

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

**From: Stewart Stein**

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 supportive of maintaining our status quo assuming no dramatic changes in the population of our existing districts.

I am a retired attorney who has been an active member of our Johnson County community for 45 years. I have served as a past president of Johnson County Community College Foundation and served on its board for the last 25 years. I have been involved in numerous community organizations including, Leawood Foundation, Johnson County Arts Commission and numerous not for profit organizations.

We start the statutorily required redistricting process by looking at our existing political and non political districts. We note that the majority of these are within the existing county lines or established divisions within the counties. These include, water and sewer districts, library districts, improvement districts, police, fire and medical services. All of these existing organizations are regulated by the state and federal governments so our goal should be to maintain the structure we have unless demographics have made this inequitable.

Our political divisions should not be based on economics, race, gender or diversities. In fact a district that combines these traits should be our goal.

We currently have four congressional districts in Kansas that will remain. While it is great if they can be approximately equal in population, redistricting should avoid causing disruption of our current lines. School districts, utility districts, libraries and the like should exist within a single congressional district. These standards should be considered when considerations of lines are made for legislative districts as well.

Kansas third district currently includes both Johnson and Wyandotte counties. This has been the case for the last 50 years and should remain. This district has a history of representation by both political parties which means that has allowed the voters to express their changing desires based upon the positions of both party's candidates.

Redistricting is a political process by its very nature. Case law has established numerous factors that do NOT justify change. My goal here is not to set out the established law, only to suggest that it be used throughout this process.

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.

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.

Ironically today we are to receive this decade's census report. Fortunately we know that it will not necessitate a change in the number of congressional districts. I anticipate that it will indicate changes in pockets of population which could necessitate changes in legislative and regulatory districts.

Respectfully,

Stewart Stein

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