

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

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# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 17, 2021, 7:19 am

First Name: **Steve**

Last Name: **Aufrecht**

Email or Phone: [REDACTED]

Comments or Concerns: **The Board chose, as a policy, not to protect incumbents. However, the Board remained silent about attacking incumbents. The Board chose not to load political/partisan data into the software on their Board computers. Despite not having political data in the Board software, the maps, particularly v1, manage to seriously mess with a number of incumbents in what appears to be a partisan way.**

**These maps were supposed to be created by the Board. Third party groups were invited to make comments at public meetings and to present their own maps.**

**But it appears that some Board Members have worked with non Board Members to create their maps.**

**Therefore, I would request that:**

- 1. each Board member publicly report all non-Board members who helped them, in any way, create their maps and how they helped them.**
- 2. the Board add to Board policy, along with not protecting incumbents, that neither will they target incumbents.**
- 3. Board members will not consult with anyone not on the Board except in public meetings and that if members of the public bring them information, maps, or make specific suggestions about how to draw maps, that they give a written report of that contact and the information provided so the whole Board can consider it and so the public knows about it as they would with all public testimony to Board.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

**Sent:** Thursday, September 9, 2021 8:39 PM

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

First Name: **Matthew**

Last Name: **Bergan**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99752**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Socio-economics**

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

<https://www.akredistrict.org/create/view.html?p=44940>

Online Plan ID: **44940**

URL to view Plan ID: <https://www.akredistrict.org/create/edit.html?p=44940>

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

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

Date: September 18, 2021, 2:43 am

First Name: **Carole**

Last Name: **Bookless**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99824**

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

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

<https://www.akredistrict.org/create/view.html?p=48886>

Online Plan ID: **48886**

URL to view Plan ID: <https://www.akredistrict.org/create/edit.html?p=48886>

**From:** Mary Burtness [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 2:10 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Public testimony for September 17th meeting

I appreciate this opportunity to comment on the board's proposals for redistricting. I am in the Fairbanks area and I don't feel like either of your proposals will fairly represent me. I feel your proposals do not fit the "one person, one vote" standard.

After looking at all the proposals sent in and posted on the notice of public testimony page I am in favor of the redistricting maps done by:

Alaskans for Fair Redistricting:

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/Attachment.aspx?id=129719>

Thank you for your time:

Mary C Burtness

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99709

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 18, 2021, 7:09 am

First Name: **Frana**

Last Name: **Burtness-Adams**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

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

Public Comment: **The board's two proposal's for redistricting in Alaska is inequitable. It leans heavily towards areas that are historically and presently of a specific demographic, further continuing the gerrymandering that has disadvantaged an equal voting system throughout this state.**

**The entire concept of voting is one vote, one voice. If we redistrict in the way proposed, it would mean some people have one voice and a half vote or one voice and two votes.**

**Please do the right thing and think about equity and inclusion in this work.**

**From:** Brenna Carlson <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 18, 2021 9:41 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Fairbanks Redistricting Testimony

Hello,

My name is Brenna Carlson and I am a resident of Fairbanks, Alaska.

Current proposed redistricting maps do not give Fairbanks equal voice compared to other areas around Alaska. As it stands, Anchorage will have more sway and representation in the state government than Fairbanks, this is unjust. Anchorage will have more representation, NOT because they are larger, but because the current maps overpopulate each district in Fairbanks, leaving us underrepresented state-wide. I encourage you to reexamine the map and make edits to create a more equitable and less gerrymandered map.

The above is my largest concern, but here are other specific issues I wish you to fix and address before redistricting is voted on:

1. The proposed map splits the City of Fairbanks into two districts. This does not respect the boundaries of the Fairbanks Borough and the Fairbanks City.
2. Ester, Chena Ridge, and Goldstream are existing communities connected through UAF, they should be grouped together to respect established communities in the Fairbanks area.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these important points addressing equity and fair representation.

Brenna Carlson

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 17, 2021, 5:28 am

First Name: **Charles**

Last Name: **Clement Sr.**

Email or Phone: [REDACTED]

Comments or Concerns: **I am totally against the proposal to redistrict Metlakatla with Sitka and Yakutat. This was done before for purely political purposes. We should stay in the district with Ketchikan and the other close neighbors.**



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

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

**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 1:22 PM

First Name: **Edward**

Last Name: **Cullinane**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99502**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **House District 22**

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

<https://www.akredistrict.org/create/view.html?p=45218>

Online Plan ID: **45218**

URL to view Plan ID: <https://www.akredistrict.org/create/edit.html?p=45218>

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

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

Date: September 15, 2021, 2:19 pm

First Name: **Edward**

Last Name: **Cullinane**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99502**

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

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

<https://www.akredistrict.org/create/view.html?p=47428>

Online Plan ID: **47428**

URL to view Plan ID: <https://www.akredistrict.org/create/edit.html?p=47428>

**From:** Krysta Daniel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 9:08 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Comments on Redistricting

Hello There,

Thank you for involving the public in such an important process.

The district maps are so often overlooked, but have a real impact on the lives of Alaskans.

Gerrymandering in this country has gotten so out of control it's more of a norm than the exception now. We should be doing everything in our power to ensure Alaska does things the right way, no gerrymandering or map manipulation should be taking place whatsoever.

Alaska is a state full of very independent, strong minded people. Who we vote for should be representative of us, the constituents.

Anchorage and Mat-Su, for instance, are two very unique and wonderful areas of the state but differ vastly in values and culture, merging them would make no sense. Rural cities and urban cities are both amazing places to live in, but they also represent different people and different values.

Municipal /Borough /City Lines should be respected, breaking apart cities has no apparent benefit other than to gerrymander the maps. We deserve to be fairly represented, putting together a map that knowingly overrepresents some people while underrepresenting others is simply wrong. Some of the sections of proposed maps I've seen are blatant in their ill intent to pit certain representatives against each other or to specifically place them in or out of certain districts.

Alaskans fierce independence is just one of the things that makes our state so outstanding. To blur the lines and rearrange maps for political reasons is not only a slap in the face to Alaskans, but will have devastating consequences for our rights and liberties.

Thank you for taking the time to ensure the redistricting process is fair and representative.

Krysta Daniel  
Anchorage Resident

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 17, 2021, 10:30 am

First Name: **Lee**

Last Name: **Drake**

Email or Phone: [REDACTED]

Comments or Concerns: **I am writing to respond to recent comments by Robin O'Donoghue regarding the proposed district map. Her objections essentially were that the proposed District 31 was a substantial departure from the current district 5. She argues that Chena Ridge, Ester, and Goldstream Valley should be one district based on "socioeconomic integration" of these communities with the University of Alaska Fairbanks.**

**One of the objections of O'Donoghue and others was that there would be too much driving involved. From a practical perspective this isn't particularly relevant, and is laughable when one considers the current District 6. All the Fairbanks area Senators and Representatives have their offices in the LIO in Fairbanks (the Proposed District 33). Whether you live in Chena Ridge, Fox, Two Rivers, or North Pole, the LIO in Fairbanks is where you go to see your Representatives. When the North Pole Office was instructed to move to the Fairbanks LIO, the people of North Pole argued that there was too much driving involved. Nobody cared about a daily commute- but now suddenly the redistricting board is expected to care about that same drive a couple times a year? That is malarky!**

**If economic integration is the metric by which districts are created, it makes sense to have Eielson, the bombing range, Salcha, & Moose Creek integrated with the West side of the Tanana River and Chena Ridge. Many of the families that live on Chena Ridge avail themselves of the Harding Recreational area and the Tanana Flats multiple times during the summer- but for some reason Robin O'Donoghue thinks driving there for the purpose of a house district is problematic.**

**Further, the communities of Salcha and Moose Creek are highly dependent on Eielson Airforce Base. Bradley field, currently in House District 5, serves as a civilian general aviation field has some economic ties with Eielson. There are several projects in the Salcha-Moose Creek area that have strong ties to the academic world such as the PFAS study, along with numerous projects on the West Ridge with the military. In fact, UAF's Chad Hutchinson has recently put out a series of informative emails highlighting the close ties between the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Department of Defense. Surely if economic integration is the standard for creating districts, this one make sense.**

**Ester and Goldstream (currently HD 4, proposed 35) have a rich history in mining- just like the community of Fox. These mining towns share a history and culture. This mining tradition is part of the culture of the long-term residents and should be weighed over the interest of temporary residents (college kids) who will probably not stay long enough to live under the person they elect. Farmer's Loop, Two Rivers, and Pleasant Valley share strong agricultural interests. The proposed map of District 35 unifies the strong mining and agricultural interests into a single district.**

**Further, Goldstream, Ester, (currently HD 4) and Chena Ridge (currently HD 5) are not currently the same district. There is no compelling reason for them to be the same district.**

**I support the current map of Fairbanks as shown on the website.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 11:14 PM

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

Date: September 14, 2021, 11:13 pm

First Name: **Andrew**

Last Name: **Elliott**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Myself**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Mat-Su map idea**

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

<https://www.akredistrict.org/create/view.html?p=47103>

**The Denali Borough should not be with the Mat-Su. Of greater issue is how large of populations the interior districts are. Equal representation should not be sacrificed in favor of economic links. the Dillingham district is way too under populated. District 36 on your proposed maps is way too geographically big and over populated compared to the Dillingham and Bethel districts. the Mat-Su should be something along the lines of what I submitted, (similar to what it is now) take a little of Anchorage for the Mat-Su and give some of the Kenai to Anchorage if necessary (maybe hope). How is Valdez and Holy Cross socioeconomically linked? They are 445 miles apart. One is in-land and one is on the coast. I know That Alaska is big state, but they are not even remotely similar. Lastly, Fairbanks is getting completely under represented. All 4 districts are over 19000 people. That is the most outrageous part of your maps. I believe that it can all be fixed only minor changes. I think your maps are a good starting point.**

Online Plan ID: **47103**

URL to view Plan ID: <https://www.akredistrict.org/create/edit.html?p=47103>

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

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

Date: September 15, 2021, 4:27 pm

First Name: **Andrew**

Last Name: **Elliott**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Myself**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

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

<https://www.akredistrict.org/create/view.html?p=47103>

**This map needs a few tweaks. But the Foundation is good. It is the semi-finished product from what I last submitted yesterday.**

Online Plan ID: **47103**

URL to view Plan ID: <https://www.akredistrict.org/create/edit.html?p=47103>

**From:** Lois Epstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 3:13 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** My testimony from this morning is attached

Thank you for this opportunity to testify and for your service on the Redistricting Board. My name is Lois Epstein and I am an Alaska-licensed engineer with a small business consultancy on oil and gas issues. I live Downtown near the intersection of West 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. and L St in South Addition and have lived in that house since 2005.

As Redistricting Board members, you have a tremendous responsibility to ensure the integrity of Alaska's elections over the next decade. That responsibility includes spending the time needed to develop maps that create contiguous, compact, and socio-economically integrated districts. With the state's small population, distinct borough boundaries, and a less diverse economy than many other states, these redistricting criteria are entirely achievable.

The two versions presented are unacceptable. My home in District 12 in version 2, for example, is located in a proposed district that extends from Downtown to past the airport even though my representational interests lie only with my Downtown neighbors. This proposed district is neither compact nor socio-economically integrated. It does, however, contain the homes of three current Democratic House representatives, as does District 16 in version 1 where my home is located. Another serious problem with both versions are the excess population numbers in Fairbanks region's Districts 31 through 35 which ensures that those residents have less representation than residents living in other parts of the state.

Additionally, I urge the Redistricting Board to identify Senate districts. It is impossible to fully assess representation without that, including whether or not current Senators will be forced to compete against other current Senators. I understand from listening to last week's meeting that the Board is not prohibited from delineating Senate districts. It is very important for the Board to allow public comments on Senate districts.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to develop a redistricting plan with integrity that meets all state and federal legal requirements. I look forward to additional opportunities to testify as the redistricting process proceeds.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

**Date/Time:** Thursday, September 9, 2021 12:17 PM

**Name:** Bruce Farnsworth

**Email or Phone:** [REDACTED]

**Zip Code:** 99504

**Issue of Concern:** Anchorage Districts 26, 27 & 28

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

As a 20+ year resident of District 27 I have strong feelings about apparent efforts to shave off a piece of the district and merge it with another district with very different lifestyles and socioeconomic levels. East Anchorage is one of the poorest districts in the municipality while district 28 is one of the wealthiest. Moving voters out of 27 and into 28 would significantly dilute the voting influence of district 27 residents. The idea of shifting residents from D-27 to D-28 has a whiff of partisanship about it and appears to be contrary to the constitutionally embedded intent to prevent gerrymandering.

Respectfully,

Bruce Farnsworth  
District 27 Resident



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 17, 2021, 2:11 pm

First Name: **Mary**

Last Name: **Fenno**

Email or Phone: [REDACTED]

Comments or Concerns: **September 17, 2021**

**To the 2021 Alaska Redistricting Board:**

**I have viewed both of the maps that you, the legislative redistricting board, have designed for Alaska's legislative districts for the next ten years. From what I see and understand about our state's constitution, both maps are unacceptable as they violate the Alaska Constitution's mandates. Here are a couple examples.**

**As stated in Section 6.6, District Boundaries:**

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

**On your proposed maps, you divide Revillagigedo Island and put two of its precincts, Saxman and South Tongass, in separate legislative district from the rest of the island. I can't see how this is following the guidelines.**

**"Each shall contain a population as near as practicable to the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the state by forty."**

**The Fairbanks districts are over 19,000 each and this is a much larger population than any of the other districts. It will not going give us equal representation.**

**These are just two examples of what is wrong with your maps. There are many other examples that make these maps totally unacceptable. Please go back to the drawing board and make fair and equitable legislative districts.**

**I would also point out that, sadly, gerrymandering is always a part of the redistricting in our state, and this years 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"**

**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.

Therefore, regardless of your political affiliation, you are tasked with designing legislative districts that reflect the parameters the Alaska Constitution has given you as a guide. Please use these, try again, and give Alaskans an equal voice in our state government!

Sincerely,

Mary E. Fenno

[REDACTED]

Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

[REDACTED]

**From:** Lea Filippi [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 12:30 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Public Testimony regarding proposed redistricting

To echo a comment which I heard during this morning's meeting of the Board, I am submitting a second written comment to encourage the Board as it moves forward to disclose which House districts it proposes to pair to create Senate districts.

Lea Filippi  
[REDACTED]  
Anchorage, AK 99517

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 17, 2021, 10:14 pm

First Name: **Michelle**

Last Name: **Gillette**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99725**

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

Public Comment: **The new maps for the Fairbanks area show that not all districts contain contiguous communities. College and west Fairbanks residents south of the Parks highway are grouped with Eielson and Salcha in district 31. District 35 starts around Skinny Dick's on the Parks Highway and goes all the way to Chena Hot Springs, gathering the northern neighborhoods in between. The location of roads and the Tanana River influences how people interact and what community they are part of. Both options seem to concentrate on dividing up the west side of Fairbanks and College, and group the two parts with the far east of the borough, while leaving North Pole and east Fairbanks intact. As an example of some changes, will residents of Cripple Creek subdivision have to drive by their current voting place in Ester and go to town to vote, hopefully not all the way to Eielson? The last time districts were redrawn there were a lot of problems with non-contiguous communities and manipulation of Fairbanks districts to change voting patterns. I was hoping to see improvements this time.**

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 12:33 PM  
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
Subject: Re: Eagle River - Hysten Crest Carve-Out

The previous message was referring to Board Composite Map v.2 District 24.  
It appears this carve-out does not exist in v.1. Which makes more sense to me.  
Thanks,  
Joe

> On Sep 17, 2021, at 12:22 PM, Joe <[jhack@mtaonline.net](mailto:jhack@mtaonline.net)> wrote:

>

> Redistricting Board,

>

> As I look at these proposed maps for Eagle River, I noticed that my little neighborhood, Hysten Crest, appears to have been carved-out of both the Eagle River Core (24) and Eagle River Valley (23), and added to district 22 which is JBER and everything north of Eagle River.

>

> This is a small carve-out, approximately 3 miles up the valley, bounded on the south by ER Road, on the west by Wren Lane, and on the East by Mile High Drive. It is hard for me to understand how this carve-out can be justified on the basis of compact, continuous, socio-economic, or geographic criteria. As a 37 year resident of this community, I am curious as to the logic behind this anomaly.

>

> Thanks for your time,

>

> Joe Hackenmueller

> Eagle River, AK  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Rand Hagenstein [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 9:05 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Downtown district concerns regarding redistricting maps

I am writing to express my concerns with both of the maps proposing new districts for downtown. I live in South Addition and have lived here and in Bootleggers cove for about 25 years. As I look at the two versions (proposed district 16 and proposed district 12) I am struck by how dissimilar the additional areas to the south of downtown are from my neighborhood. Rather than being representative of downtown neighborhoods as my current district is, these proposed districts include downtown, midtown, Turnagain, Spenard, airport, Kincaid Park, etc. Each of these areas has unique concerns, but different from downtown. In fact, the one thing that friends living in all of those areas have in common is a reluctance to come downtown, preferring to shop, eat, etc. in other areas due to parking or other concerns.

Neighborhood concerns are different. Schools are different. Planning and zoning issues are different. Combining them into a single district would dilute representation rather than maintain strong representation.

I am also concerned that this effort appears to be an effort to combine districts of several Democrat incumbents. If we are to have faith in our system of governance, if we are to have faith in the efforts and intent of the redistricting board, if we are to have faith that our system is well designed to promote fair elections with a level playing field for all, then a thumb on the scale that promotes partisan gerrymandering has no place in the redistricting effort. One measure of balance in redistricting is a comparison of how many current R incumbent districts are being combined vs how many D incumbent districts are being combined. If there is a significant difference, then you should go back to the drawing board. It sure looks to me like this is the case.

In summary, I urge the board to NOT adopt either the Proposed District 12 or Proposed District 16 and instead develop credible, defensible alternatives that strengthen democracy rather than corrupt through partisan gerrymandering.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Randall Hagenstein, South Addition resident

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 17, 2021, 8:41 am

First Name: **Joseph**

Last Name: **Henry**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99926**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Change to 36**

Public Comment: **Hello, I am very against and extremely concerned about moving Metlakatla out of district 36. This would separate us from our nearest neighbor Ketchikan. Please vote against this change!**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 17, 2021, 2:06 pm

First Name: **Charles** Last Name: **Herman**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Muldoon Resident**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Composite #1 - Don't Split Up Muldoon**

Public Comment: **To the Redistricting Board:**

I am deeply concerned with Board Composite Map #1 that cuts off a portion of East Anchorage, including my residence, from our neighbors. It will result in political isolation and a disconnection between my family and our neighbors who share the same concerns. In my time living in Muldoon, I have never gone to a store in Eagle River, a park in Eagle River, and I do not feel any sense of community or connection to Eagle River or residents of Eagle River. I have nothing against the people of Eagle River, but we do not share a local community. A representative who was dedicated to improving the community of Eagle River would be unlikely to care about the challenges facing East Anchorage.

I feel a deep connection to my neighbors in Muldoon. As the map is drawn, my representative would feel no need to be concerned about the elementary school my child will attend even though it is right across the street - as it is in a different district. My neighbors who live across Muldoon, who frequent Chantstnu and Windsong park and who I see at the weekly farmers market in my neighborhood would have no political connection or shared interests.

I don't always agree with my neighbors about the best ways to improve Muldoon or share their views on every issue - however, I at least know that they care about improving East Anchorage. I don't know what the concerns of Eagle River residents are, but I am pretty sure they are not invested in the economic development of East Anchorage, the safety of those living in Muldoon, or the availability of community resources to people in my neighborhood. Slicing off a portion of East Anchorage will result in a situation where we have to yell and scream to even get our representative to care about my neighborhood - when it should be a given that our representative cares about improving our neighborhood and the debate is about how we get it done.

Please, please, please don't cut my family off from having a say in our neighborhoods representation in the legislature. We deserve to share a representative with others who are invested in the success of East Anchorage.



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 17, 2021, 11:10 am

First Name: **Mackinzie**

Last Name: **Hutchings**

Email or Phone: [REDACTED]

Comments or Concerns: **Hello, I've become aware of the redistricting of knik river road IN palmer. This is not and should not become a part of an Anchorage district. I'm against this, as are many people who live out on the road. We bought property in the mat su borough, and it should stay that way.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 17, 2021, 12:01 pm

First Name: **Robert**

Last Name: **Keaton**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **n/a**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99801**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Maps appear drawn to be partisan, and targetted**

Public Comment: **As a trained GIS professional with 20 years of experience and graduate degrees in analyses like these, I find the map of the Juneau area very partisan, targetted and just brings lots of questions on how competent the authors are. While I am undeclared, I care about the process being non biased. In any analysis, the authors should maintain no bias. The unique little cutouts like on Cross street do not make any sense in a robust analysis unless it is a targeted attack on specific legislators which this appears to be. You can not make a reasonable argument that these cut outs are needed to balance population. The precision of the census does not allow you to make this statement with a straight face. As a result, This brings the whole process into question and it screams of biased manipulation of census data to get a desired result. The Redistricting board has brought forward a suggestion that is biased, Wrong and must be revisited, specifically in the Juneau area.**

September 15, 2021

John Binkley, Chairman  
Alaska Redistricting Board  
PO Box 240147  
Anchorage, AK 99524

Dear Chairman Binkley:

Thank you for your service and efforts as the Chairman of the Alaska Redistricting Board to draw the legislative district boundaries.

Now that initial maps have been drafted, my understanding is there are requirements for the Board to have a robust public hearing process.

As Mayor of the City of Cordova, this letter is to request and extend an invitation to the Alaska Redistricting Board to conduct a public hearing with the community of Cordova regarding the proposed maps that have been recently drafted.

A priority for Cordova is for our community is included in a district with communities that are geographically and socio-economically similar. We also support federal guidelines that require this district to continue to be effective for our Alaska Native populations that have called this region home for thousands of years. These sentiments were expressed in writing to the previous Redistricting Board in 2011, and we want to continue with the same message.

We look forward for an opportunity to have a dialogue between Cordova and the Board. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help facilitate a public hearing here.

Thank you for considering this request and invitation.

Sincerely,

Clay Koplin, Mayor  
City of Cordova

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clay R. Koplin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**From:** Marin Kuizenga [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 9:16 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Cc:** Marin Kuizenga [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** comments regarding redistricting

Dear Redistricting Board,

I am writing with concerns about the proposed redistricting plan. I am a 30+ year resident of Fairbanks. The nuances of the process remain obscure to me however there are several issues that even the untrained eye can detect.

Please do not reduce Fairbanks' representation by ~one-quarter of a state House seat. Fairbanks is no less worthy than other areas of the state. The recommended population in each district is 18,335 people not the proposed +19,000. This would unfairly dilute the voting power of Fairbanks compared to the rest of the state.

The second issue is the proposed boundaries. I am no specialist, but I can compare the current districts to those proposed, and there are significant changes. Given that our state population has changed little, I see no reason to merge Salcha and Harding Lake with Chena Ridge, unless to weaken the vote from the west of Fairbanks. This is gerrymandering in my book and should be unacceptable. I would ask you to carefully review these boundaries, creating equitable and neutral delineations [though I acknowledge the challenge].

Thank you for your work.

Marin Kuizenga  
[REDACTED]

Fairbanks AK 99708

**From:** Cheryl & Mark Lovegreen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 3:42 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Redistricting testimony

Thank you for your work on redistricting and for the information on your website. While I found it hard to compare maps from versions v.1 and v.2 side by side, I did notice some overall trends that I'd like to address.

In District 22, parts of the Municipality of Anchorage and the Mat-Su are together. These areas are different socio-economically, and it is difficult to represent people with such different local governments.

JBER is split into different districts. The joint base should be served in one district if possible. Perhaps Eagle River and JBER could be combined into one district, as their people share many socio-economic elements.

I appreciate your service and look forward to seeing the process move forward.

Cheryl Lovegreen  
Anchorage

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 18, 2021, 7:33 am

First Name: **darleen**

Last Name: **masiak**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99712**

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

Public Comment: **I support the map presented by Alaskans for Fair Redistricting, neither of the two presented by the redistricting board.**

**From:** Tompkins, Katherine A. [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 18, 2021 1:56 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Redistricting Comments - Anchorage

Good evening,

I am writing in regards to my thoughts regarding the redistricting proposed maps and third-party maps, most specifically in regards to Anchorage south of Tudor.

For background on myself, I am a 28-year Alaskan resident. Over those years, I have lived in the following districts in chronological order:

- 15H (JBER) – 3 years
- 27N (Muldoon) – 1 years
- 25M (Elmore/Lake Otis) – 23 years
- 26M (Huffman) – 1 year

**Comments on Highlights from Current Map (2013 Redistricting Map)**

I appreciated that this map split Anchorage, to the most extent possible, via the Seward Highway, especially south of Tudor.

**Overall**

The most important point I want to make is I believe the Senate districts need to be proposed and included for public comment. Currently in the 2013 Redistricting Map, pairing house districts 27N and 28N doesn't appear to make sense. District 27N (Muldoon) seems like it would make more sense with the current 16H or 15H. Without noting Senate districts for public comment, it prevents individuals from commenting on one half of the Legislature.

Below are my comments on the two drafted maps and maps from Third Party Drafters, in order of my highest to lowest preference.

**V2 Composite**

I am in support of this map for the south Anchorage districts, specifically 9-11 and 14-17. While District 9 does stretch down to Whittier, it appears to try to use Oceanview and the Hillside to get the population needed, which appears to make sense. For District 16, it takes mostly between O'Malley and Huffman, and mostly east of the Seward Highway, having to take some in the Klatt area, which do shopping at the Carrs on Huffman. This map looks the most compact.

**Senate Minority Caucus**

I am in support of Districts 25 – 27; they appear to try to use large roads to separate districts such as O'Malley. I am also in support of Districts 16-17 in the east Anchorage area.

**Alaskans for Fair Redistricting**

While I appreciate the drafter's attempt to split districts among the Seward Highway in south Anchorage, I would prefer that if District 9 Turnagain Arm had to utilize any of Anchorage, it would make more sense to use Oceanview (west of Seward Highway) if needing to go more north than De Armoun.

The House Districts 9 and 10 pairing make sense.

House District 14 looks pretty spot on with being east of the Seward Highway, mostly north of Abbott Road and south of Dowling.

**Coalition of Doyon, Ltd., Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, Sealaska, and Ahtna**

I appreciate that this map has all of south Anchorage in districts without having to stretch to Girdwood. District 8 makes sense with the Turnagain Arm area. I appreciate that Districts 10-11, 14-15 are bifurcated by the Seward Highway. I personally wish District 13 stretched further east instead of north.

**V1 Composite**

I do not support the Anchorage split in this map. Proposed District 9 stretches as far south as Whittier and as far north as O'Malley. If Whittier/Girdwood needs to be lumped with South Anchorage for population, I believe it would make more sense to not go any further than De Armoun, and concentrating more in Oceanview or Upper Hillside areas if having to go more north. From a visual standpoint, this map doesn't appear to use major roads in South Anchorage to separate the boundaries such as the Seward Highway, Huffman, O'Malley, Abbott, Klatt, Dowling, or Tudor. District #14 goes far too north for a district that includes the Upper Hillside.

**Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER)**

While I appreciate the drafter's attempt to split districts among the Seward Highway in south Anchorage, the inclusion of Nikiski in South Anchorage's District 32 makes no sense. I have family in Nikiski, and we have to travel 3 hours, through what would be 1-2 other districts to get to them. The social/economic interests of Nikiski and South Anchorage are very disparate.

From a visual standpoint, District 25 does not appear to meet the goal of compactness, forming an inverted number 3.

**Mat-Su Assembly**

I could not easily make out how South Anchorage was treated in this map.

**My Version**

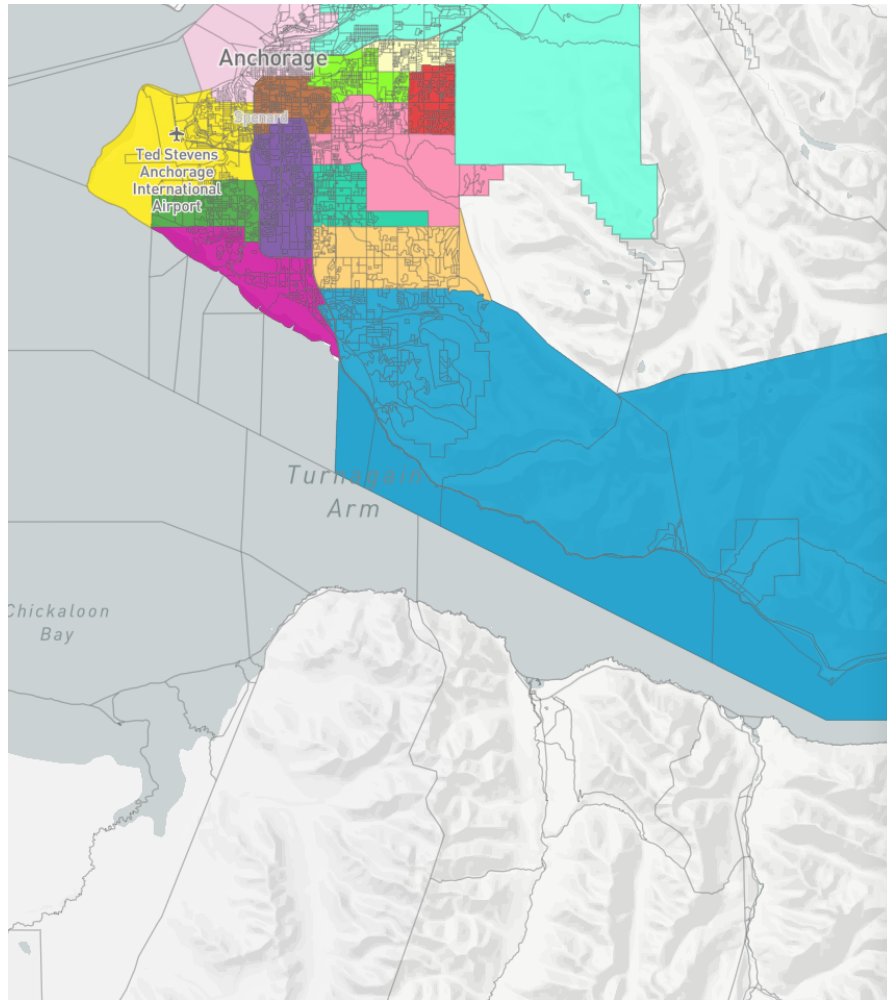
In order to appreciate the complexity of your work, I took my hand at drafting an Anchorage map, again with most of the concentration on south Anchorage and attempting to use major roads to separate the city. I have attached two PDFs with those maps and included the link below. The first shows a high level view of mostly south Anchorage, the second shows that furthest south district of Anchorage and how it would only stretch to Girdwood. From a visual standpoint, I know that one area that visually sticks out is the rectangle east of Elmore and north of Abbott (Birch Run, Sahalee, and 'the Planets'). This rectangle makes sense to go with areas west of Elmore because they share an elementary school (Trailside) and high school (Service). The odd shape is mainly a result of Far North Bicentennial Park.



<https://www.akredistrict.org/create/edit.html?p=48885>

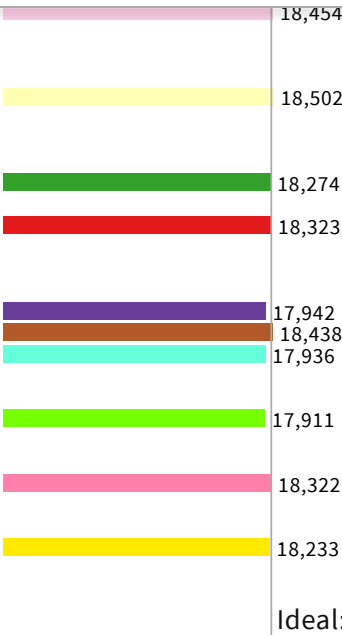
Thank you for taking the time to read my comments and thank you for your difficult work.

Katherine McDonald



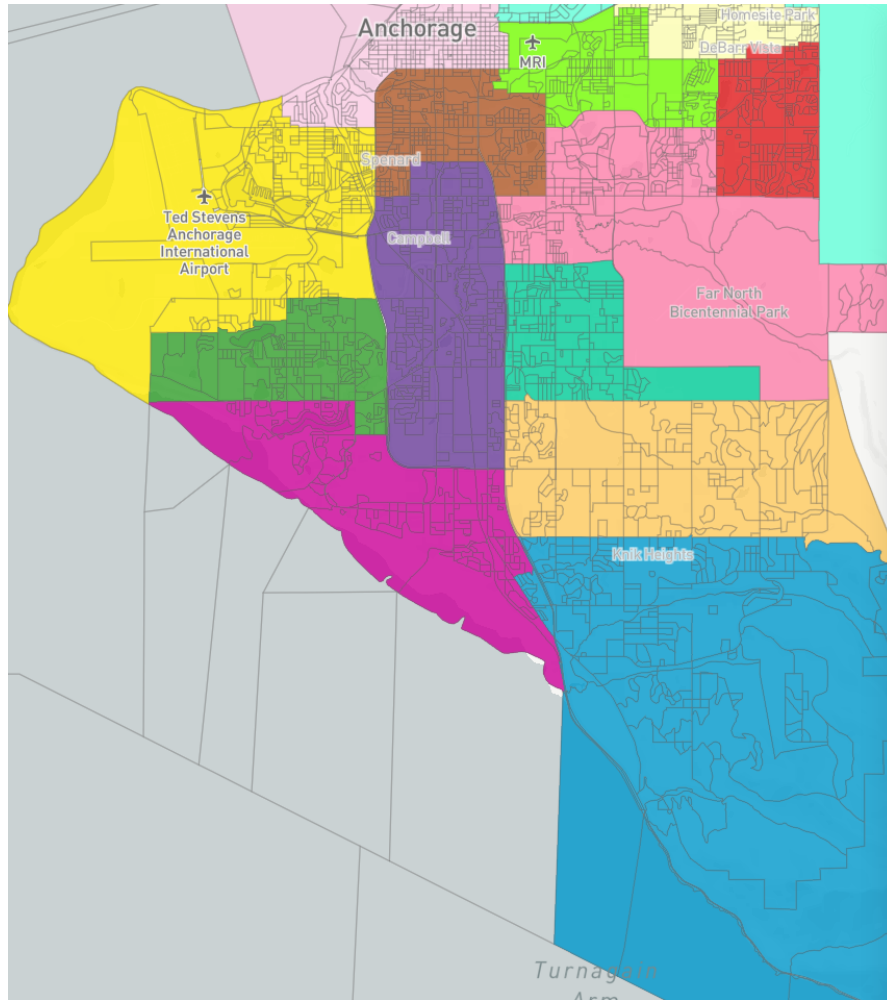


- About redistricting
- About the data
- Save plan
- Districtr homepage
- New plan
- Print / PDF
- Export Districtr-JSON
- Export assignment as CSV (these units)
- About import/export options

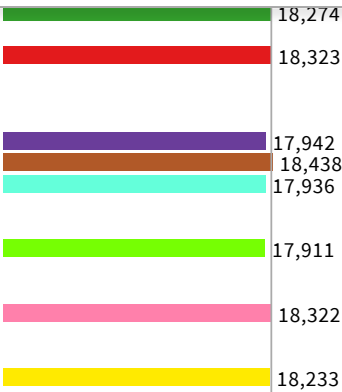


UNASSIGNED POPULATION: 478,179

MAX. POPULATION DEVIATION: 2.31%



- About redistricting
- About the data
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- Export Districtr-JSON
- Export assignment as CSV (these units)
- About import/export options



Ideal: 18,334.78

UNASSIGNED POPULATION:	478,179
MAX. POPULATION DEVIATION:	2.31%

From: Kathleen Menke [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 1:49 PM  
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
Subject: current Maps/testimony

To Alaska Redistricting Board..

Current maps do not follow the criteria of the Alaska Constitution for redistricting.

SE Alaska is best represented by compact contiguous districts.

The long snaky district extending from Yakutat to south of Ketchikan must go.  
These communities have little in common.

SE Alaska island communities are most closely connected (transportation, health care, commerce) to their nearest mainland communities.  
District lines can and must reflect this.

If Yakutat must be added to SE for census reasons, it is most closely associated with Haines/Klukwan/Skagway/Juneau/Douglas Island/Gustavus.

The cute little gerrymandering jogs to pit Hannan and Story against each other as well as JKT and Ortiz against each other are also blatantly partisan and illegal.

SE Alaska is already underrepresented as to the rest of Alaska.

Do better.

Follow Alaska's constitution.

Regards,  
Kathleen Menke  
Haines

**From:** Jeff Merkel [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 11:37 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** redistricting issues

Hello Redistricting Board,

The new proposed redistricting plan is troubling. If it stands, it will be a famously bad revision.

I've been in Alaska since 1997, and follow current events and political currents closely. I know it's very tempting to use redistricting to try to "rig" the game. We should all resent that. Anyone can see that you're trying to disadvantage the more progressive side of Fairbanks, with its great university and fine surrounding community.

It is a scandal to reduce Fairbanks' representation by one-quarter of a state House seat. Why? Fairbanks citizens are no less worthy than others in the state. Yet your map violates the recommended population for each district, which should average 18,335 people. You're proposing 19,000 or more. This is an unnecessary outrage. This slashes the voting power of Fairbanks in relation to the rest of the state.

Also ridiculous are the proposed boundaries. The current districts which follow clearer community boundaries are chopped up to weaken the voices of a stable population which often speaks with a clear voice. Apparently, you don't like that voice being heard in the Legislature, but that's not the job you are given. The fact is, our state population has changed little. Why on earth are you merging Salcha and Harding Lake with Chena Ridge? It's clearly simply to weaken the vote from the west of Fairbanks.

Gerrymandering is a game. You're sticking it to people you disagree with. That's not how Alaska used to run, that's not how "pioneers" worked this Great Land. This is unacceptable.

Time to carefully review these boundaries. Create equitable and neutral delineations! It's the job you're given, not the one you have so far performed.

Thank you for your time.

Jeffrey Merkel / [REDACTED] / Fairbanks AK 99709

From: Hope Meyn [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 6:13 AM  
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
Subject: Redistricting

Dear redistributing board,

As a born and raised Alaskan, I am writing today to ask for a fair districting process. The maps that have been redrawn would erode Alaskan values and lead to further divisive politics.

Best,  
Hope Meyn

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

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

**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 8:55 AM

First Name: **Elizabeth**

Last Name: **Murphy**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99901**

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

Public Comment: **Im in agreement with Peter Stanton's map.**

*Staff note: Ms. Murphy was referring to Peter Stanton's testimony, which was included in the 9/17/2021 testimony packet. Mr. Stanton did not submit a map.*

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

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

**Sent:** 9/17/2021 3:27:30 PM

**First Name:** Gary

**Last Name:** Newman

**Email or Phone Contact:** [REDACTED]

**Public Comment:** Watching most of today's (9/17/21) presentations, I found that most maps did not recognize the common socio-economic link of Chena Hot Springs Road/Gilmore Trail areas in Fairbanks. The maps linked some of the areas into the non-linked socio-economic North Pole area. Two Rivers-Pleasant Valley was typically tossed into super-rural areas. In some plans, subdivisions were broken up into two different districts (e.g. Tungsten Trail off CHSR). This is untenable. One comment about orienting east-west rather than north-south for most of the FNSB was a good observation. A comment I noted during testimony was that the outlier rural areas like Two Rivers should stay in the super-rural areas because they didn't want fire service. Maybe folks have heard of the arsonist who torched a number of community structures and homes. That area is definitely looking at fire service protection. I do like the concept the 4a plan provided to integrate the socio-economic areas of our valued native populations, but the rural areas of Fairbanks deserve the same treatment. I wasn't able to evaluate and download the one plan presented by the Alaska Democrats as just their narrative was downloadable on the website. Since the Hickel Plan of 1990, redistricting has been challenging and challenged. I recognize the difficulties of redistricting where movement in one area impacts another (like squeezing a balloon) and thank the Board for its service. It is a very important effort with long lasting (10 years) consequences. I think we also recognize that the more it's gotten right, the fewer the legal challenges that seem inevitable.



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

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

Date: September 18, 2021, 8:57 am

First Name: **Donita**

Last Name: **O'Dell**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99901**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting Metlakatla/POW/Gravina/Ketchikan**

Public Comment: **The residents of Metlakatla, Prince of Wales island, and Gravina Island \*all\* use Ketchikan for medical services, shopping, access to the airport and AMHS, and so much more. All of these communities are interwoven and it makes no sense whatsoever for residents of those communities to be represented by a legislator that has no connection to them. Heck. Gravina is part of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and many, maybe most, of the residents there also own residences in Ketchikan, are employed in Ketchikan, receive their mail in Ketchikan, send their children to school in Ketchikan, etc. Ketchikan's airport is on Gravina. Metlakatla, POW, and Gravina should remain in the same district as Ketchikan because they are socially and economically inseparable.**

**From:** Marietta [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 12:17 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Public concern

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of the South Knik River area which lies off of the South Knik River Road. Our residents reside within the limits of the Matsu Borough. The current redistricting map is concerning as I feel we should not be grouped into the Anchorage municipality. We need to vote for representatives that will serve our interests for this particular area. In addition, if the voting poll location will be changed, I feel many will not have easy access to voting locations. We already travel a significant distance to get to our current polling place located in the Butte. I request that you take this into consideration when planning the redistricting map and either leave it how it currently is or place us into the Matsu district.

Thank you for your time,  
Marietta Plummer

[REDACTED]  
Palmer, AK 99645  
[REDACTED]

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

A website response from the Contact Us form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: September 19, 2021, 11:30 am

First Name: **Jerry**

Last Name: **Smetzer**

Email or Phone: [REDACTED]

Comments or Concerns: **At the end of your last meeting, Steve Aufrecht requested that Reapportionment Board adopt three principles of procedure in their work on Reapportionment (These are paraphrased by me): 1.) Open meetings; full disclosure of all formal proceedings; no talking among members of the Board except in public; 2.) keep and enforce the rule against favoring incumbents in any and all map making involving district boundaries; and 3.) add a new rule against targeting incumbents in any and all map making involving district boundaries. For myself, I would add a rule 4. ) to Mr. Aufrecht's excellent list: Before putting any proposed district boundary map before the board for formal action The Board Chairman shall have affirmed on the public record that Rules 2 and 3 have been strictly enforced.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 17, 2021, 7:48 am

First Name: **James**

Last Name: **Squyres**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Article 1, Section 2 Alaskan**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99737**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **District surrounding Delta Junction**

Public Comment: **Large improvement here...** <https://www.akredistrict.org/create/edit.html?p=47103>

**From:** Courtney Swartz [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 12:54 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Redistricting Anchorage, Eagle River, and Mat-Su

To the Members of the Alaska Redistricting Board -

I really cannot believe what is being attempted here.

So, instead of doing the sensible thing and reducing the number of representatives for a district, based on population (which is a slim margin short in each of the areas named, by my layperson's understanding), we're just going to use it as an excuse to lump in a highly diverse section of Anchorage with Eagle River, a deeply Republican pocket of the region? Gee, that doesn't stink of partisanship at ALL. Didn't this board try this tactic in recent memory? And how well did that work out?

Eagle River is 20-odd miles outside of Anchorage and away from East Anchorage. Mat-Su Valley area...well, I don't think I should have to spell out the mileage difference. On voting day, are members of the new "Mat-Su Valley District" going to drive here, or there, to cast their ballots? Any kind of argument based on geographic likelihood of corroboration falls flat. All this permutation of redistricting is, is a thinly-veiled attempt to redraw district lines in a way that will ensure that Republican interests continue to dominate the State Legislature. It is the **definition** of gerrymandering.

As a board touted to be 'non-partisan', you should - every one of you - be deeply ashamed of yourselves, and ashamed of the opinion you clearly hold regarding the intelligence of the constituents your board claims to serve.

In Incredulity,  
C. Swartz

**From:** Christin Swearingen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 1:03 PM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Redistricting comment

Hi,

I was a census worker in 2020 and hoped that the information I collected would be used to give everyone a fair voice. When redistricting is done in an unequal, partisan way, that disempowers certain groups of people. Please ensure that you are making fair and equitable choices that do not favor one political party or group over another.

Thank you,  
Christin Swearingen

**From:** Michael Szidloski [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 7:40 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Redistricting in Alaska

Good Morning,

My name is Michael Szidloski and I am a resident of Fairbanks, Alaska. I have lived in Alaska since 1991. I would highly encourage the Redistricting Board be open, transparent, and engage the Alaskan populace in input regarding redistricting. At a time when trust in government is at an all time low, this board has the opportunity to engage the Alaska voting populace in their civic duty and rebuild trust that has been lost. By deferring to maps drawn by Randy Ruedrich, that are blatantly drawn with partisan intent, you will only cause more distrust in governance in addition to opening up the state to costly lawsuits similar to those in other states. Include the voting populace of Alaska, have them engage in their civic duty and help define the communities that will be represented themselves. It will also avoid pointless lawsuits that could have been avoided with just this simple act. This board is determining the communal structure of Alaska with regards to representation, and I urge you to give that the highest levels of scrutiny it deserves coupled with the input of those who will be affected by your decision. Thank you for your time.

~Michael

--

One day posterity will remember, this strange era, these strange times, when ordinary common honesty was called courage. -- Yevgeny Yevtushenko

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

**Sent:** Friday, September 10, 2021 12:56 PM

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

First Name: **Jennifer**

Last Name: **Williams**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99901**

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

Public Comment: **Why would anyone remove Saxman and South Tongass from the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and switch to Sitka? This will cause so much confusion when enrolling kids into school.**



**From:** Stephen Wright [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 10:28 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Re: ++ Map Comment Response

For example Kodiak/ Aluetains should be 39 and Ketchikan 40.

With Adopted 1 & 2 maps in the valley are not corresponding,

Fore example 27 and 28 are separated by two district. Palmer should not be with western Wasilla north.

28 should be Wasilla, 30 should be with palmer and Palmer should be 29. It is also ok to split a community based on the 18333 plus or minus 100 because it is better to have a closer population size for your district look only to Anchorage as an example where the boundaries change along roads to get that concise representation is the best for us. Let the maps auto size based on population north to south as your read in a book.

Thanks

*Staff Note: This email was a continuation of website comments that were received on 9/16/2021 and included in the previous testimony packet for the board meeting on 9/17/2021:*

Date: September 16, 2021, 4:22 am

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **If district should be plus or minus 100 for size adjusting the the district sizes based on population**

Public Comment: **Also the current numbering of the districts must correspond to and consistently match.**

**Like 1 North Region**

**2 ,3 Northern**

**4, 5, 6 ,7 Fairbanks**

**8,9,10.11,12,13 South Central, Valley**

**14,15,16,17,18,19,20 South Central Anchorage**

**21,22,23,24.25, South Central Continued**

**26, 27, 28, 29, 30 South Central Extended**

**31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 Kodiak to Kenai**

**37, 38, 39, 40, South East extended with Ketchikan as District 40.**

Consider my input natural the more the more flow and grouped the better.. The mapping tried for a few hours and then the system reset my map and I had to start from scratch, I noticed the mapping tools I used would not allow manual line drawing, If it had a feature to auto balance districts based on sequentially numbering of the districts, that would be a nice way to balance the population for a truly consistent representation based on geography.

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD

## WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: September 17, 2021, 3:09 pm

First Name: **Frances**

Last Name: **Yates-March**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Undeclared**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99515**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting in Map 1 and 2**

Public Comment: **Fair and equal representation is essential in our democracy. All voices must be heard. This means that drawing up district maps must allow fairness in our democracy. Let the voters pick our candidates, rather than the candidates cherry picking voters.**

**Map one does not look to be contiguous, especially in East Anchorage. The chunks derived from the drawings do not allow equal representation of people's ethnicity. There should be no "cracking" of minority populations. Please address this issue. East Anchorage communities are close-knit, and to split them up means diluting their voice. This map is partisan in nature, rather than based on community needs. Our state constitution specifically requires that state legislative districts be contiguous, compact, preserve local government boundaries, use geographic features, and preserve community interest (defined as relatively integrated social-economic area(s)).**

**Map two does takes away the voting power of the majority house representatives and gives it to the minority. Competition between parties offers the citizenry a choice. In offering choice, voting is based on the ideas offered rather than the lines drawn.**

**I'll be curious to see new redistricting maps after today's meeting by skewing district lines to favor republican candidates. In order for fair and equal representation to happen, those drawing district lines must consider the needs and voice of the community. The voting history of both maps indicate this need has not been met.**