

Holly C. Wells
Mara E. Michaletz
William D. Falsey
Zoe A. Danner
Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
510 L Street, Suite 700
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Telephone: 907.276.1550
Facsimile: 907.276.3680
hwells@bhb.com
mmichaletz@bhb.com
wfalsey@bhb.com
zdanner@bhb.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs Felisa Wilson, George Martinez, and Yarrow Silvers

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT ANCHORAGE

In the Matter of the
2021 REDISTRICTING PLAN.

Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI

**APPENDICES TO
EAST ANCHORAGE PLAINTIFFS'
FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

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APPENDIX A

Affidavits

1.

Affidavit of David Dunsmore

Holly C. Wells
Mara E. Michaletz
William D. Falsey
Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
510 L Street, Suite 700
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
hwells@bhb.com
mmichaletz@bhb.com
wfalsey@bhb.com
Telephone: 907.276.1550
Facsimile: 907.276.3680

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AFFIDAVIT OF DAVID DUNSMORE

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss:
Third Judicial District)

I, David Dunsmore, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state as follows:

1. In my capacity as strategist for Alaskans for Fair Redistricting I attended, in person, all of the Alaska Redistricting Board meetings after the release of the 2020 Census results, including the November 8-10 meetings where senate pairings, term assignments and truncation, and the final proclamation were discussed and adopted.

2. In addition, I attended, in person, the Board's public testimony "road show" events in Juneau, Haines, Sitka, Ketchikan, Bethel, Fairbanks, Anchorage (both events), Cordova, Homer, Seward, Soldotna, Wasilla, Palmer, Kodiak, Kotzebue, and Nome.

3. I accepted my position with Alaskans for Fair Redistricting ("AFFR") after meeting with coalition members and discussing AFFR's goals of achieving a redistricting map that provides fair representation in both rural and urban Alaska with districts that respect neighborhoods and communities of interest. The goal was, in part, to submit a map that was competitive with other proposals for the Board's consideration.

4. AFFR's goals for fair representation aligned with my values and this position provided the opportunity to use the skills I have learned working on campaigns and as a legislative staffer in a different capacity.

5. Except for briefly taking telephone calls or using the restroom, I was observing in person all of the on-the-record proceedings of the Board during the November 8-10 meetings, including the portions on November 8 that were designated as a "work session" where Redistricting Board ("Board") members were working informally on proposed senate pairings.

6. Throughout the November 8-10 Board meetings, I remained behind the rope line set up to separate public seating from the Board but sat as close as I could to try to best observe the Board's conversations.

7. Occasionally, Board members would approach me while the work session was ongoing, which temporarily interfered with my observation efforts.

8. In addition to my in-person attendance, I have reviewed the recordings of the November 8-10 meetings linked on the Board's website including all the informal work

session portion, all the discussions of Anchorage senate pairings, and all the discussion on term assignments.

9. Like the in-person meetings, the recordings did not allow me, as an observer, to fully hear or see the Board member's considerations. Some conversations by Board members, however, were easier to understand virtually.

10. During the formal portions of the meetings the Board's discussions were clearly audible in person, but during the work session portion conversations between members Marcum and Simpson were mostly not comprehensible.

11. Having adopted house districts the previous week, the Board began the November 8 meeting by taking public testimony concerning senate pairings. I presented proposed senate pairings on behalf of Alaskans for Fair Redistricting.

12. Randy Ruedrich presented proposed senate pairings on behalf of Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting and numerous members of the public testified in person and telephonically.

13. As part of his testimony, Ruedrich attempted to give Board members copies of a document detailing his recommended pairings, truncations, and term assignments. Board staffer Juli Lucky interrupted the distribution of the document and informed Board members that it contained truncation percentages and information about which incumbent senators lived in which districts, which was information the Board had previously decided not to consider. Lucky stated she had given the Board a version of this document with this information redacted and asked for guidance from the Board. After hearing the Board's discussion, Ruedrich agreed not to have the unredacted version distributed.

14. During his testimony, Ruedrich at first proposed Districts 20 and 22 (final district numbers, they were different at the time) be paired together for a senate district. Member Bahnke asked if he was concerned this would disenfranchise the diverse population of East Anchorage, and Ruedrich immediately changed his recommendation to putting Districts 21 and 22 together instead. This change of recommendation appeared to be spontaneous and Ruedrich was not able to fully articulate how this changed the rest of his recommendations.

15. After concluding public testimony, the Board went into an executive session. When it went back on the record, the Board adopted technical corrections to the house districts, discussed districts in Southeast, rural Alaska, and the City of Fairbanks where there was consensus, and then entered an informal work session. For most of the work session, members Marcum and Simpson were working together. Although Marcum and Simpson mostly remained in the same seats they were in for the formal portion, they were speaking much quieter than during the formal portions and it was very hard to follow in person. Simpson was mostly not comprehensible at all in person, while I could understand some of what Marcum was saying.

16. After the Board concluded the work session, they returned to a formal meeting to discuss the remaining senate pairings. For the Municipality of Anchorage, Bahnke proposed one set of pairings and Marcum proposed four different options. Bahnke proposed pairing the two Eagle River seats together and every one of Marcum's proposals proposed putting one of the Eagle River districts with one of the two Muldoon districts. Bahnke and member Borromeo expressed opposition to separating the Eagle

River districts and pairing Muldoon with Eagle River. Simpson expressed support for Marcum's proposed pairings without saying which of her four versions he was supporting.

17. Inexplicably, Chair Binkley announced that it appeared there was majority support for Marcum's pairings, again not stating which version of the four. Bahnke attempted to clarify that the Board had not reached a decision on these pairings, but Binkley repeated that while there was not unanimous consensus there was a majority.

18. Despite my familiarity with the maps and the districts, it was not possible for me to tell in person or from the recording what pairings Marcum, Simpson, and Binkley were supporting. I only learned which of her four versions Marcum was supporting when, during a break, Jeff Landfield of the Alaska Landmine asked Marcum what her pairings were. Marcum told Landfield that she had a single proposal and listed the numbers.

19. Marcum's pairings agreed with Bahnke's pairings on pairing Districts 9 and 11 (final numbers).

20. The November 9 meeting began with an extended executive session. When the Board went on the record, Marcum immediately moved and Simpson seconded to adopt a different set of Anchorage pairings from what she had expressed the day before.

21. This motion was adopted without any explanation or debate with Marcum, Simpson, and Binkley voting yes, and Borromeo and Bahnke voting no.

22. Having worked as a legislative aide in both the Alaska Legislature and the Anchorage Assembly, the Board's process and its adoption of the pairings without any discussion or even notice to the public regarding the proposed pairings was bizarre.

23. From my observations, the lack of discussion and notice and Binkley's decision that there was a "majority" on November 8 without Simpson or Binkley actually expressing support for Marcum's pairings, and the Board's complete failure to provide notice, public testimony, or findings before adopting the final senate pairings gave me the distinct impression that Marcum, Simpson, and Binkley had reached agreement either in an off-the-record meeting or a serial meeting.

24. In contrast to the house portion of the redistricting process, there was very limited opportunity for public input on senate pairings, truncation, or term assignments. The Board never adopted senate pairings for any of the Board options made available for public testimony on the road show, and the public testimony taken at the beginning of the November 8 meeting was the only testimony taken after the adoption of the house map. There was no public testimony taken on the specific proposed senate pairings before they were adopted, truncation, term assignment, or the final redistricting proclamation.

25. Throughout the redistricting process, the Board had a policy of taking public testimony at the beginning and end of every meeting day. During the November 8 meeting, I asked Deputy Director T.J. Presley to confirm that the Board would be continuing this practice but he referred me to the Board. I did not have an opportunity to ask the Board, through its chair or otherwise, before the pairings were adopted.

26. On November 9, while the Board was in executive session, I was waiting in the hallway outside the Board office and witnessed an East Anchorage resident turned away from providing public testimony by Binkley.

27. Throughout the process, Board members would often talk to staff members for the organizations and entities that proposed redistricting plans, which included me,

Joelle Hall, Randy Ruedrich, Robin O'Donoghue, Marna Sanford, Nathaniel Ambdur-Clark, Steve Colligan, and others.

28. On November 3, 2021, I observed Ruedrich join Board member Binkley in the mapping area while a work session was in progress. This was the only time I observed a Board member invite a plan sponsor into the mapping area during a meeting.

29. Over the course of the entire redistricting process, I responded to questions regarding redistricting and mapping from all five Board members.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.



David Dunsmore

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 4th day of January, 2022.



Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission expires: 4-5-2024



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the 5th day of January, 2022, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served electronically on the following:

Matthew Singer
Lee C. Baxter
Kayla J.F. Tanner
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt
msinger@schwabe.com
lbaxter@schwabe.com
ktanner@schwabe.com

Thomas Flynn
Cheryl Burghart
State of Alaska
thomas.flynn@alaska.gov
cheryl.burghart@alaska.gov

Nathaniel Amdur-Clark
Whitney A. Leonard
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller &
Monkman, LLP
nathaniel@sonosky.net
whitney@sonosky.net

Stacey C. Stone
Gregory Stein
Holmes Weddle & Barcott, P.C.
sstone@hwb-law.com
gstein@hwb-law.com

Robin Brena
Laura S. Gould
Jake W. Staser
Jon S. Wakeland
Brena, Bell & Walker, P.C.
rbrena@brenalaw.com
lgould@brenalaw.com
jstaser@brenalaw.com
jwakeland@brenalaw.com

Eva Gardner
Michael Schechter
Benjamin J. Farkash
Ashburn & Mason, P.C.
eva@anchorlaw.com
mike@anchorlaw.com
ben@anchorlaw.com

BIRCH HORTON BITTNER & CHEROT

By: Peggy S Crowe
Believed to be transmitted without error
from pcrowe@bhb.com
Approx Time: 3:30 pm

2.

Affidavit of Kevin McGee

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Mara E. Michaletz
William D. Falsey
Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
510 L Street, Suite 700
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
hwells@bhb.com
mmichaletz@bhb.com
wfalsey@bhb.com
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Facsimile: 907.276.3680

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AFFIDAVIT OF KEVIN DAVID MCGEE

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss:
Third Judicial District)

I, Kevin David McGee, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state as follows:

1. I am the President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Anchorage, Alaska Branch #1000 ("NAACP Anchorage").

2. I make this Affidavit based upon my knowledge and in my capacity as the President of NAACP Anchorage and in support of the East Anchorage Plaintiffs and the East Anchorage racial and language minority residents.

3. I am currently in my third two-year term of office as President of the NAACP Anchorage Branch. My prior position was First Vice President for six years. I was also the Standing Committee Chair for the NAACP Political Action Committee for six years.

4. The mission of the NAACP Anchorage is "to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all Alaskans."

5. The emphasis of this mission statement is the need to strengthen all institutions in such a way that they contribute to the creation of an ideal American society.

The following components elucidate this statement:

- A. Upholding individual rights; and
- B. Improving communities.

6. The persistence of NAACP Anchorage is clear especially in its campaigns against any form of personal rights violations. Just as it was initially founded to protect the people of color, NAACP Anchorage continues to advance this fight to include even the finest of their rights.

7. The NAACP particularly focuses on their civil rights engagement, including in the legislative and electoral processes. Success in this endeavor directly leads to the improvement of communities in Alaska, as represented by the second component.

8. The absence of discrimination of all magnitude is the primary goal for the NAACP.

9. The vision statement of the NAACP Anchorage is "to ensure a society in which all individual Alaskans have equal rights without discrimination based on race."

10. This vision statement represents the leadership vow of NAACP Anchorage and its determination to emerge victoriously. It can be divided into:

- A. Promote an inclusive society; and
- B. Uphold equal rights for all.

11. Making Alaska home for everyone remains the primary objective of NAACP Anchorage. That is why the organization is actively involved in exposing any social evils targeted at races wherever they are.

12. Such a commitment relates to the duty of upholding the rights of all the citizens. Today, NAACP Alaska – composed of NAACP Anchorage and a branch in Fairbanks – has achieved significant milestones in kicking racial discrimination out of some parts of Alaska.

13. The stated “core values” of NAACP Anchorage include “equality, inclusiveness, respect for all, and integrity.” This organization is all about the rights of the people of color. To ensure it succeeds in this role, NAACP Anchorage is organized to have a strong foundation where its stakeholders are seen as role models.

14. The organization considers its core values crucial as they create an institutional culture that promotes the rights of everyone and considers all people equal. This is the image that NAACP Anchorage values and strives to spread similar perspectives across the United States.

15. The result of this redistricting has been to create a high potential for the reduction in the number of legislators who have traditionally supported issues consistent with the goals and objectives of the NAACP nationally and our local branch and the needs and interests of the East Anchorage residents and Alaskans as a whole.

16. At the heart of it, the proposed districts have combined historically conservative districts with those who vote for more progressive candidates. There have been statements made by majority members of the Alaska Redistricting Board adopting the senate pairings directly supporting that the results of this process will potentially eliminate and/or reduce the number of legislators that are dedicated to serving and seeing the needs of minority groups.

17. Given that our entire legislature (both the Alaska Senate and the House of Representatives) have a total of 60 individuals, every position is critical. This matter has been discussed at the NAACP Anchorage general membership meeting on December 20, 2021, and received Board approval.

18. It was not until 1965, after years of intimidation, murders, and advocacy that the path to the voting booth was cleared for Black people with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Act is a bedrock law protecting every American's right to register to vote and cast their ballot. It remains one of the hardest-fought safeguards for Black Americans and other minority groups.

19. The NAACP Anchorage branch was chartered in 1951. Founders such as John W. Thomas, Blanch McSmith, Clarence and Flossie Coleman, Joseph M. Jackson, John S. Parks, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Watts were spurred into action when the dream home of an African American was burned to the ground before he could move into an all-white neighborhood.

20. Redistricting, poll location changes and closures, and limited access to convenient early voting are current attempts to disenfranchise Black voters.

21. If 2020 has done anything, it served as a reminder that when society suffers, communities of color suffer worse. Even during times of national stress – whether that’s COVID infection rates, police brutality, or unemployment numbers – America’s structural shortcomings have a disproportionate impact on populations of color.

22. And while the former administration, aided by the Supreme Court, ended the 2020 Census prematurely last Fall, the ripple effects of COVID-19’s disruption and political interference are signaling unique challenges for historically undercounted communities of color.

23. The ultimate final decision made by the Alaska Redistricting Board established a clear disadvantage to the Northeast Anchorage community of color by the senate pairings of the Muldoon community with that of Eagle River.

24. In my testimony submitted on November 8, 2021 at 6:14 a.m., I commended the Board for carefully considering public comments on draft plans, civil rights considerations, including the impact of minority voters in East Anchorage, and adopting the most constitutional house districts before the Board.

25. In that testimony, I urged the Board to continue keeping civil rights considerations in mind as the Board paired East Anchorage, JBER, Mt. View, Russian Jack, Government Hill, and downtown; Anchorage’s most diverse neighborhoods.

26. I, on behalf of the NAACP Anchorage, proposed two pairing configurations that would protect East Anchorage residents from the dilution of their vote and their voice. The first pairing took House Districts 18, 19, 20, and 21 (UMED, Mt. View/Airport Heights, North Muldoon, and South Muldoon) and paired them into two senate districts and paired

downtown with Government Hill/JBER (House Districts 17 and 23), which unites downtown into a senate seat.

27. Alternatively, and less visibly obvious, we recommended pairing House District 23 with 19 (Government Hill/JBER with Mt. View/Airport Heights), District 12 with 19 (UMED with Far North Bicentennial Park), and District 20 with 21 (North with South Muldoon). This pairing ensures that our most diverse neighborhoods have a real voice in three senate seats and fully comply with the contiguity requirements under the Alaska Constitution.

28. My public testimony respectfully requested that the Board continue to listen to public input and reject pairings of the Anchorage/JBER with Eagle River to form senate districts.

29. The house district numbers in this Affidavit have been revised from my original public testimony to reflect the corresponding promulgated house district numbers.

30. Despite our request, the Board inexplicably selected not to have public testimony before adopting the senate pairings proposed by Board members Marcum, Simpson, and Chair Binkley.

31. The Board did not acknowledge the testimony and recommended pairings by NAACP Anchorage or address the concerns raised by our organization regarding the dilution of minority voting representation.

32. NAACP Anchorage is actively engaged in providing resources and advocacy to East Anchorage and its community members and has observed first-hand the detrimental impact of fragmenting East Anchorage communities without regard for the


cohesive yet diverse minority majority population that exists in East Anchorage when its neighborhoods remain united.

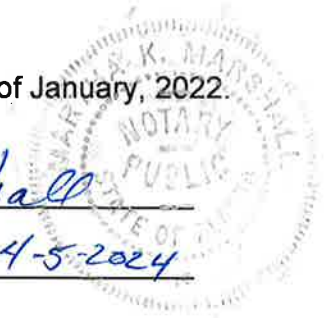
FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
Alaska Branch #1000

By: 
Kevin David McGee, President

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 4th day of January, 2022.


Notary Public for Alaska
My Commission expires: 4-5-2024



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lbaxter@schwabe.com
ktanner@schwabe.com

Thomas Flynn
Cheryl Burghart
State of Alaska
thomas.flynn@alaska.gov
cheryl.burghart@alaska.gov

Nathaniel Amdur-Clark
Whitney A. Leonard
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller &
Monkman, LLP
nathaniel@sonosky.net
whitney@sonosky.net

Stacey C. Stone
Gregory Stein
Holmes Weddle & Barcott, P.C.
sstone@hwb-law.com
gstein@hwb-law.com

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Laura S. Gould
Jake W. Staser
Jon S. Wakeland
Brena, Bell & Walker, P.C.
rbrena@brenalaw.com
lgould@brenalaw.com
jstaser@brenalaw.com
jwakeland@brenalaw.com

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Benjamin J. Farkash
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eva@anchorlaw.com
mike@anchorlaw.com
ben@anchorlaw.com

BIRCH HORTON BITTNER & CHEROT

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Believed to be transmitted without error
from pcrowl@bhb.com
Approx Time: 3:30 pm

3.

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Mara E. Michaletz
William D. Falsey
Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
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wfalsey@bhb.com
Telephone: 907.276.1550
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AFFIDAVIT OF SEAN MURPHY

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss:
Third Judicial District)

I, Sean Murphy, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state as follows:

1. I am a resident of House District 22-Eagle River Valley under the promulgated 2021 redistricting plan.

2. I came to Alaska while serving in the Army. I met my wife in 1989 and we started a family in East Anchorage. We moved to Eagle River with two daughters 22 years ago. I am a retired Anchorage School District educator and administrator. We

enjoy our time with two grandchildren who live in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough with their parents.

3. I am testifying on behalf of the East Anchorage Plaintiffs because I feel very strongly, as an Eagle River resident and an active volunteer in promoting the interests of Eagle River, that Eagle River districts should be paired with one another and our unified and very independent community preserved.

4. The Eagle River community is a unique unified community with interests and priorities that do not align with the very separate Muldoon community.

5. Based upon my personal experience and knowledge, the physical separation between Eagle River Valley and South Muldoon Road is very real. Not only are these two areas separated by about 15 miles and a stretch of highway, two bodies of water (a creek and Eagle River) and a sizeable valley, there is no way to get from here to there, or vice versa, without going through another district. Eagle River is our own community, boxed in between JBER and the Chugach Range and separated from Anchorage with the only bridge on the highway system that connects North Alaska and South Alaska. This connection is part of Eagle River's culture and commerce, but not at all a part of East Anchorage.

6. Eagle River Valley and South Muldoon are very different places socially. It is my opinion that Eagle River residents are generally more affluent and educated per capita than East Anchorage and that Eagle River residents have the same or very similar religious beliefs, which can be seen in Eagle River's many long-standing churches. It is also my opinion and my observation that Eagle River's churches are attended by Eagle River residents, not residents of South Muldoon.

7. Eagle River has its own commercial and cultural center. The store owners rely upon Eagle River resident shoppers, out-of-state tourists, and customers traveling from Anchorage to the Valley. Eagle River businesses do not rely upon South Muldoon customers.

8. Unlike Anchorage, Eagle River commerce continues to grow and thrive, even during the pandemic. Eagle River's response to the pandemic and its mitigation efforts were very different than South Muldoon. When Governor Dunleavy passed a mandate telling Alaskans to "hunker down," Eagle River residents were told to stay in Eagle River because Eagle River is our community; it is where we shop, play, and live.

9. I am also very proud of the clubs, organizations, festivals, and activities that Eagle River sponsors and maintains. We have an Eagle River Elks Club, a VFW, and a Lions Club. It is Eagle River residents that support and rely on these clubs, not residents of South Muldoon.

10. Culturally our community is different with its own Chamber of Commerce. We have the Bear Paw Festival during the summer. Boy Scouts still put up USA flags on our downtown strip. We are on the Iditarod historic trail, where the original dogs ran serum to Nome over the Crow Creek Pass from Girdwood to the Eagle River Science Center at the end of Eagle River Valley, almost. The holidays bring us the Merry Merchant Munch which has a long history of highlighting our local Eagle River businesses.

11. Economically, we have more land to develop than Anchorage. We have a separate Parks and Rec Department with its own budget separate from Anchorage. We have a private partnership with a local company to maintain roads. Most of our communities are covered by a volunteer fire department. Our homeowners love their

larger properties. While Eagle River residents live in housing that includes large lots, zero lot lines, and apartments, Eagle River does not have many trailer parks or homeless camps.

12. The Eagle River commerce and industry is growing and very diverse and businesses often come to Eagle River to separate from downtown Anchorage.

13. We have six Eagle River area Community Councils, the majority of which are very active in promoting and preserving the interests and needs of Eagle River residents.

14. I thought Anchorage and Eagle River were separated and different before I even realized it. I would explain to family and friends visiting from all over, who voiced their disbelief when I explained our communities out here are all under the Municipality of Anchorage.

15. Our school's communities have different needs. I saw this first-hand as an educator in Eagle River and then as an administrator on the east side of Anchorage. Take a walk through Chugiak or Eagle River high schools, then walk through Bartlett High School. The needs are different.

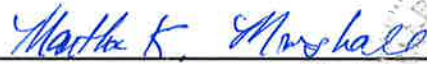
16. As an administrator on the east side and a resident in Eagle River, I saw road maintenance was different. My personal neighborhood in Eagle River is plowed and clean within a day or two at most. The streets around my walking only school on the east side would be a week or more before they were cleared. We have different needs than East Anchorage.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT: _____

DATED this 4 day of January, 2022.


Sean Murphy

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 4th day of January, 2022.


Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission expires: 4-5-2024



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lbaxter@schwabe.com
ktanner@schwabe.com

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Cheryl Burghart
State of Alaska
thomas.flynn@alaska.gov
cheryl.burghart@alaska.gov

Nathaniel Amdur-Clark
Whitney A. Leonard
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller &
Monkman, LLP
nathaniel@sonosky.net
whitney@sonosky.net

Stacey C. Stone
Gregory Stein
Holmes Weddle & Barcott, P.C.
sstone@hwb-law.com
gstein@hwb-law.com

Robin Brena
Laura S. Gould
Jake W. Staser
Jack Wakeland
Brena, Bell & Walker, P.C.
rbrena@brenalaw.com
lgould@brenalaw.com
jstaser@brenalaw.com
jwakeland@brenalaw.com

Eva Gardner
Michael Schechter
Benjamin J. Farkash
Ashburn & Mason, P.C.
eva@anchorlaw.com
mike@anchorlaw.com
ben@anchorlaw.com

BIRCH HORTON BITTNER & CHEROT

By: *Peggy S Crowe*
Believed to be transmitted without error
from *pcrowe*@bhb.com
Approx Time: *3:30 pm*

4.

Affidavit of Yarrow Silvers

Holly C. Wells
Mara E. Michaletz
William D. Falsey
Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
510 L Street, Suite 700
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
hwells@bhb.com
mmichaletz@bhb.com
wfalsey@bhb.com
Telephone: 907.276.1550
Facsimile: 907.276.3680

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STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss:
Third Judicial District)

I, Yarrow Silvers, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state as follows:

1. I, along with Felisa Wilson and George Martinez, filed the above-captioned application to compel the Redistricting Board to correct errors in its adopted senate pairings.

2. I make this Affidavit to set forth my direct knowledge, observations, and my opinion as a participant and a member of the community regarding the 2021 redistricting process and impact.

3. I was born in Alaska and have lived here most of my life. I have lived in Midtown, Spenard, Jewel Lake, South Anchorage, Fairview, and East Anchorage.

4. I moved to East Anchorage in 2012, first renting and then purchasing a home in 2017.

5. I am an Environmental Scientist by degree and paid my way through college by working at several car dealerships in Anchorage.

6. I currently stay at home with my two children.

7. I became interested in the redistricting process due to current issues in representation caused by East Anchorage being represented in the Senate along with a district that is separated from us by a large swath of uninhabited park land, as well as four other districts that you have to drive through to reach the rest of our senate district. The Senator representing these two districts often held constituent meetings in Girdwood, which was prohibitive for many East Anchorage residents, and rarely attended East Anchorage Community Council meetings. I came to the first redistricting meeting to request that East Anchorage be paired with a district that had a contiguous population and proposed that this would allow East Anchorage residents fair representation.

8. I never imagined at that point in the process that the Board would choose to even further disenfranchise East Anchorage residents by pairing them with a completely different community of interest, in a different drainage system, across an uninhabited mountain range.

9. This seemed even more shocking given the testimony by members of that community who talked about current ongoing efforts to leave the Municipality and the Eagle River communities' separate and distinct sense of community.

10. Regardless of whether the law would allow Eagle River to be paired with my East Anchorage community, the reality is that our two communities of interest are completely separate both physically and in every other way.

11. Eagle River has separate parks funding, separate road maintenance (LRSA), a volunteer fire department, different building codes, rural rather than urban characteristics, different schools, and much of it is on well and septic rather than Municipal water and sewer.

12. I rarely go to Eagle River at all, going only once or twice a year to take a day-long trek to the Eagle River Nature Center and back. I do not shop there, eat there, socialize there, or even get gas there.

13. Eagle River is off the highway so I do not even frequent Eagle River when I am headed further north for recreational purposes.

14. Eagle River is, in my view, a completely different community from East Anchorage and my district, with different issues and priorities, separated by distance, a mountain range, two other districts and completely different socio-economic status.

15. Eagle River is largely more affluent with much higher average yearly incomes than my district and is much less diverse than my district and neighboring East Anchorage house districts.

16. I am currently on the Board of the Scenic Foothills Community Council where I have written and passed several resolutions about issues that are important to both me and the East Anchorage community – these include traffic calming measures, homelessness, and funding for our parks, particularly restoring funding to Chanshtnu

Park, which is an important community gathering space that was created only with strong advocacy over many years from East Anchorage residents and their elected officials.

17. When the issue of redistricting was brought up in our council meetings, it was immediately apparent that having local representation from within our community was very important to all of our council members and the resolution that was passed (which I read before the Board) was written with community input and passed unanimously with bipartisan support. While it did not support any particular map – that is for individuals to decide – it clearly stated that we desired local representation and did not want our East Anchorage community to be disenfranchised by being pieced apart or by having representation come from other communities located across vast swaths of uninhabited land with different issues and social economic considerations than East Anchorage.

18. I would like to express how disappointed I am with the way that the redistricting process turned out. The Board had an opportunity to provide a great service to the people of Alaska – to do it right, with integrity, and in keeping with the spirit and law of our State Constitution which clearly calls for a nonpartisan process that disallows political gerrymandering.

19. Instead, I observed the Republican appointed Board members John Binkley, Budd Simpson, and most egregiously Bethany Marcum, participate in a partisan gerrymander for the purpose of giving the Eagle River community greater representation in the Senate at the expense of the diverse community of East Anchorage. I watched and listened as Board member Marcum acknowledged that all of her pairings would result

in Eagle River being split between two senate districts, each paired with a fragment of East Anchorage.

20. The majority Board members did this quietly, behind closed doors and in closed meetings, with little discussion or justification for their actions.

21. I attended the majority of the Board meetings, some of the mapping sessions, and I testified throughout the process. Here is what I observed:

22. When I attended the initial mapping sessions it seemed that great effort went into socio-economic integration – which the Board defined as where people live, work, play and shop, as well as to compactness and contiguity. Somehow during these mapping sessions, they never got to Anchorage. Instead, Anchorage was dropped in at the end of the week without any visible discussion.

23. I and several others had already testified at this point about the socio-economic integration of East Anchorage. However, Marcum's Anchorage house district map, which was largely arrived at in the dark, ignored public testimony and socio-economic factors, as well as compactness it seemed – East Anchorage was sliced and diced and shaped like a pinwheel with sections flung out in all directions split between South Anchorage, the Base, and Eagle River.

24. On September 17, hours of testimony had ensued, much of it from both Eagle River and East Anchorage residents, speaking out against this portion of Marcum's house district map.

25. The Board seemed surprised by the amount of testimony and responded by changing their maps to reflect this. The Board was asked about senate pairings several times throughout this process with repeated expressions by the public to be able to

comment on these pairings while the Board toured the State with the maps. I personally testified about this on September 20, 2021. The Board indicated that senate pairings would come later, and the changed maps reflecting public testimony went on tour without senate pairings included.

26. Fast forward to the final week of mapping on November 2, 2021; Marcum decided that she wanted to substantially change her House maps and suddenly came up with a map that again sliced and diced East Anchorage – placing portions of it in Eagle River, in South Anchorage, and at a weird angle stretching over to the Base and Government Hill.

27. The Board closed the meeting to the public and spent several hours in executive session that night and into the next morning while a room full of people waited to testify. The result of the executive session was that these last-minute maps proposed by Marcum were not able to be used due to legal issues. Despite having a set of maps drawn by member Borromeo available that met all the State Constitutional requirements of compactness, contiguity, low deviations, socio-economic integration and respected local boundaries as well as public testimony, Marcum continued trying to map out her last-minute gerrymander and Board members Simpson and Binkley continued to allow it.

28. Board member Marcum's districts continued to appear oddly-shaped with her proposal of long snake-like districts and odd configurations.

29. It appeared that, at the end of November 5, 2021, Member Simpson could not ignore the distortions in member Marcum's proposed house districts or the legal concerns that the Board kept cryptically referencing but never fully sharing. Part of this process is shown in Exhibit 1 to this Affidavit.

30. Despite what appeared to be extremely blatant efforts by member Marcum to draw districts that were in line with the districts supported by the Republican party, the Board allowed public testimony before adopting the house district map and that public testimony appeared to have a substantial impact on the Board.

31. The hours of executive session and the bizarre attempts by member Marcum to propose nonsensical districts without regard for the testimony presented by the Anchorage public led me to lose trust and faith in the redistricting process.

32. As a result of Board member Simpson's support for the Anchorage house district map, Board member Marcum seemed surprised and even asked Simpson if he was voting to support Borrromeo's map. My observations of the facial expressions and posturing of Marcum gave me the impression that Board member Simpson had taken an action that Marcum did not expect.

33. While I was relieved that Board member Simpson voted in favor of Borrromeo's Anchorage house district proposals, the irrational efforts of Marcum and the contorted attempts by Binkley and at times Simpson to support her proposal made me question the integrity of this supposedly nonpartisan process.

34. After Marcum's proposed house districts did not pass, the majority Board members began behaving very differently; the Board continued to hold long executive sessions without any explanation to the public about the actual reasons for the executive sessions.

35. The Board alluded to advice they had received by the Voting Rights Act consultants and the Board's attorney on the legality of the pairings but the Board kept the public in the dark.

36. The Board did not provide the public with any proposed senate pairings for its consideration before the November 8, 2021 meeting, and only permitted public testimony before revealing the Board's pairing proposals, unlike the house district map process, which allowed testimony before the adoption of the final house district map. From the outset, the Board member's conduct, the changes in the procedure, and its long executive session before taking testimony was unsettling.

37. Member Borromeo introduced senate pairings that were constitutionally sound, kept communities together and respected public testimony. Member Marcum then introduced several confusing sets of testimony, but all of which had in common the splitting of downtown into two, Eagle River into two, and East Anchorage into two, which she stated "actually gives Eagle River the opportunity to have more representation, so they certainly aren't going to be disenfranchised."

38. Marcum's pairings once again seemed to ignore community boundaries, with the exception of South Anchorage pairings that everyone seemed to be agreed upon by a consensus of all Board members.

39. Hearing Marcum comment regarding Eagle River's increased representation as if it justified the adoption of districts that the public overwhelmingly and vehemently opposed was devastating.

40. The meeting got worse as member Marcum relied upon the testimony of Felisa Wilson to support her pairings despite Ms. Wilson's repeated testimony throughout the redistricting process as being opposed to splitting the Eagle River district.

41. Marcum listed out all the ways Eagle River residents travel through or commute through my district and argued that Eagle River residents shop and eat in my district.

42. Member Borrromeo attempted to remind Marcum that while Eagle River residents might travel through East Anchorage, shopping, and dining, Muldoon residents certainly were not traveling to Eagle River to do the same.

43. I do not recall Marcum even responding to Borrromeo's comment. I do not recall Marcum making a single comment in support of her pairings that actually referenced the connections from the view of an East Anchorage resident.

44. The only other testimony Marcum referenced was that of an elected official and her aid in Eagle River and that of a man who arrived with Randy Ruedrich, the former chair of the Republican party and who seemed, from my observations during the meetings, to have been involved with the Board's maps in a much more involved way than other members of the public.

45. Mr. Ruedrich often conversed with the majority Board members throughout the process.

46. As I watched the Board consider the senate pairings presented by Board members Bahnke and Marcum, I do not recall either Board member Binkley or Simpson expressing actual support for them so when Chair Binkley declared that there was majority support for Marcum's pairings I was surprised. Marcum had also presented several different options to the Board so I could not determine the pairings she was actually proposing.

47. Despite the lack of comments supporting the pairings, Chair Binkley suddenly announced that there was a majority, if not consensus, in support of Marcum's senate pairings.

48. This declaration came as a complete surprise to me and, based upon my observations, many many other members of the public. Even the minority Board members seemed confused.

49. Members Borromeo and Bahnke expressed concern with these pairings and shortly thereafter Binkley shut down debate on a vote of 3 to 2, after which the Board adopted the pairings on a vote of 3 to 2 with no justification, discussion, or reasoning from members Binkley or Simpson.

50. Afterward, there was some confusion as the Board members were forced to verify what the remaining senate pairings that they had voted on were – it appeared to me as an observer that they had voted solely based on the Eagle River/East Anchorage gerrymander and did not even know what the rest of the pairings were at the time of the vote.

51. The Board appeared from its comments to go into an overnight executive session, apparently to consider the legal concerns regarding the senate pairings Binkley, Marcum, and Simpson supported.

52. After watching the house district map struggles, I hoped that the Board would emerge the next day and correct its blatant partisan actions from the day before.

53. Instead, on November 9, 2021, the Board exited executive session and almost instantly adopted Marcum's proposed senate pairings. There was no discussion except the express oppositions by the minority Board members. I did not know what the

pairings were or how they compared to the pairings from the day before. At first, most observers presumed that the pairings were the same as the previous day.

54. Ultimately, the senate pairings adopted without any discussion were not any of the versions of pairings Marcum had proposed the day before. The only pairings that stayed the same were the Eagle River pairings and the Sand Lake pairings.

55. Despite unanimous consensus of all Board members the day before, even the South Anchorage pairings had also quietly been split in a final partisan gerrymander that yielded yet one extra Republican-leaning senate seat.

56. I observed this process with disbelief at the blatant partisanship and blazon actions taken by the Board majority to carry out its partisanship.

57. The Board member's partisan efforts will have the effect of diluting and undermining the voices of the East Anchorage community of which I am a part.

58. My East Anchorage community is racially, ethnically, and socio-economically diverse and our voice, which has been split, will be drowned out by the more homogenous voice of Eagle River, a known Republican stronghold in Alaska.

59. Marcum's statement about socio-economic considerations being met by her driving down Muldoon to Midtown is emblematic of the issues that will arise from a racially diverse and low-income district having their Senate representation come from a largely white, affluent, and monolithic voting bloc in a district where contiguity is questionable across a roadless, uninhabited mountain range 14 miles away.

60. While Eagle River residents and their representatives, with incomes in some census blocks averaging \$160,000 annually, may be more concerned with the quality of their shopping experience in Midtown and possibly that the road they drive to get there is

cleared of snow, many East Anchorage residents, who reside in some of the lowest income census blocks in Anchorage, will have concerns centering on if they have enough food for the next couple of days, how they will get their kids to school, the quality of the education in their Title 1 public schools, and whether their community gathering spaces and parks will get defunded.

61. The Board's decision to fragment the Muldoon community, my community, to increase Eagle River's representation has diluted our voice, our capacity to advocate for our community, and our ability to participate fully in our democracy.


62. The Board majority's adoption of pairings without any discussion or rationale, even with the overwhelming public testimony against those pairings, made it clear to everyone watching that this Board was not playing by the rules.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.



Yarrow Silvers

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 4th day of January, 2022.



Notary Public for Alaska
My Commission expires: 4-5-2024



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the 5th day of January, 2022, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served electronically on the following:

Matthew Singer
Lee C. Baxter
Kayla J.F. Tanner
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt
msinger@schwabe.com
lbaxter@schwabe.com
ktanner@schwabe.com

Thomas Flynn
Cheryl Burghart
State of Alaska
thomas.flynn@alaska.gov
cheryl.burghart@alaska.gov

Nathaniel Amdur-Clark
Whitney A. Leonard
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller &
Monkman, LLP
nathaniel@sonosky.net
whitney@sonosky.net

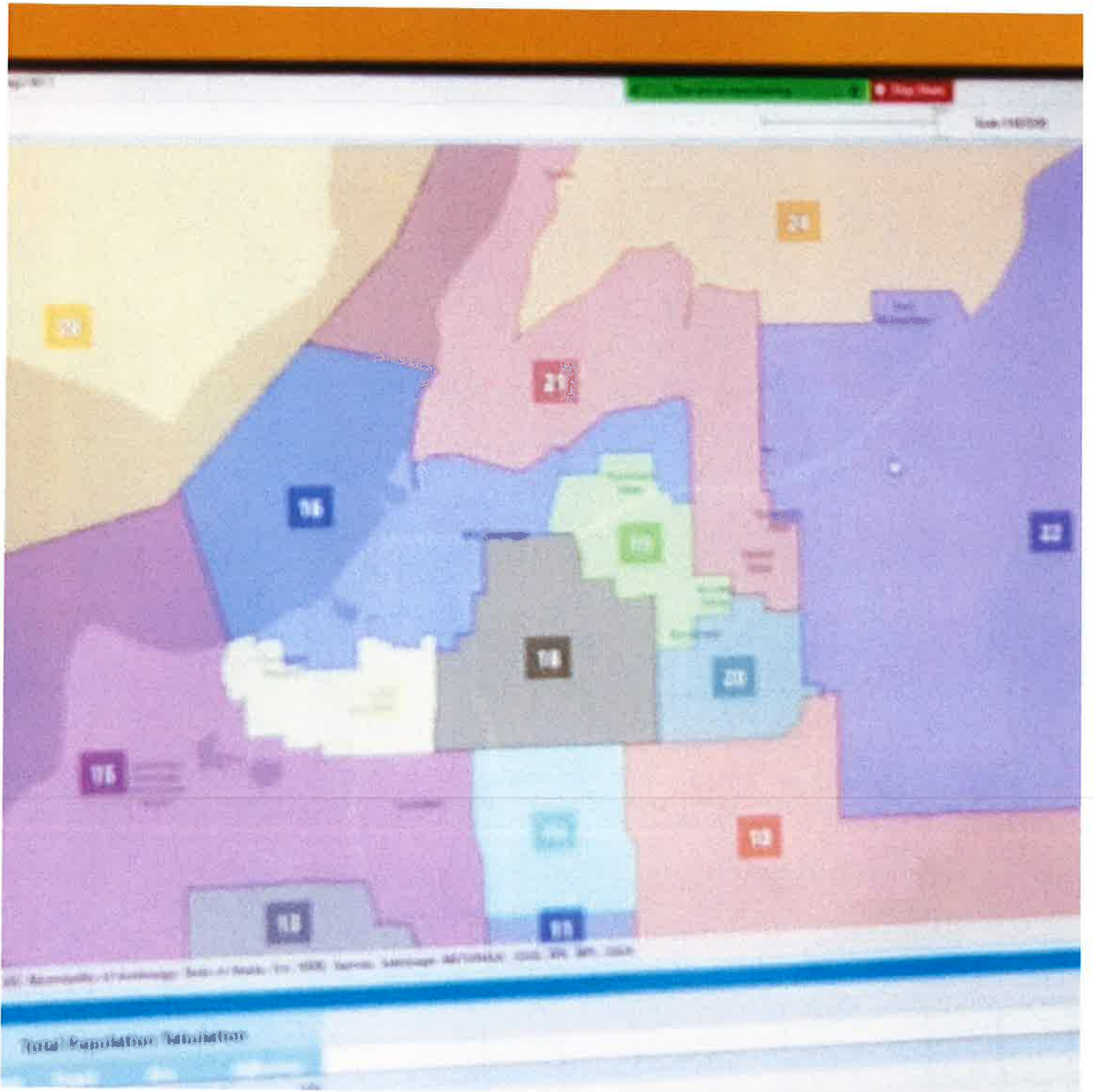
Stacey C. Stone
Gregory Stein
Holmes Weddle & Barcott, P.C.
sstone@hwb-law.com
gstein@hwb-law.com

Robin Brena
Laura S. Gould
Jake W. Staser
Jon S. Wakeland
Brena, Bell & Walker, P.C.
rbrena@brenalaw.com
lgould@brenalaw.com
jstaser@brenalaw.com
jwakeland@brenalaw.com

Eva Gardner
Michael Schechter
Benjamin J. Farkash
Ashburn & Mason, P.C.
eva@anchorlaw.com
mike@anchorlaw.com
ben@anchorlaw.com

BIRCH HORTON BITTNER & CHEROT

By: Peggy S. Crowe
Believed to be transmitted without error
from pcrowe@bhb.com
Approx Time: 3:30 pm



5.

Affidavit of Felisa Wilson

Holly C. Wells
Mara E. Michaletz
William D. Falsey
Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
510 L Street, Suite 700
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
hwells@bhb.com
mmichaletz@bhb.com
wfalsey@bhb.com
Telephone: 907.276.1550
Facsimile: 907.276.3680

Attorneys for Plaintiffs Felisa Wilson, George Martinez, and Yarrow Silvers

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT ANCHORAGE

In the Matter of the

2021 REDISTRICTING PLAN.

Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI

AFFIDAVIT OF FELISA WILSON

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss:
Third Judicial District)

I, Felisa Wilson, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state as follows:

1. I filed, with Yarrow Silvers and George Martinez, an Application to Compel the Alaska Redistricting Board to Correct Its Senate District Pairings in Anchorage and am one of the Plaintiffs in the above-captioned case.

2. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated below and make this affidavit in support of the Application.

3. I live on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson ("JBER") in Alaska.

4. I am a recently retired Major as a U.S. Air Force medical officer and physician with 24 years, 4 months and 19 days of military service.

5. I am fully retired and spend my time pursuing endeavors of volunteer community service with my church in Government Hill, my sorority, and various community organizations that serve the underserved population in Alaska.

6. I consider myself a part of the East Anchorage community and engage in numerous activities in service to that community.

7. My community activities include or have included, but are not limited to, volunteering on projects with the Food Bank of Alaska; managing the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter created and operated by my church for residents experiencing homelessness, coordinating school supply and clothing donation drives for residents of Mountain View and Northeast Anchorage.

8. I have lived in Alaska since coming to JBER as a permanent change of station in 2015. I lived in Eagle River from 2015 to 2018 and moved to officer housing on JBER in 2018.

9. I filed the Application with my fellow plaintiffs because I believe that the senate pairings of Eagle River house districts with JBER Government Hill and South Muldoon districts is a travesty that detracts from the rich diversity of culture, thought and socioeconomics of the majority minority populations in those Anchorage districts.

10. My church is in Government Hill and runs a food bank for the residents of the community. Based upon my observations and experience as a resident and active community participant and the management of organizations created and dedicated to serving the needs of community members, most of the residents of Government Hill are

low income and reside in the low-income housing in the area, which comprises almost 75 percent of the housing in this community.

11. Pairing this community of mostly low-income housing and high minority diversity with North Eagle River in which the houses are all single-family homes ranging from \$500,000 to over \$1 million and homogenous ethnicity of mostly affluent Caucasian residents is an incongruous pairing and diminishes the collective voting voices of the JBER Government Hill residents.

12. The same is true for pairing the south Eagle River house district with Northeast Muldoon house district.

13. The residents in South Eagle River are predominately homogenous affluent Caucasian voters that have very closely aligned needs with their Eagle River counterparts. Instead, these voters are paired with a majority minority population that is one of the most ethnically and socioeconomically diverse neighborhoods in the country.

14. From my observations and experience in both Eagle River and Government Hill, many of Eagle River's residents live in single-family residences or longer-term rentals while the residents in Muldoon and other sections of East Anchorage including Government Hill have much more housing situations, ranging from homeless camps to single-family homes and everything in between.

15. I have volunteered for the past three years in the Muldoon community and witnessed the astounding diversity of ethnicities present in the area. It has such a rich multicultural heritage that is celebrated and in stark contrast to Eagle River. When I lived in Eagle River, it was apparent to me that my family was one of few minorities in the homogenous area.

16. I testified in person at the Redistricting Board hearings and work sessions more than six times and sent in written testimony as well. My testimony included the fact that when I lived in Eagle River, I never left the community except to drive to JBER for work. Eagle River had everything from my church, shopping, farmer's markets, recreation, restaurants and friends. I volunteered, attended church, and recreated solely in Eagle River.

17. A strong sense of community exists in Eagle River and I testified to the Redistricting Board that Eagle River house districts should remain a single senate district for this very reason.

18. I further testified that I now live on base and am now, as a result, connected with the Government Hill/East Anchorage community. As I stated in my testimony, I have joined a church in Government Hill and volunteer in the East and Northeast Anchorage communities, which has allowed me the opportunity to witness the richness of diversity of thought, culture, and socioeconomic diversity of these communities and how their collective voices are stronger together.

19. During the deliberation of the senate pairings by the Redistricting Board, Board member Bethany Marcum deliberately misconstrued the words of my testimony to misrepresent it as in favor of pairing Eagle River house districts with JBER or Northeast Anchorage districts. I could not believe what I was hearing on the video zoom livestream of this deliberation.

20. This was especially disturbing and frustrating because I did not have the ability to even comment on Board member Marcum's misrepresentation of my testimony.

21. There was no opportunity for the public to rectify this misrepresentation of my testimony, nor to give further comment on the senate pairings as selected by the Board.

22. From my observations, it was clear the majority of the Board members intended to adopt whatever senate pairings Board member Marcum proposed and that they were not considering or even hearing any public testimony or comment on those pairings.

23. I was alarmed and blindsided by this turn of events and these decisions by the Board. The Board's failure to discuss the pairings and let the public weigh in on those pairings was especially unexpected given the Board's process regarding the adoption of the house districts.

24. The majority of the Board members' entire discussion of the senate pairings in Anchorage appeared to me to be capricious in nature, especially given Board member Marcum's use of my testimony to support pairings that were exactly the pairings I testified against adopting both in person and in writing.

25. The irrational decision-making of the other majority Board members, Board member Simpson and Board member Binkley was also clear as neither corrected Board member Marcum regarding the manipulation and mischaracterization of my testimony to silence me and the community members I spoke to support.

26. Neither Board member Binkley nor Board member Simpson gave any reason for supporting Board member Marcum's pairings.

27. Perhaps even more disturbing, the Board adopted Board member Marcum's proposed Anchorage senate pairings on November 9, 2021 without any

discussion and once again without offering me an opportunity to correct the record or the public a chance to participate in that hearing.

28. The Census and the Redistricting apportionment has a profound impact on our communities for an entire decade. I have worked side by side with people in the communities of JBER, Government Hill, and Northeast Anchorage and know that our vote is better represented if we remain together in the same senate districts. Our vote as minorities and our cohesive diversity in income, housing, and economics is properly represented when we are paired with house districts that reflect our shared interests as residents of East and Northeast Anchorage, including JBER and Government Hill.

29. Pairing these districts with Eagle River, where voters have extremely different needs and fight for strong representation of those needs with a monolithic unwavering voice, will drown out the voices of the East Anchorage district residents who have totally different needs and interests from Eagle River that these communities express cohesively but often on an issue-by-issue basis.

I hereby attest that the statements made in this Affidavit are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Felisa Wilson

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 4th day of January, 2022.



Notary Public in and for Alaska

My Commission expires: 4-5-2024

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the 5th day of January, 2022, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served electronically on the following:

Matthew Singer
Lee C. Baxter
Kayla J.F. Tanner
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt
msinger@schwabe.com
lbaxter@schwabe.com
ktanner@schwabe.com

Thomas Flynn
Cheryl Burghart
State of Alaska
thomas.flynn@alaska.gov
cheryl.burghart@alaska.gov

Nathaniel Amdur-Clark
Whitney A. Leonard
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller &
Monkman, LLP
nathaniel@sonosky.net
whitney@sonosky.net

Stacey C. Stone
Gregory Stein
Holmes Weddle & Barcott, P.C.
sstone@hwb-law.com
gstein@hwb-law.com

Robin Brena
Laura S. Gould
Jake W. Staser
Jon S. Wakeland
Brena, Bell & Walker, P.C.
rbrena@brenalaw.com
lgould@brenalaw.com
jstaser@brenalaw.com
jwakeland@brenalaw.com

Eva Gardner
Michael Schechter
Benjamin J. Farkash
Ashburn & Mason, P.C.
eva@anchorlaw.com
mike@anchorlaw.com
ben@anchorlaw.com

BIRCH HORTON BITTNER & CHEROT

By: Peggy S. Crowe
Believed to be transmitted without error
from pcrowe@bhb.com
Approx Time: 3:30 pm

6.

Affidavit of Jeanette Starr

Holly C. Wells
Mara E. Michaletz
William D. Falsey
Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
510 L Street, Suite 700
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
hwells@bhb.com
mmichaletz@bhb.com
wfalsey@bhb.com
Telephone: 907.276.1550
Facsimile: 907.276.3680

Attorneys for Plaintiffs Felisa Wilson, George Martinez, and Yarrow Silvers

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT ANCHORAGE

In the Matter of the
2021 REDISTRICTING PLAN.

Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI

AFFIDAVIT OF JEANETTE STARR

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss:
Third Judicial District)

I, Jeannette Starr, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state as follows:

1. I am the owner of Pacific Rim Reporting ("PacRim"), and have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein.
2. PacRim was hired to transcribe the video recording from the Alaska Redistricting Board meeting of November 8, 2021.

3. Despite our best efforts, I could not transcribe portions of the ARB meeting from approximately 2:34 through 4:33 of the file available at ARB001231, which was played in part on January 4, 2022 at the deposition of Bethany Marcum.

4. I also had my staff transcribe the entire day and I was informed that the audio was not able to be transcribed for that portion of the file.


FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

PACIFIC RIM REPORTING



Jeanette Starr, Owner

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 10th day of January, 2022.



Notary Public in and for Alaska

My Commission expires: Oct 1, 2023



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the 12th day of January, 2022, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served electronically on the following:

Matthew Singer
Lee C. Baxter
Kayla J.F. Tanner
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt
msinger@schwabe.com
lbaxter@schwabe.com
ktanner@schwabe.com

Thomas Flynn
Cheryl Burghart
State of Alaska
thomas.flynn@alaska.gov
cheryl.burghart@alaska.gov

Nathaniel Amdur-Clark
Whitney A. Leonard
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller &
Monkman, LLP
nathaniel@sonosky.net
whitney@sonosky.net

Stacey C. Stone
Gregory Stein
Holmes Weddle & Barcott, P.C.
sstone@hwb-law.com
gstein@hwb-law.com

Robin Brena
Laura S. Gould
Jake W. Staser
Jack Wakeland
Brena, Bell & Walker, P.C.
rbrena@brenalaw.com
lgould@brenalaw.com
jstaser@brenalaw.com
jwakeland@brenalaw.com

Eva Gardner
Michael Schechter
Benjamin J. Farkash
Ashburn & Mason, P.C.
eva@anchorlaw.com
mike@anchorlaw.com
ben@anchorlaw.com

BIRCH HORTON BITTNER & CHEROT

By: /s/ Martha K. Marshall
Believed to be transmitted without error
from tmarshall @bhb.com
Approx Time: 10:45 a.m.

7.

Affidavit of Expert Chase Hensel

Holly C. Wells
Mara E. Michaletz
William D. Falsey
Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
510 L Street, Suite 700
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
hwells@bhb.com
mmichaletz@bhb.com
wfalsey@bhb.com
Telephone: 907.276.1550
Facsimile: 907.276.3680

Attorneys for Plaintiffs Felisa Wilson, George Martinez, and Yarrow Silvers

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT ANCHORAGE

In the Matter of the)
2021 REDISTRICTING PLAN.) Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI
_____)

AFFIDAVIT OF CHASE HENSEL, PH.D.

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss:
Third Judicial District)

I, Chase Hensel, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state as follows:

QUALIFICATIONS

1. I have a BA from Cornell University, an MA from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in Anthropology, and a Ph.D. from the University of California Berkeley in Anthropology. I have worked extensively on a variety of consulting projects throughout the State, including a previous redistricting case. I also worked on the constitutional challenge to the Alaska Official English Initiative. I am a retired Associate Professor of Anthropology, University of Alaska Fairbanks.

2. In the past five years, I have testified in court as an expert witness on the following cases:

Ahtna v. State of Alaska, Case No. 3AN-08-06337CI

State of Alaska v. Conrad Jones, Case No. 4GA-19-00023CR

State of Alaska v. Mark Huntington, Case No. 4GA-19-00012CR

REQUEST FOR OPINION: SCOPE OF REQUEST

3. I was retained by Felisa Wilson, Yarrow Silvers, and George Martinez (together, “the East Anchorage Plaintiffs”) to provide my expert opinion regarding several issues involving the existence, or lack thereof, of communities of interest within the Municipality of Anchorage and the impact adopted senate pairings would have on these communities of interest.

4. Specific questions posed by the East Anchorage Plaintiffs were as follows:

Communities of Interest Inquiries

A. Is the Alaska South Muldoon Promulgated House District (Promulgated House District 21 or PD 21) a separate community of interest, in whole or part, from the Alaska Eagle River Valley Promulgated House District (Promulgated House District 22 or PD 22)?

B. Does PD 22 (Eagle River Valley) comprise a community of interest with Alaska North Eagle River/Chugiak Promulgated House District 24 (Promulgated House District 24 or PD 24)?

C. Does the Alaska North Muldoon Promulgated House District (Promulgated House District 20 or PD 20) and PD 21 (South Muldoon) comprise a community of interest?

Dilution Inquiries

A. In your expert opinion, what will be the effect of the pairing of PD 22 and PD 21 on voters and the communities of interest, if any, in these districts and the ability of voters to influence the outcome of senate elections in the paired district?

B. Will this pairing dilute the voting power of voters in PD 21 South Muldoon District?

5. This affidavit provides my determinations regarding these questions as well as other related areas of analysis that informed or related to these questions.

CONCLUSIONS AND FINDINGS

6. Based upon my analysis as detailed in this affidavit, PD 22 (Eagle River Valley) and PD 24 (Eagle River/Chugiak) comprise a single community of interest.

7. Based upon my analysis as detailed in this affidavit, PD 21 (S. Muldoon) and PD 20 (N. Muldoon) are part of a single community of interest.

8. Based upon my analysis as detailed in this affidavit, the effect of the pairing of PD 22 (Eagle River Valley) and PD 21 (S. Muldoon) is to reduce the value and meaning of votes cast by PD 21 voters and dilute the power of PD 21 voters to elect candidates that serve the interests of the PD 21 community of interest.

9. For purposes of this analysis and in order to comply with time limitations imposed in the case for which this opinion is offered, I focused my analysis on the specific districts identified in the scope of inquiry as well as characteristics and data that influenced or impacted the specific districts identified in the scope of inquiry.

10. In discussing the ways and degrees to which pairings involve communities of interest, I will focus, in particular, on the problematic pairing of PD 21 (S. Muldoon) and PD 22 (Eagle River Valley).

11. The development of common interests depends on the extent to which populations are connected through direct access to each other, a similar sense of place, and orientation towards each other through routine patterns of movement and social commonality.

12. Adjacency establishes that the lands and populations on those lands are sufficiently near each other to enable connection. Similarity establishes the connections that are, in fact, made and is the largely social determinant of connection. In a community of interest, populations:

- can travel between areas via easy routes;
- have established patterns of interaction that orient them to each other; and
- have common interests and concerns that derive from relationship to similar places with similar conditions.

Access and Patterns of Contact

13. For people in proximal places to have continuing connection, they need to have direct access to each other. Geographic/natural factors can prevent, limit, or facilitate the formation and continuation of a community of interest. A community of interest also depends on human actions and intentions, which may either link populated areas and facilitate access, or intentionally limit or prevent access.

14. In relation to access, social and natural variables are interrelated in ways that are best illustrated with a series of examples.

15. National vs. state borders provide an example of how social and geographic dimensions of contiguity are interrelated, in relation to the criteria of likeness and connection. The United States, Canada and Mexico are “like” in that they are all countries. They are also geographically contiguous with the U.S., sharing Northern or Southern borders. In the instance of separate nations, however, access is carefully restricted. Countries that share borders emphasize a wary distance in social relations. The social connections across borders are limited.

16. Neighboring (geographically contiguous) U.S. states such as New York and New Jersey, or Texas and Oklahoma, by contrast, have a high degree of social connection. People in each state are free to cross borders and connect with each other’s populations.

17. Connected states are thus “similar/like” in ways that differ from the similarity of connected countries. Between nations we impose controls and barriers to limit social access. Between states, we build and maintain interstate highways to facilitate access.

18. In addition to the imposition or minimization of physical barriers and controls, the language we use indexes similarity, difference, and sense of connection or lack thereof. People express and/or reinforce disconnection in the language of separation, caution and/or vulnerability, as in the case of foreign nations; they express and/or promote connection with language that signals such things as shared identity, opportunity and inclusion.

19. Borders that are defended through barriers and/or regulations essentially make contiguous areas less connected or disconnected by blocking continuous connections among people. They are physical and verbal statements of non-similarity, signifying that “our people” are different from “your people” in critically important ways. By contrast, where we facilitate direct access, we imply that our people are similar to yours. Between these extremes of neighboring foreign countries and neighboring U.S. states, areas involved in redistricting illustrate a range of access situations.

20. For example, JBER along the boundary of PD 21 and 22 is designated as “an impact area perpetually closed.” The joint base is a bounded area that channels access to its land through guarded gates and restricts access to its facilities to those with clearance. These access controls emphasize JBER’s distinction from neighboring civilian populations.

21. Muldoon, by contrast, is characterized by easy access along both north-south and east-west axes. Debarr is a major route and Muldoon Road is a main commercial corridor. While residents, depending on exactly where they live, no doubt frequent some routes more than others, there are no barriers of geography or infrastructure to notably impede internal access or access to adjacent neighborhoods on

the north and west. There is restricted access to JBER on the east, with no roads, while the southern limit is green space (park and botanical garden).

22. Eagle River and Chugiak represent yet a different access situation. They share a boundary that is largely along rugged geography, thus limiting points of access. To get from one to the other, however, the Glenn Highway provides an easy and direct route. With no competing routes or other main roads leading elsewhere, the highway links these two places more than the geography separates them. While the same highway also connects to Anchorage, the distance is approximately three times as far.

Patterns of Movement and Indicators of Social Orientation

23. A community of interest, comprised of social and geographic connections and collective interests resulting from those connections, presupposes not only the possibility of access but the actual travel between/among the populated portions of a district. Here, we address routine routes and other factors that facilitate or discourage linkages and orient people toward or away from other populations. Existing patterns of travel and evidence of social orientation toward and away from other groups are indications of whether and how populations are connected.

24. Here, maps only tell part of the story. We need to understand how people move on the landscape, information that is not highlighted on maps. A vast empty area that is map-proximal to another area, for example, begs the question of connection: the Chugach Mountains that separate Muldoon from the Eagle River Valley are a barrier in addition to JBER restrictions. To go from Muldoon (PD 21) to Eagle River (PD 22) one must travel through PD 20 and PD 23. As a result, PD 21 and PD 22 are for all intents and purposes disconnected.

25. Where people have local infrastructure to allow them to pursue most of their routine activities, their primary sphere is generally close to where they live. The connections among people become denser and more continuous within such areas, reinforcing their orientation toward the local area. Residents of Eagle River may need to come to the Anchorage Urban Area to work or to obtain services unavailable near home, but they orient to their immediate community through schools, worship, recreation and shopping for sundries and groceries. Residents of urban Anchorage have the densely connected city as their sphere of activity, with access to resources within their own and surrounding sectors.

26. Though there is good road connection between urban Anchorage and Eagle River, residents of urban Anchorage, with its dense and diverse infrastructure, do not routinely travel there. The one-way flow is significant: between well-connected populations, a reciprocal flow is to be expected.

27. When the Covid-19 epidemic led to travel restrictions between communities in the spring of 2020, the State understood Eagle River to be a separate community within which most “critical personal needs” could be met, “common sense” dictating that discrete

place names and local perceptions of “geographic separation” define a community.¹ Covid-19 Health Mandate 11 was structured in the form of FAQs. Concerning travel during lockdown, the answer to “How is ‘community’ defined?” was this:

The prohibition on travel between communities is designed so that people must use the closest available services to fulfill critical personal needs. Common sense applies – normal usage of location names and understanding of geographic separation applies when asking about community boundaries. For instance, Eagle River, Palmer, Wasilla, and Anchorage are all separate communities. You may only travel to another community for critical personal needs if you cannot meet those needs in your community.

28. Even if one had to go to Anchorage for some essential purpose, the mandate instructed, e.g., filling the gas tank and getting food locally before leaving one’s community. For epidemiological purposes, Eagle River was considered a closed community; i.e., there has already been a situation in which, excepting critical needs, residents of Eagle River and Muldoon had no access to each other’s areas.

29. As another example, although Eagle River schools are part of the Anchorage School District, the bus service has a different transportation provider, Reliant Transportation – Chugiak/Eagle River.²

30. Residents of North and South Muldoon are, by contrast, continuously linked by shared routes and mutually accessible infrastructure. There are pharmacies and banks in South Muldoon while automotive services, gas stations, bars, and restaurants cluster in North Muldoon. The complementary distribution of various types of businesses and services fosters interconnection. Elementary schools, churches, parks and playgrounds are distributed throughout.

31. In short, Northeast Anchorage³ is oriented to urban Anchorage; Eagle River is oriented towards the Eagle River area.

Relationships to Place

Sense of place in relation to local issues

32. Because peoples’ needs arise in specific settings and must be addressed in ways that suit those settings, political representation is most effective where

¹ https://dhss.alaska.gov/News/Documents/press/2020/FAQs_03272020-SOA-COVID-19-Health-Mandate-011-012.pdf.

² <https://www.asdk12.org/Page/5421>.

³ Certain area designations such as “Northeast Anchorage” and “Scenic Foothills” are loose descriptions. The exact areas referred to by these names vary among sources.

constituents share a sense of place. Shared sense of place is at the heart of political inclination and disinclination: it is behind what people identify as their issues and whether and how they try to address those issues through the political process. Citizens everywhere have concerns that fall into broadly shared categories, such as taxes, schools, health, safety, employment, and services. Within these categories, however, specific and critical interests are very different for people from the urban core as compared with the exurban periphery. Everyone has concerns about “roads” but at a closer look, these concerns are about getting to and from places efficiently and safely, measures that vary depending on one’s place-based frames of reference. An exurban commuter wants a fast drive on a well-maintained divided highway into the city. A city dweller wants options to be able to get around without a car, including safe sidewalks and traffic controls that may slow down the commuters.

33. A place-based perspective thus gives us a more grounded understanding of people’s sense of relationship to their home community, its needs, and their voting patterns. It helps us understand how socioeconomic similarities relate to identities, values and affinities that connect people, and how socioeconomic differences divide them.

34. Shared, place-based experience suggests common frames of reference and activity that bring issues to the forefront for residents of an experientially shared area. If there are non-functioning traffic lights, if garbage accumulates, if an increasing number of residents experience homelessness due to a disaster or a loss of social services, if there is a subgroup vocally pushing for attention, these issues are likely to be on everyone’s lips. Place-based knowledge of local road surfaces, walking routes, housing conditions and school programs is not theoretical or distant, but experiential and immediate. People have a shared language of experience, and the needs of their shared place are familiar.

35. Place literally embodies peoples’ needs and concerns. This is because each inhabited place reflects a unique set of local constraints and opportunities, including both geographic and sociocultural factors, that shape and are shaped by the ways people live and work there.

36. A common foundation of lived, place-based experience creates a relationship to one’s place that informs peoples’ awareness of ongoing and emerging issues. People gain experience in the areas they frequent – parks, stores, clinics, community centers and schools. Issues arise and are considered in the context of such events and the ways they are understood to be locally important. Residents trade knowledge of events that happen and problems that occur in their community as they encounter each other in frequented spaces. Their stories about and references to such events form a shared body of local knowledge and perspectives that are likely to be unfamiliar and comparatively irrelevant to non-residents.

37. Solutions to locally perceived problems include such things as formal infrastructure, services, and programs that may require government support as well as informal and improvised solutions that residents individually and collectively devise. The

resulting buildings, roads, processes, parks, empty lots, and pathways shape peoples' routines and, in turn, give rise to new needs and solutions. In a sense, places and their inhabitants become distinctive together over time. Loosely, this distinctiveness is the "character" of a place.

38. In short, a place becomes distinctive – and develops common interests – through features and events both human-made and natural. Immersed in a place's particular conditions, people develop a sense of what their place "is" or "is like" and what they want and need to maintain or improve conditions there; i.e., its issues. A shared sense of place thus relates to shared social understandings and assumptions that translate directly into political priorities and voting choices.

Community self-presentation and place

39. In a variety of contexts, PD 22 residents represent themselves as a highly distinct community that is focused on place-based issues within the area they consider theirs:

40. The public Facebook page "Chugiak - Eagle River Area News and Info" has 2,400 members. A sense of community, sharing of information and a reference to the U.S. Constitution are all expressed in the group's dedication to: "All things Chugiak - Eagle River area. This local news and information Facebook group is 'for' the local community and 'by' the local community including those with local information to share that may be of interest to those in the community."⁴

41. The area has a newspaper, the Alaska Star.⁵ Its description as a "weekly community newspaper that has served Chugiak-Eagle River for more than 35 years" expresses longstanding identity as a distinct place. The newspaper's Instagram site identifies the area served as "Chugiak, Eagle River, Peters Creek, Eklutna and Thunderbird Falls," indexing that subscribers/readers/residents in these named places are interconnected, orienting to each other within the local area.⁶

42. The Chugiak-Eagle River Professionals Group refers multiple times to the distinctiveness of the community and its common interests.⁷ The opening statement "About Us" is that "The Chugiak-Eagle River Community is unique!" The group's goal is that "Individuals who live, work, raise families, and play in our community will have a forum to meet others of like-minded interests, educate themselves both professionally and personally, stay up-to-date with local events & opportunities for coordinated

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/groups/407722959839121>.

⁵ <https://www.alaskastar.com/>.

⁶ <https://www.instagram.com/starnewspaper>.

⁷ <https://www.cer.org/government-structures-and-local-public-servic>.

volunteer/service projects, become familiar with our community's unique past and assist in making their own positive footprint in the future.”

43. Local festivals are also an expression of place-based identities. The 2021 Official Guide to the Bear Paw Festival frames the event in terms of “coming together as a community to celebrate our successes, acknowledge the work we still have to do, and to enjoy a week in July that makes the Chugiak-Eagle River area the best place to call home.” This description explicitly ties strength of community in place to local action.⁸ Self-described as “the largest and longest running community event in Chugiak-Eagle River,” the festival features distinctively local events including “Slippery Salmon Olympics” and the “Chopped Salmon Throwdown.”⁹

44. The Chugiak Eagle River Advisory Board, “constituted in order to review and make recommendations on actions regarding potential changes in land use issues that impact multiple Community Council areas in the Chugiak Eagle River area,” is another indication that the residents of the area share a set of distinctly place-based concerns.¹⁰

45. The language of EaglExit also appeals to shared history and to the sense of a continuing and distinct community that shares common needs in place:¹¹

The Village of Eklutna was the beginning of local governance in our area. The homesteaders that came later also showed a strong desire for our own city separate from Anchorage. A Chugiak-Eagle River Borough existed for two years in the early 70s. Now our journey continues with a strong desire to form an independent local government built on the vision of its people. The new government and school district would be built from the bottom up, focusing on the very basic needs of our local residents.

46. That EaglExit's goals echo multiple efforts over the decades, since the 1970s, to detach the area from Anchorage and form a separate governmental entity indicates an enduring local dialogue around topics of autonomy and interdependence.¹²

47. While PD 22 residents emphasize their uniqueness in contrast to Anchorage, a strong collective sense of identity, and an unquestioned sense of place,

⁸ https://issuu.com/61degrees/docs/2021_eagle_river_official_bear_paw_guide.

⁹ <https://www.facebook.com/BearPawFestival/>.

¹⁰ <https://www.cer.org/government-structures-and-local-public-servic>.

¹¹ <https://eagleexit.com/about/>.

¹² <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2019/04/18/chugiak-eagle-river-residents-renew-effort-to-separate-from-anchorage/>.

residents of PD 21 are concerned with creating a positive image, meeting the needs of a diverse population within Anchorage, and strengthening their sense of place.

48. Muldoon/Northeast Anchorage areas self-represent and are referred to in the language of urban community. Neighborhoods are the common socio-geographic expression of diversity in urban spaces. Cities are typically described as having a particular character; so are the neighborhoods that constitute them, wherever populations, activities, and structures make such areas distinctive. An urban sense of place is often rooted in one's neighborhood. The experience of living in an urban neighborhood closely bordered by other neighborhoods differs from living in a discretely bounded and more rural town; Muldoon, unlike Eagle River, has an integral relationship with the rest of Anchorage.

49. The mission of the Muldoon Chamber of Commerce references the diverse character of the neighborhood. It is "to encourage East Anchorage businesses to work together to cultivate a vibrant economy and a positive image for the diverse community that lives, works, shops and plays in Muldoon."¹³

50. Muldoon's history is also cited in connection with the area's image and its desires for continuing improvements within the context of Anchorage's urban planning. The community-focused website "I love Muldoon" describes how development accelerated "with no zoning until the early 1970's ... Muldoon Road became a crowded, dangerous track with ramshackle buildings thrown up without regard to safety or sensible construction codes, and no notion of aesthetics." Upgrades to Muldoon Road have created "a proper urban thoroughfare" and the possibility of a town center in the Anchorage comprehensive plan "would give Muldoon the sense of place it never had."¹⁴

51. Chanshtnu Park is widely referenced as a source of local pride resulting from residents' political action and volunteer labor. "Muldoon neighbors have been working hard to turn what was once an abandoned lot into a lively, community space."¹⁵ It has emerged as a focus for community gathering and is designed to foster positive connections with place, with recreational areas and a farmer's market¹⁶ as well as a community food forest and community garden plots in progress.¹⁷

52. From these sources, it is evident that PD 22 residents take their historical continuity as a separate community as a given. PD 21 residents, by contrast, are

¹³ <https://muldoonalaska.biz/join-us/>.

¹⁴ <https://ilovemuldoon.com/about/arnold-i-muldoon-the-man-behind-muldoon/>.

¹⁵ <https://anchorageparkfoundation.org/current-projects/2019-projects/chanshtnu-food-forest/>.

¹⁶ <https://www.facebook.com/muldoonfarmersmarket/>.

¹⁷ <https://www.alaskanewssource.com/2021/06/28/growing-community-while-growing-food/>.

consciously engaged in a process of self-definition with reference to their place and its history: “The name Chanshtnu Muldoon Park ties our past to the present in a public space that future generations will enjoy. ‘Chanshtnu’ refers to the Dena’ina name for ‘Chester Creek’ which is a defining feature of the park. ‘Muldoon’ is a common place name honoring an early Anchorage homesteader in the area.”¹⁸

53. In the extensive testimony on redistricting, adjectives people used to describe their areas were consistent with those that appeared in the non-political contexts cited above. The topic of redistricting prompted people to compare and contrast. Notably, people who identified as living in Eagle River recurrently used descriptors that suggested self-containment or self-sufficiency, like “separate,” “stand alone,” “separate on its own,” “an independent community” and “unique.” People who identified as living in NE Anchorage recurrently referenced “neighbors” and “neighborhood” and “diversity.”

54. Based upon my analysis as summarized in this Affidavit, the pairing of PD 21 and PD 22 will significantly reduce the ability for voters in PD 21 (South Muldoon) to influence the election of their representative in the state senate and the pairing of House Districts 23 and 24 will significantly reduce the ability for voters in House District 23 (Gov’t Hill/JBER/Northeast Anchorage) to influence the election of their representative in the state senate.

55. Based upon my analysis as summarized in this affidavit, the pairing of PD 21 and PD 22 and the pairing of PD 23 and 24 will substantially dilute the voting power of voters in PD 21 (South Muldoon) and significantly dilute the voting power of voters in PD 23 (Gov’t Hill/JBER/Northeast Anchorage).

Social Data and Voting Patterns

56. This section includes data on ethnicity, income and voting patterns. Ideally, we would have reliable current data on ethnicity, income and voting by promulgated district. In reality, the nature of existing sources and our ability to use them is more complicated. These complications include:

A. Much of the decadal data for the 2020 census has yet to be released, and data that have been released have limitations. A footnote in Dec 2021 Alaska Economic Trends cautions that “Data released from the new decennial census for redistricting purposes have so far been limited to total population, totals by race, totals for the population 18 and older, and some housing characteristics. More data are expected in mid-2022, including detailed age structure and composition of households. The pandemic and a new process of adding random statistical ‘noise’ for privacy purposes slowed the original release timeline.” Co-author Liz Brooks (Research Analyst at the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development), recommends that “data for very small geographic areas, such as

¹⁸ <https://www.muni.org/departments/parks/pages/chanshtnumuldoonparkphase1development.aspx>.

census blocks, may be noisy and should be aggregated into larger geographic areas before use.” She notes that much of the “population and housing characteristic data, including population counts for every geography below the state level, had noise introduced.” Further, she notes that there may be larger relative uncertainty for small population groups.¹⁹

B. The American Community Survey data, which goes through 2019, indicate such large margins of error as to be useless for analysis.

C. Census tracts do not align well with state voting precincts. This problem is worse for some promulgated districts than others. Specifically, PD 21 and 22 map reasonably well; PD 20 and 24 do not map as well.

D. As a result, in relation to voting records, we can analyze voting for PD 21 and 22 with more confidence than for PD 20 and 24. This is because:

- (1) PD 21 and 22 match sufficiently well with 2013 Districts 27 and 14. PD 20 and 24, however, are each made of precincts from two 2013 districts (12 and 13 in the case of PD 24, and 15 and 16 in the case of PD 20) and are not as well aligned; and
- (2) Precinct-level voting data have been affected by the large numbers of absentee and early votes in the wake of Covid-19. Absentee and early votes are not reported by precinct.

57. For the purposes of forming my opinion, the state of Alaska’s analysis of Anchorage neighborhoods from the 2010 census data²⁰ is clearer and more reliable than the ACS data and more complete than the 2020 census data currently available. These data largely agree with the ARB’s data for promulgated districts.

58. As seen in the map attached as Exhibit 2, the way that the state has combined census tracts into essentially four named groups (Northeast Anchorage, Muldoon/Baxter, Eagle River, Chugiak) approximates PD 20, 21, 22 and 24.²¹

59. Also, there is evidence (presented below) of continuity in the demographic patterns of the relevant areas.

RACE/ETHNICITY

60. There are stark contrasts between the overall racial/ethnic breakdowns for promulgated districts. Fully three-quarters of PD 22 (Eagle River Valley) and 24 (N. Eagle

¹⁹ Email, Liz Brooks, attached as Exhibit 1.

²⁰ <https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/trends/split/sep13art1.pdf>.

²¹ Anchorage Combined Census Tracts, (Alaska Economic Trends, September 2013, p. 5), attached as Exhibit 2.

River) residents reported as White. PD 20 (N. Muldoon) is the most diverse and is a majority minority district. PD 21's (S. Muldoon's) population more closely resembles that of the municipality (Anchorage overall is 60% White/40% Minority). From the ARB district demographics, the percentages of total population are as follows²²:

PD 20 (N. Muldoon)	White 38%	Minority 62%
PD 21 (S. Muldoon)	White 52%	Minority 48%
PD 22 (Eagle River Valley)	White 76%	Minority 24%
PD 24 (N. Eagle River)	White 75%	Minority 25%

61. Here, an array of ethnic and racial identities is represented as “Minority” in distinction to “White.” These are separated out in some of the following data. Certainly, members of different subgroups have specific concerns that derive from distinct cultural, linguistic and historic experiences. However, the distinction Minority or White captures essential truths. First, members of Minority groups share the common challenges of living in relation to a White majority. Second, and related, in the case of PD 20 (N. Muldoon) and PD 21 (S. Muldoon), multiple minorities live together in an urban setting with the employment and living conditions that accompany poverty and low educational attainment.

62. The attached map shows that in parts of urban Anchorage, ethnic/racial diversity varies even at the neighborhood level. In PD 20 (N. Muldoon), made up of part of Wonder Park, Ptarmigan Area, Northwest Muldoon and part of Northeast Muldoon, there is significant variation in the diversity index across the district. Similarly, PD 21 (S. Muldoon), made up in part by Baxter, Cheney Lake, Scenic Foothills and Muldoon has noticeable variations in the diversity index.²³

TABLE 1. Demographic Characteristics of Chugiak, Eagle River, NE Anchorage and Muldoon/Baxter²⁴

63. Table 1 shows ethnic/racial diversity data from the 2010 census.²⁵ In comparison with the ARB data (shown on the previous page), we see an increase in

²² See, District Demographic table produced 12/30/2021 by ARB, attached as Exhibit 3.

²³ See, *Anchorage has some of the country's most diverse neighborhoods, 2020* (A First Look at the 2020 Census, Dec 2021, p. 10), attached at Exhibit 4.

²⁴ Abstracted from Alaska Economic Trends, September 2013.

²⁵ <https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/trends/split/sep13art1.pdf>.

minority populations of 12% for PD 20 and 21 (N. and S. Muldoon), and 8% and 10%, respectively, for PD 22 and 24 (Eagle River Valley and N. Eagle River). PD 20 and 21 are becoming even more diverse and their diversity is increasing at a faster rate than that of PD 22 and 24.

AREA	AGE (percentage values)			RACE (percentage values)							ETHNICITY (%)
	18 - 64	< 18	>65	WHITE	ALASKA NATIVE/ AMER. INDIAN	ASIAN	HAWAII / PAC ISL.	BLACK	OTHER	2+ RACE	HISPANIC (ANY RACE)
CHUGIAK	67%	26%	7%	85%	5%	2%	0%	1%	1%	6%	4%
EAGLE RIVER	67%	28%	5%	84%	4%	3%	0%	2%	1%	6%	6%
NE ANC	64%	29%	7%	50%	11%	11%	3%	12%	2%	11%	9%
MULDOON BAXTER	65%	26%	9%	64%	8%	6%	2%	8%	2%	10%	7%

TABLE 2. Ethnicity, education, and economic status by high school

School	Bartlett	Bartlett (%)	Eagle River	Eagle River (%)
All students	249		202	
African-Am	28	11%	13	6%
AK Native	19	8%	8	4%
Asian Pac. I	82	33%	6	3%
Caucasian	46	18%	136	68%
Hispanic	23	9%	20	10%
2 or more	51	20%	19	10%
Econ Disad.	175	70%	48	24%
Dropout		3.3%		0.6%
Rating	42		57	

64. The Bartlett High School catchment area primarily consists of PD 20 (N. Muldoon) and 21 (S. Muldoon) and includes a small portion of District 23 and a strip of land north of the Glenn Highway.²⁶ Table 2 gives us a recent snapshot of the ethnic profiles of the high schools serving PD 21 (S. Muldoon) and 22 (Eagle River Valley). It shows that Eagle River High School's catchment area has much less diversity than Bartlett's. This is consistent with the profiles of these areas seen in census data from 2010 and, as far as we have it, from 2020 (and thus increases confidence in use of 2010 census data elsewhere in this Affidavit).

²⁶ <https://www.asdk12.org/demographics-gis/boundaries/>.

65. There are correlative data on income and educational attainment.

66. Income disparities correspond with a much lower dropout rate for Eagle River High School (less than 20% of that for Bartlett High School) and a 54% rate of post-secondary education in PD 22 (Eagle River Valley), which is 2.5 times that of PD 21's (S. Muldoon's) rate.

B. INCOME

67. The following three tables provide different views of income range and variability. For reference, median household income in Anchorage is \$83,000.

Table 3. Income and Poverty Levels of Chugiak, Eagle River, NE Anchorage and Muldoon/Baxter

(Abstracted from Alaska Economic Trends, September 2013)²⁷

Household Income (Percentage Values)				
	Above \$50,000	Above \$75,000	Above \$100,000	Population Below Poverty Level
CHUGIAK	77% (+/-10)	60% (+/-8)	45% (+/-7)	2% (+/-1)
EAGLE RIVER	82% (+/-6)	68% (+/-6)	49% (+/-5)	3% (+/-2)
NE ANCHORAGE	58% (+/-7)	40% (+/-6)	20% (+/-4)	14% (+/-4)
MULDOON/BAXTER	73% (+/-6)	53% (+/-5)	36% (+/-4)	9% (+/-2)

Notes

1. Incomes are in 2011 inflation-adjusted dollars.
2. Poverty thresholds are set by the U.S. Census Bureau and vary by family size and composition.
3. Margins of error are given in parentheses.

TABLE 4. Food stamps

Neighborhood food stamp rates:

Eagle River	4%
Chugiak	7%
NE Anch	13%

²⁷ <https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/trends/split/sep13art1.pdf>, p. 5, by Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey; and Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section.

TABLE 5. School Ratings, Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility, Title I

South Muldoon			
PD 21 Schools	Rating	%FRL	Title I (Y/N)
Susitna Elementary	49	50%	N
Baxter Elementary	60	36%	N
Chester Valley Elementary	28	74%	Y
Nunaka Valley Elementary	41	67%	Y
Anchorage STReAM Academy	33		N
Scenic Park Elementary	61	37%	N
<i>Average</i>	40	44%	

Eagle River Valley			
PD 22 schools	Rating	%FRL	Title I (Y/N)
Homestead Elementary	63	23%	N
Alpenglow Elementary	60	15%	N
Ravenwood Elementary	70	12%	N
Eagle River HS	57	14%	N
<i>Average</i>	63	16%	

North Muldoon			
PD 20 Schools	Rating	%FRL	Title I (Y/N)
Begich Middle	-	-	Y
Clarke Elementary	28	100%	Y
Creekside Elementary	44	86%	Y
Muldoon Elementary	50	100%	N
Bartlett High	42	65%	Y
<i>Average</i>	41	75%	

Eagle River-Chugiak			
PD 24 Schools	Rating	%FRL	Title I (Y/N)
Chugiak High	51	21%	N
Birchwood Elementary	67	29%	N
Chugiak Elementary	58	19%	N
Fire Lake Middle	53	31%	N
Mirror Lake Elementary	53	21%	N
<i>Average</i>	56	24%	

68. The following comments apply to the above tables:

Table 3 compares household income levels and shows that Chugiak and Eagle River are significantly wealthier than NE Anchorage and Muldoon/Baxter. Of Chugiak and Eagle River households, 45-49% earn more than \$100,000 and only a negligible

percentage of the households are below poverty level. By contrast, NE Anchorage and Muldoon/Baxter have 20-36% of households at the highest level and 9–14% below poverty level.

Table 4 shows Food Stamp recipients, another indicator of household poverty, as a percentage of all households in the indicated areas. NE Anchorage has three times as many recipients as Eagle River.

Table 5 provides school data that relate to income. FRL (Free and Reduced Lunch/Meals) eligibility tells us the percentage of households of school-aged children experiencing poverty. Within Alaska, eligibility for free lunch/meals is up to \$43,000 annual income for a family of four (130% Federal Poverty Level) and for reduced price lunches up to \$61,000 annual income for a family of four (185% Federal Poverty Level). Title I eligibility is also based on income, providing federal financial assistance to schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families.²⁸ The distribution of Title I eligible schools is all in North and South Muldoon (PD 20 and 21); there are none in Eagle River (PD 22 or 24). Table 5 also shows an inverse relation between eligibility for free and reduced-price lunches/meals and school ratings. Higher school ratings are determined by the State of Alaska as a comparative measure of school quality. Higher school ratings tend to correlate with wealthier and less diverse residential areas; lower school ratings correlate with lower income areas and more population diversity. They also correlate with average neighborhood housing prices. Notice that within S. Muldoon, the two more highly rated schools are located in the wealthier parts of the catchment area.

C. VOTING PATTERNS

Party Voting Patterns PD 21 (S. Muldoon) and PD 22 (Eagle River Valley)

69. It is important to have some sense as to how the needs and wants of PD 21 (S. Muldoon) and 22 (Eagle River Valley) are likely to align or conflict in the promulgated Senate pairing.

70. PD 21 (S. Muldoon) is clearly a swing district with numerous races decided by a margin of 2% or less.

71. PD 22 (Eagle River Valley), on the other hand, votes solidly and predictably Republican. Based on their voting patterns, if the two districts were combined, the reliably Republican voters in PD 22 would overwhelm the less strongly partisan voters in PD 21 (S. Muldoon). All of the Democratic candidates that PD 21 selected in the last four voting cycles would have been defeated in the combined Senate pairing and the result would be a district that voted solidly Republican.

²⁸ <https://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html>.

72. There is some evidence that 2013 D15 and 2013 D16, from some of whose precincts PD 20 is formed, vote weakly Democratic, though since it is not that strongly Democratic and there is no way to get precinct level information²⁹ this is a bit speculative. PD 24, on the other hand, is very likely to trend at least as strongly Republican as PD 22, given that 2013 D12 and 2013 D13, in combination, vote even more strongly Republican than PD 22. This suggests that pairing Promulgated Districts 20 and 21 could shift that Senate vote to be more strongly Democratic, but that pairing Promulgated Districts 22 and 24 would preserve their strongly Republican orientation.

SUMMATION

73. The promulgated Senate pairing of PD 21 and PD 22 groups together House districts that are not similar enough to be deemed a single community of interest. PD 20 and PD 21 (N and S Muldoon) together comprise a community of interest. PD 22 and PD 24 (Eagle River Valley and Eagle River/Chugiak) also constitute a single community of interest.

74. PD 22 also has a solidly Republican voting pattern. This united Republican voice would dominate and dilute the more economically, ethnically, educationally, and politically diverse PD 21 and eclipse the urban concerns that derive from its own sense of identity and place.

75. Further, Eagle River has a particularly strong sense of local identity as a separated place with a distinctive orientation to the Eagle River-Chugiak area. This sense of local identity and interests is intensifying in the political arena. Currently, the Anchorage Assembly members representing Eagle River (District 2) are preparing to introduce a proposal for an advisory vote by Eagle River/Chugiak/Eklutna residents on separating from or remaining in the Municipality of Anchorage. Simultaneously, Assembly Vice Chair Christopher Constant, representing downtown Anchorage, is reportedly preparing to propose a municipal advisory vote on the issue of separation. This trajectory towards a possible vote on the issue raises the real possibility that Eagle River/Chugiak might be separated from the Municipality of Anchorage.³⁰ If that were to happen, the Senate district made by pairing PD 21 and 22 would then span different types of geopolitical entities (for example, a city and a borough or a unified municipality and a borough), one of which had declared its interest in dissociating from the other. Separation and dissociation are at odds with the existence of or association with a community of interest.

²⁹ Although voting is broken down by precinct, precinct identifiers are not available for the large number of absentee and early votes. If we could look at precinct level voting, it would be useful, since in the process of redistricting precincts are often moved between districts.

³⁰ <https://www.adn.com/alaska-news/anchorage/2022/01/03/anchorage-assembly-member-pushing-for-advisory-vote-on-whether-eagle-river-should-secede-from-the-city/>.

76. Finally, the largely White district PD 22 (Eagle River Valley) will dilute the political voice of PD 21's Minority voters. This is because the distinctions rich v. poor, exurban v. urban, and high v. low educational attainment, in the respective districts, map with White v. Minority. These categorical differences underlie different political choices.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

 1/14/22

Chase Hensel, Ph.D.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this ____ day of January, 2022.

Notary Public for Alaska
My Commission expires: _____

** SEE ATTACHMENT FOR CALIFORNIA
NOTARIAL BLOCK .*

California JURAT

A notary public or other officer completing this certificate verifies only the identity of the individual who signed the document to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness, accuracy, or validity of that document.

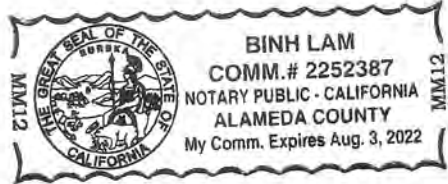
State of California

County of Alameda

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this 14th day of January, 2022, by Chase Hensel

proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person(s) who appeared before me.

Signature [Handwritten Signature] (Seal)



ADDITIONAL SOURCES INDEX

Table 1

<https://live.laborstats.alaska.gov/trends/split/sep13art1.pdf>

“Demographic Characteristics of Anchorage Areas, 2010 Census”, p.4.

U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census.

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section.

Table 2

<https://education.alaska.gov/compass/Report/2019-2020/5/null#attendance-graduation-and-dropoutrateshttps://education.alaska.gov/compass/Report/2018-2019/5/50050#postsecondary-enrollment>

Table 3

<https://Attainment#figure/lower-state-legislative-district-in-alaska>

<https://statisticalatlas.com/countysubdivision/Alaska/AnchorageMunicipality/Anchorage/Food-Stamps#data-map/neighborhood>

Table 4

<https://education.alaska.gov/compass/Home/AccountabilitySchoolsInDistrict?districtId=5>

<https://education.alaska.gov/search?q=Free+and+Reduced+Price+Meals+Report+For+Program+Year%3A+2020&submit=>

<https://www.asdk12.org/Page/5320>

Tempest Evans

From: Brooks, Liz M (DOL) <liz.brooks@alaska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 3:41 PM
To: Tempest Evans
Cc: Holly Wells
Subject: RE: Block Level Census Data | Litigation Request
Attachments: DECENNIALPL2020.P2_data_with_overlays_2021-11-29T142604.csv

Follow Up Flag: Moved to Worldox (BHBC Client Files\508582\2\01161367.MSG)
Flag Status: Completed

External Email Address

Hi, Tempest.

That's correct: ACS data doesn't exist at the block level, so I can't connect you with any ACS data at the block level. Correct again: Tracts consist of block groups; ACS data is available at the block-group level. Block groups are a collection of blocks.

Race data from the 2020 Census is available at the block level, but the Census Bureau says data users shouldn't analyze the data at the block level. Data users should instead aggregate blocks together for analysis. The 2020 Census data contains statistical noise that is most apparent at the block level.

Attached is a spreadsheet with the race statistics you requested for all blocks in Anchorage in 2020, per 2020 Census. (The Census Bureau doesn't have data for the AIAN population by block in 2019.) Similar spreadsheets for other boroughs and census areas are available online at data.census.gov. From that link, you should be able to select all blocks in each borough and census area through the "Geos" filter.

I will call you around 9 a.m. tomorrow to follow-up by phone.

Liz Brooks

From: Tempest Evans <tevans@BHB.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 3:18 PM
To: Brooks, Liz M (DOL) <liz.brooks@alaska.gov>
Cc: Holly Wells <hwells@BHB.com>
Subject: RE: Block Level Census Data | Litigation Request

Hello Liz,

I tried calling, hopefully I can explain exactly what we're looking for here. I see that the ACS survey is only at block-group level. Does that mean that you can't get any data broken down by blocks alone? When I use the viewer online, it looks like each tract is broken into any number of "block groups".

For the purposes of my request, I have included the five groupings of blocks that I need to find data for, at sheets A through E.

For the data.census.gov link below, I'd like to get the following tables for ACS and see if I can get them broken down on the block level:

EXHIBIT 1, Page 1 of 3

- Percent below poverty level – age 18 – 64 years (2019)
- Household – Mean Income (dollars) – Estimate (2019)

For either the redistricting data, or decennial census data I would like to find race and ethnicity data tables on the block level. Particularly interested in the following subcategories:

- Total: Population of one race: - American Indian and Alaska Native alone (2019)
- Total: Population of one race: - White Alone - (2020)

I thought I could do this just by selecting the correct parameters under “filter” and “geography” as displayed here: <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=United%20States> but it only displays and generates a table at the tract level.

Any help or direction is much appreciated.

Tempest Evans

Paralegal | Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
510 L Street, Suite 700 | Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Direct 907.263.7236 | Fax 907.276.3680

This transmittal may be a confidential attorney-client communication or may otherwise be privileged or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, you have received this transmittal in error. Any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this transmittal is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by reply or by telephone (907) 276-1550 and immediately delete this message and all attachments.

From: Brooks, Liz M (DOL) <liz.brooks@alaska.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 11:00 AM
To: Tempest Evans <tevans@BHB.com>
Cc: Holly Wells <hwells@BHB.com>
Subject: RE: Block Level Census Data | Litigation Request

External Email Address

Hi, Tempest.

I received your voicemail message and email. I can help you find block-level data from the 2020 Census, but the Census Bureau says data users shouldn't use block-level data without aggregating blocks together. See below.

The American Community Survey publishes estimates down to the block-group level, not the block level. The [American Community Survey](#) produces estimates for various social and economic dimensions.

You can access 2020 Census data and American Community Survey data through the Census Bureau's online interface, data.census.gov. I'd be happy to help you use that tool to access the data you seek.

[Here is a summary of key considerations and recommendations for data users working with the 2020 Census redistricting data:](#)

- Data for very small geographic areas, such as census blocks, may be noisy and should be aggregated into larger geographic areas before use.
- Small population groups may experience larger relative uncertainty. While the absolute error is the same for all groups within the same table, the noise added to small groups will result in higher relative error because the underlying population (the denominator) is smaller.

- For a given geography, particularly at the block level, the uncertainty introduced by disclosure avoidance may result in apparent inconsistencies between the population and housing tables, such as more occupied housing units than people.

The redistricting data files include certain “invariants”—data that are kept exactly as enumerated with no noise added.

Invariant statistics for the 2020 Census redistricting data are:

- Total number of people in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
- Total number of housing units in each census block.
- Number of occupied group quarters facilities by major group quarters type in each census block (e.g., correctional facilities, nursing facilities, college dorms, and military quarters).

All other population and housing characteristic data, including population counts for every geography below the state level, had noise introduced.

Please let me know how else I can help you access the data you seek. Thank you for reaching out.

Liz Brooks
Research Analyst
Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Research and Analysis Section
Population and Census Unit
907-465-5970

From: Tempest Evans <tevens@BHB.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 4:33 PM
To: Brooks, Liz M (DOL) <liz.brooks@alaska.gov>
Cc: Holly Wells <hwells@BHB.com>
Subject: Block Level Census Data | Litigation Request
Importance: High

Hello Ms. Brooks,

I’m working with attorney Holly Wells on a redistricting matter involving census data, Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI.

We will be requesting block-specific census data on racial and economic factors, including the Alaska Census Data and American Community Survey. I was provided your name as someone who could give me further information about how to request this data.

Please let me know if you or any of your staff are available to facilitate. Our matter will proceed on an extremely expedited basis pursuant to court rules, and your prompt attention to this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Tempest Evans
Paralegal | [Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot](#)
510 L Street, Suite 700 | Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Direct 907.263.7236 | Fax 907.276.3680

This transmittal may be a confidential attorney-client communication or may otherwise be privileged or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, you have received this transmittal in error. Any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this transmittal is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by reply or by telephone (907) 276-1550 and immediately delete this message and all attachments.

ANCHORAGE COMBINED CENSUS TRACTS

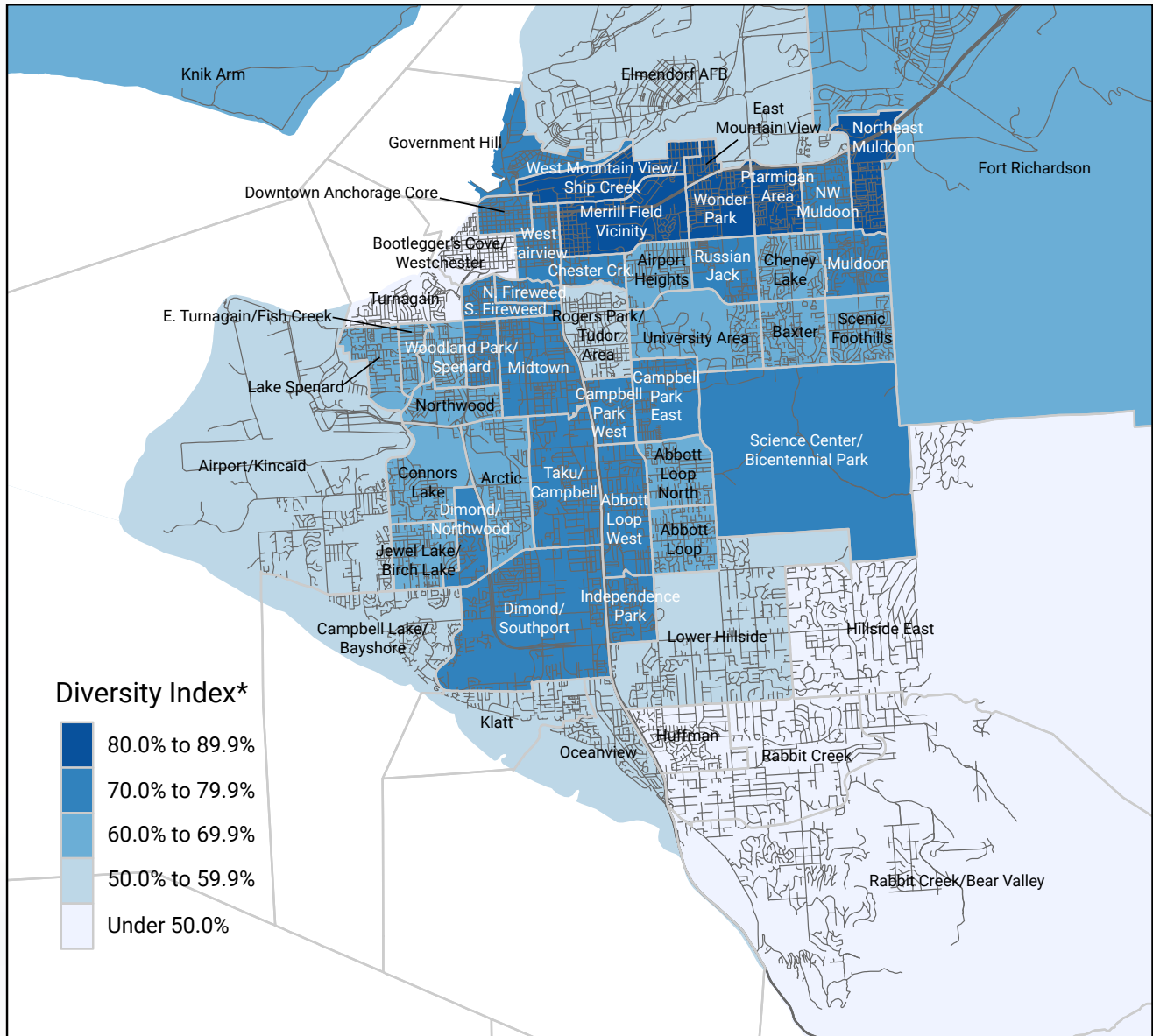


Notes: These areas are based on census tracts and groups of census tracts that make up the Municipality of Anchorage. The names are not official, and are not part of U.S. Census Bureau data. The areas should not be confused with Anchorage Community Councils.
 Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS, ARB DOCUMENT PROVIDED 12/30/2021

DISTRICT	Total Population Tabulation				Racial Demographics as a Percent of Total Population				Percent	Racial Demographics as a percent of VAP			
	All Persons	Target	Dev.	Difference	White	Black	Hispanic	Minority	Voting Age	White	Black	Hispanic	Minority
1	17,921	18,335	-2.26%✓	-414	56.86%	0.61%	4.34%	43.14%	77.73%	60.53%	0.63%	3.63%	39.47%
2	18,048	18,335	-1.56%✓	-287	57.96%	0.62%	5.01%	42.04%	78.61%	62.07%	0.67%	4.14%	37.93%
3	18,195	18,335	-0.76%✓	-140	69.67%	0.71%	5.33%	30.33%	77.79%	73.53%	0.79%	4.57%	26.47%
4	18,122	18,335	-1.16%✓	-213	58.94%	1.29%	6.81%	41.06%	80.08%	62.57%	1.27%	5.82%	37.43%
5	18,707	18,335	2.03%✓	372	54.39%	1.15%	6.99%	45.61%	77.33%	57.11%	1.36%	6.14%	42.89%
6	18,434	18,335	0.54%✓	99	83.98%	0.35%	3.10%	16.02%	80.22%	85.42%	0.34%	2.59%	14.58%
7	18,465	18,335	0.71%✓	130	75.83%	0.61%	5.28%	24.17%	74.82%	78.76%	0.66%	4.22%	21.24%
8	18,471	18,335	0.74%✓	136	80.83%	0.52%	3.16%	19.17%	78.85%	82.71%	0.55%	2.71%	17.29%
9	18,284	18,335	-0.28%✓	-51	79.12%	1.08%	5.31%	20.88%	76.33%	82.05%	1.12%	4.51%	17.95%
10	18,523	18,335	1.03%✓	188	56.55%	2.87%	11.02%	43.45%	75.51%	60.81%	2.98%	9.74%	39.19%
11	18,103	18,335	-1.26%✓	-232	64.70%	3.04%	7.67%	35.30%	75.68%	67.92%	2.83%	6.53%	32.08%
12	18,217	18,335	-0.64%✓	-118	52.08%	3.61%	8.94%	47.92%	75.87%	55.40%	3.75%	8.21%	44.60%
13	18,185	18,335	-0.82%✓	-150	50.48%	4.62%	10.16%	49.52%	78.87%	54.91%	4.64%	8.82%	45.09%
14	18,213	18,335	-0.66%✓	-122	50.84%	4.96%	8.98%	49.16%	81.41%	54.81%	5.18%	7.86%	45.19%
15	18,168	18,335	-0.91%✓	-167	60.28%	2.55%	6.49%	39.72%	75.43%	64.24%	2.60%	5.49%	35.76%
16	18,182	18,335	-0.83%✓	-153	60.99%	2.53%	7.14%	39.01%	78.48%	64.81%	2.52%	6.34%	35.19%
17	18,203	18,335	-0.72%✓	-132	53.01%	7.93%	9.20%	46.99%	82.12%	57.54%	7.28%	7.97%	42.46%
18	18,243	18,335	-0.50%✓	-92	30.40%	9.53%	13.57%	69.60%	71.68%	35.97%	9.70%	12.24%	64.03%
19	18,239	18,335	-0.52%✓	-96	47.16%	6.72%	9.39%	52.84%	78.04%	51.94%	6.84%	8.28%	48.06%
20	18,285	18,335	-0.27%✓	-50	37.59%	9.96%	10.62%	62.41%	73.01%	43.16%	10.47%	9.94%	56.84%
21	18,414	18,335	0.43%✓	79	52.49%	7.10%	7.94%	47.51%	76.19%	57.86%	7.24%	6.59%	42.14%
22	18,205	18,335	-0.71%✓	-130	76.29%	2.27%	7.81%	23.71%	72.73%	78.94%	2.33%	6.37%	21.06%
23	18,023	18,335	-1.70%✓	-312	56.59%	9.49%	14.08%	43.41%	78.40%	57.76%	9.61%	12.90%	42.24%
24	18,032	18,335	-1.65%✓	-303	75.17%	1.76%	6.85%	24.83%	74.92%	78.19%	1.91%	5.83%	21.81%
25	18,822	18,335	2.66%✓	487	77.95%	1.04%	4.95%	22.05%	73.56%	81.00%	1.11%	4.16%	19.00%
26	18,807	18,335	2.58%✓	472	76.15%	1.11%	5.37%	23.85%	68.46%	79.62%	1.25%	4.31%	20.38%
27	18,799	18,335	2.53%✓	464	75.42%	1.29%	5.58%	24.58%	72.17%	78.84%	1.32%	4.32%	21.16%
28	18,793	18,335	2.50%✓	458	78.18%	0.94%	5.38%	21.82%	72.28%	80.03%	1.05%	4.67%	19.97%
29	18,773	18,335	2.39%✓	438	79.50%	0.70%	4.83%	20.50%	72.38%	81.66%	0.79%	3.69%	18.34%
30	18,536	18,335	1.10%✓	201	78.48%	1.11%	3.44%	21.52%	79.86%	79.92%	1.23%	2.78%	20.08%
31	18,294	18,335	-0.22%✓	-41	53.24%	6.94%	8.19%	46.76%	78.36%	56.84%	7.09%	7.18%	43.16%
32	18,522	18,335	1.02%✓	187	65.40%	8.04%	13.37%	34.60%	74.46%	67.97%	8.31%	12.86%	32.03%
33	18,500	18,335	0.90%✓	165	74.56%	2.37%	6.04%	25.44%	72.74%	77.14%	2.50%	5.47%	22.86%
34	18,382	18,335	0.26%✓	47	77.72%	1.91%	6.20%	22.28%	75.96%	79.88%	2.03%	5.20%	20.12%
35	18,367	18,335	0.18%✓	32	71.22%	2.35%	5.30%	28.78%	78.09%	74.13%	2.43%	4.69%	25.87%
36	18,558	18,335	1.22%✓	223	58.84%	0.67%	3.49%	41.16%	76.51%	62.25%	0.71%	2.91%	37.75%
37	18,226	18,335	-0.59%✓	-109	22.38%	3.25%	8.94%	77.62%	78.45%	25.83%	4.11%	9.85%	74.17%
38	17,853	18,335	-2.63%✓	-482	8.35%	0.46%	0.99%	91.65%	64.54%	10.90%	0.67%	1.08%	89.10%
39	17,453	18,335	-4.81%✓	-882	9.04%	0.40%	1.13%	90.96%	63.71%	12.21%	0.50%	1.19%	87.79%
40	18,824	18,335	2.67%✓	489	20.09%	1.24%	3.45%	79.91%	69.94%	27.00%	1.67%	4.15%	73.00%
Assigned	733391												
Total Pop	733391												

Anchorage has some of the country's most diverse neighborhoods, 2020



*The diversity index shows the percent chance that two people selected randomly from a given area will be from different racial or ethnic groups.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census

That was Alaska's lowest natural increase since the 1970s, but at 9.4 percent, it still ranked second among states. Utah was highest at 11.2 percent over the last decade, and Texas followed Alaska at 7.4 percent.

At the low end, West Virginia and Maine sustained natural *decrease* — more deaths than births — losing an estimated 1.7 percent and 1.1 percent, respectively.

While no borough or census area in Alaska had natural decrease between 2010 and 2020, Wrangell

came close with only 20 more births than deaths, and Haines had just 30 more births. Southeast tends to grow less through natural increase than the rest of the state because its older population means a lower birth rate.

The much-younger western and northern parts of the state grew most through natural increase because of their higher birth rates. Overall, 23 of Alaska's 30 boroughs and census areas had higher rates of natural increase than the U.S. average of 3.8 percent for the last decade.

8.

Affidavit of Expert Erin Barker

Holly C. Wells
Mara E. Michaletz
William D. Falsey
Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
510 L Street, Suite 700
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
hwells@bhb.com
mmichaletz@bhb.com
wfalsey@bhb.com
Telephone: 907.276.1550
Facsimile: 907.276.3680

Attorneys for Plaintiffs Felisa Wilson, George Martinez, and Yarrow Silvers

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT ANCHORAGE

In the Matter of the)
2021 REDISTRICTING PLAN.) Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI
_____)

AFFIDAVIT OF ERIN BARKER

STATE OF ALASKA)
Third Judicial District) ss:

I, Erin Barker, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state as follows:

1. I have a BA in politics and film studies from Mount Holyoke College, a Master's Degree in library and information science from Simmons University, and a Graduate Certificate in applied biostatistics from the University of Washington. I am familiar with the use of data in political decision-making. I understand the conventional application of population data in the redistricting process.

2. I believe the Alaska Redistricting Board ("Board") has produced to the parties and presented to the Court data that was inaccurate.

3. The inaccurate data wrongfully suggested that a South Muldoon and North Muldoon pairing would not be a majority minority district. In fact, the minority voting age population of a senate district composed of North and South Muldoon would be 51.12 percent.

4. I was asked to analyze certain documents relied upon by the Board during proceedings in the above-captioned matter, specifically those referenced in East Anchorage Plaintiff's Second Motion to Amend their Application.

5. Exhibit 6004, produced to parties by the Board and relied upon by East Anchorage Plaintiff's expert witness Dr. Chase Hensel, reports incorrect data on the percentage of persons aged 18 years or more ("voting age population" or "VAP") who are classified as members of a racial/ethnic minority group.

6. Exhibit 1007 was presented by the Board on Friday, January 21, 2022, and provides correct population data that consistently differs from the data provided in Exhibit 6004.

7. The affidavit of Peter Torkelson, dated January 20, 2022, presents data consistent with Exhibit 6004 in Image 6 and Image 7. In Paragraph 35, the affidavit states "pairing Muldoon house districts has the effect of diluting North Muldoon's majority-minority voting population, resulting in a senate district with less than a majority of minority voters." Below that paragraph, Image 7 shows data that indicates pairing North and South Muldoon house districts would result in a minority voting-age population of 49.31 percent. This is inaccurate.

8. Exhibits 1013 and 1014, which correspond to Images 7 and 6 in the affidavit of Peter Torkelson, report inaccurate data that matches the data in Exhibit 6004.

9. Screenshots and printouts from redistricting applications are not inherently authoritative documents because they do not disclose the underlying calculations behind any data set.

10. For example, Exhibit 1013/Image 7 includes a callout box that reports the percentage of Alaska Native voters in four senate districts under the hypothetical Muldoon pairing. The percentages reported under “Alaskan Native VAP” range from 21.44 percent to 55.70 percent and match the figures under “Minority” in the matrix below. This error is a mislabeling of an important data set and calls into question the credibility of other data produced in the same manner.

Muldoon Pairing Alternative				
Muldoon Pairing Scenario				
District	Alaskan Native VAP			
I	55.70%			
J	49.31%			
K	21.44%			
L	42.35%			

Percent	Racial Demographics as a percent of VAP			
Voting Age	White	Black	Hispanic	Minority
74.86%	44.30%	8.21%	10.18%	55.70%
74.60%	50.69%	8.87%	8.27%	49.31%
73.82%	78.56%	2.12%	6.09%	21.44%
80.27%	57.65%	8.41%	10.17%	42.35%

50% minority voting age population.

11. The US Census reports race and ethnicity data at an extremely granular level, accounting for all possible combinations of identity under six racial classifications and two ethnicity classifications, for both all-ages population and voting age population. These are listed over 13 pages in the *2020 Census State Redistricting Data (Public*

*Law 94-171) Summary File 2020 Census of Population and Housing Technical Documentation*¹, beginning on page 6-25 under the heading “P1. RACE [71].” Including summary values, there are 288 different fields reporting population data.

12. The Census Bureau does not report an aggregated value for all racial/ethnic minority persons. In fact, the word “minority” does not appear in the above technical documentation. In order to quantify a total minority population, users and/or their software must create a calculated field. This can be done by calculating the sum of all non-white groups or by subtracting the number of non-Hispanic “white alone” persons from the population total.

13. There are multiple software products available that integrate Census data with geographic shape files in order to calculate the number of persons in a drawn district overall and by sub-population, such as racial group.

14. AutoBound EDGE is one such system, used by the Board.

15. Maptitude for Redistricting is a similar product, published by Caliper Corporation.

16. Dave’s Redistricting is another system that is freely available online at davesredistricting.org. Dave’s Redistricting has posted the adopted 2022 Alaska State House map at this link: <https://davesredistricting.org/maps#viewmap::1f4ba76c-ea2a-43b9-bf60-dd95eb9abb57>.

¹ https://www.akredistrict.org/discovery/Census%20Data/2020Census_PL94_171_Redistricting_StatesTechDoc_English.pdf (Feb 2021 version). Also, on Census web site (June 2021 version) at https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/summary-file/2020Census_PL94_171_Redistricting_StatesTechDoc_English.pdf.

17. As described in the *Technical Documentation*, the US Census uses codes to identify each population category, accompanied by a long natural-language description. For example, the number of persons counted as “White; Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native” is labeled as “P0040029.”

18. Given this complexity, redistricting software systems may introduce their own codes for each field and/or allow users to create a shorthand label for fields displayed in reports such as AutoBound EDGE’s Active Matrix.

19. This is the case with AutoBound EDGE’s Active Matrix. When users create the Matrix, they manually designate the text that will appear as the header for each field:

20. The population field names and definitions used in Maptitude for Redistricting are published online at <https://www.caliper.com/learning-redistricting/index.php/articles/what-fields-are-included-in-the-2020-data/>.

21. Dave’s Redistricting creates its own minority VAP calculation defined as “all minorities as a % of the relevant voting age population; includes Hispanic.” This statement can be found by loading any map in Dave’s Redistricting, clicking on the “Statistics” button and mousing over “Minority.”

22. With any software system, manual editing and calculations present opportunity for user error and/or subjectivity.

23. Accordingly, I compared data provided by the Board to data from Maptitude for Redistricting and Dave’s Redistricting. By comparing the Board’s data to two unrelated systems, I aimed to triangulate the accurate values.

24. Data provided in each system and in the Board's exhibits varies. The following table indicates whether each data point was reported as a whole number, a percentage, or both.

Data Type for Population Values Reported, by Source			
Source	Total Population	Voting Age Population (VAP)	Non-white/ Minority VAP
Exhibit 6004	Number	Percentage of total population	Percentage of VAP
Exhibit 1007	Number	Number	Number and percentage of VAP
Exhibit 1013	Number	Percentage of total population	Percentage of VAP
Exhibit 1014	Number	Percentage of total population	Percentage of VAP
Maptitude for Redistricting	Number	Number	Number
Dave's Redistricting	Number	Number and percentage of total population	Percentage of VAP

25. Comparing the total population (all ages) reported by each source, all values matched. This indicates all of the data sources consistently integrated the promulgated shape files with the 2020 Census data set.

HD	Total Persons				Observations
	1007	6004	Dave's Redistricting	Maptitude [Population]	
9	18,284	18,284	18,284	18,284	All values match
10	18,523	18,523	18,523	18,523	
11	18,103	18,103	18,103	18,103	
12	18,217	18,217	18,217	18,217	
13	18,185	18,185	18,185	18,185	
14	18,213	18,213	18,213	18,213	
15	18,168	18,168	18,168	18,168	

16	18,182	18,182	18,182	18,182
17	18,203	18,203	18,203	18,203
18	18,243	18,243	18,243	18,243
19	18,239	18,239	18,239	18,239
20	18,285	18,285	18,285	18,285
21	18,414	18,414	18,414	18,414
22	18,205	18,205	18,205	18,205
23	18,023	18,023	18,023	18,023
24	18,032	18,032	18,032	18,032

26. Comparing the voting age population (VAP), all whole numbers reported matched. Because Exhibit 6004 reported VAP as a percentage of total population, I calculated this value by multiplying the % VAP by total population. Differences of 1 person appear in some districts due to rounding but do not invalidate the underlying data. Effectively, data from all sources matched.

Voting Age Population						
HD	1007	6004*		Dave's Redistricting	Maptitude [18+_Pop]	Observations
		% reported,	raw # calculated			
9	13,957	76.33%	13,956	13,957	13,957	All reported values match and calculated values are within expected ranges
10	13,986	75.51%	13,987	13,986	13,986	
11	13,701	75.68%	13,700	13,701	13,701	
12	13,822	75.87%	13,821	13,822	13,822	
13	14,342	78.87%	14,343	14,342	14,342	
14	14,827	81.41%	14,827	14,827	14,827	
15	13,704	75.43%	13,704	13,704	13,704	

16	14,269	78.48%	14,269	14,269	14,269
17	14,949	82.12%	14,948	14,949	14,949
18	13,076	71.68%	13,077	13,076	13,076
19	14,234	78.04%	14,234	14,234	14,234
20	13,349	73.01%	13,350	13,349	13,349
21	14,029	76.19%	14,030	14,029	14,029
22	13,241	72.73%	13,240	13,241	13,241
23	14,130	78.40%	14,130	14,130	14,130
24	13,509	74.92%	13,510	13,509	13,509

*discrepancies of +/- 1 person are expected in calculated values due to rounding

27. Comparing the number of non-white—or minority—VAP persons, Exhibit 1007, Dave's Redistricting, and Maptitude are equal or within 1 person of each other (differences due to rounding), however Exhibit 6004 differs significantly. Exhibit 6004 reported a percentage of non-white VAP, as does Dave's redistricting; in both cases, I calculated the estimated number of non-white VAP persons by multiplying the reported percentage by the total number of VAP persons from each source. With Maptitude, I calculated the total number of minority VAP persons by subtracting the total number of non-Hispanic "white alone" VAP persons from the total VAP. Exhibit 6004 reflects an average of 261.8 fewer minority VAP persons per Anchorage house district than the other data sources do.

Non-White Voting Age Population						
HD	1007	6004* % reported, raw # calculated	Dave's Redistricting % reported, raw # calculated	Maptitude [18+_Pop - NH18+_Wht]	1007- 6004 Difference	Observations

9	2,687	17.95%	2,505	19.25%	2,687	2,687	-182	Raw numbers reported in 1007 and Maptitude and calculations from Dave's Redistricting match. Calculations from 6004, however, produce an average of 261.8 fewer persons.	
10	5,737	39.19%	5,481	41.02%	5,737	5,737	-256		
11	4,622	32.08%	4,395	33.73%	4,621	4,622	-227		
12	6,386	44.60%	6,164	46.20%	6,386	6,386	-222		
13	6,737	45.09%	6,467	46.97%	6,736	6,737	-270		
14	6,935	45.19%	6,700	46.77%	6,935	6,935	-235		
15	5,107	35.76%	4,901	37.27%	5,107	5,107	-206		
16	5,231	35.19%	5,021	36.66%	5,231	5,231	-210		
17	6,593	42.46%	6,347	44.10%	6,593	6,593	-246		
18	8,632	64.03%	8,373	66.01%	8,631	8,632	-259		
19	7,091	48.06%	6,841	49.82%	7,091	7,091	-250		
20	7,872	56.84%	7,588	58.97%	7,872	7,872	-284		
21	6,124	42.14%	5,912	43.65%	6,124	6,124	-212		
22	3,058	21.06%	2,788	23.09%	3,057	3,058	-270		
23	6,589	42.24%	5,969	46.63%	6,589	6,589	-620		
24	3,187	21.81%	2,946	23.59%	3,187	3,187	-241		
*discrepancies of +/- 1 person are expected in calculated values due to rounding									

28. Comparing the percentage of non-white VAP, Exhibit 6004 underreported this figure by an average of -1.88 percent per house district (range of -4.39% to -1.51% in East Anchorage). In the table below, Maptitude data are calculated as the number of minority VAP in the table above divided by the total VAP.

Percent Non-White Voting Age Population						
HD	1007	6004	Dave's Redistricting	Maptitude [calculated from above values]	Observations	Difference
9	19.25%	17.95%	19.25%	19.25%	Values from Exhibit 1007, Dave's Redistricting, and Maptitude match. Exhibit 6004 reports a lower value.	-1.30%
10	41.02%	39.19%	41.02%	41.02%		-1.83%
11	33.73%	32.08%	33.73%	33.73%		-1.65%
12	46.20%	44.60%	46.20%	46.20%		-1.60%
13	46.97%	45.09%	46.97%	46.97%		-1.88%
14	46.77%	45.19%	46.77%	46.77%		-1.58%
15	37.27%	35.76%	37.27%	37.27%		-1.51%
16	36.66%	35.19%	36.66%	36.66%		-1.47%
17	44.10%	42.46%	44.10%	44.10%		-1.64%
18	66.01%	64.03%	66.01%	66.01%		-1.98%
19	49.82%	48.06%	49.82%	49.82%		-1.76%
20	58.97%	56.84%	58.97%	58.97%		-2.13%
21	43.65%	42.14%	43.65%	43.65%		-1.51%
22	23.09%	21.06%	23.09%	23.09%		-2.03%
23	46.63%	42.24%	46.63%	46.63%	-4.39%	
24	23.59%	21.81%	23.59%	23.59%	-1.78%	

29. In underreporting minority voters, Exhibit 6004 and the data sets aligned with it (including Exhibits 1013 and 1014) mischaracterize Anchorage voters and incorrectly assert that North and South Muldoon could not create a minority-majority senate district.

30. The following table displays the above comparative data for house districts 20 and 21–North and South Muldoon—and calculated totals as if this were one senate district. It shows that while Exhibits 6004, 1013, 1014, and the Affidavit of Peter Torkelson indicate that this district would have only 49.31 percent minority VAP, other data sources confirm that the combined district would in fact have 51.12 percent minority VAP, rendering it a minority-majority district.

Senate Pairing	HD	Exhibit 6004				Other Data (Exhibit 1007, Dave's Redistricting, and/or Maptitude, where Provided)				Difference in Estimated % Non-White VAP (6004-Other Data)
		Total Population	Total VAP (calculated)	Non-White VAP (calculated)	% Non-White VAP	Total Population	Total VAP	Non-White VAP	% Non-White VAP	
Muldoon 20+21	20	18,285	13,350	7,588	56.84%	18,285	13,349	7,872	58.97%	-2.13%
	21	18,414	14,030	5,912	42.14%	18,414	14,029	6,124	43.65%	-1.51%
	Combined	36,699	27,380	13,500	49.31%	36,699	27,378	13,996	51.12%	-1.81%

31. In this review of two external data systems that rely on 2020 Census population data, I have validated the data provided by the Board in Exhibit 1007. These have consistently contradicted the data provided by the Board in Exhibits 6004, 1013, 1014, and the Affidavit of Peter Torkelson.

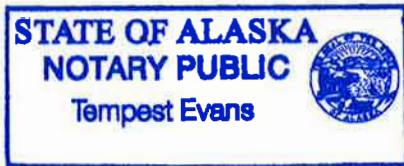
32. The Court and parties should be informed how the Board generated Exhibits 6004, 1013, and 1014. Specifically, the Board should disclose the configuration of each field included in each Active Matrix or other tabular report presented.

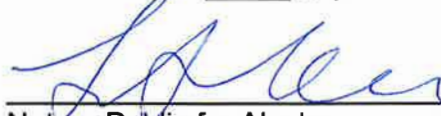
FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.



Erin Barker

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 26th day of January, 2022.





Notary Public for Alaska

My Commission expires: 11/15/2024

9.

Corrected Affidavit of Yarrow Silvers

Holly C. Wells
Mara E. Michaletz
William D. Falsey
Birch Horton Bittner & Cherot
510 L Street, Suite 700
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
hwells@bhb.com
mmichaletz@bhb.com
wfalsey@bhb.com
Telephone: 907.276.1550
Facsimile: 907.276.3680

Attorneys for Plaintiffs Felisa Wilson, George Martinez, and Yarrow Silvers

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT ANCHORAGE

In the Matter of the
2021 REDISTRICTING PLAN.

Case No. 3AN-21-08869CI

AFFIDAVIT OF YARROW SILVERS

STATE OF ALASKA)
) ss:
Third Judicial District)

I, Yarrow Silvers, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and state as follows:

1. I, along with Felisa Wilson and George Martinez, filed the above-captioned application to compel the Redistricting Board to correct errors in its adopted senate pairings.

2. I make this Affidavit to set forth my direct knowledge, observations, and my opinion as a participant and a member of the community regarding the 2021 redistricting process and impact.

3. I was born in Alaska and have lived here most of my life. I have lived in Midtown, Spenard, Jewel Lake, South Anchorage, Fairview, and East Anchorage.

4. I moved to East Anchorage in 2012, first renting and then purchasing a home in 2017.

5. I am an Environmental Scientist by degree and paid my way through college by working at several car dealerships in Anchorage.

6. I currently stay at home with my two children.

7. I became interested in the redistricting process due to current issues in representation caused by East Anchorage being represented in the Senate along with a district that is separated from us by a large swath of uninhabited park land, as well as four other districts that you have to drive through to reach the rest of our senate district. The Senator representing these two districts often held constituent meetings in Girdwood, which was prohibitive for many East Anchorage residents, and rarely attended East Anchorage Community Council meetings. I came to the first redistricting meeting to request that East Anchorage be paired with a district that had a contiguous population and proposed that this would allow East Anchorage residents fair representation.

8. I never imagined at that point in the process that the Board would choose to even further disenfranchise East Anchorage residents by pairing them with a completely different community of interest, in a different drainage system, across an uninhabited mountain range.

9. This seemed even more shocking given the testimony by members of that community who talked about current ongoing efforts to leave the Municipality and the Eagle River communities' separate and distinct sense of community.

10. Regardless of whether the law would allow Eagle River to be paired with my East Anchorage community, the reality is that our two communities of interest are completely separate both physically and in every other way.

11. Eagle River has separate parks funding, separate road maintenance (LRSA), a volunteer fire department, different building codes, rural rather than urban characteristics, different schools, and much of it is on well and septic rather than Municipal water and sewer.

12. I rarely go to Eagle River at all, going only once or twice a year to take a day-long trek to the Eagle River Nature Center and back. I do not shop there, eat there, socialize there, or even get gas there.

13. Eagle River is off the highway so I do not even frequent Eagle River when I am headed further north for recreational purposes.

14. Eagle River is, in my view, a completely different community from East Anchorage and my district, with different issues and priorities, separated by distance, a mountain range, two other districts and completely different socio-economic status.

15. Eagle River is largely more affluent with much higher average yearly incomes than my district and is much less diverse than my district and neighboring East Anchorage house districts.

16. I am currently on the Board of the Scenic Foothills Community Council where I have written and passed several resolutions about issues that are important to both me and the East Anchorage community – these include traffic calming measures, homelessness, and funding for our parks, particularly restoring funding to Chanshtnu

Park, which is an important community gathering space that was created only with strong advocacy over many years from East Anchorage residents and their elected officials.

17. When the issue of redistricting was brought up in our council meetings, it was immediately apparent that having local representation from within our community was very important to all of our council members and the resolution that was passed (which I read before the Board) was written with community input and passed unanimously with bipartisan support. While it did not support any particular map – that is for individuals to decide – it clearly stated that we desired local representation and did not want our East Anchorage community to be disenfranchised by being pieced apart or by having representation come from other communities located across vast swaths of uninhabited land with different issues and social economic considerations than East Anchorage.

18. I would like to express how disappointed I am with the way that the redistricting process turned out. The Board had an opportunity to provide a great service to the people of Alaska – to do it right, with integrity, and in keeping with the spirit and law of our State Constitution which clearly calls for a nonpartisan process that disallows political gerrymandering.

19. Instead, I observed the Republican appointed Board members John Binkley, Budd Simpson, and most egregiously Bethany Marcum, participate in a partisan gerrymander for the purpose of giving the Eagle River community greater representation in the Senate at the expense of the diverse community of East Anchorage. I watched and listened as Board member Marcum acknowledged that all of her pairings would result

in Eagle River being split between two senate districts, each paired with a fragment of East Anchorage.

20. The majority Board members did this quietly, behind closed doors and in closed meetings, with little discussion or justification for their actions.

21. I attended the majority of the Board meetings, some of the mapping sessions, and I testified throughout the process. Here is what I observed:

22. When I attended the initial mapping sessions it seemed that great effort went into socio-economic integration – which the Board defined as where people live, work, play and shop, as well as to compactness and contiguity. Somehow during these mapping sessions, they never got to Anchorage. Instead, Anchorage was dropped in at the end of the week without any visible discussion.

23. I and several others had already testified at this point about the socio-economic integration of East Anchorage. However, Marcum's Anchorage house district map, which was largely arrived at in the dark, ignored public testimony and socio-economic factors, as well as compactness it seemed – East Anchorage was sliced and diced and shaped like a pinwheel with sections flung out in all directions split between South Anchorage, the Base, and Eagle River.

24. On September 17, hours of testimony had ensued, much of it from both Eagle River and East Anchorage residents, speaking out against this portion of Marcum's house district map.

25. The Board seemed surprised by the amount of testimony and responded by changing their maps to reflect this. The Board was asked about senate pairings several times throughout this process with repeated expressions by the public to be able to

comment on these pairings while the Board toured the State with the maps. I personally testified about this on September 20, 2021. The Board indicated that senate pairings would come later, and the changed maps reflecting public testimony went on tour without senate pairings included.

26. Fast forward to the final week of mapping on November 2, 2021; Marcum decided that she wanted to substantially change her House maps and suddenly came up with a map that again sliced and diced East Anchorage – placing portions of it in Eagle River, in South Anchorage, and at a weird angle stretching over to the Base and Government Hill.

27. The Board closed the meeting to the public and spent several hours in executive session that night and into the next morning while a room full of people waited to testify. The result of the executive session was that these last-minute maps proposed by Marcum were not able to be used due to legal issues. Despite having a set of maps drawn by member Borrromeo available that met all the State Constitutional requirements of compactness, contiguity, low deviations, socio-economic integration and respected local boundaries as well as public testimony, Marcum continued trying to map out her last-minute gerrymander and Board members Simpson and Binkley continued to allow it.

28. Board member Marcum's districts continued to appear oddly-shaped with her proposal of long snake-like districts and odd configurations.

29. It appeared that, at the end of November 5, 2021, Member Simpson could not ignore the distortions in member Marcum's proposed house districts or the legal concerns that the Board kept cryptically referencing but never fully sharing. Part of this process is shown in Exhibit 1 to this Affidavit.

30. Despite what appeared to be extremely blatant efforts by member Marcum to draw districts that were in line with the districts supported by the Republican party, the Board allowed public testimony before adopting the house district map and that public testimony appeared to have a substantial impact on the Board.

31. The hours of executive session and the bizarre attempts by member Marcum to propose nonsensical districts without regard for the testimony presented by the Anchorage public led me to lose trust and faith in the redistricting process.

32. As a result of Board member Simpson's support for the Anchorage house district map, Board member Marcum seemed surprised and even asked Simpson if he was voting to support Borromeo's map. My observations of the facial expressions and posturing of Marcum gave me the impression that Board member Simpson had taken an action that Marcum did not expect.

33. While I was relieved that Board member Simpson voted in favor of Borromeo's Anchorage house district proposals, the irrational efforts of Marcum and the contorted attempts by Binkley and at times Simpson to support her proposal made me question the integrity of this supposedly nonpartisan process.

34. After Marcum's proposed house districts did not pass, the majority Board members began behaving very differently; the Board continued to hold long executive sessions without any explanation to the public about the actual reasons for the executive sessions.

35. The Board alluded to advice they had received by the Voting Rights Act consultants and the Board's attorney on the legality of the pairings but the Board kept the public in the dark.

36. The Board did not provide the public with any proposed senate pairings for its consideration before the November 8, 2021 meeting, and only permitted public testimony before revealing the Board's pairing proposals, unlike the house district map process, which allowed testimony before the adoption of the final house district map. From the outset, the Board member's conduct, the changes in the procedure, and its long executive session before taking testimony was unsettling.

37. Member Borromeo introduced senate pairings that were constitutionally sound, kept communities together and respected public testimony. Member Marcum then introduced several confusing sets of testimony, but all of which had in common the splitting of downtown into two, Eagle River into two, and East Anchorage into two, which she stated "actually gives Eagle River the opportunity to have more representation, so they certainly aren't going to be disenfranchised."

38. Marcum's pairings once again seemed to ignore community boundaries, with the exception of South Anchorage pairings that everyone seemed to be agreed upon by a consensus of all Board members.

39. Hearing Marcum comment regarding Eagle River's increased representation as if it justified the adoption of districts that the public overwhelmingly and vehemently opposed was devastating.

40. The meeting got worse as member Marcum relied upon the testimony of Felisa Wilson to support her pairings despite Ms. Wilson's repeated testimony throughout the redistricting process as being opposed to splitting the Eagle River district.

41. Marcum listed out all the ways Eagle River residents travel through or commute through my district and argued that Eagle River residents shop and eat in my district.

42. Member Borrromeo attempted to remind Marcum that while Eagle River residents might travel through East Anchorage, shopping, and dining, Muldoon residents certainly were not traveling to Eagle River to do the same.

43. I do not recall Marcum even responding to Borrromeo's comment. I do not recall Marcum making a single comment in support of her pairings that actually referenced the connections from the view of an East Anchorage resident.

44. The only other testimony Marcum referenced was that of an elected official (Jamie Allard) and another elected official's aid (Jenni Toth) in Eagle River and that of a man who arrived with Randy Ruedrich, the former chair of the Republican party and who seemed, from my observations during the meetings, to have been involved with the Board's maps in a much more involved way than other members of the public.

45. Mr. Ruedrich often conversed with the majority Board members throughout the process.

46. As I watched the Board consider the senate pairings presented by Board members Bahnke and Marcum, I do not recall either Board member Binkley or Simpson expressing actual support for them so when Chair Binkley declared that there was majority support for Marcum's pairings I was surprised. Marcum had also presented several different options to the Board so I could not determine the pairings she was actually proposing.

47. Despite the lack of comments supporting the pairings, Chair Binkley suddenly announced that there was a majority, if not consensus, in support of Marcum's senate pairings.

48. This declaration came as a complete surprise to me and, based upon my observations, many many other members of the public. Even the minority Board members seemed confused.

49. Members Borromeo and Bahnke expressed concern with these pairings and shortly thereafter Binkley shut down debate on a vote of 3 to 2, after which the Board adopted the pairings on a vote of 3 to 2 with no justification, discussion, or reasoning from members Binkley or Simpson.

50. Afterward, there was some confusion as the Board members were forced to verify what the remaining senate pairings that they had voted on were – it appeared to me as an observer that they had voted solely based on the Eagle River/East Anchorage gerrymander and did not even know what the rest of the pairings were at the time of the vote.

51. The Board appeared from its comments to go into an overnight executive session, apparently to consider the legal concerns regarding the senate pairings Binkley, Marcum, and Simpson supported.

52. After watching the house district map struggles, I hoped that the Board would emerge the next day and correct its blatant partisan actions from the day before.

53. Instead, on November 9, 2021, the Board exited executive session and almost instantly adopted Marcum's proposed senate pairings. There was no discussion except the express oppositions by the minority Board members. I did not know what the

pairings were or how they compared to the pairings from the day before. At first, most observers presumed that the pairings were the same as the previous day.

54. Ultimately, the senate pairings adopted without any discussion were not any of the versions of pairings Marcum had proposed the day before. The only pairings that stayed the same were the Eagle River pairings and the Sand Lake pairings.

55. Despite unanimous consensus of all Board members the day before, even the South Anchorage pairings had also quietly been split in a final partisan gerrymander that yielded yet one extra Republican-leaning senate seat.

56. I observed this process with disbelief at the blatant partisanship and blazon actions taken by the Board majority to carry out its partisanship.

57. The Board member's partisan efforts will have the effect of diluting and undermining the voices of the East Anchorage community of which I am a part.

58. My East Anchorage community is racially, ethnically, and socio-economically diverse and our voice, which has been split, will be drowned out by the more homogenous voice of Eagle River, a known Republican stronghold in Alaska.

59. Marcum's statement about socio-economic considerations being met by her driving down Muldoon to Midtown is emblematic of the issues that will arise from a racially diverse and low-income district having their Senate representation come from a largely white, affluent, and monolithic voting bloc in a district where contiguity is questionable across a roadless, uninhabited mountain range 14 miles away.

60. While Eagle River residents and their representatives, with incomes in some census blocks averaging \$160,000 annually, may be more concerned with the quality of their shopping experience in Midtown and possibly that the road they drive to get there is

cleared of snow, many East Anchorage residents, who reside in some of the lowest income census blocks in Anchorage, will have concerns centering on if they have enough food for the next couple of days, how they will get their kids to school, the quality of the education in their Title 1 public schools, and whether their community gathering spaces and parks will get defunded.

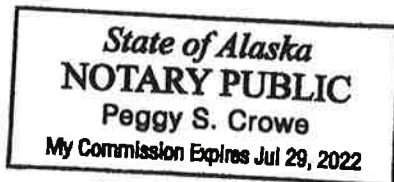
61. The Board's decision to fragment the Muldoon community, my community, to increase Eagle River's representation has diluted our voice, our capacity to advocate for our community, and our ability to participate fully in our democracy.

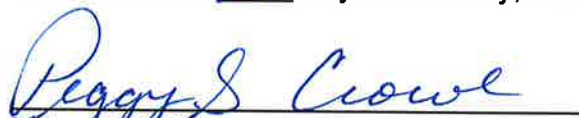
62. The Board majority's adoption of pairings without any discussion or rationale, even with the overwhelming public testimony against those pairings, made it clear to everyone watching that this Board was not playing by the rules.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.


Yarrow Silvers

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 27th day of January, 2022.




Notary Public for Alaska
My Commission expires: 7/29/2022

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on the ____ day of January, 2022, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was served electronically on the following:

Matthew Singer
Lee C. Baxter
Kayla J.F. Tanner
Schwabe Williamson & Wyatt
msinger@schwabe.com
lbaxter@schwabe.com
ktanner@schwabe.com

Thomas Flynn
Cheryl Burghart
State of Alaska
thomas.flynn@alaska.gov
cheryl.burghart@alaska.gov

Nathaniel Amdur-Clark
Whitney A. Leonard
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Miller & Monkman, LLP
nathaniel@sonosky.net
whitney@sonosky.net

Stacey C. Stone
Gregory Stein
Holmes Weddle & Barcott, P.C.
sstone@hwb-law.com
gstein@hwb-law.com

Michael A. Grisham
Dorsey & Whitney, LLP
grisham.michael@dorsey.com

Robin Brena
Laura S. Gould
Jake W. Staser
Jon S. Wakeland
Brena, Bell & Walker, P.C.
rbrena@brenalaw.com
lgould@brenalaw.com
jstaser@brenalaw.com
jwakeland@brenalaw.com

Eva Gardner
Michael Schechter
Benjamin J. Farkash
Ashburn & Mason, P.C.
eva@anchorlaw.com
mike@anchorlaw.com
ben@anchorlaw.com

BIRCH HORTON BITTNER & CHEROT

By: _____
Believed to be transmitted without error
from _____@bhb.com at approx.. _____ .m.

APPENDIX B
Senate Pairings
Testimony

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

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

From: dougrbbns@aol.com <dougrbbns@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 4:36 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Issues with Redistricting Board Maps, Versions 1 and 2

There are a number of problems with the Version 1 & Version 2 maps prepared by the Redistricting Board.

1) No Senate district maps are presented. Senate districts are a necessary part of the redistricting process, and the Board has failed in its constitutional duty to present these maps to the public.

2) There are arbitrary cut-outs that surgically excise Independent and Democratic incumbents from their current constituents and pair them in new districts with other incumbent Democrats. A one-square mile divot was placed around Representative Dan Ortiz' house, excising him from his home community of Ketchikan and doubling him up with Democratic Representative Kreiss-Tomkins in a district extending 500 miles to the north. The Board's maps also place a 1/4 square mile divot around Democratic Representative Story's house to remove her from her current constituents and double her up with Democrat Sara Hannen in a single district.

In both Board Versions, Districts 1, 3 and 4 are identical. In both maps, population was taken from District 4, with a deviation of -2.65, (including Representative Story), to add to District 3, with a deviation of -2.85. A clearly better solution is to take population from adjacent District 1, which has excess population with a positive deviation of 1.17. The Board maps fail the test of the best solution for equal population.

3) The board maps double-up and triple-up Independent and Democratic incumbents and declared candidates.

First, these maps unnecessarily place incumbent representatives Drummond, Fields and Claman in a single district. Second, one Board version places incumbent Representative Snyder (D) in a single district with Representative Spohnholz (D); while the other map gerrymanders precincts according to partisan lean to ensure that the Democrat loses. Third, both Board maps place a declared Independent candidate, Jennifer Sonne, in the same district as Independent incumbent Schrage. The only doubling up that occurred for Republicans involves an older Republican who has already indicated an interest in retiring – just enough to create plausible deniability about partisan intent.

4) Population deviations in the Municipality of Anchorage are unnecessarily high and variable for urban districts. On the Board's Version 1 map, the range of deviations is from +1.86% to -2.22% in districts 9 through 24, representing the Municipality. In Version 2, the range of deviations in districts 9 through 24 is from +0.88% to -4.71. A court ruling on the 2001 Alaska redistricting held that urban districts should be held to a higher standard of population equality than rural districts, because of the ease of adjusting urban district boundaries. The Board's maps fail this principle by drawing urban districts with an unacceptably high range of population deviations.

In general, the over-riding objective in the Board's maps appears to be disadvantage Independent and Democratic incumbents. This is an abuse of power. They may be legal, as the Supreme Court recently ruled that districting maps don't have to be fair. But a system that allows the party in power to manipulate the election apparatus for its own benefit cannot produce elections with integrity. Ultimately, those who tolerate or condone the abuse of power will eventually find that a bigger bully will abuse power against them.

Regards,
Stephen D. (Doug) Robbins
7928 Frostline Ct., Anchorage, AK 99507
832-692-3645

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

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

Date: September 16, 2021, 4:48 pm

First Name: **Doug**

Last Name: **Robbins**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: DougRbbns@aol.com

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Arbitrary divots to excise incumbent Independents and Democrats from constituents**

Public Comment: **There are arbitrary cut-outs that surgically excise Independent and Democratic incumbents from their current constituents and pair them in new districts with other incumbent Democrats.**

A one-square mile divot was placed around Representative Dan Ortiz' house, excising him from his home community of Ketchikan and doubling him up with Democratic Representative Kreiss-Tomkins in a district extending 500 miles to the north. The Board's maps also place a 1/4 square mile divot around Democratic Representative Story's house to remove her from her current constituents and double her up with Democrat Sara Hannen in a single district.

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Date: September 16, 2021, 4:49 pm

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **State Senate Districts**

Public Comment: **No Senate district maps are shown. Senate districts are a necessary part of the redistricting process, and the Board has failed in its constitutional duty to present these maps to the public.**

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Wendy Robbins <wwrobbins@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 5:56 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Cc: Wendy Robbins <wwrobbins@gmail.com>
Subject: Redistricting

I am concerned with the current two versions of Alaska's redistricting map as drawn by the Redistricting Board and feel the following issues should be addressed.

As currently drawn, many Anchorage districts exceed acceptable population deviations from the desired 18,335 especially considering the higher standard to which urban districts are held. Surely the Board can do a better job of equalizing population.

There appear to be arbitrary cut-outs that are designed to disadvantage Independent and Democratic incumbents while leaving Republican incumbents unscathed. The Board's maps doubles and even triples the number of Democratic incumbents living in the proposed new districts while leaving Republican districts alone. This smacks of gerrymandering and is completely unacceptable. I expect better of my leaders.

Finally, any redistricting plan, by necessity, should include Senate District pairings. New House Districts should not be approved prior to allowing the public to see Senate District pairings. It's impossible to assess an overall plan without these. The Board has a duty to simultaneously present both House and Senate districts to the public.

Thank you for taking testimony. I look forward to seeing updated maps.

Sincerely,

Wendy Robbins
7928 Frostline Court
Anchorage, AK 99507

From: Tyler Watson <tylerjwatson49@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 4:00 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Testimony Regarding Draft Redistricting Maps

Dear Redistricting Board,

My name is Tyler Watson, a resident of HD27, and I'm representing myself. I'm writing because I'm concerned about the draft maps released and their implications for East Anchorage districts. I understand that as the Redistricting Board you must juggle several constitutional requirements in creating new districts, but from my perspective the draft maps released fail almost all of the criteria aside from lack of deviation from the ideal district size.

Article VI, Section 6 of the Alaska Constitution: "Each house district shall be formed of contiguous and compact territory containing as nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area. Each shall contain a population as near as practicable to the quotient obtained by dividing the population of the state by forty. Each senate district shall be composed as near as practicable of two contiguous house districts. Consideration may be given to local government boundaries. Drainage and other geographic features shall be used in describing boundaries whenever possible."

In reading this constitutional mandate and looking at the draft maps I'm struck by large sections of Muldoon being put into a district with Eagle River. Those two communities are not even "relatively integrated" and while both are in Anchorage, these maps seem to ignore the local boundaries of Muni Assembly districts and Community Councils. I don't think any resident of Muldoon or Eagle River would say they identify with the other as living in the same community and I fear representation for both communities would be weakened by such a district.

From my view Muldoon has much more in common with neighborhoods to the west such as Wonder Park, Russian Jack, Airport Heights, and Mountain View. I ask the board to reconsider these draft maps and strive to keep Anchorage districts within Anchorage proper. Eagle River and East Anchorage each deserve representation dedicated to them and focused on their needs.

Thank you,

Tyler Watson
Anchorage, AK

--

Tyler Watson
Email: tylerjwatson49@gmail.com
Cell: 303-960-1273

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Wendy Robbins <wwrobbins@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 5:56 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Cc: Wendy Robbins <wwrobbins@gmail.com>
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Finally, any redistricting plan, by necessity, should include Senate District pairings. New House Districts should not be approved prior to allowing the public to see Senate District pairings. It's impossible to assess an overall plan without these. The Board has a duty to simultaneously present both House and Senate districts to the public.

Thank you for taking testimony. I look forward to seeing updated maps.

Sincerely,

Wendy Robbins
7928 Frostline Court
Anchorage, AK 99507

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Dael Devenport <dael.devenport@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 5:34 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: AK Redistricting Maps

Alaska Redistricting Board:

Please revise your proposed district maps to reflect community boundaries and more fairly and accurately represent the population.

The proposed maps fail to respect existing borough and city boundaries. Option 1 has parts of the Anchorage Municipality and Matsu Borough combined. This plan puts rural Matsu population south of the Knik river into the Municipality of Anchorage. It is not constitutional to combine portions of the Anchorage Municipality and MatSu Borough into the same house district. Anchorage and Mat Su are entitled to control 16 and 6 seats, respectively, but both lack a small amount of population, which if practicable should be added from elsewhere and not by taking from another borough that is also short of needed population.

The Municipality of Anchorage and the MatSu Borough cannot be treated as one entity. The Anchorage Municipality and the Mat Su Borough both have strong, distinct identities. The borough and the municipality are distinct socio-economic entities and entitled to the legal presumption the courts have established that local boundaries will be respected if possible. In reality it appears that socio-economic integration between Mat Su and Anchorage is limited. It can be argued that virtually every part of the state has some integration with Anchorage because of its role as the state's major economic hub - many Alaskans shop in Anchorage and visit Anchorage when making connections to travel outside the state. However, this casual integration due to shopping, occasional travel and some commuter employment is not sufficient to overcome established local government boundaries and other non-similar characteristics (e.g. urban v rural). The Matsu Borough is not a suburb of Anchorage, it has its own distinct culture, healthcare infrastructure, identity, and economy.

East Anchorage and Eagle River are two distinct communities, the representation of these communities should reflect that. Eagle River should be kept together. Eagle River has almost enough population for two House seats and one Senate seat. It makes more sense to fill out Eagle River with the population from JBER, a community that has far closer socio-economic ties to Eagle River than the Valley or Muldoon. Community members have testified that this makes sense. Chugiak/Eagle River has an organized movement that is attempting to split from the Anchorage Municipality, which argues for keeping this community intact. It is a realistic possibility that Eagle River could be in a separate borough during the life of this plan.

Again, please revise your drafts to respect community boundaries and more fairly and accurately represent the population.

Thank you,
Dael Devenport
Anchorage, AK

With compassion for all beings

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Lea Filippi <leafilippi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 17, 2021 1:15 AM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Public Testimony regarding proposed redistricting

Dear Board Members,

Both proposed redistricting maps fail to appropriately respect borough and city boundaries. Both proposed maps present districts which are not appropriately compact and do not appropriately respect established connections between communities and the principles of socioeconomic integration.

For example, the Kenai Peninsula Borough includes Tyonek which is connected to the rest of the Borough not just by the fact that Tyonek's students are served by the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District but also by mutual interest in the petroleum industry. Tyonek is within the footprint of CIRI, not BBNC or Aleut Corp.

Both of the proposed maps present Southeast Alaska in a configuration which is contrary to the requirements of compactness and socioeconomic integration. It's not sensible or necessary, for example, to pair Craig, Hydaburg, and Thorne Bay and other communities on Prince of Wales with areas as far away as Yakutat when they could instead be paired with areas immediately to their east and inland such as Ketchikan to which they are much more connected by established transportation routes. Furthermore, the city of Ketchikan and its airport should be paired, not split apart.

Eagle River should be together for one Senate seat. Eagle River is most socioeconomically integrated with itself and with Chugiak. If additional population is needed to fill out an Eagle River District then that population should come from JBER which has closer ties to Eagle River than Muldoon.

The coastal communities of Seward and Homer belong together in a single district. It makes more sense to pair those communities with Kodiak, which is also a coastal community with shared industries, values, and the connection of ferry service, than it does to stretch the Kodiak District past them over to Cordova. The district for Kodiak as drawn in the proposed maps is not appropriately compact. Doing so would also appropriately put Seldovia and Nanwalek in the same district as Homer to whom they are much more socioeconomically connected than Tatitlek or Cordova.

Particularly in Proposed Map 1, the lines drawn within Anchorage do not match existing patterns of community or sense of neighborhood. Look, for example, at my own neighborhood where I live just off the far western end of Northern Lights Boulevard. In Proposed Map 1 Under the proposed map, a couple of small streets immediately to the west of my house abutting Jones Lake would be split away from their nearest residential neighbors to connect them instead to a large nonresidential area including the airport and related commercial businesses such as Fed Ex, etc. No one lives on Aircraft Drive or Lake Hood Drive or Helio Place. That's not residential. How can it possibly make sense to require the residents of Jones Ave and Katalla Circle and half of the residents of Wendy's Way to vote separately from the rest of the residents of Wendy's Way by pulling them into what's marked in Proposed Map 1 as District 11? Their children go to Turnagain Elementary School, Romig and West. All of the families on Wendy's Way are part of the same neighborhood as me, immediately to their east on Woronzof Drive in what's marked as District 16. It makes no sense to split the end of Wendy's Way off into District 11 and pair them with the Taku/Campbell area. Looking past that specific detail regarding the

SENATE TESTIMONY

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To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
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SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Lea Filippi <leafilippi@hotmail.com>
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
4411 Woronzof Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99517

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Tompkins, Katherine A. <tompkins.60@buckeyemail.osu.edu>
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

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

From: Kim Jones <kimberlykingjones.ak@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 6:10 PM
To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>
Subject: Support for Alaskans for Fair Redistricting Map

Hello,

I would like to request that the board adopt the redistricting map proposed by Alaskans for Fair Redistricting. For one thing, the AFFR maps treat Matsu, Eagle River, and Anchorage as distinct socioeconomic communities. I've lived in Alaska for over a decade and it only took me about a month to see the differences in these three areas. The people of Eagle River are currently working towards an Eagle Exit, so it only makes sense to consider them one community. If Muldoon was lumped in with Eagle River they would never receive the support that they need, being one of our most diverse communities. The AFFR map puts Eagle River into two House Districts, allowing it to be its own Senate District.

Board Map 1 lumps much of West Anchorage into one large House district from downtown to Kinkaid and Board Map 2 puts Turnagain with Downtown Anchorage! I live in Turnagain and can tell you that this does not make sense. The AFFR map instead puts Turnagain in the same district as Spenard, Westchester, and Bootleggers Cove. I walk along the coastal trail nearly every day and make the trek from Turnagain to Westchester Lagoon and back almost once a week. I nearly always see my neighbors that live along the trail. That is my community and it only makes sense to have us represented in a single House District. Downtown Anchorage is incredibly distinct from Turnagain in every aspect and it does not make sense to lump them together.

Thank you in advance for taking the AFFR map on the road with you!

- Kim

--

Kimberly King Jones
(405) 612-7695

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Laura Norton-Cruz <laura.nortoncruz@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, September 19, 2021 8:32 PM

To: Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>

Subject: Testimony on Redistricting

Hello,

I am writing as an Alaskan to voice my concern about the The Alaska Redistricting Board has put forth multiple problematic maps fraught with gerrymandering that split our communities, disadvantage our diverse electorate, and shamelessly place partisan politics over geography, community, and civis.

Alaskans for Fair Redistricting has proposed an alternative map that is contiguous and compact and doesn't split communities between House Districts. I am asking you to take up the Fair Redistricting maps rather than the gerrymandered ones currently being proposed.

A few problems with the current proposals from the redistricting board, which could be resolved with the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting maps:

- The **Board Map** combines all of West Anchorage, from downtown to Kincaid, in one district. My children and I live in Turnagain, and I can tell you this does not make sense, as it combines very geographically and culturally distinct areas. The **AFFR** redistricting combines a few West Anchorage neighborhoods that are already connected by trails to each other in a way that is more logical.
- The **Board Map** carves out 5 houses separate from the rest of the geographical line in Juneau specifically to bring one Democratic Representative into the District of the other. This is the same thing that Republican-led redistricting did in Fairbanks previously by trying to include Scott Kawasaki's house into an existing district (but instead including his sister Sonya's house). What was known then as the "Kawasaki finger" was a brazenly partisan and corrupt, gerrymandered move to disenfranchise representation by a Democrat, and we are seeing that exact same attempt to make a nonsensical carveout in order to combine Sara Hannan and Andi Story's districts in Juneau. This does not serve democracy, or Alaskans' trust in government or policymakers.
- The **Board Maps overpopulates the Fairbanks districts** and does not respect Borough and City boundaries. It breaks the City of Fairbanks in two directions.
- The **AFFR MAP divides the greater FNSB into east and west districts** in order to create more compact and socio-economically integrated districts
- The **Board Maps combine parts of Anchorage and the MatSu** Borough which are clearly distinct socio-economic communities. The Matsu is not a suburb of Anchorage - it has its own distinct culture, healthcare infrastructure, identity, and economy.
- The **Board Maps combine East Anchorage and Eagle River**, which are two distinct socio-economic communities. Eagle River should be kept together into two House Seats and one Senate District. Portions of JBER are closer tied to Eagle River than Muldoon. The Eagle Exit movement makes it clear that they consider themselves a separate entity from Anchorage.
- The **AFFR Map does not include any part of the Matsu Borough with Anchorage**, divides JBER by gates in order to connect service members with the businesses that they use off-base, and **ensures that Eagle River has its own Senate District separate from East Anchorage.**

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Margo Waring <margowaring@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 25, 2021 3:28 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting Board maps

Public Testimony:

I have lived in Alaska for 50 years and, so, have seen prior redistricting efforts. I have also been a member of the League of Women Voters during those years and, in the last decade, worked at the national LWV level on redistricting.

Here are some things I know:

Redistricting is political and determines elections.

No state reapportions/redistricts in a totally non- partisan way, but some states do better than others.

You don't need to "plug in" voter registration information or incumbency in order to know exactly how people in an area are voting (one of the reasons people are selected to serve on the Redistricting Board is because they are deeply familiar with these details). It is disingenuous to claim otherwise.

The latest computer technology allows mapping that reduces deviance throughout the map.

This board's maps are partisan.

1. Chance or fairness would never have only one instance of GOP legislators being placed in the same district, while there are many instances in which Democratic legislators are moved into the same district. Members of the Coalition are especially targeted. This is gerrymandering by definition.
2. The Board asks for public input without providing needed information for commenting. Specifically, the Board has not shown the public the Senate pairings with their maps, making it likely that these are as targeted and gerrymandered as the House maps are.
3. The latest computer technology allows mapping that reduces deviance throughout the map, while preserving the other criteria. That deviance is not uniformly low in the Board's maps is indicative of some level of gerrymandering.
4. Here are examples of gerrymandering to weight the chances of GOP candidates winning elections: in Fairbanks, placing Salcha and Harding Lake with Chena Ridge; in Southeast, the obvious carve out that places Representatives Story and Hannan in the same district. In Ketchikan, the odd district for Representative Ortiz.

Every submitted Redistricting map since statehood has been challenged in the courts and has been rejected by the Alaska Supreme Court. This one will be, too. Why not make a fair map, a map acceptable to the courts, a goal for this redistricting effort.

Margo Waring
11380 N. Douglas Hwy
Juneau, AK 99801

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Tim Hinterberger <tim.hinterberger@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 1, 2021 4:34 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: District map proposals

Dear members of the redistricting board,

I wish to submit my comments on the six maps currently available, based on what Alaska's Constitution lays out as very clear criteria for drawing maps. Here are the criteria that are supposed to drive map making:

- Low population deviation: Ideally, every district would have the exact same number of people.
- Compactness: Shorter total circumference of a district is more compact.
- Socioeconomic integration: Consistency in types of communities in a district; consideration may be given to local government boundaries and geographic features.
- Contiguity: House districts must also be contiguous:

That said, here are my thoughts on the maps:

- AFFR's map is a blatant gerrymander that ignores compactness and socioeconomic integration.
- AFFR's map has a population deviation of 4.79%, which is much less deviation than the Board's V3 or V4 maps, while achieving equal or greater compactness and integration. AFFR (unlike Board V4) keeps Eagle River House seats contiguous, rather than pairing Anchorage/Eagle River House seats. AFFR's Eagle River seats are also more compact. Having Homer and Seward in a House district is logical and more socioeconomically integrated than the Board maps, given the nature of size, economies, and culture of these coastal towns.
- Board Version 3 has extremely high population deviation throughout the state, which should disqualify it. It includes a bizarre gerrymander of the Mendenhall Valley. A map that follows the Constitutional guidance of socioeconomic integration, and lines following geographic features, would keep the Mendenhall Valley together (as multiple other maps like AFFR and Senate Minority do). Fairbanks districts have huge population deviations (are overpopulated), which discounts votes from Fairbanks.
- Board Version 4 has the highest population deviations of any map being advertised for public comment, for districts in Anchorage. This high level of population deviation is unnecessary and should be rejected.
- This map pairs Anchorage House seats in Government Hill and East Anchorage with Eagle River House seats in a transparent attempt to create another Republican senate seat. It is more logical to pair the two Eagle River House seats, which more closely matches the Constitutional mandate to pair contiguous seats to the greatest extent practical. This is particularly important since Eagle River may well become a separate local government with an active succession movement underway. Board Version 4 creates a strange Mendenhall Valley gerrymander.
- The Senate Minority map achieves the lowest population deviations, and along with other maps such as AFFR demonstrates that the high population deviations in Board V3 and V4 are not necessary. Applying the multi-factor balancing test of compactness, contiguity, integration, and minimal population deviation, the Senate Minority has the strongest Southeast map.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Tim Hinterberger
Anchorage

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: chelsea foster <chelsea@cannacommunity.net>
Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 3:10 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: I support the AFFR map

To whom it may concern,

I am supporting the AFFR Map. The reason why is very simple. The AFFR plan is the only plan that respects the distinct and diverse communities in the East Anchorage, Mountain View, Fairview and Downtown areas. It is the only map that does not split off some of these areas and include them in an Eagle River, South Anchorage, or a large, unified JBER district, where the people living in these areas will have their votes diluted and end up without meaningful representation. This is a simple matter of equity. These communities are highly diverse and eliminating representation in them would also eliminate minority representation. Although the board may be more inclined to choose one of their own board maps, strong feedback on the AFFR map can at the very least help inform changes that the board makes to their maps to make them more equitable.

Board options 3 and 4 divide the neighborhoods of East Anchorage, Downtown, Fairview, and Mountain View. The AFFR map does not.

AFFR's Map reflects the diversity of Anchorage's neighborhoods

- Anchorage's growing diversity is one of Anchorage's defining socio-economic features
- The Municipality of Anchorage's minority population is now 43.5%

The AFFR Plan's Anchorage deviation is 0.35% with no district more than 36 people from ideal.

The AFFR plan includes senate pairings.

EASTSIDE

- The AFFR plan recognizes the connections servicemembers on JBER have with the nearby neighborhoods off-base and structures the JBER districts around the gates so that servicemembers can be in the same district as the services and businesses they use off-base.
- Both board option 3 & 4 group JBER population together as a whole including parts of Mountain View & Downtown into a district with the rest of JBER.
- AFFR does not put any part of East Anchorage in a district with South Anchorage, as does board map 3.
- AFFR is the only map that keeps the Northeast Community Council within one Senate district.
- AFFR is the only map that has two Eastside Senate districts (K+I) without any South Anchorage portions.
- AFFR Senate District I puts the U-Med district into a Senate district with the Eastside neighborhoods where many of the health care and university workers live.

WESTSIDE

SENATE TESTIMONY

- AFFR is the only map that keeps all of the neighborhoods along the Coastal Trail in one House district (16).
- AFFR puts the Spenard and Turnagain areas within one Senate district (H).
- AFFR puts the lakeside neighborhoods around Lake Hood, Jewel Lake, Delong Lake, and Sand Lake within one House district (12).
- AFFR has two Westside Senate districts, a Northwest district (H) and a Southwest district (F).
- AFFR puts the neighborhoods of Southwest Anchorage within one Senate district (F) allowing all the neighborhoods along the Turnagain Arm bluff to be within the same district.

DOWNTOWN

- AFFR keeps the Fairview neighborhood within one House district (20) and the MountainView neighborhood within one Senate district (J), allowing these highly diverse neighborhoods to be within the same Senate district.

SOUTHSIDE

- AFFR puts the Hillside neighborhoods within one Senate district (E), with no portion of East Anchorage or Midtown
- AFFR puts the Abbott Loop neighborhood within its own House district (14)
- AFFR puts the Huffman/ O'Malley neighborhoods within one district (10) keeping houses on both the north and south sides of Hillside Drive in the same district.
- AFFR puts the South Hillside in a distinct House district (9) from Huffman/ O'Malley and in a district with the Turnagain Arm communities.

--

Chelsea Foster

Alaskan Activist

907-229-8197

Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)

I live and work on Dena'ina land.

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Cheryl Lovegreen <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 4:46 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: October 3, 2021, 4:45 pm

First Name: **Cheryl**

Last Name: **Lovegreen**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **none**

Email or Phone Contact: **lovegreensnorth@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **AFFR and Sen. Minority Plan**

Public Comment: **I appreciate everyone's work on the redistricting plans and acknowledge that every plan has its pros and cons. When comparing the six map plans, I like the AFFR and Senate Minority plans best because they seem the fairest across the state. I have a couple comments about the Anchorage bowl. The Senate Minority plan does a good job in the Eagle River/Chugiak area, giving these distinct populations their own districts. The AFFR plan keeps many of the Anchorage neighborhoods intact, which gives them more compactness and socio-economic integration.**

I also encourage the Board to propose the Senate paintings early on so the public has a chance to consider them well before the deadline. Thank you.

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: CHRISTINA NEAL <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Sunday, October 3, 2021 2:02 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: October 3, 2021, 2:01 pm

First Name: **CHRISTINA**

Last Name: **NEAL**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **TNEAL@GCI.NET**

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **I have reviewed the proposed redistricting maps and thank you for the opportunity to comment.**

My concerns are primarily as an East Anchorage resident wanting to see like communities stay together, respecting historical boundaries, and preserving as much of a sense of community as possible for areas with common socio-economic status, issues of transportation, schools, and services.

To me, the AFFR proposal for Anchorage comes closest to this goal. Other versions split neighborhoods that have been long contiguous in terms of representation and common issues of concern like road maintenance, parks, schools, and the availability of services.

Board options 3 and 4 divide the neighborhoods of East Anchorage, Downtown, Fairview, and Mountain View, neighborhoods with significant ethnic and socio-economic diversity. The AFFR map does not.

Additional specific comments on the AFFR maps follow:

AFFR's Map reflects the diversity of Anchorage's neighborhoods; the city's minority population is growing quickly, and it is a disservice to dilute minority representation through redistricting.

The AFFR plan recognizes the continuity of JBER with nearby neighborhoods that contain services frequented by JBER residents, rather than as in board options 3&4 which cluster JBER with parts of Mountainview and Downtown, communities very distinct from military families.

My neighborhood south of 36th and east of the Tudor-Muldoon curve, has little in common with any part of south Anchorage. Houses here are less expensive, with denser development, and more diversity. The AFFR map does not lump Chugach Foothills with south Anchorage, and it keeps the current northeast community council within a single senate district. The Far North Bicentennial Park is a natural watershed and longstanding political division between districts in Anchorage that should be respected.

SENATE TESTIMONY

The west side of Anchorage should be as contiguous as possible, and the AFFR map is the only one that keeps all of the neighborhoods along the Coastal Trail in one House district as well as Spenard and Turnagain areas within one Senate district.

South and west Anchorage lakeside communities near Lake Hood, Jewel Lake, Delong Lake, and Sand Lake are within one House district in the AFFR map. AFFR puts the neighborhoods of Southwest Anchorage within one Senate district allowing all the neighborhoods along the Turnagain Arm bluff to be within the same district.

AFFR keeps the Fairview neighborhood within one House district and the Mountainview neighborhood within one Senate district (J), allowing these increasingly diverse neighborhoods to be within the same Senate district.

Hillside neighborhoods have strong commonalities regarding roadways, lot size, water issues, development, and higher general housing prices. The AFFR map puts the Hillside neighborhoods within one Senate district and does not incongruously lump them with lower-income East Anchorage or Midtown.

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Tyler Watson <tylerjwatson49@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 9:18 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting Testimony Following Anchorage Townhall

Dear members of the Redistricting Board,

First, thank you for your hard work and for being available to speak with the public about the proposed maps and to take public testimony today in Anchorage. And special thanks to Bethany Marcum for taking the time to speak to my husband and I about the map drawing process and some of the particulars regarding the Board's v3 and v4 maps. We learned a lot!

As I've stated in previous written testimony and as I told Ms. Marcum this evening, many of my initial concerns were resolved with the updates to maps v3 and v4. As an East Anchorage resident, I'm happy to see that we are no longer attached to Eagle River in the proposed house districts. I spoke with Ms. Marcum regarding questions I had with potential senate pairings and my desire to keep East Anchorage and Eagle River separate. Thanks to that discussion, I now understand the Supreme Court precedent stating that all of the Muni of Anchorage can be considered socioeconomically integrated, however I want to reiterate that I believe that both East Anchorage and Eagle River would be best served with dedicated representation at both the house and senate levels.

As for the other maps, I'd urge the Board to consider adopting the AFFR map. It has small deviations and just "makes sense" to me looking at the map of Anchorage and particularly my neighborhood.

Once again, thanks for your work. And best of luck going forward.

Regards,

Tyler Watson
East Anchorage

--

Tyler Watson
Email: tylerjwatson49@gmail.com
Cell: 303-960-1273

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 4, 2021, 1:35 pm

First Name: **Martha** Last Name: **Ginsburg** Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Email or Phone Contact: pattyginsburg@me.com

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Equal representation and keeping like communities together**

Public Comment: **I urge you to adopt the plan put forth by Alaskans For Fair Redistricting. the AFFR plan has substantially better deviations within Anchorage, ensuring that all neighborhoods are equally represented.**

The AFFR plan is the only plan that respects the distinct and diverse communities in the East Anchorage and Mountain View areas. Board options 3 and 4 divide the neighborhoods of Downtown, Fairview and Mountain View.

- **These neighborhoods are very diverse and feed into the most diverse schools in the state. The diversity of these communities should be respected and not grouped with JBER in a way that would erase minority representation**
- **Mountain View and Fairview are tight-knit communities with active community councils. The AFFR plan has Chugiak and Eagle River in their own Senate district without any portion of the Anchorage Bowl.**

Board options 3 and 4 would likely pair sections of Anchorage with Eagle River.

- **Chugiak and Eagle River are distinct culturally and socio-economically from the Anchorage Bowl. Furthermore, there is a well-organized movement for them to leave the MOA to form their own borough (Eagle Exit).**

The AFFR plan respects community councils as much as possible. In one example, the Northeast Community Council is kept entirely in one district.

The AFFR plan recognizes the connections that JBER service members have with the off-base neighborhoods nearby. The AFFR plan structures the JBER districts around the gates so that service members can be in the same district as the services and businesses they use off-base.

- **Board options 3 & 4 group JBER population together as a whole with parts of Mountain View & Downtown.**

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Catherine Heroy <catherineaheroy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:35 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting feedback

Dear redistricting board,

First, thank you for your time and effort to parse through a complicated set of criteria for assigning districts based on the most recent census information. I am sure this was a challenging task, and I appreciate that you are striving for a balance for Alaska's future.

As an Anchorage resident of the last 18 years, I focused my attention on the plans as they pertain to this part of the state. I hope that residents from other parts of the state weigh in on which options best suit their local communities.

I am writing to support the AFFR redistricting proposal as it pertains to the Anchorage area. This version maintains tight deviations, keeping like numbers of residents per district, as well as maintaining population pockets with similar characteristics, such as the diverse communities in the Mountain View and Downtown areas. I believe this matches the spirit of districts - allowing residents with similar interests to have a stronger voice than if they were broken into pockets in larger districts. I also appreciate that this version allows Chugiak and Eagle River a Senate district that would allow its perspective to be represented without influence from the Anchorage municipal bowl - this could be especially useful to these residents if they continue to pursue separation from the Municipality. Lastly, I value the emphasis this version placed on maintaining community council regions where possible - I think that districts and community councils can align in ways that most accurately represent the values of the residents in those areas.

I know you are able to modify the plans so your ultimate choice may incorporate options from different versions. It appears there are benefits and drawbacks to each of the proposals, but in the time I had available to review them, it appears the AFFR version is the best fit for Anchorage's diverse population.

Thank you for taking public feedback on this important process.

Sincerely,
Catherine Heroy

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Cathy Medland <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 7:54 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: October 4, 2021, 7:54 pm

First Name: **Cathy**

Last Name: **Medland**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **Crashnspud@hotmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Map 3**

Public Comment: **I am gravely concerned that there are those who want to throw Eagle River in with Anchorage in a redistricting attempt which is totally unwarranted and unwanted! Eagle River is nothing like Anchorage, as we have distinctly different issues...Rural versus city, small town versus big town, conservative vs. liberal, etc.**

Things would be SO much better if Eagle River were totally separate from Anchorage, especially as distinct municipalities, and we are currently working on doing just that. Please do not allow a small number of devious people to make us lose our Senate seat which is vital to the integrity and representativeness of our people...It is exactly these underhanded attempts at Anchorage people trying to force unwanted decisions on to Eagle River, under the cover of darkness and unannounced times for opinions to be made, that prove that this is not the will of the Eagle River people, and MUST be stopped! We say a vehement "NO" !!

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Yarrow Griffith <roadweed@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 6:02 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Testimony

I want to thank the board for listening to past public testimony and adjusting the maps to separate East Anchorage from Eagle River.

I have concerns that the board maps do not show senate pairings and I would like to request that the board allow public testimony on these pairings before adopting a map.

I still have concerns with map 3 regarding the part of the Scenic Foothills Community Council area located around the Muldoon Curve being placed in a South Anchorage district. This is my Community Council and as you've heard me testify before, South and East Anchorage have large income differentials and are socio-economically distinct from each other. I appreciate the changes made to map 4 in East Anchorage but do have some concerns with the way it lumps part of Fairview, Mountain View, and Downtown into a unified base district.

I like the AFFR plan. The AFFR plan fully respects the distinct and diverse communities in the East Anchorage, Mountain View, Fairview and Downtown areas and does not dilute the votes of voters in these areas. I also appreciate the low deviations of both the AFFR and Doyon Maps.

Thank you,
Yarrow Silvers

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Tammy Smith <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 12:47 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: October 4, 2021, 12:47 pm

First Name: **Tammy**

Last Name: **Smith**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **tlsmith424@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **MAP 3**

Public Comment: **Please keep Eagle River on its own. We DO NOT want to combine Eagle River with East Anchorage for District 24. This is nothing more than the democrats trying to take a republican held seat away from us. This affects both the assembly and the state level. If this happens, thereâ€™s a good chance we will lose the Republican senate seat now held by Lora Reinbold. Please Vote YES on Map 3!!!**

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Liz Walker <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 4, 2021 4:52 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: October 4, 2021, 4:51 pm

First Name: **Liz**

Last Name: **Walker**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **busi64alaska@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99502**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Map 3**

Public Comment: **Map 3 is decent for most of Anchorage. I do not like Eagle River with JBER and Downtown.**

I like the other maps 1 and 2 that you had before that have Eagle River and East Anchorage together. Eagle River and Downtown have different constituencies and if combined, may cost us a senate seat.

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 4, 2021, 3:03 pm

First Name: **Karyn** Last Name: **Warner** Your ZIP Code: **99516** Email: ak_kwarner@yahoo.com

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

Public Comment: **Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the redistricting plans for Alaska. As an Anchorage (Dena'ina EĀ nena) resident/guest for now 22 years, rather than looking Statewide, I'm choosing to focus on Anchorage. I believe that the AFFR Plan best fits Anchorage's population.**

The AFFR Plan meets the criteria for Compactness and Contiguity, as there appear to be no "bizarre designs" nor islands apart from their district plopped into another.

Criterion: Socio-economic integration

A. The AFFR Plan allows for the diverse and distinct communities in the East Anchorage Mountain View areas. It keeps more intact the neighborhoods of Downtown, Fairview and Mountain View (Fairview and Mountain View additionally have robust community councils). This is in contrast to Board options 3 and 4 which would divide these racially and ethnically diverse communities - diluting minority representation by its inclusion with Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER).

B. The AFFR Plan keeps Anchorage community councils more intact, eg Mountain View, Fairview, Northeast.

C. The AFFR Plan recognizes that JBER servicemembers and their families do go off base, so includes JBER with surrounding areas to accommodate the services and businesses they may frequent.

D. The AFFR Plan recognizes that Chugiak and Eagle River are distinct culturally and socio-economically from Anchorage (Bowl) and carves Chugiak/Eagle River into its own Senate district, separate from Anchorage. There is even talk of "Eagle Exit" to separate from the Municipality of Anchorage by an organized group of residents.

Criterion: Equality of population

Ensuring that all neighborhoods are represented equally, the AFFR Plan has a better deviation within Anchorage than the Board's v.3, v.4 and AFFR's Plan. AFFR Plan deviation = 0.35% (Board v.3=0.93%, AFFR Plan=2.06%, Board v.4=2.23%). In addition to a better deviation within Anchorage, the AFFR Plan redistricts most closely to the "ideal" number of people. AFFR Plan is no more than 36 people from "ideal" (Board v.3=199, AFFR Plan=240, Board v.4=330).

The AFFR Plan submitted makes the most sense for the above-mentioned reasons for Anchorage redistricting. It is the best drawn map for Anchorage to recognize socio-economic integration, most closely represent equality of population, and while abiding by the criteria of compactness and contiguity. Thank you for your consideration.

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Paul Robarge <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 4:54 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: October 11, 2021, 4:53 pm

First Name: **Paul**

Last Name: **Robarge**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **907-575-7285**

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **Hello my name is Paul Robarge. I am born and raised in East Anchorage along with my grand parents, mother, father, aunts, uncles and the rest of my family. North East Anchorage is a very unique area that differs from all others throughout Anchorage and the rest of the state of Alaska. We take pride in being from the East side. We are one of the most ethnically, racially, and socioeconomic diverse areas in the United States along with being the most population dense area of all of Alaska. We are a strong distinct community. The thought of redistricting the East side or adding anywhere else that is not part of North East Anchorage makes my blood boil. South Anchorage and Eagle River have nothing to do with or are any way similar to North East Anchorage. Our local issues are completely unique to North East Anchorage and no where else. We deserve representation under one Senate District and our boundaries should include the entire North East Community Council map including the portion of JBER that uses the Muldoon gate and includes Tikahtnu Commons and Bartlett High School within our district. The only people that should have anything to say or do with the East side had better live on the East side. I resent the thought of being tied in to the community of Eagle River or the South side of Anchorage that has no idea what the needs of or even what life is like on the East side as we have absolutely nothing in common in any way. We are the largest community in the most de nse space in Alaska and we demand proper representation and or voice and needs should not be diluted by Eagle River or South Anchorage.**

Thank you

Paul Robarge

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Leonard Miller <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2021 11:31 AM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: October 19, 2021, 11:31 am

First Name: **Leonard**

Last Name: **Miller**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **lmiller@ptialaska.net**

Your ZIP Code: **99603**

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

Public Comment: **Board: Thank-you for your work and input session in Homer. In talking to a staff member it was revealed that senate districts are not finalized until house district lines are certain. Is this a good strategy in light of the fact that Kodiak becomes a district mess as lines drawn in each proposal are very broken? In my opinion, Kodiak senate district lines should include the island and move west until population numbers are acceptable to the board. I believe Kodiak should not be in the same senate district as Homer communities and Seward, which should be part of a Kenai/Soldotna senate district. If I had to pick a proposal I'd say AFFER seems reasonable except for Kodiak's sprawling, broken district and the unfortunate senate district concerns I've mentioned. It might be nice if Port Graham and Nanwalek were in the same district as Seldovia, in the AFFER proposal, but perhaps those villages would prefer to be included in Kodiak's house district. I don't know. Thank-you. Leonard Miller**

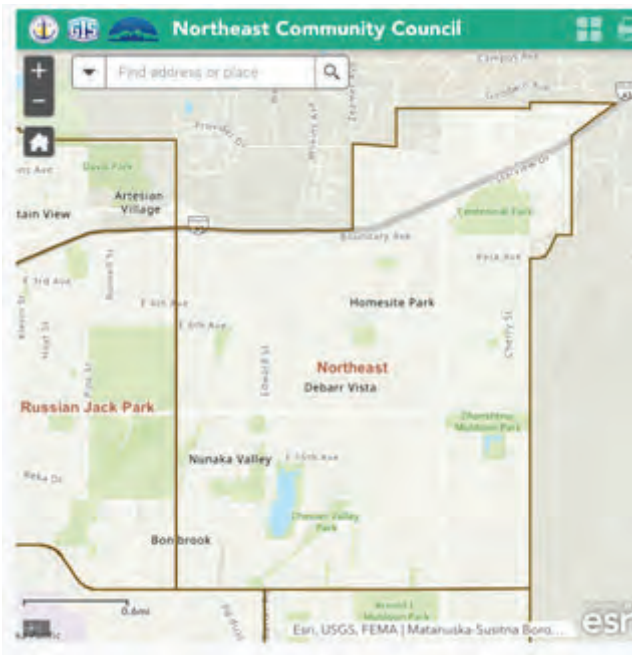
Resolution 2021-5

Northeast Community Council (NECC)

October 21, 2021

Statewide Redistricting

WHEREAS, the Northeast Community Council (NECC) is the Community Council that is the voice of the people of Northeast Anchorage and includes the following boundaries:



WHEREAS, according to Census data, Northeast Anchorage has one of the most ethnically and racially diverse populations in the United States;

WHEREAS, Northeast Anchorage is a distinct and socioeconomically integrated area with strong neighborhood identities very different than that of Eagle River and South Anchorage;

WHEREAS, Northeast Anchorage is home to many active-duty service members and Veterans who frequent the businesses and services provided along Muldoon Rd and near the Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER) Muldoon Rd. gate;

WHEREAS, in the past, portions of Northeast Anchorage have been included within districts including Eagle River and/or South Anchorage that are not socioeconomically similar and have very different legislative interests;

SENATE TESTIMONY

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the NECC respectfully asks the Alaska Redistricting Board to

1. Protect our neighborhoods and maintain our neighborhood ties by including the entire NECC boundaries within one Senate District;
2. Include the portion of JBER that uses the Muldoon Rd. gate and includes Tikahtnu Commons and Bartlett High School within our District.

Votes for: 12 Votes Against: 3 Abstain: 4

Motion Passes / Motion Does Not Pass

President: *J. Bak*

Secretary: *Rachel Bonner*

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Larry Rundquist <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2021 10:01 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: October 25, 2021, 10:00 pm

First Name: **Larry**

Last Name: **Rundquist**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **rundquist@gci.net**

Your ZIP Code: **99508-3200**

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

Public Comment: **I live in Airport Heights and many neighbors work in U-Med area and thus the AFER map is most reasonable for senate seat I. But I would extend the northern boundary to include Alaska Regional and northern Airport Heights amd make adjustments in other adjoining districts. I think also that senate seat H needs adjusting as it has 3 current Reps in the northeast corner of the proposed district. Seat K makes sense as it combines part of JBER with east Anchorage residential popular with base employees.**

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Erik Gunderson <erikgundersonak@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 6:46 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting Testimony - Erik Gunderson

To: Alaska Redistricting Board Members Bahnke, Borromeo, Binkley, Marcum, and Simpson

To start, I would like to thank you all for your work on this critical constitutional duty to redraw legislative districts for the next decade. The importance of the annual redistricting process cannot be overstated and I am grateful to you all for your service to our state and your willingness to listen to Alaskans on how this process would impact us. Like all Alaskans, my hope is for a fair map that reflects the unique and diverse communities across Alaska and free of partisan influence.

I celebrated my first birthday in Eagle River and have called this community home for the vast majority of my life. I completed my K-12 education in local Eagle River schools and grew up in this community. Earlier this year, I moved to East Anchorage. My testimony will focus on redistricting for the Eagle River - Chugiak community since this is the area that I still like home, where my Alaska family lives, and where I am most personally invested.

I believe that the best map for this area would result in two house districts and one senate district that includes Eagle River and Chugiak to Eklutna. I believe that if an additional population is required beyond these communities, JBER would be most appropriate. Many students from base already attend Eagle River schools (such as Eagle River High School) and Eagle River includes one of the highest active and retired military populations in the state. These two communities share many other similarities and would hold similar interests and priorities.

On the maps currently adopted, I found the AFFER map most concerning as it aims to redistrict Eagle River with a large portion of East Anchorage. These are two distinct communities and based on other proposals, seem entirely unnecessary and likely unconstitutional.

One final note, I believe it would be highly beneficial in ensuring legislative districts reflect the communities they represent by taking community council boundaries into account.

Respectfully,

Erik Gunderson 19930 Samalga Circle Please do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions.

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Wasilla 10/26/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: November 2, 2021

Name: **Bee Rupright**

Email or Phone Contact: bearupe@mtaonline.net

Bee Rupright, Wasilla resident, spoke in favor of keeping the Mat-Su Borough separate from Anchorage and prefers the AFFER map. Also, soon, there will be a "middle district" in between Palmer and Wasilla.

Bee Rupright expressed the importance of thinking about the identity of the people and what areas residents identify with. The other plans do not have senate district pairings and this was an issue for her. Bee would change the AFFER plan to do the following:

- 1. District 13-G paired with 14-G which would also be different by going up higher to District 16-H. This would create a district in that area. The southern portion of 16-H and the northern portion of 14-G would be joined up together to create a "middle district" including the Knik Goose Bay area.**
- 2. Swing 16H around as it was before, maybe with 14-G and 12-H.**
- 3. Move eastern residents over to Palmer.**

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony

Summary Date: 11/5/2021

Name: **Joelle Hall**

Affiliation: **AFFR**

Email or Phone Contact: **joelle@akaficio.org**

On October 19th, AFFR submitted a document written on majority/minority coalition districts. They acknowledged that the court has seen both sides of this issue. This comes down to a judgement call on behalf of the board as to whether or not to create a majority/minority coalition as a protected Voting Rights Act group. AFFR hopes that the board will consider this in the Voting Rights Act process and think of protecting these voices and districts in Anchorage. The AFFR map does create these districts and it is done in conjunction with exploring some of the natural breaks in the military community and the exits that they use. The AFFR map also uses the Coastal Trail and western lakes districts as the trail is the main integrator on the westside districts. Joelle pointed out that senate pairings are available for the public to comment on with logical pairings inside the boundaries for the most part. They do not combine east and south together. They are more logical than pairing Eagle River and Anchorage. It is about time for Joelle to live in District 12, which is a small piece of Anchorage that belongs to the Mat-Su. It's time for South Anchorage to break its boundaries so she can come back to an Eagle River seat.

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
COMMUNITY PUBLIC HEARING
VERBAL TESTIMONY SUMMARY

Anchorage 10/27/21 Verbal Testimony
Name: Robin Smith

Summary Date: 11/5/2021
Email or Phone Contact: ericrobin@alaska.net

Robin Smith lives in South Anchorage and focused on how the board should recognize Alaska's growing diversity, but first wanted to reflect on how the AFFR map is the best for her neighborhood in Southwest Anchorage. The AFFR map is the only map that keeps the Southwest Anchorage area united into a single senate seat and creates two compact house seats based on the logical neighborhood connections. The map creates one Southwest Anchorage district centered around neighborhoods like Delong Lake, Jewel Lake, Sand Lake, etc. that form a unique socio-economic group. The second Southwest Anchorage district connects Bayshore, Southport, and Oceanview which are also very socio-economically connected.

The new data from the 2020 Census reveals that diversity in Alaska has grown with 41% of the state's population identifying as race or ethnicity other than White. This is up substantially from 2010 when only 33% of the race identified as such. Sociologist, Chad Ferrell, at UAA found that Alaska's 3 most diverse neighborhoods are in Anchorage, with Mountain View at the top of the list. According to the US Census Bureau, Anchorage is about 68% White, 12.6% Asian, 4.6% Native American or Pacific Islander, 14.8% Native and 6.7% Latino and 7.7% Black and 7.7% other race. In our public schools in Anchorage, over 100 different languages are spoken. East, Bartlett, and West are 3 of the most diverse high schools in the nation. Unfortunately, we don't see this diversity in the legislature. As one of the most diverse districts in the nation, it is only fair that our districts should reflect that diversity. AFFR's map could help Alaska achieve that representation. The AFFR map respects the distinct and diverse communities in East Anchorage/Mountain View areas. Diversity of these areas should be respected and grouped with only the portions of JBER that utilize the services of their neighborhoods. The districts also respects the community council areas. Board Maps v.3 and v.4 divide the communities of Downtown, Fairview, and Mountain View. In the Anchorage bowl, there are 16 contiguous majority/minority census tracts with 66,594 total population. The Voting Rights Act requires creating as many majority/minority districts within these tracts as possible. These multiple minority coalition districts would represent residents whose interests are more aligned than with white residents. Not only is the AFFR Map the only constitutional map, but also best reflects the diversity present in urban neighborhoods. It would encourage leaders from these diverse communities to run for office and represent their neighborhoods' distinct needs.

To show the consequences of redistricting that doesn't consider unique socio-economic communities, this example was provided: Senator Bettye Davis was the first African American to serve in the Alaska State Legislature, representing East Anchorage for 12 years. She received many accolades including the recently named East Anchorage High School change. She remained the only African American during her entire tenure. She lost her 4th election bid primarily due to redistricting changes after the 2010 census. It placed a large portion of Eagle River into her district in Anchorage proper. She lost, and we lost, that African American perspective from the legislature. Respecting multiple minority coalition districts would allow the intent of the Voting Rights Act in protecting minority representation. Robin urged the board to support the AFFR map particularly in the Anchorage area.

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Matthew Reckard <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Saturday, October 30, 2021 10:38 AM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: October 30, 2021, 10:38 am

First Name: **Matthew**

Last Name: **Reckard**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **9074797879**

Your ZIP Code: **99725**

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

Public Comment: **It makes sense to have the greater Ester community within the same House district. Three proposed redistricting plans - Board v.4, Doyon, and AFFR, do this, hence I prefer them over the other three proposals which don't. Of these three, the one which creates the most coherent Senate districts is AFFR, and this is my preferred plan.**

SENATE TESTIMONY

Note to the Reapportionment Board, Answering Member Borrromeo From Senator Tom Begich October 30, 2021

Member Borrromeo,

You have asked me about my views on the constitutionality of other plans presented by the Board. In general, it appears as though the Board has accepted a prioritization of socioeconomic integration that I do not believe the Court will accept, as such an interpretation clearly conflicts with the Alaska Court's increasing focus on lower deviations between house districts in support of providing full and equal representation for all Alaska Citizens. The Board appears to have instead promoted district and overall map deviations that are unnecessarily high. Many third-party plans – and testimony before the Board – have underscored that there can be lower deviations in virtually all instances without materially sacrificing compactness, contiguity, and socioeconomic integration. Consequently, in answer to your question, the likelihood of litigation is high with Board maps 3 and 4, as they appear more focused on socioeconomic integration than on deviations. I should point out that these maps represent an improvement over Board maps 1 and 2, but likely remain unconstitutional – particularly Board Map 3, based on my reading of prior court decisions.

To reiterate, my expertise in the past has been around the area of socioeconomic integration, where I have been certified as an expert witness by the Court in the 1991 cycle. I was under contract to the state for that cycle's Board. I further was deployed as a state employee to support the work of the Governor's Office with the Board in 2001, and was privately contracted to clients and the state to offer advice on reapportionment in 2003 and 2011 – 2013.

Response to question:

Those prior court decisions have clearly described how socioeconomic integration is to be applied. The March 21, 2002 Supreme Court order and remand to Superior Court said:

(Section 5, footnote 2)

"In *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, [846 P.2d 38](#) (Alaska 1992), we adopted and observed the following priorities relating to redistricting:

Priority must be given first to the Federal Constitution, second to the federal voting rights act, and third to the requirements of article VI, section 6 of the Alaska Constitution. The requirements of article VI, section 6 shall receive priority *inter se* in the following order: (1) contiguousness and compactness, (2) relative socioeconomic integration, (3) consideration of local government boundaries, (4) use of drainage and other geographic features in describing boundaries. [emphasis added]

Id. at 62. We adhere to these priorities in this order."

SENATE TESTIMONY

This note clearly indicates the primacy, in the Court's eyes, of the federal Constitution in the process of redistricting over socioeconomic integration. This is why deviations matter, as they are a reflection of one person one vote (*Baker v. Carr*), a federal standard. Further, this note underscores that *inter se*, socioeconomic integration falls in consideration after contiguousness and compactness. Overemphasizing socioeconomic integration over deviations is incorrect – they each are part of a mix, but federal law remains the highest consideration. The *Hickel* process is consistent with this value. First draw the map to meet the Alaska Constitution (keeping in mind *inter se* ranking), then modify it because of federal primacy with federal considerations – deviation and, formerly, the VRA. Again, why deviations matter.

Earlier Alaska cases were more generous with deviations – even justifying substantial deviations over and above the federal standard for state legislatures first identified in *Reynolds v. Sims*, and firmly established at 10% in *Brown v. Thomson*, though those higher deviations were viewed as necessary to meet other federal considerations (VRA for example). But the Alaska Supreme Court in 2002 found that Alaska should apply a more narrow deviation standard than the federal standard to urban areas, as defined in this discussion of rejected Anchorage Districts (again, from the March 22, 2001 Order):

“Newly available technological advances will often make it practicable to achieve deviations substantially below the ten percent federal threshold, particularly in urban areas. Accordingly, article VI, section 6 will in many cases **be stricter than the federal threshold.** Here the board believed that deviations within ten percent in Anchorage automatically satisfied constitutional requirements; plaintiffs established that the board failed to make any attempt to further minimize the Anchorage deviations. Because, as the board's counsel conceded at oral argument, the board made no effort to reduce deviations in Anchorage below ten percent, **the burden shifted to the board to demonstrate that further minimizing the deviations would have been impracticable** in light of competing requirements imposed under either federal or state law. We conclude that the board failed to offer an acceptable justification for the Anchorage deviations. [emphasis added]

The board considered and rejected Anchorage plans with significantly lower maximum deviations, apparently because these plans did not respect the board's conception of neighborhood boundaries. But as we held in *Groh v. Egan*, Anchorage neighborhood patterns cannot justify "substantial disparities" in population equality across Anchorage districts. **Anchorage is by definition socio-economically integrated, and its population is sufficiently dense and evenly spread to allow multiple combinations of compact, contiguous districts with minimal population deviations.** Accordingly, the Anchorage deviations are unconstitutional, and require the board on remand to make a good faith effort to further reduce the deviations. [emphasis added]

In re 2001 Redistricting Cases, 44 P.3d 141, 146 (Alaska 2002)

SENATE TESTIMONY

If districts can be created that have a lower deviation within a defined socioeconomic area, and Boroughs and Municipalities are by definition socioeconomically integrated areas (see: *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, [846 P.2d 38, 52](#) (Alaska 1993)), then the Board is compelled to ensure that these lower deviations are used, unless they can justify a more compelling reason for not using them.

Numerous maps meet this criteria of showing lower deviations for urban areas, The Senate Minority Caucus Map, for example has deviations under .14% for all five fully contained Fairbanks districts, all 6 Mat Su majority districts, and all 16 Anchorage Majority districts. Further, within the Kenai Borough there is minimal deviation between the three wholly contained Kenai districts, and the same is true between the four house districts in Southeast – whether overpopulated (if Cordova is included in Southeast), or underpopulated (if Cordova is not included in Southeast – see more on Cordova below).

This focus on deviation emerges from a prior understanding in *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, 846 P.2d 38, 47 (Alaska 1993), before the constitutional change in 1998, that:

“The Alaska Constitution requires districts comprising "relatively integrated" areas. Alaska Const. art. VI, § 6. Petitioners argue that the term "relatively" diminishes the degree of socio-economic integration required within an election district. We are urged to compare all proposed districts with a hypothetical completely unintegrated area, as if a district including both Quinhagak and Los Angeles had been proposed. We decline to adopt petitioners' interpretation of this provision. **"Relatively" means that we compare proposed districts to other previously existing and proposed districts as well as principal alternative districts to determine if socio-economic links are sufficient.** "Relatively" does not mean "minimally," and it does not weaken the constitutional requirement of integration.”

In the case of the current Board Maps 3 and 4, it is clear that options that meet a stricter deviation standard than those proposed by the Board can be executed while retaining respect to the Alaska standards of compactness, contiguity, and “sufficient” socioeconomic integration. Further, the Board unnecessarily reduces the proportional strength of Fairbanks in Board Map 3 by not allocating the excess population (23% of an additional district – or roughly 3,980 people) to another district or districts. Instead the Board map unnecessarily packs population in these five districts with deviations in all exceeding 4.27% at a minimum, contrary to the direction in the March 2002 Order cited above.

In support of excess population allocation, the Alaska Court in *Hickel* found that:

“The Governor's plan unfairly dilutes the proportional representation the residents of the Mat-Su Borough are guaranteed. **A municipality should not be made to contribute so much of its population to districts centered elsewhere that it is deprived of representation which is justified by its population.**” *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, 846 P.2d 38, 53 (Alaska 1993) [emphasis added]

SENATE TESTIMONY

Further the Court observed that:

“We recognize that it may be necessary to divide a borough so that its excess population is allocated to a district situated elsewhere. However, **where possible**, all of a municipality's excess population should go to one other district in order to **maximize effective representation of the excess group**. (see footnote 26 below) This result is compelled not only by the article VI, section 6 requirements, but also by the state equal protection clause which guarantees the right to proportional geographic representation. See *Kenai Peninsula Borough v. State*, [743 P.2d 1352, 1369, 1372-73](#) (Alaska 1987) (stating that a primary indication of intentional discrimination against a geographic region was a lack of adherence to established political subdivision boundaries). [emphasis added]
Hickel v. Southeast Conference, 846 P.2d 38, 52 (Alaska 1993)”

Footnote 26: Dividing the municipality's excess population among a number of districts would tend to dilute the effectiveness of the votes of those in the excess population group. Their collective votes in a single district would speak with a stronger voice than if distributed among several districts.

However, this interpretation of prior Alaska Court rulings regarding placement of excess populations has been suggested as ambiguous by Board Counsel, likely based on these findings in 2002:

“The board interpreted this court's decision in *Kenai Peninsula Borough v. State* to preclude the board from pairing population from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough with the Municipality of Anchorage because both Anchorage and the borough **had sufficient excess population to "control" an additional seat.**⁷ But *Kenai Peninsula Borough* **does not entitle political subdivisions to control a particular number of seats based upon their populations.** *Kenai Peninsula Borough* simply held that the board cannot intentionally discriminate against a borough or any other "politically salient class" of voters by invidiously minimizing that class's right to an equally effective vote. *Kenai Peninsula Borough* recognizes that when a reapportionment plan unnecessarily divides a municipality in a way that **dilutes the effective strength of municipal voters**, the plan's provisions will raise an inference of intentional discrimination. But an inference of discriminatory intent may be negated by a demonstration that the challenged aspects of a plan resulted from legitimate non-discriminatory policies such as the article VI, section 6 requirements of compactness, contiguity, and socio-economic integration. [emphasis added]
In re 2001 Redistricting Cases, 44 P.3d 141, 144 (Alaska 2002)

But in footnotes to that same conclusion in the 2002 Order, the Court found that:

SENATE TESTIMONY

“7. The Municipality of Anchorage has a population that would support 16.6 house seats. The Matanuska-Susitna Borough's population would support 3.8 seats. Taken collectively, these municipalities — which by any measure meet article VI, section 6's relative socio-economic integration requirement — would support 20.4 seats. But under the board's interpretation of the doctrine of proportionality, the Municipality of Anchorage is entitled to control seventeen seats and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough is entitled to control four seats, for a collective total of twenty-one seats.

On remand it is likely that the board will consider whether to combine a portion of the excess population of these two municipalities to create a twentieth district. Doing so would leave a population excess of .4, and would raise the question what to do with that excess. **One answer might be to overpopulate slightly each of the twenty districts, adding about 300 people to each district, a positive deviation from the ideal of about two percent. But this choice might be seen as undesirable, especially given the relatively high growth rate of the area, and if this choice is not taken, the question will be whether the .4 excess population can be combined with a neighboring area.**

This would raise two issues. The first issue is whether this court's anti-dilution rule expressed in *Hickel*, [846 P.2d at 52](#), would permit such a combination. This rule holds that where possible the excess population of a municipality can only go to one other district. For example, in the scenario under discussion here (a joint Anchorage/Matanuska-Susitna district), the excess .4 populations of both municipalities would not fit into a single joint district, thus making it impossible to achieve literal compliance with the anti-dilution rule. **We conclude, however, that this need to accommodate excess population would be sufficient justification to depart from the anti-dilution rule.**

The second issue is whether any neighboring area that might be joined with the .4 excess population would be sufficiently integrated. Based on the briefs and oral arguments, it appears to us, under these circumstances, **that any neighboring areas north, east, or south of the combined municipalities would meet the constitutional requirement of relative socio-economic integration.** [emphasis added]

This footnote refines the Court's position. In this unique case, the excess is .4 – if you combine the excess populations of Mat Su and Anchorage in one additional district from the 2000 Census. But in 2021 we face an entirely different circumstance. Combining the excess from the Borough and the Municipality in one additional district would leave an excess of .7 – nearly an additional seat. The Board would be forced to look either north, east, or south to see that excess absorbed (note that west of these two entities is not considered an option), **but this population may be too large to be absorbed without significantly impacting integration of other boroughs or creating higher deviations.** In 2001 the court ordered the Board to “*take a hard look at options that it may have ignored based on its misinterpretation of the law.*” In *re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 44 P.3d 141, 144 (Alaska 2002) That is precisely what the Board must do. In today's instance those options have been reviewed by at least some of the third-party groups already. There is ample opportunity to fully represent the additional population of the Fairbanks, Kenai, and Mat-Su Boroughs, and the Municipality of Anchorage, retaining constitutional socioeconomic integration, meeting the contiguity and compactness standards

SENATE TESTIMONY

upheld in prior litigation, all **while maintaining low deviations**, thus meeting federal and state constitutional standards as well.

In light of third-party proposals being presented to the Board that meet the rigorous state constitutional standards, the Board is compelled to present a plan to the public that is at least equal to those that have been presented.

A couple of further notes worth considering:

On the question of Cordova in Southeast:

While this idea was rejected in prior courts, or not acted on by prior Board's. there is a note in the 2002 court record that opens this option to consideration:

"The Craig plaintiffs acknowledge that a district including Cordova and extending as far south as Baranof Island would be compact. But they argue that extending the district beyond Baranof Island to the southern boundary of the state violates the compactness requirement. **Although we have in the past invalidated Southeast Alaska districts that included Cordova, 4 current population figures justify Cordova's inclusion in House District 5 to prevent substantial deviations in Southeast Alaska.**" [emphasis added]
In re 2001 Redistricting Cases, 44 P.3d 141, 143 (Alaska 2002)

4"*Carpenter v. Hammond*, [667 P.2d 1204, 1215](#) (Alaska 1983) (holding that "inclusion of Cordova in House Election District 2" violated socio-economic integration requirement, "[a]lthough the question [was] an extremely close one")." *In re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 44 P.3d 141, 143 n.4 (Alaska 2002)

Juneau and Southeast Deviations

It should be noted in this discussion that Board maps 3 and 4 have substantial deviations between the 4 proposed House districts in Southeast. These are unnecessary. Other maps provided to the Board show that four roughly equal in population districts can be drawn in Southeast – whether over or underpopulated (whether with or without Cordova) without violating compactness or contiguity. Further, Board map 4 splits the Juneau Borough in a way that splits the geography of the Borough. A map that follows a more traditional break at the Fred Meyer line (this was included in much of the Juneau testimony), appears to make more rational sense. This latter point, however, is not a matter of constitutional violation.

On the Question of Eagle River in Anchorage:

Per all prior court findings, Eagle River/Chugiak – defined as that area North of the Glen Highway Muldoon interchange to the Knik Bridge, is a part of the socioeconomically integrated Municipality of Anchorage. Nonetheless, as identified in prior plans, there is compelling testimony that these areas should be integrated into two House districts and a single Senate district, as *Luper* contended in 2002. It would not violate the constitution to do so, nor is it compelled by the Constitution to do so, yet most maps presented to the Board do create two House districts from Eagle River/Chugiak/Peters Creek, though not all pair these two as a

SENATE TESTIMONY

Senate district. Creating such house and senate districts does not violate the State Constitution, but, as a matter of public policy, it might be compelling to combine House districts in this area in a single Senate District. This is a policy issue that the Board must decide.

On Neighborhoods within Municipalities and other organized areas (from 2001 decision discussion by the court):

“Anchorage neighborhood patterns cannot justify "substantial disparities" in population equality across Anchorage districts.¹³ Anchorage is by definition socio-economically integrated, and its population is sufficiently dense and evenly spread to allow multiple combinations of compact, contiguous districts with minimal population deviations. Accordingly, the Anchorage deviations are unconstitutional, and require the board on remand to make a good faith effort to further reduce the deviations.

In re 2001 Redistricting Cases, 44 P.3d 141, 146 (Alaska 2002)

13. In *Groh*, we considered testimony concerning patterns of housing, income levels, and minority residency. We observed:

While such patterns may form a basis for districting, they lack the necessary significance to justify the substantial disparities of 5.9, 6.5 and 8.6 percent. **In an urban area** such as Anchorage, **more mathematical exactness can be achieved than in the sparsely settled portions of the state** where pockets of culturally and economically divergent populations may be separated by geographic barriers. [emphasis added]

In re 2001 Redistricting Cases, 44 P.3d 141, 146 n.13 (Alaska 2002)

As Judge Ridner Observed: “respect for neighborhood boundaries is an admirable goal,” but “it is not constitutionally required and must give way to other legal requirements” *In re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 47 P.3d 1089, 1091 (Alaska 2002)” The Alaska Supreme Court also rejected the notions that communities within the Anchorage area are socially and economically distinct. The court held: “Anchorage is by definition socio-economically integrated and its population is sufficiently dense and evenly spread to allow multiple combinations of compact contiguous districts with minimal population deviations.” *Id.* at p. 9; *see also Groh v. Egan*, [526 P.2d 863, 878-79](#) (Alaska 1974).

Considerations in Other Maps.

When reviewing other maps, keeping in mind the above notes, it should be noted that there are other issues to consider:

- 1) Where it can be minimized, Boroughs/Municipalities should only be broken once. This is violated in most maps on the Kenai, but this is truly due to Alaska’s unique circumstances. In instances where there are multiple breaks, they should be kept to a minimum and those that appear to cause less disruption to an overall map while not violating the State or federal constitutional criteria should be given precedence (lower deviations, relative equality of population in wholly contained districts within a

SENATE TESTIMONY

Borough; spreading of excess population to areas that are contiguous, relatively compact (though harder to achieve), and socioeconomically integrated.

There are multiple ways to keep Anchorage, Mat Su, and Fairbanks NSB from being broken more than once and, at least in the Senate Minority map, those three entities also can be situated in districts under .14% deviation. Kenai districts can be nearly equaled in population, though overrepresented on most maps. Southeast's four districts, regardless of whether they are over or underpopulated due to Cordova's placement, can also be relatively balanced.

Again, as noted above, **"...more mathematical exactness can be achieved than in the sparsely settled portions of the state** where pockets of culturally and economically divergent populations may be separated by geographic barriers. [emphasis added] *In re 2001 Redistricting Cases*, 44 P.3d 141, 146 n.13 (Alaska 2002). This implicitly suggests that when "mathematical exactness" is achievable, it should have a priority. As technology advances this continues to be possible to greater and greater degrees. This has the effect of limiting opportunities to "gerrymander", a compelling reason for adoption of ever-stricter standards over the decades.

- 2) The Alaska Court has ruled that Delta Junction, and by extension other parts of the Unorganized Borough can be divided.

"The trial court correctly concluded that the Delta Junction area has no constitutional right to be placed in a single house district. Dividing the area does not violate the constitutional requirement that districts be socio-economically integrated so long as each portion is integrated, as nearly as practicable, with the district in which it is placed. Further, dividing an unorganized area such as the Delta Junction area does not, without more, constitute sufficient evidence of an equal protection violation such that the board must justify its action. Nevertheless, because this order requires reconsideration of the districts encompassing this area, on remand the board should take a hard look at alternatives, including constitutional alternatives that preserve socio-economically integrated areas." [emphasis added]

In re 2001 Redistricting Cases, 44 P.3d 141, 144-45 (Alaska 2002)

- 3) Saxman is part of the Ketchikan Gateway Borough and should not be removed from it arbitrarily:

"Saxman, part of the Borough, is more socio-economically integrated with the City of Ketchikan than it is with other Native communities of the Southeast islands." *Hickel v. Southeast Conference*, 846 P.2d 38, 51 (Alaska 1993)"

- 4) Valdez submitted a matrix with its map that only included 4 House Districts for Fairbanks, instead of 5. This is a mistake and likely means their very well laid out map is

SENATE TESTIMONY

flawed. We provided a “Valdez-Cordova” option to show you how this more likely would look if constitutional principles were applied. We do not recommend this approach.

- 5) While some maps, after this process, may have lower deviations than others, the process for how you arrived at those higher deviations is what matters. In describing the maps created by the Senate Minority Caucus, and our process, we have emphasized that we started with a *Hickel* process, adjusted to lower deviations taking into account federal law (deviation), then adjusted based on testimony and the Board’s deliberative efforts. This raises the overall deviation, but creates a record for the Court to review to see that it was a systematic, rational, and explained process. That is how you avoid protracted legal action.

I hope this has answered your question sufficiently. If you have further questions, I am available to assist.

Tom Begich

State Senate Minority Leader for the Senate Minority Caucus

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 31, 2021, 6:30 pm

Name: **Michelle Turner**
Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Email or Phone Contact: **907-351-6342**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Identification of district/senate boundaries based upon socio-economic integration as required by the Alaska State Constitution**

Public Comment: **Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on redistricting. I think it is important that the opinions of community members be taken seriously by the Redistricting Board and the recommendations be given serious consideration. I reviewed the plans adopted by the Board considering the relevant characteristics outlined in Article VI, Section 6 of the Alaska Constitution. Because I live in Anchorage, my comments are focused on that area.**

Article VI of the Alaska Constitution, Section 6 outlines how house and senate districts should be formed. The Constitution requires certain characteristics of the districts, noting that they should be:

- **Contiguous**
- **Compact**
- **Nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area**
- **Contain equal population “as near as practicable”**
- **Each senate district shall be composed as near as practicable of two contiguous house districts**
- **Additionally, consideration may be given to local government boundaries.**

I think most people who in Southcentral Alaska can agree that the Mat-Su and Anchorage are communities that are separate socio-economic areas with separate personalities. As such, I applaud the maps that recognize this and treat these areas as separate and unique spaces. Given that both Mat-Su and Anchorage are close to the preferred population, they should be treated separately with no population pulled from one and given to the other. It may be necessary to add population to either or both of these areas to meet the equal population requirement, but if that occurs it should be done in a way to ensure that the district created meets the “integrated socio-economic area” requirement.

For example, Board maps 3 & 4 have preferred outer boundaries for Anchorage which corresponds to the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) northern border and incorporates Whittier to the south. While Whittier is not part of MOA, there is a close relationship as the only road access to Whittier is via MOA and it shares a police force with the MOA community of Girdwood. Regarding this boundary, the AFFER and Doyon maps are the worst as they combine the demographically distinct (based upon education, wealth, and age) Hillside area with portions of the Kenai Peninsula including Nikiski.

SENATE TESTIMONY

When evaluating the district boundaries within the MOA, there are several distinct socio-economic areas that should be used to evaluate boundaries. The most obvious of these is separating Eagle River from the rest of the Anchorage districts. Eagle River is distinct geographically, demographically, and the area's politics are so different that there is active support for a resolution to separate Eagle River from the rest of the MOA Eagle River. The population of Eagle River is sufficient for two districts. The most appropriate separation is to have one "urban" district located around the business district and a "rural" district that incorporates Hiland Road, Arctic Valley Road, Old Glenn Hwy and other areas with less dense population in the manner of Board Map 3. It does make sense to include them both in a single senate district.

The demographics of the various neighborhoods should be used to determine district lines within the Anchorage bowl. Districts in north Anchorage should include portions of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) because of the integration between JBER and Anchorage neighborhoods based upon the gate that they are closest to: people who live in Anchorage work on base and, for non-military spouses, visa-versa. Additionally, JBER personnel rely upon Anchorage for goods, services, and entertainment that cannot be found on base. Because of this interrelationship, districts should be drawn incorporating portions of JBER north of a gate and portions of Anchorage south of that same gate as shown in the AFFR map.

Midtown neighborhoods are centered around work opportunities (e.g., the U-Med district). South of midtown, there is a demographic dividing line along the Seward Highway, with the western portions (e.g., Abbot Loop, Hillside, O'Malley, Rabbit Creek, Bear Valley) being distinct from those east of the highway (Ocean View, Klatt, Bayshore, Sand Lake, Jewel Lake); therefore, these areas should be in separate districts. Board Map 4 best incorporates these distinctions. Senate district pairing should use the same criteria outlined above. For example, using Board Map 4, the best pairings are: 9/15, 10/11, 12/21, 13/17, 14/16, 18/23, 19/20, and 22/24.

Regardless of where populations fall in the districts, community resources that do not have population associated with them (e.g., parks, schools, libraries) should be included with the neighborhoods that rely upon these resources. That way the people who use these resources will be represented by legislators who have an active say in what happens to them.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed redistricting. I look forward to seeing the final maps and appreciate the Board's faithfulness to the redistricting requirements as outlined in the Alaska State Constitution.

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: October 31, 2021, 9:15 pm

Name: **Doug Robbins**

Email Address: DougRbbns@aol.com

Comments: **Redistricting Board,**

Here are suggestions regarding the proposed Senate district pairings for the Redistricting Board Map Version 4, which is my favored map, except for the doughnut district in Juneau. As in my telephone testimony earlier in the month, I would argue that contiguity should mean contiguity by road within the district. People do not climb mountains to visit their neighbors, even in Alaska. The Constitutional requirement of contiguity, sensibly, must include the idea of social contiguity, in the way that people come together as a community. That means contiguity by roads, not just blocks of color on a map.

The pairings implied by the chosen numbering make sense through most of the state, except north Anchorage, Eagle River, and the Mat-Su districts. Here are my proposed pairings, and objections to the pairings implied by the numbering system in this area.

North Anchorage and Eagle River:

Districts 21 & 23 should be paired. This is the most compact and contiguous solution for north Anchorage. The pairing implied by the Board's numbering system would combine 23 & 24, linking a portion of east Anchorage with part of Eagle River. These neighborhoods are not contiguous by road within the district.

22 & 24 should be paired. This maintains contiguity by road within the district for Eagle River and neighborhoods along Glenn Highway.

26 & 27 pairing maintains contiguity in Wasilla

25 & 28 pairing unites citizens along the Glenn Highway, and maintains contiguity.

29 & 30 unites citizens in the lake district west of Wasilla and along Parks Highway and maintains contiguity by road.

The remaining sequential pairings are reasonable.

Doug Robbins

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 1, 2021, 2:59 pm

Name: **Cliff Groh**

Email or Phone Contact: cliff.groh@gmail.com

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Board Proposed Plan Version 4**

Public Comment: **Dear Members of Alaska Redistricting Board:**

I have reviewed the proposed maps for redistricting our state. I have a specific concern about Board Proposed Plan Version 4. This proposed map pairs proposed House District 21 with proposed House District 22 to form a proposed Senate District. I do not believe that this proposed Senate district is consistent with good public policy.

Proposed House District 21 includes Government Hill and all of Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson (JBER). Proposed House District 22 includes Eagle River/Chugiak/Peters Creek.

As a resident of the Government Hill neighborhood, I am particularly aware that the only forms of access to and from the neighborhood for most non-military members are (a) via the A-C Couplet or (b) walking to or from Ship Creek. Both those methods involve coming from or going to the south.

As opposed to pairing Government Hill with Eagle River/Chugiak/Peters Creek, it is both possible and far better public policy to put Government Hill in a Senate district that runs mostly south of Government Hill instead of one that runs to Eagle River/Chugiak/Peters Creek. It is also possible and far better public policy to combine two House districts from Eagle River/Chugiak/Peters Creek into a Senate district.

Thank you for your hard work, and I hope that you can accommodate this substantial concern.

Sincerely,

Cliff Groh
cliff.groh@gmail.com

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 2, 2021, 8:25 pm

Name: **Sharon George**

Email or Phone Contact: shari@georgeak.net

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Public Comment: **Dear Members of the Alaska Redistricting Board,**

I am a 36-year resident of the Fairbanks North Star Borough and am speaking for myself. I spent most of my 50-year working career in the spatial data, mapping, remote sensing, and GIS worlds so know that science, statistics, and art along with various rules can be brought to bear when creating polygons such as the House districts currently proposed. I appreciate the difficulty of this undertaking and applaud all the teams whose diligent effort that has gone into creating each of the proposed maps.

The primary purpose of redistricting is to ensure one person one vote by creating districts that contain equal population and are representative of the population. A relatively integrated socio-economic focus is a second driving concern. Compactness and contiguity are layered upon that although it is not clear to me in Alaska statute if compactness refers to geographic or racial compactness. In lower priority, consideration MAY be given to local government boundaries. Local government boundaries created nearly 120 years ago in the case of the City of Fairbanks, nearly 60 years ago for the Fairbanks North Star Borough and 45 years ago for the Municipality of Anchorage did not focus on the future use of their boundaries in redistricting so those boundaries have limited merit as an overriding defining criterion.

Based on the above, the Redistricting Board's Version 3 map is unfair in the Fairbanks area:

- **V. 3 violates the one person one vote criterion in every district in the greater Fairbanks area thereby causing a serious underrepresentation of the Interior's regional hub. This is undemocratic.**
- **V. 3 links the UAF, College and the Chena Ridge areas with Eielson Air Force Base, Salcha and Harding Lake fifty miles away in District 35. This clearly calls into question the concept of integrated socio-economic focus as well as compactness. UAF, College and Chena Ridge are very different in almost every way from Eielson AFB, the small community of Salcha and recreational Harding Lake.**
- **V. 3 creates one sweeping east-west aligned district (#31) that combines Ester, Goldstream Valley, Farmers Loop, Fox, Two Rivers and Pleasant Valley while looping outside (excluding) the Steele Creek area. The suburban neighborhoods that make up Ester, Farmers Loop and Goldstream are tied more directly to the university area and developed Fairbanks urban core and are quite different socially, economically and by personal preference from the more distributed housing and rural motivation of residents of the eastern Chena Hot Springs Road area beyond about Nordale Road.**
- **V. 3 relies on the use of the Fairbanks North Star Borough boundary as a principal criterion for packing all the citizens into an artificially confined area. The borough boundary was created in 1964 without considering redistricting and the boundary adds no compelling value to the**

SENATE TESTIMONY

redistricting process in 2021. Further, in no other area in the state were local government boundaries used in totality as a core assumption. Since the use of local government boundaries is offered by statute only as an option, limiting the voting power of the entire Fairbanks area based on this boundary is unreasonable.

Map Version 4 proposed by the Alaska Redistricting Board is problematic in the Fairbanks area:

- V. 4 links the Farmers Loop and western Chena Hot Springs Road areas including Steele Creek with Two Rivers and Pleasant Valley to the east and a sizable portion of Badger Road to the south (#34). The suburban neighborhoods that make up Farmers Loop and Chena Hot Springs Road west of Nordale Road are linked more directly to the university area and urban Fairbanks and are quite different socially and economically from the more dispersed and rural nature of Chena Hot Springs Road area east of Nordale Road. The central portion of Badger Road included in District 34 relates more logically with North Pole and is not similar to the Farmers Loop and western Chena Hot Springs area economically or culturally.
- V. 4 divides Badger Road into three separate districts (#32, 33, 34) which is objectional. Badger Road is a developed continuum along most of its length and identifies more directly with the North Pole area. All the maps currently proposed divide Badger Road into two or three parts. Leaning towards fewer districts for the Badger Road area is preferred.
- V. 4 links the university and College areas with downtown and south Fairbanks in District 31. Five out of the six proposed maps acknowledge the cultural differences and focus between the university/College west Fairbanks area and eastern and southeastern parts of Fairbanks with only the
- V. 4 map deviating from recognizing this real distinction.

Beyond the evaluation of Redistricting Board's Version 3 and Version 4 maps specifically in respect to the Fairbanks area, I have the following general comments:

- The interior and coastal areas of Alaska are distinctly different in culture and economic focus. Districts should not be drawn that combine the interior population with those who live under maritime environmental and economic focuses and forces. McGrath and Nome just do not have the same local concerns, nor does it serve the interior communities or Valdez if they are combined in a single district.
- It is disappointing that the Redistricting Board did not publish Senate pairings tables. Even if not required, all the third-party groups did publish that important information. It really does make a difference and the citizens are the poorer for not being informed of the Board's proposals for pairings.

As John Adams and the framers of the Constitution noted, legislatures should be, "an exact Portrait, a Miniature, of the People at large." You must do your best to honor that concept. Thank you for your consideration,

Sharon W. George
2348 Inclination Dr.
Fairbanks, AK

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Cody Kapotak <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 4:31 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 4, 2021, 4:30 pm

First Name: **Cody**

Last Name: **Kapotak**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **cody.kapotak@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **At first glance, all of the interactive maps look very similar. Upon further inspection, there are appear to be minor visual differences in the outlined district areas for each map. All maps have multi-colored sections separating the different districts. All maps display some information when clicking on each district such as some statistical data. Three of the maps also include a "Senate Seat" row in the description with single capital letters as the information displayed. One of the AFFR Senate Pairings tables held the most information, the rest were a couple columns with letters and numbers, no other descriptive information was seen. All map options' district populations and deviations provided showed numbers with little to no context that could be derived. I love the idea of district maps that are equitable representation for our Alaska Native people and our BIPOC relatives that also meet legal requirements, but I did not see how any of these maps portrayed or delivered on that important topic. It seemed like a lot of information was lacking at the face value and I also couldn't find much more good descriptive information with the many links that were on the provided website of map options.**

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Eva Kapotak <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 4:32 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 4, 2021, 4:32 pm

First Name: **Eva**

Last Name: **Kapotak**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **ekapotak@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **At first glance, all of the interactive maps look very similar. Upon further inspection, there are appear to be minor visual differences in the outlined district areas for each map. All maps have multi-colored sections separating the different districts. All maps display some information when clicking on each district such as some statistical data. Three of the maps also include a "Senate Seat" row in the description with single capital letters as the information displayed. One of the AFFR Senate Pairings tables held the most information, the rest were a couple columns with letters and numbers, no other descriptive information was seen. All map options' district populations and deviations provided showed numbers with little to no context that could be derived. I love the idea of district maps that are equitable representation for our Alaska Native people and our BIPOC relatives that also meet legal requirements, but I did not see how any of these maps portrayed or delivered on that important topic. It seemed like a lot of information was lacking at the face value and I also couldn't find much more good descriptive information with the many links that were on the provided website of map options.**

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 4, 2021, 7:46 pm

Name: **Nancy Munro**
Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Email or Phone Contact: nancymunro276@gmail.com

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Support for AFFR plan**

Public Comment: **Dear Redistricting Board,**

As I long-time resident of Anchorage I encourage you to support the Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR) plan because I think its name is well-deserved:

The AFFR plan has far fewer deviations within Anchorage than the other 3 plans. No district has more than 36 people from the ideal.

It makes sense that Chugiak/Eagle River form their own Senate district separate from the Anchorage bowl.

The AFFR plan keeps the Northeast community council intact within one district.

East Anchorage, Mountain View, and Fairview are each very distinct neighborhoods. None of them should be grouped in with the base. The AFFR plan also recognizes that there is a connection between service members at JBER and the services immediately off-base.

Sincerely,

Nancy Munro

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Chick Zee <charlotte.vanzee@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 8:16 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Anchorage Map

I have lived in the East Anchorage, South Anchorage, and Midtown voting districts over the last few years, and have grown familiar with their characters.

Ms. Marcum's map dividing East Anchorage into Eagle River and South Anchorage is a mistake. These constituencies have very different needs and socioeconomic profiles. East Anchorage is multi-ethnic blue collar workers while Eagle River is predominantly white residents who commute to white collar jobs in Anchorage proper. The residents of East Anchorage will be harmed the most by these actions. Eagle River is also actively seeking to break from Anchorage, so marrying them into a voting district with East Anchorage doesn't seem to make much sense.

Ms. Borrromeo's seems like the most appropriate, but Senate district 23 should be 22 so that Government Hill remains a part of the NE Anchorage district and allowing Eagle River to have it's own representative, which is appropriate given their ongoing attempts to separate from Anchorage.

Thank you

Charlotte Van Zee,
Anchorage, Alaska

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: b farris <Btgf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 7, 2021 12:52 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Redistricting testimony

I am testifying regarding redistricting.

Please consider creating a separate Senate seat for Eagle River, pairing 24 and 22. This is because ER is a self-contained community. People in ER shop there and attend school there and their needs are different from those people living in Anchorage.

I live in East Anchorage and we consider ourselves to be a distinct community. Pairing 23 and 18 and 17 and 19 makes the most sense to us. We don't have anything in common with Eagle River, we don't shop there or attend functions there. Our East Anchorage community is very diverse and putting us with ER would deny our diverse communities fair representation. It would also violate the Voting Rights Act.

**Thank you.
Barbara Farris**

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Ellen Jaimes <ellenparryjaimes@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 7, 2021 6:01 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Re: Senate Pairings (Anchorage)

Dear Redistricting Board and Staff:

Thank you for all your hard work updating Alaska's maps! As a member of both the current and new HD17 I wanted to briefly weigh in on the Senate pairings yet TBD. It looks like East Anchorage is to be divided into 4 House districts which can pair into two East Anchorage Senate districts. East Anchorage is a distinct community with very different needs from Eagle River and South Anchorage and the Board's Senate pairings should reflect this. East Anchorage contains many of the most diverse neighborhoods and schools in the country, and I worry that pairing East Anchorage districts with South Anchorage or Eagle River would deny our diverse East Anchorage communities their right to be fairly represented and I believe this could violate the Voting Rights Act.

Pairings should be completed by joining Districts 18 and 23 and Districts 17 and 19. The 17+19 pairing puts socio-economically similar neighborhoods of Mountain View, Russian Jack, Reflection Lake, and Chester Valley in the same district, allowing residents to elect a Senator who understands shared concerns. As a personal example, our family (in district 17) generally does our shopping at Costco on DeBarr, frequents Williwaw park/playground, and uses the bike trails that run up around Chester Creek and Tikishla Park on a daily basis.

With the pairing of HD18 with HD23, it seems to make sense to pair these two districts because the Scenic Foothills and Northeast Community Councils, which make up the bulk of HD18 and HD23, both already straddle Muldoon Road which a senate district pairing would do as well. Pairing Districts 18 and 23 will create a compact Muldoon district which will unite the neighborhoods along Muldoon Road into a single district.

Thank you again for your attention and efforts on this important work.
Sincerely,

Ellen Jaimes
5335 E 41st Ave
Anchorage AK 99508

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Dena'inaq e'nen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)
I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina. (English)

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Leon Jaimes <leon.jaimes@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 7, 2021 1:03 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Senate Pairings

Hello,

We live in the current and new HD 17. I think that pairing HD 17 with HD 19 and pairing HD 18 and 23 make the most sense. The 17+19 pairing would put the socio-economically similar neighborhoods of Mountain View, Russian Jack, Reflection Lake, and Chester Valley in the same district, allowing these residents to elect a Senator who understands their concerns. We generally do our shopping at Costco on DeBarr. We frequently use the Williwaw park playground for our daughter, and we use the bike trails that run up that way around Chester Creek and Tikishla Park well. We are active supporters of the Grow North Farm, Mountain View Drive, Anchorage, AK in Mountain View and we have several friends who live in the HD19 and the new HD18, so we frequently go back and forth between those neighborhoods, more so than any other.

With the pairing of HD18 with HD23, it seems to make sense to pair these two districts because the Scenic Foothills and Northeast Community Councils, which make up the bulk of HD18 and HD23, both already straddle Muldoon Road which a senate district pairing would do as well.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication!

Leon Jaimes

Anchorage, AK 99508

leon.jaimes@gmail.com

9072442820

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Peggy <kugel@gci.net>
Sent: Sunday, November 7, 2021 3:19 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Senate Pairings - District 17

Under the Final Redistricting Map, I will land in District 17. I have lived here for over 30 years. There are several possible pairings, but looking at East Anchorage as a whole, the pairing that makes the most sense is Districts 17 and 19, plus a pairing of Districts 18 and 23. This arrangement will give East Anchorage and its many diverse neighborhoods an adequate voice in the Alaska Senate. At the same time, pairing Districts 18 and 23 will maintain the integrity of the Muldoon section of East Anchorage.

Margaret Kugel
3116 Wesleyan Drive
Anchorage, AK 99508

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Katherine McDonald <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 7, 2021 3:33 PM
To: TJ Presley; Testimony
Subject: ++ Get Involved Response

A website response from the Get Involved form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 7, 2021, 3:33 pm

First Name: **Katherine**

Last Name: **McDonald**

Email Address: **tompkins.60@buckeyemail.osu.edu**

Comments: **Good afternoon,**

With the proposed AK map finalized, I wanted to provide public comment as to the Senate Districts within Anchorage.

I support the following combinations of House District pairing to create a Senate district.

HD 9 (Rabbit Creek) and HD 15 (Huffman/O'Malley)

HD 13 (Klatt/Bayshore) and HD 11 (Campbell Lake)

HD 16 (Abbott Loop) and HD 14 (Taku)

HD 16 (U-Med) and HD 19 (Mountain View)

HD18 (Muldoon) and HD 23 (Northeast Anchorage)

HD 12 (Kincaid) and HD 13 (Spenard)

HD 20 (Downtown) and HD 21 (JBER)

Thank you,

Katherine McDonald

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 7, 2021, 5:03 pm

Name: **Harry Need**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **South Addition Community Council**

Email or Phone Contact: hwneed@hotmail.com

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Anchorage Senate Pairings**

Public Comment: **Dear Members of the Redistricting Board,**

Thank you for continuing to take public input, including on the upcoming issue of Senate pairings.

My neighbors and I applaud the Board for your work to date. Adoption of "V4 Best" for Anchorage districts demonstrates you followed the spirit of the law, establishing the most compact districts possible that respect our distinct neighborhoods and protect minority voters.

As you deliberate on Senate pairings, we wish to offer two scenarios that logically integrate neighborhoods in the Downtown, Government Hill, Midtown, and Airport Heights neighborhoods.

It would make sense to pair House District 20 and HD 21 so that the urban core of Downtown Anchorage is in a single Senate seat. HD 13 and HD 12 then would pair into a Northern Lights corridor district, allowing the four East Anchorage districts to pair into two Senate districts -- consistent with Northeast Community Council input.

It is alternatively logical to pair HD 20 and HD 13, creating contiguity from Downtown through Midtown in the Minnesota/Arctic/A/C corridors, and keeping the Chester Creek valley/North Star neighborhoods within a Senate District. Under this configuration, HD 21 would pair well with HD 19, HD 23 with HD 18, and HD 17 with HD 16 to protect minority voting rights in multiple Senate districts stretching into East Anchorage.

Compatible with many public comments you have already received, I urge you not to pair Eagle River and Anchorage House Districts.

Either of these configurations will be well-received in our neighborhoods and consistent with your Constitutional directives. I am writing as an individual Community Council leader since the quick pace of your deliberations does not allow whole Community Councils to meet and vote on every element of redistricting plans.

I appreciate the ongoing opportunities for public comment and your hard work to listen to input from across the state.

Very respectfully,

Harry W. Need, Executive Board Member

South Addition Community Council (HD 20)

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 7, 2021, 7:14 pm

Name: **Patrice Parker**
Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Email or Phone Contact: patrice.parker@gmail.com

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Downtown Anchorage neighborhoods**

Public Comment: **I agree with my neighbors who submitted these comments:**

Adoption of "V4 Best" for Anchorage districts demonstrates you followed the spirit of the law, establishing the most compact districts possible that respect our distinct neighborhoods and protect minority voters.

As you deliberate on Senate pairings, we wish to offer two scenarios that logically integrate neighborhoods in the Downtown, Government Hill, Midtown, and Airport Heights neighborhoods.

It would make sense to pair House District 20 and HD 21 so that the urban core of Downtown Anchorage is in a single Senate seat. HD 13 and HD 12 then would pair into a Northern Lights corridor district, allowing the four East Anchorage districts to pair into two Senate districts -- consistent with Northeast Community Council input.

It is alternatively logical to pair HD 20 and HD 13, creating contiguity from Downtown through Midtown in the Minnesota/Arctic/A/C corridors, and keeping the Chester Creek valley/North Star neighborhoods within a Senate District. Under this configuration, HD 21 would pair well with HD 19, HD 23 with HD 18, and HD 17 with HD 16 to protect minority voting rights in multiple Senate districts stretching into East Anchorage.

Compatible with many public comments you have already received, we urge you not to pair Eagle River and Anchorage House Districts.

We believe either of these configurations will be well-received in our neighborhoods and consistent with your Constitutional directives. We are writing as individual Community Council leaders since the quick pace of your deliberations does not allow whole Community Councils to meet and vote on every element of redistricting plans.

We appreciate the ongoing opportunities for public comment and your hard work to listen to input from across the state.

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Kyra S. <kyra.sherwood@outlook.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 7, 2021 8:54 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Senate pairings

I live at 7911 Mayfair Dr, which puts me right at the western edge of the new District 14. For representation in the Senate, it seems like it would make the most sense to pair District 14 with District 16 to form a larger Midtown district. The bottom part of District 14 is obviously pretty similar to the top part of District 10, but with the divisions the way they are, it seems more important to pair District 10 with District 11 because the Bayshore and Oceanview neighborhoods have so much in common. For similar reasons, the two major Hillside districts--15 and 9--would have a lot of the same interests.

Thanks for reading.

Kyra Sherwood

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 7, 2021, 6:04 pm

Name: **Daniel Volland**

Email or Phone Contact: drvolland@gmail.com

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

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

Public Comment: **Thank you to the Alaska Redistricting Board for your efforts thus far in adopting a map where districts are contiguous, compact, socioeconomically integrated, and with acceptable population deviations. Yours has been a daunting task and you have risen to the challenge with the selection of the "V4 Best" map.**

As you begin the process of Senate pairings, I'm writing to advocate for the pairing of House Districts 20 and 21. As an independent voter and a business owner in Downtown (4th Ave and L St), it makes good sense to me that our city's core financial district be considered socioeconomically integrated and that it have a single Senate seat. This pairing would also keep combined two of Anchorage's most historic neighborhoods, South Addition and Government Hill.

In accordance with much of the public testimony you've heard, please do not pair Eagle River and Anchorage House Districts. It would make no sense, especially in the context of the constant background buzz about an "Eaglexit."

I am writing as an individual Community Council leader, since the quick pace of your deliberations does not allow whole Community Councils to meet and vote on every element of redistricting plans.

Sincerely,

Dr. Daniel Volland, Vice President

South Addition Community Council (HD 20)

SENATE TESTIMONY

Date: November 7, 2021, 5:17 pm

Name: **John Thurber**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **South Addition Community Council**

Email or Phone Contact: Jthurber501@icloud.com

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Public Comment: **Dear Members of the Redistricting Board,**

Thank you for continuing to take public input, including on the upcoming issue of Senate pairings.

My neighbors and I applaud the Board for your work to date. Adoption of "V4 Best" for Anchorage districts demonstrates you followed the spirit of the law, establishing the most compact districts possible that respect our distinct neighborhoods and protect minority voters.

As you deliberate on Senate pairings, we wish to offer two scenarios that logically integrate neighborhoods in the Downtown, Government Hill, Midtown, and Airport Heights neighborhoods.

It would make sense to pair House District 20 and HD 21 so that the urban core of Downtown Anchorage is in a single Senate seat. HD 13 and HD 12 then would pair into a Northern Lights corridor district, allowing the four East Anchorage districts to pair into two Senate districts -- consistent with Northeast Community Council input.

It is alternatively logical to pair HD 20 and HD 13, creating contiguity from Downtown through Midtown in the Minnesota/Arctic/A/C corridors, and keeping the Chester Creek valley/North Star neighborhoods within a Senate District. Under this configuration, HD 21 would pair well with HD 19, HD 23 with HD 18, and HD 17 with HD 16 to protect minority voting rights in multiple Senate districts stretching into East Anchorage.

Compatible with many public comments you have already received, we urge you not to pair Eagle River and Anchorage House Districts.

We believe either of these configurations will be well-received in our neighborhoods and consistent with your Constitutional directives. We are writing as individual Community Council leaders since the quick pace of your deliberations does not allow whole Community Councils to meet and vote on every element of redistricting plans.

We appreciate the ongoing opportunities for public comment and your hard work to listen to input from across the state.

Very respectfully,

John Thurber

South Addition Community Council (HD 20)

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Tyler Watson <tylerjwatson49@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 7, 2021 5:28 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Senate Pairings Testimony

Dear Redistricting Board Members,

I'm writing as a resident of the new HD 18. I want to thank the board for choosing the final map that you chose as it preserves the East Anchorage community that myself and so many others have testified on. In the same spirit, I hope that you will consider pairing HD 18 with HD 23 or HD 17. To pair our new district with a district to the south or east of us would put us in with communities in South Anchorage and Eagle River who have very different community concerns than we do. Whereas we share many things in common with our neighbors to the north and west. Thanks for all your hard work. I've enjoyed watching the proceedings and discussions y'all have been having.

Regards,

Tyler Watson
Anchorage, AK
HD 18

--

Tyler Watson
Email: tylerjwatson49@gmail.com
Cell: 303-960-1273

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 7, 2021, 5:04 pm

Name: **Ryan Webb**
Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Email or Phone Contact: **2059991729**

Public Comment: **Dear Members of the Redistricting Board,**

Thank you for your hard work and for continuing to take public input on the upcoming issue of Senate pairings.

As you deliberate on Senate pairings, we wish to suggest two scenarios that logically integrate neighborhoods in the Downtown, Government Hill, Midtown, and Airport Heights neighborhoods.

It would make sense to pair House District 20 and HD 21 so that the urban core of Downtown Anchorage is in a single Senate seat. HD 13 and HD 12 then would pair into a Northern Lights corridor district, allowing the four East Anchorage districts to pair into two Senate districts -- consistent with Northeast Community Council input.

It is alternatively logical to pair HD 20 and HD 13, creating contiguity from Downtown through Midtown in the Minnesota/Arctic/A/C corridors, and keeping the Chester Creek valley/North Star neighborhoods within a Senate District. Under this configuration, HD 21 would pair well with HD 19, HD 23 with HD 18, and HD 17 with HD 16 to protect minority voting rights in multiple Senate districts stretching into East Anchorage.

Compatible with many public comments you have already received, we urge you not to pair Eagle River and Anchorage House Districts.

We believe either of these configurations will be well-received in our neighborhoods and consistent with your Constitutional directives.

We appreciate the ongoing opportunities for public comment and your hard work to listen to input from across the state.

Thank you,

Ryan Webb

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Robert French <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:14 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 8, 2021, 9:14 pm

First Name: **Robert**

Last Name: **French**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **None**

Email or Phone Contact: **bgkfrench@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Latest redistricting map still has fatal flaws**

Public Comment: **The latest 2021 final redistricting map still has flaws which do not meet the Alaska Constitution criteria. It splits Downtown and Government Hill, and combines the northern part with JBER in District 21. That violates both the Compactness/contiguity criteria, and the 3rd requirement of Socioeconomic integration. With the amount of military families living in Eagle River, JBER should be included with the other north Anchorage Communities of Eagle River, Chugiak, Birchwood, Peters Creek and Eklutna.**

North Downtown and Government Hill do not share the same economies and culture, with JBER and Eagle River, but are very similar to points to the south.

Similarly when the House Districts are paired into Senate Districts, ALL of Downtown and Government Hill should be paired with another Anchorage District, NOT with Eagle River and JBER.

Thanks

Bob French

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Melanie Leydon <mkleydon@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 11:31 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: I support Ms. Borromeo's Pairings Map (East Anchorage resident)

My family has lived in East Anchorage for 30 years, and I have personally owned my East Anchorage home for 12 years. I DO NOT support Ms. Marcom's Senate District Map and pairings that join parts of East Anchorage's Muldoon area with Eagle River. The socioeconomic, demographic differences of East Anchorage compared to Eagle River are stark and completely different. Marcum's proposal does not make any sense. Have you talked to East Anchorage residents about how they would feel about being represented by someone who lives in Eagle River, and is completely removed from the conditions of living in East Anchorage? As an East Anchorage resident, I DO NOT SUPPORT MARCUM's PROPOSAL! My family is active duty and we understand that East Anchorage has unique needs and we want to see it thrive. Combining E.Anchorage with Eagle River would create stopgap of growth for East Anchorage to bloom.

East Anchorage is the epitome of socio-economic diversity. We need representation with a deep appreciation of those needs and a willingness to connect with community members where they are at, not from the affluent Hiland hillside 15 miles away. The Muldoon area of East Anchorage is finally building a sense of community and advocating for key programs and resources to strengthen it. Those needs are much more closely aligned with East Anchorage. Joining parts of East Anchorage with Eagle River will essentially strip that underserved community of its voice.

There was NOT consensus support for Ms. Marcom's proposal today. The only voices in favor were those with clear conflicts of interest. Like Ms. Marcom's House Redistricting proposal, it represents another blatant attempt at gerrymandering designed to ensure that underserved communities in Anchorage are ignored and stripped of their voice.

I support Ms. Borromeo's proposal because her pairings keep diverse, socio-economically integrated communities together. Please DO NOT split up East Anchorage. And please DO NOT split North Eagle River from South Eagle River. Those communities are much more closely aligned geographically and have similar needs for infrastructure, investments, and programs.

Gratefully,

Melanie Leydon

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

First Name: **Yarrow Silvers**

Email or Phone Contact: travelingsilvers@gmail.com

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Date: November 8, 2021, 2:20 pm

Public Comment: **My comments from today:**

Please do not pair East Anchorage with Eagle River or South Anchorage. I am in district 18 according to this Map, South Muldoon. I would love to see North Muldoon, number 23 and South Muldoon, number 18, paired together as we are one integrated community connected by the Muldoon road corridor. If this is not practicable, District 17 and 18 together would be a good second choice for adequate representation of South Muldoon residents.

Eagle River and the suburbs towns North of Eagle River are one socio-economically integrated community and should be kept together for better representation, and not paired with East Anchorage or any other part of Anchorage or JBER, from which they are separated by many miles of highway, and from which they currently have a large movement to separate from.

South Anchorage would also be a poor pairing for district 18 on this map, as it is separated by miles of parkland. In fact, it is the lack of representation that I and my neighbors have experienced over the past year as a resident of 27N that actually prompted me to get involved in and testify about this process.

Finally I just want to say thank you for your hard work on this redistricting plan and for selecting Anchorage maps that are compact, socio-economically integrated, and respectful of public testimony.

Date: November 8, 2021, 10:37 pm

Issue of Concern: **Senate pairings**

Public Comment: The senate pairings proposed by Marcum are very concerning. It seems that by trying to honor some sort of ties between JBER and Eagle River, that pretty much every other part of Anchorage suffers. Let's start with Eagle River. Eagle River, which is one socioeconomically integrated town/community, will be sliced in half for Senate representation. There was an argument that it doesn't matter because they will actually get more representation, in the form of two Senators instead of one. This is the equivalent of affording them more than one vote per person, while diluting the votes of racially diverse communities in other parts of Anchorage, including East Anchorage, and comes at the expense of these communities, while still not honoring the ties binding the Eagle River community to itself.

Moving to East Anchorage, they have been suffering from lack of adequate Senate representation for the past 10 years and with this pairing, will suffer even more grievously for another ten years. The argument that driving down Muldoon to go shopping in Anchorage makes ER socio-economically tied to East Anchorage is about the most convincing evidence there is that Eagle River, a community that is largely affluent and white, can not even begin to understand the issues and concerns faced by a

SENATE TESTIMONY

district that has high racial diversity, lower on average economic status, and may not be able to afford 3 meals a day, much less driving down Muldoon without stopping to shop in the rest of Anchorage.

Let's move to JBER/ Government Hill. This district includes the port, the Alaska railroad, Government Hill, and sections of Downtown as well as the industrial areas in between and are extremely connected to the rest of Downtown on an economic as well as socio-economic basis. To split these areas apart and to have the same senator representing the affluent, rural areas of North Eagle River as well as the industrial and diverse areas of Government Hill, which is 17 miles and 4 other districts away, is quite frankly, a lot to ask of one senator. Additionally, the ties between JBER and the city of Anchorage are just as strong, if not stronger than the ties between the JBER and Eagle River, and the latter ties do not justify the harm done to the rest of the city.

Moving on to the domino effects of placing Turnagain and Spenard, which residents of both communities have stated are socio-economically integrated and have requested to share a senate district, into instead other districts that residents have requested not to be paired with, and you can see that the justification for for this JBER/ Eagle River pairing grows even slimmer.

Let's talk more about the testimony surrounding this requested JBER/ Eagle River pairing. Although I have not seen the written testimony, I heard verbal testimony from Jamie Allard, who has filed intent with the APOC to run for higher office, Senator Reinbolds aid, and Randy Ruedrich, as well as his friend. Conversely to the 4 I heard speak in favor of this pairing, I heard hours of testimony against such pairings, including resolutions by Scenic Foothills Community Council, North East Community Council, Spenard Community Council and possibly more. And yet all this has been disregarded. Racial diversity has been disregarded. Contiguous districts of actual population and not over uninhabited mountain ranges have been disregarded. Socioeconomic ties of pretty much the whole of Anchorage, other than the affluent areas of South Anchorage and Eagle River have been disregarded.

Taken all together, Bethany's suggested senate pairings are an indefensible attempt at gerrymandering the map and silencing the voices of low income and racially diverse communities. I expect that this is where the legal difficulties requiring 3 hours of executive session are necessitated. Even if, after all this legal wrangling, the legal go ahead is given, just because something is maybe legal (but will likely invite lawsuits at tax payer expense) this does not make it right. Please do the right thing and choose senate pairings that allow fair representation of all Anchorage residents, and not those that elevate some while silencing others. I specifically advocate for the senate pairings proposed by Nicole Borromeo, which do just that.

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Pamela goode <prgoode@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Senate Pairing Public Testimony

November 8, 2021

Redistricting Committee, please take into consideration my public testimony for Senate pairing as follows.

Senate Pairing

SOUTHEAST, SOUTH COASTAL, KENAI

1 – 2 Natural

3 – 4 Natural

5 – 6 Natural

7 – 8 Natural

ANCHORAGE

9 – 15 Compact

11 – 12 Compact

10 – 14 Compact

13 – 20 Compact

16 – 17 Compact

18 – 23 Compact

19 – 21 Compact

22 – 24 Compact

MAT-SU

26 – 29 Compact

27 – 30 Compact. Both outside the City limits of Wasilla and Palmer

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Cory Smith <corysmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 9:18 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Please do not split Eagle River and do not split East Anchorage

As an Anchorage resident, I urge you to adopt Bahnke's proposed Senate map for the Anchorage area (or something very similar). It keeps distinct parts of town intact, specifically East Anchorage distinct from Eagle River. These are very different parts of town.

Please do not split Eagle River and do not split East Anchorage. Eagle River should be grouped with Eagle River.

Thank you,
Cory Smith
Anchorage AK

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Andrew Gray <andrewtimothygray@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:37 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: DO NOT PAIR EAST ANCHORAGE WITH EAGLE RIVER

AK Redistricting Board:

Please do not make a senate district joining East Anchorage with south Eagle River. Keep Eagle River united, and allow East Anchorage to have its own separate Senate representation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Andrew Gray
99507

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Curtis Smith <bogusaddy1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 10:10 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Proposed Senate pairings

As a present resident of East Anchorage and a former resident of Eagle River, with regard to the final redistricting map, I respectfully ask that Districts 16 and 18 not be paired with District 24 for a senate seat. There is very little in common between East Anchorage and the Eagle River area. Optimally, it makes more sense to pair together East Anchorage Districts 16 and 18.

Sincerely,
Curtis Smith

Present address (since 2010):

7011 Gibbs Hill Cir
Anchorage, AK 99504

Former address (1998-2010):

17533 Meadow Creek Dr
Eagle River, AK 99577

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: LuAnn Piccard <lpiccard@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 8:39 PM
To: Testimony
Subject: Do not support Marcom's Senate District Map-Pairing Proposal

Dear Redistricting Board,

My family has lived in East Anchorage for 45 years. **I DO NOT support Ms. Marcom's Senate District Map and pairings that join parts of East Anchorage's Muldoon area with Eagle River.** This proposal simply does not make sense. Because Eagle River residents **commute** via Muldoon Road on their way to other parts of Anchorage does not mean they have an appreciation for the needs in that part of our community. Leaders from Eagle River reject affordable housing and social service programs that directly benefit underserved communities like East Anchorage. They treat socio-economically diverse areas of Anchorage with disdain and as a dumping ground for what they don't want in Eagle River.

East Anchorage is the epitome of socio-economic diversity. We need representation with a deep appreciation of those needs and a willingness to connect with community members where they are at, not from the affluent Hiland hillside 15 miles away. The Muldoon area of East Anchorage is finally building a sense of community and advocating for key programs and resources to strengthen it. Those needs are much more closely aligned with East Anchorage. Joining parts of East Anchorage with Eagle River will essentially strip that underserved community of its voice.

There was **NOT** consensus support for Ms. Marcom's proposal today. The only voices in favor were those with clear conflicts of interest. Like Ms. Marcom's House Redistricting proposal, it represents another blatant attempt at gerrymandering designed to ensure that underserved communities in Anchorage are ignored and stripped of their voice.

I support Ms. Borrromeo's proposal because her pairings keep diverse, socio-economically integrated communities together. **Please DO NOT split up East Anchorage.** And **please DO NOT split North Eagle River from South Eagle River.** Those communities are much more closely aligned geographically and have similar needs for infrastructure, investments, and programs.

Respectfully,

LuAnn Piccard
Proud East Anchorage Resident

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Robin Smith <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 4:14 PM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 8, 2021, 4:13 pm

First Name: **Robin**

Last Name: **Smith**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **ericrobin@alaska.net**

Your ZIP Code: **99515**

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

Public Comment: **I concur with David Dunsmore's testimony on House pairings for the Senate districts.**

Thank you for considering my thoughts. I appreciate your work to create a fair redistricting map for Alaska.

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 8, 2021, 8:18 am

Name: **Michelle Turner**
Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Email or Phone Contact: **907-351-6342; mtturner92@outlook.com**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Fair representation and maintenance of integrated socio-economic senate pairings**

Public Comment: **Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on redistricting. I want to acknowledge the hard work that went in to development of the 2021 Final Redistricting Map. I believe that the final map is fair and meets the requirements of Article VI of the Alaska Constitution. I encourage the Redistricting Board to continue in this vein in determining district pairs for senate representation. I reviewed the 2021 Final Redistricting Map adopted by the Board considering the relevant characteristics outlined in Article VI, Section 6 of the Alaska Constitution to develop these recommended senate pairs.**

Because the house districts have already been developed to be contiguous, compact, and containing equal population, these criteria do not need to be considered further. The relevant criteria that remain are that the senate districts be “Nearly as practicable a relatively integrated socio-economic area” and be composed of two contiguous house districts. Additionally, consideration may be given to local government boundaries. Based upon these criteria, I support the following pairings for the Anchorage area.

- **Districts 9 and 15 -Both Rabbit Creek (9) and Huffman/O’Malley (15) represent south Anchorage/hillside. They have similar demographics and a semi-rural nature with large lots with well and septic and have road service areas. Residents in these two districts have similar concerns as characterized by the fact that the majority of the districts lie within the boundaries of the Anchorage Home and Land Owner’s Association (HALO - <https://anchoragehalo.org/>) -an organization that is dedicated to promoting Anchorage Hillside rural way of life and maintaining the low density and character of this distinct community.**
- **Districts 10 and 11 -The Bayshore/Klatt/Sand Lake area is a distinct portion of Anchorage that is consistent throughout. The area of these two districts is represented by two Community Councils (Old Seward/Oceanview and Bayshore/Klatt). These are older neighborhoods that were established in the 1970s consisting of single-family homes with a large amount of greenspace (e.g., parks, Anchorage Coastal Refuge). In contrast with districts 9 and 15, these neighborhoods are denser, rely upon city water/sewer, and livestock and poultry are typically not allowed by home owners associations (e.g., Oceanview).**
- **Districts 18 and 23 -The two districts that make up the Muldoon Road corridor -South Muldoon (18) and North Muldoon (23), areas that have diverse demographics. This pairing would consolidate east Anchorage votes and allow for fairer representation than other pairing options.**

SENATE TESTIMONY

- **Districts 22 and 24 -The two Eagle River districts should be paired into a single Senate district. Eagle River is distinct geographically, demographically, and the area's politics are so different that there is active support for a resolution to separate Eagle River from the rest of the MOA EagleExit.**

Additionally, I believe the following pairings are appropriate socio-economically integrated pairings:

- **Districts 12 (Turnagain) and 13 (Spenard)**
- **Districts 14 (Taku/Campbell) and 16 (Abbott Loop)**
- **Districts 17 (Umed) and 19 (Mountain View)**
- **Districts 20 (Downtown) and 21 (JBER and Government Hill)**

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed redistricting. I look forward to seeing the final senate pairings and appreciate the Board's faithfulness to the redistricting requirements as outlined in the Alaska State Constitution.

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: Jo Ann Gruber <automated@akredistrict.org>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 8:27 AM
To: TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony
Subject: ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 8, 2021, 8:26 am

First Name: **Jo Ann**

Last Name: **Gruber**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **gruberak@yahoo.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

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

Public Comment: **Dear Alaska Redistricting Board,**

As you meet to decide how the state's House districts will be paired into Senate districts, I would like you to say that Eagle River is a distinct, unique community. It should NOT be split into two different Senate districts.

We have different land-use rules; and we currently maintain/manage our own roads and parks, too. This would make it more difficult for a legislator from Anchorage to adequately represent us.

We should have our own Senate seat, so I hope you will decide to pair Districts 22 and 24 together. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jo Ann Gruber

SENATE TESTIMONY
ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD
WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: November 8, 2021, 10:04 pm

First Name: **Tahnee Conte-Seccareccia**

Email or Phone Contact: tahneeseccareccia@gmail.com

Your ZIP Code: **99517-2577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Please reconsider senate pairings as current pairings are clear attempts to gerrymander Anchorage**

Public Comment: **Dear members of the redistricting board, I am writing to I urge the board to immediately reconsider today's actions and to instead go with the pairings submitted by Nicole Borromeo. Unfortunately, I am aware that the likelihood of this is quite low and as such, I write this so that it can be a part of the public record for legal and historical reasons.**

I have been following the redistricting process since the beginning and have testified in person, over the phone, and via email several. In previous emails and testimony, from myself and others, we spoke about our concerns regarding the board's initial attempts (Version 1 and Version 2) and Bethany Marcum's blatant attempts to gerrymander districts throughout Alaska (Version 3). Much to our collective relief, the board appeared to hear the public's legitimate concerns and testimony and went with Ms. Borromeo's updated map (version 4) for house districts.

As such, I am writing to state my objection to the decision of the board to go with Bethany Marcum's senate pairings, rather than the fair and competitive senate pairings proposed by Nicole Borromeo. The decision to do so is not in the interest of the public nor the constitutional requirements of the redistricting process as it deliberately ignores the majority of testimony by Anchorage and Eagle River/Chugiak citizens, including myself, during hours of public testimony, as well as hundreds of written comments.

Marcum's senate pairings were made in a similar spirit to how she created her house district maps, and blatantly ignored the previous public testimony which objected to how Anchorage was being split up, including attempts to pair Eagle River and East Anchorage together. Marcum has demonstrated time and time again that her interests and intentions are to gerrymander Anchorage by drawing district lines to unfairly favor the republican and conservative party in future elections. The board went from considering maps that gerrymandered Anchorage (and other parts of Alaska) to a final map (Version 4) that was fair and competitive district map that was respectful of each area's unique cultural, socio-economic, and geographical distinctness (e.g., compact).

This morning, I called in shared testimony about the desired district pairings for senate seats based on my personal and profession experience and knowledge. I provided senate pairings that paired districts with respect to the related geographic areas and the intersection of common socio-economic, cultural, and community interests which would benefit from being represented by the same legislators. Without a map to reference, I was unable to tell you not to go with one map over another. However, after seeing the pairings submitted by both Ms. Marcum and Borromeo, I can say that my suggestions were aligned with Ms. Borromeo's pairings.

SENATE TESTIMONY

Now that we have seen the pairings per Ms. Borromeo and the pairings submitted by Ms. Marcum, it is alarming that the board with a "non-consensus but ultimately a majority", in an utterly confusing and anti-democratic process, essentially rubber-stamped Marcum's desire to gerrymander Anchorage in ways that are politically advantageous to Senate Republicans. I, like so many others, feel duped and gutted by this decision to allow partisan politics to interfere in our constitutional right to a fair election and representation. The courts and history will not look back kindly on the gerrymandering of Anchorage.

Since I testified this morning using my years of experience as a substitute teacher and coach " I figured I'd follow up on the senate pairings that came out of today's meeting and in a way that explains why Ms. Marcum's senate pairings is alarming on so many levels and why Ms. Borromeo's pairings is accurate to the shared common interests and characteristics of the various house districts/neighborhoods.

I am shocked that the board with choose Marcum's map of Senate pairings when it so clearly circumvents the fair map the board went with on Friday. Instead of pairing Chugiak/North Eagle River (District 22) with South Eagle River area (District 24), the board went with Marcum's map that pairs Chugiak/North Eagle River (District 24) with North Anchorage/JBER (District 21) and paired South Eagle River with East Anchorage (District 18). Families that live in the JBER/North Anchorage area most often send their kids to Bartlett High School, followed by East High School, and Eagle River High School. They overwhelmingly DO NOT send their kids to Chugiak High School (District 22). This pairing decision is so astoundingly ignorant to public testimony and facts, that I am left to conclude that it was the result of Ms. Marcum's repeated attempts to split districts in politically advantageous ways.

Most families in Downtown Anchorage (District 20) and Government Hill/JBER area (District 21) send their kids to Bartlett High School (District 21). They should have been paired together (and they were by Ms. Borromeo but were not by Ms. Marcum and the final pairings chosen by the board).

Families who live in Southwest Anchorage " Sand Lake (District 11) and Bayshore/Klatt (District 10) " overwhelmingly send their kids to Dimond High School which is in District 11. Families in Sand Lake (District 11) do not go to the same high school (i.e., West High School) that the families send their kids to in the Turnagain area (District 12). As such, District 11 and District 10 should have been paired together (and they were by Ms. Borromeo but were not by Ms. Marcum and the final pairings chosen by the board).

Families in Turnagain and West Spenard (District 12), the much of the East Spenard and West Midtown area (District 13) and only the western part of the downtown District (around Westchester Lagoon area) go to West High School. And almost all the families found in District 12 and District 13 go to Romig Middle School. For these reasons and for reasons provided throughout the testimony process, these two districts should be paired together " as they were by Ms. Borromeo (but were not by Ms. Marcum and the final pairings chosen by the board).

The majority of families from District 19 send their kids to East High School (District 17). Almost all families who live in District 13 and the majority number of families from District 18 " the two East Anchorage districts " send their kids to Bartlett High School. This reality is reflected by Ms. Borromeo's pairings and is completely ignored by Ms. Marcum's pairings.

SENATE TESTIMONY

District 14 and District 16 are unique in that centralized location to several high schools “ Dimond High School, East High School, Service High School and South High School ” is the exact reason they should be paired together as they are by Ms. Borromeo’s (but were not by Ms. Marcum and the final pairings chosen by the board).

And finally, the only pairing that Ms. Marcum got right was the pairing of District 15 and District 9, Anchorage’s two Southside/Lower Hillside (and upper Hillside) areas. These two districts were also paired together by Ms. Borromeo.

I will end by letter of objection by quoting my original testimony because it continues to be true with the senate and the process and ultimate decision the board made with regards to senate pairings.

“By splitting up the districts as Ms. Marcum has, she is drawing opposition voters out of their districts to maximize the total number of districts that can be won by her political allies and those who align with the values of her organization ” The Alaska Policy Forum. And as Ms. Marcum is a resident of Anchorage, Alaska and absolutely knows just how distinct these areas I have mentioned are from each other, ignorance of fact is an unacceptable excuse to the abhorrent attempts by her partisan Gerrymandering of Anchorage, and of Alaska. It is an attempt to dilute the voices of minorities and those whose politics do not align with Ms. Marcum and is contrary to our Alaska State Constitution and Laws and will almost certainly run afoul of the Voting Rights Act. This gerrymandering will wipe out electoral competition and result in dramatically different political outcomes than if districts were fairly drawn, as they have been in Ms. Borromeo’s updated map.”

SENATE TESTIMONY

From: E.J.R. David <ejr david@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 11:37 AM
To: Testimony
Subject: Senate Pairings

Dear Alaska Redistricting Board Members,

My name is E.J. David, and I am a resident of what looks to be District 18 based on the House District map you recently passed. Thank you for passing this map. I appreciate you respecting the boundaries of Muldoon, Mt. View, and Fairview and NOT pairing East Anchorage with Eagle River or South Anchorage. Many have testified that these communities are distinct in important ways and deserve their own districts.

On that note, I encourage you to make the following senate pairings to continue respecting the boundaries of Muldoon, Mt. View, and Fairview:

District 23 (North Muldoon) and District 18 (South Muldoon)

District 19 (Mt. View/ Airport Heights) and District 17 (U/Med)

The Board has divided East Anchorage into 4 House districts which can pair into two East Anchorage Senate districts. This should be recognized by pairing Districts 18 and 23 and Districts 17 and 19.

The public has spoken loud and clear that East Anchorage is a distinct community with very different needs from Eagle River and South Anchorage and the Board's Senate pairings should reflect this.

Pairing Districts 18 and 23 will create a compact Muldoon district which will unite the neighborhoods along Muldoon Road into a single district

Pairing Districts 17 and 19 would put the socio-economically similar neighborhoods of Mountain View, Russian Jack, Reflection Lake, and Chester Valley in the same district, allowing these residents to elect a Senator who understands their concerns.

East Anchorage contains many of the most diverse neighborhoods and schools in the country, and pairing East Anchorage districts with South Anchorage or Eagle River would deny these diverse communities their right to be fairly represented and could violate the Voting Rights Act.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

E.J. David

--

'I live and work on the land of the Dena'ina.'

~~~~~

E.J.R. David, Ph.D.

Professor of Psychology

Director, Alaska Native Community Advancement in Psychology (ANCAP) Program

University of Alaska Anchorage

Ph: 907-786-6778

Fax: 907-786-1669

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Mike Edgington <mike.edgington@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 1:01 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Senate pairings

Senate pairing recommendations:

1+2 - no choice to meet contiguous criterion  
3+4 - no choice  
5+6 - Gulf and lower Cook Inlet have similar concerns  
7+8 - Obvious pairing on K. Pen  
9+15 - Combines Hillside area east of Seward Hwy with Turnagain Arm communities  
10+11 - Bayshore & Oceanview  
22+24 - Eagle River/Chugiak are an integrated community so should be a single Senate seat  
12+14 - Airport/Turnagain + Campbell  
13+19 - Spenard + Russian Jack/Fairview  
16+17 - Abbott Loop & UMed  
18+23 - Muldoon is a distinct community  
20+21 - Government Hill & JBER  
25+30 - Matanuska + Denali  
26+29 - Wasilla  
27+28 - Knik Arm + Knik River/Palmer/Butte  
31+36 - Interior + Chena  
32+35 - Outer Fairbanks  
33+34 - Fairbanks  
37+38 - Southwest + Peninsula  
39+40 - North + Western Alaska

SENATE TESTIMONY  
**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD**  
**WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: November 8, 2021, 7:53 pm

Name: **Erik Gunderson**

Email or Phone Contact: [erikgundersonak@gmail.com](mailto:erikgundersonak@gmail.com)

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Alaska Redistricting Board Senate Pairings - Eagle River area**

Public Comment: **Dear Board Members Binkley, Simpson, Marcum, Bahnke, and Borromeo**

**I'd like to start by thanking you for your tireless work to ensure this process has been transparent and accessible to the public as well as for what I consider to be a constitutionally sound and fair map for legislative house districts.**

**As the Board continues to work on senate district pairings, I'd like to encourage the board to keep the two Eagle River area house seats (24 and 22) together. These two communities are the most socioeconomically integrated, share many of the same school districts, sports centers, community activities, community councils, and much more. I have been following the board meetings and am concerned about efforts to include the East Anchorage district with Eagle River. I grew up in Eagle River and have spent most of my adult life in this community.**

**As I wrote in my prior testimony, these areas are entirely distinct, share no school district boundaries or community councils, and are very different communities. East Anchorage is incredibly diverse and tends to be on a far lower socioeconomic mark than Eagle River which has among the highest average household income in the state. Pairing these two districts would result in conflicting interests in many cases which would make it unfair to share a senator. Looking at the possible pairings, it seems unnecessary as well.**

**The current Senate seats for these areas include one Eagle River senate district and an East Anchorage and JBER senate district. I believe the pairing of 22 and 24 for a senate district and then 21 and 23 would best serve the constitutional obligations of the board while resulting in the most representative senate pairings for these two communities.**

**Thank you for taking my testimony into consideration.**



## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Gretchen Wehmhoff <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 9:42 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 8, 2021, 9:42 pm

First Name: **Gretchen**

Last Name: **Wehmhoff**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **gretchenwehmhoff@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99567**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Chugiak-Eagle River Senate Pairing**

Public Comment: **I strongly suggest you keep the Chugiak Eagle River districts together in the Senate pairing. It will allow the Senate seat the ability to focus on two large districts in the same community. Whatever the case, keeping the Mat-Su districts separate from the MOA districts is practical and efficient.**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Brett Watson <brettwjordan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 7:39 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Support Pairing East Anchorage 23 & 18

To whom it may concern,

I am a resident of the proposed HD-18 and am writing to urge a Senate pairing of HD 23 & 18 to create a distinctive Muldoon senate district. I list four reasons below:

**Bartlett High School:**

HD 23 & 18 and the Bartlett HS district boundary are closely aligned so this creates natural social integration. (Similarly 19 & 17 naturally align with East High School, for a second East Anchorage district).

**Representation**

Current HD-27 is paired with South Anchorage in Senate district N. The Senator currently representing District N advertised on his campaign website that he represents "South Anchorage." As someone active in the Scenic Foothills community, I do not see our Senator at community events, including community council meetings. I believe that if proposed HD 18 were paired with proposed HD-24 that a Senator elected to this seat would be absent from all community functions in East Anchorage and would see themselves as an Eagle River senator. In fact, Board Member Marcum suggested at the meeting on November 8th that this would be a feature of the proposed pairing of HD-24 and HD-18: a Senator elected in this district would represent the interest of Eagle River.

**Physical Proximity**

A 5 minute drive separates one corner of district 23 from the opposite corner of district 18. Pairing either 18 or 23 with one of the districts in Eagle River would result

**Eagle Exit:**

Only a small area in North Muldoon is currently combined with Eagle River in Anchorage Assembly District 2. Proposals for Eagle River to become independent from the Municipality of Anchorage do not include the larger North Muldoon area in their proposals. Advocates for an independent Eagle River note on their [website](#): "Whereas, "Eagle River-Chugiak-Peters Creek-Eklutna-JBER", hereinafter referred to as "District 2", have common demographic, economic and political interests that historically have been ignored or militated by special interest groups in the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA)."

Sincerely,

Brett Watson

SENATE TESTIMONY  
**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD**  
**WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: November 8, 2021, 9:42 pm

Name: **Suzanne LaFrance**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Anchorage Assembly**

Email or Phone Contact: **907-351-7199**

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Date: November 8, 2021, 10:01 am

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

Public Comment: **Dear Board Members:**

**My name is Suzanne LaFrance and I represent South Anchorage, Girdwood and Turnagain Arm on the Anchorage Assembly. My district includes most of the Southeast Anchorage Upper and Lower Hillside.**

**I am writing to share with you my thoughts about Senate pairings which have largely arisen from my experience of representing my neighbors on the Assembly.**

**In looking at the map, the relative similarity of the neighborhoods in House Districts 15 and 9 stands out. Both districts share rural characteristics that define the Southeast Anchorage Hillside.**

**While there are areas within these districts that resemble more urban neighborhoods, they are mostly surrounded by homes with large lots and long driveways. Both districts have homes that are predominantly served by local road service areas and are on large lots, often with wells and septic systems.**

**For residents coming down the hill, each of these two districts contains the State-maintained thoroughfares that connect residents to the urban center.**

**Given the strong similarities between these two districts, please consider pairing them for the Senate as I believe this would best serve the interests of the residents of Southeast Anchorage.**

**Sincerely,**

**Suzanne LaFrance  
Anchorage Assembly  
District 6 - South Anchorage, Girdwood & Turnagain Arm**

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Date: November 8, 2021, 9:42 pm

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Anchorage Senate Pairings**

Public Comment: **Dear Board Members,**

**Thank you for the ongoing opportunities to submit comments throughout this process. In light of the Board's decision to adjourn until tomorrow, I am writing to request that the Board pair Eagle River's two House districts together, and keep East Anchorage House districts paired with one another as**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

requested in public testimony. It is illogical, inappropriate, and potentially illegal to pair an East Anchorage district with an Eagle River district, considering that pairing would suppress minority votes.

East Anchorage neighborhoods are some of the most diverse in the state, and you have heard overwhelming public testimony from community councils, civil rights organizations, and individuals expressing support for pairing East Anchorage House districts together into two Senate seats. Please listen to this public testimony, including from my Assembly colleague who represents Downtown and Government Hill.

The last time a Redistricting Board gerrymandered East Anchorage and Eagle River together, that map was thrown out in court. That process took years, created confusion among voters, and discredited what should be a non-partisan and Constitutionally-driven process for establishing district lines.

Your work to date on House districts, and on Senate pairings outside of Anchorage, has clearly been driven by the letter and spirit of the law, and you have rejected any attempt to insert partisanship into the process. It would be a shame at this late hour to allow partisan Senate pairings in Eagle River/East Anchorage to create legal weaknesses in this map.

Thank you again for the long hours you have put into developing these maps, and for continuing to consider my comments and the public comments of so many other Alaskans.

Suzanne LaFrance  
Chair, Anchorage Assembly

SENATE TESTIMONY  
**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD**  
**WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: November 8, 2021, 7:40 pm

First Name: **James McDonald**

Email or Phone Contact: [James\\_ak88@hotmail.com](mailto:James_ak88@hotmail.com)

Your ZIP Code: **99516**

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

Public Comment: **Hello,**

**I wanted to provide my input on the Senate district pairings. I've lived in Anchorage my entire life, mostly in the O'Malley district. I'm a teacher in the Anchorage School District. I student taught at Chugiak High School and from 2014-2017 I taught at Gruening Middle School in Eagle River. I unequivocally believe the two Eagle River districts (22/24) should remain together in a single Senate district. While some of my students came from military families, I don't think that supersedes the connection that Eagle River has together as a whole. I currently teach at Mears Middle School in southwest Anchorage. I can see districts 10/11 or 11/12 together logically. I concur with the groupings of 9 and 15 in southeast Anchorage.**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Carl Jacobs <cjak1985@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 10:14 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony Re: 11/8/2021

Members of the Board,

My name is Carl Jacobs, and I am writing you as an engaged and concerned citizen on my own behalf. After watching dozens of hours of testimony and proceedings over the last month, I would first like to thank each of you for your efforts in laying a solid foundation for Alaskan democracy over the next decade. You are appreciated.

As a resident of as-proposed District 18, I am reaching out to request the Board proceed with a senate district pairing which aligns like populations in a logical manner. There is a strong case to be made for including District 18 with the other Muldoon-area district, or even the U-Med based District 17 as drawn on V4 Best. Try as a might, I am struggle to see how my neighbors and I can be paired with an area of our Municipality (only for now, according to many Eagle River Residents) which many in my neighborhood might never visit prior to the next census.

Unlike the more challenging areas across our State, this Board has viable options to explore which will avoid most accusations of partisan intent based on the final product. Please consider them. The Board still has plenty of time to deliberate, and should be in no rush to proceed at this point. Please, continue to be transparent and intentional as you finish your work.

Thank you for your service to Alaska.

Carl Jacobs  
(907)632-7285

SENATE TESTIMONY  
**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD**  
**WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: November 8, 2021, 8:59 pm

Name: **Katherine McDonald**  
Your ZIP Code: **99516**

Email or Phone Contact: [Tompkins.60@buckeyemail.osu.edu](mailto:Tompkins.60@buckeyemail.osu.edu)

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Muldoon/JBER Senate**

Public Comment: **Hello,**

**I'm submitting my thoughts on senate district configuration.**

**On myself: I've lived in Anchorage since my family moved up to Elmendorf Air Force Base when I was four years old. I've lived in the following districts (using proposed HD names)**

**21 (JBER) - 3 years  
18 (Muldoon)-1 years  
16 (Elmore/Lake Otis) - 23 years  
9 (Huffman) - 1 year**

**I want to applaud the group for proposing to pair my current home location HD 9 with HD 15 (O'Malley). It makes sense. There is few multi family homes and the area is integrated.**

**I am dismayed by the discussion around pairing one of the Eagle River districts with JBER instead the other Eagle River district. When living on base in my youth (HD 21), I attended Government Hill Elementary off base before then attending Mt. Spurr Elementary on base. The west side of the base is very tied with the downtown community. I worked in the Ship Creek area during summers in college and Government Hill/Ship Creek are very tied to Downtown Anchorage (HD 20). The notion that Eagle River has the main connection with JBER isn't sound. When we lived on base, we mainly recreated in the restaurants off of Muldoon. When we moved off base when my father still worked on base, we moved into Muldoon (HD 18) due to close proximity to the base. I cannot imagine any Senate district pair ings that doesn't group the two Muldoon districts (18/23 together). They are socially and economically integrated. They both shop at the same Fred Meyer off Muldoon. They both are zoned for Bartlett High School. Folks in Muldoon are not driving out to Eagle River to shop. Since Eagle River High School opened, the Eagle River students are no longer districted to Bartlett and remain exclusively in Eagle River. From a household perspective, the houses in both Muldoon districts are very similar with an abundance of multi family homes, apartments, and zero lot lines. Eagle River homes are notorious for spacious lots and few multi family dwellings.**

**I appreciate you taking my comments into account.**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

Date: November 8, 2021, 6:14 am

Name: **Kevin McGee**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **NAACP, Anchorage, Alaska**

Email or Phone Contact: [kmcgee5833@aol.com](mailto:kmcgee5833@aol.com)

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **November 8, 2021**

**Dear Redistricting Board Members,**

**I want to express my profound gratitude to the Board for carefully considering public comments on draft plans, civil rights considerations including the impact of minority voters in East Anchorage, and ultimately choosing the most Constitutional House districts for Anchorage. This is the most transparent, non-partisan redistricting process in Alaska history, and your work honors the letter and spirit of the law that Alaska voters established by Constitutional amendment.**

**As you deliberate on Senate pairings, I urge you to continue keeping civil rights considerations at the forefront as you pair districts in East Anchorage, JBER, Mountain View, Russian Jack, Government Hill, and Downtown, which are Anchorage's most diverse neighborhoods.**

**One Senate pairing configuration is visually obvious: Take the four House seats in East Anchorage (HDs 17,18, 19,23), and pair them into two Senate seats. Pair Downtown (HD 20) with Government Hill/JBER (HD 21), which is logical since it unites Downtown into a Senate seat, and protects minority voters' voice.**

**Though less visually obvious, another pairing configuration also can ensure minorities' vote, and voice in the electoral process is protected. Pair HD 21/HD 19, HD 16/HD 17, and HD 23/HD 18. This configuration protects minority voters' voice at the Senate level, and logically links adjacent neighborhoods with JBER. Effectively, it ensures our most diverse neighborhoods have a real voice in three Senate districts.**

**I respectfully request that the Board continue to listen to public input and reject pairings of Anchorage/JBER and Eagle River House districts. Any such pairing would disenfranchise minorities in JBER/East Anchorage of a voice in Senate elections, and this would be unacceptable from a civil rights perspective. As you know, in 2010 the redistricting board gerrymandered East Anchorage and Eagle River districts together, which eliminated former Senator Bettye Davis. These illegal lines were thrown out in court, and the 2013 Proclamation Districts restored voting rights protections to East Anchorage neighborhoods. You have correctly kept East Anchorage and Eagle River districts distinct thus far, and I urge you to continue honoring voting rights as you complete Senate pairings. Fortunately, two Eagle River House seats conveniently pair into a single Senate district, so the most compact, contiguous, and socioeconomically integrated Senate district is comprised of those two Eagle River House seats.**

**I applaud your diligent and conscientious work to date. With a continued focus on the law and voting rights, generations of Alaskans will look to this Board as an example of how to craft non-partisan maps that respect communities and protect the franchise.**

**//signed//**

**Kevin McGee**

**President, Anchorage NAACP**



## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Donna Mears <mears@alaska.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 5:52 PM  
**To:** Testimony; Northeast Community Council  
**Subject:** Senate Pairings for NE Anchorage  
**Attachments:** NECC Resolution 2021-5 Redistricting Signed.pdf

I have presented testimony on behalf of the Northeast Community Council, and would like to comment again after this afternoon's discussion on Senate pairings. The NECC resolution was clear that we are bound together with socioeconomic and community ties. The proposed pairing of HD 18 with Eagle River is very much against the NECC resolution and community cohesion with Senate district pairings.

Since the NECC has not met since the attached resolution was passed, the remainder of this testimony is my own.

I agree with the statement that Eagle River (north or south) does not have sole claim on ties with JBER. There are active and retired service members throughout our community.

The pairing of HD 18 with 24 does not make sense. North and South Eagle River should be paired, and North and South Muldoon should be paired.

The pairings proposed by member Marcum this afternoon would put four Senators in the NECC area. There are currently three Senators within the boundaries of our district, although just 2 with voters (the third has Bartlett High School, AK Native Cultural Center, Centennial Park, AWWU Ship Creek Water Plant, etc.).

I am going to reiterate some of my testimony from Friday – I have been a board member on the NECC for the last 2.5 years. It is my observation that elected representatives that have a small amount of area within our CC area rarely, if ever, show up. Splitting the NECC amongst 4 Senators would disenfranchise our residents.

Personally, I live in the new HD 18, and rarely go into Eagle River. I do not have socioeconomic ties there.

There are real representation concerns with vastly different demographics represented in NE Anchorage vs Eagle River.

Please adopt the Senate pairings for Anchorage proposed by Member Bahnke, which pairs north and south Muldoon together.

Donna Mears  
NE Anchorage  
907-632-6382

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Carolyn Ramsey <b747mx@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 8:13 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Parings

Hello,

My name is Carolyn Ramsey, I am President of Airport Heights Community Council. For this testimony I am testifying on behalf of myself as there was not enough time today to obtain Council approval.

It is requested that 19 be pared with 17. This area of town has a lot more in common with the U-Med District than we do with East Anchorage as we are both right next to hospitals, and the Universities. Our neighborhood contains many who work in the medical field or are educators. Most who works outside of these areas head to midtown or downtown for employment.

Eagle River should not be pared with the port, rail yard and Government Hill. This area including JBER belongs with Downtown. Eagle River has 2 districts, they should be pared together as they are the same socioeconomic make up. Just because people from Eagle River drive through a district does not make them part of the socioeconomic make up of a district. Eagle River does not tie with East Anchorage at all. Eagle River is actively seeking to break away from Anchorage. There is no reason they should have 2 Senate districts each representing part of Anchorage. Senators should be working for all of their constituents. This will not happen with the parings shown on Bethany's map. The districts she put together do not belong together. It does not align with the way people live and work in their areas.

Nicole's map makes a lot more sense. Still not my favorite but it sure is a heck of a lot better, more sound and much better thought out.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Carolyn Ramsey

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Great ambition and conquest  
without contribution is without  
significance - Unknown

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Brian Miller <brian.alexander.miller@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 11:36 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** East Anchorage/Eagle River

Just writing to express my opposition to pairing East Anchorage and Eagle River in the same senate district. Eagle River districts should be paired with each other, and east Anchorage should be paired with a similarly socioeconomic district. Thanks for your consideration.

Brian Miller  
Anchorage, AK

Sent from my iPhone

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Jennifer Jolliffe <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 7:56 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 8, 2021, 7:56 pm

First Name: **Jennifer**

Last Name: **Jolliffe**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **jajolliffe@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate redistricting East Anchorage and Eagle River**

Public Comment: **I am opposed to combining Senate representation of part of East Anchorage and Eagle River. These two areas do not share legislative nor economic interests**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Lindsey Hajduk <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 8:22 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 8, 2021, 8:22 pm

First Name: **Lindsey**

Last Name: **Hajduk**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **lhajduk@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99503**

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

Public Comment: **I'm writing as a Spenard resident in Anchorage to advocate for the Senate pairing of House District 12 and 13. Currently I live in the new HD13, which includes half of the Spenard Community Council, another half in HD12, and a small sliver in HD20. Pairing HD12 and 13 will make the council and West Anchorage more whole. Within the HD13 district includes Midtown, which traditionally was part of the Spenard Community Council until recently.**

**I'm also disappointed to see versions that reduce the voice in East Anchorage, some of our community's most diverse neighborhoods. HD18 should pair with HD23 as shown in the Bahnke's version of the map, keeping the community of East Anchorage whole.**

Thank you,

**Lindsey Hajduk**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** David Hernandez <yamadog\_03@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 6:03 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting Testimony

Good morning,

My name is Dave Hernandez, I live in East Anchorage and I have heard that some are saying that we cannot be paired with Eagle River. I take that as divisive. We all live in the Municipality of Anchorage where it is proven we are all socially and economically bound. While many people from Eagle River drive through our neighborhood, they do so to work at the same places we work at. Our commerce is connected as well. We do business with them and they do business with us. People in East Anchorage eat at Eagle River restaurants and vice versa. We have been paired with them before and we found then that our representation was strong and our senator strongly supportive of our issues. As long as we have lived in East Anchorage our Senate district has been with other diverse parts of town including to our west, Eagle River and even to the south. We look forward to working with our neighbors in Eagle River in the new Senate district.

Dave Hernandez

Sent from a Galaxy Note8 far, far away...

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Mary Ruebelmann <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:40 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 9, 2021, 5:40 am

First Name: **Mary**

Last Name: **Ruebelmann**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **mlruebelmann@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Ms. Marcum's Senate Maps for East Anchorage/Eagle River**

Public Comment: **Dear AK Redistricting Board,**

**I just learned there are plans by Ms. Marcum to create a NEW Senatorial map, combining East Anchorage and parts of Eagle River. Have you ever actually visited East Anchorage? Eagle River? They are two very different communities with different needs.Â**

**My parents moved to the East side in 1994 and we have resided here since. East Anchorage is whereÂ I live, work, pray, bike, and play. This is my home. I am distressed to hear that a white, anti-masker would represent my community where more people of color have died from Covid. Our community deserves better.**

**Shame on you, Redistricting Board. It is clear what Ms. Marcum's goals are here.Â**

**Please reject her map.**

**Sincerely,**

**Mary Ruebelmann**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** neisha jones <neishajones1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:01 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Concerned Community Member

Greetings Board Members,

My name is Neisha Jones, I live in East Anchorage.

I am writing to express my concern about the board's proposed Senate pairings that would pair Eagle River's House Districts with Northeast Anchorage and JBER. These pairings severely dilute the voices of already-underrepresented majority minority districts in East Anchorage and go against the spirit of dozens of voices from both Eagle River and East Anchorage who have testified to keeping their communities distinct. I also feel this violates the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, which is meant to protect the voices of majority-minority districts. Yesterday the Board's key argument for pairing Eagle River's house districts with JBER and Muldoon appeared to be the socioeconomic integration of having active and retired military in those areas. However, no numbers were provided to justify these pairings OVER keeping Eagle River with their own district and keeping East Anchorage's 4 House Districts together. There are retired military and veterans all over Anchorage. It seems the Board is choosing to prioritize the voices of active and retired military over the many voices who have testified throughout the redistricting process about keeping Eagle River distinct from East Anchorage. These arguments for socioeconomic integration are flawed. Active Military may occasionally travel to Muldoon to shop, but East Anchorage residents hardly travel to the base to shop or to Eagle River for their needs. Please do not use this justification for splitting up Eagle River's voice and East Anchorage's voice. When you look at other factors such as income and ethnicity, it is clear these proposed Senate districts are NOT more socioeconomically integrated than keeping Eagle River with Eagle River and East Anchorage with East Anchorage. The military already has ample support and voice across Alaska. 20% of the Senate is made up of people who have served in the military, while veterans make up only 11.9% of the population. Meanwhile, there are no Hmong, Samoan, Latino, Somali, Korean, Filipino Senators or representatives to speak to the needs of these communities in East Anchorage. Their voices will be diminished by these pairings with Eagle River, while the military is already very well represented and receives a lot of support throughout Alaska. Although the Eagle River - East Anchorage pairing might seem contiguous, the vast majority of people in the Eagle River district live eight or more miles away from Muldoon, while the two Muldoon districts are MUCH closer together. Similarly, the two Eagle River House Districts are much closer together.

I would like to see:

- The Board has divided East Anchorage into 4 House districts which can easily be paired into two East Anchorage Senate districts. Please pair Districts 18 and 23 and Districts 17 and 19 together. These pairings would respect the voices of majority-minority voices in East Anchorage.
- The public has spoken loud and clear that East Anchorage is a distinct community with very different needs from Eagle River and South Anchorage and the Board's Senate pairings should reflect this.
- Please do not dilute the voices of majority-minority communities along East Anchorage. Thank you for considering this testimony on this critical issue.

Warmest Regards,

*Neisha Jones*



## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** David Song <dmsong93@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:38 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Pairing Testimony

My name is David Song, I live in Juneau. I am writing to express my concern about the board's proposed Senate pairings that would pair Eagle River's House Districts with Northeast Anchorage and JBER. These pairings severely dilute the voices of already-underrepresented majority minority districts in East Anchorage and go against the spirit of dozens of voices from both Eagle River and East Anchorage who have testified to keeping their communities distinct. I also feel this violates the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, which is meant to protect the voices of majority-minority districts. Yesterday the Board's key argument for pairing Eagle River's house districts with JBER and Muldoon appeared to be the socioeconomic integration of having active and retired military in those areas. However, no numbers were provided to justify these pairings OVER keeping Eagle River with their own district and keeping East Anchorage's 4 House Districts together. There are retired military and veterans all over Anchorage. It seems the Board is choosing to prioritize the voices of active and retired military over the many voices who have testified throughout the redistricting process about keeping Eagle River distinct from East Anchorage. These arguments for socioeconomic integrated are flawed. Active Military may occasionally travel to Muldoon to shop, but East Anchorage residents hardly travel to the base to shop or to Eagle River for their needs. Please do not use this justification for splitting up Eagle River's voice and East Anchorage's voice. When you look at other factors such as income and ethnicity, it is clear these proposed Senate districts are NOT more socioeconomically integrated than keeping Eagle River with Eagle River and East Anchorage with East Anchorage. The military already has ample support and voice across Alaska. 20% of the Senate is made up of people who have served in the military, while veterans make up only 11.9% of the population. Meanwhile, there are no Hmong, Samoan, Latino, Somali, Korean, Filipino Senators or representatives to speak to the needs of these communities in East Anchorage. Their voices will be diminished by these pairings with Eagle River, while the military is already very well represented and receives a lot of support throughout Alaska. Although the Eagle River - East Anchorage pairing might seem contiguous, the vast majority of people in the Eagle River district live eight or more miles away from Muldoon, while the two Muldoon districts are MUCH closer together. Similarly, the two Eagle River House Districts are much closer together. Instead, here is what I would like to see: The Board has divided East Anchorage into 4 House districts which can easily be paired into two East Anchorage Senate districts. Please pair Districts 18 and 23 and Districts 17 and 19 together. These pairings would respect the voices of majority-minority voices in East Anchorage. The public has spoken loud and clear that East Anchorage is a distinct community with very different needs from Eagle River and South Anchorage and the Board's Senate pairings should reflect this. Please do not dilute the voices of majority-minority communities along East Anchorage. Thank you for considering this testimony on this critical issue.

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Charles Seaca <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:46 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 9, 2021, 11:45 am

First Name: **Charles**

Last Name: **Seaca**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **chuck.seaca@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate Pairings Provided by Bethany Marcum on November 8, 2021**

Public Comment: **Hello, I am writing in shock at the proposed pairings of HD 18 and HD 24. When I first saw it, I thought it must be a joke. I am struggling to figure out how anyone could justify it. The proposed pairing means that instead of sharing a Senator with my neighbors that are literally a five minute walk from my house - I would instead share a Senator with people that would require a days long mountain trek through an uninhabited mountain range (I can only guess it would take that long). Hyperbole aside (the walking, not the uninhabited mountain range), this is a clear attempt to keep my neighbors and my family from having a Senator who represents and fights for Muldoon. I know that my neighbors in Muldoon care about the same issues that I do - not meaning in terms of partisanship, but in terms of caring about the economic development, safety, parks, & trails in our community and the schools shared by our kids. We have to care about the same things, because our shared community is part of our lives every single day and not just after a long drive to another community. To split our community in half for the purposes of grabbing power undermines the Board's claim to making fair maps and decimates my, and the public's, confidence that these maps were drawn fairly.**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

**From:** Dick Mylius <[rhmylius@aol.com](mailto:rhmylius@aol.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:14 PM  
**To:** Juli Lucky <[juli.lucky@akredistrict.org](mailto:juli.lucky@akredistrict.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Alaska Redistricting Board Update 11/9/2021

There was no opportunity for the public to comment on the final Senate Districts released today. The proposal for Senate District L is absurd - it runs from the north side of downtown Anchorage and Government Hill to the Knik River. It includes some densely populated areas of Anchorage, JBER, and the semi rural areas around Birchwood. It is not compact nor socio-economically integrated. Dick Mylius, Anchorage

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Spencer Moore <spencermooore116@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:08 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Support of Senate Districts

I'd like to write in to voice my support for the combination of East Anchorage and Eagle River for the State Senate portion of the redistricting, as was proposed yesterday. We are already connected as the Municipality of Anchorage and our east side community is well connected to Eagle River. I have been an east sider for 7 years and believe connecting Muldoon and E.R. for the Senate portion is vital for our state representation.

Thanks,

Spencer Moore  
P: 907.350.8262  
E: [spencermooore116@gmail.com](mailto:spencermooore116@gmail.com)

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Ronald Lombard <ronald.lombard1984@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:06 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting Concerns: East Anchorage-Eagle River

We are writing to express our concerns with the senate redistricting map. As East Anchorage residents, we DO NOT support Ms. Marcom's Senate District Map, which pairs East Anchorage with Eagle River. This proposal does not make sense. While Eagle River residents may commute to Anchorage via Muldoon Road, that does not equate to a unique understanding and appreciation of the East Anchorage community and the East Anchorage residents. Leaders from Eagle River reject affordable housing and social service programs that directly benefit underserved communities like East Anchorage. They treat socio-economically diverse areas of Anchorage with disdain and as a dumping ground for what they don't want in Eagle River.

East Anchorage is the essence of socio-economic diversity, and deserves representation with a clear appreciation of those needs and a willingness to connect with community members where they are at, not from the affluent Hiland hillside 15 miles away. Finally, the Muldoon area of East Anchorage is establishing a real sense of community. Community members are advocating for key programs and resources to strengthen it. These needs are much more closely aligned with East Anchorage than the needs of Eagle River. Joining parts of East Anchorage with Eagle River will essentially strip that underserved community of its voice.

There was NOT consensus support for Ms. Marcom's proposal today. Those in favor of Ms. Marcom's proposal have clear conflicts of interest. Like Ms. Marcom's House Redistricting proposal, it represents another blatant attempt at gerrymandering designed to ensure that underserved communities in Anchorage are ignored and stripped of their voice.

We support Ms. Borromeo's proposal because her pairings keep diverse, socio-economically integrated communities together. We are urging you, please DO NOT split up East Anchorage, and please DO NOT split North Eagle River from South Eagle River. By splitting Eagle River, voters are essentially having their voice heard twice, while East Anchorage will not be heard at all. Those communities are much more closely aligned geographically and have similar needs for infrastructure, investments, and programs.

Thank you

Dr. Ron and Robb Lombard  
East Anchorage

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Isabella Mamea <keller03@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:26 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Inequitable Senate pairings

Good morning,

My name is Isabella Mamea. I live in the East Anchorage neighborhood.

I am writing to express my concern about the board's proposed Senate pairings that would pair Eagle River's House Districts with Northeast Anchorage and JBER. These pairings severely dilute the voices of already-underrepresented majority minority districts in East Anchorage and go against the spirit of dozens of voices from both Eagle River and East Anchorage who have testified to keeping their communities distinct. I also feel this violates the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, which is meant to protect the voices of majority-minority districts.

Yesterday the Board's key argument for pairing Eagle River's house districts with JBER and Muldoon appeared to be the socioeconomic integration of having active and retired military in those areas. However, no numbers were provided to justify these pairings OVER keeping Eagle River with their own district and keeping East Anchorage's 4 House Districts together. There are retired military and veterans all over Anchorage. It seems the Board is choosing to prioritize the voices of active and retired military over the many voices who have testified throughout the redistricting process about keeping Eagle River distinct from East Anchorage.

These arguments for socioeconomic integrated are flawed. Active Military may occasionally travel to Muldoon to shop, but East Anchorage residents hardly travel to the base to shop or to Eagle River for their needs. Please do not use this justification for splitting up Eagle River's voice and East Anchorage's voice. When you look at other factors such as income and ethnicity, it is clear these proposed Senate districts are NOT more socioeconomically integrated than keeping Eagle River with Eagle River and East Anchorage with East Anchorage.

The military already has ample support and voice across Alaska. 20% of the Senate is made up of people who have served in the military, while veterans make up only 11.9% of the population. Meanwhile, there are no Hmong, Samoan, Latino, Somali, Korean, Filipino Senators or representatives to speak to the needs of these communities in East Anchorage. Their voices will be diminished by these pairings with Eagle River, while the military is already very well represented and receives a lot of support throughout Alaska.

Although the Eagle River - East Anchorage pairing might seem contiguous, the vast majority of people in the Eagle River district live eight or more miles away from Muldoon, while the two Muldoon districts are MUCH closer together. Similarly, the two Eagle River House Districts are much closer together.

**Instead, here is what I would like to see:**

- The Board has divided East Anchorage into 4 House districts which can easily be paired into two East Anchorage Senate districts. **Please pair Districts 18 and 23 and Districts 17 and 19 together. These pairings would respect the voices of majority-minority voices in East Anchorage.**
- The public has spoken loud and clear that East Anchorage is a distinct community with very different needs from Eagle River and South Anchorage and the Board's Senate pairings should reflect this.
- Please do not dilute the voices of majority-minority communities along East Anchorage. Thank you for considering this testimony on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Derek Reed <derek.anthony.reed@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Senate District Pairings

Good morning,

My name is Derek Reed. I am a resident of East Anchorage. I work in East Anchorage as an educator. Because of my profession, I have had the opportunity to see the cultural and demographic areas of Anchorage and first hand experience the needs, concerns, and cultures of students and families across Anchorage.

I took a look at the proposed senate district pairings and I would like to voice my opinion and concerns.

The pairing of HD 18 with 24 does not make sense. North and South Eagle River should be paired, and North and South Muldoon should be paired. The needs of Eagle River and the needs of East Anchorage are vastly different. By grouping Eagle River with Northeast Anchorage, the voice and concerns of Eagle River are diluted. East Anchorage has some of the most diverse populations in Anchorage, and the socio-economic status of East Anchorage is quite different from Eagle River. Eagle River maintains many public services for their areas that are independent from Anchorage.

Furthermore, any senator who must represent both Anchorage and Eagle River is signed up for a near impossible task, because, as mentioned previously, the needs and socio-economic status are vastly different. A senator representing this area must organize two different town halls when doing constituent outreach - one in East Anchorage and one in Eagle River.

The pairings proposed by member Marcum this afternoon would put four Senators in the NECC area. There are currently three Senators within the boundaries of our district, although just 2 with voters (the third has Bartlett High School, AK Native Cultural Center, Centennial Park, AWWU Ship Creek Water Plant, etc.).

It is my observation that elected representatives that have a small amount of area within our CC area rarely, if ever, show up. Splitting the NECC amongst 4 Senators would disenfranchise our residents. We want a thriving and strong democracy, thus pairing north Muldoon and south Muldoon is the best option.

Personally, I live in the new HD 18. I rarely venture out towards Eagle River beyond going to the nature center or another hiking area. I do not have socio-economic ties to Eagle River; and Eagle River does not have ties to East Anchorage.

Please adopt the Senate pairings for Anchorage proposed by Member Bahnke, which pairs north and south Muldoon together.

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-Derek

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Cliff Groh <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:32 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 9, 2021, 10:32 am

First Name: **Cliff**

Last Name: **Groh**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **cliff.groh@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Proposed map of Anchorage for Senate districts offered by Board Member Marcum**

Public Comment: **November 9, 2021**

**Dear Members of the Alaska Redistricting Board:**

**I am a lifelong Alaskan who has lived most of my life in Anchorage and reside on Government Hill.**

**I continue to STRONGLY oppose any attempt to put in the same Senate district the Board's House District 21 with the Board's House District 22. House District 21 includes Government Hill, JBER, a portion of Downtown, a section of Mountain View, and a portion of the Muldoon neighborhood.**

**The Board's House District 22 is dominated by Eagle River, an entirely different place than House District 21.**

**The proffered justification for this pairing of House Districts 21 and 22 in a Senate district make no sense. It is far better public policy to put the two Eagle River House districts in the same Senate district, which are far more closely aligned with each other than with the Board's House District 21.**

**It seems very sensible to go slowly and consider carefully the legal ramifications of the proposed pairings to create the Senate districts.**

**Sincerely,**



## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Antavia Hamilton <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:58 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 9, 2021, 8:58 pm

First Name: **Antavia**

Last Name: **Hamilton**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **MagicAlwaysWorks@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting of Muldoon/East Anchorage Area/Eagle River Senate Seats**

Public Comment: **I oppose the redistricting of Muldoon/East Anchorage and the plans to divide the Senate representation for Eagle River into two seats.**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Lacey Hemming <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:39 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Get Involved Response

A website response from the Get Involved form as been received with the following submission details.

Date: November 9, 2021, 8:38 am

First Name: **Lacey**

Last Name: **Hemming**

Email Address: **Ivanremo@gmail.com**

Comments: **Hello,**

**I'm writing to testify against Bethany's senate pairings. Again I'm not sure how many times we need to to testify that East Anchorage DOES NOT want to be with Eagle River. WE are completely different communities in all aspects of socio-economic and cultural diversity. I have even heard Eagle River residents say they AVOID Muldoon road because they don't like the "LOOK" of it. This is blatantly a political move and I personally do not want to be affiliated with Eagle River as a resident of East Anchorage.**

**I agree with Nicole's pairings they make sense and keep neighborhoods together.**

**Thanks**

**Lacey Hemming**

**Please consider the the testimonies of east Anchorage residents this means a lot to us.**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

**From:** Pat Race <pat@alaskarobotics.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:07 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Eagle River Senate Split

You've all worked very hard to keep other communities like Juneau and Fairbanks together. Much was made of "splitting the borough."

Now you seem eager to separate Eagle River into two separate senate districts. Senator Marcum said yesterday this is to give Eagle River, "More representation."

After spending so much time advocating for "one-person, one-vote," I'm surprised the motivation has now flipped in an attempt to spread out the influence of Eagle River residents across two Senate districts.

I think the Eagle-exit effort needs to be considered here. Powerful community leaders on the Anchorage assembly and in the Anchorage mayor's office are advocating for Eagle River to become an autonomous community and see it as such. Like other communities and boroughs, every effort should be made to keep them together.

-Pat Race

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**From:** Pat Race <pat@alaskarobotics.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 10:17 AM  
**To:** Testimony <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Senate Pairings

Hi, I'm from Juneau. I think it makes sense for our two house districts to be under one senate seat.

Also, I want to thank you for the work you've done. I was vocally critical during the Juneau meeting but I feel like the board listened to my concerns and addressed them. You've done good work and fair work and that's very much appreciated.

-Pat Race

SENATE TESTIMONY  
**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD**  
**WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: November 9, 2021, 6:12 am

Name: **Jo Ann Gruber**  
Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Email or Phone Contact: [gruberak@yahoo.com](mailto:gruberak@yahoo.com)

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting - Senate Districts (Specifically Eagle River)**

Public Comment: **After listening to yesterday's meeting, I'm convinced more than ever that Eagle River should NOT be split into two (2) senate districts. Districts 22 and 24 must be paired together. It defies logic to think otherwise unless it is for purely political posturing.**

**Arguments that JBER must be included with Eagle River are not reasonable. Service members from JBER regularly frequent businesses and access services in downtown Anchorage and east Anchorage (Muldoon). Those living on JBER rarely come to Eagle River to shop or for services. Therefore, Eagle River does NOT have a special claim to JBER.**

**Similarly, people living in east Anchorage do not make the drive to Eagle River to shop. Therefore, it makes no sense to pair them with a portion of Eagle River.**

**Ms. Marcum stated "This actually gives Eagle River the opportunity to have more representation." I live in Eagle River, and I don't think Eagle River should have more representation than other areas of Anchorage.**

**I think that Ms. Borrromeo's statement says it all: "I don't know why you'd ever consider splitting Eagle River unless you were trying to expand Eagle River's reach in the senate."**

**Therefore, I urge you to pair the two Eagle River districts (22 & 24) together. To do otherwise makes no sense (unless it's to get us control of two senate seats rather than the single seat that our population justifies).**

**Respectfully,  
Jo Ann Gruber  
Eagle River, AK**

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Date: November 9, 2021, 1:00 pm

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Anchorage-Area Map Approved by the Alaska Redistricting Board**

Public Comment: **Wow. It looks like gerrymandering is definitely alive and well in Alaska.**

**Even after hearing overwhelming testimony to NOT split Eagle River into two senate districts, that's exactly what the Alaska Redistricting Board has done thanks to three members who appear to prefer to pander to a political party rather than do what's best for all Alaskans they purport to represent.**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

I found it disappointing that Mr. Binkley behaved somewhat rudely and would not let all members of the board speak before he halted discussion/debate with the support of Ms. Marcum and Mr. Simpson.

I wish to thank Ms. Bahnke and Ms. Borromeo for their efforts to attempt to ensure that the pairings were done in a manner that was logical, objective, and fair to all who live within the Municipality of Anchorage.

Respectfully,

Jo Ann Gruber

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Zack Fields <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:51 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 9, 2021, 8:50 pm

First Name: **Zack**

Last Name: **Fields**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Representative, House District 20**

Email or Phone Contact: **Rep.Zack.Fields@akleg.gov**

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Suppression of minority votesâ€”urge correction in Senate pairings**

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

**When you meet tomorrow, I urge you to correct the brazen partisan gerrymander in Senate pairings, which pairs Downtown/Government Hill (in my current House district) with Eagle River to, as Ms.Marcum stated today, give Eagle River/Chugiak more representation by taking away minority votersâ€™ voice in this Senate district.**

**As you know, Government Hill is an urban, racially diverse neighborhood that has nothing in common with the overwhelmingly White exurban community of Chugiak. The Senate districts today are far less compact, contiguous, and socioeconomically integrated than pairings recommended in overwhelming public comment. Yet the Boardâ€™s Republican appointees persisted in ignoring public comment, ignoring advise from your own legal counsel, and ignoring the clear directives in the Constitution in order to shift political power from a heavily minority neighborhood to a mostly White neighborhood. This is transparently illegal and will be struck down in court if you donâ€™t correct it. Why put Alaskans through that expensive, confusing, time consuming process when you can just correct the Senate pairings? The House districts appear very consistent with the law, so correcting Senate pairings is simple. I urge you to adopt a legal map, including Senate pairings, rather than persist in an obviously illegal map that will only lead to time consuming and expensive litigation, and chaos as courts have to correct district lines that lead to additional elections and confusion among voters about who lives in what district.**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Samantha Fili <queen\_sammee@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:08 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony

My name is Samantha Fili, I live in Eagle River.

I am writing to express my concern about the board's proposed Senate pairings that would pair Eagle River's House Districts with Northeast Anchorage and JBER. These pairings severely dilute the voices of already-underrepresented majority minority districts in East Anchorage and go against the spirit of dozens of voices from both Eagle River and East Anchorage who have testified to keeping their communities distinct. I also feel this violates the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, which is meant to protect the voices of majority-minority districts.

Yesterday the Board's key argument for pairing Eagle River's house districts with JBER and Muldoon appeared to be the socioeconomic integration of having active and retired military in those areas. However, no numbers were provided to justify these pairings OVER keeping Eagle River with their own district and keeping East Anchorage's 4 House Districts together. There are retired military and veterans all over Anchorage. It seems the Board is choosing to prioritize the voices of active and retired military over the many voices who have testified throughout the redistricting process about keeping Eagle River distinct from East Anchorage.

These arguments for socioeconomic integrated are flawed. Active Military may occasionally travel to Muldoon to shop, but East Anchorage residents hardly travel to the base to shop or to Eagle River for their needs. Please do not use this justification for splitting up Eagle River's voice and East Anchorage's voice. When you look at other factors such as income and ethnicity, it is clear these proposed Senate districts are NOT more socioeconomically integrated than keeping Eagle River with Eagle River and East Anchorage with East Anchorage.

The military already has ample support and voice across Alaska. 20% of the Senate is made up of people who have served in the military, while veterans make up only 11.9% of the population. Meanwhile, there are no Hmong, Samoan, Latino, Somali, Korean, Filipino Senators or representatives to speak to the needs of these communities in East Anchorage. Their voices will be diminished by these pairings with Eagle River, while the military is already very well represented and receives a lot of support throughout Alaska.

Although the Eagle River - East Anchorage pairing might seem contiguous, the vast majority of people in the Eagle River district live eight or more miles away from Muldoon, while the two Muldoon districts are MUCH closer together. Similarly, the two Eagle River House Districts are much closer together.

Instead, here is what I would like to see:

The Board has divided East Anchorage into 4 House districts which can easily be paired into two East Anchorage Senate districts. Please pair Districts 18 and 23 and Districts 17 and 19 together. These pairings would respect the voices of majority-minority voices in East Anchorage.

The public has spoken loud and clear that East Anchorage is a distinct community with very different needs from Eagle River and South Anchorage and the Board's Senate pairings should reflect this.

Please do not dilute the voices of majority-minority communities along East Anchorage.

Thank you for considering this testimony on this critical issue.

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Michael Fuller <mikey6\_3@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:49 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Fwd:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Michael Fuller <mikey6\_3@hotmail.com>  
**Date:** November 9, 2021 at 3:49:07 PM AKST  
**To:** testimony@akredistrict.com

I live in East Anchorage and I have heard that some are saying that we cannot be paired with Eagle River. I find that to be divisive. We all live in the Municipality of Anchorage where it is proven we are all socially and economically tied. While many people from Eagle River drive through our neighborhood they do so to work at the same places we work at. Our commerce is connected as well. We do business with them and they do business with us. People in East Anchorage eat at Eagle River restaurants and vice versa. We have been paired with them before and we found then that our representation was strong and our senator strongly supportive of our issues. As long as we have lived in East Anchorage our Senate district has been with other diverse parts of town including to our west, Eagle River and even to the south. We look forward to working with our neighbors in Eagle River in the new Senate district.



## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Jeff Garness <Jeff@garnessengineering.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 5:09 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony regarding redistricting plan

I am writing in support of the redistricting plan proposed yesterday (11/8/21) by the board, particularly the pairing of District 18 (Muldoon) and District 24 (South Eagle River). I have been a resident of Alaska for over 50 years and a resident of District 18 for over 35 years. I am also a business owner (professional engineer) in Anchorage. My business regularly serves customers in District 24. I can say from personal experience that there is a strong economic, social, and transportation nexus between the residents of District 18 and District 24. Many District 24 residents travel through (or to) Muldoon every day for employment, business, or personal reasons. As a result they do business in District 18 (purchase gas, visit restaurants, and shop at local stores). Many people in District 18 regularly travel to District 24 for similar reasons. There is also a strong common interest in regard to public safety and the State transportation network by residents of both districts as they travel back and forth (some do so on a daily basis) to participate for commerce or other reasons. In short, it goes without saying that there is a strong nexus between the residents of District 18 and District 24 that supports the need for common representation in the State Senate.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via phone or email

Best Regards,

Jeffrey A. Garness, P.E., M.S.

(907) 244- 9612

[jeff@garnessengineering.com](mailto:jeff@garnessengineering.com)

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Yarrow Silvers <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 3:08 PM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 9, 2021, 3:08 pm

First Name: **Yarrow**

Last Name: **Silvers**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **travelingsilvers@gmail.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

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

Public Comment: **The partisan gerrymandering in the senate was deliberate and indefensible, and today the board majority stopped trying to even pretend that it was anything other than a power grab at the expense of diverse and marginalized communities.**

**You split Downtown down 4th Avenue and put one side of the street in a rural district 17 miles away, along with the port, the railroad, the industrial areas, and government Hill, while putting the rest of Downtown in a different district. What is the rational for this?**

**There is none.**

**You split South Anchorage, the one agreed upon senate district, into two.**

**What was the rational for this?**

**There is none.**

**You split Turnagain and Spenard, despite overwhelming public testimony.**

**You split the city of Eagle River in two, right down the middle.**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

**You split East Anchorage and put one part in a district on another side of an uninhabited mountain range, in order to give the white, affluent population on that opposite side of the mountain range a louder voice, not at all concerned about the voices of those you silenced.**

**None of this makes any sense from any standpoint other than an egregious gerrymander determined to elevate Republican voices in Eagle River and gain an extra senate seat, and the refusal of this board majority to even allow discussion or make any attempt to rationalize these decisions beyond the incredibly entitled attitude of "I drive down Muldoon to go shopping" and four testimonies saying oh hey, maybe JBER should go with Eagle River absolutely confirm this. Unfortunately now you will waste untold amounts of taxpayer dollars fighting the inevitable lawsuits that will come out of your decidedly egregious and dishonest decisions.**

**The public has lost a great deal of trust in this process in seeing that it was never in this board majority's plans to do the right thing or listen to one bit of testimony, or do anything other than push through probably the worst partisan gerrymander that you can imagine. Not one single Anchorage community was respected nor left whole. It was never about the testimony, one vote, one person, or respecting socio-economically integrated communities and was always about winning elections based on how you can cheat and stack the deck in your favor, rather than on your ideas.**

**I will end this with a thank you to Nicole Borromeo and Melanie Bahnke for your attempts to have rational, important and transparent discussions outlining the effects the board Majority's decisions will have on diverse and marginalized communities across Anchorage. It is unfortunate that they responded by silencing your voices just before silencing ours.**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Iva Karoly-Lister <iva.karolylister@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:49 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** In opposition of Marcum Senate Pairings

The senate pairings proposed by Marcum are an attempt at gerrymandering. This is done by splitting up the lower income, racially diverse neighborhood of East Anchorage into separate districts integrated with the more affluent, white communities of Eagle River and Hillside. This dilutes the voices of East Anchorage residents while splitting up the more affluent Eagle River community into two districts in order to afford it more representation. Culturally and socioeconomically, Eagle River and Muldoon are two different neighborhoods with vastly different concerns and needs. Redistricting must honor socioeconomic ties, racial diversity and contiguous districts of actual population, none of which this plan does.

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Judith Conte <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 3:04 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 9, 2021, 3:04 am

First Name: **Judith**

Last Name: **Conte**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **907-727-4637 judith.a.conte@mac.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate Adoption of Ms. Marcum's gerrymandered map**

Public Comment: **Dear Members of the Redistricting Board,**

**I am writing to object to the Board's decision to adopt Bethany Marcum's senate pairings, rather than the fair and competitive senate pairings proposed by Nicole Borromeo. The Board's ill-advised decision ignores the hours of testimony and hundreds of written comments by Anchorage, Eagle River, and Chugiak residents who objected in earlier hearings. In addition, the Board's decision violates the public's interests and the State of Alaska's constitutional requirements for the redistricting process.**

**Ms. Marcum's senate pairings clearly gerrymander Anchorage with district lines that are drawn in ways that specifically benefit republicans candidates in all future elections. While the final map, Version 4, previously adopted by the Board respected the different cultural, socio-economic, and geographical distinctness of Anchorage, the gerrymandered map of Ms. Marcum destroys all interests that matter for fair elections that are by and for the people.**

**Worst of all, the Board's current approach is a non-consensus but ultimately a majority that violated the required democratic process and instead, gerrymandered Anchorage to benefit Senate republicans. Each instance of pairing proposed by Ms. Marcum and adopted by the Board only make sense when viewed through the lens of gerrymandering. By splitting up Anchorage as the Board has done, voters who oppose Ms. Marcum's conservative politics are now thrown out of their original districts in order to maximize the total districts that are winnable by Marcum's political allies and others who are aligned with her conservative organization, The Alaska Policy Forum.**

**The Board's gerrymandering of Anchorage and of Alaska is contrary to Alaska's Constitution, violates the Voting Rights Act, and should not be let to stand simply to placate Ms. Marcum.**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Mike Coumbe <mcoumbe@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 4:24 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Eagle River and East Anchorage Must Have Separate Senate Districts

Dear Alaska Redistricting Board Members,

East Anchorage is a completely different living environment and population than Eagle River. You have the option of combining Eagle River House districts to make a Senate district that fits well. Instead, it looks like from your public comments that your aim is to increase representation in the Senate for Eagle River.

Please reverse this decision and make Senate pairings that fit the people who live there. Combine East Anchorage House districts within the Anchorage Bowl. Keep the Eagle River Senate district in the Eagle River / Chugiak area.

Do the right thing.

Thank you.

Michael Coumbe  
P.O. Box 92141  
Anchorage, Alaska 99509

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Lo Crawford <locraw4d@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 10:54 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** redistricting

Good morning

- I am writing to express my concern about the board's proposed Senate pairings that would pair Eagle River's House Districts with Northeast Anchorage and JBER. These pairings severely dilute the voices of already-underrepresented majority minority districts in East Anchorage and go against the spirit of dozens of voices from both Eagle River and East Anchorage who have testified to keeping their communities distinct. I also feel this violates the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, which is meant to protect the voices of majority-minority districts.

### **Instead, here is what I would like to see:**

- The Board has divided East Anchorage into 4 House districts which can easily be paired into two East Anchorage Senate districts. Please pair Districts 18 and 23 and Districts 17 and 19 together. These pairings would respect the voices of majority-minority voices in East Anchorage.
- The public has spoken loud and clear that East Anchorage is a distinct community with very different needs from Eagle River and South Anchorage and the Board's Senate pairings should reflect this.
- Please do not dilute the voices of majority-minority communities along East Anchorage.
- Thank you for considering this testimony on this critical issue.

Lourdes Crawford

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** pdooley@gci.net  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:34 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Pairings - Keep Eagle River and East Anchorage Separate

**Importance:** High

While the basic map adopted by the committee is acceptable the proposed senate seat pairing of Eagle River and East Anchorage is not.

This proposal is of doubtful legality in terms of Socioeconomic Integration and of being Contiguous. East Anchorage is a large, contiguous, and vibrantly diverse slice of Anchorage. Eagle River is barely part of Anchorage and has very little in common with East Anchorage.

Yes - Eagle River constituents drive into Anchorage to work and maybe shop, but they live in a totally separate universe from the city of Anchorage.

It would seem that this senate pairing is in the service of giving Eagle River a much larger voice than their size would warrant - not ok!

Please keep Eagle River and East Anchorage SEPARATE.

Pat Dooley  
2150 E. 56th Avenue  
99507  
907-360-4887



## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Jennifer Gunderson <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:28 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 9, 2021, 9:28 am

First Name: **Jennifer**

Last Name: **Gunderson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **N/A**

Email or Phone Contact: **jefner@gci.net**

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **NO to pairing Eagle River/East Anchorage into a senate district**

Public Comment: **I have been an Eagle River resident for over 25 years and have raised three kids here. It is concerning that there are proposals to pair East Anchorage and Eagle River districts.**

**Eagle River and East Anchorage are ten miles apart. Each have their own schools, businesses, churches, ... they are separate communities.**

**The two Eagle River house districts should be paired into a single senate district.**

**There is no demographic, geographic, business or community justification for proposals that split and combine Eagle River with other districts. It makes no sense and appears contrived and political.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

**Jennifer Gunderson**

**Eagle River**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Michael Szidloski <uafbum@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 8:21 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Map redistricting

Good Morning.

I have made my views known prior during the congressional house redistricting, but it bears repeating here for the Senate map redistricting: The eyes of Alaska are upon you as you go through this process. Ruderichs' antics may have flown under the radar in 2011, but this is a much more visible process and more Alaskans are interested in the process today than back then. The actions of certain board members, live, have shown a blatant disregard for the lived experiences and testimonials of Alaskans regarding their desire for representation. As a reminder to those board members: your allegiance in this process is not to any political party, but to the people of Alaska. Do not do more to damage the idea of democracy in this state, LISTEN to the testimony, and not just the testimony you agree with. Chair Binkley is letting his partisanship show in this process, and it's been a disgrace to Fairbanks. I also feel for my fellow Alaskans in Anchorage, with Marcum's absolutely absurd attempts to create more political representation (and thus, power) at the expense of the rest of the municipality. Do Better. You are being watched, and graded, by those you are supposedly speaking for.

~Michael Szidloski

Resident of Fairbanks, Alaska since 2004

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

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Jonathan Lang <beardedjon@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:55 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Senate Districts

Good morning.

Please do not split Muldoon. Eagle River has no business being linked to Muldoon. The needs of East Anchorage do not match the needs of Eagle River. If EaglExit happens this choice will be even more divisive.

Please keep Muldoon cohesive and keep it separate from Eagle River.

Peace and Love!

- Jon

Jonathan "Bearded Jon" Lang, Doer  
Pay No Attention to the (Man Behind the Curtain) Films

--

[www.vimeo.com/paynoattention](http://www.vimeo.com/paynoattention)

--

[beardedjon@gmail.com](mailto:beardedjon@gmail.com)

907-240-6479 - always on; not always answered

--

It is not length of life, but depth of life -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

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**Dena'inaq ełnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)**

*I live and work on Dena'ina land. (English)*



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Wisteria Ward <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 9:55 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 9, 2021, 9:54 am

First Name: **Wisteria**

Last Name: **Ward**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **WisteriaNeedfulThings@yahoo.com**

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Proposed Pairing Senate District 23 & 28**

Public Comment: **To whom it may concern,**

I am a 61 year resident of Alaska who values equitable community-based representation. I am in opposition to Muldoon being broken up specifically to be joined as a district with Eagle River. I have lived in the Muldoon area with my family where we raised our children, for 35 years. Our schools, our commercial and economic needs, the future development of parks, community, and land resources, are far removed from and unrelated to the needs, demographics, and resources of Eagle River. It would not be ideal for a senate or house representative who neither lives in the Muldoon area nor economically interacts on a daily basis, to represent a constituency completely removed from their own community priorities. Similarly the following pairings: the NE corner north of Duben that are in a House district w JBER & Govâ€™t Hill would be paired with Downtown (21 & 20), and NECC neighbors in Southern Nunaka Valley that are in a HD with the UMed District would be paired north with Airport Heights north to Mountain View (17 & 19), are also a divisive proposals that could result in non-community specific needs being addressed as well as fostering a disconnect between neighborhoods.

Currently Muldoon representatives are residents of the community area they represent therefor they are stakeholders in current dilemmas and future aspirations. It is far more democratic and practically ideal f or any community to have representatives who will be directly affected by outcomes. These proposed changes could establish an arena whereby Muldoonâ€™s interests would be overshadowed by representatives whose interests are the antithesis of our own.

Finally, the wheel is not broken. Breaking it has the very strong possibility of crippling all the affected communities.

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Anna Wen <annamwen@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 1:27 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for Redistricting

Hello,

My name is Anna Wen, I live in Northeast neighborhood in Anchorage and attend UAA as a full time student. I am writing to express my concern about the board's proposed Senate pairings that would pair Eagle River's House Districts with Northeast Anchorage and JBER. These pairings severely dilute the voices of already-underrepresented majority minority districts in East Anchorage and go against the spirit of dozens of voices from both Eagle River and East Anchorage who have testified to keeping their communities distinct. I also feel this violates the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, which is meant to protect the voices of majority-minority districts.

Yesterday the Board's key argument for pairing Eagle River's house districts with JBER and Muldoon appeared to be the socioeconomic integration of having active and retired military in those areas. However, no numbers were provided to justify these pairings OVER keeping Eagle River with their own district and keeping East Anchorage's 4 House Districts together. There are retired military and veterans all over Anchorage. It seems the Board is choosing to prioritize the voices of active and retired military over the many voices who have testified throughout the redistricting process about keeping Eagle River distinct from East Anchorage.

These arguments for socioeconomic integrated are flawed. Active Military may occasionally travel to Muldoon to shop, but East Anchorage residents hardly travel to the base to shop or to Eagle River for their needs. Please do not use this justification for splitting up Eagle River's voice and East Anchorage's voice. When you look at other factors such as income and ethnicity, it is clear these proposed Senate districts are NOT more socioeconomically integrated than keeping Eagle River with Eagle River and East Anchorage with East Anchorage.

The military already has ample support and voice across Alaska. 20% of the Senate is made up of people who have served in the military, while veterans make up only 11.9% of the population. Meanwhile, there are no Hmong, Samoan, Latino, Somali, Korean, Filipino Senators or representatives to speak to the needs of these communities in East Anchorage. Their voices will be diminished by these pairings with Eagle River, while the military is already very well represented and receives a lot of support throughout Alaska.

Although the Eagle River - East Anchorage pairing might seem contiguous, the vast majority of people in the Eagle River district live eight or more miles away from Muldoon, while the two Muldoon districts are MUCH closer together. Similarly, the two Eagle River House Districts are much closer together.

Instead, here is what I would like to see:

The Board has divided East Anchorage into 4 House districts which can easily be paired into two East Anchorage Senate districts. Please pair Districts 18 and 23 and Districts 17 and 19 together. These pairings would respect the voices of majority-minority voices in East Anchorage.

The public has spoken loud and clear that East Anchorage is a distinct community with very different needs from Eagle River and South Anchorage and the Board's Senate pairings should reflect this.

Please do not dilute the voices of majority-minority communities along East Anchorage.

Thank you for considering this testimony on this critical issue,

Wen (concerned voter)

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Tafi Toleafoa <tafi.toleafoa@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:31 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting Testimony

Malo le soifua (Hello),

My name is Tafilisaunoa Toleafoa, I live in the Bayshore/Klatt neighborhood in Anchorage and I have family and friends residing in Muldoon and East Anchorage.

I am writing to express my concern about the board's proposed Senate pairings that would pair Eagle River's House Districts with Northeast Anchorage and JBER. These pairings severely dilute the voices of already-underrepresented majority minority districts in East Anchorage and go against the spirit of dozens of voices from both Eagle River and East Anchorage who have testified to keeping their communities distinct. I also feel this violates the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, which is meant to protect the voices of majority-minority districts.

The Board's key argument for pairing Eagle River's house districts with JBER and Muldoon appeared to be the socioeconomic integration of having active and retired military in those areas. However, no numbers were provided to justify these pairings OVER keeping Eagle River with their own district and keeping East Anchorage's 4 House Districts together. There are retired military and veterans all over Anchorage. It seems the Board is choosing to prioritize the voices of active and retired military over the many voices who have testified throughout the redistricting process about keeping Eagle River distinct from East Anchorage.

These arguments for socioeconomic integration are flawed. Most of my family and friends of Samoan descent that live in the Muldoon and East Anchorage area do not have access to the base and do not travel to Eagle River for their needs. Please do not use this justification for splitting up Eagle River's voice and East Anchorage's voice. When you look at other factors such as income and ethnicity, it is clear these proposed Senate districts are **NOT** more socioeconomically integrated than keeping Eagle River with Eagle River and East Anchorage with East Anchorage.

The military already has ample support and voice across Alaska. 20% of the Senate is made up of people who have served in the military, while veterans make up only 11.9% of the population. Meanwhile, there are no Hmong, Samoan, Latino, Somali, Korean, Filipino Senators or representatives to speak to the needs of these communities in East Anchorage. Their voices will be diminished by these pairings with Eagle River, while the military is already very well represented and receives a lot of support throughout Alaska.

Although the Eagle River - East Anchorage pairing might seem contiguous, the vast majority of people in the Eagle River district live eight or more miles away from Muldoon, while the two Muldoon districts are MUCH closer together. Similarly, the two Eagle River House Districts are much closer together.

Instead, here is what I would like to see:

1. The Board has divided East Anchorage into 4 House districts which can easily be paired into two East Anchorage Senate districts. Please pair Districts 18 and 23 and Districts 17 and 19 together. These pairings would respect the voices of majority-minority voices in East Anchorage.
2. The public has spoken loud and clear that East Anchorage is a distinct community with very different needs from Eagle River and South Anchorage and the Board's Senate pairings should reflect this.
3. Please do not dilute the voices of majority-minority communities along East Anchorage.

Thank you for considering this testimony on this critical issue.  
Tafilisaunoa Toleafoa

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** mrbojangles@alaskan.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:47 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Please APPROVE the Borromeo Senate Map

Dear Redistricting Board Members:

Recognizing the time pressures that you are all under, I will keep this brief:

Please approve the Borromeo map for the Senate pairings of House districts, as it best meets the constitutional requirements to keep socioeconomic groups together. Eagle River needs to stay together in one senate district, East Anchorage needs to be grouped together in one senate area, midtown Anchorage needs to have districts 19 & 18 paired together to prevent splitting the U-Med District up, and this all ripples throughout Anchorage.

The Borromeo map is the best and most fair overall map proposed and I urge you all to approve it. Thank you, Sheri Whitethorn (Anchorage)

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** elsa sargento <emsargento@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 11:49 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Elsa Sargento's Testimony

Dear Redistricting Board,

I am Elsa Malapit Sargento of the Filipino American Community, born and raised in the Philippines, migrated to Alaska in 1974 and had lived in Anchorage, Alaska ever since. 30,000 Filipinos call Alaska their home, 10,000 of which live in Anchorage.

I am writing to express my concern about the board's proposed Senate pairings that would pair Eagle River's House Districts with Northeast Anchorage and JBER. These pairings severely dilute the voices of already underrepresented majority- minority districts in East Anchorage and go against the spirits of dozens of voices from both Eagle River and East Anchorage who have testified to keeping their communities distinct. I truly feel this also violates the spirit of the Voting Rights Act which is meant to protect the majority minority districts.

Yesterday, the Board's key argument for pairing Eagle River's house districts with JBER and Muldoon appeared to be the socioeconomic integration of having active and retired military in those areas. However, no numbers were provided to justify these pairings OVER keeping Eagle River with their own district and keeping East Anchorage's 4 House Districts together. There are retired military and veterans all over Anchorage. It seems the Board is choosing to prioritize the voices of active and retired military over the many voices who have testified over the redistricting process about keeping Eagle River distinct from East Anchorage.

These arguments for socioeconomic integrated are flawed. Active military may occasionally travel to Muldoon to shop, but East Anchorage residents hardly travel to the base to shop or to Eagle River for their needs. PLEASE do not use this justification to split up Eagle River's voice and East Anchorage's voice. When you look at other factors such as income and ethnicity, it is clear these proposed Senate Districts are NOT more socioeconomically integrated than keeping Eagle River with Eagle River and East Anchorage with East Anchorage.

The Military already has ample support and voice across Alaska. 20% of the Senate is made up of people who have served in the military, while veterans make up only 11.9% of the population. Meanwhile, there are no Filipino, Hmong, Samoan, Korean, Latino, Somali Senators or Representatives to speak to the needs of these communities in East Anchorage. Their voices will be diminished by these pairings with Eagle River, while the military is already very well represented and receive a lot of support throughout Alaska

Although the Eagle River- East Anchorage majority of are contiguous, the vast majority of people in Eagle River district live eight or more miles away from Muldoon, while the two Muldoon Districts are MUCH closer together. Similarly, the two Eagle River House Districts are much closer together.

Here is what I would like to see:

1. Please pair Districts 18 and 23 and Districts 17 and 19 together. These pairings would respect the voices of majority minority voices in East Anchorage.
2. The public has spoken loudly and clearly that East Anchorage is a distinct community with very different needs from Eagle River and South Anchorage and the Board's Senate pairings should reflect this.
3. Please do not dilute the VOICES of majority -minority communities along East Anchorage.
4. Thank you for considering this testimony on this critical issue.

Maraming Salamat,



## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Erin W <erin.willahan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 12:46 PM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Testimony for the record on Anchorage Senate Pairings

Hello,

My name is Erin Willahan and I was born and raised in East Anchorage and currently reside in Spenard. I am writing to state my frustration and disappointment in the Board's Senate pairings for Anchorage and the process through which these Senate pairings were achieved.

The Senate pairings proposed by Member Marcum and agreed to by Members Binkley and Simpson is a glaring display of racial gerrymandering in Anchorage, denies low-income and communities of color in Anchorage fair representation, does not uphold the constitutional mandate of the Redistricting Board for compact, contiguous, and socio-economically integrated representation, and is so clearly unconstitutional that it will cost the State already dwindling money in lawsuits.

The testimony heard over the entire process from actual residents of Eastside (and Eagle River) communities as well as Spenard, overwhelmingly advocated against the Senate pairings adopted today - that would, for example, force Muldoon to share representation with Eagle River and split up Spenard and Turnagain.

Meanwhile, despite this overwhelming testimony, the public was left out of the process of Senate pairings this week, and were not given an adequate opportunity to comment on the decisions adopted in the last 24 hours before they became finalized. While I understand that decisions must be made and time is running out, this is an egregious procedural move when considering that testimony thus far has overwhelmingly been against a scenario such as the one just adopted.

There is no justification given whatsoever for the Senate pairings and it was not created in good faith. In this case, members Marcum, Binkley, and Simpson seem to be exploiting their position on this Board for the gain of their own political parties and private interests.

That said, I do want to thank Members Bahnke and Borromeo for their efforts to follow the mandate for the redistricting process, incorporate public testimony, and for their work toward a Senate Map that would have been fair to all.

Regards,  
Erin Willahan

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** Dan Saddler <automated@akredistrict.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 12:06 AM  
**To:** TJ Presley; Jessica Tonseth; Testimony  
**Subject:** ++ Map Comment Response

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

Date: November 10, 2021, 12:06 am

First Name: **Dan**

Last Name: **Saddler**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: **dansaddler@gci.net**

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate pairings of Districts 21-22, and Districts 23-24**

Public Comment: **Having followed your recent deliberations and decisions regarding the reapportionment of the state into 40 House and 20 Senate districts, I would like to express my support for your action in pairing House Districts 21 and 22 in Senate District K, and pairing House Districts 23 and 24 into a Senate District L. I will offer several reasons, though you are likely to hear more.**

**First, it is clear that both pairings meet the essential criteria you were charged with following in drawing district lines. They are clearly contiguous districts, by virtue of sharing borders. They are clearly compact, by virtue of being wholly contained under the same local government, the Municipality of Anchorage. And as you can tell by your exhaustive statistical analysis, each district has an admirably small deviation from the numerical ideal division called for in the state Constitution.**

**Second, in relation to pairing of Districts 23 (Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson) and north Eagle River and Chugiak (District 24): as I testified earlier, the residents of these two districts share much in common. Many soldiers and airmen, and in some cases their dependents, live in Eagle River but work on base, creating close commercial and vocational ties and shared political interests that make them a cohesive unit deserving to be represented by a single senator. While it goes without saying that a joint military base has a high percentage of active-duty servicemembers, it may not be as clearly understood that Eagle River has the highest percentage of veterans of any community in the state. Many of them first came to Alaska at the invitation of Uncle Sam, and decided they felt at home here, and decided to make Eagle River their permanent home after separation, reflecting a continuity of affiliation and interest that justifies pairing the districts. Residents of these communities work, shop, study, recreate and worship together.**

**Third, pairing Districts 21 and 22 into a Senate district reflects an important shared characteristic: their mutual higher**

## SENATE TESTIMONY

population concentration. District 21 contains high density neighborhoods of Muldoon “ trailer parks, apartment complexes and condominium developments ” and District 22 likewise contains far more of Eagle River’s more compact subdivisions, higher density planned developments, and recently, even more multi-family housing than the other Eagle River district. Residents of each area have voted with their feet to live closer to each other, nearer to the amenities of modern civilization, and farther away from Alaska’s wide-open spaces. They also each are oriented geographically toward the Chugach Mountains, in contrast to the orientation toward the Cook Inlet and its coastal environment shared by Districts 23 and 24.

By the same standard, pairing Districts 23 and 24 makes sense, because District 23 contains more Eagle River and Chugiak residents who choose to live a wilder, more rural life on larger, more isolated lots. The servicemembers who make up a significant portion of District 23 likewise live a rugged life, training and operating in Alaska’s rugged outdoors, in preparation for deployment to other wild and challenging regions of the world.

Eagle River and Northeast Alaska are already served by common legislative representatives. The Municipality of Anchorage’s current assembly districts join residents in Mul doon with residents in Eagle River, which should give members of the state redistricting board confidence that this combination is well-established, appropriate, and accepted.

I would note that there is historical precedent for pairing Districts 21 and 22, which was essentially the district that Anna Fairclough represented when she was in the Senate. The appropriateness of this pairing is reflected in the fact that this one senator so effectively represented the interests of residents in each district that they returned her to office every time she ran.

Finally, it concerns me to hear some claim during board discussion on pairings that racial factors played some role in your pairings decisions. This is a disturbing insinuation that should disappoint anyone who believes in the American ideal that each citizen enjoys equal rank with their fellow. Any claim that the board considered the race, creed, color, income or other irrelevant characteristic of citizens other than their area of residence is troubling, lacks any supporting evidence , and should carry no weight as you conclude your business.

As you approach the end of your work, please accept my appreciation for performing what by all appearance was a respectful, efficient, fair and very defensible public process. While some may quibble with specific elements of the redistricting plan, from a larger statewide perspective you have done well by all Alaskans, and should be proud of your work.

## SENATE TESTIMONY

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**From:** LuAnn Piccard <lpiccard@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 10:14 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Re: Do not support Marcom's Senate District Map-Pairing Proposal

Dear Redistricting Board,

I am writing to express my utter dismay at your decision made yesterday regarding Senate boundaries in Anchorage, in particular joining parts of East Anchorage and Downtown with Eagle River with literally zero socioeconomic and geographic similarities. There is simply no justification for this decision or transparency for its rationale. The point of public dialogue is to shine a light on issues critical to the community with an opportunity for voices to be heard. In this case the overwhelming input was against Ms. Marcom's proposal and you refused to engage in a respectful discussion with the communities impacted and even within your own Board. If there was logic to that plan it would have survived scrutiny. Because there was no logic, the only explanation is partisan gerrymandering.

Your tone deaf approach to legitimate community concerns shines a harsh light on your lack of appreciation and disrespect for these diverse communities. Your decision to strip those voices from this dialogue is exactly what we will expect from the so-called leaders now forced upon us. You have facilitated a full-on power grab. But hey, let them eat cake, right?

We all realize this is a complicated process and respect the hard work required to meet a range of community needs with fair and balanced representation. However there are no circumstances under which a rational person would have reached this conclusion. Shame on you and your back room politics.

In utter disbelief,

LuAnn Piccard  
East Anchorage

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---

**From:** LuAnn Piccard  
**Sent:** Monday, November 8, 2021 9:39:00 PM  
**To:** testimony@akredistrict.org <testimony@akredistrict.org>  
**Subject:** Do not support Marcom's Senate District Map-Pairing Proposal

Dear Redistricting Board,

My family has lived in East Anchorage for 45 years. **I DO NOT support Ms. Marcom's Senate District Map and pairings that join parts of East Anchorage's Muldoon area with Eagle River.** This proposal simply does not make sense. Because Eagle River residents **commute** via Muldoon Road on their way to other parts of Anchorage does not mean they have an appreciation for the needs in that part of our community. Leaders from Eagle River reject affordable housing and social service programs that directly benefit underserved communities like East Anchorage. They treat socio-economically diverse areas of Anchorage with disdain and as a dumping ground for what they don't want in Eagle River.

## SENATE TESTIMONY

---

**From:** Hon. George Martinez <hon.georgemartinez@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 10:31 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** Redistricting Testimony - East Anchorage Resident

Redistricting Board members,

My name is George Martinez, and I am a home owner in East Anchorage, where I live with my wife and two children. I am also a member of the Northeast Community Council. I am writing to express my concern about the Board's adopted Senate pairings to pair Eagle River's House Districts with Northeast Anchorage and JBER. These pairings severely dilute the voices of already-underrepresented majority-minority districts in East Anchorage and go against the wishes of dozens of residents from both Eagle River and East Anchorage who have testified to keeping their communities distinct and in-tact. I also feel this move violates the spirit of the Voting Rights Act, which aims to protect the voices of majority-minority districts.

The Board divided East Anchorage into 4 House districts which could easily be paired into two East Anchorage Senate districts. I feel Districts 18 and 23 and Districts 17 and 19 make more sensible pairings for Senate districts. These pairings would respect the voices of majority-minority voices in East Anchorage and maintain the distinct character of each area.

The public has spoken loud and clearly that East Anchorage is a distinct community with very different needs from Eagle River and South Anchorage. The Board's Senate pairings and redistricting decisions should reflect this.

Thank you for considering this testimony on this critical issue.

--

George Martinez,

## SENATE TESTIMONY

---

**From:** Yarrow Silvers <travelingsilvers@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 5:58 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** 2011 map made the same mistakes  
**Attachments:** 20211110\_054318.jpg

In light of the fact that 2011 redistricting maps made an identical Senate Muldoon/Eagle River pairing which was deemed illegal and subsequently changed by the courts, it seems obvious that the redistricting board majority knows that this year's proclamation is also illegal.

The end goal then is 2022 elections with 19 senators and a Constitutional convention on the ballot and a stacked deck in Republican favor with this aggressive, unexplained (because it is indefensible) bad faith maneuver to adopt illegal maps that the public doesn't want, and that the public will be forced to defend in the courts with 100,000's of thousands of tax payer dollars.

This is utterly shameful and I urge the board to change course from these illegal and transparently unethical actions. The ends do not justify the means.

The emperor indeed has no clothes.

Yarrow Silvers  
99504

## SENATE TESTIMONY

---

**From:** Penny Goodstein <penny4books@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 11:15 AM  
**To:** Testimony  
**Subject:** An appalling show of partisan districting

I erroneously thought that our Alaska constitution protected us from partisan districting. How foolish I WAS!

The senate pairing show was a partisan attempt to ensure one party, the Republican party, keeps its hold..

The map is ridiculous. I listened to the closing meeting today, on Zoom. Ms. Borromeo and Ms. Bahnke did excellent jobs describing the myriad problems with this senate pairing map. I do not have to repeat them here; the meeting was recorded and is available for the next round, which will be litigation.

Combining parts of Anchorage with Eagle River goes against the idea of fair representation in the legislature. It damages our idea of representative government by creating more representation for one area, Eagle River and subsequently decreasing the representation for another group, parts of Anchorage.

This affects us all; it is not only an Eagle River/East Anchorage issue.

I noticed that although the two native women were eloquent in their description of the problems, there was no defense of the senate pairings, except to say that everyone does not always get what they want. There were no explanations delivered by the majority. There were only nonsensical statements and then a list of "thank you" messages. I think that, right there, spoke to the unfairness of this map.

Penny Goodstein

# **APPENDIX C**

## **State and Local Government Laws and Advisories**



**1.**

**State of Alaska Health Advisory No. 1**

# COVID-19 Response and Recovery

## Health Advisory No. 1

### Recommendations for Keeping Alaskans Safe

**Issued: February 14, 2021**

By: Commissioner Adam Crum, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services  
Dr. Anne Zink, Chief Medical Officer, State of Alaska

COVID-19 poses a risk to all Alaskans. Containing the virus that causes COVID-19 cannot be done through community measures alone; Alaskans must take individual responsibility to protect themselves, their loved ones, and their community. The primary ways to do this are:

- Wearing a cloth face covering/mask when in public settings and when you are around people outside your household.
- Practicing social distancing by avoiding close contact and minimizing time spent indoors with persons outside your household.
- Monitoring your health and staying at home when sick.
- Practicing good hygiene by frequently washing your hands and disinfecting high-touch surfaces in your home and workplace.

When we reduce the spread of the virus by taking these individual measures, we reduce the need for government intervention.

#### **Wear a cloth face covering/mask**

Wearing a cloth face covering is strongly recommended for all Alaskans two years of age and older, other than those with breathing problems and those who cannot remove the covering without assistance. **Face coverings protect those around you, and also offer you some protection.**

- Make sure the face covering is made with at least two layers of fabric and covers both the nose and mouth.
- When removing the face covering, avoid touching the front of the face covering
- *Wash your hands immediately* after removing the face covering and before touching anything else.
- Wash cloth face coverings in hot, soapy, water between every use.
- Be careful to avoid developing a false sense of security when using face coverings.

## **Practice Social Distancing: Avoid close contact with people who are not in your household**

- Put at least six feet of distance between yourself and people who don't live in your household.
- Remember that people infected with the virus, but who do not have any symptoms, can also spread the virus.
- Keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.
- Minimize time indoors with individuals outside your household even if you can maintain a distance of six feet.
- Avoid all gatherings, even small ones, with persons who are not in your household.

## **Monitor your health and stay home if you are sick**

- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle and body aches, new loss of taste or smell, and other [symptoms of COVID-19](#).
  - Take your temperature if symptoms develop.
- If you develop symptoms, stay home – even if symptoms are only mild.
  - Consider providing additional protections or more intensive care for household members over 65 or with underlying health conditions.
- Get tested as soon as symptoms start, if you can, and stay away from others until your test results are back.

## **Practice good hygiene**

- Wash your hands often.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Disinfect surfaces like doorknobs, tables, desks, and handrails regularly.
- Increase ventilation by opening windows when able.
- Use noncontact methods of greeting each other.

## **Additional information**

### ***If you test positive***

- If you test positive, you need to isolate away from others to keep them safe. “Isolate” is the term used in association with individuals who are sick with, or have tested positive for, the virus that causes COVID-19. Isolation means staying home all the time and keeping away from household members as much as possible. More information is available on the CDC and DHSS webpages.
- For most people with no, or mild, symptoms that are improving, isolation will be for ten days since your symptoms start, or if you never have any symptoms,

ten days since you had your test. Consult with a healthcare provider or public health staff member if you have questions about how long you need to be in isolation.

- You do not need to have a negative test to be cleared from isolation.
- It is very important for people who test positive to notify anyone they may have had contact with while infectious.
- Information on what counts as a “contact” can be found on the CDC webpages.
- If you test positive and are unable to isolate safely, or need resources during your isolation period, contact your local public center.

### **If you have had close contact with a confirmed case**

If you have close contact with a confirmed case, you need to quarantine to keep others safe. “Quarantine” is the term used in association with individuals who have been exposed to someone with the virus that causes COVID-19. Quarantine means staying home all the time and keeping away from household members as much as possible. Information on when and how to quarantine is available on the CDC and DHSS webpages.

- The preferred quarantine period is currently 14 days from the last exposure to a known case, but may be able to be shorter under certain circumstances for contacts who do not develop symptoms. Briefly, those two options apply as follows:
  - Seven-day quarantine with a molecular or antigen test <48 hours before the end of quarantine. Individuals must remain in quarantine until their test results are available.
  - Ten-day quarantine.
- There is some risk of post-quarantine transmission associated with discontinuing quarantine before 14 days. Individuals should continue to monitor themselves for symptoms for a full 14 days after their last contact with a confirmed case.

### **Testing guidance**

- Anybody with symptoms of COVID-19 should be tested.
  - A positive test within 90 days of someone’s first infection can be difficult to interpret and needs to be discussed with a medical professional.
- Some people without symptoms should also be tested, including:
  - [All close contacts of confirmed COVID-19 patients.](#)
  - Health care workers in hospitals and congregate living settings.
  - Residents in congregate living settings (see [DHSS guidance](#) for specific groups) and other high- consequence settings (e.g., people coming into remote communities from areas where COVID-19 is circulating).
  - People who may be at increased risk for infection (discuss with medical professional).

- Please note: People with a prior positive test in the past 90 days, should NOT be re-tested.
- More information can be found in the [Alaska Section of Epidemiology's testing guidance](#).

### **Travel considerations**

- Follow [State of Alaska travel](#) and [CDC travel recommendations](#).
- Assess the risks of travel including the mode of transportation and the level of spread of the virus in the location you will be visiting.
- At-risk individuals and communities with limited health care infrastructure or high-risk populations should consider limiting all non-essential travel.

*Special considerations for workplaces, schools and childcare, correctional facilities, and other community locations and events are available at*

*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/index.html> and  
<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Epi/id/Pages/COVID-19/default.aspx>*

**This is not a mandate.**

Visit the State of Alaska's COVID-19 website at [coronavirus.alaska.gov](https://coronavirus.alaska.gov) for more information

**2.**

**September 20, 2021  
Redistricting Board Announcement**

# Alaska Redistricting Board - News

**News from the Alaska Redistricting Board ~ For Immediate Release: September 20, 2021**

## Board Approves Proposed Plans

ANCHORAGE – Today the Alaska Redistricting Board adopted six proposed redistricting plans which will be the basis of public meetings across Alaska. The Board-drafted plans, v.3 and v.4 adopted today replace Board Composite Plans v.1 and v.2, which were previously approved by the Board on September 9, 2021.

In addition to the two revised board composites, the following plans submitted and presented by the following organizations were also adopted:

- Coalition of Doyon, Ltd., Tanana Chiefs Conference, Fairbanks Native Association, Sealaska, and Ahtna.
- Alaskans for Fair and Equitable Redistricting (AFFER)
- Alaskans for Fair Redistricting (AFFR)
- The Senate Minority Caucus

"I was pleased that the Board came together today to bring six proposed redistricting plans forward for Alaskans to consider," said Board Chair John Binkley. "We will now be traveling around the state to learn which plan best reflects Alaskans' desire for their legislative districts." The Alaska Redistricting Board will now start a public meeting tour, seeking feedback from Alaskans on all proposed plans before adoption of the final plan is required by the Alaska Constitution by November 10, 2021.

"We were pleased to hear from Alaskans from every region of the state and replace our initial maps with new and improved versions three and four, which better reflect the socio-economic integration characteristics of each region," said Board Member Nicole Borrromeo. "We look forward to hearing feedback from Alaskans on our new draft maps, as well as the four adopted third-party draft maps, as we present them in public meetings in communities across the state."

Detailed maps will be posted on the Alaska Redistricting Board's website at <https://www.akredistrict.org/map-gallery> when they are available.

For additional information please contact TJ Presley at (907) 229-1385



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**3.**

**Fairbanks North Star Memorandum**





# Fairbanks North Star Borough

DEPARTMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY

Assembly

assembly@fnsb.gov  
Main: (907) 459-1401  
Fax: (907) 459-1224

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Fairbanks North Star Borough Assembly  
**FROM:** Mindy O'Neill, Presiding Officer *Mindy O'Neill*  
**DATE:** May 6, 2021  
**SUBJECT: MODIFICATIONS AND/OR WAIVERS OF FNSB CODE PROVISIONS GOVERNING ASSEMBLY AND BOARD OF EQUALIZATION PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

As permitted by FNSB Code 2.16.150, the following modifications and/or waivers of Fairbanks North Star Borough code provisions governing assembly and board of equalization public meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic have been developed. This memorandum supersedes the March 11, 2021 memorandum approved by the assembly.

1. All meetings of the Assembly, including regular, special, and committee meetings, and Board of Equalization will be conducted either in-person and by zoom or by zoom-only, based upon the decision of the presiding officer in accordance with this memorandum and after consideration of the FNSB Operational Status, the status of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, and applicable public health guidance.
2. Assembly: FNSBC 3.16.040 Rules for public testimony:
  - a. The requirement for members of the public to sign up in person to testify on both citizen's comments and public hearing items is waived. Members of the public may sign up to testify on both citizen's comments and public hearing items by calling the Borough Clerk's Office or completing the online "sign-up for telephonic testimony" form on the "Stay Connected with the Assembly" webpage.
  - b. Members of the public may testify in person if they are able to do so in conformance with the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers COVID-19 Operational Mitigation Plan and the Juanita Helms Administration Center is otherwise open to the public.
3. Assembly: FNSBC 3.16.060, Teleconferencing:
  - a. Notwithstanding anything in FNSBC 3.16.060 to the contrary, Assemblymembers may participate in all assembly meetings, worksessions, executive sessions, committee meetings and board of adjustment meetings by teleconferencing.
  - b. Assemblymembers may attend meetings in person if allowable under any applicable health mandates and the Juanita Helms Administration Center is otherwise open to the public.



- i. Assemblymembers will be required to participate via the chosen online platform and use the raise-hand feature for recognition of the floor. The device microphone and speaker must be muted.
    - ii. The chair of a meeting may participate remotely if they are able to fulfill their duties as chair.
    - iii. In-person attendance may be limited by the chair if, in their reasonable judgment, it is necessary to comply with health guidance provided by the State of Alaska or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
  - c. An assemblymember should notify the Clerk's office the day prior to a meeting if they will attend in-person or by teleconference.
  - d. Administration, staff, and presenters will be allowed to present virtually for any reason. Notification of attendance intent should be provided to the Clerk's office the day prior to the meeting.
4. Board of Equalization: The rules governing Board of Equalization meetings shall be modified as follows:
  - a. Board of equalization members, staff, parties and their representatives may participate in all meetings by teleconferencing.
  - b. All code provisions requiring applications for telephonic testimony are waived.
  - c. Board members, staff, parties, and representatives may attend meetings in person if they are able to do so in conformance with the adopted mitigation plan for the Chambers and the Juanita Helms Administration Center is otherwise open to the public.
5. All meeting notifications will contain the following:

This meeting will be conducted in-person and by zoom or zoom-only with consideration given to the Borough Operational Status and if the Juanita Helms Administration Center is otherwise open to the public. Please visit "insert webpage" or contact the Borough Clerk's Office (907) 459-1401.
6. The Borough Clerk's Office will continue to update the "Stay Connected With The Assembly" webpage and the "Board of Equalization" webpage informing the public if in-person testimony and attendance is available.
7. This memorandum is effective until there is no longer a local, state, or federal disaster emergency.

Reference: Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers COVID-19 Operational Mitigation Plan

Supersedes: Memorandum dated March 11, 2021, Approval of Extending Modifications and/or Waiver of FNSB Code Provisions Governing Assembly and Board of Equalization Public Meetings During COVID-19 Pandemic

**APPROVED: MAY 6, 2021**

**AMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2021**

**4.**

**Alaska Division of Public Health -  
COVID-19 Update**



# COVID-19 Update

*Hospitalizations, Deaths, Repeat, and Vaccine Breakthrough Infections*

Through December 2021

The Section of Epidemiology, Alaska Division of Public Health

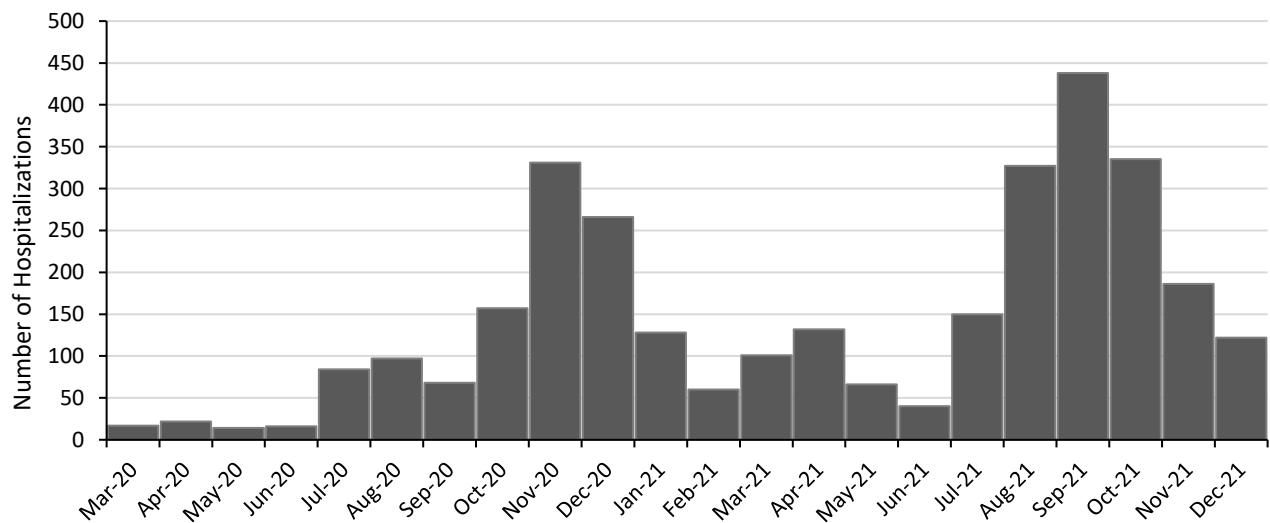
## Introduction

This document is intended to provide routine updates on COVID-19 hospitalizations, deaths, repeat, and vaccine breakthrough infections in Alaska. Hospitalization and death data are those displayed on the [Alaska Cases Dashboard](#). Repeat and vaccine breakthrough infections and multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) statistics are produced with additional data collected by the Section of Epidemiology (SOE). This report is not designed to track the burden of COVID-19 on hospitals; other data sources, such as HHS Protect or facility-level statistics may be more appropriate for those questions. Data included are not final; efforts to increase completion and ensure data quality are ongoing and these numbers will change. Additionally, more detailed summaries and reports will be produced in the future. Data are for cases from March 2020 through December 2021.

## Hospitalizations

SOE removes hospitalizations that are not due to COVID-19; for example, asymptomatic behavioral health patients or laboring mothers tested on admission are excluded. A total of 3,157 COVID-19 hospitalizations with a known admission date among Alaska residents were included in this analysis (Figure 1). For people with multiple admissions, the most severe/longer admission was counted.

**Figure 1. COVID-19 hospital admissions among Alaska residents, by month of admission — March 2020 through December 2021**



## Demographics

During March 2020 through December 2021, the mean age of COVID-19 hospitalized patients was 59 years (range: newborn to 99 years). For patients admitted in 2020, the mean age was 62 years (range: 1 month to 98 years). For

patients admitted in 2021, the mean age was 4 years younger at 58 years (range: newborn to 99 years). Hospitalizations by sex and race are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Sex and race among COVID-19 hospitalized Alaska residents — March 2020 through December 2021**

| Characteristic                                     | Count (%)    | Statewide population N (%) | Rate*        |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Sex</b>                                         |              |                            |              |
| Female                                             | 1,425 (45)   | 375,017 (51)               | 380          |
| Male                                               | 1,7322 (55)  | 353,886 (49)               | 489.4        |
| <b>Race</b>                                        |              |                            |              |
| American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN)           | 716 (23)     | 113,010 (16)               | 633.6        |
| Asian                                              | 212 (7)      | 48,382 (7)                 | 438.2        |
| Black                                              | 100 (3)      | 26,408 (4)                 | 378.7        |
| Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOPI) | 221 (7)      | 11,706 (2)                 | 1887.9       |
| White                                              | 1,294 (41)   | 472,386 (65)               | 273.9        |
| Other                                              | 135 (4)      |                            |              |
| Multiple                                           | 120 (4)      | 57,011 (8)                 | 210.5        |
| Unknown                                            | 359 (11)     |                            |              |
| <b>Total</b>                                       | <b>3,157</b> | <b>728,903</b>             | <b>433.1</b> |

\*Rate is per 100,000 people within each group.

### Severity Indicators

This summary includes 2,390 hospitalizations among Alaska residents. Only hospitalization records for which both admission and discharge date had been entered are included. This restriction allows severity indicators and length of stay to be more adequately described but results in an undercount of total hospitalizations, especially those that occurred more recently. Tables 2 and 3 show severity indicators by all hospitalizations and hospitalizations with a fatality.

**Table 2. COVID-19 hospitalizations (n=2,390) among Alaska residents with severity indicators — March 2020 through December 2021**

|            | Yes N (%) | No N (%)  | Unknown N (%) |
|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| ICU        | 637 (27)  | 1278 (53) | 475 (20)      |
| Ventilator | 323 (14)  | 1280 (54) | 787 (32)      |

**Table 3. COVID-19 hospitalizations with fatality (n=670), among Alaska residents with severity indicators — March 2020 through December 2021**

|            | Yes N (%) | No N (%) | Unknown N (%) |
|------------|-----------|----------|---------------|
| ICU        | 240 (50)  | 123 (26) | 113 (24)      |
| Ventilator | 238 (36)  | 196 (29) | 236 (35)      |

## Length of Stay

Table 4 describes the amount of time patients stayed in the hospital. This analysis is restricted to 2,390 patients for whom both an admission and discharge date have been entered. Patients who were admitted and discharged on the same day were counted as one day of hospitalization. Similarly, patients who were intubated and extubated on the same day were counted as one day of ventilation.

**Table 4. Duration of COVID-19 hospital stay — March 2020 through December 2021**

|                                               | 2020 |           |            | 2021 |           |            |
|-----------------------------------------------|------|-----------|------------|------|-----------|------------|
|                                               | N    | Mean      | Range      | N    | Mean      | Range      |
| All hospitalizations                          | 985  | 9.6 days  | 1–124 days | 1405 | 8.7 days  | 1–128 days |
| Non-ICU patients                              | 593  | 7 days    | 1–124 days | 685  | 6.6 days  | 1–128 days |
| ICU patient (total duration of hospital stay) | 295  | 14.9 days | 1–75 days  | 342  | 12.3 days | 1–52 days  |
| ICU patient (duration of ICU stay)            | 253* | 9.7 days  | 1–75 days  | 272  | 8.4 days  | 1–50 days  |
| Ventilator days                               | 109  | 10.3 days | 1–44 days  | 120  | 9.2 days  | 1–41 days  |

\*Duration of ICU stay was not available at the time of this report for 188 patients who were known to have been in the ICU at some point during their hospital stay.

## Multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children

Twenty children hospitalized with multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) have been reported to the Alaska Section of Epidemiology since the beginning of the pandemic. MIS-C is defined by fever, laboratory evidence of inflammation, and evidence of clinically severe illness requiring hospitalization with multisystem organ involvement. The definition requires that the patient is <21 years of age with current or recent SARS-CoV-2 infection or exposure to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case within the 4 weeks prior to the onset of symptoms and no alternative plausible diagnoses.

Eight of the 20 children met the MIS-C case definition because of a positive antibody test, so they are not included in the above description of SARS-CoV-2 positive hospitalized patients; the other 12 were included in analysis of that patient population provided above because they had a positive COVID diagnostic test (e.g., PCR or antigen). Eleven of the 20 children were male. Eleven were aged 0–4 years at the time of admission, five were aged 5–10 years, and four were aged 11–20 years. Four children had a pre-existing condition. All children were admitted to the hospital, and 10 were admitted to an intensive care unit. None of the children have died.

## Deaths

### Methods

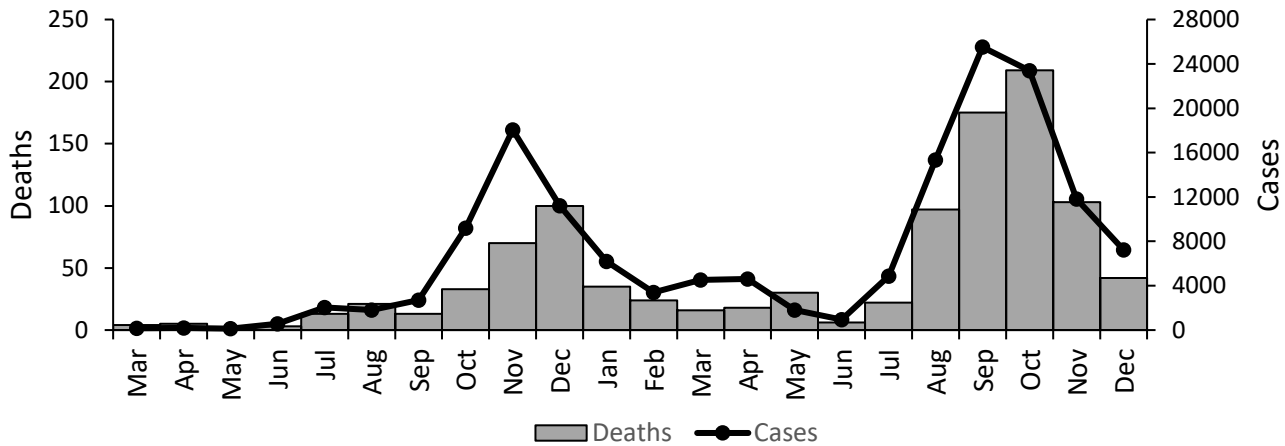
Deaths are counted as COVID-19-related in accordance with national standards and reflect the recorded date of death. This process includes auditing death certificates to verify that COVID-19 was included as a primary or contributory cause of death, medical records review, or provider determination that the cause of death was COVID-19 based on laboratory testing and a consistent clinical presentation (e.g., respiratory signs and symptoms, fever or chills, and fatigue). Rates were calculated using Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development population estimates and are listed per 100,000 population. Death statistics are calculated without a person-time component. This makes them more comparable to the hospitalization numbers and to national numbers from the CDC data tracker. Cases are attributed

geographically to their permanent residence, which may or may not correlate to location of exposure, illness, or death. Cases are attributed to report date and deaths to date of death. All data are preliminary, subject to change, and were congruent with public state data displays as of January 31, 2022.

## Results

From January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2021, Alaska recorded 1,043 COVID-19-related deaths for a statewide death cumulative incidence of 143.1 per 100,000 persons (Figure 2). For this same period, the US death cumulative incidence was 248 per 100,000 persons, which was approximately 1.7-times higher than the Alaska death rate. Of these 1,043 deaths, 816 (78.2%) were known to have been hospitalized and 315 (30.2%) were admitted to an intensive care unit.

**Figure 2. COVID-19 deaths and cases, by month among Alaska residents — March 2020 through December 2021**



Note: Data are shown beginning in March, which was the first month in which there was a death in an Alaska resident that was attributed to COVID-19.

## Demographic characteristics

**Table 5. Sex of Alaska residents with a COVID-19-related death — March 2020 through December 2021**

| Sex      | Deaths<br>N (%) | Statewide population<br>N (%) | Deaths per 100,000<br>population |
|----------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Male     | 632 (60.6)      | 375,017 (51.4)                | 168.5                            |
| Female   | 411 (39.4)      | 353,886 (48.6)                | 116.1                            |
| AK total | 1,043           | 728,903                       | 143.1                            |

**Table 6. Age of Alaska residents with a COVID-19-related death — March 2020 through December 2021**

| Age in Years | Deaths<br>N (%) | Statewide population<br>N (%) | Deaths per 100,000<br>population |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ≤19          | 2 (0.19)        | 199,809 (27.4)                | 1.0                              |
| 20–29        | 18 (1.7)        | 98,606 (13.5)                 | 18.3                             |
| 30–39        | 38 (3.6)        | 111,831 (15.3)                | 34.0                             |
| 40–49        | 70 (6.7)        | 85,855 (11.8)                 | 81.5                             |
| 50–59        | 137 (13.1)      | 90,703 (12.4)                 | 151.0                            |
| 60–69        | 241 (23.1)      | 85,259 (11.7)                 | 282.7                            |
| 70–79        | 276 (26.5)      | 41,509 (5.7)                  | 664.9                            |

|          |            |              |        |
|----------|------------|--------------|--------|
| 80+      | 261 (25.0) | 15,331 (2.1) | 1702.4 |
| AK total | 1,043      | 728,903      | 141.3  |

**Table 7. Race of Alaska residents with a COVID-19-related death — March 2020 through December 2021**

| Race/Ethnicity         | Deaths<br>N (%) | Statewide population<br>N (%) | Deaths per 100,000<br>population |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| AIAN                   | 276 (26.5)      | 113,010 (15.5)                | 244.2                            |
| Asian                  | 71 (6.8)        | 48,382 (6.6)                  | 146.7                            |
| Black                  | 25 (2.4)        | 26,408 (3.6)                  | 94.7                             |
| NHOPI                  | 49 (4.7)        | 11,706 (1.6)                  | 418.6                            |
| White                  | 541 (51.9)      | 472,386 (64.8)                | 114.5                            |
| Multiple races         | 24 (2.3)        | 57,011 (7.8)                  | 42.1                             |
| Race other/unknown     | 57 (5.5)        | n/a                           | n/a                              |
| Hispanic (of any race) | 30 (2.9)        | 53,202 (7.3)                  | 56.4                             |
| Ethnicity unknown      | 98 (9.4)        | n/a                           | n/a                              |
| AK total               | 1,043           | 728,903                       | 143.1                            |

*n/a = not available*

## Vaccine Breakthrough Infections and Repeat Infections

### Key Points

- COVID-19 vaccines continue to provide strong protection, especially against hospitalization and death.
- Most COVID-19 hospitalizations in Alaska might have been prevented by vaccination.
- COVID-19 cases have become more common among fully vaccinated persons than they were in the initial months after vaccine roll-out, but fully vaccinated people continue to be less likely to have COVID-19 than people who aren't fully vaccinated.
- Booster doses further reduce the risk of infection and hospitalization.
- While people can be infected with SARS-CoV-2 multiple times, prior infection confers partial protection against COVID-19. Vaccination provides additional protection in those who have been infected and is recommended regardless of history of prior infection.

### Introduction

COVID-19 vaccines were first administered in Alaska in mid-December 2020. In March 2021, all persons who lived or worked in Alaska and were aged  $\geq 16$  years became eligible for vaccination. After the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine was authorized for persons aged  $\geq 12$  years, eligibility was expanded accordingly in May 2021 to anyone aged  $\geq 12$  years. In November, vaccination was authorized for persons aged 5 to 11 years. Children in this age range who were vaccinated as soon as eligible became fully vaccinated by early December 2021. In late September, CDC recommended a booster dose for certain persons who received the Pfizer/BioNTech primary series. The following month, booster doses were recommended for persons who received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson/Janssen primary series.

Randomized clinical trials showed that COVID-19 vaccines provide strong protection against symptomatic COVID-19. Subsequent observational studies have confirmed this finding in numerous real-world settings and have further demonstrated that COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of infection with SARS-CoV-2 and greatly reduce the risk of COVID-



19 hospitalizations and deaths.<sup>1</sup> However, [waning immunity](#) decreases vaccine effectiveness (particularly against SARS-CoV2 infection and mild COVID-19 disease) over time, thus necessitating booster dosing.

While reinfections with SARS-CoV-2 are known to occur, they can be difficult to diagnose due to a lack of a widely accepted definition. Observational studies have found that prior infection with SARS-CoV-2 confers substantial partial protection against reinfection with Delta and prior circulating variants for at least 6 months.<sup>2</sup> The extent to which prior infection confers protection against infection with the Omicron variant is still being investigated. There is evidence that even in persons with a history of SARS-CoV-2 infection, vaccination provides an added layer of protection.<sup>3</sup> During December 2021, the Omicron variant replaced the Delta variant as the dominant circulating SARS-CoV-2 lineage in Alaska. Consequently, estimates from December represent outcomes resulting from a combination of Delta and Omicron cases.

## Methods

A vaccine recipient is considered fully vaccinated 14 days after receiving the second dose in a two-dose series (e.g., Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna) or a single dose in a one-dose series (e.g., Johnson & Johnson/Janssen). Cases of COVID-19 that occur in fully vaccinated persons are classified as “vaccine breakthrough” (VB) cases.

In late September, CDC recommended a booster dose for certain persons who received the Pfizer/BioNTech primary series. The following month, booster doses were recommended for persons who received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson/Janssen primary series. It is not possible to definitively distinguish between booster doses and additional doses in the available data. In this analysis, a third dose administered more than 180 days after completion of an mRNA primary series, or a second dose administered more than 60 days after receiving the Janssen vaccine, was considered a booster dose. A third dose received more than 28 days but within 180 days of completion of a primary mRNA series was considered an additional dose if it was from the same manufacturer as the primary series. Persons who were classified as having received an additional dose were considered eligible for a booster dose (i.e., a fourth dose) after 180 days had elapsed following administration of the additional dose. (In early January 2022, CDC guidance was revised to focus on maintaining “up to date” COVID-19 vaccination status. Additionally, mRNA vaccine booster recommendations were revised to now recommend receipt of an mRNA booster dose 5 months rather than 6 months following completion of an mRNA vaccine primary series. Both changes to guidance will be reflected in the monthly report covering January 2022 data.)

All case and hospitalizations data were obtained from the Section of Epidemiology’s case-based surveillance system. Hospitalization and death data were identified as described above. This analysis is limited to data on Alaska residents; vaccination status of non-residents diagnosed in Alaska cannot be consistently ascertained. All data and analyses are preliminary and subject to change.

Cases, hospitalizations, and deaths were attributed to date of specimen collection in all analyses. This date was used because it corresponds most closely to the definition of vaccine breakthrough. For example, if a person tested positive 12 days after completing the vaccination series, that would not be counted as a vaccine breakthrough case and, consequently, neither would a subsequent hospitalization due to COVID-19, even if the hospitalization itself occurred 14 or more days after series completion. Hospitalizations and deaths are included in this analysis if the corresponding specimen collection date was on or before December 31, 2021, and the hospitalization or death was documented by the Section of Epidemiology by February 1, 2022.

VacTrAK data were linked to COVID-19 case records to determine vaccination status of cases and to estimate the amount of person-time at risk stratified by primary series vaccination status (including vaccine manufacturer and time

since completion of primary vaccine series), vaccine booster status (whether person was eligible for a booster and booster manufacturer among those who had received a booster dose), history of prior SARS-CoV-2 infection (including time since most recent prior infection), geographic region of residence (11 behavioral health regions), calendar day (January 16 through December 31, 2021), and age group (0–4, 5–9, 10–11, 12–14, 15–19, ... 85–89, and ≥90 years). One limitation of the VacTrAK dataset is that it does not include vaccines administered by the Department of Defense or the Department of Veterans Affairs or doses Alaska residents may have received outside Alaska. Reports from case investigators on the vaccination status of COVID-19 cases was used to supplement VacTrAK data. The number of persons in each demographic group with no documented history of either SARS-CoV-2 infection or COVID-19 vaccination was inferred by subtracting the number of persons with a history of vaccination and/or infection from 2020 Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development population estimates. Cases were excluded from the analysis if the geographic region of residence (n = 7). All 7 excluded cases were classified as unvaccinated.

COVID-19 cases are classified as reinfections if positive specimen collection occurred ≥90 days after the specimen collection date of the prior case. Very rarely, the Section of Epidemiology may revise a classification based on health care provider input. For this analysis, all person-time <90 days from a case's first specimen collection date was excluded because per the surveillance definition of reinfection used here, reinfections occur at least 90 days after a prior infection. (Note that surveillance definitions may differ from clinical judgements; persons who develop symptoms compatible with COVID-19 within 90 days of a prior infection are advised to consult with a health care provider.)

Age-standardized COVID-19 case and hospitalization rates were calculated by direct standardization to the Alaska resident population aged 5 years and older using the age categories as above, except the 5–9, 10–11, 12–14, and 15–19 year age categories were combined.<sup>4</sup> Ninety-five percent confidence intervals were calculated using gamma distributions.<sup>5</sup>

Adjusted incidence rate ratios were calculated using the Mantel-Haenszel method.<sup>6</sup> Estimates were adjusted for age group, region, and calendar day.

## Results

### Vaccine breakthrough cases over time

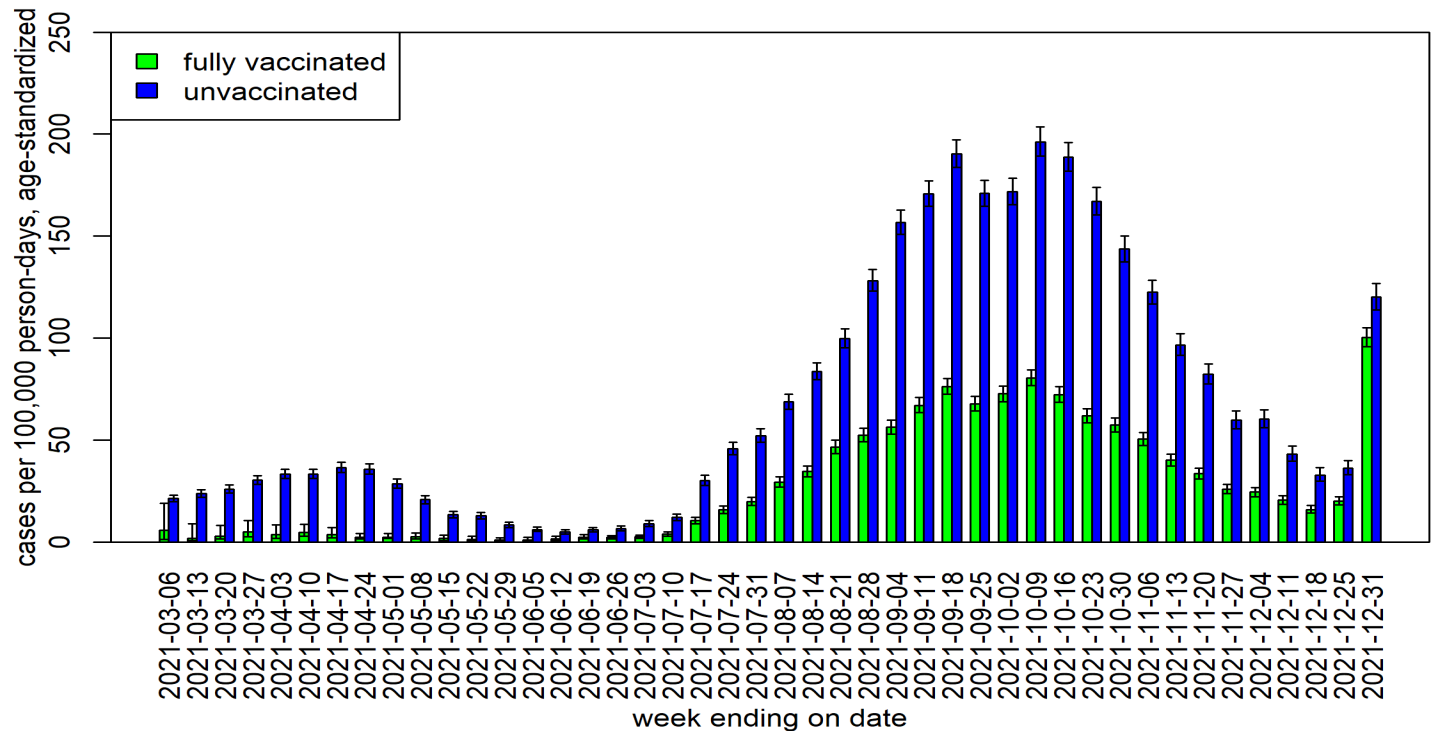
Through the end of December 2021, a total of 27,831 vaccine breakthrough COVID-19 cases were documented among Alaska residents (Table 8). An additional 4,591 cases occurred among Alaska residents who were partially vaccinated. The incidence of COVID-19 among fully vaccinated persons has remained lower than among persons who were unvaccinated (Figure 3), though at the end of December 2021, the relative difference in incidence rates was much less marked. This corresponds temporally to the Omicron variant wave in Alaska.

**Table 8. Reported COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough cases by month of specimen collection among Alaska residents aged ≥5 years — January 16, 2021, through December 31, 2021**

| Month                | Total cases | VB cases (% of total monthly cases) | Proportion of AK residents aged ≥5 years who were fully vaccinated* |
|----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January <sup>‡</sup> | 2,175       | 2 (0.1)                             | 1.1                                                                 |
| February             | 3,251       | 46 (1.4)                            | 5.4                                                                 |
| March                | 4,376       | 119 (2.7)                           | 16.9                                                                |
| April                | 4,447       | 206 (4.6)                           | 28.4                                                                |
| May                  | 1,717       | 136 (7.9)                           | 38.9                                                                |
| June                 | 882         | 180 (20.4)                          | 43.1                                                                |
| July                 | 4,611       | 1,248 (27.1)                        | 46.4                                                                |
| August               | 14,643      | 4,376 (29.9)                        | 48.0                                                                |
| September            | 22,971      | 7,014 (30.5)                        | 50.0                                                                |
| October              | 21,087      | 7,042 (33.4)                        | 52.1                                                                |
| November             | 10,285      | 3,667 (35.7)                        | 53.8                                                                |
| December             | 8,078       | 3,795 (47.0)                        | 55.7                                                                |

\*Mean daily estimated percentage of Alaska residents aged ≥5 years who were fully vaccinated.

<sup>‡</sup>January data are from the period January 16, 2021, through January 31, 2021. January 16, 2021 was the first date that any Alaska residents were fully vaccinated.



**Figure 3. Weekly age-adjusted per capita incidence of COVID-19 among Alaska residents aged ≥5 years by vaccination status (fully vaccinated versus unvaccinated).** Data are shown beginning the week of February 28, 2021, which was the first week in which at least 20 vaccine breakthrough cases were documented. Incidence rate estimates from prior weeks with very few or no VB cases are imprecise.

### Vaccine breakthrough hospitalizations over time

Among vaccine breakthrough cases with specimen collection date on or prior to December 31, 2021, 358 hospitalizations due to COVID-19 were documented (Table 9). An additional 97 hospitalizations occurred among partially vaccinated Alaska residents.

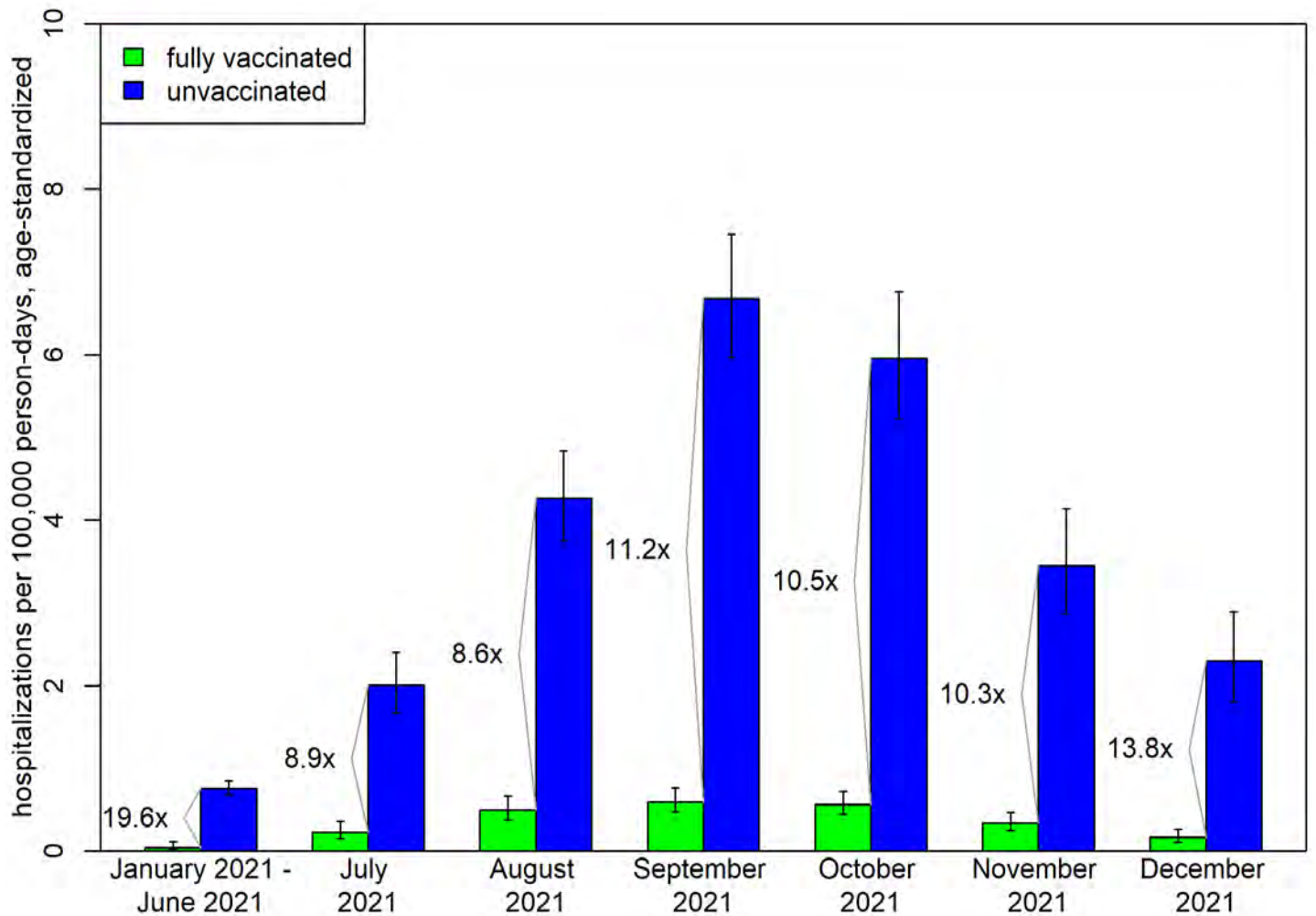
Fully vaccinated persons were much less likely to be hospitalized due to COVID-19 than persons who were unvaccinated (Figure 4). Based on COVID-19 cases with specimen collection dates in December and adjusted for age, region, and calendar day, the incidence of hospitalization among persons aged  $\geq 5$  years who were not vaccinated was 16.5 times higher (95% CI: 9.9–27.5) than the incidence among fully vaccinated persons. This point estimate is higher than the point estimate for November (incidence rate ratio: 12.1; 95% CI: 8.3–17.8). But the confidence intervals for both estimates are wide and overlap.

Among Alaska residents aged  $\geq 5$  years with specimen collection dates in December who were hospitalized due to COVID-19, the median age among those who were fully vaccinated was 70.8 years, and the median age of those who were not fully vaccinated was 63.0 years (7.8 years younger).

**Table 9. Reported hospitalizations due to COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough infections, by month of specimen collection among Alaska residents aged  $\geq 5$  years — January 16, 2021, through December 31, 2021**

| Month          | Total hospitalizations | VB hospitalizations (% of total monthly hospitalizations) |
|----------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| January-March* | 204                    | 3 (1.5)                                                   |
| April          | 128                    | 7 (5.5)                                                   |
| May            | 66                     | 3 (4.5)                                                   |
| June           | 42                     | 5 (11.9)                                                  |
| July           | 177                    | 32 (18.1)                                                 |
| August         | 344                    | 67 (19.5)                                                 |
| September      | 468                    | 85 (18.2)                                                 |
| October        | 372                    | 82 (22.0)                                                 |
| November       | 193                    | 49 (25.4)                                                 |
| December       | 116                    | 25 (21.6)                                                 |

\*Data are from January 16, 2021, onwards. January, February, and March data have been aggregated to protect patient privacy.



**Figure 4. Age-adjusted incidence of hospitalization due to COVID-19 among Alaska residents aged  $\geq 5$  years by vaccination status (unvaccinated vs. fully vaccinated), stratified by hospitalizations among COVID-19 cases with first positive specimen collected from January–December 2021.**

#### Vaccine breakthrough cases and hospitalizations by age

Vaccine breakthrough cases occurred during December 2021 among Alaskans of all vaccine-eligible age-groups (Table 10). The proportion of cases who were fully vaccinated increased with age, which primarily reflects the higher vaccination coverage at higher ages. The adjusted incidence rate ratios comparing unvaccinated to fully vaccinated persons were similar across most age groups, though somewhat higher among persons aged 65 and older. This may be because persons aged 65 and older are most likely to have received booster doses.

**Table 10. Reported COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough cases by age group among Alaska residents and adjusted incidence rate ratios — December 2021**

| Age group | Total cases | VB cases (% of total cases per age group) | Proportion of AK residents who were fully vaccinated* | Incidence rate ratio for unvaccinated vs. fully vaccinated (95% C.I.) <sup>†</sup> |
|-----------|-------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5–11      | 748         | 45 (6.0)                                  | 6.1                                                   | 1.5 (1.1–2.1)                                                                      |
| 12–19     | 995         | 451 (45.3)                                | 45.6                                                  | 1.4 (1.3–1.6)                                                                      |
| 20–34     | 2,575       | 1,206 (46.8)                              | 53.7                                                  | 1.6 (1.5–1.7)                                                                      |
| 35–49     | 1,879       | 1,022 (54.4)                              | 62.2                                                  | 1.7 (1.6–1.9)                                                                      |
| 50–64     | 1,287       | 731 (56.8)                                | 66.5                                                  | 1.9 (1.7–2.1)                                                                      |
| 65+       | 594         | 340 (57.2)                                | 80.2                                                  | 4.7 (4–5.6)                                                                        |

\*Mean of the daily estimated percentage for each day in December 2021 of Alaska residents who are fully vaccinated, by age group.

<sup>†</sup>Incidence rate ratio for cases among unvaccinated persons versus fully vaccinated persons, adjusted for age, region, and calendar day with 95% confidence intervals. An incidence rate ratio >1 means that unvaccinated persons were more likely to have COVID-19 than those who are fully vaccinated.

Vaccination greatly reduced the incidence of COVID-19 hospitalizations across all age groups, though the effect appears to be somewhat attenuated with increasing age (Table 11). Data were aggregated for July–December; younger age categories were combined to improve statistical precision.

**Table 11. Reported hospitalizations due to COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough infections and adjusted incidence rate ratio, by age group among Alaska residents, July–December 2021**

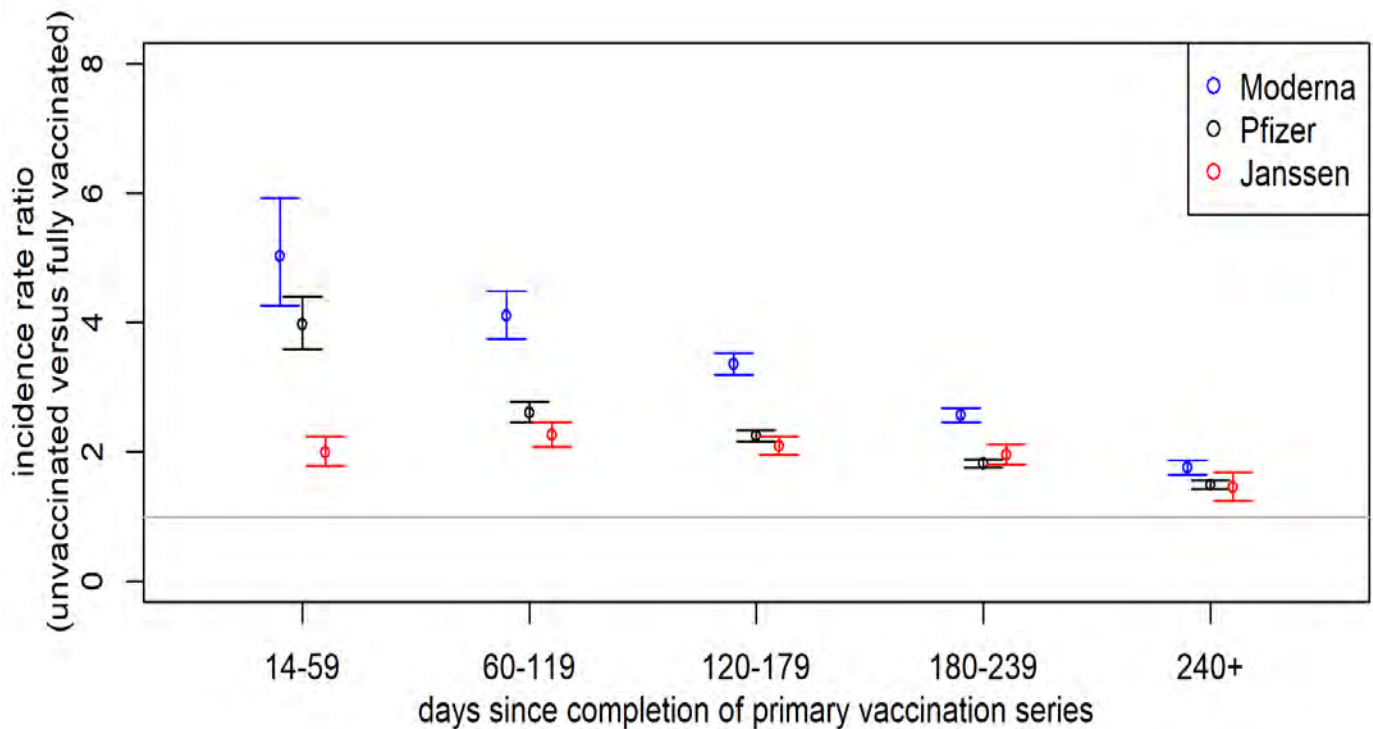
| Age group | Total hospitalizations | VB hospitalizations (% of total hospitalizations per age group) | Proportion of AK residents who were fully vaccinated* | Incidence rate ratio for unvaccinated vs. fully vaccinated (95% C.I.) <sup>†</sup> |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5–49      | 462                    | 34 (7.4)                                                        | 41.8                                                  | 19.5 (13.3–28.4)                                                                   |
| 50–64     | 484                    | 73 (15.1)                                                       | 63.0                                                  | 12 (9.2–15.5)                                                                      |
| 65+       | 724                    | 233 (32.2)                                                      | 76.7                                                  | 9.4 (7.9–11.1)                                                                     |

\*Mean of the daily estimated percentage for each day in July through December 2021 of Alaska residents who are fully vaccinated, by age group.

<sup>†</sup>Incidence rate ratio for hospitalizations among unvaccinated persons versus fully vaccinated persons, adjusted for age, region, and calendar day with 95% confidence intervals.

#### Vaccine breakthrough cases by manufacturer and time since completion of vaccine series

Among Alaska residents aged 20–64 years who had not received a booster dose, the incidence of COVID-19 during July through December 2021 was lower among persons who were fully vaccinated with each of the three FDA-authorized or approved vaccines compared to persons who were unvaccinated, regardless of time since vaccination. However, the largest differences in COVID-19 case incidence rates between unvaccinated and fully vaccinated persons were observed for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, followed by the Pfizer and Janssen vaccines (Figure 5). This analysis indicates that protective immunity against COVID-19 decreases over time (in the absence of a booster vaccination).



**Figure 5. Adjusted incidence rate ratios comparing the incidence of COVID-19 during July through December 2021 among unvaccinated persons to fully vaccinated (but not boosted) persons, by vaccine manufacturer and time since completion of the primary vaccination series.** This analysis is restricted to persons aged 20–64 years. Incidence rate ratios are adjusted for age, region, and calendar day. 95% confidence intervals are shown. The grey horizontal line corresponds to a rate ratio of 1, which would mean that persons who were fully vaccinated and those who were unvaccinated were equally likely to have COVID-19. All estimates and all error bars are above this line, indicating that the incidence of COVID-19 is consistently higher in persons who are unvaccinated compared to those who are fully vaccinated, regardless of vaccine manufacturer or time since vaccination. However, the point estimates are highest for the Moderna vaccine and among those vaccinated more recently, suggesting that the Moderna vaccine confers stronger protection, and that the degree of protection decreases over time.

#### Vaccine breakthrough cases by region

Vaccine breakthrough cases occurred in all regions of Alaska during December 2021 (Table 12). A variety of factors may affect the proportion of vaccine breakthrough cases by behavioral health region. In communities with higher vaccination coverage, a larger proportion of cases is expected to occur among fully vaccinated persons. Other potential factors include the extent of prior infection in a region and differences in testing practices between regions.

**Table 12. Reported COVID-19 vaccine breakthrough cases by region among Alaska residents aged ≥5 years — December 2021**

| Behavioral Health Region          | Total cases | VB cases (% of total cases per region) | Proportion of AK residents who were fully vaccinated* |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Anchorage Municipality            | 3,847       | 1,902 (49.4)                           | 60.0                                                  |
| Fairbanks North Star Borough      | 657         | 275 (41.9)                             | 48.2                                                  |
| Juneau City and Borough           | 450         | 273 (60.7)                             | 74.6                                                  |
| Kenai Peninsula Borough           | 379         | 130 (34.3)                             | 46.9                                                  |
| Matanuska-Susitna Borough         | 1,110       | 382 (34.4)                             | 40.0                                                  |
| Northwest Region                  | 398         | 202 (50.8)                             | 56.3                                                  |
| Other Interior Region             | 130         | 55 (42.3)                              | 55.8                                                  |
| Other Southeast Region - Northern | 246         | 133 (54.1)                             | 72.1                                                  |
| Other Southeast Region - Southern | 329         | 142 (43.2)                             | 60.8                                                  |
| Southwest Region                  | 198         | 108 (54.5)                             | 65.6                                                  |
| Y-K Delta Region                  | 334         | 193 (57.8)                             | 67.6                                                  |

\*Mean of the daily estimated percentage for each day in December 2021 of Alaska residents who are fully vaccinated, by age group.

### Booster vaccination

During December 2021, among persons aged ≥20 years who received the initial primary series of the Pfizer vaccine and accounting for age, calendar day, and region, those who were eligible for a booster dose but had not received one had a COVID-19 case incidence rate that was 2.1 times higher (95% CI: 1.9–2.4) than the rate among those who had received a Pfizer booster dose at least 14 days prior. Likewise, those who had received the primary series of the Moderna vaccine and were eligible for a booster but had not been boosted had a COVID-19 incidence rate 1.9 times higher (95% CI: 1.6–2.2) than the rate among those who had received the Moderna booster at least 14 days prior.

Small numbers preclude precise estimates of the impact of booster doses on risk of hospitalization, but during October through December, persons who were eligible for a booster but not boosted were hospitalized due to COVID-19 at 7.3 times (95% CI: 3.6–14.7) the rate of those who had received a booster dose at least 14 days prior.

### Vaccine breakthrough deaths

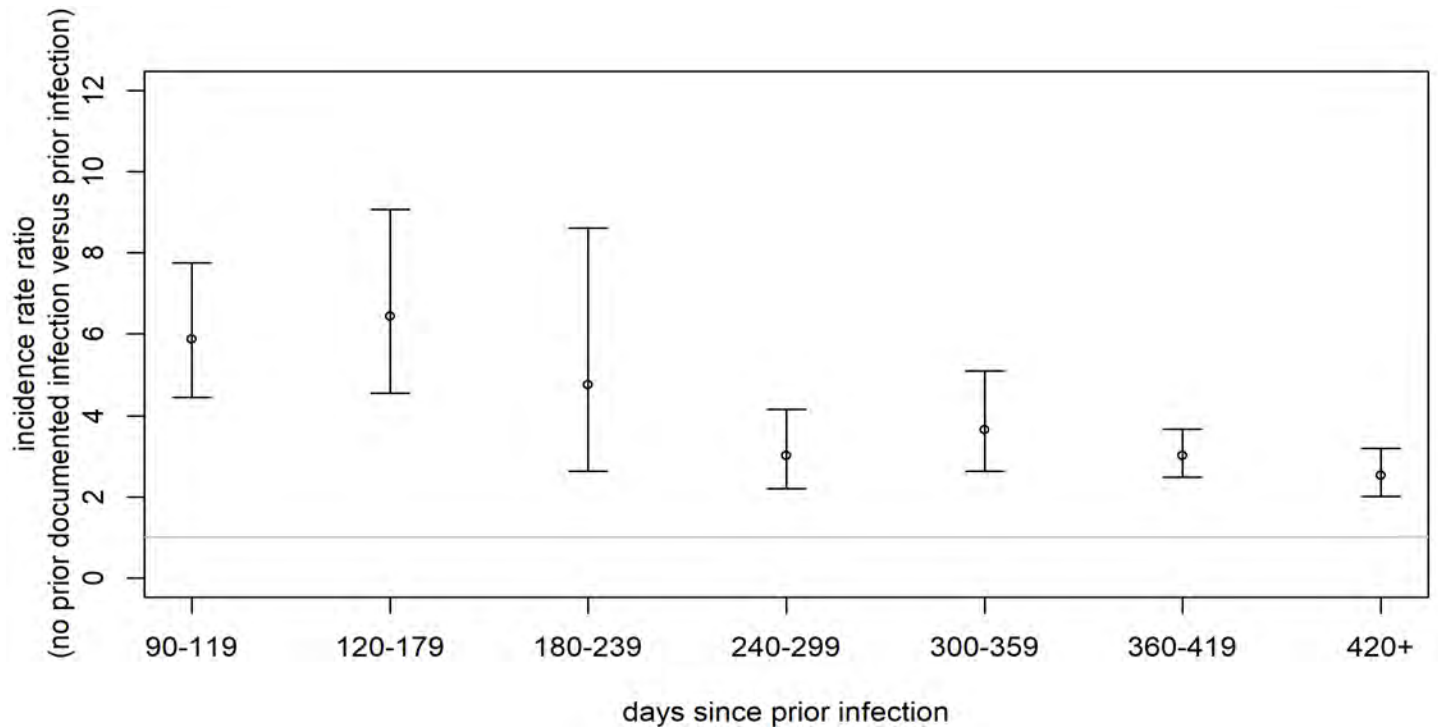
Among cases in persons ≥5 years with specimen collection dates during or prior to December 2021, 141 COVID-19 deaths were documented among fully vaccinated persons and 29 were documented among partially vaccinated persons. Among the 646 documented COVID-19 deaths with specimen collection dates during July–December 2021, 134 occurred in fully-vaccinated persons and 23 occurred in partially-vaccinated persons. Accounting for age, calendar day, and region, unvaccinated persons died from COVID-19 at 11.8 times the rate of fully vaccinated persons (95% CI: 9.6–14.5). Of those 134 July–December 2021 COVID-19 deaths among fully vaccinated persons, none had received a booster dose more than 14 days before testing positive, 2 tested positive within 14 days following receipt of a booster, and 97 were not boosted and tested positive at least 6 months following an mRNA vaccine or 2 months following the J&J/Janssen vaccine. These numbers may change as death certificates are completed and processed and ongoing data quality assurance processes are implemented.



## Reinfection

A total of 3,225 SARS-CoV-2 reinfections were documented among Alaska residents since the beginning of the pandemic; 42 persons were reinfected twice (i.e., counted as a case 3 times). During July–November 2021 among unvaccinated persons, the incidence of COVID-19 in persons without a prior documented history of SARS-CoV-2 infection was 5.8 times higher (95% CI: 5.5–6.1) than the incidence in persons with a history of infection. But in December 2021, the incidence of COVID-19 in persons without a prior documented history of SARS-CoV-2 infection was only 3.6 times higher (95% CI: 3.3–4.1), suggesting that prior infection was less protective in December as Omicron became dominant. Likewise, preliminary evidence suggests that during December 2021 among unvaccinated people, prior infection may have been less protective against hospitalization than it had been during July through November 2021 (IRR in December: 0.19, 95% CI: 0.09, 0.43; IRR in July through November: 0.07; 95% CI: 0.04–0.11). However, the estimate for December is imprecise and the confidence intervals overlap.

While estimated incidence rate ratios indicate a partially protective effect of prior infection regardless of time since infection, the degree of protection appears to decline with increasing time since prior infection, and especially after 179 days (Figure 6).



**Figure 6. Adjusted incidence rate ratios comparing the incidence of COVID-19 during December 2021 among unvaccinated persons without a prior documented infection versus those with a prior documented infection, by time since prior infection.** Incidence rate ratios are adjusted for age, region, and calendar day and 95% confidence intervals are shown. The grey horizontal line corresponds to a rate ratio of 1, which would mean that persons with and without a prior documented history of COVID-19 were equally likely to have COVID-19. All estimates and all error bars are above this line, indicating that the incidence of COVID-19 was consistently higher in persons without a prior documented history of COVID-19 compared to those who previously had COVID-19.

## Reinfection and Vaccination

Of the 151,744 Alaska residents with at least one documented case of COVID-19, 39,419 became fully vaccinated after their first infection. Among persons aged  $\geq 5$  years with a prior history of COVID-19, the incidence of COVID-19 reinfection during July–December 2021 was 19% higher among persons who were unvaccinated compared to those who got vaccinated following their initial infection (IRR: 1.2, 95% CI: 1.1–1.3).

The number of hospitalizations and deaths due to reinfections was too small to reliably assess an effect of vaccination following infection. Eighteen hospitalizations that occurred due to reinfection cases in July–December were in unvaccinated persons, six were in fully vaccinated persons, and one was partially vaccinated. Of the seven COVID-19 deaths in persons with a prior infection, five were unvaccinated.

## Discussion

COVID-19 vaccines continue to be our single most important tool to prevent COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, and deaths.

The proportion of vaccine breakthrough cases in December was higher than the proportion in November. Multiple factors determine the proportion of documented COVID-19 cases among fully vaccinated persons, but the most likely contributor to the increased proportion of vaccine breakthrough cases is the fact that by late December, Omicron had become the dominant SARS-CoV-2 variant in Alaska.

COVID-19 vaccines in Alaska continue to provide effective protection against hospitalization and death. In contrast to the pattern observed with cases, the level of protection of vaccination against hospitalization observed among Alaskans in December was similar to or even higher than that observed in November. One explanation for this finding is that compared to vaccine effectiveness against infection or mild illness, vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization is less affected by the Omicron variant. The vast majority of COVID-19 hospitalizations among Alaska residents since COVID-19 vaccines became widely available could have been prevented through vaccination.

The data presented here were collected for public health surveillance purposes and may be subject to unmeasured confounding and bias. For example, persons who were fully vaccinated and not fully vaccinated may differ in their adherence to COVID-19 mitigation measures (e.g., mask wearing and avoiding indoor crowded spaces). Moreover, the magnitude of these differences may vary over time. Additionally, COVID-19 cases among fully vaccinated persons may be more likely to be detected than COVID-19 cases among persons who are not fully vaccinated (e.g., health care workers are more likely to be vaccinated than the general population and may be more likely to get tested), which would artificially increase the proportion of detected cases among fully vaccinated persons. Finally, infection-induced immunity may build up in the unvaccinated population faster than in the vaccinated population (due to increased susceptibility to infection), thereby making vaccination appear less effective over time.<sup>7</sup>

The magnitude of bias and confounding may differ across settings; consequently, direct comparisons to data from other jurisdictions or to prospective evaluations of vaccine effectiveness are difficult. Additionally, this analysis is not a formal evaluation of vaccine effectiveness. It does not account for differential testing rates that might occur between vaccinated and unvaccinated people. It is biologically implausible that COVID-19 vaccines would perform differently in Alaska compared to other parts of the United States. In fact, a recent test-negative case-control analysis using Alaska data yielded similar results to a methodologically similar national analysis.<sup>8</sup>

Interpreting differences in COVID-19 incidence by vaccine manufacturer is challenging because persons who received one type of COVID-19 vaccine may systematically differ from persons who received a different type. For example, the

Pfizer vaccine was available before the Moderna vaccine and so health care workers and persons in long-term care facilities may have been more likely to have received it. However, restricting the comparison of manufacturers to persons aged 20–64 years should limit the extent to which bias may reflect the use of a particular vaccine in long-term care facilities.

In light of evidence on vaccine breakthrough cases and the potential for onward transmission from breakthrough infections, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended on July 27, 2021 that all persons, including fully vaccinated persons, wear a mask when in public indoor settings in locations experiencing substantial or high levels of community transmission.<sup>9</sup> The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and CDC recommend that persons who are moderately or severely immunocompromised receive as part of their primary series a third dose of an mRNA vaccine at least 28 days after receiving the second dose.<sup>10</sup> As of January 4, 2022, CDC recommends a booster dose for all persons age 18 and older who received the Pfizer primary series at least 5 months ago, the Moderna primary series at least 6 months ago, or the Janssen vaccine at least 2 months ago.<sup>11</sup>

This analysis found that a booster dose further reduces the incidence of COVID-19 and hospitalizations due to COVID-19, though estimates are not specific to the period the Omicron variant was dominant. But analyses from elsewhere in the United States have found that persons who have received a COVID-19 vaccine booster are substantially better protected against Omicron than persons who are eligible for a booster but un-boosted.<sup>12</sup>

Prior infection with SARS-CoV-2 confers substantial but incomplete protection against subsequent reinfection. COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths have been documented among Alaska residents who previously had COVID-19. Vaccination is safe in persons who have previously been infected and evidence from Alaska and published analyses indicate that vaccination confers additional protection among persons with a prior history of SARS-CoV-2 infection.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the evidence suggests that reinfections became more frequent during December compared to previous months. This is not surprising, given that the Omicron variant is antigenically distinct from prior circulating variants.

This report includes some data from the Omicron wave in Alaska, but more data specific to Omicron will be available in the next monthly report.

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## Additional Resources

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