

**From:** "Craig Shuler"  
**To:** Bradley Daw, Brad Dee, Becky Edwards, Brad Galvez, Bill Wright, Brad Last, Becky Lockhart, Brad Wilson, Chris Herrod, Curtis Oda, Curt Webb, Carl Wimmer, David Butterfield, David Clark, Derek Brown, Don IPSON, Doug Sagers, Dixon Pitcher, Evan Vickers, Francis Gibson, Fred Cox, Gage Froerer, Greg Hughes, Holly Richardson, Johnny Anderson, Jim Bird, Jack Draxler, Jeremy Peterson, Jim Nielson, John Mathis, Kay McIlff, Keith Grover, Ken Ivory, Kraig Powell, Kenneth Sumsion, LaVar Christensen, Lee Perry, Melvin Brown, Merlynn Newbold, Mike Morley, Patrick Painter, Paul Ray, Richard Greenwood, Ronda Menlove, Roger Barrus, Ryan Wilcox, Stewart Barlow, Steve Eliason, Steve Handy, Todd Kiser, Val Peterson, Wayne Harper, , , , , ,  
**Date:** 10/16/2011 11:47:29 PM  
**Subject:** Republicans, consider McAdams/Cox, King S07 and King S12  
**Attachments:** [Mime.822](#)

Republican House of Representative members,

I represent the 80 percent of Utahns and Americans—the independents, moderate Republicans, and moderate democrats—who want Republicans and Democrats in the legislature and congress to work together for the country and people rather than solely for their own partisan political objectives. If you are part of the 20 percent who doesn't care whether the parties work together, I disagree. If you care what the 80 percent think, read on. Otherwise please delete this e-mail now rather than have me waste your time.

1. Rep. Sumsion explained at the SLC library last week, that the Utah House boundaries, mostly developed by him, were done in an independent attitude (bi-partisan way). He reported that 3 of the 4 eliminated/consolidated Utah house seats were in slower-growing Republican districts and only 1 in slower-growing Democratic districts. If true, congratulations to him and the Utah House and thanks to the Redistricting committee and all its work on all the House maps.
2. The McAdams / Cox "Modification of Hat and 3 Stripes" is apparently the only bipartisan map published since your late September adjournment. It is not as good as Rep. King's maps but as Sen. McAdams said at the SLC library, this one which he was then working on might be the only one the your supermajority would consider as a compromise.
3. By nearly any definition, your West Valley to Payson doughnut-hole plans would create a gerrymander district around the hole, connecting south Davis County and San Juan County in an illogical way. I've stopped being angry, but please try to convince each other to take a higher, less partisan road.

To get from Woods Cross to Blanding by logical highways, SB3002 and Rep. Sumsion's proposed Substitutions 15 and 16 would require the congressman or woman to cross district boundary lines 6 times. Under the Froerer-Adams-Modified Sumsion 15 map he or she would have to cross boundary lines 4 times, but district one would become gerrymandered.

THOSE PLANS ARE ALL EXTREMELY UNFAIR. If it were me, I would vote no on all of them this week, whether I were Republican, Democrat, or Independent. None of them make you look like statesmen and women.

4. Of all congress maps submitted in October by a legislator, only Rep. King's proposed Substitution 7 (the Garber Plan) meets the criteria that ought to be the only criteria for congressional boundaries other than equal population. Those criteria keep districts logical, compact, and keep most communities together. They also keep neighboring communities and counties together.

Rep. King's S12 looks like a fairly decent compromise between Garber's good points and replacing S3002's and Sumsion's West Valley-Provo doughnut hole with something more defensible. Would one of you, perhaps a Republican in central or southern Utah sponsor it with him as another bipartisan option?

5. The only map I like better than Rep. King's is Brandon Plewe's October 9<sup>th</sup> NSEW modification of King's S07. Two districts (north and south) would likely be permanently Republican for the ten years. The other two would likely be winnable by either party—the East / SLC district would likely be won by any strong Democratic candidate. The West / SL County south district would generally be won by any strong Republican candidate. But in both those districts our votes would at least matter.

I think it is important that Utah be represented in Congress by at least one Democrat and one Republican. Otherwise our state's voice will never matter with one or the other of the parties.

Plewe's NSEW map would split Salt Lake County north (SLC together) and south instead of east and west. Brandon's map, as he says,

- a. Divides cities and counties as little as possible. Only 3 counties are divided (Davis, SL, Utah), and each is only divided between two districts. Only two cities are divided: Bountiful and Pleasant Grove.
- b. Preserve rural regions: Northern Utah, Southern Utah, Uintah Basin
- c. Make districts as compact (near-circular) as possible. Unfortunately, to keep SLC & WVC intact, I had to divide Salt Lake County into North and South"

I would add, because Brandon followed boundaries, there are also only three school districts that are divided between two districts—all in the largest districts in the state, Davis, Granite, and Alpine. Brandon accomplishes all this by throwing out the Redistricting committee's fetish of 2010 population variations at plus or minus 1 or 2 people or less. With Brandon at plus or minus 77 people and .01 of 1 percent his differences are still well within statistical irrelevance. I am not a statistician, but I suspect anything up to .5 of one percent variance would be statistically irrelevant, legally supportable, and any concerns about it should be trumped by as an issue by communities of interest.

Would one of you submit Brandon's map with a democrat and have a vote on it so a vote is in the record?

I also left comments about most of the plans at the Redistrict Utah site. Sorry this is so long, but I have (perhaps naïve) hope that some of you will read and act on the above as talking points this week. Thanks for all you do.

*Craig L. Shuler, CPA*  
home 801-572-9167  
cell 801-599-7378

Thank you Mr. Nielson - whatever the outcome we appreciate your service and your efforts. Hopefully you can understand our frustration with the political process.

On Sun, Oct 16, 2011 at 8:08 PM, Jim Nielson <[jimnielson@utah.gov](mailto:jimnielson@utah.gov)> wrote:

As I have said, Bill, I would be glad to talk the situation over with you. You may call me at 801.424.1737.

BTW, as I understand things, I am not at all satisfied with what has apparently come about as a result of negotiations over the past 11 days since we adjourned, so unless and until something changes, I will not only vote no, I will work to defeat the map slated for our review. I don't know what my chances are, but I'll give it my best shot.

-Jim

>>> William Forbes 10/15/11 8:41 PM >>>

Still think You're in touch with the people on redistricting? Still think your - and the rest of the legislature's actions are above board? Well, near as I can tell, that would put you in a very small minority. Are you there to represent the people, or special political interests? If you really feel your actions are fair to the people of Utah, why not show up and explain your position to the people who will be at the capitol Monday?

Regards,

Bill

----- Forwarded message -----

From: representmeutah representmeutah  
Date: Sat, Oct 15, 2011 at 5:41 PM  
Subject: \$1 Million Wasted! Speak Up Sit In  
To: [representmeutahemail2@gmail.com](mailto:representmeutahemail2@gmail.com)

\$1 Million Wasted! Speak Up Sit In

Monday, October 17 · 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Utah State Capitol

SLC, UT

The Legislature wasted \$1 million dollars to deceive the people.  
Citizens

were lead to believe that their voice would be heard.

They targeted the citizens of Salt Lake County and Salt Lake County  
citizens  
got screwed!

Citizens asked for fairness -- They said NO

We asked for openness -- They said NO

We asked for compromise -- They said NO

Now it is THE PEOPLE'S turn to say NO -- VOTE NO or VETO!

Take back the people's house--stand together as we demand to be heard,  
not  
herded.

Say NO to wasting \$1 MILLION dollars to create districts for friends and  
special interests!

Say NO to hiding behind the lie of public participation while meeting  
behind  
closed doors!

And Say NO to divisive, self-serving, UNFAIR maps! The people deserve  
and  
demand more!

Demand they VOTE NO or that the governor VETO!

Bring your signs!

Rep. Jim:

Sorry I mistyped your e-mail name earlier; here's a retry:

Hopefully I'm not too late to weigh in on redistricting. I am admittedly slow in finishing myriad different tasks.

I oppose the Democratic threats of lawsuits as being too extreme and needlessly divisive, that will only drag out an already-lengthy process, and reflect poorly on Utah as a State.

I also oppose plans that seem only to unduly enhance partisan advantage, and that will reflect badly on Utah at a time when we should be leading examples of propriety for the rest of the nation to observe and learn from, as has been our experience recently.

I've looked at (and printed out) dozens of the proffered plans over the last few months. There has been a good deal of creativity. My personal favorite so far is the modified Hat and 3 Stripes by Senator McAdams and Rep. Cox, but I'll trust your judgment.

I'm most wary of plans that try to divide SLC like pizza into four slices, or that slice up Davis County and other populous counties (e.g., Utah County excessively).

The same comments apply to redistricting of legislative seats and schools boards.

Thank you for your efforts, and good luck!

Paul

**From:** Kelli Lundgren  
**To:** Jim Nielson  
**Date:** 10/14/2011 10:05:53 AM  
**Subject:** Please vote for the King/Garber map on Monday  
**Attachments:** [Mime.822](#)

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Dear Representative Nielson,

As a citizen of Utah, I urge you to VOTE NO on the current map being discussed in the House.

I have studied the maps and I would suggest to you that the best map, based on contiguousness and compactness, is the Garber Citizen Map (modified, sponsored by Representative Brian King).

<http://www.redistrictutah.com/maps/congress-rep-king-garber-modified-king>

Please vote for this compromise map. I know you have worked very diligently for the people of Utah, and I thank you for it.

Sincerely,  
Kelli Lundgren

Please consider the "Fair 4 Utah Counties and Cities" plan (ID 68408).

My "Fair 4 Utah" plan was submitted to the Redistricting committee by Rep. Fred Cox at the Oct 7th meeting. This modified plan addresses many of the concerns.

This plan has key elements put together like no other plan. It is compromise plan fair 4 Utah.

The plan has been submitted but does not show on the redistrictUtah.com site. In place of a online link, images are attached.

In the Fair 4 Utah Counties and Cities plan:

- All of the counties are whole except Salt Lake.
- The Eastern, Southern, and Western Counties are grouped the same as the Rep. Sumsion map that passed the Senate. (If there is a better grouping, I can still make it work with Counties and Salt Lake county Cities together.)
- Salt Lake county is mostly split into two districts 84% with a small portion in the other two districts.
- All of the cities in Salt Lake county are whole except West Valley City and three others (South Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, and Herriman) with minor splits. As an example Salt Lake City is all in one district except about 100 people.
- In Salt Lake County the cities are grouped based on their similar shared communities.
- District 2, 3, and 4 are at the target mean of 690,971. District 1 is one over at 690,972.
- 

In Salt Lake County		
District 1	93,813	9%
District 2	539,727	52%
District 3	67,995	7%
District 4	328,120	32%
Total	1,029,655	100%

Good congressional districts are so important.

Thank you for your efforts and time!

Leonard

Leonard S. Plaizier

Bountiful, Utah

House 20

Senate 23

No organization only myself

Home [801-292-3604](tel:801-292-3604)

[Leonard.Plaizier@gmail.com](mailto:Leonard.Plaizier@gmail.com)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Redistrict Utah** <[redistrictutah@utah.gov](mailto:redistrictutah@utah.gov)>  
Date: Thu, Oct 13, 2011 at 11:30 PM  
Subject: Redistricting Plan Submitted  
To: [Leonard.Plaizier@gmail.com](mailto:Leonard.Plaizier@gmail.com)

Thank you for submitting a proposed redistricting plan through Utah's online redistricting tool. Please note that all plans submitted will be made available for review by the Redistricting Committee and the general public on both the online tool and [redistrictutah.com](http://redistrictutah.com). Shortly after plans are submitted, they are posted on [redistrictutah.com](http://redistrictutah.com) for public comment.

As time allows, the public can further discuss submitted plans during the public comment portion of future Redistricting Committee meetings. A full list of public meetings can be found at [redistrictutah.com](http://redistrictutah.com).

If you have any questions regarding submitted plans or technical issues with the online tool, email us at [redistrictutah@utah.gov](mailto:redistrictutah@utah.gov).

Plan submitted on October 13, 2011 at 11:29 PM

#### Contact Information

Name: Leonard S Plaizier  
Username: lplaizier  
Organization: None - only myself  
Email address: [Leonard.Plaizier@gmail.com](mailto:Leonard.Plaizier@gmail.com)

#### Plan Information

Plan name: Fair 4 Utah Counties and Cities

Description: In the Fair 4 Utah plan all of the counties are whole except Salt Lake.

- Salt Lake county is mostly split into two districts with a small portion in the other two districts.
- All of the cities in Salt Lake county are whole except West Valley City and three others (South Salt Lake, Salt Lake City, and Herriman) with minor splits. As an example Salt Lake City is all in one district except about 100 people.
- In Salt Lake County the cities are grouped based on location.
- District 2, 3, and 4 are at the target mean of 690,971. District 1 is one over at 690,972.
- The Eastern, Southern, and Western Counties are grouped the same as the Rep. Sumsion map that passed the Senate.

#### Plan Objectives

#objectives#

**From:** Leonard Plaizier  
**BC:** Jim Nielson, Jim Nielson  
**Date:** 10/14/2011 4:27:57 PM  
**Subject:** Redistricting Plan Submitted Plan ID 68408 "Fair 4 Utah Counties and Cities" - With LINK  
**Attachments:** [Mime.822](#)

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Please consider the "Fair 4 Utah Counties and Cities" plan (ID 68408).  
A Compromise Plan Like No Other!

<http://www.redistrictutah.com/maps/congress-plaizier-fair-4-utah-counties-and-cities>

Thank you  
Leonard

Representatives,

Almost two weeks ago we all decided to step back and take a second look at the Congressional maps that were being drawn in our redistricting process.

As you have elected us to do, the House leadership team has negotiated with Senate leadership on this matter. All of us have taken public input and had many discussions with each other. I have personally talked with as many of you as possible.

Based on all of this information, the House redistricting committee members have come up with two maps that appear to have strong support among all involved parties.

The first is labeled "Sumsion 15" and can be found at this link:

[http://www.redistrictutah.com/maps/sumsion\\_15](http://www.redistrictutah.com/maps/sumsion_15)

The second is labeled "Sumsion 16" and can be found at this link:

[http://www.redistrictutah.com/maps/congress-rep-sumsion-sumsion\\_16](http://www.redistrictutah.com/maps/congress-rep-sumsion-sumsion_16)

If these two maps look familiar, it's because they are similar to what the redistricting committee initially approved and leadership of both houses discussed favorably before the special session began. Sumsion 15 is largely the same with some minor changes. Sumsion 16 stretches the proposed 4th District farther south to improve the much-discussed rural/urban mix. I have also attached PDFs of both maps for easy viewing, though they lack the detail you can find by following the links.

Please consider the maps over the weekend so that on Monday we are all prepared to take the action our voters have elected us to do.

Thank you again for all that you do, and for your hard work and feedback in this important process.

-- Speaker Lockhart

**From:** William Forbes  
**To:** Jim Nielson  
**Date:** 10/14/2011 7:07:27 AM  
**Subject:** Redistricting  
**Attachments:** [Mime.822](#)

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Dear Rep Nielson -

Please do the right thing for the people - not the party.

Regards,

Bill

**From:** Q Dang  
**To:** Q Dang  
**BC:** Jim Nielson  
**Date:** 10/13/2011 7:31:15 PM  
**Subject:** Please support the Garber Citizen Map (modified)  
**Attachments:** [Mime.822](#)

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Dear Representative,

As a citizen of Utah, I urge you to VOTE NO on the current map being discussed in the House.

I have studied the maps and I would suggest to you that the best map, based on contiguousness and compactness, is the Garber Citizen Map (modified, sponsored by Representative Brian King).

<http://www.redistrictutah.com/maps/congress-rep-king-garber-modified-king>

Please vote for this compromise map. I know you have worked very diligently for the people of Utah, and I thank you for it.

Sincerely,  
Quang Dang

**From:** Rob Bishop  
**BC:** Jim Nielson, Jim Nielson  
**Date:** 10/12/2011 10:40:17 PM  
**Subject:** Some thoughts on redistricting from Congressman Bishop  
**Attachments:** [Mime.822](#)

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Dear Representative:

The redistricting process in the Utah Legislature is messy and cumbersome. No one ever likes the lines drawn. A redistricting process done by a so-called independent redistricting commission would be messy and cumbersome. No one would ever like the lines drawn.

The difference between the two options is that the Legislature – no matter how many caucus meetings they may hold – must ultimately make an open presentation and hold an open vote. They must explain their decisions and be accountable at the next election. Redistricting commissions don't. They may make a public presentation, but have no requirement for explanation nor in any way are they accountable to voters.

Where non-elected redistricting commissions work, it is often due to a quirk of personalities, such as in Washington State where the leading Republican and Democratic members have served for multiple cycles and try hard not to upset the status quo. In Arizona, their commission produced a very partisan and highly criticized map. Even the inappropriately self-named "Fair Boundaries" organization in Utah used the former director of the Democratic Party who produced – surprise – boundaries favorable to Democrats. A commission is far from a panacea, independent, or non-partisan.

The basic problem with a non-elected redistricting commission is the base philosophy. The Progressive Era in American history provided a philosophical change of attitude toward government. The Founders had faith in lay government – man's ability to govern himself. The Progressive Era argued for governing of the people by experts whose work would seemingly be based on science. (Of course, this was the Era when Communism was also the daring, new government philosophy, but I digress.) Resorting to so-called experts has produced massive national bureaucracies such as the EPA (always right even when state DEQ scientists prove their data flawed), the SEC (experts about Wall Street), the Federal Reserve Board (experts about money), and the NLRB (experts about keeping jobs from going to South Carolina), and so on and so forth.

For some it is easy to demagogue the Legislature, but given the option I much prefer to have districts altered by someone in a public position on the House and Senate Floors - even if I don't fully agree with the alteration - rather than by the all-powerful wizard behind the curtain.

Allow me to comment on three related but tangential subjects:

A) "Community of interest" is basically a sham phrase used to hide real desires. It has been charged by some, for example, that St. George has nothing in common with Salt Lake City therefore they should not be in the same district. Actually, St. George doesn't really have that much in common with Provo or Ogden or Logan or even Cedar City; but St. George has to be with someone. One public witness at a Redistricting Committee Meeting seemed to claim that maybe places like St. George and Moab and Park

**From:** Jolaine P Randall  
**To:** Jim Nielson  
**Date:** 10/10/2011 11:43:33 AM  
**Subject:** (Statewide Announcement) October 14 ASPA Luncheon Announcement  
**Attachments:** [Mime.822](#)

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Dear State Employee,

Just a reminder that you are invited to attend . . .

**OCTOBER ASPA LUNCHEON**

Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 noon  
Auditorium of the State office Building (first floor)

**To the Drawing Board: Redistricting in Utah**

**John Q. Cannon, Managing Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research & General Counsel**

In early October, the legislature is holding a special session to vote on the new district lines for the U.S. Congressional seats, Utah legislative seats, and the Utah State Board of Education. Join us for a presentation by John Cannon, legislative policy analyst for the Utah Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, to learn about the redistricting process and maps.

\* \* \* \* \*

Please make your reservations early. The luncheon will be catered. Reservations or cancellations must be received no later than Wednesday, October 12, 2011. **No shows will be billed.** Limited parking is available —please carpool or ride public transportation where possible.

The cost of the luncheon is \$13.00 for ASPA members, \$15.00 for nonmembers, and \$8.00 for students. Cash or checks are accepted.

Please call the Center for Public Policy & Administration, University of Utah, at 801-581-6493 or e-mail [jrandall@cpga.utah.edu](mailto:jrandall@cpga.utah.edu) for reservations

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*Jolaine Randall*

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Matt Lyon  
801.597.8888 | [mlyon@utdem.org](mailto:mlyon@utdem.org)  
Crystal Young-Otterstrom  
801.652.0737 | [crystal@utdem.org](mailto:crystal@utdem.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Friday, October 7, 2011

## Utah Democrats Challenge Republican Leadership to Compromise on Redistricting

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SALT LAKE CITY – Utah Democrats issued a challenge and invitation to Republican legislative leadership today. Speaking on behalf of all Utahans, party chair Jim Dabakis challenged the majority party to pledge to "OPEN ALL" of their discussions about redistricting and to seek a bipartisan solution for the Congressional maps.

"Tuesday was a fiasco. It was a waste of taxpayer dollars, and it showed the dirty underbelly of politics and an intensely partisan process," stated Dabakis this morning. "No more secrets, no deals, no trade-offs in the closed Republican caucus rooms. No more last minute maps whipped up behind closed doors without involving the public."

"We have two weeks. Let's open the closed doors! Unafraid of the light, Democratic meetings, caucuses, and conversations are open to the public---on behalf of all Utahans we implore that Republicans join us in letting the public watch Utah's business be conducted," Dabakis said. "Let's rise above the partisan bickering and develop a truly bipartisan map. One that represents communities. One that represents Utah. Utah deserves better. As leaders, we must do better."

On air, Dabakis reiterated that the Democrats are willing and want to work with Republicans and the public to develop a congressional map. He also reaffirmed the Senate and House Democrats' call from Tuesday that insisted any map brought before the legislative bodies must first be brought to the public.

"Utah expects Democrats and Republicans to work together in an open and transparent process. Lets sit down and develop a bipartisan map. We can do better, we must do better. How amazing would it be for Utah to lead the nation in an open and fair redistricting process? If Utah Republicans and Democrats work together, we could inspire bipartisanship across the country and end the national stalemate. We will renew voters' faith in their elected leaders."

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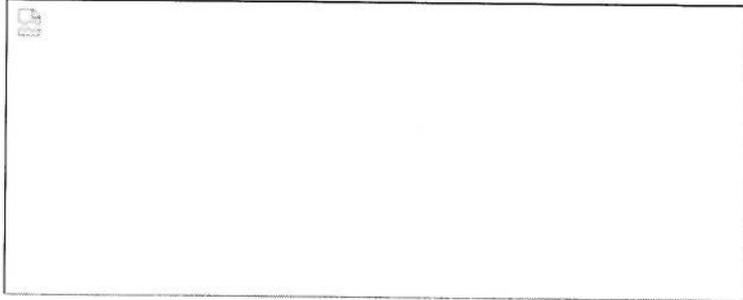
Crystal Young-Otterstrom

Interim Communications Director  
**Utah State Democratic Party**

M: (801) 652-0737

[crystal@utdem.org](mailto:crystal@utdem.org)

[www.utahdemocrats.org](http://www.utahdemocrats.org)



Mr. Nielson,

Apparently we are operating on two different planets. The "report of what went on" is not mine, it is taken directly from the SL Trib. Everyone - that is everyone outside of the sequestered world of the legislature - has expressed concern - even outright suspicion and even disgust - with the handling of the redistricting issue by the legislature. That would include the SL Tribune, all of the local TV stations and editorials I have watched, and various other individuals; not one of them has suggested that there isn't severe political hanky-panky going on with the redistricting process.

I am simply stating my opinion that this type of political manipulation has no place in this process, that public input should be given real consideration, not patronizing lip service. If you see things that way, great! Then hopefully your final vote will bear that out. If you're suggesting that has been your position all along, fine. Regardless, there is clearly some shenanigans going on in the legislature - at least that is the perception of everyone outside of the legislature - as well as some inside!

So - I see no need for a phone call. Just do the right thing, not the politically correct one. We'll see how that runs out by your vote and the redistricting proposal than finally passes.

Thanks for your consideration.

Regards,

Bill

On Fri, Oct 7, 2011 at 11:49 AM, Jim Nielson <[jimnielson@utah.gov](mailto:jimnielson@utah.gov)> wrote:

Bill,

No, I was not kidding.

The meetings you mention may be the same ones I participated in; however I can't be sure from the way they have been described; the report of what went on as you present it bears little resemblance to the events as I recall them.

Perhaps a one-on-one conversation would be helpful, if you are interested. You may also wish to review my account of the first two days of the redistricting session on my blog at [www.jim4utah.com/blog.php](http://www.jim4utah.com/blog.php). In my experience, trading emails is not always the most effective way to communicate.

Please call me if you wish.

Representative Jim Nielson  
DISTRICT 19

House of Representatives  
STATE OF UTAH

[jimnielson@utah.gov](mailto:jimnielson@utah.gov)  
CELL: [801.425.1737](tel:801.425.1737)

>>> William Forbes 10/06/11 8:36 AM >>>

Mr. Nielson,

You're kidding me, right? I'm quite positive that I'm not the only one making 'strong allegations':

From the Salt Lake Tribune:

\*"Gerrymander Hash"\*

"The Legislature's Redistricting Committee put on a great show. It invited public involvement. It convened hearings across the state and paid handsomely to put up an interactive website that allowed people to draw their own maps and submit them to the committee. But in the end, the Republican majority threw all pretense of an objective process away and served up gerrymandered hash, particularly in maps for the state's four congressional seats and the Utah Senate. That wretched cynicism in the service of one-party rule helps explain why Utah voters don't bother to go to the polls."

And then there was this:

"If the full Legislature adopts the committee's recommended maps for congressional and state Senate seats in this week's special session, it will confirm that, once again, the fix is in. And Utah's voter turnout probably will remain one of the worst in the nation."

Or how about this:

\*"The Jig is Up"\*

"The Legislature has blown its cover. Any pretense that the redistricting process is something other than a political struggle governed by personal ambition and partisan calculation exploded in this week's special session. When Republicans in the House threw out the Redistricting Committee's proposed map for Utah's four new congressional districts and started drawing new lines in back rooms, the jig was up."

The papers are full of these comments; I have yet to see one that has lauded the legislature's efforts.

I suppose then that you were unaware of the closed door meeting by the House to redraw the map, after "Republicans in the House threw out the Redistricting Committee's proposed map for Utah's four new congressional districts and started drawing new lines in back rooms," - was closed to the public ? I suppose that you are unaware that the general belief is that the legislature is intent on ignoring virtually all of the public input against the 'Pizza' map?

Call me crazy, but near as I can tell, I am not the only one who is suspicious of the redistricting effort to date, and questioning the motivations of the legislature.

On the surface, the senate \*has\* met its commitment to the public to date, but the issue is not dead and is still being hotly debated. Or were the people at the capitol last night just there for their health?

Or were you unaware that, last time we went through this process that even right wing institutions like the Wall Street Journal called the Utah legislature the laughing stock of the nation for its extreme gerrymandering? That kind of comment and history tends to propagate suspicion.

Allowing public comment and actually implementing it - rather than completely ignoring it - are two different matters. In fact, to date, most public comment has noted the sham or the fix that is in; to me that goes \* directly\* to the question of ethics. The public and the Redistricting Committee have all expressed disapproval of the pizza style redistricting, yet the legislature keeps trying to ignore that with bizarre rationalizations to justify a purely political redistricting. Creating a ruse of entertaining public opinion, incurring the expense of creating a committee, spending precious dollars to support the illusion, money that could have been spent in much more productive efforts, is, to me, clearly unethical. Of course you can prove me and the rest of us (the majority) who are skeptical wrong quite easily; do what is right rather than what is politically expedient.

It is \*because\* the process isn't finished that I voiced my position to you.

When I first came of age to vote, Utah was typically in the top group of

States for voter turnout, and I was very proud of this; now, we are sometimes near dead last. Our legislature has had a large hand in evoking that result.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards -

Bill

On Wed, Oct 5, 2011 at 10:29 PM, Jim Nielson wrote:

> Bill,  
>  
>  
> I assume you are referring to the congressional map.  
>  
>  
> In what case have we voted for a congressional map that has not been  
> through a public review?  
>  
>  
> The Senate voted for a congressional map that had been reviewed by and  
> approved by the committee in a public process.  
>  
>  
> The House has yet to vote on a congressional map. A committee hearing  
> on a  
> possible new map will take place Friday. One or more additional public  
> committee meetings will likely be held.  
>  
>  
> After that public process, we plan to reconvene on Monday, October  
> 17th to  
> consider whether we've got something we can support.  
>  
>  
> These are the facts.  
>  
>  
> Now you have made some pretty strong allegations that suggest a  
> different  
> story, one with which I am not familiar.  
>  
>  
> Am I missing something?  
>  
>  
>  
>

> Representative Jim Nielson  
> DISTRICT 19  
>  
> House of Representatives  
> STATE OF UTAH  
>  
>  
>  
> [jimnielson@utah.gov](mailto:jimnielson@utah.gov)  
> CELL: [801.425.1737](tel:801.425.1737)  
> >>> William Forbes 10/05/11 10:05 AM >>>  
> Dear Representative Nielson,  
>  
> I want to herein express my frustration at the scandalous handling of  
the  
> redistricting issue. Please \*do not\* vote for any redistricting  
proposal  
> that has not been exposed to the light of public review. The extreme  
> partisanship and gerrymandering we are witnessing is not only  
disgusting  
> but  
> in total disregard for any ethical standards. It is this type of  
inexcusable  
> behavior that has led to our elected representatives current disfavor  
(to  
> put it mildly) in the public view.  
>  
> Regards,  
>  
> William (Bill) Forbes  
>  
>  
>

**From:** Val Tarbox  
**To:** Jim Nielson,  
**Date:** 10/3/2011 10:01:42 PM  
**Subject:** RE: "Final" Congressional Map  
**Attachments:** [Mime.822](#)

Thanks for the update Jim, and let us hope this gets successfully turned-around.

Val

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Nielson [mailto:jimnielson@utah.gov]  
Sent: Saturday, October 01, 2011 10:03 PM  
To: Val@tarboxs.net  
Subject: Re: "Final" Congressional Map

I agree. Just moments ago I sent an email to Reps Sumsion, Lockhart, & others protesting the committee's final map. I'll work against it. Based on what I know now, I'll vote against it if it doesn't change.

-Jim

Sent from T-Mobile G2 with Google

"Val Tarbox " wrote:

Representative Nielson,

I am deeply disturbed by what has been chosen as the final Congressional map for reapportionment. Why, all of a sudden, has this final map, divided Bountiful into to two separate Districts when the Sumsion-06 map issued earlier this week had the division line further North leaving Southern Davis County in one Congressional District? What is the logic behind this latest change? To me, it does not make any sense and appears that other Salt Lake and Utah County legislative members may be pulling "strings" in other areas at the expense of our area in Southern Davis County.

I implore you to work hard to make sure this division of Southern Davis County, especially for Bountiful does not happen.

Sincerely,

Val Tarbox  
Bountiful, Utah

Speakers at the Press Conference yesterday in the Capitol protesting redistricting:

Joshua Kanter: Founder of An Alliance for a Better Utah.

Registered Democrat, Donated \$20,000+ in 2008 & 2010 election cycle. Obama, Clinton, DSCC, DNC, John Kerry, DCCC

John Hansen: Registered Democrat, SLC

Mayor Peter Corroon: (D) Salt Lake County Mayor. Called redistricting process un-American. Ran for Governor in 2010, major recipient of donations from Bruce Bastian, Howard Dean, AFL-CIO, Labor Unions, supporter of non-partisan "Fair Boundaries" initiative whose maps were drawn by Democrat operative, adviser and former UT Dem Party Exec-Director Todd Taylor.

David Irvine: Donor to Democratic Presidential candidate Wesley Clark, President Barack Obama, DNC. Attorney who has sued Utah and has received millions of dollars from Utah taxpayers in law suits.

Sen. Ross Romero: Senate Minority Leader, Candidate for SLCO Mayor, Democrat

Glenn Wright: "non-partisan Fair Boundaries" Director. Former Summit County Democrat Party Chair, caught using partisan map drawn by UT Democrat Adviser and former Executive Director

Speaker Up & Peace Up Activists; Tim DeChristopher's friends, sat on UTA TRAX to protest coal power.

MaryAnne Martindale: Exec Director of Alliance for a Better Utah, Democrat AG campaign manager, democrat operative, registered democrat. Won't release her salary or fundraising information for Alliance for a Better Utah.

No "legitimate" republicans, tea partiers, independents or non-partisan people spoke at the "non-partisan" rally.

As an observer, I find it offensive that groups would be so blatant in their partisan bias while trying to maintain the "non-partisan" citizens title.

Regards,

Aaron Rennaker

**From:** William Forbes  
**To:** Jim Nielson  
**Date:** 10/5/2011 10:06:04 AM  
**Subject:** redistricting map  
**Attachments:** [Mime.822](#)

---

Dear Representative Nielson,

I want to herein express my frustration at the scandalous handling of the redistricting issue. Please *do not* vote for any redistricting proposal that has not been exposed to the light of public review. The extreme partisanship and gerrymandering we are witnessing is not only disgusting but in total disregard for any ethical standards. It is this type of inexcusable behavior that has led to our elected representatives current disfavor (to put it mildly) in the public view.

Regards,

William (Bill) Forbes

**From:** William Forbes  
**To:** Jim Nielson  
**Date:** 10/6/2011 8:36:41 AM  
**Subject:** Re: redistricting map  
**Attachments:** [Mime.822](#)

---

Mr. Nielson,

You're kidding me, right? I'm quite positive that I'm not the only one making 'strong allegations':

From the Salt Lake Tribune:

**"Gerrymander Hash"**

"The Legislature's Redistricting Committee put on a great show. It invited public involvement. It convened hearings across the state and paid handsomely to put up an interactive website that allowed people to draw their own maps and submit them to the committee. But in the end, the Republican majority threw all pretense of an objective process away and served up gerrymandered hash, particularly in maps for the state's four congressional seats and the Utah Senate. That wretched cynicism in the service of one-party rule helps explain why Utah voters don't bother to go to the polls."

And then there was this:

"If the full Legislature adopts the committee's recommended maps for congressional and state Senate seats in this week's special session, it will confirm that, once again, the fix is in. And Utah's voter turnout probably will remain one of the worst in the nation."

Or how about this:

**"The Jig is Up"**

"The Legislature has blown its cover. Any pretense that the redistricting process is something other than a political struggle governed by personal ambition and partisan calculation exploded in this week's special session. When Republicans in the House threw out the Redistricting Committee's proposed map for Utah's four new congressional districts and started drawing new lines in back rooms, the jig was up."

The papers are full of these comments; I have yet to see one that has lauded the legislature's efforts.

I suppose then that you were unaware of the closed door meeting by the House to redraw the map, after "Republicans in the House threw out the Redistricting Committee's proposed map for Utah's four new congressional districts and started drawing new lines in back rooms," - was closed to the public? I suppose that you are unaware that the general belief is that the legislature is intent on ignoring virtually all of the public input against the 'Pizza' map?

Call me crazy, but near as I can tell, I am not the only one who is suspicious of the redistricting effort to date, and questioning the motivations of the legislature.

On the surface, the senate *has* met its commitment to the public to date, but the issue is not dead and is still being hotly debated. Or were the people at the capitol last night just there for their health?

Or were you unaware that, last time we went through this process that even right wing institutions like the Wall Street Journal called the Utah legislature the laughing stock of the nation for its extreme

**From:** I  
**To:** Jim Nielson  
**Date:** 10/6/2011 10:46:05 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Your Letter re Redistricting  
**Attachments:** [Mime.822](#)

---

Jim --

Thank you for responding. For me, the critical part of your note is the second paragraph: "Almost no map that has been discussed recently refrains from splitting away some portion of Davis County." That's different from asserting that Davis County must be split. Respectfully, I believe the driver behind splitting Davis County at all is the Legislature's determination to split Salt Lake County three or four ways. The Utah Citizen's Council submitted four alternative congressional maps (A, B, C, and D), none of which divide Salt Lake County more than once, and one of which (B) divided Davis County north of Layton. There was a specific reason for that proposal, which was to put all of Utah's military bases in one district -- which may or may not be the best policy, but it wasn't based on partisan considerations. In fact, no county, with the exception of Salt Lake, must be divided at all. I doubt that those maps were even looked at by the committee.

You noted that the Democratic maps divide Salt Lake County more than once. I suspect that has more to do with trying to preserve a Democratic seat, but there's no legal necessity to make more than one cut, irrespective of someone's political calculations -- and I'm as troubled by Democratic machinations as I am by Republican machinations.

As a matter of fundamental fairness, the four-way division of Salt Lake County is just mean-spirited. Once you satisfy one-person-one-vote, the most significant boundary consideration is compactness (which generally will keep communities of interest together). As much of the state's most populous county as can lawfully be included in one district should be. I was incredulous when I heard Mike Waddoups claim that the most important issue to his constituents was timber rights. The notion of mixing swaths of rural Utah with swaths of urban Utah did not draw popular support in any of the areas where the redistricting committee held hearings. It's code for marginalizing the votes of Utah's urban population. UCC maps C and D are worth a careful look.

I believe you all were wise to take a break rather than jam something through just to be done with it; however, in the interest of representative government, I strongly urge you to take the "final" plan on the road for another round of hearings so that voters can react to what has been done behind closed doors. Every redistricting effort involves enormous pressure by legislative leaders to adopt what a small group proposes, often for pretty narrow, even self-serving reasons. Taking the final drafts to the public, for fair hearings, is the greatest protection for fair-mindedness and guarding against getting steam-rolled.

Dave

-----Original Message-----

From: Jim Nielson <jimnielson@utah.gov>  
To: drirvine <drirvine@aol.com>  
Sent: Wed, Oct 5, 2011 10:18 pm  
Subject: Your Letter re Redistricting

David,

Thanks for your letter. Before receiving it, I had already started mobilizing to keep Bountiful from being divided between congressional districts and to ensure that if Davis County must be divided, that a sufficiently large portion of the county be included so that we can have an impact on the 2nd District.

**From:** HOWARD C NIELSON  
**To:** Jim Nielson  
**Date:** 10/2/2011 12:51:45 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Committee Congressional Map  
**Attachments:** [Mime.822](#)

---

Jim, your dad agrees with you. Davis County should not be split, and representative Bishop should represent all of Davis County. He also thinks that Utah County should not be split. He still favors a rural congressional district, starting from the southern boarder and going up all the way through Tooele County and taking as much of western Salt Lake County as needed. Good luck. Donna

> Date: Sat, 1 Oct 2011 21:36:03 -0600

> From: jimnielson@utah.gov

> To: blockhart@utah.gov; KSUMSION@utah.gov; ROGERBARRUS@utah.gov

> Subject: Committee Congressional Map

>

> Committee Members,

>

> Earlier today I reviewed the proposed congressional map, in particular the district boundaries in South Davis County, with special focus on my community and legislative district.

>

> I do not have an alternative up my sleeve that will please everybody, but in my view dividing my district and the city of Bountiful between two congressional seats is unwarranted. Those of us that worked hard to elect Rob Bishop, for example, will be at a particular loss.

>

> I have received strong feedback from residents and leaders of Davis County, as has the committee, urging that our county not be split. The final proposal, however, goes farther than that and cuts right through our relatively small community. My constituents on opposite sides of the same street in the middle and near the edges of Bountiful, will vote in different congressional districts.

>

> As things stand, I do not know that I will be able to support the measure enacting this map.

>

> -Jim

>

> Sent from T-Mobile G2 with Google

**From:** Tom Hardy  
**To:** Becky Lockhart  
**CC:** Jim Nielson, Roger Barrus, Dan Liljenquist, TomsGrafix@aol.com, Joe Johnson, smyers@commercecrg.com, R.Fred Moss, 'john.knight@us.army.mil', kssumsion@utah.gov, BethHolbrook  
**Date:** 10/3/2011 10:04:29 AM  
**Subject:** Redistricting Map Splits Bountiful

---

Dear Speaker Lockhart: I am writing in response to the most recent (9/27) map for congressional districts in Utah. In what I believe is an attempt to equalize population in the 4 districts, District One (Congressman Rob Bishop's district) has been modified from previous iterations which included all of Bountiful (and in fact, all of Davis County), into one which splits Bountiful into two congressional districts. Further, the manner of splitting Bountiful is arbitrary and bears no relationship to anything other than population—it goes up 5<sup>th</sup> south, then jogs north along a jagged boundary devised only to yield the right "body count" for redistricting. It makes no sense, and violates every previous iteration that we have seen.

I realize that the legislature has a difficult, and thankless, job to divide the state every 10 years into districts. As you know, I have some personal experience in this area, having had my wife Ann represent a portion of Salt Lake City (the Rose Park area) in House legislative District 20. However, this change which has occurred at the last minute, without any public input, creates boundaries that are ill-conceived at best, and destructive at worst. I respectfully request that you reconsider and direct the boundaries to reflect the previous boundaries presented by the redistricting committee for Bountiful. I would be glad to suggest how this can be done, but believe that you and the committee can probably deal with this request better than I can.

Thanks for all the hard work—I know that you're not told often enough that there are those of us that appreciate and understand the time and sacrifice you make to serve. If I can answer any questions or be helpful in any way on this issue, please feel free to contact me. Sincerely, Tom Hardy, City Manager

For email.

**Rep. Jim Nielson**  
**Utah House District 19**



**Email**

[jim@jim4utah.com](mailto:jim@jim4utah.com)

**Website**

[www.jim4utah.com](http://www.jim4utah.com)

**Address**

331 East 1900 South  
Bountiful, UT 84010

**Telephone**

801.550.3474

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Steven Goold <[goold.steven@gmail.com](mailto:goold.steven@gmail.com)>

**Date:** September 29, 2011 11:00:34 AM MDT

**To:** undisclosed-recipients::

**Subject:** Please don't play politics!

## Daily Herald

### IN OUR VIEW

## A really bad pizza recipe

Posted: Thursday, September 22, 2011 12:03 am |



In the effort to redraw Utah's congressional districts, two of the three Utah County-based lawmakers on the commission charged with making a proposal say they like what's been dubbed the "pizza slice" plan.

That's the plan with the points of the new congressional districts in Salt Lake County.

Never mind that this plan would water down Utah County's clout in Washington, without any compensating benefits. And never mind that these lawmakers are supposed to represent their local constituents.

The alternative to pizza is doughnuts. This approach would create poorly named "doughnut holes," or zones encompassing one or more of the main urban areas: Salt Lake County for sure, Utah County being the next obvious choice, and Davis County and its environs a third possibility. In some of these plans, the new Utah fourth district would cover a lot of the state's rural areas.

Note that a district comprising Utah County and a few other small chunks would focus a U.S. representative's attention squarely on this valley. You'd think that area lawmakers would naturally favor the idea.

But no. Rep. Ken Sumsion, R-American Fork, the House chair for the committee, and Rep. Francis Gibson, R-Mapleton, are favoring the pizza slice plan.

"I would like our congressional delegation unified in representing all the interests of Utah," Sumsion says. Defenders of the slice idea say it would force members of Congress to pay attention to rural areas in the four districts, since each slice would include some rural zones.

But it's easy to flip that argument over. A pizza slice plan is likely to turn rural voters into a minority in each district, thus diminishing their clout. The pizza plan could virtually disenfranchise them as representatives respond to the majority.

By contrast, if rural areas make up the bulk of a district, that district will have the undivided attention of at least one member of Congress, and the peripheral attention of all the others. The interests of rural Utah will affect the state, starting with energy development. Nobody will be ignoring those factors.

Is the pizza plan more fair? No. But Gibson frets:

"My initial leanings are that a doughnut hole plan has some negative connotation in what people say gerrymandering is," he said. "I would probably lean into dividing the state more equally."

Of course the dominant GOP wants to avoid charges of gerrymandering. The 2000 redistricting still brings the accusation that it fiddled with the boundaries too much in a vain attempt to defeat Utah's lone D.C. Democrat, Rep. Jim Matheson.

Moreover, the population of districts will be more or less equal regardless which plan is chosen, so equality is not the issue.

When the first rumors of the pizza slice plan came out of the oven, Utah Democrats derided it as blatant gerrymandering. Pizza advocates now seem intent on making prophets of those Democrats. The slices, however they are cut, will look like gerrymandering.

Politicians don't usually hand their opponents so much political ammunition, so it has to be wondered what's in their heads. There's something awkward and forced about Republican claims that the pizza slice plan is fairer or provides some special benefit to rural areas. The argument seems especially out of place when it comes from Utah County Republicans.

There's nothing wrong with asking that Utah County receive appropriate voting power in acknowledgement of its rapid growth in the last decade. We are an urban center of more than a half-million people. That it is plainly a distinct political, geographical, historic and economic entity.

Why would Republican lawmakers from our county be willing to let our influence be diluted in service to a plan whose justifications are really shaky.

Speaker of the House Becky Lockhart, R-Provo, continues to straddle the fence -- another oddity. She heads the dominant party in one chamber and should use her clout to do the right thing. It's one thing to give all sides some say during a debate, but this issue is too important to leave to chance. A bit of muscle should be exercised.

Read more: [http://www.heraldextra.com/news/opinion/article\\_98f55877-58ef-562c-a05e-ebfe64587d2f.html#ixzz1ZMTXADsy](http://www.heraldextra.com/news/opinion/article_98f55877-58ef-562c-a05e-ebfe64587d2f.html#ixzz1ZMTXADsy)

**Representative Nielson,**

**I am deeply disturbed by what has been chosen as the final Congressional map for reapportionment. Why, all of a sudden, has this final map, divided Bountiful into to two separate Districts when the Sumsion-06 map issued earlier this week had the division line further North leaving Southern Davis County in one Congressional District? What is the logic behind this latest change? To me, it does not make any sense and appears that other Salt Lake and Utah County legislative members may be pulling "strings" in other areas at the expense of our area in Southern Davis County.**

**I implore you to work hard to make sure this division of Southern Davis County, especially for Bountiful does not happen.**

**Sincerely,**

**Val Tarbox**

**Bountiful, Utah**