

**MINUTES OF THE  
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, June 21, 2011 – 6:00 p.m. – Deseret Peak Complex, Tooele Utah

**Members Present:**

Sen. Ralph Okerlund, Senate Chair  
Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion, House Chair  
Sen. Gene Davis  
Sen. Stuart C. Reid  
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell  
Rep. Melvin R. Brown  
Rep. Gage Froerer  
Rep. Francis D. Gibson  
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson  
Rep. Don L. Ipson  
Rep. Brian S. King  
Rep. Todd E. Kiser  
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold

Rep. Christine F. Watkins  
Rep. R. Curt Webb

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Benjamin M. McAdams  
President Michael G. Waddoups  
Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart  
Rep. Roger E. Barrus

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Leif Elder, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Allison M. Nicholson, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Eric Weeks, Deputy General Counsel  
Ms. Kimberly A. Heiner, Legislative Secretary

**Note:** A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Okerlund called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. President Waddoups, Speaker Lockhart, Sen. McAdams, and Rep. Barrus were excused from the meeting.

Members of the Committee introduced themselves and indicated the area of the state that they represent.

**MOTION:** Sen. Davis moved to approve the June 10, 2011 Ephraim & Richfield minutes, the June 11, 2011 Cedar City and St. George minutes, and the June 15, 2011 Salt Lake City Library minutes. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Gibson and Sen. Van Tassell absent for the vote.

**2. Overview of Redistricting**

Mr. Elder gave a presentation on what redistricting is, why it is done, and the redistricting principles that were adopted at the May 4, 2011 meeting. He also gave an overview of the redistricting public website [RedistrictUtah.com](http://RedistrictUtah.com) and demonstrated the online redistricting tool that allows the public to create redistricting plans.

**3. Public Comment and Committee Discussion About Redistricting**

Chair Okerlund asked the audience to raise their hand if they had seen an advertisement on Facebook about this Redistricting meeting. Approximately 20 people raised their hand.

Rep. Sumsion presented “House Seat Shifts by Region” and explained the impacts of a shifting population.

Rep. Sumsion reminded the public that all of the maps presented are drafts and are subject to change from public input. He also emphasized that population numbers are driving the redistricting decisions.

Rep. Webb presented “Tooele House Plan - Webb” and explained his rationale for the boundaries he suggested. He responded to questions from the public and the Committee.

Rep. Webb also presented “U.S. Congressional Plan – Webb Plan G” and explained his rationale. He said he was trying to create a map with both urban and rural congressional districts.

Chair Okerlund presented “U.S. Congressional Plan – Okerlund Plan F” and explained his rationale. He said that he did not look at the current congressional seats in drawing this map and only looked at numbers to create competitive districts.

Rep. Douglas Sagers, House District 21, said that Tooele County has more in common with northern Utah than southern Utah. He said he does not like the doughnut hole approach for a congressional plan.

Ms. Colleen Johnson, Tooele County Commissioner, would like to see Grantsville and the rest of Tooele in the same district. She also thanked the Committee for holding this meeting in Tooele.

Ms. Marilyn Gillette, Tooele County Clerk, called in her comments and said that Tooele has had unprecedented growth but still has rural roots. She asked the Committee to keep this in mind when drawing boundaries.

Rep. Ronda Menlove, House District 1, said she appreciates the complexity of the task of Redistricting. She said she hoped the public would get on-line and give their input.

Mr. Brent Marshall, Grantsville City Mayor, asked to keep all of Grantsville in the same district and pick up the additional population in either Box Elder County or Magna. He said it was time to make Tooele County whole. He responded to questions from the Committee.

Mr. Patrick Dunlavy, Tooele City Mayor, thanked the Committee for coming to their city. He asked the Committee to keep Tooele County in the same Senate and House districts, and suggested moving the lines into Magna to pick up the additional population needed for these districts. He responded to questions from the Committee.

Mr. Michael Johnson, Tooele City Council Member, said that Tooele should have their own Senate and House seat with additional population picked up in Magna. He said Tooele had more in common with Magna than with Box Elder County.

Mr. Jerry Hurst, Tooele County Commissioner, said Tooele is a diverse county that is mostly rural but with some urbanism. He said Tooele fits in better with Box Elder County than with Utah County. He also said Tooele County needs stronger representation.

Mr. Merrill Nelson, Fair Boundaries Coalition & Utah Citizens Counsel, said Tooele County has not been treated fairly in past redistricting and believes that Tooele County should have local representation. He said he opposes political alignment with Box Elder County because there is no contiguous population or connecting highway. He responded to questions from the Committee.

Mr. Karl Swan, citizen, said that Tooele and Grantsville should be in the same districts because they have common interests. He said that Box Elder should not be in the same district as Tooele because they have little in common and no direct travel routes.

Mr. Gerald G. Hill, citizen, said he would like Grantsville and Tooele to be in the same boundaries. He said that Grantsville is more a part of Tooele County than Box Elder County.

Mr. Chris Sloan, Tooele County Republican Party Chair, said that he understands the ripple effect of balancing population in redistricting, but he said that Tooele took their turn being rippled in 2001. He added that it is now time for Tooele County to have their own representation.

Mr. David McCall, Tooele City Council Member, said that Tooele County was not dealt fairly with during the redistricting 10 years ago, but that this time the Committee has the opportunity to be fair. He said that Tooele County has more in common with the east than they do with the north. He asked the Committee to keep Tooele County together in one district.

Mr. Jeff McNeill, citizen, said he likes Senator Okerlund's map because he did not consider existing seats and looked at population. He said the political seat belongs to the citizens, not to individual representatives. He said the idea that rural areas should stay together is a good ideal, unless the rural areas are divided by a lake and a bombing range as Tooele and Box Elder Counties are.

Mr. John O'Donnell, citizen, said that Tooele County is united, and asked the Committee to keep the county in the same district.

Mr. Ken Froehle, Represent Me Utah, said that in his view, Magna does not want Tooele to be part of their district. He said he lives in smog and dirt caused by industry, but on Tooele's side of the mountain it is nice and clear and blue. He said he doesn't need a representative who lives in clear blue skies representing Magna.

Ms. E. Hazel Reed, Tooele City Democratic Party, asked to keep small towns together in redistricting.

Mr. Will Craig, citizen, said he understands that there is going to have to be some separation in redistricting, but asked that Tooele County be kept in one district. He said he is from Stansburry Park and that he feels more in common with Box Elder County than Salt Lake City.

Mr. Kendall Thomas, Stockton Council Member, said that he feels the Committee is trying to do the right thing in Tooele and asked to keep Tooele County in the same district. He said redistricting is not about politics and that the seats are about the people.

Mr. James Gowans, citizen, said he was on the redistricting committee ten years ago and thanked the Committee for coming to Tooele County. He is proud of the strong turn out at this committee meeting.

Rep. Gibson, said he appreciated the high turn out of Tooele citizens at the meeting.

#### **4. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Hendrickson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Okerlund adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.