

MINUTES
HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

June 1, 2011
Room 346-S—Statehouse

Members Present

Representative Michael O'Neal, Chairperson
Representative Steve Brunk
Representative Richard Carlson
Representative Paul Davis
Representative Bob Grant
Representative Lance Kinzer
Representative Annie Kuether
Representative Brenda Landwehr
Representative Peggy Mast
Representative Joe Patton
Representative Jan Pauls
Representative Michael Peterson
Representative Larry Powell
Representative Don Schroeder
Representative Sharon Schwartz
Representative Gene Suellentrop
Representative Caryn Tyson
Representative Jim Ward
Representative Brian Weber

Members Absent

Representative Clay Aurand, Vice-chairperson
Representative Anthony Brown
Representative Forrest Knox
Representative Scott Schwab

Staff Present

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy O'Neal, Committee Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Michael O'Neal at 9:00 a.m. Chairman O'Neal welcomed the committee members and staff. He recognized Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department, to give the Committee an overview of the redistricting process in Kansas.

Mr. Carnahan explained that the redistricting process is done every ten years. It is based on population and the goal is to achieve one person, one vote. Kansas is one of two states that does not use census data to redraw its legislative districts. It uses "adjusted population data," basically adjusted census data, to draw lines. The adjusted census data excludes military and non-resident college students and includes resident students and military personnel at the place of their permanent residence. Based on the 2010 Census unadjusted data, the ideal House district size would be 22,825. The Secretary of State will provide the adjusted census sometime in July.

There will be five places in the Statehouse where individuals (legislators or public) can go to redraw maps: each of the leadership offices and the Kansas Legislative Research Department will have equipment and software to provide these services. At the end of July the Kansas Legislative Research Department will be launching a website that will allow individuals to go online to look at plans that have been made public. Also, members of the public can attend town hall meetings to voice any concerns they have about the redistricting process or how they believe their district should be drawn (Attachment 1).

Committee discussion followed with regards as to where to hold the town hall meetings. *Representative Davis made the motion to have them located in the following cities of the state:*

- *Garden City/Dodge City;*
- *Hays/Colby;*
- *Hutchinson/Wichita;*
- *Independence/Pittsburg;*
- *Kansas City/Leavenworth;*
- *Lawrence/Overland Park; and*
- *Manhattan/Salina.*

Representative Mast seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chairperson O'Neal informed the members that the Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, and Ranking Minority Member would be allowed to attend as many meetings as they would like but that there needed to be discussion on how many meetings the members would be allowed to attend and receive pay. If members would like to attend more meetings than approved by the Redistricting Advisory Committee, they could reimburse themselves out of their campaign accounts.

Representative Landwehr made the motion that members be allowed to attend two meetings with pay and that the Chairperson, Vice-chairperson, and Ranking Minority Member each be allowed to send a designee if he could not attend. Representative Grant seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Kansas Legislative Research Department provided a handout of guidelines and criteria for the 2012 Kansas Congressional and legislative redistricting process (Attachment 2). Representative Ward requested that staff provide copies of the cases with regards to one person, one vote; diluting minority voting; and protecting of interest.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Prepared by Cindy O'Neal
Edited by Corey Carnahan

Approved by Committee on:

August 19, 2011
(date)

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May 11, 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

A. Why does Kansas redraw congressional, legislative districts, and State Board of Education districts?

Since the 1960s, federal and state courts have strictly enforced a standard of one person, one vote. This goal is achieved in part through creating districts that are essentially equal in population, thus allowing one person's vote to count the same as any other. The equalizing of population among districts is the central purpose of redistricting.

B. Who is responsible for redrawing districts?

The Kansas Legislature redraws districts once every ten years. The next round of redistricting will occur during the 2012 Session.

C. What population data is used to redraw districts?

To redraw congressional districts, Kansas will use data collected in the 2010 Census. The *Kansas Constitution* requires state legislative districts to be redrawn using data adjusted to exclude nonresident college students and military personnel and to include resident students and military personnel at the place of their permanent residence.

D. When do the new districts, redrawn in 2012, go into effect?

The new legislative, congressional, and State Board of Education districts will be in effect for the 2012 primary and general elections.

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 held throughout Kansas

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- 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 (using 2010 Census, unadjusted data)
- State House: 22,825 (using 2010 Census, unadjusted data)
- 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 percent.

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.

**GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR 2012
KANSAS CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING**

**Adopted by the House Select Committee on Redistricting
Adopted by the Senate Committee on Reapportionment on April 28, 2011**

Legislative Redistricting

1. The basis for legislative redistricting is the 2010 U.S. Decennial Census as recalculated by the Kansas Secretary of State pursuant to Article 10, Section 1 of the *Constitution of the State of Kansas* and KSA 11-301 *et seq.*
2. Districts should be numerically as equal in population as practical within the limitations of Census geography and application of guidelines set out below. Deviations should not exceed plus or minus 5 percent of the ideal population of (waiting for data) for each House district and (waiting for data) for each Senate district, except in unusual circumstances. (The range of deviation for House districts could be plus or minus X persons, for districts that could range in population from X to X. The overall deviation for House districts could be X persons. The range of deviation for Senate districts could be plus or minus X persons, for districts that could range in population from X to X. The overall deviation for Senate districts could be X persons.)
3. Redistricting plans will have neither the purpose nor the effect of diluting minority voting strength.
4. Subject to the requirement of guideline No. 2:
 - a. The "building blocks" to be used for drawing district boundaries shall be voting districts (VTDs) as described on official 2010 Redistricting U.S. Census maps.
 - b. Districts should be as compact as possible and contiguous.
 - c. The integrity and priority of existing political subdivisions should be preserved to the extent possible.
 - d. There should be recognition of similarities of interest. Social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and economic interests common to the population of the area, which are probable subjects of legislation (generally termed "communities of interest"), should be considered. While some communities of interest lend themselves more readily than others to being embodied in legislative districts, the Committee will attempt to accommodate interests articulated by residents.
 - e. Contests between incumbent members of the Legislature or the State Board of Education will be avoided whenever possible.
 - f. Districts should be easily identifiable and understandable by voters.

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Congressional Redistricting

1. The basis for congressional redistricting is the 2010 U.S. Decennial Census as published by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The "building blocks" to be used for drawing district boundaries shall be Kansas counties and voting districts (VTDs) as their population is reported in the 2010 U.S. Decennial Census.
2. Districts are to be as nearly equal to 713,280 population as practicable.
3. Redistricting plans will have neither the purpose nor the effect of diluting minority voting strength.
4. Districts should attempt to recognize "community of interests" when that can be done in compliance with the requirement of guideline No. 2.
 - a. Social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and economic interests common to the population of the area, which are probable subjects of legislation (generally termed "communities of interest"), should be considered.
 - b. If possible, preserving the core of the existing districts should be undertaken when considering the "community of interests" in establishing districts.
 - c. Whole counties should be in the same congressional district to the extent possible while achieving population equality among districts. County lines are meaningful in Kansas and Kansas counties historically have been significant political units. Many officials are elected on a countywide basis, and political parties have been organized in county units. Election of the Kansas members of Congress is a political process requiring political organizations which in Kansas are developed in county units. To a considerable degree most counties in Kansas are economic, social, and cultural units, or parts of a larger socioeconomic unit. These interests common to the population of the area, generally termed "community of interests" should be considered during the creation of congressional districts.
5. Districts should be as compact as possible and contiguous, subject to the requirement of guideline No. 2.