

*.As Engrossed: 2/4/91 3/7/91*

1 **State of Arkansas**  
2 **78th General Assembly**  
3 **Regular Session, 1991**  
4 **By: Representative Flanagin**

**H.C.R. 1006**

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7 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

8 "TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA FOR CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING"  
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11 WHEREAS, in an effort to develop and adopt a constitutionally acceptable  
12 congressional redistricting plan, the House and Senate Committees on State  
13 Agencies and Governmental Affairs have reviewed various criteria adopted by  
14 sister states; and

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16 WHEREAS, criteria adopted by both houses of the General Assembly would  
17 be useful in evaluating proposals for Congressional redistricting; and

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19 WHEREAS, sound criteria based on interpretation by the courts of  
20 constitutional provisions and federal statutes provide guidance to the  
21 membership of the Arkansas General Assembly while performing congressional  
22 redistricting;

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25 NOW THEREFORE,

26 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
27 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

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29 THAT the following guidelines are hereby adopted for use in  
30 congressional redistricting during the 78th Session of the Arkansas General  
31 Assembly:

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33 1. EQUAL REPRESENTATION

34 Equality of population of congressional districts insofar as is  
35 practicable shall be the goal of congressional reapportionment.

1 (a) Deviations from the "ideal district population" shall be  
2 justifiable only when such is the result of a limitation of geography, or the  
3 result of the promotion of a preferred constitutionally acceptable state  
4 policy.

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6 2. POPULATION DATA

7 The total state population and the population of defined sub-units  
8 thereof as reported to the state by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau  
9 of the Census, as the official census information collected under P.L. 94-171  
10 for the 1990 Federal Decennial Census shall be the exclusive permissible data  
11 base for congressional redistricting.

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13 3. DISTRICTS

14 Only single-member congressional districts are acceptable.

15 The committees acknowledge a preference for continuity in  
16 representation. The committees shall give preference to a plan which departs  
17 as little as possible from the 1981 apportionment plan as developed by the  
18 court in Doulin v. White so long as such plan is otherwise constitutionally  
19 acceptable.

20 County lines, cities, and established geographical boundaries should be  
21 maintained, *if possible*.

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23 4. MINORITY VOTING STRENGTH AND PARTICIPATION

24 The dilution of voting strength and participation by recognized  
25 minorities within the state population is contrary to the Voting Rights Act of  
26 1965, the U. S. Constitution, and the public policy of the State of Arkansas.  
27 The right of meaningful political participation of all citizens is desired  
28 and recognized. Therefore, any plan or proposed amendment to a plan having  
29 the objective of diluting the voting strength of minority citizens shall be  
30 unacceptable.

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32 5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

33 The committees actively seek public participation in all deliberations  
34 concerning congressional redistricting. Notices of all committee meetings in  
35 which proposed legislation concerning congressional redistricting will be  
36 considered by the committees shall be provided and posted in accordance with

1 the current rules of the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Joint  
2 Interim Committee on State Agencies and Governmental Affairs. All interested  
3 parties are encouraged to appear before the committees during the legislative  
4 hearings on proposed plans to provide input regarding congressional  
5 redistricting.

6 /s/ P. Flanagan

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