

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

From: Teresa Wickersham

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 am asking for fair districting that does not provide undue influence for some parties over others. Voters should choose candidates, not vice versa.

I live in Johnson County, four blocks away from County Line road. I work in Wyandotte County. I have been involved in the Renaissance Festival for forty years, which is in Wyandotte County. I do much of my shopping and playing at Legends and in Kansas City, Ks. Wyandotte is very intertwined with Johnson County and has similar needs and strengths. I think it would be a terrible mistake to put it in the first district, which has more rural issues and concerns. I also don't think that the KC metro area should be divided up or moved out of the third district.

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.

Please provide districting that is fair and impartial and considers the needs, similarities, and proximities of the districts.

Respectfully,

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