

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**

AGENDA DATE: April 27, 2021
PUBLIC HEARING DATE: April 27, 2021

CONTACT PERSON(S) NAME AND PHONE NUMBER: Philip F. Etiwe, (915) 212-1553
Karina Brasgalla, (915) 212-1604

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL: #3 Promote the Visual Image of El Paso

SUBGOAL: 3.1 Provide business friendly permitting and inspection processes
3.2 Improve the visual impression of the community

SUBJECT:

A Resolution to convene the Districting Commission as required by Article II, Section 2.4(B) of the City Charter.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

Realignment of representative district boundaries of the City of El Paso is required after the completion of the U.S. Decennial Census. The 2020 Census counts were completed on September 1, 2020.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

Council previously convened the Districting Commission on May 10, 2011. The Districting Commission disbanded on July 23, 2012 upon approval of a final District Plan by City Council.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

HAVE ALL AFFECTED DEPARTMENTS BEEN NOTIFIED? YES NO

PRIMARY DEPARTMENT: Planning & Inspections, Planning Division

SECONDARY DEPARTMENT: N/A

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:

Philip Etiwe

(If Department Head Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, under Public Law 94-171, after the completion of the 2020 U.S. Census, realignment of representative district boundaries of the City of El Paso is required when the difference in population between the largest and smallest district exceeds 10%; and

WHEREAS, Article II, Section 2.4(B) of the City Charter ("Charter") states that a Districting Commission (hereinafter referred to as the "Commission") shall be convened on or before September 1st, following publication of the results of each decennial census; and

WHEREAS, the Charter provides that the Commission shall consist of one qualified voter appointed by each of the City representatives from their respective Districts, and one qualified voter from the City at large appointed by the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, all changes to boundaries of the representative district must comply with the constitutional principles and laws governing voting rights of the United States and Texas.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF EL PASO:

1. That a Districting Commission shall be convened;
2. That the Mayor and each of the Representatives shall appoint one member to the Commission on or before September 1, 2021, as provided by the Charter;
3. That the Commission shall perform the duties identified in the Charter, shall comply with all requirements of the laws governing voting rights and redistricting criteria within the allotted time frame, shall solicit input from the general public, and shall prepare a consensus recommendation for approval by City Council; and
4. That all members appointed to the Commission shall serve, without compensation, until City Council adoption of a Redistricting Plan.

PASSED AND APPROVED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

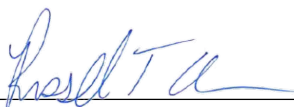
CITY OF EL PASO:

Oscar Leeser
Mayor

ATTEST:


Laura D. Prine
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Russell Abeln
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Phillip Etiwe, Director
Planning and Inspections



ITEM XX

REDISTRICTING

Planning & Inspections

Strategic Goal 3.

Promote the Visual Image of
El Paso



Section 2.4(B) of the City Charter

- Establishes the Districting Commission
- One appointee from each District and Mayor
- Need to be appointed by September 1st
- Commission reviews Districting Plans
- Makes recommendation to Council on revised District boundaries
- Council approves final District Plan





Appointment Requirements

- Each Representative shall nominate one qualified voter from their district
- Mayor shall nominate one qualified voter from the City at large
- Appointees shall not serve the City in any other capacity, whether appointive or elective, nor shall they hold any other elective public office

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2021

Census Bureau Statement on Redistricting Data Timeline

FEBRUARY 12, 2021

RELEASE NUMBER CB21-CN.14

SUBSCRIBE



RSS



SMS



EMAIL

FEB. 12, 2021 — The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that it will deliver the Public Law 94-171 redistricting data to all states by Sept. 30, 2021. COVID-19-related delays and prioritizing the delivery of the apportionment results delayed the Census Bureau's original plan to deliver the redistricting data to the states by March 31, 2021.

<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/statement-redistricting-data-timeline.html>

Redistricting Timeline

Date	Task
Q2 2021	Resolution to establish Districting Commission
Q3 2021	Work Session to review redistricting requirements
Q3 2021	Council pass and adopt review criteria
September 1, 2021	Appointment deadline for Commissioners
Q4 2021- Q1 2022	Districting Commission Meetings (biweekly)
Q1 2022	Community Meetings (CD/PIO)
Q2 2022	Districting Commission recommendation of final plans
Q2 2022	Council Adoption of District Plan
August 10, 2022	Approved Plan submitted to DOJ for Pre-Clearance
November 8, 2022	City-wide Election

Federal and State Guidelines for District Plans

1. **Identifiable** geographic boundaries
2. Containing **communities of interest** in single districts; avoid splitting neighborhoods
3. Containing whole **voting precincts**
4. Boundaries should be based on **existing districts**
5. Approximately **equal size**: Population of largest district \leq 10 percent more than population of smallest district.
6. **Compact and contiguous** territory
7. Preserving **incumbent-constituent relations**
8. **No retrogression** in ability of minorities to participate in electoral process
9. **No fragmentation** of minority communities or packing of minority voters

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/redistricting/redistricting-criteria.aspx>



Staffing

- **Planning and Legal:** administer Districting Commission, analyze maps for compliance, prepare DOJ submittal
- **Community Development and PIO:** assist with public outreach





Mission

Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life and place for our community



Vision

Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe and beautiful neighborhoods and exceptional recreational, cultural and educational opportunities powered by a high performing government



Values

Integrity, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, People