

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
MESQUITE, TEXAS, ADOPTING CRITERIA FOR USE IN THE
2018 DISTRICTING PROCESS; AND PROVIDING AN
EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor have certain responsibilities for districting under the City Charter, as amended in 2018; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to an amendment to the City Charter passed by majority vote of the qualified voters of the City of Mesquite, Texas ("City") in an election held for that purpose on May 5, 2018, canvassed and adopted by Resolution No. 28-2018 of the City Council on May 15, 2018, and further ratified and adopted by the City Council on May 21, 2018, through Ordinance No. 4563, the City is to transition to single-member 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 districting 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, districting 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 MESQUITE, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. That the City of Mesquite, Texas, in its adoption of a districting plan for city councilmember districts, will adhere to the following criteria to the greatest degree practicable:

- a. Where practicable, easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.
- b. Communities of interest should be maintained in a single district, where practicable, and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods.
- c. To the extent practicable, 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; and splitting census blocks should be avoided.
- d. Districts must be configured so that they are relatively equal in total population. In no event should the total deviation in population between the largest and the smallest district exceed 10 percent.

- e. The districts should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness may contain a functional as well as a geographical dimension.
- f. Consideration may be given to the preservation of incumbent-constituency relations by recognition of the residence of incumbents.
- g. The plan should be narrowly tailored to avoid discrimination against racial minorities and language minorities as defined in the Voting Rights Act with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise.
- h. 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.

SECTION 2. That the City Council and Mayor will review all plans in light of these criteria and will evaluate how well each plan conforms to the criteria.

SECTION 3. That any plan submitted by a citizen to the City Council and Mayor for their consideration should be a complete plan—*i.e.*, it should show the full number of councilmember districts and should redistrict the entire City; must show all district boundaries in detail sufficient to permit the City to reproduce the proposed plan accurately; and also report the total population and voting age population for Hispanics, non-Hispanic Blacks, non-Hispanic Asians and non-Hispanic Anglo/other for each proposed district, based on 2010 Census data or on updated population data developed by the City. The City Council and Mayor may decline to consider any plan that is not a complete plan with sufficient geographic and population detail.

SECTION 4. That all plans submitted by citizens, as well as plans submitted by staff, consultants and members of the City Council should conform to these criteria.

SECTION 5. That this Resolution shall be effective upon passage by the City Council.


DULY RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Mesquite, Texas, on the 16th day of July, 2018.

Stan Pickett
Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Sonja Land
City Secretary


Paula Anderson
Interim City Attorney