

Approved: March 12, 2012
(Date)

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Michael O'Neal at 12:35 p.m. on Wednesday, March 7, 2012, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Lance Kinzer and Peggy Mast, both of whom were excused.

Committee staff present:

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Craig Callahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Representative Sydney Carlin, District 66
Representative Valdenia Winn, District 34
Representative Kathy Wolfe Moore, District 36
Cindy Cash, President/CEO, Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce
Mike Taylor, Public Relations Director, Wyandotte/Kansas City Unified Government
Christy Caldwell, Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce
Robert Vancrum, Legislative Policy and Government Affairs Consultant, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Mark Wiebe, Johnson County Resident (written only)

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

The Chair welcomed Representative Sydney Carlin, District 66, who requested that the Committee, in redrawing the Congressional redistricting map, keep the City of Manhattan and Riley County in the 2nd Congressional District (Attachment 1). She cited several reasons for her request. Among them:

- The diversity of Riley County is not compatible with the 1st Congressional District.
- Regional industrial planning identifies more closely with the 2nd District.
- The National Bio/Agri-Defense Facility has stimulated growth eastward toward Wamego, not west toward the 1st District.

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

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- Fort Riley and Kansas State University benefit from sharing the 2nd District with Fort Leavenworth, Forbes Air Force Base, the University of Kansas, and Washburn University.

Responding to questions, Representative Carlin reiterated that the Manhattan area is developing toward the east, not west toward the 1st District.

Representative Valdenia Winn, District 34, provided testimony opposing the proposed division of Wyandotte County into two congressional districts ([Attachment 2](#)). She related how Wyandotte County and Kansas City Kansas are a closely-knit community, that the area shares a long-established community of interest, and—especially if the area is linked with the 1st Congressional District—that the primarily metropolitan area has no compatibility with western Kansas. If Wyandotte County is placed in the 1st District, the *de facto* result would be to disenfranchise the county’s voters. Answering a question, she said Wyandotte County’s metropolitan density should take precedence over other possible divisions, such as dividing Lawrence or Shawnee County between two districts.

Representative Kathy Wolfe Moore, District 36, likewise opposed any division of Wyandotte County into two congressional districts ([Attachment 3](#)). As chief of staff for a former mayor of Kansas City, she said the area has developed strong ties with Johnson County and with the 3rd Congressional District, a fact illustrated by regular meetings with the congressperson. Johnson County was an ally in obtaining the Kansas Speedway; to sever that relationship would be detrimental to Wyandotte County. Replying to questions, Representative Wolfe Moore stated that the relationship between the two counties has been so successful that she can see no advantage for the area by changing the current arrangement.

Cindy Cash, President/CEO, Kansas City Kansas Area Chamber of Commerce, also spoke in opposition to dividing Wyandotte County or moving it into a different congressional district ([Attachment 4](#)). She noted that for years Wyandotte and Johnson Counties, as urban centers, have shared like interests and have joint monthly meetings with their congressperson. Answering a question, she replied that putting Wyandotte County into the 1st District would not be fair either to Kansas City or to western Kansas.

Mike Taylor, Public Relations Director, Wyandotte/Kansas City Unified Government, provided further testimony opposing any division of Kansas City Kansas/Wyandotte County or any diluting of its identity as a regional center with Johnson County ([Attachment 5](#)). He also noted the testimony of Mayor Joe Reardon, Unified Government, who stated that logic and common

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sense would keep Wyandotte County in the 3rd District. Responding to a question, Mr. Taylor said he thought it would be possible to draw a map that does not divide Lawrence, Topeka, or Wyandotte County.

Christy Caldwell, Vice President of Governmental Relations, Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, testified on behalf of the area business community, which, she said, opposes any bifurcation of Shawnee County. She noted that the present 2nd District Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins resides in Topeka, and she commented that Topeka has limited compatibility with the rural nature of the 1st District (Attachment 6).

Robert Vancrum, Legislative Policy and Government Affairs Consultant, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, urged committee members to make it a priority to keep communities of interest together, especially the interdependent communities of Wyandotte and Johnson Counties (Attachment 7).

Mark Wiebe, Johnson County Resident, provided written testimony showing the common interests of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties (Attachment 8).

The meeting was adjourned at 1:28 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 12, 2012, in Room 346-S of the Capitol.