

**MINUTES OF THE
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, November 28, 2006 – 5:00 p.m. – Room W135 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Curtis S. Bramble, Senate Chair
Rep. David Clark, House Chair
Sen. D. Chris Buttars
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Sheldon Killpack
Rep. Jackie Biskupski
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. Ben C. Ferry
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes
Rep. David Litvack

Members Absent:

Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart
Sen. Michael G. Waddoups

Staff Present:

John Cannon, Managing Policy Analyst
Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst
John L. Fellows, Deputy General Counsel
Wendy Bangerter, 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

Mr. John Cannon, Managing Policy Analyst, distributed copies of several e-mails that had been submitted for the Committee's review.

Chair Bramble called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. He addressed some of the concerns that had been expressed at previous public hearings, specifically regarding partisan issues.

Rep. Clark explained the guiding principles they have used in the process of drawing a fourth district. He explained that Plan A, implemented in 2001, is the current law; but the Committee feels it needs to be redrawn. Under federal mandate, the Committee is trying to achieve equal population in each district. They feel it is also important to include both an urban and a rural influence.

Chair Bramble explained the Committee's efforts to draw lines without any partisan influence.

2. Four District Congressional Plan – Public Hearing

Chair Bramble opened the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Rep. Mascaro asked whether the new plan would be considered for renewal in 2010 and would the Committee consider an at-large seat?

It was clarified that the new plan would have to be considered for renewal in 2010 and Congress would not consider any plan with an at-large seat.

Ms. Gigi Brandt, President, League of Women Voters, reviewed which plans that the League would be willing to support and why. She submitted a copy of her comments.

Rep. Dunnigan asked clarifying questions regarding several of the plans.

Sen. Killpack explained that the largest landowner in the state is the federal government; therefore, a broad base of representation is needed to protect and preserve the water, oil, and mineral resources on those lands. Plan A does not provide rural representation in Congress.

Rep. Wallace asked clarifying questions regarding the redrawing of boundaries.

Mr. Richard Mingo, citizen, spoke against Plans A, I, and J. He feels that Salt Lake County needs representation without rural influence.

Mr. Dave Buhler, Salt Lake City Council member, spoke in favor of Salt Lake City being retained in one congressional district.

Mr. Jon Wright, resident of Salt Lake County, spoke in opposition to mixing the urban and rural influence in Salt Lake County.

Rep. Ferry noted that rural Utah is urban Utah's playground. They are impacted by each other.

Mr. Craig Johnson, resident of Draper, distributed and reviewed a map, a summary, and a proof of concept worksheet as his suggestion for the redistricting plan.

Rep. McGee expressed appreciation for the efforts the Committee has made. She also expressed appreciation to Mr. Johnson for his efforts.

Ms. Pat Cutting, resident of West Valley City and Salt Lake County, expressed her feelings that it is vital that Plan A be replaced with a new plan. She asked that the Legislature consider an independent commission for the renewal process at the next census.

Mr. Milton Braselton, resident of Salt Lake City, spoke in opposition to the proposed urban/rural mix and the Legislature's attempt to change the districts to provide a more Republican advantage.

Mr. Dan Duckworth, resident of Riverton City, asked for clarification of the state law regarding population equality. Mr. Fellows stated the law in that regard and explained that a plan without almost equal population in each district would not be considered by Congress. Mr. Duckworth encouraged the Committee to preserve identities as they draw boundaries by grouping people with those they identify with, where possible.

Mr. Robert Morey, resident of Provo, commended the Committee for their efforts. He addressed the constitutionality of Utah having a fourth seat in Congress. He expressed concern that if Washington D.C. is given the right to representation, then Guam, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa may also want representation.

3. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Hughes was absent for the vote.

Chair Bramble adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.