

Written Only Individual Testimony for August 12, 2021 in Overland Park, KS

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To:Redistricting <Redistricting@KLRD.ks.gov>;

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Mr. Chair, and members of the redistricting Committee,

My name is Curtis Nelson. I've been a resident of Lenexa since 2011 and I've lived in Kansas since 2002. First of all, thank you for providing me the opportunity to present my testimony on this important matter. I will try to keep this short and to the point as I realize you have numerous pieces of testimony to go through.

As you've heard prior to today, other residents feel that these hearings have a rushed feeling as the committee announced the 14 listening sessions across the entire state in less than a week with little notice for the residents. The times are not beneficial for most of us as we are currently at work. Although I understand you likely didn't have knowledge of when the US Census Bureau was going to release the data used to create the maps, you could have waited until after the data was released. Instead, you will have to hold additional virtual meetings later this year after the maps have been created. I understand you are citizen legislators and have lives and jobs outside of representing your constituents. All Kansans would have likely understood the delay despite the deadline of June 1, 2022.

With that being said, I appreciate you taking the time to read this. I look forward to seeing the maps that are created and coming back to you with my thoughts during the virtual hearings. I hope that when the proposed maps are released, consideration will have been given to cleaning up the maps created by the courts from the 2010 redistricting process based on current data that takes into account that there are residents who are more engaged and knowledgeable than we would have been 10 years ago.

Thanks,

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