

RESOLUTION 02-25

**CREATING A CITIZENS' COMMISSION TO DETERMINE
COMMON COUNCIL DISTRICT BOUNDARIES**

- WHEREAS, Indiana statute requires that Bloomington and other cities redraw the boundaries of their city (common) council districts every ten years in order to reflect changes in the districts' population as measured by the decennial census; and
- WHEREAS, in conjunction with the 2000 decennial census, state statute requires that the City of Bloomington pass an ordinance reflecting 2000 Census population numbers and specifying council district boundaries by November 8, 2002; and
- WHEREAS, Indiana Code §36-4-6-3 requires that district boundaries be drawn such that the resulting six districts are composed of contiguous territory, except for territory that is not contiguous to any other part of the city; and
- WHEREAS, Indiana Code also requires that the resulting six council districts each be reasonably compact and not cross precinct boundaries; and
- WHEREAS, Indiana Code also requires that the resulting council districts contain, as nearly as is possible, equal population; and
- WHEREAS, the Common Council and the Mayor of the City of Bloomington believe that council district boundaries should not be drawn in such a manner that deliberately favors one political party over another; and
- WHEREAS, district boundaries drawn by a commission of citizens who are not elected or political party officials, would better instill confidence in the city's electorate that the redistricting process was as fair and nonpartisan as possible;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BLOOMINGTON, MONROE COUNTY, INDIANA, THAT:

SECTION I. The Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Indiana shall establish a City Council Redistricting Commission to draw the boundaries of Common Council districts for the City of Bloomington as required by, and in accordance with, Indiana Code.

SECTION II The Commission shall consist of five members appointed by the President of the Common Council. At least one member of the Commission must be of the Democratic Party and at least one member of the Republican Party.

SECTION III No official or officer of a political party may serve on the Commission. Precinct committee people, if not an official or officer of a political party, may serve on the Commission.

SECTION IV. No elected official may serve on the Commission. No employee of the City of Bloomington may serve, although they may provide staff assistance to the Commission at its request.

SECTION V. At its first meeting the Commission shall elect a chairperson who will conduct meetings of the Commission from that point forward.

SECTION VI. The Council and its staff shall be charged with giving the Commission, to the best of its abilities, whatever information and materials are necessary in order for the Commission to develop and write a redistricting ordinance that complies with the provisions of Indiana Code. Either a Council member or the Mayor may submit the Commission's ordinance to the City Council for a vote.

SECTION VII. The Commission may use the existing council district boundaries as a starting point in its redistricting efforts. Previous election results shall not be a consideration of the Commission in drawing City Council district boundaries nor shall previous election results be a factor in any proposed district boundaries plans that may be submitted to the Commission for consideration.

SECTION VIII. The Commission is an ad hoc Commission that exists only for the purpose of drawing City Council boundaries in 2002 as required by Indiana Code. The Commission shall cease to exist on November 9, 2002.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana, upon this _____ day of _____, 2002.

CHRIS GAAL, President
Bloomington Common Council

SIGNED and APPROVED by me upon this _____ day of _____, 2002.

JOHN FERNANDEZ, Mayor
City of Bloomington

ATTEST:

REGINA MOORE, Clerk
City of Bloomington

SYNOPSIS

This resolution calls upon the Common Council of the City of Bloomington, Indiana, to establish a City Council Redistricting Commission to draw the boundaries of common council districts for the City of Bloomington as required by, and in accordance with, Indiana Code. The Commission should consist of five members appointed by the President of the Council. At least one of the appointments must be a democrat and at least one must be a republican. No elected official, officer of a political party or employee of the City of Bloomington may serve on the Commission. The Council and its staff shall be charged with giving the Commission whatever instructions and materials necessary in order to ensure that through its efforts the City is able to comply with the provisions of Indiana Code. The Commission will cease to exist on November 9th, 2002.