

**MINUTES**  
**Approved by the Commission**  
**Commission for Reapportionment**  
**Wednesday, September 15, 2021**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**Council Chambers, Nampa City Hall**  
**Nampa, 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): Debbie Kling, Sandi Levi, Patti Anne Lodge, Jim Rice, Scott Syme, Ed Whalen, and John Vander Woude

**The meeting was called to order by Cochair Schmidt at 7:00 p.m. A silent roll call was taken.**

**Opening Remarks**

Cochair Schmidt explained the purpose of the Commission for Reapportionment. The commissioners introduced themselves.

**Public Testimony**

Cochair Schmidt described how the public could be involved in the process of reapportionment. He invited the public to testify.

- Representative Scott Syme testified regarding the legislative district he represented as a state legislator. He highlighted the Middleton area, stating that it was growing at a rapid rate. He also highlighted the communities of interest in the Wilder and Homedale area. Commissioner Schmidt asked Representative Syme if he had looked at the plans proposed by the commission. Representative Syme explained that he had but focused on the Middleton area in his testimony because it was growing rapidly and was starting to affect the Caldwell area.
- Ed Whalen testified regarding the proposed congressional districts, stating his opposition to the proposed District 2 in Plan C02. He explained that his vote would not count if the Treasure Valley had its own congressional district.
- Representative John Vander Woude testified regarding the legislative district he represented as a state legislator. He warned that splitting cities such as Kuna would be detrimental. Cochair Davis asked for Representative Vander Woude's opinion on proportional representation within the legislative districts. Representative Vander Woude stated that he saw merit in the idea because state legislators tend to have different strengths in different areas of their districts.
- Representative Syme commented on the idea of proportional representation within the legislative districts, stating that it was something he had discussed before and it should be considered. Commissioner Pence wondered whether there should be a districtwide vote or a vote within the geographical region that the candidate would represent. Representative Syme stated it would be more appropriate to contain the vote to those living in the geographical region.
- Commissioner Redman provided an example of how county commissioners were elected from the whole county even though they could be from different regions within the county. He stated that splitting legislative districts was not something to be considered at this point.
- Senator Jim Rice commented on proportional representation within the legislative districts, stating that a constitutional amendment may be needed to make it possible. Cochair Davis asked if a

letter from the commission recommending changes to the reapportionment process would be well received by legislative leaders. Senator Rice stated that it may have mixed reactions within legislative leadership but added that it would be wise for the commission to do so because it would be useful to the Legislature. Commissioner Redman asked for Senator Rice's opinion on having 35 legislative districts that were split into zones. Senator Rice believed that the Idaho Constitution would not allow it. Cochair Schmidt assured Senator Rice that the commission was not considering this option for the 2021 reapportionment process. Senator Rice continued testimony regarding the proposed Plan L01, stating that Districts 11 and 12 would split the communities of interest of Caldwell and Middleton. Cochair Davis commented on the difficulties of drawing legislative districts. Senator Rice wondered if the proposed plan could be used as a template to draw legislative districts. Mr. Bybee explained how to use proposed plans as a template in Maptitude. Commissioner Dayley encouraged Senator Rice to consider the different types of communities of interest while drawing a plan.

- Nampa Mayor Debbie Kling testified regarding the city of Nampa and boundary lines within the city, such as postal zones and city council districts. She encouraged the commission to draw the districts in a way that encouraged people to vote and qualified candidates to run. After Cochair Schmidt gave a timeline of the commission process, Mayor Kling asked how long she had to submit a plan. Cochair Schmidt responded that she had three weeks to submit a plan. Cochair Davis asked if there were areas of impact in Nampa that lie in Ada County. Mayor Kling responded that there were not.

**With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.**