

Written-only Testimony for Tuesday, August 10, 2021 in Dodge

From: Edward Acosta

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my input into this process. Regarding redistricting my recommendations encompass three areas: providing an adequate period of time to enable broad public comment, proceeding with the redistricting process only after population distribution maps are available and keeping the Kansas City metropolitan area intact representation wise. Also, court drawn boundaries should be altered as little as possible.

I am 71 years of age, married to a similarly aged wife. I am also disabled and am a federal retiree. I do not drive and my wife is limited as far as her doing so. I use a service provided by the local library called " Library to You" by which I am provided books and library materials in my home. As of the weekend of August 7 we moved to Douglas County from Johnson County. I hope to take advantage of a similar service. This service was established only after public disability input and was expanded after my urging. Being a federal retiree my Social Security benefits have been reduced as per the Government Pension Offset. The stimulus payments have helped tremendously to provide extra income. Due to the pandemic we have our groceries delivered. Again, thanks to the supplemental government money we have managed well. What all I have written has to do with redistricting is that it is crucial to stay in communication with the government officials to relay our needs to them. Who they are should remain consistent and not be dependent on the creation of artificial lines. I say this because one governmental official said that the Third district could be redrawn to enable one party control.

In conclusion my recommendations are broadening opportunities for public comment, not redistricting until adequate maps are readily available and keeping the Kansas City metropolitan area intact as far as governmental representation. The lines drawn by the courts should be altered as little as possible. I again want to thank the committee for enabling my comments.

Respectfully,

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