

**INITIAL ASSESSMENT
OF
THE CITY OF LAMESA, TEXAS
FOR PURPOSES OF REDISTRICTING EVALUATION**

Prepared by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TAB A: Initial Assessment

The Initial Assessment is a narrative analysis of the data contained in the PL94-171 files provided by the Census Bureau, together with an explanation of the impact such data may have upon the City in light of state and federal law.

TAB B: Statistical Definitions and Determination of Total Maximum Deviation

Definitions of the various ratios, formula and procedures utilized in the analysis of City population. These ratios, formula and procedures have been largely developed in case law in the field of redistricting, together with generally recognized methods of sociological study.

NOTE: Prison inmate populations are included in the census data. However, inmates detained under felony convictions are not eligible to vote under Texas law. As such, populations of inmates held within the state prison system, either in state owned and operated facilities, or under contract in City facilities, are typically not counted in the determination of Total Maximum Deviation, or for other "one-person-one-vote" determinations. For purposes of the Initial Assessment, raw data has been acquired from the City and/or the Department of Criminal Justice regarding prison populations, and from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for persons held pending immigration cases. In subsequent census data releases, group housing data may reveal more specific information, but at this time, we are deducting prison populations from City population totals in order to arrive at a true "one-person-one-vote" analysis, and to avoid potential imbalances in population that might result of inclusion of prison population in precinct totals. City jails holding persons convicted of both felony and misdemeanor offenses, juvenile facilities, or facilities holding individuals pending resolution of pending criminal or immigration charges are included within the population counts for the City, as reflected in the census data.

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

The working file is a demographic analysis of each major City elective office elected from geographic precincts. These files analyze the population demographics of each precinct based elective office, i.e. the offices of City Council member. Prior to the 1990 census, previously existing election precinct boundaries were often described by non-physical boundaries. Since the use of computerized census maps was first implemented in 1990, based upon topological maps which contain not only physical boundaries, such as roads, streets, streams and water bodies, but also such "non-physical boundaries" as easements, municipal boundaries or other surveyed lines, but not visible on the ground, it was necessary to merely "approximate" those boundaries that were not defined by a physical boundary such as a road, watercourse, or other physical boundary. These approximations were described as Voter Tabulation Districts, or VTDs. It should be noted that the VTD was only approximation

of the actual voting boundaries, since Public Law 94-171 requires that the VTD utilize census blocks as its component parts.

In 1990, most Cities adopted election boundaries based on census blocks, but VTDs are still encountered. The boundaries utilized in this Initial Assessment are derived from the Texas Legislative Council, and have been, to the extent possible, confirmed as accurate by local officials. However, some Cities continue to have election precinct boundaries defined in a manner that is incompatible with census block-based mapping. Therefore, in some cases, you may find a discrepancy between the actual boundary in use, and the census block-based mapping boundaries used in this report. All future election precincts should be based upon census blocks to avoid any discrepancy between the actual boundary in use and the official boundary description maintained by the Texas Legislative Council.

City demographic data is depicted in chart and graphic form for both total City population as well as voting age population. While "One-Person-One-Vote" balance between the four City Council Wards is based upon the entire City population, the availability of voting age populations is also important in two respects.

First, each City should assess the size of existing election precincts. State law limits the size of election precincts of not less than 100 registered voters, and not more than 5,000 registered voters per election precinct. (See §42.006, Texas Election Code, V.T.S.C.A), with some exceptions based on the size of each City population.

Second, in Cities inhabited by a significant minority population, the need to create one or more City Council Wards that assure minority representation requires utilization of voting age information. While the actual political boundaries will be based upon total population, the viability of the resulting precinct in terms of the ability to elect requires analysis of voting age population.

TAB C: Maps

The following maps depict City populations by census block. It should be noted that in some census blocks, the total population may be very small, and the resulting color shading may therefore result in some misperception of actual population totals.

Correlation of the map depiction with the data contained in the PL94-171 is necessary to assure accuracy of any assumptions or projections for reapportionment purposes. All computer-generated matters contained in this report, including statistical ratios or formulas, are derived from information taken directly from the Public Law 94-171 files of the United States Census Bureau. Allison, Bass & Magee, LLP shall not be responsible for errors that may occur in the PL94-171 data.

Map 1: Depiction of Existing City Council Wards-City wide

Map 2: Voting or Election Districts-City Wide

Map 2: Hispanic population

Map 3: Black population

Map 4: Other Non-Anglo Population
(Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander, Other or
Multi-racial categories in excess of 3% aggregate.
Few Texas Cities will have this level of "other"
Non-Anglo population. If your City does not have more than 3%
of "other non-Anglo population, there will be no Map 4)

TAB A

INITIAL ASSESSMENT
NARRATIVE