

HJR 47 -- REDISTRICTING

SPONSOR: Trent

Upon voter approval, this proposed Constitutional amendment would create an order of priority of criteria used to draw state Senate and House districts. In order of priority the criteria are:

- (1) Equal population;
- (2) Contiguity of territory as specified;
- (3) Compactness of districts so that they are as compact as possible;
- (4) A limit of 50 miles for Senate districts and 30 miles for House districts based on the geographic center of such districts;
- (5) Communities of interest and political subdivision rules as specified in the resolution; and
- (6) Other criteria currently enacted into law under Article III of the Constitution of Missouri.

Plans created by the demographer using these criteria must be approved by seven of the apportionment commission members. If a map is not agreed upon, then a six member panel of judges will create the map using these criteria. Certain regulations on the demographer are also imposed including imposing the requirements of the open records law commonly known as the Sunshine Law on all work product relating to redistricting done by the demographer. The resolution is enforceable by lawsuit by any Missouri citizen in Cole County Circuit Court against the State Auditor. Remedies are specified in the resolution and can include attorney fees.