

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

July 12, 2001

Room 313-S—Statehouse

Members Present

Senator Barbara Allen
Senator David Corbin
Senator David Haley
Senator Anthony Hensley
Senator Tim Huelskamp
Senator Lynn Jenkins
Senator Janis Lee
Senator Edward Pugh
Senator Derek Schmidt
Senator Ruth Teichman
Representative Clay Aurand
Representative John Ballou
Representative Lisa Benlon
Representative Marti Crow
Representative Troy Findley
Representative Andrew Howell
Representative Thomas Klein
Representative Carl Krehbiel
Representative William Mason
Representative Doug Mays
Representative Melvin Neufeld
Representative Rocky Nichols
Representative Michael O'Neal
Representative Peggy Palmer
Representative Janice Pauls
Representative Tony Powell
Representative Bill Reardon
Representative Bob Tomlinson
Representative Jene Vickrey
Representative R.J. Wilson

Conferees

Professor George McCleary
Ron Svaty, Citizen
Tim Holverson, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce
Ann Gardner, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce
John Armbrust, Flint Hills Task Force on Redistricting
Betty Amos, Flint Hills Task Force on Redistricting
Tim Emert, Former Senator
Jean Jones, Citizen
Senator Anthony Hensley
Representative Tom Klein
Representative Bob Tomlinson

Others Attending

See attached list.

Chairman Michael O'Neal called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He announced that the Committee would formally receive and review 11 congressional plans at today's meeting.

Professor George McCleary presented a plan based on the MOSAIC Spectrum (Attachment 1), which takes into account age, income, and style of living. The proposed plan has a deviation of 0.04 percent which equals 289 people. The largest shift is 37.8 percent of the total population found in the 2nd district. Four counties would be split under the proposal, none of which are currently split and five cities would be split along county boundaries. Professor McCleary's proposed map takes into consideration that by 2010 or 2020 Kansas will have only three congressmen. The largest share of African/Americans would be in Wyandotte and Shawnee counties.

Ron Svaty's submitted congressional map splits the state into three districts that run from the Missouri state line to the Colorado state line with a fourth district consisting of Johnson and Leavenworth counties (Attachment 2). This plan would allow three congressmen to represent the rural areas of the state. It has a deviation of 1.86 percent or 12,514 people. The largest shift is 43.4 percent of the total population in the 1st district. Four cities are split along county boundary lines.

Tim Holverson, representing the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, presented two proposed maps, the Peabody Plan (Attachment 3) and the Gardner Plan (Attachment 4). He explained that the Chamber's goal was to impact as few people as possible and take into consideration "communities of interests," while keeping the deviation as close to zero as possible. The largest shift is: 10.4 percent of the total population in the 2nd district under both plans. The Gardner plan has a deviation of 50 people or 0.01 percent and the Peabody plan has a deviation of 32 people or 0.00 percent. Mr. Holverson informed the Committee

that the Peabody and Gardner plans are basically alike with six counties being split, with four of them not split in the current congressional map. Three cities are split, Kansas City, Bonner Springs, and Parsons.

Ann Gardner strongly urged the Committee to retain all of the City of Lawrence in the 3rd Congressional district. According to Ms. Gardner, if Douglas County is to be divided, then similar cuts through Johnson and Wyandotte counties should also be accomplished in order to draw a 3rd district that represents the strongest community of interest between the urban centers of these counties (Attachment 5).

Representative Crow pointed out that the proposed maps from the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce would split an Indian reservation in Brown County and that it would also split Wyandotte County which, by statute, is considered a Unified Local Government. Mr. Holverson informed the Committee that it was not the intent of the Chamber to split an Indian reservation and that if Wyandotte County cannot be split then they should look at other counties.

Discussion centered on Wyandotte County becoming a Unified Local Government in 1996. Representative Tomlinson commented that he was Chairperson of the Local Government Committee at that time and recalled hearings on the subject but it was never discussed that in making Wyandotte County a Unified Government would be tied to redistricting and would not allow the county to be split.

Representative Wilson pointed out that the Lawrence Chamber's plans divide Oswego from Chetopa, and Parsons from Altamont. Altamont is a bedroom community of Parsons with residents living in Altamont, but working and shopping in Parsons. In addition, Representative Wilson pointed out that Chetopa is slated for school consolidation by the boundary study. The Chetopa and Oswego school districts are to become the Oswego school district. Other Committee members asked if any other Chambers of Commerce were brought into the discussion while Lawrence was working on their maps. Mr. Holverson responded that the two plans were done to spark discussion and they did not consider bringing in any other Chambers.

Chairman O'Neal reminded those present that while communities of interest are very important factors in redistricting, it is trumped by population numbers. An example is Northeast Kansas, where there are strong communities of interest but the population overwhelmingly exceeds the ideal number.

A *Lawrence Journal-World* article was provided to the Committee that stated that the Flinthills Taskforce was withdrawing their proposed map (Attachment 6). John Armbrust and Betty Amos commented that while the Flinthills Task Force recommended Plan 3a (Attachment 7) they are not opposed to working with the City of Lawrence to come together and develop a map that both would agree on. The main concern of the Task Force is keeping the counties of Riley, Geary, and Pottawatomie together in a single congressional district. The representative of the Flinthills Task Force was asked by several committee

members if Plan 3a was being withdrawn from consideration by the Task Force. John Armbrust replied that the Task Force was not withdrawing the plan at this time; however, they will be presenting a new plan or plans at the September 6 meeting.

Plan 3a, the plan developed by the Flinthills Task Force, would have a deviation of 55 people or 0.01 percent with the largest shift being 9.1 percent of the total population in the 2nd district. It would split three counties, two that are currently not split and five cities. The Task Force did not present their plan at this time.

Tim Emert recommended the endorsement of his map which reunites Montgomery County with Southeast Kansas (Attachment 8). The map would have a deviation of 0.02 percent or 103 people with the largest shift of 27.6 percent of the total population being in the 2nd district. There would be three counties split, none of which are currently split and four cities split along county boundaries.

Representative Crow pointed out that Senator Emert's plan divides Lansing School District and sees that as problematic.

The Committee recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 1:45 p.m. with the continuation of presentations of proposed congressional maps.

Mrs. Jean Jones thanked the Kansas Legislative Research Department for working with her to develop her proposed congressional map (Attachment 9). Her proposed map would split Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth between two congressional districts. There would be a 0.04 percent deviation or 287 people. The largest shift is 27.6 percent of the total population in the 2nd district. There would be four counties split that are not split in the current plan. Louisburg would be split along noncontiguous boundaries of the city.

Senator Anthony Hensley and Representative Troy Findley proposed Congressional Plan 1 (Attachment 10) and a copy of the power point presentation which justifies their rationale for the map (Attachment 11). A copy of another power point presentation which was presented at the public hearings held around the state this summer was also provided (Attachment 12). Their proposed map has a deviation of seven people or 0.00 percent. The largest shift is 22 percent of the total population in the 2nd district. There are six counties split, five that are not split in the current plan. Two cities, Lawrence and Overland Park, are split due to noncontiguous parts.

In discussion of the legislative intent of the Wyandotte Unified Government legislation, Representative Tomlinson indicated that the House intent was not tied to redistricting; however, he would agree with Senator Hensley's observation that Wyandotte County should not be split. Further, Representative Tomlinson stated that Johnson County also should not be split. In fact, Representative Tomlinson stated that if the Legislature had intended that Johnson County could have been split because it did not have a unified government, the Johnson County legislators would not have supported the legislation. Representative Reardon recalled a discussion with Representative Tomlinson and others at the time the

Legislature was considering the unified government legislation in which Representative Reardon stated a preference for having county officials elected on a partisan basis in the November elections. The position of the House and Senate leadership and Representative Tomlinson was that partisan elections would not be possible as Wyandotte County would be one municipality, therefore, candidates would have to run on a nonpartisan basis. The position of the leadership at that time prevailed and the entire county now runs as nonpartisan in the spring elections.

Representative Bob Tomlinson had two proposed maps, Tomlinson A (Attachment 13) and Tomlinson B (Attachment 14). The main difference between the two is that in "A" Riley, Geary, and Pottawatomie would be in the 2nd district and in map "B" they would be in the 1st district. He commented that it does not matter which plan is adopted there are going to be counties that are split and it does not matter which counties they are because whoever represents them will be unhappy.

Tomlinson A has a deviation of 35 people or 0.01 percent with the largest shift of 9.2 percent of the total population being in the 2nd district. There are four counties split, three that are not currently split and six cities are split.

Tomlinson B has a deviation of 39 or 0.01 percent with the largest shift being 20.8 percent of the total population being in the 2nd district. There are three counties split, two that are not split in the current plan. Three cities would be split, Peabody, St. Marys, and Lawrence.

Representative Tom Klein presented a map that tried to address concerns expressed at the public hearings, such as: not adding Reno County back into the 4th district; placing Montgomery County back into the 2nd; keeping Riley, Geary, and Pottawatomie counties together in the 2nd district and recognizing the K-10 community of interest between Lawrence and Kansas City (Attachment 15).

Representative Klein's map would have a six-county split, five that are not currently split. Three cities are also split, Holton, Lawrence, and Overland Park. There would be a deviation of 38 people or 0.01 percent with the largest shift of 15.6 percent of the total population in the 2nd district. He commented that it does not matter which plan is adopted there are going to be counties that are split and it does not matter which counties are because whoever represents them will be unhappy.

At the conclusion of the formal presentations of congressional maps, the Chairman thanked the individuals for being interested in the process and taking time to develop the proposed maps.

The Committee turned its attention to the Committee minutes from the public hearings. Staff commented that there needed to be two corrections in the minutes: at the Wichita hearing Representative Findley was listed as present, however did not attend and should be deleted; at the Independence hearing Senator Hensley was listed as presenting, however, Representative Findley made the presentation.

Senator Teichman made the motion to approve the Committee minutes, as corrected. Representative Benlon seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Prepared by Kathie Sparks

Approved by Committee on:

September 6, 2001

(date)