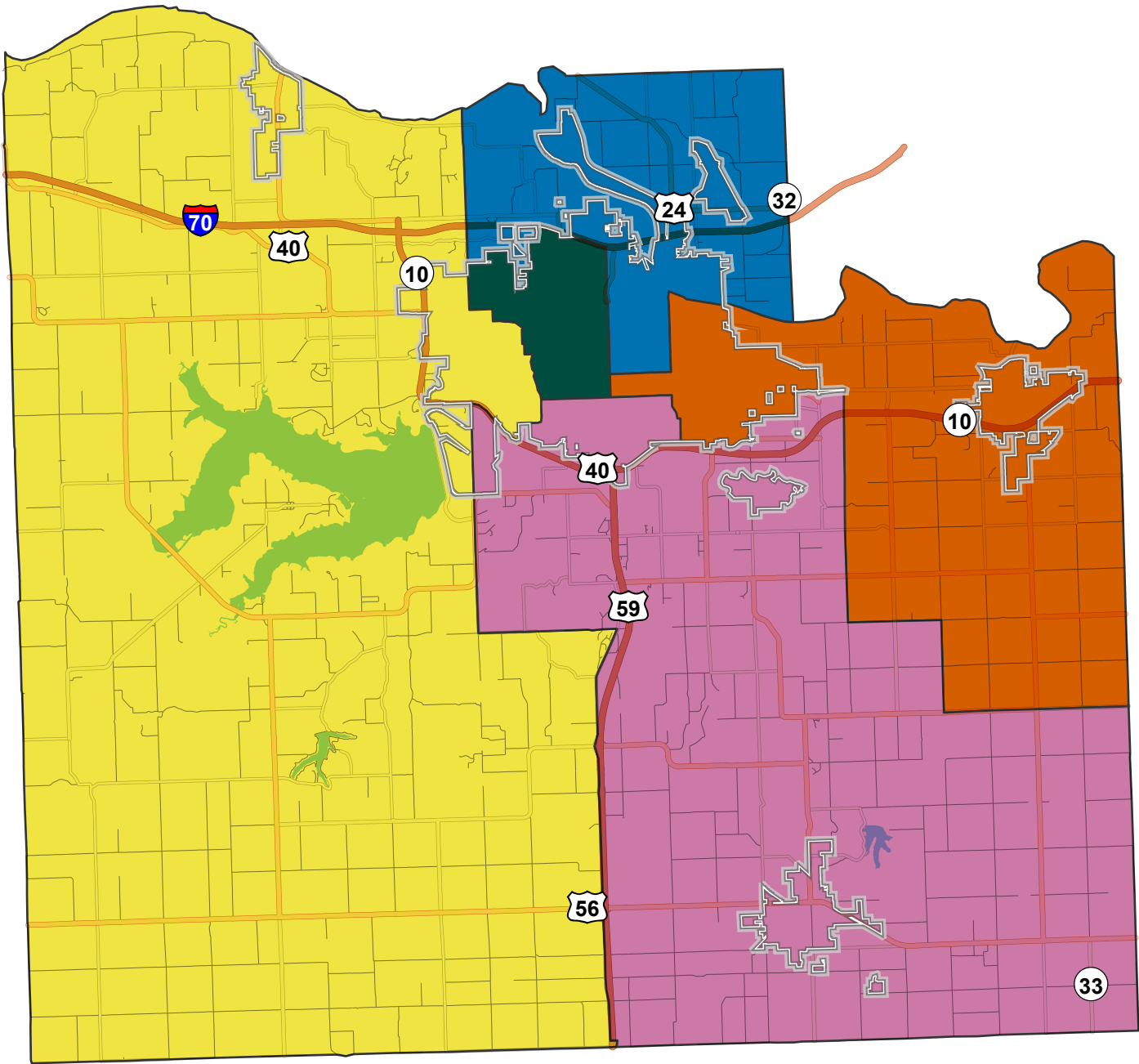


Proposed Five County Commission Districts

"Douglas County Template"

	District 1 - 24,664 population 100% Incorporated
	District 2 - 23,139 population 97% Incorporated
	District 3 - 22,036 population 77% Incorporated
	District 4 - 24,556 population 94% Incorporated
	District 5 - 24,390 population 76% Incorporated





JAMIE SHEW
DOUGLAS COUNTY CLERK

1100 Massachusetts, Lawrence, KS 66044

Marni Penrod - Chief Deputy Clerk
R.J. Wilson - Deputy Clerk Elections

TO: Douglas County Commissioners
FROM: Jamie Shew, Douglas County Clerk
DATE: December 16, 2022
RE: Proposed County Commission Map

Using values and criteria expressed at the December 14th, 2022 County Commission meeting along with those shared over the past few weeks, we have created a proposed five-member Douglas County Commission map. This map is a variation of both the "Spokes" (A) and "Cities" (B) maps which had received the most public support along with some ideas from Map E. The following are the criteria used to guide development of this map.

Provide representation of the unincorporated areas of Douglas County in most of the districts.

This proposed map has two districts below 80% incorporated population in comparison to the previous five maps which had one district below 80%. The remaining three districts, 100% (1st District), 97% (2nd District), 94% (4th District).

Baldwin City, Eudora and Lecompton in separate districts.

This map has Lecompton (3rd District), Baldwin City (5th District), and Eudora (4th District) in separate districts.

Baldwin City and Eudora in the two new districts

Eudora is in the 4th Commission District and Baldwin City is in the 5th Commission District. This value had some challenges because of geography and restrictions from other values, i.e. Baldwin City and Eudora in separate districts.

Divide the southern part of Douglas County along the East/West line of 59 Highway, maintaining communities of interest.

59 Highway is used to divide the 3rd and 5th Districts in Willow Springs Township. Because of population numbers and keeping Eudora and Baldwin City separate, 59 Highway is not the dividing line in Wakarusa Township. District 5 goes to the Wakarusa/Clinton Township border, which does keep Wakarusa Township largely whole.

Combine Grant Township with North Wakarusa to avoid isolation as the only unincorporated area in a district.

District 2 has both townships within its boundaries.



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Be aware of how neighborhoods in Lawrence are separated.

By utilizing major streets in Lawrence and attempting to avoid smaller streets which run through neighborhoods, this map is able to use already existing separations as boundaries. Examples: Massachusetts Street (2nd & 4th Districts), Iowa Street (1st & 2nd Districts, 1st and 4th Districts), 23rd Street (4th & 5th Districts, 1st and 5th Districts). Some areas did require moving across major streets either because of census block shapes or population calculations. Attempts were made to keep neighborhoods largely whole, if possible. Areas where a neighborhood is divided by a smaller street is a result of precinct boundaries and population requirements.

This map has the University of Kansas within the 2nd District, Haskell Indian Nations University in the 4th District and Baker University in the 5th District.

Population must be equal as possible within a 5% deviation.

All of the districts meet this criteria, except for the 3rd District which is a little outside of the deviation, but, these numbers represent the 2020 Census. The precincts in the 3rd District both in the incorporated and unincorporated areas are the fastest growing in Douglas County. We are confident this district is already within the deviation with this growth. As mentioned, in three years the lines can be revisited with the projected census numbers.

Districts must be compact and contiguous.

All of the districts are contiguous with no outlying areas. All of the districts have compactness as allowed while maintaining population numbers and observing precinct boundaries.

Keep townships whole.

All townships, with the exception of Willow Springs and Wakarusa, are whole. Willow Springs is divided by 59 Highway which has historically been a dividing point for other types of districts. This map actually accomplishes keeping the majority of Wakarusa Township whole, especially the areas south of Lawrence.

Avoid dividing a precinct.

All precincts are kept whole within their current boundaries. In fact, this map also has the majority of polling places with precincts represented by the same commission district. Out of 46 polling places, only 4 will have precincts with different commission districts. This not only minimized ballot distribution errors, all the voters in 42 polling places will be voting on county commission in the same cycle. Of the remaining four polling places, 3 will have voters voting in opposite cycles. Additionally, this map follows some of the existing political subdivision boundaries. For example, Kansas House District 42 now includes parts of East Lawrence along with Eudora; all of those precincts are now in the 4th Commission District. Kansas House District 47 now includes parts of West Lawrence, especially areas of potential growth across K-10 Highway. Commission District 3 includes all of the precincts in House District 47.



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Maintain some existing precincts for Districts 1, 2. & 3.

A number of the values expressed earlier have challenged our ability to keep all three existing commission districts largely intact. Because of the separation of Baldwin City and Eudora, while also honoring the placement of those two cities in the 4th and 5th districts, District 2 has to move significantly west. While this changes a majority of the existing precincts, it does place Grant Township and North Wakarusa in the same district, creates a district representing all of the KU campus and combines neighborhoods in north central Lawrence which have similar communities of interest.

Conclusion

Creating a map which perfectly addresses completely all criteria and concerns is almost impossible, this proposed map attempts to find the balance between all of the values and criteria expressed. Some of the values compete against each other which limits options, but this proposed map successfully meets at least part of every value discussed by the Commission and Douglas County residents, while abiding by the law, minimizing disruption for voters and avoiding further complicating election administration at the polling place. We are grateful for the assistance of the Douglas County IT and GIS departments for the many variations of maps created.