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Redistricting Committee Back To Square One

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JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – On the same day that candidates are supposed to start filing office in Missouri, a new Senate redistricting committee will be starting from square one to try and draw a new map.

A new committee will begin work on Feb. 28 to begin redrawing the state senate map. The committee was appointed by Gov. Jay Nixon on Tuesday.

The state committees of the two major political parties each submitted 10 names to Gov. Nixon to consider for appointment to the Senate apportionment commission. From those lists, the Governor selected five members from each of the lists for the commission, for a total of 10 members.

No one appointed by the governor is from Southeast Missouri. Nixon's Senate apportionment commission members, along with their hometown and political affiliations are:

- Nicole Colbert-Botchway (D-St. Louis)
- Jean Paul Bradshaw II (R-Kansas City)
- Steve Ehlman (R-St. Charles)
- Marc Ellinger (R-Jefferson City)
- W. Mitchell Elliott (D-Kansas City)
- Doug Harpool (D-Springfield)
- Nick Myers (R-Joplin)
- Todd Patterson (D-Kansas City)
- Lowell Pearson (R-Columbia)
- Trent Skaggs (D-Kansas City)

The committee includes several members from the previous bi-partisan apportionment commission that failed to come to an agreement in the first place last August.

After that commission failed, the task of drawing a new state Senate map was handed over to a panel of judges. But the Missouri Supreme Court tossed their map out earlier this month after it failed to meet constitutional mandates for fairness and compactness.

The new committee will hold its first meeting on Feb. 28 to begin redrawing the map. That's the same day that candidates are eligible to start filing for state races. The delay in the redistricting process could generate conflict over district residency rules.

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