

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 7, 2022, 11:32 pm

First Name: **Yvonne**

Last Name: **Goldsmith**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

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

Public Comment: **I support the Option 2 map, which treats the 2 Eagle River house districts and the 2 East Anchorage districts as separate entities under Senate representation. As a former East Sider, I believe the two areas have very different personalities. The residents should be represented by people who understand their needs.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 12:29 am

First Name: **Steve**

Last Name: **Templeton**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

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

Public Comment: **I support Map 3B.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 5:08 am

First Name: **Tracy**

Last Name: **Johnston**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

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

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

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 5:09 am

First Name: **Kristi**

Last Name: **Johnston**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

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

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

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 6:27 am

First Name: **Geri**

Last Name: **Cannon**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99515**

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

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

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 7:24 am

First Name: **Ricarda**

Last Name: **Lebman**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

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

Public Comment: **I support option 2 for Anchorage hillside redistricting. I do not support other redistricting options that place us in communities that have no idea what are roads, sewer, schools, etc need. Compactness is vital and should be utilized to the highest degree.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 7:26 am

First Name: **David**

Last Name: **Mesiar**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Re-districting plan**

Public Comment: **I support the Bahnke plan (Option 2) for re-districting. Eagle River must be paired with Eagle River. Combining Eagle River with South Anchorage and Girdwood makes no sense and is as contrived as the Eagle River-Muldoon pairing recently rejected by the Court.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 8:05 am

First Name: **Kevin**

Last Name: **Apgar**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **none**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

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

Public Comment: **I urge the board to support Option 2, combining downtown Anchorage with the military bases in a Senate district. There is more economic and social cohesion between downtown and the military bases than there is in the other option, which would combine part of Eagle River with the Seward Highway.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 9:09 am

First Name: **Teresa**

Last Name: **Sherwood**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

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

Public Comment: **I strongly oppose option 3B which would combine Girdwood with Eagle River. I support option 2. Girdwood and Eagle River are pole opposites politically and culturally. Girdwood's high school students attend school in south Anchorage as well as participate in sport clubs. It is where we shop and bank. We have very close ties to Whittier as well. I am the direct of Girdwood's Food Pantry and we make monthly deliveries to Whittier. Many Girdwood residents work or recreate in Whittier. Please do not pass option 3B and support option 2.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 10:13 am

First Name: **Cheryl**

Last Name: **Lovegreen**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

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

Public Comment: **Thanks to the board for their many hours of service. I appreciate the time you've put into this process.**

I am still concerned about pairing Eagle River with other areas instead of the logical pairing of Eagle River with Eagle River. Please keep the two Eagle River House districts together, and make pairings with neighborhoods that have physical and socioeconomic connections to each other.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 10:30 am

First Name: **Peter**

Last Name: **Courtnage**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting options impacting Eagle River**

Public Comment: **I fully support/endorse option 2. Option 3b effectively dilutes my geographic representation and for that reason I oppose it.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 11:08 am

First Name: **Scott**

Last Name: **Bailey**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

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

Public Comment: **I support the adoption of Map 3B to continue Senate representation for Eagle River.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 11:42 am

First Name: **Gretchen**

Last Name: **Stoddard**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Is there a time for testimony without questions?**

Public Comment: **Hi**

Will there be a time for testimony that is more traditional.... Like you can talk up to 3 minutes and it does not involve all the questions from the board? This is kind of intense to listen to. Thank you for all your work.


**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 8, 2022, 11:59 am

First Name: **Jodie**

Last Name: **Menish**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

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

Public Comment: **We support pairing Girdwood with Eagle River, Option 3B**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

ate: April 8, 2022, 12:00 pm

First Name: **Doug**

Last Name: **Menish**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

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

Public Comment: **We support pairing Girdwood wit Eagle River, Option 3B**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 12:02 pm

First Name: **Melissa**

Last Name: **Bell**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

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

Public Comment: **I am in support of option 3B as a Girdwood property owner.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 12:15 pm

First Name: **Gerald**

Last Name: **Fox**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Favor Option 2 and Oppose option 3**

Public Comment: **I am in favor of the option 2 redistricting map and opposed to the option 3 map. I live in Girdwood and have no link to Eagle River. I have been in Alaska for 42 years and have been in Eagle River proper once. I have gone by Eagle River on my way to the fair or to Fairbanks many times but not into Eagle River. I do my shopping in South Anchorage. Any medical issues I have are done in Anchorage. I have many friends in South Anchorage. To me it only makes sense to link South Anchorage and Girdwood in the same districts. Eagle River and Girdwood have very little in common. My understanding is that districts are supposed to be contiguous, compact, and represent areas that are socially and economically integrated. Option 3 does not meet these requirements. There is nothing that is socially and economically integrated between Girdwood/South Anchorage and Eagle River. Girdwood/South Anchorage and Eagle River are not contiguous as Chugach State Park is in between the 2 areas. It is over 60 miles from Girdwood to Eagle River. I believe that option 3 does not meet the courts requirement and would be found to be unconstitutional. We don't need more lawsuits and confusion as which politician is running for which seats. Thanks for considering my testimony.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 12:27 pm

First Name: **Doug**

Last Name: **Robbins**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99057**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Geographic Features as boundaries for Senate Pairings -- Option 3B**

Public Comment: **The Alaska Constitution requires that Senate District pairings should be contiguous, and consideration may be given to local government boundaries. But the constitutional requirement closes with the words, "Drainage and other geographic features shall be used in describing boundaries whenever possible." The Chugach mountain range is a geographic feature that is a practically impassible barrier between South Anchorage and Eagle River. And it is certainly possible to join the two Eagle River districts together, and South Anchorage districts together. Option 3B under consideration by the Board clearly violates the geographic requirement for Senate pairings in the Alaska Constitution.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 12:29 pm

First Name: **Doug**

Last Name: **Robbins**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **self**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

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

Public Comment: The Constitution's criteria for compactness, contiguity, socio-economic integration, and respect for local government boundaries are a long-winded way of saying community. The Constitution's broad intent is to create districts that represent communities. District option 2 respects communities in Anchorage, and Option 3B does not. The following list of community organizations, service areas, plans, councils, partnerships and residential areas shows communities which would be joined under Option 2, and violated by option 3B.

There are a large number of plans and organizations that support the community approach of Map 2 which respectively keeps the areas of Eagle River-Chugiak, East Anchorage, and Downtown Anchorage together. There has been a lot of anecdotal testimony, but this demonstrates the firm reality of community cohesiveness. This list is not exhaustive.

House districts 22 & 24

Eagle River, Birchwood, Chugiak, Peter's Creek, and Eklutna.

CEBERRRSA - Chugiak, Birchwood, Eagle River Rural Road Service Area

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/operations/streets/Service/Pages/CBERRRSARoadBoard.aspx>

Municipality of Anchorage map " Street Owners and Maintenance Providers

https://muniorg.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=5cb0fa58740e4fdca9e209644110edfc&fbclid=IwAR1wSzZfD4B4bKvHXh3FhJizXADx-loY2p7u31kwb_0JugVzeOGzynNpqyU

Eagle River/Chugiak Parks & Recreation

https://www.muni.org/Departments/ERparks/Pages/default.aspx?fbclid=IwAR0Vrms9ttEcQXJYNcBrvFkjB_Zdzm8xqAMPmpvSkN4CiQF8oIRcOk2eii4

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Anchorage Park, Greenbelt and Recreation Facility Plan – Volume II: Chugiak-Eagle River-Eklutna 1985 (link not available)

Chugiak Eagle River Chamber of Commerce. www.cer.org/

The 6 Community Councils in this area frequently reference each other's work, and members collaborate on the Chugiak-Eagle River Advisory Board

https://onboard.muni.org/board/3916?fbclid=IwAR2DDSE-sIShy1NOcUve3xyl84oFcbORKeJxw7yrlzU_zyKjl2d2iRkB78A

Anchorage's Land Use code has a separate chapter for Chugiak-Eagle River

21.10.010 PURPOSE

The purposes of chapter 21.10 are to provide standards and regulations to implement the comprehensive plan elements of Chugiak-Eagle River, preserve and enhance the distinctive rural character, abundant natural environment, and unique lifestyle(s) of the community, while planning for growth and development, and to avoid overlap with standards and regulations applicable to other districts of the municipality.

https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Projects/t21/Documents/Chapter%2010.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0EM_ViOvOxXukZenhKhNDaxPK69GRcEGyXu3Akmf3_5oji6EIAGMZbnzg

There is even a Chugiak-Eagle River Comprehensive Plan. The first version of that plan was adopted in 1979, an update in 1993, and the latest in 2006, demonstrating decades of community cohesiveness.

Excerpt: “Chugiak-Eagle River is a unique, dynamic community. Over the past half century, it has experienced continuing population growth and change. In response to rapid change, the community initiated development of its first comprehensive plan in the mid-1970s. The Eagle River-Chugiak-Eklutna Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1979, providing direction for development decisions and future growth in the Chugiak-Eagle River area.”

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Documents/Chugiak-Eagle%20River%20Comprehensive%20Plan%20Update%202006/Chugiak-Eagle%20River%20Comprehensive%20Plan%20Update%202006.pdf>

North Anchorage Land Agreement (NALA) link not available

JBER – the large non-residential areas of JBER are within house districts 22 & 24

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House Districts 9, 10, 11, and 12

The Hillside Area Land Owner's organization, known as HALO encompasses the area east of the Seward Highway, and south of Dowling through Potter Marsh. This encompasses the entire residential areas of 11 and 12 as well as the bulk of 9's residents and an eastern portion of 10.

Map Option 2 keeps all of the districts served by HALO together.

<https://anchoragehalo.org/>

Map - https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/21ca44fb-dded-4339-aba2-01cda3eaf790/downloads/1cbb2h8fm_62812.pdf?ver=1649190153804&fbclid=IwAR34owxhGZFs_SJu1KNqDc9Hz3bsorGrscIs5WVTrsqjTQ1rHKW7cvjMXow

Hillside Wastewater Management Plan 1982

https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Documents/HWMP-CompleteDocument_1982.pdf

Hillside District Plan ALTERNATIVES: A Framework for Public Discussion 2008

https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Hillside%20District%20Plan/Framework_Plan_Final.pdf#:~:text=The%20Hillside%20District%20Plan%2C%20which%20was%20called%20for,will%20also%20replace%20the%20Hillside%20Wastewater%20Management%20Plan.

Hillside District Plan 2010

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Pages/HillsideDistrictPlan2010.aspx>

House Districts 17 & 23 – Downtown, Government Hill, JBER, NE Muldoon

House District 23 is made up of 4 distinct areas with low populations. Government Hill (pop ~1350), North Downtown (pop ~2200), JBER (pop ~11,500), and Northeast Anchorage (pop ~1800). The residential areas of JBER are within this district, Government Hill is a distinct neighborhood within this district, North Downtown is contiguous with Downtown, and NE Anchorage is a spillover from the Muldoon Senate district since the area's population is too large for one Senate district. House District 17 & 23 is the most logical pairing option for continuity and keeps downtown Anchorage together.

Anchorage Downtown Comprehensive Plan

https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Pages/CBD_CompPlan_Final07.aspx

Anchorage Downtown Partnership

<https://anchoragedowntown.org/about/>

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Government Hill Neighborhood Plan

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Pages/GovernmentHillNeighborhoodPlan-2013.aspx>

JBER <https://www.jber.jb.mil/Portals/144/JBERHOME/AICUZ/PDF/JBER-AICUZ-Study.pdf>

East Anchorage District Plan

<https://www.muni.org/Departments/OCPD/Planning/Publications/Documents/East%20Anchorage%20District%20Plan-2014.pdf>

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 12:39 pm

First Name: **Doug**

Last Name: **Robbins**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **self**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

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

Public Comment: **The Board's pairing in Senate District K was ruled an unconstitutional partisan gerrymander by both the Superior Court and the Alaska Supreme Court. I'm really struck by the complete lack of remorse on the part of the Republican mapmakers for willfully proposing an illegal map, with the intent to leverage the Republican majority in Eagle River into an additional Senate seat. The lack of remorse is shown by the new proposal 3B, which repeats the error already ruled unconstitutional by the courts. The attitude of the Republican mapmakers then, and still, is to do whatever you can get away with. The remand to the Board was not a license to pursue new ways of unconstitutional gerrymandering. The remand is to fix the previous error. Option 3B is clearly the same kind of gerrymandering that was already rejected by the courts under the Equal Protection Clause of the Alaska Constitution.**

The Board has a reasonable alternative in the pairings represented by option #2.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 12:39 pm

First Name: **Rosa**

Last Name: **Meehan**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **voter**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99515**

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

Public Comment: **I reside in South Anchorage and I support Option 2 as that best represents voter interests in my district. I do not see any logic in splitting the two Eagle River districts as proposed in Option 3b. So I strongly support Option 2.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 12:45 pm

First Name: **Sally**

Last Name: **Gates**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

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

Public Comment: **My name is Sally Gates. I am a resident of Girdwood. I am writing in OPPOSITION to the senate redistricting plan 3B which connects Eagle River with Girdwood and South Anchorage. This plan is nonsensical. I spend little to no time in Eagle River. I rarely spend any money there. I do however spend much time and money in South Anchorage and Girdwood.**

If a senator is required to serve a disconnected piece of Eagle River, it will dilute that person's ability to serve both Eagle River and South Anchorage/ Girdwood/ Whittier. Eagle River is impacted far more by what happens in East Anchorage than South Anchorage. Eagle River cares about the Glenn Highway more than the Seward Highway. And reasonably so, it impacts their lives far more. It serves no one to make one senator advocate against one part of their district in favor of another part.

It is clear the plan to plan to combine Eagle River with South Anchorage serves political motivations, but it doesn't serve the people of Eagle River or the people of South Anchorage/ Girdwood/ Whittier. This is not a complicated issue. Voting districts should serve constituents, not political parties (regardless of the party.) Voting districts should be practical geographically, make it easy for people to connect with those elected and serve the interests of the constituents in the district. Option 3B does NOT accomplish any of these goals.

I am writing in SUPPORT of redistricting OPTION 2. Option 2 makes sense.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 3:01 pm

First Name: **Steve**

Last Name: **Strait**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Support Pairing HD 9 & 22**

Public Comment: **I am submitting testimony in support of joining House Districts 9 and 22 into a common Senate District as part of 2022 Redistricting plan.**

My name is Steve Strait, a long time resident of Anchorage who has lived on Anchorage's hillside for years.

First the Legal....

Alaska Constitutional Provisions - Article VI

â€œâ€ 6. District Boundaries â€â€ The Redistricting Board shall establish â€!...Each senate district shall be composed as near as practicable of two contiguous house districts. Consideration may be given to local government boundaries. Drainage and other geographic features shall be used in describing boundaries wherever possible.â€

The pairing of House Districts 9 and 22 does meet the legal standard for one senate seat by combining H.D. 9 & 22 because they are in fact Contiguous. Since these two districts are contiguous

- 1. H.D 9 and H.D.22 share a common boundary and therefore are contiguous.**
- 2. Both H.D. 9 & 22 include large areas of elevated terrain and are substantially different from most other Anchorage bowl neighborhoods. Eagle River and Hillside to Girdwood include mountains that range from 2,000-7,000 feet. Both districts share large portions of Chugach State Park, a distinction not shared by other Anchorage house districts.**
- 3. The history of Anchorage government jurisdiction and Chugach State Park is significant by being included into the City (former Bo rough of Anchorage) since the parks establishment. Chugach State Park reaches from Portage and Girdwood, includes the Anchorage Hillside through onto Eagle River and Knik bridge. The inclusion of Chugach State Park in the Muni of Anchorage is by design. The pairing**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

of H.D. 9 with 22 in a senate seat is consistent with the historical recognition the Park was and continues to be included in Anchorage boundaries.

4. What do Eagle River and South Anchorage share in common? -Chugach State Park

5. -Elevated Terrain

-Winding narrow pioneer homestead roads with associated independent local Road Service Areas of self taxation.

-Life threatening avalanches as recently occurred in E.R, associated with mountains not experienced in the Anchorage lowlands.

-Fire Danger. Spruce Bark Beetles have turned forested elevated hills above Anchorage into huge life threatening fire zones. How do you fight fires... with water of course. However both elevated areas of Eagle River and hillside south anchorage share a common problem.. non existent city provided water/sewer. Homeowners compensate with private water wells and septic systems. Fire hydrants are almost non existent in both elevated areas. Fire trucks must tanker in water up winding roads to fight home and wild fires. In the case of a wild fire residents are predicted to evacuate to lower elevation towards safety as the water trucks head uphill into fire zones leading to traffic conflicts. This known life safety fire danger is an existential threat not shared with lower suburbs of Anchorage or much of the MatSu valley.

-Also shared between HD 9 and 22 are the recreation trails between Girdwood, South Anchorage and Eagle River through Chugach State Park. Travel paths include bicycles, hiking, skiing between both communities

Chugach State Park was created in 1970, it is the third largest Park in the United States. While the Chugach State Park is common between H.D. 9 & 22. The historic Iditarod Trail (Crow Pass Trail) travels 28 miles connecting Girdwood to Eagle River as it traverses the Chugach Mountains. Today E.R and South Anchorage higher elevations are connected by hiking, skiing and bicycle trails. These Chugach mountains provide alpine water to both Eagle River and Hillside to Girdwood.

In 1975 the City of Anchorage merged with the Greater Anchorage Area Borough creating the Municipality of Anchorage. Municipal Anchorage includes almost all of Chugach State Park, because of this less than 10% of the Muni is populated. Much of Chugach State Park was intentionally included in the Muni so there is a history of the Park being geologically and politically part of Anchorage.

In summary I support joining House Districts 9 and 22 into one Senate District as part of 2022 Redistricting plan.

Steve Strait
2500 Douglas Drive, Anchorage 99517

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 8, 2022, 5:37 pm

First Name: **Jenny**

Last Name: **lwinski**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **2022 proposed pairings option 3B**

Public Comment: **I am writing in support of district map 3B, pairing house districts 9 and 22.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 8, 2022, 5:58 pm

First Name: **Michael**

Last Name: **Williams**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

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

Public Comment: **I support Map 3B**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 9, 2022, 5:51 am

First Name: **Shannon**

Last Name: **Keegan**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

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

Public Comment: **Please keep Girdwood in option 2 for redistricting purposes. This pairing has worked just fine. I strongly oppose being paired with Eagle River as proposed in option 3B. Girdwood is so small and so different than Eagle River. We will completely lose our voice. I vote in every election but if option 3B is chosen, my vote will never matter. Please go with option 2.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 9, 2022, 8:53 am

First Name: **Sheamus**

Last Name: **Lamb**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **I live in the new district 19 in east Anchorage. We are more closely related to district 21 or 18 for Senate representation. We share local schools such as East High School, Wendler and Clark Middle Schools. We also are in the same district for Anchorage Assembly. Combining our neighborhood with a Spenard district 14 would make it harder for our neighborhood concerns to be addressed.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 9, 2022, 9:54 am

First Name: **Brittany**

Last Name: **Petry**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

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

Public Comment: **Keep Downtown together, Hillside together, and Eagle River together. The pairings that are the most logical are 20/21 and 17/23 and 22/24**

I oppose Option 3B (Reudrich / Marcumn plan) and support Option 2.

It is not partisan to keep communities together. It is partisan gerrymandering to crack them apart because you don't like the way they vote. I am an independent voter who doesn't want to see partisan gerrymandering in any direction hamstringing our community in favor of some people's apolitical agendas and ideologies. I want to see commonsense and fairness prevail here.

Thanks for your time

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

To Members of the Redistricting Board

My name is **Courtney O'Byrne King** and I am lifelong Alaska resident born in Fairbanks (College) and currently living in the Oceanview neighborhood in Anchorage. I have had the opportunity to reside in the following Alaska communities - College, Nome, Juneau, and Anchorage.

The redistricting plan process, to the extent the actual deliberative process has been available to the public for consideration, is so disturbing that it compels me to provide written comment for the first time in my life. In terms of the options currently before the Redistricting Board (the board), I vehemently oppose option 3B and support option 2.

As anyone who has lived in multiple communities throughout Alaska knows, the socioeconomic and cultural factors often differ wildly within the space of a few "road miles". The proposal (option 3B) to join an Eagle River district with South Anchorage, rationalized as being contiguous via hunting opportunities in the Ship Creek Valley and limited road service districts, is spurious and should not move forward.

In addition to the joining of an Eagle River district and South Anchorage in option 3B, the inclusion of downtown areas like Government Hill in an Eagle River District flies in the face of logic. Eagle River is not contiguous, nor does it experience any commonality with downtown neighborhoods such as Government Hill. Eagle River districts should stay with Eagle River districts!

The ill-informed and clearly partisan proposal to pair Eagle River with South Anchorage appears to fly in the face of the recent judicial order regarding the board's unconstitutional gerrymandering and basic common sense.

It seems a lot of energy has been expended toward diluting the votes of diverse districts (e.g., South Anchorage & Government Hill). That energy would be more appropriately expended toward proffering a plan (e.g., option 2) that addresses both the letter and the spirit of the established Alaska redistricting process and the recent judicial order. This is the right thing to do for all Alaskans, not just Alaskans belonging to a particular political party.

The residents of Eagle River and South Anchorage do not regularly work, shop, or play together. While Eagle River residents may travel to work or shop in downtown or midtown Anchorage, South Anchorage residents do not travel to shop or work in Eagle River. Additionally, with the recently publicized sentiment of Eagle River residents' desires to separate from the Municipality of Anchorage, it is ludicrous to suggest those same residents represent highly diverse Anchorage communities. Eagle River districts should stay with Eagle River districts! (The NCAA rivalry between Duke and North Carolina comes to mind as an appropriate comparison.)

Please, let your actions demonstrate that the board is not a purely partisan entity and that it values the inherent differences among Alaskans and keep downtown together, Hillside together, and Eagle River together by supporting option 2.

Sincerely,

Courtney O'Byrne King 730 Bounty Drive Anchorage, AK 99515

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Dr. Chase Hensel and Dr. Phyllis Morrow

April 8, 2022

Alaska Redistricting Board
PO Box 240147
Anchorage, AK 99524

RE: Board Plans to Split Eagle River for Senate Pairing Purposes

Dear members of the Alaska Redistricting Board:

The purpose of this letter is to provide further information about the Eagle River community of interest to aid in the work of the Board on remand. We will use the term Eagle River to mean Proclamation District (“PD”) 22 and PD 24: Eagle River, Eagle River Valley and Chugiak, which together constitute the Eagle River community of interest. Currently, there are two plans before the board: Plan 2, which preserves the Eagle River and East Anchorage communities of interest, and Plan 3B, which splits the Eagle River community of interest and pairs PD 22 with PD 9. In light of the information discussed herein, it is our strong belief that the Eagle River community of interest, like the East Anchorage community of interest, can and should be preserved in a single, cohesive senate district in order to best comply with the narrow orders issued by both the Superior Court and Alaska Supreme Court. For these reasons, it is our belief that Plan 3B should be rejected.

As you will recall from the trial court proceedings, Dr. Hensel testified as an expert witness for East Anchorage Plaintiffs. Dr. Hensel has a B.A. from Cornell University, an MA from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Anthropology, and a Ph.D. from the University of California Berkeley in Anthropology. Dr. Hensel has worked extensively on a variety of consulting projects throughout the state, including a previous redistricting case. Dr. Hensel worked on the constitutional challenge to the Alaska Official English Initiative. Dr. Hensel is a retired Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

Dr. Morrow has also consulted on community-based projects throughout Alaska and in a variety of legal cases. Dr. Morrow has a B.A. from Harvard University, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Cornell University. She is Professor of Anthropology and Dean of Liberal Arts, Emerita, from the University of Alaska Fairbanks.

About Communities of Interest

The degree to which a community has shared interests that are relevant to their political representation is key to the redistricting process. To determine the existence, geographic extent, and strength of a community of interest we need to consider qualitative and quantitative data as indicators of commonality.

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Eagle River has all the characteristics of a clearly defined community of interest, not only in terms of its socioeconomic profile, with which the board is familiar, but in terms of its historical continuity and consistent representation as a distinct and separate entity. It is represented as such by both the members of the community and people outside of the community.

Sharing a community of interest is not just a matter of visibly similar demographic characteristics or voting patterns. More fundamentally, it is about shared needs for representation with respect to issues rooted in the experience of living in a specific location. In other words, members of a community of interest approach the political process with common experiences and needs. History, culture, geography and the accumulation of personal choices – all the opportunities and constraints that people live with – make places and their needs unique. This is why the notion of communities of interest is relevant to the political process.

Because a large data set informs the question of whether and to what degree a population constitutes a community of interest, it can be a judgment call as to where the boundaries of a community of interest lie. In the Eagle River case, however, there is no question: all the signposts point in the same direction.

The Eagle River Community of Interest

PD 22 (Eagle River Valley) and PD 24 (Eagle River/Chugiak) comprise a single community of interest.

Eagle River and Chugiak share a boundary that is largely along rugged geography, thus limiting points of access. To get from one to the other, however, the Glenn Highway provides an easy and direct route. With no competing routes or other main roads leading elsewhere, the highway links these two places more than the geography separates them. While the same highway also connects to Anchorage, the distance is approximately three times as far.

Where people have local infrastructure to allow them to pursue most of their routine activities, their primary sphere is generally close to where they live. The connections among people become denser and more continuous within such areas, reinforcing their orientation toward the local area. Residents of Eagle River may need to come to the Anchorage urban area to work or to obtain services unavailable near home, but they orient to their immediate community through schools, worship, recreation and shopping for sundries and groceries.

Though there is good road connection between urban Anchorage and Eagle River, residents of urban Anchorage, with its dense and diverse infrastructure, do not routinely travel there. Residents of urban Anchorage have the densely connected city as their sphere of activity, with access to resources within their own and surrounding sectors. The

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one-way flow is significant: between well-connected populations, a reciprocal flow is to be expected.

In practice, Eagle River is treated as a separate community. When the Covid-19 epidemic led to travel restrictions between communities in the spring of 2020, the State of Alaska understood Eagle River to be a separate community within which most “critical personal needs” could be met, “common sense” dictating that discrete place names and local perceptions of “geographic separation” define a community.¹ Covid-19 Health Mandate 11 was structured in the form of FAQs. Concerning travel during lockdown, the answer to “How is ‘community’ defined?” was this:

The prohibition on travel between communities is designed so that people must use the closest available services to fulfill critical personal needs. Common sense applies – normal usage of location names and understanding of geographic separation applies when asking about community boundaries. For instance, Eagle River, Palmer, Wasilla, and Anchorage are all separate communities. You may only travel to another community for critical personal needs if you cannot meet those needs in your community.

Even if one had to go to Anchorage for some essential purpose, the mandate instructed, e.g., filling the gas tank and getting food locally before leaving one’s community. For epidemiological purposes, Eagle River was considered a closed community. This was, in other words, a situation in which, excepting critical needs, residents of Eagle River and Muldoon had no access to each other’s areas.

As another example, although Eagle River schools are part of the Anchorage School District, the bus service has a different transportation provider, Reliant Transportation – Chugiak/Eagle River.²

In a variety of contexts, Eagle River residents represent themselves as a highly distinct community that is focused on place-based issues within the area they consider theirs:

The public Facebook page “Chugiak - Eagle River Area News and Info” has 2,400 members. A sense of community, sharing of information and a reference to the U.S. Constitution are all expressed in the group’s dedication to: “All things Chugiak - Eagle River area. This local news and information Facebook group is ‘for’ the local community

¹ https://dhss.alaska.gov/News/Documents/press/2020/FAQs_03272020-SOA-COVID-19-Health-Mandate-011-012.pdf.

² <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/5421>.

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and ‘by’ the local community including those with local information to share that may be of interest to those in the community.”³

The area has a newspaper, the Alaska Star.⁴ Its description as a “weekly community newspaper that has served Chugiak-Eagle River for more than 35 years” expresses longstanding identity as a distinct place. The newspaper’s Instagram site identifies the area served as “Chugiak, Eagle River, Peters Creek, Eklutna and Thunderbird Falls” recognizing the interconnections of subscribers/readers/residents in these named places. People orient to each other within this local area.⁵

The Chugiak-Eagle River Professionals Group refers multiple times to the distinctiveness of the community and its common interests.⁶ The opening statement “About Us” is that “The Chugiak-Eagle River Community is unique!” The group’s goal is that “Individuals who live, work, raise families, and play in our community will have a forum to meet others of like-minded interests, educate themselves both professionally and personally, stay up-to-date with local events & opportunities for coordinated volunteer/service projects, become familiar with our community’s unique past and assist in making their own positive footprint in the future.”

Local festivals are also an expression of place-based identities. The 2021 Official Guide to the Bear Paw Festival frames the event in terms of “coming together as a community to celebrate our successes, acknowledge the work we still have to do, and to enjoy a week in July that makes the Chugiak-Eagle River area the best place to call home.” This characterization explicitly ties local needs for action with a sense of shared community in a shared place.⁷ Self-described as “the largest and longest running community event in Chugiak-Eagle River,” the festival features distinctively local events including “Slippery Salmon Olympics” and the “Chopped Salmon Throwdown.”⁸

The Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board, “constituted in order to review and make recommendations on actions regarding potential changes in land use issues that impact multiple Community Council areas in the Chugiak Eagle River area,” is another indication that the residents of the area share a set of distinctly place-based concerns.⁹

³ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/407722959839121>.

⁴ <https://www.alaskastar.com/>.

⁵ <https://www.instagram.com/starnewspaper>.

⁶ <https://www.cer.org/government-structures-and-local-public-servic>.

⁷ https://issuu.com/61degrees/docs/2021_eagle_river_official_bear_paw_guide.

⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/BearPawFestival/>.

⁹ <https://www.cer.org/government-structures-and-local-public-servic>.

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The language of EaglExit also appeals to shared history and to the sense of an enduring and distinct community that shares common needs in place:¹⁰

The Village of Eklutna was the beginning of local governance in our area. The homesteaders that came later also showed a strong desire for our own city separate from Anchorage. A Chugiak-Eagle River Borough existed for two years in the early 70s. Now our journey continues with a strong desire to form an independent local government built on the vision of its people. The new government and school district would be built from the bottom up, focusing on the very basic needs of our local residents.

That EaglExit's goals echo multiple efforts over the decades, since the 1970s, to detach the area from Anchorage and form a separate governmental entity indicates an ongoing local dialogue around topics of autonomy and interdependence.¹¹

From these sources, it is evident that Eagle River residents take as a given their historical continuity as a separate community. A strong community of interest tends to be a self-reinforcing entity: people are drawn there because of its character and they stay there because that character suits them.

In the extensive testimony on redistricting, adjectives people used to describe their areas were consistent with those that appeared in the non-political contexts cited above. Notably, people who identified as living in Eagle River recurrently used descriptors that suggested self-containment or self-sufficiency, like "separate," "stand alone," "separate on its own," "an independent community" and "unique."

Conclusions

Eagle River forms an obvious and clearly defined community of interest. It is our opinion that dividing a community of interest creates both dilution and friction in the political process.

Division of the Eagle River community of interest would dilute its voting power by splitting it between two districts. This harms the community thus divided. Residents would lose the ability to have their collective interests efficiently and effectively represented.

An undivided community of interest gets a senator's undivided attention. As an example, if a plurality of Eagle River community of interest residents wanted to form a separate borough, they would rely on concerted support from their state senator.

¹⁰ <https://eaglexit.com/about/>.

¹¹ <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2019/04/18/chugiak-eagle-river-residents-renew-effort-to-separate-from-anchorage/>.

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Divided, a community of interest must compete for the attention of two Senators, each responsible for a broader, less cohesive district's concerns. Because Eagle River's interests are so collectively defined, any population outside of that community of interest with which half of Eagle River might be paired would also find itself competing for attention. This creates more friction among voters.

It is not that constituents in a single community of interest have the same opinions; it is that they share concerns about what is important to the people of their community, even when they have different approaches to dealing with those concerns. In a pairing of differing communities of interest, there is tension in the priorities as well as the possible approaches for addressing them.

It would be harmful to intentionally create districts that have a distinct fault line, with Eagle River constituents continuing to orient towards the collective needs of the Eagle River community of interest. Pairing Eagle River with any other house district risks dividing other communities of interest.

Pairing options are not always this clear cut, but when they are, the path of action is obvious. To divide Eagle River and pair the pieces with even more distant and disparate house districts would be to entirely disregard community of interest requirements.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chase Hensel

Dr. Phyllis Morrow

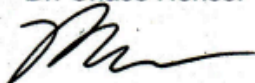
Pairing options are not always this clear cut, but when they are, the path of action is obvious. To divide Eagle River and pair the pieces with even more distant and disparate house districts would be to entirely disregard community of interest requirements.

Sincerely,



Dr. Chase Hensel

4-8-22



Dr. Phyllis Morrow

4-8-22

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Constant, Christopher <[REDACTED]>

Fri 4/8/2022 7:23 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Attached is a draft resolution authored by Assembly Leadership as testimony for inclusion in the record of your proceedings.

We are scheduled to deliberate and adopt this resolution supporting map #2 on Tuesday April 12, 2022 at our next regular meeting. A final version will be presented to the board shortly thereafter.

Upon adoption, it will be the formal policy of the Municipality of Anchorage.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Constant, Vice Chair

Anchorage Assembly

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2022-112

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING**
2 **ANCHORAGE SENATE DISTRICTS REVISION OPTION #2 BEFORE THE**
3 **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD THAT PAIRS HOUSE DISTRICT 17 WITH 23,**
4 **AND HOUSE DISTRICT 22 WITH 24.**
5

6
7 **WHEREAS**, Alaska State Redistricting happens once a decade, concluding with the
8 Alaska Redistricting Board (ARB) adopting a Final Proclamation of Redistricting
9 (Proclamation) affecting communities for a decade; and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, the adoption of the Proclamation on November 10, 2021, triggered a
12 Charter provision requiring the Anchorage Assembly to determine whether it was
13 malapportioned and also triggered a Charter amendment passed by voters in 2020
14 directing the Assembly to add a 12th member. On November 23, 2021, with the
15 passage of [AR 2021-382](#) the Assembly declared itself malapportioned and began
16 the reapportionment process; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly conducted extensive public outreach and recorded
19 substantial public testimony between November 23, 2021 and March 23, 2022,
20 concluding when Anchorage Ordinance AO 2022-37 (S-1), As Amended, was
21 approved containing the new apportionment map; and
22

23 **WHEREAS**, in a legal challenge to the 2021 Redistricting Proclamation the Alaska
24 Superior Court in Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI found that the Alaska Redistricting
25 Board’s pairing of House Districts 21 and 22 into Senate District K is unconstitutional
26 and that this pairing must be changed on remand to the ARB; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the Alaska Supreme Court on March 25, 2022 affirmed the superior
29 court’s determination that “the Board’s Senate K pairing of house districts
30 constituted an unconstitutional political gerrymander violating equal protection
31 under the Alaska Constitution” and the remand to the ARB to correct it; and
32

33 **WHEREAS**, on remand, the Alaska Redistricting Board adopted proposed revisions
34 to the 2021 Proclamation Plan Anchorage Senate District K
35 (<https://www.akredistrict.org/2022-proposed-revisions/>), and as of April 8, 2022,
36 Options 2 and Option 3B remain for its consideration; and
37

38 **WHEREAS**, Proposed Option 3B joins south Eagle River with South Anchorage,
39 Girdwood, Turnagain Arm including Portage, and even beyond the borders of the
40 Municipality into Whittier in the Chugach Census Block; and
41

42 **WHEREAS**, during the recent Municipality of Anchorage Reapportionment process,

1 residents from Eagle River, South Anchorage and Girdwood spoke out
2 overwhelmingly against proposals that would combine these communities with
3 scores of comments opposing the combination; and
4

5 **WHEREAS**, the Alaska Redistricting Board should not contemplate a pairing of
6 House districts like presented in Option 3B, that combine geographically and
7 demographically distinct areas and simply shifts the constitutional infirmity into other
8 areas; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Reapportionment Committee heard from five
11 community councils and scores of individuals regarding their opposition to grouping
12 Eagle River and South Anchorage on the basis that these are distinctly different
13 regions with few shared communities of interest; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, the Alaska Redistricting Board's Proposed Anchorage Senate Districts
16 Option 2 combines House District 23 which is the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
17 area with House District 17 covering the downtown area; and House District 22, the
18 south Eagle River area, with House District 24, the north Eagle River area; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Option 2 more closely joins neighboring communities off common
21 interest that interact through direct road access to shop, work, and play in their
22 respective areas, in clear compliance with the Superior Court's Constitutional
23 directives to respect natural boundaries where possible in describing boundaries
24 (e.g. drainages and mountain ranges), and the testimony from communities of
25 interest, while maintaining contiguity and compactness in drawing such district lines;
26

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Anchorage Municipal Assembly
28 supports the Alaska Redistricting Board's Proposed Anchorage Senate Districts
29 Option 2 which pairs House Districts 17 and 23 to form one Senate district, and
30 House Districts 22 and 24 to form another Senate district.
31

32 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _____ day
33 of _____, 2022.
34

35
36
37 Chair _____

38 ATTEST:
39
40
41

42 _____
43 Municipal Clerk
44