

**Written-only Testimony for Wednesday, August 11, 2021 in Wichita**

**From: Sylvia Forte**

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 asking that the redistricting committee restore the principles of Dwight D. Eisenhower

The current legislature has repeatedly demonstrated a total lack of respect for Kansas voters. The GOP-led House and Senate joint redistricting committee adopted a paternalistic approach in deciding the districts before the Census Bureau released the districts' data analysis later in August. Leave it to our joint committee to ensure that facts don't interfere with their decision. This committee, unlike that in 2011, will not hold town hall meetings across the state over months. These political bosses plan to hold meetings over one week, mostly during working hours; the meetings are scheduled for only 75 minutes. All of this presents a deliberate, concerted attempt to limit voter input. The voters were not even given a week to prepare their statements for the 75-minute meetings. Their actions indicate a "done deal" where voters are silenced.

Apparently, this scheme was part of a musing by Susan Wagle who stated last year "I guarantee you, we can draw four Republican district maps."

Later she stated "Well clearly we've had the most growth in northeast Kansas and that district is going to be much smaller after redistricting than what it is today. And if the Kansas legislators want four Republican maps, I'm sure that's what they will draw." Former Senate President Wagle also indicated she was against a bipartisan committee.

None of his engenders respect or confidence in the actions by the redistricting committee of the majority party. Kansas has adopted "Project Remap" to flip the 3rd congressional district and any offices across the state by redrawing districts.

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. The Kansas City Metro is currently whole within Kansas' Third congressional district and should remain in a single district as residents have shared interests in representation.

To quote Kansan Dwight D. Eisenhower: "The supreme quality for leadership is unquestionably integrity. Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, football field or in an office."

Respectfully,

Sylvia Forte

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