

County Commission Districts

Jamie Shew, County Clerk



December 1, 2023

Election Information

- County Question passed
 - 27,208 (60.98%) Yes
 - 17,410 (39.02%) NO
- 93% of votes cast (44,618 of 47,561)
- 114 Precincts
 - 109 Yes
 - 5 No (2 Lawrence, 3 County)

Percentage of yes/no support similar in Lawrence and non-Lawrence precincts

Next Steps

- On or before January 1 after the election, the board of commissioners will adopt a resolution outlining the new districts.
If board does not act, the chief judge of district court on or before January 31 will order the division of districts. *K.S.A. 19-204a*
- Governor within 5 days from adoption of resolution and with advice from the board either:
 - Declares election for new districts will happen at next general election (2024) *or*
 - Calls a special election to be held between 75 to 90 days from the date of the board resolution *K.S.A. 19-203a*

Process through potential timeline

General Election 2024

Candidates for existing Districts 2 & 3 are elected to 4-year terms (2025-2029)

Candidates for new Districts 4 & 5 are elected to 2-year terms (2025-2029)

General Election 2026

Candidates for Districts 1, 4, & 5 are elected to 4-year terms (2027-2031)

General Election 2028

Candidates for Districts 2 & 3 are elected to 4-year terms (2029-2033)



Special Election

- If special election is called:
 - Chairs of each recognized political party calls a convention not less than 15 days or more than 25 days from Governors declaration where a candidate will be chosen *K.S.A. 19-203a(b)*
 - Independent candidates can submit petition of not less than 5% of qualified electors in the new district no more than 25 days from the declaration. *K.S.A. 19-203(c)*
 - Candidates must reside in the new district and only voters in the new district will vote in the special election.
 - The winners will only serve until the next general election where the successors will be chosen *K.S.A. 19-203(9)*

District Size

Districts must be as compact and equal in population as possible (*K.S.A. 19-204 and AG 2002-12*)

Recent Census Data (April 1, 2020)

Douglas County	118,785		
Lawrence		94,934	79.92%
Eudora		6,408	5.40
Baldwin City		4,826	4.06%
Lecompton		588	.49%
Unincorporated	12,029	10.12%	

District Population Size by number of commissioners

5 member district size	23,757
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Map guidelines

Districts must be as compact, contiguous and equal in population as possible (K.S.A. 19-204 and AG 2002-12)

Communities of interest

Kansas Legislative Research uses 5% deviation from ideal number as a guideline

Ideal number is 23,757

5% deviation	1,187
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1% deviation	238
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Keep townships whole if possible

Wakarusa

Keep precincts whole if possible

Consider growth in areas, can revisit in 3 years.

Current Commission members cannot be moved into new districts

Districts 1, 2, and 3 must take into account residence of current members

1st (Pct 23, Lawrence), 2nd (Pct 41, North Lawrence), 3rd (Willow Springs)



Map Starting Points

Maps based off of initial community feedback and Commission requests

Map 1 “Cities”

places Baldwin City, Eudora and Lecompton in separate districts

Map 2 “County”

creates 1 district of area outside of Lawrence city limits

Map 4 “Spokes”

every district has a portion inside and outside of Lawrence

Map 3 “Wakarusa”

2 districts having large areas outside of Lawrence city limits, Wakarusa



Roundtable Questions

- What are your questions about increasing the size of the commission
- What things should be taken into consideration when adding commission districts.
- What are the biggest concerns about drawing new district lines and adding districts.
- What other perspectives or information is needed to inform this process.