

# Redistricting



## **2011 CITY COUNCIL DISTRICTS**

PREPARED FOR THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF BLACK CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS (TABCCM)  
QUARTERLY BOARD, MEMBERSHIP, AND WORKSHOP

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# Redistricting



- Once assurances are received that everyone was **counted in the 2010 Census...**
- if the Census shows that districts have unequal population, cities must redraw existing council district lines.

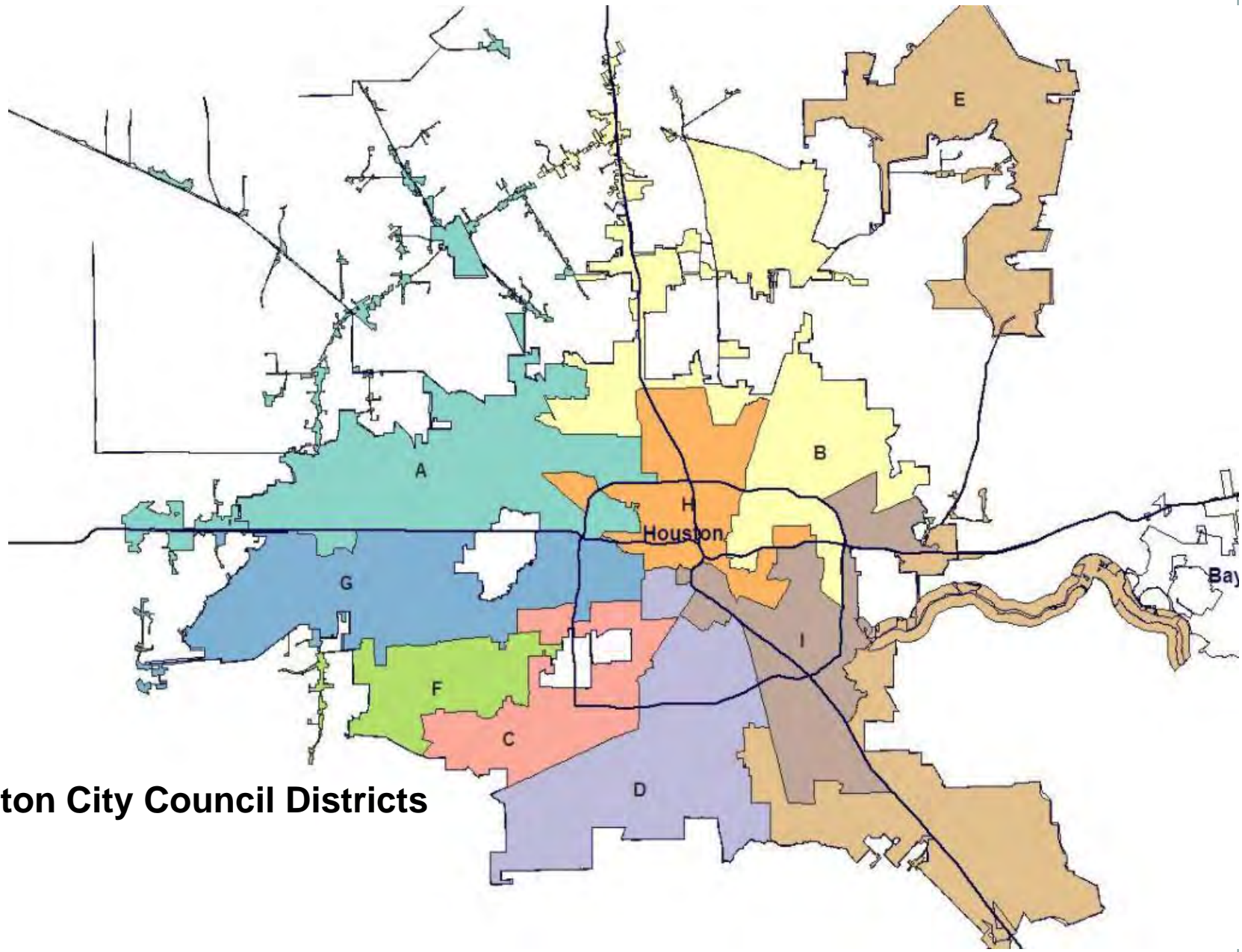
# Redistricting Principles



- Use geographic boundaries as district boundaries
- Maintain communities of interest
- Follow existing voter precinct lines
- Base new plan on existing district boundaries

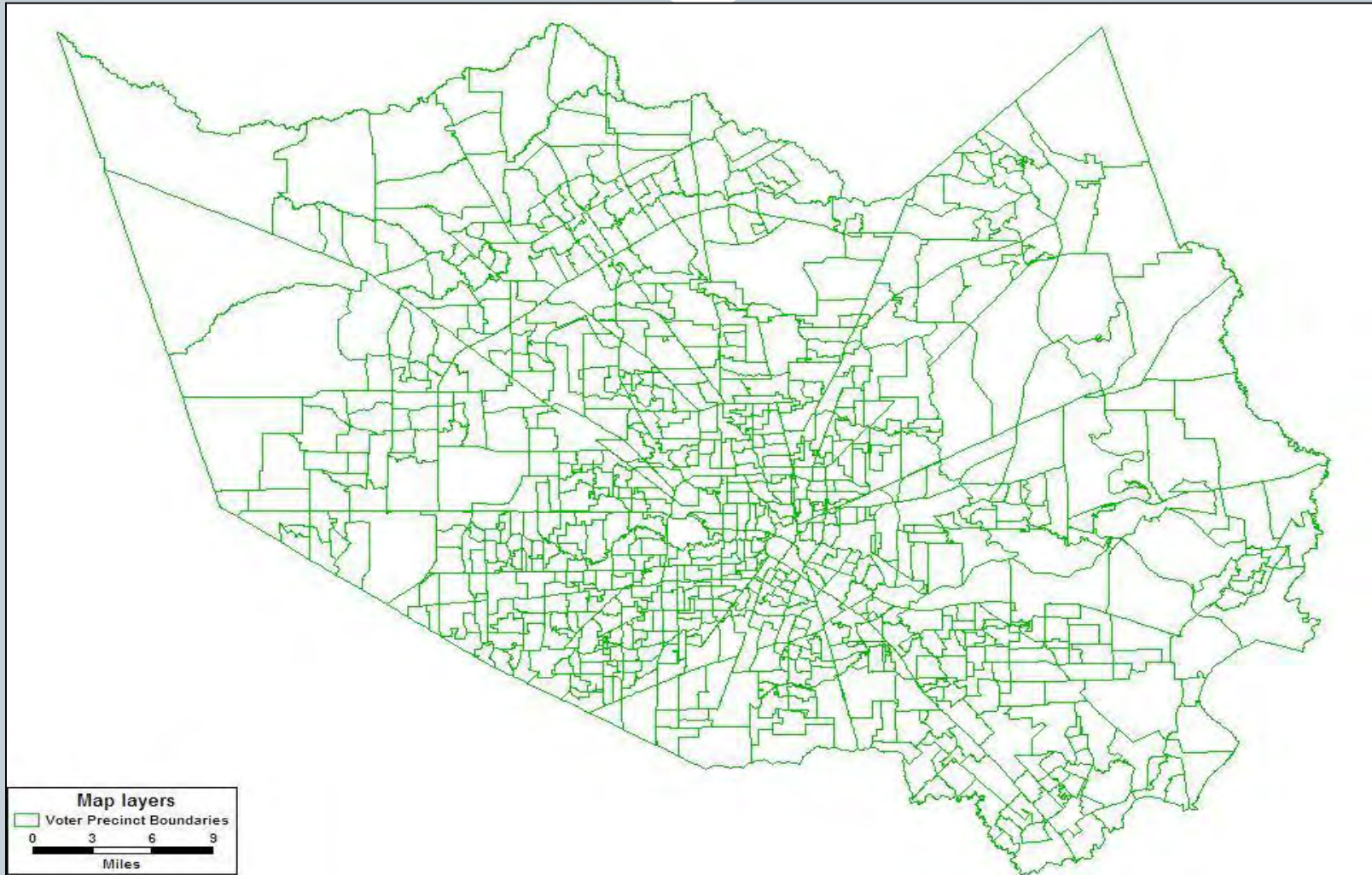


- Create districts of relatively equal population size
- That are compact and contiguous
- City council members must remain in their district
- Avoid retrogression



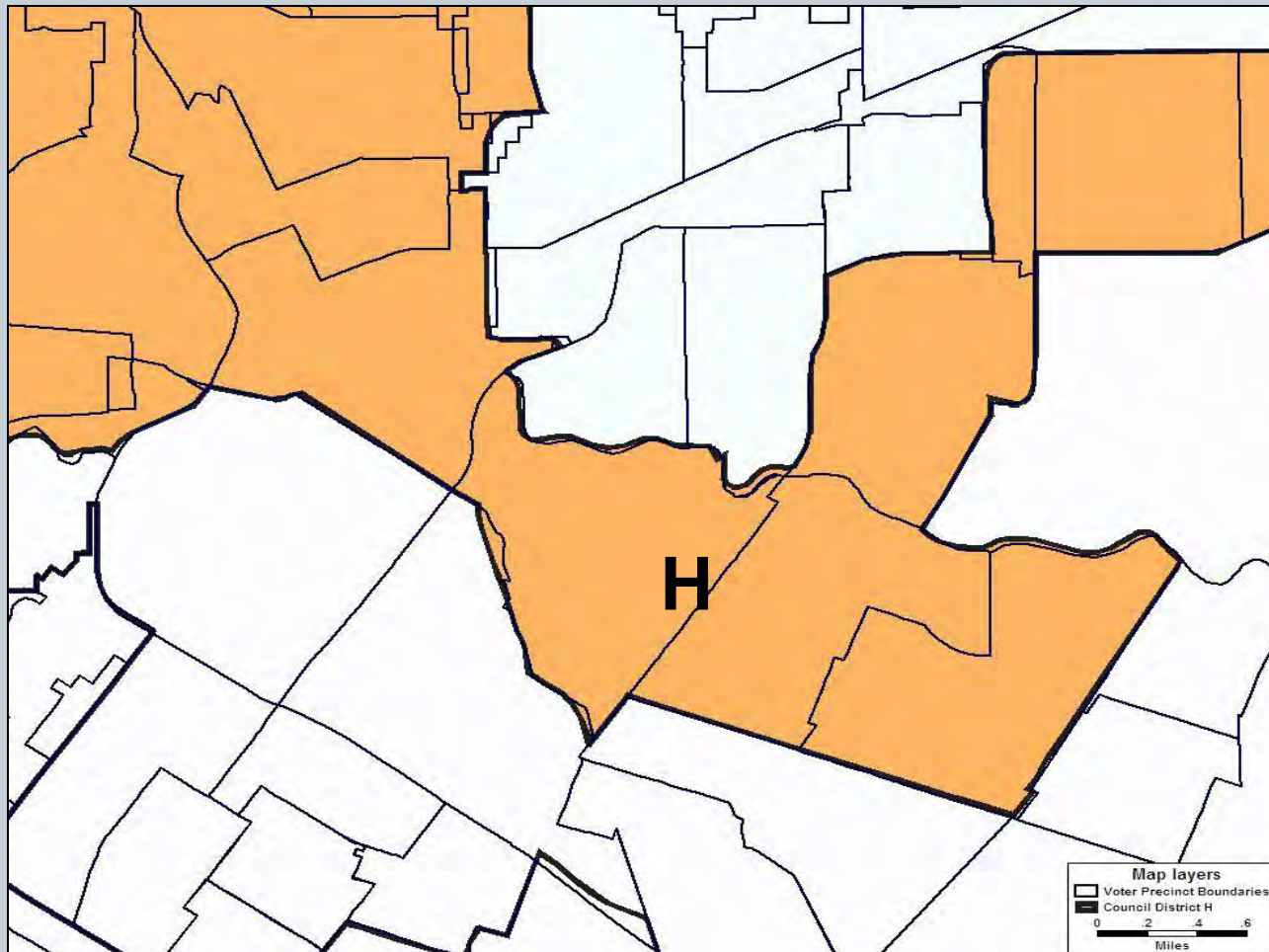
## Houston City Council Districts

# Houston Voter Precinct Lines



Source: Map made by Callaghan and Adams with GIS software and ESRI files from the Caliber Corporation

# Voter Precinct and Council District Lines Overlap



Source: Map made by Callaghan and Adams with GIS software and ESRI files from the Caliber Corp. and City of Houston, Planning Dept.

# Equal Population



10% Rule: Population difference between largest and smallest district may not be more than approximately 10% of the average district population



# Calculating District Population Scores



District	Population	Deviation
A	219,048	0.7%
B	205,892	-5.3%
C	226,279	4.0%
D	221,970	2.1%
E	219,802	1.1%
F	225,139	3.5%
G	223,643	2.8%
H	209,264	-3.8%
I	206,436	-5.1%

Total Population: 1,957,473 (est. 2009)

Ideal Population (Average): 217,497

Average deviation: 3.2%

# Compactness and Contiguity

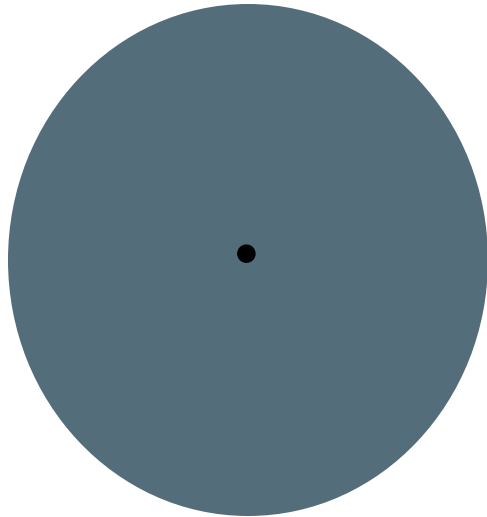


- Compactness

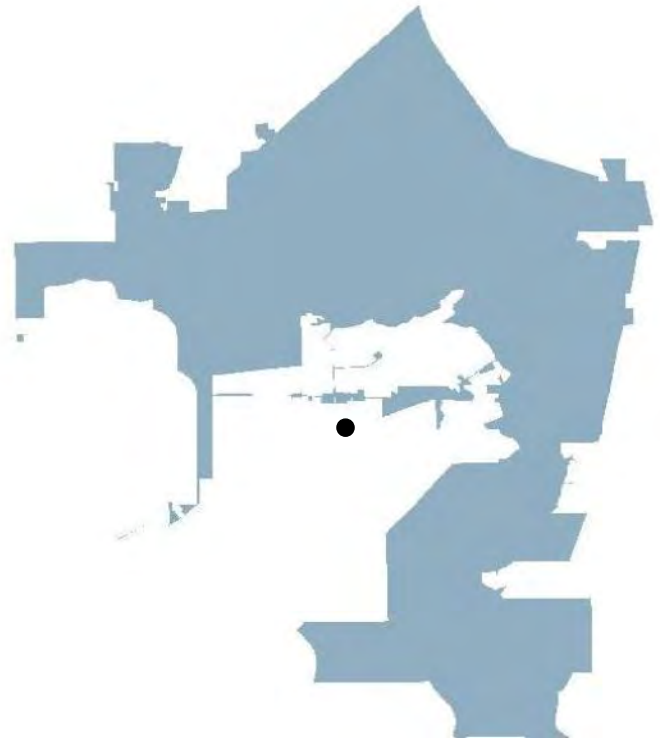
A measure of how tightly packed a district is

- Contiguity

A district is contiguous if one can reach any other part without crossing a district boundary



Contiguous  
Perfectly Compact



Not Compact  
Not Contiguous

# Assessing District Jaggedness



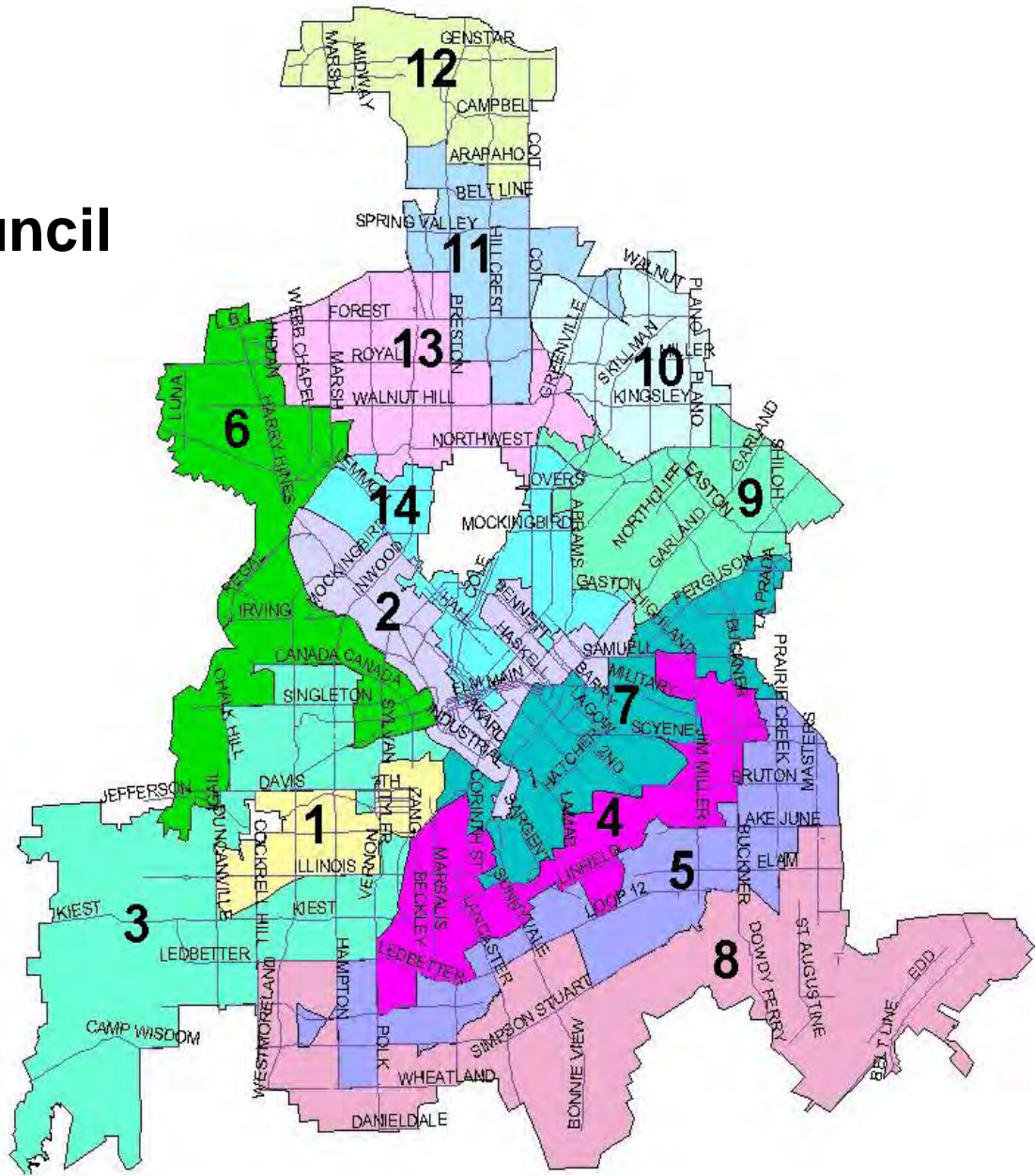
Supreme Court has relied on various measures

For example:

Pildes-Niemi Measure

**The ratio of the district's area to the square of the district's perimeter**

# Dallas City Council Districts



Adopted City Council Districts Redistricting map  
retrieved 2/9/2011 from  
[http://dallascityhall.com/government/council/adopted\\_map.html](http://dallascityhall.com/government/council/adopted_map.html)

# Retrogression



- **Plans that cause the reduction of a minority group's voting strength**

# Will Your Plan Meet with the Court's Approval?



- Districting principles that advance a particular plan must be those that actually guided the construction of the plan.
- Districting principles must be applied consistently across districts.

# Gerrymandering



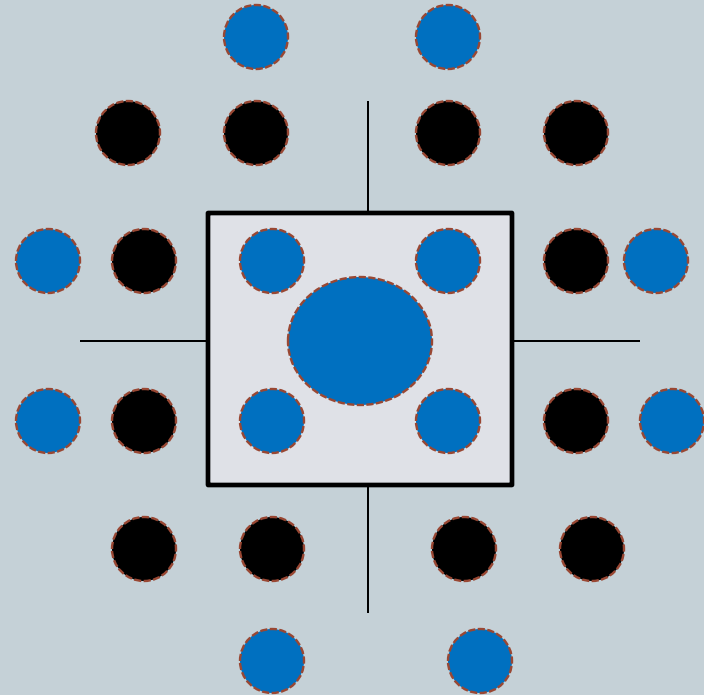
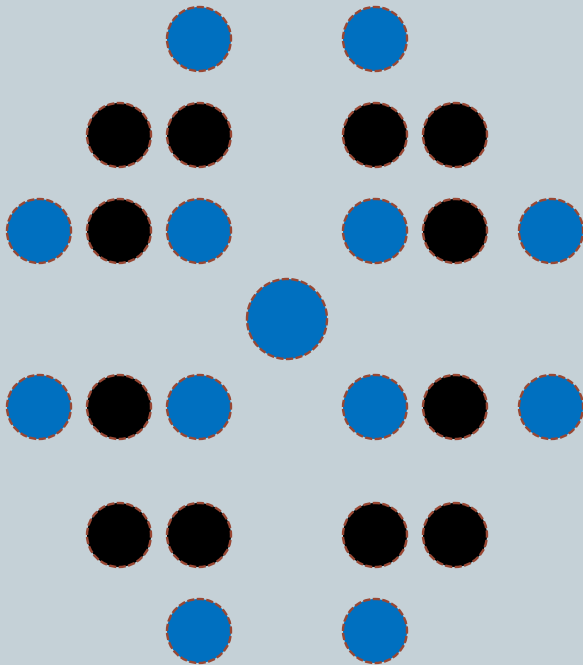
- Setting electoral boundaries so that they give one group an electoral majority in a large number of areas
- Slides 17 -21 are adapted from Justin **Levitt's "Citizen's Guide to Redistricting, 2010"** from the Brennan Center for Justice website



# Packing



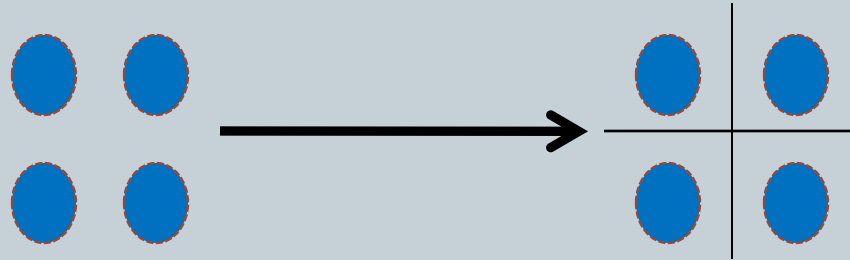
Putting as many people with the same characteristic into as few districts as possible.



# Cracking



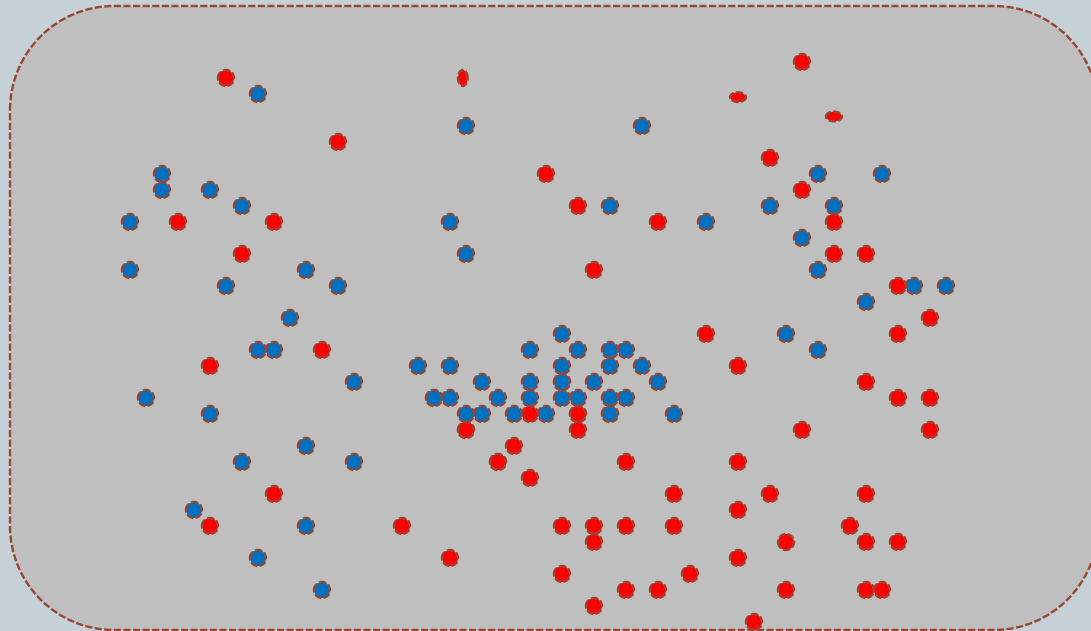
Splitting groups of people with the same characteristics into more than one district.



# City A



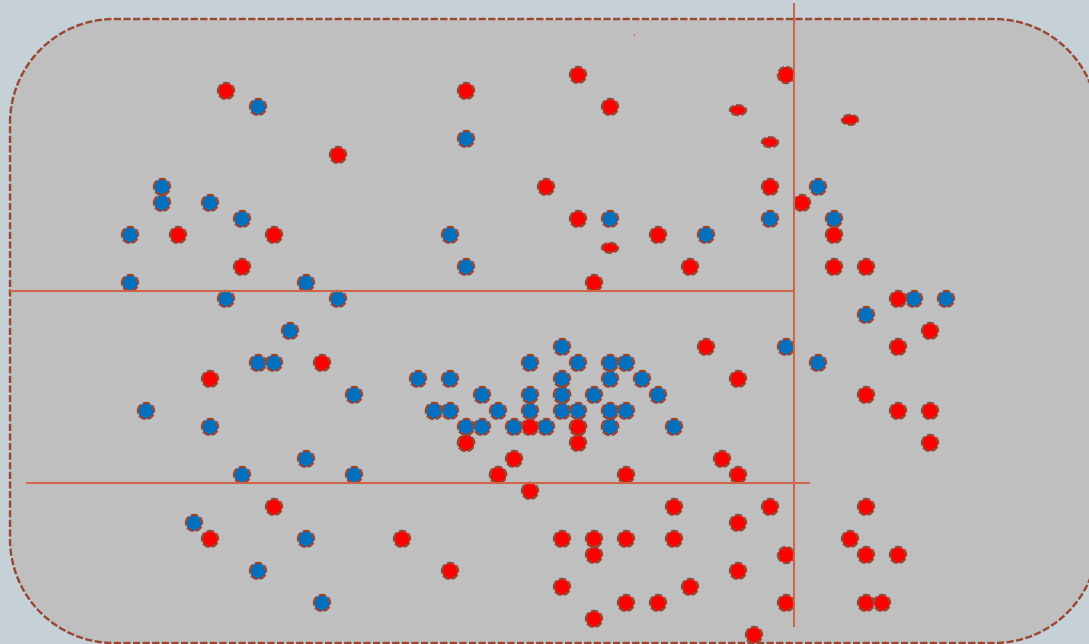
- Democrats
- Republicans



# City A



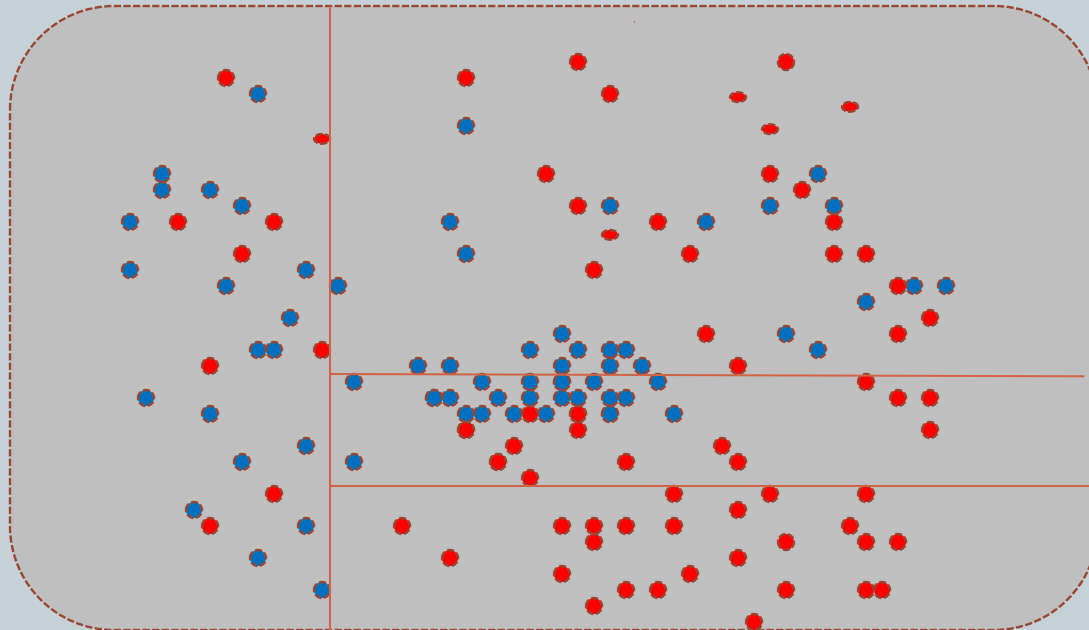
Republican Majority Districts 3  
Democrat Majority Districts 1



# City A



Democrat Majority Districts 3  
Republican Majority Districts 1



# What to Consider During the Redistricting Process



- Current population demographics (race, income, age, education, employment, home ownership)
- Population projections: What will the district demographics be in 2020?
- **City guidelines: Reveal the city's priorities and are essential for legal enforcement**

# Mapping Software



- ArcGIS
- MapInfo
- Maptitude
- Public Domain

# Team



- Attorneys
- GIS Mapping Specialists
- Statisticians



# Analysis



- Shifting boundary lines
- Current and projected voting patterns of council district
- Current demographics analysis and projections
- Analysis of the impact surrounding electoral districts have on city council voting patterns

# Recommendation



- Talk to the People in the Justice Department
- Give Your Redistricting Plan to City Planners

# Bio: Dr. Michael O. Adams



- Professor of Political Science, Texas Southern University, Director of MPA and eMPA Programs
- Author of six books covering the fields of American Government, Public Administration and Public Policy; and more than twenty five peer reviewed articles in scholarly journals
- Published articles on racial minority vote dilution in at-large city council districting plans
- 2009 Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland International Service Award
- 2009 Korean Fellowship Award, Seoul Korea
- **2008 Texas Southern University's Research Scholar Award**
- 2008 Quiester Craig Teaching Award
- 2008 Defense of Democracy Fellowship, Tel Aviv University, Israel
- **2006 Faculty Development Award, China's Foreign Service University, Beijing, China**
- Ph.D in Political Science, The Atlanta University. Fields: Urban Politics and Minority Political Participation and Public Administration

# Bio: Dr. Karen Callaghan



- Associate Professor, Political Science, Former Director, Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs Survey Center, Texas Southern University
- Visiting Professor, Vanderbilt University, Postdoctoral Fellow, Rice University
- Published author in several prestigious journals and presses
- Probability models of minority vote dilution in Boston
- Former Director, Quantitative Methods, Public Policy Ph.D. Program, University of Massachusetts, Boston
- Goldsmith Research Award, Harvard University
- National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Award
- Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland Scholar Award
- Recently served as Sr. Research Scientist, United States Defense Department contractor in Afghanistan. Survey research and GIS mapping
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# Acknowledgements



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