



MEMO TO CITY COUNCIL

Request to Include Topic on the City Council Agenda

From: Dave Miles **Meeting Date:** Sept 28, 2021
Presenter: Dave Miles **Estimated Time:** 5 mins
Topic: Idaho Redistricting Commission Correspondence

Recommended Council Action:

Approve direction of feedback from City to the Idaho Redistricting Committee regarding the establishment of new state legislative districts.

Background:

With the publishing of the 2020 Census population data, Idaho has begun its 2021 re-districting effort. As you may be aware, the 2021 Commission for Reapportionment has begun meeting and holding public hearings to discuss district boundary configurations for both congressional and legislative elections.

Recently, the Commission met at Meridian City Hall on September 16, 2021 to further discuss their draft configuration and take public testimony on the topic of redistricting. Both the Mayor and Council President testified at this hearing.

Discussion:

During the Mayor's testimony, several points were raised that are consistent with the [legal criteria and rules for redistricting](#). Central to these rules and guidelines for Meridian is the concept to keep communities of interest wholly intact. The Mayor spoke to this point and requested that the Commission, as best possible, look to define at least two legislative districts that have Meridian, as a community of interest, fully within their boundaries. The Mayor also encouraged the Commission to not create districts which combined multiple counties. If necessary to do so, the Mayor recommended that the Commission look to the northern parts of the Ada and Canyon Counties where some cities have already annexed across county borders.

To the Mayor's public testimony, the City has created a draft map of legislative districts in Ada and Canyon counties, simply to illustrate that it is possible to form two districts that wholly encompass Meridian, and reflect the concept of limited county border crossing. This map is draft, and is solely developed to illustrate the concept that it is possible to implement at least two districts which wholly reflect Meridian boundaries.

The goal of this agenda item is to ensure that the City Council agrees with the concepts stated in the attached draft letter. The draft working map is also attached and proposed to be provided to the Commission as a guide for them to consider Meridian's request. Should the Council wish to have the draft letter come from the full Council, it can be amended to obtain Council signatures.

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