

Redistricting Public Input Meeting 6/13/11

Dr. William Pearson Community Center

Comments from Citizens:

- Sounds mutually exclusive to be compact and also share rural districts, because of where the growth has occurred.
- In terms of outreach, the County should have worked with existing organized community meetings, covering various communities of interest, to get input into the redistricting process. For example, a resident group across the street just met on Saturday, and had about 35 residents present.
- So many people are leaving Clark County. The foreclosure rate is high. How is that taken into account with the estimation of how many residents needed to be added or subtracted from the districts. There are also regional differences between areas and how they change—for example, this area stays very stable but the southwest area has a lot of growth.
- State demographer says we are losing population, but County staff says we are gaining population. They are using different methods.
- Largest growth in the county since 1990 has been in the northwest and the southwest. These areas will be most impacted by the changes in redistricting.
- Enterprise has grown a lot over time, and that area will be heavily impacted. When the last districts were drawn, the area covering Enterprise was mainly vacant.
- All you have to do is click the button on the computer and it shows where the people are located. We are sitting here working from the old map, and the only thing that should be used from those districts is the Commissioners. The computer maps all of the population automatically. (Offers map) This map shows a proposed map for new commission districts and was created by several amateurs over a couple of hours. Why spend time and money to do this? Each Commissioner is in their own district, the difference between the districts is less than 2%.
- I thought that we were going to learn about the new districts. Answer: This is for input to learn from the citizens regarding their thoughts and desires on redistricting. New maps will be developed as a result of the feedback given here. Wanted to know what the timeline going forward would be.
- Impossible to draw districts such that Commissioners live in the middle of the district. This is most difficult with Commissioner Sisolak.
- What about Commissioner Collins? He is not located within the middle of his district—he lives out in Moapa Valley. Most people know their areas, but

Commissioner Collins lives out in the rural area. He is a rural person and may not know the urban part of his district.

- Differing opinions of Commissioners in rural areas should be continued. All Commissioners need a bit of rural and urban so they can appreciate it and balance all points of views.
- If Commissioners drive a bit out into the rural area, it will give them more perspective than just the urban area. They all need to have that perspective. We don't care if they have to drive far to represent their area.
- There should be some consideration given to where City Council districts lie in the new Commission Districts.
- Commissioners who have incorporated areas are not going to have as much influence as Commissioners who have unincorporated areas. Commissioners who have large municipal districts will have less influence on county policies.
- There are other definitions of communities of interest, perhaps around school enrollment and other interests.
- Some districts have much different types of buildings, including commercial, rural, and residential. Districts are a vast array of different neighborhoods and different types of uses. This needs to be considered when drawing the lines.
- In conversations with other local jurisdictions, specifically Carson City and Reno, it appears that redistricting has more to do with politics than balance. Answer: We have not been in any contact with those folks in Carson City and Reno regarding redistricting. Our process has not been influenced by the same political concerns.
- All of the Commissioners are of the same party, which should make it easier.
- What are some of the concerns from the Commissioners? Answer: Compactness. Balance. Minority representation. Hispanic community is not divided up too much. Preservation of communities of interest. Preserve core of existing districts. Respect for current neighborhoods. Respect for natural boundaries. Keep precincts whole.
- How does this play into the state process for redistricting? Answer: All precincts will need to be redrawn after the redistricting process.
- When you come forward with the new map and the community reacts to it, will you go back to the drawing board or will it be up to the Commissioners?
- What makes you qualified to do this redistricting process? Answer: Have done redistricting in Maryland, Ohio and North Carolina.
- Is the process the same here in Las Vegas as it was in the other locations? Answer: It is similar, but in the other locations it was much more partisan in nature.
- That is why we believe that the consultant was brought in, so that the person would not be partisan or play favorites with any of the commissioners but would be fair to all. Answer: In some ways you are right because I don't have any preexisting relationships.

- Who determines the final vote of the maps? Does it come back to the community? Answer: I will come back to the community with a draft map for review.
- Announcements for input meetings need to be inclusive. I just saw the announcement on the television, and may have missed it. I did not receive a phone call or flier or knock on the door. There needs better communication of the process and future meetings. Need to do phone calls or knocking on doors.
- The election just occurred in the municipalities, and they could have handed out fliers to the people who were voting.
- In school districts, when the CCSD wants to notify parents of something, they send out a robocall to the parents.
- You can get the voter registration lists from the county, and you can do robocalls to the public. It costs \$1000 and it can call 1000 people per day. You could call lots of people in a short amount of time. Answer: County has almost 2 million citizens, but we will look into the possibility of the robocalls.
- Citizens need to be involved and take personal responsibility in getting the word out to other people.
- Don't know that the word is out that redistricting is very important to people's lives. Often times one Commissioner makes the decision and other Commissioners follow, so it is really critical that the Commissioners are selected well.
- When you are dealing with District C and notifications, there is always some person saying that they don't get the notification. Notification distances are different. I don't want some voices to get drowned out, especially rural districts. I don't care about always winning, but do want to be heard.
- In terms of outreach, High schools are graduating, and notice could have been sent to the high schools for the Government classes to tell the students. Could have talked to the trustees about getting notices to the students and having government classes teach the importance of redistricting.
- How do you determine what is a community of interest? What is the methodology to determine how you add or subtract the number of citizens necessary? Employment, education, cultural, language, income levels and other characteristics of a neighborhood.
- Is there a ranking of the various socioeconomic characteristics? Answer: The largest influence is ethnicity and race.
- Hispanic population is the most important factor in the redistricting. I received the email and I sent it out to 2500 members of my organization.
- What is the process for city and county islands? Answer: I have a large map that does show the various political subdivisions, and it is something taken into account.
- Do you take into account the annexation possibilities for the future? Answer: No, because the future of annexation is difficult to determine.

- Will you take the notification into account before the new maps are made public?
- Need to have something printed to give the people who attend. Needs literature.
- What are some of the lessons you have learned?
- At what point do the Commissioners fine tune the map?
- How much change do you see from the existing maps? Answer: The answer is on the spreadsheet of the changes, which show how many people need to be gained or lost.
- The thought behind the “fingers” that are in the current maps must have been political. Please assure that the same political influence will not be taken into this process? Please do this as fairly as possible.
- How do you incorporate the various ethnic groups in the redistricting process? Some ethnicities are more spread out than others.
- What do you do regarding political affiliations when you redistrict? Answer: It is not a driving force in redistricting. It is far down the list relative to everything else. Census numbers drive the process and balancing those numbers within each district.
- Since the process is based on population numbers, do you look at population versus who votes in a certain area. Answer: No, we don’t look at that, its all driven by the census.
- Depending on the redistricting process, some voters may not be able to vote in the next election if they get a Commissioner that is not up for election in the next election.
- Non political redistricting is inherently political.
- About 200,000 people will have new Commissioners after redistricting.
- Is there a drop dead date for redistricting to be finished? How about the possibility of a lawsuit on the process? Answer: State law requires redistricting to be done by November 18. For the Elections Department’s purposes, they need to get the new Commission districts by mid-July in order to redraw the precincts.