

KANSAS LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

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April 28, 2011

REDISTRICTING IN KANSAS

The following is an overview of the redistricting process in Kansas. Detailed information on any topic discussed below is available upon request.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Why does the Kansas redraw congressional, legislative districts, and State Board of Education districts?
- Who is responsible for redrawing districts?
- What population data is used to redraw districts? *48 use census, KS (10/2) who don't*
- When do the new districts, redrawn in 2012, go into effect?
- How does the public provide input on the redistricting process and potential district plans?

Timeline (Completed Activities)

- December 2009 Redistricting Advisory Group begins meeting to prepare the 2012 round of redistricting
- April 2010 Census Day
- December 2010 U.S. Census Bureau announces overall population count and which states will gain/lose congressional representation
Senate Committee on Reapportionment is appointed
- March 2011 Census data is provided to the Kansas Legislature

Timeline (Anticipated Activities)

- June/July 2011 Town Hall meetings likely held throughout Kansas
- July 2011 Secretary of State releases adjusted population data (military and students)
- August 2011 Joint (Special) Committee likely meets in Topeka to begin redrawing districts
- December 2011 Special Committee on Redistricting releases report to the 2012 Legislature
- January 2012 Individual House and Senate committees meet to adopt plans
- August 2012 Primary elections using new districts (June 2012 filing deadline)
- November 2012 General elections using new districts

Population Information

- 2000 Census: 2,688,418
- 2010 Census: 2,853,118 (6.13% increase over 2000)
- From 2000 to 2010, 77 counties lost population, while 28 counties gained residents.

Ideal District Sizes

- Congress: 713,280
- State Senate: 71,328
- State House: 22,825
- District Size Deviation: For congressional districts, as close to zero as possible. The courts, in some cases, allow legislative districts to be drawn with a deviation of +/- 5%.

Redistricting Guidelines

In addition to population equality and other provisions of federal and state law, the Redistricting Advisory Group recommended adoption of multiple guidelines to be used when redrawing districts. The following is a sample of the additional guidelines:

- "Redistricting plans will have neither the purpose nor the effect of diluting minority voting strength."
- Districts should be compact and contiguous.
- Preserve existing political subdivisions when drawing districts.
- Recognize similarities of interest (legislative) and communities of interest (congressional).
- Avoid contests between incumbents.

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