

**Oral and Written Testimony for Monday, August 9, 2021 in Manhattan**

**From: Jim Swim**

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.

Community of interest issues are an important component to consider when drafting representative boundaries that impact individuals during a 10 year period. I am asking that we need a fair / nonpartisan process when these boundaries are developed that benefit and support communities living in those areas.

I live in Marshall County which is divided by CD - 1 and CD - 2, it is also divided by KS State Senate District 1 and 36. This break up of our county creates a challenge within our community of interest when issues arise that require attention at the State and Federal level of government. Confusion regarding who your representative is and communicating with their office staff or directly with the representative tends to be problematic. The usual response to an issue is "YOU need to call the other representative". Dividing counties and municipalities should be avoided because this dilutes the voice and representation of these communities.

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.

Current Congressional and Legislative maps were created by the courts and should, as possible, be altered as little as necessary to fulfill reapportionment shifts. The Kansas City Metro is currently whole within Kansas' Third congressional district and should remain in a single district as residents have shared interests in representation.

A nonpartisan process will help to protect Community of Interest representation. Please make this a priority when laying out the boundaries in Kansas. Thank you for your time on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Jim Swim

830 Frontier Rd  
Marysville, Kansas 66508

[jlswimj@gmail.com](mailto:jlswimj@gmail.com)