

PUBLIC MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The United States District Court in Utah, through the services of Special Master Bernard Grofman, is in the process of redrawing the County Commission and School Board Election Districts in San Juan County. The redistricting is necessary because the court concluded in the case of *Navajo Nation v. San Juan County*, 2:12-cv-39, that the existing districts are unconstitutional. The court will hold public meetings in Monticello and Bluff to receive public input on proposed preliminary County Commission and School Board election districts. Those proposed districts will be available for review online at www.sanjuancounty.org and pmn.utah.gov. Copies of the maps will also be available at the meetings.

Meeting Details:

Public Meeting in Monticello:

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2017

Time: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Location: Hideout Community Center, 49 West 600 South St, Monticello, UT 84535

Public Meeting in Bluff:

Date: Thursday, November 16, 2017

Time: 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Location: Bluff Community Center, 3rd East and Mulberry, Bluff Rd, Bluff, UT 84512

Ground Rules:

The court expects participants in the public meeting to conduct themselves according to the following ground rules:

1. One person talks at a time, no interrupting.
2. Everyone has an equal right to talk, so time limits will be enforced.
3. Challenge ideas, not people—be respectful.
4. Explain your reasoning, so the court can best consider your input.

Areas of Focus:

The court's preliminary proposed districts are the result of a careful process by the Special Master that was aimed at addressing specific constitutional and statutory requirements, while abiding by good governance standards. In particular, all three districts for the County Commission must have the same population, to the extent feasible, and all districts for the School Board must have the same population (taking into account the deannexation of the Spanish Valley area) to the extent feasible, with more precise population balancing taking place in the final version of each plan after public comments have been received.

While constitutional and statutory requirements necessarily take precedence, when addressing map revisions the court is most interested in adopting plans that abide by good governance standards. Good governance dictates that plans not split political subunits if that is geographically and demographically feasible, that all districts be contiguous, and that communities of interest are reflected, as are the locations of schools vis-a-vis the School Board plan.

Because of the constitutional and statutory requirements, the Special Master is constrained in the types of feedback he can incorporate into his final recommendation. It would be most useful to the court for the public to focus their comments on the following issues:

1. Do you notice any inaccuracies in the proposed maps, e.g., in city or place boundaries?
2. Do you prefer one proposed preliminary County Commission plan over another? If so, why?
3. Do you prefer one proposed preliminary School Board plan over another? If so, why?

Comments that will be most useful to the court will focus on if and how these plans meet good governance criteria, or how the plans could be improved to better meet good governance standards.

Tentative Agenda:

- Introduction by Judge Robert J. Shelby (5 minutes)
- Presentation of the plans by Special Master Grofman (15 minutes)
- Public Comment:
 - Judge Shelby will moderate a spoken public comment period. Depending on the number of people who wish to be heard, an appropriate time limit may be imposed to enable everyone to comment during the 45 minutes or so allotted. A time limit appropriate for the number of participants wishing to provide spoken feedback will be imposed—likely three minutes. (45 minutes)
 - Two stations will be positioned in the room, one for the School Board districts and one for the County Commission districts, for those wishing to provide written comment or spoken comment in a less formal setting. Court representatives will be at each station to assist those wishing to comment. (45 minutes)
- Judge Shelby will adjourn the meeting.

Option to Email Comments:

- Written comments will also be accepted via email for those who are unable to attend the public meeting, or those who attend the meeting but want to provide comment via email. Please email your written comments to redistricting@utd.uscourts.gov. Please limit your written comments to two pages or 500 words; and please focus your comments on the issues described above. Written comments must be received by Friday, November 17th, to be considered.