



City of Albuquerque Redistricting Committee Background and Initial Concepts Summary

Background

The primary redistricting objective is to adjust city council district boundaries to account for population shifts that have occurred over the past decade, such that after redistricting the city council districts are substantially equal in population. Albuquerque's districts have experienced uneven growth in the past 10 years and are currently not equal in population.

Districts must be substantially equal in population, with the ideal total population of a district being 62,727. Districts may vary from the ideal population by plus or minus 5% in order to accommodate other traditional districting principles, such as compactness and communities of interest (i.e., keeping neighborhood intact).

Currently there are three wholly contained city council districts west of the Rio Grande. Combined, these three westside districts exceed the ideal population by approximately 14,500 people. This is about a quarter of a district. Thus, the westside districts need to shed a significant amount of population to a district crossing over from east of the Rio Grande.

Furthermore, precincts within a city council district must be contiguous. Thus, districts would need to cross the Rio Grande in an area in which the city boundaries are contiguous between east and west of the river. The areas along the Rio Grande in which contiguity exists are: 1) between Central Ave and I-40, and 2) south of Central Ave. These are the only areas in which districts can cross the river and still maintain contiguity.

By presenting different approaches to this critical issue, early on, we will be able to receive Committee feedback to further refine the preferred options in future meetings. These different approaches, include: 1) a district crossing the Rio Grande north of Central Avenue only, between Central Avenue and I-40, 2) a district crossing the Rio Grande south of Central Avenue only, 3) a district crossing the Rio Grande both north and south of Central Avenue.

There are also different approaches to addressing the population shifts east of the river.

Concept descriptions are below.

Concept A

Objective: Minimal change plan to account for population changes

- No changes to Districts 3, 4, & 9
- District 2 boundary moves west crossing the river between Central and I-40 to Coors to take up the excess westside population
- District 1 boundary moves north to remove excess population from District 5
- Minimal changes to districts 6, 7, and 8

Concept B

Objective: Remove westside's excess population by using District 2 to cross the river south of Central rather than north of Central

- Very similar to Concept A especially on east side of city and District 5
- District 2 moves west to cross the river south of Central to Coors Blvd
- Boundary between Districts 2 and 6 moves east to University between Central and Gibson
- Boundary between Districts 1 and 3 moves north to I-40 west of Coors
- District 3 is now a SW Mesa district having lost its population east of Coors

Concept C

Objective: Consolidate westside neighborhoods south of I-40 between Coors and the Rio Grande in District 2

- District 2 crosses the river to Coors north and south of Central
- Boundary between Districts 1 and 3 held at I-40
- Minor changes in the heights districts

Concept D

Objective: Different orientation of the east side districts

- District 9 is a Four Hills/foothills district
- District 8 becomes a far Northeast Heights district spanning the northern part of the city
- District 4 starts at Candelaria and extends north to the southern boundary of District 8
- District 7 stays mostly south of Candelaria and north of Lomas
- West of the river is the same as Concept A with District 2 crossing the river between I-40 and Central to Coors

Concept E

Objective: Distribute downtown area between two districts

- District 2 boundary crosses the river between I-40 and Central to Coors, and south of Central east to Old Coors
- The parts of downtown south of Central, and areas south of Coal go into District 6
- District 2 boundary moves east to Carlisle
- District 7 boundary moves north, and eastern boundary is Wyoming
- Districts 8 and 9 boundaries move west to Wyoming