

MINUTES
MONTGOMERY COUNTY REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
JUNE 16, 2011

The organizational meeting for the Montgomery County Redistricting Committee was held on Thursday, June 16, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. at the Election Commission office 350 Pageant Lane, Suite 404. The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair County Commissioner Ed Baggett. Those also present were committee members Mayor Carolyn Bowers, Commissioner John Gannon, Commissioner Dalton Harrison, Commissioner Lettie Kendall, Commissioner Tommy Vallejos, Assessor of Property Betty Burchett, Director of Administration Phil Harpel, Planning Commission Director David Riggins and Administrator of Elections Vickie Koelman. County Commissioner Mark Riggins, Barbara LeJeune, and Jimmy Settle also attended the meeting.

Vickie Koelman presented charts and maps of the existing county commission districts and explained the statistical comparisons of the county's growth. Data received from the 2010 Census indicated extreme growth in several districts which will require all county commission districts to be restructured in order to create equal representation. The ideal optimum population for the current 21 commission districts would be 8,206 and there cannot be more than a ten percent variance between the districts.

David Riggins presented the redistricting manual and told the committee that a plan must be approved and sent to the state by January 1, 2012. Each meeting should have minutes taken and are open to the public. Lines are to be drawn based on census block boundaries, districts must be reasonably compact and contiguous, and not purposely dilute minority districts. Mr. Riggins recommended that the committee adopt the manual, goals, and decide the number of commission districts to propose.

Mayor Bowers suggested that the number of commission districts should remain at 21 which was an ideal number for the size of the county. Mr. Harrison seconded the motion and the motion passed with a voice vote. Mr. Gannon moved that Vickie and David prepare one plan to be submitted to the committee for review. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vallejos. The motion passed with a voice vote.

All committee meetings, minutes, public notices, maps, and any updates will be posted on the Election Commission website.

Vickie showed the committee a large map of the census blocks and explained how natural boundaries and the block population numbers play a large role in redrawing district lines.

The meeting was adjourned with the next scheduled meeting set for July 7, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. at the Election Commission office. A reminder will be sent to each committee member via email.

Submitted by,



Vickie Koelman
Administrator of Elections