

Oral with Written Testimony for Friday, August 13, 2021 in Lawrence

From: Charley Crabtree

Board Member, League of Women Voters Lawrence Douglas County
League of Women Voters Lawrence Douglas County

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've lived in Lawrence the past 52 years.

My focus is Kansas' Third District. I agree with the 2012 Federal Court ruling creating Kansas" legislative and congressional districts with the entirety of Wyandotte and Johnson Counties staying in the Third District. They've formed that district's core for decades and the Court concluded in O'Sullivan they should stay in that district to represent the Kansas portion of Greater Kansas City. O'Sullivan said Wyandotte County should stay in a SINGLE district so its large minority population's voting power may not be diluted, furthering state goals of creating compact and contiguous districts, maintaining county and municipal boundaries and grouping communities of interest.

Many Wyandotte and Johnson County households fall within the \$25,000 to \$50,000 income range and depend on jobs across county lines, leading to economic and social connections. Their population density leads to unique environmental concerns: water and air quality, transportation and land use.

This area is home to many branch campuses of post-secondary institutions, two public community colleges and numerous private post-secondary institutions.

This community of interest actively participates in and benefits from metro regional planning and services and requires a different approach in its Legislative representation. Watering down this representation by moving boundaries west or south would be a huge disservice.

We support accountable government – not partisan politics. Democracy is served when districts are drawn in fairness and integrity of neighborhoods, when classes of voters are not targeted for suppression, and when those in power practice the Golden Rule of Politics.

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.

Please practice fair redistricting, rather than partisan gerrymandering to redraw district lines in an attempt to unseat a sitting legislator or to disenfranchise a particular voting segment or district. Gerrymandering skews districts for political gain. Rise above unfairness and stand for democracy - if democracy is to become more than just a talking point.

Thank you for this opportunity to raise my voice for democracy.

Respectfully,

Charley Crabtree
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