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REDISTRICTING ADVISORY

November 18, 2021

Dear Judge and County Commissioners:

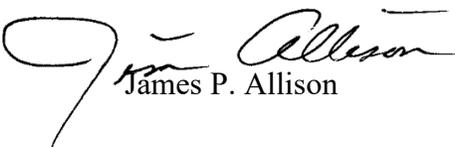
Congratulations on the fulfillment of the constitutional redistricting requirements. The redistricting requirements that follow the decennial census have always been demanding logistically and very trying for everyone involved. This redistricting cycle has been particularly challenging. For the first time since 1790, the census was delayed for several months, reducing the amount of time available from the release date to the first elections to be held under newly redrawn lines. The Census Bureau has by statute been required to release the final census data by the end of March, in the year following the census count in April. This year, due to a variety of reasons, including COVID-19, the Census Bureau released the so-called "Legacy Data" in raw form August 12, 2021. Final Census data was not released until September 30, 2021. The raw "Legacy Data" required reformatting and considerable programming to make the data suitable for use in most GIS (Geographic Information System) software. As a result, we were unable to start implementing the 2021 redistricting effort of preparing initial analysis for each County until the middle of September. When the delay was announced, we closed our program to new clients and retained and trained additional staff.

Secondly, the Texas Legislature was unable to pass redistricting plans for Texas Congressional, State Senate, State House of Representatives and State Board of Education plans until the middle of October. As a consequence, we have focused our efforts on county redistricting.

We normally have from the 1st of April to the 1st of October to complete the work involved in redistricting county, city and school district boundaries, and over the last 40 years or more, we have completed plans for our clients within this six-month time-frame. This year, the same amount of work has been compressed into five-weeks. This could not have been accomplished without the dedication and cooperation of the members of the Commissioners Court and other county officers and staff.

We will continue to support your elections staff in the adjustment of election precincts, preparation of new voter registration rolls, and voting places. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Sincerely,


James P. Allison


Robert T. Bass


J. Eric Magee