Council District Boundary Commission Orientation

February 8, 2022

Nichols, Jackson, Dillard, Hager & Smith, LLP









## Council District Boundary Commission

 By definition, redistricting is the division or subdivision of an area into new political districts.

### Commission's Charge:

To review and advise the council to fix the boundaries of the City's four district boundaries in order to maintain a substantial equality of population in each district.

## Richardson City Council

- The Council is comprised of seven members consisting of six council members, designated as Place Numbers 1 through 6, and the mayor designated as Place No. 7.
- Council members residing in Places 1, 2, 3, and 4 shall reside in their correspondingly numbered districts and shall remain in the district while they serve in that place.
- Every ten years, coinciding with the decennial census, the council appoints a commission to review district boundaries in order to maintain a substantial equality of population in each of the four districts. The commission shall advise the council who shall, within six months of appointment, fix or adjust the boundaries by ordinance.

## Residential District System

- Elections at Large: All council members are elected at large ("by the qualified voters of the entire city"), including council members for Places 1, 2, 3, and 4. This structure is not the typical single-member district format where members are elected by the voters residing within that district.
- This electoral system is designed to ensure that each district within the city will have representation on the council.

## The Voting Rights Act and the US Constitution

One-Person, One-Vote

 The US Constitution and the Voting Rights Act implement the one-person, one-vote principle. In Richardson's residential district system, all citizens' votes have equal weight since the electoral district is the entire city and, thus, every councilmember from a residential district is elected from the same group of voters—the entire city. Because of this at-large voting system, many of the considerations that apply to redistricting under a single-memberdistrict plan do not apply.

## Substantial Equality of Population

- The Richardson City Charter requires substantial equality of population among districts. The Charter does not define "substantial," thus, something less than exact equality is proper.
- Relying on federal cases interpreting equal population requirements under the 14th Amendment, a maximum deviation of no more than ten percent (10%) is proper.

## The 10% Maximum Deviation

- The total maximum deviation is computed by determining the percentage by which the largest district exceeds the ideal district size (i.e., total population divided by 4) and the percentage by which the smallest district is below the ideal district size. Then those two numbers are added, ignoring the negative sign for the smallest district, and the total is the total maximum deviation.
- Example: District No. 1 is 9 percent above the ideal district size. District No. 3 is 8 percent below the ideal district size. The deviation is 17 percent, well above the permissible 10 percent maximum deviation.

## Considerations

- Identifiable Boundaries: Districts should have identifiable boundaries such as highways, streets, and creeks so that citizens can easily determine what districts they are in.
- **Compact/Contiguous:** Districts should be compact and contiguous. Much like the consideration of following identifiable boundaries, this makes it easier for the public to understand what district they are in
- Neighborhood Splitting: Residential districts have the effect of ensuring that all portions of the
  city are represented on the council. Indeed, ensuring geographic diversity is a primary purpose and
  effect of residential districts. Thus, the council may want to avoid splitting neighborhoods and
  communities of interest.
- **Dual Member Districts:** The council may want to avoid placing current district council members in the same district. This is not as important a consideration as would be the case in a single-member-district plan, since even if district council members are paired, one can always run at-large and will be facing the same group of voters as if he or she had run for a district place.

## **Procedural Considerations**

Open Meetings Act



# Council District Boundary Introduction

Council District Boundary Commission February 8, 2022

City of Richardson Development Services





# 2022 Council District Boundary Review 2020 Census Results

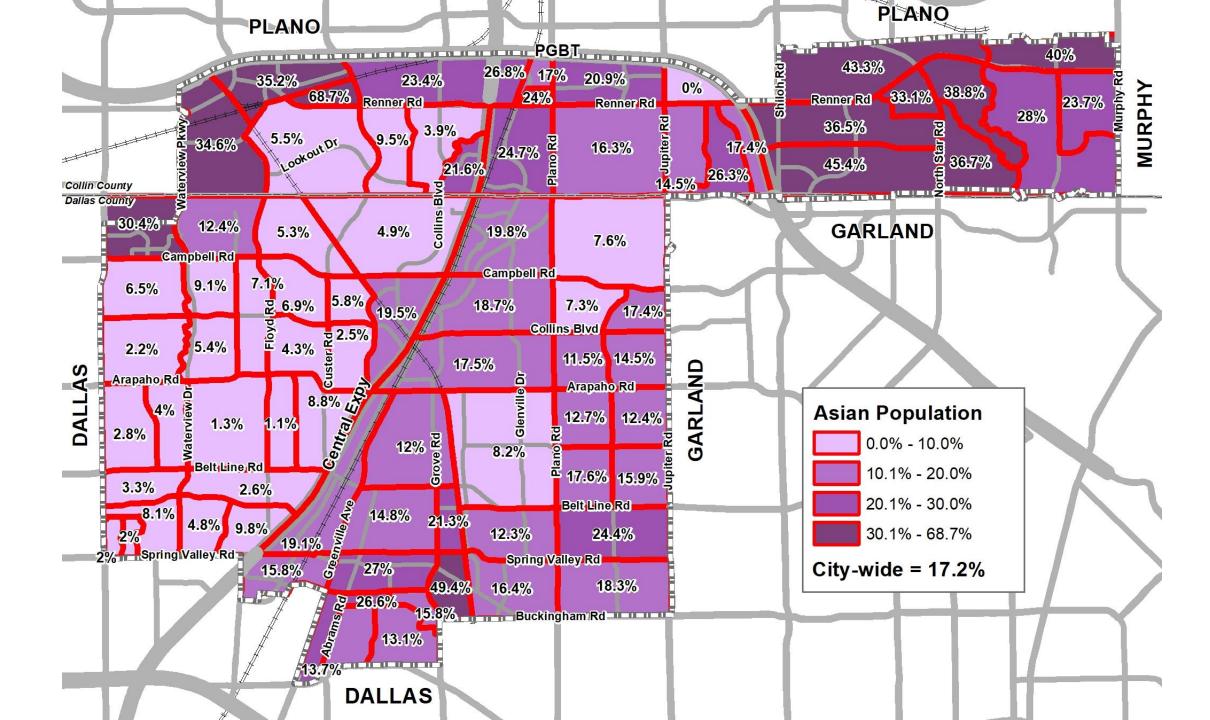


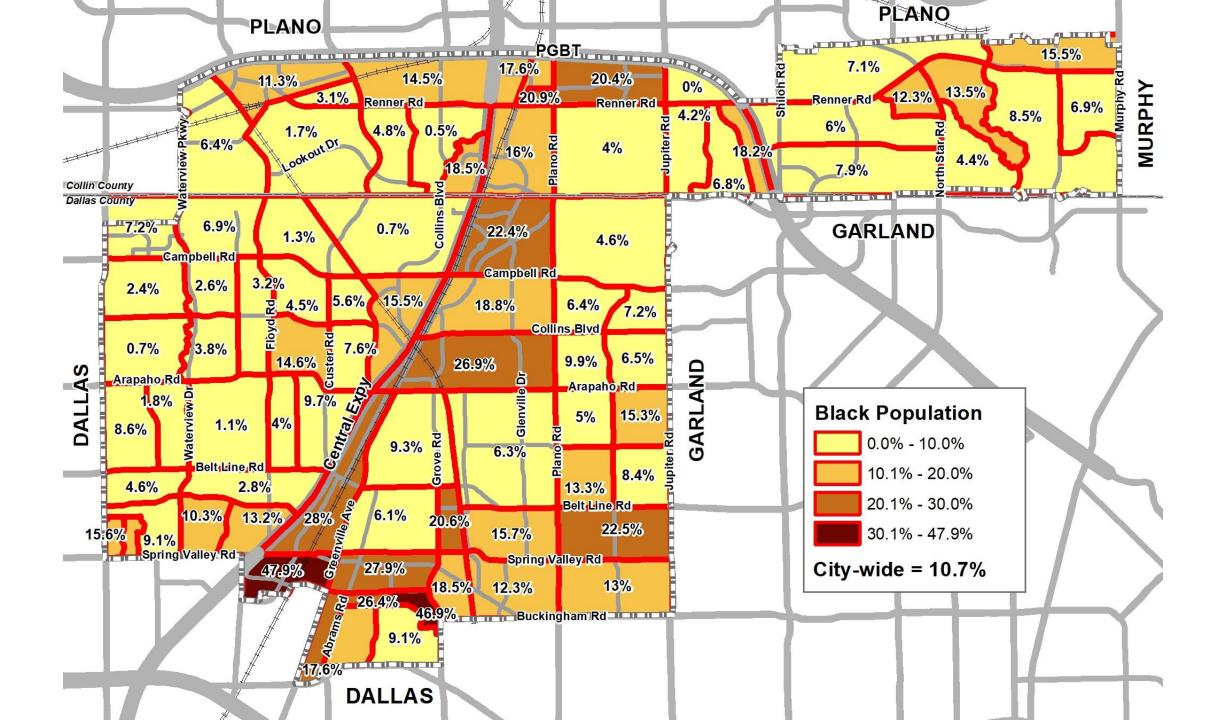
## Population Change 2010-2020

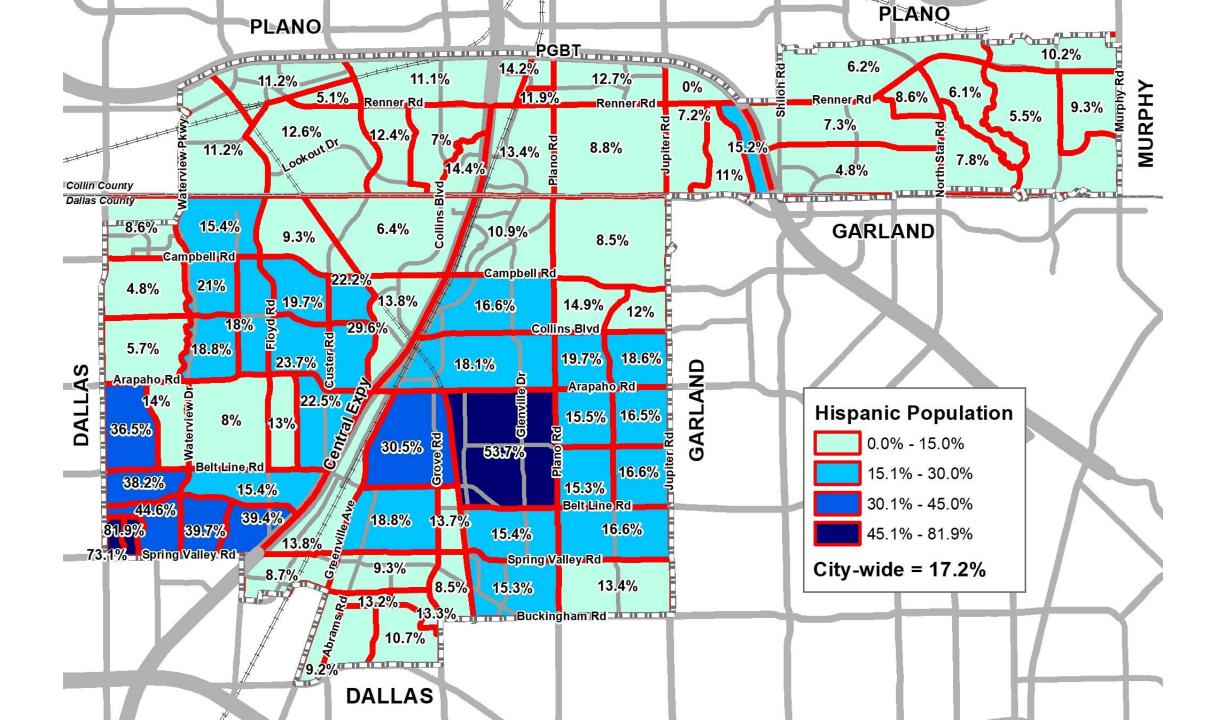
	Richardson	
	2010	2020
Total Population	99,223	119,469
Population, 18 years and older	76,177	97,775
Racial		
White	67.1%	54.2%
Black/African American	8.6%	10.7%
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.5%	0.6%
Asian	15.1%	17.2%
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%
Some other Race	5.7%	6.3%
Two or more races	3.0%	11.0%
Ethnic		
Hispanic/Latino	16.0%	17.2%
Not Hispanic/Latino	84.0%	82.8%

2020			
Collin County	Dallas County	Texas	
1,064,465	2,613,539	29,145,505	
786,838	1,972,578	21,866,700	
54.3%	35.4%	50.1%	
10.4%	22.0%	12.2%	
0.7%	1.2%	1.0%	
17.8%	7.0%	5.4%	
0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	
5.7%	18.3%	13.6%	
11.1%	16.1%	17.6%	
15.9%	40.5%	39.3%	
84.1%	59.5%	60.7%	









# 2022 Council District Boundary Review Current District Boundary Demographics



**GARLAND** 

### **Current Boundaries** 2010 Population/Deviation

District	Population	# Deviation	% Deviation*
1	25,408	603	2.4%
2	24,972	167	0.7%
3	24,562	-243	-1.0%
4	24,281	-524	-2.1%
Total Deviation		4.5%	

2010 Census Population: 99,227 **Ideal District Population: 24,805 Maximum Total Deviation: 10%** 

\* Percent deviation is based on the difference between the current population (per district) and the ideal population.

**GARLAND** 

### **Current Boundaries** 2020 Population/Deviation

District	Population	# Deviation	% Deviation*
1	27,837	-2,030	-6.8%
2	27,041	-2,826	-9.5%
3	26,061	-3,806	-12.7%
4	38,530	8,663	29.0%
Total Deviation		41.7%	

2020 Census Population: 119,469 **Ideal District Population: 29,867 Maximum Total Deviation: 10%** 

\* Percent deviation is based on the difference between the current population (per district) and the ideal population.

**GARLAND** 

### **Current Boundaries** 2020 Population/Deviation

District	Population	# Deviation	% Deviation*
1	27,837	-2,030	-6.8%
2	27,041	-2,826	-9.5%
3	26,061	-3,806	-12.7%
4	38,530	8,663	29.0%
Total Deviation		41.7%	

2020 Census Population: 119,469 **Ideal District Population: 29,867 Maximum Total Deviation: 10%** 

\* Percent deviation is based on the difference between the current population (per district) and the ideal population.