

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

May 16, 2001

Douglas County Commission Room

Lawrence, Kansas

Members Present

Senator David Adkins, Chairman
Senator David Haley
Senator Anthony Hensley
Senator Lynn Jenkins
Senator Derek Schmidt
Representative John Ballou
Representative Troy Findley
Representative Doug Mays
Representative Rocky Nichols
Representative Mike O'Neal
Representative Jene Vickrey

Other Legislators in Attendance

Senator Lana Oleen
Senator Sandy Praeger
Representative John Edmonds
Representative Tom Sloan
Representative R. J. Wilson

Conferees

Steven Maynard-Moody, PhD, Professor of Public Administration and Interim Director
of the Policy Research Institute, University of Kansas
Mike Rundle, Mayor, City of Lawrence
Marilyn Greathouse, American Association of University Women, Lawrence Branch
Ann Gardner, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce
Tim Holverson, Lawrence Chamber of Commerce

Dwane Peaslee, Lawrence Building and Construction Trades
John Davidson, Citizen
Caroljean Brume, School of Education, University of Kansas
Julia Gilmore, University of Kansas Student Senate
Charles Jones, Citizen

Others Attending—See Attached 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 12:15 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 Legislative and State School Board districts. The history 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.

Steven Maynard-Moody gave a slide 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 vs. 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. In Barton County the estimated population does not closely model the actual population count, while in Douglas County the estimates closely matched the actual population counts.

- 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 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. Maynard-Moody continued with the slide presentation concentrating on the 3rd Congressional District which includes Wyandotte, Johnson, Miami, and part of Douglas counties (Attachment 2).

- More than 30 percent have bachelor or graduate degrees;

- 26 percent have high school diplomas;

- Per Capita Income: Johnson County—\$39,355
Douglas County—\$20,645, which includes college students
Wyandotte County—\$19,434
Miami—\$22,586
- Vote Patterns: Johnson and Miami Counties—Republican 52 percent, Democrat 45 percent, Libertarian 3 percent;
Wyandotte County—Republican 28 percent, Democrat 69 percent, Libertarian 3 percent;
Douglas County—Republican 40 percent, Democrat 56 percent, Libertarian 4 percent.

Mike Rundle, Mayor of the City of Lawrence, impressed the importance of Douglas County remaining in the 3rd Congressional District (Attachment 3). He anticipates further growth in the future along the eastern boundaries and along K-10. He informed the panel that 61 percent of those who live in Douglas County work in Johnson County or the Kansas City metro area. Furthermore, the Mayor expressed that there are strong education ties with the University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, Kansas, and the University of Kansas which is based in Lawrence. Lawrence also has commercial connections to the Kansas City area. Lawrence has a Hallmark manufacturing plant, a Honeywell plant, a DST center, and a Sprint calling center, all of which have headquarters in Kansas City. He suggested that if Lawrence does not remain in the 3rd Congressional District that the city be placed in one single district instead of splitting Lawrence.

Marilyn Greathouse commented that the University of Kansas is present in all counties in the 3rd District. She believes that whoever represents Lawrence needs to be able to work with the Congressman from Missouri because of the University (Attachment 4).

Ann Gardner strongly supports the retention of Douglas County in the 3rd District (Attachment 5). She feels that there is a strong “community of interests” among the four counties in the 3rd District. The University of Kansas draws thousands of students from the Kansas City area. She informed the panel that the *Lawrence Journal World* conducted a poll which found that 10.2 percent of respondents stated that they live in Lawrence and work in Johnson County. The Chamber of Commerce supports all of Douglas County being in the 3rd Congressional District along with Johnson County.

Tim Holverson, a representative of the Lawrence Chamber of Commerce, supported the previous speaker’s comments.

Dwayne Peaslee, President of the Lawrence Building Trades Council, reminded the panel that there are many people who live in Lawrence and work in Johnson County. He believes that by taking Douglas County out of the 3rd District, the Lawrence Building and

Construction Trades employees would not be fairly represented in Congress because they do most of their work in Kansas City (Attachment 6).

John Davidson's major concern is with the ties between Johnson and Douglas Counties to the educational community. He also commented that the Lawrence Municipal Airport is often considered an "overflow" airport for the Kansas City metropolitan area. Therefore, it would benefit Douglas County to remain in the 3rd Congressional District (Attachment 7).

Caroljean Brume spoke in favor of keeping Douglas County in the 3rd District due to the fact that the University of Kansas works with many underprivileged schools in Wyandotte County. Their special education program is ranked highly in the state.

Julia Gilmore informed the panel that the University of Kansas Student Council passed a resolution to keep Douglas County in the 3rd Congressional District.

Charles Jones stated that the community has banded together to support keeping Douglas County in the 3rd District. Doing so would restore the confidence the public has in those who represent them.

Written testimony was provided by Nancy and John Hiebert in support of keeping Douglas County in the 1st District (Attachment 8) and Congressman Jim Ryun asking that the 2nd District be drawn as close to its current configuration as possible (Attachment 9).

Representative Mike O'Neal commented that the Lawrence situation is similar to what Hutchinson went through during the last redistricting process in which they would either stay in the 4th District or move to the 1st District. Looking back at the debate, he does not see that it has made a difference to the community by moving to the 1st District. Sometimes the perception of what will happen is worse than what actually does. It is possible that the "community of interest" could be so great that it could be possible for Douglas County to elect two congressional officials instead of one.

Senator Anthony Hensley and Representative Troy Findley proposed a Congressional map for the 3rd District (Attachment 10), along with a proposed Congressional map for the state (Attachment 11).

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Prepared by Kathie Sparks

Approved by Committee on:

July 12, 2001
(date)