

RESOLUTION 2021-21

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKE WALES, FLORIDA; ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF LAKE WALES CENSUS REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS, QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERSHIP, MINIMUM MEMBER ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE; PROVIDING FOR DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE; SPECIFYING MEMBERS' TERM OF OFFICE; IDENTIFYING MINIMUM PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, a Redistricting Committee is required by the Lake Wales Charter once Census results have been released and compiled; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to redraw the city commission district boundary lines to ensure that each district contains population that is distributed as equally as feasible.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Lake Wales, Florida, that:

SECTION ONE: CREATION OF THE CENSUS REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

The City Commission of the City of Lake Wales hereby creates the City of Lake Wales Census Redistricting Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Census Redistricting Committee").

SECTION TWO: OBJECTIVES OF THE CENSUS REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

It is the mission of the Census Redistricting Committee to review the 2020 Census Results for Lake Wales and propose new boundary lines that will make the 4 districts as close in size by population as possible.

Each district shall be formed of compact, contiguous property, as nearly rectangular as possible, and its boundary lines shall follow the center lines of the streets.

Each commission seat assigned to the commission districts shall represent as nearly as possible the same number of citizens as determined from population data derived from the last decennial census. The area represented by each commission seat does not differ in population by more than ten percent.

A recommendation must be provided to the City Clerk within 6 months to be approved by the City Commission

SECTION THREE: COMPOSITION, APPOINTMENTS, QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS, MINIMUM ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS, REMOVAL, APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANCIES

A. *Composition & Initial Appointments*

The Census Redistricting Committee shall consist of five (5) members. Each City Commissioner shall be entitled to appoint one (1) member of the Census Redistricting Committee in their discretion, so long as the appointee meets the qualifications for membership as set forth herein. Commissioner appointments to the Census Redistricting Committee shall be made on a form provided to each City Commissioner by the City Manager and shall be filed with the City Clerk by October 15, 2021.

B. *Minimum Qualifications of Census Redistricting Committee Members*

Members of the Census Redistricting Committee must be residents and registered electors of the City of Lake Wales. No State Legislator, County Commissioner, or City Commissioner may be a member of the Census Redistricting Committee. The City Commission shall be the judge of the qualifications of individual candidates for membership.

C. *Minimum Attendance Requirements*

It is expected that appointed members of the Census Redistricting Committee should attend each meeting thereof. Should a member of the Census Redistricting Committee fail to attend three (3) consecutive Census Redistricting Committee meetings, that member shall be deemed to have vacated his or her position.

D. *Removal of Census Redistricting Committee Members; City Commission May Fill Vacant Position*

Any member of the Census Redistricting Committee may be removed by majority vote of the City Commission without a finding of cause. In the event a position on the Census Redistricting Committee is vacated, whether automatically, by vote of the City Commission or by resignation of the member, the City Commission may, by majority vote, appoint a qualified person to fill the remaining term of the vacant position.

SECTION FOUR: DUTIES OF THE LAKE WALES CENSUS REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

A. *Organization Session, Election of Officers, Meetings of the CENSUS REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE; Quorum and Voting Requirements*

On or after November 1, 2021, the Census Redistricting Committee shall meet for the purpose of organization and election of officers. At its organization session, members of the Census Redistricting Committee shall, with the assistance of the City staff, elect from its membership a Chair and a Vice-Chair. Further meetings of the Census Redistricting Committee shall be held on the call of the Chair or at the written request by a majority of Census Redistricting Committee members filed with the City Clerk. All meetings of the Census Redistricting Committee, including its organization session, shall be open to the public in accordance with Chapter 286, Florida Statutes. A majority of the members of the Census Redistricting Committee shall constitute a quorum necessary for the transaction of official committee business, however, when considering the question of whether a particular amendment or revision should be recommended to the City

Commission for consideration, an absolute majority of the Census Redistricting Committee shall be necessary.

B. *Progress Reports*

During its existence, the Census Redistricting Committee shall cause a progress report to be provided to the City Commission informing the Commission of the Committee's progress and activities. The minutes of each meeting shall be deemed to constitute a progress report in the event no specific report is prepared.

C. *Final Report and Recommendations; Minority Reporting Rights*

Not later than May 1, 2021, the Census Redistricting Committee shall deliver to the City Clerk its Final Report in written form detailing its recommendations concerning the boundaries of the 4 districts representing Commission Seats 2-5. These recommendations will be reviewed by the City Commission for adoption.

SECTION FIVE: TERM OF OFFICE

Each Census Redistricting Committee member's term of office will be from November 1, 2021, until the Committee's dissolution. Upon acceptance or rejection of the recommendations by the City Commission, the Census Redistricting Committee shall be automatically dissolved.

SECTION SIX: PROTOCOL

1. The Census Redistricting Committee shall comply with all applicable requirements of Chapters 119 (public records) and 286 ("Sunshine Law"), Florida Statutes.
2. The conduct of the meetings will be generally informal. If there is a question as to procedure, the Chair, at their discretion, may use Section 2-17 of the Lake Wales Code of Ordinances to address the issue.
3. Census Redistricting Committee members will serve without compensation, but may be reimbursed for necessary expenses as allowed under general law.

SECTION SEVEN: EFFECTIVE DATE

This Resolution shall take effect immediately on its adoption.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the City Commission of the City of Lake Wales, Florida, this 5th day of October, 2021.

Eugene L. Fultz, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Nanek, City Clerk