

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Pat Race <[REDACTED]>

Wed 3/30/2022 1:47 PM

Redistricting Board Members,

I hope to see the most simple and obvious correction to the Eagle River senate pairings. Eagle River with Eagle River and the two Anchorage districts together. I hope you will avoid a massive reshuffling of Senate pairings.

Thank you for your work on this,

Pat Race

Juneau

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Jason Norris [REDACTED]

Wed 3/30/2022 2:02 PM

In addressing the issue surrounding District K, it is important that fixing this issue does not create new issues. Therefore, Districts 22 (Eagle River) and 24 (Chugiak and Eklutna) should be paired into one Senate Seat with Districts 20 (North Muldoon) and 21 (South Muldoon) paired into another.

This is also an opportunity to repair issues raised by the last minute change in Senate pairings produces in Executive Session. I am a resident of District 11 (Lower Hillside), which is currently paired with District 12 (Abbott Loop).

While I know that the Board is not as restricted by the Hickel Process on Senate pairings as it is on House District drawing, District 11 is a far better fit with District 9 (Upper Hillside, Turnagain Arm) than it is with District 12. Likewise, District 9 is a better fit with District 11 than it is District 10 (Bayshore/Klatt).

In short, I propose that Districts 9 and 11 be paired into a Senate seat, keeping the Anchorage Hillside in one District. Districts 10 and 15 are a fairly natural fit for one another in Southwest Anchorage and District 12 can easily be paired with either District 13 (Taku-Campbell) or 19 (U-Med) to accommodate this change.

Thank you for your time,  
Jason Norris

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 30, 2022, 2:47 pm

First Name: **Elizabeth**

Last Name: **Newell**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: 99507

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): Senate pairings: keep community council areas intact

Public Comment: I'm in House district 11(O'Malley, Hillside, Independence Park). I support Melanie Bahnke's proposed pairings because it keeps more community council areas intact. If there are too many community council meetings per senator, they are unlikely to attend and so are less effective at representing their constituents.

The districts and community council areas are as follows:

District 9: Turnagain Arm, Girdwood, Rabbit Creek, Bear Valley, Glen Alps, Basher(shared with 21), Hillside(shared with 10), Huffman/O'Malley(shared with 10), and HALO(shared with 10 and 11)

District 10: Bayshore Klatt, Old Seward/Ocean view, Sand Lake (shared with 15), Taku/Campbell(shared with 13)

District 11: Huffman/O'Malley (shared with 9), Hillside(shared with 9), Abbott Loop(shared with 12), HALO(shared with 9 and 12)

District 12: Abbott Loop (shared with 11), Campbell Park(shared with 13 and 19), HALO(shared with 9 and 11)

To reduce overlap between community council meetings and keep communities intact, 9 (South Anchorage) should be paired with 11 (O'Malley) and 10 (Bayshore/Klatt) with either 13 (Taku/Campbell) or 15(Sand Lake).

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: March 30, 2022, 3:03 pm

First Name: **Tyler**

Last Name: **Watson**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate District K**

Public Comment: **I'm writing as a resident of the current Senate District K and I urge the board to accept the senate pairings originally proposed by member Bahnke. It's in the board's and public's interest to get this resolved quickly and simply switching to her proposed senate pairings allows the redistricting work to quickly wrap up so campaigns and voters can learn the new map. We already have so many changes to our election system coming up this year, the board shouldn't needlessly drag on the process. As a resident of the new District 21, I think pairing my district with 20 makes the most sense for my neighborhood, allowing for a true East Anchorage(Muldoon) senate seat. Thank you for your hard work on this.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 30, 2022, 3:51 pm

First Name: **Alex**

Last Name: **Baker**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate Pairings**

Public Comment: **In light of the Supreme Court remand order, I support the following Senate pairings for Anchorage:**

**22-24**

**20-21**

**18-19**

**23-17**

**16-14**

**13-12**

**15-10**

**11-9**

**These pairings were discussed (briefly) during the November hearings. There was no logical argument in opposition. They are common-sense pairings that support the natural boundaries and feel of Anchorage neighborhoods. I encourage the board to settle this issue quickly to ensure the public has time to educate themselves ahead of 2022 election cycle. Voters need time to digest their new districts, precincts, and voting location, on top of learning ranked choice. voting. Thank you for reading this testimony.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: March 30, 2022, 4:11 pm

First Name: **Alex**

Last Name: **Jorgensen**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99518**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate Parings**

Public Comment: **I fully support the senate pairings put onto the record of my board member Bahnke at the November meeting. I support these pairings for the following reasons. First, it is imperative that the board adopt pairings that follow the guidelines set out by the constitution. Bahnke's parings do just that. Second, as a lifelong Anchorage resident, these parings make geographic sense and keep neighborhoods together. When communities are kept intact, they are able to wield their collective voice in the political process.**

**I encourage the board to adopt these parings swiftly. Alaskans have been waiting long enough.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: March 30, 2022, 4:15 pm

First Name: **Kimberly**

Last Name: **Hays**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99502**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate K Pairings**

Public Comment: **Members of the Redistricting Board,**

**I write today to urge you to move quickly to adopt the Senate pairings posed by Member Bahnke in November of 2021. That map has been shown to be constitutional, which is important to avoid further lengthy litigation. It also just makes sense- my area of West Anchorage stays with West Anchorage districts, Muldoon with Muldoon, and Eagle River with Eagle River. After attending many of the sessions about the maps, I remember many individuals testifying about this. In other words, Member Bahnke's map is constitutional and has the support of Anchorage communities. Again, I encourage you to take swift action on this decision by adopting Member Bahnke's Senate pairings so that Alaskans can start the process of relearning their House and Senate districts before they participate in our upcoming elections. If you are able to do this, this board will have accomplished something not done in the last few cycles -- giving Alaskans a map we can use for the entire decade. Thank you so much for your time.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Kate Quick <[REDACTED]>

Wed 3/30/2022 8:06 PM

Dear redistricting board,

My family and I live in Goldstream, which is a neighborhood in Fairbanks that you have tried to remove from the Fairbanks representation areas by creating a sprawling House District 36 covering various parts of rural Alaska. This is unfair and unjust, and the courts agree.

My kids go to school at Fairbanks area schools. My husband and I work in Fairbanks. We vote in local Fairbanks elections. We go to Fairbanks doctors. We drive on Fairbanks roads and shop in Fairbanks stores.

Your current plan to redistrict our Alaska House representation from a Fairbanks representative to someone representing a HUGE swath of rural Alaska does not make any logical sense. It is gerrymandering. We are Fairbanksans and should be represented in the state government by other Fairbanksans.

Please follow the Alaska Supreme Court's order to redraw House District 36 so that Fairbanks residents in Goldstream, Murphy Dome, and Ester continue to be represented by other Fairbanks residents.

Best,

Kate Quick

[REDACTED]  
Fairbanks, AK 99709



# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: March 31, 2022, 6:39 am

First Name: **Karen**

Last Name: **Bronga**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Scenic foothills community council**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate pairings to fix gerrymandering**

Public Comment: **To correct the gerrymandering with senate districts I am asking that the board use the Senate pairings that Melanie Bahnke introduced in November. These pairings have been introduced to the public and received broad support. They are Constitutional and preserve two majority-minority districts in Anchorage. These pairings are respectful of Anchorage's communities rather than breaking them apart for partisan political purposes. Specifically, they keep Muldoon in East Anchorage together, they reconnect the North and South side of 4th Avenue downtown instead of separating downtown into 2 senate districts, they keep Turnagain and Spenard together, which has been requested by these communities, they keep Eagle River together, and they pair the two South Anchorage districts together as they were initially by consensus of the board before being split at the last minute.**

**Please redo the pairings quickly, without delay, so that we eliminate the confusion of having maps change mid-elections.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: March 31, 2022, 10:29 am

First Name: **Jo Ann**

Last Name: **Gruber**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting - Senate Districts (Municipality of Anchorage)**

Public Comment: **Dear Alaska Redistricting Board,**

**As you meet to ensure that you provide fair, equitable maps and senate pairings as directed by the court system, I would like to say Eagle River is a distinct, unique community. It should NOT be split into two different Senate districts for political gerrymandering purposes.**

**I live in Eagle River, and I expect fair representation. No more, no less. As a reasonable person, I do not expect more representation at the expense of others.**

**We have different land-use rules; and we currently maintain/manage our own roads and parks, too. Pairing a portion of Eagle River with South Muldoon made absolutely no sense.**

**I support the Senate pairings that were presented by Ms. Bahnke last fall. They were thoughtful, considerate, and fair to all communities within the Municipality of Anchorage.**

**Respectfully,**

**Jo Ann Gruber**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: March 31, 2022, 11:52 am

First Name: **Zack**

Last Name: **Fields**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99501**

Issue of Concern: **Remand for Senate Pairings**

Public Comment: **Dear Redistricting Board Members,**

**Thanks for reopening public comments on Senate pairings following the Supreme Court decision. As we approach elections, I think it is in the public interest to finalize pairings consistent with the Court ruling so that voters can understand the legislative districts in which they'll be voting in the upcoming state primary and general elections. Since Anchorage has an even number of House districts, and since the Supreme Court ruling effectively requires pairing the two Eagle River House seats into a Senate seat, the only remaining question is how to pair the remaining even number of Anchorage House seats. Fortunately, existing Board pairings in South Anchorage and West Anchorage neatly pair with proposed Bahnke pairings in East Anchorage and Downtown to complete the map. These pairings would be:**

**17+23 (Downtown, South Addition, Govt Hill, JBER)**

**14+13 (Midtown)**

**16+15 (West Anchorage)**

**18+19 (East Anchorage)**

**20+21 (East Anchorage)**

**11+12 (Abbott Loop/Lower Hillside)**

**9+10 (Ocean View/South Anchorage)**

**Conveniently, these pairings are the most logical in terms of compactness and socioeconomic integration of neighborhoods. These boundaries also respect underlying Constitutional guidance with respect to watersheds and natural features.**

**As someone who represents Downtown and surrounding neighborhoods in Anchorage, I certainly see how these pairings are the most logical for neighborhoods I represent.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: March 31, 2022, 12:44 pm

First Name: **Brandon**

Last Name: **Calcaterra**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99577**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Senate seat pairings**

Public Comment: **I live in Eagle River and first want to state my support for Eagle River's two House districts being unified in a Senate district as required by the recent Supreme Court ruling. Once the Eagle River House seats are paired, there is an even number of other House districts within Anchorage, so it is not difficult to pair these House districts into logical Senate districts. For example, the four East Anchorage House seats should break down into two Senate seats, and Downtown/Government Hill pairs into a Senate seat. This configuration leaves the other proposed Board pairings further south unchanged. Adopting this slightly revised map that fixes Eagle River and keeps East Anchorage seats together seems to meet Court requirements and would allow voters clarity on where they'll be voting in elections that are coming up soon.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: March 31, 2022, 12:47 pm

First Name: **Sergio F**

Last Name: **Acuna**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **Hi, I live in Midtown near Lake Otis and Campbell Creek, and am writing to request that House Districts 13 and 14 be paired into a Midtown Senate district. This makes the most sense for our existing neighborhoods. It also makes sense to pair House Districts 18/19 and 20/21 into two East Anchorage Senate seats. These pairings would enable the Board to fix the Eagle River pairings as required by the Court, and maintain logical pairings in Anchorage.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: March 31, 2022, 12:49 pm

First Name: **James**

Last Name: **Dahl**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **self**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99515**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting**

Public Comment: **As a voter from South Anchorage, I am writing to request that the Board adopt a synthesis of proposed Bahnke pairings and existing Senate pairings in South Anchorage. The two Eagle River House seats must be paired based on the Court ruling, and from there it makes sense to unify four East Anchorage House seats into two Senate seats. The Government Hill/JBER House seat then pairs with Downtown, leaving existing pairings in West and South Anchorage unchanged. This set of pairings keeps neighborhoods together to the maximum extent possible, and is the most compact arrangement. While compactness may not be required for Senate pairings, given the option of compact or non-compact pairings, all else being equal it is most fair to voters to establish compact and logical pairings so that people may easily understand their Senate as well as House districts.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: March 31, 2022, 12:56 pm

First Name: **Wes**

Last Name: **Canfield**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **self**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99515**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting**

Public Comment: **Thank you for the opportunity to submit additional comments on Senate pairings. My family lives in South Anchorage and I would suggest that the Board make only modest changes to Anchorage pairings after linking the two Eagle River House seats into a Senate district. The Board has already proposed logical pairings for West Anchorage and South Anchorage, and these could be maintained by adopting Downtown, Government Hill, JBER, and East Anchorage pairings previously proposed by Board Member Melanie Bahnke.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: March 31, 2022, 1:06 pm

First Name: **Kisha**

Last Name: **Guillen**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99507**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting**

Public Comment: **Dear Redistricting Board,**

**As a resident of South Anchorage, I am writing to submit public comments on the revised Senate pairings. Thank you for accepting additional comment on this issue. It is important to get these boundaries resolved quickly, and I would suggest sticking with existing pairings proposed by the Board for South and West Anchorage. For Downtown/Government Hill and East Anchorage, using the pairings proposed by Board Member Bahnke would allow you to fix the Eagle River pairing as required by the Court and have logical pairings for the rest of the city.**




# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 31, 2022, 6:07 pm

First Name: **Ryan**

Last Name: **Schryver**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Bahnke Map**

Public Comment: **The Bahnke map is fair and equitable. It should be adopted immediately to reduce voter confusion.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: March 31, 2022, 8:49 pm

First Name: **Gretchen**

Last Name: **Wade**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99502**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **15&16 Keep Together**

Public Comment: **Hello,**

**As a resident of Sand Lake, I'm writing to request that House Districts 15 and 16 continue to be paired in a West Anchorage Senate district. This makes far more sense than east-west pairings that would break up West Anchorage. While "socioeconomic integration" is more strictly required for House boundaries than Senate districts in the Constitution, keeping neighborhoods together in logical Senate districts is good for voters, and our West Anchorage neighborhoods clearly have more in common than other neighborhoods to the east.**

Thank you,

**Greta Wade**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 1, 2022, 8:51 am

First Name: **Sheri**

Last Name: **Whitethorn**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508-3323**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Please adopt the Senate pairings map recommended by Melanie Bahnke from 11/10/21**

Public Comment: **Please adopt the Senate pairings that Melanie Bahnke introduced in November, I believe the map is dated 11/10/2021. The public has seen these pairings and have broadly supported them, and they are Constitutionally sound. They keep many of Anchorage's communities together in reasonable and responsible ways. More specifically, this set of pairings keep Muldoon together in East Anchorage, they keep downtown Anchorage together, they keep Spenard and Turnagain together, and they keep Eagle River together. These pairings make good sense all-around. Please adopt this replacement map quickly without any further delay so that any confusion is avoided in upcoming elections that are already starting to get geared up. Thank you for all your diligent work on this process.**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 1, 2022, 10:47 am

First Name: **Leon**

Last Name: **Jaimes**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Please act immediately to adopt senate pairings using Bahnke's map**

Public Comment: **Hello,**

**I am writing today to encourage the Board to act immediately to adopt Member Bahnke's senate pairing map. The elections are coming up fast and it is important that voters find out what their senate districts are as soon as possible. Member Bahnke's map is a fair map that provides a great option for one person-one vote as well as common sense socioeconomic and geographic pairings. A failure to act quickly is likely to lead to voter disenfranchisement and confusion.**

**Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.**

**Leon Jaimes**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 1, 2022, 11:08 am

First Name: **Ellen**

Last Name: **Jaimes**

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern: **Please adopt the Bahnke senate pairings for Anchorage**

Public Comment: **Dear Redistricting Board and Staff:**

**Thank you for all your hard work updating Alaska's maps. With the upcoming elections, I urge the Board to act immediately to address the Court's requirements. This will minimize voter confusion that would result from a long drawn-out process.**

**It is in the public interest to swiftly adopt a map with final senate pairings so that voters can familiarize themselves with their new districts, precincts, and voting locations, on top of a new election system (RCV) and an unprecedented special election. The redistricting board has an obligation to the public to resolve this quickly to avoid voter confusion and disenfranchisement**

**Here in Anchorage, the Board should adopt the Bahnke senate pairings, instead of trying to come up with new pairings. These pairings have already been presented and considered on the record, and were informed by public input and testimony.**

**These pairings do not change the underlying deviation of districts, and they do uphold the one person, one vote principle. In addition, they are the common-sense geographic and socioeconomic pairings (keeping Muldoon w/ Muldoon, West Anc. w/ West Anc, Eagle River w/ Eagle River etc.). I commented in favor of these pairing for my own neighborhood in the last round of public testimony.**

**Thank you again for your attention and efforts on this important work.**

**Sincerely,**

**Ellen Jaimes**

[REDACTED]  
**Anchorage AK 99508**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
WEBSITE RESPONSE**

First Name: **Paula**

Last Name: **Sayler**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99508**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting**

Public Comment: **Please adopt the court's recent requirements in an efficient and speedy manner. Adopt the Bahnke senate pairings. Keep senate pairings: Muldoon w/ Muldoon, West Anc. w/ West Anc., Eagle River w/ Eagle River.**

**Thank you.**

**ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD  
WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 1, 2022, 12:36 pm

First Name: **Mary**

Last Name: **Burtness**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99709**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Gerrymandering Eagle River**

Public Comment: **I believe East Anchorage does not fit in with Eagle River. They should be separate**

# **ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE**

Date: April 1, 2022, 1:36 pm

First Name: **Dennis J**

Last Name: **Knebel Jr**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99517**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **Please take action quickly on this supreme court ruling. We the voters deserve a fair map this coming election cycle.**



# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 1:38 pm

First Name: **Izzy**

Last Name: **Farris**

Group Affiliation, if applicable:

Email or Phone Contact: [REDACTED]

Your ZIP Code: **99504**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable): **Redistricting**

Public Comment: **I am writing to request that the board act immediately to comply with the Court's requirements and to minimize confusion if this process is dragged out.**

**- In Anchorage, the board should adopt the Bahnke senate pairings, instead of trying to come up with new pairings.**

**- Board must act immediately: It is in the public interest to swiftly adopt a map with final senate pairings so that voters can familiarize themselves with their new districts, precincts, and voting locations, on top of a new election system (RCV) and an unprecedented special election. The redistricting board has an obligation to the public to resolve this quickly to avoid voter confusion and disenfranchisement**

**- The pairings, proposed by Melanie Bahnke, have already been presented and considered on the record, and were informed by public input and testimony. These pairings do not change the underlying deviation of districts, and upholds the one person, one vote principle. In addition, they are the common-sense geographic and socioeconomic pairings.**

**I live in Muldoon and we are very different from Eagle River. Our children don't go to school in Eagle River. We don't shop or play in Eagle River. We don't go to the doctor in Eagle River. We are a diverse community, which is very different from Eagle River.**

**Thank you for considering my concerns.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

Date: April 1, 2022, 4:43 pm

First Name: **Brent**

Last Name: **Nichols**

Group Affiliation, if applicable: **Personal**

Email or Phone Contact: 

Your ZIP Code: **99701**

Issue of Concern (Please provide map name if applicable):

Public Comment: **With election season nearly six months away now, it is important that we have a finalized map that gives voters enough time to understand and candidates enough time to prepare for. While the map is not perfect and no doubt has characteristics which many would view as flawed, it is one of the fairest maps we've had in decades. It is also important to note that this map has already been upheld in court and has relatively fair house-senate pairings. Voters will also have to learn ranked choice voting in the ensuing months, and the more complicated and drawn out the redistricting process is, the less fair it is to voters. Please let this map be finalized as is so that we can move on and prepare for a first of its kind election. I applaud the redistricting board for their efforts so far and hope that Alaska can benefit from a more rational drawing of the map.**

# ALASKA REDISTRICTING BOARD WEBSITE RESPONSE

From: **Charlie & Jamie Rodriguez** <[REDACTED]>

Fri 4/1/2022 4:57 PM

To: The Alaska Redistricting Board

I am testifying from Anchorage about the Anchorage Senate pairings because I believe in fair maps, and honest work on behalf of ALL Alaskans no matter one's political affiliations.

I support going back to the second to the last Senate Pairings, the pairings presented by Ms. Bahnke.

These pairings have already been considered on the record, have been presented and meticulously explained, point by point by point, how they comply with the law and are fair to every Alaskan, no matter their political affiliation.

The Bhanke pairings consider public testimony, don't change the underlying deviation of districts, uphold the one person, one vote principle, and have created the most common sense geographic and socioeconomic pairings (keeping Muldoon together, West Anc. together, and Eagle River together, etc.).

The Redistricting Board must act immediately to comply with the Court's requirements make our maps legal, and to minimize time, costs, and the confusion that will result if this process is dragged out. It's in the public interest to adopt legal maps with final senate pairings that check every box as outlined in law.

Voters need time to familiarize themselves with their new districts, precincts, and voting locations, BEFORE then have to learn about the new election system (RCV). On top of all that, we have a special election. The Redistricting Board has created a bit of a train wreck and they now need to right the train.

As public officials, the Redistricting Board has a sacred obligation to the public to resolve this quickly and fairly for every voter. No more delays, no more games, just abide by the law.

Thank you for your consideration.



**VIA EMAIL ONLY**

March 30, 2022  
Alaska Redistricting Board  
c/o: Peter Torkelson  
Executive Director

RE: Testimony related to Supreme Court decision and process on remand

Dear Board:

I write today in my personal capacity to provide public testimony regarding the Alaska Redistricting Board's mandate on remand.

On March 25, 2022 the Alaska Supreme Court issued an order largely affirming the process this Board went through, and its outcome. However, there was one notable exception—the Board's decision, on a 3-2 vote, to adopt a pairing for Senate District K was flatly rejected as a “partisan political gerrymander” and rightly so.

I reside in Anchorage, however I am not a resident of any of the house districts directly impacted by this pairing. Nevertheless, as someone who monitored the redistricting process closely, it was clear that the process and outcome of the Anchorage senate pairings resulting in District K was unacceptable and degraded the public's trust in the entire process.

I watched that process live. When the Board came out of executive session and adopted a brand-new senate map for Anchorage without any publication, notice, public comment, or meaningful discussion it debased the entire process. It looked like what it was—a brazen attempt to manipulate the process for partisan purposes. This outcome diminished the representation of several communities, including minority communities. However, I wish to note a stark exception to this criticism—the efforts of Board Members Melanie Bahnke and Nicole Borromeo who spoke up, with courage and conviction, against this manipulation.

I write now to implore the Board to avoid going down a similar road on remand. Do not try to once again manipulate the senate pairings for partisan purposes. Do not try to once again run roughshod over the concerns raised by Board Members Bahnke and Borromeo. As the Supreme Court has concluded, their original concerns were absolutely correct and the other three members of the Board were wrong.

The time for debate has passed and the Board should swiftly perform the ministerial task of adopting the only logical senate map that the public has seen—the map offered by Board Member Bahnke, that was wrongfully rejected by the three-member majority of the Board.

Ms. Bahnke’s map would leave most of the current Senate pairings in place, and would only impose the following changes, pairing:

- House District 17 with 23;
- District 18 with 19;
- District 20 with 21; and
- District 22 with 24.

Such a map should have consensus support and will not raise any other issues related to suppressing minority votes or partisan gerrymandering.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge that the vast majority of this Board’s work was done properly, publicly, and in service of all Alaskans. The Senate District K process was unfortunate and absolutely cannot be repeated. I thank the Board for their service and ask that they avoid further controversy by promptly adopting the Senate pairings originally offered by Board Member Bahnke.

The public’s trust in the constitutional process of redistricting has been shaken by the issues surrounding District K. Please restore that trust by closely adhering to the Supreme Court’s decision and adopting the Bahnke map.

Sincerely,



Scott Kendall  
Attorney  
(907) 222-7932 (main)  
(907) 222-7938 (fax)