



Geographic Planning & Demographic Services

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MEMORANDUM

W. Feliciana Parish Council 2020 Census Election District Determination (REVISED COUNTS)

After each census, any jurisdiction that elects its members by district must examine their new census counts in their current election districts. That process of review is referred to as a determination and is the first step in the redistricting process all jurisdictions must undertake after the census reapportionment data is released. This step determines if rebalancing of the election districts is necessary.

For your determination step, I have computed the new 2020 Census population counts into each of the current election districts. The average, or ideal district population is calculated by dividing the 2020 W. Feliciana Parish population count of 10,045 (after deducting the adult prison population) by the four Parish Council election districts. That provides the ideal district population count if all the election districts represent the exact same number of people. Here that ideal count calculates to 2,511 persons.

Using that number to compare with, the chart below shows the 2020 total population counts for each election district, the difference or deviation from the ideal count, and that difference shown as a percentage. The numbers in this chart are corrected from the original chart issued on 8/18/21.

W. Feliciana Parish Council 2020 Election District Population Determinations (Adult Prison Population Excluded)								
District	District Population	Average District Pop	Deviation	% Deviation	White	% White	Black	% Black
A	1,798	2,511	-713	-28%	799	44%	935	52%
B	2,314	2,511	-197	-8%	941	41%	1,216	53%
C	3,263	2,511	752	30%	2,773	85%	296	9%
D	2,670	2,511	159	6%	2,198	82%	310	12%

Average District 2020 Population: 2,511. Total Parish Population 10,045 after the Adult Prison Population is Excluded.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 PL 94-171 Datafile. Compiled by GPDS, LLC

The variance, or difference from the ideal district population is expressed as a percentage of the population deviation. That is the actual count of the election district subtracted from the ideal district count and then that difference is calculated as a percentage. State and Federal law requires that if any district that is outside a +/-5% deviation from the ideal population then redistricting is necessary to rebalance the election districts among each other. That goes to the long-held premise that each district is equal and should represent approximately the same number of people; often referred to as one man-one vote.

Since the determination has shown that Districts A, B, C, and D are outside the allowable deviation range, then the election boundaries must be adjusted to rebalance the population counts in each district to within +/-5% of the ideal district number. That process is referred to as redistricting. Besides the population balancing, the preservation of minority voting strength in the traditional majority-minority district(s) is also a primary criterion in any new plan.

State law, in RS 33:1411, has a requirement that a formal statement must be made that indicates that a review of the 2020 population counts for each district has been done and a declaration of whether redistricting is required or not. I have prepared the ordinance in accordance with that State requirement for the Parish Council's approval. The ordinance will reflect the 2020 election district numbers shown above and declare that reapportionment is required.

In the near future I would like to schedule an initial workshop to discuss in more detail the various requirements that must be followed in redistricting the election districts and then start formulating a new plan together with you and the public. I will work with the Parish President's office to set up a schedule that is convenient. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to call me if you have any questions.

I look forward to working with the Council again for this 2020 redistricting cycle!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hefner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mike Hefner, Chief Demographer