

How Court Changed Legislative Map

An Observer Roundup

New Legislative apportionment plans approved by the Michigan Supreme Court carve a new face for Observerland's districts but appear to protect the eight incumbent state representatives and four senators.

The Hatcher-Kleiner plan makes drastic changes in senatorial boundaries but gives each of the local senators districts with favorable voter composition.

Sen. Carl Pursell's (R-Plymouth) 14th District is considerably trimmed from the large area encompassing both urban and rural areas to one made up solely of Redford Township, Livonia, Plymouth City and Township, Northville Township, a corner of Westland and the south half of Northville City. He no longer has any Oakland County area.

Despite the addition of Democratic Redford, Pursell's district remains largely Republican.

SEN. WILLIAM FAUST (D-Westland) will keep a primarily Democratic 13th District though he will lose Huron Township and move westward into a portion of Washtenaw County. The district includes Westland and Garden City.

Sen. David Plawewski (D-Dearborn Heights) loses Redford but will cover all of Inkster, Dearborn Heights and Southgate and parts of Taylor and Allen Park in his 12th District.

Sen. Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) is still looking toward a congressional race but will have a favorable district for re-election under the plan.

The 15th District will move westward and will lose some of its eastern sections. The district, which Cooper carried by 30,000 votes in 1970, will include Farmington City and Township, along with Southfield and Lathrup Village.

OBSERVERLAND WILL gain two new state representatives under the plan, which moves Rep.

James Detebaugh's (R-Birmingham) district north out of the Observerland area.

In Oakland County a new district is created which includes Southfield Township, Bloomfield Township, the eastern section of West Bloomfield Township and the northern tip of Southfield.

Rep. Joseph Forbes' (D-Oak Park) 6th District will encompass Lathrup Village, eastern Southfield and western Oak Park. Rep. Raymond Baker (F-Farmington) will have Farmington City and Township and western Southfield in his 64th District.

Whereas earlier Democratic apportionment plans hurt both Rep. Richard Young (D-Dearborn Heights) and Marvin Stempien (D-Livonia), the Hatcher-Kleiner plan draws favorable district for both.

Young will move out of the Observerland area by dropping two precincts in Livonia. His new district includes almost all of Dearborn Heights and a northern corner of Taylor.

Rep. John Bennett's (D-Redford Township) 34th District will still include all Redford plus a northeast tip of Dearborn Heights.

STEMPIEN'S 35TH District still remains largely Democratic despite gaining southern Northville City and Township. The district will encompass the entire north and east sections of Livonia.

Another new district will be created from the western section of Livonia and the northern area of Westland. No incumbents live in the area, which is Democratic.

Though Rep. James Tierney (D-Garden City) formerly reached as far west as Plymouth Township in his 36th District, his new district will be the 33rd District and consist solely of Garden City and Inkster.

Rep. Thomas Brown (D-Westland) will remain in a Democratic district composed of southern Westland, Wayne, and Canton Township and move west into Washtenaw County.

Plymouth City and Township will gain a new representative after being grouped with Washtenaw County areas to form the new 52nd District.

State Board Curbs Backed 3-1 In Senate

A proposed constitutional amendment that would severely curtail the power of the State Board of Education passed the Senate last week with support of three Observer senators.

Sens. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth), William Faust (D-Westland), and David Plawewski (D-Dearborn Heights) voted for the proposed amendment while Sen. Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) voted against it.

After failing on the first try, the proposal passed the Senate 26-9 and was referred to the House.

Before a constitutional amendment can be finally approved it must be put to a vote by Michigan residents.

THE AMENDMENT would allow the Legislature to divide educational responsibility between local school boards, the intermediate school district and the State Board of Education.

Currently the state board holds ultimate control over education under provisions in the state Constitution.

Pursell said he backed the proposal because the state board is assuming total control of education through 19 policies it recently adopted and others now under consideration.

"They have adopted these policies much too fast without proper discussion with the State Legislature and principally with the local school boards," he said.

He said adoption of the policies was stepping toward "total control."

THE POLICIES cover different phases of education from free textbooks, the extended school year concept and sex education to reorganization of intermediate school districts and elimination of non-high school districts.

Adoption of the proposed amendment is an attempt to "strike a delicate balance between the powers of the local school boards and the State Board," Pursell said.

Pursell added that the State Board serves an "excellent and useful purpose" as an advisory and coordinating body.



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