

Oral & Written Testimony to the House & Senate Committees on Redistricting

Riverfront Community Center, Leavenworth, KS

August 13, 2021

Sherri Grogan

Private Citizen

Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Sherri Grogan; I am a Board member of the League of Women Voters-Leavenworth County and President of Rural Leavenworth, Inc. Both organizations are nonpartisan. In addition, I previously served as Chairwoman of Leavenworth County Democrats and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District for the Kansas Democratic Party.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am hopeful citizen input will speed up the process and minimize rework. I am asking you to develop fair maps and provide additional opportunity for public input.

Key attributes of Leavenworth County:

- Leavenworth County is home to Lansing Correctional Facility, Ft. Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary, a Military Prison and US Disciplinary Barracks. The facilities are currently spread across three KS House Districts (40, 41 and 42). Because the non-voting incarcerated persons are included, these districts have fewer actual voters than other districts.
- Ft. Leavenworth, a military installation that includes a Command and General Staff College, employs military personnel as well as civilians. Many retired military families chose to make Leavenworth County their home. Most of the military families reside in Leavenworth or Lansing. Some of the military voters chose to vote in their home state rather than Kansas.
- Leavenworth & Lansing area is more diverse than the south half of the county. There are more community organizations and churches, including a homeless shelter.
- Leavenworth County is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Congressional District; however, Senate District 5 includes a portion of CD3 in Wyandotte County; and House District 38 includes a portion of CD3 in Johnson County. All of House District 42 is in CD2 but a portion is in Douglas County.

Recommendations/Considerations:

- **Keep school districts as whole as possible when defining House Districts.** **Exhibit 1** shows the House districts in Leavenworth County with an overlay of school districts. Lansing school district spans three House districts – 38, 40 and 42. Lansing High School, which opened in 2015, is physically located in HD38 even though Lansing City is in HD40. Leavenworth school district spans 40 and 41; and Tonganoxie school district spans 38 and 42. There are small portions of the county that are in McLouth, Lawrence, Eudora, and Bonner Springs-Edwardsville school districts which increases the number of districts supported by HD38 and 42. There are also additional school districts HD38 and 42 support that are in Johnson and Douglas County and not depicted on Exhibit 1.

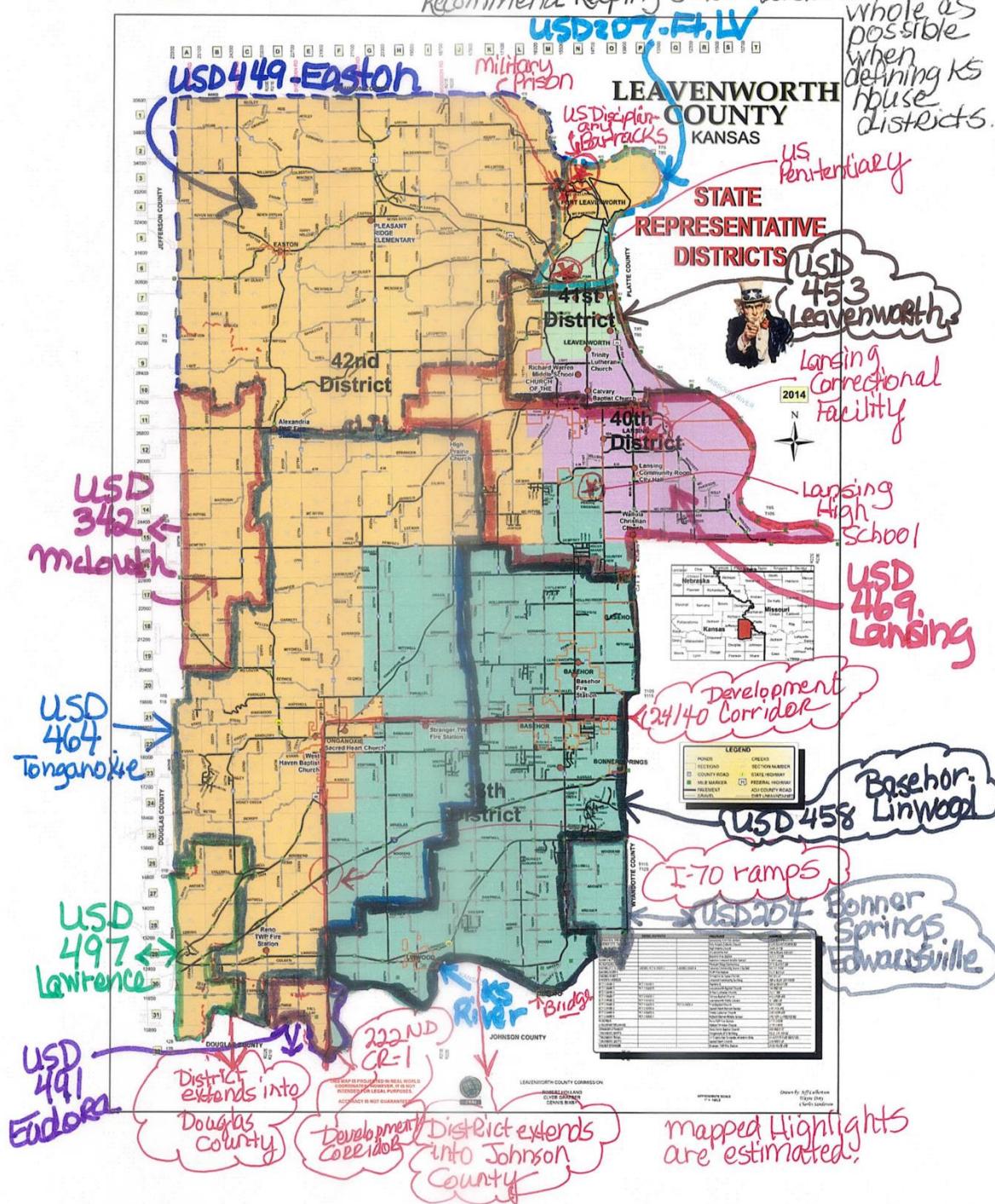
- [Consider keeping the southern 1/3 of HD38 with Johnson County House district\(s\).](#) See **Exhibit 2**. The Kansas River divides Leavenworth and Johnson County. De Soto and Gardner Lake have more in common with Johnson County than Leavenworth County.
- [Consider putting the 24/40 and 222nd \(CR-1\) development corridors in the same district.](#) See **Exhibit 2**. Currently, the west side of 222<sup>nd</sup> is in HD42 and the east side in HD38. 222<sup>nd</sup> is where the Tonganoxie exit is off I-70. This area has been rezoned in anticipation of growth. 24/40 is also split across the same districts. Residents in the south half of the county have common interests like preserving property rights and the rural atmosphere of the county. Residential growth in HD38 and 42 has increased at a faster pace than in the northern half of Leavenworth County and it is anticipated to continue.
- [Keep counties whole when defining congressional districts.](#) See **Exhibit 3**. Marshall and Miami counties are currently split. Marshall County is in both CD1 and CD2; and Miami County in CD2 and CD3. Dividing counties across congressional districts creates extra work for party conventions, and it is confusing to citizens.

In summary, I am requesting fair maps and would encourage you to utilize an independent commission. It is critical to address redistricting early in the session to give candidates the best opportunity for success. I look forward to providing additional input in the future. Thank you for your time.

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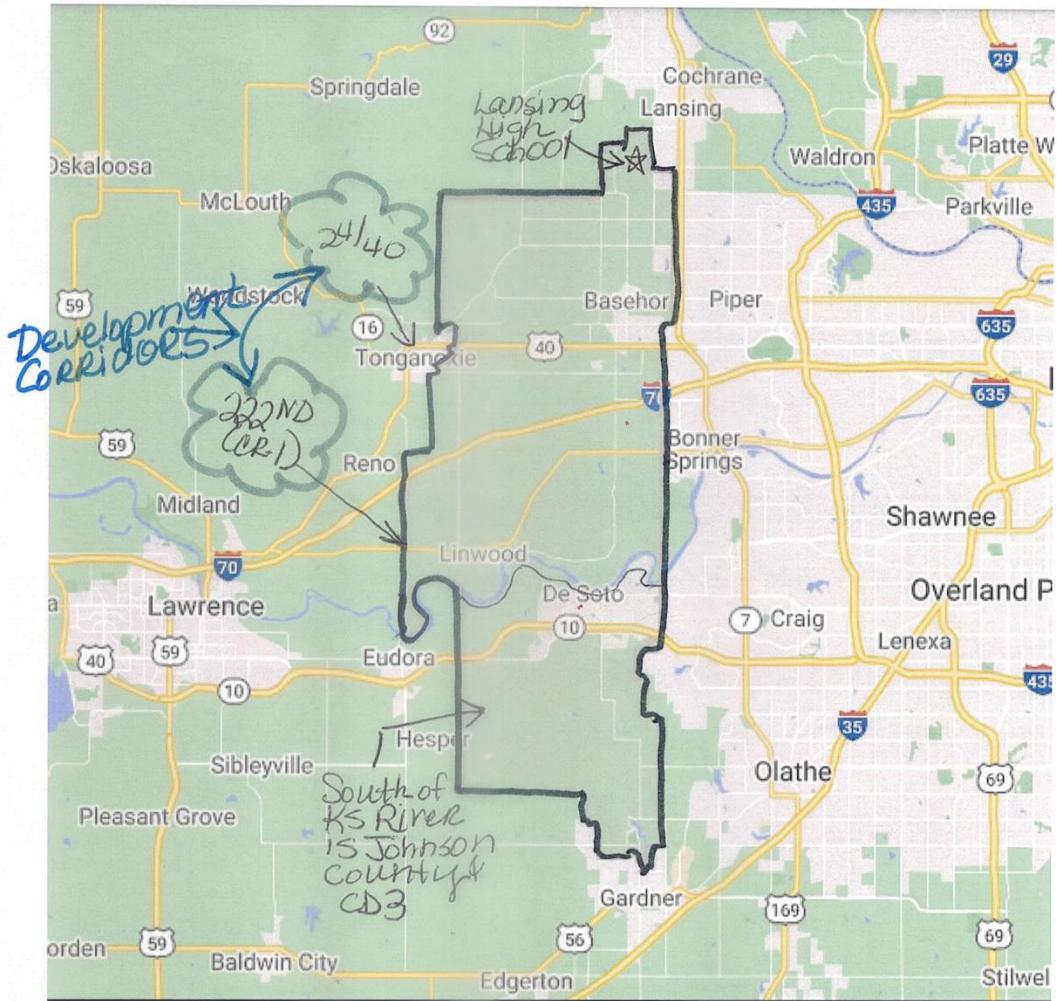
## EXHIBIT 1

LYCO House  
District map overlayed with USD boundaries and  
other notable items. Recommend keeping school districts as  
whole as possible when defining KS house districts.



*Current  
KS House District 38*

**EXHIBIT 2**



- ① Consider keeping Lansing School District (CUSD 469) with District 40?
- ② Consider keeping HD38 south of KS River with JOCO districts.
- ③ Consider putting 24/40 & 222<sup>ND</sup> (CR-1) development corridors in same house District,

## EXHIBIT 3 Current 2<sup>ND</sup> Congressional District

Marshall County  
CD1 & CD2

Dividing counties across congressional districts is problematic because it creates extra work when conventions are scheduled & it is confusing for citizens.

Recommend keeping counties whole when defining congressional districts.

Miami  
County  
CD2 & CD3

green = CD2

