

Unofficial
Reapportionment Committee Minutes
July 7, 2011 – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Chairman Wood; Supervisors Daly, Raymond, Wormuth, Veitch, Yepsen, A. Johnson, and Grattidge; Spencer Hellwig, Administrator; Ryan Moore, Mgmt. Analyst; Steve Dorsey, County Attorney; Press.

Chairman Wood called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

On a motion made by Mrs. Wormuth, seconded by Ms. Daly the minutes of the May 4, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

Mr. Wood said at the last meeting discussions took place related to reapportionment, and a motion was made and passed to raise the threshold from 20,000 to 25,000. This was subject to a mathematical analysis, which has subsequently been completed.

Mr. Wood said an RFP went to 10 or 12 companies, with only one company interested in doing the analysis.

Mr. Hellwig said a statistical analysis has been completed and was shared with the committee a few days ago. The analysis found that if the Board was to move the threshold from 20,000 to 25,000 votes, what they characterize as disparity would not exceed the number that was set as a result of the court case in 1968. The last time the Board went through this process and the number was adjusted was in 1990, based on the census report. This routine has been followed for each of the times that we have gone through it, maintaining consistency with the process. At this point, based on the findings of the consultant, the 25,000 threshold is reasonable in the opinion of the consultant's report.

Mr. Dorsey said raising the threshold will lower the ability of a small town to be a swing vote, but it is within the legal limits of what the court back in 1967 said was permissible.

Ms. Daly said as a sitting member of this Board for 18 years, approximately three years ago there was a vote to be taken on an item for the town of Clifton Park, and it was a very small town that swung that vote under the current situation that we have.

Ms. Raymond said the process that we have now creates a congeniality that really gets the members of the Board to sit down and reach consensus on issues. This is the best result of the way we do business, which is in the best interest of the people of the county.

Mr. Hellwig said there would be a Public Hearing scheduled on the day of the August Agenda Meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Ms. Raymond to create a Local Law authorizing amending the threshold for a second Supervisor to 25,000. Unanimous.

Mr. Dorsey said he would create the Local Law in time for approval at the July 13th Law and Finance Committee meeting.

Mr. Hellwig said in 2000 when the census was conducted adjusting the weighted vote for each supervisor was the only act that the Board had to take. Every ten years when the census is completed the Board revises the numbers associated with each municipality that is represented. The resolution would recognize that the 2010 results have been released by the Federal Census Bureau and certified. It will allow each Supervisor to have the weighted vote adjusted in accordance with those results.

Ms. Raymond said the weighted vote couldn't be raised until after the local law is adopted.

A motion was made by Ms. Daly, seconded by Ms. Raymond to approve revising the weighted vote for the Board of Supervisors, subject to the adoption of the Local Law and would not go into effect until the Local Law is in effect. Unanimous.

On a motion made by Ms. Raymond, seconded by Ms. Daly the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom