

**Supplement to the Report to the City Council  
on the  
Revised Redistricting Staff Plan of May 9, 2011**

By Jerry Wood  
May 17, 2011

**Evaluation of Additional Plan**

This supplement is to evaluate a plan by **Mr. Greg Wythe** that was inadvertently omitted from the portion of my May 9, 2011 report in which I evaluated plans and suggestions submitted by the public. With the addition of this plan, a total of fourteen plans were submitted to the City by the May 6, 2011 deadline, and ten of those were evaluated to determine whether they met the requirements of the Voting Rights Act and the City's redistricting criteria. As previously explained, four plans clearly did not meet the requirements.

The Wythe plan is similar to the Guerra One Plan, in that it creates a District J which stretches from Spring Branch to the Northline/Northside area of District H. It differs from the Guerra One Plan in the exact boundaries of District H. By comparison to the Guerra One Plan, the Wythe plan reduces the number of predominantly African American precincts in northeast Houston which the Guerra One Plan added to District H, and takes the Magnolia Park neighborhood in the East End out of District I. It also adds the Fourth Ward area located west of Downtown to District H. In the Northline/Northside area District H gives up two additional predominantly Hispanic precincts to the new District J. The net effect is to raise the Spanish surnamed registered voter percentage in District H to 48.6%. But it does so at the expense of the number of Spanish surnamed registered voters in District I, which drops to 42.7%. This is significantly lower than the current percentage of Spanish surnamed voters in I, and even lower than the percentage achieved with the revised staff plan. The proposed District J does not provide an opportunity for the Hispanic community to select a representative of their choice in the presence of polarized voting, because the Spanish surnamed registered voter percentage in that proposed district would be 27.2%.

The Wythe Plan does not significantly change the African American percentages in Districts B or D. The percentage in B drops slightly, and the percentage in D rises. The Wythe Plan does create a number of new splits in neighborhoods. For instance, it creates new splits in Spring Branch (which would now be split three ways), Memorial, Westbury, Maplewood, Knollwood Village, Woodside, 5<sup>th</sup> Ward, Sun Valley, Freeway Manor, and the Shady Oaks/Tidwell Timbers area of northeast Houston. The Central Southwest would be further split under this proposal, with Glen Iris and Almeda Plaza being transferred from District K to District D.

Because of the retrogression created by the Wythe Plan in District I, its failure to create any other district in which the Hispanic community would be able to select a representative of their choice, and the numerous additional neighborhood splits, the Wythe Plan is not recommended.

# **Attachment To**

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Attached is the map that was evaluated in this supplemental report.

Wythe Map

# Wythe Plan

