

## Texas is running out of paper?

**Sen. Royce West asks ‘What’s next?’**

*Special to The Dallas Examiner*

State Sen. Royce West, D-Dallas, publicly questioned Tuesday why the Texas Secretary of State’s office is rationing voter registration applications less than two weeks before the Jan. 31 deadline to register to vote in the March Primary Elections.

“Texas has a shortage of paper, and Texans should be short on patience,” West said.

“We all understand that supply chain issues exist because of COVID-19. However, the Secretary of State’s Office has known since Sept. 9, when Gov. Abbott signed *Senate Bill 1*, that legislative enactments – the bill’s passage – would require the reprinting of all voter registration cards.”

He said he finds it very hard to believe that the secretary of state’s office has not been able to come up with a solution to the problem, given the months of lead time they had to address these issues.

“Now, they claim they don’t have the paper or the money to print enough registration cards and blame it on supply chain issues. The reality is they have had months to fix this, to find suppliers, and make certain we would not have a shortage of voter registration applications,” he said.

As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, West cites a KUT Radio story that ran early Tuesday morning as the first he had heard of any need for additional funds for printing voter registration applications due to cost increases resulting from supply chain issues.

He also noted that the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts’ website lists at least two paper mills or production plants within Texas’ \$2.1 billion paper industry that produce paper used in consumer printing, such as that required for voter registration cards.

“What’s next?” he asked. “The Legislature pushed to approve controversial, partisan, legislation that’s already made it more difficult for people to register and vote. Now there’s a paper shortage and a claimed shortage of funds is limiting the number of voter registration applications that can be produced and procured by the Texas Secretary of State. I ask again, ‘What’s next?’”

## Pleasant Grove \$31 million housing development offers residents new homeownership opportunities

*Special to The Dallas Examiner*

Dallas City Council approved a \$1.9M grant on Jan. 12 to Greenleaf Ventures for the development of 125 single-family homes in Council District 5 Pleasant Grove area. The grant will be funded with a portion of the city’s *American Rescue Plan Act* allocation with the intent of providing water infrastructure in support of the new homes.

“I am very excited about this project,” Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Jaime Resendez said. “There are very few houses for sale in our district and this development will provide quality housing, especially for our young people who have re-

turned home from college and are launching their careers.”

Pleasant Grove is in the heart of Southeast Dallas, bounded by Bruton Road, Marvel Drive, Prairie Creek and the Trinity Forest. Its housing stock was largely built in the late 1960’s so the need and demand for new housing is prominent. Less than eight miles from downtown with easy access to Highway 175 makes the area makes the area highly sought after by homebuyers.

In describing why this area was selected, Real Estate developer Victor Toledo said this community has terrific access next to the Prairie Creek library, a Fiesta anchored retail center

and several schools and St. Augustine Park.

“This development will follow the success of two recent developments by Greenleaf Ventures in the Buckner Terrace and Cedar Run neighborhoods that both sold out within 12 months of opening,” Toledo said. “This new community will also provide 125 homeowners with the opportunity of creating generational wealth that results from rising home values over time.”

The single-family homes will be an average of 1,850 square feet, include a minimum of 3 bedrooms, serving mixed income homebuyers with 20% of homes preserved for buyers earning less than 80% area me-

dian income which is about \$70,000 for a family of four. Home prices are anticipated to range between \$175,000 and \$325,000. The development will activate a vacant 24-acre site and provide the city with annual property tax revenue estimated at \$241,656.

The \$31 million development will also generate job opportunities for Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises. Greenleaf Ventures has committed to allocating 50% of the development costs to MWBEs, well exceeding the city’s expectations.

The project is expected to break ground in late 2022.

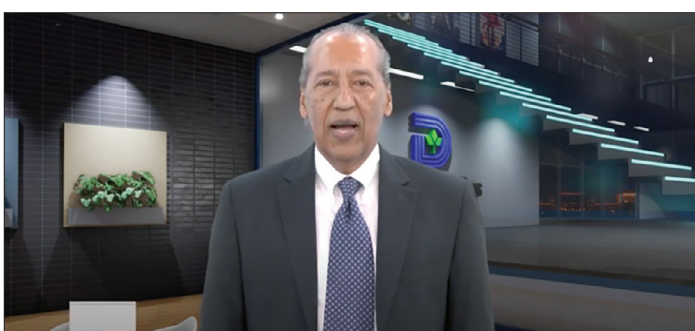
## The next Redistricting Commission Town Hall Meeting to be held Saturday

*Special to The Dallas Examiner*

The next Redistricting Commission Town Hall Meeting will be held Saturday at 3:30 p.m. at Pleasant Oaks Recreation Center, located at 8701 Greenwood Ave., for public input.

“Community involvement and participation is critical to the success of the redistricting process, and we’ve made it very easy for everyone to submit their own map any time or offer input at one of our public town halls,” said Jesse Oliver, Redistricting Commission chairman. “Ultimately, we want to make a redistricting map that represents our residents and their communities.”

Individuals who wish to speak during these public town halls must register at [bit.ly/2021RDCTH](https://bit.ly/2021RDCTH), by 10 a.m. the day of the meeting. All speakers will have three minutes to speak about the redistricting



Jesse Oliver, Redistricting Commission chairperson, speaks on the importance of community involvement in the city’s redistricting plans. — *The Dallas Examiner screenshot/City of Dallas video*

process. Virtual speakers are required to show their videos when addressing the commission.

“We are committed to making this process as fair and equitable as possible, so we’re accepting both virtual and in-person town hall feedback,” Oliver said. “Residents will have the opportunity to join us from the comfort of their own homes or in person at city-wide meetings; the Feb. 10 town hall at Dallas City

Hall will also provide American Sign Language interpreters to comply with the *Americans with Disabilities Act*. Oral interpretation for other languages is available upon request.”

Early in 2021, the City Council appointed a 15-member Redistricting Commission to develop the districting plan based on the latest decennial counts in compliance with the Dallas City Charter and federal law.

The Redistricting Commission

plans to file its recommended districting plan for City Council consideration in May 2022.

The City Council has 45 days after the plan is submitted to adopt or modify and adapt, a new district map. Any modification requires approval by three-fourths of the City Council. If final action is not taken by the City Council within 45 days, the Redistricting Commission’s recommended plan becomes final.

The new districts will be implemented for the next general election of Dallas City Council members conducted at least 90 days following the date the final districting plan becomes effective for the city, currently projected for May 6, 2023.

The final meeting will be Feb. 10 and will allow virtual participation. For the complete schedule and more information, visit [DallasRedistricting.com](https://DallasRedistricting.com).

### ADVERTORIAL

## When the COVID tide rises, so do the mental health calls

Weary healthcare providers and teachers are facing dire circumstances yet again with the rising tide of the Omicron variant. With short-staffed hospitals, doctor’s offices, schools and workplaces, our community has that sinking feeling of the pandemic being in the driver’s seat rather than in the rearview mirror. The vacillating feeling of safety, prolonged isolation, disrupted holidays, and the struggles to keep our loved ones, kids, co-workers, and neighbors healthy, continues to take a toll on our community’s conscience.

Now add in another factor. Imagine if you already struggle with major depression. Imagine if without a normal, consistent routine you were less likely to remain on psychiatric medications, critically needed to remain mentally stable and functional. Imagine the child who already faces crippling anxiety, dealing with the added stress of classroom inconsistencies. Imagine the family who faces COVID without health insurance or reliable access to medical care.

These are the stories Metrocare clinicians hear every day. The reality is mental health challenges have been prevalent in our community for decades. The pandemic is only bringing more to the surface and exacerbating what exists now. The result is an overburdened system, a community in desperate need of greater capacity and access to mental health care.

It is times like these where Metrocare fills in the gaps. As Dallas County’s designated community mental health center and the largest provider of mental health services in North Texas, Metrocare clinicians offer over 2,700 clinical encounters daily. When the COVID numbers rise, so do the mental health calls. Yet despite the rise in demand, help is here and available. Increasing access to trauma-informed mental health care is what Metrocare does. If you or a loved one need help, you can walk into any of Metrocare’s seven mental health clinics and be seen the same day, regardless of your ability to pay. At Metrocare, a doctor or a registered nurse trained in psychiatry will evaluate your mental health needs holistically, the first time you walk through Metrocare’s doors. In some communities, patients have to wait weeks to see a psychiatrist, but not in Dallas. Because Metrocare believes that every single person should have access to mental health care when they need it most.

What about individuals in crisis who need help right now? The people who are at risk of harming themselves or others and cannot afford to wait, not even for an hour. Metrocare’s Crisis Team answers the call. Metrocare’s 24/7 Hotline – 214-743-1215 – gives our community access to speak to a mental health clinician, 24 hours, 7 days a week. For those in an emergent situation, Metrocare’s crisis team can go to the individual’s home or location to stabilize the person in the community, preventing the all too well-known cycles of hospitalizations or detentions for the most vulnerable among us. A team dedicated to link those in crisis to consistent care is yet another leap forward in making our community’s mental health system more connected. For our clients, it can be the difference between life and death.

Metrocare is here to make sure that our neighbors, friends, and family members have the tools to not merely survive but thrive. “It’s not that I got my life back,” described a client first engaged by Metrocare’s Crisis Team. “I got a better life – a life where I can be the mom, wife, and employee I want to be.”

**Healing is possible when you ask for help.**

[www.dallasexaminer.com](https://www.dallasexaminer.com)

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Arthur Dove (1880–1946), *The Lobster* (detail), 1908, oil on canvas, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas, Acquisition in memory of Anne Burnett Tandy, Trustee, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, 1968–1980, 1980.29

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