



Good News

Bringing the Light of Christ to Missouri | March/April 2022

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Redistricting & Drawing Legislative Maps in Missouri

Once a decade, the United States conducts a census – a total count of the nation's population – and uses this information in numerous ways, including the important governmental tradition of redistricting. In this *Good News*, we dive into what redistricting is, how it's done, and what it means for you and your own representation in our state and national government.

Keep reading to discover more about redistricting, and to learn about the current Missouri Congressional Delegation.



Redistricting and Drawing Legislative Maps in Missouri

Every ten years the U.S. conducts a census, counting the number of people present in each state, county, city, and town within our nation. People move around, so each decade the political districts for state representatives, state senators, and the U.S. House of Representatives must be re-drawn to account for this movement. Because we have a representative form of government, districts are supposed to be drawn so that each district includes the same number of people. This way, each person's vote in a district is equal to another person's vote in that district or any other district – “one person, one vote.”

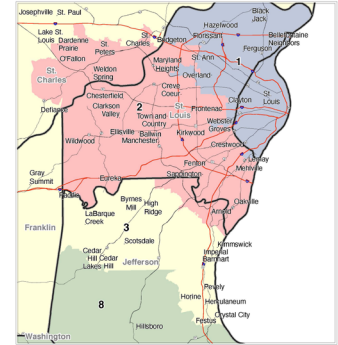
The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled in the past that the “one person, one vote” standard is met if the total population of each district is within 10% of mathematical equality of the population of other districts. More recently, the court ruled in a case arising out of Texas that says using total population as the basis to divide districts is a constitutionally sound means of doing so. Using total population as the measure, one could argue, dilutes a person's vote if other districts include a disproportionate number of children, non-citizens, or others not able to cast a ballot. The court has not ruled on the question of whether a state could divide districts based upon the number of registered voters, the number of voters who participated in the last election, or upon the number of legally recognized U.S. citizens living in a particular district.

Independent bipartisan citizens commissions currently draw the maps for the Missouri state house and senate districts. These commissions are made up of 20 members appointed by the governor from nominees submitted by the parties. If the commissions are unable to agree on a map, the Missouri Supreme Court appoints a commission of appellate court judges to draw the maps. The Missouri General Assembly draws the districts for Missouri's Congressional delegation based upon the number of congressional seats assigned to Missouri following the census. Missouri currently sends eight representatives to Washington to serve in the U.S. House. Article III, Section 45 of the Missouri Constitution requires the General Assembly to divide the congressional maps into districts “composed of contiguous territory which shall be as compact and as nearly equal in population as may be.”

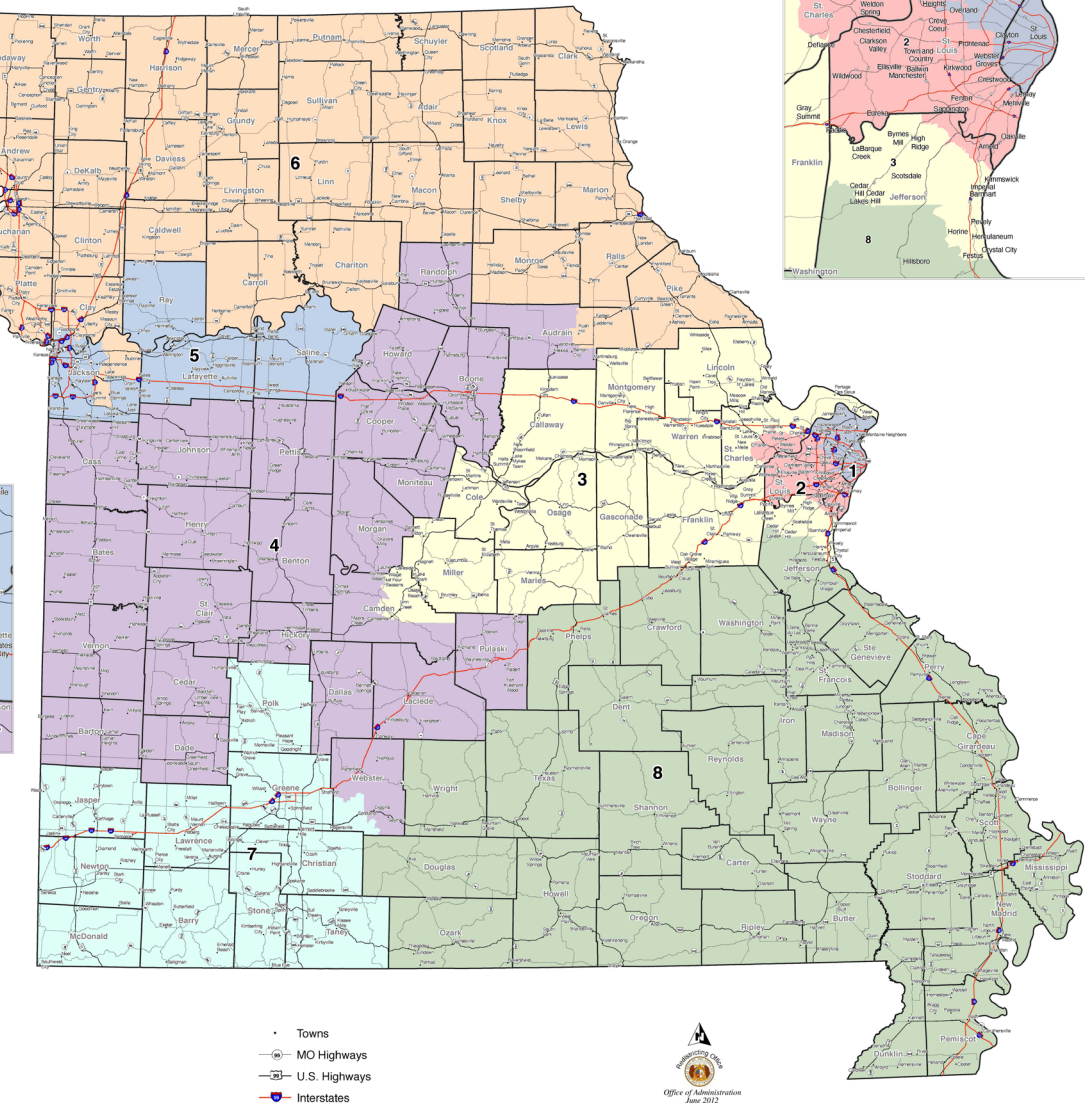
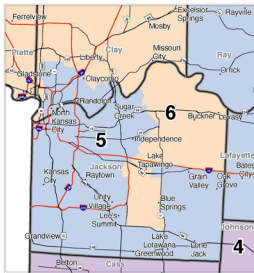
The Missouri House passed HB 2117, which outlined a congressional map, on January 19, 2022, during the third week of the legislative session. Since then, the map has been bogged down in the Missouri Senate where it has faced a filibuster on the Senate floor. Most political pundits would argue the map passed by the Missouri House would result in Missouri electing six Republicans and two Democrats for the foreseeable future. Some conservative Republicans in the Missouri General Assembly, however, would prefer to have a map which resulted in Missouri electing seven Republicans and one Democrat. Senate Democrats, on the other hand, would like a map that sent five Republicans and three Democrats to Washington. Between the two competing factions of the Missouri Senate, the House map doesn't presently have a way forward. It is not clear at this time whether the Senate will be able to come up with a map that would garner enough votes. The matter may end up being resolved by the courts, as one candidate for a U.S. House seat has recently filed suit due to the lack of a map.

CURRENT MISSOURI CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

St. Louis Area



Kansas City Area



Representatives

- Cori Bush (MO - 1)
- Billy Long (MO - 7) - DEPARTING
- Ann Wagner (MO - 2)
- Jason Smith (MO - 8)
- Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO - 3)
- Vicky Hartzler (MO - 4) - DEPARTING
- Emanuel Cleaver II (MO - 5)
- Roy Blunt - DEPARTING
- Sam Graves (MO - 6)
- Joshua Hawley

Senators



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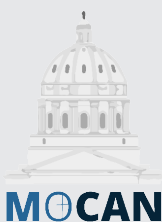
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Inside the Next MCC from the Capitol Episode: Legislative Roundtable II

What happened – and what didn't happen – in Jefferson City during the first nine weeks of the 2022 legislative session? Find out by listening to the Missouri Catholic Conference's latest legislative roundtable episode of *MCC from the Capitol*, MCC's podcast. **Listen by scanning the QR code** to the right, by visiting **www.mocatholic.org**, or by searching for the MCC From the Capitol podcast on iTunes, Spotify, or Google Podcasts on your phone or mobile device. Be sure to let us know how much you enjoyed the podcast by giving it a rating afterwards.

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