



Minutes
Deschutes County
District Mapping Advisory Committee (DMAC)

Wednesday, October 1, 2025, 1:00 p.m.
La Pine Activity Center, 16450 Victory Way, La Pine, OR

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, Ned Dempsey, and Phil Henderson.

Staff: Nick Lelack, County Administrator; Jen Patterson, Strategic Initiatives Manager; and Lee Klemp, IT/GIS.

II. Approval of September 24, 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 September 24, 2025 minutes was made by Matt Cyrus and seconded by Ned Dempsey. The motion carried by voice vote, and the minutes were approved.

III. Public Comments

Greg Bryant from Deschutes River Woods stated that his community has a population of 5,600 and requested that the committee recognize and reference it in discussion similar to other cities and unincorporated communities in the county.

Stu Martinez from La Pine encouraged better advance notice and advertising for meetings in southern Deschutes County. He stated that some residents were unaware of the meeting until shortly before it began and asked for more notice so additional community members could attend.

Chet Wamboldt stated support for moving to district-based representation rather than at-large seats and noted his residence in Bend (Midtown).

Tina Lyons, identifying as a resident of rural southern Deschutes County, asked about the advantages of district elections versus at-large elections and described experiences with representation from the area.

Rodney Cooper submitted his comments via email as there were technical issues providing

comments using Zoom. Rodney's written comments, read aloud by staff, state that his "concern is that rural Deschutes County will not be adequately represented. If we were to estimate head to the 2030 senses, we could anticipate the city of Bend population will outgrow the population increase in the rural areas. This means that if we operate by equal populations in the five districts Bend will eventually dominate the county commissioner selection. What we don't need is Bend turning into another little Portland that will run the entire county. Rather than doing this process with an emphasis on equal distribution of population, we should be doing an equal distribution of the geographic area. That is the only way that the rural voice can maintain any substantial degree of influence in county decisions."

Staff stated that written comments could be emailed to DMAC@deschutes.org and that the October 16 listening session would provide an opportunity for further public comments.

A motion was made and seconded to reserve fifteen minutes at the end of the meeting for additional public comments if attendees arrived later in the meeting. The motion passed by voice vote.

IV. Update on DMAC Staff Requests

Staff reported that a comparative precinct table for the draft map options was prepared and included with the meeting packet as a PDF and attached as an Excel spreadsheet. The underlying Excel file with separate tabs for each map option was provided to committee members for ease of review. Staff noted a request to provide precinct data aligned with the existing library district map. This item was not available for this meeting due to the County Clerk being out of town for a conference. Staff anticipates including this information in the next meeting packet. Per a committee request, the color contrast on the draft maps was revised so each option uses more distinct colors. Updated maps will also be posted on the county webpage for public review. Staff is exploring data available from the American Community Survey webpage. A five-year estimate at the census tract level is available now; staff is assessing methods to render data at the smallest feasible geography for committee use, with the expectation of presenting initial results at the next meeting, including potential overlays for communities of common interest if identified by the committee.

At a committee member's request, County Administrator Nick Lelack provided an update on a topic discussed at the Board of County Commissioners meeting regarding a district mapping model used in Missoula County, Montana, under which candidates must reside in districts but are elected at large. Lelack reported that the majority of the Board did not support proceeding with that option at this time and indicated that video of the Board discussion is publicly available.

V. DMAC Group Discussion and Map Work

The committee discussed approaches to communities of common interest and the balance between urban and rural areas within proposed districts. Members compared the three staff-drafted options and referenced several precincts and areas in and around Bend and Redmond when describing preferences and concerns. A motion was made to remove Option 3 from further consideration. The motion was seconded and passed by voice vote. Subsequent discussion addressed Option 1, including a comment that Precinct 18's placement toward the Terrebonne area aligned more closely with Redmond. A motion to cease consideration of Option 1 was made, seconded, and approved by

voice vote. With Option 2 remaining, the committee reviewed adjustments on-screen and directed staff to recreate the revisions as a separate variant labeled Option 2B for inclusion in the next packet. Staff confirmed that Option 2 (as originally presented) and Option 2B would be prepared for continued work. Members discussed data inputs for balancing districts. Several comments compared the use of voter registration counts versus population estimates given recent growth. Some members described leaning toward voter registration as a more current indicator while staff continues work with American Community Survey estimates. The committee confirmed that four community-submitted maps referenced in prior meetings should be incorporated into the same visual format as the staff-drafted options for side-by-side review at the next meeting. Staff will prepare those materials for the packet. Staff confirmed that, consistent with a prior committee vote, a community listening session is scheduled for Thursday, October 16, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Deschutes Services Building (Barnes & Sawyer Room), 1300 NW Wall Street, Bend. The session will be available via Zoom, and public comments will be accepted in person and online. Staff will distribute a media release and shareable notice to committee members.

VI. Wrap Up and Adjourn

The chair adjourned the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

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