



RESOLUTION NO. 23-0404-F2

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ENNIS, TEXAS ADOPTING CRITERIA FOR USE IN REDISTRICTING THE CITY BASED ON THE 2020 CENSUS.

WHEREAS, the City Commission of the City of Ennis has certain responsibilities for redistricting under federal and state law including but not limited to Amendments 14 and 15 to the United States Constitution, U.S.C.A.; section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C.A. §10301; and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 2058.001 and 2058.002; and

WHEREAS, a review of the 2020 census data reveals that a population imbalance exists among the City Commission wards requiring redistricting of those districts; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City to comply with the Voting Rights Act and with all other relevant law, including *Shaw v. Reno* jurisprudence; and

WHEREAS, a set of established redistricting criteria will serve as a framework to guide the City in the formulation and consideration of districting plans; and

WHEREAS, redistricting criteria will provide the City a means by which to evaluate proposed plans; and

WHEREAS, redistricting criteria will assist the City in its efforts to comply with all applicable federal and state laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF ENNIS, TX:

SECTION 1. That the City, in its adoption of a redistricting plan for commission wards, will adhere to the following criteria to the greatest extent possible when establishing new commissioner ward boundaries:

1. Easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.
2. Communities of interest should be maintained in a single ward, and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods.
3. Commission wards should be composed of whole voting precincts. Where this is not possible or practicable, wards should be drawn considering county election precincts. Redistricting plans should avoid splitting census blocks unless necessary.

4. Although it is recognized that existing wards will have to be altered to reflect new population distribution in the City, any districting plan should be based on existing wards.
5. Wards must be configured so that they are relatively equal in total population according to the 2020 federal census. In no event should the total population deviation between the largest and the smallest ward exceed ten percent as compared to the ideal ward size.
6. The wards should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness may contain a functional, as well as a geographical dimension.
7. Consideration may be given to the preservation of incumbent-constituency relations by recognition of the residence of incumbents and their history in representing certain areas.
8. The plan should be narrowly tailored to avoid racial gerrymandering in violation of *Shaw V. Reno*.
9. The plan should not fragment a geographically compact minority community or pack minority voters in the presence of polarized voting or otherwise discriminate against protected groups so as to create liability under the Voting Rights Act.

SECTION 2. The City Commission will review all plans considering these criteria and will evaluate how well each plan conforms to the criteria. All plans submitted by citizens, as well as plans submitted by staff, consultants, and members of the City Commission should conform to these criteria as much as practicable or as otherwise required by law.

SECTION 3. This resolution shall be effective upon passage by the City Commission.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the City Commission of the City of Ennis, Texas on this 4th day of April, 2023.



ANGELINE JUENEMANN, Mayor

ATTEST:



ANGIE WADE, City Secretary

