



Census spurs concern on rural districts' interests

By PHIL SARATA, T&D Staff Writer | Posted: Thursday, March 24, 2011 3:00 am

As lawmakers draw new election districts based on the latest U.S. Census figures, they find themselves balancing the interests of rural and fast-growing urban areas.

"The rural areas of the state tended to lose population and the urban areas that gained are around Beaufort, Rock Hill and Greenville," said Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg. "The numbers will shift accordingly. Some of the Senate districts will be pulled toward the coast and the others will be pulled back toward Greenville and Rock Hill.

"What you don't want is 46 senators living in urban areas and trying to reach out into the countryside to small pockets of population. You certainly bring a different perspective from a rural area."

Hutto and other members of the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee appeared before a sparse audience for a public hearing at Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College on Wednesday. The subcommittee is charged with creating a plan to redraw the state's senate and congressional districts.

The new Census figures show South Carolina's population is more than 4.6 million, representing statewide growth of 15.3 percent since 2000.

Each state Senate district will have approximately 100,552 people. Each congressional district will have about 660,767.

State Sen. John Matthews, D-Bowman, spoke of the different standards that can be used drawing districts. He asked the subcommittee to use a standard that maintains rural districts.

In order to bolster rural representation in the legislature, Orangeburg County Republican Party Chairman Jim Ulmer advocated a return to one sitting senator and representative from each county. The remaining state House seats could then be divided by population.

Hutto said the federal courts have already ruled against that.

"The court mandates one man, one vote," Hutto said. "It's an interesting concept but not one we'll be able to consider since it's already been ruled on."

Due to population growth, South Carolina will add a seventh congressional district.

Retired educator Harvey Elwood Jr. said the congressional districts should reflect the population mix of the state.

"The African-American population of South Carolina is 29 percent," Elwood said. "That seat should reflect the makeup of this board. I notice there are five white members here and one black member.

"I am looking for representation based on culture, class, race and those things people have in common. I think an African-American representative would be more sensitive and adherent to the interests of the people he serves."

Another speaker said the Sixth Congressional District should be altered because while Orangeburg and the Pee Dee are different places, they're both in the same district. Matthews feels the district's configuration will change.

"Because we are getting an extra district, the Sixth has two options: It will more than likely contract, reducing the number of counties in it," Matthews said. "It appears that Orangeburg County will become a pivotal part of the district.

"The numbers will put it as the core anchor of that district, along with Richland County."

Written comments will be accepted by the subcommittee through April 9. For more information, go to <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov/>.

Contact the writer: psarata@timesanddemocrat.com or 803-533-5540.

Posted on Thu, Mar. 24, 2011

S.C. residents flock to urban areas, coast

Columbia remains largest city, Lexington County among fastest growing

By NOELLE PHILLIPS
nophillips@thestate.com

[County population maps](#)

Justin Thomas Williams, 26, left the family farm in Wagener in 2002 to attend USC.

Nine years later, Williams is still in Columbia with a wife, a house and a job in the 5th Circuit Solicitor's office. Not to mention a large church to attend, networking events where he makes friends with other young professionals and endless entertainment options.

"I love my hometown for what it gave me," Williams said. "I grew up on a farm. People know my family.

"But there's no Prince concerts in Wagener. There are no malls in Wagener, and the one that is 20 miles away is smaller than Richland Fashion Mall."

In South Carolina, Williams is just one of thousands of people who fled small, rural areas during the past decade to find jobs and other opportunities in urban areas. Growth during the past 10 years centered along the S.C. coast, the counties that serve as Charlotte suburbs and the Midlands, according to 2010 census data released Wednesday.

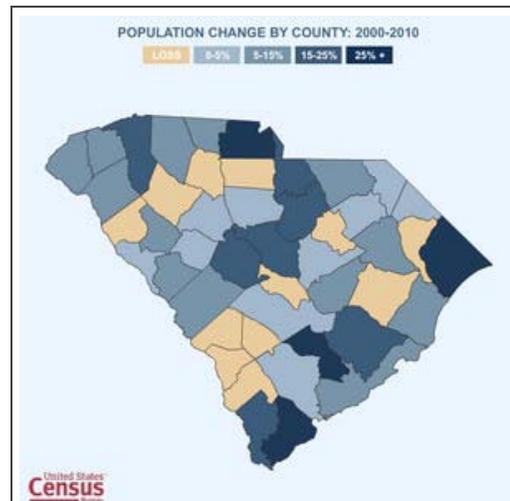
"South Carolina is becoming increasingly urbanized," said USC economist Doug Woodward. "People vote with their feet. They migrate to where the jobs are."

That migration brings more prosperity to cities but also creates issues such as traffic jams. As for the rural areas, they are left to deal with lower tax bases and other problems that result from a declining population.

In December, the Census Bureau reported the state's total population had risen 15.3 percent to 4.6 million residents. On Wednesday, the agency released more detailed numbers on county and city growth and the racial makeup of the state. Those numbers reflected the widening gap between the state's urban and rural areas as more people flocked to the coast and metropolitan areas.

While Columbia remained the state's largest city with 129,272 residents, its growth rate was slower than the other four cities that rounded out the list of the five largest incorporated areas. But Richland County recorded a much larger growth rate that reflects the Northeast's popularity and the surge in houses, shopping and restaurants. The county population grew 20 percent, increasing to 384,504 residents.

The growth of urban centers didn't necessarily mean the growth of cities. It also meant the growth of suburbs, the growth of bedroom communities that evolved into new cities outside Greenville, Charlotte, Charleston and Columbia. Think Mount Pleasant, North Charleston and Rock Hill.



US Census Bureau map of South Carolina showing population change by county. Darker-colored counties have seen more population growth between 2000 and 2010.

/US Census Bureau

6 LARGEST S.C. CITIES

Columbia, 129,272; up 11.2 percent

Charleston, 120,083; up 24.2 percent

North Charleston, 97,471; up 22.4 percent

Mount Pleasant, 67,843; up 42.5 percent (ranked 6 in 2000)

Rock Hill, 66,154; up 32.9 percent

Greenville, 58,409; up 4.3 percent (ranked 4 in 2000)

(OF NOTE: Spartanburg alone among the state's 20 largest cities lost population, falling 2,660 to 39,673.)

10 LARGEST COUNTIES

South Carolinians knew the suburbs were growing, but 10 or 20 years ago, might never have predicted they would grow by this much: Greenville fell to the state's sixth-largest city, surpassed by Mount Pleasant and North Charleston.

The census information's primary purpose is to draw new voting districts on the federal, state and local levels. South Carolina gained a seventh congressional district, and now the General Assembly must redraw the state's federal and state political districts.

But census numbers also provide state and local leaders with valuable information on where people are moving, how old they are and their race and ethnic origins, said Jerry Mitchell, a USC geography research professor. The numbers can help decision-makers with everything from planning English as a second language programs to designing hurricane evacuation routes along the coast.

"It helps us if we know a certain age group is here," he said. "It tells us about elder care needs or if we need to build more schools."

Statewide, the population booms took place along the coast, with Dorchester County topping the list with a 41.6 percent increase, to 136,555 residents. York and Lancaster counties, which have become Charlotte suburbs, also showed tremendous growth.

And the state's Hispanic population more than doubled to 235,682 people, or 5.1 percent of the state's total population.

"Five percent is pretty impressive," Mitchell said.

Experts believe the number could have been higher if not for the recession, which cost jobs, and the state's tough immigration laws that crack down on businesses that hire illegal immigrants.

"I just hoped we counted them before they left," Bobby Bowers, director of the S.C. Office of Research and Statistics, said of the out-migration caused by the Great Recession.

But the primary trend was the migration toward cities and the jobs and lifestyles they offer.

Woodward used Greenville as an example of a place where educated, working people can work and play. The region has a manufacturing base to provide jobs, a happening Main Street and a large civic center that can host concerts and other entertainment events.

"People don't necessarily want to live down there, but they certainly want to be nearby," he said of Greenville's Main Street. "People want to be close to that, and it feeds on itself."

As more people look to cities for those opportunities, the small towns and rural areas suffer.

"If you're educated and you look around at job opportunities, you're just going to leave," Woodward said. "If you have a spouse and you're both working, you're both more likely to find a job in your field in a city."

That's the case for Williams and his wife, Stacy A. Williams. They're both college graduates with advanced degrees, and Columbia, the state's largest city, has what they are looking for.

"As a young professional who is looking for opportunities to establish myself and grow my career, everything is right here in Columbia," he said.

While Columbia and Richland Count packed on the residents, the fastest growth in the Midlands during the past decade was in Lexington County.

Greenville, 451,225

Richland, 384,504

Charleston, 350,209

Spartanburg, 284,307

Horry, 269,291

Lexington, 262,391

York, 226,073

Anderson, 187,126

Berkeley, 177,843

Beaufort, 162,233

10 FASTEST-GROWING COUNTIES

Dorchester, up 41.6 percent

York, up 37.3 percent

Horry, up 37 percent

Beaufort, up 34.1 percent

Lancaster, up 24.9 percent

Berkeley, up 24.7 percent

Lexington, up 21.5 percent

Richland, up 19.9 percent

Jasper, up 19.8 percent

Greenville, up 18.9 percent

COUNTIES LOSING POPULATION

Williamsburg, down 7.5 percent

Allendale, down 7.1 percent

Marion, down 6.8 percent

Lee, down 4.5 percent

Laurens, down 4.4 percent

Bamberg, down 4 percent

Barnwell, down 3.7 percent

Union, down 3.1 percent

Abbeville, down 2.9 percent

Chester, down 2.7 percent

Hampton, down 1.4 percent

CHANGES IN MIDLANDS TOWNS, CITIES

As the state's seventh fastest-growing county, Lexington added 46,377 residents – a 21.4 percent increase.

Areas that watched their population decline included a band of counties just south of I-85 in the Upstate – Abbeville, Laurens, Union and Chester – and a cluster of counties in the southeastern portion of the state – Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell and Hampton.

Many people who left the I-85 corridor most likely moved to Greenville and other Upstate areas where jobs were more available, Woodward said.

As Mitchell explained, "We know that most people when they move go short distances."

Those areas that watched people move away will suffer.

"For those left behind, it's going to be pretty hard times for supporting schools and those types of things," Mitchell said.

COMING SUNDAY: More on the Midlands

Two SC census maps:

Total population **Population change**

[Full screen](#)

Reach Phillips at (803) 771-8307.

Arcadia Lakes, 861, down 2.4 percent
Batesburg-Leesville, 5,362, down 2.8 percent
Blythewood, 2,034, up 1,096.5 percent
Camden, 6,838, up 2.3 percent
Cayce, 12,528, up 3.1 percent
Chapin, 1,445, up 130.1 percent
Columbia, 129,272; up 11.2 percent
Eastover, 813, down 2 percent
Elgin, 1,311, up 62.7 percent
Forest Acres, 10,361, down 1.9 percent
Gaston, 1,645, up 26.2 percent
Gilbert, 565, up 13 percent
Irmo, 11,097, up 0.5 percent
Lexington, 17,870, up 82.5 percent
Pelion, 674, up 21.9 percent
Pine Ridge, 2,064, up 29.6 percent
South Congaree, 2,306, up 1.8 percent
Springdale, 2,636, down 8.4 percent
Summit, 402, up 83.6 percent
Swansea, 827, up 55.2 percent
West Columbia, 14,988, up 14.7 percent

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

- [Home](#)
- [Audio Archive](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Radio Stations](#)
- [Reporters](#)
- [News Widget](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Subscribe](#)



[South Carolina Radio Network](#)

South Carolina News and Sports

Sumter citizens on redistricting: Don't split our precincts

by Susan Trautsch on March 25, 2011

The process of creating a new congressional district in South Carolina continued last night in Sumter with the second in 10 public hearings across the state. Last night's hearing focused on Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter and Williamsburg counties.

A group of about 30 community leaders and citizens attended the meeting with several individuals taking to the podium to make comments and suggestions.

One theme that came up several times was that of not splitting up the communities and precincts into different districts.

Chairman of the Sumter County Republican Party, Braden Bunch added:

When we consider not splitting precincts within state house or state county or state senate seats, I also suggest that you consider starting to not try to split the state senate seats and congressional seats.

The theme of avoiding splits to precincts was mentioned again by Jonathan Bryant, attorney for the City of Sumter. Bryant's recommendation was made to avoid confusion during the election process.

On behalf of the people that run the election commission, people who are trying to instill confidence in government, are asking that you avoid splits as much as possible. If it's impossible that's fine. But these numbers that you have, 100-thousand, 600-thousand, I think that if you can avoid the splits. I think that you can maintain the communities of interest and some of the other positives protect.

Sumter Branch NAACP President Ferdinand Burns was among those who addressed the subcommittee:

We just want it to be fair. If it's not fair, then of course the NAACP will take action. We believe that South Carolina can be a great state, but South Carolina is going to have to learn to do it right.

James Feldon represents the South Carolina Voter Education Project. Feldon said he once assisted with redrawing the lines some years ago and he recommends the process includes a focus on diversity.

Printed Dynamics in Dell viewer

Page 1 of 1

GreenvilleOnline.com

Greenville County redistricting hearings start next week

Population shifts could change representation

By E. Richard Walton • Staff writer • Published:
March 25, 2011 2:00AM

State Rep. Chandra Dillard and Greenville City Councilwoman Jil Littlejohn are asking voters to attend two public hearings on redistricting for the state Senate and House of Representatives.

The meetings are about possible adjusting of the Upstate and state representation following the 2010 census, as districts are redrawn.

Redistricting occurs following the census every 10 years.

The sessions are for Senate and House districts in 10 counties: Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Laurens, Pickens, Oconee, Abbeville, Cherokee, Greenwood and Union, according to Dillard.

The hearing on redistricting in the Senate is scheduled for Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Greenville County Council chambers on University Ridge.

The session for the House is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. April 13 at the same place.

Dillard said the hearings will be used in testimony for the U.S. Department of Justice.

The sessions are open to the public.

Dillard and state Rep. Karl Allen, who will co-chair the hearings, said the sessions will be important to all Upstate residents, particularly those in minority districts.

They said the outcome of redistricting could affect voters in city, county and state races.

Advertisement

Fast, convenient,
AND affordable



Save on select
Wireless*
All-in-Ones,
Photo Printers
and Lasers

Save
Today



Limited time offer

Shop Now

Print Powered By Dynamics

Have a voice in reapportionment

Page 1 of 2

Bluffton Today

Published on *Bluffton Today* (<http://www.blufftontoday.com>)

[Home](#) > [Bluffton Opinion](#) > Have a voice in reapportionment

Have a voice in reapportionment

Created Mar 27 2011 - 7:12pm

With the release of 2010 Census data, lawmakers at the state and county levels are ready to dive into reapportionment as required by the U.S. Constitution. And the public is not only invited, but encouraged, to participate in the redistricting process.

That process begins soon with a public hearing by the S.C. Senate Redistricting Subcommittee at 6:30 p.m. today at the Technical College of the Low Country, Building 12 Auditorium, 921 Ribaut Road, Beaufort.

The hearing, one of 10 statewide, will focus on Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton and Colleton counties and new district lines for the state Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives.

South Carolina's population growth from about \$4 million people to more than \$4.5 million entitles the state to a seventh congressional seat, probably along the coastal plain.

Also today, Beaufort County Council Chairman Weston Newton is expected to announce a meeting and public hearing schedule for the reapportionment committee he has appointed to draw local district lines.

Beaufort County's population has grown by about 34 percent, from 120,937 in 2000 to 162,233 in 2010. County Council districts (and the corresponding school board districts) will increase in size from about 11,000 people each to about 15,000. And the balance of political power is likely to shift from northern Beaufort County to south of the Broad River.

And on Monday, April 4, the S.C. House Election Laws Subcommittee is scheduled to hold a public hearing — one of nine statewide — at 5 p.m. at the Beaufort High School Performing Arts Center on Lady's Island.

Again, Beaufort County could see dramatic shifts in House representational districts because of rapid growth in the last 10 years.

We've said it before, but it bears repeating: take advantage of the opportunity to have a voice in redistricting. It will be 10 years before you get another chance.

.4753373
Mon, 03/28/2011
9

- [Home](#)
- [Audio Archive](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Radio Stations](#)
- [Reporters](#)
- [News Widget](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Subscribe](#)



[South Carolina Radio Network](#)

South Carolina News and Sports

“The fighting hasn’t happened yet:” Legislators prepare to redraw their districts

by Matt Long on March 31, 2011

Legislators in the South Carolina House began the long task of redrawing the districts they represent this week as they saw local Census data for the first time.

While many of the headlines focused on where to put a new congressional seat in South Carolina, some legislators are distracted trying to save their own careers. Population shifts out of rural and inner-city areas into suburban ones mean some House members will likely be out of a seat in the 2012 election- especially those in the more rural parts of the state.

House districts are supposed to have populations of roughly 37,000 each, according to the newest Census data. However, many of the current alignments are well off the average. That means the House has the arduous task of re-organizing, making deals, and re-drawing so each of the state’s 124 districts are as close to that number as possible.

[Learn how you can get involved in redistricting](#)

SCRN interviewed two House members who will be impacted by the moves.

Rep. Bill Herbkersman’s (R-Beaufort) district is the House’s largest. He represents over 60,000 people– meaning his district will almost certainly be split. The massive growth of the Bluffton and Hilton Head areas puts him in an enviable position, since any redistricting will probably keep his home address safe.

Herbkersman said there was one good thing about his district splitting– his office would no longer be overwhelmed by a constituency twice the average size.

We get probably between 300-600 constituent contacts per week. We do call everybody that’s in the district back. It’ll relieve some of that issue and probably provide for a little bit better service to the constituents.

However, he said it was bittersweet to have to lose such a large number of his supporters to another legislator. He predicted his finished district would stay in Bluffton, where he lives. Beaufort County is expected to pick up a new seat, which would almost certainly lean Republican.



Rep. Rutherford says debate will "get interesting."

But, on the other end is Rep. Todd Rutherford (D-Richland), whose inner-city Columbia seat is the smallest in the Legislature both geographically and in population (28,000 residents). Rutherford said he lost a number of constituents when the city began converting the densely populated downtown public housing projects into mixed-use residences.

My district is going to have to grow to get population from somewhere. Over the last 10 years, (there) was a federal program to take people out of housing projects and put them into better housing. Even though I knew I was losing thousands in population, I wasn't going to stop people from moving into better housing.

The revamping of those areas was one reason for a significant African-American migration out of Democratic strongholds in Columbia into the city's more conservative suburbs. While Columbia grew in size, most of the growth came outside of downtown. Rutherford said it's too early to know how the Legislature will redraw the districts to match the shift, but he expects a challenge.

It's still so early in the process that a lot of the fighting, and a lot of the very interesting stuff, just hasn't happened yet. Once we go further along... that's when it's truly going to get interesting.

And Rutherford will likely be among those doing the "fighting." His district borders five others, and three of those are also below the 37,000 mark. Since one of those three seats is held by a Republican (Rep. Joan Brady), Rutherford will likely end up spending much of his energy in an attempt to grow and protect his district against two other Columbia Democrats in a similar predicament.

In the coming weeks, SCRNs will take a look at how legislators can combine Census data with modern technology in a special "map room" to redraw their district lines as accurately as possible.

Share

Comments on this entry are closed.

Previous post: [Legislators vote to merge criminal justice agencies](#)

Next post: [States ask EPA to defer greenhouse gas regs](#)

- **Search SCRNs**

To search, type and hit enter

GreenvilleOnline.com

State urged not to divide Greenville in new political lines

By **Rudolph Bell** • Staff writer • Published: April 01, 2011 2:00AM

~~Citizens should stay~~ night to keep all of Greenville County inside a single congressional district and make sure minority representation isn't diluted as they redraw political boundaries to conform to the 2010 census.

More than 30 people spoke during the two-hour public hearing called by the Senate's Redistricting Subcommittee.

It was held as state lawmakers take up the task of inserting a seventh congressional district somewhere among the six that South Carolina already has.

They must also redraw every state House and Senate district to conform to the census, which found South Carolina's population had grown more than 15 percent between 2000 and 2010.

Newly released census data show the combined population of Greenville and Spartanburg counties is about 75,000 more than the 660,766 total that each South Carolina congressional district must approximate in the future to ensure the principle of one man, one vote.

That means the counties must move into separate districts for the first time — or portions of one or both must move into a different district.

Numerous speakers advocated keeping all of Greenville County inside a single congressional district.

"Don't split the largest county in the state where 10 percent of the people live," local attorney Henry Parr urged.

William Allen of Greenville said he also wanted all of Greenville County inside a single congressional district but also wants to keep U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, the new representative of the 4th Congressional District and a Spartanburg resident.

Allen urged senators to put part of Spartanburg

County into another district "not including Trey's residence and solve the problem that way."

However, Steve Mauriello of Greenville said Greenville County should be joined with Pickens and Oconee counties to form a new congressional district.

Evert Headley of Travelers Rest told senators he thinks Greenville and Spartanburg counties should "go our separate ways and maybe we can lead the state to bigger and brighter things separately."

"It's time for Greenville and Spartanburg to split up," said Scott Crosby of Mauldin. "They're too big to stay together."

Numerous speakers also expressed concern about the future makeup of state legislative districts and urged the subcommittee to keep intact Senate District 7, now represented by Ralph Anderson of Greenville.

Others asked senators to preserve House districts 23 and 25, though the Senate isn't charged with redrawing House districts. That will be done by the House, which has its own subcommittee on redistricting and has scheduled a public hearing in Greenville on April 13.

Greenville attorney Theo Mitchell, a former state senator, said lawmakers should keep in mind the interests of minority voters and take into account a growing Hispanic population.

"Are we just going to close our eyes to their

Advertisement

Fast, convenient,
AND affordable



Save on select
Wireless*
All-in-Ones,
Photo Printers
and Lasers

Save
Today



Limited time offers

Shop Now >

Print Powered By Dynamics

GreenvilleOnline.com

aspiration for representation?" Mitchell asked.

He said South Carolina has a budget crisis and can't afford to be drawn into litigation over redistricting and "spend a whole lot of money trying to correct the wrong thing."

Other speakers, including Mauldin businessman and state Senate candidate Jim Lee, asked senators to keep the redistricting process transparent, making public every proposal, including those submitted by private parties.

Clarence Echols, president of the Greenville County NAACP branch, urged senators to be sensitive to the interests of minority voters.

Dan Richardson of Greenwood said the Legislature should "nullify" a U.S. Supreme Court ruling and follow the South Carolina Constitution in having one senator per county.

The final redistricting plan will be reviewed by the U.S. Justice Department to ensure it complies with voting rights laws — a fact noted by Ron Romine of Spartanburg, a self-described "yellow dog Democrat."

"Whatever comes out of here will have to pass muster with a Democratic administration," Romine said. "You'll want to keep that in mind as we move forward."

But Travelers Rest attorney Nathan Earle told lawmakers they shouldn't worry about upsetting U.S. Attorney General "Eric Holder or the Obama Justice Department."

Four of the seven members of the Senate subcommittee were present: Larry Martin of Pickens; Robert Ford of Charleston; Phillip Shoopman of Greer; and Gerald Malloy of Hartsville.

The subcommittee's chairman is Glen McConnell of Charleston, president pro tempore of the Senate.

Public officials at the meeting included state senators Mike Fair and Anderson of Greenville and Floyd Nicholson of Greenwood and state representatives Chandra Dillard and Dan Hamilton of Taylors. The audience also included Joe Baldwin and Lottie Gibson of Greenville County Council, Lillian Brock Flemming of Greenville City Council, Travelers Rest Mayor Wayne McCall, former state Sen. Lewis Vaughn of Greer and LaDonna Ryggs, chairwoman of the Spartanburg County Republican

Party.



Dan Richardson speaks to South Carolina senators during a redistricting meeting held at Greenville County Council chambers. (PATRICK COLLARD / Staff)

Advertisement

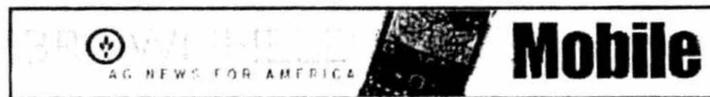
Make it Yours™
Browse thousands of designs for
over 3,000 devices
Get 15% off with code. SAVE15
Browse Designs skinit

Print Powered By Journal Dynamics

citizens around state have say in redistricting this week

Page 1 of 4

- [Home](#)
- [Audio Archive](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Radio Stations](#)
- [Reporters](#)
- [News Widget](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Subscribe](#)



[South Carolina Radio Network](#)

South Carolina News and Sports

Citizens around state have say in redistricting this week

by Michael Brown on April 4, 2011

All this week, the South Carolina Senate Redistricting Subcommittee will hear from citizens on efforts to redraw state lines for a new congressional district the state gained for 2012.

Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell is the chair of the subcommittee and encourages residents to be at the hearings when the panel comes to their area. Each of the 10 meetings will focus on the specific district the counties represented are in. The senators will be in Conway on Monday. On Tuesday, the hearing will be in Columbia, Wednesday in Florence, and Thursday in Charleston.

McConnell says every 10 years they are required by federal law to redraw legislative and congressional districts. This year, they are looking at adding a seventh congressional seat. But first, the subcommittee wants to hear from the public.

Visit the redistricting website to find out details on a hearing near you at <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov>.

Meanwhile, the South Carolina House will also be holding similar hearings across the state over the next two weeks. Rep. Alan Clemmons (R-Horry) is chair of the subcommittee spearheading the effort. Clemmons said he was disappointed by low turnout at the panel's first meeting in Columbia last week. Only five people testified.

Clemmons is concerned that a lack of public input may cause legislators to split communities and towns that have natural ties.

It's very important that we have this input. Without it, we have to make guesses... with it, we don't have to guess. We'll have information to back us up.

Citizens around state have say in redistricting this week

Page 2 of 4

He also urged residents to tell the panel as much as possible about each area, to help legislators make informed decisions. Although Clemmons had not been elected yet during the 2001 redistricting, he said officials made some mistakes due to a lack of input.

Everybody steps back and scratches their head and says, "Why is it that the people we have always been with in the past are now separated from us?" This is the time to prevent that from happening.

For a complete schedule of when legislators will be in your area, visit the subcommittee's [website](#).

Share

Comments on this entry are closed.

Previous post: [Vision Airlines begins service in Midlands](#)

Next post: [Mulvaney: "I don't think we're close" to budget resolution](#)

- **Search SCRN**

To search, type and hit enter

- **SCRN Daily**

South Carolina news delivered to you inbox daily. [Subscribe today](#), it's free.

- **Follow SCRN**



- **Recent Stories**

- [Mulvaney: "I don't think we're close" to budget resolution](#)
- [Citizens around state have say in redistricting this week](#)
- [Vision Airlines begins service in Midlands](#)
- [SC scientists hope gel can eliminate scars](#)
- [Harpoonian seeks return to SCDP chair \(AUDIO\)](#)
- [Citizens speak up at Upstate redistricting hearing \(AUDIO\)](#)
- [SC State scientist tracks radiation from Japan](#)
- [SCGOP heats up its rhetoric against Florida primary \(updated\)](#)
- [Thousands flock to Charleston for bridge run](#)
- [House looks to restrict children's use of ATVs](#)



Tuesday, July 5, 2011 | [Lumberton, North Carolina](#) 88° Feels Like: 94° Clear

PEE DEE

[HOME](#) / [NEWS](#) /

Redistricting group gets an earful

By [TUCKER MITCHELL](#)
Published: April 05, 2011

FLORENCE, SC -- As a subcommittee of the S.C. House's Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on political redistricting at Florence-Darlington Technical College on Tuesday night, a debate on the importance of the 1965 Voting Right Act broke out.

Just less than 60 people filed into the Fred C. Fore Auditorium to tell the Election Laws Subcommittee what they thought about new lines for state house and congressional districts. Twenty-two wound up speaking and most addressed a topic that could broadly be defined as longing for a new congressional district/dissatisfaction with the current one.

A long line of speakers, many with ties to the Florence County Republican Party, railed against the injustice of having most of Florence County fall in the 6th Congressional District, which is represented by Sumter's [Jim Clyburn](#), the only Democrat in the state's congressional delegation.

More than half those who spoke implored the representatives to create South Carolina's new congressional district out of some combination of Horry, Florence and a few other Pee Dee counties. Much of that sentiment sprang, however, from disenchantment with Florence County's current congressional lot. Several speakers said they had nothing in common with the rest of Clyburn's district, a much-contorted compilation that includes part of 16 counties and voters from both Columbia and Charleston. Others said they felt essentially disenfranchised.

"It's almost taxation without representation for most of Florence County," said [Bill Pickle](#), newly-elected chairman of the county GOP.

Ron Moore is chairman of Florence's Founders Coalition, which describes itself as a citizens' group dedicated to promoting an interpretation and application of the Constitution which is based upon a clearly identifiable set of principles held by the Founding Fathers. He carried the argument a bit further, arguing that the drawing of a special "minority-majority" district to elect an Afro-American like Clyburn was essentially a form of discrimination itself.

"That's not any fairer than the practice it seeks to address," he said. "Many of us here feel like we have not had any representation for a long time."

Another speaker, [Jessie Carraway](#), rose spontaneously after Moore spoke and said, "I just want to say on the record that everything that last man said is the gospel!"

The Republican rhetoric eventually drew some fire late in almost two-hour session. [Toni Graves](#) of Dillon told the subcommittee members that she was "confused and a little disappointed."

"I hear all this about how unfair this is," she said, "but when I look at the representatives on TV and all, I don't see many who look like me." Graves is a black woman.

Florence City Councilman [Ed Robinson](#) followed Graves to the microphone and began by saying, "she's basically said everything I was going to say."

Unfazed by that turn of events, [Robinson](#) went ahead and reiterated Graves' line of reasoning, adding a choice line or two of his own.

"Basically what you have here is a bunch of unhappy Republicans," Robinson said. "Well, Republicans in South Carolina haven't had the best interest of black folks in mind for a long time. If you don't believe me, look at where I live and where the Republicans live. All I can say is thank God for the (U.S.) Department of Justice."

The Justice Department must approve all redistricting in South Carolina because of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Speakers Monday represented five different counties. Four speakers from Marlboro County begged the subcommittee not to split up House District 54, the only legislative district left with a majority of Marlboro County residents in it. [Chesterfield County Councilwoman Lenora Powe](#) praised her county's current legislative delegation, saying "We even like [Jay Lucas](#) (of Hartsville), and he's a Republican." She then reminded the subcommittee that Chesterfield is "still in South Carolina."

State Rep. [Alan Clemmons](#) of Myrtle Beach, chairman of the Election Laws Subcommittee, said afterward he was pleased to see "the energetic crowd at the meeting."

Related

More redistricting

The S.C. Senate's Redistricting Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee will hold a public hearing of its own on the redistricting of state senate and U.S. Congressional...

[view more](#)

PLACE AN AD HOME DELIVERY CUSTOMER SERVICE CONTACT US MOBILE ARCHIVES HERALD STORE CLASSIFIEDS

HOME NEWS SPORTS OBITUARIES OPINIONS LIFESTYLES

FIND N SAVE CARS JOBS HOMES PLACE AN AD

SEARCH FOR Submit Query

Web Search powered by **YAHOO!** SEARCH

NEWS - LOCAL/STATE

SHARE   

E-MAIL PRINT LARGER SMALLER 0 COMMENTS

Published: Thursday, Apr. 07, 2011 / Updated: Thursday, Apr. 07, 2011 07:19 AM

House panel hears input on districts

York County likely to gain just 1 seat; residents suggest how to draw new lines

By Don Worthington - dworthington@heraldonline.com

YORK COUNTY -- New census numbers show York County population growth might justify two new South Carolina House districts within the county, but legislators said Wednesday only one more seat is likely.

The comments came after a meeting of the Legislature's House Redistricting Subcommittee at Rock Hill's City Hall. About 40 people attended and 17 spoke.

Like a Senate subcommittee which has already met in Rock Hill, the House panel Wednesday listened to residents for guidance in helping the committee set the criteria for redistricting. The meeting was not about drawing maps, but the follow-up conversations among legislators and political observers were about how York County will fare in the process.

Democratic state Rep. John King's 49th District will likely be central to the redistricting process, said state Rep. Ralph Norman, a Rock Hill Republican who attended Wednesday's meeting but is not a subcommittee member.

Minorities make up the majority of the 49th District, and the Legislature will have to protect that district as much as possible to meet the guidelines of the federal Voting Rights Act.

The law says minorities must have a reasonable chance to elect representatives of their choice.

King's district is close to the ideal size for the new districts. The 49th District has 37,806 people, according to the 2010 Census, 505 more than the ideal size of 37,301. Legislators said a new district could deviate 1 percent to 2 percent from the ideal size, meaning King's district could grow slightly.

Four local districts are significantly over the ideal size:

District 45, which includes part of Fort Mill and Lancaster County, has 50,117 residents, 12,816 more than the ideal size. The district is represented by Deborah Long, R-Indian Land.

District 46, which is Rock Hill, has 40,384 residents, 3,083 more than the ideal size. The district is represented by Gary Simrill, R-Rock Hill.

District 47, which includes Clover and York, has 40,075 residents, 2,774 more than the ideal size. The district is represented by Tommy Pope, R-York.

District 48, which includes Tega Cay and Fort Mill, has 63,391 residents, 26,090 more than the ideal size. The district is represented by Norman.

The 29th District of western York County has 32,990 residents, 4,311 short of the ideal size. The district is represented by Dennis Moss, R-Gaffney.

There was no discussion Wednesday of what the new lines would be. York County's population growth, however, means a district elsewhere in the state will be collapsed into another district, said Simrill, who attended Wednesday's meeting but is not a subcommittee member.

Several speakers Wednesday encouraged the legislators to create districts where minorities were the majority, both at the federal level and locally.

South Carolina's population grew enough to qualify for another congressional seat. Rep. Bakari Sellers, a subcommittee member who represents Bamberg, Barnwell and Orangeburg

 follow us  become a fan

Popular
Commented
On 49th anniversary, NC man gives wife \$1 for each day of marriage
Rock Hill schools face deep cuts; Pay raises sought
Complaints bring change to love scene, dialogue in school play
Fort Mill man killed in motorcycle crash identified
Sheriff: Girls robbed of \$150 at lemonade stand

Top Jobs See More Top Jobs

Quick Job Search

Enter Keyword(s): Select a Category:

- Advanced Search
- Search by Category

Sponsored by


The Herald **Rock Hill Herald** on Facebook


4,846 people like **Rock Hill Herald**.

 Sheila	 Barbara	 Russell	 Bruce	 Katie
 Amanda	 Bob	 Kurt	 Teresa	 Tracy

 Facebook social plugin

counties, said the population numbers might give credence to the theory of more majority-minority districts. He said it might be doable at the congressional level, but much harder at the state level.

Melvin Poole, president of the Rock Hill NAACP, advocated for a majority-minority district in York County as a well as majority-minority congressional seat.

Twana Burris of Rock Hill said the process should not dilute minority voting representation and should protect "socio-economic interests." Burris, who lives in District 49, said she did not want to see it change.

Holly Cooper, who ran unsuccessfully in District 46 last year, encouraged the subcommittee to increase the possibility of women representing York County and throughout the state. She was representing a group called Southeastern Women in Politics.

Residents of Tega Cay and Fort Mill repeated a pitch they made to the Senate subcommittee: They want the two localities to be in the same district. Currently, Fort Mill is divided between the districts 45 and 48.

Several speakers urged a nonpartisan approach that did not draw districts to benefit one group or the incumbent. Don Long, a Lake Wylie resident, said redistricting should be done by an independent commission and not the Legislature.

Rep. Alan Clemmons of Horry County and chairman of the subcommittee, said that was the first time the committee has heard that suggestion this year.

Don Worthington 803 329-4066

The Herald allows readers to comment on stories as a privilege; the views expressed in story comments are not those of The Herald or its staff. The more voices engaged in conversation, the better for us all, but do keep it civil. Please refrain from profanity, racist remarks, obscenity, spam, name-calling or attacking others for their views. Users in violation of The Herald's commenting policies can have their comments blocked, removed, and/or ultimately see their account banned from the site.

HOME

[Top Stories](#)
[Multimedia](#)
[Blogs](#)
[Forums](#)
[Photo Galleries](#)
[Archives](#)

NEWS

[Top Stories](#)
[Local News](#)
[State](#)
[Nation](#)
[World](#)
[Politics](#)
[Crime](#)
[Business](#)
[Education](#)
[NIE](#)
[Technology](#)
[Weird](#)
[Andrew Dys](#)

[Terms of Service](#)
[Privacy Policy](#)
[About our](#)

SPORTS

[Top Stories](#)
[Panthers](#)
[Pro](#)
[Winthrop](#)
[College](#)
[High School](#)
[High School](#)
[Football](#)
[Motorsports](#)

OBITUARIES

[Today's Notices](#)
[In Remembrance](#)
[ObitMessenger](#)

OPINIONS

[Our View](#)
[Letters to the Editor](#)
[Submit a Letter To the Contrary](#)
[Others' View](#)
[Blogs](#)
[Forums](#)
[Nation/World](#)

LIFESTYLES

[Features](#)
[Community](#)
[Weddings](#)
[Engagements](#)
[Anniversaries](#)
[Births](#)
[Milestones](#)
[Home & Garden](#)
[Family](#)
[Religion](#)

ENTERTAINMENT

[Ticket](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Movies](#)
[Music](#)
[TV](#)
[Books](#)
[Games](#)

ADVERTISING

[Special Sections](#)
[Print ads online](#)
[Legals](#)
[Rentals](#)
[Homes](#)
[Jobs](#)
[Cars](#)
[Classifieds](#)
[Place an Ad](#)
[Yahoo Promotions](#)

[ads](#) [Copyright](#) [Parental Consent](#) [About the McClatchy Company](#)

Also check out our community publications: [Fort Mill Times](#) [Enquirer Herald](#) [Lake Wylie Pilot](#)

© Copyright 2011, The Herald, Rock Hill, S.C.



MEMBER CENTER [Create Account](#) | [Log In](#)

SITE SEARCH WEB SEARCH BY



Charleston, SC

[Lowcountry Live](#) | [ABC NEWS 4 Experts](#) | [Lowcountry's Promise](#) | [Live Streaming](#) | [Senior Solutions](#)

[home](#) [weather](#) [news](#) [sports](#) [ABC news 4 cares](#) [video](#) [lifestyle](#) [about us](#) [iWitness](#) [news tips](#)

Changing Lives
Through
Beautiful
Smiles



Click For
New Patient
Specials
in July

[Email](#) [Share](#) | [Print](#) [Text Size](#)

Redistricting could impact voters on Election Day

[Recommend](#)

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

Posted: Apr 08, 2011 12:16 AM EDT
Updated: Apr 08, 2011 12:29 AM EDT



From the Lifestyle Channels



- What's cooking now?
- Today's Top Health Story
- Today's Top Money Story
- Top Entertainment News
- Watch these VideoBytes



By **Nikki Gaskins**
ngaskins@abcnews4.com

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCIV)—A big hike in the Palmetto State's population could change how you vote on Election Day in 2012.

The numbers are up 15 percent which means new district lines will be drawn.

On Thursday, state senators met with the public at Trident Technical College in North Charleston to decide how the state should be divided.

The state's population currently stands at 4.6 million. That means next year South Carolina will gain a congressional seat in the U.S. House of Representatives—bringing the total number to seven.

"It doesn't make a whole lot of sense," stated one Charleston County voter before the panel of senators on the redistricting committee.

Voters packed Thursday's hearing. Many of them are worried how redistricting might impact them.

"We have a county with no representatives living in it," stated Pete Anderson of Edisto Beach in Colleton County.

Anderson worries that his future representative could be someone not familiar with his county's needs.

"We need somebody living in our county that would help us get things done," stated Anderson.

"The drawings should be more on a level playing ground," stated Dewitt Williams, a St. Stephens voter in Berkeley County.

Williams fears state leaders will draw lines favoring long running politicians already in office.

"A lot of young people want to run for some of these jobs," stated Dewitt.

"It's not a packed scheme for one political party," stated Sen. Glenn McConnell.

McConnell is chairman for the redistricting subcommittee and says voters along the coast will most likely impacted by the new lines.

"From Myrtle Beach to all the way to Beaufort, we've got an abundance in population, which means district lines have got to move," stated McConnell.

Where they move remains the big mystery. However, McConnell says in the end, the extra congressional district will give the Palmetto State more clout on Capital Hill.

"It means we're going to have a greater opportunity to have our voice heard because we'll have more congressmen," stated McConnell.

McConnell hopes to have the senate vote on the new congressional lines some time in May.

After the new lines are voted on, the state justice department will then have to approve them.

Comments

Terms of Use: We welcome your participation in our community. Please keep your comments civil and on point. You must be at least 13 years of age to post comments. By submitting a comment, you agree to these **Terms of Service**

You must be logged in to leave a comment. [Login](#) or [register](#)



SC may stop Christmas, Thanksgiving liquor sales

Two separate accidents claim two lives

South of Broad store posts warning sign

3rd suspect arrested in deadly home invasion

Police investigating robbery of sandwich delivery man

Lowering of Union flag at Fort Sumter restaged

One dead, one in custody after home invasion

Best Buy employee robbed at gunpoint

Suspects denied bond in deadly home invasion

4 arrests made in Berkeley copper thefts



- [Mobile Apps](#)
- [RSS](#)
- [Email Alerts](#)
- [Text Alerts](#)
- » [SERVICES](#)
- [Marketplace](#)
 - [Shopping](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Classifieds](#)
 - [Autos](#)
 - [Jobs](#)

Search Stories, Photos, \

You forgot to enter your search term.



newsnews

[RSS](#) [Text Size](#) [Print](#) [Share This](#)

[Home](#) / [news](#) / [local](#) /

South Carolina Congressional Redistricting Hearing To Be Held At Aiken Technical College



By [Christine O'Donnell](#)

Published: April 09, 2011

[» 0 Comments](#) | [Post a Comment](#)

Aiken, SC --

South Carolina lawmakers want your help in drawing the new Congressional lines, as the 2010 Census showed the state's population increased over the last decade.

Lawmakers are holding public hearings to decide where to re-draw district lines.

The South Carolina House of Representatives redistricting committee says its goals are to keep districts compact, follow natural and geographic boundaries, and to keep communities of similar interest together.

State Representative William Clyburn, (D) District 82: "It's very important that they come out and participate because this is going to last us for ten years. We just want to make sure their interests are protected and their needs concerned."

If you'd like to participate in the next hearing, it will be held on Monday April 11th at 5:30 p.m. at Aiken Technical College.

Share This:

[Email](#) [My Facebook](#) [Delicious](#) [Digg](#) [Twitter](#) [Favorites](#) [More](#)

Advertisement



View More: No tags are associated with this article
Not what you're looking for? Try our quick search:

More from this channel:

- [Computers At Evans DMV Office Out Of Service](#)
- [School Bans Students From Bringing Lunch From Home](#)
- [Roger Leduc Named Interim Edgefield County Administrator](#)
- [Augusta State University To Assist With Nuclear Workforce Initiative](#)
- [Paine College To Host Georgia AIDS HBCU Testing Tour](#)

- ["Heart and Soul" Bus Tour to Visit Downtown Augusta](#)
- [Sex Offender Wanted In Richmond County](#)
- [Source: Predator Drone May Have Killed US Troops](#)
- [Allstate Rates Going up in Mississippi](#)
- [Who Will Get Shuttles? Nasa Naming Winners Tuesday](#)

Advertisement

- [For Sale/Wanted](#)
- [Pets](#)
- [Special Sections](#)
- [Services](#)
- [Legal](#)
- [Rentals](#)
- [Autos](#)
- [Print Ads](#)
- [Enhance Your Ad](#)
- [Real Estate](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Cars](#)

Articles

[Home](#) > [News](#)

- [Comments](#)
- -
- -
- -
- [Enlarge Text](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Print](#)
- [Reprint](#)
- [Share](#)
 - [WITH PHOTO](#)
 - [NO PHOTO](#)
 - [FACEBOOK](#)
 - [YAHOO](#)
 - [NEWSVINE](#)
 - [DELICIOUS](#)

Upstate residents debate congressional redistricting at Greenville meeting

Minority voting strength a top issue

By [Stephen Largen](#)
stephen.largen@shj.com

Published: Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 3:15 a.m.
Last Modified: Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 12:36 a.m.

GREENVILLE - Members of a House redistricting panel at a public hearing here Wednesday night received commentary and requests from a large group of speakers weighing in on how state and federal district lines should be redrawn.

Most speakers who stepped forward from the crowd of more than 200 people that filled the Greenville County Council Chambers spoke out in favor of preservation, whether for keeping current district lines intact, keeping communities of interest linked together in districts or ensuring continued minority voting strength.

Wednesday night's hearing was the eighth of nine hearings the House [Elections](#) Laws subcommittee, comprised of five state House members, has held across the state.

A similar Senate subcommittee was in the same Greenville chambers late last month for a public hearing.

Each subcommittee will use 2010 census population figures and the requirements of the Voting Rights Act to develop new districts for their chamber and the state's U.S. House districts.

Because of strong population growth during the last decade, South Carolina was awarded a seventh congressional seat.

Most political observers have said the state's fastest-growing area along the coast, especially Horry County, is likely to be home to the new congressional seat.

But state Rep. Bakari Sellers, a Bamberg Democrat, and other members of the House redistricting panel stressed Wednesday night that no region of the state is assured the new seat.

Travelers Rest resident Ernest Headley spoke to the subcommittee about the issue that's foremost on the minds of many in the Upstate: Will Spartanburg and Greenville counties remain paired as they are in the current 4th Congressional District, or will they need to be split apart, perhaps anchoring their own congressional districts?

"Something's going to happen," Headley said, alluding to the new census numbers that make it unlikely the growing counties can remain whole in a new congressional district.

"You all are going to have to split something."

The 4th Congressional District includes all of Greenville, Spartanburg and Union counties, along with a small part of Laurens County.

Based on the recently released census figures, each congressional district in South Carolina ideally should have 660,766 people. But Greenville County is now home to more than 450,000 people, while Spartanburg County has about 284,000 residents — a numbers problem for those hoping to keep the counties fully intact in a new district.

"Maybe it's time for Greenville and Spartanburg to lead separately," Headley suggested.

"Eventually they are going to get big enough to where we have to do that."

In an example of the local-level requests made by hearing attendees Wednesday night, Andy Burleigh of Greer asked the subcommittee not to split his city — which sits in both Greenville and Spartanburg counties — into two separate state House districts.

But he acknowledged such a request might not be feasible and urged the assembled state House members to split the city based on county lines if such a cleaving proves necessary.

"If you're going to split it on a border that already exists, people can understand that," Burleigh said.

No redistricting issue was the subject of more questions at Wednesday night's hearing than how the state redistricting panels will retain minority voting strength, even in complicated cases such as in Greenville County where once clustered African-American populations have fanned out to more suburban areas in the last decade.

South Carolina is one of a group of states that must have minority-majority districts under the Voting Rights Act, and the Palmetto State must have its redistricting plans approved by the U.S. Department of Justice before new districts are created.

The spreading out of minority populations makes the state redistricting panels' jobs more difficult because the population shifting necessitates the creation of sometimes peculiarly shaped districts in order to avoid dilution of minority voting strength in a geographic area.

In response to a request by the Rev. Darrin Goss of Spartanburg asking the subcommittee to emphasize minority-voting strength in creating new districts, Sellers said the new congressional district could contain considerable minority voting clout.

“I think there is the ability for us to have another district that's not necessarily majority-minority, but where minorities can compete and perhaps win,” he said.

State Rep. Alan Clemmons, a Myrtle Beach Republican who chairs the House redistricting panel, said the panel will submit its new district map to DOJ for preclearance by August.

Clemmons said DOJ has not given the panel any indication of the department's timeline in vetting South Carolina's new district maps.

All rights reserved. This copyrighted material may not be re-published without permission. Links are encouraged.

- -
- -
- -
- [Enlarge Text](#)
- [Email](#)
- [Print](#)
- [Reprint](#)
- [Share](#)
 - [WITH PHOTO](#)
 - [NO PHOTO](#)
 - [FACEBOOK](#)
 - [YAHOO](#)
 - [NEWSVINE](#)
 - [DELICIOUS](#)

[Photos](#) | [Your Photos](#)



[Best photos for Sunday, April 17](#)



[Twister damage throughout the South](#)



[The Great Easter Egg Hunt](#)



[Joy Lutheran palm processional](#)





[Back](#)

Tuesday, Jul 5, 2011

Posted on Mon, Apr. 18, 2011

Redistricting: Black flight to suburbs could remake political map

Movement could cost some incumbent black legislators their jobs

By JOHN O'CONNOR
joconnor@thestate.com

The movement of black South Carolinians to the suburbs is reshaping Palmetto State politics.

The question is: What will be the result?

One possibility is fewer African-American state legislators — as the urban and rural districts that they represent depopulate — and more politically moderate suburban districts, threatening some Republican incumbents.

“South Carolina living is becoming more integrated,” said Rep. Jim Harrison, the Richland Republican who chairs the House committee that will use census data to draw new election districts. “It’s a good thing.”

According to U.S. census data, more black South Carolinians are calling the suburbs home. Suburban neighborhoods in Richland, Dorchester, Florence, Spartanburg and Lexington counties saw the state’s largest increase in the number of black residents between 2000 and 2010, according to that data.

Those gains came largely at the expense of urban and rural communities in Richland, Spartanburg and Charleston counties, which lost black residents.

The shift of black residents to the suburbs from urban and rural enclaves is an issue because the S.C. Legislature this year, as it does once a decade, must redraw the political boundaries of state House and Senate districts, as well as congressional districts, to ensure that each has roughly equal populations.

But the federal Voting Rights Act puts strict limits on how new district lines can be drawn. In particular, that law seeks to ensure that lines aren’t drawn to diminish the political influence of a demographic group, in particular African-Americans in the South.

That will create political and legal problems this year.

Why?

Census data shows some S.C. House districts that have lost the most black residents are represented by black lawmakers, all Democrats. Meanwhile, some of the districts that have seen the greatest increase in the number of black residents are those represented by white lawmakers, most always Republicans.

The suburban migration is part of a two-decade trend, said Todd Shaw, a political science and African-American studies professor at the University of South Carolina.

In some cases, black residents are moving because they are earning more money and can afford to live in better neighborhoods with better schools. In other cases, Shaw said, black residents have moved because of rising costs in their old neighborhoods, some of which have been gentrified as more and more white South Carolinians move back into downtown urban areas.

Where black South Carolinians are moving

Legislative districts with the biggest gains — and biggest losses — in black residents over the past 10 years, according to the census, and who represents each now

Districts that gained the most black residents

House

79 – Richland and Kershaw counties, Rep. Mia Butler Garrick, D, +14,007

98 – Charleston and Dorchester counties, Rep. Chris Murphy, R, +7,756

77 – Richland County, Rep. Joe McEachern, D, +6,833

117 – Charleston County, Rep. William Crosby, R, +4,811

80 – Richland County, Rep. Jimmy Bales, D, +4,292

Senate

22 – Richland and Kershaw counties, Sen. Joel Lourie, D, +19,262

38 – Charleston and Dorchester counties, Sen. Michael Rose, R, +12,050

19 – Richland County, Sen. John Scott Jr., D, +11,025

Districts that lost the most black residents

House

74 – Richland County, Rep. Todd Rutherford, D, (4,496)

23 – Greenville County, Rep. Chandra Dillard, D, (3,619)

111 – Charleston County, Rep. Wendell Gilliard, D, (3,425)

103 – Georgetown County, Rep. Carl Anderson, D, (1,957)

The result "is a greater degree of African-American presence in counties," as opposed to cities, Shaw said. "That is an important implication as we're doing reapportionment."

Concerns about future for black pols

Politically, the movement by black South Carolinians to the suburbs could cost some incumbent African-American legislators elected from depopulating districts their jobs.

"It's raising some real questions about the African-American community's political future," said Rep. Joe Neal, D-Richland, referring to the record number of black representatives now in the Legislature. "Will events conspire to change that?"

Neal thinks black residents are not dispersing but, instead, re-concentrating themselves in new communities such as House District 79, which includes Spring Valley and other Northeast Richland neighborhoods.

That district had been represented in the House by a Republican. But, in 2009, the district elected a black Democrat.

Other once-Republican House districts also are seeing an influx of new African-American residents, traditionally Democrats.

USC's Shaw says that population shift could mean that those traditionally Republican-controlled districts will become more moderate politically.

For example, Rep. Nathan Ballentine's northwest Richland County House district saw the ninth-highest growth in black residents in the state during the past decade.

Ballentine, a Republican from Irmo, said the reason is simple. "People move to our area because of the schools."

There has been so much movement that Ballentine's District 71 has about 8,000 people more than the new ideal population of a House district, 37,301. But neighboring District 73, represented by Rep. Chris Hart, D-Richland, is about 6,000 people under that ideal and could add some parts of Ballentine's current district to get its numbers up.

Rep. Todd Rutherford's Columbia district is at the other end of the spectrum, losing almost 4,500 black residents over the past 10 years. The reason? One factor is that the city used federal money to redevelop a former housing project, moving nearly 1,000 residents to the suburbs.

Still, Rutherford, a Democrat, is less concerned that redistricting might reduce the number of black lawmakers. "I just haven't seen the numbers that suggest it's easy to do that."

Harrison, head of the House committee handling redistricting, said questions about how shifting demographics affect minority representatives and incumbents will be part of the redistricting debate.

"It is harder to create minority districts," Harrison said of the new census results. But, he added, the task is not insurmountable or even bad.

South Carolina's redistricting proposal must be reviewed by the federal Justice Department. Any plan that does not maintain proportional representation — in a state that is almost 30 percent African-American — faces being struck down.

The redistricting plan also is likely to be challenged in court.

For now, Harrison, Rutherford and others say lawmakers are taking a wait-and-see approach while the state House and Senate conduct public hearings and gather facts before drafting a redistricting plan.

31 – Spartanburg County, Rep. Harold Mitchell Jr., D, (1,918)

Senate

42 – Charleston County, Sen. Robert Ford, D, (5,258)

45 – Beaufort, Charleston, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties, Sen. Clementa Pinkney, D, (2,981)

32 – Florence, Horry, Georgetown and Williamsburg counties, Sen. Yancey McGill, D, (2,976)

Reach O'Connor at (803) 771-8358.



Do the Right Thing on Redistricting

by : Andy Brack

Like

Be the first of your friends to like this.

0

Redistricting is the political equivalent of the fox guarding the hen house. As important as it is to redraw our political districts periodically to ensure elected officials are representing areas of about the same population, the very people in South Carolina who redraw the lines are those in office.

That makes many cynical about the process because of the potential for backroom nudge-and-wink deals, political gamesmanship and the pressure by incumbents to protect their districts.

The big news this year is that the federal government might look at what's happening in South Carolina with renewed interest. For the first time in 50 years as reapportionment is being done, Democrats control the Justice Department, which monitors redistricting plans in several states, including South Carolina.

Many believe that a Justice Department led by Democrats, long associated with pushing civil rights legislation, will work hard to ensure compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965. Among the things it requires is for states to redraw district lines that are compact (they don't look crazy on a map); contiguous (all areas of the districts are connected geographically); non-discriminatory; and protect "communities of interest" (i.e., they try not to split up natural communities).

A look at the results of the last legislative reapportionment in 2003, which was approved by a federal court, shows a lot of odd-shaped districts in the state House and Senate. These are textbook examples of some of the political gerrymandering that protected incumbents and made sure different areas had some black-majority districts where black leaders could win.

Just look at the lines for three GOP senators in the Mount Pleasant area of Charleston County:

Senate 43: Sen. Ray Cleary of Georgetown has a district that stretches 75 miles from the Old Village in Mount Pleasant along the coast through Georgetown County to Murrells Inlet in Horry County.

Senate 37: Sen. Larry Grooms of Moncks Corner has a district that curls from Walterboro in Colleton County through Dorchester and Berkeley counties to pick up a small piece of Charleston County east of the Cooper River.

Senate 43: Sen. Chip Campsen's district includes Sullivan's Island, Isle of Palms and Mount Pleasant, and then jumps over the Cooper River to take south of Broad on the Peninsula. It then stretches north of Hanahan and west to parts of James Island and Folly Beach.

In other words, the area east of the Cooper River is represented by three senators, two of whom don't live in Charleston County. On the whole, the county has seven senators representing its various parts.

The districts from 2003 for the House are little different. Just look at some districts across the state:

House 111: Democratic Rep. Wendell Gailliard's district in Charleston County looks like a backwards C that hooks from West Ashley through the Neck area to North Charleston.

House 65: GOP Rep. Jay Lucas lives in Hartsville, but has a district that sprawls from western Lancaster County, has two separate pieces of Chesterfield County, a chunk of Kershaw County and part of Darlington County.

House 29: The district of GOP Rep. Dennis Moss of Gaffney connects communities from Interstate 85 in Cherokee County through York County to Interstate 77 in Chester County.

Bottom line: While these court-approved 2003 districts are contiguous, many aren't compact, as evidenced by their odd shapes. And several split up traditional communities. It will be interesting to see what lawmakers come up with when the Obama Justice Department is looking over their shoulders.

The House and Senate committees this year are to be congratulated for public hearings across the state to get citizen input on where and how the new lines should be drawn. The House had nine hearings, while the Senate had 10. Local governments, which also have to redistrict, would do well to emulate how state legislators reached out this year to citizens.

In the meantime, if you want to have a say in how you think state House, Senate and congressional districts should be drawn, contact your state representative or senator in the next few days. They're about to start drawing the lines.

Andy Brack, publisher of Statehouse Report, can be reached at brack@statehousereport.com. For more information on House redistricting, visit redistricting.schouse.gov; for Senate info, visit redistricting.scsenate.gov.



REDISTRICTING: Residents at public hearing say they want counties to 'stay whole'

By **JERRY DURGAN**, T&D Correspondent | Posted: Wednesday, April 27, 2011 2:00 am

"Do not split counties" seemed to be the consensus of those attending a recent public hearing on redistricting in South Carolina held at Voorhees College in Denmark.

The April 12 hearing was one in a series being conducted this month by members of the Election Laws Subcommittee of the S.C. House Judiciary Committee to receive public input on redrawing district map lines.

More than three dozen people attended, most from Bamberg, Barnwell and Allendale counties, with a few coming from Hampton and Colleton counties.

Serving on the panel at the public hearing were Rep. Alan D. Clemmons, Rep. Karl B. Allen, Rep. Jenny Anderson Horne, Rep. Bakari T. Sellers, Rep. Thomas R. "Tom" Young Jr. and Patrick Dennis, chief counsel, House Judiciary Committee.

"These hearings are only a part of a long, involved process in developing a redistricting plan," said Cummings, who chairs the subcommittee.

"We will use (the input) from the (hearings) to form the basis of how we will proceed based on the new population census. Our goal is to listen to the interested parties ... how the people wish to be represented ... to see that the plan will assure one person, one vote."

The key concern of those attending seemed to be that "our county and its representation will remain intact."

Ben Kenlaw, chairman of the Barnwell County Democratic Party, said the Bamberg, Barnwell, Allendale, Hampton and Colleton region was "the forgotten part of the state."

"We want to be sure that we are recognized (in the redistricting process)," Kenlaw said.

Brunson Mayor Terry Wright wanted to know why Hampton County had three House representatives instead of one since it was such a small county.

"Why can't we have just one representative? ... We are regionalized (in our infrastructure) ... it would be so much better to be able to talk to just one representative about our concerns," Wright said.

Alonzo Frazier of Allendale County was also concerned that his county "stay whole" in the redistricting process.

Several people from the counties of Barnwell and Allendale praised the work Dist. 91 Rep. Lonnie Hosey, a Democrat, had done for their area. Ann Rice of Allendale, Marie Davis of Williston and former representative Wilbur Cave each spoke of the "good work" Hosey had given to his constituents.

Hosey thanked his constituents for the support they have shown him.

"I appreciate my constituents for coming out tonight and to voice their opinions about their district," he said. "Keeping the districts together is very important."

"You must really think deep and do what is right ... even when it's hard," Terry Jowers of Williston told the subcommittee.

"Keep the district together whenever possible. Keep the communities of interest together. Barnwell County has absolutely nothing to do with Beaufort County. Neither does Allendale nor Bamberg counties ... I challenge you that when you redraw the districts, be sure they mirror the population."

Contact the writer: j_durgan@att.net.



[Back](#)

Wednesday, Aug 3, 2011

Posted on Thu, May. 19, 2011

Horry anchors new congressional district in S.C. House plan Clyburn, Wilson districts face changes

By JOHN O'CONNOR
joconnor@thestate.com

Horry County would anchor South Carolina's new 7th Congressional District, according to a redistricting proposal released by the S.C. House on Wednesday.

The plan also dissects and recombines four S.C. House districts — Democratic districts in Hampton and Darlington counties, and Republican districts in Laurens County, and spanning Greenville and Pickens counties. New S.C. House districts would be added along the coast and in South Carolina's growing Charlotte suburbs.

Lawmakers said the plan — drawn by a Republican-controlled House — largely would maintain the state's balance of power.

Republicans expect to win the new congressional district and keep control of the five that the GOP currently holds. Democrats likely would have a lock only on the state's sole majority black district, which U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn of Columbia now holds.

Democrats said the GOP-controlled plan was not perfect but acknowledged it could be worse.

"We've got a few areas of concern," said House Minority Leader Harry Ott, D-Calhoun, pledging to try and amend the plan. "Overall, I can't say the whole plan is terrible."

In the Midlands, the plan calls for:

- The 2nd Congressional District — represented by Republican U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson of Springdale — to shift away from the coast, adding Aiken County while dropping Beaufort County and the counties between Beaufort and the Midlands.
- The 6th Congressional District — represented by Democratic U.S. Rep. Clyburn — to become more compact, adding a portion of Sumter County and stretching southwest to the Savannah River.

In addition, the House plan would split Greenville County between the 3rd and 4th Congressional districts. Greenville would continue to make up a majority of the 4th District's population, which now includes Greenville, Spartanburg and Union counties, as well as a tiny slice of Laurens County.

Also in the Upstate, Rep. David Tribble, R-Laurens, was redrawn into another lawmaker's district. Tribble said he expected the move. His district had lost 7,000 people over the last decade and is surrounded by other districts that have lost population.

"When you're losing population, you don't have a whole lot to say," Tribble said, adding he will try to amend the plan and will run again regardless of where his new district is located.

Rep. Eric Bikas, R-Pickens, was moved into a retiring lawmaker's district but was satisfied with the change. "It's not going to change anything."

A House subcommittee will take up the redistricting plan Monday, with the full Judiciary Committee picking up the plan two weeks later.

House Judiciary chairman Jim Harrison, R-Richland, said he expects the bill to hit the House floor on June 14.

The state Senate is still drafting its own redistricting plan for Senate and U.S. House districts.

Legislators are scheduled to meet for two weeks in June in an attempt to approve a redistricting plan, which then would go to Nikki Haley for her approval or veto.

Because of the state's history of discrimination against minority voters, the U.S. Department of Justice also must review and sign off on any plan approved by lawmakers and the governor.

Harrison said he thinks the House plan complies with both the federal Voting Rights Act and the criteria, set by legislators at the beginning of the once-a-decade redistricting process that follows a new census, to maintain current districts as much as possible.

[<< Back](#)



Proposal calls for new Carolina Forest district in SC House

Posted: May 19, 2011 8:05 PM EDT

Updated: Jun 06, 2011 8:31 AM EDT

By Brandon Herring, WMBF News Reporter - [bio](#) | [email](#)



MYRTLE BEACH, SC (WMBF) – A proposed redistricting plan adds a new district for the Carolina Forest area of Horry County in the State House of Representatives.

The State House of Representatives released the proposed plan late Wednesday. It calls for the Carolina Forest area to get a representative in Columbia because of the population growth in that part of Horry County explained Representative Alan Clemmons. The Republican from Myrtle Beach is the Chair of the House Elections Laws Subcommittee overseeing the redistricting proposal.

The new Horry County District would be District 56, and it would be carved mostly out of District 105, with some of the district also coming from the current Districts 104 and 68. Those Districts are represented by George Hearn, Tracy Edge and Thad Viers respectively.

"The more voices we have the better off we are," commented Horry County Council Chairman Tom Rice.

Rice said having an extra voice from Horry County could help keep more tax money in the county.

He said currently, of the money Horry County sends to Columbia, the county gets the lowest percentage of that money back compared to the rest of the state's counties.

"Our money is used across the state" Rice said. "It builds Charleston's bridges and Greenville's roads and Columbia's roads, and yet Horry County has to build its own roads. We paid 72 percent of the cost of Highway 31 and Highway 22."



Lawmakers in the state House of Representatives also released their proposed plan for the state's new seventh Congressional District. That new district means a seventh US House representative for South Carolina in Washington, DC. The proposed plan could also give more political clout to Horry County because it includes Horry County and several Pee Dee Counties, Georgetown County and parts of Berkeley County. Horry County would be the largest population center in the proposed district.

Florence and Marion Counties would be in the new district, moving them out of the 6th Congressional District represented by Democrat Jim Clyburn.

The new District 7 also means a split of the current Congressional District 1. Horry County and the Charleston area would no longer share a representative. Rice said that is also a positive proposal for Horry County because the person election from the new District 7 would be more likely to push hard for interests in Horry County and the Pee Dee.

"Charleston has its own needs," Rice said. "Of course it's a large population center. I think it's a very good thing we will have a separate House district from Charleston."

The South Carolina Senate will also release redistricting proposals, and the new districts could be finalized by the end of June. The U.S. Justice Department will also review the finalized proposals, and any legal challenges would have to be settled before the new districts could become official.

The first time the new districts would be used is for next 2012 elections.

Copyright 2011 WMBF News. All rights reserved.



EXPLORE WMBFNEWS.COM

HOME	LOCAL NEWS	WEATHER	SPORTS	VIDEO
Strange News Viewer Pics Contests Entertainment National News South Carolina News	Pass the Cash Consider This Special Reports Crime Most Wanted Restaurant Scorecard	Mobile Weather App Hurricane Tracker Interactive Radar Tour WMBF News Studio Skycam Network Weather Nation	Athlete of the Week Extra Point Scoreboards Gamecocks National Sports	Most Viewed Submit Your Vid WMBF News Th Week





Tuesday, Jul 5, 2011

Posted on Tue, Jun. 07, 2011

S.C. House panel OKs redistricting that would affect Horry, Georgetown counties

By Jim Davenport
The Associated Press

South Carolina legislators approved plans for new election boundary lines Monday that includes a new 7th District U.S. House seat in Horry and Georgetown counties.

The House Judiciary Committee's approval of redistricting plans for 124 state House seats and the U.S. House now head to the House floor for debate next week.

The state Senate will take up plans today drawing lines for its 46 seats as well its version of U.S. House district lines.

Redistricting is required every decade to make sure Statehouse and U.S. House districts properly divide the state's population. And any changes to S.C. boundaries must be approved by the U.S. Department of Justice because of the state's past Voting Rights Act violations.

House Judiciary Chairman Jim Harrison, R-Columbia, said the state's U.S. House members have signed off on changes made in their districts, including those needed to create the 7th.

The new seat was added to account for population growth and returns the House seat S.C. lost in 1930 as population fell. Neighboring Georgia also is picking up a seat.

The 7th District would include Horry and Georgetown counties on the coast as well as inland counties Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon and most of Florence County. Several of those counties had been in the 1st, 5th and 6th districts.

Adding the seat and request from U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, the House's third highest ranking Democrat, for a more compact district, rearranged swaths of the state's U.S. House map.

Black voter influence in a state with a history of racial discrimination remains a key element of redistricting. But that's become more difficult this time as more black voters have moved to suburban areas. For instance, state Rep. Robert Brown, a black Democrat from Hollywood, for years has represented a majority black district. But population shifts would have his district majority white.

The plan creates two new majority districts made up of minorities: one in Richland County and one in Georgetown County.

Other details:

The 1st District, now held by Republican freshman U.S. Rep. Tim Scott shifts farther down the coast, and shifts Beaufort and Jasper counties from the 2nd District, home to veteran U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, a Republican.

Wilson's 2nd District compacts and is made up mostly of Aiken, Barnwell, Lexington and parts of Richland counties.

Freshman Republican U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan's 3rd District appears to change the least. It loses Aiken County and picks up parts of Newberry and Greenville counties.

Republican freshman U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy's 4th District compacts, with 60 percent of it in Greenville County and 40 percent in Spartanburg. Union County moves into the 5th District.

Freshman Republican Rep. Mick Mulvaney's fast-growing 5th District picks up Union County as well as parts of Newberry and Sumter counties.

Clyburn's 6th District picks up Allendale and Hampton counties and more of Sumter and Florence counties.

Legislators from Spartanburg and Greenville counties tried to keep their entire counties in the 4th District. For instance, Republican Greenville Rep. Wendy Nanney argued her county is the state's largest and deserves its own congressman.

"We view it as quite an economic powerhouse and feel like it's important to keep Greenville County whole," Nanney said.

But the committee rejected proposals from both counties.

The state House plans draw eight legislators into four districts that would essentially pit existing lawmakers against each other in primaries next year. The committee also will adopt plans for a new, seventh U.S. House district.

Democratic Rep. Denny Neilson of Darlington, the House's longest-serving member, had been drawn into the same district as Rep. Terry Alexander of Florence in a draft plan. Neilson said that would have meant parts of her district in downtown Darlington would have been merged into a Florence-based district. Neilson wanted the Darlington voters represented by the same House member.

"It was like the disenfranchisement of several thousand people," Neilson said.

The panel agreed Monday to draw her and Rep. Robert Williams into the same district, creating a primary faceoff for Neilson, who first won her seat in 1984, and Williams, who has held his since 2007.

"No one wants that to happen," Neilson said.

Democratic Reps. Curtis Brantley of Ridgeland and Bill Bowers of Hampton were drawn into the same district representing Hampton and Jasper counties. Both are veteran legislators. The draft of the plan had drawn Brantley, who has served in the House since 2007, out of the district. But the committee moved the lines to make sure he lived in the redrawn district.

Republican Reps. Dan Cooper of Piedmont and Eric Bikas of Easley were drawn into a Greenville-Anderson county district. Cooper, however, is giving up his seat. That would give Bikas, a freshman lawmaker, a better chance of holding onto the seat in next year's elections.

Republican Reps. Mark Willis of Fountain Inn and David Tribble of Clinton were drawn into the same district around Laurens and Greenville counties. Willis has been in the House since 2009 and Tribble is in his freshman term.

dailycomet.com

This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears above any article. [Order a reprint of this article now.](#)

SC senators approve election district lines

*By JIM DAVENPORT Associated Press
Published: Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 1:18 p.m.*

South Carolina lawmakers rejected proposals on Wednesday to add a black majority district to the South Carolina Senate as they unanimously adopted a redistricting plan.

American Civil Liberties Union voting rights lawyer Katie O'Connor had proposed on Tuesday adding the black majority district and protecting another from losing majority-black districts.

The ACLU proposal called for 11 black-majority districts among the Senate's 46 seats. The proposal advancing to the Senate Judiciary Committee for debate on Thursday has nine.

Victoria Middleton, state director of the ACLU, said the panel's plan has problems.

"We think the Senate's plan is potentially retrogressive; it eliminates one majority-minority district while ours adds one. Our plan is more compact and more in line with the Voting Rights Act. It also reflects the demographic reality in South Carolina better," Middleton said.

The proposed plan can be amended in the Senate Judiciary Committee or when it's debated in Senate floor.

Redistricting is required every decade to make sure legislative and congressional districts reflect population changes and meet certain requirements.

The new maps require federal approval under the Voting Rights Act, to ensure they don't discriminate against minorities in a state with a history of inequitable treatment of blacks. Legislators haven't decided whether to use a streamlined process that would take the proposed district lines to a federal judge for approval or go through the more traditional approach of having the Department of Justice review the plan.

The panel also rejected a South Carolina Republican plan that combined four Democratic-held districts into two. Republicans control the Senate with 27 seats to Democrats' 19.

The GOP plan would have forced Democratic Sens. Creighton Coleman of Winnsboro and Vincent Sheheen of Camden to run against each other in a primary next year in a combined district. The same scenario would play out for Democratic Sens. Joel Lourie of Columbia and Nikki Setzler of West Columbia.

Sheheen was the Democratic gubernatorial nominee last year and ran a closer-than-expected race against Republican Nikki Haley, who won.

On Monday, the House Judiciary Committee approved plans for its 124 districts. Their plan collapsed four Democratic districts into two and four Republican districts into two.

The Senate and House plans will be debated when the Legislature returns for a wrap-up session next week.

But the Statehouse districts are expected to draw far less debate than a new U.S. House seat. Population growth means the state gains a seventh district - returning a seat that the Palmetto State lost in 1930 as population fell. Neighboring Georgia also is picking up a seat.

Republicans, who hold five of the state's six current U.S. House seats, want that district added along the state's coast and counties near the eastern border with North Carolina. That nearly would assure Republicans pick up a sixth seat. The House Judiciary Committee approved that proposal on Monday.

Democrats argue South Carolina's 34 percent minority population justifies adding a second minority district. The ACLU recommended a seventh district that includes all of Sumter, Fairfield and Lee counties and parts of Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Darlington, Marlboro, Richland, Spartanburg, Union and York counties.

Some of that proposed district was in U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn's current 6th District, including the veteran Democratic lawmaker's home. Under the ACLU plan, Clyburn's old 6th District would be enlarged and extend from the Savannah River on the state's border with Georgia to near the North Carolina border in Marlboro County.

The Senate panel won't discuss the congressional district until the Senate district map is adopted by the Judiciary Committee.

Follow Jim Davenport on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jimdavenport-ap>

Copyright © 2011 DailyComet.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.

IndependentMail.com
ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

Printer-friendly story
Read more at independentmail.com

Committees approve redistricting proposals

By Liz Carey

Originally published 12:05 p.m., June 9, 2011
Updated 02:46 p.m., June 9, 2011

COLUMBIA — New district lines drawn by legislative committees would shift some area legislators' constituencies.

The South Carolina House of Representatives Judiciary Committee has approved new lines for 124 House districts and seven congressional districts. The committee's plan collapsed four Democratic districts into two, and four Republican districts into two.

In Anderson County, several lines will move. In District 10, which covers the Piedmont and Powdersville area and is represented by Republican Dan Cooper of Piedmont, new lines would eliminate part of Anderson County from the district, but would add parts of Pickens and Greenville counties.

Rep. Don Bowen, R-Anderson, who represents District 8, would lose a small portion of Oconee County and the community of Fair Play.

Anderson Republican Rep. Brian White's District 6 would expand north to incorporate some of Cooper's district, but shrink in the southern part of the district. If the plan is approved, Cooper will live in White's district. Cooper, who is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, resigned in April, citing a desire to spend more time with his family. His last day will be June 30.

On Thursday, the state Senate Judiciary Committee approved a proposal that has nine minority districts. The American Civil Liberties Union had wanted to preserve an existing minority district and add a new one. The group's state executive director, Victoria Middleton, said its proposal was more in line with the Voting Rights Act.

Sen. Glenn McConnell, the committee's chairman and the Senate's president pro tem, said the Senate plan meets federal standards.

McConnell said the minority district that would become a majority white district covers Fairfield and Chester counties.

"We think it's defensible," said McConnell, a Republican from Charleston. "The problem is there's a whole chunk of population up there that's got to go somewhere. You cannot make race the primary and sole factor."

Committees approve redistricting proposals : Anderson Independent Mail

Page 2 of 2

The House and Senate plans will be debated when the legislature returns next week for a wrap-up session.

Redistricting is required by law every 10 years in conjunction with the U.S. census to ensure representation based on population increases and shifts.

Once approved by the legislature, scheduled to happen before June 30, the plans go to the U. S. Department of Justice for pre-approval, officials said.

It was not known when the federal government would act.

The goal, officials said, is to have new legislative and congressional districts in place by March in time for filing for seats in the 2012 election.

-- The Associated Press contributed to this report.



© 2011 Scripps Newspaper Group — Online

State Democratic Party to fight SC's redistricting plan

Party's challenge could test balance of power, influence of black voters

By [Stephen Largen](#)
stephen.largen@shj.com

Published: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 3:15 a.m.

Last Modified: Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 12:04 a.m.

The South Carolina Democratic Party plans to mount a legal challenge to the state's eventual redistricting plan with a goal of giving black people, the party's most-loyal constituency, the opportunity to influence more elections.

In the process, experts said, the party would be testing a legal argument being made by Democrats in several states that will put the U.S. Department of Justice to the test as it tries to balance competing legal guidelines in enforcing the Voting Rights Act.

Party Chairman Dick Harpootlian confirmed the planned lawsuit in a recent interview, but declined to provide much in the way of specifics, saying he didn't want to "tip his hand" to Republicans.

Republicans control the South Carolina General Assembly and power the construction of new election lines that follow the shifts in population measured by the census every 10 years.

But the basic argument Democrats plan to make is that the U.S. Department of Justice should support a plan that reduces the percentages of voting-age black people from some "majority-minority" districts and moves them to other districts in order to spread the black vote to more elections.

South Carolina is among 16 states, mostly in the South, that to be in compliance with Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act must have new electoral maps precleared.

That process can be handled by the Justice Department or the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Lawmakers have not decided which route the state will take, according to the Associated Press.

With either option, the state's new congressional and state electoral maps likely will be back in court to address the planned lawsuit from Democrats and any other others filed related to redistricting.

Voting Rights Act experts said Democrats will have to show that shifting some blacks from majority-minority districts would not weaken or "retrogress" current overall black voting strength, which the Justice Department measures by the ability of voting-age blacks to elect candidates of their choosing, in order to make a successful case.

"It depends a lot on what the Department of Justice sees as the effective percentage," said Michael McDonald, a redistricting expert with the nonpartisan think-tank the Brookings Institution in Washington. "Dropping below 50 percent (in a majority-minority district) could be dangerous waters."

In weighing a lawsuit from the state Democratic Party, McDonald said the Justice Department will look to see to what degree white people living in districts that Democrats want to move black people from have crossed over to vote for African-American candidates.

Co-racial coalition

Allan Lichtman, a redistricting expert and professor at American University in Washington, said the Justice Department also will examine the potential for the creation of co-racial coalitions presented in a lawsuit seeking to alter majority-minority districts.

He said groups in other states who have received approval to “unpack” black people from majority-minority districts have used the latter argument in making successful cases.

“The Justice Department could look quite favorably on it,” Lichtman said of a South Carolina lawsuit.

In assessing a lawsuit, the Justice Department must reconcile seemingly contradictory directives.

A 2003 Supreme Court ruling in the Georgia v. Ashcroft case strengthened the case for consideration in the redistricting process of methods that create more minority voting power, such as the creation of racial coalition districts.

But in reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act in 2006, Congress strengthened language requiring maintenance of current majority-minority districts.

The competing pulls create “a lot of questions” and a lack of clarity, said Kareem Crayton, a law professor at the University of North Carolina.

Rep. Bakari Sellers, D-Bamberg, introduced amendments during House Judiciary Committee hearings earlier this month on new state House and congressional maps that proposed drawing down the black population in some districts to create more influence elsewhere, but his amendments were defeated in the Republican-controlled committee.

Sellers said the rejection of his amendments showed Republicans are attempting to unduly pack black voters in majority-minority districts that black people already dominate in order to increase GOP control.

Repeated attempts to reach Republicans leading the redistricting process in various committees and subcommittees were unsuccessful.

The South Carolina NAACP did not respond to an interview request.

South Carolina lawmakers resume work on redistricting today, when they return to the Statehouse in special session to tackle the once-a-decade process and other unsettled issues.

All rights reserved. This copyrighted material may not be re-published without permission. Links are encouraged.

[▲ Return to Top](#)

[Photos](#) | [Your Photos](#)



[Swim league Hillbrook-Fernwood](#)



[2012 NASCAR Hall of Fame Inductees](#)



SUBSCRIBE: Print Electronic (PDF) Manage | NEWSLETTERS | SPECIAL OFFERS | RSS | MOBILE | TEXT ALERTS | PLACE ADS | ADVERTISE | N.I.E. | CONTACT US

Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

 thestate.com archives web

Win \$100 of Free Gas!
Sign up for our new DealSaver email
and save BIG!
dealsaver.com It's FREE!

NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS LIFE & STYLE OPINIONS MEDIA OBITS FIND N SAVE CLASSIFIEDS HOMES JOBS CARS PLACE AD

News - S.C. Politics

[Live State House video](#)

Interactive: Build-a-budget: How would you prioritize the S.C. budget?
[S.C. Politics](#) | [S.C. Politics Today \(blog\)](#) | [Governor Watch](#) | [Redistricting](#)

Wednesday, Jun. 15, 2011

House approves redistricting plans, Dems plan to sue

Plan going to Senate soon creates state's seventh congressional district centered in Horry County

By GINA SMITH - gnsmith@thestate.com

The state House of Representatives signed off on a plan Tuesday to redraw its legislative lines and create a seventh congressional district, centered in Horry County and running along the North Carolina border.

The plan requires one more perfunctory vote before heading to the Senate.

But some are disappointed with the plan, including the state Democratic Party, whose chairman plans to sue.



The South Carolina Legislature was in special session Tuesday. Here, Rep. Bakari Sellers, D-Bamberg, left, and Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, right, look at redistricting maps. - TIM DOMINICK / tdominick@thestate.com

Have Your Say

THE SENATE will hold a public hearing on its redistricting plan at 5 p.m. Monday in Room 308 of the Gressette Office building on the State House grounds. The Senate staff's congressional plan will be posted on its website, <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov> later this week. Other proposed Senate redistricting plans are already on the site.

The plan House members approved:

- Creates two new S.C. House districts in Georgetown and Richland counties that are "majority minority," meaning the majority of voters in the districts are racial minorities. In the Midlands, the plan affects Rep. Mia Butler Garrick, D-Richland, whose District 79 currently is made up of Northeast Richland County and a slice of Kershaw County. The plan approved places all of Butler's district in Richland County. An amendment to retain more white voters in the district, proposed by Garrick, was voted down Tuesday.
- Eliminates one majority minority district in Charleston County — represented by Rep. Robert Brown, a Democrat — because it has lost African-American population. Under the new plan approved by the House, the state would have 30 majority minority districts, instead of the current 29.
- Merges districts with shrinking population in Laurens, Greenville, Pickens, Anderson, Colleton and Jasper counties.
- Creates four new districts in the growing counties of Beaufort, York, Horry and Berkeley.

"We did our best to keep cities, towns and counties whole and be fair to all House members," said Rep. Jim Harrison, R-Richland, who oversaw the House's efforts to redraw the district lines — a task that must be performed every 10 years using the latest census data reflecting how the state's population has shifted.

The House plan draws eight legislators into four districts, pitting them against each other in primaries next year. The eight are four Democrats and four Republicans.

"This plan is fair," said Rep. Harry Ott, D-Calhoun, the House's minority leader. "It's not perfect, and we've got a few Democrats who find themselves in collapsed districts. But there's an equal number of Republicans who find themselves in the same situation."

One of those Democrats is Rep. Denny Neilson of Darlington County, the House's longest-serving member. Under the new plan, Neilson would have to run against her fellow incumbent and Democrat, Rep. Robert Williams.

"No one wants to run against an incumbent. Plus, Robert is my friend," said Neilson, who has been in the House since 1984 and plans to seek reelection. "But the Pee Dee has lost population. It's part of the process. I understand."

Dick Harpootlian, chairman of the S.C. Democratic Party, said the party or a group of Democrats will challenge the proposed new maps in court, contending they create too many majority minority districts.

The gist of the lawsuit, he said, would be to encourage the U.S. Justice Department to approve a S.C. plan that moves African-American voters out of majority-black districts to other districts, giving them more sway over who is elected.

Democrats long have contended that Republicans try to put as many reliably Democratic, minority voters as possible in districts, seeking to ensure that other districts are overwhelmingly white and more likely to elect a Republican. Districts with a mix of races are more likely to elect a Democrat, Democrats contend.

SHARE

E-MAIL

PRINT

REPRINT 0

COMMENTS

TEXT SIZE:

"The Republicans are conducting a concerted effort to re-segregate our state," Harpootlian said, contending majority minority districts are a dated notion no longer needed. "It was a remedial measure that was very much needed because, back then, white people wouldn't vote for black people. That's not the case anymore."

Reach Smith at (803) 771-8658.

 [Get The State newspaper delivered to your home. Click here to subscribe.](#)

Reader discussion

We encourage an open exchange of affirming and dissenting opinions on our stories. We invite you to comment on our content as part of our interactive community.

[Click here to read our comment guidelines and learn about our commenting system.](#)

The news you want delivered to your e-mail!



Quick Job Search

Enter Keyword(s): <input type="text"/>	Enter a City: <input type="text" value="Columbia"/>
Select a State: <input type="text" value="South Carolina"/>	Select a Category: <input type="text" value="All Job Categories"/>

Advanced Job Search | Search by Category

The State Top Jobs »

[» See More Top Jobs](#)



 **thestate.com** on Facebook

3,846 people like **thestate.com**.

 Lavoria	 Cody	 Ebony	 Ruth	 Charita
 Ken	 Tonya	 Katie	 Tony	 Allison

 Facebook social plugin

Most Popular

Lexington-Richland 5 OKs eliminating 45 jobs
Aiken, Anderson turn up \$1M lottery tickets
Suspected rapist sought in Lexington County
Brakes urged on new building near the ocean
Morris: USC has situational success
Goal: More than 2,000 workers
Newberry man wanted in girlfriend's shooting arrested

SUBSCRIBE CONTACT US E-EDITION NEWSPAPERS IN EDUCATION BUSINESS DIRECTORY ADVERTISE NEWSPAPER ADS USER ACCOUNT DASHBOARD



TheSunNews.com



NEWS OBITUARIES SPORTS KICKS! OPINION LIVING CONTESTS VACATION CLASSIFIEDS REAL ESTATE CARS JOBS PLACE ADS

SEARCH FOR
Web Search powered by YAHOO!

NEWS - BREAKING NEWS

Wednesday, Jun. 15, 2011

SHARE 0 COMMENTS

SC Dems call GOP district 'electoral apartheid'

By J M DAVENPORT - Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. -- The head of the South Carolina Democratic Party accused Republican lawmakers Wednesday of redrawing political districts in an effort to "bleach out" regions of the state, grouping black voters together so their needs will be ignored by the majority GOP during elections.

Democratic Party Chairman Dick Harpootlian threatened to sue over the district maps approved the same day by the Republican-dominated state House and Senate. To be finalized, they need a nod from Republican Gov. Nikki Haley and have to meet federal standards to ensure they don't discriminate against minorities.

Republicans said Harpootlian was grandstanding and incorrect in his claims. But he said the proposals need to change now. Specifically, he singled out House Republicans creating a black majority district near Columbia.

"If it does not change, we will challenge it," Harpootlian said. Republicans are packing black voters into districts that have a preponderance of minority residents to "bleach out their districts so they don't have to talk to, to deal with or to campaign for African-American votes. They do this in the name of the Voting Rights Act and it's a perversion."

House Republican Majority Leader Kenny Bingham said Harpootlian was incorrect and simply seeking

Similar stories:

- Plan for 1 new minority SC Senate district fails
- SC senators approve new election district lines
- New minority S.C. Senate district fails
- SC senators approve election district lines
- Who will win prized 7th House district?

publicity.

"That's a broad-based charge and it's pretty insensitive and I'm sure it's his desire just to stir up conversation," said Bingham, R-West Columbia. "That's not been the case. It's just not true."

The House plan collapsed four Democratic districts into two and four Republican districts into two. That means incumbent legislators will face each other in primaries next year if they seek re-election. It also creates two new majority black districts in Richland and Georgetown counties.

On Tuesday, freshman Rep. Mia Butler Garrett said she didn't want her district made into a majority black district. The Columbia Democrat, who is African American, was elected in November with blacks accounting for 32 percent of her district's voting age population, Harpootlian noted. "This is electoral apartheid," he said.

The House measure also gave final approval to a plan for a seventh U.S. House district along the state's northeastern coast in Horry and Georgetown counties. It is favored by Republicans eager to pick up the new seat awarded the state because of its growing population.

South Carolina senators with a 33-0 vote gave the Senate's redistricting plan a key second reading with a final vote expected Thursday. That plan includes nine majority black districts instead of the 11 pushed by the American Civil Liberties Union, which also has threatened legal action.

Federal law requires redrawing election district lines every 10 years to reflect population growth and shifts in the Census. South Carolina's population gain netted a new seat - returning one lost in 1930 as population fell. Neighboring Georgia also is picking up a seat.

Redistricting plans have to meet federal standards to ensure they don't discriminate against minorities in a state with a history of inequitable treatment of blacks. Legislators haven't decided whether to use a streamlined process that would take the proposed district lines to a federal judge for approval or go through the more traditional approach of having the Department of Justice review the plan.

Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell has tried to head off criticism that the Senate plan doesn't do enough to create or maintain black majority districts. He noted that in 2002 a redistricting plan with nine black majority districts won federal approval.

Connect with Us:



Events Calendar:

Search Events

myrtlebeachonline

The Myrtle Beach area's premier visitors website.

- Restaurants • Movies • Music • Venues •
- Performing Arts • Add an Event •



15-Day Weather Forecast

Click here to see all of the Sun News Weather Kids

Traffic Cameras

Current Road Conditions

Current Traffic Info

Traffic Overview

Text Alerts

POLL • [Poll | Do you believe President Barack Obama should be re-elected?](#)

» Wed, 22 Jun 2011 16:05 EDT

POLL • [Poll | Do you think men are better drivers than women?](#)

» Sat, 18 Jun 2011 02:20 EDT

POLL • [Poll | Do you believe New York Rep. Anthony Weiner should have resigned?](#)

» Thu, 16 Jun 2011 15:22 EDT

POLL • [Poll | Do you still take a lunch hour outside the office? Or are you stuck at your desk inhaling a sandwich you brought from home?](#)

» Thu, 09 Jun 2011 11:34 EDT

Most Popular

Most Commented

- Updated: Man's body found in ditch in Murrells Inlet
- Conway National Bank under review
- Little River storage facility fire under investigation
- Police roundup | Man with rifle on beach in Myrtle Beach off to hospital
- Car lands on roof after crash in Myrtle Beach (with photo)
- Police | Myrtle Beach woman reported missing returns home
- Horry County salaries for 2011
- Midwest storms touch lives along Grand Strand
- Three-car wreck in Conway sends three to hospital
- Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council again in crosshairs of regulators

Another big fight ahead appears to be over where the new U.S. House seat goes.

Republicans hold five of the state's six current U.S. House seats. The House plan would nearly assure Republicans pick up a sixth seat.

The Senate hasn't drafted a plan for the district, but McConnell said one would be completed later this week. A Senate public hearing is scheduled for Monday on the U.S. House plan.

For now, McConnell said he isn't buying the House-approved plan.

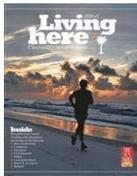
"And I know there are a lot of rumors going around about the so-called House proposed congressional plan. But that's what it is: a House proposed Congressional plan," McConnell said.



Get The Sun News newspaper delivered to your home or business. [Click here to subscribe.](#)

The Sun News allows readers to comment on stories as a privilege; the views expressed in story comments are not those of the Sun News or its staff. Readers are required to adhere to all commenting policies, and must avoid commenting behavior such as personal attacks, libelous posts or inappropriate remarks. Users in violation of The Sun News' commenting policies can have their comments blocked, removed, and/or ultimately see their account banned from the site. Some comments may be reprinted in the newspaper. Registered user names will be posted with comments. The Sun News Terms & Conditions and Commenting Policies can be reviewed here.

MAGAZINES



« Living Here

Home & Life
 « Home & Life Style



« Dining



« Best of the Beach



« Carolina Bride



« Destinations



« Menus & More



« Golf Directory

» REQUEST FREE INFORMATION «

SITE MAP

NEWS

Local/State
 Business/Money
 Nation/World
 Weather
 Politics
 Blogs

SPORTS

High school
 Prep football
 Golf
 MB Pelicans
 Motorsports
 Youth/Rec
 National
 CCU

ENTERTAINMENT

Kicks
 TV listings
 Comics/Games
 Horoscopes
 Movies
 Contests

OPINION

Letters to the Editor
 Editorials
 Discussion Boards

PHOTOS

Staff Photo Galleries
 Reprints
 Reader Photos
 Videos
 Celebrity Photos

LIVING

Coasting
 Food
 Home/Garden
 Celebrations

VISITORS

Destinations
 Plan your trip
 Golf
 Search Businesses

SITE INFO

Contact Us
 About Us
 FAQs
 Subscriptions
 Advertising

careerbuilder.com
Quick Job Search

Enter Keyword(s):

Enter a City:

Select a State:

Select a Category:

Advanced Job Search Search by Category

Top Jobs

All Top Jobs »

Bizfinder

Keywords:

City & State and/or Zip:

Category:

Within: Distance:



[Back](#)

Thursday, Jun 23, 2011

Posted on Wed, Jun. 22, 2011

Redrawn Statehouse district lines head to governor

The Associated Press

South Carolina legislators are sending redrawn district maps for Statehouse seats to Gov. Nikki Haley.

The Senate and House wrapped up work on the legislation and were sending it to Haley on Wednesday.

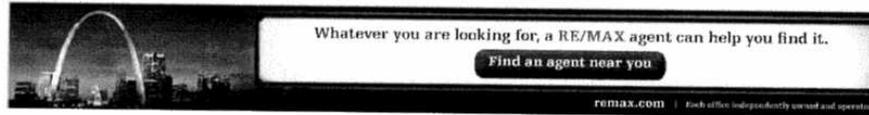
Redistricting is required every decade to reflect census population shifts. South Carolina's reapportionment plan requires federal approval.

The House plan merges eight existing districts that lost population into four. That puts some of the legislators in primaries with each other in June 2012.

The Senate plan didn't merge districts. But the American Civil Liberties Union said the plan reduces black majority population in two districts.

Meanwhile, the Senate is preparing to debate next week new district lines for the U.S. House that include a new 7th District. The House has already approved its version.

© 2011 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>



E-Edition | Cell/PDA | Alerts | Newsletters | RSS | Twitter | Facebook

Find it: Jobs | Cars | Real Estate | Apartments | Deals | Classifieds | Dating | Foreclosures



Find what you are looking for ...

Search

SPONSORED BY:



HOME NEWS SPORTS OPINION LIFE METROMIX ENTERTAINMENT MULTIMEDIA OBITUARIES WEATHER CLASSIFIEDS CUSTOMER SERVICE

Business Crime & Arrests Education Health Politics Life YourUpstate Weddings Obituaries Data Nation Archive



Comment, Blog & Share Photos

Log in | Subscribe

Like 5K

Public gets voice today on drawing US House district lines

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS • PUBLISHED: JUNE 20, 2011 10:01AM

Comments (0) Recommend Print this page E-mail this article Share Type Size A A A

COLUMBIA — The public is getting a chance to talk about how lines should be drawn for a new U.S. House district in South Carolina.



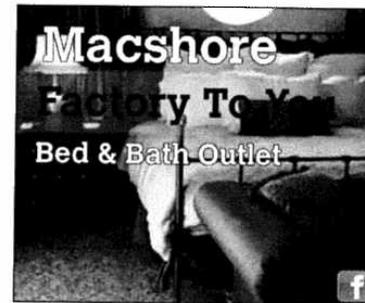
A state Senate panel will hold a public hearing today as it decides election district lines for seven U.S. House districts.

Redistricting happens every decade to conform to Census population changes. Those changes showed South Carolina added enough population to regain the U.S. House seat it lost in 1930.

The plans the Legislature agrees to require federal review under the Voting Rights Act.

The House version puts the new 7th District in Horry and Georgetown counties and then inland across counties near the North Carolina state line.

The Senate could adopt its district lines later this week.



More Local News Headlines

- Home sales down across S.C.
- Spartanburg senators oppose redistricting plan that keeps Greenville whole
- Area gas prices down half a cent a gallon
- Greer teen begins serving jail time in fatal wreck
- More than 1,600 remain without power today

Latest Headlines

- FDA concludes silicone breast implants mostly safe
- Greenville Chamber names 370 Consulting small business of month
- Greer teen begins serving jail time in fatal wreck
- Gas prices continue to decline
- Compromise spending plan coming up for debate

ADS BY PULSE 360

Get Listed Here

Hot Stock Pick - OBJE

New Issue, Obscene Jeans Inc Explosive Investment Potential
www.ObsceneJeans.com

Columbia: Mom Makes Botox Doctors Furious
Mom Reveals Clever \$4 Wrinkle Therapy That Makes Botox Doctors Furious
ConsumerLifeOnline.com

South Carolina Refinance at 2.3%
\$160,000 South Carolina Mortgage \$659/mo. 2.7% apr. Get a Free Quote!
Lendgo.com/mortgage

Most Recommended Articles

- Review: Rush delivers powerful rock (1)
- Shakespeare Fest offers rip-roarin' 'Shrew' (1)

Comments >>

Be the first to share your thoughts on this story.

Ennis Fant says plans would split Greenville County's minority community | greenvilleonl... Page 1 of 2



E-Edition | Cell/PDA | Alerts | Newsletters | RSS | Twitter | Facebook

Find it: Jobs | Cars | Real Estate | Apartments | Deals | Classifieds | Dating | Foreclosures



Find what you are looking for ...

Search



HOME NEWS SPORTS OPINION LIFE METROMIX ENTERTAINMENT MULTIMEDIA OBITUARIES WEATHER CLASSIFIEDS CUSTOMER SERVICE



Comment, Blog & Share Photos
Log in | Subscribe

Like 5K

Ennis Fant says plans would split Greenville County's minority community

BY TIM SMITH • STAFF WRITER • PUBLISHED: JUNE 21, 2011 2:00AM

Comments (8) Recommend Print this page E-mail this article Share Type Size A A A

Previous Page 1 | 2

(2 of 2)

At issue is the political and economic voice in Congress of the state's most populated county.

One senator has worried that if Greenville County is split that it could ultimately keep Greenville from ever electing another candidate to Congress. Others worry that a split county won't get the same congressional attention.

Rep. Wendy Nanney and Rep. Tommy Stringer also proposed keeping Greenville County whole during the House redistricting debate, but their amendment was rejected.

Lawmakers say the problem is one of math: Greenville and Spartanburg aren't only some of the state's largest urban areas but also experienced large growth in the past decade.

Because of the new congressional district and a requirement that all districts have the same size population, it is impossible, legislators say, for both Spartanburg and Greenville to remain intact in any one congressional district.

"There are just too many people in both counties," Shoopman said. "Just because either county is going to be cut is not a sign of political weakness. It's a sign of the fact that we are just 75,000 people too much."

The House plan and one of the Senate plans would take similar-sized chunks out of Spartanburg and Greenville counties for neighboring districts to keep the core of both counties together in the 4th Congressional District.

The Pee Dee faces the same predicament with the Senate plans. The House-passed plan, pushed by Rep. Alan Clemmons of Myrtle Beach, keeps the Pee Dee together to form the new 7th Congressional District.

Most of the almost 150 people packed into a Senate meeting room Monday night came from the Pee Dee and spoke with a unified voice. Politicians, citizens, students and business leaders all pleaded with senators to adopt the House plan.

"Horry County needs to stay whole," Clemmons told senators. "Don't split our communities up."

Under the congressional map approved by the House, Greenville would make up 60 percent of the 4th Congressional District. Under Fant's proposal, Greenville would get a 65 percent share.

Five other Senate proposals from three of the state's congressmen, the ACLU and a Columbia University law student all split Greenville County, with one putting the line as far north as Interstate 85.



Ennis Fant (FILE/Staff)

Purchase this Photo

Related Stories

- Summer helps thaw hiring freeze
- Greenville-area gas prices drift down
- Greenville aims to blend neighborhoods with development
- Letters: Greenville needs more bike lanes
- Free prostate cancer screenings offered Saturday in Greenville

Related Topics

- Places - Horry County, SC, Greer, SC, Greenville County, SC, Greenville, SC
- News - Email Spam

Contextual linking provided by Topix



More Local News Headlines

Home sales down across S.C.

Spartanburg senators oppose redistricting plan that keeps Greenville whole

Area gas prices down half a cent a gallon

Greer teen begins serving jail time in fatal wreck

Ennis Fant says plans would split Greenville County's minority community | greenvilleonl... Page 2 of 2

Shoopman said he has received some calls and emails as well as a resolution from County Council. He said one factor for the lack of Upstate turnout might be that the Senate staffers' plans just came out Friday.

"I don't know if I would use this as a litmus test for interest," Shoopman said of the hearing.

"We're in the process in the Senate of just getting started. We still have a ways to go. I'm looking for input until the vote is done on the floor."

Previous Page 1 | 2

8 **Comments >>**
Read and share your thoughts on this story.

More than 1,600 remain without power today

Latest Headlines

FDA concludes silicone breast implants mostly safe
Greenville Chamber names 370 Consulting small business of month

Greer teen begins serving jail time in fatal wreck

Gas prices continue to decline

Compromise spending plan coming up for debate

ADS BY PULSE 360

Get Listed Here

Hot Stock Pick - OBJE

New Issue, Obscene Jeans Inc Explosive Investment Potential
www.ObsceneJeans.com

Columbia: Mom Makes Botox Doctors Furious

Mom Reveals Clever \$4 Wrinkle Therapy That Makes Botox Doctors Furious
ConsumerLifeOnline.com

South Carolina Refinance at 2.3%

\$160,000 South Carolina Mortgage \$659/mo. 2.7% apr. Get a Free Quote!
Lendgo.com/mortgage

Most Recommended Articles

Review: Rush delivers powerful rock (1)

Shakespeare Fest offers rip-roarin' 'Shrew' (1)

Michael Roth's father finally gets chance to see USC pitcher on big stage (9)

Blues festival at Heritage Park (8)

SAIL coaches pick Swimmers of the Week (6)

Most Commented Articles

Letter: Churches don't breed discrimination (56)

Letter: Palin was right about Revere's ride (50)

Letter: Republicans help the rich get richer (50)

Letter: DeMint could do more as president (42)

Letter: Bush has earned some of the blame (32)



Partners: Jobs: CareerBuilder.com Cars: Cars.com Apartments: Apartments.com Shopping: ShopLocal.com Homes: Homefinder.com

HOME | NEWS | SPORTS | OPINION | LIFE | METROMIX | ENTERTAINMENT | MULTIMEDIA | OBITUARIES | WEATHER | CLASSIFIEDS | CUSTOMER SERVICE | Site Map

Terms of Service | Privacy Policy | Contact Us | About Us | Work for Us | Subscribe

Copyright ©2010

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy, updated September 2010.

GoUpstate.com

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears above any article. [Order a reprint of this article now.](#)

Approved congressional district map splits Spartanburg County

State's population growth mandates redistricting, but plan shocks many

By Stephen Largent

stephen.largent@shj.com

Published: Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at 11:20 p.m.

COLUMBIA — In a move that took local elected officials by surprise, a redistricting plan approved by the state Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday split Spartanburg County between two congressional districts.

The map passed 17-5, with both of the committee's Spartanburg-based senators, Lee Bright and Shane Martin, in the minority.

"It was a shock to us and everybody," Martin said.

The approved plan was prepared by Senate staff and factored in concerns aired by members of the public at a hearing Monday night.

No one from Spartanburg spoke out at the hearing.

The map heads to the full Senate, which will continue the redistricting debate next week.

Under the plan passed Tuesday, the western portion of Spartanburg County that includes the downtown area would remain in the 4th Congressional District with all of Greenville County. The eastern and southern portions of Spartanburg County would move into a 5th Congressional District that drops down as far as Newberry County and stretches along the state's northern border all the way to Chesterfield County.

Greenville County would represent 68 percent of the population in the new district to Spartanburg County's 32 percent.

U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy's current 4th Congressional District includes all of Spartanburg, Greenville and Union counties, along with a small slice of Laurens County.

Using 2010 census population figures, 58 percent of the population in Gowdy's district hail from Greenville County, while 37 percent of the population call Spartanburg County home.

Federal law requires redrawing electoral lines every 10 years to reflect population changes captured by the census.

The new district plan, if it clears a series of remaining hurdles, would strike at Gowdy's home electoral base in Spartanburg.

Gowdy reiterated his desire to see the new 4th District resemble the current district as closely as possible and leveled criticism at the passed plan in a statement Tuesday.

The congressman said Greenville and Spartanburg have a "rich and successful partnership" and together represent a unique community of shared interest.

"Any plan that eviscerates either county is not reflective of that partnership," Gowdy said.

Copyright © 2011 GoUpstate.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.

Martin said he is preparing an amendment to introduce in the state Senate that would leave more of Spartanburg County intact in a congressional district.

Martin and Bright, picking up an argument made by Beaufort Republican Sen. Tom Davis during Tuesday's Judiciary Committee hearing, unsuccessfully made the case to senators that a different map prepared by Senate staff was a better option because it split eight counties into different congressional districts compared to 11 counties in the approved plan.

The congressional map backed by the Spartanburg senators would have changed the layout of the 4th District in a way that closely resembled changes made to the district in a plan approved by the state House earlier this month.

The House-approved plan split off the Chesnee area in northeast Spartanburg County into the 5th Congressional District and a southern portion of Greenville County into the 3rd Congressional District.

Bright said that plan reflected a more equitable arrangement between Spartanburg and Greenville because both counties had portions split into different districts.

Comments made by the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee's chief counsel Charlie Terreni in hearings Tuesday made it clear the citizen testimony in Monday's public hearing was a major factor in changes that were made to the plan the Senate Judiciary Committee passed.

One comment in particular caused Senate staff to change the alignment of the 4th District, Terreni said.

The Rev. Ennis Fant of Greenville, a former House member, told senators Monday evening that splitting his home county would divide the county's minority community and diminish its electoral voice.

Martin said Spartanburg residents didn't turn out at the public hearing because they were working under the assumption that the House-passed plan would be used as the template for the Senate Judiciary Committee's plan.

"I think that's why you didn't see the community outpouring," he said.

Martin said he received messages of disapproval for the plan passed Tuesday from members of the Spartanburg business community.

He introduced a statement in the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing from Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO David Cordeau.

"The concept of assigning a major portion of the county of Spartanburg to a district anchored in another community, while assigning the remainder of Spartanburg County to a different district anchored somewhere else is politics at its worst," Cordeau stated in the release. "It is nonsensical to divide these economic units into politically expedient pieces, where the ability of our elected officials to truly represent the unified needs of the larger constituencies is placed in jeopardy."

South Carolina's population growth during the last decade brought the state a seventh congressional seat.

The House-passed map and the plan passed by the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday will create a new Pee Dee Congressional District based around fast-growing Horry County.

Both chambers of the General Assembly will attempt to agree on a congressional redistricting plan. That proposal then would go to Gov. Nikki Haley for her approval or veto.

Because of South Carolina's history of infringement of the voting rights of black residents, the state's congressional and legislative redistricting proposals must comply with the guidelines that were set up by the federal Voting Rights Act.

Lawmakers can send the state's electoral maps to the courts or the U.S. Department of Justice to comply with the act.

Bright predicted lawmakers are in for a struggle before the state's redistricting plans reach that point. "I think it's going to be a long fight," he said. "It won't be a smooth ride."



E-Edition | Cell/PDA | Alerts | Newsletters | RSS | Twitter | Facebook

Find it: Jobs | Cars | Real Estate | Apartments | Deals | Classifieds | Dating | Foreclosures



Find what you are looking for ...

Search



HOME NEWS SPORTS OPINION LIFE METROMIX ENTERTAINMENT MULTIMEDIA OBITUARIES WEATHER CLASSIFIEDS CUSTOMER SERVICE

Business Crime & Arrests Education Health Politics Life YourUpstate Weddings Obituaries Data Nation Archive



Comment, Blog & Share Photos

Log in | Subscribe

Like 5K

Senate panel OKs new redistricting plan to keep Greenville County whole

BY TIM SMITH • STAFF WRITER • PUBLISHED: JUNE 21, 2011 11:57AM

Comments (0) Recommend Print this page E-mail this article Share Type Size A A A

COLUMBIA -- The Senate Redistricting Subcommittee this morning approved a new plan for congressional district lines that would keep Greenville County whole while creating the state's new district in the Pee Dee.



The proposed 4th Congressional District would be comprised of Greenville County and about half of Spartanburg County. The other half would be sent to the 5th Congressional District, which would stretch east as far as Chesterfield County and south to Kershaw County.

The proposed 7th Congressional District would be anchored by Horry and Florence counties and also include Marion, Darlington, Marlboro, Dillon, Lee counties and parts of Sumter county.

Senators said the new plan, drafted after Monday night's public hearing, is responsive to comments from those who attended, most of whom asked that the Pee Dee not be separated and be contained in the state's new congressional district.

The Rev. Ennis Fant, a former House lawmaker and co-chairman of the African-American Pastor Leadership Conference, asked the panel Monday to keep Greenville County whole, saying other plans that split the county also split the county's minority community.

"Public comments have shaped this plan," Sen. Phil Shoopman of Greer, a member of the panel, told GreenvilleOnline.com after today's vote.

The approved plan next moves to the full Senate Judiciary Committee, which will take up the proposal and any amendments this afternoon.

Related Stories

- Letter: S.C. governor can't be dictator
- Letter: State can't handle more Medicaid cuts
- Reaping a musical 'Harvest'
- Kiki (and Grant's) Chorizo Stuffed Cabbage Rolls
- Event introduces locals to Amy's Kitchen

Related Topics

- Places - Greenville County, SC, Spartanburg County, SC
- News - Email Spam

Contextual linking provided by Topix



More Local News Headlines

- Home sales down across S.C.
- Spartanburg senators oppose redistricting plan that keeps Greenville whole
- Area gas prices down half a cent a gallon
- Greer teen begins serving jail time in fatal wreck
- More than 1,600 remain without power today

Latest Headlines

- FDA concludes silicone breast implants mostly safe
- Greenville Chamber names 370 Consulting small business of month
- Greer teen begins serving jail time in fatal wreck
- Gas prices continue to decline
- Compromise spending plan coming up for debate

ADS BY PULSE 360

Get Listed Here

Hot Stock Pick - OBJE

New Issue, Obscene Jeans Inc Explosive Investment Potential
www.ObsceneJeans.com

Columbia: Mom Makes Botox Doctors Furious

Comments >>

Be the first to share your thoughts on this story.



[Back](#)

Wednesday, Jun 22, 2011

Posted on Tue, Jun. 21, 2011

Senate redistricting plan would put Horry in new district

All of Horry County is contained within a new Pee Dee Congressional District, according to a plan adopted by a Senate subcommittee Tuesday.

The map is the third proposed by Senate staff, and the full Senate Judiciary will take up the plan this afternoon.

Many of the current districts look familiar, though slightly tweaked in the new plan.

Locally, the 6th Congressional District of U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-Columbia, would be significantly reshaped, stretching from Columbia to Georgetown and Jasper counties. In the Upstate, portions of Spartanburg County would be carved off and moved to the 5th District of U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land. U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy's, R-Spartanburg, 4th District would include all of Greenville County.

The 2nd District of U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-Springdale, would add more of Aiken County and trim counties along Interstate 95.

Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington, objected to public testimony from Monday night that argued Horry County should be in a Pee Dee district.

"It was very orchestrated," Malloy said of the busload of residents who testified. "Horry County is not part of the Pee Dee region. When we talk about Horry we're talking about the Grand Strand."

Others disagreed.

"Are we going to please everyone? No," said Sen. Phil Shoopman, R-Greenville. "But I think we're going to build a plan based on public testimony."

Republican Senators and staff attorney Charlie Terreni said a proposed South Carolina Democratic Party plan would likely violate federal law because it reduces the percentage of black population in the 6th District. The plan would reduce the black population to 45 percent in the 6th District, and attempt to create competitive 2nd, 5th and 7th districts.

— John O'Connor

© 2011 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>

<http://www2.wspa.com/news/2011/jun/21/senate-judiciary-recommends-new-redistricting-plan-ar-2006700/>

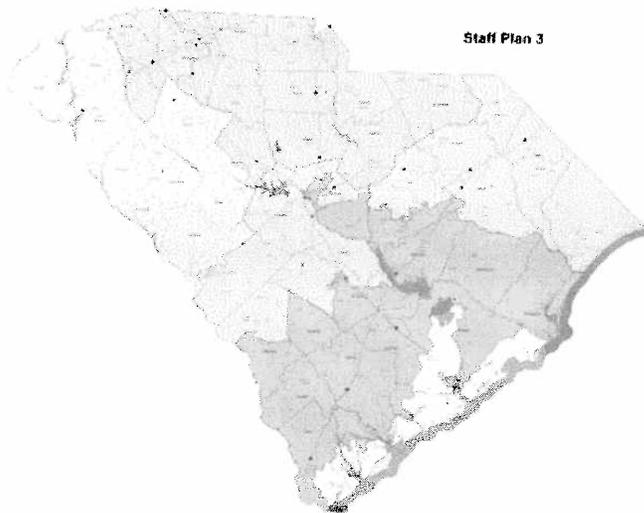


Published: June 21, 2011

[Home](#) / [news](#) / [state regional](#) / [govt politics](#) /

Senate Judiciary Recommends New Redistricting Plan

By Ellen Meder



The Senate Judiciary Committee released a new congressional redistricting plan to be debated on the Senate floor Thursday. The new plan, drafted overnight by redistricting subcommittee staff after a public hearing, was unanimously recommended by the subcommittee Tuesday morning, but faced skepticism in the full committee.

The plan would give the new, hotly debated U.S. House seat to the northeast of the state, including Horry, Marion, Dillon, Florence, Marlboro, Darlington and Lee counties as well as part of Sumter county. The district is loosely based on the pre-1990 District 6. Though closer to the House passed plan than previous Senate staff plans, Chesterfield and Williamsburg would be left out.

However, Sen. Luke Rankin, R-Horry, argued that Georgetown and Williamsburg be brought into District 7 due to their North Eastern Strategic Alliance, while Sen. Vincent Sheheen, D-Kershaw, said

that Chesterfield is part of the true Pee Dee region. Both said they will draft amendments to do so.

But Chief Council Charlie Terreni said that the area's population growth makes it impossible to fit all of the Pee Dee and Grand Strand areas into one district.

Each district is required by federal law to have the same population, plus or minus one voter.

The coastal communities would be represented by three different U.S. congressmen, due to the high population growth in the area.

The new plan would also maintain District 6 as a majority African American district, and is drawn jutting into Charleston County similar to current maps. District 6 also meanders in an "elbow" shape up into Richland County, which concerned some Senators. But Terreni pointed out the draw's overall similarity to that upheld by courts in 2002 and recommended the plan based on its compatibility with the Voting Rights Act.

"I think it's been fought over and tried and true so to speak for over 20 years now, and to the extend we can utilize those lines, there is safety in it," Terreni said.

All of Greenville County would be contained in District 4 with parts of Spartanburg along the I-85 corridor, as to not divide the minority voter block in downtown Greenville, considered by the subcommittee to be a community of interest, or to cut through Senate district 7.

Sen. Shane Martin, R-Spartanburg, voiced concern that in splitting Spartanburg and Greenville counties, but Terreni said that in the Upstate as well, it is impossible to encompass the metropolis area in one district.

Chairman Glenn McConnell said the plan will only serve as a foundation for amendment. It will be debated on the Senate floor Thursday at the earliest, since drafting redistricting amendments takes more time since balancing district populations is delicate.

Once the Senate agrees on a plan it will go to conference committee. If no compromise is reached, the issue will go to federal courts.

Even if both houses agree on a map, the redistricting plan will be subject to the approval of the U.S. Justice Department due the state's past infractions with the Voting Rights Act.



[Back](#)

Tuesday, Jun 21, 2011

Posted on Tue, Jun. 21, 2011

New 7th District shouldn't split Pee Dee, Grand Strand, voters says

By JOHN O'CONNOR
jconnor@thestate.com

Dozens of Pee Dee residents Monday night said they oppose two state Senate proposals to create a seventh congressional district, arguing the plans would divide their historically, culturally linked region.

Instead, the Pee Dee residents said they favor a S.C. House plan to anchor a new seventh district in Horry County and the surrounding Pee Dee.

Other citizens told a state Senate hearing on congressional redistricting that they oppose plans that would divide Greenville County into two districts.

About three dozen people spoke at the hearing, part of the once-every-decade requirement that the state redraw its political boundaries to equalize the population in elected districts. A Senate committee is expected to recommend lines for the new congressional districts today.

Those new lines are drawing particular interest this year because South Carolina's population growth means the state is adding a new, seventh congressional district.

One of two Senate proposals, released Thursday, would create a Pee Dee-based 7th District but slice Myrtle Beach out of that new district, keeping it in the 1st District, represented by U.S. Rep. Tim Scott, a Republican from North Charleston. A second Senate staff plan would center the new 7th District in Beaufort and Berkeley counties.

"Separating Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach is inappropriate," said Horry County GOP chairwoman Johnnie Bellamy.

Speakers argued as many counties as possible within the North Eastern Strategic Alliance – an economic development group made up of Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg counties – should be in the new 7th District. The area shares economic concerns, including tourism and infrastructure, family ties and a cultural connection in news and other media.

Rep. Alan Clemmons, R-Horry, chairman of the subcommittee that drew the House's congressional plan, argued the Pee Dee region historically has been a congressional district, a distinction it lost only recently.

"We need some help with our infrastructure and an advocate in Congress for it," said Joe Dugan, chairman of the Myrtle Beach Tea Party, citing the need for money for the proposed Interstate 73, which would connect the Grand Strand to Interstate 95. "We need a congressman to focus on growth in this area."

The S.C. Democratic Party presented a plan that would reduce the number of black voters in Democrat Jim Clyburn's 6th District – but still maintain a near-black majority – while creating competitive races in the 2nd, 5th and 7th districts.

U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, a Republican from Springdale, represents the 2nd District. The 5th District is represented by U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, a Republican from Indian Land.

Ennis Fant, a pastor from Greenville County, argued that county's school district should not be split between a redrawn 4th District, represented by U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, a Republican from Spartanburg, and a redrawn 3rd District, represented by U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, a Republican from Laurens..

Senate President Pro Tempore Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, said he was influenced by the number of Pee Dee residents concerned about the Senate proposal to divide the Pee Dee. McConnell also said he

The State | 06/21/2011 | New 7th District shouldn't split Pee Dee, Grand Strand, voters says Page 2 of 2

had not previously heard complaints about the impact of redistricting on Greenville and Spartanburg counties.

McConnell expects a Senate committee to send a congressional redistricting plan to the Senate floor this week. Final approval of a plan might stretch into next week.

"There's going to be some difficulty with the plans," McConnell said, calling House redistricting plans for the Charleston area "unacceptable."

"There are problems on the maps that will create fights."

Reach O'Connor at (803) 771-8358.

© 2011 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>

<http://www2.wspa.com/news/2011/jun/21/senate-committee-consider-hearing-remarks-ar-2003603/>



Published: June 21, 2011

[Home](#) / [news](#) / [state regional](#) / [govt politics](#) /

Senate Redistricting Subcommittee To Consider Hearing Remarks

By Ellen Meder

With Congressional redistricting still up in the air, more than 60 Pee Dee and Grand Strand residents caravanned to Columbia to ask the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee to give the area the newly created U.S. House district. South Carolina picked up a seventh congressional seat after the census.

During a rally before the public hearing, button-wearing, sign-waving citizens voiced support for the House approved plan that would unite the region, similar to District 6 from 1930 to 1990, and include all of Chesterfield, Marlboro, Darlington, Dillon, Marion, Horry and Georgetown counties and most of Florence county.

“We need a representative that’s going to be from the Pee Dee, from Horry County to bring us together because we are economically tied together, through like NESAs, we are financially tied together, recreationally tied together, and family tied together,” said Myrtle Beach city councilman Randall Wallace. “We don’t need someone representing us from rock hill or from Clarendon, from Charleston, we need them to be from the Pee Dee.”

The first Senate plan would split off Myrtle Beach from the rest of Horry County and unite it with Charleston via a thin corridor down the coast, similar to current districts. The second plan would include all of Horry County and half of Georgetown in a Charleston anchored District 1.

“We’ve never had a community of interest between Charleston and Horry, that’s just never been,” said Rep. Alan Clemmons, R-Horry. “They’re divergent interests between the two at times. Likewise, throughout the Pee Dee we feel like we could have a stronger voice in Washington for issues of the Pee Dee if we had a Congressman elected out of here.”

Many people spoke in the hearings of the Pee Dee and Grand Strand’s common interest in developing an I-73 corridor, the areas’ business ties, the counties’ similar struggles with unemployment and a cultural tie between the people of Florence and Myrtle Beach that was frequently describe as “family.”

Of the 30 speakers, all but three recommended the House plan.

A South Carolina Democratic Party spokesman also introduced a new plan that would keep the Pee Dee

and Grand Strand together and would split fewer counties. After the House passed its plan, Democratic leadership threatened a lawsuit, saying the plans diluted black voters' sway in some districts.

The subcommittee will reconvene Tuesday morning to discuss several plans with the goal of reporting to the Judiciary Committee by afternoon. Sen. Ray Cleary, R-Georgetown, who is on the subcommittee says he hopes a Senate plan will see floor debate Wednesday and Thursday in the hopes of getting a plan to a foregone conference committee next week.

Even if both houses agree to a compromise, the redistricting plan will be subject to the approval of the U.S. Justice Department due the state's past infractions with the Voting Rights Act.

WSPA © Copyright 2011 Media General Communications Holdings, LLC. A Media General company.



[Back](#)

Tuesday, Jun 21, 2011

Posted on Tue, Jun. 21, 2011

Senate redistricting plan would put Horry in new district

All of Horry County is contained within a new Pee Dee Congressional District, according to a plan adopted by a Senate subcommittee Tuesday.

The map is the third proposed by Senate staff, and the full Senate Judiciary will take up the plan this afternoon.

Many of the current districts look familiar, though slightly tweaked in the new plan.

Locally, the 6th Congressional District of U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-Columbia, would be significantly reshaped, stretching from Columbia to Georgetown and Jasper counties. In the Upstate, portions of Spartanburg County would be carved off and moved to the 5th District of U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, R-Indian Land. U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy's, R-Spartanburg, 4th District would include all of Greenville County.

The 2nd District of U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-Springdale, would add more of Aiken County and trim counties along Interstate 95.

Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington, objected to public testimony from Monday night that argued Horry County should be in a Pee Dee district.

"It was very orchestrated," Malloy said of the busload of residents who testified. "Horry County is not part of the Pee Dee region. When we talk about Horry we're talking about the Grand Strand."

Others disagreed.

"Are we going to please everyone? No," said Sen. Phil Shoopman, R-Greenville. "But I think we're going to build a plan based on public testimony."

Republican Senators and staff attorney Charlie Terreni said a proposed South Carolina Democratic Party plan would likely violate federal law because it reduces the percentage of black population in the 6th District. The plan would reduce the black population to 45 percent in the 6th District, and attempt to create competitive 2nd, 5th and 7th districts.

— John O'Connor

© 2011 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>

Printed from the Charlotte Observer - www.CharlotteObserver.com

Posted: Tuesday, Jun. 21, 2011

S.C. lawmakers hear from citizens on redistricting

By John O'Connor
PUBLISHED IN: NEWS

Dozens of Pee Dee residents Monday night said they oppose two state Senate proposals to create a seventh congressional district, arguing the plans would divide their historically, culturally linked region.

Instead, the Pee Dee residents said they favor a S.C. House plan to anchor a new seventh district in Horry County and the surrounding Pee Dee.

Other citizens told a state Senate hearing on congressional redistricting that they oppose plans that would divide Greenville County into two districts.

About three dozen people spoke at the hearing, part of the once-every-decade requirement that the state redraw its political boundaries to equalize the population in elected districts. A Senate committee is expected to recommend lines for the new congressional districts today.

Those new lines are drawing particular interest this year because South Carolina's population growth means the state is adding a new, seventh congressional district.

One of two Senate proposals, released Thursday, would create a Pee Dee-based 7th District but slice Myrtle Beach out of that new district, keeping it in the 1st District, represented by U.S. Rep. Tim Scott, a Republican from North Charleston. A second Senate staff plan would center the new 7th District in Beaufort and Berkeley counties.

"Separating Myrtle Beach and North Myrtle Beach is inappropriate," said Horry County GOP chairwoman Johnnie Bellamy.

Speakers argued as many counties as possible within the North Eastern Strategic Alliance - an economic development group made up of Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Horry, Marion, Marlboro and Williamsburg counties - should be in the new 7th District. The area shares economic concerns, including tourism and infrastructure, family ties and a cultural connection in news and other media.

Rep. Alan Clemmons, R-Horry, chairman of the subcommittee that drew the House's congressional plan, argued the Pee Dee region historically has been a congressional district, a distinction it lost only recently.

Related Stories

Related Images

<http://www2.scnow.com/news/grand-strand/2011/jun/21/senate-approves-house-plan-new-congressional-distr-ar-2006728/>



Published: June 21, 2011

[Home](#) / [news](#) /

Senate approves House plan for new congressional district

By Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - A new U.S. House district would be in South Carolina's northeastern corner and along the coast under plans winning approval in a Senate panel.

The Senate Judiciary's redistricting panel approved plans Tuesday for the new district as well as the state's current six districts. The full Judiciary Committee expects to debate the U.S. House redistricting bill later Tuesday.

Redistricting is required every decade to reflect population changes from the Census. South Carolina picked up a seventh district because of population increases.

The new district includes Horry County on the coast surrounding Myrtle Beach and inland to Florence County and counties up to the state line with North Carolina.

The panel rejected plans the state Democratic Party and the American Civil Liberties Union offered.

SCNOW © Copyright 2011 Media General Communications Holdings, LLC. A Media General company.

The Post and Courier

Public testifies on House district lines

BY JIM DAVENPORT
Associated Press
Tuesday, June 21, 2011

COLUMBIA -- Voters packed a hearing Monday as lawmakers drew up plans for a new U.S. House seat, with many in the audience wearing buttons saying they want their northeastern corner of the state kept together instead of split among three districts as it is now.

Redistricting is required every decade so that legislative and congressional districts reflect population changes and meet certain requirements. The new maps require federal approval under the Voting Rights Act, to ensure they don't discriminate against minorities in a state with a history of inequitable treatment of black voters. South Carolina is picking up a seventh U.S. House seat to account for population growth -- returning a seat the Palmetto State lost in 1930 as population fell.

The House approved its version of the plan last week and that's what most of the crowd wanted. That plan puts the 7th District in the northeastern corner of South Carolina with coastal Horry and Georgetown counties and mostly rural counties near the state line with North Carolina.

Dozens traveled from that part of the state on a chartered bus and wore red and white "Pee Dee wants the 7th District!" buttons

Myrtle Beach tea party leader Joe Dugan said the region needs to stick together and not be split up as outlined in one Senate proposal. The area is growing fast, he said, adding it needs a single U.S. representative to deal with everything from job creation to funding issues and overcrowded roads.

"Because of the growth in the Pee Dee, we need a congressman to focus on the growth in this area," Dugan said.

One Senate Judiciary staff plan has the new district in the northeastern corner of the state, but it doesn't include Georgetown County and splits Horry County around Myrtle Beach. To "divide an area of common tourism like this into two separate districts just doesn't make any sense to me," Dugan said.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Glenn McConnell said the crowd's support for that northeastern district was influential. "We'll take that into consideration and look at it," the Charleston Republican said.

On the web

Senate

House



Covering the politics of the Lowcountry, South Carolina and the nation.

The second Senate staff plan has two coastal districts. U.S. Rep. Tim Scott's 1st District would remain much like it is now as it stretches from Charleston County, through Georgetown County and ending in Horry County on the coast. But it would draw the new 7th District to include Beaufort, Colleton and Jasper counties on the coast and stretch inland to Georgetown, Calhoun and Allendale counties.

The state Democratic Party offered a plan that called for reducing the black voting population of the 6th District, saying the state would be better served by spreading the influence of black voters across more of the state.

Last week, state Democratic Party Chairman Dick Harpootlian said the plans being drawn up for the U.S. House as well as the state House and Senate amounted to "electoral apartheid." He said he expected legal action over the plans.

McConnell said he expects his committee to send a proposed U.S. House plan to the Senate floor for debate this week. He expects debate to stretch into next week "because there's going to be some difficulty with this congressional plan."

"There are problems on the maps and they're going to create some fights," he added.

Copyright © 1995 - 2011 Evening Post Publishing Co..



ADVERTISEMENT

Senate Redistricting Subcommittee To Consider Hearing Remarks

Pee Dee residents voice desire to be fully encompassed by 7th U.S. House district

Recommend Sign Up to see what your friends
recommend.

COLUMBIA, S.C. --

With Congressional redistricting still up in the air, more than 60 Pee Dee and Grand Strand residents caravanned to Columbia to ask the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee to give the area the newly created U.S. House district. South Carolina picked up a seventh congressional seat after the census.

During a rally before the public hearing, button-wearing, sign-waving citizens voiced support for the House approved plan that would unite the region, similar to District 6 from 1930 to 1990, and include all of Chesterfield, Marlboro, Darlington, Dillon, Marion, Horry and Georgetown counties and most of Florence county.

"We need a representative that's going to be from the Pee Dee, from Horry County to bring us together because we are economically tied together, through like NESAs, we are financially tied together, recreationally tied together, and family tied together," said Myrtle Beach city councilman Randall Wallace. "We don't need someone representing us from rock hill or from Clarendon, from Charleston, we need them to be from the Pee Dee."

The first Senate plan would split off Myrtle Beach from the rest of Horry County and unite it with Charleston via a thin corridor down the coast, similar to current districts. The second plan would include all of Horry County and half of Georgetown in a Charleston anchored District 1.

"We've never had a community of interest between Charleston and Horry, that's just never been," said Rep. Alan Clemmons, R-Horry. "They're divergent interests between the two at times. Likewise, throughout the Pee Dee we feel like we could have a stronger voice in Washington for issues of the Pee Dee if we had a Congressman elected out of here."

Many people spoke in the hearings of the Pee Dee and Grand Strand's common interest in developing an I-73 corridor, the areas' business ties, the counties' similar struggles with unemployment and a cultural tie between the people of Florence and Myrtle Beach that was frequently describe as "family."

Of the 30 speakers, all but three recommended the House plan.

A South Carolina Democratic Party spokesman also introduced a new plan that would keep the Pee Dee and Grand Strand together and would split fewer counties. After the House passed its plan, Democratic leadership threatened a lawsuit, saying the plans diluted black voters' sway in some districts.

The subcommittee will reconvene Tuesday morning to discuss several plans with the goal of reporting to the Judiciary Committee by afternoon. Sen. Ray Cleary, R-Georgetown, who is on the subcommittee says he hopes a Senate plan will see floor debate Wednesday and Thursday in the hopes of getting a plan to a foregone conference committee next week.

Even if both houses agree to a compromise, the redistricting plan will be subject to the approval of the U.S. Justice Department due the state's past infractions with the Voting Rights Act.

Recommend Sign Up to see what your friends
recommend.

WSPA
©2011 Media General Communications Holdings, LLC. A Media General company.



TheSunNews.com

Wednesday, Jun 22, 2011

Posted on Wed, Jun. 22, 2011

Lines drawn in the sand in Georgetown County redistricting

By Gina Vasselli
gvasselli@thesunnews.com

As the debate continues over S.C. lawmakers' plan for the redistricting of the U.S. House seats for South Carolina, which could include making Georgetown County part of a new 7th Congressional seat, there is little left to be done for the county's representation in Columbia.

The House and Senate each have respectively approved plans that reconfigure the district lines for S.C. House Districts 108 and 103 and S.C. Senate Districts 34 and 32 and are awaiting approval from the other body.

But that doesn't mean everyone is happy with those changes.

Rep. Carl Anderson, D-Georgetown, said he will try to get an amendment into the legislation that redraws some of the lines for the area he represents, District 103.

In the plan given approval by the House, District 103 gains most of the city of Georgetown from District 108, but loses some areas it had, including much of Kensington, which is where Anderson lives.

"They only gave me four blocks in the community I live in," Anderson said. "The rest goes to 108."

He said historically the city of Georgetown has been represented by District 108, not District 103.

Rep. Kevin Ryan, R-Pawleys Island, said while he is disappointed that District 108 will not include much of Georgetown, that change was made "at the very strong advice of some outside legal counsel."

He said the idea was to keep the city in one district as much as possible.

"That's been a problem in the past, splitting the city," Ryan said.

But Anderson said the proposed plan still splits the city.

"District 108 goes to Mount Pleasant," Anderson said. "So he [Ryan] has to come through the city and if you come through the city you're going to have to take up some land."

Anderson said he drew up his own map after his attempts to reach Ryan to discuss changes to the districts failed.

In a map he has drawn, which he said he will try to get put in as an amendment, District 103 would contain Kensington as well as a portion of the city.

"You work by delegation. I'm also a member of the Williamsburg County delegation and... everything worked out fine with them. I don't understand why people do what they do."

But Ryan said Anderson only contacted him hours before the House voted on the plans and "he was just unhappy politically."

"This process is not about satisfying individual legislators. It's not about him or I and making it easy to get re-elected," he said. "We have to try to do what the Justice Department wants so that we can draw our own maps as much as possible."

"Or the courts will draw them for us and that won't be good for anybody."

But Ryan did say that his priority was to keep the Waccamaw Neck together in one district. He said it would have been difficult to do that and keep the city of Georgetown in District 108.

TheSunNews.com | 06/22/2011 | Lines drawn in the sand in Georgetown County redistrict... Page 2 of 2

The State Senate representation for the city of Georgetown will also be changing.

Previously, the city was mostly in Senate District 34, which goes up the Waccamaw Neck down to Charleston, but now it will mostly be in District 32, which contains inland Georgetown County as well as Williamsburg County.

Sen. Ray Cleary, R-Murrells Inlet, said he did not want to lose the Georgetown area that was in District 34, but "I can work with it."

"If that's what it takes to be a team player I'll be a team player," he said. "At the end of the day if I do a good job the voters will elect me." Cleary is up for re-election in 2012.

He said he has "a lot of respect" for Sen. Yancey McGill, D-Kingstree and thinks McGill will represent the city of Georgetown well if he is re-elected in 2012.

McGill said he has represented parts of Georgetown County for more than 20 years and is happy to have the district include the city of Georgetown.

"It's a very industrial, agriculture based district," McGill said. "Georgetown is a very positive, progressive city. They believe in revitalization and they believe in growth."

All of the redistricting plans have to be approved by both the S.C. House and Senate before they are sent to the U.S. Justice Department.

Contact GINA VASSELLI at 443-2434.

© 2011 TheSunNews.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thesunnews.com>

GoUpstate.com

This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears above any article. [Order a reprint of this article now](#)

Protect regional interest

Those who talk about a shared Upstate future have to step forward now

Published: Wednesday, June 22, 2011 at 3:15 a.m.

The trend among business leaders in the Upstate over the past few years has been to look at the Upstate as one region with a shared future, not a group of competing communities or counties.

This drive has led to organizations like Ten at the Top and the Upstate Alliance. Well, now is the time for those business leaders to put up or shut up. Do they really regard this as one shared region? Or are they really interested in protecting the interests of Greenville at Spartanburg's expense?

We will know by their response to the Senate redistricting plan. Narrow-minded interests from Greenville County have taken an overly provincial view of redistricting. Their top priority is to ensure that Greenville County stays whole in a congressional district it can dominate.

Those interests convinced a Senate panel to adopt a plan that keeps Greenville whole and cleaves Spartanburg County in half. The western portion of Spartanburg County, including the city of Spartanburg, would stay in the 4th Congressional District with Greenville, while the eastern and southern portions of the county would go into the 5th Congressional District.

The plan stands in stark contrast to the sensible plan adopted in the state House. That plan would move a small corner of Spartanburg County near Chesnee into the 5th District, while the southern edge of Greenville County would be placed in the 3rd District. The vast majority of Spartanburg and Greenville would continue to make up the 4th District.

This is a reasonable plan that embodies the philosophy of looking at the Upstate region as one shared economy and future. Spartanburg and Greenville would be kept together in the district, and the region would have a member in Congress to represent this shared future.

The Senate plan would take half of the county and put it with a district that goes all the way to Rock Hill, a suburb of Charlotte. Spartanburg County and Rock Hill share very little.

One half of Spartanburg County would be a very small minority in the 4th District. The other half would be a very small minority in the 5th District. Neither representative elected to Congress from these districts would need to be very concerned about Spartanburg County.

The Senate plan violates every precept of viewing the Upstate as one region. Those who have been pushing this perspective have an obligation to publicly oppose this plan and advocate the House plan.

Spartanburg will be watching. Will these business leaders and organizations come out when the real interests of the region demand it? Or has all this talk of cooperation been only a temporary convenience?



You power
your business.
We're ready to
power you.

When your business has needs, look to CertusBank for total business banking solutions. We're lending.

SPARTANBURG • 531 East Main St. • 873.6347
GREER • 530 W Wade Hampton Blvd. • 801.1165
GREENVILLE • 2415 Laurens Rd. • 234.5556
MAULDIN • 787-G East Butler Rd. • 272.0625
ANDERSON • 1510 North Main St. • 222.8444
EASLEY • 6602 Calhoun Mem'l Hwy. • 306.2540

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION! 

Any organization that doesn't clearly advocate for the House version over the Senate version need not come into Spartanburg County after this decision is made and tell us about a shared future for the Upstate. That credibility will be lost.

Now is when real regional leaders need to step forward. Now is the time for common interests to push aside the provincial demand that Greenville County alone be kept whole. Spartanburg will watch this with interest.

Copyright © 2011 GoUpstate.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.



[Back](#)

Friday, Jun 24, 2011

Posted on Wed, Jun. 22, 2011

New Congressional district takes shape

By JOHN O'CONNOR
joconnor@thestate.com

Chalk one up for the Pee Dee and Horry County.

A state Senate panel Tuesday approved creating a new seventh congressional district made up of the Pee Dee and all of Horry County.

The plan angered Lowcountry lawmakers who argue their area should get the state's seventh U.S. representative.

The plan also pits Upstate lawmakers against each other, after portions of Spartanburg County were snipped from the 4th District — diluting that county's influence — to keep Greenville County undivided.

The plan was the third drafted by state Senate staff. It included adjustments made after a public hearing Monday. Pee Dee residents turned out in force at that hearing to support a district that included their region and all of Horry County.

The plan now heads to the Senate floor, where lawmakers expect a number of changes to be proposed.

The Senate plan then would have to be reconciled with congressional redistricting maps already approved by the S.C. House. However, the House plan also includes a Horry-centered 7th district.

Locally, the 6th District of U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, a Columbia Democrat, would add coastal territory, stretching from Georgetown County to Columbia and then south to Jasper County. The 2nd District of U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, a Republican from Springdale, would add portions of Aiken County and stretch across Interstate 26 to add Calhoun County.

A Pee Dee-Horry congressional district makes economic and cultural sense, lawmakers said, adding it has a historical precedent. The area until recently was the center of a congressional district.

"Are we going to please everyone? No," said Sen. Phil Shoopman, R-Greenville. "But ... we're going to build a plan based on public comment."

Lowcountry lawmakers argued the Senate plan divides coastal counties between various congressional districts more than their favored plan, which would create a new congressional district centered in Beaufort, Berkeley and Dorchester counties.

"We're making a mistake," said Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort. "We're not setting up as good a foundation as we can."

Spartanburg lawmakers and business leaders objected to moving portions of that county from the 4th District, represented by U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-Spartanburg, to the 5th District, represented by U.S. Rep. Mick Mulvaney, a Republican from Indian Land.

Under the Senate plan, Spartanburg would make up only 32 percent of the 4th District's population, down from 37 percent.

Creating a Lowcountry congressional district would be a "fairer plan," said Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg.

But Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, said Greenville, the state's largest county, deserved to remain whole within the 4th District.

Democratic strategists noted the Senate's proposed 7th District could be competitive for a Democratic candidate. Republican presidential nominee John McCain defeated President Barack Obama by only 53-

The State | 06/22/2011 | New Congressional district takes shape

Page 2 of 2

47 within the proposed new district in 2008, less than McCain's 9 percentage-point margin of victory statewide.

Senators expect debate on the new districts will not finish until next week.

Reach O'Connor at (803) 771-8358.

© 2011 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>

<http://www2.wspa.com/news/2011/jun/23/senate-opens-floor-debate-congressional-redistrict-ar-2019308/>

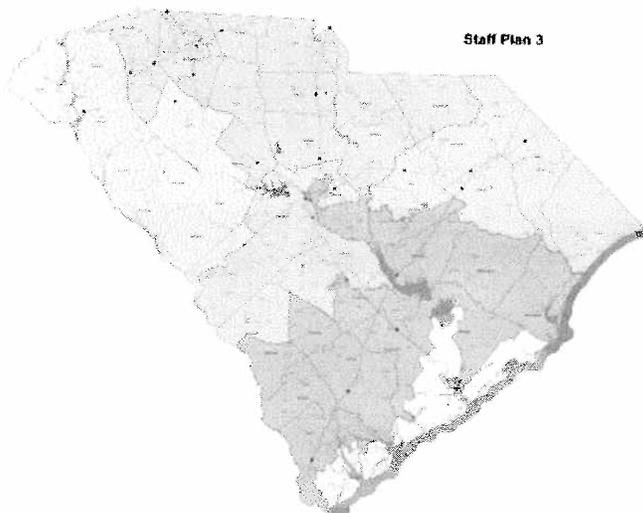


Published: June 23, 2011

[Home](#) / [news](#) / [state regional](#) / [govt politics](#) /

Senate Opens Floor Debate On Congressional Redistricting

By Ellen Meder



The Senate adopted a Congressional redistricting plan Thursday, when Lt. Gov. Ken Ard cast the tie-breaking vote to use the Judiciary Committee's recommended map.

It is customary to accept a committee's suggestion as foundation for amendments on complex legislation, such as redistricting and budgets, but some lawmakers, especially Sen. Darrell Jackson, D-Richland, ardently advocated using a different map or even sending the subcommittee back to the drawing board.

Debate immediately centered on hotly-contested District 7. Under the Senate plan the new U.S. House seat goes to the Pee Dee and Grand Strand areas, including all of Horry County and part of Sumter, but none of Georgetown.

Sen. Ray Cleary, R-Georgetown, proposed including the coast of Georgetown, down to Waccamaw Neck, in District 7, and forfeiting more of Sumter County to District 6, to make an even trade of slightly more than 22,200 voters.

But Sen. Phil Leventis, D-Sumter, argued that the change would further dilute his county's influence in the district, when Sumter voters already constitute less than a 10 percent of each district.

Later, Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington, argued that Georgetown and Horry Counties are not actually part of the Pee Dee, and that the large coastal population will overrun the interests of rural areas in Marion, Dillon, Marlboro and Lee Counties.

"People in the rural areas will continue to suffer because they do not have the representation. ..." Malloy said. "Not to quote anyone, but I would just say this is two Americas. We've got this rural area that is impoverished and we're going to have a coastal region that is affluent and they are going to dominate this entire process."

Though District 7 debate is not complete, a similarly arduous deliberation is expected next week over District 4 in the Upstate, which currently includes all of Greenville County, but only three-quarters of Spartanburg voters. Sen. Shane Martin, R-Spartanburg, has already indicated he will introduce an amendment for District 4.

The redistricting subcommittee chose to encompass Greenville in District 4 in response to public concerns about splitting Senate District 7 and weakening the influence of the minority voting block in downtown Greenville.

Lawmakers were encouraged to request drafting of their amendments early, because a small tweak to one district can ripple change across the map, since all districts must have the same number of voters, give or take one.

The Senate will pick up debating redistricting Monday morning. Once the Senate agrees upon a redistricting plan it will have to go to conference committee and be agreed upon by both house before end of business July 1, or it will become a decision for the courts.

WSPA © Copyright 2011 Media General Communications Holdings, LLC. A Media General company.

20 OFF SPA AND GOLF
Includes \$50 PEROTT Credit and breakfast - all summer long
BOOK NOW

E-Edition | Cell/PDA | Alerts | Newsletters | RSS | Twitter | Facebook

Find it: Jobs | Cars | Real Estate | Apartments | Deals | Classifieds | Dating | Foreclosures

Find what you are looking for ... Search

SPONSORED BY: DOWN GO

HOME NEWS SPORTS OPINION LIFE METROMIX ENTERTAINMENT MULTIMEDIA OBITUARIES WEATHER CLASSIFIEDS CUSTOMER SERVICE

Business Crime & Arrests Education Health Politics Life YourUpstate Weddings Obituaries Data Nation Archive

Comment, Blog & Share Photos
Log in | Subscribe

Like 5K

Spartanburg senators oppose redistricting plan that keeps Greenville whole

BY TIM SMITH • CAPITAL BUREAU • PUBLISHED: JUNE 22, 2011 2:00AM

Comments (0) Recommend Print this page E-mail this article Share Type Size A A A

1 | 2 Next Page

COLUMBIA — Spartanburg's senators plan to ask the Senate to choose a plan to redraw congressional district lines different from the one approved Tuesday by the Senate Judiciary Committee that would keep Greenville County whole.



Sen. Lee Bright and Sen. Shane Martin, both Spartanburg County Republicans, told GreenvilleOnline.com that another staff plan makes more sense because it splits fewer counties.

The plan they favor would take similar-sized chunks of Greenville and Spartanburg counties out of the 4th Congressional District, while the plan approved Tuesday would take about half of Spartanburg County and send it to the 5th Congressional District.

Bright said he was opposed to the idea of changing the original staff plan based upon comments made at a public hearing Monday night. "I just don't think that's a proper way to do the state's business," he said.

RELATED

- [Senate map 1](#)
- [Senate map 2](#)
- [Ennis Fant map](#)
- [Senate Judiciary Committee map](#)

The Rev. Ennis Fant of Greenville, a former House lawmaker and co-chairman of the African-American Pastor Leadership Conference, had asked the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee on Monday to keep Greenville County whole, arguing other plans, including the House-passed plan and the staff plan favored by Bright and Shane Martin, would split Greenville County's minority community.

Senate President Pro Tempore Glenn McConnell said Tuesday that Fant's remarks during the hearing "troubled" the panel and helped spur the new map that keeps Greenville County whole.

Fant said the new plan, if finally approved, would help economic development efforts, assist the school district and keep the minority community united.

Related Topics

- Places - Spartanburg, SC, Greenville County, SC, Spartanburg County, SC, Greenville, SC
- News - Email Spam

Contextual linking provided by Topix

More Local News Headlines

- Deputies searching Taylors after finding man stabbed
- Project RX collects 750 pounds of expired meds
- Home sales down across South Carolina (1)
- Greer teen begins serving jail time in fatal wreck

Latest Headlines

- Tindall Corp. hires sales engineer
- FDA concludes silicone breast implants mostly safe
- Greenville Chamber names 370 Consulting small business of month
- Greer teen begins serving jail time in fatal wreck
- Gas prices continue to decline

ADS BY PULSE 360

Get Listed Here

Hot Stock Pick - OBJE

New Issue, Obscene Jeans Inc Explosive Investment Potential
www.ObsceneJeans.com

Columbia: Mom Makes Botox Doctors Furious
Mom Reveals Clever \$4 Wrinkle Therapy That Makes Botox Doctors Furious
ConsumerLifeOnline.com

South Carolina Refinance at 2.3%
\$160,000 South Carolina Mortgage \$659/mo. 2.7% apr. Get a Free Quote!
Lendgo.com/mortgage

"I'm excited for Greenville County as a whole," he said. "I think the people of Greenville spoke. It's good to see government actually listen and respond to the wishes of the people."

U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, who represents the 4th District and lives in Spartanburg, had declined to weigh in on specific map options, reiterating his previous remarks to GreenvilleOnline.com through a spokesman that he wants the new map to "as closely resemble the current district as is constitutionally permissible."

1 | 2 Next Page

Comments >>

Be the first to share your thoughts on this story.

Most Recommended Articles

- Review: Rush delivers powerful rock (1)
- Shakespeare Fest offers rip-roarin' 'Shrew' (1)
- Michael Roth's father finally gets chance to see USC pitcher on big stage (9)
- Blues festival at Heritage Park (8)
- SAIL coaches pick Swimmers of the Week (6)

Most Commented Articles

- Letter: Churches don't breed discrimination (56)
- Letter: Palin was right about Revere's ride (50)
- Letter: Republicans help the rich get richer (50)
- Letter: DeMint could do more as president (42)
- Letter: Bush has earned some of the blame (32)

TANKATHON WEEKEND
*Tanks 2 and up!
This weekend only*
and more tanks for \$4, \$6 and \$8
\$10 per customer
OLD NAVY

Partners: Jobs: CareerBuilder.com Cars: Cars.com Apartments: Apartments.com Shopping: ShopLocal.com Homes: Homefinder.com

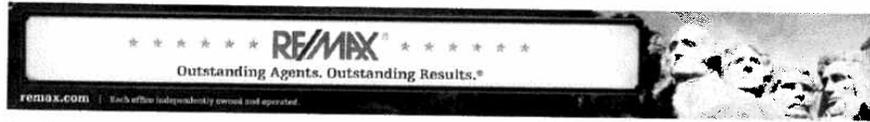
HOME | NEWS | SPORTS | OPINION | LIFE | METROMIX | ENTERTAINMENT | MULTIMEDIA | OBITUARIES | WEATHER | CLASSIFIEDS | CUSTOMER SERVICE | Site Map

Terms of Service | Privacy Policy | Contact Us | About Us | Work for Us | Subscribe

Copyright ©2010

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy, updated September 2010.

Spartanburg senators oppose redistricting plan that keeps Greenville whole | greenvilleonl... Page 1 of 2



E-Edition | Cell/PDA | Alerts | Newsletters | RSS | Twitter | Facebook

Find it: Jobs | Cars | Real Estate | Apartments | Deals | Classifieds | Dating | Foreclosures



Find what you are looking for ...

Search



HOME NEWS SPORTS OPINION LIFE METROMIX ENTERTAINMENT MULTIMEDIA OBITUARIES WEATHER CLASSIFIEDS CUSTOMER SERVICE

Metromix Calendar Dining Movies Arts Music Supper Swap girls Pets Puzzles Horoscopes TV Lottery



Comment, Blog & Share Photos
Log in | Subscribe

Like 5K

Spartanburg senators oppose redistricting plan that keeps Greenville whole

BY TIM SMITH • CAPITAL BUREAU • PUBLISHED: JUNE 22, 2011 2:06AM

Comments (0) Recommend Print this page E-mail this article Share Type Size A A A

Previous Page 1 | 2

(2 of 2)

Martin read a statement during the Judiciary Committee meeting Tuesday that he said came from Spartanburg County's business community, which called the approved plan "politics at its worst" and "nonsensical."

He and Bright voted against the plan, which passed 17-5. The subcommittee vote earlier in the day was unanimous.

Sen. Larry Martin, a Pickens Republican who serves on the Judiciary Committee, said he expects the plan approved Tuesday to largely survive Senate debate and any negotiating with House leaders.

"I think it will hold together," he said. "There may be some tweaking."

RELATED

- [Senate map 1](#)
- [Senate map 2](#)
- [Ennis Fant map](#)
- [Senate Judiciary Committee map](#)

The proposed 4th Congressional District would be comprised of Greenville County and about half of Spartanburg County. The other half of Spartanburg County would be sent to the 5th Congressional District, which would stretch east as far as Chesterfield County and south to Kershaw County.

The proposed new congressional district, the state's seventh — prompted by population growth over the past 10 years — would be anchored by Horry and Florence counties and also include Marion, Darlington, Marlboro, Dillon and Lee counties and parts of Sumter County.

Much of Monday's public hearing was focused on pleas by Pee Dee residents to keep the region intact in the state's new congressional district.

The staff plan unveiled Tuesday responded to those concerns, though some senators from Beaufort and Berkeley counties joined the Spartanburg senators in arguing that the better overall plan was one with fewer split counties. One of the original staff plans split eight counties, compared to 11 counties split in Tuesday's plan.

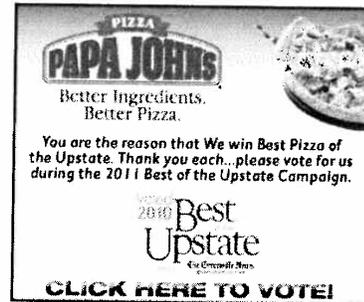
"I think we are making a mistake going forward with a plan that has a greater number of county splits," said Sen. Tom Davis, a Beaufort Republican.

The subcommittee earlier Tuesday rejected proposed plans by the ACLU and the state Democratic Party. The ACLU plan would create two minority-majority districts, while the Democratic plan would create two districts with 45 percent black voting age populations.

Related Topics

- Places - Spartanburg, SC, Greenville County, SC, Spartanburg County, SC, Greenville, SC
- News - Email Spam

Contextual linking provided by Topix



More Local News Headlines

- Home sales down across S.C.
- Area gas prices down half a cent a gallon
- Greer teen begins serving jail time in fatal wreck
- More than 1,600 remain without power today

Latest Headlines

- FDA concludes silicone breast implants mostly safe
- Greenville Chamber names 370 Consulting small business of month
- Greer teen begins serving jail time in fatal wreck
- Gas prices continue to decline
- Compromise spending plan coming up for debate

ADS BY PULSE 360

Get Listed Here

Hot Stock Pick - OBJE

New Issue, Obscene Jeans Inc Explosive Investment Potential
www.ObsceneJeans.com

Columbia: Mom Makes Botox Doctors Furious
Mom Reveals Clever \$4 Wrinkle Therapy That Makes Botox Doctors Furious
ConsumerLifeOnline.com

South Carolina Refinance at 2.3%
\$160,000 South Carolina Mortgage \$659/mo. 2.7% apr. Get a Free Quote!
Lendgo.com/mortgage

Spartanburg senators oppose redistricting plan that keeps Greenville whole | greenvilleonl... Page 2 of 2

Some senators said the new plan is responsive to the public.

"Public comments have shaped this plan," Sen. Phil Shoopman of Greer, a member of the panel, told GreenvilleOnline.com after the subcommittee vote.

The Senate might take up the plan as early as Thursday but likely won't finish with it until next week, senators said, because of proposed amendments.

The plan also must be approved by the House and then go to Gov. Nikki Haley before being sent either to the U.S. Justice Department or the federal courts.

Lawmakers hope a plan can receive final approval before next spring when candidates begin filing for next year's elections.

Previous Page | [2](#)

Comments >>

Be the first to share your thoughts on this story.

Most Recommended Articles

- Review: Rush delivers powerful rock (1)
- Shakespeare Fest offers rip-roarin' 'Shrew' (1)
- Michael Roth's father finally gets chance to see USC pitcher on big stage (9)
- Blues festival at Heritage Park (8)
- SAIL coaches pick Swimmers of the Week (6)

Most Commented Articles

- Letter: Churches don't breed discrimination (56)
- Letter: Palin was right about Revere's ride (50)
- Letter: Republicans help the rich get richer (50)
- Letter: DeMint could do more as president (42)
- Letter: Bush has earned some of the blame (32)

hotels.com BE SMART. BOOK SMART.
48hr SALE
up to 50% OFF
Book Now
866-417-5034
AdChoices

Partners: Jobs: CareerBuilder.com Cars: Cars.com Apartments: Apartments.com Shopping: ShopLocal.com Homes: Homefinder.com

[HOME](#) | [NEWS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [OPINION](#) | [LIFE](#) | [METROMIX](#) | [ENTERTAINMENT](#) | [MULTIMEDIA](#) | [OBITUARIES](#) | [WEATHER](#) | [CLASSIFIEDS](#) | [CUSTOMER SERVICE](#) | [Site Map](#)

[Terms of Service](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Work for Us](#) | [Subscribe](#)

Copyright ©2010

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the Terms of Service and Privacy Policy . updated September 2010.

GoUpstate.com

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears above any article. [Order a reprint of this article now](#)

SC Senate opens US House district line debate

By JIM DAVENPORT Associated Press

Published: Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 5:41 p.m.

South Carolina's new U.S. House seat would be in the state's coastal northeast corner, along the North Carolina line, under a proposal narrowly approved Thursday in the Senate as a starting point for debate.

Lt. Gov. Ken Ard broke a 19-19 tie in favor of adopting an initial plan for the state's seven U.S. House seats. The vote showed Democrats and Republicans alike opposing the proposal as they tried to protect interests surrounding their hometowns.

Redistricting is required every decade so that legislative and congressional districts reflect population changes revealed by the U.S. Census. In South Carolina and other Southern states, the new maps require federal approval under the Voting Rights Act, to ensure they don't discriminate against minorities in a state with a history of inequitable treatment of black voters.

South Carolina is picking up a seventh U.S. House seat - something the Palmetto State had years ago, before population fell in 1930.

The proposal that advanced Thursday was identical to one that the Senate Judiciary Committee approved earlier this week for the new House seat anchored in Florence and Horry counties. It also includes Darlington, Lee, Marlboro, Dillon and Marion counties and part of Sumter county. Ard is a Florence County Republican and his tie-breaking vote came after residents from that county argued at a public hearing Monday that they should be in the new district.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Glenn McConnell had a hard time convincing senators the proposal was only a starting point for debate and they could change it over days of expected debate. "I'm looking for where the Senate ultimately will be on a congressional plan and we may find out next week we're nowhere, but you have to get started somewhere," the Charleston Republican said.

However, if no other amendments win a majority vote, McConnell's committee's proposals would stand. Democrat Sen. Phil Leventis tried to head that off by sending the bill back to the Judiciary Committee. That bid failed by a 22-17 vote.

Sen. Ray Cleary wanted the new district stretched into the area he represents in Georgetown County. Cleary, R-Murrells Inlet, argued those 22,289 coastal residents have more in common with Horry County voters.

Under the current U.S. House district plan, they're part of the coastal 1st District that incorporates Horry County and most of Georgetown and Charleston counties from Myrtle Beach to Charleston.

But the Senate Judiciary proposal put Cleary's area into a redesigned 6th district, a majority black district stretching from Georgetown County to Richland County in the state's center to Jasper County on state line with Georgia. Cleary said the shift would barely change racial composition in the districts.

"And you know, to be honest, there's a bunch Yankees up there - being from Ohio, I can say that. I don't think the 6th District wants them anyway," Cleary said.

ABSOLUTE AUCTION
LAKEFRONT TOWNHOMES
LAKE HARTWELL, SOUTH CAROLINA
THE REGATTA
10 LUXURY TOWNHOMES
WITH BOAT SLIPS
MINUTES FROM I-85
OWNER FINANCING
Click HERE!
1-800-445-6597 or (256) 547-3434
SATURDAY, JUNE 25
The National Auction Group, Inc. #412772
Palmetto with Jim A. McArthur, B. #19031
Andrea's Trophy Property Auctions

Cleary's proposal was rejected 20-18 but senators later agreed to debate it again Monday.

Copyright © 2011 GoUpstate.com -- All rights reserved. Restricted use only.

Online:

Senate Redistricting: <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov>

House Redistricting: <http://redistricting.schouse.gov>

Follow Jim Davenport on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/jimdavenport-ap>



[Back](#)

Friday, Jun 24, 2011

Posted on Fri, Jun. 24, 2011

Congressional redistricting debate splinters Senate

By JOHN O'CONNOR
joconnor@thestate.com

A deeply fractured state Senate may not be able to approve plans to draw new S.C. congressional districts, instead leaving the task to a three-judge panel of federal judges, Senate President Pro Tempore Glenn McConnell said Thursday.

Regional interests dominated Senate debate Thursday, with lawmakers working to make sure that if any ox was gored, it was not from their county.

That meant Greenville County lawmakers were pitted against those from Spartanburg County over how to split their population in a redrawn 4th District, now represented by Republican U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy.

Lawmakers from Sumter and Darlington counties also challenged the idea that Horry County was part of the Pee Dee region and, therefore, should be included in a new 7th Congressional District.

"The real thing here is whether or not we can pass a plan," McConnell said after the Senate spent the day chasing its tail in circles, back-tracking and grinding through procedural maneuvers. "If I think we've got an impasse and we can't agree on anything, the best thing to do ... is to turn it off."

Lawmakers are required to redraw political boundaries every 10 years in order to keep the population balanced among the various legislative and congressional districts. This year's redistricting particularly is intense because the state's population growth means South Carolina is adding a new 7th Congressional District.

Any plan approved by S.C. House and Senate members, and Gov. Nikki Haley, must be approved by the federal Justice Department because of the state's history of racial discrimination against minorities. If the state fails to approve a plan, a three-judge federal panel would draw the lines.

Republicans want to settle their differences and approve new congressional districts because they fear a judicial panel or Democratic-led Justice Department might create a second majority-black congressional district in the state. That makes it likely lawmakers eventually will compromise.

However, the Senate Thursday barely approved a committee-recommended plan to create a new 7th District made up of Horry County and the Pee Dee. The vote ended in a 19-19 tie before Lt. Gov. Ken Ard, R-Florence, cast the decisive vote to use the plan as the template for Senate debate.

That plan would split portions of Spartanburg County between the 4th and 5th congressional districts, diluting its influence. U.S. Rep. Gowdy told the Spartanburg Herald-Journal that the proposed plan "eviscerates" the county.

The Senate will resume its redistricting debate Monday. Lawmakers have submitted more than a dozen proposals — some redrawing the map wholesale — for debate. A few votes on the proposed amendments, McConnell said, should indicate whether the Senate can strike a compromise.

"Usually we sort out the division and find some common ground," he said. "We won't know until they square off in a few fights on the floor."

Reach O'Connor at (803) 771-8358.

© 2011 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>

Redistricting debate slows

Associated Press
Sunday, June 26, 2011

COLUMBIA --- A couple of weeks of fast-paced approval for drawing new election district lines has become a crawl as the South Carolina state Senate debates plans for U.S. House districts, and the senate's top leader is looking for magic to strike.

Today's debate on those U.S. House lines is shaping up nothing like the speedy work that put redistricting plans for 124 state House seats and 46 in the Senate on Gov. Nikki Haley's desk last week. While the Statehouse plans took a couple of hours to pass, the Senate couldn't finish work on what appeared to be a minor amendment after hours of debate Thursday.

Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell expects days of debate on the dozen amendments already filed and many votes.

"If I can't get enough votes to pass something, then we're just wasting our time," the Charleston Republican said.

McConnell said it's necessary to pick up the hints of "where the votes are and where that magic map is. ... I'm hopeful that somewhere in all those amendments is something which is going to gather enough votes. But we won't know until they square off in a few fights on the floor."

Redistricting is a once-a-decade process needed to make sure political district lines reflect population changes revealed by the U.S. Census. South Carolina is picking up a seventh U.S. House seat -- something the Palmetto State had years ago, before population fell in 1930.

The Senate and House already have sent Haley maps for their 170 seats.

Whatever lawmakers decide, the proposed maps for South Carolina and other Southern states require federal approval under the Voting Rights Act because of their history of inequitable treatment of black voters.

For now, the Senate is working off a draft plan that would anchor that new district in Florence and Horry counties. It also includes Darlington, Lee, Marlboro, Dillon and Marion counties and part of Sumter county -- much of the state's Pee Dee region.

Chesterfield and Georgetown counties want into the new district, too, and McConnell said that's one of the two biggest fights to be dealt with.

Fights also are brewing over which counties are split into what districts. Spartanburg County lawmakers argue they should be kept in on one district and not split between two. That's an argument that Greenville County, the state's largest in population, won, apparently at Spartanburg County's expense.

And cutting up counties at all is a big problem for Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, who said county lines define communities that have common interests -- a key element of federal redistricting law. "The most logical indicator of that is county lines," Davis said. "We need to go with the plan that has the least number of county splits."

He's not optimistic about wrapping debate anytime soon. "I think there's a fairly rough road ahead," Davis said.

GoUpstate.com

This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#), or use the "Reprints" box that appears above any article. [Order a reprint of this article now.](#)

Butchering Spartanburg County would deny it effective representation in Congress

Kill the Senate plan

Published: Sunday, June 26, 2011 at 3:15 a.m.

Upstate leaders need to commit themselves to defeating the state Senate's congressional plan by any means necessary, even if it means throwing the redistricting process into the courts. The Senate's plan would effectively take away any congressional representation from Spartanburg County.

There are several congressional redistricting plans under discussion. The best of them is the plan passed by the state House. It would put the northeastern corner of Spartanburg County, the Chesnee area, into the 5th Congressional District. It would put the southern tip of Greenville County into the 3rd Congressional District. It would leave most of Spartanburg and Greenville counties in the 4th Congressional District.

Greenville and Spartanburg are one community of interest, as defined by redistricting law. We have a shared economy and a shared future. It makes sense to keep as much of both communities as possible in one congressional district, so one representative can represent this community's interests in Congress.

But some in Greenville County don't take this regional approach. They are bent on seeing that all of Greenville County is kept in one congressional district, a district dominated by their county. These interests convinced the Senate redistricting subcommittee, which did not include a member from Spartanburg, to issue a plan that includes all of Greenville and half of Spartanburg in the 4th District. That plan was adopted by the Senate last week as its working document.

This plan butchers Spartanburg to achieve Greenville's goals. The more urban, middle and eastern portion of Spartanburg would be a tiny minority in the 4th District. That representative wouldn't have to pay much attention to this county. The rest of the county would be a mere addendum to the 5th District, demanding little attention from that representative. Effectively, we would have no voice in Congress.

Another option under discussion would keep Greenville and Spartanburg counties whole, but in separate congressional districts. Spartanburg would be placed in a district with Cherokee, Union and York counties. This is not as bad as the Senate plan, but it would separate the Greenville-Spartanburg community of interest.

Some senators, including Shane Martin, R-Spartanburg, are working on a variation of the House plan that may be more acceptable to the Senate. That has the possibility of being a good solution.

In any event, Upstate leaders need to do whatever is necessary to kill the Senate's current plan. If the Senate insists on this plan, and the House goes along with the Senate, this community needs to be willing to join efforts to throw the plan into the courts. There will be interests challenging the General Assembly's plan. Spartanburg should be willing to join them. We cannot be disenfranchised.

Lawmakers who are supposed to represent this region need to represent the whole region. Spartanburg lawmakers should pull out all the stops to kill this plan.



Particular responsibility falls on Sen. Phillip Shoopman, R-Greer, who backed this horrible plan in the Senate subcommittee.

Copyright © 2011 GoUpstate.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.

Shoopman and Spartanburg Sen. Lee Bright swapped portions of their districts in reapportionment. Bright's district will now extend into Greenville County, and Shoopman will represent northwestern Spartanburg County including Landrum, Campobello and Gramling. So the same people Shoopman will be representing in his new district are among those from whom he is taking congressional representation. He needs to fix this if he ever expects to deserve a single vote from any Spartanburg County resident in his new district.

The Senate's current plan cannot be allowed to stand. Upstate leaders need to oppose it in the Senate, in the House, before the Justice Department and in the courts.

SC senators debating US House district lines

JIM DAVENPORT, Associated Press
Updated 12:19 p.m., Monday, June 27, 2011

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Senators debated Monday how to draw new U.S. House district lines with plans for a new U.S. House seat again taking center stage.

Redistricting is a once-a-decade process needed to make sure political district lines reflect population changes revealed by the U.S. Census. South Carolina is picking up a seventh U.S. House seat — something the Palmetto State had years ago, before population fell in 1930.

Whatever lawmakers decide, the proposed maps for South Carolina and other Southern states require federal approval under the Voting Rights Act because of their history of inequitable treatment of black voters.

For now, the Senate is working off a draft plan that would anchor that new U.S. House district in Florence and Horry counties. It also includes Darlington, Lee, Marlboro, Dillon and Marion counties, and part of Sumter county — much of the state's Pee Dee region.

Chesterfield and Georgetown counties want into the new district, too, and that's feeding one of the two big fights on drawing lines. Sen. Hugh Leatherman, R-Florence, offered a proposal like that Monday. He wanted Chesterfield County and beach areas in Georgetown County in the new 7th District.

Leatherman's plan would move the remainder of Georgetown County into the 6th District, now represented by U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, the House's third ranking Democrat. It also is the state's only majority black district. The plan splits Sumter County between the 5th and 6th districts.

The Senate Judiciary Committee rejected proposals by the American Civil Liberties Union to create a second district with a majority of black voters. It also rejected a state Democratic Party proposal that would have instead increased black voting influence in other districts.

State Democratic Party Chairman Dick Harpootlian has called plans being drawn up for the U.S. House as well as the state House and Senate "electoral apartheid." He said he expected legal action over the plans.

The second major redistricting issue involves Spartanburg County lawmakers who want to keep their county in one U.S. House district. It is split between the 4th and 5th districts in the plan now



being debated. Under the current U.S. House map, all of Greenville, Spartanburg and Union counties are in the 4th District.

The Senate and House already have sent Republican Gov. Nikki Haley district maps for their 170 seats.

Online:

Senate Redistricting: <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov>

House Redistricting: <http://redistricting.schouse.gov>

Follow Jim Davenport on Twitter at http://twitter.com/jimdavenport_ap

Cancer Treatment Centers
CTCA Is Recognized For The Best In
Cancer Care.
www.CancerCenter.com

\$79/Hr Job - 424 Openings
Make \$79/hr Working From Home.
Requirements: Computer.
www.athometypingjobs.org

Know Your Credit Report
Stay on Top of Your Credit News.
Know About Changes as
www.FreeCreditReport.com/Official

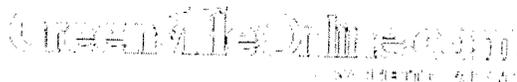
Ads by Yahoo!

MYSA	Life	TOPICS	MARKETPLACE	COMMUNITY	ABOUT US
Home	Events Calendar	Community	Autos	SUBMITTED	About Us
News	Multimedia	Health	Classifieds	Calendar	Contact Us
Blogs	National/International	Living Green	Find San Antonio	Photos	Advertise online
Business	Obituaries	SA	jobs	OTHER	Advertise in print
Sports	Politics	Military	Real Estate	EDITIONS	Newspaper
Columnists	Travel	Outdoors	Shopping	e-Edition	Delivery
Editorials	Traffic	Visitors'	Business Directory	Mobile	Place a
Education	Weather	Guide	Fan Shop	Facebook	classified ad
Entertainment	Food	SA Paws		Follow us on	EN Subscription
Forums	Spurs	SA Cultura		Twitter	Services
		Do Good			Buy Photos
					Archives
					Privacy Policy
					Terms and
					Conditions

San Antonio Express-News

© 2011 Hearst Communications Inc.

HEARST newspapers 



June 28, 2011

Senate OKs Greenville County redistricting split

*By Tim Smith
Capital bureau*

COLUMBIA -- The Senate this afternoon approved an amendment to split Greenville County between the 4th and 3rd congressional districts.

The amendment, by Sen. Shane Martin of Spartanburg County and with the cooperation, he said, of Sen. Phil Shoopman of Greenville County, was approved 27-15.

The proposal would send a chunk of southern Greenville County to the 3rd District and a chunk of northern Spartanburg County to the 5th District.

The amendment was opposed by Sen. David Thomas of Fountain Inn, who said he wanted the Senate to consider a proposal for a new congressional district in the Upstate. That proposal has yet to be heard.

pressdemocrat^{com}

This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears above any article. [Order a reprint of this article now](#)

SC Senate offers new map for US House districts

By JIM DAVENPORT Associated Press

Published: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 at 6:35 p.m.

The South Carolina Senate gave initial approval to district lines for the state's U.S. House seats Tuesday and left Republican leaders flummoxed by Democrats who outmaneuvered them.

In three days of debate, Senate GOP leaders had pushed a proposal to put a new 7th District in the state's coastal northeast corner along the North Carolina state line, anchored by Florence and Horry counties.

That was scrapped Tuesday as a handful of Republicans pushed a plan to put the new district in the southern part of the state and won broad support among Democrats for the move. The proposal won second reading approval with a 22-20 vote and could get a final vote Wednesday.

Democrats say they backed the proposal because it would be easier for a Democrat to compete in that part of the state; Republicans said Democrats were simply trying to maroon the Senate redistricting effort with a proposal that will never reach the governor's desk.

Redistricting is a once-a-decade process to make sure political district lines reflect population changes revealed by the U.S. Census. South Carolina is picking up a seventh U.S. House seat - something the Palmetto State had years ago, before population fell in 1930.

Whatever lawmakers decide, the proposed maps for South Carolina and other Southern states require federal approval under the Voting Rights Act because of a history of inequitable treatment of black voters.

Republican Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell was smarting after his own proposal and compromises were scrapped in a chamber the GOP controls with a 27-19 majority. "I've got to give some of their floor leaders credit. They smelled a weakness and they took advantage of it," the Charleston Republican and Civil War reenactor said.

The proposal advanced when 14 Democrats joined 10 Republicans voting to adopt the measure pushed by Republican Sen. Larry Grooms.

Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, noted Democrats tried repeatedly to scrap the bill as part of a strategy to create an impasse that would put the courts in charge of drawing district lines. "If you can't do that, what do you? You throw your votes behind an amendment that you can get a majority for that would be the least desirable thing for the Senate to adopt."

"They've got the best of all worlds now," McConnell said.

However, Senate Minority Leader John Land said it was a better plan. "We think it was a fairer approach. It had a higher black voting percentage and there's a better chance a Democrat could win it," the Manning Democrat said.



[Back](#)

Wednesday, Jun 29, 2011

Posted on Wed, Jun. 29, 2011

Senate passes surprise plan

Beaufort would anchor new congressional district

By GINA SMITH
gsmith@thestate.com

The odds increased Tuesday that the federal government will draw South Carolina's congressional districts, including the state's new 7th District.

A coalition of rebel Republicans and minority party Democrats in the state Senate approved a surprise redistricting plan Tuesday that creates a new 7th District that is centered in Beaufort County, running from Williamsburg to Jasper counties. Under the plan, Charleston and Horry counties would remain in the 1st District.

The S.C. House has approved a plan to put the new 7th District in the northeastern corner of the state, including Horry and the Pee Dee region. Leaders of the GOP-controlled Senate had hoped to approve the same plan.

The Senate's surprise plan, proposed by Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Berkeley, is not expected to win the House's approval, and the Senate is unlikely to agree to the House plan.

The impasse increases the odds that a three-judge federal panel will have to step in and redraw the state's congressional districts, said Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston.

"We're on a course to gridlock," McConnell said Tuesday. "There's still hope (to pass a legislatively created redistricting plan), but we suffered a major setback today."

McConnell said the Grooms plan, which he opposed, is not what the public wants, according to public hearings held around the state.

Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, who also opposes the Grooms plan, said he was surprised a group of 10 Republicans joined forces with 14 Democrats to derail an Horry-centered 7th District.

"It has a Republican sponsor," Martin said of the plan the Senate approved, introduced by Grooms. "But it's a Democrat plan."

Democrats likely would fare better in the case of an impasse between the Senate and House, both controlled by the GOP. Many politicians think a panel of federal judges or the Justice Department would insist on creating a second congressional district in South Carolina that is majority African-American, one of the Democratic Party's most loyal Palmetto State constituencies.

Several Democratic senators were mum Wednesday on whether court intervention is their long-term strategy.

Republicans who backed the Grooms plan said they were doing what was best for their voters.

Grooms said the plan keeps more counties whole, including those he represents, within congressional districts. He also said his plan increases the odds of electing S.C. conservatives to Congress.

"I do not want my plan to be the cause of an impasse," Grooms said. "A legislatively created plan is my goal."

He said the Horry plan broke up too many counties and other communities of interest. "I do believe it's headed to court no matter what."

The Grooms plan, which subsequently passed the Senate 22-20, would:

- Leave 38 counties whole within congressional districts, including Lexington and Kershaw counties.
- Split eight other counties into two districts, including Richland County. Richland currently is split between the 2nd District, represented by U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, a Springdale Republican, and U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, a Columbia Democrat.
- Keep Clyburn's 6th District majority African-American at 50.49 percent, keeping it in compliance with a previous court decision.

McConnell said the Senate could take up a revised redistricting plan today that is closer to the one the House and some senators prefer.

Otherwise, a conference committee of House and Senate members could convene to try and choose between the dueling plans, created by the House and the Senate. Failure there could lead to an impasse and federal intervention.

While the General Assembly is scheduled to finish its work this week, it could stay in session to complete redistricting, McConnell said. New lines need to be in place and federally approved by the time the Legislature and U.S. House are up for election again in November 2012.

Any plan approved by the General Assembly and Republican Gov. Nikki Haley also must get an OK from the federal Justice Department because of the state's history of racial discrimination against minorities.

Reach Smith at (803) 771-8658.

© 2011 TheState.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thestate.com>

GoUpstate.com

This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#), or use the "Reprints" tool that appears above any article. [Order a reprint of this article now](#)

Senate congressional redistricting plan puts new district in the Lowcountry

With this new map to consider, compromise could be difficult

*By Stephen Largent
stephen.largent@shj.com*

Published: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 3:15 a.m.

COLUMBIA — A Tuesday evening vote by the state Senate to adopt a congressional redistricting amendment locating the state's new U.S. House seat in the Lowcountry instead of the Pee Dee has thrown the fate of the state's new congressional map into uncertainty.

The plan passed 22-20 with a coalition of Democratic and Republican support.

The approval for the plan surprised Senate Republican leaders who favored other amendments whose passage likely could have ensured a smoother ride in a conference committee of lawmakers that will be tasked with reconciling the congressional plans passed by the House and Senate.

"This could create gridlock," said Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell. "We had the plan to go to the finish line."

McConnell credited Democrats for seizing their opportunity to shake up the Republican-controlled redistricting process.

The proposal, not yet given final approval, preserves a greater portion of Spartanburg County in the 4th Congressional District represented by U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-Spartanburg.

A map passed by a Senate committee last week split Spartanburg County between its 4th District home and the 5th Congressional District, giving Greenville 68 percent of the population in the 4th District to Spartanburg's 32 percent.

But Tuesday's plan creates a 4th District with 38 percent of its population drawn from Spartanburg and the remainder coming from Greenville. The southern portion of Greenville County and much of northeastern Spartanburg County would be split off out of the 4th Congressional District under the new map.

The amendment, introduced by Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Berkeley, replaced an amendment offered by Sen. Shane Martin, R-Spartanburg, that also would have preserved more of Spartanburg County in the 4th Congressional District. But the new amendment given approval Tuesday keeps a few thousand more Spartanburg voters in the 4th District than Martin's plan.

Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, said that factor and the bipartisan support for the Grooms plan was enough to get him to vote in favor of the plan, joining Sen. Glenn Reese, D-Spartanburg.

Martin, Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee, and Sen. Phillip Shoopman, R-Greenville, voted against the Grooms amendment.

Shoopman would represent many western Spartanburg County voters while Peeler would answer to more people from the eastern part of the county under a new Senate district plan approved by the Legislature.

Senators from both parties said after the vote that the move could result in a panel of three federal judges drawing the Palmetto State's new congressional lines. That's because the Senate plan that obtained two of three necessary approvals Tuesday conflicts with a state House-passed plan that draws the new lines differently.

Copyright © 2011 GoUpstate.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.

The House plan locates the new 7th Congressional District, allocated to South Carolina because of strong population growth in the past decade, in the Pee Dee area along the coast. The Senate map locates the new district in the southern part of the state.

Lawmakers said a six-member conference committee, which will be tasked with reconciling the House and Senate plans, could have difficulty picking one plan.

Martin said that possibility caused him to vote against the Grooms plan.

Senate Democratic Caucus director Phil Bailey predicted the conference committee could be in for a rough ride if the Grooms plan receives final approval.

Bright said he thinks a Republican-controlled conference committee ultimately would be able to agree on a plan, and that the Grooms plan could fare better in the courts because it received more bipartisan support than Martin's amendment.

Senators, who are scheduled to resume debate on the once-a-decade redistricting process at 10 a.m. today, have several parliamentary procedures at their disposal that could alter the congressional map yet again should they choose not to give the Grooms amendment final approval.

Those moves could include recommitting the plan or introducing new amendments.

The state's congressional and legislative redistricting proposals must comply with the guidelines that were set up by the federal Voting Rights Act because of South Carolina's history of inequality of voting rights of black residents.

Lawmakers can send the state's electoral maps to the courts or the U.S. Department of Justice to comply with the act.

The maps also must survive expected lawsuits from groups opposing the plans.



TheSunNews.com

Wednesday, Jun 29, 2011

Posted on Wed, Jun. 29, 2011

Senate offers new map for U.S. House districts in S.C.

By Jim Davenport
The Associated Press

The S.C. Senate gave initial approval to district lines for the state's U.S. House seats Tuesday and left Republican leaders flummoxed by Democrats who outmaneuvered them.

In three days of debate, Senate GOP leaders had pushed a proposal to put a new 7th District in the state's coastal northeast corner along the N.C. state line, anchored by Florence and Horry counties.

That was scrapped Tuesday as a handful of Republicans pushed a plan to put the new district in the southern part of the state and won broad support among Democrats for the move. The proposal won second reading approval with a 22-20 vote and could get a final vote today.

Democrats say they backed the proposal because it would be easier for a Democrat to compete in that part of the state; Republicans said Democrats were simply trying to maroon the Senate redistricting effort with a proposal that will never reach the governor's desk.

Redistricting is a once-a-decade process to make sure political district lines reflect population changes revealed by the U.S. Census. South Carolina is picking up a seventh U.S. House seat - something the Palmetto State had years ago, before population fell in 1930.

Whatever lawmakers decide, the proposed maps for South Carolina and other Southern states require federal approval under the Voting Rights Act because of a history of inequitable treatment of black voters.

Republican Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell was smarting after his own proposal and compromises were scrapped in a chamber the GOP controls with a 27-19 majority. "I've got to give some of their floor leaders credit. They smelled a weakness and they took advantage of it," the Charleston Republican and Civil War re-enactor said.

The proposal advanced when 14 Democrats joined 10 Republicans voting to adopt the measure pushed by Republican Sen. Larry Grooms.

Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, noted Democrats tried repeatedly to scrap the bill as part of a strategy to create an impasse that would put the courts in charge of drawing district lines. "If you can't do that, what do you? You throw your votes behind an amendment that you can get a majority for that would be the least desirable thing for the Senate to adopt."

"They've got the best of all worlds now," McConnell said.

However, Senate Minority Leader John Land said it was a better plan. "We think it was a fairer approach. It had a higher black voting percentage and there's a better chance a Democrat could win it," the Manning Democrat said.

The House, which has passed its own redistricting plan, will reject the proposal if it goes to a conference committee, McConnell said. He'll try to scrap the plan Wednesday, a move that will require a 60 percent vote.

Grooms, a Bonneau Republican, made an unsuccessful bid for the 2010 GOP gubernatorial nomination, dropping out of the race months before the June 2010 primary.

He said his plan better follows the rules of redistricting by keeping communities together, and he had no problem bucking GOP leadership's plans.

"I believe this is the best plan for congressional redistricting," Grooms said.

TheSunNews.com | 06/29/2011 | Senate offers new map for U.S. House districts in S.C. Page 2 of 2

But Grooms doesn't know if the proposal will survive until third reading today. "It may not. I don't know. Tomorrow's another day," Grooms said.

Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, said he backed the proposal because it keeps counties together that have common economic interests and could foster more support for a new state port in Jasper County.

The plan also lays out districts that split fewer counties, Grooms and Davis said.

The 7th District under their plan would include Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Dorchester, Hampton and Jasper counties and parts of Williamsburg and Georgetown counties.

© 2011 TheSunNews.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thesunnews.com>

GoUpstate.com

This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears above any article. [Order a reprint of this article now](#)

Senate congressional redistricting plan puts new district in the Lowcountry

With this new map to consider, compromise could be difficult

*By Stephen Largent
stephen.largent@shj.com*

Published: Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 3:15 a.m.

COLUMBIA — A Tuesday evening vote by the state Senate to adopt a congressional redistricting amendment locating the state's new U.S. House seat in the Lowcountry instead of the Pee Dee has thrown the fate of the state's new congressional map into uncertainty.

The plan passed 22-20 with a coalition of Democratic and Republican support.

The approval for the plan surprised Senate Republican leaders who favored other amendments whose passage likely could have ensured a smoother ride in a conference committee of lawmakers that will be tasked with reconciling the congressional plans passed by the House and Senate.

"This could create gridlock," said Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell. "We had the plan to go to the finish line."

McConnell credited Democrats for seizing their opportunity to shake up the Republican-controlled redistricting process.

The proposal, not yet given final approval, preserves a greater portion of Spartanburg County in the 4th Congressional District represented by U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-Spartanburg.

A map passed by a Senate committee last week split Spartanburg County between its 4th District home and the 5th Congressional District, giving Greenville 68 percent of the population in the 4th District to Spartanburg's 32 percent.

But Tuesday's plan creates a 4th District with 38 percent of its population drawn from Spartanburg and the remainder coming from Greenville. The southern portion of Greenville County and much of northeastern Spartanburg County would be split off out of the 4th Congressional District under the new map.

The amendment, introduced by Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Berkeley, replaced an amendment offered by Sen. Shane Martin, R-Spartanburg, that also would have preserved more of Spartanburg County in the 4th Congressional District. But the new amendment given approval Tuesday keeps a few thousand more Spartanburg voters in the 4th District than Martin's plan.

Sen. Lee Bright, R-Spartanburg, said that factor and the bipartisan support for the Grooms plan was enough to get him to vote in favor of the plan, joining Sen. Glenn Reese, D-Spartanburg.

Martin, Senate Majority Leader Harvey Peeler, R-Cherokee, and Sen. Phillip Shoopman, R-Greenville, voted against the Grooms amendment.

Shoopman would represent many western Spartanburg County voters while Peeler would answer to more people from the eastern part of the county under a new Senate district plan approved by the Legislature.

Senators from both parties said after the vote that the move could result in a panel of three federal judges drawing the Palmetto State's new congressional lines. That's because the Senate plan that obtained two of three necessary approvals Tuesday conflicts with a state House-passed plan that draws the new lines differently.

Copyright © 2011 GoUpstate.com — All rights reserved. Restricted use only.

The House plan locates the new 7th Congressional District, allocated to South Carolina because of strong population growth in the past decade, in the Pee Dee area along the coast. The Senate map locates the new district in the southern part of the state.

Lawmakers said a six-member conference committee, which will be tasked with reconciling the House and Senate plans, could have difficulty picking one plan.

Martin said that possibility caused him to vote against the Grooms plan.

Senate Democratic Caucus director Phil Bailey predicted the conference committee could be in for a rough ride if the Grooms plan receives final approval.

Bright said he thinks a Republican-controlled conference committee ultimately would be able to agree on a plan, and that the Grooms plan could fare better in the courts because it received more bipartisan support than Martin's amendment.

Senators, who are scheduled to resume debate on the once-a-decade redistricting process at 10 a.m. today, have several parliamentary procedures at their disposal that could alter the congressional map yet again should they choose not to give the Grooms amendment final approval.

Those moves could include recommitting the plan or introducing new amendments.

The state's congressional and legislative redistricting proposals must comply with the guidelines that were set up by the federal Voting Rights Act because of South Carolina's history of inequality of voting rights of black residents.

Lawmakers can send the state's electoral maps to the courts or the U.S. Department of Justice to comply with the act.

The maps also must survive expected lawsuits from groups opposing the plans.

[<< Back](#)



Redistricting brings out Democrat, GOP alliance

Posted: Jun 30, 2011 7:50 PM EDT
Updated: Jun 30, 2011 7:50 PM EDT

By JIM DAVENPORT
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - The chief sponsor of the U.S. [House](#) redistricting plan says he is surprised the measure was approved.

Sen. Larry Grooms said Thursday he never expected nearly every Democrat in the Senate to vote for a plan that was drawn up to elect one more Republican to the U.S. House.

Senate GOP leaders called it the Republicrat plan. They said they wanted that district in the state's northeastern corner and anchored by Horry and Florence counties.

Grooms' plan moves the district into the state's southern half and includes Beaufort County as it stretches from the Georgia border to Williamsburg County.

Redistricting is required every decade to make sure political district lines match population changes in the U.S. Census. Population increases meant South Carolina gained a new U.S. House seat.

Copyright 2011 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

More Stories We Think You'll Be Interested In



2 killed, including officer, in Memphis hotel
1 day ago



Aaron Carter: Michael Jackson gave me cocaine
1 day ago



What's next for 'Voice' winner Javier Colon? Greenville
3 days ago



Muslim woman sues Abercrombie & Fitch over hijab
1 week ago



Spartanburg man accused of



Wills and Kate to traverse Canada on first trip



Bristol Palin says she lost her virginity while



Man loses 400 pounds in 3 years
2 weeks ago

wltx.com

columbia, SC

Lawmakers Still Have to Finish Congressional Redistricting

12:17 PM, Jul 1, 2011 | [comments](#)

Written by
Jennifer Bellamy

FILED UNDER

News

Columbia, SC (WLTX, AP) -- Lawmakers say they expect to return to the state house at the end of the month to finish up work on South Carolina's Congressional redistricting.

South Carolina's state Senate has given approval to a bill establishing a new 7th congressional district in the Lowcountry.

Wednesday's 25-15 vote came after GOP Senate leaders argued against approving a plan that varied greatly from a House version of the bill.

They lost out to Republicans and Democrats who wanted the district in the southern part of the state.

The chief sponsor of the U.S. House redistricting plan says he is surprised the measure was approved.

Sen. Larry Grooms said Thursday he never

expected nearly every Democrat in the Senate to vote for a plan that was drawn up to elect one more Republican to the U.S. House.

Senate GOP leaders called it the Republicanat plan. They said they wanted that district in the state's northeastern corner and anchored by Horry and Florence counties.

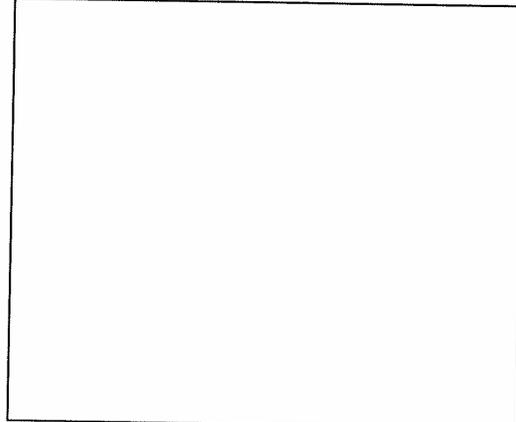
Grooms's plan moves the district into the state's southern half and includes Beaufort County as it stretches from the Georgia border to Williamsburg County.

House and Senate members will meet over the next few weeks to try and reach an agreement on the plan. House Speaker Bobby Harrell said he planned to bring the House back into session on July 26 to vote on that deal.

Senator John Scott says he expects a Senate call back around that time as well.

Redistricting is required every decade to

Advertisement



Print Powered By  Format Dynamics™

wltx.com

3/21/2011 8:55

make sure political district lines match
population changes in the U.S. Census.
Population increases meant South Carolina
gained a new U.S. House seat.

Selected for you by a sponsor: Global Insight:
Weakness must be overcome on road to high office
(Financial Times)

Advertisement

Print Powered By  Format Dynamics

HOW COULD \$4.1 M EVERY YEAR MAKE OUR COMMUNITY
BETTER FOR OUR CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN?

PLACE AN AD HOME DELIVERY CUSTOMER SERVICE CONTACT US MOBILE ARCHIVES HERALD STORE CLASSIFIEDS

Rock Hill, SC
Now: 77°F
Mostly cloudy

Full Forecast >
High: 92°F
Low: 70°F

HOME NEWS SPORTS OBITUARIES OPINIONS LIFESTYLES

FIND N SAVE CARS JOBS HOMES PLACE AN AD

TOP STORIES MULTIMEDIA BLOGS FORUMS PHOTO GALLERIES DATABASES ARCHIVES CALENDAR GAMES

SEARCH Submit Query

Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

SIGN IN BECOME A MEMBER

FRONT - FEATURED STORIES

SHARE

follow us

become a fan

E-MAIL PRINT LARGER SMALLER 2 COMMENTS

Published: Sunday, Jul. 03, 2011 / Updated: Sunday, Jul. 03, 2011 10:09 AM

Redistricting deadline: Aug. 1

Leaders say federal judges will draw new districts if lawmakers can't decide

By Gina Smith - ginsmith@thestate.com

Legislative leaders say a compromise map for the state's seven congressional districts must be completed by the end of August to avoid a panel of federal judges stepping in and doing the job.

That has put leaders and legislative staff into overdrive, trying to tweak proposed congressional maps for the Greenville and greater Charleston areas while also building support for a new 7th Congressional District, centered in Horry County and including the Pee Dee region.

Having failed to pass a redistricting plan last week, legislators will return to Columbia July 26 for another shot.

Unless a majority of S.C. House and Senate members approve a new map by about Labor Day, there may not be time for the state to deal with the inevitable resulting lawsuits and get the map approved by the U.S. Justice Department before the 2012 elections, when all U.S. House members will be up for re-election.

That could set the stage for federal judges to step in to do the job, taking power away from the General Assembly.

"We're not going to have any say if it goes to the judges," said state Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens. "I'm hoping lawmakers will look at the overall, big picture of what's best for the whole state and not be so concerned about the parochial interests of their own backyard. We need to get this done. It's getting down to the wire."

Building a map that a majority can agree on will be difficult.

The S.C. House and state Senate thus far have failed to pass a common congressional redistricting plan, instead opting for competing plans.

Some Senate Republicans say they worry that the counties and communities they represent will be split into different congressional districts. There also is GOP disagreement on whether to center the state's new 7th Congressional District, the result of population growth, in the southeastern part of the state or along the North Carolina border.

While the Republicans who control the S.C. House and state Senate battle among themselves, legislative Democrats are sitting back.

Democrats say they would prefer judges draw the new maps instead of the Republican-controlled Legislature. Democrats hope the judges would create another congressional district that is majority African-American, a loyal constituency of the Democratic Party.

The state currently has one African-American majority district -- the 6th District represented by U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-Columbia. It was drawn by the courts in 1992.

"At this point, they (Republicans) have cut the Democrats completely out of this (redistricting) process," said state Sen. Darrell Jackson, D-Richland. "They're trying to find a plan that Republicans can agree on and not what the entire body can agree on. And that's

IF YOU COULD CONTROL
YOUR TAX DOLLARS,
WHERE WOULD THEY GO?

All of the content, More convenience
The Herald
e-EDITION
heraldonline.com

Rock Hill house destroyed in morning fire
Miss SC lost 110 pounds before winning pageant

Deaths, fire mar holiday weekend at Myrtle Beach

Rock Hill communities fill streets for July 4 celebrations

Ex-worker charged with stealing a/c parts from Rock Hill company

DeMint reveals GOP divide
136 comments · 2 hours ago

Krispy Kreme brings back Cheerwine doughnut
5 comments · 12 minutes ago

New SC budget adds school cash, raises concerns
14 comments · 3 minutes ago

Ex-worker charged with stealing a/c parts from Rock Hill company
5 comments · 3 minutes ago

Obama thanks troops at July 4 party on South Lawn
26 comments · 5 minutes ago

Top Jobs

The Post and Courier

Redistricting plan strikes fair balance

BY LARRY GROOMS

Friday, July 8, 2011

The General Assembly recessed last week, the Senate ending its deliberations on the once-per-decade question of redistricting. South Carolina's population growth means that we gain a new, seventh congressional seat.

The debate centered on two plans. The first plan drew the 7th District to include Horry County and much of the Pee Dee.

However, the 6th District, represented by Rep. Jim Clyburn, meandered from the farms of Blythewood in northern Richland County some 130 miles to the Charleston peninsula, and more than 150 miles from the Sumter-Florence line to the Georgia-South Carolina border at the Savannah River.

That plan split Charleston County. It split Berkeley. It split Dorchester, Colleton and Beaufort. It split at least six more counties, dividing many along racial lines.

In contrast, the plan I presented keeps all of Berkeley, Dorchester, Colleton, Beaufort, Jasper, Hampton, Allendale and Barnwell counties whole, within the 7th. Charleston and Horry remain anchors of the 1st District and are not split. Coastal Georgetown remains in the 1st while its inland areas join Williamsburg in the 7th.

Daniel Island, Goose Creek, Moncks Corner, Summerville, Walterboro, Ridgeville, St. Stephen, St. George -- these towns are growing. They can emerge from Charleston's shadow and have their own representative in Congress. Beaufort's sizeable population will have significant influence. And because of the size and significance of the Charleston metro area, which extends into Berkeley and Dorchester, Charleston effectively could have two voices in Congress

Communities of interest -- where people live, work, shop, worship -- are kept whole wherever possible. County and city boundaries are generally protected.

Racial gerrymandering is avoided, while we are careful not to dilute minority voting strength. Common geography, transportation, and communication are accounted for to ensure more compact districts. Statewide, just eight counties are split.

Sadly, the plan has been rebuked by some in my own party who seem to prefer racially fractured counties. Some even insinuate that the plan is part of a conspiracy designed to aid Democrats.

The Post and Courier - Redistricting plan strikes fair balance: Printer-friendly version - C... Page 2 of 2

Why would I do that? I am one of the most consistently conservative Republicans in the General Assembly.

What it is, is a conservative, common-sense plan. It was carefully drawn, in part by a well-respected, nationally known Republican demographer. Democrats knew this, and initially balked at supporting it.

However, with a few changes, we were able to craft a plan that both sides could support. The plan has such broad support that not only did Democrats and Republicans back it, senators from 44 of our 46 county delegations voted for it.

It's revealing that, with one or two exceptions, those who voted against the plan are moderate and liberal Republicans. They fought our common-sense plan because it brought to light the flaws in their gerrymandered, parochial plan.

These senators, and many in the South Carolina House, will continue to fight our plan and hope to change it later this summer. They say that their plan stands a better chance in any court challenge.

The truth is the map we passed on June 29 is the better one. It needs only a vote of the House to become law.

A quick glance at the maps shows that ours is the common-sense plan.

It recognizes communities of interest, avoids racial gerrymandering, minimizes county splits, and has broad, bipartisan support.

Larry Grooms, R-Bonneau, represents District 37 (portions of Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton and Dorchester counties) in the S.C. Senate.

Copyright © 1995 - 2011 Evening Post Publishing Co..

The Post and Courier - Misguided redistricting plan would muffle tri-county's voice: Print... Page 1 of 2

The Post and Courier

Misguided redistricting plan would muffle tri-county's voice

BY GLENN F. McCONNELL
Thursday, July 14, 2011

On June 29, Senate Democrats teamed with 10 Republican senators to pass a misguided congressional redistricting plan that would do long-term damage to the tri-county area's representation on South Carolina's congressional delegation. This plan must be stopped if there is to be any chance to pass a legislative plan instead of turning that task over to the federal courts. More importantly, I believe that plan must be stopped for the sake of our region's long-term socio-economic development.

The Senate Democrat-supported plan, as proposed by Sen. Larry Grooms, R-Berkeley, would split Charleston County completely from Berkeley and Dorchester counties. Berkeley and Dorchester counties would be placed in the new 7th Congressional District, while Charleston County would remain in the 1st District with Horry County, including Myrtle Beach, and the coastal half of Georgetown County. Consequently, a divided tri-county area would have to vie for electoral influence with both ends of the coast in two separate congressional districts.

The 2010 Census gives the tri-county area a chance to remain mostly united in the 1st Congressional District with urban Beaufort County and the coastal islands. Instead, the Grooms plan for the 7th District would dilute the tri-county area's clout in favor of other areas of the state. Since the unity of the tri-county area has served as an engine for economic development and for addressing the issues we share, I can't help but ask why we, as tri-county residents, would do this to ourselves.

For decades our tri-county area has shared everything from an economic alliance to a Council of Governments and chambers of commerce. This arrangement has served the tri-county well over the years, giving our issues and needs a voice in Washington.

For instance, because of area-wide cooperation we have seen the opening of the Boeing plant in North Charleston. Now, when we need that same joint effort to defend this economic development victory against unions and the National Labor Relations Board, a plan is supported by some Republicans that would muffle the tri-county area's voice.

When the General Assembly returns to take up congressional redistricting, I will continue to work for passage of the plan that was supported by the majority of the Senate Republican Caucus that places the new 7th District in the Pee Dee and keeps most of the tri-county area together to make the 1st District a true Lowcountry district. My goal is to work to keep most of Charleston, Berkeley and Dorchester counties united and keep the good work and influence of the tri-county area alive.

The Post and Courier - Misguided redistricting plan would muffle tri-county's voice: Print... Page 2 of 2

This represents our best chance of having a plan passed by the General Assembly. If the House and Senate cannot agree on a new congressional plan, unelected federal judges will draw the state's congressional districts. That is why Senate Democrats unanimously voted for the Grooms plan rather than the committee plan -- in order to create a rift between the House and Senate and to hopefully create a legislative impasse. These 10 Republican senators naively played into the Democrats' hands by voting for a plan the Democrats intended as the way to get us to federal court.

I hope that true common sense will prevail in the days and weeks ahead. When the General Assembly returns to take up redistricting, I will continue to fight for a plan that does not fracture the influence of the tri-county area, and that allows us to pass a redistricting plan rather than a group of federal judges.

***Glenn F. McConnell**, a Charleston Republican and president pro tem of the S.C. Senate, is chairman of the Judiciary Committee and the Judiciary Committee's Redistricting Subcommittee.*

Copyright © 1995 - 2011 Evening Post Publishing Co..



[Return to the Article](#)

July 26, 2011

SC Legislature adopts US House redistricting plan

Jim Davenport

South Carolina's GOP-dominated Legislature on Tuesday approved a U.S. House redistricting plan that creates a new 7th District that Republicans expect they'll be able to win in 2012.

Final approval came with a 24-16 vote in the Senate that broke mostly along party lines and frustrated Democrats, who now hope the proposal fails to meet federal voting rights standards as it is scrutinized by the U.S. Justice Department. The House approved the proposal earlier with a 75-33 vote after rejecting alternative plans in the one-day special session.

At stake is who represents the Palmetto state in Washington and the growing clout for a Republican Party that dominates politics here.

Redistricting is required every decade to make sure district lines reflect population changes. Because of population growth, South Carolina picked up a seventh seat in Congress.

Republican leaders in the House and Senate embraced plans to put that new district in the state's northeastern corner, making it a safe bet that a Republican would be added to the five already representing South Carolina in Washington.

Those leaders' carefully crafted plans were scuttled last month in the Senate by 10 upstart Republicans who, working with the Senate's Democratic Caucus, won a fight to put the new district near the coast, in an area stretching from Georgetown County to Jasper County.

That proposal was a non-starter in behind-the-scenes deal-making that's gone on for a month between House and Senate leaders, said Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens. "We didn't have the leverage with the House to suggest that they even consider that," Martin said.

Instead, House and Senate leaders agreed to go back mostly to a district map little changed from what the House approved and the Senate tweaked in June before Senate leaders lost control of the plan.

Tuesday's vote brought nearly all those upstart Republicans back in line amid fears federal judges would draw district lines if the Legislature failed to draw them. Martin said they had little choice. "It's either this plan or no plan," Martin said.

That was enough to convince Republican Sen. Tom Davis of Beaufort to support the plan he helped to defeat in June. "I would opt for the devil I know rather than the devil I don't know," Davis said.

As legislators debated, a crowd of people from Horry, Florence and Georgetown counties watched. They said Myrtle Beach in Horry County as well as Georgetown and Florence counties need their own U.S. House seat, as the House proposed. Janet Spencer, a 63-year-old retired banker from Myrtle Beach, said those counties have much in common, from television and radio stations to schools and shopping.

Sen. Gerald Malloy argued that Horry County would dominate the district and it wasn't clear whether that county's interest would overwhelm the needs of other counties. "They're not part of the Pee Dee. They're the independent republic of Horry," said Malloy, D-Hartsville.

House leaders easily turned back competing proposals, including one from Democratic Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter of Orangeburg. "Rural South Carolinians and people of color have a voice and influence in this plan," Cobb-Hunter said, referring to her own unsuccessful proposal.

Two-thirds of South Carolina's residents are white. Democrats and the American Civil Liberties Union have argued South Carolina should have two U.S. House minority districts. Currently it has only one.

Republican House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Harrison of Columbia said Cobb-Hunter's plan would reduce black population in other districts and would likely be rejected by the U.S. Justice Department. Past voting rights abuses require Justice Department approval of changes in districts.

Now Democrats say their best chance for getting fairly drawn districts lies with challenges at the U.S. Justice Department and ultimately in federal court. "I hope for the people of South Carolina that this plan ends up in court," Cobb-Hunter said.

Follow Jim Davenport on Twitter at http://twitter.com/jimdavenport_ap

On the Web:

South Carolina's U.S. House redistricting plans: <http://redistricting.schouse.gov>

The Associated Press

Page Printed from:

http://www.realclearpolitics.com/news/ap/politics/2011/Jul/26/sc_legislature_adopts_us_house_redistricting_plan.html
at August 01, 2011 - 07:25:17 AM PDT



TheSunNews.com

Monday, Aug 1, 2011

Posted on Sat, Jul. 30, 2011

Redistricting win a team effort

By Rep. Alan Clemmons

Horry County and the S.C. Pee Dee scored a major victory in Columbia this week, accomplishing something quite rare: receiving what is deservedly ours from state government. By large majority votes in both the House and Senate, and with Gov. Nikki Haley's signature, Horry County will anchor the newly formed 7th Congressional District of South Carolina.

This important victory for our region was a long and hard fought struggle. For more than two years, community leaders, legislators, political activists and various business coalitions invested heavily their time and resources. Community meetings were planned. Visits to Columbia and Washington were organized. And in the final month, a true grass-roots coalition banded together, developed a comprehensive plan, and engaged in a methodical, organized fashion - all for a greater cause.

While many are calling the final plan the "Alan Clemmons" plan and are giving me credit for our accomplishment, nothing could be further from the truth. I was just a single representative doing what I thought was best for our community and state. I was and am proud to have been a small part of the grass-roots coalition that succeeded, and I believe we can learn a great lesson by looking back at what contributed to this enormous success. In short, there were three reasons for our success:

First, the merits were on our side: Horry County added more people (more than 73,000) in the past decade than any other county in our state; the commonality of interests with the counties in the Pee Dee are unmistakable; our plan was supported by all six current members of Congress; and many others. I specifically want to thank our congressman, Rep. Tim Scott, for his leadership, advocacy and wisdom during the entire process.

Second, the loud, unified voice of so many people. I've never seen anything like it in my years in Columbia. Legislators from competing areas of our state with often-opposing political persuasions saw a diverse coalition of folks put politics and divisiveness aside, engage with passion and respect, and unite for a greater cause - and our efforts worked. This point is reflected best in a Twitter posting from Sen. Tom Davis minutes before the Senate took up the final vote on Tuesday, "I prefer the Senate-passed plan, with the new 7th anchored in Beaufort County, but I am not willing to risk a court-drawn plan, so I will vote 'aye' for the House Compromise Plan. Congratulations to my friends in the Pee Dee. You argued your case well."

Sen. Davis is an honorable man, who fought honorably for what he believed was best for his district. But in the end, the loud, unified, diverse voice of Horry, Georgetown, Florence, Darlington, Marion, Marlboro, Dillon and Chesterfield County residents persuaded him and others to support a higher cause.

Third, we were able to conquer and rebut the innuendos and misinformation being circulated by a few malcontents who tried to both publicly and privately derail our plans for their own politically-motivated personal benefit. As chairman of the House Redistricting Subcommittee, I was charged with listening to the people, taking into account their desires on how they wished to be represented in the future, and working with my fellow subcommittee members to present a proposal that was best for our region and the state.

Frankly, as a member of the House of Representatives from Horry County, I believe I had no greater responsibility this session than to use every legislative tool (including my leadership role as chairman) to ensure that Horry County and Pee Dee once again formed the basis for our own congressional seat. I was accused of being inflexible, stubborn and unyielding in pushing a plan that would accomplish this goal. And to that I proudly plead "guilty as charged!"

In the end, our victory this week has truly long-lasting implications for our area. My hope and my goal is that we keep the spirit of community that was responsible for this victory alive and well as we move forward to ensure that our interests are best represented in Columbia and Washington.

TheSunNews.com | 07/30/2011 | Redistricting win a team effort

Page 2 of 2

The writer, Republican state representative for District 107, lives in Myrtle Beach.

© 2011 TheSunNews.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thesunnews.com>



Local lawmakers unhappy with remap

By PHIL SARATA, T&D Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, August 1, 2011 6:45 am

Asserting that new congressional redistricting doesn't meet legal standards, local state lawmakers say it ultimately will be overturned in federal court.

The plan, approved mostly along party lines by the South Carolina Legislature last week, created the new Seventh Congressional District in the Pee Dee region.

State Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, said Republicans used heavily urban Horry County to anchor the new district.

"They wanted to redraw the district lines so there is a reasonable expectation to elect one Democrat to Congress but no fair shot at electing two or three," Hutto said. "The problem with this plan is that race was used as the predominant factor. That is not allowed under the Voting Rights Act."

Area legislators say the plan reduces chances for more representation in Washington of rural areas with minority populations. They claim the trade-off involved redrawing Rep. James Clyburn's minority Sixth Congressional District to include more black voters.

State Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, offered an alternative plan that was rejected in the House. She felt it offered minorities and rural residents the best opportunity to impact the election process.

"I believe strongly Congressman Clyburn could have been re-elected without packing minorities into his district," Cobb-Hunter said. "The new plan expanded that district and split counties left and right so a Horry County-anchored district could be created. I just don't think that's right."

"I didn't get a sense in the process that folks on either side of the aisle were looking out for the people. We sealed the fate of rural South Carolina for the next 10 years. That's not good."

The approved plan splits Orangeburg County between the Sixth and Second Districts. The new Sixth District also fragments Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Florence, Richland and Sumter counties.

The new Seventh District keeps seven Pee Dee and Grand Strand counties mostly intact. State Sen. John Matthews, D-Bowman, said the redistricting measure is "a computer-drawn plan based on turnout in the last presidential election."

"That means rural and minority voters' ability to have impact and influence over a long period of time is being compromised," Matthews said. "It almost ensures all of our congressmen will be elected from urban areas. That bothers me."

"I think it will go through the courts. Other groups with a rural interest will file suit challenging it."

The American Civil Liberties Union and state Democrats argue that the state should have two minority congressional districts out of the seven.

Cobb-Hunter said South Carolina Democratic Party Chairman Dick Harpootlian indicated he will file suit.

The congressional redistricting measure mirrors the plan approved by the House last month. State Rep. Bakari Sellers, D-Denmark, contends Republicans in both chambers agreed on placement of the Seventh District, which the GOP expects to win.

"It was done under the cover of darkness with no transparency, and the head of the House redistricting committee (Rep. Alan Clemmons, R-Myrtle Beach) is running for that district," Sellers said. "It is unfortunate, but I feel the courts will redraw these district lines that will result in more parity for South Carolina."

Hutto believes the U.S. Department of Justice won't approve the plan.

"I think Justice will see the legal parameters have been violated by this plan," he said. "This was different than the plans that were first approved by both chambers."

"This is not how you go about drawing a map."

Contact the writer: psarata@timesanddemocrat.com or 803-533-5540.

Gov Haley signs redistricting plan for House seats - WIS News 10 - Columbia, South Car... Page 1 of 1

[<< Back](#)



[Health Alert](#) [HealthNOW](#) [SeniorsNOW](#) [BizNOW](#) [Job Link](#) [Real Estate](#) [WIS Wheels](#) [Obituaries](#) [Midland](#)

Gov Haley signs redistricting plan for House seats

Posted: Aug 01, 2011 12:59 PM EDT

Updated: Aug 01, 2011 1:00 PM EDT

MYRTLE BEACH, SC (AP) - South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley has signed into the law a U.S. House redistricting plan that creates a new 7th District.

Haley signed the bill Monday morning in Myrtle Beach. The new congressional district is anchored in Horry County in the state's northeastern corner.

Haley's signature does not make the proposal final. It still faces a review by the U.S. Justice Department, which must decide whether it meets federal voting rights standards.

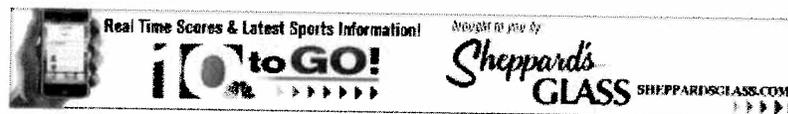
Redistricting is required every decade to make sure district lines reflect population changes. South Carolina picked up a seventh seat in Congress because of population growth.

Republicans expect they'll be able to win the new seat in 2012. Republicans already hold 5 of the state's six U.S. House seats.

Copyright 2011 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.



Governor Nikki Haley



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2011 WorldNow and WISTV, a [Raycom Media Station](#). All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

<http://www2.scnw.com/news/2011/jun/13/sc-senate-hosting-public-hearing-congressional-red-ar-1968792/>



Published: June 13, 2011

[Home](#) / [news](#) / [local](#) / [govt_politics](#) /

S.C. Senate hosts public hearing on Congressional redistricting

By SCNow Staff

The S.C. Senate Judiciary Committee's Redistricting Subcommittee will hold a public hearing on South Carolina's seven Congressional Districts at 5 p.m. June 20 in Gressette Office Building Room 308 in Columbia.

Written comments regarding the Congressional plans must be received no later than 3 p.m. June 20 to be included in the subcommittee notebooks. Residents can forward comments to Debbie Hammond at debbiehammond@scsenate.gov. For questions, call Hammond at (803) 212-6625.

Those who want to speak at the public hearing can sign up immediately before the hearing.

Members of the subcommittee are chairman Sen. Glenn F. McConnell, R-Charleston, Sen. Robert Ford, D-Charleston, Sen. Larry A. Martin, R-Pickens, Sen. C. Bradley Hutto, D-Orangeburg, Sen. Gerald Malloy, D-Hartsville, Sen. Raymond E. Cleary III, R-Georgetown, and Sen. Phillip W. Shoopman, R-Greenville.

SCNOW © Copyright 2011 Media General Communications Holdings, LLC. A Media General company.

GoUpstate.com

This copy is for your personal, noncommercial use only. You can order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers [here](#) or use the "Reprints" tool that appears above any article. [Order a reprint of this article now](#)

SC Senate releases redistricting proposals

Both plans would impact Spartanburg County

By Stephen Largent
stephen.largent@shj.com

Published: Saturday, June 18, 2011 at 3:15 a.m.

The state Senate released on Friday a pair of congressional redistricting plans that would impact Spartanburg County.

One proposal would split the county between the 4th Congressional District represented by Trey Gowdy and the 5th Congressional District represented by Mick Mulvaney.

The county's loss in the plan would be Greenville County's gain because Greenville would not be split.

The other plan is similar to the House-approved congressional map splitting a small piece of Spartanburg in the Chesnee area into the 5th Congressional District and a southern portion of Greenville County into the 3rd Congressional District represented by Jeff Duncan.

Both proposals were created by the Senate Judiciary Committee staff, and they join other congressional plans that were submitted by the American Civil Liberties Union, U.S. Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., and Mulvaney together, and a Columbia University law student.

The Senate Judiciary Committee staff's plan to split Spartanburg is likely to be opposed by members of the Spartanburg County Legislative Delegation. The current 4th Congressional District includes all of Spartanburg, Greenville and Union counties, along with a small piece of Laurens County.

Congressional district lines have to be changed because population growth in the past decade makes it impossible to keep all of Spartanburg and Greenville counties intact. Federal law requires redrawing election district lines every 10 years to reflect population changes recorded in the census.

Elected officials generally strive to protect their home turf during the redistricting process by keeping their home counties whole and current districts intact. Spartanburg's delegation is no different.

Reps. Eddie Tallon and Doug Brannon created a congressional plan keeping the county in one district and separate from Greenville, but the proposal was not adopted in the version that was passed by the House.

Gowdy has said he supports a congressional district plan that keeps the composition of his home congressional district as close to its current alignment as possible.

The local legislative delegation has two members on the 23-member Senate Judiciary Committee, which along with the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee, begins deliberation on the state's new congressional plans next week.

Senate Judiciary Committee members Sens. Shane Martin and Lee Bright of Spartanburg could not be reached for comment before the end of Friday.

The Senate's congressional redistricting work starts Monday with a public hearing on those plans and the House-passed congressional plan.

Copyright © 2011 GoUpstate.com – All rights reserved. Restricted use only.

On Tuesday morning, the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee will meet to consider the plans, and the full Judiciary Committee will meet later in the day to review them.

Earlier this week, the Senate passed a redistricting plan for new Senate districts.

South Carolina's population growth brought the state a seventh congressional seat, but the location of the seat is a major point of contention.

Both chambers of the General Assembly will attempt to agree on a congressional redistricting plan. That proposal then would go to Gov. Nikki Haley for her approval or veto.

Because of South Carolina's history of infringement of the voting rights of black residents, the state's congressional and legislative redistricting proposals must comply with the guidelines that were set up by the federal Voting Rights Act.

Is reapportionment good for Aiken County?

By Claude O'Donovan

Guest Columnist

Sunday, June 19, 2011

Aiken County has had a distinct advantage by being represented by two U. S. congressional districts. South Carolina's senior Rep. Joe Wilson represents District 2, which is about half of Aiken County including the eastern portion of the city of Aiken. Freshman Rep. Jeff Duncan is District 3's representative covering the western, most populous part of the county.

We were all happy to find that South Carolina was gaining a seat in Congress because of the growth of our state's population. However, this new seat could cost Aiken County the advantage it has enjoyed of two representatives in the U. S. House.

ANY TIME A SEAT is added, it creates all kinds of problems for the existing districts. South Carolina has the added burden of having to comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which is enforced by the U.S. Department of Justice. This act requires that minority districts be created and maintained by drawing the district lines to ensure a sizable majority of a dominant minority is in the specific district for them to be able to elect a representative from their own ranks.

This requirement turns out to be a "damned if you do and damned if you don't" situation for our state Legislature, because the district occupied by Rep. James Clyburn, District 6, is sacrosanct and virtually untouchable. The remaining five districts have to be redrawn to accommodate the new District 7.

That brings us to Aiken County. In the new district map proposed by the South Carolina House, Rep. Wilson will acquire the entire county. This map proposes that District 7 be created in Horry and Georgetown counties, taking that away from District 1, meaning District 2 loses Beaufort County to District 1. That loss creates the need for District 2 to pick up the only available Republican votes -- which happen to be in Aiken County.

Therein lies the rub for Aiken County. Jeff Duncan won Aiken County by a 71-percent-to-29-percent margin over Richard Cash in last June's primary runoff election. A major part of Rep. Duncan's appeal to Aiken voters is his expertise on Savannah River Site. Even before Mr. Duncan represented Aiken County, while he was a state representative for Laurens, he studied SRS in detail, made multiple visits there and even sponsored a tour of it by a group of other state representatives.

SINCE TAKING HIS congressional seat, he has excelled in Washington, D.C., as an expert on energy matters, and has been promised a seat on the Energy and Commerce Committee in his next term. This would make him even more valuable to Aiken County and SRS specifically.

Realistically, Rep. Wilson will have to have the city of Aiken and its surroundings in his district -- but for the welfare of Aiken County, we need to retain both outstanding men representing us. I feel that a compromise of moving the District 2 boundary to allow Rep. Duncan's District 3 to encompass North Augusta and keep both of these excellent men in Aiken County would be in the best interest of the state of South Carolina.

(The writer is vice-chairman of the Aiken County Republican Party.)

<http://www2.scnw.com/news/2011/jun/19/4/pee-dee-7th-district-supports-plan-monday-statehou-ar-1998048/>

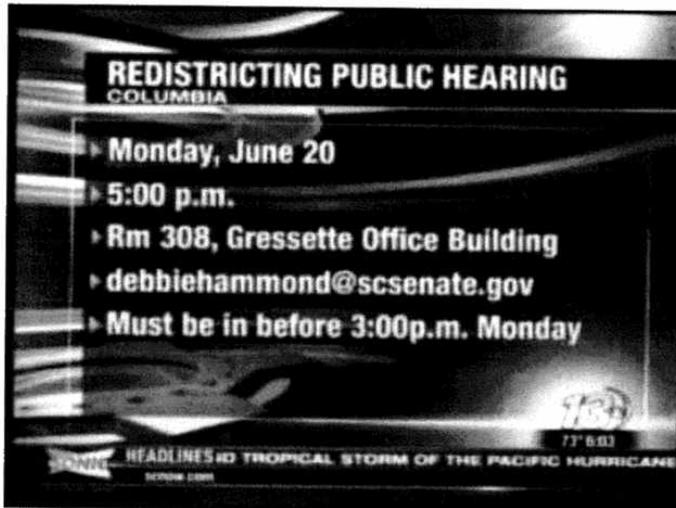


Published: June 19, 2011
Updated: June 19, 2011 - 11:21 PM

[Home](#) / [news](#) /

Supporters travel to Columbia to bring District 1 to northeastern South Carolina

By Amy Vitrano



South Carolina lawmakers continue to work on the new congressional districts which could have a big impact on the northeastern part of the state.

The state House of Representatives already mapped out and passed a version which makes the new 7th district Grand Strand and Pee Dee oriented.

State Representative Thad Viers, for Horry County, said it's similar to the lines when the Pee Dee and Grand Strand were part of District 6 from 1930 to 1990.

The proposed map includes Chesterfield, Marlboro, Darlington, most of Florence, Dillon, Marion, Horry

and Georgetown counties.

"Our high school football teams play against each other. We get all of our news from the same area, Florence and Myrtle Beach. Agribusiness is very strong on the in the western part of Horry County. Federal court is in Florence that we use. So it just makes since, with having a very small impact on the rest of the congressional districts," said Rep. Thad Viers who represents Horry County.

Now it's up to the state senate.

One of the maps the Senate Judiciary Congressional Staff has released divides Horry County. Myrtle Beach and Surfside Beach would be a part of the current District 1 while North Myrtle Beach and the rest of the County would be a part of the proposed new district.

State Senator Ray Cleary is a member of the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee and will have some big pull in drawing the Senate's map. He said he is in favor of using the old 6th congressional district map as a model for the new lines.

Some people on the Grand Strand and out in the Pee Dee are not happy with what the Senate is working on so far and plans to speak their mind at tomorrow public hearing.

"It's about all of the people of the Pee Dee area," said Gerri McDaniel. She is an advocate for voters all over the eastern Carolina.

Sunday's assignment, make people aware of the congressional redistricting.

"It's nothing against Charleston, but with the growth in the Grand Strand area as well as all through the Pee Dee, we need someone to represent this area," she said.

Folks from all over have been calling McDaniel asking for guidance.

"A gentleman called me last night from Dillon and said, 'We need some help here. We feel that if the map isn't drawn correctly, more factories are gonna close for us.' They need representation."

Stephanie McLaughlin-Rawlinson could be considered McDaniel's counter part in Florence.

"We deserve it because Horry County and Florence County, these counties in the Pee Dee, are the biggest growth area in the state in the last 10 years," said the vice chair of the Florence County Republican Party. "That was proven by the census."

"We've got important economic development coming to this area and to this region," said McLaughlin-Rawlinson. "We've got I-73. We desperately need someone in Washington to represent these areas. That cares about these particular communities."

The pair has encouraged more than 200 people to get either ride a bus or caravan to Columbia Monday to speak their minds at the public hearing.

Members of the Pee Dee Coalition for the 7th Congressional District will present their case in a Statehouse press conference AT 4:30p.m. Monday in Columbia.

The Senate Subcommittee's public hearing starts at 5p.m. Monday in Columbia. It's at the Gressette

Office Building.

If you would like your impute to be heard but can not make it to the capital, send an email with your thoughts to debbiehammond@scsenate.gov. All written comments must be in by three o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

SCNOW © Copyright 2011 Media General Communications Holdings, LLC. A Media General company.

Bluffton Today

Published on *Bluffton Today* (<http://www.blufftontoday.com>)

[Home](#) > [Bluffton News](#) > Public hearing today on Congressional plans

Public hearing today on Congressional plans

Created Jun 20 2011 - 12:01am

COLUMBIA - Two draft Congressional redistricting plans will be included in a public hearing at 5 p.m. today in Room 308 of the Gressette Senate Office Building in Columbia.

Sen. Glenn McConnell, President Pro Tempore of the Senate and chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the two plans, prepared by the Senate redistricting staff, are now posted for review on the South Carolina Senate 2011 Redistricting web site at <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov> ^[1]

Other Congressional plans submitted for consideration include two submitted by U.S. Representative James Clyburn, one submitted by U.S. Reps. Wilson and Mick Mulvaney, one submitted by the American Civil Liberties Union, and one submitted by Matthew Kuhn, a law student at Columbia University.

The House-passed Congressional plan also is open for discussion.

The public hearing is open to all interested parties who want to attend or offer testimony about the proposed Congressional plans.

For those unable to attend, written comments are accepted on the public submissions and the staff Congressional plans. In order to be considered at the public hearing, those comments must be sent to debbiehammond@scsenate.gov ^[2] no later than 3 p.m. today.

After the public hearing, the plans will be considered by the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee as well as the Senate Judiciary Committee. Those meetings are open to the public. A subcommittee meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday and a Judiciary Committee meeting is set for 3 p.m. Tuesday.

The Redistricting Plan for the Senate districts, S. 815, passed out of the Senate last week with unanimous support.

BLUFFTON TODAY

Summary:

COLUMBIA - Two draft Congressional redistricting plans will be included in a public hearing at 5 p.m. today in Room 308 of the Gressette Senate Office Building in Columbia. Sen.

Public hearing today on Congressional plans

Page 2 of 2

 [Senate Judiciary Congressional Staff Plan 1](#) ^[3]
[Senate Judiciary Congressional Staff Plan 2](#) ^[4]

RSS Feed:

6810975
Mon, 06/20/2011
9
1308542514

Source URL: <http://www.blufftontoday.com/bluffton-news/2011-06-20/public-hearing-today-congressional-plans>

Links:

[1] <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov>
[2] <mailto:debbiehammond@scsenate.gov>
[3] <http://www.blufftontoday.com/sites/default/files/6814861.jpg>
[4] <http://www.blufftontoday.com/sites/default/files/6814795.jpg>

The Post and Courier - Remap will shake up S.C. political picture: Printer-friendly versio... Page 1 of 4

The Post and Courier

Remap will shake up S.C. political picture

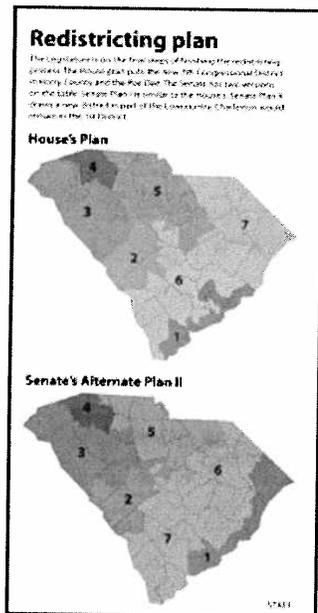
By Yvonne Wenger

ywenger@postandcourier.com

Monday, June 20, 2011

COLUMBIA -- The interests of the public take a back seat to power politics, horse trading and re-electing incumbents, as the Legislature takes on a once-in-a-decade responsibility: redistricting.

The highly charged political process involves drawing new state House, Senate and congressional districts, based on population growth and shifts captured in the latest U.S. Census.



Staff

The outcome should shake up some Lowcountry representation. The maps also will determine what part of South Carolina gains additional influence in Washington with a new 7th Congressional District seat.

The Post and Courier - Remap will shake up S.C. political picture: Printer-friendly versio... Page 2 of 4

Changed election boundaries could strengthen the Republican hold on the state and potentially weaken the voice of minority communities. Elections at every level of government will be affected.

Lawmakers will finish drawing the lines as early as the end of the month, when the plans will either go to the courts or U.S. Department of Justice for approval, or both.

Sen. Robert Ford, D-Charleston, said legislators' self-interest is first when it comes to redistricting.

"One day people are going to put their personal interests aside, but that's not happening right now," he said.

Concentrating black voters

U.S. House Assistant Democratic Leader Jim Clyburn's seat is expected to maintain near-invincibility, in part because the Republicans are expected to draw the 6th District to include as many Democratic strongholds as possible to ensure the other six congressional districts go to GOP contestants.

Democrats are expected to bring a court challenge over the districts.

Adding influence

The Senate must still decide where to carve out the new 7th Congressional District. The state House plan puts it in Horry County, running along the state's northeastern border with North Carolina and capturing a big part of the Pee Dee.

The House plan pushes the Charleston-centric 1st District farther south.

The American Civil Liberties Union came up with a 7th District plan for the U.S. House that creates two districts with majority-black populations.

Meanwhile, Berkeley County is expected to pick up another seat in the state House, one of four new seats to be added to fast-growing areas. The House plan condenses eight less-populated districts into four to keep the total House seats at 124.

Protecting (some) incumbents

The maps are drawn to protect incumbents, or at least the incumbents that the legislative leadership wants to protect. The maps will have implications on whether some current lawmakers can get re-elected.

Take, for example, Rep. Patsy Knight, a St. George Democrat who represents Dorchester County. The seat Knight holds, District 97, will lose communities such as Harleyville that will be transferred to other adjoining districts.

Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter, D-Orangeburg, said the district lines are manipulated to make white Democrats an extinct voting bloc by potentially stripping them of the ability to sway elections in some districts.

The Post and Courier - Remap will shake up S.C. political picture: Printer-friendly versio... Page 3 of 4

She offered an alternative plan that gave rural South Carolina more voting influence. "There are fewer competitive seats and more and more people are being marginalized," Cobb-Hunter said.

Locally, Districts 115 and 119 were tweaked. The seats are held by Charleston Reps. Peter McCoy, a Republican, and Leon Stravrinakis, a Democrat, respectively. The changes are expected to make McCoy's district more solidly Republican and Stravrinakis' more Democratic.

Historically speaking

South Carolina's past violations of the Voting Rights Act mean the U.S. Department of Justice, or the court, will have to OK the new districts to make sure the state gives equal voice to black voters.

In drawing the districts, the legislators had to be careful not to eliminate any districts that have a majority of black voters. Legislators use demographic data to make their decisions.

The House plan loses one majority-black district but adds two, bringing the statewide total in the 124-member House to 30. Locally, Rep. Robert Brown, D-Hollywood, will see his District 116 flop from a majority of black voters to a white majority. That district includes parts of Charleston and Colleton counties.

Brown fought the redistricting plan. He argued that it sets the state back racially.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report. Reach **Yvonne Wenger** at 803-926-7855, follow her on Twitter at [@yvonnewenger](#) and read her [Political Briefings blog](#).*

Want to speak up?

What: The Senate is holding a public hearing to receive input on how to draw new Congressional districts. Two primary proposals are on the table.

The Senate Judiciary Committee drew one version of the map very similar to the House plan with the new 7th District taking in Horry County, parts of the Pee Dee and counties along the North Carolina border.

Another version puts the new 7th Congressional District in the south central part of the state with a large part of the Lowcountry, including Berkeley, Dorchester and Colleton counties. That proposal leaves most of Charleston and Horry counties in the 1st District.

When: 5 p.m. today .

Where: Room 308 of the Gressette Building on Statehouse grounds in Columbia.

For more information: The House redistricting website is <http://redistricting.schouse.gov/>. The Senate redistricting website is <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov/>.

The Post and Courier - Remap will shake up S.C. political picture: Printer-friendly versio... Page 4 of 4

Copyright © 1995 - 2011 Evening Post Publishing Co..