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## Bay County Board of Commissioner districts reduced from nine to seven

Published: Monday, May 23, 2011, 10:45 AM Updated: Monday, May 23, 2011, 12:09 PM

By **Shannon Murphy | The Bay City Times**

BAY COUNTY — The Bay County Apportionment Commission today approved a plan that reduces the number of county Board of Commissioner district from nine to seven.

Apportionment Commission members had five plans to choose from — which were submitted last week from some of the members — and voted on four plans, choosing one submitted by Democratic Chairman Tony Pawelski.

Check out the new plan here: **[RedistrictingPlan02.pdf](#)**

The plan was approved by a vote of 3-2, with Bay County Clerk Cynthia Luczak, Republican Party Chairman Aaron Baylis and Pawelski voting for it. Bay County Treasurer Rick Brzezinski and Prosecutor Kurt Asbury voted against the plan.

Pawelski's plan redistricts so that several incumbent Bay County Commissioners will have to run against each other next year.

Some of the changes include:

- Part of the 2nd District, currently held by Brandon Krause, will become the 1st District, pitting Krause against 1st District incumbent Michael Duranczyk.
- Parts of the 9th District, held by Don Tilley, and parts of the 7th District, held by Tom Ryder, will become the new 6th District. Those two incumbents would have to run against each other.
- The 4th District, held by Joe Davis, would take on parts of the current 6th District, held by Kim Coonan, pitting those two incumbents against each other.
- The redistricting would leave parts of Hampton and Merritt townships as an open commission seat, since Tilley will have moved to a new district.

Pawelski said he decided to create a seven district plan because of the declining population in Bay

County. From 2000 to 2010, Bay County's population decreased 2.3 percent — from 110,271 to 107,771 — according to census figures.

"I've seen documentation that there will be a shortfall (in county finances). That's why I submitted this plan," Pawelski said.

Any registered voter who disagrees with the plan can file an appeal with the Court of Appeals up to 30 days after it is submitted to the Secretary of State. The Court of Appeals would check the plan to see if it meets all legal requirements.

If there are no changes, the plan would take affect following the November 2012 election.

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