

Written-only Testimony for Friday, August 13, 2021 in Lawrence

From: Lynne Bodle

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To: The Joint House and Senate Committees on Redistricting
Re: Fair & Equitable Representation in Kansas

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply testimony in support of transparent and fair redistricting.

I am requesting that the districts remain much as they currently have been designed and that geographic, contiguous lines be maintained, also taking into consideration communities of like interests.

I live in a heavily student-populated area (apartments rather than dormitories). My question/concern is whether the makeup of the residents here has or should have an influence on the district parameters. If students replied to the latest census questions as living here, where they were at that time, then my area, as well as other areas of Lawrence containing largely student residents, should have become more compact and better able to be served by our elected legislative members.

Without detailed 2020 Census data, I cannot make suggestions about the composition of fair districts at this time. No one, including yourselves, has had an opportunity to see detailed Census results and identify what changes are required to maintain equality of population in our districts. I urge the committee to hold additional town halls after census data is available and Kansans can review that data and offer input. I would encourage that those meetings be accessible, available online, and announced with enough time to foster engagement.

Current Congressional and Legislative maps were created by the courts and should, as possible, be altered as little as necessary to fulfill reapportionment shifts.

Again, I would like to see the redistricting process take into consideration primarily contiguous geographic lines, which would also enhance consideration of communities of like interests. Such districts would make it easier for our elected officials to know and understand the interests of their constituents and thus be better able to serve those interests. Thank you very much for your consideration of these matters.

Respectfully,

Lynne Bodle

n/a n//a
1218 Tennessee St
Lawrence, KS 66044
7858438263
mlbodle2@gmail.com