



Minutes
Deschutes County
District Mapping Advisory Committee (DMAC)

Wednesday, October 8, 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 1:00 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: Nick Lelack, County Administrator; Steve Dennison, County Clerk; and Lee Klemp, IT/GIS.

II. Approval of October 1, 2025, Minutes

In response to the chair's request for corrections or additions to the draft minutes, no changes were offered. A motion to approve the October 1, 2025 minutes was made by Carol Loesche and seconded by Phil Henderson. The motion carried by voice vote, and the minutes were approved.

III. Public Comments

Nathan Jenkinson, from Redmond, recommended that the DMAC specifically request testimony from various local groups in order to understand their impact on what types of maps would split districts. Generally, children are represented by their parents but there are a significant number of children in the county who are not represented by parents. There are children in the foster care system and children whose interests are not represented by their parents and therefore voter registration data would not include the interests of those children. It is also important to delve into demographics around ethnicity and reaching out to the Latino Community Association could be important to get a different perspective.

IV. Format on Community Listening Session

The committee discussed structure and processs for the upcoming community listening session. Members expressed support for limiting individual testimony to three minutes in order to maximize the number of speakers, with one member noting that a three-minute limit would allow approximately 40 commenters, compared with 24 at five minutes. There was agreement to avoid

back-and-forth exchanges during the session and to reserve any committee response for the end, or only to correct a clear factual misstatement. The chair was asked to facilitate to keep the session running smoothly. Staff were requested to prepare a brief slide outlining the timetable and process steps, and the committee discussed making the initial DMAC outline and criteria available for attendees. The group reached consensus to conduct the session primarily as a listening forum with limited clarifying questions and no extended dialogue.

V. Update on Data from American Community Surveys

Staff presented an update on the American Community Survey (ACS), noting that, to date, the committee had been working with 2020 Census redistricting block data and August 2026 voter registration counts. The ACS one-year and five-year estimates were described, with the five-year series available at the tract and block-group levels, which are larger geographic units than Census blocks. Staff prepared three illustrative maps to show selected race-group distributions and how these align with precincts, emphasizing the difference in granularity between ACS and block-level counts. Committee discussion highlighted that ACS is a U.S. Census Bureau product used between decennial censuses and is relied upon for federal funding allocations; members discussed how the data might inform the committee's work without unintentionally diluting or packing voters, and the importance of checking proposed zones against communities-of-interest considerations.

VI. DMAC Group Discussion and Map Work

Following the ACS presentation, the committee turned to six draft map options and discussed narrowing the set for further refinement and for use at the community listening session. Members discussed how to structure the evaluation, asking for clarity on the criteria that would guide narrowing the field beyond the previously referenced five percent population variance. The discussion referenced common redistricting measures such as compactness and reiterated some committee members preference to rely on census data for equality across districts rather than voter registration alone, with several comments encouraging a target closer to approximately one percent variance where feasible.

Members referred to work from the prior meeting and described how map "Option 2B" evolved from map "Option 2." A motion was made and approved to eliminate map Option 2 from further consideration. A subsequent motion was made and approved to eliminate map PS4 based on population deviation concerns related to the committee's target range. Another motion was made and approved to eliminate map PS2 and PS1. The discussion concluded with informal agreement that Options 2B and PS3 Maps would continue forward as the two working alternatives.

Members requested that staff develop two to three iterations based on the two remaining options in advance of the next meeting, so that the committee can review and potentially select maps before presenting them to the public at the listening session scheduled for October 16. In framing the map work, comments referenced the need to avoid both dilution and packing of voters, and to cross-check proposed boundaries against available data on communities of interest. The committee noted that precinct lines had been redrawn after the last census which may account for some differences

between voter and population figures observed at the precinct level. Members also noted that splitting precincts can have implications for other established districts familiar to voters, such as COCC zones, and asked that such effects be considered as iterations are prepared.

VII. Next Meeting Schedule

The committee discussed schedule and inputs needed to refine materials prior to the community listening session. Members indicated that they would like to keep the regularly scheduled DMAC meeting on October 15 in order to meet once more before the community listening session scheduled for October 16. This will allow the committee to discuss draft maps and potentially consider specific map options to be presented for the community listening session.

VIII. Wrap Up and Adjourn

The chair adjourned the meeting at 2:52 p.m.

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