

Introduced by: Councilmember Snipper

**CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND  
RESOLUTION 2011-47  
ESTABLISHING A REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE  
AND PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 401(b)50 of the Takoma Park City Charter, the City Council shall provide for the redistricting of the wards of the City; and

WHEREAS, City staff has expressed certain concerns about the accuracy of the data provided by the 2010 Census; and

WHEREAS, the Takoma Park Board of Elections has recommended that the Council delay redistricting until after the November 8, 2011 City election to ensure that voters are properly informed of any changes in their ward designation; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires to ensure the principle of one-person, one-vote for City elections but has determined that the redistricting process should be done on a realistic time schedule that will allow due time for consideration by the Redistricting Task Force outside of the City's election season.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND THAT:

1. A Redistricting Task Force is established to recommend to the City Council how best to ensure that City wards are apportioned as equal in population as possible in order to ensure the principle of one-person, one-vote. The Redistricting Task Force shall apply the 2010 Takoma Park Census block data to:

- Examine the distribution of population in the current six City wards to determine if there is an equal distribution across the wards;
- Recommend to the City Council whether or not a redistricting plan should be implemented; and
- Provide at least two options for changing the ward boundaries, if a redistricting plan is recommended.

2. In reviewing the distribution of population across the wards and in its recommendations for redistricting, the Task Force shall ensure that:

- Wards shall be as nearly equal in population as is possible in order to ensure the principle of one-person, one-vote;
- Wards are geographically contiguous and compact in form.
- Ward boundaries recognize natural boundaries to the extent practical; and
- No ward is gerrymandered to ensure the election or defeat of any incumbent or potential candidate.

3. In addition to the above required considerations, the Task Force should also consider commonality of social and economic interests, preservation of the cores of existing wards, geographic compactness of the wards, and respect for neighborhoods and neighborhood associations.
4. The membership of the 2011 Redistricting Task Force shall include up to nine Takoma Park residents, one member to be recommended by each member of the City Council, including the Mayor, one member recommended by the Board of Elections to represent the Board, and one at-large member.
5. The City Manager shall designate one or more staff members to assist the Task Force in its work.
6. The Task Force shall submit its recommendations to the City Council on or before June 1, 2012.
7. The Task Force shall be dissolved on November 30, 2012 unless its term is extended by the City Council.
8. The following individuals are hereby appointed to serve on the Redistricting Task Force:
  - Douglas I. Grube (Ward 1)
  - L. Lyndon Wilkes (Ward 1)
  - James C. Roberts (Ward 2) - Representing the Board of Elections
  - Ron Verdonk (Ward 4)
  - Kawsar Talaat (Ward 5)
  - Barrie Howard (Ward 6)
  - Donna Victoria (Ward 6)

Adopted this 26th day of September, 2011.

Attest:

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Jessie Carpenter, CMC  
City Clerk