



July 23, 2013

Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission  
City of Austin

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC), I am pleased to submit the following input as you begin determining single member districts for Austin's City Council. The ANC is a nonprofit umbrella group of neighborhood organizations across our city. Founded in 1973, ANC is among Austin's oldest and most prominent community organizations and among the stakeholders in the City Council 10-One redistricting process. The Executive Committee serves as the board of directors of ANC.

First, the ANC Executive Committee **respectfully offers to make a presentation to the Commission at a public hearing about Austin's neighborhoods.** We hope that you would find a briefing on neighborhoods beneficial. As you know, Proposition 3 elevates the honoring of neighborhood and community boundaries above all redistricting criteria except equal population, the Voting Rights Act, and contiguity.<sup>1</sup> Since ANC is the umbrella group for neighborhood associations, we are uniquely positioned to provide you with valuable insights in respecting and preserving the integrity of neighborhoods. For instance, we would be happy to explain how to obtain information on the boundaries of most neighborhoods. We would welcome the opportunity to be added to a meeting agenda in the near future as you see fit.

Second, regarding your consideration of geographic dispersion of public hearings in the months ahead, the ANC Executive Committee offers a specific recommendation for a hearing in southeast Austin. Article II, Subsection 3(K)(7) of the City Charter requires the Commission to hold public hearings across the city before the release of the first draft of a 10-district map (i.e., preliminary plan).<sup>2</sup> **We strongly urge the Commission to commit to at least one hearing in southeast Austin** (south of Lady Bird Lake and east of IH-35). As you are aware, each quadrant of the city is represented on the Commission except for southeast Austin. We believe it is incumbent for the Commission to ensure that this often neglected area of our community is not overlooked during the initial round of public input sessions.

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<sup>1</sup> Article II, § 3, Subsection (E)(4) of the City Charter states, in pertinent part:

“The geographic integrity of *any local neighborhood* or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes their division to the extent possible without violating the requirements of any of the preceding subsections.” [emphasis added]

<sup>2</sup> Article II, § 3, Subsection (K)(7) of the City Charter states, in pertinent part:

“The hearing process shall begin with *hearings to receive public input* before the commission votes and approves a preliminary redistricting plan. In 2013, there shall be at least two such public hearings, before the commission votes on a preliminary plan, in each of the four Travis County Commissioner Precincts . . .” [emphasis added]

Third, regarding your consideration of scheduling of public hearings and Commission votes in the months ahead, the ANC Executive Committee offers a recommendation on the time between the public display of your maps and subsequent votes. Article II, Subsection 3(K)(7) of the City Charter requires the Commission to take written public comments on the preliminary map for a minimum of 14 days and to take written public comments of the proposed final map for a minimum of 5 days.<sup>3</sup> The 14-day and 5-day windows are not limits and **we strongly urge the Commission to allow for at least 30 days for hearings and public comments following the iteration of any 10-district map.** Fourteen day and five day periods are an insufficient amount of time for the membership of ANC and neighborhood associations across town to meet and review your proposed maps and respond with comments to the Commission. We believe that there is no need to rush the process at its most critical juncture of drawing district boundaries. Careful study of draft maps will require time for our volunteer organizations.

If you have any questions or would like to arrange an ANC presentation to the Commission, you may contact me ([president@ancweb.org](mailto:president@ancweb.org)). You may also reach out to the ANC 10-One Subcommittee ([10onecommittee@ancweb.org](mailto:10onecommittee@ancweb.org)). We appreciate your service to our great community. We look forward to continued dialogue on 10-One.

Sincerely,



Carol Lee  
ANC President  
[www.ancweb.org](http://www.ancweb.org)

cc: ANC Executive Committee

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<sup>3</sup> Article II, § 3, Subsection (K)(7) of the City Charter states, in pertinent part:

... “Following the commission’s vote approving the *preliminary plan*, there shall be at least four public hearings, geographically dispersed with at least one hearing in each of the four Travis County Commissioners’ precincts and hearing shall be held on a different date. The commission also shall display the approved preliminary plan for written public comment in a manner designed to achieve the widest public access reasonably possible. Written public comment shall be taken for at least 14 days from the date of public display of the approved preliminary plan. The commission then shall vote on a *proposed final plan* and then it shall hold two subsequent public hearings, one north of Lady Bird Lake and one south of Lady Bird Lake and take at least five days of written public comments.” [emphasis added]