

**SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
RESOLUTION ADOPTING CRITERIA FOR USE
IN REDISTRICTING 2011 PROCESS**

WHEREAS, the Socorro Independent School District Board of Trustees ("Socorro ISD" or "District") has certain responsibilities for redistricting under federal and state law including but not limited to Amendments 14 and 15 to the United States Constitution, U.S.C.A. West 2006) and the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.A. §§ 1973 and 1973c (West 2010); and Tex. Gov't Code Ann. §§ 2058.001 and 2058.002 (Vernon 2008); and

WHEREAS, on review of the 2010 Census data, it appears that a population imbalance exists requiring redistricting of Socorro ISD's trustee districts; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the District to comply with the Voting Rights Act and with all other relevant law, including *Shaw v. Reno* jurisprudence; and

WHEREAS, a set of established redistricting criteria will serve as a framework to guide the District in the consideration of districting plans; and

WHEREAS, established criteria will provide the District a means by which to evaluate and measure proposed plans; and

WHEREAS, redistricting criteria will assist the District in its efforts to comply with all applicable federal and state laws.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED, that the Socorro Independent School District, in its adoption of a redistricting plan for trustee districts, will adhere to the following criteria to the greatest extent possible when drawing district boundaries:

1. Where possible, easily identifiable geographic boundaries should be followed.
2. Communities of interest should be maintained in a single district, where possible, and attempts should be made to avoid splitting neighborhoods.
3. To the extent possible, districts should be composed of whole voting precincts.
4. Although it is recognized that existing districts will have to be altered to reflect new population distribution, any districting plan should, to the extent possible, be based on existing districts.
5. Districts must be configured so that they are relatively equal in total population according to the 2010 federal census. In no event should the total deviation between the largest and the smallest district exceed ten percent.
6. The districts should be compact and composed of contiguous territory. Compactness may contain a functional, as well as a geographical dimension.
7. Consideration may be given to the preservation of incumbent-constituency relations by recognition of the residence of incumbents and their history in representing certain areas.

8. The plan should be narrowly tailored to avoid retrogression in the position of racial minorities and language minorities as defined in the Voting Rights Act with respect to their effective exercise of the electoral franchise.

9. The plan should not fragment a geographically compact minority community or pack minority voters in the presence of polarized voting so as to create liability under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1973.

The District will review all plans in light of these criteria and will evaluate how well each plan conforms to the criteria.

Any plan submitted to the District by a citizen for its consideration should be a complete plan- i.e., it should show the full number of trustee districts and should redistrict the entire District. The District may decline to consider any plan that is not a complete plan.


All plans submitted by citizens, as well as plans submitted by staff, consultants, and members of the District's Board of Trustees should conform to these criteria.

This resolution shall be effective upon passage.

BE IT SO ORDERED.

Adopted on this ~~day~~ of 16th August, 2011.

SOCORRO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By: 
MICHAEL A. NAJERA, Vice President
Board of Trustees

ATTEST:


ANGELICA RODRIGUEZ, Secretary
Board of Trustees