

Approved: March 9, 2012
(Date)

MINUTES OF THE SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:05 P.M. on January 18, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present, except Senator Holland, who was excused

Committee staff present:

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Craig Callahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Reed Holwegner, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jason Long, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Mary Torrence, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Theresa Kiernan, Committee Assistant

Others Attending:

See Attached List

The Chairperson welcomed the members of the Committee and introduced the members of the staff serving the Committee.

The Chairperson recognized Corey Carnahan for the purpose of reviewing the Guidelines and Criteria for 2012 Kansas Congressional and Legislative Redistricting (Attachment 1). Mr. Carnahan reminded the Committee that the Guidelines had been adopted by the Committee at its meeting held on April 28, 2011.

Mr. Carnahan reviewed the Technical Committee Rules (Attachment 2).

Senator Hensley moved, Senator Teichman seconded, that the committee adopt the Technical Committee Rules. Motion carried.

Written information, prepared by Dr. Lisa Handley, relating to voting patterns in recent Kansas elections was distributed to the Committee (Attachment 3).

A map of the state of Kansas, which indicates the changes in population of each county, based upon a comparison of data from the 2000 U.S. Census and data from the 2010 U.S. Census was distributed to the Committee (Attachment 4).

The Chairperson stated the first redistricting task the Committee would address would be Congressional redistricting. The Chairperson related to the Committee that people, testifying at the townhall meetings held throughout the state this past summer, repeatedly asked that counties and cities not be split among or between Congressional Districts. Many of those testifying also expressed concern that there was not a map on which to comment.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Reapportionment Committee at 12:05 P.M. on January 18, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

Senator Teichman asked if there would be any joint meetings with the House Redistricting Committee to consider Congressional District plans.

The Chairperson stated he would contact the Chairperson of the House Committee, but as of this time no joint meetings were scheduled. Senator Haley noted that the townhall meetings held this summer were joint meetings, but he had requested another joint meeting be held prior to the convening of the 2012 Legislative Session (Attachment 5). He stated another joint meeting might address the public's skepticism concerning the process and would provide an opportunity to assure the public that it is their will that will be done. He expressed concern over the time constraints with the June 1 filing deadline quickly approaching. In addition, he stated he was concerned the process would not be completed in a timely manner so that there would be adequate time to wage effective election campaigns.

The Chairperson stated his two overriding goals were to draw Congressional Districts which contained populations having a deviation as close to zero, as possible; and to avoid any gerrymandering. At the request of the Chairperson, a map, designated as Sunflower 9c, was distributed (Attachment 6). Sunflower 9c is to be used as a template for drawing Congressional Districts. The template is merely a guide, or starting point, to be used by the Committee and could be adjusted as the Committee so chose.

In response to a question raised by Senator Teichman regarding the effect on the population deviation if all of Pawnee or Marshall counties were included within the 1st Congressional District, two maps were distributed. Sunflower 9d would include all of Pawnee County in the 1st Congressional District (Attachment 7). Sunflower 9a would include all of Marshall County in the 1st Congressional District (Attachment 8).

Senator Teichman stated she believed Reno County has more in common with Sedgwick County and the 4th Congressional District.

Senator Hensley noted that Reno County has been in the 1st Congressional District for 20 years and those persons expressing opinions this summer stated they were satisfied with remaining in the 1st Congressional District.

Senator Wagel stated there had been little change in the population of the 4th Congressional District and hopes there are few changes made to the current boundaries of the District.

In response to questions relating to maps distributed or discussed in the meeting, Mr. Carnahan noted that those maps would be available at the redistricting website at: redistricting.ks.gov.

The Chairperson announced there would be time scheduled for public comment at the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2012.