



## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

# AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** June 25, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Update on District Maps Process

**BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

Ballot Measure #9-173 passed in November 2024 which expands the County Commissioners to a 5 seat Board. The two new positions will be elected in 2026, for an initial two-year term which will begin in January 2027 and will be at-large seats. The Deschutes Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met several times between November 2024 and May 2025, to discuss BOCC interest in creating Commissioner Districts through a Ballot Measure process in place of having 5 at-large Commissioner Positions.

On March 31, 2025, the BOCC voted to move forward to develop a process to draft Commissioner Districts for voter consideration. On May 5th the majority of the BOCC voted to establish a committee by BOCC nominations.

The committee will be made up of seven community members appointed individually by Commissioner. The appointments will be as follows:

Commissioner	Number of Nominations
Commissioner DeBone	2
Commissioner Adair	2
Commissioner Chang	3

**Update on Process:**

County staff has formed a working group, meeting every two weeks, to draft a framework and process for the soon to be nominated committee. Staff have invited Nancy Blakenship, former County Clerk, and Neil Bryant, former State Senator, to join the working group, bringing valuable experience and perspective to the discussions. Additionally, Neil Bryant is willing to serve in the role of Facilitator for the committee meetings. Pending BOCC approval, staff will draw up a contract for the facilitation position.

The working group is in the process of drafting committee guidelines which will be brought

before the BOCC for consideration later this Summer. The working group has drafted a proposed committee schedule. The proposed schedule would include:

- An orientation meeting with committee members in August
- Weekly committee meetings every Tuesday beginning September 9 and going no later than November 19
  - Meetings will be two hours each
  - The committee may finish their business before November 19 and schedules will be adjusted accordingly
  - If committee business is taking longer than expected additional meetings may be added in order to meet the November 19 deadline

**Other Items for consideration:**

- Will the BOCC provide the names of the nominees ahead of the July 23 nomination discussion?
- Would the BOCC like to include alternatives should a committee member need to leave the Committee for any reason?

**BUDGET IMPACTS:**

\$12,000 has been budgeted for FY 2026 to complete the process.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Nick Lelack, County Administrator

Steve Dennison, County Clerk

Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager