

**MINUTES**  
**Approved by the Commission**  
**Commission for Reapportionment**  
**Wednesday, September 22, 2021**  
**1:00 P.M.**  
**The Library — Sandpoint Branch**  
**Sandpoint, 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): Karen Bradetich, Diana Dawson, Nadine Dilworth, Lauren Doko, Todd Engel, George Eskridge, Gene Fields, Rick Gray, Bryan Hult, Eor Jenkins, Carol Jenkins, Annisa Keith, Shawn Keough, Louie Kins, Kate McAlister, Tony McDermott, Maureen Paterson, Anita Perry, Rick Price, Cornel Rasor, Jordan Redman, Janese Shelledy, Nathan Tull, Melanie Vander feer, Norma White, Robert White, and Jim Woodward

**The meeting was called to order by Cochair Davis at 1:00 p.m. A silent roll call was taken.**

### **Opening Remarks**

Cochair Davis explained the purpose and process of the Commission for Reapportionment. The commissioners introduced themselves.

### **Public Testimony**

Cochair Davis invited the public to testify.

- Nathan Tull expressed concern regarding Plan L01 because it would divide the voting precinct in which he resided. Cochair Davis asked if Mr. Tull had a suggestion for where the boundary line between Districts 3 and 5 should be placed. Mr. Tull recommended Highway 53 as a boundary line. Cochair Davis commented that county clerks and former commissioners had suggested using roads as boundary lines. Commissioner Redman stated that county clerks were considering redrawing voting precincts due to population changes.
- Shawn Keough stated that previous commissions had set a precedent of splitting communities of interest in Bonner County, particularly on its east side. Commissioner Mitchell asked whether Ms. Keough's suggestion was to follow the Bonner County boundary on the east side and split the county on the west side. Ms. Keough responded that Plan L01 addressed most of her concerns, particularly in the Sagle and Clark Fork areas.
- Commissioner Redman explained that Plan L087 (2011) was the map chosen by the last commission that had been challenged in court. He requested to have L087 projected to the audience to highlight the differences between Plans L087 and L093 (2011). Cochair Schmidt explained that the Idaho Supreme Court found that there were too many county splits in L087.
- Rick Gray expressed opposition to Plan L01, stating that the boundary line divided the voting precinct in which he resided and would cause his current state representative to lose the seat.
- Maureen Paterson stated her opposition to L01 because it would split voting precincts in Edgemere.
- Doug Paterson highlighted communities of interest in northern Idaho, including Blanchard and Edgemere. He expressed his opposition to L01 because it would not effectively represent these communities of interest.

- Gene Fields stated that his son had hoped to run for the Legislature but did not know which district he could run in. Cochair Schmidt commented that the commission was working as fast as it could so that those who wished to run could know their district.
- Tony McDermott asked the commission to include his hometown, Garfield, in District 1. Commissioner Redman asked how far Mr. McDermott lived from the county border. Mr. McDermott responded that he lived about 15 to 20 miles away.
- Nadine Dilworth lamented that the current congressional districts did not represent the interests of the state because northern Idaho and southern Idaho did not share the same interests.
- Diana Dawson highlighted the difficulties that arise with current Districts 1 and 7. She explained that the boundary line between Districts 1 and 7 split the town of Sagle. She added that, due to the size of District 7, legislators have a difficult time effectively representing the northern areas of the district.
- George Eskridge stated that Clark Fork and Sagle had been nearly excluded from the political process because of the current district boundaries.
- Louie Kins asked the commission to consider making current District 7 smaller to make it easier for legislators to reach their constituents. Cochair Davis commented that a district that size may be unavoidable.
- Todd Engel expressed concern that an incumbent legislator may lose the seat. Cochair Davis mentioned that statute requires that the commission cannot consider incumbents.
- Rick Price highlighted aspects of the map he had drawn [Plan L040], which focused on Bonner and Kootenai Counties. Cochair Schmidt asked if Mr. Price had followed current precinct lines. Mr. Price responded that he had. He suggested the commission follow ridgetops instead of roads when drawing boundaries.
- Norma White expressed concern that some current legislators, particularly in the Kootenai County area, could lose their seats. Commissioner Redman explained that, due to the growth in Kootenai County, it would have to be split into four districts.
- Robert White expressed concern that his current legislators would lose their seats.
- Cornel Rasor encouraged the commission to select a plan that would split only seven counties.
- Anita Perry encouraged the commission to avoid as many external splits as possible. Ms. Perry asked how many county splits were on L01. Cochair Davis responded that there were eight county splits and explained that the commission considers a county to be split only once, even if there are multiple splits within the county. Commissioner Redman explained that there may be external splits in Bonner and Kootenai Counties.
- Melanie Vander feer encouraged the commission to make as few changes as possible to the legislative district in which she resided. She expressed concern that her current legislators would lose their seats.
- Senator Jim Woodward expressed his opposition to Plan C02 because it would further divide urban and rural interests.
- Annisa Keith asked why statute requires there to be 35 legislative districts. Cochair Schmidt responded that an amendment to the Idaho Constitution, passed in the previous election, required 35 legislative districts. He explained that, although he did not vote in favor of the amendment in the previous election, he understood that it would provide stability in the Legislature. Cochair Davis explained the events that led up to creating the Commission for Reapportionment and the catalyst for proposing the amendment that requires 35 legislative districts.

**With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.**