

Diane Schenker

As a resident of the Stuckagain Heights/Basher community for over 25 years, and a lifetime Anchorage resident, I strongly oppose any plan to group our neighborhood with Eagle River, such as redistricting proposal 7. I support proposed redistricting maps 6 or 11, which keep us with adjacent neighborhoods that I visit, shop in, travel through, walk through, and regularly visit. I have not set foot in Eagle River for years, and have no reason to visit it. I will not be fairly represented by any person who is trying to address the needs of Eagle River, since I never go there, and I have no knowledge of or interest in the issues unique to that area. Likewise, my distant neighborhood would get short shrift from someone concerned with the majority of his/her constituents, Eagle River residents, who have no knowledge of or concern for my neighborhood or the areas physically around it. Residents of nearby neighborhoods do come to Stuckagain Heights to hike our trails or just enjoy a sightseeing drive, and therefore care about our road, crime, littering, vandalism, trailheads, wildlife, and other issues affecting all of us who spend time in the area. I doubt that most Eagle River residents even know where we are located, while residents of adjacent neighborhoods like Muldoon and Scenic Park, or anywhere else in East Anchorage are at least familiar with our location. Likewise, I am directly affected by what happens in East Anchorage neighborhoods adjacent to my neighborhood. I visit them daily or at least weekly to shop; I care about the same roads/traffic/transportation issues they do, and we share interest in issues such as location of homeless services in the area, parks improvements, zoning, housing projects, businesses where I shop regularly, and of course, crime. Look at an aerial map of Eagle River's huge, significant physical separation from Stuckagain Heights and tell me that grouping us with Eagle River isn't the very definition of gerrymandering, a blatant effort to rob us of fair representation on our Assembly.