

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Courthouse and Administrative Complex
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085-4351*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, April 11, 2011

11:00 AM

Conference Room C, 10th Floor

Reapportionment Committee

1. Call to Order

Chair O'Kelly called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

Also present:

*Steve Carlson, County Board Member
Michelle Feldman, County Board Member
Craig Taylor, County Board Member
Audrey Nixon, County Board Member
Terry Wilke, County Board Member
Angelo Kyle, County Board Member
Diane Hewitt, County Board Member
Keith Caldwell, Information Technology-GIS Mapping
Jennie Vana, Communication's Division
Dan Jasica, State's Attorneys Office
Ryan Waller, County Administrator's Office
Gail Feiger Brown, League of Women Voters of Highland Park
Beverly Rosenstein, League of Women Voters of Highland Park
Nancy Shepherdson, Lake County Democrats
Mary Mathews, League of Women Voters
Del Para, Voter
Russell Lissau, Daily Herald
Jennifer Henderson, County Board Office*

Present 7 - Chairman O'Kelly, Vice Chair Lawlor, Member Pedersen, Member Paxton, Member Durkin, Member Mountsier and Member Cunningham

2. Pledge of Allegiance**3. Public Comment****4. Added to Agenda****5. New Business****5.1 11-0323**

Discussion and direction regarding a reapportionment process for Lake County.

Chair O'Kelly indicated that the purpose of this meeting is to hold a discussion and establish a direction for the reapportionment process for Lake County. She stated that Keith Caldwell, GIS Mapping will provide information as to the census data and population changes and Dan Jasica, State's Attorneys Office will discuss legal considerations for mapping.

Chair O'Kelly informed the committee that Barry Burton, County Administrator and David B. Stolman, County Board Chairman have met with the following associations for the purpose of discussing the redistricting process:

NAACP;

MALDEF;

League of Women Voters of LB/LF; and

League of Women Voters of Highland Park.

Mr. Caldwell provided information on the population increase of 9.2% in Lake County since the year 2000. It has been determined that the ideal target population per district would be 30,585. He reviewed the County Board District 2010 Population Map and identified the districts that required growth or reduction in constituents. The U.S. Census Data shows that the minority populations continue to grow in Lake County with high Hispanic populations in central Waukegan and lesser densities in the Round Lake area, Mundelein, and Highwood areas. African American populations are mostly concentrated in the Zion, Waukegan and North Chicago areas. The south Waukegan area has an intertwined concentration of both Hispanic and African American populations. He indicated that the county has contracted with an expert demographer to assist and advise Lake County with analyzing the minority census data to better understand the significance of these complex areas.

Mr. Jasica indicated that there are several legal parameters that will guide this process. Section 2 of the Federal Voting Rights Act indicates that the county is required to create an opportunity for minority groups to elect a member of their choice if they are: in a compact area and if they tend to vote together. In summary, there could be a requirement to create a majority or super majority minority district based on the census data. Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act also prevents: 1) "packing" a district to create a "super" super-majority minority district that prevents a cohesive minority group from having an opportunity to influence or to elect candidates of their choice in two or more districts and 2) dilution, which involves drawing district boundaries to split a cohesive minority group into two or more districts, thereby diluting their ability to influence or elect the candidate of their choosing.

Mr. Caldwell reviewed a map of municipalities and their total population based on the 2010 Census Data that are over or under the target population of 30,585. This is important as municipalities that are over the target population need to be included in more than one district. One of the guidelines for redistricting is to minimize municipal fracturing.

Mr. Burton indicated that from the previous redistricting process, staff determined that it is beneficial to retain external legal counsel and an external demographer during the initial stages of the reapportionment process to provide expertise and guidance for redistricting. He confirmed that a demographer and legal counsel have been retained and both firms are experts in this field.

Mr. Caldwell informed the committee of two main components of census information that is required for used when redistricting. The Tiger File, which is the block level geometry with no data attached and is released first. The Summary File, which contains the population totals, minority breakdown and voting age information which is combined with the Tiger File to generate data reports for analysis.

Mr. Jasica discussed several items for legal considerations when redistricting to include the following:

*Federal Constitution- concept of equal protection, one person one vote;
State Law;
Illinois County Code - supercedes the Federal Law stating each district shall be equal in population to other districts; and
Federal Law - districts should be equal within a 10% tolerance.*

A discussion ensued regarding the various considerations and challenges for drawing a district map.

Mr. Jasica provided details of the law suit that was filed against Lake County 10 years ago. He provided another legal consideration when redistricting to include the Voting Rights Act which respects township and municipal boundaries. This consideration would be secondary to the Illinois County Code requirement.

A discussion ensued regarding the requirements for creating a majority district and further clarification of utilizing the voting age population for identifying a district with a minority population.

Vice Chair Lawlor discussed the population growth trends in Lake County and has concerns with the statutory requirements in the event that that the Lake County population reach 800,000 by 2021. A population total of 800,000 would require that the total number of board members not exceed 18 members. He made a motion to reduce the current number of board members from 23 to 21 to minimize the impact of a board reduction when the population reached 800,000.

Chair O'Kelly inquired on the timeframe for setting the board members salaries during the redistricting process. Vice Chair Lawlor read the language in the statute of setting salaries at the time of reapportionment.

A discussion ensued regarding the decision for establishing the number of districts.

5.2 11-0363

Committee action approving the reduction of County Board Members from 23 members to 21 members for the purpose of creating the redistricting map.

A motion was made by Member Lawlor, seconded by Member Pedersen, that this committee action item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman O'Kelly, Vice Chair Lawlor, Member Pedersen, Member Paxton, Member Durkin, Member Mountsier and Member Cunningham

5.3 11-0367

Committee action requesting the Chairman of the Reapportionment Committee to draw a map of the proposed 21 districts in Lake County, IL.

Member Mountsier requested the date for when the County Board must approve the final map. Mr. Burton indicated that by July 1, 2011 a map must be approved.

A motion was made by Member Mountsier, seconded by Member Cunningham, that this committee action item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman O'Kelly, Vice Chair Lawlor, Member Pedersen, Member Paxton, Member Durkin, Member Mountsier and Member Cunningham

6. Executive Session

7. County Administrator's Report

8. Adjournment

A motion was made by Member Mountsier, seconded by Member Lawlor, to adjourn at 11:56 a.m. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chairman O'Kelly, Vice Chair Lawlor, Member Pedersen, Member Paxton, Member Durkin, Member Mountsier and Member Cunningham

Minutes prepared by Jennifer Henderson.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Reapportionment Committee