

## Tampa City Council Redistricting FACT SHEET

### WHAT IS REDISTRICTING AND WHY IS IT NECESSARY?

- “Redistricting” is a process that addresses population change. Redistricting redefines the four single-member districts based on population change.
- The Tampa City Council is composed of four single-member districts and three at-large districts. In order to ensure the residents of Tampa’s four single-member districts have equal representation, Florida law requires the districts to be as equal as possible in population size. The standard is total population, not voting age population or population by race or ethnicity.
- The "range as a percentage of the average" is a key measure examined when determining the "as equal as possible" criteria.
- Due to population change over time, the range as a percentage of the mean is currently 3.1%. The current population by district is:

District	Population
4	87470
5	90190
6	87490
7	88410
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>353560</b>
Mean (average)	88390
Population Range	2720
Range as percent of the mean	3.1%

- As of April 1, 2017, the City of Tampa’s Population Estimate is 353,560. The Average Population per District should be 88,390. However, District 5 has the largest population (90,190) and District 4 has the lowest population (87,470).
- Since Florida Law requires these districts to be as equal as possible in population size, the range should be as small as possible without violating the compact and contiguous requirement.

### WHAT ARE THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS?

- The Law of Florida that governs Tampa City Council redistricting is Chapter 79-573, Laws of Florida, as amended by Chapter 84-535 and Chapter 86-404 (codified in part of Section 8 of the Related Laws of the City of Tampa, as amended). The relevant Tampa ordinance is Ordinance No. 2000-212.
- When dividing the population, precinct boundaries cannot be split in order to arrive at the “equal population” requirement.
- The Supervisor of Elections cannot proclaim the districts until the Planning Commission has held a public hearing to discuss the boundaries and solicit comments by the public.
- Districts should not be “contorted” geographically into irregular or non-compact forms in order to arrive at either the “equal population” or the “minority district” criteria.
- The deadline for completion of redistricting is April 1 of the year preceding the election.

# CITY OF TAMPA ORDINANCE

## ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS\*

STATE LAW REFERENCES: FLORIDA ELECTION CODE, F.S. CH. 97 ET SEQ.

Sec. 8.03. - [Redivision of election districts.]

In the year immediately preceding the year in which regular elections shall be held for electing the various officers to serve as city officials, but no later than April 1 of that preceding year, all of the territory then included within the corporate limits of said city shall be redivided by the elections officer, upon the recommendation and with the approval of the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission, into seven council districts, three of those districts being identical with the territorial boundaries of the city, and four districts being divisions of the entire city, each containing as nearly as possible equal population, while maintaining the integrity of precinct boundaries. Said districts and their boundaries shall not be numbered and proclaimed by said officer until the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission has held at least one public hearing to discuss the said boundaries and to solicit comments by the public. The public hearing shall be noticed in a newspaper of general circulation in the city, once a week for 2 consecutive weeks, and shall be placed in an area of the newspaper other than the classified section. Such notice shall be no smaller than 4 inches by 6 inches and shall contain the time and location of such public hearing and the purpose thereof. The public hearing(s) shall be held after 7:30 p.m. Any time after the public hearing(s) the districts and their boundaries shall thereupon be numbered and proclaimed by the elections officer and notices of the same shall be published once a week for 2 consecutive weeks in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the city and shall be placed in an area of the newspaper other than the classified section. In determining the population in the council districts and the precincts, the elections officer shall base the determination according to the latest published official census figures, federal or state, or the "Population and Housing Estimates" as promulgated yearly by the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission, whichever shall be the most current.

(Laws of Fla., Ch. 79-573, § 3; Ord. No. 8148-A, § 7, 1-6-83; Laws of Fla., Ch. 84-535, § 1; Laws of Fla., Ch. 86-404, § 1; Ord. No. 2000-212, § 1, 8-17-00)