

NEVADA LEGISLATURE
ASSEMBLY

57TH SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ELECTIONS
MINUTES

DATE: Monday, April 16, 1973

ATTENDEES: Foote, Chairman
Gojack, Vice Chairman
Crawford
Ford
Huff
Smith
Vergiels

ABSENCES: None

GUESTS:	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION REPRESENTED</u>
	Carl Dodge	Senator
	Arthur J. Palmer	Legislative Counsel Bureau
	Roy Young	Assemblyman
	Bode Howard	Assemblyman
	Joe Dini	Assemblyman
	Alan Glover	Assemblyman
	Lawrence Jacobsen	Assemblyman

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Foote at 12:20 P.M. for the purpose of discussing SB 62.*

Senator Dodge: After the reapportionment two years ago, there were suits filed challenging the reapportionment in parts of Clark and Washoe counties. I understand the main interest involved was the multiple districts. The counties considered they were unconstitutional. On the part of population disparities, they found the disparities within the constitutional requirements in Washoe and Clark. They held the disparities were too great in the small counties, however. I think it was 27% or 28% in the senatorial district and in the assembly district it was 31%. After that decision came down, I started to do some moving to bring it into compliance and got it down within 14%. Subsequent to that, Art based the map as it is contained in SB 62 in both senatorial and assembly districts. On the introduction of my bill, the Supreme Court ruled in Virginia case that a 16% disparity that existed there was satisfactory as far as their State Legislature was concerned. It, in effect, said the disparity didn't have to be as

(* see Ex. I)

narrow there as in the Congress. In light of that, I was able to drop off some townships and restore county lines. So the first reprint of the amended bill shows a range of 16% disparity. What this does is in the overpopulated senatorial district it shows the senatorial and Nevada districts. The underpopulated districts are the Western senatorial district which I now represent which, according to the reapportionment of the last session, was Churchill, Lyon, Storey and 4 enumerated lines in Carson City. In narrowing the disparity we were going to have to take population from those two other districts. In this proposal, now, the senatorial is Churchill, Pershing, Lyon, and Storey and county lines restored except in Schurz township in the Western Nevada district.

We considered the proposal Mr. Dini had over here, which was primarily Churchill, Lyon and Mineral in the Western Nevada district. In that proposal, one of the reasons why that particular proposal maybe didn't get any support in the last session was because Lander and Eureka counties were knocked out of the Northern district and we had a lot of opposition, particularly around Battle Mountain. They felt they shouldn't be cut away from the railroad and Humboldt River. For that reason, the one proposed in SB 62 is a more defensive district. The testimony in the Senate indicated it had the support of the Nevada State Farm Bureau, Nevada State Cattle Association, Churchill County Farm Bureau, Pershing County Commissioners, City Council and informal support by the majority of the Grand Jury and resolution endorsement by the election district board over there. Lyon County Commissioners proposed this redistricting and favored the bill of Mr. Dini and they were in opposition to this particular proposal. I think that is generally the background information. As far as the assembly districts are concerned, I don't purport we solve the situation on that district at all. We have some thought - there were two motions to SB 62, either of which I would support. (1) Amendment to make a multiple assembly district here in Carson City and Douglas County. That amendment lost on the floor. (2) A motion was made to delete all assembly districts in the senatorial district and that amendment lost. I would support either proposal but the Senate felt we should come out with the complete bill so passed SB 62 which contains an assembly district which does make some changes, pulling Pershing out of the Northern district, 4 enumeration districts and Douglas in a single district, balance of Carson City and Storey is in another district. The situation in Central Nevada has changed very little (simply cuts out Schurz township) but population becomes almost even. Does retain Mountain City.

No one in the Committee had any questions to ask Senator Dodge.

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Assemblyman Dini: I have an amended map for the Assembly district. I heard Mineral didn't want to come in on the basis of the upstream and downstream water users. This replaces Schurz township and replaces it with Storey County. It necessitates a change in the Assembly district of Douglas and the enumeration districts of Carson City will have to be shifted around. It amends both the Senate and Assembly maps of Mr. Dodge. After Mineral County brought up serious objections, I couldn't see any way of leaving Schurz township in there.

Senator Dodge: I have no objection to it if the Legislature is satisfied with the disparity. It increases it a lot but I don't have any objection. It will wind up with no county line that will have to be broken whereas I had to break it in Schurz township.

Chairman Foote: During the last Session, we really did try to watch the county lines.

Assemblyman Dini to Mr. Palmer: We have a basic disparity as generated in the Senate map. In Washoe County, we have a higher population than any of the rest. It may be you will find on the Assembly side we do have a situation in Clark County where we have an Assembly district of almost 13,000. Of course, in this latest proposal, we also have a district in slightly excess of 13,000. You can't get your disparity much lower. You have a built-in disparity figure. We admitted to a computer error and the court made an adjustment in Clark but even after adjustment we came up with an abnormal disparity figure. Aside from all the rural districting you are looking at, you have some built-in pluses and minuses because of the districting already accepted by the courts in Washoe and Clark County.

Assemblyman Glover: I would prefer to have enumeration district 11, which would keep the disparity at the lowest number.

Mr. Palmer: That is reflected on the bottom of the map Joe Dini passed out.

Assemblyman Jacobsen to Mr. Palmer: Is there any way we can square this off a little bit? Is there a way for me to pick up the enumeration district west of 395?

Mr. Palmer: We have only one re-enumeration district and it would take you into Douglas County with a large population figure in excess of 1, 2, 11, and 12. Unfortunately, the Bureau of Census didn't give us enumeration districts easy to work with. What we did in selecting 1, 2, 11 and 12 we were going to move, we took the lowest population with the least amount of disparity.

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- Assemblyman Jacobsen: I realize especially in the Lake area that would be a much easier district to campaign instead of wandering down into this area.
- Mr. Palmer: It is possible that one enumeration district, and disregarding the others -- can answer that in about 3 minutes.
- Assemblyman Jacobsen: With the recent court decision, do you feel we have sufficient ground to leave Elko as is?
- Mr. Palmer: Elko is one of the parts that generated the concern the court had at that time. It had about 14,000 people in one Assembly district. It is pretty hard to say what the court will now accept in view of the Virginia decision. One formula is 16%. 21% is another formula. It is conceivable they will go along with what Nevada did but you are also dealing with the possibility the court will step in and do the job for you. They ordered Nevada Legislature to re-examine this. You might be gambling - you might not be - hard for anyone to say.
- Assemblyman Young: If you left Elko alone, you would have to put Brady in again?
- Mr. Palmer: It was agreed you would have to.
- Senator Dodge: A member of the court was contacted since we have been in Session and I'm told the biggest concern they have is right there. My recollection was the high disparity in Elko.
- Assemblyman Young: We had it this way two years ago and it caused so much opposition we had to back out. I suppose it will be the same this year.
- Assemblyman Ford: Looking now at the amendment that Mr. Dini brought in, I would like to ask some of the assemblymen here in the room if they agree with this.
- Assemblyman Dini: Only thing you have to resolve is Jacobsen's request in Carson City and Douglas, and in Elko if they can live with it.
- Assemblyman Ford: Using SB 62 as the vehicle and amending it, you can live with it?
- Senator Dodge: With Mr. Dini's bill, whatever you want to do is alright.
- Assemblyman Dini: Amend SB 62 is all you have to do.

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Assemblyman Howard: The problem in the last Session was the large majority in the rural areas were chopped off with no acquisition. They had to go down into Idaho and back in here.

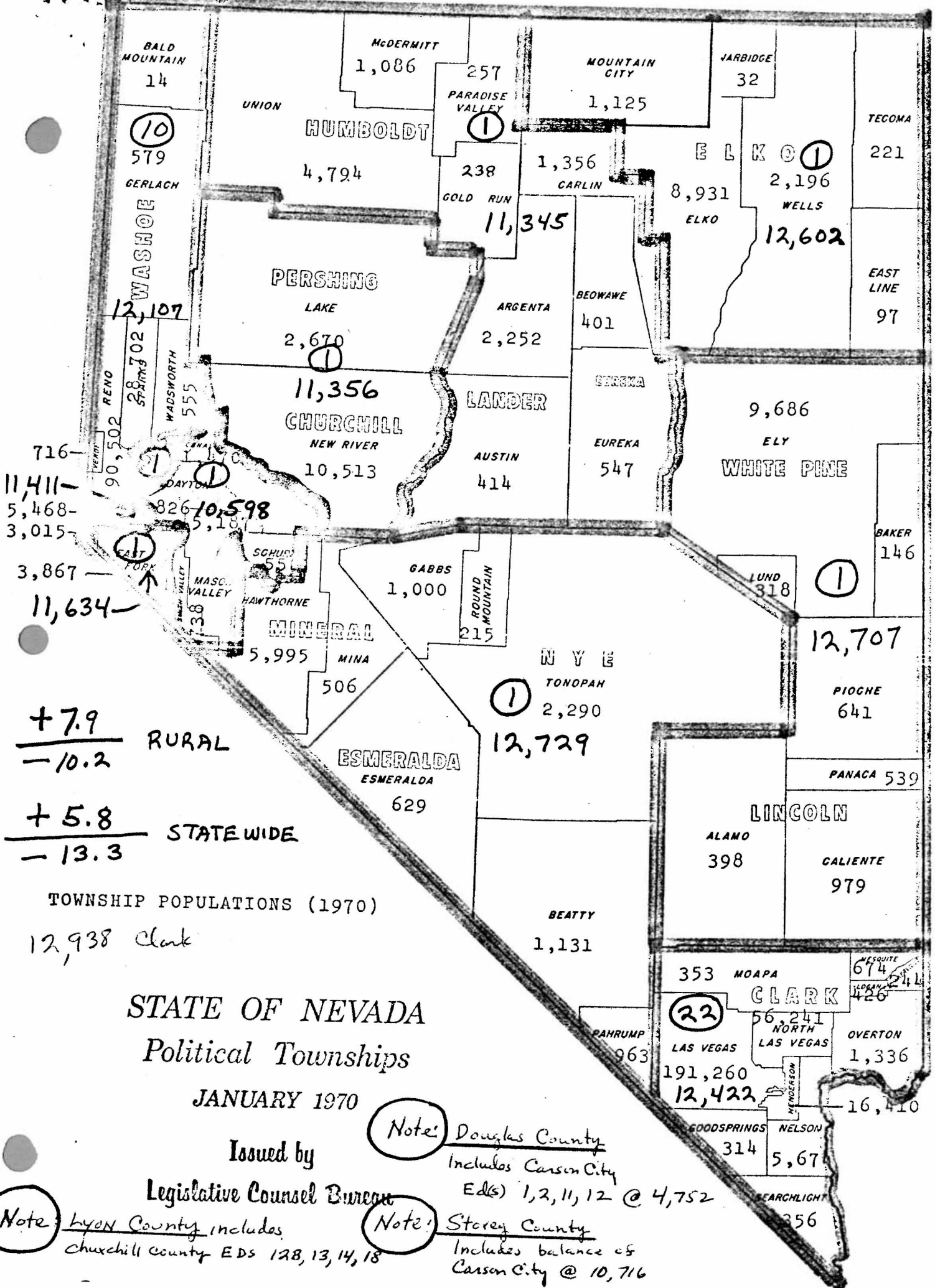
Chairman Foote: If there is no further discussion or information, we will adjourn the meeting until Jake and Alan can straighten out their district. It seems we will probably go with the amendment on this bill.

Assemblyman Vergiels moved to Do Pass and Amend. It was seconded by Assemblyman Ford. Unanimous approval of the Committee.

Chairman Foote stated she would entertain a move for adjournment. Assemblyman Vergiels moved for adjournment. Move was seconded by Assemblyman Huff. Meeting was adjourned at 12:59 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Marion Smith
Assembly Attache





716
 11,411
 5,468
 3,015
 90,502
 28,702
 555
 12,107
 12,107
 11,634
 3,867
 +7.9
 -10.2
 +5.8
 -13.3

RURAL
 STATEWIDE

STATE OF NEVADA
Political Townships
JANUARY 1970

Issued by

Legislative Council Bureau

Note: Lyon County includes Churchill County EDS 128, 13, 14, 18

Note: Douglas County Includes Carson City EDS 1, 2, 11, 12 @ 4,752

Note: Storey County Includes balance of Carson City @ 10,716