

New Orleans City Council
District B Redistricting Meeting
April 21, 2011

The first of two City Council District B community meetings on Redistricting was held on Thursday, April 21, 2011 at Grace Episcopal Church from 6 – 7:30 PM. According to U. S. Census population data, District B is the most balanced district, only needing to decrease its population by 2138 to meet the Census' ideal population size based on post-Katrina citywide numbers.

I am learning a lot from the redistricting process, said District B Councilmember Stacy Head who opened the meeting with an overview of the importance of neighborhood similarity. Head, who has been consulting with local university professors on the subject exploring the various scenarios that could result in changes to her district, says that her office has received letters from residents in the district, who are primarily lobbying for similarities when redrawing lines.

Residents who attended the meeting were provided a timeline for the public input process, as well as information on the process for redrawing the lines. Redistricting, LLC's presentation was inclusive of legal requirements, as well as the traditional redistricting principles and timeline for adopting the redistricting plan.

Residents spoke of inclusion of the prison population and its effect on the district, what happens when residents return to the less densely populated areas, as well as concerns about the boundaries of District B not stopping on major thoroughfares. Still other residents raised concerns about the process of getting information from the community to the council, as well as the timeline for when the final plans are developed.

Councilmember Stacy Head, council staff and Redistricting LLC addressed residents' questions and stressed that the process for input is ongoing. Anyone who wishes to submit information can do so via the council website, in person at city hall or at the community meetings.