



# Redistricting 2022

CONTEXT & PROCESS

Budget and Fiscal Affairs Council Committee

March 2022

# A Word from Mayor Turner

“We are privileged to live in one of the most wonderfully diverse cities in the world. As Houston continues to grow, we must ensure fair and equitable representation for all Houstonians.”

# The Redistricting Team

- City Attorney's Office: Tracy Calabrese, Danielle Folsom, and **Doug Ray (832-393-6319)**
- Planning & Development Department staff: Margaret Wallace Brown, Lynn Henson, Larry Nierth, and **Rupesh Koshy (832-393-6552)**
- Demographic Support consultant: Jerry Wood
- Legal Services support: Lisa McBride, Thompson & Horton, and Edgar Colon

# Constitutional Standards

**1**

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Districts should be of equal population: one person, one vote

**2**

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Districts may not intentionally dilute the voting strength of racial or ethnic minority groups

**3**

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Districts drawn primarily on the basis of race or ethnicity require a compelling justification

# Equal Protection Clause

In 1962, the Supreme Court recognized the principle of “one person, one vote” and the applicability of the Equal Protection Clause to redistricting.

- *Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S. 186 (1962)
- *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533 (1964)

# Voting Rights Act

The Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was revised in 1982, prohibits election practices that discriminate on basis of race or language minority status

- No cracking (splitting a geographically compact minority group to dissipate the group's electoral power)
- No packing (overconcentrating a minority group in a district so it has electoral power in one district rather than in two or more)

# Houston's Redistricting History

1970s

**1970s: Challenges to At-Large System**  
*(Leroy v. City of Houston)*

1980s

**1985: Mid-Decade Redistricting**

1990s

**1991: Growing Hispanic Population**  
Litigation to allow election to proceed after sec. 5 objection *(Campos v. City of Houston; United States v. City of Houston)*

**1992: Protecting the 1991 Election**  
Adopting a precleared plan

**Mid-1990s: Defending the 9-5-1 Council Structure**

**1997-2000: Defending post-Kingwood-annexation redistricting plan** against a racial gerrymandering claim

2000s

**2001: Litigation-Free Redistricting**

2010s

**2011: Litigation-Free Redistricting**  
Two single member districts were added as required by the Charter when the City's population reached 2.1 million

# Council Resolution - Redistricting Criteria

City Council will consider a Resolution in late March 2022 that outlines the principles to use for redistricting. The redrawn districts should aim to:

- Maintain relatively equal population numbers
- Be composed of whole county voting precincts
- Have easily identifiable geographic boundaries
- Retain integrity of neighborhoods or communities of interest
- Be compact
- Avoid packing or cracking
- Preserve incumbent-constituency relations

# Current Council District Populations

Total Population	Council District	Percent Variation from Average
219,727	A	5%
206,594	B	-1%
240,954	C	15%
223,196	D	7%
224,929	E	7%
204,735	F	-2%
234,140	G	12%
174,341	H	-17%
179,351	I	-14%
187,318	J	-11%
209,295	K	0%
<b>2,304,580</b>	<b>Average District Population</b>	<b>209,507</b>

# Houston's Redistricting Schedule

April - May	June	July	August	September
Town Hall Meetings	Analysis and draft plans created  The public creates their own plans	Public hearings held in City Council chambers  Due date for proposed plans is July 20	Analysis of testimony from public hearings  Analysis of plans submitted by the public	City Council approves redistricting plan

# Town Hall Meetings

These are listening meetings to:

- explain the redistricting process and
- hear from the public before creating a new redistricting map.

These meetings will be held throughout April and May 2022 in each City Council district. A schedule will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

# Public Hearings

The Planning & Development Department will present the draft plan to City Council and the public at three public hearings held in City Council Chambers (*dates are tentative*).

- July 13, 2022, at 9 a.m.
- July 13, 2022, at 7 p.m.
- July 20, 2022, at 9 a.m.

Council members and members of the public can ask questions, provide input (such as proposing that certain voting precincts, neighborhoods, or locations be included in a specific district), suggest revisions or submit an alternative plan.

# Submitting a Redistricting Plan

**The public is encouraged to submit a plan.**

All plans submitted to the City for consideration must:

- Be in writing;
- Be based on the 2020 federal census; and
- Redistrict the entire City so that Council may assess its impact on protected minority groups.

For the City to properly analyze any plan, it must be submitted to **Rupesh Koshy** in the Planning Department by **July 20, 2022, 4:45 p.m.** (the date of the last public hearing in City Council).

# Technical Assistance

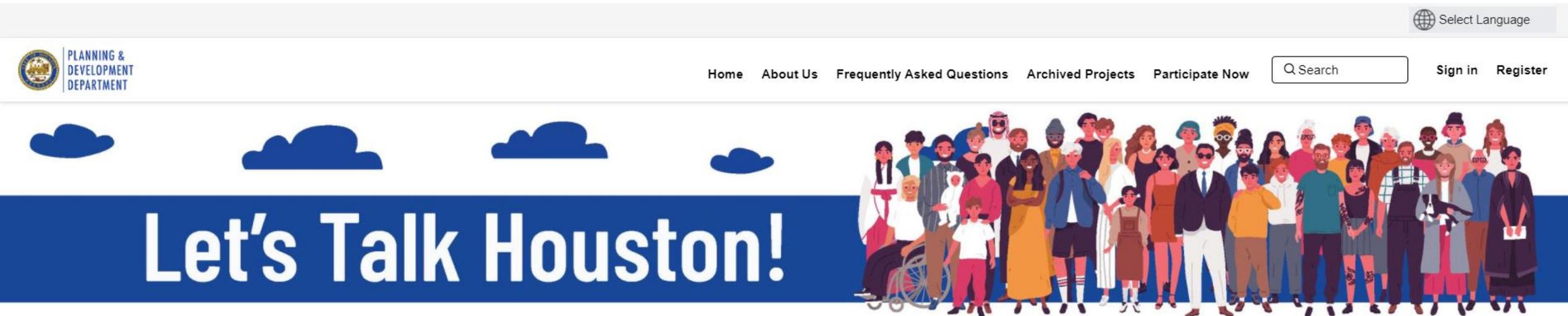
The Planning & Development Department will set up a computer with the redistricting software installed at our offices at 611 Walker Street, sixth floor. We will also lend technical assistance to anyone interested in creating a redistricting plan.

Contact **Rupesh Koshy** at [rupesh.koshy@houstontx.gov](mailto:rupesh.koshy@houstontx.gov) or 832-393-6552 for an appointment.

# Public Information Web Page

Visit [www.LetsTalkHouston.org/redistricting](http://www.LetsTalkHouston.org/redistricting) to find useful information and ask questions about the redistricting effort.

All content will be in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese.





**Thank You**

713-837-0311 | [www.houston.tx.gov](http://www.houston.tx.gov)