



WRAP-UP

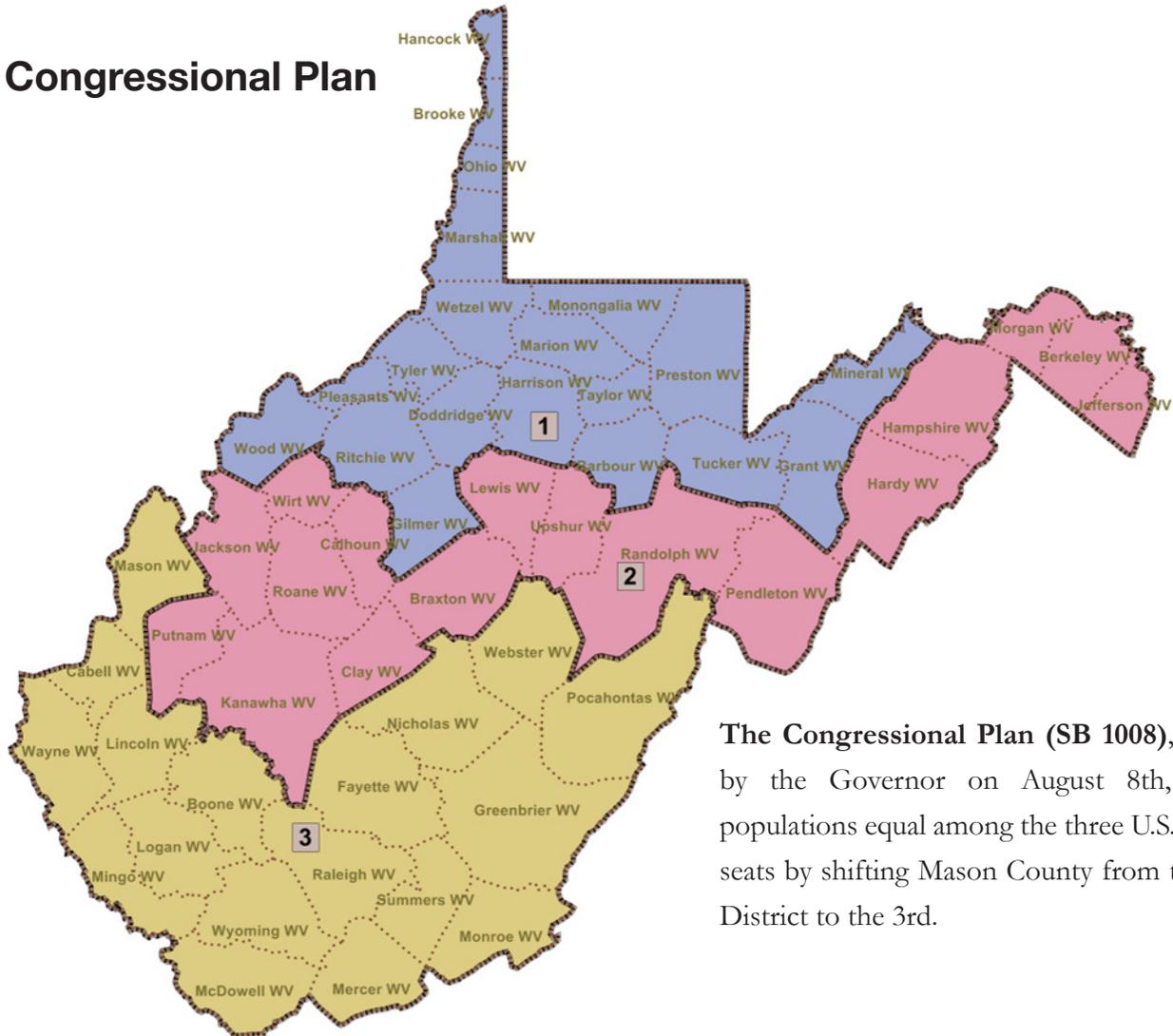
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

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Sept. 13, 2011

Congressional Plan



The Congressional Plan (SB 1008), signed by the Governor on August 8th, keeps populations equal among the three U.S. House seats by shifting Mason County from the 2nd District to the 3rd.

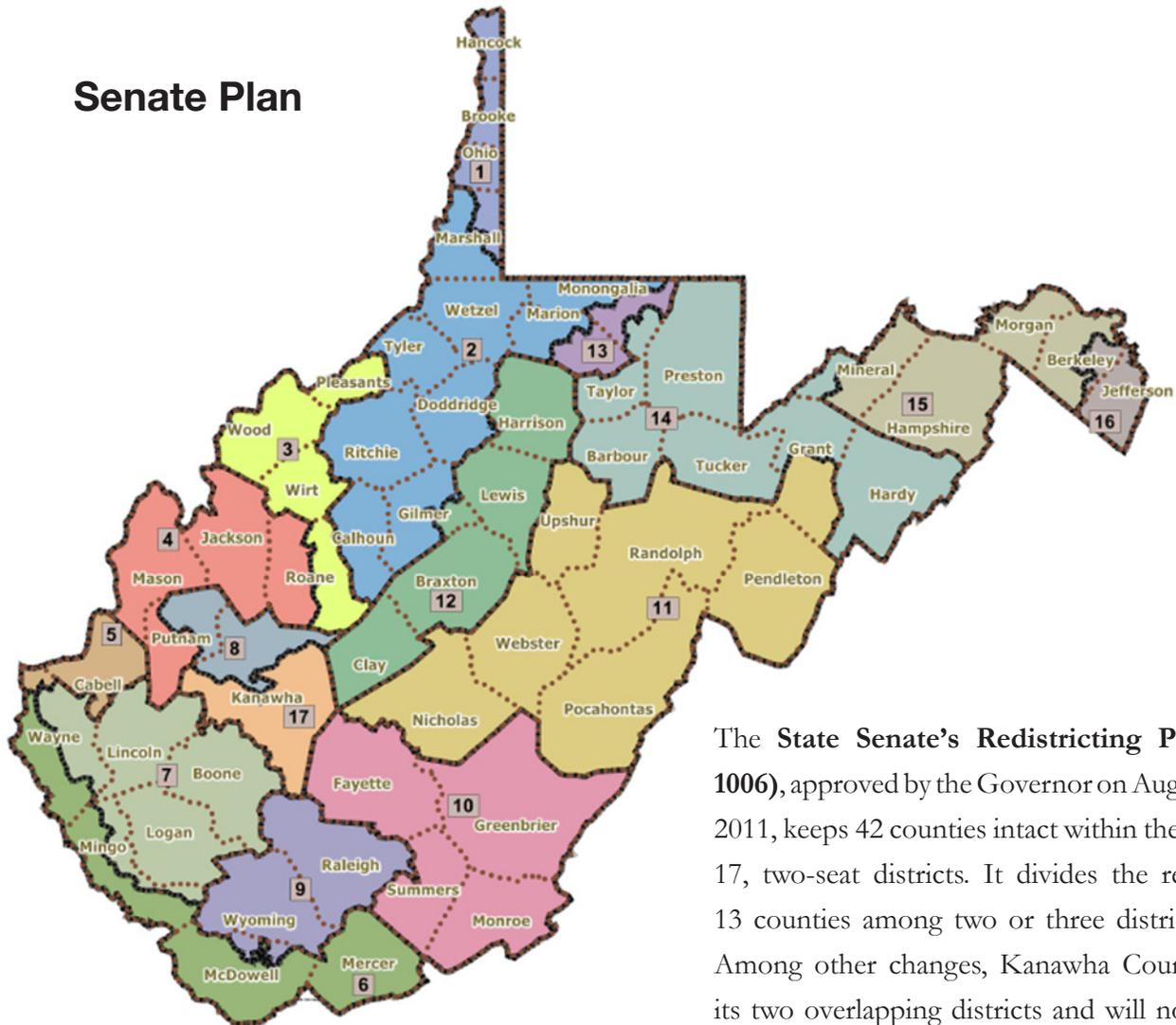
Redistricting Special Session

Redistricting takes place every 10 years following the national census count. According to the Legislative Redistricting website, “in a census year, data is collected based on the residence of the population on April 1st. At the state level, by April 1st of the year following the census, in this case 2011, the Census Bureau Director will provide geographically defined population counts to

the Governor, legislative leaders and state liaisons.

Once the data is received, legislative leadership forms redistricting committees, which are charged to work with the Redistricting Office analysts to draw new political boundaries for Congressional, State Senate and House of Delegate Districts to ensure equal representation within West Virginia.

Senate Plan

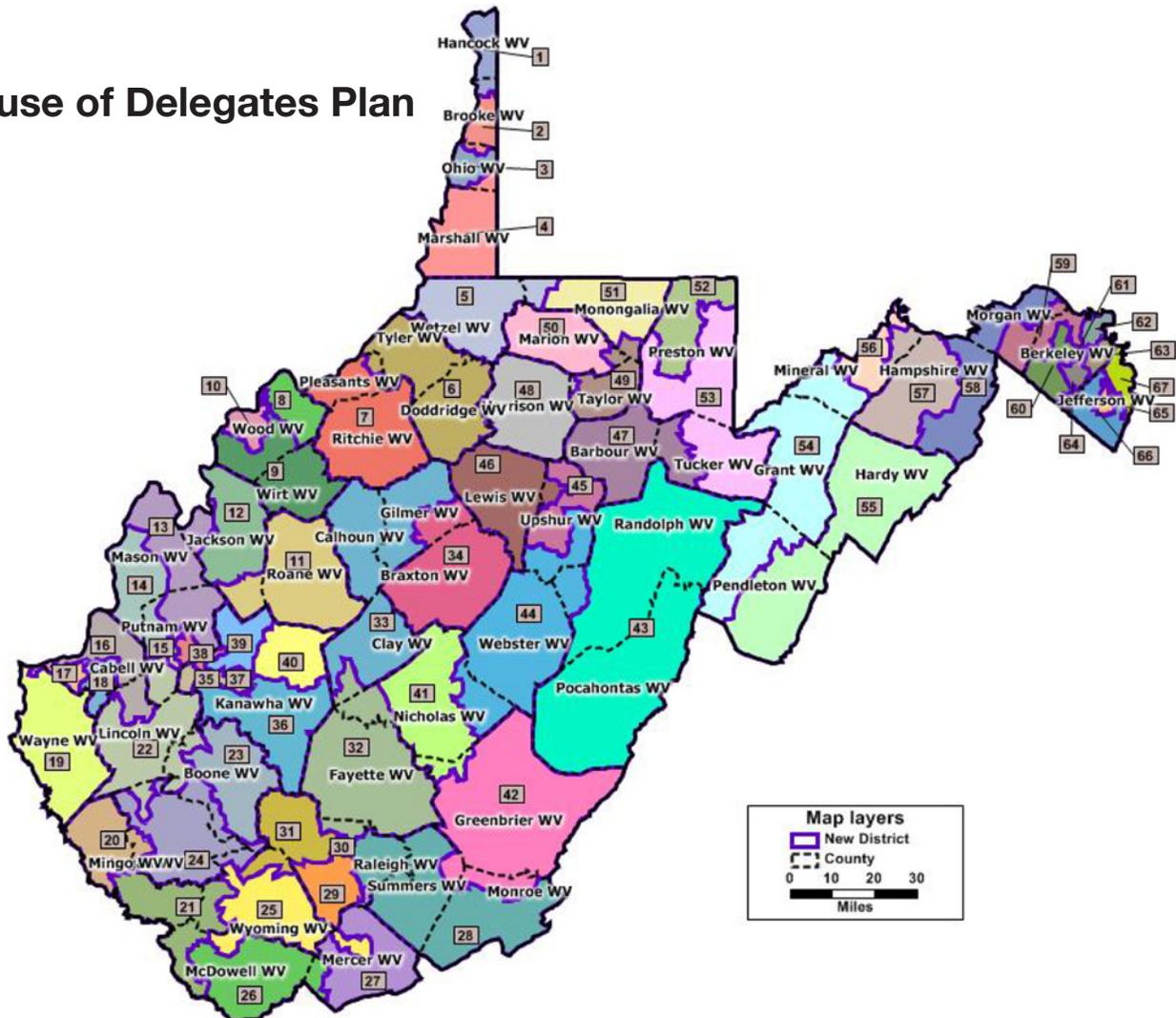


The **State Senate’s Redistricting Plan (SB 1006)**, approved by the Governor on August 18th, 2011, keeps 42 counties intact within the Senate’s 17, two-seat districts. It divides the remaining 13 counties among two or three districts each. Among other changes, Kanawha County loses its two overlapping districts and will now share one district with neighboring Putnam County.

Once the initial plans are completed, the Redistricting Office generates the reports and maps needed for the formation of the Redistricting Bill. This normally takes place during a special session the year following the census.”

Contained is a brief explanation of each of the reapportionment bills passed during the special sessions of 2011. More details can be examined through the State Senate redistricting website <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/senate1/redistricting.cfm> and the House of Delegates’ redistricting website <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/house/redistricting.cfm>

House of Delegates Plan



The **House of Delegates’ Redistricting Plan (House Bill 201)**, approved by the Governor on September 2nd, 2011, contains 47 single-seat districts, up from the current 36, while placing another 40 seats in two- and three-member districts.

It includes a pair of four-seat districts and increases Monongalia County’s district, home of Morgantown, from four to five seats.

It puts another 40 seats in 16 two- and three-seat districts, but also includes two four-seat districts and one with five members.

With all three of the Reapportionment bills signed into law, the new districts will go into effect on Tuesday, January 9, 2012, for purposes of filing for congressional and legislative seats with the Office of the Secretary of State.

Legislation

1st Special Session

Senate Bill 1001 - Food Tax Repeal

Senate Bill 1001 reduces the food tax to 2 percent on January 1, 2012 and then to 1 percent on July 1, 2012. If the percentage of the general revenue budget in the Rainy Day Fund is at least 12.5 percent on December 31, 2012, the food tax will be gone completely. In addition, Senate Bill 1001 increases the cap on mandatory surplus transfers to the Rainy Day Fund, from 10 percent to 13 percent of the general revenue budget.

Senate Bill 1002 - Severance Tax

Senate Bill 1002 reallocates revenue from the coal severance tax in 1 percent increments over the next five years, beginning July 1, 2012. An additional 5 percent will be directed to the counties by fiscal year 2017. The revenue will be placed in a special fund called the “Coal County Reallocated Severance Tax Fund” and is to be used on economic development and infrastructure projects. The bill caps the amount distributed to the counties at \$20 million per year. Five counties account for more than half of the coal produced over the last 10 years: Boone, Kanawha, Logan, Mingo and Monongalia.

Senate Bill 1003 - University Properties

Senate Bill 1003 clarifies the authorization of the Higher Education Policy Commission to sell, lease or convey property and to designate where proceeds are to be deposited.

Appropriation Legislation

1st Special Session

Senate Bill 1004 provides \$33 million to the General Revenue Fund for Fiscal Year 2012.

Nearly \$23 million will help the William R. Sharpe Hospital, the state’s psychiatric hospital in Lewis County, build a 50-bed addition. Another \$2 million will pay private hospitals that treat overflow patients from such state psychiatric facilities.

West Virginia lawmakers approved spending nearly \$23 million to alleviate overcrowding at William R. Sharpe Jr. Hospital. The money will increase the 150-bed facility’s capacity for forensic patients -- those who have been ordered into the hospital by judges, determined to be unfit to stand trial, or found not guilty by reason of insanity.

West Virginia will spend \$15 million to add a 50-bed forensic unit to the hospital. Another \$7.75 million of the funds lawmakers approved will let the state contract with a private hospital, Highland Clarksburg, to treat forensic patients starting in 2012.

SB 1004 provides \$1 million for West Virginia’s Save the Children programs. Save the Children works with certain Title 1 schools to improve student achievement in areas of reading, nutrition, physical fitness and early childhood education. Current school partners in Roane and Mason counties have reported significant student advancement in these areas.

Wayne County’s Kenova Elementary will get \$500,000 for temporary classrooms.



SB 1004 will also allow existing programs to continue as prior funding came from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) and is no longer available.

SB 1004 also provides \$227,000 for meth lab clean up among other programs. Previous funding for meth lab clean-up was provided by now expired federal funds now the state money will allow environmental protection officials to continue meth lab cleanups.

Senate Bill 1005 provides \$62.5 million to the State Road Fund for road maintenance, bridge repair and replacement, and general operations among others.

Senate Bill 1007 provides \$310,000 for the Secretary of State to upgrade computer software associated with the Statewide Voter Registration System to implement redistricting changes.

Appropriation Legislation

2nd Special Session

Senate Bill 2001 The Lottery had about \$30 million left over from the nearly \$70 million it had once set aside for its new headquarters. The Lottery, which had squirreled \$69 million away over several years for a new headquarters ended up needing \$40 million to buy and renovate the City Center West building. That left about \$30 million sitting around on the lottery's books

Out of that \$30 million, this bill was passed that would provide \$15 million to invest in the state's deteriorating secondary road system.

The money will be divided among the state's 10 highways districts in equal proportions based on the number of road miles in each district.

District managers will have the authority to use the funds on the most pressing secondary road projects in each district. They also will have the authority to either contract for the work or use highways staff - whichever is most efficient.

It costs between \$250,000 and \$300,000 to pave a mile of road, according to a state highway engineer. By that estimate, the \$15 million would cover about 50 to 60 miles of the more than 34,000 miles of state-owned highways across the state. It is estimated that it would take about \$400 million to make all the highway repairs that engineers across the state have flagged.

Lawmakers plan to meet with officials from the state Revenue and Transportation departments when they convene for the regular legislative session next year to find a way to shore up the state's stagnant road fund. (Expiration)

Senate Bill 2002 moved \$15 million from the State Road Fund to the Department of Transportation - Division of Highways. It also allows local highway districts to have control over local projects.

Redistricting Information & Maps

Senate

<http://www.legis.state.wv.us/senate1/redistricting.cfm>

House

<http://www.legis.state.wv.us/house/redistricting.cfm>

2011 - 2012

Interim Committee Meeting Dates

September 12 - 14, 2011

October 11 - 13, 2011

November 14 - 16, 2011

December 12 - 14, 2011

January 8 - 10, 2012

View Interim Committee Agendas and other Information online:

<http://www.legis.state.wv.us/committees/interims/interims.cfm>

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View Legislation Online

For complete bill history information, roll call votes, amendments, sponsor, veto messages and the full bill text of all legislation from the 2010 Regular Session, please visit Bill Statutus online at:

www.legis.state.wv.us/Bill_Status/bill_status.cfm

Track Legislation Online

Constituents, staff, lobbyists and lawmakers can now easily follow the progress of their bills of interest online. To sign up today, please visit the Bill Tracking portion of the West Virginia Legislature's Web site at:

www.legis.state.wv.us/billstatus_personalized/persbills_login.cfm