

Commission Meeting Minutes

The following are the minutes of the Utah Independent Redistricting Commission meeting. The meeting was held on Saturday, October 30 2021, in the Taylorsville State Office Building located on 4315 S 2700 W Room #1400, Taylorsville, UT 84129

Note: A copy of meeting materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found on the Public Notice Website. The minutes may refer to the recording found on the Public Notice Website with the approximate number on the recording where an issue is being discussed.

Attendance - Commission Members

Chair, Utah Independent Redistricting Commission - Rex Facer

Commissioner Karen Hale

Commissioner Christine Durham

Commissioner Jeff Baker

Commissioner Lyle Hillyard

Commissioner William Thorne

Commissioner Logan Wilde

Attendance - Staff and Others in Attendance at Anchor Location:

Matt Cannon, Legal Counsel

Gordon Haight, Executive Director

I. Call to Order

Chair Facer began the meeting

II. Welcome – Chair Rex Facer

Chair Facer welcomed everyone and moved to the next item.

III. Action Item: Voting on the report to present to the Legislative Redistricting Commission

Please note the report being discussed is posted to the Public Notice Website on the October 30, 2021, post. <https://www.utah.gov/pmn/>.

Chair Facer noted that commissioners should have all received a copy of the drafted report and noted that most comments received so far by staff were grammatical.

Commissioner Thorne noted a few issues with chapter heading graphics and noted that his name was misspelled in places. Chair Facer noted that those would be fixed.

Chair Facer also recognized Commissioner Wilde and thanked him for his attendance.

Matt Cannon noted a concern with some language around the description of contiguity in the report. He also noted a typo in Utah Annotated Code as opposed to Utah Code Annotated.

Commissioner Baker noted that his first name had been misspelled on a page.

Commissioner Thorne noted a mention of statistical noise and asked for some clarification to be included that that noise was generated by the census bureau.

Matt noted a grammatical error.

Matt asked if there were other graphs that could be included.

Gordon explained that staff was adding additional charts from Moon Duchin currently and explained that staff had been more concerned about having the commissioners look at the text given that they would not be modifying the analysis from Moon. Gordon also clarified what would be included in the appendix.

Commissioner Thorne asked if the population deviations would be included in the report. Gordon explained that staff would and clarified that staff was working on those charts with the charts from Moon. Gordon and commissioners discussed including the deviations for all districts as well as the analysis regarding city and county splits.

Chair Facer asked for any other comments and after no further discussion suggested he would entertain a motion to approve the report.

Commissioner Durham motioned to approve the report with the changes described in this discussion as well as the addition of charts described in this discussion.

Commissioner Hale seconded the motion.

Commissioner Hillyard apologized and explained that he had not been able to view the report yet after some confusion regarding delivery of the report. He explained that given that he wouldn't feel comfortable voting and suggested he might be noted as an abstention and he would be happy to sign the report after reading it fully.

Commissioner Durham noted that waiting until Monday seemed problematic and asked if there might be time for the commissioners to finish looking at the report before tomorrow (Sunday).

Gordon explained that staff would have a report done this evening to deliver to the legislative staff. He asked if there might be a motion that could accommodate Commissioner Hillyard's concerns while still meeting that deadline.

Commissioner Hillyard again explained that he would be fine being recorded as an abstention, but would not be comfortable voting otherwise until he had read the report in its entirety.

Commissioner Thorne asked if they might be able to send the legislature a drafted report.

Matt explained that legal counsel was confident the statutory deadline was not until November 1. He explained that to accommodate legislative staff and the meeting that day they had wanted to have the report ready before that day. Matt suggested that one option might be submission of the report the next evening. He suggested that it would be in statutory compliance though it would be a shorter timeframe for the legislature and the public to view the report prior to the presentation and meeting.

Gordon explained that staff would be working the next day. He explained that he would not have a problem potentially even holding another meeting to approve the report the next night as staff was sure they would be sending a finalized report to the commissioners this evening.

Commissioner Hillyard explained what email would be easier for him to access the report.

Matt explained that there was also no requirement regarding approval of the report, but suggested that he supported the effort to have an approval. He suggested potential alternatives to a meeting the next day.

Commissioner Thorne suggested he felt a short formal meeting was the best option.

Matt discussed this option in some more detail and explained that if the commissioners wanted to have another formal meeting that was certainly an appropriate way to proceed.

Chair Facer noted that there were still some logistics for staff to finalize to allow for printing of the report.

Gordon explained that staff was confident they would have that done.

Chair Facer explained his understanding of a request for a meeting the next day.

Commissioner Thorne suggested that the commissioners should copy all commissioners on any emails requesting changes.

Sariah noted that the staff was concerned about the print deadlines if the report was finalized tomorrow and Chair Facer explained that it would work out.

Commissioner Wilde noted that a motion was still on the table and suggested having Commissioner Durham withdraw her motion.

Commissioner Durham withdrew her motion.

Chair Facer asked for a motion to proceed as discussed to vote in a meeting the next day.

*Commissioner Durham motioned as such.
Commissioner Thorne seconded.*

Commissioner Thorne asked to clarify when the meeting the next day would occur. Gordon discussed and suggested that staff would work to finish an agenda as soon as possible.

Chair Facer called the motion to a vote.

All commissioners voted aye.

The motion carried.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 5:32 PM