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House and Senate Redistricting Committee Hearing
Thursday, August 12 1:45 pm at Matt Ross Community Center
Oral Testimony

Mr. Chair, and members of the Committee,

Welcome to Overland Park! Thank you for including our community in your whirlwind Listening Tour to discuss redistricting. No matter what part of the state we live in, when it comes to having a say over who represents us, most of us want similar things. We want to determine how we will be represented in Congress, the House and the Senate, and how funds for schools, hospitals and other essential services will be allocated. Nobody knows communities better than the people who live in them.

My name is Janet Milkovich and I am here today as a member of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County. The League is a nonpartisan organization that supports citizen involvement in public policy at all levels of government and has been actively involved in advocating for creation of fair districts in Kansas for many decades.

We believe that redistricting is one of the most important actions that will be undertaken by the state for the next 11 years. As an advocate for People Powered Fair Maps, our goal, which we hope mirrors yours, is to create a fair and transparent redistricting process that eliminates partisan and racial gerrymandering.



Those of you on the Redistricting Committee wield a lot of power. We entrust you to use that power to the best of your ability. That is why we question:

- why you have begun this process with short notice
- why you chose not to wait for the Census Bureau's release of detailed population counts needed to draw new districts
- why the majority of the Listening Sessions take place during working hours, thus limiting citizen participation
- and why you have not yet adopted unbiased districting guidelines

We are counting on each of you to fulfill the promise made by Speaker Ryckman to revisit the 14 cities included on this listening tour again in the fall when the above criteria are met. We ask that those hearings be well publicized, and widely accessible opportunities for Kansans to participate in this process after the Census data are available and prior to the start of the 2022 Session. It's imperative that you understand what your constituents identify as their communities of interest and fair representative districts.

Thank you for your time and for serving Kansas.

Sincerely,

Janet Milkovich ([she/her](#))

Vice President

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