

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 12, 2022, 9:49 am

First Name: **Curtis**

Last Name: **Smith**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

**Public Comment: I would like to strongly advocate for the adoption of the Option 2 senate pairing map, which has a much more natural pairing than Option 3B. There is no serious justifiable reason to split Eagle River by pairing District 22 with Girdwood and portions of South Anchorage. Such a pairing is in no way contiguous in the reasonable sense of the term since it requires many miles of driving through multiple other districts to travel from Eagle River to South Anchorage. It is significantly more logical to pair the two Eagle River districts.**

**Frankly, I am embarrassed by our state. Over the years, I have read with disgust about all the gerrymandering in other states only to realize the same lack of integrity exists in Alaska. The last minute change in fall 2021 that paired Eagle River with South Muldoon was clearly an example of gerrymandering, and the Alaska Supreme Court agreed. Please avoid making the same mistake again. Adopt the Option 2 senate pairing map.**

**Sincerely,**

**Curtis Smith**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 12, 2022, 11:48 am

First Name: **Lynne'**

Last Name: **Langevin-Doran**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

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

Public Comment: **Briefly - Girdwood should remain in the same district at South Anchorage and Bayshore. To combine Girdwood with Eagle River makes no sense, we are more than an hour away from that community. Communities that are in close proximity should be represented together not the opposite.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 12, 2022, 3:52 pm

First Name: **Kristine**

Last Name: **Schmidt**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99611**

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

Public Comment: **Dear Alaska Redistricting Board,**

**This message is to support Board Option 2 for the Anchorage Senate districts (particularly Senate District K). Board Option 2 keeps downtown, the Hillside, and the Eagle River together in a coherent and sensible way.**

**And I oppose Board Option 3B, particularly with how it pairs South Anchorage with Eagle River, which is not coherent or sensible, and appears to be gerrymandering.**

**Thank you for your consideration of my comments.**


# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 12, 2022, 9:29 pm

First Name: **Brett**

Last Name: **Barringer**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

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

Public Comment: **I'm writing in support of map 3-B. Thank you.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
WEBSITE RESPONSE**

**Rep. Matt Claman** [Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov](mailto:Rep.Matt.Claman@akleg.gov)

Tue 4/12/2022 10:55 PM

Juli & Peter:

Please deliver the attached comments to the Board in advance of Wednesday's meeting.

Thanks,  
Matt Claman

Session:  
Alaska State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
(907) 465-4919 Office  
(888) 465-4919 Toll Free

Alaska House of Representatives  
Matt Claman

Interim:  
1500 W. Benson Blvd.  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
(907) 269-0130



*Serving District 21: Sand Lake, Spenard, and Turnagain*

12 April 2022

Alaska Redistricting Board  
PO Box 240147  
Anchorage, AK 99524

*Submitted electronically*

RE: Proposed Anchorage Senate Pairings Option 2 and Option 3B

Dear Chair Binkley and Members of the Board:

Since I provided public testimony on 2 April 2022, the Board adopted two proposals for public review and discussion: Option 2 and Option 3B. This letter updates my public testimony and provides specific comment on both Option 2 and Option 3B. It also provides my perspective on the Superior Court's Findings and Fact and Conclusions of Law (15 February 2022), affirmed by the Alaska Supreme Court (25 March 2022).

Option 2 comes as close as reasonably practicable to meet all the constitutional requirements of the remand from the Supreme Court and the Superior Court. There are 5 reasons for this conclusion:

1. Option 2 keeps Eagle River as a single senate district and does not separate this community of interest in violation of the equal protection clause.<sup>1</sup>
2. Option 2 makes HD 20 (North Muldoon) and HD 21 (South Muldoon) a single senate district, consistent with their community of interest, and protects those districts from the vote dilution that made the 2021 Board Proclamation for the Municipality of Anchorage unconstitutional.<sup>2</sup>
3. Option 2 satisfies the socio-economic integration requirement.<sup>3</sup>
4. Option 2 satisfies the compactness requirement.<sup>4</sup>
5. Option 2 takes into consideration "local government boundaries."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of the 2021 Redistricting Plan*, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law at 39-73, Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI (15 Feb. 2022).

<sup>2</sup> *In the Matter of the 2021 Redistricting Plan*, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law at 67-70, Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI (15 Feb. 2022).

<sup>3</sup> Alaska Constitution Art. 6, § 6.

<sup>4</sup> Alaska Constitution Art. 6, § 6.

<sup>5</sup> Alaska Constitution Art. 6, § 6.

In contrast, Option 3B constitutes another “unconstitutional political gerrymander violating equal protection under the Alaska Constitution.”<sup>6</sup> This option appears to be driven by the goal of pairing HD 23 (JBER) with HD 24 (North Eagle River/Chugiak) even though military base population has never been a protected class under either state or federal law. While a portion of the southern border of HD 22 shares a portion of the northern border of HD 9, enough satisfy a minimum level of “two contiguous house districts,”<sup>7</sup> it fails to satisfy the other constitutional requirements for a senate pairing. There are four reasons for this conclusion:

1. Option 3B fails to satisfy the socio-economic integration requirement.<sup>8</sup>
2. Option 3B fails to satisfy the compactness requirement.<sup>9</sup>
3. Option 3B divides the Eagle River community of interest in violation of the equal protection provisions of the Alaska Constitution.<sup>10</sup>
4. Option 3B fails to take into consideration “local government boundaries.”<sup>11</sup>

I write as a sitting legislator, former member of the Anchorage Assembly, and former Acting Mayor. In many of Alaska’s rural legislative districts, it is often quite difficult to visit some of the smaller communities. For example, the senator for Proclamation District S can reasonably visit some of the larger communities such as Bethel and Dillingham from time to time; but regular visits to the smaller, more remote communities like Sand Point, Unalaska, and Adak are difficult in the best of circumstances. In contrast, with eight senate pairings in the Municipality of Anchorage, constituents can and should reasonably expect to see their senator shopping in the local grocery store, dining in local restaurants, and patronizing local businesses. Pairing HD 9 with HD 22 will have the effect of depriving one of those two house districts of having a senator who lives “in the neighborhood.”

While the courts have not, to my knowledge, considered the “local government boundaries” provisions of Art. 6, § 6 in the context of Anchorage senate districts, the Municipality of Anchorage has long considered communities of interest in its six assembly districts. The Municipality has never even attempted to pair Eagle River (Assembly District 2) with the Hillside (Assembly District 6). As both an Assembly Member and as Acting Mayor, I always knew that Eagle River had distinct interests and concerns that frequently did not align with other parts of the Municipality. Indeed, in recent years, there has even been talk of Eagle River seceding from the Municipality. Consideration of how the local government has grouped communities of interest compels the conclusion that it is unconstitutional to pair an Eagle River house district with a Hillside house district into a single senate district that is divided by the Chugach Mountains: it is the least practicable senate pairing within the Municipality.

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<sup>6</sup> *In the Matter of the 2021 Redistricting Cases*, Supreme Court No. S-18332, p. 6 (Alaska 25 Mar. 2022).

<sup>7</sup> Alaska Constitution Art. 6, § 6.

<sup>8</sup> Alaska Constitution Art. 6, § 6.

<sup>9</sup> *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, 846 P.2d 38, 62 (Alaska 1992).

<sup>10</sup> *In the Matter of the 2021 Redistricting Plan*, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law at 39-73, Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI (15 Feb. 2022).

<sup>11</sup> Alaska Constitution Art. 6, § 6.

Finally, I am also an active biker. I have frequently ridden my bike on the roads and trails throughout the Municipality, including Eagle River and the Hillside. To ride from my home on the north side of HD 16 (Turnagain) to the south side of HD 15 (Bayshore) takes 30-40 minutes. To ride on Muldoon Road from the north side of HD 20 (near the Glenn Highway) to the south side of HD 21 (near the curve where Muldoon turns into Tudor Road) takes 15-25 minutes. But to ride from downtown Eagle River in the north side of HD 22 to downtown Girdwood in the south side of HD 9 would take 3-4 hours—and riding to the entrance of the Whittier Tunnel would take another hour from Girdwood. From the perspective of a bicycle seat (I recognize that bicyclists are *not* a protect class), combining HD 9 with HD 22 into a single senate seat is not compact.

In his work as a trial attorney, Abraham Lincoln often counseled parties and other lawyers to find compromise and avoid trial. Adopting Option 3B will lead to further litigation and further uncertainty for Alaskans. The Board earlier removed Option 1 from consideration, which makes more changes across the Municipality than Option 2. Adopting Option 2, in contrast to Option 3B, is unlikely to lead to further litigation because the East Anchorage plaintiffs have proposed this option.

To provide certainty to Alaskans and move the redistricting process forward as expeditiously as practicable, I urge the Board to unanimously adopt Option 2.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt W. Claman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "W".

Matthew W. Claman