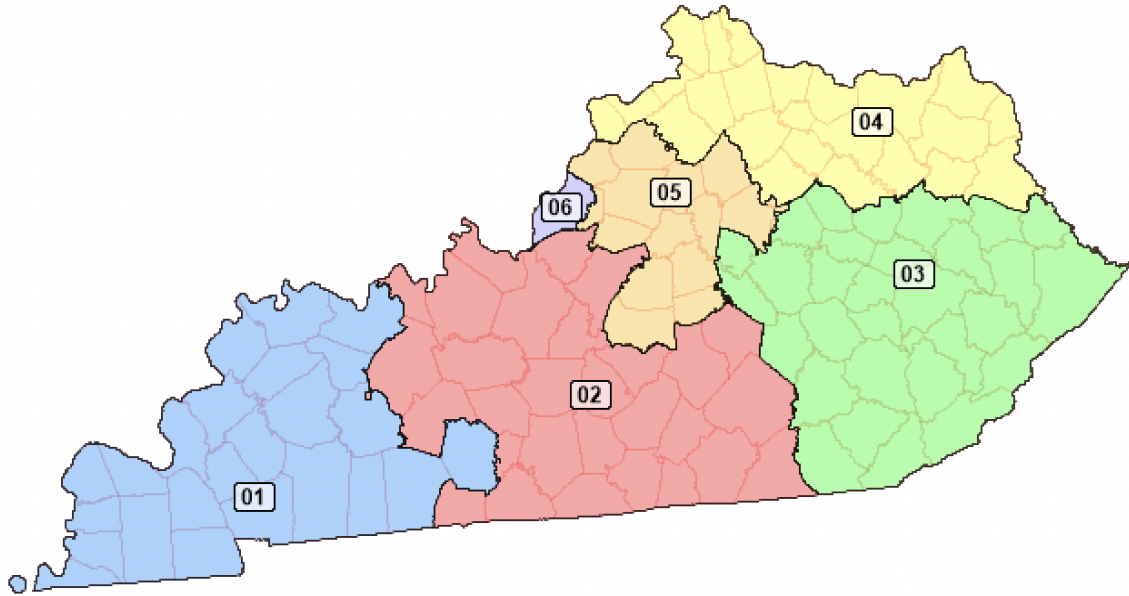


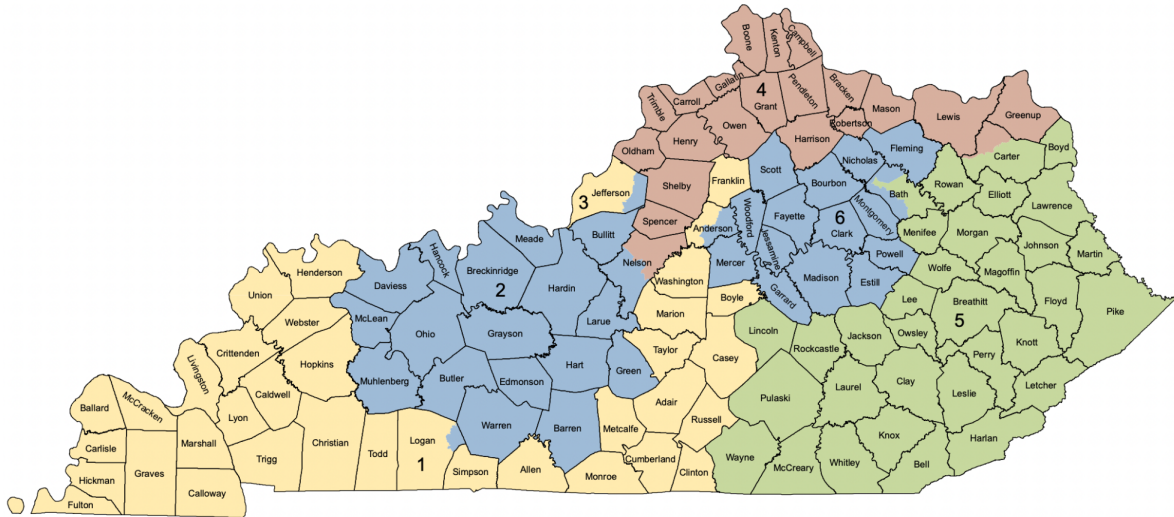
Kentucky

Proposed Congressional Redistricting Plan

Maxine Gomez



Proposed Plan



Map Implemented Through Senate Bill 3

Introduction

The proposed map is based on Good Governance principles that aim to keep county lines and voting districts intact in the state of Kentucky. Five out of one hundred and twenty counties were split during efforts to achieve equal populations in each district. In contrast, the currently implemented plan divides six out of one hundred and twenty counties. The proposed plan complied with federal and state guidelines.

Kentucky Senate Bill 3 revised the state of Kentucky's congressional district boundaries. The bill was passed in January of 2022 after a precarious override of Democratic Governor Andy Beshear's veto by the Republican dominated state legislature. Alleging partisan gerrymandering, the Kentucky Democratic Party then filed a complaint against the congressional and state map, stating that the plan was in violation of Section One, Two, Three, and Six of the Kentucky Constitution.¹ They pointed to an "excessive county" splitting and the newfound shape of District One in support of their claim.² In February of 2022, the Franklin circuit court denied a motion for a temporary injunction. The proposed plan makes District One more compact, though its partisan outcomes remain the same for each district.

The Differences Between the Implemented and Proposed Plan

Upon first glance, the most obvious difference between the two maps pertains to the boundary lines of District One. In the implemented plan, District One stretches from Fulton County in the

¹ See <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/law/constitution> for an in-depth look into the Kentucky Constitution

² See *Graham v. Adams* for additional information on the complaint filed against Senate Bill 3

western corner of the state to Franklin County in the NorthEast region. There is roughly 303 miles between the counties according to google maps. The Schwartzberg score of the district in the implemented plan is 2.45, with one being the most compact score possible under this test. In contrast, District One in the proposed plan is more concentrated in the western region and has a Schwartzberg score of 1.88. Further differences in compactness can also be seen in the perimeters of the two plans. District One in the proposed plan has a perimeter of 751.25 while District One in the implemented plan has a perimeter of 1,109.47. In comparing the two, the plan with the smallest perimeter is most compact. In general, even when comparing the six districts in each map, the proposed plan is more compact.

In addition, less counties are split in the proposed plan versus the implemented plan. In the proposed plan, five out of one hundred and twenty districts are split. The implemented plan splits six counties into one hundred and twenty counties. It is not a big difference numerically but the proposed plan better aligns with state requirements that the splitting of counties be minimized. Pictured below, the five counties split, including Warren County, Clark County, Bourbon County, Jefferson County, and Bullitt County.

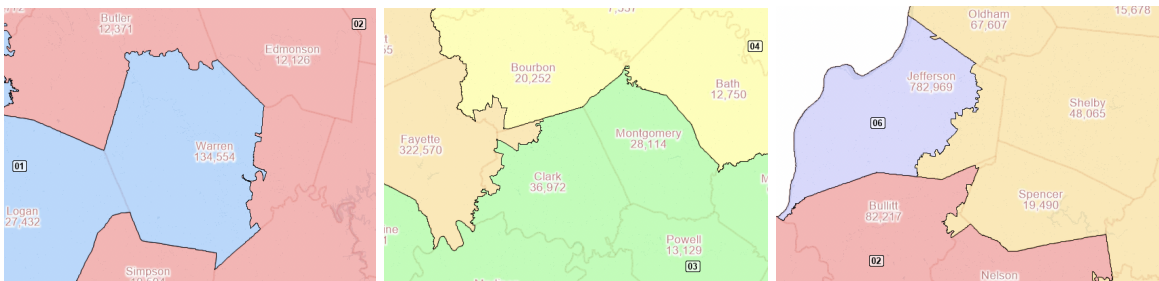
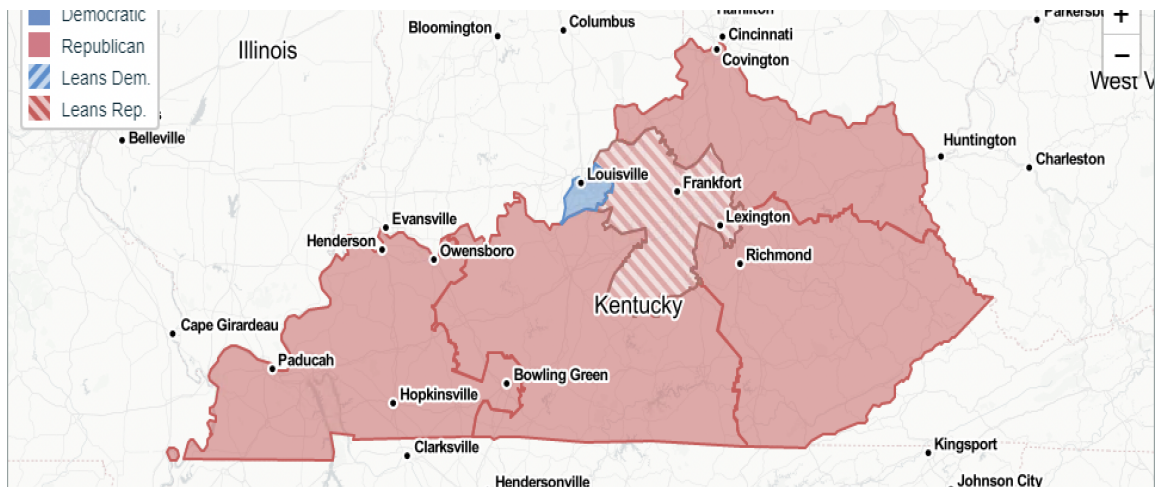


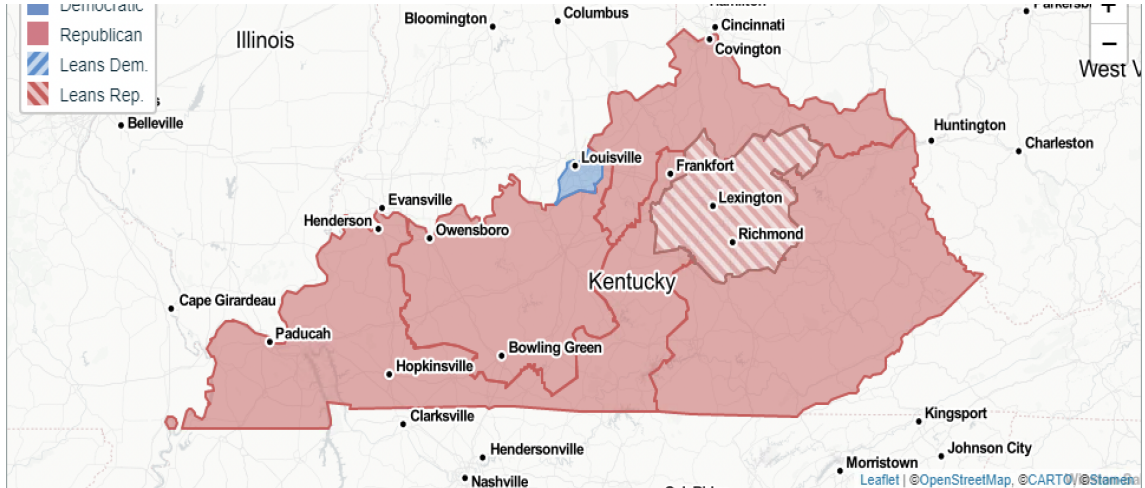
Photo: Counties in the Proposed Plan Split

Unfortunately when it comes to partisanship differences between the two maps, there are few differences. Planscore shows both the proposed and implemented plans favor the Republican Party. While the district lines may differ, both maps guarantee a sole win for the Democratic Party in the Louisville area, and a district that partially leans Republican but is not guaranteed. The rest of the districts in both maps are Republican strongholds. Neither map reflects the partisanship that is in Kentucky. The Pew Research Center finds 44% and 43% of adults in Kentucky affiliate with the Republican and Democratic party respectively.³ In only focusing on Good governance principles, achieving Proportional representation was not realized in the proposed plan.



Proposed Plan District Map Partisan Leanings

³ See “Party Affiliation among Adults in Kentucky.” from the Pew Research Center’s Religion & Public Life Project for additional statistics on the partisan demographics of Kentucky Residents



Implemented Plan District Map Partisan Leanings

Legal Compliance

This plan complies with federal and state requirements. Each district is contiguous, and aims to prioritize good governance principles. Under Section 33 of the Kentucky Constitution “not more than two counties shall be joined together to form a Representative District,” but this requirement falls second to the federal requirement of “one person, one vote.”⁴ During the creation of the map, five counties needed to be split to achieve near equal populations in the proposed districts. Every district has a zero person deviation except for District Five, which has a deficiency by two individuals.

While the plan complies with state and federal requirements, there may still be challenges to the proposed plan by the Democratic Party in Kentucky. While the plan was created without partisan bias and its sole goal was to follow Good Governance principles, the fact that there are similar partisan outcomes between the proposed and implemented plan may prompt the Democratic Party in the state to file a complaint against the map with similar arguments as stated in *Graham v. Adams*. It is

⁴ From Section 33- Senatorial and Representative districts

important to note that these claims are illegitimate, and that the map was not created with the goal of putting one party in power over the other.

Conclusion

In creating the six congressional districts in the state of Kentucky, it was important the breaking of county lines was as minimized as possible in order to follow Good Governance principles. Only five of the one hundred and twenty counties in the state were split, largely due to complying with the federal requirement of “one-person, one vote.” The end result is a map that is more compact than the currently implemented plan, though similar partisan outcomes arise from the proposed plan as in the implemented.