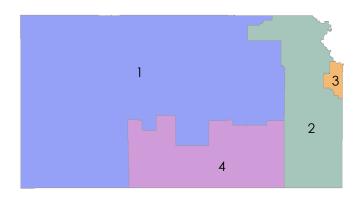
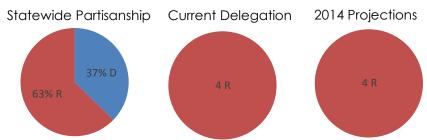
# **2014 ELECTIONS IN KANSAS**

July 2014

## **Current Congressional District Map**



## Representation



Partisanship is a measure of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. See our Methodology section to learn how Partisanship is determined.

# **District Competitiveness**

Majority	Swing	Lean	Safe	
Partisanship	(50-<53%)	(53-<58%)	(58%+)	
Districts	0	1	3	

# Redistricting

The state legislature is responsible for redistricting in Kansas. Despite both chambers of the legislature being heavily Republican, however, it failed to agree on a redistricting plan. The State House of Representatives opposed the initial plan that passed the State Senate on the grounds that it might create an opening for a Democrat to win a seat. Both chambers then proposed a string of plans, none of which gained any traction, before adjourning on May 20, 2012.

Because the state legislature was unable to reach a consensus on redistricting, a federal district court was forced to draw new maps for the first time in the state's history. The court released the new maps on June 7, 2012.

### 2014 Projections: 4 R, 0 D

Kansas is one of the most consistently Republican states in the nation: no Democratic presidential candidate has won in the state since 1964, Republicans have held both U.S. Senate seats since 1939, and Republicans today hold both chambers of the state legislature and the governorship.

In the House, every district in Kansas has a Republican partisanship of 56% or greater. As a result, Republicans are strongly favored to continue their domination of Kansas politics in 2014 with a sweep of the state's House elections.

Date 2014 Projections Announced: April 2013.

**2012 Projections:** 4 R, 0 D. All projections accurate.

Races to Watch: None.

Strongest Candidate: Yoder (KS-3, R): +2.1% POAC\*

Weakest Candidate: Pompeo (KS-4, R): -2.8% POAC

\*POAC (Performance Over Average Candidate) is a measure of the quality of a winning candidate's campaign. It compares how well a winner did relative to what would be projected for a generic candidate of the same party and incumbency status. See our Methodology section to learn how POAC is determined.

#### Race and Gender in the U.S. House

There is currently one female U.S. House Member from Kansas, Lynn Jenkins, who has represented the state's 2<sup>nd</sup> district since 2009. All four of Kansas' congressional districts are majority-white, and the state has never elected a racial minority to Congress.

#### **Dubious Democracy**

#### Kansas' Democracy Index Ranking: 42rd (of 50)

A lack of meaningful competition in Kansas' U.S. House races harms the state's Democracy Index ranking. In 2012, three of Kansas' U.S. House elections were won by landslide margins, with a statewide average victory margin of 46% - the fifth highest in the nation. Despite the high margins of victory, low turnout meant that only 36% of Kansas' eligible voters voted for a winning candidate.

Kansas Democrats are not represented in Congress. The state has a 37% Democratic partisanship, but Democrats hold none of the state's U.S. House seats.

Kansas' election history shows that incumbents typically coast to victory. Since 1982, incumbents have failed to win reelection only four times in 59 attempts.

View redistricting alternatives at FairVotingUS.com



# **2014 ELECTIONS IN KANSAS**

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Listed below are recent election results and 2014 election projections for Kansas' 4 U.S. House districts. All metrics in this table are further explained in the Methodology section of this report.

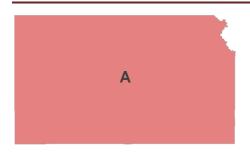
**Partisanship** is an indicator of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. It is determined by measuring how the district voted for president in 2012 relative to the presidential candidates' national averages. Developed by FairVote in 1997 and adapted by Charlie Cook for the Cook Partisan Voting Index, this definition of partisanship is based on only the most recent presidential election.

**Performance Over Average Candidate (POAC)** is an indicator of how well the winner did compared to a hypothetical generic candidate of the same district, incumbency status, and party, based on their winning percentages in 2010 and 2012. A high POAC suggests that the winner appealed to independents and voters from other parties in addition to voters from his or her own party. A low POAC suggests that the winner did not draw many votes from independents and other parties.

District	Incumbent	Party	Race/Gender	Year First Elected	2012 2-Party Winning Percentage	POAC	District Partisanship (Dem)	2014 Projected Dem %	2014 Projection
1	Huelskamp, Tim	R	White/M	2010	100.0%	-0.3%	26.8%	23.2%	Safe R
2	Jenkins, Lynn	R	White/F	2008	59.6%	-1.7%	41.3%	38.9%	Safe R
3	Yoder, Kevin	R	White/M	2010	100.0%	2.1%	43.3%	38.0%	Safe R
4	Pompeo, Mike	R	White/M	2010	66.3%	-2.8%	35.3%	33.5%	Safe R

### Kansas Fair Representation Voting Plan

Super District	# of	Pop. Per	% to Win	Partisanship	Current Rep.:	Super District Rep.:
(w/current Cong. Dist. #s)	Seats	Seat	(plus 1 vote)	(D/R %)	4 R	2 R, 1 D, 1 ?
A (CDs - 1,2,3,4)	4	713,280	20%	37 / 63	4 R	2 R, 1 D, 1 ?



Partisan and Racial Impact: Instead of having 4 lopsided districts that shut out Democrats and limit voter choice, this plan would provide fair representation to Kansas. Republicans would be favored to win three seats, but Democrats might win two seats in a strong year. Kansas is over 80% white, but its black and Latino populations would be able to join in cross-racial coalitions to help elect a preferred candidate.

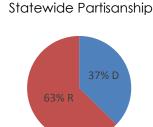
## **How Does Fair Representation Voting Work?**

Fair representation voting methods such as ranked choice voting describe American forms of proportional representation with a history in local and state elections. They uphold American electoral traditions, such as voting for candidates rather than parties. They ensure all voters participate in competitive elections and ensure more accurate representation, with the majority of voters likely to elect most seats and backers of both major parties likely to elect preferred candidates.

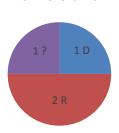
Instead of four individual congressional districts, our fair voting plan combines these districts into one larger "super district." Any candidate receiving support from more than 20% of voters is sure to win a seat. Any candidate who is the first choice of more than a fifth of voters will win in a four-seat district.

# Comparing a Fair Representation Voting Plan to Kansas' Current Districts

2014 Projections







FairVote's Plan

Partisanship is an indicator of voters' underlying preference for Democrats or Republicans. See our Methodology section to learn how Partisanship is determined.

# Benefits of a Fair Representation Voting Plan

**More accurate representation:** Congressional delegations more faithfully reflect the preferences of all voters. Supporters of both major parties elect candidates in each district, with accurate balance of each district's left, right, and center.

More voter choice and competition: Third parties, independents and major party innovators have better chances, as there is a lower threshold for candidates to win a seat. Because voters have a range of choices, candidates must compete to win voter support.

**Better representation of racial minorities:** Racial minority candidates have a lower threshold to earn seats, even when not geographically concentrated. More voters of all races are in a position to elect candidates.

More women: More women are likely to run and win. Single-member districts often stifle potential candidates.