

This is the written testimony of
Jill Quigley
(13112 W. 84th Street, Lenexa, KS 66215),
Proponent for Transparent and Fair Redistricting
To the Joint House and Senate Committees on Redistricting,
For the August 12th Town Hall
At Matt Ross Community Center in Overland Park Kansas.

I write as a former Representative to the Kansas House from the 17th District. I ask that Lenexa and the surrounding cities in Johnson and Wyandotte counties be retained in the same Congressional district.

From my discussions with my constituents and my wider civic engagements across the Kansas metro area, I repeatedly heard common concerns about:

- Excellent, affordable educational opportunities,
- Fast broadband,
- Livable wages,
- Good roads and public transportation, and
- Access to affordable health care.

Johnson and Wyandotte counties share an urban/suburban experience of those needs and services, which is much different than the experience of our rural neighbors. Lenexa, as a bustling city of more than 60,000 people, blends seamlessly into neighboring cities. We attend schools together, frequent the same businesses, share parks, and attend sporting and cultural events all without knowing which city or county we are in. We are intertwined and indeed one in many ways.

As “communities of interest,” Wyandotte and Johnson Counties should be retained in the same Congressional district. The current boundaries were established by the courts (which are held to a higher standard) and should be changed only as necessary.

I also urge you to schedule additional listening opportunities with these considerations:

- Make sessions more accessible
 - Offer online opportunities and evening and weekend sessions,
 - Schedule with enough lead time to allow more people to participate.
- Schedule additional sessions after citizens have seen and evaluated the 2020 census data. Without access to current census data, it is impossible to make more detailed, informed recommendations for district boundaries.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Quigley
Lenexa Resident
Former Kansas Representative, 17th District