

From: [County Commissioners](#)
To: [eComments](#)
Subject: Agenda eComments - Madelon Stewart
Date: Wednesday, September 22, 2021 1:00:57 PM

[County Commissioners](#)

Madelon Stewart has been added

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Name: Madelon Stewart

Email: mvstewart16@aol.com

Agenda Date: 9/21/2021

Agenda Item: redistricting

Comments: BoCC Meeting
September 21, 2021

Good Morning

I am Madelon Stewart. I am here this morning to ask questions about the redistricting process. I hope to get some clear, substantive answers.

Many of us have written to you directly, written to staff, left e-comments, talked with you privately, and asked questions at public meetings. To date we have received no clear answers or explanations.

We elect commissioners to represent us – to educate us about important issues facing our county, to listen to our ideas and concerns, and to respond to us directly clearly, substantively.

We do not elect commissioners to keep us in the dark.

Therefore, I ask again:

1. Please appoint a diverse Citizen Advisory Committee which represents all of Lee County to work with staff throughout the redistricting process.
2. Please hold meetings throughout the county at times and places convenient to the public. Show the preliminary maps and explain the reasons behind them. Have a dialogue with voters about them.

This how a democracy works

I look forward to your answer and explanations

Last Modified 9/22/2021 12:58 PM by (unknown)

From: [County Commissioners](#)
To: [eComments](#)
Subject: Agenda eComments - Bobbie D'Alessandro
Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021 12:50:28 PM

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Bobbie D'Alessandro has been added

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Name: Bobbie D'Alessandro

Email: bobbied25@comcast.net

Agenda Date: 10/5/2021

Agenda Item: redistricting

Comments: In addition to public comment, Please consider a diverse citizens advisory committee to give input on the redistricting. Thank you for your consideration.

Last Modified 9/30/2021 12:45 PM by (unknown)

From: [County Commissioners](#)
To: [eComments](#)
Subject: Agenda eComments - Jennifer Scuteri
Date: Sunday, October 3, 2021 9:55:45 PM

[County Commissioners](#)

Jennifer Scuteri has been added

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Name: Jennifer Scuteri

Email: jenscuteri@gsd-law.com

Agenda Date: 10/5/2021

Agenda Item: Redistricting

Comments: Dear Commissioners,
While population equalization is the primary goal of redistricting, it is also the least challenging. Population equalization can be achieved in a multitude of ways – which has already been shown by the many mapping alternatives presented. It is the second layer of redistricting that presents the more difficult challenge and it is compliance with this second layer where I hope your redistricting resources are allocated.
Proper redistricting requires that minority representation not be diluted and when possible, District boundaries follow natural boundaries. Thus far, no explanation has been provided as to why, in what appears to be a last-minute decision, the community of Dunbar was moved across the River to District 4 in 2011. This decision not only defied adherence to natural boundaries (the River), it also caused minority dilution.
My hope is that the Commissioners embrace and give proper regard to the minority vote of our County. It is time for the minority vote to be recognized, protected and for the road to be paved for a person of color to be elected to our County Commission.
Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Scuteri
Sanibel Island

Last Modified 10/3/2021 9:53 PM by (unknown)

From: [County Commissioners](#)
To: [eComments](#)
Subject: Agenda eComments - Jim Nathan
Date: Monday, October 4, 2021 9:30:05 AM

[County Commissioners](#)

Jim Nathan has been added

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Name:	Jim Nathan
Email:	jimnathan33@gmail.com
Agenda Date:	10/5/2021
Agenda Item:	Redistricting

Comments: Dear Commissioners: Thank you for the opportunity to provide public input into the redistricting process without attending the public hearing on October 5. I teach at FGCU this Tuesday and am unable to attend. Additional ways to communicate during this vital process are appreciated.

I collaborate with a highly diverse and growing group of local citizens who are willing to be Voices for Racial Justice. Our current focus on redistricting is to encourage a thorough and transparent process by following federal and state statutes while demonstrating racial sensitivity and sensitivity to underserved populations and underserved neighborhoods.

Lee County switched from single member districts to at large county commission elections in 1952. While some may deny or be unaware, there are many minorities and others who strongly believe this change was done out of fear that single member districts would lead to minorities being elected. Following a relatively recent move to single member districts or a combination of at large and single member, minorities have been elected in the city of Fort Myers and the Lee County School District. No minorities have been elected countywide in at large commission elections. Even the impressive, calming, and ethical leadership Ms. Melvin Morgan brought to the Commission in the 1980s following her appointment by the Governor was insufficient to win countywide even though she was able to carry her district.

While the 2021 redistricting will not create single member districts, it does present an opportunity for the Commission to demonstrate sensitivity and recognition of historical awareness of local Jim Crow prejudice and prepare for the possibility of local support during the next decade for either single member districts or a hybrid like the Lee County School District. Lee County is the largest county in Florida that elects at large commissioners. All seven larger Florida counties elect commissioners through either single member districts or a combination of single member and at large. Just as there will come a day when the Robert E. Lee portrait will be moved out of the Lee Commission Chamber, so too will at large commission elections be changed to improve local representation that mirrors the county population. I encourage you to take a keen interest in this year's redistricting process and also to read this well summarized NAACP document about at large elections. <https://www.naacpldf.org/wp-content/uploads/At-Large-Voting-Frequently-Asked-Questions-1.pdf>

Thanks for all your efforts to do the right things for the citizens of Lee County now and for the future. Redistricting has implications not only for the next ten years but for decades to come. Peace, Jim Nathan

Last Modified 10/4/2021 9:28 AM by (unknown)

From: [County Commissioners](#)
To: [eComments](#)
Subject: Agenda eComments - Jim Nathan
Date: Sunday, October 17, 2021 7:00:14 PM

[County Commissioners](#)

Jim Nathan has been added

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Name:	Jim Nathan
Email:	jimnathan33@gmail.com
Agenda Date:	10/19/2021
Agenda Item:	Redistricting
Comments:	Dear Commissioners and Staff:

I am part of a growing very diverse group of local Voices for Racial Justice. A number of members have been communicating with county staff and commissioners since August in an effort to increase transparency and fairness to our growing minority community in this year's redistricting process. While it is easy to say that, since the commissioners are elected at-large, the main focus should be on assuring an even allocation of the new Lee County population, I know you are aware there are many other factors to consider including boundaries that follow prominent physical features, limited splitting of established neighborhoods, and avoiding packing and diluting minority populations.

From the outset of these discussions we have been clear that the decision in 2011 to locate significant portions of the Dunbar neighborhoods and split portions of Fort Myers to be included in a county district largely of North Fort Myers did not make sense. It is very important to many of us to bring Dunbar back and be in the same district and in concert with the city of Fort Myers. Thus, of the five alternatives originally presented, only Alternative 3 appears to address that issue. It would seem that Alternatives 1,2,4, & 5 should be rejected as being insensitive to public input and insufficient in focusing on minority concerns. Alternatives 6A & 6B may address some of the issues raised by the Lee NAACP but they still leave Dunbar and portions of Fort Myers with North Fort Myers district and clearly the NAACP communication rejected them as well..

We have also had an opportunity to look briefly at the NAACP's communication and maps to the Commission on October 15. On the surface the NAACP proposal seems to address a better district location for Fort Myers and Dunbar while also apparently addressing the concept of a Minority-Majority district. With such limited time since the County posted demographic data for 6A & 6B (late last week) and with such limited information from the NAACP (although intriguing to better understand the NAACP proposal), we are hopeful that the County Commissioners and staff will add one more public hearing and not use this October 19 session as the last before finalizing a selected redistricting plan on the evening of November 2.

Thank you for your consideration. Peace, Jim

Last Modified 10/17/2021 6:57 PM by (unknown)

From: [County Commissioners](#)
To: [eComments](#)
Subject: Agenda eComments - Madelon Stewart
Date: Wednesday, October 20, 2021 9:20:32 PM

[County Commissioners](#)

Madelon Stewart has been added

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Name: Madelon Stewart

Email: mvstewart16@aol.com

Agenda Date: 10/19/2021

Agenda Item: redistricting

Comments: I was informed by a county employee at the last meeting that all all e-comments submitted to the BoCC were available to all voters to read. Please let me know where I can view these comments. Thank you.

Last Modified 10/20/2021 9:15 PM by (unknown)

From: [County Commissioners](#)
To: [eComments](#)
Subject: Agenda eComments - Lanette Howard
Date: Friday, October 22, 2021 2:40:04 PM

[County Commissioners](#)

Lanette Howard has been added

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Name: Lanette Howard

Email: netihow@comcast.net

Agenda Date: 11/2/2021

Agenda Item: Redistricting

Comments: There is a small group of local Democrats attempting to change Lee County by swaying the redistricting process in order to benefit their political endgame. PLEASE SUPPORT the alternative map with the least changes and abiding by the requirements and guidelines under the redistricting process- MAP 5. DO NOT LET A SMALL POLITICALLY DRIVEN GROUP SPEAK FOR THE REST OF LEE COUNTY

Last Modified 10/22/2021 2:35 PM by (unknown)

Westen, Samantha

From: webmaster@leegov.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 26, 2021 9:32 PM
To: Bristow, Jeff; Westen, Samantha
Subject: Leegov.com Feedback

Leegov.com Feedback

Email: annoak1@comcast.net

Name: Andrews H Oakey

Feedback: I strongly urge you to continue using Map 5

Web Page: <https://www.leegov.com/countymanager/redistricting>

User Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (iPhone; CPU iPhone OS 14_4 like Mac OS X) AppleWebKit/605.1.15 (KHTML, like Gecko) Version/14.4 Mobile/15E148 DuckDuckGo/7 Safari/605.1.15

Westen, Samantha

From: County Commissioners <webmaster@leegov.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 9:15 AM
To: eComments
Subject: Agenda eComments - Denise Eberle

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Denise Eberle has been added

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Name:	Denise Eberle
Email:	eemsouch@aol.com
Agenda Date:	11/2/2021
Agenda Item:	Redistricting
Comments:	It is my suggestion that district 5 include Alva, N Ft Myers E, Olga, Buckingham and Greenbriar. These communities have a Rural commonality . Remove Lehigh acres from District 5 It is an urban area and has no commonality with the rural areas Thank you

Last Modified 10/27/2021 9:12 AM by (unknown)

Westen, Samantha

From: County Commissioners <webmaster@leegov.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 1:35 PM
To: eComments
Subject: Agenda eComments - Jennifer Scuteri

[County Commissioners](#)

Jennifer Scuteri has been added

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Name: Jennifer Scuteri

Email: jenscuteri@gsd-law.com

Agenda Date: 11/2/2021

Agenda Item: Public Comment - Redistricting

Comments: Dear County Commissioners,

I have attentively viewed your meetings regarding the 2021 Redistricting process and would like to offer the following observations:

2011 Redistricting Map Decision and the Effect on the 2021 Process

I have not witnessed much conversation about the 2011 redistricting process - which based upon my research, appears to have been flawed in both transparency and decision. As noted in my previous correspondence, I have sought public records from 2011. I have attached some of the correspondence as I believe it might be helpful as you assess map alternatives in 2021. In sum, I believe the BOCC will be acting in error if you readily accept the 2011 redistricting decision as a valid starting point for 2021.

As you will see from the attached Table 6, the "Current Commission Districts" (in 2011 before Redistricting), had District 2 with a 48.65% minority representation (largely due to the Dunbar Community). In fact, given this large %, District 2 was almost a majority/minority district. However, Maps alternatives were then presented, some of which moved all or part of the Dunbar community across the river to be joined with another community. This, in itself, was a strange proposal as District 2, at such time, was low in population and District 4 was too large in population.

The records are somewhat spotty, but in response, the NAACP, presented Map 7 (attached), which does need seem to have been considered by the then, BOCC. Eventually, Map 9 was presented, and was hastily approved in a 3-2 vote. Map 9 moved the Dunbar community across the river into District 4.

Clearly, no member of the current Commission is responsible for the 2011 decision; you all were either not on the Board in 2011 or in Commissioner Mann's case, voted against the adopted 2011 redistricting map. I am concerned, however, that this erroneous (and arguably, illegal) 2011 decision will be repeated in the map adopted in 2021 as, at least publicly, the BOCC does not appear to have scrutinized the 2011 process. In fact, a recent Commissioner email correspondence states as follows, "I have reviewed all maps that have been brought forward and Map 5 is the most consistent with our current district map." Alternative Map 5, keeps Dunbar across the river, repeating what I believe to be a legal error in 2011. I do not believe a goal of the BOCC should be to adopt a map consistent with 2011, especially as it relates to Dunbar.

Of additional concern is the action the Commission has taken to remove map alternatives that show Dunbar moving back across the river. While many members of the public, including myself, asked the BOCC to timely reject Maps 1,2, 4 and 5 (as they repeat the error of 2011 by moving Dunbar across the river) these suggestions were rejected. The reason for this rejection, as stated by Commissioner Ruane during the October 19, 2021, BOCC meeting, was that Commissioner Ruane did not want to remove any maps at such time as he wanted to allow continued public comment on all maps, which seemed fair.

However, about 4 minutes later in the meeting, in arguably, a reversal of position, Commissioner Ruane entertained a motion to reject Maps 6A and 6B – maps that provided for a return of Dunbar to the south side of the river. I know the BOCC is trying to pare down alternatives and in good faith, believed that there was not a lot of support for Maps 6A and 6B but there was some support and no support voiced for Maps 1, 2, 4 and 5 – which the BOCC did not eliminate from consideration. It is these quick changes in position which resulted in the adoption of Map 9 in 2011 and I propose that decisions might be made with more conversation on November 2nd.

At-Large Election of the BOCC

- Counsel to the BOCC has rightly advised that there is no difference in the redistricting process if the election being redistricted is an at-large election or a single district election. In fact, the BOCC continues to inform the involved attending public that they are “misunderstanding the process” when single district voting has been mentioned.
- Conversely, I have been disappointed to learn that some members of the BOCC are “misunderstanding the process” as in private communications with voters, they have been denouncing single district elections and seem to be considering the potential for single district elections when considering Map alternatives.
- These conversations would, of course, be relevant to a lawsuit, if it is alleged that BOCC members made redistricting decisions that were not based on the legally required redistricting criteria.

My hope is that the ultimate Map decision will be carefully and lawfully derived and that there will be transparency to the process. I support and strongly commend Commissioner Hamman for his Map 7 and his efforts to promote adoption of the same.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Scuteri
Sanibel

Last Modified 10/27/2021 1:33 PM by (unknown)

Westen, Samantha

From: webmaster@leegov.com
Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 1:47 PM
To: Bristow, Jeff; Westen, Samantha
Subject: Leegov.com Feedback

Leegov.com Feedback

Email: arlene@dillontv.com

Name: Arlene Dillon

Feedback: After reviewing all your options, it is imperative that you support Map 7 to create the majority minority district we deserve in this county. Please vote for Map 7, it is the only option that truly represents the minority communities in Lee County and they deserve to be heard as much as any other citizen!

Web Page: <https://www.leegov.com/countymanager/redistricting>

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