

SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS PROCESS OVERVIEW

MANSFIELD INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT

AUGUST 26, 2026

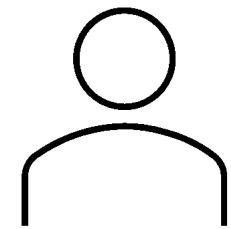
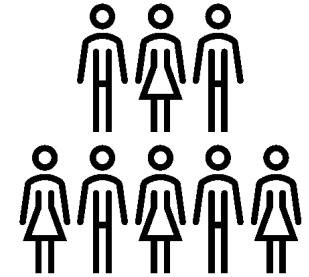
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AT-LARGE v. SINGLE MEMBER

- **“At-Large” District=**
 - Board trustees are elected by voters throughout the entire District.
 - Every voter votes for multiple trustee positions.
- **Single member school district =**
 - The District is divided into individual trustee districts
 - Each district elects only one trustee.
 - Voters vote only for the trustee representing their particular district.



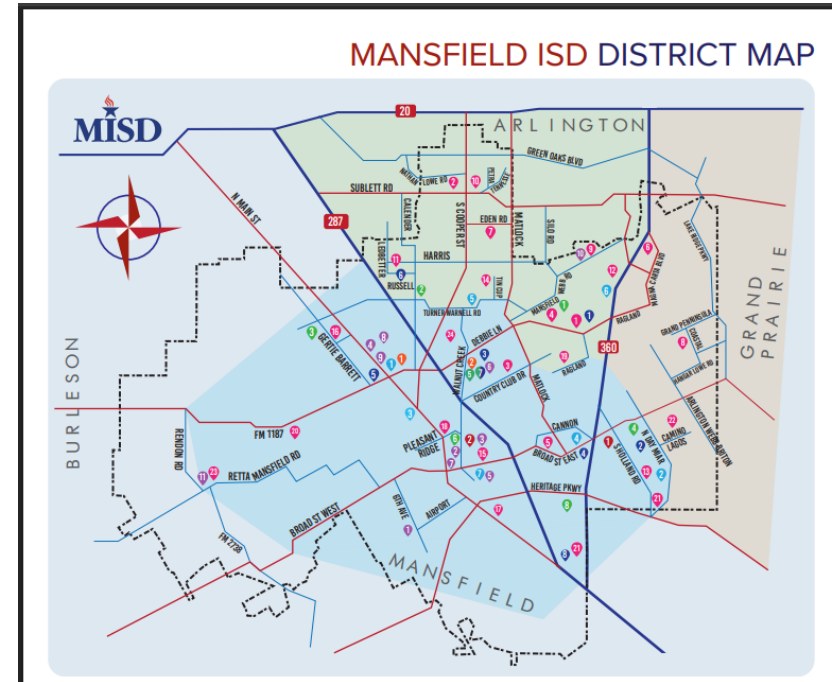
SWITCHING TO SINGLE MEMBER DISTRICTS

- On its own motion, a board may order that trustees are to be elected from single-member districts. TEC §11.052(a).
- A board must:
 - Hold a public hearing to give registered voters an opportunity to comment in favor or against the election system change; and
 - Publish notice of the hearing in a newspaper at least 7 days before the public hearing.
- An order for single member districts must be entered 120 days before election day (May 2027).



WHAT HAS TO BE DONE?

1. Understand legal requirements
2. Demographic analysis
3. Obtain trustee and community input
4. Draw and redraw alternative plans
5. Public input/comment on plans
6. Adopt an election map & plan



CREATING THE NEW MAP- LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

1. One Person, One Vote

- Maps must be drawn with substantially equal population
- Avoid overpopulated and under populated districts
- Exact equality of population not required (ideal district population)

2. Shaw v. Reno Test (*U.S. Supreme Court, 1993*)

- Race may not be a predominant factor over traditional redistricting principles
- BUT Race can be predominant consideration when conditions meet standard test for permissible consideration of race under 14th Amendment (strict scrutiny test)

3. The Voting Rights Act

- MUST CONSIDER: Does the voting qualification, prerequisite, standard, practice or procedure reduce the opportunity of members of a protected minority group to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice?

4. State Law Requirements (TEC § 11.052(f))

- Maps must be compact and contiguous.
- Maps must be as “nearly as practicable of equal population.”



Any
Questions

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