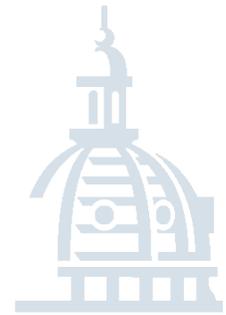


**REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY REDISTRICTING
ADVISORY COMMISSION
TO THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
APRIL 11, 2011**



Pursuant to section 42.6 of the 2011 Code of Iowa, the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission submits this report to the General Assembly regarding the plan for Congressional and Legislative redistricting submitted by the Legislative Services Agency to the General Assembly on March 31, 2011.

HEARINGS

The Commission held four public hearings on the plan on April 4, 5, 6, and 7, in Council Bluffs, Bettendorf, Cedar Rapids, and Des Moines respectively. The Council Bluffs hearing was accessible to the public at Iowa Communications Network (ICN) satellite sites in Sioux City, Mason City, and Spencer while the Cedar Rapids hearing was accessible to the public at ICN satellite sites in Dubuque, Ottumwa, and Waterloo. As required by law, summaries of testimony and information presented at the hearings are attached to and by this reference made a part of this report.

REDISTRICTING STANDARDS

Section 42.4 of the 2011 Code of Iowa states that the following redistricting standards must be met in establishing new Congressional and Legislative district boundaries:

1. Districts shall be established on the basis of population and shall each have a population as nearly equal as practicable to the ideal population.
 2. For Congressional districts, each district shall be composed of whole counties. For Legislative districts, the number of counties and cities divided into more than one district shall be as small as possible.
 3. Districts shall be composed of convenient contiguous territory.
 4. Districts shall be reasonably compact in form, to the extent consistent with the first three standards. In general, reasonably compact districts are those which are square, rectangular, or hexagonal in shape, and not irregularly shaped, to the extent permitted by natural or political boundaries.
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5. A district shall not be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, incumbent legislator or member of Congress, political party, or other person or group.
6. Each state representative district shall be wholly included within a single state senatorial district. To the extent possible and consistent with the first five standards, each Senate and House district shall be wholly included within a single Congressional district.
7. A new districting plan shall not be used prior to the primary election of 2012.
8. Each bill embodying a plan shall include provisions for election of senators to the general assemblies which take office in 2013 and 2015, which shall be in conformity with Article III, section 6, of the Constitution of the State of Iowa.

COMMENTS, CONCLUSIONS, AND COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS

The Legislative Services Agency staff has presented a proposed Congressional and Legislative redistricting plan to the General Assembly and the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission has listened to and received testimony presented at four public hearings across the state and via electronic submission.

1. The Commission hereby unanimously makes the following comments concerning Congressional and Legislative redistricting:
 - a. The Commission is grateful to those members of the public who made the effort to provide oral and written testimony concerning the redistricting plan and for those members of the public who attended the public hearings conducted throughout the state. While the concerns expressed by the participants at the public hearings concerning the plan were thoughtful and constructive, they were not within the constitutional and statutory criteria upon which the plan is to be evaluated by the Commission and the Commission is of the opinion that the Legislative Services Agency has satisfied those constitutional and statutory requirements.
 - b. The Commission is supportive of the many comments heard during the public hearings praising Iowa's unique and nonpartisan redistricting process.
2. After four days of informative hearings and careful review of the first proposed redistricting plan, the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission unanimously recommends that the General Assembly accept the first proposed Congressional and Legislative redistricting plan.

SUBMISSION OF REPORT

This report is submitted to the Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,

MS. MAGGIE TINSMAN, CHAIRPERSON

MR. MATT PAUL

MS. ROSE BROWN

MR. ERIC TURNER

MR. LANCE EHMCKE

1104XR-First Report

**SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL BLUFFS PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE MARCH 31, 2011 IOWA REDISTRICTING PLAN**

April 4, 2011

The first hearing of the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission was called to order at 6:16 p.m., Monday, April 4, 2011, in the ICN Room of the Council Bluffs Public Library, 400 Willow Avenue, Council Bluffs, Iowa, by Ms. Maggie Tinsman, Chairperson. Other members of the Commission present were:

Ms. Rose Brown
Mr. Lance Ehmcke
Mr. Matt Paul
Mr. Eric Turner

Also present were:

Mr. Glen Dickinson, Director, Legislative Services Agency
Mr. Ed Cook, Senior Legal Counsel, Legislative Services Agency
Mr. Gary Rudicil, Senior Computer Systems Analyst, Legislative Services Agency

The public hearing was conducted in Council Bluffs and via the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) at satellite sites in Mason City, Sioux City, and Spencer.

Chairperson Tinsman introduced the Commission members and the Legislative Services Agency staff to the audience. Chairperson Tinsman explained that the Commission's purpose is to conduct public hearings to gather input regarding the proposed redistricting plan, and then issue a report to the Iowa legislature.

Following Chairperson Tinsman's explanation of the Commission's duties, Mr. Cook described the criteria used by the Legislative Services Agency during the redistricting process. He stated that Congressional and legislative districts must be as equal in population as practicable, conveniently contiguous, compact, and no demographic or political data can be considered when creating the districts. Every attempt is made to keep cities and counties with smaller populations entirely within single legislative districts, however, geographic and population constraints do not always allow this. Mr. Cook also discussed the procedures followed by the Legislative Services Agency when creating the proposed Congressional and legislative districts.

The following testimony was received at the Council Bluffs public hearing:

NAME/ADDRESS/ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS
Jeff Jorgensen, Treynor, IA/Pottawattamie County Republican Party	Proposed 3rd Congressional district does not serve Pottawattamie County, and diminishes the county's voice due to the inclusion of Polk County in the same district. Council Bluffs Pct. 10 should be included with Council Bluffs legislative districts and not rural districts.
Pam Wilson, Council Bluffs, IA/citizen	Favors the proposed plan, believes it is fair and politics should not be part of the redistricting process.
Naomi Leinen, Council Bluffs, IA/citizen	Requested more information on the proposed plan for research purposes, and was informed to visit the Iowa legislature's redistricting web page for details.
Dick Baber, Council Bluffs, IA/citizen	Prefers more rural territory be included with the proposed Council Bluffs Senate district. Rep. Steve King should represent Pottawattamie County in the proposed Congressional district plan.
Al Ringgenberg, Council Bluffs, IA/citizen	Prefers that more of Council Bluffs be included in the proposed legislative districts.
Lenny Scaletta, Council Bluffs, IA/citizen	Rep. Steve King should represent Pottawattamie County in the proposed Congressional district plan.
Scott Belt, Council Bluffs, IA/citizen	Asked if redistricting process eventually ends up in the Iowa Supreme Court, can they choose any of the previously rejected redistricting plans. Commission member Ehmcke indicated the Supreme Court would determine the redistricting plan that becomes law.
Cynthia Keithley, Council Bluffs, IA/citizen	Supports the proposed plan, and thanked the Commission and LSA for their work. Admires Iowa's redistricting process and indicated the proposed plan appears fair.
Mike Patomson, Council Bluffs, IA/citizen	Opposed to redistricting plans that include Pottawattamie and Polk Counties in the same Congressional district. Rep. Steve King should represent Pottawattamie County in the proposed Congressional district plan.
Mike Stiles, Sioux City, IA/citizen	Noted concern that proposed Congressional districts meet near a common point, where potentially all Representatives could reside within a 45 mile radius.
Steve Anders, Council Bluffs, IA/citizen	Concerned that Pottawattamie and Polk Counties are contained in proposed 3rd Congressional district.

Cindy Anders, Council Bluffs, IA/citizen	Concerned about legal and non-legal residence status of 2010 Census count.
Greg Casady, Council Bluffs, IA/citizen	Rep. Steve King should represent Pottawattamie County in the proposed Congressional district plan.

There being no additional public comments, the hearing was adjourned at 7:11 p.m. by Chairperson Tinsman.

**SUMMARY OF THE BETTENDORF PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE MARCH 31, 2011 IOWA REDISTRICTING PLAN**

April 5, 2011

The second hearing of the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission was called to order at 7:07 p.m., Tuesday, April 5, 2011, in the Jackson Room of the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency, 729 21st Street, Bettendorf, Iowa, by Ms. Maggie Tinsman, Chairperson. Other members of the Commission present were:

Ms. Rose Brown
Mr. Lance Ehmcke
Mr. Matt Paul
Mr. Eric Turner

Also present were:

Mr. Glen Dickinson, Director, Legislative Services Agency
Mr. Ed Cook, Senior Legal Counsel, Legislative Services Agency
Mr. Gary Rudicil, Senior Computer Systems Analyst, Legislative Services Agency

Chairperson Tinsman introduced the Commission members and the Legislative Services Agency staff to the audience. Chairperson Tinsman explained that the Commission's purpose is to conduct public hearings to gather input regarding the proposed redistricting plan, and then issue a report to the Iowa legislature.

Following Chairperson Tinsman's explanation of the Commission's duties, Mr. Cook described the criteria used by the Legislative Services Agency during the redistricting process. He stated that Congressional and legislative districts must be as equal in population as practicable, conveniently contiguous, compact, and no demographic or political data can be considered when creating the districts. Every attempt is made to keep cities and counties with smaller populations entirely within single legislative districts, however, geographic and population constraints do not always allow this. Mr. Cook also discussed the procedures followed by the Legislative Services Agency when creating the proposed Congressional and legislative districts.

The following testimony was received at the Bettendorf public hearing:

NAME/ADDRESS/ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS
Lee McKnight, Davenport, IA/citizen	Would prefer proposed 2nd Congressional district contained straighter boundary lines, and thought the district stretching from Clinton to Decatur Counties was rather long.
Arthur Heyderman, Bettendorf, IA/citizen	Impressed with proposed redistricting plan and its adherence to the "one man one vote" principle.
Miles Chiotti, Davenport, IA/St. Ambrose University	Noted that St. Ambrose University campus is split by a proposed House district line, which new city precinct boundaries must then follow when redrawn later in 2011. Multiple precinct polling locations will potentially create confusion for student voters.
Tim Phillips, Davenport, IA/St. Ambrose University	Also noted that St. Ambrose University campus is split by a proposed House district line, which new city precinct boundaries must then follow when redrawn later in 2011. Multiple precinct polling locations will potentially create confusion for student voters, and would prefer that the entire campus be contained within a single House district. Commission member Paul stated that satellite voting may alleviate confusion for student voters in the future.
Douglas Peyton, Davenport, IA/citizen	Appreciates the objectivity and ethics involved in the redistricting process.
Dave Rose, Clinton, IA/citizen	Asked about possible rejection of Plan 1. Chairperson Tinsman explained that if Plan1 is rejected, the reasons given for rejection by the legislature will be taken into account when the Legislative Services Agency creates Plan 2 and potentially Plan 3. Commission member Ehmcke noted that comments gathered at the public hearings on Plan 1 will also be considered during the creation of Plan2 and potentially Plan 3.
Dean Stone, Clinton, IA/Clinton Community College	Approves of Plan 1.
Tom Carnahan, Davenport, IA/citizen	Approves of Plan 1.

There being no additional public comments, the hearing was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. by Chairperson Tinsman.

**SUMMARY OF THE CEDAR RAPIDS PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE MARCH 31, 2011 IOWA REDISTRICTING PLAN**

April 6, 2011

The third hearing of the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission was called to order at 6:46 p.m., Wednesday, April 6, 2011, in 104 Washington Hall, Kirkwood Community College, 6301 Kirkwood Blvd. SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, by Ms. Maggie Tinsman, Chairperson. Other members of the Commission present were:

Ms. Rose Brown
Mr. Lance Ehmcke
Mr. Matt Paul
Mr. Eric Turner

Also present were:

Mr. Glen Dickinson, Director, Legislative Services Agency
Mr. Ed Cook, Senior Legal Counsel, Legislative Services Agency
Mr. Gary Rudicil, Senior Computer Systems Analyst, Legislative Services Agency

The public hearing was conducted in Cedar Rapids and via the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) at satellite sites in Dubuque, Ottumwa, and Waterloo.

Chairperson Tinsman introduced the Commission members and the Legislative Services Agency staff to the audience. Chairperson Tinsman explained that the Commission's purpose is to conduct public hearings to gather input regarding the proposed redistricting plan, and then issue a report to the Iowa legislature.

Following Chairperson Tinsman's explanation of the Commission's duties, Mr. Cook described the criteria used by the Legislative Services Agency during the redistricting process. He stated that Congressional and legislative districts must be as equal in population as practicable, conveniently contiguous, compact, and no demographic or political data can be considered when creating the districts. Every attempt is made to keep cities and counties with smaller populations entirely within single legislative districts, however, geographic and population constraints do not always allow this. Mr. Cook also discussed the procedures followed by the Legislative Services Agency when creating the proposed Congressional and legislative districts.

The following testimony was received at the Cedar Rapids public hearing:

NAME/ADDRESS/ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS
Clark Rieke, Cedar Rapids, IA/citizen	Requested that continuity of the Linn County/Johnson County regional development area be recognized when creating Congressional districts, as well as allowing 2% population deviation.
William Keetel, Iowa City, IA/citizen	Commended the Legislative Services Agency on Plan 1 districts. Requested redistricting plan maps be provided showing more street level detail. Noted that the standard of keeping whole cities contained within single legislative districts whenever possible appeared to dictate how Johnson County was divided in Plan 1. Would like less strict population deviations used when creating districts.
Carman Halverson, Cedar Falls, IA/citizen	Commended the Legislative Services Agency on proposed redistricting plan. Suggested that main roads within cities be used for legislative district boundaries, and use higher district population deviations to allow for straighter boundaries.
Jean Dell, Ottumwa, IA/citizen	Questioned what appeared to be non-contiguous territory in proposed House districts 80/81. Mr. Cook noted that what appears to be non-contiguous is actually the corporate limits of Ottumwa, which is contiguous. Mr. Cook also mentioned the individual proposed legislative district maps available on the legislature's redistricting web page.
Janet Durham, Dubuque, IA/citizen	Opined that having Linn County and Johnson County in different Congressional districts in the proposed redistricting plan gives the economic corridor two representatives to support the area.
R. Stuart, Dubuque, IA/citizen	Discussed the Twin Cities area and correlations between that area's economic corridor and number of Congressional representatives.
Chris Dahle, Cedar Rapids, IA/citizen	Commended the Legislative Services Agency on proposed redistricting plan and supports its passage.
Paul Pelletier, Cedar Rapids, IA/citizen	Suggested a balance of political parties in redistricting plans, and noted that Cedar Rapids districts in the proposed plan appear similar to districts over the past 30 years. Commission member Ehmcke and Mr. Cook noted that no political or demographic information other than total population is taken into consideration when creating proposed redistricting plans.
David Sells, Ottumwa, IA/citizen	Appreciates the way Iowa performs redistricting.
Mary Bragg, Dubuque, IA/citizen	Approves of proposed redistricting plan.

Adam Wright, Cedar Rapids, IA/citizen	Asked for additional redistricting plan information and was instructed to visit the Iowa legislature's redistricting web page.
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There being no additional public comments, the hearing was adjourned at 7:47 p.m. by Chairperson Tinsman.

**SUMMARY OF THE DES MOINES PUBLIC HEARING
ON THE MARCH 31, 2011 IOWA REDISTRICTING PLAN**

April 7, 2011

The fourth hearing of the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission was called to order at 7:08 p.m., Thursday, April 7, 2011, in the Wallace State Office Building Auditorium, 505 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, Iowa, by Ms. Maggie Tinsman, Chairperson. Other members of the Commission present were:

Ms. Rose Brown
Mr. Lance Ehmcke
Mr. Matt Paul
Mr. Eric Turner

Also present were:

Mr. Glen Dickinson, Director, Legislative Services Agency
Mr. Ed Cook, Senior Legal Counsel, Legislative Services Agency
Mr. Gary Rudicil, Senior Computer Systems Analyst, Legislative Services Agency

Chairperson Tinsman introduced the Commission members and the Legislative Services Agency staff to the audience. Chairperson Tinsman explained that the Commission's purpose is to conduct public hearings to gather input regarding the proposed redistricting plan, and then issue a report to the Iowa legislature.

Following Chairperson Tinsman's explanation of the Commission's duties, Mr. Cook described the criteria used by the Legislative Services Agency during the redistricting process. He stated that Congressional and legislative districts must be as equal in population as practicable, conveniently contiguous, compact, and no demographic or political data can be considered when creating the districts. Every attempt is made to keep cities and counties with smaller populations entirely within single legislative districts, however, geographic and population constraints do not always allow this. Mr. Cook also discussed the procedures followed by the Legislative Services Agency when creating the proposed Congressional and legislative districts.

The following testimony was received at the Des Moines public hearing:

NAME/ADDRESS/ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS
Jeremy Walters, Des Moines, IA/citizen	Noted that Des Moines appear to contain many small Senate districts in the proposed plan, and several open seats. Proposed plan could be improved.
Gary Capps, Oskaloosa, IA/citizen	Approves of the proposed plan, but noticed 4th Congressional district is larger in size (39 counties) compared to other districts. Mr. Cook explained the procedure used to number legislative districts in the proposed plan.
Jonathan Vaage, Des Moines, IA/citizen	Mr. Cook explained the district compactness measures used and that nesting of 2 House districts in each Senate district is a statutory requirement. Supports Iowa's redistricting process and approves of the proposed redistricting plan.
Worthin Grattan, Grinnell, IA/citizen	Commission member Ehmcke explained if the proposed redistricting plan fails, then the legislature would provide the Legislative Services Agency with reasons for rejection.

There being no additional public comments, the hearing was adjourned at 7:58 p.m. by Chairperson Tinsman.

SUMMARY OF WRITTEN TESTIMONY RECEIVED BY THE LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY ON THE MARCH 31, 2011 IOWA REDISTRICTING PLAN

The Legislative Services Agency received written testimony regarding the proposed redistricting plan from the following persons who did not give an oral presentation at a public hearing:

NAME/ADDRESS/ORGANIZATION	COMMENTS
Sue Witte, Bettendorf	Approves of plan 1 and the work of the commission.
Clay Dawson, Margo Fox, David & Patricia Hoffman, James Ingram, Jennifer Nagle, Joani Nagle, A.E. Pawloski, Keith and Sally Riewerts, Jim Schneider, John & Keri Suiter, and Bob & Mary Williams, all residents of Long Grove.	Disapproves of placing the city of Long Grove and the rest of Winfield township in different legislative districts, especially as it relates to the polling location for Long Grove residents under the proposed plan.
Clark Rieke, Cedar Rapids	Congressional districts should recognize the continuity of regional development areas and this factor should be added as a guideline. Additional leeway in variation in population should be allowed to facilitate this goal.
James Davis, Bettendorf	The congressional redistricting plan fails to adhere to state law and, therefore, should be rejected in favor of an improved plan that will foster greater public confidence Iowa's congressional redistricting process and foster a greater sense of fairness and equity in Iowa's federal representation.
Nancy Devonshire, Shenandoah	Putting Polk county in District 3 changes the conservative base we enjoy in the current District 5. Please retain Pottawattamie County in the new redistricting plan and move Polk County to a different district.
Submitted on 04/06/2011 08:11 PM	This make up is no way non partisan. Who in the world came up with this anyway? Why in the world would you add Des Moines and Council Bluffs in the same district? And now we here in Decatur county the poorest county in the state jumps into a highly democratic based set up. We are doomed if this goes forward. No I do not like this map set up.
Submitted on 04/06/2011 10:53 AM	I think you should try this again. Why split Pottawattamie County and put our representative so far away? I think there could be a better plan than that.

Submitted on 04/06/2011 07:59 AM	My husband and I feel that we, here in Southwest Iowa, do not have much in common with Polk County. Therefore, Pottawattamie County and surrounding counties here would have little representation.
Submitted on 04/06/2011 07:51 AM	Council Bluffs should remain part of Congressman Steve King's district.
Michael Patomson, Council Bluffs	I would like to know the political make-up of the group responsible for the decisions that were made ... this effort is purely political as it is redistricting for political purposes. What is the logic behind grouping Pottawattamie and Polk counties into the same congressional district? Both counties are highly populated areas and they are squeezed into the smallest geographical district. ... Leaving Pottawattamie County in the district in which our current representative Steve King lives would have created a more representative balance in both aspects. These reasons are not the least of which I am strongly opposed to this initial redistricting map.
Submitted on 04/06/2011 11:31 AM	I oppose the plan in that the population headcount used to formulate the plan was taken from the Census Bureau data which showed no distinction for illegal aliens versus legal citizenship. Therefore, the numbers are skewed and not representative of the bona fide citizenry the plan purports to be focused upon. Also, I am against combining Polk with Pottawattamie Counties, as we have had that situation in the past and Pottawattamie County lost its identity and was not adequately and fairly represented. There is a vast difference in political ideology between the two counties and they need to remain distinct and separate.
Submitted on 04/03/2011 12:50 AM	I am glad about how the maps were drawn and hope that they are adopted. The congressional maps have very little population variance, which is ideal. Thanks for the hard work and the non-partisan way that we go about redistricting. I hope that the Legislature and the Governor approve these maps.
Submitted on 04/01/2011 01:29 PM	It looks to me like the commission did a good job of redistricting the state. I hope that our legislators and governor move quickly to adopt these sensibly drawn districts. I'm happy to live in a state with a sensible, non-partisan approach to this challenge. My thanks to the committee and everyone that supported them in this effort.
Submitted on 04/01/2011 06:24 AM	I have read the first maps and feel that in the parts of the state I understand near me, they are fair and should be adopted as is.

Submitted on 03/31/2011 07:13 PM	I like this, I feel like it does an adequate job dividing the state based on population while keeping districts as compact as possible.
Submitted on 03/31/2011 01:42 PM	As an academic exercise, I wrote several redistricting plans and I am elated that one of the six I wrote is so similar to the one proposed. And to come up with such minor variations in populations is evidence of the hard work done by the LSA. I applaud your work and thank you for what I hope the legislators find a workable plan.
Submitted on 03/31/2011 10:05 AM	I am happy with Map 1 except for the Congressional District to which Cerro Gordo County is assigned. I think that Congressional District 2 would align Cerro Gordo with traditional mail and travel links.

March 31, 2011 Redistricting Plan Public Comments

Public comments to the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission (TRAC) about the Congressional and legislative redistricting plan

TRAC Web Comments

04/07/2011 10:59 PM

I want to let you know that I am NOT in favor of the 1st congressional redistricting map. I do not believe that Pott. County will be well represented if the county remains in the same district as Polk County. Also, the way the map is drawn with all district corners meeting in the middle of Iowa this could have

unintended consequences as to the congressional representation. All four US House Congressional members could theoretically live within a narrow radius of each other. Causing the western and eastern edges of Iowa to be ignored and under represented, especially Southwestern Iowa.

04/07/2011 06:02 PM

I am concerned that these redistricting maps are not what is best for Iowa.

Linn and Johnson county's need to be in the same congressional district. the working arrangement between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City should not be broken.

I am concerned that Benton and Tama Counties do not have the same senator. Tama Benton and Grundy counties are working together on may county budget items.

I know that this map will guarantee 3 democratic federal legislatures.

I hope you will not endorse this map, I know the second will be better.

04/07/2011 03:27 PM

Redistricting Congressional and Regional Economic Development Corridors: 4/7/11

Iowa's process for drawing redistricting maps is recognized and rightfully respected as effective in eliminating one of the banes of our two-party election system. This bane is the two-party system's strong incentive to draw political district maps for partisan advantage, which is commonly known as gerrymandering.

"Iowa's system for drawing the redistricting maps eliminates gerrymandering by having guidelines that ban access to partisan information on political affiliation, election results, and incumbents' addresses.

In this letter, I want to suggest our redistricting system needs a better perspective on the tradeoff between the degree of population equality across districts and the degree of continuity and compactness of districts. The continuity and compactness of districts deserves a higher relative value than it is currently being given because it is not only positive for voters and candidates, it is also positive for economic development. The question that deserves a look is how much improvement in continuity and compactness can be gained for each additional percentage of population inequality. I do not see as large loss in voter rights or 'power' in a variation in district populations as the current system seems to value. I find the goal of having not more than 1% in variation, artificially high. This high standard of equality is not needed for the sake of keeping the system non-partisan. It seems to have taken on being an end unto itself.

We lost our fifth seat because our population growth was less than the national average. Population growth is parallel to economic growth. The reduction to four congressional districts means the size of our districts will increase by 18%. This loss of voter power of 18% puts a 2% inequality in population in a district in perspective. A loss of voter power of 2% or even more is small compared to the effect of losing a seat due to our economic development being below average.

A subset of the improved continuity side of this tradeoff is to not split the two centers at the ends of a growing economic development corridor because of the math of population equality, -- if there are alternatives. The trading of Davenport into the 2nd district for Cedar Rapids into the 1st District is apparently because of a mathematical process toward the goal of population equality. I ask the Legislative Services Agency and or the Legislature to reconsider this tradeoff in light of its potential

effect on the growing synergy in economic development between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City.

Economic development likes predictability. Let's think of a continuity of policies and political networks besides the continuity of area. This is a significant amount of change for the political process. And such change does not improve the predictability that economic development likes.

Economic development likes efficiency. A growing economic development corridor has a shared labor market and a shared media market. Introducing two congressional campaigns and two political party support networks onto the two ends of a development corridor does not improve efficiency in the political process nor communication between the development community and the political networks.

Some suggest that splitting a corridor could create an advantage of having two congressional votes. On the other hand, what if the two congresspersons are from different parties and prefer different philosophies and programs for economic development? Another question is whether part of two congresspersons is better than one whole congressperson? There are no provable answers to these questions. Why change what we have to satisfy an extremely high standard for the relative sizes of district sizes?

The loss of our fifth congressional seat means that the size of our four new congressional districts will be 761,000 persons, whereas if we would have been able to keep five districts, the size would have been about 646,000 persons and this includes the addition of their growth in population over the last ten years. This is an increase in population per district of around 18%. This could be viewed as a loss of the much valued voter power of 18% for all Iowans. The loss of our fifth seat is the political penalty because our population and economic growth was less than the national average. An increase in the variation in population equality within districts beyond the 1% standard for the purpose of improving continuity in area, policies, and political networks deserves to be considered. It could be that this improved continuity is also good for economic development, especially in some areas.

Clark Rieke 319 521-5212 CRieke@mchsi.com 1614 D Ave NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

04/07/2011 03:10 PM

This plan is a disgrace for constitution loving Iowan's Please vote to not accept this plan.

Western Iowa does not want to be included with Des Moines.

Do not Accept this plan.

04/07/2011 09:36 AM

To the Legislative Services Agency and those it may concern:

Putting Polk county in District 3 changes the conservative base we enjoy in the current District 5. Please retain Pottawattamie County in the new redistricting plan and move Polk County to a different district.

Thank you for your serious consideration.

Nancy Devonshire
Shenandoah

04/06/2011 10:49 PM

To the Legislative Services Agency and those it may concern;

Since the redistricting effort is supposed to be a "non-partisan" effort, I would like to know the political make-up of the group responsible for the decisions that were made. It seems that the results heavily favor the Democrat party and let's not kid ourselves, this effort is purely political as it is redistricting for political purposes. What is the logic behind grouping Pottawattamie and Polk counties into the same congressional district? Both counties are highly populated areas and they are squeezed into the smallest geographical district.

This not only dilutes the conservative base of Pottawattamie County by adding Polk County, but makes it the smallest of the new districts geographically and the least diverse in terms of a rural/urban

balance. Leaving Pottawattamie County in the district in which our current representative Steve King lives would have created a more representative balance in both aspects. With this new plan, Steve King's district is cut in half and we stand to lose his representation, more importantly, he loses Pottawattamie county as a base. These reasons are not the least of which I am strongly opposed to this initial redistricting map.

Michael Patomson
Council Bluffs

04/06/2011 08:11 PM

Are you kidding me??? This make up is no way non partisan. Who in the world came up with this anyway? Why in the world would you add Des Moines and Council Bluffs in the same district? And now we here in Decatur county the poorest county in the state jumps into a highly democratic based set up. We are doomed if this goes forward.

No I do not like this map set up.

04/06/2011 07:15 PM

[*The following text has been pasted from a PDF version of a report entitled, "Congressional Redistricting in Iowa: Comments in Opposition to the First Redistricting Plan of 2011." Only the Executive Summary is included.]

James D. Davis
4940 Center Court
Bettendorf, IA 52722
Jamesddavis2011@gmail.com

April 6, 2011

Maggie Tinsman
Chairperson
Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission
1007 East Grand Avenue, Suite 303
Des Moines, IA 50319-0003

Dear Chairperson Tinsman:

As you may recall, I attended the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission's public hearing regarding the first redistricting plan prepared by the Legislative Services Agency in Bettendorf on Tuesday, April 5, 2011. While I had hoped to communicate some of the concerns set forth in the following report entitled, "Congressional Redistricting in Iowa: Comments in Opposition to the First Redistricting Plan of 2011," it has taken until this evening to complete the document with the assistance of an attorney with extensive expertise into the areas of election law, constitutional law, and Iowa's redistricting process.

Today, I am respectfully submitting this report pursuant to Chapter 42 of the Iowa Code for consideration by the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission, the Legislative Services Agency, and the Iowa legislature. Due to statutory deadlines associated with public input, as well as the Commission's own deadlines, this report was prepared under severe time constraints and, by necessity, is limited in scope to congressional districts.

For reasons set forth herein, particularly due to the failure of the Legislative Services Agency to adhere to the laws of the state of Iowa in establishing congressional districts, it is recommended that the first redistricting plan of 2011 be rejected in favor of an improved plan that will foster greater public confidence Iowa's congressional redistricting process and foster a greater sense of fairness and equity in Iowa's federal representation. Furthermore, I respectfully request that this report be appended to the Commission's official report to the Iowa legislature pursuant to Chapter 42.6 of the Iowa Code.

Please accept my gratitude for the hard work, dedication, and non-partisan service of your Commission, and I hope this report may contribute some value to the important work of your Commission, the Legislative Services Agency, and the Iowa legislature.

Sincerely,
Jim Davis

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Factual Background

On March 31, 2011, the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) submitted a congressional redistricting plan for the state of Iowa. Under the U.S. Constitution, population variances among congressional districts must be "unavoidable despite a good-faith effort to achieve absolute equality, or for which justification [by the state] is shown." Under Iowa law, five standards must be used to establish congressional districts, including population equality, contiguousness, whole counties, convenience, and compactness.

Analysis

An analysis of Iowa's legal requirements for congressional redistricting shows that the LSA has failed to adhere to Iowa state law when it produced the first congressional redistricting map of 2011. More specifically, the LSA has exceeded its legal authority by selectively applying redistricting standards to produce the current map, it has adopted an erroneous interpretation of the convenience standard under Chapter 42.4 of the Iowa Code, and it has relied upon other erroneous interpretations of state and federal law. Adopting the current plan would undermine the legitimacy of Iowa's redistricting process and, in our democratic system, the Iowa legislature is obligated to closely monitor and oversee the work of the LSA to ensure that it performs its functions consistent with democratically passed laws.

Recommendations

1. The Iowa legislature should reject the first congressional redistricting plan in favor of a plan that will foster greater public confidence in Iowa's congressional redistricting process and a greater sense of fairness and equity in Iowa's federal representation.
2. The Iowa legislature should provide more effective oversight of the LSA regarding the consistent application of congressional redistricting standards.
3. The Iowa legislature should instruct the LSA to analyze each redistricting standard set forth in Iowa law and to provide sufficient information by which the legislature and the general public can evaluate the application of such standards.
4. The Iowa legislature should instruct the LSA on the proper meaning of the convenience standard and insist upon the faithful application of the standard as written.
5. The Iowa legislature should instruct the LSA to apply the congressional redistricting standards as adopted by Iowa's elected officials and correct the LSA's prior misinterpretations of state and federal law.
6. The citizens of Iowa should insist that the Iowa legislature approve a congressional redistricting plan that adheres to Iowa law, and they should begin to explore alternative options if the legislature fails to do so.

04/06/2011 11:31 AM

I oppose the plan in that the population headcount used to formulate the plan was taken from the Census Bureau data which showed no distinction for illegal aliens versus legal citizenship. Therefore, the numbers are skewed and not representative of the bona fide citizenry the plan purports to be focused upon. Also, I am against combining Polk with Pottawattamie Counties, as we have had that situation in the past and Pottawattamie County lost its identity and was not adequately and fairly

represented. There is a vast difference in political ideology between the two counties and they need to remain distinct and separate.

04/06/2011 10:53 AM

I think you should try this again. Why split Pottawattamie County and put our representative so far away? I think there could be a better plan than that.

04/06/2011 07:59 AM

My husband and I feel that we, here in Southwest Iowa, do not have much in common with Polk County. Therefore, Pottawattamie County and surrounding counties here would have little representation.

04/06/2011 07:51 AM

Council Bluffs should remain part of Congressman Steve King's district.

04/03/2011 12:50 AM

I am glad about how the maps were drawn and hope that they are adapted. The congressional maps have very little population variance, which is ideal. Thanks for the hard work and the non-partisan way that we go about redistricting. I hope that the Legislature and the Governor approve these maps.

04/01/2011 01:29 PM

It looks to me like the commission did a good job of redistricting the state. I hope that our legislators and governor move quickly to adopt these sensibly drawn districts. I'm happy to live in a state with a sensible, non-partisan approach to this challenge. My thanks to the committee and everyone that supported them in this effort.

04/01/2011 06:24 AM

I have read the first maps and feel that in the parts of the state I understand near me, they are fair and should be adopted as is.

03/31/2011 07:13 PM

I like this, I feel like it does an adequate job dividing the state based on population while keeping districts as compact as possible.

03/31/2011 01:42 PM

As an academic exercise, I wrote several redistricting plans and I am elated that one of the six I wrote is so similar to the one proposed. And to come up with such minor variations in populations is evidence of the hard work done by the LSA. I applaud your work and thank you for what I hope the legislators find a workable plan.

03/31/2011 10:05 AM

I am happy with Map 1 except for the Congressional District to which Cerro Gordo County is assigned. I think that Congressional District 2 would align Cerro Gordo with traditional mail and travel links.

TRAC Email Comments

Dear Mr. Cronbaugh,

I applaud the hard work your commission faces. I want to submit my comment and thoughts on the new districts.

I have seen some of the 2010 Census data. From what I saw and understood, it appears

that most of the population loss is west of I-35. If that's so, it seems that Cong. Steve King's district should become part of congressman Boswell's district. Congressman King must know that his district has lot many voters. It seems fair.

Jose Amaya

Ames, IA

I would like to submit for consideration and comparison, new district maps for Iowa generated

impartially by computer and based purely on making compact districts:

<http://bdistricting.com/2010/IA/>

http://bdistricting.com/2010/IA_Congress/map.png

http://bdistricting.com/2010/IA_House/map.png

http://bdistricting.com/2010/IA_Senate/map.png

Brian Olson

Software Engineer

Boston, MA

<http://bdistricting.com/2010/>

Hola Craig,

I just read Maggie's words of wisdom about redistricting in the TIMES editorial this a.m.

I've seen the map in the paper of the proposed changes...Maggie made a good point

about

redistricting must be about voters, not protecting incumbents....I remember when she

lived

not far from me in Bettendorf x number of months of the year when she moved to the

new

district which represented most of Bettendorf...Was sorry when she lost in the primary in

2006.

All this to say I'm in favor of what the advisory commission presents as I know Maggie

was

the chair of that group.....I believe in her thorough research and what's best for the state

voters and can see it won't protect the incumbents.....Maybe will aid in weeding those

least

effective out? All will unfold.

I would like to be at 4 different places tonight which doesn't allow me to be at the AEA

for

the info. to be presented...Count me in on those voting to accept the Advisory

Commission's

report.

Thanks for all you do to keep our state government running as smoothly as possible...

Spring Cometh! Sue Witte