

MINUTES

JOINT MEETINGS OF HOUSE AND SENATE REDISTRICTING COMMITTEES

August 13, 2021
Leavenworth and Lawrence, Kansas

Members Present

Senator Rick Wilborn, Co-chairperson
Representative Chris Croft, Co-chairperson
Senator Ty Masterson, Vice-chairperson (Leavenworth)
Representative Bradley Ralph, Vice-chairperson (Lawrence)
Senator Dinah Sykes, Ranking Minority Member (Leavenworth)
Representative Tom Burroughs, Ranking Minority Member (Lawrence)
Senator Rick Billinger
Senator Ethan Corson
Senator Renee Erickson
Senator Beverly Gossage
Senator Richard Hilderbrand
Senator Rick Kloos
Representative Barbara Ballard
Representative John Barker
Representative Stephanie Clayton
Representative Charlotte Esau
Representative Kyle Hoffman
Representative Nick Hoheisel
Representative Steve Huebert
Representative Brenda Landwehr
Representative Vic Miller
Representative Fred Patton
Representative Jason Probst
Representative Adam Smith
Representative Bill Sutton

Members Absent

Senator Ty Masterson, Vice-chairperson (Lawrence)
Representative Bradley Ralph, Vice-chairperson (Leavenworth)
Senator Dinah Sykes, Ranking Minority Member (Lawrence)
Representative Tom Burroughs, Ranking Minority Member (Leavenworth)
Representative Jim Kelly

Staff Present

Jordan Milholland, Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD)
Jessa Farmer, KLRD
Andrew Finzen, KLRD

J.G. Scott, KLRD
Jason Long, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Eileen Ma, Office of Revisor of Statutes (Leavenworth)
Connie Burns, Committee Assistant

Other Legislators Attending

Representative Ron Ryckman
Representative Tom Sawyer

Conferees – Leavenworth

Mike Stieben, Leavenworth County Commission
Edna Wagner, Leavenworth NAACP and Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum
Bryan Taylor, Private Citizen
Carole Jordan, League of Women Voters of Topeka-Shawnee County
Sherri Grogan, Private Citizen
Marc Galbraith, Private Citizen
Janette Labbee, Private Citizen
Paul Conway, Private Citizen
Connie O'Brien, Private Citizen
Sister Theresa Bangert, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
Julie Durand, Private Citizen
Richard Malm, Jefferson County Commissioner
Linda Johnson, League of Women Voters of Leavenworth
Danielle Wells, League of Women Voters
Joana Scholtz, Leavenworth NAACP
April Cromer, Leavenworth County GOP
Carl Johnson, Private Citizen

Conferees – Lawrence

Jay Hundley, Private Citizen
Charley Crabtree, League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County
Quinn Ried, Kansas Appleseed
Amii Castle, Private Citizen
Teresa Wilke, Private Citizen
Robert Steinke, Private Citizen
Sonja Czarnecki, League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County
Pam Ensley, Private Citizen
Patricia Willer, Douglas County Democratic Party
Aileen Bergquist, ACLU of Kansas
Jamie Shew, Douglas County Clerk
Ryan Reza, Private Citizen
Carol Williamson, Private Citizen
Glenda Overstreet Vaughn, Private Citizen
Cal Wiebe, Private Citizen
Stephanie Sanford, Private Citizen
Blake Swenson, Private Citizen
Paul Bahnmaier, Private Citizen
Marlene Merrill, Private Citizen
Marilyn Brune, Democrat Precinct Committee Person and Private Citizen
Dan Huffman, Private Citizen

Steve Stemmerman, Private Citizen
Melinda Lavon, Private Citizen
Roberta Sue McKenna, Private Citizen
Greg Inkmann, Private Citizen

Others Attending

See attached lists for [Leavenworth](#) and [Lawrence](#).

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13 MORNING SESSION

Leavenworth
Riverfront Community Center
Riverview Room
123 South Esplanade Street
Leavenworth, KS 66048

Welcome

Co-chairperson Wilborn opened the meeting at 9:01 a.m. with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Co-chairperson Wilborn introduced members of the Senate Committee on Redistricting. Co-chairperson Croft introduced members of the House Committee on Redistricting. At the request of Co-chairperson Wilborn, Senator Sykes made a brief statement on the process and thanked Leavenworth and the Riverfront Community Center for hosting the Committees.

Staff Presentation

Jordan Milholland, Kansas Legislative Research Department (KLRD), presented an overview of the Census and redistricting process ([Attachment 1](#)). Mr. Milholland stated that some part of the Census is constantly happening, and the redistricting process is part of this cycle. Federal law requires that states have the opportunity to participate in Census preparation, which ensures each state obtains Census data for certain small areas of geography. States are required to participate through a nonpartisan entity, which in Kansas is KLRD. He described five phases of the federal Census Redistricting Data Program:

- Phase 1 – Block Boundary Suggestion Project;
- Phase 2 – Voting District Project;
- Phase 3 – Delivery of Census data;
- Phase 4 – Confirmation of congressional and legislative district boundaries; and
- Phase 5 – Feedback.

The U.S. Census Bureau recently released preliminary 2020 state population totals for congressional apportionment; Kansas' total population was 2,937,880, which is an increase of 84,762 persons since 2010. Kansas did not gain or lose a congressional seat. The *Kansas Constitution* and state law previously required an adjustment to the population data regarding college students and military members. Voters approved a constitutional amendment on the November 2019 ballot to remove that adjustment requirement.

Mr. Milholland reviewed the process for redistricting maps, including procedures that are followed if maps are not approved at any stage. He noted the process includes review by all three branches of state government, whose roles are as follows:

- The Legislature proposes, votes on, and approves maps for Congressional, Kansas House of Representatives, Kansas Senate, and State Board of Education districts;
- The Governor signs, vetoes, or allows maps to become law without signature; and
- The Kansas Supreme Court reviews maps for constitutionality and approves the maps.

Mr. Milholland noted the resources available on the KLRD redistricting webpage and encouraged persons with questions about the process to contact KLRD.

Public Comment

Mike Stieben, Leavenworth County Commission, provided an oral-only statement to the Committees asking them to give due consideration to keeping together communities of interest. He stated Leavenworth County has been split between two Senate districts and has not been represented properly for being the sixth largest district with a military installation and several prisons. The district needs a voice that is not split with Wyandotte County; Kansas City, Kansas; and Douglas County.

Edna Wagner, Leavenworth NAACP and Richard Allen Cultural Center and Museum, provided an oral-only statement encouraging the Committees to do the right thing and make choices in the best interest of community. She said Leavenworth County should not be put in Congressional District 1.

Bryan Taylor, private citizen, stated concerns with his current representatives not being responsive to constituents. He stated if the Committees choose not to preserve the voices of all neighborhoods, all cities, and all counties, than they become complicit in allowing these unresponsive representatives to perpetuate indifference, apathy, estrangement, and neglect of their constituents ([Attachment 2](#)).

Carole Jordan, League of Women Voters of Topeka-Shawnee County, stated the best and most fairly organized districts are based on input from the people who live there. She asked the Committees, when drawing districts, to not dilute the power of minority populations with shared interests and to rethink the Kansas policy of making redistricting decisions while avoiding contests between incumbents ([Attachment 3](#)).

Sherri Grogan, private citizen, requested fair maps and encouraged the Committees to utilize an independent commission, keep school districts as whole as possible when defining state House districts, and not split counties across congressional districts ([Attachment 4](#)).

Marc Galbraith, private citizen, stated redistricting is about drawing the maps and elections are about deciding which candidate best represents the voters ([Attachment 5](#)).

Janette Labbee, private citizen, asked the Committees to not draw lines down the middle of a street, to draw fair maps, and to evaluate the districts by who lives there and not by political lines.

Paul Conway, private citizen, requested the Committees keep communities together and not gerrymander.

Connie O'Brien, private citizen, asked the Committees to not let the courts draw the maps because they look only at population.

Sister Theresa Bangert, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, requested all voices be heard in the redistricting process.

Julie Durand, private citizen, asked the Committees not to include Jefferson County in Congressional District 2 when they draw new maps. Currently, the county is included with the City of Lawrence, but it is more rural and Congressional District 2 representation leans urban. She stated she would like Jefferson County to be included with Leavenworth County.

Richard Malm, Jefferson County Commissioner, requested the Committees put Jefferson County anywhere except with Douglas County.

Linda Johnson, League of Women Voters of Leavenworth, asked the Committees to hold the next round of meetings either in the evenings or on weekends, or via Zoom. The League is also opposed to the notion of protecting incumbents.

Danielle Wells, League of Women Voters, asked the Committees to keep in mind school districts when drawing maps so school districts are not split between legislative districts.

Joana Scholtz, President, Leavenworth NAACP, asked the Committees to keep communities together and discussed current issues in the Lansing and Leavenworth area.

April Cromer, Leavenworth County GOP, requested the Committees keep communities together and take a look at zip codes.

Carl Johnson, private citizen, stated the biggest threat to democracy is disenfranchisement and polarization.

Written-only testimony was provided by:

- Sarah LaFrenz, American Federation of Teachers – Kansas ([Attachment 6](#));
- Rodger Nugent, private citizen ([Attachment 7](#));
- Hayden Maples, private citizen ([Attachment 8](#));
- Mike Kelly, Mayor, City of Roeland Park ([Attachment 9](#));

- Garth Strand, private citizen ([Attachment 10](#));
- Gary Meagher, private citizen ([Attachment 11](#));
- Roni Schwartz, private citizen ([Attachment 12](#)); and
- Paula Newell Ellis, private citizen ([Attachment 13](#)).

Co-chairperson Wilborn thanked the City of Leavenworth and the Riverfront Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 a.m. The next scheduled meeting is at 1:30 p.m. in Lawrence.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13 AFTERNOON SESSION

Lawrence
University of Kansas
Capitol Federal Hall, Room 1111
1654 Naismith Drive
Lawrence, KS 66045

Welcome

Co-chairperson Croft opened the meeting at 1:35 p.m. with a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. Co-chairperson Croft introduced members of the House Committee on Redistricting. Co-chairperson Wilborn introduced members of the Senate Committee on Redistricting. At the request of Co-chairperson Croft, Representative Burroughs made a brief statement on the process.

Staff Presentation

The previously described Census and redistricting overview was presented by Mr. Milholland, KLRD.

Public Comment

Jay Hundley, private citizen, provided an oral-only statement to the Committees asking them to keep the redistricting process fair, not break up historical areas, and keep it nonpartisan.

Charley Crabtree, League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County, stated the League supports accountable government and not partisan politics, requests additional town hall meetings after Census data are available, and suggests maps be altered as little as necessary to fulfill reapportionment shifts. The Kansas City metropolitan area is whole within Kansas Congressional District 3 and should remain in a single district. Mr. Crabtree stated

democracy is served when districts are drawn in fairness and with integrity of neighborhoods ([Attachment 14](#)).

Quinn Ried, Policy Research Analyst, Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, stated a good redistricting process will require empathy and an understanding of the full range of diverse communities that make up this great state ([Attachment 15](#)).

Amii Castle, private citizen, stated the process should be fair, transparent, and methodical and asked the Committees to commit to holding additional town hall meetings after the Census Bureau has provided data ([Attachment 16](#)).

Teresa Wilke, private citizen, stated the motivation for holding redistricting meetings in this manner is a clear attempt to gerrymander or establish an unfair political advantage for a particular party ([Attachment 17](#)).

Robert Steinke, private citizen, requested the Committees consider their Christian duty to honesty and to slow the process down and open it up to be transparent ([Attachment 18](#)).

Sonja Czarnecki, League of Women Voters of Lawrence-Douglas County, urged the Committees to reject the proposed redistricting guideline addressing contests between incumbents as it appears to protect incumbents and to remove legislators' home addresses from the redistricting database. She stated the League has advocated for an independent commission and asks for the Kansas City metropolitan area (Wyandotte and Johnson Counties) to stay intact in Congressional District 3 ([Attachment 19](#)).

Pam Ensley, private citizen, stated during the last redistricting cycle in 2011, it took 4 months to hold 14 meetings and that the current schedule is a clear signal from the GOP-led House and Senate redistricting committees that public participation in this process is discouraged ([Attachment 20](#)).

Patricia Willer, Douglas County Democratic Party, stated the organization feels strongly that minority voting strength should not be diminished and consideration should be given to making Douglas County whole when establishing the state legislative districts. Ms. Willer requested the guidelines and criteria for redistricting be available to the public ([Attachment 21](#)).

Aileen Berquist, ACLU of Kansas, asked the Committees to do everything within their power to ensure the new maps do not reflect prison gerrymandering ([Attachment 22](#)).

Jamie Shew, Douglas County Clerk, encouraged all involved with the redistricting process to complete redistricting with sufficient time for local election offices to complete their work in order to avoid potential mistakes and stress ([Attachment 23](#)).

Ryan Reza, private citizen, stated creating fair and equal districts can help clean up politics so those in office are actually representative of the districts they serve ([Attachment 24](#)).

Carol Williamson, private citizen, asked the Committees to address population growth and change in a way that groups Kansas geographically and keeps counties and cities together in one legislative district, not to create a political advantage for one party. She also asked for Johnson County not to be placed in Congressional District 1 ([Attachment 25](#)).

Cal Wiebe, private citizen, stated concerns about the process and stated the Committees need to adopt a public mission statement before they start working on redistricting.

Stephanie Sanford, private citizen, talked about disenfranchisement of a significant portion of the community, citizens who are disabled, by the enactment of two recent bills that created new voting rules and laws.

Blake Swenson, private citizen, asked the Committees to be fair and consistent in drawing maps.

Paul Bahnmaier, private citizen, urged the Committees to keep the town of Lecompton with the rest of Douglas County.

Marlene Merrill, private citizen, urged the Committees not to divide minority populations and cities, and make it a fair process.

Marilyn Brune, private citizen, urged the Committees to keep places and communities together that belong together.

Dan Huffman, private citizen, provided oral comments to the Committees regarding political polarization.

Steve Stemmerman, private citizen, encouraged the Committees to use an independent commission.

Melinda Lavon, private citizen, stated Kansas is not providing the resources for families to move here, including hospitals. She urged the Committees to stop thinking about votes and start thinking about the people.

Roberta Sue McKenna, private citizen, urged the Committees to use an independent commission.

Greg Inkmann, private citizen, stated in order to have fair and equal representation, there needs to be an independent commission.

Glenda Overstreet Vaughn, private citizen, urged the Committees to take the action requested by the people to delegate the Committees' authority to an independent entity to provide assurance the redistricting process will be a fair and equal process ([Attachment 26](#)).

Written-only testimony was provided by:

- Theresa Weigel, private citizen ([Attachment 27](#));
- Anna Wilhelm, private citizen ([Attachment 28](#));
- Paulette Strong, private citizen ([Attachment 29](#));
- Judith Davis-Cole, private citizen ([Attachment 30](#));
- Barbara Johnston, private citizen ([Attachment 31](#));
- Elizabeth and Greg Burger, private citizens ([Attachment 32](#));
- Michael Campbell, private citizen ([Attachment 33](#));
- Jane Imber, private citizen ([Attachment 34](#));

- Larry Buss, private citizen ([Attachment 35](#));
- Daphne Johnston, private citizen ([Attachment 36](#));
- Ron Brown, private citizen ([Attachment 37](#));
- Allyn Lockner, private citizen ([Attachment 38](#));
- Joe Harrington, private citizen ([Attachment 39](#));
- David Willer, private citizen ([Attachment 40](#));
- Brenna Hipsher, private citizen ([Attachment 41](#));
- Joyce Pearl Jones, Joy's Idea Garden Company ([Attachment 42](#));
- Marjorie Cole, private citizen ([Attachment 43](#));
- Margaret Coggins, private citizen ([Attachment 44](#));
- Lynne Bodle, private citizen ([Attachment 45](#));
- Louie Jo Taylor Rosa Molinar, private citizen ([Attachment 46](#));
- Bruce Roberts, Douglas County Democratic Party ([Attachment 47](#));
- Susan Whipple, private citizen ([Attachment 48](#));
- Mary Kay Digby, private citizen ([Attachment 49](#));
- Pennie and Kurt von Achen, private citizens ([Attachment 50](#));
- Brian Vancil, private citizen ([Attachment 51](#));
- Mininder Kaur, private citizen ([Attachment 52](#));
- Robert Hicks, Indigenous Community Center ([Attachment 53](#));
- Georgia Masten, private citizen ([Attachment 54](#));
- Paramjit Bhatia, private citizen ([Attachment 55](#));
- Julie Durand, private citizen ([Attachment 56](#));
- Zack Pistora, Kansas Rural Center ([Attachment 57](#));
- William and Marsha Gordon, private citizen ([Attachment 58](#));
- Representative Christina Haswood ([Attachment 59](#));
- Jason Orr, JO Health Research, LLC ([Attachment 60](#));
- Jonathan Andrews, private citizen ([Attachment 61](#));
- Senator Marci Francisco ([Attachment 62](#));
- Sharon Avery, private citizen ([Attachment 63](#));
- Blake Swenson, private citizen ([Attachment 64](#));
- Terry Forsyth, private citizen ([Attachment 65](#));
- Meredith Richey, private citizen ([Attachment 66](#)); and
- Jessica Porter, private citizen ([Attachment 67](#)).

Co-chairperson Croft thanked the public for their responses and for providing written and oral testimony, KLRD for all the work in putting these meetings together, the Kansas Legislative Office of Information Services for making the visual and sound work at every meeting, Legislative Administrative Services for its work, the sign language and Spanish interpreters, and the legislators who participated. Co-chairperson Croft stated these meetings are only the start of the process of redistricting and map making.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Prepared by Connie Burns
Edited by Jordan Milholland

Approved by the Committee on:

February 16, 2022
(Date)