

MINUTES
Approved by the Commission
Commission for Reapportionment
Wednesday, September 15, 2021
1:00 P.M.

Dean E. Miller Community Room, Caldwell Public Library
Caldwell, 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): Jeff Agenbroad, Brandon Beall, Greg Chaney, Toni Ferro, Jacqueline Groves, Becky Hansen, Rex Hansen, Haley Hicks, Patti Anne Lodge, Brandi Long, Raleigh Mahler, Penny Neely, Marisela Pesina, Lucy Pesina, Sue Redman, Raquel Reyes, Bob Solomon, Matt Wolfe, Chris Yamamoto, and Alejandro Zamora

The meeting was called to order by Cochair Schmidt at 1:01 p.m. A silent roll call was taken.

Opening Remarks

Cochair Schmidt thanked the city of Caldwell for hosting the meeting and explained the purpose of the Commission for Reapportionment. The commissioners introduced themselves.

Public Testimony

Cochair Schmidt invited the public to testify.

- Alejandro Zamora testified regarding a community of interest, the city of Caldwell. He stated that District 12 in the commission's Plan L01 did not include Caldwell Housing Authority's Farmway Village. He recommended that this area be included in District 12 because it lies within the city of Caldwell. Cochair Schmidt warned that to move the community of interest referred to by Mr. Zamora would make the population uneven in nearby districts. He encouraged Mr. Zamora to provide the commission with suggestions on how to balance the difference. Commissioner Dayley echoed Cochair Schmidt's comments.
- Cochair Schmidt encouraged the public to create their own plans, specifically plans that include information on the whole state.
- Chris Yamamoto, representing the Canyon County Elections Office, testified regarding existing boundary lines. He encouraged the commission to consider using existing boundary lines from voting precincts to establish legislative districts. Cochair Davis commented that Canyon County may be split externally to have an equal population between districts. Mr. Yamamoto commented on the difficulties of considering entities like school districts when drawing boundaries.
- Jacqueline Groves testified regarding congressional districts. She commented that existing lines did not meet the requirement for one person, one vote. She added that existing lines made it more difficult on candidates and volunteers to run a campaign.
- Marisela Pesina testified regarding communities of interest in Caldwell. She highlighted school districts and Farmway Village as communities of interest and encouraged the commission to consider those areas when drawing plans. Commissioner Redman asked Ms. Pesina what percentage of students in the school district were Spanish speaking. Ms. Pesina responded that it was 68% of the students. Cochair Davis explained the approach the commission took to draw the legislative districts in the Caldwell area and encouraged Ms. Pesina to provide suggestions on how to balance the population in those districts. Commissioner Dayley asked if Ms. Pesina could be more specific

about the community of interest she discussed. Ms. Pesina responded that she would provide more details during the remote testimony hearing on October 12.

- Bob Solomon testified regarding communities of interest in Caldwell. He asked the commission to consider cities and school districts when drawing congressional districts.
- Senator Patti Anne Lodge testified regarding her experience with redistricting as a state senator. She described the legislative district she represented and asked the commission to consider school districts when drawing legislative districts. Commissioner Redman wondered if the vineyards in Senator Lodge's district were going to become subdivisions. Senator Lodge assured that her community was fighting to protect the vineyards.
- Cochair Schmidt asked Mr. Cutler if school districts could be layered on Maptitude. Mr. Cutler responded that they could.
- Representative Greg Chaney testified regarding the commission's proposed District 23. He appreciated how the commission drew District 23 in Plan L01 because it would keep certain communities of interest together. He also expressed appreciation for how the districts were drawn in the Caldwell area because it would keep the growing areas of Caldwell together within the heart of Caldwell.
- Representative Brandon Mitchell testified regarding the proposed District 6 in Plan L01, stating that it seemed to protect a certain political party and incumbents.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.