

1 **BY AUTHORITY**

2
3 RESOLUTION NO. CR21-1059
4 SERIES OF 2021

COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:
Finance & Governance

5
6 **A RESOLUTION**

7
8 **A resolution establishing principles and procedures for developing a plan for**
9 **redrawing the boundaries of council districts within the City and County of**
10 **Denver.**
11

12 **WHEREAS**, Section 3.1.2 of the Charter of the City and County of Denver requires the City
13 Council to change the boundaries of the Council districts at least once every ten years based upon
14 the most recent United States decennial census or other official population studies; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Census Bureau has completed the 2020 decennial census and will
16 publish the results by September 30th, 2021; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Ordinance No. 242, Series of 2012, adopted the current Council district
18 boundaries.
19

20 **NOW, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

21 **SECTION 1.** The Council adopts the following principles and procedures for developing a
22 redistricting plan for Council districts:

23 1. Redistricting will respect one-person-one-vote principles as required by the
24 Constitution and the requirement for proportionality as contained in the Charter. The population
25 norm for Council districts will be established by dividing the population of the entire City by eleven,
26 the number of district seats. The sum of the percentage by which the population of the largest
27 district exceeds the norm and the smallest district falls short of the norm will not exceed ten
28 percent. The 2020 census will serve as the source for all population data.

29 2. District lines will be drawn to avoid subjecting the city to equal protection claims
30 arising on behalf of any person in a protected class based on race, ethnicity, or national origin.
31 Race and ethnicity will be taken into account to the extent necessary to comply with the Voting
32 Rights Act. However, race and ethnicity will not be the predominant factor determining the location
33 of district boundaries if to do so would subordinate the other traditional race-neutral districting
34 principles set forth herein. District lines will be drawn with the intent to avoid subjecting the city to
35 equal protection claims arising on behalf of any person in a protected class based on race,
36 ethnicity, or national origin.
37

1 3. District lines will be drawn to create districts that are as compact as possible and
2 contain contiguous territory. District lines will follow obvious geographic boundaries to the extent
3 possible.

4 4. Council districts will be comprised of whole election precincts, as required by § 3.1.2
5 of the Charter of the City and County of Denver. Council will urge the Clerk & Recorder to draw
6 precinct boundaries that will facilitate reasonable Council district boundaries.

7 5. Council will make every effort to consolidate colloquial neighborhoods within one
8 district to avoid multiple representation and to maintain as much as possible the existing
9 relationships between council members and their present constituents. In order to help accomplish
10 this goal, Council will urge the Clerk & Recorder to draw the boundaries of each precinct wholly
11 within a neighborhood.

12 6. Council will endeavor to preserve logical communities of interest and to preserve the
13 core of existing constituencies traditionally represented by a particular Council district.

14 7. Redistricting will to the greatest extent possible not result in two incumbent district
15 Council members legally capable of running for re-election in 2023 residing in the same district.
16

17 **SECTION 2.** The Council adopts the following procedures for developing a redistricting plan
18 for Council districts:

19 1. The City Council President has appointed a Redistricting Committee responsible for
20 coordinating the redistricting process and working with Denver GIS within the City's Technology
21 Services Division to obtain the tabulations and maps of the City and County of Denver.

22 2. The Redistricting Committee will adopt a meeting schedule that is convenient to the
23 public and Council members. Redistricting Committee meetings will be conducted in conformity
24 with Denver's open meeting laws (D.R.M.C. 2-31, *et seq.*). Denver TV Channel 8 will broadcast all
25 meetings on television and through electronic means.

26 3. Council members and their staff will have access to the computer equipment,
27 software and database used to prepare the redistricting plans. Council members will have access
28 to Council staff for research and mapping. Council will purchase software that will enhance public
29 participation to the redistricting process with a free public-facing web-based portal that will allow
30 members of the public to draw their own maps in compliance with the city Charter.

31 4. Video of the Redistricting Committee's meetings and all documents and maps will be
32 available on the City's website at www.DenverGov.org/CityCouncil. Council staff will maintain a
33 complete record of all meetings, hearings, reports, correspondence, exhibits, and work papers
34 throughout the redistricting process, and any documents presented in the redistricting meetings will

1 be available for inspection and in print at the City Council Office. City Council will maintain a
2 designated Redistricting webpage at www.Denvergov.org/redistricting.

3 5. The City Council will make every effort to communicate the redistricting process to
4 interested constituent groups by conducting outreach through various established media and
5 communication outlets. City Council will make language access a priority by translating written
6 materials, offering translation services for public meetings, and acquiring software that has been
7 translated. City Council will receive public input on communities of interest by holding a mapping
8 drive through www.Representable.org. The Redistricting Committee will schedule no less than six
9 public meetings during the redistricting process to receive comments from interested parties.

10 6. City Council will hold at least one public hearing prior to voting on the ordinance
11 adopting a redistricting plan for City Council.

12 7. The Redistricting Committee will submit its proposed redistricting plan to the City
13 Attorney's Office for review and legal assessment prior to submission to the Council. The City
14 Attorney's Office legal assessment will become part of the record of the redistricting process.

15

16 **Section 3.** The Clerk of the City and County of Denver shall attest and affix the seal of the
17 City and County of Denver to this resolution.

18

19 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE:

20 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE:

21 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL: _____

22 _____ - PRESIDENT

23 ATTEST: _____ - CLERK AND RECORDER,
24 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
25 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

26

27 PREPARED BY: Emily Lapel, Legislative Policy Analyst DATE: 9-8-21

28 Pursuant to section 13-9, D.R.M.C., this proposed resolution has been reviewed by the Office of
29 the City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form, and have no legal objection to the proposed
30 resolution. The proposed resolution **is not** submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to
31 §3.2.6 of the Charter.

32 Kristin M. Bronson, City Attorney

33 BY: _____, Assistant City Attorney DATE: _____