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LEGISLATURE of THE STATE of KANSAS
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GUIDELINES AND CRITERIA FOR 2022 KANSAS CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING

State Legislative Redistricting

1. The basis for state legislative redistricting is the 2020 U.S. Decennial Census. The "building blocks" to be used for drawing district boundaries shall be voting districts (VTDs) as described on the official 2020 Redistricting U.S. Census maps.

2. Districts should be numerically as equal in population as practical within the limitations of Census geography and application of the guidelines set forth below. Deviations should not exceed plus or minus 5 percent of the ideal population of 23,504 for each House district and 73,447 for each Senate district, except in unusual circumstances. The range of deviation for House districts could be plus or minus 1,175 persons, which is a population range from 22,329 to 24,679. The overall deviation for House districts could be 2,350 persons. The range of deviation for Senate districts could be plus or minus 3,672 persons, which is a population range from 69,775 to 77,119. The overall deviation for Senate districts could be 7,344 persons.

3. Redistricting plans will have neither the purpose nor the effect of diluting minority voting strength.

4. Subject to guideline No. 2 above:

    a. Districts should be as compact as possible and contiguous.

    b. The integrity and priority of existing political subdivisions should be preserved to the extent possible.

    c. 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 may be more readily embodied in legislative districts, the Committee will attempt to accommodate interests articulated by residents.

    d. Contests between incumbent members of the Legislature or the State Board of Education will be avoided whenever possible.

    e. Districts should be easily identifiable and understandable by voters.

Congressional Redistricting

1. The basis for congressional redistricting is the 2020 U.S. Decennial Census. The "building blocks" to be used for drawing district boundaries shall be Kansas counties and voting districts (VTDs) as described on the official 2020 Redistricting U.S. Census maps.

2. Districts are to be as nearly equal to 734,470 population as practicable.

3. Redistricting plans will have neither the purpose nor the effect of diluting minority voting strength.

4. Subject to guideline No. 2 above:

    a. Districts should be as compact as possible and contiguous.

    b. There should be recognition of communities of interest. Social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and economic interests common to the population of the area, which are probable subjects of legislation should be considered.

    c. The core of existing congressional districts should be preserved when considering the communities of interest to the extent possible.

    d. Whole counties should be in the same congressional district to the extent possible while still meeting guideline No. 2 above. 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 communities of interest should be considered during the creation of congressional districts.