

SENATE BILL NO. 954

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MOSLEY.

3561S.02I

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 67, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to redistricting political subdivisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 67, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto
2 one new section, to be known as section 67.005, to read as
3 follows:

67.005. 1. Every political subdivision, political
2 party county committee, board, city council, board of
3 alderpersons, and county commission shall consist of such
4 members as is provided by law, ordinance, or charter and
5 shall be elected as provided by law, ordinance, or charter.

6 2. Each multi-member political subdivision that elects
7 members from single member wards, subdistricts or districts,
8 not including members who are elected at-large, political
9 party county committee, board, city council, board of
10 alderpersons, and county commission shall redistrict or
11 reapportion their wards, subdistricts, or districts using
12 the following methods, listed in order of priority:

13 (1) Wards, subdistricts, or districts shall be as
14 nearly equal as practicable in population. Wards,
15 subdistricts, or districts are as nearly equal as
16 practicable in population if no ward, subdistrict, or
17 district deviates by more than five percent from the ideal
18 population of the ward, subdistrict, or district, as

19 measured by dividing the number of wards, subdistricts, or
20 districts into the jurisdiction's, political subdivision's,
21 municipal's, or county's population data being used;

22 (2) Wards, subdistricts, and districts shall be
23 established in a manner so as to comply with all
24 requirements of the United States Constitution and
25 applicable federal laws, including, but not limited to, the
26 Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. The following
27 principles shall take precedence over any other part of this
28 section: no ward, subdistrict, or district shall be drawn
29 in a manner which results in a denial or abridgment of the
30 right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account
31 of race or color; and no ward, subdistrict, or district
32 shall be drawn such that members of any community of
33 citizens protected by the preceding clause have less
34 opportunity than other members of the electorate to
35 participate in the political process and to elect
36 representatives of their choice;

37 (3) Subject to the requirements of subdivisions (1)
38 and (2) of this subsection, districts, subdistricts, and
39 wards shall be composed of contiguous territory as compact
40 as may be. Areas which meet only at the points of adjoining
41 corners are not contiguous. In general, compact wards,
42 subdistricts, and districts are those which are square,
43 rectangular, or hexagonal in shape to the extent permitted
44 by natural or census block boundaries;

45 (4) To the extent consistent with subdivisions (1) to
46 (3) of this subsection, communities and political
47 subdivisions of common interest shall be preserved. In the
48 case of a jurisdiction or political subdivision that
49 encompasses multiple municipalities or of county commission
50 districts, wards, subdistricts, or districts shall satisfy

51 this requirement if ward, subdistrict, or district lines
52 follow municipal or political subdivision lines to the
53 extent possible and as few political subdivision or
54 municipal lines shall be crossed as possible.

55 3. Districts, subdistricts, and wards shall be drawn
56 in a manner that achieves both partisan fairness and,
57 secondarily, competitiveness, but the standards established
58 by subdivisions (1) to (4) of subsection 2 of this section
59 shall take precedence over partisan fairness and
60 competitiveness. "Partisan fairness" means that parties
61 shall be able to translate their popular support into
62 legislative representation with approximately equal
63 efficiency. "Competitiveness" means that parties'
64 legislative representation shall be substantially and
65 similarly responsive to shifts in the electorate's
66 preferences.

67 4. Except as otherwise provided by law, ordinance, or
68 charter, not later than sixty days after the effective date
69 of this section and after each decennial census has been
70 reported to the President of the United States, not later
71 than six months prior to the opening of filing for office,
72 the redistricting or reapportionment authority shall file
73 with the election authority a tentative reapportionment or
74 redistricting plan and map of the proposed wards,
75 subdistricts, or districts and during the ensuing fifteen
76 days shall hold such public hearings as may be necessary to
77 hear objections or testimony of interested persons. The
78 redistricting or reapportionment authority shall make public
79 the tentative reapportionment or redistricting plan and map
80 of the proposed wards, subdistricts, or districts, as well
81 as all demographic and partisan data used in the creation of
82 the plan and map.

83 5. Except as otherwise provided by law, ordinance, or
84 charter, not later than ninety days after the effective date
85 of this section and not later than five months prior to the
86 opening of filing for office after each decennial census has
87 been reported to the President of the United States, the
88 redistricting or reapportionment authority shall file with
89 the election authority a final statement of the numbers and
90 the boundaries of the wards, subdistricts, or districts
91 together with a map of the wards, subdistricts, or districts.

92 6. The office of the state demographer shall provide
93 such assistance as is required to assist with the
94 redistricting or reapportionment of wards, subdistricts, or
95 districts and may charge a reasonable fee to reimburse the
96 state for the cost thereof.

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