

MINNESOTA

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING



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Minnesota
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

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RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

LOUIS C. DORWEILER, JR., *Director*

The Legislative Research Committee is a joint committee of the legislature, meeting quarterly at the State Capitol and giving advance consideration to problems expected to confront the next legislature.

The Committee (1) acts as a clearing house for current legislative problems by receiving proposals for research studies; (2) determines and directs the study and research necessary for proper consideration of all proposals; (3) disseminates advance information on these problems to other legislators, the governor and the public by means of committee and research reports; and (4) reports to the legislature one month in advance of the regular session.

The Research Department of the Legislative Research Committee is organized to provide an unbiased, factual source of information with regard to problems which may be acted upon by the legislature. This department is engaged in objective fact finding under the general supervision of members of the Committee.

MINNESOTA
LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMITTEE

CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

Research Report issued pursuant to Proposal No. 116

A PROPOSAL that the Legislative Research Committee study possible patterns for redistricting congressional districts in the state.

Publication No. 86

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LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMITTEE STUDY ON CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

The national Constitution provides that a census of the population shall be taken every ten years and that representation in the House of Representatives shall be apportioned among the states in accordance with the findings of the census (Article I, Section 2). By law the House of Representatives is limited to 435 members. After each census, the Census Bureau determines the apportionment of the House, and the states are required to provide for a larger or smaller number of representatives.

As a result of the 1960 census, the Census Bureau on November 15, 1960 informed Minnesota and 24 other states that they faced the task of redrawing district lines to accommodate fewer (in 16 states) or more representatives (9 states). Minnesota will lose one congressman because its population growth has not kept pace with that of the rest of the nation. The state's 14 percent population increase was below the national average of 17 percent during the past 10 years.

Although the national government tells each state how many congressmen it shall have, the state legislature determines how the congressional districts are to be bounded. There is little legislation, either national or state, to guide the legislatures. Congress in 1929 set up some rules about contiguous territory in districts, but this act was later repealed.

The gains and losses are to have effect in the 1963 congressional session and must be adopted prior to the 1962 election. If the boundaries are not changed in Minnesota, all candidates for the House of Representatives will have to run at large in a mass state-wide election.

The present districts were established in 1933, based on the 1930 census when the state's population was about 2,564,000. In 1931, when the state's house delegation was reduced from ten to the present nine, the Legislature was unable

to agree on the new boundaries and the redistricting was not accomplished in time for the 1932 election. That was the year that all of the eighty-eight candidates for the nine congressional seats ran "at large", with the nine who received the highest votes in the state-wide balloting getting the seats. Somewhat the same sort of thing happened after the 1910 census, which gave the state one more house seat than it had before. But that time only the candidates for the additional place ran at large. In both cases, the Legislature redistricted the state two years later.

The proposal of newspaper reporter Richard E. Wanek, of the St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch, might well be taken as a starting point for consideration in the drawing of new congressional districts in Minnesota. Mr. Wanek's proposal was published by the St. Paul Dispatch and Pioneer Press as a news feature to provide a basis for public discussion and was not necessarily indorsed or advocated by those papers. It is one of several possible solutions.

Mr. Wanek's proposal aims at an ideal district population of 425,000 (approximately one-eighth of the 1960 population of 3,413,864) with no district to deviate from the ideal by more than 15.3 percent. The plan would establish three districts out of the four county Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area and the other five districts would be divided among the rest of the state.

The map reproduced in this report shows the boundaries of the present nine districts in black and, superimposed in red, are the boundaries of the eight districts as suggested by Mr. Wanek. Pages 4 and 5 provide the county populations for the suggested eight districts. The 1960 population of the present nine congressional districts is shown in Table II and the population of the state, by county, is contained in Table III. In Table II, the Third and Fifth Districts have been combined because details of the Minneapolis population are not available.

Although there are no standards for state legislatures which would establish guidelines or criteria for representation, the Legislative Research Committee has adopted the following suggestions which deserve the serious consideration of the Minnesota Legislature in reducing the number of congressional districts from nine to eight. These standards or basic considerations are as follows:

1. Each proposed district should contain within it contiguous area.
2. The maximum deviation of any district from the norm should not exceed 15%.
3. Any proposed district should take into account consideration of possible expected growth.
4. Any proposed redistricting should take into consideration area and size of the proposed district.
5. Any proposed district should also consider the community of interest of the proposed district as well as social and economic inter-relations.

TABLE I
POPULATION OF EIGHT CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS
PROPOSED BY RICHARD E. WANEK

Based on 1960 Census

1ST DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Dakota	78,303
Rice	38,988
Goodhue	33,035
Wabasha	17,007
Waseca	16,041
Steele	25,029
Dodge	13,259
Olmsted	65,532
Winona	40,937
Freeborn	37,891
Mower	48,498
Fillmore	23,768
Houston	16,588
TOTAL	454,876

3RD DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Anoka	85,916
Hennepin (Rural)	364,970
TOTAL	450,886

4TH DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Ramsey	422,525
Washington	52,432
TOTAL	474,957

2ND DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Lincoln	9,651
Lyon	22,655
Redwood	21,718
Sibley	16,228
Scott	21,909
McLeod	24,401
Carver	21,358
Brown	27,676
Nicollet	23,196
LeSueur	19,906
Pipestone	13,605
Murray	14,743
Cottonwood	16,166
Watonwan	14,460
Blue Earth	44,385
Rock	11,864
Nobles	23,365
Jackson	15,501
Martin	26,986
Faribault	23,685
TOTAL	413,458

5TH DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Hennepin (Mpls.)	477,884
TOTAL	477,884

TABLE I (cont.)

6TH DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Kittson	8,343
Roseau	12,154
Lake of the Woods	4,304
Marshall	14,262
Beltrami	23,425
Pennington	12,468
Red Lake	5,830
Polk	36,182
Clearwater	8,864
Norman	11,253
Mahnomen	6,341
Clay	39,080
Becker	23,959
Hubbard	9,962
Cass	16,720
Wadena	12,199
Crow Wing	32,134
Morrison	26,641
Wilkin	10,650
Otter Tail	<u>48,960</u>
TOTAL	363,731

8TH DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Koochiching	18,190
Itasca	38,006
Aitkin	12,162
Mille Lacs	14,560
Kanabec	9,007
Isanti	13,530
Chisago	13,419
Pine	17,004
Carlton	27,932
St. Louis	231,588
Lake	13,702
Cook	<u>3,377</u>
TOTAL	412,477

7TH DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Traverse	7,503
Grant	8,870
Douglas	21,313
Todd	23,119
Big Stone	8,954
Stevens	11,262
Pope	11,914
Stearns	80,345
Benton	17,287
Sherburne	12,861
Lac Qui Parle	13,330
Swift	14,936
Kandiyohi	29,987
Meecker	18,887
Wright	29,935
Chippewa	16,320
Yellow Medicine	15,523
Renville	<u>23,249</u>
TOTAL	365,595

TABLE II

POPULATION OF PRESENT NINE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Based on 1960 Census1ST DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Rice	38,988
Goodhue	33,035
Wabasha	17,007
Waseca	16,041
Steele	25,029
Dodge	13,259
Olmsted	65,532
Winona	40,937
Freeborn	37,891
Mower	48,498
Fillmore	23,768
Houston	<u>16,588</u>
TOTAL	376,573

2ND DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
McLeod	24,401
Carver	21,358
Scott	21,909
Dakota	78,303
Sibley	16,228
Nicollet	23,196
LeSueur	19,906
Brown	27,676
Blue Earth	44,385
Cottonwood	16,166
Watonwan	14,460
Jackson	15,501
Martin	26,986
Faribault	<u>23,685</u>
TOTAL	374,160

3RD AND 5TH DISTRICTS COMBINED

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Anoka (3)	85,916
Chisago (3)	13,419
Washington (3)	52,432
Isanti (3)	13,530
Hennepin (3 & 5)	<u>842,854</u>
TOTAL	1,008,151

Figures for the Third and Fifth Districts are combined because a break down of the Minneapolis Population is not available. The Congressional District boundaries established in 1933 provided that the Third District include all of Anoka, Chisago, Washington, and Isanti Counties, all of rural Hennepin County and all of five wards and portions of a sixth ward of Minneapolis. The Fifth District consists of the remainder of Minneapolis. A detailed break down of the division of Minneapolis was not available at the time of printing this report. The Legislative Research Committee has contacted the Census Bureau and should have detailed information in the near future.

4TH DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Ramsey	<u>422,525</u>
TOTAL	422,525

TABLE II (cont.)

6TH DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Hubbard	9,962
Cass	16,720
Aitkin	12,162
Wadena	12,199
Crow Wing	32,134
Pine	17,004
Todd	23,119
Morrison	26,641
Mille Lacs	14,560
Kanabec	9,007
Stearns	80,345
Benton	17,287
Sherburne	12,861
Meeker	18,887
Wright	<u>29,935</u>
TOTAL	332,823

7TH DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Rock	11,864
Nobles	23,365
Pipestone	13,605
Murray	14,743
Lincoln	9,651
Lyon	22,655
Redwood	21,718
Yellow Medicine	15,523
Renville	23,249
Lac Qui Parle	13,330
Chippewa	16,320
Kandiyohi	29,987
Big Stone	8,954
Swift	14,936
Traverse	7,503
Stevens	11,262
Pope	11,914
Grant	8,870
Douglas	<u>21,313</u>
TOTAL	300,762

8TH DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Koochiching	18,190
Itasca	38,006
St. Louis	231,588
Lake	13,702
Cook	3,377
Carlton	<u>27,932</u>
TOTAL	332,795

9TH DISTRICT

<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>
Kittson	8,343
Roseau	12,154
Lake of the Woods	4,304
Marshall	14,262
Beltrami	23,425
Polk	36,182
Pennington	12,468
Red Lake	5,830
Clearwater	8,864
Norman	11,253
Mahnomen	6,341
Clay	39,080
Becker	23,959
Wilkin	10,650
Ottertail	<u>48,960</u>
TOTAL	266,075

TABLE III

POPULATION OF MINNESOTA COUNTIES: 1960

The State	3,413,864	County	Population
<u>County</u>	<u>Population</u>		
Aitkin	12,162	Mahnomen	6,341
Anoka	85,916	Marshall	14,262
Becker	23,959	Martin	26,986
Beltrami	23,425	Meeker	18,887
Benton	17,287	Mille Lacs	14,560
Big Stone	8,954	Morrison	26,641
Blue Earth	44,385	Mower	48,498
Brown	27,676	Murray	14,743
Carlton	27,932	Nicollet	23,196
Carver	21,358	Nobles	23,365
		Norman	11,253
Cass	16,720	Olmsted	65,532
Chippewa	16,320	Otter Tail	48,960
Chisago	13,419	Pennington	12,468
Clay	39,080	Pine	17,004
Clearwater	8,864	Pipestone	13,605
Cook	3,377	Polk	36,182
Cottonwood	16,166		
Crow Wing	32,134	Pope	11,914
Dakota	78,303	Ramsey	422,525
Dodge	13,259	Red Lake	5,830
		Redwood	21,718
Douglas	21,313	Renville	23,249
Faribault	23,685	Rice	38,988
Fillmore	23,768	Rock	11,864
Freeborn	37,891	Roseau	12,154
Goodhue	33,035	St. Louis	231,588
Grant	8,870	Scott	21,909
Hennepin	842,854		
Houston	16,588	Sherburne	12,861
Hubbard	9,962	Sibley	16,228
Isanti	13,530	Stearns	80,345
		Steele	25,029
Itasca	38,006	Stevens	11,262
Jackson	15,501	Swift	14,936
Kanabec	9,007	Todd	23,119
Kandiyohi	29,987	Traverse	7,503
Kittson	8,343	Wabasha	17,007
Koochiching	18,190	Wadena	12,199
Lac Qui Parle	13,330		
Lake	13,702	Waseca	16,041
Lake of the Woods	4,304	Washington	52,432
Le Sueur	19,906	Watonwan	14,460
		Wilkin	10,650
Lincoln	9,651	Winona	40,937
Lyon	22,655	Wright	29,935
McLeod	24,401	Yellow Medicine	15,523