

**REDISTRICTING MEETING:**

LOCATION: OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS -

DATE: AUGUST 12, 2021

**FROM:**

NAME: JAMES BRENEMAN

AFFILIATION: DEMOCRAT (former Republican)

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

**TO:** KANSAS STATE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEES

I am unable to attend the meeting in person, but did want to send my written testimony to make my voice heard. I am very disappointed in the state legislature in general except for my Representative, Stephanie Clayton, and my Senator, Ethan Corson. These two members truly care for their constituents and faithfully and honestly represent our interests.

My disappointment with the Republican members of the legislature in general stems from their total lack of commitment to anything except themselves and their individual party. Their approach to protecting Kansans from the hazards of COVID-19 have been pathetic and reprehensible. To add to this disgrace several Republican members have been quoted as being determined to develop a redistricting plan that will result in defeating Representative Davids. Such gerrymandering would not only be unethical but also illegal. If you go into this redistricting effort with your minds already made up you are doing a great disservice to the people of Kansas – particularly those that live in the more populous eastern urban and suburban areas of the state.

The scheduling of this meeting today is indicative of such disservice for several reasons:

1. The information regarding the meeting schedule was extremely short for such an important event and the meetings are all scheduled to be held within a week. In the past such meetings were conducted over a much longer period.
2. The number of meetings is even less than minimal for such an important undertaking.
3. The length of the meetings (105 minutes) is so short it is laughable and underscores what the committee thinks about the value of these meetings. In the past the meetings were at least 2 hours long.
4. The meetings have been scheduled before the census data has been distributed to the states. How are your constituents to comment intelligently on the proposed redistricting before any information is available to review? Perhaps you just scheduled these meetings for show and don't intend to truly consider your constituent's comments.

Based on the above, I hereby request that the redistricting committees acknowledge and agree that more town hall meetings are necessary after the census data has been released in order to obtain the comments of people throughout the state. I further request that the committees schedule such meetings within 45 days of receiving the census data and that such meetings be scheduled to last at least three hours and be conducted both in person and over an electronic media (i.e., Zoom, Meetings, etc.) to maximize citizen participation. I also request that the redistricting effort results in establishing districts that are logical and truly representative of the population distribution regardless of the party affiliation. I know this is a lot to ask – that you do your job reasonably and responsibly, but I still have hopes that we can have a legislature that truly cares for its constituents more than themselves and their party.