

TO: Sam Kooiker
FROM: Jim Preston
SUBJECT: Redistricting
DATE: March 31, 2004

You had asked “what is the current process for drawing ward/precinct lines?” (see attached). I called you on March 25 to get clarification on your question. You stated that you were looking for the process that was used to establish the ward/precinct lines following the 2000 census. The following is a summary of the process to the best that my staff and I could recall.

The State Legislature established the district boundaries in 2001.

My staff, with assistance from the County Auditor’s Office and staff from the GIS office, prepared a proposed map using the following criteria:

1. Population in each ward must be within plus or minus five percent (5%) of one-fifth (1/5) of the total City population, based on the 2000 census.
2. Census blocks cannot be divided
3. Keep all current Council members and School Board members in their respective ward/area.
4. Utilize newly formed legislative district boundary lines so that joint elections can be conducted with minimal confusion and effort on behalf of the voter.
5. Along an easily identifiable or natural boundary (streets or ridges)
6. Maintain as many existing precinct lines as possible to keep voters in their current ward/precinct.

This criteria and proposal were presented to the Legal and Finance Committee and the Council. Council members were advised that the information was available on the computer in the caucus room and they were free to make adjustments. Staff was available to provide technical assistance.

The new wards and precincts were approved by the Council on February 4, 2002. The map was amended on April 15, 2002, and was again amended on January 6, 2003.

cc: Mayor Shaw, Council members, Julie Pearson, Coleen Schmidt, Connie Ewing, Jeri Lynn