

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION ADOPTING CRITERIA FOR USE IN
2021 REDISTRICTING PROCESS**

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of New Braunfels has certain responsibilities for redistricting under federal and state law including, but not limited to, Amendments 14 and 15 to the United States Constitution, and the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.A. § 1973, *et seq.*; and Texas Government Code §§ 2058.001 and 2058.002; and Texas Election Code §276.006; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has certain responsibilities for redistricting under the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, on review of current demographic data it appears that a population imbalance exists requiring redistricting of the City Councilmember 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 redistricting 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, redistricting 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 New Braunfels, that the City, in its adoption of a redistricting plan for City Councilmember Districts, will adhere to the following criteria:

1. Where possible, easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.
2. Communities of interest should be maintained in a single district, where possible, and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods.
3. To the extent possible, 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.
4. Although it is recognized that existing districts will have to be altered to reflect new population distribution, any districting plan should, to the extent possible, be based on existing districts.

5. Districts must be configured so that they are relatively equal in total population according to the 2020 federal census. In no event should the total maximum deviation between the largest and the smallest district exceed ten percent (10%). The City will attempt to achieve a total maximum deviation that is less than ten percent according to the best available data.
6. The districts should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness may contain a functional, as well as a geographical dimension.
7. Proposed plans shall be assigned a name in accordance with the naming convention established by the City, followed by an alpha character and, if applicable, a numeric character. The term "Illustrative Map" shall be used to define all maps that are created for internal distribution only. The term "Draft Map" shall be used to define all maps that are shared and submitted to the public by the City.
8. Consideration may be given to the preservation of incumbent-constituency relations by recognition of the residence of incumbents and their history in representing certain areas.
9. The plan should be narrowly tailored to avoid retrogression in the position of racial minorities and language minorities as defined in the Voting Rights Act with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise.
10. 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.

PASSED & APPROVED this, the ____ day of _____ 2021.

City of New Braunfels:

By: _____
Rusty Brockman, Mayor

ATTEST:

Caitlin Krobot, City Secretary