

## **Comment on the LRC meeting at K-State August 9, 2021**

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My name is Lorn Clement and I live just south of Manhattan, KS at 3881 S. 20th St.

I moved to Kansas in late 1979. With degrees from both K-State and KU, I am a registered landscape architect in this state. I am also a registered attorney in Kansas.

I have been privileged to hold a tenured faculty position at Kansas State University from 1989 to 2019, when I retired. My wife and I have decided to stay and live out our lives here in MHK, engaging in volunteer work and community service. I am currently the Ashland Township Trustee.

I must say that I was not impressed with the “listening session” held by the Legislative Redistricting Committee at the K-State Student Union on Monday, August 9 at 9:00am. A careful observer could very well conclude that the proceedings, being scheduled as they were, announced as they were, and being conducted without apparent guidelines and criteria for evaluation of alternative maps — from the outset — are an exercise in simply going through the motions more than a truly open, transparent and trustworthy process. No valid public design or problem solving process starts without goals and objectives, without clearly articulated principles that guide decision-making and which make critical values and beliefs clear, like being fair, efficient, logical (keeping communities of interest together), simple and inclusive. The chairman, reading from his script, was quick to conclude the session after only 37 minutes. The process is suspect.

Given the recent legislative activity in Topeka, a reflective observer will likely conclude that the Republican Party in Kansas is no longer the party of President Eisenhower — characterized by telling the truth, respecting the oath of office, the Constitution and laws of our country, honesty and integrity. The Republican Party in Kansas now evidently stands for promoting the Big Lie, deception and cheating. New bad laws that will discourage volunteers from helping register people to vote; bad laws aimed at suppressing the votes of many in the population (when there is no real problem to solve in how elections are run); and now redistricting efforts aimed at power retention through gerrymandering are apparently in the works. This recent activity is the dismaying and extremely damaging responsibility of the supermajority Republicans in the Legislature.

Please listen to all the complaints and concerns about the redistricting process and acknowledge substantive issues that should be considered — fairness, simplicity, cohesive communities of interest — and do the right thing for the citizens of Kansas.

Do your sworn duty and stop leading us down the road to an authoritarian State.