



Minutes
Deschutes County
District Mapping Advisory Committee (DMAC)

Wednesday, October 29, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Deschutes Services Building, Barnes Sawyer Room (1st Floor), 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend

This meeting was conducted in person and by video. It was video recorded and can be accessed on the committee website: [District Mapping Advisory Committee \(DMAC\) | Deschutes County Oregon](#)

I. Introduction

This meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Facilitator and Chair Neil Bryant.

Attendees: Chair/Facilitator: Neil Bryant. Committee Members: Bernie Brader, Carol Loesche, Drew Kaza, Matt Cyrus, Melanie Kebler, Ned Dempsey, and Phil Henderson.

Staff: Steve Dennison, County Clerk; Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager; and Lee Klemp, IT/GIS.

II. Background on DMAC

Neil Bryant provided background on DMAC's role in a three-step process initiated by the Board of County Commissioners and outlined that DMAC will produce initial mapping recommendations to be forwarded to the Board in late November or early December. He stated that the Board may accept, modify, or refer the proposal to the May 2026 ballot, and that the proposed districts would not affect the 2026 election, which will be conducted at large. He reiterated committee guidance to use existing 2022 precinct lines where practicable, keep districts contiguous, avoid unreasonable divisions of communities of interest, and consider growth patterns. He noted the committee is working with current voter registration data to draw the districts. He further explained that if voters approve districting, changes would affect commissioner elections beginning January 2028; if the measure fails, all five commission seats remain at large.

III. Approval of October 22, 2025, Minutes

Carol Loesche requested the meeting minutes reflect her absence on October 22, 2025. Staff will make that change. A motion to approve the October 22, 2025 minutes was made by Matt Cyrus and seconded by Phil Henderson. The motion carried by voice vote, and the minutes were approved.

IV. Public Comments

Greg Bryant, from Bend, asked whether DMAC could forward more than one map to the Board of County Commissioners so the Board would have options. The chair responded that the Board has directed

DMAC to submit one map with five districts; while the committee continues to analyze multiple working drafts during its process, the deliverable to the Board will be a single proposed map.

V. Staff Updates

Jen Patterson reported that she went before the Board of County Commissioners to get further guidance on map drawing criteria priority between expanding the equal population range to 10 percent (from the existing 5 percent) or splitting precincts. The Board, on a 2-1 vote, indicated a preference to allow up to a 10 percent range between the largest and smallest districts rather than split precincts if that choice must be made; the guidelines have been updated accordingly. Patterson emphasized this is a preference to accommodate conditions if necessary, rather than a mandate to target a 10 percent spread when a smaller range can be achieved without splitting precincts. She also relayed the Board's preference that, when practicable, precincts experiencing higher growth trends be placed at the lower end of the permitted range to anticipate ongoing growth before the next redistricting.

Lee Klemp displayed a data chart and a heat map for building-permit issued between January 1, 2022 through October 20, 2025. Staff noted that some multi-family records may be undercounted in the current table due to how multiple records attach to a single parcel and that updated multi-family data from the City of Redmond were requested on short notice and had not yet been received; staff plans to incorporate those data points and rerun the heat map and precinct table before the next meeting.

DMAC members requested that the issued building permits data be broken down by year: 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 with a column for precinct, permits issued, and units per permit for each year. Staff will work on this request and have the data available at a future meeting.

Steve Dennison will pull updated Voter Registration data on November 1 and going forward that data will be represented in the maps and data charts.

VI. DMAC Group Discussion and Map Work

The discussion opened with a motion to limit work for the remainder of the meeting to a single draft map, designated Map C. After debate about potential effects on communities of interest and the timing of requested data to review, the motion did not carry on a vote, and the group continued to consider multiple drafts within the criteria framework.

The committee then considered narrowing the universe of drafts. A subsequent motion to eliminate Map A passed by voice vote. With that action, the committee proceeded with two working drafts, Maps B and C, and focused on the limited number of precincts where those drafts diverged. Participants noted that the two drafts were identical across the vast majority of precincts and that concentrating discussion on the remaining areas of difference would support a more efficient path to a single recommendation.

The committee turned to comparative review of its working maps and implications of the updated criteria and growth information. Members discussed precincts in East Bend and other areas showing

higher recent building activity and how that information might inform placing such precincts at the lower end of the allowable population range while maintaining contiguity, using existing precinct lines, and preserving communities of interest.

Members referenced, among others, Precinct 26's urban character and development pattern and its relationship to other Bend precincts and considerations for precincts 12 and 26 regarding Latino communities of interest. The chair summarized that both Maps B and C meet the county's criteria on population and voter registration at this stage and that the next meeting will include updated precinct-level voter-registration data and growth trends from issued building permits to aid in continued refinement. The chair and members agreed that the two working maps are the same for 44 of the 50 precincts and that discussion should focus on the small set of differing precincts; precincts cited during this portion included 2, 5, 12, 25, 33, and 47. In response to the chair's request, some members agreed to bring a proposal to the next meeting showing how to move precincts while keeping within the adopted guidelines.

The committee also discussed the topic of assigning commissioner seat numbers to districts should the Board forward a districting measure to voters and the measure be approved. Members expressed interest in a fair and equitable approach and discussed drawing lots as a method to assign positions. The chair noted this could be reflected as a recommendation accompanying the map transmitted to the Board for consideration.

Motions:

Melanie Kebler moved to request issued building permits data be broken down by year: 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 with a column for precinct, permits issued, and units per permit for each year. Drew Kaza seconded the motion. The motion was approved on a 6-1 vote. Bernie Brader, Carol Loesche, Drew Kaza, Melanie Kebler, Ned Dempsey, and Phil Henderson voted in favor of the motion. Matt Cyrus voted against the motion.

Bernie Brader made a motion for the committee to only consider Map C. Matt Cyrus seconded the motion. The motion failed on a 4-3 vote. Bernie Brader, Matt Cyrus, and Ned Dempsey voted in favor of the motion. Carol Loesche, Drew Kaza, Melanie Kebler, and Phil Henderson voted against the motion.

Drew Kaza made a motion to eliminate Map A. Matt Cyrus seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. Wrap Up and Adjourn

Bryant adjourned the meeting at 2:31 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager,
Deschutes County Administrative Services