

Oral with Written Testimony for Thursday, August 12, 2021 in Overland Park

From: Cassie Woolworth

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.

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply written testimony in support of transparent and fair redistricting. I am here to explain why my district should stay the same.

I live in Johnson County, Kansas, and while this is a fairly rich county, the residents, individually, differ in income and education levels. We are a very large county. While it seems we have the means to travel, we are actually in a transportation desert. Education is stellar, but housing is expensive. Benefits like medical are still lacking, but the parks are really, really pretty. If you work within the municipalities, your salary and benefits are good.

Not so good in the restaurant or service industry.

The thing is, we know our neighborhoods.

I'm asking you to appoint a non-partisan committee and include the community members whose lives will be impacted, to redistrict. The committee should include leaders from the impacted communities. Who better to know the makeup of their neighborhoods? Is it the neighbor or the state rep?

Keeping people together. From neighborhoods having a local polling station to people working within that community - we know our cities, we know our neighbors, and we know that a non-partisan, transparent, community, brings us together - doesn't split us apart.

Keep the standards in Kansas high - please select a non-partisan committee to redraw.

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.

Again, I am asking that you appoint a non-partisan transparent, community, committee to redraw the redistricting lines. Keep me and my neighbors together, don't monkey around with travel/barriers to voting.

Respectfully,

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