

Tundra Times

Alaska's Oldest Statewide
Newspaper

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Public Hearing State Reapportionment Board

Reapportionment is the process of adjusting and redrawing legislative election districts following each decennial census.

This important process:

Protects the equality of your vote!

(One Person/One Vote)

Insures that election districts make logical sense!

Westward and Northwest Alaska

Hearing Dates and Times:

Mountain Village - House District 23,24,25
Location: Association Village Council Presidents
October 10, 1990 - 3 p.m.

Bethel - House District 23,24,25
Location: City Council Chambers
October 16, 1990 - 7:30 p.m.

Kotzebue - House District 22
Location: City Council Chambers
October 17, 1990 - 7:30 p.m.

Nome - House District 23
Location: City Council Chambers
October 17, 1990 - 1:30 p.m.

Barrow - House District 22
Location: City Council Chambers
October 18, 1990 - 1:30 p.m.

Presently, Northwest, Westward Alaska coastal areas, and interior Alaska are apportioned six seats in the Alaska State House of Representatives. These districts are District 22 (Barrow/Kotzebue), District 23 (Nome/Yukon Delta), District 24 (Interior Rivers), District 25 (Bethel/Lower Kuskokwim), and District 26 (Bristol Bay/Aleutians).

Advisory To Westward and Northwest Residents

The State Reapportionment Board must design districts, each 10-years following the U.S. Census, that meet federal constitution requirements of one person/one vote. This means all election districts must be of equal population. The size of each district is obtained by dividing 40 (number of members of the State House of Representatives) into the total state population.

Current population data, derived from census information and Department of Labor estimates, indicate a 1990 population of approximately 545,000. Dividing 40 into this number (after adjustments) would require each House election district population in 1990 to be between 13,000 and 13,600. The 1980 required population per district was 9,210. This means the state grew, as a whole, between 1980 and 1990 by roughly 45 percent.

Population changes, in Alaska between 1980 and 1990 will require substantial changes in local election districts.

Local Hearings

Hearings in your area allow local people and local advice to help the State Reapportionment Board redraw election district lines so that they make the most sense and serve the people in the best way.

Residents should be advised that Alaska currently has the smallest House and Senate in the United States. Rapid state growth has made it difficult to divide this small number in a way that creates compact and reasonably integrated districts. The State Reapportionment Board lacks the power to expand the Legislature, but will accept testimony regarding whether the Legislature should be expanded in order to provide smaller and more compact districts.

Alaska Native Residents: Federal Voting Rights Act

Persons of an ethnic minority background (generally meaning Alaska Native peoples) and institutions representing and advocating ethnic interests, should be advised that they may be accorded certain rights under the United States Voting Rights Act. All citizens are accorded protections under other sections of the Voting Rights Act; which also requires that any plan adopted by the State of Alaska must be cleared by the U.S. Justice Department before it takes effect.

The Reapportionment Board is a function of the executive branch of State Government. The Board functions under federal and state constitution directives, and its work is subject to court review.