



City of Hewitt, Texas

Redistricting Process

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Some 2020 Census Data

Population: (2020) 16,026 * (2010) 13,549

- Male 47.50% Female 52.50%
- White 68.9% Black 6.6% Hispanic 18.7% Veterans 1,167 Foreign born 5.00%

Voting Age Population (VAP) 78.20%

Owner housing: 73.00%; Median value: \$167,500

Non-English spoken at home, age 5 years+, 13.80%

By 25 years:

- High school or higher 92.80%
- Bachelor's degree or higher 32.60%

Median household income (2019 dollars) \$72,077

- Per capita income (2019 dollars) \$32,834
- Persons in poverty 7.00%

Land area in square miles, (in 2010) 6.82

* See slide six



The “Rules” of Redistricting

The equal protection One-Person One-Vote protects against over or under representation.

- Counter intuitively, one-person one-vote does not refer to voters.

Equal Protection-the “Prime Directive”

“[T]he Constitution imposes one ground rule for the arrangements of local government: a requirement that units with general governmental powers over an entire geographic area not be apportioned among single-member districts of substantially unequal population.”

This balance need not be perfect, but may not exceed 10%, without a compelling justification.

- **In Hewitt with total population of 16,026, the ideal Ward would be 5,342.**
- If the Ward with the highest population has more than 534 persons more than the Ward with the lowest population, the maximum deviation would exceed 10%.

Hewitt City		Benchmark				2/26/22
Ideal	Total	White	Black	Other	Hispanic	Tot. Min.
5342	16026	10425	1588	1244	2769	5601
		65.05%	9.91%	7.76%	17.28%	34.95%
Ward One	2883	1731	337	227	588	1152
(2459)		60.04%	11.69%	7.87%	20.40%	39.96%
Ward Two	6805	4257	781	571	1196	2548
1463		62.56%	11.48%	8.39%	17.58%	37.44%
Ward Three	6338	4437	470	446	985	1901
996		70.01%	7.42%	7.04%	15.54%	29.99%
	Max Variation	3922	3922	Max Deviation	73.42%	

Plans to balance population must avoid unlawful discrimination

The 5th and 14th amendments prohibit the federal and state governments from drawing distinctions among individuals based solely on differences irrelevant to any legitimate governmental objective, including race and ethnicity.

This guarantee was extended to the right to vote by the 15th amendment.

§1 “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”

§ 2 “The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

Congress exercised this power in the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965, as amended:

- **In 1975** — brought Texas under the mandatory preclearance provisions for the first time
- **In 1982** — added an “effects test” to the existing “intent test”
 - There is no longer a need to prove a specific “intent” to discriminate.
 - A plan with a discriminatory effect, whether intended or not, is a violation of the VRA.

An additional requirement is imposed by Hewitt’s Charter

Section 2.1 of Hewitt’s Charter provides that: “each ward shall contain *approximately* the same number of qualified voters.”

While the charter does not define “qualified voter,” Title 2, Ch. 11, §11.002 (a), of the Election Code does: “In this code, ‘qualified voter’ means a person who . . . (6) is a registered voter.”

Any otherwise lawful plan must then be measured against its balance of registered voters.

- This could be time consuming or costly or both.

An additional note: the census count is at odds with the registered voter count.

	Census =/+ age 18	Registered Voters
Ward One	2182	2412
Ward Two	5451	3229
Ward Three	4873	4891

Voting Age	Total	White	Black	Other	Hispanic	Tot. Min.
	12506	8559	1199	853	1895	3947
		68.44%	9.59%	6.82%	15.15%	31.56%
Ward One	2182	1394	238	154	396	788
Reg. Voters	2412	63.89%	10.91%	7.06%	18.15%	36.11%
Ward Two	5451	3605	611	411	824	1846
Reg. Voters	3229	66.13%	11.21%	7.54%	15.12%	33.87%
Ward Three	4873	3560	350	288	675	1313
Reg. Voters	4891	73.06%	7.18%	5.91%	13.85%	26.94%