

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

From the Desk of Commissioner Doug Underhill, District 2

Yesterday's meeting to discuss redistricting was simple, concise and professional. Supervisor of Elections David Stafford demonstrated the professional conduct for which his office is well known, delivering the facts without emotion or bias. Each in our turn discussed our actions to date and expressed our thoughts on which precincts may logically be affected by the moves to balance the districts. Almost all the Commissioners indicated that we can easily and transparently complete the redistricting process without drama or politics. Unfortunately, Commissioner Bergosh attempted to derail an otherwise professional conversation with the absurd proposal that Beulah and Perdido should be in the same Commission district. With his trademark lack of discipline, Commissioner Bergosh interrupted the discussion when the floor was not his, attempting to push an idea that has no merit beyond his personal political vendettas. To the great credit of the other Commissioners, not one of them indicated any support for the idea.

The greater Perdido area and the Greater Beulah area are distinct social centers in our community. The equities of these two areas are distinct and the citizens of both Beulah and Perdido deserve proper representation. I will continue to press for a logical, apolitical redistricting that is right for Beulah, Perdido, and every other neighborhood in Escambia County. For District 2, that means bringing in the communities of Perdido Bay Country Club, Paradise Beach, Crown Point, and Woodbridge Manor. I invite every citizen to actively participate in the redistricting process and stand up against politically motivated proposals such as the one presented today by Commissioner Bergosh.