

AGENDA ITEM 2

Discussion of initial assessment, and possible action to adopt a resolution or order to redistrict as necessary.

Moved: **Judge Doerfler**

Seconded: **Commissioner Boatright**

Motion: To adopt a resolution/order to redistrict as necessary.

Vote: **5 - 0**

AGENDA ITEM 3

Discussion and possible action to adopt criteria to govern development of redistricting plans.

Moved: **Judge Doerfler**

Seconded: **Commissioner Hays**

Motion: To adopt criteria to govern development of redistricting plans.

Vote: **5 - 0**

< Attachment >

ORDER NO. _____

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
THE COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON §

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY RESOLUTION ADOPTING CRITERIA
FOR USE IN REDISTRICTING 2001 PROCESS**

WHEREAS, this Commissioners Court has certain responsibilities for redistricting under federal and state law including, but not limited to, Amendments 14 and 15 to the United States Constitution, U.S.C.A. (West 1987), and the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.A. § 1973, *et seq.* (West 1987 and Supp. 1999); Article 5, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution (Vernon 1993 and Supp. 2000); and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 2058.001 and 2058.002 (Vernon Pamph. 2000); and

WHEREAS, on review of the 2000 census data it appears that a population imbalance exists requiring redistricting of the County's Commissioner Precincts; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the County 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 County in the consideration of districting plans; and

WHEREAS, established criteria will provide the County a means by which to evaluate and measure proposed plans; and

WHEREAS, redistricting criteria will assist the County in its efforts to comply with all applicable federal and state laws;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the County, in its adoption of a redistricting plan for Commissioner Precincts, 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 2000 federal census. In no event should the total deviation

between the largest and the smallest district exceed ten percent. The County will attempt to achieve a deviation that is less than ten percent under the data released by the Census Bureau.

6. The districts should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness may contain a functional, as well as a geographical dimension.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.

BE IT SO ORDERED.

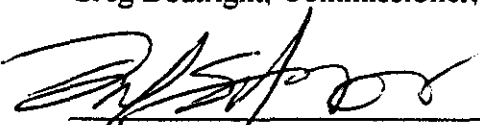
Adopted on this 16th day of APRIL, 2001.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS


John C. Doerfler, County Judge


Mike Heiligenstein, Commissioner, Precinct 1


Greg Boatright, Commissioner, Precinct 2


David Hays, Commissioner, Precinct 3


Frankie Limmer, Commissioner, Precinct 4

ATTEST:


Williamson County Clerk

AGENDA ITEM 4

Discussion and possible action to adopt redistricting process and schedule.

Moved: **Judge Doerfler**

Seconded: **Commissioner Limmer**

Motion: To adopt redistricting process and schedule, with a deadline of June 30, 2001, for submission of public redistricting plans.

Vote: **5 - 0**

< Attachment >

ORDER NO. _____

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
THE COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON §

**GUIDELINES FOR PERSONS SUBMITTING
SPECIFIC REDISTRICTING PROPOSALS**

WHEREAS, the Williamson County Commissioners Court has certain responsibilities for redistricting under federal and state law including, but not limited to, Amendments 14 and 15 to the United States Constitution, U.S.C.A. (West 1987), and the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.A. § 1973, *et seq.* (West 1987 and Supp. 1999); Article 5, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution (Vernon 1993 and Supp. 2000); and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 2058.001 and 2058.002 (Vernon Pamph. 2000); and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to provide for the orderly consideration and evaluation of redistricting plans which may come before the Court; and

WHEREAS, these guidelines relate to persons who have specific redistricting plans they wish the Court to consider; and

WHEREAS, the Court welcomes any comments relevant to the redistricting process;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in order to make sure that any plan that might be submitted is of maximum assistance to the Court in its decision making process, the Court hereby sets the following guidelines:

1. Plans should be submitted in writing. If a plan is submitted orally, there is significant opportunity for misunderstanding, and it is possible that errors may be made in analyzing it. The Court wants to be sure that all proposals be fully and accurately considered. Your cooperation in submitting any plan in writing will be of great assistance.
2. Any plan should show the total population and voting age population for Blacks, Hispanics, Asians and Anglo/other for each proposed commissioner precinct. If a plan is submitted without a population breakdown, the Court may not have sufficient information to give it full consideration.
3. Plans should be submitted by June 30, 2001. In order to meet the deadlines imposed by state and federal law, the Court will need to adopt a plan by August 1, 2001.
4. Plans should redistrict the entire county. The Court, of course, will be considering the effect of any plan on the entire county. Also the Court is subject to the Voting

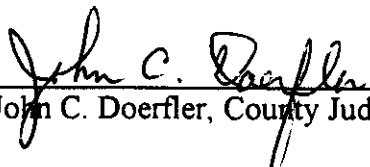
Rights Act, which protects various racial and language minorities. Thus, as a matter of federal law, it will be required to consider the effect of any proposal on multiple racial and ethnic groups. If a plan does not redistrict the entire county, it may be impossible for the Court to assess its impact on one or more protected minority groups.

5. Plans should conform to the criteria the Court will be using in drawing the commissioner precincts.

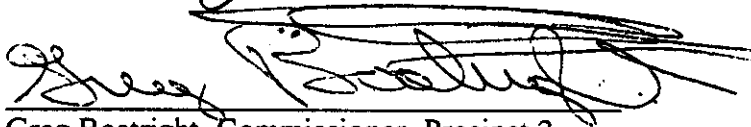
BE IT SO ORDERED.

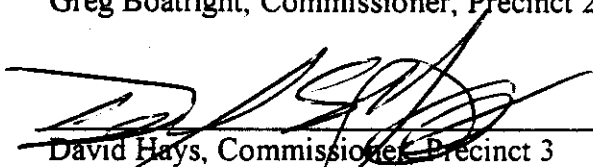
Adopted on this 16th day of APRIL, 2001.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS


John C. Doerfler, County Judge


Mike Heiligenstein, Commissioner, Precinct 1


Greg Boatright, Commissioner, Precinct 2


David Hays, Commissioner, Precinct 3


Frankie Limmer, Commissioner, Precinct 4

ATTEST:


Nancy E. Ruter
Williamson County Clerk

COMMISSIONERS' COURT ADJOURNED AT 11:45 A.M. ON MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2001.

THE FOREGOING MINUTES recorded on Minutes Pages 1 through 44, inclusive had at a Regular Session of Commissioners' Court of Williamson County, Texas, having been read are hereby approved this 24th day of April, 2001.


John C. Doerfler, County Judge

ATTEST: Nancy E. Rister, Clerk County Court & Ex-officio Clerk,
Commissioners' Court, Williamson County, Texas

By: 
Deputy Clerk

