



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

2021 Redistricting Commission

Virtual Meeting
May 03, 2021
Minutes

Members Present

Rev. James J. Robinson, Chair
Dr. Charlene M. Dukes
David C. Harrington

Council Staff

Robert J. Williams, Jr.
William M. Hunt
Colette R. Gresham, Esq.
Raj A. Kumar, Esq.
Karen T. Zavakos, Esq.
Kathleen H. Canning, Esq.
Donna J. Brown
Terry D. Myers
Charlotte D. Aheart

Consultants & Consultant's Staff

Dr. Nathaniel Persily, Esq.
Zahavah Levine
Roselyn E. Pugh, Esq.

MNCPPC Staff

James Cannistra
Jordan Baucum Colbert
Robert Gelner

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks - Chair Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 3:31 p.m.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

The Commission reviewed and approved Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2021.

3. Dr. Nathaniel Persily – Update on 2020 Census Population Counts for Apportionment

Dr. Nathaniel Persily, consultant to the Redistricting Commission, provided an update and brief overview of 2020 Census Population Counts for Apportionment released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Apportionment is the process of dividing the 435 memberships, or seats, in the U.S. House of Representatives among the 50 states. At the conclusion of each decennial census, the results are used to calculate the number of seats to which each state is entitled. Each of the 50 states is entitled to a minimum of one seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. The 2020 Census apportionment population includes the resident population of the 50 states, plus a count of the U.S. military personnel and federal civilian employees living outside the United States (and their dependents living with them) who can be allocated to a home state. This data does not include census population counts for Councilmanic Districts in Prince George’s County.

4. Dr. Nathaniel Persily – Presentation on estimates of population counts for existing Councilmanic Districts based on projections from the American Community Survey and possible strategies to achieve equal population between Councilmanic Districts

Dr. Persily discussed projected population by Haystaq using census data from 2018-2019 American Community Survey. Haystaq projected population for the County is 914, 212 and ideal projected population for Councilmanic District is 101,579.

Dr. Persily also discussed projected population and deviation shifts in Councilmanic Districts and possible strategies to achieve equal population between Councilmanic Districts, including Districts 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9.

Commissioner Harrington recommended that a proposed 2021 Redistricting Map should be guided by the following principles: 1) create a map with least change or least disruption, 2) maintain contiguous areas in districts, 3) avoid splitting of precincts, 4) avoid population deviation greater than 4.5 percent, and 5) consideration of assets that connect districts such as community centers, churches, corporations and transportation.

Chairman Robinson and Commission Dukes agreed with guiding principles recommended by Commissioner Harrington. Commissioner Dukes indicated that additional nuances of each district should also be identified through public hearings and public comments.

The Commission discussed and requested a least change redistricting map that will propose to move 1 precinct from District Heights that is currently in Councilmanic District 6 to Councilmanic District 7. Commissioner Dukes requested that the proposed least change redistricting map should contain appropriate information for the public to understand the proposed redistricting map and the redistricting process.

Dr. Persily indicated that he will provide optional examples of least change maps for consideration by the Commission until appropriate data is released in September by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Dr. Persily indicated that mapping technology will identify major assets of District Heights or any other area of a Councilmanic District that may be under consideration by the Commission for redistricting to achieve a least change map.

Council Administrator, Robert J. Williams, Jr., indicated that staff will also provide additional information on major assets of District Heights such as economic development.

5. Questions and Answers

The Commission reiterated that the proposed 2021 Redistricting Map should be guided by the following principles:

- Least change map
- Contiguous Areas
- Avoid splitting precincts
- Population deviation no greater than 4.5%
- Consideration of Assets that connect Districts

6. Next Meeting – Monday, May 17, 2021

Chairman Robinson announced the next scheduled meeting will be held on May,17, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.