

HJR 89 -- FAIR AND TRANSPARENT REDISTRICTING ACT

SPONSOR: Kirkton

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment establishes the Fair and Transparent Redistricting Act. The amendment repeals the current provisions regarding the initial responsibility for congressional and state legislative redistricting by a congressional committee consisting of members of the Republican and Democratic parties and requires a state demographer to develop procedures in preparation for drawing legislative redistricting plans. The demographer must use census data obtained on or before December 31, 2020, and by December 31 every 10 years thereafter, from the United States Census Bureau to develop a plan for submission within eight months of receipt of the census data to the newly established Appellate Apportionment Commission.

When drawing districts, the demographer will prioritize the requisite population of the districts, the boundaries of existing political subdivisions, the use of convenient contiguous territory, and the partisan political composition of proposed districts based on a formula requiring averaging of past electoral results. 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. Any citizen may submit maps to the commission using the same criteria as the demographer. The demographer will make available to the public the census information, political subdivision information, and statewide partisan political index information by April 1 of the census year.

The commission is to consist of six appellate judges appointed by the Missouri Supreme Court who must validate that the demographer follows the criteria for redistricting specified in the resolution. The commission may reject a map and require its resubmission by the demographer within 60 days. Maps may be rejected up to three times by the commission. The commission's meetings will be subject to the Open Meetings and Records Law, commonly known as the Sunshine Law.