

Written-only Testimony for Thursday, August 12, 2021 in Pittsburg

From: Roxanne Mettenburg

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 you conduct this redistricting with complete transparency, including a series of open meetings and town halls throughout the state with plenty of advance notice once the census data is received. Looking at the current U.S. House districts map as well as the demographics of Kansas in general, I fail to see where populations could have increased with any significant margin except possibly in some urban areas. The current map seems very logical and has geographical continuity. It would seem a stretch to need to alter it to any significant degree. Cities and most counties have been left "whole" as they should be at least for U.S. House districts.

Regarding the districts for the Kansas House, I live in a county that is carved up in quite a confusing manner. I live very near a city of 12,000 that is the county seat of my county, am in the school district of that city, have a phone number linked to that city. And yet am not in the district that represents that city and most of my county (Dist.59). My part of the county was carved off and stuck with a district (Dist.5) that includes 3 smaller cities, all of which are much farther away and in different counties, different school districts, different concerns and issues. Further, my neighbor just to the north a mile on the same road even is in Dist. 59. So the lines weren't even drawn using a common road designation. And many in Dist. 59 actually live closer to one of the cities of Dist. 5 than I do. I ask that you minimize these types of jigsaw puzzle configurations.

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 ask that you conduct this redistricting with transparency, logic and geographical continuity, as well as clean up the jigsaw puzzle arrangement for state legislative districts.

Respectfully,

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