

**BOARD OF REGENTS
BRIEFING PAPER**

1. AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Update on Redistricting and Reapportionment

MEETING DATE: March 5-6, 2020

2. BACKGROUND & POLICY CONTEXT OF ISSUE:

Every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau compiles and publishes new population data for the United States and transmits that data to individual states. The last national census occurred in 2010. Based on this census data, the Nevada State Legislature reviews the electoral districts for Nevada State Senate and Assembly, as well as the Board of Regents, and where necessary redraws and reapportions them according to federal and state law to correspond to population shifts. The Nevada State Legislature will review and consider any changes to Regent's individual districts during the upcoming 2021 Legislative Session.

3. SPECIFIC ACTIONS BEING RECOMMENDED OR REQUESTED:

N/A

4. IMPETUS (WHY NOW?):

On January 27, 2020, the Legislature's Committee to Conduct an Interim Study of the Requirements for Reapportionment and Redistricting held its first meeting. Significant analysis and review of complex population data is required in a relatively short period of time to properly draft a redistricting and reapportionment proposal that satisfies constitutional standards. Early preparation by the Board, including acquiring necessary computer software, and ongoing communication with the Nevada State Legislature is essential to success.

5. CHECK THE NSHE STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL THAT IS SUPPORTED BY THIS REQUEST:

Not Applicable to NSHE Strategic Plan Goals

6. BULLET POINTS TO SUPPORT REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

7. POTENTIAL ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE REQUEST/RECOMMENDATION:

N/A

8. ALTERNATIVE(S) TO WHAT IS BEING REQUESTED/RECOMMENDED:

N/A

9. RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE:

N/A

10. COMPLIANCE WITH BOARD POLICY:

Consistent With Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____

Amends Current Board Policy: Title # _____ Chapter # _____ Section # _____

Amends Current Procedures & Guidelines Manual: Chapter # _____ Section # _____

Other: NRS 396.031-.046, inclusive

Fiscal Impact: Yes _____ No

Explain: _____

Redistricting & Reapportionment

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Nevada System of Higher Education

March 5-6, 2020



Reapportionment v. Redistricting

- **Apportionment** is the division of a given number of elected members among established political subdivisions in accordance with an existing plan/ formula.
- **Redistricting** is the drawing of new boundaries for existing districts.

Why do we redistrict?

- **Required by law every 10 years:** Section 2, Article 1 of the United States Constitution and Title 13, Section 141 of the United States Code.
- **Federal Law:** One person equals one vote. In 1964, the United States Supreme Court held that state legislative districts (and by analogy other election districts) must be equal in population. *See Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533 (1964).
- **State Law:** Section 13, Article 1 of the Nevada State Constitution provides that representation shall be apportioned “according to population.”

What population data do we use?

- United States Supreme Court approves use of the federal census.
- Nevada State Constitution and state law (NRS Chapter 396) require use of the U.S. Census Bureau data as the basis for Board of Regent representation.
- Nevada State Legislature's Joint Rules will require use of the U.S. Census Bureau data as validated by the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) for all redistricting.

Redistricting Timeline

- **January 27, 2020:** Attended first meeting of the Committee to Conduct an Interim Study of the Requirements for Reapportionment and Redistricting.
- **March 23, 2020:** Attend next Committee meeting and may give brief introduction.
- **March to September 2020:** Attend additional Committee meetings, monitor public input, and coordinate work with LCB to purchase necessary computer software.
- **September 10-11, 2020:** Provide Board of Regents detailed presentation on redistricting law and process.
- **December 3-4, 2020:** Provide Board of Regents with redistricting themes based on 2019 population estimates

Redistricting Timeline (Continued)

- **December 31, 2020:** Statewide population totals reported to the President of the United States.
- **February 1, 2021:** 81st Legislative Session begins, and Nevada State Legislature adopts Joint Rules (historically address redistricting plan requirements).
- **Late February/Early March 2021:** U.S. Census Bureau may provide block level data to the states (required no later than April 1, 2021).
- **March 2021:** Request Board of Regents to approve redistricting plan for recommendation to the Nevada State Legislature.
- **March to May 2021:** Present Board of Regents approved redistricting plan to the Nevada State Legislature for consideration.

Estimated Population Changes 2010 through 2020

from Legislative Counsel Bureau Research Division

	2010	Projected 2020		
	Population	Projected Population*	Projected Change	Percentage Change
State of Nevada	2,700,551	3,165,923	+465,372	+17.2%
Counties:				
Carson City	55,274	56,541	+1,267	+2.3%
Churchill County	24,877	26,118	+1,241	+5.0%
Clark County	1,951,269	2,341,807	+390,538	+20.0%
Douglas County	46,997	50,006	+3,009	+6.4%
Elko County	48,818	55,242	+6,424	+13.2%
Esmeralda County	783	966	+183	+23.4%
Eureka County	1,987	1,959	-28	-1.4%
Humboldt County	16,528	17,054	+526	+3.2%
Lander County	5,775	5,996	+221	+3.8%
Lincoln County	5,345	5,270	-75	-1.4%
Lyon County	51,980	57,148	+5,168	+9.9%
Mineral County	4,772	4,611	+161	-3.4%
Nye County	43,946	49,201	+5,255	+12.0%
Pershing County	6,753	6,851	+98	+1.5%
Storey County	4,010	4,369	+359	+9.0%
Washoe County	421,407	472,096	+50,689	+12.0%
White Pine County	10,030	10,718	+688	+6.9%

*Above estimates and projections are from the LCB Research Division and Nevada State Demographer based on March 2019 data.

Questions?