



Redistricting 2022

CONTEXT & PROCESS

Budget and Fiscal Affairs Council Committee

March 2022

A Word from Mayor Turner

“We are privileged to live in one of the most wonderfully diverse cities in the world. As Houston continues to grow, we must ensure fair and equitable representation for all Houstonians.”

The Redistricting Team

- City Attorney's Office: Tracy Calabrese, Danielle Folsom, and **Doug Ray (832-393-6319)**
- Planning & Development Department staff: Margaret Wallace Brown, Lynn Henson, Larry Nierth, and **Rupesh Koshy (832-393-6552)**
- Demographic Support consultant: Jerry Wood
- Legal Services support: Lisa McBride, Thompson & Horton, and Edgar Colon

Constitutional Standards

1

Districts should be of equal population: one person, one vote

2

Districts may not intentionally dilute the voting strength of racial or ethnic minority groups

3

Districts drawn primarily on the basis of race or ethnicity require a compelling justification

Equal Protection Clause

In 1962, the Supreme Court recognized the principle of “one person, one vote” and the applicability of the Equal Protection Clause to redistricting.

- *Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S. 186 (1962)
- *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533 (1964)

Voting Rights Act

The Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was revised in 1982, prohibits election practices that discriminate on basis of race or language minority status

- No cracking (splitting a geographically compact minority group to dissipate the group's electoral power)
- No packing (overconcentrating a minority group in a district so it has electoral power in one district rather than in two or more)

Houston's Redistricting History

1970s

1970s: Challenges to At-Large System
(*Leroy v. City of Houston*)

1980s

1985: Mid-Decade Redistricting

1990s

1991: Growing Hispanic Population
Litigation to allow election to proceed after sec. 5 objection (*Campos v. City of Houston*; *United States v. City of Houston*)

1992: Protecting the 1991 Election
Adopting a precleared plan

Mid-1990s: Defending the 9-5-1 Council Structure

1997-2000: Defending post-Kingwood-annexation redistricting plan against a racial gerrymandering claim

2000s

2001: Litigation-Free Redistricting

2010s

2011: Litigation-Free Redistricting
Two single member districts were added as required by the Charter when the City's population reached 2.1 million

Council Resolution - Redistricting Criteria

City Council will consider a Resolution in late March 2022 that outlines the principles to use for redistricting. The redrawn districts should aim to:

- Maintain relatively equal population numbers
- Be composed of whole county voting precincts
- Have easily identifiable geographic boundaries
- Retain integrity of neighborhoods or communities of interest
- Be compact
- Avoid packing or cracking
- Preserve incumbent-constituency relations

Current Council District Populations

Total Population	Council District	Percent Variation from Average
219,727	A	5%
206,594	B	-1%
240,954	C	15%
223,196	D	7%
224,929	E	7%
204,735	F	-2%
234,140	G	12%
174,341	H	-17%
179,351	I	-14%
187,318	J	-11%
209,295	K	0%
2,304,580	Average District Population	209,507

Houston's Redistricting Schedule

April - May	June	July	August	September
Town Hall Meetings	Analysis and draft plans created The public creates their own plans	Public hearings held in City Council chambers Due date for proposed plans is July 20	Analysis of testimony from public hearings Analysis of plans submitted by the public	City Council approves redistricting plan

Town Hall Meetings

These are listening meetings to:

- explain the redistricting process and
- hear from the public before creating a new redistricting map.

These meetings will be held throughout April and May 2022 in each City Council district. A schedule will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Public Hearings

The Planning & Development Department will present the draft plan to City Council and the public at three public hearings held in City Council Chambers (*dates are tentative*).

- July 13, 2022, at 9 a.m.
- July 13, 2022, at 7 p.m.
- July 20, 2022, at 9 a.m.

Council members and members of the public can ask questions, provide input (such as proposing that certain voting precincts, neighborhoods, or locations be included in a specific district), suggest revisions or submit an alternative plan.

Submitting a Redistricting Plan

The public is encouraged to submit a plan.

All plans submitted to the City for consideration must:

- Be in writing;
- Be based on the 2020 federal census; and
- Redistrict the entire City so that Council may assess its impact on protected minority groups.

For the City to properly analyze any plan, it must be submitted to **Rupesh Koshy** in the Planning Department by **July 20, 2022, 4:45 p.m.** (the date of the last public hearing in City Council).

Technical Assistance

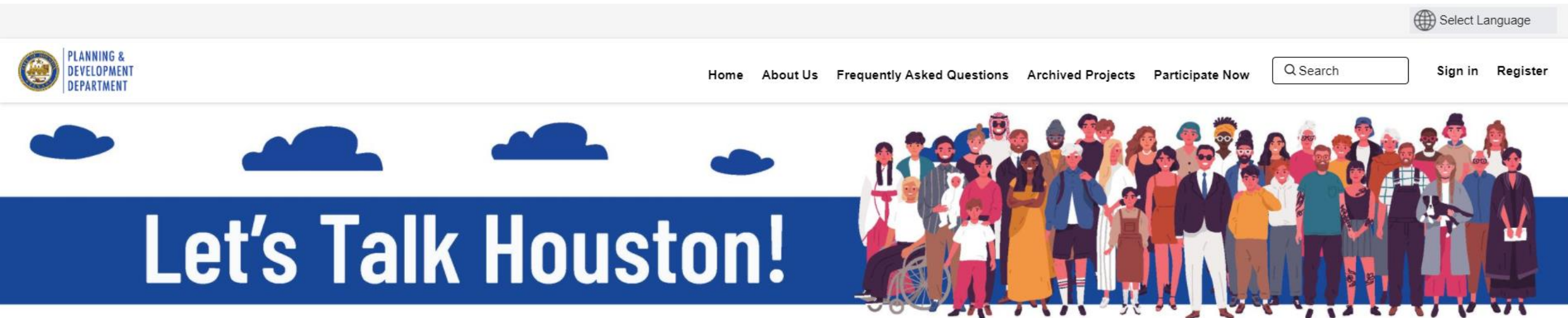
The Planning & Development Department will set up a computer with the redistricting software installed at our offices at 611 Walker Street, sixth floor. We will also lend technical assistance to anyone interested in creating a redistricting plan.

Contact **Rupesh Koshy** at rupesh.koshy@houstontx.gov or 832-393-6552 for an appointment.

Public Information Web Page

Visit www.LetsTalkHouston.org/redistricting to find useful information and ask questions about the redistricting effort.

All content will be in English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese.



The screenshot shows the top portion of a website. At the top right, there is a globe icon and the text "Select Language". Below this is a navigation bar with the following links: "Home", "About Us", "Frequently Asked Questions", "Archived Projects", "Participate Now", a search box with "Q Search" inside, "Sign in", and "Register". On the left side of the navigation bar is the logo for the "PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT". Below the navigation bar is a large blue banner with the text "Let's Talk Houston!" in white. To the right of the text is a diverse group of stylized cartoon people of various ages, ethnicities, and abilities, including a person in a wheelchair. The background of the banner features stylized blue clouds.



Thank You

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