

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON REAPPORTIONMENT.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator David Adkins at 6:00 p.m. on January 29, 2002 in Room 313-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Haley, excused

Committee staff present:
Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Sandy Sadowski, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Judy Swanson, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
State Senator Paul Feleciano
State Senator Jim Barone
State Representative Garry Boston
State Representative Carl Kehbiel
State Senator Stan Clark
State Senator Anthony Hensley
State Senator Janis Lee
Kevin Anselmi, Crawford County Clerk
Jeff Traill, City Administrator for the City of Halstead
John Torline, City Administrator of City of North Newton
Kenneth Meier, Harvey County Commissioner
Jim Will, City of Halstead, Harvey County, Halstead Chamber of Commerce, Hertzler Research Foundation, Halstead Hospital and Harvey County Economic Development Council
Jim Redinger, Mayor of the City of Burrton
Keith DeHaven, City of Sedgwick
Tim Holverson, Director Public Policy, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce
Ann Gardner, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce
Phil Urban, Mayor of the City of Leavenworth

Others attending:
See attached guest list

Chairman Adkins welcomed committee members, conferees and audience members. He commended them on their attendance in inclement weather. The purpose of the meeting was to receive public testimony on the redrawing of congressional, state senatorial, and state representative districts in Kansas.

State Senator Paul Feleciano testified that under the proposed plan he would receive 18,828 people from District 28, and he would lose 14,799 people from District 26, which is 21.7%. ([Attachment 1](#))

State Senator Jim Barone testified that Crawford County should be represented by one congressman and one state senator, and as few state representatives as possible. ([Attachment 2](#))

State Representative Garry Boston suggested a compromise to the Caucus J map that would affect only Harvey and Kingman Counties. He did not want North Newton and Highland Township split. ([Attachment 3](#))

Representative Carl Krehbiel said that he supported the change presented by Representative Boston. He said the Federal government is looking at including Harvey County in a MSA.

Senator Stan Clark testified that he lives over 140 miles from his closest state senator. He questioned what

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Scott, Wichita and Greeley counties have in common with Ellis and Russell counties that Trego, Gove, and Graham do not have. ([Attachment 4](#))

Senator Hensley gave a presentation voicing his concerns. He said one person, one vote is the most important factor in redistricting. He said that he felt Caucus J plan would not withstand a court ruling, and the Senate plan in **SB 379** would fail to meet court mandates. In the minority report to the interim committee's recommendations he said this is an example of political gerrymandering. ([Attachment 5](#))

In response to Chairman Adkins, Senator Hensley said that he has not presented an alternative plan because he thought it would be labeled the "Democrats Map". He said maybe he would have a map completed for consideration by February 4 or 5. Adkins indicated that conclusions reached by Hensley were not correct concerning the Senate redistricting proposal.

Chairman Adkins said there is no interest in being punitive against rural Kansas. After hearing complaints against the process, he would like to know how he could better accommodate the minority party. Hensley said that inclement weather prevented several key conferees from attending this hearing, and he felt the Chair had "bent over backwards" to be accommodating. He complimented Chairman Adkins on doing a good job.

Senator Lee began her testimony by presenting a weather map showing the current weather situation. She said that she felt this hearing should have been rescheduled. She thanked Senator Clark for his comments and echoed agreement with them. She said she drives over 30,000 miles annually in her district. She read excerpts from several letters she received. ([Attachment 6](#))

Senator Schmidt said that constraints were imposed on Kansas by the U.S. Supreme Court, and that is the reason redistricting has to be completed as it is being done.

When asked by Chairman Adkins what reason she had to say that he was not concerned about public testimony, Senator Lee responded that she felt the map did not take into consideration many of the concerns that were raised. Adkins said he took great exception to the remark that he lacked concern for public testimony since there had been 10 town hall meetings prior to this evening's hearing.

Senator Lee said there was no work product from her caucus for consideration because it would be labeled a "Democratic map".

Steve Hogard, Crawford County, introduced Kevin W. Anselmi, Crawford County Clerk. Anselmi testified that he would like to keep the Senate, representative and congressional districts as they are currently apportioned. ([Attachment 7](#))

Jeff Traill, City Administrator for the City of Halstead, testified that the City of Halstead would like all of Harvey County to remain in the 31st State Senate District. ([Attachment 8](#)) He testified that Halstead and the other communities in Harvey County are closely intertwined, therefore splitting them would be counterproductive to the interests of the county as a whole.

John Torline, City Administrator of City of North Newton, strongly supported having all of Harvey County remain in the 4th Congressional District, and the 31st State Senatorial District. He testified that Harvey County is a "community of interest" and would be far better served by remaining as one. ([Attachment 9](#))

Harvey County Commissioner Kenneth Meier testified that he felt there is no sound reason to divide Harvey County. He listed several common interests of Harvey County residents including the sharing of a 9-1-1 emergency communications system and the Economic Development Council of Harvey County. ([Attachment 10](#))

Senator Schmidt complimented the large Harvey County group on attending the hearing. He questioned Commissioner Meier as to why he thought Harvey County was more deserving of being together than

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other counties. Meier replied, he felt it is the best county, but he also thinks as many other counties should be kept together as possible.

Jim Will, City of Halstead, Harvey County, the Halstead Chamber of Commerce, the Hertzler Research Foundation, Halstead Hospital and the Harvey County Economic Development Council, testified in opposition to Senate Redistricting Plan 2004A. He requested that the Committee recognize the similarities of interest in all of Harvey County. (Attachment 11)

Jim Redinger, Mayor of the City of Burrton, testified that he wanted Harvey County to remain as a unit within the 31st State Senate District. He said it was clearly a community of interest as a county. (Attachment 12)

Keith DeHaven, City of Sedgwick, said he felt that it is in the best interest of all citizens in Harvey County to keep Senate District 31 intact. (Attachment 13)

Tim Holverson, Director Public Policy, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, submitted a copy of the testimony he offered at the Lawrence Town Meeting on May 16, 2001. He does not want Lawrence split. He said moving Douglas County to the second congressional district would be disruptive to the rest of the state, and changes the dynamics of each of the four districts. (Attachment 14)

Ann Gardner, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, strongly supported the retention of Lawrence in the 3rd Congressional District. She said keeping Lawrence in the 3rd congressional district would be in best interest of the community of Lawrence. (Attachment 15)

Phil Urban, Mayor of the City of Leavenworth, testified that Leavenworth and Lansing should remain in the same district. (Attachment 16)

Chairman Adkins recognized other legislators who were in attendance at the hearing and thanked them for their interest in reapportionment: Senators Downey, Lyon and Kerr; and Representatives Crow, Goodwin, and Loganbill.

Senator Downey recognized a group of Mayors from her district.

Chairman Adkins again thanked all who traveled to attend the hearing. He said he was hopeful that committee action will be taken next week on the bills. His goal is to have a bill sent to the House by the middle of February.

Letters received by the Kansas Legislative Research Department concerning reapportionment are attached to these minutes and become a part of the official record. (Attachment 17)

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.