

June 2, 2023

El Paso Redistricting Commissioners and Staff:

My name is Katherine Czukas. Thank you for the opportunity to submit a proposal for redefining the County Commissioner District boundaries. I appreciate your consideration of this proposal. In this submission, I am representing myself as a 13 year resident of the City of Colorado Springs, currently residing in El Paso County Commissioner District 3.

I am submitting this via the website's comment feature and will also submit it as an attachment as a 4 page memo. There are additional attachments submitted as Appendices.

The district boundaries I am proposing satisfy the criteria briefed on by County Attorney Hodges during the 5/8/23 meeting called Legal Parameters for Commissioner Redistricting.

(<https://assets.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/Redistricting/May08/4.-Redistricting-Legal-Parameters.pdf>) These criteria include:

1. Districts with no more than five percent deviation between most and least populous district (using 2020 Census)
2. Preserving whole communities of interest
3. Minimizing the number of divisions of a city or town
4. Thereafter, maximize the number of politically competitive districts to the extent reasonably possible

In addition, this submission follows the Precinct Boundaries recommendation from slide 21 of County Clerk and Recorder Schleiker's briefing on 5/8/23 called El Paso County Redistricting Presentation

(<https://assets.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/Redistricting/May08/5.-MAY-8-CLERK-AND-RECORDER-REDISTRICTING.pdf>) to "move full pre-existing precincts only for redistricting."

Specifically, this proposal:

- A. Does not split the Town of Monument (or other municipalities in county with populations smaller than Colorado Springs)
- B. Does not split the Patty Jewett neighborhood in the City of Colorado Springs
- C. Ensures the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 52 U.S.C. sec, 10301's intention to ensure that "members of a class of protected citizens do not have less opportunity than others to participate in the political process", by uniting into the same district the precincts in the City of Colorado Springs which have high non-white populations

My recommended way for redistricting commissioners, staff, and residents to view my proposed map of district boundaries is to visit this FREE software link and use the zoom in/ zoom out features.

<https://davesredistricting.org/join/a918e71d-a68d-4c6e-9c81-9b7a99ab2979>

I submit, as Appendix 1, the shapefile for staff to make use of in their GIS software. I also provide a static map image in my attached statement and as Appendix 2. In addition, I list out how every pre-existing El Paso County precinct will be assigned to the proposed districts in Appendix 3 (in spreadsheet format).

District Number	Brief Descriptor of District	Approximate 2020 Population
3	Wildland/Urban Interface part of the county west of I-25. Includes USAFA, the Rampart Range, Pikes Peak, and Cheyenne Mountain. Extends east of I-25 to as far east as Union Blvd, to include the UCCS, Patty Jewett, and many downtown neighborhoods.	149,959
1	Tri-Lakes (Monument, Palmer Lake, Woodmoor), the unincorporated area directly north of USAFA (precincts 303, 304), and Academy District 20 boundaries when Academy District 20 is east of I-25 and not in Black Forest. When east of I-25, the district extends from County Line Road in the north to Pulpit Rock/Vickers Dr. in the south.	147,425
5	City of Colorado Springs with Union Blvd. as western boundary and Powers Blvd. as the eastern boundary. District is north of Milton Proby Blvd. and south of Vickers Dr. While mainly east of I-25, it extends into a few precincts west of I-25 in the Stratton Meadows neighborhood south of downtown in the City of Colorado Springs	145,259
2	Black Forest, the NE part of El Paso County, and the NE part of City of Colorado Springs that is north of Constitution Ave, east of Academy Blvd when south of Austin Bluffs Blvd., and east of the unincorporated 'Old Farm' area when north of Austin Bluffs Blvd.	144,022
4	Fort Carson, residential neighborhoods to the north of Fort Carson which are not in the Stratton Meadows neighborhood, Fountain, Widefield, Security, the Airport, Cimarron Hills and SE El Paso County (E of Marksheffel Rd., and S of Hwy 94), and Central East El Paso County (Precincts 522, 527, 560)	143,730

I'm hoping these brief descriptors help the redistricting commissioners and staff to see that my proposal does not make many changes from the current county commissioner districts boundaries. My intention was to change boundaries to adhere to the requirements of CO Code § 30-10-306.3 (2022).

The 2020 Census population numbers show that there is less than 5 percent deviation in population between any district. In addition, this proposal has created District 1 and District 3 with slightly higher populations than the other districts to reflect a verbal comment made at the 5/8/23 redistricting commission meeting.

When there is not "smoothness" in a visual boundary in my proposal, it is often due to the pre-existing precinct definitions. Examples of this include Precinct 256 near Shoup Road and Hwy 83 or Precinct 615 near S. Academy Blvd and Hwy 85/87.

As redistricting commissioners and staff continue with plan evaluation, I want to point out two criteria which remain to be evaluated for this proposal, as I didn't find sufficient guidance for me to complete this on the redistricting website (<https://www.elpasoco.com/redistricting>) as of 5/31/23. I also add an additional consideration.

Politically Competitive Districts

I could not find the staff's methodology for maximizing the number of politically competitive districts (the formulas and election dates are not clearly specified in the Commissioner Redistricting Political Competitiveness presentation from 5/8/23 <https://assets.elpasoco.com/wp-content/uploads/Redistricting/May08/6.-May-8-2023-Competitiveness-Presentation.pdf>). The free software used to show this map creates a Partisan Lean metric (available via the Statistics button), and for my proposal it concludes: "Three districts lean Republican, none lean Democratic, and two fall in the 45–55% competitive range." Additional details about this Partisan Lean metric would be available via the help functionality of the software.

Sensitivity to Voters Switched

While it is not part of the Colorado statute, nor reflected in the written archived materials from the 5/8/23 Redistricting Commission meeting, the redistricting website suggests an additional criteria for Plan Development: "Recommended sensitivity to voters switched between election cycles."

This analysis was difficult for me to complete on my own, as I'm not sure there is publicly available data to measure and exclude voter movement between districts *due to their own volition* (e.g., a voter registered at a specific El Paso County address in October 2020 who moves and registers at a different El Paso County address in May 2023). I believe this would be important to know to determine the number of registered voters "switched" when evaluating any

proposal. Though, the sensitivity analysis could also be interpreted to be more narrow, and to only be “voters who voted in their prior El Paso County Commissioner race.”

Using publicly available data, I calculated that only 31 of the 325 precincts (less than 10%) would change election cycles in my proposal. If requested, I’m happy to submit this analysis on election cycle changes of precincts, if it is relevant to the redistricting commissions ‘sensitivity to voters switched’ analysis.

Durability for the next Census

While not a criteria, I believe my proposal easily allows for adaptation and growth in 2031 when the 2030 census data will be available for County Commissioner District redistricting. This proposal allows for CC1, CC3, and CC5’s eastern boundaries to move further east to reduce any inter-district population deviation as additional population centers emerge in the county around Marksheffel Road. For example, CC1 could extend east to the easternmost school district boundaries of Lewis-Palmer District 38 and/or Academy District 20, while still preserving the community of interest of school districts.

I again appreciate the ability to participate in this process and explain my proposal that meets all criteria to the Redistricting Commissioners and Staff in writing. If there are additional questions or information you require from me, please reach out at the contact information I provided.

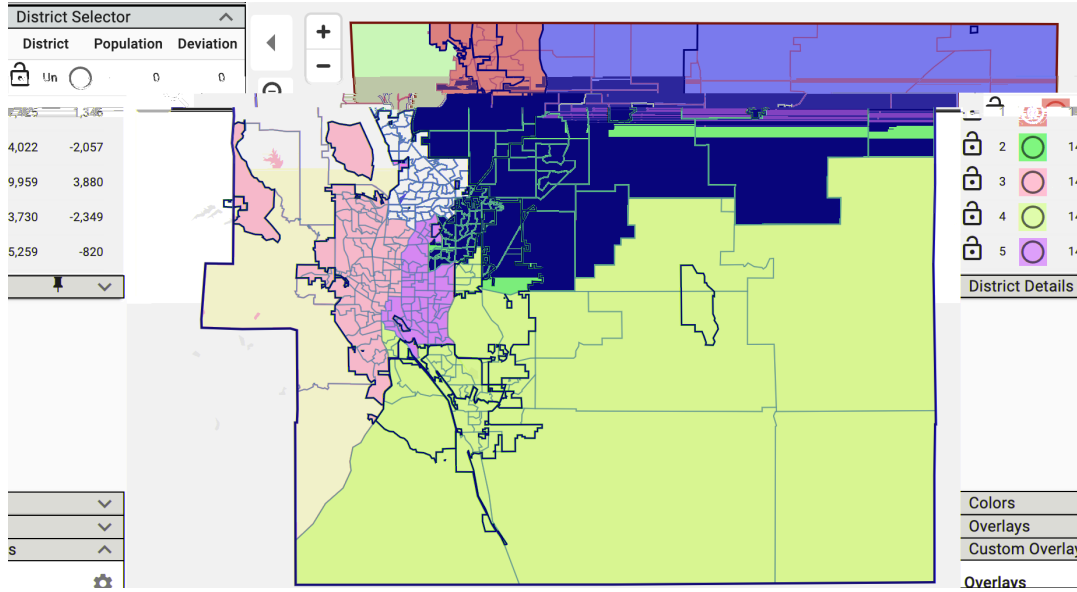
Sincerely,

Katherine Czukas

Attachments

- Appendix 1 - Shapefile
- Appendix 2 - Static Visual of the District Boundaries
- Appendix 3 - Spreadsheet of Precinct Assignments to Proposal’s Districts

Shapefile



Screen shot of <https://davesredistricting.org/join/a918e71d-a68d-4c6e-9c81-9b7a99ab2979>

Note: Dark Blue lines are municipal boundaries, light red lines are precincts, as available in the software. Population is from the software's reporting of the official 2020 US Census.

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