

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR REDISTRICTING OF POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

The Commissioners Court of Bastrop County, Texas, in a duly scheduled and posted meeting, does hereby adopt the following criteria for use in the redistricting of all county political boundaries. Any plan for the redistricting of representative members of the Commissioners Court of the Bastrop County should, to the maximum extent possible, conform to the following criteria:

1. Ensure that all applicable provisions of the U.S. and Texas Constitutions, the Voting Rights Act, the Texas Election Code are honored.
2. The maximum deviation from an ideal size of road and bridge precincts, as determined by dividing the total population of the county divided by four (the number of single member districts that compose the Commissioners Court of Bastrop County), should not be more than five (5%) percent for any single precinct, or a total top to bottom deviation (percentage of deviation below and above the ideal size) of not more than ten (10%) percent.
3. Balance county road mileage between each Commissioner's precinct.
4. Election administration should not be unduly complex as a result of election boundaries.
5. Address minority representation in conformity with constitutional standards, avoiding retrogression in the percentage of population and voting age demographics consistent with existing minority representation.
6. Avoid fragmentation and preserve minority communities of interest. These communities of interest should be recognized and retained intact where possible.
7. Not unreasonably join geographically remote minority populations into a single precinct unless there are strong and genuine connections between these communities as reflected by common schools, churches, or cultural ties.
8. Seek compact and contiguous political boundaries. Physical boundaries of cultural or economic significance, such as rivers, multi-laned controlled-access highways or turnpikes, which tend to divide populations in fundamental ways, should be recognized. Clearly recognized boundaries, such as streets and highways, should be used to facilitate ease of voter identification of precinct boundaries, and aid election administration.
9. Retain well-recognized and long used election precinct boundaries (within the limitations imposed by state and federal law) with as little alteration as possible.
10. Size election precincts in conformity with state law, including not more than 5000 registered voters per election precinct.
11. Assure that incumbent office holders will have the opportunity to continue to represent the individuals who elected them, and that all incumbents' residential locations will continue to be in their precinct.
12. Address fundamental and necessary governmental functions, and to the extent possible, ensure that these functions are enhanced rather than impaired.

13. Ensure that election voting precincts under that plan do not contain territory from more than one commissioner's precinct, justice precinct, congressional district, state representative district, state senatorial district or State Board of Education district. City election wards should be honored to the extent possible, with voters in cities close to or over 10,000 residents and county voters outside such city limits being in separate voting precincts.

14. Locate polling places in convenient, well-known locations that are accessible to disabled voters. Public buildings should be prioritized as polling places.

15. Encourage citizen input. The County will consider written proposed plans by individual citizens or groups, if the proposed plan is submitted in a commonly used GIS format such as .SHP, .MAP, .KLM, .GPX, .MDB, along with maps and demographic data sufficient to address voting rights concerns.

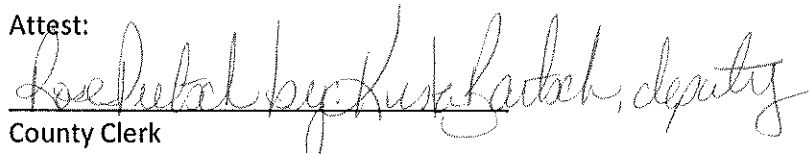
The foregoing criteria are not exclusive, since there may be other important issues which should be considered in any redistricting plan. Therefore, the Commissioners Court expresses its intention to measure any plan submitted for consideration by this set of criteria, and to base any eventual exercise of discretion upon the foregoing criteria.

The criteria approved this date were considered in open Court, following posting not less than 72 hours before any action taken on the same. The Commissioners Court of Bastrop County hereby adopts the criteria set forth herein by a vote of 3 ayes, 0 nays, with 2 absent or abstaining.

Signed this 27th day of September, 2021.


County Judge Pro Tem

Attest:


County Clerk