

MINUTES
Approved by the Commission
Commission for Reapportionment
Tuesday, October 12, 2021
7:00 P.M.
Lincoln Auditorium - WW02, Idaho State Capitol
Boise, 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): Dolores Aragon, Lauren Bramwell, Sean Coletti, Jean Gerth, Bob Heneage, Antonio Hernandez, Kay Hummel, Wayne Hurst, Craig LaChance, Phil McGrane, Eric Peterson, Jim Ruckh, Mary Ruckh, Spencer Stucki, Beatrice Thompson, Meghan Yeats

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 of the Commission for Reapportionment. The commissioners introduced themselves.

Remote Public Testimony

Cochair Schmidt described the process of how the commission would receive testimony and invited the public to testify.

- Eric Peterson submitted that Latah and Nez Perce County did not have similar interests. He requested that the commission not place Moscow and Lewiston within the same district. He also requested that Grangeville not be grouped with Moscow or Lewiston. Commissioner Redman inquired whether Idaho County should be split among Latah and Nez Perce County. Mr. Peterson replied that it should be easier without Idaho County. Cochair Davis asked whether any of the currently proposed plans were favored. Mr. Peterson responded that Plan L058 or L059, which placed the division across Lewiston Hill, was his favorite.
- Meghan Yeats of Sagle (District 7) spoke in support of being pushed into District 1.
- Antonio Hernandez testified in support of Plan L067, which he submitted. He testified on his behalf as a resident of Nampa and as a member of Contamos Idaho and the Conservation Voters for Idaho. He noted that the plan was conceived after soliciting feedback from community members in the Nampa and Caldwell areas, which requested areas of interest remain together. He stated that responses from the Twin Falls community requested that the new district include areas around the sugar beet factory, which Plan L01 does not do.
- Mary Ruckh spoke in support of Plan C036 because it split Idaho into north and south regions for representation. She noted that it kept the rural areas of the state together and better defined communities of interest.
- Jim Ruckh spoke in support of Plan L023 because it kept southeast Boise intact.
- Bob Heneage, a Teton County commissioner, requested that Teton County be incorporated into a more compact district that would actually be connected by main roadways. He explained that, currently, an individual must drive through Wyoming or outside the county itself to reach the southern half of the district. He spoke of combining Teton County with eastern Bonneville and

Fremont County due to similar outdoor recreation appeal and a shared health district; or to combine Teton County with Fremont and Jefferson County.

- Beatrice Thompson was concerned that she might be moved to District 23 per Plan L01. She explained that her residence was in an urban area and her needs would not be met if placed into a more rural district. Commissioner Mitchell inquired about boundaries that should be considered. Ms. Thompson responded that Precincts 5543 and 3813 (Plan L01) should be included, at least to the canal, within proposed District 21. Commissioner Pence asked what neighborhood should be moved out of proposed District 21. Ms. Thompson proposed that Precinct 2046 be removed.
- Craig LaChance advocated that the commission account for the population of Ada County precincts. He noted that some precincts within Ada County reflected a zero population for 2018 and 2020. Cochair Schmidt encouraged Mr. LaChance to speak with the Ada County clerk to better understand why those precincts reflected those numbers. Commissioner Dayley explained that Ada County precinct boundaries were constantly being altered to account for the growing population and assured him that individuals were accounted for. He added that the Ada County clerk instructed the commission to follow the census population data rather than precinct data in redrawing the districts.
- Spencer Stucki spoke to Plan L056, which attempted to solve issues in eastern Idaho where districts were expansive and linear. He supported Plan C18, which he submitted, but could support either Plan C01 or C24.
- Sean Coletti, mayor of Ammon, lamented that the city of Ammon currently was split into three districts. He would prefer that it be whole but would accept two districts. He noted that Mr. Stucki's Plans L011, L012, L055, L056, and L060 allowed the eastern side of Ammon to be included with Teton County, which had more in common. Mr. Coletti also supported Plan L066, which captured land for future growth of Ammon.
- Wayne Hurst spoke to three plans he submitted - one for the congressional district (Plan C041) and the remainder for the legislative districts (Plans L070 and L071). His plans were not available for viewing at the time of the meeting. Cochair Davis asked who assisted Mr. Hurst on his plan that created a seven-county split. Mr. Hurst cited Jason Hancock as one individual who assisted him, among others. Cochair Davis inquired which of Mr. Hurst's legislative plans provided the cleanest lines and best unison for communities of interest. Mr. Hurst submitted it would be the eight-county split plan.
- Dolores Aragon spoke in support of Plan C036 because it kept counties whole and created the least amount of population deviation. She also supported Plan L067.
- Kay Hummel spoke in favor of Plan L023. She noted that the line between rural and urban communities was not as finite as in the past due to the internet. She also supported Plan L067 and hoped some of those ideas for Nampa, Caldwell, and Twin Falls could be incorporated into L01.
- Phil McGrane, Ada County Clerk, spoke to a plan recently submitted [L072]. The plan was not available for viewing at the time of the meeting. The plan would place Star with Middleton and would place southern Ada County further south. Cochair Davis asked whether the communities of Star and Middleton were more important to each other than the eastern edge of Star going with Ada County. Mr. McGrane responded that it was. Commissioner Dayley commented that he was eager to look at the submitted plan. Commissioner Mitchell asked whether the plan split the city of Eagle. Mr. McGrane admitted that it did but that the Boise River was a natural divide for that community.
- Lauren Bramwell, representing the ACLU of Idaho, urged the commission to consider the effects of prison gerrymandering when redrawing the districts. She explained that incarcerated individuals were counted for census data in the place of their confinement rather than their home residency. She noted that this distorted the population of a district and the representation was not accurately depicted.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.