

# House redistricting to produce campaign battles

By Bob Wialer  
staff writer

The Apol II plan for reapportioning state Senate districts apparently has made life tougher for two Oakland County senators who plan to run for reelection.

Sen. Donald Bishop, R-Avon Township, saw his district change from a safe Republican area to a swing district which could go Democratic or Republican. The district of newly elected Sen. Dana Wilson, D-Hazel Park, has gone from being predominately Democratic to being predominately Republican.

The districts of two Senate incumbents who do not plan to seek reelection — Kerry Kammer, D-Pontiac, and Doug Ross, D-Southfield — will also be changed under the plan.

**THE EMERGENCE** of Kammer's old district, the 17th, as a heavily Republican area — containing Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield and West Bloomfield Townships — could touch off a battle royal among Republicans wishing to represent the new district.

State Rep. Richard Fessler, R-West Bloomfield, is a possible candidate.

The 15th District now represented by Ross will lose its more rural communities and pick up Ferndale.

The reapportionment — to conform districts to population changes recorded in the 1980 census — will cause

## analysis

many communities to be in different districts.

Those shifted include West Bloomfield and Bloomfield Townships, Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham, Orchard Lake, Keego Harbor and Troy, Southfield, Lathrup, Farmington and Farmington Hills will be unchanged.

The Supreme Court this year commissioned former state elections director Bernard Apol to devise reapportionment plans for the legislative districts after it became apparent the Legislature couldn't agree on a plan.

APOL PRESENTED one plan which drew protests from critics. The court ordered some changes in that plan. Thus Apol II was devised and it has been approved by the court. It is almost certain that the district lines devised in Apol II will be the boundaries for the new districts. Senators will be elected in the November general election and primary elections will be held Aug. 10. Legislative candidates must file for office by June 15.

Under the revised Apol plan, Birmingham and most of Troy generally overlying the west of Livernois and north of Big Beaver — will go from the

8th District represented by Bishop to the 18th District currently represented by Wilson.

The addition of these areas to Wilson's present district will make the area a probable Republican district and make Wilson's campaign to be re-elected in November much tougher.

Former state Rep. David Campbell, a Republican attorney, has announced he will run for the seat. Campbell estimates that the district is 56 percent Republican.

The new district will also include the rest of Troy, Clawson, Royal Oak, Madison Heights, Berkley, Pleasant Ridge, Ferndale, Hazel Park and the eastern

half of Royal Oak Township.

WILSON WAS a three-term state representative when he was elected to the Senate in a special election last month. He took over the district of former Sen. Bill Huffman, D-Madison Heights, who retired to become a lobbyist.

The transfer of Birmingham and much of Troy out of Bishop's 8th Senate district and the inclusion of Pontiac results in a net gain of Democratic voters in the district. One Republican study figures the district is now only 52.4 percent Republican.

The new district will include Pontiac, Rochester and the townships of Waterford, Pontiac, Avondale, Orion, Oakland, Oxford and Addison.

The 17th District represented by Kammer presently includes Pontiac, Sylvan Lake, Clarkston, Holly and the townships of Waterford, White Lake, Highland, Independence, Springfield, Rose, Groveland and Holly in Oakland County and some parts of Livingston County.

The new district will lose the heavily Democratic Pontiac — Kammer's voters — as well as Waterford Township, Sylvan Lake and its Livingston County constituency. It will pick up mostly areas which are heavily Republican.

The new communities will include Bloomfield Hills, Beverly Hills, Birmingham Farms, Franklin, South Lyon, Orchard Lake and the townships of Bloomfield, West Bloomfield, Commerce, Milford, Lyon and Brandon.

Kammer is one of several candidates vying for the Democratic Party nomination for governor. The boundary changes would tend to eliminate the possibility of him dropping his gubernatorial campaign in favor of another term in the Senate.

ROSS' 15TH District will tend to become more of a Democratic district under the change.

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