

**Apportionment Commission
Draft Minutes of Third
Meeting**

August 18, 2021, 9:30 am

- 1) The third meeting of the Apportionment Commission was called to order by the Commission Chair at 9:30 am on August 18, 2021. It was determined that more than the required quorum of eight members was present. Members present included Senators Paul Davis and Richard Bennett, Representatives Michelle Dunphy, Anne Perry, Michael Brennan, Theodore Kryzak, and Joshua Morris, and public members Josh Tardy, Bev Ulenhake, Matt Moonen, Joe Turcotte, and Chair Donald Alexander. In accordance with legislative policies, the meeting was held remotely.
- 2) The Commission approved the draft minutes of the Commission's July 7, 2021 meeting.
- 3) The Commission welcomed Secretary of State Shenna Bellows and head of the Secretary of State's Elections Division Julie Flynn to discuss receipt of Census Bureau data to support reapportionment and interactions with the Apportionment Commission and the Caucuses to achieve the best final result. The SoS is responsible for drawing the final maps and descriptions of electoral districts after the apportionment work is completed.

Julie Flynn indicated that best practice would have the work reported from the apportionment process stated in both written descriptions and maps, including specific indicators of any geographic boundaries that differ from established municipal boundaries. Such descriptions are most important when there is more than one district within a municipality. Also, when municipalities are split or have more than one district, it is important that Senate, House, and County Commissioner Districts be as aligned as possible to minimize the necessity of the SoS having to prepare and municipalities having to provide different ballots at the same polling place. Such a practice, though sometimes necessary, can be confusing for voters and requires extra care in vote counting.

The SoS would like to have one person from each Caucus designated as the primary person for contact with the SoS Elections Division for outreach in both directions when that may be necessary. Julie Flynn emphasized that the Elections Division staff is ready and willing to assist the work of the Commission and the Caucuses as they may be requested.

- 4) The Chair advised that he had communicated with the Attorney General's office, and that while an Assistant Attorney General was not available to attend the meeting, the Chair reported that the Attorney General's Office advises that under the law, the Commission should attempt to complete its work on County Commissioner Districts by the deadlines set for completion of work on the Legislative and Congressional Districts.
- 5) The Commission then discussed process and timing for the Commission's work. The Caucuses are in the process of acquiring the necessary technology and getting their apportionment work going – the Republican Caucus using Room 205 in the Cross Building, the Democratic Caucus using Room 213, and the Commission using the IF&W Committee Office inside Room 206.

Several Commissioners suggested that, because of the short deadline to complete its work, the Commission should plan public hearings to discuss apportionment issues and seek public comment. A question was asked as to whether, because of the early stages of preparation, proposals or issues to discuss could be identified. Concern was expressed that publicizing preliminary plans too early might tend to fix positions and make ultimate agreement and any needed compromises more difficult.

There was a suggestion that some preliminary apportionment plans might be available by August 27. There was also a suggestion that a hearing fairly soon might be appropriate to get input on proposals to address county commissioner districting. The chair suggested that the individual Apportionment Commission members from each county might be identified as contacts for their particular counties. There was also a suggestion that the population changes from the counties be reviewed, as it may be that some counties might not need any redistricting, or only limited redistricting, if the relative proportions of the county district

populations remained within the allowable 10% , or 5% below or above the median range for district population differences.

It was decided that the Chair and persons working with the Commission should look at the numbers, speak with representatives of the Caucuses, and then get back to the Commission sometime next week with suggestions for subjects to be discussed and a date and time for the next public Commission meeting.

The Commission also requested that an easily accessible portal to invite public comments and suggestions be established on the Commission's website, and that the way to submit comments by the public be publicized to the community. That is in process.

6) Present administrative arrangements were reviewed with the Commission.

The Commission has an office within Room 206, the IF&W Committee's hearing room. Depending on the amount of Commission business, the office will be staffed, at present, at least on Tuesdays and Thursdays, perhaps more, as the Commission work increases. The Democratic Caucus is utilizing Room 213. The Republican Caucus is utilizing Room 205.

The Commission is exploring if it might have hybrid meetings, some participants in person in a room, others joining by Zoom from their communities.

7) In the public comment part of the meeting, Will Hayward, representing the League of Women Voters, had registered to make a comment and appeared and offered general comments about the apportionment process.

8) After the public comment, there was no further Commission business. As noted above, the Commission deferred scheduling the next meeting pending receipt of further information from the Chair. There was then a motion to adjourn, and the Commission adjourned at around 10:35 am.