

Public Meeting Thursday, August 12, Matt Ross, Overland Park

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To:Redistricting <Redistricting@KLRD.ks.gov>;

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[Written testimony only]

Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the Redistricting Committee—

Every 10 years, as provided in our Constitution, we have the opportunity to affirm and reaffirm the democratic principles envisioned by our Founding Fathers. They were embodied in the Constitution of a new nation, a nation unlike any other nation in the world, and tempered by vivid memories of the proscriptive, intolerant, self-interested governance in the nations from which they fled. This is a sacred privilege for those involved in this 2020 redistricting process to arrive at a fair and equitable configuration of Congressional Districts with diverse voting populations.

History has been kind to those who put fair legislation, legislation aimed at providing the most good for the most people, above partisan, oft-times bigoted, politics. It has scorched those who abuse their power. The long term positive impact of impartial laws shows itself in progressive social, economic, and certainly political power. Bad legislation limits progress, erodes confidence, and marginalizes—no one gains.

So, we have a choice, don't we?

Is this an effort to affirm or adjust Congressional Districts fairly and openly?

Is it attracting the largest possible number of citizens to participate?

Does it give adequate time for genuine discussion and the exchange of ideas?

Additional meetings for follow-up AFTER receipt of census data are critical—will they be scheduled?

Or, is this simply a figurehead process, all hat and no horse, intended to favor and protect only those presently in power?

It appears that this extremely modest beginning comes up far short of assuring a truly democratic redistricting—one that protects and considers the precious right of all to vote and be fairly represented. In fact, a case could be made that with the 3% growth in population since 2010, it hardly warrants any change in configuration, let alone a radical adjustment, as experienced in 1990.

I urgently want to appeal to your higher senses to completely terminate this sham process, wait for accurate census data to come in, and commence a process that truly listens to Kansas citizens, so that our State can vigorously prosper in the decade ahead by bringing out the very best in each of us.

Respectfully,

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Private citizen, Navy veteran