

## 2022-2023 Arapahoe County Redistricting Proposal

### August 2, 2023

All counties in the state of Colorado are required to examine their commissioner districts following a federal census and ensure that each district is as close to equal in population as possible (30-10-306, C.R.S.). In previous years, the new district boundaries were required to be adopted by the board of county commissioners by September 30 of the year following the census.

The State Legislature passed [HB 21-1047](#) in 2021 which shifted county redistricting requirements to September 30 of the second odd-numbered year following the census (September 2023) and created a new process that includes appointment of a county commissioner redistricting commission that holds open meetings, engages with the public, and drafts no less than three maps for consideration.

At a [study session on April 6, 2021](#), the Board approved a proposal from staff (consistent with the new legislation) wherein the decision-making process allows the Board of County Commissioners to appoint a redistricting advisory committee but allows the Board to retain final decision-making authority on map decisions. The redistricting advisory committee would inform that decision-making process after conducting robust public engagement.

Below is an updated proposal with dates appropriate for a September 30, 2023 submission deadline.

#### ***Redistricting Advisory Committee***

- Role & Responsibilities
  - Create and present at least three proposed county commissioner district maps to the BOCC for consideration and adoption consistent with state statute that is reflective of decision-making criteria and public input.
  - Understand requirements, data and context to inform recommendation
  - Provide input and direction to staff to draw initial maps for consideration in open meetings
  - Provide input on proposed public engagement/communication plan in open meetings
  - Participate in advisory committee meetings (open)
  - Participate in and advocate for resident engagement in the process where public participation is permitted, which may include both in-person and virtual options as is possible.
  - Review public feedback, providing staff direction on how to incorporate in map revisions
  - Present recommendation to BOCC in open meetings
  - Recognize unable to engage with elected officials, political party officials, peers, staff or colleagues on this topic outside of established committee processes (no side conversations/directions)
  - Conduct self in accordance with group norms/charter
  - Recognize all work is subject to Colorado open records act requirements, including correspondence, work product and communications between and among colleagues and staff.
- Membership:

- 9 county residents
  - Three members each representing Republican, Democrat, and Unaffiliated party registration
  - Current party affiliation has not changed since November 2020 election
  - Civic Interest
  - Willingness to listen and understand diverse viewpoints
  - Experience working with others to reach outcomes or decisions
  - Being fair/equitable
  - Geographic Diversity
  - Demographic Diversity
- Open Application Process
  - Solicit through existing and new channels
  - Interviews by BOCC
  - Formal appointments
- Time Commitment
  - Monthly meetings beginning in December 2022 (60-90 min) – options for virtual and in-person to be included
  - Potential for bi-monthly meetings (60 min) if needed
  - Public Engagement Activities, a minimum of three events over ten months (60 - 90 min)
  - Limited, ten-month appointment (December 2022 – September 2023)

***Proposed Implementation Timeline/Key Milestones for Redistricting***

**July/August 2022 (Months 1-2)**

- Initial staff meeting to review process and plan
- Develop communications plan for review
- BOCC finalizes redistricting process and plan and confirms internal staff team members (Aug. 2)
- Solicit Advisory Committee Members
- Define and document roles and responsibilities for Internal Staff Committee members

**September 2022 (Month 3)**

- Open committee applications (Sept. 5 - 19)
- Candidate interviews (Week of Sept. 25)

**October 2022 (Month 4)**

- Select Advisory Committee Members
- BOCC Adopts Resolution Establishing Commission, Appointing Advisory Committee & Staff and setting deadlines required in C.R.S, 30-10-306.4 (Oct. 25 meeting)

November 2022 (Month 5)

- Staff Committee coordinates with appointed committee and prepares for kick-off meeting

December 2022 (Month 6):

- Committee Meeting 1: welcome, expectations, process, criteria (early Dec.)

January 2023 (Month 7):

- Committee Meeting 2: Data review, inc. baseline, outreach/engagement approach (early Jan.)

February 2023 (Month 8):

- Committee Meeting 3: Information from State, potential options, etc., based on 2020 Census and ACS data, prioritization and definition of criteria (early Feb.)
- Committee Meeting 4: Update on 2020 Data Knowledge, confirm map inputs to direct staff (late Feb.)

March 2023 (Month 9):

- Committee Meeting 5: Working meeting to review and refine initial maps, query staff, finalize map outreach (early Mar.)

April 2023 (Month 10):

- Committee Meeting 6: Working meeting to finalize 3 preliminary maps based on data discussion; opportunity for questions prior to broader public hearings/engagement (early April)
- Public Engagement Maps (early Apr./May)
- Public Hearings (late Apr.)

May 2023 (Month 11)

- Collation of public input, thematic issue identification
- Committee Meeting 7: Review public comment/input. Working meeting to revise/refine maps based on feedback (late May)

June 2023 (Month 12)

- Committee Meeting 8: Working meeting to revise final map(s) to recommend to BOCC and review presentation (late June)

July 2023 (Month 13)

- Committee meeting 9: Study Session to present maps/process/answer BOCC questions (July 10-11)
- BOCC Public Hearing on proposed plan (July 25, 2023 meeting)

August 2023 (Month 14):

- Committee Meeting 10: BOCC Adoption of Final Map (Aug. 8, 2023 BOCC meeting)
- BOCC Recess (tentative 8/9 – 9/4)
- Clerk & Recorder’s Office to update district lines in state database

September 2023 (Month 15) (no Committee meetings):

- Deadline to provide updated plan to Secretary of State and Dept. of Local Affairs (Sept. 30, 2023)

October 2023 (no Committee meetings):

- BOCC Study Session to approve adjustment of precinct lines based on updated district map (Oct. 10, 2023)
- BOCC Approval of Precinct Boundaries (Oct. 24, 2023)

December 2023 (no Committee meetings):

- Clerk & Recorder’s Office to update precinct lines in state database

### ***Defined Decision-Making Considerations***

- When drawing lines, use logical barriers (i.e. highways/streets, natural boundaries, political boundaries) as much as practical
- Not base district lines on precinct lines
- New Statutory criteria (in order of priority):
  - First Tier: “mathematical population equality” (no more than 5% deviation between most and least populous districts) + compliance with federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.
  - Second Tier: preserve “whole communities of interest” and “whole political subdivisions” (cities, towns, etc.) + “as compact as reasonably possible.”
  - Third Tier: to the extent “reasonably possible” then try to “maximize the number of political competitive districts.”
- Prohibited Considerations in Statute:
  - Any district drawn “for the purpose of protecting one or more incumbent members” or declared candidates of the BOCC.
  - Any district drawn “for the purpose or results in denial or abridgement of the right any citizen to vote” based on race, language minority, including diluting the impact of those racial or language minority groups in elections.
- Final criteria:
  - So long as Tiers 1 – 3 are complied with as well as the prohibitions, the Committee may consider “congressional districts, state house of representative districts, and state senate districts in order to minimize the number of necessary voting precincts in a county”

***Internal Staff Committee***

The Commissioners' Office will lead coordination of this project with the following interdisciplinary team, which will have responsibilities consistent with the state statute:

- Clerk & Recorder's Office
  - Peg Perl, Deputy Director of Elections
  - Bill Mast, Voter Services Manager
  - Alex Floeckher, Election Mapping Coordinator
  - Karl Herrmann, Chief Deputy
- Commissioners' Office
  - Kendra Davis, Management Analyst II
  - Chris Henning, Communications Manager
  - Tom Skelley, Communications Business Partner
  - Michelle Halstead, Director
- County Attorney's Office
  - Monica Kovaci, Senior Assistant County Attorney
  - Ron Carl, County Attorney
- Information Technology
  - Dominick Cisson, Senior GIS Administrator
- Public Works and Development
  - Larry Mugler, Planner/Project Specialist