

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## Verbal Testimony Summaries Anchorage Public Hearing 10/4/2021

AFFER, Steve Colligan.....	1
AFFER, Randy Ruedrich .....	2
Steve Aufrecht .....	3
Alex Baker .....	4
Emily Becker.....	5
Louise Donhauser .....	6
Lois Epstein .....	7
Bronson Frye .....	8
Jordan Harary.....	9
Kim Hays .....	10
Tasha Hotch .....	11
Brian Hove .....	12
Alex Jorgensen .....	13
Jason Lessard.....	14
Nora Morse .....	15
NAACP- Anchorage, Kevin McGee .....	16
Jason Rampton .....	17
Bruce Schulte .....	18
Yarrow Silvers.....	19
Gil Stokes .....	20
Jenny-Marie Stryker .....	21

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Steve** Last Name: **Colligan**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Mr. Colligan stated that the Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER) submitted a packet proposal on 10/1 and brought the following to the board's attention:**

- 1. During the 10/1 Alaska Redistricting Board meeting's map discussion, there was some discussion about large census blocks. The frustration on large census blocks began 5 years in advance of the census as the census blocks used to be farm lands, but are now new subdivisions. Local communities, planning directors, and clerks got involved and asked the Census Bureau to split the census blocks; this issue is also present in Fairbanks and Juneau.**
- 2. The recently proposed map has a statewide deviation of 4.18 - most of which is in the southeast because if you take Cordova and split it, there are not many options.**
- 3. AFFER's latest map includes updates to Anchorage and Fairbanks.**

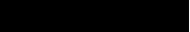
# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Randy** Last Name: **Ruedrich**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting**

Email or Phone Contact: 

**Mr. Ruedrich noted a challenge in drawing North Fairbanks and stated the following:**

**In 2010, there were 8,800 people in excess of 5 districts in the North Star Borough. In the map adopted in 2013, all 8,800 of these people were placed in District 5 that surrounds the greater Fairbanks area. AFFER has created with a district that lies around the northside of the populated area that includes parts of Ester, Golstream, Steese, and goes on east toward two rivers. AFFER has put 18,000+ people who live near Fairbanks in the house district. There are 4,000+ people who live further in rural areas. Mr. Ruedrich suggested that the board take people in the northeast and northwest and putting them into the rural District 5.**

**Mr. Ruedrich encouraged the board to use naturally occurring geographic areas, such as creeks, as boundaries.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Steven** Last Name: **Aufrecht**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Mr. Aufrecht spoke regarding senate pairings and noted that during the last redistricting cycle, senate pairings happened "at the last minute" and there was no time for the public to comment on the senate pairings. Mr. Aufrecht encouraged the board to leave time for the public to view and provide comments on senate pairings.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: Alex Last Name: Baker

Mr. Baker referred to Board Map v.3 which slices his community (Fairview) into 3 different house districts which would severely dilute the representation of the community. The relationship with Merrill Field as it pertains to flight patterns; this interest is not shared with areas such as U-Med and Turnagain which parts of Fairview shares a district with under this map version. Additionally, Fairview businesses along the Ingra/Gambell/15th Street corridor would be in different districts than many of the neighborhood residents.

Mr. Baker spoke in favor of the third-party map proposed by the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting for the following reasons:

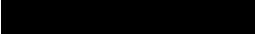
1. Uses geographic features that clearly defines the neighborhoods corridors
2. Diverges from the status quo by decoupling Fairview from South Addition (they are not socio-economically integrated)
3. Maintains the strictest deviations for Anchorage
4. Follows the constitutional guidelines

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: October 28, 2021

Name: Emily Becker

Email or Phone Contact: 

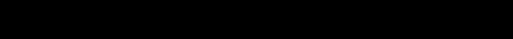
**Emily Becker stated she keeps hearing board members state that the court has ruled that Anchorage is one entity and can be “sliced and diced” and this is unfair. Please don’t think of Anchorage this way; it is diverse. Emily hopes that there are meeting times where the public can see the maps and give public testimony on the evenings and weekends.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING  
VERBAL & HANDWRITTEN TESTIMONY  
SUMMARY**

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Louise** Last Name: **Donhauser**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Verbal testimony summary: **Ms. Donhauser testified in support of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map as it leaves most of Anchorage the way that it currently is.**

Handwritten testimony: **Thank you for duly recording my comment. I, Louise Donhauswer, am a registered voter in the State of Alaska and the Muncipality of Anchorage. I fully & wholly support AFFR. Thank you.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Lois** Last Name: **Epstein**

**Ms. Epstein, a Downtown Anchorage resident, expressed concerns regarding the current redistricting process:**

- 1. Instead of beginning to map from the northern or southern parts of Anchorage, Ms. Epstein recommended first determining the socio-economic integrity.**
- 2. Ms. Epstein stated concern for "disingenuous comments" about not including the homes of incumbent legislators on board maps. While superficially true, that does not mean the homes of particular incumbents were not known by some people helping with the map drawing. The board should transparent and put these locations on the map instead of relying on the public to identify incumbent conflicts or partisan bias.**

**Ms. Epstein noted the following about Board Map v.4:**

- 1. District 23 should be renumbered to District 22 to numerically follow other districts in Anchorage.**
- 2. District 22 is outside of Anchorage, by changing the numbers, Government Hill would be paired with Northeast Anchorage for a senate representation rather than a rural area outside of Eagle River. This makes sense socio-economically.**

**Ms. Epstein spoke in opposition of the Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting map for the following reasons:**

- 1. Nikiski is grouped with South Anchorage; the two areas have different interests.**
- 2. Ester is grouped near the Fairbanks core areas combined with a rural area for no apparent reason.**
- 3. Ketchikan is separated from Saxman and Metlakatla.**

**Ms. Epstein spoke in favor of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting map as it has strong documentation on how it meets Alaska Constitutional redistricting requirements and has low population deviations overall.**



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Bronson** Last Name: **Frye**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Mr. Frye spoke in favor of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting map for the following reasons:**

- 1. Instead of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) being one large district, this map divides JBER into multiple districts based on various gate entrances where JBER residents spend most of their time in.**
- 2. It has the smallest amount of deviation compared to the other proposed maps which helps with having an equal number of voters.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: October 14, 2021

Name: **Jordan Harary**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Keywords: **In favor of the Doyon Coalition Map**

**Do the words "E Pluribus Unum" mean anything to you? For those that don't know, it's Latin meaning "Out of Many, One." But that's not the world we live in anymore, is it? You're either a hardcore left-leaning liberal Democrat (also known today as a Communist), or a hardcore right-leaning conservative Republican (also known as a Fascist). There's no middle ground anymore ... everything has become politicized. Anyone telling you otherwise is either complete ignorant or trying to sell you a hot steaming pile of horse malarkey. Compromise, E Pluribus Unum, United States have sadly fallen out of the national and state discourse.**

**You have the maps here that are being proposed by who? Politicians and political groups mostly. Which politicians and political groups? That's a good question... one everyone here should be deeply assessing. Let's not help the Democrats seize more power, let's not help the Republicans more power. Lets instead restore power back to the people. Let's unite for a common goal of making sure everyone is represented and bring back E Pluribus Unum. That being said, it appears to me from my research and investigation that the Doyon Coalition map is the most fair, the most competitive, and the most non-partisan. This map also has a very low deviation with only a couple districts showing as less than 4% with the rest being around 1% or less. Please select this map as the board's choice for the next 10 year cycle.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Kim** Last Name: **Hays**

**Ms. Hays, a Southwest Anchorage resident, expressed support for the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting map which has the lowest deviation. If the board chooses to adopt Board Maps v.3 and v.4, Ms. Hays hopes that the board can remedy the deviation numbers in these maps.**

**In the AFFR map, Ms. Hays' neighborhood is grouped into a lake district which she likes because the residents recreate at the lake and there are aviation activities they do as well.**

**If the AFFR map is not considered, Ms. Hays asked that the board take Board Map v.4 and incorporate changes from the AFFR map related to "the lakes district" (as stated in the AFFR proposed map). Additionally, Board Map v.4 also has a high deviation and Ms. Hays asked the board to consider this as well.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4 Public Testimony**  
**Name: Tasha Hotch**

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

**Tasha spoke in favor of the Doyon Coalition map because of how it maps out the senate districts. It does need work on the house districts. Mountain View has more than 50% of the homeless population; JBER does not understand some of the challenges Mountain View has, so this likely needs to be changed.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Brian** Last Name: **Hove**

**Mr. Hove noted that out of the newly proposed Board Maps (v.3 and v.4) v.4 for West Anchorage is preferable. It also appears that v.4 is very similar to the Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER) map where the drainage at Fish Creek is utilized. He appreciates their similarities.**

**Mr. Hove noted that a significant improvement has been made in the updated AFFER maps, particularly with respect to some of the population within Fairbanks (city and borough). He is hopeful this option will be considered.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: Alex Last Name: Jorgensen

**Mr. Jorgensen, Taku neighborhood resident, spoke in opposition of Board Map v.3 as it districts his community with several communities that do not have similar interests. The map combines his neighborhood with the Woronzof Drive/Kincaid/Turnagain Arm/Airport neighborhoods; his neighborhood has little association with the airport as the airport has traditionally been paired with the Turnagain Arm and Sand Lake communities. Additionally, the areas mentioned above patronize different commerce areas and feed into different school districts and should not be combined into a single legislative district.**

**Mr. Jorgensen spoke in support of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting map as it keeps his community (Taku/Campbell) together.**

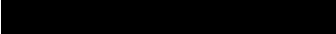
**Mr. Jorgensen expressed concern for Board Maps v.3 and v.4 as there are significantly high deviation numbers.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: October 28, 2021

Name: Jason Lessard

Email or Phone Contact: 

**Jason Lessard suggested that when changes to current maps are being discussed, it would be helpful to provide handouts of the current map as a reference and comparison. The public should not have to access the maps from their phone as not everyone has a phone.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Summary Date: October 14, 2021

Name: **Nora Morse**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **PPAA**

Email or Phone Contact: 

**Ms. Morse testified in support of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map for the following reasons:**

**1. In Board Map v.3, District 13 was drawn with most of Turnagain, Westchester, Spenard, North Star, South Addition, and parts of Downtown and Fairview all together; these are distinct neighborhoods with different interests and needs. These neighborhoods all together encompass 7 community councils and 2 Anchorage Assembly seats. The AFFR map breaks those into 4 distinct districts that most closely follow community council and Anchorage Assembly boundaries. Although these boundaries are not considered, these boundaries give an idea of how residents engage with their local government. It also allows people to have neighbors with similar concerns.**

**2. The O'Malley area is divided by major roads and keeps schools in the same district. This area of town is also centered around parks and trails, and the residents there are very vocal around these issues. Therefore, it makes sense to build maps around these recreational areas (Campbell Tract, Abbott Loop, and Far North Centennial Park) which the AFFR map does.**



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Kevin** Last Name: **McGee** Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]  
Group Affiliation, if applicable: **NAACP (Anchorage, AK Chapter)**

**Mr. McGee spoke in favor of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map as it has the lowest population deviation, compactness, socio-economic integration, and contiguity overall.**

**For example, the AFFR map creates a Homer/Seward house district which in turn would pair with a Kodiak/Cordova house seat to establish a compact and integrated house district. In the past, partisan motivations have led to a Homer/Ninilchik based district instead of grouping midsize coastal communities and small coastal Alaska Native communities that have more commonalities.**

**AFFR's map also avoids partisan gerrymandering and establishes lines that balances the population with the logical delineating between a Mendenhall Valley and Downtown Juneau additional coastal community seat.**

**The Senate Minority Caucus map also has close to perfect lines for Southeast Alaska assuming the goal is constitutional fidelity.**

**It should also be recognized that there is an imperative to protect minority voters franchise in Southcentral Alaska. Attempts at partisan gerrymandering would come at the expense of meeting constitutional obligations. For example, attempts to mix the Eagle River population to an East Anchorage house seat or pairing a Government Hill house seat with an Eagle River house seat are clearly motivated by partisanship but disenfranchise minority voters who make up a large percentage of Government Hill, JBER, and East Anchorage. Board Map v.3 does present logical and constitutional lines for Eagle River.**

**In the Doyon map, the statewide map is shaped around representation within the Doyon region. Doyon's intent to protect the interest of Doyon region voters must be melded with the protection of minority voters' interests throughout the state.**


**Mr. McGee spoke in opposition of the Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER) map and Board Maps v.3 and v.4. Mr. McGee encouraged the board to utilize the constitutional strengths of the AFFR map while considering potential adjustments in the interior to be consistent with Doyon's objectives.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Jason** Last Name: **Rampton**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

**Mr. Rampton, Eagle River resident, commented on the very intertwined relationship between military members and Eagle River. Half of Eagle River are either active or retired members. Mr. Rampton expressed support for keeping Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) and Eagle River together.**

**Additionally, Mr. Rampton conducted research and found that Eagle River has 28,462 residents, Chugiak has 8,906 residents, Peters Creek has 8,300 residents, JBER has 12,915 residents for a grand total of 58,583; this represents about 8% of the Alaska population. Currently, there is a strong effort in Eagle River to separate this community from Anchorage and become its own entity. This existing desire within the Eagle River community should be taken into consideration by the board.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Bruce** Last Name: **Schulte**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Mr. Schulte, a South Anchorage resident in District 24, spoke in favor of the Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER) map as it respects the natural boundaries of Campbell Creek on one end and Seward Highway on the other end. These are significant boundaries and the resulting district reflects a demographic with similar interests.**

**Mr. Schulte spoke in favor of keeping Eagle River and East Anchorage separate.**

---

**From:** Yarrow Griffith [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 4, 2021 6:02 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

I want to thank the board for listening to past public testimony and adjusting the maps to separate East Anchorage from Eagle River.

I have concerns that the board maps do not show senate pairings and I would like to request that the board allow public testimony on these pairings before adopting a map.

I still have concerns with map 3 regarding the part of the Scenic Foothills Community Council area located around the Muldoon Curve being placed in a South Anchorage district. This is my Community Council and as you've heard me testify before, South and East Anchorage have large income differentials and are socio-economically distinct from each other. I appreciate the changes made to map 4 in East Anchorage but do have some concerns with the way it lumps part of Fairview, Mountain View, and Downtown into a unified base district.

I like the AFFR plan. The AFFR plan fully respects the distinct and diverse communities in the East Anchorage, Mountain View, Fairview and Downtown areas and does not dilute the votes of voters in these areas. I also appreciate the low deviations of both the AFFR and Doyon Maps.

Thank you,  
Yarrow Silvers

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Gil** Last Name: **Stokes**

Public Comment: **Mr. Stokes expressed concern for ballots no longer being able to be casted at 9131 Centennial Circle anymore. Having a voting place in their neighborhood has been very beneficial for the residents (i.e. senior residents) in this area and Mr. Stokes requested to have this ballot location rectified.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

**Anchorage 10/4/2021 Verbal Testimony**

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Jenny-Marie** Last Name: **Stryker**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

**Ms. Stryker, Airport Heights resident in District 19, noted that she lives near 18th & Rosemary and many of her friends also live in Airport Heights. They often bike, walk, or ski to meet at Tikishla Park to start for a walk down Chester Creek Trail. She does much of her grocery shopping at the local Carr's or Fred Meyer's next to Northern Lights/Seward. On the weekends, she also enjoys visiting Fire Island Rustic Bakery in Airport Heights where it is most likely that she will see a neighbor or someone she knows there.**

**In Board Map v.4, her proposed house district would not include Tikishla Park, a large portion of Airport Heights, or the Fire Island Bakery. In the Doyon map, her community would not include Tikishla Park, Goose Lake, Chester Creek Trail, or Russian Jack (all places she frequents). Additionally, in the Doyon map, the proposed community would go all the way north of sixth mile lake, this is geographically massive and lumps a few different communities of interest together.**

**Ms. Stryker spoke in support of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map as it groups communities of interest by creating a "new midtown district essentially" (District 18) which would reflect her daily life and natural community boundaries.**