

# SENATE BILL NO. 218

102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MOSLEY.

0074S.01I

KRISTINA MARTIN, Secretary

## AN ACT

To amend chapter 67, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to redistricting political subdivisions.

*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 67, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto  
2 one new section, to be known as section 67.005, to read as  
3 follows:

**67.005. 1. Every political subdivision, political  
2 party county committee, board, city council, board of  
3 alderpersons, and county commission shall consist of such  
4 members as is provided by law, ordinance, or charter and  
5 shall be elected as provided by law, ordinance, or charter.**

**2. Each multi-member political subdivision that elects  
7 members from single member wards, subdistricts or districts,  
8 not including members who are elected at-large, political  
9 party county committee, board, city council, board of  
10 alderpersons, and county commission shall redistrict or  
11 reapportion their wards, subdistricts, or districts using  
12 the following methods, listed in order of priority:**

**(1) Wards, subdistricts, or districts shall be as  
14 nearly equal as practicable in population. Wards,  
15 subdistricts, or districts are as nearly equal as  
16 practicable in population if no ward, subdistrict, or  
17 district deviates by more than five percent from the ideal  
18 population of the ward, subdistrict, or district, as**

19 measured by dividing the number of wards, subdistricts, or  
20 districts into the jurisdiction's, political subdivision's,  
21 municipal's, or county's population data being used;

22 (2) Wards, subdistricts, and districts shall be  
23 established in a manner so as to comply with all  
24 requirements of the United States Constitution and  
25 applicable federal laws, including, but not limited to, the  
26 Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. The following  
27 principles shall take precedence over any other part of this  
28 section: no ward, subdistrict, or district shall be drawn  
29 in a manner which results in a denial or abridgment of the  
30 right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account  
31 of race or color; and no ward, subdistrict, or district  
32 shall be drawn such that members of any community of  
33 citizens protected by the preceding clause have less  
34 opportunity than other members of the electorate to  
35 participate in the political process and to elect  
36 representatives of their choice;

37 (3) Subject to the requirements of subdivisions (1)  
38 and (2) of this subsection, districts, subdistricts, and  
39 wards shall be composed of contiguous territory as compact  
40 as may be. Areas which meet only at the points of adjoining  
41 corners are not contiguous. In general, compact wards,  
42 subdistricts, and districts are those which are square,  
43 rectangular, or hexagonal in shape to the extent permitted  
44 by natural or census block boundaries;

45 (4) To the extent consistent with subdivisions (1) to  
46 (3) of this subsection, communities and political  
47 subdivisions of common interest shall be preserved. In the  
48 case of a jurisdiction or political subdivision that  
49 encompasses multiple municipalities or of county commission  
50 districts, wards, subdistricts, or districts shall satisfy

51 this requirement if ward, subdistrict, or district lines  
52 follow municipal or political subdivision lines to the  
53 extent possible and as few political subdivision or  
54 municipal lines shall be crossed as possible.

55 3. Districts, subdistricts, and wards shall be drawn  
56 in a manner that achieves both partisan fairness and,  
57 secondarily, competitiveness, but the standards established  
58 by subdivisions (1) to (4) of subsection 2 of this section  
59 shall take precedence over partisan fairness and  
60 competitiveness. "Partisan fairness" means that parties  
61 shall be able to translate their popular support into  
62 legislative representation with approximately equal  
63 efficiency. "Competitiveness" means that parties'  
64 legislative representation shall be substantially and  
65 similarly responsive to shifts in the electorate's  
66 preferences.

67 4. Except as otherwise provided by law, ordinance, or  
68 charter, not later than sixty days after the effective date  
69 of this section and after each decennial census has been  
70 reported to the President of the United States, not later  
71 than six months prior to the opening of filing for office,  
72 the redistricting or reapportionment authority shall file  
73 with the election authority a tentative reapportionment or  
74 redistricting plan and map of the proposed wards,  
75 subdistricts, or districts and during the ensuing fifteen  
76 days shall hold such public hearings as may be necessary to  
77 hear objections or testimony of interested persons. The  
78 redistricting or reapportionment authority shall make public  
79 the tentative reapportionment or redistricting plan and map  
80 of the proposed wards, subdistricts, or districts, as well  
81 as all demographic and partisan data used in the creation of  
82 the plan and map.

83           5. Except as otherwise provided by law, ordinance, or  
84 charter, not later than ninety days after the effective date  
85 of this section and not later than five months prior to the  
86 opening of filing for office after each decennial census has  
87 been reported to the President of the United States, the  
88 redistricting or reapportionment authority shall file with  
89 the election authority a final statement of the numbers and  
90 the boundaries of the wards, subdistricts, or districts  
91 together with a map of the wards, subdistricts, or districts.

92           6. The office of the state demographer shall provide  
93 such assistance as is required to assist with the  
94 redistricting or reapportionment of wards, subdistricts, or  
95 districts and may charge a reasonable fee to reimburse the  
96 state for the cost thereof.

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