

CITY OF TULSA
ELECTION DISTRICT COMMISSION
Friday, September 24, 2021, at 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

A special meeting of the Election District Commission was held on September 24, 2021, at One Technology Center, Tenth Floor Conference Center 10 North, 175 East 2nd Street. Pursuant to the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, the agenda was posted in the Office of the Tulsa City Clerk on September 20, 2021, at 2:26 p.m.

Members Present

Sharon King Davis
John M. Eagleton
Joe Williams

Staff Present

Patrick Boulden
Rich Brierre
LaDonna Brewer
Darita Huckabee

Others present: Mike Broad, Tulsa County Election Board; Kevin Canfield, Tulsa World, Matt Trotter, Public Radio Tulsa

Call to order

Vice Chair Joe Williams called the meeting to order.

Approval of minutes dated August 20, 2021

Motion was made by Mr. Eagleton, seconded by Ms. Davis, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Aye: Davis, Eagleton, Williams

Nay: None

Abstain: None

[Mr. Swiney arrived]

Staff Report

Mr. Brierre reported that since our last meeting staff have developed five alternate plans. The existing council districts based upon the 2020 census have a deviation in the population by 25% he stated that our charge is to reduce that by below 10% utilizing the criteria that this commission has adopted. Mr. Brierre reviewed the criteria adopted by the commission. He referred to Darita Huckabee to report on the correspondence received from the League of Women Voters to the commission. Mr. Huckabee summarized the letter received. It said that they are encouraged by the process in appointing the Election District Commission and providing balance with the appointment and council approval. They encouraged the commission to not only just weigh the status quo with confusing few voters as possible with your boundary changes versus taking a bigger picture approach with what is fair, right, and equitable. They are encouraged that the criteria adopted by the Election District Commission

explicitly reference the avoidance of diluting minority votes and believes that the criteria will help you do your job as a commission. They encourage us to make our maps available for public review and comment and to continue our transparency and public engagement.

Presentation and possible selection of alternative Council District Plans for public review and comment

Mr. Brierre reported that all five plans have a population deviation between 3 and 4.3 percent. They move between 12 and 30 precincts from one district to another that represents between 25,000 and 45,000 people which is 6 to 15 percent of the city's population. The census redistricting data reflects that council districts 1, 4, 5 and 9 are low, districts 3 and 8 are on the mark and districts 2, 6, and 7 are high. The boundaries of most precincts and most city council districts follow major physical features. The exception is where a precinct line splits a neighborhood due to a legislative district boundary. The state is in the process of establishing a new legislative plan that will be completed the middle of November at the earliest. The charter requires us to conform to precinct boundaries and that is what we have done. Mr. Brierre discussed proposed Plans I thru V, the population deviation and number of people who change districts based on the plan. He answered questions from the commission. Mr. Eagleton asked if the current precinct boundaries are set by the legislature yet. Mr. Brierre stated that the current precinct boundaries are set by the election board and the election board is awaiting the congressional district, state house and senate boundaries which the legislature will approve in special session in mid-November. County redistricting must occur by the end of November and by December 15 the election board will have to re-precinct. The election board will establish a map that will not become effective until the spring elections at the earliest. The council is authorized by charter to make minor adjustments to plans approved by the election district commission to conform to changes in precinct boundaries. Mr. Eagleton ask if when we get the new precincts will there be an ability for INCOG to put the new precincts on the web along with these proposed maps. Mr. Brierre stated that INCOG will have the ability. Mr. Brierre reviewed the differences in plan V and what we referred to as plan 5A. Mr. Eagleton suggested that we call that Plan VI.

Motion was made by Mr. Eagleton, seconded by Ms. Davis, to approve plans I through VI for public review. Motion carried.

Aye: Davis, Eagleton, Williams
Nay: None
Abstain: None

Set Date, Time and Place for Next Meeting or Meetings

Motion was made by Ms. Davis, seconded by Mr. Eagleton, to accept the dates and locations of public meetings for the next Election District Commission meeting's to be held:

Tuesday, October 12	7:00 p.m.	Martin Regional Library
Wednesday, October 13	7:00 p.m.	Hardesty Regional Library

Thursday, October 14 7:00 p.m. Zarrow Regional (West) Library

Monday, October 18 7:00 p.m. Rudisill Regional Library

Motion carried.

Aye: Davis, Eagleton, Williams
Nay: None
Abstain: None

Motion was made by Mr. Eagleton, seconded by Ms. Davis to set an Election District Commission meeting on October 22, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at this same location to review the input from the public and identify the preferred plan elements. Motion carried.

Aye: Davis, Eagleton, Williams
Nay: None
Abstain: None

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.