

Private
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

OTHER COMMITTEE COMMITTEE ON JOINT INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

Attendance

Aislinn Kottwitz	X
Amber	E
McReynolds	
Blanca Uzeta	X
O'Leary	
Constance	X
Hass	
Danny Moore	X
Elizabeth	X
Wilkes	
Gary Horvath	X
Heather Barry	X
Hunter Barnett	X
Jason Kelly	X
John Buckley	X
Jolie Brawner	X
JulieMarie	
Shepherd	X
Macklin	
Kevin Fletcher	X
Lori Schell	X
Martha	X
Coleman	
Moussa	E
Diawara	
Paula Espinoza	X
Robin	X
Schepper	
Samuel	X
Greenidge	
Simon Tafoya	X
William Leone	X
Carlos Perez	X
Carly Hare	X

Date 07/20/2021
 Time 07:06:51 PM to 10:35:54 PM
 Place Lakewood
 This Meeting was called to order by
 Kevin Fletcher
 This Report was prepared by
 Matthu Beck

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

Hearing Items Action Taken

Expand All Items

Collapse All Items

07:07:37 PM

Chair Fletcher gave opening remarks and introduced the informational video on redistricting.

07:22:10 PM

Ms. Lynne Spence, representing self, testified. She stated statistics on why Southern Jefferson County should be not be grouped with Denver.

07:24:30 PM

Mr. Donald Rosier, former Jefferson County Commissioner, representing self, testified. He handed out a proposed district map plan to the commissioners (Attachment A). He asked for communities of interest in Jefferson County to not be split among separate districts.

07:28:36 PM

Lakewood Mayor Adam Paul, representing self, testified. He stated that he submitted a joint letter with other community leaders (Attachment B). He mentioned the Sheridan corridor as an area to avoid splitting if possible. Commissioners' asked clarifying questions.

07:39:11 PM



Rebekah Stewart, representing self, testified. She suggested the commissioners look to community centered boards and public health centers for guidance on communities of interest. She stated Jefferson County should be kept whole and not grouped with Douglas County.

07:41:38 PM

Former Senator Norma Anderson, representing self, testified. She stated that the current map splits Jefferson County Public Schools and that Jefferson County should not be grouped with Douglas County. Commissioner Shepherd Macklin asked for insight on how splitting a school district could be damaging.

07:46:25 PM

Ms. Paula Reed, representing self, testified. She stated that combining Douglas and Jefferson Counties will cause conflicting policies in school safety. Commissioners asked follow up questions on how splitting school districts would affect policy and funding.

07:53:13 PM

Mrs. Joan Poston, representing self, testified. She stated she likes the placement of CD7 and CD8 but dislikes Lakewood being split into three state house districts.

07:56:21 PM

Mr. Frank DeAngelis, representing self, testified. He reiterated previous comments that it is important to keep Jefferson County together for the school district. Commissioners asked follow up questions on how funding may be affected by splitting a school district among congressional districts.

08:00:59 PM

Alan Philp, representing Patriot Pathways, LLC, testified. He shared proposed maps with the commission (Attachment C). He stated that the leftover population of Denver should be grouped with Jefferson County instead of Aurora. Commissioners asked follow up questions regarding competitiveness and formulas used to calculate it.

08:09:27 PM

Mr. James Peabody, representing self, testified. He stated that breaking Lakewood into three state house districts doesn't represent the cohesion of Lakewood.

08:11:07 PM

Ms. Tami Fischer, representing MetroWest Housing Solutions, testified. She provided a written copy of her testimony. (Attachment D) She stated that the proximity to Denver means urban housing issues must be addressed.

08:14:28 PM

Mrs. Dana Gutwein, Lakewood City Council, representing self, testified. She stated that the past year has shown the importance of partnerships in government.

08:18:14 PM

Mr. James Buck, representing self, testified. He discussed school groupings in Jefferson County. Commissioner Shepherd Macklin asked for clarification on high school athletics groupings.

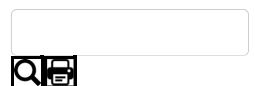
08:23:24 PM

Mr. Kip Kolkmeier, representing self, testified. He reiterated previous testimony that Jefferson County needs to remain together in CD7. Commissioners asked follow-up questions regarding policy conflicts within a congressional district.

08:38:54 PM

Jen Granbery, representing self, testified. She reiterated previous testimony that Jefferson County Public Schools should be kept together. Commissioners asked questions regarding how having multiple counties in a congressional district affects schools.

08:44:55 PM



Cindy Baroway, former Lakewood City Council member, representing self, testified. She shared how local partnerships within the community were used during the past year.

08:48:17 PM

Mr. Bheema Bachus, representing self, testified. He testified in support of the districts in the Longmont area.

08:52:09 PM

Ms. Nancy Pallozzi, representing self, testified. She testified in support of CD1 and CD7 and asked for the commission to consider making a change to the subdivision of Denver County that goes across Sheridan Blvd.

08:56:40 PM

Mr. Shawn Hegarty, representing self, testified. He advised the committee to keep on course. He noted the differences between North and South Lakewood.

09:00:16 PM

John Claus, representing self, testified. He reiterated previous comments of keeping Jefferson County together and asked commissioners to be mindful of the smaller communities within Lakewood.

09:02:21 PM

Mrs. Dianna Cooper-Ribner, representing self, testified. She reiterated previous testimony that Lakewood shouldn't be grouped with Denver County due to the impact of federal legislation.

09:05:29 PM

Mr. Fred Clifford, representing self, testified. He reiterated previous comments that Jefferson County should remain whole and that a north-south divide of Lakewood is preferred.

09:08:31 PM

Mrs. Wendi Strom, representing self, testified. She repeated previous testimony that Jefferson County should remain in one district and gave her thoughts on state senate districts. Commissioners asked follow up questions on how she would divide the city.

09:15:23 PM

Sophia Mayott-Guerrero, representing self, testified. She testified in support of previous statements regarding where to divide Lakewood and how school districts may be affected by a split. She stated that school districts being split affects organizing on the community level.

09:29:49 PM

Jakki Davison, representing self, testified. She testified that Douglas County's interests in energy more closely align with the Eastern Plains than Jefferson County. Commissioners asked follow up questions regarding the citizens versus the industries in the area.

09:38:53 PM

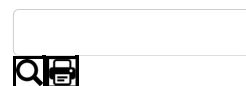
Mr. Ron Mitchell, representing self, testified. He shared his experience working in the school district and stressed the importance of the community partnerships.

09:44:03 PM

Jeslin Shahrezaei, representing self, testified. She stated support for previous testimony to keep Jefferson County together and also mentioned a common interest in wildfire safety. Commissioners asked follow up questions regarding fire prevention programs in the area.

09:49:02 PM

Mr. Michael Hesse, representing self, testified. He gave his thoughts on the congressional maps with insight from previously being chief of staff for a congressman. Commissioners asked follow-up questions regarding the impact of the congressional districts on federal legislation.



09:58:55 PM

Ms. Beth Hendrix, representing League of Women Voters of Colorado, testified. She asked that the commission draw the maps in a way that allocates incarcerated inmates to their home populations.

10:02:06 PM

Sarah Claus, representing self, testified. She reiterated previous testimony on the importance of keeping certain Lakewood communities intact.

10:05:53 PM

Mr Weston Imer, representing self, testified. He stated that no district should be a lock for either political party. He submitted a written copy of his testimony (Attachment E).

10:11:21 PM

Mr. Michael Mulcahy, representing West Metro Professional Firefighters, testified. He spoke on the challenges of working among municipalities as a first responder.

10:13:56 PM

Ms. Katara Burrola, representing Mi Familia Vota, testified. She spoke on Senate Districts 1 and 2 and how they fit as communities of interest with environmental justice.

10:17:44 PM

Councilman Jacob LaBure, representing self, testified. He spoke on the difference in median household income and why Jefferson County should not be grouped with Douglas County.

10:21:16 PM

Ms. Jewels Gray, representing self, testified. She stated that Douglas County works better with Jefferson County than the Eastern Plains and that Lakewood fits better with Denver than the northern towns.

10:25:13 PM

Ms. Carol Baker, representing self, testified. She voiced support for previous comments.

10:26:12 PM

Dr. Tom Keefe, representing self, testified. He reiterated previous support for keeping Jefferson County together and grouping Lakewood together with cities in Northern Jefferson County.

10:29:54 PM

Ms. Lisa Johnson, representing self, testified. She stated her support for keeping Jefferson County as a whole district for reasons stated in previous testimony. She stated her preference for Lakewood being grouped with northern Jefferson County towns like Arvada due to the LGBTQ community of interest.

10:34:08 PM

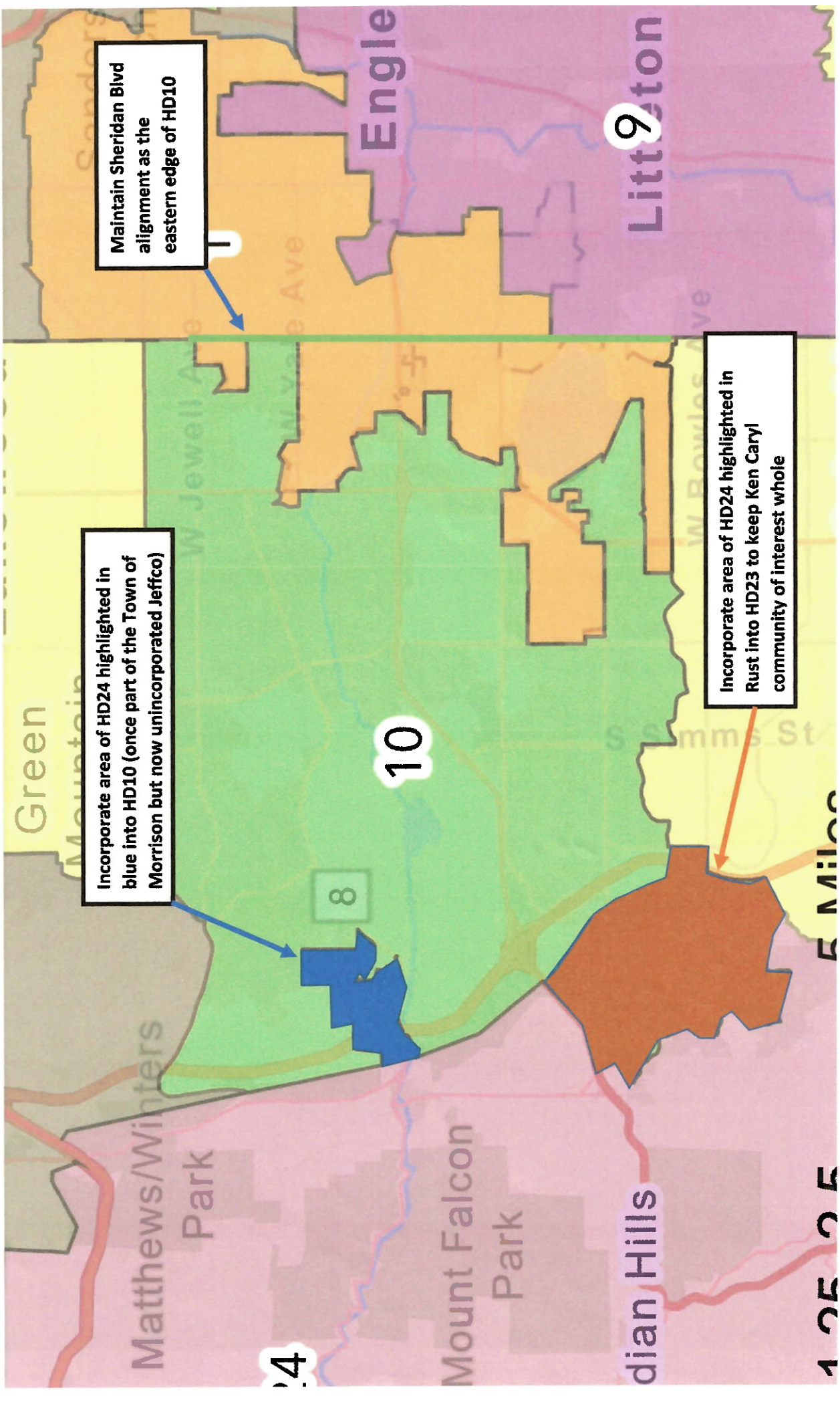
Shandra Wilkinson representing self, testified. She stated that mental illness shouldn't be mentioned casually in conversation.

10:35:54

PM The committee adjourned.



A



Incorporate area of HD24 highlighted in blue into HD10 (once part of the Town of Morrison but now unincorporated Jeffco)

Incorporate area of HD24 highlighted in Rust into HD23 to keep Ken Caryl community of interest whole

Maintain Sheridan Blvd alignment as the eastern edge of HD10

B

Members of the Independent Legislative Redistricting Commission,

The City of Lakewood is more than just a satellite political subdivision to Denver. It is a well-knit, well-established, well-regarded community that has its own character and sense of civic pride. More than that, Lakewood has state legislative priorities that are distinct from the smaller municipalities to the north and west and the unincorporated areas to the south. That should be a strong consideration in your decision making around our legislative representation.

Lakewood is the largest city in Jefferson County, a hub for new energy and technology companies and organizations. Our city is home to more than 150,000 residents and covers 44 square miles. Surrounded by several leading universities and research facilities, Lakewood has one of the most highly educated workforces in the country, with 36 percent of our residents holding a bachelor's degree or higher.

Lakewood is the fifth-largest city in Colorado. Our nearest neighboring cities and towns are far smaller with Wheat Ridge ranking 29th, Golden ranking 37th, Edgewater ranking 109th, and Morrison ranking 291st. Lakewood is also the most diverse city in Jeffco with nearly 1/4 of its population coming from the Latinx community and a small-but-growing Asian community.

The suburbs at the foot of the Rockies certainly have many things in common, and we collaborate to advocate for certain policies, especially at the federal level. But when it comes to state policy issues, we most frequently work directly with our own legislators. That's because Lakewood's issues look more like a big city's than a small town's. We have a far larger police force, as well as higher rates of law enforcement interactions and homelessness. Our police chief has been able to effectively communicate with our legislative delegation on everything from police accountability to arrest standards to broader criminal justice reform policies — all matters that are in our headlines and our state's lawmaking process. The issues our law enforcement officers face on the Sheridan and Colfax corridors are pretty different from what some of our neighboring suburban cities face.

Affordable housing has been a serious problem in Lakewood for as long as I've served in the city government. We have our own housing authority that works closely with our legislators on housing policy issues, whereas many other Jeffco cities rely on the Jefferson County Housing Authority.

While many Jeffco cities are thought of as bedroom communities, Lakewood is the home to a significant number of primary jobs. Not only is Lakewood home to 26 federal agencies on or near the Federal Center campus, making up the largest concentration of federal agencies outside of Washington, D.C., but we're also a growing hub for new energy and technology companies, like Terumo BCT, and other long-standing Lakewood companies like 1stBank.

In addition, Lakewood is home to the major commercial corridors of West Colfax Ave., West Alameda Ave. and Union Blvd, located entirely within the city. These corridors are important economic drivers for Lakewood and part of the city's unique identity, distinguishing it from smaller suburban communities and unincorporated areas.

I hope these numerous examples paint a picture of the many ways that Lakewood's issues are distinct from those of Jeffco's smaller suburban cities and unincorporated areas, and while we indeed work

Ms

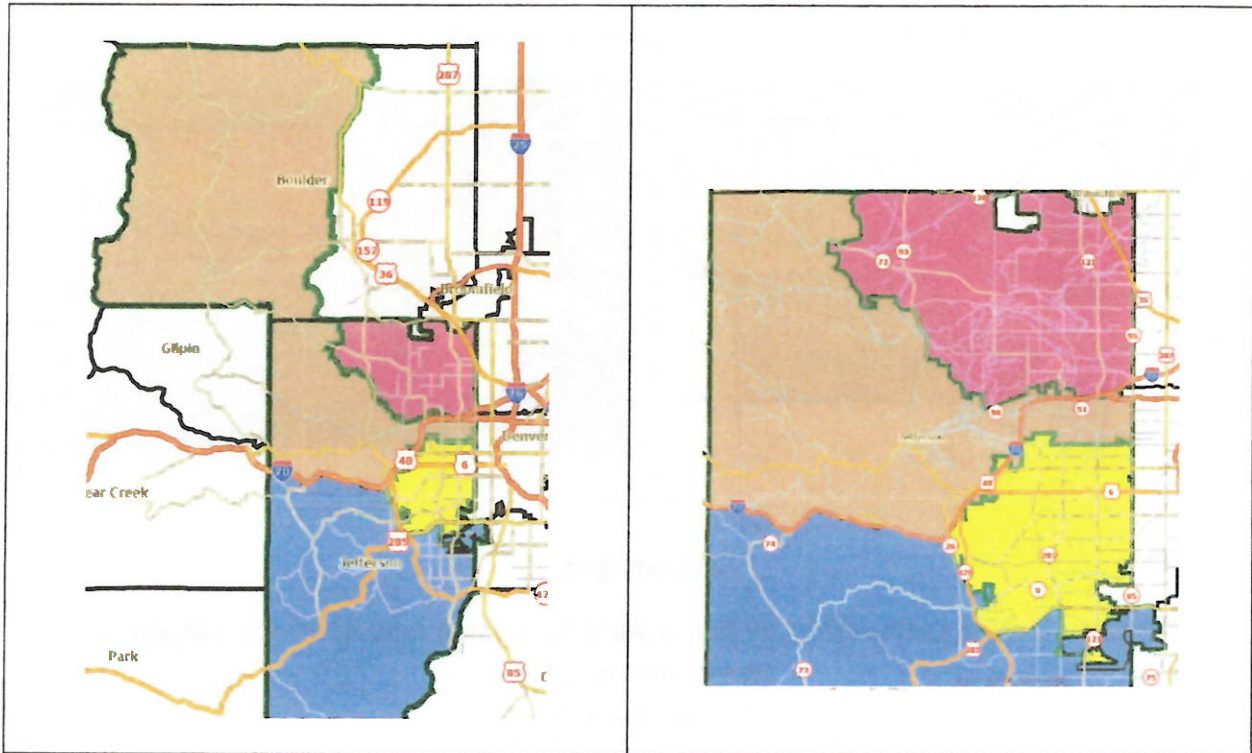
together on many things, our work with the State Legislature is most often organized through the city's leaders talking directly with our legislators. As such, it is our request that you consider Lakewood to be a community of interest, not just a compact political subdivision. Lakewood should have Senators and Representatives who see themselves as Lakewood legislators because the majority of their constituents are Lakewood residents. Please don't fracture Lakewood such that some of our legislators only have small fractions of their districts in Lakewood.

Thank you for your consideration. We know there are many competing criteria and that there's no perfect way to meet every one of them, so we hope you prioritize Lakewood's community of interest when you approve maps later this year.

Sincerely,
Adam Paul, Lakewood Mayor
Steve Burkholder, Former Lakewood Mayor
Jacob LaBure, Lakewood Council Member
Tom Quinn, Executive Director, Alameda Connects
Bill Marino, CEO of the Lakewood West Colfax Business Improvement District; Board Chair of the 40W Arts District; Board Member of the West Colfax Community Association

C

Jefferson County Regional Footprints



North Jeffco (magenta)

2 HDs

- All of Arvada and Westminster
- 2 competitive districts

Lakewood + Edgewater (yellow)

2 HDs

- Lakewood in 2 districts instead of split into 3

Unincorporated Jeffco + SW Denver (blue)

2 HDs

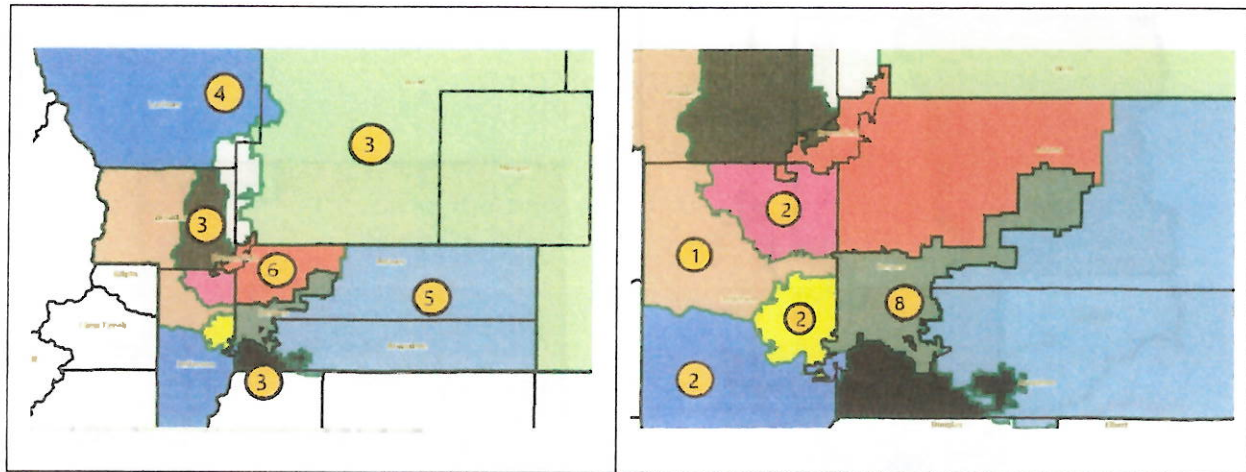
- 1 competitive district

Wheat Ridge, Golden, western Boulder (brown)

1 HD

- Jeffco has the population for 6.5 HDs
- Adding SW Denver gets it to 6.8 HDs
- Boulder mountain region is 0.2 HDs
- Admittedly, this district combines two different communities of interest (central Jeffco + Boulder mountains and suburban communities). However, the Boulder mountain region is unique and pairs well with the Jeffco mountain community in shared state interests. This orientation seems more sensible than the preliminary map, which combines part of the Jefferson County mountain region with Superior and Louisville.

Jeffco + SW Denver Adjustment Promotes Compliance with Constitutional Criteria, Including Competitiveness



Advantages

Sensible footprints for Jeffco, NE Plains, Aurora, western Arapahoe, Boulder, etc.

Fewer county splits

Fewer city splits

Better communities of interest

More minority seats in line with testimony

4 districts more competitive

- NE Plains (including Washington) plus 0.2 districts from Weld leaves 3.5 districts in Weld.
- Jeffco + SW Denver fills out 7th seat via 0.2 districts in Boulder, leaving 3.5 districts in Boulder.
- Grey seat is half Boulder County and half Weld (+ Berthoud portion of Larimer) in a highly competitive district.
- Aurora has the 5 districts to which it is entitled, instead of being split into 9 (in preliminary map). Commission could create Hispanic majority seat in north Aurora and a second highly competitive district in eastern Aurora by eliminating the small splits to Adams and Arapahoe on east end of counties.
- One fewer split of Boulder County.
- No significant impact to Broomfield-Adams footprint (6 HDs) compared to preliminary map, though commission could create second majority Hispanic seat here.
- Western Arapahoe (Littleton, Sheridan, Englewood, Cherry Hills Village, Greenwood Village, and Centennial) make exactly 3 HDs and have the potential for competitive seats.
- Larimer (blue) 4 HDs. (Note: could draw 4 districts fully within Larimer, but this footprint keeps the multi-county cities of Johnstown, Berthoud and Windsor whole.)
- Four new (HD 19) or significantly more competitive (HDs 38, 10, and 30) districts.



July 20, 2021

Dear Members of the Independent Legislative Redistricting Commission,

As the largest affordable housing developer in Lakewood, Metro West Housing Solutions, Lakewood's Housing Authority, strongly advocates for a redistricting plan that allows the City to be represented in no more than two House Districts and no more than two Senate Districts — each including majority populations of Lakewood residents. This would ensure Lakewood's interests and issues will be tirelessly advocated at the State Capitol.

Gentrification within the City of Denver has driven people who still want the amenities of city life toward Lakewood, which is the fifth-largest city in Colorado. Such amenities include mass transit (light rail) which is not offered in our neighboring cities of Morrison and Edgewater. Lakewood is an established suburb but offers an abundance of open space amenities, multiple restaurants, theaters, cultural centers, an arts district, and a multitude of shopping choices.

The City of Lakewood has an estimated population of 160,441, a change of +12.39% since the 2010 census and that growth shows little sign of slowing. Lakewood's proximity to Denver means its representatives must address urban issues such as increased crime rates, a severe lack of affordable housing and increased homelessness. Currently we have 4,645 applications for affordable housing on our waiting lists. Average rents in Lakewood have increased dramatically resulting in one-bedroom unit rents starting at \$1,300, 2-bedrooms at \$1,600 and 3- bedrooms at \$2,186. High rents and lack of affordable housing are further exacerbated by the Residential Growth Limitation passed in 2019, creating even more unique issues for Lakewood including a severe lack of affordable and/or desirable land to develop affordable housing. That has resulted in higher rent for employees of Lakewood's businesses, increased traffic due to commutes from surrounding cities, and a drastic surge in homelessness.

In order to effectively address the needs of Colorado's fifth-largest city, we need representation at the local, state and federal levels that is focused on its unique needs and challenges. I urge you not to make Lakewood an answer to some other district's population needs but to allow it to have ardent proponents in all state and federal legislative bodies.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tami Fischer".

Tami Fischer
CEO



E

The Office of
Weston D. Imer
DENVER, CO | WASHINGTON, DC
WestonImer.net

Members of the Colorado Congressional Redistricting Commission,
I would like to begin by thanking you for being here to listen to our public comment on the proposed 7th Congressional District lines.

My name is Weston Imer, and I am 17 years old and will be a first-time voter in the 2022 elections. As a first-time voter, I would much rather have my vote be cast in a district where it actually has an impact on the results. ~~As you know, the previous district lines made this district a Safe Democrat seat where the minority had little to no voice.~~

Now the new proposed lines give both parties and groups a voice and an impact on the results of the election. These lines provide Equity and Fairness to the constituents in the new 7th CD, allowing for a fair and competitive race for both candidates and letting the true voice of the people be heard.

No district should ever be locked in for either party as our Constitutional Republic was built on Fairness and Freedom for all. Providing Colorado with a fair and balanced congressional map, without gerrymandering and biased input is what this commission was put in place to do, and I believe that the proposed lines meet all the constitutional and legal requirements set fourth by our Colorado State Constitution.

This commission is doing exactly what they were put here to do, which was to provide a fair map to the people of Colorado and put the people first once again.

Everyone's voice deserves to be heard and that is exactly what we are here today to do. Is to make our voices heard, peacefully and with respect.

I am not here representing ~~anyone's~~ interest, group, movement, or campaign, I am here representing myself and my values that I believe must be shared.

I am sure that you ~~will~~ hear from members of the ~~Teachers~~ Unions, Local Union leaders, party officials, party volunteers, donors and other arms of the democrat and Republican party's that are trying to influence the design of these maps, but you must remember that your job is not to listen to political requests and gerrymandering, but to respect the will of the people of Colorado in an unbiased way, not favoring either side.

For the first time in my life, I feel that the Congressional district that I have grown up in, will finally allow my voice and my vote to be heard. And as a first-time voter, that is pretty special.

You have kept communities of interest together, followed the constitution, and drawn fair and equitable lines for all the districts in Colorado, as you were asked, and that is not an easy feat and commend each and every one of you for your time, dedication and effort.



The Office of
Weston D. Imer
DENVER, CO | WASHINGTON, DC
WestonImer.net

Colorado is a diverse state with limitless horizons and the centennial state deserves to be allowed its own voice, that represents both sides of the isle in Congress and these lines allow that to happen.

No party should ever be allowed complete control of the government, we should always have differences of opinion as that is what our country was founded on, difference.

I hope that these lines can bring some Unity to Colorado and that we can all put aside our differences to build a better Colorado and Put Colorado and America First once again.

I appreciate you taking the time to ~~hear~~ my testimony and I hope that you will take it into consideration.

With Respect and Gratitude,

Weston D. Imer

Weston D. Imer
Concerned Citizen

720-384-4580

89401

F

Mr. Chairman, Madam Chair, Commissioner members,

Thank you for your time this evening. My name is Lisa Johnson and my wife have been residents of Jeffco for 10 years.

I am here tonight because I have concerns regarding the redistricting of Jeffco. I would like you to consider keeping Jefferson county whole as is on the congressional map by keeping Arvada and the surrounding areas in Jefferson county.

I am here to makes sure "Community of interest" is upheld in Jeffco. Jeffco shares substantial interests with Arvada and the surrounding areas including but not limited to: they are composed of a reasonably proximate population, and thus should be considered for inclusion within a single district for purposes of ensuring its fair and effective representation.

When considering the redistricting of Jefferson county, equal population and the voting rights act **must** be the way we draw our county lines. I strongly disagree with splitting up Arvada into two state senate districts and three house state senate districts. I believe this would only break up a growing, vibrant area of Jefferson County. Currently, Jeffco has approximately 550,000 people and the 2021 Congressional district is composed of approximately 700,000 residents. A way we could make up the approximate 150,000 constituents, would be to keep Jeffco whole by keeping *Westminster, Arvada, Broomfield as well as Gilpin in Jeffco.

If the committee decides to exclude Arvada from Jeffco it would be breaking up a single school district, a single public health system and a single safety system. Cutting out a large portion of the city of Arvada from Jeffco would be a miscalculation by this commission because the county would lose a large portion of their growing population and would also lose the important minority demographics in Jeffco. I strongly believe that Arvada should remain in the 7th CD.

As a member of the LGBTQ community, keeping Jefferson county whole is a huge concern of mine. I like to believe that Jefferson county has continued to become safer and more family friendly to the gay community. There is an unmistakable contrast between Arvada and the demographics of Northwestern part of Douglas

county when discussing the safety and inclusion of LGBTQ members. Not only is the gay community underrepresented in the south but the LGBTQ community faces discrimination in Douglas county. I have personally been discriminated against when shopping in that area by being followed, harassed, I have experienced hateful slurs and a heil Hitler hand sign for simply holding my wife's hand in public. I want to live in a county where my family and friends feel included and I am not in constant fear of retaliation from the hate I have experienced in that area.

I consider the city of Arvada and surrounding areas to be our neighbors and we share the same values, resources, school systems and infrastructure, not to mention that our local businesses rely on their well-built relationships that they have with other businesses within our county.

Northwestern Douglas county shares a culture which is more aligned with more rural parts of the state and I do not believe including this area into Jefferson county would be the correct decision. Northwestern Douglas county would be better served by keeping Douglas county whole and giving that area a chance to grow. The northwestern part of Douglas counties population is vastly smaller at 75,452 residents compared to Arvada which has a population of 106,433 residents. It does not seem right to divide our county and bring in new areas that do not share our sense of community.

The powerful relationships that have been curated within, the current county lines, is a part of what makes living in foothills of Jefferson county so special.

I hope Jeffco continues to move forward together instead of going backwards and dividing us.

If it is not too much to ask, I would like this committee to please keep in mind my testimony tonight when redrawing the Jeffco county lines. My hope is that Jefferson county remains a democracy defending institution.

Thank you for your time,

I request that my testimony be submitted in its entirety to the public record.