2012 Council District Boundary Realignment

The Richardson City Charter requires election of seven City Council Members: four elected to "places" that correspond to geographic districts and three elected at-large. A commission is appointed every 10 years (after the U.S. Census is complete) to review the district boundaries to ensure population equality among the districts.

Federal law requires that the population deviation between the most populous and the least populous districts should not exceed 10%. Following the 2010 Census, the deviation now exceeds 32% (see map on next page).

The City Council appointed the City Plan Commission to act as the Council District Boundary Commission on January 30, 2012. City Council must adopt an ordinance to fix the boundaries by July 30, 2012.

A public hearing was held on Tuesday, April 24 to receive community input on three options being considered. Following public input, the Commission requested that staff re-examine option 2 to see if the boundary line between the Canyon Creek and Cottonwood Creek neighborhoods could be shifted without enlarging the total deviation above the mandated maximum of 10%.

The revised option, renumbered Option 2a, was considered at a second public hearing on May 15. At this meeting the Commission continued their deliberation of the options and decided to forward two options, 2a and 3, to the City Council for their consideration.

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Option Criteria & Guidelines

Changes to the boundaries for City Council Districts must meet federal requirements and may take into account any local considerations the Council District Boundary Commission determines are valid. All three options satisfy all the criteria listed below.

Federal Criteria

- Population deviation between the most populous and the least populous districts should not exceed 10%
- Boundaries should be compact and contiguous
- Boundaries should follow roadways or other easily identifiable physical features
- Boundaries should not dilute minority voting strength

Local Criteria

- Boundaries should respect existing HOA boundaries
- Boundaries should not be precluded from crossing Central Expressway
- Boundaries should keep incumbents in their respective districts
- Boundaries should account for anticipated future growth where possible





