

MINUTES

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REDISTRICTING

May 23, 2001
Hutchinson Public Library
Hutchinson, Kansas

Members Present

Senator David Corbin
Senator Anthony Hensley
Senator Janis Lee
Senator Ruth Teichman
Representative Troy Findley
Representative Tom Klein
Representative Bill Mason
Representative Doug Mays
Representative Mike O'Neal
Representative Janice Pauls

Other Legislators in Attendance

Senator Jay Emler
Senator Dave Kerr
Representative John Edmonds
Representative Mary Kaufman
Representative Shari Weber

Conferees

Steve Adams, Hutchinson Teamsters
Joe Palacios, City Manager, City of Hutchinson
Jon Daveline, Hutchinson Chamber of Commerce
Randy McEwen, Attorney
Ron Svaty, Ellsworth

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 Michael O'Neal 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.

He further commented that 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."

He informed those at the hearing that the Kansas Legislative Research Department has set up a Kansas Redistricting website which provides numerous amounts of information about the redistricting process, proposed maps, and public hearings. The website address is <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/ksleg/KLRD/redistr.html>.

Mary Galligan gave a Power Point presentation.

- 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. Two examples were: Barton County the estimated

population does not closely model the population count, and Douglas County, where the estimates match 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. However, 86 percent still classify themselves as white.
- Kansas' population actually grew 8.5 percent. However, this was not as fast as other states.
- The Hispanic population doubled in the state during the last 10 years.
- It is mandated that each Congressional district should have an equal population number. The ideal population for Kansas is 672,105. All Congressional districts, except the 1st, must lose population.
- The districts must have "Communities of Interests," *i.e.*, social, economic and population factors.
- Congressional Districts should be compactness and contiguity.
- Ms. Galligan continued with the presentation concentrating on the 1st and 4th Congressional Districts (Attachment 1).
- Showing the age percent.
- Households at a glance, those that are married, single, with children, and without children.
- Housing Occupancy, showing the percentages of owners vs. renters.
- Educational attainment.

Steve Adams, representing the Teamsters Union Local 795, opposed Hutchinson remaining in the 1st Congressional District. He believes that Reno County has more "communities of interests" with Wichita, citing the K-96 corridor. He went on to state that if Reno County was taken out of the 4th District, the Union members who live in Hutchinson but work in Wichita would not have a voice of representation for their workplace (Attachment 2).

Joe Palacioz stated that the community agreed ten years ago to support being in the 1st Congressional District and assumed that they would like to remain there. Reno County is pleased with the representation they have received from Congressman Moran. Mr. Palacioz agreed that the K-96 corridor is important for the relationship between Hutchinson

and Wichita, but the future is K-61 between Hutchinson and McPherson and a major highway that will connect Hutchinson to Western Kansas.

Jon Daveline agreed with Mr. Palacioz' comment and stated that the city is looking for stability and does not want to be like a ball being bounced back and forth among the 1st District and the 4th District. He believes that the Chamber of Commerce members would support staying in the 1st Congressional District.

Senator Anthony Hensley and Representative Troy Findley provided the attendees with a proposed Congressional map for the 4th District (Attachment 3), along with a proposed Congressional map for the state (Attachment 4). Senator Hensley proceed to give a Power Point Presentation explaining the reasoning for the majority of Reno County being included in the 4th District (Attachment 5).

Senator Dave Kerr commented that the Hensley/Findley plan is an odd plan in that it takes the largest city out of the 1st District, as Reno County is a truly important part of the 1st District. He further stated that Hutchinson has "communities of interests" with Salina, Garden City, and the manufacturing in Reno County is related to agricultural. Hutchinson also serves as the major medical center for Western Kansas. Senator Kerr also stated that the 34th Senate District is Reno County. Furthermore, during the redistricting process the Senator hoped that the Committee would not change this precedent by making the district cover parts of several counties.

Randy McEwen stated that he was sure that Congressman Glickman would feel that he had represented Reno County well and that many residents from Hutchinson go to Wichita for medical treatment.

Ron Svaty, of Ellsworth, is unhappy with the size of the 1st Congressional District because Western Kansas is dying. He provided the panel with a proposed statewide congressional map (Attachment 6). The map would split the districts so that they would have no more than 40 counties in one district and with no counties being split.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Prepared by Cindy O'Neal
Edited by Kathie Sparks

Approved by Committee on:

July 12, 2001
(Date)