

STATE OF IDAHO

## **COMMISSION FOR REAPPORTIONMENT**

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **FOR CONGRESSIONAL PLAN C 52**

This Commission For Reapportionment, whose members are:

Ron Beitelspacher, Co-Chair  
Dolores Crow, Co-Chair  
Shauneen Grange, Commissioner  
Randy Hansen , Commissioner  
Elmer Martinez, Commissioner  
Sheila Olsen, Commissioner

was convened on September 28, 2011 in Boise, Idaho by the Secretary of State pursuant to Art. III, Section 2 of the Idaho Constitution, and Idaho Code section 72-1501(1)(b) in order to adopt new Congressional and Legislative District Plans.

#### **PRIOR REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

The prior Redistricting Commission was convened by the Secretary of State on June 7, 2011. That Commission held a total of fourteen public hearings around the state in Sandpoint, Coeur d'Alene, Moscow, Lewiston, Boise, Meridian, Caldwell, Hailey, Twin Falls, Burley, Soda Springs, Rexburg, Pocatello and Idaho Falls. The prior Commission also held several public meetings in Boise reviewing approximately 82 proposed Legislative Plans and 50 proposed Constitutional Plans. The previous Commission concluded its proceedings without adopting either a legislative or congressional plan on September 6, 2011.

#### **CURRENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

After being sworn in by the Secretary of the State, this Redistricting Commission adopted the record and proceedings of the previous Redistricting Commission. This Commission convened public hearings in Idaho Falls (October 5, 2011), Coeur D' Alene (October 6, 2011) and Boise (October 7, 2011) during which time citizens were provided the opportunity to comment on the approximately 86 Legislative plans under consideration by the Commission along with the approximately 51 Congressional plans under consideration.

Based upon the Redistricting Commission's review of the record, its meetings, the public comments received, and the governing legal requirements, the Commission makes the following findings and conclusions:

## LEGAL REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION

1. **Federal Constitutional Requirements.** Congressional districts should be as nearly equal in population "as practicable" unless justified by a "legitimate state objective." *Karcher v. Daggett*, 462 U.S. 725 (1983).
2. **State Statutory Requirements.** There shall be two congressional districts in Idaho. Idaho Code § 34-1901. Districts shall not be oddly-shaped, and division of counties must be avoided and kept to a minimum. Counties shall not be divided to protect incumbents, and when counties are divided, the districts must be composed of contiguous counties. Idaho Code § 72-1506.

## GENERAL FINDINGS

3. **Number of Districts.** The U.S. House of Representatives has apportioned Idaho two congressional district seats, which is reaffirmed by Idaho Code section 34-1901.
4. **Statistical Data.** The total state population is 1,567,582. With a total of two congressional districts, the ideal district population is 783,791.
5. **Voting Precincts.** In accomplishing its work, the Commission has endeavored to follow Idaho Code section 72-1506(7) in retaining as far as practicable the local voting precinct boundary lines, and where that has not been possible due to the need to comply with the United States constitutional requirements, the Commission has endeavored to follow Idaho Code 34-306 in following major visible features such as roads in drawing district lines. On October 18, 2011, the Commission voted unanimously to waive the requirement of Idaho Code section 72-1506(7).

## SPECIFIC FINDINGS

### APPROVED PLAN: C 52

6. **Statistical Data.** The Commission adopts Plan C 52 as the Idaho Congressional Redistricting. Congressional Plan C 52 divides the State of Idaho into two Congressional Districts. As noted above, the ideal district population is 783,791 people. District 1 contains a slightly larger population with a total of 784,132 people. This constitutes a deviation of 341 people or .04%<sup>1</sup> above the ideal district size. District 2 contains 783,450 people. This constitutes a deviation of 341 people or .04% below the ideal district size. Combined the overall population deviation of Plan C52 is .08%.
7. **Geographical Description.** The division between District 1, which comprises the majority of the western and northern portions of the state, and District 2, which contains the majority of the central and eastern parts of the state, splits only one county and follows county lines, major roads and highways, and easily identifiable geographic features. Specifically, the line between District 1 and District 2 follows county lines beginning where Idaho and Lemhi County intersect Idaho's border with Montana. From this point, the division follows the county line between Idaho and

---

<sup>1</sup> The deviation percentages have been rounded to the nearest hundredth of a percentage point.

Lemhi Counties, Lemhi and Valley Counties, Valley and Custer Counties, and Boise and Custer Counties south to the Ada County line. The district line then follows the Ada County line northwest to Highway 55, proceeding south to Horseshoe Bend Road, south along Horseshoe Bend Road to the Boise River, along the Boise River to Glenwood Street, south on Glenwood Street to Chinden Boulevard, west along Chinden Boulevard to Cloverdale Road and then south along Cloverdale Road to Interstate 84. From Interstate 84, the line runs east to the county line between Owyhee and Elmore Counties and then south along the county line between Owyhee and Twin Falls Counties to Idaho's border with Nevada.

The Commission finds that the district line described above serves the legitimate state interest of creating an easily identifiable boundary which will help eliminate voter confusion and facilitate the election process.

8. **Division of Ada County.** As described in detail above, the district line between District 1 and District 2 splits the most populous county in Idaho: Ada County. Ada County has been divided between Idaho's two congressional districts since 1971. The Commission finds that maintaining this traditional division of Ada County is the least disruptive to the voters of the state and therefore facilitates the election process, legitimate state interests.

In order to balance the United States Constitutional requirement with the state's interest in preserving traditional districts, the Commission redrew the line that divides Ada County to account for population growth. In drawing the new boundary, the Commission kept the core of Idaho's traditional districts intact by keeping the cities within Ada County whole to the greatest extent possible. Further, the Commission improved upon the previous district line by following clearly distinguishable roads and geographical boundaries as described in detail above. The Commission believes that this division best serves the needs of the voters in Ada County and across the state, while satisfying the one person one vote requirement of the United States Constitution.