



This edition of *Realignment News* includes a full review of guidelines for the June 1 submission of jurisdictional proposals and an update on council groups submitting proposals for early feedback. As a direct result of council requests, the Communications Department is developing additional guidelines for external communications messaging and will be sent to council CEOs in the next few weeks.

The Q&A section focuses primarily on the topic of proposal submission. Some questions and answers from earlier editions of *Realignment News* have been restated to provide a more comprehensive reference on this important topic. Content suggestions for future editions are always welcome. Please send them to Vicki Wright at vwright@girlscouts.org or Jan Verhage at jverhage@girlscouts.org.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Update on Early Feedback Requests

The window for submitting proposals for early feedback closed on April 28. Thirty-two council groups have requested feedback, which has consistently been provided within 10 days. Final responses will be sent no later than May 12. Remember that positive early feedback does not constitute approval. All councils receiving feedback must still submit proposals for June 1 consideration.

Preparing your June 1 Submission

Final proposals from council groups are due by June 1, 2006. Proposals should be no longer than five pages, not including the map of the new jurisdiction. We expect that councils whose jurisdiction is included in the proposal support the submission. If this is not the case, the proposal must clearly state who supports the proposal and who does not. Proposals will not be considered in cases where a majority of councils do not agree with it.

Your proposals should be factual presentations that demonstrate the viability of the new proposed jurisdiction and can be presented in outline form. Slight changes have been made in the proposal requirement included in the *Realignment Guidebook*; all changes are noted *in italics*. Each proposal must include the following:

- Names of councils of the group that developed the proposal, including council affiliation.
- Primary contact for the proposal (name, phone number, e-mail).
- List of councils within the proposed jurisdiction that support/do not support the proposal. *(This is a new requirement.)*
- Description of the new jurisdiction defined by counties and/or zip codes. *(If your proposal agrees with the demographers' map, omit this step.)*
- Map of the new jurisdiction. *(If your proposal agrees with the demographers' map, you do not need to send a map, but you do need to note that you are in full agreement with the demographers' map.)*
- Description of how this jurisdiction meets high capacity criteria. *(If your proposal agrees with the demographers' map, omit this step.)*
 - potential girl membership
 - potential funding base
 - regional identity
 - transportation patterns
 - other opportunities for the new council to build on
- Combined profile of the new council, including the following information from the "Council Profile of Key Data."
 - girl and adult membership
 - membership share
 - number of program properties/offices
 - number of staff
 - income, expense, combined assets
 - current liabilities
 - total operation reserve
 - total endowment
- Preferred timeframe for implementation. *(Include first and second choice.)*

Selected date indicates when the board will approve the good-faith resolution and establish the Council Realignment Committee.

- October 2006	- April 2008
- April 2007	- October 2008
- October 2007	- April 2009
- Send completed proposal, either in electronic or hard copy format to Vicki Wright, Realignment Strategy Team, GSUSA.

Q & A 

1. **Can you guarantee that our realignment start date will be one of the two choices we have submitted? Answer:** We will try our best to honor your requests, but may need to make some adjustments in order to balance all council realignments over the next several years.

2. **Will we have a better chance of getting our preferred date to begin our realignment, if we only propose one option? Answer:** No. We strongly encourage everyone to submit two choices.

3. **Everyone in our council group agrees that we should come together to form a new council but we can't agree on a start date for realignment. What should we do? Answer:** If you cannot agree, submit your choices with a brief explanation of the impasse. Based on the information we receive and the submissions by other councils, GSUSA will select a date for you.

4. **The demographers' resource map proposes no change in our jurisdiction. Do we still need to submit a proposal? Answer:** No. If the resource map is identical to your current jurisdiction, or if the only change suggested is one that can be accommodated through a simple jurisdictional change (see *Blue Book* for process, and request a jurisdictional change form from cmodica@girlscouts.org), you do not need to submit a full proposal. However, you do need to submit a letter indicating your support for the demographers' resource map as it relates to your jurisdiction.

5. **What happens if we choose not to submit a map? Answer:** The National Board will take action to establish a new map of council jurisdictions in August. It is important that all councils participate in this process as full partners. We hope that everyone will contribute their thoughts and ideas as we move through this process.

6. **Our council is going to split in half and the council groups on either side of us have different preferred schedules for beginning the realignment process. What should we do to make sure that our girls receive consistent, uninterrupted program during this time? Answer:** If the groups on either side cannot agree, one good option is to have the first half of your council move forward with the earliest merger. The remaining half of the council jurisdiction could be served by a neighboring council that will become part of the second merger – jurisdiction change is a possibility for this portion of your council. Councils need to weigh their options locally and make a decision that is right for their specific area. GSUSA consultants are available to assist councils in exploring options that best fit their needs.

- 7. We received positive feedback on the proposal we submitted for early feedback. I know we have to submit again — but do we have to submit a full proposal. Answer:** Yes — though we anticipate that much of the information included in your earlier submission can be used again in this proposal.

- 8. We are planning a jurisdictional change prior to the beginning of the next Girl Scout year. Will there be guidance in how to distribute our assets that can help us make the right decision for our councils? Answer:** Yes. Asset distribution guidelines have been drafted and are in the final stages of review. They will be sent to all councils as an attachment to *Realignment News* on May 22.