

**CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**MEMBERS PRESENT**

**October 21, 2021**  
**OTHERS PRESENT**

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David J. Owen, Chairman  
Jeremiah Jefferies, Vice Chairman  
William E. Carter  
John D. Dickerson (Joined Remotely)  
Rick McVey  
Steve Oestreicher  
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Bryan Miller, County Manager  
Carla R. Smith, Clerk to the Board

The Board of Commissioners for the County of Caswell, North Carolina, met in regular session on Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 5:30 pm at the Gunn Memorial Library.

**WELCOME:**

Chairman Owen called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the special meeting on redistricting in Caswell County. Then the meeting was turned over to the County Manager.

**CASWELL COUNTY REDISTRICTING:**

County Manager Miller shared his screen showing the proposed redistricting map. Then he shared the existing district map. The Board was given a handout of the numbers, which are in line with the proposed districts version 2 somewhat like they were in the first version. The numbers are within the 5% deviation. Then the County manager moved from the existing districts to the proposed districts by PTRC. We held a special meeting, and the Board gave several directions on how they would like to go. At the next Board of Commissioners meeting, Bryan Miller informed the Board that because of some of the shifts in population throughout the county we were experiencing some difficulties in making the districts conform to the priorities of the Board. Without further ado, County Manager Miller shared the currently proposed districts based on the changes the Board requested. This map can be seen on page 3 of the handouts Bryan Miller gave the Board at the start of the meeting. The two minority majority districts are districts 3 and 4 that are yellow and blue. District 3 has 4,500 residents and the minority population is 2,302 or 51.11%. In District 4, you have 4,506 residents and 2,264 underserved population bringing you to 50.24% minority. The other directive was to make sure each Commissioner was placed in a district. So, if you look at the proposed districts each has a current Commissioner in it. District 1 has Chairman David Owen, District 2 is Commissioner Carter, District 3 is Commissioner Jefferies, District 4 is Commissioner Hall and District 5 is Commissioner Oestreicher. District 1 is green, District 2 is pink, District 3 is yellow, District 4 is blue, and District 5 is orange. Then the County Manager asked if the Board had any questions or if the Commissioners see any abnormalities. Mr. Miller then zoomed in for a closer picture of

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what Yanceyville might look like. The County Manager zoomed in to show roads such as Highway 150 in the county. Commissioner Carter asked if District 4 would have more people? The County Manager said District 4 has 4,506 people. District 1 has 4,493 people, which is the least populated one and District 5 is the most populated district. Then Commissioner Jefferies asked about Highway 86, which is in District 3 until about Nicks Road. Highway 86 at that point becomes District 5. Then the Commissioners discussed changes in the districts and locations that may be in a different district. After some discussion, the County Manager said when he put together the maps, keeping every Commissioner in a district was very difficult. You can see some very narrow portions that really only connect by maybe one census tract. If that census tract goes one way or the other, it can become another district and residents will be cut off at that point. When dealing with the minority majority districts, you can see we're already just over 50% and 51%. When using the tools and moving around in a minority majority district, you can see the total population in that census tract and the minority population in that census tract also. Making even slight changes at this point will affect the minority majority standing of a district. Then the County Manager asked if there was anything the Board would like to see in more detail. Commissioner Carter said the proposed districts look tighter than his existing district, which looks like a snake running down this way and the other. Chairman Owen asked if the County Manager received any of the information from PTRC. Mr. Miller said PTRC got back to him yesterday and updated the map with what we had been working on. They also made some corrections. When Mr. Miller presented them with the data he had, it was completely accurate, but the tools he had to work with did not work from the Historic Courthouse. The County Manager found out today that it was because of a firewall issue. The County Manager ended up going to CoSquare and all the tools worked perfectly as they should there. So, we believe it was a firewall issue at the courthouse that prevented the tools from working properly. PTRC sent Mr. Miller a version back that did not have overlapping census tracts and made some additional corrections to it. When they did that, the districts were still somewhat out of balance. They were at 7% and 8% difference in population. So, Mr. Miller went back in and made some additional changes to get them within the 5% population variant that we needed. Commissioner Carter asked if PTRC had approved the maps, and the County Manager said they would not be approved by them. The Board of Commissioners will approve the electoral districts for the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education will approve their electoral districts. PTRC is helping the Board of Education redraw their electoral districts also. Chairman Owen said this map will satisfy the requirements we have to follow. The County Manager said there are a few guidelines you have to follow. The districts need to be congruent, meaning they all touch. You can't have one small little section that is not connected in any other way to your districts. The populations should be within 5%, if possible, with all the other districts. Right now, the County Manager thinks we are about 4% difference between the most populated district and the least populated district. Ideally you would like to see the districts a little more compact than what they are here, but with the requirement that we place every Commissioner in a district it was not

possible. If you go back and look at District 2 in the first proposal that PTRC gave us, there's not a current sitting Commissioner in District 2. District 2 is one of the most heavily populated districts that we have in this Southwest corner. The population density created some issues too when trying to reformulate districts. That is one of the reasons that PTRC put a district there without a sitting commissioner. It is simply because it is so heavily populated.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if Commissioner Hall had seen the proposed district map, and the County Manager said no. Commissioner Oestreicher said Mr. Hall's district changed the least from the initial proposal. Commissioner Hall was not online. The County Manager said he can certainly go over the data and maps with Commissioner Hall before the public hearing that we're proposing. The proposed Public Hearing will be November 1<sup>st</sup>, and that will be a morning public hearing. The problem is we're required to have all the data into the Board of Elections by the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, but there is a lot of work on the backend after the board approves it that has to be done. There is a lot of work that we will have to do as staff and a tremendous amount of work that the Board of Elections staff will have to do in re-entering addresses and things like that. This is a drastic change from what we saw before.

Commissioner Carter asked when this will go into effect. County Manager Miller said it will go into effect for the upcoming Commissioners election. Commissioner Carter said the filing period is December, and County Manager Miller said the filing period is exactly the reason that we have to have this into the Board of Elections to allow them time to draw or input the data and other computer systems before the filing period starts. The filing period is either December 2<sup>nd</sup> or the 4<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Oestreicher asked about the discussion around the filing period and if it would be that soon. Mr. Oestreicher thought they were going to push it into January. The County Manager said he was not sure. Chairman Owen said he heard rumors that it could be pushed, but he is not seeing any more chatter or hearing anything else about that.

Chairman Owen asked if anyone had any real hard issues with what we're seeing. He reminded them that no matter what we do, we have to stay within those limits and we're never going to get it perfect for everybody. It's just impossible with the population spread that we have. Chairman Owen said if there are no really major issues, the County Manager needs to meet with Commissioner Hall and Commissioner Dickerson to share the proposed districts. Then we can plan to have the public hearing at the November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. That is assuming Commissioner Hall has no major issues. Commissioner Oestreicher asked if we want to have a discussion on November 1<sup>st</sup> or have another special meeting if Commissioner Hall has an issue.

County Manager Miller said Commissioner Dickerson just sent a message to the chat saying he was online. Commissioner Dickerson asked by the way this is drawn I am now in the same district as Chairman Owen. County Manager Miller said yes, your residence will fall in

Commissioner Owen's district. Then Commissioner Dickerson asked what district Shady Grove Road is in. Chairman Owen said if you are going toward Pelham, the right side will be in District 2 Commissioner Carter's district and the left side remains in Chairman Owen's district. The County Manager said it was a lot of changes. Commissioner Carter asked about the Pelham Fire Department, and Chairman Owen said it will be in District 2.

Commissioner Oestreicher asked if the map could be sent to the Commissioners. County Manager Miller said he could share the map with the Commissioners on Monday. The map would have to be shared in an emailable format by PTRC.

The Commissioners discussed which district the Providence Fire Department will be in, and that will be Commissioner Owen's district.

Chairman Owen asked if there was anything else that needs be addressed regarding the maps. Chairman Owen said the County Manager will meet with Commissioner Hall as soon as he can. Unless something changes or depending on the outcome of that meeting, we may need to have another meeting. If not, we will have our public hearing on the first meeting in November. The County Manager said if that is okay, we will go ahead and advertise for the Public Hearing on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A **motion** was made at 6:11 pm by Commissioner McVey and seconded by Commissioner Carter and **carried unanimously** to adjourn the meeting. (Commissioners Carter, Jefferies, McVey, Oestreicher and Owen voted for the motion)

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Carla R. Smith  
Clerk to the Board

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David J. Owen  
Chairman

Attachments:

<b>Proposed District</b>	<b>2020 Total Population</b>	<b>2020 Minority Population</b>	<b>Percent Minority</b>
1	4,516	1,228	27.19%
2	4,514	1,296	28.71%
3	4,514	2,371	52.53%
4	4,546	2,350	51.69%
5	4,646	1,455	31.32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,736</b>	<b>8,700</b>	<b>38.27%</b>

<b>Existing District</b>	<b>2010 Total Population</b>	<b>2010 Minority Population</b>	<b>Percent Minority</b>
1	4,537	1,119	24.66%
2	4,837	1,385	28.63%
3	4,973	2,763	55.56%
4	4,697	2,650	56.42%
5	4,675	1,289	27.57%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,719</b>	<b>9,206</b>	<b>38.81%</b>

2020 Est Pc Change (201 Percent Change

4167	(370)	-8.2%
4697	(140)	-2.9%
4858	(115)	-2.3%
4316	(381)	-8.1%
4680	5	0.1%

\*2020 Blocks do not align exactly with 2010 blocks, so the sum of this column does not equal 22,736

<b>Difference in largest and smallest district</b>	<b>691</b>
	<b>16.6%</b>
	<b>14.2%</b>