

Written-only Testimony for Thursday, August 12, 2021 in Pittsburg

From: Carolyn Martin

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 any redistricting action be fair, non partisan and free from gerrymandering. It should be considered only after thoughtful examination and analysis of the most recent census by Kansas citizens. Until such time, the congressional and legislative districts created by the courts should remain.

The redistricting process should be performed by either the courts or an independent panel, representing varied populations, perspectives, interests and needs of the diverse population of Kansas citizens and communities. Redistricting should not be done to show bias, advantage or favor to a political party or special interests. Rural and urban communities and citizens often have different interests, so districts should represent the voices of the population within the district and not redrawn to gain political advantage or silence opposing views through arbitrary district boundaries.

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.

I do not support legislative redistricting action. The process should be fair, non partisan and free from gerrymandering. It should be considered only after thoughtful examination and analysis of the most recent census by Kansas citizens. Until such time, the congressional and legislative districts created by the courts should remain. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Carolyn Martin

1515 Corning Ave
Parsons, Kansas 67357
6204211391
cmartinweb@gmail.com