

MINUTES
Approved by the Commission
Commission for Reapportionment
Thursday, September 09, 2021
9:00 A.M.
State Capitol Building, Room WW17
Boise, Idaho

Members: (Commissioners) Cochairs Bart Davis and Dan Schmidt, Commissioners Thomas Dayley, Nels Mitchell, Amber Pence, and Eric Redman; (Commission Staff) Paul Boucher, Elizabeth Bowen, Keith Bybee, and Todd Cutler

Absent/Excused: None

Also present (Signed in): None

The meeting was called to order by Cochair Dan Schmidt at 9:01 a.m. A silent roll call was taken.

Opening Remarks

- Cochair Schmidt began the meeting by reiterating what happened at the previous meeting, stating that the commission worked in small groups to create plans focused on different areas of the state. He called on Commissioner Redman to share his thoughts.
- Commissioner Redman thought working on the districts in northern Idaho was an interesting experience because of the geographical limitations of the northern counties, as well as the large population increase in Kootenai County, adding he felt the subcommittee was on the right path. Cochair Schmidt added they used multiple strategies, so they came up with two different products.
- Mr. Bybee stated that the commission staff created a shared drive with all the commissioners' plans and then displayed the two versions of the northern Idaho plans for the commission to see.
- The commission viewed the plan that splits Idaho County. Commissioner Redman said the key was the connection with the roads in dividing the districts. Commissioner Redman explained that his goal was to keep the cities from being divided into two districts and went on to specify the disbursement of districts on this plan.
- Cochair Schmidt explained that Idaho County was split on that plan, and he thought that might conflict with the other subcommittee's plans. Cochair Schmidt went on to say three counties had to be divided across districts.
- Commissioner Redman shared that the Coeur d'Alene Tribe was kept within one district on this plan. Cochair Davis asked if Kootenai County had any external splits. Cochair Schmidt replied that because of the population in Kootenai County, it could not be contained in one district and went on to say that in the Idaho County split version, Kootenai County was in districts 2, 3, and 6.
- Cochair Schmidt stated that he and Commissioner Redman would like to sit down with the Treasure Valley subcommittee and work together on the areas that might overlap.
- Next, the commission looked at the other northern Idaho plan, which split Lewis County. The two commissioners started by highlighting some of the differences between this plan and the Idaho County split. They noted that plan also contained three splits, just in different locations. Cochair Schmidt wondered if splitting counties could be avoided by using those which are further south than had been used previously. Cochair Davis shared that in eastern Idaho there was an area he found to be contentious, and he hoped that blending the work of the three subcommittees would solve some of the problems they all faced while on their own.

- The commission moved on to a plan of eastern Idaho created by Cochair Davis and Commissioner Pence. Commissioner Pence said they worked with districts 30, 33, and 34. They kept Teton County with Bonneville County, but because of the population growth, they cut the district off at Bonneville. They informed the rest of the commission they were still trying to figure out the Bannock, Power, and Caribou County area. District 29 was kept relatively the same. Cochair Davis added that the two of them went into the Magic Valley but wanted to work with the whole committee on that area. Cochair Davis also mentioned he tried to respect the previous redistricting commission's effort in creating this plan, while making necessary changes due to population growth. Cochair Davis stated Bonneville County is still split in two and that the stretch between Shelley and Idaho Falls is becoming more populous, and he hoped they could have the district split fewer counties. Cochair Schmidt inquired if the two commissioners had worked on District 26, and Cochair Davis replied there had been difficulty figuring out what to do there. Cochair Davis went on to say he found the exercise very valuable, even though he did not like the plan he and Commissioner Pence created.
- The commission moved on to view the Treasure Valley subcommittee's plan. Commissioner Dayley believed it was going to be quite difficult to finalize the districts in this area. Cochair Davis agreed and said that at some point they were all going to have to work together in order to finalize the districts. Commissioner Mitchell directed the commissioners' attention to Ada and Canyon Counties, where there are 14 legislative districts, and explained that the Boise districts were going to have to expand in order to reach the median population they are seeking. Commissioner Mitchell stated it is quite challenging to put together because of all the population growth. Commissioner Dayley agreed, but said that he learned a lot about the process. He shared that their goal while creating this plan had been to not only keep 14 districts in Ada and Canyon, but to bring Owyhee County into the picture and move the boundary west out of Twin Falls. They started in Ada and Canyon and worked outward. Cochair Davis asked how far east the subcommittee went. Commissioner Dayley replied that this plan went to Twin Falls, Gooding, and Elmore Counties, but they were still having a hard time nailing down a good configuration.
- Commissioner Pence and Cochair Davis shared that they also worked on a congressional plan because they believed it could be simpler and because the practice helped when they worked on the legislative plans.
- Cochair Davis commented that he would like a printout of the other subcommittees' plans so he could take those into account and create a plan that incorporates them in the best way. Cochair Davis acknowledged his hope to come up with a plan that gave them 35 districts. He said that the commission could use some time to clean up the lines and to maybe get started on a congressional plan. Cochair Davis agreed and reiterated that the plan was to get back into subcommittees and keep working to improve the plans.
- Discussion was held as to the best way for the commission to access each other's plans. Multiple commissioners expressed wanting to have each of the plans side by side so they could have a better understanding of where districts are headed. Mr. Bybee suggested the commission recess in order for the commission staff to have plans printed out.

Without objection, the commission recessed and was reconvened at 10:18 a.m.

- Cochair Schmidt and Commissioner Redman then described the work they had done on their plan during the recess, bringing the boundary down to reach Canyon County. Cochair Schmidt asked if the Treasure Valley subcommittee would like to sit down together.
- Commissioner Mitchell replied that he and Commissioner Dayley wanted to work more on nailing down the Canyon County/Ada County division.
- Cochair Davis questioned Mr. Boucher about commission minutes. Mr. Boucher replied that there were some things that needed to be taken care of before the minutes would be ready, but that minutes would be coming soon. Cochair Davis asked how the public would be informed about the

meetings. Mr. Bybee stated that staff would be contacting the news media in order to publicize the meetings. Commissioner Mitchell recalled the past commission's advice that the county clerks were valuable in publicizing the meetings. Mr. Bybee agreed.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.