

**MINUTES OF THE  
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, November 28, 2006 – 9:00 a.m. – Miners Hospital Community Center, Park City

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Sheldon Killpack  
Sen. Michael G. Waddoups  
Rep. Ben C. Ferry  
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

**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 9:03 a.m. and thanked Park City for the opportunity to meet in the historic Miners Hospital.

**2. Four District Congressional Plan – Public Hearing**

Chair Clark explained that Plan A is the current four-seat congressional plan and would become effective unless the Committee acted to replace it. He outlined the redistricting principles adopted by the Committee and stated that the Committee was not using political data in any stage of redistricting. He detailed the process for electing new members of Congress in the event that a four-seat plan is approved and mentioned that there are tradeoffs in any plan.

A member of the public asked why the Committee was soliciting public comment after the maps have been drawn and not before.

Sen. Bramble said that the maps were a starting place to begin a discussion. Plan A places two sitting congressman in same district so the Committee wanted to act to remedy the problem.

Rep. Dougall pointed out that because of the timing of Utah's special legislative session and Congress' lame-duck session, the Committee was required to act quickly.

Ms. Carol Murphy, citizen, expressed concern that the redistricting process began with the Committee and not with the citizens. She opposed dividing Summit County and added that residents of Park City do not feel well-represented by their congressmen in the first and third congressional districts. She encouraged the Committee to spend more time considering district boundaries before acting.

The Committee discussed effective representation and communities of interest and how the two relate to redistricting principles.

Mr. Joe Kernan, Park City Council, said he would like geographic areas with similar interests to remain in the same district so that they continue to receive proper representation.

Rep. Biskupski asked Mr. Kernan if he felt that there were different populations within Summit County. She explained that districts have to be contiguous. Pockets of Moab and Salt Lake City that have similar interests could not be grouped with pieces of Park City.

Mr. Kernan replied that more important than political leanings, water and other issues unite Summit County.

Chair Clark acknowledged that it was difficult to design a map that conformed to the redistricting principles and met the preferences of the public, but encouraged the public to give the Committee feedback.

Sen. Buttars pointed out that four basic concepts seemed to determine preferences in redistricting: whether to mix rural and urban areas in one district, whether to split cities, whether to split counties, and whether to consider partisan representation.

Mr. Gill Blonsley, citizen, expressed concern over the speed of the effort to gain a fourth seat in Congress. He encouraged the Committee to wait until the next federal census to seek a fourth seat and to consider a non-partisan redistricting commission for the process.

Ms. Joanna Charns, citizen, also spoke in favor of a non-partisan commission.

Chair Clark said that because of the dynamics and timing of leadership changes in Washington, D.C., Utah could not determine the timing of redistricting.

In response to a question from the public about population figures, Mr. Fellows said that federal and state law dictate that redistricting occur after a census. Unless figures superior to the census data can be provided, which no state has attempted successfully, redistricting efforts must rely on the last federal census.

Rep. Biskupski said that this opportunity will give Utah the representation it deserves and if not perfect, it is at least better than the current plan.

Mr. Dave Hanscom, citizen, said that he did not feel strongly that Summit County should be in a single district. He said that Park City had been disenfranchised and he did not support a rural-urban mix because the city has more in common with Salt Lake City than rural parts of Southern Utah. He said he preferred Plan J to the others.

Ms. Katherine Sheehan, citizen, asked if the maps have to be based on population.

Sen. Bramble explained that the equal population principle ensures that each constituent in a district is represented by one vote in Congress.

Mr. Christopher Robinson, citizen, stated that there is some merit in having an rural-urban mix in all four districts and acknowledged that the mix was required to meet the equal population principle.

Mr. Rey Butcher, Questar Corporation, asked what the boundaries of Plan J are.

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Chair Clark recessed the meeting for ten minutes to allow the public to view the maps on staff computers. He called the meeting to order again at 10:21 a.m.

Sen. Davis said that one of the ways to keep Summit County together may be to place Morgan County in the third district, moving the lines east into the Snyderville Basin area. The change would create a population deviation of about 60.

Representative-elect Christine Johnson, Utah House of Representatives, said that while campaigning in Summit County, citizens expressed that the 2001 redistricting results were unfair. Many citizens did not know who represented them. She asked the Committee not to split neighborhoods or Summit County in Plans I and J so that a greater sense of community could be established.

Chair Clark thanked the public for its input.

### **3. Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Biskupski moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.