



REDISTRICTING UPDATE

Scott Bounds
October 13, 2011


OLSON & OLSON LLP
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THE MENIL COLLECTION

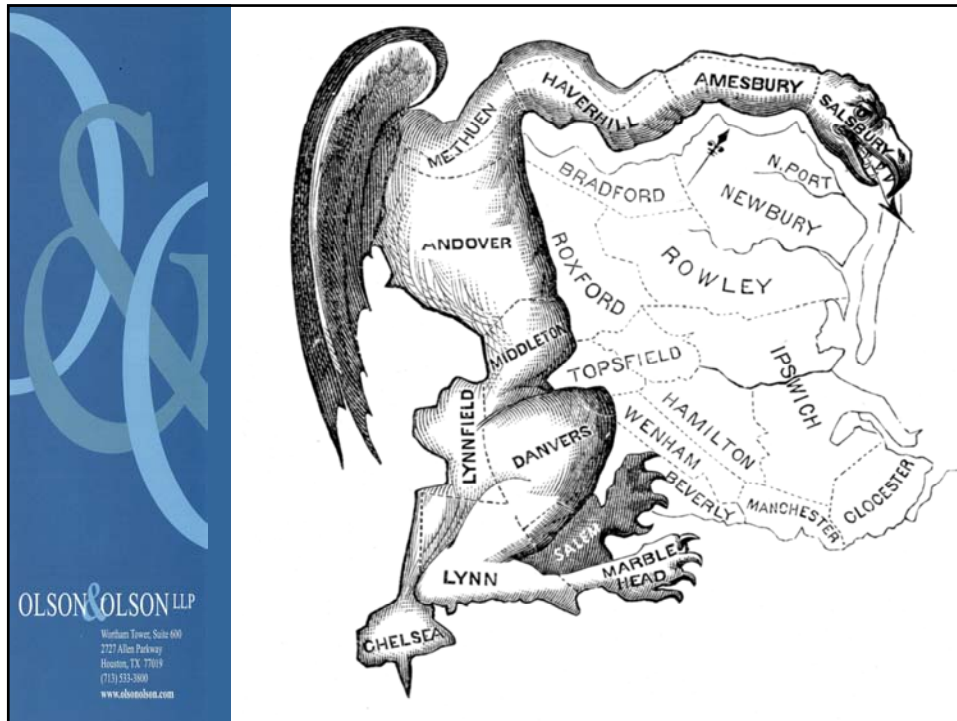
Free Admission

1515 Sul Ross Street
Houston, TX 77006

11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday - Sunday



Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum, Houston, TX © Paul Warchol
View of Glass Chapel Looking East to Altar and Fresco Showing Virgin Mary



A voting district:

- a city that elects an officer by voters from a distinct territorial subdivision of the city



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Proportionality

"ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE"

Districts have to have roughly equal population

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Voting Rights Act


- Discriminatory Purpose / Effect
- Deny/ Abridge Right to Vote

Race
Color
Membership in language group minority

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Recent Changes

- Benchmark Guidance (Feb. 9, 2011)
- Submission Regulations (Apr. 15, 2011)
 - Submission address
 - Computation of time
 - Electronic data




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RETROGRESSION*

Retrogression Analysis: District 1
2010 Voting Age Population (VAP) Comparison
Present Configuration vs. Proposed District

	Total VAP	Black VAP	Hispanic (All Races) VAP
Present District 1	62,245	4,306 (6.9%)	16,053 (25.8%)
Proposed District 1	48,817	3,749 (7.7%)	14,155 (29.0%)
Change		+ 0.8%	+ 3.2%



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*PRISON/INMATES

BOUNDARY LINES

- Present boundaries
- Artificial boundaries (survey lines)
- Natural boundaries (rivers)
- Communities
- Compactness
- Contiguousness

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TIMELINE

60 days • Voting Rights Submission

60 days • Sign-Up

Election Day

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SUBMISSIONS


Chief, Voting Section
Civil Rights Division
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Room 7254 NWB
Washington, DC 20530
(800) 253-3931

<http://www.justice.gov/crt/about/vot/>



THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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Basic Info

- the before and after ordinances
- the person making the submission
- the name of the submitting authority
- Maps of present and proposed districts
- Demographic information showing the total population and voting-age population by race and language group
- A statement of the anticipated effect of the redistricting plan on protected minority groups

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFO

- The number of registered voters by race and language group in each voting precinct
- Maps of voting precincts, protected minority groups, and any geographical features that influenced the selection of boundaries
- Election returns and voter registration data relevant to the voting strength of protected minority groups
- Evidence of public notice and public participation in the redistricting process, including the extent of participation by protected minority groups
- Names of protected minority group members who are familiar with the new redistricting plan

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BAILOUT



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