

Private
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

OTHER COMMITTEE COMMITTEE ON INDEPENDENT LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Date 05/28/2021
Time 01:14:02 PM to 04:18:41 PM
Place SCR 354
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 Greenidge	X
Constance Hass	X
Gary Horvath	X
Aislinn Kottwitz	E
Amber McReynolds	X
Blanca Uzeta	X
O'Leary Robin	X
Schepper Kevin	X
Fletcher Carlos	X
Perez	X

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

Hearing Items	Action Taken
Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes	Committee Discussion Only
Public Comment	Committee Discussion Only
Observations from a Former Redistricting Commissioner on Competitiveness	Committee Discussion Only
Unfinished Business	Committee Discussion Only
NCSL Redistricting Conference	Committee Discussion Only
Subcommittee Reports	Committee Discussion Only
Staff Reports	Committee Discussion Only
Commissioner Communications	Committee Discussion Only
Topics for Future Meetings	Committee Discussion Only

Approval of Agenda and Meeting Minutes - Committee Discussion Only

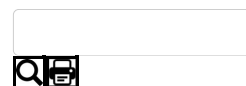
01:18:21 PM Chair Perez called the meeting to order. Meeting materials can be found here:<https://coleg.box.com/s/v674g4ct421vr0qb3mbus1mo8oxc8lk1> (https://coleg.box.com/s/v674g4ct421vr0qb3mbus1mo8oxc8lk1). The meeting agenda and minutes of the May 21 meeting of the commission were approved by acclamation.

Public Comment - Committee Discussion Only

01:19:23 PM Chair Perez opened the public comment portion of the meeting. Steven Short, Southwest Colorado Redistricting Alliance, described the Southwest region of the state, noting that many counties in the area are aggregated due to geography, and are largely isolated from the rest of the state. He discussed the specific needs of the institutions of higher education in the area.

Observations from a Former Redistricting Commissioner on Competitiveness - Committee Discussion Only

01:27:21 PM The commission took a brief recess.



- 01:27:30 PM The commission reconvened. Dr. Robert Loevy, former reapportionment commissioner, spoke regarding his experience being a part of the reapportionment commission ten years ago. He spoke regarding the important of stopping political gerrymandering, and he discussed the methods by which many attempt to achieve political advantage through the redistricting process. He discussed similar housing choices made by individuals in the state, and how that leads to the drawing of solidly Republican or solidly Democratic districts. He discussed political competitiveness in drawing legislative districts. He noted that consideration must be paid to drawing incumbents into the same districts. He noted the importance of presenting preliminary plans at public hearings, and discussed the competitiveness of elections in Colorado.
- 01:50:42 PM Dr. Loevy responded to questions from Commissioner Barnett regarding competitive legislative districts and the number of legislative districts that have changed political representation in the past decade. He continued to respond to questions from the commission regarding competitive districts, and the redistricting criteria laid out in the Colorado Constitution.
- 02:04:41 PM Dr. Loevy continued to respond to questions from the commission regarding whether Amendments Y and Z have addressed faults that he saw in the past reapportionment process.
- 02:13:05 PM Dr. Loevy responded to questions from the commission about staff maps and communities of interest.

Unfinished Business - Committee Discussion Only

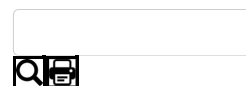
- 02:22:28 PM Chair Perez shared and reviewed the preliminary redistricting timeline. Commissioner Schepper noted that the public hearing schedule would start July 7 or July 8. Julia Jackson, Independent Redistricting Commissions Staff, responded to questions from the commission regarding an additional round of hearings that would be held after the final census data is received. Chair Perez noted that public comment on the preliminary plan would be closed on June 18. Commissioner O'Leary asked for clarification about how the commission members can comment on the preliminary plan, and Jerry Barry, Independent Redistricting Commissions Staff, commented on the process. Commission discussion on how commissioners can provide commentary on the maps continued.
- 02:34:30 PM The commission continued to discuss how to provide input to the staff, and the need to develop policies to guide the discussion. Chair Perez discussed creating a template for policy guidance, and guidance for staff for the preliminary plans. Jessica Shipley, Independent Redistricting Commissions Staff, commented on the guidance needed from the commission regarding the preliminary plan.
- 02:47:05 PM The commission discussed the input to provide staff on communities of interest, compactness, and competitiveness.

NCSL Redistricting Conference - Committee Discussion Only

- 02:51:27 PM The commission discussed whether to send commissioners to an upcoming redistricting conference hosted by the National Conference of State Legislatures. The commission took a brief recess.

Subcommittee Reports - Committee Discussion Only

- 03:13:37 PM The commission reconvened. The Outside Legal Counsel and Legislative Affairs Subcommittee discussed hiring an outside expert on Voting Rights Act issues. Commissioner Schepper gave an update on the Public Comment and Outreach Subcommittee. She reviewed a draft op-ed on the redistricting process, discussed scheduling public hearings and how to structure public hearings, and referenced a press release regarding commission activities. The commission discussed when to publish the op-ed, and whether the op-ed speaks to the work of both redistricting commissions. The commission discussed the op-ed and potential edits.
- 03:37:58 PM The commission discussed training on the mapping software.



03:41:22 PM Commissioner Greenidge gave an overview of ensemble analysis. The idea behind ensemble analysis is that a representative sample of maps is able to tell the commission what is possible and what is typical when analyzing maps. He further discussed the methodology and how it could be applied to the commission's work.

03:49:46 PM Commissioners commented on the presentation, and Commissioner Greenidge responded to questions describing how ensemble analysis can be used to aid commission decision making. Commissioner McReynolds summarized a law review article regarding communities of interest. Commissioner Barnett recommended that the commissioners review Dr. Loevy's commission paper, and Commissioner Barnett's presentation on the paper highlighting Dr. Loevy's observations on competitiveness.

Staff Reports - Committee Discussion Only

04:10:03 PM Mr. Barry noted that the Colorado Supreme Court will announce its opinion on the interrogatories on Tuesday morning.

Commissioner Communications - Committee Discussion Only

04:10:51 PM Commissioner Buckley commented on Dr. Loevy's presentation.

Topics for Future Meetings - Committee Discussion Only

04:15:50 PM The commission discussed future meeting topics.

04:18:41 PM The committee adjourned.

