

SALT LAKE COUNTY

*2001 So. State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 23, 2021

10:00 AM

Room N2-220

Salt Lake County Redistricting Commission

1. Call to Order

Present: Commission Member Alene Bentley
Commission Member Brian Maxwell
Commission Member Landon Clark
Commission Member Scott Riding
Excused: Commission Member Sylvia S. Andersen
Commission Member Yándary Chatwin
Call In: Commission Member Jeffrey Enquist

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 Approval of September 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes [21-1106](#)

Attachments: [090921 - RD](#)

A motion was made by Commission Member Clark, seconded by Commission Member Bentley, that this agenda item be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

4. Discussion Items

4.1 General Overview of District Numbers from Salt Lake County Clerk's Office [21-1104](#)

Ms. Charlotte Kuhn, Election Manager, Clerk's Office, stated the population of Salt Lake County is now 1,185,238 people, so if the number is divided by six (number of Council districts), then each district should have 197,540 people. The Surveyor's Office and the Clerk's Office have been working on some proposed redistricting maps. These maps will be presented today.

Mr. Stephen Moore, Data Analyst, Clerk's Office, stated each district can have no more than a 10 percent variance. Dividing the boundaries can get tricky because some small areas have high density housing. Even one small change for one block can tip things outside the variance. He then demonstrated the features of the software he used to come up with these maps and provided images of those maps via email.

Ms. Emily LaMunyon, Surveyor's Office, demonstrated a tool she built,

which is an interactive web application that will be emailed to all Commission Members. The tool labels districts and total populations per district. It includes a popup that shows how much it is over or under the allowed number of 197,540. Users can zoom in and out, look at roads, look at aerial imagery, etc. The tool also contains census block data.

Commission Member Riding asked for a summary of the criteria as outlined in the ordinance. He wanted to verify that the ordinance allows for a 10 percent variance.

Mr. Jason Rose, Legal Counsel, District Attorney's Office, stated there are five sections in the ordinance that discuss criteria, which are as follows:

- 1) Boundary changes shall be limited to the maximum extent possible.
- 2) District boundaries should be aligned with jurisdictional boundaries of municipalities.
- 3) All Council districts will have at least two jurisdictions.
- 4) No boundary is to be gerrymandered for political reasons.
- 5) The 10 percent comes from case law. Once the Commission goes past the 10 percent rule, the presumption shifts to the County to show a good reason.

Commission Member Riding asked if the location of the current Council Members' homes could be displayed on the maps and if Commission Members were explicitly prohibited from considering partisan makeup of these districts.

Mr. Rose stated yes, the location of the homes of the current Council Members can be displayed on the map. The Commission is prohibited from considering partisan makeup of these districts.

Commission Member Maxwell stated in areas of heavy growth, he would not want to push past 7 or 8 percent of the 10 percent allowance. It would make sense to anticipate growth in order to have leeway. He suggested that all Commission Members take a shot at grafting a map for the next meeting.

Mr. Rose stated he would ask the Clerk's office to make staff available and provide their phone numbers to the Commission.

Commission Member Maxwell stated because time is short it would make sense to ask Commission Members to take a shot at using the map making tool for next week's meeting.

Commission Member Riding asked if it was possible to get the underlying shape files.

Ms. Kuhn stated the software Mr. Moore demonstrated is not what the Commission will be using. This would require licensing with Esri and the County Information Technology (IT) department. The tool created by Ms. LaMunyon is what members can use to draw lines.

Commission Member Enquist asked what the cost would be for additional licenses from Esri.

Ms. Sherrie Swensen, County Clerk, stated the licenses are between \$4,500 and \$5,500 each.

Commission Member Enquist stated the reason he asked is because he anticipates that someone will ask during public comment why Commission Members do not have access to the more advanced software. He wanted it on the record that this is a cost prohibitive enterprise.

4.2 Update on School Districts

[21-1105](#)

Ms. Sherrie Swensen, County Clerk, stated Jordan School District called and wanted to set up a meeting. She asked if the Commission was going to allow the school districts to submit their own plans.

Commission Member Maxwell stated he reached out to both Granite and Canyon School Districts, but was not able to talk to the Jordan School District. In the past, school districts have had resources to craft suggestions; it did not seem like that was currently the case. He suggested the school districts get in touch with Chief Deputy Clerk, Lannie Chapman. He asked Ms. Chapman for an update on her correspondence.

Ms. Lannie Chapman, Chief Deputy, Clerk’s Office, stated she put the school districts in touch with Ms. LaMunyon. Ms. LaMunyon was able to provide the correct information for both Jordan and Granite districts.

Commission Member Maxwell stated the school district representatives that he talked to are happy to come in and meet but would like to have access to data first. He asked about October 7th for a target date.

Commission Member Riding asked which school districts the Commission would have to approve redistricting maps for.

Commission Member Maxwell stated Granite, Canyons, Jordan, fall under the purview. He was unsure about Salt Lake City District.

Mr. Jason Rose, Legal Counsel, Clerk’s Office, stated parts of Salt Lake City, mainly in Millcreek, do fall under the County’s redistricting jurisdiction. City attorneys are currently working with the Mayor and City Council on what they would like to do with this. Hopefully, he will have more information available by the next meeting.

5. Other Committee Business

Commission Member Maxwell stated the next meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, September 30, 2021.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 PM.

SHERRIE SWENSEN, COUNTY CLERK

By _____
DEPUTY CLERK

By _____
CHAIR, REDISTRICTING COMMISSION