
DIGEST

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HCR 90 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Schexnayder

Abstract: Provides for criteria for consideration of redistricting plans.

Proposed Joint Rule provides for minimally acceptable criteria for consideration of redistricting plans in the following manner:

- (1) All redistricting plans must meet the following criteria:
 - (a) Compliance with the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment and the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended; and all other applicable federal and state law.
 - (b) Each district shall be composed of contiguous geography.
 - (c)
 - (i) To the extent practicable, each district within a plan shall contain whole election precincts as those are represented as Voting Districts (VTDs) in the most recent Census Redistricting TIGER/Line Shapefiles for Louisiana which corresponds to the P.L. 94-171 data released by the U.S. Bureau of the Census for the decade in which the redistricting is to occur or if the redistricting plan is submitted after the year in which the legislature is required by Art. III, §6, of the Const. of La. to reapportion, then to the extent practicable, the redistricting plan submitted for consideration shall contain whole election precincts as those are represented as VTDs as validated through the data verification program of the House and Senate in the most recent Shapefiles made available on the website of the Legislature.
 - (ii) In the event that a VTD must be divided, it shall be divided into as few districts as practicable using a visible census tabulation boundary or boundaries.
 - (d) All redistricting plans shall respect the established boundaries of parishes, municipalities, and other political subdivisions and natural geography of this state to the extent practicable. Provides, however, that this criterion is subordinate to and shall not be used to undermine the maintenance of communities of interest within the same district to the extent practicable.
 - (e) The most recent P.L. 94-171 data released by the United States Bureau of the Census, as validated through the data verification program of the House and Senate, shall be the population data used to establish and for evaluation of proposed redistricting

plans.

- (f) Each redistricting plan submitted by the public shall be submitted electronically in a comma-delimited block equivalency file.
- (2) In addition, redistricting plans for the House, Senate, PSC, and BESE shall meet the following criteria:
- (a) Single-member districts.
 - (b) Districts that are substantially equal in population. Therefore, under no circumstances shall any plan be considered if the plan has an absolute deviation of population which exceeds plus or minus 5% of the ideal district population.
 - (c) A whole plan which assigns all of the geography of the state.
 - (d) Due consideration given to traditional district alignments to the extent practicable.
- (3) In addition, redistricting plans for Congress shall meet the following criteria:
- (a) Single-member districts.
 - (b) Each district shall have a population as nearly equal to the ideal district population as practicable.
 - (c) Be a whole plan which assigns all of the geography of the state.
- (4) In addition, redistricting plans for the Supreme Court shall be a whole plan which assigns all of the geography of the state.

(Adds Joint Rule No. 21)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs to the original resolution:

1. Change criteria relative to respecting "recognized political boundaries" to respecting "established boundaries of parishes, municipalities, and other political subdivisions" and provide that such criterion shall be subordinate to the maintenance of communities of interest within the same district and prohibit its use to undermine the maintenance of those communities of interest to the extent practicable.
2. Relative to plans for the Supreme Court, remove specific criteria which required single-

member districts, districts that are substantially equal in population, and consideration of traditional district alignments.