

My name is Cindy Jesinger and for the past 36 years, I have owned a home in Blaine County. My husband, Rick, and I have been actively involved in our community for many of those years. My remarks do not consider the district lines in other regions of our state since I lack adequate knowledge to address them.

In reviewing the proposed legislative district maps through L45 as posted on the Idaho Commission for Redistricting's website, I observed that numerous proposals include combining Blaine County with a variety of 21 of Idaho's remaining 43 counties to create a district. Blaine's proposed county partners include Adams, Bingham, Boise, Butte, Camas, Clark, Custer, Elmore, Fremont, Gem, Gooding, Jefferson, Jerome, Lemhi, Lincoln, Madison, Minidoka, Power, Teton, Valley and Washington counties.

Tonight, I speak in favor of maps such as L1, which create a legislative district of Blaine, Jerome, and Lincoln Counties. While several other maps (L10, L27, L30, L34, L37, L38, L41, L42, L43, L44 and L47) combine the three counties, given my lack of knowledge of other parts of our state, I will use L1 for my remarks.

In reviewing the Legislative Redistricting Guidelines for the Idaho Commission for Redistricting, L1 meets the first six requirements, including the foremost, drawing 35 districts that are substantially equal in population, with no more than a 10% population variance between the least and most populated districts. L1, with a population variance of 9.58%, meets this standard. Perhaps there could be a configuration for the remainder of the state that would provide a smaller deviation, but a district including Blaine, Jerome and Lincoln Counties would have a population variance of a very respectable 2.07%. ~~The primary requirement delineates the viability of 50, which suggested a district of Blaine, Jerome and Gooding Counties. The proposed district would have a population of 40,747, 22% lower than the average population per district of 52,546.~~

A second requirement is that, to the greatest extent possible, the commission should avoid dividing a county so that one part of the county is in one district and the other part of the county is in another district. To meet the aforementioned requirement of equal population, there must be some divisions, given the population of Idaho counties. L1 has minimal splits, unlike L11, L12, L14, L15, L16, L25, L26, and L31 which unnecessarily split Minidoka, Jerome and Gooding Counties or provide for an unnecessary third split in Twin Falls County. Indeed, four maps (L32, L35, L36, L39) split Blaine County into two districts.

A third requirement is that counties combined into one district must be contiguous. L1 meets the requirement. Blaine, Jerome and Lincoln Counties are not only contiguous, but are connected by a highway that unites the major regional population center of Twin Falls with the remainder of the region.

With all major requirements addressed, one can now discuss the oft-debated definition of "community of interest". L1 combines three counties that comprise a "community of interest". Consider these factors:

- Education – The three counties are in Idaho Education Region IV
- Health – The three counties are in the Idaho South Central Health District
- Economy – The three counties are in the same Idaho Economic Development District "Regional IV Development".

- Employment – The three counties are in the Idaho Department of Labor’s South Central Region. Moreover, due to the cost of living in Blaine County, many travel from Lincoln, Jerome and other counties to work in Blaine County.
- Transportation – The three counties are in Region IV of the Idaho Department of Transportation.
- Soil Conservation – The three counties are in Region IV of the Idaho Association of Soil Conservation
- Youth Programs – The three counties are in Boy Scouts of America’s Snake River District and for years, Association 3 of the Girl Scouts of Silver Sage Council.
- Services – Jerome has the nearest GMC/Chevrolet dealership. They have the closest RV dealership.
- Shopping – Jerome has the closest Walmart to Blaine County.

Several maps have Blaine County united with either Custer County or Elmore County to form a district. I oppose combining Blaine County with either Custer or Elmore Counties. While the population and contiguous county requirements might be met, Blaine County and these counties have none of the associations listed above in common; instead, they are in different districts, regions, or councils. Additionally:

- Joining Blaine County with either Custer County or Elmore County will increase mileage between county seats and major population centers, thereby offering diminished legislative representation. Consider these facts:
 - Hailey (Blaine County) to Jerome (Jerome County) is 61 miles, or 1 hour & 7 minutes, with Shoshone (Lincoln County) in between
 - Hailey (Blaine County) to Mountain Home (Elmore County) is 117 miles or 2 hours & 21 minutes
 - Hailey (Blaine County) to Challis (Custer County) is 151 miles or 2 hours & 37 minutes
- While many people commute from Lincoln or Jerome to work in Blaine County, few people (if any) commute over Galena Summit from Custer County to work here. Likewise, few (if any) people drive over two hours each way from Elmore County to work in Blaine County.
- The population of Blaine County frequently drives south for shopping, services and medical care. They do not drive north to Custer County or west to Elmore County for these.

Thank you for hearing my concerns. I am very grateful for the service you are providing to our state with your important work on this commission. Good luck as this process moves forward.

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