

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

Testimony Received 10/17 - 10/23

Kenneth Acton (10/23/21).....	1	Elyse Guttenberg (10/18/21).....	49
Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (10/19/21).....	2	Wilma Hampson (10/18/21).....	50
Aleutians East Borough (10/14/21).....	7	Michele Hartline (10/17/21).....	51
James Angaiak (10/21/21).....	8	Eileen Herman (10/18/21).....	52
James Arend (10/21/21).....	9	Barbara Heuer (10/21/21).....	53
Daniel Baldwin (10/21/21).....	10	Jill Hoffman (10/22/21).....	54
Jenny Bell-Jones (10/18/21).....	11	Luke Hopkins (10/20/21).....	55
Alexander Bergman (10/18/21).....	12	Mackinzie Hutchings (10/22/21).....	57
CB Bettisworth (10/18/21).....	13	Karyn Janssen (10/20/21).....	58
Keolani Booth (10/6/21).....	14	Virginia Jorgensen (10/17/21).....	59
Bruce Bridwell (10/20/21).....	15	Vera Kalugin (10/20/21).....	60
William Britt (10/21/21).....	16	Loren Karro (10/22/21).....	61
Karen Bronga (10/18/21).....	17	Cheryl Keepers (10/19/21).....	62
Timothy Bundy (10/17/21).....	18	Mary E Kehrhahn-Stark (10/17/21).....	63
Alison Casort (10/19/21).....	19	Carolyn Keller (10/19/21).....	64
Sybille Castro-Curry (10/19/21).....	20	City of Kenai (10/22/21).....	65
Jeff and Winnie Cichosz (10/22/21).....	21	Barbara Learmonth (10/20/21).....	69
Larry Cohn (10/22/21).....	22	Norm Lemoine (10/18/21).....	71
Christopher Constant (10/21/21).....	23	Regina Lemoine (10/18/21).....	72
J. Jon Cook (10/19/21).....	24	Therese Lewandowski (10/18/21).....	73
City of Craig (10/23/21).....	25	Brian Lynch (10/7/21).....	74
Anne Davis (10/20/21).....	26	Mildred M. Martin (10/18/21).....	75
Makenzie Demmert (10/18/21).....	27	Antanina Martushev (10/21/21).....	76
Diane DiSanto (10/20/21).....	29	Nila Martushev (10/20/21).....	77
Elizabeth Dobbins (10/18/21).....	30	Malena Marvin (10/7/21).....	78
Janice Dubel (10/21/21).....	31	Hayden Maxwell (10/23/21).....	79
Anna Dugan (10/20/21).....	32	Steve McCombs (10/18/21).....	80
Mark Dundore (10/22/21).....	34	Chris Miller (10/18/21).....	81
Louis Dupree (10/18/21).....	35	Leonard Miller (10/19/21).....	82
Margaret Durst (10/18/21).....	36	Kristen Mrozowski (10/20/21).....	83
Nina Faust (10/18/21).....	37	Mike Murphy (10/18/21).....	84
Sarah Finnell (10/20/21).....	38	Native American Rights Fund/First Alaskans Institute/Megan Condon (10/21/21).....	85
Rose Fosdick (10/20/21).....	41	Miranda Nelson (10/17/21).....	89
Dawn Frazier (10/18/21).....	42	Julie Nystrom (10/22/21).....	90
Janalee Gage (10/6/21).....	43	Wayne Ogle (10/23/21).....	91
Rebecca Gallen (10/18/21).....	44	Dan Ortiz (10/6/21).....	92
Betty George (10/17/21).....	45	Lori Ortiz (10/6/21).....	93
Tristan Glowa (10/20/21).....	46	Tiffany Owen (10/18/21).....	94
Michelle Goodwin (10/18/21).....	47	Katie Jo Parrott (10/6/21).....	95
David Guttenberg (10/18/21).....	48	Syd Paulino (10/22/21).....	96

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

Testimony Received 10/17 - 10/23

Don Pendergrast (10/17/21)	97
Julia Person (10/18/21)	98
Kristin Wolf Peters (10/22/21)	99
Janet Phillips (10/20/21)	100
Stepan Polushkin (10/20/21)	101
Martha Reynolds (10/19/21)	102
Grant Rebne (10/18/21)	103
Lance Roberts (10/18/21)	104
Martha Roberts (10/21/21)	105
Dennis Sayer (10/22/21)	106
Kathleen Shoop (10/22/21)	107
Dan Slane (10/17/21).....	108
Albert Smith (10/6/21).....	109
Rick Solie (10/18/21)	110
Diana Sparacino (10/18/21).....	111
Kristen Spencer (10/22/21)	112
Michael Spindler (10/22/21).....	113
Will Stapp (10/18/21)	114
Sidney Stephens (10/18/21).....	115
Derek Stonorov (10/17/21)	116
Molly Stonorov (10/17/21)	117
Molly Taiber (10/7/21)	118
David Talerico (10/18/21)	119
Douglas Tansy (10/19/21)	120
Matt Tekker (10/5/21)	121
Jim Thiele (10/21/21)	122
Clara Ticket (10/20/21)	123
Thomas Tilden (10/21/21)	124
Chelsea Trembley (10/7/21).....	125
Barbara Tyndall (10/18/21)	126
City of Valdez (10/19/21).....	127
Joseph Ver (10/23/21)	133
Robert Wall (10/18/21)	134
Robert Wall (10/20/21)	135
Timothy Whip (10/19/21).....	136
Margaret Wiedeman (10/18/21).....	137
Leah Berman Williams (10/17/21)	138
Maximillian Wiren (10/18/21)	140
Gwen Woodard (10/19/21).....	141
Jessica Wright (10/22/21)	142

From: Kenneth Acton <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 23, 2021 7:47 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 23, 2021, 7:46 am

First Name: **Kenneth**

Last Name: **Acton**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Alaskans for Fair Redistricting Plan**

Public Comment: **The AFFR plan appears to most closely adhere to the four principles of drawing districts, i.e., contiguity, compactness, socio-economic integration, and equal protection. Even though the Senate Minority plan has one less district that misses the equal protection standard, the AFFR plan more closely aligns with contiguity and compactness. These principles promote community and neighborhoods which is important if we are to generate more public involvement. The Senate Minority plan would be my second choice. Board Plan v3 and v4 do not even closely compete with the other plans when measured against the principles of redistricting and I believe either of those two plans (v3 & v4) would be a mistake and would not promote healthy public engagement from the State as a whole.**

Respectfully submitted.



Date: October 19th, 2021

To: The Alaska Redistricting Board
From: Alaskans For Fair Redistricting
Submitted Electronically

Dear Board members:

I am writing to bring to your attention a legal issue related to Voting Rights Act (VRA) protections for minority groups that the Board should consider when it enters the VRA compliance phase of the redistricting process.

Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) understands that the Board is working under the process laid out in the *Hickel v. Southeast Conference* case, where the Board first adopts a map that complies with the state and federal constitutions, and then makes the minimum necessary changes to comply with the VRA; accordingly, the map we submitted was drawn in compliance with the *Hickel* process. In drawing our map we focused on the state constitutional requirements for compact, contiguous, and socio-economically integrated districts and the federal constitution requirement for “one person, one vote.” While our map was not drawn with VRA compliance in mind, we believe our map also complies with the VRA.

As you know, the VRA provides protections to ensure that minority groups are not disenfranchised during redistricting. Alaska is becoming increasingly diverse, especially within the Municipality of Anchorage, which is home to the most ethnically and linguistically diverse neighborhoods and schools in the country. Unlike many areas of the country, diversity within urban Alaska tends to be defined by neighborhoods with people from multiple ethnic and linguistic minorities forming a majority rather than a single minority group forming a majority.

AFFR commissioned well-respected attorney Susan Orlanksy to research whether the VRA protects coalitions of minority groups in areas where no single minority group forms a majority. Attached, for your consideration, is a memo summarizing her research. We hope this memo is helpful to the Board as you evaluate how the VRA applies to redistricting in Alaska.

In the interest of protecting and respecting Alaska’s growing diversity, particularly in urban Alaska, AFFR takes the position of assuming the VRA protects multiple minority coalitions. We believe that racially polarized voting exists in much of Alaska, and that the VRA requires the creation of multiple minority coalition districts in the Anchorage Bowl (particularly in East, North, and Midtown Anchorage) and in the Gulf Coast region. While court precedent may be uncertain, we strongly believe that respecting multiple minority coalition districts follows the intent of the VRA in protecting minority representation. Accordingly, we respectfully request that you instruct

your VRA expert to consider multiple minority coalitions when analyzing maps for VRA compliance.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joelle Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Joelle Hall
Chair, Alaskans for Fair Redistricting

TO: Joelle Hall, Chair Alaskans for Fair Redistricting

FROM: Susan Orlansky

DATE: September 17, 2021

At your request, I have done an initial review of judicial decisions and law review articles concerning the law that may require a majority-minority district to be created when the *Gingles* factors¹ can be satisfied by a group of two or more minorities (a “mixed minority-majority district”), where one minority group alone does not comprise a majority of the district’s population.

Currently, there is a nationwide split on whether a mixed minority-majority district is protected by Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act.

Opinions from some courts support reading Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act to require protection of any majority-minority district, including when the majority-minority population consists of members of more than one protected minority, if the combined population can satisfy the remaining *Gingles* factors.² In some of the cases, including the

¹ *Thornburg v. Gingles*, 478 U.S. 30 (1986). Under *Gingles*, to establish the right to a majority-minority district for purposes of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, plaintiffs must show (1) a geographically compact area with a majority minority population; (2) the minority voting population is politically cohesive; and (3) the majority votes as a bloc against minority-preferred candidates.

² Organized by Circuit, the cases recognizing minority coalition (or mixed minority-majority) districts include:

First: *Huot v. City of Lowell*, 280 F. Supp. 3d 228, 236 (D. Mass. 2017)

Second: *Pope v. County of Albany*, 687 F.3d 565 (2d Cir. 2012), *opin. addressing amended complaint*, 2014 WL 316703 (N.D.N.Y. Jan. 28, 2014); *Bridgeport Coalition for Fair Representation v. City of Bridgeport*, 26 F.3d 271 (2d Cir. 1994), *vacated on other grounds*, 512 U.S. 1283 (1994); *Rodriguez v. Pataki*, 308 F. Supp. 2d 346, 406 (S.D.N.Y. 2004) (recognizing concept of mixed minority-majority districts but finding plaintiffs did not prove cohesiveness), *aff’d without opin.* 543 U.S. 997 (2004); *Arbor Hill Concerned Citizens Neighborhood Association v. County of Albany*, 281 F. Supp. 2d 436, 445 (N.D.N.Y. 2003) (following Second Circuit precedent and finding it appropriate to combine the Black and Hispanic populations for a *Gingles* analysis), *rev’d in part on other grounds*, 357 F.3d 260 (2d Cir. 2004)

Fifth: *League of United Latin American Citizens v. Clements*, 999 F.2d 831 (5th Cir. 1993) (en banc); *Campos v. City of Baytown, Texas*, 840 F.2d 1240 (5th Cir. 1988); *League*

appellate decisions from the Ninth Circuit, the legal analysis is minimal, because the cases conclude factually by finding that not all the *Gingles* factors were satisfied.

Opinions from other courts reject the concept of mixed minority-majority districts and read the Voting Rights Act to protect only districts where the majority in a majority-minority district consists of members of a single recognized minority group.³

The United States Supreme Court has reserved any decision on the question whether the Voting Rights Act protects a majority-minority district that consists of a mixed minority population. In an early case on the scope of the Voting Rights Act, the Court pointedly required that the Act “be interpreted in a manner that provides the broadest possible scope in combatting racial discrimination.”⁴ That principle supports protecting any majority-minority district, whether composed of one minority or members of multiple minorities. Subsequently, in *Grove v. Emison*, the Supreme Court assumed without deciding that it is permissible to combine distinct racial and language minority groups for the purposes of assessing whether a redistricting plan improperly dilutes minority voting strength.⁵ A later case held that the Voting Rights Act does not protect “cross-over” districts – where a minority group is not the majority but can combine with sympathetic majority voters to

of United Latin American Citizens v. Midland Independent School District, 812 F.2d 1494 (5th Cir. 1987), *vacated on other grounds*, 829 F.2d 546 (5th Cir. 1987) (en banc); *Perez v. Abbott*, 250 F. Supp. 3d 123, 139 (W.D. Tex. 2017) (stating that affording a mixed minority-majority district protection under Section 2 “is consistent with the Congressional goal of keeping political processes equally open to minority voters” (internal quotation marks omitted))

Ninth: *Badillo v. City of Stockton, Cal.*, 956 F.2d 884 (9th Cir. 1992); *Romero v. City of Pomona*, 883 F.2d 1418 (9th Cir. 1989), *abrogated on unrelated ground* by 914 F.2d 1136 (9th Cir. 1990); *Skorepa v. City of Chula Vista*, 723 F. Supp. 1384, 1390 (S.D. Cal. 1989) (recognizing that a majority-minority population may consist of members of two or more different minority groups)

Eleventh: *Concerned Citizens of Hardee County v. Hardee County Board of Commissioners*, 906 F.2d 524 (11th Cir. 1990)

³ These cases include:

Fourth: *Hall v. Virginia*, 385 F.3d 421 (4th Cir. 2004)

Sixth: *Nixon v. Kent County*, 76 F.3d 1381 (6th Cir. 1996) (en banc)

⁴ *Chisom v. Roemer*, 501 U.S. 380, 404 (1991) (internal quotation marks omitted).

⁵ See *Grove v. Emison*, 507 U.S. 25, 41 (1993). *Grove* determined that plaintiffs did not establish factually that the *Gingles* factors were satisfied for the proposed mixed minority-majority district. See *id.* at 41-42.

elect a minority-preferred candidate.⁶ The Court took care to distinguish and explicitly not address whether the Act applies to a mixed minority-majority district.⁷

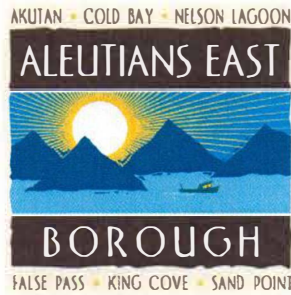
Legal scholars who support the requirement to recognize and protect mixed minority-majority districts observe that even the ostensibly “single” racial and language minority groups recognized by the Voting Rights Acts – including Blacks, Latinos, and Native Americans – each in fact encompasses a diversity of groups. “Blacks” include descendants of slaves and recent immigrants from Africa and the Caribbean. “Latinos” include people from many distinct countries, including some who also identify as “Black.” “Native Americans” include representatives of many different tribes and non-tribal groups. And, increasingly, people identify as multi-racial or mixed minority. There is no rational way to require a redistricting plan to allocate such people to one *or* another minority group.

To be protected under the Voting Rights Act, even the recognized “single” minority groups must establish factually that the group that comprises the majority population in the district is politically cohesive. No sound legal or policy reason prevents two more distinct minorities from making the same showing on behalf of the mixed minority-majority.⁸

⁶ See *Barrett v. Strickland*, 556 U.S. 1 (2009) (plurality decision).

⁷ See *id.* at 13.

⁸ See, e.g., Dale E. Ho, *Two Fs for Formalism: Interpreting Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act in Light of Changing Demographics and Electoral Patterns*, 50 HARV. C.R.-C.L. L. REV. 403, 433-34 (2015) (“The key . . . is not whether the voters bringing a § 2 vote dilution claim can all be shoehorned within the same abstract racial or ethnic group. Rather, the question is whether, in practice, minority voters bringing a claim are appropriately thought of as a single community for electoral purposes, which is demonstrated through political cohesion.”); Kevin Sette, *Are Two Minorities Equal to One? Minority Coalition Groups and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act*, 88 FORDHAM L. REV. 2693, 2715-16 (2020) (“The ultimate inquiry of section 2 is whether or not a minority group has less opportunity to participate in the political process – this may be true of one or multiple minority groups that have experienced similar barriers to voting.” (footnote omitted); *id.* at 2727 (“Were a court to mandate that all citizens from the class have the same minority status, it would be wrongfully reading into the statute what is not there.” (footnote omitted)); see also *Pope*, 2014 WL 316703, at *6 (“[T]he language of subsection [2](a) does not cabin potential claimants into one racial group; it affords protection from ‘denial or abridgement of the right of *any citizen* of the United States to vote on account of race or color.’ 42 U.S.C. 1973 (emphasis added). This broad reading does not suggest that only a single group may allege a violation of voting rights.”).



RESOLUTION 22-17

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALEUTIANS EAST BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING FIVE PROPOSED PLANS OF THE ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WHEREAS, the Alaska Redistricting Board has adopted six (6) proposed redistricting plans for Alaskans to consider and to provide feedback, and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution mandates that the Redistricting Board shall adopt a final plan within ninety days of receiving the US decennial census, or by November 10th, 2021, and

WHEREAS, Section 6 of the Alaska Constitution states that 'Each house district shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area.' and 'Each senate district shall be composed as near as practicable of two contiguous house districts', and

WHEREAS, all six proposed plans accomplish the Aleutians East Borough number 1 redistricting priority, which is to keep the Borough and all AEB communities intact in one house district, and

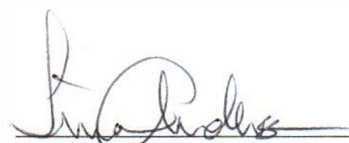
WHEREAS, five of the six proposed plans form a contiguous, compact House District 37 including the Aleutians East Borough, paired with a contiguous House District 38 to form Senate District S, and

WHEREAS, the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) plan for House District 37 includes the Aleutians East Borough but not the Lake and Peninsula Borough and so does not form a contiguous, compact House District 37.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Aleutians East Borough Assembly supports all the proposed redistricting plans that keep the Aleutians East Borough together intact in one house district

Approved and Adopted this 14th day of October 2021.


Alvin D. Osterback, Mayor


Tina Anderson, Clerk

From: James Angaiak <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 4:11 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 21, 2021, 4:11 pm

First Name: **James**

Last Name: **Angaiak**

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

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99559**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **14 c process?**

Public Comment: **..so..what vehicle or mechanism is used... current Alaska law and statute? We've been trying to settle 14 c many years and then this...**

From: James Arend <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 10:04 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 21, 2021, 10:04 pm

First Name: **James**

Last Name: **Arend**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99518**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Preference for Senate Minority map**

Public Comment: **Please stop gerrymandering. Board map versions 3 & 4 do not meet the equality of population criteria. The AFFER version does not meet the criteria for compactness.**

Only AFFR and the Minority version should even be considered, with the Minority version being chosen to allow for free and fair elections.

From: Daniel Baldwin <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 12:15 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 21, 2021, 12:14 pm

First Name: **Daniel**

Last Name: **Baldwin**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Local 341**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99654**

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

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

Thank you for collecting testimony on redistricting. As a resident of Wasilla, I believe the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map does the best job of meeting Constitutional requirements for redistricting. AFFR's map has the most equal populations between districts. I also support the way AFFR lines respect different communities in the Valley, for example, there is a district that includes Wasilla and immediately adjacent neighborhoods, and a separate district for Palmer and nearby neighborhoods. These district lines are compact, logical, and will make it easy for Valley residents to understand who their state House and Senate representatives are, I know they will help me. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely Daniel Baldwin

From: Jenny Bell-Jones <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 6:11 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 18, 2021, 6:10 pm

First Name: **Jenny**

Last Name: **Bell-Jones**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99701**

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

Public Comment: **I am writing in support of the Doyon map which I think provides the fairest division of the rural and Native communities.**

From: Alexander Bergman <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 6:30 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 18, 2021, 6:29 pm

First Name: **Alexander**

Last Name: **Bergman**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **I support the AFFR map**

Public Comment: **The AFFR map**

- **represents Fairbanks proportionally in about 5.25 districts**
- **respects the existing east/west latitudinal subdivision as evident**
- **acknowledges the geopolitical discreteness of North Pole**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Fairbanks 10/18 Verbal Testimony

Summary date: October 19, 2021

Name: **CB Bettisworth**

Email or Phone Contact: **907-322-6529**

Summary: **Mr. Bettisworth recommended that the map drawing technology allow users to erase from already drawn districts to help with balancing populations as the technology does not currently allow that. Mr. Bettisworth expressed the importance that the board maintain "one person, one vote", socio-economic and cultural similarity, using road, fire, and water, and school districts and naturally occurring geographic boundaries to draw lines.**

The current borough boundaries are mostly geographically defined. Back in 1964, they were defined with respect to socio-economic interests and took the Chena, Chatanika, and Salcha River drainages to be used as the primary boundary along with the Tanana River. In 1987, when Mr. Bettisworth served on the Local Boundary Commission, they expanded the Fairbanks North Star Borough mostly to the north to go up around Northern Livengood and east out to Central. Doing so encompasses socio-economically integrated communities that have mining in common. Much has changed since 1964 and the last time the census was completed: 1) The discovery of oil has made a huge impact on the state and the Fairbanks North Star Borough. 2) The settlement of Alaska Native land claims that have changed the patterns of land ownership in the state. In Fairbanks, it has changed much with the growth of Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) and Doyon, making it a larger community that includes interior communities that use Fairbanks as a hub. 3) The University of Alaska has become an "economic engine" along with TCC and Doyon. 4) Tourism has changed how residents see the communities.

In conclusion, Mr. Bettisworth asked the board to not use the borough boundaries as their guide to redistricting. Not only one district needs to be added to the outside borough boundary component. Mr. Bettisworth would instead move east off Steese Highway (toward the mining district) which reflects what was done in 1987 when the borough boundaries were made by the Local Boundary Commission.

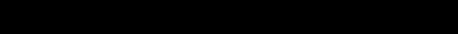
**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY**

Ketchikan 10/6 Verbal Testimony

Summary date: October 17, 2021

Name: **Keolani Booth**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Council Metlakatla Indian Comm.**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Ketchikan 10/6 Verbal Testimony**

Public Comment: **Mr. Booth expressed opposition of the Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER) map as it takes Metlakatla away from the region it is currently a part of. Many Metlakatla residents go to Ketchikan for groceries and other economic opportunities. Any redistricting that removes communities from the Ketchikan area would not make sense.**

From: Bruce Bridwell <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 11:48 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 20, 2021, 11:48 am

First Name: **Bruce**

Last Name: **Bridwell**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99708**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Fairbanks Goldstream Area Redistricting**

Public Comment: **After reviewing the Board proposed plans and the various approved alternatives, my main concern is the dilution of Fairbanks west and Goldstream area voting blocs as is currently established by the absurd Senate District B. The current district is the most grievous example of gerrymandering to dilute voting blocs, wherein the Goldstream area is connected to North Pole, Alaska. So my request to the board is to adapt a plan that maintains the geographic and economic continuity of the area. The Senate Minority proposal appears to best honor that request . Please consider this with your final product.**

Thanks

Bruce Bridwell

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 21, 2021, 1:12 pm

Name: **William Britt**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Public Comment: I will begin by saying that a process as foundational to our system of governance should not be this hard to understand. The complexity of the system, and the process, results in overweighted participation by those with power and/or money at stake and underweighted participation by those who simply seek good governance.

Alaska's constitutional convention delegates were focused on preventing gerrymandering and included redistricting criteria in our constitution to accomplish this - equality of population, contiguity, compactness, and relative integration of socioeconomic areas. I looked for these fundamental constitutional criteria on your web site without success. Shame on me if I missed them. Shame on you if they weren't included on the website or were difficult to find. They should be front and center.

The criteria are straightforward, and most can be objectively assessed. Equality of population, for example, is empirical - especially in Anchorage and other organized boroughs and municipalities. Running those numbers is easy. The most likely reason to deviate from low population deviation is gerrymandering. This is not a trivial issue. It is epidemic in the United States and poses a direct threat to our democracy. Computer programs and access to the population data make gerrymandering easy. They also make it easy to bring population deviation to 1% or less from one district to the next. Both board versions 3 and 4 fail this simple test. Absent a compelling reason to deviate from constitutional guidance, they should be rejected.

Similarly, compactness can be measured. The AFFER version fails this test, so the same question arises "is there a reason to ignore the constitution? For those who created the AFFER map, the reason is clear, maximizing power at the expense of democracy.

This leaves the AFFR and the Senate Minority versions. It is simple to compare the two using the required criteria. The former has the same issues as the board versions and the AFFER map, though less severe. The latter is preferable.

The federal Voting Rights Act may require adjustment of some districts to protect the voting rights of Native Americans. Those adjustments should be limited and clearly explained when they are proposed.

While some might argue that the D versus R dynamic is inevitable, most Alaskans are neither D nor R. The trend in the United States has been to attempt to minimize gerrymandering using independent entities. The Alaska Redistricting Board was approved by Alaska voters in 1998 for exactly this purpose. It is my hope that you will rise to the occasion.

Thank you.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 18, 2021, 8:34 am

Name: **Karen Bronga**

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

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Public Comment: **Thursday, 10/7/21, 19 members and neighbors of the Scenic Foothills Community Council met for an informal meeting where the issue of the proposed redistricting maps was one of the items noticed for discussion. We had a very respectful exchange of viewpoints about this community issue.**

After discussion, we held a vote of our council members to make a statement that our priority for redistricting was to keep East Anchorage in an intact district and to not link this area with Eagle River or South Anchorage due to socio-economic differences between these areas. In particular our community council members spoke out against having the area around the Muldoon curve placed in a South Anchorage district as is done in Board Map 3. The results of this vote were 17 yays and 0 nays.

There was overwhelming support of voting maps that keep the Northeast area of Anchorage as a political district. Many of our neighbors shared their experiences in campaigning in a district that spreads to Girdwood from East Anchorage and having elected officials that are not representing their area of town adequately. While not a formal resolution from the Scenic Foothills Community Council, we do expect a formal resolution will be passed at our Nov. 4th meeting.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 17, 2021, 3:00 pm

First Name: **Timothy** Last Name: **Bundy**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99669**

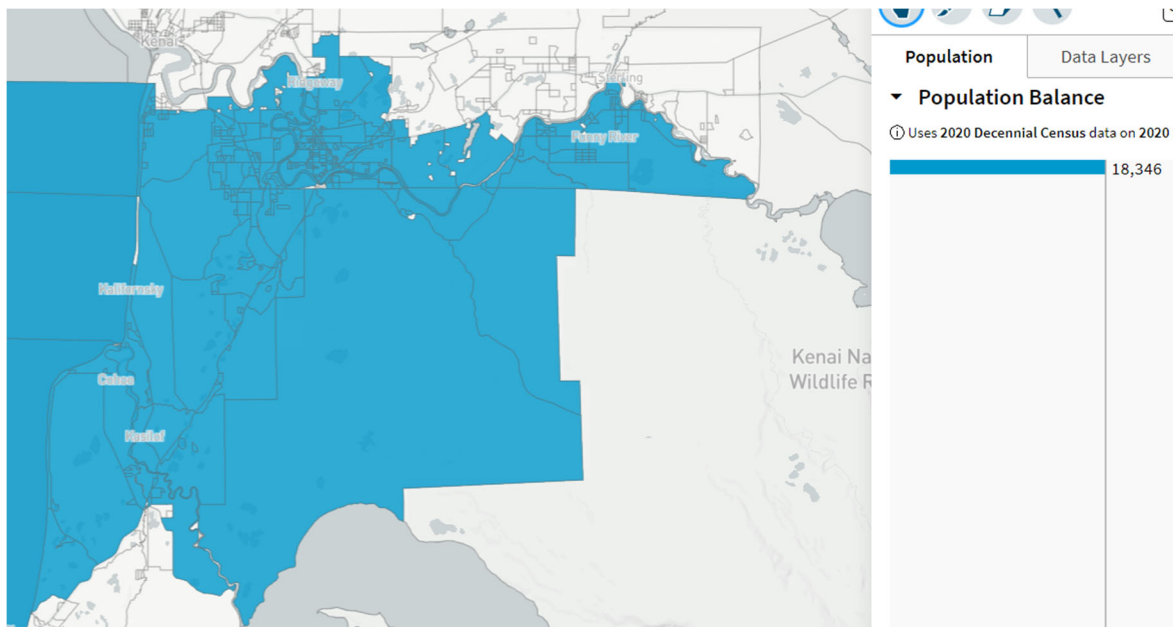
Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **District 7 as proposed. I suggest a district that is more representative of the community that work, shop, live and relate better than the previous map that included Kenai. Kenai and Soldotna have different economic drivers and they have different concerns that would be better addressed with the proposed district map. Kenai, Nikiski and Sterling are mainly driven by oil and gas interest verse Soldotna communities and those values are better represented geographically as shown.**

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

<https://www.akredistrict.org/create/view.html?p=65583>

Online Plan ID: **65583**

URL to view Plan ID: <https://www.akredistrict.org/create/edit.html?p=65583>



ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 19, 2021, 6:53 pm

Name: **Alison Casort**
Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: Hello, my name is Alison Casort and I support the AFFR map in this redistricting process. I am a lifelong resident of Fairbanks - I have lived in the Chena Pump area (West Fairbanks) for 21 years, going to school here, recreating and shopping here, and enjoying the community. I have the following input regarding the redistricting maps:

There are more people squeezed into the Fairbanks districts in the Version 3 map. This concerns me. As a Fairbanksan, I want equal representation, and maintaining district lines along borough boundaries doesn't make sense for my community, especially when other districts in Anchorage, Kenai, and Mat-Su break their borough boundaries. The final map should have much lower (or zero) deviations and does not need to follow borough boundaries exactly. The AFFR map has very low deviations in each district around Fairbanks, and therefore I support it.

Map Version 3 breaks up the natural East/West orientation of Fairbanks, separating the University campus from the Ester area (where many of my fellow UAF students live). Fairbanks is socio-economically oriented along an East/West axis and the district boundaries should account for this. Chena Pump, Chena Ridge, Ester, and UAF have close socio-economic ties, and the AFFR map is the only map that keeps all of these communities together.

North Pole has a distinct identity and local government, and should not be in the same district as Fairbanks. The AFFR map recognizes that and keeps the greater North Pole area together in a district.

In short, the AFFR map looks to be the map that most reasonably reflects the communities in and around Fairbanks.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration in this very important task. Thank you also for accepting comments online and by phone during the ongoing pandemic.

From: Sybille Castro-Curry [REDACTED] >
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 7:51 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Nikiski

As an almost 20 year resident of Nikiski I am against rezoning with South Anchorage. Geographically, socio-economically and housing, land and landscape wise, Nikiski has nothing in common with South Anchorage. It's not logical, nor wise, nor makes common sense to add us to South Anchorage. I want to preserve our rural autonomy on the Kenai Peninsula.

Thank you

Sybille Castro-Curry

Nikiski

From: Jeff Cichosz [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 2:25 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: E Knik River Road

Regarding the subject of redistricting our family simply states: "We do not want to be paired with Anchorage, we identify as an exclusively Mat-Su community"

Jeff and Winnie Cichosz
[REDACTED]
Palmer, AK

From: Larry Cohn <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 4:51 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 22, 2021, 4:51 pm

First Name: **Larry**

Last Name: **Cohn**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting - Senate Minority Caucus Plan**

Public Comment: **The Senate Minority Caucus Plan has my support. It is the fairest plan. As such, it is considerably less likely to incur successful (and expensive) litigation than the other proposals. Seems self-evident that elections should be decided on the issues and the qualifications of the candidates, not artificial boundaries intended to polarize our community and deprive some of equal representation.**

From: Christopher Constant [REDACTED] >
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 6:50 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: No Map Connecting Government Hill to Eagle River

I am deeply concerned about having my neighborhood attached to Eagle River. We have zero in common demographically, politically, socially, in any way. This would be an abuse of your constitutional authority.

Please ensure the Government Hill neighborhood remains associated with Downtown Anchorage.

Very respectfully,

Christopher Constant
[REDACTED]

From: Jon Cook [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 9:55 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Public Comment

To the Redistricting Board:

I am a Harding Lake resident. I have reviewed the proposed redistricting maps and believe that, for where I live, Board Version 3 best complies with the legal and constitutional requirements regarding redistricting.

Thank you,

J. Jon Cook



October 22, 2021

Alaska Redistricting Board
testimony@akredistrict.org

Dear Redistricting Board Members:

The City of Craig supports adoption of a redistricting plan that retains all of Prince of Wales Island in a single house district. Board plans v. 3 and v. 4, and the Board-adopted plan submitted by the Doyon Coalition best meet the criteria for house district boundaries found at Section 6, Article 6 of the Alaska Constitution.

Please note that the city supports house district pairings that retain two senate districts entirely within Southeast Alaska. In no event should a Southeast Alaska house district be paired with another house district outside the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Bolling".

Jon Bolling
Craig City Administrator

From: Anne Davis [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 2:38 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting Nikiski

I am against redistricting Nikiski into Girdwood/Anchorage area. Those areas are so far removed from Nikiski that I cannot fathom why this is even a proposal. We are better aligned, closer and share many of the same concerns as the rest of the Kenai Peninsula not a district that isn't even on the peninsula. I feel like this is an issue that should have full disclosure to and support of the people of Nikiski.

Thank you.

Anne Davis

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Fairbanks 10/18 Verbal Testimony

Sent: 10/18/2021

Good afternoon, my name is Makenzie Demmert and I am grateful for this democratic process of giving testimony on matters that directly impact my life and livelihood.

I've lived in Fairbanks now for the past 8 years, much longer than I anticipated when I left Ketchikan almost a decade ago. I had planned to get my degree at UAF and high tail it out of here, but like many before me I fell victim to the rugged charms of Interior Alaska. I've also raised my brother here, (who is now 17 and works at McDonalds), and he now refuses to leave Fairbanks because he has met his closest friends at West Valley High School. Indeed, we have spent much of our time in West Fairbanks, I worked at the airport for several years, I went to school at UAF, and lived off Farmers loop, in dry cabins and apartments and spent many summers driving the beautiful and diverse highways of Alaska.

This summer alone I made the drive from Fairbanks to Tok at least 20 times. It's gotten to the point now where I know exactly where the next rest stop is, when the next slow stretches are to settle in behind that RV and the next passing lanes to whip past them. On the way back home to West Fairbanks, when I get to Salcha, I know I've got about an hour until I'm home, depending on traffic and road conditions.

Yet now, in the worlds created under Board proposal v. 3 as well as the AFFER and Senate minority proposals, I'm at risk of having my interests bundled in with Salchas', a distinct community, an hour away from where I live, with several unique socioeconomic districts in between us and them. In fact, on one of my trips to Tok this summer, I had my father with me and from the time we left to the time we got to Harding Lake, he needed to use a rest stop.

So under Broad Proposal v3, which I understand is being seriously considered, I would be voting with the same interests as people who are "necessary-to-stop rest stop distance" from where I live, that I have to drive through several other districts to reach. Tell me, how are these interests compatible or contiguous? Quite simply, they're not. Practically and democratically speaking they are two dis-contiguous, separate worlds. As an example, we in West Fairbanks have been just *counting down the days* for the year-long University Street construction project to be OVER FINALLY!

This construction has impacted my daily life severely. My shopping and commute habits have totally transformed from this one main artery being shut down. Now, I'd love to hear how the people in Salcha are coping with this construction, (let alone if they've even heard of it).

The point is, our localized interests are incongruous and for this reason and for reasons having to do with ideal population incongruity via overdrawn maps, my democratic representation is unequal and underrepresented by Board Proposal v3 and the AFFER and Senate minority proposals.

This unequal representation has economic impacts as well. I recently submitted my application for a real estate license in Alaska. This means that I have completed the training, I

have passed the test, and I have been signed to a brokerage. It also means I've invested a good deal of time and money into this career.

And now you're telling me that the area I know best, the area I'd be conducting my business in, is in danger of having a black mark of unequal representation? So now, I must disclose to potential home buyers that a house they are considering does not come with a full bundle of rights, that their right of representation is now hindered by the overdrawn, dis-contiguous district that their dream home is in, that their voting interests will now be bundled with people they have almost no common localized day- to-day concerns/contact with? Would you choose to purchase a home where you were systematically guaranteed unequal representation in the democratic process? Because I surely would not. I would not consciously choose to purchase a property in a district that had less than equal representation rights as a given. By overdrawing boundaries and bundling two practically and physically dis-contiguous socioeconomic regions, this is what our rights, and the people of Eielson, Salcha and everyone else we have been grouped with would suffer.

We are here today because of and for democracy, we are here for our rights. Board Proposal v.3, and the AFFER and Senate Minority proposals unduly hinder affected citizens rights to equal representation which in turn, as a real estate agent selling properties in this Greater Fairbanks region, results in damages to my livelihood.

Follow-up answer to John's question at the end of my spoken testimony:

When making the determination on "who to cut out" focus on socio-economic similarity. For example, it makes more sense to group rural areas with similarly rural areas rather than grouping urban and rural interests together. And to echo other comments, perhaps cutting more evenly from each of the districts could be a compromise.

From: Diane DiSanto [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 1:59 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Testimony

Written Testimony to the Alaska Redistricting Board:

My name is Diane DiSanto, my family has lived in the Turnagain neighborhood since 1994. Looking at the maps the Board is still considering, I believe the AFFR (Alaska for Fair Redistricting) map best represents our community in the current district 21 (AFFR District 16). The core of this district is around the Coastal Trail and outdoor recreation areas. The AFFR Map makes a clear distinction between these neighborhoods and downtown. Looking at the board proposed map version 3, district 13 to includes 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. Board proposed map version 4 separates Turnagain and the Forest Park neighborhood, which is linked with Turnagain via the Coastal Trail and has social and economical similarities an includes western Spenard and the Jewel Lake area, which are unique communities. I would like to ask the Board to adhere to existing political boundaries and notable geographic boundaries and take into consideration the social and economical differences between these communities when making your final redistricting decision.

I want to thank the board for hearing our comments and strongly urge you to look at the Turnagain area and ensure our district is fairly drawn.

Diane DiSanto
[REDACTED]
Anchorage, AK 99517

Sent from my iPhone

Dena'inaq ełnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)
I live and work on Dena'ina land.

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: Elizabeth Dobbins

Affiliation (if any): Self

Email or Phone: [REDACTED] Zip Code: 99709

Area/Map Title/Keywords: _____

Public Comment: I like the Doyon Map the best. It does the best job dividing Fairbanks into unified chunks. I think that's because it focused on the interior ^{as a whole} instead of trying to stick to the ~~Borough~~ Borough boundaries.

I do not approve of Plan 3. ~~B~~ The Fairbanks area should get the representation we are entitled to, and the deviations are too large in Plan 3.

I know that Cordova and Valdez cause problems. But I cannot approve of any plan that includes these coastal places in with interior locations. They are just too different and people in the interior deserve to have their concerns valued separately from coastal population centers. For that reason, I do not favor the Senate Minority ~~or~~ AFFER proposals.

I also don't like the way the AFFER plan ~~the~~ splits Farmer's Loop N/S. I live on Farmer's Loop and consider myself closely related to people across the road!

I guess I really only like the Doyon map!

SCAN HERE TO OPEN THE MAP COMMENT PORTAL →



From: Janice Dubel <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 4:36 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 21, 2021, 4:35 am

First Name: **Janice**

Last Name: **Dubel**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **District 31 redistricting - East End; Fritz Creek**

Public Comment: **Ridiculous. Fritz Creek and East End road is economically and socially tied to Homer and should not be separated for legislative representation. East enders work in Homer, go to school in Homer, use the harbor and the airport. Additionally, the Russian Villages are closely tied to Nikolaevsk. If redistricting needs to happen Seward should be added to our district as it once was because they are also a waterfront community based on tourism and fishing.**

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 11:35 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting Board map comments

I am hereby submitting comments on the Alaska Redistricting Board maps up for public testimony.

Redistricting is a critical part of the democratic process; State founders laid out requirements in the constitution for redistricting to ensure voting districts capture accurate and representative population groups through their natural changes and moves. In my review of the maps under consideration, the AFFR map and the Senate Minority maps generally follow the constitutional criteria laid out in the constitution; the AFFR map and the Board Versions 3 and 4 should be disqualified for failing to meet the constitutional requirements.

The AFFR map ignores the criteria of compactness and socioeconomic integration and should not be considered in the final map version. For example, this map creates a totally illogical sinuous Southeast district, and creates a district to split the Mendenhall Valley which is obviously a partisan effort to split the democratic vote by pitting Rep. Hannan against Rep. Story. There are numerous other partisan gerrymanders across the state in this map.

The Board Version 3 map has extremely high population deviation throughout the state, which should disqualify it. Version 3 is designed to gerrymander Rep. Story out of a seat, with a bizarre gerrymander of the Mendenhall Valley. There is no reason to split the Mendenhall Valley, and a map that follows the Constitutional guidance of socioeconomic integration, and lines following geographic features, would keep the Mendenhall Valley together (as multiple other maps like AFFR and Senate Minority do). In addition, Fairbanks districts have huge population deviations (are over populated), which discounts votes from Fairbanks. Other maps (AFFR, Senate Minority, Doyon) achieve a fairer population split across districts in Fairbanks while maintaining compactness and contiguity.

Board Version 4 has the highest population deviations of any map being advertised for public comment for districts in Anchorage. This high level of population deviation is unnecessary and should be rejected (high Anchorage District deviations have been rejected by the Court in the past). Board Version 4 pairs Anchorage House seats in Government Hill and East Anchorage with Eagle River House seats in a transparent attempt to create another Republican senate seat. It is more logical to pair the two Eagle River House seats, which more closely matches the Constitutional mandate to pair contiguous seats to the greatest extent practical. This is particularly important since Eagle River may well become a separate local government with an active succession movement under way. Board Version 4 creates a strange Mendenhall Valley gerrymander that clearly seems designed to eliminate either Rep. Story or Rep. Hannan.

The AFFR map has a population deviation of 4.79%, which is much less deviation than the Board's V3 or V4 maps, while achieving equal or greater compactness and integration. AFFR (unlike Board V4) keeps Eagle River House seats contiguous, rather than pairing Anchorage/Eagle River House seats in order to gerrymander additional Republican senate seats. AFFR's Eagle River seats are also more compact than gerrymandered maps that stretch the lines in order to squeeze another Republican Senate seat out of Eagle River. The AFER map which places Homer and Seward in a House district is logical and more socioeconomically integrated than the Board maps, given the nature of size, economies, and culture of these coastal towns. A Homer/Seward-based House district would in turn be more socioeconomically integrated with a coastal community Senate seat (the

other House seat in the pair is the Gulf Coast seat stretching north from Kodiak). This map should be considered for a final map.

The Senate Minority map achieves the lowest population deviations, and along with other maps such as AFFR demonstrates that the high population deviations in Board V3 and V4 are not necessary. Applying the multi-factor balancing test of compactness, contiguity, integration, and minimal population deviation, the Senate Minority has the strongest Southeast map. This map should be considered for a final map.

Please follow the State of Alaska's constitution in generating a map that follows the constitutional criteria (examples are the AFER and Senate Minority Map), which will empower all the State's residents in representative government, streamline the redistricting process by preventing litigation, and address comments such as mine which point out major flaws in the Board maps V3 and V4 and the AFFER maps.

Anna Dugan
Anchorage, AK 99501

From: Mark Dundore <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 3:56 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 22, 2021, 3:55 pm

First Name: **Mark**

Last Name: **Dundore**

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 opposed to the Senate Minority plan because it reduces the number of representative districts, which could lead to less representation.**

From: Louis Dupree [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:27 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: RE

I support the "AFFR" map

Louis Dupree

[REDACTED]
Homer, AK 99603
[REDACTED]

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: Margaret Durst

Affiliation (if any): _____

Email or Phone: [REDACTED] Zip Code: 99709

Area/Map Title/Keywords: _____

Public Comment: I am definitely against Board v. 3 and AFFER maps that use the military land south of the Tanana as the contiguous connection between parts of the West Fairbanks area and Moose Creek, Salcha, and Eielson AFB. The socioeconomic of these two areas is quite different.

The Doyon map comes closest to keeping communities together.

In general Fairbanks socioeconomic areas run east to west, so maps like v.3 which make it a north/south formation does not look reflect the homogeneity of how Fairbanks works.

The Senate Minority map puts parts of North Pole using peninsular and land south of the Tanana River.

These two areas are quite different from each other.

SCAN HERE TO OPEN THE MAP COMMENT PORTAL →



From: Nina Faust [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 9:13 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Comments on Redistricting

[REDACTED]
Homer AK 99603

October 18, 2021

RE: Alaska Redistricting Maps

I support the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map.

Redistricting is complicated and difficult and often subject to changes that are not in the best interest of fair elections. I do feel it is important in Alaska's large areas, that similar socioeconomic interests, regional associations, and historical connections be strongly reflected in drawing the district lines. As diverse as the Kenai Peninsula areas are, districts in the past have made good sense along these lines.

Having our coastal communities like Seward, Homer, and Seldovia in the same district makes sense since all depend heavily on commercial fishing, marine trades, and tourism. Plus, all these towns are at the end of the road so to speak. Seldovia historically has been closely associated with Homer as each community has grown.

I understand that the Alaska Constitution requires connecting socioeconomic areas and keeping the districts contiguous and compact, while reflecting a calculated population quotient, local governmental boundaries, and similar geologic features and drainages.

As best as possible the new redistricting maps should be politically neutral. I believe that Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map best does all these things.

Sincerely,

Nina Faust

From: Sarah Finnell [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 11:59 AM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Redistricting Map Proposal Comments

Hello, my name is Sarah Finnell, and I am a resident of Ester, Alaska. I am unable to be present for the public meetings, so I am sending my comments by email. After reviewing the proposed maps, I have the following comments:

- a. Overall, I want to encourage you to adopt the map that was proposed by AFFR and I am very opposed to adopting Board Map V.3.
- b. I oppose adopting Board Map V.3 for two main reasons.
 - i. First of all, the Fairbanks communities are oriented East-to-West, but Board Map V.3 connects communities that are North & South of each other. For example, I live in the Ester area- I shop at the Fred Meyer on the West side, kids in my neighborhood go to school at Woodriver or U-Park Elementary. I use the University ski trails, and the Chena Ridge trail system, and I get water from the Water Wagon. I am connected to the other west-side communities, like Chena Ridge and College, who also use these areas. Our political representation should be connected because we are part of the same specific community. If you adopted Board Map V.3 you would be separating me from Chena Ridge and College, and putting me in the same district as Chena Hot Springs Road, which is on the complete other side of town from me. It really doesn't make sense and it separates me from the people I should be connected to.
 - ii. Not only does Board Map V.3 completely change the orientation of the Fairbanks area, but it also overpopulates each Fairbanks district - therefore underrepresenting the people of Fairbanks and violating the principle of one person one vote. As a Fairbanksan, I want equal representation, and packing our districts to follow the borough boundaries doesn't make sense for my community, especially when other districts in Anchorage, Kenai, and Mat-Su break their borough boundaries.
- c. I fully support you adopting the AFFR Map because of how it logically connects neighborhoods and communities in Fairbanks, and because it gets closer to the ideal number of constituents per district.

I'm attaching a pdf with the maps so you can see what I'm referring to with regards to the East-West versus North-South separation of districts.

Thank you for your time, and for making public comment accessible online during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Sarah Finnell

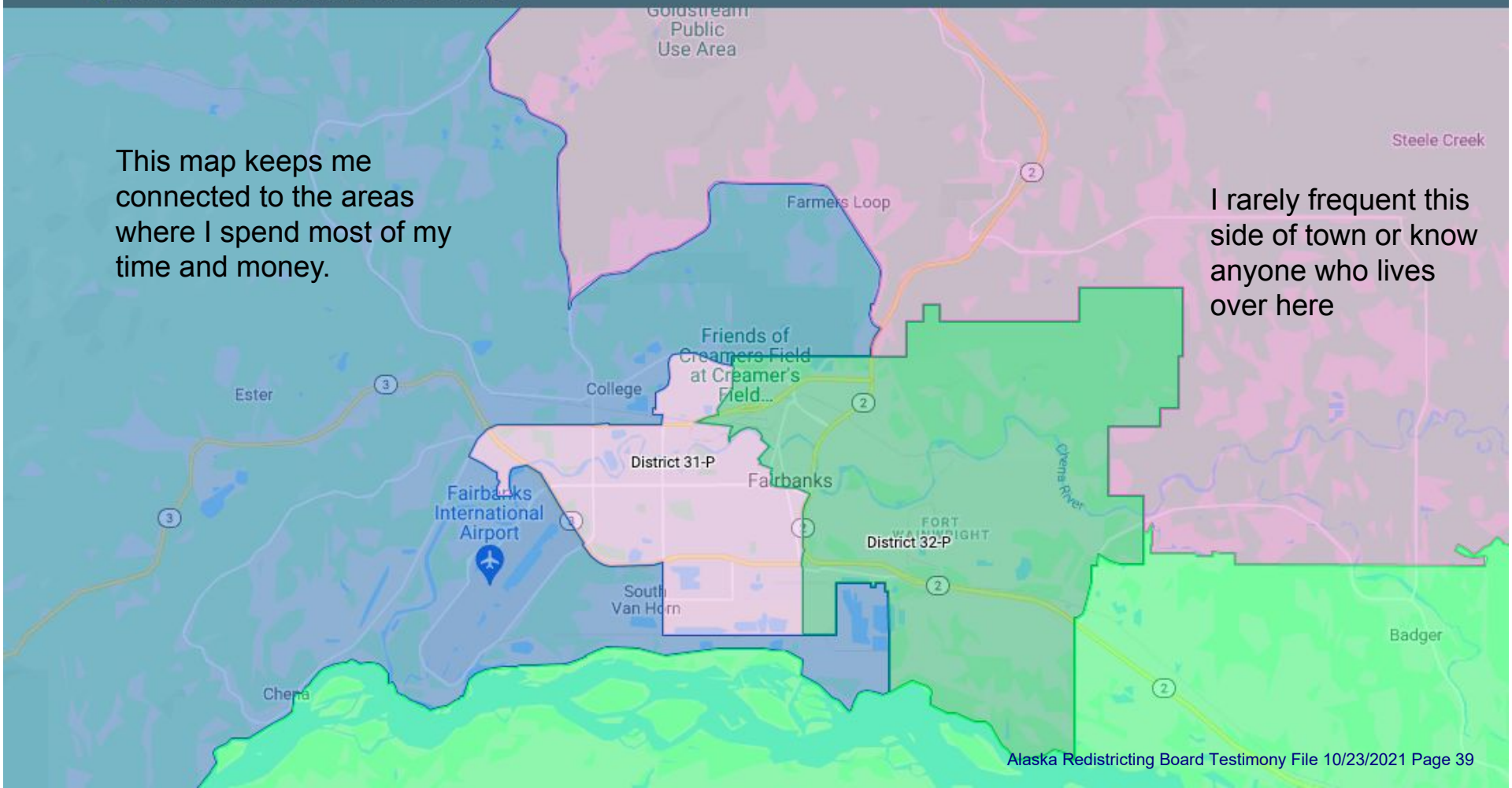
Physical address: [REDACTED] Fairbanks, AK 99709

Mailing address: [REDACTED], AK 99725



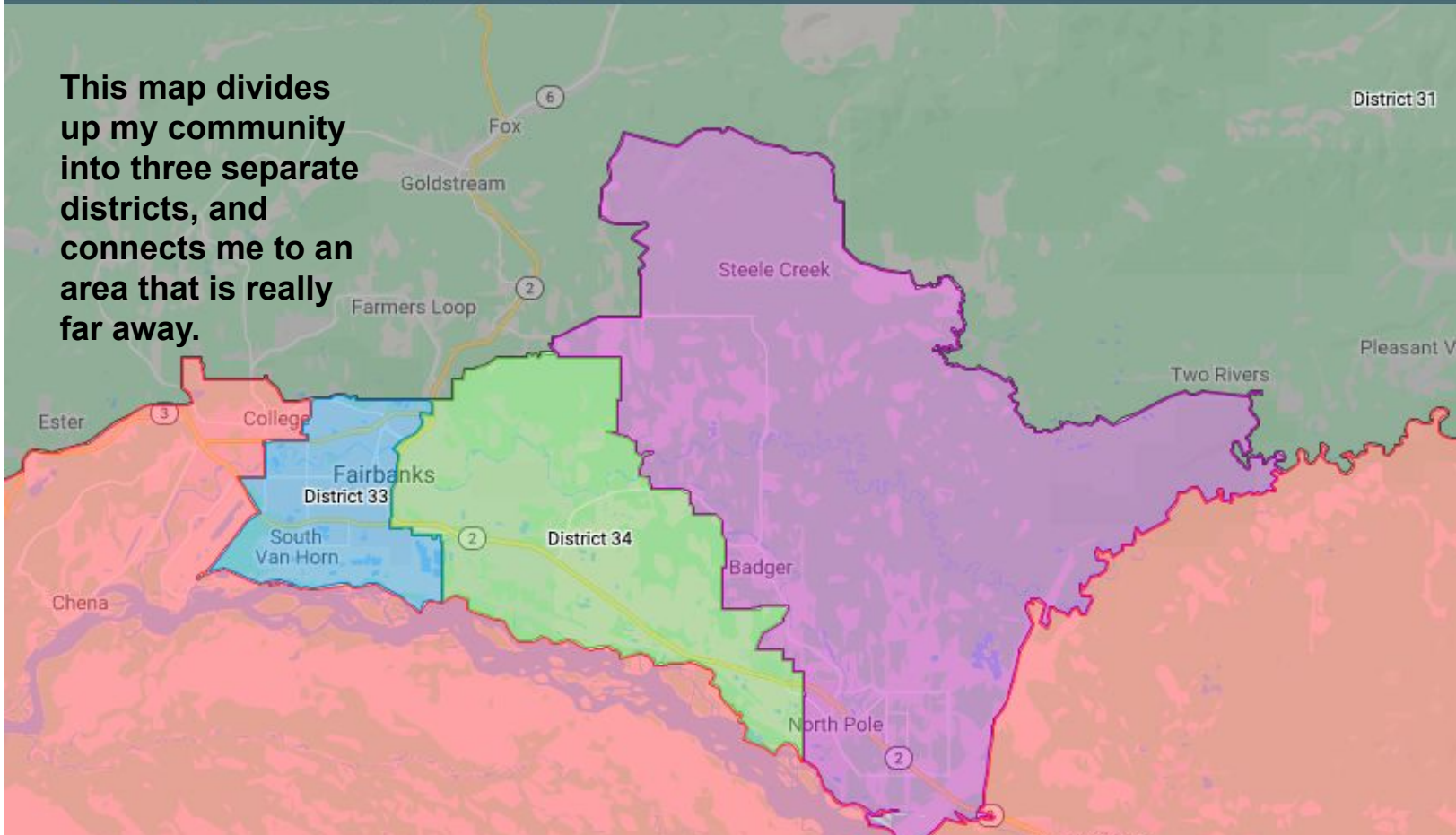
This map keeps me connected to the areas where I spend most of my time and money.

I rarely frequent this side of town or know anyone who lives over here





This map divides up my community into three separate districts, and connects me to an area that is really far away.



From: rose fosdick [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 4:55 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: hope it's timely

Hi: Just saw the post my sister sent me to offer public comment today. I may be too late but will offer a point anyway in case it's timely.

One time the redistricting changes made our house district (OME was included) into a much larger district. The result was a number of regions were all lumped together from Seward Peninsula to communities along the Yukon River to communities in SW Alaska. That was and is fine yet it caused a lot of worry at the time because people thought the regions of Bering Strait, Northwest Alaska, Yukon River and Southwest Alaska were too different in culture, language, needs, structure, etc. However it has worked out okay, our House Representative Neal Foster has been able to represent the diverse communities well. However I know it's somewhat of a burden for one office to try to travel to Emmonak, Tanana, Nome, St. Marys etc. (so many communities) and try to express to the legislature what our district wants and believes.

I look forward to visiting with the committee when I have a chance to see the maps and hear facts and info. Thanks,
Rose Fosdick

From: Dawn Frazier <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 2:03 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 18, 2021, 2:03 pm

First Name: **Dawn**

Last Name: **Frazier**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99737**

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

Public Comment: **Hello, I am a resident of Delta Junction. As you know we are a rural village on the road system. Our population consists of rural Alaskans, military and mostly non native Alaskans. We have a large Ukrainian population and a sizable Puerto Rican population. Our school system deals with those associated languages. We have almost no legislative concerns that resemble a native village in remote Alaska. Our healthcare is different, our school district is different, our job opportunities are different and even our shopping habits are different. My understanding is that the Redistricting committee is to meet three goals...Contiguous, Consolidated and similar in socioeconomic presence. Well, you got contiguous, but have failed on the other two. I am deeply concerned that our issues will be disregarded if any of these plans are used. This community is a predominately republican conservative with many Libertarians as well. This is not at all inline with most of the native communities within the state. Of all the plans you proposed I find Plan 4 the least offensive but I still strongly believe it is a poor plan. Please reconsider your plans and listen to our input.**

Thank you,

Dawn Frazier

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Ketchikan 10/6 Verbal Testimony

Summary date: October 17, 2021

Name: **Janalee Gage**

Public Comment: **Ms. Gage noted that Metlakatla and Prince of Wales are tied to Ketchikan through similar needs and economic drivers. Ms. Gage opposes the separation of these communities from Ketchikan. Ms. Gage wants to ensure everyone is equally represented and that they are not making it hard for some districts to get the representation they deserve.**

From: Rebecca Gallen <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:57 AM
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 18, 2021, 11:57 am

First Name: **Rebecca**

Last Name: **Gallen**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **I support Doyon, Ltd's suggestion of redistricting. I live in Northway and would like our interior represented by someone who knows our area. Mike Cronk has been doing quite well for us all.**

From: Bruth George [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 6:25 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Alaska Redistricting Board v3 map

Dear Sirs,

This map shows more population in several Fairbanks districts than is accurate which in effect devalues the weight of Fairbanks North Star Borough votes.

This is the area I live in. I vote in every election and have throughout the sixty-plus years I've lived here. I do not want to lose any of the voice I have when next there is an election.

Betty R. George
[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99712

From: Tristan Glowa <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 3:06 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 20, 2021, 3:05 pm

First Name: **Tristan**

Last Name: **Glowa**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Fairbanks Maps V.3, V.4 & AFFR**

Public Comment: **As a long-time Fairbanksan and resident of current House District 4, the proposed V.3 map is strongly inadequate at capturing the cohesion of Fairbanks area communities. The AFFR map and board map V.4 are both much more representative in that regards. Specifically, the Fairbanks area is more split up West to East. Living off of Yankovich Road in West Fairbanks, I know that my neighborhood is much more integrated socially with UAF and areas where students and professors and their families live, particularly College, Ester, and Goldstream. In contrast, there is far less natural social connection to the much broader northward and eastward reach of the V.3 map's district 31 out towards Chena Hot Springs Road and Fox. North Pole should also be given its own district as a socially cohesive and politically independent area as it is in the AFFR and V.4 maps, rather than split up and combined with other parts of the borough. The most strikingly unrepresentative feature of the V.3 map is combining Chena Ridge and the Eielson AFB / Richardson highway area into a single map. This seems completely unreasonable to connect two totally geographically separate and culturally disconnected areas into one district. The V.4 and AFFR's respect for the cultural cohesion of Chena Ridge with the UAF/parks side of town and the Eielson area's cohesion with the Richardson / Salcha side of town is far preferable. Thank you.**

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: Michelle Goodwin

Affiliation (if any): self

Email or Phone: [REDACTED] Zip Code: 99709

Area/Map Title/Keywords: Dayon Coalition Proposed Alaska

Public Comment: I feel the Dayon proposal best groups
Alaskans by their cultural lifestyle (sociologically).
As a sociologist I feel it's important to have a
representative the vast majority of the district can
identify with. Interior Alaskans should not be
districted with Alaskans on the coast. These lifestyles
are too disparate. Fairbanks, North Pole, Eielson are all
military dominant areas and it's reasonable to group
them. Ester, Chena Ridge, West Fairbanks are dominated
by the university and should be grouped. But what I
like most about Dayon's proposal is that it keeps
villages together in one district that are villages of
like heritage. I feel this is the best way to assure
all of Alaska's voices are heard.

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: DAVID GUTTENBERG

Affiliation (if any): SELF

Email or Phone: [REDACTED] Zip Code: _____

Area/Map Title/Keywords: _____

Public Comment: PLEASE TRANSCRIBE MY
ORAL TESTIMONY & PUT IT INTO
THE WRITTEN RECORD

David Guttenberg

SCAN HERE TO OPEN THE MAP COMMENT PORTAL →



ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 18, 2021, 4:17 pm

Name: **Elyse Guttenberg**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Public Comment: **Hello, my name is Elyse Guttenberg, and I am a resident here in Fairbanks and have lived in the same house in Goldstream Valley-- the current District 4-- for over 40 years, and I've watched as my district changed shape through the redistricting process.**

As you know, the last time we went through this process, the court found that the proposed boundaries of District 4, which reached nearly to Alaska's western coast, did not meet the constitutional requirements that all districts be contiguous and compact, and contain a relatively integrated socio-economic area.

It's my hope that this time, we can create more reasonable divisions from the start and not shortchange Fairbanks while other areas of the state benefit, or create districts that have nothing in common from a socio-economic perspective, which is exactly what seems to be occurring in some of the proposed maps.

- **For instance, in the Redistricting Board Version 3 map, the number of people packed into the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) denies us full representation and our right to one person to one vote. It places Chena Ridge in the same district as Salcha, although the two communities are not only far apart, but have little in common.**
- **The AFFER map is also very problematic in that it unfairly divides the community of Ester and overall deviates too far from the desired population numbers.**
- **The Board's Map # 4 along with the Senate Minority and the AFFR maps do a better job by aligning Fairbanks into East/West Districts, rather than North/South, and in this way afford us more equitable representation in Juneau.**

The final map should have deviations as low as possible so that all areas of Fairbanks are fairly represented and contain the full portion of voters allowed.

**Thank you,
Elyse Guttenberg
Fairbanks, Alaska**

From: Wilma Hampson <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 6:35 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 18, 2021, 6:34 am

First Name: **Wilma**

Last Name: **Hampson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99635**

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

Public Comment: **Please do not put Nikiski and surrounding areas in with South Anchorage, Hope, & Girdwood. We have nothing in common with them. Keep our borders within our current service area! Thank you.**

From: Michele Hartline <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 12:56 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 17, 2021, 12:55 pm

First Name: **Michele**

Last Name: **Hartline**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99635**

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

Public Comment: I currently live in Nikiski and I'm quite concerned about the possibility of being grouped with the South Anchorage area. I also lived in that South Anchorage location (Goldenvue Drive off Rabbit Creek Rd) for 16 years prior to moving to Nikiski, and I can personally attest that the two areas are polar opposites in socio-economic priorities and concerns. Mary Jackson's testimony to your board during the Kenai peninsula road tour describes many of the detailed objections best (ref: the KPB service areas that are inter-linked compact areas where KPB interests will be imploded if Nikiski is isolated from the KPBorough. Nikiski has the most service areas within the KPB.

I moved to Nikiski when it was linked with South Anchorage in years past and know that Nikiski was completely disenfranchised by the elected representative at that time who resided in Anchorage.

I believe that the Kenai Peninsula Borough should be districted intact, with districts drawn solely within the borough boundaries.

I support the Redistricting Maps version 3 or 4.

Thank you all for your hard work on behalf of Alaska.

From: Eileen Herman <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:33 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 18, 2021, 1:33 pm

First Name: **Eileen**

Last Name: **Herman**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99737**

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

Public Comment: **I like the AFFR map because we are in more similar communities (road system). It makes a big difference. There are more challenges for the big 36R district and it makes more sense for our representation. A larger district, like in some of the other maps, would mean we get less time with our representative.**

From: Barbara Heuer <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 8:11 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 21, 2021, 8:10 am

First Name: **Barbara**

Last Name: **Heuer**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting -- District 31 Proposal for Fritz Creek**

Public Comment: **I am strongly opposed to the redistricting proposal to move Fritz Creek and the East End Road area to the east into the same district with Kodiak. The population in the area under consideration for redistricting uses the same roads, hospital, schools, medical clinics, library, airport, and harbor as Homer and the surrounding area. There is no access from Fritz Creek to Kodiak, other than by water or by air via a flight through Anchorage. Voters in the Fritz Creek area work in the Homer schools, at the hospital, own and staff local Homer-area businesses year-round, and are actively engaged in Homer's summer tourist industry.**

From: Jill Hoffman <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 8:41 AM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 22, 2021, 8:40 am

First Name: **Jill**

Last Name: **Hoffman**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99559**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Growing population in SW Region**

Public Comment: **Due to the growing number of people in our SW region, I would like this board to revisit the idea of adding another house of representative to our region, so that someone from Nome or Kotzebue isn't forced to represent us as a region. We have very unique needs very different from the people up North, both culturally and economically. In order to due everyone fair justice, as it states in our constitution, we need another representative to address our local and regional needs here in SW Alaska as our population grows.**

From: Luke Hopkins <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 8:50 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 20, 2021, 8:50 pm

First Name: **Luke**

Last Name: **Hopkins**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

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

Public Comment: **Oct 20, 2021**

I am Luke Hopkins, a resident in Fairbanks North Star Borough for 54 years in the current area of District 4. I've watched as this district 4 changed shape through past redistricting actions. For a multi-year period it went from western part of the Fairbanks North Star Borough all the way out almost to the western Alaska coast as district 38.

I was the Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor at the time of the last redistricting process. Our local government participated in the court actions that found those boundaries did not meet the constitutional requirements that all districts be contiguous, compact, and contain relatively integrated socio-economic areas.

This time I hope the Board can arrive at a reasonable Fairbanks area map that avoids problems I address below.

On the issue of boundaries, our interior borough area must have one person "one vote and must not be over counted where this area loses that principal. To maintain this fair representation there will be a portion of borough voters within a district that extends beyond our borough boundaries. I heard at a recent public redistricting board session that legal opinions say to maintain political boundaries " but this is not necessary as has been shown with the last two redistricting efforts.

" The Redistricting Board Version 3 map has packed people into the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) denying us full representation and our right to one person one vote. It also places Chena Ridge in the same district as Salcha, although the two communities are not only far apart, but have little in common with reference to socio-economic participation.

" It appears the AFFER map does not meet many constitutional standards and is very problematic in that it divides the close-knit community area of Ester into 2 proposed House Districts.

" The Board's Map # 4 and the AFFR map do a better job by aligning Fairbanks into East / West Districts, rather than North / South, and in this way affords voters a more equitable representation when I look at how we shop and

the school boundaries we have.

Additional map issues:

Board map V4 should adjust the over & under counts to better equalize population distribution. North Pole and the surrounding area should maintain its population within proposed District 36 boundaries as it contains much of its commerce and social activities there.

In Bd V4 the areas of Salcha and Eielson are reasonably placed with Delta. This allocation is similar to our existing district maps where Dist 6 extends way beyond the FNSB boundaries.

The Board's final map should have deviations as low as possible so that all parts of our community are fairly represented and should provide the overall district allocations based on our right to a fair one person - one vote.

From: Mackinzie Hutchings <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 3:14 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 22, 2021, 3:14 pm

First Name: **Mackinzie**

Last Name: **Hutchings**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99645**

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

Public Comment: **I'm against the redistricting of Knik River Road. I live out on this road and I feel this is a decision that will not positively impact our neighborhoods or roads.**

We are apart of the Mat su valley, and it should stay that way.

From: Karyn Janssen [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 10:38 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistributing maps

Hi, I attended the Monday night event in Fairbanks to examine the new redistributing maps that have been made available. I was very upset about the previous (currently existing) map, which essentially diluted the Fairbanks vote, and basically eliminated my opinion from counting in any except National elections. I live in the Chena Hot Springs Road area, only 12 miles from Downtown Fairbanks and was included in that ridiculously huge, non socio-economic Compatible group that seems to be a catch all to make a non-workable system work. I prefer to be part of an elections map that makes sense to the voters and the way our State government works.

As the current choices stand, I prefer either the Board Proposed maps #3 or #4 or the AFFER proposed map.

However, I would love to discuss the whole idea of why each district needs to represent the magic number of 18,000+, and why, if our State population has declined, why it is not possible to shrink the size of our State legislature. Why not divide the state up into districts that make sense regarding geography and socio-economic sameness, etc., and then divide those regions into subdivisions that meet some magic number required to satisfy the one man/one vote rule of our democracy? Just because we have x number of State Legislators, they each need to represent 18,000+ individuals? Try shrinking the number of Legislators when the population declines, it might make them work better! And make it harder to increase those numbers of legislative reps again, if/when the population climbs again. More is not necessarily better!

I prefer maps that keep communities together as a whole, rather than just 'breaking off a chunk' to make the magic numbers work. Hang your 'Party' hats on the hook and do your job to protect the integrity of our communities and our elections! Thank you for considering my opinion.

KarynJanssen,
a 52 year resident of Fairbanks,
who votes in every election

Sent from my iPad

From: Virginia Jorgensen <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 5:45 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 17, 2021, 5:44 pm

First Name: **Virginia**

Last Name: **Jorgensen**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99635**

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

Public Comment: **I am firmly opposed to the addition of Nikiski to Anchorage and Girdwood districts. We are not located remotely close to them and need to be kept with Kenai and Soldotna.**

From: Vera Kalugin <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 12:01 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 20, 2021, 12:00 pm

First Name: **Vera**

Last Name: **Kalugin**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Resident of East End Rd**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

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

Public Comment: **Please do not redistrict the falls creek and fox river. We need to be here in this district . Our jobs and schools and area where we put all our money is here in Homer.**

From: lorenk [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 4:10 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting Maps

I am a 27 year resident of the South Knik River and a 40 plus year resident of Alaska. I appreciate the opportunity to testify regarding the redistricting maps being proposed.

Specifically, I am against any of the proposals which would take the Butte Precinct and/or any part of the South Knik River area and align them with an Anchorage district. This should not have been done as a split district years ago, and should not be done now.

Area residents are part of the Mat-Su Borough. We do our shopping in Palmer, we feel "Palmer Pride", and we definitively do not identify as part of the Anchorage Borough in any way, shape or form.

I personally go to Anchorage, like many in this area, only to catch a plane, pick up a visitor or once in a great while to attend an event there. I dine out, grocery shop, visit, hike, work, and recreate in the Mat-Su Borough.

I would think that the Board would consider that a high standard of "socio-economic integration" would be achieved by keeping all of the Butte District, including the South Knik River, in a Mat-Su Borough District. If you were to visit with people in the area and find out more about their lives, work and recreation, you would not feel it was aligned with the Anchorage Borough.

Additionally, adopting the Doyon map or a similar one is an outlandish disregard for the integrity of the Mat-Su Borough boundary, especially as the current Board has taken the position that the integrity of borough and municipal boundaries should be maintained as a highest priority. I deeply resent being paired with the Anchorage district when working with any of my elected officials. For over a quarter century I have identified as a Matanuska Susitna Borough resident and most of my social and economic ties lie within this region.

Sincerely,

Loren Karro

[REDACTED]
Palmer, AK 99645
[REDACTED]

"To make life a little better for people less fortunate than you. That's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for oneself, but for one's community." Ruth Bader Ginsburg

From: Cheryl Keepers <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 12:41 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 19, 2021, 12:40 pm

First Name: **Cheryl**

Last Name: **Keepers**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

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

Public Comment: **I support the map submitted by Alaskans for Fair Redistricting. It does the best job of representing the many diverse communities in our state.**

Another concern is to properly represent the FNSB population by not exceeding the 18,335 in each district which some proposals do.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 17, 2021, 7:28 pm

First Name: **Mary E** Last Name: **Kehrhahn-Stark**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99708**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Integrity in the selection of the Final Redistricting Map for 2021**

Public Comment: **Thank you for the opportunity to comment today. My name is Mary E Kehrhahn-Stark. I am a 30 year resident of the Goldstream Valley located in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.**

The AFFR and Version 4 Maps depict a realistic version of life here in West Fairbanks.

The Alaska Constitution explains the criteria to be followed when drawing a district's boundary: The House should be formed of contiguous and compact territory, and relatively integrated socioeconomic area,

The House should contain a population as near as practical to the quotient attained by dividing the population of the state by 40,

And, that each senate District be composed as near as practicable of 2 contiguous House Districts.

Yes, the AFFR map is very realistic to how neighborhoods are situated in the borough. The map follows the most likely road and geographical divisions. On the westside, 33Q, where my home is located, Ballaine Road in the AFFR is shown as the border between East and West, and it certainly is. When I want to go Skiing at Birch Hill on the East Side of Fairbanks, I use Ballaine as the main RD to get on to that side of the borough. Ballaine also is somewhat of a division between those that are likely to work at the Ft Knox Goldmine with residences on the east of Ballaine, and those that residences on the left of Ballaine are most likely UAF students or professors.

In general, Version 4 and the AFFR version maps offer reasonable division of the city of Fairbanks west/east and most importantly, respect the socio-economic divisions created by the Parks and Richardson highways. These 2 map versions also maintain the University and the surrounding community, that this area is, a relatively integrated socioeconomic area and neighborhoods in common. Finally, North Pole is contained within its own district, thus recognizing its political lines and socioeconomic factors.

Secondly, AFFR doesn't allow for high population deviations-thus following one of the three criteria stressed in the Alaska Constitution. Low deviations from the quotient ensures that all neighborhoods are equally represented.

Finally, the city of Fairbanks and Rural Fairbanks is reasonably divided into 2 districts each, for socioeconomic purposes and community cohesion, completely sensible in my opinion.

I urge you to use the AFFR or the Version 4 map as the 2021 Redistricting Map. These are realistic and true to life here in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Thank you for all your work and consideration.

From: Sue Keller [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 4:28 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: 2021 Redistricting Testimony

Dear Redistricting Board,

My concern is that the Redistricting Board's plan v. 3 overpopulates 5 Fairbanks North Star Borough districts in order to maintain borough boundaries. It thereby devalues the weight of our Borough votes. Even with the reduction in Borough population according to the 2020 Census, the Borough is entitled to 5.22 districts, so the lines should be drawn as they are now with some borough residents extended into a nearby Interior district including the possibility of including Valdez.

One of the Alaska Constitutional requirements for redistricting is equality of population. The Board v. 3 map (where Fairbanks is designated districts 31-35) gives us the most deviation from the target population for districts (18,335) of any of the areas in any of the six plans. This is clear if you look at the deviation tables for each of the plans on the Redistricting Board website. Because this is counter to the requirement of equality of population with the aim to uphold the principle of one person, one vote, the Redistricting Board v.3 plan needs to be modified for the FNSB Borough, should you choose to adopt that plan.

Sincerely,
Carolyn Keller
Fairbanks, Alaska



Sponsored by: Council Members Knackstedt and Pettey

CITY OF KENAI

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-61

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, OPPOSING THE DOYON COALITION REDISTRICTING MAP AS PRESENTED.

WHEREAS, the City of Kenai has a land area of approximately 29 square-miles with a population of 7,424 according to the 2020 Decennial Census; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Redistricting Board, in accordance with Article 6 of the Alaska State Constitution and the Federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, is charged with preparing a redistricting plan based on results from each decennial U.S. Census; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Redistricting Board has adopted six plans for inclusion in the public hearing tour and all maps, with the exception of one keep the City of Kenai whole in one district; and,

WHEREAS, the Doyon Coalition Proposed Plan, adopted by the Alaska Redistricting Board for inclusion in the public hearing tour, separates out a portion of the City of Kenai and puts it in a different district from the rest of the City of Kenai; and,

WHEREAS, the Alaska Division of Elections sets election precincts from the finally adopted Redistricting Map and does not create split precincts for themselves by crossing district lines; and,

WHEREAS, if the Doyon Coalition Proposed Plan were to be finally adopted by the Alaska Redistricting Board, as currently presented, it is likely the portion of the City of Kenai located in a different district from the rest of the City of Kenai will be included in an election precinct with the majority of the precinct being outside of the Kenai City Limits not only creating a fourth election precinct for the City of Kenai but also causing a split precinct for local elections; and,

WHEREAS, by adding a fourth precinct the City will realize increased costs for its elections; and,

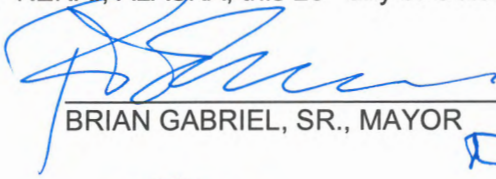
WHEREAS, additionally, it is very possible that a City of Kenai resident in this portion of the City separated into a different district could have to travel outside of the City of Kenai to cast their City of Kenai ballot which could contribute to voter confusion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA:


Section 1. The Council of the City of Kenai opposes the Doyon Coalition Redistricting Map as currently presented. The City of Kenai has no opposition to other plans or the Doyon Coalition map if it is amended to keep the City of Kenai whole in one district.

Section 2. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENAI, ALASKA, this 20th day of October, 2021.


BRIAN GABRIEL, SR., MAYOR *FOR*

ATTEST:



Jamie Heinz, MMC, City Clerk





KENAI

City of Kenai | 210 Fidalgo Ave, Kenai, AK 99611-7794 | 907.283.7535 | www.kenai.city

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Brian Gabriel and Kenai City Council
FROM: Council Members Knackstedt and Pettey
DATE: October 13, 2021
SUBJECT: Resolution No. 2021-61

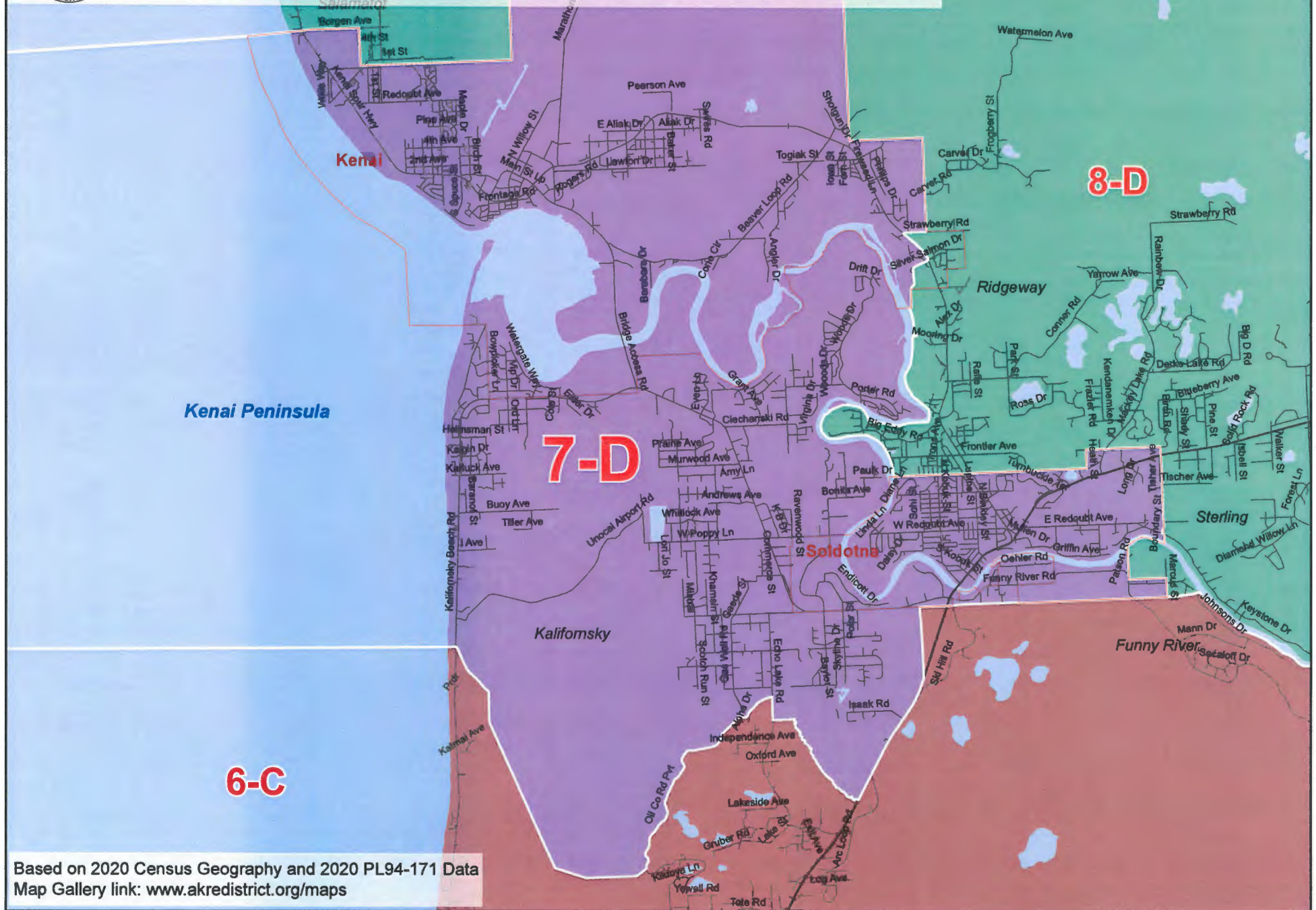
The Doyon Coalition Redistricting Map, as currently drafted, separates a portion of the City of Kenai and includes it in a different district from the rest of the City of Kenai. Because the Division of Elections draws precinct lines after redistricting is accomplished, and would not create a split precinct for themselves with two districts in one precinct, it is likely that the portion of the City of Kenai separated into another district would be included in an election precinct with the majority of the precinct being outside of the Kenai City Limits. This potentially creates a fourth precinct for the City of Kenai to staff, causes a split precinct for local elections, and potentially causes a City of Kenai resident to travel outside of the City of Kenai to cast their City of Kenai ballot which would contribute to voter confusion.

Your consideration is appreciated.



Doyon Coalition Proposed District 7-D

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

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 20, 2021, 4:13 pm Name: **Barbara Learmonth**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99801**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate Minority Proposed District 34-Q**

Public Comment: I strongly object to the Board's proposed Juneau redistricting map that moves Rep. Andi Storey into Rep. Sara Hannan's district. Juneau voters are asked to believe that nobody on the Redistricting Board intended this result, but this is not credible. It is especially suspect because three other pairs of Democratic legislators are placed in the same district on the Board's proposed new maps, but no Republican legislators are paired in this way. It looks like gerrymandering and smells like gerrymandering, so it probably is gerrymandering. Please correct it.

Here's some information that might help you fix it. As a 43-year resident of Juneau who raised four children here, I feel qualified to comment on what the Board needs to know about Juneau in order to create contiguous, compact, and relatively integrated socio-economic areas in its redistricting maps. First, you should know that Juneau residents of all stripes agree that we have the following areas of town with the following general boundaries:

- **Downtown Juneau - original White settlement at the mouth of Gold Creek**
- **Douglas - southern part of the island from Douglas Bridge to the southern end of the road**
- **North Douglas - northern part of the island from Douglas Bridge to the northern end of the road**
- **Thane - south edge of Downtown to the southern end of the road**
- **Lemon Creek - north of Downtown to the Fred Meyer store**
- **Airport Area - west side of the Egan Expressway from the heliport to the south side of the Mendenhall River**
- **Mendenhall Valley - east side of the Egan Expressway from the Fred Meyer store to the south side of the Mendenhall River**
- **Mendenhall Peninsula - Fritz Cove Road and Mendenhall Peninsula Road**
- **Back Loop - north side of the Mendenhall River to Auke Bay**
- **Auke Bay and UAS Glacier Highway from Fritz Cove Road to the Fishermen's Bend gas station**
- **Out the Road - Glacier Highway from Auke Bay to the northern end of the road**

You also should understand the following characteristics of these areas:

- **Two hub areas: The two hub areas -- Downtown Juneau and the Mendenhall Valley -- are distinctly different. Downtown has many government offices, historic buildings, tourist attractions, and narrow twisty streets. The Valley is suburban, with malls and subdivisions and sidewalks. Downtown has a lot of singles and cultural events. The Valley has more families and ballfields.**
- **Five rural areas: The five rural areas -- North Douglas, Thane, Mendenhall Peninsula, Back Loop, and Out the Road -- have larger lots and lower population densities. They have no**

schools and little or no commercial activity. They generally send their children to school, do their business, seek their entertainment and attend church in the nearest hub area.

- **Demographics: The Alaska Native population is spread primarily from Downtown Juneau and Douglas to the Mendenhall Valley. Judging by the housing, there are pockets of wealth and poverty throughout Juneau.**
- **Natural divide. The natural divide between Downtown and the Valley is roughly at the Nugget Mall near the airport. This should be reflected as concisely as possible in our redistricting map, without suspicious looking tentacles.**

I believe the foregoing description of Juneau is most accurately represented in the District 34-Q redistricting map proposed by the Senate Minority. Please adopt it so the Court doesn't have to fix the appearance of gerrymandering in the Redistricting Board map. Alaskan taxpayers are stretched thin, and we won't be pleased if our tax dollars are diverted from real needs to redistricting litigation.

Thank you.

From: Norm Lemoine <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:09 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 18, 2021, 1:08 pm

First Name: **Norm**

Last Name: **Lemoine**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99737**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Delta Junction 10/18 handwritten testimony**

Public Comment: **Map: AFFR map**

Comment: Road system continuity 36R [of the AFFR map] makes the most sense.

From: Regina Lemoine <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 1:10 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 18, 2021, 1:10 pm

First Name: **Regina**

Last Name: **Lemoine**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99737**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Delta Junction 10/18 handwritten testimony**

Public Comment: **Map: AFFR 36R**

Comment: [AFFR 36R] keeps road system together. Eliminates villages with no connection to the road system communities.

From: Therese Lewandowski <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 2:46 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 18, 2021, 2:45 pm

First Name: **Therese**

Last Name: **Lewandowski**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **AFFR proposed plan should include Nanwalek and Port Graham**

Public Comment: **Hi - For Homer and vicinity, I prefer the redistricting option that begins just north of Anchor Point, runs south to and includes all of the mainland east of Homer, stretches to and includes Seward and , includes Seldovia across Kachemak Bay. This is the proposed plan put out by AFFR. But, I think it should include Nanwalek and Port Graham. The closest mainland to them is the Kenai Peninsula. It would make more sense that legislation prioritizing the Kenai Peninsula would affect them more than legislation that prioritizes Kodiak. Thank you.**

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

Petersburg 10/7 Verbal Testimony

Summary date: October 17, 2021

Name: **Brian Lynch**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Public Comment: **Mr. Lynch spoke in favor of the Senate Minority Caucus map's proposed District 35-R as it makes most sense for Petersburg to be connected to Sitka.**

From: Milli Martin [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:38 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: redistricting,

I strongly support # 4, for district 91, around the city of Homer, It makes sense and is as it should be.

Thank you.

Mildred M. Martin
[REDACTED]
Homer, Alaska 99603

From: Antanina Martushev <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 11:10 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 21, 2021, 11:10 am

First Name: **Antanina**

Last Name: **Martushev**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

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

Public Comment: **It makes no sense to move Fritz Creek, Fox River, and beyond to the Kodiak District. We go to Homer for groceries, work, school, etc. Many of us have never even been to Kodiak, why should our representatives be out of reach to us.**

From: Nila Martushev [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 1:12 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Dont fix what's not broken

I live down East End road. Redistricting us to Kodiak makes no sense. We do not associate with Kodiak at all. All of our business is in Homer. Everything connects us to Homer. We love our district the way it is. So sending us off to an island is a good way to upset a lot of folks.

Dont fix what's not broken.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Petersburg 10/7 Verbal Testimony

Summary date: October 17, 2021

Name: **Malena Marvin**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Petersburg 10/7 Verbal Testimony**

Public Comment: **Ms. Marvin spoke in favor of the Senate Minority Caucus map's proposed District 35-R for the following reasons:**

- 1. It is good to maintain continuity as the districts are right now. There are not any significant injustices to the way the district is currently mapped.**
- 2. Petersburg is closest to the Wrangell community in terms of travel, school, etc.**
- 3. It makes sense to keep the small and mid-size communities (i.e. Petersburg, Sitka, Wrangell, Kake) together as they have similar needs from state government. Economically, these islands are similar (logging, fishing).**
- 4. Petersburg is against cruise ships, and it would not make sense to pair Petersburg with Ketchikan or Juneau where it is heavily dependent on cruise ships as economic drivers.**
- 5. Petersburg tends to do more travel and business with Sitka and Prince of Wales than they do with Juneau or Ketchikan through the fishing industry.**

From: 1Gokartgeek1 [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 3:02 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Keep the Butte out of the MOA

Good afternoon Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you briefly and emphatically to let you know that my position on blending the Butte precinct with the MOA is not just no, but hell no.

Myself and many others in my community made an intentional choice NOT to be within the MOA for a multitude of personal and pragmatic reasons. It is unacceptable to consider a proposal that would violate the MSB's standing boundary. Again let me reiterate, I, as an SKRCC homeowner, do not want to be paired with Anchorage and identify as an exclusively Mat-Su community.

Thank you for your time.
Sincerely,

Hayden Maxwell

From: Steve and Joyce McCombs [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 2:43 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: AFFR preference

As a Deltana resident, I prefer the AFFR proposed map.

Steve McCombs [REDACTED] Delta Jct. AK 99737

From: Chris Miller <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 12:47 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 18, 2021, 12:47 pm

First Name: **Chris**

Last Name: **Miller**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99775**

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

Public Comment: **In general, the Doyon derived map seems to must closely represent all of the goals of redistricting. I specifically like the how it seems to keep soic-econmic regions together. The Fairbanks, McCarthy and Valdez area seems particulaaly well put together**

From: Leonard Miller <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:31 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 19, 2021, 11:31 am

First Name: **Leonard**

Last Name: **Miller**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

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

Public Comment: **Board: Thank-you for your work and input session in Homer. In talking to a staff member it was revealed that senate districts are not finalized until house district lines are certain. Is this a good strategy in light of the fact that Kodiak becomes a district mess as lines drawn in each proposal are very broken? In my opinion, Kodiak senate district lines should include the island and move west until population numbers are acceptable to the board. I believe Kodiak should not be in the same senate district as Homer communities and Seward, which should be part of a Kenai/Soldotna senate district. If I had to pick a proposal I'd say AFFER seems reasonable except for Kodiak's sprawling, broken district and the unfortunate senate district concerns I've mentioned. It might be nice if Port Graham and Nanwalek were in the same district as Seldovia, in the AFFER proposal, but perhaps those villages would prefer to be included in Kodiak's house district. I don't know. Thank-you. Leonard Miller**

From: Kristen Mrozowski <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 7:36 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 20, 2021, 7:35 pm

First Name: **Kristen**

Last Name: **Mrozowski**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **In support of the AFFR proposed map**

Public Comment: **As a resident of West Anchorage/Turnagain, I believe the Alaskans For Fair Redistricting map proposed District 16-H best represents this community and the corridors its residents functionally inhabit. Other proposed maps keep Turnagain lumped with the Westside Lakes and "Berry" streets, a neighborhood with which I see little functional connectivity or community. Thank you for your time and the opportunity to comment.**



October 21, 2021

Submitted via Email

Alaska Redistricting Board
P.O. Box 240147
Anchorage, AK 99524
testimony@akredistrict.org

Dear Chairman Binkley and members of the Alaska Redistricting Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the Alaska Redistricting Board's ("Board") public meetings. We write to provide feedback about the Board's ongoing public hearings and next steps in the redistricting process. First, we want to reiterate our concerns about the lack of a virtual or telephonic attendance option at the Board's public hearings throughout the state and to respectfully request that the Board provide an opportunity for all Alaskans to participate in their regional redistricting meetings. Second, we encourage the Board to complete its Voting Rights Act analysis and propose Senate districts as soon as is practicable to provide Alaskans with adequate time to review and provide comments on those fundamental components of the redistricting process.

First Alaskans Institute is a statewide Alaska Native nonprofit that works to educate key decision makers about our peoples, amplify the voices of our communities, and advance our ways of life. Alaska Natives have a vested interest in the well-being of this state because these are our homelands, and our intergenerational connections, skills, hard work, and capacity come from these lands. Our diverse knowledge systems exemplify over 10,000 years of best practices.

The Native American Rights Fund is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that focuses on applying existing laws and treaties to guarantee that national and state governments live up to their legal obligations to tribes.

I. The Board should provide a telephonic or virtual attendance option for all public hearings.

Currently, the Board's open house format provides no option for community members to participate in the public hearings, unless they attend in person. In light of the ongoing COVID-19

crisis and Alaska’s soaring and unprecedented COVID-19 infection rates,¹ it is essential that the Board provide a virtual or teleconference option for attendance to ensure that all Alaskans have the opportunity to participate. Merely accepting written testimony online, or during a statewide call-in meeting, is not an adequate alternative for participation in local public hearings. Requiring in-person attendance also limits the ability of Alaskans to hear directly from the Board. Without a telephonic or virtual attendance option, the Board’s explanations of the proposed maps and responses to questions at public hearings are only accessible to individuals who attend in person.

We are particularly concerned about the access inequities that this policy creates in rural Alaska. The current open house format prevents community members who are unable to attend in person from hearing directly from the Board, and other local residents, about the proposed districts in their area. Without a virtual or telephonic attendance option, the COVID-19 crisis along with the ordinary barriers to travel prevent many Alaskans from participating in the public hearings in their region. Though the Board has provided a call-in testimony option on the same day as some public hearings, it has done so inconsistently.² Additionally, when the Board has provided a call-in testimony option, it has been separate from and scheduled at a different time than the in-person public hearing.³ This is not an adequate alternative for a telephonic or virtual participation option for the public hearing itself. The inconsistency in the availability of a call-in testimony option for some, but not all, public hearings creates confusion for Alaskans. To avoid further confusion and ensure that all Alaskans can participate in public hearings, the Board should provide a virtual or telephonic opportunity to participate in all future public hearings and include call-in information in the official public notice for each meeting.

The opportunity for Alaskans to engage with each other is critical to the redistricting process. The lack of virtual or telephonic access prevents rural voices from being heard and it prevents Alaskans from hearing and understanding the concerns of residents in their own region and other regions

¹ *E.g.*, Lex Treinen, *Officials warn of plateau as Alaska reports 964 new resident COVID cases*, Alaska Public Media (Oct. 14, 2021), <https://www.alaskapublic.org/2021/10/14/officials-warn-of-plateau-as-alaska-reports-964-new-resident-covid-cases/> (noting that “Alaska continues to lead the country in its COVID-19 rate”).

² *Compare* Alaska Redistricting Bd. Public Hearing - Bethel - Oct. 19, 2021 (Oct. 7, 2021), [hereinafter Bethel Public Notice] <http://notice.alaska.gov/204040> (providing a call-in testimony option prior to the public hearing) *and* Alaska Redistricting Bd. Public Hearing - Kotzebue - Oct. 5, 2021 (Sept. 29, 2021), [hereinafter Kotzebue Public Notice] <http://notice.alaska.gov/203945> (providing a call-in testimony option prior to the public hearing) *with* Alaska Redistricting Bd. Public Hearing - Dillingham - Oct. 21, 2021 (Oct. 7, 2021), <http://notice.alaska.gov/204041> (not providing a call-in testimony option); Alaska Redistricting Bd. Public Hearing - Unalaska - Oct. 22, 2021 (Oct. 7, 2021), <http://notice.alaska.gov/204042> (not providing call-in testimony option); Alaska Redistricting Bd. Public Hearing - Utqiagvik - Oct. 28, 2021 (Oct. 7, 2021), <http://notice.alaska.gov/204046> (not providing a call-in testimony option); *and* Alaska Redistricting Bd. Public Hearing - Nome - Oct. 11, 2021 (Oct. 6, 2021), <http://notice.alaska.gov/204033> (not providing a call-in testimony option).

³ *See* Bethel Public Notice; Kotzebue Public Notice.

throughout the state. Even if the Board restricts call-in testimony to specific times, a listen-only option for all public hearings would facilitate rural Alaskans' involvement in the redistricting process. Virtual and telephonic meetings are a common part of life in rural Alaska, and the Board does a disservice to rural communities by not providing that option for all of the Board's public meetings.

II. The Board should complete its Voting Rights Act analysis and publish proposed Senate districts as soon as is practicable.

We encourage the Board to conduct Voting Rights Act (VRA) analysis on its proposed maps and make that information available for public review and comment as soon as practicable. Undertaking VRA analysis, and sharing the analysis with the public, sooner rather than later will promote a transparent and fair redistricting process by providing Alaskans with an opportunity to review the analysis and provide valuable input to the Board.

When drawing a map, the Board is required to consider the Alaska Constitution's requirements first, and then the Board must evaluate if the proposed plan complies with the VRA.⁴ This process does not require that the Board wait until the very end of the public hearings before considering the VRA. Instead, the Board must create its initial draft map(s) by first looking to the State's constitutional requirements, and then making VRA-required adjustments as necessary.⁵ At this point, the Board has already drawn and adopted several proposed maps and should no longer delay its consideration of the VRA. Further postponing the VRA analysis will preclude Alaskans from reviewing and commenting on the analysis and any VRA-required adjustments, and in turn hamper the Board's ability to make well-informed decisions.

Similarly, the Board should make proposed Senate districts available with adequate time for Alaskans to review and provide input on the proposed pairings.⁶ Much like the proposed House districts, the Senate pairings would benefit from insights and feedback from the public. If the Board decides not to consider VRA compliance or propose Senate districts until after the public hearing process is completed, it will significantly hinder the ability of the public to fully and fairly participate in the redistricting process.

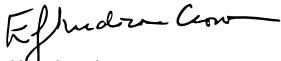
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. We recognize the many challenges posed by the redistricting process and appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

⁴ *In re 2011 Redistricting Cases*, 274 P.3d 466, 467-68 (Alaska 2012).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ ALASKA CONST. art. VI sec. 6 ("Each senate district shall be composed as near as practicable of two contiguous house districts.").



Elizabeth La quen náay Medicine Crow
President/ & CEO
First Alaskans Institute
laquennaay@firstalaskans.org
(907) 677-1708



Megan Condon
Staff Attorney
Native American Rights Fund
MCondon@narf.org
(907) 276-0680

From: Miranda Nelson <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 2:07 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 17, 2021, 2:06 pm

First Name: **Miranda**

Last Name: **Nelson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99611 or 99635**

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

Public Comment: **I'm a lifelong Nikiski resident and I'm concerned about some of the proposed redistricting maps. It makes absolutely no socio economic or geographic sense to combine Nikiski with South Anchorage. Nikiski has been combined with South Anchorage before and it wasn't an ideal situation. Please choose map version 3 or 4 and keep the Kenai Peninsula Borough together as a whole. Keeping Nikiski with the Kenai Peninsula maintains streamlined representation and does not allow for the disenfranchisement of Nikiski residents.**

From: Julie Nystrom <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 3:16 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 22, 2021, 3:16 pm

First Name: **Julie**

Last Name: **Nystrom**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Knik river rd resident**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99645**

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

Public Comment: **We would like to remain in the voting district of Palmer and not Anchorage. Our address is Palmer and our issues are much different then Anchorage as we are in a rural setting.**

From: Wayne Ogle <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 23, 2021 1:09 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 23, 2021, 1:09 pm

First Name: **Wayne**

Last Name: **Ogle**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99635**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Map - Revision 3 & 4**

Public Comment: **I totally support Board Map Rev 3 or 4.**

I live in Nikiski. Some current maps have Nikiski being separated from the KENAI Peninsula and placed in Anchorage. That was done to Nikiski during the last district organization. Sen. Giessel, our then representative, has testified how badly the public was served. We do not need to repeat this folly. Nikiski is very rural and not socio-economically tied to suburban South Anchorage. Also, Rev 3 or 4 map boundaries respects the Borough' service areas which is very important in providing important services to our people.

The Board has got it right with your Rev 3 or 4.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Ketchikan 10/6 Verbal Testimony

Summary date: October 17, 2021

Name: **Dan Ortiz**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **State Rep. District 36**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: Mr. Ortiz echoed the comments given from all speakers during the 10/6 Ketchikan public hearing about keeping Ketchikan, Saxman, and Metlakatla together in the same district as it currently is. Additionally, Hyder should remain in the same district as it is important that they have representation by remaining with Ketchikan.

Mr. Ortiz spoke in favor of Board Maps v. 3 and v.4 and recommended that the board give more consideration to the Senate Minority Caucus map as it gives District 1 the southern parts of the Prince of Wales Island, including communities such as Craig, but at the expense of Wrangell. Ketchikan and Wrangell have strong ties to one another.

Mr. Ortiz noted that because Wrangell also has strong ties to Petersburg and that the Wrangell community may feel better being connected to Petersburg rather than Ketchikan.

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

Ketchikan 10/6 Verbal Testimony

Summary date: October 17, 2021

Name: **Lori Ortiz**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Public Comment: Ms. Ortiz noted that as an educator in Ketchikan, she supports a plan that keeps Ketchikan, Saxman, and Metlakatla in the same district. These three places are very bound together as there are many students who have various family members between Ketchikan and Metlakatla. Additionally, Ms. Ortiz drives through Saxman to go back and forth between Ketchikan and Metlakatla.

From: Tiffany Owen <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 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 18, 2021, 9:36 am

First Name: **Tiffany**

Last Name: **Owen**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99737**

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

Public Comment: **I am Tiffany Owen and I live in Delta Junction. Thank you for all your hard work.**

I fully agree with Mr Squyers. We should not be in a 'catch all' group the size of Texas. This huge area should be split differently and grouped with folks that share similar lifestyles and interests. Please go back to the drawing board and reduce the size of this massive district with it's broadly different cultures.

That concludes my testimony.

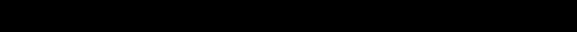
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Ketchikan 10/6 Verbal Testimony

Summary date: October 17, 2021

Name: **Katie Jo Parrott**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Public Comment: **Ms. Parrott stated that she lives at 245 Seawash Drive which is on the south bend of Ketchikan that would be separated from its current district under the proposed Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER) map, specifically District 1-A. Ms. Parrott echoed the comments of Mr. Smith and Mr. Booth from Metlakatla. From the conversation she has had in the community and conversations seen on social media, many people oppose breaking out any part of Ketchikan, including Saxman. Ketchikan is truly one community due to its geographic nature where it is spread out along the coastline. Ms. Parrott noted that Ketchikan also feels connected to Metlakatla and Wrangell as those communities do to Ketchikan.**

From: Syd Paulino <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 12:04 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 22, 2021, 12:03 am

First Name: **Syd**

Last Name: **Paulino**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting Fritz Creek/East End**

Public Comment: **Areas east of Homer on East End Road are intrinsically economically linked to the city of Homer. Those residents use the same roads, schools, airport, and businesses. To make that area a part of the Kodiak district would be doing a disservice to those residents, and to the residents of Kodiak, as well as being a blatant display of gerrymandering. Residents of Fritz Creek and the farther East End area deserve to vote with their community in Homer.**

From: Don Pendergrast <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 5:52 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 17, 2021, 5:51 pm

First Name: **Don**

Last Name: **Pendergrast**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: **I see only 6 proposed districts in plan 3 with a deviation of over 4%. Five of those six are in the greater Fairbanks area. Why are their (our) votes less valuable than other? This plane dilutes the voting power of the Interior. I object!**

From: Julia Person [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 10:05 AM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Redistricting

After attending the recent Redistricting Plan event in Homer, I want to state my support for the AFFR plan.

The Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map is similar to the districts we had from 2002 to 2013. It starts above Anchor Point, includes all of Kachemak Bay and Seldovia (all but Nanwalek and Pt. Graham) and runs across the lower Peninsula, including Seward and Moose Pass. This is a good fit socioeconomically - both areas have strong Commercial fishing, marine trades and tourism. The testimony at the Homer meeting was that the Kachemak Bay area should not be cut into different districts.

In addition, the AFFR map is contiguous, reflects the local government boundaries, and seems politically neutral while maintaining community.

Thank you.
Julia Person, Homer Alaska

A website response from the Map Comment form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: October 18, 2021, 9:43 am
Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting**

Public Comment: I am writing, as a citizen of Homer Alaska, in support of the The Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map. This is a good fit socioeconomically - including Seward and Homer and communities across Kachemak Bay. These areas have strong Commercial fishing, marine trades and tourism economies, and are at the end of the road.

The district lines include coastal communities that have integrated socioeconomic areas as defined in the Alaska Constitution.

The AFFR map is contiguous and compact territory as defined in the Alaska Constitution.

The AFFR map contains the required population quotient as defined in the Alaska Constitution.

The AFFR map reflects the local government boundaries as defined in the Alaska Constitution.

The AFFR map reflects the similar geographic features and drainage as defined in the Alaska Constitution.

The AFFR

From: Kristin [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 8:16 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting

I have lived in Fairbanks as a new resident for a little over a year. I am an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It is my vocation to care for the issues that effect people who are underrepresented and marginalized by the state. For that reason I am asking the board not to divide communities in order to serve one party's political agenda. Please consider how these lines will turn into policies, and let us make sure we are doing right by our neighbors.

Looking at the Fairbanks maps from the Alaska Redistricting Board, there are some pretty dramatic differences between the redistricting board's proposed maps and the third party maps. Proposed version 3 packs 700-800 extra people into every Fairbanks district, which means everyone in Fairbanks is *underrepresented* on that map. It also divides Fairbanks North/South instead of following our town layout East/West (how the Chena moves through town), which puts very different communities together (for example, Steele Creek is in the same district as North Pole, rather than creating a distinct district for North Pole). I find it very problematic that the map puts Ester and Two Rivers in the same district, and College Road ends up in the same district as Moose Creek.

In contrast, the AFFR map divides things quite differently, keeping Ester with Chena Pump/Ridge (which makes sense since these communities feed into the University and west side of town). The City of Fairbanks is divided into East and West districts, and North Pole is in a separate district to accommodate the socioeconomic differences between urban Fairbanks and North Pole.

The lines drawn by the Alaska Redistricting Board are politically motivated, not community oriented. These partisan proposals divide our community and make communities who are already underrepresented and marginalized more vulnerable. We need fair representation in the Alaska Legislature.

Thank you for considering this feedback

- Reverend Kristin Wolf Peters
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: Janet Phillips <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 9:33 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 20, 2021, 9:32 am

First Name: **Janet**

Last Name: **Phillips**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99611**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Map v3 & v4**

Public Comment: **According to the socio-economic integration rule, OUR NEIGHBORS IN NIKISKI need to remain part of the Kenai Peninsula Burrough area. There are proposed maps that redistrict them with South Anchorage! Board Plan version 3 and Board Plan version 4 keep Nikiski intact with the Kenai Peninsula! Based on the map rule of Socio-economic Integration, Nikiski has similar economic pursuits and should remain compact and contiguous with the KPB!**

Socio-economic integration - where people live together and work together and earn their living together. It has been described as occurring when a group of people live within a geographic unit, following, if possible, similar economic pursuits.

From: Stepan Polushkin <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 8:29 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 20, 2021, 8:29 pm

First Name: **Stepan**

Last Name: **Polushkin**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Proposed v.3 District 5 Proposed Redistricting Plan Adopted by the Alaska Redistricting Board 9/20/2021**

Public Comment: **I live in fox river area and I am apart of Homer district 31 were I work, shop, and my kids attend school on the Kenai Peninsula Borough. I am against being removed from Homer district 31 to Kodiak district. I belong to the KPB area, Sarah Vance is my representative, and I would like to keep it that way. It is hard enough for us to get a representative to come down to our community let alone a representative coming down from Kodiak to meet our needs. Redistricting Fox river and Fritz creek area from Homer district to Kodiak district just doesn't make sense.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 19, 2021, 4:27 pm

Name: **Martha Raynolds**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99079**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **v.3 worst in all regards, Doyon Coalition Map best in most**

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

I am a resident of Fairbanks and a professional geographer. I have looked at the six maps on the Redistricting Web Site. I am hoping that you put up Board Proposed Plan V. 3 as a straw-man to attract the most comments. It is a very poor map with regard to deviation from the desired numbers, compactness of districts and integrated socio-economic areas, so I will not comment on it further.

The Doyon Coalition map provides the most logical broad divisions of the State. I recommend the board adopt their boundaries for the rural parts of Alaska. I do not know the different parts of the Anchorage area or Southeast Alaska, so will not comment on those areas.

The Doyon Coalition map also does a good job of dividing Fairbanks into reasonable districts, going from west to east. Having lived with the current districts for 10 years, the Doyon Coalition map would be a huge improvement. The current district lines are so gerrymandered, that I have had to carry a map around with me to know which district I was campaigning in, when walking from door to door.

The Board Proposed Plan V. 4 would also be a reasonable plan for rural Alaska, and I see it mostly matches the Doyon Coalition Plan for rural Alaska. However, your plan has much higher deviations than the Doyon plan overall, so I would suggest looking at the Doyon plan for areas to improve (for example, District 37 and 38 boundaries). For the Fairbanks area, your plan is also similar to the Doyon plan, but with lower deviations (less under-representation for the Fairbanks area), so I would prefer your boundaries in this area.

**Sincerely,
Martha Raynolds**

Redistricting Board Testimony

Thank you Chairman Binkley and other members of the committee for this opportunity to testify today.

My name is Grant Rebne. Sii'clu 'Yedetene Na 'kayax ts'insya'. I am from the Native Village of Cantwell.

I am a tribal member (and **Tribal Village Council member**) of the **Native Village of Cantwell**, as well as a shareholder (and **Board member**) of the **Ahtna Corporation**.

I am testifying today in support of the Doyon Coalition Map.

As I said I am from the **Native Village of Cantwell**, before that we were are Windy Creek (to the Northeast of Cantwell), many of my Grandma's siblings were born in Cantwell, my Grandma was born at Valdez Creek, and my great-grandpa Chitina. **My Great-grandpa, Dan Nicolai, the son of Chief Nicolai**, would hunt South of Chitina all the way through Cantwell and North of Windy Creek. Our family ties are with the entirety of the Ahtna Villages.

Originally, in 1971 ANCSA designated Cantwell to the Doyon Region of Villages. This would have separated us from the other Ahtna Villages, Ahtna Koht'aene, our people. Our socioeconomic, cultural, and traditional ties were and still are with the communities that make up our traditional lands. We fought then to have our community included with our families, our people and our cultural and traditional ties - and we are now asking you to consider the same.

The Coalition map is the only map that keeps our region united. None of the other proposed maps achieve this goal. **And that exclusion is NOT for population deviation - its for convenience.**

The population of Cantwell only makes up .1% of the quotient of 18,335 for each district. The allocation of Cantwell to either district isn't enough to disrupt either district's deviation. **Putting them in a different district disconnects them from us and us from (them/our people).**

Our family ties are with the entirety of the Ahtna Villages. I have with me a family tree that is 50' wide that spans 7 generations of just my relatives of Ahtna people. We have family ties all throughout our villages. Ahtna Koht'aene ts'ilaen we are the Ahtna people.

We would strongly ask that the Board support the adoption of the Doyon Coalition Map.

Tsin'aen ce'e - Thank you very much.

GRANT REBNE

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Fairbanks 10/18 Verbal Testimony

Summarized: 10/19/2021

Name: Lance Roberts

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): Fairbanks 10/18 Verbal Testimony

Public Comment: Mr. Roberts spoke in favor of Board Map v. 4 due to the way the districts are laid out and the Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER) map due to the way the city is laid out by keeping one district encompassing the city while expanding another to meet prior court decisions. Both plans have tight constraints as it with regard to population deviation.

Mr. Roberts suggested modifying Board map v.4 proposed District 31 to have a line going down College Road to University, cutting out some suburbs north of College Road and the University, then come up University to Geist Road to meet the city itself and exclude the Geist neighborhood, and include Fred Meyer, just like the AFFER plan does. Then District 31 could expand eastward into District 32, then District 32 would also have to expand some way. One of the districts must have more population due to the population of the city not being enough for two districts. District 32 could include Lakeview Terrace or South Van Horn which are not within the city, but are both contiguous to the city. Eielson should also be grouped with North Pole and this could also be achieved adopting this line drawing to have only 2 city districts, not 3. Mr. Roberts encouraged the board to have the same city line in Board Map V. 4 as the AFFER map.

From: MARTHA ROBERTS <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 11:17 AM
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 21, 2021, 11:16 am

First Name: **MARTHA**

Last Name: **ROBERTS**

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Comments: My name is Martha Jo Roberts. I live just north of Farmer's Loop Road. I have lived there for over 30 years. Before that, I lived in the University area for 25 years. I am familiar with these neighborhoods. I have the following comments on the proposed maps:

First of all, Board Proposed v.3 map should not be used. It breaks the Fairbanks area into only 5 districts instead of 6, as all the others do, so among other things, Fairbanks loses ½ a senator. In this map we are underrepresented compared to Anchorage and the MatSu. It also separates North Pole and Eielson, areas with common interests.

I favor the Senate Minority Proposed map which puts my neighborhood in with the Goldstream area. The other maps put us with Fox and the NE Boro, areas with which we have less in common.

I also request that the Board release the Senate pairings soon to allow adequate time for comment.

Thank you for your time, and for making public comment so accessible. Thank you also for your excellent website!

From: Dennis Sayer <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 4:19 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting the MatSu - SKRCC

Hello AK Redistricting,

We no longer want to be paired with Anchorage, and identify our/the SKRCC as an exclusively Mat-Su Community.

Adopting the Doyon map, or one that similarly treats the Butte precinct, would represent an egregious disregard for the integrity of the MSB Boundary, which the current SKRCC Board has taken the general position that protecting the integrity of Borough/Municipal Boundaries is one of our highest priorities!

As I type this, NOT ONE of my neighbors in the SKRCC that I've spoken with likes this proposal at all.

And it certainly WILL NOT make our growing Community Area any better or safer in my opinion.

Best regards,

Dennis Sayer -

SKRCC Vice President and Resident
1992 -2021 Twin Peaks Subdivision - former President '92 - '03
& South Knik River Road '03 - '21

From: Kathleen Shoop <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 3:12 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 22, 2021, 3:12 pm

First Name: **Kathleen**

Last Name: **Shoop**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99645**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Knik River Road/Butte**

Public Comment: **Please keep the area of Knik River Road/Butte with Palmer. We the people of this area disapprove of this area being connected to Chugiak/Eagle River/JBEAR/Anchorage as is mentioned by some redistricting members.**

From: Dan Slane <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 9:00 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 17, 2021, 9:00 am

First Name: **Dan**

Last Name: **Slane**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99707**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Interior Region - Fairbanks, North Pole and surrounding area**

Public Comment: **I support the Board 3 and/or Board 4 maps. These both keep the interior districts within or closely within our borough's boundary. Our current district maps are fair and work well. There's no need to change them much. And all the other proposed maps have a clear political agenda attached to them.**

Thank you.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Ketchikan 10/6 Verbal Testimony

Summary date: October 17, 2021

Name: **Albert Smith**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Acting Mayor Metlakatla Indian Comm.**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: **Mr. Smith noted that Metlakatla works closely with Ketchikan in many industries including commercial fishing. Residents travel to Ketchikan for groceries and recreational activities such as fishing. Mr. Smith is interested in hearing feedback from other communities as well. Metlakatla strongly opposes the Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER) map.**

After board member Budd Simpson asked if Metlakatla would oppose the other map variations that bring in Wrangell or bring in the south end of the Prince of Wales Island, Mr. Smith answered that it would be hard to choose either one. Metlakatla spends much time in Wrangell as there is a fishing fleet there where residents prepare for the fishing season. Metlakatla also has strong ties with the Prince of Wales.

Mr. Smith invited the board to visit Metlakatla on their public outreach tour.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Fairbanks 10/18/2021 Verbal Testimony

Summary date: October 19, 2021

Name: Rick Solie

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Mr. Solie has been a Fairbanks resident for over 50 years and now lives in District 33 in the City of Fairbanks. Mr. Solie spoke in support of Board Map v.3 and the Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER) map for the following reasons:

1) Board Map v.3 contains the city borough in one district, but this comes at an expense to the westside and the eastside being grouped together. There is a difference in opinion between the westside and the eastside of Fairbanks. Everyone in the borough do however care about roads being plowed, schools being safe, dumpsters, parks, etc. There is a socio-economic integration in the borough regardless if the westside and Salcha are grouped together.

2) Both maps keep the City of Fairbanks with two house districts and one senate district. There is no reason to break up the City of Fairbanks as it is large enough to accommodate the districts.

Mr. Solie acknowledged the overpopulation in Board Map v.3. The reapportionment of the population can be achieved by both maps, though, and they both carve out a little from the borough edges but does not throw any large group to the side of the island.

All maps make an Athabascan district, which is an important neighborhood to the City of Fairbanks. Additionally, Doyon and Tanana Chiefs Conference travel to Fairbanks for services.

Mr. Solie mentioned that the Doyon map makes an odd "leapfrogging" in its senate pairings with Districts 35 and 36; this is not logical. The Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) map seems to move the whole population and breaks the city from Fairbanks and moves into University West, which is in a college service area. It would move that area into the City of Fairbanks which is unnecessary. Board Map v.3 and the AFFR plan do not make sense because of this.

Also, under Board Map v.4, taking Eielson and moving it into the Tanana and Richardson district does not make sense as the distance is too great.

From: Diana Sparacino <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 3:56 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 18, 2021, 3:56 pm

First Name: **Diana**

Last Name: **Sparacino**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

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

Public Comment: **I'm glad to see, after initial public testimony, the attempt at breaking up/gerrymandering once again the contiguous west-southwest subdivision neighborhoods in the Fairbanks North Star Borough across the Tanana Flats, and across the Tanana River not once but twice to initially be plotted with the eastern Richardson Highway has been revised. Any attempt to plot these two areas together will lend itself to almost 100 miles, and over an hour by road between district precincts. Your Board Proposed Plan v. 3 does the same, from the looks of it divides the district at the Parks Highway instead of just before the Tanana River.**

The Tanana River is a Natural Boundary, both on the west and east.

The neighborhoods of (current) District 4 & 5 are part of the urban Fairbanks North Star Borough in taxes, road service, education, occupation, cultural values and socio-economic considerations.

That said, the map I support for my area is the AFFR map, and to a much lesser extent, the Board Proposed Plan v. 4. While v. 4 makes a North South divide still jumping the river twice, it at least keeps the western side of the borough intact.

The western side of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, while having to possibly be divided by population numbers with Goldstream Valley, is a contiguous area and needs to be kept intact instead of chopping off bits to add to far off areas.

Thank you to the Board and staff for all their work, and further transparency in th e process, and to Juli Lucky for her informative, concise e-notifications. As a 40 year resident I don't remember having this much information during the redistricting process.

From: Kristen Spencer [REDACTED] >
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 7:09 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting

To Whom it may concern:

I am a resident of Knik River Road. I am a regular voter. I am most solidly AGAINST any changes that would put KRR in with the city of Anchorage. Out here, we are rural and self-sufficient and have ALWAYS identified ourselves exclusively as a Mat-Su Community. Such a change will surely NOT provide adequate representation.

Sincerely
Kristen Spencer

From: MICHAEL SPINDLER <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 12:11 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 22, 2021, 12:10 pm

First Name: **MICHAEL**

Last Name: **SPINDLER**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **none**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **I am opposed to AFFER and Board version V3 maps, because they do not put like neighborhoods together**

Public Comment: **I am in favor of the AFFR map proposal, with some recognition of the good ideas brought forth in the Doyon coalition proposal, because both of these maps strive to put similar neighborhoods and communities together. We do not need more divisiveness!**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Fairbanks 10/18 Verbal Testimony

Summarized: 10/19/2021

Name: **Will Stapp**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: **Mr. Stapp spoke in favor of Board Map v.3 and the Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER) map for the following reasons:**

Board Map v.3 keeps the borough together, socio-economically integrated, compact, and doesn't ask the question about who will be kicked out of the community.

The population deviation also overpopulates and underrepresents Fairbanks. Due to the nature in the change in population and the deviation required to do that, which parts of the borough will be removed? If you are to break the boundaries to remove the population to fulfill the requirements for other districts, you could take population from the eastside or the westside of the borough. It is also important to keep Eielson and North Pole together, and to keep the westside of the city together as many Striker Brigade soldiers live in that area and keeps the city together within its current boundaries.

Mr. Stapp noted that the AFFER map takes populations out of the borough from across the whole borough. As such, Mr. Stapp is in favor of this map.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 18, 2021, 11:34 am

Name: **Sidney Stephens**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

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

Public Comment: **I totally reject Board V.3 because it is:**

unconstitutional and has deviation 4.64

underrepresented Fairbanks population allowing just 4, instead of warranted 5 districts and 1/4 representation in a 6th district

divides communities that should be socio-economically integrated

overrepresent Anchorage and Mat Su

I also totally reject AFFER because it is a gerrymandered Republican map that is :

unconstitutional

neutralizes HD2

Splits Eielson AFB

Divides Ester into 3 House districts

I support the AFFR proposal because it :

Emphasizes appropriate representation

Reasonably divides the FNSB, East to West

Reasonably divides the city of Fairbanks into two districts for socio-economic purposes and community cohesion,

I also would support the Board V.4 proposal IF it better represented Fairbanks by lowering the deviation to more than 3

From: Derek Stonorov <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 9:19 AM
To: Testimony; Juli Lucky
Subject: Proposed redistricting of the Kenai Peninsula

I would like to comment on the proposed redistricting of the Kenai Peninsula. My name is Derek Stonorov and I have lived at [REDACTED] Old East End Road for more than 44 years.

It is important to me that my district, Fox River, to include Fritz Creek, to the west, be included in any district change that includes Homer. My neighbors and I are most closely affiliated with Homer and do not want to lose representation with the community we are a part of.

I am strongly opposed to plans V3 and V4.

I am most closely in favor of AFFR (Alaskans for Fair Redistricting) as it is the best fit for people who share interests.

Sincerely,

Derek Stonorov

[REDACTED]
Fritz Creek, Ak 99603

(physical address: [REDACTED] Old East End Road, Homer, Ak 99603)

From: molly stonorov [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, October 17, 2021 8:50 AM
To: Testimony; Juli Lucky
Subject: Proposed Redistricting for Kenai Peninsula

I am a resident of District 31 on the Kenai Peninsula and have lived here, owning property for 44 years. I reside in voting district Fox River as I am several miles past Fritz Creek. My name is Margaret Stonorov, my mailing address is Fritz Creek, my physical address is Homer and my affiliation in all things pertaining to everyday living is with Homer, Alaska.

It is important to note that there are many new houses just West of me in a subdivision down Maria Road and Wild Haven. These people, if one would ask them, would say they moved to Homer and their affiliation lies with Homer.

I am strongly opposed to Proposed Redistricting outlines of V3 and V4. I and my neighbors are a part of the Homer community. Our children and grandchildren go to school in Homer, we attend events in Homer, we moved here years ago, and others more recently, to be a part of Homer. It makes no sense to cut us out of representation with Homer.

AFFR is the plan that most closely aligns our interests with others and I am in favor of that outline which includes across the Bay and Seward.

North of Anchor Point, Kasilof and Ninilchik, are much better represented by allegiance with cities North of them and need not be a part of district 31.

Please note that, most importantly, I am strongly opposed to my district, Fox River and Fritz Creek, west of me, being cut out of the district that includes Homer.

Most Sincerely,

Margaret Stonorov

physical address: [REDACTED] Old East End Road, Homer, Ak 99603

mailing address: [REDACTED], Fritz Creek, Ak 99603

Margaret Stonorov

P.O. Box [REDACTED]

Fritz Creek, Ak 99603

cell: [REDACTED]

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

Petersburg 10/7 Verbal Testimony

Summary date: October 17, 2021

Name: **Molly Taiber**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **PSG Borough**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Public Comment: **Ms. Taiber spoke in favor of District 35-R [Senate Minority Map] for the reasons that have been stated by Ms. Marvin.**

From: David Talerico <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 11:38 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 18, 2021, 11:38 am

First Name: **David**

Last Name: **Talerico**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99743**

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

Public Comment: **Thank you for taking comments. It appears that every plan adopted has placed the entirety of the Denali Borough in districts that will be predominantly south of the Alaska Range. I do understand that there are constitutional considerations with variances but I would like consideration to be given on the upper side of the variance and investigate any possibility of keeping the Denali Borough with the greater Fairbanks area. The socioeconomic ties are very strong between the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the Denali Borough.**

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Dave Talerico

From: Douglas Tansy <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 3:47 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 19, 2021, 3:46 pm

First Name: **Douglas**

Last Name: **Tansy**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99712**

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

Public Comment: **As a resident of Fairbanks, I believe that the state of Alaska should adopt the AFFR redistricting plan. The plan respects the understood east/west divide of the city, as well as takes great care to give Fairbanks adequate representation. Other proposals such as the V.3 Plan, underrepresent our communities by over populating districts 33 and 34. They also over represent areas such anchorage and the Matsu valley by under populating those districts. What I am looking for ideally is a plan which fairly represents districts and keeps communities of interest together.**

Twice in the past ten years my community had to vote using maps that were deemed unconstitutional by experts, changing my district and representative in Juneau each term. My hope is that by adopted the AFFR plan, we can instill a sense of fairness in our elections and a sense of integrity in our democratic process.

Thank you.

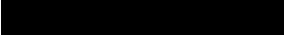
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Kotzebue 10/5/2021 Verbal Testimony

Summary date: October 17, 2021

Date: October 17, 2021, 7:44 pm

Name: **Matt Tekker**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Public Comment: **Mr. Tekker supports keeping Deering and Buckland in the northwest region as the air carriers are still tied in with Buckland, Deering, and the region's health services. Even though Point Hope is only covered by health services, they are still a part of the northwest region.**

From: Jim Thiele <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 11:45 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 21, 2021, 11:44 am

First Name: **Jim**

Last Name: **Thiele**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **none**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

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

Public Comment: **The Alaska's constitution included redistricting criteria: equality of population, contiguity, compactness, and relative integration of socioeconomic areas.**

There are four options provided for review. The ONLY option that even remotely meets the criteria is the Senate Minority version and it could use a bit of work.

The Alaska Redistricting Board was created and approved by voters in 1998 to avoid gerrymandering and "rigging" of the maps by those with the power to do so " it is apparent to me that the other three proposals are designed to give one group an advantage in the structure of our elections and that is a direct threat to democracy! It is incumbent on the board to reject those proposals.

Please do the right thing and reject the blatant efforts to tip the scales.

From: Clara Ticket <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 2:29 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 20, 2021, 2:29 pm

First Name: **Clara**

Last Name: **Ticket**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Nana Board of Director**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99727**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **I am in Support of Board Proposed Plan v.3**

Public Comment: **Buckland & Deering are part of the 11 merged villages that make up Our Nana Regional Corporation. I Do Not support with moving these two villages to another district. I Hope and Pray that you find it in your heart to keep Our Nana Regional villages together and keep it how it is right now being in District 40. Taikuu!**

From: Thomas Tilden <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 2:18 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 21, 2021, 2:17 pm

First Name: **Thomas**

Last Name: **Tilden**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99576**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Dillingham 10/21 Written Testimony**

Public Comment: **Board proposed v.3 District 37. In favor of this with minor adjustment of Goodnews Bay and Platinum being part of district 37 and taking out either Kalskag, Aniak or Chuathbaluk. The health care board make up ties us together.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Petersburg 10/7 Verbal Testimony

Summary date: October 17, 2021

Name: **Chelsea Trembley**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Petersburg Borough Assembly**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: **Ms. Trembley reaffirmed the support for the Senate Minority Caucus map's proposed District 35-R as it makes the most sense for their region and ensures that the needs of the community are well-represented. Ms. Trembley expressed worry that the other proposed maps would disproportionately represent Petersburg as a smaller community in relation to larger areas.**

Comments and Recommendations to the Redistricting Board 2021

Board Proposed v.3 Map In plan 3, FSNB is underrepresented by the overpopulating of the proposed 5 districts.

Greater than 4% excess populations do not achieve the constitutionally required population formula (dividing the state population by forty).

In this plan the City of Fairbanks is overpopulated in Districts 33 and 34. Boundaries in these districts do not conform to the City of Fairbanks boundaries.

In the City of North Pole, the city boundaries are split in half, as is the Garden Subdivision.

For these reasons I find Board Proposed Plan v 3 unacceptable.

Board Proposed Plan v.4 Map

In Map 4, District 32 breaks the southern boundary of the City of Fairbanks. District 31 breaks the western boundary diluting the population of the City of Fairbanks.

Eielson AFB has not been assigned to one of the five districts in the FNSB districts. The military is important to Fairbanks and the Interior and should be included in the FNSB.

For these reasons I find Board Proposed Plan v 4 unacceptable.

AFFR Fairbanks North Star Plan

Eielson AFB has not been assigned to one of the five districts in the FNSB districts. The military is important to Fairbanks and the Interior and should be included in the FNSB.

For these reasons I find Board Proposed AFFR Plan unacceptable.

Doyon Coalition Map FNSB Plan

This map completely ignored the requirement to have two City of Fairbanks Districts; making it unacceptable.

AFFER Fairbanks North Star Borough Plan

Based on the guidelines for integrated socio-economic areas; contiguous and compact territory; and the deviation quotient, I approve the plan designed for the FNSB. **Therefore, I approve and recommend adoption of the AFFER statewide plan.**

Barbara Tyndall

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
[REDACTED]

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

RESOLUTION #21-41

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA REQUESTING THE REDISTRICTING BOARD ADOPT A REDISTRICTING PLAN THAT INCLUDES VALDEZ IN A SOCIOECONOMICALLY INTEGRATED DISTRICT INCLUDING RICHARDSON HIGHWAY COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, as a result of the 2020 Census, the Alaska Redistricting Board ("Board") actively preparing draft redistricting plans for the State of Alaska that will directly affect the City of Valdez and its citizen; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Constitution imposes specific criteria for redistricting plans for both the House and Senate seats including the requirement that "each district shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area;"

WHEREAS, the constitutional requirements for redistricting cannot be satisfied by including Valdez in a district with Matanuska-Susitna Borough ("Mat-Su Borough") communities, Kodiak, the Kenai Peninsula, the Municipality of Anchorage, or Southeast Alaska;

WHEREAS, the draft redistricting plans identified as Board Proposed Plan Version 4, the Doyon Coalition Proposed Plan, the AFFER Proposed Plan, and the Senate Minority Proposed Plan, fail to satisfy the constitutional requirements for redistricting and force Valdez into proposed districts that are not socioeconomically integrated;

WHEREAS, the draft redistricting plans identified as Board Proposed Plan Version 3 and the AFFR Proposed Plan better reflect socioeconomically integrated districts for Valdez;

WHEREAS, Valdez is not socioeconomically integrated with Mat-Su Borough communities and does not share any significant social or economic ties with Mat-Su Borough communities;

WHEREAS, forcing Valdez into a district with Mat-Su Borough communities deprives the City of Valdez of fair and effective representation;

WHEREAS, forcing Valdez into a district with Mat-Su Borough communities necessarily separates Valdez from Richardson Highway and Prince William Sound communities, which share many aspects of life including social, cultural, economic and political ties;

WHEREAS, Valdez is socioeconomically integrated with Richardson Highway communities, with which it shares utilities including Copper Valley Telecom and Copper Valley Electric, highway corridors, drainages; recreational opportunities, economic activities, and ties to the Trans Alaska Pipeline System among many other commonalities;

WHEREAS, Valdez is the regional port and harbor for Richardson Highway communities, is widely considered the “gateway to the interior,” is home to small boat harbor facilities that are widely used by residents of Richardson Highway communities, is home to a port facility that is widely used to support commercial activity within Richardson Highway communities including mining, oil and gas operations, military operations, and construction, among numerous other economic activities;

WHEREAS, Valdez has substantial historical ties to Richardson Highway communities stretching back to the 1898 gold rush and development of the pack trail of 1899;

WHEREAS, Valdez is relatively socioeconomically integrated with Prince William Sound communities, with which it shares utilities including Copper Valley Telecom and Copper Valley Electric, recreational opportunities, economic activities, drainages, ties to commercial and sport fishing industries, and reliance on the Alaska Marine Highway System, among many other commonalities;

WHEREAS, Valdez should be included in a district that includes Richardson Highway communities and/or Prince William Sound Communities;

WHEREAS, Valdez submits the map identified as “Valdez Option 1” attached hereto as Exhibit A for consideration by the Board; and

WHEREAS, Valdez Option 1 satisfies constitutional redistricting plan that provides districts that are socioeconomically integrated, compact, and contiguous;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, that:

Section 1. The foregoing recitals are incorporated in this resolution as if set forth fully herein;

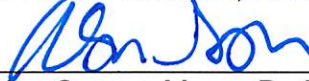
Section 2. The City of Valdez urges the Alaska Redistricting Board to adopt a Redistricting Plan that does not force the City of Valdez into a district with Mat-Su Borough communities or other communities that are not socioeconomically integrated such as Kodiak, the Kenai Peninsula, the Municipality of Anchorage, or Southeast Alaska;

Section 3. The City of Valdez urges the Alaska Redistricting Board to adopt a Redistricting Plan that includes the City of Valdez in a district with Richardson Highway communities and/or Prince William Sound communities; and

Section 4. The City of Valdez urges the Alaska Redistricting Board to adopt Valdez Option 1 as the redistricting plan that best satisfies constitutional redistricting requirements.


PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA, this 14th day of October, 2021.

CITY OF VALDEZ, ALASKA

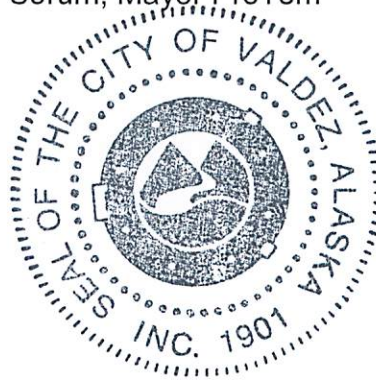


Alan Sorum, Mayor ProTem

ATTEST:



Sheri L. Pierce, MMC, City Clerk



**EXHIBIT A TO CITY OF VALDEZ
RESOLUTION NO. 21-41**

NOTES REGARDING VALDEZ OPTION 1

Valdez Option 1 is an example of how the Board may draw districts in a manner that best satisfies constitutionally mandated criteria while including Valdez in a district with the communities it is socioeconomically integrated with. The population deviations included for the districts Valdez Option 1 are well below the 10% deviation threshold established by the Alaska Supreme Court.¹ Rather than focus on obtaining minimum possible deviations at the expense of socioeconomic integration, compactness, and contiguity, Valdez Option 1 seeks to establish districts in a manner that keeps communities with strong ties together. A live version of Valdez Option 1 is available at: <https://districtr.org/plan/62741>

Valdez Option 1 does not endeavor to draw district lines within areas such as the Municipality of Anchorage, Mat-Su and Denali Borough, Kenai Peninsula, Fairbanks, or Southeast Alaska where the districts within these areas may be drawn with small population deviations. Valdez defers to the expertise of the Board with regard to drawing specific district boundaries within these areas. Board Version 3 provides a good example of how such boundaries may be drawn.

Details regarding the Districts/Areas identified in Valdez Option 1 are provided below:

District/Area	Color	Number of Districts	Population Per District	Deviation
Municipality of Anchorage	Mint	16	18,219.9	- 0.0063
Mat-Su and Denali Borough	Red	6	18,116.6	- 0.0119
South East	Lt. Blue	4	18,082.3	- 0.0138
FNSB	Purple	4	19,219.8	+ 0.0483
Kenai Peninsula	Brown	3	17,748	- 0.0320
Alaska Peninsula/Aleutians	Pink	1	18,532	+ 0.0107
Yukon Kuskokwim	Drk. Blue	1	18,953	+ 0.0337
Western Alaska	Turquoise	1	18,414	+ 0.0043
North Slope	Gold	1	18,839	+ 0.0275
Interior/Rural FNSB/Eastern Alaska	Lime	1	18,907	+ 0.0311
Richardson Highway/Valdez/Cordova	Dark Green	1	18,632	+ 0.0151
Lower Kenai Peninsula/Kodiak	Yellow	1	18,443	+ 0.0053

The City of Valdez hopes that the Board will consider Valdez Option 1 as an alternative to presently adopted draft redistricting plans and encourages the Board and any interested party to utilize Valdez Option 1 as a starting point for developing a redistricting plan that best satisfies the legal criteria for redistricting.

¹ *Hickel v. S.E. Conf.*, 846 P.2d 38, 48 (Alaska 1992), *as modified on reh'g* (Mar. 12, 1993)

[A]s a general matter an apportionment plan containing a maximum population deviation under 10% falls within the category of minor deviations. The state must provide justification for any greater deviation.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Name: **Joseph Ver**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99801**

Date: October 23, 2021, 11:38 am

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

Public Comment: **Let's keep this map!**

Date: October 23, 2021, 11:28 am

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **House District 34**

Public Comment: **Please correct the boundary issue for this district so the block Representative Story resides is included in District 34. Please make this a non-partisan correction!**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 18, 2021, 9:14 pm

Name: **Robert Wall**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99672**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Kenai Peninsula needs to be left as 3 contiguous Districts, no more pacman bites for ANC or Kodiak**

Public Comment: **Of all the maps that your have #3, #4 are the only ones that I find slightly realistic. My previous comments re: leaving the KPB intact remain the best solution for this redistricting. Keep the KPB intact and establish 3 House seats which will be ~6.5% above the targeted base line of 18335, at 19600 ish. Still below the Feds 10%, and perfectly leaving the Peninsula intact. thanks for your hard work, and patience.**

Robert

Date: October 18, 2021, 9:02 pm

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Kenai Peninsula needs to be left as 3 contiguous Districts, no more pacman bites for ANC or Kodiak**

Public Comment: **I agree with Mary Jackson of Soldotna in regards to her letter sent to you dated 10/11/21. The letter very clearly defended the need to keep the Kenai Peninsula as three Districts, without letting the pacman action occur in the south, or disenfranchising our neighbors in Nikiski. I have lived in Sterling for 40 years, and find Mary's description of trying to tie our Seldovia neighbors into Kodiak, or the Nikiski folks in with South Anchorage to be an untenable position. Neither of these KPB communities would be represented if this takes place. Please honor the intent of the law and leave the Kenai Peninsula borough intact by forming three districts of 19,600 people. "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 would also like to point out that the Kenai Peninsula is provided electricity by Homer Electric solely for the citizens of the contiguous peninsula. All these services - electric, roads, emergency, schools, recreation- are all based on the Peninsula's contiguous population. Separating out the Peninsula's southern or northern areas would leave these populations without representation in regards to all their day-to-day affairs.**

From: Robert Wall [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 9:29 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Maps 3 and 4. KPB

Thank you for your hard work, and patience as you process all of our comments and concerns.

Please leave the KPB intact, and do not carve out anything to the south for Kodiak, or to the North for south ANC. The KPB is a contiguous socio-economic, and geographically connected area, with shared service boards, electric board, road boards, school boards, assembly, and we are all friends and neighbors. Create 3 House District seats of 19,600 ish people and do not use pieces and parts to force the 18,335 number. The 10% plus or minus Fed rule is achieved, and the intent of the law to give weight to "contiguous socio-economic, and geographic areas" is also met.

I support maps 3 and 4 as the only ones that seem palatable at this time. But they both disenfranchise our Seldovia neighbors needlessly. Stop the 'pacman' bites to force the numbers, recognize your ability to be compassionate, reasonable, and honest. thank you again for all the long hard days that you have worked in this important matter.

Robert Wall
D29
Precinct #190

From: Timothy Whip [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 10:28 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Support Proposed Plan AFFR

Here are the reasons I Support Proposed Plan AFFR.

- The district lines include coastal communities that have integrated socioeconomic areas as defined in the Alaska Constitution.
- The AFFR map is contiguous and compact territory as defined in the Alaska Constitution.
- The AFFR map contains the required population quotient as defined in the Alaska Constitution.
- The AFFR map reflects the local government boundaries as defined in the Alaska Constitution.
- The AFFR map reflects the similar geographic features and drainage as defined in the Alaska Constitution.
- The AFFR map seems politically neutral.

Thanks for your efforts in creating fair and equitable voting districts.

Tim Whip

[REDACTED]
Homer, AK 99603
[REDACTED]

From: Margaret Wiedeman [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 18, 2021 4:05 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting

Please draw your maps so that Fairbanks is not under-represented and each person has one vote!

Thanks,
Margaret Wiedeman

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 7:10 PM

Name: Leah Berman Williams

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Map 3 is not fair for FNSB; Map 4 is less so but has issues; AFFR map is good for FNSB**

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

I am a professor of mathematics at the University of Alaska Fairbanks and currently a member of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly, but I am writing this testimony in my personal capacity as a resident of the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Board Map 3 does not provide fair representation for the voters of the FNSB. From the recent census data, FNSB should be allocated about 5.22 house seats (that is, 5 seats within the borders of FNSB and one seat that contains some FNSB precincts). Board Map 3 does not do so; it has a high deviation, and it under-allocates representation to FNSB while over-allocating representation to the Matanuska-Susitna borough and to Anchorage.

In addition, the divisions chosen in Board Map 3 do not represent the extant socioeconomic divisions and current communities of interest as is required. For example, in Board Map 3, some neighborhoods and communities on the west side of the borough (Goldstream Valley, Ester, Chena Ridge) are grouped with communities on the east side of the borough (Chena Hot Springs Road/Two Rivers, Salcha, Moose Creek, Eielson AFB) according to how far north or south they are, which doesn't match the actual socioeconomic and community divisions. For example, I live in the Geist Road neighborhood, and this map would put me, and all of UAF, in a precinct with Salcha and Eiels on, but separate from the Goldstream Valley and Ester, which is bizarre. In thinking about how to draw a map that respects socioeconomic and community cohesion, I would expect that neighborhoods and communities on the west side of the Borough, such as UAF, Ester, Chena Pump/Chena Ridge, Goldstream Valley would be grouped together, just as I would expect Salcha/Moose Creek, North Pole, maybe Chena Hot Springs Road to be grouped together, and neighborhoods in or near the City of Fairbanks to be grouped together. I would expect North Pole to be contained in a single house district, reflecting its strong community cohesion. Map 3 does not reflect these community groupings.

I do not think that Board Map 3 should be chosen.

Board Plan 4 is definitely better in terms of respecting at least the broad east-west socioeconomic/community structure of the borough, but it still makes some strange choices. My own neighborhood is cut in two by the proposed division between District 34 and 35 " which concerns me about other choices that were made without respecting neighborhood boundaries. In particular, combining Chena Hot Springs Road with North Farmers Loop and the Goldstream Valley is a weird choice which does not match up existing socioeconomic and neighborhood communities.

If possible, I would recommend taking from some of the proposed maps for the Interior the choice of districts that split FNSB in a way that combines neighborhoods on the west side of the borough into

house districts and that combines neighborhoods on the east side of the borough into districts, understanding that we do not have enough house districts to avoid having a few extremely large-in-area districts (such as the current House District 6).

Moreover, while the City of Fairbanks has political boundaries, there are many voters who live in FNSB who are more tightly aligned with their neighborhoods than with whether or not they are in the city limits. It may be possible to re-draw some of the proposed house district boundaries to more clearly reflect the socioeconomic and neighborhood communities if house districts are not constrained to be fully within or without the city boundaries.

In terms of reflecting the community structure of the borough, I like many of the divisions proposed in the AFFR map: it keeps UAF with Ester, the Goldstream Valley, and Chena Pump/Chena Ridge, which makes sense; it combines Moose Creek and Salcha together; it keeps the greater North Pole area together, which is an important part of community cohesion. I think there is more of a combining-like-communities in associating communities along the Richardson Highway into a single district than with the large district proposed, e.g., in Board Map 4. The AFFR proposal associates more communities on the road system together in its proposed District 36, and more communities not-on-the-road system are together in its District 39; moreover, it reflects some of the traditional alignment between Fairbanks and Valdez after all, the Richardson Highway started as the Fairbanks-Valdez Trail, and if parts of the FNSB need to be in a house district with more southern communities, reflecting the historical connection is not a bad way to decide which communities to join.

I also think that the divisions proposed in the Senate Minority map for FNSB do a good job at reflecting much of the community structure in the borough.

Thank you for all your hard work on this important issue. I look forward to seeing a map adopted that provides my community fair representation in the Alaska Legislature.

Sincerely,
Leah Berman Williams

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Fairbanks 10/18 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: October 19, 2021

Name: **Maximillian Wiren**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Public Comment: Mr. Wiren is a small business owner that works out in Chicken, a small mining community, in the summer and lives in Fairbanks in the winter. As a kid, he grew up living around various places in Fairbanks and is now looking for a home in Fairbanks as this is the place he is most familiar with, where his friends live, and where he recreates.

Board Map v.3 and the Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER) map would split the Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) and put residents in the same district as Eilson Air Force Base and Salcha. It would also split Fairbanks north to south instead of east to west; this does not make sense as there is a reason why there is an East Fred Meyer and a West Fred Meyer. The main highways also go east to west, not north to south.

Mr. Wiren stated that Board Map v.3's proposed District 35 is not contiguous, not compact, not socio-economically integrated, is overpopulated, and has unequal and inaccurate representation. Mr. Wiren spoke in opposition of this map and the AFFER map.

Communities such as Tok, Chicken, Nenana, and possibly Salcha that are outside of the city would have to make a day's worth of a trip to Fairbanks in order to purchase supplies. Mr. Wiren suggested putting Salcha into a rural district.

From: Gwen Woodard <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 6:04 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 19, 2021, 6:04 pm

First Name: **Gwen**

Last Name: **Woodard**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99611**

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

Public Comment: **Concerning redistricting Nikiski to South Anchorage. Nikiski is not contiguous nor compact to South Anchorage. It takes an 8 hour round trip drive to visit both areas. This leaves the Nikiski area poorly represented in the event their representative resides in Anchorage and visa versa, simply by inconvenience. Cathy Giessel herself testified to this. Neither do they share a socio-Economic structure. Nikiski residents are rural, many work "in" the oil/gas industry not just pump it into their vehicles. The Peninsula as a whole is a socio-Economic region within itself being it provides for it's own service for roads, fire, water and medical and should remain whole for representation. I support keeping the Kenai Peninsula Borough intact, divided into 3 equal districts or at a minimum as shown in Maps 3-4.**

From: Jessica Wright <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 6:29 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 22, 2021, 6:28 am

First Name: **Jessica**

Last Name: **Wright**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99654**

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

Public Comment: **Most controversial special interest map it should be thrown out first!**