

REPORT ON 2011 REDISTRICTING
OF HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER
PRECINCTS

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Submitted by

ANDREWS
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I. INTRODUCTION

The following is our report and recommendation for redistricting of the Harris County Commissioner Precincts based on the 2010 Census. Andrews Kurth, LLP, together with Drs. Richard Murray and David Branham, worked with Harris County Commissioners and Harris County staff and considered significant input from the public in creating the recommended plan.

Based on our collective work, input from the public, and legal considerations, we are submitting to you the following report and recommendation to assist you in your consideration and adoption of new boundaries for the Harris County Commissioner Precincts (the "Precinct" or "Precincts"). Accompanying this report is a separate analysis of the 2011 redistricting effort prepared by Dr. Murray, which is included as Attachment 1. Additionally, a map depicting the existing Precincts and a breakdown of the population of each Precinct based on the 2000 and 2010 census data are included as Attachment 2.

II. 2010 CENSUS DATA AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS AFFECTING REDISTRICTING

The results of the 2010 Census justify and make necessary the redistricting of the Precincts because those results revealed that the existing Precincts no longer contain substantially equal populations and, thus, violate the constitutional guarantee of "one person, one vote." *Gray v. Sanders*, 372 U.S. 368, 379-81 (1963). The 2010 Census reflected that Harris County grew 20.35% within its boundaries, resulting in a 25.44% top-to-bottom total population deviation among the existing Precincts. State and federal courts have established that when a local governmental body such as Harris County engages in redistricting, total deviation in excess of 10% raises a presumption that the districts are in violation of the one person, one vote guarantee. *Brown v. Thompson*, 462 U.S. 835, 842-43 (1983). Illustratively, the population data collected by the 2010 Census resulted in a target population per Precinct of 1,023,115 people.

The redistricting of the Precincts comes with the unique challenge of having only four Precincts with which to work. Article V, Section 18 of the Texas Constitution limits Commissioners Courts in Texas to four county commissioners and four commissioner precincts. Thus, Harris County's size and diversity makes it virtually impossible to divide Harris County into Precincts that include only neighborhoods and cities that consider themselves to share the same values and interests.

Since the last redistricting of the Precincts in 2001, the population of Harris County has grown unevenly, with the majority of the growth occurring primarily in the northern and western portions of the county. This growth pattern resulted in central and eastern Precincts One and Two being substantially underpopulated – by 92,502 persons for Precinct One and 134,543 persons for Precinct Two. Conversely, northern

and western Precincts Three and Four are substantially overpopulated – by 125,775 and 101,269 persons, respectively. See Attachment 2. Notably, while Hispanic growth has outpaced all other growth, it was dispersed throughout the County, rather than concentrated in the historically Hispanic neighborhoods in the eastern portion of the County. In fact, the greatest Hispanic growth occurred in the north and west in Precincts Three and Four.

The process of equalizing population in accordance with the U.S. Constitution and federal law, while preventing retrogression, does not occur in a vacuum. Several important factors must be considered.

First, Precincts One and Two are protected as minority opportunity Precincts under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. Precinct One is an effective African American Precinct. Precinct Two is a Hispanic majority Precinct. Both are woefully underpopulated and must add significant population.

Second, the new Precinct boundaries must be drawn observing objective guidelines recognized by the Courts as conventional or traditional redistricting principles. *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 916 (1995). Those include compactness, contiguity, keeping voting precincts intact, following available natural or artificial boundaries, and keeping incumbents in their elected districts. *Id.*

Finally, recognizing the impact on service delivery by County government is a particularly important factor in this redistricting process. Harris County government is organized and operated in accordance with Texas law under which the individual commissioners determine which services and facilities to provide to meet their constituents' needs. These services include drainage services, unincorporated road maintenance, emergency services, medical clinics, parks and recreational facilities, community centers, education centers, libraries, and Precinct-wide community programs. Under the County's decentralized system of service delivery, which is a function of state law, moving facilities among Precincts would affect the delivery of services to the residents of Harris County by removing vital facilities from their current Precincts and/or overburdening Precincts by placing too many facilities within their boundaries. Thus, in addition to equalizing population, preserving the protected voting rights statuses of Precincts One and Two, and abiding by objective redistricting criteria, it is critical to keep as many service facilities, community centers, parks, and education facilities in their current Precincts.

To assist in making the changes required by the population increase, the Commissioners Court on June 21, 2011, adopted Priorities and Principles for Redistricting (the "Priorities and Principles") to guide the formulation of a redistricting plan, a copy of which is included as Attachment 3. The Priorities and Principles are based upon Constitutional requirements, federal law, and traditional redistricting

factors recognized by the courts as appropriate guidelines for redrawing the boundaries of electoral districts. *See Miller*, 515 U.S. at 916.

III. PLAN A-1

Based on the Priorities and Principles, input from individual commissioners, and Voting Rights Act considerations, we engaged in an effort to develop a draft redistricting plan. That effort resulted in Plan A-1, which, by an Order of July 12, 2011 (the "July 12, 2011 Order"), the Commissioners Court accepted and resolved to present to the public for consideration. The July 12, 2011 Order and Plan A-1 are included herewith as Attachments 4 and 5, respectively.

Plan A-1 was developed based on input from the commissioners and observation of the Priorities and Principles. These considerations resulted in a map that:

- Equalizes population to a 5.65% overall deviation;
- Maintains the compactness and contiguity of the Precincts;
- Splits only ten voting precincts and only splits those voting precincts to establish Precinct boundaries based on natural geographic boundaries or to keep facilities in their current Precincts;
- Keeps neighborhoods and communities of interest intact to a great extent;
- Is based on the existing composition of the Precincts;
- Keeps 91% of Harris County residents in their current Precincts;
- Complies with Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act by preserving an effective Hispanic majority in Precinct Two and the African American plurality in Precinct One and increasing the minority populations in Precincts Three and Four to create opportunities for minority influence there;
- Complies with the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment by satisfying the requirements of Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act while observing traditional principles of redistricting and basing the composition of the Precincts on factors other than race.
- Keeps the majority of County facilities in their current Precincts; and
- Keeps incumbent commissioners in their respective Precincts.

A description of each Precinct under Plan A-1 follows. See Attachment 6 for a listing of the voting precincts that were moved from their existing Precincts under Plan A-1.

A. Precinct One.

The challenge for Precinct One was twofold: increase its population and maintain its status as an African American opportunity Precinct. Created as an African American opportunity Precinct in 1981, Precinct One voters elected Harris County's first African American commissioner, El Franco Lee, in 1984. It was created with an hourglass shape, the central corridor of which connects the significant African American populations in north central and south central Harris County. The 2010 Census data showed Precinct One losing its African American plurality and, thereby, putting it at risk as an opportunity Precinct for African Americans' candidates of choice. The changes shown in Plan A-1 were designed to diminish this risk by increasing its population and restoring the African American plurality.

- Precinct One gains sixteen voting precincts from Precinct Four for an increase of 82,594 people. The voting precincts transferred from Precinct Four to Precinct One are in the area near Bush Intercontinental Airport where there has been and continues to be significant African American growth. Almost half of the added population from this area is African American.
- Precinct One gains six voting precincts from Precinct Two for an increase of 44,128 people. The voting precincts transferred from Precinct Two to Precinct One increase the African American population by 12,444 people.
- Precinct One gains four whole voting precincts from Precinct Three for an increase of 37,528 people. The voting precincts transferred from Precinct Three to Precinct One increase the African American population of Precinct One by 10,225 people.
- Precinct One transfers to Precinct Two four whole voting precincts and five partial voting precincts in the north central part of the county and four voting precincts in the southern part of the county for a decrease in population of 53,507 people. The transfer of these particular voting precincts to Precinct Two augments the Hispanic population of Precinct Two by 41,350 people and helps maintain Precinct One's African American plurality.

By making those voting precinct shifts, Precinct One's population deficiency is corrected. Under Plan A-1, Precinct One deviates from the target Precinct population by only 1.78%, or 18,241 people. Furthermore, the voting precinct shifts return Precinct One to an African American plurality, with African Americans making up 38.41% of the total population and 38.64% of the voting age population as compared to 37.3% and

37.7%, respectively, in 2010 under the existing Precinct boundaries. In 2001, under the existing Precinct boundaries, the African American population was 43.94% of the total population and 42.83% of the voting age population. While Plan A-1 does not return the African American population to its 2001 numbers, it does include the majority-Anglo neighborhoods that have crossed over to vote for the African American candidate of choice, and ensures that African American candidates of choice can still have electoral success in the Precinct.

Importantly, five voting precincts are split in order to satisfy the Priority and Principle that favors using natural geographic boundaries as Precinct boundaries. The five voting precincts that are split between Precincts One and Two are split in order to respect the geographic boundaries created by Interstate 45 and the Hardy Toll Road. The portions of these voting precincts assigned to Precinct One are on the west sides of Interstate 45 and the Hardy Toll Road and the portions assigned to Precinct Two are on the east sides of Interstate 45 and the Hardy Toll Road.

Another major consideration in selecting voting precincts to add to and subtract from Precinct One was the location of facilities within the voting precincts. The voting precinct additions to and subtractions from Precinct One result in only six facility shifts – the High Meadows Branch Library and Gerber Park in Precinct One are moved to Precinct Two, the North Channel Branch Library, the Miller Road Camp, and Gene Green Beltway & Park in Precinct Two are moved to Precinct One, and the Kuykendahl Road Park is moved from Precinct Four into Precinct One.

Under Plan A-1, Precinct One also keeps communities of interest and neighborhoods intact. For example, Independence Heights, Houston Heights, Montrose, Kashmere Gardens, the Fifth Ward, the Third Ward, and Sunny Side are wholly contained in Precinct One.

Even with the addition of more than 100,000 people to Precinct One, the Precinct retains its basic geographic composition and, thus, preserves incumbent-constituent relationships.

B. Precinct Two.

Being underpopulated by more than 134,000 people, most of the changes to Precinct Two involved adding population. We recognized, though, that the population addition had to be done in a way that maintains the effective Hispanic majority status of Precinct Two and preserves the ability of Hispanic residents to elect candidates of choice there.

Precinct Two voters elected Hispanic commissioner, Sylvia Garcia, in 2002 who served two terms before being defeated in 2010.

- Under Plan A-1, Precinct Two gains from Precinct One four voting precincts near the southwestern border of existing Precinct Two, portions of five voting precincts near I-45 and the Hardy Toll Road and four whole voting precincts between the Hardy Toll Road and US-59. These transfers add 53,507 people to Precinct Two, 41,350 of which are Hispanic.
- Because Precinct One is underpopulated and a historic African American opportunity Precinct and because of Precinct Two's shared border with overpopulated Precinct Four, the majority of the changes to Precinct Two's existing boundaries come from extending it north into Precinct Four. Precinct Two gains fifteen voting precincts from Precinct Four for a population increase of 93,444 people.
- Precinct Two does transfer five voting precincts to Precinct One from its Highway 90 border with Precinct One and one voting precinct from its southwestern border with Precinct One. These transfers, in conjunction with the Aldine areas shifted from Precinct One to Precinct Two, help restore an African American plurality in Precinct One and increase the Hispanic population in Precinct Two.

Because Plan A-1 moves a large area of northeastern Harris County to Precinct Two to help equalize population, several facilities are moved from Precinct Four into Precinct Two. Those are the May and Crosby Community Centers, the Crosby Branch Library, the Crosby Maintenance Facility, the Atascocita County Library Branch, Crosby Park, the Crosby Sports Complex, and I. T. May Park.

Under Plan A-1, Precinct Two retains the majority of its original territory. The territory that Precinct Two gains adds significant unincorporated territory to Precinct Two, which will result in Precinct Two being entitled to additional funding because, under state law, each commissioner is required to maintain the unincorporated roads in his or her Precinct and funding is allocated based on the number of such "road miles" in the Precinct. Moreover, under Plan A-1 the neighborhoods and incorporated cities of the East End, Pasadena, Baytown, Clear Lake, Highlands, Barrett Station, and LaPorte are, not only kept together, but remain in their same Commissioner Precinct.

Plan A-1 maintains Precinct Two as a Hispanic-majority district with Hispanic residents making up more than a majority of both the total population and the voting age population. Under Plan A-1, the Hispanic population constitutes 57.2% of the total population and 52.5% of the voting age population. The combined Hispanic and African American population in Precinct Two under this plan is 65.4%, with a combined voting age population of 60.9%.

C. Precinct Three.

Under Plan A-1, five whole voting precincts and one partial voting precinct are moved from Precinct Three into Precinct Four to help bring Precinct Three's population within the acceptable range. Likewise, four whole voting precincts are moved from Precinct Three into Precinct One. With these changes, Precinct Three is brought to a 2.55% deviation from the target per Precinct population. These precinct shifts result in a transfer of 62,207 people out of overpopulated Precinct Three. Precinct Three also gains from Precinct Four the uninhabited portions of three precincts constituting the Addicks Reservoir.

Under the partial precinct transfers to and from Precinct Three, Bill Archer Park, and the Addicks Reservoir remain in Precinct Three.

The relatively minor changes to Precinct Three leave intact all of its facilities and the majority of its existing boundaries.

D. Precinct Four.

Being overpopulated by more than 100,000 people, Plan A-1 transfers fourteen voting precincts from Precinct Four to Precinct Two to help cure Precinct Two's deficit.

Under Plan A-1, Precinct Four transfers sixteen voting precincts to Precinct One in order to help equalize the population there.

Precinct Four also transfers the uninhabited portions of three precincts making up the Addicks Reservoir into Precinct Three so that the reservoir will be wholly contained in one precinct.

The transfers of voting precincts from Precinct Four to Precincts One and Two over-corrects Precinct Four's population surplus, making it possible for Precinct Four to absorb some of Precinct Three's surplus in the form of five whole voting precincts and one partial voting precinct. This change gives Precinct Four more Hispanic population, 30,118 persons, thus increasing Precinct Four's status as a possible impact precinct, with a 35.1% Hispanic population and a combined 49.4% Hispanic and African American population.

With these changes, Precinct Four is brought to a -1.23% deviation from the target population per Precinct.

The voting precinct transfers from Precinct Four to Precinct Two result in the shifts of the May and Crosby Community Centers, the Crosby Branch Library, the Crosby Maintenance Facility, the Atascocita County Library Branch, Crosby Park, the Crosby Sports Complex, and I. T. May Park from Precinct Four into Precinct Two.

The changes to Precinct Four's boundaries also result in a more compact Precinct. Under the existing boundaries, Precinct Four's northern boundary spans more than three-quarters of the northern boundary of Harris County. Under Plan A-1, the boundaries of Precinct Four create a Precinct that is contained within the north central part of the county.

IV. THE PUBLIC HEARINGS

In accordance with the July 12, 2011 Order, the Commissioners Court scheduled public hearings for July 25, July 27, July 29, and August 1, 2011, at locations in each of the Precincts. The Commissioners Court published a notice announcing the public hearings in newspapers of general circulation, including newspapers that target the African American, Hispanic, and Vietnamese communities. Notices were published in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Additionally, notice was published on the Harris County and Harris County Attorney websites. At each hearing, Douglas Ray, Assistant County Attorney, presided and a PowerPoint presentation was done that summarized the redistricting process, the legal considerations for redistricting, and the Principles and Priorities and described the development of Plan A-1. Dr. Murray presented a summary of the demographic considerations that went into the development of Plan A-1. Additionally, at each public hearing, 36-inch-by-48-inch mounted copies of maps of the existing districts and Plan A-1 were displayed and printouts of the PowerPoint presentation as well as a chart depicting the voting precinct changes were available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. We also engaged Spanish and Vietnamese interpreters for each public hearing.

Speakers at the public hearings were given at least three minutes to make comments. Over the course of the four hearings, seventy-one individuals made comments. Additionally, several persons submitted written testimony and spoke, while others just submitted written testimony. Several elected officials testified, including State Senators Rodney Ellis and Mario Gallegos, State Representatives Garnet Coleman, Harold Dutton and Amando Walle, and Houston Community College Trustee Bruce Austin. State Representative Ana Hernandez and Deer Park's Mayor Wayne Riddle, Mayor Stephen Don Carlos of Baytown, and Mayor Johnny Isbell of Pasadena provided written testimony to be entered into the record. Elected officials were divided on support of Plan A-1, with more supporting than opposing.

At the conclusion of the fourth public hearing, the County Attorney's office agreed to continue to accept written statements regarding the redistricting until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 2, 2011. This resulted in additional written statements, many submitted as a "form" statement. To further give an opportunity for public comment, the Commissioners Court scheduled an additional public hearing for Tuesday, August 9, 2011, prior to the regular meeting of the Commissioners Court.

Several themes emerged during the public comment portions of the public hearings. Those themes are summarized below.

A. Common Themes from Proponents of Plan A-1.

- **Preserve Precinct One.** At the public hearing in Precinct One, five African American elected officials, including Senator Rodney Ellis, presented oral and written comments supporting Plan A-1 because it preserved the core of Precinct One, which was created by an all-white Commissioners Court in 1980 as an African American opportunity district. A number of Precinct One residents expressed the same sentiment regarding Plan A-1's configuration of Precinct One. Speakers expressed a desire not to fix the population needs in underpopulated Precinct Two by taking population out of underpopulated Precinct One, thereby threatening Precinct One as an African American opportunity Precinct.
- **Keep Precinct Two Intact.** Multiple residents from existing Precinct Two spoke in support of Plan A-1. One repeated reason for supporting Plan A-1 was because it kept the cities of Clear Lake, Baytown, LaPorte, and Deer Park together in Precinct Two and did not split them.
- **Preserve the Hispanic majority Precinct.** Three African American elected officials stated that they believed that the 57.2% Hispanic majority in Precinct Two would allow Hispanic voters a continued opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. Several citizens echoed this sentiment in their comments.
- **Create more opportunity for minority influence county-wide.** Some supporters of Plan A-1 stated that they believed it created influence districts in Precincts Three and Four because of the combined African American and Hispanic population totals.
- **Preserve general structure of Precincts.** A number of speakers said they supported Plan A-1 because they thought it substantially preserved the existing boundaries of the Precincts, which would leave intact the service provision systems of each Precinct.

B. Common Themes from Opponents of Plan A-1.

- **Dilutes votes/causes retrogression.** A number of speakers, including Senator Mario Gallegos, expressed their views that Hispanic voters under Plan A-1 would be (a) diluted by the addition of voting precincts from the communities of Kingwood, Crosby, and Atascocita and (b) precluded from electing a Hispanic candidate of choice because the Hispanic population was reduced from about 60% of the total population to about 57% of the total population.

- **Deviates from Principles and Priorities.** At each of the public hearings, Mr. Robert Gallegos expressed his view that Precinct Two under Plan A-1 was not compact because it stretched too far north. He also thought that the additions of Atascocita, Kingwood, and Crosby did not comport with the Priority and Principle of maintaining communities of interest. Other speakers expressed the same or similar views. Finally, he expressed his opinion that Plan A-1 violated Principle and Priority number seven in that it moved several county facilities from Precinct Four into Precinct Two.
- **Do not change existing Precinct Two.** Many speakers expressed a preference that Precinct Two remain relatively unchanged. Numerous other speakers expressed similar views and expressed displeasure with adding new communities to Precinct Two.
- **Should be drawn with a blank slate.** Several of Plan A-1's opponents called for redrawing the Precincts by starting with a blank map. Some suggested drawing a precinct that includes all of the area inside Loop 610. Others suggested drawing a map that connects the Hispanic population on the east side of the county with the growing Hispanic populations in the western part of the county.
- **Does not consider citizen voting age population.** Several citizens stated that Plan A-1 failed to take into account the Hispanic citizen voting age population.

V. GUERRA/JARA PLAN

At the first public hearing, held in Precinct Two, Robert Gallegos submitted an alternative map. Mr. Gallegos's presentation did not include any demographic statistics, but an apparently identical map including population figures was presented by Dr. Reynaldo Guerra and Robert Jara at the Precinct Three public hearing. Hereinafter, those maps will be referred to as the "Guerra/Jara Plan" which is included as Attachment 7.

An analysis of the Guerra/Jara Plan with respect to the Priorities and Principles reveals the following:

- The top-to-bottom deviation from the ideal Precinct size is 3.49%.
- The four Precincts, while contiguous, suffer from a lack of compactness:
 - Precinct Four reaches to the northernmost point of the county and the southernmost point of the County and
 - Precinct Two spans the County from the east side of Baytown to the western boundary of Beltway 8.

- Several incorporated cities like Baytown, Pasadena, and Deer Park are split between Precincts Two and Four.
- Only Precinct Three is primarily based on its existing composition. The other Precincts are substantially redrawn:
 - Precinct One is reconfigured to include the Alief area, but loses the Aldine area and the neighborhoods near Bush Intercontinental Airport to the north, as well as its territory south of I-10 and east of Mykawa Road;
 - Precinct Four loses almost all of its territory inside Beltway 8 and is extended down the east side of the county to include much of the Ship Channel, most of Baytown, most of Deer Park, La Porte, most of Pasadena, Seabrook, Webster, and Clear Lake; and
 - Precinct Two wraps around Precinct One to reach west to the intersection of Beltway 8 and Highway 290.
- Ninety-Seven voting precincts are split.
- The Hispanic population of Precinct Two is increased from the 2010 percentage to 73% of the total population and 69% of the voting age population. In Precinct One, the African American population is increased from the 2010 percentages to 39.4% of the total population and 39.1% of the voting age population. The minority populations in Precincts Three and Four are significantly reduced.
- Commissioner Morman is moved out of Precinct Two and into Precinct Four and Commissioner Eversole is moved out of Precinct Four and into Precinct One.
- More than thirty County facilities are moved into different Precincts, including the transfer of six road maintenance camps from Precincts One and Two into Precinct Four.
- The transfer of so many County facilities, particularly the six road maintenance camps, does not recognize the importance of continuing the services citizens rely upon or the costs associated with transferring facilities into new Precincts.

VI. REVISED PLAN A-1

After the public hearings, the public input was summarized and efforts were made to incorporate some of the recommendations into a revised plan.

All changes made to Plan A-1 in order to create Revised Plan A-1, which is included as Attachment 8, were in response to the feedback we received from the public, particularly members of the Hispanic community. In that respect, Revised Plan A-1:

- Maintains the positive features of Plan A-1 discussed earlier.
- Increases the Hispanic population of Precinct Two to 58.2% (from 57.2%) of the total population and 53.4% (from 52.5%) of the voting age population;
- Increases the African American population in Precinct One to 39% of the total population and 39.2% of the voting age population;
- Moves the Kingwood voting precincts transferred to Precinct Two under Plan A-1 back to Precinct Four and adds five whole voting precincts and five partial voting precincts in Aldine to Precinct Two from Precinct One in response to the outpouring of public comment regarding the inclusion of parts of Kingwood in and parts of Aldine outside of Precinct Two.
- Keeps neighborhoods that have historically crossed-over to vote for the African American candidate of choice in Precinct One;
- Moves part of a voting precinct back into Precinct Three from Precinct One to keep Art Storey Park in Precinct Three.
- Maintains the combined Hispanic and African American populations of 48.4% and 49% of the total population and 44.6% and 44.3% of the voting age population, respectively, in Precincts Three and Four; and

A listing of voting precincts that were moved from their existing Precincts under Revised Plan A-1 is included herewith as Attachment 9.

VII. RECOMMENDATION OF REVISED PLAN A-1

Revised Plan A-1 is recommended because it equalizes population, satisfies the Voting Rights Act, follows objective redistricting criteria, and complies with the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. Revised Plan A-1 also responds to public comments.

For example, this plan moves five whole voting precincts and five partial voting precincts in the Aldine area from Precinct One into Precinct Two as requested by several Hispanic speakers. Revised Plan A-1 also moves two voting precincts in the Kingwood area out of Precinct Two and back into Precinct Four as requested by several Hispanic speakers.

During the redistricting process, minority voting strength has been the subject of much debate and public comment. One of the reasons we are recommending the adoption of Revised Plan A-1 is that it preserves and enhances minority voting strength in Harris County. Additionally, many elected officials and residents of Precinct One came out in support of maintaining the historic boundaries of Precinct One, which

Revised Plan A-1 does. Revised Plan A-1 also respects the preferences expressed in many of the public comments that communities such as Pasadena, Deer Park, Baytown, and along the Ship Channel to remain in Precinct Two.

A. Disadvantages of Guerra/Jara Plan.

The Guerra/Jara Plan is not a viable alternative. In fact, Revised Plan A-1 is the best option for Harris County because it follows objective redistricting criteria while maintaining Precincts One and Two as effective minority opportunity Precincts; whereas the Guerra/Jara Plan ignores the County's stated redistricting criteria and reduces the effectiveness of Precinct One as an African American opportunity Precinct. Here are some reasons why the Guerra/Jara Plan is not a viable option:

- **Ignores existing Precinct composition.** The Guerra/Jara Plan virtually ignores the existing composition of the Precincts by substantially reconfiguring three of the four Precincts. Revised Plan A-1, though, makes logical additions and subtractions to the existing Precincts so that their core characteristics remain intact.
- **Splits voting precincts.** The Guerra/Jara Plan splits at least ninety-seven county voting precincts, while Revised Plan A-1 splits fifteen, only twelve of which are inhabited.
- **Ignores historical boundaries.** The Guerra/Jara Plan ignores the historical boundaries of Precinct One by moving its boundaries south and west, thereby undermining its ability to function as an effective African American district. On the other hand, Revised Plan A-1 minimally changes the structure of Precinct One.
- **Divides cities and neighborhoods.** The Guerra/Jara Plan splits the incorporated cities of Pasadena, Deer Park, and Baytown, and divides the community of interest created by the Ship Channel between Precincts Two and Four. Revised Plan A-1 keeps all of these communities intact in their existing Precinct.
- **Creates non-compact Precincts.** The Guerra/Jara Plan's connection of geographically dispersed Hispanic populations results in non-compact Precincts with Precinct Two beginning at the far eastern side of the County, wrapping around the northern border of Precinct One, and eventually intersecting with the west side of Beltway 8 and Precinct Four following more than half of the County boundary from the northwestern half of the County to the southeastern portion of the County. Revised Plan A-1, though, actually makes Precinct Four more compact.

- **Reduces overall minority voting strength.** The Guerra/Jara Plan reduces minority voting strength in Precincts Three and Four in favor of creating a Precinct Two in which Hispanics make up an unnecessary supermajority, whereas Revised Plan A-1 maintains an effective Hispanic majority and preserves and increases minority influence in Precincts Three and Four.
- **Relies solely on race/ethnicity.** The Guerra/Jara Plan may violate the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment because it relies solely on race and ethnicity to create the boundaries of Precinct Two, which follow an irregular path, snaking around Precinct One to reach unconnected pockets of Hispanic populations on the west side of the county, dividing cities, neighborhoods, and voting precincts for no discernable reason. Revised Plan A-1 reflects the use of objective redistricting criteria to accomplish the County's goals.
- **Moves incumbents and facilities.** The Guerra/Jara Plan removes both incumbent commissioners and important facilities from their current Precincts, which adversely affects service delivery in Precincts One and Two by moving vital infrastructure into Precinct 4. Revised Plan A-1 keeps all incumbent commissioners in their existing precincts and draws boundary line and splits some voting precincts with the distinct purpose of leaving major facilities in their existing Precincts.
- **Reduces road miles.** The Guerra/Jara Plan draws the boundaries of Precincts One and Two to exclude almost all of the unincorporated areas in the County. This exclusion will result in decreased funding to Precincts One and Two.
- **Negatively impacts service delivery.** The Guerra/Jara Plan wrecks havoc on Harris County's service delivery system. Road camps, parks, community centers are removed from existing Precincts. Attachment 10 is an analysis by Harris County's Art Storey on the negative impact of the Guerra/Jara Plan on service delivery in Harris County.

A part of the Department of Justice review under Section 5 will be to determine whether viable alternative plans were rejected by the County. The Guerra/Jara Plan is not a viable alternative to Revised Plan A-1 for these additional reasons:

- Under the Guerra/Jara Plan Hispanics are overconcentrated in Precinct Two, reducing voting strength elsewhere. Revised Plan A-1 maintains an effective Hispanic majority in Precinct Two while preserving the opportunity for minority influence in Precinct Three and increasing the opportunity for influence in Precinct Four. Under the Guerra/Jara Plan, in Precinct Two, Hispanics constitute 73% of the total population and 69.1% of the voting age population, which far exceeds the level at which Hispanic candidates of choice can be elected. The 2002 election of Sylvia Garcia, when Hispanics constituted approximately 54.5% of the

total population in Precinct Two, demonstrates that at 58.2% of the total population Hispanics can elect their candidate of choice.

- The Guerra/Jara Plan's connection of geographically dispersed Hispanic populations results in non-compact Precincts, with Precinct Two snaking around Precinct One to link together widely dispersed Hispanic populations and Precinct Four containing the north, east, and south portions of the County. Revised Plan A-1 maintains the basic structure of the Precincts and even makes Precinct Four more geographically compact.
- The Guerra/Jara Plan ignores the County's stated redistricting criteria. The Guerra/Jara Plan fails to satisfy seven of the eight Priorities and Principles and can be explained only on the basis of attempting to make Precinct Two reach as many Hispanic residents of the County as possible. Revised Plan A-1 fully satisfies five of the eight Priorities and Principles and only minimally deviates from the Principles and Priorities of keeping neighborhoods intact, voting precincts intact, and facilities within their current Precincts when two Priorities and Principles conflict and one must be observed over the other.

B. Adherence to The Voting Rights Act.

i. Non-retrogression in Precincts One and Two.

Under Revised Plan A-1, the total Hispanic population of Precinct Two is 58.2%, and the combined Hispanic and African American population in Precinct Two is 66.4%. The African American population in Precinct One is 39%. While the total and voting age Hispanic populations of Revised Plan A-1 do not reach those of the Guerra/Jara Plan, they represent a greater percentage of those populations than under Plan A-1 and, more importantly, they represent a greater percentage of the total and voting age populations than existed in Precinct Two in 2002 when the total Hispanic population is estimated to have been 54.5%, and Sylvia Garcia captured 51.98% of the vote to win a three-way race. These factors demonstrate that the opportunity for the Hispanic community to elect its candidate of choice in Precinct Two exists at less than 60.1% *and* at less than 58.2% of the total population. The Supreme Court has noted that *opportunity* to elect does not mean a *guarantee* of election because minority voters, like all voters, are "not immune from the obligation to pull, haul, and trade to find common political ground" in political contests. *Johnson v. DeGrandy*, 512 U.S. 997, 1020 (1994).

ii. Minority influence in Precincts Three and Four.

The combined Hispanic and African American populations in Precincts Three and Four make up almost half of the total and voting age populations in those Precincts. With no single racial, ethnic, or language group holding a majority in Precincts Three

and Four, Hispanic and African American voters can play an influential and potentially decisive role in elections in these Precincts under Revised Plan A-1.

In contrast, under the Guerra/Jara Plan, the combined Hispanic and African American populations in Precinct Three would be reduced to 38.3% of the total population and 34.1% of the voting age population, while the Anglo population would be increased to 51.7% of the total population and 55.6% of the voting age population, which would virtually guarantee Anglo control of the outcome of the elections there. Similarly, under the Guerra/Jara Plan, the combined Hispanic and African American populations of Precinct Four would be reduced to 41.9% of the total population and 37.3% of the voting age population, while the Anglo population would be increased to 51.8% of the total population and 56.1% of the voting age population, again virtually guaranteeing Anglo control of elections there.

The Supreme Court has recognized that minority groups' ability to elect candidates of choice must be determined by evaluating a plan as a whole, rather than looking at individual Precincts. *Georgia v. Ashcroft*, 539 U.S. 461, 479 (2003); see also *Bartlett v. Strickland*, 556 U.S. 129 S. Ct. 1231, 1240 (2002) (plurality op.) (recognizing that jurisdictions may comply with Section 5 in different ways). Under Revised Plan A-1, minority voting strength is increased by giving minority voters legitimate influence over elections in all four Precincts, whereas under the Guerra/Jara Plan, such influence is limited to two Precincts.

C. Adherence to Redistricting Criteria.

Revised Plan A-1 takes into account important factors other than race and ethnicity in establishing the boundaries for the Precincts:

- Top-to-bottom total population deviation is only 4.79%.
- Only fifteen voting precincts are split between precincts (only twelve with people); ninety-seven are split under the Guerra/Jara Plan.
- Commissioners remain in their existing Precincts; Commissioners Morman and Eversole are moved into different Precincts under the Guerra/Jara Plan.
- Revised Plan A-1 moves significantly fewer facilities than the Guerra/Jara Plan.
- The basic boundary structure of the existing Precincts remains for all four Precincts under Revised Plan A-1; however, Precincts One, Two, and Four are substantially redrawn under the Guerra/Jara Plan.
- The Precincts are reasonably compact in distinct geographical areas under Revised Plan A-1; however, Precinct Four touches more than half of the County's

boundary and Precinct Two stretches from the eastern boundary of the County to outside the western perimeter of Beltway 8.

- Keeps communities such as Pasadena, Deer Park, Baytown, and the Ship Channel in Precinct Two and as many of Precinct One's neighborhoods and communities as possible within its new boundaries; the Guerra/Jara Plan splits many cities and neighborhoods.
- Keeps over 90.7% of the population in their current Precincts.

Importantly, Revised Plan A-1 keeps all but one of the road camps that dispatch emergency response teams in their existing precincts. That is not the case under the Guerra/Jara Plan, which results in the movement of six road camps from Precincts One and Two to Precinct Four. We asked Harris County's Art Storey to analyze the Guerra/Jara Plan from the perspective of service delivery and county infrastructure, costs, and related matters. See Attachment 10. Mr. Storey reports that shifts in vital infrastructure such as road camps will result in increased emergency response times in underserved Precincts and increased costs in overserved Precincts.

D. The Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

By using redistricting criteria other than race and ethnicity, as discussed in section VII.C., Revised Plan A-1 would survive scrutiny under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

On the other hand, the Guerra/Jara Plan or a similar plan could expose Harris County to a lawsuit alleging that the county violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment by drawing Precinct Two's boundaries solely on the basis of race. Where a redistricting plan is created with race as the "dominant and controlling" consideration, the governmental entity that adopted the plan is subject to a legal claim that the plan violates the Equal Protection Clause by classifying voters based on their races. *Shaw v. Hunt*, 517 U.S. 899, 904 (1996). A map with boundaries that are "unexplainable on grounds other than race" leads to the presumption that the plan drafters used race as the dominant factor in establishing voting district boundaries. *Shaw v. Reno*, 509 U.S. 630, 644 (1993). The Guerra/Jara Plan shares the same characteristics – irregularly shaped Precincts, commentary from the plan's drafters reciting only racial/ethnic characteristics of the plan, and disregard for traditional redistricting principles – that the Supreme Court considered relevant in determining that the plan in the *Shaw* line of cases was an illegal racial gerrymander. See *Hunt*, 517 U.S. at 905-06; *Reno*, 509 U.S. at 635-36. The Guidance concerning Redistricting Under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act recites that, "[P]reventing retrogression Under Section 5 does not require jurisdictions to violate *Shaw v. Reno* and related cases." 76 Fed. Reg. 27, 7470-7473 (Feb. 9, 2011). As discussed above, though, Revised Plan A-1

demonstrates that compliance with Section Five of the Voting Rights Act is possible without creating Precinct boundaries based on race and ethnicity alone.

VIII. SUMMARY

In summary, Revised Plan A-1 incorporates public input, closely adheres to the objective guidelines established by the Priorities and Principles, and satisfies state and federal legal considerations.

For the foregoing reasons, we recommend the adoption of the Revised Plan A-1 by the Harris County Commissioners Court.

Attachment 1

**Statement by Dr. Richard Murray
Professor of Political Science
University of Houston**

On

**The 2011 Redistricting Process for Harris County
Commissioners Court**

August 6, 2011

My name is Richard Murray. I am a professor in the Political Science Department at the University of Houston. My vita is attached herein. I am presently working with Harris County on the 2011 redistricting of Commissioner Precinct lines. Previously, in 2001 and 1991, I served as a demographer and consultant to Harris County during the redistricting process. In those instances, as in 2011, I was part of a team headed by Andrews Kurth attorneys Gene Locke and Bob Collie that the county engaged for legal and demographic assistance in redrawing the four commissioner precincts. I was also involved in county redistricting in 1981 and 1971, although not as formal consultant to the county. My general areas of expertise include a knowledge of voting trends and demographic changes in Harris County.

There are a number of considerations that were important in developing the Revised Plan that is being presented to Commissioners Court. Some are obvious, others less so. Among the obvious factors is the reality that County Commissioner Courts in Texas consist of just five members – a County Judge elected at-large, and four Commissioners representing individual precincts. The small number of commissioners made sense in the 1870s when the most populous county (Washington) had 23,104 persons, and the second most populous (Harris) had 17,375 according to the 1870 census. Each commissioner in Harris County thus represented less than 5,000 people when the 1875 Texas Constitution was written. After the 2010 census each Harris County Commissioner will represent, on average, 1,023,115 people. That is more than the entire population of Texas (818,579) as counted by the 1870 census. But because the number of commissioners per county as set in the Constitution we still have only four representatives for our vast local population.

With so few seats on commissioners court, and the also obvious requirement that commissioner lines cannot cross into an adjoining county, this redistricting process is very different from the process of redrawing congressional districts (36 in Texas this year), state senate districts (31), or state house districts (150). Similarly, the Commissioners Court process is necessarily very different from that of the City of Houston, which had eleven single-member districts to assign and just 2.1 million people to represent.

A very important and, to many, not obvious factor is that while Harris County Commissioners are in many ways *representatives* like city council members, state legislators, and congresswomen and men, they are also *executive administrators* like city mayors. How is that? For two reasons:

First, Harris County – alone among the large urban counties in Texas and the entire country for that matter – has an enormous population living in unincorporated areas. The 2010 census, for example, counted 2,057,280 residents of Harris County who lived in the City of Houston, 473,716 who lived in other cities like Pasadena, Baytown, and Bellaire, and 1,561,463 folks living in unincorporated parts of the county. The 2.53 million people in Harris County who live in cities get most of their local governmental services like fire, police, water, local streets, trash pickup, etc., from their municipal government.

But if one does not have a city to deliver these services, the county has to shoulder much of this burden.

Second, counties in Texas can deliver these services through a centralized unit approach run from the courthouse with the four commissioners and the county judge acting much like a city council. Harris County does not use that "unit" system. Rather, each County Commissioner is largely responsible within his or her precinct for providing a wide range of important services like local streets and roads. So, when one starts redistricting Harris County, we are not just talking about changing the makeup of a delegation of representatives, but we are also redrawing service units with hundreds of million of dollars of infrastructure investments, hundreds of ongoing projects, and complicated incumbent-constituent relationships.

Before I sat down to write this report, I answered a voice mail call from a county resident who said he had a question about redistricting. His question had nothing to do with political party or racial/ethnic representation – the kind of issues that dominate state and federal redistricting in Texas. Rather, he was worried because he had been working for eight years to get an alternative road project for his rural community where the residents must currently come and go across a dangerous rail-line. The incumbent commissioner had worked with him on this project, but the draft map A-1 showed his community being moved to a new precinct. His question was when would this happen and what did it mean for him and his neighbors? His concern was that eight years of work could be wiped away by moving him from one commissioner district to another.

His case illustrates the important point that Harris County redistricting has vital service delivery impacts, particularly for the million and a half people in unincorporated areas. That is more people than live in the entire City of Dallas, or the City of San Antonio. After working on redistricting plans for the county after each census, starting in 1970, I am very sensitive to this reality and how different it makes redrawing these lines compared to congressional, legislative, or city council remapping.

I should note that the unique service delivery responsibility of Harris County Commissioners was reflected in the Priorities and Principles the Commissioners Court adopted several weeks ago at the beginning of the process.

With these general considerations in mind, let me turn to some specific factors that were important in the 2011 redistricting process:

- The four precincts had very uneven growth between 2000 and 2010 as the north and western suburbs had far greater population gains than the eastern and southern parts of the county. Precinct Two was 134,543 people below the average of 1,023,115, and Precinct One was 92,502 below average. Precinct Three was 101,269 above the mean and Four had a surplus of 134,543. This produced a top-to-bottom deviation of 25.44% - far greater than the ten percent allowed by federal courts, so major population adjustments were going to have to be made with Two and One pushing north and west to get needed population.

- The existing Commissioner Precincts still largely reflect a major overhaul of the lines after the 1980 census. In 1981, an all-white Commissioners Court voluntarily redrew the precinct lines to create an effective opportunity district – Precinct One – for African American voters. That resulted in the 1984 election of Commissioner El Franco Lee. He has been reelected six times and continues in office.

The creation of an effective opportunity district for black voters required using a corridor through the middle of the county to connect the large African American communities in north central and south central Harris County. For more than a quarter century, that composition of Precinct One has effectively given African American voters the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice. Any redistricting plan that severed the connecting corridor would eliminate this effective minority district as defined by the Voting Rights Act.

- That reality posed a major problem for addressing the population deficit of Precinct Two for three reasons –

Both One and Two were under-populated, so swapping people could not cure the deviation problem.

Precinct One had been a plurality black district in 2001 when the current lines were set, but by 2010 Hispanic growth on the west side of the district had pushed the Latino population past the African American percentage. Restoring a black plurality could most easily be done by adding precincts in the Bush Airport/FM 1960 area that had experienced the greatest African American growth over the last ten years.

But extending Precinct One north to the Bush Airport reduced the options for addressing Precinct Two with its own serious under-population problem.

- Precinct Two had the largest Hispanic population after the 2001 remapping – about 52% - and in 2002 had elected a Latina, Houston City Controller Sylvia Garcia, as the first Hispanic member of the Commissioners Court. She was reelected in 2006, but defeated in 2010. The challenges for redrawing Precinct Two were complicated by the aforementioned existence of Precinct One with its need to keep a long north-south corridor in the center of the county. Further complicating things were the fact that:

Hispanic growth in east county slowed after 2000, as younger, upward mobile Latinos moved the west and north. Precinct Two, the most heavily Hispanic Precinct (60% in 2010), actually had smallest Latino growth of the four units. And trying to connect the majority Hispanic district on the east side with growth areas on the west side was thwarted by the configuration of Precinct One.

- These considerations left few alternatives for adding population to Precinct Two other than expanding into the over-populated Precinct Four with which it shares a border. But because the part of Precinct Four that abuts Precinct Two is predominately Anglo, voting precincts were shifted between One and Two to maintain a Hispanic population majority (58.2%) as well as a voting age population (VAP) majority of 53.4%.

These majorities were increased from draft plan A-1 by adding approximately 20,000 new residents from the heavily Hispanic Aldine area and removing the heavily Anglo Kingwood precincts 758 and 760 from Precinct Two. Both these changes reflected input from participants at the four public hearings.

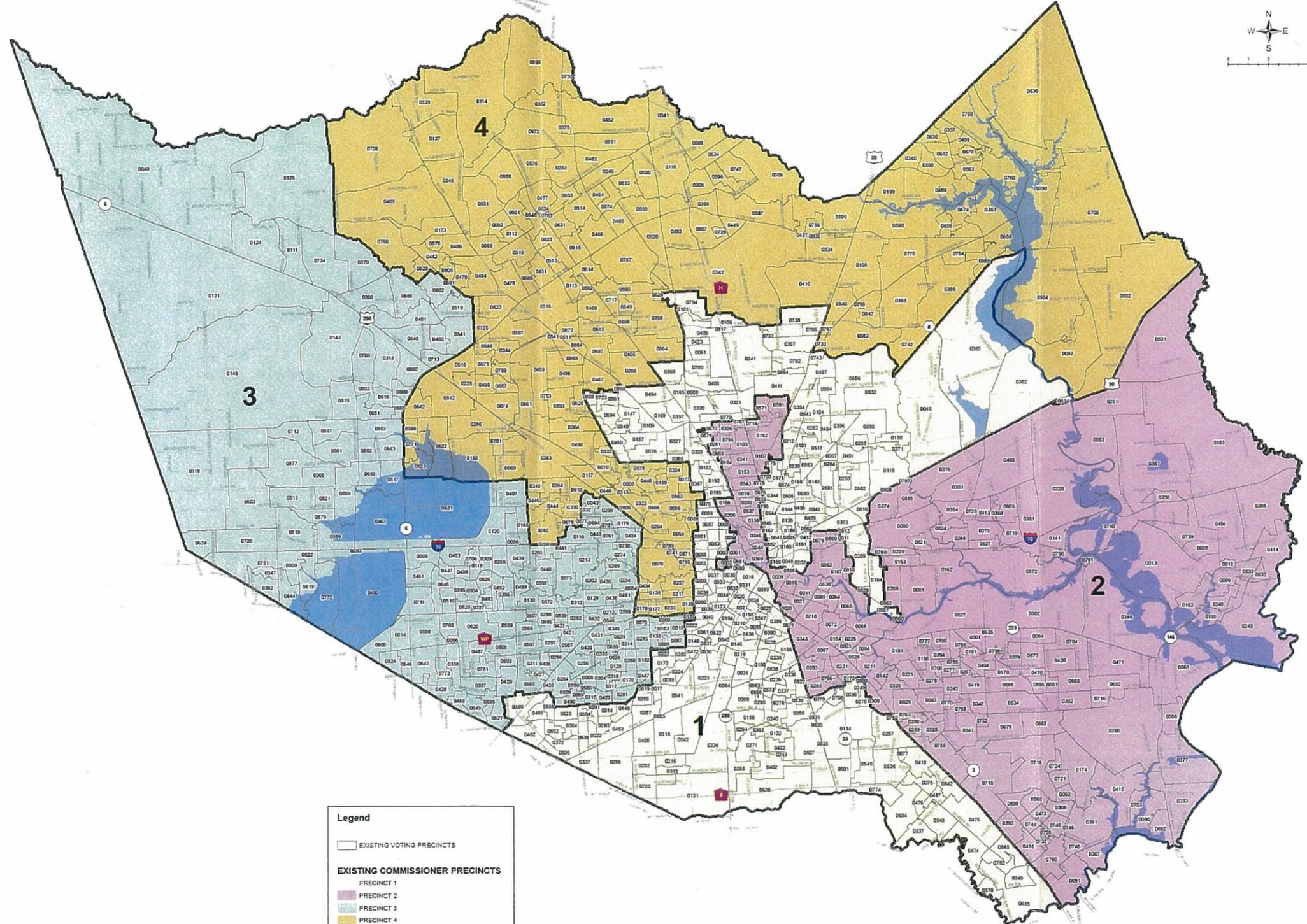
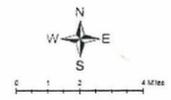
- Hispanic population growth was greatest, as noted, in Precincts Three and Four. With the declining Anglo population across the county, it was important to draw a plan that reflected that growth and create “impact” districts in Precincts Three and Four, which the Revised map does. The combined black and Hispanic populations in Three (48.4%) and Four (49.0%) already exceed the Non-Hispanic white populations in both precincts, and this gap will continue to widen as younger minority families move into the western and northern suburbs while Anglos leave the area.

In summing up, Revised Plan A-1 effectively addresses the large population deviations shown by the 2010 census, with a top-to-bottom deviation of just 4.99%. The plan restores an African American plurality to Precinct One, and – in my opinion – ensures that this district will remain an effective opportunity district for black voters over the next ten years. The plan keeps Precinct Two as both a majority population and VAP Hispanic district, which will become significantly more Latino over the next decade.

These changes were effected in Revised Plan A while leaving 90 percent of the population in the Commissioner Precincts they currently reside in. This assures that important public services such as parks, youth and senior programs, road maintenance, and health clinics will not be unnecessarily disrupted. This is, as noted, a vital consideration for the 1.53 million county residents who depend on County Commissioners for critical local services.

Attachment 2

EXISTING HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS



Legend

- EXISTING VOTING PRECINCTS
- EXISTING COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS**
 - PRECINCT 1
 - PRECINCT 2
 - PRECINCT 3
 - PRECINCT 4
- WATER BODIES
- MAJOR ROADS

Harris County Commissioners Court 2000 Population for Current Districts

Population Totals

	<u>Precinct 1</u>		<u>Precinct 2</u>		<u>Precinct 3</u>		<u>Precinct 4</u>	
	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct
Population	827,341		847,078		889,646		836,513	
White (Non Hisp)	188,270	22.76%	312,717	36.92%	446,368	50.17%	484,909	57.97%
Hispanic	236,792	28.62%	441,508	52.12%	237,189	26.66%	204,262	24.42%
Black (Non Hisp)	363,515	43.94%	66,237	7.82%	108,465	12.19%	93,563	11.18%
Black + Hispanic	600,307	72.56%	507,745	59.94%	345,654	38.85%	297,825	35.60%
Asian/Other	38,764	4.69%	26,616	3.14%	97,624	10.97%	53,779	6.42%
Population Dev.	-22,804		-3,067		39,502		-13,631	
Percentage Dev.	-2.68%		-0.36%		4.65%		-1.60%	

VA Population Totals

	<u>Precinct 1</u>		<u>Precinct 2</u>		<u>Precinct 3</u>		<u>Precinct 4</u>	
	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct
Population	592,896		584,279		644,038		594,809	
White (Non Hisp)	158,278	26.70%	242,420	41.49%	342,879	53.24%	364,501	61.28%
Hispanic	150,706	25.42%	278,054	47.59%	156,444	24.29%	130,907	22.01%
Black (Non Hisp)	253,932	42.83%	44,442	7.61%	71,611	11.12%	60,803	10.22%
Black + Hispanic	404,638	68.25%	322,496	55.20%	228,055	35.41%	191,710	32.23%
Asian/Other	29,980	5.06%	19,363	3.32%	73,104	11.35%	38,598	6.49%
Total Population	3,400,578							
Avg. Population	850,145							

Harris County Commissioners Court

2010 Population for Current Districts

Population Totals

	<u>Precinct 1</u>		<u>Precinct 2</u>		<u>Precinct 3</u>		<u>Precinct 4</u>	
	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct
Population	930,613		888,572		1,148,890		1,124,384	
White (Non Hisp)	175,127	18.8%	248,481	28.0%	437,673	38.1%	488,365	43.4%
Hispanic	357,504	38.4%	533,812	60.1%	405,876	35.3%	374,348	33.3%
Black (Non Hisp)	346,810	37.3%	77,933	8.8%	171,075	14.9%	179,527	16.0%
Black + Hispanic	704,314	75.7%	611,745	68.8%	576,951	50.2%	553,875	49.3%
Asian	46,300	5.0%	23,103	2.6%	126,040	11.0%	73,105	6.5%
Others	4,872	0.5%	5,243	0.6%	8,226	0.7%	9,039	0.8%
Population Dev.	-92,501.75		-134,542.75		125,775.25		101,269.25	
Percentage Dev.	-9.04%		-13.15%		12.29%		9.90%	

VA Population Totals

	<u>Precinct 1</u>		<u>Precinct 2</u>		<u>Precinct 3</u>		<u>Precinct 4</u>	
	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct
Population	680,238		626,274		830,382		807,730	
White (Non Hisp)	151,788	22.3%	203,286	32.5%	344,183	41.4%	386,373	47.8%
Hispanic	230,504	33.9%	345,683	55.2%	266,428	32.1%	239,955	29.7%
Black (Non Hisp)	256,488	37.7%	55,820	8.9%	117,703	14.2%	120,970	15.0%
Black + Hispanic	486,992	71.6%	401,503	64.1%	384,131	46.3%	360,925	44.7%
Asian	37,716	5.5%	17,672	2.8%	96,406	11.6%	54,163	6.7%
Others	3,742	0.6%	3,813	0.6%	5,662	0.7%	6,269	0.8%
Total Population	4,092,459							
Avg. Population	1,023,114.75							

Attachment 3



The Office of Vince Ryan
County Attorney

June 14, 2011

Members of the Commissioners Court
1001 Preston, 9th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002

Attn.: Dr. R. L. Raycraft
Director, Management Services

Vote of the Court:

	Yes	No	Abstain
Judge Emmett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Lee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Morman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Radack	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Eversole	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Re: Order Adopting Priorities and Principles for Redistricting of Harris County Commissioner Precincts and matters incident thereto.

Dear Members of the Court:

This is to request that the following topic be placed on the Commissioners Court agenda for June 21, 2011 under the County Attorney portion of the agenda:

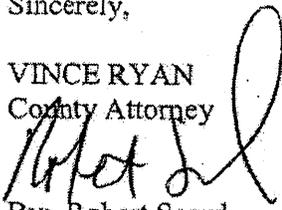
Order Adopting Priorities and Principles for Redistricting of Harris County Commissioner Precincts and matters incident thereto.

Special Counsel Andrews & Kurth recommends the adoption of the Principles.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

VINCE RYAN
County Attorney


By: Robert Soard,
Executive Assistant Attorney
Chief of Staff

Presented to Commissioner's Court

JUN 21 2011

APPROVE MIL

Recorded Vol. Page

HARRIS COUNTY
MANAGEMENT SERVICES

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JUN 21 2011

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF HARRIS §

APPROVE M/L
Recorded Vol. _____ Page _____

The Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, convened at a meeting of said Court at the Harris County Administration Building in the City of Houston, Texas, on the JUN 21 2011 day of 2011, with the following members present, to-wit:

Ed Emmett	County Judge
El Franco Lee	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Jack Morman	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Steve Radack	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Jerry Eversole	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4

and the following members absent, to-wit: NONE, constituting a quorum, when among other business, the following was transacted:

ORDER ADOPTING PRIORITIES AND PRINCIPLES FOR REDISTRICTING OF HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS AND MATTERS INCIDENT THERETO

Commissioner MORMAN introduced an order and made a motion that the same be adopted. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion for adoption of the order. The motion, carrying with it the adoption of the order, prevailed by the following vote:

	Yes	No	Abstain
Judge Ed Emmett	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. El Franco Lee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Jack Morman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Steve Radack	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Jerry Eversole	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The County Judge thereupon announced that the motion had duly and lawfully carried and that the order had been duly and lawfully adopted. The order thus adopted follows:

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court (the "Commissioners Court") of Harris County, Texas (the "County"), is in the process of drawing new lines for its four commissioner precincts based on 2010 Census data; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court desires to be guided by certain policy priorities and legal principles as it undergoes the redistricting process; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court wishes to achieve an equitable balance of population among the commissioner precincts; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court desires to adhere to those traditional principles of redistricting recognized as legally sufficient and acceptable; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court acknowledges that the Voting Rights Act has established certain protections against retrogression of minority voting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court agrees to base its redistricting decisions on certain established criteria set forth below as the *Priorities and Principles for Redistricting of Harris County Commissioner Precincts*.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS THAT:

ARTICLE I.

PRIORITIES AND PRINCIPLES

The Commissioners Court hereby adopts the following as *Priorities and Principles for Harris County Redistricting*:

1. The four commissioner precincts should be of substantially equal population and, in no event, exceed a ten percent (10%) top-to-bottom deviation.
2. The four commissioner precincts should be contiguous and reasonably compact.
3. To the extent possible, the redistricting plan should use identifiable geographic boundaries as precinct boundaries, preserve natural historical boundaries, recognize identifiable communities of interest in a single precinct and avoid splitting neighborhoods when drawing precinct lines.
4. To the extent possible, the four commissioner precincts should be based on existing composition of the precincts.
5. The redistricting plan should use whole county voting precincts to draw commissioner precincts.
6. The redistricting plan will adhere to (a) the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution and not use race as the predominate factor in establishing commissioner precincts and (b) the Voting Rights Act and avoid retrogression in the position of racial, ethnic and language minorities with respect to the effective exercise of their right to vote or electoral franchise. The redistricting plan should not dilute voting strength of racial or language minority citizens and should not either fragment minority communities or pack them into precincts in concentrations greater than necessary to help them elect minority representation.
7. Recognizing the value of incumbent-constituency relations, the redistricting plan should seek to keep (a) existing commissioners in their existing precincts and (b) facilities and service locations established by incumbent commissioners in the precincts of those commissioners.
8. The redistricting plan should recognize the duties and obligations imposed by law on commissioners to provide services to the residents of precincts and the public investment in facilities, service locations and personnel that has been made to provide such services.

ARTICLE II.

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 2.1.: Open Meeting. It is hereby found, determined and declared that a sufficient written notice of the date, hour, place and subject of the meeting of the Commissioners Court at which this Order was adopted was posted at a place convenient and readily accessible at all times to the general public at the Harris County Administration Building for the time required by law preceding this meeting, as required by the Open Meetings Law, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code and that this meeting has been open to the public as required by law at all times during which this Order and the subject matter thereof has been discussed, considered and formally acted upon. The Commissioners Court further ratifies, approves and confirms such written notice and the contents and posting thereof.

Section 2.2.: Repealer. All orders, resolutions and ordinances, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 2.3.: Effective Date. This Order shall be in force and effect from and after its passage on the date shown below.

Attachment 4



The Office of Vince Ryan
County Attorney

July 5, 2011

11 JUL -6 AM 0:59
HARRIS COUNTY
MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Members of the Commissioners Court
1001 Preston, 9th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002

Attn.: Dr. R. L. Raycraft
Director, Management Services

Re: Redistricting Agenda Item

Vote of the Court:

	Yes	No	Abstain
Judge Emmett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Lee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Morman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Radack	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Comm. Eversole	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dear Members of the Court:

This is to request that the following topic be placed on the Commissioners Court agenda for July 12, 2011 under the County Attorney portion of the agenda:

Recommendation that the court approve an order accepting a draft plan for redistricting of the Harris County Commissioner Precincts, confirming public hearings related to redistricting, and matters incident thereto.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

VINCE RYAN
County Attorney

By: Terence O'Rourke
First Assistant County Attorney

cc: A4 - copy

cc: Gene Locke

Comm Pc-1-4-copy

cc Judge copy

Raycraft - copy

Presented to Commissioner's Court

JUL 12 2011

APPROVE ML

Recorded Vol _____ Page _____

ORDER ACCEPTING DRAFT PLAN FOR REDISTRICTING OF HARRIS COUNTY
COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS, CONFIRMING PUBLIC HEARINGS,
AND MATTERS INCIDENT THERETO

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF HARRIS §

The Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, convened at a regular meeting of such Court at the Harris County Administration Building in the City of Houston, Texas, on July 12, 2011, and the roll was called of the duly constituted members of such Commissioners Court, to-wit:

Ed Emmett	County Judge
El Franco Lee	Commissioner, Precinct No. 1
Jack Morman	Commissioner, Precinct No. 2
Steve Radack	Commissioner, Precinct No. 3
Jerry Eversole	Commissioner, Precinct No. 4
Stan Stanart	County Clerk

and all of such persons were present, except None, thus constituting a quorum, when among other business, the following was transacted:

Commissioner morman introduced an order and made a motion that the same be adopted. Commissioner lee seconded the motion for adoption of the order. The motion, carrying with it the adoption of the order, prevailed by the following vote:

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSTENTIONS: 0

The County Judge thereupon announced that the motion had duly and lawfully carried and that the order had been duly and lawfully adopted. The order thus adopted follows:

Presented to Commissioner's Court

JUL 12 2011

APPROVE m/l

Recorded Vol _____ Page _____

**ORDER ACCEPTING DRAFT PLAN FOR REDISTRICTING OF HARRIS COUNTY
COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS, CONFIRMING PUBLIC HEARINGS,
AND MATTERS INCIDENT THERETO**

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court (the "Commissioners Court") of Harris County, Texas (the "County"), is in the process of drawing new lines for its four commissioner precincts based on 2010 Census data; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court has engaged legal counsel and consultants to assist in the redistricting process; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court has adopted Priorities and Principles for redistricting of the four commissioner precincts; and

WHEREAS, legal counsel has presented the Commissioners Court a draft plan for redrawing the four County Commissioner Precincts as described in Exhibit A hereto; and

WHEREAS, legal counsel has also proposed and presented a schedule of four public hearings to be held for the purpose of presenting and receiving public comment on the draft redistricting plan, at the dates, times, and locations as described in Exhibit B hereto; and

WHEREAS, formal notice of the four hearings will be made by publication; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court desires that the public have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS THAT:

ARTICLE I.

DRAFT REDISTRICTING PLAN

Section 1.1.: Acceptance of Draft Plan. The Commissioners Court hereby accepts the draft redistricting plan as described in Exhibit A hereto.

Section 1.2.: Presentation of Plan. The Commissioners Court hereby orders that the draft redistricting plan shall be presented to the public for comment at four public hearings.

ARTICLE II.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Commissioners Court hereby orders that public hearings shall be held at the dates, times, and locations as described in Exhibit B hereto in order to receive public comment and input on the draft redistricting plan.

ARTICLE III.

MISCELLANEOUS

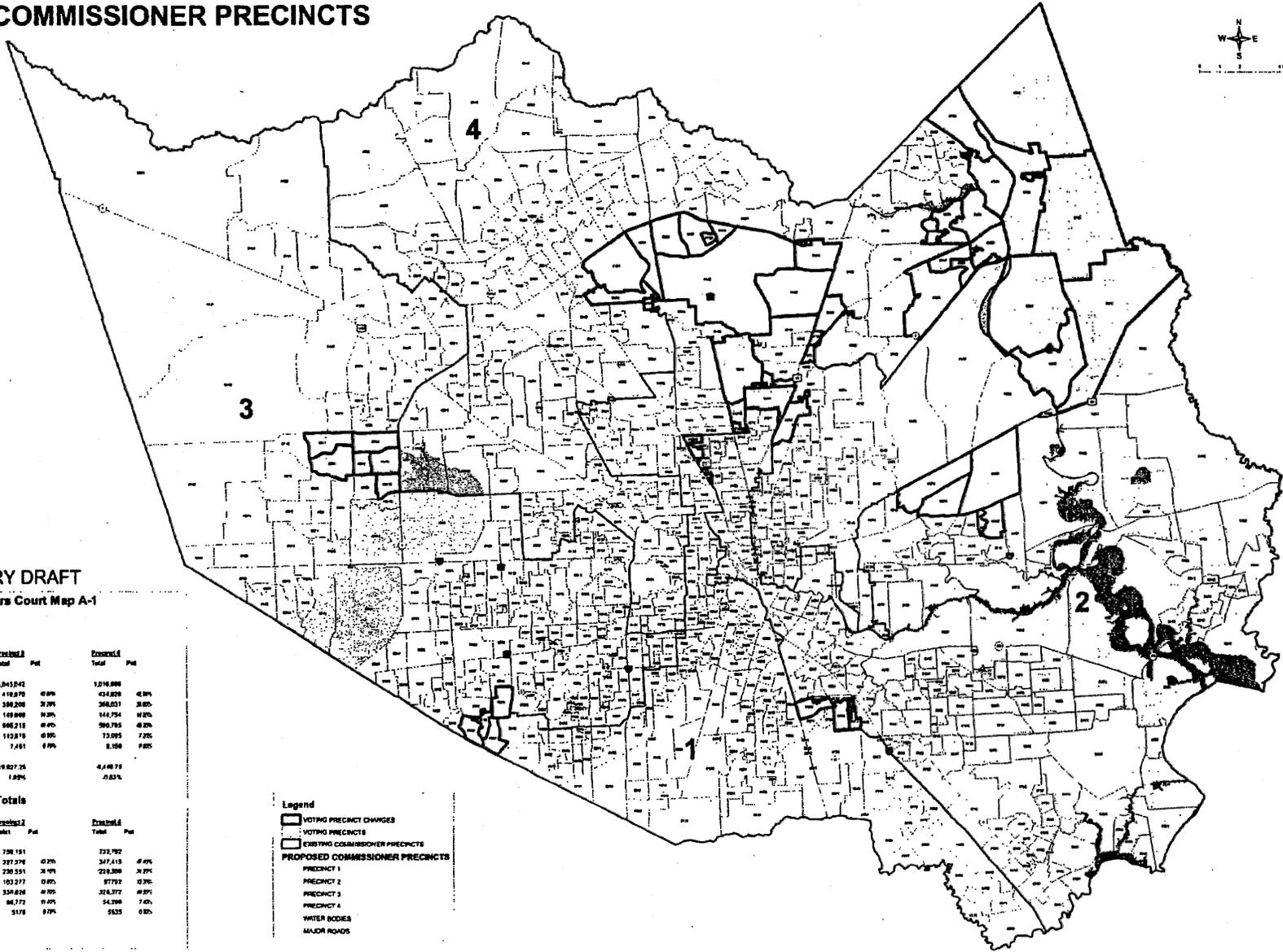
Section 3.1.: Open Meeting. It is hereby found, determined and declared that a sufficient written notice of the date, hour, place, and subject of the meeting of the Commissioners Court at which this Order was adopted was posted at a place convenient and readily accessible at all times to the general public at the Harris County Administration Building for the time required by law preceding this meeting, as required by the Open Meetings Law, Chapter 551, Texas Government Code and that this meeting has been open to the public as required by law at all times during which this Order and the subject matter thereof has been discussed, considered and formally acted upon. The Commissioners Court further ratifies, approves and confirms such written notice and the contents and posting thereof.

Section 3.2.: Repealer. All orders, resolutions and ordinances, or parts thereof, inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 3.3.: Effective Date. This Order shall be in force and effect from and after its passage on the date shown below.

EXHIBIT A

HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS



"A-1" - PRELIMINARY DRAFT Harris County Commissioners Court Map A-1

Population Totals

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4
	Total	Total	Total	Total
Population	1,041,356	891,265	1,043,242	1,016,888
White (Non-Hisp)	187,320	310,398	418,970	424,829
Hispanic	362,569	366,758	346,206	365,031
Black (Non-Hisp)	400,009	81,877	188,688	144,754
Black + Hispanic	792,578	648,215	646,218	690,785
Asian	89,846	29,037	112,819	73,955
Others	8,826	6,136	7,481	8,168
Population Dev.	13,241.2%	-31.7% ¹⁵	19,827.2%	-2,487.8%
Percentage Dev.	1.78%	-3.10%	1.82%	-0.83%

Voting Age Population Totals

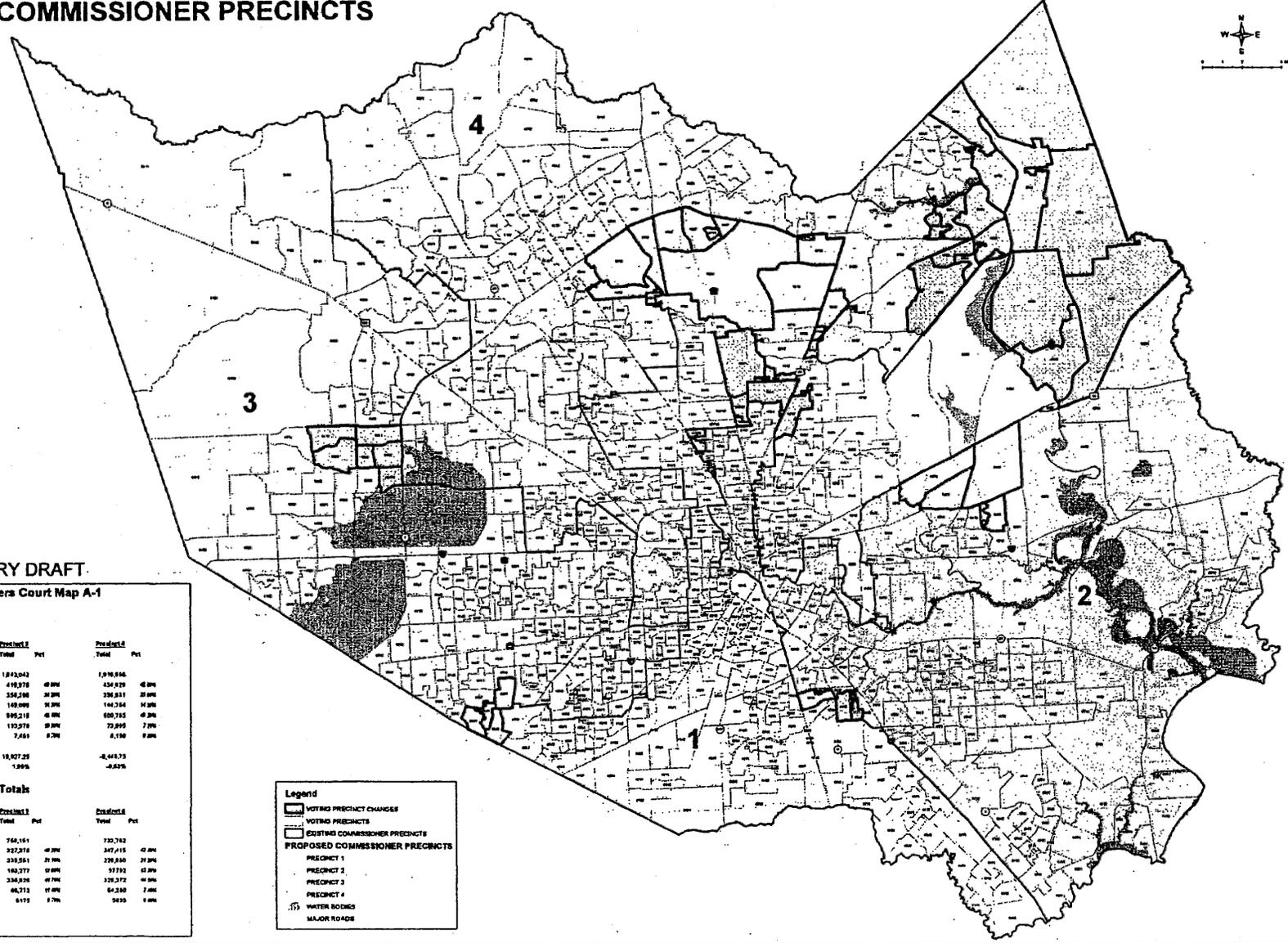
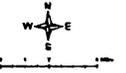
	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4
	Total	Total	Total	Total
Population	754,342	697,679	798,151	723,792
White (Non-Hisp)	161,803	246,858	327,576	347,415
Hispanic	291,869	346,870	230,551	251,388
Black (Non-Hisp)	291,869	58,219	183,277	87,932
Black + Hispanic	543,582	424,799	334,826	324,377
Asian	48,263	19,843	66,772	54,398
Others	4214	442	519	533

Total Population: 4,092,498.88
Avg. Population: 1,523,114.75

Legend

- VOTING PRECINCT CHANGES
- VOTING PRECINCTS
- EXISTING COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS
- PROPOSED COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS**
- PRECINCT 1
- PRECINCT 2
- PRECINCT 3
- PRECINCT 4
- WATER BODIES
- MAJOR ROADS

HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS



"A-1" - PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Harris County Commissioners Court Map A-1

Population Totals

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4
	Total	Total	Total	Total
Population	1,241,286	991,295	1,243,042	1,018,896
White (Non Hisp)	187,320	318,888	419,378	434,829
Hispanic	392,085	588,233	338,298	398,811
Black (Non Hisp)	690,005	41,877	188,889	146,764
Black + Hispanics	752,870	49,213	345,218	265,785
Asian	93,840	28,857	115,278	73,895
Others	6,826	6,192	7,461	6,196
Population Dev.	18,241.25	-31,197.8	18,927.25	-6,443.75
Percentage Dev.	1.78%	-3.19%	1.89%	-0.62%

Voting Age Population Totals

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4
	Total	Total	Total	Total
Population	758,842	697,839	746,161	730,743
White (Non Hisp)	151,603	246,936	322,276	342,115
Hispanic	251,888	388,278	235,261	286,840
Black (Non Hisp)	251,893	38,219	188,277	137,922
Black + Hispanics	543,942	424,789	338,828	329,372
Asian	48,283	18,842	66,712	64,240
Others	42,146	4,662	6,173	5,619

Total Population 4,992,469.24
Avg. Population 1,248,114.21

Legend

- VOTING PRECINCT CHANGES
- VOTING PRECINCTS
- EXISTING COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS
- PROPOSED COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS
- PRECINCT 1
- PRECINCT 2
- PRECINCT 3
- PRECINCT 4
- WATER BODIES
- MAJOR ROADS

EXHIBIT B

PUBLIC HEARINGS

HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

The Harris County Commissioners will conduct public hearings on redistricting of the Harris County Commissioners Court Precincts at the following locations and times:

Monday, July 25, 2011

6:30 p.m.

East Harris County Activity Center
(Precinct 2)
7340 Spencer Highway
Pasadena, Texas 77505
(281) 479-4232

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

7:00 p.m.

Harris County Precinct 1 Cavalcade Office
(Precinct 1)
3815 Cavalcade Street
Houston, Texas 77026
(713) 675-0004

Friday, July 29, 2011

6:00 p.m.

Mangum-Howell Center
(Precinct 4)
2500 Frick Road
Houston, Texas 77038
(281) 591-7830

Monday, August 1, 2011

4:30 p.m.

Trini Mendenhall Sosa Community Center
(Precinct 3)
1414 Wirt Road
Houston, Texas 77055
(713) 956-0881

The hearings are part of a county-wide effort to gain public input into the process of redrawing the four Harris County Commissioners Court Precincts as a result of the 2010 census. Public comment is welcomed and solicited. Maps of the current precinct boundaries, the proposed redistricting plan, and 2010 Census data will be available at the hearings and may be obtained by visiting the Harris County website at <http://www.hctx.net/> and www.hctx.net/coatty/.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

The Harris County Commissioners will conduct public hearings on redistricting of the Harris County Commissioners Court Precincts at the following locations and times:

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THE STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF HARRIS §

I, the undersigned, the duly elected, qualified and acting County Clerk and Ex Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, do hereby specify that the attached and foregoing is a true and correct copy of an order entitled:

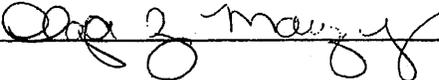
**ORDER ACCEPTING DRAFT PLAN FOR REDISTRICTING OF HARRIS COUNTY
COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS, CONFIRMING PUBLIC HEARINGS,
AND MATTERS INCIDENT THERETO**

adopted by such Commissioners Court at a regular meeting, open to the public, held on July 12, 2011, together with an excerpt from the minutes of such meeting showing the adoption thereof, as same appears of record in the official minutes of such Commissioners Court on file in my office.

I further certify that the written notice of the date, hour, place and subject of the meeting of the Commissioners Court of Harris County, Texas, acting for and on behalf of Harris County, at which the foregoing order was adopted, was posted on a bulletin board located at a place convenient to the public in the Harris County Administration Building and readily accessible to the general public at the earliest possible time, pursuant to Chapter 551, Texas Government Code, as amended.

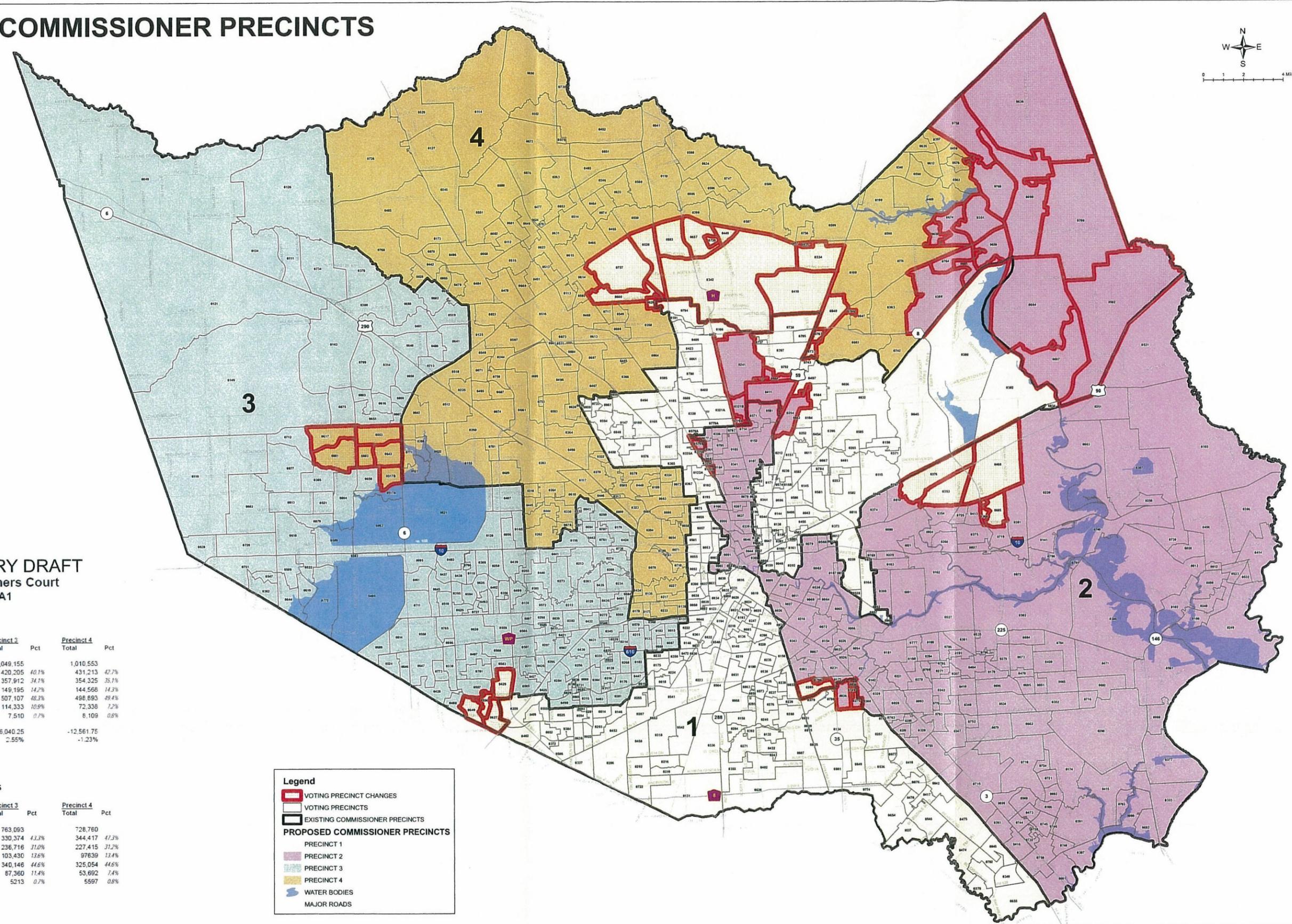
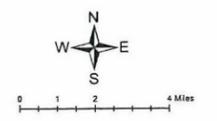
WITNESS MY HAND AND THE OFFICIAL SEAL OF SUCH COURT, this
_____, 2011.

STAN STANART, County Clerk and Ex
Officio Clerk of the Commissioners Court of Harris
County, Texas

By:  _____

Attachment 5

HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS



"A-1" - PRELIMINARY DRAFT Harris County Commissioners Court 2010 Population for Plan A1

Population Totals

	Precinct 1 Total	Pct	Precinct 2 Total	Pct	Precinct 3 Total	Pct	Precinct 4 Total	Pct
Population	1,041,356		991,395		1,049,155		1,010,553	
White (Non Hisp)	187,320	18.0%	310,908	31.4%	420,205	40.1%	431,213	42.7%
Hispanic	392,565	37.7%	566,738	57.2%	357,912	34.1%	354,325	35.1%
Black (Non Hisp)	400,005	38.4%	81,577	8.2%	149,195	14.2%	144,566	14.3%
Black + Hispanic	792,570	76.1%	648,315	65.4%	507,107	48.3%	498,893	49.4%
Asian	55,840	5.4%	26,037	2.6%	114,333	10.9%	72,336	7.2%
Others	5,626	0.5%	8,135	0.8%	7,510	0.7%	8,109	0.8%
Population Dev.	18,241.25		-31,719.75		26,040.25		-12,561.75	
Percentage Dev.	1.78%		-3.10%		2.55%		-1.23%	

VA Population Totals

	Precinct 1 Total	Pct	Precinct 2 Total	Pct	Precinct 3 Total	Pct	Precinct 4 Total	Pct
Population	754,942		697,829		763,093		728,760	
White (Non Hisp)	161,903	21.4%	248,936	35.7%	330,374	43.3%	344,417	47.3%
Hispanic	251,869	33.4%	368,570	52.8%	236,716	31.0%	227,415	31.2%
Black (Non Hisp)	291,693	38.6%	58,219	8.3%	103,430	13.6%	97,639	13.4%
Black + Hispanic	543,562	72.0%	424,789	60.9%	340,146	44.6%	325,054	44.6%
Asian	45,263	6.0%	19,642	2.8%	87,360	11.4%	53,692	7.4%
Others	4,214	0.6%	4,462	0.6%	5,213	0.7%	5,597	0.8%

Legend

- VOTING PRECINCT CHANGES
- VOTING PRECINCTS
- EXISTING COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS

PROPOSED COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS

- PRECINCT 1
- PRECINCT 2
- PRECINCT 3
- PRECINCT 4
- WATER BODIES
- MAJOR ROADS

Total Population 4,092,459
Avg. Population 1,023,114.75

Harris County Commissioners Court

Plan A-1

Population Totals

	<u>Precinct 1</u>		<u>Precinct 2</u>		<u>Precinct 3</u>		<u>Precinct 4</u>	
	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct
Population	1,041,356		991,395		1,049,155		1,010,553	
White (Non Hisp.)	187,320	17.99%	310,908	31.36%	420,205	40.05%	431,213	42.67%
Hispanic	392,565	37.70%	566,738	57.17%	357,912	34.11%	354,325	35.06%
Black (Non Hisp.)	400,005	38.41%	81,577	8.23%	149,195	14.22%	144,568	14.31%
Black + Hispanic	792,570	76.11%	648,315	65.39%	507,107	48.33%	498,893	49.37%
Asian	55,840	5.36%	26,037	2.63%	114,333	10.90%	72,338	7.16%
Others	5,626	0.54%	6,135	0.62%	7,510	0.72%	8,109	0.80%
Population Dev.	18,241.25		-31,719.75		26,040.25		-12,561.75	
Percentage Dev.	1.78%		-3.10%		2.55%		-1.23%	

VA Population Totals

	<u>Precinct 1</u>		<u>Precinct 2</u>		<u>Precinct 3</u>		<u>Precinct 4</u>	
	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct
Population	754,942		697,829		763,093		728,760	
White (Non Hisp.)	161,903	21.45%	248,936	35.67%	330,374	43.29%	344,417	47.26%
Hispanic	251,869	33.36%	366,570	52.53%	236,716	31.02%	227,415	31.21%
Black (Non Hisp.)	291,693	38.64%	58,219	8.34%	103,430	13.55%	97,639	13.36%
Black + Hispanic	543,562	72.00%	424,789	60.87%	340,146	44.57%	325,054	44.60%
Asian	45,263	6.04%	19,642	2.79%	87,360	11.45%	53,692	7.37%
Others	4,214	0.56%	4,462	0.64%	5,213	0.68%	5,597	0.77%
Total Population: 4,092,459.00								
Average Population: 1,023,114.75								

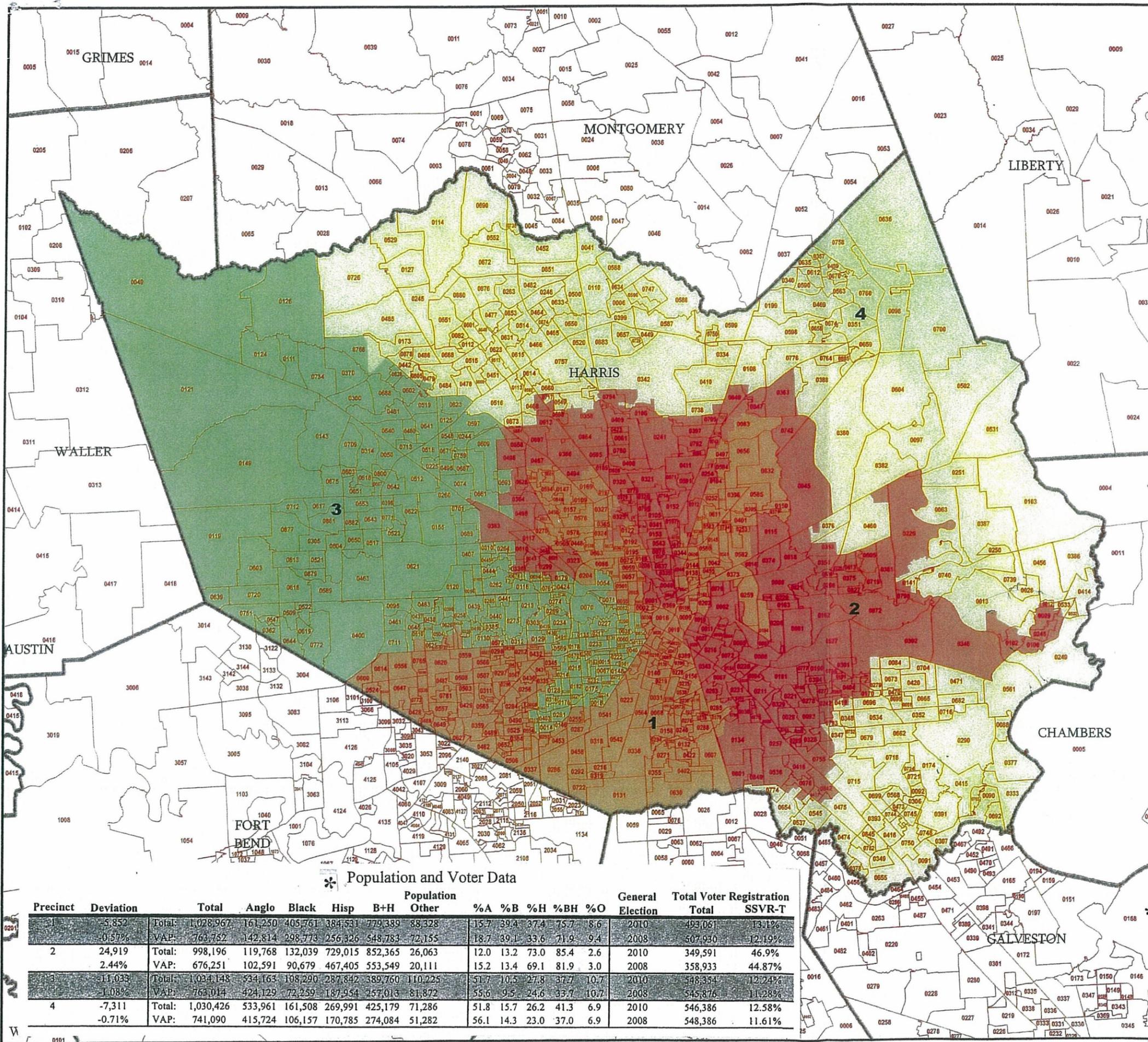
Attachment 6

Voting Precinct Shifts Between County Commissioner Precincts: Plan A-1

	Precinct 1		Precinct 2		Precinct 3		Precinct 4	
	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)
Precinct 1			0036	0285		0429		0035
			0122 (p)	0353		0556		0334
			0241	0368		0627		0342
			0254	0376		0649		0410
			0275	0460				0449
			0321 (p)	0605				0520
			0325 (p)					0629
			0411					0657
			0579 (p)					0660
			0664					0729
			0749					0733
			0779 (p)					0757
			0850					0767
								0799
								0840
			0883					
Precinct 2	0285	0036						0097
	0353	0122 (p)						0098
	0368	0241						0351
	0376	0254						0388
	0460	0275						0502
	0605	0321 (p)						0604
		0325 (p)						0636
		0411						0658
		0579 (p)						0659
		0664						0674
		0749						0700
		0779 (p)						0758
		0850						0760
			0764					
			0885					
Precinct 3	0429					0517(p)	0523 (p)	
	0556					0553	0622 (p)	
	0627					0617	0155 (p)	
	0649					0643		
						0881		
					0882			
Precinct 4	0035		0097		0523 (p)	0517(p)		
	0334		0098		0622 (p)	0553		
	0342		0351		0155 (p)	0617		
	0410		0388			0643		
	0449		0502			0881		
	0520		0604			0882		
	0629		0636					
	0657		0658					
	0660		0659					
	0729		0674					
	0733		0700					
	0757		0758					
	0767		0760					
	0799		0764					
	0840		0885					
0883								

Attachment 7

GUERRA/JARA PLAN



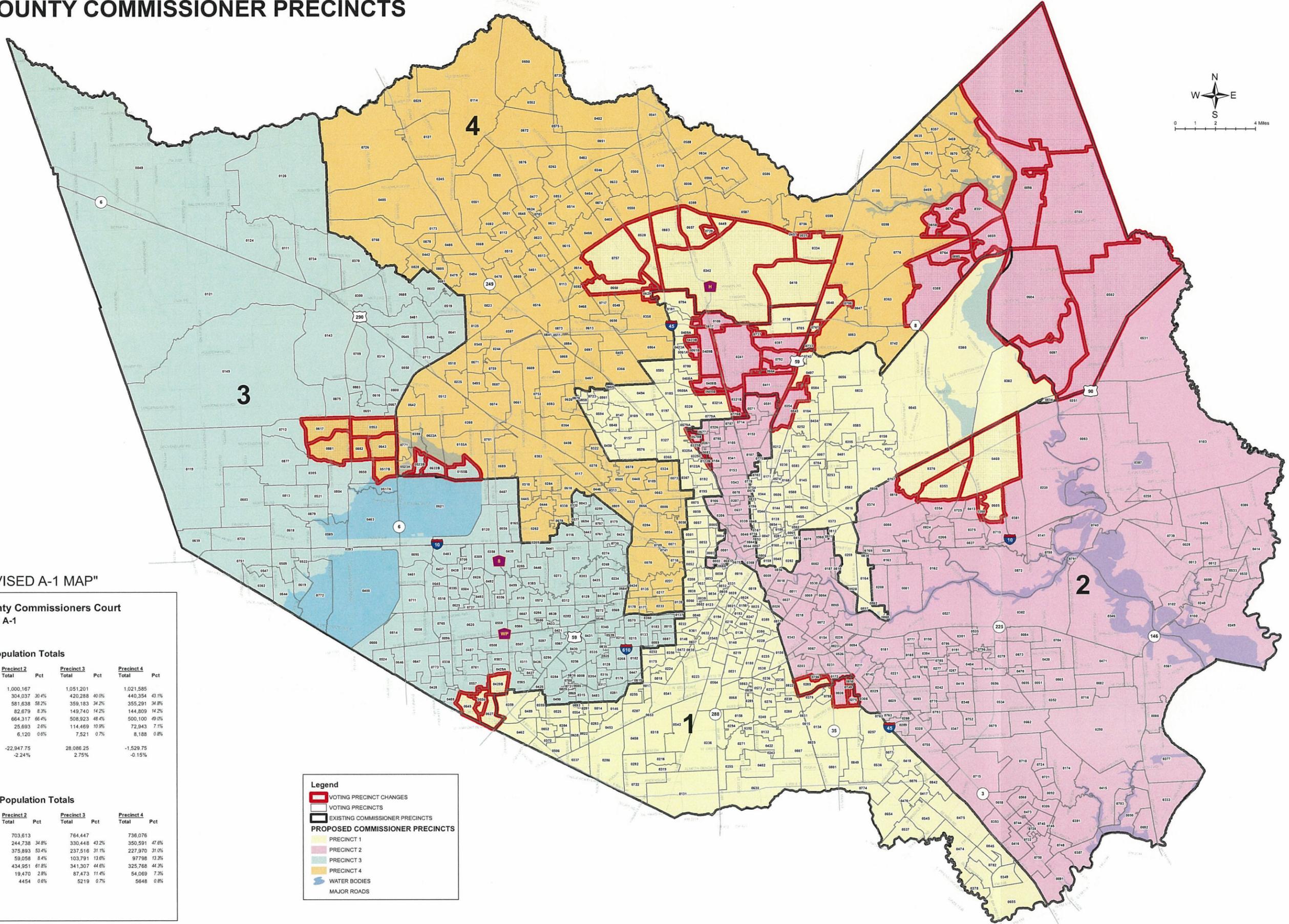
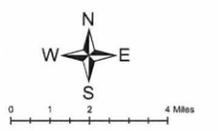
✿ Population and Voter Data

Precinct	Deviation	Population						%A	%B	%H	%BH	%O	General Election	Total Voter Registration	
		Total	Anglo	Black	Hisp	B+H	Other							Total	SSVR-T
1	-3.85%	Total: 1,028,967	161,250	405,761	384,531	779,389	88,328	15.7	39.4	37.4	75.7	8.6	2010	493,061	13.1%
	-0.57%	VAP: 763,752	142,814	298,773	256,326	548,783	72,155	18.7	39.1	33.6	71.9	9.4	2008	507,930	12.19%
2	24,919	Total: 998,196	119,768	132,039	729,015	852,365	26,063	12.0	13.2	73.0	85.4	2.6	2010	349,591	46.9%
	2.44%	VAP: 676,251	102,591	90,679	467,405	553,549	20,111	15.2	13.4	69.1	81.9	3.0	2008	358,933	44.87%
3	11,033	Total: 1,034,148	534,163	198,290	287,842	389,760	110,225	51.7	10.5	27.8	37.7	10.7	2010	548,354	12.24%
	-1.08%	VAP: 763,014	424,129	72,259	187,954	257,013	81,872	55.6	9.5	24.6	33.7	10.7	2008	545,876	11.28%
4	-7,311	Total: 1,030,426	533,961	161,508	269,991	425,179	71,286	51.8	15.7	26.2	41.3	6.9	2010	546,386	12.58%
	-0.71%	VAP: 741,090	415,724	106,157	170,785	274,084	51,282	56.1	14.3	23.0	37.0	6.9	2008	548,386	11.61%

*POPULATION NUMBERS PROVIDED BY SUBMITTEE

Attachment 8

HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS



"REVISED A-1 MAP"

Harris County Commissioners Court Revised Plan A-1

Population Totals

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4
	Total	Total	Total	Total
Population	1,019,506	1,000,167	1,051,201	1,021,585
White (Non Hisp)	184,967 18.1%	304,037 30.4%	420,288 40.0%	440,354 43.1%
Hispanic	375,428 36.8%	581,638 58.2%	359,183 34.2%	355,291 34.8%
Black (Non Hisp)	398,117 39.0%	82,679 8.3%	149,740 14.2%	144,809 14.2%
Black + Hispanic	773,545 75.9%	664,317 66.4%	508,923 48.4%	500,100 49.0%
Asian	55,443 5.4%	25,693 2.6%	114,469 10.9%	72,943 7.1%
Others	5,551 0.5%	6,120 0.6%	7,521 0.7%	8,188 0.8%
Population Dev.	-3,608.75	-22,947.75	28,086.25	-1,529.75
Percentage Dev.	-0.35%	-2.24%	2.75%	-0.15%

VA Population Totals

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Precinct 3	Precinct 4
	Total	Total	Total	Total
Population	740,488	703,613	764,447	736,076
White (Non Hisp)	159,853 21.6%	244,738 34.8%	330,448 43.2%	350,591 47.6%
Hispanic	241,191 32.6%	375,893 53.4%	237,516 31.1%	227,970 31.0%
Black (Non Hisp)	290,334 39.2%	59,058 8.4%	103,791 13.6%	97,798 13.3%
Black + Hispanic	531,525 71.8%	434,951 61.8%	341,307 44.6%	325,768 44.3%
Asian	44,945 6.1%	19,470 2.8%	87,473 11.4%	54,069 7.3%
Others	4,165 0.6%	4,454 0.6%	5,219 0.7%	5,648 0.8%

Total Population 4,092,459
Avg. Population 1,023,114.75

Legend

- VOTING PRECINCT CHANGES
- VOTING PRECINCTS
- EXISTING COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS
- PROPOSED COMMISSIONER PRECINCTS
- PRECINCT 1
- PRECINCT 2
- PRECINCT 3
- PRECINCT 4
- WATER BODIES
- MAJOR ROADS

Harris County Commissioners Court

Revised Plan A-1

Population Totals

	<u>Precinct 1</u>		<u>Precinct 2</u>		<u>Precinct 3</u>		<u>Precinct 4</u>	
	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct
Population	1,019,506		1,000,167		1,051,201		1,021,585	
White (Non Hisp)	184,967	18.1%	304,037	30.4%	420,288	40.0%	440,354	43.1%
Hispanic	375,428	36.8%	581,638	58.2%	359,183	34.2%	355,291	34.8%
Black (Non Hisp)	398,117	39.0%	82,679	8.3%	149,740	14.2%	144,809	14.2%
Black + Hispanic	773,545	75.9%	664,317	66.4%	508,923	48.4%	500,100	49.0%
Asian	55,443	5.4%	25,693	2.6%	114,469	10.9%	72,943	7.1%
Others	5,551	0.5%	6,120	0.6%	7,521	0.7%	8,188	0.8%
Population Dev.	-3,608.75		-22,947.75		28,086.25		-1,529.75	
Percentage Dev.	-0.35%		-2.24%		2.75%		-0.15%	

VA Population Totals

	<u>Precinct 1</u>		<u>Precinct 2</u>		<u>Precinct 3</u>		<u>Precinct 4</u>	
	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct	Total	Pct
Population	740,488		703,613		764,447		736,076	
White (Non Hisp)	159,853	21.6%	244,738	34.8%	330,448	43.2%	350,591	47.6%
Hispanic	241,191	32.6%	375,893	53.4%	237,516	31.1%	227,970	31.0%
Black (Non Hisp)	290,334	39.2%	59,058	8.4%	103,791	13.6%	97,798	13.3%
Black + Hispanic	531,525	71.8%	434,951	61.8%	341,307	44.6%	325,768	44.3%
Asian	44,945	6.1%	19,470	2.8%	87,473	11.4%	54,069	7.3%
Others	4,165	0.6%	4,454	0.6%	5,219	0.7%	5,648	0.8%
Total Population	4,092,459							
Avg. Population	1,023,114.75							

Attachment 9

Voting Precinct Shifts Between County Commissioner Precincts: Revised Plan A-1

	Precinct 1		Precinct 2		Precinct 3		Precinct 4	
	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)	(+)	(-)
Precinct 1			0036	0285		0429 (p)		0035
			0061 (p)	0353		0556		0334
			0106	0368		0627		0342
			0122 (p)	0376		0649		0410
			0241	0460				0449
			0254	0605				0520
			0275					0629
			0321 (p)					0657
			0325 (p)					0660
			0397					0729
			0408 (p)					0733
			0409 (p)					0757
			0411					0767
			0423 (p)					0799
			0579 (p)					0840
			0608 (p)					0883
			0664					
			0737					
			0749					
			0779 (p)					
			0792					
		0817						
		0850						
Precinct 2	0285	0036						0097
	0353	0061 (p)						0098
	0368	0106						0351
	0376	0122 (p)						0388
	0460	0241						0502
	0605	0254						0604
		0275						0636
		0321 (p)						0658
		0325 (p)						0659
		0397						0674
		0408 (p)						0700
		0409 (p)						0764
		0411						0885
		0423 (p)						
		0579 (p)						
		0608 (p)						
		0664						
		0737						
		0749						
		0779 (p)						
		0792						
	0817							
	0850							
Precinct 3	0429 (p)						0517(p)	0523 (p)
	0556						0553	0622 (p)
	0627						0617	0155 (p)
	0649						0643	
						0881		
						0882		
Precinct 4	0035		0097		0523 (p)	0517(p)		
	0334		0098		0622 (p)	0553		
	0342		0351		0155 (p)	0617		
	0410		0388			0643		
	0449		0502			0881		
	0520		0604			0882		
	0629		0636					
	0657		0658					
	0660		0659					
	0729		0674					
	0733		0700					
	0757		0764					
	0767		0885					
	0799							
	0840							
	0883							

Attachment 10

HARRIS COUNTY
PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEPARTMENT

1001 Preston, 5th Floor
Houston, Texas 77002
(713) 755-4400

August 2, 2011

Mr. Gene L. Locke, Attorney at Law
Andrews Kurth, LLP
600 Travis Street, Suite 4200
Houston, Texas 77002

**SUBJECT: Harris County Redistricting
Citizen Alternative Plan 1**

Dear Mr. Locke:

Responding to your request for a review of the captioned Alternative Plan, I asked staff to comment on operations considerations from the point-of-view of our department's involvement (public infrastructure). We looked at challenges and constraints as they relate to operations and maintenance, service delivery, capital facilities planning, and emergency response. Here are some observations:

1. The proposed boundary adjustments (in Alternative Plan 1) would allocate six existing road maintenance camps to Precinct 4 while reducing the number of camps in Precincts 1 and 2. This adjustment could provide new challenges in logistics for providing maintenance services to the precinct road networks.
2. Precincts 1 and 2 could experience increased operating expenses from either directing operations from fewer camp locations or from the construction and operation of new ones. Precinct 4 would have to staff and operate six camps and have the additional expense of enhanced budgets to do so.
3. These road camps are the bases for launching emergency services following natural disasters (floods and hurricanes), serious accidents, or potential terrorist activities. Response times in Precincts 1 and 2 could be adversely affected by the absence of camps in some locations because of the reduced number of camps and realigned precinct boundaries.
4. Under this Alternative Plan, a significant number of parks are transferred to Precinct 4 from Precincts 1 and 2. Attendant reallocation of staff, resources, and budgets would be necessary to maintain those parks and park services, and that reallocation of resources would be a challenge for all three of the precincts affected.

Mr. Gene L. Locke, Attorney at Law

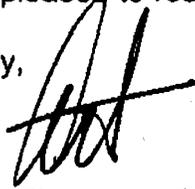
August 2, 2011

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5. Likewise, a significant number of community centers are transferred from Precincts 1 and 2 into Precinct 4 (under the alternative plan). The same adjustments in staff and resources, along with the same challenges in budgets and efficiencies, would affect the three precincts involved.

I am glad to forward this staff review for your consideration. I trust that it will be helpful and am pleased to respond to your additional questions, if any.

Sincerely,



Arthur L. Storey, Jr., P.E.
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Jackie L. Freeman, P.E.
Mr. Richard L. Raycraft, Director of Management Services