

H-GAC Board Composition Informational Briefing

February 7, 2024

CHUCK WEMPLE

Background

- Citizen-led petition, Proposition B, was voted and approved in November 2023
 - *Requires the membership of the city in a Council of Governments or a Metropolitan Planning Organization to be contingent upon proportional representation based on population on the governing board and require the city to withdraw its membership from any non-compliant organizations.*
 - 60-day negotiation period

Changes to H-GAC Bylaws

- Change in H-GAC voting structure requires amendment to bylaws
 - h-gac.com/about/bylaws
 - Deliberation by Board of Directors, followed by ballot process
 - Does not require outside approval

Select Committee on Board Composition

- In April 2021, after the 2020 decennial Census, the committee was developed to:
 - Analyze results of 2020 Census
 - Analyze rapid growth areas
 - Identify potential impacts to H-GAC and board of directors
- No changes made
- In October 2023, committee was reconvened to assess voting framework

December 19th Meeting

The Select Committee on Board Composition held a meeting on December 19th where H-GAC provided an in-depth analysis of:

- Member governments Census data
- Proportional votes considering true population share
- A 'Two Stage' voting structure
- A summary of voting structures and bylaws from regional planning commissions across the country with similar size and structure.

Recent Analysis

Puget Sound
Regional Council
(Seattle)

Denver Regional
Council of
Governments (Denver)

Mid-America
Regional Council
(Kansas City)

Chicago Metropolitan
Agency of Planning
(Chicago)

Southeast Michigan
Council of Governments
(Detroit)

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments
(Washington DC)

Mid-Ohio Regional
Planning Commission
(Columbus)

Southern California
Association of
Governments (Los Angeles)

Maricopa Association
of Governments
(Phoenix)

San Diego Association
of Governments
(San Diego)

Rio Grande Council
of Governments
(El Paso)

North Central
Texas Council Of
Governments (Dallas)

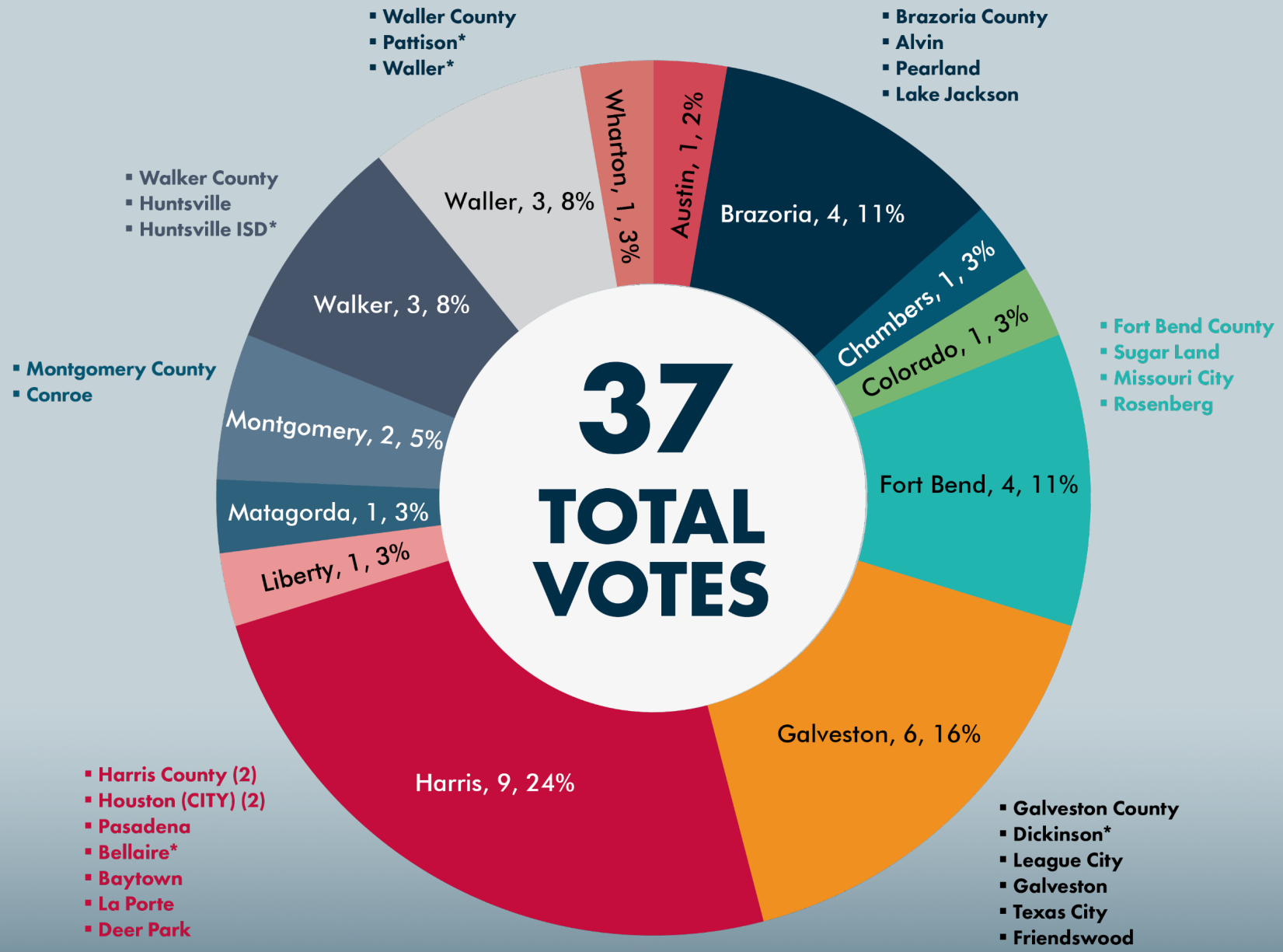
Atlanta Regional
Commission
(Atlanta)

Alamo Area Council
of Governments
(San Antonio)

Houston-Galveston
Area Council

Committee Meetings

- **January 10, 2024 - Select Committee on Board Composition Workshop**
 - The committee analyzed a Two Stage voting structure option and potential bylaw changes
- **January 19, 2024 – Select Committee on Board Composition Meeting**
 - The committee decided the H-GAC board of directors needed the same type of discussion as select committee workshop



Current Board Composition by County

COUNTY	POPULATION SHARE
Austin	0.4%
Brazoria	5.1%
Chambers	0.6%
Colorado	0.3%
Fort Bend	11.3%
Galveston	4.8%
Harris	64.8%
Liberty	1.3%
Matagorda	0.5%
Montgomery	8.5%
Walker	1.0%
Waller	0.8%
Wharton	0.6%

Two Stage Voting Structure

- Must be invoked
- Must be seconded by board member who is not of the same entity
- If the motion is seconded, the board will take two votes
- First Stage vote: Numerical vote, maximum of 37 total votes
- Second Stage vote: Proportional vote, maximum of 100 total votes



MOTION FOR SECOND STAGE VOTE
INVOKED



MOTION SECONDED BY BOARD
MEMBER NOT OF SAME ENTITY

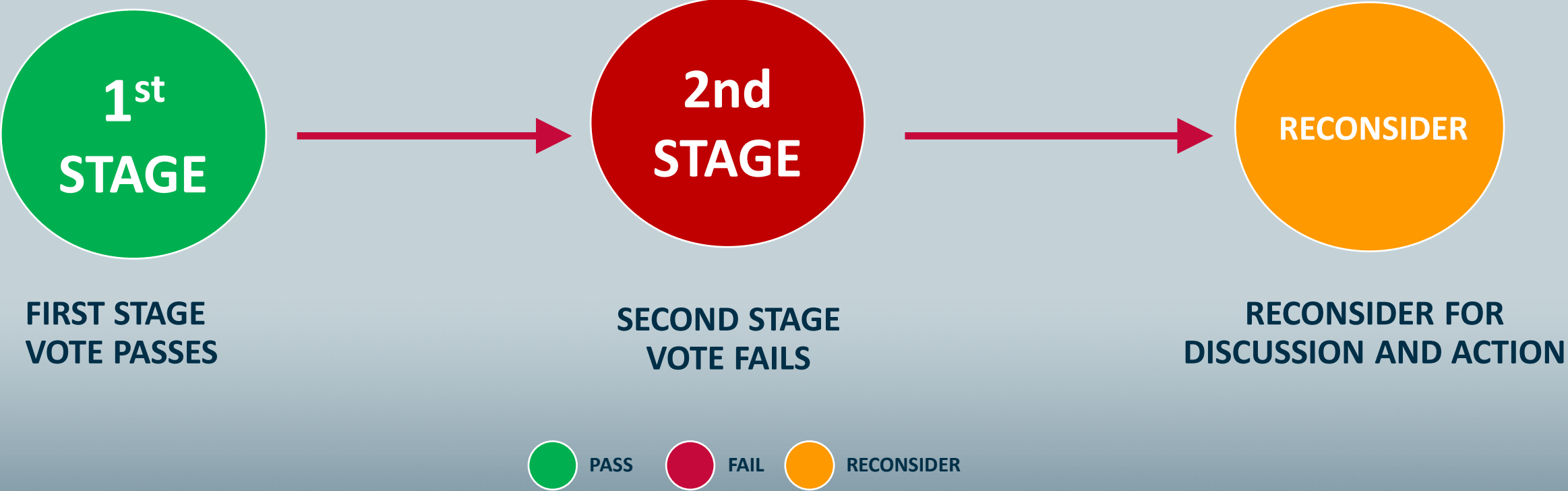
**MOTION MUST PASS FIRST STAGE AND
SECOND STAGE VOTES WITH A SIMPLE
MAJORITY**

Two Stage Voting Current Board Composition & Population Share (100 votes)

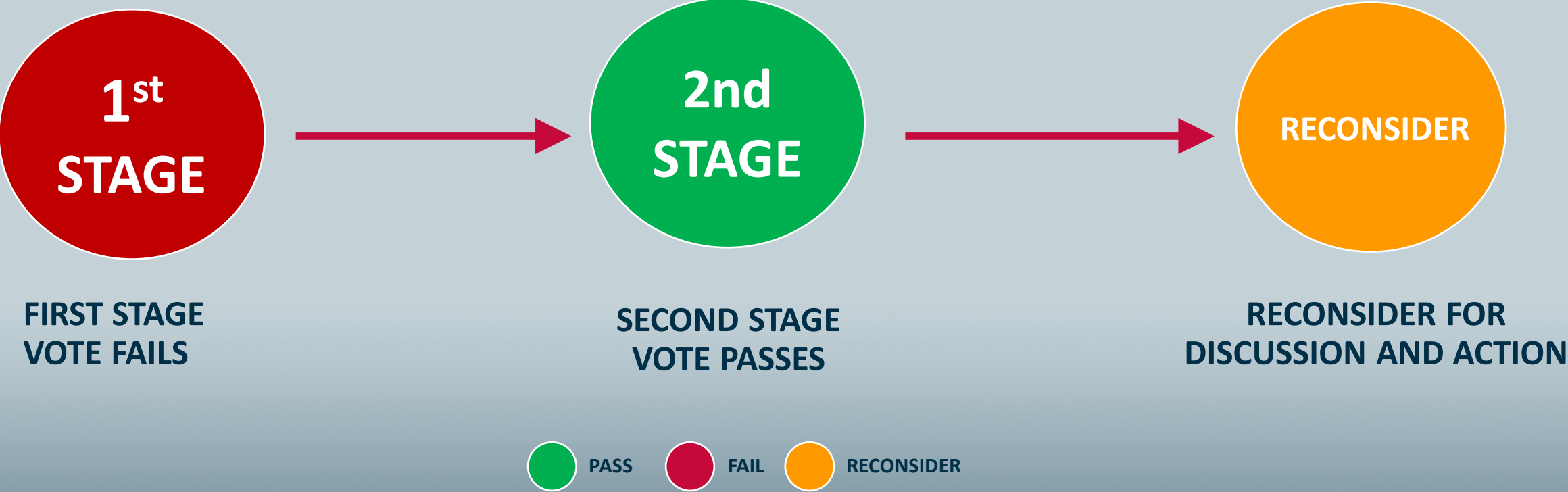
JURISDICTION	STAGE 1	STAGE 2
Austin County	1	1
Brazoria County	1	3
Chambers County	1	1
Colorado County	1	1
Fort Bend County	1	6
Galveston County	1	1
Harris County	2	19
Liberty County	1	1
Matagorda County	1	1
Montgomery County	1	6
Walker County	1	1
Waller County	1	1
Wharton County	1	1
Houston (CITY)	2	22
Pasadena (CITY)	1	3
Pearland (CITY)	1	3
League City (CITY)	1	2

Sugar Land (CITY)	1	2
Conroe (CITY)	1	2
Baytown (CITY)	1	2
Missouri City (CITY)	1	1
Galveston (CITY)	1	1
Texas City (CITY)	1	1
Huntsville (CITY)	1	1
Friendswood (CITY)	1	1
Rosenberg (CITY)	1	1
La Porte (CITY)	1	1
Deer Park (CITY)	1	1
Lake Jackson (CITY)	1	1
Alvin (CITY)	1	1
Home Rule Cities	2	6
General Law Cities	2	4
Independent School Districts	1	1
TOTAL	37	100

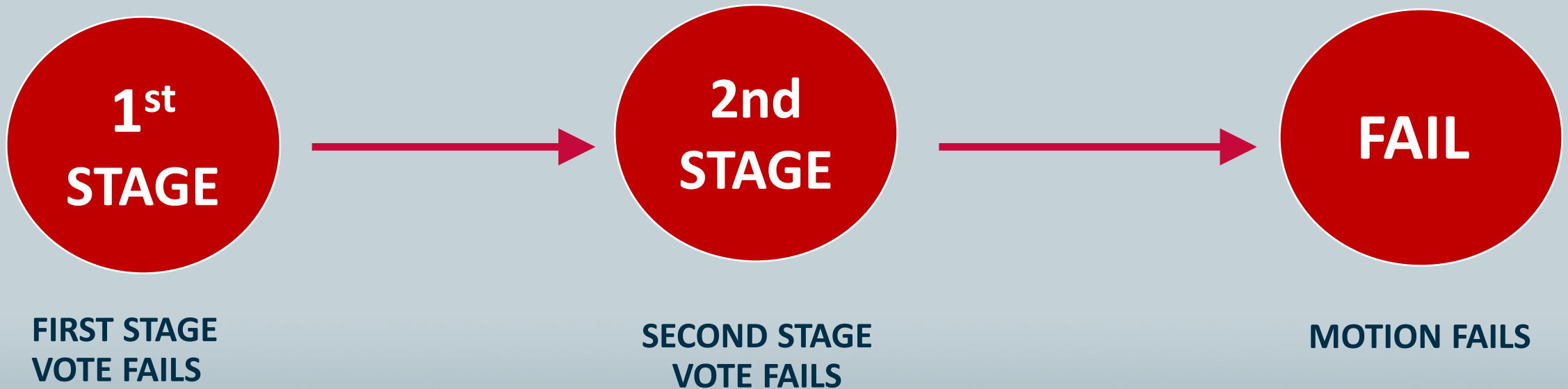
Two Stage Voting: First Passes/Second Fails



Two Stage Voting: First Fails/Second Passes



Two Stage Voting: Both Stages Fail



 PASS  FAIL  RECONSIDER

Two Stage Voting: Both Stages Pass



FIRST STAGE
VOTE PASSES

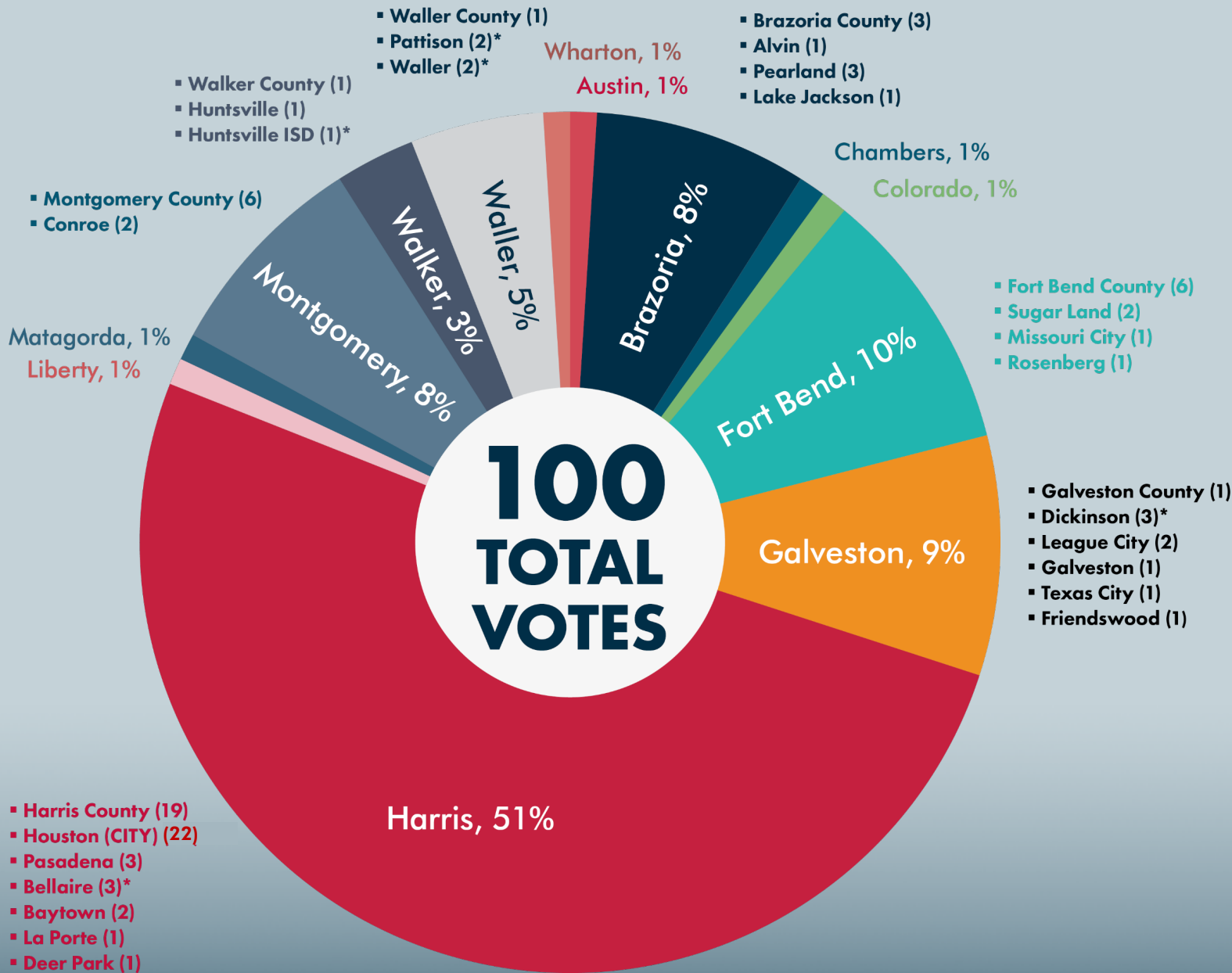
SECOND STAGE
VOTE PASSES

MOTION PASSES

 PASS  FAIL  RECONSIDER

TWO STAGE VOTING

Current Board Composition & Population Share (100 votes)



NOTE:

Seat/votes for General Law Cities are counted under Waller County

Seats/votes for Home Rule Cities are counted under Harris and Galveston County

Independent School District seat/vote is counted under Walker County.

Possible Bylaws Change:

Creation of Section 7

Section 7 Voting

Votes on items under consideration by the H-GAC board may only be cast by the duly appointed primary or their duly appointed alternate in attendance.

All items considered by the H-GAC Board may be acted upon by a numerical vote on the basis of one vote per seat on the Board.

Following a numerical vote, a board member has the option to request a two stage vote to be taken on the motion that was considered during the numerical vote. The request for a weighted vote must be made in the form of a motion and properly seconded by a member that is not a representative of the same member government. The motion to request a weighted vote does not require a vote of the full board.

Weighted votes will be taken by roll call. For a weighted vote to pass, it must meet the following conditions:

- The vote is required to pass by a majority of the members present(numerically). If 22 members of the 37 member board are present, at least 12 must vote in favor of the motion.
- The vote is also required to pass a weighted vote based on population share.

The outcome of the two stage voting process prevails over the original numerical vote.

The number of votes designated to each board member will be based on the latest decennial census population and modified when additional member governments are added. Any member with more than one seat on the board shall have their weighted vote equally divided amongst the duly designated members.

Possible Bylaws Change:

In Consideration of Population

Section 2 Terms and Method of Appointment

The Board of Directors of the Houston-Galveston Area Council shall serve terms of one year to begin January 1, **and in consideration of population**, shall be composed of representatives of the General Assembly as follows:

- a. One (1) representative and one (1) alternate from each member County except Harris County, which shall have two (2) representatives and two (2) alternates, selected by the Commissioners' Court of each member County.
- b. One (1) representative and one (1) alternate from each member Home Rule City over 25,000 population except the City of Houston which shall have two (2) representatives and two (2) alternates, and are selected by the City Councils of such member cities.
- c. The Houston Independent School District General Assembly representative and alternate;
- d. Two (2) representatives and two (2) alternates representing all member Home Rule Cities, with populations under 25,000, selected by and from the General Assembly representatives of member Home Rule Cities by mutually agreeable procedure.
- e. Two (2) representatives and two (2) alternates representing all member General Law Cities, selected by and from the General Assembly representatives of member General Law Cities by mutually agreeable procedure.
- f. One (1) representative and one (1) alternate representing all member independent school districts, other than the Houston Independent School District, selected by and from the General Assembly representatives of member independent school districts by mutually agreeable procedure.

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