

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING
COMMISSION AND REDISTRICTING REFORM FOR TEXAS**

WHEREAS, the citizens of _____ deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial, and depoliticized process of the drawing of state legislature and congressional districts of near equal population; and

WHEREAS, the current redistricting process creates a potential conflict of interest- as state legislators are effectively choosing their own constituents; and

WHEREAS, the redistricting process should be conducted in an open manner and include public hearings, set timelines, and access to redistricting tools and proposed plans, so that our communities have real opportunities for public dialogue and feedback, and

WHEREAS, public input and involvement in the redistricting process will empower our communities by allowing them to elect representatives who represent their interests on issues that are important to their lives; and

WHEREAS, the boundaries of state and congressional districts are currently drawn by legislative incumbents with a simple majority vote, often sacrificing the integrity of communities, neighborhoods, and cities; and

WHEREAS, important principles, such as the protections of the federal Voting Rights Act and respect for neighborhoods, towns, and cities, should be clearly listed for any redistricting process so that our communities are kept together; and

WHEREAS, voters are more likely to participate when they feel their vote will count and that they have a reasonable chance of electing candidates who represent their interests; and

WHEREAS, elected officials are more responsive to constituents when voters have a choice of candidates, thus increasing accountability and serving the best interests of the voters of Texas; and

WHEREAS, we oppose any count of persons within a district that would exclude persons because of their citizenship status or eligibility to vote. All persons means all persons every person residing within a district and includes, but is not limited to: all adults, children, citizens, non-citizens, registered voters and non-registered voters; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental principle of representative government in this country is equal representation for equal numbers of people. Legislators have to serve all people – those who vote, those that may or may not vote but could, those who are citizens, those who are not; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ [Council/County] does hereby support legislative efforts to establish a citizen-led commission composed of Texas voters who are representative of the state’s diversity, partisan balance, and geography, for all future redistricting. This Independent Commission will oversee the process to draw the lines of the state Senate, state House of Representatives, and Congressional districts. Districts should be drawn using total population and include everyone living in the state.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon all those elected officials and party leaders in the State of Texas who represent the citizens of _____ to publicly announce their support of and commitment to work towards passage of such legislative efforts, and that a copy of this Resolution be delivered to each of them:

Governor Greg Abbott
Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick
Attorney General Ken Paxton
U.S. House of Representatives Congress members,
Texas Senators,

Texas House of Representatives,
Chairman Democratic Party of Texas,
Gilberto Hinojosa
Chairman, Republican Party of Texas, Allen West

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Signed by Council Members