

MISSOURI'S NEW CONGRESSIONAL MAP COULD COMPLICATE MIDTERM VOTING, CLERKS WARN

by Mathew Pilger | Sep 15, 2025



Boone County Clerk Brianna Lennon. Photo use permission granted

by Brianna Lennon.

Missouri's county clerks and election authorities are raising concerns about the state's newly-approved Congressional map. Boone County Clerk Brianna Lennon told Missourinet that the group has sent a letter to top state officials, warning that the timeline for implementing the new map could pose challenges.

"We have a kind of defined timeline of when we can make these updates to voters addresses to districts, we don't really have the most up-to-date

technology in order to do it, so it's a very tedious process," said Lennon. "It's one that requires a lot of double checking."

Lennon said it may take a while before the new map is finalized.

"If we get a map that ends up going through litigation and isn't considered like a complete finalized map until the middle of next year, for example, there are actual limitations that may prevent us from being able to make those maps effective for the midterm election."

Lennon said once the map is finalized, it's up to local election offices to make sure everything runs smoothly — from assigning voters to the right districts to making sure they get the correct ballots and accurate election information. She said that's why timing is critical.

Below is a copy of the letter sent to lawmakers:

August 27, 2025

Hon. Jonathan Patterson Speaker of the House

201 W Capitol Avenue, Room 308

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Dear Speaker Patterson:

On behalf of the Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities, we are writing today with a collective goal of providing a better understanding of how redistricting efforts impacts election administration and voter registration for all Missouri voters.

Our association membership includes election authorities with previous service in the Secretary of State's Office and in the General Assembly, so we fully respect and appreciate the implications related to redistricting when it comes to the details of elections administration work.

Most importantly, there are deadlines in our work that are directly affected by the approval of new district lines, which will inevitably affect the success of our elections.

Every election in 2026, by law, begins 10 weeks prior to Election Day when the races and issues are certified to our offices and concludes 2 weeks after Election Day once results are certified. This means that administratively the April 7, 2026, municipal election begins on January 27th and ends April 21st

followed shortly by the August 4, 2026, primary election, which begins on May 26th.

Every election is administered in the statewide voter registration database (MCVR), which houses the district boundaries and voter district assignments currently in effect.

This process is how we ensure voters receive the right ballot on Election Day. Redistricting complicates this process because MCVR “locks” current district boundaries during any active election so that new districts cannot be created, and voters subsequently cannot be assigned to new districts.

In addition to upcoming elections in 2026, many counties are also conducting special elections on November 4, 2025, which means the only administrative opportunity to make boundary line changes and move voters to new districts in MCVR will be between November 18th and January 27th.

The redistricting process in MCVR is also extremely time-intensive because it requires local election authorities to manually adjust districts on a street-by-street and house-by-house basis because GIS integration is not available currently.

If the state moves forward with redistricting, but the maps are not finalized until after January 27th, the downstream effects on elections will be significant.

Properly creating a voter’s ballot requires local election authorities to know the specific political subdivisions, by name, that will be on the ballot.

Once they have that information, election authorities create every unique ballot type necessary to represent the correct political subdivisions for every registered voter’s address of residence.

These ballots must be proofed, ordered, and printed in time for absentee voting and for voters on Election Day.

The lack of decided boundary lines effectively prohibits election authorities from preparing ballot types that accurately represent the correct political subdivisions for each residential address, which means ballots will not be ready for voters.

Finally, these hypothetical outcomes have the real potential to directly and adversely impact the public's perception of election integrity if the administration of the election is compromised by late boundary lines.

We live in a time in which there are external forces seeking to compromise our elections processes and internal forces that are amplifying concerns about the accuracy of elections outcomes.

We know that you too are concerned about these issues. On behalf of all

Missouri's local election authorities, thank you for the work that you are doing to ensure that the people of our state are accurately and fairly represented in the General Assembly and United States Congress.

Please feel free to contact us personally with any questions or concerns about elections administration or if there is any other way we can be of assistance.

Respectfully,

Sherry Parks County Clerk, Livingston County President MACCEA

cc: Missouri Governor Mike Kehoe, Missouri Secretary of State Denny Hoskins,
Hon. Cindy O'Laughlin

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