

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

June 5, 2001

Montgomery County Judicial Center
Independence, Kansas

Members Present

Senator David Adkins, Chairman
Senator Derek Schmidt
Representative Troy Findley
Representative Andrew Howell
Representative Tom Klein
Representative Doug Mays
Representative Bob Tomlinson
Representative R.J. Wilson

Other Legislators in Attendance

Senator Jim Barone
Senator Dwayne Umbarger
Representative Doug Gatewood
Representative Robert Grant
Representative Gene O'Brien
Representative Jerry Williams
Representative Stanley Dreher
Representative Jim Garner
Representative Frank Miller

Conferees

Rochelle Chronister, former State Representative
Larry Trotter, Coffeyville City Commissioner
Kevin Anselmi, Clerk of Crawford County
French Hey, Montgomery County Commissioner
Lee Mattix, Montgomery County Commissioner
Mike Mabrey, Executive Director, Southeast Kansas, Inc.
Virgil Peck, Citizen
Clifdsel Wehmeier, Citizen

Dave Sorrick, Citizen
Greg Jones, Citizen
Maynard Stockebrand, Citizen
Shari Coatney, Southeast Kansas Independent Living Resource Center, Inc.
Lucille Campbell, Wilson County Democratic Party
Tim Emert, former State Senator

Staff Attending

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
LuAnn Lawhon, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Others Attending—see guest list

Chairman David Adkins called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. He proceeded to explain that public hearings are the beginning of the redistricting process in Kansas as every ten years states are mandated to redraw congressional districts, House and Senate legislative districts, and state school board districts. He further explained census numbers for the congressional districts are already known.

The numbers for the legislative districts are not known at this time. State law mandates that legislative districts be drawn using adjusted numbers with students and the military reallocated back to their official residence. The adjusted numbers will be available to the Legislature by the Secretary of State on July 31, 2001. Once the adjusted information is received, the legislators can start drawing the legislative and state school board districts. The history of the process has been that the House will draw the House districts and the Senate will draw the Senate districts. It is the hope of the Redistricting Committee that all maps are pre-filled before the 2002 Legislative Session. If the maps are approved by the Legislature, they will be sent to the Governor for his approval and then to the state courts for the final approval.

Chairman Adkins commented that the legislative districts are to be numerically as equal in population as practical. The courts have allowed legislative districts 5 percent plus or minus deviations from the ideal population. These districts should be as compact as possible and contiguous. Finally, the integrity and priority of existing political subdivisions should be preserved to the extent possible and there should be recognition of “communities of interest.”

Chairman Adkins informed those at the hearing that the Kansas Legislative Research Department has set up a Kansas Redistricting Web Site which provides numerous amounts of information about the redistricting process, proposed maps, and public hearing information. The website address is <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/ksleg/KLRD/redistr.html>.

Mary Galligan gave a Power Point presentation (Attachment 1).

- The Census Bureau performed a 100 percent count of the population in the United States in 2000.
- Types of data that are available from the census are:
 - PL 94-171 which contains numbers of race, ethnicity, population over the age of 18, and total population;
 - Mini Profile provides age breakdowns, types of households, and owner v. rental occupancy; and
 - Summary File which contains more information from the short form.
- The Census Bureau produces estimates of population as well as the exact population count. Two examples were: in Barton County the estimated population does not closely model the population count, while in Douglas County the estimates closely matched the actual population.
- In Kansas, congressional districts currently fall along county boundaries in all except two counties: Marion and Douglas.
- For the first time, since the census has been done, the 2000 Census allowed individuals to choose more than one racial category. The Kansas population shows some diversity, although the population is predominately white (86 percent).
- Kansas experienced a moderate growth rate of 8.5 percent between 1990 and 2000. The United States as a whole experienced a 13.2 percent growth rate.
- The Hispanic population in Kansas showed tremendous growth between 1990 and 2000. The U.S. census data showed a 101.0 percent increase in Hispanic population.
- It is mandated that each congressional district should have an equal population number. The ideal population for Kansas is 672,105. The 1st congressional district must gain 34,435 individuals; the 2nd district must gain 30,718 individuals; the 3rd must lose 61,501 individuals; and the 4th district must lose 3,650 individuals to be in compliance with the “one man one vote” criteria.
- The districts must have “Communities of Interests,” *i.e.*, social, economic, and population factors.
- Congressional districts should have compact and contiguity.

Senator Anthony Hensley and Representative Troy Findley provided the attendees with a proposed congressional map for the 2nd and 3rd districts (Attachment 2). Representative Findley proceeded with a power point presentation to support their proposed plan for the 2nd district which would include: Anderson, Linn, Coffey, Woodson, Wilson, Montgomery, Labette, Neosho, Allen, Bourbon, Crawford, and Cherokee counties (Attachment 3).

Rochelle Chronister's testimony focused on congressional reapportionment. She requested that Montgomery County be placed back into the 2nd district as "Southeast Kansas" has been designated as containing the following counties: Cherokee, Crawford, Bourbon, Labette, Neosho, Allen, Montgomery, Wilson, and Woodson, and sometimes included are Chautauqua, Elk, Greenwood, Coffey, Anderson, and Linn. Furthermore, during the last redistricting, protests occurred with placing Montgomery County into the 4th district. The protests were centered around the belief that Montgomery County has more in common with Southeast Kansas than Wichita (Attachment 4). She suggested that it makes a great deal of sense that the four districts should be created in a logical manner, where the rural interests of the state are served as well as the urban interests.

Larry Trotter commented that the governing body of Coffeyville is pleased with the representation they have received from all legislators. Regardless, of the redistricting decision, they are willing to work with whoever will be elected in the county and requested that their representation not be reduced (Attachment 5).

Senator Jim Barone stated that redistricting should be about the people, not politics and he suggested that whenever possible counties should not be split. Senator Barone currently represents parts of two counties which he believes puts a strain on his representation. He requested that since his current district needs to grow, it be expanded into his existing counties of Bourbon and/or Cherokee. He believes that Montgomery County belongs in the 2nd congressional district (Attachment 6).

Representative Frank Miller informed the Committee that most of his constituents would like to keep Montgomery County in the 4th district. He feels there are stronger ties with Wichita than Southeast Kansas, in that, they are both home to Cessna Aircraft Corporation; Independence and Coffeyville have community colleges, while Wichita has a university; and there is a new highway that connects Montgomery County to Wichita (Attachment 7).

Senator Dwayne Umbarger gave the Committee a brief history on Southeast Kansas. After visiting many areas in his district, it is his belief that most of the citizens are happy with their current representation and should remain in the 4th district. The reasons cited by Senator Umbarger for remaining in the 4th district are:

- Outstanding representation by Congressman Todd Tiahrt;
- Common interests in aviation and defense contracts between Montgomery County and Sedgwick County;

- Montgomery County is closer to Wichita than Topeka; and
- There are 11 counties in the 4th district and 25 counties in the 2nd district (Attachment 8).

Kevin Anselmi requested that the Committee create a single state senatorial district encompassing Crawford County instead of splitting the county into two senatorial districts (Attachment 9).

French Hey stated that Montgomery County is growing and their presence in the 4th district has been an advantage as they have been represented well by Congressman Todd Tiahr. The City of Coffeyville is now beginning to grow and in the past 2-3 years Farmland Industries increased their workforce size. He challenged the Committee to listen to what the people of Montgomery County really want.

Lee Mattix has enjoyed the political process. He suggested that Montgomery County is not the same county that it was ten years ago as it is a county that has embraced the urban-rural mix. He feels that it is appropriate for the county to remain in the 4th district, due to the similar interest and outlook among the 11 counties (Attachment 10).

Mike Mabrey asked the Committee to consider the long history Southeast Kansas has had in working together. Over the past three years, Southeast Kansas, Inc., has improved the regional economy, housing, education, tourism, and transportation issues. Southeast Kansas, Inc., represents the counties of Allen, Anderson, Bourbon, Cherokee, Coffey, Crawford, Labette, Linn, Montgomery, Neosho, Wilson, and Woodson. The organization does not take a position as to which congressional district is appropriate; however, they do ask that the counties listed above be in one congressional district (Attachment 11).

Virgil Peck commented that a small portion of Marion County is in the 4th district and if that property was moved into the 1st district, the 4th district would then be closer to the ideal population of 672,105 individuals. The added benefit of this would be that it would allow the 4th district to remain virtually undisturbed, and allow Montgomery County to remain in the 4th congressional district (Attachment 12).

Clifdsel Wehmeier urged the Committee to leave Montgomery County in the 4th district, because she believes that it has more in common with Wichita than Topeka or Manhattan. In addition, she also believes that it has been beneficial to Montgomery County to have a Congressman from Wichita on the Appropriations Committee because federal funding has been provided to Wichita and Montgomery County for the local aircraft industry and for local community grants (Attachment 13).

Dave Sorrick requested that Southeast Kansas not decrease in the number of state House or Senate representation (Attachment 14).

Greg Jones testified that Parsons, along with other communities in Southeast Kansas, has grown at a steady rate. He requested that the Committee redraw the maps in

such a manner that Southeast Kansas would continue to have the same number of state representatives and senators (Attachment 15).

Maynard Stockebrand encouraged the Committee to take into consideration community of interests when drawing the new congressional map. The communities of interest Mr. Stockebrand listed are: agriculture practices, small business, schools, city, and county issues. It was his belief that Montgomery County and Woodson County should be in the 2nd district.

Shari Coatney was concerned about the possibility of losing house seats and would like to have Montgomery County placed back into the 2nd district (Attachment 16).

Representative Bob Grant pointed out to the Committee that the last two times the state was redistricted, Southeast Kansas lost representation. Hopefully, this time Southeast Kansas will not lose representation in the House or Senate. Representative Grant believes that most of the Legislators attending this Town Hall Meeting are considered rural representatives and the area needs to maintain the current level of representation.

Mr. Jones and Lucille Campbell testified that Southeast Kansas has a great deal to offer and stressed that they do not want the number of seats representing Southeast Kansas in the Legislature to decline.

Tim Emert urged the Committee to reunite Montgomery County with Southeast Kansas (Attachment 17). There are many reasons why Montgomery County belongs in the 2nd district according to Mr. Emert which are:

- Southeast Kansas is a single community of interest—region of small towns, small local newspapers, small farms, and light manufacturing. The communities face rural problems, not urban.
- Montgomery County does not receive its news from Wichita.
- Southeast Kansas is unique in the state as it is home to all four cement production facilities. In addition, under the current congressional map one district represents three of the facilities and a different district represents the other facility.
- There is a natural dividing line between the community of Southeast Kansas and the Wichita metropolitan area called the Flint Hills.

Mr. Emert provided the attendees and Committee members with a proposed map (Attachment 18).

The Committee meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Approved by Committee on:

July 12, 2001
(Date)