

**Private**  
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

OTHER COMMITTEE COMMITTEE ON JOINT INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

Attendance

Aislinn Kottwitz	E
Amber	E
McReynolds	E
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	E
Diawara	E
Paula Espinoza	X
Robin Schepper	X
Samuel	X
Greenidge	X
Simon Tafoya	X
William Leone	E
Carlos Perez	X
Carly Hare	X

Date 08/06/2021  
Time 11:00:47 AM to 12:55:52 PM  
Place Trinidad  
This Meeting was called to order by  
Constance Hass  
This Report was prepared by  
Julia Jackson

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

Hearing Items      Action Taken

11:05:06 AM

Commissioner Hass called the meeting to order and introduced the commissions. The commissions played their introductory redistricting video.

11:20:23 AM

Alvin Rivera, representing self, testified. He provided a written copy of his testimony (Attachment A). He suggested that the commission draw a district across the south of the state extending into the southern portion of Colorado Springs. He responded to questions from the commissioners about placing Colorado Springs and Fremont County in this district, and about federal issues affecting southern Colorado.

11:28:32 AM

Carlos Lopez, representing Las Animas County Democrats, testified. He expressed support for a congressional district based in Southern Colorado. He also expressed support for the preliminary house and senate districts for Las Animas County. He explained his position that Las Animas County has more in common with Pueblo and the San Luis Valley than counties along the Eastern Plains. He responded to questions from commissioners clarifying the proposed congressional district. He responded to additional questions about grouping Southern Colorado counties in the preliminary house districts.

11:42:55 AM



Ms. Pamela Espinoza, representing self, testified. She expressed support for a Southern Colorado district submitted in a map from citizens of Pueblo. She discussed employment centers and veterans programs in Southern Colorado. She noted different types of agriculture in the southern and northern parts of the state. Ms. Espinoza responded to questions from commissioners about the different needs of Hispanics in Southern Colorado, about Hispanic-serving institutions in Southern Colorado and workforce development, and about similarities between Colorado Springs and Southern Colorado. She also answered a question about four-day school weeks.

11:57:12 AM

Mrs. Kimberly Gonzales, representing Las Animas-Huerfano Counties District Health Department, testified. She discussed the work of her health department, noting that it also provides some services to Custer County. She asked that Las Animas and Huerfano Counties be kept together in congressional and state legislative districts because of the many services and programs they share. She responded to questions about meeting Voting Rights Act concerns in Southern Colorado.

12:03:09 PM

Ms. Jennifer Yates, representing Huerfano-Las Animas Counties Early Childhood Council, testified. She discussed the work of the Early Childhood Council, noting that Huerfano and Las Animas Counties work together. She asked that the different needs of rural counties be considered in drawing maps.

12:06:15 PM

Theresa Trujillo, representing self, testified. She discussed her roots in Southern Colorado and asked the commission to consider a Southern Colorado congressional district. She discussed shared communities of interest in Southern Colorado, including military installations. She responded to questions about Fort Carson and Pinon Canyon, and about how to aggregate diverse Latinx/Hispanic populations in Colorado. She also answered questions about including parts of El Paso County in a Southern Colorado congressional district and about shared transportation needs.

12:21:23 PM

Mrs. Trish Leone, representing self, testified. She expressed her concern with the preliminary state house map, which splits Otero County along the Arkansas River. She explained that Otero and Crowley Counties share many resources and services and asked that the two be kept together. She responded to questions about what her area has in common with other parts of the state. She also clarified that she supports congressional districts for Eastern and Western Colorado.

12:32:30 PM

Joe Latino, representing self, testified. He discussed Southern Colorado areas tied to Pueblo in drawing state legislative districts and suggested that Pueblo be divided into fewer districts. He responded to questions from commissioners. He clarified the communities he was referencing, including Boone, Avondale, and Colorado City.

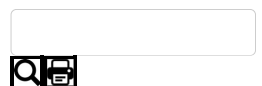
12:39:46 PM

H.L. Bowman, representing self, testified. He discussed the politics and rural nature of Las Animas County.

12:40:58 PM

Phillip Rico, Mayor of Trinidad, testified. He discussed the importance of having congressional representatives visit the area and be attentive to it. He also discussed his concerns with the state legislative maps, explaining that Las Animas County has more in common with Huerfano County than Crowley County. He responded to questions about the benefits of a more competitive congressional race, about creative districts and creative industries, and about the recreation industry in Southern Colorado. He also answered a question about his area's connections to New Mexico and clarified how he would prefer state house districts be drawn.

12:55:52 PM The committee adjourned.





## *Alvin D. Rivera, Ph.D.*

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August 6, 2021

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*morning*  
Good ~~Evening~~ Chairman and Distinguish Commission Members: \*\*

My name is **Alvin Rivera**, a native of Florence Colorado, now living in Pueblo. My testimony is tied to my livelihood in southern Colorado for over 70 years. I received my first college degree from Trinidad Jr. College, and it enabled me to acquire three additional university degrees and serve in two Presidential Administrations. In 2018, I was a candidate for CU-Board of Regents in Congressional District-3.

For the record, as a citizen, I provided 3-pages of written testimony to this Commission at an earlier date. My purpose today is simply to remind you that I fully understand the importance of your work. However, I am, too, often reminded of the chronic neglect in southern Colorado for decade, after decade, after decade. YOU have an opportunity to quit repeating this chronic negligence by fairly redistricting CD-3. However, from my perspective, the preliminary direction of this Commission, is heading down the same dreadful path.

In summary: I would argue, the redistricting should include all of southern Colorado from border to border below Pueblo, and extend up to including parts of southern Colorado Springs. Further, you need to ensure there will be a fair distribution of minorities, democrats, republicans and unaffiliated voters. As a result, I believe this geographical grouping would enable a more competitive race, while diminishing a partisan district with an open seat.

Consequently, it addresses, forthwith, your central mission of "Shared communities of interest."

Finally, I'm reminded of the words of Army Lt. Col. Alexander Vindman in his Congressional testimony stated, "Here, Right Matters." Well, here in Trinidad, 'right' matters too." Thank you.

\*\*\*Congressional Redistricting (CD-3) Commission, Trinidad, CO,  
August 6, 2021.