

To: The Kansas Redistricting Committee
Submitted by: Karen I. Johnson, 4950 Adams St, Westwood, KS, 913-722-6048
For: The Kansas Redistricting Meeting, Third Congressional District
August 12, 2021 in Overland Park, KS, as Written Testimony-only

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today.

A Fair Redistricting Process

- I have heard statements made by former Senate President Susan Wagle and other Kansas Republicans advocating partisan gerrymandering, and that concerns me. As a long time voter and a forever Kansan, I want to see a redistricting process that is fair to all voters.
- I understand that guidelines for the current redistricting have not yet been adopted and that Census data is not yet available. Because these hearings are being held prior to having access to this important information, will the public get another chance to make comments when those become available?
- Public meetings held during a weekday, such as this one, lessen the chances of full participation.
- Redistricting is an immensely important process. It should not be hurried; it should be fair and never partisan.

Preservation of the Core of Existing District

- Kansas City is currently wholly within Kansas's Third Congressional District and it should remain whole in a single congressional district.
- Kansas City/Wyandotte County and Johnson County are a part of a metropolitan area and have been in the same congressional district throughout the modern redistricting era, since the 1970s. They should continue to be together.
- Compact districts are desirable. With the population growth in the Kansas City metropolitan area, the Third District can be made up wholly of Johnson County and Wyandotte County.

Preservation of Communities of Interest

- I am a resident of Westwood. Our city borders Kansas City/Wyandotte County. We share major streets and a shopping area with businesses on both sides of the street. We also share one of the major employers in this area—The University of Kansas Hospital

and Medical Center. Two of their facilities are in Westwood—the Cancer Center and the Dialysis Center while the main campus is located in Kansas City/Wyandotte County. A bus between the two operates multiple times daily.

- My late husband worked in Kansas City/Wyandotte County at the KU Medical Center for 40 years.
- When I graduated from law school, I began my practice on Minnesota Avenue in downtown Kansas City while calling Westwood my home.
- Recently, I served for several years on the Board of Directors of the Rosedale Development Association in Kansas City. Rosedale, at one time, was a separate city, but is now a part of Kansas City/Wyandotte County. I was not the only Johnson County resident on the board as we share many of the same interests.
- A shopping area has businesses in Westwood, Kansas City/Wyandotte County, and Roeland Park, another Johnson County city. The three cities worked together to coordinate zoning laws, street plans and bicycle lanes.
- All this is to emphasize that Johnson County and Wyandotte County are very connected historically and in our current day-to-day lives. The two entities share common interests and should remain in the same congressional district. To separate any portion of either would be a disservice to voters of both counties.

Respectfully,

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