

Written-only Testimony for Friday, August 13, 2021 in Lawrence

From: David Willer

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 consideration of the following in the redistricting plan.

Fairness in drawing new districts for coming elections should be our only goal. To that end I suggest the following rules:

1. That the new districts be equal in population size
2. That the new districts be jointly maximally compact.

To achieve these ends, an algorithm needs to be devised and applied. Fortunately, our state is blessed with a goodly number of fine mathematicians. To those ends, I propose that a panel of mathematicians from our state universities be recruited to devise and apply the needed algorithm and report the result to the appropriate officials of our legislature.

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.

Thank you for considering adopting the rules set forward which will produce fairly divided districts.

Respectfully,

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