

## Redistricting Public Input Meeting 6-15-11

### *Desert Breeze Community Center*

- Are the County Commission district races partisan? Answer: Yes, and all seven are currently Democrats.
- Are you partisan? Answer: David Heller is a Democrat, but the redistricting is done based on census data.
- Can you guarantee you won't be partisan? Answer: David Heller's job is to create a map that the Commissioners will agree on.
- So can you just draw the Commission lines as straight lines? What does the law require for redistricting? Answer: Commission districts must be compact and contiguous. Also, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 governs much of the redistricting regulations.
- Why are you drawing lines based on groups? Answer: Voting Rights Act says so.
- Why do ethnic groups need to be kept together? Answer: Because the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was passed by the Congress and the President, has said that is the way the redistricting process will work.
- Discussion of Hispanic population and influence of those groups on the districts.
- Is there a chance that you are going to dilute the vote? Answer: Commissioners are not going to allow for that.
- What is the probability that there will be multiple districts that have a high population of Hispanic members? Answer: Most likely the majority will be in one district. This is distinct from the state process that had several districts with lower numbers of Hispanics in each district.
- What is the difference between using the population by the census districts and the voting age population? Answer: The law says that you must use the population rather than the voting age – this is the standard set by the feds. The law even says felons with no voting rights are counted in census totals.
- Are you are going to take a baseline of voting age for the entire community and not just minority communities? Answer: Yes
- Is there a way not to split up Townships? Answer: We won't follow township lines exactly, but we will try not to unnecessarily carve up neighborhoods and communities. We will protect neighborhoods and natural boundaries. We want districts to be compact and make sense.
- How will you use the voting age versus the census totals to redistrict? Answer: The Voting Rights Act says that there must be the ability for a minority group to elect a representative. That is best represented by the voting age population.

- Will precincts be split or kept whole? Answer: The precincts are drawn after the redistricting process is done, so precincts that are split today may not be split tomorrow.
- How are the redistricting changes that are made to each precinct communicated to the public? Answer: After redistricting is done and precincts are redrawn elections will notify voters of the changes.
- The state process is ongoing, so will the precincts remain the same? Answer: Precincts will need to change as a result of redistricting both at the state and local level.
- What is the timeline for redistricting? Answer: Currently doing presentations, will most likely have input on a new map at the end of June and introduce an ordinance in July.
- Will the proposed map be open to public input? Yes.
- But the Commissioners have the sole ability to approve the maps? Won't they just ignore anyone who wants something different? Answer: The Commissioners have demonstrated that they listen to the will of the people.
- In the last redistricting process, Mesquite was split in two. It should not be split going forward, and other communities like it should be kept whole as well.
- In the last municipal election, I was not able to vote for the Mayor even though my mailing address says Las Vegas. Answer: Mailing labels are not the same as city boundaries.
- Density is just as important as the size of an area.
- The Hispanic map clearly shows that there should be a Hispanic district. But what about the Asian population? It does not look like there could be an Asian district. Answer: It is important to look at the population total, not just the percentage of ethnicities. Some precincts have very small populations.
- Doesn't the current map violate the Voting Rights Act? Answer: The current map was made 10 years ago when the minority population may have not been located in the same locations.
- Sometimes highways should not be seen as a natural boundary. For example, Sandy Valley, Primm and Goodsprings are all three communities that are tied together because of the location of the jobs, the schools, and their homes. This is a good example of a community of interest.
- Is it possible to come up with a map that depicts Republican and Democrat voters? Yes.
- Isn't the party registration a consideration? Yes, but not the only consideration.
- Redistricting should not consider party and ethnicity.
- In the Voting Rights Act is minority considerations only done in terms of race? Answer: Yes
- Everyone wants straight lines, but what really annoys me is that Spring Valley is in various districts, as is the City of Las Vegas.

- At least one of those lines was done to accommodate where a Commissioner lives. Will you do that? Answer: Yes. The districts will be drawn such that Commissioners will not be drawn out of their own districts.
- How long will Commissioners be in office? Answer: up to 12 years. Response: Then why do we take into account where people live in regards to redistricting?
- Concerned about Senatorial districts at the state being completely changed.
- Concern about the change in the dates of the next election they can participate in, which may be affected by redistricting. This is likely to happen with the school board which has a lot of change that will need to be made in at least one district.
- The area that Commissioner Sisolak lives in is sort of a tail that ideally would be part of Commissioner Brager's district.
- Shouldn't every citizen be considered a part of a community of interest?
- Laughlin and Moapa should not be in the same Commission district. An Assembly district currently stretches from Laughlin to Mesquite, which is a problem.