

Electoral Boundary Commission: Presentation for Public Hearings

15 – 25 May 2023

Constitution Order 2009 Section 88 (1)

An Electoral Boundary Commission shall be appointed from time to time at such time as the Governor, acting after consultation with the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, may determine; but—

(a) the first such Commission shall be appointed as soon as practicable after the date of commencement of this Constitution; and

(b) each subsequent Commission shall be appointed not later than eight years after the last Commission submitted its report under section 89.

Population Growth by District

Table 1.1H.1: Population Growth by Status and District

	Total Population				Caymanian				Non-Caymanian			
	2010	2021	Change		2010	2021	Change		2010	2021	Change	
	#	#	#	%	#	#	#	%	#	#	#	%
Cayman Islands	55,036	71,105	16,069	29.2	30,979	38,047	7,068	22.8	24,057	33,058	9,001	37.4
George Town	28,089	34,921	6,832	24.3	12,572	14,777	2,205	17.5	15,517	20,144	4,627	29.8
West Bay	11,222	15,335	4,113	36.6	7,098	8,744	1,646	23.2	4,124	6,591	2,467	59.8
Bodden Town	10,543	14,845	4,302	40.8	7,634	10,632	2,998	39.3	2,909	4,213	1,304	44.8
North Side	1,479	1,902	423	28.6	1,114	1,308	194	17.4	365	594	229	62.6
East End	1,407	1,846	439	31.2	1,058	1,134	76	7.2	349	712	363	104.0
Sister Islands	2,296	2,257	(39)	(1.7)	1,504	1,452	(52)	(3.4)	792	805	13	1.6
Cayman Brac	2,099	2,075	(24)	(1.1)	1,447	1,398	(49)	(3.4)	652	677	25	3.8
Little Cayman	197	182	(15)	(7.8)	57	54	(3)	(5.2)	140	128	(12)	(8.8)

The Caymanian population increased by almost 23% since 2010. But the growth was uneven across the 6 traditional districts, with Bodden Town experiencing the largest increase in population (39.3%) and the Sister Islands losing population since to 2010. (Source: Cayman Islands' 2021 Census Report)

Constitution Order 2009 Section 89 (2)

[T]he Commission shall, when preparing its report:

- a. take no account of the racial distribution of electors within the Cayman Islands;
- b. take into account the natural boundaries within the Cayman Islands;
- c. have regard to existing electoral districts; and
- d. subject to the foregoing provisions ensure that:
 - i. so far as reasonably practicable, across all electoral districts there will be an equal ratio between the number of elected members of the Legislative Assembly representing each electoral district and the number of persons qualified to be registered as electors in that district as specified in section 90 of the Constitution;
 - ii. Cayman Brac and Little Cayman shall (between these two islands) at all times return at least two members to the Legislative Assembly.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association BIMR: Expert Mission Report on the Cayman Islands 2021 General Election

- Report noted that “there were significant differences in the numbers of voters registered in each district with the largest, Bodden Town East, containing 1664 registered voters, as compared to much smaller districts such as North Side with 836 registered voters and East End with 769 registered voters” and concluded that “a registered voter in East End district has more than double the weight of a registered voter in Bodden Town East.”
- Report Recommendation: “The Electoral Boundary Commission should conduct a delimitation exercise and publish a report by 2023 which should carefully scrutinize how international standards and best practice can be met to further narrow the scope of deviation from the equality of the vote. Deviations from the norm should ideally not be more than 10 per cent and in exceptional circumstances 15 per cent.”

Population Deviations Across Current Constituencies

	Current Constituency Population (Caymanians Over 15)	Deviation from Ideal District Size
West Bay		
West Bay Central	1420	-13.20%
West Bay North	1680	2.69%
West Bay South	2022	23.59%
West Bay West	1595	-2.51%
George Town		
George Town Central	1360	-16.87%
George Town East	1831	11.92%
George Town North	1486	-9.17%
George Town South	1613	-1.41%
George Town West	1472	-10.02%
Prospect	1805	10.33%
Red Bay	1672	2.20%
Bodden Town		
Bodden Town East	1910	16.75%
Bodden Town West	2205	34.78%
Newlands	1927	17.79%
Savannah	1995	21.94%
North Side	978	-40.22%
East End	846	-48.29%
Sister Islands		
Cayman Brac East	514	
Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman	646	

Alternative Approaches to Redrawing Constituencies

1. Redrawn constituencies to meet international standard for population equality: no constituency should deviate by more than 10% from the ideal constituency population size of 1636 in Grand Cayman.
2. Redrawn constituencies so that they are more equal in population but take account of traditional district boundaries such that no constituency crosses traditional district boundaries.
3. Redrawn constituencies to be more equal in population but ensure that all traditional districts are guaranteed at least one constituency.

Impact of These Alternatives: West Bay and George Town

- The 4 constituencies in West Bay and the 7 constituencies in Georgetown can all be redrawn such that no constituency crosses district boundaries and no constituency deviates by more than 10% from the ideal population size.
- The three alternatives impact Bodden Town, North Side, and East End constituencies only.

Impact of These Alternatives

- Alternative One (International Standards): Bodden Town area granted 5 constituencies (as dictated by its population). East End and North Side combined to form a single constituency but because this constituency would deviate from ideal by over 10%, some of the population would be moved into one of the Bodden Town constituencies
- Alternative Two (No Crossing District Boundaries): Bodden Town granted 5 constituencies. East End and North Side combined to form a single constituency that deviates by slightly over 11% from ideal constituency size.
- Alternative Three (All Districts Guaranteed At Least One Constituency): East End and North Side each retain their own constituency and Bodden Town retains only 4 constituencies, all of which would be over-populated well beyond 10% of the ideal constituency population.
- Possible Fourth Alternative (Add Parliamentary Seat or Two): North Side and East End can retain their own constituencies and Bodden Town can be granted 5 constituencies only if an additional constituency/parliamentary seat is added. This is a constitutional issue and beyond the remit of the Electoral Boundary Commission.