

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA**

TUESDAY

10:00 A.M.

DECEMBER 1, 2021

PRESENT:

**Bob Lucey, Chair (via Zoom)**  
**Vaughn Hartung, Vice Chair (via Zoom)**  
**Alexis Hill, Commissioner (via Zoom)**  
**Jeanne Herman, Commissioner**

**Janis Galassini, County Clerk**  
**Eric Brown, County Manager**  
**Nathan Edwards, Assistant District Attorney**

ABSENT:

**Kitty Jung, Commissioner**

The Washoe County Board of Commissioners convened at 10:00 a.m. in regular session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, County Clerk Jan Galassini called roll and the Board conducted the following business:

**21-0913      AGENDA ITEM 3 Public Comment.**

Ms. Carol Burns expressed concern about redistricting in Sun Valley and asserted it could affect the ability to recruit new members for the community advisory board (CAB). She asked for Sun Valley be in only one district to eliminate confusion. Many residents in Sun Valley did not have internet service and she thought notifying residents on television of upcoming CAB meetings was better than sending emails. She mentioned the North Valleys CAB send out post cards to residents as notification for future meetings.

County Clerk Jan Galassini stated an email was received from Ms. Elise Weatherly, a copy of which was placed on record.

**21-0914      AGENDA ITEM 4 Announcements/Reports.**

Commissioner Herman expressed concern about the cost of security at Board of County Commissioners meetings and opined this meeting did not need security.

Chair Lucey extended holiday greetings to the community and congratulated Commissioner Hill on the arrival of her new baby girl.

**21-0915**

**AGENDA ITEM 5** Pursuant to NRS 244.014 and 244.018, discussion and possible selection of a preferred alternative for the 2021 Washoe County Commission Election District Plan, and upon selection of a preferred alternative, direct the District Attorney through the County Clerk to draft an ordinance to amend Chapter 5 of the Washoe County Code relating to creation of commission election district boundaries. County Commission election district boundaries are required to be re-drawn as a result of changes in population that have occurred since the last re-districting process, as reflected in the recently released 2020 U.S. Decennial Census, which shows a total population for the county of 486,492. Staff has prepared drafts of 5 alternative plans of district boundaries for each of the 5 county commission districts. One additional alternative is also offered for consideration and comparison, which is simply the district boundaries as they exist at present. Action may include selection of one of the 5 alternatives proposed by staff, or direction to pursue a different alternative based on available information and deliberation during the item. Among other things, districts must be as nearly equal in population as practicable, composed of entirely contiguous territory, and as compact as possible. Manager's Office. (All Commission Districts.)

Chair Lucey stated redistricting was a long process which required feedback and input from staff and the public. He explained redistricting was essential due to growth and reported the 2020 census indicated the County grew by 66,000 individuals. He spoke about a shift in population in Spanish Springs and the north valleys, noting the old southwest area was formerly the highest populated area. He indicated growth had made the districts unbalanced and district lines had to be adjusted to align the districts evenly. He stated the current deviations from one district to another was 10 percent, which meant adjustments were necessary to be compliant with NRS standards.

Commissioner Herman spoke about her recommendations for redistricting, saying the versions did not deviate that far and her first choice would be to leave district lines the same. She stated version four would not put Sun Valley back together but said that was her second choice and her third choice was version one.

Vice Chair Hartung said an issue with version four was the areas of Wadsworth, Nixon, and Sutcliff would be split into two districts and the tribal chairman had contacted him to request the areas all be in one district. He indicated preference to version six, saying he would gladly represent Hidden Valley. He asserted the proposed population for District 4 seemed to be low compared to other districts but assumed with the rapid growth of Spanish Springs it would catch up quickly.

Commissioner Hill concurred with Vice Chair Hartung that version six was preferred and thought it addressed concerns from the community. She commended staff for a great job gathering significant feedback from staff and the community. She believed version six would keep the tribal areas together in one district and Sun Valley would be

well represented with the population being allocated more evenly. She indicated version six would include all of Verdi in her district, which she was very comfortable with.

Chair Lucey thanked the commissioners for voicing their concerns and said they all had the responsibility to understand and address these issues. He explained that districts needed to be balanced in order for concerns to be resolved. He asserted version six would temporarily be light for District 4 but that would be short-term based on plans and construction that would densely populate the area swiftly. He believed version six covered all areas of concern and would equally divide areas that were not represented appropriately. He asked Assistant District Attorney Nathan Edwards to clarify that all areas in question were covered and ready to move forward with this recommendation.

Mr. Edwards asserted all Chair Lucey's comments were accurate related to the different issues and all the major requirements set forth in NRS. He stated the existing boundaries and baseline issues had been addressed and the agenda item was for comparison of the new alternatives for compliance with proper percentages of deviation.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

On motion by Vice Chair Hartung, seconded by Commissioner Hill, which motion duly carried on a 3-1 vote with Commissioner Herman voting no and Commissioner Jung absent, it was ordered to adopt plan 6 as proposed in this agenda item.

**21-0916**      **AGENDA ITEM 6** Public Comment.

There was no response to the call for public comment.

**21-0917**      **AGENDA ITEM 7** Announcements/Reports.

There were no announcements or reports.

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**10:23 a.m.** There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned without objection.

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**BOB LUCEY**, Chair  
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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**JANIS GALASSINI**, County Clerk and  
Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by:  
Doni Gassaway, Deputy County Clerk*