

Final
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

COMMITTEE ON JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

Date:	03/09/2011	ATTENDANCE
Time:	06:00 PM to 08:08 PM	Brophy *
Place:	University of Colorado Colorado Springs	Carroll X
		Coram *
This Meeting was called to order by <u>Senator Heath</u>		Nikkel X
		Pabon X
		Scheffel *
		Schwartz X
This Report was prepared by <u>Christie Lee</u>		Vigil X
		Balmer X
		Heath X

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

Bills Addressed:	Action Taken:
Colorado Springs Public Hearing	Witness Testimony and/or Committee Discussion Only

06:01 PM -- Colorado Springs Public Hearing

Senator Heath, co-chair, called the meeting to order. The members introduced themselves. Co-Chair Heath and Co-Chair Balmer each gave some opening remarks to the audience.

06:10 PM

Esther van Mourik, Office of Legislative Legal Services, gave an overview of the redistricting process in Colorado. She explained that there are two legal requirements the committee must follow when creating districts: equal population and the Voting Rights Act. Ms. van Mourik explained the population shifts in the state and what needs to occur in each district based on the latest census numbers:

- District 1 needs to gain 56,418 people;
- District 2 needs to lose 15,348 people;
- District 3 needs to gain 12,271 people;
- District 4 needs to lose 6,584 people;
- District 5 needs to lose 7,445 people;
- District 6 needs to lose 79,356 people; and
- District 7 needs to gain 40,047 people.

06:15 PM

Ms. van Mourik responded to questions from the audience regarding process, including: why previous years' maps went to the courts, describing communities of interest, the ideal district size, and the committee's charge.

06:23 PM -- William Chin, representing Our Community News, questioned the number of people in each county in the census data because of the number of military personnel that are counted. He talked about the military personnel located at Peterson Air Force Base, the Air Force Academy, and Fort Carson.

06:30 PM -- Jay Fawcett talked about his experience with a previous redistricting process. He asked the committee to come up with a map that represents communities of interest, including military groups. Mr. Faucet talked about issues with drawing safe districts. Representative Pabon talked about Fort Carson which is split among districts and asked whether it should be kept whole. Mr. Faucet responded. Senator Schwartz mentioned that she hears from people on the western side of Congressional District 5 that they lack representation because of their geography.

06:39 PM -- Marc Snyder, Mayor of Manitou Springs, said he would like to keep the Pike's Peak region homogeneous. Senator Schwartz asked where he would go to pick up population for Congressional District 5. The Mayor said he believes they have more in common with Pueblo than other areas surrounding the district. Representative Pabon asked about city and county services and asked where those in Manitou Springs obtain their services. The mayor explained that Manitou benefits greatly from their government associations. Representative Balmer asked the mayor whether he would like to keep El Paso county whole. The mayor gave some reasons for keeping it whole and some for splitting it as well.

06:49 PM -- Thomas Mowle, representing himself, stated that the existing boundaries are pretty good and gave some suggestions that he also provided in a handout (Attachment A). Representative Pabon asked what his basis is for stating that splitting Pueblo county would violate the Voting Rights Act.

07:05 PM -- Steve Wind, representing himself, suggested severing Lake and Chaffee counties from Congressional District 5 and adding Crowley and Lincoln counties to the district. Representative Pabon asked whether the eastern part of Chaffee is more like the Eastern plains. Mr. Winn stated he believes it is.

07:10 PM -- Dave Anderson, an unaffiliated voter, gave some comments on the district.

07:15 PM -- Brian Binn, representing the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce, talked about the active military who live in the area, but who do not vote in the district. He talked about the western side that is more concerned with tourism and the eastern side of the district that is more concerned with military issues. He talked about the Southern Colorado Business Partnership that stretches from Castle Rock to Pueblo. He urged the committee to keep the military interests in a single district. A discussion ensued regarding the number of military personnel counted in the census and those who do not vote in the state. Representative Balmer explained that the census is a snapshot and talked about the complexity of the census rules. Mr. Binn added that there are also Colorado residents outside of Colorado that do not vote here. Senator Brophy talked about the actual number of people in Crowley County, which includes 2,000 prisoners that are counted in the census, but who also cannot vote.

07:27 PM -- Marguerette Terze talked about Mayor Snyder's testimony and that there are many different interests in Congressional District 5. She stated that the interests of the people need to be taken into account. She asked Co-Chair Balmer to comment on House Bill 11-1276. Representative Balmer stated that the bill will not impact the committee and its job of drawing a fair map. Senator Carroll added that the bill is available on-line and explained the bill.

07:37 PM -- Wayne Williams, Clerk and Recorder of El Paso County, gave a powerpoint presentation (Attachment B). He talked about the importance of having a congressperson from Congressional District 5 on the Arm Services Committee. and asked that the committee keep El Paso and Teller in the same congressional district.

07:47 PM -- Holly Williams, a former staffer for Congressman Doug Lamborn, stated that all five military bases should be included in the same district.

07:49 PM -- Pete LaBarre, Teller County Republican Central Committee Chair, explained that the political process is not bipartisan. He talked about Teller County and the gaming industry there. Mr. LaBarre gave some suggestions to the committee regarding the redistricting process. Senator Carroll talked about Congressional District 1 that follows Denver's city lines at the expense of compactness.

07:59 PM -- Mike Chaves from El Paso county asked that El Paso stay whole and that the Pikes Peak area stay in Congressional District 5.

08:01 PM -- Duncan Bremer, representing himself, stated that it is important for the economy to keep the Pikes Peak region together. He urged the committee to keep El Paso whole due to economic interests, media, military, and transportation.

08:05 PM -- Sarah Anderson, Secretary for the El Paso Republican Party, asked that El Paso and Teller counties stay together in the same district. She mentioned the fact that the courts have drawn the congressional map over the last 30 years.

08:06 PM -- Carol Clark from Teller County said they are so small that they feel like they do not have a voice. She explained that they have never had a representative that has not been from Colorado Springs.

08:08 PM

Representative Balmer gave some closing remarks and the committee adjourned.

COMMENTS ON COLORADO CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

THOMAS S MOWLE, COLORADO SPRINGS

GENERAL COMMENTS

1. These comments will not address the metro Denver area
 - not enough data available
 - trade-offs too complex to address from outside the area

2. Existing district boundaries are generally very good
 - Comply with Carstens and later rulings on communities of interest
 - Not possible to create a 100% mountain district (excluding Front Range cities) unless
 - include Teller, Fremont, Clear Creek and other non-western counties
 - this would also sever San Luis valley from Pueblo
 - if created, would then need to split El Paso or Douglas County
 - Perhaps could create a 100% "rural" district, as a "U" around Colorado
 - All of CD3 and CD4 except Pueblo, Weld, Larimer, Boulder; add Eagle to new district
 - Not compact; Western slope and plains not a common interest
 - Though would be only 779 larger than ideal
 - Would have to split El Paso County
 - Instead actual districts are
 - Most of Western slope + San Luis + Pueblo
 - El Paso + Upper Arkansas
 - Eastern plains + Greeley, Ft Collins, Longmont
 - Boulder district extends to include I-70 corridor as far as Eagle
 - 3 fully Metro-Denver districts

3. Problems with existing districting
 - Fryingpan Valley (El Jebel, Granite) in Eagle County is in CD2, but geographically in CD3
 - Parts of CD2 in Eagle and Grand (Dotsero, State Bridge, Kremmling) not part of ski economy
 - Lower Arkansas Valley split, Otero County split, City of La Junta split
 - Parts of Arapahoe, Adams, Elbert, and El Paso linked to eastern plains but in urban districts

4. Inner 4 districts can be treated separately from inner 3 districts
 - Collectively, CD3, CD4, and CD5 need to lose 1760 people
 - Collectively, CD1, CD2, CD6, CD7 need to gain 1760 people
 - Population gain/loss can occur easily in 2 places where counties already split
 - Platte Canyon in Park County
 - Longmont/Firestone area in Boulder and Weld Counties

5. Goal of these comments is to develop a plan that makes sense, rather than partisan advantage

MORE RADICAL ALTERNATIVE

- 1. Move Eagle County (52197) from CD2 to CD3**
- 2. Move Las Animas, Huerfano, and rest of Otero County (39,311) from CD3 to CD4**
- 3. This leaves CD3 with 615 extra people – take from SE Pueblo County**
- 4. In CD5, moving Lake County no longer seems as sensible as splitting 7445 from El Paso County**
- 5. For CD4, have added 47,371; now need to lose 53,955**
- 6. Move part of Longmont and/or large chunk of Southern Weld, from CD4 to CD2**

SUMMARY

Move Eagle County from CD2 to CD3

Unify Otero County in CD4

Move Huerfano, Las Animas, and a small part of Pueblo County from CD3 to CD4

Split El Paso County, moving eastern part to CD4

Large adjustments in Boulder and/or Weld Counties

PROS: Better unity of Western Slope; better unity in Lower Arkansas Valley and plains

CONS:

- Move 3 counties and large parts of 2 others**
- Net increase in number of split counties**
- Deep split of El Paso County**
- No land transit from Pueblo and Custer Counties to the rest of CD3**
- Separates Pueblo from Walsenburg and Trinidad**

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

1. Split Eagle County, moving Fryingpan Valley from CD2 to CD3 (Tracts 3.01, 3.02 = 8267 people)
2. Unify Otero County in CD3, removing it from CD4 (1738 people)
3. CD3 still needs 2266 people (perhaps less if there are people outside Basalt/El Jebel in Fryingpan)
 - Prefer to avoid splitting another county, so take from Dotsero/State Bridge in Eagle
 - Other option would be to split Crowley or Bent County (Las Animas City)
 - Or split El Paso by taking Midway area along I-25
 - In preferred model
 - CD3 at ideal population
 - CD4 has lost 1738 of the 6584 it needs to lose
 - Inner districts (CD2) have lost 10,533; now need to gain 12,293
4. CD5 needs to lose 7445 people
 - Not reasonable to just increase split of Park County – only 8346 in CD5 portion of Park County
 - No reasonable split of Fremont, Teller, or Chaffee County
 - Could possibly push a bit more of Platte Canyon (Glenisle, Shawnee, Grant) to CD6 AND
 - Split El Paso County, moving areas around Rush, or Yoder, Truckton to CD4 OR
 - Move Lake County to CD2
5. Argument for moving Lake County (7310) to CD2 (and move 135 in Platte Canyon to CD6)
 - Despite drainage, Lake's economy tied to Summit and Eagle Counties as much as to Chaffee
 - Inner districts need to gain population; large shift would be more difficult in Boulder/Weld
 - Encroach on or split Longmont
 - Bring in Fort Lupton/Platteville on US-85 corridor
 - Better to shift a county than to split a county (El Paso)
 - Not enough people in SE El Paso (4289 in Tract 46.02); would have to include Midway/Calhan
6. Inner counties now need to gain 4848; CD4 needs to lose 4846 – Adjust in Longmont/Firestone area

SUMMARY

Unify Otero County in CD3

Split Southwestern and western/northwestern Eagle county into CD3

Move Lake County from CD5 to CD2

Move a bit more of Platte Canyon in Park County from CD5 to CD6

Move more of Boulder and/or Weld Counties from CD4 to CD2

PROS: Moves only one county; number of divided counties remains constant

CONS: Maintains split within Lower Arkansas; CD2 even more trans-divide

5th Congressional District Redistricting

Presented by

Wayne W. Williams

El Paso County Clerk & Recorder

Background

- Eight Years as El Paso County Commissioner
- Elected Three Times Chairman of Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments
- Former Chairman of the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority
- Elected in 2010 as El Paso County Clerk & Recorder

El Paso County

- El Paso County is the largest county in the State of Colorado (pop. 622,263)
- El Paso County is the home to 5 military installations:
 - Fort Carson
 - The Air Force Academy
 - Peterson Air Force Base
 - Shriever Air Force Base
 - NORAD/NORTHCOM

Thank You to Committee

- Appreciate the legislature setting up the Select Committee
- Thank you for being here this evening

Monument Hill Barrier

- Distinct Geographic Barrier
- Permanent Open Space in Southern Douglas
- Shared Media with Southern Colorado not with Douglas
- Separate Transportation Planning (CDOT Region)
- Majority South of Monument Hill (El Paso County) work, shop, and play in El Paso County; North of Monument Hill (Douglas County) commutes to Denver

El Paso, Teller & Park Shared Districts

Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority includes all of unincorporated El Paso County, all of Colorado Springs, Ramah, Manitou Springs, and Green Mountain Falls

Discussions to add parts of Teller County

El Paso County combined with Teller County in the 4th Judicial District

Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments includes all of El Paso County, Teller County, and Park County, including all cities in all 3 counties

Reasons to Keep El Paso as a Single Voting District

- By keeping El Paso as one voting district all 5 military installations within a single Congressional District allows the State of Colorado a seat at the Armed Services Committee in the US House
 - Congressman Doug Lamborn was appointed to this Committee as a Freshman (2007)
 - Congressman Joel Hefley was appointed to the Committee in 1989
- This position allowed our former Congressmen to protect Fort Carson and Peterson during the BRAC proceedings that occurred during his 20 years in office
- Preserves largest primary employer in Colorado

Reasons to Keep El Paso in the Same Congressional District

- El Paso County does not share a community of interest with counties north of El Paso
 - Denver TV/Newspaper/Radio vs. Colorado Springs
 - El Paso County is the media, health care, transportation, and general hub for the majority in the 5th Congressional District
- Previous redistricting committees have maintained that El Paso has enough shared communities of interest to remain as a single voting district.

Redistricting Objectives – At a Minimum:

- Keep El Paso County in a single Congressional District
- Keep El Paso County and Teller County together

Support for all of El Paso/Teller Together in the Same Congressional District

- Unanimous Support from the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners
- Unanimous support from the Teller County Board of County Commissioners
- The Greater Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce
- Pikes Peak Association of Realtors