

Oral with Written Testimony for Thursday, August 12, 2021 in Overland Park

From: Corliss Jacobs

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 Wyandotte and Johnson Counties remain together as the 3rd District of Kansas. These counties make up the Kansas side of the KC Metro area and as such, are a community with much in common.

My husband and I have lived in the Kansas City Metro area since 1970 and during these many years have always considered these counties as one large community. For example, we use the KU Medical System for health care. The main Medical Center is in Wyandotte Co, but it has clinics and out-patient hospitals in Johnson Co. We have had doctors' appointments and procedures in both counties. Like many Johnson County residents, we eat at restaurants and shop in both counties; for example, SW Boulevard is a favorite area and when going there we never ask, "Are we in JoCo or WyCo now." Merriam Drive is another corridor with many businesses we have patronized: it literally ties the cities of Merriam, Overland Park, Mission, and Kansas City, Kansas, together.

Wyandotte Co is recognized as having a racially & ethnically diverse population, but Johnson County's non-white population is growing exponentially. The diversity of both counties is another characteristic that bonds us together as a community. (As visible evidence of this wonderful diversity, both counties have grocery stores and restaurants with food from all over the world.)

My husband and I have friends and associates in both counties and have family members who have passed buried in Wyandotte Co. Most of our friends and acquaintances are retired, but in the past they worked and taught in both Counties. Now several, including us, are associated with non-profit groups that span both counties.

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.

There are many other reasons that JoCo and WyCo make up a complete Metro/Suburban Community. We have far more in common with each other than with any other neighboring counties or regions. Thus we need to remain in the same Congressional District in order to have our best shared interests represented.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Respectfully,

Corliss Jacobs

20745 COLLEGE BLVD
Olathe, KS 66061
913-710-4101
corlissjacobs@gmail.com