

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

**From: Magali Rojas
Enrollment Specialist
El Centro Inc.**

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 a proponent of a transparent process of redistricting and maintaining Johnson and Wyandotte county under the same congressional district. All people must be represented and know what is happening.

El Centro Inc. serves both Wyandotte and Johnson counties, which has a strong Latinx and Afro-American/Black population. I have witnessed that together both communities work harder when united. Whether it is through neighborhood initiatives, religious affiliations, health access, or educational ties they seek each other's reinforcement.

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.

The redistricting committees should stay transparent and refrain from gerrymandering the districts to create political advantage.

Respectfully,

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