

Tampa City Council Redistricting

FACT SHEET

WHAT IS REDISTRICTING AND WHY IS IT NECESSARY?

- 1) “Redistricting” is a process that addresses population change. Redistricting redefines the four single-member districts based on population change.
- 2) The Tampa City Council is composed of four single-member districts and three at-large districts. To ensure the residents of Tampa’s four single-member districts have equal representation, Florida law requires the districts to be as equal as possible in population size.
 - a. The standard is total population, not voting age population or population by race or ethnicity.
 - b. The range as a percentage of the mean population (“range”) is the key measure used to assess population equality.
 - c. The current population by district is:

Council District	Status Quo
Council District 4	97,504
Council District 5	95,069
Council District 6	93,622
Council District 7	98,990
Total	385,184
Range	5,368
Average	96,296
Range Percent of Mean Population	5.57%

- 3) Due to population change over time, the range is currently 5.57%. This range is too high.
 - a. Since Florida Law requires these districts to be as equal as possible in population size, the range should be as small as possible without violating the compact and contiguous requirement. Ideally, the range should not exceed 5%.
 - b. Thus, we would recommend options for changes in district boundaries

WHAT ARE THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS?

- 1) The Law of Florida that governs Tampa City Council redistricting is Chapter 79-573, Laws of Florida, as amended by Chapter 84-535 and Chapter 86-404 (codified in part of Section 8 of the Related Laws of the City of Tampa, as amended). The relevant Tampa ordinance is Ordinance No. 2018-129.
 - a. When dividing the population, voting precinct boundaries cannot be split to arrive at the “equal population” requirement.
 - b. The Supervisor of Elections cannot proclaim the districts until the Planning Commission has held two public hearings to discuss the boundaries and solicit comments by the public.



- c. Districts should not be “contorted” geographically into irregular or non-compact forms to arrive at either the “equal population” or the “minority district” criteria.
- d. The deadline for completion of redistricting is June 10, 2022 (i.e., 270 days before the next election).

Please send your questions or comments to:

Re: City of Tampa Redistricting (2021)
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CITY OF TAMPA ORDINANCE

CHARTER AND RELATED LAWS

ARTICLE II. - LEGISLATIVE

Section 2.01. - City Council—Composition—Districts.

There shall be a city council in which all legislative power shall be vested. The city council shall be composed of seven members, each representing a district. The territory of districts 1 through 3 shall be identical and shall be composed of the entire territory of the city. The members of the city council representing each of districts 1 through 3 shall be elected at large. The territory of districts 4 through 7 shall be determined prior to each regular municipal election by dividing the territory of the city into four districts numbered 4 through 7 containing as nearly as possible equal population as provided by law (Florida Statute 79-573, as amended), or in the absence of state law, by ordinance of the city council. Prior to November 1 of the year immediately preceding each city election (unless superseded by general or special law), the Hillsborough County City County Planning Commission (the "Planning Commission") will, using the latest published official census figures, perform the calculations necessary to make the electoral districts of the City of Tampa, Florida, as equal in population as required by the United States Constitution. The Planning Commission will hold two public hearings, no later than 270 days prior to any city election for city council. The Planning Commission will then submit this information to the city council no later than 180 days prior to city council elections. The members of the city council representing each of districts 4 through 7 shall be elected only by the electors within such districts.

(Ord. No. 8148-A, § 1, 1-6-83; Ord. No. 2018-129, § 2, 8-23-18, election of 3-5-19)

Link:

https://library.municode.com/fl/tampa/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CHRELA_PTACH_ARTIILE_S2.01CICOOMIS