



## **Linn County Temporary Redistricting Commission**

---

Sarah Halbrook, Chair  
Ray Dochterman, Vice Chair  
Cindy Golding  
Dave Machacek  
Nate Willems

Jean Oxley Public Service Center  
935 Second Street SW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404

### **REPORT SUMMARIZING THE INFORMATION AND TESTIMONY RECEIVED BY THE LINN COUNTY TEMPORARY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION AT PUBLIC HEARING**

**Tuesday, October 3, 2017**

Vice-Chair Ray Dochterman made the following announcement: “Those wishing to make a comment regarding the proposed Supervisor District Plan should so indicate by signing in on the sheet located inside the boardroom door. When your name is called, please come to the podium and state your name and address. Comments will be limited to 5 minutes per person.” Three members of the public utilized the public comment period to make their views known, one of whom expressed support for Draft Plan #3, one of whom expressed support for the adopted Draft Plan #2, and one of whom discussed the possibility of drawing up a new plan.

A public notice was published in the Cedar Rapids Gazette on Tuesday, September 26, 2017. The proposed Supervisor District Plan and the corresponding Precinct Plan provide for three supervisor districts and are drawn in accordance with Sections 42.4, 49.3, 49.4, and 49.6, Code of Iowa. The following documents were made available to the public prior to this evening’s public hearing:

- Copies of the legal description of the plans
- Maps illustrating the plans
- A summary of the standards prescribed by law for development of the plans
- A statement of the population of each district included in the plan, and the relative deviation of each district population from the ideal district population
- A statement of the population of each precinct, if applicable

#### **Proposed Linn County Supervisor District Plan**

The Secretary of State’s *County Redistricting Worksheet - Supervisor District Population Certification* (placed on file) summarizes the following:

- Overall Variation = 425
- Average Variation = 142
- District Size Comparison = 1.0052

Compactness measurements as per Code of Iowa 42.4 Û 4.a and 4.b:

- Length-Width Compactness = 8:39
- Perimeter Compactness = 382.22

Individual District populations are as follows:

- District 1 = 70,471
- District 2 = 70,196
- District 3 = 70,559

### **Corresponding Linn County Precinct Plan**

The proposed Precinct Plan is divided into 23 precincts. Pursuant to the Code of Iowa, Chapter 49, the Precinct Plan is outlined in a proposed ordinance that establishes the various voting precincts, defines the boundaries and lists the populations of each precinct (placed on file).

Precinct populations are as follows:

• Bertram Township	3,234	• Jackson Township	1,426
• Boulder Township	575	• Linn Township	796
• Brown Township	2,095	• Maine Township	1,871
• Buffalo Township	486	• Marion Township	1,849
• Clinton Township	840	• Monroe Township One	1,976
• College Township	641	• Monroe Township Two	1,762
• Fairfax Township	1,478	• Otter Creek Township	1,483
• Fairfax	2,123	• Putnam Township	2,425
• Fayette Township	1,267	• Robins	3,140
• Franklin Township	2,824	• Spring Grove Township	860
• Grant Township	1,376	• Washington Township	3,369

### **Commission Comments**

Cindy Golding noted that members of the Commission are serving because the voters of Linn County overwhelmingly approved district representation for the new three-person Board of Supervisors. She continues to feel that Draft Plan #3 provides better representation for rural residents on the budget line items which most impact them – secondary roads and public safety. She very strongly favors Draft Plan #3 and strongly opposes Draft Plan #2.

Dave Machacek endorsed Ms. Golding’s views and noted that he believes Draft Plan #2 leaves Linn County with two totally urban districts and only one rural district. He believes that outcome is unfortunate and still supports Draft Plan #3.

Nate Willems stated that all the Commissioners have their own ways of evaluating the maps and believes that they share the same goals, but have arrived at different conclusions on how to achieve them. He noted that Linn County functionally has seven State House districts with only one of them rural, as that is how the population of the County falls. He believes that Draft Plan #2, with its inclusion of a district balanced between Marion and the rural areas of the County, is the best way to give the rural areas strong representation

Ray Dochterman endorsed Mr. Willems’ comments and noted his belief that rural areas of the county would never again be ignored as they were 25 years ago. He has every faith that the

Board of Supervisors, as a whole, will make certain to meet the needs of the rural areas of the county.

Sarah Halbrook noted that the Commission asked the GIS Department to create four maps that meet Iowa Code requirements. She expressed her support for Draft Plan #2, noting that it mathematically best meets the compactness and population requirements of the Code.

Ms. Golding indicated that there was more public comment during Commission meetings favoring Draft Plan #3. She also noted that Draft Plan #2 gives one Supervisor responsibility for the entirety of the rural area of Linn County and stated her view that it is irresponsible to put that kind of pressure on one Supervisor.

Ms. Golding also clarified comments made at the public hearing regarding the Linn County Farm Bureau's endorsement of a district plan. She noted that the Farm Bureau Board endorsed district representation for the Board of Supervisors (which was known as Plan 3) for the August 1, 2017 election, but did not endorse any of the draft district maps the Commission has been considering.