

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1618

By Senator Holscher

1-20

1 A PROPOSITION to amend article 10 of the constitution of the state of
2 Kansas to establish requirements for reapportioning congressional,
3 state senatorial, state representative and board of education districts;
4 prohibiting reapportionment thereof except when required by the
5 constitution of the state of Kansas or when ordered by a court of
6 competent jurisdiction.

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8 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Kansas, two-thirds of the
9 members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-
10 thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the
11 House of Representatives concurring therein:*

12 Section 1. The following proposition to amend the constitution of
13 the state of Kansas shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the state
14 for their approval or rejection: Article 10 of the constitution of the state of
15 Kansas is hereby amended by adding a new section to read as follows:

16 "§ 4. **Reapportionment requirements.** When the
17 legislature enacts a bill to reapportion United States
18 congressional districts, state senatorial or representative districts
19 or state board of education districts, such legislation shall
20 comply with the following:

21 (a) The basis for the reapportionment shall be the most
22 recent official United States decennial census, and all voting
23 districts, tracts, block groups and blocks referred to in such
24 reapportionment shall mean the voting district, tract, block
25 group or block identified on the most recent official United
26 States decennial census;

27 (b) all state senatorial, representative and board of
28 education districts shall be numerically as equal in population
29 as practicable within the limitations of census geography and
30 taking into account all other conditions set forth in this section.
31 Deviations shall not exceed plus or minus 5% of the ideal
32 population for each district, and all congressional districts shall
33 be numerically as equal in population as possible;

34 (c) reapportionment shall not have the purpose or effect of
35 diluting minority voting strength; and

36 (d) subject to subsection (b) and taking into account all

1 other conditions set forth in this section:

2 (1) Districts shall be contiguous and as compact as
3 possible;

4 (2) the core of existing districts and the integrity and
5 priority of existing political subdivisions shall be preserved to
6 the extent possible;

7 (3) communities of interest, including social, cultural,
8 racial, ethnic and economic interests common to the population
9 of an area that are probable subjects of legislation, shall be
10 considered. While some communities of interest may be more
11 readily accommodated than others, the legislature shall attempt
12 to accommodate communities of interest articulated by the
13 residents of such area;

14 (4) districts shall be drawn to avoid contests between
15 incumbents to the extent possible; and

16 (5) districts shall be easily identifiable and understandable
17 to voters.

18 **§ 5. Restrictions on when reapportionment may occur.**

19 No legislation reapportioning United States congressional
20 districts, state senatorial or representative districts or state board
21 of education districts shall be enacted by the legislature except
22 during the regular session or any special session commencing in
23 a year prescribed by section 1 of this article or when ordered by
24 a court of competent jurisdiction."

25 Sec. 2. The following statement shall be printed on the ballot with
26 the amendment as a whole:

27 "*Explanatory statement.* This amendment would add two new
28 sections to article 10 of the constitution of the state of
29 Kansas. The first new section would establish requirements
30 for drawing district boundaries when the legislature
31 reapportions United States congressional districts, state
32 senate or representative districts or state board of education
33 districts. The second section would prohibit the legislature
34 from redrawing district boundaries except when required by
35 the constitution of the state of Kansas or by court order.

36 "A vote for this proposition would add two new sections to
37 article 10 of the constitution of the state of Kansas. The first
38 new section would establish requirements for drawing
39 district boundaries when the legislature reapportions United
40 States congressional districts, state senate or representative
41 districts or state board of education districts. The second
42 section would prohibit the legislature from redrawing district
43 boundaries except when required by the constitution of the

1 state of Kansas or by court order.

2 "A vote against this proposition would make no changes to the
3 constitution of the state of Kansas with respect to
4 requirements or limits on reapportionment legislation."

5 Sec. 3. This resolution, if approved by two-thirds of the members
6 elected (or appointed) and qualified to the Senate and two-thirds of the
7 members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House of
8 Representatives, shall be entered on the journals, together with the yeas
9 and nays. The secretary of state shall cause this resolution to be published
10 as provided by law and shall cause the proposed amendment to be
11 submitted to the electors of the state at the general election in November
12 in the year 2026, unless a special election is called at a sooner date by
13 concurrent resolution of the legislature, in which case the proposed
14 amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state at the special
15 election.