Session of 2026

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1618

By Senator Holscher

1-20

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

other conditions set forth in this section:

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

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

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

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

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

§ 5. Restrictions on when reapportionment may occur. No legislation reapportioning United States congressional districts, state senatorial or representative districts or state board of education districts shall be enacted by the legislature except during the regular session or any special session commencing in a year prescribed by section 1 of this article or when ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction."

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

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

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

state of Kansas or by court order.

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

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