

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

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From: Donna Aderhold <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 8:46 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: October 14, 2021, 8:46 pm

First Name: **Donna**

Last Name: **Aderhold**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Community cohesion on the southern Kenai Peninsula; preference for AFFR map**

Public Comment: **Thank you for your work on the complex issue of redistricting the entire state of Alaska with its diversity of population densities and political interests and presenting a variety of possible redistricting maps. Thank you, also, for traveling across the state to receive feedback.**

In reviewing the maps presented by the redistricting board, I prefer the AFFR map because of the district lines on the southern Kenai Peninsula. Populations east of Homer (Fritz Creek and beyond) use Homer as a population center and should be part of a district with Homer. I also like that the AFFR map includes at least some of the communities across Kachemak Bay (e.g., Halibut Cove, Seldovia) that use Homer as a hub. I would like to see Port Graham and Nanwalek in the same district as Homer for the same reasons, but none of the maps presented provide that option.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Willie** Last Name: **Anderson**

Haines and Skagway are a better fit to be combined with Juneau as residents from those two areas go to Juneau for shopping and other services.

As you look at the district, there are two high schools in Juneau in the downtown and valley areas. When you divide the valley into sections, this results a high school that has two representatives. The school boundaries should be used as boundaries.

There needs to be a level of fairness on map drawing and the issue around Andi Story's district where essentially 3 to 4 houses were placed into that district. This does not make sense.


The dividing line of the districts could be at Sunny Point and Fred Meyer.

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: 

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.

From: Scott Bailey [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 8:20 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: 2020 Redistricting Maps for Eagle River Comments

Dear Mr. Binkley,

Our family has lived in Eagle River since March 1991. I've seen the iterations for the political boundaries for our area expanded to include Girdwood and significant areas of E Anchorage.

I fully support the AFFER Proposed Redistricting plan for Alaska Senate seat 18-I and Alaska House Seat 24 Board proposed V.4.

The continuity of the district boundaries is the most straight forward and inclusive which I've seen since moving to Eagle River.

Scott Bailey
Stewart Drive
Eagle River, AK

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

WEBSITE RESPONSE

From: Julia Barrett [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 5:55 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Seat 31

Hello, As an 18 yr resident of Fritz Creek I oppose being redistricted to 32. I feel that District 31 does an excellent job representing the needs of Fritz Creek and Fox River as we are also on the road system, unlike District 32. I am not at all confident the same can be said for a representative from 32. I strongly prefer the Doyon and AFFER redistricting maps over the board provided maps. Thank-you for all of the work you are doing to spread the lines as fairly as possible.

Julia Barrett 907-299-2434

Date: October 13, 2021, 8:36 pm

First Name: **Julia**

Last Name: **Barrett**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **As a 18 year resident of Fritz Creek, I absolutely do not want Fritz Creek re-districted to Kodiak and PWS.**

From: MIA BARRETT <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 9:36 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: October 14, 2021, 9:35 am

First Name: **MIA**

Last Name: **BARRETT**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Fitz Creek/Fox River redistricting**

Public Comment: **As a voting member of Fitz Creek/Fox River, I oppose the plan to redistrict the area into Kodiak. This would result in loss of relevant representation as my community is tied to Homer and not to Kodiak.**

From: dean bartsch <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 11:42 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: October 15, 2021, 11:41 am

First Name: **dean**

Last Name: **bartsch**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99611**

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

Public Comment: **Nikiski is in the district of Kenai/Soldotna. I have not been to Anchorage or Girdwood in 3years and have nothing in common with Anc. area and that is why I live in Nikiski. Requiring a representative to look after my concerns(in one of the states smallest area, not even a city) and those of the states biggest city is just wrong headed**

Thank for scheduling this time in District 31. I am Eileen Becker Diamond Ridge

Like many have testified I am in agreement. The idea of somehow moving Fritz Creek and Fox River to Kodiak will cause a great separation in our area.. We all know that District 32 Kodiak has had historically had little or nothing to do with Kachemak Bay area. We need to stay intact and connected.

I would also suggest for less confusion across the Bay be added once again to District 31. This past 10 years have little or no contact with Halibut Cove, Seldovia, Port Graham and Nanwalik. Our economy has and will always be linked. Feeling part of a community and being in touch with your Representative is very important.

With the numerous other divisions created by hospital district, city of Homer, KPB and school districts, We don't need more confusion with our neighbors and across the bay. It is my opinion there would be ample citizens in the upper District 31, primarily Kasilof north, that could easily be included into 29 & 30. Rivers and Road make good boundary.

Because the District are used to create territories for representation both House and Senate any help in clearing up confusion and making sure every citizens has a connected feeling to their district, District 31 needs to be unified.

If the Boundary Commission struggles with making a certain quota per district and there is not flexibility to created usable practical dividers perhaps its time to address the rules.

From: Kristine Benson <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 9:01 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: October 10, 2021, 9:01 pm

First Name: **Kristine**

Last Name: **Benson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99801**

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

Public Comment: **I am very concerned with the way both Maps 3 and 4 (as well as the AFFER map) squiggle a line at Representative's Story's house and urge you to discard those maps. The Mendenhall Valley area should be kept together instead, as is done in the Senate Minority map and the AFFR map. Auke Bay and the Juneau airport area are part of the Mendenhall Valley and should be kept in the same district for socio economic integration. I am also concerned about the AFFER map creating a Southeast district that is not compact and contiguous taking in parts of Ketchikan and Sitka and this concept should be discarded. The best map for the Southeast Region is the Senate Minority map, which not only adheres to the compact and contiguous standard, but has a very low difference in population size between districts.**

Also, having previously lived in Anchorage for six years, I want to comment on the ill-advised combining of parts of Anchorage with Eagle River (Map 4) and instead Eagle River districts should be kept compact and contiguous, and separate from Anchorage (see AFFR map).

From: Frank Bergstrom [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 1:01 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting Board Version #3 Comments

To: Alaska Redistricting Board
From: Frank Bergstrom, 7630 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801
Date: October 13, 2021
Subject: Legislative Redistricting Board Version #3

As a 34-year resident of Juneau it is my pleasure to submit comments on the current legislative redistricting plan. Please accept my wholehearted support for Board version #3, which places Haines and Skagway with “north” Juneau. This district would include my residence and best represents the continuity of physiography, culture, and socio-economic conditions found in the region.

Critical to the design of legislative districts would be geographic integrity. In this regard it is informative to consider the historic ‘districting’ of the physiographic setting encompassing the area from the head of Lynn Canal (and Lutak Inlet) to and including, Taku Inlet. An obvious justification for the geographic integrity of this concept would be the territory historically occupied by native cultures. In this regard, (1) the Chilkoot/Chilkoot Kwaan Tlingit occupied the territory of upper Lynn Canal south to Berner’s Bay, (2) The Aak’w Kwaan Tlingit held sway over the territory extended from Berner’s Bay to roughly Lemon Creek; say, mile 6 Glacier Highway, and (3) the T’aaku Kwaan Tlingit occupied the area from roughly Lemon Creek through a temporary fish camp at Gold Creek (downtown Juneau), Taku Inlet, and extending further south. These boundaries are perfectly reasonable based on distinctions of geography, topology, climate, and food resources. And these boundaries have much in common with Board version #3.

As a Master of Science in Fluvial Geomorphology these demarcations appear obvious and logical. These subdivisions directed human habitation and administration for thousands of years, and they continue to provide a logical classification of those same lands in the form of legislative districts today. The combination of (1) Lynn Canal, (2) Juneau neighborhoods ‘out the road’, (3) Auke Bay, (4) the Mendenhall Valley and (5) Lemon Creek comprises a combination of the Chilkoot/Chilkoot and Aak’w Kwaan lands, and logically comprises one district, which is more rural and residential in nature. Then, logically, a separate district would be comprised of the high-density urban neighborhoods of downtown Juneau and Douglas (along with the high precipitation and wind environment of the Taku Inlet).

Socio-economic differences also support version #3. The Lynn Canal (and northern Chatham Strait) includes both the Kensington and Greens Creek mines, the workforce for which resides mostly in north Juneau, Haines, and Skagway. It is reasonable to say that more of these mine workers live in Palmer and Wasilla (due to camp life) than in downtown Juneau and Douglas. Exploration work at the Palmer Project north of Haines and historic placer mining in that same area provide a further linkage and workforce continuity throughout this proposed district from north to south.

Contrastingly, government and tourism are the dominate industries of the downtown Juneau and Douglas area. While both proposed districts support fisheries, there are distinctions in this regard as well. This has always been the case, and the Taku Inlet and Lynn Canal areas are separate management zones.

In summary, the Haines/Skagway/north Juneau connection is historic, and logical from perspectives of air, land, sea, culture, and lifestyle. It would be my distinct pleasure to reside in such a pleasing legislative district and feel better connected with the residents of that district as depicted in version #3. Board version #3 has my full support, and we hope it will have yours as well.

Frank Bergstrom

[REDACTED]
Juneau, AK 99802
[REDACTED]

From: Gina Bogart <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 3:36 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: October 15, 2021, 3:36 pm

First Name: **Gina**

Last Name: **Bogart**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99611**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Mary Jackson's Map**

Public Comment: **Thank you for the work you are doing with this important redistricting project. We are 20+ year residents of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and we support the redistricting map drawn up by Mary Jackson. It addresses all the requirements for approval (she explains this very well so we will not repeat). Addressing socioeconomics with service area boundaries makes it stand out. We support her proposal 100% and hope the board will, too.**

Thank you again for your efforts and consideration of our opinions.

Christopher and Gina Bogart

[REDACTED]
Kenai, AK 99611

From: Anna Bogdanova <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 1:43 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: October 14, 2021, 1:42 am

First Name: **Anna**

Last Name: **Bogdanova**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Map3**

Public Comment: **Keep Eagle River separate from downtown!**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021, 6:26 pm

First Name: **Carole** Last Name: **Bookless**

Public Comment: **People with similar interests and concerns should be grouped together, certainly the people of Juneau.**

Two questions were asked, both of which were answered by the board:

1) If you have a municipality in the middle of an island with 33,00 people, can you fit those populations into two districts?

2) What are your criteria for having one side of the street in one district and the other side of the street in another district?

From: Camille Broussard [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 11:19 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Proposed Nikiski Redistricting

Good Morning,

I am opposed to any proposed redistricting of Nikiski that would include it in with Anchorage or non-Kenai Peninsula areas. Anchorage and Nikiski differ greatly in our lifestyles, economics, community settings and standards and more.

Thank you,
Camille Broussard
Nikiski, AK

From: Diana Carbonell <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 10:09 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: October 14, 2021, 10:09 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: **I wanted to make an additional comment after attending the public meeting in Homer. I previously commented about my opposition to the carve out of Fritz Creek and East End from the Homer district. After studying the other maps which don't have this carve out, I feel I would be best represented with the AFFR plan. This plan keeps Homer and almost all of Kachemak bay in the same district by pairing it with Seward. The greater Homer area and Seward share many commonalities, being end of the road communities that depend on fisheries, tourism, and marine trades for their economies. Years ago these communities had a common representative to the benefit of both communities. I would strongly urge you to return to this pairing.**

From: Chris Carte [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 11:40 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: My oomments on proposed Map 3 and 4 for Juneau area

I recently examined the Redistricting Board's Map 3 and 4 for the area I live in - [REDACTED] - Juneau.

I am strongly opposed to splitting up the Mendenhall Valley representation as proposed by the Board. I am baffled why, with this process, the Valley (which has always enjoyed unified representation) should not continue to do so.

I would like to keep the Mendenhall Valley, Auke Bay, and Out the Road in a single district as it is now. The Board's proposed changes do not meet the Alaska Constitution requirements for contiguous by cutting the Valley into two districts, and legal challenges will undoubtedly follow this unwise and illegal division of representation.

Thank you for considering my comments,

Christine Carte, 45 year Juneau resident and voter



P.O. Box 46
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-3401 [City Hall]
(907) 442-3742 [City Hall-fax]
tatkinson@kotzebue.org

October 6, 2021

[via email to: testimony@akredistrict.org / original mailed]

Alaska Redistricting Board
P.O. Box 240147
Anchorage, Alaska 99524-0147

Re: House District 40 proposals before the Alaska Redistricting Board

Dear Alaska Redistricting Board Members:

Kotzebue and the Northwest Arctic Borough

The City of Kotzebue (*Qikiqtagruk*) was incorporated as a 2nd Class City in 1958 in Northwest Alaska. The City of Kotzebue became part of the Northwest Arctic Borough when the Borough was formed in 1986. There are 11 communities in the Northwest Arctic Borough – Ambler (pop. 255), Buckland (pop. 465), Deering (pop. 162), Kiana (pop. 399), Kivalina (pop. 423), Kobuk (pop. 159), Kotzebue (pop. 3,064), Noatak (pop. 555), Noorvik (pop. 652), Selawik (pop. 819) and Shungnak (pop. 263). All of these communities like Kotzebue have been incorporated as 2nd Class Cities with the exception of Noatak which is a CDP (Census-Designated Place). The Northwest Arctic Borough has had its main administrative offices and Assembly Chambers located in Kotzebue since the Borough formation in 1986. With over 42% of the Borough's population, Kotzebue serves as the hub community for the Northwest Arctic Borough/NANA Region.

Redistricting Law in Alaska

In 1998, the voters in Alaska approved Ballot Measure 3 by a 52% to 48% margin which amended Article VI to the Alaska Constitution and thereby enacted a redistricting process in Alaska that fundamentally re-wrote the redistricting process for Alaska. To wit: the new Constitutional language delegated the line-drawing authority to the Alaska Redistricting Board.

In the 11 sections of the Alaska Constitutional Article VI, the operations of the Alaska Redistricting Board are set forth, providing in particular in section 6, "District Boundaries" in pertinent part:

The Redistricting Board shall establish the size and area of house districts subject to the limitations of this article. Each house district shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area....Consideration may be given to local government boundaries.

See, also, the Alaska Supreme Court decision in *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, 846 P.2d 38, 46 (1992), as modified on denial of rehearing March 12, 1993, which noted that:

3. Socio-economic Integration.

In addition to preventing gerrymandering, the requirement that districts be composed of relatively integrated socio-economic areas helps to ensure that a voter is not denied his or her right to an equally powerful vote. [W]e should not lose sight of the fundamental principle involved in reapportionment—truly representative government where the interests of the people are reflected in their elected legislators. Inherent in the concept of geographical legislative districts is a recognition that areas of a state differ economically, socially and culturally and that a truly representative government exists only when those areas of the state which share significant common interests are able to elect legislators representing those interests. Thus, the goal of reapportionment should not only be to achieve numerical equality but also to assure representation of those areas of the state having common interests. Groh v. Egan, 526 P.2d 863, 890 (Alaska 1974) (Erwin, J., dissenting).

We have looked before to the Minutes of the Constitutional Convention for guidance in defining “relatively integrated socio-economic area.” Kenai Peninsula Borough, 743 P.2d at 1360 n. 11; Carpenter, 667 P.2d at 1215; Groh, 526 P.2d at 878. The delegates explained the “socio-economic principle” as follows: [W]here people live together and work together and earn their living together, where people do that, they should be logically grouped that way. 3 PACC 1836 (January 11, 1956). Accordingly, the delegates define an integrated socio-economic unit as: an economic unit inhabited by people. In other words, the stress is placed on the canton idea, a group of people living within a geographic unit, socio-economic, following if possible, similar economic pursuits. 3 PACC 1873 (January 12, 1956).

*In order to satisfy this constitutional requirement, the Governor must provide “sufficient evidence of socio-economic integration of the communities linked by the redistricting, proof of actual interaction and interconnectedness rather than mere homogeneity.” Kenai Peninsula Borough, 743 P.2d at 1363. In areas where a common region is divided into several districts, significant socio-economic integration between communities within a district outside the region and the region in general “demonstrates the requisite interconnectedness and interaction,” even though there may be little actual interaction between the areas joined in a district. *Id.* (declining to draw a fine distinction between the interaction of North Kenai with Anchorage and North Kenai with South Anchorage). “The sufficiency of the contacts between the communities involved here can be determined by way of comparison with districts which we have previously upheld.” *Id.* A district will be held invalid if “[t]he record is simply devoid of significant social and economic interaction” among the communities within an election district. Carpenter, 667 P.2d at 1215.*

In our previous reapportionment decisions we have identified several specific characteristics of socio-economic integration. In Kenai Peninsula Borough, we found that service by the state ferry system, daily local air taxi service, a common major economic activity, shared fishing areas, a common interest in the management of state lands, the predominately Native character of the populace, and historical links evidenced socio-economic integration of Hoonah and Metlakatla with several other southeastern island communities. 743 P.2d at 1361.

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Present Plans Adopted by the Redistricting Board as of September 20,2021

As of the date of this letter, the Alaska Redistricting Board has proposed six (6) plans for House District 40:

1. AFFER Proposed District 40-T (which moves Buckland and Deering into House District 39-Nome)
2. Board Proposed v.3 District 40 (which leaves Buckland and Deering in House District 40)
3. Board Proposed v.4 District 40 (which leaves Buckland and Deering in House District 40)
4. Senate Minority Proposed District 40-T (which leaves Buckland and Deering in House District 40)
5. Doyon Coalition Proposed District 40-T (which leaves Buckland and Deering in House District 40)
6. AFFR Proposed District 40-T (which leaves Buckland and Deering in House District 40)

The City Council of the City of Kotzebue would respectfully submit that the AFFER Proposed District 40-T, number 1 above, which moves Buckland and Deering into House District 39-Nome violates section 6 of Article VI of the Alaska Constitution and the dictates of the Hickel case as referenced above because:

- it breaks the boundary of the Northwest Arctic Borough and moves Buckland and Deering into a district with which they have no socio-economic and cultural ties
- it will unduly create confusion in the NANA Region/Northwest Arctic Borough with representation of our Region split between two completely different House Districts
- Buckland and Deering share a unique connective relationship with the Northwest Arctic Borough and NANA Region
- Kotzebue is our regional hub and residents of Buckland and Deering travel through Kotzebue – not Nome – for their activities
- residents of Buckland and Deering rely on Maniilaq Health Center and Maniilaq Association in Kotzebue for their healthcare and social services
- students in Buckland and Deering are part of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District which is based in Kotzebue
- Buckland and Deering are merged villages in the NANA Regional Corporation, without individual village corporations
- Buckland and Deering are inextricably linked to the Northwest Arctic Borough and Kotzebue in every aspect of daily life for those villages (as has been made most recently clear by the COVID-19 pandemic)
- Buckland and Deering are essential pieces of the Northwest Arctic Borough and NANA Region in a unified framework for our Region’s legislative and policy advocacy before the State and Federal government
- Buckland and Deering and the other nine communities in the Northwest Arctic Borough have been part of House District 40 as long as the Northwest Arctic Borough has been in existence, since 1986
- the Northwest Arctic Borough has a longstanding, beneficial partnership with the North Slope Borough which is also part of House District 40

Leave Buckland and Deering in House District 40

Buckland and Deering have been in House District 40 for decades. To move these two villages out of their Borough and Region violates the Alaska Constitution and case law developed thereunder. Moreover, it fractures the Borough’s villages between two diverse legislative districts. There is no need or justifiable reason for such a dramatic change for the people of our Borough/Region. For those reasons and as set out in more

detail in this letter, the City Council of the City of Kotzebue would respectfully implore the Alaska Redistricting Board to reject the AFFER Proposed District 40-T which moves Buckland and Deering out of House District 40 and into House District 39-Nome.

Sincerely
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KOTZEBUE

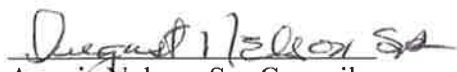

Matthew Tekker, Mayor


Thomas Baker, Vice Mayor


Sandra Shroyer-Beaver, Councilor


Derek Haveland-Lie, Councilor


Hans Nelson, Councilor


Auggie Nelson, Sr., Councilor


Johnson Greene, Councilor

cc: Lucy Nelson, Northwest Arctic Borough Mayor [via email]
Nathan Hadley, Jr., Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly President [via email]
Elizabeth Niiqsik Ferguson, NANA Regional Affairs Manager [via email]
Tom Atkinson, City Manager, City of Kotzebue [via email]
Joe Evans, City Attorney, City of Kotzebue [via email]

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**

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Corinne** Last Name: **Conlen**

Public Comment: **Ms. Conlen noted that there is a sense of community in the valley and encouraged the board to consider the dividing line from Fred Meyer at Sunny Point.**

From: Sharron Cotogno <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 1:14 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: October 16, 2021, 1:13 pm

First Name: **Sharron**

Last Name: **Cotogno**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Fritz Creek fragmentation.**

Public Comment: **My husband and I attended the meeting in Homer on October 13, but we chose not to address you orally. I am sure the redistricting was no easy task. That said, we both think you could have made a better choice than to fragment Fritz Creek and Fox River from the communities neighboring them on the connected (as in continuity) road system. That is totally unacceptable to us, especially we reside in the Fritz Creek area.**

It also splits the Kachemak Emergency Services area into two politically diverse sections. This is evident by having one service area building located at twelve miles East End, part of the fragmented chunk, and the other located on Diamond Ridge.

We presently are supposedly represented by Gary Stevens of Kodiak in the state senate. I contend that those of us in the Fritz Creek area have never been, and never will be represented by him. If you keep the Fritz Creek area in the Kodiak district, that will ensure we have NO representation in either state house.

It also appears that your committee had sacrificed three of your criteria to satisfy one - ideal district size.

Thank you for reading my comments.

From: Ralph Crane <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 8:04 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: October 11, 2021, 8:04 am

First Name: **Ralph**

Last Name: **Crane**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Reference map 6, Fritz Creek and Fox River.**

Public Comment: **It appears that this redistricting version places voters and political candidates within the mainland areas of Fritz Creek, McNeil Canyon, and Fox River over into Kodiak Island District. The geographic and topographic barriers to cohesive representation and voter turnout efforts alone appear to negate this proposed revision. This revision would only serve to disenfranchise active voters and candidates within these areas and I fail to see any valid reason to revise a District that is already active and working well for voters and political representatives..UNLESS this revision is intended to achieve such disenfranchisement?!? As an active voter and potential political candidate in this District, I implore you to leave this District as it is currently!**

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

Kotzebue 10/5/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Anthony** Last Name: **Crvalho**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Maniilaq Association**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Mr. Crvalho spoke in favor of keeping Buckland and Deering in District 40. It is important to keep these villages together in the borough to maintain representation in the state. At Maniilaq, there are 20 different state grants from various departments that are designed to serve the all the villages in the region in various ways. Keeping these villages in District 40 allows Maniilaq to contact one person when advocacy needs to be done. With limited resources as a nonprofit organization, this is important.

From: Scott Davis <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 11:34 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: October 15, 2021, 11:33 am

First Name: **Scott**

Last Name: **Davis**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99645-0000**

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

Public Comment: **As a Palmer resident, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed maps. I think it is important to recognize the distinct communities within the Borough, and to the extent possible, have district boundaries mirror the actual communities of Palmer, Wasilla, Big Lake, and so on. With that in mind, I think the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (aka AFFR) does the best job. There's a Palmer district, a Wasilla district, a Big Lake district, and a KGB road district. The AFFR lines have almost perfectly equal population, and ensure we're sticking to the "one person one vote" principal. I don't think the V3 or V4 maps from the Board do as good of a job. For one thing, they divided Valley communities more than necessary, and they have for more unequal population. Thank you for considering my written testimony, and I also appreciate that you've been taking testimony in our community too.**

From: Russell Dennis <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 6:33 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: October 15, 2021, 6:32 pm

First Name: **Russell**

Last Name: **Dennis**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

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

Public Comment: **Alaska Constitutional Provision Article 6.6 stipulates that voting districts should be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area. Ester, Chena Pump and Chena Ridge constitute such an area. The schools our kids attend; our water sources; fire and EMS; and the UAF students living in these areas tie us together. Only the AFFR and the Doyon maps keep these territories together. Thank you.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **James** Last Name: **Devens**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **City Council**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Mr. Devens spoke in opposition of grouping Valdez with the Mat-Su Borough as there are no socio-economic ties between the two that are significant and measurable. Placing Valdez in a district with Sutton, Chickaloon, and portions of Palmer and Wasilla would result in Valdez becoming an appendage.

Mr. Devens noted that there is more socio-economic integration with the Richardson Highway communities leading up to the Fairbanks North Star Borough. For example, the Valdez port is the regional harbor for Richardson Highway communities. Military supplies arrive at the port and are shipped to Eilson Air Force Base and Ft. Greeley. Heavy mining and oil equipment are also shipped through Valdez routinely.

There is also significant use of Valdez port with private and commercial vessels, including essentially every community on the Richardson Highway.

Mr. Devens spoke in favor of Board Map v.3, specifically District 36, as this proposed district unites Valdez with the communities on the Richardson Highway and there is no integration with the Mat-Su Borough, which Valdez has no significant socio-economic ties with. There are some limitations due to the large size of the district stretching to Holy Cross, but the overall integration of this map is better than other proposed maps.

Mr. Devens also spoke in favor of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map, specifically District 36-R, as Valdez is grouped with Richardson Highway communities.

Mr. Devens acknowledged that the map does take a significant population portion from the Fairbanks North Star Borough, but since that area has a population surplus this is acceptable.

Mr. Devens expressed concerns regarding Board Map v.4 as it separates Valdez from all of Richardson Highway and a large portion of Tonsina, Copper River, Kinney Lake, Silver Springs, Tazlina, and Glennallen. Valdez is considered a hub to those communities' residents. Additionally, this map separates Valdez from Prince William Sound communities with no geographic overlap of the districts.

Mr. Devens commented that using the Glenn Highway as a boundary separates communities unnecessarily and at detriment. Doing this bisects communities by a highway, resulting in neighbors living in different districts.

**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 Municipality of Anchorage. I fully & wholly support AFFR. Thank you.**

From: Amber Douglas [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 5:56 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting

Dear Board Members,

As a lifelong resident of Nikiski, I have seen the effects to our community when Nikiski is redistricted as part of Anchorage. This does not work as Anchorage area and Nikiski are two very different areas economically, socially, geographically, politically, and more. Neither area is represented in the most true and authentic way. Please do not approve either of the two maps that group us together.

Thank you,
Amber Douglas
Nikiski, AK

Amber Douglas

[REDACTED]

From: Nathan Duval <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 5:37 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: October 15, 2021, 5:36 pm

First Name: **Nathan**

Last Name: **Duval**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **N/A**

Your ZIP Code: **N/A**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Valdez 9/30 Verbal Testimony**

Public Comment: **Mr. Duval noted that the history of Valdez is rich with the Richardson Highway and the affiliation with these communities is more realistic for socio-economic purposes. Growing up in Fairbanks, Mr. Duval played sports coming down the Richardson Highway. Mr. Duval has also on the Transalaska Pipeline where there were crews and connections to people going north toward Fairbanks; there was little connection with the Mat-Su Borough to the west. Recently, Valdez has received more support from legislators from the Fairbanks area while receiving silence from their representative from these same issues.**

From: Wanda Ehmann <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 5:42 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: October 15, 2021, 5:41 pm

First Name: **Wanda**

Last Name: **Ehmann**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Non of these suggestions make any sense they destroy continuity of neighbors in Anchorage**

Public Comment: **The 2013 map makes sense. It keeps the 25M area which is a neighborhood as one group. All the other ridiculous suggestions separate a neighbor and push people into areas that they do not associate with or do not have anything in common with. You are pushing people whose children attend Kassuun Elementary into the Tudor neighborhoods where they have nothing in common. The AFFR plan divides a neighborhood into a cockamamie mush pile. The AFFER plan should combine 26M and 25M or at the very least make the dividing line go straight at Dowling. They Doyon lines could be adjusted to keep the neighbor together. I see no purpose in this entire endeavor other than to waste money and time that could have been spent on real issues that this state has like reducing state spending. Cutting waste, stopping these wasteful special sessions, which should be banned. This entire thing is a waste of time and in my opinion another democratic distraction. If it ainâ€™t broke donâ€™t fix it.**

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 PUBLIC TESTIMONY FORM

CAUTION: What you write will become part of the public record attributed to you by name. Anonymous comments will not be included in the public record. Profane or inappropriate comments will be immediately deleted.

Name: SHELLY ERICKSON

Affiliation (if any): _____

Email or Phone: [REDACTED] Zip Code: 99603

Area/Map Title/Keywords: Homer resident

Public Comment: I am opposed to this plan to divide our community. Having a senator who we don't have face to face access for years has not been helpful. To do this in our community deliberately appears to be a political ploy which I'm sure you don't want. Kachemak Bay needs to be one district. ~~It~~ Turning communities in 2 keeps healthy dialogue from happening.

Please keep Kachemak Bay as 1 unit.

Thank you -

Shelly Erickson

62 yr resident

SCAN HERE TO OPEN THE MAP COMMENT PORTAL →



From: Izzy Farris <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 6:26 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: October 11, 2021, 6:26 pm

First Name: **Izzy**

Last Name: **Farris**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **I am writing in favor of the Board Proposed v.4 Map. This map appears to be the most equitable and balanced, based on keeping neighborhoods together, with the least amount of gerrymandering.**

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

Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Dennis** Last Name: **Fleming**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Community Council**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Mr. Fleming spoke in favor of Board Map v.3, specifically District 36, as it groups Valdez with the Fairbanks area. This grouping is much better than the borough the district is currently in where representation is not as strong. Fairbanks and Valdez also share commerce and recreation between both communities.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 11, 2021, 4:49 pm

First Name: **Charlie** Last Name: **Franz**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Vice Chair District 31 Alaska Republican Party**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Map Version 4, AFFER & AFFR**

Public Comment: **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Thank you for your work on the difficult task of modifying the district maps for Alaska. Thank you also for the opportunity to share my thoughts on the proposed changes to District 31.

I understand that our District has enjoyed growth over the last decade, which, unfortunately, means the District 31 boundaries will probably need to change to meet the somewhat arbitrary population requirements.

Our district has encompassed contiguous communities of the lower Kenai Peninsula and much of Kachemak Bay for many years. We have geographic, socioeconomic, and cultural ties between the communities that make up our District. The most recently released map disrupts these ties.

To date, version 4 of the ARB map is the best yet, but more work needs to be done as even this version is easily challenged. We have also reviewed several third-party maps and think the ARB's version 4 for District 31 is a better starting place than any of these third-party maps including AFFER and the AFFR offerings.

The most objectionable change in the ARB's version 4 map is the carve-out along the northern shore of Kachemak Bay of the communities of Fritz Creek, Fox River and several Old Believers' communities all of whom share natural physical boundaries as well as transportation routes, business activities, medical and community services.

Members of our District do not understand why the ARB has carved out these eastern communities and assigned them to a District that is centered approximately 140 miles away in Kodiak. What possible socioeconomic connections do they have with a Kodiak-centered District? I would, therefore, ask the ARB to consider including the entire north shore of Kachemak Bay in the final District 31 Map. If additional adjustments need to be made to reach population targets, please consider making those adjustments to the northernmost boundary of District 31.

Thank You.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

First Name: **Lawrence** Last Name: **Freeman**

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Email: [REDACTED]

Date: October 10, 2021, 5:41 pm; Issue of Concern: **Sen. Minority Plan**

Public Comment: **Suprisingly, the Senate Minority Plan for the Fairbanks area, and my district in particular has the lowest variance of actual population to ideal population. The districts are more compact and geographically rational districts of any of the plans. Districts are designed along clear geographic boundaries and are rational as to population density throughout the each of the districts.**

For the Fairbanks area, I support the Senate Minority Plan

Date: October 10, 2021, 5:35 pm; Issue of Concern: **AFFR Plan**

Public Comment: **For my area the AFFR plan provides a moderate variation of ideal vs actual population - however that districts are not geographically compact, make little geographic sense and mix areas of similar social economic status in single districts (at the same time dividing areas of similar social economic status into seperate districts.**

Date: October 10, 2021, 5:31 pm; Issue of Concern: **Doyon Plan**

Public Comment: **The Doyon Plan for my area and for Fairbanks in general have a moderate variation of ideal population to actual population of districts. The districts for the suburbab part of the FNSB are niether compact or geographically rational. They strongly mix social and economic classes between suburban, semi-rural and rural voters. These districts would stronly dilute representation for the disparate groups.**

Date: October 10, 2021, 5:25 pm; Issue of Concern: **Redistrict Board Plans v.3 and v.4**

Public Comment: **Both of the v.3 and v. 4 plans have a very high deviation of actual population to ideal population, leaving me underrepresented. In addition, the districts in the Fairbanks are neither compact nor make geographic sense. They mix areas of social and economic class, and niether indicate how Senate districts would be paired.**

Date: October 10, 2021, 5:18 pm; Issue of Concern: **AFFER Plan**

Public Comment: **For my area the AFFER plan provides a low variation of ideal vs actual population - however that districts are not geographically compact and make little geographic sense nor population sense.**

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.**

From: Mary Galvan <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:04 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: October 13, 2021, 9:04 pm

First Name: **Mary**

Last Name: **Galvan**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99701**

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

Public Comment: **Map 3 leaves the Fairbanks area proportionally underrepresented.**

From: Barb Gray <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:37 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: October 11, 2021, 1:37 pm

First Name: **Barb**

Last Name: **Gray**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99762**

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

Public Comment: **I like Board v.3 and Board v.4 for Nome!**



Northwest Arctic Borough

163 Lagoon Street
P.O. Box 1110 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-2500 Fax (907) 442-2930
www.nwabor.org

ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT NATHAN HADLEY, JR.

Maintaining the Strength and Unity of the Northwest Arctic Borough – October 5, 2021

My name is Nathan Hadley, Jr., and I am speaking as the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly President, a Buckland City Council member, and a lifelong resident of Buckland. The Northwest Arctic Borough's 11 communities (Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik, and Shungnak) have been part of Senate District T and House District 40 since the Borough's formation in 1986.

This 11-village regional organization has long been tied through family, community, our local and regional economies, and a rich social fabric spanning generations. The Northwest Arctic Borough has a longstanding dedication to working with its regional partners - NANA Regional Corporation, Maniilaq, and the Northwest Arctic Borough School District through the Northwest Arctic Leadership Team (NWALT). Through NWALT, the Borough has worked together to serve the people of the region by maximizing resources and minimizing duplication, promoting strategies through grassroots involvement, serving as a steering committee to examine region-wide issues, and coordinating to find solutions and recommend policy and resource allocation.

The Borough also has a longstanding partnership with its sister Borough, the North Slope Borough. The Borough has been able to work hand-in-hand with the North Slope to work with its state legislators to address region-wide issues like resource development, subsistence protection, offshore activities, and other common matters.

If the Alaska Redistricting Board moves to split the Northwest Arctic Borough villages, it will have significant detrimental effects on our region's strength and unity. This will be particularly so for the communities of Buckland and Deering, which are essential villages in our region without direct ties to the communities and region to the south.

- Kotzebue, not Nome, is the region's hub. Buckland and Deering residents route through Kotzebue to travel to and from home.
- They rely on Maniilaq in Kotzebue for healthcare and social services.
- Their students are part of the Northwest Arctic Borough School District in Kotzebue.
- Buckland and Deering are merged villages in NANA Regional Corporation, without individual village corporations.

Ambler Ivisaappaat, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipnatchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivalieiq, Kobuk Laugviik, Kotzebue Qikiqtabrik, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Selawik Akulibaq, Shungnak Isi'enaq



Northwest Arctic Borough

163 Lagoon Street
P.O. Box 1110 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-2500 Fax (907) 442-2930
www.nwabor.org

- In short, the ties that link Buckland and Deering to the Northwest Arctic Borough and Kotzebue cover every aspect of daily life. And removing Buckland and Deering from our legislative districts will have lasting, damaging consequences.

The Alaska Constitution explicitly contemplates consideration of socioeconomic factor and local government boundaries, and failing to recognize the importance of maintaining continuity between state and borough boundaries here will prove to be a significant and lasting disservice to our region and residents.

In particular, Deering and Buckland are essential pieces of the Northwest Arctic Borough. The Borough and NWALT actively advocate for both villages within the strength and framework of our legislative and policy support on issues like economic development, village infrastructure, water and sewer improvements, heavy equipment procurement, and educational advocacy.

In sum, it's hard to understate the harm created by fracturing the Borough's villages between state legislative districts. Our region is faced with many economic, logistical, and socioeconomic challenges; we do not need an additional barrier to effective advocacy and unity for our people and our region. I support the Board's plan as it keeps the NANA region and villages together in one district. The Northwest Arctic Borough and North Slope Borough are heavily intertwined and very different than the Bering Straits region. Our two boroughs work together as one unified unit on many issues and are formalized boroughs which should not be separated or broken up by reapportionment.

Sincerely,

Nathan Hadley, Jr.
Assembly President
Northwest Arctic Borough

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 12, 2021, 3:10 am

First Name: **George** Last Name: **Hall**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Alaska Republican Party District 31 Chairman**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **General Testimony and public comment concerning District 31 (lower Kenai) maps**

Public Comment: **Thank you for the work you have done building the 40 new district maps for Alaska. I also thank you for coming to Homer, on the north shore of Kachemak Bay, and one of the epicenters of District 31.**

District 31 has some unique line drawing challenges as a direct result of being one of Alaska's favorite playgrounds and industrial centers. We have enjoyed growth in our communities over the last decade and this means District 31 will change.

District 31 has for many years embraced contiguous communities surrounding much of Kachemak Bay and the lower Kenai Peninsula. The most recent census shows a population for District 31 of 18,717. This is an almost 10% increase over the 2010 census. For District 31 this translates into a net gain of 382 people. It also means District 31 will shrink in size to conform to the statewide standard for all 40 districts of 18,335 people per district.

To date, the ARB has produced four maps and version 4 is the best yet, but more work needs to be done as even Version 4 is easily challenged. We have also reviewed several third-party maps and feel the ARB's version 4 for District 31 is better than any of these third-party maps including AFFER and the especially bad AFFR offering.

The one big change that stands out in the ARB's version 4 map is the carve-out along the northern shore of Kachemak Bay of the communities of Fritz Creek and several Old Believers Communities all of whom share utilities and services with Homer.

The people who reside in those communities have approached me to inquire as to why the ARB has carved out these communities and assigned them to a district that is centered approximately 140 miles away in Kodiak. They question what possible socio-economic connection do they have with a Kodiak-centered district? According to these residents of Fritz Creek, the answer is none. I would therefore ask the ARB to consider including the entire north shore of Kachemak Bay in the final District 31 Map.

From: John Handeland <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:21 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: October 11, 2021, 1:21 pm

First Name: **John**

Last Name: **Handeland**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **City of Nome**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99762**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Version 4**

Public Comment: **I have not studied the state as a whole, more concerned on how our area is organized. I support the Board's version (4 is my first pick, but the other one is acceptable as well). The Board has done an excellent job in keeping the folks in our ANSCA together, which I believe is important. Also, I think we are more socially and economically tied to coastal villages, than we are to areas in the interior. I know it's not an easy job, but you've done well. Thank you!**

From: H.Hansen <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:17 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: October 13, 2021, 10:17 pm

First Name: **H.**

Last Name: **Hansen**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99635**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **District 32-P**

Public Comment: **Why in the world would you put Nikiski with South Anchorage and Girdwood??? If we need to be redistricted, it would make so much more sense to put us with Kenai. We shop in Kenai, go to the doctor in Kenai and attend community events in Kenai. We have NO relationship with South Anchorage or Girdwood. We would never be represented if forced to be a part of a community so far away. Do they just want our tax base and leave us without a voice?**

From: Tracy Harmon <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 12:45 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: October 10, 2021, 12:45 pm

First Name: **Tracy**

Last Name: **Harmon**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99686**

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

Public Comment: **I believe Valdez should identify with coastal communities and Palmer/Wasilla. I know that the majority of the Valdez community use the Glenn Hyway more so than the Richardson Hyway. This can be confirmed by the Anchorage/Valley Transport page on Facebook.**

We do not identify with Bush community. We have a fishing industry, tourism, ferry system and weâ€™re on the road system.

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.

From: Gary Hennigh <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 9:36 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: October 14, 2021, 9:36 am

First Name: **Gary**

Last Name: **Hennigh**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **City of King Cove**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99612**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **House District 37 maps**

Public Comment: **City of King Cove is offended that our community is not shown on any of the published maps for HD 37 alternatives**

From: Cynthia Henry <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 11:33 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: October 13, 2021, 11:32 am

First Name: **Cynthia**

Last Name: **Henry**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

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

Public Comment: **Chairman Binkley and members of the Redistricting Board,**

Thank you for your diligent work on the important task of redistricting our great State.

I have lived in Fairbanks for more than 46 years and feel I know the Interior well.

I support the AFFER (Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting) map.

I have concern that other proposed maps with higher deviations did not give the Interior districts full representation.

As you know, the Alaska Constitution directs that districts should be "contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area."

The map shows these tests have been met in the AFFER proposal, and I can attest, as a long time Interior resident, that the districts meet the "integrated socio-economic" criteria.

Thank you for your work and consideration of my written testimony.

Cynthia Henry

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709



CHALKYITSIK VILLAGE COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 57, CHALKYITSIK, ALASKA 99788
TELE: 1-907-848-8117 FACSIMILE: 1-907-848-8986



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 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 Native 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 difference to ANCSA regions, river systems, and local governments 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,



Stephanie Herbert
1st Chief
Chalkyitsik Village Council

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:

My name is Mary Jackson, I live at [REDACTED] and am currently in the KBeach Precinct in House District 30. I've lived here for 28 years.

Previous to that, I lived on the Southern Peninsula, primarily in Homer, for almost 20 years. So, I'm coming up on 50 years on the Kenai Peninsula and Alaska.

I retired almost 9 years ago from the Alaska State Legislature, where I worked as staff to 3 different Senators – all from the Kenai Peninsula. I have been involved in many different district configurations during that 22 year time frame.

To be transparent, I went back to work as staff this past legislative session in Juneau for a House Member in Anchorage. I am currently not on payroll but expect to go back for the Legislation Session in January 2022.

I want to thank each of you for the time and energy you're expending on this process. I've been following the Board since the first meeting. I'm impressed with your discussions as you deliberate the many issues involved in this process.

As to Redistricting, I don't like the way the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) seems to be the low hanging fruit for EVERYONE to pick.

There are 6 maps available for comment. Each one of them takes a bite out of the KPB. Every single one of them.

Why is that? Simply put – it's Kodiak Creep. Kodiak lost population, again, and the KPB gained population, again. So, the KPB is being used, again, to make Kodiak a House District. Kodiak Creep. It's time to say enough. Full stop.

The 4 maps submitted by various groups are not ones which I can support.

I support the Board's V.3 and V.4 maps – if amended, which I will explain.

The V.3 and V.4 maps show 3 house districts by providing for a northern-eastern district, from the Northern Peninsula (Nikiski) to the Eastern Peninsula (Seward). This essentially conforms with the current HD 29 boundaries.

What is currently HD 30 is also reflected in V.3 and V.4 maps – keeping Kenai and Soldotna within one district. I applaud that you recognized the value of keeping these two “urban” areas combined. They have much in common, like municipal water and sewer service, local police protection, and so forth.

I can speak from personal experience on this. I live in the KBeach Precinct, which is just outside the Kenai City Limits. My commonality with the municipality is minimal; I don’t have municipal water from a pipe under my road – I have an onsite water system. Same thing with sewer service – on site. When the city receives funds from the State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation for expanding those utilities, it provides me no value. Same thing applies with Municipal Assistance for police service or road maintenance.

But I recognize the need to add a census area here and there to complete that “urban” district and I just happen to live in the nearest one, which is at best, suburban. That’s acceptable.

But its not acceptable to design a district which is deliberately an urban/rural division. Again, I applaud your keeping these “urban” areas combined.

The southern district laid out in V.3 and V.4 of the maps is the one which concerns me greatly.

On both maps, the area across Kachemak Bay continues to be in a Kodiak district. From there, it’s like a PacMan took over and chewed its way along the head of the Bay to East End Road, gobbling population counts until old District 31 was reduced close to the 18,335 population and the excess went to Kodiak.

Kodiak Creep. It started in the last redistricting and is continuing. Kodiak loses population, the KPB gains, and the excess goes to Kodiak to keep them intact.

It needs to stop and I’m asking you to stop it.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough is a 2nd Class borough which was formed in 1964, as a result of the Mandatory Borough Act of 1963. We didn’t ask to become a governmental unit who was immediately responsible for public education. But we did it and are continuing to provide public education over the entire KPB, slightly over 25,000 square miles in area.

And here we are, almost 60 years later, merrily going about our way with slow but steady population growth and getting chewed up on all sides by these various map proposals for redistricting in 2021.

I don't know what has happened to the concept of a borough being a single socio-economic entity. Clearly, that concept is not a consideration in any of the maps.

Is the Kenai Peninsula Borough its own socio-economic region? It certainly seems to be.

I submitted several pages of information with this commentary, an addendum of sorts, which lays out a lot of information about the KPB. I show the number of Service Areas which currently exist in the KPB. But more on that later.

Dealing specifically with the boundaries of the KPB, the Constitution clearly states (see addendum for complete language):

Article VII, Section 6: District Boundaries – The Redistricting Board shall establish the size and area of house districts, subject to the limitations of this article. Each house district shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area. Each shall contain a population as near as practicable to the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the state by forty. ...”

I ask you to accept that the KPB is an integrated socio-economic area and as such should be evaluated for redistricting purposes as a 58,799 population area, divided by 3 house districts, to attain a house district count of some 19,600.

I point out that the constitution does NOT REQUIRE the board to have exactly 18,335 population in each district, but in fact states that the population should be as near as practicable to that number.

This concept should be considered by the Board and I believe should be implemented to keep the KPB intact as a viable socio-economic area.

We are either going to comply with borough boundaries or discard them in order to attain a specific district population count of 18,335.

Earlier I referenced service areas. A service area is a creature of only a borough, a “mini-muni” boundary line for providing a specific public service in that defined area.

The constitution specifically references service areas, stating (see addendum for complete language):

“Service areas to provide special services within an organized borough may be established, altered, or abolished by the assembly, subject to the provisions of law or charter. ...”

The areas in the Southern Peninsula which are deleted from the KPB in both V.3 and V.4 of the Boards maps are contained in multiple Service Areas – one of which was a previous Public Utility District formed in 1959 to provide hospital services. My addendum speaks with specificity to that Service Area and I’ve also included a map of the area.

Another Service Area affecting those areas includes the KPB Road Service Area, also referenced more specifically in my addendum.

A third Service Area specific to the Fritz Creek – East End Road deletions is the Kachemak Emergency Service Area, also shown in my addendum.

A fourth Service Area specific to the Seldovia area is the Seldovia Recreational Service Area.

All of these Service Areas were adopted by the KPB Assembly and subsequently submitted to the voters in the respective areas for their consideration. They approved and agreed to support those areas by taxation.

Again, they are creatures of the KPB, which I term “mini-munis”.

I’ve included a map of the first Service Area formed, the Nikiski Fire Service Area so you can see how the North Road is covered, simply to respond to one of the maps which deleted that area from the KPB. By the way, there are two other Service Areas in the North Road, with similar boundary lines. I also point out that paperwork has been submitted with the Local Boundary Commission to form a municipality in that area.

There are Service Areas in virtually every area of the KPB. To me, that's a clear statement about its viability as a socio-economic area as well as showing that these multiple "mini-munis" are specific socio-economic areas of their own.

In conclusion, please keep the KPB intact and establish 3 House Districts which will be slightly higher population counts than the 18,335 base count.

Thank you again for your time and effort in tackling this redistricting job – I do appreciate your efforts and hope I've presented you with sufficient information to form the house districts from the basis of "as near as practicable".

Mary Jackson

[REDACTED]

Soldotna, AK 99669

[REDACTED]

Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) - Addendum

Alaska's Constitution Article X, Section 3 states:

"The entire State shall be divided into boroughs, organized or unorganized. They shall be established in a manner and according to standards provided by law. The standards shall include population, geography, economy, transportation, and other factors. Each borough shall embrace an area and population with common interests the maximum degree possible. The legislature shall classify boroughs and prescribe their powers and functions. Methods by which boroughs may be organized, incorporated, merged, consolidated, reclassified, or dissolved shall be prescribed by law."

The KPB was formed in 1963 by the Mandatory Borough Act and officially became the KPB in 1964, a 2nd Class Borough. It encompasses 25,600 square miles and the Census population for 2020 is 58,799. It has grown by 6% since the last census.

There are 6 municipalities within the KPB; Seward (Home Rule), Soldotna (1st class), Kenai (Home Rule), Homer (1st class), Seldovia (1st class) and Kachemak City (2nd class).

The combined population of the municipalities is slightly over 22,00 which represents 38% of the KPB. Essentially, the population split is 60% rural or outside the municipalities and 40% urban, within the municipalities.

Area wide powers: As a 2nd Class Borough, the statutory powers are: property assessment and taxation, public education, and planning, platting and land use regulations unless delegated to the cities by the borough. Additionally, the KPB assumed area wide powers for solid waste in 1974, a program which oversees operation and management of 1 regional landfill, 2 transfer facility/monofils, 3 transfer facilities and 11 collection sites on the road system, 5 rural landfills across Cook Inlet and Kachemak Bay, 5 closed landfills and 1 retired landfill. ¹

Public Education: A required power by statute, the KPB funds operations of the School District and also owns and maintains all school district buildings; 195

¹ Kenai Peninsula Borough Solid Waste Program

buildings which include 42 schools, 46 support buildings, and 77 storage buildings. Funding for this program is provided via a maximum 3% sales tax borough-wide, established in 1964.²

KPB Service Areas: (refer to AS 29.35.450 for Service Area Formation)

Article X, Local Government, of Alaska's Constitution sets forth specific language regarding service areas in Section 5;

“Service areas to provide special services within an organized borough may be established, altered, or abolished by the assembly, subject to the provisions of law or charter. A new service area shall not be established if, consistent with the purposes of this article, the new service can be provided by an existing service area, by incorporation as a city, or by annexation to a city. The assembly may authorize the levying of taxes, charges, or assessments within a service area to finance the special services.”

Prior to statehood, there were 7 Public Utility Districts, organized to provide specific services, both urban and rural.³ The rural PUD's became “service areas” within boroughs.

The South Kenai Peninsula Hospital was originally a PUD, formed in 1956, which became a Service Area after the KPB was formed. That facility is partially on land owned by the City of Homer, operated by a Board form of the old PUD structure, and also has an Advisory Board to the KPB which is elected from the residents of the SKPHSA who then report to the KPB Mayor/Assembly. It is supported by a mill rate as well as operating revenues.⁴

Service Areas – 2nd class boroughs: A second class borough must gain voter approval for the authority to exercise various non-areawide powers. In the KPB, service areas are created by ordinance, subject to voter approval and provide for either an appointed or an elected Board responsible for the budget and administration of providing the service, reporting to the KPB Mayor and

² Kenai Peninsula Borough Sales Tax Division web site

³ Borough Government in Alaska, ISEGR Report No. 29, March 1971

⁴ South Peninsula Hospital web site

Assembly. The service areas are financially supported by a mill rate, which is different for each service area and approved by the voters of the service area.

A service area is a creature of a borough, a “mini-muni” boundary line for providing a specific public service in that defined area.

Current Service Areas within the KPB are:

1 road service area, encompassing all borough areas outside of a city limit.⁵

2 hospital areas; Central Peninsula Hospital and South Peninsula Hospital

6 Fire/Emergency service areas and a dispatch center

2 Recreation area services; Seldovia (2011) & North Peninsula (1973)

Senior Service area (Nikiski 1993)

Seward-Bear Creek Flood Service Area (2003)

Eastern Peninsula Highway Emergency Service Area (2017)

Of specific interest for Board Map V.3 and V.4 are the Service Areas for the South Peninsula Hospital, the Borough Road Service Area, the Kachemak Emergency Service Area, and the Seldovia Recreation Service Area.

Redistricting Constitutional Provisions

Article VII, Section 6: District Boundaries – The Redistricting Board shall establish the size and area of house districts, subject to the limitations of this article. Each house district shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area. Each shall contain a population as near as practicable to the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the state by forty. 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.

⁵ KPB Over 645 miles of road, 95% graveled, encompassing 5 regions which are divided into units, 28 units total.

Definitions:

Contiguous: Contiguous means connect to or “next to”. This term is usually used to refer to adjoining pieces of real estate. It means land adjoining or touching by a common corner or common boundary line (- Cornell.edu).

Compact: Closely and neatly packed together; dense.

Socio-Economic Area: The Mandatory Borough Act of 1963. The constitution requires the state be divided into boroughs which are supposed to consist of an area and population that has common interest (Article X, section 3 Alaska Constitution). From minutes of the constitutional convention “units should cover large geographic areas with common economic, social, and political interests.”

Redistricting Board Maps V. 3 and V. 4

Both maps reduce the boundary of the KPB by removing areas across Kachemak Bay, then following around the Bay and entering into the East End Road area and encompassing the Fritz Creek area.

The area across the Bay is within the South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area (SKPHSA) except for the City of Seldovia, which is a 1st class municipality. The area is included in the KPB Road Service area, except for Seldovia. That area is also within the Seldovia Recreational Service Area, established in 2011.

The area along East End Road is within the South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area and also within the recently formed Kachemak Emergency Service Area.

It is 115 nautical miles and 132 flight distance miles from Homer to Kodiak.

Fritz Creek to Homer is 11 miles on a state maintained road.

Nikiski – North Road

Nikiski Fire Service area was established in 1969.

The North Peninsula Recreation Service Area (NPRSA) was established in 1973.

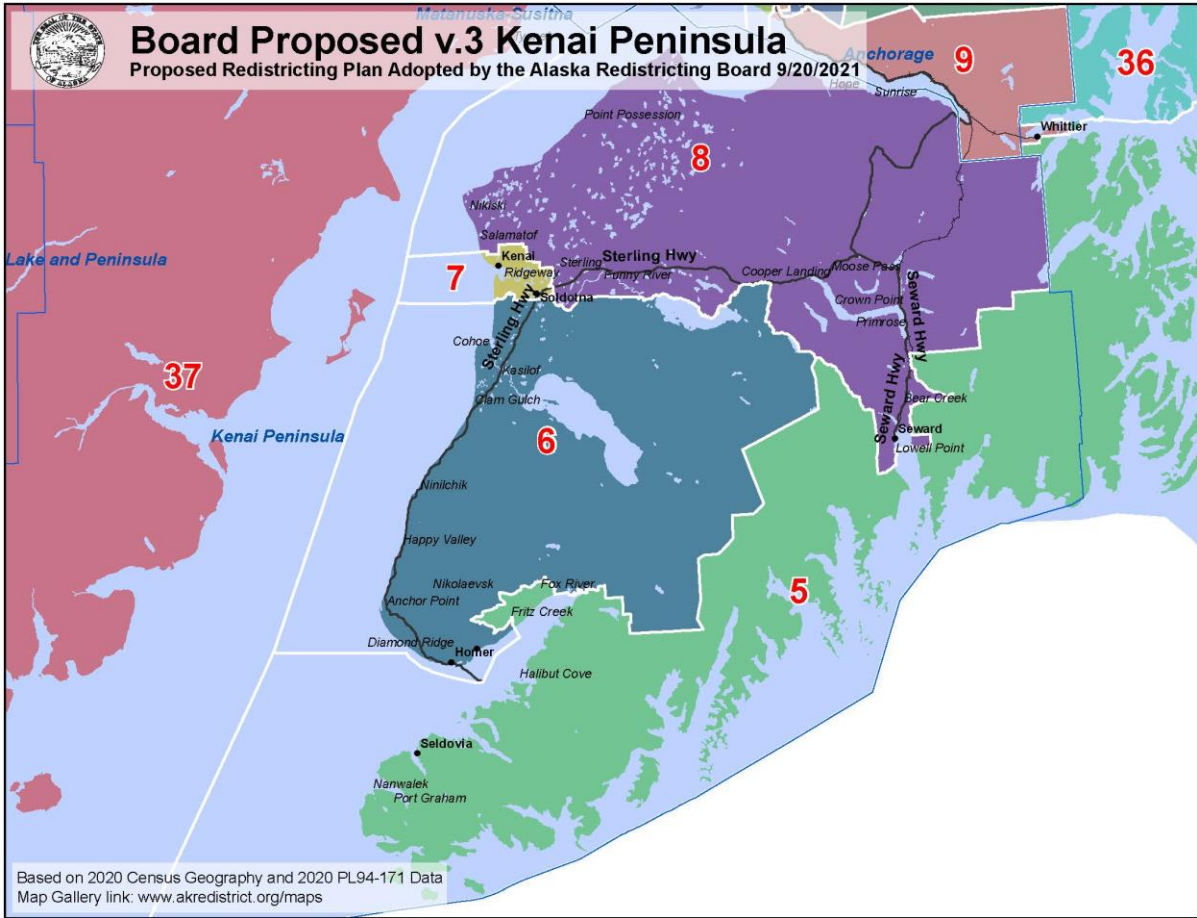
The Nikiski Senior Service Area was established in 1993.

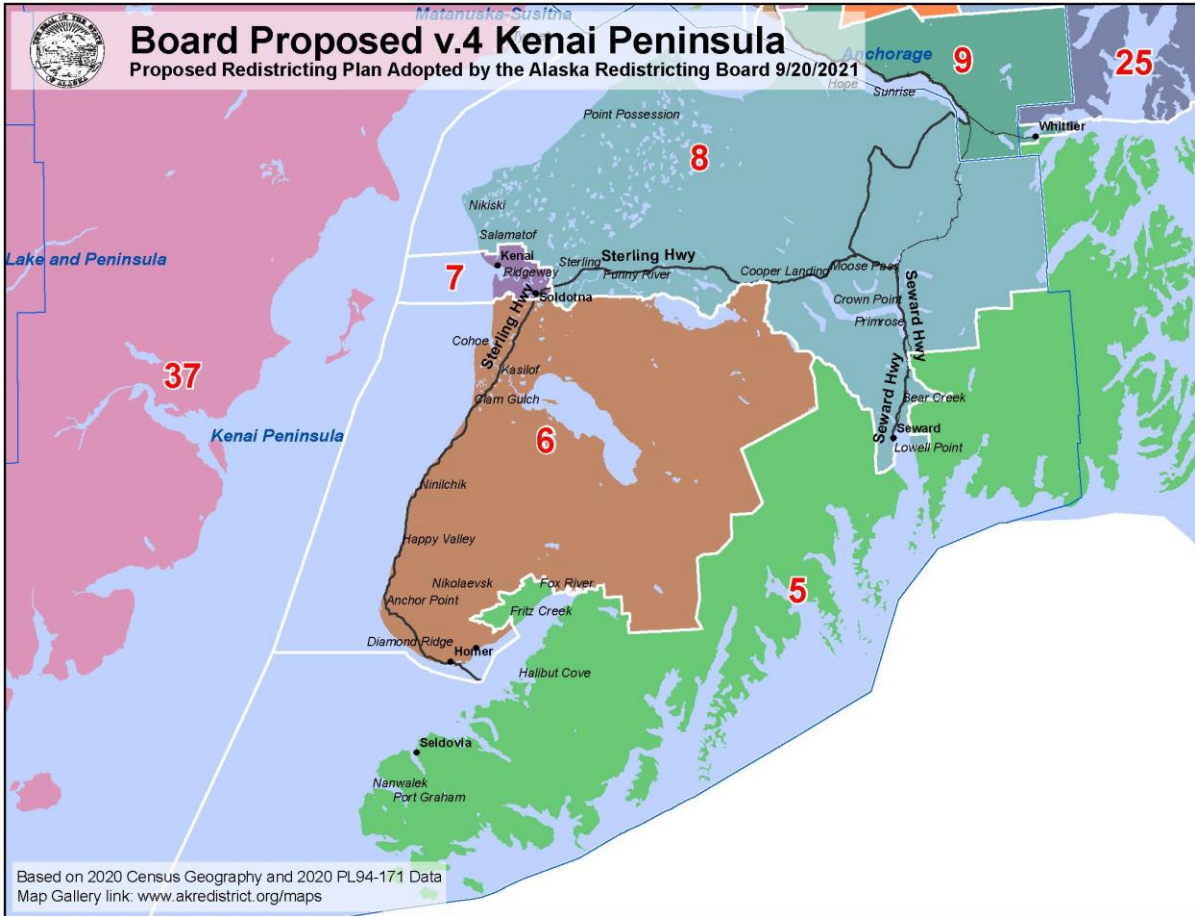
Population – KPB

58,799 = 3.2 house districts (58,799/18,355)

58,799/3 = 19,600

Growth last 10 years = 6%

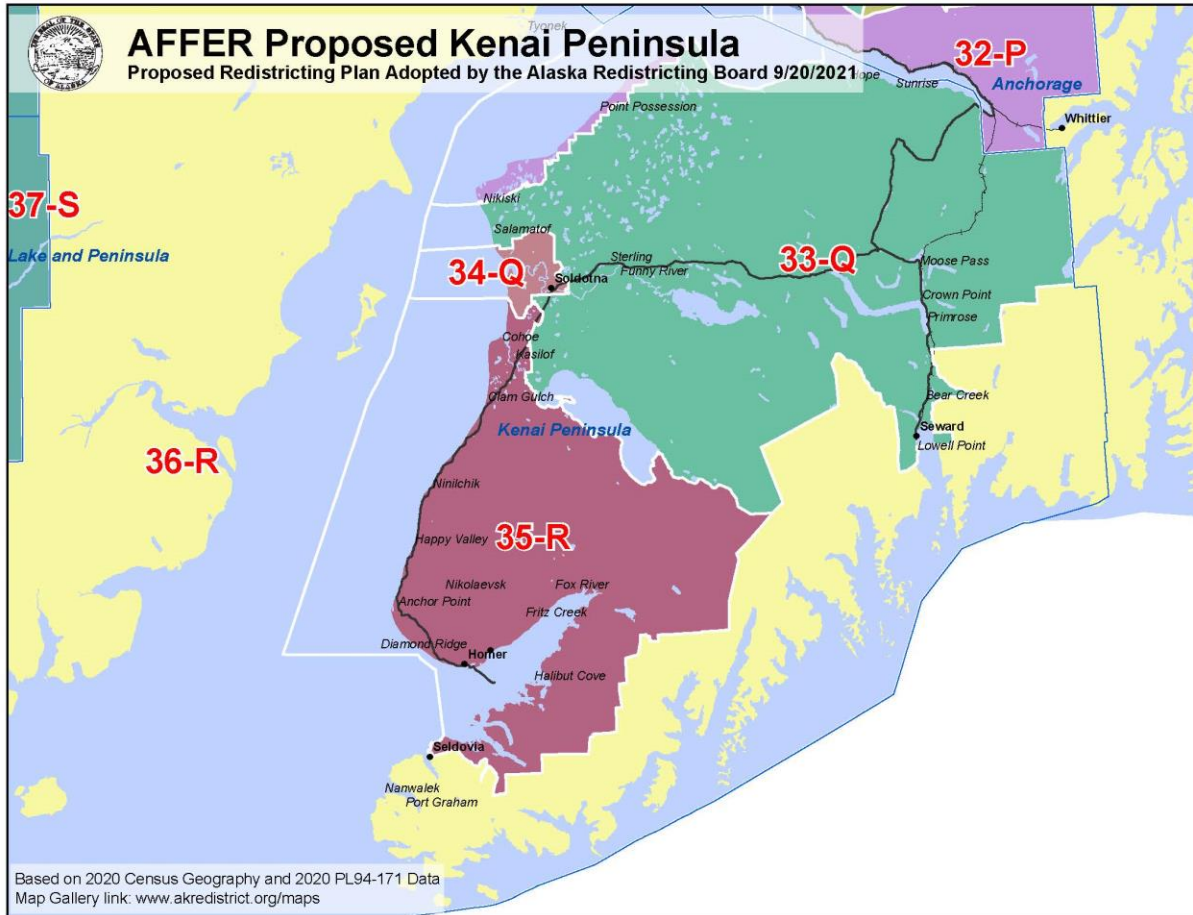




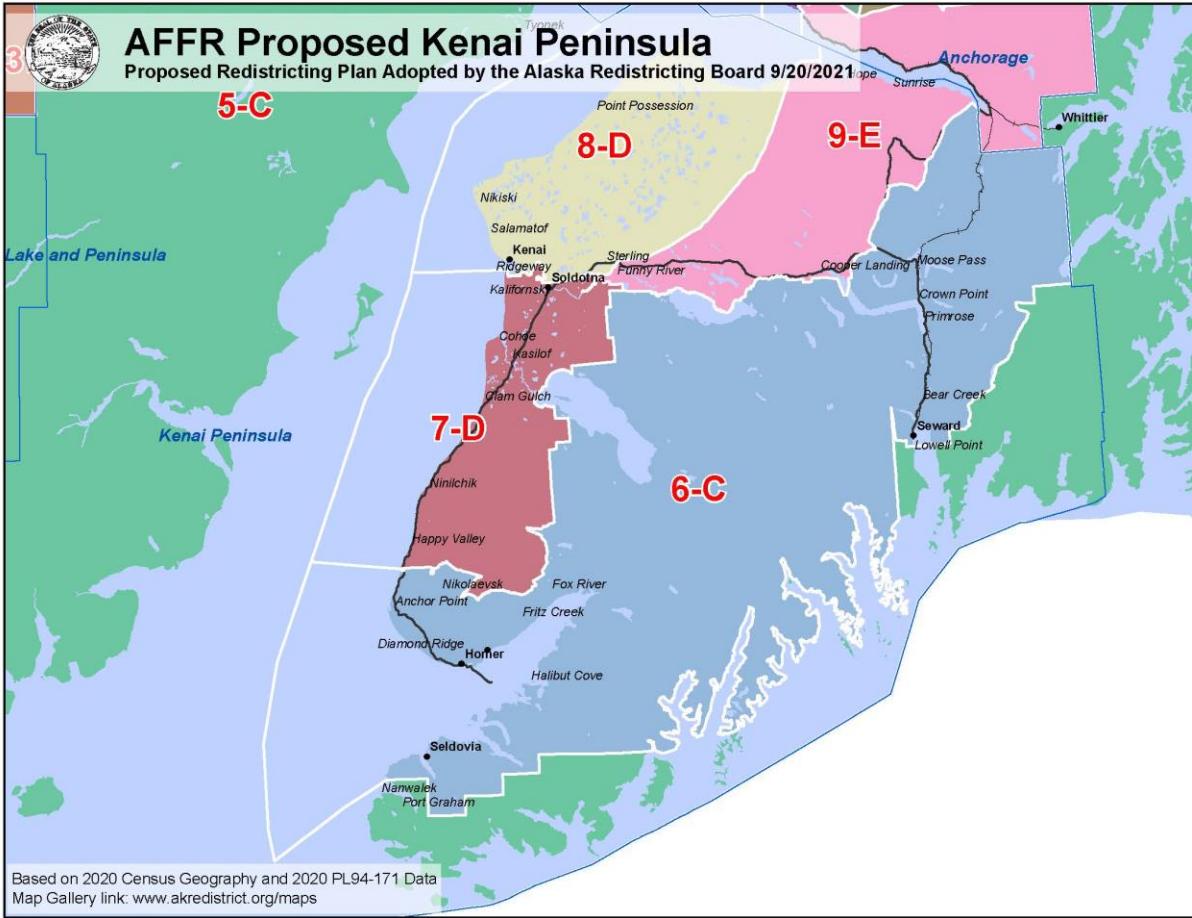


AFFER Proposed Kenai Peninsula

Proposed Redistricting Plan Adopted by the Alaska Redistricting Board 9/20/2021



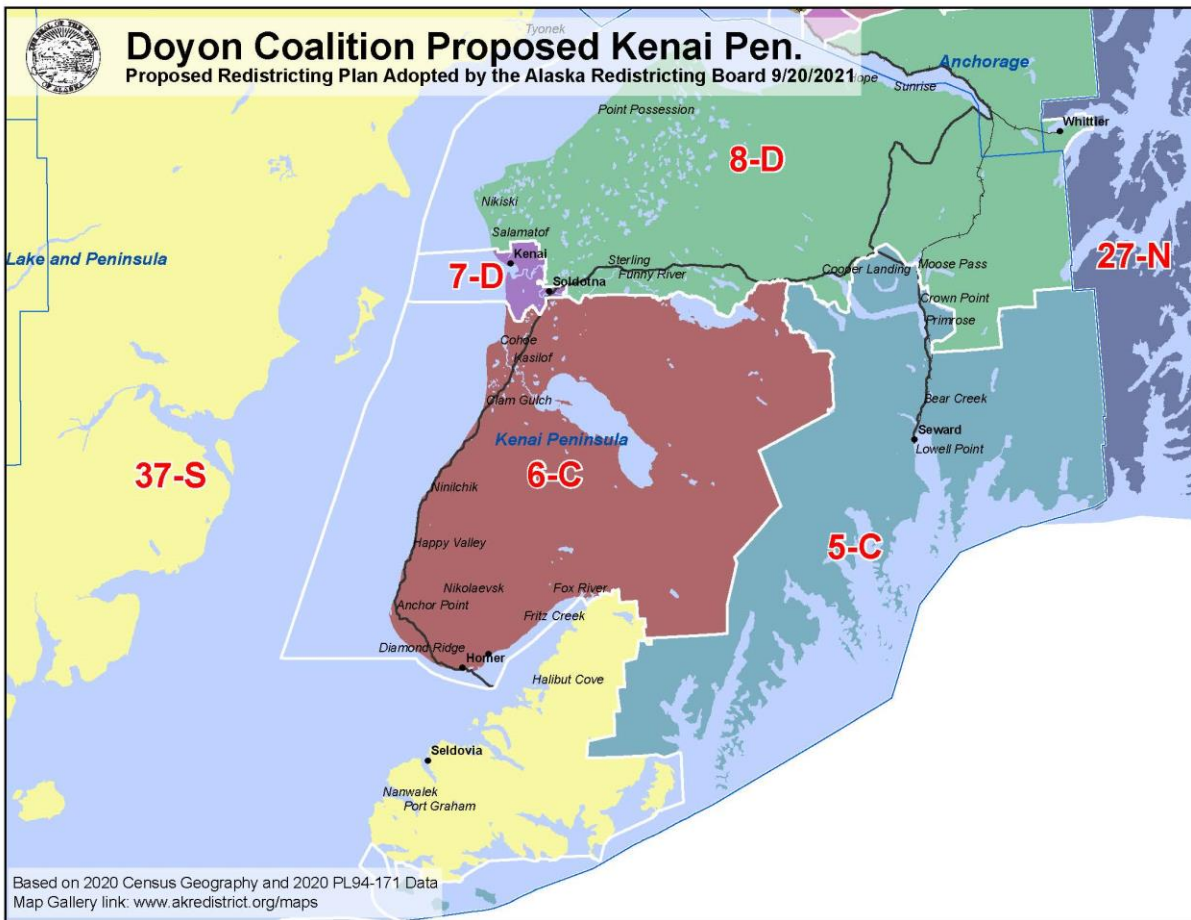
Based on 2020 Census Geography and 2020 PL94-171 Data
Map Gallery link: www.akredistrict.org/maps



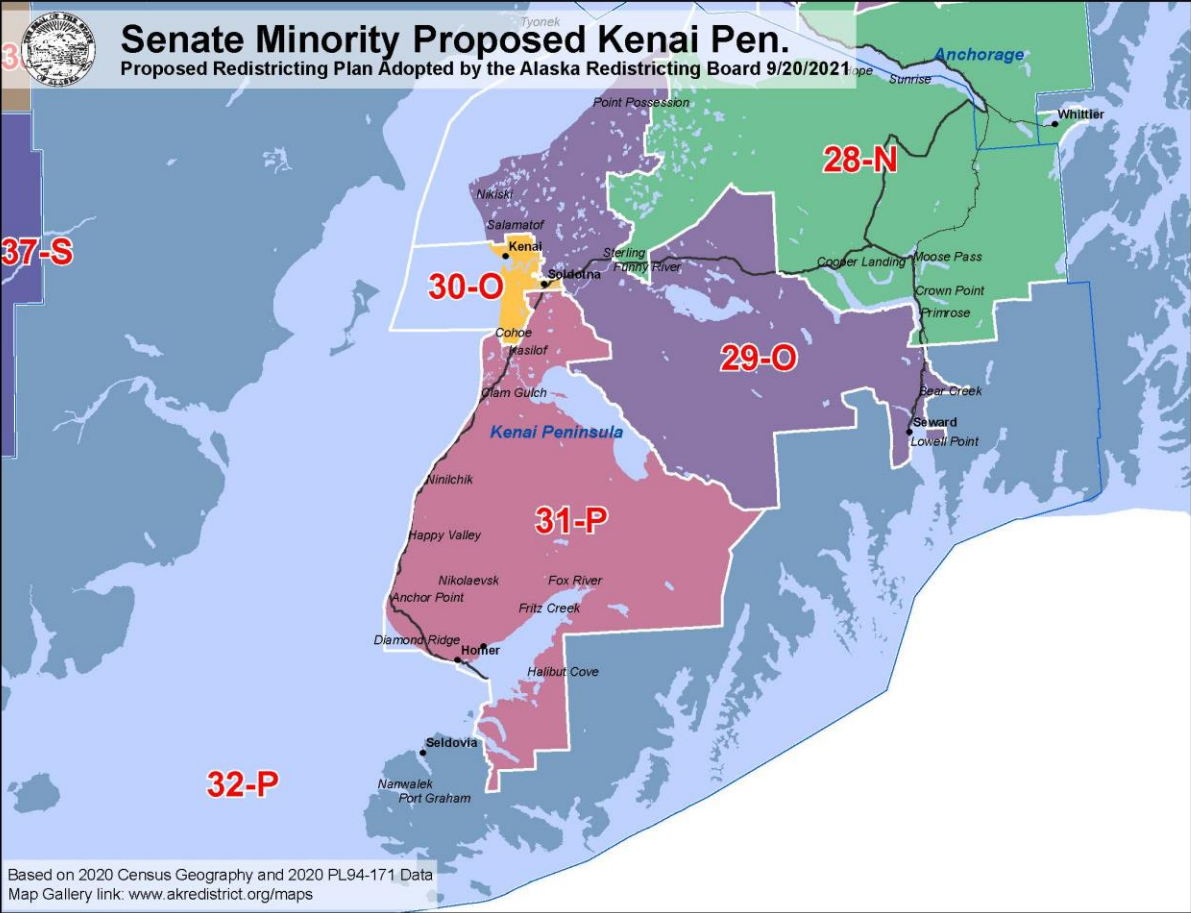


Doyon Coalition Proposed Kenai Pen.

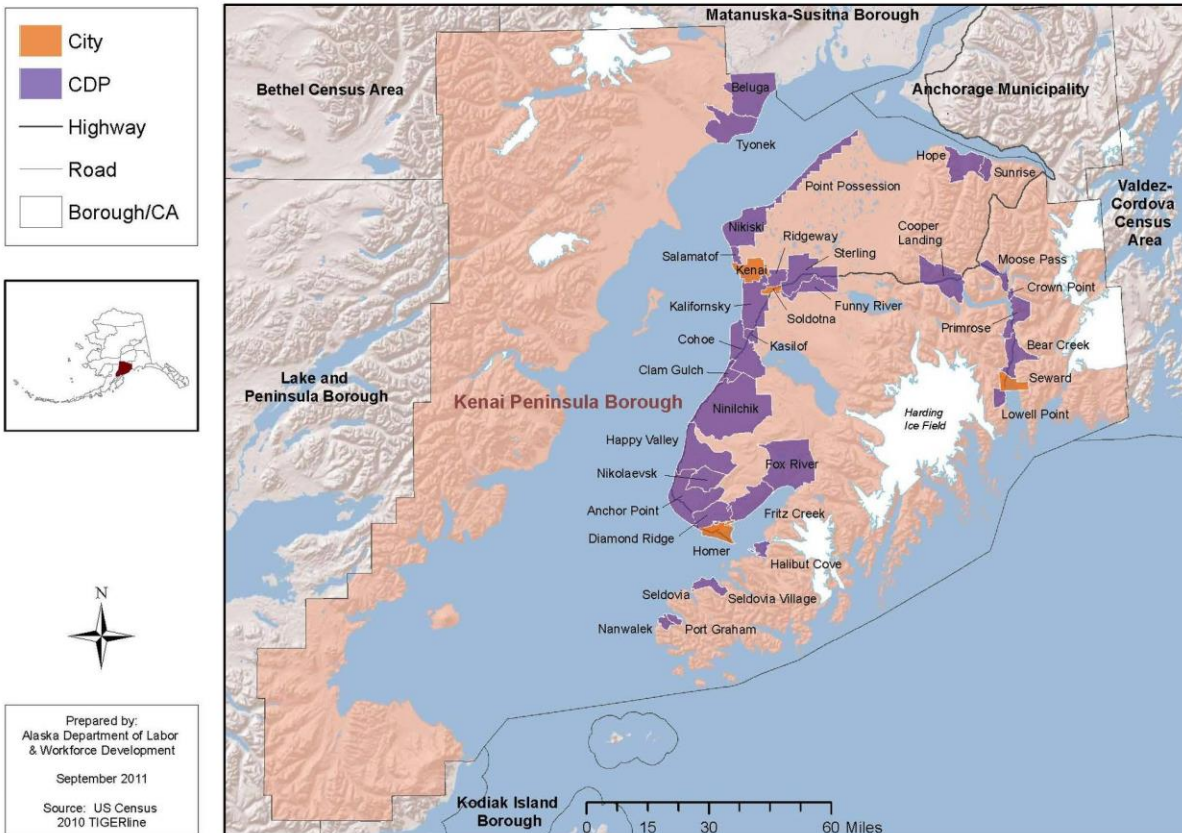
Proposed Redistricting Plan Adopted by the Alaska Redistricting Board 9/20/2021



Based on 2020 Census Geography and 2020 PL94-171 Data
Map Gallery link: www.akredistrict.org/maps



Kenai Peninsula Borough





Road Service Area

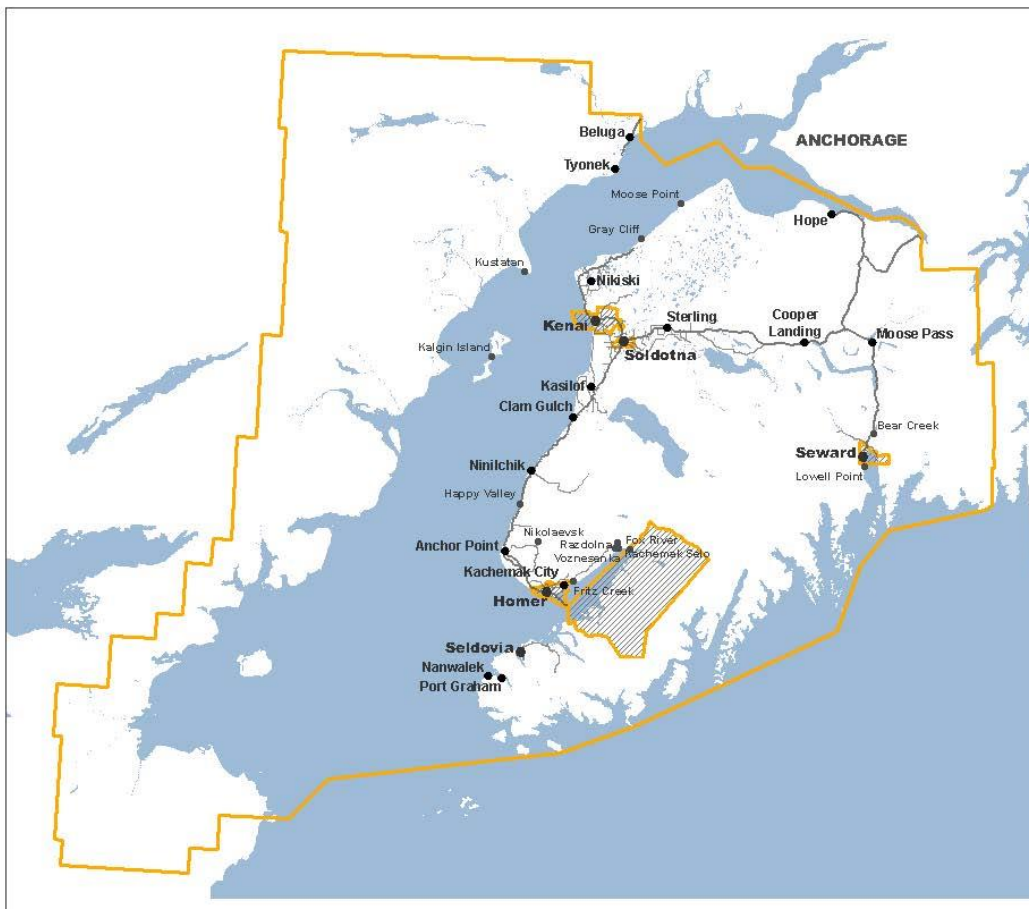
Map Date: 9/20/2019

- Major Road
- State Highway
- Water
- Road Service Area
- Not Included



0 10 20 Miles

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.





South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area

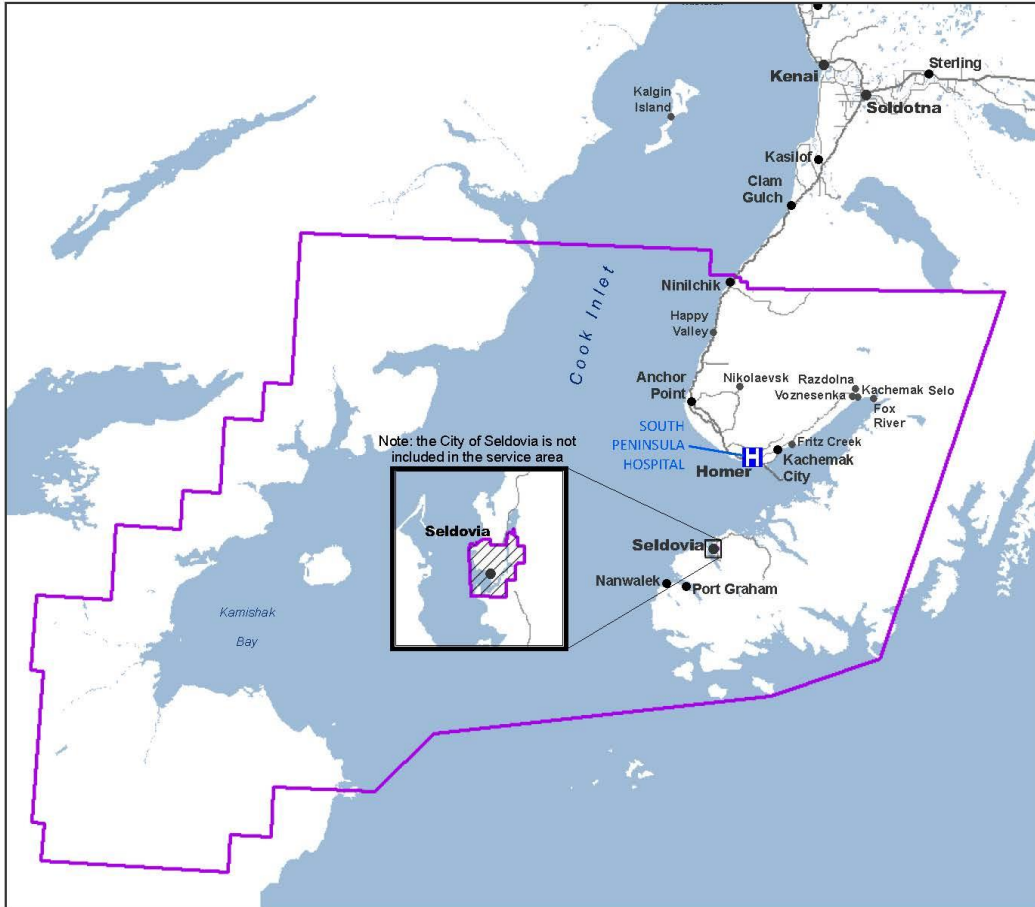
Map Date: 11/18/19

- State Highway
- Major Road
- ▭ Service Area
- Water



0 5 10 Miles

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





Kachemak Emergency Services

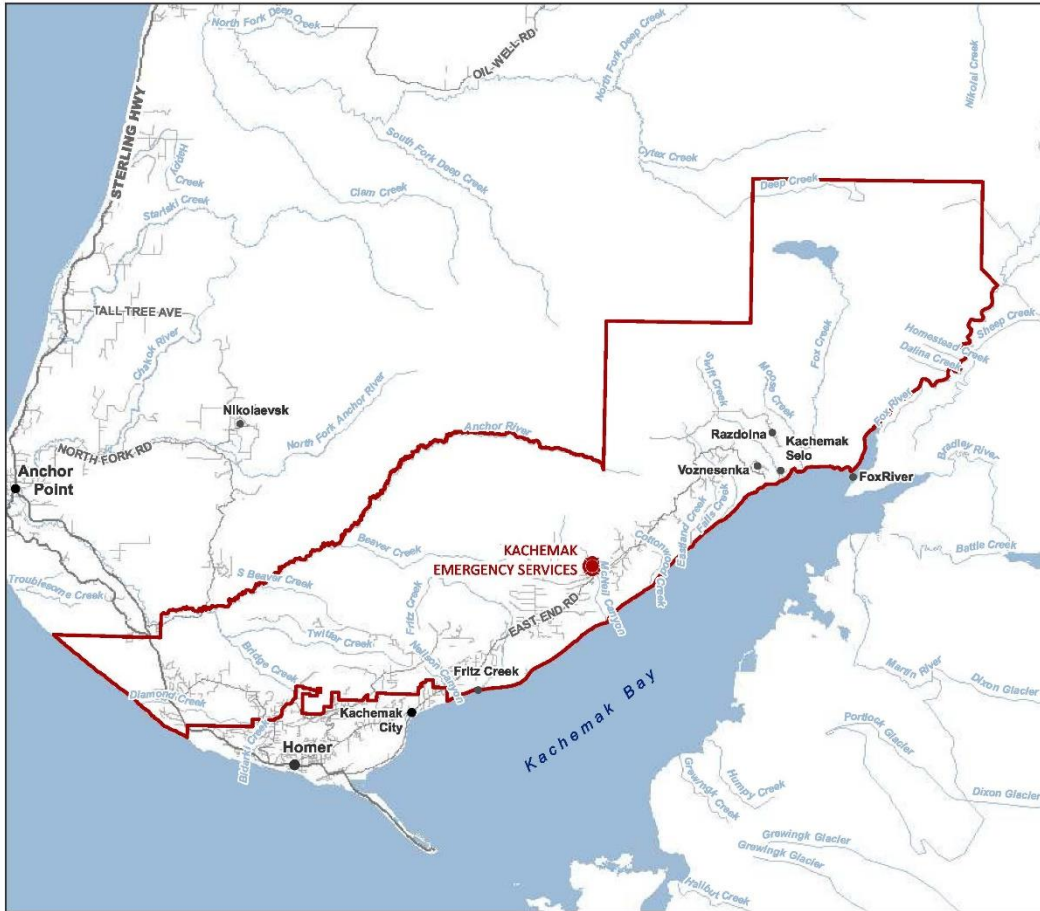
Map Date: 9/19/19

- State Highway
- Major Road
- Minor Road
- Water



0 1 2 Miles

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





**Seldovia
Recreational
Service Area**

Map Date: 9/19/2019

- Major Road
- State Highway
- Water



0 0.5 1 Miles

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.





Nikiski Fire Service Area

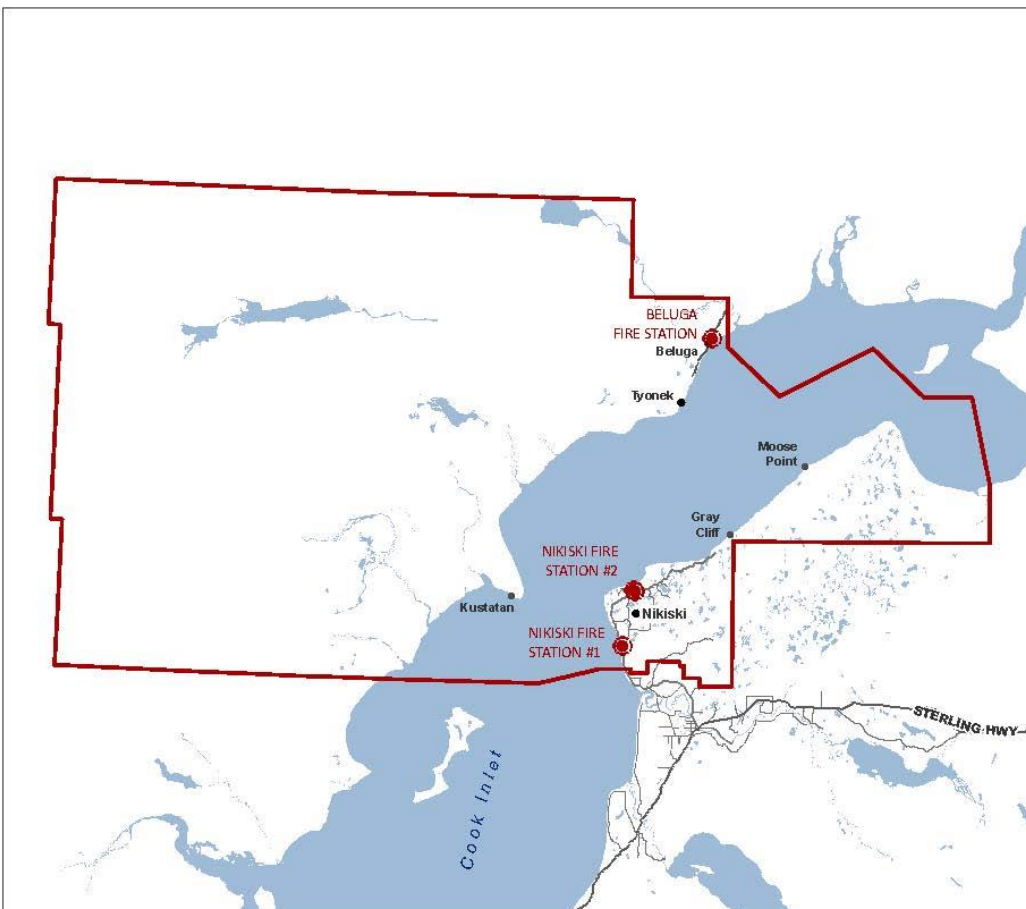
Map Date: 9/19/19

- State Highway
- Major Road
- Water



0 4 8 Miles

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.



ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY FORM

CAUTION: What you write will become part of the public record attributed to you by name. Anonymous comments will not be included in the public record. Profane or inappropriate comments will be immediately deleted.

Name: Cecil R Jones

Affiliation (if any): _____

Email or Phone: [REDACTED] Zip Code: 99603

Area/Map Title/Keywords: SENATE MINORITY MAP

Public Comment: I LIVE IN THE FOX RIVER DISTRICT AND MUCH PREFER THAT FOX RIVER + FRITZ CREEK DISTRICTS BE INCLUDED WITH THE REST OF THE KENAI PENINSULA, AS IS SHOWN IN THE SENATE MINORITY MAP. FRITZ CREEK/FOX RIVER HAVE MUCH IN COMMON WITH THE REMAINDER OF THE KPEN FROM AN ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL & GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVE. ~~FRITZ CREEK/FOX RIVER~~ FRITZ CRK/FOX RIVER HAS LITTLE TO NOTHING IN COMMON WITH ~~THE~~ KODIAK, CORDOVA OR OTHER COMMUNITIES ALONG THE OUTER PACIFIC COAST. MY CHOICE OF REDISTRICTING WOULD BE THE SENATE MINORITY MAP.

Cecil R Jones

SCAN HERE TO OPEN THE MAP COMMENT PORTAL →



ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY FORM

CAUTION: What you write will become part of the public record attributed to you by name. Anonymous comments will not be included in the public record. Profane or inappropriate comments will be immediately deleted.

Name: Ina L Jones

Affiliation (if any): _____

Email or Phone: [REDACTED] Zip Code: 99603

Area/Map Title/Keywords: _____

Public Comment: I live in Fox River area -

I support the proposed map of
redistricting lines that was proposed and
submitted by the AFFER proposed 35r

I am against any maps that put
Fritz Creek & Fox River in with Kodiak.

SCAN HERE TO OPEN THE MAP COMMENT PORTAL →



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.

From: Gloria Karmun <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 1:35 PM
To: TJ Presley; Testimony
Subject: ++ Get Involved Response

A website response from the Get Involved form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 11, 2021, 1:35 pm

First Name: **Gloria**

Last Name: **Karmun**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **I like Board v.3 and Board v.4 for Nome!**

From: Carolyn Keller <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 4:06 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: October 16, 2021, 4:06 pm

First Name: **Carolyn**

Last Name: **Keller**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting Board Version 3 is unconstitutional**

Public Comment: **Redistricting Board Version 3 is unconstitutional in that it does not give the Fairbanks area representation based on population (5.3 representatives), and gives more representation to Anchorage and the Mat-Su area than they are due. In addition, Version 3 divides the Fairbanks area north-south. The Fairbanks area divides itself in an east-west pattern historically and at present.**

While Redistricting Board Version 4 is more fair, it does not fully meet the legal criteria. The deviation from statewide population representation is far too high at over 10%. For the Fairbanks area consider including Valdez in a 6th district to gain better representation. Many commercial fishermen live in Fairbanks and fish in Valdez, and engage in many other business and recreational activities along the Richardson Highway. This would be a good combination for Valdez and Fairbanks

From: Dennis Knebel [REDACTED] >
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 3:07 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Dennis Knebel Redistricting Testimony

As a resident of West Anchorage, AFFR's map best represents my neighborhood. Under the AFFR map, my district (16) is compact and socio-economically integrated. Many of the services I use and businesses I patronize are also in my district under this map. AFFR uses the natural boundary of Arctic Boulevard as the eastern border of the district. In my mind this makes sense because Arctic Boulevard is what divides West Anchorage from Midtown. AFFR also puts the Spenard and Turnagain areas within one Senate district (H). Our two neighborhoods share many of the same local issues and comprise the larger part of West Anchorage. I feel Board Map Version 3 and Board Map Version 4 do not honor the bounds of my neighborhood and draw me into a district that is neither compact nor a community of interest. Board Map Version 3 districts me with Fairview, a distinct community, while partitioning West Anchorage into three separate districts. Under Board Map Version 4, West Anchorage is again divided into three districts, and I am districted with parts of Sand Lake, which is another distinct community. It is clear to me that the AFFR map is the only one that respects West Anchorage as a distinct and diverse community of interest.

Dennis Knebel

West Anchorage Resident

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Will** Last Name: **Kronick**

Public Comment: **Regarding interests in Southeast Alaska when people come in from Klukwan, Haines, and Skagway, it's usually to shop and receive services (medical and Central Council of Tlingit and Haida). The Doyon map seems to encapsulate this shared interest in the best way. The maps that combine Petersburg with Downtown Juneau do not have interests that align. It is better partnered with Sitka.**

[Letterhead]

10/13/2021

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

DELOY GES, INC.

P.O. Box 150
Anvik, Alaska 99558
(907) 663-6396 • Fax (907) 663-6355

RE: *John* 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,

Ronald D. Kruger

From: marcia kuszmaul [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:03 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Follow up to oral testimony in Homer, AK -- Marcia Kuszmaul

Thank you for a well-organized and well-conducted hearing in Homer, October 13. Your board members in attendance were attentive, respectful, and informative.

I am submitting these written comments as a follow on to my oral testimony. In the excitement of the moment, I failed to communicate all that I hoped to. So . . .

First, I was one of three Field Supervisors for the 2020 Census responsible for enumeration of the southern Kenai Peninsula from Nanwalek to Ninilchik. Being able to review the work of the Redistricting Board and participating in the hearing is especially meaningful to me, having been so involved in collecting the data upon which the redistricting is based. Census data is the backbone of our representative government. In training field enumerators, I would reference "We the people . . ." in the preamble of the Constitution and discuss with trainees the foresight of the founders in establishing the decennial census, recognizing that who the People are would change over time and having an up-to-date and accurate view of who the People are -- where they live, characteristics, etc. -- is essential to our representative government. So I am very interested in your redistricting work and see it as a sacred trust with the People and foundational to our democracy.

Second, in conducting the Census, I personally completed the enumeration of nearly 25 miles of the southern shore of Kachemak Bay -- from Bear Cove to Hesketh Island -- as well as Port Graham. With my team, we also enumerated Nanwalek, Seldovia, the Russian villages at the head of the bay, and the greater Homer area. To complete the count, I used aerial maps, Borough parcel maps, interviews and, when possible, knocking on doors. A key learning for me was the interconnectivity within the Kachemak Bay community. Residents on the southern shore depend on the northern shore for goods and services. transportation and business opportunity. Residents on the northern shore own property on the southern shore and vice versa. The southern shore is a key asset for business owners on the northern shore, for tourism, aquaculture, and more. Residents at the head of the bay are completely dependent upon Homer for as are the residents on the southern shore.

Third, and in conclusion, the southern Kenai Peninsula should be "districted" together. We are a single symbiotic entity with common interests and a common stake in the place we call home and do business. Carving the southern Peninsula into disparate districts would be arbitrary and shear the fabric of our community -- and diffuse our ability to self-govern. This may sound dramatic and overblown, but I firmly believe that is what is at stake. We have local models, such as the Southern Peninsula Hospital service area, that do a great job of defining our boundaries. I recommend that to you as a starting point, excluding the portion across Cook Inlet -- <https://www.sphosp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/SPHSA.pdf> -- and consider adding Seward into the district, as others testified.

Many thanks again for listening and taking all our comments into consideration.

Sincerely,
Marcia Kuszmaul
Kachemak City, Alaska

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Nadine** Last Name: **Lafebvre**

Ms. Lafebvre spoke in favor of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting map as it follows the natural divide of Auke Bay with the Mendenhall Valley from Downtown Juneau, Lemon Creek, and Douglas Island. This map allows similar neighborhoods to work together on issues (i.e. transportation, schools, and infrastructure) that immediately impacts these areas.

Haines, Skagway, and Klukwan in a rural southeast district could reflect their socio-economic integration into these communities. This would also keep the US-Canada border crossings in one district and it would give all the communities similar cultural and economic similarities that are seasonally impacted.

From: Susan Lamasko <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 5:24 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: October 16, 2021, 5:23 pm

First Name: **Susan**

Last Name: **Lamasko**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

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

Public Comment: **Alaska's Constitution lays out very clear criteria for drawing maps. Please draw the maps accordingly. Fair elections will result if the maps are drawn by population density and geographic compact districts.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Morgan** Last Name: **Lim**

Public Comment: **The Board Composite 3 Map is not a map that I would support. I would appreciate having Downtown Juneau separated from the valley and keeping the valley whole, as someone who has lived in both downtown and the valley.**

Both of these areas should be whole as the valley and downtown Juneau are obviously socio-economically separated. In terms of seeing the valley as a complete socio-economic space, previous testimonies about where people associate and recreate were referenced. Also, people who live in the valley feel that it is too far to drive downtown.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 12, 2021, 6:15 pm

First Name: **Patricia** Last Name: **Linville**

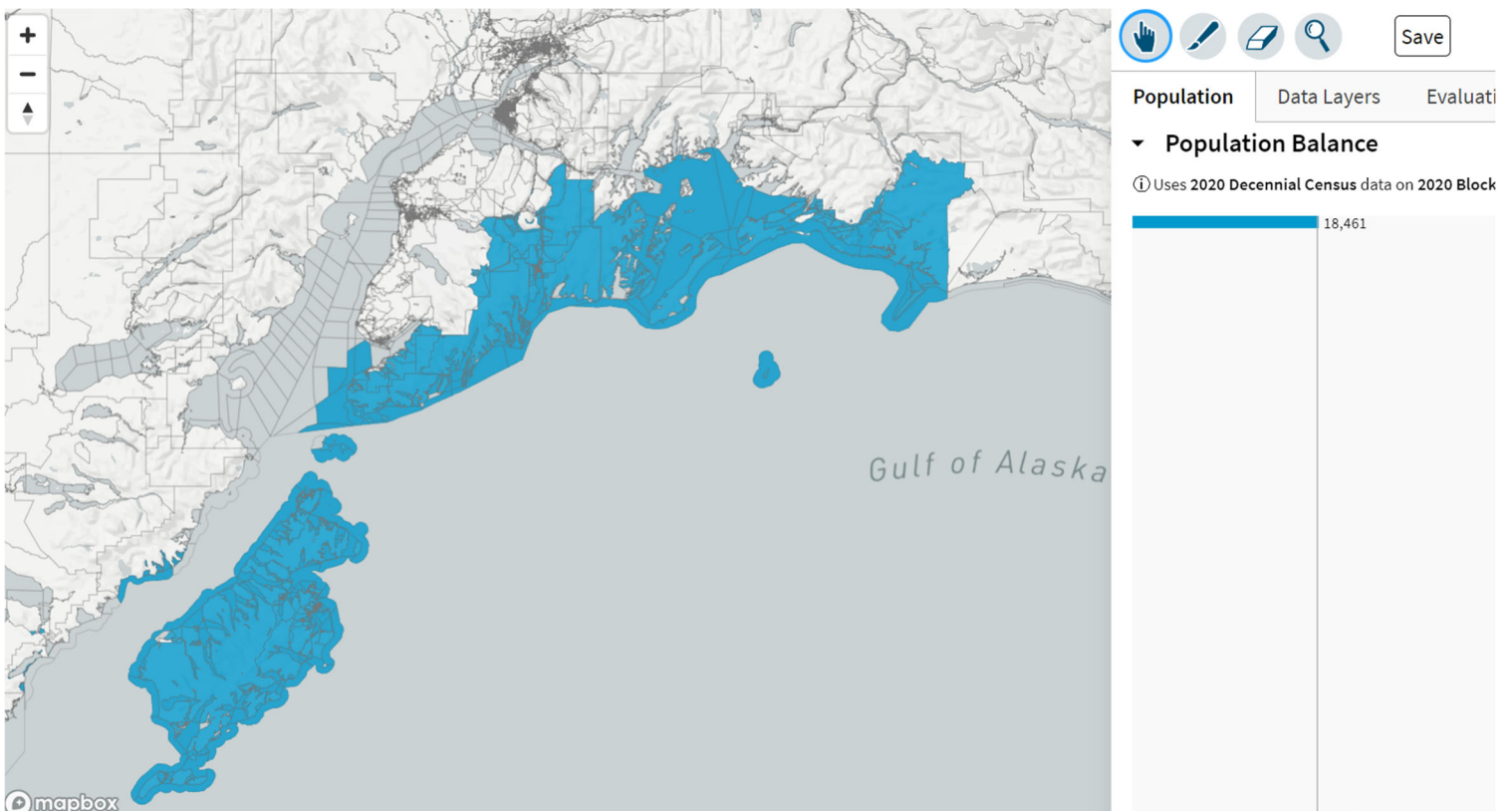
Your ZIP Code: **99664**

Email or Phone [REDACTED]

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Would like to keep Seward in a coastal community centered district. Eastern Kenai Peninsula south if at all possible.**

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

<https://www.akredistrict.org/create/view.html?p=63109>



From: George Matz <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 12:16 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: October 14, 2021, 12:16 pm

First Name: **George**

Last Name: **Matz**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

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


Public Comment: **I attended the hearing last night in Homer. While you had plenty of maps posted on the back wall that show proposed district boundaries based on population, I didn't see any maps that illustrate contiguity , compactness, and social-integration. If you had, it would be obvious that the residents of the Kachemak Bay watershed (including Nanwalek and Port Graham) are one extended community and about the best example of contiguity, compactness, and social-economic integration you can find. It makes no sense to split this up. What you need at your meetings are maps (irrespective of proposals) that illustrate topography and how this shapes, in many parts of Alaska, where we live, how we travel, and where our services (such as utilities) come from. This should be the basis of any district boundary. Given that whatever proposal you advance will probably be legally challenged, if you don't have GIS maps that verify contiguity, compactness, and social-economic integration, you will be subject to claims that your decisions are politically motivated and have a weak case to defend.**

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

Kotzebue 10/5/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Reid** Last Name: **Maydanz**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Mr. Maydanz expressed of the maps that keep the NANA Region and Northwest Arctic Borough together.

From: Richard c.McGahan <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 9:44 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: October 12, 2021, 9:44 am

First Name: **Richard c.**

Last Name: **McGahan**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99611**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Nikiski re-districting plans**

Public Comment: **Nikiski has absolutely no social or economic ties with Girdwood or South Anchorage as required by law. This has been tried before and was a disaster and I adamantly oppose the plan proposed by AFFER. That would be the worst plan for Nikiski.**

Nikiski is economically a commercial fishing and oil and gas community, as are the peninsula communities south of Nikiski. We go to church here, we bank in Kenai, we shop in Kenai and Soldotna and go to the dentist and doctor in Kenai and Soldotna. Our friends and large family are in Nikiski, Kenai and Soldotna. Our family and friends work in Nikiski, Kenai and Soldotna. That means the best representation for Nikiski and the best plan that fits the criteria is the plan offered by AFFR.

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.

From: George McGuan <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 2:43 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: October 11, 2021, 2:42 pm

First Name: **George**

Last Name: **McGuan**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99502**

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

Public Comment: **Living off Strawberry Road near Minnesota, I identify more with the Taku/Cambell part of town than the Sand Lake/Jewell Lake area. I think AFFR does a good job of drawing lines in Southwest Anchorage that are compact and reflect the socio-economic interests of residents in my part of town. AFFR puts the lakeside neighborhoods around Lake Hood, Jewel Lake, Delong Lake, and Sand Lake within one House district (12). AFFR draws a common sense and compact district by using the main causeways, Minnesota, Seward Highway, and the Dimond corridor as a useful basis for the district. This is where my family and I get most of our services. With regards to my potential district under Board Map Version 3, it is neither compact nor socioeconomically integrated. It is not a stretch to say that during rush hour, you might not be able to traverse this district end-to-end in under 30 mins. Under Board Map Version 3, my district would include parts of Turnagain, Spenard, and Sand Lake. This does not honor the spirit of the Alaska Constitution by keeping areas of interest together. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.**

From: Elizabeth McKee <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 3:28 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: October 12, 2021, 3:28 pm

First Name: **Elizabeth**

Last Name: **McKee**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99635**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Re-district Nikiski**

Public Comment: **I am a resident of Nikiski, AK. I see absolutely NO benefits for or from being associated with the city of Anchorage or Girdwood, which is exactly why I choose not to live in either areas ! Our social and economic status (primarily seasonal fishing/ tourism and OIL & GAS industry) are completely opposite these two cities. This would be a disaster for the Kenai Peninsula.**

From: Helen McNeil <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 6:23 PM
To: TJ Presley; Testimony
Subject: ++ Get Involved Response

A website response from the Get Involved form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 11, 2021, 6:23 pm

First Name: **Helen**

Last Name: **McNeil**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **redistricting has to be neutral**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Luann** Last Name: **McVey**

Ms. McVey is a Douglas resident and agreed with comments stating that it makes sense to have a line along Sunny Point to Fred Meyer to divide Juneau into two parts. As a retired teacher, the Juneau schools reflect a combination of socio-economics. After teaching Title 9 for several years, Ms. McVey is familiar with schools who receive funding for socio-economic reasons. The recommended dividing line is a natural dividing line between the valley and the town.

Haines and Skagway should be grouped with the downtown area for reasons others have mentioned such as shopping and medical services.

The Doyon, Alaskans for Fair Redistricting, and the Senate Minority Caucus maps reflect what Ms. McVey values most.

From: Kathy Medcoff <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 10:44 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: October 15, 2021, 10:44 am

First Name: **Kathy**

Last Name: **Medcoff**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99669**

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

Public Comment: **Board 3or4**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY FORM

CAUTION: What you write will become part of the public record attributed to you by name. Anonymous comments will not be included in the public record. Profane or inappropriate comments will be immediately deleted.

Name: Grace Merkes

Affiliation (if any): Sterling Community Center

Email or Phone: [REDACTED] Zip Code: 99677

Area/Map Title/Keywords: Board Approved 3 or 4 ↗

Public Comment: I support the Proposed Dist 8 of
which does not split our Sterling community.
This also includes Nishiki & both our
communities are quite alike in their approval
for rural living & rules & regulations.

SCAN HERE TO OPEN THE MAP COMMENT PORTAL →



ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Kim** Last Name: **Metcalf**

Public Comment: **The carve-out of Andi Story's home and the impact this would have on Juneau and the political abilities of its residents was something that caught my attention.**

In favor of the following maps:

- **Senate Minority Caucus map**
- **Board version 4 map**
- **Doyon map**

From: Larry Miller <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 15, 2021 11:06 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: October 15, 2021, 11:06 am

First Name: **Larry**

Last Name: **Miller**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99611**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting issue: Nikiski is on the Kenai Peninsula and as such needs to stay affiliated with Kenai and Soldotna.**

Public Comment: **We oppose the redistricting and aligning of Nikiski which is located on the Kenai Peninsula, with any one/area other than Kenai and Soldotna. Politics being played, it would appear, on this issue.**

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

Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Dawson** Last Name: **Moore**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Valdez City Council**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Verbal Testimony Summary: **Mr. Moore stated that in the last decade, Valdez has been underrepresented at a statewide level and spoke in favor of Board Map v.3 as it seems to have communities that mirror his own experiences as a Valdez resident. Mr. Moore commented that he would be much happier if Valdez was not grouped with the Mat-Su Borough.**

Handwritten Testimony: **Valdez has been essentially unrepresented for the past decade on a state level because of districting and I have no interest in continuing to be lumped together with Mat-Su. Version three seems like it connects Valdez with other end-of-the-road communities best. There is also a good case to have us grouped with the other communities in Prince William Sound.**

From: Nora Morse <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 5:46 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: October 4, 2021, 5:46 pm

First Name: **Nora**

Last Name: **Morse**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

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

Public Comment: **Hi, my name is Nora Morse and I am a lifelong Anchorage resident.**

I want to testify in support of the AFFR proposed map. There are two specific areas of interest to me on that map.

I used to live at 1138 Street at 11th and I downtown. Looking at the board proposed map version 3 the board drew district 13 to include most of Turnagain, West Chester, the Spenard Corridor, North Star, South addition and parts of downtown and Fairview all together. These are all very distinct neighborhoods with very different community needs. For perspective those neighborhoods encompass 7 different community council boundaries and two separate assembly districts. The AFFR map breaks these up into 4 distinct districts that follow more closely the Anchorage Assembly and Community Council boundaries. Doing so would allow for more community engagement on a local and statewide level and allow people to address their issues and neighborhood concerns in a more cohesive manner.

Currently, I live off Omalley Road near the zoo. The AFFR map clearly divides this area of town by major road and keeps schools in the same districts. This area of town is also centered around parks and trails and often residents are vocal about those issues on a state and local level. It makes the most sense to build maps around these parks and recreation areas like the Campbell Track, Abbott Loop community park, and Far North Bicentennial Park.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL & WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Kotzebue 10/5/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Lucy** Last Name: **Nelson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Northwest Arctic Borough Mayor**

Ms. Nelson spoke in opposition of separating Buckland and Deering from the Northwest Arctic Borough. There are 11 communities, including Buckland and Deering, within the borough and they have been part of the Senate District T, House 40 since the borough's formation in 1986.

The Northwest Arctic Borough is a home rule borough where there are even greater powers where adoption of home rule charter promotes local self-government to the greatest extent possible. This charter type allows people to deal with local problems at the local level. Home rule boroughs assist by promoting local government, adaptation in a state with great variations in geographic, economic, social, and political conditions. The borough boundaries exist for a reason, which is that each borough must embrace an area and population with common interests to the maximum degree possible. These commonalities are shared with the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough meets with the North Slope Borough to annually to discuss these commonalities whether it's food security, subsistence protection, offshore activities, healthcare, or a resource development project.

The Northwest Arctic Borough does not support any plan that breaks their existing borough boundaries and the residents they serve. If the board splits the borough, it will have significant detrimental effects on their region's strength and unity.

The Alaska Constitution explicitly contemplates consideration of local government boundaries and fails to recognize the importance of maintaining continuity between state and borough boundaries. This is a significant disservice to the region and its residents.

Deering and Buckland are essential communities to the Northwest Arctic Borough and the borough has been and will continue to advocate on behalf of these communities.

It is hard to understate the damage created by fracturing the borough's communities. Together, the region can address issues such as having no roads to resources.



Northwest Arctic Borough

163 Lagoon Street
P.O. Box 1110 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-2500 Fax (907) 442-2930
www.nwabor.org

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR LUCY S. NELSON

Maintaining the Strength and Unity of
the Northwest Arctic Borough – September 30, 2021

By Bethany March Nicole Borrowed
First I want to thank you ~~Melanie Bankie~~ and ~~xoxo~~ for coming to our community to allow us to speak today to testify on reasons why we do not support separating our communities we serve through redistricting.

The Northwest Arctic Borough's 11 communities (Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik and Shungnak) have been part of Senate District T and House District 40 since the Borough's formation in 1986.

The NWAB is a home rule Borough, while general law local governments in Alaska have broad powers, home rule borough's have even greater powers. Adoption of a home-rule charter promotes maximum local self-government to the greatest extent possible. We are held to be the vehicle for strengthening both state and local governments by permitting the people to deal with local problems at the local level. Home Rule Boroughs assist by promoting local government adaptation in a state with great variations in geographic, economic, social and political conditions. Our Borough boundaries exist for a reason. Boundaries exist to provide that each borough must embrace an area and population with common interests to the maximum degree possible. We hold elections determined by our charter and ordinances for composition so that each community is supported by a member or Mayor. The NWAB does not support any plan that breaks our Borough Boundaries and the residents we serve.

The Borough has longstanding dedication to working with its regional partners, NANA Regional Corporation, Maniilaq, and the Northwest Arctic Borough School District through the Northwest Arctic Leadership Team (NWALT). Through NWALT, the Borough has worked together to serve the people of the region by maximizing resources and minimizing duplication, promoting strategies through grassroots involvement, serving as a steering

Ambler Ivisaappaat, Buckland Nunatchiaq, Deering Ipnatchiaq, Kiana Katyaak, Kivalina Kivali-iq, Kobuk Laugviik, Kotzebue Qikiqta-nuk, Noatak Nautaaq, Noorvik Nuurvik, Selawik Akuli-iq, Shungnak Isi-iq

committee to examine region-wide issues, and coordinating to find solutions and recommend policy and resource allocation.

The Borough also has a longstanding partnership with its sister Borough, the North Slope Borough. The Borough has been able to work hand-in-hand with the North Slope because we share commonalities to work with its state legislators to address region-wide issues like resource development, subsistence protection, offshore activities, and other common matters.

If the Alaska Redistricting Board moves to split the Northwest Arctic Borough villages, it will have significant determinantal effects on our region's strength and unity.

The Alaska Constitutional explicitly contemplates consideration of local government boundaries, and failing to recognize the importance of maintaining continuity between state and borough boundaries here will prove to be a significant and lasting disservice to our region and residents. In particular, Deering and Buckland are essential pieces of the Northwest Arctic Borough. The Borough and NWALT actively advocate for both villages within the strength and framework of our legislative and policy support on issues like economic development, village infrastructure, water and sewer improvements, heavy equipment procurement, and educational advocacy.

In short, it's hard to understate the damage created by fracturing the Borough's villages between state legislative districts. Our region is faced with many economic, logistical, and socioeconomic challenges, we do not need an additional barrier to effective advocacy and unity for our people and our region.

The Alaska Redistricting Board will be holding in person public hearings in Kotzebue on the various election redistricting maps.

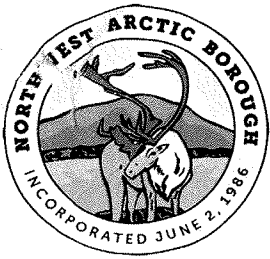
Date: Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Time: 3:00pm -5:00pm

Location: Nullagvik Hotel Meeting Room 2 (306 Shore Avenue)

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=203945>

The board proposed two maps, both board proposals keep the NANA/NWAB region intact **however**, at least one of four other proposals



Northwest Arctic Borough

163 Lagoon Street
P.O. Box 1110 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752
(907) 442-2500 Fax (907) 442-2930
www.nwabor.org

submitted to the Board for consideration propose moving communities within the Borough into the Norton Sound Region.

Please take the time to provide testimony to support keeping Deering and Buckland in our Borough.

The attached link provides further information.

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=203945>

Quyanna for your time!

From: Len Niesen <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 1:16 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: October 12, 2021, 1:15 pm

First Name: **Len**

Last Name: **Niesen**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99635**

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

Public Comment: **The redistricting board is considering a proposal that puts Nikiski in with South Anchorage and Girdwood. This was done once before and was very bad for Nikiski. The statute requires that we have social and economic connections; we have none with Girdwood or South Anchorage. The proposal is being put forward by a group called AFFER. I strongly oppose that proposal. Nikiski is a commercial fishing, oil & gas economic area, and we socialize and spend our money mostly in Kenai and Soldotna. In my opinion, the best proposal for Nikiski is being offered by AFFR, which puts out representation with Kenai and Soldotna. We need to be kept with central peninsula.**

From: Deanna O'Connor <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10:40 PM
To: TJ Presley; Testimony
Subject: ++ Get Involved Response

A website response from the Get Involved form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 13, 2021, 10:40 pm

First Name: **Deanna**

Last Name: **O'Connor**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: As a resident of Nikiski, I have to say that the AFFER plan is absolutely ridiculous. Nikiski has absolutely no connection to Anchorage and should not be lumped in with Anchorage. Please don't do this stupid thing. If anything, Nikiski should be kept with Kenai. Definitely NOT Anchorage. That's just dumb. There's no economic or social connections between these two places.

From: Ray Pastorino <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 4:34 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: October 12, 2021, 4:34 pm

First Name: **Ray**

Last Name: **Pastorino**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99801**

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

Public Comment: **It seems astonishing what the Board has proposed, defying any common sense.**

Under the constitution districts must be contiguous (connected and sharing a common border), compact, and socio-economically aligned. It seems to me that the Valley, Auke Bay, and Out the Road are socio-economically connected, have traditionally been so have been representative of natural alignments through time historically, and for good reason. I am sure many people have mentioned this already. It is strange this didn't show up in any of the board's maps. How do you explain such a nonsensical omission, and tangential proposals? What is the unspoken agenda; one that ignores common sense? Do your job and keep politics out of it. Serve, don't manipulate. The districts speak for themselves without the help of political machinations.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Sheri** Last Name: **Pierce**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **City of Valdez**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Ms. Pierce stated that Valdez should not be grouped into a district with the Mat-Su Borough for the following reasons:

- 1. Valdez is a regional port and harbor for Richardson Highway communities and the Fairbanks North Star Borough.**
- 2. There are military supplies that come in through Valdez and are transported to Eilson Air Force Base and Ft. Greeley.**
- 3. Heavy mining and oil equipment are routinely shipped through Valdez.**
- 4. Richardson Highway and the Fairbanks North Star Borough residents use Valdez harbor facilities at a rate equal to or greater than Valdez residents. Statistics available for this if needed.**
- 5. Richardson Highway and the Fairbanks North Star Borough residents recreate and do business in Valdez.**
- 6. The City of Valdez has a Memorandum of Agreement with Ft Greeley to provide recreational opportunities in Valdez for service members stationed there.**
- 7. Trucking companies move goods back and forth between Valdez to the Fairbanks North Star Borough.**
- 8. Valdez residents fish hunt along the Richardson Highway and the Fairbanks North Star Borough.**
- 9. Valdez is part of the DOT northern region which includes the Richardson Highway and Fairbanks North Star Borough.**
- 10. Valdez is served by the electric and telephone companies that also serves Glennallen and other Richardson Highway communities.**
- 11. Transalaska Pipeline system creates employment associated with its operation unites communities along its route including the Richardson Highway and Fairbanks North Star Borough communities.**

Ms. Pierce spoke in favor of the following maps:

- 1. Board Map v.3, specifically District 36, is acceptable as it keeps Valdez out of the Mat-Su district and ties them in with Fairbanks.**
- 2. Alaskans for Fair Redistricting map, specifically District 36-R, as it unites Valdez with socio-economically integrated communities along the Richardson Highway and does not force Valdez into an unnatural district. It would also be paired with District 35-R which includes socio-economically integrated areas of the Fairbanks North Star Borough and North Pole.**

Ms. Pierce noted that Valdez' representative has had difficulties picking priorities as most of their support comes out of the Mat-Su Borough.

From: Rob Porter [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 4:49 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Fritz Creek/Fox River Redistricting

To whom it may concern.

I would like to voice my opposition to the redistricting of the Fritz Creek/Fox River area. My concern is that the areas would not get proper representation. Also the change does not make any logical sense. I have not found in my research as to why this is even being considered.

Sincerely,
Robert Porter

[REDACTED]
Fritz Creek

From: Sherra Pritchard <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 4:02 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: October 12, 2021, 4:02 pm

First Name: **Sherra**

Last Name: **Pritchard**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Nikiski community member**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99611**

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

Public Comment: **Nikiski should continue to be in a district with Kenai and Soldotna. We do not have any ties to Girdwood or South Anchorage. We are an industry town, full of local commercial fishermen and spend our money in Kenai and Soldotna. We are Kenai peninsula residents not girdwood or south anchorage residents.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **John** Last Name: **Pugh**

Public Comment: **Mr. Pugh spoke in favor of having the dividing line down the highway versus along the water. There is a closer connection between the Lemon Creek community to downtown than it would be to the valley. Haines and Skagway connections are mixed between the valley and downtown; they could be combined either way.**

There are other communities that are highly connected in terms of population such as Hoonah and Tenakee Springs. In some maps, these areas were moved. Gustavus, Tenakee Springs, and Hoonah have strong connections to Juneau as they use the services in Juneau and/or residents have connections in Juneau.

From: John Quick [REDACTED] >
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 9:33 AM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Fwd: Re districting

Thoughts on the current proposal the board is now considering. I believe V 3 & 4

Pros for the Redistricting Board's current proposed plan:

- * It keeps the Kenai Peninsula Borough more in tact than any other proposal - and cohesive geographically and socio-economically. The small changes the Board's plan makes to the districts of the past cause the least disruption possible.
- * It is compact. It keeps the Kenai Peninsula Borough's people and towns almost completely in just 3 house seats, and doesn't chop and dice like some of the other proposal do. It does take one small part of E Homer (Fritz Creek) and pairs with Kodiak - but unfortunately since the population has grown, some of the population has to move to a different district - this is the best choice considering all of the options. Fritz Creek is already in same senate district as Kodiak, is also semi-rural, a coastal community, and relies heavily on fishing and tourism
- * Because the population of the KPB has increased, some of the population needs to shift into another area - to keep the districts from being too large. The current proposal takes some of E. End Road (Fritz Creek) and puts it with Kodiak - another small, coastal community - also the area that it is already tied with for the Senate seat. These areas are close geographically, they both are small, coastal towns, they are similar socio-economically - with fishing and tourism as key drivers.
- * It is unfortunate that any area has to be taken away from their current district, but it just works that way when population shifts and changes.
- * It makes more sense to go with the board's proposal to take some of Fritz Creek and place with Kodiak, than some of the things the other proposal suggest (such as taking Nikiski and putting with Anchorage - nothing in common! or splitting up Kenai and Soldotna, putting Homer in with Moose Pass, Cooper Landing and Seward, or putting Girdwood and Hope and Nikiski together, or putting a bunch of non-contiguous areas like Homer, South Anchorage, Seward and Cooper Landing together).

Thanks,

John Quick

From: John Quick [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, October 7, 2021 1:28 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: District: 29

I am not in favor of adding south anchorage to district 29. I live in district 29 and I am not supportive of this. Thanks for your time.

Thanks,

John Quick

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Pat** Last Name: **Race**

Pat recommended that the board avoid any appearances of impropriety. Having grown up and living in Juneau all his life, it seems like the Mendenhall/Auke Bay areas a part of the downtown district - this is the main troubling issue. What makes more sense, which is shown on the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting and Senate Minority Caucus maps, is dividing Juneau on the north/south lines along the Egan Highway.

Pat encouraged the board to read more of the comments regarding Andi Story's district. This impacts how the board appears publicly.

Regarding the northern Admiralty Island on Board Proposed Plan v3, this island is part of the outer coast (Yakutat/Sitka area). People in this part of the state use Juneau primarily as their launch port, coming to and from vacation cabins. This population is not so significant where it could be lumped in with the northern or southern part of Juneau without having much impact.

People who live in Auke Bay rely in services in the Mendenhall Valley.

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: [REDACTED]

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 & WRITTEN TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Allison**

Last Name: **Rapp**

Ms. Rapp noted that her and others' opinions about their legislator should not be what motivates the redistricting decisions, instead Valdez should be districted with other communities that have similar socio-economic similarities.

Ms. Rapp expressed concern for Board Map v.3 as it would "go from one extreme to the other by going from being the red-headed step child of Mat-Su to being the big bully. " Valdez would be the predominant economic force which is also unfair and would result in Valdez outnumbering other communities in the same district dramatically.


Ms. Rapp expressed the importance of other communities' connections to the port, fishing, etc. Mainly, Ms. Rapp would like to be connected with other similar communities that are coastal rather than inland.

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

Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 14, 2021

First Name: **Caleb** Last Name: **Rapp**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Mr. Rapp stated that it is unfair to the individual representing Valdez as they are often representing Valdez and other communities that do not have similar interests to Valdez. This places an unfair burden on the representative and results in them needing to learn about a wider variety of issues.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Catherine** Last Name: **Reardon**

Ms. Reardon strongly agrees on having a dividing line from the Fred Meyer area to Lemon Creek. What does not make sense for socio-economic integration is when there is a dividing line that goes down the highway and treats the waterside and mountainside as separate districts.

There are similarities between Skagway and Downtown Juneau as they are both areas for cruise ships. When people come from Skagway, they stay in downtown hotels, shop at Costco, and go to the hospital.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Patricia** Last Name: **Relay**

Ms. Relay referenced the socio-economic impacts voiced by other testifiers that have stated that District 36 (Board Map v.3) and District 36-R (AFFR map) shows this. It is important that Valdez stays in these districts for their cultural identity and connection as well. Also, Valdez residents drive up the Richardson Highway and recreate along the Richardson Highway often.

From: Bob Reupke <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 4:20 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: October 11, 2021, 4:20 pm

First Name: **Bob**

Last Name: **Reupke**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Muldoon Resident**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistrict Separation of Muldoon & Eagle River**

Public Comment: **REDISTRICTING**

Hi, I have lived in the Muldoon area since the early 1970s and am against having Muldoon and Eagle River in the same district. They are distinct areas and are about 10 miles apart and don't compare in the socioeconomic factor. Eagle River is much more affluent with more single- family homes and the Muldoon Community with lower income and a much larger amount of dense housing.

Thank you,

Bob Reupke

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 11, 2021, 4:25 pm

First Name: **Toni** Last Name: **Reupke**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Muldoon Resident**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Separate Muldoon and Eagle River Districts**

Public Comment: **Hello I live in Muldoon on E. 10th Ave. in Anchorage. I am very concerned about the redistricting maps reflecting Muldoon and Eagle River in the same district. I feel that Muldoon should not be combined with Eagle River. Each area has very different concerns:**

- **Muldoon and Eagle River have a large socioeconomic diversity;**
- **EagleExit is not relevant to Muldoon;**
- **Muldoon has homeless issues that are concerning because we are closer to the Anchorage Bowl;**
- **Eagle River has issues related to the Glenn Highway corridor in getting to and from work and home that may arise;**
- **in an emergency (fire, earthquake, etc.), Eagle River has a couple of bridges that would need to be addressed and delt with;**
- **Eagle River has a volunteer Fire Dept.; Muldoon is under the Anchorage Fire Dept.;**
- **Muldoon's bus issues are different, because Muldoon and Eagle River are 10 miles apart;**
- **Eagle River (the river) runs close to their community and has concerns regarding the environment; erosion; fishing and water issues;**
- **Muldoon has more dense housing; Eagle River is primarily single family homes and lots**

These issues and more are what our State Senators and Representatives will need to address and constituents will have questions about. A State Senator and Representative should be focused on his or her immediate areas. Thank you for your time.

Regards,

Toni Reupke

From: Paul Robarge <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 4:54 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: October 11, 2021, 4:53 pm

First Name: **Paul**

Last Name: **Robarge**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **Hello my name is Paul Robarge. I am born and raised in East Anchorage along with my grand parents, mother, father, aunts, uncles and the rest of my family. North East Anchorage is a very unique area that differs from all others throughout Anchorage and the rest of the state of Alaska. We take pride in being from the East side. We are one of the most ethnically, racially, and socioeconomic diverse areas in the United States along with being the most population dense area of all of Alaska. We are a strong distinct community. The thought of redistricting the East side or adding anywhere else that is not part of North East Anchorage makes my blood boil. South Anchorage and Eagle River have nothing to do with or are any way similar to North East Anchorage. Our local issues are completely unique to North East Anchorage and no where else. We deserve representation under one Senate District and our boundaries should include the entire North East Community Council map including the portion of JBER that uses the Muldoon gate and includes Tikahtnu Commons and Bartlett High School within our district. The only people that should have anything to say or do with the East side had better live on the East side. I resent the thought of being tied in to the community of Eagle River or the South side of Anchorage that has no idea what the needs of or even what life is like on the East side as we have absolutely nothing in common in any way. We are the largest community in the most de nse space in Alaska and we demand proper representation and or voice and needs should not be diluted by Eagle River or South Anchorage.**

Thank you

Paul Robarge

From: Wendy Robbins [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 10, 2021 9:08 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Senate Pairings
Attachments: Senate Pairings 2021.pdf

Redistricting Board

I appreciate the many hours you have invested in drawing new district maps for Alaska. I live in South Anchorage and, after reviewing the maps presented, prefer Board Map #4 as I think it does the best job of creating districts that are compact and socio-economically integrated with balanced population numbers.

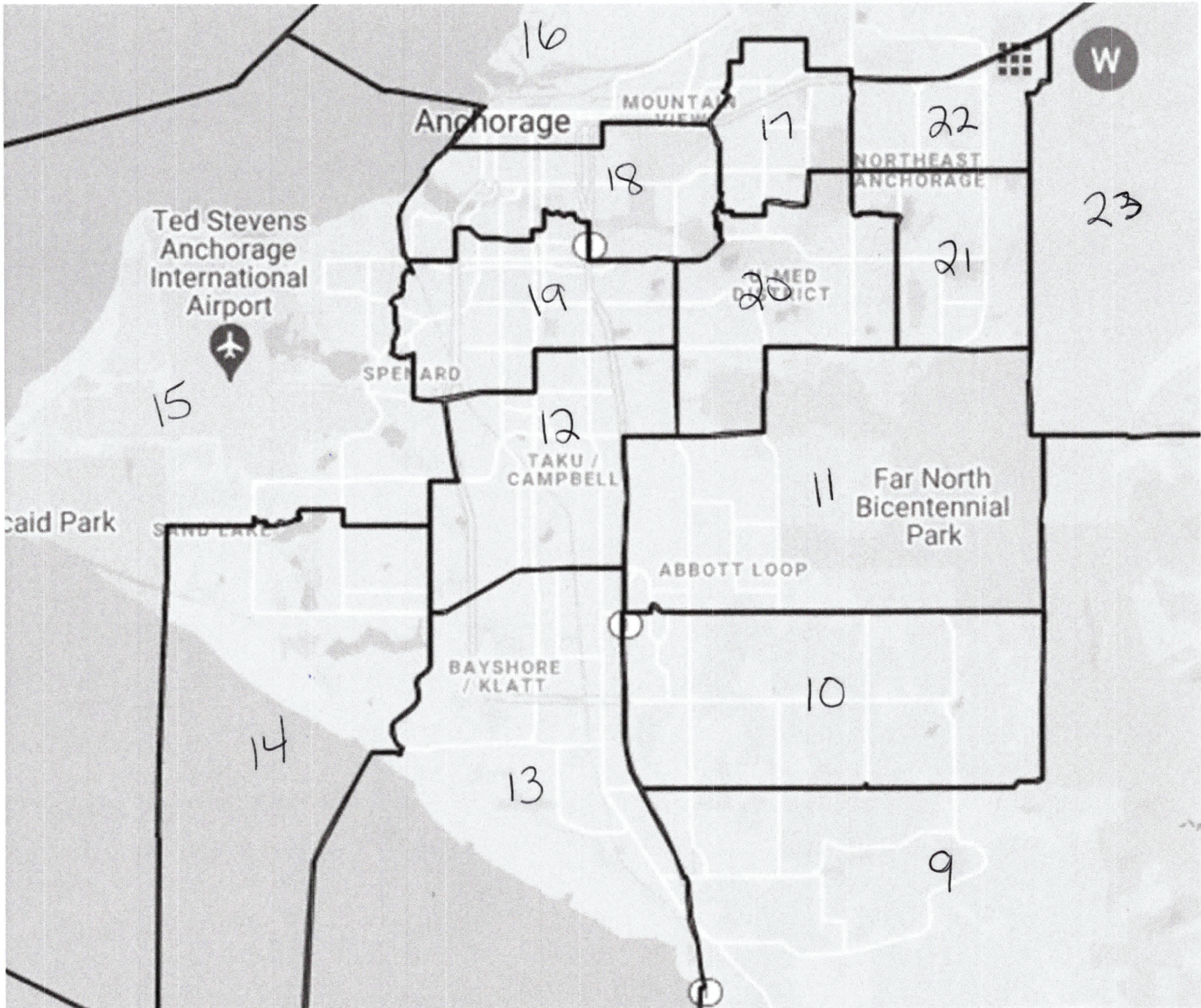
I wish to offer what I consider to be reasonable Senate District pairings for Anchorage using Map #4. I changed the numbers, so each pair is consecutive. (See attachment)

Using my #9 and #10 districts keeps the upper hillside neighborhoods that have been together, since at least the 2002 redistricting, paired for Senate purposes. We have concerns that are not necessarily shared by people living in neighborhoods closer to the inlet and I feel this pairing fulfills the requirements for compactness, contiguity, and socio-economic integration better than pairing House districts from both sides of Seward Highway in South Anchorage.

Thank you for considering my input.

Sincerely,

Wendy Robbins



From: Francie Roberts [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Testimony; Juli Lucky
Subject: My public testimony for Kenai Peninsula

Dear Alaska Redistricting Board,

My name is Francie Roberts and I live at 495 Mountain View Drive in Homer and currently reside in House District 31. I would like to comment on the proposed redistricting plans for my area.

The two proposals by the redistricting board (Board Proposed V3 and V4) are just unacceptable. The area east of Homer, including the Fox River, has much more to do with Homer than Cordova. These people live and work in the Homer area. Excluding this area from our district does not make any sense whatsoever. Do not adopt these two maps please.

My first choice for redistricting is the AFFR map. This map makes the most sense. Kachemak Bay unites all the people who live in this area. We have similar issues and need a representative to address those issues. The communities on the south side of Kachemak Bay (Bear Cove, Halibut Cove and Seldovia) should be included in our district along with the people that live east of Homer. The Senate Minority Proposed Kenai Pen. at least includes the area across the bay and the Fritz Creek area.

I am not sure you know this but Ninilchik area used to be included in the South Peninsula Hospital area. A year or so ago, people in the Ninilchik area voted to join the Central Peninsula Hospital area in Soldotna. The vote was a clear message they did not feel they had much to do with the southern peninsula. Ninilchik and the communities north of them have weighed in they are much more aligned with the Soldotna area. Include them with that area.

Please adjust the map accordingly.

Francie Roberts

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Juneau 9/27 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 13, 2021

First Name: **Miguel** Last Name: **Rohrbacher**

Public Comment: The best map presented is by the third-party group, Alaskans for Fair Redistricting, (AFFR) because of the this group's process for drawing the map. While the Alaska Redistricting Board worked together to compile the maps and then show them around the state for public comment, the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting had an opposite process. AFFR gathered public input and then drew maps based on the public comment.

The AFFR map respects the Juneau neighborhoods with the dividing line at Lemon Creek and the valley district going down to Auke Road versus cutting off Auke Road residents into another district. I am in favor of including Petersburg with Downtown Juneau as there are economic similarities, including the workforce. There are more than just the fishing industries represented. The regional hub for Petersburg is Juneau rather than Sitka.

Haines, Skagway, and Klukwan in the rural northern southeast region seems logical and is not unprecedented. If you think about Haines and Lutak Inlet area, the subsistence use is more similar to a place like Hoonah or Angoon than it is to Juneau.

Please do everything you can to avoid the appearance of drawing lines with incumbents.

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 3:33 PM
To: Testimony
Cc: Juli Lucky
Subject: Redistricting comments List 31

Greetings, Our names are James Van Oss and Candy Rorer (husband and wife). We live at 19.5 mile East End Rd. address: 47850 East End Rd. Homer, Ak and reside in House District 31. Our commenst for the proposed redistricting plans are as followed .

I prefer the AFFR(Alaskans for Fair Redistricting) proposal that includes across the Bay and Seward. It seems like this is a representative district that the people in the area have similar interests.

I strongly disagree with Board Proposed V3 and V4. They do not include the Fritz Creek area east of Homer. This area is totally part of the Homer community and should be included in our district.

Kasilof and Ninilchik are much more clearly aligned with the northern peninsula and should not be included in district 31.

Thank you for your work:
James Van Oss and Candy Rohrer

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: [REDACTED]

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

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 12, 2021, 10:32 pm

First Name: **Dan** Last Name: **Saddler**

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **AFFER District 17-18-19**

Public Comment: **To the Alaska Redistricting Board:**

First, I want to say that I don't envy your job, as it must be difficult, if not impossible, to draw district lines that make everybody happy. But lines must be drawn, so I am writing to tell you I support the lines drawn by the AFFER maps for House Districts 17, 18 and 19.

It is important to correct the mistaken impression you may have gotten that Eagle River is so different from northeast Anchorage that the two areas cannot possibly be included in the same legislative district. The truth is, these areas have a long and close relationship, and you should have no concerns about combining residents from these areas into AFFER's proposed District 19, or that most Eagle River residents would have any serious objection to sharing their representative and senator.

The question of whether Eagle River is part of the Municipality of Anchorage was resolved more than 40 years ago: Yes, it is. While it may be a somewhat friendlier, safer, and more conservative part of Anchorage, Eagle River is as much a part of the Muni as are South Addition, Bayshore, or Hillside.

Our town of Eagle River functions in no small measure as a bedroom community, with thousands of people driving to and from Anchorage every day to work, shop, and recreate. The Muldoon and Boundary Road areas are close neighbors to Eagle River, connected by a convenient, high-speed highway that fosters connections friendships, and shared interests.

Eagle River has close ties to Fort Richardson. Many military families live in our community and commute to duty or civilian jobs on base. Military spouses work, shop, and socialize at both ends of the Glenn Highway. Their families are pillars of our churches, and their children attend our local public and private schools. AFFER District 18 appropriately captures this established relationship.

It is not widely known, but the Chugiak-Eagle River and Muldoon area is home to more military "both active duty and retired" than anywhere else in the state. Residents mingle as they shop at the PX, Fred Meyer or Carrs, exercise at Buckner Field house, and play golf at Moose Run. This creates a cohesion that is important to us. While military families move around a lot and may make temporary friends at each new duty station, those fortunate enough to get assigned to JBER will tell you they find the Eagle River community has a special cohesion of shared values and experiences that leads them to make our community their permanent home.

Claims that the so-called "Eagle Exit" secession effort proves there is an insurmountable division between Eagle River and Anchorage don't hold water. The secession idea has not moved much beyond the talking stage over the past 40 years, and in that time even long-time legislators sympathetic to the idea were unable to progress it. Whether it advances further or not, and whatever form it might someday take, it certainly had done nothing by the time of the 2020 census to justify using it to create a hard barrier between Eagle River and its Anchorage neighbors to the south.

There is historical precedent for Eagle River and northeast Anchorage sharing representation in a new District 19 created in the AFFER proposal. In the map based on the 2000 census then-House District 18 joined residents in Muldoon, Elmendorf and Fort Richardson and Eagle River into a single district; and for the last 10 years District 13 has joined the Boundary Road area with Eagle River with no discernable problems.

AFFER's District 17 map also makes sense to me. It joins residents outside the downtown, more citified core Eagle River area with others living farther apart from each other, generally on larger lots, farther off the main drag. I suspect that if you checked you'd find that residents of this proposed District 17 have generally lived in Alaska longer than people in neighboring districts, giving them a special, longer-view perspective on issues.

Legislative districts are supposed to be "contiguous and compact," and there is nothing about including residents from Eagle River and northeast Anchorage in AFFER's House District 19 that violates that principle. It is certainly far less of a stretch that a district established 20 years ago that reached from south Anchorage and Hillside out to Eagle River across the spine of the Chugach Mountains. Northeast Anchorage and Eagle River are now far closer than Hillside and Eagle River ever were, and it the proposed AFFER District 19 is far more defensible.

Eagle River and Northeast Alaska are already served by common legislative representatives. The Municipality of Anchorage's current assembly districts join residents in Muldoon with residents in Eagle River, which should give members of the state redistricting board confidence that this combination is well-established, appropriate, and accepted.

Again, there is no perfect map Alaska's geography and settlement patters make it a challenge. But the districts laid out by AFFER for Districts 17, 18 and 19 appear to me to be fair and equitable. Please enact them into your next state map of election districts.

From: val sanarov [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 1:18 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Regarding east end

We are very shocked at one of the proposals to eliminate east end from Kenai peninsula district. Its our main source for grocery shopping, working, fishing, investing, sports, school activities and mainly "voting". We are very confused as to why and to who even thought to draw this plan or most of all even think of it. To include us with Halibut Cove and as far as Kodiak makes absolutely no sense, there's no road access to any of these towns, would ferries be supplies for us? Roads? Sounds like a lot of money to me which I'm sure the district or state doesn't have due to so many shut downs for transportation for so many of the small native villages as is due to cut downs in the state. For "Covid Restrictions" these days and the United States hurting this is most definitely out of the question. We attended the meeting and to our understanding this looks like voting restrictions to all the East End Residents. Sincerely, Very Confused Local

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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: Bill Schultz [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 10:00 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: apolitical redistricting

No matter how you draw districts different people are going to be varying degrees of dissatisfied with the results. Apolitical Districting not only eliminates all gerrymandering now and in the future but prevents the aforementioned dissatisfaction from negatively impacting the electoral process.

Apolitical Districting - the primary goal is to guarantee all political interests are prevented from using gerrymandering to subvert individual representation. It would be usable at all levels of government and eliminate the need/expense for any oversight other than algorithm confirmation.

Apolitical Districting relies on the gps data present in the census. Different algorithms could be used with a simple example being 3 concentric circles dividing a local, state or national area into 3 equally populated zones with each zone being "pie sliced" into sub-zones when the applicable number of voters is reached.

Specific to State of Alaska laws there will be cases(likely limited) where apolitical districting could be argued to violate the "as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area". To that specific law and other similar ones I would argue that socio-economic grouping tends to foster class distinctions, tribalism and impedes legislative cooperation in their primary function of keeping laws fair and updated for everyone.

In my opinion, the benefit of eliminating the possibility of gerrymandering of all degrees now and in the future far outweigh all other objections that will be raised with any districting scheme with human (biased) influence.

From: Elizabeth Seaman <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 5:53 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: October 13, 2021, 5:53 pm

First Name: **Elizabeth**

Last Name: **Seaman**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **None**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **V3 and V4**

Public Comment: **Fritz Creek is an inherent part of the Homer and South Peninsula community. Please keep it in the same district. Thank you!**

From: Katherine Serebrekoff [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 7:07 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Districts

Hello,

I live down East End and I do not believe we should be moved into the same district as Kodiak. It does not make sense because we are not close to Kodiak. It's a far drive by boat to get to Kodiak as it's only a 30 minute drive to Homer. We wouldn't have a representative to look out for us if this happened. I would greatly appreciate to stay in the district we are in now with Homer.

Sincerely East End resident

From: Gabe Shaddy-Farnsworth <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2021 11:01 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: October 12, 2021, 11:00 am

First Name: **Gabe**

Last Name: **Shaddy-Farnsworth**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Map v. 3 and Board Map v. 4**

Public Comment: **After reviewing all proposed maps, I find the AFFR Plan's Anchorage Map to be most in line with applicable governing law regarding map adoption for the following primary reason: it has the best deviations when compared to the alternatives.**

AFFR Plan's Anchorage Deviation - .35% with no district more than 36 people from ideal.

Board Option 3 has an Anchorage deviation of .93% with a district 199 from ideal.

Board Option 4 has an Anchorage deviation of 2.23% with a district 330 people from ideal.

AFFR has an Anchorage deviation of 2.06% with a district 240 people from ideal.

The choice seems clear to me. I urge the Redistricting Board to fulfill their Constitutional duty to the best of their ability by choosing the AFFR Anchorage Plan.

Thank you.

From: LWV Tanana Valley <lwvtv.info@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 1:37 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Testimony on Board Redistricting Map Version 3

I am writing on the behalf of the board of the League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley located in Fairbanks. We applaud the Alaska Redistricting Board's efforts to involve the public in the redistricting process through its website, numerous town halls, and the statewide call-in opportunity and for its consideration of the 4 third-party plans. The League advocates for a fair and transparent redistricting process and, as an organization, does not endorse any of the plans, but instead encourages Alaskans to study each plan and make their voices heard in this process.

Nevertheless, we must question the rationale for the overpopulation of the 5 proposed Fairbanks districts in Board Version 3. The decision to compact the Fairbanks North Star Borough population into just five districts in order to recognize borough boundaries deprives Fairbanks of approximately 22% of a district. When one looks at the deviation chart for Board Version 3, these 5 Fairbanks districts are all overpopulated by over 4% each. No other districts and certainly no other local government unit in Version 3 come close to this degree of overpopulation. Indeed, there is no other instance of such a degree of overpopulation in any of the districts in any of the other five plans, except for a single district in the Board's own Version 4.

While local government boundaries are an allowable consideration, the constitutional requirement for equality of population should be followed first. Although Fairbanks' population has declined, there is no justification for devaluing individual borough citizens' votes by overpopulating all of the Fairbanks districts to such a degree.

We ask that, if the Board chooses to adopt Version 3, it modifies its current drawing of Fairbanks and Interior districts to rectify this problem before adoption on November 10, 2021.

Sincerely,

Sue Sherif
President, League of Women Voters of the Tanana Valley



The League of Women Voters of Tanana Valley
Empowering Voters Defending Democracy
www.lwvalaska.org/fairbanks

From: Jill Naze Shimko [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2021 4:34 PM
To: Testimony; Bob & Jill Shimko Sr
Subject: Fritz Creek/Fox River D31 - Region 6

Good Day to you all;

I have been following the process of the redistricting plan for our area and realize that this is no small thing that you are dealing with. I want to thank you for allowing the public to participate.

Our thoughts on this: 1. We will be sitting out here with no representation in any elections.

2. Most of us cannot afford the ferry ride with expenses to stay, or the air fare to fly over without any place to stay. It is not drivable and therefore not accessible for us to be part of the solution.

3. We are retired, that is not to say we do nothing....others have jobs they have to be at.

4. Please rethink this, letting us continue as we have - so that this community will stay united.

Robert (Bob) & Jill Shimko Sr
Fritz Creek/Fox River resident

Jill Naze Shimko



October 14, 2021

Dear Members of the Alaska Redistricting Board,

K'oyitl'ots'ina Limited (KCorp) write in support of this Board giving strong consideration to the map developed by Doyon, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, Sealaska and Ahtna. 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. KCorp is a successful consolidated village corporation with shareholders coming from the Koyukuk River communities of Allakaket, Alatna, Hughes, and Huslia and our political power was severely suppressed in the last reapportionment.

In the past, the Interior Alaska Native communities that make up the Doyon and Tanana Chiefs region have been fractured in deference to keeping a certain balance in the greater Fairbanks and Northern and Western Alaska. The Koyukuk River villages have been unfairly split up for numerous years. Our constituent communities were split, three communities placed with the Northern district and one with the Northwest district. As a result, we were marginalized. The villages on the Koyukuk River have earned the right to stay within the same district based upon the regulations of reapportionment. From acknowledging ANCSA agreements to protecting the land and resources, we should be able to hold our representatives accountable and be sure that they are representing the interests of the Koyukuk River.

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. It also represents a map that keeps the voting power of the Fairbanks North Star Borough intact with low deviations and respect to neighborhood hubs.

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

Sincerely,



K'OYITL'OTS'INA, LIMITED

Kotzebue
10/5/21

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY FORM

CAUTION: What you write will become part of the public record attributed to you by name. Anonymous comments will not be included in the public record. Profane or inappropriate comments will be immediately deleted.

Name: Hazel Smith

Affiliation (if any): self - retired

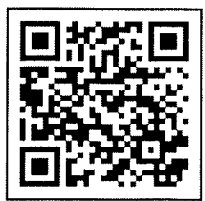
Email or Phone: [REDACTED] Zip Code: 99752

Area/Map Title/Keywords: District 40

Public Comment: _____

Please do not change boundaries for
2 of our villages; Deering + Buckland
It is not feasible to make them
go to Nome when they do everything
in our region.

SCAN HERE TO OPEN THE MAP COMMENT PORTAL →



From: kathy smith [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 16, 2021 5:02 PM
To: Juli Lucky
Subject: Comment on redistricting proposals

MY name is Kathy Smith and I am a resident of Homer, and of House District 31. I wish to comment on the proposed redistricting plans for my area.

My preference is for the AFFR (Alaskans for Fair Redistricting) proposal for District 31, which includes the areas across Kachemak Bay and also Seward. I believe this proposal is the best choice for the people residing in these areas of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. I am entirely opposed to proposals V3 and V4, which do not include the Fritz Creek area east of Homer. This area is a part of the Homer community and should not be excluded from our district. On the other hand, Ninilchik and Kasilof are more likely aligned with the northern peninsula and should not be included in District 31.

To repeat, my preference is for the AFFR proposal for District 31.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kathy Smith

[REDACTED]
Homer, AK 99603

From: Scott Spickler <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 6:56 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Comment for SE Alaska

I would like to voice my support for map number 3.

This option would give the affected residents the best representation in my opinion.

Thank you,

Scott Spickler (63 year resident of Juneau and business owner for 38 years) Juneau AK.

Sent from my iPad

From: Elaina Spraker <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 2:26 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: October 11, 2021, 2:26 pm

First Name: **Elaina**

Last Name: **Spraker**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99669**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **District 5**

Public Comment: **District 5 is not representative of the Kenai Peninsula community. Homer should be included with Anchor Point and the lower Kenai Peninsula. Not Cordova and Kodiak. I recommend shifting the Homer portion of District 5 to District 6.**

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.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY FORM

CAUTION: What you write will become part of the public record attributed to you by name. Anonymous comments will not be included in the public record. Profane or inappropriate comments will be immediately deleted.

Name: Charles Lewis Tobin

Affiliation (if any): Independent

Email or Phone: [REDACTED] Zip Code: 99762

Area/Map Title/Keywords: Board proposals 3 or 4

Public Comment: _____

Both the Board proposals keep the Nome Districts (39) as compact as possible + as uniform in political thought. The others ~~are~~ stretch District 39 into long distances not easily reachable with far different political + economic goals.

SCAN HERE TO OPEN THE MAP COMMENT PORTAL →



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

Valdez 9/30/2021 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Hope** Last Name: **Van Der Mevlee**

Public Comment: **Ms. Mevlee agreed with what other testifiers have stated about not being grouped with the Mat-Su Borough. Ms. Mevlee spoke in support of the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map, specifically District 36-R, and Board Map v.3. Ms. Mevlee would like to see more of Prince William Sound and Cordova included with Valdez to include more coastal representation.**

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

Valdez 9/30 Verbal Testimony

Transcription date: October 15, 2021

First Name: **Todd** Last Name: **Wegner**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Valdez 9/30 Verbal Testimony**

Public Comment: **Mr. Wegner stated that he is speaking on behalf of the school district and noted that two years ago, Valdez used to be Region 3 (Palmer, Wasilla, Kenai Peninsula), but they've regionally moved into Region 6 along the Richardson Highway corridor that also includes Fairbanks and Galena schools. There is a cultural connection with school districts as well.**

Mr. Wegner is in favor of Board Map v.3.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 15, 2021, 2:58 pm

First Name: **Anne** Last Name: **Wieland**

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Fritz Creek Fox must remain with all of Homer area in proposed new area.**

Public Comment: **October 15, 2021**

Dear members of the Alaska Redistricting Board,

I am writing you regarding the fate of current District 31. The material and gathering on Wednesday October 13 have been very helpful for those of us who are concerned about the fate of our neighborhoods.

Looking at the Board's Criteria the first one, Contiguity, is very important to us. Geographically we are compact and to a very considerable degree Contiguous. Homer, Dimond Creek, Kachemak City, Fritz Creek, the villages across the bay and especially the Russian community at the head of the bay are all in one watershed. It is a pity that Halibut Cove and some of the villages are not included in District 31. We in Homer are enriched by the presence of the Russian Village folks and those across the bay.

We share so much with all in our watershed, not entirely culturally but in the fact that Homer has the grocery stores, a good hospital complete with med evac, Fire and plowing services, good schools, the great abundance from Kachemak Bay with fish, benefits from tourism, arts and crafts, boating, scenery, the wonderful Kachemak Bay State Park, A good airport with a long runway, Service to Anchorage and the villages across the Bay. As one of the Russian women testified that they have considerable elders out there, and for them having to drive 30 or more miles to get to a hospital is a challenge. If anything there should be an urgent care somewhere to the East of Homer. Basically Homer is a very good place to serve us residents and all the surrounding areas.

When I looked at the Redistricting Boards for what is now District 31 I was truly shocked to see the proposal to cut the Fritz Creek area away from the rest of us and potentially attach it to the future district of Seward or Kodiak. This makes no sense at all. Seward is about 170 miles by road away from us, no short cut across the Harding Ice Field! They have a different situation there with considerable flooding some or most years from the Snow River, Exit Glacier Creek or the Resurrection River. Their population is half of Homer's, yet they have a large jail. To my knowledge they do not have a hospital the size of Homer's. Our issues are different. Even fishing is different, deep water fishing for rock fish and Ling Cod vs ease of Halibut fishing in Homer.

Adding Fritz Creek to Kodiak is an even more unacceptable situation. Yes we fish, mercifully don't share as many or as big brown bears. Access is obviously not Contiguity of Compactness. Politically our State Senator is based there, along with the head of the state Representatives. I like them both but wish we could elect at least the State Senator from Homer and vicinity because there are more of us in this current district. If Clem Tillion or Yule Kilcher can do it, so can someone else, though those two will be forever hard to replace.

Seeing that currently the Kachemak Bay area has more than the Ideal District Size it is obvious that you will want to cut from that somewhere, but I would ask you please to look for a solution to the north of Homer. It seems there are folks living all along the Sterling highway who are not in the communities north of us. Or consider a special exemption for the southern part of the Kenai Peninsula. Another thought is to add the population numbers from Halibut Cove and Seldovia, Port Graham and even Nanwalek. Then subtract a larger town up north.

Above all I implore you not to cut and send away the residents of Fritz Creek and Fox. Looking at the maps and seeing population numbers I can see that this is a difficult task. I hope that you can find a way that causes the greatest number of us to be satisfied with the solution.

Best wishes and thank you so much for your efforts on this challenging task.

Anne Wieland



Homer, AK 99603

From: Jack Wiles <wilesmichaud@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 3:56 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Fritz Creek

It is an insult to place Kodiak and Fritz Creek voters together...the geographic and social differences are compelling. Find a new map...Please.

Thanks.

John Wiles & Michelle Michaud

[REDACTED]
Homer (Fritz Creek) AK. 99603

Sent from my iPad

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY FORM

CAUTION: What you write will become part of the public record attributed to you by name. Anonymous comments will not be included in the public record. Profane or inappropriate comments will be immediately deleted.

Name: Joe Williams, Jr

Affiliation (if any): SALMON

Email or Phone: [REDACTED] Zip Code: 99901

Area/Map Title/Keywords: _____

Public Comment: I like the Senate minority
version,

SCAN HERE TO OPEN THE MAP COMMENT PORTAL →



ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD PUBLIC TESTIMONY FORM

CAUTION: What you write will become part of the public record attributed to you by name. Anonymous comments will not be included in the public record. Profane or inappropriate comments will be immediately deleted.

Name: Aimee Williams

Affiliation (if any): Discovez Kodiak,

Email or Phone: [REDACTED] Zip Code: 99615

Area/Map Title/Keywords: Doyon Coalition

Public Comment: _____

5-C best reflects a compact district that has a similar
socio-economic situation. It would ideal to keep communities
that have similar debt commitments together. (School
bond debt & needs do not match that of Valdez)
Creating a fit with other commercial fishing based
coastal communities is key.

Thanks for Visiting Kodiak.

P.S. I do not feel adding Homer residents to
the same district as Kodiak Island is an appropriate
fit.

SCAN HERE TO OPEN THE MAP COMMENT PORTAL →

