

Approved: March 9, 2012
(Date)

MINUTES OF THE SENATE REAPPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M. on January 23, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

All members were present, except Senator Brungardt, 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

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Dick Carter, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce
Senator Roger Reitz, Manhattan, Kansas

Others Attending:

See Attached List

The Chairperson reviewed the proposed Congressional District Template, Sunflower 9c, which had been distributed at the meeting held on January 18, 2012.

The Chairperson opened the public comment portion of the meeting:

Dick Carter requested the Committee to include the city of Manhattan and Riley County within the boundaries of the 2nd Congressional District (Attachment 1). In the testimony submitted by Mr. Carter were two proposed maps which had been drawn by a special task force created by the Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce (Chamber). The task force was comprised of members of the Board of Directors of the Chamber and members of the Riley County Republican and Democratic parties. The task force based its request to remain within the 2nd Congressional District on the following factors:

- the historic representation in the district
- the communities of interest based on the regional economies of the district
- the missions of the military, university research, and area businesses in the district
- the combined significance of the presence of NBAF and the community's position in the

Animal Health Corridor.

A Resolution, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners of Riley County, which expressed support of maintaining Riley County and the city of Manhattan within the 2nd Congressional District was distributed (Attachment 2).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Reapportionment Committee at 12:00 P.M. on January 23, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

In response to a question raised by Senator Kelsey, Mr. Carter responded that Congressman Pompeo had been contacted to comment on the proposals submitted by the task force.

Senator Hensley noted that under the proposals submitted by the task force, the nine counties which comprise southeastern area of the State would not be within the same Congressional District. He stated he would prefer that those nine counties be contained in the same Congressional District. He also added there was contention over placing Montgomery County in the 4th Congressional District in 2002.

Senator Roger Reitz appeared before the Committee and stated his main concerns were the economic development of the area and maintaining NBAF securely in Manhattan, Kansas. He stated it was in the best of interest of the entire state that NBAF be located in Manhattan.

In response to a question raised by Senator Teichman, Senator Reitz stated it was his preference to keep Manhattan in the 2nd Congressional District regardless of which map the Committee selected.

In response to a question raised by Senator Teichman, Mr. Carter stated that Geary County would prefer to remain in the 1st Congressional District.

The Chairperson closed the public comment portion and asked for Committee discussion.

The Chairman drew the Committee's attention to a map designated as Sunflower 10c ([Attachment 2](#)). Sunflower 10c was drawn in response to concerns raised by the Speaker of the House of Representatives with Sunflower 9c.

Senator Kelsey stated that the ability of a Congressional Representative to communicate effectively with his or her constituents is important. Sunflower 10c does not allow for effective communication.

Senator Teichman stated she believes it would be a nightmare to split Sedgwick County between two Congressional Districts.

Senator Wagle stated it is important to keep Montgomery County within the 4th Congressional District in order to maintain the aircraft industry of the area.

The Chairperson noted that a bill would need to be drafted and introduced in order to move forward.

Senator Vratil stated that when drawing Congressional District boundaries if the population deviation in a District is less than 1%, his concern is maintaining communities of interest in the District.

In response to Senator Vratil's statement, the Chairperson noted that in cases challenging Congressional redistricting maps, courts have required the number of people in a district to be as close to the ideal number as possible. The deviation allowed is expressed in numbers of people, not as a percentage.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Reapportionment Committee at 12:00 P.M. on January 23, 2012, in Room 159-S of the Capitol.

Senator Ostmeyer expressed his concern with including six rural counties within the 4th Congressional District as proposed in Sunflower 9c.

The Chairman stated it may not be possible to draw a map that does not include rural areas in a District which also includes Sedgwick County.

Senator Hensley noted in regard to the 4th Congressional District that a shift needs to be made to make up for the loss in population in the 1st Congressional District.

Meeting adjourned at 12:52 P.M. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 30, 2012.