

Preface:

The process of redistricting is fundamental to a fair, equitable, and democratic process of ensuring representation. Concerns abound regarding the integrity of this process stemming from concerted past and present efforts to subvert this process both in the State of Kansas and throughout other States. Because of these concerns and my desire to have fair and unbiased representation, I am writing to encourage that this issue be reviewed and addressed for the well-being of all Kansas citizenry.

First, I would suggest that preliminary review of all census data and population changes be included in calculations and deliberations. It is important that areas of common interest such as the social, cultural, racial, ethnic, and economic interests common to the population of the area preserve the integrity and priority of existing political subdivisions to the extent possible. Since I do not possess the knowledge base for evaluating such I would hope that more astute and independent input is pursued.

Also it is important that this commission be citizen driven and have equal representation with legislative oversight. To further enhance citizen participation access to open hearings should be as accommodating scheduling wise to allow for as much input and feedback as possible. Enough advance notice and scheduling should be provided to again enhance the input and involvement of the various regions. This process should not be rushed or hurried and should have a methodical timing for all aspects of determination.

Finally there should also be some formal survey for review and feedback after the redistricting process is completed to gain further input as to the quality and satisfaction of the mapping of the various districts. This would ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the process and would allow for further enhancements if needed for future efforts.

I hope you will give serious considerations to these aforementioned concerns and provide guidance that will uphold the constitutionality for fair and equitable representation and voting.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

James Hafner