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STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Meeting Agenda (With Attachments)
Friday, September 10, 2021

Planned Hybrid Meeting, State House, Room 228, Remote Participation Available
9:30 am

[Note: While a hybrid meeting allowing both live, in person discussion and remote discussion is presently being planned, it is possible that subsequent developments might limit in person participation in the meeting. Persons planning to attend the meeting in person should check the Commission's website before travelling to attend the meeting.]

1. Introductions, Determination of Quorum.
2. Review and Approval of Draft Minutes of August 18th Meeting (Attachment A).
3. Review and Discussion of Issues as Apportionment Maps are Being Prepared: Issues indicated in #s 4 – 7 below.
4. Population Medians for Congressional Districts, State Senate, State House of Representatives, County Commissioner Districts (Attachment B).
5. Draft Choice Preferences in Apportionment to Improve Understanding and Limit Confusion at Polling Places.

Preferences

- A. Keep Districts As Compact As Possible.
- B. Keep Communities of Interest Together As Much As Possible.
- C. Avoid Splitting Municipalities As Much As Possible.
- D. Cross County Lines When Necessary To Avoid Splitting Municipalities.
- E. Keep Smaller Districts Within Larger Districts As Much As Possible.

[Note, achievement of preferences, while a goal, is not always possible because of requirement that districts be relatively equal in population.]

6. Draft Congressional District Apportionment Considerations.

The Census Data indicate that the First District Population is 704,211 and the Second District Population is 658,148. The difference is 46,063. The law and past precedent for apportionment of Congressional Districts is, consistent with the above preferences, to keep the population difference after apportionment as close to a difference of 1 as possible. The 10% or 5% deviation from the median rule applicable to smaller districts does not apply to Congressional Districts.

To make the Congressional Districts as nearly equal in population as possible, communities with 23,032 persons (1/2 of 46,063 rounded up to 23,032) must be moved from the First District to the Second District. Kennebec County is the only county presently divided between Congressional Districts. That division of only Kennebec County is proposed to continue in the new apportionment. The Commission must decide which communities in Kennebec County to move.

7. Draft County Commissioner District Apportionment Considerations.

The same criteria apply to County Commissioner District apportionment as apply to Senate and House District apportionment, except that County Commissioner Districts do not cross county lines. The County populations, number of presently established County Commissioner Districts for each county, and the median population for each district, considering the number of districts, is outlined in Attachment B.

A preliminary review of the Census Data indicates that in 6 counties, the populations of the existing districts are all within the 5% deviation from the median population based on the 2020 data. Those counties are Hancock, Kennebec, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, and Washington. The Commission is considering leaving those districts as they are presently drawn.

The preliminary review also indicates 4 counties where the aggregate deviation between the districts, based on the 2020 data, is less than 10%, but one district in each county has a greater than 5% deviation from the median. Those counties are Cumberland (District 4, 7.13% above the median), Franklin (District 2, 5.69% above the median), Penobscot (District 2, 5.14% above the median), and York (District 3, 5.18% above the median). The Commission is considering whether or not to make minor adjustments to get the over 5% larger districts below the 5% deviation from the median. Most other districts in these 4 counties have populations below the median population for County Commissioner Districts.

The remaining counties, Androscoggin, Aroostook, Knox, Piscataquis, Somerset, and Waldo need some redistricting, though it is possible that some present districts in those counties will not need to be changed. The Commission and the Caucuses are presently working on reducing the population differences in those County Commissioner Districts.

8. Other Business and Public Comment.

Members of the public wishing to address the Commission should file a request to address the Commission in person or remotely by 12 noon on Thursday, September 9, 2021. The request should be directed to apcom@legislature.maine.gov. Advance notice is necessary to allow time to arrange a link to join the meeting and perhaps to allow notice if the meeting format is required to change. Any written comments may be sent to the same email address.

For written comments to be considered at the Commission meeting, they must be received by 12 noon on Thursday, September 9, 2021.

All written comments received are public documents. All oral and written comments must be relevant to the apportionment work being done by the Apportionment Commission. Depending on the number of persons requesting to speak, time for oral comments may be limited.

9. Set Next Meeting Date.

Members of the public can view the meeting here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCuhJzKPPzZk_nKToKx5Ka6g

(Members of the Commission and staff will receive a participant link to join the Zoom meeting.)