

Montrose County reapportionment
bpatterson
to:
reapp2011
06/13/2011 05:58 AM
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Concerning the reapportionment of the Colorado Legislature, I want to enter my views and information to the committee.

Montrose County is currently whole in both the 58th House District and the 6th Senate District. Montrose County is rural and more closely related to Delta, Western San Miguel, Dolores, and Montezuma Counties. The Cities of Delta, Olathe, and Montrose already work together on domestic water treatment (Project 7), several natural resources boards, and electric distribution. Past and current discussions have been made to combine the sanitary sewer service for the Uncompahgre Valley with an intercity project similar to Project 7.

The rural and mining communities in this area are closely related, especially Western Montrose and San Miguel counties. The oil and gas development is focused on Western Montrose and San Miguel counties as well as Montezuma and Dolores counties.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment on this important task of providing a balanced legislature.

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June 13, 2011

Colorado Reapportionment Commission

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your service to our State by serving on this most important Commission.

I have been looking with interest on the many ways to reapportion this corner of the State. Part of the preferred criteria guidelines suggests maintaining county boundaries as desirable. In San Miguel County I would suggest splitting the County on an East and West basis takes a priority as the cultural and community demographics are quite different. The Eastern part of the County is focused on resort and recreational activities while the Western part is rural and heavily agriculture in nature.

We have a greater community interest with other resort areas, such as La Plata, Ouray, San Juan, and Archuleta counties than we do with Montrose and Montezuma. I would suggest the Commission may want to consider this when looking at the Colorado House districts.

Thanks and Have A Telluride Day!!

John E. Howe

Changing Senate and House Districts for Chaffee County

Ted Fish

to:

reapp2011

06/13/2011 10:57 AM

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I understand your committee is looking at reapportionment for Senate and House Districts in Colorado. When you reapportion Chaffee County here are some things that are important to me, a resident of Chaffee County.

The Arkansas River headwaters region should be represented by just one Senator or Representative. Water is our life blood. Tourism, recreation and agriculture rely on lots of water. The water brings tourists who may buy my art. Putting Chaffee County with front range cities means that the legislator would represent areas with opposite needs. Chaffee County would definitely get the short end of the stick.

Competitive districts means all voters get to be heard, not just some large majority. Legislators would be much more accountability to the voters.

The mountain counties, Eagle, Gunnison, Pitkin, Lake, and Chaffee, all rely on outdoor recreation and tourism to keep our citizens employed. Chaffee shares many of the same concerns about development and resources with neighboring mountain counties. If these counties shared a single Senate district, we would be best represented in the legislature.

Ted Fish
Salida, Colorado
Chaffee County

Ted Fish www.tedfishart.com "Piacere Arte ecco vita che?", Rico Pesce

Reapportionment relating to Chaffee County
Louise Fish
to:
reapp2011
06/13/2011 11:00 AM
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When you consider reapportionment of Senate and House Districts in Colorado and specifically for Chaffee County, please consider the following:

- Competitive districts promote accountability to the voters, giving the citizens of our democracy the the true control of our destinies. A balanced district will allow all voices to be heard. Legislators will not easily be able to ignore a portion of the electorate.
- Chaffee county is rural. That is why we live here. Our common interests our many. Splitting the county into different legislative districts would have a negative impact. In fact, it may cause county citizens to fight instead of working together.
- The central mountain counties, Eagle, Gunnison, Pitkin, Lake, and Chaffee (where I live), rely on outdoor recreation and tourism as the majority of our local economies. Chaffee shares many of the same concerns about development and resources with neighboring mountain counties. If these counties shared a single Senate district, we would be best represented in the legislature.
- Water is a major issue for Chaffee County. We have it. The front range wants it. Our recreation and tourism industries would be non-existent without our water. Placing Chaffee county with front range communities means that the legislator would represent areas with diametrically opposed needs. The Arkansas River headwaters region must be represented by just one Senate district and one House district

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.

Louise Fish
Salida, Colorado
Chaffee County

Western Slope
Terry
to:
reapp2011
06/13/2011 11:28 AM
Please respond to tcarru
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As a Grand Junction and Western Slope resident, I will be extremely disappointed if the Western Slope district is split in two sections. Our value and economic concerns are much different than either Boulder or Fort Collins. If we are split in two districts, this is an attempt by the citizens of the Eastern Slope to dilute the votes on the Western Slope.

Thank you.

Terry "TC" Carruthers

Reapportionment in SW Colorado

Ray Finney

to:

reapp2011

06/13/2011 11:33 AM

Please respond to consultray

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Dear Reapportionment Committee members and staff,

Please see attached letter for your record, It is a 6 hour drive to Denver.

Sincerely,

Raymond P. Finney

Pagosa Springs 81147

**1215 Cloud Cap Ave.
Pagosa Springs, CO 81147**

Colorado State Reapportionment Committee
State Capital, Legislative Services Bldg.
200 East 14th Ave
Denver CO,

Dear Commission members,

I am a Veteran and a Voter. As a resident of Archuleta County I am very interested in how we are represented in the State legislature. I realize that the House and Senate seats need to be realigned based upon population shifts in rural areas and especially near Denver Metro. I would hope that you would give significant attention to rural areas as well and especially SW Colorado where we have significant communities of interest based upon tourism, outdoor recreation, retirement, and over all natural beauty. There are other areas in SW Colorado that are keyed into farming, energy and mineral extraction, areas where we would have much less in common. The other area of concern is to have competitive districts so whoever gets elected feels the need to listen to all persons even those from another party.

In rural Colorado, we rely much more heavily on county-wide services than we do on municipal or local government services. Although I understand some counties must be split for certain State House districts, they ought to remain intact whenever possible. This would give officials and community leaders in smaller counties a single point of contact in the State Legislature to make sure local needs are taken care of. This is beneficial because local and county leaders could spend more time on local needs and less time fighting for the attention of legislators. My community will have better local representation in the State Legislature if county lines are followed as much as possible.

If it is necessary to split a county to balance population, I urge the Commission to make those divisions by keeping other communities of interest together and splitting counties where other divisions exist.

Coloradans deserve competitive districts in the State Legislature. Local issues help hold our elected officials accountable to our needs, and in turn help create a more engaged public. The fact is, competitively drawn districts promote responsibility by legislators, and promote empowerment of citizens. A balanced district will imitate the diverse political landscape we now see in Colorado, and should be at the center of this reapportionment process here.

Community of Interest – Ouray, San Miguel, San Juan, Archuleta and La Plata Counties
I understand that since the Reapportionment Commission has already included the six counties from the San Luis Valley in a state house district that includes a portion of the city of Pueblo.

This means that the shared communities of interest between Archuleta and La Plata counties will be especially important for our area to have strong representation in the legislature.

Both of our counties rely on US-160 as the main transportation corridor in the region. This means that we share many economic interests, and residents from our two counties often use the same recreation areas as well. Many agricultural producers in Archuleta and La Plata counties are entering the organic market and share the special suppliers and other infrastructure needed for this industry. These similarities tie our communities closely together in unique ways, and having common representation would strengthen our voice in Denver.

While our current state house district includes a portion of Montezuma County, this map does not reflect how our communities interact, and it weakens Montezuma County's voice. While Archuleta and La Plata County residents often share the same recreation areas, Montezuma County residents tend to use the Dolores River by themselves. And while Archuleta and La Plata agriculture is producing many more organic products, Montezuma County has continued to produce traditional crops.

While it is preferable to keep counties together when drawing district lines, the one county in our area that could most logically be divided is San Miguel County. The eastern part of the county has a recreation and tourism economy similar to other counties to the east. Meanwhile, the western part of the county relies on energy industries for its economy, which is more similar to Montrose and Dolores counties. San Miguel County already has different oil and gas regulations in the eastern and western sections of the county. This could be a good line for the Reapportionment Commission to use if the county needs to be divided.

The common recreation and tourism economies of our region are a very important part of our economy. Hot springs in Ouray and Pagosa are a unique feature in this part of Colorado. Historic towns such as Silverton and Ouray also bring a special character to this area that attracts its own kind of tourism. Keeping these areas together would help these small industries have their needs heard in the legislature.

Thank you for your time and your concern for my concerns. We live in a great state and hopefully the reapportionment can help the legislature reflect the people and diverse interests of our state rural and urban,

Sincerely,

Raymond P. Finney
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