



October 11, 2021

Dear Staff Member,

In early September, the League of Women Voters of Kansas and Mainstream Coalition requested that the Senate and House committees on Redistricting take the necessary steps to ensure a fair and equitable redistricting process. We asked that those steps be taken by October 1 to facilitate the broadest possible participation in this process prior to the start of the 2022 Legislative Session. That deadline has passed, and we have yet to see a response that reflects the commitment to transparency and public engagement espoused by the Committees.

We are asking you again to promptly:

- Adopt guidelines and technical rules immediately so that we, your constituents, may know how you will create new districts and how individuals can easily submit Community of Interest maps.
 - Guidelines should not facilitate “incumbent protection” by including voter registration/vote results and members’ “home seat” information in the redistricting database
 - Guidelines must adhere to the promise of equal rights embedded within Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act
 - The technical committee rules should allow for individuals to submit Community of Interest maps for inclusion in the redistricting database as overlays, and this process must be easily accessible by the public;
- Host additional hearings that provide ample time and opportunities for Kansans from all parts of the state to meaningfully participate now that the Census figures are available; and
- Make publicly available a calendar of activities - including committee meetings and deadlines for submission of alternative maps and testimony - to facilitate transparency and opportunities for public engagement.

We also request that the maps under consideration be revealed as soon as possible so that all Kansans have ample time to review and respond. Your goal of a transparent and widely accessible process will be facilitated if this step is taken no later than the end of January and is accompanied by opportunities for hearings and public input.

Without the clarification and opportunities outlined above, Kansans will remain in the dark regarding how our representatives are producing Congressional and legislative districts that will shape our public policies for the next 10 years. We are depending on you to facilitate a transparent process that will result in fair and equitable maps and responsive representation for all Kansans.

We stand ready to assist as you develop an open and transparent redistricting process.

Respectfully,

Jacqueline Lightcap
Martha Pint

Jacqueline Lightcap, Co-President and
Martha Pint, Co-President
League of Women Voters of Kansas
PO Box 2366
Topeka, KS 66601
785-234-5152
copresidents@lwvk.org



Michael Poppa, Executive Director
Mainstream Coalition
6750 Antioch Rd., Ste. 305G
Merriam, KS 66204
913-649-3326
michael@mainstreamcoalition.org

CC:

Members of the Senate Committee on Redistricting
Members of the House Committee on Redistricting
KLRD Staff