

Testimony submitted by Allyn O. Lockner, Democrat,
to the Kansas House Committee on Redistricting
and the Kansas Senate Committee on Redistricting
from alockner@cox.net at 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm on August 13, 2021,
at University of Kansas Capital Federal Hall, Room 111, 1654 Naismith Drive, Lawrence, Kansas

Members of the committees: Redistricting is vital to strengthening the foundation of democracy for all Kansans. Your work is difficult, but not impossible. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

The United States Bureau of the Census provides Kansas population facts to you. During your redrawing of district boundaries for Kansas congressional members, Kansas House, Kansas Senate, and Kansas State Board of Education, I respectfully request that you apply the following redistricting criteria completely and carefully to the facts:

1. Compactness: people being closely located together
2. Contiguity: people bordering or being in direct contact with one another
3. Equal population: similar number of people in each type of district
4. Preservation of political communities: people with like government interests are together
5. Partisan fairness: impartiality to people who adhere to a political party, faction, or cause
6. No incumbent retention: district boundaries do not assure reelection to office
7. No incumbent elimination: district boundaries do not block reelection to office
8. Minority fairness: justice for people who are not members of the majority

The order of the criteria does not indicate their priority.

History indicates the current redistricting process is flawed for many reasons and needs to be replaced before the 2032 Legislative Session. I ask current members of the redistricting committees who are elected as members of the 2023 Legislature to lead the enactment of an improved process before 2032. An example is an independent redistricting commission.

I hope this testimony is useful to you in strengthening the foundation of democracy for all Kansans.