



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

2021 Redistricting Commission

Virtual Meeting
Monday, August 16, 2021
Minutes

Members Present

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

Council Staff

Colette R. Gresham, Esq.
Raj A. Kumar, Esq.
Karen T. Zvakos, Esq.
Kathleen H. Canning, Esq.
Leonard D. Moses
Charlotte D. Aheart

Consultants

& Consultant's Staff

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

MNCPPC Staff

James Cannistra
Robert Gelner

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Chairman Robinson

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by the Chair, Pastor James J. Robinson.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes – August 2, 2021

The Commission reviewed and approved the Meeting Minutes, as written, from August 2, 2021.

3. Census Data Update from Dr. Persily

Dr. Nathaniel Persily, consultant to the Commission, presented a proposed redistricting plan based on the 2020 U.S. Census Bureau data released on August 12, 2021. Dr. Persily indicated that based on a total County population of 967,201, the preferred population for each district would be 107,467. And at +/- 5% population deviation, the constitutional population range is between 102,094 to 112,840. Dr. Persily also indicated that the Census data trends are consistent with those anticipated by the Commission, with the exception of the over population in District 3 being and potential move of a large portion of Glenn Dale from District 3 to unify areas of Glenn Dale located in District 4.

Dr. Persily indicated that the three areas of population shift under the proposed plan are: (1) moving a precinct in Adelphi in District 1 into District 2; (2) moving a large portion of Glenn Dale in District 3 to unify it with the portion of Glenn Dale in District 4; and (3) moving two precincts in District Heights that are in District 6 to District 7.

4. Next Steps – Direction to Dr. Persily to Prepare Proposed Redistricting Map

The Commission voted (3-0) to direct Dr. Persily to prepare a proposed plan based the official 2020 Census data for the next meeting on August 23, 2021.

5. Questions and Answers

Commissioner Harrington recommended that the Commission follow the least change principle that most clearly satisfies the one person one vote constitutional requirement previously discussed by the Commission.

Chair Robinson asked about the status of the Collington Station move. Dr. Persily indicated that there would be no change for Collington Station because that proposal was based on a +/- 1% deviation not the +/- 4.5% deviation principle adopted by the Commission.

Commissioner Dukes and Dr. Persily carefully reviewed and discussed features of the Glenn Dale map which moves a large portion of Glenn Dale in District 3 to unify it with Glenn Dale in District 4. Dr. Persily indicated that a reason for considering the Glenn Dale shift is that District 3 has a 4.8% deviation and the shift would bring it down below the 4.5% deviation level.

Commissioner Harrington asked Dr. Persily whether there were persons moved out of municipalities with the three proposed population shifts. Dr. Persily indicated that persons would be moved out of municipalities with each of the three proposed population shifts.

Chair Robinson recommended that the Commission support the proposed plan subject to any changes in the final delivery of the Census data that Dr. Persily will receive. Dr. Persily indicated that the adjusted prison population count will not be the final numbers in the proposed plan because the plan is based on a +/- 4.5% population deviation for each district.

Commissioner Dukes indicated that so far public participation and input is aligned with a least change plan and the recommendations of the Commission is consistent with a least change plan.

Commissioner Harrington indicated that in contrast, the 2011 Commission did not propose a least change principle but that the County Council made considerable changes to the plan proposed by the 2011 Commission.

6. Next Public Meeting – Monday, August 23, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

Chairman Robinson announced the next scheduled meeting will be held on August 23, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 p.m.