

**Written-only Testimony for Thursday, August 12, 2021 in Kansas City**

**From: Rick Behrens  
Pastor  
Grandview Park Presbyterian Church**

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 you to consider the close connection between Wyandotte and Johnson counties in this attempt at redistricting. The people in these counties are intimately connected by work, family and culture.

As a pastor who serves and lives in Wyandotte County, I recognize that it is vitally important that Johnson and Wyandotte remain in the same district. What affects one affects the other. We are essentially one urban area separated by a county line. Many of my parishioners and members of the community surrounding our church work in Johnson County while living in Wyandotte. Families who share the same goals, ideals and cultures live on both sides of the county line. These two counties share much history together and it makes no sense to separate them unless you are actively seeking to gerrymander based on super majority party affiliation.

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 do the right thing and keep Johnson and Wyandotte County together as a district so that we (Johnson and Wyandotte) are represented fairly.

Respectfully,

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