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To: KSLegRes
Subject: Redistricting meeting comments, Aug. 13

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I would like to speak at the Aug. 13 meeting in Lawrence.

My comments:

First, since I am talking about election issues in Kansas and encouraging all Kansans to vote, I must state that I am not an election official. A recently enacted Kansas voter suppression law makes it a felony for you to perceive me to be an election official if I am not.

I love state and local government because it has the ability to deliver the freedoms of our country in a way that best serves the lives of the people where they live. I am a life-long Kansan who moved to Douglas County in 2011. Due to gerrymandering after redistricting from the 2000 census, Douglas County was split in two legislative districts in 2011. It was split by partisan Republican legislators in order to neutralize liberal Lawrence. I'm a savvy voter and the Douglas County election office is outstanding at voter information and engagement, but it was still confusing, and frankly disenfranchising that our town and county were not united in our legislative and state board of education districts. This division between legislative districts impeded local city and county government in coordinating with state and federal resources, and made it harder for individual voters to be heard. After the 2010 census and the legislature failed to accomplish redistricting (the courts had to take it over), Lawrence and Douglas County were all in legislative district 2 since 2013. There are other counties, like Miami County, who are split now between two legislative districts. There is talk of dividing Johnson County. Such moves represent gerrymandering to gain Republican advantage and do not serve the people of Kansas. Please redistrict to adjust to population growth/change in a way that groups Kansans geographically, especially to keep counties and cities together in one legislative district. Please do not redistrict to adjust to population growth/change to create a political advantage for one party. Ex. Please don't put JoCo in district 1.

We won't agree on everything in Kansas. Our votes and ideas may be divided but state and local government should not. It should work to unite us for common good, not disenfranchise us and divide us for political gain. Fair maps and no gerrymandering in Kansas, please

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