



PO BOX 201706
Helena, MT 59620-1706
(406) 444-3064
FAX (406) 444-3036

MONTANA DISTRICTING AND APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION
67th Montana Legislature

COMMITTEE STAFF

K.V. Aldrich - Attorney
Joe Kolman - Research Analyst
Rachel Weiss - Research Analyst
Veronica Sullivan- Secretary

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Commissioner Jeff Essmann
Commissioner Joe Lamson
Commissioner Kendra Miller
Commissioner Sheila Stearns
Commissioner Dan Stusek

MINUTES LOG

June 10, 2020
8:31 AM

Virtual Conference Meeting

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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Members Present:

Commissioner Jeff Essmann
Commissioner Joe Lamson
Commissioner Kendra Miller
Commissioner Sheila Stearns
Commissioner Dan Stusek

Staff Present:

K.V. Aldrich, Attorney
Joe Kolman, Research Analyst
Veronica Sullivan, Secretary
Rachel Weiss, Research Analyst

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

- 08:33:12 Commissioner Stearns discussed the agenda and guidelines for the public comment.
- 08:34:08 Rachel Weiss, Legislative Services Division (LSD), Research Analyst, discussed the public comment and Zoom features.
- 08:38:58 Commissioner Stearns discussed the upcoming meeting and did introductions.
- 08:40:15 Commissioners and staff introduced themselves.

CENSUS OPERATIONS UPDATE

- 08:48:54 Mary Craigle, Bureau Chief and Census Manager, Research and Information Services, Montana Department of Commerce (Exhibit 1) (Exhibit 2) (Exhibit 3).

Commission Questions/Committee Discussion

- 09:04:36 Commissioner Stearns discussed the pandemic and effects on meetings.
- 09:05:32 Commissioner Miller asked Ms. Craigle about the Census' budget and recruitment for staff.
- 09:10:10 Commissioner Lamson asked Ms. Craigle about legislation to extend the Census timeline.
- 09:11:52 Commissioner Stusek asked Ms. Craigle about update leave on the reservations.
- 09:18:29 Commissioner Essmann asked Ms. Craigle about other reservations and the participation rates.
- 09:21:38 Commissioner Essmann volunteered to write a letter about the Census to weekly papers.
- 09:22:16 Commissioner Essmann asked Ms. Craigle about a summer Census promotion event.
- 09:24:22 Commissioner Essmann asked Ms. Craigle to contact the governor's office about a bigger budget.
- 09:25:49 Commissioner Stearns asked Ms. Craigle if she needs help with a proposal for funding.
- 09:28:20 Commissioner Miller asked Ms. Craigle about the backlog on the update leave.
- 09:31:24 Commissioner Stearns asked Ms. Craigle about her work title.
- 09:33:13 Commissioner Lamson discussed county areas around the state.

BREAK (Reconvened at 10:49).

REDISTRICTING LEGAL BACKGROUND AND CRITERIA

- 09:49:58 Ginger Aldrich, LSD, Staff Attorney (Exhibit 4) (Exhibit 5).

Commission Questions

- 10:31:14 Commissioner Lamson asked Ms. Aldrich about the Old Person case and discussed districting litigation history (Exhibit 6).
- 10:40:04 Commissioner Essmann asked Ms. Aldrich about adopting criteria for redistricting.
- 10:42:20 Commissioner Essmann asked Ms. Aldrich a follow up about the Voting Rights Act and redistricting.

10:44:04 Commissioner Essmann asked Ms. Aldrich about population standards and standing.
10:48:09 Commissioner Miller asked Ms. Aldrich about racially polarized voting.
10:50:00 Commissioner Miller asked Ms. Aldrich about the law still on the books (See exhibit 4).
10:52:05 Commissioner Stusek and Commissioner Essmann addressed Ms. Aldrich on the great job on the memo.

ADMINISTRATIVE TOPICS -- COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

10:54:32 Commissioner Stearns discussed the meeting criteria (Exhibit 7).
10:58:58 Commissioner Stearns discussed timelines for meetings and hearings.
Commissioner Stearns asked Ms. Weiss about having meetings for the public.
11:01:11 Ms. Weiss discussed what the commission would like to accomplish and the
11:02:49 timeline for that.
Commissioner Stearns asked Ms. Weiss about adopting criteria.
11:04:56

Commission Questions/ Discussion

11:08:17 Commissioner Essmann discussed the concern of getting everyone counted in the Census.
11:11:52 Commissioner Stearns discussed waiting to see if the state gets a second congressional seat.
11:12:50 Commissioner Miller asked Ms. Weiss about what a public hearing would look like.
11:15:58 Commissioner Miller asked if they could do a Zoom public meeting.
11:17:28 Commissioner Stusek discussed public participation.
11:19:10 Commissioner Lamson discussed meetings.
11:23:27 Commissioner Stearns asked the staff to draft a criteria considerations document.
11:25:56 Ms. Weiss discussed having one more meeting for public comment and criteria.
11:31:04 Commissioner Lamson discussed the public comment meeting.
11:27:08 Commissioner Essmann discussed topics for future meetings.
11:33:22 Commissioner Miller discussed the 90-day congressional timeline.
11:34:43 Commissioner Stearns reviewed what was discussed.
11:37:03 Commissioner Stearns asked the staff to review the questions and topics.
11:37:38 Commissioner Essmann discussed an early August meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC UNDER THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION BUT NOT ON THIS AGENDA

11:40:41 Written document by David Wichman (Exhibit 8).
11:40:45 Closing remarks from Commissioner Stearns.

ADJOURNMENT

11:45:20 With no further business before the commission, Commissioner Stearns adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.