

Exhibit 18

Media Reports

The Post and Courier

SC senators approve new election district lines

By JIM DAVENPORT
Associated Press
Thursday, June 16, 2011

COLUMBIA — The Senate finalized new district lines for their 46 seats on Thursday with a near-unanimous vote.

The 37-1 vote sends the Senate redistricting plan to the House for approval. The House gave its redistricting plans final approval Wednesday. Looming ahead is Senate debate on a U.S. House redistricting plan that will decide where a new district is drawn.

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 take the more traditional approach of having the U.S. Justice Department review the plan.

The only dissenting Senate plan vote came from Sen. Ralph Anderson, a black Greenville Democrat. Anderson told senators his district would fall to 43 percent black voters.

"The chances are we will lose Senate District 7 as a minority district," Anderson said.

Anderson conceded his district had never been majority black. But he said population shifts would make it harder to win.

Anderson wasn't the only senator perturbed about how boundaries were drawn. Sen. Dick Elliott said his North Myrtle Beach district was drawn in a way that separates the Democrat from rural communities along the state line with North Carolina.

Elliott said by the time he had a chance to offer suggestions on how his district should be drawn, other senators had already cut up his district.

"Everybody had a cut at the apple besides me," he said.

The Senate has not yet approved a plan for where the new U.S. House seat will go. A public hearing is scheduled for Monday.

Republicans hold five of the state's six current U.S. House seats. The plan the House approved Wednesday would nearly assure Republicans pick up a sixth seat with a district spanning Georgetown and Horry counties, as well as counties near South Carolina's northeastern boundary with North Carolina.

Copyright © 1995 - 2011 Evening Post Publishing Co..

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."

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

The Post and Courier

SC Senate panel to redraw election district lines

Associated Press
Tuesday, June 7, 2011

COLUMBIA — South Carolina senators will hear testimony on how the state's district lines should be redrawn.

A Senate Judiciary subcommittee will hear from the public on drawing lines for 46 state Senate seats as well as the U.S. House on Tuesday.

The meeting comes a day after the House Judiciary Committee approved new district line maps for 124 House seats and seven U.S. House seats.

Redistricting is required every 10 years to account for population growth and shifts. South Carolina grew enough since the last census to add a seventh U.S. House seat.

Copyright © 1995 - 2011 Evening Post Publishing Co..

S.C. Senate panel to redraw election district lines

By JIM DAVENPORT
PUBLISHED IN: POLITICS

COLUMBIA, S.C. South Carolina senators will hear testimony on how the state's district lines should be redrawn.

A Senate Judiciary subcommittee will hear from the public on drawing lines for 46 state Senate seats as well as the U.S. House on Tuesday.

The meeting comes a day after the House Judiciary Committee approved new district line maps for 124 House seats and seven U.S. House seats.

Redistricting is required every 10 years to account for population growth and shifts. South Carolina grew enough since the last census to add a seventh U.S. House seat.

Related Stories

Related Images

South Carolina Senate panel to redraw election district lines

Associated Press

Tuesday, June 7, 2011

COLUMBIA, S.C. — South Carolina senators will hear testimony on how the state's district lines should be redrawn.

A Senate Judiciary subcommittee will hear from the public on drawing lines for 46 state Senate seats as well as the U.S. House on Tuesday.

The meeting comes a day after the House Judiciary Committee approved new district line maps for 124 House seats and seven U.S. House seats.

Redistricting is required every 10 years to account for population growth and shifts. South Carolina grew enough since the last census to add a seventh U.S. House seat.



© 2011 Scripps Newspaper Group — Online

SC Senate panel to redraw election district lines

Posted: 1 hr, 41 mins ago

[save](#) [send](#) [print](#)

Read more: [Local State Politics](#) [Senate Judiciary Subcommittee](#) [Redistricting](#)

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) -- South Carolina senators will hear testimony on how the state's district lines should be redrawn.

A Senate Judiciary subcommittee will hear from the public on drawing lines for 46 state Senate seats as well as the U.S. House on Tuesday.

The meeting comes a day after the House Judiciary Committee approved new district line maps for 124 House seats and seven U.S. House seats.

Redistricting is required every 10 years to account for population growth and shifts. South Carolina grew enough since the last census to add a seventh U.S. House seat.

(Copyright 2011 by The Associated Press. All Rights Reserved.)



SC Senate to Redraw Election District Lines

5:00 AM, Jun 7, 2011 | comments

Written by
Keshia Rice

FILED UNDER

News

, S.C. (AP) -- South Carolina senators will hear testimony on how the state's district lines should be redrawn.

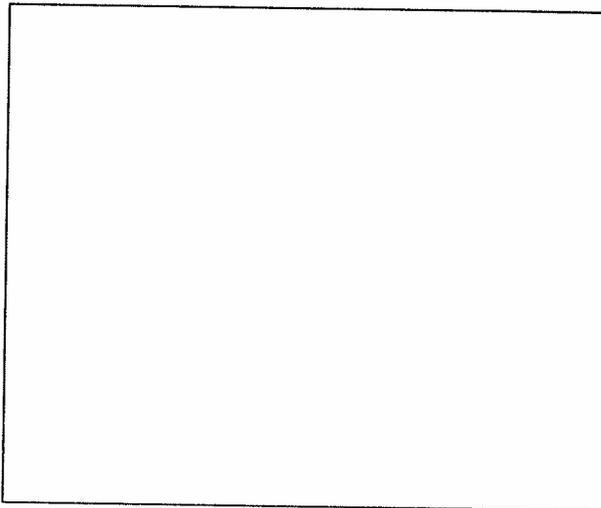
A Judiciary subcommittee will hear from the public on drawing lines for 46 state Senate seats as well as the U.S. House on Tuesday.

The meeting comes a day after the House Judiciary Committee approved new district line maps for 124 House seats and seven U.S. House seats.

Redistricting is required every 10 years to account for population growth and shifts. South Carolina grew enough since the last census to add a seventh U.S. House seat.

Selected for you by a sponsor: Who Viewed my LinkedIn Profile (and why it matters) (Lifetime Moms)

Advertisement



Print Powered By  Format Dynamics

<< Back



SC Senate panel to redraw election district lines

Associated Press - June 7, 2011 4:15 AM ET

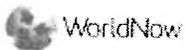
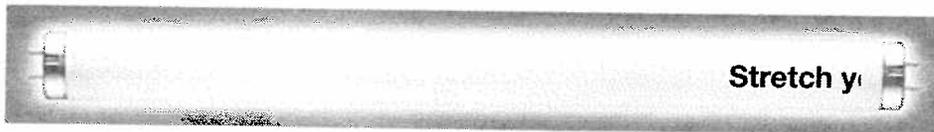
COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) - South Carolina senators will hear testimony on how the state's district lines should be redrawn.

A Senate Judiciary subcommittee will hear from the public on drawing lines for 46 state Senate seats as well as the U.S. House on Tuesday.

The meeting comes a day after the House Judiciary Committee approved new district line maps for 124 House seats and seven U.S. House seats.

Redistricting is required every 10 years to account for population growth and shifts. South Carolina grew enough since the last census to add a seventh U.S. House seat.

Copyright 2011 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2011 WorldNow and WMBF, a [Raycom Media Station](#). All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).



MAP QUEST: Two senators could remain under draft redistricting plan

By GENE CRIDER, T&D City Editor | Posted: Tuesday, June 7, 2011 2:00 am

A new redistricting plan tinkers with the edges of local Senate districts but could preserve Orangeburg County's two resident senators.

"I think it's a good plan for Orangeburg," said Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg. He sits on the Senate Judiciary's Redistricting Subcommittee.

Not only does the plan continue to give Orangeburg County the possibility of having two resident senators, it preserves the two as rural districts, he said.

South Carolina lawmakers are redrawing district lines to even out population differences following the latest census. The subcommittee's staff released its proposed changes last week.

Sen. John Matthews, D-Bowman, said the plan "is not the best plan, it's not the worst."

He said there are some issues that need to be worked out as the plan moves through the legislative process.

Even so, "I understand the district had to pick up population and when you have to pick up population, you have to go somewhere."

In his case, District 39 will shift out of Bamberg, Hampton and part of Colleton counties under the staff's plan. It will pick up parts of Calhoun and Berkeley counties, as well as more of Dorchester County.

Noting that he didn't have the plan in front of him, Matthews said he believed the racial makeup of the staff's plan is "borderline" but could meet Department of Justice standards. The voting-age population is about 44 percent white and 53 percent black.

He said the proposed district should meet the standard of keeping communities of interest together, because it's a rural area and the communities have had some relationship in the past.

Hutto's District 40 currently includes Orangeburg, Barnwell, Allendale and Bamberg counties. It will pick up the towns of Hampton and Walterboro under the staff plan.

The voting-age population is about 46 percent white and 50 percent black.

In the city "the parts of Orangeburg currently in District 40 are still in 40" under the plan, Hutto said. District 39 has a little less of Orangeburg.

The Senate staff plan places part of Calhoun County in Senate District 26, currently represented by Sen. Nikki Setzler, D-West Columbia.

As the staff plan moves through the Legislature, it may be changed some, Hutto said. Even so, "some variation of the plan you see now will be sent to Justice for preclearance."

The Senate's redistricting subcommittee will hold a public hearing on its plan at 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 7, in Room 308 of the Gressette Office Building in Columbia.

Contact the writer: gcrider@timesanddemocrat.com or 803-533-5570.



Sellers, Hutto get early say in redistricting

By PHIL SARATA, T&D Staff Writer | Posted: Sunday, May 15, 2011 3:30 am

After most state legislators head home, many weary from dealing with the budget, two local lawmakers will be knee deep in maps and Census data.

Rep. Bakari Sellers, D-Denmark, is a member of the South Carolina House Election Laws subcommittee responsible for drawing new lines for the chamber's 124 districts.

"It will be a long summer," Sellers said. "It is a complicated process, but we are excited about it.

"It's not about me but ensuring that, 10 years from now, the constituents in my district and those across South Carolina have the best representation possible."

Determining where the lines will go is the responsibility of Sellers' group and the Senate Redistricting subcommittee, of which state Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, is a member. Each subcommittee will also draw congressional district plans, including creation of South Carolina's seventh district.

According to 2010 Census, every local House district had either modest gains or lost population and both area Senate districts lost population. Sellers said the overall state population increase means the median number for each House district is 37,301 residents, although the final number can vary plus or minus 2.5 percent.

"Nine times out of 10, we will see these districts adding some new constituencies," Sellers said. There will be some new faces but not a lot.

"Everyone should realize that Orangeburg, Bamberg, Calhoun and Barnwell are very powerful counties, and understand how important they are to this debate. We will hopefully all have an influence on the process."

In 2000, the median House district population was 32,354, and 87,217 for Senate districts. The new Senate median is 100,552.

The congressional district median is 660,767. By federal law, each congressional district must contain the same number of residents with no variance.

Highlighting where areas of consensus and debate exist, staff will present the Senate Redistricting subcommittee a proposed plan the group may or may not accept. The process begins anew with the full Judiciary Committee. It will recommend redistricting plans for the full Senate to debate.

Hutto said staff could come back as early as this week with its initial update.

"The Senate agreed to a variance of plus or minus 5 percent," Hutto said. "Both my district and Sen. (John) Matthews' district are under the median, even with the variation. We will both have to pick up population.

"It's logical that both would shift a little to the east, where the growth has been, possibly Colleton, Hampton and Dorchester counties rather than Aiken or Calhoun."

The House will come back June 14-July 1 to consider the plans submitted by the House Judiciary Committee.

Sellers describes legislators' redistricting work as "a juiced up kindergarten class" because it only occurs once every 10 years.

"We will have a proposed map by the first of June," Sellers said. "We haven't had a subcommittee on the maps yet.

"The House has its own statisticians and demographers on staff to do this. It's still very much up in the air."

Rep. Jerry Govan, D-Orangeburg, said most of the growth has occurred in the Upstate, around Beaufort and in Horry County.

"From what I surmise, it is looking more like the new congressional district may be drawn along the coast and the Pee Dee area," Govan said. "The preliminary drawings I've seen also indicate there will be some realignment in the existing six congressional seats."

Conceding nobody has a firm idea at this point, House Minority Leader Rep. Harry Ott, D-St. Matthews, feels there won't be drastic changes.

"I like my district as it is, and I still expect it'll have parts of Orangeburg and Lexington counties," Ott said. "It depends on which direction it takes. The idea is to hold onto what you have and add onto that."

Whatever redistricting plan legislators ultimately approve, the potential for legal challenges always remains. The 2001 General Assembly plan was vetoed by then-Gov. Jim Hodges. Lawmakers overrode the veto. A three-judge U.S. District Court panel later ordered a redistricting plan for the House, Senate and Congress in March 2002.

Citing a need for another minority congressional district, Sellers said there are a lot of concerns.

"I want to make sure we don't split precincts, with voters from different districts in the same precinct," Sellers said. "The largest concern for me is making sure our districts are competitive."

"South Carolina is a primary state. In order to gain office, you have to really focus and win during the primaries. There are not many competitive November elections, and I want us to have them."

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

POLITICO



May 06, 2011

Categories:
South Carolina

Harpootlian: 'Rationale for these huge majority-minority districts is gone'¹

Richard Harpootlian, the South Carolina trial lawyer who is, again, chairman of the Democratic Party here, said today that he will fight to loosen the Voting Rights Act's restrictions on the role of race in drawing district lines in a bid to remake southern politics.

State politics from Florida through much of the South are characterized by districts like James Clyburn's in South Carolina, gerrymandered to be as heavily African-American as possible, and required to stay that way under a legal doctrine that bars "retrogression" -- that is, lowering the black share of a district. That system has been backed by black Democrats and by Republicans, as it tends to concentrate Democratic voters into smaller numbers of safe districts, rather than scattering them to make more, more competitive districts.

"Hopefully the Obama Justice Department will wake up and smell the coffee," Harpootlian said in an interview his Columbia office. "The rationale for creating these huge majority-minority districts is just gone."

"The election of Barack Obama and [African-American Republican South Carolina Rep.] Tim Scott have proved there's no reason to create these huge majority-black districts," he said,

Advertisement

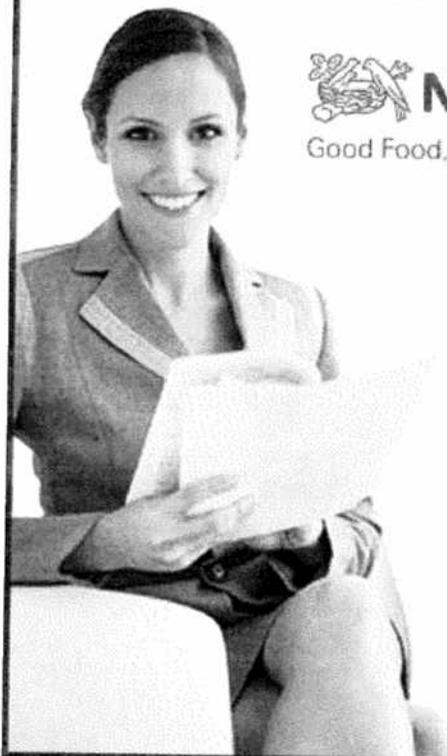
Did you know...

Nestlé employs more than **44,000** people in 47 states.

For more information go to CSV.NestleUSA.com



Nestlé
Good Food, Good Life



Print Powered By  Format Dynamics

POLITICO

citing the large shares of white votes that both got.

"Reapportionment could dramatically change the nature of districts in the South," he said.

Harpootlian said he expect the South Carolina Democratic Party, which is shut out of the redistricting process, to file suit against Republican lines, and that he hopes to litigate the matter up to a Supreme Court which has taken steps toward loosening the Civil Rights-era restrictions on retrogression.

Posted by Ben Smith 02:56 PM

Advertisement

Did you know...

Nestlé employs more than **44,000** people in 47 states.

For more information go to CSV.NestleUSA.com

 **Nestlé**
Good Food. Good Life



Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™

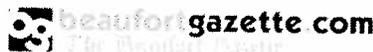
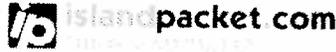
RSS MOBILE MY YAHOO! SUBSCRIBE E. EDITION NEWSPAPER

Vacation Delivery Stop | User's Guide | Contact Us | Forms



Serving Beaufort, Hilton Head Island and Bluffton South Carolina

other sites >



Login | Become a Member

Search

This Site Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH Go

carebuilder.com Find Post cars.com Find Sell apartments.com Find Post HomeFinder Find Sell vacapedia Vacation Rentals Classifieds Find stuff Sell stuff TODAY'S NEWSPAPER ADS
News Sports Entertainment Business Lowcountry Life Opinion Blogs Photos Vacation Deals Place An Ad
Local News Archives Obituaries Traffic Weather State National World Politics Technology NIE

HOME > NEWS > BEAUFORT NEWS

Parts of northern Beaufort County could get new state senator

By KYLE PETERSON kpeterson@beaufortgazette.com 843-706-8147
Published Thursday, June 2, 2011
7 Comments

Email Article | Print Article | Feeds | SHARE | Search the Archive

Related content:

Process to shuffle state Senate, House districts about to begin, April 1, 2011

For maps of the Senate's proposed districts, go to reporter Kyle Peterson's blog at:

Follow 'Eye on Beaufort County' on Twitter

@eyeonbeaufortco 82 followers

Get breaking news, story updates and alerts about fun things to do in Beaufort County by following Eye on Beaufort County on Twitter.

Tom Davis, R-Beaufort. "I think what you're looking at is fairly well representative of what's going to emerge."

Campsen said he has family in Beaufort and "will make every effort that I can to adequately serve the folks and be there" if the map is adopted.

Davis said GOP voters will find much to like in Campsen.

"Chip is very similar to me in terms of his conservative politics," he said.

Under the plan, Davis would still represent downtown Beaufort, Hilton Head Island and Daufuskie Island in the Senate. He would keep portions of Bluffton but would lose some areas south of the May River.

Slate Sen. Clementa Pinckney, D-Ridgeland, would pick up pieces of southern Bluffton but would lose St. Helena Island.

Pinckney said he would like to keep St. Helena, but said he will support the plan, which maintains his district's "rural, small-town" feel.

"It's never a perfect process; no one leaves 100 percent happy," he said. "But you know, it's the process."

Email Article | Print Article | Feeds | SHARE | Search the Archive

Like

Add New Comment

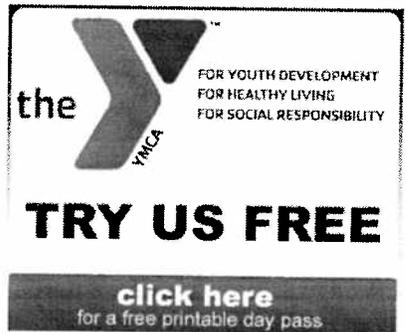
Login



Type your comment here.

Real-time updating is enabled. (Pause)

Sort by newest first



Showing 7 comments



eyesonbaystreet

The city of Beaufort should not be split. I fear we will not have good representation with a downtown senator and one for everyone else. Tom Davis should represent the entire city!

06/03/2011 05:05 PM Report Abuse

Like Reply



neworleansroader

Once again, Beaufort county is disrespected by the the mid-state and upstaters. I say we secede from the state, keep our tax dollars locally and eliminate this non-sense. Maybe we can invite Jasper County to join us, build our own port with private money and watch Charleston dry up when we take all the container business.

06/03/2011 11:22 AM 1 Like Report Abuse

Like Reply



markmax

WOW, if you think Beaufort County is divided now, wait till this happens.

06/03/2011 10:12 AM 1 Like Report Abuse

Like Reply



snobsbrother

Please, no pictures on how the sausage is made.

06/02/2011 10:32 PM 1 Like Report Abuse

Like Reply



ladyoftheriver

Amen!!! But no one ever said politics is pretty! I would hate to see Beaufort County split into three state Senate districts - we need cohesion and seniority in Columbia...what a mess! For Port Royal to be represented by someone from Charleston County wouldn't bode well for negotiations with SPA, I would think...not that those negotiations have been working so well anyway...what a mess...and we've still got the County Council/school board realignments to go through!

06/03/2011 08:53 AM in reply to snobsbrother Report Abuse

Like Reply



snobsbrother

You know you have a problem when you need to dial 1-843 to reach your State Senator.

06/03/2011 09:26 AM in reply to ladyoftheriver 1 Like Report Abuse

Like Reply



lowcorider

Would the Sen from I-95 please yield to the Sen from the IntraCoastal Waterway?

06/03/2011 06:41 AM in reply to snobsbrother 3 Likes Report Abuse

Like Reply

[Subscribe by email](#) [RSS](#)

Fairfield Inn & Suites
Marriott Quality.
Fairfield Value. Free
WiFi and Breakfast.
Book Now.
Marriott.com

Refinance Rates at 2.65%
\$160,000 mortgage
\$659/mo. No
Obligation. Get a Free
Quote! (3.0%apr)
LendGo.com/Mortgage

The Town
Get The Latest News,
Photos & More On Your
Favorite Actors and
Shows.
movies.isish.com

More Online

News
Business
Obituaries
Opinion
State
Nation
World

Sports
Letters to the Editor
Packet Blogs
Gazette Blogs
Entertainment
Movies
Horoscopes

Weather
Traffic
Stocks
Announcements
Lottery
Sun City Packet
Bluffton Packet

Jobs
Cars
Real Estate
Classifieds
Newspaper Ads
Vacation
Restaurants

Ads by Yahoo!



[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>

[<< Back](#)



SC Senate approves redrawn election maps

Posted: Jun 15, 2011 12:19 PM EDT

Updated: Jun 15, 2011 12:20 PM EDT

By JIM DAVENPORT
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, SC (AP) - South Carolina senators have given key approval for new district lines for 46 Senate seats.

The 33-0 vote Wednesday came with little debate after senators approved minor changes to the plan.

A final vote is expected Thursday.

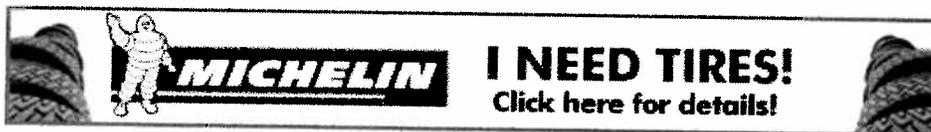
Redistricting is required every 10 years so political boundaries are adjusted to Census population shifts. The plans require federal approval.

The American Civil Liberties Union proposed last week drawing those maps to create a new black majority district and to protect a second district with a black majority.

But senators rejected those proposals. The plan the Senate is considering has nine black majority districts instead of the 11 the ACLU wanted.

The House also gave final approval Wednesday to a redistricting plan for its 124 seats.

Copyright 2011 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.



[Back](#)

Thursday, Jun 16, 2011

Posted on Wed, Jun. 15, 2011

SC Senate OKs new lines, tackles Congressional lines next

The S.C. Senate approved new district lines for state Senators today on a unanimous vote with little debate.

The Senate voted 33-0 to approve a draft plan for the once-every-ten-years redistricting. Final approval could come Thursday.

The Senate must still debate new Congressional lines, which need reworking to add a seventh district to accommodate the state's growing population. The Senate is holding a public hearing in Columbia Monday afternoon and expects to introduce their plan next week.

The House wrapped up debate on their redistricting plan today, which anchors a new Congressional district in Horry County. Senators are debating whether the new district should be centered in Beaufort County or somewhere else. Meanwhile, the American Civil Liberties Union has proposed adding a second Congressional district with a majority black population.

The House and Senate must agree on a compromise plan, which must be signed by Gov. Nikki Haley. The plans must then be approved by the U.S. Justice Department. An expected lawsuit could mean a panel of judges eventually draw the new lines.

— John O'Connor

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

GreenvilleOnline.com

Senate OKs new lines for election districts

By Jim Davenport • The Associated Press •
Published: June 15, 2011 1:00PM

COLUMBIA — South Carolina senators have given key approval for new district lines for 46 Senate seats.

The 33-0 vote today came with little debate after senators approved minor changes to the plan.

A final vote is expected Thursday.

Redistricting is required every 10 years so political boundaries are adjusted to Census population shifts. The plans require federal approval.

The American Civil Liberties Union proposed last week drawing those maps to create a new black majority district and to protect a second district with a black majority.

But senators rejected those proposals. The plan the Senate is considering has nine black majority districts instead of the 11 the ACLU wanted.

The House also gave final approval today to a redistricting plan for its 124 seats.

Advertisement



COMING SOON!

hatching deals daily

50-90% off local dining, shopping, and more

Sign up now at DealChicken.com

Print Powered By  Format Dynamics



Senate, House Move Forward with Redistricting

5:35 PM, Jun 15, 2011 | comments

Written by
Jennifer Bellamy

FILED UNDER
News

Columbia, SC (WLTX, AP) - State senators made short work of their debate on new district lines Wednesday at the State House.

The new lines will be for the 46 senate seats and is required every ten years to adjust to the census population shifts.

The ACLU wanted 11 black majority districts; the Senate has only created 9.

The house gave final approval for the redistricting plans for their 124 seats.

In a unanimous vote of 33 to 0 senators approved their new district maps.

Senate Pro Tem Glenn McConnell, a Republican from Charleston County says a subcommittee has spent the last 3 months working on redistricting. They've held public hearings and received input from communities and senators. Lawmakers say the plan received bi-partisan support.

"This is my third cycle with senate

reapportionment, and in all the years I've been here I have never seen a plan go through with the unanimity that this plan did. Usually we're here for days and days with filibustering, and instead it was like a cheering squad just pushing it forward," said McConnell.

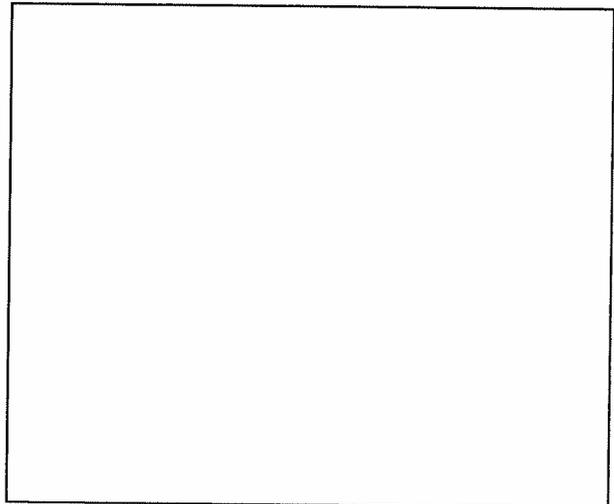
"We have certain districts that had to be protected because of the voter's rights act and we obviously had to make sure that we protected those district we had to make sure we don't retrogress, every person have one vote and I think that we satisfied all of those criteria," said Sen. GeraldMalloy, a Democrat from Darlington County.

McConnell expects senators to give their plan final approval Thursday.

After that the House and Senate will approve each others plans before sending them to the governor. From there they'll head to the U.S Department of Justice for clearance.

With Senate and House plans on their way

Advertisement



Print Powered By Format Dynamics

McConnell says they could begin work on the congressional district map Wednesday afternoon.

Increased population numbers from the census have given South Carolina a seventh congressional seat, but that leaves lawmakers with a big question.

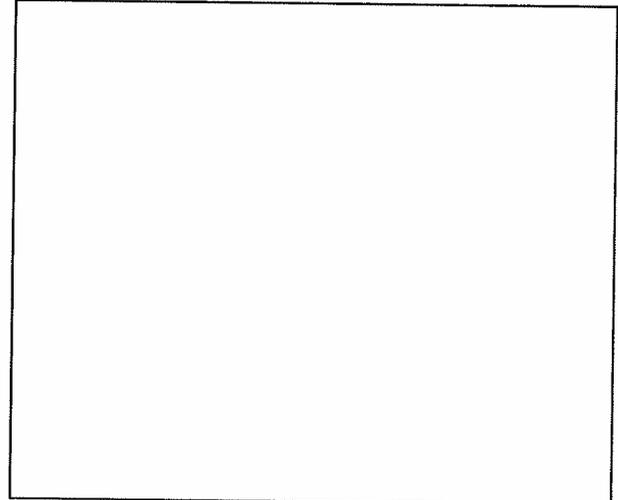
"Where that seventh district goes, that is gonna create a hot fight, I mean a hot fight. Should it go to the north, to the south, or should it go inland, there are different maps out there," said Sen. Glenn McConnell. "Which I think could potentially be the shootout at the O.K. Corral. It's going to be hot and contested and unless we find a miracle plan in the mean time."

If you have some thoughts on where that seventh congressional seat should go you can let lawmakers know during a public hearing. It's set for Monday at 5 p.m. at the Gressette Office Building, Room 308 on the state house grounds.

Click here or more information on how you can have your voice heard.

Selected for you by a sponsor:

Advertisement



Print Powered By  Format Dynamics™

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.

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

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>

Friday, Jun 10, 2011

Posted on Fri, Jun. 10, 2011

Senate leader defends plan to eliminate one minority district

By JIM DAVENPORT
The Associated Press

The Senate's top officer said Thursday he can defend a redistricting plan that eliminates a majority black district, in part because he thinks race should not be the only factor when drawing new lines for legislative districts.

By a unanimous vote, the Senate Judiciary Committee approved new district lines for 46 state Senate seats, including nine districts where blacks are the majority.

The American Civil Liberties Union had wanted to preserve an existing minority district and add one more. The group's state executive director, Victoria Middleton, said its proposal was more in line with the Voting Rights Act.

Redistricting plans have to meet federal standards to ensure they don't discriminate against minorities in states with a history of inequitable treatment of blacks. S.C. 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.

Middleton said the plan heading to the Senate doesn't meet federal standards, adding, "If it passes, it is likely we would comment to the DOJ about it."

Federal law requires redrawing election district lines every 10 years to reflect population growth and shifts in the census.

State Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell, the Senate redistricting committee's chairman, said the plan approved meets federal standards.

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

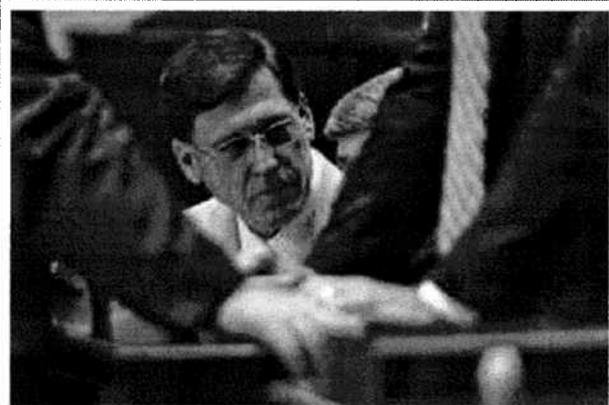
"We think it's defensible," said McConnell, R-Charleston. "The problem is there's a whole chunk of population up there that's got to go somewhere. You cannot make race the primary and sole factor."

The House Judiciary Committee on Monday approved district lines for its 124 seats. Their plan collapsed four Democratic districts into two and four Republican districts into two.

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

Much of the attention then will be put on plans for a new, seventh U.S. House seat.

The Senate Judiciary Committee won't begin discussing its version of the U.S. House plan until sometime next week at the earliest.



South Carolina Sen. Glenn McConnell (R-Charleston) center

- Erik Campos/ecampos@thestate.com /Erik Campos

While the plan for Senate districts might sail through, McConnell said the U.S. House plan won't. It is "going to be controversial. I think it's going to take some time. And I think it could become very contested," McConnell said.

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

The Post and Courier

McConnell defends redistricting plan

Friday, June 10, 2011

COLUMBIA — State Sen. Glenn McConnell said Thursday he can defend a redistricting plan that eliminates a majority black district, in part because he believes race should not be the only factor when drawing new lines.

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved new district lines for 46 state Senate seats with a unanimous vote, with nine districts where blacks are the majority.

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

McConnell, the committee's chairman and the Senate's president pro tem, said the plan approved meets federal standards. McConnell said the minority district that would become majority white covers Fairfield and Chester counties.

'We think it's defensible,' said McConnell, R-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.'

Copyright © 1995 - 2011 Evening Post Publishing Co..

<http://www2.scnow.com/news/grand-strand/2011/feb/28/grand-strand-represented-state-redistricting-commi-ar-1517851/>



Published: February 28, 2011

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

Grand Strand represented on state redistricting committee

By Press Release

COLUMBIA - SC Senator Glenn McConnell (R-Charleston), chairman of the S.C. Senate Judiciary Committee, announced the members who will serve on the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee Monday.

In addition to Senator McConnell, who chairs the subcommittee, they are: Senator Robert Ford, D-Charleston, Senator Larry A. Martin, R-Pickens, Senator C. Bradley Hutto, D-Orangeburg, Senator Gerald Malloy, D-Darlington, Senator Raymond E. Cleary, III, R-Georgetown, and Senator Phillip W. Shoopman, R-Greenville.

Senator McConnell stated, "I have worked hard to establish a bipartisan subcommittee who will work together. The members bring to this subcommittee a wide range of different experiences and perspectives. I am confident that our work will facilitate a redistricting process that is fair and equitable to all South Carolinians."

The subcommittee will hold an organizational meeting at 10:00 am, on March 2, 2011, in Room 105 Gressette Building.

Districts for the state legislature and the U.S. House of Representatives are redrawn every ten years after the census is taken to meet the requirements of federal law. This process ensures that members of the S.C. General Assembly and the U.S. House of Representatives are elected from districts with approximately the same population.

The public is urged to attend the public hearings that will be held across the state. A schedule of the public hearings with the dates, locations, and times will be announced in the near future.

For additional information about the public hearings, redistricting subcommittee meetings, and other information related to the 2011 Senate Redistricting process, please visit the Senate Redistricting website at: <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov>.

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

<http://www2.scnow.com/member-center/share-this/print/?content=ar1517851>

3/1/2011

Hutto: Remapping should respect community ties

By PHIL SARATA, T&D Staff Writer | Posted: Tuesday, March 1, 2011 6:15 am

Keeping communities of interest together and precinct lines intact are priorities for the upcoming state redistricting, state Sen. Brad Hutto said.

The Orangeburg Democrat is one of seven lawmakers named to the Senate Redistricting Subcommittee by Sen. Glenn McConnell, who will serve as chairman. Comprised of four Republicans and three Democrats, the group will hold its first meeting March 2.

Hutto served on the last committee that redrew congressional and state Legislature district lines. Federal law requires redistricting following the new census to ensure lawmakers are elected from districts with approximately the same population.

Hutto said the process needs to be "as fair as possible." However, that requires going beyond geographical boundaries.

"In some cases, it goes to the nature of the community and trying to keep people with the same interests together," Hutto said. "As much as possible, we want to keep people who shop and go to school in the same area together, so there is some cohesiveness.

"To the extent we are able, I want to avoid voter confusion by keeping precinct lines as unchanged as possible. Neighborhoods and municipalities must be kept as whole as possible. There is no reason to divide a small town like Springfield or small counties like Saluda, which has three different Senate districts."

Part of the process includes determining where population has risen and fallen in the past decade.

"We have constitutional guidelines, the Voting Rights Act, county lines, precinct lines and other factors we must consider," Hutto said. "After that, we draw the district lines as best we can. Even the districts that are right on target have to have some movement."

Lawmakers must come up with redistricting plans for congressional, S.C. House and S.C. Senate seats. The plans must be approved by the U.S. Department of Justice.

At least four public meetings will be scheduled across South Carolina so citizens can offer input, Hutto said. The dates and places will be announced in the near future.

"We will have the precinct lines in a week or two," Hutto said. "We will try to have the map done by the time we leave Columbia in June."

"These lines will be the ones on which the 2012 election will be based. We must have that in place before filing starts."

This year, South Carolina will add a seventh congressional district. Hutto feels discussions over where to place the new district won't affect local citizens.

"There are already groups pushing for where they would like it to be," Hutto said. Second District Congressman "Joe Wilson will have to lose some people because that district has too many."

The process of redistricting also involves local government. Hutto said county council and school district lines will need to be redrawn based on the Census figures.

"We need input from the community," Hutto said. "If for some reason the current lines are not conducive to good government or confusing for people, then that's what we need to know."

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

<http://www2.wspa.com/news/2011/mar/02/sc-redistricting-process-gets-underway-ar-1528269/>



Published: March 02, 2011

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

S.C. redistricting work begins

By David Stanton

South Carolina's Senate Subcommittee on Redistricting met for the first time Wednesday in Columbia.

It's the start of what figures to be an arduous and contentious process as members work to redraw state house, state senate and U.S. Congressional districts according to population.

Each of the districts must have, as nearly as possible, the same number of people. Redistricting is required every 10 years when new census numbers come out.

The process is even more complicated this year in South Carolina. Because the state has grown so much over the past decade it will add a seventh congressional district. Further complicating the deliberations is the fact the U.S. Justice Department must approve all changes to S.C. districts because of provisions in the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As a result of voting rights abuses in the state at that time, S.C. districts must be examined to insure fairness along racial lines.

In each of the past three decades, courts have ended up redrawing South Carolina's districts after one or more citizens challenged the districts drawn by the legislature. Current members of the legislature and congress naturally want to protect their own districts, and that is taken into consideration.

Sen. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, is chairman of the subcommittee. Other members are Sens. Robert Ford, D-Charleston, Larry Martin, R-Pickens, Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, Gerald Malloy, D-Hartsville, Ray Cleary, R-Georgetown, and Phillip Shoopman, R-Greenville.

Over the next several months, one of the busiest spots in the capital will be the map room, where much of the work is done. Speculation has already begun as to which area of the state will get the new congressional district. Early discussion has centered on the Grand Strand because of its rapid growth, but the Rock Hill area, south of Charlotte, has been part of the conversation, too, along with the upstate cities of Spartanburg and Greenville.

Although McConnell told the Associated Press he worked hard to put together a balanced subcommittee, it's widely expected that the new congressional district will be yet another Republican-controlled district. Five of the state's current congressmen are Republicans.

A series of public hearings on redistricting is planned beginning later this month. Meetings are

Hutto will again be key player in reapportionment

Posted: Wednesday, March 9, 2011 7:00 am

THE ISSUE: Reapportionment

OUR OPINION: Democratic senator should have 'safe' district

To the victors go the spoils. It is not a lot different in politics than war. In the case of Republicans and the state Legislature, there may be too many spoils, with the House GOP majority having grown in the election of 2010.

With mandatory redistricting now facing lawmakers in both the state House and Senate, there comes the task for Republicans of how to protect and grow their majority over 10 years. It comes down to a geographic puzzle. The best way to ensure GOP control is drawing districts that have major GOP majorities. That can mean cutting across county lines, even cutting counties apart.

At the same time, some districts are drawn with a heavy African-American presence, leaving those districts virtually assured of Democratic elected officials.

Two decades ago, when Democrats ruled in the Legislature, the power of redistricting was felt. An alliance between black lawmakers and the then-GOP minority produced the votes to create more electable districts for blacks. But that in turn almost killed the Democrats, particularly as a party from which a white candidate can be successful. Yet these are competitive districts - at least on paper.

Orangeburg Democratic Sen. Brad Hutto's District 40 takes in Orangeburg proper and western parts of the county. It includes nearly all of Bamberg County, and all of Barnwell and Allendale counties. He has GOP enclaves, but in general has used his political skills and support among the political establishment to win election since succeeding the late Marshall B. Williams in 1996.

Expect Hutto's district not to change radically when all is said and done with reapportionment. Senate leader Glenn McConnell has again put Hutto on the panel taking the first look at a new plan. Hutto has solid legal knowledge of the process and is a good choice for the reapportionment subcommittee. After all, Democratic input is needed in the process, though Republicans will ultimately decide on the maps.

Whether those maps follow Hutto's urging of holding together communities and counties remains to be seen.

New congressional district should be rural, Sellers says

By PHIL SARATA, T&D Staff Writer | Posted: Monday, March 21, 2011 6:15 am

Securing South Carolina's new 7th Congressional District is a possibility one area legislator wants to explore as the House begins its reapportionment process.

Rep. Bakari Sellers, D-Denmark, sits on Election Laws, a five-member subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee. The group, headed by Ways and Means Chairman Rep. James Harrison, R-Richland, will submit plans to redraw House and congressional district lines.

Barring any outside challenges, the new districts will be set for the 2012 election. Sellers said part of that is an extra South Carolina congressional district.

"My focus is Bamberg, Allendale, Barnwell and all the small communities in the surrounding area," Sellers said. "I want to examine if we can get the new congressional district for our area.

"I want people in these rural areas to have due process and equality in voting and representation."

Nine public meetings across the state have been scheduled to gather input from citizens on where to redraw district lines. Sellers said one of those meetings will take place in Denmark April 12.

"I want people to come out and be a part of the process," Sellers said. "We did that on purpose, scheduling the meeting in Denmark, so people in the rural areas will have a voice.

"Come out and support the legislative delegation and the subcommittee. Help us keep communities of interest together."

Sellers noted the 2010 Census figures upon which the new reapportionment plans will be based won't be received for about two weeks. New congressional, House and Senate district line plans must be completed by June for submission to the U.S. Justice Department for final approval.

Redistricting every 10 years using U.S. Census figures is mandated by federal law. The process ensures lawmakers are elected from districts with approximately the same population.

State Sen. Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, sits on the Senate Redistricting subcommittee.

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

SC will get a seventh congressional district, but no one's sure where the boundaries will fall

By Stephen Largent
stephen.largent@sh.com

Published: Friday, February 11, 2011 at 3:15 a.m.

South Carolina's politicians are gearing up for a redistricting process that will add a seventh congressional district and likely shore up or strengthen Republican influence statewide.

But redistricting cannot begin until the U.S. Census Bureau releases full population results for South Carolina, and just when that release will occur is a guessing game.

The bureau, which began releasing the first round of state results last week, will only say that it plans to offer full results for every state by April 1.

What will follow could be a political donnybrook or a nonpartisan process of designing new congressional, state and local districts using solely the new population numbers for guidance. It depends on whom you ask.

Some states use independent redistricting commissions to create new district lines, but the Palmetto State relies on subcommittees, whose members are chosen by the chairmen of the state House and Senate judiciary committees.

Republican and Democratic caucuses in both the House and Senate, the Legislative Black Caucus, state demographers, redistricting consultants, as well as outside groups such as the increasingly influential S.C. Policy Council, are also likely to play a role, political analysts said.

Republicans control both houses of the General Assembly and the Governor's Office.

Because of the Voting Rights Act, aimed at addressing past discrimination in the South, the U.S. Department of Justice — which state Republicans are quick to point out is controlled by an attorney general appointed by Democratic President Barack Obama — must preclear South Carolina's new district lines before they can become official.

"This is an absolutely partisan, gerrymandering free-for-all," said Scott Huffmon, a political scientist at Winthrop University.

"We should expect this to really be defined by partisan politicking. Any change in population counts will be secondary, but there must be some geographic logic."

Wesley Donehue, political director for the state Senate GOP caucus, offered a different take, saying the population numbers themselves will dominate the redistricting process.

"There's not a whole lot that politics can play in it," he said.

COASTAL SEAT

There is some agreement across party lines that the process is likely to yield a new congressional seat along the coast, perhaps anchored by a growing Horry County.

Early population estimates have pegged Charleston, Beaufort and York counties as the other areas of the state with the most growth since the last census.

The biggest question about redistricting in the state, said David Wasserman, House editor for the Cook Political Report, is whether DOJ will require the redistricting subcommittees to form a second so-called majority-minority congressional district.

Such a scenario likely would result in a split of the current 6th Congressional District held by Democratic U.S. Rep. James Clyburn.

Whether it's possible to create a second majority-minority district without creating an excessively awkward-shaped district won't be known until the census population numbers are released.

The creation of a second majority-minority district would be made more challenging by the dilution of the state's African-American population, according to Clemson University political scientist David Woodard.

In 1950, Woodard said, 21 of South Carolina's 46 counties had majority-black populations, compared with just nine counties today.

He said the exodus of African-Americans is a phenomenon shared by the 11 states of the "Old Confederacy."

UPSTATE SCENARIOS

Another question is whether the whole of Greenville and Spartanburg counties will remain together in a new congressional district as they are in the current 4th District seat held by U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-Spartanburg.

Wasserman, of the non-partisan Cook Political Report, has laid out two scenarios based on population estimates of what the new S.C. congressional map could look like, and both versions include the southern half of Greenville County in a separate, northwestern congressional district.

GREENVILLE GROWING

Greenville's population is growing at a faster rate than Spartanburg's.

"One of them (Greenville and Spartanburg counties) would have to shed some residents," Wasserman said of the new state congressional map.

"I would assume that it would be Greenville."

A new congressional district anchored by all of Spartanburg County and containing just a portion of Greenville County would give Spartanburg voters a stronger voice in congressional elections than in the past and likely shore up Gowdy's base of support.

Some analysts said splitting up the counties is unlikely, and according to one state representative, such a decision would be unwise.

"The problem is that Greenville and Spartanburg are locked in a perpetual orbit in the eyes of the rest of the state," said Huffmon, the Winthrop political scientist.

State Rep. Dan Hamilton, R-Greenville, said it makes sense to keep the whole of Greenville and Spartanburg counties paired up in a congressional district because of the shared interests of the counties.

"You have the I-85 corridor, the airport and the manufacturing base," Hamilton said.

"Ideally, they'll stay together."

Home / News / Local

Census spurs concern on rural districts' interests

- Story
- Discussion
- Image (2)

Census spurs concern on rural districts' interests

By PHIL SARATA, T&D Staff Writer The Times and Democrat | Posted: Thursday, March 24, 2011 3:00 am | (1) Comments

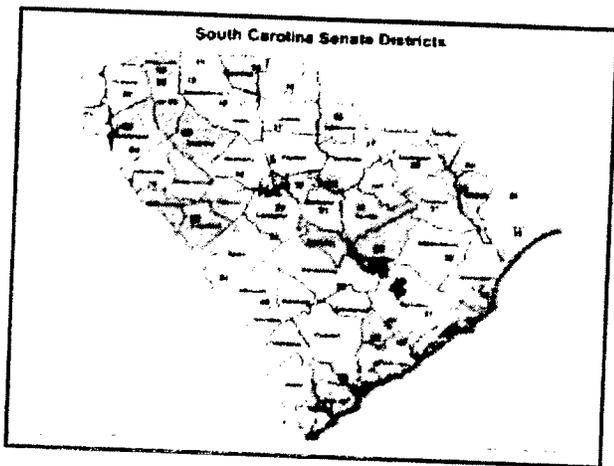
Font Size:

Default font size

Larger font size

• 1 retweet

• Recommend 4 recommendations. Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.



 A map of South Carolina's Senate districts, as they look now. They are expected to change as a result of the 2010 census.





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.

Copyright 2011 The Times and Democrat. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Posted in Local, Govt-and-politics, State-and-regional on *Thursday, March 24, 2011 3:00 am*

Updated: 11:59 pm. | Tags:

Share This Story

Print Email ShareThis

Other Stories

- Bel Canto singers to perform at OCFAC
- Free concert tonight at Fine Arts Center
- Clafin plans tea, women's conference
- Woman: Ex took heart, other stuff
- HORSES AND HATS: 49th running of Elloreë Trials is Saturday
- Officers honored for DUI arrests
- FESTIVAL OF COLORS: Indian community celebrates arrival of spring with 'Holi'



Want a Say In South Carolina's Redistricting?

6:11 PM, Mar 24, 2011 | 9 comments

Written by
Lauren Talarico

FILED UNDER

News

Columbia, SC (WLTX) - The 2010 census showed that South Carolina has grown by 15.3% since 2000, gaining the state a 7th Congressional seat. Now both House and Senate subcommittees are working to redraw district lines in order to figure out where that seat should go.

Although South Carolina is the 10th fastest growing state in the country, not all counties are growing. In fact, the population has gone down in twelve counties, including Calhoun and Lee in the Midlands. That has some concerned that the rural areas of the state will not be properly represented.

According to Dr. Jerry Mitchell, a South Carolina cultural geographer at the University of South Carolina, people are leaving rural counties to move to urban areas because that's where the jobs are. Population has a lot to do with who gets that congressional seat.

Democratic Senator Brad Hutto of

Orangeburg County sits on the redistricting subcommittee. Hutto said that although it's too early to say anything for sure, it's likely that the 7th congressional seat would be on the coast because that's where there has been a lot of growth.

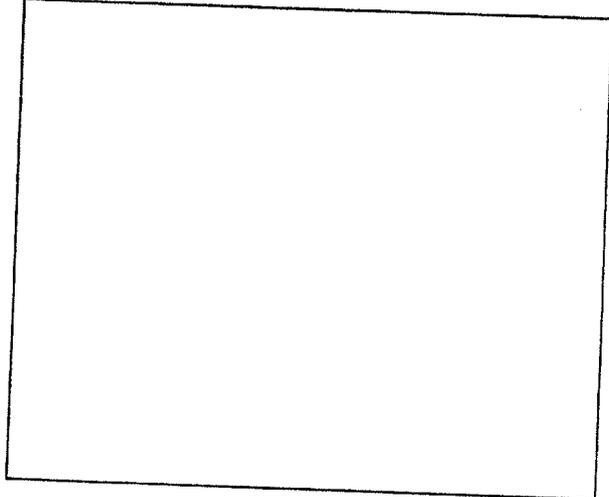
The lines have to be drawn by April so that they can be submitted to the Justice Department for review. Citizens can begin filing to run for office as early as March 2012.

But South Carolinians do have a say. Over the next couple of weeks there will be a series of public meetings including one on Thursday night in Sumter. It's from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Central Carolina Technical College.

For more information about future meetings,

Selected for you by a sponsor:

Advertisement



Print Powered By Dynamics

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



Rural counties have tough road in redistricting

T&D Staff | Posted: Sunday, March 27, 2011 5:45 am

THE ISSUE: Reapportionment; OUR OPINION: Politics, population reduce influence for Orangeburg, rural counties

When South Carolina was creating a majority-black congressional district after the 1990 Census, we argued that Orangeburg County should be the centerpiece.

As a majority-black county with urban and rural characteristics, Orangeburg County has a natural relationship with neighboring rural counties. The concept was to make those counties part of the locally based district, and as entire counties.

The resulting 6th District district that has been represented by Congressman James Clyburn since 1992 did not look like we'd hoped. Orangeburg County and Calhoun County were divided among Clyburn's district, which is a sprawling creation that extends from the Lowcountry into the Midlands, and the 2nd District, which extends from Congressman Joe Wilson's Lexington home base all the way to Hilton Head Island.

State Sens. John Matthews and Brad Hutto from Orangeburg County, along with Rep. Bakari Sellers of Denmark, have stressed that pending reapportionment should not result in even further loss of influence for rural areas. We echo their sentiment but fear that rural areas are going to suffer in the face of growth in urban locations from Columbia to the coast. Rural counties that have lost population stand a good chance of being attached to urban-based districts and likely even will be split among districts.

Matthews believes Orangeburg will be a key player in the redrawn 6th District, but the district likely will include Richland County. That will make Columbia the centerpiece. Such a district may be inevitable, but it should include all of Orangeburg and all of Calhoun. Splitting the two counties is simply further diluting the impact of rural counties that need to have a place at the table.

Keeping rural counties whole within districts is likely the best that will be done with Republicans holding all the reapportionment cards with control of both the House and Senate in Columbia. It is the responsibility of state lawmakers to form the reapportionment plan in the wake of the 2010 Census. Each congressional and Statehouse district must be roughly the same size in population. Growth in South Carolina's population is resulting in the state getting a seventh congressional district, which means substantive changes.

Looking at the growth patterns and the politics, the most popular theory is that changes will most affect the coast. The 1st Congressional District that ranges from Charleston to the Grand Strand and Wilson's 2nd District have grown significantly. Each has at least 160,000 more people than the new ideal population of a congressional district, which is 660,766. A new 7th District could be created around Horry County and Pee Dee counties while the 1st District would extend toward the southern coast and take in part of what is now the 2nd District.

University of South Carolina political scientist Robert Oldendick told The State of Columbia that he expects the scenario of a new coastal district to play out. "It's pretty straightforward. I don't see major shifts coming."

Orangeburg and surrounding counties face long odds in any opposition to such a plan. Our region is the state's Democratic Party bastion. It is rural in an increasingly urbanized state. We can only hope for the best, encouraging our lawmakers and Congressman Clyburn to make every effort to keep our counties whole.

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

Posted: 11:54 AM Mar 30, 2011

Aiken County voters weigh in on S.C. redistricting plan

The census numbers are out and in South Carolina the population has grown, which means they receive one more congressional seat. One more seat though could effect how you're represented and voters are afraid of that.

Reporter: Ryan Calhoun
Email Address: Ryan.Calhoun@wrdw.com

 Click to play video



Like Sign Up to see what your friends like.

f

News 12 at 11 o'clock / Tuesday, March 29, 2011

AIKEN, S.C. -- The census numbers are out and in South Carolina the population has grown, which means they receive one more congressional seat. One more seat though could effect how you're represented and voters are afraid of that.

Members of the South Carolina redistricting committee are going from place to place listening to what voters want as they redraw the lines.

"I'd like to see more competitive districts," Ann Willbrand of Aiken said.

"I believe Aiken deserves representation from our senate districts," Jane Page Thompson of Aiken said.

First, voters discussed competitive districts.

"If you don't support the major party then you often don't get a chance to vote for somebody because they generally get to run unopposed in the general election," Willbrand said.

Willbrand's idea is for them to carve the lines to create more voting diversity between parties.

"At that point at least if there is a good candidate in the minority they have a fair chance of

running a good campaign and getting elected," Willbrand said.

Thompson wants changes to senate representation.

"I truly believe that with the population growth and increase in population that the portion of Aiken County and Edgefield County could be absorbed by Sen. Shane Massey and Sen. Greg Ryberg," Thompson said.

"I appreciate that people have liked what I've done," Sen Shane Massey of District 25 said. "But you can only represent so many people."

That target number he says is just over 100,000 people, but beyond senate representation many voiced their concerns about congressional representation. The state will be adding a 7th Congressional District.

"I want to make sure that the 3rd district keeps Aiken County because I think that's important for the other counties that I represent," Sen. Massey said. "I think it's important for McCormick, Edgefield and Saluda and even Abbeville and Greenwood."

"I'm very concerned that the 7th district for South Carolina will come and force congressional district 2 north and thereby taking Aiken County out of congressional district 3," Thompson said.

Some are scared it could effect SRS because instead of two congressman, they'd only have one.

Senate redistricting chairman Sen. Glenn McConnell says everything they said is going to base how they redraw the lines. They expect to have them done by May sometime and they say after that it heads to Washington for approval.

Have information or an opinion about this story? [Click here to contact the newsroom.](#)

Copyright WRDW-TV News 12. All rights reserved. This material may not be republished without express written permission.

Find this article at:

http://www.wrdw.com/politics/headlines/Aiken_County_voters__118891089.html

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

Copyright © 2002-2010 - Gray Television Group, Inc.



Thursday, March 31, 2011 | Greenville, South Carolina 45° Feels Like: 44° Overcast

NEWS

HOME | NEWS | STATE REGIONAL | GOVT POLITICS

S.C. Redistricting Work Begins, Meeting In Greenville Thursday

Recommend Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.

By [DAVID STANTON](#)
Published: March 31, 2011
Updated: March 31, 2011 - 6:16 AM

COLUMBIA, SC — South Carolina's Senate Subcommittee on Redistricting met for the first time Wednesday in Columbia.

It's the start of what figures to be an arduous and contentious process as members work to redraw state house, state senate and U.S. Congressional districts according to population.

Each of the districts must have, as nearly as possible, the same number of people. Redistricting is required every 10 years when new census numbers come out.

The process is even more complicated this year in South Carolina. Because the state has grown so much over the past decade it will add a seventh congressional district. Further complicating the deliberations is the fact the U.S. Justice Department must approve all changes to S.C. districts because of provisions in the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As a result of voting rights abuses in the state at that time, S.C districts must be examined to insure fairness along racial lines.

In each of the past three decades, courts have ended up redrawing South Carolina's districts after one or more citizens challenged the districts drawn by the legislature. Current members of the legislature and congress naturally want to protect their own districts, and that is taken into consideration.

Sen. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, is chairman of the subcommittee. Other members are Sens. Robert Ford, D-Charleston, Larry Martin, R-Pickens, Brad Hutto, D-Orangeburg, Gerald Malloy, D-Hartsville, Ray Cleary, R-Georgetown, and Phillip Shoopman, R-Greenville.

Over the next several months, one of the busiest spots in the capital will be the map room, where much of the work is done. Speculation has already begun as to which area of the state will get the new congressional district. Early discussion has centered on the Grand Strand because of its rapid growth, but the Rock Hill area, south of Charlotte, has been part of the conversation, too, along with the upstate cities of Spartanburg and Greenville.

Although McConnell told the Associated Press he worked hard to put together a balanced subcommittee, it's widely expected that the new congressional district will be yet another Republican-controlled district. Five of the state's current congressmen are Republicans.

A series of public hearings on redistricting is planned beginning later this month. Meetings are scheduled in both the Grand Strand and the Pee Dee.

For more information on redistricting, visit <http://redistricting.scsenate.gov/>.

Recommend Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.

Related

S.C. Redistricting 2011 Public Hearing Schedule

March 28 — Georgetown-Horry Technical College, Myrtle Beach

March 29 — Aiken Technical College, Aiken,

March 30 — York Technical College, Rock Hill,

March 31 — Greenville County Council Chambers, Greenville

April 4 — Technical College of the Low Country, Beaufort

April 5 — 105 Greasette Senate Office Building, Columbia

April 6 — Florence-Darlington Technical College, Florence

April 7 — Trident Technical College, Charleston

All meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. Additional meetings will be sc

...

[view less](#)

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

HOME NEWS SPORTS OBITUARIES OPINIONS LIFESTYLES ENTERTAINMENT FIND N SA

SEARCH HeraldOnline.com FOR

Submit Query

NEWS - LOCAL/STATE

SHARE

E-MAIL PRINT LARGER SMALLER BUZZ UP! COMMENTS

Published: Thursday, Mar. 31, 2011 / Updated: Thursday, Mar. 31, 2011 06:37 AM

Public offers redistricting requests for York Co.

State senators hear residents' preferences for election map that must be redrawn

By Don Worthington - dworthington@heraldonline.com

ROCK HILL -- Residents are best represented by people who live in their county, people told the state senators who will be redrawing South Carolina's political boundaries.

Residents of Union County, which is currently split into three state Senate districts, would like to be in one district.

Residents of Lancaster County, which is split into two Senate districts, want at least one Senate district to be mostly local.

Residents of York County want two Senate districts. The county is currently split into two districts, with Republican Sen. Wes Hayes living in Rock Hill.

Drawing a map to meet all those needs is almost next to impossible, said Sen. Glenn McConnell, chairman of the Senate's redistricting subcommittee and the president pro tem of the Senate.

It is too early, however, to tell just how the maps are changing. Wednesday's meeting at York Technical College by the Senate subcommittee was to set the criteria for how lines will be drawn. About 50 people attended.

But with York County's population growing by 37 percent, according to the 2010 Census, there will be changes in the legislative boundaries, said McConnell and Hayes.

Hayes' district is about 25,000 people over the optimal Senate district size of 100,522 people. The 16th District, which was represented by Mick Mulvaney before his election to Congress, is also about 25,000 over the ideal size.

York's growth may not, however, mean a new district for the county, said Hayes, who attended Wednesday's hearing but is not on the subcommittee. It is more likely that one of



Re
Sc
fra
Ch
fri
Re
W
tu
4
de
4
Sc
fra

the neighboring districts, such as Creighton Coleman's 17th District, which is mostly Chester and Fairfield counties, will increase its York presence.

Senators wants to know how much importance they should place on "communities of interest," areas that are bound by either political lines or common interests.

"The criteria for the lines is the building blocks of the plan," McConnell said.

York County, with about 226,000 residents, "should have two resident senators," said resident Don Long.

Residents of Tega Cay and Fort Mill continued their quest to have both communities in the same district. The Catawba River and Lake Wylie should be used as boundaries for the Senate districts, they said.

Terence Murchinson asked the senators to draw a district in York County where there would be the likelihood of a minority being elected. "If you don't bring it up now, when will change come?" Murchinson said.

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.

Showing 0 comments

Sort by newest first

[Subscribe by email](#) [RSS](#)

Real-time updating is **enabled**. (Pause)

Add New Comment

Login

Type your comment here.

SHOCKING\$25 Car Insurance
Auto Insurers are SCARED you will learn this secret.
News7BreakingNews

Lancaster County
Over 62? Secure Your Retirement With Your Home & Get Tax-Free Money
davickservices.com

Public Records
Instant public records search. Get current info, search for free!
countypublicrecords

Ads by Yahoo!

HOME

NEWS

SPORTS

OBITUARIES

OPINIONS

RSS MOBILE

MY YAHOO!

SUBSCRIBE

E - EDITION

NEWSPAPER

Let your tax bracket work for y

Serving Beaufort, Hilton Head Island and Bluffton, South Carolina



packet com



gazette com

Login | Become a Member

Search

careerbuilder.com

Find Post



Find Sell

apartments.com

Find Post

HomeFinder

Find Sell



News

Sports

Entertainment

Business

Lowcountry Life

Opinion

Blogs

Photos

Vacation

Local News

Archives

Obituaries

Traffic

Weather

State

National

World

Politics

Technology

NIE

HOME » OPINION » LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Districts should ensure leaders live among us

Published Friday, April 1, 2011

0 Comments

Email Article | Print Article | Feeds | SHARE | Search the Archive

About 50 people turned out for the S.C. Senate Redistricting Subcommittee public hearing Monday in Beaufort.

Sen. Glenn McConnell explained the regulations for redistricting: Each U.S. House of Representatives district must have about 660,767 people and each state Senate district must have about 100,552 people.

This makes it seem logical that Beaufort County would have one state senator, and we should have a U.S. House member representing the Lowcountry.

Since Beaufort and Jasper counties were among the state's fastest growing counties over the past decade, it would indicate that our new House member (S.C. will increase from six to seven representatives) should come from our area. This is not the case.

I had been aware that our state districts were gerrymandered to contain our minority population to a few districts, guaranteeing minority representation in Columbia, but giving the majority of the seats to Republicans. But as people from Colleton and Jasper counties pleaded for more representation, I realized the present system also guarantees power to the large city centers.

Logical redistricting might not represent our diverse population fairly, but it would make campaigning easier and less expensive, it would be less confusing to voters who sometimes vote in a different district than the person across the street, and it would assure that those who represent us also live among us.

For more information, check out redistricting.scsenate.gov. Your comments and ideas can be mailed to P.O. Box 142, Columbia, SC 29202.

WYFF4.com

Upstate Weighs In On Congressional Redistricting

Dozens Speak Out At Redistricting Hearing In Greenville

John Eby, WYFF News 4 Reporter

POSTED: 11:14 pm EDT March 31, 2011

UPDATED: 6:20 am EDT April 1, 2011

GREENVILLE, S.C. -- About 150 people crowded into Greenville County council chambers for a chance to weigh in on redistricting for congressional and state Senate districts in the Upstate.

The hearing was hosted by members of the senate subcommittee on redistricting, which is chaired by Sen. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston. Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, presided over the hearing in McConnell's absence.

Many of the people who addressed the panel weighed in on the fate of the 4th Congressional District, which covers Greenville, Spartanburg and Union counties.

According to the 2010 Census, Greenville and Spartanburg counties have grown to about 75,000 people over the limit for a single congressional district.

Out of more than 30 people who addressed the subcommittee, nine specifically requested that all of Greenville County remain in a single congressional district when new lines are drawn.

Several suggested that Greenville and Spartanburg counties should be split into separate districts.

"Greenville is the largest county in the entire state, and Spartanburg is the fourth largest county in the entire state," said Evert Headley of Traveler's Rest. "Just because they're next to each other, doesn't mean they shouldn't have their own congressional districts that they anchor."

Some suggested that the cores of the two counties be kept in one district while areas on the edges of the counties be sliced off into other districts.

"Greenville and Spartanburg have so much in common being two of the largest counties in South Carolina," said Clarence Echols of Greenville. "And then you have economic interests, the I-85 corridor."

Playing into the issue is the fact that South Carolina will add a 7th Congressional District this year.

"People recognize that we have a unique challenge. It really hasn't been faced in about 80 years in South Carolina," Martin said.

Martin also cautioned against jumping to conclusions about where the new lines will be drawn.

Related To Story



"You want to be as fair as you can be, but at this point, it's a little premature to start speculating where all that may be because we don't know yet," he said.

Martin said the Senate is trying to have the new lines drawn by June.

The subcommittee has already held hearings in Orangeburg, Sumter, Beaufort, Aiken and Rock Hill.

More hearings are scheduled for Conway, Columbia, Florence and Charleston.

Copyright 2011 by WYFF4.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

GreenvilleOnline.com

State urged not to divide Greenville in new political lines

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

Citizens and state officials urged lawmakers Tuesday 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 Format 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

Panel mulls state redistricting plans

4th Congressional District main focus for the Upstate

By Jason Spencer
jason.spencer@su.com

Published: Friday, April 1, 2011 at 3:15 a.m.

GREENVILLE — More than 200 people showed up before a Senate redistricting panel Thursday night to weigh in on how lines should be drawn to determine state and federal representation for the next 10 years.

The big question for the Upstate is: Will the 4th Congressional District remain intact?

"Most of us probably don't want it ... to be split," said Spartanburg County GOP Chairwoman LaDonna Ryggs. "But I don't see how they'll get around it."

The problem became a recurring theme in Greenville County Council Chambers, where four state senators held the sixth of 10 hearings to gather public input.

Currently, U.S. Rep. Trey Gowdy, a Spartanburg Republican, represents the 4th District, which includes all of Greenville, Spartanburg and Union counties, along with a small part of Laurens County. The seat was previously held by Bob Inglis, another Republican, but one from Travelers Rest in Greenville County.

But Greenville and Spartanburg counties are major population centers, places that have seen growth during the past 10 years.

2010 census population estimates awarded South Carolina a seventh congressional district, one more than the current six.

Each district should have about 667,000 people. That creates a problem: Greenville County has more than 450,000 people, while Spartanburg County has about 284,000.

One theme that emerged was splitting Greenville and Spartanburg, but keeping each county intact as an anchor in redrawn congressional districts.

"Greenville and Spartanburg have had a large influence in the state, both in the economic area and the political area. We bring a lot of diversity to the state. I don't want to see that influence diminished by cutting off a small section of either Greenville or Spartanburg and sending it off to another congressional district," said Evert Headley of Travelers Rest.

"...Let us go our separate ways, and maybe we can lead separately."

One Gowdy supporter from Greenville said he thought Greenville and Spartanburg should stay together, with any extra population shaved off from Spartanburg — just not Gowdy's neighborhood.

Some voiced concern about splitting Greenville and Spartanburg, making each an anchor in a congressional district composed of primarily rural counties. Doing so, they said, would dilute the voice of minorities.

George Ramsey, who works for Gowdy's office, attended Thursday's hearing but declined to comment.

The panel also heard concerns about the redrawing of state Senate lines. One man advocated one senator per county. Several seemed to want Senate districts to be within single counties, not split between different counties.

Sen. Larry Martin, R-Pickens, said the panel wanted to hear about communities of interest, in order to keep them together once lines begin being drawn.

A few comments were made to that effect.

"The thing we need to figure out is who has the most in common with who, and keeping neighbors together," said Bear Cheezem, a Clemson University student who grew up in Georgetown.

But the panel also heard many comments about the redistricting process itself, about equal representation and about the sheer political act that is redistricting.

Comments were made about discrimination against rural areas, or minority areas – particularly Hispanics, who saw a surge in population during the past 10 years in South Carolina.

Under the Voting Rights Act, South Carolina is one of a number of states whose redistricting plans must be approved by the U.S. Justice Department before being implemented.

Because the state is required to have minority-majority districts under the Voting Rights Act, and Republicans are in power in the Statehouse, where new lines will be drawn, most political observers have said white Democrats, particularly those from rural areas, are most in danger of being drawn out of their districts.

Some states have independent, apolitical commissions established to draw lines. South Carolina is not among them.

Martin said no redistricting plans had been drawn yet. A state House redistricting panel will hold its own public hearing in the Greenville County Council Chambers at 5:30 p.m. on April 13.

RSS MOBILE

MY YAHOO!

SUBSCRIBE

E-EDITION

NEWSPAPER

Sponsored Links



FOR SOME

ANN

NEW ARRIVALS ARE HERE

Serving Beaufort, Hilton Head Island and Bluffton, South Carolina



packet.com



gazette.com

Login | Become a Member

Search

careerbuilder.com

Find Post



Find Sell

apartments.com

Find Post

HomeFinder

Find Sell



News

Sports

Entertainment

Business

Lowcountry Life

Opinion

Blogs

Photos

Vacation

Local News

Archives

Obituaries

Traffic

Weather

State

National

World

Politics

Technology

NIE

HOME » NEWS » BEAUFORT NEWS

Will the county get a new U.S. representative? Only time - and redistricting - will tell

By KYLE PETERSON kpeterson@beaufortgazette.com 843-706-8147
Published Saturday, April 2, 2011
0 Comments

Email Article | Print Article | Feeds | SHARE | Search the Archive

Related content:

Census results make it official: South Carolina gains 7th congressional seat. Dec. 21, 2010

South Carolina might gain congressional seat in next census. Nov. 30, 2009

When the state legislature begins the process of redrawing congressional districts, some are speculating that Beaufort County will say good-bye to Rep. Joe Wilson.

And hello to Rep. Tim Scott, a freshman Republican from Charleston.

"The conventional wisdom seems to state that that's how it's going to be redrawn," said Scott's deputy chief of staff, Joe McKeown. "However, it is completely up to the state of South Carolina.

"Tim would absolutely love to represent the Beaufort area in Congress, and now we're in a wait-and-see mode."

Currently, Beaufort County voters are in the 2nd Congressional District, which extends along the Georgia border before curving into Columbia.

Wilson, R-West Columbia, said he enjoys representing Beaufort County, but he isn't wedded to specific district lines.

"My only desire is to ensure an open and fair process is observed," he said in a statement. "I look forward to working with both state and federal officials with regard to redistricting."

There isn't a strict timeline for redistricting, and the process can be derailed by a deadlocked legislature, a governor's veto, or the U.S. Department of Justice, which checks S.C. districts for compliance with the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

LAYERS OF SPECULATION

Who ultimately ends up representing Beaufort County -- Wilson, Scott or both -- will be determined by a series of events triggered by population shifts since the last redistricting 10 years ago.

First among them is determining where South Carolina's new congressional district will be drawn. The state will gain a seventh seat in Congress because of population growth shown by the 2010 census.

Some political watchers believe the most likely place to create the new district will be in Horry County, around Myrtle Beach.

State Sen. Tom Davis, R-Beaufort, said Horry County has grown so rapidly -- in both population and economic power -- that choosing it to anchor a new district is "a very compelling argument."

Horry County currently is in Scott's district.

Because districts are required to have about equal population, if Scott's district loses Horry County, he would need to add residents from other areas. The speculation is that Scott's district would extend down the coast to make up the difference, said Ken George, convention coordinator for the Beaufort County Republican Party.

"It is 100 percent driven by how many people does he lose by Myrtle Beach and, therefore, how many people does he have to pick up going south," George said.

BEST FOR RESIDENTS

Adding Beaufort County to a district that runs along the coast might make sense, George says.

"It is a coastal county that does have more in common with other coastal counties than it does with Lexington and some of the Midland counties," he said. "That's just a geographic fact."

At one point, much of the Lowcountry was united in a single coastal district, according to maps provided by the S.C. Office of Research and Statistics.

During the 1980s, Beaufort County was grouped with Colleton and Charleston counties.

McKeown said Scott's office sees the logic of that arrangement.

"Beaufort and Charleston indeed have a lot in common with each other," McKeown said.

Lines drawn after the 1990 census established what is roughly the current configuration, with the 2nd District snaking from Hilton Head to Columbia.

Sticking with Wilson could be beneficial for Beaufort County, Davis said, given the military's importance to the area and Wilson's position on the House Armed Services Committee.

Davis, who will vote on the redrawn maps when they are presented in the state Senate, said he wants to ensure that Beaufort County is not split between districts and that it ends up with only one congressman.

As to whether that representative is Wilson or Scott, he said he's fine with either one.

"I think they're both really good congressmen," he said. "So I think either way, Beaufort County makes out OK."

- [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.

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](#)
- [Harpoottlian 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](#)

The Post and Courier

Public input requested in shaping districts

Hearings set on congressional, legislative lines

By Yvonne Wenger

ywenger@postandcourier.com
Monday, April 4, 2011

COLUMBIA -- South Carolina lawmakers want the public's help on a once-a-decade undertaking.

The state Senate Redistricting Subcommittee will host a public hearing Thursday at Trident Technical College to collect input from the Lowcountry on drawing new legislative and congressional districts.

The U.S. Constitution requires the state readjust the district boundaries after the census to make sure every individual's vote carries the same weight as another's. In other words, redrawing the lines makes equal the number of people who live in each district to reflect population shifts.

Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, invited public feedback.

"I urge citizens from Charleston and the surrounding counties to attend this public hearing and let us know their concerns about changing boundary lines," McConnell said in a statement. He is chairman of the panel.

The hearing will focus primarily on state Senate and congressional redistricting in Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Jasper and Orangeburg counties.

If you go

What: Public hearing for the state Senate's redistricting efforts

When: 6:30 p.m. Thursday

Where: Trident Technical College, The College Center, 920 Building, 7000 Rivers Ave., North Charleston

Cost: Free

On the Web: redistricting.scsenate.gov/

Upcoming: The state House will hold a similar hearing at 5 p.m. April 14 in Dorchester County Council Chambers, 500 North Main St., Summerville. The House's redistricting website is redistricting.schouse.gov/.

For more information

Census coverage



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

Thursday's meeting is the last in a series of 10 regional forums that have been held across the state during the last three weeks. Similar efforts are under way by a House panel, focused on the state House's seats and the congressional districts. A meeting is planned April 14 in Summerville.

South Carolina has 170 legislators; 46 serve in the Senate and 124 serve in the House. The state picked up a seventh congressional seat because of the population growth in the last decade. Where it will be located is not yet decided.

Lawmakers want to hear from the public to avoid splitting up communities, said Bobby Bowers, director of research and statistics for the Budget and Control Board.

They also want to try to draw the lines to keep counties and voting precincts intact, he said.

Whether the lawmakers incorporate the public's feedback will be considered when the U.S. Justice Department reviews the new district boundaries. The state must have the Justice Department sign off on the boundaries because of historical racial discrimination in the South.

While the goal is to ensure equality and fair balance in the election process, redistricting is also political by nature. The GOP-controlled Legislature will try to draw lines to reinforce Republican strongholds, according to political observers.

The map lines must be complete in time for the June 2012 elections.

Sen. Robert Ford, a Charleston Democrat and a member of the redistricting panel, said the public's feedback is valuable.

"We need public involvement in this process to ensure that the districts that are drawn are both fair and representative of the areas they encompass," Ford said in a statement. "Please let us hear your concerns."

Reach **Yvonne Wenger** at 803-926-7855.

Copyright © 1995 - 2011 Evening Post Publishing Co..



Redistricting public hearing held

by [Tim McGinnis](#)

Posted: 04.04.2011 at 4:59 PM

[save](#) [send](#) [print](#)

Read more: [Local Politics Community News](#), [South Carolina Redistricting](#), [Conway](#), [Conway Redistricting Hearing](#), [South Carolina House](#), [House Judiciary Committee](#), [South Carolina Senate](#), [Redistricting Hearing](#), [Horry Georgetown Technical College](#), [Burroughs & Chapin Auditorium](#), [Congressional Representation](#), [New Congressional District](#), [State Representatives](#), [Myrtle Beach](#), [US Census](#), [Census Data](#), [Horry County Population](#)

CONWAY -- Updated- Several people spoke to senators Monday night about how they believe new state senate districts should look in Horry County.

Some also told senators how they think a new seventh congressional district should be drawn.

Horry County's population boomed between 2000 and 2010, growing 37 percent.

Dennis DiSabato, the president of the Carolina Forest Civic Association <http://carolinaforestcivicassociation.com/> old senators says he believes Carolina Forest should be governed by one senator, not split between two or more.

He says, "We have a lot of unique needs. We've outgrown a lot of our infrastructure out there, we have economic development issues that are unique to Carolina Forest. We have public safety issues that are unique to Carolina Forest. We want to make sure our representation understands that."

How do you believe boundaries for congressional districts should be drawn?

Every ten years, after detailed census information is released, the [South Carolina legislature](#) sets to redraw districts based on the new population information.

Last month, the [U.S. Census Bureau](#) released the detailed 2010 Census information, and now the [South Carolina House](#) and [Senate](#) want to hear from you about how the lines should be drawn.

[Horry County's population](#) grew 37% from 2000 to 2010. Based on the growth the Grand Strand could pick up its own U.S. Congressional seat, and more state representatives in Columbia.

The [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) is holding a public hearing in Conway at the [Horry Georgetown Technical College's](#) Burroughs and Chapin Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. Monday night.

Everyone is invited to attend and give their thoughts on how the boundary lines for districts should be drawn, how changes could affect them.

For more information on the hearing, click [here](#).

If you can't attend **Monday night's meeting**, leave a comment with a question and we will try to pass it on to lawmakers there.

TheSunNews.com

Tuesday, Apr 5, 2011

Posted on Tue, Apr. 05, 2011

District lines discussed by Horry, Georgetown county residents at hearing

By Adva Saldinger
asaldinger@thesunnews.com

Residents of Horry and Georgetown counties raised concerns about representation for their communities and asked that Horry County be the seat of a new seventh congressional district that would include Georgetown County and the Pee Dee at a public hearing Monday night.

The hearing, one of 10 being held throughout the state by the S.C. Senate redistricting subcommittee, was an opportunity for residents to give recommendations to the senators as they determine the redistricting criteria prior to redrawing the maps.

"We were interested, with such a rapidly growing area, how people see themselves as a community," said Sen. Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, the chairman of the subcommittee.

The meeting focused both on state Senate districts, which will each have to represent about 100,552 residents, and the new seventh U.S. congressional district, which will represent about 660,767 residents.

Some residents rose to speak about their individual communities and the need for state senators that are responsive to their needs.

Dennis DiSabato, speaking on behalf of the Carolina Forest Civic Association, said that it should be considered a community of interest as the new district lines are drawn.

"Carolina Forest is a very unique area of Horry County," he said. "I would just ask that you consider keeping Carolina Forest within a senatorial district that is attuned to its very special needs."

Vincent Lehotsky, who lives in the Allsbrook community, said that he believes the current representation doesn't pay enough attention to the rural part of the district because of the demands of North Myrtle Beach and Little River. He suggested separating the coastal areas from the inland part of the district.

"The representation is uneven," he said. "Please keep us in mind. We're a different group of people out here with the farms and the fields."

Charlie Luquire said he wants the core of the 34th S.C. Senate district, which runs along the coast from the southern part of Horry County to the Mount Pleasant area in Charleston county, to be preserved.

"We'd like to see that sort of preserved to maintain the integrity of the political alignments that are in place," he said.

Luquire also said that as a resident of Georgetown County he feels he shares more interests with Horry County than with Charleston County.

Steven Neeves, the government affairs director of the Coastal Carolinas Association of Realtors, said that based on the population growth in the area Horry County should be the center of the new seventh congressional district and urged the senators to keep Horry County and Georgetown County in the same district.

"Our economies and our culture and our history is so connected, and I think that Horry and Georgetown need to be kept together," he said.

Rep. Thad Viers, R-Myrtle Beach, suggested to the subcommittee that they draw the new seventh district centered in Horry County and modeled after the old sixth district.

He said that west of the waterway much of Horry County is farmland that shares interests with the Pee Dee counties, that were in that former sixth district.

"I think there's a map to use for both sides, for both parties, that would fit for the state of South Carolina," Viers said. "It would be fair to both parties."

Sen. Ray Cleary, R-Murrells Inlet, who is a member of the subcommittee, said that he had forgotten that the Pee Dee and the Grand Strand had been joined as part of the former sixth district.

Cleary said he heard all the requests to have Horry County as the center of a congressional seat but added that speakers at each of the other hearings he has attended on redistricting have also wanted a resident congressman.

McConnell said that one of the notable pieces of information he picked up was from what speakers didn't say, which is that the Grand Strand should stay in the same congressional district as Charleston.

"The problem we will face in map drawing is that there is rapid and tremendous growth all along the coast and York County," he said.

Next week the subcommittee should meet to establish the redistricting criteria and will proceed to draw maps and seek further public input on specific plans as the process continues, McConnell said.

Contact ADVA SALDINGER at 626-0317 and follow her at www.Twitter.com/TSN_ASaldinger.

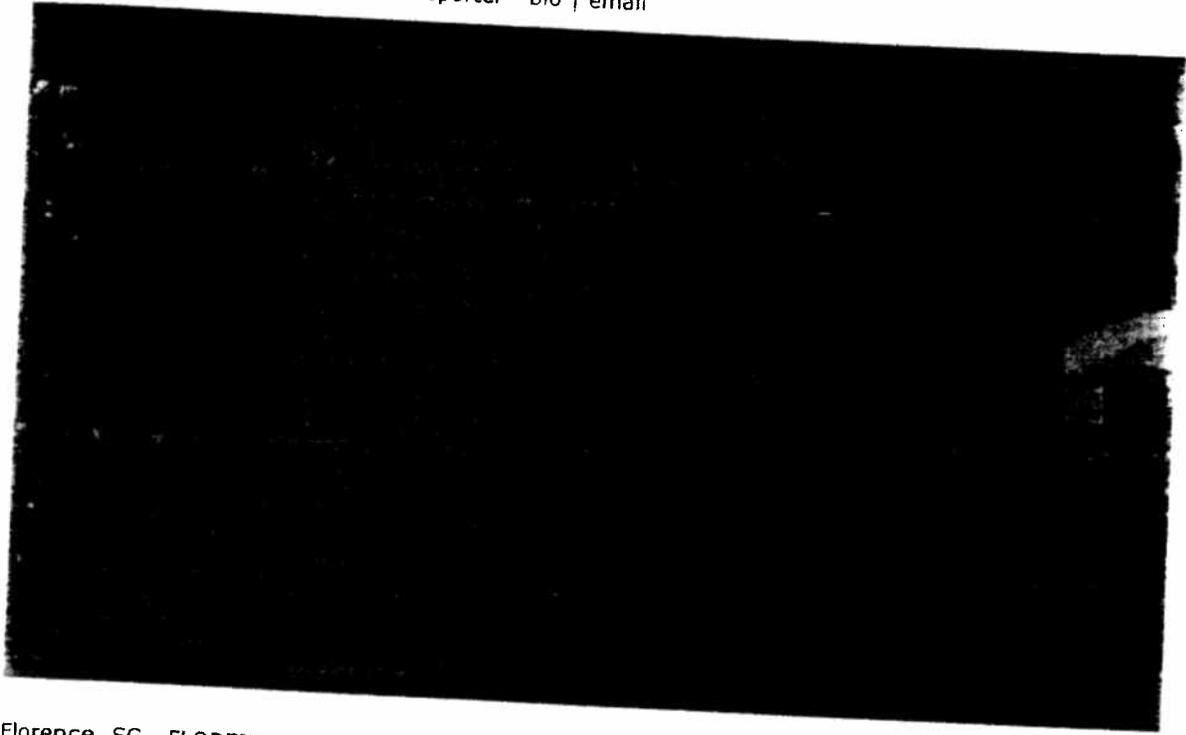
© 2011 TheSunNews.com and wire service sources. All Rights Reserved. <http://www.thesunnews.com>

WMBF NEWS.COM  **LIVE • LOCAL • LATE BREAKING** << Back
MYRTLE BEACH • FLORENCE **HD**

Pee Dee makes final plea for 7th district

Posted: Apr 06, 2011 11:59 PM EDT
Updated: Apr 07, 2011 7:45 AM EDT

By Alisha Laventure, WMBF News Reporter - bio | email



Florence, SC - FLORENCE, SC (WMBF) – Residents in the Pee Dee believes wholeheartedly the area should be included in the states 7th congressional district.

More than 100 people made their arguments in front of the South Carolina State Senate Judiciary redistricting subcommittee at Florence-Darlington Technical College Wednesday night.



"In 2011, we can't think of this pocket here as being wealthy, and this pocket as being without," Wilhelmina P. Johnson said. The Lee County native now lives in Darlington and says the districts should espouse political and economic symmetry.

"We have to learn how to share the wealth for all people, and I don't think that's hard to do," Johnson suggests.

Those who attended the public forum had an opportunity to identify geographical areas they feel should be of special interest when redrawing district lines.

"I'm hoping that they're listening, because all we have to do is take a look at rural South Carolina. Someone is not doing the job that should be done for all people. And that must change," Johnson argued.

The subcommittee intended to propose Senate and Congressional districts.

Many of those who spoke to the subcommittee cited recent census figures to illustrate the Pee Dee's growth and potential for industry.

They also argue rural populations need more direct representation.

"Uphold that principle of one man one vote, regardless of ethnicity - that you have an equal voice and that you have a fair shot," Mal Weatherly insisted. He views Florence as the hub of the Pee Dee and feels everyone stands to benefit if Florence and its neighbors were include in the district.

"Then the representative knows what job needs to be done. He knows who to target. He knows what his priorities are," Weatherly added.

The South Carolina General Assembly will have to draw the state's 7 congressional districts, 46 state Senate districts and 124 Districts for the House of Representatives.

Each new congressional district must include approximately 660,767 state residents. Each new Senate district must include approximately 100,522 residents.

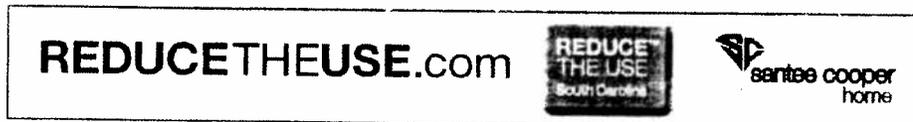
The subcommittee is accepting personal submissions of maps outlining the seven congressional districts.

The next public hearing is scheduled Thursday evening at 5 p.m. in the Courtroom & Council Chambers of the Ted C. Collins Law Enforcement Center in Myrtle Beach.

If you are unable to attend a public hearing, you can submit written recommendations to **S.C. Senate Judiciary Committee, Redistricting Committee, P.O. Box 142, Columbia, S.C. 29202**, or email them to SenateRedistricting@scsenate.gov.

All information should be submitted no later than Friday, April 8, 2011. For more information, go to redistricting.scsenate.gov.

Copyright 2011 WMBF News. All rights reserved.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2011 WorldNow and WMBF, a [Raycom Media Station](#). All Rights Reserved. For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

The Post and Courier

Draw competitive district lines

Thursday, April 7, 2011

Proposals for the completion of I-526 and expanded cruise ship operations aren't the only topics controversial enough to attract large crowds to public forums. The question of how South Carolina's legislative districts, including a new congressional district (No. 7), should be drawn also can pull in large numbers of concerned citizens.

And local residents get a chance to weigh in on that issue tonight in a 6:30 public hearing held by the S.C. Senate Redistricting Subcommittee at Trident Technical College in North Charleston. A similar S.C. House panel will hold a hearing of its own at 5 p.m. on April 14 in Dorchester County Council chambers in Summerville.

Certainly, intense interest in redistricting was on display in Greenville last week when, according to the Spartanburg Herald-Journal, more than 200 people showed up for a hearing by that Senate panel. Evidently, lots of folks in what is now the 4th Congressional District, which includes all of Greenville and Spartanburg counties, are worried about a potential loss of political clout.

Each of our state's soon-to-be seven congressional districts will contain approximately 667,000 people, based on the 2010 Census numbers that gained us that extra seat. Greenville County's 450,000 and Spartanburg County's 284,000 add up to 734,000.

The Herald-Journal reported from the hearing: "One theme that emerged was splitting Greenville and Spartanburg, but keeping each county intact as an anchor in redrawn congressional districts."

That self-serving focus is understandable. Folks in the three current congressional districts that include the Lowcountry (the 1st, 2nd and 6th) have fair reason to be wary about the looming changes, too.

But somewhere along the drawing of new lines, another goal should be set: Creating districts that have geographical coherence and commonality of interest. The result should enhance, rather than stifle, cross-party political competition.

Over the last half century or so, intensified gerrymandering has produced bizarrely shaped districts as the two major parties divvy up the redistricting spoils, often making for general-election mismatches.

Though South Carolina has four new U.S. House members this year, only one of our districts changed party hands in the 2010 election as 5th District Democratic incumbent John Spratt lost to Republican Mick Mulvaney.

That was the first S.C. congressional seat party switch since 1994, when Republican Lindsey Graham won the 3rd District after Democratic incumbent Butler Derrick chose not to run again.

Virtually guaranteeing single-party control of a district forces candidates, including incumbents, to make pleasing the party base their dominant political priority.

That undermines their motivation to recognize broader community interests. It also weakens elected officials' incentive to solve government's pressing problems by working across party lines.

So by all means, speak up for your community's redistricting interests at tonight's hearing.

But also speak up for the overriding civic interests of your community, state and nation in removing the single-party grip on far too many districts.

Copyright © 1995 - 2011 Evening Post Publishing Co..



SC Senate holds redistricting meeting in Florence by [Tonya Brown](#)

Posted: 04.06.2011 at 10:44 PM

[save](#) [send](#) [print](#)

Read more: [Local Politics](#), [Redistricting](#), [South Carolina Senate](#), [Senator Gerald Malloy](#), [Florence Darlington Technical College](#)

Wednesday night, the South Carolina Senate held a [redistricting](#) public hearing in Florence.

About 100 people attended the hearing at [Florence Darlington Technical College](#).

Seven senators served on the panel including [Senator Gerald Malloy](#) of Hartsville.

The senators comprise the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee which will draw the new Senate and U.S. congressional districts.

They received a lot of feedback from residents who want to make sure Florence County isn't left out in the redistricting process.

Florence resident Bill Pickle told the senators, "We got the highways, we got the medical facilities that anyone will die for. No pun intended and we got everything you need."

Residents from other Pee Dee counties and municipalities voiced their concerns as well.



Midlands Residents Speak Out About Redistricting

11:31 PM, Apr 5, 2011 | 4 comments

Written by
Sydney Cummins

FILED UNDER

News

Columbia, SC (WLTX) - Midlands residents had their voices heard Tuesday night, when they got the chance to talk to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee about how our state's district lines should be re-drawn.

"It's very important to come see, especially when they first start drawing it up, so you can have an input. A lot of people complain, but a lot of times when they complain, they don't get involved," James Hunter explains. He lives in Newberry and came down to learn all he could about what's going on.

It wasn't a packed house for the Senate redistricting meeting, but the citizens here were happy to share their thoughts.

Said one citizen at the podium, "Our state Senate district maps must align exactly with the county lines, but they do not."

State NAACP head Lonnie Randolph also spoke to the committee, "Those of us who support justice and equality for all people

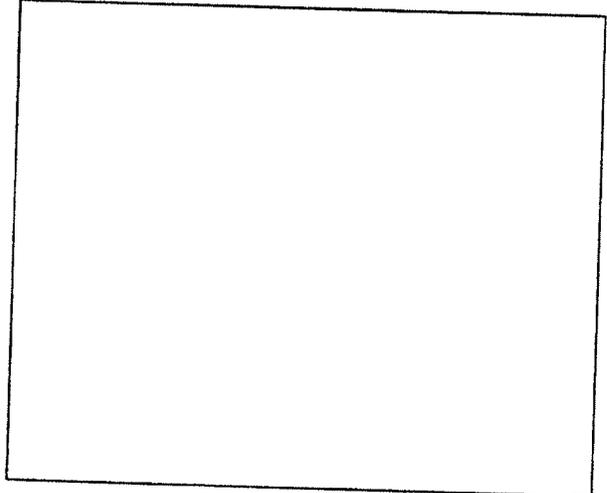
do hope that this will be one that's fair - not to members of the Senate, not to members of the House, not to the members of Congress - but fair to all the citizens in the state of South Carolina."

Others were concerned about separating voting districts into two different congressional districts. "One side of the street, they will be in District 6. On the other side, they will be in District 2. Is there anyway, we can avoid this? I know the lines have to be drawn somewhere," one Columbia resident asked the panel.

All were opinions that were recorded, and will go into information used to draw up the proposed maps. It's a project that will hopefully make sure each and every South Carolinian has a voice. Says Hunter, "I'm just hoping that they're doing everything equally and fairly. That's what i'm hoping to hear."

The Senate sub-committee has two more meetings and hopes to have a plan for their districts, As well as the new

Advertisement



Print Powered By Print Dynamics



congressional district. They hope to wrap everything up by June 1st, but will hold public hearings on their proposed map once it's drawn up. The House sub-committee will also put together a proposal for the US congressional districts and the two groups will have to merge them before presenting their plan to the Governor.

Selected for you by a sponsor: 100 Things to Make Your Home a Safer Place to Live (Safety at Home)

Advertisement

Print Powered By  Dynamics

[<< Back](#)



Lowcountry Live ABC NEWS 4 Experts Lowcountry's Promise Live Streaming Wedding Week

Census results expected to push political change; Redistricting hearing scheduled

Posted: Apr 06, 2011 7:26 PM EDT

Updated: Apr 06, 2011 7:33 PM EDT



CHARLESTON, S.C. (WCIV) -- A political shift in South Carolina could come down to county lines.

New numbers for the census show a 15 percent increase since 2000. That increase in numbers could add up to big political changes.

Because the Palmetto State has grown so much over the past decade, it will soon add a seventh congressional district.

"That will become a very political issue in the state over the next few years which is why the last gubernatorial election was so important," said College of Charleston professor Kendra Stewart.

According to Stewart, redistricting is required every 10 years when new census numbers come out.

It's a process typically controlled by the party in charge.

"The republicans will certainly have a leg up in determining how that district is drawn and who could potentially hold that seat," Stewart said.

According to political expert, Jeri Cabot, the new map will determine how a voter's voice is heard in Columbia and in Washington D-C.

"They should care because it could mean that they need to vote in a different district," Cabot said. "...Which is likely to happen for people living along the coast."

The State Senate will hold a redistricting hearing at Trident Technical College Thursday night in North Charleston. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. at The College Center, 920 Building, 7000 Rivers Avenue.



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2011 WorldNow and WCIV. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our Privacy Policy and Terms of Service.

[<< Back](#)

Spot News

Diversity concerns central to statewide redistricting

*Posted: Apr 06, 2011 4:16 PM EDT**Updated: Apr 06, 2011 4:29 PM EDT***By Christina Elmore****Edited by Chris Cox**

Legislators must be careful not to pack minority voters into election districts in ways that could dilute their overall voting power, several speakers told Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell at a public hearing Tuesday night.

The hearing, which McConnell led in his role as Senate Judiciary Committee chairman, is one of several the House and Senate are holding around the state to prepare for the once-every-decade job of redistricting congressional and legislative districts.

"Packing," or grouping, various ethnicities to fill one district has caused "a very unusual and strange division of people in the state of South Carolina," said Lonnie Randolph, president of the S.C. chapter of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Randolph urged the committee to favor diversity and avoid packing, much as was done in the 1990s to create the state's majority black 6th Congressional District. The district has been represented by Democratic Rep. Jim Clyburn, an African-American, since 1993 and encompasses some of the state's most predominantly black counties.

"The districts of people of color have become blacker, and the districts with less color have become whiter," Randolph said.

Minority groups ultimately lose influence statewide if their vote is compacted into one district, Randolph said.

He encouraged the committee to consider a ceiling of no more than 60 percent blacks or whites in one district.

Though computers already play a major role in the redistricting process, a representative from ZillionInfo, a company that specializes in technologies assisting with data analysis, said updated software could reduce vulnerability to human error.

Bonan Li, the company's product manager, proposed using the company's software that she said would speed up the process, reduce human error, and optimize efficiency.

But Sen. Robert Ford, D-Charleston, said such a system would limit necessary human judgment.

Ford said if the new software spreads minorities across districts, the chances of minority candidates winning could be reduced.

"There's got to be a winnable district, and a computer wouldn't do that," Ford said. "It wouldn't take anything into consideration except that there's 100,000 people in this district."

Ford also said that Randolph's proposed ceiling of 60 percent of one race in a district was too high and that 45 percent would be better.

About roughly two-dozen people came to the meeting at the Gressette Building. Their concerns were similar to those raised across the state, but other areas expressed more interest in population growth and where the state's additional 7th Congressional District would go, McConnell said. South Carolina's increased population in the 2010 census, 4.6 million, up from 4 million a decade earlier,

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



[South Carolina Radio Network](#)

South Carolina News and Sports

Pee Dee residents attend redistricting hearing

by Susan Trautsch on April 7, 2011

Lindsay Buchanan contributed to this story.

Residents from across the Pee Dee region attended a hearing at Florence-Darlington Technical College Wednesday night on the state's upcoming redistricting process. The Florence hearing was the ninth in a series of hearings being held across the state by the South Carolina Senate panel overseeing the process.

Florence resident Pat Gibson-Hiemoore explained why she came.

I want to be a part of something that I think is important, that we have our say-so in the redistricting. It needs to be fair and equitable across the board. No one needs to be represented any more or any less than anyone else.

Lenora Powe from Chesterfield says she wanted to hear what others had to say.

Well, I'm on the county council and I came to make sure we keep the two senators we have, Senators Vincent Sheheen and Senator Gerald Malloy. I think that they've done an excellent job in our community and I'd like to see them continue to represent us.

Stephanie McLaughlin Rawlinson is president of the Women's Republican Club for Florence County and first vice chairman for the Florence County Republican Party.

The Republican Party in Florence wants to be in the 7th District. We feel like we have a lot in common with Myrtle Beach, mainly because of our news media. All of our news comes out of Myrtle Beach, it doesn't come out of Columbia. Unfortunately, when we're paired in a Congressional district with Columbia we don't get all of the news regarding our district, and that's a real problem for our people in this area.

Rawlinson said she was concerned about where the lines are currently drawn.

Florence County is 55% Republican, but currently we're represented in Washington, D.C. by a Democrat because we're drawn into a congressional district that is designed for a Democrat which cause major problems for the county as a whole who vote Republican, but they're not being represented by Republican values and issues.

She added that she has concerns about where the lines are currently drawn." The lines for Districts 5 and 6 are very confusing. They cut Florence County in half. Precincts are cut in half and it causes problems when it comes down to... voting and when it comes to campaigning in those areas. It's very hard to figure out who's in which congressional district."

Florence resident Tommy Phillips says, in the more than 50 years he's lived in the area, he's seen a lot of growth.

It's grown as a Pee Dee community and as a Pee Dee community that incorporates... Darlington, Florence, Marion, Dillon, Marlboro, and then of course Horry County sits right down there. You kind of have to go through all those counties to get to Horry County and that's why I'm here.

Senator Glenn McConnell (R-Charleston) chairs the bipartisan committee, which consists of six other senators from around the state.

The committee is taking under consideration the input it hears from citizens as they work together to devise a plan for redrawing the lines for state Senate, House, and congressional districts.

According to federal law, the lines must be redrawn every ten years to comply with the most recent census data.

Share

Comments on this entry are closed.

Previous post: [Haley touts safety of nuclear energy \(AUDIO\)](#)

Next post: [Haley signs dual-positions bill after previous veto \(AUDIO\)](#)

- **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**

The Post and Courier

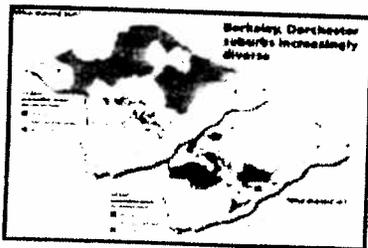
Public airs concerns on remap: Senate redistricting panel listens to leaders, residents

By Robert Behre

rbehre@postandcourier.com
Friday, April 8, 2011

The public's advice about redrawing South Carolina's congressional and legislative districts was about as diverse as those who doled it out.

Sixteen residents, politicians and other community leaders spoke to the state Senate Redistricting Subcommittee hearing Thursday to tell lawmakers how they should approach this once-a-decade task.



The hearing, held at Trident Technical College in North Charleston, marked the 10th and final one held across the state. On Wednesday, the committee will meet in Columbia to begin the redistricting task.

Dewitt Williams, 92, encouraged lawmakers to ensure the new districts are politically competitive. "I'm against so-called safe districts," he said.

Jonathan Hoffman followed Williams and echoed his thoughts. "They shouldn't be incumbent-protection devices," he said. "The more competitive, the better."

Pete Anderson of Edisto Beach urged senators to put Colleton County in one Senate district. "We have three senators, and none of them live in Colleton County," he said.

While trying to have Senate districts follow county lines might seem like an admirable goal, Dorchester County Council Chairman Larry Hargett said having Senate districts that cross Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester counties helps keep Lowcountry senators attuned to the region's needs.

Some speakers criticized the state's existing legislative districts as being racially gerrymandered, but Gwendolyn Robinson of Mount Pleasant told lawmakers, "There has to be race-consciousness. There has to be an awareness that we are all members of this state."

Others suggested lawmakers consider drawing districts that are not divided between television media markets.

After the hearing, Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell, R-Charleston, said the addition of a seventh congressional district will guarantee a major change on the map. He said the subcommittee next will try to settle on some objective guidelines that it can use to draw districts so the process doesn't get overly political.

Read more

Census 2010: Who we Are



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

That objective criteria could help the state beat back any court challenge, McConnell said.

Kaye Koonce, an executive committeewoman with the state Democratic Party, told lawmakers the process "is likely to end up in court, despite your very best efforts."

A similar House panel, which will work on both congressional districts and the state House seats, plans a public hearing at 5 p.m. April 14 at 500 N. Main St. in Summerville.

The state plans to complete redistricting before next year's primary and general elections.

Copyright © 1995 - 2011 Evening Post Publishing Co..

TAB 2