

Legislative District Options for Ada County

Presented to

Idaho Redistricting Commission

By

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Dear Commissioners:

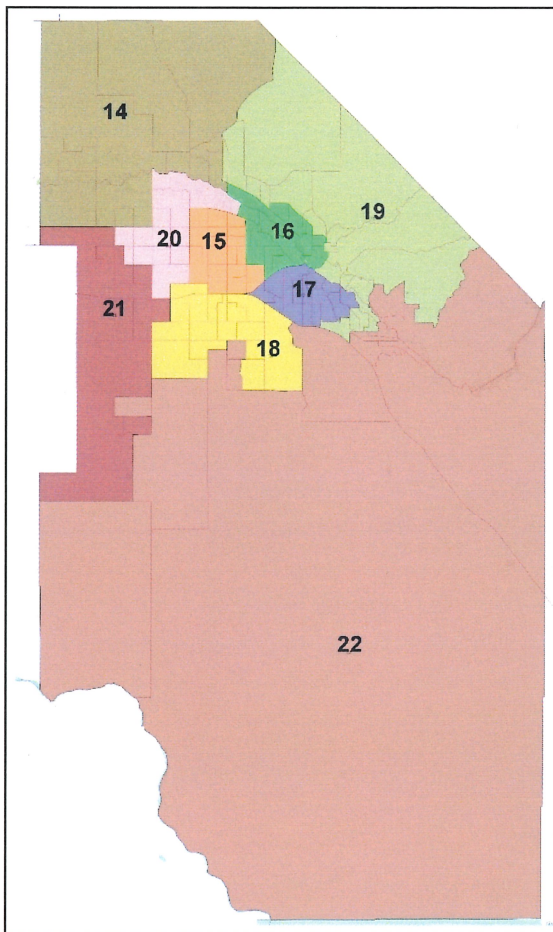
I take the position that it is appropriate to draw nine complete legislative districts in Ada County, plus part of a tenth district.

This report examines the numbers, and the flexibility in each county and presents two alternatives for Canyon and Ada Counties.

Ada County

At 494,967 people, nine self-contained districts would average 54,997, which is only 176 below maximum. Ten self-contained districts would average 49,497, which is 422 below the threshold.

This means that it is impossible to put 10 districts in Ada but barely possible to put in nine districts. I attempted well over 100 different combinations of precincts and split precincts focusing on compact districts, and it was only possible by carving up multiple subdivisions. The map below is the only one that succeeded in creating nine districts, but I believe it looks gerrymandered.



LD	Pop	Dev
14	54,993	4.66%
15	54,828	4.34%
16	55,007	4.68%
17	55,162	4.98%
18	55,153	4.96%
19	55,023	4.71%
20	55,135	4.93%
21	54,809	4.31%

Canyon County

At 232,986 people, four self-contained districts would average 58,247, which is 3,072 over the maximum. Five self-contained districts would average 46,597, which is 3,321 below the threshold.

This means that Canyon County MUST share a district with a neighboring county.

Given that Canyon must be split and Ada probably should be split, it makes most sense to create the split district between the two counties. They are

similar in many ways—population, traffic, economic, and general community standards are different in these urban and suburban areas than they are in the surrounding more rural counties. Furthermore, the city of Star straddles the county line, and is currently split into two districts.

By not only locating the split district in these counties, but locating it on the Route 44 corridor, you would be combining the cities of Middleton, Star and Eagle along Route 44. These three cities have a different vibe than Meridian or Boise or Garden City. There is less commercial development, more suburban communities, and it makes for a logical place to put the district.

Finally, the numbers work.

There are two ways to do it. One puts most of the split district in Ada County, pulling in just three precincts from Canyon. The result of this is the remaining Canyon County precincts average a few thousand people more than the remaining Ada County precincts.

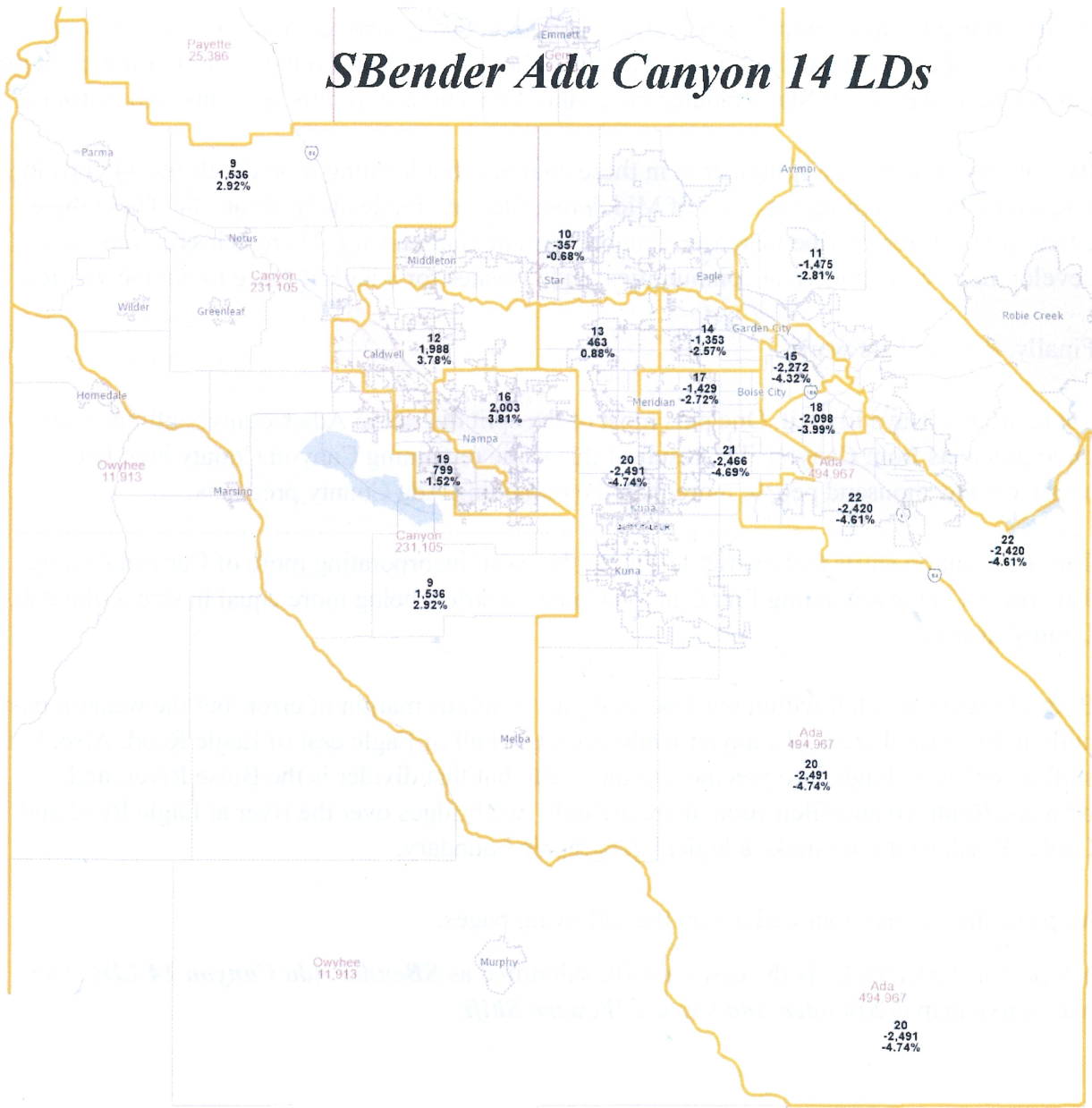
The other option shifts that district farther to the west, incorporating more of Canyon County. This results in the remaining four Canyon County districts being more equal in size to the Ada County districts.

Both of these plans fall within the 5 percent plus or minus margin of error, but the western plan pulls in more rural areas of Canyon while cutting off all of Eagle east of Eagle Road. Also, both shift a portion of Eagle into precincts to the south, but that divider is the Boise River, and between Route 16 and Glenwood, there are only two bridges over the river at Eagle Road and Linder Road, so it does make a logical geographic boundary.

Maps of the two as submitted are on the following pages.

My personal preference is the eastern shift, submitted as *SBender Ada Canyon 14 LDs*. The alternative map is *SBender Ada Cnyn 2 Western Shift*.

SBender Ada Canyon 14 LDs



SBender Ada Cnyn 2 Western Shift

