

From July 21, 2021 LTADD Board Staff Report

Due to changes in the process timeline and conflicting information being propagated, I wanted to take a minute and make everyone aware of the new process for redistricting magisterial boundaries due to reapportionment subsequent to the 2020 US Census.

As I discussed during the Board Meeting this past March, the delay in the Census reporting data down to the block level, historically called "SF1" from April 1 to Sept. 30, purportedly due to Covid, caused issues nationwide with the normal redistricting timelines. The legislature, through Senate Bill 171, sought to alleviate the statutory situation that would have resulted in the new district boundaries being required to be completed prior to the data necessary to perform the task being available. The legislature passed the bill which contained modifications to KRS 67.045 on March 11th and subsequently overrode the Governor's veto on March 29th.

The sum of these events has pushed back the redistricting process by one calendar year; thus, the fiscal court will appoint the commission tasked with redrawing the lines in during May of 2022. That commission in turn must report back the fiscal court in 60 days. The fiscal court then has 60 days upon receipt of the report to adopt or amend. Thus, the process should be completed by the end of September 2022.

The key item to takeaway is, as with the past two Censuses, Lincoln Trail ADD, will be available to assist with the mapping required to perform this process.

Per Judge Watts' question.

Of note is that further concerns are created due to filing dates for elections beginning in November of this year. Thus it is conceivable that candidates could be "drawn out" after the primaries and prior to the elections in Nov. 2022. However, KRS 67.045, Section 6 seems to alleviate that concern:

The commissioners shall, within sixty (60) days after their appointment, lay off the boundary lines of the districts. They shall file in the office of the county clerk and with each member of the fiscal court a written report, showing the boundary of each district and the estimated population in each. Within sixty (60) days of the receipt of the report, the fiscal court shall consider the report of the commissioners and, in accordance with the provisions of KRS 67.075 to 67.077, adopt or amend the report in establishing the districts. In no event shall districts be reapportioned during the period from thirty (30) days prior to the last date for filing for candidacy for county office [Jan 7, 2022, thus Dec 8, 2021] as provided in KRS 118.165 and the regular election for candidates for county office. [Nov. 8, 2022]

This would seem to imply that the districts can't take effect until after the Nov. 2022 general election. They could thus be in place for 2026 or any special election that may occur prior as long as they aren't implemented prior to Nov. 8, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted – Michael Robinson