

**CITY OF WHARTON
ORDINANCE NO. 2021-24**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS ESTABLISHING NEW SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICT BOUNDARIES FOR THE CURRENT FOUR CITY COUNCIL SINGLE-MEMBER DISTRICTS; ESTABLISHING: FINDINGS OF FACT, PROPER NOTICE & MEETING, AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Charter for the City of Wharton (“City”) calls for four (4) City Council members to be elected by each of the four (4) geographic districts in the City; and,

WHEREAS, the most recent decennial Census has revealed that the City’s districts must be redrawn so that they are within the ten percent (10%) Total Maximum Deviation required by the “one person, one vote” constitutional principal; and,

WHEREAS, the City has certain responsibilities when redrawing district boundaries under federal and state law including, but not limited to, Amendments 14 and 15 to the United States Constitution, the Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.A. § 1973, *et seq.*, and Texas Government Code §§ 2058.001 and 2058.002; and,

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

WHEREAS, the City Council passed Resolution No. 2021-110, for use in creation of Council Member districts, which formally adopted redistricting criteria and a defined project timeline that will serve as a framework to guide the City in the consideration of redistricting plans and assist the City in its efforts to comply with all applicable federal and state laws; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council has considered various plans prepared by the City’s legal consultant and demographer for the redrawing of the four (4) City Council single-member districts; and,

WHEREAS, notice of all public hearings on the redrawing of the four (4) City Council single-member districts was timely published in the local newspaper so as to give the City’s residents an opportunity to attend and comment on the redistricting plans recommended by the City Council and those prepared by the City’s legal consultant and demographer; and,

WHEREAS, letters soliciting feedback and participation were sent to known civic leaders; and,

WHEREAS, notices, draft plans, and related documentation were posted on the City's website throughout this process; and,

WHEREAS, the City has received input from civic leaders and citizens generally supporting the City's process and the proposed plan; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council is of the opinion that the plan for the redrawing of the four (4) City Council single-member districts, a copy of which is attached hereto as *Exhibit "A"* and incorporated herein by reference, best meets the redistricting criteria previously adopted by the City Council, is preferable to the other plans submitted and considered, and should be adopted by the City for Council Member elections to be held on May 7, 2022, and subsequent elections until redistricting becomes necessary following the release of the 2030 Census data.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of Wharton, Texas, that:

1. The foregoing recitals are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted and incorporated herein as findings of fact.
2. The City Council finds that the plan for the redrawing of the four (4) City Council single-member districts, which is attached hereto as "*Exhibit A*", and incorporated herein by reference, satisfies and balances the redistricting criteria previously adopted by the City Council.
3. Based upon the foregoing findings and criteria, the City Council hereby approves the redistricting plan for the redrawing of the four (4) City Council single-member districts attached hereto as "*Exhibit A*", such plan to become effective on the latter of the date this Ordinance is adopted or upon preclearance by the Voting Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice.
4. The City Council directs City staff and its legal consultant and demographer to submit the redistricting plan attached hereto as "*Exhibit A*" to the Voting Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice for preclearance under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.
5. It is found that the meeting at which this Ordinance was approved was properly noticed and held in strict compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Ch. 551 Texas Government Code.

PASSED & APPROVED ON this 13th day of December 2021, by a vote of 7 (*yeas*) to 0 (*nays*) to 0 (*abstentions*) of the City Council of the City of Wharton, Texas.

CITY OF WHARTON, TEXAS:

By: *Tim Barker*
Tim Barker
Mayor

ATTEST:

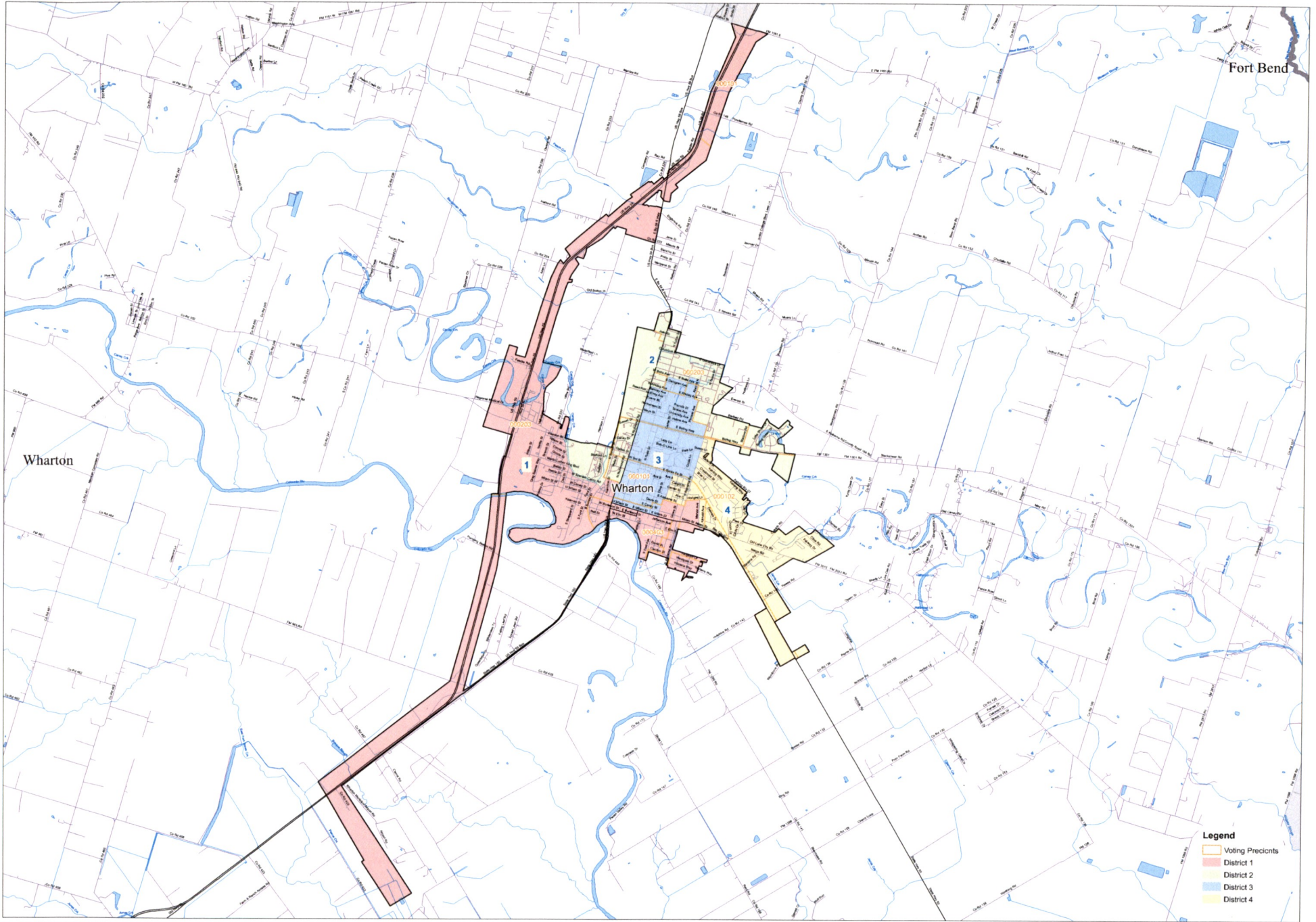
Paula Favors
Paula Favors
City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Alan J. Bojorquez, Attorney-at-Law



EXHIBIT "A" – APPROVED REDISTRICTING PLAN



DISTRICT	Total Population Tabulation				Demographics as a Percent of Total Population															
	All Persons	Target	Dev.	Difference	White	Black	%	Hispanic	%	Amer Indian	%	Asian	%	Hawaiian	%	Other Race	%	Two or More Races	%	
1	2,086	2,157	-3.14%	-68	205	9.81%	1,007	48.20%	821	39.30%	1	0.05%	8	0.38%	0	0.00%	6	0.29%	41	1.96%
2	2,123	2,157	-1.56%	-34	417	19.64%	623	29.35%	1,022	48.14%	3	0.14%	13	0.61%	0	0.00%	2	0.09%	43	2.03%
3	2,298	2,157	6.55%	141	926	40.30%	384	16.71%	897	39.03%	0	0.00%	18	0.78%	0	0.00%	7	0.30%	66	2.87%
4	2,117	2,157	-1.84%	-40	915	43.22%	358	16.91%	791	37.36%	4	0.19%	6	0.28%	0	0.00%	11	0.52%	32	1.51%
Total	8,627		9.89%		2,463	28.55%	2,372	27.50%	3,531	40.93%	8	0.09%	45	0.52%	0	0.00%	26	0.30%	182	2.11%

**City of Wharton, Texas
Draft Map A**

Data Source:
2020 TIGER/LINE GEOGRAPHY
2020 CENSUS (PL 94-171) SUMMARY FILE

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

