

Testimony type: Written-only

From: Susan Norris

To: The House Committee on Redistricting
Re: Fair & Equitable Representation in Kansas Congressional Maps
Position: Opponent

Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to supply testimony in support of transparent and fair redistricting.

I am asking that the Committee reconsider the proposed map to better reflect the shared interests of Lenexa and its neighboring urban area with the very different priorities of rural localities to the south.

As a thirty-year KS-03 resident, I am deeply concerned that the proposed map will disrupt the long-time community of interest between Johnson and all of Wyandotte County.

During my career as a Business Process Consultant, I explored and worked to improve the healthcare and transportation infrastructure of both Wyandotte and Johnson counties. All of Wyandotte and Johnson County are linked as one metro area, and their needs are very different from those of adjoining rural localities. Because of the linkage, progress in one cannot be accomplished without similar progress in the other.

As such, common representation for the two counties must be maintained to ensure that the clear voice of their common constituency is not diluted. Maintaining KS-03 representation across both Wyandotte and Johnson Counties is also consistent with historical precedent, set since the 1970's.

Current Congressional maps were created by the courts and should be altered as little as necessary to accommodate population 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. The Committees on Redistricting should make their maps, agendas, and deadlines available to the public with at least a full week's notice to allow enough time to review maps, and prepare and submit testimony.

I respectfully request that you do not separate urban Wyandotte County from KS-03 and that you address population balancing by removing the more rural areas from the district. This will allow for common communities of interest and priorities to be more fairly represented.

Respectfully,

Susan Norris

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