

Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
State Capitol Complex, Suite E210
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2210
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Utah Population Estimates Committee

Minutes

Monday, November 14, 2006

2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

Committee Members

Present:

Robert Spendlove	Chair
Scott Festin	Wasatch Front Regional Council
Mark Knold	Utah Dept. of Workforce Services
Randy Raphael	Utah State Office of Education
Pam Perlich	University of Utah
Blake Smith	Questar Gas
Mike Toney	Utah State University
Tom Williams	Utah Tax Commission
Walt Busse	LDS Church
Ken Sizemore	Five County Association of Governments
Shawn Eliot	Mountainland Association of Governments
Brian Carver	Bear River Association of Governments
Barry Nangle	DOH, Vital Records

Staff:

Peter Donner	GOPB
Douglas DeVore	GOPB
Effie Johnson	GOPB
David Stringfellow	GOPB

Guests

Carrie Mayne	DWS
Alene Bentley	Pacificorp

Absent:

Farah Thompson	Utah State Board of Regents
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Call to Order—Robert Spendlove, Committee Chair

I. Approval of November 14, 2005 Minutes

Shawn Eliot made a motion to approve the minutes and Blake Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Welcome and Introductions—Robert Spendlove

Robert welcomed everyone and had the Committee members and the GOPB staff introduce themselves. New committee members were introduced: Randy Raphael from the Utah State Office of Education and Brian Carver from the Bear River Association of Governments.

III. Discussion of Estimates Methodology—Effie Johnson, David Stringfellow, Robert Spendlove, Peter Donner.

Effie Johnson reviewed the seven special city estimates produced by UPEC since the previous meeting. The special estimates were produced because estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau were unavailable due to incorporations or significant annexations. The Committee had previously voted and accepted the

estimates. Effie also reviewed the challenges made by cities in Utah to the 2005 round of estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. For the 2005 round nine cities (six in Utah County) challenged the Census Bureau's estimates and have been accepted.

Robert Spendlove and Peter Donner informed the Committee of a possible State of Utah challenge of the Census Bureau's state estimate. Robert explained the dual nature of the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, the first is to staff UPEC and the second is as a liaison to the Census Bureau. The Utah estimate from UPEC and the Utah estimate from the Census Bureau continue to diverge. For the 2005 estimates there was approximately a 75,000 person difference. The challenge process is in the preliminary stage. Peter explained that the challenge may result in a formal administrative hearing with the Census Bureau. He also explained that in order for UPEC's methodology to be defensible the Committee must be technical in choosing outliers in the estimates process. The formal challenge must be made by the highest elected official, in this case the Governor. Utah would be the first state to challenge the Census Bureau's estimates.

Doug DeVore explained the Census Bureau is gearing up for the 2010 Census. He explained the importance of local governments participating in the Local Update of Census Addresses program (LUCA) in ensuring the 2010 count is as accurate as possible.

David Stringfellow discussed outliers. In the handout provided an outlier is defined as "an observation that lies outside the overall pattern of a distribution," and "a convenient definition of an outlier is a point which falls 1.5 times away from the interquartile range." David explained and provided examples of how to determine an outlier using the Q statistic.

Peter Donner continued the discussion with an overview of the population estimates (pe) file. He started by showing the birth chart and highlighted the Baby Boom peak in 1962 and the Echo Boom peak in 1982. In 2005 the number of births failed to pass the births in 2004 and a peak was expected, however births in 2006 set a new record by 2,000 births.

IV. 2006 State and County Estimates

- A. Tooele, Wayne, and Duchesne Counties** – The IRS method was determined to be an outlier using the Q statistic and was not used. The School, LDS, and Housing methods were used to determine the estimates.
- B. Wasatch and Daggett Counties** – The LDS method was determined to be an outlier using the Q statistic and was not used. The School, IRS, and Housing methods were used to determine the estimates.
- C. Carbon, San Juan, Sanpete, Morgan, and Rich Counties** – The School method was determined to be an outlier using the Q statistic and was not used. The LDS, IRS, and Housing methods were used to determine the estimates.
- D. Box Elder, Emery, and Kane Counties** – The Housing method was determined to be an outlier using the Q statistic and was not used. The LDS, IRS, and School methods were used to determine the estimates.
- E. Uintah County** – The School Method was determined to be an outlier using the Q statistic. After discussion about a possible lag in housing units due to the economic activity in the area, Pam Perlich made a motion to keep the school method and use the simple average, Mark Knold seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The simple average was used to determine the estimates.

F. **Beaver County** – The LDS method was determined to be an outlier using the Q statistic. After discussion about the high percentage of LDS membership in the county, Ken Sizemore made a motion to keep the LDS method and use the simple average, Mark Knold seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The simple average was used to determine the estimate.

A simple average was used in determining the estimates for the remaining counties. Walt Busse made a motion to accept all the county population estimates produced in the meeting as the official estimates of the Utah Population Estimates Committee. Ken Sizemore seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mike Toney moved to adjourn the meeting, Blake Smith seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned.