

**MINUTES OF THE
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, July 12, 2011 – 6:00 p.m. – Jordan School District, Auxiliary Services Building,
West Jordan, Utah

Members Present:

Rep. Kenneth W. Sumsion, House Chair
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Benjamin M. McAdams
Sen. Stuart C. Reid
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
President Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Gage Froerer
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Brian S. King
Rep. Todd E. Kiser
Speaker Rebecca D. Lockhart

Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Christine F. Watkins
Rep. R. Curt Webb

Members Absent:

Sen. Ralph Okerlund, Senate Chair
Rep. Francis D. Gibson

Staff Present:

Mr. John Q. Cannon, Managing Policy Analyst
Mr. Leif Elder, Policy Analyst
Mr. Phil Dean, Policy Analyst
Ms. Angela Oakes Stallings, Associate 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.

1. Committee Business

Chair Sumsion called the meeting to order at 6:08 p.m. Sen. Okerlund and Rep. Gibson were excused from the meeting.

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

2. Overview of Redistricting

Mr. Dean gave a presentation on what redistricting is, why it is done, and the redistricting principles that were adopted at the May 4, 2011 meeting.

Mr. Elder gave an overview of the redistricting public website, RedistrictUtah.com and demonstrated the online redistricting tool that allows the public to create redistricting plans.

3. Presentation of Redistricting Plans

Chair Sumsion invited anyone who had submitted a plan to give an overview of their plan.

Chair Sumsion gave an overview of “Complete House Plan Draft” plan and explained the rationale of the plan.

Rep. Newbold and Rep. Kiser presented “Utah House – Newbold 04” and “House – Newbold and Kiser 05, Salt Lake County” map and explained the rationale of each plan.

Rep. Harper presented “Utah House Plan – Harper” and explained the plan. He said he did not take into consideration where incumbents lived in drawing the map. He responded to questions from the Committee and the public.

President Waddoups gave an overview of a randomly selected Senate plan submitted on RedistrictUtah.com entitled "Senate Redistribution" by Robert Wren.

President Waddoups said the Committee is listening to the public comments and after every Redistricting meeting, members have changed maps based on public comments.

Rep. Sumsion gave an overview of a randomly selected state school board plan submitted by on RedistrictUtah.com entitled "Thomas 3" by David Thomas.

Rep. Newbold said that the public has the opportunity to present plans and provide input on this process.

Rep. Sumsion explained the difference between a "pizza slice" and a "doughnut hole" approach to drawing congressional plans. He asked members of the public to raise their hands on who preferred a pizza slice over the doughnut hole approach, and a slight majority of the audience preferred the pizza slice.

President Waddoups said that he has received several letters from coalitions in the area with redistricting principles. He said he has read the principles and is taking them into consideration, but that it would be even more helpful for the coalitions to draw their own maps using the public redistricting tool.

4. Public Comment and Committee Discussion About Redistricting

Ms. JoAnn Seghini, Midvale City Mayor, said that having multiple representatives in one region can be an advantage. She also asked the Committee to keep communities together.

Mr. Bill Applegarth, Riverton City Mayor, thanked the Committee for holding this meeting. He said that Riverton City is very different from any other west side city in the valley. He distributed a handout entitled "Redistricting Principles" created by the Western Growth Coalition. He said that some of the unique interests and challenges of the Western Salt Lake Valley are new growth, unprecedented education demands, and new transportation corridors and infrastructure systems.

Ms. Aleta Taylor, South Jordan City Council member, said it is important for representatives to be from the areas they represent. She also said there are differences in growth patterns between the east and west side of the Salt Lake valley and that I-15 is a good natural divider.

Mr. Clive Killpack, West Jordan City Council member, said he still has negative feelings over the Jordan School District split. He also said he likes having more than one person representing a region.

Mr. Larry Short, South Jordan City Council member, said he agrees with Mayor Applegarth's comments. He said if the lines were to be drawn where the school districts are currently split it would be easier for a representative to work with the cities.

Mr. Dave Johnson, citizen, said if one district is formed to protect any legislator it will set the state back. He asked the Committee to continue to go by the numbers and not take into consideration where incumbents live. He said he was impressed with the Committee for having public hearings.

Ms. Jolynne Alger, South Jordan resident, asked to keep communities of interests together and stated that people move to South Jordan for the culture and the way the city is run. She also asked the committee to keep in mind that the Jordan School District is its own taxing entity and has unique legislative interests. She said that representation should be a real representation of the region's interests and needs.

Mr. Troy Rueckert, citizen, said he likes the idea of the doughnut hole approach to congressional representation.

Ms. Cynthia Glover, South Jordan resident, said that she wants to have representation from people who understand all areas and who do not have tunnel vision. She asked the Committee to reach out for more diversity in creating districts.

Mr. Kent Guymon, citizen, said that he supports the plan entitled "Congress Webb Plan G."

Mr. James Cassidy, Salt Lake County resident, said he objects to the doughnut hole approach to congressional plans because it gives an unfair disadvantage for representatives to cover such a large region.

Mr. John Jackson, citizen, said the population is constantly shifting which makes it difficult to achieve the goal of one person per vote. He also said that communities are as important as physical boundaries and if population is the only thing considered, voices of communities will never be heard. He said that districts should not be drawn with any consideration of where current elected officials live.

Mr. Kyle Waters, citizen, said he likes Rep. Harper's State House map. He said that every representative in Utah has an interest in state trust lands regardless of where the boundaries are drawn. He also said that the rural areas should have a voice and be represented but not at the expense of those who have chosen to live in the city.

Ms. Kelli Lundgren, Represent Me Utah, said she supports Rep. Harper's map and likes that it is based on common interests. She said she also likes that President Waddoups put Utah County together in the Senate Map and likes that he made changes based on comments in the Provo meeting. She said that she appreciates that the Committee is listening to public comments. She suggested to the public that people look at the maps presented and comment on the blog and asked the Committee to take those comments into consideration. She said she supports a doughnut hole approach to congressional districts.

Mr. Steve Catmull, citizen, said that he is against the pizza slice approach to congressional representation because he is concerned that nobody would specialize.

Ms. Julie Dole, Salt Lake County Republican Party Chair, thanked the committee for listening to constituents' comments and making changes based upon input. She said that she supports the pizza slice approach, and believes that the doughnut hole approach is gerrymandering.

Mr. Steven Mascaro, West Jordan resident, said that he appreciates the hard work of the Committee. He said that the Committee has made a great effort to not make this redistricting process appear to be gerrymandered, but asked the Committee to consider the history of Utah and how the first school districts were created as LDS stakes. He asked the Committee to give consideration to common interests when creating maps.

Ms. Cherilyn Eagar, Holiday resident, said that we will have increased voter turn out if we are fair in redistricting and do not create a doughnut hole for one party. She also said that we need to have competition among the districts.

Ms. Lora Chisholm, Bluffdale resident, said that the west and east side of the Salt Lake valley have different needs and asked the Committee to keep this in mind in drawing plans. She said that the community needs to have people who will keep their interests at heart and represent their needs.

Mr. Rod Winder, citizen, said that he wants his representatives to be able to focus on one city and not be diluted by representing multiple cities.

Mr. Bob Paxton, South Jordan resident, said he supports Rep. Webb's plan because the core of Salt Lake County is kept together.

Mr. Ken Froehly, citizen, said he supports Rep. Harper's "Utah House Plan – Harper" because it did not take into consideration where current elected officials live.

Ms. Kathy Johnson, South Jordan City Council member, said she supports Rep. Newbold's plan because it keeps areas of common interests together. She said it is important for people to be represented by people who understand them. She also asked the Committee to keep communities as whole as possible.

Rep. Jim Bird, House District 42, said that the west side of the valley needs and wants more representation, and that many people living on the west side of the valley feel like their voices have not been heard. He suggested that a natural boundary to divide up the valley would be I-15 or the Jordan River.

5. Adjourn

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

Chair Sumsion adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.