



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: August 17, 2021

DATE: August 5, 2021

TO: Board of County Commissioners

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

THROUGH: Eric Brown, County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation and possible action to adopt Washoe County 2021 Commission Election Districting criteria and guiding principles in accordance with applicable law including NRS 244.014 and NRS 244.018. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

SUMMARY

This agenda item provides an overview of guiding principles and criteria for approval that will assist Washoe County staff in the 2021 Washoe County Commission Election District Redistricting Project.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Innovative Services

PREVIOUS ACTION

Utilizing current US Census data, the Washoe County Board of Commissioners are required through Nevada Revised Statutes 244.014, 244.018, and other law to establish commissioner election districts with nearly equal population.

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.

The Commission may wish to consider establishing additional guidelines as requirements for the redistricting process. The successful 2011 Washoe County Commission Election District Redistricting Project utilized guidelines that staff would like to use with the 2021 redistricting project. Staff has prepared a proposed list of redistricting guidelines for the Board to consider for use during the redistricting process for Commission review and possible adoption.

Proposed 2021 Redistricting Guidelines

The following criteria for redistricting are reflective of relevant state statute, as well as

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community interests as guidelines for the 2021 County Commission Redistricting Project. If adopted by the County Commission, these criteria for redistricting will serve as the guiding rationale and philosophy against which alternatives will be measured throughout the redistricting 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.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact to the Board adopting redistricting criteria and guiding principles.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners adopt Washoe County 2021 Commission Election Districting criteria and guiding principles.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to adopt Washoe County 2021 Commission Election Districting criteria and guiding principles as recommended by staff.”