

Section 103. *Councilmanic Districts*

Montgomery County shall be divided into five Councilmanic districts for the purpose of nominating and electing five members of the Council. Each district shall be compact in form and be composed of adjoining territory. Populations of the Councilmanic districts shall be substantially equal.

Section 104. *Redistricting Procedure*

The boundaries of Councilmanic districts shall be reestablished in 1970 for the elections of that year, in 1972 and every tenth year thereafter. Whenever district boundaries are to be reestablished the Council shall appoint, not later than February 1 of the year prior to the year in which redistricting is to be effective, a commission on redistricting, composed of three members from each political party chosen from a list of five names submitted by the Central Committee of each political party which polled at least fifteen percent of the total vote cast for all candidates for the Council in the last preceding regular election. The Council shall appoint one additional member of the Commission. The Commission shall, at its first meeting, select one of its members to serve as chairman. No person shall be eligible for appointment to the Commission if he holds any elected office.

By October 1 of the year prior to the year in which redistricting is to be effective, the Commission shall prepare a plan of Councilmanic districts and shall present that plan, together with a report explaining it, to the Council. Within thirty days after receiving the plan of the Commission, the Council shall hold a public hearing on the plan. If within seventy days following presentation of the Commission's plan no other law reestablishing the boundaries of the Councilmanic districts has been enacted, then the plan, as submitted, shall become law.

Section 105. *Term of Office*

Members of the Council shall hold office for a term beginning at noon on the first Monday of December next following the regular election for the Council and ending at noon on the first Monday of December in the fourth year thereafter.

Section 106. *Vacancies*

A vacancy shall occur when any member of the Council shall, prior to the expiration of his term, die, resign his office, or become disqualified for membership on the Council. When a vacancy has occurred, a majority of the remaining members of the Council shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy within thirty days. An appointee to fill a vacancy, when succeeding a party member, shall be a member of the same political party as the person last elected to such office. If the Council has not acted within thirty days, the County Executive shall appoint a person to fill the vacancy within ten days thereafter. If a person having held the vacant position was a member of a political party at the time of his election, the person appointed by the County Executive shall be the nominee of the Central Committee of that party. An appointee shall serve for the unexpired term of his predecessor. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy shall meet the same qualifications and residence requirements as the previous member.

Section 107. *Compensation*

The Council shall prescribe by law the compensation for its members. No change in the compensation of members of the Council shall become effective during the term of office of the Council enacting the change.