

The SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

FORT HALL INDIAN RESERVATION
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FORT HALL BUSINESS COUNCIL
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Members of the Idaho Redistricting Commission:

It is with great disappointment that the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes submit this public comment regarding the Commission's newly proposed map (L02). We object to the boundary drawn between proposed Districts 28 and 30 because it intentionally divides the two largest population clusters on our Reservation also known as the Fort Hall Indian Reservation.

We respectfully ask that you reconsider our request to be included with the Bingham County legislative district.

Our objection to the proposed map is based on the following points:

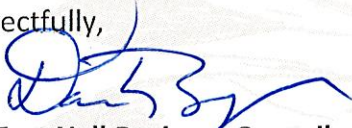
- The Commission held a public hearing at Fort Hall on October 6th. In response to questions from Commissioners, the Tribes confirmed that its strongest relationship among the local counties is with Bingham County. This is based on relations between the Fort Hall Business Council and the County Commission, commerce, where our members live and schools attended by our children. Furthermore, the Tribes' last public comment submission included a map showing the population clusters in Fort Hall. The largest two clusters live along the Bingham/Bannock County border. Therefore, the Tribes supported having the southern boundary of a legislative district representing Bingham County pulled south to include the Fort Hall population living in Bannock County near the border with Bingham County. Instead, the divide of the Tribe's population was maintained.
- Section 72-5206(2), Idaho Code, states "To the maximum extent possible, districts shall preserve traditional neighborhoods and local communities of interest." The Tribes clearly fit within the definition of "communities of interest". There are several proposed maps that illustrate how a Bingham County legislative district can be drawn to include the Fort Hall population living in Bannock County along the Bingham County border. Interestingly, L82 is able to achieve this while only splitting eight counties, which is the same number of split counties in the Commission's proposed map.
- Bannock County is already a divided county on every proposed map. Having the Bingham County legislative district include those residents of Fort Hall living near the county border but in Bannock County would not impact the number of counties that are split.

In the media, Commissioner Davis is quoted as saying, *"I think (it's) really paying attention to one-person, one-vote, and it respects communities of interest and counties in a remarkable way. And I hope our state values our commitment to that target."* While Commissioner Mitchell stated, *"One of the things that Tom and I really focused on was that there were lots of comments at the public hearings on the cities. So, this draft map gives Caldwell one district, and then there are two districts that sweep up most of Nampa, and then Meridian ends up with two, almost three districts. With relatively clean lines."* (*"Eye on Boise: Latest legislative district plan cuts population variations," Idaho Press, October 30, 2021*).

Based on our public comments and submitted Testimony, we disagree that this represents our community of interest and are disappointed that we did not receive equal consideration to that of municipalities.

We realize that you were not assigned an easy task. However, this is the second time we have participated in the public process of redistricting, and it is the second time our input has been ignored. **Again, we ask that you reconsider our request to be included with the Bingham County legislative district.**

Respectfully,



The Fort Hall Business Council of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes

Chairman Devon Boyer, Vice Chairwoman Marlene Skunkcap, Secretary Ladd Edmo, Treasurer Elma Thompson, Sgt of Arms Roland Marshall, Councilman Nathan Small, Councilman Lee Juan