

TOWN OF LITTLE ELM

ORDINANCE NO. 1697

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF LITTLE ELM, TEXAS, ADOPTING A NEW REDISTRICTING PLAN AND REVISING TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER ELECTORAL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES TO REBALANCE THE POPULATION BETWEEN THE ELECTORAL DISTRICTS BASED ON ESTIMATED POPULATION INCREASES IN THE TOWN SINCE THE 2010 CENSUS; PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN FINDINGS OF FACT; ADOPTING AND CORRECTING THE OFFICIAL COUNCIL ELECTORAL DISTRICT MAP; PROVIDING NOTICE TO DENTON COUNTY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town of Little Elm (“Town”) is a home rule municipal corporation organized and existing by virtue of the Constitution and laws of the State of Texas and by its Charter adopted on May 1, 2001; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council for the Town of Little Elm, Texas has certain responsibilities for redistricting under federal and state law including but not limited to Amendments 14 and 15 to the United States Constitution; the Voting Rights Act, 52 U.S.C.A. §10301; article XI, section 5 of the Texas Constitution; and Tex. Gov’t Code Ann. §§ 2058.001 and 2058.002; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor have certain responsibilities for redistricting under the City Charter, as provided by Section 2.03 which specifies that the boundaries of the single member districts within the Town shall be as equal in population as practical and reviewed and updated by the Town Council every four (4) years; and

WHEREAS, the City engaged the law firm of Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP to act as the City’s redistricting consultant, including advising and assisting the Town Council in preparation of a new redistricting plan in compliance with applicable requirements of state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, the Town has determined, based on the 2020 Census, that existing council electoral districts in the Town of Little Elm are substantially unequal in population and should therefore be redrawn; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to be in compliance with all applicable state and federal law, in addition to providing council member electoral districts that honor one’s right to vote; and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2022, the Town Council adopted redistricting criteria to assist the Town in developing redistricting plans that comply with applicable federal and state laws, and the adopted redistricting criteria were applied in the development of the City’s new redistricting plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council finds that the attached map of the new council member electoral districts reflect the division of the Town of Little Elm into four (4) districts that satisfy all legal requirements, including the U.S. and Texas Constitution, the Federal Voting Rights Act, the Town Charter, and all of the Criteria established by Town Council at the outset of this process; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LITTLE ELM, TEXAS:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS OF FACT. The above and foregoing premises are true and correct and are incorporated herein and made a part hereof for all purposes.

SECTION 2. ADOPTION OF PLAN. The boundaries of the four (4) Town Council member electoral districts are hereby modified, amended, and redrawn for the purposes of apportioning the population of the Town of Little Elm as illustrated on the attached Council District Map, attached, and incorporated by reference into this ordinance.

SECTION 3. ELECTION PRECINCTS. The Town Attorney is hereby instructed to send a copy of this ordinance and the newly adopted map to the proper officials of Denton County and the Department of Justice in compliance with all applicable Federal and State regulations so that revised election precincts are effective beginning 2023.

SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. That this Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and publication in accordance with and as provided by law and the Town Charter, in order to be in effect for application to the Town's May 2023 general election.

PASSED AND APPROVED this the 6th day of December, 2022.

TOWN OF LITTLE ELM, TEXAS

Curtis J. Cornelious, Mayor

ATTEST:

Caitlan Biggs, Town Secretary

