

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: 7 October 2013
SUBJECT: Redistricting
PRESENTER: Commissioner Hawkins

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

The last revision of candidate residency district boundaries for the Board of Commissioners was in 2001. At that time, the populations of the districts were as follows (2000 census):

District 1	18,615	Edney
District 2	17,919	Messer
District 3	17,581	Young
District 4	17,700	Thompson
District 5	17,358	Hawkins

2012 Census estimates for the County shows a different population allocation:

District 1	19,826	Edney
District 2	20,441	Messer
District 3	19,631	Young
District 4	22,002	Thompson
District 5	26,127	Hawkins

- Since 1973, the “districts” in Henderson County have been not **election** districts, but **candidate residency** districts. For each given seat, the successful candidate must reside within the district at the time of the election. (The limitation on residency does **not** extend after election; if an elected commissioner moves, changing districts but staying within Henderson County, there is no effect.)
- Elections are on a county-wide basis, with all county residents voting on all commissioner districts.
- Since 1995, the Board of Commissioners has had the power to modify the residency district boundaries.

At any time that the Board of Commissioners “find[s] that there is a substantial inequality of population” it may modify the district boundaries. “The test” for whether new district may be adopted is whether there is “a reduction in the relative overall range of deviation.”¹

Any change other than a change in the residency district boundaries must come from the General Assembly.

¹ Session Law 1995-215, applied to Henderson County as a result of Session Law 1998-175.