

COUNTY JUDGE

Fort Bend County, Texas

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October 22, 2021

Letter to the Community Regarding Community Input in the Redistricting Process

Every ten years in the United States a count is taken of the total number of people who reside within our great nation. This is a constitutional responsibility that has great consequences on every community in our nation. Recognizing this, Fort Bend County residents took seriously the responsibility to respond and that made our community number one in the State of Texas in resident response rate.

As a result of the data received from the census, where there have been significant shifts in population density, leaders throughout our country are required to redraw political boundaries to balance political representation at the local, state, and federal levels through a process known as redistricting. For the last few weeks, our County leaders have been engaged in this process, which includes redrawing Commissioner, Constable, and Justice of the Peace precincts.

I have received numerous communications from the public about the timeline the Commissioners Court has adopted to receive feedback on proposed maps and to allow the public to submit maps for consideration. While the timeline for when our new maps must be adopted was unclear when the Commissioners Court originally adopted a timeline, we now have a clearer idea and are elated to learn that we have more time than originally anticipated.

I am confident that my colleagues on the Court share my belief that the most important voices in this decision, that will have an impact on the future of our county for the next decade, are the voices of our residents. After all, our great democracy is built on the foundation of hearing the voices of the people. As a result, I have instructed our Information Technology Department to continue to receive map options from the public and will ask the Commissioners Court to ratify this amended timeline for public feedback.

To allow every member of the Commissioners Court to analyze and continue to receive feedback from residents. I will also recommend that Commissioner's Court members take no action to adopt commissioner precinct maps until at least Tuesday, November 2, during the regularly scheduled Commissioners Court meeting.

Feedback from the public is an important part of the redistricting process and the time is now for every resident to make their voice heard about what they expect the future of our county to look like. I commit to you to do everything that I can to ensure you have the opportunity to participate and meaningfully engage in this historic process.

I am so thankful to lead our county at this critical time in our history and I am proud that we are on this journey together to shape the future of Fort Bend County for generations to come.

Sincerely.

County Judge

Fort Bend County