

Assembly

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE: 56TH ASSEMBLY SESSION

MINUTES OF MARCH 19, 1971

MEMBERS PRESENT: CHAIRMAN: Mary Frazzini, Frank Young, Nick Lauri,
Ross Prince.

Chairman Frazzini called the meeting to order at the hour of 8:00 a.m.

Mrs. Frazzini called the committee's attention to Mrs. Humphrey's
phone call regarding AB 564: AMENDS PROVISIONS OF ELECTION LAW.
(first reprint)Mrs. Humphrey stated that there was a conflict
on page 6 between line 11 and line 34 of Sec.
14 on the same page.On page 6, line 11, delete [petitions] and in
line 15 delete [1st Wednesday in October] add
"3rd Tuesday in September"Then Mrs. Humphrey stated on page 13, line 20 of Sec. 30
Mrs. Frazzini said this is where the emergency absent
ballot voting occurred, and the absent ballot can be voted
any time before 5 p.m. on the day of election, since we
changed the time for opening and closing of the polls
should the time be moved back to 4:00 p.m. or should it
say two hours before the polls close?Mr. Young couldn't see anything wrong with 5:00 p.m.
the committee decided to leave it this way.Mrs. Frazzini informed the committee of the new bills referred to
Election Committee:AB 736: Changes and limits terms of regents and changes
board composition.AB 737: Limits terms of members of State Board of Education
and changes board composition.AJR 35: Memorializes Congress to enact legislation to allow
certain franking privileges.At this point the committee moved to room 336 to study the redistrict-
ing maps.GUESTS: Art Palmer, Legislative Counsel Bureau, Perry Burnett
Legal Bill Drafter, Fred Duggar, and Rick Young.

March 19, 1971, con't in room 336 for review of AR 12:

Mr. Young introduced, his son Rick Young, Mr. Perry Burnett, Mr. Art Palmer, Fred Duggar, people working on the reapportionment.

Mr. Young made a statement about Dr. Hess, the authority on redistricting from Delaware.

Dr. Hess had emphasized the need to establish criteria so the we can't ask the computer to do things that has no possibility of succeeding. So this was an intent to establish those guidelines, I am sure there will be a debate, I am sure the assembly member district will be debated. It is Mr. Young's thoughts that there should be a meeting of the committee of the whole, to discuss the 18 and 36 matter, (referring to the percentage chart on the number of seats). The meeting to take place in the Assembly Chambers.

At this point the committee discussed the different percentage factors to be worked with.

Mr. Young said that it was his thinking that throughout the discussion, if this does pass the house, I would then propose to introduce an identical resolution identical in the guidelines an ACR, which the house would then pass and send out over to the Senate, it would differ from this in the sense that where this speaks of the election committee, this speaks of the Senate Government Affairs committee. The let the Senators rassel with it, they aren't going to buy as it is I'm sure.

Mr. Prince suggested that they meet with the senate at the same time and get somthing that was compatible with both houses

Mr. Young replied that was a good thought. Young suggested this be discussed with Senator Gibson, Chairman of the Government Affairs committee.

Mr. Young explained to the committee the 18-36, 20-40, if you look at a 40 seat assembly; a 40 seat assembly if 22 for Clark 10 for Washoe and 8 for the rural counties.

Remember we asked Proffessor Beesley how many ballots were involved in a county if you have 5 county commissioners 11 senators, 22 assemblymen and he came back with the answer that it would be 110 ballots. The least common mulitple. If we were to go to 41 seat assembly, which would give Clark County 23 assemblymen, the answer would not be 110 but over 1200 ballot combinations.

Mr. Prince pointed out that this would only be for one election.

Mr. Young stated that was correct.

Mr. Prince: The County Commissioners have staggered terms Senators; But the first time up everyone would be on. -2-

Mr. Young: In Clark County you would have 5 County commissioners, also 5 state school board, 5 regents, 5 hospital trustees, so I suspect there will be somebody in that district running every time. These are maximum numbers. These caused us to look at what would happen if we forced that down to 10 and to 20 and when you look at what size assembly we have, for a 20 seat assembly that turns out to be 36, so we took a hard look at a 36 seat assembly and when you do that it comes out 20 for Clark 9 for Washoe and 7 for the small counties and percentage wise 55.6 for Clark, which is 3% underrepresented, 25. % for Washoe which is 2 tenths over represented and 19.4 which if one tenth % which is real close. Where you then combine 2 assembly districts to make 1 senate you come up with 10 for Clark, again the same percentage, 4 and one-half, again the same percentage, 3 and one-half for rural counties again the same percentage, so percentage wise we are really very, very close. Then in discussing this discovery with some people we have also discovered that the state school board has asked us to re-apportion them into a 9 seat body. 18 is a multiple of 9 so it is 36, so then you can combine 2 assembly seats and make a senate seat, you now have the option or opportunity to combine 2 senate districts to make a state school board district, and this would be 5 in Clark, and you combine the 2 senate seats and you come up with the County Commissioner seat State School Board, Hospital, Regents. Then in Washoe you would be combining these two senate seats and make it 2 full members of the state school board, and would combine then this half senate with these 3 and one-half and then come up with another 2 state school boards so that in a sense Washoe has 2 and one quarter and the rural counties only three quarters of these county state boards. But in another way Washoe would have a chance of getting the 3rd regent or the third state school board. In Washoe County where there are 5 County Commissioners, In Washoe if there were 9 single seat assembly seat districts that would give you 45 ballots in Washoe. Whereas, if we were in a 40 seat arrangement, then Washoe could stay with the 10, they would have 10 assembly seats, and that would be a multiple of 5, so that the number of ballots in Washoe could be considerably simplified on a 40 seat assembly.

Mr. Prince stated that he didn't believe they would find a number that would be satisfactory for all.

Mr. Young: If we go up to 22, we go from 20 ballots to 110 in Clark.

Mr. Lauri: The number of assemblymen, the representatives on the basis of what is going to happen on the eventual election or on all elections program until the next re-apportionment.

Mr. Young: It's going to be a mess any way you look at it.

Mr. Lauri stated they reapportioned in Illinois and he was present, and it was a mess, but it was a one shot deal.

Mr. Young: Are you thinking where everyone ran state-wide?

Mr. Lauri: Yes. But I am asking whether we should predicate our knowledge.

Mr. Young: That's a very good question. I think what I am trying to say is in Clark you have 5 county commissioners 5 Hospital trustees, 5 state school board, 5 regents, let's say 11 senators and 22 assemblymen. You will have districts 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5, and I will bet you out of those 4 offices, 4 boards somebody will be running in every one of those 5 districts in every election.

So I think in Clark County there will be 110 ballots in every election. This will take in staggering terms. Mr. Young stated that conceivably build them up so as to have identical stagger. I think what that would mean though, is that every four years you would be voting in your district, for county commissioner, hospital trustee regent, and state school board and in off years, you wouldn't vote for any of these.

As you know in our state statutes if a office becomes vacant during the first two years of a four year term the person that is appointed has to run for the remainder that next election, and you can't tell me that out of those offices there aren't going to be some vacancies that aren't going to foul you up. So I think most of the time you are going to be faced with a large number of ballots.

Mr. Prince: Personally I feel that we should re-apportion the way we feel would be to the best advantage of the state and then let them solve the problems in the counties, as to how they are going to handle the election.

Mr. Young: In those places the number of ballots hasn't been determined by the number of legislative seats. It is more determined by the county commission seats. This is an unusual situation in a small populated state like this that we run into this problem.

Mr. Palmer of the legislative counsel bureau; spoke on the 18-36.

In 18-36 we did find that particularly the rural districts that could be generated if you put two rural districts together on the assembly side one senate district, when you try the other numbers it just doesn't come out. By using other numbers we haven't been able to come out with matching up the senate districts and assembly districts. There may be some desirability there, it would just be a matter of

desirability on the part of the legislature, certainly among voters. At this point Mr. Palmer explained the maps on redistricting to the committee. And explained the percentage of disparity resulting from the different multiples.

meeting adjourned at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

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