



Proposed Redistricting Plan for Board Single-Member Districts Seguin ISD

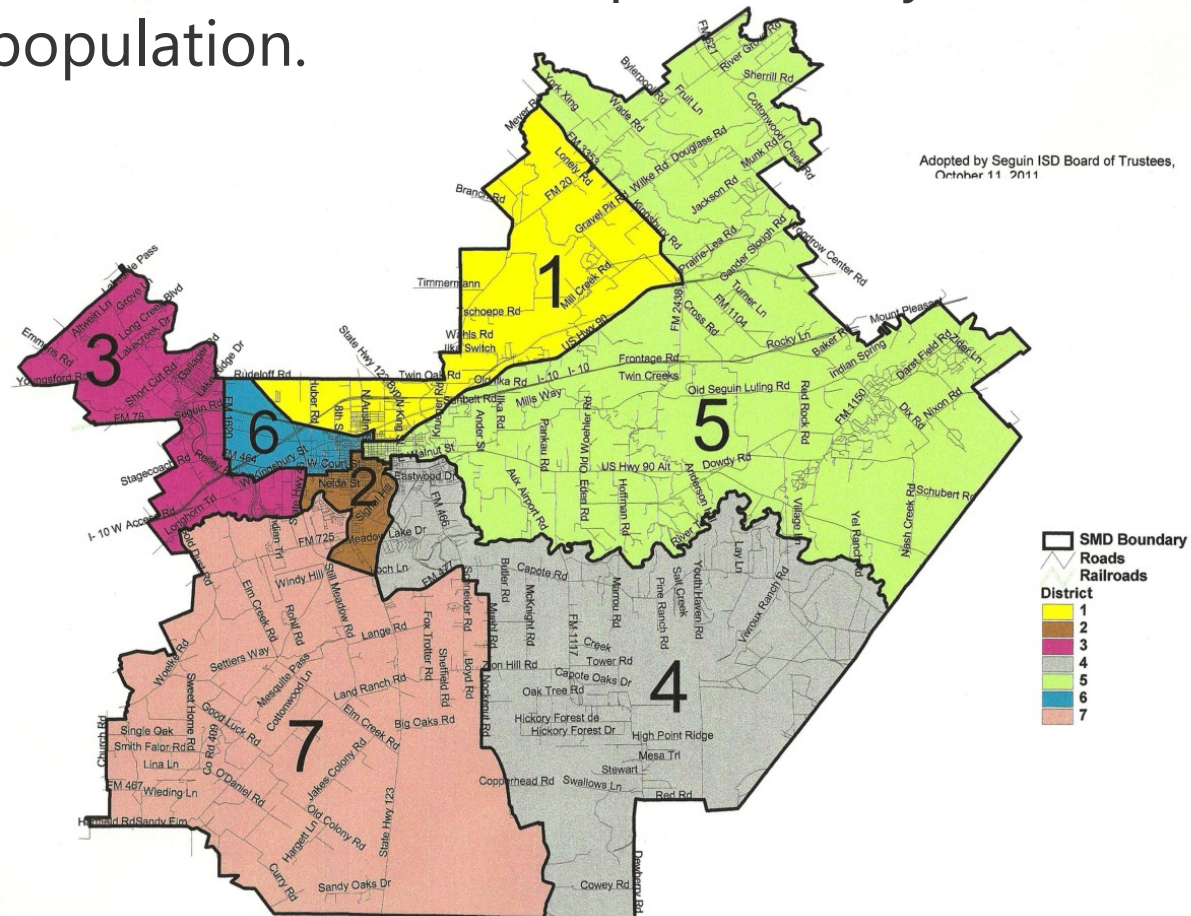


WALSH GALLEGOS
TREVIÑO KYLE & ROBINSON P.C.



What is Redistricting?

- Redistricting is the process by which the geographical boundaries of elective districts (single-member districts) are periodically redrawn in response to changes in population.



Why?

- ❑ Texas Education Code Section 11.052(i) requires a school board to re-divide single member districts “if the census data indicates that the population of the most populous district exceeds the population of the least populous district by more than 10 percent.”
- ❑ The data collected from the 2020 U.S. census has been released. The results of that census will likely require the District to redraw single member districts.

When?

- ❑ Not later than the 90th day before the date of the first regular trustee election at which trustees may officially recognize and act on the last preceding federal census, the board shall redivide the district into the appropriate number of trustee districts if the census data indicates that the population of the most populous district exceeds the population of the least populous district by more than 10 percent. Texas Education Code § 11.052(i).
- ❑ Seguin ISD conducts trustee elections biennially in November.
- ❑ New maps must be approved no later than August 10, 2022; however, the candidacy application period begins July 25.

What Has to be Done?

- Understand legal requirements
- Establish redistricting criteria
- Demographic analysis
- Obtain trustee and community input
- Draw and redraw alternative plans
- Public input/comment on plans
- Adopt a plan

What is the Current Law for Redistricting?

1. One Person, One Vote

- ❑ SMDs must be drawn with substantially equal population
- ❑ Avoid overpopulated and under populated districts
- ❑ Exact equality of population not required (ideal district population)

2. Consideration of Race

- ❑ Race can be predominant consideration when conditions meet standard test for permissible consideration of race under 14th Amendment (strict scrutiny test)
- ❑ “Strict scrutiny” requires showing that racial factors were to:
 - Further a compelling state interest (preventing discrimination);
AND
 - Use of these factors was narrowly tailored (only to the extent necessary) to accomplish the compelling interest

3. The Voting Rights Act (VRA)

- ❑ Section 2 of the VRA prohibits a voting qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice or procedure that results in the denial or abridgment of any U.S. citizen's right to vote on account of race, color or status as a member of a language minority group.
- ❑ KEY QUESTION: Does the voting qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice or procedure reduce the opportunity of members of a protected minority group to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice?

4. State Law

□ SUBSTANTIVE REQUIREMENTS

- SMDs must be compact and contiguous.
- SMDs must be as “nearly as practicable of equal population.”

Texas Education Code § 11.052 (f)

Criteria for Drawing SMDs

- Preserve incumbencies
- Adopt SMDs of substantially equal size
- Adopt compact and contiguous districts
- Avoid retrogression
- Make decisions on basis other than race whenever possible to narrowly tailor racial considerations to retrogression issues

More Criteria

- Use identifiable geographic boundaries for SMD boundaries when possible
- Maintaining communities of interest such as neighborhoods
- Use or account for other political boundaries:
 - Voting precincts
 - Polling places
- Preserve existing SMD boundaries to a degree possible

Seguin ISD Redistricting – Next Steps

#1

RAC meets with legal counsel and demographer to review current maps and proposed draft map(s).

#2

Obtain further RAC and additional community input prior to recommending final map.

#3

Board considers final map for approval.