

My name is Roy L. Robinson, 4009 N. 110<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, Kansas, 66109-4489, My telephone number is (913) 721-2965. I am submitting written-only testimony.

The date and location of the meeting at which the written testimony is to be presented is Thursday, August 12, 2021, in Kansas City, Kansas at the Kansas City Kansas Community College, 7250 State Avenue, Kansas City, Kansas 66112.

To: Kansas House and Senate Redistricting Committees 2021  
From: Roy L. Robinson

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts about the upcoming Kansas redistricting.

A. What I believe to be true.

- Kansas's congressional and state legislative lines are both drawn by the state legislature, as a regular statute.
- The statute is subject to gubernatorial veto.
- The state legislative plan is automatically sent to the Kansas Supreme Court for review.
- Kansas must comply with constitutional equal population requirements.
- Kansas must abide by the Voting Rights Act and constitutional rules on race.
- In the 2010 cycle, the legislature could not agree on congressional or state district lines. On June 7, 2012, a federal court drew district lines instead.
- Kansas has 4 congressional districts and in 2015, the population of the largest congressional district was Kansas' District 3.
- Kansas' congressional District 3 is contiguous.

B. Concerns I have I'm obliged to share with you.

- The possible partisan approach to the process because the Republican party has a super majority in both houses.
- Redistricting districts for the next 10 years must be based on the U. S. Census Population Report.
- Not giving the citizens time to participate in the process (it seems that citizens will have only a small amount of time to share their recommendations before the process is closed for public comment and yet this redrawing of the lines will take place sometime in 2022).
- Gerrymandering.

- Racial gerrymandering.
- Partisan gerrymandering.

C. Redistricting matters to me.

- The new lines can bring people with common interest together or split them apart. Currently, Wyandotte County and Johnson County are working as part of a regional urban community.
- At present, Kansas' congressional District 3 is contiguous with a population large enough to remain unchanged.
- The reasons to keep Kansas' congressional District 3 unchanged is because it is a Community of Interest.
- Health care: the Health Forward Foundation and the REACH Healthcare Foundation were created to help improve the health of citizens in both counties.
- The area's medical community, like the University of Kansas Medical Hospital and Saint Luke's Community Hospitals, provide excellent, seamless medical care for the citizens of both counties.
- Wyandotte County and Johnson County are members of the Mid-American Regional Council (MARC), and the council works on opportunities that are important to both, for example: public transportation, environmental issues, emergency service, and regional planning.
- The principal industrial activity in Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas includes automobile manufacturing and distribution, railroads, bakery products, warehouse and distribution centers, and meat processing..
- Higher education is shared by both Johnson County and Wyandotte County. Some examples, Kansas University, Kansas State University, Donnelly College, and junior colleges in both Johnson County and Wyandotte County.
- Both counties have NAACP branches that work together on common problems and/or opportunities.
- Wyandotte County continues to grow their economy, for example Village West development, Kansas Speedway, Hollywood Casino Hotel and Spa. The citizens of Johnson County are necessary to keep these developments viable.
- The workforce of both counties is linked.
- Wyandotte County has at least 3 unique important social organization – the Huron Indian Cemetery, Old Quindaro Museum, and the National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame.

D. Finally, I am hopeful.

- The redistricting plan process will be bipartisan and transparent.
- The redistricting plan will be what is best for Kansas and not necessarily what is best for a political party.
- The redistricting plan will not dilute minority voters' opportunity to participate by moving them to some other congressional district.
- The public comment period will be modified to give citizens additional time for citizens to develop their own map of redistricting that could be shared with your planning committees.
- The current congressional district 3 has been in place since 2012 and has been a powerful tool for the citizens in the district to be part of the great American journey.
- Therefore, I recommend that U.S. House Kansas District 3 remain unchanged.