

August 2021

To the Redistricting Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to address the Redistricting Committee because it is critical that the redistricting process is as transparent and as inclusive as possible. I have had an opportunity to view online LIVE the various town halls and I support the multiple requests that have been made that this committee consider respectfully relinquishing its role and delegate the responsibility of redistricting to an independent, neutral, and non-partisan group.

It is hopeful that should the current redistricting committee take this direction that the selected entity is one that will ensure racial equity, compliance with disability requirements and perhaps even more feedback from the communities.

Being a resident of Shawnee County, I was extremely disappointed to see that Topeka was not included in the scheduled town halls. However, I hope and plan to present my comments at a nearby location.

Given the quick roll out plan for the town halls meetings by the current redistricting committee (before census data has been received), I trust you will understand why there is some apprehension about the fairness and inclusiveness in drawing redistricting maps.

The media has indicated the overall census shows an increase in the minority population at 60%; however, if we look at the overall makeup of the redistricting committee, particularly in Kansas, but just as concerning in other states, we will not see this minority population represented in decision making for redistricting. That is a real concern.

So, rather than simply listening to the people, I am trusting that you will heed and take action requested by the people to delegate your authority to another independent entity to provide assurance that the redistricting process will be a fair and equitable process.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Glenda Overstreet Vaughn