

**MINUTES OF THE
REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, November 28, 2006 – 1:00 p.m. – Ogden City Council Chambers

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis
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.

1. Committee Business

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. He recognized city officials, legislators and legislators-elect in the audience. He informed the audience of the redistricting link on the legislature's website, <http://le.utah.gov>.

2. Four District Congressional Plan – Public Hearing

Chair Clark explained that Plan A was the current four-district congressional plan. He explained the redistricting principles adopted by the Committee.

Mr. Monte Bailey, former state senator, encouraged the Committee to avoid gerrymandering and stated his support for Plan G1.

Rep. Glenn Donnelson, Utah Legislature, asked if all plans avoid grouping two sitting congresspeople.

Chair Clark responded that Plan A did not, but the rest of the plans did.

Sen. Buttars clarified that the reason the Committee is acting now is that Washington, D.C. will move ahead to obtain a congressional seat regardless of Utah's actions. The final, committee-recommended plan may not be approved immediately, but the Committee wanted to make sure Utah is in the best position possible in the event that action is taken.

Rep. Donnelson asked if giving Washington, D.C. a seat would require a constitutional amendment.

Sen. Buttars responded that the answer differs depending on which constitutional lawyer is consulted.

Sen. Killpack said that the Committee was not so concerned about D.C.'s seat, but was focusing on obtaining a fourth congressional seat for Utah and was preparing for that option.

Rep. Donnelson commented that if a constitutional amendment is required, it would take awhile so it was unnecessary to move ahead so urgently with Utah's four-seat congressional plan.

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Chair Clark said that the only certainty is that if the Committee failed to act and Utah was granted a fourth seat, the boundaries identified in Plan A will govern.

Rep. LaWanna Lou Shurtliff, Utah Legislature, asked how the citizens in rural Utah responded to Plan G.

Rep. Biskupski responded the response had been mixed. The Committee discussed the different views on rural representation under Plan G.

Rep. Neil Hansen, Utah Legislature, asked if a single plan would be presented to the legislature.

Chair Clark said that the Committee would recommend a plan to be presented to the legislature in the November 29 meeting.

3. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep Dougall Moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Clark thanked the public for participating and adjourned the meeting at 1:52 p.m.