

SALT LAKE COUNTY

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



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 9, 2021

10:00 AM

N2-200

Salt Lake County Redistricting Commission

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

3. Approval of Minutes

3.1 Approval of May 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes

[21-1047](#)

Attachments: [051321 - RD](#)

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

4. Discussion Items

4.1 Scope of Work Discussion

[21-1048](#)

Commission Member Maxwell reviewed the scope of work for the Redistricting Commission. He stated the Commission will need to submit to the Salt Lake County Council three options for redistricting the six council districts. The Commission is also charged with redistricting the Jordan, Canyon, Murray, Granite, and Salt Lake City school districts. Three options will need to be provided for these school districts as well. He suggested the school districts be invited to submit suggestions to the Commission during this process.

Commission Member Andersen asked if the County Council had ever made changes to the maps once they were submitted for approval.

Commission Member Maxwell stated yes, the Council made a few tweaks to the 2010 maps. It was his understanding the Council would need a couple of weeks to review the maps and make any changes. A lot of Council meetings are canceled the end of the year with the holidays, so the maps need

to be submitted early enough for Council to have time to review and approve. The Commission might need to meet weekly from now to the end of October to accomplish all the work that it needed to do on time.

Mr. Jason Rose, Deputy District Attorney, stated the Commission will not need to provide maps for those cities whose school districts are completely within a city. This would include Murray and Salt Lake City school districts.

Commission Member Chatwin stated Salt Lake City recently expanded its school district to include a small portion of Millcreek.

Mr. Stephen Moore, Data Analyst, Election Division, stated the exchange was a small portion in the Brickyard area. It is all commercial and does not include any residential areas.

Mr. Rose stated the statute does not distinguish between commercial or residential, but he will need to look into this and get back to the Commission.

4.2 Census Data Availability Discussion with County Clerk's Office [21-1049](#)

Ms. Sherrie Swensen, County Clerk, stated due to the pandemic, the Federal Government is late releasing the census data; however, the data should be available on September 16, 2021. Her office did have some information available, which showed the number of registered voters in the different districts. The data is based on population. It shows the shift of the registered voters in the various districts giving the Commission an idea on how much has changed.

Mr. Stephen Moore, Data Analyst, Election Division, stated the State has released the 2020 block level data in a Legacy summary file format. This format is the most difficult to use data. It was only released so deadlines could be met. He then presented a map showing the six council districts along with the population of each district. If the population in Salt Lake County is divided by six, then ideally each district should have 197,540 residents. The current map showed that District 1 is approximately 12,000 below, District 2 approximately 21,000 above, District 3 approximately 13,000 below, District 4 approximately 16,000 below, District 5

approximately 27,000 above, and District 6 approximately 5,000 below that number.

Commission Member Maxwell stated 10 years ago, the ideal number was 180,000 in each district.

Commission Member Andersen stated she would like a copy of the map, but asked if there was a way to overlay it with city boundaries.

Mr. Moore stated yes; he could provide that information.

Commission Member Andersen stated the number represents a 17,500 increase for each district. She asked at what number additional districts could be added.

Commission Member Maxwell stated when the County's Optional Plan was adopted it listed the number of districts, so the only way to change this would be to amend the Optional Plan.

Mr. Jason Rose, Deputy District Attorney, stated the optional plan could be amended, but that is beyond the scope of this Commission's authority.

Commission Member Andersen stated she would like to achieve a balance in these districts so that one area is not overloaded with one political party as opposed to another.

Commission Member Maxwell stated the reason this Commission's members are appointed with 3 Republican, 3 Democrats, and 1 Independent is to do its best to avoid partisanship. He thinks it is best to let the geography and the gravity of the population do a lot of the work for it. The Commission also needs to take into consideration some of the ordinance requirements to keep communities of interest and political body boundaries intact.

Ms. Swensen asked if the 2020 block level data that was released in August was the official data, or if the official data will still be released on the 16th of September.

Mr. Moore stated it is the official data, but it is in a very unusable format. The data released on the 16th of September will be in a useable format.

Ms. Emily Lamunyon, Surveyor's Office, stated the next step is to get the software vendor to upload the data into the redistricting software.

Commission Member Maxwell asked if the data will be ready for the Commission by the 23th of September so it can get started, or if it should it wait until the 30th of September to hold its next meeting.

Ms. Lamunyon stated the earlier the better. She will check with the vendor to get the data uploaded as soon as possible.

5. Other Committee Business

5.1 Proposed Schedule

[21-1050](#)

Commission Member Maxwell stated the Commission will probably need to meet weekly once the census data is available. He suggested the next meeting be held on September 23, 2021, at 10:00 AM and then weekly after that. The school districts would be invited to present their suggestions during the October 7, 2021, meeting.

Commission Member Chatwin asked if any of the work could be done in subcommittee meetings.

Mr. Rose stated he would have to check the bylaws for this Commission before he could say for sure.

Commission Member Maxwell asked if subcommittee would be used for school districts.

Commission Member Chatwin stated yes, definitely with the school districts; that could speed up the process. There might be others areas as well where a subcommittee could be used.

Commission Member Maxwell asked legal counsel to check into this.

A motion was made by Commission Member Maxwell, seconded by Commission Member Enquist, to hold redistricting meetings on the following dates:

September 23, 2021
September 30, 2021
October 7, 2021
October 14, 2021
October 21, 2021
October 28, 2021

The meetings will start at 10:00 AM and last up to two hours. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Commission Member Maxwell stated he received a request for him and Vice Chair Chatwin to appear before the County Council on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 1:45 to talk about what is anticipated for this process going forward.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM.

SHERRIE SWENSEN, COUNTY CLERK

By _____
DEPUTY CLERK

By _____
CHAIR, REDISTRICTING COMMISSION