

Written-only Testimony for Thursday, August 12, 2021 in Overland Park

From: Linda Collier

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 strongly urge you to have additional meetings, over a longer period of time once the Census data has actually been updated.

I'm a proud Kansas resident, and have been for more than five decades. Our state and local governments are known to operate in a transparent fashion, and base decisions on true democratic principles like fairness and equality. This premature action sends a signal that you are acting behind the scenes to create a result that is baseless or highly questionable at best. How can you do this important work without the underlying information from the Census Bureau?

As a voter, who believes every vote is precious, and each election to be significant, I think you should add additional hearings, scheduled at a variety of times so working people and those with children can attend without being concerned about time away from jobs or childcare. Putting them online would also be helpful, given the current increase in COVID.

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.

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.

This process tells residents what our government stands for. Please take this opportunity to avoid an unnecessary risk to the democratic process. Add more hearings when the Census data has been received.

Respectfully,

Linda Collier

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