

ARTICLE II - ELECTIONS

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The Commission gave serious consideration to proposals to amend the composition of the entity responsible for conducting the redistricting process. The Commission did not have adequate time to address or come to a consensus on the proposal for a major overhaul of committee composition. The Commission agreed wholeheartedly that the committee should have more time to revise ward boundaries and that the public nature of the process should be paramount. The Commission did not have sufficient time to fully consider

204. Wards and ward boundaries.

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The city shall be divided into fifteen (15) wards, the boundaries of which shall be drawn pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(a) The city council shall, following each federal decennial census, enact an ordinance providing for the establishment of the boundary lines of the fifteen (15) wards of the city, said boundary lines to be established following the federal census of 1980, and to be revised as necessary to conform to the criteria set forth in subsection (b) of this section, following the federal census of 1990 and each census thereafter.

(b) The procedure for establishing or revising the ward boundary lines, as the case may be, shall be the following:

(1) ~~At its first meeting in September, 1981, and at its first meeting in September each tenth year thereafter.~~ The city council shall elect a committee on ward boundaries of five (5) members, who may be members of the city council or other qualified persons defined in Section 206 below. Three (3) members are to be elected by the majority party, and two (2) members are to be elected by the members of the city council who are not members of that party. The committee shall draw up a plan for establishing or revising the ward.

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~~(A) The council shall elect such committee at its first meeting in September, 1981, and at its first meeting in September each tenth year thereafter until September, 2011.~~

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~~(Bb) The council shall thereafter elect such committee at its first meeting in January, 2020 and in each tenth year thereafter.~~

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~~(2) Upon electing such committee, the council shall establish by ordinance procedures to be followed by the committee in drawing up its proposed plan.~~

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(3) The committee shall conduct at least four public meetings before recommending a plan to the city council for approval. Such meetings shall not be deemed to be exempt from the Open Meetings Act.

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(4) The committee shall submit its proposal to the council together with a statement of criteria applied, findings made, and reasons for the proposed plan.

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(5) Upon receiving the plan, a quorum of the city council shall hold at least one public hearing thereon, following the completion of which the city council shall adopt the plan as presented or with such amendments as it shall thin proper. Any amendments to the committee's proposal shall require approval by two-thirds of the members of the city council.

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(6) The procedure set forth in this subsection shall be completed no later than March 1, 1982, in the case of the committee appointed in September, 1981, and March first of each tenth year thereafter.

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(c) The committee on ward boundaries and the city council shall insure that said boundaries are drawn in accordance with the following criteria, in addition to any applicable state and federal law:

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(1) Equality of ward populations so far as practicable;

(2) Compactness and contiguousness of the territory of each ward;

(3) The use of natural boundaries, and the inclusion of recognized neighborhoods within wards without arbitrary divisions thereof, so far as practicable.

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NOTE: if the council decides to submit to the voters a proposed amendment for a council consisting of 10 ward representatives and 5 at-large councilors (see proposed amendments to article iv of the charter, then the above amendment should be changed to substitute ten(10) for the number fifteen (15) in each of the first two paragraphs of this section

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