

**MINUTES OF THE  
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

Monday, November 20, 2006 – 8:00 a.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. David Litvack  
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

**Members Excused:**

Rep. Gregory H. Hughes  
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  
A. Brooke Ollerton, 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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m. Rep. Hughes and Sen. Waddoups were excused from the meeting.

Staff distributed "Proposed Schedule of Meetings" and the Committee discussed the schedule of meetings to be held throughout the state.

Sen. Bramble informed committee members who wished to draw maps to first receive approval from the co-chairs. He suggested that the Committee try to complete any drawing by Tuesday, November 21 so maps could be presented at the public meetings.

**2. Overview of Redistricting**

Mr. Cannon reviewed Utah's redistricting completed in 2001 and reminded the Committee that the Legislature enacted both a three- and four-member congressional plan, which are current law. He clarified that the four-member plan could be effective as soon as the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives certifies that Utah receives a fourth seat, whether or not the state takes any action now. He also explained that although growth has occurred in the state since the 2000 Census, census figures are the most accurate data available and any redistricting maps would need to be based on these numbers.

Mr. Fellows outlined the legal constraints established by the United States and Utah Constitutions, the Supreme Court, and federal statutes that govern redistricting efforts. He explained the requirements regarding equal population, race, and partisan politics.

**3. Committee Organization**

Staff distributed "Proposed Procedural Guidelines" and "Proposed Redistricting Principles." Chair Clark reviewed the contents of each. He emphasized that political data was not being considered and was not downloaded on the computers used to draw district boundaries.

**MOTION:** Sen. Killpack moved to adopt the principles listed on "Proposed Redistricting Principles," which were: (1) Equal Population; (2) Single Member Districts; (3) Number of Districts; (4) Census Bureau Figures; and (5) Contiguity and Compactness. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Clark reviewed "Proposed Procedural Guidelines" and explained the use of redistricting staff, plan amendments, security of redistricting computer information, public access to information and open meetings, and political data.

**MOTION:** Rep. Ferry moved to adopt the guidelines found on "Proposed Procedural Guidelines," which were: (1) Use of Redistricting Staff; (2) Plan Amendments; (3) Security of Redistricting Computer Information; (4) Public Access to Information and Open Meetings; and (5) Political Data. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. Four District Congressional Plan**

Staff distributed proposed four-district congressional plans, "Plan A," "Plan B," "Plan C," and "Plan D." Chair Clark explained that Plan A is the four-district plan that is currently in Utah Code.

Sen. Bramble pointed out that these plans are intended to be proposals or a starting point for discussion, not final proposals approved by the co-chairs. He invited any input from the Committee and public.

Sen. Bramble pointed out that current census numbers counted 2.2 million Utahns, almost 1 million of whom reside in Salt Lake County. According to the equal population principle, Salt Lake County would have to be divided in any four-district plan.

Staff projected maps of the plans and the Committee discussed population distribution, county and city boundaries, and urban-rural issues in the plans.

Rep. Ferry asked if there was a way to know where the population was most dense. Staff projected population figures by county on the map.

Chair Clark announced that he had to leave briefly for a prior commitment and turned the chair to Sen. Bramble.

Chair Bramble announced that although it was not reflected on the agenda, time would be allotted for public comment during the meeting.

Sen. Buttars asked how members of the Utah congressional delegation felt about running in a special election. Chair Bramble said they had expressed concern over a special election. Sen. Buttars asked about how a new representative would be selected for the fourth seat. Chair Bramble explained all four seats would be open since new districts would be created when the boundaries were redrawn.

Mr. Fellows added that when a vacancy in a congressional seat occurs, the governor issues a proclamation that establishes the process by which the seat is filled. Under current law, the governor could determine dates governing declarations of candidacy, name certification for primary elections and a special election, and the timing of a special election. However, the Legislature could establish the process in legislation.

Sen. Buttars asked about the probability that the plan would be approved by Congress. Chair Bramble replied that it was unclear how Congress would respond.

Rep. Dougall spoke in favor of a rural-urban mix in each of the districts. Chair Bramble pointed out that Plans B, C, and D accomplish that principle to some degree, but that Plan A contains an urban-only fourth district.

Chair Bramble invited public input on the redistricting plans and made it clear that each meeting would allow time for public input on the official record. He invited Sen. Davis to join him in looking at maps after the meeting. Chair Bramble turned the chair back to Rep. Clark, who extended the same invitation to all House members on the Committee.

Chair Clark suggested that in order to allow time to review the maps, the Committee recess until 10:00 a.m. He recessed the meeting at 9:21 a.m.

Chair Clark reconvened the meeting at 10:11 a.m. He suggested ways to condense the public meetings schedule. The Committee discussed the scheduling and locations of the public meetings.

**MOTION:** Rep. Ferry moved to adopt a modified travel schedule, condensing the meetings into two days. The motion passed unanimously.

## **5. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sen. Davis moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously

Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.