



**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

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October 14, 2021

Terrie Metz, Superintendent  
Gentry School District  
201 South Giles Street  
Gentry, AR 72734

Dear Superintendent Metz:

We have conducted a statistical analysis of the Gentry School District's population/zone utilizing 2020 Census (Public Law 94-171) Apportionment and Redistricting Data to determine if redistricting is necessary. As you may know, courts have generally held that population deviations among election districts which exceed 10%, are not valid under the Equal Protection Clause (one-man, one-vote) of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Unfortunately, the population deviation between Zones #1 and #4 is 28.8%--over the 10% threshold. As such, redistricting is necessary. The 2020 population total for each current zone is shown below:

	<u>Population</u>
Zone 1	1,962
Zone 2	1,672
Zone 3	1,488
Zone 4	1,487
Zone 5	1,636
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Total	8,245

Two alternative redistricting plans are attached for your consideration. Both plans equalize the population among zones as much as practicable, with incumbents remaining in their respective zone. Both plans have a population deviation of 9.6%. Boundary changes from the plan adopted 10 years ago (also attached), were not particularly significant. But changes were, none the less, necessary to equalize the population among zones to an acceptable level. Redistricting principals associated with Equal Protection considerations and the Federal Voting Rights Act were employed in the development of these plans. In my opinion, both plans comply with federal and state requirements, including those in A.C.A. 6-13-631.

The total population, along with a categorical breakdown by racial and minority population for each plan follows. Please note that the white (alone) total consists of non-minority whites, while the minority total includes minorities of all races.

**Gentry Plan 1**

School Zone	Total Population	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Population of one race	Black or African American Alone	White Alone	American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Alone
1	1611	130	1481	1374	4	1245	73	47	0
2	1635	187	1448	1334	11	1179	43	97	2
3	1704	202	1502	1386	2	1277	66	41	0
4	1568	123	1445	1307	8	1181	53	59	0
5	1727	320	1407	1247	11	1057	67	107	3

**Gentry Plan 2**

School Zone	Total Population	Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Population of one race	Black or African American Alone	White Alone	American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander Alone
1	1601	126	1475	1375	4	1244	75	47	0
2	1637	197	1440	1325	13	1170	39	99	2
3	1727	201	1526	1406	2	1296	68	40	0
4	1568	123	1445	1307	8	1181	53	59	0
5	1712	315	1397	1235	9	1048	67	106	3

This 2020 Census derived data (for the plan adopted) should be submitted, along with the approved plan to the Benton County Clerk for County Election Commission approval prior to submittal to the State. Should additional information be required, please advise.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hawkins  
Director