

Final
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

COMMITTEE ON JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

Date:	03/19/2011	ATTENDANCE
Time:	09:00 AM to 11:46 AM	Brophy X
Place:	Mesa State College, College Center, Ballroom South	Carroll *
		Coram X
		Nikkel X
This Meeting was called to order by <u>Representative Balmer</u>		Pabon X
		Scheffel X
		Schwartz X
		Vigil X
This Report was prepared by <u>Hillary Smith</u>		Balmer X
		Heath X

X = Present, E = Excused, A = Absent, * = Present after roll call

Bills Addressed:	Action Taken:
Grand Junction Public Hearing	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only

09:00 AM -- Grand Junction Public Hearing

Representative Balmer, Co-chair, called the meeting to order. The committee held a moment of silence for the victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. The committee said the Pledge of Allegiance. The members of the committee introduced themselves.

09:06 AM

Senator Heath, Co-chair, made introductory remarks. He provided some background on the redistricting process and the mission of the committee. He noted that Colorado's number of congressional districts will remain the same. He spoke about the technology available to the committee for redrawing the districts.

09:10 AM

Representative Balmer addressed the significance of public input for the redistricting process. He provided additional details concerning the formation of the committee and its goals. He explained that this is the committee's tenth and final public hearing throughout the state. He described the cost savings of avoiding a special session for redistricting. Representative Balmer then summarized the history of redistricting in Colorado, noting that the courts have been drawing the plans since 1981. He indicated that the committee is trying to break this pattern. He spoke about the importance of public input concerning communities of interest. He described geographical and transportation-related factors for drawing districts in certain ways. He encouraged the public to refer to the brochure "A Citizen's Guide to Redistricting" and the map of the current districts, both of which are available at the website www.colorado.gov/redistricting. He encouraged people to e-mail comments to the CongRedist2011@state.co.us e-mail account.

09:16 AM

Representative Balmer introduced former Congressman Scott McInnis, Senator Steve King, and Representative Ray Scott, who were present at the hearing.

09:17 AM

Tom Morris, Office of Legislative Legal Services, spoke about the redistricting process, explaining that the plan will be introduced as a bill and will go through the normal bill hearing process. He summarized the federal legal requirements concerning redistricting, including the "one person, one vote" requirement. He then discussed the importance of the federal Voting Rights Act. He described other factors of redistricting that have been considered in the past, such as local boundaries (municipal and county), compactness and contiguity, and communities of interest. He said that public testimony is particularly important for defining communities of interest. He posed several questions for witnesses to address in their testimony concerning communities of interest.

09:23 AM

Mr. Morris explained that the precinct boundaries used by the U.S. Census Bureau in its calculations differ slightly from the actual precinct lines. As a result, 453 people were placed in the wrong congressional district. The members of the committee received a packet of information about this discrepancy along with an updated table of population figures. An image of the difference between precinct lines and Census boundaries in Jackson County was displayed for the audience. All of this information is included in Attachment A.

09:25 AM

Representative Balmer explained that the committee aims to vote a plan out of committee unanimously, hopefully within two or three weeks. He spoke about the bipartisan nature of the committee. He introduced Colorado State Board of Education member Marcia Neal, Fruita Mayor Ken Henry, and Snowmass Mayor Bill Boineau, who were present at the hearing.

09:28 AM -- Former Congressman Scott McInnis, representing himself, spoke about the nature of the communities in Congressional District 3. He said that the district is the primary water source for Colorado. He described his past involvement in the redistricting process. He said that Chaffee County has more in common with Congressional District 3 than with its current district. He spoke about problems with splitting the mountain communities. He expressed his opinion that Eagle and other mountain communities do not have as much in common with Boulder as with the counties in Congressional District 3. He asked that the committee consider unifying ski districts. He asked that the mountain community of interest be kept intact, and he described several factors, such as water, that indicate that mountain communities are a community of interest. He remarked that ski resorts and public lands should also be considered communities of interest. He spoke about differences between the Eastern and Western Slopes. He moved on to a discussion of energy. He concluded his remarks by noting that the Western Slope is big in size but not in population. He suggested that the two large rural sections of the state are easy to recognize and to unify, and could be drawn first in the redistricting process.

09:37 AM

Senator Carroll mentioned that residents of many counties have indicated an interest in joining Congressional District 3. She asked who should be removed from the district in order to add more people. Congressman McInnis noted that Otero and Las Animas Counties used to be in Congressional District 4. He suggested that those counties could be moved back to Congressional District 4 in order to put Eagle and Chaffee Counties back in Congressional District 3. Representative Pabon asked if the I-70 corridor should be considered a community of interest in Congressional District 3. Congressman McInnis agreed that the corridor is a community of interest; he spoke about ski resorts and attendant traffic.

09:40 AM -- Michael Tucker, representing the Eagle County Democrats, expressed the view that his group's interests are best served by staying in Congressional District 2. He stated that Eagle County should remain whole, and said that the western part of the county should not be split from the rest of the county. He remarked that it is already difficult for people in the western part of the county to get the attention of elected officials.

09:43 AM -- Anita Sherman, representing herself as a resident of Glenwood Springs, stated that Eagle County is a non-metropolitan urban area. She spoke about the importance of compactness. She said that Eagle's communities are not ranching- or agricultural-based. She suggested that all northwestern counties should be put in to Congressional District 2. Ms. Sherman responded to follow-up questions from the committee. She expressed the view that the northwestern counties are more closely aligned with Boulder County than with Pueblo or Mesa Counties. Representative Coram suggested that adding all of the northwestern counties to Congressional District 2 may require removing Boulder County from the district; he asked for her thoughts on this possibility. Discussion continued between Ms. Sherman and Representative Coram concerning ways to adjust the districts if the northwestern counties were added to Congressional District 2.

09:50 AM -- Harvie Branscomb, representing himself, distributed three handouts to the committee (Attachments B, Attachment C, and Attachment D). He described his theory of redistricting. He said that he is in favor of competitive districts. He explained the information contained in his handouts, noting that one of the handouts is a proposed map. Mr. Branscomb walked the committee through his map. He addressed questions concerning Eagle County, explaining why he feels that Eagle County should stay in the same district as Boulder County. He spoke about variations among factors such as age, race, and education in counties across the state. Mr. Branscomb then summarized testimony from other meetings related to his map.

10:00 AM

Mr. Branscomb responded to questions from the committee.

10:02 AM

Representative Balmer introduced Mesa State Student Body President Nick Lopez, who was present at the hearing.

10:03 AM -- David Dunnagan, representing the Disabled American Veterans, spoke about the veterans of the Western Slope. He stated that there are 69,000 veterans in Congressional District 3, 37,000 of whom reside on the Western Slope. He spoke about health care for veterans on the Western Slope. He indicated that veterans who live in rural areas have trouble getting to health care facilities. He expressed the hope that congressional representatives would respect the service of veterans on the Western Slope.

10:08 AM -- Duncan McArthur, representing himself, spoke about the current boundaries of Congressional District 3. He expressed the belief that although the district is large, all of the counties within it share many common interests, such as water. He remarked that resort areas are intermixed with other communities. He urged the committee to keep the Western Slope whole.

10:11 AM -- Jack Real, representing himself as a resident from Glenwood Springs, suggested that the northwestern counties would have a better voice in Congress if they were added to Congressional District 2. Mr. Real responded to follow-up questions from the committee.

10:14 AM -- Roland Reynolds, representing himself, suggested that the current lines of Congressional District 3 are not ideal. He said that it should be called the "Mountain West" district. He stated that the economy of western Colorado centers around tourism, mineral extraction and ranching. He stated that Mesa County is the economic center of Congressional District 3. He drew distinctions between farming on the Eastern and Western Slopes. Mr. Reynolds noted that Pueblo County has a steel manufacturing plant and a dense population. He suggested dividing the state into three areas: "Farming East," "Mountains," and cities in between. He spoke about the diverse population of the Western Slope. He expressed his support for a *Daily Sentinel* op-ed written by Jim Spehar (Attachment E). He distributed two additional handouts (Attachments F and Attachment G).

10:20 AM -- Kevin McCarney, representing himself as a resident of Clifton, stated that Congressional District 3 is competitive. He suggested that counties should not be split, he said this is a logical and simple solution. In response to questions from Senator Carroll, he clarified that he believes Grand County should be put in Congressional District 3.

10:22 AM -- Rio Blanco County Commissioner Ken Parsons, representing himself, said that using a geographic information system (GIS) is helpful, but factors such as water, the Continental Divide, and hydrological basins should also be taken into account. He spoke about the uniqueness of northwestern Colorado. He indicated that the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado have adopted a resolution on this issue. He said that the Western Slope is a political and geographical region that constitutes a community of interest, and he asked that it be maintained as much as possible. Commissioner Parsons responded to questions from Senator Brophy concerning whether the northwestern counties have commonalities with Boulder County. In response to questions from Senator Schwartz, Commissioner Parsons said that the I-70 Corridor also makes sense as a community of interest. He expressed the opinion that Jackson has more in common with Routt and Moffat Counties than with Larimer County. He then discussed the importance of school districts.

10:31 AM -- Gay Moore, representing herself, stated that the only thing that should divide the state is the Continental Divide. She asked the committee to not be concerned with the political affiliations in districts.

10:33 AM -- Dea Jacobson, representing herself, spoke about her experience as a congressional aide. She said that the diversity of Congressional District 3 makes it a challenging district to represent, especially in terms of size. She spoke about issues involving travel across the district. She conceded that this may have to remain the same, due to the requirement that the population of each district be as equal as practicable. She spoke about the importance of the I-70 and Highway 50 corridors. She argued that transportation is an important factor to consider.

10:36 AM -- Snowmass Mayor Bill Boineau, representing himself, spoke about the importance of geographic, water, and transportation boundaries. He described relationships among various cities pertaining to these issues, noting that many cities are in different congressional districts. He responded to questions from Senator Schwartz concerning whether Eagle County should be divided.

10:40 AM -- Kathy Hall, representing herself, spoke about her former experience as the Mesa County Commissioner and about the boards and councils on which she has served. She urged the committee to keep the Western Slope whole as a community of interest. She discussed how the Continental Divide affects travel to Denver. She stated that people on the Western Slope should not be represented by someone from Fort Collins.

10:43 AM -- Fruita Mayor Ken Henry, representing himself, spoke about the town of Fruita, noting that it has many graduates with advanced degrees. He voiced support for Congressman McInnis' comments. He spoke about state- and federal-owned properties. He then discussed the number of lawsuits dealing with inter-mountain diversion of water.

10:46 AM -- Sharon Brenner, representing herself as a resident of Carbondale, spoke about the drive from Mesa County to Denver. She said that under no circumstances should the northwestern counties be placed in the same district as Boulder County. She said that the northwestern counties have factors such as a rural nature and concern with natural resources and recreation that do not match what she termed to be the urban interests of Boulder and Gilpin Counties. Ms. Brenner suggested moving Lake and Chaffee Counties to Congressional District 3, and putting Otero and Las Animas Counties in Congressional District 4. She then spoke about the importance of transportation.

10:48 AM -- Bonnie Petersen, representing Club 20, said that her organization represents 22 counties on the Western Slope and two Indian tribes. She urged the committee to do its work in a nonpartisan manner and to maintain communities of interest like the Western Slope and the Eastern Plains. She spoke about the impact of public lands, water, tourism, and agriculture. She added that it is important to have a representative who understands the issues of the area that he or she represents. Ms. Petersen suggested that it would be dangerous to put rural areas with large metropolitan areas. She strongly encouraged the committee to maintain the communities of interest as they stand.

10:50 AM -- Bob Hislop, representing himself, spoke about Boulder, Arapahoe, Jefferson, and Mesa Counties. He described the differences among those counties. He stated that there is a community of interest on the Western Slope, and he stressed the importance of tourism, energy, and water to this area. He recommended putting Otero and Las Animas Counties in Congressional District 4, and moving Chaffee and Lake Counties to Congressional District 3. He expressed hope that Eagle County would also be included in Congressional District 3. He voiced opposition to the idea of putting northwestern counties in Congressional District 2.

10:53 AM -- Ed Stephens, representing himself, noted that Colorado is not flat. He spoke about the importance of the Continental Divide. He addressed the distinctiveness of the Western Slope and its concerns with water. He then described the interests of the mining, agricultural and drilling industries. He stated that the Western Slope should not be divided, and he referred to previous testimony on this point.

10:57 AM -- Bill Hugenberg, representing himself, explained that he used to be the Grand Junction local Census manager. He expressed his dissatisfaction with the U.S. Census Bureau's operations on the Western Slope. He believes that the Census data for some Western Slope counties indicates too low of a population.

10:59 AM -- Debra Irvine, representing Summit County Republicans and several other organizations, said that Summit County is a member of Club 20 and is committed to the Western Slope. She referred to testimony presented at the March 15th hearing in Boulder that drew relationships between Summit and Boulder. She expressed the opinion that Summit County has a stronger relationship with Congressional District 3 and the Western Slope than with Boulder. She asked the committee to move Summit County back to Congressional District 3.

11:03 AM

Representative Balmer indicated that Senator Heath would chair for the remainder of the meeting.

11:03 AM -- Rick Stelter, representing the Delta County Democratic Party, stated that Congressional District 3 should be kept largely as it is currently drawn. He spoke about the history of redistricting in the area. He discussed the importance of agriculture, mining, energy, and timber. He asked that Chaffee County be put back in Congressional District 3. He referred to previous testimony concerning the possibility of adding Lake and Crowley Counties to Congressional District 3. Mr. Stelter said that he would prefer to avoid splitting counties. He addressed previous testimony suggesting that Lake and Crowley to 3. He said that they would like to avoid splitting counties. He then referred to previous testimony concerning Eagle, Moffat, Routt, and Jackson Counties.

11:06 AM -- Rob Irvine, representing himself, spoke about the interests of seniors and retirees. He described his time in the Air Force. He said that people on the Western Slope and in the mountain communities are there for the quality of life and for recreational opportunities. He voiced support for Ms. Petersen's testimony.

11:10 AM -- Arthur Gardner, representing himself, spoke about the small population increase required for Congressional District 3. He said that interests of Congressional District 3 are: agriculture, tourism, mining, water, and public lands. He stated that major suburban and urban interests should not be added to these interests.

11:13 AM -- Ron Roesener, representing himself, spoke about the differences between the Eastern and Western Slopes. He said that the boundaries of Congressional District 3 should remain largely the same, but that Grand and Eagle Counties should be added to the district. He believes that Otero and Las Animas Counties are more aligned with Congressional District 4 than with Congressional District 3. He said that Garfield County is a ranching area, not a tourism area.

11:16 AM -- Kaye Ferry, representing the Eagle County Republicans and several other organizations, addressed previous testimony concerning splitting Eagle County. She referred to testimony provided by Travis Whipple at a previous meeting concerning whether the new plan should be based on the current plan. She added additional detail concerning the I-70 corridor. She stated that \$800,000 per hour is lost when I-70 closes, and she discussed the impact of this loss of revenue. She distributed five handouts to the committee (Attachment H, Attachment I, Attachment J, Attachment K, and Attachment L).

11:19 AM -- Bob Rasnick, representing himself, said that the Continental Divide is a geographic divide that should serve as a natural divide for congressional districts.

11:21 AM -- Rio Blanco County Commissioner Kai Turner, representing himself, suggested that Grand County should be added to Congressional District 3. He said that if a distinction has to be made, he would prefer that Grand County be added rather than Chaffee County. He responded to questions from the committee.

11:22 AM -- David Merritt, representing the Garfield County Republicans and several other organizations, said that political boundaries should follow watersheds.

11:24 AM -- Nina Anderson, representing herself, spoke about the diversity of Congressional District 3. She stated that Moffat and Rio Blanco Counties do not align with Congressional District 2. She suggested putting Pitkin, Garfield, and Grand Counties in Congressional District 2. She spoke about the southern area of the Western Slope, and also said that the Continental Divide and its effects on water should be considered.

11:26 AM -- Orchard City Mayor Don Suppes, representing himself, spoke about urban versus rural communities of interest. He said that he sees no reason for Pueblo County to be in Congressional District 3 if communities of interest are being considered. Mayor Suppes responded to questions from the committee. He said that Pueblo is an urban community, and he described how voting patterns in Pueblo differ from the rest of Congressional District 3. Discussion ensued concerning communities of interest and political competitiveness.

11:30 AM -- Jim Womack, representing himself, referred to earlier testimony suggesting that the northwestern counties be put in Congressional District 2. He disagrees with this suggestion. He specifically spoke about the lifestyles and livelihood of people in Moffat County. He stated that more people from Moffat Counties and surrounding areas retire and stay in the Western Slope than move to Boulder. He spoke about the community's interests in agriculture, energy, and hunting.

11:33 AM -- John Justman, representing himself as a resident of Fruita, and Fruita Co-op Board, spoke about farming and public lands in Mesa County. He said that the county is a rural area. He does not want to be part of a metropolitan area. He indicated that Mesa County needs a representative who represents rural interests.

11:35 AM -- County Commissioner Rachel Richards, representing the Pitkin County Board of Commissioners, spoke about what she termed to be the extremely partisan nature of politics today. She emphasized the importance of competitive districts. She spoke about problems that occur when a district is a safe seat. She described different interests among counties in the Western Slope. She said that it is a myth that everyone agrees with each other on the Western Slope. She spoke about the importance of the Roaring Fork Valley, noting that a small portion of Eagle is there. She reiterated the importance of competitive districts.

11:39 AM -- Debbie Marquez, representing herself as a resident from Edwards, spoke about the I-70 corridor as a community of interest. She discussed the number of times that Eagle County has changed districts. She agreed with Ms. Richards' comments concerning competitive districts. She also agreed with the suggestion of putting northwestern counties in Congressional District 2. She addressed the previous redistricting process. She voiced support for an idea that each major metropolitan area could be viewed as the capital of a district, *e.g.* Grand Junction and Pueblo could each be the capital of a separate district.

11:43 AM -- Cathie Jorgenson, representing herself as a resident of Mesa County, spoke about the history of the courts' involvement in redistricting. She said that it is better for the elected officials to complete the redistricting plan. She asked the committee to discuss how it will ensure that it does its job.

11:45 AM

Senator Heath responded to Ms. Jorgenson's comments, saying that the goal is to have a map done by April 14, then to have it passed by both chambers and to the Governor before the end of the legislative session. He thanked everyone for coming.

11:46 AM

Representative Balmer closed public testimony. The committee adjourned.

Explanation of Numbers

Tom Morris, Office of Legislative Legal Services

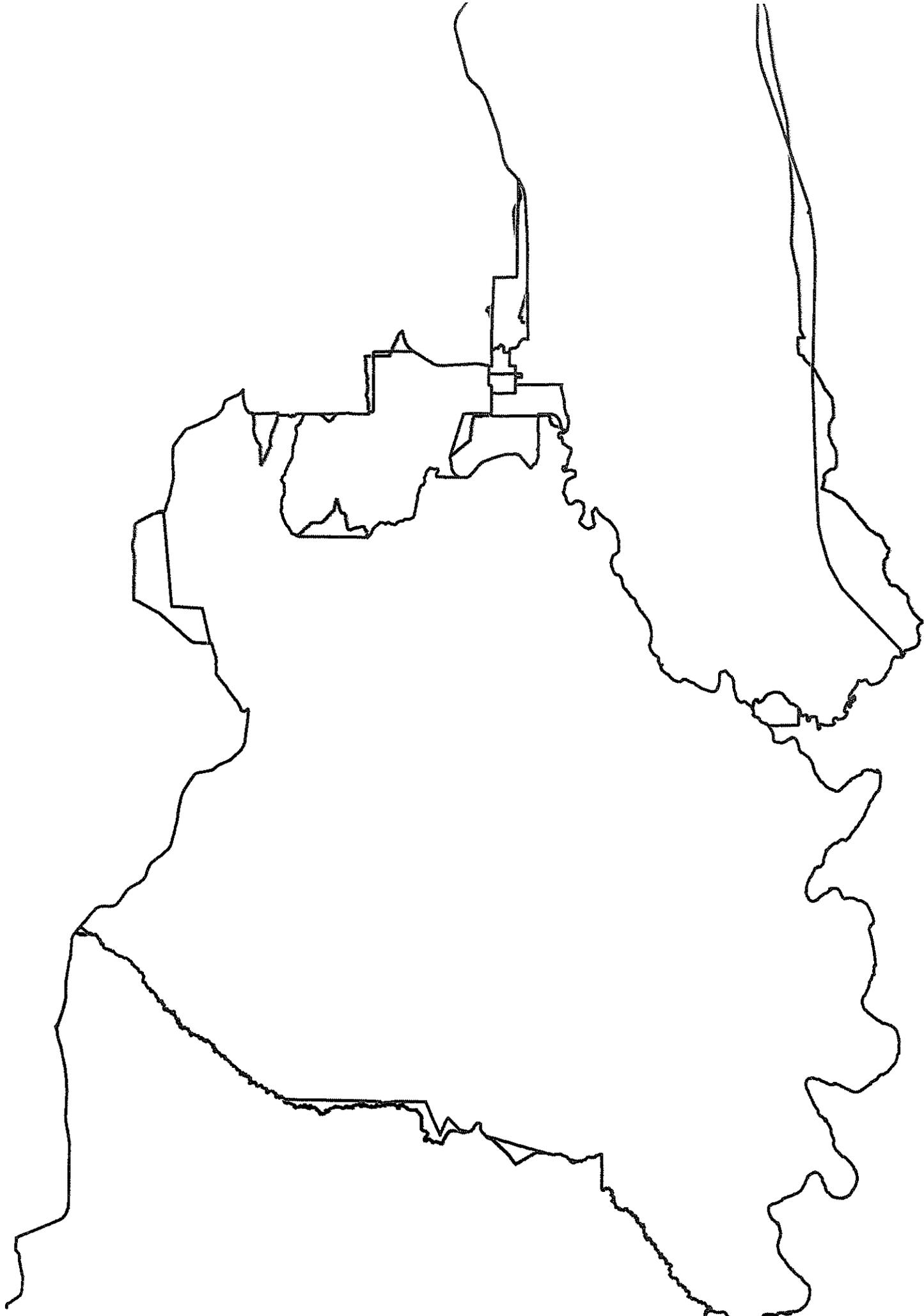
In working with the software and the data, we discovered some errors in one of the layers we received from the Census Bureau. Prior to conducting the census every ten years, the census bureau creates new geography from which to count people. They draw both precinct lines and district boundaries using the new geography that may not match the geography that was used in the prior census. They sent us those lines and gave us 30 days to send back to the any corrections. Within the 30 days, we reviewed the lines for almost 3,253 precincts in Colorado and corrected the lines of the precincts.

Unfortunately, the census bureau did not use those corrected precinct lines when it drew the district boundaries. So the district boundaries from the census bureau do not actually match the district boundaries from which the elections have been conducted for the past ten years. Out of the 5,029,196 people, 453 people were actually placed in the wrong congressional districts based upon the census district lines. So this is very minor error.

We have updated our maps and will give an updated map for the computer to any committee members who would like them. It actually will only come into play if someone is drawing a new map based upon the existing districts.

And fortunately, for the 3rd congressional district, there were no problems with the district lines we received from the census bureau, so this issue won't effect drawing plans starting with the existing 3rd congressional district.

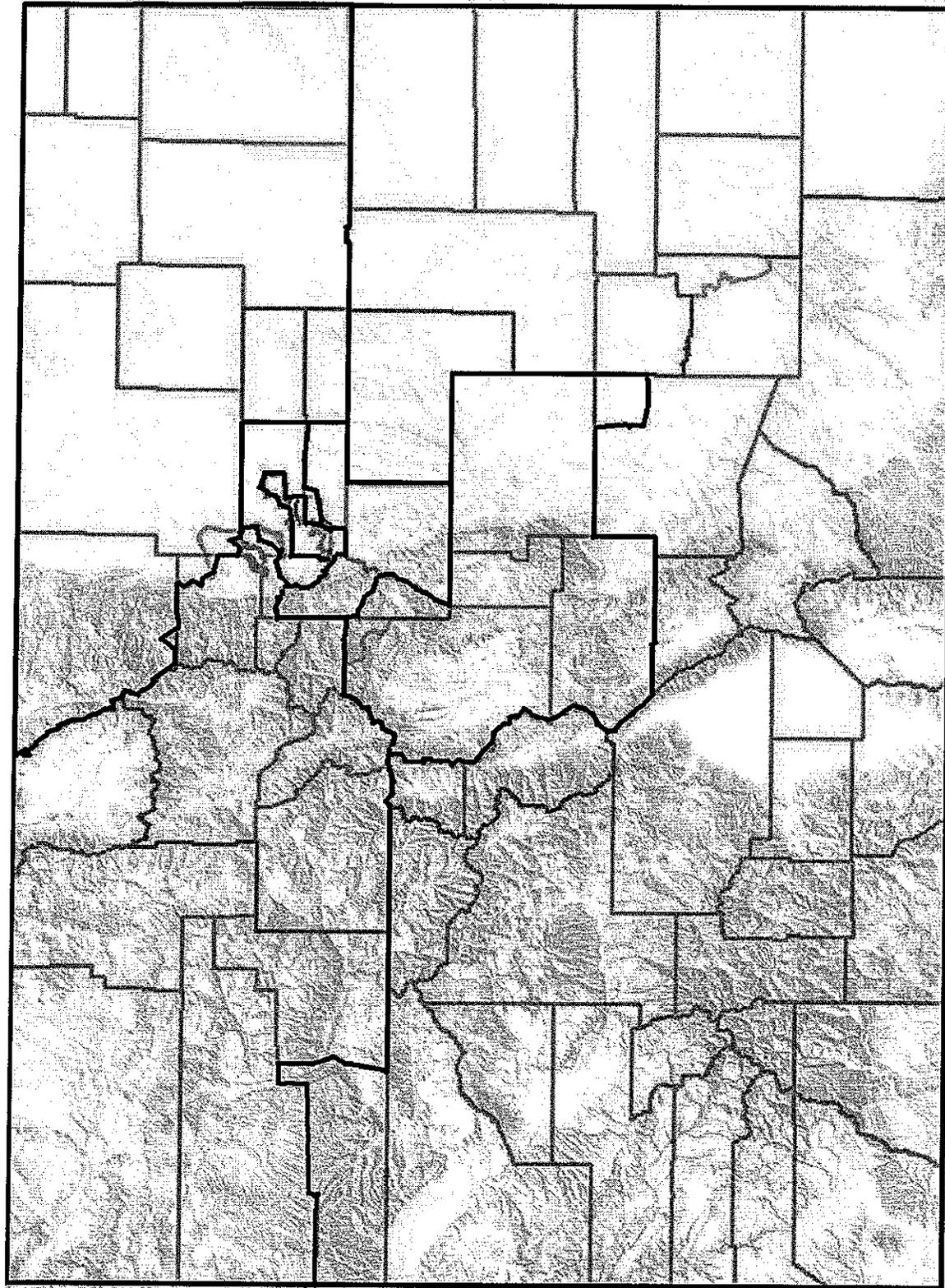
District	Census	Political	Difference	ideal	Difference
1	662,039	662,124	85	718,457	56,333
2	733,805	734,014	209	718,457	-15,557
3	706,186	706,186	0	718,457	12,271
4	725,041	724,919	-122	718,457	-6,462
5	725,902	725,902	0	718,457	-7,445
6	797,813	797,482	-331	718,457	-79,025
7	678,410	678,569	159	718,457	39,888
	5,029,196	5,029,196		5,029,196	



US Census Bureau People QuickFacts	Eagle County	Boulder County	Clear Creek	Summit County	Routt County	Garfield County	Pueblo County	Mesa County	Adams County	Montrose County	CO Average
	Mountain Rural Counties - CD2?										
	Metro/Rural										
Persons 65 years+, percent, 2009	4.80%	9.10%	8.90%	5.70%	6.60%	8.30%	14.90%	14.30%	8.30%	17.00%	10.60%
Black persons, percent, 2009	0.70%	1.20%	0.80%	1.30%	0.80%	1.20%	2.50%	1.10%	3.60%	0.70%	4.40%
Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2009	28.90%	13.50%	6.00%	14.90%	4.80%	26.00%	39.50%	12.70%	35.70%	18.20%	20.30%
White persons not Hispanic, %, 2009	68.50%	79.70%	90.30%	81.50%	92.20%	70.80%	56.10%	83.50%	55.80%	78.60%	70.70%
Bachelor's degree or higher, % age 25+, 2000	42.60%	52.40%	38.80%	48.30%	42.50%	23.80%	18.30%	22.00%	17.40%	18.70%	32.70%
Median value of owner- occupied housing units, 2000	\$369,100	\$241,900	\$200,400	\$317,500	\$268,500	\$200,700	\$95,200	\$118,900	\$149,800	\$121,200	\$166,600
Median household income, 2008	\$73,482	\$66,760	\$57,227	\$64,813	\$63,085	\$67,063	\$42,005	\$54,337	\$56,601	\$45,817	\$57,184
Per capita money income, 1999	\$32,011	\$28,976	\$28,160	\$28,676	\$28,792	\$21,341	\$17,163	\$18,715	\$19,944	\$17,158	\$24,049
Persons below poverty level, %, 2008	6.80%	10.30%	7.40%	6.80%	5.80%	7.40%	16.80%	10.60%	12.00%	11.90%	11.20%

County	Name	CDs	County	Name	CDs
1	Adams County	1,2,4,7	63	Kit Carson County	3
3	Alamosa County	3	65	Lake County	3
5	Arapahoe County	1,6,4	67	La Plata County	3
7	Archuleta County	3	69	Larimer County	2,4
9	Baca County	3	71	Las Animas County	3
11	Bent County	3	73	Lincoln County	3
13	Boulder County	2,4	75	Logan County	4
14	Broomfield County	2	77	Mesa County	3
15	Chaffee County	3	79	Mineral County	3
17	Cheyenne County	3	81	Moffat County	3
19	Clear Creek County	2	83	Montezuma County	3
21	Conejos County	3	85	Montrose County	3
23	Costilla County	3	87	Morgan County	4
25	Crowley County	3	89	Otero County	3
27	Custer County	5	91	Ouray County	3
29	Delta County	3	93	Park County	5
31	Denver County	1	95	Phillips County	4
33	Dolores County	3	97	Pitkin County	3
35	Douglas County	6	99	Prowers County	3
37	Eagle County	2	101	Pueblo County	3,5
39	Elbert County	4	103	Rio Blanco County	3
41	El Paso County	5	105	Rio Grande County	3
43	Fremont County	5	107	Routt County	2
45	Garfield County	2,3	109	Saguache County	3
47	Gilpin County	2	111	San Juan County	3
49	Grand County	2	113	San Miguel County	3
51	Gunnison County	3	115	Sedgwick County	4
53	Hinsdale County	3	117	Summit County	2
55	Huerfano County	3	119	Teller County	5
57	Jackson County	2	121	Washington County	4
59	Jefferson County	2,5,6,7	123	Weld County	4
61	Kiowa County	3	125	Yuma County	4

CD1	Adams County	1,2,4,7	21083	CD2	Garfield County	2,3	37113
CD2			208306	CD3			19277
CD4			4352		Jefferson County	2,5,6,7	
CD7			207862	CD2			51864
	Arapahoe County	1,4,6		CD5			6991
CD1			97889	CD6			144838
CD4			5107	CD7			330850
CD6			288455		Larimer County	2,4	
			180552	CD2			5861
	Boulder County	2,4		CD4			293769
CD2			204889		Pueblo County	3,5	
CD4			89678	CD3			156867
				CD5			2196



Political math not just for budgets

The bipartisan legislative committee tasked with recommending new boundaries for Colorado's congressional districts comes to Grand Junction later this week. Let's wish the members luck in resolving conflicting and sometimes confusing demands.

If all the committee had to do was balance new population numbers from the 2010 census, the task would be daunting. Toss in judgment calls like "community of interest" and ethnic makeup, as well as competing partisan demands, and the task becomes exponentially more difficult.

Assembling the magic number — 718,457 — for each of the state's seven districts, might seem easy. But, for example, where do we find the extra 12,271 people to make our 3rd Congressional District numbers add up?

The Boulder-based 2nd District needs to lose 15,348 people and it includes counties like Eagle, Summit and Grand, which logically would be a better fit with us. The 5th District, centered on Colorado Springs, needs to trim 7,445 folks. It includes Chaffee and Lake counties, also likely to share more ties with western Colorado than the Front Range.

Toss in the fact that two metro-area districts, the 1st and 7th Districts, must add 96,000 people and another to the south, the 6th District, needs to drop more than 79,000 and you begin to see why it'll be tough to make the numbers work. Trimming 6,584 from the remaining Eastern Plains district, the 4th Congressional District, starts to look easy.

But mapmakers are also required to decide such things as whether Hispanic populations in Pueblo and the San Luis Valley are a "community of interest" and which counties might be split between congressional districts to make the math work.

That raises some interesting questions.

What the heck do the La Junta, Trinidad and Walsenburg areas have in common with us? Wouldn't they logically be a better fit with their southeastern Colorado neighbors in the 4th? Don't the resort and tourism-oriented economies around Breckenridge, Vail, Winter Park, Leadville and Buena Vista fit better in the 3rd with Aspen, Crested Butte, Steamboat Springs and Durango? Not to mention most of them are located on the sunset side of the Continental Divide.

Is the inclusion of Grand Junction and Pueblo in the same congressional district anything more than a marriage of convenience between two areas of roughly equal larger



JIM SPEHAR

populations rather than the fact both enjoy the taste of Western Slope water? My Pueblo relatives might not agree, but don't they have more in common with Colorado Springs, just 30 minutes to the north, than Grand Junction, five hours to the northwest?

Add in all the western Colorado counties I've listed, subtract Pueblo and those southeastern counties, and we're left tens of thousands of folks short of a full congressional district boat. Or perhaps back, as we once were, in the same district as Fort Collins.

Missing from all the discussion is another important consideration: competitive districts. We happen to live in one. Most Coloradans don't.

The 3rd District seems to switch between Republicans and Democrats with regularity. And Colorado's newest district, the 7th, has had representation from both parties since 2002. But, if you're of the GOP persuasion, don't bother to campaign in the 1st or 2nd. Democrats need not apply in the 5th and 6th. The 4th is an uphill battle for the Ds, absent an aberration like Marilyn Musgrave in a year when Barack Obama is at the top of the ticket.

A couple of decades ago, then-chairman of the Colorado Republican Party, Howard "Bo" Callaway, and his Democratic counterpart advanced the idea of making populations of the state's congressional districts as equally divided between the two major parties as possible. We'd benefit, their reasoning went, if good candidates and their ideas became more important than party affiliation. These days we might have to divide by three instead of two in order to reflect Colorado's "third party" of unaffiliated voters.

The short story is that there'll be no easy answers for the legislative committee that'll be seeking your opinions from 9 a.m. until noon this Saturday at Mesa State College. The committee's recommendations, due in mid-April, are sure to upset as many as they please.

And we haven't even considered the task of redrawing boundaries for 100 state legislators, a task that just might make recommending congressional district changes seem like a spring-break walk on a sunny beach.

A bumper sticker in Jim Spehar's home office proclaims "Western Colorado...the 51st state." That might be the only way to create a true Western Slope congressional district. Your ideas are welcome at jimspehar@bresnan.net.

itor

Advertising Director

DENNIS MITCHELL

Circulation Director

TRACY GETTMAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We prefer letters be e-mailed to letters@gjsentinel.com or submitted via the "Submit a letter to the editor" link at GJSentinel.com.

Letters may also be mailed to:

The Daily Sentinel, P.O. Box 668,
Grand Junction, CO, 81502
or faxed to 244-8578.

Letters must include the author's name, address and telephone number and be no more than 300 words in length.

Redistricting form 2010 Census— Colorado 3rdD of US Congress

Memorandum for: Members, Colorado Redistricting Committee

Re: Reconfigure 3rd District to form a proper 'Mountain West' District

The economy of Western Colorado centers around three primary factors: 1) Tourism, 2) Mineral extraction and 3) Ranching. These factors account for the bulk of the employment as well as a need for an environmental balance in a blend of rural and ex-urban population, with water resources at the center.

The economic center of the 3rd district is Mesa County which contains all the above factors particularly with its setting in with the Colorado River running through it's center. This river supports orchards, wineries, ranching, recreational tourism, mineral extraction industries and the significant commercial center of Grand Junction.

Excepting for the foothills of the front range these factors are distinct to the western side and contrast to the rest of the state. For instance, farming in the district is in a smaller scale than eastern Colorado. It includes fruit orchards and forage crops to support sheep and cattle ranching. While there exists small cottage industries in a few towns on the western side there exist no large scale manufacturing as on the eastern side. Dense urban/suburban areas also do not exist on the western side.

The inclusion of most of Pueblo county in the 3rd district makes it distinctly out of step from the rest of the 3rd. We should consider adjusting the eastern border of the third district as follows: taking a point in the southern portion of Jefferson county all the way south to the New Mexico border and from about the same latitude follow the continental divide north , except keep Jackson county in its current 3rd district position. This would mean deleting most of Pueblo and Las Animas counties and adding Fremont, Teller, Park Chaffee, Lake, Eagle, Summit and Grand counties to the 3rd district.

The Third district is and would remain a diverse district both from a ethnic and economic view. The Ute Indian reservation and the old Spanish land grant community would remain along the southern district border.

I submit this proposal from a non-partisan position. I am attaching a recent Op-ed to the Daily Sentinel by Jim Spehar, a local Democrat which reflects similar views as above.

Roland Reynolds,
745 Centauri
Grand Junction, CO 81506
ph 970-256-9962
email: rlnreynolds@yahoo.com

Incl: Spehar oped

Political math not just for budgets

The bipartisan legislative committee tasked with recommending new boundaries for Colorado's congressional districts comes to Grand Junction later this week. Let's wish the members luck in resolving conflicting and sometimes confusing demands.

If all the committee had to do was balance new population numbers from the 2010 census, the task would be daunting. Toss in judgment calls like "community of interest" and ethnic makeup, as well as competing partisan demands, and the task becomes exponentially more difficult.

Assembling the magic number — 718,457 — for each of the state's seven districts, might seem easy. But, for example, where do we find the extra 12,271 people to make our 3rd Congressional District numbers add up?

The Boulder-based 2nd District needs to lose 15,348 people and it includes counties like Eagle, Summit and Grand, which logically would be a better fit with us. The 5th District, centered on Colorado Springs, needs to trim 7,445 folks. It includes Chaffee and Lake counties, also likely to share more ties with western Colorado than the Front Range.

Toss in the fact that two metro-area districts, the 1st and 7th Districts, must add 96,000 people and another to the south, the 6th District, needs to drop more than 79,000 and you begin to see why it'll be tough to make the numbers work. Trimming 6,584 from the remaining Eastern Plains district, the 4th Congressional District, starts to look easy.

But mapmakers are also required to decide such things as whether Hispanic populations in Pueblo and the San Luis Valley are a "community of interest" and which counties might be split between congressional districts to make the math work.

That raises some interesting questions.

What the heck do the La Junta, Trinidad and Walsenburg areas have in common with us? Wouldn't they logically be a better fit with their southeastern Colorado neighbors in the 4th? Don't the resort and tourism-oriented economies around Breckenridge, Vail, Winter Park, Leadville and Buena Vista fit better in the 3rd with Aspen, Crested Butte, Steamboat Springs and Durango? Not to mention most of them are located on the sunset side of the Continental Divide.

Is the inclusion of Grand Junction and Pueblo in the same congressional district anything more than a marriage of convenience between two areas of roughly equal larger



JIM SPEHAR

populations rather than the fact both enjoy the taste of Western Slope water? My Pueblo relatives might not agree, but don't they have more in common with Colorado Springs, just 30 minutes to the north, than Grand Junction, five hours to the northwest?

Add in all the western Colorado counties I've listed, subtract Pueblo and those southeastern counties, and we're left tens of thousands of folks short of a full congressional district boat. Or perhaps back, as we once were, in the same district as Fort Collins.

Missing from all the discussion is another important consideration: competitive districts. We happen to live in one. Most Coloradans don't.

The 3rd District seems to switch between Republicans and Democrats with regularity. And Colorado's newest district, the 7th, has had representation from both parties since 2002. But, if you're of the GOP persuasion, don't bother to campaign in the 1st or 2nd. Democrats need not apply in the 5th and 6th. The 4th is an uphill battle for the Ds, absent an aberration like Marilyn Musgrave in a year when Barack Obama is at the top of the ticket.

A couple of decades ago, then-chairman of the Colorado Republican Party, Howard "Bo" Callaway, and his Democratic counterpart advanced the idea of making populations of the state's congressional districts as equally divided between the two major parties as possible. We'd benefit, their reasoning went, if good candidates and their ideas became more important than party affiliation. These days we might have to divide by three instead of two in order to reflect Colorado's "third party" of unaffiliated voters.

The short story is that there'll be no easy answers for the legislative committee that'll be seeking your opinions from 9 a.m. until noon this Saturday at Mesa State College. The committee's recommendations, due in mid-April, are sure to upset as many as they please.

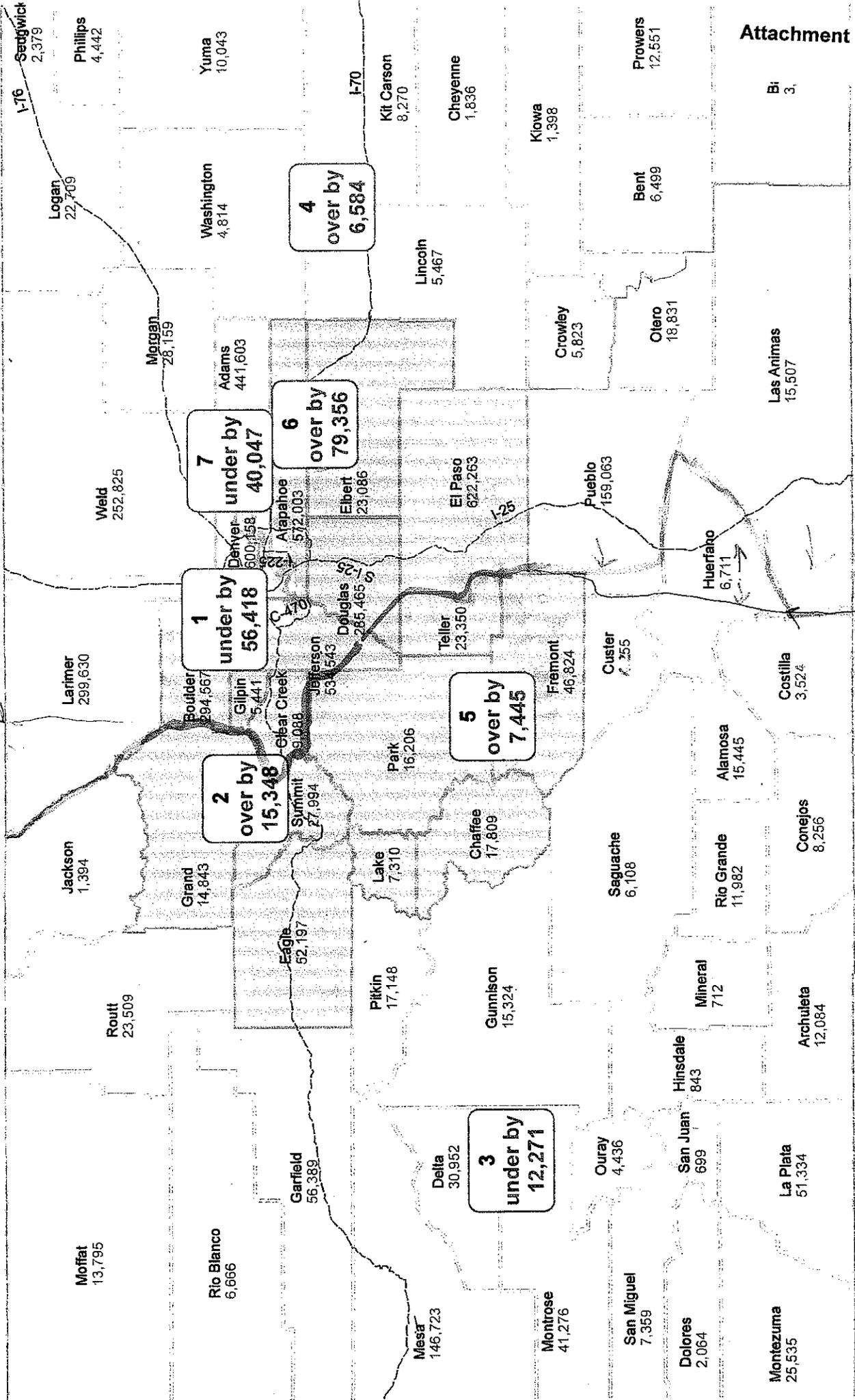
And we haven't even considered the task of redrawing boundaries for 100 state legislators, a task that just might make recommending congressional district changes seem like a spring-break walk on a sunny beach.

A bumper sticker in Jim Spehar's home office proclaims "Western Colorado...the 51st state." That might be the only way to create a true Western Slope congressional district. Your ideas are welcome at jimspehar@bresnan.net.

Include w/ R Reynolds proposal

Alternate

Alternate



Attachment H

From: Kaye Ferry <kaye@kayeferry.com>
Subject: **Fwd: Sat. Meeting**
Date: March 18, 2011 6:30:33 PM MDT
To: Kaye Ferry <kaye@kayeferry.com>
▶ 1 Attachment, 20.5 KB

As a follow up to questions asked of us at the 315/11 meeting, we did a survey of elected officials in Eagle County. The question was "Would you be in favor of Eagle County being divided into 2 separate Congressional Districts."

NAME	POSITION	YES	NO
Harvey Branscomb (D)	Co-Chair, EC Democrats		X
Rich Carroll (R)	Mayor, Avon		X
Steve Carver (R)	Mayor, Gypsum		X
Mark Chapin (D)	E.C. Assessor		X
Dick Cleveland (D)	Mayor, Vail		X
Leroy Duroux (R)	Mayor, Basalt	X	-
Kaye Ferry (R)	Chair, EC Republicans		X
Sara Fisher (D)	E.C. Commissioner		X
Gordon "Hawkeye" Flaherty (D)	Mayor, Minturn		X
Joy Hoy (R)	E.C. Sheriff		X
Jill Hunsinger (D)	Co-Chair, EC Democrats		X
Randy Milhoan (R)	Past-Chair, EC Republicans		X
Ramon Montoya (D)	Mayor, Red Cliff		X
Carol Onderdonk (D)	Past-Chair, EC Democrats		X
Peter Runyon (D)	E. C. Commissioner		X
Karen Sheaffer (R)	E.C. Treasurer		X
Teak Simonton (D)	E.C. Clerk & Recorder		X
John Stavney (D)	Chair, E.C. Commissioners		X

From: Kaye Ferry <Kaye@KayeFerry.com>
Subject: **Fwd: Sat. Meeting**
Date: March 18, 2011 6:22:29 PM MDT
To: Kaye Ferry <kaye@kayeferry.com>
1 Attachment, 20.5 KB

NAME	POSITION	YES	NO
Harvey Branscomb (D)	Co-Chair, EC Democrats		X
Rich Carroll (R)	Mayor, Avon		X
Steve Carver (R)	Mayor, Gypsum		X
Mark Chapin (D)	E.C. Assessor		X
Dick Cleveland (D)	Mayor, Vail		X
Leroy Duroux (R)	Mayor, Basalt	X	-
Kaye Ferry (R)	Chair, EC Republicans		X
Sara Fisher (D)	E.C. Commissioner		X
Gordon "Hawkeye" Flaherty (D)	Mayor, Minturn		X
Joy Hoy (R)	E.C. Sheriff		X
Jill Hunsinger (D)	Co-Chair, EC Democrats		X
Randy Milhoan (R)	Past-Chair, EC Republicans		X
Ramon Montoya (D)	Mayor, Red Cliff		X
Carol Onderdonk (D)	Past-Chair, EC Democrats		X
Peter Runyon (D)	E. C. Commissioner		X
Karen Sheaffer (R)	E.C. Treasurer		X
Teak Simonton (D)	E.C. Clerk & Recorder		X
John Stavney (D)	Chair, E.C. Commissioners		X

Subject: Re: CD2
 Date: Friday, March 18, 2011 11:34 PM
 From: twhipple@travisdale.net
 To: Kaye Ferry <kaye@kayeferry.com>
 Conversation: CD2

I hope you get a chance to check your e-mail in the morning otherwise I stayed up late for nothing :)

Here are some numbers. They are off somewhere but I don't have time to figure out where. In a nutshell I tried to keep the Mountain Areas together, The plains areas together, Longmont - Loveland - Ft Collins, Boulder - Broomfield, and then where I had to split, I split the large populated areas. It doesn't make sense to me to split the small counties (something you may want to mention). The smaller counties are going to be tighter nite.

Anyway here is my attempt. It was quite a challenge. Hopefully it gives them something else to consider. They are divided by count or school district. I'm also attaching the spreadsheet if it helps. Please remind them that St. Vrain wants to stay together and in CD4. Thanks.

CD1 ? Total	718,457
Denver County	600158
Jefferson County	26428

Adams / Arapaho	
Littleton School District 6	91871

CD2 ? Total	718457
Boulder Valley School District RE-2	212161
Broomfield County	55889
Jefferson County	133863

Adams	
Northglenn-Thornton School District 12	209792
Adams County School District 14	36462
Westminster School District 50	70290

CD3 ? Total	717,632
-------------	---------

Archuleta County	12084
Clear Creek County	9088
Conejos County	8256
Delta County	30952
Dolores County	2064
Eagle County	52197
Garfield County	56389
Gilpin County	5441
Grand County	14843
Gunnison County	15324
Hinsdale County	843
Jackson County	1394
La Plata County	51334
Lake County	7310
Fremont County	46824
Mesa County	146723
Mineral County	712
Moffat County	13795
Montezuma County	25535
Montrose County	41276
Ouray County	4436
Pitkin County	17148
Rio Blanco County	6666
Rio Grande County	11982
Rio Grande County	11982
Routt County	23509
Saguache County	6108
San Juan County	699
San Miguel County	7359
Summit County	27994
Park County	16206
Chaffee County	17809
Teller County	23350

CD4 ? Total 723,721
St. Vrain Valley School District RE 1J 151981
Larimer County (includes Thompson SD^) 299630

Weld
Weld County School District RE-1 8930
Greeley School District 6 114372
Johnstown-Milliken School District RE-5J 16550
Windsor School District RE-4 21510

Ault-Highland School District RE-9	5588
Eaton School District RE-2	9648
Weldon Valley School District RE-20J	870
Thompson School District R-2J	???
Weld County School District RE-8	12408
Platte Valley School District RE-7	4697

Weld / Adams
 Brighton School District 27J 77537

^Thompson School District R-2J 104236

 CD5 ? Total 718,457

El Paso County 622263
 Douglas County 96194

 This one is way off, don't know why?
 CD6 ? Total 818,470
 Douglas County 145713
 Jefferson County 374252

Adams / Arapaho
 Cherry Creek School District 5 273427
 Englewood School District 1 25078

 CD7 ? Total 718,457
 Alamosa County 15445
 Baca County 3788
 Bent County 6499
 Cheyenne County 1836
 Costilla County 3524
 Crowley County 5823
 Custer County 4255
 Elbert County 23086
 Huerfano County 6711
 Kiowa County 1398
 Kit Carson County 8270
 Las Animas County 15507
 Lincoln County 5467

Logan County	22709	
Morgan County	28159	
Otero County	18831	
Phillips County	4442	
Prowers County	12551	
Pueblo County	159063	
Sedgwick County	2379	
Washington County		4814
Yuma County	10043	

Weld

Prairie School District RE-11	393	
Pawnee School District RE-12	522	
Wiggins School District RE-50J	2522	
Briggsdale School District RE-10		615

Adams / Arapaho

Deer Trail School District 26J	896	
Byers School District 32J	2469	
Strasburg School District 31J	4796	
Bennett School District 29-J	6203	
Sheridan School District 2	8029	
Adams-Arapahoe School District 28J		206430
Keenesburg School District RE-3J		12643
Otero County	18831	
Las Animas County	15507	
Mapleton School District 1	30443	

Douglas County 43558

Try 1		Difference	0
718457	Goal	718,457	0
Denver County	CD1 - Total	600,158	718,457
Jefferson County		28,428	154,445
Adams / Arapaho			37,888
Littleton School District 6			64,999
			18,336
			3,524
			5,823
			23,086
			6,711
			13,988
			8,270
			15,507
			5,467
			22,709
			28,159
			18,831
			4,442
			12,551
			15,806
			2,379
			4,814
			10,043

Try 1		Difference	0
CD2 - Total		718,457	0
Boulder Valley School District RE-2		212,161	718,457
Broomfield County		55,889	154,445
Jefferson County		133,863	37,888
Adams			64,999
Northglenn-Thornton School District 12		209,792	18,336
Adams County School District 14		36,462	3,524
Westminster School District 50		70,290	5,823

Try 1		Difference	0
CD3 - Total		718,457	0
Archuleta County		12,084	718,457
Clear Creek County		9,088	154,445
Conejos County		8,286	37,888
Della County		3,095	64,999
Dolores County		2,064	18,336
Eagle County		5,217	3,524
Garfield County		56,388	5,823
Gilpin County		5,441	23,086
Grand County		14,843	6,711
Gunnison County		15,324	13,988
Hinsdale County		843	8,270
Jackson County		1,394	15,507
La Plata County		51,334	5,467
Lake County		7,310	22,709
Fremont County		4,682	28,159
Mesa County		14,673	18,831
Mineral County		712	4,442
Moffat County		13,795	12,551
Montezuma County		25,535	15,806
Montrose County		4,127	2,379
Ouray County		4,436	4,814
Pitkin County		17,148	10,043
Rio Blanco County		6,666	
Rio Grande County		11,982	
Rio Grande County		11,982	
Routt County		23,509	
Saguache County		6,108	
San Juan County		699	
San Miguel County		7,359	
Summit County		27,994	
Park County		16,206	
Chaffee County		17,809	
Teller County		23,350	

Try 1		Difference	0
CD4 - Total		723,721	-5,264
St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J		151,981	723,721
Larimer County (includes Thompson SD's)		299,630	151,981
Weld			299,630
Weld County School District RE-1		89,300	89,300
Greeley School District 6		114,372	114,372
Johnstown-Milliken School District RE-5J		16,650	16,650
Windsor School District RE-4		21,510	21,510
Ault-Highland School District RE-9		5,588	5,588
Eaton School District RE-2		9,648	9,648
Weldon Valley School District RE-20J		870	870
Thompson School District R-2J		???	???
Weld County School District RE-8		12,408	12,408
Platte Valley School District RE-7		4,697	4,697
Weld / Adams			77,537
Brighton School District 27J			77,537
Thompson School District R-2J			104,236

Try 1		Difference	0
CD5 - Total		718,457	0
El Paso County		622,263	718,457
Douglas County		96,194	154,445
Douglas County			37,888
Jefferson County			64,999
Adams / Arapaho			18,336
Cherry Creek School District 5		273,427	3,524
Englewood School District 1		25,078	5,823

Try 1		Difference	0
CD6 - Total		818,470	-100,013
Douglas County		145,713	818,470
Jefferson County		374,252	145,713
Adams / Arapaho			374,252
Cherry Creek School District 5			273,427
Englewood School District 1			25,078

Two for Tuesday! Avon Bakery and Deli - p.8

TUESDAY

March 15, 2011

**Open space talks
continue in Eagle**



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page 2

Tuesday

Mountaineer

Unfiltered news

Eagle County joins redistricting talks

Local Dems, Repubs differ greatly on the future of CD2

By Matt Minich
Mountaineer Editor

Colorado is in the process of redrawing its congressional districts to fit with the 2010 Census numbers, and county Democrats and Republicans have understandably different views of how the lines should be drawn.

Congressional District 2 covers all or some of 10 different counties, including all of Eagle County. It is regarded by many in Colorado as a "safe district" for state Democrats and has elected a Dem-

ocratic candidate to the U.S. House of Representatives for the last 35 years.

Kaye Ferry, the chair of the Eagle County Republicans, hopes to see that trend shift. Because CD2 includes heavily populated, left-leaning areas like Boulder and Adams counties, Ferry said, conservative voices on the Western Slope are often drowned out.

Ferry said she and more than a dozen other local Republicans will take a bus to tonight's meeting about the redistricting process, which will be held in Boul-



FERRY

as a "daunting geographical maze," and suggests that Eagle County be included in a district made up mostly of other Western Slope communities.

der. The public hearing is the latest in a tour around the state, which will visit each of Colorado's seven congressional districts.

In addition to attending the meeting, Ferry has prepared a white paper on the topic, which describes CD2

"The western slope (sic) and the Front Range communities share little in common," the paper reads. "In fact, their needs are often competing both philosophically and legally."

Western Slope communities are more affected by issues relating to water and mineral rights, agriculture and land management than Front Range communities, the paper reads, and bear the burden of acting as "custodians," of those public lands that attract tourists.

[See REDISTRICKT, page 9]

REDISTRIC

Ultimately, the paper requests that either Eagle County or major urban areas like Boulder be removed from CD2.

Harvie Branscomb, co-chair of the Eagle County Democrats, would rather see Eagle County remain in CD2. He will not attend tonight's meeting in Boulder, but said the Eagle County Democrats will turn out at a similar meeting in Grand Junction on Saturday.

Branscomb rejected the idea that Eagle County's location on the Western Slope put its interests at odds with the Front Range communities in CD2. While many Western Slope communities rely heavily on agriculture, he said, Eagle County's primary economic driver is tourism, which puts it in line with communities like Boulder.

He also questioned whether creating a district that excludes a major Front Range city is even possible.

[From page 1]

Election law dictates that the state's seven districts must be as close as possible to equal in population. With 2010 Census numbers putting the Colorado population at more than 5 million, this means almost 720,000 residents in each district. As they are now drawn, each of the state's districts includes a heavily populated portion of the Front Range.

Branscomb called Eagle County a "swing county" within CD2 and said Democratic candidates have won since 2002. The county has three Democratic county commissioners and voted in the last election for the Democratic candidates for U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative, Governor and Secretary of State.

Comment on the redistricting process can be sent to CongRedist2011@state.co.us until March 25. The districts must be redrawn before the 2012 elections.



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County's rep in Congress may change

Some locals lobbying for Eagle County to be in a more rural district

By Scott N. Miller
SMILLER@VAILDAILY.COM

EAGLE COUNTY — Should Eagle County have a different congressional representative? Some locals think so, and this spring provides a once-in-a-decade chance to make that change.

One primary job of the national census is to determine population distribution in order to draw congressional districts. Colorado didn't earn another congressional seat, but the population moved around enough to require redrawing of district maps.

In 2001, the census gave Colorado another seat in Congress, but a politically charged redistricting process put Eagle County in the 2nd Congressional District, which has Boulder as its popula-

tion center. For many years before that, Eagle County had been in the 3rd Congressional District, which counts Grand Junction and Pueblo as its major cities.

A group of Republicans from Eagle and Summit counties are going to today's meeting in Boulder to try to convince the state's 10-member redistricting committee that the mountain counties should be in a congressional district with similar counties.

Kaye Ferry, a Vail resident and the chairwoman of the Eagle County Republican Party, said she thinks there's a "really good" chance Eagle County could be shifted from the 2nd District. "All the districts have to change quite a bit," Ferry said.

A letter Ferry wrote to the redistricting committee asks only that "Eagle County be included in a district with which we have more in common," something she reiterated in a Monday interview. Ferry said Monday that she was struck by how different the 2nd District's Front Range and mountain counties were when she was campaigning last year for a seat on the Colorado Board of Education.

"It's amazing how little we have in common," she said. The emphasis on "common interests" has been raised in other districts, too, to the extent that a pair of Republican legislators has introduced a bill that would require judges to consider "communities of interest" if the state's

i Want to speak out?

The state's 10-member congressional redistricting committee has just two public meetings left. They are:

Today: Boulder, at the University Memorial Center, room 235, on the University of Colorado Campus, 1669 Euclid Ave.

Time: 6 to 9 p.m.

March 19: Grand Junction, at the Mesa State College Student Center Ballroom.

Time: 9 a.m. to noon.

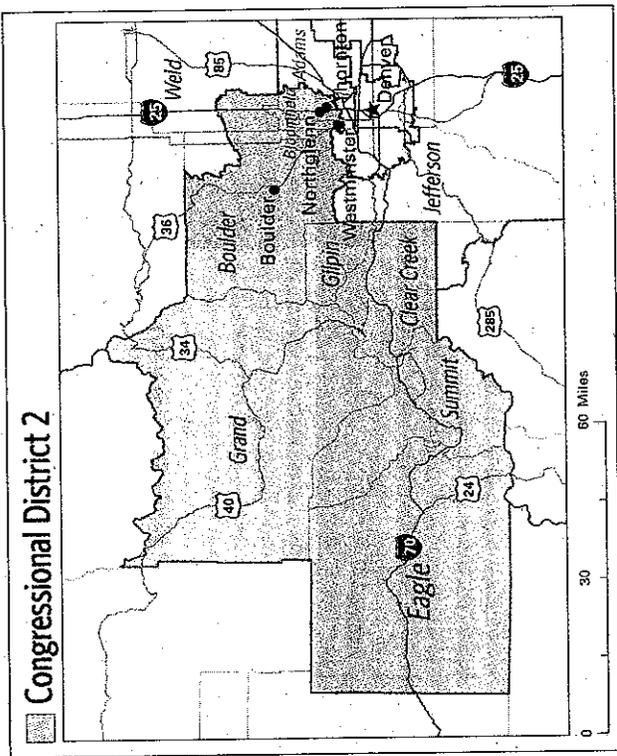
To learn more, go to <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CGA-ReDistrict/CBON/1251581558170>.

redistricting committee's work ends up in court. That bill has only introduced last week and hasn't had its first committee hearing.

"We certainly don't want this referred to the courts," Club 20 Executive Director Bonnie Peterson said. But, she added, the Western Slope lobbying group believes that rural counties should be kept together, if possible.

"It's critical that communities of interest are considered in this process," she said.

If Eagle County ends up in a new district, a probable move would be



NATIONALATLAS.GOV | Special to the Daily Eagle County is now in the state's 2nd Congressional District, represented by Jared Polis, of Boulder. Some local residents believe Eagle County would be better off in a congressional district that had more rural areas.

to go back to the 3rd District. Since the 1990s, that district has been represented by two Democrats — Ben Nighthorse Campbell and John Salazar — and two Republicans — Scott McInnis and Scott Tipton, who holds the seat now.

Current representatives have little to do with the redistricting process, but Tipton spokesman Josh Green said his boss would welcome the opportunity to represent the Vail area.

"There are a lot of issues (for

Eagle County) that are more in line with those of the 3rd District than the 2nd," Green said. But in an informal meeting a few weeks ago, Polis said he hoped he could continue to represent the mountain counties in his district and was eager to do just that.

Whether it's Tipton, Polis or someone else, Ferry wants a change and hope others speak out, too.

"I'll just be happy if we get moved," she said.