

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

June 12, 2001

Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas

Members Present

Representative Mike O'Neal, Chairman
Senator David Adkins
Senator David Haley
Senator Janis Lee
Senator Ruth Teichman
Representative John Edmonds
Representative Troy Findley
Representative Doug Mays
Representative Janice Pauls
Representative R. J. Wilson

Other Legislators in Attendance

Senator Stan Clark
Senator Larry Salmans
Representative Jerry Aday
Representative John Faber
Representative Vaughn Flora
Representative Bob Grant
Representative Carl Holmes
Representative Dan Johnson
Representative Annie Kuether
Representative Laura McClure
Representative Jim Morrison
Representative Melvin Neufeld
Representative Eugene O'Brien
Representative Ralph Ostmeyer
Representative Eber Phelps

Conferees

Dr. Joseph Aistrup, Director of the Docking Institute of Public Affairs, and Associate Professor of Political Science and Justice Studies, Fort Hays State University
Representative Dan Johnson
Dr. George McCleary, Professor of Geography, University of Kansas

Staff Attending

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

Others Attending – see guest list.

Chairman Michael O'Neal called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.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 the 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.

Senator Adkins commented that the legislative districts are to be numerically as equal in population as practical. The courts have allowed legislative districts 5 percent plus or minus deviations from the ideal population. These districts should be as compact as possible and contiguous. Finally, the integrity and priority of existing political subdivisions should be preserved to the extent possible and there should be recognition of "communities of interest."

Chairman O'Neal 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 hearing information. The website address is <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/ksleg/KLRD/redistr.html>.

Dr. Joseph Aistrup 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 have compactness and contiguity.
- Census data suggest that it may be possible to create a Hispanic majority-minority lower house district in Finney and Ford Counties.
- Dr. Joseph Aistrup proposed a possible solution for redrawing the 1st District (see Attachment 1, slides 46-51)

Dr. George McCleary's presentation was based on the Mosaic System which breaks down the population and their interests into 62 categories. The presentation made the following points:

- The smallest county in Kansas, Greeley, has a population of 15,304, while the largest county (Sedgwick) has a population of 452,869 (Attachment 2).
- Mosaic Systems 62 categories can be found on (Attachment 3).
- Mosaic is a market segmentation system. The market segment categories are based on socio-economic, or geodemographic, data, buying patterns, and lifestyle preferences. Thus, groups of people are identified using lifestyle variables. The variables used to create the categories include race, ethnic origin, family status, age, travel to work, employment, industry, occupation, income and forms of income, housing type and tenure, household size, car ownership, and education (Attachment 4).
- In Kansas more than 5.5 percent of the population is in category 41 which is described as lower-middle income families, in small towns. Categories' 42, 43, and 44 comprise 9.44 percent of the population which is described as lower income, singles and seniors, rural towns, and farms. These four categories represent Western Kansas (Attachment 5).
- Sedgwick County is an atypical Kansas county as it represents older, low-to mid-income, blue-collar couples in single-family homes. Of the 62 categories in the system, 47 are found in Sedgwick County (Attachment 6).

Professor McCleary encouraged the Committee to consider that there is a 50.0 percent chance that Kansas will have only three congressional districts in 2010. He believes only three congressional districts will exist in 2020. Therefore, the Committee should consider moving toward that direction when redistricting this year. He proposed a congressional map that places Douglas and Wyandotte counties in the 2nd Congressional district; Johnson, Miami, Franklin, and Southeast Kansas in the 3rd district; Harvey,

Woodson, and Wilson counties in the 4th district; and Kingman, Harper, and Nemaha counties in the 1st district.

Representative Dan Johnson expressed concern that in information he has seen, District 110 lists townships that are not included in that district. He urged staff to double check to make sure that current districts are correct before redistricting.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Prepared by Cindy O'Neal
Edited by Kathie Sparks

Approved by Committee on:

July 12, 2001

(date)