

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## Testimony Presented 9/7/2021

*includes all testimony received through 9/6/2021*

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*Note: this packet includes all testimony received through 9/6/2021,  
including testimony that has already been provided to the board.*

*“Presented” refers to the date that it was first included in the Board packet.*

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, August 31, 2021 11:45 AM

**Name:** Carolyn “Care” Clift

**Affiliation:** I am just a citizen of Alaska.

**Email or Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Zip Code:** 99504

**Issue of Concern:** Senate District

**Public Comment:** My main note is that as a candidate for Senate District N (defeated Giessel, and now Holland is our Senator), I had to drive through at least 2-3 House Districts to get to my constituency. I live three houses from the border street between my District 27 and District 16-H. I also had to drive through District 25-M and District 26-M to get to my constituents in District 28-N. I had a 50 minute drive from my house (one-way) to go to meetings in Girdwood, Alaska, which is also part of Senate District N. District 27 should be teamed with a neighboring House District.”

I noticed that D27 lost approximately the same number of people as D 16 gained.

Please take this into consideration in your planning meetings. I also noticed that District 28 had a 0.xx% change and is probably close to perfect as it is. 28 should be teamed with 26.

Thank you for considering this factual information.

Sincerely,

Carolyn “Care” Clift

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

**Date/Time:** Monday, August 30, 2021 3:45 PM

**Name:** Kimberly Collins

**Affiliation:**

**Email or Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Zip Code:** 99577

**Issue of Concern:** Peters Creek, Eklutna, Chugiak

**Public Comment:** Constitutional criterion when determining district boundaries include contiguity, compactness, socioeconomic integration, and population. The people who live in the communities of Peters Creek, Eklutna and Chugiak can be drawn together as a district and meet those constitutional requirements. The areas are contiguous and are compact geographically, our communities are all part of the same Borough-level government, our children are all part of the same school district, and largely we all shop, recreate, socialize with, and worship in the contiguous area with one another.

My request would be, depending on population targets, that Eklutna and Peters Creek be included in the district with Chugiak to the extent possible.

Thank you for your consideration.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

**Date/Time:** 2021-08-16 19:06:42

**Name:** Pamela Goode

**Affiliation:**

**Email or Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Zip Code:** 99737

**Public Comment:** I live in the Delta Junction area and do not feel our rural self-sufficient way of life has been properly represented in the legislature. Being combined with those living in the populated areas of the Mat-Su borough (Sutton, Farm Loop and Fishhook) has assured this lack of representation. Valdez is another area that we have little in common with due to their max tax ideology which is undesirable to those living in the interior. Please take this into consideration when the new boundaries are being considered.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

**Date/Time:** 2021-08-23 17:02:21

**Name:** Robert Hockema

**Email or Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Zip Code:** 99603

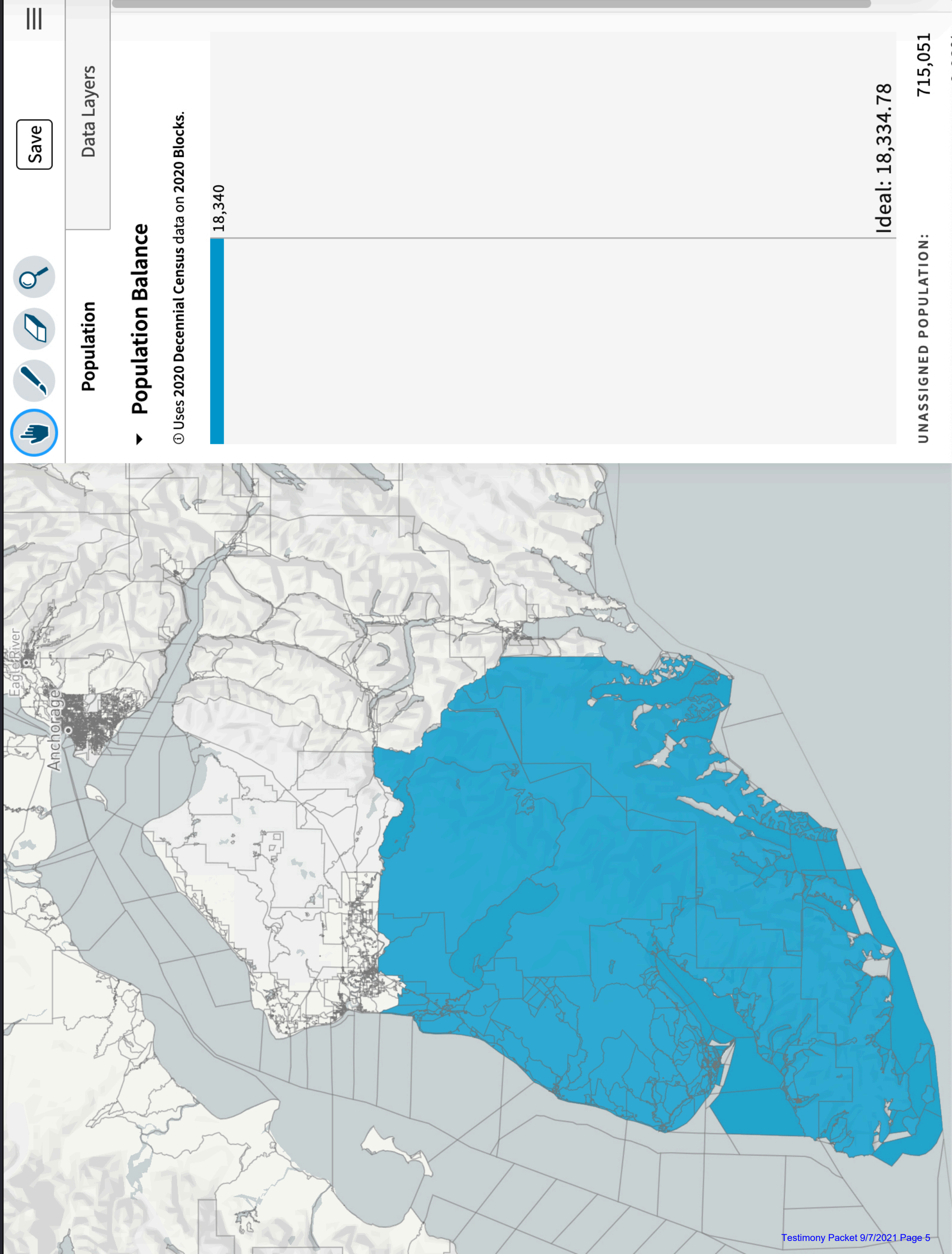
**Issue of Concern:** HD31 (South Kenai, Homer) - Communities of Interest

**Public Comment:** The current HD31 is unrepresentative of communities of interest because it links upper Kasilof with Homer. There are two problems with this:

1. Kasilof is economically, politically, and geographically dissimilar from communities surrounding Homer. Kasilof is a 15 minute drive South of Soldotna and deserves representation from a consolidated Soldotna/Kenai District, which is where many folks from Kasilof commute to work every day.
2. There are communities surrounding Homer far more deserving of being linked to HD31. Just south of Homer and easily accessible by boat are communities in Kachemak Bay State Park. Many folks in Seldovia and Halibut Cove have property and/or live in Homer as well, or commute frequently for business, groceries, etc. These communities are being deprived of representation by being looped into Cordova and Yakutat -- two places you couldn't even get to without first boating to Homer and driving through Southcentral Alaska first. Now that Homer and Kasilof are experiencing disproportionate growth, the population deviation mandate supports splitting them up.

This map shows a potential HD31 without upper Kasilof, while linking in more like-communities from the Kachemak:

**Map:** <https://www.akredistrict.org/create/view.html?p=38628>



Save

Data Layers

Population

▼ Population Balance

① Uses 2020 Decennial Census data on 2020 Blocks.

18,340

Ideal: 18,334.78

UNASSIGNED POPULATION:

715,051



August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Alaska Redistricting Board  
P.O. Box 240147  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
ATTENTION: John Binkley, Chair

Reference: Joint Letter Hooper Bay for Bethel Region in 2021

Dear Mr. Binkley, and the Ak Redistricting Board,

This is a joint community letter of Hooper Bay: City, Native Village, and Sea Lion Corporation (Alaska Native village corporation) supporting that Hooper Bay be part of the Bethel region in 2021 Redistricting.

Bethel is main hub for Y-K Delta villages like Hooper Bay, therefore much of its commerce, health, employment, social and other dealings are within this geographic region.

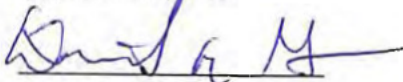
Much of Hooper Bay's funding for health, housing, social services and programs are usually lumped together with other villages served by Bethel-based businesses and organizations (AVCP, YKHC, AVCP Regional Housing, Community Development Quota- CVRF, etc.)

Commercial airlines that bring passengers and freight are nearly 100% from Bethel and USPO mail and other packages delivery services to Hooper Bay are funneled through Bethel.

From Bethel, the political, semi-political groups, and state & federal agencies and their already affect Hooper Bay (e.g., AVCP Convention, YKHC Tribal Gathering, Y-K Regional Subsistence Board, ADFG, USFWS, etc.)

The Kusilvak Census district is considered part of and always counted with or aligned with the Y-K Delta and least common with Seward Peninsula region, therefore Hooper Bay considers itself as part of the Y-K Delta.

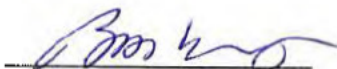
This is an important issue of the people of this region, please consider our concerns.



David Green, Mayor



Eric Olson, Sr. Village Chief



Bosco Olson, Sr. Sea Lion Corporation Chair

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

**Date/Time:** 2021-08-24 13:23:17

**Name:** Don Larson

**Affiliation:**

**Email or Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Zip Code:** 99725

**Public Comment:** Dear Redistricting Board I would like to submit testimony in support of changing Senate districts in Fairbanks. Currently, HD 4 (Western Fairbanks) is combined with HD 3 (North Pole) to form SD B and HD 5 (Chena Ridge/Airport) is combined with HD 6 (Eielson) to create SD C. Population wise HD 4 and 5 are more in common with each other as well as HD 6 and 3. As a resident of Ester, I feel like my Senate district is gerrymandered in such a way to limit the representation of UAF faculty, staff, and students. The make up of HD 3 is very different than HD 4. These maps should be cut North-South instead of East-West to make sure the UAF portions of town are accurately represented in the legislature. Sincerely Don Larson



**Written Testimony  
To the Alaska Redistricting Board  
From: Sarah Obed, Vice President of External Affairs  
Doyon, Limited  
August 24, 2021**

Chairman Binkley, and members of the Alaska Redistricting Board. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the 2020 redistricting process. My name is Sarah Obed. I am President and Chief Executive Officer of Doyon, Limited. I am Koyukon Athabascan, a shareholder of Doyon, and a tribal member of the Native Village of Minto.

Doyon, Limited (Doyon) is the state-chartered, Alaska Native regional corporation established by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971, for Interior Alaska. We are headquartered in Fairbanks and have more than 20,000 Alaska Native shareholders. Our mission is to promote the economic and social well-being of our shareholders and future shareholders, to strengthen our Native way of life, and to protect and enhance our land and resources.

Doyon is the largest private landowner in Alaska, with a land entitlement under ANCSA of more than 12.5 million acres. The Doyon Region extends from the Brooks Range in the north to the Alaska Range in the south. The Alaska-Canada border forms the eastern border and the western portion almost reaches the Bering Sea. Doyon and our partners aim to advocate for legislative districts that accurately reflect our region.

Doyon, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, and Sealaska have been working together to create maps and district planning documents to assist the Board in ensuring our State continues to support Alaska Native and rural representation in our legislative process. Thank you for the opportunity to be here today. You will be hearing from me, and from representatives from our partners and Tribes across Interior Alaska throughout this process.

Our goal is to ensure our elected officials reflect our values, and we seek to hold our leadership accountable to our shared interests and Alaskan values.

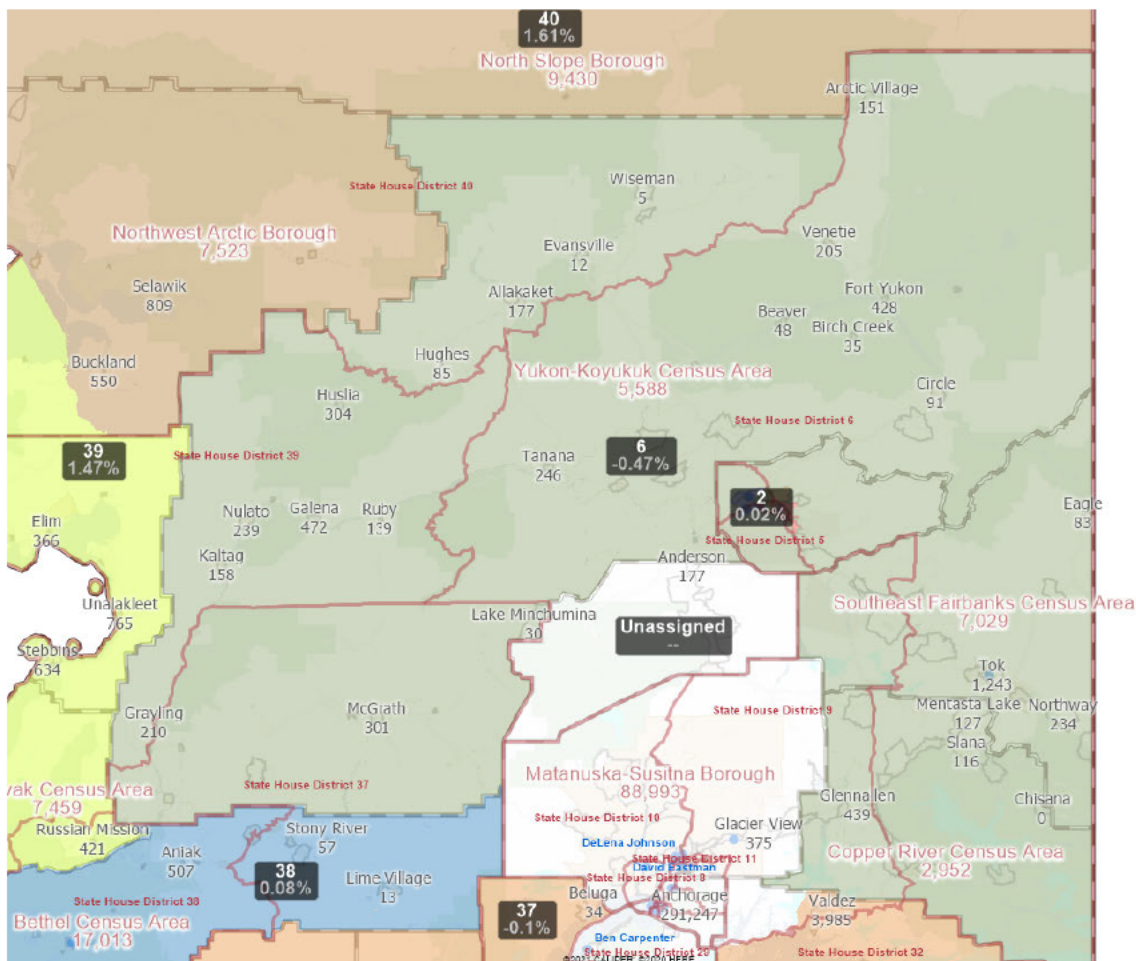
Although Doyon has enjoyed prosperous economic growth in the Interior over the last ten years, our region has remained politically fractured because our region has not enjoyed a unified Interior rural house seat that reflects the socioeconomically integrated territory we call God's Country. Instead, villages like McGrath, Evansville, Alatna, Allakaket, Holy Cross, and many others are not socioeconomically integrated with the other communities their legislators currently represent. And, so often, the voices of rural Interior villages are lost to the demographic reality of being included in districts with much more populous non-rural communities with very different interests.

Our team has been working on a map that addresses the fractured apportionment of the Interior region, while remaining cognizant of the effects on, and needs of, the rest of the State. As reflected in our partnership with Sealaska, we understand that choices made for one area of the State may have far reaching impacts. We share the Board's goal of making sure those impacts increase the quality of representation across the State.

Over the coming weeks, we will be presenting the Board with our best effort to build a statewide district map that reflects these goals, but – as you know – the 2020 Census data has only recently become available. Today, as the Board begins its mapping process, our team is presenting an approach to mapping the Interior region that addresses its current fractured apportionment, while allowing flexibility concerning the rest of the State, especially the greater Anchorage area and Mat-Su.

In developing this approach, our team has worked off a few guidelines (beyond just those mandated by law), and we urge the Board to keep them in mind as it goes forward through the redistricting process. We endeavored to keep ANCSA regions intact, to keep river systems intact, and to acknowledge hub communities off the road system. Our map also aims to present minimal deviations from district population targets of 18,335 people represented. Importantly, Doyon also gave consideration to local government boundaries.

**MAP 1. DOYON PROPOSED MAP: INTERIOR RURAL HOUSE SEAT**

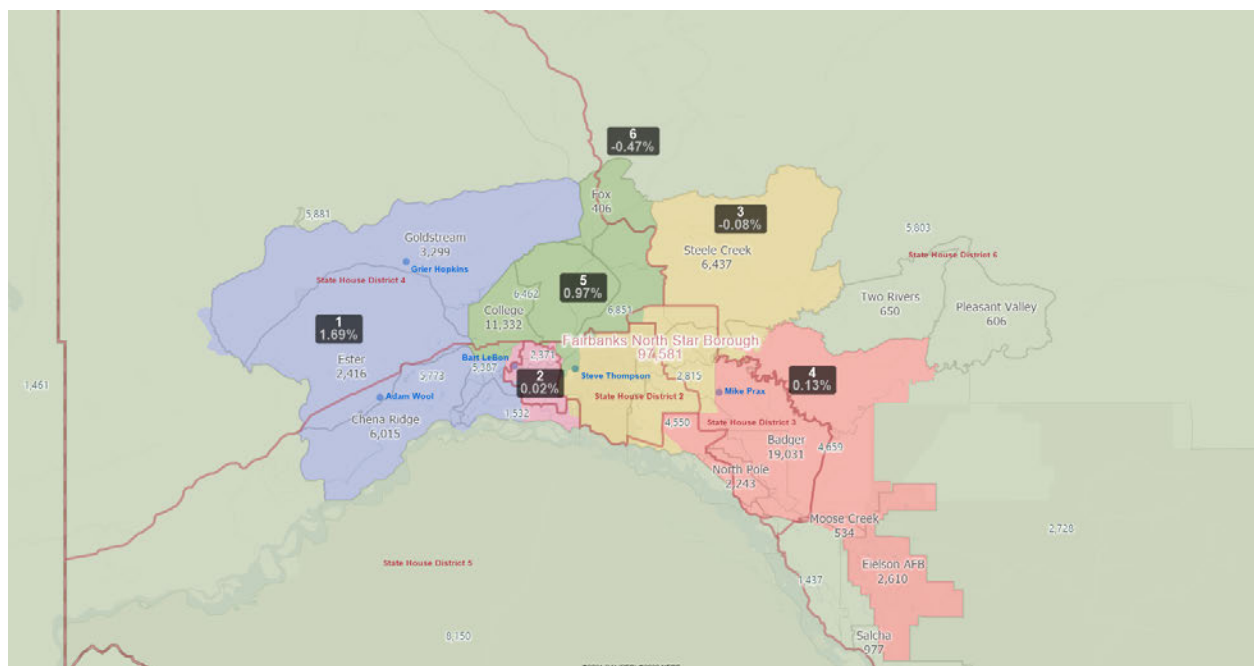


The Interior has always functioned as an integrated social and economic unit, which Congress recognized when it passed ANCSA in 1971. Our proposed House Seat 6 reflects this approach, grouping all of the rural villages of the two Interior ANCSA regions (Doyon and Ahtna) into a single integrated district.

Because of the low population density of the Interior, this district will be geographically large. However, given the population change in Fairbanks, this is the only approach to mapping the Interior that makes any sense and is legally defensible. The urban and semi-urban population of Fairbanks makes up almost exactly five house districts representing 18,335 people each. As a practical matter, this means that the rural population of the Interior can be placed together into a single integrated district, as we propose. Otherwise, they must be paired with communities, such as coastal towns and villages in Western Alaska, that are not socially or economically integrated with the Interior.

Our approach also acknowledges the importance of Fairbanks to both the Interior region and the State as a whole. Fairbanks continues to serve as the center of modern economic, educational, social, and cultural activity across our region. It is home to our corporate headquarters, our people, our shareholders, and our beneficiaries. Our mapping effort reflects the population changes in Fairbanks and does not create artificial electoral advantages for any political party. It does, however, clearly and carefully delineate house districts between Fairbanks urban populations and the rural communities of the Interior.

## MAP 2. DOYON PROPOSED MAP: FAIRBANKS URBAN HOUSE SEATS



As the Board continues its work of building a legislative district map for Alaska that fairly represents the voices and values of all Alaskans, we urge you to adopt this approach to mapping the Interior. Thank you for the opportunity to testify before the Board today, and I would be happy to answer any questions the Board may have.

**Written Testimony – Supplemental  
To the Alaska Redistricting Board**

**Sarah Obed, SVP External Affairs  
Doyon, Limited**

**August 30, 2021**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supplemental testimony concerning the maps and accompanying narrative Doyon, Limited (Doyon) – along with our coalition partners – presented to the Board earlier this week.

In our testimony of August 23, 2021, Doyon and our partners discussed desire for an Interior rural house seat. We also presented a map of the Interior region representing a socio-economically integrated set of six House districts covering the Interior region (Doyon and Ahtna) that are contiguous and as compact as possible, given the low population density of the Interior.

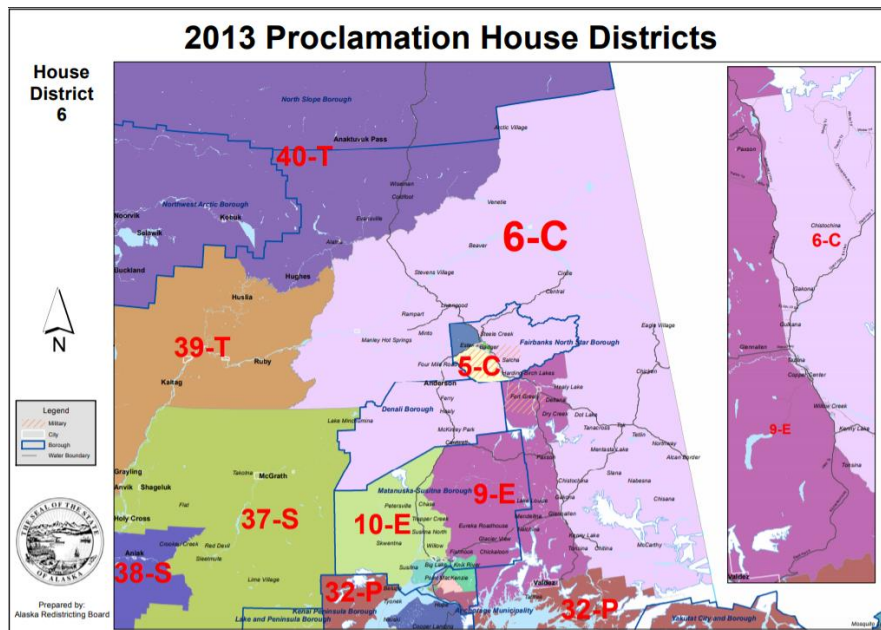
During this presentation, members of the Board asked about effective representation of the Interior region under our proposed scenario versus having more representatives across the region. Doyon appreciates these questions and would like to take this opportunity to respond.

Under the current 2013 Amended Proclamation Plan, Interior Alaska is currently “cracked” or “fractured.” The Interior constituency is divided between ten House districts. However, with the exception of those districts representing the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Interior villages and communities are split up such that they are prevented from achieving even a meaningful minority, much less a majority, in any of those districts. Rural Alaska is not monolithic on issues and we have found that Interior Alaska issues suffered under the 2013 Amended Proclamation Plan.

The current map combines Interior communities with house districts which represent the North Slope, both Western and Southwestern Alaska (including the Aleutians), the Mat-Su, and parts of Prince William Sound, including:

- Bettles, Allakaket and Hughes are included in with the North Slope in District 40;
- Huslia, Galena, Nulato, Ruby, Koyukuk, and Kaltag are included in with West Coast communities in District 39;
- Grayling, Nicolai, Shageluk, Takotna, McGrath, Anvik, and Holy Cross are included with Bristol Bay communities in District 37; and
- Delta Junction, Deltana, and Fort Greely are included with the Mat-Su and Prince William Sound.

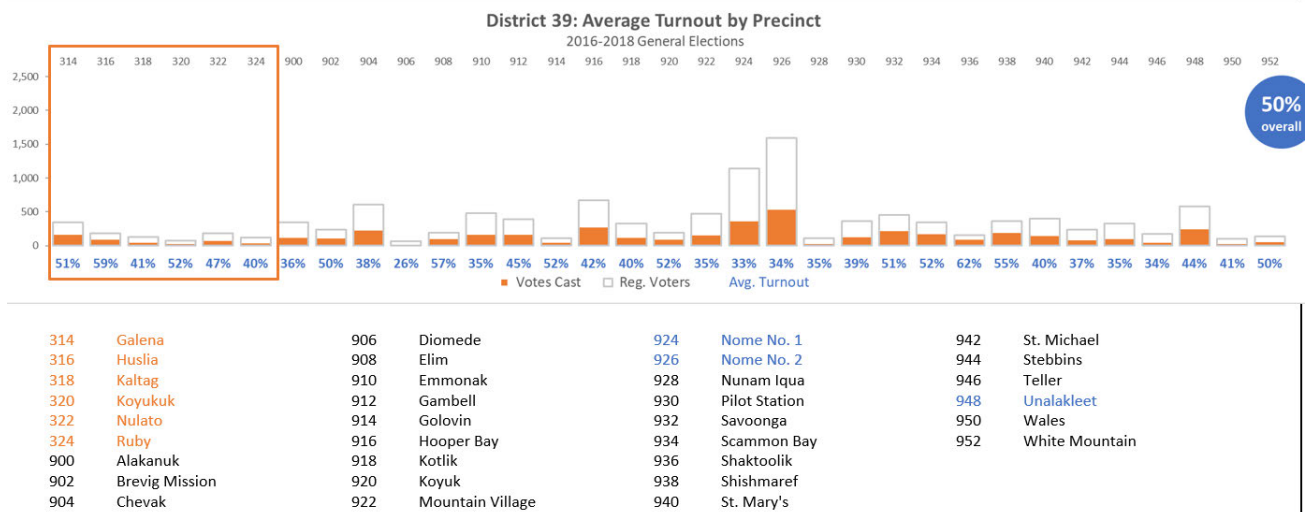
## MAP: 2013 Proclamation House District Interior Map



To understand the depth of this problem, we have analyzed voter turnout data for the precincts in which Doyon shareholders live. The following tables are from our unpublished accounting of voter impact.

### District 39: Average Turnout by Precinct (2014-2018 General Election)

## Average Turnout by Precinct (District 39) 2014-2018 General Elections



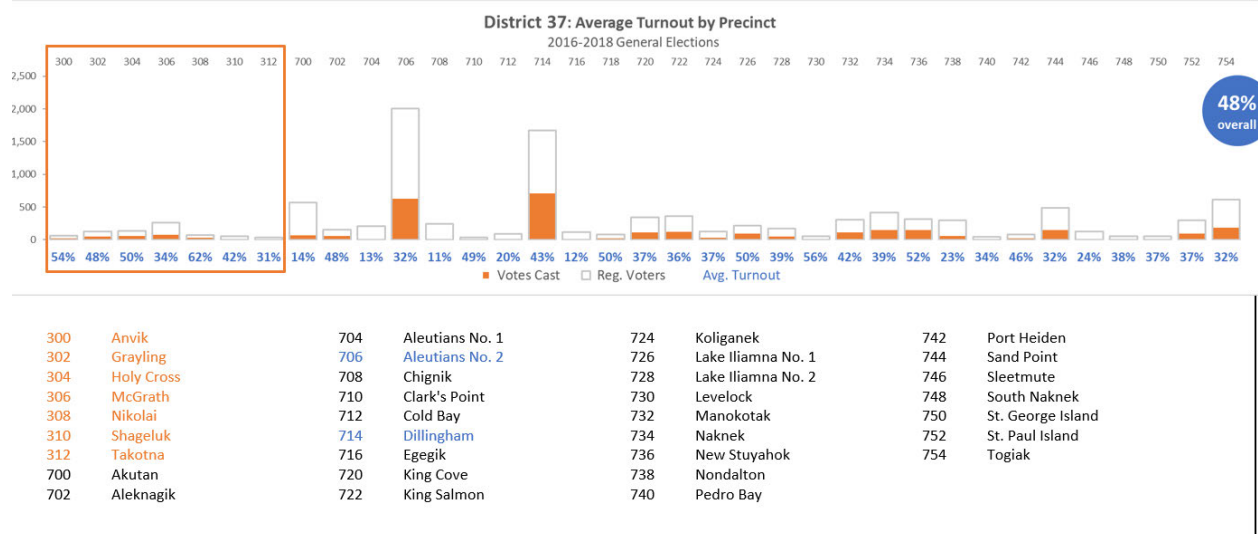


This graphic shows that the votes from the precincts in Galena, Hulia, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Nulato, and Ruby are well exceeded by just three other precincts in District 39 (two Nome Precincts and Unalakleet's precinct). This is despite the fact that Doyon Shareholders in District 39 had a 65% voter turnout in 2016.

We find a similar, if not more pronounced example in District 37:

### District 37: Average Turnout by Precinct

## Average Turnout by Precinct (District 37) 2014-2018 General Elections



Here, we see that the votes from the precincts in seven villages within the Doyon Region (Anvik, Grayling, Holy Cross, McGrath, Nikoli, Shageluk, and Takota) are well exceeded by just one precinct, Aleutians No. 2. In this case, the voter turnout in almost every Doyon Region Village was higher than Aleutians No. 2, but even if the precincts within the Doyon Region were to vote at 100% voter turnout, they would still be unable to elect, or even meaningfully help to elect, their preferred representative.

The map we presented earlier this week also addresses a similar, but not identical, issue within the Interior region itself. As the Board is well aware, the Interior Region is comprised of the relatively urban area within Fairbanks and the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and many small, rural villages and communities. Currently, those rural villages and communities that are not split off into non-Interior districts are represented by current House District 6, which includes a substantial urban Fairbanks population. In fact, the rural villages and communities of the Doyon region included within current District 6 only have a population of around 6,000 people – around one third of the ideal district size. This means that the rural population cannot elect their preferred representative, even in the supposedly “rural” Interior seat.



The rural villages and communities of the Interior represent a single socially integrated area. We seek a rural Interior House seat that reflects this area and ensures fair representation for these rural areas without overwhelming their votes with a majority population of Greater Fairbanks residents.

We look forward to presenting a fully drawn statewide map in the upcoming Alaska Redistricting Board meeting.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

**Date/Time:** 2021-05-18 19:24:34

**Name:** Bosco Olson

**Email or Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Zip Code:** 99604

**Issue of Concern:** Full Representation thru Bet District

**Public Comment:** All heathcare, cargo, freight, fuel, both by air, water are delivered through Bethel. Bethel as the hub and more interaction with Senator from Bethel, and more aware of community needs are crucial to community well being and true representation for our area.  
Quyana

**From:** [Yarrow Griffith](#)  
**To:** [Juli Lucky](#)  
**Subject:** Senate districts M and N testimony  
**Date:** Monday, August 23, 2021 10:51:26 AM

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I am here today to talk about Senate districts M and N, both of which bisect East and South Anchorage and pair the bisected portions together in a way that creates under-representation for both East and South Anchorage residents. South Anchorage and East Anchorage have issues and concerns that differ greatly from each other, both geographically and economically, and the senate districts M and N should be redrawn to reflect this and to allow both South Anchorage and East Anchorage to be represented in a way that is more cohesive and that will allow their representatives to better hone in and focus on the issues affecting their districts. Combining districts 25M and 27N together into one district, as well as districts 26M and 28N, with boundaries adjusted as necessary to account for population differences, would more appropriately follow our State Constitution's directive that districts be formed of a relatively integrated socio-economic area and be comprised of two contiguous house districts and would ultimately lead to better quality representation for both East Anchorage and South Anchorage residents.

Thank you,  
Yarrow Silvers

## ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD EMAIL TESTIMONY

**From:** utajefferson [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 1, 2021 4:47 PM

**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>

**Subject:** Redistricting statement

My residency is in district 29. I am more than pleased to be in district 29. Should my residency be considered for redistricting is something I'm sure no one wants.

Mr. Uta

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.