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In looking at the election data from last night, I was struck by how out of balance the representation is for our Hall County Commission. When you look at the number of registered voters by commission district, commission district 1 is by far the largest:

District	Registered Voters	Percent of District
1	27521	36.06%
2	20121	26.36%
3	16966	22.23%
4	11714	15.35%

Basically what this means is that if you live in district 1, your vote is worth less than half the vote of an individual in district 4. In 1964 the Supreme Court ruled in Reynolds v. Sims that voter districts need to be roughly equal in population. In writing the majority opinion (8-1), Chief Justice Earl Warren said "Legislators represent people, not trees or acres. Legislators are elected by voters, not farms or cities or economic interests." The one person, one vote philosophy is a basic principle to our representative democracy.

There are a couple of solutions to this with the easiest being to simply redistrict the voters into 4 districts of ~19,000 voters. Assuming that the groups were set up properly after the 2000 census, you can tell that the majority of the growth in the county has been in Districts 1 and 2. Another solution would be to add a 5th commissioner. This will bring the voter to commissioner ratio closer to what it was 10 years ago by setting the districts as ~15k in size.

There are a lot of benefits to the 5th commissioner solution with the best one setting up the Chairman as a tie breaking vote (should be rare with 5 commissioners). As mentioned in a previous [blog](#), I support taking the Chairman's vote away. A 5th commissioner would be a great way to get it done.

