

Jessica Porter
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Lawrence, KS Redistricting

My name is Jessica Porter, I am a private citizen of Topeka. The testimony I would like to give today is one of observation. I have watched all of the town hall meetings of your redistricting tour. Day 2 (Tuesday August 10) was a bad day for being able to hear testimony given on the Youtube live stream so I am not able to speak to that day as well as I am to all the other days of the tour.

I did not know much about redistricting before this tour and the great testimonies given. Thanks to some very good testimony from very educated citizens, I now have a better understanding of what is helpful information for you all to hear as you consider drawing lines within our state. In listening to all of these testimonies I feel it is very important to also point out the recurring themes of what many Kansans asked of you all as well as the overarching and undeniable fear I heard in the testimonies given.

Recurring asks from the citizens of Kansas:

- 1.) More town hall meetings once the census data is released
- 2.) Additional Redistricting Town hall meetings with at least 2 weeks advance notice and time allowed for citizens to analyze census data.
- 3.) Redistricting Town Hall meetings at more convenient times i.e. in the evenings
- 4.) A non-partisan committee outside of yourselves to perform the redistricting.

I want to say that I observed that there is legitimate fear and concern in the majority of testimony given. This concern and fear does not just come from citizens who identified as Democrats but also Republicans who want to see diversity in Kansas. As elected Representatives of Kansas this has got to make you stop and think about the message you all as a legislative body have been sending to the people who pay you to represent them. People are listening and watching and they have fear after what they have seen come out of a Republican Majority legislature. That is coming from self identified Republicans who gave testimony. On this tour it was made clear that Kansas is a state that recognizes it's growth with diverse communities in the last 10 years and Kansans are proud of that growth!

Lastly, I wanted to let you know that as of 8/12/2021 your KS Redistricting listening tour all together had over 1800 views on the YouTube live streams. That is 1800 more people who heard you all say that this was only the first step in this process. Over 1800 people heard you promise to be transparent in this process. Thank you all for taking the time to listen and Thank You in advance for putting action to your own words.