

Student District Plan

According the Austin city charter Article II, Section 3, the Austin Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission is tasked with creating ten single member city council districts that shall have reasonably equal population, comply with the Voting Rights Act, protect communities of interest and maintain the boundaries of existing election precincts.

I present a map of a district based in the Central Austin neighborhoods of North Campus, West Campus, Campus, Downtown and Mueller that satisfies all of these criteria. This map is drawn without splitting the VRA required districts in East Austin previously presented by Austinites for Geographic Representation.

According to the 2010 US Census, the district contains approximately 80,297 people, reasonably close to the ideal population of a district 79,039. According to census data, 47% of the voting age population in this district is between the ages of 18 and 24 and 70% is between the ages of 18 and 34, most of whom are students at UT, ACC or another local college.

The neighborhoods in this district include students, university and college faculty and staff, university employees and community members. All told, these diverse communities form a strong community of interest and shall be kept united in one district.

The University community has different needs than many other communities in the City of Austin including rapidly increasing rental housing costs, one of the highest property crime rates in the state of Texas, and most unfortunately, one of the highest rates of sexual assault in the state. These issues affect our entire community, students and non students alike.

If this map were implemented, students would be able to elect a candidate of choice to the city council. This councilmember would be responsive to the diverse needs of the entire University community.

With well over 100,000 students, staff, faculty and employees at Austin colleges and universities within the city limits, the University community is large enough to necessitate at least one of Austin's ten city council districts.

This map shows that is possible to create a compact district with population reasonably close to the ideal district population that keeps one of Austin's most cohesive communities of interest together in one city council district.

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