

**Private**  
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

OTHER COMMITTEE COMMITTEE ON JOINT INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

Attendance

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

Date 07/09/2021  
Time 07:17:25 PM to 08:22:04 PM  
Place Lamar  
This Meeting was called to order by Carlos Perez  
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

07:18:31 PM

Chair Hare gave opening remarks and rules on testifying before sharing the commissions' information video on redistricting.

07:21:15 PM

The Independent Legislative Redistricting Commission temporarily adopted the rules of the Independent Congressional Redistricting Commission for the hearing.

07:38:18 PM

Chair Perez opened the floor to public testimony.

07:39:32 PM

Susan Crites, representing Prowers County Democrats, testified. She stated that the county shares one community of interest - agriculture. Distance only difference between rural and urban areas of Colorado.

07:44:10 PM

Rob Oquist, Otero County Commissioner, testified. He said that Southeastern Colorado should be one district as it is a community of interest, and Otero County should not be split.



07:46:01 PM

Bob Seay, representing self, testified. He argued that elected officials represent people, not plots of land.

07:49:34 PM

Mr. James Bullock, representing self, testified. He stated that the commission is committing many of the same mistakes made in 2000 and that Otero and Crowley county being included in Arkansas Valley district is essential.

07:53:06 PM

Dr. Victoria Marquesen, representing self, testified. She stated that she is part of group that proposed a district in Southern Colorado based around a common interest in water and that not all rural areas are the same.

07:56:11 PM

Ms. Carole Partin, representing self, testified. She shared that she is one of the authors of the Southern Colorado river basin district design. She stated that in Southern Colorado water is life and that 3 distinct basins form a community of interest.

07:59:08 PM

Mr. John Singletary, representing self, testified. He stated that water pipeline projects in Pueblo are important and that the area needs a representative that will oversee things. He also stressed the importance of cattle in Colorado.

08:03:01 PM

John Stulp, former county commissioner, representing self, testified. He shared that his family has had six generations in agriculture. He then stated the need for better balanced political districts as competition will bring out the best candidates. He stated the area needs representation that understands we are moving into a new energy economy.

08:06:45 PM

Mr. Jack Johnston, representing Southeast Colorado Power Assoc. & SECOM, testified. He stated that they are not fond of splits to the lower Arkansas Valley. He provided a handout (Attachment A) with their suggestions

08:12:48 PM

Mr. James Rizzuto, former state senator, representing self, testified. He shared his thoughts and offered materials (Attachment B) on a proposed State House District for Southern Colorado.

08:17:03 PM

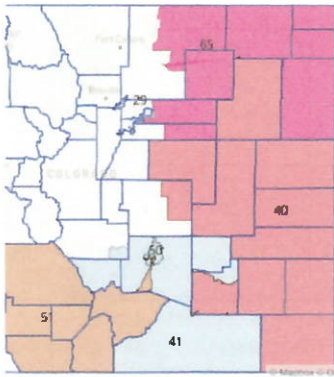
Brad Young, former state representative, representing self, testified. He expressed support for prior testimony about common interests between Southeast and Southern Colorado.

08:22:04

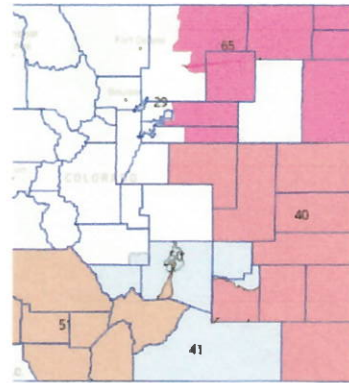
PM The committee adjourned.



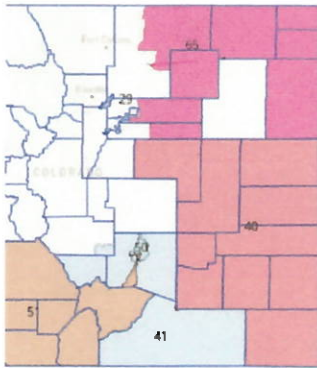
**Preliminary Plan**



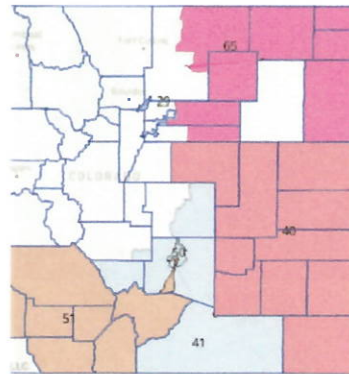
**Step 1: Remove Washington County and El Paso County precincts from HD 40**



**Step 2: Place Crowley and remainder of Otero County into HD 40**

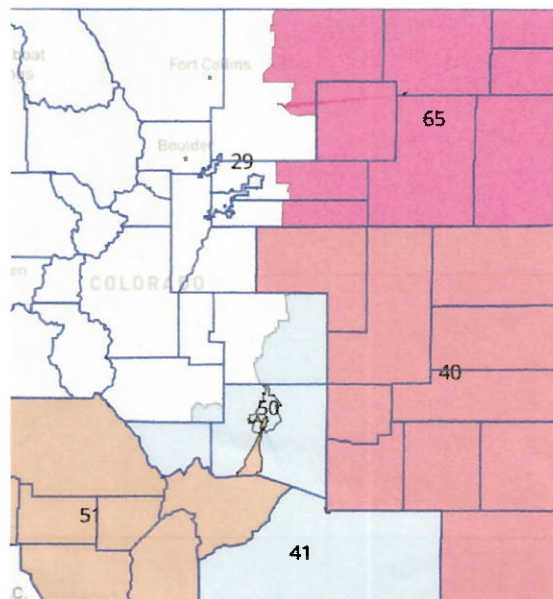


**Step 3: Fill out HD 41 in El Paso County**

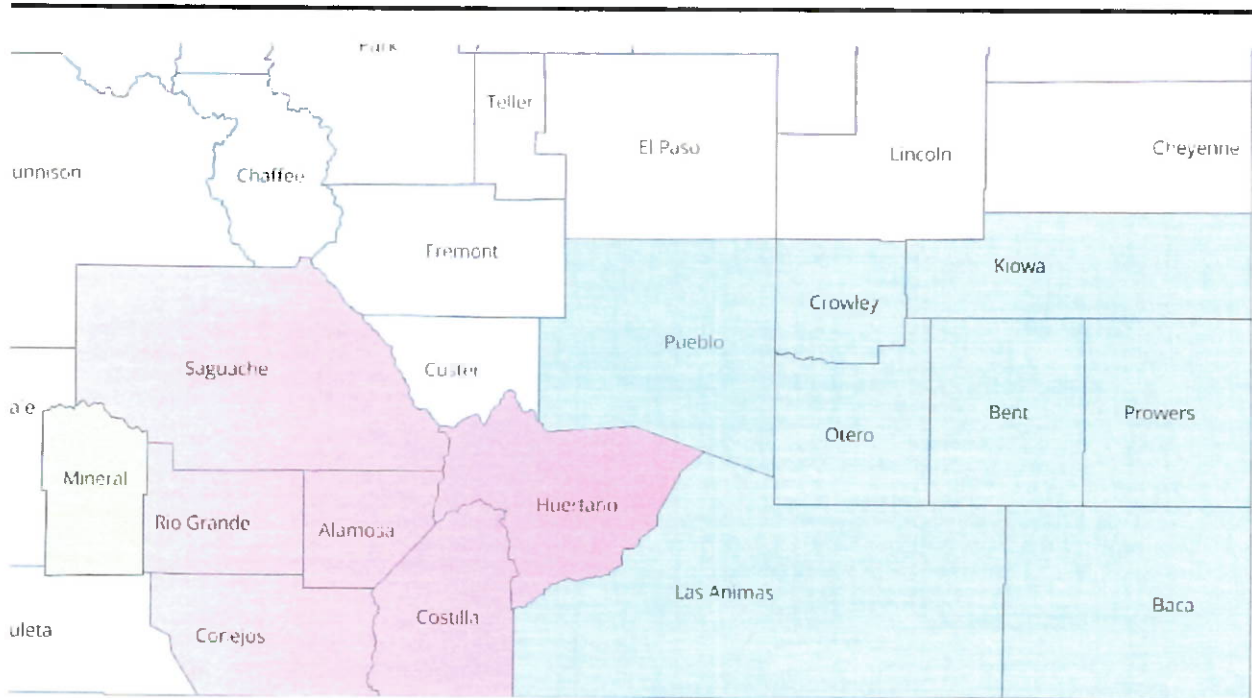


**Step 4: Add Washington County to HD 65 and adjust deviation as necessary. Because there are multiple districts in Weld and Aurora, this should be simple within the allowable deviation.**

This also reduces a split to the City of Aurora.



# Proposed Legislative House District for Southern Colorado



## Lower Arkansas River Valley

Baca	3581 ( 4%)	
Bent	5577 (6.3%)	
Crowley	6061 (6.8%)	
Kiowa	1406 (1.6%)	
Las Animas.	14506 (16.4%)	
Otero.	18278 (20.6%)	
Prowers.	12172 (13.7%)	
Pueblo.	27019 (30.5%)	(Eastern/Mesa Portion of Pueblo County)
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	88600	

### Lower Arkansas River Valley and Eastern Pueblo County:

- Agricultural is the predominant industry in this area as both farming and ranching are integral to this area.
- Area is made up of small communities without a particular town being dominant.
- The major water rights are held in this quadrant of the state with the main river that serves the area being the Arkansas. This area and the people are involved in ensuring that Colorado is compliant with the Colorado/Kansas Arkansas River Compact.
- The Arkansas River Conduit which has been funded in part by the federal government will provide clean water to everyone in eastern Pueblo County and the rest of the counties in the district.

- Three Community Colleges are in this district. They share services as well as staff to meet their mission and provide services to students.
- Two of the states only private prisons are in the area.
- These counties have developed partnerships to address issues such as: Economic Development, Community Development, Water Resource Management and Workforce Development.
- These counties for the most part share Enterprise Zone Administration.
- These counties provide Primary Health Care and network with the hospitals in Pueblo for other types of care.

## San Luis Valley District Plus Huerfano

Alamosa	16233 (18.3%)	
Conejos	8205 (9.3%)	
Costilla	3887 (4.4%)	
Huerfano	6897 (7.8%)	
Rio Grande.	11267 (12.7%)	
Saguache	6824 (7.7%)	
Pueblo	35287 (39.8%)	(Southern and Part of Western Pueblo County)
	88600	

### **San Luis Valley and Huerfano County: (Southern/Western Pueblo County)**

- Agriculturally based with farming being the predominant industry along with light manufacturing. Tourism is also becoming more important and a focus of the counties in this district.
- District made up of small communities.
- Similar cultures with some of the oldest communities in the state.
- Shared Higher Education services between Adams State University and the branch campus of Trinidad State Junior College located in Alamosa.
- Counties partner to provide economic development, workforce development and judicial services to the area.
- Mineral County (Highlighted in green) could go with this district as it is often considered part of the San Luis Valley.

## Upper Arkansas Valley District

Chafee	20356 (23%)	
Custer	5068 (5.7%)	
Fremont	47839 (54%)	
Pueblo	15337 (17.3%)	(Pueblo West/Western/Northern Pueblo County)
	88600	

### **Upper Arkansas River Valley: (Western Pueblo County)**

- Main industries in this area are Corrections, Light Manufacturing, Ranching and Tourism.
  - People who work at the state prisons in Fremont County come from the counties incorporated in this district. Pueblo West also provides a considerable number of employees to both the state and federal prisons in the area.
  - Communities in this district are responsible for management of the Arkansas River Head waters and appropriate delivery of water into Pueblo Reservoir and eventually to the Lower Arkansas Valley and Kansas.
  - Partner in Economic Development, Workforce Development and Judicial services.
  - Higher Education is provided to these communities by the Pueblo Community College branch campus located in Fremont County.
- 

## Pueblo County District

Pueblo	88600 (100%)	(Core City Pueblo)
	88600	

### **Pueblo District:**

- Pueblo County is highlighted in blue as it will need to be divided up based on the population but should be grouped with surrounding areas.
- The city of Pueblo is the Hub for all the districts and they often provide support in critical areas.
- Pueblo should have one district made up of residents from Pueblo County and still meeting the Voting Rights Act which splits the rest of the county. This will ensure Pueblo County will be represented by four state representatives, thus, giving it more influence in the state legislature.
- Partnerships in Higher Education. Pueblo Community College and Colorado State University-Pueblo.
- Partnerships in Economic Development, Health Care, Community Development and Workforce Development.
- Light Manufacturing, retail trade, legal services and state government employment play key roles in the economy of Pueblo.
- Because of the Voting Rights Act, Pueblo County must be split into at least 3 House Districts.
- This proposal has Pueblo in 4 districts with one of the districts being entirely in Pueblo County.