



**It's real.**

## MEMORANDUM

To: City of Seguin Mayor and Council

From: Andy Quittner, City Attorney *AQ*

Date: December 1, 2021

Re: Resolutions adopting redistricting criteria and setting guidelines for persons or entities seeking to submit redistricting proposals.

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In April 2020 the U.S. Census Bureau conducted a census of the population. Due to the issues with COVID-19 the count and the data from that count was not presented in accordance with the usual timelines. Local data became available in late August and early September. Now that the state and Guadalupe County have completed their process, the City can begin to look at adjusting the eight councilmember districts to meet the changes and imbalance in population.

The guiding principle for single member districts is “one person, one vote.” In statistical terms this means that each district should contain nearly the same number of persons. If districts are unbalanced, then a person’s vote in a highly populated district has less effect than a similar vote in a low populated district – thus the votes are not equal.

Another consideration is that under the City’s charter, a council member becomes ineligible to hold their seat if they move out of their district. That would apply if the district changes and they no longer reside in the district from which they were elected. Hence, the redistricting process must insure that each district maintain the residence of the currently elected council member.

The attached resolution sets out the same criteria that was used during 2010 for the redistricting process. The following Resolution sets out the same criteria for any public person to follow in order to develop a map that they might want considered.

Included in the agenda packet are some of the statistics and population counts from the 2020 decennial census. From the census count Seguin’s population is 29,433 persons. Taking the known numbers from housing starts and utility accounts most staff believes that the census undercounted the city population by at least 10%.

In 2010 the census found Seguin's population to be 25,175 people which made the ideal population for each of the eight districts at 3,146. With the increase in population according to the 2020 census the ideal district would include 3,679 persons.

From a redistricting standpoint what is most important is the relative changes in the eight council districts. Below is a summary for each of the districts:

District 1: Acreage expanded by 9.73% and population increased by 2.58% from 3207 people to 3290;

District 2: Acreage remained unchanged; and population decreased by 4.06% from 3197 people to 3067;

District 3: Acreage expanded by 22.8% and population increased by 73.35% from 3096 people to 5367;

District 4: Acreage remained essentially the same and population decreased by 8.66% from 3083 to 2816;

District 5: Acreage remained unchanged; and population decreased by 4.89% from 3025 people to 2877;

District 6: Acreage expanded by 8.53%; and population increased by 1.05% from 3137 people to 3170;

District 7: Acreage remained essentially the same but population increased by 12.79% from 3243 to 3658;

District 8: Acreage increased by 12.22% and population increased by 117.25% from 2388 people to 5188.

After Council adopts redistricting standards and the appointment of a committee to assist in looking at the data an outside firm will be selected to assist with the analysis of the data by working with a GIS system that can adjust the boundaries by census tract to meet the principles set out in the guidelines. The committee will then recommend one or more maps to be considered by council.

A firm should be chosen by the end of the year, with the committee meeting sometime in January to begin looking at the mapping data. It is anticipated that a new map will be presented to City Council by the second meeting in February.