>Not</u> in any order of priority	
1.	Approximately equal size : Population of largest district \leq 10 percent more than population of smallest district
2.	Compliance with U.S. Constitution, Voting Rights Act, Texas Constitution, and other applicable laws , with no packing of minority voters, no fragmentation of minority communities, and no retrogression in ability of minorities to participate in electoral process
3.	Create minority opportunity districts , in compliance with federal law, to reflect growing diversity of City. Such districts -- in which African Americans, Hispanics, and other minorities collectively represent fifty percent or more of the voting-age population -- are intended to create opportunities for fair representation rather than to promote electoral outcomes. Electability is a function of many factors, including candidate qualifications, appeal to voters, voting-age population, voter registration, and voter participation as well as demographic characteristics.
4.	Contain communities of interest in single districts, with community of interest defined as “a local population with shared socio-economic characteristics and political institutions that would benefit from unified representation.” Communities of interest may include neighborhoods, groups of neighborhoods, school attendance zones, and similar geographic areas.
5.	Contiguous territory

Approved Redistricting Criteria (continued)

Lower Priority: <u>Not</u> in any order of priority	
6.	Compact districts, with goal of Polsby-Popper ratio ≥ 0.050 . If any proposed district yields a compactness score that is less than 0.050, then a detailed justification must be stated.
7.	Identifiable geographic boundaries, such as streams, railroad tracks, and highways. To the extent possible, dwelling units that are located on opposite sides of the same residential street shall be assigned to the same district.
8.	Contain whole voting precincts
9.	Contain whole census blocks or block groups
10.	Do not consider place of residence of incumbents or potential candidates

Approved Redistricting Procedures

1. Registration for **communities of interest**
2. **Resident-produced** redistricting plans
3. Selection of **initial map** as starting point for further mapping
4. Rationale for **proposed changes** to initial map
5. Redistricting as a **single agenda item**
6. **Public hearings**
 - At least **one** hearing after City Council has received plans from residents, independent contractor, and staff, but **before** Council selects **initial map** as starting point for map drawing deliberations
 - At least **one** hearing **after** City Council has selected **initial map**, but before Council considers any changes to that map
 - At least **four** hearings **after** the City Council has produced a **proposed map**
7. **Transparency**: Any communications to occur in official meetings.

Pre-Redistricting Schedule, June – October 2021

Month	Activity
June through September	Staff provides software training for interested residents, using unofficial population estimates pending release of official population counts.
	Residents register communities of interest for redistricting purposes.
August 12	Census Bureau releases block-level population data for state and local redistricting.
October 5	City Council and Redistricting Task Force members hold joint work session .



Redistricting Schedule, October 2021 – May 2023

Month	Activity
October and November 2021	Residents prepare redistricting plans and submit them to City staff. Staff assesses extent to which each plan meets adopted criteria and discusses its findings with pertinent residents. Staff prepares its own plan, drawing upon features of resident plans.
December	Staff briefs City Council about redistricting plans prepared by residents and staff.
January 2022	City Council conducts at least one public hearing on redistricting plans.
	City Council selects initial map .
	City Council conducts at least one public hearing before considering any changes to initial map.
February and March	City Council produces proposed map .
April	City Council conducts four or more public hearings , including one for each pair of existing adjacent districts, and adopts proposed map.
Mid-July: 180 days before qualifying begins for May 2023 municipal election	Deadline for candidates to establish residency within Council districts that they wish to represent.
Mid-January to mid-February 2023	Candidates file for places on 2023 municipal election ballot.
May 2023	City conducts 2023 election .

Accelerated Redistricting Schedule, October 2021 – May 2023

Month	Activity
October 2021	Residents prepare redistricting plans and submit them to City staff. Staff assesses extent to which each plan meets adopted criteria and discusses its findings with pertinent residents. Staff prepares its own plan, drawing upon features of resident plans.
November	Staff briefs City Council about redistricting plans prepared by residents and staff. City Council conducts at least one public hearing on redistricting plans.
December	City Council selects initial map . City Council conducts at least one public hearing before considering any changes to initial map.
January 2022	City Council produces proposed map .
February	City Council conducts four or more public hearings , including one for each pair of existing adjacent districts, and adopts proposed map.
March through June	City responds to any legal challenges that may arise.
Mid-July: 180 days before qualifying begins for May 2023 municipal election	Deadline for candidates to establish residency within Council districts that they wish to represent.
Mid-January to mid-February 2023	Candidates file for places on 2023 municipal election ballot.
May 2023	City conducts 2023 election .

Hypothetical Schedule for Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC), October to December 2021

Month	Activity
October	City Council discusses redistricting process options, directs staff to prepare IRC resolution.
	City Council adopts IRC resolution , appoints IRC selection panel comprised of Chief Judge of Municipal Court, City Secretary, and City Auditor.
	Staff issues call for applications from qualified citizens. Minimum qualifications include City residency; record of voting in recent municipal elections; record of service on City boards and commissions and/or boards of non-profit community organizations; evidence of analytical skills, impartiality, and appreciation for diversity.
	Residents prepare redistricting plans and submit them to City staff. Staff assesses extent to which each plan meets adopted criteria and discusses its findings with pertinent residents. Staff prepares its own plan, drawing upon features of resident plans.
November	Selection panel assembles list of qualified citizens, selects five to serve as core members of IRC.
	Core members of IRC select six other members to provide professional, geographic, and demographic balance.
	Staff briefs IRC about redistricting process and about redistricting plans prepared by residents and staff.
December	IRC conducts at least one public hearing on redistricting plans.
	IRC briefs City Council and selects initial map .
	IRC conducts at least one public hearing before considering any changes to initial map.

Hypothetical Schedule for Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC), January 2022 – May 2023

Month	Activity
January 2022	IRC produces proposed map .
February	IRC conducts four or more public hearings , including one for each pair of existing adjacent districts, and recommends proposed map to City Council.
March	City Council and IRC conduct joint work session .
	City Council adopts proposed map with any changes that it may wish to make.
April through June	City responds to any legal challenges that may arise.
Mid-July: 180 days before qualifying begins for May 2023 municipal election	Deadline for candidates to establish residency within Council districts that they wish to represent.
Mid-January to mid-February 2023	Candidates file for places on 2023 municipal election ballot.
May 2023	City conducts 2023 election .

Questions?

