

Redistricting Town Halls

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To:Redistricting <Redistricting@KLRD.ks.gov>;

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It isn't clear whether this email address is the correct one to include my comments with the other written testimony regarding redistricting without gerrymandering but I hope they will be included.

I strongly support the League of Women Voters whose "position is that the best and fairest districts are based on input from the people who reside in them. " I believe that is what a democracy is all about.

After voting for Eisenhower and Nixon—twice, I have been a Democrat since Nixon, which has consistently proven to be the party on the side of the people and democracy.

It has been an enormous disappointment to me that the Republican Party can't win unless their elected officials lie, cheat, steal and gerrymander, amongst other things, to win elections. It desperately needs to redeem itself, as our country's future depends upon it. We are becoming a third-world nation in every way.

The current Republican Party fails miserably to fulfill the definition of democracy and clearly prefers America to be an autocracy: "**a government in which one person possesses unlimited power.**"

America is in a struggle for its preservation as a democracy despite overwhelming Republican efforts to rig the elections through restrictive voting laws, gerrymandering, packing the courts with sycophants, arresting peaceful protestors and other illegalities in the march to being an autocracy.

Civics needs to be returned to the classrooms so Americans can learn what America is supposed to be all about:

"The American concept of democracy rests on these basic notions:

1. Recognition of the fundamental worth and dignity of every person
2. Respect for the equality of all persons
3. Faith in majority rule and an insistence upon minority rights
4. Acceptance of the necessity of compromise
5. Insistence upon the widest possible degree of individual freedom."

"In a lecture titled "What is Democracy"? Larry Diamond (2004) gave an overview of what in his opinion is democracy. He describes democracy as a system of government with four key elements:

- i) A system for choosing and replacing the government through free and fair elections;
- ii) Active participation of the people, as citizens, in politics and civic life;
- iii) Protection of the human rights of all citizens; and
- iv) A rule of law in which the laws and procedures apply equally to all citizens."

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You may present my comments at any or all of your meetings.