



EL PASO COUNTY STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, the citizens of El Paso County and the State of Texas deserve a fair, fully transparent, impartial, and depoliticized process for the drawing of local, state legislative, and congressional districts of near equal population; and

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

WHEREAS, public input and involvement in the redistricting process will empower communities by allowing them to elect representatives who live in their communities and understand issues that are important to them and 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 drawn and kept together for effective and true representation; and

WHEREAS, voters are more likely to participate in the democratic process when they feel their vote will count and that they have a reasonable chance of electing candidates who represent their immediate community and 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; and

WHEREAS, we oppose any count of persons within a district that would exclude individuals because of their citizenship status or eligibility to vote, because all persons means all persons residing within a district and includes, but is not limited to: all adults, children, citizens, non-citizens, registered voters and non-registered voters; and

WHEREAS, the fundamental principle of representative government in this country is equal representation for equal numbers of people, because legislators serve all people – those who vote, those that may or may not vote but could, those who are citizens and those who are not.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court, that the County of El Paso supports 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.

SIGNED, this 10th day of August 2020

Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1

Commissioner David Stout, Pct. 2

Commissioner Vincent M. Perez, Pct. 3

Commissioner Carl Robinson, Pct. 4

Ricardo A. Samaniego, County Judge