

2011-2012 Senate Reapportionment and Redistricting
Committee Roster – Special Session

Senator Mitch Seabaugh, **Chairman**

District 28
P.O. Box 504
Sharpsburg, GA 30277
404-656-6446
421-D State Capitol

Senator Ed Harbison
District 15
P.O. Box 1292
Columbus, GA 31902
404-656-0074
432 State Capitol

Senator Bill Cowsert, **Vice Chairman**

District 46
P.O. Box 512
Athens, GA 30603
404-463-1383
421-B State Capitol

Senator Steve Henson
District 41
2643 Sterling Acres Drive
Tucker, GA 30084
404-656-0085
121-B State Capitol

Senator Charlie Bethel, **Secretary**

District 54
1701 Briarcliff Circle
Dalton, GA 30720
706-529-0092
324-A C.L.O.B.

Senator Judson Hill, Ex-Officio
District 32
3102 Raines Court
Marietta, GA 30062
404-656-0150
121-C State Capitol

Senator Don Balfour
District 9
2312 Waterscape Trail
Snellville, GA 30078
404-656-0095
453 State Capitol

Senator Bill Jackson
District 24
P.O. Box 528
Appling, GA 30802
404-651-7738
109 State Capitol

Senator Ronnie Chance
District 16
130 Regal Oak
Tyrone, GA 3029
404-651-7738
109 State Capitol

Senator Chip Rogers
District 21
P.O. Box 813
Woodstock, GA 30188
404-463-1378
236 State Capitol

Senator Vincent Fort
District 39
P.O. Box 42967
Atlanta, GA 30311
404-656-5091
121-J State Capitol

Senator David Shafer
District 48
P.O. Box 880
Duluth, GA 30096
404-656-0048
421-F State Capitol

Senator Cecil Staton
District 18
P.O. Box 26427
Macon, GA 31221
404-656-5039
421-A State Capitol

Senator Horacena Tate
District 38
201 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd., N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30314
404-463-8053
110-C State Capitol

Senator Ross Tolleson
District 20
P.O. Box 1356
Perry, GA 31069
404-656-0081
121-D State Capitol

Senator Tommie Williams
District 19
148 Williams Avenue
Lyons, GA 30436
404-656-0089
321 State Capitol

SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT & REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, July 20, 2011 – 450 State Capitol

SENATORS PRESENT:

Seabaugh, 28th, Chairman
Cowsert, 46th, Vice Chairman
Bethel, 54th, Secretary
Chance, 16th
Fort, 39th
Henson, 41st
Hill, 32nd

Jackson, 24th
Rogers, 21st
Staton, 18th
Tate, 38th
Tolleson, 20th
Williams, 19th

Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m.

Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, welcomed Senator Tate, 38th, as the new member of the Senate Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee.

William Perry, Common Cause Georgia, and Jerry Gonzalez, GALEO, testified before the committee.

Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, at 2:19 p.m., announced a 15 minute recess in order for House members to recess their House Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee meeting to be able to testify before the Senate committee members.

The meeting reconvened at 2:30 p.m.

There was a lot of discussion on the guidelines which were distributed to the committee members 24 hours before the meeting.

Senator Henson, 41st, made a motion to amend the guidelines. Senator Fort, 39th, seconded the motion. The motion was a roll call vote and failed 8-3.

Senator Bethel, 54th, made a motion DO PASS the guidelines. Senator Cowsert, 46th, seconded the motion. The vote was a roll call vote and the guidelines passed 8/3.

There being no further business taken, Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, adjourned the meeting at 4:40 p.m.

/s/ Senator Charlie Bethel, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Judy LaClair, Recording Secretary

2011-2012 GUIDELINES FOR THE SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT AND REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE (“COMMITTEE”)

I. HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

A. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. A series of public hearings were held to actively seek public participation and input concerning the General Assembly’s redrawing of congressional and legislative districts.
2. Video recordings of all hearings are and shall remain available on the legislative website, www.legis.ga.gov.

B. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

1. All formal meetings of the full committee will be open to the public.
2. When the General Assembly is not in session, notices of all such meetings will be posted at the Offices of the Clerk of the House or Secretary of the Senate and other appropriate places at least 24 hours in advance of any meeting. Individual notices may be transmitted by email to any citizen or organization requesting the same without charge. Persons or organizations needing this information should contact the Senate Press Office or House Communications Office or the Secretary of the Senate or Clerk of the House to be placed on the notification list.
3. Minutes of all such meetings shall be kept and maintained in accordance with the rules of the House and Senate. Copies of the minutes should be made available in a timely manner at a reasonable cost in accordance with these same rules.

II. PUBLIC ACCESS TO REDISTRICTING DATA AND MATERIALS

A. Census information databases on any medium created at public expense and held by the Committee or by the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office for use in the redistricting process are included as public records and copies can be made available to the public in accordance with the rules of the General Assembly and subject to reasonable charges for search, retrieval, reproduction and other reasonable, related costs.

B. Copies of the public records described above may be obtained at the cost of reproduction by members of the public on computer disk or other electronic media if the material exists on an appropriate electronic medium. Cost of reproduction may include not only the medium on which the copies are made, but also the labor cost for the search, retrieval, and reproduction of the records and other reasonable, related costs.

C. These guidelines regarding public access to redistricting data and materials do not apply to plans or other related materials prepared by or on behalf of an individual member of the General Assembly using the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office, where those plans and materials have not been made public through presentation to the Committee.

III. REDISTRICTING PLANS

A. GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR DRAFTING PLANS

1. Each congressional district should be drawn with a total population of plus or minus one person from the ideal district size.

2. Each legislative district of the General Assembly should be drawn to achieve a total population that is substantially equal as practicable, considering the principles listed below.
3. All plans adopted by the Committee will comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended.
4. All plans adopted by the Committee will comply with the United States and Georgia Constitutions.
5. Districts shall be composed of contiguous geography. Districts that connect on a single point are not contiguous.
6. No multi-member districts shall be drawn on any legislative redistricting plan.
7. The Committee should consider:
 - a. The boundaries of counties and precincts;
 - b. Compactness; and
 - c. Communities of interest.
8. Efforts should be made to avoid the unnecessary pairing of incumbents.
9. The identifying of these criteria is not intended to limit the consideration of any other principles or factors that the Committee deems appropriate.

B. PLANS PRODUCED THROUGH THE LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REAPPORTIONMENT OFFICE

1. Staff of the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office will be available to all members of the General Assembly requesting assistance in accordance with the policy of that office.
2. Census data and redistricting work maps will be available to all members of the General Assembly upon request, provided that (a) the map was created by the requesting member, (b) the map is publicly available, or (c) the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office has been granted permission by the author of the map to share a copy with the requesting member.
3. As noted above, redistricting plans and other records related to the provision of staff services to individual members of the General Assembly will not be subject to public disclosure. Only the author of a particular map may waive the confidentiality of his or her own work product. This confidentiality provision will not apply with respect to records related to the provision of staff services to any committee or subcommittee as a whole or to any records which are or have been previously disclosed by or pursuant to the direction of an individual member of the General Assembly.

C. PLANS PRODUCED OUTSIDE OF THE LEGISLATIVE AND CONGRESSIONAL REAPPORTIONMENT OFFICE

1. All plans submitted to the Committee will be made part of the public record and made available in the same manner as other committee public records.
2. All plans prepared outside the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office must be submitted to that office prior to presentation to the Committee by a Member of the General Assembly for technical verification and presentation and bill preparation. All pieces of census geography must be accounted for in some district.

3. The electronic submission of material for technical verification must be made in accordance with the following requirements or in a manner specifically approved and accepted by the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office.

a. A DOS-formatted computer disk, compact disk, or USB jump drive that is labeled with name, address, submitting sponsor, telephone number and e-mail address if available.

b. A label shall be affixed to each disk and the information included on the outside label should also be included on a documentation file on the disk.

c. Data shall be comma delimited, fixed length ASCII text format or .DBF format. If ASCII text, there shall be a line feed or carriage return control after each record.

d. This block equivalency file shall contain Block ID (15 digits) and District ID (3 digits). Both block and district numbers should be zero filled. The following is a sample:

BlockID, DISTRICT

"13001950100101","008"

"13001950100102","008"

"13001950100103","008"

"13001950100104","008"

"13001950100105","008"

"13001950100106","008"

4. If submission of the plan cannot be done electronically, the following requirements must be followed:

a. All drafts, amendments, or revisions should be on clearly-depicted maps that follow the 2010 Census geographic boundaries and should be accompanied by a statistical sheet listing the Census geography including the total population for each district.

b. All plans submitted should either be a complete statewide plan or fit back into the plan that they modified, so that the proposal can be evaluated in the context of a statewide plan. All pieces of Census geography must be accounted for in some district.

D. GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATION OF ALL PLANS

1. A redistricting plan may be presented for consideration by the Committee only through the sponsorship of one or more Member(s) of the General Assembly. All such drafts of and amendments or revisions to plans presented at any committee meeting must be on clearly-depicted maps which follow the 2010 Census geographic boundaries and accompanied by a statistical sheet listing the census geography, including the total population and minority population for each proposed district.

2. No plan may be presented to the Committee unless that plan makes accommodations for and fits back into a specific, identified statewide map for the particular legislative body involved.

3. All plans presented at committee meetings will be made available for inspection by the public either electronically or by hard copy available at the Office of Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment.

E. THESE GUIDELINES MAY BE RECONSIDERED OR AMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE

Senator Tommie Williams
District 19
321 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Committees:
Appropriations
Education and Youth
Health and Human Services
Reapportionment and Redistricting
Rules

The State Senate
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

July 20th, 2011

Secretary Bob Ewing
State Senate
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Bob:

In accordance with Senate Rules, the Committee on Assignments has appointed Senator Horacena Tate to serve on the Senate Reapportionment Committee. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Tommie Williams
Senate President Pro Tempore

SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT & REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, August 16, 2011 – 450 State Capitol

SENATORS PRESENT:

Seabaugh, 28 th , Chairman	Hill, 32 nd
Cowsert, 46 th , Vice Chairman	Jackson, 24 th
Bethel, 54 th , Secretary	Rogers, 21 st
Balfour, 9 th	Shafer, 48 th
Chance, 16 th	Staton, 18 th
Fort, 39 th	Tate, 38 th
Henson, 41 st	Tolleson, 29 th
	Williams, 19 th

Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

SB 1 EX (Seabaugh, 28th) Georgia Senate Reapportionment Act of 2011

SB 1 EX substitute was presented to the committee.

The following people testified before the committee:

Ed Patel, N.W. Georgia for N.W. Georgians; Sharon Blackwood, Gwinnett County; Al Bartel, citizen; Debra Jones Bazemore Home Owner's Association President; William Perry, Common Cause; Minister Steve Muhammad; Senator Donzella James, 35th; Senator Gail Davenport, 44th; Representative Alisha Morgan, 39th; Jonny Brown, Rockdale Republican Party; Jim Davis, and Ron Davis.

There was a lot of discussion.

Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, called for a vote. Senator Cowsert, 46th, made a motion DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE. Senator Bethel, 54th, seconded the motion. The motion passed 11/3. Senator Fort, 39th; Senator Henson, 41st; and Senator Tate, 38th; voted no.

SB 1 EX DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE (LC 28 5802S).

There being no further business taken, Senator Seabaugh, 28th, adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

/s/ Senator Charlie Bethel, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Judy LaClair, Recording Secretary

SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT & REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, August 22, 2011 – 450 State Capitol

SENATORS PRESENT:

Seabaugh, 28 th , Chairman	Rogers, 21 st
Cowsert, 46 th , Vice Chairman	Shafer, 48 th
Bethel, 54 th , Secretary	Staton, 18 th
Balfour, 9 th ,	Tate, 38 th
Chance, 16 th	Tolleson, 20 th
Fort, 39 th	Williams, 19 th
Henson, 41 st	

Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

HB 1 EX (Lane, 167th) Georgia House of Representatives Reapportionment Act of 2011; enact

HB 1 EX was presented to the committee.

The following people testified before the committee:

Kelly Farr, Secretary of State's Office; Newton Bates, citizen; Jimmy Carter, citizen; Representative Jason Spencer, 180th, Representative Mark Hatfield, 177th, and Al Bartell, citizen.

There was some discussion.

Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, called for a vote. Senator Cowsert, 46th, made a motion DO PASS. Senator Bethel, 54th, seconded the motion. The motion passed 9/3. Senator Fort, 39th; Senator Henson, 41st; and Senator Tate, 38th, voted no.

HB 1 EX DO PASS (LC 28 5814S). Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, will sponsor the bill in the Senate.

There being no further business taken, Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, adjourned the meeting at 11:32 a.m.

/s/ Senator Charlie Bethel, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Judy LaClair, Recording Secretary

SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT & REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, August 30, 2011 – 450 State Capitol

SENATORS PRESENT:

Seabaugh, 28th, Chairman
Cowsert, 46th, Vice Chairman
Bethel, 54th, Secretary
Balfour, 9th
Chance, 16th
Fort, 39th
Henson, 41st
Hill, 32nd

Jackson, 24th
Rogers, 21st
Staton, 18th
Tate, 38th
Tolleson, 20th
Williams, 19th

Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

This being the last meeting, Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, thanked his staff and the Reapportionment staff.

The following people testified before the committee regarding the map:

Ed Painter, Congress; Eric Charles, 4th District, Henry County School Board; Marilyn Flynn, Henry County; Georgia McCallin, Gilmer County; Senator Gooch, 51st; Senator Jones, 10th; Bruce Holmes, Henry County; Reverent E.W. Lee, Henry County; Senator Davenport, 44th; Representative Howard Mosby, 90th; and William Perry, Common Cause.

HB 44 EX (Davis, 109th) Henry County; Board of Commissioners; change districts

HB 44 EX was presented to the committee.

Senator Steve Henson, 41st, made a motion to table the bill; Senator Fort, 39th, seconded the motion. The motion failed 3/9 by roll call vote.

There was some discussion.

Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, called for a vote. Senator Cowsert, 46th, made a motion DO PASS. Senator Bethel, 54th, seconded the motion. The motion passed 8/3 by roll call vote. Senator Fort, 39th; Senator Henson, 41st; and Senate Tate, 38th, voted no. Senator Jackson, 24th, was not present for the vote.

HB 44 EX DO PASS (LC 21 1358). Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, will sponsor HB 44 EX in the Senate.

HB 45 EX (Davis, 109th) Henry County; Board of Education; change districts

HB 45 EX was presented to the committee.

There was some discussion.

Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, called for a vote.

Senator Cowsert, 46th, made a motion DO PASS. Senator Bethel, 54th, seconded the motion.

The motion passed 8/4. Senator Fort, 39th, Senator Henson, 41st, Senator Tate, 38th, and Senator Jackson, 24th, voted no.

Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, will sponsor HB 45 EX in the Senate.

HB 45 EX DO PASS (LC 21 1357). Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, will sponsor HB 45 EX in the Senate

HB 20 EX (Lane, 167th) Georgia Congressional Reapportionment Act of 2011; enact

HB 20 EX was presented to the committee.

Senator Henson, 41st, presented a substitute (LC 28 58531S) to HB 20 EX and made a motion DO PASS. Senator Tate, 38th, seconded the motion. The motion failed 3/9. Senator Balfour, 9th, was not present for the vote.

Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, called for a vote. Senator Cowsert, 46th, made a motion DO PASS. Senator Bethel, 54th, seconded the motion. The motion passed 8/3. Senator Fort, 39th, Senator Henson, 41st, and Senator Tate, 38th, voted no. Senator Rogers, 21st and Senator Staton, 18th, were not present for the vote.

HB 20 EX DO PASS (LC 28 5825S). Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, will sponsor HB 20 EX in the Senate.

There being no further business taken, Chairman Seabaugh, 28th, adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

/s/ Senator Charlie Bethel, 54th, Secretary

/s/ Judy LaClair, Recording Secretary

December 29, 2011

Mr. Bob Ewing
Secretary of Senate
State of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Senate Reapportionment & Redistricting Committee respectfully submits the following bills left in committee during the 2011 Special Session of the General Assembly.

[SB 2 EX](#) [SB 3 EX](#)
[SB 9 EX](#) [SB 10 EX](#)

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Judy LaClair, Recording Secretary