

A light blue map of the Houston-Galveston Area Council region, showing county boundaries. The map is centered on the text.

# **H-GAC Composition Committee**

## **December 19, 2023**

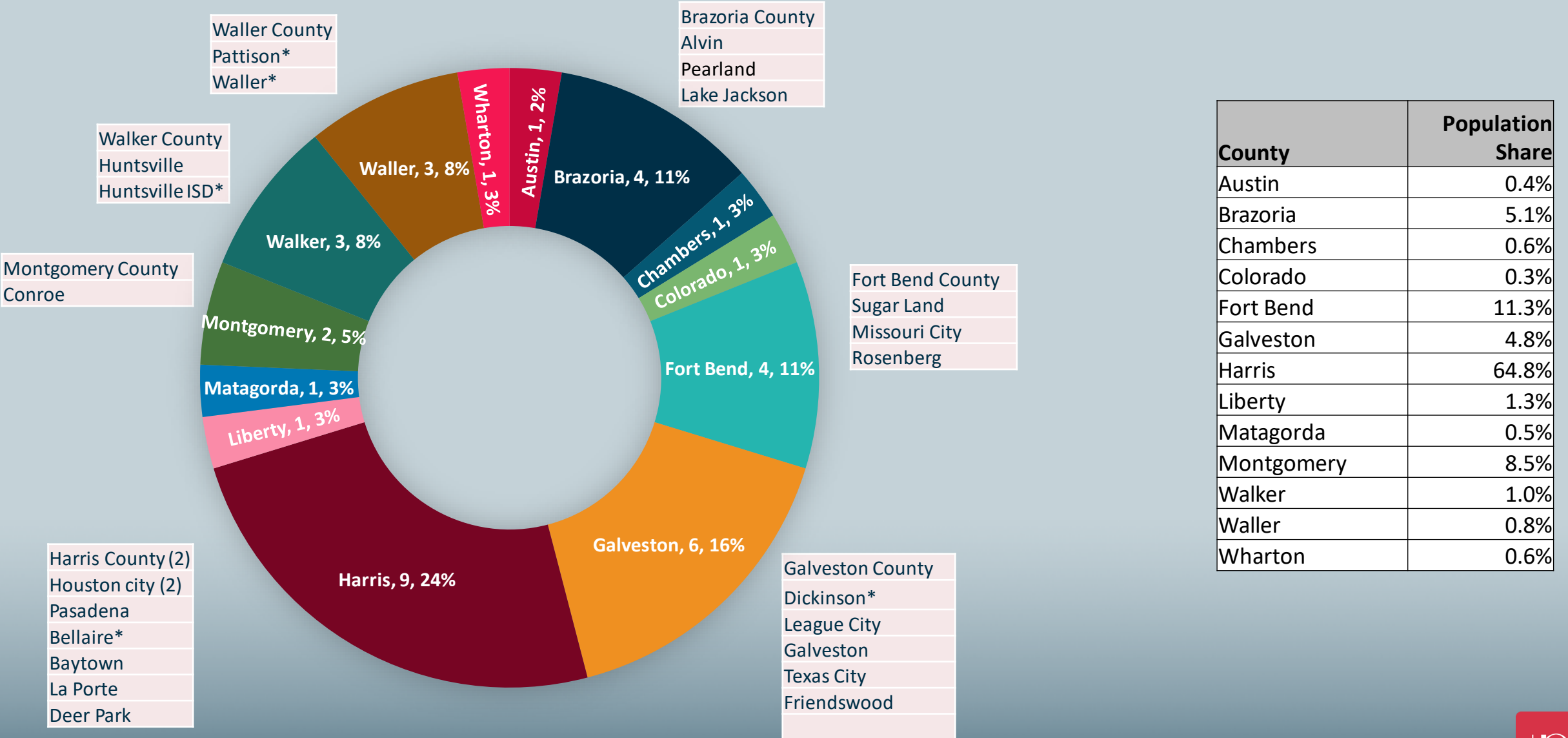
# The Work Ahead

- Consider possible bylaws change
  - Preserve regional voices
  - Acknowledge population growth
  - Provide a path for Houston to remain a member
  - Adjust voting structure
  - Move region forward in unity
- Build off previous work and new analyses
- Complete task under a tight timeframe

# Timeline

- Overview and Charge - Today - December 19
- Narrow Options – Evening Workshop - January 10
- Committee Recommendation to Board - January 16
  - If bylaws amendment needed, process will conclude – February 20

# Current Board Composition by County



Waller County  
Pattison\*  
Waller\*

Brazoria County  
Alvin  
Pearland  
Lake Jackson

Walker County  
Huntsville  
Huntsville ISD\*

Montgomery County  
Conroe

Fort Bend County  
Sugar Land  
Missouri City  
Rosenberg

Harris County (2)  
Houston city (2)  
Pasadena  
Bellaire\*  
Baytown  
La Porte  
Deer Park

Galveston County  
Dickinson\*  
League City  
Galveston  
Texas City  
Friendswood

# Building Off Our Previous Work

- Looked at history of Board composition
- Reviewed bylaws process for possible changes
- Discussed population growth
- Considered other COGs
- Executive Director peer discussions
- Looked at weighted voting and/or increasing seats
- Developed and discussed 2 alternate scenarios
- Board voted to maintain current approach

# Graduated Proportionality

- Adjusts votes based on population thresholds
- In place for all votes
- Preserves regional voices and acknowledges population
- Single stage voting process
- Adjusted each 10-year census

# Option 1- Add Weighted Votes to Current Board Composition Based on Population Threshold

Jurisdiction Type	Number of Jurisdictions	Weighted Votes	Total Weighted Votes
Population equal or > 2 million and < 3 million	2 (Houston City, Harris County)	4	8
Population equal or > 1 million and < 2 million	0	3	0
Population equal or > 500,000 and < 1 million	2 (Fort Bend County, Montgomery County)	2	4
Counties with Population < 500,000	10	1	10
Cities with Population equal or > 25,000 and < 500,000	16	1	16
Cities < 25,000 Population Home Rule	2	1	2
Cities <25,000 Population General Law	2	1	2
Independent School Districts	1	1	1
<b>Total</b>			<b>43</b>

# Option 1- Add Weighted Votes to Current Board Composition Based on Population Size

Jurisdiction Type	Current Seats	Votes
Austin County	1	1
Brazoria County	1	1
Chambers County	1	1
Colorado County	1	1
Fort Bend County	1	2
Galveston County	1	1
Harris County	2	4
Liberty County	1	1
Matagorda County	1	1
Montgomery County	1	2
Walker County	1	1
Waller County	1	1
Wharton County	1	1
Houston City	2	4
Cities over 25,000	16	16
General Law Cities	2	2
Home Rule Cities	2	2
Independent School Districts	1	1
Ex-Officio (non-voting)	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>43</b>



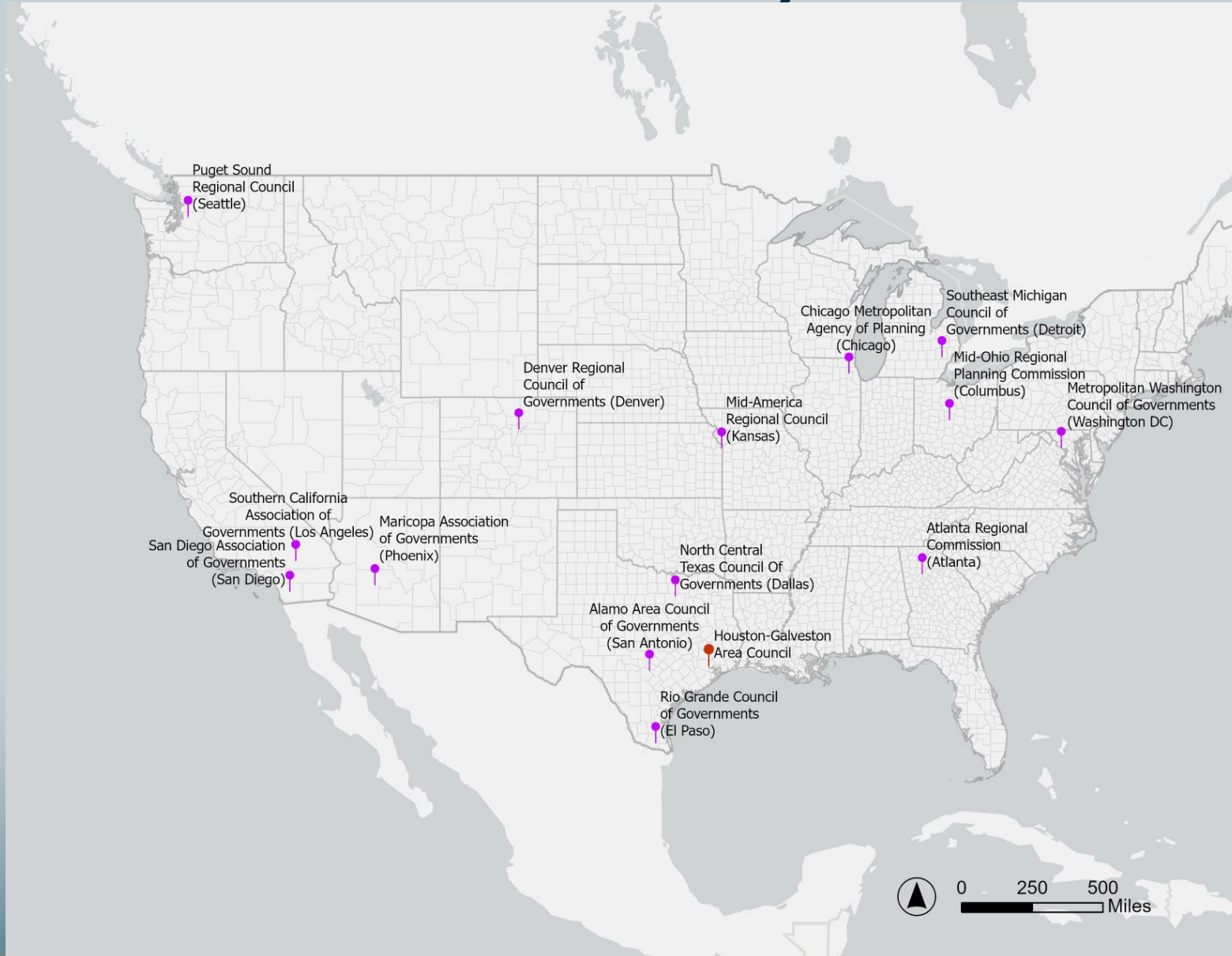
# Option 2- Add Weighted Votes to Current Board Composition - One additional vote for each 500,000 in population

Weighted Vote Composition	Weighted Votes
Each Member County gets one vote	13
Each Member City with Population >25,000 gets one vote	17
Home Rule Member Cities with Population <25,000 shall have 2 votes in total	2
General Law Member Cities with Population <25,000 shall have 2 votes in total	2
Member ISDs shall have one vote in total	1
**Member Governments shall have one additional vote for each 500,000 in population (Fort Bend 1, Harris 3, Montgomery 1, Houston City 4)	9
<b>Total Votes</b>	<b>44</b>

# Option 2- Add Weighted Votes to Current Board Composition - One Additional Vote for Each 500,000 in Population

Jurisdiction Type	Current Seats	Votes
Austin County	1	1
Brazoria County	1	1
Chambers County	1	1
Colorado County	1	1
Fort Bend County	1	2
Galveston County	1	1
Harris County	2	4
Liberty County	1	1
Matagorda County	1	1
Montgomery County	1	2
Walker County	1	1
Waller County	1	1
Wharton County	1	1
Houston City	2	5
Cities over 25,000	16	16
General Law Cities	2	2
Home Rule Cities	2	2
Independent School Districts	1	1
Ex-Officio (non-voting)	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>44</b>

# Recent Analysis



# Two Stage Voting

- Invoked or a threshold
- Preserves regional voices
- Considers population
- Provides avenue for collaboration and compromise
- Adjusted each 10-year Census
- Simple process
  - 1<sup>st</sup> vote is standard composition
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> vote is weighted by population
  - Actions must pass both stages to advance
  - If not, reconsideration and discussion take place

# Option 3- Two Stage Voting

## Current Board Composition & Population Share (100 votes)

Jurisdiction	Votes Stage 1	Votes Stage 2	Jurisdiction	Votes Stage 1	Votes Stage 2
Austin County	1	1	Sugar Land city	1	2
Brazoria County	1	3	Conroe city	1	2
Chambers County	1	1	Baytown city	1	2
Colorado County	1	1	Missouri City city	1	1
Fort Bend County	1	6	Galveston city	1	1
Galveston County	1	1	Texas City city	1	1
Harris County	2	19	Huntsville city	1	1
Liberty County	1	1	Friendswood city	1	1
Matagorda County	1	1	Rosenberg city	1	1
Montgomery County	1	6	La Porte city	1	1
Walker County	1	1	Deer Park city	1	1
Waller County	1	1	Lake Jackson city	1	1
Wharton County	1	1	Alvin city	1	1
Houston city	2	22	Home Rule Cities	2	6
Pasadena city	1	3	General Law Cities	2	4
Pearland city	1	3	Independent School Districts	1	1
League City city	1	2			
			<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100</b>

# Looking Ahead to 2030 and 2040

## ■ 2030

- Add 4 cities >25k
- Manvel, Fulshear, Dickinson, Katy
- Houston and Harris County each add 500k+

## ■ 2040

- Add 2 cities >25k
- Bellaire, Iowa Colony
- Houston crosses the 3 million threshold

# More to Come on January 10

# H-GAC Composition Committee

December 19, 2023



# Population Represented by Board Members

Jurisdiction*	2020 population	Population Share
Austin County	16,150	0.22%
Brazoria County	120,813	1.66%
Chambers County	27,103	0.37%
Colorado County	11,340	0.16%
Fort Bend County	487,457	6.68%
Galveston County	36,804	0.50%
Harris County	1,968,822	26.98%
Liberty County	61,941	0.85%
Matagorda County	13,799	0.19%
Montgomery County	495,568	6.79%
Walker County	29,023	0.40%
Waller County	30,288	0.42%
Wharton County	18,375	0.25%
Houston	2,304,580	31.58%
Pasadena	151,950	2.08%
Pearland	125,828	1.72%
League City	114,392	1.57%
Sugar Land	111,026	1.52%
Conroe	89,956	1.23%
Baytown	83,701	1.15%
Missouri City	74,259	1.02%
Galveston	53,695	0.74%
Texas City	51,898	0.71%
Huntsville	45,941	0.63%
Friendswood	41,213	0.56%
Rosenberg	38,282	0.52%
La Porte	35,124	0.48%
Deer Park	34,495	0.47%
Lake Jackson	28,177	0.39%
Alvin	27,098	0.37%
Home Rule Cities	409,613	5.61%
General Law Cities	137,663	1.89%
Non-Members	20,648	0.28%

\*County population is limited to the unincorporated portion of a County