

Colorado Reapportionment Commission (05/23/2001)

Becky Lennahan, Acting Staff Director, Colorado Reapportionment Commission, discussed the potential meeting schedule. She stated that it appears that Wednesday afternoons work for most members. Mr. Trujillo moved (Grossman: second) to have the Commission meet every Wednesday afternoon. The commission discussed several alternatives.

Representative Grossman moved (Paschall: second) a substitute motion to meet next Wednesday, May 30, and then consider alternating meeting times between Mondays and Wednesdays. Upon further discussion of members' schedules, he withdrew his substitute motion.

10:20 AM

The Commissioners discussed whether the Commission needed to meet every week, or every other week. They decided on every week, at least to start. Ms. Lennahan asked what time of day the Commissioners would like to meet, and offered that if they wanted, they could meet over the lunch hour and box lunches would be provided. The meeting time was set for noon unless otherwise determined. The following schedule was determined after all members reviewed their calendars between now and the end of August:

Friday, May 11 -- noon
 Wednesday, May 23 - 10:00 a.m.
 Wednesday, May 30 -- noon
 Tuesday, June 5 -- noon
 Wednesday, June 13 -- 10:00 a.m.
 Monday, June 18 -- 1:00 p.m.
 Wednesday, June 27 -- noon
 Monday, July 9 -- noon
 Wednesday, July 18 -- noon
 Monday, July 23 -- noon
 Monday, July 30 -- 10:00 a.m.
 Wednesday, August 8 -- noon
 Thursday, August 16 -- 2:00 p.m.
 Thursday, August 23 -- 10:00 a.m.
 Tuesday, August 28 -- noon
 Wednesday, August 29 -- 9:00 a.m.

10:35 AM -- Discussion of Dividing the State into Regions for Purposes of Drawing Maps

Ms. Lennahan discussed two potential schedules that staff had created for drawing the regions of the state (Attachments A and B). She stated that historically the commission has worked on regions of the state at each meeting instead of attempting to draw the whole state at once. Mr. Wells stated that he likes the concept of dividing the state, however he does not like the order of the regions that are being proposed in either of the attachments. He added that he had heard concerns about representation in the rural counties. He suggested starting in Denver and then working out to the metropolitan counties and then proceed to the west and east slope so as not to put the rural representation at risk of losing seats. Discussion among the commissioners ensued. Representative Paschall expressed some concern about this order.

10:48 AM

The commissioners continued to discuss the proposed regional scheme for drawing maps. Ms. Rodriguez asked whether there was any interest in starting with the hardest areas of the state first, such as the area where House District 60 is located (San Luis Valley/Pueblo).

10:50 AM

Senator Wells (Witwer: second) moved to accept the recommended regions but asked that the regions proposed in "Alternative One" of Attachment B be put in reverse order instead of 1-8, go 8-1. There was discussion about how the commission dealt with the regions in 1991. Senator Thiebaut expressed concern with the order. The order of how the regions would be drawn was discussed extensively. Representative Grossman expressed concern about communities of interest in the metro area by starting in the metro area and working out. Mr. Muse expressed interest in starting with a less complicated area of the state. The commission discussed starting with the Western Slope.

11:00 AM

There was more discussion about the order, and the other alternatives proposed in Attachments A and B were discussed. Mr. Wells withdrew his earlier motion.

BILL:	Discussion of Dividing State into Regions for Purposes of Drawing Maps	
TIME:	11:13:19 AM	
MOVED:	Witwer	
MOTION:	moved to draw the regions in the following order Western Slope; Denver; Boulder/Adams; Jefferson/Clear Creek/Gilpin/Park; Arapahoe/Douglas/Elbert; and then hold a hearing during which these regions can be combined - then draw El Paso/Teller; Pueblo/SLV/Eastern Plains; Larimer/Weld; then hold a hearing to combine these districts and the remainder of the state plan. Senator Hillman asked that Larimer and Weld be moved in so that they will be drawn in conjunction with the Eastern Plains. Ms. Witwer amended her motion to switch the order of Larimer/Weld and Pueblo/SLV/Eastern Plains. The amended motion was adopted 8-3.	
SECONDED:	Wells	
		VOTE
	Beatty	Yes
	Fetcher	No
	Grossman	No
	Hillman	Yes
	Muse	Yes
	Paschall	Yes
	Rodriguez	No
	Thiebaut	Yes
	Wells	Yes
	Witwer	Yes
	(None), (None)	
	Trujillo	Yes
Final YES: 8 NO: 3 EXC: 0 ABS: 0 FINAL ACTION: PASS		

11:23 AM -- Discussion of Process for Retaining Counsel

The commission discussed the issue of retaining counsel. Mr. Wells stated that the commission should not necessarily select counsel today, rather recommendations should be brought to the next meeting. Mr. Trujillo asked staff to bring some names to the next meeting. Senator Thiebaut asked whether an RFP/RFI needs to be let in order to obtain the highest quality attorney. Mr. Muse suggested an interview process. Mr. Wells requested a presentation of the legal aspects of reapportionment, and suggested maybe asking someone from the attorney general's office and

**POTENTIAL COMMISSION SCHEDULE
WITH EIGHT GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS**

Regions

Region	Population	House Districts	Senate Districts
1 El Paso	516,929	7.81	4.21
2 Western Slope	429,805	6.50	3.50
3 Larimer/Weld/Eastern	534,533	8.08	4.35
4 Pueblo/SLV/Surrounding area	385,473	5.83	3.14
5 Arapahoe/Douglas/Elbert	676,500	10.22	5.51
6 Jefferson/ClearCreek/Gilpin	541,131	8.18	4.40
7 Boulder/Adams	655,145	9.90	5.33
8 Denver	561,745	8.49	4.57

Schedule

**Alternative One
Eight Regions**

Week of	Region	Total Population		
June 4	El Paso	516,929	7.81	4.21
June 11	Western Slope	429,805	6.50	3.50
June 18	Larimer/Weld/Eastern	534,533	8.08	4.35
June 25	Pueblo/SLV/Surrounding area	385,473	5.83	3.14
July 2	Off			
July 9	Combine Regions 1 through 4	1,866,740	28.21	15.19
July 16	Arapahoe/Douglas/Elbert	676,500	10.22	5.51
July 23	Jefferson/ClearCreek/Gilpin	541,131	8.18	4.40
July 30	Boulder/Adams	655,145	9.90	5.33
August 6	Denver	561,745	8.49	4.57
August 13	Combine Regions 5 through 8	2,434,521	36.79	19.81
August 20	Combine Regions			
August 27	Approve preliminary plan - merge all districts			

**Alternative Two
Eight Regions**

Week of	Region	Total Population
June 4	El Paso	516,929
June 11	Arapahoe/Douglas/Elbert	656,628
June 18	Western Slope	429,895
June 25	Jefferson/CC/Gilpin	541,131
July 2	Off	
July 9	Larimer/Weld/Eastern	554,405
July 16	Boulder/Adams	655,145
July 23	Denver	561,745
July 30	Pueblo/SLV/Eastern Plains	385,473
August 6	Combine Regions	
August 13	Combine Regions	
August 20	Combine Regions	
August 27	Approve preliminary plan - merge all districts	

**POTENTIAL COMMISSION SCHEDULE
WITH EIGHT GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS II**

Regions

Region	Population	House Districts	Senate Districts
1 El Paso/Teller	537,484	7.97	4.37
2 Western Slope	483,477	7.31	3.93
3 Larimer/Weld	432,430	6.53	3.52
4 Pueblo/SLV/Eastern Plains	398,826	6.03	3.25
5 Arapahoe/Douglas/Elbert	676,500	10.22	5.51
6 Jefferson/ClearCreek/Gilpin/Park	555,654	8.40	4.52
7 Boulder/Adams	655,145	9.90	5.33
8 Denver	561,745	8.49	4.57

Schedule

**Alternative One
Eight Regions**

Week of	Region	Total Population		
June 4	El Paso/Teller	537,484	7.97	4.37
June 11	Western Slope	483,477	7.31	3.93
June 18	Larimer/Weld	432,430	6.53	3.52
June 25	Pueblo/SLV/Eastern Plains	398,826	6.03	3.25
July 2	Off			
July 9	Combine Regions 1 through 4	1,852,217	27.99	15.07
July 16	Arapahoe/Douglas/Elbert	676,500	10.22	5.51
July 23	Jefferson/ClearCreek/Gilpin/Park	555,654	8.40	4.52
July 30	Boulder/Adams	655,145	9.90	5.33
August 6	Denver	561,745	8.49	4.57
August 13	Combine Regions 5 through 8	2,449,044	37.01	19.93
August 20	Combine Regions			
August 27	Approve preliminary plan - merge all districts			

**Alternative Two
Eight Regions**

Week of	Region	Total Population
June 4	El Paso/Teller	537,484
June 11	Arapahoe/Douglas/Elbert	676,500
June 18	Western Slope	483,477
June 25	Jefferson/CC/Gilpin	555,654
July 2	Off	
July 9	Larimer/Weld	432,430
July 16	Boulder/Adams	655,145
July 23	Denver	561,745
July 30	Pueblo/SLV/Eastern Plains	398,826
August 6	Combine Regions	
August 13	Combine Regions	
August 20	Combine Regions	
August 27	Approve preliminary plan - merge all districts	