Javier,

There seems to be a great deal of conjecture regarding the population numbers for the precincts in the City. I am writing to clarify how the data was derived and to answer questions regarding the database currently being used by the ICRC for redistricting. The following outlines the process which I used for creating the database:

1. Start with Census 2010 data for State of Texas
2. Received City boundary from Austin GIS Department
3. Identified that the boundary crosses:
- Travis, Williamson, Hays and Bastrop counties
4. Used the City Boundary to Clip Census Data
- Blocks, Tracts, Blockgroups, CCDs
- Transportation, Water
- VTDS - Voting Precincts (2008/2009)
5. Contacted the 4 counties & the City for 2012 Precincts
6. Received Precincts for the 4 counties
7. Merged the 4 precincts into 1 area wide file
8. Clipped the area wide file by the city boundary
9. Aggregated population from the blocks up to the new precincts
10. Quality controlled the totals

The population of the Blocks that were split by the city boundary were apportioned according to area. I shared my approach and the data with the City of Austin Demographer who indicated that the approach seemed logical and the results checked in his review.

When the issue of multiple databases was raised by Mr. Bickerstaff at the September 28 meeting, I responded that, I would investigate the issue and determine if there were in fact two databases. I felt that Ms. Lopez's (Voter Registration Director for Travis County) response yesterday should have clarified the issue. There are not multiple databases. The county submitted Precincts to the Department of Justice as required by Section 5 of VRA. However, they did not break out the population for precincts that were split by the City Boundary. The following is her email to me. I have highlighted the words "did not".

Mr Hejazi,
*As we discussed this morning, Travis County **did not** submit to the Department of Justice for preclearance*
1) a population report for the county election precincts or 2) a separate population report for the
election precincts in the City of Austin.
I am copying Mr. Bickerstaff, Mr. Young, and Mr. Tounget in the event that have questions regarding this
item.
To All – Please feel free to contact me if I may answer any questions that you may have.

As a final measure of Quality Control, the database which the county sent me for the County Precincts, on September 16, which I used for creating my database (note item 6 in the above list), did contain population demographics. I randomly selected and compared my population totals with the county's numbers for precincts that were wholly inside the city and were not split by the city boundary. As expected, my populations matched with the ones in her file.

I hope this email clarifies the process which was used to create the data and puts to rest any issues regarding multiple database. If there are still any concerns, I would be happy to investigate them, assuming they were based on facts rather than conjecture.

Fred Hejazi
Citygate GIS