

July 29, 2013

To: ICRC Members

From: TJ Costello – Vice Chair, ICRC

Re: July 31, 2013 Agenda Item 3

As mentioned at the conclusion of our last meeting, voting precinct #208 might be an excellent starting point for our deliberations. It offers a large population in a small geographical area with a non-controversial and diverse population. An excellent opportunity for a solid and open discussion.

After being selected to the Commission, I started thinking about the process and all the different outcomes there might be. As an analyst, I always try to find a starting point, a cornerstone, a lynchpin.

Recognizing that there will be many forces trying to influence or inform us on the best course of action and the fact that there are certain representational obligations the Commission will have to consider, this “cornerstone” had to be a diverse, densely populated, and non-controversial. These three criteria eliminated most of the city and it dawned on me that the area I was thinking about was the University of Texas campus.

Looking at the Travis County precinct mapping website, I found that the University of Texas campus is covered by three voting precincts. However, one precinct (#208) was fully within the campus (from MLK to San Jacinto to 29th Street to Guadalupe). Further, according to information provided the Commission previously, Precinct 208 has almost 10,000 voting age residents (1/7th of a Council District). Also, this population changes on an annual basis.

So if precinct #208 is a “cornerstone” for discussion, the questions might be:

- What areas does precinct #208 (UT) influence?
- What influences #208?
- Does the UT community need to be together and if so which other precincts might it incorporate KNOWING that surrounding neighborhoods might be drawn in with the surrounding precincts
- How important would it be to incorporate #208 with Huston Tillison and St. Edwards?

While some may argue we cannot discuss items without public input, I am not suggesting that we draw a council district. I am asking for us to simply discuss and wrap our heads around how precinct #208 and the surrounding areas might play out. It is a starting point, a cornerstone for our discussions moving forward.

Thank you and I look forward to a lively discussion.

Sincerely,

TJ Costello

Travis County Voter Registration Map: Precinct

208



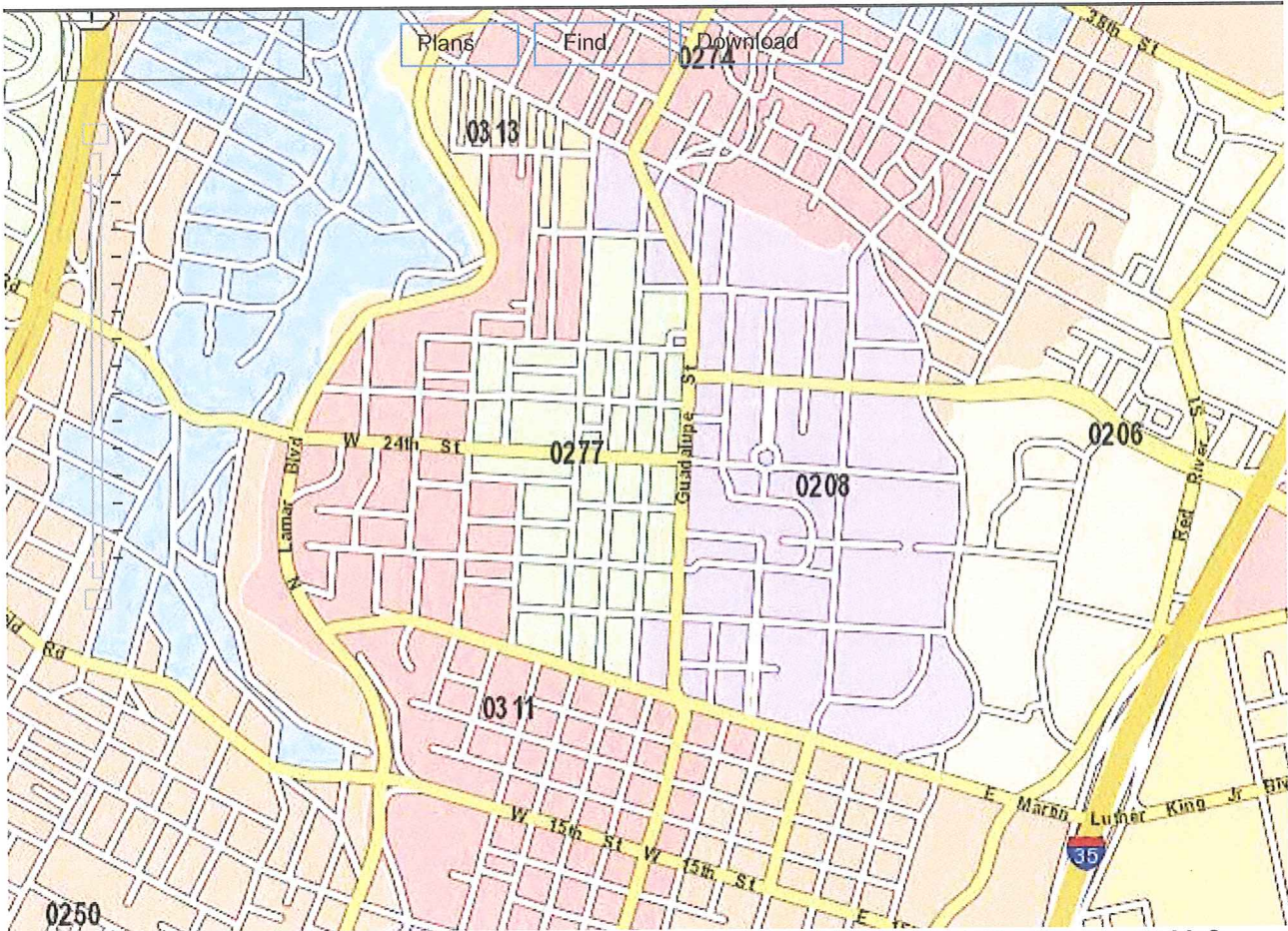
Click to left to "See All"

The colored square below is the area shown in the MAIN map. Click Grid 1 to 9 below to zoom to that Grid in the MAIN map.



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