

CITY OF SEGUIN

STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF SEGUIN, TEXAS
ADOPTING CRITERIA FOR USE IN REDISTRICTING OF
COUNCILMEMBER DISTRICTS.**

WHEREAS, the City Council has certain responsibilities for redistricting under federal and state law including, but not limited to, the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1973, *et seq*; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has certain responsibilities for redistricting under the City Charter when the populations of the respective Councilmember Districts are significantly out of balance; and

WHEREAS, on review of the population data following the release of the 2020 decennial Census it appears that a population imbalance may exist requiring redistricting within the City Councilmember 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 consideration of districting plans; and

WHEREAS, established criteria will provide the City a means by which to evaluate and measure 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 Council of the City of Seguin, Texas:

PART 1. The City, in its adoption of a redistricting plan for City Councilmember Districts, will adhere to the following criteria:

1. Where possible, easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.
2. Communities of interest should be maintained in a single district, where possible, and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods.
3. To the extent possible, districts should be composed of whole voting precincts. Where this is not possible or practicable, districts should be drawn in a way that permits the creation of practical voting precincts and

that ensures that adequate facilities for polling places exist in each voting precinct.

4. Although it is recognized that existing districts will have to be altered to reflect new population distribution, any districting plan should, to the extent possible, be based on existing districts.
5. Districts must be configured so that they are relatively equal in total population according to the 2020 federal census. In no event should the total deviation between the largest and the smallest district exceed ten percent (10%). The City will attempt to achieve a deviation that is less than ten percent (10%) under the data released by the Census Bureau.
6. The districts should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness may contain a functional as well as 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 retrogression in the position of racial minorities and language minorities as defined in the Voting Rights Act with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise.
9. The plan should not fragment a geographically compact minority community or pack minority voters in the presence of polarized voting so as to create liability under section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1973.

PART 2. The City Council hereby appoints a five-member committee to work with the city attorney and outside counsel to develop a plan meeting the required guidelines for submission to the City Council for adoption.

PART 3. This Resolution is effective on and after the date of its passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 7th day of December 2021.

DONNA DODGEN, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Naomi Manski, City Secretary