

**MINUTES**  
**Approved by the Commission**  
**Commission for Reapportionment**  
**Wednesday, September 22, 2021**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Room 106, Bob and Leona DeArmond Building, North Idaho College**  
**Coeur d'Alene, 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): Michael Burgess, Leslie Duncan, Dan English, Asa Gray, Phil Hart, Jennifer Locke, Mary Souza, and Ray Watkins

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

**Opening Remarks**

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

**Public Testimony**

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

- Michael Burgess testified on Plan L01 to help the commission overcome the nonpolitical barriers of the process. He commented how natural geographic boundaries affect county boundaries, which can cause irregular lines and make drawing compact districts difficult. He also testified that federal land made some districts geographically large and created a difference in access to representation for certain districts. Mr. Burgess warned the commission to anticipate growth in some areas and that census data may not reflect current population numbers accurately. He recommended that the commission consider using compactness scores in its final report.
- Asa Gray testified on Plan L010 and addressed the Kootenai County districts, noting communities that share common interests. Mr. Gray liked how the commission kept communities of interest together but disliked how the commission split some areas in Hayden Lake. He understood that Kootenai County must be split into at least four districts and said that another internal split wouldn't be an issue if the commission needed it to keep external splits to a minimum. Cochair Davis asked if that was reflected in Plan L010. Mr. Gray replied that it was. Cochair Schmidt summarized Mr. Gray's statements and asked whether Plan L010 did not split Shoshone County. Mr. Gray responded that his plan did in fact split Shoshone County. Cochair Schmidt revealed that it would be a two-external split plan. Mr. Gray recognized that had been overlooked. Cochair Schmidt noted the commission ran into the same problem. Mr. Gray remarked that he likes the plan that includes Kootenai County with Bonner County rather than creating a helicopter district. Commissioner Mitchell commented the commission had heard from other counties that they would be redrawing precinct lines and asked him whether there were any plans for Kootenai County to do the same. Mr. Gray confirmed that the county would be adding and redrawing several precinct lines.
- Leslie Duncan thanked the commission for its work on the difficult task of redistricting. Ms. Duncan said she wasn't keen on Plan L01 but liked Plans L010 and L013. She warned the commission that the appearance of gerrymandering could create issues and that the commission be able to explain itself for any decisions made.

- Dan English said he appreciated the access the public had to participate in the redistricting process. He testified on Plan L041, specifically about the city of Coeur d'Alene and areas around it that he claimed didn't fit as well into the commission's plans. Mr. English described the differences between his two plans, noting that some lines had to be altered in each to make the numbers work.
- Ray Watkins testified as a member of the Fernan City Council and noted the city's desire to be drawn together with the city of Coeur d'Alene, citing economic ties and growth. Commissioner Mitchell asked Mr. Watkins about the population of his city. Mr. Watkins answered that there is about 136 people. Commissioner Mitchell noted that the small number could make it easy for the commission.
- Former Representative Phil Hart testified that north Idaho consisted of the five northern counties and should be considered a community of interest. He added that Shoshone County endorsed the plan proposed by Brandon Durst, L024. Mr. Hart distributed a version of that plan to the commissioners, but the members of the commission returned the plans back to Mr. Hart, stating they couldn't accept plans that had names and addresses of incumbents highlighted on it. Mr. Hart pointed out the contiguous counties had a higher priority to combine in legislative districts, and so Lake Pend Oreille should be connected with Shoshone County. Cochair Schmidt clarified whether Mr. Hart said that it does not make sense to combine Shoshone and Clearwater Counties. Mr. Hart agreed.
- Cochair Davis noted that even though the commission would not physically take testimony again in Coeur d'Alene, citizens would still have digital access via the website, and there would be remote testimony as well after Columbus Day.

**With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**