

*Appendix*

**Dallas County, Texas**

**2011 Decennial Redistricting Preclearance  
Submission, Exhibit C**

**STATEMENT OF CHANGE**

Dallas County, Texas is divided into four (4) election precincts for the purposes of electing the four members of the Dallas County Commissioners Court. (The County Judge is elected countywide and is the fifth member of the Court.) The 2011 redistricting in Dallas County was driven by the imbalance in population amongst the four precincts. Precinct 1 was under populated by 68,500 persons for a deviation of -11.6% from the ideal. Precinct 4 was overpopulated by 57,880 persons from the ideal for a deviation of +9.8% from the ideal.

Dallas County has had a dramatic demographic shift over the last ten years. Dallas has gained 149,240 persons between 2000 and 2010. However, the Anglo population has decreased by 198,624 persons between 2000 and 2010. The Hispanic population grew by 243,211 persons and the African American population has grown by 73,016 persons. In the approved redistricting criteria, the Commissioners Court decided, “Districts should respect population increases and take into account population decreases in Dallas County.” (see **Exhibit D**)

### **Current or Benchmark Map**

Precinct 1 is currently dominated by Anglos and has consistently voted for Republican candidates throughout the last decade. Precinct 2 under the benchmark map was also drawn as an Anglo dominated Precinct configured to elect a Republican candidate. Precinct 2 saw significant demographic change from 2001 to 2010 and is now a majority minority Precinct. Precinct 2 is currently represented by Commissioner Mike Cantrell, an Anglo Republican. Precinct 3 is 45.6% African American and was configured in 2001 to elect the candidate of choice of African American voters (Commissioner John Wiley Price) and has done so throughout the last decade. Precinct 4 was originally configured in 2001 to elect an Anglo Republican. However population growth through the decade has made the Precinct 49.3% Hispanic and 16.9% African American. In 2010, voters in Precinct 4 elected a Hispanic Democrat (Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia).

### **Substantial Equality in Population:**

As prescribed by law, decennial redistricting must strive to achieve equality of representation as a goal, *i.e.* each electoral district within a county should contain approximately the same number of people to comply with the “one person, one vote” requirement of the Federal Constitution.

The chart entitled “2001 Dallas County Commissioners Precincts – Total Population by Race” (**Exhibit L**) provides population data (based upon 2010 U.S. Census figures) for each of the current four precincts. **Exhibit L** also shows the deviation from the ideal population in

the benchmark (current) plan. After adoption of the redistricting Court Order, the four precincts will have substantial equality in population distribution, and therefore will have “equal representation.” Specifically, the deviation for the four election precincts is as follows: Precinct 1 is +1.7%, Precinct 2 is -2.3%, Precinct 3 is -3.2% and Precinct 4 is +3.7% all as shown on a chart entitled “2011 Dallas County Commissioner Precincts – Proposed Map – Deviation” attached hereto as **Exhibit M**.

#### **Consideration of a New Majority Hispanic Precinct:**

Given the explosive growth in the Hispanic Population from 2000 to 2010, members of the Commissioners Court considered the creation of a second Hispanic opportunity precinct. In attempting to draw a second Hispanic precinct, it was discovered that too much Hispanic population had to be taken from Precinct 4 (Currently represent by an Hispanic (Dr. Elba Garcia)). Taking Hispanic population out of Precinct 4 would have put Hispanics in Precinct 4 at risk of losing the ability to elect the candidate of their choice and so no such maps were produced by the Commissioners Court.

#### **A New Minority Opportunity Precinct**

The Court decided that a new district could be configured that would take account for both the dramatic population growth and population loss that occurred in the last decade. The precinct, new Precinct 1, was drawn with population from three of the four “old” or benchmark precincts. The new precinct is 48.0% Hispanic and 21.2% Black. Minority voters will have the opportunity to elect their candidate of choice in the

Democratic primary and in the general election. While population data by race and ethnicity was considered by the Commissioners Court, racial considerations were never the soul or predomination consideration. Instead, the Commissioners Court drew Precincts to adhere to the traditional redistricting criteria they adopted (which included compliance with federal law, including the **Voting Rights Act**).

### **Number Change**

The Dallas Commissioners Court voted (3 to 1) to switch the numbers on what were Precinct 1 and Precinct 2 in the current map. The old Precinct 2 was renumbered as District 1 and an election will be held in this district in 2012. Precinct 1 in the current map was given the number 2 and its voters will elect a commissioner in the 2014 elections.

During the onset of the redistricting process, the Commissioner who currently represents Precinct 1 (in the old map) announced she would not run for reelection. This arrangement meant that the newly drawn Precinct would be represented by an Anglo Republican living outside the Precinct until an election was held in 2014. Under the new configuration, the new Precinct will have an election in 2012 to elect a new commissioner while the old Precinct 1 (now Precinct 2 in the northern part of Dallas County) will be represented by the non-retiring Anglo Republican who lives in the Precinct until 2014.