

Written-only Testimony for Thursday, August 12, 2021 in Overland Park

From: McLane

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 request that you do not rush this process. Give people a chance to review the census data. The fact that you're pushing for public meetings before the data is even available tells me that your goal is not openness and fairness. Existing districts should not be skewed and minimal if any changes are needed. Particularly Kansas City should not be divided. The goal of depriving people of color of their rightful representation is reprehensible yet it appears that's what is motivating the leaders of this process.

Wait until the Census Bureau releases the detailed population counts, and the Guidelines and Criteria for Congressional and Legislative Redistricting is adopted.

Have town hall meetings people can actually attend. Encourage attendance. DO NOT make it impossible for working people to be there.

Susan Wagle's and others' statements revealing their desire to deprive people of fair representation. Not democratic. Indicative of cheating.

The public will not trust a secretive process for drawing the maps, and may wonder about other aspects of the election process.

Kansas will have the same number of congressional districts and their current configuration should be changed as little as possible. There are plenty of people in Johnson and Wyandotte County and the 3rd district as it serves us nicely. This district has been delineated this way for a long time and taking the 3rd apart is an obvious power grab. There is no good reason to split Kansas City. The bad reasons are to accumulate political power and deprive the residents of KC, KS of their fair representation.

The 3rd district is racially diverse and we deserve representation that suits us. Do not try to remove specific groups of people so that we and they are left without full and fair representation. We do not want to be diluted so that the actual values and needs of our community are not considered. We are different from the rural areas of Kansas and deserve representation for our area, not somewhere completely different. Johnson and Wyandotte Counties are unique and we should not be subsumed in rural or outlying 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.

This process should be thorough, fact-driven and transparent and should not be used to deprive people of their due representation. To do otherwise is to damage democracy in our state.

Respectfully,

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