

**Questions and Responses:**

Every question can be traced back to the principles that guide redistricting:

1. Equal Population
2. Sensitivity to Minority Concerns
3. Compact and Contiguous districts.

Different choices can be made along the way, but those criteria must be followed. SB 148 meets these criteria.

**Why so many pairings?**

Pairings are usually an inevitable consequence of reapportionment and the result of compliance with the principles of equal population, compact and contiguous districts and sensitivity to minority concerns. Legislative districts are reapportioned to be in place for 10 years. Out of 132 legislators, only 35 remain today in the seats they held in 2000. That is about 75 percent turnover for the 10 years that the districts put in place after the last reapportionment were in effect.

**Why did you (split, draw, pair) X?**

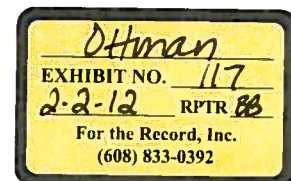
There are a number of ways to reapportion. The reapportionment involves competing principles and choices that have to be made. This legislation represents the choices that have been made that are consistent with the legal standards required.

**Who made the decisions on how these districts were drawn?**

We are making that decision right now. Today. The Legislature. Staff developed this bill in consultation with attorneys retained by the Senate and the Assembly to make sure that it conformed with all legal principles. The duty to pass it falls on the Legislature.

**What is the partisan makeup of these districts?**

The election data for the last 10 years was made available by the Government Accountability Board to the Legislature. All four caucuses were provided this information along with the hardware and software to use it. Everyone has the ability to draw their own conclusions and interpret how past elections may play out in the new districts. But no one has a crystal ball that will tell you how elections may play out in these districts next year, or 10 years from now when these districts will still be in effect. 10 years ago different experts offered wildly different opinions on how the proposed maps would perform politically.



**Who did you talk with about these maps?**

Staff consulted with attorneys to make sure that all legal principles were followed in reapportioning the state.

**Why are you offering choices on the Hispanic districts, but not on the African American districts?**

Given the rapid growth of the Hispanic population during the ten year cycle, which is very different than other minority growth patterns, we simply thought providing a number of alternatives would be appropriate. If there are other alternatives for other minority groups, then those can be proposed and acted on by the Committee and the legislature.

**Why were Republican Attorneys hired to draw maps but Democrats were not allowed attorneys to draw maps?**

Attorneys did not draw these maps. Staff drew them. Attorneys merely advised on the legal principles that have to be followed. Your staff has had all the same hardware, software and data available to them for over a year. The census data has been available since the end of March. I don't know what your staff has been doing with all that equipment and data. Our staff has been working on this bill.

**Why are you not drawing a 50 percent voting age Hispanic seat?**

I haven't seen a map that has a Senate seat with a 50 percent voting age Hispanic population. No one has produced one that I'm aware of.

**Why are you acting now? Why are you acting before the locals?**

Former State Senate leader, Senator Robson, is suing the state in federal court for not acting quickly enough. This is a constitutional duty of the Legislature. There is no reason for us to delay action and let a court do our job for us.