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Place of Meeting: Overland Park, Kansas

As a citizen interested in participatory democracy, I attempted to research non-partisan information on redistricting, a precursor to legislative representation the bedrock of a democracy, and discovered a quite reliable, non-partisan organization that explained some history and current legislative process on this topic : The League of Women Voters.

In my desire to become involved, I discovered three disturbing road blocks that I encourage you to reflect on and change in the spirit of transparency that supports equality and justice for all Kansans:

Road bloc #1:

History reflects past legislative redistricting committees have provided four months for citizen participation/comment.

Apparently the current committee, announcing on August 1 that the "Listening Tours" will occur August 9-13 in 14 cities, feels this accurately reflects Kansans' abilities to comment? Obviously, as a new and senior citizen to this process, I object. People work, have child care issues, schedule doctor appointments and require

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time to schedule for the “Listening Tours” which clearly this hurried process does not. I don’t understand the hurry.

Road bloc #2:

As a young person, I distinctly remember learning that re-districting was dependent on the Census Report. The 2020 Census will be available August 16, days AFTER the Listening Tours” will be finished. This is confounding and shakes my belief in a fair system.

Road bloc #3:

Past re-districting committees have adopted “Guidelines/Criteria” for Kansans to evaluate/compare competing proposals. Apparently this is absent. I implore you to answer how recommendations/solutions can be determined without this.

Kansans depend on leadership crouched in transparency and devoid of suspicion and that is why I’m depending on the redistricting committee to make adjustments by waiting for the 2020 Census, adopting “Guidelines/Criteria for evaluation of proposals and adjusting the timeline for the 14 city tour so Kansans have the opportunity for representation.

Thank you,  
Anne Lesser

