



AGENDA
CUYAHOGA COUNTY DISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2021
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
2079 EAST NINTH STREET
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR
3:00 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) August 25, 2021 Meeting
- b) August 26, 2021 Meeting

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

5. ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

- a) Responses to The New Public Comments
- b) Presentation of The Updated Map – Response No. 2

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

7. ADJOURNMENT

**Complimentary parking for the public is available in the attached garage at 900 Prospect. A skywalk extends from the garage to provide additional entry to the Council Chambers from the 5th floor parking level of the garage. Please see the Clerk to obtain a complimentary parking pass.*

***Council Chambers is equipped with a hearing assistance system. If needed, please see the Clerk to obtain a receiver.*



MINUTES

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY DISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2021
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
2079 EAST NINTH STREET
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR
5:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Frost called the meeting to order at 5:38 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Frost asked Clerk Richardson to call the role. Commission members Frost, Koesel, Lumpkin, Morgan, and Murphy were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Councilmembers Jones, Schron, Simon, Miller and Baker were also in attendance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Petto, League of Women Voters, of Greater Cleveland, addressed the Commission and stated when using the mapping software available to him the percentage deviation is calculated using the midpoint between the largest and smallest district as the base for computing the percentages and not the target population, and asked if that's reasonable or has some basis in practice or Law.

The Honorable Jack Schron, Cuyahoga County Councilmember addressed the Commission and stated he is pleased and supportive of the new maps being presented today and referenced Districts 6 and 9 as they follow the same logic of minimal impact and keep the communities together supporting their Mayfield and neighborhood Orange Schools. With Census data changes being so small this year, he respectfully asked the Commission to exercise courage in their authority to

make only the minimal changes as shown on the revised maps. Mr. Schron thanked them and wished them the best of luck.

The Honorable Sunny Simon, Cuyahoga County Council member, addressed the Commission regarding District 11 and stated she is fully supportive of the revised option as it equitably addresses any minimal change that must occur; stated its fair and maintains the communities intact and the representation; and said there's no evidence or compelling reason the map should be totally drawn again.

The Honorable Dale Miller, Cuyahoga County Councilmember, addressed the Commission and thanked them for taking on such a challenging service; stated he strongly believes voters should choose candidates not the other way around; recommended the Commission get within the 10 percent maximum population deviation between districts but not much lower. He stated that being too fine on population creates problems with compactness disruption and preserving communities of interest; referenced the population range in the new Map 2 and commented that it is possible to meet population requirements without the kind of disruption entailed in swapping Rocky River and Brook Park; and commends the strategy used.

The Honorable Nan Baker, Cuyahoga County Councilmember, addressed the Commission and thanked them for listening to her concerns, keeping what's there intact and allowing Westshore to flourish as it has done and continue the cooperation that over the years they have been able to perform.

Lou addressed the commission and stated she is proud of the process taking place; advised that dramatic changes need to be made to break down barriers and asked the Commission to work together to resolve long term issues and help the communities who are suffering.

Mr. Frost suggested the Commission vote to waive the Attorney-Client privilege and make the legal opinion, submitted by the Law Department, public so individuals can see what the Commission is relying on to assist them in their deliberations, as it relates to transparency.

A motion was made by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Ms. Morgan, and approved by unanimous vote to waive the privilege and release the legal opinion to the public.

4. ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

a) Overview

Mr. Jeff Rusnak, President and Chief Executive Officer, for R Strategy Group, LLC, addressed the Commission and provided an overview of the presentation topics being presented.

b) Response to Questions and Comments through August 24th

Mr. Rusnak provided responses to questions posed at the August 23rd Districting Commission meeting relating to fulfilling requests for updates; adding League of Women Voter power points to the Website; a request to submit a map online;

responding to comments received online as it relates to comments made by Councilmember Simon; the first District in Rocky River; and comments made by Councilmembers Jones, Baker and Simon and the Commission directly.

c) Presentation and Discussion of Revised Map Options

Mr. Matt Cassidy, Lead Strategic Consultant at TargetSmart Communications, addressed the Commission and provided revisions to the initial map proposals as it relates to minimal disruption, with a -3.86% - 6.0% range of deviation for a total range of 9.86%, resulting in 26,460 residents or 2.09% of Cuyahoga County's population being placed into a new district, which is 85% less than the most disruptive map presented at the August 23rd Commission meeting; constituency disruption; minority-majority districts; and compactness.

District 1 does not change from the current map – Deviation is 6.00% (total range 6,896)

District 2 has a minimal change from the current map – Deviation is -3.16% (total range - 3,638)

District 3 retains 96% of the constituents – Deviation is -3.07% (total range - 3,534)

Districts 4 did not change – Deviation 2.64% (total range – 3,030)

District 5 did not change – Deviation 3.88% (total range - 4,463)

District 6 lost some population – Deviation 5.16% (total range - 5,928)

District 7 incremental changes – Deviation -3.86% (total range - 4,434)

District 8 largely the same – Deviation -3.80% (total range - 4,367)

District 9 under 95% the same – Deviation -3.60% (total range - 4,141)

District 10 over 98% the same as it was previously – Deviation -3.60% (total range - 4,401)

District 11 completely intact – Deviation -3.65% (total range - 4,202)

Commission members asked questions of Mr. Cassidy relating to the clarification on the number of districts in Cleveland; asked about the possibility of splitting Cleveland into 4 districts; asked how many precincts were changed overall as a result of the estimates in districts 9, 8 and 7; and requested that a list of the precincts be made available to the Commission, Councilmembers and the website as an appendix to this presentation.

d) Decision Points

Mr. Rusnak addressed the Commission and asked if the members have any new decision points; feedback based on what was presented; additional information needed to assist them with making informed decisions.

Discussion ensued.

e) Update on Outreach

Ms. Destinee Henton, representing R Strategy Group, LLC, addressed the Commission and reported that Elected Officials; Political parties and groups; Faith Leaders; Good Government organizations; Unions; CDC's Nonprofits; Community Leaders and Business groups were contacted via email and direct calls.

Discussion ensued.

f) Update on Website

Mr. Jeff Rusnak addressed the Commission and reported that the URL was simplified to make it more accessible and easier to find; added the 2020 Census Data as an Excel document; added press releases and the Ideastream article to the Media Center; and added new highlights to the Homepage showcasing map options; 2020 Census data; and map submissions.

Discussion ensued.

5. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

6. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss and on a motion by Ms. Morgan with a second by Ms. Murphy, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 p.m., without objection.



MINUTES

**CUYAHOGA COUNTY DISTRICTING COMMISSION MEETING
THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021
CUYAHOGA COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS
2079 EAST NINTH STREET
C. ELLEN CONNALLY COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 4TH FLOOR
3:00 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Frost called the meeting to order at 3:09 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Mr. Frost asked Clerk Richardson to call the role. Commission members Frost, Koesel, Lumpkin, Morgan, and Murphy were in attendance and a quorum was determined. Councilmembers Jones, Baker, Conwell and Miller were also in attendance.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 23, 2021, MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Ms. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Koesel and approved by unanimous vote to approve the minutes from the August 23, 2021, meeting as presented.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Catherine LaCroix, Co-President, League of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland, addressed the Commission regarding the districting map that they presented to the Commission at the August 23rd Commission meeting which they felt presented the goals of minimal population variation, political and ethnic equity, geographic compactness, keeping communities of interest together and competitiveness. She addressed the concerns that the Leagues of Women Voters of Greater Cleveland had with the districting maps that were presented to the Commission at the August 25th Commission meeting which they feel were drawn

to contain the opinions of the Council and to include an emphasis on minimal disruption which will protect incumbents and stated that the goal of the new district lines should be drawn to empower voters.

Lou addressed the Commission and expressed concerns with the limited amount of time for outreach to the Citizens of Cuyahoga County pertaining to the education on districting and the opportunity for the Citizens to give an opinion on the districting process and the inequalities redistricting could possibly deliver to the low income and poor citizens within Cuyahoga County.

Pastor Anthony Small, East Cleveland Concerned Pastors, addressed the Commission and expressed his concern with the governmental influence while recreating the districting map and his concerns within the African American Community, specifically in East Cleveland, regarding their views on voting and the lack of participation in the Census which he felt had a negative impact on the population and district lines for the City of East Cleveland.

The Honorable Yvonne Conwell, Cuyahoga County Councilmember, addressed the Commission and advised that she has cause for concern regarding the districting maps that were presented at the August 25th Commission meeting and asked the Commission to take into consideration the African American population within Districts 7, 8 and 9.

The Honorable Mayor Patrick J. Cooney, Mayor of Fairview Park, provided public comment via a letter addressed to the Commission and stated his concerns regarding the redistricting maps that were presented at the August 25th Commission meeting. He expressed his concerns with the removal of the Cities of Rocky River and Brook Park from District 1 and advised the Commission on impacts that the removal of those cities would potentially have if they were removed from District 1.

Dr. Mark J. Salling, provided public comment via email addressed to Mr. Frost regarding the submission of his proposed map; limiting the change in districts for the population, its voters, the elected and administrative officials that have developed important relationships with the Council. Mr. Salling also expressed his concerns regarding the Commission not allowing sufficient input from others in the County by rushing the process.

5. ITEMS OF CONSIDERATION

a) Overview

Mr. Jeff Rusnak, President and Chief Executive Officer, for R Strategy Group, LLC, addressed the Commission and provided an overview of the presentation topics being presented.

b) Response To New Questions and Comments

Mr. Rusnak provided responses to questions posed at the August 25th Districting Commission meeting relating to maps submitted online from Cleveland State;

feedback to emails received; comments related to splitting up District 1 and keeping it whole; Highland Heights and Richmond Heights; compactness of District 6.

c) Discussion of Map Option(s)

Mr. Michael Muller, President of Muller Public Strategies, addressed the Commission and provided responses to online submission comments relating to the proposed map submitted by Robert Dykes, Senior Consultant, Triad Research Group, and Dr. Mark J. Salling, Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University, regarding maintaining communities of interest and racial and demographic shifts; and online submission of correspondence received from William Tartar Jr., who served on the County Charter Commission, relating to the challenges of trying to achieve compactness of District 6.

Mr. Frost commented that he values all submissions received; stated that the efforts made by the Triad Research Group and Cleveland State University were admirable. Mr. Frost stated they encountered the same obstacles he experienced while he was working on the maps, as it relates to finding the best solutions to increase compactness in District 6 or to reduce the number of times the City of Cleveland was split; and said many of the factors that guided their efforts will be seen and embodied in the final map the Commission deliberates on and thanked them for their proposal. Members Murphy and Koesel concurred.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Rusnak provided an update relating to the request to check with the County Councilmembers in terms of the shifting and changes that were occurring in the precincts; reported that emails were sent to all Councilmembers inviting comment, suggestions and feedback regarding the changes proposed at the August 25th Commission meeting; received responses from 9 of the 11 Councilmembers.

Mr. Matt Cassidy, Lead Strategic Consultant at TargetSmart Communications, addressed the Commission and presented response 1 to proposed map options utilizing the range of deviation from -3.9% to 6.0% for a total range of 9.9% for Districts 1 thru 11, which included constituency disruption, minority-majority districts and compactness, with a disruption of 29,351 residents (2.3%) of Cuyahoga County's population being placed into a new district.

Commission members commented that they were pleased to see their suggested changes addressed particularly in Districts 7 thru 10 with the greatest loss of population; are happy to see the minority-majority number was a little higher than perceived; asked if all the split precincts were eliminated in this proposal, as the Commission is not allowed to adopt a map that has split precincts.

d) Additional Meeting(s), if needed

No discussion took place.

e) Decision Point(s), if any

Mr. Rusnak addressed the Commission and asked if the members if there were any outstanding issues that needs to be addressed.

Mr. Frost stated it would be appropriate to formally adopt a standard; thanked the Law Department for providing a legal opinion; and invited a motion to adopt the 10% total deviation standard.

A motion was made by Ms. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Lumpkin, and approved by unanimous vote to adopt the 10% total deviation standard.

Discussion ensued.

f) Outreach Update

Mr. Jeff Rusnak addressed the Commission and reported that additional comments were received; the website is being updated constantly; and the public has access to the website.

Discussion ensued.

Commission members will reconvene on Monday, August 30th to consider and cast a final vote. Mr. Frost asked Mr. Koesel if he is comfortable where the Commission is in the process and if he feels he has everything he needs to make a decision even if he can't be in attendance to cast a vote on Monday. Mr. Koesel stated he is confident and has no objection to the Commission proceeding without him, as he is unable to attend Monday's meeting.

Discussion ensued.

6. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

There was no miscellaneous business.

7. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss and on a motion by Mr. Lumpkin with a second by Ms. Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m., without objection.