

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Pat Race <[REDACTED]>

Wed 3/30/2022 1:47 PM

Redistricting Board Members,

I hope to see the most simple and obvious correction to the Eagle River senate pairings. Eagle River with Eagle River and the two Anchorage districts together. I hope you will avoid a massive reshuffling of Senate pairings.

Thank you for your work on this,

Pat Race

Juneau

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Jason Norris [REDACTED]

Wed 3/30/2022 2:02 PM

In addressing the issue surrounding District K, it is important that fixing this issue does not create new issues. Therefore, Districts 22 (Eagle River) and 24 (Chugiak and Eklutna) should be paired into one Senate Seat with Districts 20 (North Muldoon) and 21 (South Muldoon) paired into another.

This is also an opportunity to repair issues raised by the last minute change in Senate pairings produces in Executive Session. I am a resident of District 11 (Lower Hillside), which is currently paired with District 12 (Abbott Loop).

While I know that the Board is not as restricted by the Hickel Process on Senate pairings as it is on House District drawing, District 11 is a far better fit with District 9 (Upper Hillside, Turnagain Arm) than it is with District 12. Likewise, District 9 is a better fit with District 11 than it is District 10 (Bayshore/Klatt).

In short, I propose that Districts 9 and 11 be paired into a Senate seat, keeping the Anchorage Hillside in one District. Districts 10 and 15 are a fairly natural fit for one another in Southwest Anchorage and District 12 can easily be paired with either District 13 (Taku-Campbell) or 19 (U-Med) to accommodate this change.

Thank you for your time,
Jason Norris

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 30, 2022, 2:47 pm

First Name: **Elizabeth**

Last Name: **Newell**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: 99507

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): Senate pairings: keep community council areas intact

Public Comment: I'm in House district 11(O'Malley, Hillside, Independence Park). I support Melanie Bahnke's proposed pairings because it keeps more community council areas intact. If there are too many community council meetings per senator, they are unlikely to attend and so are less effective at representing their constituents.

The districts and community council areas are as follows:

District 9: Turnagain Arm, Girdwood, Rabbit Creek, Bear Valley, Glen Alps, Basher(shared with 21), Hillside(shared with 10), Huffman/O'Malley(shared with 10), and HALO(shared with 10 and 11)

District 10: Bayshore Klatt, Old Seward/Ocean view, Sand Lake (shared with 15), Taku/Campbell(shared with 13)

District 11: Huffman/O'Malley (shared with 9), Hillside(shared with 9), Abbott Loop(shared with 12), HALO(shared with 9 and 12)

District 12: Abbott Loop (shared with 11), Campbell Park(shared with 13 and 19), HALO(shared with 9 and 11)

To reduce overlap between community council meetings and keep communities intact, 9 (South Anchorage) should be paired with 11 (O'Malley) and 10 (Bayshore/Klatt) with either 13 (Taku/Campbell) or 15(Sand Lake).

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 30, 2022, 3:03 pm

First Name: **Tyler**

Last Name: **Watson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **I'm writing as a resident of the current Senate District K and I urge the board to accept the senate pairings originally proposed by member Bahnke. It's in the board's and public's interest to get this resolved quickly and simply switching to her proposed senate pairings allows the redistricting work to quickly wrap up so campaigns and voters can learn the new map. We already have so many changes to our election system coming up this year, the board shouldn't needlessly drag on the process. As a resident of the new District 21, I think pairing my district with 20 makes the most sense for my neighborhood, allowing for a true East Anchorage(Muldoon) senate seat. Thank you for your hard work on this.**



VIA EMAIL ONLY

March 30, 2022
Alaska Redistricting Board
c/o: Peter Torkelson
Executive Director

RE: Testimony related to Supreme Court decision and process on remand

Dear Board:

I write today in my personal capacity to provide public testimony regarding the Alaska Redistricting Board's mandate on remand.

On March 25, 2022 the Alaska Supreme Court issued an order largely affirming the process this Board went through, and its outcome. However, there was one notable exception—the Board's decision, on a 3-2 vote, to adopt a pairing for Senate District K was flatly rejected as a “partisan political gerrymander” and rightly so.

I reside in Anchorage, however I am not a resident of any of the house districts directly impacted by this pairing. Nevertheless, as someone who monitored the redistricting process closely, it was clear that the process and outcome of the Anchorage senate pairings resulting in District K was unacceptable and degraded the public's trust in the entire process.

I watched that process live. When the Board came out of executive session and adopted a brand-new senate map for Anchorage without any publication, notice, public comment, or meaningful discussion it debased the entire process. It looked like what it was—a brazen attempt to manipulate the process for partisan purposes. This outcome diminished the representation of several communities, including minority communities. However, I wish to note a stark exception to this criticism—the efforts of Board Members Melanie Bahnke and Nicole Borromeo who spoke up, with courage and conviction, against this manipulation.

I write now to implore the Board to avoid going down a similar road on remand. Do not try to once again manipulate the senate pairings for partisan purposes. Do not try to once again run roughshod over the concerns raised by Board Members Bahnke and Borromeo. As the Supreme Court has concluded, their original concerns were absolutely correct and the other three members of the Board were wrong.

The time for debate has passed and the Board should swiftly perform the ministerial task of adopting the only logical senate map that the public has seen—the map offered by Board Member Bahnke, that was wrongfully rejected by the three-member majority of the Board.

Ms. Bahnke’s map would leave most of the current Senate pairings in place, and would only impose the following changes, pairing:

- House District 17 with 23;
- District 18 with 19;
- District 20 with 21; and
- District 22 with 24.

Such a map should have consensus support and will not raise any other issues related to suppressing minority votes or partisan gerrymandering.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge that the vast majority of this Board’s work was done properly, publicly, and in service of all Alaskans. The Senate District K process was unfortunate and absolutely cannot be repeated. I thank the Board for their service and ask that they avoid further controversy by promptly adopting the Senate pairings originally offered by Board Member Bahnke.

The public’s trust in the constitutional process of redistricting has been shaken by the issues surrounding District K. Please restore that trust by closely adhering to the Supreme Court’s decision and adopting the Bahnke map.

Sincerely,



Scott Kendall
Attorney
(907) 222-7932 (main)
(907) 222-7938 (fax)

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 30, 2022, 3:51 pm

First Name: **Alex**

Last Name: **Baker**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

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

Public Comment: **In light of the Supreme Court remand order, I support the following Senate pairings for Anchorage:**

**22-24
20-21
18-19
23-17
16-14
13-12
15-10
11-9**

These pairings were discussed (briefly) during the November hearings. There was no logical argument in opposition. They are common-sense pairings that support the natural boundaries and feel of Anchorage neighborhoods. I encourage the board to settle this issue quickly to ensure the public has time to educate themselves ahead of 2022 election cycle. Voters need time to digest their new districts, precincts, and voting location, on top of learning ranked choice. voting. Thank you for reading this testimony.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 30, 2022, 4:11 pm

First Name: **Alex**

Last Name: **Jorgensen**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99518**

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

Public Comment: **I fully support the senate pairings put onto the record of my board member Bahnke at the November meeting. I support these pairings for the following reasons. First, it is imperative that the board adopt pairings that follow the guidelines set out by the constitution. Bahnke's parings do just that. Second, as a lifelong Anchorage resident, these parings make geographic sense and keep neighborhoods together. When communities are kept intact, they are able to wield their collective voice in the political process.**

I encourage the board to adopt these parings swiftly. Alaskans have been waiting long enough.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 30, 2022, 4:15 pm

First Name: **Kimberly**

Last Name: **Hays**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99502**

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

Public Comment: **Members of the Redistricting Board,**

I write today to urge you to move quickly to adopt the Senate pairings posed by Member Bahnke in November of 2021. That map has been shown to be constitutional, which is important to avoid further lengthy litigation. It also just makes sense- my area of West Anchorage stays with West Anchorage districts, Muldoon with Muldoon, and Eagle River with Eagle River. After attending many of the sessions about the maps, I remember many individuals testifying about this. In other words, Member Bahnke's map is constitutional and has the support of Anchorage communities. Again, I encourage you to take swift action on this decision by adopting Member Bahnke's Senate pairings so that Alaskans can start the process of relearning their House and Senate districts before they participate in our upcoming elections. If you are able to do this, this board will have accomplished something not done in the last few cycles -- giving Alaskans a map we can use for the entire decade. Thank you so much for your time.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Kate Quick <[REDACTED]>

Wed 3/30/2022 8:06 PM

Dear redistricting board,

My family and I live in Goldstream, which is a neighborhood in Fairbanks that you have tried to remove from the Fairbanks representation areas by creating a sprawling House District 36 covering various parts of rural Alaska. This is unfair and unjust, and the courts agree.

My kids go to school at Fairbanks area schools. My husband and I work in Fairbanks. We vote in local Fairbanks elections. We go to Fairbanks doctors. We drive on Fairbanks roads and shop in Fairbanks stores.

Your current plan to redistrict our Alaska House representation from a Fairbanks representative to someone representing a HUGE swath of rural Alaska does not make any logical sense. It is gerrymandering. We are Fairbanksans and should be represented in the state government by other Fairbanksans.

Please follow the Alaska Supreme Court's order to redraw House District 36 so that Fairbanks residents in Goldstream, Murphy Dome, and Ester continue to be represented by other Fairbanks residents.

Best,

Kate Quick

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, AK 99709

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 31, 2022, 6:39 am

First Name: **Karen**

Last Name: **Bronga**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Scenic foothills community council**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate pairings to fix gerrymandering**

Public Comment: **To correct the gerrymandering with senate districts I am asking that the board use the Senate pairings that Melanie Bahnke introduced in November. These pairings have been introduced to the public and received broad support. They are Constitutional and preserve two majority-minority districts in Anchorage. These pairings are respectful of Anchorage's communities rather than breaking them apart for partisan political purposes. Specifically, they keep Muldoon in East Anchorage together, they reconnect the North and South side of 4th Avenue downtown instead of separating downtown into 2 senate districts, they keep Turnagain and Spenard together, which has been requested by these communities, they keep Eagle River together, and they pair the two South Anchorage districts together as they were initially by consensus of the board before being split at the last minute.**

Please redo the pairings quickly, without delay, so that we eliminate the confusion of having maps change mid-elections.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 31, 2022, 10:29 am

First Name: **Jo Ann**

Last Name: **Gruber**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting - Senate Districts (Municipality of Anchorage)**

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

As you meet to ensure that you provide fair, equitable maps and senate pairings as directed by the court system, I would like to say Eagle River is a distinct, unique community. It should NOT be split into two different Senate districts for political gerrymandering purposes.

I live in Eagle River, and I expect fair representation. No more, no less. As a reasonable person, I do not expect more representation at the expense of others.

We have different land-use rules; and we currently maintain/manage our own roads and parks, too. Pairing a portion of Eagle River with South Muldoon made absolutely no sense.

I support the Senate pairings that were presented by Ms. Bahnke last fall. They were thoughtful, considerate, and fair to all communities within the Municipality of Anchorage.

Respectfully,

Jo Ann Gruber

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 31, 2022, 11:52 am

First Name: **Zack**

Last Name: **Fields**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern: **Remand for Senate Pairings**

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

Thanks for reopening public comments on Senate pairings following the Supreme Court decision. As we approach elections, I think it is in the public interest to finalize pairings consistent with the Court ruling so that voters can understand the legislative districts in which they'll be voting in the upcoming state primary and general elections. Since Anchorage has an even number of House districts, and since the Supreme Court ruling effectively requires pairing the two Eagle River House seats into a Senate seat, the only remaining question is how to pair the remaining even number of Anchorage House seats. Fortunately, existing Board pairings in South Anchorage and West Anchorage neatly pair with proposed Bahnke pairings in East Anchorage and Downtown to complete the map. These pairings would be:

17+23 (Downtown, South Addition, Govt Hill, JBER)

14+13 (Midtown)

16+15 (West Anchorage)

18+19 (East Anchorage)

20+21 (East Anchorage)

11+12 (Abbott Loop/Lower Hillside)

9+10 (Ocean View/South Anchorage)

Conveniently, these pairings are the most logical in terms of compactness and socioeconomic integration of neighborhoods. These boundaries also respect underlying Constitutional guidance with respect to watersheds and natural features.

As someone who represents Downtown and surrounding neighborhoods in Anchorage, I certainly see how these pairings are the most logical for neighborhoods I represent.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 31, 2022, 12:44 pm

First Name: **Brandon**

Last Name: **Calcaterra**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

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

Public Comment: **I live in Eagle River and first want to state my support for Eagle River's two House districts being unified in a Senate district as required by the recent Supreme Court ruling. Once the Eagle River House seats are paired, there is an even number of other House districts within Anchorage, so it is not difficult to pair these House districts into logical Senate districts. For example, the four East Anchorage House seats should break down into two Senate seats, and Downtown/Government Hill pairs into a Senate seat. This configuration leaves the other proposed Board pairings further south unchanged. Adopting this slightly revised map that fixes Eagle River and keeps East Anchorage seats together seems to meet Court requirements and would allow voters clarity on where they'll be voting in elections that are coming up soon.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 31, 2022, 12:47 pm

First Name: **Sergio F**

Last Name: **Acuna**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

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

Public Comment: **Hi, I live in Midtown near Lake Otis and Campbell Creek, and am writing to request that House Districts 13 and 14 be paired into a Midtown Senate district. This makes the most sense for our existing neighborhoods. It also makes sense to pair House Districts 18/19 and 20/21 into two East Anchorage Senate seats. These pairings would enable the Board to fix the Eagle River pairings as required by the Court, and maintain logical pairings in Anchorage.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 31, 2022, 12:49 pm

First Name: **James**

Last Name: **Dahl**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99515**

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

Public Comment: **As a voter from South Anchorage, I am writing to request that the Board adopt a synthesis of proposed Bahnke pairings and existing Senate pairings in South Anchorage. The two Eagle River House seats must be paired based on the Court ruling, and from there it makes sense to unify four East Anchorage House seats into two Senate seats. The Government Hill/JBER House seat then pairs with Downtown, leaving existing pairings in West and South Anchorage unchanged. This set of pairings keeps neighborhoods together to the maximum extent possible, and is the most compact arrangement. While compactness may not be required for Senate pairings, given the option of compact or non-compact pairings, all else being equal it is most fair to voters to establish compact and logical pairings so that people may easily understand their Senate as well as House districts.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 31, 2022, 12:56 pm

First Name: **Wes**

Last Name: **Canfield**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99515**

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

Public Comment: **Thank you for the opportunity to submit additional comments on Senate pairings. My family lives in South Anchorage and I would suggest that the Board make only modest changes to Anchorage pairings after linking the two Eagle River House seats into a Senate district. The Board has already proposed logical pairings for West Anchorage and South Anchorage, and these could be maintained by adopting Downtown, Government Hill, JBER, and East Anchorage pairings previously proposed by Board Member Melanie Bahnke.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 31, 2022, 1:06 pm

First Name: **Kisha**

Last Name: **Guillen**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

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

Public Comment: **Dear Redistricting Board,**

As a resident of South Anchorage, I am writing to submit public comments on the revised Senate pairings. Thank you for accepting additional comment on this issue. It is important to get these boundaries resolved quickly, and I would suggest sticking with existing pairings proposed by the Board for South and West Anchorage. For Downtown/Government Hill and East Anchorage, using the pairings proposed by Board Member Bahnke would allow you to fix the Eagle River pairing as required by the Court and have logical pairings for the rest of the city.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 31, 2022, 6:07 pm

First Name: **Ryan**

Last Name: **Schryver**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

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

Public Comment: **The Bahnke map is fair and equitable. It should be adopted immediately to reduce voter confusion.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 31, 2022, 8:49 pm

First Name: **Gretchen**

Last Name: **Wade**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99502**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **15&16 Keep Together**

Public Comment: **Hello,**

As a resident of Sand Lake, I'm writing to request that House Districts 15 and 16 continue to be paired in a West Anchorage Senate district. This makes far more sense than east-west pairings that would break up West Anchorage. While "socioeconomic integration" is more strictly required for House boundaries than Senate districts in the Constitution, keeping neighborhoods together in logical Senate districts is good for voters, and our West Anchorage neighborhoods clearly have more in common than other neighborhoods to the east.

Thank you,

Greta Wade

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 8:51 am

First Name: **Sheri**

Last Name: **Whitethorn**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508-3323**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Please adopt the Senate pairings map recommended by Melanie Bahnke from 11/10/21**

Public Comment: **Please adopt the Senate pairings that Melanie Bahnke introduced in November, I believe the map is dated 11/10/2021. The public has seen these pairings and have broadly supported them, and they are Constitutionally sound. They keep many of Anchorage's communities together in reasonable and responsible ways. More specifically, this set of pairings keep Muldoon together in East Anchorage, they keep downtown Anchorage together, they keep Spenard and Turnagain together, and they keep Eagle River together. These pairings make good sense all-around. Please adopt this replacement map quickly without any further delay so that any confusion is avoided in upcoming elections that are already starting to get geared up. Thank you for all your diligent work on this process.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 10:47 am

First Name: **Leon**

Last Name: **Jaimes**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Please act immediately to adopt senate pairings using Bahnke's map**

Public Comment: **Hello,**

I am writing today to encourage the Board to act immediately to adopt Member Bahnke's senate pairing map. The elections are coming up fast and it is important that voters find out what their senate districts are as soon as possible. Member Bahnke's map is a fair map that provides a great option for one person-one vote as well as common sense socioeconomic and geographic pairings. A failure to act quickly is likely to lead to voter disenfranchisement and confusion.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Leon Jaimes

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 11:08 am

First Name: **Ellen**

Last Name: **Jaimes**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern: **Please adopt the Bahnke senate pairings for Anchorage**

Public Comment: **Dear Redistricting Board and Staff:**

Thank you for all your hard work updating Alaska's maps. With the upcoming elections, I urge the Board to act immediately to address the Court's requirements. This will minimize voter confusion that would result from a long drawn-out process.

It is in the public interest to swiftly adopt a map with final senate pairings so that voters can familiarize themselves with their new districts, precincts, and voting locations, on top of a new election system (RCV) and an unprecedented special election. The redistricting board has an obligation to the public to resolve this quickly to avoid voter confusion and disenfranchisement

Here in Anchorage, the Board should adopt the Bahnke senate pairings, instead of trying to come up with new pairings. These pairings have already been presented and considered on the record, and were informed by public input and testimony.

These pairings do not change the underlying deviation of districts, and they do uphold the one person, one vote principle. In addition, they are the common-sense geographic and socioeconomic pairings (keeping Muldoon w/ Muldoon, West Anc. w/ West Anc, Eagle River w/ Eagle River etc.). I commented in favor of these pairing for my own neighborhood in the last round of public testimony.

Thank you again for your attention and efforts on this important work.

Sincerely,

Ellen Jaimes

[REDACTED]
Anchorage AK 99508

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE**

First Name: **Paula**

Last Name: **Sayler**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

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

Public Comment: **Please adopt the court's recent requirements in an efficient and speedy manner. Adopt the Bahnke senate pairings. Keep senate pairings: Muldoon w/ Muldoon, West Anc. w/ West Anc., Eagle River w/ Eagle River.**

Thank you.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 12:36 pm

First Name: **Mary**

Last Name: **Burtness**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

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

Public Comment: **I believe East Anchorage does not fit in with Eagle River. They should be separate**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 1:36 pm

First Name: **Dennis J**

Last Name: **Knebel Jr**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

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

Public Comment: **Please take action quickly on this supreme court ruling. We the voters deserve a fair map this coming election cycle.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 1:38 pm

First Name: **Izzy**

Last Name: **Farris**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **I am writing to request that the board act immediately to comply with the Court's requirements and to minimize confusion if this process is dragged out.**

- In Anchorage, the board should adopt the Bahnke senate pairings, instead of trying to come up with new pairings.

- Board must act immediately: It is in the public interest to swiftly adopt a map with final senate pairings so that voters can familiarize themselves with their new districts, precincts, and voting locations, on top of a new election system (RCV) and an unprecedented special election. The redistricting board has an obligation to the public to resolve this quickly to avoid voter confusion and disenfranchisement

- The pairings, proposed by Melanie Bahnke, have already been presented and considered on the record, and were informed by public input and testimony. These pairings do not change the underlying deviation of districts, and upholds the one person, one vote principle. In addition, they are the common-sense geographic and socioeconomic pairings.

I live in Muldoon and we are very different from Eagle River. Our children don't go to school in Eagle River. We don't shop or play in Eagle River. We don't go to the doctor in Eagle River. We are a diverse community, which is very different from Eagle River.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 4:43 pm

First Name: **Brent**

Last Name: **Nichols**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Personal**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99701**

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

Public Comment: **With election season nearly six months away now, it is important that we have a finalized map that gives voters enough time to understand and candidates enough time to prepare for. While the map is not perfect and no doubt has characteristics which many would view as flawed, it is one of the fairest maps we've had in decades. It is also important to note that this map has already been upheld in court and has relatively fair house-senate pairings. Voters will also have to learn ranked choice voting in the ensuing months, and the more complicated and drawn out the redistricting process is, the less fair it is to voters. Please let this map be finalized as is so that we can move on and prepare for a first of its kind election. I applaud the redistricting board for their efforts so far and hope that Alaska can benefit from a more rational drawing of the map.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

From: **Charlie & Jamie Rodriguez** <[REDACTED]>

Fri 4/1/2022 4:57 PM

To: The Alaska Redistricting Board

I am testifying from Anchorage about the Anchorage Senate pairings because I believe in fair maps, and honest work on behalf of ALL Alaskans no matter one's political affiliations.

I support going back to the second to the last Senate Pairings, the pairings presented by Ms. Bahnke.

These pairings have already been considered on the record, have been presented and meticulously explained, point by point by point, how they comply with the law and are fair to every Alaskan, no matter their political affiliation.

The Bhanke pairings consider public testimony, don't change the underlying deviation of districts, uphold the one person, one vote principle, and have created the most common sense geographic and socioeconomic pairings (keeping Muldoon together, West Anc. together, and Eagle River together, etc.).

The Redistricting Board must act immediately to comply with the Court's requirements make our maps legal, and to minimize time, costs, and the confusion that will result if this process is dragged out. It's in the public interest to adopt legal maps with final senate pairings that check every box as outlined in law.

Voters need time to familiarize themselves with their new districts, precincts, and voting locations, BEFORE then have to learn about the new election system (RCV). On top of all that, we have a special election. The Redistricting Board has created a bit of a train wreck and they now need to right the train.

As public officials, the Redistricting Board has a sacred obligation to the public to resolve this quickly and fairly for every voter. No more delays, no more games, just abide by the law.

Thank you for your consideration.



VIA EMAIL ONLY

March 30, 2022
Alaska Redistricting Board
c/o: Peter Torkelson
Executive Director

RE: Testimony related to Supreme Court decision and process on remand

Dear Board:

I write today in my personal capacity to provide public testimony regarding the Alaska Redistricting Board's mandate on remand.

On March 25, 2022 the Alaska Supreme Court issued an order largely affirming the process this Board went through, and its outcome. However, there was one notable exception—the Board's decision, on a 3-2 vote, to adopt a pairing for Senate District K was flatly rejected as a “partisan political gerrymander” and rightly so.

I reside in Anchorage, however I am not a resident of any of the house districts directly impacted by this pairing. Nevertheless, as someone who monitored the redistricting process closely, it was clear that the process and outcome of the Anchorage senate pairings resulting in District K was unacceptable and degraded the public's trust in the entire process.

I watched that process live. When the Board came out of executive session and adopted a brand-new senate map for Anchorage without any publication, notice, public comment, or meaningful discussion it debased the entire process. It looked like what it was—a brazen attempt to manipulate the process for partisan purposes. This outcome diminished the representation of several communities, including minority communities. However, I wish to note a stark exception to this criticism—the efforts of Board Members Melanie Bahnke and Nicole Borromeo who spoke up, with courage and conviction, against this manipulation.

I write now to implore the Board to avoid going down a similar road on remand. Do not try to once again manipulate the senate pairings for partisan purposes. Do not try to once again run roughshod over the concerns raised by Board Members Bahnke and Borromeo. As the Supreme Court has concluded, their original concerns were absolutely correct and the other three members of the Board were wrong.

The time for debate has passed and the Board should swiftly perform the ministerial task of adopting the only logical senate map that the public has seen—the map offered by Board Member Bahnke, that was wrongfully rejected by the three-member majority of the Board.

Ms. Bahnke’s map would leave most of the current Senate pairings in place, and would only impose the following changes, pairing:

- House District 17 with 23;
- District 18 with 19;
- District 20 with 21; and
- District 22 with 24.

Such a map should have consensus support and will not raise any other issues related to suppressing minority votes or partisan gerrymandering.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge that the vast majority of this Board’s work was done properly, publicly, and in service of all Alaskans. The Senate District K process was unfortunate and absolutely cannot be repeated. I thank the Board for their service and ask that they avoid further controversy by promptly adopting the Senate pairings originally offered by Board Member Bahnke.

The public’s trust in the constitutional process of redistricting has been shaken by the issues surrounding District K. Please restore that trust by closely adhering to the Supreme Court’s decision and adopting the Bahnke map.

Sincerely,



Scott Kendall
Attorney
(907) 222-7932 (main)
(907) 222-7938 (fax)

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Michelle Turner <[REDACTED]>
Fri 4/1/2022 6:27 PM

Dear Redistricting Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on revised State of Alaska senate district pairings as result of the Alaska Supreme Court decision (In the Matter of the 2021 Redistricting Cases, Order No. S-18332, Mar. 25, 2022). As noted in the decision, pairing the two Muldoon (east Anchorage) districts with Eagle River districts was a political gerrymander that violated Alaska's equal protection clause. My comments focus on two specific areas: 1) the optimal way to address the Supreme Court concerns is to adopt the senate pairings proposed by Redistricting Board member Melanie Bahnke; and 2) the Board should revise its senate district pairings in a timely manner.

In its decision, the Alaska Supreme Court determined that the Board's Senate K pairing of house districts (Eagle River with Muldoon) constituted an unconstitutional political gerrymander violating equal protection under the Alaska Constitution. The obvious remedy is to pair the two Eagle River districts (HD22 and HD24) together in one senate district. But this this will result in "orphaned" districts HD21 and HD23 which cannot be paired because they are not contiguous; this required adjustment could result in a cascade effect of adjusting multiple senate district pairings. The easiest fix is the adoption of the senate pairings proposed by Ms. Bahnke:

The Bahnke map addresses the issues underlying the unconstitutional gerrymander identified by the Alaska Supreme Court. They are common sense pairings that keep similar communities together. Not only does it pair the two Eagle River district together and the two Muldoon districts together, it keeps west Anchorage, midtown, and hillside together. These pairings have been presented to the public and the public has been provided the opportunity to comment (and comments have been received).

These pairings enjoy strong support from Anchorage residents as shown by public comments to the Board during the redistricting in late 2021.

These pairings are more legally defensible than what the Board has previously adopted.

The Board should make a decision on senate pairings quickly. The Alaska State Constitution requires that a final redistricting plan be identified within 90 days of receipt of census data. As result of the Board's constitutionally-flawed process and decisions, final determination of districts has been delayed well beyond that 90-day deadline. It is in the public interest and would avoid confusion and voter disenfranchisement for a final map to be swiftly adopted. Additionally, the Board needs to heed the Alaska Supreme Court's rationale and endeavor to produce a redistricting plan that will satisfy the Court's requirements. The Bahnke map can be adopted within 5 minutes of convening – it has been subject to notice and comment, it is legally defensible, and it enjoys wide support.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

In closing, the “fix” for the Board’s unconstitutional gerrymander is clear. The Board should immediately adopt the senate pairings proposed by Ms. Bahnke upon completion of public testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Michelle Turner

[REDACTED]

Anchorage, AK 99516

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 6:39 pm

First Name: **Andrew**

Last Name: **Gray**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

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

Public Comment: **I support the senate pairings proposed by Redistricting Board Member Melanie Bahnke in November 2021:**

9E with 11F

10E with 15H

16H with 14G

13G with 12F

17I with 23L

18I with 19J

20J with 21K

These combinations are logical. Please support Ms. Bahnke's pairings.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 7:06 pm

First Name: **John**

Last Name: **Blaine**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

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

Public Comment: **The pairings recommended by Melanie Bahnke appear to be the most reasonable and I hope you will move ahead with approval of her recommendations. Thank you.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 7:06 pm

First Name: **John**

Last Name: **Blaine**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

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

Public Comment: **The pairings recommended by Melanie Bahnke appear to be the most reasonable and I hope you will move ahead with approval of her recommendations. Thank you.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 7:14 pm

First Name: **Holly**

Last Name: **Hill**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Bahnke district pairings must be adopted**

Public Comment: **The court has ordered a new redistricting map. The pairings proposed by Melanie Bahnke have already been presented and considered on the record. They are fair. Please adopt them expeditiously so that voters and candidates know what to expect by the next election.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 7:21 pm

First Name: **Lisa**

Last Name: **Haugen**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Alaska Districting Map - Senate**

Public Comment: **I am asking that you please adopt the following senate pairings:**

9 and 11 lower and upper hillside

10 and 13 Klatt and Taku

12 and 21 Abbott Loop and south Muldoon

14 and 19 midtown and UMed

17 and 18 downtown and Mountain View

20 and 23 north Muldoon and JBER

15 and 16 same as what you have already decided.

Thank you for your consideration.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 7:26 pm

First Name: **John**

Last Name: **Duffy**

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

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99645**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Adopt the Senate pairings proposed by Redistricting Board member Melanie Bahnke**

Public Comment: **The Board should act immediately to comply with the court's requirements and minimize confusion if this process is dragged out. It is in the public interest to swiftly adopt a map with final senate pairings so that voters can familiarize themselves with their new districts, precincts, and voting locations.**

I respectfully request that the Redistricting Board adopt the Senate pairings proposed by Redistricting Board Member Melanie Bahnke which have already been presented and considered on the record and were informed by public input and testimony.

Thank you.

John Duffy

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 10:03 pm

First Name: **Michael**

Last Name: **Garvey**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **ACLU of Alaska**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99503**

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

Public Comment: I submit this comment on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Alaska, an organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights and individual liberties enshrined in the U.S. and Alaska Constitutions, including the right to vote and equal rights and protection under the law. The ACLU of Alaska additionally represented six amici in litigation over the Redistricting Board's decision to pair Eagle River/Chugiak and East Anchorage/Muldoon house districts to create Senate Districts K and L.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 11:40 pm

First Name: **Doug**

Last Name: **Robbins**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate Pairings, final map**

Public Comment: **I urge the Board to adopt the Anchorage Senate pairings proposed by commissioner Bahnke, to replace the pairings rejected by the Supreme Court as unconstitutional. There is no reason to delay implementation of the Court's ruling.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 8:06 am

First Name: **Sandy**

Last Name: **Blomfield**

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

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

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

Public Comment: **I sincerely request the State of Alaska Redistricting Committee to wait until after the spring elections prior to proceeding. There is a lot of change in the entire electoral process, the ranked choice voting being the largest change, followed by the special election to fill the congressional seat of the Honorable Don Young. Putting a hold onto the redistricting issue would benefit all Alaskans who want to have their voices heard but are frankly overwhelmed with the new procedures, voting choices and trying to ascertain how to cast their votes with the new "Ranked Choice" voting. Your delay regarding this matter would be truly appreciated. I hope you will consider this urgent request of the board. Sincerely, Sandy Blomfield, (born in the territory, 67 years in AK)**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 9:36 am

First Name: **Ann**

Last Name: **Rappoport**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **not applicable**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Supreme/Superior Courts Remand Orders - it's time to adopt the proposed Bahnke district pairings!**

Public Comment: **I urge the Redistricting Board to act immediately to implement requirements in the Supreme Court's Remand Order. Voters need time to familiarize themselves with their potentially new districts, as well as the applicable candidates.**

I also want to urge the Board to swiftly adopt the Senate district pairings proposed by Melanie Bahnke for the remaining district areas that need to be revised in order to avoid gerrymandering, as the Courts have ruled. These pairings were both informed and overwhelmingly supported by public testimony when they were presented to the public as well as being considered on the record. Most importantly, these pairings uphold the requirements for geographic contiguity, socioeconomic similarity, and reasonableness, upholding our overall American institution of one person, one vote. Eagle River needs to be paired with Eagle River (i.e., pair House districts 22 and 24 in one Senate district); Muldoon needs to be paired with Muldoon (i.e., pair districts 20 and 21 into one Senate seat; pair districts 18 and 19 into one Senate seat); etc. These pairings unite neighborhoods into compact areas as they should. NOTE - we recently went through an extensive redistricting process for the Anchorage Assembly and similar issues arose where people tried to pair Eagle River with South Anchorage - public comments proved that illogical and fortunately that attempt was overruled. We need similar common sense to prevail here!

For South Anchorage, house districts 9 and 11 should be paired as these Hillside areas share concerns around limited and rural road service areas, septic systems, private wells, geographic limitations (steep slopes) for development and drainage issues.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 9:43 am

First Name: **Jan Carolyn**

Last Name: **Hardy**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **self**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99502**

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

Public Comment: **The 2021 Board Proclamation for Anchorage was ratified on November 10, 2021. There has been a public hearing publicly presented with public input and testimony. This Board has the opportunity to be the first Redistricting Board in over 20 years to have a map that is viable for a full 10 years.**

The Board did a good job with the overall house map and senate pairings in Southeast, Rural, Interior, and MatSu. Further delays would result in some candidates running three elections in a row. We have seen the chaos that creates both for the candidates and the voters. Some voters did not exercise the franchise because they did not know in which district they resided. This is unfair to the candidates and the voter.

We have a new system of voting: Rank Choice Voting. To complicate the matter further we will have special election to replace him. This is unprecedented. The voter needs time to reorient themselves to their new senate and house district. If questions surrounding our new Anchorage Municipality have not been resolved immediately the result could be voter disenfranchisement and failure of the system to protect one voter, one vote.

The Alaska Supreme Court has upheld the unconstitutional political gerrymander of Senate Seat K (Eagle River/East Anchorage) and remanded the pairing back to the Alaska Redistricting Board. Please act swiftly to adopt a map with final senate pairings. There is no time to waste.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 9:52 am

First Name: **Sherri**

Last Name: **Jackson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99502**

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

Public Comment: **Please adopt the following Anchorage Senate pairings. Two options are listed and either of these would work and make the most sense because they put together communities that share socioeconomic similarities so I ask you pick one of the two pairings below. We also ask the Redistricting Board to take their time. This decision is too important to make this decision so quickly. People need time to process and testify.**

(Anchorage is also in the middle of an important assembly seat and we ask that you at least wait until after that election next week).

**9 and 22 lower hillside and Eagle River
10 and 13 Klatt and Taku
11 and 12 same as you have now
14 and 19 midtown and UMed
15 and 16 same as you have now
17 and 18 downtown and Mountain View
20 and 21 north and south Muldoon
23 and 24 JBER and Chugiak**

or these combos

**9 and 11 lower and upper hillside
10 and 13 Klatt and Taku
12 and 21 Abbott Loop and south Muldoon
14 and 19 midtown and UMed
17 and 18 downtown and Mountain View
20 and 23 north Muldoon and JBER
15 and 16 same as what you have already decided.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 10:16 am

First Name: **Elizabeth**

Last Name: **Barry**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Court Remand Orders--Adopt the Bahnke District Pairings**

Public Comment: **The Redistricting Board needs to act immediately to implement requirements in the Supreme Court's Remand Order. Voters need time to familiarize themselves with their potentially new districts, as well as the applicable candidates.**

I urge the Board to swiftly adopt the Senate district pairings proposed by Melanie Bahnke for the remaining district areas that must be revised to avoid gerrymandering, as the Courts have ruled. These pairings were both informed and overwhelmingly supported by public testimony when they were presented to the public as well as being considered on the record. Crucially, these pairings uphold the requirements for geographic contiguity, socioeconomic similarity, and reasonableness, upholding our Constitutional mandates of one person, one vote. Eagle River needs to be paired with Eagle River (i.e., pair House districts 22 and 24 in one Senate district); Muldoon needs to be paired with Muldoon (i.e., pair districts 20 and 21 into one Senate seat; pair districts 18 and 19 into one Senate seat); etc. These pairings unite neighborhoods into compact areas as they should. The Anchorage Assembly recently went through an extensive redistricting process and similar issues arose where people tried to pair Eagle River with South Anchorage. Public comments proved that illogical and fortunately that attempt was overruled. We need similar common sense to prevail here.

Districts 23 and 17 should be paired to place Government Hill, Downtown, Fairview, and JBER in the same district. For populations, the Board had to divide Downtown into two districts; pairing these districts will ensure they are at least in the same Senate District. Government Hill is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Anchorage and has longstanding ties to the other historic neighborhoods in District 17. Service members from JBER regularly frequent businesses and services in Downtown.

The Spenard district (District 14) should be paired with the Turnagain district (District 16). Spenard and Turnagain are two very closely linked neighborhoods and residents often describe the whole area as "Spenard-Turnagain".

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Mary E. Fenno

[REDACTED]
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

To the 2021 Alaska Redistricting Board:

Hello, My name is Mary E. Fenno, I live at 1630 Goldridge Dr. in the Goldstream Valley, and I have lived at this address since 1983. I have been an Alaskan since 1975. My children went to Fairbanks schools, I receive my mail through a post office in Fairbanks, and I live approximately ten miles from the city of Fairbanks.

I believe that my neighborhood in District 36 was deliberately gerrymandered to break up the Democratic vote in our district which SHOULD INCLUDE neighborhoods in our area. This totally violates the directions the redistricting board are to follow as stated in Section 6.6, District Boundaries, and I quote:

"Each house district shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area."

My neighborhood and others in the Goldstream Valley have been taken out of our district and put with a very rural area, far from the Fairbanks area where we work and live.

To give those who are not familiar with District 36 as this redistricting board constructed it, the western border of district 36 includes Holy Cross and other communities others along the Yukon River, to the north Arctic Village, the western border is the Canadian border including Chicken and, and the southern border ripples around the McCarthy, Gulkana area and finally doglegs around Cantwell. Then the border goes north and includes Delta, Ft. Greely, and then goes around the Fairbanks districts, **except for excluding part of the Goldstream Valley**, and then heads south again to Nenana and Anderson.

I respectfully ask that the redistricting board change the border that deliberately slices our section of Goldstream Valley out of the Fairbanks districts and put us back in the district where we belong with our socio-economic area!

Also, I would also point out that, sadly, gerrymandering is always a part of the redistricting in our state, and this year's maps reveal the usual decennial debacle of manipulation that, once again, promotes political partisanship. I believe this is because the Alaska Constitution is misinterpreted. It states in, Section 6.8 Redistricting Board, it's plan for redistricting board members:

"Appointments shall be made without regard to political affiliation..."

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

The governor shall appoint two members of the board. The presiding officer of the senate, the presiding officer of the house of representatives, and the chief justice of the supreme court shall each appoint one member of the board.”

I believe that these words are misconstrued by politicians. I **DON'T** believe Alaska's founders meant to give any administration and/or legislature the power to stack the redistricting board with their party members. The founders did not want five people who are appointed by politicians **with regard**, that is, with favor, to their political affiliation. I believe they wanted all Alaskans to be represented in this process.

Thank you for reading and listening to my testimony.

Sincerely,

Mary E. Fenno



Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 10:38 am

First Name: **Andy**

Last Name: **Durny**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **None**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99701**

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

Public Comment: **Please adopt Senate pairings proposed by Redistricting Board member Melanie Bahnke rather than coming up with new pairings. These pairings proposed by Ms. Bahnke are fair, logical, and sensible.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 10:47 am

First Name: **Beth**

Last Name: **Farnstrom**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Public Comment: **I respectfully request one of the 2 following options for redistricting.**

We want true representation of all and these 2 options consider the likeness of the citizens of the communities being represented. These communities usually have similar values, socioeconomic likeness, wants and desires.

Your decision needs to be what is best for Anchorage and Alaska not your personal bias. I ask you to please pick one of the 2 pairings below. Your decision should include as much public comment as possible since your decision impacts us for the next 10 years.

I strongly support one of the following redistricting plans.

**9 and 22 lower hillside and Eagle River
10 and 13 Klatt and Taku
11 and 12 same as now
14 and 19 midtown and U med
15 and 16 same as now
17 and 18 downtown and Mt view
20 and 21 north and south Muldoon
23 and 24 JBER and Chugiak**

Or

**9 and lower and upper hillside
10 and 13 Klatt and Taku
12 and 21 Abbott loop and south Muldoon
14 and 19 midtown and Umed
17 and 18 downtown and mt view
20 and 23 north Muldoon and JBER
15 and 16 same as you have decided**

Thank you for the opportunity to share my personal views on what is being decided.

Sincerely,

Beth Farnstrom

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 11:12 am

First Name: **Anne Marie**

Last Name: **Moylan**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

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

Public Comment: **Dear Board,**

Please waste no time in adopting the Bahnke plan and pairings as is because it followed all the precepts of fair and equitable means: the principle of one person to one vote.

It provides people the time to acquaint themselves with what may be their shifted district before very important voting opportunities. If allowed to drag on there would likely be further disenfranchisement of voters.

Thank you,

Anne Marie Moylan

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

To the Alaska Redistricting Board,

As you revisit unconstitutional district lines of House District 36, please take this opportunity to rectify the mistake of excluding the Goldstream area of the Fairbanks North Star Borough from a Fairbanks area House district.

Goldstream is entirely socioeconomically associated with Fairbanks, and it plainly defies compactness to associate an area dependent on, and integrated with, Fairbanks with communities hundreds of miles away instead.

My children attend school in a Fairbanks North Star Borough School District School, I work in Fairbanks, and have served on an FNSB commission. In the current foolhardy proposal for our house district alignment, I would have to travel through a couple Fairbanks House districts to visit other communities with whom we would be politically associated.

Take this opportunity to right a wrong and keep our community and House district whole.

Thank you,

John Perreault

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 11:45 am

First Name: **Jennifer**

Last Name: **Avila**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99515**

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

Public Comment: **Please adopt the following Anchorage Senate pairings. Two options are listed and either of these would work and make the most sense because they put together communities that share socioeconomic similarities so I ask you pick one of the two pairings below. We also ask the Redistricting Board to take their time. This decision is too important to make this decision so quickly. People need time to process and testify.**

(Anchorage is also in the middle of an important assembly seat and we ask that you at least wait until after that election next week).

**9 and 22 lower hillside and Eagle River
10 and 13 Klatt and Taku
11 and 12 same as you have now
14 and 19 midtown and UMed
15 and 16 same as you have now
17 and 18 downtown and Mountain View
20 and 21 north and south Muldoon
23 and 24 JBER and Chugiak**

or these combos

**9 and 11 lower and upper hillside
10 and 13 Klatt and Taku
12 and 21 Abbott Loop and south Muldoon
14 and 19 midtown and UMed
17 and 18 downtown and Mountain View
20 and 23 north Muldoon and JBER
15 and 16 same as what you have already decided.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 12:12 pm

First Name: **Carolyn**

Last Name: **Clift**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **na**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **When I ran for Senate in 2020, I had to drive through two other House Districts to get from my home, in East Anchorage, to the southern part of the Senate District. I registered my complaint with the Board. Now, with the unconstitutional House pairing of Senate K, I would have to, again, drive through at least one other House District to get to the eastern (Eagle River) part of K. It would make sense for the two Muldoon districts to be paired together, and the two Eagle River districts to be paired together. I have heard that there are socioeconomic links to Eagle River, but there are no retail stores or restaurants in South Muldoon that do not already exist in Eagle River.**



Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
a professional corporation

Holly C. Wells
Mara E. Michaletz
Zoe A. Danner

Respond to Anchorage Office
T 907.263.7222 • F 907.276.3680
hwells@bhb.com
mmichaletz@bhb.com
zdanner@bhb.com

April 1, 2022

Alaska Redistricting Board
PO Box 240147
Anchorage, AK 99524

RE: Narrow Scope of Remand Authority to Correct Senate District K Pairings
Our File No.: 508532.2

Dear members of the Alaska Redistricting Board:

The purpose of this letter is to provide support and validation to the Alaska Redistricting Board as it explains to the public the Board's limited discretion on remand as compared to the initial redistricting process. Unlike the initial redistricting process, the work of the Board is strictly limited to correcting the constitutional infirmities in House District 38 and Senate District K. Thus, while East Anchorage Plaintiffs genuinely appreciate the Board's inclusion of substantial public testimony and multiple public hearings on remand, they fully acknowledge that the Board cannot reopen all Anchorage senate or house districts without directly violating the court order and the Alaska Constitution. Similarly, East Anchorage Plaintiffs also recognize that the Board must move quickly and that while public testimony is important, the scope of the remand order does not afford the Board weeks to cure an error that took only a day to make, especially where this delay impacts the upcoming election.

While East Anchorage Plaintiffs have advocated zealously for public participation in the redistricting process and continue to emphasize the importance of the public's notice of and right to attend Board remand proceedings, the Board's duty this Saturday is to act quickly, efficiently, and narrowly to correct the minimal errors identified by the court. East Anchorage Plaintiffs are hoping that this letter validates the Board's narrow scope at the upcoming hearing and serves to remind the public that the Board does not have the authority to review the senate districts in Anchorage as a whole or more broadly reexamine house districts in addressing the "Cantwell Appendage," even if presented with public testimony supporting such action. Instead, the Board must act within the narrow confines of the remand order or face further legal consequences.

Similarly, in addition to the limitations on the Board's consideration on remand under the court order and the Alaska Constitution, East Anchorage Plaintiffs recognize that the ethical obligations of the Board, and the consequences that arise from the intentional violation of a court order or even undue delay in complying with such an order also inform the Board's narrow and swift corrective action.

East Anchorage Plaintiffs have provided a more in-depth examination of the legal constraints facing the Board, to further explain the differences in process between this narrowly tailored hearing and the initial November 8, 2021 hearing on senate pairings.

The Board's actions on remand are limited to the language of the court orders. The Alaska Supreme Court upheld the Board's actions and proclamations regarding every senate district and every house district *but for* Senate District K and House District 38. In so doing, the Alaska Supreme Court expressly recognized the limited scope of its ruling and remand, asserting with precision that:

The superior court determined that Senate District K was unconstitutional on the grounds of equal protection, due process, and violating the public hearings requirement... We note that the superior court did not rule that the underlying house districts were unconstitutional and that no party asserts that the underlying house districts are unconstitutional. The superior court's determination relates solely to the senate pairing of house districts. We AFFIRM the superior court's determination that the Board's Senate K pairing of house districts constituted an unconstitutional political gerrymander violating equal protection under the Alaska Constitution, and we therefore AFFIRM the superior court's remand to the Board to correct the constitutional error.¹

Similarly, in its Order Following Remand from the Alaska Supreme Court issued on March 30, 2022, the Superior Court remanded to:

1) Correct the Constitutional errors identified by this Court and the Supreme court in Senate District K; ... and

3) To make other revisions to the proclamation plan resulting or related to these changes.²

In its remand, the Superior Court was also careful to retain jurisdiction over the proceeding so that it could address any concerns on remand quickly.

In light of the limited scope of the remand by both the Alaska Supreme Court and the Alaska Superior Court, the only senate pairings that may be disrupted are those that will be paired and unpaired to correct the equal protection clause violation in Senate District K.

In conducting the remand, any decision to disturb a lawful and promulgated district must be weighed against the constitutional requirement that districts be adopted in the manner *and within the time periods* identified in the Alaska Constitution and Alaska Statute. In other words, any effort by the Board to throw open the senate districts in Anchorage or beyond for a "redo"

¹ *In the matter of the 2021 Redistricting Cases*, Supreme Court No. S-18322, Order Dated 3/25/22 at 5-6.

² Order Following Remand from the Alaska Supreme Court, March 30, 2022.

would be blatantly unlawful and would effectively result in a failure by the Board to comply with time constraints imposed by the Constitution.

Accordingly, the only correction that appears to preserve the Board's adopted pairings while correcting the unconstitutional Senate District K is as follows:

Senate District E (Marcum)

House District 9: South Anchorage/Turnagain Arm/Whittier

House District 10: Oceanview/Klatt

Senate District F (Marcum)

House District 11: Lower Hillside

House District 12: Far North Bicentennial Park

Senate District G (Marcum)

House District 13: Campbell

House District 14: Spenard

Senate District H (Marcum)

House District 15: Sand Lake/Campbell Lake

House District 16: Anchorage Airport

Senate District I (Bahnke)

House District 17: Downtown Anchorage

House District 23: Government Hill/JBER/Northeast Anchorage

Senate District J (Bahnke)

House District 18: Mountainview/Airport Heights

House District 19: U-Med

Senate District K (Bahnke)

House District 20: North Muldoon

House District 21: South Muldoon

Senate District L (Bahnke)

House District 22: Eagle River Valley

House District 24: North Eagle River/Chugiak

While East Anchorage Plaintiffs recognized the value of pairings proposed by others at the initial November 8, 2021 hearing, the court order and the proclamation process simply do not authorize the Board to take action beyond the action mandated by the court.

Finally, East Anchorage Plaintiffs commend the Board for not only adopting a predominately fair and effective proclamation plan, but for acting quickly and lawfully to make the

small corrections to that plan identified by the court. Each of the Board members should be extremely proud of this accomplishment and the great service they have provided all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

BIRCH HORTON BITTNER & CHEROT

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Zoe A. Danner", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Holly C. Wells
Mara E. Michaletz
Zoe A. Danner

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 12:28 pm

First Name: **Julia**

Last Name: **Bockmon**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting following S. Ct. remand order**

Public Comment: **I urge the Redistricting Board to act immediately to comply with the Supreme Court's Remand Order. Voters need time to familiarize themselves with their new districts, as well as the candidates for office representing their districts.**

I also urge the Board to adopt the Senate district pairings proposed by Melanie Bahnke for the districts that need to be revised to correct the improper gerrymandering. The Bahnke pairings are supported by previous public testimony and information of record. Most importantly, these pairings uphold the requirements for geographic contiguity, socioeconomic similarity, and reasonableness, upholding our overall American institution of one person, one vote. These pairings unite neighborhoods into compact areas as they should (keeping Muldoon w/ Muldoon, West Anc. w/ West Anc., Eagle River w/ Eagle River etc.).

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 12:49 pm

First Name: **Camilla**

Last Name: **Dalton**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

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

Public Comment: I ask the Board to comply with the Court's requirements. There will only be confusion and more confusion if this process is allowed to drag out. In my opinion, the Board should adopt the Bahnke senate pairings, instead of trying to come up with new pairings. It is in the public interest to adopt a map with final senate pairings ASAP!! so that voters can familiarize themselves with their new districts, precincts, and voting locations, besides an unprecedented special election.

PLEASE just Adopt the Bahnke pairings NOW. They have already been presented and considered and informed by public input and testimony. In addition, they are the common-sense geographic and socioeconomic pairings. Thank you

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 1:06 pm

First Name: **Pamela**

Last Name: **Miller**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Alaska Community Action on Toxics**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99518**

Issue of Concern: **Fair and equitable re-districting**

Public Comment: **April 2, 2022**

Dear Members of the Re-Districting Board:

I am writing on behalf of our board, staff, volunteers, and supporters of Alaska Community Action on Toxics, a statewide public interest non-profit environmental health and justice organization. We also work to ensure voter rights and uphold democratic principles. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the critical issue of re-districting and write to ensure that voting districts are representative, fair, and equitable for all Alaskans. Thank you for your careful deliberations. The redistricting board must be responsible to the public by resolving this expeditiously to prevent voter disenfranchisement and confusion.

Given the urgency of this issue, we respectfully request that the Alaska Re-Districting Board immediately fulfil the Court's requirements. We assert that it is necessary and in the public interest to prevent further confusion by expeditiously adopting a map with final Senate pairings. This is necessary to provide voters with timely understanding of their new districts, precincts, and voting locations. This is especially important and timely given the new ranked choice voting election system and complications of the upcoming and unprecedented special election.

We further recommend that the Board should adopt the Bahnke Senate pairings in Anchorage rather than attempting to create new pairings. These pairings were informed by public input and testimony and uphold the "one person, one vote principle." In addition, they provide common-sense geographic and socioeconomic pairings.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Sincerely,
Pamela Miller
Executive Director**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 1:23 pm

First Name: **Camilla**

Last Name: **Hussein-Scott**

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

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

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

Public Comment: **Good afternoon,**

I have called Eagle River my hometown for over 15 years; I own my home and have raised my three children, who attended local public schools in this community. I have always enjoyed living in Eagle River and cannot imagine living somewhere else.

My concern is splitting Eagle River districts apart and pairing one community with a part of Anchorage that is so very different demographically and geographically from the CER community. The Public and the courts have recognized the gerrymandering nature and deemed it dishonest and unethical.

Please do the right thing and embrace the Senate pairings that Ms. Melanie Bahnke introduced in November. These pairings have been introduced to the Public and are supported by the majority of both communities. The pairings are respectful to both communities and stay clear of breaking communities apart for partisan political gain.

Ms. Bahnke's recommendations keep Eagle River together instead of separating the town.

I am kindly asking the Board to redo the pairings without delay so that we can eliminate the confusion of having a change in maps during the mid-election season, or at least at the onset of special elections. We don't want to discourage voters from voting on a technicality that you can fix.

Respectfully,

**Camilla Hussein-Scott
Eagle River**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 1:24 pm

First Name: **Elizabeth**

Last Name: **Jones**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **District 36-R**

Public Comment: **Do not understand why the Murphy Dome area and Goldstream area are no longer part of the Fairbanks area. We are an Alaska "suburb" of Fairbanks. That is the closest commercial district to us. While we are all Alaskans, we are more like Fairbanks than the rural areas we have been placed with in the new redistricting map. Please put us back with Fairbanks as before.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 1:46 pm

First Name: **Bonnie**

Last Name: **Bladow**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99502**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Melanie Bahnke Senate Pairings**

Public Comment: **Please act swiftly to comply with the court's requirements and adopt the redistricting senate pairings proposed by Melanie Bahnke. These pairings are the result of prior public input and testimony and make the most sense for the Municipality of Anchorage. Furthermore, they do not change the underlying deviation of districts and uphold the one person, one vote principle. I believe that the current map disenfranchises minority votes from the South Muldoon by combining portions of this area with Eagle River. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 1:54 pm

First Name: **Mary**

Last Name: **Geddes**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

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

Public Comment: **I am an Anchorage resident and homeowner who has lived in Alaska since 1984. I vote in every election. I wish to express my support for the Senate pairings proposed by Melanie Bahnke. Her proposal reflected public input and the pairings are the most sensible reflection of geographical and socioeconomic criteria.**

Sincerely,

Mary Geddes

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 2:28 pm

First Name: **Yarrow**

Last Name: **Silvers**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **It's not too late to place the Alaskan people and one person/one vote principles above partisan maneuvering.**

Please redo the senate pairings without delay so that Alaskans can vote using a fully constitutional map for the full ten years, thus avoiding the confusion and disenfranchisement that a constantly changing map creates. Considering how past maps have changed over several elections, this would be an amazing accomplishment for the board and something to be proud of.

I want to advocate for the adoption of the pairings that Melanie Bahnke put forward during the redistricting process, as necessary to fix the constitutional errors. These pairings have been introduced to the public and enjoyed broad support because of the way they respect communities instead of breaking them apart for political partisan purposes.

Specifically, the 4 pairings of interest keep Eagle River as one community, Muldoon as one community, connect the Umed/Airport Heights area and reconnect the North and South sides of 4th Avenue downtown.

Please develop a system for truncation that is transparent and random. The actions of this board around truncation - voting down a random coin toss while stating that board members didn't know incumbent information, when at least two members looked at and discussed this information, on camera, before this series of votes - broke public trust, even amongst those that don't have a full understanding of truncation.

Also breaking trust was the actions taken around the South Anchorage pairing, which initially enjoyed board consensus, but was then inexplicably split apart at the last minute with no discussion or reasoning.

It seems likely that someone looked at political data over the weekend and decided that the new pairing gave a partisan advantage while splitting this community apart. These were egregious actions, and I ask that in fixing the errors, you follow our Alaska State Constitution, which does not allow for politically based mapping. These are people that you silenced with your actions, not tools in a partisan toolbox.

The public and the courts have seen and recognized the gerrymander and the truncation fix, both carried out dishonestly and unethically, still it is not too late to do the right thing and embrace the positive accomplishments of this board, while rejecting the actions taken that were unconstitutional and of questionable ethic.

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 2, 2022, 5:00 pm

First Name: **Diane**

Last Name: **Herrmann**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **District 36 and Goldstream Valley, Fairbanks**

Public Comment: **I urge you to reconsider the inclusion of Goldstream Valley in District 36, a rural district. Goldstream Valley residents are members of the Fairbanks community: they work, go to school, and shop in Fairbanks, similar to those who live in Ester, off Farmers Loop, or much of Chena Hot Springs Road. In looking at the map for 35R and 36R, the west side of Fairbanks has been carved up and divided among those districts as well as 34Q. This does not follow the constitutional rule that calls for “relatively integrated socioeconomic area.” Please fix this.**

ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

From: Alyssa Quintyne <[REDACTED]>

Hi good afternoon again,
My name is Alyssa Quintyne from Fairbanks. I'm not able to call in today, but did want to email in my thoughts to this board.

I've mentioned in previous emails the cultural and community nuances of Interior Alaska, as it is everywhere, is imperative to how we vote. I explained that even though Farmer's Loop and Eielson AFB are in the same borough and only 10 minutes away from each other, that those communities are drastically different and have drastically different needs and impacts, and that to ask an elected leader to represent both of those communities would become competitive and harmful to both those communities and to the representative. I explained that this current 2021 map felt obviously politically motivated and gentrified, and how this broke my trust in this process that will impact me for the next decade. I and several other organizers worked hard to rally our friends and neighbors to engage in this process, and it is not clear how, or even if our feedback was taken seriously. None of the changes we advocated for are reflected on your website. I don't see how putting College road, Downtown, and all of South Cushman - the historic and current Black and Native neighbors, our military families, and the area with the highest and most diverse population density in the entire Borough into the 2 smallest districts in the Interior is fair or constitutional. I don't see how putting Farmer's Loop with Eielson AFB is fair and constitutional. I don't see removing the Goldstream and Ester communities from our broader communities to somehow represent Rural Alaskans is fair and constitutional. None of this is clear to me.

What is clear is this;

It is clear that this board has no regard for how this will impact communities, just money and politics. It's clear that our Fairbanks member has succeeded in representing their fantasy community that fits their socio-political and financial needs, but has failed to represent the actual needs and thoughts of their community. It is clear that there is no room for Black, Brown, Indigenous, Disabled, LGBTQ, Military, Migrant, or young voters to truly have a say or have any meaningful representation in this process and in our own government.

This map proves it, and this Boards' comments have proved it.

I am happy this board is working so hard to achieve their personal goals, but now, I and so many other people will have to work to undo the harm and confusion and frustration and inequities this Board will cause us. You sit there and argue and banter and crunch numbers, I have to be out there on the streets, neighborhood to neighborhood, explaining to this entire borough how to vote again and why this Board chose the way they did. Our fights and worlds are different. You all had a chance to understand that, you asked people to engage, and our words fell on closed ears.

I sincerely hope you at least take that into consideration for future endeavors.

~ Alyssa