

Private
STAFF SUMMARY OF MEETING

OTHER COMMITTEE COMMITTEE ON JOINT INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSIONS

Attendance

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

Date 07/13/2021
 Time 07:05:17 PM to 10:09:03 PM
 Place Arvada
 This Meeting was called to order by
 Kevin Fletcher
 This Report was prepared by
 Zach Beaudoin

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

Hearing Items Action Taken

Expand All Items

Collapse All Items

07:07:26 PM

The Commission began their introduction to redistricting video

07:21:25 PM

Chair Fletcher gave an introduction and overview of the rules for the hearing.

07:22:30 PM

Arvada Mayor Marc Williams, representing self, testified. Mayor Williams testified that he would like all of Jefferson County united because they have similar interests and services that should be together.

07:27:17 PM

Elizabeth Geisleman, representing self, testified. Ms. Geisleman would like the aerospace industry districted into the same district based on funding and representation considerations,

07:29:36 PM

Mr. Chris McCormick, representing PlanetiQ, testified. He discussed the feeder schools for the aerospace industry and the companies within Jefferson County.



07:34:10 PM

Kevin Allen, representing self, testified. He discussed a lack of representation for rural parts of Adams County.

07:37:13 PM

Dr. Michele Haney, representing self, testified. She discussed the industries, accomplishments, and issues that are in Jefferson county. She discussed how the preliminary map divides the Red Rocks Community College Arvada and the Lakewood campuses.

07:41:04 PM

Ms. Mindy Mohr, representing self, testified. She asked that the districts be kept similar to the current districts.

07:43:21 PM

Tom Coogan, representing self, testified. Mr. Coogan discussed the students in their current district in Jefferson County and how splitting them impacts their representation.

07:44:27 PM

Ms. Cheryl Cheney, representing self, testified. Ms. Cheney spoke about congressional districts and the divide between rural and urban areas.

07:47:46 PM

Mr. Randy Moorman, representing self, testified. Mr. Moorman expressed the desire to be unified with Jefferson County for sustainability purposes.

07:52:23 PM

Dr. Karen Tonso, representing self, testified. Dr. Tonso doesn't believe the current boundaries represent the communities of interest in Northern Jefferson County. She stated that Adams and Jefferson Counties deserve to have their different interests represented and that she believes the current boundaries don't achieve this.

07:55:35 PM

Mr. Timothy Welch, representing self, testified. Mr. Welch believes Arvada is important to Jefferson County as they share many similar services and interests.

07:57:27 PM

Dr. Tonso answers a question from Commissioner Espinoza on how to consider districts based on the equal population criteria.

08:02:30 PM

Ms. Cynthia Beyer, representing self, testified. Ms. Beyer believes that unincorporated Jefferson County fits better in CD7. She doesn't believe that the state senate map represents her community well.

08:05:48 PM

Dr. Steven Jarnagin, representing self, testified. Dr. Jarnagin stated he believes the maps are gerrymandered. He believes that many parts of Jefferson and Adams Counties should be maintained as a contiguous district.

08:09:12 PM

Commissioner Perez asked Dr. Jarnagin how to account for the population of Arvada being larger than the target population per district.

08:11:47 PM

Dr. Thomas Kelley, representing self, testified. Mr. Kelley discussed that he believes Arvada would be better with Jefferson County rather than Adams County. He continued to discuss the communities of interest he would like better represented.

08:14:16 PM

Pat Malone, representing self, testified. Ms. Malone discussed how the current districts impact Jefferson County public schools and Adams County public schools differently.



08:17:54 PM

Shawna Fritzier, testifying on behalf of Support Jeffco Kids, testified that keeping Jefferson County together is important to the safety and security of the community. She testified that this greatly impacts the schools and need to be considered.

08:21:12 PM

Mr. Michael Fulton, representing self, testified. Mr. Fulton discussed the polarization of the country and the importance of the commission. Mr. Fulton would like to make CD 7 more competitive and discussed the competitiveness criteria with the districts.

08:24:36 PM

Ms. Robin Kupernik, representing self, testified. Ms. Kupernik would like to keep Arvada intact and put the Jefferson County part of Westminster within the the district.

08:29:01 PM

Ms. Jonna Levine, representing Support Jeffco Kids, testified. Ms. Levine expressed her concern about Arvada being touched by six house districts and three senate districts. She said that she believes it will be very difficult to discuss state issues with representatives.

08:33:46 PM

Mrs. Melissa Batt, representing self, testified. Mrs. Batt discussed the coordination of the police forces in her area and how having services connected is very beneficial.

08:39:02 PM

Mr. Clark Morrell, representing self, testified. Mr. Morrell would like to add Jefferson County into Senate District 27 with Arvada and take parts of Golden out of the district. He doesn't believe Golden and Arvada should be together.

08:40:33 PM

Carl Hamm, representing self, testified. Mr. Hamm wants Douglas County to be excluded from the Jefferson County district and the commission to consider the communities of interest.

08:44:14 PM

Mx. Amber Hott, representing self, testified. Mx. Hott discussed how her senate district went from being highly competitive to being split into multiple districts.

08:46:01 PM

Mr Alex Inscoe, representing self, testified. Mr. Inscoe testified that he opposes gerrymandering and the lines drawn around the state but believes the preliminary maps make races competitive.

08:47:47 PM

Craig Kocian, representing self, testified. Mr. Kocian testified that Arvada must be kept with Jefferson County because it isn't an Adams County town. He discussed the shared services and communities that aren't represented in the map.

08:54:42 PM

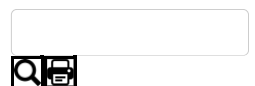
Ms. Nancy Murray, representing self, testified. She discussed her desire for Arvada to be intact in a single district.

08:55:27 PM

Alex Leith, representing self, testified. Mr. Leith expressed his concern that 5 districts remain the same and each respective party would maintain their districts with strongholds.

08:59:49 PM

Mr. Jonah Hearne, representing self, testified. Mr. Hearne expressed his concern that The preliminary maps cut off northern Arvada and exclude them from participating in their community electorally.



09:04:31 PM

Mrs. Lorraine Bowen, representing self, testified. Ms. Bowen discussed that she stayed in Arvada because of the strong community. She discussed how she's lived there for three redistricting cycles and wants her community to remain together.

09:08:48 PM

Dr. Tom Jurgens, representing self, testified. Dr. Jurgens discussed the splits of Arvada and Jefferson County and why he disagrees with the current maps.

09:13:25 PM

Arvada City Council Member Lauren Simpson, representing self, testified. Council Member Simpson discussed the emotion behind communities of interest and the four districts that are within her council district. She is concerned that her district will have many different state representatives.

09:22:00 PM

Mrs. Elizabeth Tomsula, representing self, testified. Mrs. Tomsula asked to keep Arvada with Jefferson County and discussed her connection to the area and communities of interest.

09:24:52 PM

Kaeley Moffatt, representing self, testified. Ms. Moffatt asked the commission why Coal Creek was cut out of the 24th district. She is concerned that coming to Arvada is difficult for them to get representation.

09:29:14 PM

Katie Winner, representing self, testified. Ms. Winner encouraged the commissioners to visit the communities and get to know the communities of interest. Ms. Winner posed some criteria for the commission to consider.

09:31:48 PM

Mrs. Margaret Carter, representing self, testified. Mrs. Carter would like the CD7 to remain the same and expressed concern that new districts would hurt services she currently enjoys.

09:34:07 PM

Harvey Burns, representing self, testified about his living in Westminster and how much of what he does is in Jefferson County rather than others. He would like Westminster to be included in Jefferson County.

09:38:24 PM

Chris Simpson representing himself, testified. Mr. Simpson reiterated the comments about Arvada and Westminster and spoke about his community in Westminster being represented.

09:43:22 PM

Helen Rae Vernier representing herself, testified. She doesn't believe the current map makes sense for competitiveness, compactness, and communities of interest. She would like CD3 to contain mountain communities on the front range.

09:45:53 PM

Commissioners asked Ms. Vernier questions about her comments.

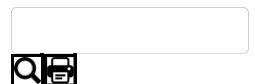
09:59:20 PM

Commissioner Leone posed a question to the public for response.

09:59:53 PM

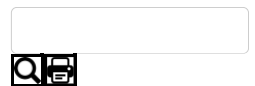
Witnesses respond to Commissioner Leone.

10:04:32 PM



Lee Carroll representing self, testified that it makes sense to keep Arvada together as it has grown as one unit. Mr. Carroll proceeded to give examples for his points.

10:09:03 PM The committee adjourned.





Support Jeffco Kids

Every child, every day!

Members of the Colorado Legislative Redistricting Commission,

We first want to thank you for your service to Colorado. Voters have tasked you with an immensely important job and your willingness to travel our state and listen to citizens in order to decide the best direction for Colorado is truly admirable.

We want to express our views on redistricting through a lens that we have dedicated a large portion of our lives toward: the education of kids in Colorado, with special focus on Jeffco. As advocates, parents, and education policy watchers, we understand how unique and amazing the Jeffco school system is. Our state legislators should take a large share of the credit for the success of our schools here in Jeffco. We have a decades-long, bipartisan tradition of fighting for our school district and our kids.

But Jeffco Schools is not among the best in the nation by happenstance. Our success is due to diligent, focused work by everyone: parents, teachers, community members, students and policymakers. We are gravely concerned that if our legislative district lines significantly break from our school district that we will not have the same focused advocacy that we have had over the past decades in the State Legislature. Of course, this means that our school district is heard (because we are a leader in so many ways, often we are looked to as an example) when legislators must consider competing points of view.

This is not to say that our neighbors do not put the education of their children at the forefront. But focusing on education is a difficult and complex task in the best of circumstances. Legislators are expected to reach out and understand the needs of their constituents. Dealing with one school board and school district is tough enough, particularly with one of the largest districts in the nation. Having to understand the nuances and intricacies of multiple school districts would be a disservice to both a legislator and the students they need to fight for and represent.

This is further exacerbated by the need to understand issues of districts that have significantly different focuses and issues. Neighboring districts have different policies regarding 4-day-schooling, preschool programs, and teacher pay. During the last year or so, there was often a divergence among school districts about whether and how to provide remote learning for various K-12 student groups. No student is helped by having a legislator who needs to juggle the requirements of two massively different school districts. This is why we believe that Jeffco legislators need to have constituencies that match our school district — which should be considered a “political subdivision” under Amendment Z — as much as is possible. And, that if

the Constitutionally-mandated requirements necessitate a split in legislative districts, that it be in a place that also has a large, unified school district that faces similar issues to Jeffco.

All of us strongly believe that fostering our educational system is among the most important priorities in Colorado. We ask that you allow us to continue the amazing, ongoing work that has allowed Jeffco advocates, parents, teachers and legislators to create a system that we are all proud of by keeping our representation within our most important boundary: our school district.

Shawna Fritzler and Jonna Levine

Handwritten signatures of Shawna Fritzler and Jonna Levine. The signature for Shawna Fritzler is on the left, and the signature for Jonna Levine is on the right.

Co-Chairs and Co-Founders
Support Jeffco Kids

Endorsed by Victoria Lopez 80003

Dear Legislative Commission Members,

Thank you for taking the time to come out to Arvada to hear from our community during this incredibly important process. My apologies for not being able to make the meeting in-person.

As a former member of the Arvada City Council, and a current member of the Arvada Fire Protection District Board, I encourage you to keep the city of Arvada whole in the final state Senate maps. Amendment Z prioritizes that specifically, and it's certainly possible to draw a State Senate district that keeps us whole. We have a number of specific issues that we advocate for at the state legislature as a city, and should have one senator representing us in those issues.

One of our most important issues as a city is our reliance on state highways. Our major arteries—Sheridan, Wadsworth, and Kipling—are all state highways, and require state funding for upkeep. As a member of the Jefferson County Transportation Action Advocacy Group, we are frequently at the legislature asking for increased state transportation funding. This year, we were excited to see funding for cities like Arvada whose main streets are also state highways be increased.


A second point: The entirety of Arvada is served by one fire protection district—the Arvada Fire Protection District. We are separate from West Metro Fire, and as a special district, not a city fire department—like Golden—we have different needs that we need to be able to advocate for as a city. State law deals with fire protection districts differently than municipal fire departments, making the city's ability to have a singular, clear voice on these issues particularly important.

Arvada is also encompassed entirely by the APEX recreational district, and the Jeffco Public Library District—which was founded in Arvada. Due to the complicated nature of Colorado's tax system through which the revenue we need for all districts is generated, we need to have one state Senator advocating at the state Capitol about the districts that provide so many vital services apart from city government.

Historically, Arvada has always been a tight-knit community that deals with issues as an entire city, and a leader in Jefferson County on a number of issues. Our ongoing legislative needs—along with our partners on the Jefferson County side of Westminster—necessitates focused representation in the Colorado State Senate. In my view, this would make a compact and competitive Senate District that protects the unique issues that the community in Arvada faces.

I hope you will take these ideas into consideration as you proceed in drafting the second round of maps. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Mark McGoff

Former Arvada City Councilmember

Assistant-Secretary Treasurer, Arvada Fire Protection District Board