

AGENDA

ALPINE COUNTY REDISTRICTING ADVISORY COMMISSION

SPECIAL MEETING

October 28, 2021

10:00 am

Alpine County Government Center
99 Water Street, Markleeville, CA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93548639142>

(669) 900 9128

Meeting ID: 935 4863 9142

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Beverly Crawford, District 1 | William Young, District 1 | Brian Peters, District 2 | Jeanne Lear, District 2 |
Stacey James, District 3 | Eric Jung, District 4 | Kathleen Fox-Williams, District 5

The public is invited and encouraged to participate in all meetings of the Alpine County Redistricting Advisory Commission.

Item No.	Item	
1.	CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL	Commission
2.	PUBLIC COMMENT	
	2.1 Opportunity for the Public to provide information and input.	
3.	MINUTES	
	3.1 Approve meeting minutes of October 19, 2021.	Commission
4.	UNFINISHED BUSINESS	
	4.1 None.	Commission
5.	NEW BUSINESS	
	5.1 Review of mapping tool software.	Community Development
	5.2 Review and discussion regarding large plot maps of Alpine County and sections thereof, for use with the mapping tool, for draft map creation for submission to the Board of Supervisors.	Community Development
	5.3 Review and discussion to approve draft map submission for the Board's consideration.	Commission
	5.4 Review and discussion to approve draft Commission report for submission for the Board's consideration.	Commission
	5.5 Commissioner Reports	Commission
6.	ADJOURNMENT	Commission

Dated: 10/27/2021

Teola L. Tremayne, County Clerk and ex officio
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
By: Patricia Griffin, Assistant County Clerk

MINUTES

ALPINE COUNTY REDISTRICTING ADVISORY COMMISSION

October 19, 2021

6:00 pm

Alpine County Government Center
99 Water Street, Markleeville, CA

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93548639142>

(669) 900 9128

Meeting ID: 935 4863 9142

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

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Item No. Item

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|-----------|--|------------|
| 1. | CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL | Commission |
| | Chair Lear called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm with Commissioners Beverly Crawford and Jeanne Lear present in person and Commissioners Bill Young, Brian Peters, Eric Jung and Stacey James present via Zoom. Commissioner Kathleen Fox-Williams was absent. | |
| 2. | PUBLIC COMMENT | |
| | 2.1 Opportunity for the Public to provide information and input.

Chair Lear stated that public input was what the commission was looking for and encouraged public participation. | |
| 3. | MINUTES | |
| | 3.1 Approve meeting minutes of October 5, 2021. | Commission |
| | MOTION Jung / SECOND Peters approving the meeting minutes of July 19, 2021.
AYES: Crawford, Young, Peters, Lear, Jung, Fox-Williams,
ABSENT: James
MOTION CARRIED. | |
| 4. | UNFINISHED BUSINESS | |
| | 4.1 None. | Commission |
| 5. | NEW BUSINESS | |
| | 5.1 Discussion regarding status of final Census Numbers from the State of California and Alpine County demographics report.

Vestra representative Ryan Goodner-Belli explained that the final 2020 Census Data was final and available to utilize in the mapping tool.

Chair Lear reported that County Counsel confirmed that Census blocks could not be split. | Commission |
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Item No.	Item	
5.2	Presentation and discussion regarding optional/sample map for 2020 Redistricting.	Community Development
	Commissioner Peters explained that there were some fairly significant differences in the district boundaries on the sample map due to Census Blocks.	
	Commissioner Young asked whether it was possible to get a map that showed the number of residents in a Census Block. Created Vestra representative Ryan Goodner-Belli stated that maps could be created with that type of data. Young stated that the Census Blocks did not make much sense for rural areas, that some of the blocks may only have 5 or 6 people. Chair Lear stated that she had a spreadsheet with the Census Block population data. Could Commissioner Jung stated that Caples Lake should be in District 4 with Kirkwood.	
	Commissioner Peters stated that the Hot Springs Road corridor in the Markleeville area should be looked at closer in regard to the District 2 and District 5 boundaries.	
	Markleeville resident Kris Harnett commented that the new map would make District Board of Supervisors representation difficult.	
	Commissioner Jung suggested asking County Counsel if there was a way around not splitting the Census Blocks.	
	Commissioner James stated that the Census Block boundaries needed to be looked at from a rural standpoint, that the blocks may work in a city, but do not necessarily work for rural areas.	
	Vestra representative Ryan Goodner-Belli stated that a map could be created for the next meeting with the Census Block population information as requested.	
	Commissioner Young requested large plotted maps that included roads for more concise, easier to read mapping.	
	After some discussion, the Commission agreed, by consensus to schedule another meeting before the November 2, 2021 Public Hearing at the regular Board of Supervisors Meeting. The Commission agreed on a meeting date of October 28, 2021 at 10:00am.	
5.3	Discussion regarding public input, Communities of Interest Surveys and map submissions.	Commission
	Chair Lear stated that the survey would be available on line and that paper copies would be available at the County Clerk's Office. Commissioner Crawford stated that she had received a few surveys and would provide them to the Chair.	
5.4	Commission reports.	Commission
	None.	
6.	ADJOURNMENT	Commission

Dated: 10/25/2021

Teola L. Tremayne, County Clerk and ex officio
 Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
 By: Patricia Griffin, Assistant County Clerk
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Alpine County Redistricting Advisory Committee Report

Every ten years, local governments use new census data to redraw their district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. Assembly Bill 849 (2019) requires cities and counties to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings and/or workshops and doing public outreach, including to non-English-speaking communities.

Districts must be redrawn so that each district is substantially equal in population, ensuring that each board member represents about the same number of constituents. In Alpine, the Board of Supervisors is responsible for drawing supervisorial districts. This year the state verified U.S. Census data for Alpine County was released September 19, 2021. The Alpine County redistricting process must be completed by December 15, 2021.

Redistricting determines which neighborhoods and communities are grouped together into a district for purposes of electing a board member. The Alpine County Redistricting Advisory Commission, which is made up of members of the public, has been working to develop fair and representative district maps for the Board of Supervisor's consideration, within the confines of the following three major areas of concern:

- Census block configurations and limitations, as provided by the 2020 U.S. Census.
- Geographic integrity, contiguous areas reflecting local neighborhoods and Communities of Interest that are, compact, easily identifiable and understandable, and bound by natural and artificial barriers.
- Communities of Interest districts drawn as substantially equal in population.

Each of these areas of concern are discussed in more detail below.

Census Blocks

The term "census block" normally refers to a designated block-shaped area within which the population is enumerated. The U.S. Census website provides a video of this concept. It does not provide any information on how census blocks that do not conform to street-like blocks are established.

Alpine County has 204 census blocks designated for the 2020 census. There were over 400 census blocks allocated for the 2010 census. The compression of the census blocks leads to less flexibility in drawing districts.

Of the 204 census blocks, 87 blocks contain one or more enumerated populations, 117 blocks are at zero (0) population. As has always been the fact for Alpine County, approximately 95% of our lands are under public ownership or management.

The configuration of the blocks range from small, one road loops to a single block that spans about one-third of the County. The blocks run north to south and east to west, in vastly irregular shapes and sizes. The configuration of the blocks, and the directive that census blocks cannot be

divided, impedes the development of maps that recognize the geographic integrity and the Communities of Interest of Alpine County.

Geographic Integrity

The unique geography and elevations of Alpine County are a foremost consideration in complying with the following California state criteria:

To the extent practicable, district lines will be adopted using the following criteria:

- (1) geographically contiguous districts (each supervisorial district should share a common border with the next),
- (2) the geographic integrity of local neighborhoods or communities shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division,
- (3) geographic integrity of a city shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division,
- (4) easily identifiable boundaries that follow natural or artificial barriers (rivers, streets, highways, rail lines, etc.), and
- (5) lines shall be drawn to encourage geographic compactness. In addition, boundaries shall not be drawn for purposes of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

The heart of Alpine County is physically divided by the crest of the Sierra Nevada mountains that run east to west through the middle of the County. The Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) has often been used to define the “east slope” and the “west slope”. State Highway 4 is the only passable vehicle road that connects the two slopes. Highway 4 is closed due to snow for 5 to 7 months of the year. Highway 88 links the Kirkwood community with both Alpine County and Amador County. Highway 88 is also subject to intermittent closure due to snow accumulation and avalanche. The attached County map is a graphic view of just how strikingly large the undeveloped areas of the County are and of the geographic isolation of our communities.

Due to the vast public lands between the east and west slopes, each community is organized to provide several levels of public services independently. Emergency response services, such as fire, medical, and search and rescue, as well as schools and educational options are based in each of the geographic regions. Coordination with the numerous public agencies that manage the adjacent forests and watersheds and issues arising with adjoining county and state agencies are routinely handled by the District Supervisor. Each area has its own commercial and public areas and manages its own public infrastructures, such as water, sewer, power, telephone, intel and solid waste services.

Community of Interest

California Election Code Section 21500 provides, in part:

Section 21500 (b)(2) To the extent practicable, the geographic integrity of any local neighborhood or local community of interest shall be respected in a manner that minimizes its division. A **“community of interest” is a population that shares common social or economic interests that should be included within a single supervisorial district for purposes of its**

effective and fair representation. Communities of interest do not include relationships with political parties, incumbents, or political candidates. (**emphasis added**)

The Alpine County census count for 2020 is 1,207. Given our small numbers and the rural and rugged nature of Alpine County, we all share a basic, common Community of Interest. We all have a lot more in common with each other than not; proximity to nature, value of our natural resources, appreciation of wildlife, preparing for changing seasons and variable weather, reliance on neighbors, “pulling together” and volunteer service, pleasant, quiet roadways, “trips to town”, snow shovels and wood stacking, cabin fever, even local wandering dogs. In responding to “Where are the boundaries of your Community of Interest?” in the redistricting survey, one resident wrote “Alpine County as a whole.”

As a starting point, the existing five supervisorial districts, drawn from the 2010 census, have generally been accepted by residents as a fair and balanced reflection of the various communities of Alpine County.

District 1

As the County seat, Markleeville is a center of many of the public services and public spaces needed for functional County administration and community engagement, as well as an established commercial center for the town and surrounding neighborhoods and for many visitors. This area includes Grover Hot Springs State Park, a regional tourist favorite.

District 2

The neighborhoods that surround the intersection of Highways 88 and 89 make up the Woodfords area, with a commercial center and some important County service buildings as well as Diamond Valley School. Much of this area, runs along and near the west fork of the Carson River, with homes in small clusters on paved and unpaved roads.

District 3

The Hung A Lel Ti Community is comprised of community members residing in the area east of Diamond Valley as well as along the west fork of the Carson River and other properties throughout the area. The Hung A Lel Ti Community has traditionally lived with and utilized the land, water, wind, vegetation and other resources of a wide range of portions of the eastern slope of Alpine County. The Hung A Lel Ti Community has strong cultural ties to these lands and traditions, in their language, beliefs, songs, storytelling, and skills, such as beading and basket weaving.

District 4

Although a distance apart, the communities of Bear Valley and Kirkwood have strong economic and social common interests, based around their ski facilities, commercial enterprises, climate and elevations, integration of the built and natural environment and local community aspects of resort areas. They share a strong necessity to interact on a high level with state and federal land and resources agencies and to protect and advocate for policies and programs that support the responsible development and operation of a wide range of outdoor recreational opportunities.

District 5

The northern end of Alpine County, including the Mesa Vista area and nearby neighborhoods, generally runs along the southeastern slope of the Sierra's and north toward the Carson Valley along Highway 88. This is a residential area of single family homes on 2 to 5 acre and larger properties, that opens up to several ranches as the hillside flattens out toward the valley and the Nevada state line.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Alpine County Redistrict Advisory Commission submits the following conclusions for the Board of Supervisor's consideration:

- The 2020 U.S. census configurations make it difficult to separate the districts along the natural geographic lines that speak to practical issues as discussed above. The Board should seek legal counsel as to whether or not census blocks, particularly census blocks with zero (0) population, referred to as "ghost blocks" can be divided or lines drawn to reflect geographic realities, though administrative or other allowable avenues.
- The very low populations numbers make compliance with a hard population allocation percentage difficult to achieve. It is one thing to allocate blocks with hundreds or thousands of people. In Alpine County, the percentage can be thrown off by 4 or 5 people. The Board should seek legal counsel as to adopting district boundaries that reflect geographic and Community of Interest priorities over hard population percentages.
- The integrity of the Hung A Lel Ti Community should be respected and secured as a majority population district for elected representation.
- Alpine County should be very proactive in participating in the census block development process for the 2030 census. Although it may seem in the distant future, it is not. County staff should be tasked with understanding and engaging in the census block development process at the state and federal level as early as is possible for the next census.

The Alpine County Redistricting Advisory Commission respectfully recommends the following:

Consideration of draft District Map ____

- In the Commission's opinion, this map represents the most accurate representation of the real and authentic geographic areas that correspond to the Communities of Interest for our various communities.

County residents are encouraged to share how district boundaries should be drawn to best represent our communities. Contact the Alpine County Clerk [email](#) to find out more about how the process works or go to the Alpine County website, under "Government" to find the Alpine County Redistricting 2021 webpage, <http://www.alpinecountyca.gov/584/Alpine-County-Redistricting-2021>.

Jeanne Lear
Chair, Alpine County Redistricting Advisory Commission

