

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

July 27, 2011

Salina and Manhattan Public Hearings

Kansas State University-Salina and Kansas State University

Members Present

Representative Michael O'Neal, Co-chairperson
Senator Tim Owens, Co-chairperson
Senator Dwayne Umbarger, Co-Vice-chairperson
Representative Paul Davis, Co-Ranking Minority Member
Senator Anthony Hensley, Co-Ranking Minority Member
Senator Pete Brungardt
Senator David Haley
Senator Carolyn McGinn
Representative Steve Brunk
Representative Richard Carlson
Representative Forrest Knox
Representative Peggy Mast
Representative Don Schroeder
Representative Scott Schwab (Manhattan Only)
Representative Sharon Schwartz
Representative Caryn Tyson
Representative Brian Weber (Salina Only)

Staff Present

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Craig Callahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Theresa Kiernan, Senate Committee Assistant
Cindy O'Neal, House Committee Assistant

Conferees-Salina

Joe Nold, Dickinson County Commissioner
Randy Duncan, Republican Party-District 1 Chairperson and Saline County
Commissioner
Senator Anthony Hensley
Clark Sanders, Salina
Gordon Horst, Salina
Ben Bennett, Geary County Commissioner
Dennis Lauver, Salina Chamber of Commerce
Alan Jilka, Salina

Conferees-Manhattan

Fred Willich, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
Dick Carter, Manhattan Chamber of Commerce
Lee Modesitt, Riley County Republican Party
Jean Lee, Manhattan League of Women Voters
Kathryn Focke, Chair, Riley County Democratic Party
Barbara Withee, Manhattan
Lana Oleen, former Kansas State Senator
Senator Anthony Hensley
Charlie Hosteler, former Republican Chair, Manhattan
Stacy Slagle
Pete Cohn, Wabaunsee County

Salina Public Hearing

Joe Nold, Dickinson County Commissioner, provided the Committee with a map of the current Senate and House districts. Dickinson County has six legislative representatives. While they have good relationships with their representatives, he commented, six might be too many, and may have been detrimental to Dickinson County. The County Commission believes that the population of Dickinson County is small enough it could be remapped into one legislative house district. Discussion centered on some counties wanting as many representatives and senators as possible, because it potentially provides more clout in Topeka, while others want fewer, so they are more familiar with who represents them (Attachment 1).

Randy Duncan, Chairman, Republican Party Congressional District 1, and Saline County Commissioner, stated he understands it is early in the redistricting process. He has heard rumors of Wyandotte County being brought into Congressional District 1, which currently encompasses 69 counties and needs to grow by 57,000 residents. He does not see that Wyandotte County shares a "community of interest" with the other counties that would be in Congressional District 1, because it is not primarily agricultural in focus, as are the rest of the counties in the district. Another rumor to which he referred says Saline and McPherson counties may be placed in Congressional District 2. He advocated for Saline County to stay in Congressional District 1, while Riley County could be moved into the district where it would be a better match than Wyandotte County.

Senator Anthony Hensley provided a PowerPoint presentation, previously shown at the July 26 Hutchinson Public Hearing (See Attachment 8 of Wichita and Hutchinson Public Hearings). He reminded the Committee about required compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Baker v. Carr*, relating to the one person, one vote, when legislatures redistrict.

Clark Sanders, Salina, questioned Senator Hensley as to his source for the map. Senator Hensley responded that he received the information from Republicans not living in Kansas. Mr. Sanders stated, since Senator Hensley would not reveal his source, some citizens would wonder if Senator Hensley has created this map on his own and without any sources.

Co-chairperson Owens stated he also had heard from a number of bi-partisan sources of a map being considered by some placing Wyandotte County into the Congressional District 1, but again reiterated it is very early in the process for any map to be considered at this point.

Gordon Horst, Salina, suggested Congressional District 1 include Manhattan due to Kansas State University and a satellite branch in Salina. Mr. Horst also suggested Riley County be included in Congressional District 1, since Riley and Saline Counties have military sites located within the county.

Ben Bennett, Geary County Commissioner, expressed his appreciation for the comments of the county commissioners of the other counties, but Geary County would like to see a Congressional District plan under which Riley and Geary counties are put into Congressional District 1 due to the military being a community of interest shared by those counties.

Dennis Lauver, Salina Chamber of Commerce, expressed concern about communities of interest and not enough emphasis being put on meeting this requirement. He commented Salina has more in common with the central and the western portion of the state as opposed to the eastern part. Mr. Lauver cited Iowa as a state having addressed similar statewide issues in its 2002 redistricting.

Alan Jilka, Salina, commented he was hoping the public hearings would provide examples of maps and ways to move the lines.

Co-chairperson Owens stated newly adjusted numbers confirm one Senate seat and possibly three House seats will be added to Johnson County and the districts will have to come from some place. However, he noted the adjusted numbers were just received on July 26 and the Committee has not had time to study the effects of the newly released data.

Manhattan Public Hearing

Co-chairperson Owens took over the duties as the presiding Co-chairperson at the Manhattan meeting in accordance with the agreement of the Co-chairpersons of the two committees. Co-chairpersons Owens and O'Neal provided an overview of the redistricting process and staff provided an overview of how the public can be involved in and informed on redistricting.

Fred Willich, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, stated a task force was formed comprised of members of the Chamber Board of Directors, Public Affairs Committee and a representative each from the Riley County Republican and Democratic parties to work to ensure residents of these areas remain together in the Second Congressional District. He stressed the importance of keeping the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility and the Animal Health Corridor together in the Second Congressional District (Attachment 2).

Dick Carter, a lobbyist representing the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce (MCC), stated one proposed map drawn by the MCC would extend the First Congressional District along the north edge of the state over into Nemaha and Brown counties and across the bottom of the state to pick up Montgomery County.

Lee Modesitt, Riley County Republican Party, echoed the comments of the Manhattan Area Chamber, but a map he prepared would give Kansas more power in Washington, D.C. The map would have the First Congressional District maintaining agricultural base; Second Congressional District focusing on education and universities; Third Congressional District would be based on technology and economic development goals; and the Fourth Congressional District would have an aviation focus (Attachment 3).

Jean Lee, Manhattan League of Women Voters, advocated for transparent and accountable redistricting.

Kathryn Focke, Chairperson Riley County Democratic Party, stated, for the past several months, both she and the Republican Chairperson had been working on understanding the redistricting process. Although population numbers guide the process, other concerns should be considered (Attachment 4).

Barbara Withee, Manhattan, expressed her support for the views shared by the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce and the League of Women Voters.

Lana Oleen, former Kansas State Senator, stated the adjustment of military personnel is flawed, because it does not allow, necessarily, for the military personnel who are not counted in Kansas to be counted in their home state. She also expressed a concern relating to the adjustment of the census figures for students at colleges and universities.

Senator Anthony Hensley again presented his PowerPoint presentation to avoid undue influence from Washington, D.C. on drawing of the congressional districts in Kansas (See Attachment 8 of Wichita and Hutchinson Public Hearings). This was the same PowerPoint presentation shown during the Hutchinson and Salina Public Hearings.

Charlie Hosteler, former Republican Party Chair in Manhattan, suggested Senator Hensley was leading the charge to make the redistricting process political. The Manhattan task force met and never even discussed the possibility of Wyandotte County being brought into the First Congressional District.

Lee Modesitt stated the people of Kansas elect those who they believe will serve Kansas the best. He pointed out Senator Hensley's PowerPoint presentation even proved the point. In 2006, Democrat Congressperson Boyda and Democrat Congressperson Moore were elected in primarily Republican districts.

Stacy Slagle, citizen, reminded the Committee the City of Manhattan extends into Pottawatomie County. She also stated it is time the redistricting process be done by a non-partisan committee.

Pete Cohn, Wabaunsee County, stated Wabaunsee County currently has three representatives and one senator. He would like to maintain the current district under which Wabaunsee County has only one senator, because it is easier to determine who to contact when problems arise.

The next redistricting public hearings will be held on August 2 in Chanute and Pittsburg.

Prepared by Cindy O'Neal and Theresa Kiernan
Edited by Corey Carnahan

Approved by Committee on:

December 2, 2011
(Date)

- A. KANSAS 2010 POPULATION (Federal Census Data) 2,853,115
- B. DICKINSON COUNTY 2010 POPULATION (Certified by KS Div. of the Budget)
19,754
- C. Number of Kansas State Representative Districts - 125
Average population of districts $2,853,115/125 = 22,825$

Current Dickinson County Districts:

64th	2,608 population/22,825 = 11.4%
68th	14,469 population/22,825 = 63.4%
107th	1,034 population/22,825 = 4.5%
108th	1,643 population/22,825 = 7.2%

- D. Number of Kansas Senatorial Districts - 40
Average population of districts $2,853,115/40 = 71,328$

Current Dickinson County Districts:

24th	9,464 population/71,328 = 13.3%
35th	10,290 population/71,328 = 14.4%

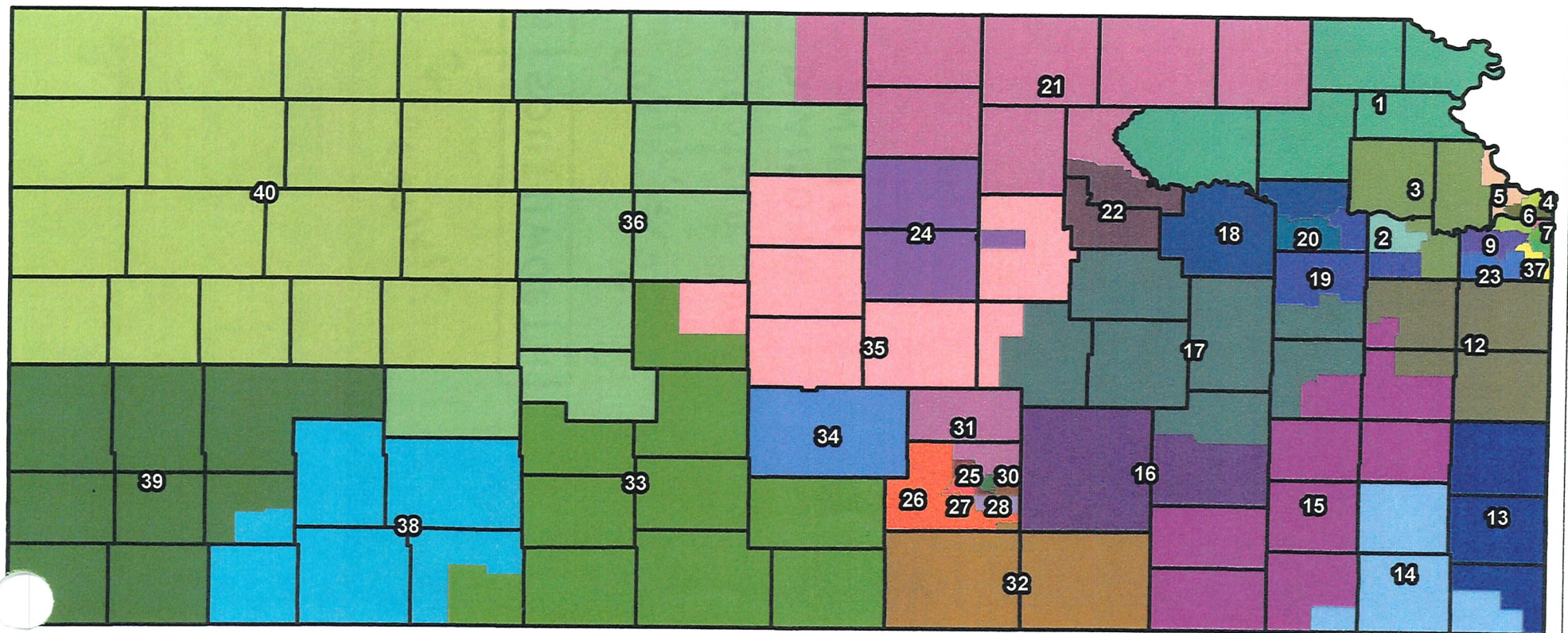
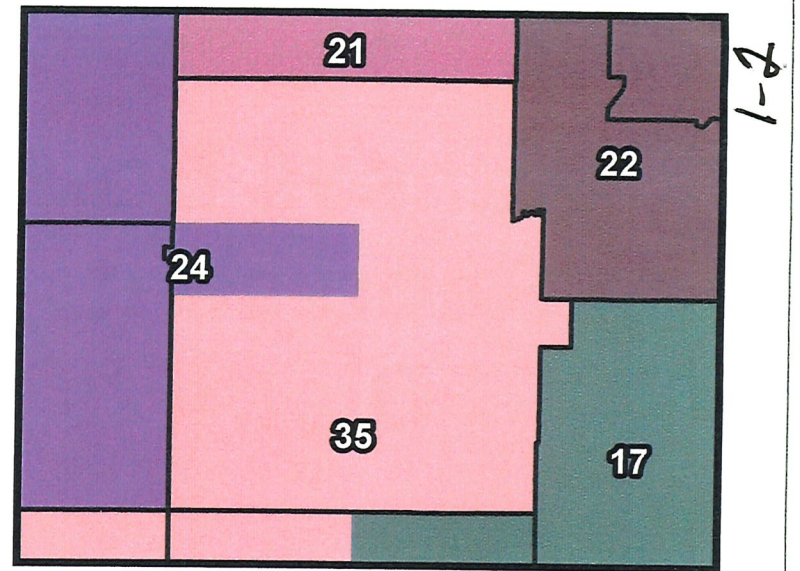
- E. The points which we're asking for your consideration on are:

It appears to us that Dickinson County has been utilized to balance the populations of surrounding Representative and Senatorial Districts, to the detriment of attention paid to our county's relationship with the legislature.

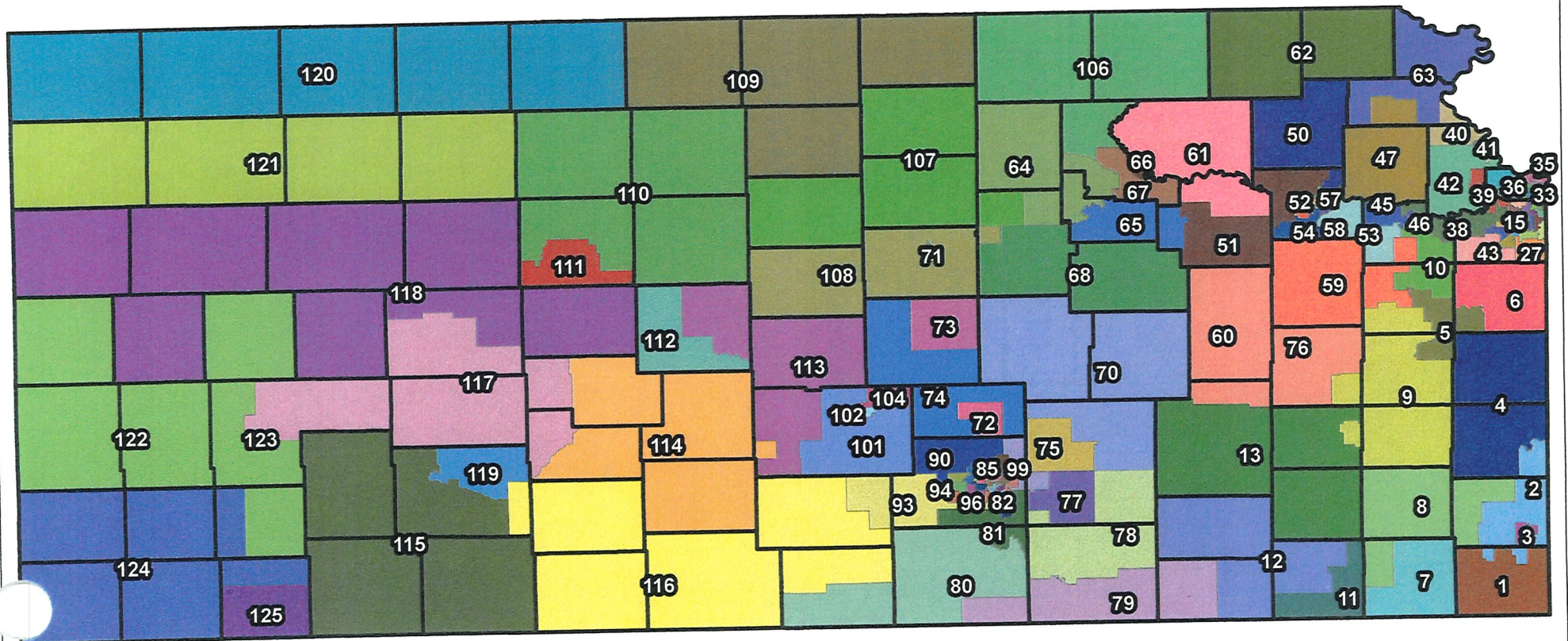
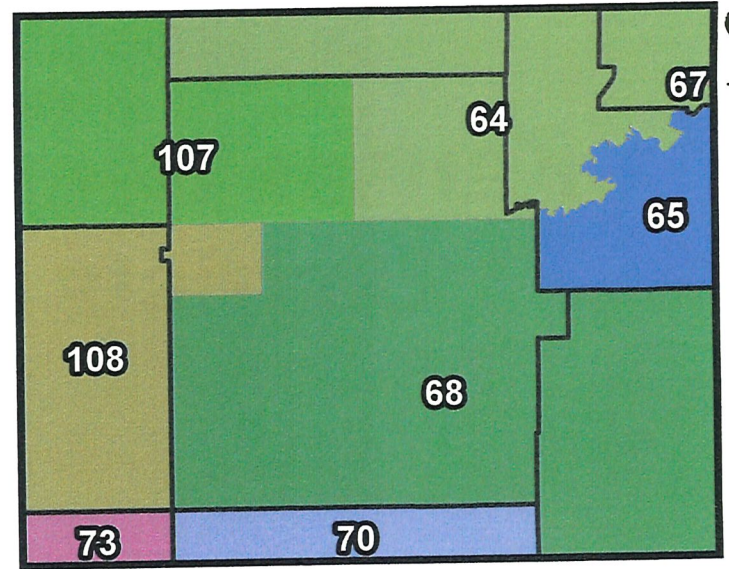
For instance, while Dickinson County's population is and has been nearly large enough to be considered for one representative, our county has been divided into four representative districts, three segments of which are extremely small segments, in terms of population, of three districts. Dickinson County is one of only two counties in the state which have been divided to this extent. (Butler County also has four representative districts)

We have worked diligently to communicate and work with the representatives and senators serving each partition of Dickinson County. While we'd rate relationships as positive, reality is that in 6 1/2 years (the length of service of the two longest serving county commissioners) we have never been able to meet with all of the representatives and senators on any topic at any time, whether those meetings have been held in Topeka or in Dickinson County. Reality is that, with the exception of the 68th representative district, our moderately populated county has been divided in so many pieces (6) as to make our legislative relationships secondary or overly complicated compared to the legislative relationships enjoyed by other counties of similar population.

Kansas Senate Districts



Kansas House of Representatives Districts



**Testimony to the Joint Redistricting Committee
Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
Manhattan, Kansas
July 27, 2011**

Chairmen O'Neal and Owens, and members of the Joint Committee on Reapportionment, my name is Fred Willich and I appear before you today as the Chairman of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors.

My purpose today is to represent the views of the business community that comprises the membership of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, as well as present a position which we believe best serves the larger Manhattan community.

A task force was formed in April of 2011, comprised of members from the Chamber Board of Directors, Public Affairs Committee, and a representative from the Riley County Republican and Democrat parties. The results of the task force meetings reinforced the resolve that the city of Manhattan and Riley County should work toward ensuring that residents of these areas remain together in the 2nd Congressional District.

With the establishment of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan, Kansas, the Chamber believes it is very important for the overall scope of the project to remain in the 2nd Congressional District. While this federal laboratory generally has broad statewide support, much of the detail and staff work has been led from the office occupied by the 2nd Congressional elected official.

In a similar respect, Riley County is considered the western end of the Animal Health Corridor. It is imperative for the state of Kansas and for the Midwest, as well as the United States, that we continue to foster growth and nurture the synergies already at work in the area within this industry. We believe the importance of maintaining a contiguous parcel of these communities (as possible) will be an important factor in developing brand identity for Animal Health Corridor research.

Another key factor is the proximity of Fort Riley to the Manhattan and Riley county area. Fort Riley's impact on the Manhattan community is significant. Many service members and their families live in the immediate (and surrounding) area; hundreds of military spouses hold jobs in the area and dependent children attend schools in Riley county and surrounding communities. Tied closely to that is the importance of also having Fort Leavenworth and the Command and General Staff College in the same Congressional District, especially given the Military Science/ROTC program at K-State.

Finally, one of the factors which suggest the importance of retaining Manhattan in the 2nd Congressional District is Kansas State University benefits greatly from having our Congressional delegate representing us on the Ways and Means Committee. The Ways and Means Committee is charged with overseeing all reciprocal trade agreements, which have increased significantly in the agriculture sector in the last 15 years. Also, they oversee dutiable goods. Kansas State University invests significant resources to ensuring the ability of Kansan and national

Special Committee on Redistricting
July 27, 2011
Attachment 2

agriculturists to produce products that are safe and legal to export to the world. Having a Congressional representative on the committee helps K-State help Kansas, which – according to the USDA – has been the 6th largest exporting state of agriculture in the last five fiscal years.

We are fully aware of reapportionment issues being addressed in other communities across the state. As the task force refined its position we communicated with other communities and tried to address their specific issues as our maps were drawn. Obviously not every community's issues can be addressed and resolved to their satisfaction. We would be pleased to submit a map with suggested Congressional district boundaries that meet the population criteria for the redistricting process, should the committee desire. However, we know that you will be inundated with a number of maps to review. We simply ask that you consider the significance of the presence of NBAF and the Animal Health Corridor, in consort with a Congressional District that comprises other Regents institutions – whose missions are in part to provide a trained workforce which supports the outlined initiatives above – should remain in the 2nd Congressional District.

Thank you again for your dedication and service to all Kansas citizens. We wish you well and appreciate the opportunity to present to you the position of the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce Task Force on Reapportionment.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Willich

2-2



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Where We Are

KANSAS

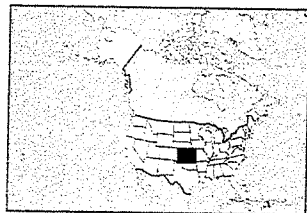
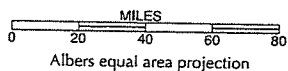
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

112th Congress (January 2011–January 2013)

The Constitution prescribes Congressional apportionment based on decennial census population data. Each state has at least one Representative, no matter how small its population. Since 1941, distribution of Representatives has been based on total U.S. population, so that the average population per Representative has the least possible variation between one state and any other. Congress fixes the number of voting Representatives at each apportionment. States delineate the district boundaries. The first House of Representatives in 1789 had 65 members; currently there are 435. There are non-voting delegates from American Samoa, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

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- 3
- 4

34-2nd
7-1st

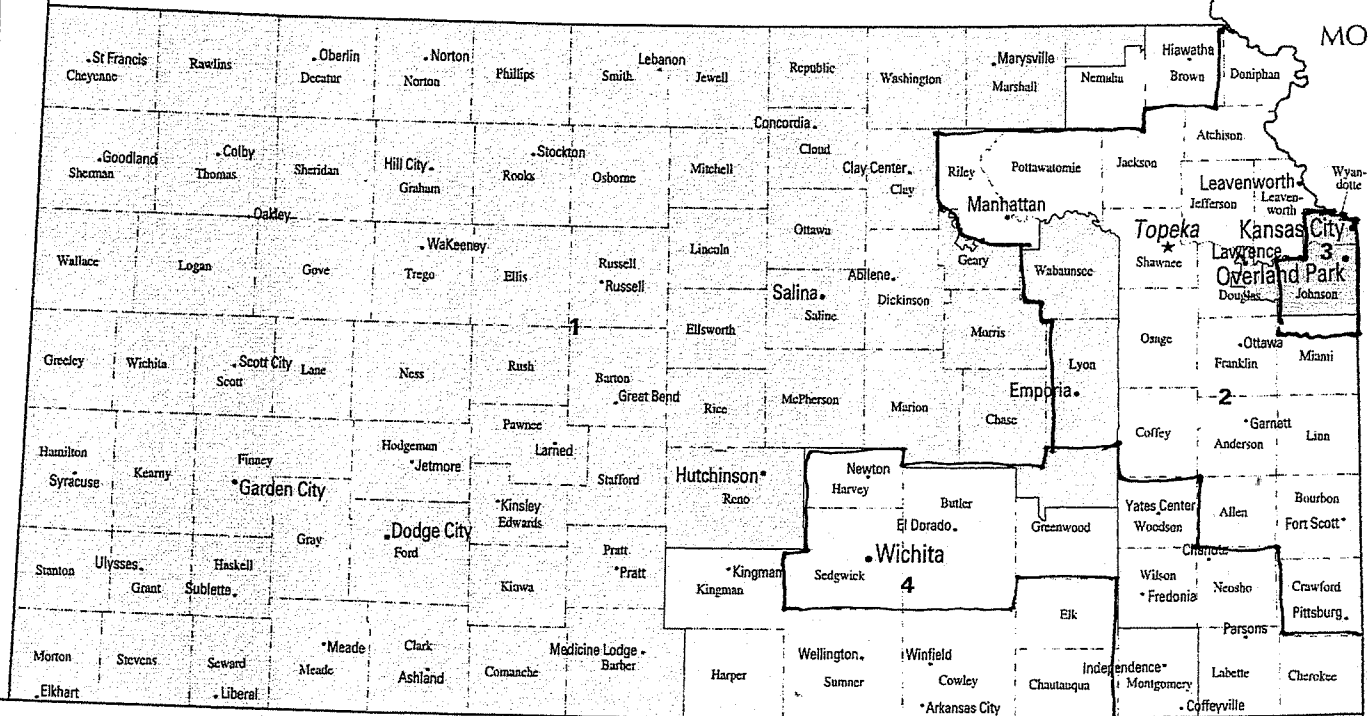


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U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

The National Atlas of the United States of America®

Special Committee on Redistricting
July 27, 2011
Attachment 3

**Redistricting Notes – Riley County Democrats Presentation
July 27, 2011**

To the House and Senate Redistricting Committee:

Hello, I'm Kathryn Focke, the chair of the Riley County Democratic Party and also serve as the Second District Chairperson of the Kansas Democratic Party.

For the past several months, both the Republican Chair of Riley County and I have been part of Manhattan's Chamber of Commerce Task Force on redistricting. We have listened and learned from the various leaders of this community concerned with what redistricting may do to our city and county. As a political leader in the Democratic Party and a business owner in Manhattan, I understand that political boundaries have a direct effect on all aspects of community and business interests, and need to be redrawn at great caution by the legislature. Although population numbers guide the process, other areas of concern need be considered.

Our county party's desire in this process is to remain in the Second Congressional District for some of the following reasons:

Communities of Interest:

Riley County is very diverse with the majority of the population in the Manhattan area. The northern part of the county is based in agriculture, while Manhattan has a more urban population of over 50,000, large enough to qualify for funding under federal guidelines.

We relate with Pottawatomie County to the east and share business, regional medical and retail shopping with residents in that county. Politically, our county parties have had joint meetings and events and at times our candidates participate in their parades and activities, knowing that many of the Riley county voters will be there. We would like to continue to relate to the east in the Second District.

Riley County also relates to Shawnee County, with many of their residents commuting to work in both counties. Many political activities are shared with Shawnee County, mainly through the Second District organization and we share many of the same community interests with the more urban population of Shawnee. We would like to continue those relationships in the Second District

NBAF Science Corridor:

As NBAF is under construction at this time, a science corridor has been developing from Riley County east to Topeka, Lawrence, Kansas City and Columbia, MO. Many business and other entities have been working together for the economic development of this important region. There is a compelling reason to keep all these counties in the same congressional district, served by one Congressional Representative who can focus on the needs of these counties and businesses with a strong understanding of the area. The First District could become more isolated as the population shift is weighted to the east. The region of Salina to Manhattan and the I-35 corridor would have a disproportionate influence on the needs of the existing First District. Keeping this huge population influx in the second district would make more sense to the representation of rural Kansans in the First District.

**Special Committee on Redistricting
July 27, 2011
Attachment 4**

Military Bases:

Ft. Riley and Ft. Leavenworth are both in the Second District. Kansas State University has a close educational and masters program with the Command College at Ft. Leavenworth. Having one Congressional Representative serving the interests of both forts gives them a stronger voice at the federal level, and they have been well represented by the Second District Congressmen and women in the past.

Higher Education:

We feel that it is critical to have major colleges together in the same congressional district for the same reason as keeping the military forts together. We currently have KSU, KU, and Washburn in the Second District. Keeping these institutions in the same district makes logical sense when dealing with federal and state funding and regulations.

Political Interests:

If Riley County were incorporated into the First District, it would be difficult to find a viable candidate that would be qualified to represent such a diverse population. Riley County would be the most urban of the counties and might necessitate a candidate to spend a majority of his/her time campaigning here because of the population base, getting out to the furthest counties rarely.

It is critically important that all counties be represented, and rural areas should have representation by politicians that understand their particular needs.

In Summary:

It is difficult to change boundaries for any of us. We are all in our comfort zones, but most of us realize that the population changes necessitate re-alignment. It is our hope that this committee will look very carefully at splitting counties that have strong alliances and interests to further a political agenda.

I have done some investigation into Iowa's redistricting system that was developed in the 1980's to remove politics from the process of redrawing political boundaries. They have a non-partisan committee made up of non-politicians who divide the districts according to convenient contiguous territory and the unity of counties and cities. Their redistricting has already been finished this year and candidates can campaign without the uncertainty of where the district lines will be drawn. This kind of a system would eliminate the nasty partisan fighting that dominates an entire legislative session. In today's world, there is much more important work for our representatives to accomplish in a short time. I would like to see this type of a redistricting system considered for Kansas.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kathryn G. Focke
Riley County Democrats
3310 Abbey Circle
Manhattan, KS 66503

4-2