



DISTRICT MAPPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

July 2025

Background

Ballot Measure #9-173, approved by voters in November 2024, expands the County Commissioners to a five-seat Board. The two new positions will be elected at-large in 2026 for an initial two-year term which will begin in January 2027. The Deschutes Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) met several times between November 2024 and May 2025 to discuss BOCC interest in creating Commissioner Districts in place of having five 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 as a ballot measure in 2026. On May 5 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 Commissioners. The appointments will be as follows:

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

Mission and Purpose

The District Mapping Advisory Committee (DMAC) is a non-partisan committee comprised of citizen volunteers residing throughout Deschutes County. The mission of the DMAC is to take a non-partisan approach to drafting a five commissioner district map, consisting of proportional districts, for the BOCC consideration. If a draft map is approved by the BOCC, it will then be put before the voters as a ballot measure during the 2026 election cycle.

Structure and Membership

The DMAC consists of seven voting members selected via BOCC appointment.



Facilitator Neil Bryant will chair and guide the committee meetings, and a project management team consisting of county staff will support the committee in the following areas:

- Meeting logistics, facilitation, and communications
- Meeting minutes
- GIS Mapping Support
- Update the BOCC of committee activities and actions
- Provide an overview of public meeting laws and ethics, education (i.e., applicable laws and rules), technical information and memorandums, and options for decision making
- Maintain a project website
- Other necessary actions not identified above

Record Keeping and Transparency

As an official public body, Oregon's open meeting laws apply to the DMAC. All meetings will be publicly noticed, livestreamed, and will provide an opportunity for public input. Meeting minutes will be taken and posted on a designated website. Meeting minutes will be shared via email with all members prior to the meeting for review and will be approved as drafted or modified by the committee at a subsequent meeting. All opinions, perspectives, and views will be captured in meeting minutes. This guideline will be posted to the project website and remain a publicly available document.

DMAC members will be assigned a Deschutes County email address that must be used for any and all email communications related to the work of the DMAC.

Meeting Schedule and Logistics

The DMAC will have an orientation meeting in August 2025. The orientation meeting will provide information on public meeting laws, DMAC guidelines, and structure of DMAC meetings.

The DMAC will meet every Wednesday from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Sept. 10 – Nov. 19. If the DMAC completes their work early then meetings may end before Nov. 19. If the DMAC needs more time to complete their work then additional meetings may be scheduled to meet the Nov. 98 deadline.



Meetings will take place in different locations throughout the County which could include, but is not limited to, Bend, La Pine, Redmond, and Sisters.

Membership

The DMAC is comprised of members listed in the table below. If a committee member has to vacate their appointment for any reason, then an alternate will be appointed by the Commissioner that assigned the committee member to the vacated seat.

Name	Appointed By
Bernie Brader	Commissioner DeBone
Ned Dempsey	Commissioner DeBone
Matt Cyrus	Commissioner Adair
Phil Henderson	Commissioner Adair
Andrew Kaza	Commissioner Chang
Carol Loesche	Commissioner Chang
Melanie Kebler	Commissioner Chang

Ground Rules and Expectations

1. Attendance: The Committee strives for full in-person attendance at every meeting.
2. Inclusivity and Civility: Committee members are expected to create space for diverse or contradictory opinions, and support collaboration in all meetings.
3. A majority of DMAC members (4 or more) constitutes a quorum, and a quorum shall be required to approve any motions and/or recommendations.
4. The Robert's Rules of Order will be used by the facilitator to guide the meetings.

Map Drawing Criteria

1. Each district, as nearly as practicable, shall:
 - a. Be contiguous
 - b. Utilize existing precinct lines
 - c. Not unreasonably divide communities of common interest and geographic boundaries
 - d. Consider current growth patterns



- i. i.e. building permits and UGB expansions
- 2. No district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring any political party, incumbent elected official or other person.
- 3. No district shall be drawn for the purpose of diluting the voting strength of any language or ethnic minority group.
- 4. Population
 - a. The DMAC will be provided with the following three data points in a table by precinct for consideration. Staff and the GIS support team will work with the DMAC to support additional data requests as available.
 - i. Census Population
 - 1. Census population data is from 2020, and an updated count will not be available until 2031.
 - ii. Voter Registration data from February 2022 (the date of the newly configured precincts based on state-wide re-districting).
 - iii. Current Voter Registration data will be provided as requested by the DMAC.
 - b. Maps should be drawn to approximately equal population size, recommended to be within 5% variance between the largest and smallest district.
- 5. Draft map will have five districts.

Public Input

Each DMAC meeting will allocate 15 minutes, as needed, for public input. A sign-up sheet will be available at each meeting for members of the public attending in person who would like to give their input. Online participants can indicate their desire to comment by using the “raise hand” feature on Zoom.

Each person will be allowed up to three minutes for their comments. If more than five people sign up to speak, the facilitator will adjust time limits to ensure the public comment period does not exceed 15 minutes.