

City of Albany Reapportionment Commission

Hybrid Public Hearing

Wednesday, August 24, 2022

6:30 PM

Members Present			
Shawn Morris, Chair	Scott Allardice	Dylan Carey	Dale Getto
Carol June-Washington	Emily Loughlin, Secretary	Judith Mazza (joined at 7:13 PM)	Dr. Brenda Robinson
Paul Webster (joined at 7:05 PM)			
Members Absent			
Charles Williams			
Staff Present			
Danielle Gillespie, City Clerk			

- Shawn Morris called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.
- Shawn Morris then reviewed the process of the Commission, general population trends observed in the 2020 Census, and the challenges the Commission is working through to make a representative map.
- Dylan Carey presented the current ward map, the overall draft ward map created by the Commission, and the detailed draft changes to Wards 1-7.
 - In the draft map, 95% of the City's population remains in the same ward as before. All districts, except Ward 1, are within 100 people of the ideal population of 6,676 people per district.
- Emily Loughlin presented the detailed draft changes to Wards 8-15 and the overall draft map again.
- Shawn Morris invited comment from the members of the public in attendance.
 - Lars Dahl expressed concern about Arbor Hill being split from Sheridan Hollow, felt Sheridan Hollow does not have the same interests as Downtown Albany, said the border of Wards 2 & 7 could be smoother, and felt Ward 11 was not compact enough. They also mentioned that the threshold for a majority-minority district should have a black population of 45% and a combined black and Hispanic population of 55%, although a stringent threshold has not been established.
 - Zachary Simpson spoke of the Upper Washington Avenue neighborhood and promoted that the boundaries of Wards 12 & 13 remain the same to promote the community of interest there. They also mentioned that the Commission should review a more up-to-date map of the City's neighborhood associations when drafting its next map.

- E. Hyde Clarke also spoke in favor of maintaining the current boundaries of Wards 12 & 13.
 - Hon. Derek Johnson, current Ward 2 councilmember, expressed concern that more changes were made in the lower wards compared to the upper wards. They were also concerned about excessive changes to the boundaries of Wards 1 & 2.
 - Shawn Morris read a written statement submitted by Richard Conti that spoke of the need to keep communities of interest united, incumbency rules, the City's equity agenda in relation to redistricting, the LGBTQ+ political voice, and Ward 6.
- Shawn Morris presented ways to get in touch with the Commission and its upcoming meetings.
- Dr. Brenda Robinson motioned to adjourn, and Scott Allardice seconded at 7:23 PM.