
Turnagain Community Council

c/o TCC Vice President & Acting President Cathy L. Gleason
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November 1, 2021

(sent via email)

RE: Draft Alaska Redistricting Proposals, Map Version 3 & Map Version 4

Alaska Redistricting Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the 10-year Alaska Redistricting Mapping Options now out for public comment. I am currently serving as Vice President/Acting President (and Past President) of Turnagain Community Council (TCC), an all-volunteer neighborhood group in West Anchorage.

Currently, a small portion in the northeast area of the TCC boundaries in Anchorage is within Rep. Harriet Drummond's District (District 18) — with the majority of our neighborhood and council boundaries — including a portion of Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport (TSAIA) represented by Rep. Matt Claman (District 21). This has served our community council well to-date, but in both draft Map Versions 3 and 4, the Turnagain neighborhood/TCC boundary is divided into unacceptable segments.

Draft Map Version 3:

In Draft Map Version 3, a very small portion of the West Turnagain neighborhood is segregated into an area identified as the new District 18, which also encompasses all of TSAIA, and parts of Southwest Anchorage and the Midtown area. This makes no sense, as West Turnagain has much stronger ties with the remaining portions of the Turnagain neighborhood, than with Midtown, in particular. And *all of the Turnagain area* is affect by its 'neighbor', TSAIA in both positive and negatives ways. **Even worse, Draft Map Version 3 divides the TCC boundaries into three separate districts — Districts 16, 17 & 18.**

Draft Map Version 4:

In Draft Map Version 4, a very small portion of the East Turnagain neighborhood (Captain Cook Estates neighborhood south of West Northern Lights Blvd.) is also segregated into a separate District from the remaining TCC neighborhood south and west of Fish Creek (the creek is TCC's boundary in this area). As with Version 3, this ends up dividing the TCC boundaries into three separate districts — **District 12, 13 & 20).**

Turnagain Community Council Request:

As one of the more active community council in Anchorage, we invite our State Senators and Representatives to our monthly meetings to provide Legislative Reports. Allowing enough time on our agenda for reports from representation of two different Districts is sometimes challenging — can't imagine having time at our meetings to hear from representation from three Districts, if either the Version 3 or Version 4 map, as now presented, is approved by your Redistricting Board.

- As per Anchorage Municipal Code (AMC 2.40.040(A), current **community council boundaries inherently reflect “natural communities, with common interests and a district identity.”**
- As per the Alaska Redistricting Map Requirements, **“The Alaska Constitution requires that new districts meet for criteria: compactness, contiguity, socio-economic integration and equality of population.”**
- The new State Redistricting Map should closer align with existing local neighborhood and community council boundaries. **By including the Captain Cook Estates area within District 12 in the Version 4 Map, this would retain the two-District representation Turnagain Community Council now has in place.**

Representation by more than two Districts is not conducive to productive neighborhood engagement with our Alaska State Senators and Representatives — and it would put additional burdens on these elected legislators to juggle communication and meaningful engagement with multiple Anchorage community councils in West Anchorage.

Please take into account community council boundaries in Anchorage when determining where, logically, the redistricting lines are drawn for West Anchorage.

Sincerely,

Cathy L. Gleason
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