

MISSOURI SENATE APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Minutes

Tuesday, February 21, 2012
Wainwright State Office Building
Conference Room 116
111 North 7th Street
St. Louis, Missouri

Meeting convened at approximately 1:05 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Nicole Colbert-Botchway, Steve Ehlmann, Marc Ellinger, Doug Harpool, Nick Myers, and Todd Patterson.

Commissioners Present via Conference Call: Jean Paul Bradshaw II, Lowell Pearson, Trent Skaggs. Commissioner W. Mitchell Elliott not present.

Chair Harpool called the meeting to order, stated the commission's responsibility, briefly noted the process of redistricting to date, and advised all in attendance that previous public testimony from the 2011 Senate Redistricting Commission would be incorporated into the official record of the 2012 Senate Redistricting Commission.

Chair Harpool asked commissioners to introduce themselves and asked all witnesses to fill out witness testimony forms for the official record. Harpool also noted this would be the final public hearing and that the commission would meet in Jefferson City on Wednesday, February 22nd at 11:00 a.m.

Adolphus Pruitt, President, St. Louis, NAACP – testified in favor of the Harpool 3 map and asked that the commission members begin with that map; it seemed to take in to account all changes in population shifts that have taken place in the past ten years. Concerns are with the 13th, 14th and 5th districts in the St. Louis area. It was his opinion that 56-58% African-American population is sufficient in those districts. Mr. Pruitt would appreciate protection of the 13th district in that it has naturally grown into a majority-minority district.

Joan Bray, Co-Chair for Let Missourians Decide, a non-profit, non-partisan organization formed to advocate for competitive legislative districts within Missouri. Bray distributed a handout detailing a suggested plan for the commission to consider. Districts should reflect the Missouri voters and not the incumbents. This plan would allow more competitive districts to be drawn which would better reflect the state's 50/50 partisanship. Her testimony was labeled as Bray-1 through 6.

John Bowman, speaking on behalf of Senator Robin Wright-Jones. The Senator is pleased with the Harpool 2-18-2012 map. Population migration, voter dissemination and majority-minority districts were discussed.

John Judd – stated that the Saint Louis Senators, a group of both Democratic and Republican Senators from the St. Louis metropolitan area, have agreed upon a map for the St. Louis Area which they submitted during the first commission process. He urged the Commission to honor these districts in their final plan. Chairman Harpool indicated that the Senators were no longer all in agreement about the plan. Mr. Judd indicated that this could in fact be the case.

The Commission adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Note: A complete and official transcript of this meeting's proceedings will be available and posted on the State Redistricting website as soon as it is available.