

Mr. Dawkins:

The City Council has historically redrawn Council district boundaries not just after the decennial census, but every two years due to annexations. Traditionally the Mayor appoints a Redistricting Planning Committee comprised of the At-Large members of the City Council. After reviewing the relevant legal principles and Council's redistricting principles, the Committee typically asks staff to prepare a "least change" option. Individual Councilmembers have access to staff and the census information and often work on their own plans. Ultimately the Committee recommends a plan to the full Council.

Although this is the first time that Mayor Foxx will be involved in this process as Mayor, from a brief conversation with the Mayor's assistant Kevin Monroe, I understand that at this time Mayor Foxx intends to initiate the process previously used once final census data is available which we expect to be no later than mid-April.

I have attached materials from the 2009 redistricting process that should shed further light. Also please see my responses to the specific questions you asked below.

Bob Hagemann
Senior Deputy City Attorney

Answers to questions

● What will be the procedures and process for redrawing the district lines, and are they written? Please provide a copy.

See above explanation.

● If the process hasn't been decided, who will decide, and when, and how?

See above explanation.

● Who are the staff people who will be involved in analyzing Census data to assist with redrawing lines?

Ruchi Agarwal – Planning Department
City Attorney Mac McCarley
Senior Deputy City Attorney Bob Hagemann

● Were any of them involved in redrawing the lines following the 2000 Census? Who?

Mac was.

● Who are other resource people or experts (at state/local/national level) who will be called on for assistance?

None contemplated.

- What is the time line for moving forward through the redistricting process? What is the target date for having a plan finished?

The goal is to have the plan in place by the end of June (earlier if possible), certainly no later than before filing opens.

- What are the chief factors that will be used in redrawing the lines?

See attached.

- When will the public be invited to provide comment about the plan or the process, and how will that public participation take place?

Historically the public has been free to participate by communicating directly with the Mayor and members of the City Council through all available channels of individual communication and to speak to the full Council on the agenda item proposing adoption of a redistricting plan.

- Where is the data that was used to inform drawing the lines after the 2000 Census? We'd like to know how to see that data. Where were alternative maps considered last time – where are they, and what written material was used to explain one choice over another choice? *[The information from the last Census can help show (1) what priority different factors, such as continuity or compactness, were given, (2) what data supported the decisions to put certain sizes of racial groups in one district or another, (3) what were the population characteristics in 2000 which helps evaluate all the ways the district has changed, and (4) possible alternative maps that may be helpful in drawing new maps or showing the thinking behind the line drawing.]*

I don't know who would still have this data.

- Was the last districting plan challenged in court or elsewhere? By whom, what happened, and where are the materials involved in that case?

There have been no legal challenges in the sixteen years that the City Attorney and I have been with the City.

County Timeline

- January 11, 2011 – General outline of legal parameters
 - April 1, 2011 – Receipt of detailed Census Data
 - August 2, 2011 – Presentation of plans
 - September 6, 2011 – Adoption of New Districts

Composition of Board – The Commissioners voted to meet to discuss going to 4 year terms. No on adding districts .

Board Involvement – Commissioners approved establishing an Advisory Board.

1. The board will appoint Advisory Committee
2. The Board will provide policy guidance to committee
3. The Board considers several alternatives recommended by the committee.

Whole Precincts – The Board voted not to divide precincts in drawing districts.

Board of Education – The Board voted to work with Board Of Education to draw the same districts for both bodies. (Must be approved by Board of Education).

Incumbent Consideration – Will vote later on this

Partisan Make-up – The board voted to draw districts that will likely elect a member from a certain party. (3 Dem, 3 Rep)

Towns- The board voted not to split towns between multiple districts (except for Charlotte)

Race- The Board voted to draw 2 “minority-majority districts.

Prioritization

1. Whole Precincts
2. Race
3. Town
4. Party Make-up
5. Incumbents