

For Immediate Release

Date: January 4, 2012

From: City of Covington Kentucky Administration Department

Re: Proposed State Legislative Redistricting

As many are aware, after every U.S. Census is conducted and results are tallied, the Congressional and General assembly districts of the Commonwealth of Kentucky must be modified if there is evidence of uneven population growth in the state. This redistricting attempts to modify legislative districts to accommodate the uneven population growth. In other words, the intention of the process is to maintain fair representation to all, based on population.

However, this year's proposed redistricting has the potential to adversely affect the City of Covington. As Kentucky's fifth largest city, Covington as a majority, is represented by Kentucky House District 65. Representative Arnold Simpson has held the seat since first elected in 1994. There is speculation that the proposed redistricting plan could remove Covington's urban core from House District 65 and reassign it to House District 67, which primarily represents Campbell County citizens. This possibility has Covington elected officials very concerned. So concerned they will discuss and consider a resolution opposing the proposed redistricting plan at a special meeting of the Board of Commissioners on January 5, 201, 4:00 PM in Commission Chambers.

“The City's resolution opposing the proposal for Campbell County House District 67 to take over the heart of Covington's historic urban core, should not be seen as a dislike for Dennis Keene, Representative for House District 67. Dennis Keene does an excellent job for his Campbell County District and has been good for the Kentucky's House of Representatives. The City's resolution is about the importance of Covington keeping the heart of it historic urban core with representation from one of their own residents, especially someone like Representative Arnold Simpson who has strong roots in Covington and who has developed a deep understanding for the people and the fabric of Covington's complex urban core.” - Commissioner Sherry Carran

Commissioner Steve Frank commented, “The biggest problem with the potential redistricting is that Covington may end up as the largest political entity in the State without its own State Representative. Covington needs to maintain its own unique voice in Frankfort. While we feel strongly that our current Representation in Frankfort has been great and effective, this has nothing to do with personalities. It has everything to do with Covington's interests and viability being continually marginalized by some of our regional partners. Our anxiety level is particularly high at this moment given that we have two major capital projects at stake in

Frankfort, the Gateway Technical College's Urban Campus and the Expansion of the Northern Kentucky Convention Center.”

"It is my personal belief the citizens of Covington are best served at the state level by being represented by one representative rather than our interests divided into two or possibly three districts which would totally water down our voices." - Commissioner Steve Casper

"There's no question in my mind that any redistricting will be a disservice to the citizens of Covington. Politically disenfranchising certain groups of citizens is not something that any of us should take lightly, and I encourage our legislators to initiate a compromise that will preserve our representation in Frankfort, so as to not divide our city." - Commissioner Shawn Masters

Although it is not required by state statute, each chamber of the General Assembly is expected to prepare its own redistricting plan, which is then approved as ordinary legislation. The City of Covington requests that the General Assembly maintain the current boundaries of House District 65.

Contact Information:

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