



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 1, 2021

DATE: November 22, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Assistant County Manager,
Community Services Department

THROUGH: Eric Brown, County Manager

SUBJECT: Pursuant to NRS 244.014 and 244.018, discussion and possible selection of a preferred alternative for the 2021 Washoe County Commission Election District Plan, and upon selection of a preferred alternative, direct the District Attorney through the County Clerk to draft an ordinance to amend Chapter 5 of the Washoe County Code relating to creation of commission election district boundaries. County Commission election district boundaries are required to be re-drawn as a result of changes in population that have occurred since the last re-districting process, as reflected in the recently released 2020 U.S. Decennial Census, which shows a total population for the county of 486,492. Staff has prepared drafts of 5 alternative plans of district boundaries for each of the 5 county commission districts. One additional alternative is also offered for consideration and comparison, which is simply the district boundaries as they exist at present. Action may include selection of one of the 5 alternatives proposed by staff, or direction to pursue a different alternative based on available information and deliberation during the item. Among other things, districts must be as nearly equal in population as practicable, composed of entirely contiguous territory, and as compact as possible. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

This agenda item provides information to the Board of County Commissioners for the selection of a preferred alternative for new commission election district boundaries as a result of the US 2020 Census. Information includes staff developed alternatives created based on County Commission adopted criteria and guiding principles, and information received from citizens of Washoe County provided through public outreach. Outreach was performed via the Washoe County website and in person at the Administration Building, 1001 E. Ninth Street and many Washoe County Library locations.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Utilizing current US Census data, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners are required through Nevada Revised Statutes 244.014 to establish commissioner election districts with nearly equal population.

August 17, 2021 – the Board of County Commissioners approved redistricting criteria and guiding principles for the 2021 Washoe County Commission Election District Plan project.

BACKGROUND

As required by NRS 244.014(3), the County Commission must establish its new election districts with nearly equal population, with each district composed of contiguous territory and as compact as possible. 2021 Census Bureau Data was used to develop proposed election districts. US Census data for Washoe County - [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: United States](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/washoecountynevada,US/PST045219).

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Adopted 2021 Redistricting Guidelines

The following criteria for redistricting are reflective of relevant state statute, as well as community interests as guidelines for the 2021 County Commission Redistricting Project. On August 17, 2021 the County Commission adopted the criteria for redistricting which served as the guiding rationale and philosophy against which five alternatives, attached as Exhibit A, were created and measured throughout the process.

- Commission districts should comply with the “nearly equal as practicable” requirement. When other criteria and principles are taken into account, all efforts will be made to minimize existing and future population variance among districts.
- Districts will be created in as compact a form as possible and must be contiguous.
- The 2020 Census counts provided under Public Law (PL) 94-171 from the U.S. Bureau of the Census will be used as the official source of population counts and demographic information for redistricting.
- Commission districts should retain the core of existing districts to the extent possible. For the purpose of the 2021 Redistricting Project, commission districts will be created using the 2011 Commission Districts as a benchmark.
- Commission districts should allow for representation of general areas of the County having similar or common interests or affinities. Geographic neighborhood and natural boundaries such as perennial waterways, arterial streets, and designated open space will be taken into account in the establishment of district lines and be used as divisions when practicable.
- Commission districts should be drawn to minimize public confusion with regard to voting precincts.
- Commission Districts should coincide with other election districts wherever possible.
- Currently elected commissioner’s home of record/residence will be retained within their district during redistricting.

In addition to the adoption of the criteria, the Board of County Commissioners directed staff to create a public process for input from the community at large. [Redistricting 2021 Proposed Plans \(arcgis.com\)](https://redistricting-2021-proposed-plans-washoe.hub.arcgis.com/)

<https://redistricting-2021-proposed-plans-washoe.hub.arcgis.com/>

Residents were asked to review five initial options, including the baseline, based on the adopted criteria and provide their input through an online survey or in person at the Administration building and many Washoe County Library locations. Feedback gathered from both online and in person surveys is attached as Exhibit B.

Draft plan version overview

Based on comment received from Silver State Voices, on behalf of the Nevadans Count coalition, all versions except version 3 were updated on October 12, 2021, to include the entirety of the Colony lands in Hungry Valley within Commission District (CD) 5. This change does not impact population or demographics in the districts because no population exists within the transferred area.

Version 3

Version 3 is considered the baseline version, with no changes to the current Washoe County Commission District boundaries. In explanations of the remaining versions, this version will be referred to related to increasing or decreasing population to reach target population goals.

DISTRICT	TOTAL POP	TARGET POP	TARGET DEV	TARGET DEV%
CD1	86,248	97,298	8,050	8.27%
CD2	101,035	97,298	-3,737	-3.84%
CD3	95,420	97,298	1,878	1.93%
CD4	103,670	97,298	-6,372	-6.55%
CD5	97,119	97,298	179	0.18%

Version 1

DISTRICT	TOTAL POP	TARGET POP	TARGET DEV	TARGET DEV%
CD1	94,027	97,298	-3,271	-3.36%
CD2	97,869	97,298	571	0.59%
CD3	96,814	97,298	-484	-0.50%
CD4	99,901	97,298	2,603	2.68%
CD5	97,881	97,298	583	0.60%

DRAFT VERSION # 1 REASSIGNED POPULATION TOTALS			

AREA	FROM DISTRICT	TO DISTRICT	TOT POP MOVED
A	CD5	CD1	933
B	CD1	CD2	4,177
C	CD2	CD1	7,343
D	CD3	CD1	680
E	CD5	CD3	11,541
F	CD3	CD5	9,467
G	CD4	CD5	2,528
H	CD4	CD5	1,241

Generally, version 1 distributes population to become closer to the target population of 97,298 persons per district. This version provides for the Sun Valley area (CD5) and the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal lands (CD5) to be represented by individual commissioners, instead of split between commissioners like the baseline version with CD3/CD5 and CD4/CD5 respectively.

Version 2

DISTRICT	TOTAL POP	TARGET POP	TARGET DEV	TARGET DEV%
CD1	96,222	97,298	-1,076	-1.11%
CD2	97,817	97,298	519	0.53%
CD3	96,959	97,298	-339	-0.35%
CD4	97,521	97,298	223	0.23%
CD5	97,973	97,298	675	0.69%

DRAFT VERSION # 2 REASSIGNED POPULATION TOTALS			
AREA	FROM DISTRICT	TO DISTRICT	TOT POP MOVED
A	CD5	CD1	2,272
B	CD5	CD1	680
C	CD3	CD1	259
D	CD3	CD1	3,218
E	CD3	CD5	17,883
F	CD5	CD3	8,957
G	CD5	CD4	3,258
H	CD5	CD4	0
I	CD4	CD3	11,404
J	CD5	CD4	1,997

Generally, version 2 distributes population to become closer to the target population of 97,298 persons per district. This version provides for the Sun Valley area (CD5) and the

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal lands (CD4) to be represented by individual commissioners, instead of split between commissioners like the baseline version with CD3/CD5 and CD4/CD5 respectively. This version does split the rural area of Palomino Valley between two districts CD4 and CD5.

Version 4

DISTRICT	TOTAL POP	TARGET POP	TARGET DEV	TARGET DEV%
CD1	96,145	97,298	-1,153	-1.19%
CD2	97,635	97,298	337	0.35%
CD3	98,777	97,298	1,479	1.52%
CD4	98,256	97,298	958	0.98%
CD5	95,679	97,298	-1619	-1.66%

DRAFT PLAN #4 REASSIGNED POPULATION TOTALS			
AREA	FROM DISTRICT	TO DISTRICT	TOT POP MOVED
A	CD2	CD1	3,479
B	CD5	CD1	680
C	CD1	CD2	92
D	CD4	CD5	1,241
E	CD5	CD1	2,817
F	CD4	CD3	4,173
G	CD5	CD3	136

Generally, version 4 distributes population to become closer to the target population of 97,298 persons per district. This version provides for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal lands (CD5) to be represented by one commissioner, instead of split between commissioners like the baseline version with CD4/CD5. This version does not consolidate the Sun Valley area to one commissioner like other versions.

Version 5

DISTRICT	TOTAL POP	TARGET POP	TARGET DEV	TARGET DEV%
CD1	96,457	97,298	-841	-0.86%
CD2	99,034	97,298	1,736	1.78%
CD3	101,076	97,298	3,778	3.88%
CD4	93,641	97,298	-3,657	-3.76%
CD5	96,284	97,298	-1,014	-1.04%

DRAFT PLAN #5 REASSIGNED POPULATION TOTALS			
Area	From District	To District	Total Moved
A	3	1	680
B	3	1	259
C	2	1	3,479
D	1	2	92
E	5	1	2,812
F	4	3	11,404
G	3	5	12,596
H	5	4	17
I	5	4	1,358
J	5	3	8,957
K	3	5	0
L	1	2	47
M	2	1	2,778
N	1	2	4,130
O	5	1	325
P	3	1	1,127

Generally, version 5 distributes population to become closer to the target population of 97,298 persons per district. This version provides for the Sun Valley area (CD5) to be represented by one commissioner, instead of split between commissioners like the baseline version with CD3/CD5. This version does not consolidate the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal lands to one commissioner like other versions.

Version 6

DISTRICT	TOTAL POP	TARGET POP	TARGET DEV	TARGET DEV%
CD1	98,473	97,298	1,175	1.20%
CD2	99,144	97,298	846	0.90%
CD3	99,895	97,298	2,597	2.70%
CD4	94,540	97,298	-2,758	-2.80%
CD5	95,440	97,298	-1,858	-1.90%

DRAFT PLAN #6 REASSIGNED POPULATION TOTALS			
Area	From District	To District	Total Moved
A	3	1	11,160
B	5	1	2,817
C	1	2	79
D	3	2	6,227
E	4	3	11,404
F	5	3	18,122
G	2	4	2,936
H	1	5	10,934
I	4	5	1,233
J	4	5	0
K	2	1	6,257
L	2	1	4
M	3	5	7,528
N	3	5	136
O	5	4	533

Generally, version 6 distributes population to become closer to the target population of 97,298 persons per district. This version provides for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribal lands (CD5) to be represented by one commissioner, instead of radically split between commissioners like the baseline version with CD4/CD5. This version expands CD3 to the north and east in the area of Sun Valley.

The Board is being asked to weigh the feedback and select a preferred alternative from the 5 presented or provide direction to staff related to a possible additional alternative for future review. If one of the existing alternatives is selected, the Board is asked to direct the District Attorney through the County Clerk to draft an ordinance to amend Chapter 5 of the Washoe County Code relating to creation of commission election district boundaries.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the Board adopting a 2021 Washoe County Commission Election District Boundary alternative.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners deliberate and possibly select a preferred alternative for the 2021 Washoe County Commission Election District Plan, and upon selection of a preferred alternative, direct the District Attorney through the County Clerk to draft an ordinance to amend Chapter 5 of the Washoe County Code relating to creation of commission election district boundaries.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board select an existing alternative, a possible motion would be: “Move to select alternative _____ for the 2021 Washoe County Commission Election District Plan, and, direct the District Attorney through the County Clerk to draft an ordinance to amend Chapter 5 of the Washoe County Code relating to creation of commission election district boundaries.”