

# **CHARTER OF CITY OF CLEVELAND**

## **Chapter 5 — The Council**

### **§ 25 DIVIDING THE CITY INTO ~~TWENTY-ONE~~ WARDS**

The Council not later than ~~July 15, 1981~~April 1, 2009, shall redivide the City into wards based on the City's population as of February 15, 2009 as determined by estimated population figures compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau as of that date. The number of wards shall be determined using a ratio of one ward for every 25,000 people based on the estimated population figure, provided however that if dividing 25,000 into the total estimated population figure results in an even number of wards, the total number of wards shall be increased by one. ~~and thereafter immediately after the proclamation by the Secretary of State stating the population of cities of Ohio, as determined by the Federal census decennially taken, shall redivide the City into 21 wards.~~ The wards so formed shall be as nearly equal in population as may be fair and equitable, composed of contiguous and compact territory, and bounded by natural boundaries or street lines. When any territory is annexed to the City the Council shall by ordinances declare it a part of the adjacent ward or wards.

If the Council fails or neglects to redivide the City into ~~21~~the required number of wards by ~~July 15, 1981~~April 1, 2009, the Mayor shall within 7 days thereafter submit to Council the plan for redividing the City into ~~21~~the required number of wards, which division plan of the Mayor shall become effective until the next decennial Federal census when the wards shall be reapportioned as provided in Section 25-1 using the above ratio and formula to determine the number of wards based on the City's population at that time.

The ~~21 Councilmen~~members of Council to be elected under the terms herein shall be elected at the next regular Municipal election in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 3 of the Charter of the City of Cleveland. The division of the City into wards existing at the time of the adoption of this amendment shall continue until changed as provided herein.

### **§ 25-1 REAPPORTIONMENT OF WARDS**

Commencing with the Federal census decennially taken in the closest proximity to January 1, ~~1980~~2010, and following each subsequent Federal decennial census the Council within ~~three months~~forty-five days after proclamation by the Secretary of State stating the population of the cities of Ohio as determined by any such Federal census shall reapportion the wards of the City using the ratio and formula in Section 25 to determine the number of wards based on the City's population at that time so that the wards so formed shall be as nearly equal in population as may be, composed of contiguous and compact territory, and bound by natural boundaries and street lines.

If the Council fails to reapportion the wards within the ~~three month~~forty-five day period herein provided, the Mayor shall within ~~30~~ten business days thereafter submit to Council a plan for the reapportionment of the wards. The Council shall within ~~30~~ten business days after receiving the Mayor's plan, reapportion the wards as herein provided. If the Council does not reapportion the wards within this latter ~~30~~ten business day period, the reapportionment plan of the Mayor shall become effective until the next decennial Federal census when the wards shall be reapportioned as herein provided.