

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

From: Ellen Miller

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 the Joint House and Senate Committees on Redistricting to lead the Kansas legislature in creating fair and transparent maps that will protect our constitutional right to vote.

I have five grandchildren (in two families) in Johnson and Miami counties. All of the kids will turn 18 during the next 10 years, and thus able to register to vote--one each in 2024, 2025 and 2026. The twins will be 18 in 2027. They have helped in my work as a member of the League of Women Voters of Johnson County, a nonpartisan organization that supports citizen involvement in public policy at all levels of government.

When they are 18, my five grandchildren must have confidence that their votes in Kansas will be counted fairly and accurately. That requires a fair and transparent redistricting method to create maps like the ones that now exist. One good example is Congressional District Three. Its current map reflects the shared interests of people in its three counties.

Please schedule more town hall meetings, especially virtual ones. That would permit increased participation in this newly resurgent COVID era. Another round of meetings would also permit all of us to use the final 2020 census data for Kansas.

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.

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.

I am asking the Joint House and Senate Committees on Redistricting to lead the Kansas legislature's creation of fair and transparent redistricting maps. All Kansas kids who'll be 18 in the next 10 years must have confidence in the new redistricting maps so their votes are counted. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

Respectfully,

Ellen Miller

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