

**This is the written testimony of Christine Morgan
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Proponent for Transparent and Fair Redistricting
to the joint House and Senate Committees on Redistricting
August 12, 2021 in Overland Park, KS.**

Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for providing an opportunity to submit testimony in support of transparent and fair redistricting. I am here to explain why the 3rd U.S. Congressional District should stay the same while the 9th State Senate and 121st State House Districts should change.

I moved to Johnson County in general and Olathe in particular to take advantage of excellent schools, a thriving economy, numerous job opportunities, and beautiful neighborhoods. A city girl at heart, I love the variety of shopping and entertainment options both here in Olathe and in neighboring Kansas City. And it is always very nice to know that when I have medical needs, I can easily access specialists in network anywhere in the area. This is why, whenever I travel outside the state and am asked where I'm from, I'll usually say "The Kansas City Metro."

The third U.S. congressional district, as it is currently drawn, is precisely the community of interest I have just described. These are my people, my fellow city dwellers, whose lives and livelihoods would not be well-represented by someone in a small town or rural area. Nor, do I believe, would someone in a small town or rural area care to be represented by one of my fellow city dwellers.

In addition to being a city girl at heart, I am a proud Olathean who chose this city precisely because I wanted my children to grow up in the excellent Olathe School District. Yet my state senate district (9) covers De Soto, part of Gardner, part of Lenexa, and part of Olathe, including the townships of Lexington, part of McCamish, and part of Spring Hill. If you're seeing the word *part* a lot, you may begin to feel how I feel when I struggle to determine what I have in common with much of this district. We share little, especially city governments and local school boards.

Similarly, my current state house district (121), covers part of Lenexa, part of Olathe, and part of Gardner. A house district only contains about 25,000 people, and because it is so small, we need to have a lot in common. This is the level at which I should have the most contact with my representative and should feel the most heard, but again I feel like I live in a district carved out of the leftovers of Johnson County. Twenty-five thousand people drawn from three cities, three school districts? This does not seem right.

At this time, and without data, I do not have specific suggestions for how to draw new districts; however, I wanted to highlight the importance of keeping like communities together when considering district lines. This is why I would urge you to keep the 3rd U.S. Congressional District the same while creating a 9th State Senate and 121st State House District within closer-knit communities.

Respectfully,

Christine Morgan