

Redistricting could change Wightman's district

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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One redistricting proposal would transform Sen. John Wightman's 36th district.

A plan by Sen. Deb Fischer of Valentine, the Third District subcommittee, would change District 36 to include all of Custer County. It would cut Buffalo County in half with the west portion remaining in Wightman's district.

The proposal would eliminate District 49, represented by Sen. Roy Loudon of Ellsworth, and move it to more heavily populated areas in Douglas and Sarpy counties.

Another plan, drawn up by redistricting committee chair Sen. Chris Langmeier of Schuyler, leaves District 36 intact so it continues to include Dawson and Buffalo counties with the exception of the City of Kearney.

However the proposal would eliminated District 47 which is represented by Sen. Ken Schilz of Ogallala.

Keeping Dawson County intact is a priority of Wightman's, particularly because of joint economic projects between the county's three main cities—Lexington, Cozad and Gothenburg.

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The redistricting committee meets Wednesday (today) to start working on proposals.

Wightman asks for input on the proposals or other legislation by calling (402) 471-2642 or e-mailing him at jwightman@leg.ne.gov.