

RESOLUTION NO. 20190307-027

WHEREAS, the citizens of the City of Austin and the State of Texas deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial, and depoliticized process of the drawing of state legislative and congressional districts of near equal population; and

WHEREAS, the current redistricting process creates a potential conflict of interest as state legislators are effectively choosing their own constituents; and

WHEREAS, the redistricting process should be conducted in an open manner and include public hearings, set timelines, and access to redistricting tools and proposed plans, so that our communities have real opportunities for public dialogue and feedback; and

WHEREAS, public input and involvement in the redistricting process will empower our communities by allowing them to elect representatives who represent their interests on issues that are important to their lives; and

WHEREAS, the boundaries of state and congressional districts are currently drawn by legislative incumbents with a simple majority vote, often sacrificing the integrity of communities, neighborhoods, and cities; and

WHEREAS, important principles, such as the protections of the federal Voting Rights Act and respect for neighborhoods, towns, and cities, should be clearly listed for any redistricting process so that our communities are kept together; and

WHEREAS, voters are more likely to participate when they feel their vote will count and that they have a reasonable chance of electing candidates who represent their interests; and

WHEREAS, elected officials are more responsive to constituents when voters have a choice of candidates, thus increasing accountability and serving the best interests of the voters of Texas; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the Austin City Council does hereby support legislative efforts to establish a citizen-led commission composed of Texas voters who are representative of the state's diversity, partisan balance, and geography, for all future redistricting. This Independent Commission will oversee the process to draw the lines of the state Senate, state House of Representatives, and Congressional districts.

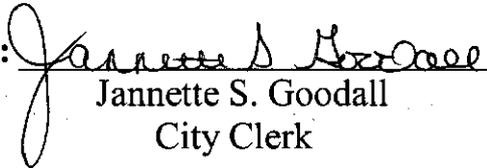
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That we call upon all those elected officials and party leaders in the State of Texas who represent the citizens of the City of Austin to publicly announce their support of and commitment to work towards passage of such legislative efforts, and that a copy of this Resolution be delivered to each of them:

Governor Greg Abbott
Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick
Attorney General Ken Paxton
Secretary of State David Whitley
United States Senator Ted Cruz
United States Senator John Cornyn

Texas State Senator(s)
Texas State Representative(s)
Gilberto Hinojosa, Chairman,
Democratic Party of Texas
James Dickey, Chairman,
Republican Party of Texas

ADOPTED: March 7, 2019

ATTEST: 
Jannette S. Goodall
City Clerk