



## Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:** Tuesday, December 13, 2011  
**Prepared By/Phone Number:** Deece Eckstein, 854-9754  
**Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:** Deece Eckstein, 854-9754  
**Commissioners Court Sponsor:** Judge Biscoe

### AGENDA LANGUAGE:

CONSIDER AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON REDISTRICTING PLANS FOR THE FOLLOWING TRAVIS COUNTY PRECINCTS:

- A. COUNTY COMMISSIONERS;
- B. JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND CONSTABLES; and
- C. ELECTIONS (VOTER TABULATION DISTRICTS, OR VTDs).

### BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS: A

federal court in San Antonio has ordered new redistricting plans for the congressional, state House and state Senate districts. However, the State of Texas has appealed that order to the United States Supreme Court. They have also asked the Supreme Court to stay implementation of the new plans pending the appeal. As of 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, the Supreme Court had not acted.

In the meantime, the federal court in San Antonio has also ordered that the boundaries of Voting Tabulation Districts (VTDs), or election precincts, be changed to conform to the boundary lines of the newly-ordered districts **not later than December 13, 2011**.

At the Court's direction, a team from the Tax Assessor-Collector's and County Clerk's offices has been working with a GIS consultant to develop new VTD boundary lines that:

- a) comport with the new court-ordered lines for congressional, state House and state senate districts; and
- b) reflect the Court's intent as expressed in the Commissioner and JP/Constable precinct lines it adopted on October 4, 2011.

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to Cheryl Aker in the County Judge's office, [Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:Cheryl.Aker@co.travis.tx.us) by Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m. for the next week's meeting.

That team is completing its work and will provide a new VTD plan with supporting materials to the Court. Our goal is for members of the Court to receive those backup materials on Thursday, December 8.

**ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:** IGR requests that the Court adopt a new plan for VTDs, to be effective during the 2012 election season.

The Court should keep in mind that legal challenges to the court-ordered maps continue, and that it is possible that courts may order different plans and even different election timetables.

**FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:** The Court has previously approved (on November 22, 2011) setting aside \$5,000 to pay the GIS consultant for this work. IGR will keep the Court apprised of the progress of the map-making process.

**REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:** None.

**NAMES, PHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES OF PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE AFFECTED BY OR BE INVOLVED WITH THIS REQUEST:**

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