

Dear KLRD,

August 9, 2021

My name is Kay Heley. I am a registered voter living in Overland Park and my contact information is [kayheley@gmail.com](mailto:kayheley@gmail.com) and 816-516-8271. I am submitting written testimony for the redistricting hearing held on Thursday, August 12 at Matt Ross Community Center in Overland Park.

While I am concerned that these meetings are being held before the release of the 2020 Census counts and over a short span of time without much public notice, I do thank you all for your participation, your travel time and I acknowledge your increased COVID risk while holding these indoor Listening Sessions during a persistent pandemic.

Redistricting **based on updated Census data** is a Constitutional requirement every ten years to ensure that every single voter has equal representation. Kansas has historically redistricted using well-established criteria which have served Kansans well. I urge the Committee to continue using the previous nonpartisan criteria and guidelines.

It is important to keep Wyandotte and Johnson County together because of the geographic compactness and contiguity as well as to preserve the county subdivisions. Wyandotte and Johnson County have been in the same District for nearly 40 years so please preserve the core of this long-standing District. Wyandotte and Johnson Counties are communities of interest with more in common together and with established cooperative organizations including Crosslines, Cancer Action, Harvesters: The Community Food Network with its 760 partner agencies, and El Centro as well as cooperative healthcare providers and agencies including Heart to Heart International, KU Medical Center, Advent Health Shawnee Mission, REACH Healthcare Foundation and Cornerstones of Care serving children and families. After my 35 years of public health nursing in our community, it is clear that residents of both Johnson and Wyandotte Counties rely on resources from residents, faith communities and nonprofits for whom the county line is invisible. Our counties are stronger together.

Committee members, **after** the Census data is available and studied and state house and senate districts are examined, please avoid “partisan pairing of incumbents; prohibit the favor or disfavor of an incumbent, candidate or political party; prohibit the use of partisan data” (ncsl.org) and work to increase the competitiveness of a district for all candidates.

Committee members, you have been empowered to create district maps for Kansas that adjust the number of elected state and federal officials based on the 2020 Census population data. We Kansans expect and deserve that the process be open, transparent and fair and that these maps will be nonpartisan and ensure that every Kansan is fairly represented. While your timing, process and lack of guidelines is of concern, I remain hopeful that you all will commit to upholding your oaths of office, supporting our Constitution at whose heart is the fair apportionment of Representatives. (Article I, Section 2, Clause 3 of the US Constitution).

Most sincerely,  
Kay Heley RN