

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

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P.O. Box 101345
Anchorage, Alaska 99510

Alaska Redistricting Board
P.O. Box 240147
Anchorage, AK 99524

September 16, 2021

Dear Members of the Alaska Redistricting Board:

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) wishes you well in your efforts to produce a fair and nonpartisan redistricting plan for the citizens of the State of Alaska. We are enclosing a copy of the LWVAK Position on Election Processes and Procedures, Section I of which includes an outline for a fair and representative redistricting process. We hope that this can be of value to you as you continue your important work. Fair and nonpartisan redistricting will strengthen our democracy, a factor that we all appreciate.

Thanks for your time and effort in this most important process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Andree". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Judy Andree, President
League of Women Voters of Alaska
including the Board of Directors
and League members throughout the State of Alaska

Statement of Position

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) believes voting is a fundamental citizen's right that must be guaranteed. LWVAK works to protect that right and to increase voter participation by all citizens. The LWVAK believes the state has an obligation to provide voters with accurate information so that voters can make reasoned choices. The LWVAK supports elections that are free, fair, and accessible and transparent.

I. REDISTRICTING

The League of Women Voters of Alaska (LWVAK) believes that current redistricting guidelines have historically lead to partisan redistricting, despite the intent of the Alaska Constitution. LWVAK supports a process that is independent from the legislature and other elected and appointed persons, that is non-partisan, favors no incumbents or political parties, and promotes electoral competition. Redistricting board composition should reflect the diversity of the state, including citizens-at-large, representatives of public interest groups, and members of minority groups and a range of socioeconomic groups rather than political party interests in Alaska, where the majority of registered voters are nonpartisan or undeclared.

Whether through Constitutional amendment or Alaska state statutes, the procedures and standards of the Alaska Redistricting Board should include the following points:

- A. Specific timelines for the steps leading to a redistricting plan.
- B. Redistricting must be accomplished in an open, unbiased procedure with citizen participation and access at all levels and steps of the process of redistricting at every level of government.
- C. Individuals should be eligible to serve on the Redistricting Board only if they satisfy additional criteria designed to increase the degree to which members of the Board are both independent and perceived to be independent from elected officials.
- D. Redistricting efforts should be subject to open meeting laws with full disclosure throughout with a process using public hearings, electronic meetings, and written notice on the plan(s) proposed for adoption.
- E. The redistricting plan adopted by the Redistricting Board should meet the following provisions:
 1. Adoption of the plan with more than a simple majority voter of the board.
 2. Resources and staffing available equally to all board members.
 3. Reviews of fairness using recognized geographic, quantitative, and geometric testing. Such testing should be used to test for (and weed out) extreme unfairness, rather than aiming for a purportedly "ideal" score on one or more quantitative measures.
 4. Posting to the public should include written notice, public hearings in multiple locations and electronic meeting opportunities, and development and maintenance of an online presence.
 5. Technology should be made available for public use so that citizens can make, submit, and evaluate suggested maps or portions of maps relevant to local communities.
 6. In addition to existing Alaskan redistricting standards (Alaska Constitution, article VI, Section 6) expressly specify as a matter of state law adherence to standards specified in the U.S. Voting Rights Act.

Judicial Review

Speedy judicial review and appeal is of paramount importance to ensure that each election is conducted under a plan that is not in contention. The court should promptly review and rule on any challenge to a redistricting plan and require adjustments if the standards have not been met. Time limits should be set for initiating court action for review.

Provisions should be made for court review of redistricting measures and for courts to require the redistricting board to act on a predetermined schedule. Remedial provisions should be established in the event that the redistricting authority fails to enact a plan. A plan approved by the court should be enforceable by the court.

II. METHODS OF VOTING

The LWVAK supports a variety of voting methods, in addition to voting at the polls, which provide cost effective opportunities to maintain and expand access to the voting process for all eligible voters.

III. FELON RIGHTS

The LWVAK supports providing the right to vote to felons who have completed their incarceration time rather than having this right restored after their probation and/or parole. Further, the LWVAK supports the provision of appropriate information and assistance to felons who have completed their incarceration in order to facilitate their voter registration or re-registration.

IV. VOTER ID REQUIREMENTS AT THE POLLS

Identification required of registered voters at the polls should be readily available to all citizens at no cost, including the indirect cost of obtaining proof of identity such as birth certificates. Voters should be able to use one of several forms of identification.

V. VOTER INFORMATION

The LWVAK supports the publication and distribution of a State of Alaska Voter's Pamphlet prior to each statewide primary and general election.

In addition to the pamphlet contents itemized in AS 15.58.020, LWVAK believes the following:

- a. All ballot measures must include official explanatory statements of effects on a "yes" vote and a "no" vote, fiscal impact, and summaries of the main arguments for and against the measures.
- b. The number of arguments for and against the measures should be limited.
- c. Ballot titles and measures need to be stated in clear, concise language and should avoid confusing negatives.
- d. The pamphlet shall not contain political advertisement by political parties, other organizations or individuals, including candidates.

VI. VOTING SECURITY

The LWVAK concurs with the LWV of the United States' position on voting systems that are designed, developed, and implemented so that the following is followed:

- a. The voting systems employ a voter-verifiable paper ballot or other paper record, said paper

being the official record of the voter's intent. This should not preclude the use of ballot-marking devices that produce a voter-verifiable paper ballot, including devices that facilitate voting by persons with disabilities and those whose primary language is not English.

- b. The voter can verify, either by eye or with the aid of suitable devices for those who have impaired vision, that the paper ballot/record accurately reflects his or her intent.
- c. Such verification takes place while the voter is still in the process of voting.
- d. The paper ballot/record is used for audits and recounts.
- e. The vote totals can be verified by independent hand count of the paper ballot/record.
- f. Routine audits of the paper ballot/record in randomly selected precincts are conducted in every election, and the results published by the jurisdiction

League of Women Voters of Alaska
Position Adopted 2015; Revised 2019

Date: September 23, 2021, 5:10 am

First Name: **Kathleen**

Last Name: **Ashmore Roberts**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99645**

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

Public Comment: **As a long-time resident of N. Wolverine Rd. (past the canyon), I was dismayed when, in 2013, this community became part of District 9. Since 1983 I have voted at Lazy Mountain Bible Church polling station, with the rest of Lazy Mountain. Our polling place is now at Farm Loop and most likely has decreased voting participation from N. Wolverine. Our representation does not reflect on our community at large. We do not have the same needs, issues, or problems as Farm Loop, Valdez, or the vast area in between. Our community council represents all of Clark-Wolverine Rd and Wolverine Rd past the end of the state maintained road. I respectfully request that N. Wolverine Rd. be returned to it's previous representative status.**



Chevak Traditional Council

P.O. Box 140

Chevak, Alaska 99563

(907) 858-7428 fax (907) 858-7812
chevaktc@gmail.com

7/20/2021

Alaska Redistricting Board

P.O. BOX 240147

Anchorage, AK 99503

ATTENTION: John Binkley, Chair

RE: Chevak Letter for Bethel Region in 2021

Dear Mr. Binkley and the Alaska Redistricting Board,

This letter is in response to the Redistricting process that will be taking place soon for our great State of Alaska and our Chevak Native Village. We feel that this process is crucial to our tribal members and what the process of Redistricting can do to a region.

Our main hub for services is out of Bethel that contributes and assists many Y-K Delta villages, including Chevak. We rely heavily on this for all of our community needs like groceries, mail, freight, and transportation service for health purposes.

Aside from that, many of our services and programs are intertwined with other agencies such as Yukon-Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) and Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP) that we are funded from with other Y-K Delta villages.

Air carrier services is channeled thru Bethel which benefits our community for travel, freight, and mail deliveries from outside the region.

Our tribe does work with many other Bethel-based groups as well, both politically and professionally; with this we feel that Chevak Native Village shall remain within the Kusilvak Census district as we have always been included in that. If possible, could our area have its own Census district aside from the Kusilvak Census district?

I appreciate all that you do and continue to work towards, please take this into consideration and we applaud you all for your time and effort. Have a Blessed Day and God Bless!

Cordially,

Roy J. Atchak

Village Chief

Hughes Village Council
Hudotl'eeekkaakk'e Tribe
P.O Box 45029
Hughes, AK 99745
(907) 889-2239 Phone (907) 889-2252 Fax

September 1, 2021

Alaska Redistricting Board
P.O. Box 240147
Anchorage, AK 99524

RE: Support for map submitted by Doyon, Limited and partners

Dear Members of the Alaska Redistricting Board,

This letter is to express our support for the map by Doyon, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, and Sealaska submitted to the Redistricting Board of Alaska.

In the past, Alaska Native involvement in the redistricting process have been heavily reliant on the court system. We write now in hopes that this board will be willing to achieve apportionment that accurately reflects the many cultures and values that make up over one fifth of Alaskans that identify as Alaska Native.

We urge this Board to give strong consideration to the map developed by Doyon, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, and Sealaska. The work that these organizations have done as it relates to an accurate Census count and to communicate the impacts of redistricting as a means to advance or suppress the political power of Alaska Natives has been significant and we are grateful for the opportunity to stand together on this critical issue.

From acknowledging tribal sovereignty to protecting the land and resources, we should be able to hold our representatives accountable and be sure that they are truly representing the interests of our people.

In the past, the Interior Alaska Native communities have been fractured in deference to keeping a certain balance in the greater Fairbanks, Northern, and Western Alaska. The map presented to you by Doyon and partners, if adopted, would be the first time in recent decades that the Interior Athabascan communities will have an influential voice in Juneau.

In developing a map that seeks fair and unfractured representation, it is not fair to lump all Alaska Natives together. Small communities will suffer if used as "filler" to reach target populations without thought and consideration given to their individual priorities. Doyon and partners have endeavored to give deference to ANCSA regions, river systems, and local government boundaries while maintaining our cultural and familial connections.

Please strongly consider utilizing the map provided by Doyon and partners as a starting point for your work.

Sincerely,



Wilmer Beetus
1st Chief

From: Becky Bitzer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:02 AM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Redistricting Testimony

Hello,

In advance of this morning's meeting, I would like to voice my support for the report put forward to the board by Alaskans for Fair Redistricting. After reviewing the report, I believe it represents a path forward that is respectful of natural community and socioeconomic boundaries.

As an Anchorage resident, I reviewed those sections of the AFFR report as well as map 1 put forward by the Board. With the Board's map, I am most concerned with the proposal to combine East Anchorage and Eagle River, which are two distinct communities. Eagle River should be kept together with two House Seats and one Senate District. JBER has closer ties to Eagle River than residents of Muldoon and therefore should be connected with Eagle River, rather than pulling from Muldoon's population. The AFFR map divides JBER by gates and ensures Eagle River has its own Senate District separate from East Anchorage.

Overall, the AFFR Map places a priority on keeping defined neighborhoods within Anchorage intact and does not split them between districts. Please consider moving forward with the AFFR map instead of the one proposed by the Board.

Thank you,

Becky

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

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

Date: September 18, 2021, 2:43 am

First Name: **Carole**

Last Name: **Bookless**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99824**

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

Public Comment: **I have created a plan which is viewable here:**

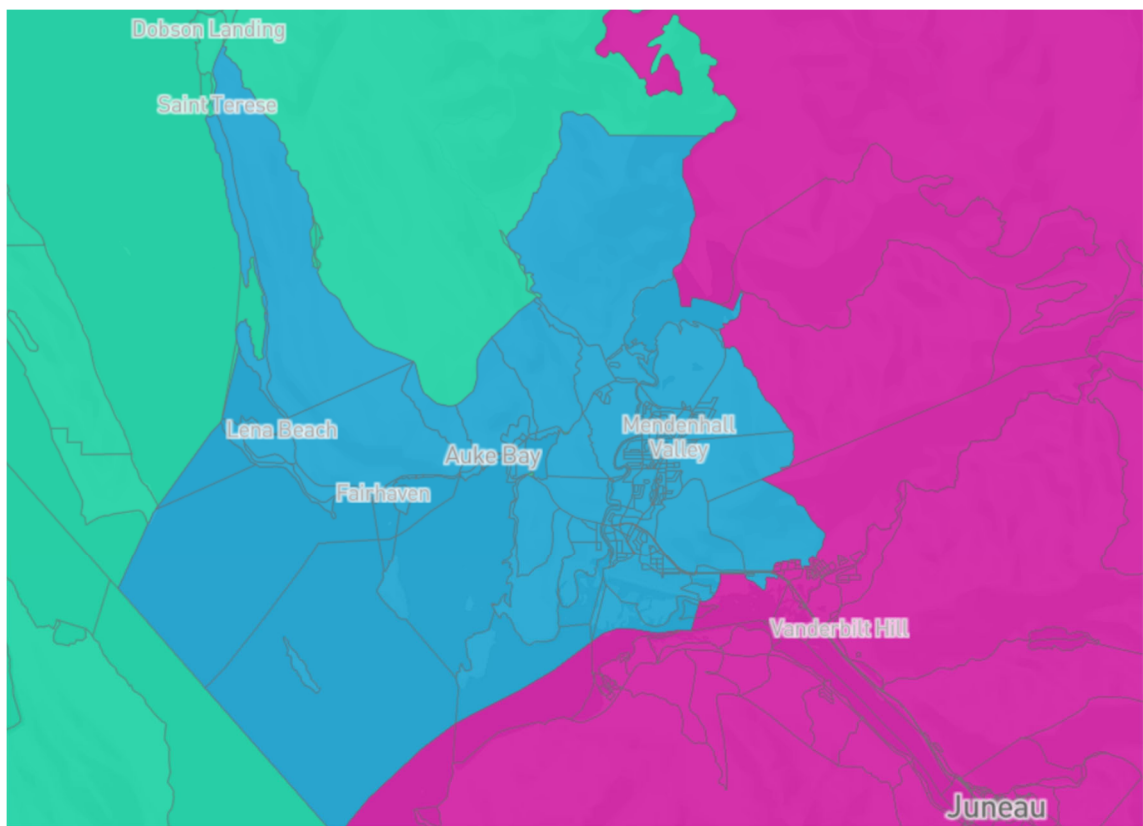
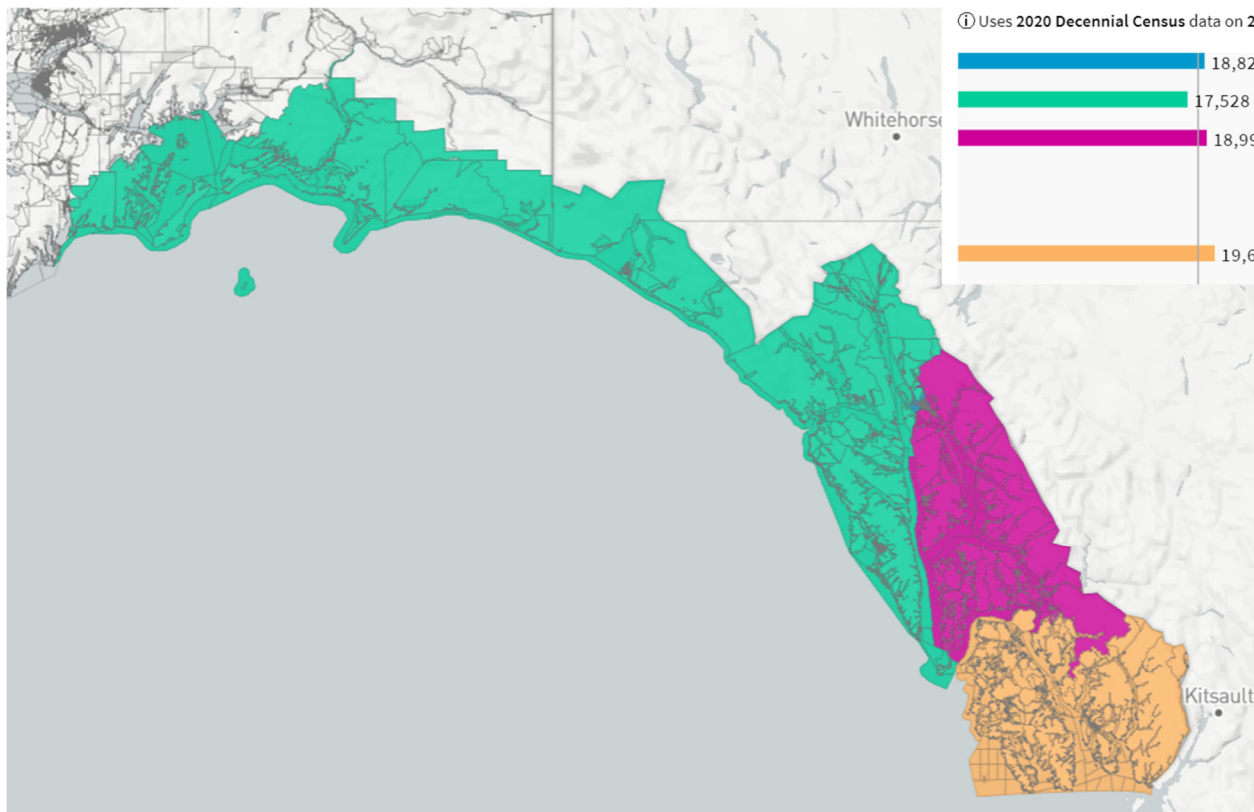
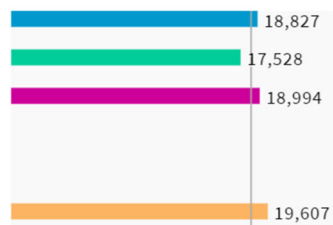
<https://www.akredistrict.org/create/view.html?p=48886>

Online Plan ID: **48886**

URL to view Plan ID: <https://www.akredistrict.org/create/edit.html?p=48886>

▼ Population Balance

① Uses 2020 Decennial Census data on 2020 Blocks.



From: Ryan Broussard <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 11:04 AM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: September 24, 2021, 11:04 am

First Name: **Ryan**

Last Name: **Broussard**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99635**

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

Public Comment: **Nikiski took in and supported the oil and fertilizer plants as well as platforms and other industries for the last 50 years.**

Industrial activity is smelly, ugly and dangerous.

I do not support ANY boundary changes to our hard working community. A large population of citizens are fighting for incorporation so Nikiski can be its own city. Boundary changes would be destructive to our plans and steal long earned tax revenue from our community.

Date: September 22, 2021, 11:37 am

First Name: **Ann**

Last Name: **Brown**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

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

Public Comment: **My name is Ann Brown, and I am a 36 year resident of the State of Alaska. I have lived in the Interior and Southcentral Alaska, and am currently a resident of Anchorage. My comments today are mine and mine alone. I do not speak for anyone or any organization but myself.**

I wanted to take this opportunity to add to the record with respect to a matter that came up in the September 17 session.

During Friday's session there was discussion about the role of community councils in drawing house districts, and supporting the idea of larger deviations to comport with local community councils. I wanted the record to reflect this is contrary to Alaska Supreme Court precedent, with respect to the issue of Anchorage neighborhood patterns. The Alaska Supreme Court stated In Re 2001 Redistricting Cases:

"But as we held in Groh v. Egan, Anchorage neighborhood patterns cannot justify "substantial disparities" in population equality across Anchorage districts. Anchorage is by definition socio-economically integrated, and its population is sufficiently dense and evenly spread to allow multiple combinations of compact, contiguous districts with minimal population deviations." In Re 2001 Redistricting Cases, 44 P.3d 141 (Alaska 2002)

Specifically, in Groh v Egan, Justice Boochever, writing for the majority stated: "The testimony in the court below indicated that there are few if any homogeneous socio-economic areas within the Greater Anchorage Area Borough, and that patterns of housing, income levels and minority residency are difficult to delineate. While such patterns may form a basis for districting, they lack the necessary significance to justify the substantial disparities of 5.9, 6.5 and 8.6 percent. In an urban area such as Anchorage, more mathematical exactness can be achieved than in the sparsely settled portions of the state where pockets of culturally and economically divergent populations may be separated by geographic barriers." Groh v. Egan, 526 P.2d 863 (Alaska 1974)

Consequently, I would speak in support of the AFFER map approach to the Anchorage districts which are multiple combinations of compact, contiguous districts with minimal population deviations, using as boundaries major streets and creeks.

From: Zachary Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:39 AM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Testimony: please redraw maps that pit D/I against each other

Hello,

My name is Zach Brown and I live in Gustavus, Alaska. My representative is Sara Hannan. I was disappointed, but not surprised, to see a majority-Republican redistricting board draw a draft Juneau map with a suspicious-looking finger extending out to capture the residence of Andi Story, forcing Democrats Story and Hannan to run against each other.

It was also suspicious to see similar things happen to Democrats across the state, but not to Republicans.

Please redraw these obviously-politically-motivated maps that force D incumbents to face off, or risk losing all credibility as a nonpartisan board.

Thank you for your consideration,
Zach Brown,
Gustavus, AK

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 20, 2021, 1:25 pm

First Name: **Karen**

Last Name: **Cameron**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Composite v.1 District 21, 22, 23 Border**

Public Comment: **Centennial Village is a planned community for residents over 65. It is distinct from the nearby areas in terms of geography in that it is like a wooded forest unto itself. There are 8 - 10 separate apartment buildings housing between 400 - 500 senior residents. On this particular map it cuts the community campus into 2 separate areas, the lower**

southern boundary being in district 23, and the upper part of the campus in a much lighter green yellow. Other maps of 21 and 23 make this even more confusing due to the colors involved.

Centennial Village had been one unified area for scores of years until the last census when it was inexplicably chopped into two districts. It is, by any measure, one unified whole. People live, sleep, shop, eat, re-create etc together. The affiliations are with the new Muldoon Park, Fred Meyers, Target, Walmart, local veterinarians, cleaners, restaurants etc. There is no affiliation with the Matsu which is

primarily 13 miles away. Our library, social services, arts, assembly districts, community councils etc are all integrated with one Centennial Village. Please do not draw an artificial line as the seniors there do not live that way. Thank you.

From: Diana Carbonell <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 9:21 AM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: September 25, 2021, 9:20 am

First Name: **Diana**

Last Name: **Carbonell**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **version 3 and version 4**

Public Comment: **Both version three and version four grab "Fritz Creek" where I reside, from Homer, where it has been rightfully placed for at least the 30 years of my residency, to Kodiak and Cordova. Fritz Creek is not a coastal community. it has no public access to the water. It is a bedroom community of Homer that wouldn't be in existence without it. Our media, shopping, public services and schools lay almost entirely within Homer. We have zero connection with Kodiak or Cordova. All the remaining maps recognize this rightful connection with Homer.**

-----Original Message-----

From: TamelaC [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 10:10 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Metlakatla redistributing

I is foolish to redistribute Metlakatla into anywhere but with Ketchikan to you people not know where it is? Utterly shameful and ignorant proposal. One would think it were written by leftist saboteurs. Pathetic proposal. Ignorant of facts.

Tamela Cegelske

Sent from my iPhone

From: Margaret Clabby <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 1:39 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Juli Lucky
Subject: ++ Contact Us Response

A website response from the Contact Us form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: September 20, 2021, 1:38 pm

First Name: **Margaret**

Last Name: **Clabby**

Email or Phone: [REDACTED]

Comments or Concerns: **Just saw your new Version 3. Wow! You fixed Southeast!!!**

If for some reason that doesn't work for you, try this:

Just leave all 4 Southeast districts as they are currently, except add Yakutat to the Sitka/Petersburg/N. POW. current district 35 . Then balance the existing Dist. 34 and and 33. And done.

But your V-3 looks great and addresses my Ketchikan concerns. . . so thanks. (But put Southern POW (Hydaburg) back into Dist. 1 if you feel like it.--Would be identical to current Dist. 36).

Thanks for all your hard work!!

From: Murray Crookes [REDACTED] >
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 9:31 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Redistricting testimony

My name is Murray Crookes. I live and work in the Northeast/Muldoon part of town that is being threatened to be split with the current redistricting plans. I cannot abide to let this pass without letting my voice be known. As a pastor, voting volunteer, parent and husband that lives in this area, I cannot imagine how my representative could also represent a portion of Eagle River. I do not live in Eagle River and am a part of a community here in East Anchorage. I do not believe a representative from there will take my concerns or the concerns of my neighbors seriously at all. As I tirelessly work to keep my congregation and family safe, I see a bounty of people ignoring simple acts of caring during the pandemic in Eagle River, specifically among its elected representatives, with even less regard going further into the valley. Please do not separate the representation that faithfully represents my community for what appears to be partisan gerrymandering. I sincerely implore you.

-Murray Crookes

Pastor, Every Nation United Methodist Church

From: Dennis DeWitt <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 5:07 AM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: September 24, 2021, 5:06 am

First Name: **Dennis**

Last Name: **DeWitt**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99801**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Proposed Plan v.3**

Public Comment: **My name is Dennis DeWitt. I have been a voting resident of the proposed District 4 for over 40 years. I am familiar with both the geography and demographics of northern Southeast Alaska, Juneau and the Lynn Canal areas.**

I support the Board Proposed Plan v.3 configuration of Districts 3 and 4.

District 3 is geographically coherent, compact and within the boundaries of the City and Borough of Juneau. Many of the residents in that district are connected by government employment or jobs connected to government activities.

District 4 naturally links with Haines and Skagway. The area out the road is similar to the areas in Haines. We are linked by the ferry system and with the intent to move the ferry terminal to Cascade Point, the connection will be even stronger. Both the Juneau portion of the district and Haines have strong interest in mining, with Haines residents working in the two Juneau mines and the development of the Constantine Mine in Haines.

I believe the Board Proposal Plan v.3 will provide a coherent district 4 and will provide a district that will well serve the residents of the proposed district.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed new legislative districts.

From: Lois Epstein [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:26 AM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Additional testimony submitted

Hello. I was unable to speak at the beginning of today's meeting and would like to provide the following testimony:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your service on the Redistricting Board. My name is Lois Epstein and I am an Alaska-licensed engineer with a small business consultancy on oil and gas issues. I live in Downtown Anchorage.

I want to raise three troubling points about Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting's map. First, as former Representative Giessel noted earlier today, Nikiski does not belong with South Anchorage. I spend a lot of time in Nikiski as I have close friends there and they have spoken to me about their lack of shared interests with Anchorage.

Second, during Friday's meeting, the Board asked AFFER why Ester was not included in Fairbanks districts, i.e., why that community was the one that had been pulled out given Fairbanks numbers. Mr. Ruedrich was not able to explain the reasoning and I think most of us suspect that Ester's political inclination is the reason. That is unacceptable.

Third, AFFER's map separates Ketchikan and Saxman which is problematic.

I believe these three problems are serious enough that the Board should consider not including this map among those presented to the public.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to develop a redistricting plan with integrity that meets all state and federal legal requirements.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date/Time: 9/22/2021

Name: Charlie Franz

Affiliation:

Email or Phone: [REDACTED]

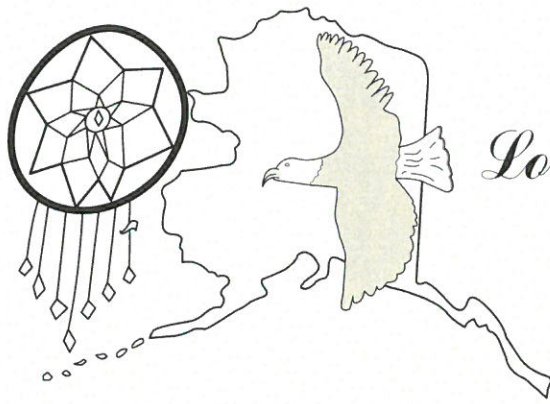
Public Comment: I have reviewed the V4 maps and am concerned that Voznesenka and Rasdolna have been removed from the new D6 (old D31). These communities have a much closer socio-economic alignment with the Homer area than the Kodiak & Cordova areas. I suggest that Hope be moved to D9 and the northern boundary of D6 be moved south enough to reduce its population as necessary for balancing, with that population moved to D8 to make up for the loss of Hope. Thank you for your work on this difficult task and for considering my input.
Charlie Franz

From: Jered Gebel [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 7:10 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Confused about Juneau's redistricting

Hey guys and gals, I'm a resident of Juneau in the Mendenhall Valley. Never commented on an issue like this before. I'm very, very curious on the reasoning behind the weird drawing of the Distric 3 and 4. What's with that? It has that silly little notch for a little neighborhood in Auke Bay, and goes along street lines so neighborhoods are split apart. Previously the line was over in Lemon Creek and it made sense. Then also there's odd wiggles and such over uninhabited areas. Why are those there?

Lastly....is this the place to get those questions answered? or is there a better email/phone number?

--
Jered Gebel



Louden Tribal Council

P.O. Box 244
Galena, Alaska 99741
Phone (907) 656-1711
Fax (907) 656- 2491

September 20, 2021

Dear members of the Alaska Redistricting Board,

We write in support of this Board giving strong consideration to the map developed by Doyon, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, and Sealaska. The work that these organizations have done as it relates to an accurate Census count and to communicate the impacts of redistricting as a means to advance or suppress the political power of Alaska Natives has been significant and we are grateful for the opportunity to stand together on this critical issue.

From acknowledging tribal sovereignty to protecting the land and resources, we should be able to hold our representatives accountable and be sure that they are truly representing the interests of our people. We hope that this board will be willing to achieve apportionment that accurately reflects the many cultures and values that make up over one fifth of Alaskans that identify as Alaska Native.

In the past, the Interior Alaska Native communities that make up the Tanana Chiefs and Doyon region have been fractured in deference to keeping a certain balance in the greater Fairbanks and Northern and Western Alaska. Our northern communities of Alatna, Allakaket, and Evansville have very different interests than those of the North Slope region and have too little population to impact the vote in the current HD40. That is also true of our YK subregion that is currently paired with west coast communities and our GASH villages that have been splintered from upper Yukon communities to fill in HD37. The map presented to you by Doyon and partners, if adopted, would be the first time in recent decades that the Interior Athabascan communities will have an influential and unified voice in Juneau.

Doyon and partners have endeavored to give deference to ANCSA regions, river systems, and local government boundaries while maintaining our cultural and familial connections. Please strongly consider utilizing the map provided by Doyon and partners as a starting point for your work.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlie Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Charlie Green, First Cheif

From: Nathan Helmer <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 7:19 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: September 24, 2021, 7:19 pm

First Name: **Nathan**

Last Name: **Helmer**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99588**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Proposed Map #3 and Doyon Proposed Map**

Public Comment: **I currently reside in the Copper River Valley and have lived in the Eastern Interior and the Southeast Panhandle. My first concern is with Valdez. It should not be included in the sprawling district that makes a horseshoe around Fairbanks. The culture, the economy the terrain and the climate is so vastly different then the rest of the small communities proposed for that district. Valdez is a coastal town, it needs to be included with places like Cordova, Whittier, Yakutak, Seward or Homer. Even tying it in with Southeast would make more sense. That's the other thing, Skagway and Haines have more in common with the above mentioned areas or Sitka, Wrangell and Petersburg than with North Juneau. Mendenhall, Auke Bay and Lemon Creek always will drown out the 3,500 or so people of the Upper Lynn Canal. My final point will be on the Copper River Valley Region. For goodness sake's, don't split the Copper Valley up again! Glennallen or Tolsona should not be in a separate district than Kenny Lake or Gulkana. It makes it very confusing. We all shop at the same stores, eat at the same restaurants, hunt and fish in the same areas, visit the same clinics, work at the same companies and go to the the same churches. Lake Louise and McCarthy need to be in the same district, Eureka and Chitina need to be in the same district. Kenny Lake and Glennallen need to be in the same district. Copper Center and Nelchina need to be in the same district. Gakona and Men deltna need to be in the same district. In reality the Copper River Basin is one united Socio-economical Region. Splitting the valley in half with the Richardson Highway or the Pipeline makes no sense. Your Coworker or Sister or even your neighbor lives just on the other side..... and they have to vote at a different location for different candidates? It has been that way for the last ten years and this is the year to change that. Thank you for your difficult work on putting together a fair map. Respectfully Submitted, Nathan**

Tozitna, Limited

P.O. Box 129, Tanana, AK 99777 ♦ Telephone 907-366-7255

September 13, 2021

Alaska Redistricting Board
P.O. Box 240147
Anchorage, AK 99524

RE: Support for map submitted by Doyon, Limited and partners

Dear Members of the Alaska Redistricting Board,

This letter is to express our support for the map by Doyon, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, and Sealaska submitted to the Redistricting Board of Alaska.

In the past, Alaska Native involvement in the redistricting process have been heavily reliant on the court system. We write now in hopes that this board will be willing to achieve apportionment that accurately reflects the many cultures and values that make up over one fifth of Alaskans that identify as Alaska Native.

We urge this Board to give strong consideration to the map developed by Doyon, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, and Sealaska. The work that these organizations have done as it relates to an accurate Census count and to communicate the impacts of redistricting as a means to advance or suppress the political power of Alaska Natives has been significant and we are grateful for the opportunity to stand together on this critical issue.

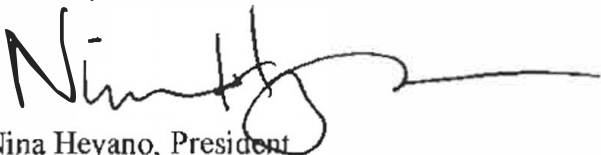
From acknowledging tribal sovereignty to protecting the land and resources, we should be able to hold our representatives accountable and be sure that they are truly representing the interests of our people.

In the past, the Interior Alaska Native communities have been fractured in deference to keeping a certain balance in the greater Fairbanks, Northern, and Western Alaska. The map presented to you by Doyon and partners, if adopted, would be the first time in recent decades that the Interior Athabascan communities will have an influential voice in Juneau.

In developing a map that seeks fair and unfractured representation, it is not fair to lump all Alaska Natives together. Small communities will suffer if used as "filler" to reach target populations without thought and consideration given to their individual priorities. Doyon and partners have endeavored to give deference to ANCSA regions, river systems, and local government boundaries while maintaining our cultural and familial connections.

Please strongly consider utilizing the map provided by Doyon and partners as a starting point for your work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nina Heyano', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nina Heyano, President

Tozitna. Ltd.

Date: September 21, 2021, 2:40 pm

First Name: **Ellen** Last Name: **Jaimes**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Comments on initial maps proposed (summary of oral testimony previously delivered)**

Public Comment: **Thank you to the board and everyone working behind the scenes on Alaska's redistricting and for this opportunity to testify.**

I live in Anchorage's University Area and identify strongly with the University Area Community Council. As with other community council districts in Anchorage (the previous speaker from West Anchorage was sharing similar sentiment re: his cc area in the testimony provided previous to mine), both of the proposed maps split up several community council districts, including mine. I would encourage the board and staff to try to follow community council boundaries as much as possible; I believe it is possible to stay close to both the community council boundaries and the target populations for the district.

Second, I'd like to speak to the proposed drop of District 22 into North East Anchorage in the V.1 map. As a longtime resident of North East Anchorage (prior to moving to my current address) I don't think it makes sense to combine these communities because they have very different interests. This is perhaps most illustrated by Eagle River's current effort to leave the municipality of Anchorage... additionally, Eagle River and North East Anchorage each have their own distinct business districts, making them economically distinct. Finally, rather than splitting along the highway, the boundary of this district would make more sense to run horizontally across the highway rather than north - south.

Finally, I will close with a similar agreement against the combination of the MatSu and Anchorage as this would again combine distinct and different socio-economic areas. The MatSu is home to most of the agricultural industry in Alaska, which would not be represented well if combined with Anchorage. In addition, both have very large, separate school districts, interests and values.

I understand it is not an easy task to propose and negotiate these maps and I want to sincerely thank you for your efforts and your willingness to be responsive to this public testimony.

Sincerely,

Ellen

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 20, 2021, 11:11 am

First Name: **Leon** Last Name: **Jaimes**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Composite v1**

Public Comment: **Hello Redistricting Board,**

Thank you so much for your work to ensure fairness in the redistricting process, which is vital to protecting democracy. I am following up on my telephonic testimony given on Friday, September 17th, 2021.

For the greater Anchorage metropolitan area, I don't believe that combining portions of the Anchorage Municipality and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough (MatSu) makes sense. The MatSu Borough is home to what I believe is a majority of Alaska's agricultural industry, while Anchorage has very little agriculture. Anchorage and MatSu also have separate school districts. In addition, Anchorage population growth is geographically inhibited and has existing challenges with affordable housing. The MatSu on the other hand is growing rapidly, and has an abundance of land which is on the road system that is being developed. These are just some of the examples of the way the two areas differ, which make any combining of them counter to socioeconomic integration.

We live in the current House District 17. The proposed district 18 is over the target population and it appears to grow the district Northeast of Boniface which goes into the Northeast Community Council area. It also goes North of DeBarr into the Russian Jack Community Council area. These are distinctly different different neighborhoods. I ride my bicycle around quite a bit, and that gives me a good sense of what the different neighborhoods feel like. The northern part of the proposed district 18 is home to a higher density of multi-family housing, sports fields, and aligns with the landing trajectory of Merrill Field runway/s. The southern and western part of the district is home to some of Anchorage's largest medical campuses, as well as a higher density of single family homes. I believe that the proposed district 18 could be better drawn to follow compactness or communities of interest without breaking up the current University Area Community Council, Northeast Community Council, and Russian Jack Community Council Areas. I would encourage the board to utilize Community Council areas as much as possible.

Following my testimony, I was asked if I thought that expansion north/south, or east/west was preferable, I stated that I thought east/west was preferable.

Thank you all for your tireless work on this!

Warm regards,

**Leon Jaimes
Anchorage, AK**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

From: Kim Jones [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 6:10 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Support for Alaskans for Fair Redistricting Map

Hello,

I would like to request that the board adopt the redistricting map proposed by Alaskans for Fair Redistricting. For one thing, the AFFR maps treat Matsu, Eagle River, and Anchorage as distinct socioeconomic communities. I've lived in Alaska for over a decade and it only took me about a month to see the differences in these three areas. The people of Eagle River are currently working towards an Eagle Exit, so it only makes sense to consider them one community. If Muldoon was lumped in with Eagle River they would never receive the support that they need, being one of our most diverse communities. The AFFR map puts Eagle River into two House Districts, allowing it to be its own Senate District.

Board Map 1 lumps much of West Anchorage into one large House district from downtown to Kinkaid and Board Map 2 puts Turnagain with Downtown Anchorage! I live in Turnagain and can tell you that this does not make sense. The AFFR map instead puts Turnagain in the same district as Spenard, Westchester, and Bootleggers Cove. I walk along the coastal trail nearly every day and make the trek from Turnagain to Westchester Lagoon and back almost once a week. I nearly always see my neighbors that live along the trail. That is my community and it only makes sense to have us represented in a single House District. Downtown Anchorage is incredibly distinct from Turnagain in every aspect and it does not make sense to lump them together.

Thank you in advance for taking the AFFR map on the road with you!

- Kim

--

Kimberly King Jones
[REDACTED]

From: Emily Kane <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 4:18 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Redistricting

I live in Juneau.

Why is "out the road" in Auke Bay (which actually is connected to my neighborhood by ROAD) being assigned to Skagway, which can only be accessed by boat or plane from where I live?

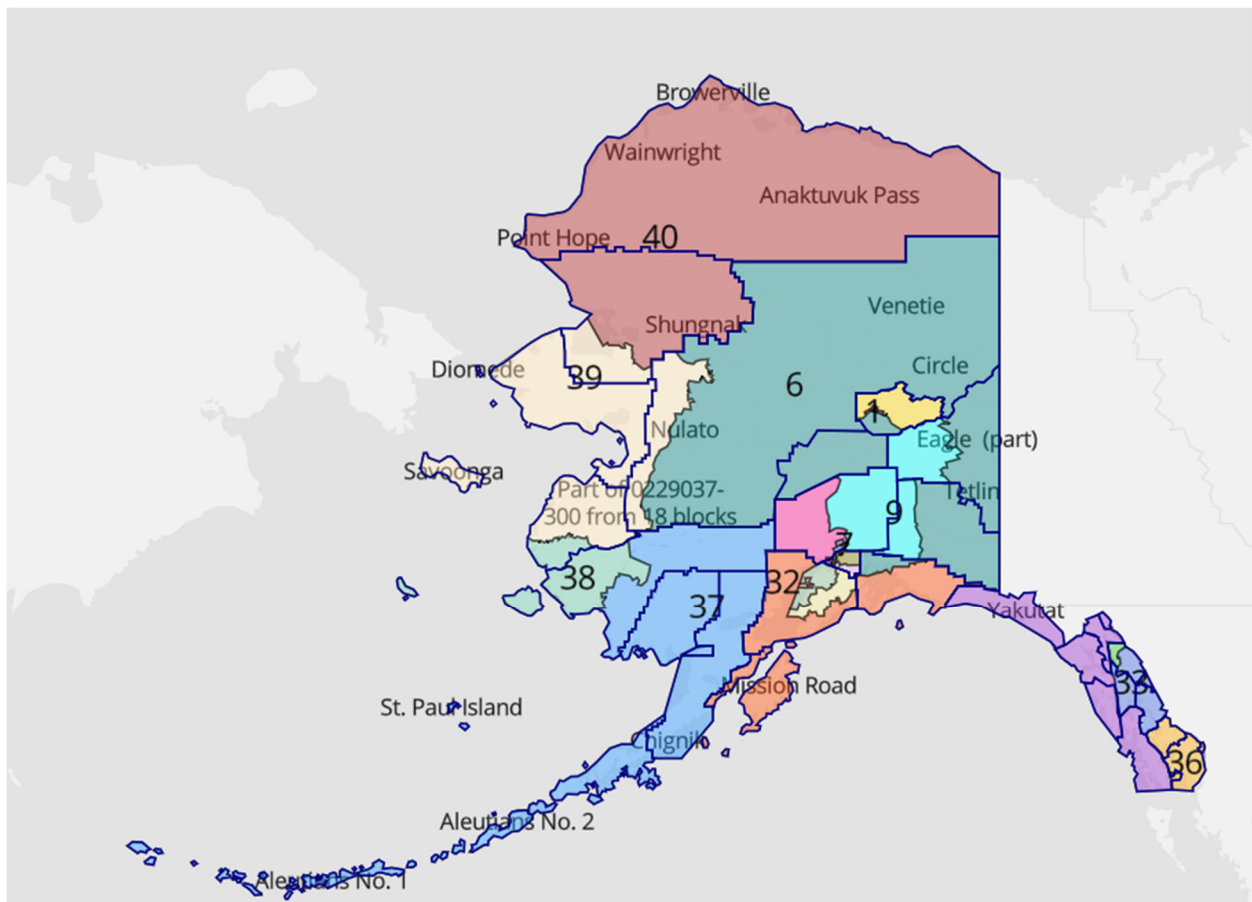
I thought gerrymandering was illegal?

Please put this map back in the mix. It is fair and accurate.

https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::204e7f39-c026-4a6d-bcb4-ad92d41127fa?link_id=18&can_id=a1f7b5d4778749c14e3c1c091a029389&source=email-tall-tales-from-juneau-were-on-top-of-this-wait-no-were-not&email_referrer=email_1300753&email_subject=tall-tales-from-juneau-were-on-top-of-this-wait-no-were-not

Thank you
Dr Emily Kane

[REDACTED]



From: Iris Kober <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:15 AM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: September 22, 2021, 11:15 am

First Name: **Iris**

Last Name: **Kober**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99926**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **No to Sitka**

Public Comment: **We do a lot of Business with Ketchikan, Dan Ortiz has been coming to Metlakatla and giving us concerns like the Ferry Schedule**

the decline in Service throughout Southeast Alaska by Moving us to Sitka district will add another layer of difficulty and unnecessary steps in working with our neighbors Ketchikan in any economic development that we are currently engaged in and hope to be in the future. Sitka only comes through when voting approaches, Ketchikan has always made it here on big discussions much easier to travel from Ketchikan to Metlakatla 15 minutes by Taquan Air, 45 minutes by AMHS M/V Lituya.

Date: September 22, 2021, 6:38 pm

First Name: **Ray**

Last Name: **Kreig**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **AFFER Map - D 37, D 38 & D 39 for Calista Region**

Public Comment: **The Calista Region's total population in Bethel Census Area and the Kusilvak Census Area is 27,034.**

This Calista Region population equals 1.474 Alaska State House Districts in the 2021 map and 0.737 Alaska Senate Districts.

The Calista Region's population has been in 2 or 3 districts in recent Alaska State House Maps (District 37, 38 and 39). Two house districts with the largest Calista Region population have been placed in separate Senate Districts. The Calista senate representation has been unacceptably diluted for decades. Their 2013 representation has been slightly over 50% in Senate District S and less than 18% in Senate District T.

In 2011, the Alaska Supreme Court in Riley found City of Fairbanks senate representation must not be split into two Senate Districts. Since the Calista Region does not have the legal status of a City, Calista may not reach for similar protection.

The best Calista Region anti-dilution option is to increase its District 37 population which adds directly to the Calista representation in Senate District S. The Southern Villages of the Lower Kuskokwim School District are assigned to the AFFER District 37 to make D 37 more compact.

These Calista villages replace Doyon Yukon River and Upper Kuskokwim River villages in AFFER District 37. These Calista Villages addition reduces the D 37 length by more than one hundred twenty miles from the 2013 Proclamation Map. The width of district is increased by 75 miles. The resulting AFFER D 37 has become more compact.

The compactness of AFFER D 38 is not measurably changed. The AFFER District 37 deviation is -1.08% and AFFER District 38 deviation is -0.35%.

I fully support the AFFER District 37 and AFFER District 38 Maps for southwest Alaska.

From: Lay, Bobbi [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 13, 2021 1:59 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Redistricting Comment

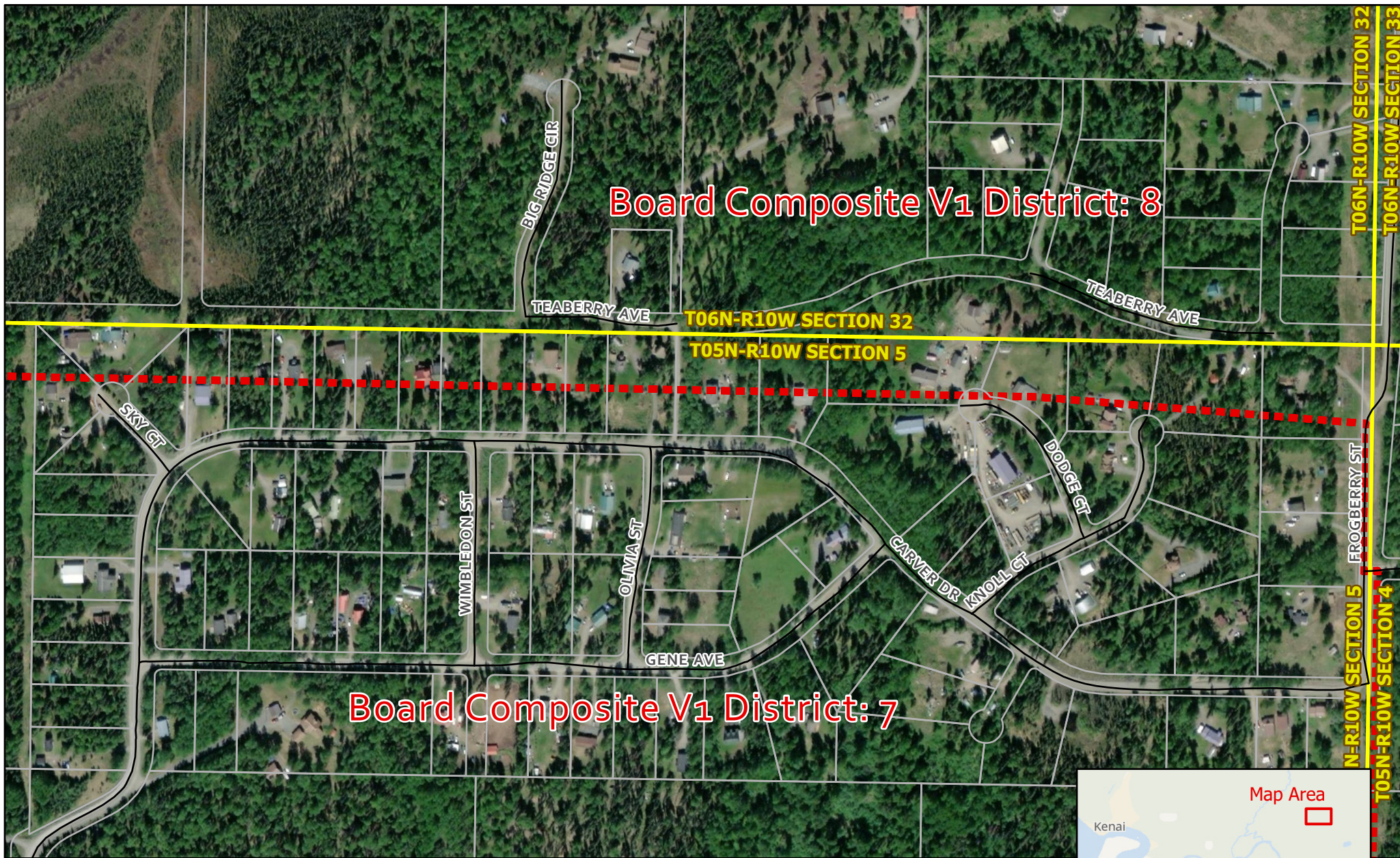
Please find attached a map that provides an example that demonstrates my concern with the proposed district boundaries as they are currently drawn. Here the poor accuracy and precision of the census data persist in the proposed district boundary. Consequently, parcels and even structures are bisected making district assignment ambiguous and subjective. I understand that the quality of the data that is delivered by the census is not within the control of the board to change, but the final district data must be of a sufficient standard to allow for analysis and use the data beyond a manual, visual inspection. This is particularly important as spatial analysis technology rapidly evolves. In this case, making the district line conform to the section line is not likely to change the actual number of voters per district but in fact might actually make more accurate as drawn. This is only one example of this type of error but I hope you will consider my comments. This issue will become even more obvious and important as voter precincts are drawn.

Thank you,




Bobbi Lay
GIS Specialist
[REDACTED]

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, Alaska 99669





Problematic District Boundary Delineation Example

-  Board Composite v.1
-  Section Lines
-  KPB Parcels

The information depicted hereon is for a graphical representation only of best available sources. The Kenai Peninsula Borough assumes no responsibility for any errors on this map.

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

Date: September 21, 2021, 1:49 pm

First Name: **Thom**

Last Name: **Leonard**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Calista Corporation**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED] —

Your ZIP Code: **99503**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **2021 AFFER map**

Public Comment: **Good afternoon. Quyana for the Redistricting Board's service to the State of Alaska. I am speaking on behalf of Calista Corporation President/CEO Andrew Guy. My name is Thom Leonard, my Cup'ik name is Aparuk, and I lead Calista's communications and Shareholder services departments. Calista has invited comments from communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, ARA - the Alaska Native Regional Corporation Association, The Kuskokwim Corporation, and comments from other regions.**

A specific request from Hooper Bay for inclusion in the Bethel District creates a series for positive results. First, the three villages of Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay and Chevak are moved from D 39 to D 38. Secondly, to reduce this excess population in D 38, the southwestern Calista villages of Kwigillingok, Kongiganak, Quinhagak, Goodnews Bay and Platinum are assigned to D 37. Additional Calista Kuskokwim River villages form the northern boundary of D 37.

With this complex rotation of Calista villages, D 37 does not need to include any Doyon region villages in the 2021 AFFER map.

District 40 has an overpopulation that we believe will impermissibly dilute the votes of their residents. We propose Buckland and Deering be in District 39 as a placeholder solution. However, we are open to other legally acceptable solutions to the District 40 overpopulation problem that the Redistricting Board or other parties may propose.



EVANSVILLE, INC.

P.O. BOX 72579 | FAIRBANKS, AK 99707 | PHONE (907)374-7084 | FAX (907)374-7085
EMAIL: evansvillecorporation@gmail.com | WEBSITE: www.evansvillecorporation.com

September 6, 2021

Alaska Redistricting Board
P.O. Box 240147
Anchorage, AK 99524

RE: Support for map submitted by Doyon, Limited and partners

Dear Members of the Alaska Redistricting Board,

This letter is to express our support for the map by Doyon, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, and Sealaska submitted to the Redistricting Board of Alaska.

In the past, Alaska Native involvement in the redistricting process have been heavily reliant on the court system. We write now in hopes that this board will be willing to achieve apportionment that accurately reflects the many cultures and values that make up over one fifth of Alaskans that identify as Alaska Native.

We urge this Board to give strong consideration to the map developed by Doyon, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, and Sealaska. The work that these organizations have done as it relates to an accurate Census count and to communicate the impacts of redistricting as a means to advance or suppress the political power of Alaska Natives has been significant and we are grateful for the opportunity to stand together on this critical issue.

From acknowledging tribal sovereignty to protecting the land and resources, we should be able to hold our representatives accountable and be sure that they are truly representing the interests of our people.

In the past, the Interior Alaska Native communities have been fractured in deference to keeping a certain balance in the greater Fairbanks, Northern, and Western Alaska. The map presented to you by Doyon and partners, if adopted, would be the first time in recent decades that the Interior Athabascan communities will have an influential voice in Juneau.

In developing a map that seeks fair and unfractured representation, it is not fair to lump all Alaska Natives together. Small communities will suffer if used as "filler" to reach target populations without thought and consideration given to their individual priorities. Doyon and partners have endeavored to give deference to ANCSA regions, river systems, and local government boundaries while maintaining our cultural and familial connections.

Please strongly consider utilizing the map provided by Doyon and partners as a starting point for your work.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Meierotto
Vice-President
Evansville, Inc.

From: Kathleen Menke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, September 23, 2021 5:55 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: testimony on current redistricting maps

Alaska Redistricting Board

Looking at current redistricting proposals for SE Alaska..

Clearly the Redistricting Board understands neither the Alaska Constitution requiring compact, contiguous districts nor the relationships among SE Alaska communities..

If SE must pick up Yakutat due to population losses, Yakutat and Glacier Bay National Park must be connected with Haines, Klukwan, Gustavus, Skagway..and a sensible part of Juneau to make the population work.

The rest of Juneau needs to reach out to Angoon, Hoonah, Pelican, Tenakee.

Sitka, Petersburg, Wrangell can be joined.

Ketchikan, Saxman must be joined with Craig, Kake, Metlakatla, Prince of Wales.

These maps as presented remain entirely against the Alaska constitution requiring compact, contiguous districts and totally disregard the relationships among SE Alaska communities.

Regards, Kathleen Menke, Haines
25 year resident of Haines, SE Alaska

From: Kathleen Menke <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 11:36 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: follow-up comments to Board

Dear Alaska Redistricting Board..

This is a follow-up to my previous comments, since I now have an understanding of a map the Board has not readily put forth for public consideration..

I am writing in support of the Senate Minority map which closely reflects my previous comments.

The Senate Minority map puts Yakutat, Glacier Bay and Gustavus in with a Sitka, Petersburg District. The Senate Minority map adds Wrangell to this District which makes sense.

The Senate Minority map also separates the North half of POW and the South half to ensure that Metlakatla, Craig, Ketchikan, and Saxman are kept together.

The Senate Minority map puts Haines, Skagway, Tenakee, Angoon, and part of Juneau together.

The Mendenhall is the second Juneau district, fully contained in the Borough.

The Board has ignored this simple and logical solution. This option must be on the table for public consideration in Southeast Alaska.

Regards,
Kathleen Menke, Haines

From: Lindsey Meyn [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 7:22 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Redistributing Testimony

I am emailing regarding the proposed redistricting maps, and to encourage you to adopt the map proposed by Alaskans for Fair Redistricting.

Having been born and raised in Anchorage, I am intimately familiar with the unique socioeconomic and cultural regions in Anchorage. Many of these areas are inexplicably grouped together in the Board Map, which sets some of these communities up to be inadequately represented.

In particular, grouping Muldoon with Eagle River, and Turnagain with all of Downtown, are poor choices.

Eagle River is a distinct community from Muldoon and in fact efforts are underway within that community to separate entirely from Anchorage.

The district spanning from Kincaid to all of Downtown is huge and encompasses multiple distinct regions. I grew up in West Anchorage, and have lived in Turnagain for the past eight years — these are areas I am quite well acquainted with. Grouping communities along the Coastal Trail instead, as the AFFR map does, makes far more sense.

It is important that districting be done with an eye to equity and fair representation of marginalized communities. The AFFR map has been created with this goal explicitly in mind, and it's districts better acknowledge the actual distinct regions within Anchorage.

Please make equity an explicit part of this process so that the new districts do not, intentionally or unintentionally, engage in Gerrymandering, and please consider adopting the map proposed by AFFR, which has made such efforts.

Thank you,

Lindsey Meyn

Sent from my iPhone

From: John Neary <automated@akredistrict.org>

Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 3:09 PM

To: TJ Presley <TJ.Presley@akredistrict.org>; Jessica Tonseth <jessica.tonseth@akredistrict.org>;
Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>

Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: September 25, 2021, 3:09 pm

First Name: **John**

Last Name: **Neary**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99801**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **34Q**

Public Comment: **We need maps that meet fair representation requirements, respect our historic, economic, and geographic boundaries, and keep the majority of the Mendenhall Valley together as a single district. Senate minority caucus maps for 34q and 33q do that. So do the Doyon and AFFRONT maps.**

I am very concerned about the Board's Map 3 and Map 4, and the proposed map from AFFER. These maps vastly change the shape of Juneau's district. They all cut the Mendenhall Valley up and separate out parts of Auke Bay and Out the Road so they are no longer a single district.

From: Laura Norton-Cruz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 8:32 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Testimony on Redistricting

Hello,

I am writing as an Alaskan to voice my concern about the The Alaska Redistricting Board has put forth multiple problematic maps fraught with gerrymandering that split our communities, disadvantage our diverse electorate, and shamelessly place partisan politics over geography, community, and civis.

Alaskans for Fair Redistricting has proposed an alternative map that is contiguous and compact and doesn't split communities between House Districts. I am asking you to take up the Fair Redistricting maps rather than the gerrymandered ones currently being proposed.

A few problems with the current proposals from the redistricting board, which could be resolved with the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting maps:

- The **Board Map** combines all of West Anchorage, from downtown to Kincaid, in one district. My children and I live in Turnagain, and I can tell you this does not make sense, as it combines very geographically and culturally distinct areas. The **AFFR** redistricting combines a few West Anchorage neighborhoods that are already connected by trails to each other in a way that is more logical.
- The **Board Map** carves out 5 houses separate from the rest of the geographical line in Juneau specifically to bring one Democratic Representative into the District of the other. This is the same thing that Republican-led redistricting did in Fairbanks previously by trying to include Scott Kawasaki's house into an existing district (but instead including his sister Sonya's house). What was known then as the "Kawasaki finger" was a brazenly partisan and corrupt, gerrymandered move to disenfranchise representation by a Democrat, and we are seeing that exact same attempt to make a nonsensical carveout in order to combine Sara Hannan and Andi Story's districts in Juneau. This does not serve democracy, or Alaskans' trust in government or policymakers.
- The **Board Maps overpopulates the Fairbanks districts** and does not respect Borough and City boundaries. It breaks the City of Fairbanks in two directions.
- The **AFFR MAP divides the greater FNSB into east and west districts** in order to create more compact and socio-economically integrated districts
- The **Board Maps combine parts of Anchorage and the MatSu** Borough which are clearly distinct socio-economic communities. The Matsu is not a suburb of Anchorage - it has its own distinct culture, healthcare infrastructure, identity, and economy.
- The **Board Maps combine East Anchorage and Eagle River**, which are two distinct socio-economic communities. Eagle River should be kept together into two House Seats and one Senate District. Portions of JBER are closer tied to Eagle River than Muldoon. The Eagle Exit movement makes it clear that they consider themselves a separate entity from Anchorage.
- The **AFFR Map does not include any part of the Matsu Borough with Anchorage**, divides JBER by gates in order to connect service members with the businesses that they use off-base, and **ensures that Eagle River has its own Senate District separate from East Anchorage.**

- The **AFFR Map** places a priority on keeping defined neighborhoods within **Anchorage intact** and does not split them between districts.
- The **Board Map** inexplicably **splits the Ketchikan Gateway Borough** into two different districts and bizarrely disconnects the Ketchikan airport from the Ketchikan district. Sitka does not represent Ketchikan better than Ketchikan does.
- The AFFR Map keeps the Ketchikan Gateway Borough whole.
- The AFFR Map combines Homer and Seward into a House District to reflect the shared ties between these communities.

The integrity of Alaska's government and of Alaskans' trust in government is at stake with this, and I ask you to instead take up the more carefully considered AFFR alternative maps.

Thank you,
Laura

--

Laura Norton-Cruz, LMSW

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation [Culture of Health Leader](#)

Laura.NortonCruz@gmail.com

[REDACTED]

Instagram: [REDACTED] & [REDACTED]

She/her/hers

I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina in Dgheyay Kaq [Anchorage]

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

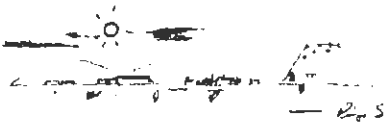
Date/Time: 9/23/2021

Name: Wayne Ogle

Affiliation: District 29, Alaska Republican Party

Email or Phone: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: I am the Chair for District 29, Alaska Republican Party. We are very interested in the redistricting process and proposals. I am sure the ARP Chairs of D30, and D31 on the Kenai Peninsula are equally concerned. We would very much like to have a public meeting on the Kenai Peninsula to share our views and understand the redistricting process better. Please let me know when and if this is possible and we can facilitate such a meeting. We would have a lot of participation. I can be reached at [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]



NULATO TRIBAL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 65049 • Nulato, Alaska 99765
PHONE 907-898-2339 • FAX 907-898-2207
nulatotribe@yahoo.com



September 9, 2021

Alaska Redistricting Board
P.O. Box 240147
Anchorage, AK 99524

RE: Support for map submitted by Doyon, Limited and partners

Dear Members of the Alaska Redistricting Board:

This letter is to express our support for the map that Doyon Limited, Tanana Chiefs Conference Inc., Fairbanks Native Association, and Sealaska submitted to the Redistricting Board of Alaska.

In the past, Alaska Native involvement in the redistricting process had been heavily reliant on the court system. We write now in hopes that this board would be willing to achieve apportionment that accurately reflects the many cultures and values that make up over one fifth of Alaskans that identify as Alaska Native.

We urge this Board to give strong consideration to the map developed by Doyon Limited, Tanana Chiefs Conference Inc., Fairbanks Native Association, and Sealaska. The work that these organizations have done as it relates to an accurate Census count and to communicate the impacts of redistricting as a means to advance or suppress the political power of Alaska Natives has been significant and we are grateful for the opportunity to stand together on this critical issue.

From acknowledging tribal sovereignty to protecting the land and resources, we should be able to hold our representatives accountable and be sure that they are truly representing the interests of our people.

In the past, the Interior Alaska Native communities have been fractured in deference to keeping a certain balance in the greater Fairbanks, Northern, and Western Alaska. The map presented to you by Doyon and partners, if adopted, would be the first time in recent decades that the Interior Athabascan communities will have an influential voice in Juneau.

In developing a map that seeks fair and unfractured representation, it is not fair to lump all Alaska Natives together. Small communities will suffer if used as "filler" to reach target populations without thought and consideration given to their individual priorities. Doyon and partners have endeavored to give deference to ANCSA regions, river systems, and local government boundaries while maintaining our cultural and familial connections.

Please strongly consider utilizing the map provided by Doyon and partners as a starting point for your work.

Sincerely,

Maurice McGinty
Douglas Patsy, *Maurice McGinty*
First Chief *2nd Chief*

From: Miriam Roberts <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 1:41 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Redistricting Board Testimony

Dear Alaska Redistricting Board,

I am writing as an Alaskan to encourage the Alaska Redistricting Board to only consider maps that have taken into account geographic, cultural, and natural community boundaries.

Gerrymandering is a serious concern throughout the country. The currently proposed Board Maps split our communities and allow politics to outweigh geographic and socio-economic affinities.

One of the most glaring issues with the Board Maps is that they combine parts of Anchorage and the Mat-Su Borough which are clearly distinct socio-economic communities with their own culture, identity, and economy.

Alaskans for Fair Redistricting has proposed an alternative map that is contiguous and compact and doesn't split communities between House Districts.

I ask that you include the AFFR alternative maps rather than the Board Maps currently proposed. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Miriam Roberts

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 20, 2021, 1:20 am

Name: **Jamie Rodriguez**

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: **Good Morning. I'm reaching out from Anchorage.**

I'm here today to remind everyone of their obligation to create fair and honest maps that give every voter a chance to be heard and that challenges every candidate or group to present their best selves and ideas and then allows the voters choose.

I'm also here to address the elephant in the room: Gerrymandering.

There's lots of gerrymandering going on. Here are just a few examples that jump out on several of the proposed maps:

1) On a proposed North Juneau district map, a quarter mile square cutout neatly removes that district's Representative into the neighboring district, doubling up two Reps. There's a question as to whether or not the Representative's home was actually caught or not, but the greater concern is the bad faith intent. (Story, Hannan)

2) A similar move took place in Ketchikan. The Representative's home was surgically removed from his district, throwing him into the next district and another double up situation. (Ortiz, Kreiss-Tompkins)

3) In NE Anchorage, the Redistricting Board Version #1 map combines and doubles up two Representatives into one district. (Sponholtz, Snyder)

4) In NE Anchorage, the Redistricting Board Version #2 map gerrymanders away two blue precincts and replaces them with one red precinct. (Snyder)

5) In both versions of the Anchorage Redistricting Board maps TH REE(!!) Representatives are gerrymandered into a single district! (Drummond, Fields, Claman)

There are many more examples like this, but I only have two minutes.

This is gerrymandering plain and simple and gerrymandering is tantamount to stealing elections. All of this screams loudly that one group wants to take over so badly that they're willing to subvert the entire voting process. This is unacceptable and you, the Redistricting Board, must stand firm to prevent it.

On behalf of every Alaskan, I'm asking the Redistricting Board to flatly reject gerrymandering and to take an honest, nonpartisan role to protect the voting rights of all Alaskans. This board must be the gatekeepers whose mission it is to ensure fair and honest maps. Alaskan voters want to be heard and counted fairly.

Thank you.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 20, 2021, 12:17 am

First Name: **Yarrow**

Last Name: **Silvers**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Board member SFCC**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **East Anchorage representation. AKFFR Map.**

Public Comment: **I want to thank the board for listening and responding to the public testimony that came through on Friday. I started out optimistic about this process, but was fairly upset on Friday about the maps proposed. Your responsiveness to the public testimony has left me, again, with a cautious optimism that you will choose to safeguard democracy for Alaskans in this process.**

I spent the weekend looking over the third-party maps. Of the ones proposed, the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting and the Alaska Democrats map both kept East Anchorage more or less intact, only sharing population as needed with JBER. I believe this to be appropriate as many military families Live, Work, and Play on JBER and either Eagle River or East Anchorage. The Alaska Democrats map appeared to be similar to current district maps and very compact which I appreciated. I also know that the Doyon group intends to adjust their maps in response to testimony received on Friday and I am interested in seeing their final product.

One thing that I appreciated about the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting map is that it appears that they put a great deal of thought and effort into prioritizing keeping defined neighborhoods intact. I believe this allows elected officials to better represent the needs of their communities. They had also mentioned community council boundaries in their presentation; this is important because community councils meet together, volunteer together, advocate and seek redress together, and support their communities together. They have been doing so in the same council areas for 50 plus years; thus the community bond is very strong.

We are a country where our government is intended to be powered by the people and I believe that the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting map most closely respects that. I ask that you use their map as one of the alternatives that you bring with you for further public comment. Thank you,

Yarrow Silvers

From: B Carlson [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Testimony Supporting Alaskans for Fair Redistricting alternative

Dear Members of the Alaska Redistricting Board:

I write to testify in support of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting alternative map, which is pragmatic and does not split communities or set up unfair advantages. This is vitally important for the integrity of our political process and the ability of Alaskans to work together to solve issues both unique to individual communities, but also to be able to view and understand what makes each community work well.

Gerrymandering is unacceptable and is by definition a means of manipulating boundaries of an electoral constituency. It is critically important to draw practical boundaries that help us move forward economically, socially, and politically. I have reviewed the proposal by Alaskans for Fair Redistricting and find it to be superior to Redistricting Maps 1 & 2 for the above reasons.

Again, I urge you to give careful consideration to the AFFR Map which presents strongly rational boundaries that could greatly help Alaskans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Svarny Carlson
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK
99502

EVANSVILLE TRIBAL COUNCIL
PO BOX 26087
BETTLES FIELD, ALASKA 99726
PHONE: (907)692-5005 FAX (907)69205006
EMAIL: evansvillealaska@gmail.com

September 1, 2021

Alaska Redistricting Board
P.O. Box 240147
Anchorage, AK 99524

RE: Support for map submitted by Doyon, Limited and partners

Dear Members of the Alaska Redistricting Board,

This letter is to express our support for the map by Doyon, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, and Sealaska submitted to the Redistricting Board of Alaska.

In the past, Alaska Native involvement in the redistricting process have been heavily reliant on the court system. We write now in hopes that this board will be willing to achieve apportionment that accurately reflects the many cultures and values that make up over one fifth of Alaskans that identify as Alaska Native.

We urge this Board to give strong consideration to the map developed by Doyon, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, and Sealaska. The work that these organizations have done as it relates to an accurate Census count and to communicate the impacts of redistricting as a means to advance or suppress the political power of Alaska Natives has been significant and we are grateful for the opportunity to stand together on this critical issue. From acknowledging tribal sovereignty to protecting the land and resources, we should be able to hold our representatives accountable and be sure that they are truly representing the interests of our people.

In the past, the Interior Alaska Native communities have been fractured in deference to keeping a certain balance in the greater Fairbanks, Northern, and Western Alaska. The map presented to you by Doyon and partners, if adopted, would be the first time in recent decades that the Interior Athabascan communities will have an influential voice in Juneau. In developing a map that seeks fair and unfractured representation, it is not fair to lump all Alaska Natives together. Small communities will suffer if used as "filler" to reach target populations without thought and consideration given to their individual priorities. Doyon and partners have endeavored to give deference to ANCSA regions, river systems, and local government boundaries while maintaining our cultural and familial connections. Please strongly consider utilizing the map provided by Doyon and partners as a starting point for your work.

Sincerely,
EVANSVILLE TRIBAL COUNCIL


Frank Thompson, 1st Chief

Date: September 23, 2021, 9:36 am

First Name: **Robert**

Last Name: **Wall**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **D 29 Republican Caucus**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99672**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Locked out of participation**

Public Comment: **We attempted to call in on the 20th, 940 am, And were told to call back at noon. Called back at noon, and was told to call back at the "end of the day". Called back at 1645, and no one answered. We request that you bring your show on the road to the people of D 29 and possibly D 30 combined meeting. At this time we do not approve any of the proposals, and will not approve your work unless we are actively involved. Call our Chair Wayne Ogle, [REDACTED], D 29.**

From: Margo Waring <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 3:28 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting Board maps

Public Testimony:

I have lived in Alaska for 50 years and, so, have seen prior redistricting efforts. I have also been a member of the League of Women Voters during those years and, in the last decade, worked at the national LWV level on redistricting.

Here are some things I know:

Redistricting is political and determines elections.

No state reapportions/redistricts in a totally non- partisan way, but some states do better than others.

You don't need to "plug in" voter registration information or incumbency in order to know exactly how people in an area are voting (one of the reasons people are selected to serve on the Redistricting Board is because they are deeply familiar with these details). It is disingenuous to claim otherwise.

The latest computer technology allows mapping that reduces deviance throughout the map.

This board's maps are partisan.

1. Chance or fairness would never have only one instance of GOP legislators being placed in the same district, while there are many instances in which Democratic legislators are moved into the same district. Members of the Coalition are especially targeted. This is gerrymandering by definition.
2. The Board asks for public input without providing needed information for commenting. Specifically, the Board has not shown the public the Senate pairings with their maps, making it likely that these are as targeted and gerrymandered as the House maps are.
3. The latest computer technology allows mapping that reduces deviance throughout the map, while preserving the other criteria. That deviance is not uniformly low in the Board's maps is indicative of some level of gerrymandering.
4. Here are examples of gerrymandering to weight the chances of GOP candidates winning elections: in Fairbanks, placing Salcha and Harding Lake with Chena Ridge; in Southeast, the obvious carve out that places Representatives Story and Hannan in the same district. In Ketchikan, the odd district for Representative Ortiz.

Every submitted Redistricting map since statehood has been challenged in the courts and has been rejected by the Alaska Supreme Court. This one will be, too. Why not make a fair map, a map acceptable to the courts, a goal for this redistricting effort.

Margo Waring

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99801

From: Sherri W [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 3:15 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting Juneau

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to any map that separates Mendenhall Valley, Auke Bay and Out the Road. Therefore I am against the board's Maps 3 & 4 and the AFFER maps. The purpose of redistricting should be to slightly realign district boundaries to redistribute the population more evenly. It should not be to separate portions of the city that have traditionally been together. Please select The Coalition of Doyton, the Senate Minority, or the AFFR map and keep the Mendenhall Valley, Auke Bay, and Out the Road together as a district.

Take care,
Sherri Wes

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date/Time: 9/20/2021

Name: Austin Williams

Email or Phone: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into the redistricting process. I am a long-time Alaska resident, initially living in southeast and now living in south Anchorage. I encourage the board to develop new maps that better represent Alaska communities. The current maps divide individual neighborhoods and communities, particularly within Anchorage, Fairbanks and Ketchikan; combines other communities that are distinct and deserve distinct representation, such as Anchorage and the Mat-Su; and fails to keep district boundaries reasonably contiguous and compact. Both proposed redistricting plans, if adopted, would fail to ensure adequate representation.

Thanks for your consideration, Austin

From: Nelli Williams [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 7:46 AM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Concerns re: current maps

Hello Alaska Redistricting Board,

Thank you for your time in creating new maps that are so important for the future of our state and communities. I am a long-time Alaskan, mother and South Anchorage resident and providing testimony regarding the redistricting process underway.

I am very concerned about the redistricting maps you've put forward for public consideration. In several instances they don't make sense from a practical or socio-economic perspective, they divide neighborhoods and distinct regions (causing undue confusion around future elections), and there are many lines that appear to be motivated by politics instead of the statutory requirements.

As an entity who is required to be non-partisan, that is a major red flag and unacceptable.

I urge you to include the alternative maps put forward for Alaskans for Fair Redistricting in the upcoming public input phase. It is important to have detailed conversations about redistricting and the AFFR maps provide another important perspective that the public should be able to consider.

Thanks,

Nelli

From: Damon Woudenberg [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 9:24 AM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Redistricting

Hi, My name is Damon Woudenberg. I work for the Klawock Cooperative Association in South East Alaska on Prince of Wales Island. I am speaking for myself.

What you are attempting to do is disingenuous and possibly illegal. There are many levels in which this proposal is blatantly intended to remove control from incumbents and the most bizarre of all removing Ketchikan Airport from the rest of Ketchikan suggests malintent. You need to step back and do the right thing. I am not certain if you felt no one would notice or you truly feel you are acting in Alaska's best interest, however, rest assured many folks have noticed and if you thought you were acting in our best interest please listen to the thousands of residents who feel what you are doing needs to be rethought.

Please do the right thing and reject this proposal. Passing it will create unwanted division and motivate organizations to consider lawsuits.

Specifically Ketchikan The Board map inexplicably splits the Ketchikan Gateway Borough into two different districts and bizarrely disconnects the Ketchikan airport from the Ketchikan district.

I want to thank you for your service. I understand it is never easy to please everyone especially in matters of this sort however in this matter I feel you need to return to the drawing board.

Thanks for your hard work.

My Best,

Damon Woudenberg

Alaska Resident

From: Stephen Wright <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:53 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: September 22, 2021, 9:52 pm

First Name: **Stephen**

Last Name: **Wright**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Republican**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99654**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Map 4 is the most consistent of the maps**

Public Comment: **I feel map 4 is a great choice now that I have had a chance to look at the detailed mapping. It provides a more concise district break for Wasilla and Palmer**

From: Kathleen Yarr [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 3:11 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Re District 36

Hello,

I want District 36 to include Metlakatla, Ketchikan & Hydaburg. I do not want to be with Sitka.

Kathleen Yarr

Sent from my iPhone