

County Commission Districts

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Commission Size

- A county can divide into commission districts of three, five, or seven.

K.S.A. 19-204(c)

According to the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC):

3 commissioners – 88 counties

5 commissioners – 15 counties (Barton, Butler, Coffey, Finney, Franklin, Greenwood, Hamilton, Hodgeman, Leavenworth, Marion, Miami, Saline, Sedgwick, Seward)

7 commissioners – 1 county (Johnson)

10 commissioners – 1 city/county combined (Wyandotte)

5 Board of Supervisors - Greeley (Tribune/Greeley Unified Government)



Commission Size

10 largest counties	Commission	Population
Johnson	7	609,863
Sedgwick	5	533,824
Shawnee	3	178,909
Wyandotte	10	169,245 (city/county combined)
Douglas	3	118,785
Leavenworth	5	81,881
Riley	3	71,959
Butler	5	67,380
Reno	3	61,898
Saline	5	54,303

Action to increase commission size

- Either by commission resolution or petition
 - Board may at any time pass a resolution to place question on next general election ballot. *K.S.A. 19-204(c)*
 - Petition signed by not less than 5% of qualified electors which compels commission to place question on the next general election ballot. *K.S.A. 19-204(c)*
 - There are currently 78,642 registered voters in Douglas County, a petition would need 3,932 valid signatures.
 - Resolution must be more than 60 days from the general election. Must be a general election, no special election. *K.S.A. 19-204(c)*
 - Deadline to place question on general election ballot would be September 1 of any year.

If the question passes

- 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 *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*



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)*



Terms of Office

- Terms of office must be staggered so no more than a majority are elected in one election. *K.S.A. 19-202(c)*
 - New districts (District 4 and 5) will be elected in same cycle as District 1
- If special election results in new districts being elected in the next general election with the 2 existing districts, the newly elected commissioners will only serve two years and run again with in correct cycle.

Potential timeline

Prior to Sept 1st, 2022

Commission places question on ballot either as a result of petition or resolution

November 8, 2022

Question to increase commission districts on ballot

Prior to Jan 1st, 2023

Commission adopts new districts

Governor either calls special election or declares for general election

If special election:

15-25 days from Governor declaration, political parties call convention to select candidates

Independent candidates submit signatures no more than 25 days from declaration (5% of new commissioner district)

Election held 75-90 days from the declaration

Winners serve until January 10th, 2025



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)



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

3 member district size	39,595
5 member district size	23,757
7 member district size	16,969

