

Approved April 25, 1986
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE, JUDICIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL
REAPPORTIONMENT

The meeting was called to order by Representative Keith Roe at
Chairperson

4:05 xxm/p.m. on February 4, 1986 in room 529-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Rep. Bunten Rep. Mayfield
Rep. King Rep. D. Miller -E
Rep. Knopp Rep. Williams
Committee staff present:

Russ Mills, Legislative Research Department
Arden Hensley, Revisor of Statutes
Robert Coldsnow, Legislative Counsel
Sue Pettet, Secretary to the Committee

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. George McCleary, University of Kansas

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roe.

Chairman Roe introduced Dr. McCleary of the University of Kansas. Dr. McCleary discussed The Block Boundary Suggestion Project. He explained that the Block Boundary Suggestion Project is a middle man for the U.S. Bureau of Census and county election officials across the state. He and his staff have met with almost every county clerk across the state in an effort to exchange information.

Dr. McCleary gave a slide presentation to show the nature of the problem. He had slides from many areas of the state. The Bureau of the Census collects all of their census data in blocks. The block is the smallest unit and is bound by physical features such as streams, roads, alleys or something that is very distinct and clear so that they have a standard block definition.

The suggestions that are being made for block boundaries may include any kind of feature that would approximate or map exactly the precinct or ward line. We are suggesting that the Census Bureau use these on their maps so that as we go into 1987, 1988, and 1989 working toward the Federal Census we will be able to draw data from the census easily and accurately using the blocks.

Bob Coldsnow and Russ Mills contacted every county election official and every county clerk and have sent information identifying their precincts. These precincts include entire townships, or groups of townships. As the maps are provided, they are mapped onto topographic sheets. There are many instances where the precinct boundaries do not follow physical features. They run across open fields or through the middle of a park. A census enumerator will not be able to go out into the environment and see some feature that would mark the edge of the precinct in these problem areas.

Chairman Roe passed out information titled "Suggested Legislation Concerning Election District Boundaries and Mapping." (see attachment) There was some discussion on the floor, and Mr. Jon Josserand added several comments.

Representative Jerry Friedeman made a motion that we introduce a committee bill. It was seconded by Rep. Joan Adam. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES
Reapportionment Committee

SUGGESTED LEGISLATION
CONCERNING ELECTION DISTRICT BOUNDARIES AND MAPPING

Section 1. Guidelines for election district boundaries.

- A. Each election district as nearly as practicable shall be composed of contiguous and compact areas having clearly observable boundaries and wholly contained within any larger district from which any municipal, county, school district, or state officers are elected.
- B. An election district for general or primary election purposes shall not have had more than [six hundred] votes cast in person in that election district at the last preceding general election except as provided in Section 2.
- C. Election districts for election purposes shall be designated consecutively in the county by number.

Section 2. Deadline for changing election district boundaries.

No election district shall be created, divided, abolished or consolidated or the boundaries therein changed during the period four months prior to each primary election and the succeeding general election or between January 1 of any year whose last digit is 8 and December 1 of any year whose last digit is 0.

Section 3. Requirements for maintaining maps.

- A. Each [chief county and/or local election officer] shall provide and maintain a suitable map drawn to a scale no smaller than [] miles to the inch and clearly delineating all major observable features such as roads, streams, and railway lines and showing the current geographical boundaries of each election district, representative district, and senatorial district in the county. A word description of the geographical boundaries shall be attached to each map. Such map, with attached description, is a public record.
- B. Each [chief county and/or local election officer] shall send a copy of each map with attached description to the [chief state election officer] no later than []. These copies are public records.
- C. The [chief county and/or local election officer] shall notify the [chief state election officer] in writing within 30 days of any changes in the designation of polling places or reorganization of election districts and shall furnish a copy of the map showing the current geographical boundaries, designation and word description of each new election district.

Section 4. Duties of the [chief state election officer].

The [chief state election officer] shall serve as the state liaison with the federal Bureau of the Census on matters relating to the tabulation of the population.

Section 5. Effective date.

March 10, 1975

Attachment

LEG., JUD. & CONGR. REAPPORTIONMENT
2/4/86
Attachment

This act establishes guidelines for defining election precinct boundaries, sets out directions for changing precinct boundaries prior to elections, requires maps of current precinct and district boundaries to be kept, requires notification of changes to the chief state election officer, and prescribes liaison duties of the chief state election officer with the federal Bureau of the Census.

This suggested act was drafted by the Reapportionment Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Suggested Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1 Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This act may be cited as the Pre-
2 cinct Boundaries and Mapping Act.

1 Section 2. [*Guidelines for Precinct Boundaries.*]

2 (a) Each precinct as nearly as practicable shall be composed of a
3 contiguous and compact areas having clearly definable boundaries and
4 wholly contained within any larger district.

5 (b) A precinct for general or primary election purposes shall not have
6 more than [600] [[votes cast] [in person]] [registered voters] in that
7 precinct at the last preceding general election except as provided
8 in Section 3.

9 (c) Precincts for election purposes shall be designated consecutively
10 in the county by number.

Comment: This word "precinct" refers to the smallest administrative unit for the conduct of elections; in some States it may be called an election district. Section 2(b) should be included in States not having limitations on precinct size.

1 Section 3. [*Deadline for Changing Precinct Boundaries.*] No
2 precinct shall be created, divided, abolished, or consolidated or the
3 boundaries therein changed less than four months prior to each election
4 or between January 1 of any year whose last digit is 8 and December 1
5 of any year whose last digit is 0.

1 Section 4. [*Requirements for Maintaining Maps.*]

2 (a) Each [chief county and/or local election officer] shall provide
3 and maintain a suitable map showing the current geographical boundar-
4 ies with designation of each precinct, representative district, and senator-
5 ial district in the county. A word description of the geographical bound-
6 aries shall be attached to each map. Such map, with attached descrip-
7 tion, is a public record.

8 (b) Each [chief county and/or local election officer] shall send a copy
9 of each map with attached description to the [chief state election
10 officer]. These copies are also public records.

11 (c) The [chief county and/or local election officer] shall notify the
12 [chief state election officer] in writing of any changes in the designation
13 of polling places or reorganization of precincts and shall furnish a copy
14 of the map showing the current geographical boundaries, designation,
15 and word description of each new precinct.

1 Section 5. [*Duties of the [Chief State Election Officer].*] The [chief
2 state election officer] shall serve as the state liaison with the federal
3 Bureau of the Census and shall coordinate his activities with fed-
4 eral demographic activities to the fullest extent possible.

1 Section 6. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

1 Section 7. [*Repeal.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

1 Section 8. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]