

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 12, 2022, 11:35 pm

First Name: **Eric**

Last Name: **McCallum**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **none**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99515**

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

Public Comment: **The rational fix is obvious, pair Eagle River with Eagle River, Gov Hill/JBER with Downtown and Hillside with Hillside. Any plan must follow the direction of the court closely, only changing the affected districts and those touching them. Otherwise the court could send Map 3 back to the board yet again.**

Eagle River is a separate community. It deserves its own senator. This is evidenced by the fact that they are currently moving forward on plans to secede from the municipality. Current Sens. Roger Holland and Lora Reinbold both oppose Map 3 saying it is unworkable for numerous reasons. Additionally there was overwhelming public testimony against pairing parts of South Anchorage and Eagle River during Anchorage Municipal reapportionment.

Thank you for providing an opportunity to share my thinking.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 1:30 am

First Name: **Mike**

Last Name: **Edgington**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99587**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Adopt Senate pairing map 2**

Public Comment: **I have heard the argument that Chugiak/Eagle River "loses representation" under map 2 since they "currently have 2 senators", and those 2 senators would be preserved under 3B. This is misleading.**

It is true that the 2013 proclamation map does split Chugiak/Eagle River across 3 House districts, 12, 13 & 14.

2013's HD13 & 14 cover Eagle River (with some of JBER) but HD12 has most of its population in Mat-Su and only a few thousand in the Chugiak/Birchwood/Peters Creek neighborhoods. So 2013's HD12, part of Senate seat F, should rightly be considered a Mat-Su Senate district since ~80% of Senate seat F's population resides in Mat-Su.

The 2021 proclamation does a better job associating House districts with communities. Chugiak/Eagle River has almost the perfect population for exactly two House districts and one Senate pair and the House map does in fact draw 2 House districts for Chugiak/Eagle River: the new HD22 & HD24.

Map 2 neatly pairs those two House districts into a Senate seat, whereas Map 3B pairs disparate House districts to artificially create 2 Senate seats for Chugiak/Eagle River.

I urge you to support the Senate pairings of Map 2 and avoid unnecessary additional legal challenges.

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 13, 2022, 10:35 am

First Name: **Ric**

Last Name: **Davidge**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Alaska Roundtable**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **98002**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **I support the adoption the proposed Map 3B.**

Public Comment: **I have watched this closely and believe that 3B is the correct choice consistent with the law.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE**

First Name: **Burton**

Last Name: **Bomhoff**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

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

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

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Constant, Christopher christopher.constant@anchorageak.gov

Wed 4/13/2022 12:38 AM

To the Alaska Redistricting Board:

On behalf of Assembly leadership, attached is a copy of AR 2022-112(S) a Resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly supporting Anchorage Senate Districts Revision Option 2 Before The Alaska Redistricting Board That Pairs House District 17 with 23, and House District 22 with 24.

The Assembly adopted this resolution with a vote of 8 yes votes and 2 no votes and is the official testimony of the Municipality on this question. I would note it is somewhat amended from the version previously submitted.

I am submitting without the signature as the clerk will not have time until morning to get the signed version. Once it is available, a signed copy will be provided.

It is worth noting that this item is adopted, but it is possible that the Mayor exercises his Charter granted right to veto within the next 7 days. The Assembly would have 21 days thereafter to convene to override.

I anticipate Chair LaFrance will be attending the hearing on April 13 to deliver remarks on passage and approval of this item.

Christopher Constant
Anchorage Municipal Assembly, District 1

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2022-112(S)

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Alaska Supreme Court on March 25, 2022 affirmed the superior court's determination that "the Board's Senate K pairing of house districts constituted an unconstitutional political gerrymander violating equal protection under the Alaska Constitution" and the remand to the ARB to correct it; and

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

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

WHEREAS, during the recent Municipality of Anchorage Reapportionment process, residents from Eagle River, South Anchorage and Girdwood spoke out overwhelmingly against proposals that would combine these communities with scores of comments opposing the combination; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Redistricting Board should not contemplate a pairing of House districts like presented in Option 3B, that combines geographically and demographically

1 distinct areas and simply shifts the constitutional infirmity into other areas **and provides**
2 **only second-class contiguity**; and
3

4 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Reapportionment Committee heard from five community
5 councils and scores of individuals regarding their opposition to grouping Eagle River
6 and South Anchorage on the basis that these are distinctly different regions with few
7 shared communities of interest; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Alaska Redistricting Board's Proposed Anchorage Senate Districts
10 Option 2 combines House District 23 which is the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson,
11 **Government Hill and downtown Anchorage** area with House District 17 **which is the**
12 **main [covering the]** downtown area; and House District 22, the south Eagle River area,
13 with House District 24, the north Eagle River area; and
14

15 **WHEREAS, the record demonstrates that a plan is possible which adopts all**
16 **highly contiguous pairings that maintain communities of interest, keeping**
17 **neighbors with neighbors, including Government Hill and North Downtown**
18 **Anchorage with South Downtown Anchorage, Chugiak with Eagle River, and**
19 **South Anchorage with Southwest Anchorage in Option 2; and**
20

21 **WHEREAS, Option 3B offers pairings with only second-class contiguity that**
22 **connects Chugiak with Government Hill and Downtown, Eagle River with**
23 **Girdwood, Portage, and Whittier which all have substantial geographic barriers**
24 **including the Chugach Front Range Mountains, the federally secured borders of**
25 **JBER, and in some cases hours of highway time; and**
26

27 **WHEREAS, the Assembly has heard no constitutional arguments that are**
28 **persuasive in justifying the breaking up of natural contiguous communities of**
29 **interest that can stand in the face of the overwhelming public testimony it**
30 **received to the contrary; and**
31

32 **WHEREAS**, Option 2 more closely joins neighboring communities of [f] common interest
33 that interact through direct road access to shop, work, and play in their respective areas,
34 in clear compliance with the Superior Court's Constitutional directives to respect natural
35 boundaries where possible in describing boundaries (e.g. drainages and mountain
36 ranges), and the testimony from communities of interest, while maintaining contiguity
37 and compactness in drawing such district lines;
38

39 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Anchorage Municipal Assembly
40 supports the Alaska Redistricting Board's Proposed Anchorage Senate Districts Option
41 2 which pairs House Districts 17 and 23 to form one Senate district, and House Districts
42 22 and 24 to form another Senate district.
43

44 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 12th day of April, 2022.
45
46

47 

48
49 ATTEST:

Chair

50
51 

52
53 Municipal Clerk

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 12:04 pm

First Name: **Steven**

Last Name: **Aufrecht**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: 99508

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): How to evaluate and use public testimony in the Board's decision making process

Public Comment: In the Board's brief to the Supreme Court, Matt Singer wrote:

“The trial court places quantity of testimony over quality. This provides incentive for political parties, partisans, and interest groups to pack public hearings and file volumes of pre-written testimony.”

Actually, the judge's ruling was a lot more subtle than that. He explained his decision and reasoning in detail from page 131 - 143 of his ruling. He concludes the discussion thus:

"If the Board adopts a final plan contrary to the preponderance of public testimony, it must state on the record legitimate reasons for its decision." (p. 143)

It's encouraging to know that the Board, through its attorney, believes that politics should not be involved in this process and is worried about "special interest groups who mobilize partisans to attend hearings and hijack the process."

Singer also wrote:

--There is no legal standard for determining the "clear weight of public comment." If only one person testifies on a topic, is that the weight of public testimony that trumps the judgment of the five Board members?

While there may not be a legal standard, there is a well developed field of qualitative research analysis to help review testimony in a more meaningful way than just counting those for and against. And just like any other expert testimony, it is accepted by the court. Matt Singer himself has said he himself has hired the East Anchorage plaintiff's expert witness Dr. Chase Hensel to be an expert witness. He does qualitative research. Here's a brief description:

--Data collected in qualitative research are usually in narrative rather than numerical form, such as the transcript of an unstructured, in-depth interview. Analysis of qualitative data organizes, summarizes and interprets these nonnumerical observations." (From National Library of Medicine)

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Evaluating public testimony doesn't need to be a complicated social science dissertation. We can use simple principles of qualitative research to get something reasonably useful for the Board.

I'd like to offer the Board a professional way to evaluate the large amount of public testimony it has received.

How Should The Board Evaluate The Data?

A first step is to go through the testimony and identify the concepts/ideas/ points made and codify them. This doesn't have to be as complicated as it sounds. Having heard most of the oral testimony and having looked at much of the written testimony I'd say we can divide the testimony into

For Option 2
For Option 3B
Other Issues

Here, "Other" would include comments that don't choose an option or that discuss other redistricting issues than the Senate seat K pairing.

Yes, that sounds a little like what attorney Matt Singer was warning about, but this is just the first step. While we will divide the comments into those three categories, we won't stop there. Then we'll go through them to see the extent to which they add information to the discussion that is relevant to the decision.

The Board's attorney warned it would turn into a simple partisan drive to drum up testimony. He obviously doesn't think that's a good idea and neither do I. The Board shouldn't just make a pile for Option 2 and one for Option 3B, count how many in each pile, and then say that equals the preponderance of public testimony. I'd like to offer a way to think about the comments.

Here's basic idea.

Attorney Singer pointed out the dangers of quantifying public opinion. This is not a vote, it's information gathering. The Board is responsible for creating a plan that meets all the constitutional and other legal requirements. Then, as the judge wrote: "it must state on the record legitimate reasons for its decision." □

The purpose of public testimony is

To raise issues - often local ones - that the Board overlooked to add to their decision making

To provide preferences that can be taken into consideration once the Board has some clear, constitutional plans.

To avoid making politically partisan decisions by creating districts that are less constitutional but favor one particular political party.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Process for evaluating comments

First we divide the comments based on topics. In some cases there will be several topics in one comment. We can put those into a "multi topic" pile and then go through them later. Second, divide the comments in each group based not on content, but how the content is conveyed. For example:

Opinion - unsupported - basically "a vote"

Opinion - Supported

by Feeling

by Facts

by Concepts/Principles

Legal

Other

by argument that combines principles and supporting facts that logically show how an option is fact based.

Other factors that could be considered

Does it add new data?

Does it raise issues and data that have not been discussed before?

Does it add new data that supports or counters previous testimony?

Is it accurate?

This is pretty much a technical job. Sure, different objective people might categorize comments slightly differently, but the point is to organize that data for the decision makers. If there are questions, Board members can help decide.

Third, is to review the information to see how it affects the decisions the Board is going to make. When you put all the data together does it change assumptions that Board members made about a community or about whether a constitutional requirement is met?

Then the Board can make its decision based on the constitutional requirements supported by facts.

If the Board has two or more options that appear equally good or at least equally constitutional, then the Board can assess whether there is an obvious public preference for one option over others.

But remember, that the Board took feedback about Cantwell and then broke some basic redistricting rules - breaking borough boundaries and compactness - to accommodate the suggestion. The Court overturned that decision.

Final Notes

One of the criticisms of the Board from the courts was that they made decisions based on personal preferences. It was pointed out that the Board members are not professional redistricting experts. They don't have special technical, professional training in this field.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Merely stating personal preferences is not enough. They need to test the validity of those preferences. Do the facts support them? For example: Is there a unique military connection between districts? Personal perception needs to be tested against hard numbers about where military live, their age, income, ethnicity, etc.

For most districts meeting constitutional requirements that don't upset the communities was not much of an issue. For a few it was and the Board was challenged. And if the Board doesn't do it right this time the Court likely will reject their decision again.

What about "the preponderance of public opinion" that Judge Matthews mentioned? The judge wrote that a Board member's personal preference does not override a preponderance of public opinion.

So this process reviews that public opinion, tests the assertions and the facts presented, then writes up the reasoning for making the decision the Board makes. It's not a popularity contest. It's not a vote. It's not an invitation for political parties to get their supporters to simply say they support one plan or another without any reasons given. The point is for the Board to make a more informed and defensible decision and document how they did it, so the court can review it.

Thank you for all the work you've put into this and I'm hoping your decisions in the next couple of days will be approved by the court and that further litigation will not arise.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 12:39 pm

First Name: **Emma**

Last Name: **Hill**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Adopt the Bahnke senate pairings**

Public Comment: **The Board should act immediately to comply with the Court's requirements and to minimize confusion if this process is dragged out. In Anchorage, the Board should adopt the Bahnke senate pairings, instead of trying to come up with new pairings. The senate pairings proposed by Melanie Bahnke. Board must act immediately: It is in the public interest to swiftly adopt a map with final senate pairings so that voters can familiarize themselves with their new districts, precincts, and voting locations, on top of a new election system (RCV) and an unprecedented special election. The redistricting board has an obligation to the public to resolve this quickly to avoid voter confusion and disenfranchisement**

Adopt Bahnke pairings: These pairings, proposed by Melanie Bahnke, have already been presented and considered on the record, and were informed by public input and testimony. These pairings do not change the underlying deviation of districts, and upholds the one person, one vote principle. In addition, they are the common-sense geographic and socioeconomic pairings (keeping Muldoon w/ Muldoon, West Anc. w/ West Anc, Eagle River w/ Eagle River etc.).

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

First Name: **Amy**

Last Name: **Demboski**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Municipality of Anchorage Municipal Manager**

Email or Phone Contact: **[REDACTED]**

Your ZIP Code: **99519**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Veto of Anchorage Assembly Resolution RE: Redistricting Maps**

Public Comment: **4/12/22 The Anchorage Assembly passed AR 2022-112(S) relating to AK Redistricting. Today, 4/13/22, Mayor Bronson delivered the below veto of AR 2022-112(S)**

"Date: April 13, 2022

To: Anchorage Assembly

From: Mayor Dave Bronson

Subject: Veto of AR 2022-112(S)

Pursuant to Section 2.30.100 of the Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) and Section 5.02 of the Municipal Charter (Charter), I hereby veto AR 2022-112(S), passed at the Assembly's regular meeting of April 12, 2022.

I have reviewed the resolution and heard the arguments presented for and against the resolution. It is apparent that Anchorage Senate District Revision Option #2 (Option #2) before the Alaska Redistricting Board unlawfully reduces the representation of Chugiak-Eagle River in the Alaska Legislature's State Senate. For this reason, this veto should not be overridden.

The Chugiak-Eagle River area has, for several decades, been represented by two senators in the State Senate and, at least, three representatives in the State House. Option #2 significantly reduces the historical level of representation for the Chugiak-Eagle River area. Chugiak-Eagle River has already lost one representative in the Alaska House of Representatives in the recent redistricting efforts. Further reduction in representation in the Alaska Legislature would leave Chugiak-Eagle River underrepresented in the state capital.

Anchorage Senate District Revision Option #3B (Option #3B) allows for a demographically accurate representation of the Chugiak-Eagle River area. That map

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

maintains the split of Eagle River, pairing the district with the South Anchorage/Girdwood district. The Eagle River and South Anchorage map is preferable because both communities face similar issues, like road service areas, fire dangers, and bears.

For the reasons stated above, I hereby veto AR 2022-112(S). I encourage the Assembly to review these concerns and ask that they adopt a resolution encouraging the Alaska Redistricting Board to adopt Option #3B. "

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 12:41 pm

First Name: **Steven**

Last Name: **Todd**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99567**

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

Public Comment: I am a resident of Chugiak-Eagle River in the Peters Creek neighborhood, 99567. I am also a veteran of the U.S. Military. As a proud citizen of this country, and resident of Alaska, I'm sure to vote. But I'm not deeply involved in the political processes. I've never held office in any political party. I was prohibited from doing so while I was on active duty. Now that I'm a veteran, I could, but it's not how I choose to use my free time. I guess you could say I'm just a normal voter. However, I felt compelled to call today to testify because I was made aware of something which greatly disturbs me. I saw that proposal #2 is being considered which would link together the JBER military base with the neighborhoods in downtown Anchorage for a state Senate seat.

I cannot think of any combination which would be more disrespectful to us as veterans. Active duty operations are 24/7 while in state, being sent TDY out of state for training, and long deployments overseas, makes it tough for military members to get ballots mailed in on time. But we do our best, because it is yet another way that we serve our communities, state and country.

Downtown Anchorage is a world away from JBER. Downtown is comprised of mostly white collar workers with very high incomes worried about which restaurant to dine out. JBER is middle to low income families clipping coupons to buy groceries at the commissary, or even sometimes taking out payday loans in order to fill the gas tank. There is just no justification for combining these distinct and separate communities. In my twenty plus years living in Eagle River and Chugiak, the majority of my neighbors have been active duty and veterans.

I see there is another better alternative senate plan, 3B, which is based upon logic. I am one of thousands of veterans and military members who live in Eagle River-Chugiak, Peters Creek is the only reasonable pairing for JBER is with my district, #24. This is simply pairing the military in district 23 with the military in district 24. Choosing to separate us by sticking us with a district that is widely different than us would be a great disservice.

I urge you to reject the disjointed proposal, #2, and instead support the alternative plan, #3B. Thank you.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

John Bruns <[REDACTED]>

Wed 4/13/2022 12:45 PM

Hello,

As someone who grew up in Eagle River and has lived in south Anchorage, combining these two communities is another obvious gerrymander by the board. Map option 2, while not perfect, is the best and most just option of the two. While I am aware that this opinion will fall on John Binkley's and Bethany Marcum's deaf ears, I hope that Budd Simpson will not be persuaded by the illogical arguments that Mr. Binkley & Mrs. Marcum come up with.

The arguments against 3B are many and obvious, and the only reason to vote for it is blatantly political (i.e, Eagle River is accustomed to having more representation).

Please vote for fairness, I plead with you to select option 2.

Thank You,

John

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 12:45 pm

First Name: **keenan**

Last Name: **plate**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

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

Public Comment: **I am writing to urge the redistricting board to adopt the Bahnke senate pairings as soon as possible and keep the East Anchorage district separate from Eagle River. They are very different communities with different needs and it would be unfair to the residents in both areas to combine their districts into one seat.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 12:53 pm

First Name: **Roger**

Last Name: **Holland**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

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

Public Comment: **Plan 2 is the logical, reasonable, and fair plan. Pairing 9 and 10 in south Anchorage is such a common sense and legal solution.**

I imagine Plan 3B would also be challenged and fail. The "contiguous border" between 9 and 22 might as well be the Berlin Wall because there is no crossing and no connection there. You have to pass through or touch 11 districts to travel between the two districts. Even the 2010 pairing of D-27 and D-28 was seen as in need of improvement, but 3B is a step in the wrong direction.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 12:59 pm

First Name: **Gene**

Last Name: **White**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

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

Public Comment: **Please keep our representation in small compact areas. I live close to downtown Anchorage. All of downtown and Government Hill are a very small area and it makes only sense to keep it together in one district. Thank you.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

KC Casort < [REDACTED] >

Wed 4/13/2022 1:32 PM

Hello,

I had planned to testify at today's redistricting meeting, but the LIO told me when I called in that public testimony had been cancelled. So, here are my comments:

My name is Kasey Casort, I'm a lifelong Alaskan, and I'm testifying today on behalf of myself in support of board option 2.

It's so important to me that our elections are fair at every step in the process. I've been a voter registrar since I was 18, and I used to work for a non-partisan civic education organization because I believe that fair, transparent elections and democratic processes are essential to our state's future and the wellbeing of all Alaskans.

I've been following redistricting since the beginning of this process, and I know the remaining decisions are not where I live in the Interior, but it still feels important to call in because anyone who has spent any time in Anchorage knows that one of these maps is splitting up communities that everybody knows live, work, and recreate together.

We've all seen the headlines about so-called "Eagle Exit," so it seems obvious that Eagle River would not want to be represented in a district that goes across the mountains to include part of Anchorage. You don't have to spend much time in Anchorage or Eagle River to know that the people in Eagle River have more in common with their neighbors in Eagle River than they do with South Anchorage. And I know you have heard that from public testimony already.

Most important of all, though, is the fact that the court has directed you all to fix the unconstitutional parts of your original map. My understanding is that changing these districts is outside that purview and seems likely to lead to MORE lawsuits, which I would be frustrated to see more state money wasted on since I know you have the opportunity to wrap this up constitutionally by adopting board map 2.

It's important to me, to our Alaska constitution, and to the future of our state that the redistricting committee adopts the best possible map. That is why I am asking the committee to adopt board map 2, which is the least overtly partisan and most sensible map.

Best,
Kasey Casort

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Kimberly Hunt [REDACTED]

Wed 4/13/2022 2:15 PM

Here is written testimony to support the phone calls I made to redistricting meetings:

I support Option 2 because residents of Eagle River, Hillside, and Downtown live, work and recreate together, so they should be represented together.

The court has found that both Eagle River and Muldoon are separate communities in terms of interest; these distinct communities are respected in option 2.

Option 2 is the only option on the table that complies with the court decisions.

There has been no specific reason as to why Eagle River should be split as a community of interest, so I oppose Option 3B, the Reudrich/Marcumn plan.

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 13, 2022, 3:18 pm

First Name: **Yarrow**

Last Name: **Silvers**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **In light of today's discussion I would like to put the following on record:**

I have read through the testimony files and listened to the testimony.

Not one single JBER resident that I can see has testified and asked to be placed with Eagle River.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 3:36 pm

First Name: **Daniel**

Last Name: **Casner**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **The Board should act immediately to comply with the Court's requirements and to minimize confusion if this process is dragged out. In Anchorage, the Board should adopt the Bahnke senate pairings, instead of trying to come up with new pairings. The senate pairings proposed by Melanie Bahnke are attached to this email, and an additional explanation of these main points are below. Board must act immediately: It is in the public interest to swiftly adopt a map with final senate pairings so that voters can familiarize themselves with their new districts, precincts, and voting locations, on top of a new election system (RCV) and an unprecedented special election. The redistricting board has an obligation to the public to resolve this quickly to avoid voter confusion and disenfranchisement**

Adopt Bahnke pairings: These pairings, proposed by Melanie Bahnke, have already been presented and considered on the record, and were informed by public input and testimony. These pairings do not change the underlying deviation of districts, and upholds the one person, one vote principle. In addition, they are the common-sense geographic and socioeconomic pairings (keeping Muldoon w/ Muldoon, West Anc. w/ West Anc, Eagle River w/ Eagle River etc.).

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Wesley Furlong [REDACTED]

Wed 4/13/2022 3:56 PM

Dear Commission,

I urge the Commission to adopt "Option 2" for the Anchorage Senate Districts pairings, as set forth here (<https://www.akredistrict.org/2022-proposed-revisions/>). I oppose the adoption of "Option 3B."

I am a resident of East Anchorage, and reside in House District 21 and Senate District K. I was deeply opposed to original Senate District the Commission adopted for Senate District K, which paired East Anchorage/South Muldoon with Eagle River. While geographically connected, it would have been impossible for residents of either House District 21 or 22 to travel between the two Districts without traveling through at least two other House Districts or by hiking over the Chugach Mountains (which would require trespassing on JBER and through a live fire training ground). Furthermore, East Anchorage/South Muldoon and Eagle River are distinct communities that do not share close socio-economic ties. Moreover, the manner in which the Commission adopted this pairing was suspect, leading the District Court and the Supreme Court to correctly determine that this pairing was an unlawful political gerrymander, leading us to this process.

Option 2 best reflects the Commission's obligations under the State and United States Constitutions, the Voting Rights Act, and the District Court and Supreme Court's opinions and orders. Pairing North Muldoon and South Muldoon (HD 20 and 21) makes sense, as both districts share close social, economic, and political ties. Pairing all of Eagle River, Chugiak, and Eklutna (HD 22 and 24) likewise makes sense. These communities share close social, economic, and political ties. HD 20 and 21 already comprise the same Anchorage Assembly district, just as HD 22 and 24 comprise the same Anchorage Assembly district.

Finally, I am opposed to the Commission adopting Option 3B. While Option 3B maintains the HD 20 and 21 pairing, it pairs Upper Hillside (HD 9) with Eagle River (HD 22). In order to facilitate this pairing, Option 3B pairs Fort Richardson (HD 23) with Eagle River (HD 24). The Upper Hillside-Eagle River (HD 9 and 22) pairing is unacceptable and is most likely an unlawful political gerrymander for the same reasons the original Senate District K pairing (HD 21 and 22) was an unlawful gerrymander. Like with the unlawful Senate District K pairing, while HD 9 and HD 22 are technically geographically contiguous, unless a resident of either district scales the Chugach Mountains, they are not meaningfully contiguous. Residents cannot travel between the districts without having to travel through a minimum of five other districts (while the ability to easily travel between house districts in the same senate pairing should not be the per se standard, as that would make it impossible to ever pair rural house districts, when pairing urban districts or districts on the road system, the inability of residents of these districts to actually travel between the two districts without leaving the senate district should be weighed in considering whether the pairing was reasonable). Moreover, Upper Hillside and Eagle River are distinct communities and do not

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

share social, economic, or political ties. To be sure, both communities are within the Municipality of Anchorage, but anyone who has spent more than five minutes in the Bowl knows that Eagle River and Hillside are vastly distinct communities. The logic employed by the Commission in this pairing could justify pairing Chugiak and Eklutna with Girdwood, which would be absurd (much like the Commission's pairing of Whittier with the Greater Mat-Su).

Eagle River/Chugiak/Eklutna are represented by two House Districts. No one seriously doubts the close social, economic, and political ties between these communities, indeed public testimony from Eagle River residents during the last round overwhelmingly opposed the (now unlawful) HD 21 and 22 pairing (as did residents of South Anchorage/Muldoon). The proposed HD 9 and 22 pairing is no better. The undeniably close ties of HD 22 and 24 all but require the Commission to pair these districts together in a Senate district. Considering the close ties of these communities, the Commission would need to provide a well-reasoned explanation for why HD 22 and 24 should not be paired together. During the last round, the Commission was unable to provide such an explanation, instead stating only that the unlawful pairing was designed to increase Eagle River's/Chugiak's/Eklutna's representation, a reason found to be an unlawful political gerrymander.

Option 3B's pairing of HD 9 and 22 (as well as HD 23 and 24) suffer the same fatal flaws as the original map that was held unlawful. Balanced against HD 22's and 24's close ties, it is manifestly unreasonable for the Commission to pair Upper Hillside (HD 9) with Eagle River (HD 22). Moreover, Option 3B would disproportionately increase Eagle River's/Chugiak's/Eklutna's representation in the Senate. Based on the 2020 Census, the Commission correctly determined that Eagle River, Chugiak, and Eklutna made enough residents for only two House Districts. Since Senate Districts are comprised of two House Districts, and considering the close ties of these communities, Eagle River, Chugiak, and Eklutna should naturally be represented by a single Senate seat. The District Court and Supreme Court correctly found that the Commission's stated goal of increasing Eagle River's, Chugiak's, and Eklutna's representation by splitting these communities between two Senate districts was an unlawful political gerrymander. While Option 3B fixes this unlawful defect with regard to the HD 21 and 22 pairing, it suffers the same fundamental flaw by pairing the two Eagle River/Chugiak/Eklutna districts with the Fort Richardson and Upper Hillside districts, thereby disproportionately increasing Eagle River's/Chugiak's/Eklutna's Senate representation. Weighed against the close ties between HD 22 and 24, the only plausible explanation for the Commission pairing HD 9 and 22 and HD 23 and 24 is to increase Eagle River's/Chugiak's/Eklutna's representation in the Senate, a goal the Courts have already found to be as an unlawful political gerrymander.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the Commission to adopt Option 2 and I am deeply opposed to Option 3B. I thank the Commission (it's staff and members) for its continued hard work on this critically important endeavor, and for considering these comments.

Respectfully,

Wesley James Furlong

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 3:57 pm

First Name: **Ed**

Last Name: **Boudreau**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistrict of Eagle River Dis
23**

Public Comment: **I could not believe what I read about combining District 23 with 17. The first thing that came to mind was the purposeful attempt in the nullification the military families voices, both active duty and especially Vets like myself. It is well known that the vast majority of the military families live in Eagle and Chugiak and not in S. Anchorage and our voices differ in so many ways then S. Anchorage. Who will be our voice? Will these elected officials even come out to our area to be heard? I do not believe they would. I further believe the creators of map 2 are clearly trying to manipulate the regions for political influence and I am wholly against it. Therefore I call upon the board to support map 3b as this is the fairest way that all parties will be heard as it should be.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

b farris [REDACTED]

Wed 4/13/2022 4:03 PM

I am writing in support of Option 2 and I strongly oppose Option 3B (Reudrich / Marcum plan).

The residents of Eagle River work live and recreate in Eagle River, they should be represented together and option 2 is the only version that accomplishes this.

Option 2 is the only option on the table that complies with the court decisions.

Option 2 respects the socio-economic integration of Eagle River; the court has found that both Eagle River and Muldoon are separate communities of interest; these distinct communities are respected in option 2.

Option 2 is the only option that logically keeps Eagle River paired with Eagle River and does not split up Eagle River unnecessarily.

There has been no specific reason as to why Eagle River should be split as a community of interest.

Option 3 breaks existing communities of interest and contains illogical pairings that do not represent where residents of East Anchorage and Eagle River live, work and play.

By splitting Eagle River, option 3 does not comply with the supreme & superior court ruling given that the court decision mandates a fix for both east anchorage, this means the board must pair eagle river with eagle river and muldoon with muldoon.

Thank you.

Barbara Gingell

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 4:08 pm

First Name: **Andrew**

Last Name: **Brennan**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

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

Public Comment: **Please do not paid South Anchorage and Eagle River into the same senate district. We are two entirely different communities with separate interests. We do not go to the same store, schools, etc. We have separate issues and concerns that cannot be represented by the same senator.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 4:53 pm

First Name: **Cindy**

Last Name: **Lelake**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Extreme disappointment and a ray of hope**

Public Comment: **Iâ€™m disappointed by the Redistricting Boardâ€™s final decision to adopt map option 3B. Iâ€™m also disappointed in myself for my sincere belief, before today, that another decision was possible. However, I am encouraged that this time the two dissenters were allowed their own signature page without extended and acrimonious debate. Progress is possible, even if it comes in baby steps.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 5:39 pm

First Name: **Kevin**

Last Name: **Banks**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Please adopt Board Option 2 and help ensure fair representation to everyone in Alaska**

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

Anchorage neighborhoods should share political representation with the same communities where they live,. Board Option 2 maintains the integrity of Anchorage communities and keeps together the downtown communities, the Hillside communities, and the Eagle River communities.

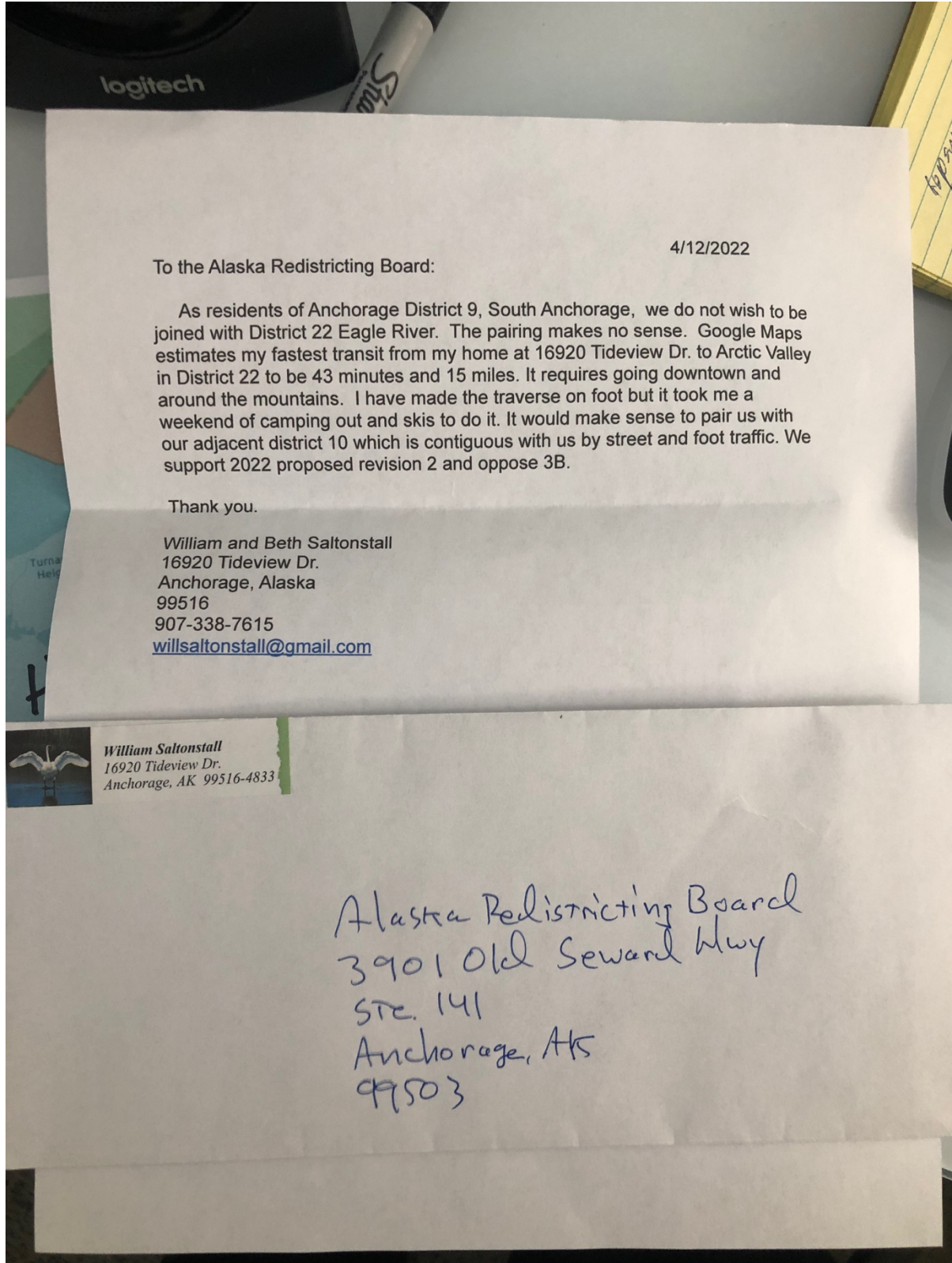
I oppose Board Option 3B, which splits up the community in a way that doesn't make sense to Anchorage. It is the same deceit voted by the Board that failed to pass muster with the Supreme Court.

Sincerely,

Kevin Banks

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Hand Delivered



4/12/2022

To the Alaska Redistricting Board:

As residents of Anchorage District 9, South Anchorage, we do not wish to be joined with District 22 Eagle River. The pairing makes no sense. Google Maps estimates my fastest transit from my home at 16920 Tideview Dr. to Arctic Valley in District 22 to be 43 minutes and 15 miles. It requires going downtown and around the mountains. I have made the traverse on foot but it took me a weekend of camping out and skis to do it. It would make sense to pair us with our adjacent district 10 which is contiguous with us by street and foot traffic. We support 2022 proposed revision 2 and oppose 3B.

Thank you.

William and Beth Saltonstall
16920 Tideview Dr.
Anchorage, Alaska
99516
907-338-7615
willsaltonstall@gmail.com



William Saltonstall
16920 Tideview Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99516-4833

Alaska Redistricting Board
3901 Old Seward Hwy
STE. 141
Anchorage, AK
99503

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 9:16 pm

First Name: **Katherine**

Last Name: **McDonald**

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

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

Your ZIP Code: **Anchorage**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **4/9/2022 ARB Meeting Verbal Public Testimony**

Public Comment: **Michelle has lived in Anchorage for almost three decades in various locations: JBER, South Muldoon, Abbott, and now in proposed District 9 in Hillside. Michelle reviewed a timeline of her public comments and occurrences during the redistricting process:**

1) September 18, 2021: Noted the importance of providing Senate district pairings early for public comment, then drew and submitted maps for Anchorage

2) November 7, 2021: Proposed Senate pairings, not including Eagle River districts because they are considered to be separate communities

3) November 8, 2021: Board discussion was quoted on Senate pairings that gave a sense that District 9 (now named District 11) would be paired with District 15; Michelle testified and applauded the board for proposing to pair District 9 with an O'Malley district.

November 9, 2021: The board emerged from the executive session to put a vote on the record with no justification given for Senate pairings for Anchorage; the pairings did not include the consensus of District 9 (now named District 11). Districts 9 and 10 were paired and unaligned with the unanimous public testimony from the day prior

April 5, 2022: Michelle submitted written testimony and ranked her support of the proposed maps placing Option 1 first because it pairs Districts 9 and 11. After becoming further educated, Michelle realized that Option 1, although aligned with the constitution, did not comply with the court's ruling. Michelle applauded the board for removing the option for consideration. In the same written testimony, Michelle supported Option 2, too.

During the April 9, 2022, ARB meeting, Michelle testified in support of Option 2. While some board members may state that the contiguity is all that matters, if that is the case, Michelle asked how the courts could have found the pairing of Districts 22 and

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

21 to be illegal as they also touch through the Chugach Mountains.

Intent can be shown legally in ignoring the charge of the court remand and in the spirit of ignoring the will of the citizens whose testimonies include socioeconomic linkages in communities.

Michelle attempted to put herself in the board's shoes and noted that she would think the court reprimanded her actions based on intent. She would be concerned that her actions, especially in pairing Eagle River over a non-populated mountain range, would appear to be political gerrymandering to the court. Michelle would also be concerned that selecting District 9 with the Eagle River district could look like political gerrymandering.

The JBER and Chugiak-Eagle River pairings were presented in all four of Member Marcum's maps; this was also the case for the Hillside and O'Malley districts. Michelle asked what is so compelling about the Eagle River and JBER pairings that the board must maintain it at all costs? The board gives little consternation in breaking the verbal consensus expressed at the board meeting on November 8, 2021, to pair the O'Malley and Hillside districts. To attempt political gerrymandering again, the board must resort to the "Rank 3" Option 3-B to once again fragment Eagle River.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 10:40 pm

First Name: **Ted**

Last Name: **Eischeid**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Disappowith selection of Map 3B and board majorities renege on reopening public testimony.**

Public Comment: **Today the board majority did not reopen public testimony as they agreed to on April 6th. This "selective memory" on their part further erodes public confidence e in their work. The majority choice of mak 3B was a simple gerrymander, pure and simple.**

If you navigate to this link you will see the conservative appointees today renege on their earlier promises at the April 6th meeting. <https://vimeo.com/696727681>

Go to ~ 2:55:50. You will hear Markum say she is good with "choosing a map" as a board and then spending the rest of the day listening to public testimony in response. Melanie supports that concept. Chair Brinkley is opposed. Simpson supports. The conservatives did not do that today.

Shame on their selective memory, and to staff who did not have the minutes prepared to support the two independent board member assertions.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 13, 2022, 11:04 pm

First Name: **Eric**

Last Name: **Rice**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99503**

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

Public Comment: I live downtown and work on JBER. I disagree with the disintegration of Eagle River and I cannot think of a better example of an integrated socio-economic area than the Eagle River suburb. I do not understand the fixation of some members of this committee to split this community and especially to add part of it to Muldoon to create district K, a blatant and unapologetic attempt at disenfranchisement. As the court stated this pairing "constituted an unconstitutional political gerrymander violating equal protection" which is embarrassing for this committee and the State of Alaska. I approve of the April 2022 proclamation.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 14, 2022, 9:40 am

First Name: **Thomas**

Last Name: **Tallant**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

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

Public Comment: **Map Option 3B for Alaska electoral districts is an unconstitutional political gerrymander. Map 3B artificially increases the representation of Eagle River and decreases fair representation in the other affected districts. Map Option 3B should be rejected.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 14, 2022, 10:44 am

First Name: **Pauline**

Last Name: **Hessing**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting Anchorage Senate seats, options 2 and 3B**

Public Comment: **Perhaps it is too late to change what the board has decided, but just in case: 1) There is no way I would ever support option 3B, as it seems patently to shove 2 areas together that shouldn't be. 2) Does this really pass the red-faced test? 3) I think Eagle River should stay as one district, one seat, for fairness' sake. 4) Ditto for the Muldoon area. 5) I thought there was some direction or concern for keeping districts, especially urban ones, closer together, rather than more than 50 miles apart. I hope you can not only listen/read these comments but HEAR them as well. Yours truly, a concerned (for integrity)super voter....**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 14, 2022, 1:06 pm

First Name: **Elizabeth**

Last Name: **Saltonstall**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **House District 9**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **59916**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **The redistricting that combined District 9 with Eagle River**

Public Comment: **My husband and I strongly disagree with your decision to adopt redistricting plan 3B. We have not been to Eagle River in years. We can walk to district 10 and have friends/neighbors there. The comment about this combination giving Eagle River with 7% of the population, 2 senators is also quite telling in the motivation for this move. We are ALL "populations of interest" and I think you failed our District 9.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 14, 2022, 1:21 pm

First Name: **William**

Last Name: **Saltonstall**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate District K, House District 9**

Public Comment: **I object to Redistricting plan 3B combining my district 9 with half of Eagle River. The same arguments that were appropriately raised against the combination with Muldoon apply in this case. It gives Eagle River two senators by combining us over the mountains to Eagle River. To say that we share a contiguous border is disingenuous. I have made that passage on foot. It took me a weekend, skis and a guide. By car It takes about 45 minutes, 15 miles per Google Maps to get to Eagle River and I haven't done it in years. I pass through district 10, which is directly adjacent to district 9, frequently in my daily life. I expect the court to invalidate this redistricting just as it did the prior. When it does please reconsider and combine Eagle River with Eagle River.**

Respectfully,

William Saltonstall

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 14, 2022, 2:35 pm

First Name: **Leon**

Last Name: **Jaimes**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Oppose the adoption of proposed Anchorage Senate Seat Pairings Option 3B**

Public Comment: **Hello,**

I am writing to oppose the adoption of the proposed Anchorage Senate Seat Pairings Option 3B. I understand that a member of the board have stated that public opposition to the decision of the three members who voted yes will not change the decision, however I would like to register my opposition for the record, for the courts. I feel that the board has acted in spite of the constitution, and in spite of the overwhelming public testimony that opposed Option 3b and supported Option 2. I would like to thank Member Borrromeo and Member Bahnke for supporting a constitutional pairing that would have implemented the remedy the court ordered the board to implement. Unfortunately, they only account for two of the five votes and so I have no confidence that the board will be able to carry out its duties in the future. I hope that the courts will remedy the Senate District K gerrymander without the board.

Warm regards,

Leon Jaimes

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE**

D'Arcy Hutchings [REDACTED] >

Thu 4/14/2022 4:46 PM

Hello!

I am writing to provide my testimony regarding redistricting. I strongly support map option 2. This map, the only one that is constitutional and complies with court decisions, is also the only one that respects Eagle River and Muldoon as two distinct communities. It is obvious that the interests as well as the socio-economic makeup of these two communities are quite different. Further, it is only logical to avoid splitting Eagle River unnecessarily.

Thank you for your time.

D'Arcy Hutchings
Resident of current/past district 16 in Anchorage

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 14, 2022, 6:01 pm

First Name: **Jo Ann**

Last Name: **Gruber**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **The 4/13/22 3-2 Adoption of GOP-Favored Option 3B**

Public Comment: **Well, once again it has been demonstrated that partisan gerrymandering is alive and well in Alaska. I am disappointed in and disgusted by the three members who prefer to pander to a political party rather than have the personal integrity to do what is right and best for all Alaskans that they purport to represent.**

I just finished listening to yesterday's hearing for a second time. The blatant partisan gerrymandering is an insult to decent people of the Municipality of Anchorage. It is also insulting to think that they believe they can fool reasonable people into buying their explanation/justification for voting for the 3B option. I would have more respect for the three majority members if they had the backbone to admit that their vote was to benefit their party by splitting Eagle River between two senate districts which would increase their party's representation in the state senate. At least that would have demonstrated some honesty on their part.

I heard Mr. Binkley say that a justification for keeping JBER with Eagle River/Chugiak was the fact that they share a highway/road. It seemed a bit hypocritical that he didn't seem to think that the same criteria should apply when considering pairing a portion of Eagle River with South Anchorage. I could provide several other examples of why the argument justifying the pairing of JBER with Chugiak/Eagle River falls flat, but it won't change anything at this point. I do not believe that the three majority members on the board care to hear from those who supported Option 2.

I do expect much more from appointed and elected officials. I expect honesty. I expect integrity. I expect transparency. I expect fairness. Mr. Binkley, Ms. Marcum, and Mr. Simpson have lowered the bar for appointed officials to an unacceptable level. It is too bad that there are no personal consequences for them in this matter. They have cost all of us time and money, and it appears that they will continue to do so. It is shameful.

If the only way someone thinks that their party can be successful is to gerrymander, to cheat, to deceive, to be untruthful, perhaps those individuals shouldn't be allowed

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

to sit on boards that are supposed to represent everyone in the state. Someone who has blind loyalty to a political party should not be appointed to public boards that are supposed to serve the people of Alaska.

I want to express my gratitude to Ms. Bahnke and Ms. Borrromeo for their continued efforts in trying to ensure that pairings were done in a manner that was logical, objective, fair, and equitable to all who live within the Municipality of Anchorage. It is not always easy to do the right thing, and I admire both of them for their courage to stand up and speak out for what is fair and equitable for all of us.

Respectfully,

Jo Ann Gruber

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 14, 2022, 6:04 pm

First Name: **Doug**

Last Name: **Robbins**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **none**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board decision on remedy for illegal senate district K**

Public Comment: **The Board decision on the remedy for the illegal senate district K is deeply flawed. Option 3B represents a repetition of the gerrymandering that was previously struck down with the pairing for Senate District K. The Board's decision violates the clear meaning of the mapping criteria in the Alaska constitution: "Each senate district shall be composed as near as practicable of two contiguous house districts....Drainage and other geographic features shall be used in describing boundaries wherever possible." The last sentence is an imperative and is not optional. In deliberations, Commissioner Simpson voiced an interpretation that the geographic requirement had been "debunked", which is a strange view of a constitutional requirement. While there is precedent for linking a house district across the Chugach mountains, that doesn't mean the preceding case was properly challenged in the court, was decided correctly, or that the parameters apply to the current situation.**

The Board's decision is a flagrant, egregious disregard for constitutional requirements for their work. There should be consequences for Board members who fail to conscientiously perform their responsibilities. At a minimum, the Board should be held accountable for the legal fees needed to challenge and strike down illegal actions.

Chair Binkley's defense of the Board's decision rings false and hollow. Binkley claims that the Board's decision is non-partisan, because Senators Reinbold and Holland objected. I will point out the obvious, that these two sitting Senators will be forced to run against each other under the new pairing in the next election, but that the gerrymandered district will persist for a decade. Further, divisions in the Republican party are such that there are two Republican factions, and the Board majority is not allied with the objecting Senators.

As I said previously, I am struck by the lack of remorse on the part of the Board majority for certifying an illegal map, and the majority's continuing pursuit of an illegal gerrymander to gain an additional Senate seat for Eagle River.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Constant, Christopher christopher.constant@anchorageak.gov

Thu 4/14/2022 4:55 PM

Attached is the final resolution adopted by the Assembly last Tuesday on a 7-3 vote and then vetoed by the Mayor on Weds. Today, the Assembly has overridden the Mayor's veto with an 8-2 vote. Members Allard and Kennedy voted against the override.

It is clear the Board's adopted revised plan is a continuation of the unconstitutional political gerrymander ruled illegal by Judge Matthews and affirmed by the Alaska Supreme Court.

May the courts be swift in undoing the ongoing illegal actions of the partisans on this body who have failed to uphold their sworn duty.

To the members who voted no on the revised plan, history will acknowledge your service as just and true.

The Chair of the Assembly will follow with additional comments.

Christopher Constant
Anchorage Municipal Assembly, District 1

Approved

Date: April 12, 2022

Mayoral veto was
overridden on 4-14-22

Submitted by: Assembly Chair LaFrance and
Assembly Vice Chair Constant

Reviewed by: Assembly Counsel

For reading: April 12, 2022

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2022-112(S)

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Alaska Supreme Court on March 25, 2022 affirmed the superior court's determination that "the Board's Senate K pairing of house districts constituted an unconstitutional political gerrymander violating equal protection under the Alaska Constitution" and the remand to the ARB to correct it; and

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

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

WHEREAS, during the recent Municipality of Anchorage Reapportionment process, residents from Eagle River, South Anchorage and Girdwood spoke out overwhelmingly against proposals that would combine these communities with scores of comments opposing the combination; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Redistricting Board should not contemplate a pairing of House districts like presented in Option 3B, that combines geographically and demographically

1 distinct areas and simply shifts the constitutional infirmity into other areas **and provides**
2 **only second-class contiguity**; and
3

4 **WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Reapportionment Committee heard from five community
5 councils and scores of individuals regarding their opposition to grouping Eagle River
6 and South Anchorage on the basis that these are distinctly different regions with few
7 shared communities of interest; and
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Alaska Redistricting Board's Proposed Anchorage Senate Districts
10 Option 2 combines House District 23 which is the Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson,
11 **Government Hill and downtown Anchorage** area with House District 17 **which is the**
12 **main [covering the]** downtown area; and House District 22, the south Eagle River area,
13 with House District 24, the north Eagle River area; and
14

15 **WHEREAS, the record demonstrates that a plan is possible which adopts all**
16 **highly contiguous pairings that maintain communities of interest, keeping**
17 **neighbors with neighbors, including Government Hill and North Downtown**
18 **Anchorage with South Downtown Anchorage, Chugiak with Eagle River, and**
19 **South Anchorage with Southwest Anchorage in Option 2; and**
20

21 **WHEREAS, Option 3B offers pairings with only second-class contiguity that**
22 **connects Chugiak with Government Hill and Downtown, Eagle River with**
23 **Girdwood, Portage, and Whittier which all have substantial geographic barriers**
24 **including the Chugach Front Range Mountains, the federally secured borders of**
25 **JBER, and in some cases hours of highway time; and**
26

27 **WHEREAS, the Assembly has heard no constitutional arguments that are**
28 **persuasive in justifying the breaking up of natural contiguous communities of**
29 **interest that can stand in the face of the overwhelming public testimony it**
30 **received to the contrary; and**
31

32 **WHEREAS**, Option 2 more closely joins neighboring communities of [f] common interest
33 that interact through direct road access to shop, work, and play in their respective areas,
34 in clear compliance with the Superior Court's Constitutional directives to respect natural
35 boundaries where possible in describing boundaries (e.g. drainages and mountain
36 ranges), and the testimony from communities of interest, while maintaining contiguity
37 and compactness in drawing such district lines;
38

39 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Anchorage Municipal Assembly
40 supports the Alaska Redistricting Board's Proposed Anchorage Senate Districts Option
41 2 which pairs House Districts 17 and 23 to form one Senate district, and House Districts
42 22 and 24 to form another Senate district.
43

44 PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 12th day of April, 2022.
45
46

47 

48
49 ATTEST:

Chair

50
51 

52
53 Municipal Clerk



Municipality of Anchorage
Mayor Dave Bronson

Office of the Mayor



Date: April 13, 2022
To: Anchorage Assembly
From: Mayor Dave Bronson
Subject: Veto of AR 2022-112(S)

Pursuant to Section 2.30.100 of the Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC) and Section 5.02 of the Municipal Charter (Charter), I hereby veto AR 2022-112(S), passed at the Assembly's regular meeting of April 12, 2022.

I have reviewed the resolution and heard the arguments presented for and against the resolution. It is apparent that Anchorage Senate District Revision Option #2 (Option #2) before the Alaska Redistricting Board unlawfully reduces the representation of Chugiak-Eagle River in the Alaska Legislature's State Senate. For this reason, this veto should not be overridden.

The Chugiak-Eagle River area has, for several decades, been represented by two senators in the State Senate and, at least, three representatives in the State House. Option #2 significantly reduces the historical level of representation for the Chugiak-Eagle River area. Chugiak-Eagle River has already lost one representative in the Alaska House of Representatives in the recent redistricting efforts. Further reduction in representation in the Alaska Legislature would leave Chugiak-Eagle River underrepresented in the state capital.

Anchorage Senate District Revision Option #3B (Option #3B) allows for a demographically accurate representation of the Chugiak-Eagle River area. That map maintains the split of Eagle River, pairing the district with the South Anchorage/Girdwood district. The Eagle River and South Anchorage map is preferable because both communities face similar issues, like road service areas, fire dangers, and bears.

For the reasons stated above, I hereby veto AR 2022-112(S). I encourage the Assembly to review these concerns and ask that they adopt a resolution encouraging the Alaska Redistricting Board to adopt Option #3B.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

LaFrance, Suzanne <suzanne.lafrance@anchorageak.gov>

Thu 4/14/2022 6:16 PM

Dear Members of the Redistricting Board:

As Chair of the Anchorage Assembly, I am submitting comments opposing the Board's adoption of Anchorage Senate Pairings Option 3B.

At the Tuesday, April 12 Regular Assembly meeting, after much debate, the Assembly passed resolution AR No. 2022-122(S) in support of Option 2 with a vote of 7 to 3. Yesterday the Mayor vetoed the resolution and today at a Special Assembly Meeting, the Assembly voted 8 to 2 to override the veto.

The Assembly overrode the veto because Option 2 maintains naturally contiguous communities of interest and keeps the neighborhoods of Government Hill and North Downtown Anchorage with South Downtown Anchorage, Chugiak with Eagle River and South Anchorage, Girdwood and Turnagain Arm with Southwest Anchorage. Option 2 offers rational pairings and fair representation to those individuals living in those neighborhoods.

Last month the Assembly concluded the Municipality of Anchorage Reapportionment Process. Initially a majority of Assembly members supported carving out the Southeast Anchorage Hillside to put it in the Chugiak-Eagle River-Eklutna-JBER District. My Assembly District includes the Hillside and this proposal fired up and united constituents of all political leanings to speak out against it. The Assembly received a massive outpouring of comments from my constituents and community councils who emphasized that South Anchorage is not connected, contiguous nor socio-economically integrated with Eagle River. I made it very clear to my colleagues that I wouldn't support any map that moved any part of District 6 to Eagle River.

My colleagues were persuaded by the testimony and after months of public process the Assembly adopted a map that keeps the Hillside with South Anchorage. However, it is dismaying to now see the Redistricting Board select pairings that unnecessarily break up naturally contiguous communities within the Municipality of Anchorage. I urge you to please be persuaded by the public testimony and reconsider Option 2 as it will keep Downtown together, Hillside together and Eagle River together.

A signed letter with these comments is attached.

Thank you for your service on the Board.

Sincerely,

Suzanne LaFrance

Chair, Anchorage Assembly

District 6 - South Anchorage, Girdwood & Turnagain Arm

[REDACTED]



Municipality of Anchorage

P.O. Box 196650 • Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6650 • Telephone: (907) 343-4311 • Fax: (907) 343-4313 <http://www.muni.org/assembly>

Suzanne LaFrance Anchorage Assembly Chair

April 14, 2022

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

Dear Members of the Redistricting Board:

As Chair of the Anchorage Assembly, I am submitting comments opposing the Board's adoption of Anchorage Senate Pairings Option 3B.

At the Tuesday, April 12 Regular Assembly meeting, after much debate, the Assembly passed resolution AR No. 2022-122(S) in support of Option 2 with a vote of 7 to 3. Yesterday the Mayor vetoed the resolution and today at a Special Assembly Meeting, the Assembly voted 8 to 2 to override the veto.

The Assembly overrode the veto because Option 2 maintains naturally contiguous communities of interest and keeps the neighborhoods of Government Hill and North Downtown Anchorage with South Downtown Anchorage, Chugiak with Eagle River and South Anchorage, Girdwood and Turnagain Arm with Southwest Anchorage. Option 2 offers rational pairings and fair representation to those individuals living in those neighborhoods.

Last month the Assembly concluded the Municipality of Anchorage Reapportionment Process. Initially a majority of Assembly members supported carving out the Southeast Anchorage Hillside to put it in the Chugiak-Eagle River-Eklutna-JBER District. My Assembly District includes the Hillside and this proposal fired up and united constituents of all political leanings to speak out against it. The Assembly received a massive outpouring of comments from my constituents and community councils who emphasized that South Anchorage is not connected, contiguous nor socio-economically integrated with Eagle River. I made it very clear to my colleagues that I wouldn't support any map that moved any part of District 6 to Eagle River.

My colleagues were persuaded by the testimony and after months of public process the Assembly adopted a map that keeps the Hillside with South Anchorage. However, it is dismaying to now see the Redistricting Board select pairings that unnecessarily break up naturally contiguous communities within the Municipality of Anchorage. I urge you to please be persuaded by the public testimony and reconsider Option 2 as it will keep Downtown together, Hillside together and Eagle River together.

Thank you for your service on the Board.

Sincerely,

Suzanne LaFrance, Chair