

GISD delays approving redistricting plan

By Amanda Casanova | Posted: Friday, May 20, 2011 12:00 am

Galveston Independent School District trustees are holding off on approving a redistricting plan at the request of organizations that want more time to study the new plan.

“Give us a bit more time to study it and then collectively we can come back with our observations” Joe Compian of Gulf Coast Interfaith said.

Representatives from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the League of United Latin American Citizens also asked the board for more time to be able to “make an informed decision” said Anna Olivares president of the local chapter of LULAC.

School board trustees voted Wednesday 5-2 to defer the vote to next week. Beau Rawlins and Carol Greaney-Wurst opposed the vote.

School districts typically redraw district lines after each census. Galveston’s population was estimated at 47000 in the 2010 U.S. Census.

With school board elections coming up in November trustees have a short window of time to have the plan approved by the department of justice. By law trustees have to live in the district they wish to represent.

“We have had this going on for months and it has been public” trustee Norman Pappous said. “But the department of justice doesn’t vote here and they don’t give us any money so if you all need two weeks then I’ll vote for it.”

Discussion about redistricting started in February and the map could be approved by the U.S. Department of Justice before August three months before elections for districts 5 and 6.

Under the plan districts 1 through 4 have more than 50 percent minorities. District 5 and 7 have about 30-40 percent minorities and District 6 has about 20 percent minority population.

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Demographics % Black % Hispanic

1 6826 31 31

2 7179 37 32

3 7354 18 52

4 7519 15 36

5 6944 12 29

6 7493 5 14

7 7291 12 19

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At A Glance

WHAT: Redistricting public hearing

WHEN: 6 p.m. May 25

WHERE: Lovenberg Administration Building 3904 Ave. T