

THE “REGIONAL INTEGRITY PLAN” – The Tennessee Senate for a new decade

Tennessee’s first-ever Republican-led redistricting will reconstruct the State Senate along fair, legal and logical regional lines, respecting the distinct voices of Tennessee’s unique communities. This map has regional integrity at a macro level and a micro level; all of West Tennessee’s districts are contained in West Tennessee and only one East Tennessee district crosses the time zone line. Within the Grand Divisions, districts are grouped according to logical, local county clusters.

A disproportionate share of Tennessee’s growth over the last decade has occurred in Middle Tennessee and the next state Senate map will reflect that growth, with each of the seven largest counties ringing Nashville anchoring its own distinct state Senate district for the first time in history: Montgomery, Williamson, Sumner, Robertson, Maury, Rutherford, and Wilson.

The map pairs four current incumbents into two districts to meet equal population guidelines – three of these four paired incumbents are Republicans, an indication of the fairness of the overall plan. In addition, Tennessee Republicans will adhere to the constitutional safeguard of consecutively numbering districts in counties that must be split – a constitutional provision blatantly ignored for the last twenty years.

Minority voting strength is enhanced to an historic level in this proposed Senate map, increasing from three majority-minority Senate districts in the Democrat-drawn map of 2002 to four majority minority districts.

The map balances Tennessee’s constitutional imperative to minimize county splits with the equal population standards required by the U.S. Constitution by dividing only eight counties and keeping the overall range of deviation well below 10%.

Key Facts:

1. Total Deviation: 9.17%
2. Mean Deviation: 2.45%
3. 31 of 33 districts within 3.9% of ideal population size
4. Eight counties split to comply with population equality standards: Shelby, Davidson, Knox, Rutherford, Hamilton, Bradley, Carter, Sevier
5. Eight districts entirely in the West Grand Division
6. Only one East Tennessee district crosses the time zone line: the 12th, done to keep the Upper Cumberland region in two districts

Regional breakdown of new Senate Districts:

Lakeway Region

SD 1: Hamblen, Cocke, Greene, and part of Sevier

SD 4: Hawkins, Jefferson, Union, Hancock, Claiborne, Grainger

Tri-Cities Region

SD 3: Washington, Unicoi, part of Carter

SD 4: Sullivan, Johnson, part of Carter

Metropolitan Knoxville Region

SD 5: Anderson, Loudon, part of Knox

SD 6: part of Knox

SD 7: part of Knox

Great Smoky Mountains Region

SD 8: Blount, part of Sevier

Southeast Tennessee/Metropolitan Chattanooga Region

SD 9: McMinn, Monroe, Polk, Meigs, part of Bradley

SD 10: part of Hamilton, part of Bradley

SD 11: part of Hamilton

Upper Cumberland Region

SD 12: Fentress, Pickett, Scott, Morgan, Campbell, Roane, Rhea

SD 15: Cumberland, Bledsoe, Putnam, White, Overton, Jackson

Highland Rim Region

SD 16: Franklin, Marion, Sequatchie, Grundy, Van Buren, Warren, Coffee

SD 14: Bedford, Moore, Marshall, Lincoln, part of Rutherford

Metropolitan and Exurban Middle Tennessee Region

SD 13: part of Rutherford

SD 17: Wilson, Macon, Clay, Cannon, DeKalb, Smith

SD 18: Sumner, Trousdale, part of Davidson

SD 19: part of Davidson

SD 20: part of Davidson

SD 21: part of Davidson

SD 22: Montgomery, Stewart, Houston

SD 23: Williamson

SD 25: Cheatham, Dickson, Robertson, Humphreys, Lewis, Perry

SD 33: Maury, Hickman, Lawrence, Wayne, Giles

Rural West Tennessee Region

SD 24: Weakley, Obion, Benton, Henry, Carroll, Gibson

SD 26: Fayette, Hardin, Hardeman, Henderson, Chester, Decatur, McNairy, Haywood

SD 27: Madison, Dyer, Crockett, Lauderdale, Lake

Metropolitan Memphis Region

SD 28: part of Shelby

SD 29: part of Shelby

SD 30: part of Shelby

SD 31: part of Shelby

SD 32: Tipton, part of Shelby

Incumbent Pairings:

1. District 28 (Kyle-D, Kelsey-R) Shelby County currently has six senators in six districts, but will only have five districts after redistricting due to slow population growth. There is no way to avoid pairing two incumbents in Shelby County. This plan avoids pairing more than 2 incumbents.
2. District 25 (Summerville-R, Roberts-R) The incumbent from District 18 lives in the new District 25. This pairing was the unavoidable result of trying to keep the number of county splits to the minimum necessary to conform with the federal "one person, one vote" standard. Sen. Roberts' prior district included Robertson and Sumner Counties – now too large to be one district combined and too small to be a single-county district.

County Splits

1. Carter County -- must be split to bring the district including Sullivan and Johnson Counties up to minimum population.

2. Knox County -- must be split to achieve population equality.
3. Sevier—must be split to achieve population equality in 1 and 8. Sevier County has grown by 26%, more than twice the state average. By splitting Sevier, we are able to keep together a vital community of interest -- the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and its tourism-dominated adjacent communities. This unique industry is of statewide importance and has defined interests in many specific state policies.
4. Hamilton—must be split for population equality.
5. Bradley—by splitting Bradley it is possible to contain two districts in urban Chattanooga and its suburban environs – a community of common interest. This split gives the Greater Chattanooga Area the same treatment the other metropolitan areas in the state get. In addition, it enables easier groupings of like counties in the Sequatchie Valley across Walden’s Ridge to the west of Chattanooga. The containment of districts 9, 10, and 11 in the Eastern Time Zone in Southeast Tennessee is made possible by this one county division.
6. Rutherford—must be split for population equality
7. Davidson—must be split for population equality
8. Shelby— must be split for population equality. One district is combined with Tipton County, a community of common interest. Failure to combine a portion of Shelby County with an adjacent county like Tipton would lead to systematic under-population of the urban districts in Shelby and overpopulation of the rural districts in West Tennessee, which has been disallowed by the U.S. Supreme Court. This combination of Shelby with Tipton in District 32 enables the drawing of eight districts entirely contained in the West Grand Division. The districts within Shelby County respect local municipal boundaries.