

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

Verbal Testimony Summaries

Juneau Public Hearing 9/27/2021

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ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Willie** Last Name: **Anderson**

Haines and Skagway are a better fit to be combined with Juneau as residents from those two areas go to Juneau for shopping and other services.

As you look at the district, there are two high schools in Juneau in the downtown and valley areas. When you divide the valley into sections, this results a high school that has two representatives. The school boundaries should be used as boundaries.

There needs to be a level of fairness on map drawing and the issue around Andi Story's district where essentially 3 to 4 houses were placed into that district. This does not make sense.

The dividing line of the districts could be at Sunny Point and Fred Meyer.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021, 6:26 pm

First Name: **Carole** Last Name: **Bookless**

Public Comment: **People with similar interests and concerns should be grouped together, certainly the people of Juneau.**

Two questions were asked, both of which were answered by the board:

1) If you have a municipality in the middle of an island with 33,00 people, can you fit those populations into two districts?

2) What are your criteria for having one side of the street in one district and the other side of the street in another district?

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Corinne** Last Name: **Conlen**

Public Comment: **Ms. Conlen noted that there is a sense of community in the valley and encouraged the board to consider the dividing line from Fred Meyer at Sunny Point.**

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Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Will** Last Name: **Kronick**

Public Comment: **Regarding interests in Southeast Alaska when people come in from Klukwan, Haines, and Skagway, it's usually to shop and receive services (medical and Central Council of Tlingit and Haida). The Doyon map seems to encapsulate this shared interest in the best way. The maps that combine Petersburg with Downtown Juneau do not have interests that align. It is better partnered with Sitka.**

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Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Nadine** Last Name: **Lafebvre**

Ms. Lafebvre spoke in favor of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting map as it follows the natural divide of Auke Bay with the Mendenhall Valley from Downtown Juneau, Lemon Creek, and Douglas Island. This map allows similar neighborhoods to work together on issues (i.e. transportation, schools, and infrastructure) that immediately impacts these areas.

Haines, Skagway, and Klukwan in a rural southeast district could reflect their socio-economic integration into these communities. This would also keep the US-Canada border crossings in one district and it would give all the communities similar cultural and economic similarities that are seasonally impacted.

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Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Morgan** Last Name: **Lim**

Public Comment: **The Board Composite 3 Map is not a map that I would support. I would appreciate having Downtown Juneau separated from the valley and keeping the valley whole, as someone who has lived in both downtown and the valley.**

Both of these areas should be whole as the valley and downtown Juneau are obviously socio-economically separated. In terms of seeing the valley as a complete socio-economic space, previous testimonies about where people associate and recreate were referenced. Also, people who live in the valley feel that it is too far to drive downtown.

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First Name: **Luann** Last Name: **McVey**

Ms. McVey is a Douglas resident and agreed with comments stating that it makes sense to have a line along Sunny Point to Fred Meyer to divide Juneau into two parts. As a retired teacher, the Juneau schools reflect a combination of socio-economics. After teaching Title 9 for several years, Ms. McVey is familiar with schools who receive funding for socio-economic reasons. The recommended dividing line is a natural dividing line between the valley and the town.

Haines and Skagway should be grouped with the downtown area for reasons others have mentioned such as shopping and medical services.

The Doyon, Alaskans for Fair Redistricting, and the Senate Minority Caucus maps reflect what Ms. McVey values most.

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First Name: **Kim** Last Name: **Metcalf**

Public Comment: **The carve-out of Andi Story's home and the impact this would have on Juneau and the political abilities of its residents was something that caught my attention.**

In favor of the following maps:

- **Senate Minority Caucus map**
- **Board version 4 map**
- **Doyon map**

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First Name: **John** Last Name: **Pugh**

Public Comment: **Mr. Pugh spoke in favor of having the dividing line down the highway versus along the water. There is a closer connection between the Lemon Creek community to downtown than it would be to the valley. Haines and Skagway connections are mixed between the valley and downtown; they could be combined either way.**

There are other communities that are highly connected in terms of population such as Hoonah and Tenakee Springs. In some maps, these areas were moved. Gustavus, Tenakee Springs, and Hoonah have strong connections to Juneau as they use the services in Juneau and/or residents have connections in Juneau.

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First Name: **Pat** Last Name: **Race**

Pat recommended that the board avoid any appearances of impropriety. Having grown up and living in Juneau all his life, it seems like the Mendenhall/Auke Bay areas a part of the downtown district - this is the main troubling issue. What makes more sense, which is shown on the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting and Senate Minority Caucus maps, is dividing Juneau on the north/south lines along the Egan Highway.

Pat encouraged the board to read more of the comments regarding Andi Story's district. This impacts how the board appears publicly.

Regarding the northern Admiralty Island on Board Proposed Plan v3, this island is part of the outer coast (Yakutat/Sitka area). People in this part of the state use Juneau primarily as their launch port, coming to and from vacation cabins. This population is not so significant where it could be lumped in with the northern or southern part of Juneau without having much impact.

People who live in Auke Bay rely in services in the Mendenhall Valley.

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First Name: **Catherine** Last Name: **Reardon**

Ms. Reardon strongly agrees on having a dividing line from the Fred Meyer area to Lemon Creek. What does not make sense for socio-economic integration is when there is a dividing line that goes down the highway and treats the waterside and mountainside as separate districts.

There are similarities between Skagway and Downtown Juneau as they are both areas for cruise ships. When people come from Skagway, they stay in downtown hotels, shop at Costco, and go to the hospital.

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First Name: **Miguel** Last Name: **Rohrbacher**

Public Comment: **The best map presented is by the third-party group, Alaskans for Fair Redistricting, (AFFR) because of the this group's process for drawing the map. While the Alaska Redistricting Board worked together to compile the maps and then show them around the state for public comment, the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting had an opposite process. AFFR gathered public input and then drew maps based on the public comment.**

The AFFR map respects the Juneau neighborhoods with the dividing line at Lemon Creek and the valley district going down to Auke Road versus cutting off Auke Road residents into another district. I am in favor of including Petersburg with Downtown Juneau as there are economic similarities, including the workforce. There are more than just the fishing industries represented. The regional hub for Petersburg is Juneau rather than Sitka.

Haines, Skagway, and Klukwan in the rural northern southeast region seems logical and is not unprecedented. If you think about Haines and Lutak Inlet area, the subsistence use is more similar to a place like Hoonah or Angoon than it is to Juneau.

Please do everything you can to avoid the appearance of drawing lines with incumbents.