



**Overland
Park
Chamber™**

To: Members of the House and Senate Redistricting Committees - Overland Park Town Hall
From: Tracey Osborne Oltjen, President & CEO, Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
Date: 12 August 2021

On behalf of our Board of Directors and membership of the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce I appear before you today asking you to support a redistricting plan that recognizes the population growth that has occurred in Overland Park and Johnson County over the past decade. While official population numbers have not yet been released, growth projections indicate that Johnson County has grown more than 10% in population since 2010 and we are likely poised to gain at least three new House districts and one new Senate district based on these population growth estimates.

While the redistricting process can become very politicized, this result is critical: bring the deserved representation home to our citizens. Any other outcome is inappropriate.

Johnson County is the economic engine for our state and our quality of life will continue to attract jobs and residents. Because of this growth, Johnson County's citizens deserve these new seats in order to be appropriately represented in the statehouse and Washington for the next ten years.

We appreciate the difficult task you have ahead of you and urge you to put partisanship aside. We also appreciate this opportunity to share our priorities with you and believe taking input from your constituents is a critical step in your process as your redistricting decisions will have long-term ramifications. It is imperative that new congressional and state legislative boundaries be drawn in accordance with the generally accepted standards of compactness, recognition of existing political subdivisions and recognition of communities of interest. We believe this means that it is critical that Johnson County is not split between two or more congressional districts.

Thank you for your service and consideration of our opinions. We are available to assist throughout this important process for the state of Kansas.

Overland Park Chamber of Commerce
9001 W. 110th St, Suite 150
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 491-3600