

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 8, 2022, 7:26 pm

First Name: **Thomas**

Last Name: **Iwinski**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact:



Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Proposed map 3B**

Public Comment: **I am writing in support of map 3B and combination of districts 9 and 22.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:01 am

First Name: **Tyler**

Last Name: **Watson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Support Option 2**

Public Comment: **Hello, I'm submitting additional testimony since Option 1 was withdrawn. I urge the board to vote in favor of Option 2. As a resident of the south Muldoon area, I was pleased to see the court's decision striking down the pairing with Eagle River. Option 3 feels like the same attempt proposed by some to "increase" the influence of Eagle River. The most straightforward, simple, and common sense approach is to keep Eagle River unified in it's own senate seat, along with keeping Downton, and the south Anchorage/Hillside area unified respectively. Pairing Eagle River with the sprawling Upper Hillside to Portage district will not serve either community well in terms of representation in addition to making the work of the future senator harder. Please move quickly to support Option 2 so we as can move on to the election and know who are candidates will be. It's already an extremely busy year for elections and changes to our system, don't make this harder for voters.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:08 am

First Name: **Stephen**

Last Name: **Romanelli**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact:



Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **3B**

Public Comment: **I support 3B**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:10 am

First Name: **Brittany**

Last Name: **Tompkins**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact:



Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **B3**

Public Comment: **I support purposed map B3**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:11 am

First Name: **Scott**

Last Name: **Myers**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **3B**

Public Comment: **I support 3B**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:11 am

First Name: **Jamie**

Last Name: **Donley**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map. It's the only redistricting map that makes sense. The other redistricting maps look like they were put together by people with a political agenda. Thank you for your time.**

**Jamie Donley**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:16 am

First Name: **Louis**

Last Name: **Theiss**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **As a 45 year resident and home owner in Girdwood, I remember when Mike Hawker's House district included South Eagle River, South Anchorage and Girdwood. Even though Mike Hawker was an open minded, fair, interested in serving and good representative, Girdwood still and little in common with Eagle River**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:19 am

First Name: **Mike**

Last Name: **Keiffer**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **I am from Eagle River and I support plan 3b.**



# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:28 am

First Name: **Wayne**

Last Name: **DeVore**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99654**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **I'm a business owner in Wasilla and I'm concerned about the political agenda going on with the Redistricting board. Please support 3B for our redistricting map. The other maps look fishy they were put together with a political agenda. Thank you for your time. Why are more people not calling out the redistricting board for being manipulating and using it as a political tool to further one party or the other.**

**Wayne DeVore**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:31 am

First Name: **Louis**

Last Name: **Theiss**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **Continued from earlier comment sent incomplete:**

**Girdwood doesn't have much in common with Eagle River except that both are outliers.**

**Girdwood has been MOA's fastest growing economic district for the last few yrs and it is accelerating. Our closest neighbors - South Anchorage - is a much better match. It's where our High School is, where our contractors come from and where we shop. South Anchorage is willing to share representation.**

**On the other hand Eagle River has voted down every single Girdwood bond proposition going back over 20 yrs....even though they didn't have to pay for it!! Whereas Girdwood usually supports all bond props because it realizes that infrastructure is necessary for a civil society.**

**Girdwood will have better representation if aligned with South Anchorage**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:32 am

First Name: **Tammy**

Last Name: **Smith**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **SUPPORT 3B FOR OUR  
REDISTRICTING MAP**

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map. The plan should be balanced and fair and accurately represent the people of Anchorage and Eagle River. This process needs to be fair to all not just a small group of individuals. As a resident of East Anchorage we as a community deserve to be heard and request you support 3B for our redistricting map.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:38 am

First Name: **Rodney**

Last Name: **George**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact:



Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **3B**

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map. The plan should be balanced and fair and accurately represent the people of Anchorage and Eagle River. This process needs to be fair to all not just a small group of individuals. As a resident of Eagle River we as a community deserve to be heard and request you support 3B for our redistricting map.**

## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:45 am

First Name: **Rachel**

Last Name: **Ries**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Supper for 3B**

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map. The plan should be balanced and fair and accurately represent the people of Anchorage and Eagle River. This process needs to be fair to all not just a small group of individuals. As a resident of Anchorage we as a community deserve to be heard and request you support 3B for our redistricting map.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:49 am

First Name: **Crystal**

Last Name: **Kennedy**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Support of 3B and Opposed to Option 2**

Public Comment: **Option 2 is one of the most egregious attempts to minimize representation in the Chugiak Eagle River area ever devised. For at least the past 40 years, as the community of Chugiak Eagle River has grown, the area has been represented by two senators. For almost three of those decades the community was represented in these seats by people who lived in either Chugiak, Peters Creek or Eagle River specifically. With Option 2, all of the Chugiak Eagle River area becomes encased in one senate district and essentially the entire area (MOA's District 2) will have one senator.**

**The Chugiak Eagle River area was recently acknowledged by the Municipality of Anchorage's own reapportionment plan as a compact and cohesive community by which it maintained its individuality and identity as a whole community. This recognized community is now being threatened with a significant decrease in representation in the Alaska State Senate that it has never been threatened with before should Option 2 be adopted. For over 50 years the community has jointly shared some of its representation with either Anchorage or with the Mat-Su Borough thereby allowing two senators to represent the entire area. To allow the reduction of that representation by 50% is unprecedented and unconscionable.**

**Option 3B, though not ideal, at least maintains Chugiak Eagle River's historical and current levels of representation in the Senate. Please be very conscious of the damage that could be inflicted, a precedence that would be undone, and the history that would be ignored with Option 2. Instead, please support the fairness and continuation of the level of representation that this community has experienced and relied on and was apparently, at least up till now, entitled to by supporting Option 3B. Thank you!**

**Crystal Kennedy**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:53 am

First Name: **Kristen**

Last Name: **Bush**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **3B**

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map. The plan should be balanced and fair and accurately represent the people of Anchorage and Eagle River. This process needs to be fair to all not just a small group of individuals. As a resident of Eagle River we as a community deserve to be heard and request you support 3B for our redistricting map.**

**Thank you!**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:54 am

First Name: **Bernice**

Last Name: **Rhornton**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **3B**

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map. The plan should be balanced and fair and accurately represent the people of Anchorage and Eagle River. This process needs to be fair to all not just a small group of individuals. As a resident of Eagle River we as a community deserve to be heard and request you support 3B for our redistricting map.**

**Thank you!**



# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 11:55 am

First Name: **Peter**

Last Name: **Bush**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **3B**

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map. The plan should be balanced and fair and accurately represent the people of Anchorage and Eagle River. This process needs to be fair to all not just a small group of individuals. As a resident of Eagle River we as a community deserve to be heard and request you support 3B for our redistricting map.**

**Thank you!**

## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: April 9, 2022, 12:05 pm

First Name: **Christine**

Last Name: **Banfield**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Map 3B**

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map. The plan should be balanced and fair and accurately represent the people of Anchorage and Eagle River. This process needs to be fair to all not just a small group of individuals. As a resident of Eagle River we as a community deserve to be heard and request you support 3B for our redistricting map.**

**Thank you!**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 12:06 pm

First Name: **Stephanie**

Last Name: **Taylor**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **3B**

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map. The plan should be balanced and fair and accurately represent the people of Anchorage and Eagle River. This process needs to be fair to all not just a small group of individuals. As a resident of Anchorage, we as a community deserve to be heard and request you support 3B for our redistricting map.**

**Thank you!**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 12:09 pm

First Name: **Gordon**

Last Name: **Banfield**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Map 3B**

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map. The plan should be balanced and fair and accurately represent the people of Anchorage and Eagle River. This process needs to be fair to all not just a small group of individuals. As a resident of Eagle River we as a community deserve to be heard and request you support 3B for our redistricting map.**

**Thank you!**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 12:10 pm

First Name: **Makayla**

Last Name: **Banfield**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Map 3B**

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map. The plan should be balanced and fair and accurately represent the people of Anchorage and Eagle River. This process needs to be fair to all not just a small group of individuals. As a resident of Eagle River we as a community deserve to be heard and request you support 3B for our redistricting map.**

**Thank you!**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 12:15 pm

First Name: **Leon**

Last Name: **Jaimes**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Support map Option 2**

Public Comment: **Hello,**

**I heard testimony yesterday from an in-person testifier that technology makes travel a non-issue with contiguity. I would contest that opinion strongly. These hearings have been fraught with technology issues, as is evidenced by the beginning of today's meeting. I also keep hearing that people say that 3B makes sense because everyone at JBER lives in Eagle River. Eagle River is a population of about 35,000 and JBER staffs about 32,000. Only 36% of Eagle River are classified as "Governmental" workers, so I would point out that that argument that many, or even most, of JBER staff live in Eagle River is false. The option 2 map is constitutional, and option 3b is not.**

**Thank you for your work on the board, and for serving honestly and with integrity, following our constitution.**

**Leon Jaimes**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

First Name: **Karen**

Last Name: **Carson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact:



Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **I prefer map 3B**

Public Comment:

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 12:29 pm

First Name: **Melissa**

Last Name: **Hickey**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **I support 3b**



## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 12:35 pm

First Name: **Lawrence**

Last Name: **Marshall**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Please support plan 3B**

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for the best representation for the Eagle River community on the redistricting map!**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 12:47 pm

First Name: **Ryan**

Last Name: **Peterson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting plans**

Public Comment: **I support option 2**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 12:52 pm

First Name: **Eric**

Last Name: **Steinfort**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Girdwood Resident**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **I Oppose option 3B and support option 2**

Public Comment: **Option 3B would put Eagle River in the same voting district as Girdwood among others. This is an obvious intent to dilute Girdwood voters into Eagle River's obvious difference in political affiliation. I support option 2 that will allow the proper democratic process to flow.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 12:56 pm

First Name: **Terrence**

Last Name: **Shanigan**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99502**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting**

Public Comment: **Support map 3B**


# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 1:04 pm

First Name: **Donna**

Last Name: **Reisinger**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **3B**

Public Comment: **No changes should be made and no districts should be redrawn. We don't have enough equitable representation as it is.**

## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 1:04 pm

First Name: **Meredyth**

Last Name: **Richards**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Support 3B**

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map. The plan should be balanced and fair and accurately represent the people of Anchorage and Eagle River. This process needs to be fair to all not just a small group of individuals. As a resident of Eagle River we as a community deserve to be heard and request you support 3B for our redistricting map.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 1:16 pm

First Name: **Robin**

Last Name: **Platt**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 1:22 pm

First Name: **Douglas**

Last Name: **Stern**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate District K**

Public Comment: **As a Girdwood resident and constituent of proposed Senate District K, I would like to express strong opposition to Proposed Pairing: Option 3B, combining House Districts 9 and 22, and support for Option 2, joining Districts 9 and 10.**

**DisRICTs 9 and 22, supposedly "contiguous", share a border only in the rugged Chugach Mountain wilderness. They are not contiguous in any practical sense. In order to drive from Girdwood to Eagle River one must drive many miles and traverse seven legislative districts (10, 13, 14, 17, 18, 20, and 23).**



# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 1:27 pm

First Name: **Lou Ann**

Last Name: **Poage**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact:



Your ZIP Code: **99503**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting**

Public Comment: **I support option 2 and I oppose option 3.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 1:34 pm

First Name: **Briana**

Last Name: **Sullivan**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self (also Girdwood Board of Supervisors member)**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Support Option 2, Oppose 3b**

Public Comment: **Good Afternoon to the Alaska Redistricting Board**

**My name is Briana Sullivan. I am a lifelong Alaskan and currently a Girdwood resident, who also sits in an elected seat on our Girdwood Board of Supervisors. Maybe trivial, but I spent my formative years living in close proximity to District 22 and now call District 9 Home.**

**Thank you for all of your work and time, and for holding additional meetings online, phone, and in person, in order to listen to thoughtful Public Testimony, to allow more weigh in, from Alaskans who care about the present - and future of their communities, small and large, and ostensibly the process of governance in across our great State. There have been numerous valid points brought forward to the Board. The task for you right now is to fix a problem, identified by the Superior and Supreme Court; to correct the Senate redistricting to be constitutional and not gerrymandered.**

**I know a lot of Girdwood residents, of all ages. Most of my peers are starting families or caring for theirs - they are busy working and enjoying their days. I am too, but unlike most of them, I paid attention to the Reapportionment by the Anchorage Assembly, because of my involvement in community and the significance of the potential changes for the coming decade. For the same reasons cited in reference to local government and acknowledging compact areas of town found during this thorough process, the Senate Redistricting could also reasonably follow identified/voting, contiguous areas of the municipality.**

**Regarding the Senate Redistricting:**

**From the few written testimonials I read from various dates, and oral public testimonials I have heard over the last week, it seems apparent countless individuals have urged you to quickly make this next crucial decision, to not waste time, to not pair Eagle River with Girdwood, and to take the Alaska Supreme Court ruling into utmost consideration, when making these decisions. For example,**

## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

The Supreme Court ruled that Eagle River should not be split, as this would unfairly give them more representation. Solving this issue would be prudent. Pairing districts 24 and 23 does what the Court already cautioned against. I urge you to revert to the pairing of 22 and 24.

Where the court urged against breaking districts and therefore their representation, please advise.

In public process, with the ideals of living fairly, equitably, and to allow for change and growth, enabling communities to operate to their best capacity through proper functioning and addressing the needs of society, begins with our roots, our neighbors, and then our communities and representatives. These public offices are held by residents of the areas in which they live, who understand the nuances of their towns and cities and thus have a vested interest in serving their constituents. Citizens have the opportunity to support and vote for their representatives, so it makes sense that these individuals be within reach, to be in contact - and physically be in places of need, to support, to represent.

Contiguous districts make sense and as such, do not substantially disrupt, break up, or divide communities. I acknowledge the uniqueness of communities and neighborhoods within the expansive Municipality of Anchorage. Because they are all connected by roads and bridges and similarities, it's possible to group them within the Constitutional definition. The commonalities they share, are the proximity, culture, and most often, the terrain.

People feel tied to their communities, and identify with them, whether it's tangible or a line on a map.

The idea of connecting extremely distant districts, 9 and 22, where thick forest, rivers, drainages, and mountains stand firmly in between - causes confusion and seems far-fetched, when there is an alternative, practical option, in the way that the MOA is developed.

Moreover, having a representative of Girdwood, or Whittier, living in Eagle River, or a representative of Eagle River, living in Girdwood or along Turnagain Arm makes a very challenging and undesirable job for a representative. I'd like representatives to run for office that want to work for their constituents. Constituents need a voice and fair representation.

The communities of South Anchorage, Girdwood, (and farther South) and Eagle River exhibit distinctive and obvious differences already explained, and have a very long and unnecessary drive by car, with plenty of construction lately, connecting them. Also noted, 9 and 22 have 6-8 densely populated Senate Districts squished between. Based on public testimony, most comments from Eagle River do not want to be paired with South Anchorage and Girdwood and vice versa. We are humans with

## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

habits and we are bound to roadways and plying the City of Anchorage for transportation, business, and commerce. Anchorage not only connects us, but the largest population in South Central Alaska, separates us. We are not wildlife that roam among or above the Chugach Mountains.

Regarding testimony on the size of the districts when looking at the horizontal map, some missing information is the topography. Hillside and South Anchorage have more in common with the Turnagain Arm and Girdwood Community than the majority of suburban Eagle River.

Last fall, Girdwood and the communities south of us - on the Kenai Peninsula - experienced a record Atmospheric River Event during our shoulder season, where our dominantly dirt roads and drainages and myriad culverts were overflowing and flooded, breaking records, making a massive mess, and making history. Our representatives had a challenging time speaking for us, in our state of emergency and disaster, as we were also cut off from the only access [road] to our Water Treatment Facility, our Transfer Station, and our Industrial Yard, where local operators store their heavy equipment. This heavy equipment was desperately needed to provide critical aid during and after this disaster. Girdwood is still repairing damage from the October 31st- November 2nd storm, and we haven't forgotten how close, and distant our representatives are physically, and virtually.

To the point of driving to speak with our Senators: For practical reasons, close to no one drives to their Senator unless they live in Juneau. The Senators mainly work and operate out of Juneau, the city without roads to the rest of the great state of Alaska. Our Senators have been working hard and are very available to us, all via the telephone and internet during this digital age. Most Alaskans can call and email our US Senators when reaching out. Technology today saves time, energy, and connects us.

I urge Board Member Simpson to strongly consider the Constitution as read, to listen to the outpouring of public and Representative support for Option 2, and to the countless people who are providing public testimony on this important issue. Furthermore, I encourage all Board Members to oppose Option 3B, which is unconstitutional, and support Option 2. Keep East Anchorage Districts together as they request, and Eagle River Districts together, as they request. Honor ethical and honest representation. The latter would obviously maintain most satisfaction and better functioning, already established of a healthy society. Do not further confuse anyone with more maps and please do not delay this process.

Thank you so much for your efforts and time in this matter.

## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

**Penny Goodstein** [REDACTED]

Sat 4/9/2022 1:44 PM

I am writing about the redistricting decisions. I am appalled that once again, Eagle River has one plan to split it.

It seems that this is political to increase representation for Eagle River at the expense of other areas.

Eagle River is a unit. Muldoon is a unit. The Hillside is a unit. Please keep Downtown together, Hillside together, and Eagle River together. Do not separate these units.

JBEAR is no more similar to Eagle River than to downtown. Many at JBEAR are not Alaskan residents; they retain their home residency and vote there. Other JBEAR military live throughout our communities and these, if they become Alaskan residents, are represented by their home district elected officials. Putting JBEAR with an Eagle River district makes as much sense and with downtown.

**Penny Goodstein**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 1:52 pm

First Name: **Marguerite**

Last Name: **Leeds**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Anchorage senate district option 2**

Public Comment: **Good afternoon,**

**I'm writing in support of option 2, and against option 3b. As a long time resident of Girdwood, option 2 pairs me with South Anchorage/Hillside, people who have similar experiences and concerns, allowing those issues to be represented fairly. Option 3b pairs me in Girdwood with people who have very different concerns, who are demographically very different than I and live a very different experience. For one example, Eagle River has well developed infrastructure whereas Girdwood has underdeveloped critical infrastructure. Because Eagle River so outnumbers Girdwood, option 3b leaves me unrepresented.**

**Considering other neighborhoods, option 2 also gives representation to East Anchorage and maintains representation of Eagle River.**

**Option 3b violates the Alaska Supreme Court ruling, that Eagle River should not be split, as this represented partisan gerrymandering. This map would give no representation of my concerns at all and this may damage my town of Girdwood.**

**Sincerely,**

**Marguerite Leeds,**

**Girdwood resident**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 2:01 pm

First Name: **Jennifer**

Last Name: **Van der Slice**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact:



Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting Option 2**

Public Comment: **I support the redistricting Option 2 map. The other 3b map is an attempt to gerrymander districts for political gain and would disenfranchise voters and is absolutely dispicable. Please support the Option 2 pairing of districts.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 2:10 pm

First Name: **James**

Last Name: **Wojciehowski**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting map 3-B**

Public Comment: **I support map 3-B. Eagle River deserves equal representation**



# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 2:12 pm

First Name: **Joyce**

Last Name: **Wojciehowski**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting map 3B**

Public Comment: **I support map 3-B**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 2:14 pm

First Name: **Kimberly**

Last Name: **Hunt**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99503**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **Hi- I commented before, and I was a little anxious. I support staying closest to the court's decisions as far as not combining districts and as far as keeping east Anchorage, Eagle River, and Hillside areas as their own communities. Combining the south Anchorage Hillside area and Eagle River as districts does not conform with the districting principles of geographical integrity. I also called on April 8th to clarify that I have had connections to Alaska since the pre-pipeline days; a member of the commission asked me what it was about the communities in pre-pipeline days I wanted to preserve. I'd like to maintain districts as close to the ones stipulated by the court; the ones without combining districts 9 and 22 in order to keep intact the "these are my neighbors" and "we have dinner with each other's families" sense of community, along with the sense of "we're in this together," down-to-earth people who built and staffed award-winning libraries, designed cities with wonderful amounts of green space and public spaces, developed a highly politically active citizenry, and fostered a community that served its' citizens rather than one where neighborhoods are chopped up and neighbors can't work together for the needs of their particular areas. I'd like for the Anchorage area to be a community where neighbors take walks and have each other over for dinner, where libraries are not only award-winning, but they serve the community in meaningful, culturally respectful, and relevant ways, and where we can focus on issues and human comfort instead of privatizing the care of people without their own homes. When people lose their voices because their neighborhoods are split up and they don't have someone who truly represents them, it's possible to put profits before people. My impression of Alaska was that we're just not like that up here so I support not combining districts and following the court ruling as closely as possible. I challenge you to look your fellow citizens in the eye and say hello and please and thank you. According to Chade Meng Tan, that's where world peace starts. Thank you for reading.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 2:16 pm

First Name: **Cindy**

Last Name: **Spanyers**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **none**

Email or Phone Contact:



Your ZIP Code: **99821**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate Pairings**

Public Comment: **The most judicious way to accomplish the senate pairings and abide by the court decision is to keep downtown Anchorage together and keep Eagle River together. Option Two appears the best way to accomplish that. I oppose Option Three. Thank you.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 2:44 pm

First Name: **Louis**

Last Name: **Imbriani**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **3-B**

Public Comment: **I urge the adoption of Map 3-B. As an Eagle River resident I want to be fairly represented in Juneau. This map does that. Combining parts of Anchorage with Eagle River will cause some residents voices to be silenced. They life styles and needs of those living in East Anchorage are different than those of Eagle River residents. Please adopt map 3-b.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 3:46 pm

First Name: **Karrsen**

Last Name: **Brannon-Young**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99503**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **3B**

Public Comment: **Please support 3B for our redistricting map. The plan should be balanced and fair and accurately represent the people of Anchorage and Eagle River. This process needs to be fair to all not just a small group of individuals. As a resident of Anchorage we as a community deserve to be heard and request you support 3B for our redistricting map.**

**Thank you!**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 3:52 pm

First Name: **Jan Carolyn**

Last Name: **Hardy**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **self**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99502**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting**

Public Comment: **The 2021 Board Proclamation for Anchorage was ratified on November 10, 2021. There has been a public hearing publicly presented with public input and testimony. This Board has the opportunity to be the first Redistricting Board in over 20 years to have a map that is viable for a full 10 years.**

**The Board did a good job with the overall house map and senate pairings in Southeast, Rural, Interior, and MatSu. Further delays would result in some candidates running three elections in a row. We have seen the chaos that creates both for the candidates and the voters. Some voters did not exercise the franchise because they did not know in which district they resided. This is unfair to the candidates and the voter.**

**We have a new system of voting: Rank Choice Voting. To complicate the matter further we will have special election to replace him. This is unprecedented. The voter needs time to reorient themselves to their new senate and house district. If questions surrounding our new Anchorage Municipality have not been resolved immediately the result could be voter disenfranchisement and failure of the system to protect one voter, one vote.**

**The Alaska Supreme Court has upheld the unconstitutional political gerrymander of Senate Seat K (Eagle River/East Anchorage) and remanded the pairing back to the Alaska Redistricting Board. Please act swiftly to adopt a map with final senate pairings. There is no time to waste.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 3:58 pm

First Name: **Alex**

Last Name: **Bortnick**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **option 2**

Public Comment: **Please support option 2, the best option for Anchorage**

**I strongly oppose option 3**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 4:05 pm

First Name: **Margaret**

Last Name: **Nelson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact:



Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **I support map 3b**



## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Yarrow Silvers [REDACTED]  
Sat 4/9/2022 4:08 PM  
Yarrow Silvers  
99504

I would like to respond to various comments and characterizations that I've heard over the past week.

First I want to discuss this idea that I've heard that map two is partisan. I introduced this map, which was arrived at by the East Anchorage plaintiffs with the benefit of legal council who advised us that the approach of pairing Muldoon, pairing Eagle River, and then pairing the districts that were left unpaired was the method that would most closely follow the remand order from the court, which had ruled that the splitting of Eagle River in order to increase their representation, at the expense of muffling the voices of East Anchorage residents, was a partisan gerrymander violating equal protection.

No partisan data nor incumbent information was accessed, nor do I care to access it. Other than my own representatives in 21, I have no idea where any incumbent lives, nor what districts they represent for the vast majority of them. It is, however, a known fact that both independent makers of map 3B, Ms Marcum and Mr. Ruedrich, have looked at political and incumbent information during the mapping process.

By contrast, the pairings for map 2 were based solely on logic, reason, pairing like communities and the constitutional as well as remand requirements. In fact, I bucked the trend of a majority of testimony which favored map 1 to introduce map 2, which the ADN has quoted Cathy Geissel - who appointed John Binkley to the redistricting board by the way - as stating was "a very elegant solution", and one that she prefers.

I believe that the majority of support & testimony backs up the non-partisan and inherently fair nature of this map which indeed has broad bipartisan support. I've heard well reasoned and passionate testimony detailing in clear terms why map 3B is irrational from HALO, Girdwood board of supervisors, RCCC, Sean Murphy of EagleExit, Lloyd Thurman, Randy Phillips and many others, all of whom are obviously not partisan left-wing organizations or individuals.

In contrast, the majority of the testimony favoring map 3 is based on partisan considerations - number of Republican senate seats, specific incumbents, do it because you can, or one liners based on no reasoning at all.

Despite the quick time frame of this part of this process, we have the benefit of mounds of testimony against this same pairing in the municipal process. And yet, Mr. Binkley has indicated that all this testimony (from the municipal process) should be discounted because the numbers and the considerations are different and I ask, what numbers, what considerations, are different other than the clearly partisan ones? The false contiguity, distance, broken communities and lack of commonality are all the same.

## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

The one thing that is different is that lowest deviations were sacrificed in order to use meaningful contiguity in the municipal districts - which resulted in a municipal map with deviations of 5% and where Eagle River was underpopulated by several thousand people.

While it was originally believed by the mapmakers that South Anchorage and Eagle River had socio economic connections, South Anchorage and Eagle River residents were quick to correct this impression and the municipality listened. I also want to point out that this same compromise of deviations will not be required here. In municipal maps, population was being added to Eagle River to equalize population. In this process, Eagle River is being split despite having enough population for one senate seat.

I believe strongly in an inherently honest, ethical and fair process that hues closely to the constitution and I believe that most people want effective, local representation that reflects their unique communities regardless of their political affiliation, and map 2 reflects that. If this board instead chooses a map that does not provide these things, and that must use second rate or false contiguity for pairings, then the burden of proof falls on them to show why a more rational and constitutional map is not possible.

Now let's have a quick review of the justifications I've heard for the unconstitutional map 3B. Some are, quite frankly, beyond ridiculous. I heard yesterday that District 23 was actually not Eagle River. Well, pulling up the map I can clearly see that yes, district 23 does indeed include the northern part of Eagle River, including parts of its business district. Come on now, let's be honest please. Eagle River is literally cleaved in half and the only justification for that is an attempt at a false narrative? This is ridiculous.

I've heard that SA and ER share the longest border. I would like to ask the board to now consider how long the populated area along that border is as compared to unpopulated area - which Bud Simpson referred to as basically a fiction in reference to another part of the map. That number is not one single inch of populated area, and Bud's sentiment holds true here as well.

Even if it is possible to pair 9 and 22 just because they touch, it is wholly irrational to pair them when there is a pairing available that has meaningful contiguity.

Some people have said in reference to JBER and Eagle River that like communities should be paired together, while obtusely ignoring that the like communities of Downtown, Eagle River and South Anchorage have to be split apart to accommodate this false vision of JBER. Let's not forget that JBER is integrated heavily into all of the municipality, including government hill and downtown. In fact, there is a Government Hill gate that is used by the majority of service members that utilize the Elmendorf half of the joint base.

## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Let's also not forget that Service members who live off base are already represented in their community of residence, while those living on base are most strongly connected to the communities within Anchorage proper outside their respective gates, not far away North Eagle River.

This supposed justification falls flat in the face of reality.

Some say it's been done historically. That doesn't make it the right choice for today and in fact one of the legislators that represented one of these past districts has testified about the irrationality of pairing 9 and 22.

The rest of the justifications for map 3B I have heard are mostly based on partisan considerations, which I briefly mentioned earlier, but will not spent any time refuting due to the simple fact that partisan considerations are not permitted in our Alaska State Constitution.

I just want to close with this. I feel relief that through the legal remedy, East Anchorage residents have received their voice back, however I feel deep regret that in repairing one wrong, some members of this board seem tempted to simply shift the burden of harm and silence to another community. I implore this board to stop wasting time and money fighting for maps that you know to be unconstitutional and to choose to do the right thing instead.

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 5:04 pm

First Name: **Sarah**

Last Name: **Paulus**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99567**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Anchorage Senate Districts  
â€“ Option 3B**

Public Comment: **First thank you for taking the time to allow for public comment on this issue. Think combining Eagle River with Girdwood for Senate Districts poorly represents to these two very distinct communities. Girdwood and Eagle River have very different needs. Girdwood is a mountain/coastal ski resort town with an active hippy forest vibe. Eagle River and the community up Eagle River road, are hard working people most work in Anchorage, and commute in. Eagle River is known for conservative values, bedroom communities and Girdwood is known for liberal values and outdoor recreation year round. Politically, Economically, Geographically and Socially these two communities are vastly different and combining them on the Senate level does a disservice to both unique township. I am against this proposed option, and would prefer to see other combinations which do not combined these vastly different communities.**

## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Andrew Gray [REDACTED]

Sat 4/9/2022 5:15 PM

Alaska Redistricting Board:

Thank you for allowing me to testify on Friday morning, April 8th, at 10 am. I promised to send my testimony along with my references (please see below). I would like to make two points first:

After my prepared remarks, Ms. Marcum questioned me for several minutes. During our exchange, I asked her: "What is the harm of pairing Eagle River with Eagle River?" (House District 22 with 24). She replied, "There is only one Eagle River." Presumably House District 22. However, after reviewing the maps, I see that actually House District 24 includes the Eagle River Carrs, the Eagle River Fred Meyers, the Eagle River Business Blvd, and an entire residential area of Eagle River between Old Glenn and New Glenn highways between the main ER exit and North ER exit. So I believe there are indeed two Eagle River house districts, not one.

Ms. Marcum stated in our exchange that she feared JBER would be "orphaned" with Downtown (in a 23-17 pairing), and "There certainly can be no greater differences than Downtown and JBER," according to Ms. Marcum. She went on to discuss the similarity in values between JBER and Eagle River (I believe the similarities are exaggerated, seeing as JBER is much more racially diverse and lower income than Eagle River). But my question is: what about Girdwood being "orphaned" with Eagle River (in a 22-9 pairing)? Girdwood and Eagle River are completely different vibes -- more different in my opinion than JBER and Downtown. Where is the concern about Girdwood being ignored?

Having said all that, I know you must abide by what the constitution says. And as far as that goes, it has been demonstrated over and over again that travelling between house districts 9 and 22 is long and inconvenient. I agree with Bud Simpson who called contiguity across uninhabited land "basically a fiction." 9 and 22 are not practicably contiguous, and thus should not be a valid senate pairing.

Please support Map Option 2: Pair 24 with 22; 23 with 17; and 9 with 10.

Thank you for your service to Alaska.

Respectfully,  
Andrew T. Gray  
resident, House District 19

REDISTRICTING TESTIMONY 04/08/2022

## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

My name is Andrew Gray, and I speak for myself only; I do not represent my employers in any way. I live in new house district 19 in Anchorage. My family moved into our home there in 2019 just two weeks before I deployed with the Alaska Army National Guard for 10 months, so I have a relationship with the military and with JBER and that's the bulk of what I will be testifying about. While on that deployment, I was having lunch with some enlisted soldiers in the dining facility, and I asked one where he had grown up. He said the trailer park across from the Northway Mall here in Anchorage. I remarked that I had never met anyone who had grown up in a trailer park, and after a pause all 4 enlisted soldiers I was seated with explained that they too had spent at least part of their childhoods in trailer parks.

I tell this story to illustrate a fact about the US military. Many young people who sign up to serve in the military do so to escape the poverty of their childhoods. You see, I as someone unfamiliar with trailer park living, was the anomaly; those with firsthand knowledge of it were the majority. "Three hots and a cot" is a popular saying describing the promise of food and shelter which for many 18-year-olds would not be a given without the military's help. A 2018 demographic analysis by the Council on Foreign Relations showed that over 60 percent of enlistments came from neighborhoods with a median household income between \$38,345 and \$80,912. 19% of recruits came from households with an income of less than \$38,000 a year.[i] The average annual household income in Eagle River is \$126,943, while the median household income sits at \$111,388 per year.[ii] This means more than 80% of military recruits come from households unlike those in Eagle River. And if lower enlisted choose to live off base, they inevitably end up in lower-cost housing in Mountain View, north Muldoon, or even in my neighborhood in midtown.

And yet members of this board are insisting on pairing Eagle River with JBER.

What military members can afford to live in Eagle River? Higher ranking officers. The Congressional Research Service reports that 63% of enlisted service members are white; 37% non-white;[iii] JBER is actually even more diverse with 60.7% of the voting age population identifying as white; and just under 40% identifying as non-white. However, 88% of senior military officers are white, and it is these higher ranking officers who can afford to live in Eagle River. I should point out that the voting age population in Chugiak Eagle River is over 75% white.[iv] In recent litigation that made its way to the Alaska Supreme Court this Redistricting Board was found guilty of an unconstitutional gerrymander for creating a Senate district pairing an Eagle River House District with an East Anchorage house district. You may remember that case from a few weeks ago. I would argue that a Senate District pairing Eagle River with JBER is just as egregiously unconstitutional if not more so. The poor minority voices of JBER will be overridden by the rich white residents of Eagle River.

And that is what the goal is here: to increase the Senate representation of Eagle River. As Board Member Bethany Marcum so eloquently stated on the record, on November 5, 2021: "This actually gives Eagle River the opportunity to have more representation."

## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Why? Why would anyone want Eagle River of all places to have “more representation?” Well, the Chugiak Eagle River area has been a conservative stronghold since prior to Alaska Statehood. In fact, the area is so conservative that they actually opposed statehood in the 1950s. So if there were a way to increase their representation, one could enshrine a conservative advantage in the makeup of the Alaska Senate for the next ten years.

Yesterday Chairman Binkley explained to a testifier that she couldn’t compare Anchorage reapportionment of Assembly Districts with Alaska Redistricting, that these were two completely different processes. Although the processes may be different, the conservative objective is the same: increase Eagle River’s representation. During Anchorage reapportionment, Eagle River was guaranteed from the start two assembly members. So in that case in order to increase representation, the tactic was to minimize the population represented by those two Eagle River Assembly members. This was achieved by fierce testimony against pairing Eagle River with any other part of Anchorage. The option most strongly considered was a pairing of Chugiak-Eagle River with Hillside in South Anchorage. I would like to quote some of that testimony from a Town Hall held on January 27, 2022. Eagle River Assembly Member and current unopposed candidate for state house Jamie Allard said: “It was brought up the fact that if we are connected to Hillside or we are connected to Girdwood, you would literally have to ride a Dall sheep in order to get to those areas, unless we drove approximately from our location almost an hour . . . to get to hillside and an hour and a half to get down to Girdwood. I would also point out that when folks are saying that we have things in common over there, look at who their elected officials are: Suzanne LaFrance and John Weddleton, wonderful people, but you have to still ask what do we have in common with those areas? we don’t.”

Although I personally disagree with Ms. Allard’s assessment that the only means of direct transport between these two districts is the riding of Dall sheep, I want to thank her for explicitly stating that this is a political process. And although the method is different here in redistricting, the goal is not.

By avoiding pairing the two Eagle River house districts with each other -- which by any metric is how you would create the most compact, contiguous, socio-economically integrated Senate district -- the Redistricting Board is seeking to expand Eagle River’s influence on the Alaska Senate. We know from numerous studies that voter participation increases with family income. In the 2016 presidential election, 48% of voters in the lowest income category voted, while almost double that, a whopping 86% of voters in the highest income category cast a ballot.[v] This trend holds true for Eagle River. Eagle River consistently participates in elections at a significantly higher rate than their lower income neighbors. So, if Eagle River gets two senators, you can bet it will be Eagle River electing those senators, not the JBER house district nor the South Anchorage House District. We will get Two Lora Reinholds; not two Bill Wielechowskis.

## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Please allow me to again quote Bethany Marcum: “This actually gives Eagle River the opportunity to have more representation.” She is absolutely right, and that’s why this plan is absolutely wrong. Giving Eagle River extra representation is unconstitutional and should not be allowed.

So why is this board continuing with this ill-intentioned plan? Because there are no adverse consequences to the board adopting another unconstitutional gerrymander. There is only upside: There’s a chance that no lawsuit will be brought forth and therefore the gerrymander will stand for the next ten years. Alternatively, litigation could be pursued, but it will take time. Even on an expedited schedule, it would take several months after an appeal to the Alaska Supreme court before you are sent back here to rework the senate pairings, and by then the November election would be approaching and it might be too close to print new ballots.

No one on this board will be held personally liable for unconstitutional pairings, so what have you got to lose? Nothing. What have you got to gain? Continued Republican control of the Alaska Senate.

With that knowledge I know I make my plea in vain, but nevertheless, I ask all five of you to please oppose the senate pairings in map 3B; please support the senate pairings in map Option 2, which keeps like parts together: Eagle River with Eagle River; South Anchorage with South Anchorage; and JBER with Downtown.

Thank you for allowing me to testify, and thank you for your service to the state of Alaska

[i] <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2018/11/29/how-the-u-s-military-became-the-exception-to-americas-wage-stagnation-problem/>

[ii] <https://www.point2homes.com/US/Neighborhood/AK/Eagle-River-Demographics.html>

[iii] <https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/politics/2020/09/01/military-diversity-army-shows-few-black-officers-top-leadership/3377371001/>

[iv] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/AK/RHI125220>

[v] <https://econofact.org/voting-and-income>



# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 7:41 pm

First Name: **William**

Last Name: **Devine**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Map Option 3**

Public Comment: **I am writing to give my support to Map Option 2.**

**Map option 3 pairs communities that do not share enough in common, and would dilute the voter base to give greater representation to one political party.**

**Splitting Eagle River and pairing it with Girdwood/South Anchorage and Downtown Anchorage as well as pairing Taku/Campbell with South Anchorage does not make sense in a geographic or socioeconomic basis.**

**Map Option 2 pairs communities with similar demographics and socioeconomic status that are in geographic proximity to each other, providing fairer representation.**

## **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 7:44 pm

First Name: **Alex**

Last Name: **Lindeman**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact:



Your ZIP Code: **99743**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting**

Public Comment: **I support option 2. I think option 3 opens itself to blatant charges of partisan gerrymandering, which will cost the state time and money to deal with in court. just use the best and least objectionable one**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 7:52 pm

First Name: **Ellen**

Last Name: **Devine**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Map 3**

Public Comment: **I am wiring to give my support to Map 2.**

**Map 2 pairs communities that are aligned across geographic, political, and economic lines.**

**Map 3 pairs communities that do not share enough in common and could lead to residents being disenfranchised as their votes could be diluted from other districts in their pairings.**

**Map 2 is a fair map and is best for Alaska.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 8:02 pm

First Name: **Susan**

Last Name: **Scherwin**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **The pairing of Districts 9 and 10 with Eagle River**

Public Comment: **I strongly oppose pairing Girdwood's current voting district with that of Eagle River. Instead, I support contiguous districts 9 and 10 remaining together as originally proposed, without the addition and inclusion of a geographical entity with which we have no connection except a hiking trail through Crow Pass. I myself know no one personally in Eagle River, nor have I been there for at least 40 years, yet I consider South Anchorage an extension of my personal and business life: previously for employment, and currently for goods, services, healthcare, entertainment, and social interactions. I can see no reason to combine our small community with that of a large population district 2 hours away by car, except for obvious political gerrymandering that would render Girdwood opinions and voting irrelevant! Please reinstate and maintain Option 2. Thank you.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 9, 2022, 8:38 pm

First Name: **Elizabeth**

Last Name: **Beavers**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact:



Your ZIP Code: **99755**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting- select Option 2**

Public Comment: **Anchorage district groupings in option 2 make geographic sense and should move forward. Discard option 3B which tries to split up Anchorage neighborhoods and group them with far flung areas. Option 3B looks like gerrymandering**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
WEBSITE RESPONSE**

**Denny Wells** [REDACTED]

Sat 4/9/2022 7:46 PM

Attached is a written version of my spoken testimony today, with a small post-script.

Thank you,

**Denny Wells**

To the State of Alaska redistricting board:

My name is Denny Wells. I'm a lifelong Alaskan. Born in Anchorage, raised in Fairbanks, back living in Anchorage for more than 20 years. I live in Sand Lake, but have also lived in Spenard, Muldoon, and Downtown. I have rental properties in Muldoon and Sand Lake and I am a real estate photographer regularly shooting houses throughout the Municipality of Anchorage.

As the board approaches the end of this initial round of Senate pairing testimony, I would like to focus in on what the court directed, and the realities of the shared boundaries in the house districts.

In creating the house districts, you were constrained by the number 18,335. That was your target number of residents per district. In the urban core of Anchorage, that number was small enough that it necessitated many neighborhood-splitting districts. You did your best to make those neighborhood divisions rational and equitable.

Now, with the Senate pairings, you have the opportunity to pair some of those communities that you divided in the house districts.

In decades past, this chore has also been a challenge because the population of Municipality of Anchorage did not divide neatly into an even number of house seats. This year, you are lucky. With the small addition of Whittier, the Municipality of Anchorage divides neatly into 16 house seats. Further, the Chugiak/Eagle River area fit neatly into 2 house seats. This gives you the maximum possible opportunity to bring communities back together with your senate pairings. Future boards may not be so lucky and may again need to pair Chugiak or South Anchorage with some community outside the municipality, or Eagle River may grow so large they need 3 house seats and will necessarily be divided again in the Senate. But today you are lucky. With the 2020 census data, you have no need to divide Eagle River or South Anchorage nor the need to pair one of them with another community.

The superior court said "Senate District K pairs two districts that, while contiguous in the strict definition of the word, ignore communities of interest in Eagle River and Muldoon." The court further stated "The Court sees the Senate Districts ignore the Muldoon and Eagle River communities of interest with very little justification." The court specifically reviewed your arguments, laid them out in their findings – the arguments you are still making today, that there is a JBER connection to Eagle River and that the mountains make contiguity – and still found they were "very little justification" for splitting both Eagle River and Muldoon.

So, what can you do? What communities are split by your House Districts that you could put together in your Senate pairings?

Both of the plans on the table put Muldoon together again, so let's start with Downtown Anchorage. You split Downtown Anchorage along 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This is the traditional startline of the Iditarod and Fur Rondy. This is the home of my favorite camera shop. For several years I

lived right on the boundary of this district at 315 Barrow St. I definitely lived downtown.



This is 4<sup>th</sup> avenue, splitting House Districts 23 on the left from 17 on the right. The ends of the chain holding the Iditarod sign in the air should be in the same Senate district.

District 23 is comprised of 10,832 residents of JBER and 7191 residents of Anchorage. 2,389 of those Anchorage residents are in Muldoon, and the remainder in Downtown and Government Hill. If anyplace in Anchorage constitutes a community of interest, it is downtown – the heart of the city. You should pair Downtown with Downtown.

Next, let's consider Eagle River. You split Eagle River along the Glenn Highway, Old Glenn Highway, and Eagle River Road, but you also split along a residential street in the Eagle River Valley – War Admiral Road. I've shot the listing photos of houses on this road. It is a small neighborhood road where people definitely know their neighbors.





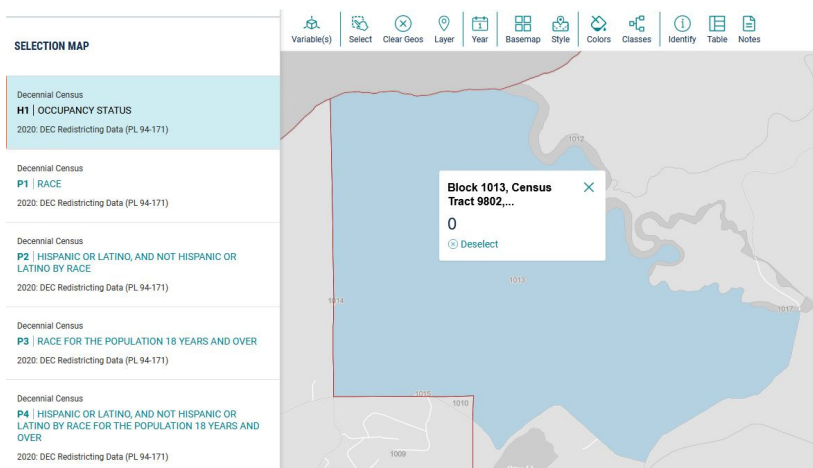
In this image, the houses on the left are in House District 24 and the houses on the right are in House District 22. The neighbors in this picture should be in the same Senate district.

In conversation with a community member at public testimony yesterday, Board Member Marcum stated “There’s only one Eagle River House seat, the other seat is Chugiak, Peters Creek, and JBER.” This is factually inaccurate. District 24 has 7,586 residents of the Eagle River and Eagle River Valley community councils, including the residents on the left side of this image. That’s 33% of the total population of the Eagle River community councils. The Eagle River Carrs, Eagle River Fred Meyer, and the Eagle River Business Blvd are all in District 24. That is most definitely a second Eagle River seat.

The claim that District 24 is a district of JBER is true only in the most obscure academic sense. District 24 includes a small portion of JBER. But this portion of JBER has exactly 0 population, except in precisely one census block. That block appears to be noise from the census bureau’s anonymization efforts. (For a discussion of the noise in the Census block level data, this is a pretty good article, and it links to the more academic discussion from the Census laying out the impacts of the data noise. <https://fullstackeconomics.com/why-the-2020-census-has-9-fake-people-in-a-single-house/>) That block has a stated population of 197 people, but no visible infrastructure in which those people might live. Further anomalies in the data for that block include that the population is 100% adult and 39% white (versus 74% Adult and 59% white for the rest of JBER). In my map drawing for Anchorage Assembly seats, I spotted several other anomalous census blocks like this in the Anchorage Bowl. The most obvious was a block that covered the Minnesota Dr/Hickel Pkwy between International Airport and Raspberry roads. It is not a census block that encompasses surrounding land, just the road itself. Yet it has a population of 19.



This image is a satellite view of Block 1013, Census Tract 9802. When reviewing in the Census' own mapping tool at [https://data.census.gov/cedsci/map?q=&y=2020&d=DEC%20Redistricting%20Data%20%28PL%2094-171%29&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.H1&mode=thematic&loc=61.3071,-149.7448,z12.2129&vintage=2020&cid=H1\\_001N](https://data.census.gov/cedsci/map?q=&y=2020&d=DEC%20Redistricting%20Data%20%28PL%2094-171%29&tid=DECENNIALPL2020.H1&mode=thematic&loc=61.3071,-149.7448,z12.2129&vintage=2020&cid=H1_001N) you get the population of 197 when selecting the various race data sets, but when selecting the Occupancy data set, the value is 0, suggesting no residences, further reinforcing the fact that this block represents a data anomaly.



While State statute (Article 2, Section 15.10.200 (b)) precludes you from ADJUSTING the census numbers in your work, it does not preclude you from putting the census numbers in context. The context, in this case, is that District 24 is only a "JBER" district in as much as it has a single census block with a population of 197 which appears to be anomalous. In all likelihood, there will be no one living on JBER who will be able to provide the state an address that places them in District 24.

I have heard the District 23-24 pairing justified because Eagle River and Chugiak have a strong military connection. Anecdotally, I agree. I shoot a lot of homes of military officers in Eagle River. Also anecdotally, I shoot a lot of homes of military families in Anchorage. On Thursday, while you were hearing public testimony here, I shot military homes in both House District 22 and House District 18. I currently have military tenants in my duplex in District 21. I've had military tenants in my 3-plex in District 15 in recent years. Those people are all represented where they live.

I have heard the concern that demographically and socially JBER is more similar to Chugiak/Eagle River than Downtown. There are two problems with this argument. First, it ignores the 7200 residents of District 23 who live in Downtown and Muldoon. Those residents unequivocally have more in common with Downtown than Eagle River and Chugiak. They live in houses that are smaller, older, on smaller lots, on city water and sewer, on city maintained roads, versus the larger lots and newer houses and high frequency of wells and septic and local road maintenance in Eagle River and Chugiak. The parts of Downtown and Muldoon inside District 23 are only 40% white (43% if you restrict to Voting Aged Population). District 17 is 51% white (55% VAP). District 24 is 73% white (76% VAP). The Downtown and Muldoon parts of District 23 are absolutely more similar to the population of District 17 than District 24. The JBER part of District 23 is 59% white (60% VAP) – again, 59% is closer to District 17's 51% than District 24's 73%. As a whole, District 23 is 52% white. Taking a substantial minority population like that and burying it in a 73% white district when there are other good options available is a classic sign of a racial gerrymander.

The concern that JBER is more similar to Chugiak/Eagle River when it is demographically more similar to Downtown seems a weak justification for splitting two established communities like Downtown and Eagle River.

I have heard the District 22-9 pairing justified because both districts have rural road service, wells and septic, and they share a long contiguous border through the mountains. These exact same justifications also support pairing the Eagle River Districts 22 and 24. Districts 22 and 24 also both have many homes with wells and septic and they share a long contiguous border through the mountains. But the District 22 and 24 connection is even stronger because they not only share rural road service.... they share the EXACT SAME ROAD SERVICE AREA.

I have also heard the argument that the pairings in 3B are justified due to the Ship Creek hunting area. This is a really tenuous claim for 3 reasons. (1) People from all over the state can



apply for that hunt. (2) This hunt area is entirely contained in District 22. And (3) if you are relying on the constitutional verbiage about drainages to justify Senate pairings, the Ship Creek drainage would support pairing Districts 22 and 23 rather than 23 and 24. In fact, if you are using Drainages for justification, Districts 22 and 24 certainly belong together due to their sharing of the Eagle River drainage.

In the end you have house districts that divide communities by necessity and Senate districts that can pair those communities. Imagine if we were discussing pairings in my old home town of Fairbanks. Imagine you drew house districts which divide downtown Fairbanks along the route of the classic Open North American start line on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. You would want to pair those two house districts in one Senate district if you could.

Or imagine we were discussing pairings in Nome and you had house seats that divided it down Front Street under the Iditarod Burlled Arch. You would pair those house districts in one Senate District if you could.

Or imagine we were discussing Juneau and you had house districts that divided along North and South Franklin Street. You would pair those house districts in one Senate District if you could.

You have an option on the table that clearly corrects the error the court saw in splitting Eagle River and Muldoon. It puts together clear neighborhoods. It brings Muldoon together. It brings neighbors on War Admiral Street in Eagle River together. It puts the ends of the chain of the Iditarod sign on 4<sup>th</sup> avenue into one district. You should adopt Senate Pairings Map #2.

Thank you for your hard work and consideration. As a fellow map maker in the Municipality of Anchorage reapportionment process, I genuinely appreciate how hard this work is.

Denny Wells

Post Script:

There were two factual inaccuracies presented by subsequent speakers today that I would like to address.

1 - Jason Warfield (sp?) testified that the Municipality of Anchorage advocated for pairing Hillside with Eagle River during the Anchorage Reapportionment process. To be precise, neither the Municipality nor the Assembly ever advocated for such a pairing.

Early in the Anchorage Reapportionment process, there were 12 maps, including 4 provided by their mapping contractor, 6 presented by residents and various public interest groups (2 of

them were mine), and 2 provided by Assembly members (one was a map I helped draft). 4 of the 6 resident & interest group maps contained pairings of various parts of Anchorage Hillside or Turnagain Arm with Eagle River. The proponents of those maps, including at least one assembly member, presented similar arguments about lot sizes and road service and mountain contiguity that you are hearing here. One of those Eagle River-Anchorage pairing maps was mine, pairing Stuckagain Heights with Eagle River, which I defended as an unfortunate artifact of maintaining low deviation and because it was the closest part of Anchorage to Eagle River which shared the rural road and water service characteristics. I received a substantial amount of direct feedback against this particular detail, and moved on to drafting and advocating for maps that maintained neighborhood integrity even if they produced slightly higher deviations.

It is inaccurate to state that the Municipality or the Assembly argued in favor of these maps. The Assembly's Reapportionment Committee eliminated 3 of these Anchorage-Eagle River pairing maps (including mine) early on. Only one such map made it to the Assembly floor, and it was not forwarded by the Assembly for final consideration. The Assembly listened to the public testimony, and at the end of the process, even the Assembly Member who argued in favor of the Anchorage-Eagle River pairings voted for the final map which kept Eagle River and South Anchorage intact in their own districts.

2 - Representative Lance Pruitt stated that JBER students go to Eagle River High School. This is a factually accurate but misleading and incomplete statement. JBER High School boundaries are not included in maps from the Anchorage School District, but if you look up JBER addresses via the Anchorage School District School finder, you will see that addresses in the Richardson portion of the base, accessed via the Richardson gate, are zoned to Eagle River, while the addresses in the Elmendorf portion of JBER accessed via Government Hill, Boniface, and Muldoon gates are zoned to Bartlett. The Downtown and Government Hill portions of District 23 are zoned to West High School. In total, in district 23, the populations in the various High School boundaries are these:

Bartlett High School (inside District 23) – 8733 people

West High School (inside District 17) – 4802 people

Eagle River High School (inside District 22) – 4488 people

Two items of note in this data: (1) Eagle River is the smallest (by population) High School connection for District 23, and (2) even if you find the connection to Eagle River High School persuasive, Eagle River High School is the High School of District 22. The High School of District 24 is Chugiak High School. In fact, the school district boundary between Chugiak High School and Eagle River High School is very similar to the boundary you defined between District 22 and 24. If this High School argument is granted any weight, it should weigh in favor of pairing District 23 with 17 first, and District 23 with 22 second, and it establishes no particular connection between District 23 and 24.