

MINUTES
Approved by the Commission
Commission for Reapportionment
Wednesday, September 29, 2021
7:00 P.M.

Minnie Moore Room, Community Campus
Hailey, 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): Charles Lee Barron, Linda Bergerson, Perry Boyle, Ned Burns, Sara Burns, Sondra Casser, Janie Davidson, Muffy Davis, Darlene Dyer, Kathryn Goldman, Wendy Jaquet, Cynthia Jesinger, Linda Kincannon, Sarah Michael, Steve Miller, Nick Miller, Steve Millington, Natalie Millington, Gerry Morrison, Randy Patterson, Devan Perez, Bev Robinson, Brent Robinson, Brian Sturges, and Julie Weston.

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 and process of the Commission for Reapportionment. The commissioners introduced themselves.

Public Testimony

Cochair Schmidt invited the public to testify.

- Charles Lee Barron gave a [handout](#) to the commission and urged the commissioners to create a plan without legislative districts, instead having legislators represent each county in Idaho. He voiced his concern that the current system of legislative apportionment in Idaho was reducing the voice of the small counties in the state.
- Wendy Jaquet testified in support of Plan L01. She spoke about District 35 of Plan L01, which included Blaine, Lincoln, and Jerome Counties. She shared that those three counties were a good match to be in the same district as they had common interests and economic connections. She offered Plan L050 as an alternative for the commission, which would keep Blaine, Camas, and Gooding Counties in the same district. Regarding congressional plans, she preferred that Blaine County remain in District 2 and Plan C025 or C026 could be a solution. She stated the importance of keeping counties whole. Ms. Jaquet suggested having representative districts split geographically into an A and B subdistrict, where constituents only voted for the representative of their half, while senators would still run at large in a district.
- Cindy Jesinger gave a [handout](#) to the commission and spoke in favor of Plan L01. She shared that L01 met the first six requirements of the Legal Criteria for Redistricting Plans. She enumerated the ways in which Blaine, Jerome, and Lincoln Counties were a community of interest and Plan L01 would be the right configuration for those counties. Ms. Jesinger mentioned the distance between the county seats of Blaine, Elmore, and Custer Counties and compared it to the distances between Blaine, Jerome, and Lincoln Counties as an example of how representation would be made more difficult.
- Sarah Michael reiterated that Blaine, Lincoln, and Jerome Counties should be together as a community.
- Brian Sturges spoke supporting Plan L01. He recognized how closely Blaine County was linked to the Magic Valley. He stated the Wood River Valley and the Magic Valley were economic allies.

He spoke in favor of Plans C025, C026, or C036, as he preferred a north/south congressional plan split, and expressed his view that the counties should remain whole. He stated that northern and southern Idaho had different economic and environmental issues and that a congressional plan should reflect those differences.

- Brent Robinson spoke in support of Plan L01. He supported that plan because he considered the economies of Blaine, Lincoln, and Jerome Counties to be deeply intertwined. He also supported Plan C025 or C036 for the same reasons as Mr. Sturges.
- Darlene Dyer testified in support of Plans L01 and C036. Regarding L01, she believed it was a good choice to combine Blaine, Lincoln, and Jerome Counties. She said that if L01 could not be used, she would also support a configuration that had Blaine, Camas, and Gooding Counties, as well as the city of Twin Falls, in the same district. She supported C036 because it would keep counties whole.
- Katherine Goldman supported Plan L01 for its incorporation of Blaine, Lincoln, and Jerome Counties, as it represented a true community of interest without splitting the counties.
- Steve Miller testified in support of Plan L01. He conveyed that Camas, Gooding, and Twin Falls Counties were a strong community of interest because of family ties, recreational interactions, and the numerous regional services that the three counties shared. He preferred Plan C024 because he thought that Ada County should be divided. He said that having ties to Boise facilitated access to the capital. He went on to say that Ada County should be divided in a way that keeps Lemhi and Custer Counties in the southern district because of the geography and the tradition of congressional plans in the state. He also supported the idea brought forth by Ms. Jaquet of having legislative districts divided into A and B and took it a step further, stating it should be applied to county commission districts in order to provide better representation for everyone.
- Randy Patterson, Mayor of Carey, supported Plan L01 because it would put Jerome, Lincoln, and Blaine Counties in one district. He mentioned the water coalition between various cities in those counties as a reason for them to be together. He also spoke in support of Plan C024, stating the Magic Valley needs to be in the same district.
- Nick Miller testified in support of Plan L01 because it dealt with the legislative district around a single watershed, an important community of interest.
- Steve Millington testified against Plan L050 for including an additional split within Twin Falls County. He said that plan went against the criteria the commission must follow to only divide counties when absolutely necessary and said it would destroy the community of interest in the city of Twin Falls.
- Ned Burns, Mayor of Bellevue, spoke in support of Plan L01 and shared his strong disdain for Plan C02, which drastically changes the districts that had been split in an east/west fashion his entire life.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.