

August 12, 2021

Name: Jennifer Day, registered voter, and former member of the Kansas House of Representatives

Location: Overland Park, KS

Testimony for the redistricting hearing held on Thursday, August 12th at Matt Ross Community Center, 8101 Marty St, Overland Park, KS 66204

Oral with written testimony

I moved to eastern Kansas from southern California permanently in the year 2000. I don't want to bore you with details, but in the last 21 years, I have had the opportunity to work in various parts of Overland Park, as well as in Kansas City, KS and Kansas City, Missouri, and have lived in homes in different areas of Overland Park, both in the northernmost and somewhat southernmost points of the city.

I understand that the committee would like to know how we, as testifying citizens of our respective part of Kansas, believe things have changed in our community over the last 10 years or so since the previous census. It's hard to ignore the growth that Johnson County has experienced in the last decade plus. I can't be 100% sure of just how much growth has occurred since the census numbers haven't been released yet, however the growth is indicated in the continued construction in just about every city throughout the county, the increased traffic on our surface streets and highways, and in our citizen contributions via taxation to our city, county, and state funds.

Our community here in JoCo is one that has an important place in the overall Kansas City metro, especially as combined with our neighbors to the north in Wyandotte County. Our concerns and needs at the state and federal level might vary a bit from those in more rural points to our west, and representation in both cases should be focused on those community-specific concerns and needs. As far as the state legislature goes, I know my former House District, 48, changed significantly over the last 10 years, with many new housing and business developments added in that time. It's already a very compact House District (geographically) and might become even more so through this redistricting process. I'm making an educated guess that it will not be alone in those changes here in Johnson County. I look forward to seeing the census data when it's released in a few more days and hope to be able to follow up with experts who can talk specifically to how those numbers will impact legislative districts throughout the county over the coming months. I hope that I will have the opportunity to provide more informed testimony at a future town hall after seeing and analyzing that data.

Thank you to the committee members and legislative leadership for taking the time to visit and hear from communities throughout the state. As I understand and know our legislature (as well as all of those across the United States) is a citizen legislature, your commitment to this important process is a concern for many of us non-legislator citizens, and we appreciate any and all sacrifices you've made to perform this duty.

Special thanks to the KLRD and legislative staff that have worked hard to make this process as informative and smooth as possible. You're all rockstars!