

Written-only Testimony for Monday, August 9, 2021 in Manhattan

From: Katherine Swenson

To: The Joint House and Senate Committees on Redistricting
Re: Fair & Equitable Representation in Kansas

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply testimony in support of transparent and fair redistricting.

I am asking that the redistricting process is transparent, bipartisan and allows time for widespread public input. The maps should reflect the will of voters, allow for competitive races and fairly represent communities of color.

I live in a precinct that is seeing a population change. Blue Township just added a new elementary school which will cause an influx of new families. The needs of these new families and home owners may be different than those of the district in which they are now part. No one can know how these changes will affect this population without knowing the about the Census changes. Please make sure districts are drawn with respect for fairness and that classes of voters are not targeted for suppression.

Without detailed 2020 Census data, I cannot make suggestions about the composition of fair districts at this time. No one, including yourselves, has had an opportunity to see detailed Census results and identify what changes are required to maintain equality of population in our districts. I urge the committee to hold additional town halls after census data is available and Kansans can review that data and offer input. I would encourage that those meetings be accessible, available online, and announced with enough time to foster engagement.

Again, please carefully consider changes in population and the needs of the communities that will be affected.

Respectfully,

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