

**Written-only Testimony for Thursday, August 12, 2021 in Overland Park**

**From: Amy Hinrichs**

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 asking for a fair and transparent redistricting process.

In order for our democracy to function, the public needs to have a voice in the process. Therefore, I am asking that this Committee commit to holding a public hearing with public testimony on any maps before they are passed. They must give the public sufficient notice and capability to review the maps before this hearing. I also want the legislators who draw the maps to explain why they chose to draw them the way they did, and to not hide any communications they have had regarding drawing the maps. Furthermore, the Committee should explain whether their maps affect the ability of minority communities to elect candidates and participate meaningfully in the political process. In order to build trust that the maps have not been unfairly manipulated, I ask that the legislature doesn't look at partisanship when coming up with maps.

The Legislature cannot ignore the context of race in America in drawing districts. For these reasons, the Redistricting Committee needs to ensure that any bill it passes protects the voting power of historically disenfranchised communities. Any maps need to account for the growth rates of minority communities as compared to growth rates of the Anglo population.

Lastly, as a resident of Johnson County for almost 50 years, I believe it is important to keep Johnson and Wyandotte counties together in the 3rd district. The Kansas City metro, as seen by the political leaders in the area, encompasses both Johnson and Wyandotte counties. During the pandemic, the metro leaders came up with the Core 4. This encompassed Jackson County, MO, Kansas City, MO, Wyandotte County, KS, and Johnson County, KS. If our leaders see Wyandotte and Johnson counties as bound together, then I think it is only right for us to be seen as one in the redistricting process. Just in my own life, I live and work in Johnson County. However, a large number of my co-workers live in Wyandotte County. My church is located in Johnson County, but there are members who live in Wyandotte County. Wyandotte and Johnson Counties interact with each other on a daily basis, and should be looked at as one group.

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. I urge the committee to hold additional town halls after census data is available and Kansans can review that data and offer input. I would encourage that those meetings be accessible, available online, and announced with enough time to foster engagement.

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.

This is a chance to make all Kansans feel heard and represented, and it is a great opportunity for politicians to build trust with the voters by being transparent with the process.

Respectfully,

Amy Hinrichs

13715 W 123rd St  
Olathe, KS 66062  
913-831-4754  
aloramy.hinrichs@yahoo.com