

DIRECTOR REQUESTED AGENDA ITEM

2022 Redistricting Criteria and Procedures

Committee Meeting Date: November 11, 2021
Board Meeting Date: November 16, 2021

Added to Committee Agenda as a Director initiated request pursuant to RTD Board Bylaws Art. VI, Section 1(f). Requires formal motion and second at Committee meeting.

MOTION

For the Board of Directors to adopt the 2022 redistricting criteria and procedures in accordance with the following discussion as recommended by Chair Rivera-Malpiede and Directors Broom and Sloan.

STAFF REPRESENTATIVE

Bill Van Meter, Assistant General Manager, Planning

PRESENTATION LENGTH

5 minutes

BACKGROUND

Under RTD's statute, following the federal decennial census, the Board must apportion the composition of the Board into 15 Director districts and adopt a new map by a two-thirds vote before March 15, 2022 pursuant to § 32-9-111(a), C.R.S.

The Board Chair established an Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee (committee) in August 2021 comprised of Directors Broom and Sloan. The first meeting of the committee was held on September 20, 2021. The recurring meeting schedule occurs on the second Monday of the month at 3 p.m. All meetings are publicly noticed and are being convened in a virtual setting due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The committee is charged with guiding the process in coordination with staff and a third-party consultant.

Historically, the Board has relied on an informal set of guidelines to steer the redistricting process. Since the District's last redistricting, voters passed Amendments Y and Z to the Colorado Constitution addressing requirements for congressional and state legislative districting respectively. While these amendments are not directly applicable to RTD's redistricting, the below proposed criteria are consistent with the 2018 voters' intent.

DISCUSSION

To promote the fair and effective representation of the people of the District, it is recommended that the Board follow the below criteria in the order of priority listed. This reflects the precedence of laws governing and guiding the redistricting process, i.e., the U.S. Constitution, federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, and state law including the Colorado Constitution and RTD's organic statute.

2022 Redistricting Criteria

In adopting the 2022 District map, the Board will:

1. Make a good faith effort to achieve mathematical population equality between districts, with no more than 5% deviation between the most and least populous district
2. Ensure that race is not a predominant consideration
3. Comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965
4. Preserve whole voter precincts
5. Create districts as compact and contiguous as reasonably possible
6. Ensure no district is left without representation
7. Not draw districts for the purpose of protecting one or more incumbent Directors or declared candidates
8. Preserve communities of interest and keep intact jurisdictional subdivisions such as counties, cities, and towns as much as reasonably possible

The Board will invite and allow for public comment on the proposed 2022 District map prior to final adoption.

For continuity and to promote the orderly adoption of the 2022 District map, Directors Broom and Sloan will remain in their appointments to the committee through the Board's final adoption of the map on or before March 14, 2022.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with the Board's adoption of these criteria.

ATTACHMENTS:

- 2021 Redistricting Signature Page (PDF)

Prepared by:

Melanie Snyder, General Counsel

Approved by:


Angie Rivera-Malpiede, Board Chair & Director, District C 11/3/2021



Board of Directors

Chair – Angie Rivera-Malpiede, District C
First Vice Chair – Lynn Guissinger, District O
Second Vice Chair – Shelley Cook, District L
Secretary – Vince Buzek, District J
Treasurer – Paul Rosenthal, District E

Julien Bouquet, District G
Bob Broom, District F
Peggy Catlin, District N
Erik Davidson, District I
Bobby Dishell, District D

Shontel M. Lewis, District B
Marjorie Sloan, District M
Doug Tisdale, District H
Troy Whitmore, District K
Kate Williams, District A

WRITTEN NOTIFICATION

This Written Notification is provided to the RTD Board Chair and the RTD Board Office Executive Manager pursuant to and consistent with Article V, Section 3(b) of the RTD Bylaws that the below-named RTD Directors hereby request that the following Action Item be added to the Agenda for the Executive Committee Agenda to be held on November 11, 2021, to wit:

MOTION

For the Board of Directors to adopt the 2022 redistricting criteria and procedures in accordance with the following discussion as recommended by Chair Rivera-Malpiede and Directors Broom and Sloan.

Angie Rivera-Malpiede

Robert E. Broom *Marjorie Sloan*