

MEETING SUMMARY
Redistricting Committee of the BOCC
10am-12pm
Tuesday, March 15, 2011

I. Attendance

Staff: Brian Francis, Assistant to the County Manager
Rebecca Herbert, Facilitator

Members: Aisha Dew, Chair
Antoine Dennard
Bryan Holladay
Lawrence Shaheen
Arthur Griffin
Robin Bradford
Mike Walker
John Autry

Absent: Lee Teague

II. Discussion Points

Brian Francis reviewed key facts related to redistricting including Section 5 and Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. Mr. Francis then reviewed the “Gingles” 3-part test and how it relates to the work of the committee. Mr. Francis continued by highlighting relevant court decisions and how they relate to the work of the committee (see power point for specific details).

Mr. Francis then reviewed the Board of Commissioner’s instructions to the committee, specifically that it recommends districts that accomplish the following (in priority order):

1. Do not divide precincts in drawing districts
2. Draw two districts that would be “minority-majority.”
3. Except for Charlotte, no municipality will be split between multiple districts. If the three southern towns cannot be kept in the same district, at least keep Matthews and Mint Hill together.
4. To the extent possible, draw districts that will likely elect a member from a certain party. Attempt to create 3 districts that are likely to elect Democrats and 3 districts that are likely to elect Republicans.
5. Work with Board of Education to draw the same districts for both bodies.

Rebecca Herbert reviewed a draft set of ground rules for the group. The committee agreed to use this list of ground rules. Ms. Herbert discussed which decision-making model the committee would like to use for its task. The committee agreed that whenever possible, decisions will be made by consensus.

III. Results of Affinity Diagram to Determine Criteria

- A. Tree 1 & 2 – Items for Consideration (Intangibles).
 - Personal perception
 - Racial perception (how people perceive themselves)
 - Black/Hispanic-black
 - Community perception
 - Hispanics feel they have a voice
 - Balanced
 - Black community feels represented
 - Equitable
- B. Tree 3 – Data to be reviewed.
 - Historical voting patterns
 - Electoral preferences toward minority issues/interest
- C. Tree 4 & 5 – Potential datasets.
 - All registered voters
 - Voting age population (2 times)
- D. Tree 6 – Data to be reviewed.
 - Population growth
 - City/County grown patterns
 - Percent of middle-class minority families
 - Coalition district
- E. Tree 7 – Criteria
 - Percent black is more than 50%
 - Percent black and Hispanic-black greater than 50%
 - Percent Hispanic is more than 50%
 - Percent of race
 - Minority voice is heard in rough proportion to percentage of population
 - Coalition district
 - What is necessary to elect a candidate of choice of black voters?
 - Census numbers (total population)
 - Population of voting age (at the time of the census)

IV. Actions Taken

- A. (Approved) Ground rules.
- B. (Approved) Decision-making model.
- C. (Mandate Confirmed) Total population for the size.
- D. (Approved) Census numbers will be used.
- E. (Pending Decision) What data set to determine number of minority voters.
- F. (Pending Decision) % of the population

V. Calendar Reminders

- A. Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 22, 10am-noon, location 267.