

BEFORE THE METRO COUNCIL

FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING)
CRITERIA FOR METRO COUNCIL DISTRICT)
REAPPORTIONMENT AND DECLARING AN)
EMERGENCY)

ORDINANCE NO. 21-1469

Introduced by Chief Operating Officer
Marissa Madrigal with concurrence by
Council President Lynn Peterson

WHEREAS, Section 31(1) of the Metro Charter establishes the minimum criteria for reapportionment of Council districts, requiring such districts as nearly as practicable to be of equal population and to be contiguous and geographically compact; and

WHEREAS, Section 31(1) of the Metro Charter further provides that the Council may by ordinance specify additional criteria for districts that are consistent with this section; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2021, Metro received data compiled by the 2020 U.S. Census; and

WHEREAS, the Metro Council wishes to set forth the criteria to be used in reapportionment of Council districts; now therefore

THE METRO COUNCIL ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:

In addition to the criteria for council district reapportionment contained in Section 31(1) of the Metro Charter, which requires that “as nearly as practicable, all council districts shall be of equal population and shall be contiguous and geographically compact,” the Council also specifies each of the following additional criteria in developing an apportionment plan:

1. The apportionment will comply with all applicable federal and state laws pertinent to voting rights of electors.
2. No council district will vary in population more than five percent (5.0%) from the average population of the district. “Average population” is that amount equal to one-sixth of the total Metro area population based on the data compiled by the 2020 U.S. Census. The Metro Council interprets the maximum variance of five percent to mean that no district may be more than five percent larger or more than five percent smaller in population than the average population.
3. While observing the maximum five percent population variance based on the 2020 census data required in Section (2) of this Ordinance, the Council will make every effort to create districts with population variances of zero percent (0.0%) based on the data compiled by the 2020 US Census.
4. In developing the reapportionment plan, the Council will give consideration to existing precincts and, to the maximum extent possible after meeting all other applicable criteria, will maintain communities of common interest. Such communities of common interest are represented in:
 - a. Cities under 20,000 in population
 - b. School districts
 - c. Compact minority or underrepresented communities and groups

- d. Corridors identified in the 2040 Growth Plan or corridors of regional significance in the Regional Transportation Plan
 - e. Federally-recognized transit districts within the Metro boundary
 - f. Regional centers, town centers, and investment areas identified in the 2040 Growth Plan
 - g. Established neighborhood associations and community planning and participation organizations
5. This ordinance being necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the Metro area for the reason that the work of reapportionment proceed without delay as stipulated in the Metro Charter, an emergency is declared to exist, and this ordinance shall take effect immediately pursuant to Metro Charter Section 38(1).

ADOPTED by the Metro Council this 21st day of October, 2021.

Lynn Peterson, Council President

Attest:

Approved as to Form:

Jaye Cromwell, Recording Secretary

Carrie MacLaren, Metro Attorney