

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

May 29, 2001

Kansas City Kansas Community College
Leavenworth Center

Members Present

Senator David Adkins, Chairman
Senator Barbara Allen
Senator David Haley
Senator Anthony Hensley
Representative Lisa Benlon
Representative Marti Crow
Representative Troy Findley
Representative Broderick Henderson
Representative Andrew Howell
Representative Doug Mays

Other Legislators in Attendance

Representative Candy Ruff

Conferees

Burdett Loomis, Professor, Political Science, University of Kansas
Charles H. Gregor, Jr., Leavenworth/Lansing Area Chamber of Commerce
Don Biggs, former State Senator

Others Attending—see guest list

Staff Attending

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Cindy O'Neal, Committee Secretary

Chairman David Adkins called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 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-filed 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.

The Chairman 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 hearings. The web site address is <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/ksleg/KLRD/redistr.htm>.

Burdett Loomis 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 be compactness and contiguity.

Mr. Loomis continued with the power point presentation concentrating on the 3rd Congressional district which includes Wyandotte, Johnson, Miami and part of Douglas Counties (Attachment 2).

Representative Candy Ruff asked if the prisoners are reallocated to their home district or are they counted in the district where the prison is located. Staff responded that all prisoners are counted and included in that district where the prison is located. Representative Ruff went on to state that she was planning on drafting legislation which would allow military to be counted in their current location instead of returned to their home district.

Senator Anthony Hensley and Representative Troy Findley provided the attendees with a proposed Congressional map for the 2nd and 3rd Districts (Attachment 3), along with a proposed Congressional map for the state (Attachment 4). Senator Hensley proceeded to give a Power Point Presentation as to why they feel Wyandotte County should continue to be included in the 3th District (Attachment 5).

Chairman Adkins opened the hearing up for comments. Charles Gregor, Jr., stated that the Hensley plan makes a lot of sense when it combines Geary and Riley Counties together with western Kansas. “It’s logical due to the economic interest.”

A question was asked as to how many formal plans had been submitted. Staff responded that currently there are three maps all of which can be found on the Redistricting Web Site.

Don Biggs encouraged the Committee to look at the geography of the 1st District in that it is wide, the 3rd being compact, and the 4th needing to expand and make it easier for those elected to travel their district. He stated that Leavenworth and Atchison are both historic cities and they share the same river and therefore should remain in the same districts (Attachment 6).

David Van Parys was scheduled to appear but due to an illness was not available to testify. He later sent written testimony (Attachment 7).

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Prepared by Cindy O'Neal
Edited by Kathie Sparks

Approved by Committee on:

July 12, 2001

(Date)