

MINUTES
Approved by the Commission
Commission for Reapportionment
Thursday, September 30, 2021
6:00 P.M.

Fine Arts Building, College of Southern Idaho Campus
Twin Falls, 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): Maxine Ball, Mark Boldug, Lance Clow, Nancy Clues, Chuck Coiner, Erin Collins, Mike Elliott, Perri Gardner, Denise Gill, Kristina Glascock, Larry Hollifield, Diane Houser, Cathy Howick, Roy Hubert, Cindy Jesinger, Frank Knight, Emily Lewis, Grant Loeb, Steve Miller, Steve Millington, Richard Pauratt, Mike Rainey, Joann Rutler, Cheryl Sandy-Miller, Josie Silver, Lora Silver, Carole Stennett, Melonie Swenson, Mark Swenson, and Valerie Varadi.

The meeting was called to order by Cochair Davis at 6:02 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.

- Cindy Jesinger expressed her support for Plan C024 because it had a 0% population deviation and would keep the Magic Valley and Wood River Valley in the same congressional district. She urged the committee to consider factors such as agriculture practices, road access, weather patterns, access to the capital city, and landforms when splitting the state.
- Steve Millington stated his opposition to Plan L050 because it would unnecessarily split Twin Falls and Twin Falls County. He expressed his support for C024 because it would better represent the Magic Valley.
- Mark Swenson, the Jerome County Republican Central Committee chairman and the Jerome County Assessor, stated his opposition to Plan L01. He shared that Jerome County and Blaine County had little in common and should not be included in the same legislative district.
- Frank Knight expressed his support for Plan L01 because it met the legal criteria and kept communities of interest together. He also expressed his support for C024 for the same reasons.
- Erin Collins expressed her support for Plan L01 because it would minimize splits in Twin Falls County. She also highlighted Plans C025, C026, and C036 because they would keep communities along the Snake River together.
- Mike Rainey expressed his support for Plan L01 because it would keep Twin Falls County and Gooding County together, which would better represent his community of interest.
- Josie Silver expressed her support for Plan L01 because Camas, Gooding, and Twin Falls Counties have similar interests and should be included in the same district.
- Lora Silver expressed her support for Plan L01 and C024 because of the relationship between Camas and Gooding Counties.

- Steve Miller stated his concern about splitting a county more than once. He explained that Camas County should be included with southern counties, such as Gooding and Twin Falls Counties. He asked the commission to consider drawing the congressional line through the Idaho State Capitol Building in Boise so that everyone has equal access to the capital.
- Representative Lance Clow expressed his support for Plan L01 but suggested areas to include in District 24.
- Kristina Glascock, the Twin Falls County Clerk, explained the urgency county clerks were feeling during the redistricting process. She urged the commission to use voting precinct boundaries when drawing legislative districts.
- Nancy Cluss expressed her support for Plan L01 because it would limit the number of splits in Twin Falls County. She also expressed her support for Plans C025, C026, and C036 because they would include Ada County with the southern and eastern counties of the state.
- Joann Rutler, a Lincoln County commissioner, expressed her support for Plans L01 and L024. She stated that Lincoln and Blaine Counties shared similar interests and should be in the same legislative district.
- Grant Loeb stated his appreciation for Plan L01 because it minimized splits in Twin Falls County. Commissioner Schmidt explained the difference between external and internal splits and stated that the commission tried to avoid as many external splits as possible when drawing Plan L01. Mr. Loeb stated that he understood that some counties would have to be split, but he urged the commission to avoid external splits wherever possible.
- Mike Elliott expressed his support for Plan L01 because it would keep Camas, Gooding, and Twin Falls Counties together in one district.
- Valerie Varadi, the Elections Director for Twin Falls County, encouraged the commission to choose a plan as soon as possible to help the upcoming election run smoothly.
- Melonie Swenson explained that Jerome County did not have the same interests as Blaine County and should not be in the same legislative district.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.