

**Private**  
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

OTHER COMMITTEE COMMITTEE ON INDEPENDENT LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Date 04/23/2021  
Time 01:04:55 PM to 04:30:01 PM  
Place LSB A  
This Meeting was called to order by Carlos Perez  
This Report was prepared by Elizabeth Burger

Attendance	
Hunter Barnett	X
Heather Barry	X
John Buckley	X
Samuel	X
Greenidge	X
Constance	X
Hass	X
Gary Horvath	X
Aislinn Kottwitz	X
Amber	X
McReynolds	X
Blanca Uzeta	X
O'Leary	X
Robin	X
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 Minutes	Agenda and Minutes Approved
Unfinished Business	Committee Discussion Only
New Business	Subcommittee Formed
Subcommittee Reports	Committee Discussion Only
Presentation and Discussion of Census Data	Committee Discussion Only
Staff Reports	Committee Discussion Only
Public Comment and Outreach	Committee Discussion Only
Subcommittee Commissioner Communications	Committee Discussion Only

**Approval of Agenda and Minutes - Agenda and Minutes Approved**

01:06:14 PM Commissioner Perez called the meeting to order. Meeting materials can be accessed here: <https://coleg.box.com/s/xfr50kzqs04ny75mon8c01wt9bkfkceb>



01:06:15 PM Motion Approve agenda  
 Moved Carlos Perez  
 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

01:06:29 PM Motion Approve April 23 Meeting Summary  
 Moved Carlos Perez  
 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

**Unfinished Business - Committee Discussion Only**

01:27:10 PM Commissioner Perez reviewed a proposed calendar for the commission's activities and the commissioners discussed the calendar. Mr. Louis Pino, Independent Redistricting Commissions Staff, responded to questions from the commission about the release of Census legacy data.



- 01:39:42 PM The commission discussed the development of the preliminary plan, and the introduction of Senate Bill 21-247.
- 01:47:21 PM The commission discussed the impact of SB 21-247 and the timelines associated with congressional and legislative redistricting. Mr. Jerry Barry, Independent Redistricting Commissions Staff, discussed the timeline for redistricting, explaining that it was impossible to wait to craft a preliminary plan until final census data is released and still comply with the November 1 deadline. He suggested that the commission examine how to use preliminary data to move forward in the process and how that option could be vetted legally.
- 01:52:10 PM Commission discussion continued on the appropriate redistricting timeline and use of preliminary data.
- 01:55:24 PM The commission continued to discuss the timing of the preliminary plan. The commission discussed a deadline of June 28 to draft a preliminary plan and decided to further consider the calendar and timing of plans at the next commission meeting.
- 02:06:06 PM Mr. Barry discussed SB 21-247. Chair Perez discussed the preparation of a letter regarding the commission's response to the legislation. The commission discussed the process of prisoner reallocation and previous legislation on the topic.
- 02:14:35 PM Commissioner Perez returned to discussion of whether the commission should issue a letter concerning SB 21-247. Commissioner O'Leary stated her opinion that the commission should issue a letter, and noted that it is imperative to request amendments to the bill as soon as possible. Mr. Barry noted that it would be helpful to have direction to give to the bill sponsors in the House of Representatives.
- 02:22:29 PM Jessika Shipley, Independent Redistricting Commissions Staff, noted that the commission could testify at the House of Representatives committee hearing on SB 21-247, and the commission discussed amendments to the bill. Commissioner O'Leary enumerated the amendments to the bill that the commission could request.
- 02:25:31 PM Mr. Barry suggested that he could work with the legal counsel subcommittee to draft language for amendments. He further suggested that Chair Perez could present the requested amendments at the House of Representatives committee hearing on the bill.

## New Business - Subcommittee Formed

- 02:30:07 PM Commissioner Fletcher discussed a proposal to create a subcommittee on Mapping and Qualitative Methods and discussed its role and purpose. The members of the subcommittee will be Commissioners Barnett, Greenidge, and Horvath.
- 02:33:49 PM Commissioner Perez shared the following motion: A motion to form a Mapping and Quantitative Methods standing subcommittee to study and provide advice on the analytical, mathematical, and quantitative methodologies used to create legislative district maps that meet the criteria defined in the state constitution, to seek the opinion of qualified researchers and subject matter experts in the field, and to assess the applicability of census data products and other data sources including developing the technical criteria for the acceptance of "necessary census data" by the commission. Commissioner McReynolds was added as a member of the subcommittee.



02:36:14 PM

Motion A motion to form a Mapping and Quantitative Methods standing subcommittee to study and provide advice on the analytical, mathematical, and quantitative methodologies used to create legislative district maps that meet the criteria define in the state constitution, to seek the opinion of qualified researchers and subject matter experts in the field, and to assess the applicability of census data products and other data sources including developing the technical criteria for the acceptance of "necessary census data" by the commission.

Moved Aislinn Kottwitz

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

## Subcommittee Reports - Committee Discussion Only

02:37:13 PM Commissioner O'Leary noted that responses to the request for proposals for outside legal counsel are due on Monday, April 26.

## Presentation and Discussion of Census Data - Committee Discussion Only

02:39:23 PM James Whitehorne, U.S. Census Bureau, began his presentation on the 2020 Census. He discussed the types of census boundaries, including legal, statistical, and administrative. He explained that for purposes of redistricting, the commission will be focusing on census blocks. Census blocks are the smallest level of geography that you can get basic demographic data for such as total population by age, sex, and race. Census blocks vary in size depending on whether they are in cities, or suburban or rural areas, or remote areas.

02:42:54 PM Mr. Whithorne explained that census blocks are not delineated based on population, and many do not have any population. Blocks can be used with American Community Survey (ACS) data, but ACS only goes down to the block group level. Mr. Whithorne discussed the relationship between blocks, block groups, and census tracts.

02:44:54 PM Mr. Whitehorne discussed the 2020 Census Redistricting data program, and discussed the differences between the apportionment and redistricting data. He discussed the types of redistricting data that will be available, and how it will be broken down.



- 02:50:28 PM Mr. Whitehome continued by discussing the data available in specific census tables. He discussed the activities that occur at the Census Bureau to prepare census redistricting data to deliver to states and the formats in which the data will be provided. He explained the Legacy Format Summary Files, and noted that this data will be able to be used by states for redistricting.
- 02:58:27 PM Mr. Whitehead continued by discussing the legacy data, how it will be formatted and accessed. He discussed the processing that is required to process the legacy data for redistricting purposes. He noted that the Census Bureau has had consultations with major software vendors, NCSL, and individual states to ensure they understand the legacy data format, and discussed other resources available for states to prepare to work with the data.
- 03:07:06 PM Michael Hawes, U.S. Census Bureau, discussed the importance of data stewardship to the Census Bureau and discussed differential privacy (DP). He said that DP is not a disclosure avoidance method, but rather a framework for defining and then quantifying privacy protection. He argued that when combined with noise injection, DP allows precise control over the amount of private information in published statistics.
- 03:13:26 PM He explained the use of DP and the implications for the 2020 Census. Mr. Hawes discussed the demonstration data that the Census Bureau had released to allow for data user evaluation of the DP data. He noted that the Census Bureau will release another round of demonstration data by April 30, and a final set will be released in September with the final DP settings.
- 03:22:05 PM Elizabeth Garner, Colorado State Demographer, began her presentation on population and economic trends in Colorado. She began by discussing the user perspective regarding DP, and discussed her concerns with the approach. She discussed the issues users have experienced with the previous demonstration files, including a bias from large to small counties and places, larger errors in smaller places, and other errors.
- 03:33:21 PM She discussed population trends in Colorado, stating that Colorado experienced an increase in population of 713,600 people from 2010 to 2019. The largest growth has occurred along the front range, and especially in the northern front range. She noted that 19 counties have declined in population. She explained natural population change (births minus deaths) and net migration.
- 03:39:36 PM Ms. Garner responded to questions from the commission regarding what the commission could do regarding differential privacy. Ms. Garner responded questions from the commission regarding data sources that her office uses. She explained that her office does not create estimates to the block level. She further responded to questions from the commission about communities of interest.

## Staff Reports - Committee Discussion Only

- 03:44:09 PM Ms. Shipley discussed administrative matters for the commission. Commissioner Perez asked Ms. Garner to comment on her concerns with the DP approach. Ms. Garner further responded to questions regarding the prison count and how it is affected by DP.

## Public Comment and Outreach Subcommittee - Committee Discussion Only

- 03:54:24 PM Commissioner Schepper gave an update from the Public Comment and Outreach Subcommittee. She discussed the categorization of public comments by subject and adding a public comment period during regular commission meetings. She suggested that the commission include a 15-minute public comment period at each meeting, and that individuals pre-register to testify.
- 04:00:06 PM The commission discussed how to implement a public comment policy. Commissioners commented on the proposal.

## Commissioner Communications - Committee Discussion Only

- 04:11:40 PM Commissioner Hass shared insights about the 4th Congressional District. Commissioner McReynolds shared information about her background and interest in being on the commission. Commissioner Perez shared information about his interest in redistricting.

04:30:01 PM The committee adjourned.

