

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

From: Kathryn Bigelow

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 that boundary lines largely remain the same for our 3rd District.

I have lived in Johnson County for over 20 years, and worked in Wyandotte County specifically in downtown Kansas City Kansas also for over 25 years. My family and I frequently travel between the two counties in our day-to-day today lives. Our children have activities in Johnson and Wyandotte Counties, and we frequent businesses in both counties, much like many of us do throughout the KC Metro area. We have family and friends in Wyandotte County. We share many of the same values and needs across these two communities. Having representation that covers these two counties ensures that we maintain close ties between Johnson and Wyandotte Counties. Some have indicated the boundaries could be redrawn so that Democrats would never win. Shame on those who would attempt to redraw boundaries for political reasons. We know it happens nation-wide. Let's not fall prey to the unfair practice of gerrymandering in our home communities. We will be watching.

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 keep District 3 boundaries similar to what that currently are.

Respectfully,

Kathryn Bigelow

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