

HJR 27 -- Congressional and Legislative Redistricting

Sponsor: Storch

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment transfers the initial responsibility for congressional and state legislative redistricting from a congressional committee consisting of members of the Republican and Democratic parties to a state demographer, who is established in the bill. The demographer will use census data from the United States Census Bureau to develop a plan for submission to the Secretary of State. Census data will be obtained on or before December 31, 2010, and by December 31 every 10 years thereafter. The plan will be submitted on or before April 1, 2011, and by April 1 each 10 years thereafter.

When drawing districts, the demographer will prioritize the requisite population of the districts, the boundaries of existing political subdivisions, and the use of contiguous territory. Compactness will serve as a secondary criterion for drawing districts, and the method for comparing the compactness of districts is specified. The demographer will not be allowed to use any information involving the addresses of incumbent legislators, the political affiliation of registered voters, previous election results, or demographic information other than population head counts.