

CITY OF TULSA
ELECTION DISTRICT COMMISSION
Friday, July 9, 2021, at 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

The first meeting of the Election District Commission was held on July 9, 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 July 2, 2021, at 2:26 p.m.

Members Present

Sharon King Davis
John M. Eagleton
Susan Neal
Joe Williams

Staff Present

Rich Brierre Patrick Boulden
LaDonna Brewer Mark Swiney
Barbara Gibson
Darita Huckabee

Others Present: Matt Trotter, KWGS

Call to order

With consent of the group Susan Neal called the meeting to order.

Introduction of Staff Team

Mr. Brierre introduced the members of the staff that will be available to assist the Commission in pursuing this task.

Briefing on Responsibilities of the Election District Commission

Mr. Brierre referred members to the handouts he provided on the excerpts from the Tulsa City Charter with the provisions calling for the establishment of the election district commission.

Criteria for the Establishment of City Council District Boundaries

Mr. Brierre referred members to the handout in the agenda packet. He stated that there are specific provisions in the charter as well as state law that we have tried to summarize as follows:

- Legally mandated requirements
 - ✓ Each District shall consist of:
 - Contiguous area – (City Charter and state statute)
 - Compact territory – (City Charter and state statute)
 - ✓ Be as nearly equal (or substantially equal) in population as possible – (City Charter and state statute)
 - ✓ Conform with precinct boundary lines – (City Charter)
 - ✓ Consider natural and neighborhood boundaries – (City Charter)
 - ✓ Avoid diluting minority votes and meet Voting Rights Act requirements – (City Charter and federal law)

- ✓ Disregard Partisan considerations (City Charter)
- Other considerations
 - ✓ District boundary lines based on major physical features such as rivers, expressways, or arterial streets to the extent possible.
 - ✓ Minimize the displacement or re-assignment of population and precincts between council districts.
 - ✓ Maintain city councilors in their respective districts.

Mr. Brierre answered questions from members.

Motion was made by Mr. Eagleton and seconded by Mr. Williams to accept the Criteria for the Establishment of City Council District boundaries. Motion carried.

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

Prospective Schedule and Approach for 2021 Election District Commission Proceedings

Mr. Brierre provided an overview and explanation of the Calendar of Relevant Dates that were included in the agenda packet. The 2021 Prospective Schedule for the 2021 City of Tulsa Election District Commission District Process that was circulated to members of the Commission as a handout. The dates suggested were as follows:

Calendar of Relevant Dates

July 1, 2021	Appointment of members of City of Tulsa Election District Commission (City Charter)
July 9, 2021	Organization Meeting of Election District Commission
August 16, 2021	Anticipated release date of redistricting data by Bureau of the Census
Oct. 18-22, 2021	Special legislative session to draw congressional boundaries and amend state legislative boundaries if needed (tentative)
November 30, 2021	Deadline for County Commissions to redraw district boundaries (State Statute)
Dec. 15, 2021	County Election Board deadline to adopt precinct boundaries to conform to new congressional, legislative, and county commission district boundaries (State Election Board Regulations)
Dec. 31, 2021	Election District Commission plan must be filed with the City Clerk

June 13, 2022 First day of filing for Tulsa City Council Elections (City Charter)
August 9, 2022 City of Tulsa General Election – (City Charter)

Prospective Schedule for 2021 City of Tulsa Election District Commission

July 30, 2021 Approval of communication with City Council members and community organizations regarding redistricting process and solicitation of comments.

Aug. 20 or 27, 2021 Review of 2020 census data by Council District
Letters sent to Mayor, City Council members and community organizations.

September 17, 2021 Review of comments and recommendations received from Mayor, Council members and community organizations.
Presentation of alternative Council District plans.

October 1, 2021 Election District Commission selects plans for public review
Approve schedule for public meetings/hearings in geographic quadrants of the city.

October 11-14, 2021 Public meetings in geographic quadrants of the city (October 11, 12, 13, and 14) at regional libraries.

October 22, 2021 Review input from public meetings and identify preferred plan elements.

November 5, 2021 Election District Commission selects preferred City Council District Plan
set public hearing date, time, and place

November 19, 2021 Public hearing on proposed Election District Plan

December 10, 2021 Election District Commission approval of 2021 Election District Plan

December 20, 2021 Filing of 2011 Election District Plan with the Tulsa County Election Board and the City Clerk

January 20, 2021 Expiration of 30-day legal challenge period for Election District Plan

Mr. Brierre provided further explanation of other relevant information related to the redistricting process:

- ✓ Precinct boundary changes become effective 30 days after posting and notice to the State Election Board. The Election Board Street Guide is updated with any changes to

precinct boundaries. Registered voters are notified of precinct boundary changes, in writing, by the Secretary of the County Election Board (State Election Board regulations).

- ✓ If municipal boundaries (including Council District boundaries) do not follow precinct lines, precinct books will include municipal council district wards and maps of the relevant boundaries will be provided at the polling places by the County Election Board. (State Election Board regulations).
- ✓ The City Council may make “minor adjustments” in the boundaries of council districts to conform to changes in precinct boundaries (City Charter). This may be necessary after the re-precincting process.
- ✓ The County Election Boards may, at their discretion, make alterations in precinct boundaries, if requested in writing by the municipal governing body, to conform to ward (City Council) boundaries, provided that all expenses incurred shall be paid by the municipality (State Statute).
- ✓ The City of Tulsa requirement that a person shall have been a qualified elector of an election district for more than 90 days at the time of filing for the office of councilor for that district shall not apply to the election held immediately following the adoption of an Election District Plan; provided that a person desiring to become a candidate for the office of councilor for an election district shall be qualified electors of the election district at the time of filing for the office of councilor for that district. (City Charter)

There was also discussion about prospective dates for future meetings and public hearings to be held in different quadrants of the city.

Election of Commission Officers

Motion was made by Mr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Davis, to nominate Ms. Neal as Chair of the Commission and Mr. Westcott and Mr. Williams as Vice – Chairs. Motion carried.

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

Set Date, Time and Place for Next Meeting or Meetings

Motion was made by Mr. Eagleton, seconded by Mr. Williams, that the next Election District Commission meeting be held on July 30, at 10:00 a.m. at this same location. Motion carried.

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

Adjourn

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.