



# CANYON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Leslie Van Beek**  
District I

**Keri K. Smith**  
District II

**Pam White**  
District III

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November 2, 2021

Bart Davis, Co-Chair  
Dan Schmidt, Co-Chair  
Tom Dayley, Commissioner  
Nels Mitchell, Commissioner  
Amber Pence, Commissioner  
Eric Redman, Commissioner  
Idaho Commission for Reapportionment  
Idaho State Capitol  
700 W. Jefferson  
Boise, ID 83702

**RE: Canyon County's Comments on Commission for Reapportionment Plan**

Dear Co-Chairs and Commissioners:

On October 22, 2021, Ada County, with the support of Canyon County Elected Officials, submitted proposed plan L072 to the Idaho Commission for Reapportionment ("Reapportionment Commission"). As noted in the letter that accompanied our response to L072, the Reapportionment Commission was charged to follow specific guidelines (outlined below) found in Idaho Code. The plan was to be drafted in order to keep cities and communities of interest whole rather than reapportioning to protect incumbency or partisan designations. Canyon County is disappointed that the Reapportionment Commission declined to utilize the Ada/Canyon proposal and instead supported L02. Canyon County, like Ada County, believes that the L02 proposed plan is constitutionally and statutorily flawed. We strongly oppose using L02 and urge the Reapportionment Commission to adopt the L072 plan agreed upon by two of Idaho's largest and fastest growing counties, Ada and Canyon.

As you are aware, there is a hierarchy of requirements that govern redistricting plans. The intent of the statute compared with the impact of L02 is as follows:

***Intent:***

1. I.C. 72-1506(2) states...To the maximum extent possible, districts shall preserve traditional neighborhoods and local communities of interest.

***Impact:***

L02 disrupts our current traditional neighborhoods and local communities of interest. The proposed boundary lines in L02 encroach on areas of high density and commerce

that are clearly outside the neighboring county's jurisdiction thereby minimizing local representation.

**Intent:**

2. I.C. 72-1506(4) states...To the maximum extent possible, the plan should avoid drawing districts that are oddly shaped.

**Impact:**

The L02 has a number of "odd" designs including LD9 which puts a portion of Middleton into Payette County;

LD15 mixes Kuna's urban area with a portion of Canyon County as well as portions of Ada and Owyhee Counties;

**Intent:**

3. I.C. 72-1506 (5) states...division of counties shall be avoided whenever possible. In the event that a county must be divided, the number of divisions, per county should be kept to a minimum.

**Impact:**

L02 proposes mixing one of the fastest growing cities in the State, Meridian, with a slice of Canyon County's commercial buildings whose population totals 1,125 people.

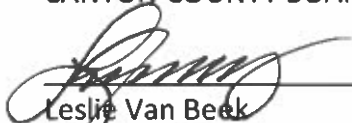
Multiple counties are involved in cross-border scenarios that create significant issues for elections and remove local representation for constituents in the legislature.


Ada and Canyon Counties are two of the fastest growing counties in Idaho. L02 proposes to divide these urban, growing communities of interest and mix them with rural, sparsely populated neighboring counties.

The Reapportionment Committee fails to maintain traditional neighborhoods and local communities of interest. To forestall litigation, the Canyon County Board of Commissioners and Elected Officials, in conjunction with Ada County, urge you to reconsider adopting L02. We recommend you adopt the Ada/County proposal, L072 or a comparable proposal that meets equal protection and county division requirements and complies with the statutory requirement of keeping neighborhoods and local communities of interest intact.

Thank you for your thoughtful reconsideration of the impacts to Canyon County.

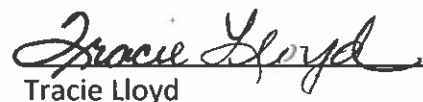
Sincerely,  
CANYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
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Leslie Van Beek

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Keri K. Smith

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Pam White

CANYON COUNTY TREASURER

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracie Lloyd

CANYON COUNTY ASSESSOR

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian R. Stender

CANYON COUNTY CLERK

*Chris Yamamoto*

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Chris Yamamoto