87R11637 TJB-D

By:  Collier H.J.R. No. 123

A JOINT RESOLUTION

proposing a constitutional amendment to require the preservation of communities of interest in the apportionment of members of the Texas House of Representatives.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Section 26, Article III, Texas Constitution, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 26.  (a) The members of the House of Representatives shall be apportioned among the several counties, according to the number of population in each, as nearly as may be, on a ratio obtained by dividing the population of the State, as ascertained by the most recent United States census, by the number of members of which the House is composed; provided, that whenever a single county has sufficient population to be entitled to a Representative, such county shall be formed into a separate Representative District, and when two or more counties are required to make up the ratio of representation, such counties shall be contiguous to each other; and when any one county has more than sufficient population to be entitled to one or more Representatives, such Representative or Representatives shall be apportioned to such county, and for any surplus of population it may be joined in a Representative District with any other contiguous county or counties.

(b)  The apportionment of members of the House of Representatives shall to the extent practicable keep intact communities of interest defined by social, economic, racial, ethnic, cultural, industrial, commercial, and geographic commonalities.

SECTION 2.  This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 2, 2021. The ballot shall be printed to permit voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment to require the preservation of communities of interest in the apportionment of members of the Texas House of Representatives."