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Private
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

OTHER COMMITTEE COMMITTEE ON INDEPENDENT LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

		Attendance	
Date	06/18/2021	Hunter Barnett	X
		Heather Barry	X
		John Buckley	X
		Samuel	X
Time	01:05:19 PM to 04:19:03 PM	Greenidge	X
		Constance	X
Place	SCR 354	Hass	X
		Gary Horvath	X
This Meeting was called to order by	Carlos Perez	Aislinn Kottwitz	X
		Amber	X
		McReynolds	X
This Report was prepared by	Elizabeth Burger	Blanca Uzeta	X
		O'Leary	X
		Robin Schepper	X
		Kevin Fletcher	X
		Carlos Perez	X

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

Hearing Items	Action Taken
Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes	Agenda and Meeting Minutes Approved
Public Comment	Committee Discussion Only
Assessing Partisan Bias in Redistricting	Committee Discussion Only
Using Ensemble Analysis	Committee Discussion Only
Media Training	Committee Discussion Only
Unfinished Business	Rules of Procedure Amended
Subcommittee Reports	Committee Discussion Only
Staff Reports	Committee Discussion Only
Commissioner Communications	Committee Discussion Only
Topics for Future Meetings	Committee Discussion Only

Expand All Items

Collapse All Items

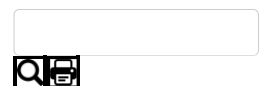
Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes - Agenda and Meeting Minutes Approved

01:06:11 PM Chair Perez called the meeting to order. Meeting materials can be found here: <https://coleg.box.com/s/3v322xcp8nosn59n4e5lrt6jt0e3kk57> (<https://coleg.box.com/s/3v322xcp8nosn59n4e5lrt6jt0e3kk57>). The agenda for this meeting, and the minutes of the June 11 meeting, were approved by acclamation.

Public Comment - Committee Discussion Only

01:08:01 PM Jack Llewellyn, representing the Durango Chamber of Commerce, described the unique geographic constraints in the Southwest Colorado region. He discussed the current configuration of the area's legislative districts, and asked the commission to decouple Southwest Colorado from the Gunnison area. Commissioners commented on Mr. Llewellyn's testimony and a letter submitted to the commission.

Assessing Partisan Bias in Redistricting Using Ensemble Analysis - Committee Discussion Only

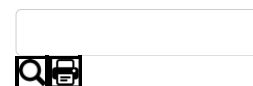


- 01:15:22 PM Dr. Beth Malmskog, Colorado College, began the presentation on ensemble analysis and assessing partisan bias in redistricting. She said the fundamental question that ensemble analysis attempts to answer is whether it is possible to measure partisan bias in redistricting plans in a manner that will satisfy courts, legislative bodies, redistricting commissions, and citizens. She discussed redistricting principles, include compactness. She gave an example of a redistricting effort in another state, noting that more compact maps were still partisan. Dr. Malmskog further discussed proportionality, and the idea that fair districts would result in a seat share for each party that is approximately proportional to the share of the party's vote in the election. She also discussed partisan symmetry, based on the principle that how one party performs with a certain vote share should be the same regardless of which party wins the vote share. For each of these issues, she noted that there is a problem with context, and noted that failures in all metrics can result from human geography rather than deliberate gerrymandering.
- 01:23:53 PM Dr. Malmskog continued by discussing congressional districts in Massachusetts and precinct-level voting data in the state. She said that research has found that even without requiring that districts be contiguous, there was no way to build any district from basic units to create a majority-Republican district. This was due to how spread out Republican voters were throughout the state.
- 01:25:48 PM She discussed the concept of ensemble analysis, which is based on randomly drawn maps and statistical sampling. The concept is to randomly generate thousands or millions of valid districting plans (without regard to partisan data), and then create a histogram showing the frequency of various outcomes. This creates a picture of what is likely for districts drawn without partisan bias, providing context for any proposed or enacted redistricting plan for a state. If a proposed districting plan is a extreme outlier, that is good evidence that partisan bias exists.
- 01:29:37 PM Dr. Malmskog walked the commission through a hypothetical redistricting exercise, and how different plans can lead to different outcomes. She discussed how to use sampling to create large ensembles of plans. The sampling method starts with a seed plan. At each step the plan is modified by a random process to produce a new plan, which is added to the ensemble. Dr. Malmskog discussed the use of recombination and how that is used to modify maps.
- 01:36:44 PM Dr. Jeanne Clelland, University of Colorado, discussed the application of ensemble analysis in recent years, giving maps in North Carolina as an example.
- 01:42:39 PM Dr. Clelland continued by discussing the work of her group in ensemble analysis using 2018 Colorado election data and the 2011 enacted Colorado congressional redistricting plan. She discussed the steps of the process, including creating a precinct map, determining the population data for each precinct, and choosing which elections to use as a measurement. She noted that each statewide election may produce different results for an ensemble of plans and they may differ significantly from the actual, district-based election, and the process is not predictive of the number of seats that were actually won. However, the outcome is designed to look at maps that are outliers, not elections results that are outliers. She discussed how the process illuminated the number of competitive districts in the enacted plan.
- 01:50:52 PM Dr. Clelland shared the ensembles for the State Senate from the same years, explaining that the enacted plans produced plans that were in line with the ensemble analysis. She shared what ensemble analysis can do, including providing context for what might be expected for "fair" redistricting for Colorado, with regard to any metrics that the commissions want to measure. Ensembles can be tailored to reflect the commission's priorities, for instance by requiring plans to keep certain counties or other communities intact. Dr. Clelland explained that ensembles can help the commission explore quantitatively how redistricting criteria might interact, for instance how preservation of communities of interest impact the overall competitiveness of districts.
- 01:54:50 PM Dr. Clelland discussed what ensemble analysis cannot do, including determining a "best" plan. She explained that line-drawing is a human endeavor, and ensemble analysis can shed light on what is possible or normal. Further, ensemble analysis does not define any kind of goals or targets for redistricting. However, it can help the commissions identify realistic ranges for metrics that the commission chooses to prioritize.
- 01:57:56 PM Dr. Malmskog and Dr. Clelland responded to questions from the commission regarding the confidentiality of ensemble analyses performed on behalf of the commission. The presenters responded to questions about how picking a different statewide election would influence the results of the ensemble. Jerry Barry, Independent Redistricting Commissions Staff, responded to questions from the staff about communication between Drs. Malmskog and Clelland and the commission.

Media Training - Committee Discussion Only

- 02:19:27 PM Abby Leeper Gibson, All In Strategic Consulting, began the presentation on media training for the commission. She shared tips for preparing before, during, and after a media interview.
- 02:30:05 PM Ms. Leeper Gibson responded to questions from the commission regarding commentary on the release of the preliminary Congressional redistricting plan.

Unfinished Business - Rules of Procedure Amended



02:48:26 PM Chair Perez shared an amendment to the commission's rules of procedure. The amendment incorporates the process for commission policies, as discussed and adopted at the June 11 commission meeting.

02:49:18 PM Motion Amend the commission's rules of procedure to incorporate section 8.4 on commission policies (seconded by Hass).
 Moved John Buckley
 Seconded

Hunter
 Barnett
 Heather
 Barry
 John
 Buckley
 Samuel
 Greenidge
 Constance
 Hass
 Gary
 Horvath
 Aislinn
 Kottwitz
 Amber
 McReynolds
 Blanca
 Uzeta
 O'Leary
 Robin
 Schepper
 Kevin
 Fletcher
 Carlos
 Perez

YES: 0 NO: 0 EXC: 0 ABS: 0 FINAL ACTION: Pass Without Objection

02:49:45 PM Commission discussion turned to timeline review. Commissioner Perez discussed changes to the redistricting timeline to reflect the scheduling of the public hearings. He discussed scheduling a special meeting of the commission to review the preliminary staff plans on Tuesday, June 29 from 8 to 10 a.m. He noted that the commission will meet on July 2. He discussed pausing regular commission meetings while the commission is traveling conducting public hearings, and the commission agreed to suspend its Friday meeting schedule in July and August. Jessika Shipley, Independent Redistricting Commissions Staff, noted that the commission will need to make a recommendation about the reallocation of incarcerated persons by August 16.

03:00:01 PM The commission discussed the dates for the public hearings that will occur after the release of the first staff map, and commission staff noted that these hearings will be held in September.

03:02:19 PM

The commission took a brief recess.

Subcommittee Reports - Committee Discussion Only

03:13:55 PM The commission reconvened. Commissioner Schepper gave the update from the Public Comment and Outreach Standing Subcommittee. She shared updates regarding the format of the upcoming public hearings. Commissioner O'Leary noted that the Outside Legal Counsel and Legislative Affairs Standing Subcommittee did not meet this week. Commissioner Horvath gave the update from the Mapping and Quantitative Methods Standing Subcommittee.

Staff Reports - Committee Discussion Only

03:25:55 PM Ms. Shipley introduced Zack Beaudoin and Matthu Beck who are new staff for the commission. Ms. Shipley noted that materials from the earlier presentations would be shared in the commission's Box account. She clarified that the meeting to review the preliminary map would be on Tuesday, June 29 at 8 a.m. She further introduced Pierce Lively, Independent Redistricting Commissions Staff.



03:33:04 PM Commissioner O'Leary asked how the information presented to the commission in recent weeks has or will be incorporated into the staff's work drawing preliminary maps, and Mr. Barry responded that submitted public and commissioner written comments are the primary source used by the staff in creating the preliminary plan.

Commissioner Communications - Committee Discussion Only

03:35:36 PM Commissioners Buckley, Kottwitz, Uzeta O'Leary, and Schepper shared their comments.

Topics for Future Meetings - Committee Discussion Only

03:42:52 PM The commission discussed topics for future meetings, including an update on the congressional redistricting preliminary plan. Chair Perez discussed how the commission might approach discussions on the reallocation of incarcerated persons.

04:19:03 PM The committee adjourned.

