Sedgwick County BOCC Redistricting Town Hall Meeting

November 15, 2021



Board of County Commissioners

General Considerations

- Redistricting is the process by which the BOCC divides itself into 5 districts, each pertaining to a commissioner, in a manner such that the districts contain an equal amount of people, are as compact as possible, and comport with Kansas and Federal law.
- Sedgwick County typically redistricts every 10 years following the release of U.S. Census data.

Board of County Commissioners

General Considerations

- How do we redistrict, literally?
 - K.S.A. 19-204 instructs that the BOCC redistricts itself "by resolution." Open-ended.
- BOCC sets the process
 - Staff prepares a number of acceptable options, with the commissioners' ability to submit their own suggested maps.
 - BOCC then selects its preferred map and adopts it in an open meeting though a majority vote.

Board of County Commissioners

Compactness

- Compactness relates to the geographic boundaries of the 5 BOCC districts.
- The Kansas Supreme Court has interpreted this requirement to mean territory that is "closely united."
- Compactness is important, but it can be subordinate to population equivalency.



Board of County Commissioners

Population Equality

- Population equality is important because people that reside in an over-populated BOCC district do not have equal representation in county government.
- A variance of 5% population between BOCC districts appears to be acceptable under state law.



Board of County Commissioners

2020 Census Results

District	2010 Census	2020 Census	Change	% Change
Sedgwick	498,365	523,824	+25,459	5.11%
1 (Meitzner)	99,606	105,567	+5,961	5.98%
2 (Lopez)	98,467	99,804	+1,337	1.36%
3 (Dennis)	99,721	104,204	+4,483	4.50%
4 (Cruse)	101,021	109,341	+8,320	8.24%
5 (Howell)	99,550	104,908	+5,358	5.38%

Board of County Commissioners

Factors Considered by Staff when Configuring Districts

- Population equivalency
- Compactness
- 3. Compliance with Kansas and Federal law
- 4. Generally representative of the county
- 5. Recognition of areas of common interest
- 6. Recognition of existing boundaries



Board of County Commissioners

Factors Considered by Staff when Configuring Districts

- 7. Provision of continuity with previous district plans
- 8. Retention of existing commissioners in their respective districts
- 9. Existing voting precincts
- 10. City boundaries
- 11. Number of disenfranchised voters (those who are scheduled to vote but are moved into a district not up for election)



Current Districts





















