

Final
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

COLORADO REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Date: 08/19/2011

ATTENDANCE

Time: **06:04 PM to 07:25 PM**

Atencio E

Place: Lamar Community College

Berry E

This Meeting was called to order by

Carroll E

Loevy

Jones E

Loevy X

This Report was prepared by

Jessika Shipley

Nicolais X

Salazar E

Tool X

Witwer X

Webb E

Carrera E

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

Bills Addressed:	Action Taken:
Welcome and Introductions	-
Public Testimony	-

Note: This meeting summary is not an official record of the commission or of the meeting. It is not intended to serve as a transcript or minutes of the commission meeting. The audio recording of the meeting is the official record of the meeting. This summary may be used as a guide to the audio recording. To access the audio recording of a commission meeting, visit the Colorado Joint Legislative Library located in the State Capitol, Room 048 (basement/ground floor level). You will need to note the date, time, and location of the meeting to access the audio recording. Copies of the audio recordings may be obtained at the library if you bring with you blank, recordable compact discs or a flash drive. Librarians are on site and available to assist you with accessing an audio recording.

06:04 PM -- Welcome and Introductions

Commissioner Loevy called the meeting to order. The members of the commission introduced themselves.

06:06 PM

Kate Meyer, Colorado Reapportionment Commission staff read a prepared statement (Attachment A).

06:10 PM -- Public Testimony

The following individuals testified:

06:11 PM -- Ray Watts, representing himself, expressed concerns about the compactness of proposed Senate District 31, indicating that the district is much too large at approximately 27,000 square miles. He spoke about the complex and varied demographics of the individuals who reside in the proposed district. He urged the commission to return the district to something closer to its current configuration and suggested that it be limited to Fremont, Custer, Pueblo, Las Animas, Baca, Otero, Bent, Prowers, Crowley, and Kiowa Counties. Mr. Watts also spoke about House District 64. He expressed his opinion that Elbert County does not have common interests with

the rest of the counties in House District 64, while Las Animas County is very similar. He discussed demographic data from the House District 64 counties. He urged the commission to move Las Animas County back into the district and put Elbert County elsewhere. Mr. Watts responded to questions from the commission.

06:31 PM

Discussion continued about the reasons the House and Senate maps have been drawn the way they have. Mr. Watts continued to respond to questions.

06:37 PM -- Senator Kevin Grantham, representing Senate District 2, acknowledged the difficulties faced by the commission in creating districts with equal population. He discussed the common interests of the people in proposed House District 64. Senator Grantham expressed concern about including Las Animas County with rural Pueblo County and the city of Pueblo West. He indicated that Las Animas County should not be separated from Otero, Bent, and Baca Counties. He spoke about potential difficulties in traveling around proposed House District 47. He suggested keeping House District 21 wholly within El Paso County and moving other districts around to equalize population. He also talked about changing the boundary lines in proposed House District 60. He responded to questions from the commission about the best way to assign Las Animas County. Senator Grantham then moved on to speak about Senate Districts 2 and 31. He expressed his opinion that the early creation of proposed Senate District 31 has caused a number of ripple effect problems all over the state. He talked about the diverse interests of the people who live in the proposed district. He provided suggestions for changing the proposed plan in a more appropriate way.

06:59 PM

The commission continued to discuss possible alternative Senate districts with Senator Grantham.

07:05 PM -- Peter Dawson, Baca County Commissioner, reiterated the testimony of Mr. Watts and Senator Grantham. He indicated that he would feel more comfortable if House District 64 included Kit Carson and Las Animas Counties, rather than Elbert County. He also spoke about the large size of proposed Senate District 31 and about the common interests of the counties on the Eastern Plains. He expressed his opinion that cutting southeastern Colorado out of Senator Grantham's Senate district is a political slap in the face to the citizens of that region. Commissioner Dawson responded to questions from the committee.

07:12 PM -- Dr. Harold Lease, representing himself, reiterated the concerns of prior witnesses with regard to removing Las Animas County from proposed House District 64. He discussed the common interest of the proposed expansion of the Pinon Canyon military installation, which is a problem faced by a number of landowners in southeastern Colorado. Dr. Lease responded to questions from the commission. He also spoke about the large size of proposed Senate District 31. He expressed appreciation for the representation provided to southeastern Colorado by Senator Grantham.

07:22 PM -- Terry Laird, representing himself, reiterated the testimony of prior witnesses. He urged the commission to keep both House and Senate districts as close as possible to the current boundaries. He expressed his opinion that House District 64 should be focused on farming and ranching interests.

07:25 PM

Commissioner Loevy thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting.