



## ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

### Alaska Redistricting Board Meeting February 26, 2021 | 2:30 p.m.

The Alaska Redistricting Board virtually met on February 26, 2021. Present participants are below:

John Binkley	Chair of the Board
Melanie Bahnke	Board Member
Bethany Marcum	Board Member
Budd Simpson	Board Member
Nicole Borromeo	Board Member
Peter Torkelson	Executive Director
TJ Presley	Deputy Director

#### **Agenda**

- Call to Order
- Establish a Quorum
- Adoption of Agenda
- Staff Public Outreach Directive
- Response Protocol for Meeting Requests
- Software Training Availability
- Executive Session: Interview with Legal Services RFI Respondents
- Adjournment

#### **Call to Order**

Mr. Binkley called the meeting to order at 2:31 p.m. With all board members present, a quorum was established.

#### **Adoption of Agenda**

Ms. Borromeo moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Ms. Bahnke seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Staff Public Outreach Directive**

Mr. Torkelson stated that staff received notice from the US Census Bureau stating that the census results would not be provided until September 30, 2021 at the latest. Due to the delay in census information, staff have discussed the idea of being proactive in outreach, primarily to interest groups that have historically been involved in redistricting (i.e., local governments), and forming new relationships. During this time, staff could take the opportunity to network and educate on the following: 1) census timeline, 2) how the timeline impacts the board's schedule and 3) the board's

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constitutional requirements.

Mr. Torkelson requested that board members guide staff and inform on the local governments within their areas that are the most active and would be the most interested in hearing from the board.

The board discussed the following regarding public outreach:

- Educating the general public, community groups, and non-profits during this effort is important.



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- It was requested that staff develop a presentation and/or bullet points to fully inform on the outreach support needed from board members.
- The outline of the outreach directive provided to the board could be modified to add more community groups, timelines, locations, and additional outreach planning.
- It was suggested that a process to request formal engagement from the board be developed specifically for outreach matters.

There was a consensus among the board for staff to move forward with outreach efforts.

### **Response Protocol for Meeting Requests**

Mr. Torkelson anticipates numerous requests from various entities and individuals for the board to engage in various meetings. Staff requested direction from the board on the protocol for meeting requests.

The board held a discussion regarding the protocol for meeting requests and highlighted the following:

- Although it may be helpful for there be a policy for individual board members not to engage in off-record discussions, this is also a valuable way to gain public input.
- Ms. Bahnke suggested that if the board allows itself to individually engage with the public and community groups in their formal role as Redistricting Board members, a record of the engagement activities of each board member should be publicly shared.
- Ms. Marcum acknowledged that there will be a challenge in defining and tracking the varying types of conversations between board members and the public.
- It was requested that all group meeting requests be directed to staff. If an individual board member receives a cold call, the caller will be redirected to staff. This procedure will serve as the interim policy until a formal protocol is in place.

### **Software Training Availability**

Mr. Torkelson noted that there are twelve virtual software trainings available for board members. Staff will provide board members with the links for these trainings. Additionally, the software training contractor has offered to provide a corporate virtual training seminar to the board.

### **Executive Session: Interview with Legal Services RFI Respondents**

Ms. Marcum moved to enter executive session to interview a respondent of the legal services RFI. Ms. Borromeo seconded the motion.

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The board entered executive session at 3:14 p.m.

The board exited executive session at 4:22 p.m.

One more interview will be held with the second RFP respondent on March 2, 2021.

Ms. Bahnke asked if resources available for the board's outreach efforts, such as a public relations firm to develop messaging with a goal to educate and engage the public on the redistricting process. Mr. Presley answered that staff will include public relations firm suggestions and collateral for the board to review and approve.

### **Adjournment**

Mr. Simpson moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Borrromeo seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.