



87th Legislative Session briefing: Proposed El Paso County independent citizens redistricting commission legislation

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Commissioners court options

1. Take no action – Commissioners court will draw precinct lines
2. Form a citizens redistricting advisory committee —
 - Committee would make recommendations for precinct lines
 - Commissioners Court could accept, reject or modify committee recommendations
 - Does not require legislation
3. Pass a state law delegating responsibility for drawing precinct lines to an independent citizens redistricting commission –
Some possible options:
 - Give County authority, at its option, to form commission and leave details for how such commission would operate to the County's discretion
 - Give County authority, at its option, to form commission, but specifically prescribe how such commission would operate
 - Require the County to form such commission, and specifically prescribe how such commission would operate
4. Form an advisory committee *and* seek passage of a state law.

Concerns with trying to pass a state law:

- 1. Quickly running out of time to get a bill drafted and filed**
 - Deadline to submit bills for drafting to the Texas Legislative Council is Friday, February 19
 - Deadline to file bills is Friday, March 12
 - The County has not asked a lawmaker to draft or file the bill

Concerns with trying to pass a state law:

2. Passage might require a constitutional amendment

- Commissioners courts' responsibility to draw precinct lines arises from Tex. Const. Art. 5, § 18
- Must be adopted by a two-thirds vote in the Senate (21 votes) and House (100 votes)
- Must go to *all* Texas voters, on Nov. 2021 ballot at earliest, which could delay redistricting
- If County wants to undo, would require another ballot proposition



Questions?