

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

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St. Louis Community College Redistricting Plan
Coordinating Board for Higher Education
November 18, 2011

DESCRIPTION

The publication last February of Missouri's latest decennial census figures initiated the redistricting process for the state's community college districts. Redistricting is required if the community college district contains more than 450,000 residents; it is discretionary for other districts. The process begins with the district's board of trustees forwarding to the CBHE a resolution requesting the formation of a redistricting committee. The CBHE and the community college board of trustees each appoint three members who are residents of the district to the committee. In accordance with that process, the board, at its June meeting, appointed redistricting committees for Metropolitan Community College, Mineral Area College, St. Louis Community College and Crowder College.

The redistricting plan for Metropolitan Community College was approved by the CBHE at its September meeting. Crowder College is not proposing any changes to its districts, so it will not present a plan for approval. Mineral Area College will submit their plan for approval by the CBHE at its February 2012 board meeting.

The redistricting committee for St. Louis Community College has adopted its plan and has submitted the plan to the CBHE for approval. The plan has four subdistricts. The statute provides that the CBHE "shall approve any redistricting plan in which the population of any subdistrict divided by the number of trustees to be selected therefrom substantially equals the population of any other subdistrict divided by the number of trustees to be elected therefrom." In this plan, District 1 & District 4 will elect two trustees while District 2 & District 3 will elect one trustee. The Missouri Attorney General's office on September 24, 1981 clarified that "if the number of trustees elected from every subdistrict is not equal, the mean subdistrict population is obtained by dividing the total population of all subdistricts by the number of trustees to be elected." The populations of the four districts are as follows:

District 1	227,207 (450, 414 divided by 2 trustees) 227,207 (450, 414 divided by 2 trustees)
District 2	228,158 (divided by 1 trustee)
District 3	225,125 (divided by 1 trustee)
District 4	227,230 (454,461 divided by 2 trustees) 227,231 (454, 461 divided by 2 trustees)

The optimum population for each district would be 226,360. The actual populations vary from this optimum within a small range of +.788% and a -.548%. Thus, the subdistrict populations are "substantially equal" so the redistricting plan conforms to the statutory requirements.

STATUTORY REFERENCE

Sections 178.820, RSMo

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RECOMMENDED ACTION

The department recommends that the CBHE approve the St. Louis redistricting plan as submitted.

ATTACHMENTS

St. Louis Community College Redistricting Plan